

Available online at www.sciencedirect.com

Tetrahedron

Tetrahedron 63 (2007) 12215–12219

A novel method for the synthesis of highly functionalized 3,4-dihydropyrimidin-2(1H)-ones through the 1,4-addition on pyrimidin- $2(1H)$ -ones

P. Shanmugam,^a P. Boobalan^b and P. T. Perumal^{a,*}

^aOrganic Chemistry Division, Central Leather Research Institute, Sardar Patel Road, Adyar, Chennai 600 020, Tamilnadu, India
Department of Chemistry Virginia Tech VA 24060 USA ^bDepartment of Chemistry, Virginia Tech., VA 24060, USA

> Received 7 April 2007; revised 6 September 2007; accepted 20 September 2007 Available online 29 September 2007

Abstract—A novel method for synthesizing hitherto unreported 3,4-dihydropyrimidin-2(1H)-ones (DHPMs) through 1,4-addition of nucleophiles on pyrimidin- $2(1H)$ -ones is disclosed herein. © 2007 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved.

1. Introduction

The synthesis of Biginelli compounds has attracted attention for more than a decade.^{[1](#page-4-0)} The interest in DHPM synthesis is not only due to its structural similarity with the well-known Hantzsch dihydropyridine (calcium channel modulators) but also to their various medicinal and biological applications.^{[2,3](#page-4-0)} DHPM synthesis involves either the one-pot coupling of ethyl acetoacetate, urea and an aldehyde 4 or the reaction of protected urea with enones.[5](#page-4-0) Most methods including combinatorial chemistry approaches have exploited commercially available aldehydes or 1,3-dicarbonyl compounds (the most varied components) to synthesize DHPMs. $6,7$

We have shown that the cardiotonic activities of $4a-e$ are better than Digoxin^{[8](#page-4-0)} which inspired us to synthesize highly functionalized DHPMs to further improve the activity. However, the synthesis of DHPM scaffolds with strictly defined substitution patterns is often difficult due to the lack of starting materials and lower yields of one-pot condensations involving structurally complex building blocks.^{[1e,9](#page-4-0)}

2. Results and discussion

2.1. Synthesis of highly functionalized DHPMs

We recently disclosed a novel method for the synthesis of 6-unsubstituted pyrimidin-2(1H)-ones 5 by $\text{Co}^{2+}/\text{S}_2\text{O}_8^{2-}$ me-diated oxidation of 4 (Scheme 1).^{[10](#page-4-0)} α , β -Unsaturated conjugated systems of 5a–e were expected to act as Michael

Scheme 1. Unprecedented oxidation of 6-methyl DHPMs (4) by $Co³⁺$.

acceptors. Therefore 1,4-addition of (substituted)indole, pyrrole, phenol, electron-rich imine, azide and hydride can be expected to yield hitherto unreported DHPMs ([Scheme](#page-1-0) [2\)](#page-1-0). Metal ions (Ni^{2+} , Cu^{+} , Fe^{3+} , Ce^{4+} or In^{3+}) were proven to be more effective for inter- and intramolecular Michael addition reactions.^{[11–13](#page-4-0)} In our method, InCl₃, FeCl₃ and ceric ammonium nitrate (CAN) were screened initially for catalytic activity. We found that CAN promoted reactions were clean and afforded higher yields of product.

For an illustrative example, 5a in anhydrous methanol was stirred with indole at ambient temperature under argon atmosphere. To the stirring reaction mixture was added 5 mol % of CAN and the total consumption of 5a after an hour as monitored by TLC was an indication of completion of the reaction [\(Scheme 2](#page-1-0)). However, the reaction when conducted without the addition of CAN did not afford any appreciable amount of 6a.

The ¹H NMR spectrum of 6a showed a doublet with $J=3$ Hz at δ 5.54 ppm. This is attributed to the CH group adjoining the NH group, which is commonly observed in DHPM chemistry.^{[6b,14](#page-4-0)} The ¹³C NMR spectrum of 6a had absorptions around δ 48 and 101 ppm (respectively for CH(4) and C(5)) confirming the formation of 1,4-addition product. The product formation was further ascertained by mass

^{*} Corresponding author. Tel.: +91 44 2491389; fax: +91 44 24911589; e-mail: ptperumal@gmail.com

^{0040-4020/\$ -} see front matter © 2007 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved. doi:10.1016/j.tet.2007.09.066

Scheme 2. Synthesis of highly functionalized DHPMs. (a) $Na₂SO₄$, In(OTf)₃ (5 mol %), MW; (b) $Co(NO_3)$ ² 6H₂O/K₂S₂O₈, CH₃CN/H₂O, 80 °C; (c) Nu (2 equiv), Ce(NH₄)₂(NO₃)₆ (5 mol %), rt.

spectrum $(m/z=361)$, IR spectrum $(\nu=3589, 3370)$, 3293 cm⁻¹ corresponding three NH stretching) and elemental analysis. The crystallographic data finally confirmed the structure of the product ascribed to $6a$ (Fig. 1).^{[15](#page-4-0)}

2.2. Screening of substituted indole addition on 5a–e

The structural and electronic requirements needed for 1,4-addition on 5a–e by (substituted)indoles were deduced from the conclusions of the following experiments. (i) Chemoselective addition on 5a–e by (substituted)indoles yielded exclusively 1,4-addition product. (ii) (Substituted)indoles form C–C bond on $5a-e$ regioselectively at $C(3)$ position. (iii) 3-(Substituted)indoles (2-(3-indolyl)ethylamine) or indole bearing strong electron-withdrawing groups (3-formyl indole, 1-methyl-2-formyl indole, ethyl 2-indole-carboxylate, 2-ethoxycarbonyl-3-methylindole and 5-nitroindole) failed to afford isolable yields of product. In contrast electrondonating groups such as a methyl or an ethyl group in indole increased the yields of the reaction. (iv) (Ethyl 6-methyl-4 phenyl-pyrimidin-2(1H)-one)-5-carboxylate $(C(6)$ -methylsubstituted $5a$ ^{[16](#page-4-0)} did not undergo 1,4-addition.

The characteristic peaks of **6b–i** were similar to X-ray determined structure of 6a confirming their formation. Indole bearing moderate electron-withdrawing group or halogen atom afforded moderate to good yields of DHPMs (Scheme 3, compounds 6e and 6g). Phenol, resorcinol,

Figure 1. ORTEP diagram of 6a.

amines (aniline, methylamine and 1-phenylethylamine), azides, ethyl acetoacetate, imines, N-ethyl carbazole and N-aryl pyrazole failed to afford corresponding 1,4-addition products. But pyrrole and hydride $(NaBH₄)$ were added onto 5 under the same conditions to yield novel DHPMs. To the best of our knowledge, pyrrolyl dihydropyrimidin-2(1H) ones and 6-aryl-4-unsubstituted dihydropyrimidin-2(1H)-one have not been reported in the literature (Scheme 4).

The application of CAN as a catalyst during the addition of indole on α . B-unsaturated system has also been reported by

Scheme 3. Highly functionalized 4-indolyl-3,4-DHPM.

Scheme 4. Synthesis of 4-unsubstituted and 4-pyrrolyl-3,4-DHPMs.

others.[11g](#page-4-0) We believe that catalytic amount of CAN would promote the reaction by coordination with carbonyl group thereby rendering C-4 position of 5a–e more electrophilic towards addition. But the mechanistic details of the reaction were not studied. Catalytic amount of CAN used in the reaction merely promoted 1,4-addition and did not oxidize 6 and 7.

3. Experimental procedure

3.1. General

Melting points were determined using open capillary tubes and are reported uncorrected. IR measurements were carried out using KBr pellets in FTIR spectrometer. The ¹H NMR and 13C NMR were recorded in 500 MHz high resolution NMR spectrometer using TMS as an internal standard. All NMR spectra of pyrimidin- $2(1H)$ -ones were recorded in CDCl3. Mass spectra were obtained in EI ionization mode at 70 eV. TLC analysis was performed using precoated Poly-Gram sheets. Column chromatography was carried out using 100–200 mesh silica gel or flash-column with 200–400 mesh silica gel. Acetonitrile was freshly distilled from P_2O_5 prior to use. Ceric ammonium nitrate was used as purchased locally. Indole-3-carboxaldehyde, indium trichloride, indium triflate and N-methyl indole were purchased from Aldrich Sigma Chemicals.

All the DHPMs needed for oxidation were prepared using reported procedure and purified through column chromato-graphy before subjecting to dehydrogenation.^{[6b](#page-4-0)}

3.2. Experimental procedure for the cobalt nitrate and potassium persulfate mediated oxidation of 3,4-dihydropyrimidin-2(1H)-ones^{[10](#page-4-0)}

A 50 mL round bottom flask containing a magnetic bar was charged with 1 mmol (0.260 g) of 4a and 10 mL acetonitrile. To this solution was added a mixture of cobalt(II) nitrate hexahydrate (5 mmol, 1.46 g) and potassium persulfate (2.5 mmol, 0.68 g) in 3 mL of water and the solution was stirred at 80° C (oil bath). The stirring was continued at 80 \degree C for 3 h. TLC showed the complete disappearance of 4a. The reaction mixture was diluted with 20 mL of $CHCl₃$ and the supernatant was decanted. The residue was poured into 20 g of crushed ice and extracted with CHCl3 $(2\times20 \text{ mL})$. The organic extracts were pooled, washed with brine solution $(2 \times 20 \text{ mL})$, dried over anhydrous $Na₂SO₄$ and concentrated in vacuum to afford 0.23 g of crude product. The column purification of residue using 1:1 petroleum ether–ethyl acetate afforded 0.19 g of 5a as colourless viscous compound, which upon cooling forms a crystalline solid. The same procedure was employed for synthesizing 5b–f.

3.3. Synthesis of ethyl 6-methyl-4-phenyl-pyrimidin- $2(1H)$ -one-5-carboxylate $(5f)^{16}$ $(5f)^{16}$ $(5f)^{16}$

A 50 mL round bottom flask containing a magnetic bar was charged with $4a$ (1 mmol, 0.260 g), NaHCO₃ (5 mmol, 0.420 g) and 10 mL of acetone. To this suspension was added CAN (3 mmol, 1.65 g) in water for an hour and stirred

at -5 °C under argon atmosphere. The stirring was continued overnight at room temperature and the reaction mixture was diluted with $CHCl₃$ (20 mL) and decanted. The residue was washed with CHCl₃ (2×30 mL). The combined CHCl₃ layer was neutralized, washed with NaCl solution $(2\times20 \text{ mL})$, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and column chromatographed using 1:1 mixture of ethyl acetate–petroleum ether to afford 0.214 g of 5f.

3.4. Experimental procedure for 1,4-addition of indole on pyrimidin- $2(1H)$ -ones (6)

3.4.1. Typical procedure for the synthesis of 6a. A 25 mL round bottom flask containing a magnetic bar was charged with pyrimidin-2(1H)-one, $5a$, (0.150 g, 0.6 mmol) in 5 mL of anhydrous methanol. To this solution was added indole (0.143 g, 1.2 mmol) and the solution was stirred at room temperature under argon atmosphere. Upon addition of 5 mol % of CAN, the solution turned to dark brown immediately and stirring was continued for 1–3 h at room temperature. After completion of the reaction (monitored by TLC), the reaction mixture was poured into 50 mL of water and extracted with CHCl₃ (3×30 mL). The organic extracts were pooled, dried over anhydrous $Na₂SO₄$ and purified by passing through a small column of $SiO₂$ using 2:1 petroleum ether–ethyl acetate to afford 6a.

A similar reaction conducted using $FeCl₃$ was worked up by adding three to five drops of 6 N HCl $(\sim 0.5 \text{ mL})$, extracted with CHCl₃ (3×30 mL), dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and column chromatographed using 2:1 petroleum ether–ethyl acetate. The InCl₃ catalyzed reaction was worked up similar to the ceric ammonium nitrate procedure.

3.5. General procedure for the reduction of pyrimidin- $2(1H)$ -ones

3.5.1. Typical procedure for the synthesis of 7a. A 25 mL round bottom flask containing a magnetic bar was charged with pyrimidin-2(1H)-one, $5a$, (0.150 g, 0.6 mmol) in 5 mL of anhydrous methanol. To this solution was added indole (0.045 g, 1.2 mmol) and the resulting solution was stirred at room temperature under an Ar atmosphere. CAN of 2 mol % was added. The reaction was vigorous and completed within half an hour (monitored by TLC). To the reaction mixture, 5 mL of 6 N HCl was added to decompose the excess N a BH ₄ and the reaction mixture was extracted with CHCl₃ (3×30 mL), dried over anhydrous $Na₂SO₄$ and passed through a small column of $SiO₂$ (1:1) petroleum ether–ethyl acetate) to yield 4-unsubstituted DHPMs.

3.6. Spectral characterization

3.6.1. Ethyl 6-phenyl-4-(1H-indol-3-yl)-3,4-dihydropyrimidin-2(1H)-one-5-carboxylate (6a). Colourless solid. Mp 190–191 °C. R_f 0.31 (25% ethyl acetate–petroleum ether). IR (KBr): 1087, 1241, 1371, 1456, 1659, 1710, 2918, 3077, 3195, 3293, 3370, 3589 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR: δ 0.67 (t, J=7.5 Hz, 3H, OCH₂CH₃), 3.65 (q, J=7.5 Hz, 2H, OCH₂CH₃), 5.54 (d, J=3.1 Hz, 1H, CH(4)), 6.97 (t, $J=6.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.05 (t, $J=6.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.17 (d, $J=2.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.24 (dd, J=2.3, 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.34 (m, 4H), 7.67 (t,

 $J=2.3, 3.1$ Hz, 1H, NH(3)), 7.71 (d, $J=8.4$ Hz, 1H), 9.24 (d, $J=1.5$ Hz, 1H, NH(1)), 10.92 (d, $J=1.6$ Hz, 1H, indole-NH). ¹³C NMR: δ 13.9, 48.3, 59.5, 101.1, 112.2, 118.5, 119.2, 119.7, 121.7, 123.5, 125.6, 128.3, 128.9, 129.3, 135.9, 137.2, 148.4, 152.9, 165.7. MS (EI, m/z): 361 (M⁺). Anal. Calcd for $C_{21}H_{19}N_3O_3$: C, 69.79; H, 5.30; N, 11.63. Found: C, 69.70; H, 5.22; N, 11.42.

3.6.2. Ethyl 6-phenyl-4-(2-methyl-1H-indol-3-yl)-3,4 dihydropyrimidin- $2(1H)$ -one-5-carboxylate (6b). Colourless solid. Mp 195–197 °C. R_f 0.35 (25% ethyl acetate– petroleum ether). IR (KBr): 1083, 1458, 1649, 1707, 3078, $3220, 3294, 3381, 3589 \text{ cm}^{-1}$. ¹H NMR: δ 0.68 (t, $J=7.7$ Hz, 3H, OCH₂CH₃), 2.42 (s, 3H), 3.66 (q, $J=7.7$ Hz, 2H, OCH₂CH₃), 5.57 (d, $J=3.8$ Hz, 1H, CH(4)), 7.01 (t, J=6.9 Hz, 1H), 7.19 (t, J=6.9 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (m, 2H), 7.36 (m, 5H), 7.78 (d, $J=8.5$ Hz, 1H), 9.28 (d, J=1.5 Hz, 1H), 10.54 (d, J=1.6 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR: d 13.9, 18.4, 48.1, 59.5, 100.9, 110.4, 117.6, 119.3, 119.9, 121.8, 126.0, 127.7, 128.2, 129.0, 129.3, 130.2, 137.6, 148.6, 152.9, 165.7. MS (EI, m/z): 375 (M⁺). Anal. Calcd for $C_{22}H_{21}N_3O_3$: C, 70.38; H, 5.64; N, 11.19. Found: C, 70.21; H, 5.48; N, 11.07.

3.6.3. Ethyl 6-phenyl-4-(1-methyl-1H-indol-3-yl)-3,4-dihydropyrimidin- $2(1H)$ -one-5-carboxylate (6c). Colourless solid. Mp 188–190 °C. R_f 0.40 (25% ethyl acetate– petroleum ether). IR: 752, 1181, 1230, 1456, 1544, 1636, 1695, 2985, 3110, 3228, 3381 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR: δ 0.66 (t, $J=7.7$ Hz, 3H, OCH₂CH₃), 3.73 (s, 3H, N-Me), 3.65 (q, $J=7.7$ Hz, 2H, OCH₂CH₃), 5.53 (d, $J=3.8$ Hz, 1H, CH(4)), 7.02 (t, J=6.9 Hz, 1H), 7.13 (t, J=4 Hz, 2H), 7.36 (tt, $J=1.55$, 6.9 Hz, 4H), 7.71 (q, $J=1.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.74 (d, $J=8.45$ Hz, 1H), 9.24 (d, $J=1.5$ Hz, 1H, NH(1)). ¹³C NMR: d 13.9, 32.9, 48.0, 59.5, 101.0, 110.4, 117.6, 119.3, 119.9, 121.8, 126.0, 127.7, 128.2, 129.0, 129.3, 135.9, 137.6, 148.6, 152.9, 165.7. MS (EI, m/z): 375 (M⁺). Anal. Calcd for $C_{22}H_{21}N_3O_3$: C, 70.38; H, 5.64; N, 11.19. Found: C, 70.27; H, 5.63; N, 11.05.

3.6.4. 5-Acetyl-6-phenyl-4-(1H-indol-3-yl)-3,4-dihydropyrimidin-2(1H)-one (6d). Colourless solid. Mp 225– 227 °C. R_f 0.30 (25% ethyl acetate–petroleum ether). IR: 1690, 2928, 3249, 3380 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR: δ 2.26 (s, 3H), 5.59 (d, J=3.8 Hz, 1H), 6.98 (t, J=7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.00–7.12 (m, 1H), 7.44 (d, J=3.8 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (d, J=6.9 Hz, 1H), 7.51 $(t, J=7.7 \text{ Hz}, 2H), 7.58 \text{ (d, } J=3.8 \text{ Hz}, 1H, NH(3)), 7.65 \text{ (t, }$ $J=7.7$ Hz, 2H), 7.74 (d, $J=6.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.79 (d, $J=7.7$ Hz, 1H), 9.31 (s, 1H, NH(1)), 10.87 (s, 1H, indole-NH). 13C NMR: δ 16.4, 49.5, 104.1, 119.1, 121.6, 124.6, 128.8, 129.1, 129.4, 130.1, 131.6, 132.6, 136.5, 138.1, 140.1, 142.5, 149.5, 163.3. MS (EI, m/z): 331 (M+). Anal. Calcd for $C_{20}H_{17}N_3O_2$: C, 72.49; H, 5.17; N, 12.68. Found: C, 72.38; H, 5.18; N, 12.67.

3.6.5. Ethyl 6-(phenyl)-4-(2-phenyl-1H-indol-3-yl)-3,4 dihydropyrimidin- $2(1H)$ -one-5-carboxylate (6e). Pale yellow solid. Mp 237–239 °C. R_f 0.40 (25% ethyl acetate– petroleum ether). IR: 2929, 3250, 3400 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR: δ 0.64 (t, J=7.5 Hz, 3H), 3.55 (dq, J=1.6, 7.5 Hz, 2H), 5.75 (d, $J=2.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.02 (t, $J=6.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.20 (q, J=7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (q, J=5.4 Hz, 3H), 7.36 (d, J=7.7 Hz, 1H, NH), 7.41 (t, $J=7.7$ Hz, 3H), 7.47 (t, $J=7.7$ Hz, 3H), 7.67 (m, 1H), 7.75 (d, $J=6.9$ Hz, 1H), 9.32 (s, 1H, NH(1)), 11.26 (s, 1H, indole-NH). 13C NMR: d 13.6, 49.6, 59.8, 101.0, 110.3, 115.2, 117.6, 119.8, 119.7, 121.7, 125.9, 127.5, 127.8, 127.6, 127.9, 128.1, 128.3, 128.7, 128.8, 128.9, 129.1, 131.4, 135.6, 138.8, 145.4, 152.7, 165.7. MS (EI, m/z): 437 (M⁺). Anal. Calcd for C₂₇H₂₃N₃O₃: C, 74.13; H, 5.30; N, 9.60. Found: C, 74.15; H, 5.22; N, 9.48.

3.6.6. Ethyl 6-phenyl-4-(1-ethyl-2-phenyl-1H-indol-3-yl)- 3,4-dihydropyrimidin-2 $(1H)$ -one-5-carboxylate (6f). Colourless solid. Mp 228–230 °C. R_f 0.60 (25% ethyl acetate–petroleum ether). IR: 1705, 2955, 3244, 3380 cm⁻¹.
¹H NMR: δ 0.62 (t, $I - 7.7$ Hz, 3H, OCH,CH₂), 1.21 (t) ¹H NMR: δ 0.62 (t, J=7.7 Hz, 3H, OCH₂CH₃), 1.21 (t, $J=7.7$ Hz, 3H, NCH₂CH₃), 3.67 (q, $J=7.7$ Hz, 2H, OCH₂CH₃), 3.96 (q, J=7.7 Hz, 2H, NCH₂CH₃), 5.40 (s, 1H, CH(4)), 5.71 (d, J=2.3 Hz, 1H), 6.86 (s, 1H), 7.15 (t, $J=7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.26 (t, $J=7.7$ Hz, 2H), 7.32 (m, 2H), 7.34 (m, 5H), 7.50 (m, 3H), 7.75 (d, J=8.5 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR: d 13.6, 15.5, 31.0, 49.5, 59.7, 101.7, 110.4, 115.2, 117.6, 119.3, 119.9, 121.8, 126.0, 127.4, 127.7, 127.8, 127.9, 128.0, 128.1, 128.2, 128.3, 128.6, 128.6, 131.5, 135.7, 139.0, 145.4, 152.7, 165.4. MS (EI, m/z): 465 (M⁺). Anal. Calcd for $C_{29}H_{27}N_3O_3$: C, 74.82; H, 5.85; N, 9.03. Found: C, 74.62; H, 5.73; N, 9.15.

3.6.7. Ethyl 6-(2-chlorophenyl)-4-(5-bromo-1H-indol-3 yl)-3,4-dihydropyrimidin-2(1H)-one-5-carboxylate (6g). Yellow solid. Mp 212–214 °C. R_f 0.30 (25% ethyl acetate– petroleum ether). IR: 1097, 1237, 1347, 1457, 1527, 1651, $1692, 2927, 3100, 3263, 3321, 3413 \text{ cm}^{-1}$. ¹H NMR: δ 1.07 (t, J=7.5 Hz, 3H), 4.03 (q, J=7.5 Hz, 2H), 5.16 (d, $J=2.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.19 (s, 1H), 7.21 (d, $J=7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.28 (d, J=7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (t, J=7.2 Hz, 4H), 7.53 (m, 1H), 7.94 (s, 1H), 7.99 (s, 1H), 9.80 (s, 1H). 13C NMR: d 12.5, 47.8, 59.6, 101.2, 111.3, 114.8, 118.4, 119.4, 121.6, 124.1, 125.9, 127.2, 130.2, 131.1, 133.4, 134.9, 136.9, 145.8, 152.6, 164.2. MS (EI, m/z): 475 (M⁺). Anal. Calcd for $C_{21}H_{17}BrClN_3O_3$: C, 53.13; H, 3.61; N, 8.85. Found: C, 53.08; H, 3.58; N, 8.93.

3.6.8. Ethyl 6-(2-nitrophenyl)-4-(2-methyl-1H-indol-3 yl)-3,4-dihydropyrimidin-2(1H)-one-5-carboxylate (6h). Pale yellow solid. Mp 233–235 °C. R_f 0.30 (25% ethyl acetate–petroleum ether). IR (KBr): 1240, 1530, 1612, 1645, 1698, 3100, 3250, 3400 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR: δ 0.62 (t, $J=7.5$ Hz, 3H), 2.24 (s, 3H), 3.55 (dq, $J=1.6$, 7.5 Hz, 2H), 5.55 (d, J=3.1 Hz, 1H), 6.9 (t, J=3.9 Hz, 2H), 7.25 $(t, J=9.2 \text{ Hz}, 1\text{H}), 7.29 (d, J=6.9 \text{ Hz}, 1\text{H}), 7.48 (d,$ J=3.1 Hz, 1H, NH), 7.59 (m, 2H), 7.72 (m, 1H), 8.17 (d, $J=8.4$ Hz, 1H), 9.64 (s, 1H, NH(1)), 10.86 (s, 1H, indole-NH). ¹³C NMR: δ 12.0, 13.9, 47.9, 59.6, 100.0, 111.4, 114.8, 118.5, 119.3, 120.6, 124.3, 124.8, 126.5, 130.4, 131.7, 133.6, 134.6, 135.8, 140.2, 147.0, 152.1, 165.0. MS (EI, m/z): 420 (M⁺). Anal. Calcd for C₂₂H₂₀N₄O₅: C, 62.85; H, 4.79; N, 13.33. Found: C, 62.71; H, 4.66; N, 13.10.

3.6.9. Ethyl 6-(2-nitrophenyl)-4-(1-methyl-1H-indol-3 yl)-3,4-dihydropyrimidin-2(1H)-one-5-carboxylate (6i). Pale yellow solid. Mp 208–210 °C. R_f 0.35 (25% ethyl acetate–petroleum ether). IR (KBr): 1097, 1237, 1347, 1457, 1527, 1651, 1692, 2927, 3100, 3263, 3321, 3413 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR: δ 0.64 (t, J=7.7 Hz, 3H, OCH₂CH₃), 3.60 (q,

 $J=7.7$ Hz, 2H, OCH₂CH₃), 3.75 (s, 3H, NCH₃), 5.51 (d, $J=3.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.01 (m, 1H), 7.12 (q, $J=6.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.26 (s, 1H), 7.36 (t, $J=7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.65 (d, $J=7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.76 (d, $J=7.7$ Hz, 4H), 8.20 (d, $J=8.5$ Hz, 1H), 9.52 (s, 1H, NH(1)). 13C NMR: d 12.3, 33.0, 48.2, 59.9, 101.0, 112.4, 115.2, 119.1, 120.3, 121.1, 124.5, 125.7, 126.8, 130.6, 131.2, 131.8, 133.9, 134.3, 135.8, 147.0, 152.1, 165.1. MS (EI, m/z): 420 (M⁺). Anal. Calcd for $C_{22}H_{20}N_4O_5$: C, 62.85; H, 4.79; N, 13.33. Found: C, 62.74; H, 4.69; N, 13.20.

3.6.10. Ethyl 4-phenyl-5,6-dihydropyrimidin-2(1H)-one-**5-carboxylate (7a).** Colourless solid. Mp 238–240 °C. R_f 0.21 (25% ethyl acetate–petroleum ether). IR (KBr): 1612, 1650, 1703, 3100, 3250 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR: δ 0.86 (q, $J=7.5$ Hz, 3H), 3.90 (q, $J=7.5$ Hz, 2H), 4.25 (dd, $J=13.8$, 11.5 Hz, 2H), 5.90 (s, 1H), 7.05–7.39 (m, 5H). 13C NMR: d 13.7, 41.5, 60.2, 99.8, 126.9, 129.6, 130.4, 134.3, 144.5, 154.5, 164.9. MS (EI, m/z): 246 (M⁺). Anal. Calcd for $C_{13}H_{14}N_2O_3$: C, 63.40; H, 5.73; N, 11.38. Found: C, 63.28; H, 5.71; N, 11.28.

3.6.11. Ethyl 4-(1-naphthyl)-5,6-dihydropyrimidin- $2(1H)$ -one-5-carboxylate (7b). Colourless solid. Mp 244– 246 °C. R_f 0.23 (25% ethyl acetate–petroleum ether). IR (KBr): 1614, 1651, 1706, 3248 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR: δ 0.36 (q, $J=7.5$ Hz, 3H), 3.65 (q, $J=7.5$ Hz, 2H), 4.08 (dd, $J=14.5$, 11.5 Hz, 2H), 7.20 (s, 1H), 7.30–7.60 (m, 5H), 7.80–7.91 (m, 2H), 9.10 (s, 1H). 13C NMR: d 13.0, 40.6, 59.4, 100.1, 123.7, 125.2, 126.3, 126.4, 128.4, 128.9, 131.1, 130.2, 130.5, 132.8, 145.9, 154.1, 164.2. MS (EI, m/z): 296 (M⁺). Anal. Calcd for $C_{17}H_{16}N_2O_3$: C, 68.91; H, 5.40; N, 9.45. Found: C, 68.87; H, 5.38; N, 9.58.

3.6.12. Ethyl 6-(2-nitrophenyl)-4-(2-pyrrolyl)-3,4-dihydropyrimidin-2(1H)-ones-5-carboxylate (7c). Brown colour solid. Mp 241–242 °C. R_f 0.30 (25% ethyl acetate– petroleum ether). IR (KBr): 1013, 1091, 1296, 1392, 1494, 1583, 1620, 1718, 3199, 3282, 3401 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR: δ 0.66 (t, J=7.7 Hz, 3H, OCH₂CH₃), 3.65 (q, J=7.7 Hz, 2H, OCH₂CH₃), 5.19 (d, J=3.0 Hz, 1H), 6.61 (d, J=3.0 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (d, J=6.9 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (m, 1H), 7.36 $(t, J=7.7 \text{ Hz}, 1H), 7.61 \text{ (m, 2H)}, 8.13 \text{ (d, } J=8.5 \text{ Hz}, 1H),$ 9.30 (s, NH(1)), 10.50 (s, 1H, pyrrole-NH). 13C NMR: d 13.9, 48.7, 59.6, 102.2, 106.8, 111.8, 115.3, 118.1, 124.6, 126.6, 131.5, 134.5, 137.8, 147.5, 153.6, 165.0, 165.3. MS (EI, m/z): 356 (M⁺). Anal. Calcd for $C_{17}H_{16}N_4O_5$: C, 57.30; H, 4.53; N, 15.72. Found: C, 57.22; H, 4.47; N, 15.45.

Acknowledgements

P.B. would like to thank Prof. Paul Carlier (Chemistry department, Virginia Tech) for useful discussions, and gratefully acknowledges the use of computer facilities at Virginia Tech during the preparation of this manuscript. P.S. expresses his gratitude to the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Delhi for financial support.

References and notes

1. (a) Huang, Y.; Yang, F.; Zhu, C. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2005, 127, 16386; (b) Chen, X.; Xu, X.; Liu, H.; Cun, L.; Gong, L. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2006, 128, 14802; (c) Zhu, Y.; Huang, S.; Pan, Y. Eur. J. Org. Chem. 2005, 2354; (d) Wannberg, J.; Dallinger, D.; Kappe, C. O.; Larhed, M. J. Comb. Chem. 2005, 7, 574; (e) Nilsson, B. L.; Overman, L. E. J. Org. Chem. 2006, 71, 7706.

- 2. Rovnyak, G. C.; Kimball, S. D.; Beyer, B.; Cucinotta, G.; DiMarco, J. D.; Gougoutas, J. Z.; Hedberg, A.; Malley, M.; McCarthy, J. P.; Zhang, R.; Moreland, M. S. J. Med. Chem. 1995, 38, 119.
- 3. (a) Nagarathnam, D.; Wetzel, J. M.; Miao, S. W.; Marzabadi, M. R.; Chiu, G.; Wong, W. C.; Hong, X.; Fang, J.; Forray, C.; Branchek, T. A.; Heydorn, W. E.; Chang, R. S. L.; Broten, T.; Schorn, T.; Gluchowski, C. J. Med. Chem. 1998, 41, 5320; (b) Mayer, T. U.; Kapoor, T. M.; Haggarty, S. J.; King, R. W.; Schreiber, S. L.; Mitchison, T. J. Science 1999, 286, 971.
- 4. (a) Biginelli, P. Gazz. Chim. Ital. 1893, 23, 360; (b) For a recent review, see: Dallinger, D.; Stadler, A.; Kappe, C. O. Pure Appl. Chem. 2004, 76, 1017.
- 5. Atwal, K.; Rovnyak, G. C.; Schwartz, J.; Moreland, S.; Hedberg, A.; Gougoutas, J. Z.; Malley, M. F.; Floyd, D. M. J. Med. Chem. 1990, 33, 1510.
- 6. (a) Gross, G. A.; Wurziger, H.; Schober, A. J. Comb. Chem. 2006, 8, 153; (b) Shanmugam, P.; Annie, G.; Perumal, P. T. J. Heterocycl. Chem. 2003, 40, 879; (c) Strohmeier, P. K.; Kappe, C. O. J. Comb. Chem. 2002, 4, 154.
- 7. (a) Kappe, C. O. Tetrahedron 1993, 49, 6937; (b) Kappe, C. O.; Stadler, A. Org. React. 2004, 63, 1; (c) Kappe, C. O. Acc. Chem. Res. 2000, 33, 879.
- 8. Sujatha, K.; Shanmugam, P.; Perumal, P. T.; Muralidharan, D.; Rajendran, M. Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett. 2006, 16, 4893.
- 9. Dondoni, A.; Massi, A.; Minghini, E.; Sabbatini, S.; Bertolasi, V. J. Org. Chem. 2003, 68, 6172.
- 10. Shanmugam, P.; Perumal, P. T. Tetrahedron 2007, 63, 666.
- 11. (a) Christoffer, J. Eur. J. Org. Chem. 1998, 1259; (b) Christoffer, J. Synlett 2001, 723; (c) Christoffer, J. Tetrahedron Lett. 1998, 39, 7083; (d) Shintani, R.; Ueyama, K.; Yamada, I.; Hayashi, T. Org. Lett. 2004, 6, 3425; (e) Shintani, R.; Tokunaga, N.; Doi, H.; Hayashi, T. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2004, 126, 6241; (f) Rosiak, A.; Frey, W.; Christoffers, J. Eur. J. Org. Chem. 2006, 4044; (g) Ji, S.-J.; Wang, S.-Y. Synlett 2003, 2074.
- 12. Yadav, J. S.; Abraham, S.; Subba Reddy, B. V.; Sabitha, G. Synthesis 2001, 2165.
- 13. Harrington, P. E.; Kerr, M. A. Synlett 1996, 1047.
- 14. (a) Kappe, C. O.; Roschger, P. J. Heterocycl. Chem. 1989, 26, 55; (b) Hu, E. H.; Sidler, D. R.; Dolling, U.-H. J. Org. Chem. 1998, 63, 3454; (c) Lu, J.; Bai, Y. Synthesis 2002, 466; (d) Ma, Y.; Qian, C.; Wang, L.; Yang, M. J. Org. Chem. 2000, 65, 3864; (e) Ranu, B. C.; Hajra, A.; Jana, U. J. Org. Chem. 2000, 65, 6270.
- 15. Crystallographic data submitted to Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre. CCDC number is 265951. Empirical formula $C_{21}H_{19}N_3O_3$. Temperature 293(2) K. Formula weight 370.40. Wavelength 1.54180. A crystal system, space group, tetragonal, *P42/n*. Unit cell dimensions $a=17.684(2)$ Å, $b=17.684(2)$ Å, c=12.272(2) Å, $\alpha=90^\circ$, $\beta=90^\circ$, c=12.272(2) Å, $\gamma=90^\circ$. Volume 3837.7(9) \AA^3 , Z=8. Calculated density 1.282 mg/m³. Crystal size $0.3 \times 0.2 \times 0.2$ mm. Final R indices $[I > 2\sigma(I)]$ $R1 = 0.0562$, $wR^2 = 0.1709$. R indices (all data) $R1 = 0.0665$, wR^2 =0.1797. Reflections collected/unique 3661/3426 $[R(int)=0.0114]$.
- 16. Shanmugam, P.; Perumal, P. T. Tetrahedron 2006, 62, 9726.