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Benzotriazolymethylaminosilanes: Novel Azomethine Ylide Equivalents

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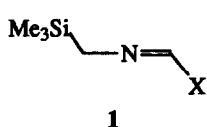
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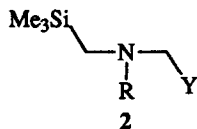
Abstract: Benzotriazolymethylaminosilanes, readily accessible from the reaction of benzotriazole, an aldehyde and an (aminomethyl)silane in water at 20 °C, are azomethine ylide equivalents which undergo stereospecific cycloadditions with dipolarophiles to give substituted pyrrolidines or 2,5-dihydropyrroles in good yields.

In the last decade, 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition reactions of azomethine ylides, extremely useful for the preparation of various nitrogen-containing heterocyclic systems,¹⁻² have been intensively investigated. As previously pointed out,³⁻⁴ the ease of the cycloaddition, the rapid accumulation of polyfunctionality in a relatively small molecular framework, the high stereochemical control of the cycloaddition, and the predictability of regiochemistry have all contributed to the popularity of this reaction in organic synthesis. Consequently, the development of new and convenient methods to generate 1,3-dipoles remains of considerable interest to synthetic organic chemists.

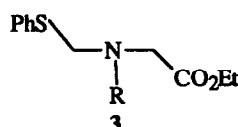
Nonstabilized azomethine ylides can be generated from several precursors including: (i) N-(silylmethyl)imines (**1**)⁵⁻¹⁴, (ii) N-(silylmethyl)amines with suitable leaving groups (**2**)¹⁵⁻²¹, (iii) other appropriately substituted amines (**3**)²²⁻²⁴, (iv) analogous imines (**4**)²⁵⁻³¹, and (v) imidates or thioimidates.³² The recently reported catalytically (CsF, AgF and F₃CCO₂H etc.) induced desilylations of N-(trimethylsilylmethyl)aminomethyl ethers (**2**, Y = OR) and N-(trimethylsilylmethyl)-N-(cyanomethyl)amines (**2**, Y = CN) show perhaps the most promise for future development in this field due to their convenient accessibility. Although the thermal induced desilylation of compounds of type **1** was observed in some cases,^{11,13-14,33} there are no reports of the cycloaddition reaction of **2** solely under thermally induced conditions.



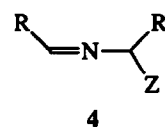
X = OR', SR', alkyl



Y = OR', CN
R = alkyl, aryl

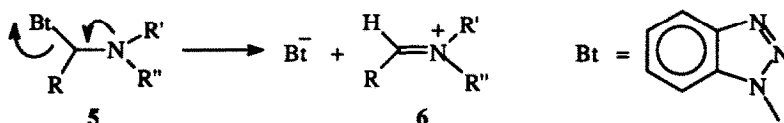


R, R' = alkyl, aryl



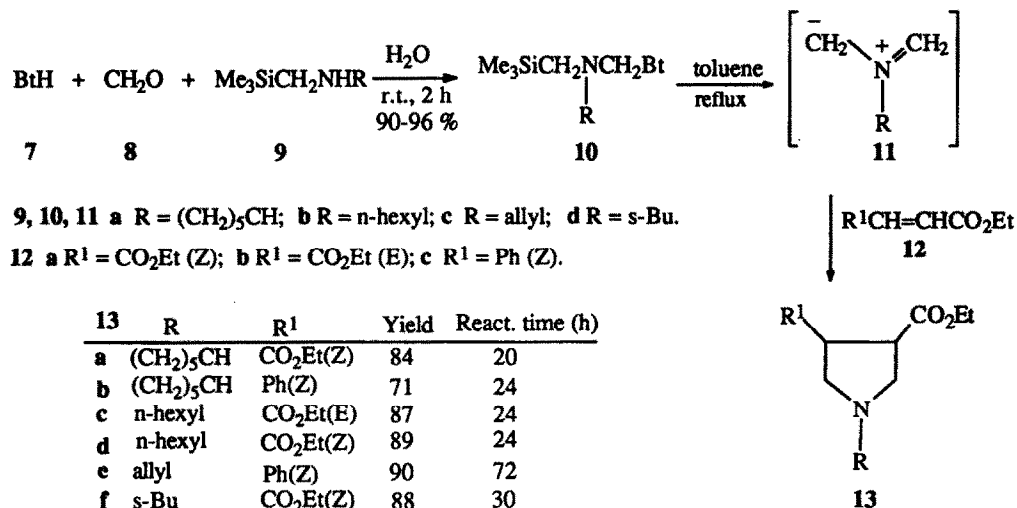
Z = CO₂R, C(O)R, CN
R, R' = aryl, alkyl

The use of benzotriazole as a synthetic auxiliary in the preparation of many classes of organic compounds, such as amines, amides, ethers, and substituted aromatic and heteroaromatic compounds, has been previously reported in our group.³⁴ Generally, such methods have relied on the dissociation of benzotriazole derivatives, Bt-C-X, where X is an electron-donor group or a conjugated moiety, to the benzotriazolate anion and a cation containing a double bond. When X is a nitrogen-linked substituent, an iminium intermediate is formed (see Scheme 1). Subsequent reactions with other species have led to addition, displacement, and elimination products.³⁴ In particular, bis(benzotriazol-1-ylmethyl)hydroxylamine (5, R = CH₂Bt, R' = OH)³⁵ has been shown to be a synthetic equivalent for nitrene 1,3-dipoles (6, R' = O⁻).



Scheme 1 Dissociation of (α -Benzotriazolylalkyl)amines

Stimulated by the convenient methods reported for 1,3-dipole generation from organosilicon compounds, and as part of our ongoing interest in the synthetic application of the benzotriazole auxiliary method, we now report that the thermally induced desilylation of benzotriazolylmethylaminosilanes serves as a novel route to azomethine ylide equivalents. Benzotriazolylmethylaminosilanes **10a-d** are readily formed from the condensation of benzotriazole, formaldehyde and (trimethylsilylmethyl)amine ^{9,18,21,36} in water at room temperature in excellent yields according to the general procedure for the preparation of aminoalkylbenzotriazoles developed in this laboratory,³⁷ as shown in Scheme 2. An alternative method for the

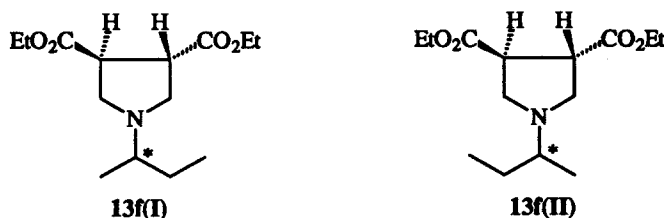


Scheme 2 Benzotriazole Mediated Preparation of Pyrrolidines

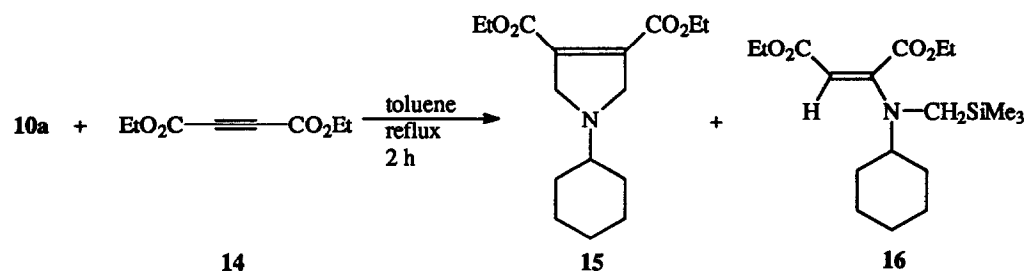
preparation of compounds **10** involves refluxing a mixture of (trimethylsilylmethyl)amines **9** and 1-hydroxymethylbenzotriazole in benzene under Dean-Stark conditions.³⁸

Reaction of **10a-d** with electron-deficient alkenes **12a-c** in refluxing toluene under nitrogen afforded the novel pyrrolidine derivatives **13a-f** in good yields (Scheme 2). The reactions were monitored by GC until consumption of the starting material was complete. Separation of the products was achieved via column chromatography on silica gel. The cycloaddition reactions proceeded stereospecifically and normally gave only one isomer with retention of the olefinic dipolarophile configuration. The structures of the products and intermediates were confirmed by ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR and HR MS spectra.

Since a chiral center exists in the *sec*-butyl group, two diastereomers (*ca* 1:1) were observed in the NMR spectra of **13f**. The ¹³C NMR spectrum shows two sets of peaks with very small chemical shift differences between all carbons except for those of the ester groups. Overlapped signals were observed for all protons in the ¹H NMR spectrum.



When the acetylenic dipolarophile diethyl acetylenedicarboxylate **14** was used, compound **15** was obtained as the major product (48%) in addition to a by-product, enamine **16** (25%). We believed that under the reaction conditions used the starting compound **10a** partly decomposes to **9a**. Subsequent addition of **9a** to the strongly activated acetylene results in formation of the enamine. In the case of the less reactive alkenes **12** discussed previously, the decomposed species could recombine to form **10a** which undergoes subsequent



Scheme 3 Benzotriazole Mediated Preparation of Dihydropyrrole

1,3-dipolar cycloaddition reactions. The structure of compound **16** was determined by ¹H, and ¹³C NMR including APT (attached proton test) experiments. The ethylenic proton appears at relatively high field (4.42 ppm) in the ¹H spectrum. This is typical for a structure in which ethoxycarbonyl is *trans* to the amino group,

and in accordance with literature reports³⁹⁻⁴¹ in which a secondary amine or lithium amide reacted with an activated acetylene compound to give compounds similar to 16. Further conformation of the structure was obtained by demonstrating that direct reaction of 9a with diethyl acetylenedicarboxylate gave the same compound. Attempts to increase the ratio of 15:16 by performing the reaction in refluxing THF failed. Similarly, no improvement was achieved after increasing the reaction time to 10 h.

In summary, this work demonstrates that benzotriazolymethylaminosilanes are novel and convenient precursors of azomethine ylides. The present methodology gives pyrrolidine or 2,5-dihydropyrrole derivatives under thermal equilibrium conditions without the use of catalysts (AgF, CsF etc.) required by other methods in good yields which compare favorably with those previously obtained. This method, with readily accessible starting materials, represents a new approach to the 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition reactions of organosilicon compounds and is an alternative to the existing procedures.¹⁵⁻²¹

EXPERIMENTAL

¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian 300 MHz spectrometer with TMS as an internal reference for ¹H spectra and solvent CDCl₃ for ¹³C spectra. High resolution mass measurements were performed on an AEL MS-30 mass spectrometer. Column chromatography was carried out on MCB silica gel (230-400 mesh).

(Trimethylsilylmethyl)amine 9a was prepared according to the literature method.^{18,21,36} The novel compounds 9b-d were also prepared by an adaptation of a literature procedure.^{18,21,36} The benzotriazole adducts 10a-d were prepared according to a previously described procedure.³⁷

N-(Trimethylsilylmethyl)cyclohexylamine (9a): Obtained as an oil. Yield: 90%. ¹H NMR δ 0.00 (s, 9 H), 0.92-1.30 (m, 5 H), 1.50-1.90 (m, 5 H), 2.02 (s, 2 H), 2.22-2.27 (m, 1 H). ¹³C NMR δ -2.7, 25.0, 26.2, 33.0, 36.9, 60.6.

N-(Trimethylsilylmethyl)hexylamine (9b): Obtained as an oil. Yield: 95%. (HR MS found: M + 1 = 188.1816; C₁₀H₂₅NSi requires M + 1 = 188.1914). ¹H NMR δ -0.02 (s, 9 H), 0.82 (t, 3 H, J = 7.1 Hz), 1.18-1.26 (m, 6 H), 1.38-1.43 (m, 2 H), 2.00 (s, 2 H), 2.53 (t, 2 H, J = 7.1 Hz). ¹³C NMR δ -2.7, 13.8, 22.5, 26.9, 29.6, 31.8, 40.2, 54.6.

N-(Trimethylsilylmethyl)allylamine (9c): Obtained as an oil. Yield: 91%. (Lit.⁴²⁻⁴³) ¹H NMR δ -0.22 (s, 9 H), 0.72 (br s, 1 H), 1.79 (s, 2 H), 3.00 (dd, 2 H, J = 6.0, 1.4 Hz), 4.79-4.92 (m, 2 H), 5.60-5.68 (m, 1 H). ¹³C NMR δ -2.75, 39.6, 56.7, 115.6, 137.0.

N-(Trimethylsilylmethyl)-*sec*-butylamine (9d): Obtained as an oil. Yield: 86%. (HR MS found: M + 1 = 160.1525; C₈H₂₁NSi requires M + 1 = 160.1601). ¹H NMR δ -0.04 (s, 9 H), 0.81 (t, 3 H, J = 7.4 Hz), 0.95 (d, 3 H, J = 6.3 Hz), 1.19-1.28 (m, 1 H), 1.38-1.46 (m, 1 H), 1.93 (d, 1 H, J = 13.5 Hz), 2.00 (d, 1 H, J = 13.5), 2.38 (sextet, 1 H, J = 6.3 Hz). ¹³C NMR δ -2.6, 10.3, 19.3, 28.8, 36.9, 58.3.

N-Benzotriazolymethyl-*N*-(trimethylsilylmethyl)cyclohexylamine (**10a**): Obtained as a solid. Yield: 90%. M.p. = 65 °C (HR MS found: M - 1 = 315.1969; C₁₇H₂₈N₄Si requires M - 1 = 315.1925). ¹H NMR δ -0.06 (s, 9 H), 1.00-1.41 (m, 5 H), 1.50-1.90 (m, 5 H), 2.21 (s, 2 H), 2.50-2.70 (m, 1 H), 5.42 (s, 2 H), 7.30-7.50 (m, 2 H), 7.72 (d, 1 H, J = 7.1 Hz), 8.05 (d, 1 H, J = 7.1 Hz). ¹³C NMR δ -1.8, 25.8, 26.0, 29.7, 39.7, 61.5, 67.3, 110.7, 119.6, 123.6, 126.8, 133.1, 146.2).

N-Benzotriazolymethyl-*N*-(trimethylsilylmethyl)hexylamine (**10b**): A mixture of two isomers (1-benzotriazole and 2-benzotriazole, ratio, ca. 5:1 from NMR) was obtained as an oil. Yield: 94%. (HR MS found: M - 1 = 317.2128; C₁₇H₃₀N₄Si requires M - 1 = 317.2081). ¹H NMR δ -0.06 (s, 9 H), 0.77 (t, 3 H, J = 7.0 Hz), 1.17 (br s, 6 H), 1.40-1.51 (m, 2 H), 2.00 and 2.09 (s, s, total 2 H), 2.37-2.42 (m, 2 H), 5.30 (1-isomer) and 5.44 (2-isomer) (s, s, total 2 H), 7.20-7.28 (1-isomer and 2-isomer) (m, 5/4 H), 7.36 (1-isomer) (t, 3/4 H, J = 7.3 Hz), 7.52 (1-isomer) (d, 3/4 H, J = 7.3 Hz), 7.80 (2-isomer) (dd, 1/2 H, J = 7.3, 1.3 Hz), 7.95 (1-isomer) (d, 3/4 H, J = 7.3 Hz). ¹³C NMR δ -1.5, 13.9, 22.6, 26.8, 27.3, 31.7, 43.8, 54.8, 69.1, 110.2, 118.3 (2-isomer), 119.3, 123.6, 125.9 (2-isomer) 127.0, 128.2 (2-isomer), 133.9, 145.9.

N-Benzotriazolymethyl-*N*-(trimethylsilylmethyl)allylamine (**10c**): A mixture of two isomers (1-benzotriazole and 2-benzotriazole, ratio, ca 5:1 from NMR) was obtained as an oil. Yield: 93%. (HR MS found: M = 274.1549; C₁₄H₂₂N₄Si requires M = 274.1613). ¹H NMR δ -0.08 (s, 9 H), 2.04 (1-isomer) and 2.08 (2-isomer) (s, s, total 2 H), 3.06 (1-isomer) and 3.17 (2-isomer) (d, d, total 2 H, J = 6.1, 6.1 Hz), 5.05-5.18 (m, 2 H), 5.30 (1-isomer) and 5.44 (2-isomer) (s, s, total 2 H), 5.70-5.82 (m, 1 H), 7.22-7.28 (1-isomer and 2-isomer) (m, 5/4 H), 7.37 (1-isomer) (t, 3/4 H, J = 7.1 Hz), 7.52 (1-isomer) (d, 3/4 H, J = 7.1 Hz), 7.78-7.82 (2-isomer) (m, 1/2 H), 7.96 (1-isomer) (d, 3/4 H, J = 7.1 Hz). ¹³C NMR δ -1.6, 43.3, 57.3, 68.3, 110.2, 118.4 (2-isomer), 118.5, 119.6, 123.6, 126.0 (2-isomer), 127.1, 133.8, 134.9, 135.1, 145.6.

N-Benzotriazolymethyl-*N*-(trimethylsilylmethyl)-*sec*-butylamine (**10d**): A mixture of two isomers (1-benzotriazole and 2-benzotriazole, ratio, ca 5:1 from NMR) was obtained as an oil. Yield: 95%. (HR MS found: M - 1 = 289.1845; C₁₅H₂₆N₄Si requires M - 1 = 289.1780). ¹H NMR δ -0.89 (s, 9 H), 0.60-0.80 (m, 6 H), 1.10-1.18 (m, 1 H), 1.20-1.35 (m, 1 H), 2.18 (1-isomer) and 2.41 (2-isomer) (s, s, total 2 H), 2.51-2.72 (m, 1 H), 5.25 (2-isomer) and 5.30 (1-isomer) (s, s, total 2 H), 7.16-7.28 (1-isomer and 2-isomer) (m, 7/4 H), 7.50 (1-isomer) (d, 3/4 H, J = 7.3 Hz), 7.74-7.82 (2-isomer) (m, 1/2 H), 7.88 (1-isomer) (d, 3/4 H, J = 7.3 Hz). ¹³C NMR δ -1.8, 10.9, 14.8, 26.6, 33.9, 58.0, 68.5, 110.2, 119.4, 123.5, 126.8, 132.9, 145.8.

1,3-Dipolar Cycloaddition Reaction of Benzotriazolymethylaminosilanes 10 with Dipolarophiles 12, General Procedure: Benzotriazolymethylaminosilane **10** (5 mmol) and the dipolarophile **12** or **14** (6 mmol) were refluxed in toluene (15 ml) under N₂ for the appropriate time as shown in Scheme 2. The solvent was then removed and the residue chromatographed on silica gel using hexane and ethyl acetate (30:1) as the eluent to furnish the substituted pyrrolidines **13** or substituted 2,5-dihydropyrrole **15**.

N-Cyclohexyl-3,4-diethoxycarbonylpyrrolidine (**13a**): Obtained as an oil. Yield: 84%. (Found: M + 1 = 298.2060; C₁₆H₂₇NO₄ requires M + 1 = 298.2098). ¹H NMR δ 1.26 (t, 6 H, J = 7.1 Hz), 1.22-2.10 (m, 11 H),

2.83 (t, 2 H, $J = 6.4$ Hz), 2.96 (t, 2 H, $J = 6.4$ Hz), 3.38 (t, 2 H, $J = 5.3$ Hz), 2.15 (q, 4 H, $J = 7.1$ Hz). ^{13}C NMR δ 14.0, 24.5, 25.8, 31.3, 44.9, 54.1, 60.7, 62.5, 173.3.

N-Cyclohexyl-3-ethoxycarbonyl-4-phenylpyrrolidine (13b): Obtained as an oil. Yield: 71%. (HR MS found: $M = 301.2023$; $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{27}\text{NO}_2$ requires $M = 301.2042$). ^1H NMR δ 1.19 (t, 3 H, $J = 7.1$ Hz), 1.13-1.34 (m, 4 H), 1.58-2.00 (m, 6 H), 2.10-2.22 (m, 1 H), 2.80 (t, 2 H, $J = 7.1$ Hz), 3.00-3.20 (m, 3 H), 3.62 (q, 2 H, $J = 7.1$ Hz), 7.20-7.34 (m, 5 H). ^{13}C NMR δ 14.1, 24.7, 25.8, 31.2, 46.7, 50.9, 54.8, 59.1, 60.6, 63.1, 126.5, 127.4, 128.4, 143.1, 173.8.

N-Hexyl-3,4-E-diethoxycarbonylpyrrolidine (13c): Obtained as an oil. Yield: 87%. (HR MS found: $M + 1 = 300.2219$; $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{29}\text{NO}_4$ requires $M + 1 = 300.2201$). ^1H NMR δ 0.88 (t, 3 H, $J = 6.5$ Hz), 1.20-1.35 (m, 12 H), 1.42-1.51 (m, 2 H), 2.31-2.48 (m, 2 H), 2.70-2.80 (m, 2 H), 2.80-2.90 (m, 2 H), 3.41 (quintet, 2 H, $J = 5.8$ Hz), 4.16 (q, 4 H, $J = 6.5$ Hz). ^{13}C NMR δ 13.7, 13.8, 22.3, 26.8, 28.3, 31.4, 45.0, 55.3, 56.6, 60.6, 173.1.

N-Hexyl-3,4-Z-diethoxycarbonylpyrrolidine (13d): Obtained as an oil. Yield: 89%. (HR MS found: $M + 1 = 300.2169$; $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{29}\text{NO}_4$ requires $M + 1 = 300.2201$). ^1H NMR δ 0.88 (t, 3 H, $J = 6.8$ Hz), 1.22-1.42 (m, 12 H), 1.42-1.51 (m, 2 H), 2.30-2.45 (m, 2 H), 2.70-2.80 (m, 2 H), 2.80-2.90 (m, 2 H), 3.38-3.42 (m, 2 H), 4.14 (q, 4 H, $J = 6.8$ Hz). ^{13}C NMR δ 13.5, 13.6, 22.1, 26.6, 28.0, 31.2, 44.8, 55.1, 56.4, 60.3, 172.8.

N-Allyl-3,4-Z-diethoxycarbonylpyrrolidine (13e): Obtained as an oil. Yield: 90%. (HR MS found: $M + 1 = 260.1205$; $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{21}\text{NO}_2$ requires $M + 1 = 260.1305$). ^1H NMR δ 1.21 (t, 3 H, $J = 7.1$ Hz), 2.73 (dd, 1 H, $J = 9.4, 7.0$ Hz), 2.90-3.22 (m, 6 H), 3.66 (q, 1 H, $J = 7.1$ Hz), 4.11 (q, 2 H, $J = 7.1$ Hz), 5.20 (dd, 2 H, $J = 12.2, 7.2$ Hz), 5.82-6.00 (m, 1 H), 7.20-7.35 (m, 5 H). ^{13}C NMR δ 14.1, 46.9, 51.5, 57.3, 58.7, 60.6, 61.7, 116.9, 126.4, 127.3, 128.4, 135.3, 143.7, 174.0.

N-sec-Butyl-3,4-Z-diethoxycarbonylpyrrolidine (13f): A mixture of two diastereomers (ratio, *ca* 1:1) was obtained as an oil. Yield: 88%. (HR MS found: $M + 1 = 272.1868$; $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{25}\text{NO}_4$ requires $M + 1 = 272.1962$). ^1H NMR δ 0.87 (t, 3 H, $J = 7.2$ Hz), 0.99 (t, 3 H, $J = 7.2$ Hz), 1.20-1.40 (m, 7 H), 1.50-1.65 (m, 1 H), 2.20-2.30 (m, 1 H), 2.77-2.85 (m, 2 H), 2.88-2.98 (m, 2 H), 3.32-3.42 (m, 2 H), 4.10-4.22 (q, q, total 4 H, $J = 7.2$ Hz). ^{13}C NMR δ 9.6 and 10.1, 14.2, 16.3 and 16.9, 27.5 and 27.7, 45.19 and 45.22, 53.7 and 54.0, 59.2 and 59.4, 60.9, 173.6.

N-Cyclohexyl-3,4-diethoxycarbonyl-2,5-dihydropyrrole (15): Obtained as an oil. Yield: 48%. (HR MS found: $M + 1 = 296.1819$; $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{25}\text{NO}_4$ requires $M + 1 = 296.1942$). ^1H NMR δ 1.20-1.86 (m, 10 H), 1.30 (t, 6 H, $J = 7.2$ Hz), 2.28-2.36 (m, 1 H), 3.83 (s, 4 H), 4.25 (q, 4 H, $J = 7.2$ Hz). ^{13}C NMR δ 13.8, 24.2, 25.7, 31.3, 58.1, 60.9, 61.5, 136.6, 163.4.

Diethyl (trimethylsilylmethyl)cyclohexylaminomaleate (16): Obtained as an oily by-product using the preparation of *N*-cyclohexyl-3,4-diethoxycarbonyl-2,5-dihydropyrrole (15). Yield: 25%. (HR MS found: $M + 1 = 356.2244$; $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{33}\text{NO}_4\text{Si}$ requires $M + 1 = 356.2337$). ^1H NMR δ 0.15 (s, 9 H), 1.00-1.45 (m, 5 H), 1.22

(t, 3 H, J = 7.1 Hz), 1.37 (t, 3 H, J = 7.1 Hz), 1.60-1.75 (m, 5 H), 2.60 (s, 2 H), 3.18 (t, 1 H, J = 7.1 Hz), 4.06 (q, 2 H, J = 7.1 Hz), 4.40 (q, 2 H, J = 7.1 Hz), 4.42 (s, 1 H). ^{13}C NMR δ 13.9, 14.5, 25.0, 25.5, 31.1, 35.6, 58.8, 61.4, 61.6, 84.0, 154.5, 165.8, 167.7.

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