

Note

PEG-N₂O₄ System as an Efficient Reagent both for the Rapid Oxidation of Urazoles and 1,4-Dihydropyridines under Nonaqueous Conditions

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N₂O₄ was easily impregnated on polyethyleneglycol to give a stable reagent. Polyethyleneglycol-N₂O₄ (PEG-N₂O₄) system was used as an effective oxidizing agent for the oxidation of urazoles and bis-urazoles to their corresponding triazolinediones and also for the aromatization of 1,4-dihydropyridines into the corresponding pyridine derivatives under mild conditions at room temperature with good to excellent yields.

Keywords: Dinitrogen tetroxide; Polyethyleneglycol; Oxidation; Urazoles; Bis-urazoles; 1,4-Dihydropyridines.

INTRODUCTION

Polymer-supported reagents and catalysts have been widely applied in organic transformations. Immobilization of reactive species on a polymer-support could provide many important advantages over analogous homogeneous systems; for example, separation of the support from the reaction mixture can be achieved by simple filtration aiding isolation and purification procedures. Also, excess of polymeric reagent can be readily employed without incurring an increase in work-up. Transition metal complexes and optically active catalysts might be efficiently retained for re-use, and noxious or toxic species might be encapsulated when bound to a macromolecule, with obvious advantages in environmental terms. Also these reagents have many other advantages such as simple experimental procedures, stability, easy handling and minimal chemical wastes compared to their traditional homogeneous reagents.¹⁻³

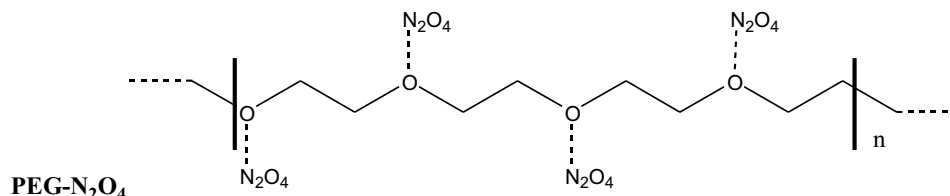
Dinitrogen tetroxide as an important industrial chemical is commercially supplied at low price in a cylinder, and can be used directly or in the form of liquid (b.p. 21 °C) collected by transfer distillation into an ice-cooled vessel. Apart from difficulties in handling the poisonous and corrosive dinitrogen tetroxide, the biggest disadvantage of utilizing gaseous N₂O₄ in organic reactions is its high reactivity which usually causes undesired side reactions. In order

to avoid these problems the reactions are usually performed at low temperature and careful control of reaction conditions is needed.⁴ In recent years some reports were published on the use of N₂O₄ complexes of organic and inorganic compounds such as 18-crown-6 ether/N₂O₄,⁵ polyvinylpyrrolidone/N₂O₄,⁶ M(NO₃)_x.yN₂O₄,⁷ activated charcoal/N₂O₄,⁸ N₂O₄/SiO₂,⁹ silica acetate-N₂O₄,¹⁰ calix[4]-arene/N₂O₄,¹¹ DMF-NO₂,¹² and (tributyl phosphate-NO₂, polyethylene glycol-NO₂, dioxane-NO₂)¹³ as useful reagents that solve many difficulties in handling and increase selectivity of organic reactions. In continuation of our investigation on the preparation of N₂O₄ complexes, we now report on the application of N₂O₄ impregnated polyethyleneglycol as a cheap reagent made from available sources. Polyethyleneglycols (PEGs) are important components of crown ethers, cryptands, and other ion receptors¹⁴ and their capability of binding with different ions have been widely investigated.¹⁵ This reagent polyethyleneglycol-N₂O₄ (PEG-N₂O₄) was easily prepared by bubbling N₂O₄ gas through a solution of polyethylene glycol in cold CH₂Cl₂ (Scheme I).

Herein, we wish to report the use of polyethyleneglycol-N₂O₄ complex as an efficient oxidizing agent both for the oxidation of urazoles and bis-urazoles to their corresponding triazolinediones and aromatization of 1,4-dihy-

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Scheme I



dihydropyridines into corresponding pyridine derivatives in nonaqueous conditions.

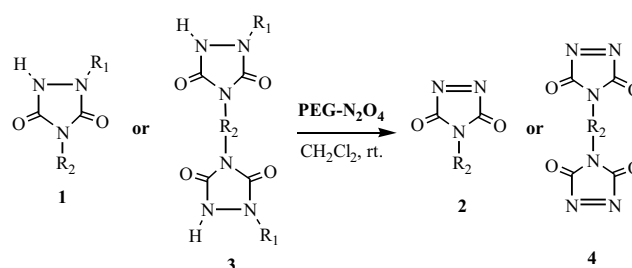
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Oxidation of Urazoles

4-Substituted-1,2,4-triazole-3,5-diones (**TADs**) have been used both as substrates and reagents in various organic reactions. For example, they have been used in Diels-Alder, ene or [2+2] cycloadditions, dehydrogenation reactions, electrophilic aromatic substitution, condensation of dicarbonyl compounds, and oxidation of alcohols to aldehydes and ketones.¹⁶ Very recently, aromatization of 1,4-dihydropyridines and pyrazolines as well as oxidation of thiols with **TADs** have been reported.¹⁷ The unusual reactivity of **TADs** (**2**, **4**) makes them interesting and also hard to prepare and purify.¹⁸ It is interesting to note that 4-phenyl-1,2,4-triazoline-3,5-dione (**2f**) is an extremely reactive dienophile and enophile which is at least 1000 times more reactive than tetracyanoethylene in the Diels-Alder reaction with 2-chlorobutadiene and 2000 times more reactive than maleic anhydride.¹⁶ All known methods of synthesis of these compounds (1,2,4-triazolidine-3,5-diones) require oxidation of the corresponding urazoles (**1**, **3**). Although a variety of reagents are capable of efficient oxidations of urazoles (**1**, **3**) to **TADs**, this transformation is not easy because these compounds are very sensitive to the oxidizing agents and reaction conditions. In addition, most of the reported reagents produce by-products which either destroy or are difficult to remove from the sensitive triazolidinediones. Another major drawback of the older procedures is their use of reagents which are either highly toxic or impart serious disposal problems (or both).¹⁹⁻²³ Recently, we among many others, have demonstrated that application of heterogeneous systems, for the above reported oxidations, has many advantages over their liquid phase counterparts such as simple experimental procedures, mild reaction conditions and minimization of chemical wastes.^{5b,24} Herein, we

wish to report a simple, cheap and convenient method for the effective oxidation of urazoles (**1**) and bis-urazoles (**3**) to their corresponding triazolidinediones (**2**, **4**) by using **PEG-N₂O₄** as an oxidizing agent (Scheme II).

Scheme II



	R ₁	R ₂
1a	H	Me
1b	H	Et
1c	Na	n-Pr
1d	H	n-Bu
1e	H	Cyclohexyl
1f	H	Ph
1g	H	4-Cl-Ph
1h	H	3,4-Cl ₂ -Ph
1i	H	4-NO ₂ -Ph
1j	H	4-OMe-Ph
1k	H	4- <i>t</i> -Bu-Ph
1l	H	4-Naphtyl
3a	H	

A good range of urazoles (**1**) and bis-urazoles (**3**) were subjected to the oxidation reaction in the presence of the oxidizing agents **PEG-N₂O₄** in dichloromethane. All oxidation reactions were performed under mild and completely heterogeneous conditions, at room temperature with good to excellent yields (Table 1).

The present oxidation reaction can be readily carried out only by placing a suspension of urazoles (**1**) or bis-

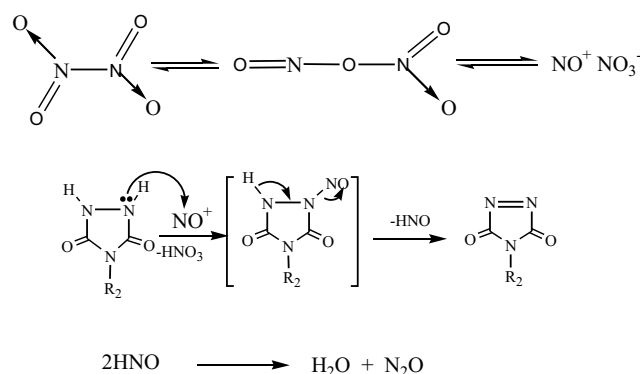
Table 1. Oxidation of urazoles (**1**) and bis-urazoles (**3**) to their corresponding triazolinediones (**2**, **4**) with **PEG-N₂O₄** in dichloromethane at room temperature^a

Entry	Urazole or (bis)	Time (Min)	Yield ^b %	Product
1	1a	30	78	2a
2	1b	30	80	2b
3	1c	30	84	2c
4	1d	30	87	2d
5	1e	30	90	2e
6	1f	30	95	2f
7	1g	30	97	2g
8	1h	30	85	2h
9	1i	30	90	2i
10	1j	30	85	2j
11	1k	60	82	2k
12	1l	60	81	2l
13	3a	40	82	4a

^a Urazole or bis-urazole (1 mmol), **PEG-N₂O₄** (1 mmol).^b Isolated yields.

urazoles (**3**), **PEG-N₂O₄** in CH₂Cl₂ and efficiently stirring the resulting heterogeneous mixture at room temperature. The triazolinediones (**2**) and bis-triazolinediones (**4**) are obtained by simple filtration and evaporation of the solvent. As reported above the oxidation reactions are heterogeneous because urazoles and bis-urazoles [(**1**, **3**) as white solids] are insoluble in dichloromethane, whereas all of the triazolinediones and bis-triazolinediones [(**2**, **4**), red, pink or brown solids] are very soluble in dichloromethane. The **PEG-N₂O₄** in CH₂Cl₂ can act as a relatively efficient reagent as a source for the delivery of nitrosonium ion (NO⁺) under mild conditions.⁵ The following mechanism for the oxidation reaction via *in situ* generation of NO⁺ may be suggested (Scheme III).

Scheme III



Aromatization of 1,4-Dihydropyridines

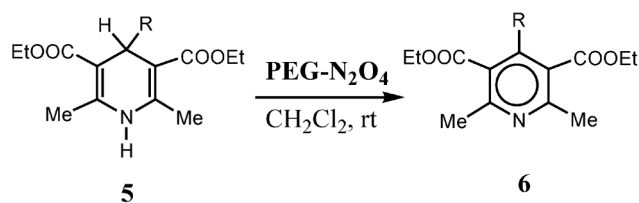
Amlodipine besylate, nifedipine, and related dihydropyridines are Ca²⁺ channel blockers and are rapidly emerging as one of the most important classes of drugs for the treatment of cardiovascular diseases, including hypertension. In the human body, it has been observed that these compounds undergo oxidation to form pyridine derivatives. These oxidized compounds are largely devoid of the pharmacological activity of the parent compounds. Additionally, dihydropyridines are often produced in a synthetic sequence, which have to be oxidized to pyridines.²⁵

The oxidation of dihydropyridines (**5**) is an old reaction in general organic chemistry. Even in recent years, several groups have reported new methods for aromatization, including oxidation with ferric or cupric nitrates on a solid support,²⁶⁻²⁷ ceric ammonium nitrate,²⁸ clay-supported cupric nitrate accompanied by ultrasound-promotion,²⁹ iodine,³⁰ tetrabutylphosphonium dichromate,³¹ photoinduced aromatization,³² and KHSO₄ supported onto Bentonite.³³ Ohsawa et al. reported an excellent procedure for this transformation. They have demonstrated the remarkably practical use of NO gas as a clean and efficient oxidation for this purpose.³⁴ We decided to seek a completely homogeneous system for dihydropyridine oxidation, and we have investigated a number of different reaction conditions based upon the *in situ* generation of NO⁺. In continuation of our study about the applications of NOX,³⁵ N₂O₄,^{23,36} metal nitrate dinitrogen tetroxide complexes³⁷ and complexation of transition metals with microcyclic ethers,⁵ herein we report a simple and convenient method for the effective conversion of 1,4-dihydropyridines (**5**) to their corresponding pyridine derivatives (**6**) by using **PEG-N₂O₄** as an oxidizing agent under mild and homogeneous conditions (Scheme IV).

Different types of dihydropyridines (**5**) were subjected to oxidation reaction in the presence of **PEG-N₂O₄** in dichloromethane (Scheme IV). The oxidation reactions were performed under mild and completely homogeneous conditions at room temperature with good to excellent yields. Aryl-, alkyl-, and heterocyclic-substituted 1,4-dihydropyridines **5d-h** oxidized into the corresponding pyridine derivatives (Table 2).

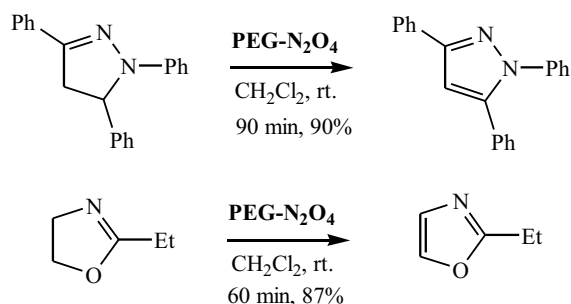
In addition, we used this reagent for the oxidation of other heterocyclic compounds, such as pyrazoline and oxazoline for example (Scheme V). As shown in Scheme V, both pyrazoline and oxazoline were oxidized by reacting 1

Scheme IV



5, 6	R	5, 6	R
a	H	e	3-NO ₂ -C ₆ H ₅ -
b	Me	f	2-MeO-C ₆ H ₅ -
c	Ph	g	2-Furyl-
d	4-NO ₂ -C ₆ H ₅ -		

Scheme V



mmol of these heterocyclic compounds, and **PEG-N₂O₄** (1 mmol) in dichloromethane (5 mL) at room temperature in 60 to 90 min in high yields.

To show the efficiency of the **PEG-N₂O₄** in compari-

Table 2. Aromatization of 1,4-dihydropyridines (**5**), (1 mmol) in the presence of **PEG-N₂O₄** (1 mmol) in dichloromethane at room temperature

Entry	R	Product	Time (Min)	Yield ^a %
1	H	6a	60	93
2	Me	6b	60	88
3	Ph	6c	55	90
4	4-NO ₂ -C ₆ H ₅	6d	55	83
5	3-NO ₂ -C ₆ H ₅	6e	55	86
6	2-MeO-C ₆ H ₅	6f	50	93
7	2-Furyl	6g	50	82

^a Isolated yields.

son with older reported procedures in the literature, Table 3 compares some of our results with **N₂O₄** gas,²² [NO⁺.crown.H(NO₃)₂]^{5b,c} and NO,³⁴ with respect to reaction times and yields of obtained products.

In conclusion, a practical, efficient and convenient method for the oxidation of urazoles, bis-urazoles and 1,4-dihydropyridines is described. We suggest that these systems could be used for the oxidation of a wide variety of urazole derivatives, 1,4-dihydropyridines, and also pyrazoline and oxazolines under mild and safe conditions.

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

General

Chemicals were purchased from Fluka, Merck and Aldrich chemical companies. Polyethylene glycol 2000 (Mw 1800-2200 g/mol) was purchased from Merck. Yields refer to isolated pure products. The oxidation products were characterized by comparison of their spectral (IR and

Table 3. Comparison of the results **PEG-N₂O₄** (**I**) with **N₂O₄** (gas) (**II**),²² and [NO⁺.crown.H(NO₃)₂]^{5b} (**III**),^{5b} in the oxidation of urazoles and **PEG-N₂O₄** (**I**) with [NO⁺.crown.H(NO₃)₂]^{5c} (**III**),^{5c} and NO (**IV**)³⁴ in the oxidation 1,4-hydropyridines

Entry	Substrate	Product	Time (Min)				Yield ^a %			
			I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
1			30	90	imid.	-	95	94	-	-
2			55	-	imid.	240	90	-	-	76

^a Isolated yields.

¹H-NMR) and physical data with those of authentic samples which were produced by other reported procedures.^{5b,24,34-40}

Caution: NO₂-N₂O₄ gas is exceedingly toxic. Thus, all operations, involving N₂O₄ must be conducted in an efficient hood.

Preparation of polyethyleneglycol-N₂O₄

Into a 250-mL one necked round-bottomed flask was charged 45.0 g of lead(II) nitrate. (The lead(II) nitrate had been crushed to a fine powder with mortar and pestle and then dried in an oven at 120 °C for three days). The flask was equipped with a 35-cm column and was connected to a trap through a polyethylene tube.²² The trap was connected to the gas inlet tube.

The lead(II) nitrate was heated with a bunsen burner. Brownish red NO₂-N₂O₄ gas evolved, and it was bubbled slowly through the cold polyethylene glycol (10.0 g) in methylene chloride solution (25 mL) for 30 min. After a few minutes, a deep-red color appeared. The temperature was kept below 0 °C. The red solution was allowed to stir another 60 min, and then dry N₂ gas was bubbled through the solution in order to extrude the excess of NO₂ gas and then the solvent was evaporated. The obtained solid was dried under vacuum to give PEG supported N₂O₄ as white cream powder (14.0 g). The capacity of the reagent was determined to be 2.5 mmol of N₂O₄ per gram of the polymer. The reagent could be stored in the refrigerator for several months without losing its weight or activity.

Oxidation of 4,4'-(4,4'-diphenylmethylene)-bis-urazole (3a) to bis(*p*-3,5-dioxo-1,2,4-triazoline-4-ylphenyl)-methane (4a): A general procedure

A suspension of compound **3a** (0.366 g, 1 mmol) and PEG-N₂O₄ (0.1 g) were added into CH₂Cl₂ (10 mL) and stirred for the specified time (Table 1). Then the reaction mixture was filtered and washed with CH₂Cl₂ (2 × 10 mL). Dichloromethane was removed by water-bath (40–50 °C)³⁸ and simple distillation. A good yield of crystalline pink solid (**4a**) Mp 182–185 °C, and (lit.²¹ Mp 185 °C) was obtained.

Oxidation of 4-phenyl urazole (1f) to 4-phenyl-1,2,4-triazoline-3,5-dione (2f): A typical procedure

A suspension of compound **1f** (0.177 g, 1 mmol) and PEG-N₂O₄ (0.1 g) were added into dichloromethane (10 mL) and the suspension was vigorously stirred for 0.5 h (Table 1, Entry 6). Then the reaction mixture was filtered

and washed with CH₂Cl₂ (2 × 10 mL). Dichloromethane was removed by water-bath (40–50 °C)³⁸ and simple distillation. The yield was 0.1681 g (95%) of crystalline red solid (**2f**), Mp 171–175 °C, (lit.²² Mp 170–178 °C).

Spectral data

2a: 4-Methyl-1,2,4-triazoline-3,5-dione: pink crystals, mp 97–98 °C, Lit.¹⁸ 98–98.5 °C. ¹H NMR (90 MHz, CDCl₃): δ ppm 3.26 (s, 3H).

2b: 4-Eethyl-1,2,4-triazoline-3,5-dione: pink crystals, mp 54–55 °C, Lit.¹⁹ 53 °C. ¹H NMR (90 MHz, CDCl₃): δ ppm 1.32 (t, 3H), 3.69 (q, 2H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ ppm 12.710, 36.702, 159.19.

2c: 4-*n*-Propyl-1,2,4-triazoline-3,5-Dione: pink crystals, mp 40–42 °C, Lit.²³ 44 °C. ¹H NMR (90 MHz, CDCl₃): δ ppm 0.94 (t, 3H), 1.68 (m, 2H), 3.63 (t, 2H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ ppm 10.668, 20.598, 42.884, 159.336.

2d: 4-*n*-Butyl-1,2,4-triazoline-3,5-dione: pink crystals, mp 42–43 °C, Lit.¹⁸ 44–44.5 °C. ¹H NMR (90 MHz, CDCl₃): δ ppm 0.86 (t, 3H), 1.21–1.53 (m, 4H), 3.5 (t, 2H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ ppm 36.372, 42.928, 52.572, 64.572, 168.324.

2e: 4-Cycloyl-1,2,4-triazoline-3,5-Dione: pink crystals, mp 95–97 °C, Lit.¹⁸ 95–96 °C. ¹H NMR (90 MHz, CDCl₃): δ ppm 1.26–1.8 (m, 10H), 3.90 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ ppm 24.207, 24.963, 28.729, 53.936, 158.775.

2f: 4-Phenyl-1,2,4-triazoline-3,5-dione: red crystals, mp 171–175 °C, Lit.²² 170–178 °C. ¹H NMR (90 MHz, CDCl₃): δ ppm 7.48 (s, 5H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ ppm 124.274, 129.611, 129.900, 157.971.

2g: 4-(4-Chloro phenyl)-1,2,4-triazoline-3,5-dione: red crystals, mp 132–135 °C, Lit.²¹ 130–132 °C. ¹H NMR (90 MHz, CDCl₃): δ ppm 7.41 (s, 5H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ ppm 125.100, 130.237, 191.466.

2h: 4-(3,4-Dichloro phenyl)-1,2,4-triazoline-3,5-dione: red crystals, mp 111–113 °C, Lit.³⁹ 113–115 °C. ¹³C NMR (22.5 MHz, CDCl₃): δ ppm 122.809, 123.588, 126.657, 128.783, 131.626, 134.239, 157.121.

2i: 4-(4-Nitro phenyl)-1,2,4-triazoline-3,5-dione: red crystals, mp 125–126 °C, Lit.¹⁸ 128–129 °C. ¹H NMR (90 MHz, CDCl₃): δ ppm 7.89–8.40 (m, 5H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ ppm 124.152, 125.164, 125.478, 193.894.

2j: 4-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole-3,5-dione: dark red crystal, Mp 89–93 °C, Lit.⁴⁰ 89–93 °C, IR (KBr): 2968, 1773, 1515, 1258, 1173 cm⁻¹, ¹H NMR (90 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 3.85 (s, 3H), 6.97–7.38 (m, 4H).

2k: 4-(4-*tert*-Butylphenyl)-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole-3,5-dione: red crystal, Mp 122-126 °C, Lit.⁴⁰ 122-126 °C, IR (KBr): 2962, 1788, 1714, 1518, 1407, 1185 cm⁻¹, ¹H NMR (90 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 1.28 (s, 9H), δ 7.33 (m, 4H).

2l: 4-(Naphthalen-1-yl)-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole-3,5-dione: brown crystal, Mp 109-111 °C, Lit.⁴⁰ 109-111 °C, IR (KBr): 2923, 1715, 1417, 770 cm⁻¹, ¹H NMR (90 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 6.94-7.83 (m, 7H).

4a: *Bis*(*para*-3,5-dioxo-1,2,4-triazoline-4-eyl-phenyl)methane: pink crystals, mp 180-185 °C (dec), Lit.³⁹ 185 °C (dec).

General procedure for the aromatization of 1,4-dihydropyridines

To a solution of compound **5** (1 mmol) and CH₂Cl₂ (5 mL), PEG-N₂O₄ (0.2 mL, 1 mmol) was added and the mixture was stirred for the appropriate time at room temperature (Table 2). After completion of the reaction, the mixture was filtered, and evaporation of the solvent on a rotary evaporator afforded a residue, which was passed through a short pad of silica gel using a mixture of ethyl acetate and *n*-hexane as eluent to afford the highly pure product.

Spectral data

6a: Mp 70-71 °C, Lit.³³ 70 °C, IR (KBr): ν (cm⁻¹) = 1725 (C=O); ¹H NMR (90 MHz, CDCl₃): δ ppm 1.4 (t, 6H), 2.8 (s, 6H), 4.3 (q, 4H), 8.7 (s, 1H).

6b: Mp Oil, Lit.³³ Oil, IR (KBr): ν (cm⁻¹) = 1725 (C=O); ¹H NMR (90 MHz, CDCl₃): δ ppm 1.4 (t, 6H), 2.3 (s, 3H), 2.5 (s, 6H), 4.37 (q, 4H).

6c: Mp 62-64 °C, Lit.³³ 61 °C, IR (KBr): ν (cm⁻¹) = 1722 (C=O); ¹H NMR (90 MHz, CDCl₃): δ ppm 0.9 (t, 6H), 2.6 (s, 6H), 3.9 (q, 4H), 7.3 (bs, 5H).

6d: Mp 114-115 °C, Lit.⁴¹ 114-115 °C, IR (KBr): ν (cm⁻¹) 1724 (C=O), 1552, 1524 (N=O); ¹H NMR (90 MHz, CDCl₃): 0.9 (t, 6H), 2.6 (s, 6H), 4.0 (q, 4H), 7.4 (d, 2H), 8.2 (d, 2H).

6e: Mp 61-62 °C, Lit.³³ 60-62 °C, IR (KBr): ν (cm⁻¹) = 1725 (C=O); ¹H NMR (90 MHz, CDCl₃): δ ppm 1.0 (t, 6H), 2.7 (s, 6H), 4.0 (q, 4H), 7.6-8.19 (m, 4H).

6f: Mp 56-58 °C, Lit.³⁵ 56-58 °C, IR (KBr): ν (cm⁻¹) = 1718 (C=O); ¹H NMR (90 MHz, CDCl₃): δ ppm 0.9 (t, 6H), 2.6 (s, 6H), 3.7 (s, 3H), 4.0 (q, 4H), 6.9-7.3 (m, 4H).

6g: Mp 36-37 °C, Lit.³³ 39-40 °C, IR (KBr): ν (cm⁻¹) 1724 (C=O), ¹H NMR (90 MHz, CDCl₃): 1.2 (t, 6H), 2.5 (s, 6H), 4.2 (q, 4H), 6.4-6.7 (m, 2H), 7.5-7.6 (m, 1H).

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