Tetrahedron Letters 51 (2010) 4908-4910

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Tetrahedron Letters



Efficient synthesis of new 1-alkyl(aryl)-5-(3,3,3-trihalo-2-oxopropylidene)-1H-pyrrol-2(5H)-ones

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ARTICLE INFO

Article history: Received 20 May 2010 Revised 12 July 2010 Accepted 13 July 2010 Available online 18 July 2010

ABSTRACT

The synthesis of 1-alkyl(aryl)-5-(3,3,3-trihalo-2-oxopropylidene)-1H-pyrrol-2(5H)-ones 5, 6a-d from 1-alkyl(aryl)-4-bromo-5-(3,3,3-trihalo-2-oxopropylidene)-1H-pyrrolidin-2-ones 3, 4a-d is reported. The 1-alkyl(aryl)-4-bromo-5-(3,3,3-trihalo-2-oxopropylidene)-1H-pyrrolidin-2-ones 3, 4a-d were obtained from regiospecific bromination of 1-alkyl(aryl)-5-(3,3,3-trihalo-2-oxopropylidene)-1H-pyrrolidin-2-ones 1, 2a-d with molecular bromine. The NMR and X-ray diffraction data showed that 1-alkyl(aryl)-5-(3,3,3trihalo-2-oxopropylidene)-1H-pyrrolidin-2-ones were brominated at 4-position in the pyrrolidin-2-one ring.

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Our continuing interest in 1,3-dielectrophilic compounds has led us to study a new aspect of the application of the acetal acylation method for producing methyl 4-methoxy-6-oxo-7,7,7-trihalo-4heptenoates **1** and **2**.¹ These 1,3-dielectrophilic precursors have proved to be important building blocks for regiospecific synthesis of heterocyclic compounds bearing trihalomethyl group with important pharmacological and synthetic applications.² Recently, the synthesis of 5-bromo-1,1,1-trichloro-(fluoro)-4-methoxy pent-3-en-2-ones, obtained from bromination of the parent enones, has been developed, in analytical purity and good yields.³

On the other hand, the importance of the pyrrole ring has continued to stimulate a great deal of interest in the development of new methodologies for its synthesis.^{4–8} Pyrrolin-2-ones are biologically active compounds, which are important structural units in alkaloids, nucleosides, antineoplastic agents or immunosuppressants.^{9–12} In 3-pyrrolin-2-ones, the α . β -unsaturated lactam mojety can be utilized as a Michael acceptor for a variety of nucleophiles, including carbon and nitrogen nucleophiles. In addition pyrrolidin-2-ones can be utilized as precursors for a variety of heterocycles, including 3-(3-azolyl)propanoates and 3-(3-azolyl)propanamides.^{2,13}

Herein, we wish to report an efficient approach for the synthesis of 1-alkyl(aryl)-4-bromo-5-(3,3,3-trihalo-2-oxopropylidene)-1Hpyrrolidin-2-ones (**3a–d**, **4a–d**) from the corresponding 1-alkyl (aryl)-5-(3,3,3-trihalo-2-oxopropylidene)-1*H*-pyrrolidin-2-ones (1a-d, 2a-d), and their subsequent dehydrobromination with triethylamine to the 1-alkyl(aryl)-5-(3,3,3-trihalo-2-oxopropylid-

ene)-1*H*-pyrrol-2(5*H*)-ones (**5a**-**d**, **6a**-**d**). The starting 1-alkyl (aryl)-5-(3,3,3-trihalo-2-oxopropylidene)-1H-pyrrolidin-2-ones (1a-d, 2a-d) were prepared from the corresponding methyl 4methoxy-6-oxo-7,7,7-trihalo-4-heptenoates reacting with primary alkyl and aryl amines.¹

The precursors **1a–d** and **2a–d** have two obvious nucleophilic sites, 1-position at propylidene chain and 3-position at pyrrolidin-2-one ring. However, we observed that the electrophilic bromine, from molecular bromine, reacted exclusively at 4-position in pyrrolidin-2-one ring, the reactive nucleophilic site under used conditions (Scheme 1). The monobromination was instantaneous without acid catalysis, as soon as the bromine was added to pyrr-



Scheme 1. Reagents and conditions: (i) Br₂, CH₂Cl₂, 25 °C, 4 h; (ii) pyridine, 0-25 °C, 30 min; (iii) Et₃N, CH₂Cl₂, 25 °C, 15 min.



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olidin-2-ne solution, the red coloration was lost and the HBr was released. The ¹H NMR data have demonstrated that the brominated products **3** and **4** are pure. The unambiguous ¹H and ¹³C NMR chemical shift assignments of compounds **3a–d** and **4a–d** were obtained with the help of 2D and DEPT 135 NMR experiments. The structure of **3d** was elucidated by an X-ray crystallographic analysis (Fig. 1).¹⁴ Given the novelty of the NMR assignment for brominated 5-(3,3,3-trifluoro-2-oxopropylidene)-1*H*-pyrrolidin-2-ones we are pleased that these assignments could be validated by X-ray crystallographic result.

Compounds **3a-d** and **4a-d** show ¹H chemical shifts of the diastereotopic methylene hydrogens (H-3) as a characteristic ABX system, a doublet at 3.1 ppm with a geminal coupling constant at $^{2}I = 19$ Hz from hydrogen cis to the bromine atom and a double doublet at 3.32 ppm with a vicinal coupling constant at ${}^{3}I = 7$ Hz and a geminal coupling constant at ${}^{2}I = 19$ Hz from hydrogen trans to bromine. The signal from the H-4 was a doublet at the range of 5.75–5.90 ppm with ${}^{3}I$ = 7 Hz. The signal characteristic of vinylic hydrogen at the propylidene moiety was observed as a singlet at 5.6–5.8 ppm. The ¹³C NMR spectra showed the signals of the propylidene moiety at characteristic regions, CF₃ at 117 ppm as a quartet with I_{CF} = 292 Hz or CCl₃ as a low intense signal at 96 ppm, C-sp² at 91–94 ppm and carbonyl at the range of 177– 178 ppm as a quartet with I_{CF} = 35 Hz for **3a–d**, and carbonyl at 178-180 ppm for 4a-d. Brominated carbon was observed at a range of 36 ppm in lower field than signal for C-3 at range 40 ppm.

A proposed mechanism for bromination of **1a–d** and **2a–d** could involve a tautomerization as showed in Scheme 2.

The compounds **5a**–**d** and **6a**–**d** show ¹H chemical shifts of the vinylic hydrogens, H-3 as a doublet at 8.2 ppm with a cis coupling constant at ³*J* = 6 Hz, and H-4 as a doublet of doublets at 6.5 ppm with a cis coupling constant at ³*J* = 6 Hz and a coupling constant 4 *J* = 1 Hz from hydrogen at the propylidene moiety H-6. The signal from vinylic hydrogen H-6 was observed as a tin doublet with 4 *J* = 1 Hz, for trifluorinated derivatives at 5.9 ppm and for trichlorinated derivatives at 6.3 ppm. The 13 C NMR spectra showed the signals of the propylidene moiety at characteristic regions, CF₃ at

Figure 1. X-ray molecular structure of compound 6a in representation of atoms via thermal ellipsoids at 50% probability level.

116 ppm as a quartet with J_{CF} = 291 Hz or CCl₃ as a low intense signal at 96.5 ppm, C-6 at 96–98 ppm and carbonyl C-7 at the range of 179–180 ppm as a quartet with J_{CF} = 35 Hz for **5a–d**, and as a short singlet at 178–180 ppm **6a–d**. Carbons C-3 and C-4 from the pyrrolone ring were observed, respectively, at the range of 136 and 128 ppm, typical chemical shifts for vinylic C-sp².

The HBr elimination from **3** and **4** with triethylamine furnished 1-alkyl(aryl)-5-(3,3,3-trihalo-2-oxopropylidene)-1*H*-pyrrol-2(5*H*)ones **5** and **6** in a short reaction time (15 min) in quantitative yield. The structure of the synthesized products has been confirmed by mass spectrometry and ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectroscopy. The mechanism involves two possibilities including classical E2 elimination, with Et₃N attack to trans bromine hydrogen and concerted output of the bromide, or E1cB elimination with amide enolate formation followed for bromide elimination. It still remains unknown, but investigations are currently in progress (Scheme 3).

In conclusion, we report a convenient synthesis of a new series of 1-alkyl(aryl)-4-bromo-5-(3,3,3-trihalo-2-oxopropylidene)-1*H*pyrrolidin-2-ones and 1-alkyl(aryl)-5-(3,3,3-tri halo-2-oxopropylidene)-1*H*-pyrrol-2(5*H*)-ones. 1-Alkyl (aryl)-4-bromo-5-(3,3, 3-trihalo-2-oxopropylidene)-1*H*-pyr rolidin-2-ones were regiospecifically brominated with molecular bromine under mild conditions furnishing good yields of products which were dehydrobrominated under alkaline conditions using Et₃N. This approach shows a clear advantage over the methods reported in the literature where the

synthesis of functionalized 5-propylidene-1H-pyrrolidin-2-one derivatives was obtained in several reaction steps, or using expensive reagents.^{6–12,15}

All common reagents and solvents were used as obtained from commercial suppliers without further purification. All melting points were determined on a Reichert Thermovar apparatus and are uncorrected. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were acquired on a Bruker DPX 400spectrometer (¹H at 400.13 MHz and ¹³C at 100.63 MHz), 5 mm sample tubes, 298 K, digital resolution ±0.01 ppm, in CDCl₃ and TMS as internal reference.

The general procedure for 1-alkyl(aryl)-4-bromo-5-(3,3,3-trihalo-2-oxopropylidene)-1*H*-pyrrolidin-2-ones (**3a-d**, **4a-d**) with molecular bromine: to a stirred solution of 1-alkyl(aryl)-5-(3,3,3-trihalo-2-oxopropylidene)-1H-pyrroli din-2-one (2 mmol) in methylene chloride (5 mL) was added dropwise a solution of molecular bromine in methylene chloride. The mixture was stirred for 4 h at room temperature. Then the mixture was cooled in ice bath, at -4 °C, and to which was added a solution with pyridine (2 mmol) in methylene chloride. The resulting solution was stirred for 30 min. Then, it was washed with water $(3 \times 15 \text{ mL})$, and the organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄. The solvent was evaporated to give pure products **3a–d** and **4a–d**. Products were fully characterized by elemental analysis and NMR data.¹⁶

The general procedure for 1-alkyl(aryl)-5-(3,3,3-trihalo-2-oxopropylidene)-1H-pyrrol-2(5H)-ones (5a-d, 6a-d): to a stirred solution of 1-alkyl(aryl)-4-bromo-5-(3,3,3-trihalo-2-oxopropylidene)-1H-pyrrolidin-2-one (2 mmol) in methylene chloride (5 mL) at 0 °C was dropwise added a solution of triethylamine (2.1 mmol) in methylene chloride (5 mL). The mixture was stirred for 15 min. Then the mixture was washed with water $(3 \times 15 \text{ mL})$, and the organic layer was dried over MgSO4. The solvent was evaporated to give pure products **5a-d** and **6a-d**. Products were fully characterized by elemental analysis and NMR data.¹⁷

Acknowledgments

The authors thank the Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico (CNPa- Process No. 306938/2007-3 and No 476158/2007-9) for the financial support and PIBIC-fellowship (for J. L. Malavolta). The financial support from Fundação de Apoio a Pesquisa do Estado do Rio Grande do Sul (FAPERGS) is also acknowledged.

Supplementary data

Supplementary data associated with this article can be found, in the online version, at doi:10.1016/j.tetlet.2010.07.073.

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application to CCDC. 12 Union Road. Cambridge CB2 1EZ. UK. Fax +44 0 1223 336033, email: deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk.

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 For **3a**: 86%, red-brown oil, ¹H NMR δ 5.85 (s, 1H, H-6), 5.78 (d, 1H, J_{HH} = 7 Hz, H-4), 3.75 (m, 1H, H-9), 3.52 (m, 1H, H-9), 3.26 (dd, 1H, J_{HH} = 19 and 7 Hz, H-3), 3.03 (d, 1H, $J_{\rm HH}$ = 19 Hz, H-3), 1.69 (sx, 2H, $J_{\rm HH}$ = 7 Hz, H-10), 0.99 (t, 3H, $J_{\rm HH}$ = 7 Hz, H-11). ¹³C NMR δ 177.7 (q, $J_{\rm CF}$ = 35 Hz, C-7), 173 (C-5), 165.6 (C-2), 116.1 (q, J_{CF} = 291 Hz, C-8), 91.5 (C-6), 42.4 (C-9), 39.7 (C-3), 36 (C-4), 19.4 (C-10), 11 (C-11). MS m/z (3) 315(M⁺2, 10), 313 (M⁺, 8), 244 (39), 234 (100), 204 (15), 108 (35). Compound **3b**: 91%, red oil, ¹H NMR δ 7.38–7.23 (m, 5H, Ph), 5.81 (s, 1H, H-6), 5.75 (d, 1H, J_{HH} = 7 Hz, H-4), 4.95 (d, 1H, J_{HH} = 16 Hz, H-9), 4.71 (d, 1H, J_{HH} = 16 Hz, H-9), 3.32 (dd, 1H, J_{HH} = 19 and 7 Hz, H-3), 3.09 (d, 1H, J_{HH} = 19 Hz, H-3). ¹³C NMR δ 177.6 (q, J_{CF} = 35 Hz, C-7), 172.9 (C-5), 164.7 (C-2), 133, 129, 128.3, 127 (Ph), 115.9 (q, J_{CF} = 291 Hz, C-8), 92.8 (C-6), 44.4 (C-9), 39.7 (C-3), 35.9 (C-4). MS m/z (%) 364(M⁺+2, <5), 362 (M⁺, <5), 292 (9), 282 (100), 204 (15), 91 (67). Compound **3c**: 90%, white solid, mp 77–79 °C, ¹H NMR δ 7.61–7.24 (m, 5H, Ph), So the second second second state of the seco 40.1 (C-3), 36.2 (C-3). MS m/z (%) 349(M⁺+2, <5), 347 (M⁺, <5), 278 (9), 268 (16), 198 (75), 170 (38), 144 (22), 77 (100). Compound **3d**: 80%, yellow solid, mp 139– 141 °C, ¹H NMR δ 7.72 (m, 2H, Ar), 7.15 (m, 2H, Ar), 5.89 (d, 1H, J_{HH} = 7 Hz, H-4), 5.67 (d, 1H, H-6), 3.43 (dd, 1H, J_{HH} = 19 and 7 Hz, H-3), 3.17 (d, 1H, J_{HH} = 19 Hz, H-3). ¹³C NMR δ 178 (q, J_{CF} = 35 Hz, C-7), 172 (C-5), 165.9 (C-2), 133.5, 131.3, 128.5, 120.1 (Ar), 115.8 (q, J_{CF} = 291 Hz, C-8), 93.2 (C-6), 40 (C-4), 36.1 (C-3). Compound **4a**: 79%, brown oil, ¹H NMR δ 6.15 (s, 1H, H-6), 5.83 (d, 1H, J_{HH} = 7 Hz, H-4), 3.78 (m, 1H, H-9), 3.53 (m, 1H, H-9), 3.26 (dd, 1H, J_{HH} = 19 and 7 Hz, H-3), 3.03 (d, 1H, $J_{HH} = 19$ Hz, H-3), 1.70 (sx, 2H, $J_{HH} = 7$ Hz, H-10), 0.99 (t, 3H, $J_{HH} = 7$ Hz, H-11). ¹³C NMR δ 178.7 (C-7), 172.8 (C-5), 164.3 (C-2), 96.9 (C-8), 91.4 (C-6), 42.3 (C-9), 39.9 (C-3), 35.9 (C-4), 19.5 (C-10), 11.1 (C-11). MS m/z (%) 364(M+2, <5), 362 (M+, <5), 246 (100), 244 (90), 204 (13), 202 (10), 164 (55), 122 (58), 80 (20), 78 (18). Compound **4b**: 97%, brown oil, ¹H NMR δ 7.37–7.25 (m, 5H, Ph), 6.11 (s, 1H, H-6), 5.79 (d, 1H, J_{HH} = 7 Hz, H-4), 4.98 (d, 1H, J_{HH} = 16 Hz, H-9), 4.74 (d, 1H, J_{HH} = 16 Hz, H-9), 3.33 (dd, 1H, J_{HH} = 19 and 7 Hz, H-3), 3.11 (d, 1H, J_{HH} = 19 Hz, H-3). ¹³C NMR δ 178.5 (C-7), 172.8 (C-5), 163.1 (C-2), 133.3, 129, 128.3, 127.3 (Ph), 96.7 (C-8), 93.1 (C-6), 44.5 (C-9), 40 (C-3), 35.7 (C-4). Compound 4c: 89%, yellow solid, mp 118-120 °C, ¹H NMR & 7.60-7.27 (m, 5H, Ph), 5.99 (d, 1H, H-6), 5.95 (d, 1H, J_{HH} = 7 Hz, H-4), 3.47 (dd, 1H, J_{HH} = 19 and 7 Hz, H-3), 3.17 (d, 1H, J_{HH} = 19 Hz, H-3). ¹³C NMR δ 179 (C-7), 172.1 (C-5), 165.2 (C-2), 132.7, 130.1, 129.8, 126.9 (Ph), 96.6 (q, J_{CF} = 291 Hz, C-8), 93.3 (C-6), 40.4 (C-3), 36.2 (C-4). Compound 4d: 91%, yellow solid, mp 146-148 °C, ¹H NMR 87.75 (m, 2H, Ar), 7.14 (m, 2H, Ar), 5.99 (d, 1H, H-6), 5.94 (d, 1H, J_{HH} = 7 Hz, H-4), 3.46 (dd, 1H, J_{HH} = 19 and 7 Hz, H-3), 3.17 (d, 1H, J_{HH} = 19 Hz, H-3). 13 CNMR δ 178.9 (q, J_{CF} = 35 Hz, C-7), 171.8 (C-5), 164.5 (C-2), 133.4, 131.7, 128.5, 123.9 (Ar), 96.5 (C-8), 93.4 (C-6), 40.3 (C-4), 36 (C-3).
- 17. For **5a**: 92%, yellow oil, ¹H NMR δ 8.06 (d, 1H, J_{HH} = 6 Hz, H-3), 6.38 (dd, 1H, 3 _{JHI} = 6 Hz, 4 _{JHI} = 1 Hz, H-4), 5.94 (s, 1H, H-6), 3.53 (t, 2H, 3 _{JHI} = 7 Hz, H-9), 1.56 (sz, 2H, J _{JHI} = 7 Hz, H-10), 0.87 (t, 3H, 3 _{JHI} = 7 Hz, H-11). 13 C NMR δ 179.2 (q, J_{CF} = 35 Hz, C-7), 170.2 (C-2), 156.1 (C-5), 136.4 (C-3), 128.7 (C-4), 116.0 (q, 12.5 (z)) = 0.55 (z) J_{CF} = 291 Hz, C-8), 95.7 (C-6), 41.2 (C-9), 21.5 (C-10), 11.2 (C-11). MS m/z (%) 233 (M⁺, 32), 164 (100), 136 (30). Compound **5b**: 87%, yellow oil, ¹H NMR δ 2.55 (m, 5.25, 104 (106), 150 (30), compound **30**, 87, yendw on, H NMK δ 8.13 (d, 1H, ${}^{3}J_{HH}$ = 6 Hz, H-3), 7.37–7.18 (m, 5H, Ph), 6.52 (dd, 1H, ${}^{3}J_{HH}$ = 6 Hz, ${}^{4}J_{HH}$ = 1 Hz, H-4), 5.99 (s, 1H, H-6), 4.83 (s, 2H, H-9). 13 C NMR δ 179.1 (q, J_{CF} = 35 Hz, C-7), 170 (C-2), 155.4 (C-5), 136.7 (C-3), 134.9, 129, 128.7, 128.1, 127 (Ph), 115.8 (q, J_{CF} = 291 Hz, C-8), 96.9 (C-6), 43.2 (C-9), MS, m/z (%) 281(M^{*}, 100), 212 (13), 184 (30), 91 (69). Compound **5**c: 94%, white solid, mp 98–99 °C, ¹H NMR δ 8.28 (d, 1H, ³*J*_{HH} = 6 Hz, H-3), 7.6–7.21 (m, 5H, Ph), 6.58 (dd, 1H, ³*J*_{HH} = 6 Hz, ⁴*J*_{HH} = 1 Hz, H-4), 5.95 (s, 1H, H-6), ¹³C NMR δ 179.4 (q, *J*_{CF} = 36 Hz, C-7), 169.3 (C-2), 156.5 (C-5), 136.5 (C-3), 132.2, 129.9, 129.3, 128.6, 123.4 (Ph), 115.8 (q, *J*_{CF} = 291 Hz, C-8), 97.3 (C-6). MS *m/z* (%) 267 (M⁺, 39), 198 (100), 170 (51), 144 (9), 77 (28). Compound **5d**: 94%, yellow oil ¹¹ H NMR δ 8.28 (d, 1H, ³¹/₂ = 10.5 (m), 115.8 (m), 11 ¹⁷(51), ¹⁴⁴(9), ¹⁷(20), ¹⁶(20), ¹⁷(20), ¹⁶(10), ¹⁴(9), ¹⁷(20), ¹⁶(10), ¹⁶(1 (q, J_{CF} = 291 Hz, C-8), 97.4 (C-6). MS m/z (%) 347 (M⁺+2, 25), 345 (M⁺, 25), 276 (4) $J_{H} = 254$ (9), 169 (100). Compound **6a**: 89%, white solid, mp 52–53 °C. ¹H NMR **6** × 8.18 (d, 1H, ³J_{HH} = 6 Hz, H-3), 6.43 (dd, 1H, ³J_{HH} = 6 Hz, ⁴J_{HH} = 1 Hz, H-4), 6.37 (d, 1H, ⁴J_{HH} = 1 Hz, H-6), 3.64 (t, 2H, ³J_{HH} = 7 Hz, H-9), 1.65 (sx, 2H, ³J_{HH} = 7 Hz, H-10), 0.95 (t, 3H, J_{HH} = 7 Hz, H-11). ¹³C NMR **6** 179.4 (C-7), 170 (C-2), 155.3 (C-1) 125 (C-2), 128 (C-2), 128 (C-4), 0.65 (C-4), 128 (C-4) 5), 135.9 (C-3), 128.2 (C-4), 96.7 (C-6), 96 (C-8), 41 (C-9), 21.6 (C-10), 11.2 (C-1). MS m/z (%) 281 (M⁺, <5), 164 (100), 145 (14), 122 (31). Compound **6b**: 93%, white solid, mp 92–94 °C. ¹H NMR δ 8.17 (d, 1H, ³*J*_{HH} = 6 Hz, H-3), 7.38–7.20 (m, 5H, Ph), 6.5 (dd, 1H, ³*J*_{HH} = 6 Hz, ⁴*J*_{HH} = 1 Hz, H-4), 6.33 (s, 1H, H-6), 4.86 (s, 2H, H-9). ¹³C NMR δ 179.3 (C-7), 169.9 (C-2), 154.5 (C-5), 136.2 (C-3), 135.3 128.9, 128.1, 128, 127.2 (Ph), 97.6 (C-6), 96.5 (C-8), 43.3 (C-9). MS $m\!/\!z$ (%) 331 (M*+2, 12), 329 (M*, 13), 294 (46), 212 (59), 184 (5), 91 (100). Compound **6c**: 88%, white solid, mp 130–132 °C, ¹H NMR δ 8.33 (d, 1H, ³J_{HH} = 6 Hz, H-3), 7.56– 7.26 (m, 5H, Ph), 6.56 (dd, 1H, ${}^{3}J_{HH} = 6$ Hz, ${}^{4}J_{HH} = 1$ Hz, H-4), 6.31 (d, 1H, ${}^{4}J_{HH} = 1$ Hz, H-6). ${}^{13}C$ NMR δ 179.7 (C-7), 169.3 (C-2), 155.8 (C-5), 136.1 (C-3), 132.5, 129.8 (Ph), 129 (C-4), 128.1, 127.7 (Ph), 97.9 (C-6), 96.4 (C-8). MS m/z (%) **64**: 86%, yellow solid, mp 127-130 °C, ¹H NMR δ 8.33 (d, 1H, ³*J*_{HH} = 6 Hz, H-3), 7.69 (m, 2H, Ar), 7.15 (m, 2H, Ar), 6.56 (dd, 1H, ³*J*_{HH} = 6 Hz, H-3), 7.69 (m, 2H, Ar), 7.15 (m, 2H, Ar), 6.56 (dd, 1H, ³*J*_{HH} = 6 Hz, ⁴*J*_{HH} = 1 Hz, H-4), 6.31 (d, 1H, H-6). ¹³C NMR δ 179.6 (C-7), 169 (C-2), 155.2 (C-5), 136.3 (C-3), 162 (C-3), 162 (C-3), 163 (C-3), 163 (C-3), 163 (C-3), 163 (C-3), 163 (C-3), 164 (C-3), 164 (C-3), 165 (C-3 133.1, 131.5, 129.3 (Ar), 128.1 (C-4), 123.1 (Ar), 98 (C-8), 96.3 (C-6). MS m/z (%) 395 (M⁺+2, <5), 393 (M⁺, <5), 276 (100), 248 (8), 169 (30).