

ortho Substituent effect on a 1,5-H shift reaction during thermal decomposition of aryltriazenes

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Abstract—An *ortho* substituent group has a significant effect on thermal decomposition of aryltriazenes. When the *ortho* methoxy-substituted phenyltriazenes were treated with methyl iodide at 110–130 °C, 1,5-H shift products were obtained in fair to moderate yields.

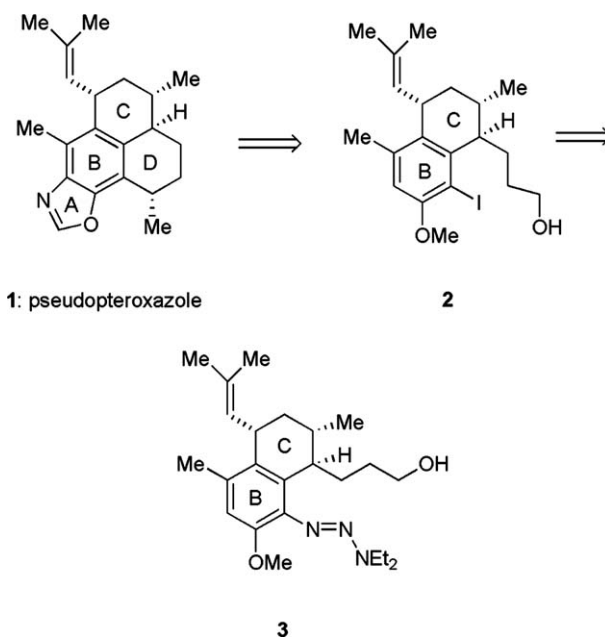
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We have been investigating the synthesis of enantiomerically pure 2,1-benzothiazines as part of a program directed toward the synthesis of chiral ligands and natural products.¹ Most relevant here is the chemistry involving the stereoselective, intramolecular Michael addition of sulfoximine carbanions to α,β -unsaturated esters,² which provides a novel way to establish benzylic stereocenters with a high selectivity. This methodology was applied in the total syntheses of (+)-curcuphenol, (+)-curcumene,³ erogorgiaene,⁴ and pseudopteroxazole (1).⁵

During the course of our total synthesis of pseudopteroxazole (1),⁵ we examined some aryltriazenes as a method to introduce an iodide into the aromatic ring. In our initial approach toward pseudopteroxazole, we needed to install the iodide present in compound 2, which would be obtained by the thermal decomposition of triazene 3 (Scheme 1).

Thus, a reductive desulfurization of 4 with Na/Hg provided aniline 5 in a 90% yield (Scheme 2).⁶ Aniline 5 was then converted to 1-aryl-3,3-diethyltriazenes 3 in 87% yield under standard conditions.⁷ However, decomposition of 3 in neat methyl iodide in a sealed tube at 120–130 °C for 0.5 h generated 1,5-hydrogen atom transfer product 6 in a 61% yield and not the aryl iodide we desired (Scheme 2).^{8,9}

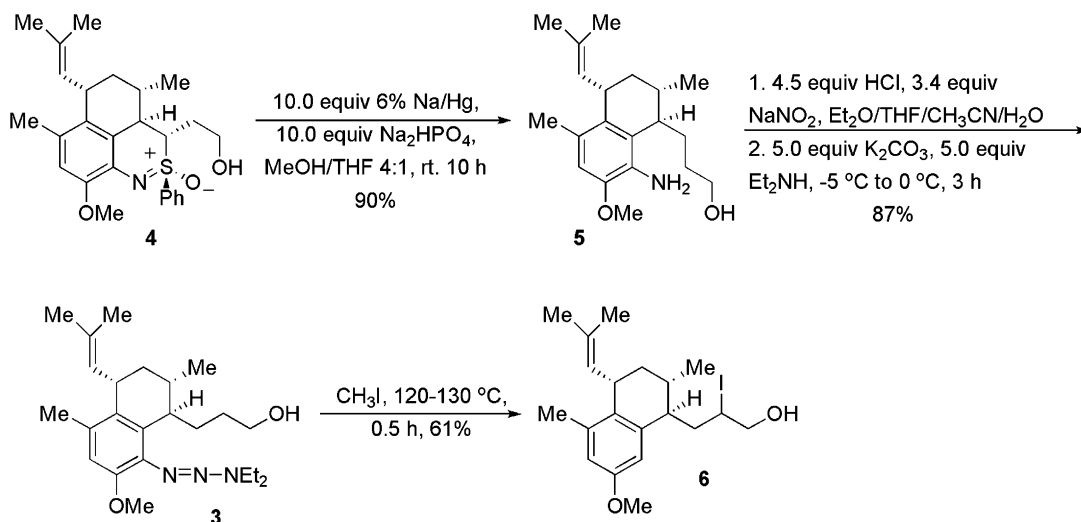
The formation of 1,5-hydrogen atom transfer product 6 prompted us to carry out a broader study of this reac-



Scheme 1.

tion, since triazene derivatives are widely used in organic and medicinal chemistry. Triazenes have found use as metal complexes,¹⁰ chelating agents,¹¹ hydrogenation catalysts,¹² iodo-masking groups in the preparation of N-containing heterocycles¹³ and in the synthesis of macromolecules.¹⁴ Triazine derivatives possess varied and strong biological and pharmacological activities¹⁵ such as functioning as alkylating agents in tumor therapy.¹⁶ While the 1,5-hydrogen atom transfer of several

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Scheme 2.

ortho-substituted aryl iodides has been achieved thermally,¹⁷ to the best of our knowledge the related reaction using triazene chemistry has not been reported in the literature. Herein we report the *ortho* substituent effect on 1,5-H shift reactions by the thermal decomposition of aryltriazenes.

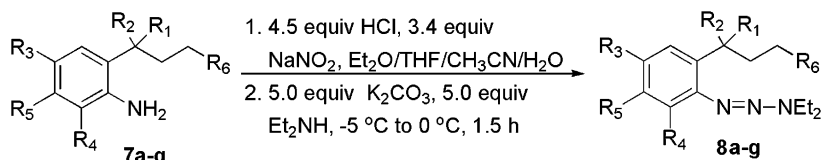
In most cases, synthesis of triazenes through the reaction of diazonium salts with secondary aliphatic amines like diethylamine is straightforward. 1-Aryl-3,3-diethyltriazenes **8a–g** were prepared by reacting salts **7a–g** with diethylamine in Et₂O/THF/CH₃CN/H₂O, in the presence of potassium carbonate at 0–5 °C (Table 1).⁷ The reactions proceeded rapidly to completion and the yields of the triazenes were consistently high, usually greater than 90% (Table 1).¹⁸

Our initial evaluation of *ortho* substituent effects on 1,5-H shift reactions of aryltriazenes was carried out with hydrogen as an *ortho* substituent (Table 2, entries 1 and 2). The thermal decomposition of **8a–b** in neat methyl iodide in a sealed tube at 110–130 °C resulted in only aryl iodides **9a** and **9b** in 80% and 78% yields, respectively (Table 2, entries 1 and 2). Interestingly, no 1,5-H shift products were observed. However, the

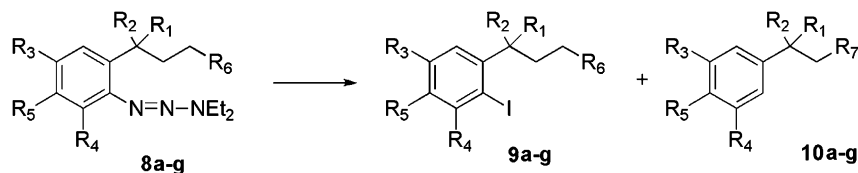
decomposition of *ortho*-methoxy-substituted aryltriazenes **8c** provided not only aryl iodide **9c** in 45% yield, but 1,5-hydrogen atom transfer product **10c** as well in 40% yield (Table 2, entry 3). Thus, the replacement of an *ortho* hydrogen by a methoxy group has a great effect on the decomposition of triazene. Further studies showed this reaction to be very general. Treatment of various triazenes **8d–f** with methyl iodide in a sealed tube at 120–130 °C gave 1,5-hydrogen atom transfer products and aryl iodides in excellent yields and the yields of 1,5-hydrogen atom transfer products depended on the particular system. However, treatment of **8g** with similar conditions gave only decomposition (entry 7).¹⁹

More than likely, 1,5-H shift reactions of the thermal decomposition of aryltriazenes can be attributed to a radical mechanism as outlined in Scheme 3. Accordingly, we formulated a possible mechanism for the reaction of triazene **8c**. Initial reaction of the nitrogen lone pair of triazene **8c** with methyl iodide gives intermediate **11**, which can follow one of two possible pathways: pathway 1 leads to the formation of product **9c** through nucleophilic attack by iodide, while pathway 2 is the radical pathway.^{7a} For pathway 2, the formation of radical **13** occurs through diazonium cation formation

Table 1. Synthesis of 1-aryl-3,3-diethyltriazenes



Entry	Aniline	Yield (%)
1	7a : R ₁ = Me (<i>S</i>), R _{2–4} = H, R ₅ = Me, R ₆ = OH	90
2	7b : R ₁ = Me, R _{2–5} = H, R ₆ = vinyl	87
3	7c : R _{1–3} = R ₅ = H, R ₄ = MeO, R ₆ = vinyl	95
4	7d : R _{1–3} = R ₅ = H, R ₄ = MeO, R ₆ = CH ₂ OH	92
5	7e : R _{1–3} = R ₅ = H, R ₄ = MeO, R ₆ = ethynyl	94
6	7f : R _{1–3} = R ₅ = H, R ₄ = MeO, R ₆ = TMSethynyl	96
7	7g : R _{1–3} = R ₅ = H, R ₄ = MeO, R ₆ = CHCHCO ₂ Et	95

Table 2. Reaction of aryltriazenes with methyl iodide

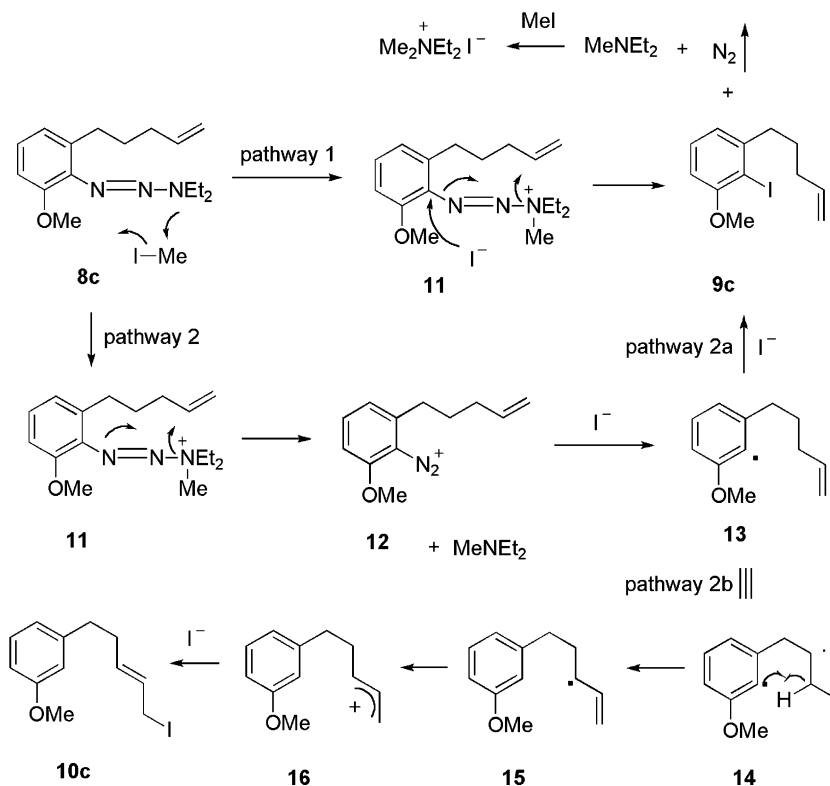
Entry	Triazene	Reaction conditions	R ₇	9 Yield (%)	10 Yield (%)
1	8a	CH ₃ I, 130 °C, 0.5 h	—	80	0
2	8b	CH ₃ I, 110–120 °C, 24 h	—	78	0
3	8c	CH ₃ I, 120–130 °C, 24 h	—CH=CHCH ₂ I	45	40
4	8d	CH ₃ I, 120–130 °C, 0.5 h		59	14
5	8e	CH ₃ I, 120–130 °C, 1 h		74 (41/59) ^a	—
6	8f	CH ₃ I, 120–130 °C, 0.5 h		79 (42/58) ^a	—
7	8g	CH ₃ I, 110–120 °C, 1 h	—	^b	^b

^a Mixture of **9:10** in ratio shown.^b Decomposition observed.

and single electron transfer. 1,5-Hydrogen atom transfer of **13** and subsequent reaction of the allyl radical with iodine anion at the terminus affords **10c** (pathway 2b); another route is that of the formation of iodide **9c** via radical **13** and iodine anion (pathway 2a).

In summary, we have studied the thermal decomposition of triazenes with and without *ortho* substituents. The

results obviously showed that the *ortho* methoxy group has a significant effect on 1,5-H shift reactions and iodination. 1,5-H shift products were obtained in moderate yields when the *ortho* methoxy-substituted triazenes were treated with methyl iodide at 110–130 °C. Further investigations regarding the scope and application of benzothiazine chemistry will be reported in due course.

**Scheme 3.**

Acknowledgments

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Supplementary data

Supplementary data associated with this article can be found, in the online version, at [doi:10.1016/j.tetlet.2006.08.017](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tetlet.2006.08.017).

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- Triazene synthesis.** General procedure: To a 50 mL round bottomed flask was added aniline (0.9 mmol), 4.5 M aq HCl (0.9 mL), and Et₂O/THF/CH₃CN 7:6:1 (5 mL). The mixture was chilled to 5 °C in an ice bath. A solution of NaNO₂ (211 mg, 3.06 mmol) in CH₃CN/H₂O 2:3 (4 mL) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred at 0–5 °C for 1 h. A second 50 mL round bottomed flask was charged with diethylamine (464 μL, 4.5 mmol), K₂CO₃ (621 mg, 4.5 mmol), and CH₃CN/H₂O 2:1 (5 mL), which was chilled to 0–5 °C in an ice bath. The solution of aniline was transferred over 15 min to the first flask, and stirred for an additional 1 h at 0–5 °C. The solution was extracted with 3 × 10 mL Et₂O. The combined organic phases were dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated in vacuo, to give a brown oil. Purification of the product by basic aluminum oxide chromatography (5% Et₂O/pentane) afforded a colorless oil in excellent yield. Compound **8b**: ¹H NMR (250 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.32–7.36 (m, 2H), 7.20–7.24 (m, 1H), 7.08–7.15 (m, 2H), 5.74–5.81 (m, 1H), 4.94 (d, *J* = 18.7 Hz, 1H), 4.88 (d, *J* = 12.1 Hz, 1H), 3.73 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 4H), 3.60 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 1.95–2.03 (m, 2H), 1.60–1.80 (m, 2H), 1.18–1.27 (m, 9H); ¹³C NMR (62.5 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 148.2, 139.2, 126.2, 126.0, 125.3, 116.5, 113.8, 37.0, 32.2, 32.0, 21.1. Compound **8c**: ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.05 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.81–6.85 (m, 2H), 5.81–5.87 (m, 1H), 5.03 (dt, *J* = 17.2, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 4.97 (dt, *J* = 10.2, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 3.77–3.81 (m, 7H), 2.59 (dd, *J* = 7.7, 7.7 Hz, 2H), 2.09 (q, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 1.63–1.69 (m, 2H), 1.31 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 6H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 151.8, 139.9, 138.7, 136.3, 124.9, 122.1, 114.2, 109.9, 56.0, 33.6, 31.2, 29.8. Compound **8d**: ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.00 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.74–6.79 (m, 2H), 3.71–3.76 (m, 7H), 3.52–3.54 (m, 2H), 2.53 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.99 (s, 1H), 1.48–1.57 (m, 4H), 1.25 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 6H). Compound **8e**: ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.02 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.79 (td, *J* = 7.3, 1.1 Hz, 2H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.75 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 4H), 2.66 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.16 (td, *J* = 7.1, 2.6 Hz, 2H), 1.94 (t, *J* = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 1.76 (dt, *J* = 7.6, 7.3 Hz, 2H), 1.27 (t, *J* = 7.1, 6H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 151.8, 139.9, 135.3, 124.9, 122.2, 110.1, 84.3, 68.2, 56.0, 30.6, 29.1, 18.0. Compound **8f**: ¹H NMR (250 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.00 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.78–6.83 (m, 2H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.76 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 4H), 2.65 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.20 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.75 (dt, *J* = 14.9, 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.28 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 6H), 0.16 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (62.5 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 151.9, 140.0, 135.5, 125.0, 122.3, 110.3, 107.5, 84.4, 56.1, 30.8, 29.3, 19.5, 0.14. Compound **8g**: ¹H NMR (250 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 6.88–7.05 (m, 2H), 6.76–6.80 (m, 2H), 5.78 (dt, *J* = 15.6, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 4.16 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.70–3.79 (m, 7H), 2.56 (dd, *J* = 6.9, 6.9 Hz, 2H), 2.17 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.68 (td, *J* = 15.1, 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.23–1.30 (m, 9H); ¹³C NMR (62.5 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 166.6, 151.9, 149.1, 140.0, 135.7, 125.0, 122.1, 121.3, 110.3, 60.0, 56.1, 31.9, 31.1, 28.8, 14.2.
- General procedure for decomposition of triazenes:** A 10 mL sealed tube under Ar was charged with triazene (0.076 mmol) in methyl iodide (2 mL). The solution was degassed, sealed, and stirred at 110–130 °C for 20 h. The methyl iodide was removed under reduced pressure and the red residue was dissolved in Et₂O (10 mL), washed with saturated Na₂S₂O₃ solution, water, and dried over MgSO₄. Removal of the solvent gave a crude product. Purification of the product by flash chromatography (20% EtOAc/pentanes) afforded two colorless oils. However, the products were not always separable. Compound **9b**: ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.81 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (td, *J* = 7.4, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 6.88 (td, *J* = 7.5, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 5.80–5.81 (m, 1H),

4.92–5.00 (m, 2H), 3.08 (q, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.06 (m, 1H), 1.98 (m, 1H), 1.73–1.75 (m, 1H), 1.43–1.63 (m, 1H), 1.19 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 149.2, 139.5, 138.5, 128.5, 127.7, 126.5, 114.5, 101.8, 42.8, 36.7, 31.6, 21.3. Compound **9c**: ^1H NMR (250 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.20 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 6.83 (dd, $J = 7.6$, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 6.64 (dd, $J = 8.1$, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 5.81–5.92 (m, 1H), 5.05 (dd, $J = 8.1$, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 5.00 (d, $J = 11.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 2.78 (dd, $J = 7.8$, 7.8 Hz, 2H), 2.14 (q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 1.63–1.75 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (62.5 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 158.1, 147.0, 138.4, 128.8, 121.9, 114.8, 108.2, 92.8, 56.4, 40.6, 33.3, 29.2. Compound **10c**: ^1H NMR (250 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.16–7.25 (m, 1H), 6.71–6.77 (m, 3H), 5.71–5.76 (m, 2H), 3.84–3.87 (m, 2H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 2.63–2.71 (m, 2H), 2.31–2.43 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (62.5 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 159.5, 142.9, 133.9, 129.2, 128.4, 120.7, 114.1, 111.1, 55.1, 35.1, 33.5, 6.40. Compound **9d**: ^1H NMR (250 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.19 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 6.83 (dd, $J = 7.6$, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.64 (dd, $J = 8.1$, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.67 (t, $J = 5.8$ Hz, 2H), 2.77–2.83 (m, 2H), 1.63–1.71 (m, 4H), 1.59 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (62.5 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 158.0, 146.8, 128.8, 121.8, 108.3, 92.7, 62.6, 56.4, 40.7, 32.2, 26.2. Compound **10d**: ^1H NMR (250 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.17–7.25 (m, 1H), 6.73–6.81 (m, 3H), 4.11–4.14 (m, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.70–3.77 (m, 2H), 2.82–2.88 (m, 1H), 2.66–2.74 (m, 1H), 1.97–2.19 (m, 3H);

^{13}C NMR (62.5 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 159.7, 142.0, 129.5, 120.8, 114.3, 111.5, 68.5, 55.1, 40.6, 37.5, 35.3. Compound **9e**: ^1H NMR (250 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.17–7.24 (m, 1H), 6.86 (dd, $J = 7.5$, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 6.65 (dd, $J = 7.7$, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 2.90 (dd, $J = 7.9$, 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.24 (td, $J = 7.0$, 2.6 Hz, 2H), 2.00 (t, $J = 2.6$ Hz, 1H), 1.84 (q, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (62.5 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 158.2, 146.1, 128.8, 122.1, 108.5, 92.0, 84.0, 68.8, 56.4, 29.0, 28.6, 17.9. Compound **10e**: ^1H NMR (250 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.20 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.73–6.80 (m, 3H), 5.69 (dt, $J = 5.7$, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 5.12 (td, $J = 6.4$, 5.9 Hz, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 2.74 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 2.40–2.49 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (62.5 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 205.3, 159.6, 142.6, 129.3, 120.7, 114.4, 111.4, 95.5, 55.1, 39.9, 35.9, 34.6. Compound **9f**: ^1H NMR (250 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.20–7.27 (m, 1H), 6.90 (dd, $J = 7.6$, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.67 (dd, $J = 8.1$, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 2.75–2.95 (m, 2H), 2.21–2.34 (m, 2H), 1.85 (dt, $J = 15.2$, 7.6 Hz, 2H), 0.21 (s, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (62.5 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 158.1, 146.2, 128.8, 122.1, 108.4, 106.9, 92.7, 85.1, 56.4, 40.0. Compound **10f**: ^1H NMR (250 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.23 (td, $J = 7.6$, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 6.78–6.83 (m, 3H), 4.47 (t, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 2.75–2.95 (m, 2H), 2.21–2.34 (m, 2H), 0.21 (s, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (62.5 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 159.7, 141.5, 129.5, 120.8, 114.3, 111.5, 106.0, 91.7, 55.1, 42.3, 35.1, 9.8, –0.29.