



Highly efficient and facile synthesis of β -enaminones catalyzed by diphenylammonium triflate

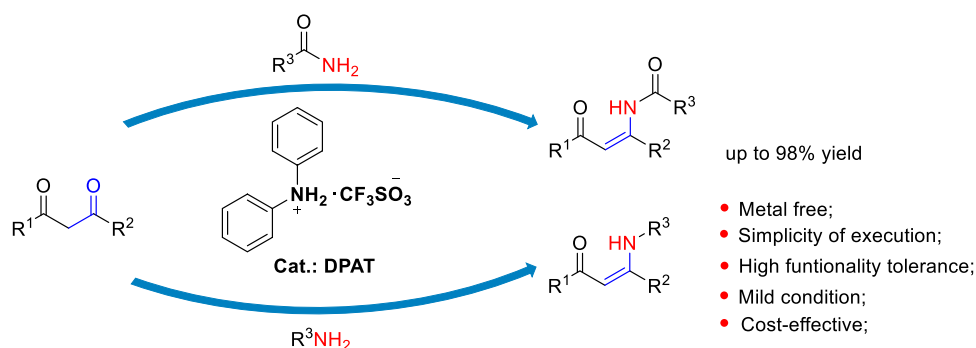
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Abstract

The catalytic performance of diphenylammonium triflates as an organocatalyst in the synthesis of β -enaminones from various substituted β -diketones and amides (or amines) were evaluated. A wide range of β -enaminones were efficiently synthesized in good to excellent yields under mild reaction conditions. Applying diphenylammonium triflate (DPAT) as catalyst makes this protocol cost-effective, low corrosive and easy to handle.

Graphic abstract



Keywords Ammonium triflates · Diphenylammonium triflate · β -enaminones · Organocatalyst

Introduction

β -enaminones are important precursors for the construction of a variety of pharmaceutical compounds, including anti-convulsant, anti-inflammatory agents, anti-cancer agents, and quinoline antibacterials (Edafiogho et al. 2006; Tabatabaeian et al. 2014; Zhang et al. 2014). In addition, substituted β -enaminones are commonly used as intermediates in the synthesis of heterocycles, such as pyridines (Chen et al. 2017), indoles (Li et al. 2018), pyrroles (Zhao et al. 2017) and isoxazole derivatives (Fatima and Adel 2005). Due to the extensive application of β -enaminones in organic synthesis and drug development, much attention has been given to development of facile, green, and practical methods for the preparation of β -enaminones. The classical method to synthesize β -enaminones synthesis involves direct

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condensation of corresponding amine with 1,3-dicarbonyl compounds via catalysis of strong protonic acid (Baraldi et al. 1983; Martin et al. 1961). Subsequently, greener methods which employed the metal as catalysts such as NaAuCl_4 (Arcadi et al. 2003), $\text{Zn}(\text{ClO}_4)_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (Bartoli et al. 2004), $\text{Er}(\text{OTf})_3$ (Dalpozzo et al. 2006), $\text{Zn}[\text{aminoacid}]_2$ (Winck et al. 2014) and $\text{Ca}(\text{CF}_3\text{COO})_2$ (Harrad et al. 2010), to prepare β -enaminones were developed. Although great progress has been achieved in past decades, most of them suffer from one or more of limitations, such as unsatisfactory yields, the use of expensive or less easily available reagents, highly corrosive, and longer reaction time. Until now, studies on the synthesis of β -enaminones involved the condensation of β -ketoesters with less active amides has rarely been reported (Ovenden and Capon 1999; Guin et al. 2007; Klapars et al. 2005). Consequently, developing the green and highly efficient methods for synthesis of a wide range of β -enaminones under less hazardous conditions is of prime importance.

Ammonium triflates have been used as a novel type of organocatalyst in a variety of reactions (Wakasugi et al. 2000; Mercs et al. 2007; Li et al. 2012; Mahjoob and Montazeri 2012; Li and Gui 2014; Jiang et al. 2018) and have displayed great catalytic activity and efficiency. Compared with strong protonic acid or metal catalyst, it has the advantages of reusable, cost-effective, operational simplicity and low corrosive. Despite the considerable success that has been achieved, we wished to expand the application of ammonium triflate to the preparation of β -enaminones. Herein, we report a green, mild and efficient method for the condensation of β -ketoesters with amines or amides (sulfonamides) to synthesize a variety of β -enaminones in good to excellent yields, catalyzed by DPAT (Scheme 1).

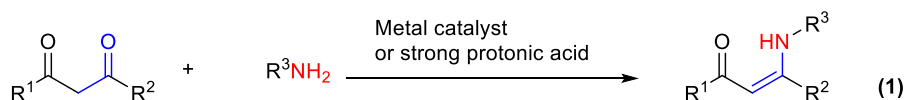
Results and discussion

To begin our study, we chose benzamide and ethyl acetoacetate as model reactants to examine and optimized the conditions of this condensation. The transformation was initially carried out in toluene under refluxing for 6 h without adding any catalyst and the experimental result showed that no desired product was detected. A variety of ammonium triflates (Fig. 1, Table 1) such as piperidinium triflate (PT), morpholinium triflate (MorT), (1-ethylpyrrolidin-2-yl)methanaminium triflate (EPMAT), *p*-methoxyanilinium triflate (*p*-MOAT), *p*-nitroanilinium triflate (*p*-NAT), 1-phenylethan-1-aminium triflate (1-PEAT), tributylaminium triflate (TBAT) and diphenylammonium triflate (DPAT) were then tested for this reaction. To our delight, DPAT showed an excellent catalytic activity and the corresponding product was obtained in 96% yield. Subsequently, we also explored whether the amounts of DPAT would affect the efficiency of this reaction. It was observed that increasing or decreasing the amount of DPAT all led to a slight decrease in the yield (Table 1, entries 10, 11). Furthermore, various commonly used solvents including $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$, THF, CH_3CN , cyclohexane, methylcyclohexane and *p*-xylene (Table 1, entries 13–18) were examined. However, none of them gave a better result than toluene.

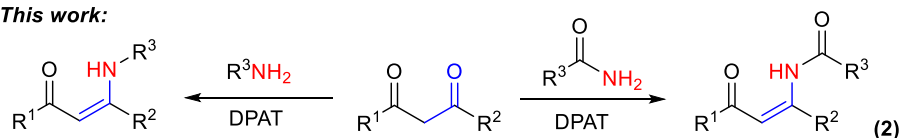
On the basis of the screening of the reaction conditions, it was concluded that this condensation should be performed in toluene by employing DPAT as catalyst (10 mol%) under refluxing for 6 h. To demonstrate the generality of this method, the scope of the reaction was investigated under the optimized conditions, and the results are summarized in Table 2. This method was found to be applicable to a wide range of β -diketones (β -ketoesters) and amides, delivering the desired product in moderate to excellent yields. Moreover, β -diketones (β -ketoesters) and amides resulted (*Z*)- β -enaminones with high stereoselectivity (*Z/E* > 20:1, determined by ^1H NMR spectroscopy of the crude reaction

Scheme 1 Different strategies for the synthesis of β -enaminones

Previous work:

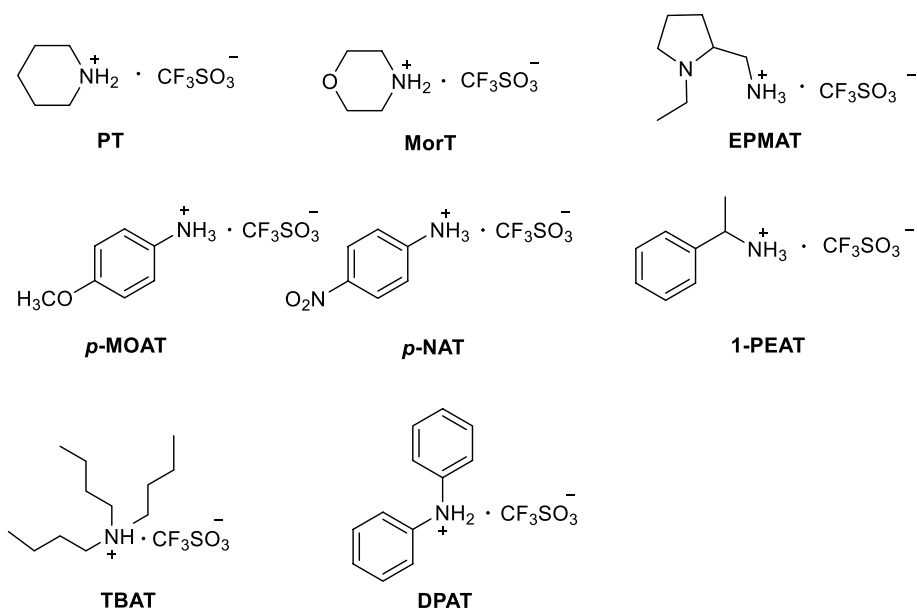
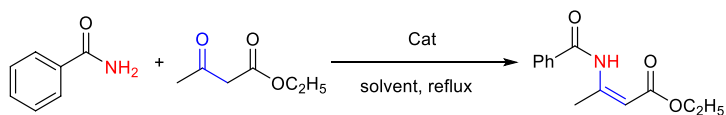


This work:



- Cost-effective;
- High functionality tolerance;
- Metal free;
- Mild condition;

**up to 98%
34 examples**

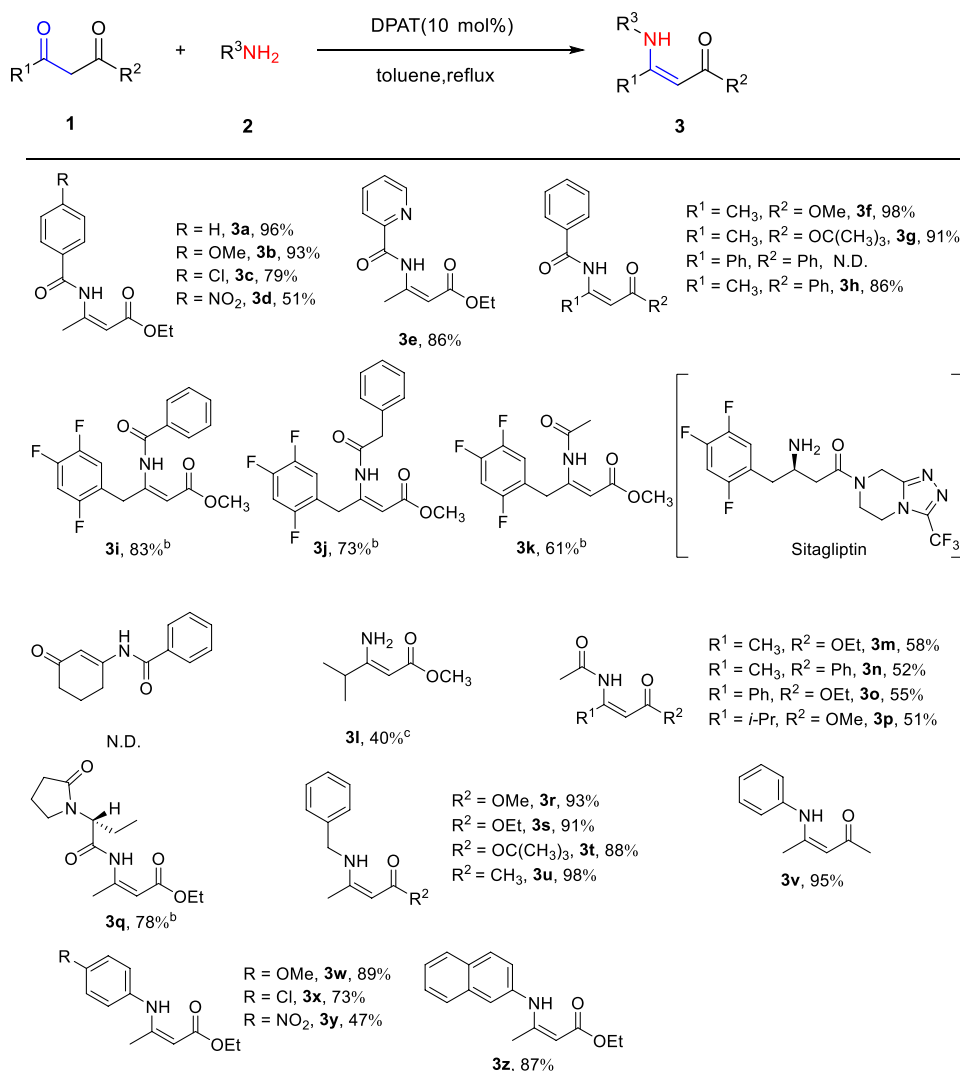
Fig. 1 Ammonium triflates**Table 1** Optimization of the reaction conditions

Entry	Catalyst (mol%)	Solvent	Yield (%) ^a
1	None	Toluene	Trace
2	PT(10)	Toluene	Trace
3	MorT(10)	Toluene	Trace
4	EPMAT(10)	Toluene	Trace
5	<i>p</i> -MOAT(10)	Toluene	11
6	<i>p</i> -NAT(10)	Toluene	17
7	1-PEAT(10)	Toluene	9
8	TBAT(10)	Toluene	Trace
9	DPAT(10)	Toluene	96
10	DPAT(5)	Toluene	92
11	DPAT(15)	Toluene	93
12 ^b	DPAT(10)	Toluene	68
13	DPAT(10)	C ₂ H ₅ OH	56
14	DPAT(10)	THF	51
15	DPAT(10)	CH ₃ CN	64
16	DPAT(10)	Cyclohexane	91
17	DPAT(10)	Methylcyclohexane	92
18	DPAT(10)	<i>p</i> -xylene	87

Reaction conditions: benzamide (0.6 mmol), ethyl acetoacetate (0.5 mmol) in refluxing solvent (2 mL), catalyst (5–15 mol %), 6 h

^aIsolated yields after column chromatography based on ethyl acetoacetate

^bAt 80 °C

Table 2 Synthesis of β -enaminones catalyzed by DPAT^a

^aReaction conditions: amides or amines (0.6 mmol), β -dicarbonyl compounds (0.5 mmol), and DPAT (0.05 mmol), all reactions were stirred in refluxing toluene (2 mL), 6 h

^b8 h

^cUrea (0.6 mmol), β -dicarbonyl compounds (0.5 mmol), under optimized conditions

mixture). The occurrence of (*Z*)-selectivity was probably due to feasible hydrogen-bond formation between (N)H and O(=C). For example, the screened β -ketoesters were all effective substrates examined, which could proceed this condensation well with aromatic amides or aliphatic amides to gave the corresponding products in 51–98% yields. Aromatic amides bearing electron-donating groups at 4-position of aromatic ring such as methoxy **2b** provided the desired products in 93% yield. The electron-withdrawing substituents at 4-position of aryl group such as chloro or nitro, seem to disfavor this transformation, as the yield was reduced to 79%, 51%. β -Diketone substrate was also tolerated well for this transformation and provided the desired product **3h** in 86% yield. However, it failed to give the product when 1,3-cyclohexanedione or 1,3-diphenylpropane-1,3-dione

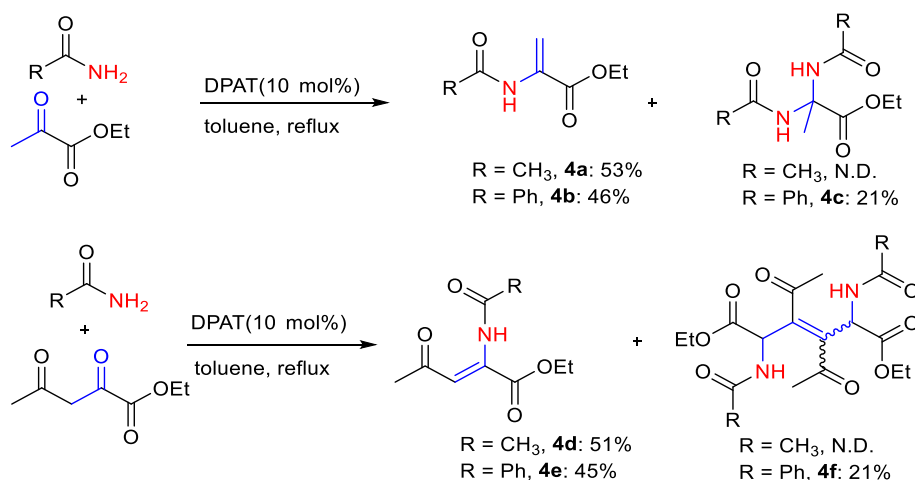
was used as β -diketone substrate mainly due to their steric hindrance and inherent low reactivity (Table 2). Satisfactorily, amides substrate including the aromatic amides, aliphatic amide and benzylamide were all compatible for this protocol, providing a series of products β -enaminones via condensation with β -diketones (β -ketoesters) (Table 2). Furthermore, an unprotected β -amino product was observed when urea was used as substrate. Urea successfully functions as a latent scaffold for amino group. Products **3i**, **3j** and **3k**, the intermediates for synthesis of sitagliptin that is an active ingredient of antidiabetic drug used in the treatment of type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) (Enguzel-Alperen et al. 2018), could be synthesized via the condensation with amides under optimized conditions in satisfied yields. Furthermore, aromatic amines and benzylamine were investigated

for this reaction and the results are given in Table 2. Screening revealed that the reactions between aromatic amines and 1,3-diketones or β -ketoesters could proceed smoothly and provided the desired products **3v–3z** in 47–95% yields. The general applicability of our method was then extended to the condensation of α -ketoesters with acetamide or benzamide (Scheme 2). α -Ketoesters with acetamide only led to the synthesis of desired products **4a** and **4d** in moderate yields. Moreover, it only selectively gave the product **4d** when the condensation between acetamide and ethyl 2,4-dioxopentanoate was proceeded under optimized conditions. To our surprise, except for the desired product **4b** (46%), an unexpected bis(benzamide) byproduct **4c** was also obtained

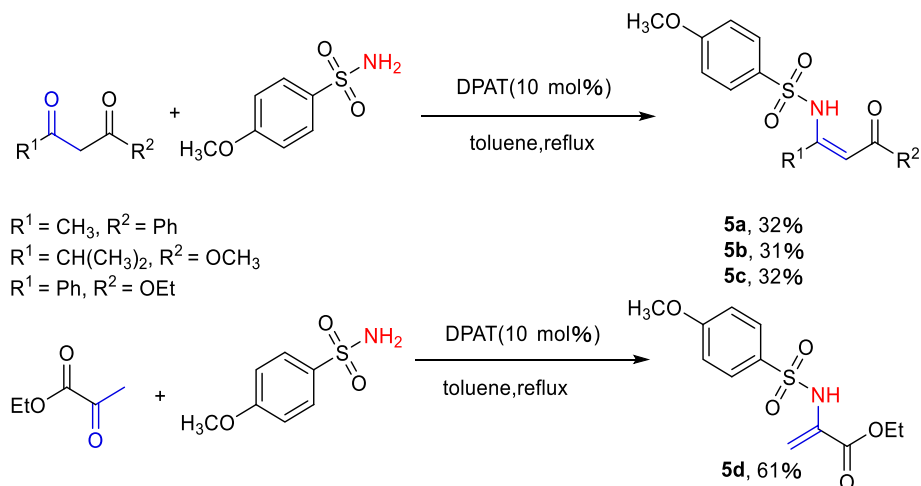
between the condensation of benzamide with ethyl pyruvate in 21% yield (Scheme 2). Interestingly, a similar result was obtained when using 2,4-dioxovalerate as substrate instead of ethyl pyruvate. Besides the isolation of the desired product **4e** in a yield of 45%, the coupling product **4f** was isolated in 21% yield. Finally, it was delight to find that this approach was also applicable to sulfonamides though its activity was inferior to amides, such as 4-methoxybenzenesulfonamide, giving the corresponding products in 31 to 61% yields (Scheme 3, **5a–5d**).

To gain mechanistic insight into the transformation of **4c**, the control experiment was carried out (Scheme 4).

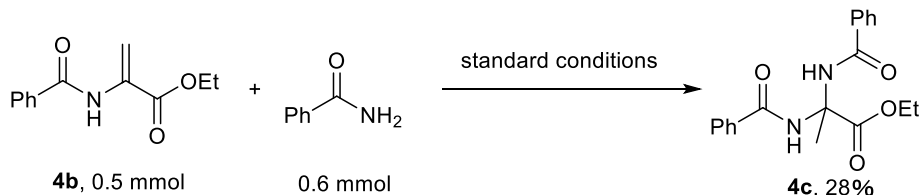
Scheme 2 Reaction between acetamide (benzamide) and α -ketoester



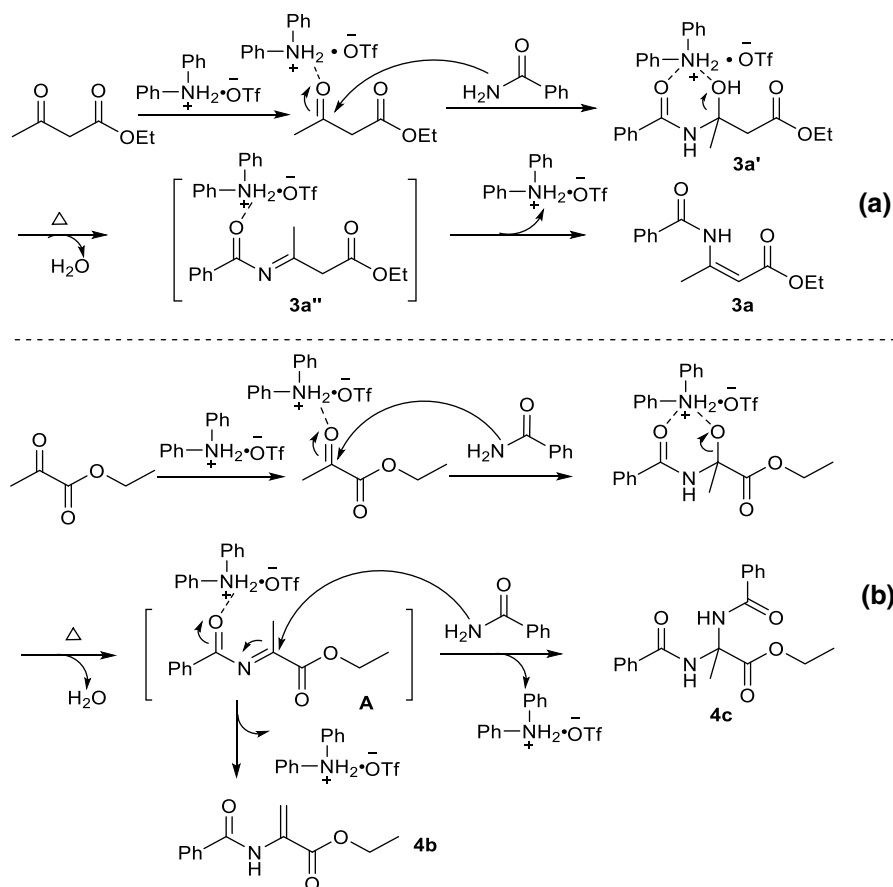
Scheme 3 Condensation reaction between 4-methoxybenzenesulfonamide and α - and β -keto compounds



Scheme 4 Control experiment



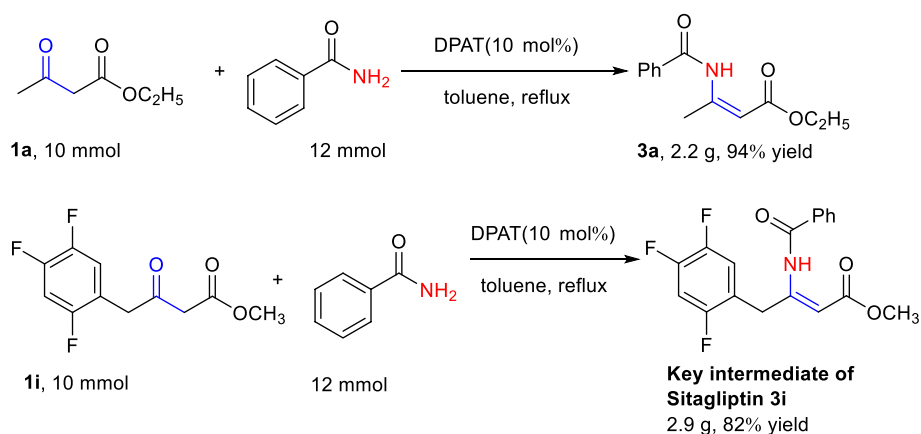
Scheme 5 Proposed mechanism



The condensation of benzamide with **4b** was conducted and provided the desired product **4c** in 28% yield.

According to the above mentioned observations, a possible mechanism for the DPAT-catalyzed synthesis of **3a** and **4c** has been proposed in Scheme 5. Initially, the **3a'** is formed after condensation between benzamide and ethyl acetoacetate in the presence of DPAT, followed by elimination of a molecule of H₂O to generate the imine intermediate **3a''**. After removing the catalyst DPAT, the **3a''** is transformed into the desired product **3a** (Scheme 5a). Similarly,

the imine **A** is generated after the condensation of benzamide with ethyl pyruvate in the presence of DPAT. Subsequently, the imine **A** is attacked by the benzamide to form the coupling product **4c**. Meanwhile, **A** is also transformed into the more stable product **4b** by removing the catalyst DPAT (Scheme 5b). In addition, no bis-addition product was detected between the reaction of acetamide with α -ketoesters (Scheme 2), suggesting that the imine intermediate formed by acetamide and α -ketoesters is probably unstable due to lack of large conjugated system.

Scheme 6 Gram-scale synthesis of product **3a** and **3i**

To further demonstrate the practicality of this transformation, a gram-scale experiment of **1a** and **1i** were carried out. The result is shown in the Scheme 6, **3a** and **3i** was obtained in 94% and 82% yields, respectively, which indicated the easy scale up of this transformation.

Conclusions

DPAT is widely used as organocatalyst in various chemical transformations (Wakasugi et al. 2000; Li et al. 2012). In this work, we have developed a novel method for the synthesis of β -enaminones using DPAT as the metal-free catalyst. This protocol featured by its environmentally benign, simple work-up procedure, easy manipulation and highly efficient, which make it an attractive and useful addition to the existing methods for the synthesis of β -enaminones. Notably, this reaction can be run on the gram-scale, giving the desired products in 94% and 82% yields. Moreover, the amides and sulfonamides were well compatible for this protocol. Further applications of DPAT are ongoing in our laboratory.

Experimental

All reagents were purchased from commercial suppliers and used without further purification. The flash column chromatography was carried out over silica gel (200–400 mesh), purchased from Qingdao Haiyang Chemical Co., Ltd. Melting points were determined on a Büchi B-540 capillary melting point apparatus and uncorrected. ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded at VARIAN-400, using $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ or CDCl_3 as the solvent with tetramethylsilane (TMS) as an internal standard. Chemical shifts are given in δ relative to TMS, the coupling constants J are given in Hz. Mass spectra were measured with Thermo Finnigan LCQ-Advantage. High resolution mass spectral (HRMS) analyze were measured on an Agilent 6210 TOF LC/MS and Q-Exactuve(Thermo USA) UHPLC-Q-Orbitrap using ESI techniques.

General procedures for the synthesis of β -enaminones

A mixture of amides (amines) (0.6 mmol), 1,3-dicarbonyl compounds (0.5 mmol), and DPAT (0.05 mmol) was stirred in refluxing toluene for 6 h. After completion of the reaction (Reaction progress was monitored by TLC), the mixture was washed with water (3×10 mL). The organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 , filtered and evaporated. Purification by column chromatography on silica gave the product **3**, **4**, **5**.

(Z)-Ethyl 3-benzamidobut-2-enoate (3a)

White solid; m.p.: 47.3–47.6 °C. (lit. of Aberhart and Lin 1981)

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 12.03 (s, 1H), 7.92–7.90 (m, 2H), 7.49 (d, $J=7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.43 (t, $J=8.0$ Hz, 2H), 5.00 (s, 1H), 4.17 (q, $J=7.2$ Hz, 2H), 2.52 (s, 3H), 1.30 (t, $J=7.2$ Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 169.2, 165.0, 155.1, 133.8, 132.1, 128.6, 127.4, 97.2, 59.9, 22.1, 14.4.

MS (ESI): $m/z=234.1$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$.

(Z)-Ethyl 3-(4-methoxybenzamido)but-2-enoate (3b)

White solid; m.p.: 108.5–109.8 °C.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 12.09 (s, 1H), 7.97 (d, $J=9.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.00 (d, $J=9.2$ Hz, 2H), 5.02 (d, $J=0.8$ Hz, 1H), 4.22 (q, $J=7.2$ Hz, 2H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 2.54 (d, $J=0.8$ Hz, 3H), 1.32 (t, $J=7.2$ Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 169.6, 164.9, 162.9, 155.7, 129.7, 126.3, 114.1, 96.8, 59.9, 55.4, 22.1, 14.3.

HRMS (ESI): $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{17}\text{NNaO}_4$ $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$; calculated: 286.1050, found: 286.1050.

(Z)-Ethyl 3-(4-chlorobenzamido)but-2-enoate (3c)

White solid; m.p.: 88.3–89.1 °C.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 12.17 (s, 1H), 7.94 (d, $J=8.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.48 (d, $J=8.4$ Hz, 2H), 5.07 (d, $J=0.8$ Hz, 1H), 4.22 (q, $J=7.2$ Hz, 2H), 2.54 (d, $J=0.8$ Hz, 3H), 1.32 (t, $J=7.2$ Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 169.6, 164.2, 155.2, 138.8, 132.4, 129.1, 129.0, 97.7, 60.1, 22.0, 14.3.

HRMS (ESI): $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{14}\text{ClNNaO}_3$ $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$; calculated: 290.0554 found: 290.0566.

(Z)-Ethyl 3-(4-nitrobenzamido)but-2-enoate (3d)

Yellow solid; m.p.: 122.3–123.0 °C.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 12.36 (s, 1H), 8.36 (d, $J=8.4$ Hz, 2H), 8.16 (d, $J=8.8$ Hz, 2H), 5.13 (s, 1H), 4.23 (q, $J=7.2$ Hz, 2H), 2.56 (s, 3H), 1.33 (t, $J=7.2$ Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 169.6, 163.2, 154.7, 150.0, 139.5, 128.8, 124.0, 98.7, 60.3, 21.9, 14.3.

HRMS (ESI): $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_2\text{NaO}_5$ $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$; calculated: 301.0795 found: 301.0797.

(Z)-Ethyl 3-(picolinamido)but-2-enoate (3e)

White solid; m.p.: 76.7–77.3 °C.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 13.00 (s, 1H), 8.77 (d, $J=4.4$ Hz, 1H), 8.22 (d, $J=8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.91–7.87 (m, 1H),

7.52–7.46 (m, 1H), 5.09 (s, 1H), 4.26 (q, $J=7.2$ Hz, 2H), 2.56 (s, 3H), 1.32 (t, $J=7.2$ Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 168.5, 163.4, 153.4, 149.9, 148.8, 137.4, 126.6, 122.9, 98.9, 59.9, 22.1, 14.4.

HRMS (ESI): $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_2\text{NaO}_3$ $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$; calculated: 257.0897 found: 257.0911.

(Z)-Methyl 3-benzamidobut-2-enoate (3f)

White solid; m.p.: 55.2–55.7 °C. (lit. of Holz et al. 2003)

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 12.08 (s, 1H), 7.98–7.95 (m, 2H), 7.56–7.52 (m, 1H), 7.50–7.46 (m, 2H), 5.04 (s, 1H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 2.54 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 169.6, 165.1, 155.4, 133.8, 132.2, 128.7, 127.5, 96.8, 51.2, 22.2.

MS (ESI): $m/z=242.4$ $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$.

(Z)-Tert-butyl 3-benzamidobut-2-enoate (3g)

White solid; m.p.: 80.2–80.7 °C.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 12.14 (s, 1H), 7.97–7.95 (m, 2H), 7.54–7.47 (m, 3H), 4.95 (s, 1H), 2.50 (s, 3H), 1.50 (s, 9H).

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 168.9, 165.2, 154.0, 134.0, 132.1, 128.6, 127.5, 99.2, 80.4, 28.4, 22.1.

HRMS (ESI): $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_3$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$; calculated: 262.1438, found: 262.1435.

(Z)-N-(4-oxo-4-phenylbut-2-en-2-yl)benzamide (3h)

Yellow solid; m.p.: 108.6–109.2 °C. (lit. of Sugiura et al. 2009)

^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 13.87 (s, 1H), 8.14–8.13 (m, 2H), 7.99–7.98 (m, 2H), 7.62 (t, $J=7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.59–7.55 (m, 3H), 7.50 (t, $J=7.8$ Hz, 2H), 6.21 (s, 1H), 2.71 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 191.9, 166.2, 158.2, 138.8, 133.8, 132.7, 132.5, 129.0, 128.6, 128.1, 127.7, 102.6, 22.8.

MS (ESI): $m/z=288.1$ $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$.

(Z)-Methyl 3-benzamido-4-(2,4,5-trifluorophenyl)but-2-enoate (3i)

Yellow solid; m.p.: 119.8–120.0 °C.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 12.04 (s, 1H), 7.91–7.89 (m, 2H), 7.51 (t, $J=7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.44 (t, $J=8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.10–7.04 (m, 1H), 6.92–6.86 (m, 1H), 4.91 (s, 1H), 4.29 (s, 2H), 3.72 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 169.4, 165.0, 156.0 (dm, $J_F=247.0$ Hz), 155.0, 149.0 (dm, $J_F=246.0$ Hz), 146.5 (dm, $J_F=242.0$ Hz), 133.4, 132.5, 128.8, 127.6, 120.4

(dm, $J_F=15.0$ Hz), 118.4 (dm, $J_F=20.0$ Hz), 105.5 (tm, $J_F=24.0$ Hz), 98.1 (d, $J_F=4.0$ Hz), 51.5, 32.7.

HRMS (ESI): $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{13}\text{F}_3\text{NO}_3$ $[\text{M} - \text{H}]^-$; calculated: 348.0853, found: 348.0861.

(Z)-Methyl 3-(2-phenylacetamido)-4-(2,4,5-trifluorophenyl)but-2-enoate (3j)

White solid; m.p.: 104.2–104.3 °C.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 11.11 (s, 1H), 7.35–7.25 (m, 5H), 6.99–6.93 (m, 1H), 6.91–6.84 (m, 1H), 4.80 (s, 1H), 4.11 (s, 2H), 3.66 (s, 3H), 3.63 (s, 2H).

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 169.5, 168.7, 155.8 (dm, $J_F=244.0$ Hz), 154.1, 148.9 (dm, $J_F=235.0$ Hz), 146.5 (dm, $J_F=241.0$ Hz), 133.4, 129.1, 128.7, 127.3, 120.1 (dm, $J_F=20.0$ Hz), 118.1 (dm, $J_F=20.0$ Hz), 105.4 (tm, $J_F=19.0$ Hz), 98.0, 51.3, 45.6, 32.5.

HRMS (ESI): $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{15}\text{F}_3\text{NO}_3$ $[\text{M} - \text{H}]^-$; calculated: 362.1010, found: 362.0998.

(Z)-Methyl 3-acetamido-4-(2,4,5-trifluorophenyl)but-2-enoate (3k)

White solid; m.p.: 102.6–102.8 °C.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 11.04 (s, 1H), 7.03–6.96 (m, 1H), 6.89–6.83 (m, 1H), 4.78 (s, 1H), 4.11 (s, 2H), 3.68 (s, 3H), 2.13 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 169.0, 168.6, 155.8 (dm, $J_F=243.0$ Hz), 154.4, 149.0 (dm, $J_F=248.0$ Hz), 146.5 (dm, $J_F=241.0$ Hz), 120.2 (dt, $J_F=19.0$, 5.0 Hz), 118.2 (dt, $J_F=19.0$, 5.0 Hz), 105.4 (tm, $J_F=26.0$ Hz), 97.2 (d, $J_F=4.0$ Hz), 51.3, 32.4, 25.3.

HRMS (ESI): $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{11}\text{F}_3\text{NO}_3$ $[\text{M} - \text{H}]^-$; calculated: 286.0697, found: 286.0691.

(Z)-Methyl 3-amino-4-methylpent-2-enoate (3l)

Yellow oil.

^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 4.53 (s, 1H), 3.61 (s, 3H), 2.30 (m, 1H), 1.12 (d, $J=7.8$ Hz, 6H).

^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 171.0, 169.7, 80.3, 50.0, 34.8, 21.1.

HRMS (ESI): $\text{C}_7\text{H}_{14}\text{NO}_2$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$; calculated: 144.1019, found: 144.1021.

(Z)-Ethyl 3-acetamidobut-2-enoate (3m)

White solid; m.p.: 63.1–63.6 °C. (lit. of Lee and Zhang 2002)

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 11.10 (s, 1H), 4.88 (s, 1H), 4.14 (q, $J=7.2$ Hz, 2H), 2.37 (s, 3H), 2.14 (s, 3H), 1.28 (t, $J=7.2$ Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 168.9, 168.6, 154.8, 96.3, 59.8, 25.3, 22.0, 14.4.

MS (ESI): m/z = 172.0 $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$.

(Z)-N-(4-oxo-4-phenylbut-2-en-2-yl)acetamide (3n)

Yellow solid; m.p.: 97.8–98.9 °C. (lit. of Sugiura et al. 2009)

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 12.82 (s, 1H), 7.92 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.55 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.05 (s, 1H), 2.53 (s, 3H), 2.24 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 191.4, 169.9, 157.6, 138.7, 132.4, 128.6, 127.6, 101.6, 25.5, 22.5.

MS (ESI): m/z = 226.1 $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$

(Z)-Ethyl 3-acetamido-3-phenylacrylate (3o)

White solid; m.p.: 42.5–44.8 °C. (lit. of Lee and Zhang 2002)

^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 10.67 (s, 1H), 7.43–7.36 (m, 5H), 5.30 (s, 1H), 4.25 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.19 (s, 3H), 1.34 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 168.6, 168.4, 154.5, 135.9, 129.6, 128.0, 127.1, 101.1, 60.3, 24.8, 14.3.

MS (ESI): m/z = 256.2 $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$

(Z)-Methyl 3-acetamido-4-methylpent-2-enoate (3p)

Yellow oil. (lit. of Wu et al. 2011)

^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 11.15 (s, 1H), 5.07 (s, 1H), 3.87 (m, 1H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 2.15 (s, 3H), 1.12 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 6H).

^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 170.1, 168.4, 165.7, 92.3, 51.1, 29.3, 25.6, 21.3.

MS (ESI): m/z = 208.1 $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$.

(Z)-Ethyl 3-(2-(2-oxopyrrolidin-1-yl)butanamido)but-2-enoate (3q)

White solid; m.p.: 60.2–60.6 °C.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 11.42 (s, 1H), 4.92 (d, J = 1.0 Hz, 1H), 4.66 (dd, J_1 = 10.8 Hz, J_2 = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 4.13 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.42–3.32 (m, 2H), 2.66–2.59 (m, 1H), 2.51–2.41 (m, 1H), 2.36 (d, J = 1.0 Hz, 3H), 2.22–2.00 (m, 4H), 1.25 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 0.92 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 176.6, 169.6, 168.9, 154.0, 98.2, 60.2, 57.7, 43.8, 31.0, 22.1, 21.3, 18.3, 14.7, 11.2.

HRMS (ESI): $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$; calculated: 281.1507, found: 281.1493.

(Z)-Methyl 3-(benzylamino)but-2-enoate (3r)

White solid; m.p.: 35.2–35.6 °C. (lit. of Hebbache et al. 2008).

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.91 (s, 1H), 7.34–7.23 (m, 5H), 4.53 (s, 1H), 4.42 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 3.63 (s, 3H), 1.92 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 170.6, 161.6, 138.5, 128.6, 127.2, 126.5, 82.8, 50.0, 46.8, 19.4.

MS (ESI): m/z = 206.1 $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$.

(Z)-Ethyl 3-(benzylamino)but-2-enoate (3s)

White solid; m.p.: 22.1–22.6 °C. (lit. of Hebbache et al. 2008).

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.93 (s, 1H), 7.34–7.23 (m, 5H), 4.52 (s, 1H), 4.42 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 4.08 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.91 (s, 3H), 1.26 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 170.3, 161.5, 138.6, 128.6, 127.2, 126.5, 83.2, 58.4, 46.8, 19.4, 14.7.

MS (ESI): m/z = 220.4 $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$.

(Z)-Tert-butyl 3-(benzylamino)but-2-enoate (3t)

Yellow oil. (lit. of Hebbache et al. 2008)

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.87 (s, 1H), 7.34–7.22 (m, 5H), 4.45 (s, 1H), 4.40 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 1.87 (s, 3H), 1.46 (s, 9H).

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 170.4, 159.2, 138.9, 128.6, 127.1, 126.6, 85.0, 77.9, 46.8, 28.8, 19.4.

MS (ESI): m/z = 248.2 $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$.

(Z)-4-(benzylamino)pent-3-en-2-one (3u)

White solid; m.p.: 25.1–25.3 °C. (lit. of Chen et al. 2010)

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 11.13 (s, 1H), 7.34–7.22 (m, 5H), 5.03 (s, 1H), 4.45 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 2.03 (s, 3H), 1.91 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 195.0, 162.8, 137.8, 128.6, 127.2, 126.5, 95.8, 46.7, 28.9, 18.9.

MS (ESI): m/z = 190.0 $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$.

(Z)-4-(phenylamino)pent-3-en-2-one (3v)

White solid; m.p.: 50.3–50.7 °C. (lit. of Chen et al. 2010).

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 12.44 (s, 1H), 7.32 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.17 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.11–7.06 (m, 2H), 5.18 (s, 1H), 2.10 (s, 3H), 1.99 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 195.7, 159.9, 138.6, 128.9, 125.3, 124.6, 97.5, 29.2, 19.9.

MS (ESI): $m/z = 176.2$ $[M + H]^+$.

(Z)-Ethyl 3-((4-methoxyphenyl)amino)but-2-enoate (3w)

White solid; m.p.: 40.6–41.2 °C. (lit. of Zhang et al. 2006)

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 10.17 (s, 1H), 7.04 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 6.87 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 4.67 (s, 1H), 4.16 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 1.90 (s, 3H), 1.30 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 170.5, 160.0, 157.4, 132.2, 126.8, 114.2, 84.7, 58.6, 55.5, 20.1, 14.6.

MS (ESI): $m/z = 236.2$ $[M + H]^+$.

(Z)-Ethyl 3-((4-chlorophenyl)amino)but-2-enoate (3x)

White solid; m.p.: 51.0–52.0 °C. (lit. of Zhang et al. 2006)

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 10.37 (s, 1H), 7.34–7.28 (m, 2H), 7.03 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 4.73 (s, 1H), 4.17 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 2.00 (s, 3H), 1.30 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 170.4, 158.4, 138.0, 130.3, 129.2, 125.5, 86.9, 58.9, 20.2, 14.6.

MS (ESI): $m/z = 240.1$ $[M + H]^+$.

(Z)-Ethyl 3-((4-nitrophenyl)amino)but-2-enoate (3y)

Green solid; m.p.: 112.0–112.8 °C. (lit. of Zhang et al. 2006)

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 10.96 (s, 1H), 8.23 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.17 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 4.93 (s, 1H), 4.22 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 2.26 (s, 3H), 1.34 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 170.0, 155.7, 145.8, 142.8, 125.3, 120.6, 91.6, 59.5, 21.0, 14.4.

MS (ESI): $m/z = 251.1$ $[M + H]^+$.

(Z)-Ethyl 3-(naphthalen-2-ylamino)but-2-enoate (3z)

Yellow oil; (lit. of Chen et al. 2010)

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 10.61 (s, 1H), 8.10 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.93–7.91 (m, 1H), 7.79 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.62–7.54 (m, 2H), 7.49 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.36–7.32 (m, 1H), 4.86 (s, 1H), 4.26 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 1.90 (s, 3H), 1.38 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 170.7, 160.5, 135.4, 134.3, 130.5, 128.2, 126.7, 126.6, 126.4, 125.3, 123.6, 122.8, 85.7, 58.8, 20.0, 14.7.

MS (ESI): $m/z = 256.2$ $[M + H]^+$.

Ethyl 2-acetamidoacrylate (4a)

Yellow oil. (lit. of Yamashita et al. 2014)

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.83 (s, 1H, NH), 6.46 (s, 1H, =CH), 5.77 (d, $J = 1.0$ Hz, 1H, =CH), 4.18 (q, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 2H), 2.03 (s, 3H), 1.23 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 168.7, 163.8, 131.0, 108.1, 61.8, 24.2, 13.8.

MS (ESI): $m/z = 158.0$ $[M + H]^+$.

Ethyl 2-benzamidoacrylate (4b)

Yellow oil. (lit. of Yang et al. 2018)

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.55 (s, 1H, NH), 7.84–7.81 (m, 2H), 7.55–7.51 (m, 1H), 7.49–7.44 (m, 2H), 6.77 (s, 1H, =CH), 5.99 (d, $J = 1.6$ Hz, 1H, =CH), 4.33 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 1.38 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 165.4, 164.0, 134.2, 131.8, 131.1, 128.6, 126.8, 108.4, 62.3, 14.2.

MS (ESI): $m/z = 220.1$ $[M + H]^+$.

Ethyl 2,2-bis(benzamido)propanoate (4c)

White solid; m.p.: 132.0–133.0 °C.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.82 (s, 2H), 7.78–7.75 (m, 4H), 7.50–7.46 (m, 2H), 7.39 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 4H), 4.35 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 2.08 (s, 3H), 1.32 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 170.9, 168.7, 133.5, 131.8, 128.4, 127.1, 67.3, 62.9, 23.8, 14.2.

HRMS (ESI): $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4\text{Na}$ $[M + \text{Na}]^+$; calculated: 363.1315, found: 363.1316.

(Z)-Ethyl 4-acetamido-2-oxopent-3-enoate (4d)

Yellow oil.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 11.18 (s, 1H), 5.75 (s, 1H), 4.33 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 2.27 (s, 3H), 2.18 (s, 3H), 1.35 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 200.6, 168.4, 163.9, 142.7, 106.3, 62.3, 31.0, 23.4, 13.8.

HRMS (ESI): $\text{C}_9\text{H}_{12}\text{NO}_4$ $[M - \text{H}]^-$; calculated: 198.0772, found: 198.0777.

(Z)-Ethyl 2-benzamido-4-oxopent-2-enoate (4e)

Yellow solid; m.p.: 107.2–107.8 °C.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 12.26 (s, 1H), 7.95–7.93 (m, 2H), 7.58 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.49 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 5.85 (s, 1H), 4.39 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 2.30 (s, 3H), 1.37 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 200.9, 165.7, 163.1, 143.5, 133.0, 132.6, 128.8, 128.0, 106.5, 62.6, 29.8, 14.2.

HRMS (ESI): $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}_4$ $[M + \text{H}]^+$; calculated: 262.1074, found: 262.1075.

Diethyl 3,4-diacetyl-2,5-bis(benzamido)hex-3-enedioate (4f)

Yellow solid; m.p.: 103.2–103.4 °C.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 13.32 (s, 2H), 8.06 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 4H), 7.59 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.49 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 4H), 6.28 (s, 2H), 4.36 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 2.68 (s, 6H), 1.41 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 6H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 200.9, 164.6, 163.9, 143.6, 133.0, 131.5, 128.8, 128.0, 62.5, 31.2, 22.9, 14.1.

HRMS (ESI): C₂₈H₃₀N₂O₈Na [M + Na]⁺; calculated: 545.1894, found: 545.1902.

(Z)-4-methoxy-N-(4-oxo-4-phenylbut-2-en-2-yl)benzenesulfonamide (5a)

Yellow solid; m.p.: 70.8–72.0 °C. (lit. of Lee et al. 2017)

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 13.34 (s, 1H), 7.93–7.88 (m, 4H), 7.55 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.02 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 6.05 (s, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 2.23 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 191.1, 163.4, 156.3, 138.0, 132.6, 132.0, 129.5, 128.6, 127.7, 114.6, 100.5, 55.7, 20.2.

MS (ESI): *m/z* = 354.3 [M + H]⁺.

(Z)-Methyl 3-((4-methoxyphenyl)sulfonamido)-4-methylpent-2-enoate (5b)

Yellow oil.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 11.01 (s, 1H), 7.82 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 6.99 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 5.04 (s, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.13 (dt, *J* = 13.2, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 1.02 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 6H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.9, 164.4, 163.3, 129.3, 128.3, 114.4, 93.9, 55.7, 51.3, 29.4, 21.8.

HRMS (ESI): C₁₄H₁₈NO₅S [M-H][−]; calculated: 312.0911, found: 312.0906.

(Z)-Ethyl 3-((4-methoxyphenyl)sulfonamido)-3-phenylacrylate (5c)

Yellow solid; m.p.: 76.6–78.1 °C.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 10.69 (s, 1H), 7.46 (m, 3H), 7.36–7.30 (m, 4H), 6.86 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 5.22 (s, 1H), 4.20 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 1.29 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.4, 163.2, 155.0, 134.0, 131.0, 130.5, 129.7, 128.9, 127.9, 113.9, 102.1, 60.5, 55.6, 14.2.

HRMS (ESI): C₁₈H₁₈NO₅S [M-H][−]; calculated: 360.0911, found: 360.0909.

Ethyl 2-((4-methoxyphenyl)sulfonamido)acrylate (5d)

Yellow solid; m.p.: 96.1–97.9 °C.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.82 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 7.13 (s, 1H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 5.66 (s, 2H), 4.22 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 1.28 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 163.4, 163.2, 131.1, 129.9, 129.8, 114.2, 106.6, 62.5, 55.7, 14.0.

HRMS (ESI): C₁₂H₁₄NO₅S [M-H][−]; calculated: 284.0598, found: 284.0605.

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Compliance with ethical standards

Conflict of interest There is no conflict of interest.

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