



## Unprecedented ‘ring transformation-rearrangement’ of pyran-2-ones into 5,6-dihydropyran-2-ones through insertion of acetol <sup>☆</sup>

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### ARTICLE INFO

#### Article history:

Received 10 September 2009

Revised 8 December 2009

Accepted 10 December 2009

Available online 13 December 2009

#### Keywords:

5,6-Dihydropyran-2-ones

Pyran-2-ones

Acetol

Ring transformation-rearrangement reaction

### ABSTRACT

One-pot efficient synthesis of functionalized 5,6-dihydropyran-2-ones has been delineated by reacting 2*H*-pyran-2-ones and acetol in the presence of a base at room temperature. The formation of 5,6-dihydropyran-2-ones revealed that the reaction proceeded in a unique ‘ring transformation-rearrangement’ sequence.

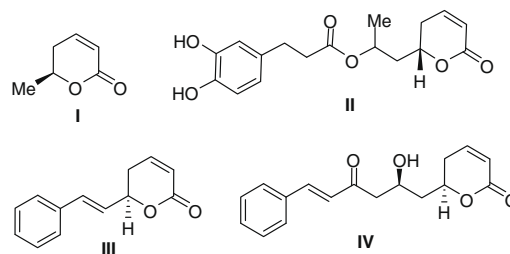
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Pyran-2-ones and their partially reduced 5,6-dihydropyran-2-ones are an important class of biologically interesting natural products isolated from higher plants, marine and animal sources.<sup>1</sup> Many of the natural 5,6-dihydropyran-2-ones such as (+)-parasorbic acid<sup>2</sup> (**I**), tarchonanthuslactone<sup>3</sup> (**II**), (–)-goniothalamine<sup>4</sup> (**III**), and (+)-kurzilactone<sup>5</sup> (**IV**) possess interesting pharmacological and cytotoxic<sup>6</sup> properties (Fig. 1). Synthetic compounds bearing this ring skeleton display anti-HIV,<sup>7</sup> anti-cancer,<sup>8</sup> antileukemic,<sup>9</sup> and a broad range of many other relevant pharmacological properties.<sup>10</sup> The wide pharmacological potential of this bioactive scaffold has aroused considerable interest in developing novel approaches to their synthesis.

Numerous synthetic methodologies of 5,6-dihydropyran-2-ones have been reported in the literature. The construction of 5,6-dihydropyran-2-ones skeleton can be achieved by the reaction of glycals with InCl<sub>3</sub>/IBX reagent,<sup>11</sup> lactonization of substituted δ-hydroxy acid derivatives,<sup>12</sup> oxidation of substituted dihydropyran derivatives,<sup>13</sup> and by ring-closing metathesis.<sup>4,14</sup> Although these reactions have been widely employed for the synthesis of natural and unnatural dihydropyran-2-ones, the scope of these reactions is limited due to the difficulties in obtaining suitably functionalized acyclic substrates, specialized organometallic reagents, harsh reaction conditions, and formation of undesired byproducts. Herein we report a one-pot highly convenient protocol

for the synthesis of 5,6-dihydropyran-2-ones through base-induced ring transformation-rearrangement of pyran-2-ones using acetol as a source of O-nucleophile.

During our studies on the chemistry of 2*H*-pyran-2-ones, we found that 4-methylsulfanyl/amino-2-oxo-6-aryl-2*H*-pyran-3-carbonitriles are susceptible to Michael addition of a conjugate base of methylene carbonyl compounds at position 6, leading to the formation of a benzene ring at room temperature (Scheme 1).<sup>15</sup> The success of our efficient novel pathway to a benzene ring system under mild basic conditions encouraged us to explore this methodology for the synthesis of functionally congested benzenes, unsymmetrical biaryls, teraryls, quateraryls, and oligoarenes under mild basic conditions at room temperature.<sup>16</sup> Recently we have demonstrated that our methodology can be applied to prepare fluorescent blue materials for efficient organic light emitting diodes.<sup>17</sup>

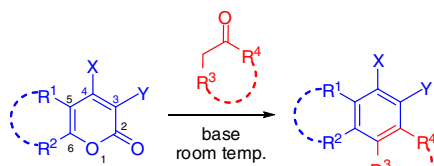


**Figure 1.** Examples of natural 5,6-dihydropyranones: (+)-parasorbic acid (**I**), tarchonanthuslactone (**II**), (–)-goniothalamine (**III**), and (+)-kurzilactone (**IV**).

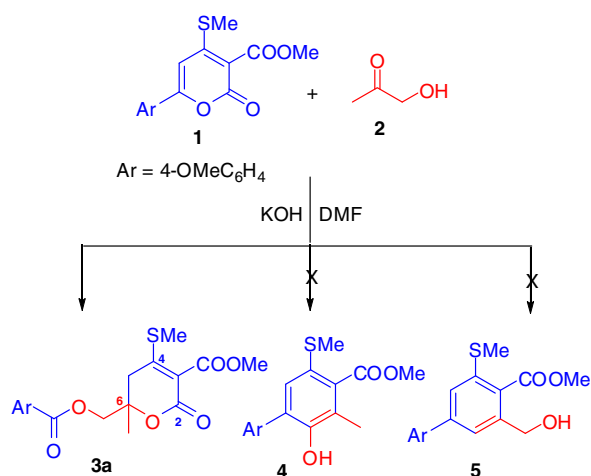
<sup>☆</sup> CDRI Communication No. 7864.

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**Scheme 1.** C-Nucleophile induced ring transformed product.



**Scheme 2.** Synthesis of methyl 6-(4-methoxy-benzoyloxymethyl)-6-methyl-4-methylsulfanyl-2-oxo-5,6-dihydro-2H-pyran-3-carboxylic acid ester (**3**).

When we applied our ring transformation strategy<sup>15</sup> on methyl 6-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4-(methylthio)-2-oxo-2H-pyran-3-carboxylate (**1**) using acetol (**2**) as a source of nucleophile to prepare substituted phenol (**4**) and/or benzyl alcohol (**5**) derivatives as shown in Scheme 2, we isolated an unknown compound in 70% yield (Scheme 2). A careful examination of the spectroscopic analysis of the isolated compound including HSQC and HMBC NMR data revealed its structure as methyl 6-((4-methoxybenzoyloxy)-methyl)-6-methyl-4-(methylsulfanyl)-2-oxo-5,6-dihydro-2H-pyran-3-carboxylate (**3a**).

The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of the product (**3a**) showed four singlets at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  1.56, 2.38, 3.83, and 3.87, each for 3H, in which  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  2.38, 3.83, and 3.87 showed the characteristic signals corresponding to the SCH<sub>3</sub>, OMe, and COOMe groups, respectively, but a singlet at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  1.56 revealed the presence of a methyl group attached to an aliphatic system (Fig. 2). Four doublets at 2.73, 3.04, 4.40, and 4.45 each for one proton with coupling constants of 17.7, 17.7, 11.8, and 11.8 Hz, respectively, revealed the presence of two methylene groups containing geminal protons. Further DEPT-90 and DEPT-135 studies on <sup>13</sup>C NMR experiments for the compound **3a**

confirmed the presence of two CH<sub>2</sub> groups. Two doublets at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  6.92 and 7.98 each for 2H showed the characteristic signals of the 4-methoxyphenyl group.

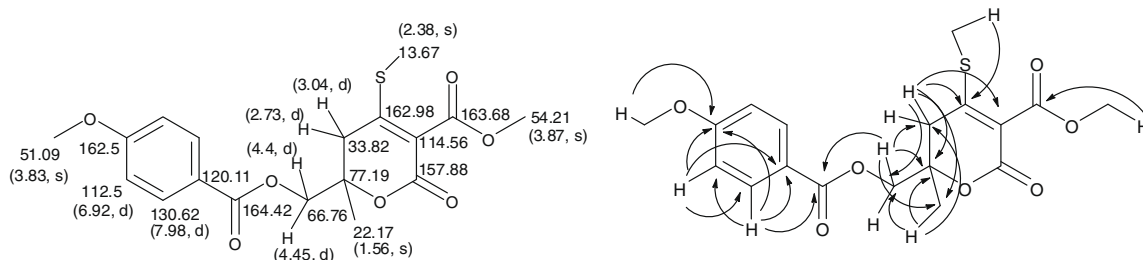
The ESI-mass spectrum of **3a** exhibited molecular ion peak [M+H]<sup>+</sup> at *m/z* 381, which indicated the formation of addition product (**3a**) of the reactants **1** and **2**. It was found in agreement with the molecular formula of compound **3a** as C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>21</sub>O<sub>7</sub>S obtained by HRMS. The mass, NMR and IR studies of product (**3**) led us to speculate that **3** had a 5,6-dihydro-2H-pyran-2-one ring system with a methyl and a 4-methoxybenzoyloxy methyl groups.

The speculated ring system for **3a** was confirmed by the 2D NMR studies (Fig. 2). In the HMBC spectrum of **3a**, the CH<sub>2</sub> protons ( $\delta$  2.73 and 3.04) gave long-range correlation with signals at  $\delta$  162.98 (C-4), 114.56 (C-3), 77.19 (C-6), 66.76 (O-CH<sub>2</sub>), and 22.17 (CH<sub>3</sub>) while other CH<sub>2</sub> protons ( $\delta$  4.40 and 4.45) gave long-range correlation with signals at  $\delta$  164.42 (CO), 77.19 (C-6), 22.17 (CH<sub>3</sub>), and 33.82 (CH<sub>2</sub>). This supports the existence of methyl and (4-methoxybenzoyloxy) methyl groups at C-6 position of the 5,6-dihydro-2H-pyran-2-one ring. The HMBC correlation (Fig. 2) of aromatic protons ( $\delta$  7.98) with  $\delta$  164.42 (CO) also support the presence of 4-methoxy-benzoyloxy methyl group at C-6 position of the 5,6-dihydro-2H-pyran-2-one ring. The final analysis of all the spectral data of the compound **3a** led to the structure as 6-(4-methoxy-benzoyloxymethyl)-6-methyl-4-methylsulfanyl-2-oxo-5,6-dihydro-2H-pyran-3-carboxylic acid methyl ester.

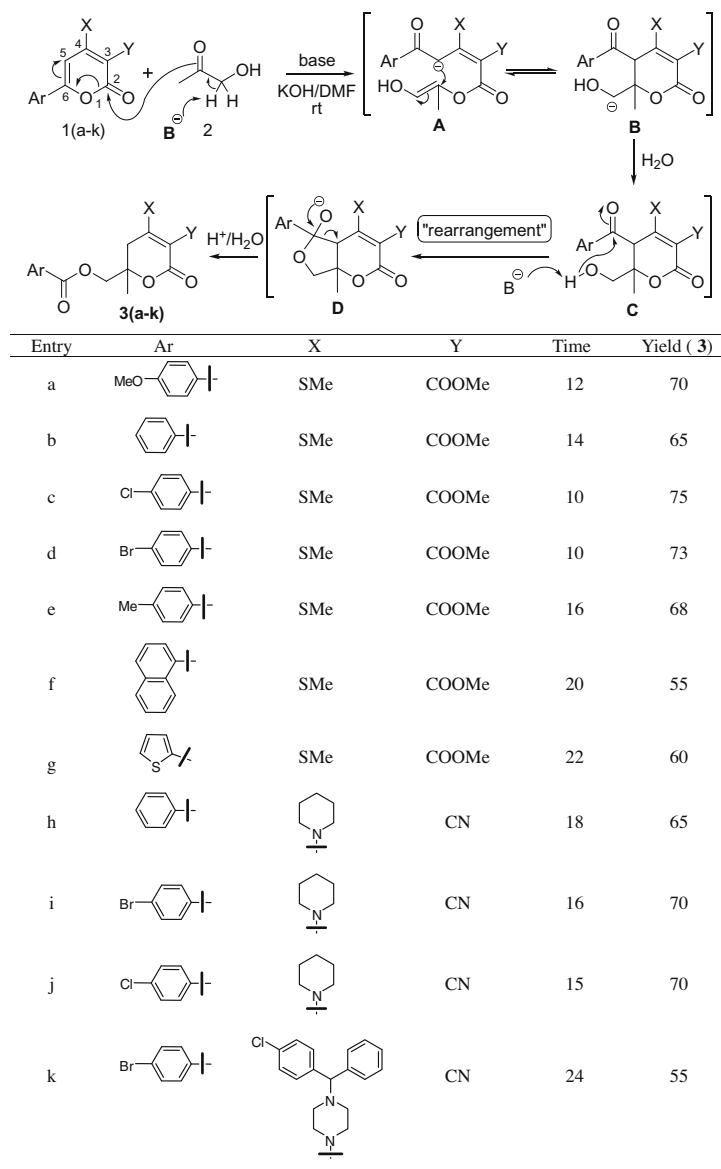
With the demonstration of the utility of this protocol in general, we attempted a series of reactions with a variety of six-membered lactones (**1a–k**). The pyran-2-ones (**1a–k**) were conveniently prepared in high yields by the reaction of 2-cyano/carbomethoxy-3,3-bis-(methylsulfanyl)-acrylic acid methyl ester with aryl methyl ketones under alkaline conditions, followed by the reaction with secondary amines.<sup>15</sup> The synthesis of functionalized 5,6-dihydro-2H-pyran-2-ones (**3a–k**) was achieved by stirring an equimolar mixture of 2H-pyran-2-ones (**1a–k**), acetol (**2**) and powdered KOH in DMF for 10–24 h at room temperature (Scheme 3).<sup>18</sup>

The reaction was monitored by TLC and after completion, the reaction mixture was poured into ice water and neutralized with dilute HCl. The crude product thus obtained was filtered and purified on a silica gel column using 1% methanol in chloroform as an eluent. The isolated compounds were characterized by spectroscopic analysis.<sup>18</sup>

To understand the reaction mechanism for the formation of 5,6-dihydro-2H-pyran-2-ones, we stirred a solution of 2H-pyran-2-ones **1a–k** in the presence of KOH in DMF at room temperature. We found that the lactones are fairly stable in KOH and no ring opening of the lactones was observed. Interestingly, when we stirred a solution of 6-aryl-2-oxo-4-(piperidin-1-yl)-2H-pyran-3-carbonitriles **1h–m** in the presence of sodium alkoxide at room temperature, we isolated alkyl 5-aryl-2-cyano-5-oxo-3-(piperidin-1-yl)-pent-2-enoates (**4a–f**) in good yield (Scheme 4). These results indicated that an alkoxide attacked at C-2 position of the lactones **1h–m** leading to the formation of lactone-ring opened products (**4a–f**).



**Figure 2.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectral data of **3a** and selected <sup>1</sup>H to <sup>13</sup>C-HMBC correlations in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.

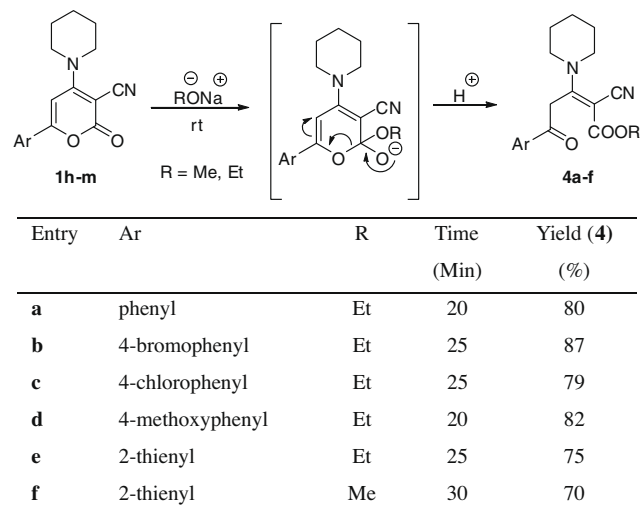


**Scheme 3.** Plausible reaction mechanism for the formation of 5,6-dihydropyran-2-ones (**3a–k**).

The structure of one of the compounds **4e** was unambiguously confirmed by a single crystal X-ray analysis (Fig. 3, CCDC number 752871).

Based on the results obtained in Scheme 4, we propose a mechanism for the formation of 5,6-dihydropyran-2-ones in Scheme 3. The transformation of 2*H*-pyran-2-ones **1a–k** into 5,6-dihydropyran-2-ones **3a–k** is possibly initiated by an attack of an enolate of acetol **2** at position C-2 of the lactone **1**, followed by intramolecular cyclization to furnish an intermediate **B**. The hydroxyl group in the presence of a base may attack the carbonyl functionality present on C-5 to give an intermediate **D**, which may undergo in situ intramolecular rearrangement to afford 5,6-dihydropyran-2-ones **3a–k** in good yields. To the best of our knowledge, such an in situ intramolecular rearrangement of benzoyl group from position 5 to hydroxymethyl group is not known in the literature.

In summary, we have developed a convenient protocol for the synthesis of functionalized 5,6-dihydropyran-2-ones through base-catalyzed novel 'ring transformation-rearrangement' of functionalized 6-aryl-2-pyran-2-ones with acetol in good yields. The formation of the products **3a–k** revealed a unique in situ intramo-



**Scheme 4.**

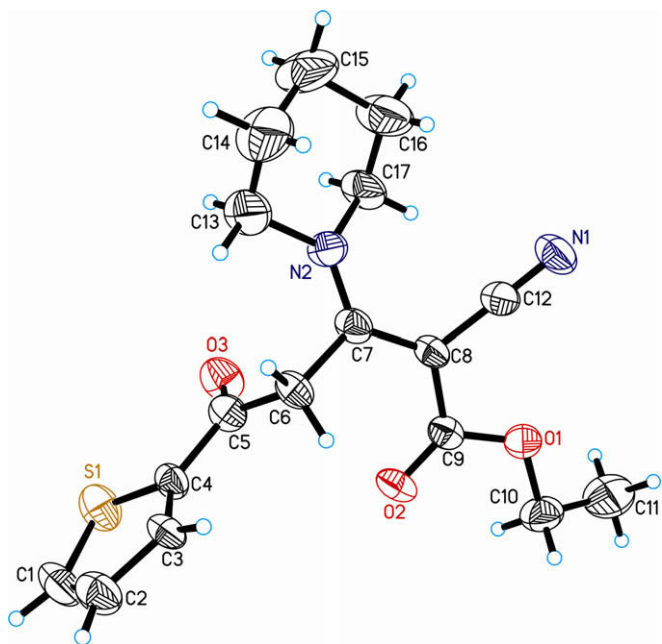


Figure 3. ORTEP diagram of compound 4e.

lecular 'rearrangement of benzoyl moiety' from position 5 of pyran-2-one to the 'hydroxymethyl group' of 5,6-dihydropyran-2-one. This methodology provides an easy access to diverse 5,6-dihydropyran-2-ones at room temperature under mild reaction environment.

## Acknowledgments

The work is supported by the Department of Science and Technology, New Delhi, under Ramanna Fellowship Scheme to A.G. (SR/S1/RFP-C-10/2006). The authors are grateful to Dr. T. Narendar for valuable discussions on structural elucidation. A.K. and S.P.S. are grateful to CSIR, and ICMR, New Delhi, for senior research fellowship. The authors thank Sophisticated Analytical Instrument Facility (SAIF), Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow, for providing spectroscopic data of the synthesized compounds.

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- Synthesis of 6-(aroyloxymethyl)-6-methyl-4-substituted-2-oxo-5,6-dihydro-2H-pyran-3-carbonitrile/carboxylic acid methyl esters (**3a–k**): In a typical example, a mixture of 6-aryl-2H-pyran-2-ones (**1**, 1 mmol), acetol (**2**, 1 mmol), and powdered KOH (2 mmol) in dry DMF (5 mL) was stirred at room temperature for 10–24 h. At the end, reaction mixture was poured into ice water with constant stirring and finally neutralized with dilute HCl. The solid thus obtained was filtered and purified on a silica gel column using 1% methanol in chloroform as the eluent. Compound **3a**: white solid; mp 124–126 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 1.56 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.38 (s, 3H, SCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.73 (d, J = 17.7 Hz, 1H, CH), 3.04 (d, J = 17.7 Hz, 1H, CH), 3.83 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.87 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.40 (d, J = 11.8 Hz, 1H, CH), 4.45 (d, J = 11.8 Hz, 1H, CH), 6.92 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.98 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H, ArH); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 13.67, 22.17, 33.82, 51.09, 54.20, 77.19, 112.51, 114.56, 120.11, 130.62, 157.88, 162.58, 162.98, 163.6, 164.42; IR (KBr) 1696, 1733 cm<sup>-1</sup> (CO); MS (ESI) 381 (M<sup>+</sup>+1); HRMS (ESI+) calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>21</sub>O<sub>5</sub>S: 381.10080, found: 381.10364. Compound **3b**: white solid; mp 98–100 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 1.59 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.30 (s, 3H, SCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.76 (d, J = 17.7 Hz, 1H, CH), 3.06 (d, J = 17.7 Hz, 1H, CH), 3.84 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.45 (d, J = 11.8 Hz, 1H, CH), 4.50 (d, J = 11.8 Hz, 1H, CH), 7.44–7.50 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.58–7.64 (m, 1H, ArH), 8.01–8.08 (m, 2H, ArH); IR (KBr) 1689, 1737 cm<sup>-1</sup> (CO); MS (ESI) 351 (M<sup>+</sup>+1); HRMS (ESI+) calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>19</sub>O<sub>5</sub>S: 351.0902, found: 351.0903. Compound **3c**: white solid; mp 114–116 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 1.57 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.39 (s, 3H, SCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.75 (d, J = 17.9 Hz, 1H, CH); 3.03 (d, J = 17.7 Hz, 1H, CH), 3.83 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.41 (d, J = 11.9 Hz, 1H, CH), 4.61 (d, J = 11.9 Hz, 1H, CH), 7.43 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.97 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H, ArH); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 15.40, 23.88, 35.57, 52.87, 69.10, 78.70, 116.30, 127.88, 129.32, 131.63, 140.57, 168.00, 164.36, 165.31, 165.65; IR (KBr) 1696 and 1733 cm<sup>-1</sup> (CO); MS (ESI) 385, 387 (M<sup>+</sup>+1, M<sup>+</sup>+3); HRMS (ESI+) calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>18</sub>ClO<sub>5</sub>S: 385.05126, found: 385.05014. Compound **3d**: white solid; mp 130–132 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 1.57 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.39 (s, 3H, SCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.74 (d, J = 17.7 Hz, 1H, CH); 3.03 (d, J = 17.7 Hz, 1H, CH), 3.83 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.40 (d, J = 11.9 Hz, 1H, CH), 4.50 (d, J = 11.9 Hz, 1H, CH), 4.50 (d, J = 11.9 Hz, 1H, CH), 7.60 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.89 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H, ArH); IR (KBr) 1696, 1733 cm<sup>-1</sup> (CO); MS (ESI) 429 (M<sup>+</sup>+1), 431 (M<sup>+</sup>+3). Compound **3e**: white solid; mp 108–110 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 1.58 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.40 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.44 (s, 3H, SCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.74 (d, J = 17.7 Hz, 1H, CH); 3.05 (d, J = 17.7 Hz, 1H, CH), 3.85 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.44 (d, J = 11.8 Hz, 1H, CH), 4.49 (d, J = 11.8 Hz, 1H, CH), 7.27 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.94 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H, ArH); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 15.42, 22.12, 23.87, 52.83, 79.0, 116.18, 126.70, 129.66, 130.25, 144.84, 159.56, 164.96, 165.39, 166.49; IR (KBr) 1696, 1733 cm<sup>-1</sup> (CO); MS (ESI) 365 (M<sup>+</sup>+1). Compound **3f**: white solid; mp 102–104 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 1.63 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.39 (s, 3H, SCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.78 (d, J = 17.7 Hz, 1H, CH); 3.11 (d, J = 17.7 Hz, 1H, CH), 3.84 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.54–4.58 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 7.51–7.68 (m, 3H, ArH), 7.92 (d, J = 4.7 Hz, 1H, ArH), 8.09 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H, ArH), 8.20–8.28 (m, 1H, ArH); 8.94 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H, ArH), IR (KBr) 1693, 1725 cm<sup>-1</sup> (CO); MS (ESI) 401 (M<sup>+</sup>+1). Compound **3g**: white solid; mp 104–106 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 1.56 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.40 (s, 3H, SCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.74 (d, J = 17.7 Hz, 1H, CH); 3.05 (d, J = 17.7 Hz, 1H, CH), 3.84 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.36–4.42 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 7.11–7.15 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.62 (d, J = 4.9 Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.84 (d,

$J = 3.7$  Hz, 1H, ArH); IR (KBr) 1696, 1732  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (CO); MS (ESI) 357 ( $M^+ + 1$ ). Compound **3h**: white solid; mp 160–162 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  1.65 (s, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.68–1.73 (m, 6H,  $3\text{CH}_2$ ), 2.61 (d,  $J = 15.8$  Hz, 1H, CH); 2.82 (d,  $J = 15.8$  Hz, 1H, CH), 3.64–3.70 (m, 4H,  $2\text{CH}_2$ ), 4.43 (d,  $J = 11.8$  Hz, 1H, CH), 4.48 (d,  $J = 11.8$  Hz, 1H, CH), 7.44–7.53 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.57–7.67 (m, 1H, ArH), 8.00–8.08 (m, 2H, ArH); IR (KBr) 1684 & 1716  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (CO), 2201  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (CN); MS (ESI) 355 ( $M^+ + 1$ ); HRMS (EI+) calcd for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4$ : 354.1580, found: 354.1575. Compound **3i**: white solid; mp 160–162 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  1.53 (s, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.68–1.73 (m, 6H,  $3\text{CH}_2$ ), 2.63 (d,  $J = 15.9$  Hz, 1H, CH); 2.83 (d,  $J = 15.9$  Hz, 1H, CH), 3.60–3.80 (m, 4H,  $2\text{CH}_2$ ), 4.39 (d,  $J = 11.8$  Hz, 1H, CH), 4.44 (d,  $J = 11.8$  Hz, 1H, CH), 7.61 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.89 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 2H, ArH); IR (KBr) 1680, 1722  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (CO), 2204  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (CN); MS (ESI) 433 ( $M^+ + 1$ ), 435 ( $M^+ + 3$ ). Compound **3j**: white solid; mp 150–152 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  1.55 (s, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.60–1.78 (m, 6H,  $3\text{CH}_2$ ), 2.61 (d,  $J = 15.9$  Hz, 1H, CH); 2.82 (d,  $J = 15.9$  Hz, 1H, CH), 3.60–3.80 (m, 4H,  $2\text{CH}_2$ ), 4.42 (d,  $J = 11.9$  Hz, 1H, CH), 4.46 (d,  $J = 11.8$  Hz, 1H, CH), 7.46 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.98 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 2H, ArH); IR (KBr) 1673, 1727  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (CO), 2206  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (CN); MS (ESI) 389 ( $M^+ + 1$ ), 391 ( $M^+ + 3$ ). Compound **3k**: white solid; mp 196–198 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  1.54 (s, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 2.40–2.48 (m, 4H,  $2\text{CH}_2$ ), 2.53 (d,  $J = 15.9$  Hz, 1H, CH); 2.75 (d,  $J = 15.9$  Hz, 1H, CH), 3.70–3.80 (m, 4H,  $2\text{CH}_2$ ), 4.22 (s, 1H, CH), 4.43 (d,  $J = 11.6$  Hz, 1H, CH), 4.45 (d,  $J = 11.6$  Hz, 1H, CH), 7.29–7.36 (m, 9H, ArH), 7.65 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.90 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 2H, ArH);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75.5 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3 + \text{DMSO}$ )  $\delta$  26.91, 37.49, 52.90, 55.14, 72, 75.11, 78.12, 80.59, 121.14, 131.13, 131.62, 132.24, 132.34, 132.48, 132.58, 134.72, 134.79, 135.44, 136.28, 143.83, 144.46, 166.65, 167.41, 168.48; IR (KBr) 1686, 1723  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (CO), 2207  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (CN); MS (ESI) 634 ( $M^+ + 1$ ), 636 ( $M^+ + 3$ ). Compound **4a**: white solid; mp 148–150 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (200 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  1.25 (t,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.72–1.76 (m, 6H,  $3\text{CH}_2$ ), 3.63–3.67 (m, 4H,  $2\text{CH}_2$ ), 4.11 (q,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ),

4.91 (s, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 7.44–7.67 (m, 3H, ArH), 7.95–8.10 (m, 2H, ArH); IR (KBr) 1668  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (CO), 2194  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (CN); MS (ESI) 327 ( $M^+ + 1$ ). Compound **4b**: white solid; mp 130–132 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (200 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  1.25 (t,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.72–1.76 (m, 6H,  $3\text{CH}_2$ ), 3.64–3.68 (m, 4H,  $2\text{CH}_2$ ), 4.11 (q,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 4.84 (s, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 7.65 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.86 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H, ArH);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (50 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  14.91, 24.05, 26.70, 41.37, 52.91, 60.85, 120.01, 125.54, 129.55, 130.38, 132.60, 135.16, 166.91, 168.11, 193.61; IR (KBr) 1678  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (CO), 2196  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (CN); MS (ESI) 405 ( $M^+ + 1$ ), 407 ( $M^+ + 3$ ). Compound **4c**: white solid; mp 112–114 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (200 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  1.25 (t,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.72–1.76 (m, 6H,  $3\text{CH}_2$ ), 3.64–3.68 (m, 4H,  $2\text{CH}_2$ ), 4.11 (q,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 4.84 (s, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 7.48 (d,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.93 (d,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 2H, ArH); IR (KBr) 1680  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (CO), 2198  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (CN); MS (ESI) 361 ( $M^+ + 1$ ). Compound **4d**: white solid; mp 140–142 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (200 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  1.25 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.71–1.75 (m, 6H,  $3\text{CH}_2$ ), 3.63–3.67 (m, 4H,  $2\text{CH}_2$ ), 3.89 (s, 3H,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ), 4.12 (q,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 4.87 (s, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 6.96 (d,  $J = 8.9$  Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.97 (d,  $J = 8.9$  Hz, 2H, ArH);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (50 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  14.80, 23.99, 26.80, 41.24, 52.48, 56.05, 60.92, 114.72, 120.34, 128.40, 129.53, 131.02, 164.39, 167.58, 169.64, 192.69; IR (KBr) 1682  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (CO), 2196  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (CN); MS (ESI) 357 ( $M^+ + 1$ ). Compound **4e**: white solid; mp 160–162 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (200 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  1.26 (t,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.71–1.75 (m, 6H,  $3\text{CH}_2$ ), 3.64–3.68 (m, 4H,  $2\text{CH}_2$ ), 4.14 (q,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 4.86 (s, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 7.12–7.21 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.70 (d,  $J = 4.7$  Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.83 (d,  $J = 3.4$  Hz, 1H, ArH); IR (KBr) 1666  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (CO), 2190  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (CN); MS (ESI) 333 ( $M^+ + 1$ ). Compound **4f**: white solid; mp 162–164 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (200 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  1.72–1.76 (m, 6H,  $3\text{CH}_2$ ), 3.66–3.70 (m, 7H,  $2\text{CH}_2$  &  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 4.86 (s, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 7.13–7.21 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.71 (d,  $J = 4.8$  Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.83 (d,  $J = 3.4$  Hz, 1H, ArH); IR (KBr) 1667  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (CO), 2191  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (CN); MS (ESI) 319 ( $M^+ + 1$ ).