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SYNTHESIS OF ARYL 5-(2-CHLOROPHENYL)-2-FUROATES UNDER PHASE TRANSFER CATALYSIS

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SYNTHESIS OF ARYL 5-(2-CHLOROPHENYL)-2-FUROATES UNDER PHASE TRANSFER CATALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

The steric hindered esters, aryl 5-(2-chlorophenyl)-2-furoates (**3a–o**), are synthesized via the reaction of 5-(2-chlorophenyl)-2-furoic acid (**1**) with thionyl chloride and phenols under liquid–liquid phase transfer catalysis in excellent yield.

5-Aryl-2-furoic acid derivatives have attracted much attention due to their diverse biological activities, such as antibacterial,^[1,2] anesthetic^[3] anti-convulsive^[4] and plant-growth regulating^[5,6] activity. However, the species of aryl 5-aryl-2-furoates are very scarce^[2] because of the steric hindrance. This promotes us to investigate a convenient and efficient method to synthesize these compounds so that the properties and activities can be further investigated.

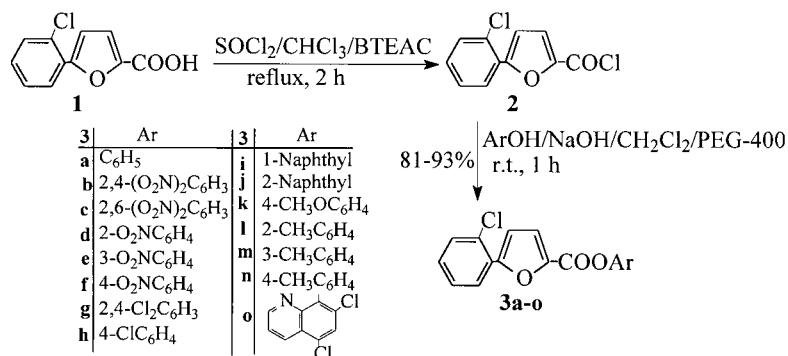
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Reaction of 5-(2-chlorophenyl)-2-furoic acid (**1**) with thionyl chloride catalyzed by benzyl triethyl ammonium chloride (BTEAC) gives 5-(2-chlorophenyl)-2-furoyl chloride (**2**) in 95% yield. Compound **2** on further treatment with phenols catalyzed by polyethylene glycol-400 (PEG-400) affords aryl 5-(2-chlorophenyl)-2-furoates (**3a-o**) in excellent yield (Sch. 1).

It is worthy to mention that this is a very simple, facile and one pot synthetic method for the steric hindered furoates under mild condition.

In order to confirm the optimal synthetic condition, different phase transfer catalysts, including 18-crown-6, $(C_4H_9)_4NI$, $(C_4H_9)_4NBr$, BTEAC, $(C_{16}H_{33})N(CH_3)_3Br$, PEG-400, PEG-600 and PEG-1000, are tested for the selected compound **3a**. The results are shown in Table 1.



Scheme 1.

Table 1. The Influence of Phase Transfer Catalysts on the Yield of **3a**

Catalyst	Solvent	Yield
18-Crown-6	CH ₂ Cl ₂	70
$(C_4H_9)_4NI$	CH ₂ Cl ₂	68
$(C_4H_9)_4NBr$	CH ₂ Cl ₂	74
BTEAC	CH ₂ Cl ₂	69
$(C_{16}H_{33})N(CH_3)_3Br$	CH ₂ Cl ₂	70
PEG-1000	CH ₂ Cl ₂	75
PEG-600	CH ₂ Cl ₂	80
PEG-400	CH ₂ Cl ₂	86
PEG-400	CH ₃ CN	85
PEG-400	C ₆ H ₆	75
—	CH ₂ Cl ₂	0



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From Table 1, we can see that all of the catalysts used in the reactions are able to catalyze the reaction to give the title compounds in good to excellent yield. Among of them, PEG-400 is the best under the studied condition. However, if no catalyst used, the product cannot be obtained at all in the same condition. In addition, the solvents can also influence the yield of the reaction.

The characterization of compounds **3a–o** is based on their IR (KBr), ^1H NMR MS and elemental analyses. The IR spectra exhibit a characteristic strong absorption at $1732\text{--}1748\text{ cm}^{-1}$ attributable to the carbonyl of **3a–o**. All elemental analyses and MS of **3a–o** are good agreement with the structure prepared.

EXPERIMENTAL

IR spectra were recorded using KBr pellets on an Alpha Centauri FT-IR spectrophotometer and ^1H NMR spectra on a FT-80A instrument using CDCl_3 as solvent and Me_4Si as internal standard. Elemental analyses were performed on a Vario El Elemental Analysis instrument. Mass spectra were recorded on a QP-1000A GC-MS using the impact mode (70 eV). Melting points were observed in an open capillary tube and uncorrected. 5-(2-Chlorophenyl)-2-furoic acid (**1**) was prepared according to literature procedure.^[5] Phenols, thionyl chloride, 18-crown-6, $(\text{C}_4\text{H}_9)_4\text{NI}$, $(\text{C}_4\text{H}_9)_4\text{NBr}$, $(\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{33})\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_3\text{Br}$, PEG-400, PEG-600 and PEG-1000 were commercially available and used as received.

General Procedure for the Preparation of Compounds **3a–o**

The mixture of 0.49 g (2.2 mmol) of 5-(2-chlorophenyl)-2-furoic acid (**1**), 5 mL of SOCl_2 and 0.05 g (0.22 mmol) of BTEAC in 10 mL of CHCl_3 was refluxed for 2 h. Then the excess of SOCl_2 and CHCl_3 was removed by evaporation. The residue was extracted with petroleum ether. After removal of the solvent, a solution of 0.08 g (2.00 mmol) of NaOH in 8 mL of H_2O , 2.00 mmol of phenol, 0.024 g (0.06 mmol) of PEG-400 and 15 mL CH_2Cl_2 were added. The resulting mixture was stirred for 1 h at room temperature. Then the organic layer was separated and the water layer was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 ($2 \times 5\text{ mL}$). The resulting organic solution was dried with anhydrous Na_2SO_4 . After the solvent was removed by evaporation, the residue was recrystallized from $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{OH}$



to give **3a–o**. The physical and spectral data of compounds **3a–o** are reported below.

Phenyl 5-(2-chlorophenyl)-2-furoate (3a): White solid. Yield: 86%. M.p.: 82–83°C. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ 7.15–8.13 (m, 11H, Ar-H and Fu-H). IR (KBr, ν , cm^{-1}): 1732 (C=O), 1301, 1222, 1109 (C-O-C). MS: m/z , 298 (M^+). Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{11}\text{O}_3\text{Cl}$: C, 68.35; H, 3.71. Found: C, 68.12; H, 3.68.

2,4-Dinitrophenyl 5-(2-chlorophenyl)-2-furoate (3b): White solid. Yield: 85%. M.p.: 152–153°C. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ 7.21–8.87 (m, 9H, Ar-H and Fu-H). IR (KBr, ν , cm^{-1}): 1746 (C=O), 1307, 1239, 1104 (C-O-C). MS: m/z , 388 (M^+). Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_9\text{N}_2\text{O}_7\text{Cl}$: C, 52.53; H, 2.33; N, 7.21. Found: C, 52.29; H, 2.24; N, 7.16.

2,6-Dinitrophenyl 5-(2-chlorophenyl)-2-furoate (3c): White solid. Yield: 82%. M.p.: 122–123°C. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ 7.19–8.55 (m, 9H, Ar-H and Fu-H). IR (KBr, ν , cm^{-1}): 1748 (C=O), 1306, 1245, 1108 (C-O-C). MS: m/z , 388 (M^+). Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_9\text{N}_2\text{O}_7\text{Cl}$: C, 52.53; H, 2.33; N, 7.21. Found: C, 52.41; H, 2.28; N, 7.13.

2-Nitrophenyl 5-(2-chlorophenyl)-2-furoate (3d): White solid. Yield: 90%. M.p.: 132–133°C. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ 7.12–8.20 (m, 10H, Ar-H and Fu-H). IR (KBr, ν , cm^{-1}): 1745 (C=O), 1307, 1227, 1105 (C-O-C). MS: m/z , 343 (M^+). Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{10}\text{NO}_5\text{Cl}$: C, 59.40; H, 2.93; N, 4.08. Found: C, 59.26; H, 2.86; N, 3.89.

3-Nitrophenyl 5-(2-chlorophenyl)-2-furoate (3e): White solid. Yield: 81%. M.p.: 142–143°C. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ 7.14–8.22 (m, 10H, Ar-H and Fu-H). IR (KBr, ν , cm^{-1}): 1743 (C=O), 1303, 1221, 1101 (C-O-C). MS: m/z , 343 (M^+). Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{10}\text{NO}_5\text{Cl}$: C, 59.40; H, 2.93; N, 4.08. Found: C, 59.29; H, 2.90; N, 3.99.

4-Nitrophenyl 5-(2-chlorophenyl)-2-furoate (3f): White solid. Yield: 84%. M.p.: 146–147°C. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ 7.12–8.19 (m, 10H, Ar-H and Fu-H). IR (KBr, ν , cm^{-1}): 1748 (C=O), 1305, 1224, 1104 (C-O-C). MS: m/z , 343 (M^+). Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{10}\text{NO}_5\text{Cl}$: C, 59.40; H, 2.93; N, 4.08. Found: C, 59.56; H, 2.89; N, 3.98.

2,4-Dichlorophenyl 5-(2-chlorophenyl)-2-furoate (3g): White solid. Yield: 87%. M.p.: 121–122°C. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ 7.13–8.08 (m, 9H, Ar-H and Fu-H). IR (KBr, ν , cm^{-1}): 1744 (C=O), 1304, 1223, 1120 (C-O-C). MS: m/z , 367 (M^+). Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_9\text{O}_3\text{Cl}_3$: C, 55.54; H, 2.47. Found: C, 55.34; H, 2.41.

4-Chlorophenyl 5-(2-chlorophenyl)-2-furoate (3h): White solid. Yield: 84%. M.p.: 110–111°C. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ 7.18–8.15 (m, 10H, Ar-H and Fu-H). IR (KBr, ν , cm^{-1}): 1740 (C=O), 1303, 1221, 1097 (C-O-C). MS: m/z , 333 (M^+). Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{10}\text{O}_3\text{Cl}_2$: C, 61.29; H, 3.03. Found: C, 61.03; H, 2.96.



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1-Naphthyl 5-(2-chlorophenyl)-2-furoate (3i): White solid. Yield: 83%. M.p.: 78–79°C. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ 7.19–8.12 (m, 13H, Ar-H and Fu-H). IR (KBr, ν , cm^{-1}): 1735 (C=O), 1304, 1215, 1110 (C-O-C). MS: m/z , 348 (M^+). Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{13}\text{O}_3\text{Cl}$: C, 72.32; H, 3.76. Found: C, 72.08; H, 3.68.

2-Naphthyl 5-(2-chlorophenyl)-2-furoate (3j): White solid. Yield: 87%. M.p.: 126–127°C. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ 7.21–8.14 (m, 13H, Ar-H and Fu-H). IR (KBr, ν , cm^{-1}): 1733 (C=O), 1305, 1206, 1105 (C-O-C). MS: m/z , 348 (M^+). Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{13}\text{O}_3\text{Cl}$: C, 72.32; H, 3.76. Found: C, 72.12; H, 3.70.

4-Methoxyphenyl 5-(2-chlorophenyl)-2-furoate (3k): White solid. Yield: 93%. M.p.: 122–123°C. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ 7.08–8.07 (m, 10H, Ar-H and Fu-H), 3.75 (s, 3H, CH_3). IR (KBr, ν , cm^{-1}): 1742 (C=O), 1305, 1214, 1109 (C-O-C). MS: m/z , 328 (M^+). Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{13}\text{O}_4\text{Cl}$: C, 65.76; H, 3.99. Found: C, 65.59; H, 4.08.

2-Methylphenyl 5-(2-chlorophenyl)-2-furoate (3l): White solid. Yield: 92%. M.p.: 80–81°C. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ 7.20–8.12 (m, 10H, Ar-H and Fu-H), 2.27 (s, 3H, CH_3). IR (KBr, ν , cm^{-1}): 1742 (C=O), 1306, 1223, 1116 (C-O-C). MS: m/z , 312 (M^+). Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{13}\text{O}_3\text{Cl}$: C, 69.13; H, 4.19. Found: C, 68.92; H, 4.11.

3-Methylphenyl 5-(2-chlorophenyl)-2-furoate (3m): White solid. Yield: 84%. M.p.: 104–105°C. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ 7.23–8.14 (m, 10H, Ar-H and Fu-H), 2.31 (s, 3H, CH_3). IR (KBr, ν , cm^{-1}): 1739 (C=O), 1305, 1227, 1121 (C-O-C). MS: m/z , 312 (M^+). Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{13}\text{O}_3\text{Cl}$: C, 69.13; H, 4.19. Found: C, 68.85; H, 4.14.

2-Methylphenyl 5-(2-chlorophenyl)-2-furoate (3n): White solid. Yield: 82%. M.p.: 102–103°C. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ 7.19–8.13 (m, 10H, Ar-H and Fu-H), 2.29 (s, 3H, CH_3). IR (KBr, ν , cm^{-1}): 1741 (C=O), 1304, 1217, 1112 (C-O-C). MS: m/z , 312 (M^+). Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{13}\text{O}_3\text{Cl}$: C, 69.13; H, 4.19. Found: C, 69.28; H, 4.23.

5,7-Dichloro-8-quinolyl 5-(2-chlorophenyl)-2-furoate (3o): White solid. Yield: 85%. M.p.: 154–155°C. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ 7.14–8.17 (m, 10H, Ar-H, Py-H and Fu-H). IR (KBr, ν , cm^{-1}): 1743 (C=O), 1297, 1226, 1118 (C-O-C). MS: m/z , 418 (M^+). Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{10}\text{NO}_3\text{Cl}_3$: C, 57.38; H, 2.41; N, 3.35. Found: C, 57.13; H, 2.49; N, 3.21.

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