



# The organocatalytic role of L-(+)-tartaric acid in the synthesis of 5-aryl-1,1'- and 5-aryl-3,1'-dimethyl-1*H*,1'*H*-spiro[furo[2,3-*d*]pyrimidine-6,5'-pyrimidine]2,2',4,4',6,6'-(3*H*,3'*H*,5*H*)-pentaones

Shahla Shahvirdi<sup>1</sup> · Hamid Rashidnejad<sup>1</sup> · Nader Noroozi Pesyan<sup>1</sup>

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## Abstract

The reaction of 1-methylpyrimidine-(1*H*,3*H*,5*H*)-2,4,6-trione (1-MBA **1a'**) as an unsymmetrical barbituric acid with cyanogen bromide (BrCN) and various aldehydes in the presence of L-(+)-tartaric acid (L-(+)-TA) as an organocatalyst afforded heterocyclic stable 5-aryl-1,1'-dimethyl- and 5-aryl-3,1'-dimethyl-1*H*,1'*H*-spiro[furo[2,3-*d*]pyrimidine-6,5'-pyrimidine]2,2',4,4',6,6'-(3*H*,3'*H*,5*H*)-pentaones which had the dimeric form of 1-methyl barbiturate at the range of 0 °C to room temperature. In this reaction, L-(+)-TA acted as a sieve to reduce the number of diastereomeric products. Knoevenagel condensation and Michael adduct were the main processes involved in this reaction. The structure of compounds was investigated by <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C-NMR, and FTIR spectroscopy techniques.

**Keywords** Diastereomer · 1-Methylbarbituric acid (1-MBA) · L-(+)-tartaric acid (L-(+)-TA) · Spirodihydrofuran · Cyanogen bromide (BrCN)

## Introduction

The pharmaceutical and biological effects of fused uracils [1–3], furo[2,3-*d*]pyrimidines [4–8] and spirobarbituric acids [9–12] are well established. *C*-nucleophilic property of pyrimidine in barbituric acids (BA) and their 2-thio-analogues, both substituted and unsubstituted at nitrogen, have been studied. The reaction of these compounds with aliphatic or aromatic aldehydes yields 5-aryl or 5-alkylmethylenobarbituric acids [13, 14]. The nucleophilic reaction of barbituric acids with a variety of electrophiles such as carbodiimides, benzophenone derivatives, 2,2'-bipyridil, and erythrolactol obtains diaminomethylenobarbiturates [15], triphenylmethyl salt [16], 5,5'-(2-pyridylidene)bisbarbituric acid [17, 18], spirobarbituric deoxyribonucleoside [19], spiro-linked condensed [1,2- $\alpha$ ]quinolones [20], and

$\pi$ -conjugated systems including BA and 1,3-dimethyl barbituric acid (DMBA) derivatives [21].

Chiral tartaric acid (TA) and its derivatives play a key role in various chemical processes such as epoxidation [22–24], unsymmetrical hydrogenation [25, 26] and Simmons–Smith cyclopropanation [27–30]. Additionally, L-(+)-TA has also been used in the synthesis of pharmaceutical and natural product compounds such as (+)-pinellic acid [31], 5,5'-bis(1,3-dioxolan-4-ones) of tartaric acids [32], and (–)-muricatacin [33]. It participates in critical processes including selective conjugate addition of nitromethane to enoates [34], enantioselective synthesis of (1*R*)-1-(hydroxymethyl)-2-acetyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro- $\beta$ -carboline [35], novel chiral dithioethers [36], etc.

Despite the toxicity of cyanogen bromide (BrCN), it is commonly used in organic synthesis. It is an apt reagent for both bromination and cyanation of imidazoles [37], bromination of alkenes [38], and  $\alpha$ -bromination of  $\beta$ -aminoenones [39]. von Braun is a well-known reaction in which tertiary amines react with BrCN to yield organocyanamides [40]. A selective synthesis of thiocyanates using BrCN has been reported by Chambert et al. [41]. This agent is currently used in the synthesis of various compounds, among which are (spiro)cyclopropanes [42–45],  $\beta$ -triketones [46], and spirodihydrofurans [47, 48].

**Electronic supplementary material** The online version of this article (<https://doi.org/10.1007/s13738-020-02041-7>) contains supplementary material, which is available to authorized users.

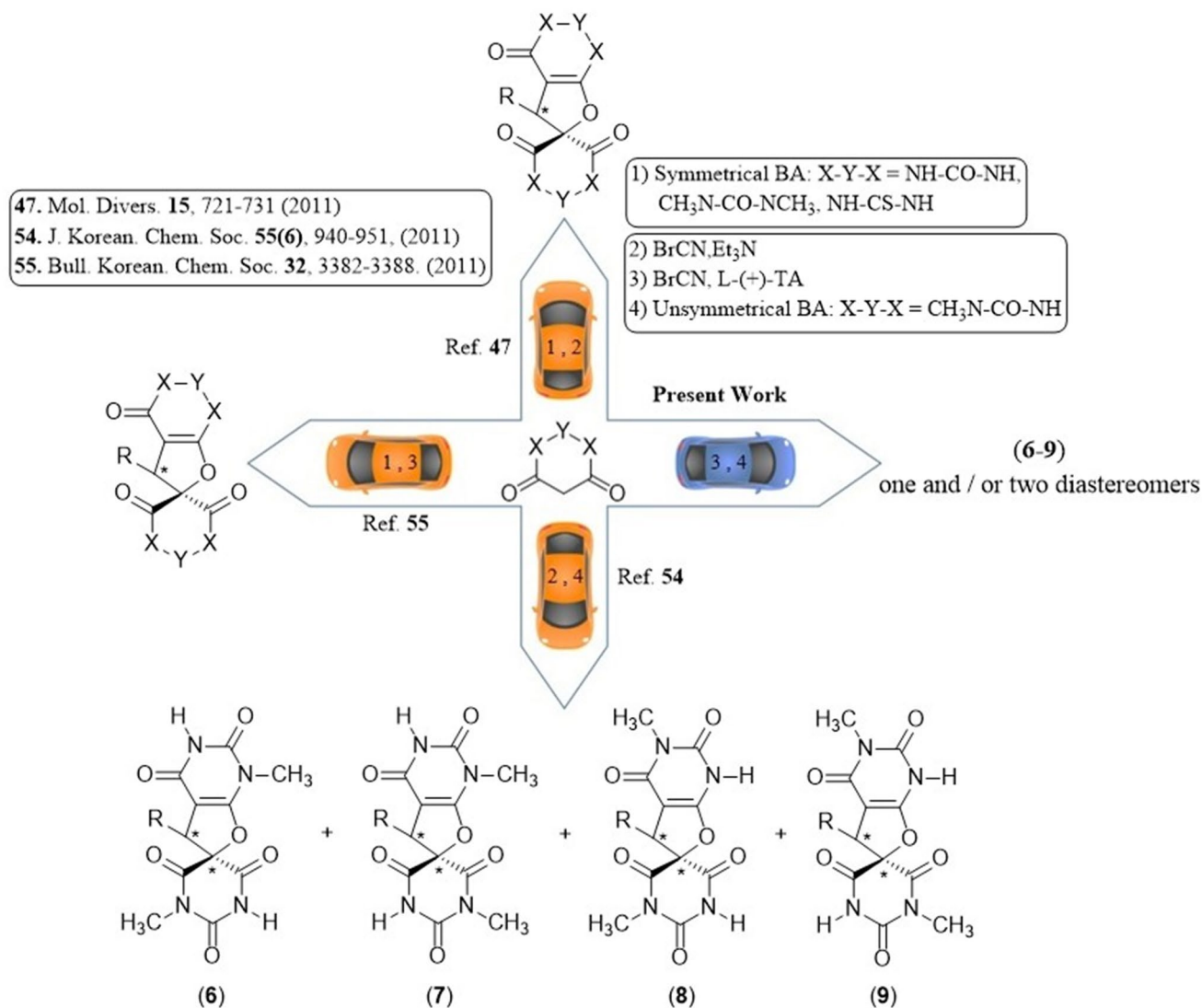
✉ Nader Noroozi Pesyan  
n.noroozi@urmia.ac.ir; nnp403@gmail.com

<sup>1</sup> Department of Organic Chemistry, Faculty of Chemistry, Urmia University, 57159 Urmia, Iran

The reaction of barbituric acid (BA) with BrCN has been reported in the literature [49–51]. Recently, we have reported the racemic synthesis of 5-alkyl and/or 5-aryl-1*H*,1'*H*-spiro[furo[2,3-*d*]pyrimidine-6,5'-pyrimidine]-2,2',4,4',6'-(3*H*,3'*H*,5*H*)-pentaones and their thio-analogues through the reaction of symmetric (thio)barbituric acids with aldehydes [47] and ketones [52, 53]. These reactions were conducted in the presence of BrCN and triethylamine (Et<sub>3</sub>N) and/or pyridine as basic media. We have also performed this reaction with 1-methyl barbituric acid (as an unsymmetric barbituric acid) under the same conditions. The product of this reaction was diastereomeric mixture of stable stereoisomers 1',3-dimethyl-5-aryl-1*H*,1'*H*-spiro[furo[2,3-*d*]

pyrimidine-6,5'-pyrimidine]-2,2',4,4',6'-(3*H*,3'*H*,5*H*)-pentaone [54]. Acidic media can also provide a suitable environment. For instance, L-(+)-TA was used in similar reaction including symmetric BA [55]. All these recent investigations are shown in Fig. 1.

Based on the above-mentioned concepts and in the continuation of our research line, we studied another route for similar reactions. In this work, L-(+)-TA was used as either organocatalyst or acidic media provider in the reaction of 1-methylbarbituric acid (as unsymmetrical BA) with some selected aldehydes (from our previous works) [47, 54, 55] in the presence of BrCN. The number of product diastereomers was reduced from diastereomeric mixture [54] to one or two diastereomers in which detected by means of <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectroscopy.

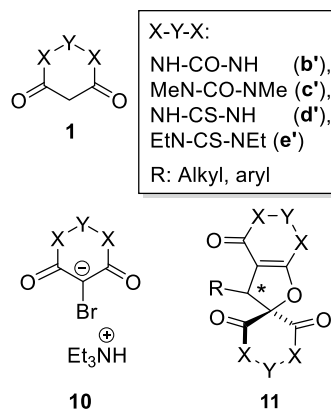


**Fig. 1** Our current BA intersection (1: Symmetrical BA, 2: BrCN, Et<sub>3</sub>N, 3: BrCN, L-(+)-TA, 4: unsymmetrical BA)

## Results and discussion

This paper describes a new one-pot reaction of 1-methylbarbituric acid (**1a'** as an unsymmetrical barbituric acid) with BrCN and various aldehydes (containing electron-withdrawing and electron-donating substituents) (**2a–p**) in the presence of L-(+)-TA (as either a chiral catalyst or acidic condition) affording reduced diastereomeric mixtures of a new class of stable heterocyclic spiro barbiturates **6a–m** through **9a–m**, respectively (Scheme 1, path a). Moreover, the reaction of **1a'** with aldehydes 1-naphthaldehyde (**2n**), 9-anthraldehyde (**2o**) and furfural (**2p**) were also afforded Knoevenagel adducts (a mixture of *Z*- and *E*-isomers) of **4n–4p** through **5n–5p** (Scheme 1, path b).

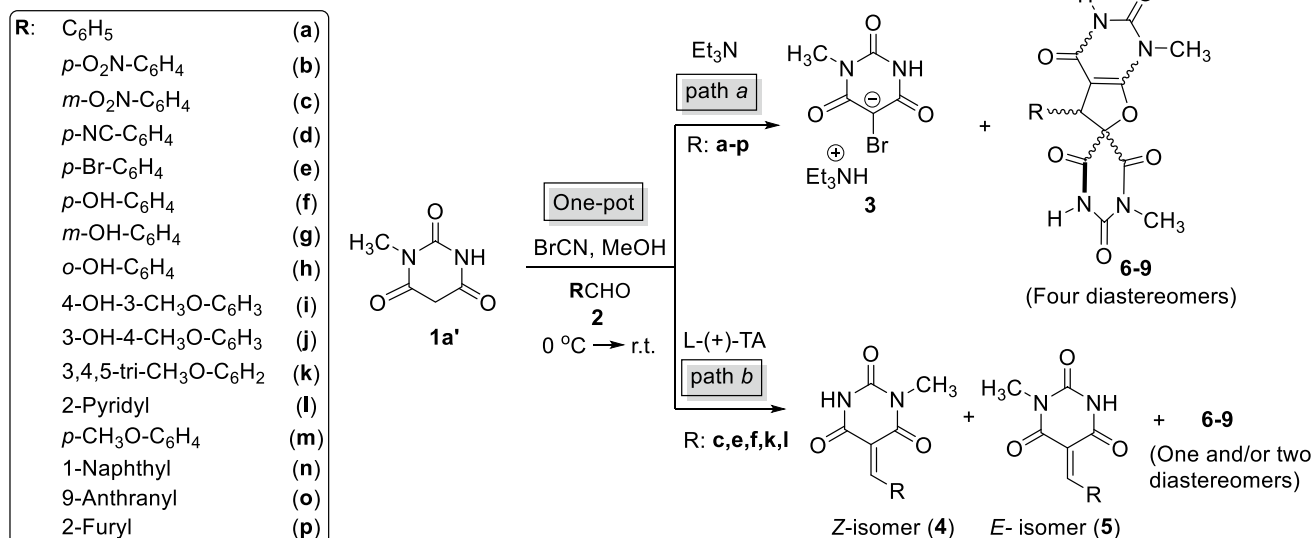
The structures of symmetrical (thio)barbituric acids (**1b'–1e'**) are shown in Fig. 2. The reaction of **1b'–1e'** with aldehydes (**2a–p**) and BrCN in the presence of triethylamine as a basic media have been accomplished [47]. In this reaction, the salts of triethylammonium-5-bromo-(thio)barbiturates (**10b'–10e'**) and the racemic mixture of spiro[furo[2,3-*d*]pyrimidine-6,5'-pyrimidine]-pentaones (**11b'–11e'**) have been obtained since their <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectra show one singlet peak for C5-H. We also performed the reaction of 1-methylbarbituric acid **1a'** (as an unsymmetric barbituric acid) with aldehydes **2** in the presence of BrCN and triethylamine under the same conditions and obtained the salt of triethylammonium-5-bromo-2,4,6-trioxohexahydro-1-methylpyrimidin-5-ide (**3**), diastereomeric mixture of four new class of heterocyclic stable



**Fig. 2** Structures of symmetrical (thio)barbituric acids (**1**) and corresponding salts (**10**) and **11** [47]

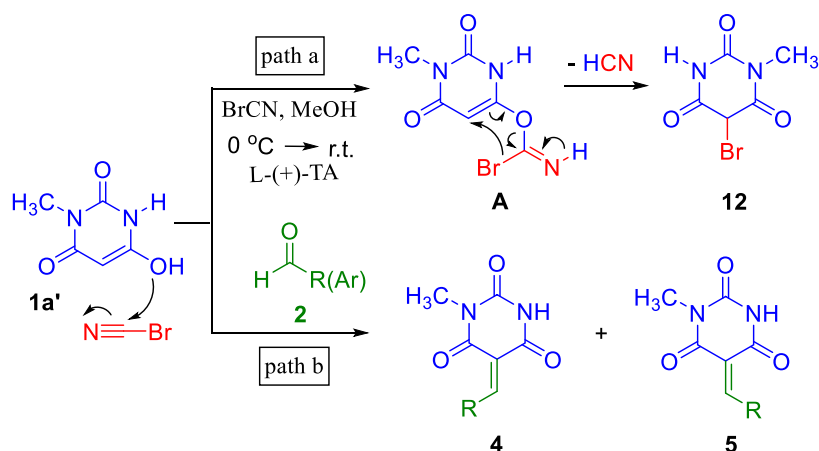
compounds (*5S,5'S*)- (**6**), (*5R,5'S*)-1,1'-dimethyl-5-aryl-1*H*,1'*H*-spiro[furo[2,3-*d*]pyrimidine-6,5'-pyrimidine]-2,2',4,4',6'(3*H*,3'*H*,5*H*)-pentaone (**7**), (*5S,5'S*)- (**8**) and (*5R,5'S*)-1',3-dimethyl-5-aryl-1*H*,1'*H*-spiro[furo[2,3-*d*]pyrimidine-6,5'-pyrimidine]-2,2',4,4',6'(3*H*,3'*H*,5*H*)-pentaone (**9**) in good yields, respectively (Scheme 1, path a) [54]. The attempt to separate four diastereomers was failed due to their almost same polarity.

5-Bromo-1-methyl barbituric acid (**12**) plays a significant role (either as a nucleophile or electrophile) in the synthesis of **8** and **9** through the reaction of **1a'** and **2** in the presence of L-(+)-TA. A proposed mechanism for the formation of **12** is shown in Scheme 2. On the basis of the well-established chemistry of barbituric acid [56]



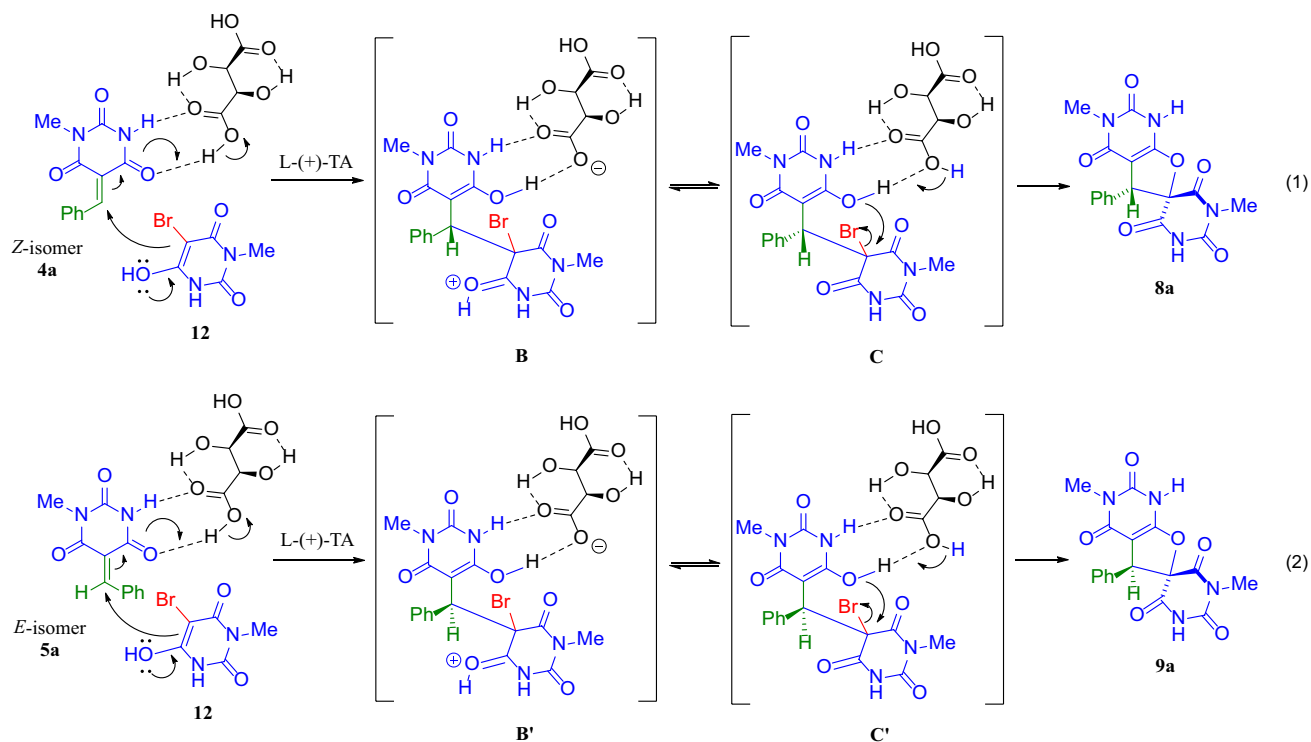
**Scheme 1** Reaction of unsymmetrical 1-methylbarbituric acid (**1a'**) with cyanogen bromide and various aldehydes in the presence of Et<sub>3</sub>N (path a) and L-(+)-tartaric acid (path b)

**Scheme 2** Knoevenagel condensation and the mechanism of the formation of **12** (path a) under acidic condition



and according to the mechanism of the bromination of symmetric barbituric acids [47, 52, 53] and 1-alkyl imidazoles by cyanogen bromide [37], it is reasonable to assume that the enolic form of **1a'** reacted with cyanogen bromide forming intermediate (**A**). The intramolecular rearrangement of **A** afforded 5-bromo-1-methylbarbituric acid **12** followed by the loss of hydrogen cyanide ( $\text{HCN}$ ). At the same time, as a competition reaction, Knoevenagel condensation between **1a'** and **2** also occurred (Scheme 2, path b).

The proposed mechanism of the formation of **8a** and **9a** as representatives is shown in Scheme 3. First, the Knoevenagel condensation of **2a** with **1a'** afforded (*Z*)- (**4a**) and (*E*)-1-methyl-5-phenylmethylenepyrimidine-2,4,6(1*H*,3*H*,5*H*)-trione (**5a**) and then, Michael addition of the enolic form of 5-bromo-1-methyl barbituric acid **12** (act as a nucleophile) to the  $\beta$ -carbon position of both **4a** and **5a** as an  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated carbonyl compound gave intermediates **B**, **C**, **B'** and **C'**. Unfortunately, all attempts failed to separate and characterize these intermediates.  $\text{L-}(+)\text{-TA}$  as a chiral



**Scheme 3** Possible mechanism of diastereoselective controlled reactions between **4a** (1) and **5a** (2) with **12** for the formation of **8a** and **9a** in the presence of  $\text{L-}(+)\text{-TA}$ , respectively

catalyst can bind to **4** and/or **5** by intermolecular H-bond and controlled the Michael addition of **12** (Scheme 3). Finally, intramolecular nucleophilic attack of hydroxyl group to carbon atom to leave bromide ion (as an electrophile) afforded **8a** and **9a** in good yields (Scheme 3).

There are eight possible spiro stereoisomers (four or less diastereomers) that were synthesized and derived from the reaction of **1a'** with **2** in the presence of BrCN and Et<sub>3</sub>N (Figs. 3 and 4a). Instead, in the presence of BrCN and L-(+)-TA afforded only two diastereomers under the same conditions (Fig. 4b). These observations indicated that L-(+)-TA as a chiral catalyst controlled the progress direction of the reaction (see later). For instance, <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of the reaction between **1a'** and **2c** show exclusively one product of **6c–9c**. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of the product shows a singlet for C5-H at δ 5.26 ppm, and its <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum shows fifteen distinct peaks (two distinct peaks for N-CH<sub>3</sub> carbon atoms). These data show the diastereoselectivity of the reaction in the presence of L-(+)-TA. In contrast, **2c** gives four mixtures of diastereomers (**6c–9c**) [54]. Four possible diastereomers were also obtained from the reaction of **1a'** and **2k** (as a representative) in the presence of BrCN and triethylamine (under basic condition) [55]. Representatively, the existence of six overlapped singlets for C5-H proton of the diastereomeric mixture of **6k–9k** revealed that presumably there was an equilibrium mixture of lactam and lactim forms (each diastereomer consisting of an equilibrium mixture of lactam and lactim forms). Instead, in the presence of L-(+)-TA, only two diastereomers were obtained and each diastereomer had both lactam and lactim forms (Scheme 4).

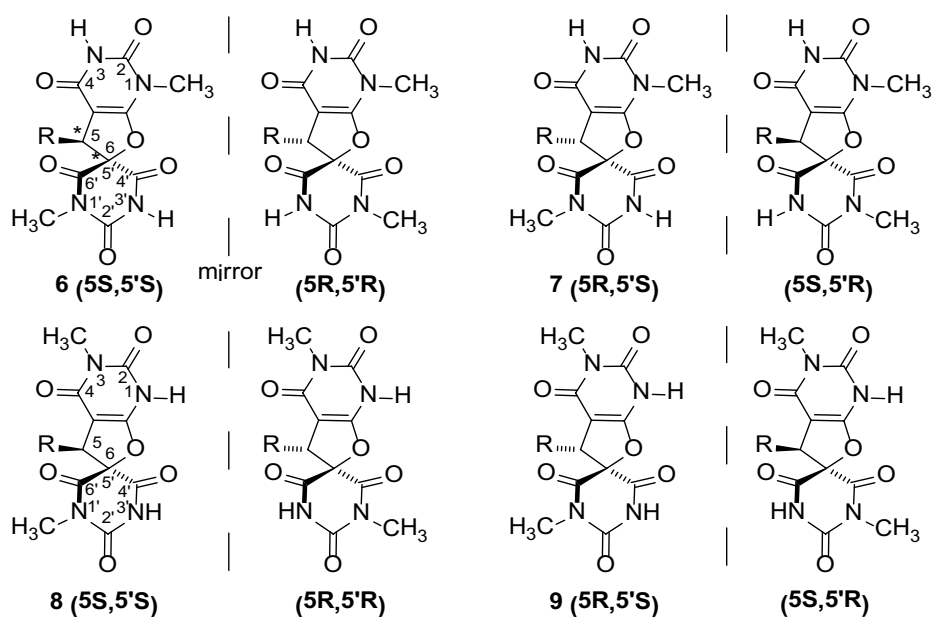
Another evidence for the diastereoselective formation of **6–9** by the reaction of **1a'** with **2** and BrCN in the presence of L-(+)-TA is shown in Fig. 5. For instance, there

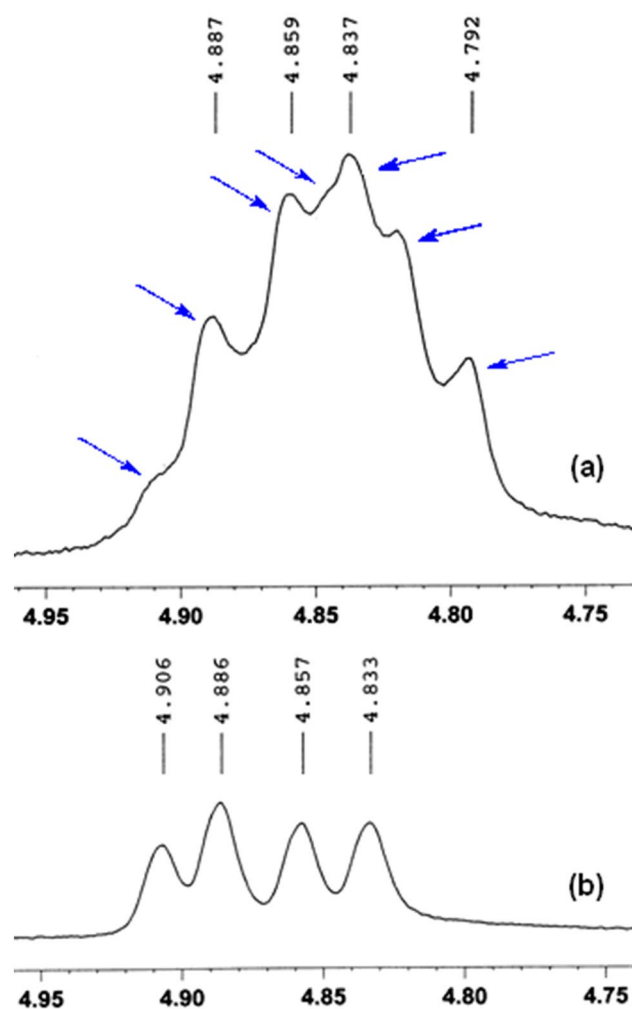
are four different chemical shifts for N-CH<sub>3</sub> in **11kc'** [47] (Fig. 5a) while there are two different environments for N-CH<sub>3</sub> of spiro compound derived from the reaction of **1a'** and **2k** in the presence of L-(+)-TA (Fig. 5b). These observations also indicated the diastereoselective formation of **6k–9k**. The number of diastereoselective reaction products from some aldehydes is summarized in Table 1.

In comparison, the aromatic aldehydes possessing electron-withdrawing substituents were more reactive than those containing electron-donating substituents [50]. Owing to the aromatic nature of **1b'** and **1d'**, the nucleophilicity of these compounds was less than that of **1c'** and **1e'**. Therefore, the reactivity of **1a'** was higher than that of **1b'** and **1d'** due to amide resonance dominates over the aromaticity in barbituric acids [41].

Reaction yield in the presence of L-(+)-tartaric acid was higher than that of the presence of triethylamine under the same conditions. As we previously reported for the reaction of symmetrical (thio)barbituric acids with BrCN in the presence of L-(+)-tartaric acid [55], the intermediate 5-bromo (thio)barbituric acid **12** was formed which was soluble in methanol and caused the progress of reaction. This intermediate was vital for the formation of spiro compounds. Instead, in the reactions in the presence of triethylamine, the salt of triethylammonium 5-bromo-1-methyl-2,4,6-trioxohexahydropyrimidin-5-ide (**3** in Scheme 1) was formed, and a small portion of this salt was precipitated which reduced the reaction yield. Likewise, this salt was an intermediate for the formation of spiro compounds. In these types of reactions, a small fraction of triethylammonium hydrobromide salt (Et<sub>3</sub>NHBr) was also formed in the presence of BrCN and trimethylamine that decreased reaction yield [47].

**Fig. 3** Four possible diastereomers (eight stereoisomers) of **6–9** derived from the reaction between **1a'** and **2** in the presence of BrCN and Et<sub>3</sub>N

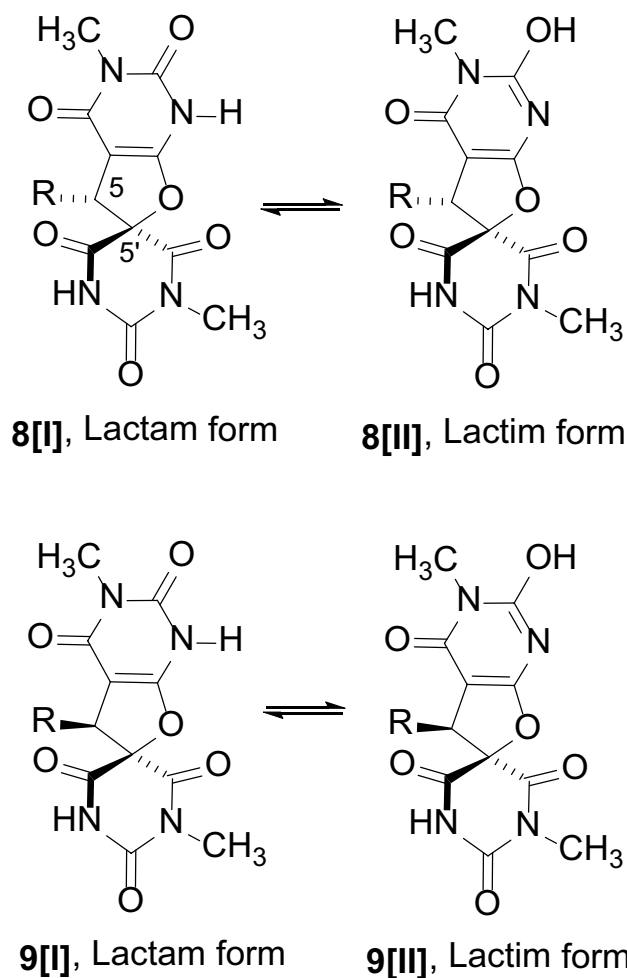




**Fig. 4** Expanded C5-H proton's peaks of an equilibrium mixture of lactam and lactim forms of diastereomeric mixture of **6k**, **7k**, **8k** and **9k** derived from the one-pot reaction of **1a'** with **2k** in the presence of BrCN and Et<sub>3</sub>N (a) and diastereoselective formation of **6k** and **7k** (and/or **8k** and **9k**) in the presence of L-(+)-TA (b) in DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>

## Conclusion

In conclusion, in the reaction of symmetric barbituric acids with aromatic aldehydes and cyanogen bromide in the presence of triethylamine, the racemic mixture of 5-aryl-1*H*,1'*H*-spiro[furo[2,3-*d*]pyrimidine-6,5'-pyrimidine]2,2',4,4',6'(3*H*,3'*H*,5*H*)-pentaones was afforded. The reaction of 1-methylbarbituric acid **1a'** as an unsymmetric barbituric acid with the same aldehydes and cyanogen bromide in the presence of triethylamine afforded a mixture of eight stereoisomers (four diastereomers) under the same conditions. Instead, the reaction of **1a'** with the same aldehydes and cyanogen bromide in the presence of L-(+)-tartaric acid reduced the number of stereoisomers.



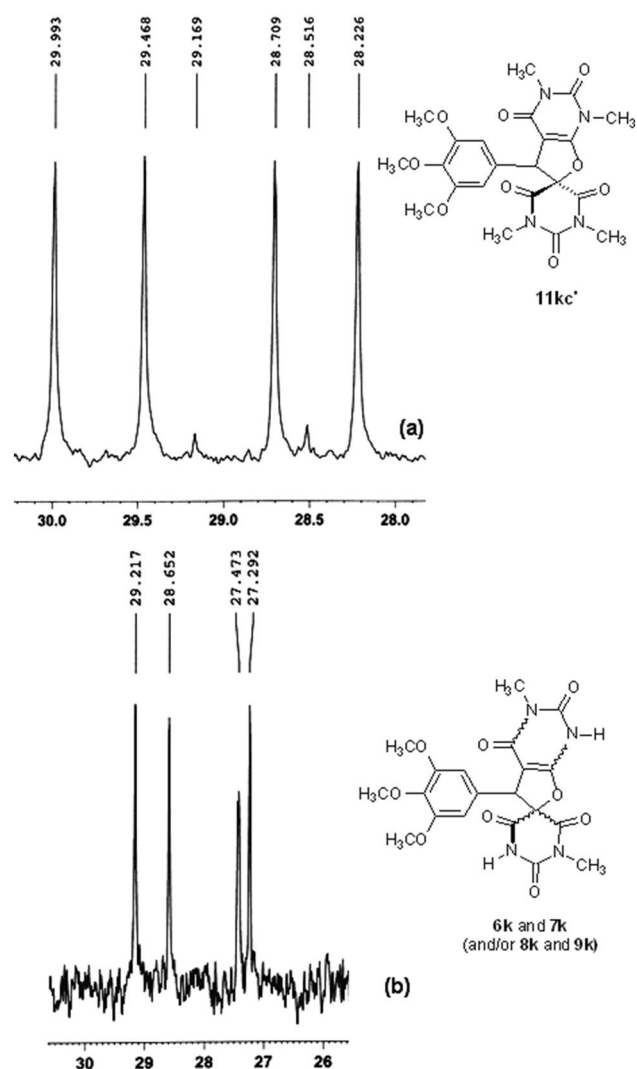
**Scheme 4** Possible equilibrium mixture of lactam (**6[I]** and **7[I]** and/or **8[I]** and **9[I]**) and lactim (**6[II]** and **7[II]** and/or **8[II]** and **9[II]**) forms of two diastereomeric mixtures of **6** and **7** and/or **8** and **9** (**8** and **9** are shown as representative)

## Experimental section

### General procedures

The drawing and nomenclature of compounds were performed by ChemBioDraw Ultra version 12.0 software. Melting points were measured with a digital melting point apparatus (Electrothermal) and were uncorrected. IR spectra were recorded in the region of 4000–400 cm<sup>-1</sup> on a NEXUS 670 FT IR spectrometer by preparing KBr pellets (Urmia University, Urmia, Iran). <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker 300 FT-NMR at 300 and 75 MHz, respectively (Urmia University, Urmia, Iran). <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were obtained in the solution of DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub> as solvent using TMS as internal standard. The data were reported as *s* = singlet, *d* = doublet, *t* = triplet, *q* = quartet, *m* = multiplet or unresolved, *bs* = broad singlet, coupling constant(s) in Hz,





**Fig. 5** Comparison of the expanded  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of N-CH $_3$  aliphatic regions of **11kc'** (a) in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  and two diastereomeric mixture of **6k** and **7k** (and/or **8k** and **9k**) in the presence of L-(+)-TA (b) in  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$

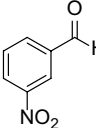
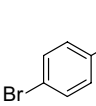
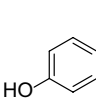
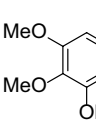

integration. All reactions were monitored by TLC with silica gel-coated plates ( $\text{AcOEt}:\text{AcOH}/80:20/\text{v}:\text{v}$ ). The compound **1a'** was synthesized and purified in our laboratory as previously described in the literature [55, 57]. Cyanogen bromide was synthesized based on the method reported in Ref. [58]. Triethylamine and used solvents were purchased from Merck Company and were employed without further purification.

### General procedures for the preparation of **6–9** (c, d, e, f, l)

The physical and spectral data of compounds **6c–9c** are described as representatives.

In a 10-mL Teflon-faced screw cap tube equipped with a magnetic stirrer, 0.06-g (0.48 mmol) cyanogen bromide

**Table 1** Number of diastereomer(s) obtained in the presence of L-(+)-TA

| Entry | Aldehyde  | Number of product |
|-------|---|-------------------|
| 1     |  <b>2c</b> | 1                 |
| 2     |  <b>2e</b> | 2                 |
| 3     |  <b>2f</b> | 1                 |
| 4     |  <b>2k</b> | 2                 |
| 5     |  <b>2l</b> | 1                 |

(BrCN), 0.15-g (0.96 mmol) 1-methyl barbituric acid, and 0.23-g (0.57 mmol) **2c** were dissolved in 10-mL methanol, and then 0.06-g (0.6 mmol) L-(+)-tartaric acid was added into the solution at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred for 3 h while heating from 0 °C to room temperature (*Caution! Cyanogen Bromide is highly toxic. Reactions should be carried out under a well-ventilated hood*). Teflon-faced screw cap tube prevented the vaporization of cyanogen bromide during the reaction. Reaction progress was monitored by thin layer chromatography (TLC). After the completion of reaction, the crystalline white solid was precipitated, filtered off, washed with a few mL methanol and dried (70% yield).

### 1',3-Dimethyl-5-(3-nitrophenyl)-1,5-dihydro-2H,2'H-spiro[furo[2,3-d]pyrimidine-6,5'-pyrimidine]-2,2',4,4',6'(1'H,3H,3'H)-pentaone (**6c–9c**)

White solid; m.p. 261–265 °C (decomps); FT IR (KBr) 3427, 3023, 2813, 1736, 1707, 1655, 1528, 1441, 1355  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ , 300 MHz)  $\delta$  2.34, 2.45, 3.14, 3.29 (4 s, 6H, 2Me), 5.26 (s, 1H, CH-aliph), 7.61 (m, 2H, CH-ar.), 8.11 (m, 2H, CH-ar.), 11.18 (s, 1H, NH), 11.96 (s, 1H, NH);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ , 75 MHz) 165.7, 164.8, 164.1, 159.1, 151.0, 149.8, 147.9, 137.6, 136.0, 130.1, 124.0, 123.8, 90.0, 85.9, 54.8, 29.3, 27.4.

**5-(4-Bromophenyl)-1',3-dimethyl-1,5-dihydro-2H,2'H-spiro[furo[2,3-d]pyrimidine-6,5'-pyrimidine]-2,2',4,4',6'(1'H,3H,3'H)-pentaone (6e–9e)**

White solid; m.p. 292–296 °C (decomps.); FT IR (KBr) 3422, 3251, 3070, 2925, 2853, 1719, 1659, 1544, 1402, 1374 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 300 MHz) δ 2.37–3.30 (6H, 2Me), 4.93 – 5.00 (3 s, 1H, CH-aliph., a mixture of three diastereomers), 7.05–7.17 (m, 2H, CH ar.), 7.48 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.1 Hz, CH-ar.), 11.1 (s, 1H, NH), 11.9 (s, 1H, NH); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 75 MHz) 166.1, 166.0, 164.5, 164.1, 159.1, 151.0, 149.9, 149.9, 134.5, 131.4, 131.3, 122.2, 122.2, 90.2, 86.2, 55.6, 29.2, 27.4, 27.2.

**5-(4-Hydroxyphenyl)-1',3-dimethyl-1,5-dihydro-2H,2'H-spiro[furo[2,3-d]pyrimidine-6,5'-pyrimidine]-2,2',4,4',6'(1'H,3H,3'H)-pentaone (6f–9f)**

White solid; m.p. 234–236 °C (decomps.); FT IR (KBr) 3435, 3213, 2925, 2850, 1720, 1666, 1547, 1520, 1435, 1366 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 300 MHz) δ 2.40, 3.29 (2 s, 6H, 2Me), overlapped with water of DMSO, 4.78 (s, 1H, CH-aliph.), 6.63 (d, 2H, *J* = 7.5 Hz, CH-ar.), 6.88 (d, 2H, *J* = 7.5 Hz, CH-ar.), 9.49 (s, 1H, OH), 11.11 (s, 1H, NH), 11.86 (s, 1H, NH); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 75 MHz) 166.4, 164.4, 164.1, 159.1, 158.0, 151.0, 150.0, 130.1, 124.7, 115.2, 90.6, 86.5, 56.6, 29.2, 27.4.

**1',3-Dimethyl-5-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-1,5-dihydro-2H,2'H-spiro[furo[2,3-d]pyrimidine-6,5'-pyrimidine]-2,2',4,4',6'(1'H,3H,3'H)-pentaone (6k–9k)**

White solid; m.p. 269–271 °C (decomps.); FT IR (KBr) 3424, 2927, 2848, 1712, 1686, 1665, 1594, 1511, 1382, 1126, 1038 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 300 MHz): δ 2.40, 2.49 (2 s, 3H), 3.07, 3.15 (s, 3H, CH-aliph), 3.61–3.76 (m, 9H, CH-aliph.), 3.15 (s, 3H, CH-aliph.), 4.8–4.9 (m, 1H, CH-aliph) a mixture of two diastereomers, 6.43–6.46 (s, 2H, CH-ar.), 11.12 (s, 1H, NH), 11.34 (s, 1H, NH); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 75 MHz) 164.3, 163.5, 163.14, 159.14, 152.9, 150.2, 138.1, 130.3, 107.0, 90.6, 60.4, 57.1, 56.4, 28.6, 27.3.

**1',3-Dimethyl-5-(pyridin-2-yl)-1,5-dihydro-2H,2'H-spiro[furo[2,3-d]pyrimidine-6,5'-pyrimidine]-2,2',4,4',6'(1'H,3H,3'H)-pentaone (6l–9l)**

White solid; m.p. 272 °C (decomps.); FT IR (KBr) 3434, 3186, 2997, 1700, 1620, 1457, 1403, 1354 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 300 MHz) δ 2.40 (s, 3H, Me), 3.30 (s, 3H, Me), 4.84 (s, 1H, CH-aliph), 7.20 (m, 1H, Pyr.), 7.30 (m, 1H, Pyr.), 7.73 (m, 1H, Pyr.), 8.43 (s, 1H, Pyr.), 11.21 (s, 1H, NH), 11.96 (s, 1H, NH); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 75 MHz) δ 166.3, 164.7, 164.0, 159.3, 154.8, 151.0, 149.9, 149.3,

149.3, 137.2, 123.8, 123.8, 89.4, 85.3, 58.7, 49.0, 31.1, 29.3, 27.4.

## Supporting information

Full characterization and spectral data for compounds **6c–9c**, **6e–9e**, **6f–9f**, **6k–9k** and **6l–9l** are available.

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