BF₃·OEt₂-Mediated C–C Bond-Forming Reaction of α-Hydroxyketene-(*S*,*S*)acetals with Active Methylene Compounds and Its Application in the Synthesis of Substituted 3,4-Dihydro-2-pyridones

Jun Liu, Fushun Liang,* Qun Liu,* Bing Li

Department of Chemistry, Northeast Normal University, Changchun 130024, P. R. of China Fax +86(431)5099759; E-mail: liangfs112@nenu.edu.cn *Received 24 July 2006*

Abstract: The C–C bond-forming reaction between α -hydroxyketene-(*S*,*S*)-acetals **2** and active methylene compounds is described. Mediated by boron trifluoride etherate (BF₃·OEt₂), a series of C–C bond coupling products, 2-(2-acetyl-1-methyl-3-oxobutyl)-*N*-aryl-3,3-bis(ethylthio)acrylamides **3** was obtained in high to excellent yields by the reaction of **2a–e** (R¹ = Ar) with acetylacetone. Various *N*-aryl-substituted 3,4-dihydropyridones **5** were prepared in high yields from **3** via a two-step procedure. Upon the reaction of **2f** (R¹ = H) with active methylene compounds, 3,4-dihydropyridones **6** and/or **7**, were obtained in a one-pot reaction with moderate to good yields.

Keywords: C–C bond-forming reaction, α -hydroxyketene-(*S*,*S*)-acetals, active methylene compounds, substituted 3,4-dihydro-2-pyridones, one-pot synthesis

The carbon-carbon bond-forming reaction is one of the most fundamental approaches for the construction of molecular framework in organic chemistry.¹ In carboncarbon bond-forming reactions, the direct displacement of the hydroxyl group of an allylic or benzylic alcohol by a carbon nucleophile would be quite useful since it would be both atom-efficient and environmentally benign because preparation of the reactive materials would not be required (alcohols are generally transformed into the corresponding halides or esters prior to reactions with nucleophiles due to the fact that the hydroxyl group is a poor leaving group) and only water would be generated as a side product.² In this context, expansion of substrates for this type of reaction to a wide range of active methylene compounds and other types of alcohols is desired and has stimulated much interest in organic chemists. Recently, Baba and co-workers described the direct carbon-carbon bond forming from alcohols and active methylenes, alkoxyketones, and indoles catalyzed by indium trichloride.³ Kaneda et al. reported a Brønsted acid mediated heterogeneous addition reaction of 1,3-dicarbonyl compounds to alkenes and alcohols.⁴ Hence, the selection of suitable substrates, especially the alcohol component, for the carbon-carbon bond-forming reaction is of great significance in achieving the synthetic applications.^{2,3}

Over the past decades, the utility of α -oxoketene-(*S*,*S*)-acetals as versatile intermediates in organic synthesis has

SYNLETT 2007, No. 1, pp 0156–0160 Advanced online publication: 20.12.2006 DOI: 10.1055/s-2006-958412; Art ID: W15306ST © Georg Thieme Verlag Stuttgart · New York been recognized.⁵ In our recent research, α -alkenovl ketene-(S,S)-acetals, as five-carbon 1,5-bielectrophilic synthons, have been utilized to construct six-membered carbocycles and/or heterocycles including highly substituted phenols, functionalized 2,3-dihydro-4-pyridones, pyrido[2,3-d]pyrimidines and 2,3-dihydrothiopyran-4ones based on [5C+1C],^{6a} [5C+1N],^{6b,c} and [5C+1S]^{6d} annulation strategies, respectively. On the other hand, as part of the synthetic applications of α -oxoketene-(S,S)acetals,⁷ a series of α -hydroxyketene-(S,S)-acetals was obtained based on the Morita-Baylis-Hillman (MBH) reactions of α -acetylketene-(S,S)-acetals (used as activated alkenes) with carbonyl compounds in the presence of titanium tetrachloride catalyst.8 It was found that the resulting α -hydroxyketene-(S,S)-acetals, as a special type of allylic alcohol, may further react with α -acetylketene-(S,S)-acetals (activated alkene), furnishing the double MBH adducts.⁸ This procedure provides a new entry to chemoselective C_{sp2} - C_{sp3} bond formation starting from the corresponding α -hydroxyketene-(S,S)-acetals. Asokan and co-workers also presented the utility of a-hydroxyketene dithioacetals in organic synthesis. For example, they reported the synthesis of substituted pyridines from Vilsmeier–Haack reactions of α -hydroxyketene-(S,S)acetals⁹ and the synthesis of α,β -unsaturated dithioesters from the reaction of α -hydroxyketene-(S,S)-acetals with Lawesson's reagent.¹⁰ Inspired by the abovementioned MBH reactions, in our continuing research on the synthetic applications of α -oxoketene-(S,S)-acetals, we focused our attention on the construction of a C_{sp3} - C_{sp3} bond from α -hydroxyketene-(S,S)-acetals and active methylene compounds. The application of this methodology led to the formation of a C-C coupling product, which in turn could be used for the synthesis of 3,4-dihydro-2-pyridones, which serve as valuable building blocks in the construction of piperidines, perhydroquinolones, indolizidines, quinolizidines and other alkaloid ring systems and have a wide range of biological and pharmacological activities.¹¹ The general and common methods towards 3,4-dihydro-2-pyridones require multistep synthesis,¹²⁻¹⁴ usually via a combination of three steps: (1) a condensation, (2) a conjugate addition, and (3) an N-acylation.^{14a} Therefore, development of simple and convenient synthetic procedures for such nitrogen-containing heterocycles represents an attractive and interesting area of research in synthetic organic and medicinal chemistry. Herein, we wish to report our experimental results.

Initially, a variety of α -hydroxyketene-(*S*,*S*)-acetals **2** were prepared in excellent yields by reduction with sodium borohydride of the corresponding α -acetylketene-(*S*,*S*)-acetals **1**.¹⁵ For example, upon treatment of **1a** with sodium borohydride (1.1 equiv) in methanol at 0 °C for about 55 minutes, alcohol **2a** was obtained in 96% isolated yield after workup (Table 1). Similarly, alcohols **2b–f** were obtained in 93–97% yields under the identical conditions.

 Table 1
 Reduction Reactions of α-Acetylketene-(S,S)-acetals 1

EtS S	NHR ¹ SEt	NaBH ₄ MeOH	OH O EtS SEt 2a-f	IHR ¹	
Entry	Substrate	R ¹	Product	Time (min)	Yield (%) ^a
1	1a	C ₆ H ₅	2a	55	96
2	1b	$4-ClC_6H_4$	2b	45	97
3	1c	$2-MeC_6H_4$	2c	45	95
4	1d	$2,4-Me_2C_6H_3$	2d	60	93
5	1e	$2-MeOC_6H_4$	2e	50	93
6	1f	Н	2f	30	95

^a Isolated yields after silica gel chromatography.

With the readily available alcohols **2** in hand, we next turned to the study of the C–C cross-coupling reaction of **2** with active methylene compounds (Table 2 and Table 3). A model reaction between **2a** ($R^1 = Ph$) with

 Table 2
 Reaction of 2a with Acetylacetone under Different Conditions

OH O NHPh EtS SEt 2a		BF ₃ ·OEt ₂		O SEt SEt CONHPh 3a		
Entry ^a	2a (mmol)	Acetylacetone (mmol)	Solvent	Time (h)	Yield of 3a (%) ^b	
1	1.0	1.2	CH_2Cl_2	3.0	0°	
2	1.0	1.2	DMF	3.0	0°	
3	1.0	1.2	THF	2.0	12	
4	1.0	1.2	MeCN	2.0	45	
5	1.0	15.0	-	0.7	87	
6	1.0	15.0	_	0.5	70	

 a BF₃ (1.2 equiv) was used in all the reactions.

^b Isolated yields after silica gel chromatography.

^c Complex product mixture was obtained.

Table 3 Reactions of α -Hydroxyketene-(*S*,*S*)-acetals **2** with Acetylacetone

Entry	Substrate	R ¹	Time (min)	Product	Yield of 3 (%) ^a
1	2b	4-ClC ₆ H ₄	30	3b	90
2	2c	$2-MeC_6H_4$	45	3c	82
3	2d	$2,4-Me_2C_6H_3$	50	3d	84
4	2e	2-MeOC ₆ H ₄	50	3e	82

^a Isolated yields after silica gel chromatography.

acetylacetone was first examined to optimize the reaction conditions. Thus, the variation of solvents (THF, DMF, CH_2Cl_2 and MeCN) and temperature (0 °C to r.t.) were investigated (Table 2). It was found that either in dichloromethane or in N,N-dimethylformamide, no C-C crosscoupling products were detected when the reaction of 2a with acetylacetone (1.2 equiv) proceeded at 0 °C for three hours in the presence of $BF_3 \cdot OEt_2$ (1.2 equiv) (Table 2, entries 1 and 2). When tetrahydrofuran or acetonitrile was used as the solvent (entries 3 and 4, respectively), the reaction afforded 3a in low to moderate yields. However, when the reaction was carried out with neat acetylacetone (2a-acetylacetone = 1.0:15.0, molar ratio) and was catalyzed by BF₃·OEt₂ (1.2 equiv) at 0 °C for 40 minutes, the product 3a was obtained in 87% yield (Table 2, entry 5). When the reaction was performed at room temperature, 3a was produced in relatively low yield (70%, Table 2, entry 6). Under the optimized conditions as described above (Table 2, entry 5), the corresponding C–C coupling products **3b–e** ($\mathbf{R}^1 = \mathbf{Ar}$) were obtained in high to excellent yields (82–90%, Table 3, entries 1–4).¹⁶

Once products **3a–e** were obtained, their transformation into pyridones was studied. However, direct transformation of **3** into pyridones with either BF₃·OEt₂ or titanium tetrachloride–triethylamine was unsuccessful after several attempts. Looking for an alternative route, compounds **3a–e** were then deacetylated by treatment with sodium hydroxide (1.2 equiv) in ethanol at 60 °C, affording products **4a–e** in 80–89% yields (Table 4). The azaannulation of **4a–e** was tried in the presence of BF₃·OEt₂ (1.2 equiv) at 0 °C, but the desired products were not obtained. To our delight, by replacing BF₃·OEt₂ with titanium tetrachloride–triethylamine, the cyclization products *N*-aryl-substituted 3,4-dihydro-2-pyridones **5a–e** were generated in 81–88% yields (Table 4).¹⁷

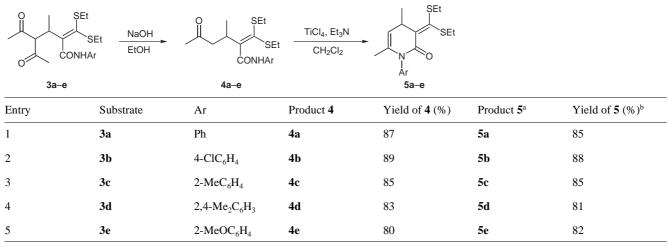
Meanwhile, the reactions of alcohol **2f** ($R^1 = H$) with active methylene compounds were investigated under identical conditions as mentioned above. Interestingly, the formation of a pyridone ring was achieved by a one-pot process (Table 5). Thus, when **2f** was treated with acetyl-acetone (15.0 equiv) and boron trifluoride, pyridone **6a** was obtained as the sole product (Table 5, entry 1). To extend this interesting one-pot reaction, other active methylene compounds such as β -ketoesters, β -diesters and

Synlett 2007, No. 1, 156-160 © Thieme Stuttgart · New York

benzoylacetone were subjected to the reaction sequences. When the reaction was performed with ethyl acetylacetate (Table 5, entry 2), the structure of the resulting product could not be easily determined from the corresponding ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra and mass spectrum. Fortunately, single-crystals could be grown in a mixture of petroleum ether and dichloromethane and the structure was established by X-ray diffraction analysis as **7b** (Figure 1).¹⁸ In the case of using methyl acetylacetate as the carbon nucleophile, the reaction furnished two products, 6c and 7c, with respective yields of 23% and 35% (Table 5, entry 3). For benzoylacetone substrate, 5-benzoyl-3-[(difluoroboryloxy)(ethylthio)methylene]-4,6-dimethyl-3,4-dihydropyridone (7d) was the main product (66% yield, Table 5, entry 4). The diesters, such as ethyl malonate were found to be inert to the C–C bond coupling reaction under the identical conditions, probably due to its relatively weak acid character (p $K_a = 16.4$, while for acetylacetone, p $K_a = 13.3$; for ethyl acetylacetate, p $K_a = 14.2$).¹⁹ Accordingly, a series of 5-substituted 3-[bis(ethylthio)methylene]-4,6-dimethyl-3,4-dihydropyridones **6** and/or 3-[(difluoroboryloxy)(ethylthio)methylene]-4,6-dimethyl-3,4-dihydropyridones **7** were successfully prepared in moderate to good yields.²⁰ Indeed, this protocol provides a convenient and efficient one-pot synthesis of polysubstituted 3,4-dihydro-2-pyridones.

The possible mechanism for the formation of pyridones **6** and/or **7** from substrate **2f** is proposed, as depicted in Scheme $1.^{21,22}$ The carbon–carbon coupling depends on the formation of the allylic carbocation generated from **2f**. This is then followed by the azaannulation to give pyridone **6**. Clearly, the formation of **7** would involve the hydrolysis of **6** (S_NV, nucleophilic vinylic substitution)²² and subsequent formation of the BF₃ complex.²³

Table 4 Synthesis of N-Aryl-Substituted 3,4-Dihydro-2-pyridones from 3



 a The cyclization reactions were carried out in the presence of TiCl_4–Et_3N at 0 °C.

^b Isolated yields.

$\begin{array}{c} OH \\ H $							
2f			6	7			
Entry	Substrate	R ²	Time (h)	Product 6	Yield (%) ^a 6	Product 7	Yield (%) ^a 7
1	2f	Me	2.0	6a	89	7a	_b
2	2f	EtO	5.0	6b	_b	7b	54
3	2f	MeO	4.5	6с	23	7c	35
4	2f	Ph	6.0	6d	_b	7d °	66

^a Isolated yields after silica gel chromatography.

^b Not detected.

^c MeCN was used as the solvent.

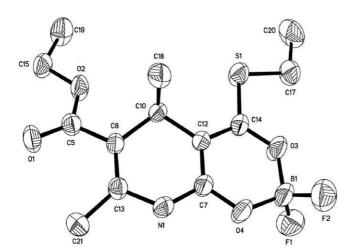
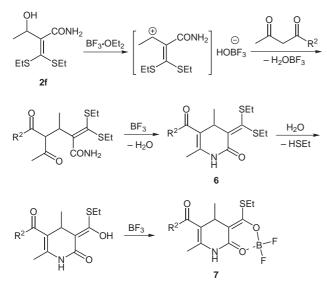


Figure 1 ORTEP drawing of compound 7b



Scheme 1 Possible mechanism for the formation of 6 and/or 7

In summary, the C–C bond-forming reaction of α -hydroxyketene-(*S*,*S*)-acetals and active methylene compounds has been described. The utility of the C–C bond formation products has been demonstrated in the synthesis of *N*-aryl-substituted 3-[bis(ethylthio)methylene]-4,6-dimethyl-3,4-dihydropyridones **5** and substituted 2,3-dihydro-3-[bis(ethylthio)methylene]-4,6-dimethyl-3,4-dihydropyridones **6** and/or 3-[(difluoroboryloxy)(ethylthio)methylene]-4,6-dimethyl-3,4-dihydropyridones **7** in concise steps and good to high yields. The protocol provides a simple, straightforward, and efficient synthesis of polysubstituted 3,4-dihydro-2-pyridones. Further studies on the extension on the scope of this C–C bond-forming reaction, as well as synthetic applications, are ongoing.

Acknowledgment

Financial supports from the Key Grant Project of Chinese Ministry of Education (10412) and the National Natural Sciences Foundation of China (20272008) are gratefully acknowledged.

References and Notes

- (a) March, J. Advanced Organic Chemistry, 4th ed.; Wiley: New York, **1992**.
 (b) Current Trends in Organic Synthesis; Scolastico, C.; Nicotra, F., Eds.; Plenum: New York, **1999**.
- (2) (a) Trost, B. M. *Science* 1991, 254, 1471. (b) Kabalka, G. W.; Yao, M.-L.; Borella, S.; Wu, Z.-Z. *Org. Lett.* 2005, 7, 2865; and references therein.
- (3) Yasuda, M.; Somyo, T.; Baba, A. Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2006, 45, 793.
- (4) Motokura, K.; Fujita, N.; Mori, K.; Mizugaki, T.; Ebitani, K.; Kaneda, K. Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2006, 45, 2605.
- (5) For reviews on the synthesis and application of α-oxoketene-(*S*,*S*)-acetals, see: (a) Dieter, R. K. *Tetrahedron* **1986**, *42*, 3029. (b) Tominaga, Y. *J. Heterocycl. Chem.* **1989**, *26*, 1167. (c) Junjappa, H.; Ila, H.; Asokan, C. V. *Tetrahedron* **1990**, *46*, 5423. (d) Kolb, M. *Synthesis* **1990**, 171. (e) Junjappa, H.; Ila, H. *Phosphorus, Sulfur Silicon* **1994**, *35*, 95. (f) Junjappa, H.; Ila, H.; Mohanta, P. K. In Progress in Heterocyclic Chemistry, Vol. 13; Gribble, G. H.; Gilchrist, L. T., Eds.; Pergamon Press: Oxford, **2001**, Chap. 1, 1–24.
- (6) (a) Bi, X.; Dong, D.; Liu, Q.; Pan, W.; Zhao, L.; Li, B. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2005, 127, 4578. (b) Dong, D.; Bi, X.; Liu, Q.; Cong, F. Chem. Commun. 2005, 28, 3580. (c) Zhao, L.; Liang, F.; Bi, X.; Sun, S.; Liu, Q. J. Org. Chem. 2006, 71, 1094. (d) Bi, X.; Dong, D.; Li, Y.; Liu, Q. J. Org. Chem. 2005, 70, 10886.
- (7) (a) Liu, Q.; Che, G.; Yu, H.; Liu, Y.; Zhang, J.; Zhang, Q.; Dong, D. J. Org. Chem. 2003, 68, 9148. (b) Yu, H.; Liu, Q.; Yin, Y.; Fang, Q.; Zhang, J.; Dong, D. Synlett 2004, 999.
 (c) Bi, X.; Liu, Q.; Sun, S.; Liu, J.; Pan, W.; Zhao, L.; Dong, D. Synlett 2005, 49. (d) Zhao, Y.; Liu, Q.; Zhang, J.; Liu, Z. J. Org. Chem. 2005, 70, 6913.
- (8) (a) Yin, Y.; Wang, M.; Liu, Q.; Hu, J.; Sun, S.; Kang, J. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2005**, *46*, 4399. (b) Pan, W.; Dong, D.; Sun, S.; Liu, Q. *Synlett* **2006**, 1090.
- (9) Thomas, A. D.; Asokan, C. V. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2002**, *43*, 2273.
- (10) Nair, S. K.; Jose, A. M.; Asokan, C. V. Synthesis 2005, 1281.
- (11) Selected examples: (a) Kuethe, J. T.; Comins, D. L. J. Org. Chem. 2004, 69, 5219. (b) Huang, S.; Comins, D. L. Chem. Commun. 2000, 569. (c) Kuethe, J. T.; Comins, D. L. Org. Lett. 2000, 2, 855. (d) Avenoza, A.; Busto, J. H.; Cativiela, C.; Corzana, F.; Peregrina, J. M.; Zurbano, M. M. J. Org. Chem. 2002, 67, 598.
- (12) Reviews on the synthesis of pyridones: (a) McKillop, A.; Boulton, A. In *Comprehensive Heterocyclic Chemistry*, Vol. 2, Part 2A; Katritzky, A. R.; Rees, C. W., Eds.; Pergamon Press: New York, **1984**, 67ff. (b) Jones, G. In *Comprehensive Heterocyclic Chemistry*, Vol. 5; Katritzky, A. R.; Rees, C. W.; Scriven, E. F. V., Eds.; Pergamon Press: Oxford, **1996**, 167–243. (c) Torres, M.; Gil, S.; Parra, M. *Curr. Org. Chem.* **2005**, *9*, 1757.
- (13) Review on synthetic methods for 2-pyridones: Torres, M.; Gil, S.; Parra, M. *Curr. Org. Chem.* **2005**, *9*, 1757; and references cited therein.
- (14) Selected examples: (a) Wagman, A. S.; Wang, L.; Nuss, J. M. J. Org. Chem. 2000, 65, 9103. (b) Carles, L.; Narkunan, K.; Penlou, S.; Rousset, L.; Bouchu, D.; Ciufolini, M. A. J. Org. Chem. 2002, 67, 4304. (c) Itami, K.; Yamazaki, D.; Yoshida, J. Org. Lett. 2003, 5, 2161. (d) Ferraccioli, R.; Carenzi, D.; Motti, E.; Catellani, M. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2006, 128, 722.
- (15) (a) Ouyang, Y.; Dong, D.; Yu, H.; Liang, Y.; Liu, Q. Adv. Synth. Catal. 2006, 348, 206. (b) Pak, C. S.; Choi, E. B. Synthesis 1992, 1291.
- (16) Preparation of 3 (3a as an example); Typical Procedure: To a well-stirred suspension of 2a (1.0 mmol, 0.31 g) in

Synlett 2007, No. 1, 156-160 © Thieme Stuttgart · New York

anhyd acetylacetone (15 mmol, 1.55 mL) was added $BF_3 \cdot OEt_2$ (1.2 mmol, 0.15 mL). The mixture was stirred for 40 min at 0 °C until the reaction was complete (as indicated by TLC) and neutralized with aq NaHCO₃ (10%). After workup, the crude product was purified by column chromatography (eluent: PE–EtOAc, 5:1) to give **3a** in 87% yield.

Selected data for compounds **3**:

2-(2-Acetyl-1-methyl-3-oxobutyl)-*N*-**phenyl-3,3**-**bis(ethylthio)acrylamide (3a)**: white solid; mp 88–91 °C. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 1.15$ (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 3 H), 1.17–1.21 (m, 3 H), 1.25–1.66 (m, 3 H), 2.23 (s, 3 H), 2.24 (s, 3 H), 2.61–2.92 (m, 4 H), 4.06 (d, J = 11.5 Hz, 1 H), 4.21 (m, 1 H), 7.12–7.15 (m, 1 H), 7.34 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2 H), 7.75 (s, 1 H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 204.0$, 202.6, 164.7, 146.6, 136.7, 132.8, 128.1 (2 × C), 123.6, 118.8 (2 × C), 71.8, 37.4, 30.1, 28.5, 26.8, 26.5, 17.0, 14.3, 13.8. IR (KBr): 3340, 2968, 2360, 1732, 1698, 1653, 1529, 760 cm⁻¹. MS: m/z = 394.1 [M + H]⁺. Anal. Calcd for C₂₀H₂₇NO₃S₂: C, 61.04; H, 6.91; N, 3.56. Found: C, 60.90; H, 6.75; N, 3.44.

2-(2-Acetyl-1-methyl-3-oxobutyl)-*N*-*o*-tolyl-3,3bis(ethylthio)acrylamide (3c): white solid; mp 97–99 °C. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 1.17$ (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 3 H), 1.18–1.21 (m, 3 H), 1.29–1.31 (m, 3 H), 2.25 (s, 3 H), 2.26 (s, 3 H), 2.35 (s, 3 H), 2.63–2.92 (m, 4 H), 4.10 (d, J = 11.0Hz, 1 H), 4.24–4.27 (m, 1 H), 7.08 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1 H), 7.21 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2 H), 7.62 (s, 1 H), 7.98 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1 H), 7.21 (t, J = 0.26, 128.0, 125.8, 124.2, 121.6, 71.7, 37.3, 30.0, 28.6, 26.9, 26.5, 17.2, 17.0, 14.1, 13.7. IR (KBr): 3364, 2975, 2924, 2360, 2170, 1694, 1668, 1517, 1456, 769 cm⁻¹. MS: m/z [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₂₁H₂₉NO₃S₂: 407.2; found: 408.6. Anal. Calcd for C₂₁H₂₉NO₃S₂: C, 61.88; H, 7.17; N, 3.44. Found: C, 61.57; H, 6.81; N, 3.23.

(17) **Preparation of 5 (5a as an example); Typical Procedure:** To a well-stirred suspension of **3a** (1.0 mmol, 0.43 g) in EtOH (10 mL) was added NaOH (1.2 mmol, 0.05 g). The mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 1.0 h, and then poured into H₂O (80 mL) under stirring. The precipitated solid was collected by filtration, washed with H₂O (3×30 mL) and then dried in vacuo to afford the product **4a** (0.31 g, 87%) as a white solid. To a well-stirred suspension of **4a** (1.0 mmol, 0.35 g) in anhyd CH₂Cl₂ (10 mL) were added TiCl₄ (1.2 mmol, 0.14 mL) and Et₃N (1.4 mmol, 0.20 mL). The mixture was stirred for about 2 h until the reaction was complete (as indicated by TLC) and neutralized with aq NaHCO₃ (10%). After workup, the crude product was purified by column chromatography (eluent: PE–EtOAc = 15:1) to give **5a** in 85% yield.

Selected data for compounds **5**:

3-[Bis(ethylthio)methylene]-4,6-dimethyl-1-phenyl-3,4dihydropyridin-2(1*H***)-one (5a): yellow solid; mp 87–89 °C. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): \delta = 1.16 (d,** *J* **= 6.5 Hz, 3 H), 1.25–1.30 (m, 6 H), 1.55 (s, 3 H), 2.82–2.94 (m, 4 H), 4.00–4.02 (q,** *J* **= 6.5 Hz, 1 H), 5.21 (d,** *J* **= 6.5 Hz, 1 H), 7.19 (d,** *J* **= 7.5 Hz, 2 H), 7.31 (t,** *J* **= 7.5 Hz, 1 H), 7.40 (t,** *J* **= 7.5 Hz, 2 H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): \delta = 162.4, 141.4, 137.6, 137.3, 133.4, 128.4, 128.0 (2 × C), 126.6, 109.0 (2 × C), 33.5, 28.1, 27.8, 19.3, 19.1, 14.2, 13.4. IR (KBr): 3063, 2962, 2921, 2867, 2360, 2170, 1648, 1595, 1539, 1489, 699 cm⁻¹. MS:** *m***/***z* **= 334.3 [M + H]⁺. Anal. Calcd for C. H. NOS : C 64.82: H 6.95: N. 4.20 Eound: C 64.64: H**

C₁₈H₂₃NOS₂: C, 64.82; H, 6.95; N, 4.20. Found: C, 64.64; H, 6.79; N, 4.04.

3-[Bis(ethylthio)methylene]-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-4,6dimethyl-3,4-dihydropyridin-2(1*H***)-one (5b): yellow solid; mp 136–137 °C. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): \delta = 1.14**

- (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 3 H), 1.23–1.32 (m, 6 H), 1.55 (s, 3 H), 2.81– 2.95 (m, 4 H), 3.99–4.02 (q, J = 6.5 Hz, 1 H), 5.22 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1 H), 7.10 (t, J = 8.5 Hz, 2 H), 7.37 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2 H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 162.4$, 142.2, 136.7, 136.2, 132.9, 132.4, 129.4, 128.2 (2 × C), 109.5 (2 × C), 33.4, 28.2, 27.7, 19.3, 19.0, 14.2, 13.4. IR (KBr): 3070, 2964, 2927, 2865, 1644, 1487, 1454, 1085, 775 cm⁻¹. MS: m/z = 368.1[M + H]⁺. Anal. Calcd for C₁₈H₂₂ClNOS₂: C, 58.75; H, 6.03; N, 3.81. Found: C, 58.58; H, 5.96; N, 3.70.
- (18) X-ray diffraction data for **7b** has been deposited at the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre with supplementary publication number CCDC 611469.
- (19) Bordwell, F. G. Acc. Chem. Res. 1988, 21, 456.
- (20) **Preparation of 6 and 7 (6a as an example); Typical Procedure**: To a well-stirred suspension of **2f** (1.0 mmol, 0.235g) in acetylacetone (15 mmol, 1.55 mL) was added BF₃·OEt₂ (1.2 mmol, 0.2 mL). The mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 2 h until the reaction was complete (as indicated by TLC) and neutralized with aq NaHCO₃ (10%). After workup, the crude product was purified by column chromatography (eluent: PE–EtOAc = 5:1) to give **6a** in 89% yield.

Selected data for compounds 6 and 7:

5-Acetyl-3-[bis(ethylthio)methylene]-4,6-dimethyl-3,4dihydropyridin-2(1*H***)-one (6a): yellow solid; mp 66–68 °C. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): \delta = 1.15 (d,** *J* **= 7.0 Hz, 3 H), 1.17–1.34 (m, 6 H), 2.28 (s, 3 H), 2.34 (s, 3 H), 2.81–3.03 (m, 4 H), 4.60 (q,** *J* **= 7.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.98 (s, 1 H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): \delta = 195.9, 162.7, 146.7, 142.6, 132.8, 117.1, 35.8, 29.0, 28.7, 28.1, 18.7, 18.5, 14.3, 13.6. IR (KBr): 3246, 3093, 2963, 2924, 2865, 2360, 2342, 1673, 1617, 1577, 1230, 786 cm⁻¹. MS:** *m***/***z* **= 300.0 [M + H]⁺. Anal. Calcd for C₁₄H₂₁NO₂S₂: C, 56.15; H, 7.07; N, 4.68. Found: C, 56.08; H, 6.95; N, 4.43.**

3-[Bis(ethylthio)methylene]-4,6-dimethyl-5methyloxycarbonyl-3,4-dihydropyridin-2(1*H***)-one (6c): yellow solid; mp 115–116 °C. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): \delta = 1.12 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 3 H), 1.24–1.31 (m, 6 H), 2.30 (s, 3 H), 2.83–3.01 (m, 4 H), 3.77 (s, 3 H), 4.59–4.60 (q, J = 7.5 Hz, 1 H), 7.46 (s, 1 H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): \delta = 167.1, 163.3, 148.0, 143.8, 133.6, 109.1, 51.4, 36.2, 30.1, 29.2, 19.8, 18.8, 15.1, 14.5. IR (KBr): 3187, 3090, 2943, 2927, 1709, 1673, 1629, 1525, 1486, 1345, 1217, 1182, 772 cm⁻¹. MS: m/z = 316.1 [M + H]⁺. Anal. Calcd for C₁₄H₂₁NO₃S₂: C, 53.30; H, 6.71; N, 4.44. Found: C, 53.13; H, 6.63; N, 4.29.**

3-[(Difluoroboryloxy)(ethylthio)methylene]-4,6dimethyl-5-methyloxycarbonyl-3,4-dihydropyridin-2(1*H***)-one (7c): yellow solid; mp 98–100 °C. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): \delta = 1.16 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 3 H), 1.37 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3 H), 2.32 (s, 3 H), 3.12–3.17 (q, J = 7.5 Hz, 2 H), 3.78 (s, 3 H), 3.79–3.81 (q, J = 6.5 Hz, 1 H), 6.84 (s, 1 H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): \delta = 185.6, 166.5, 160.8, 141.2, 110.6, 95.4, 51.8, 28.9, 24.4, 21.7, 19.0, 14.7. IR (KBr): 2927, 2284, 1786, 1758, 1731, 1592, 1491, 1383, 1028 cm⁻¹. MS: m/z = 320.1 [M + H]⁺. Anal. Calcd for C₁₂H₁₆BF₂NO₄S: C, 45.16; H, 5.05; N, 4.39. Found: C, 45.05; H, 4.99; N, 4.15.**

- (21) Bisaro, F.; Prestat, G.; Vitale, M.; Poli, G. Synlett 2002, 1823.
- (22) (a) Bernasconi, C. F. *Tetrahedron* **1989**, *45*, 4017.
 (b) Bernasconi, C. F.; Brown, S. D.; Ali, M.; Rappoport, Z.; Yamataka, H.; Salim, H. *J. Org. Chem.* **2006**, *71*, 4795.
- (23) (a) Jones, R. C. F.; Begley, M. J.; Peterson, G. E.; Sumaria, S. *J. Chem. Soc., Perkin Trans. 1* **1990**, 1959.
 (b) Balasubramanian, S.; Ward, D. L.; Nair, M. G. *J. Chem. Soc., Perkin Trans. 1* **2000**, 567.

Copyright of Synlett is the property of Georg Thieme Verlag Stuttgart and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.