

Synthesis of substituted 3-methylene-2-pyridones from Baylis–Hillman derivatives and its application for the generation of 2-pyridone substituted spiroisoxazolines[☆]

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Abstract

The synthesis of substituted 3-methylene-2-pyridones via S_N2 displacement reaction of nucleophiles bearing a keto group on the acetyl derivative of Baylis–Hillman adducts of acrylonitrile followed by TFA/H₂SO₄-mediated intramolecular cyclization is described. The utility of these pyridone derivatives for the synthesis of new spiroisoxazolines in highly regio- and stereo-selective fashion is also illustrated. The structure of the spiroisoxazolines has been secured via X-ray crystallographic analysis.

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1. Introduction

The 2-pyridone core structure is an attractive target for synthetic organic chemists¹ owing to its significance in current medicinal chemistry.² In addition, 2-pyridone constitutes a substructural component of several naturally occurring compounds such as nothapodytine-B, akanthomycin, and sempervilam. Moreover, 2-pyridone derivatives serve as viable synthons to pyridine, piperidine, quinolizidine, and indolizidine alkaloids³ and pyridone-tethered systems for dyes and pigments.⁴

In recent years products of the Baylis–Hillman reaction and the derivatives produced from them have been effectively utilized for the generation of diverse molecular skeletons employing simple alterations.⁵ Especially, products of a variety of nucleophilic displacement reactions either in S_N2 or S_N2' fashion with the acetates or the allyl bromides afforded by the Baylis–Hillman adducts enable the construction of

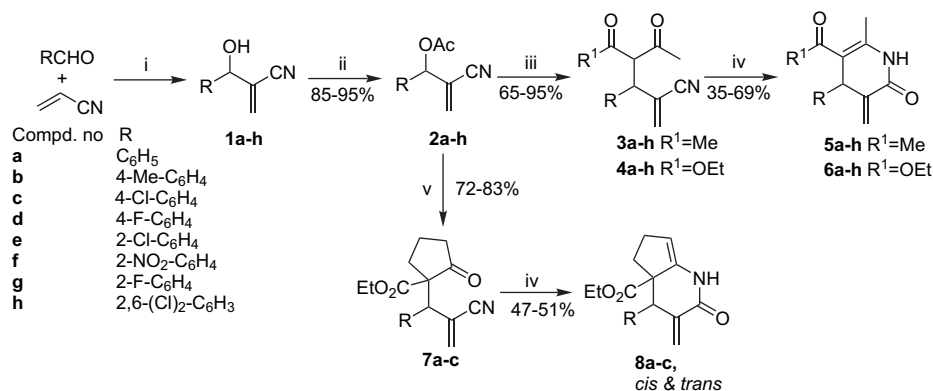
a variety of heterocyclic motifs.⁶ In particular, scaffolds containing exocyclic C=C double bond could be readily synthesized from them. Such compounds in turn are excellent substrates for spirocyclic heterocycles. In this context, we have recently demonstrated practical syntheses of α -methylene- δ -valerolactones,^{6b} 3-methylene-gluteramides,^{6c} 3-methylene-2-pyrrolidinones,^{6e} and 3-methylene-[1,5]-benzodiazepin-2-ones.^{6f} In continuation of our program aimed at construction of heterocyclic scaffolds from derivatives of the Baylis–Hillman reaction, we reasoned that the S_N2 displacement reaction of the Baylis–Hillman acetate of acrylonitrile with a nucleophile containing a carbonyl moiety would provide a product which upon acid hydrolysis of the nitrile group followed by intramolecular cyclization should result in a highly substituted 2-pyridone bearing an exocyclic double bond at 3-position. Our reasoning was influenced by an elegant report by Murahashi et al. wherein they described the transformation of δ -ketonitriles to 2-pyridones in the presence of ruthenium catalyst in water.⁷ Moreover the enolization of the keto group under basic condition in the derivatives of the Baylis–Hillman adduct is also precedent in the literature.⁸

Herein, we now describe a facile synthesis of highly substituted 3-methylene-2-pyridone derivatives. In order to

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Scheme 1. Reagents and conditions: (i) DABCO, neat, rt, 0.5–15 h; (ii) AcCl, pyridine, CH₂Cl₂, 0 °C to rt, 3 h; (iii) DABCO, acetyl acetone or ethylacetoacetate, THF/H₂O (1:1, v/v), rt, 2 h; (iv) TFA/H₂SO₄ (4:1, v/v), rt, 5 min for **5** and **6** and 7 min for **8**; (v) DABCO, ethylcyclopentanone-2-carboxylate, THF/H₂O (1:1, v/v), rt, 2 h.

illustrate the utility of these pyridones, we have employed them as dipolarophiles in 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition reactions with nitrile oxides to obtain spiroheterocyclic system containing 2-pyridone and isoxazoline rings.

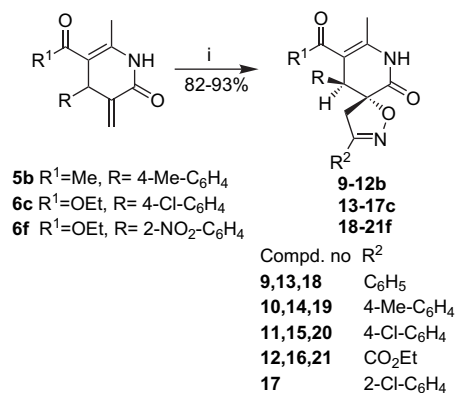
2. Results and discussion

Initially the Baylis–Hillman adducts **1a–h** obtained by the reaction of several benzaldehydes with acrylonitrile were acetylated with acetyl chloride in the presence of pyridine in dichloromethane to yield acetates **2a–h** in excellent yields. The substitution reaction between **2a–f** and acetyl acetone or ethylacetoacetate in the presence of DABCO in a THF/H₂O mixture yielded the respective products **3–4a–h** (Scheme 1). Moorthy and Singhal have recently described a highly selective conversion of nitrile to amides.⁹ Adopting a similar protocol, compound **3a** was treated with a 4:1 mixture of TFA/H₂SO₄ at room temperature. It was pleasing to observe that the reaction was completed in <5 min to afford compound **5a**. In parallel we investigated the reaction of **3a** with neat H₂SO₄, H₂SO₄ in methanol, and neat TFA since these systems have been often employed for the hydrolysis of nitriles to amides. The neat H₂SO₄ too was able to transform **3a** to **5a** within 10 min but the yield of isolated **5a** was limited to 28% during optimization. On the other hand the reaction did not go to completion even after 24 h when H₂SO₄ in methanol was used while TFA alone was ineffective for this transformation. Notably, a better yield of 2-pyridone derivative was achieved when the column chromatography was accomplished on deactivated silica gel. The generality of the strategy was evaluated by subjecting several substrates **3b–h** and **4a–h** to the same reaction conditions to yield **5b–h** and **6a–h**, respectively. However, during the cyclization of **3h** to **5h**, formation of a side product was observed, which accounted for the low yields of product for this particular substrate.

With a view to expanding the scope of this strategy for the generation of annulated 3-methylene-2-pyridones, compounds **2a–c** were treated with cyclopentanone-2-carboxylate in the presence of DABCO to furnish products **7a–c** in good yields. Similar treatment of **7a–c** with a mixture of TFA/H₂SO₄ (4:1,

v/v) yielded the products **8a–c** in moderate yields as diastereoisomeric mixture. Careful silica gel column chromatography employing benzene/EtOAc as eluent gave the analytically pure diastereoisomers. Detailed NMR-spectroscopy through HMBC and NOESY experiments of the two diastereoisomers of compound **8a** led us to establish the less polar compound (*R_f*=0.49, benzene/EtOAc, 7:3, v/v) as the trans-isomer while the slightly more polar compound (*R_f*=0.47, benzene/EtOAc, 7:3, v/v) was the cis-isomer.

Aiming to investigate the synthetic utility of the generated 2-pyridone system, we decided to perform spiroannulation reactions at the exocyclic C–C double bond by exploiting the well-established versatility of 1,3-dipolar cycloadditions.¹⁰ Although two regioisomers of the product can result through cycloaddition, treatment of compound **5b** with phenyl nitrile oxide yielded only a single product as evident from the crude ¹H and ¹³C NMR. The structure of the product was established as **9b** (Scheme 2) implying that this reaction proceeded in a highly regioselective manner. Such regioselective 1,3-dipolar additions have previously been documented.^{10f,11} In view of this observation the general applicability of this cycloaddition was investigated by subjecting compounds **5b**, **6c**, and **7f** to similar reactions with several substituted nitrile oxides. Gratifyingly all products **9–12b**, **13–17c**, **18–21f** were afforded



Scheme 2. Reagents and conditions: (i) R²CNO, Et₃N, dry Et₂O, –78 °C to rt, 6 h.

regioselectively in excellent yields. The spectral analysis of these products showed a high degree of stereoselectivity too. From NOESY and COSY studies with a representative product **21f**, the stereochemistry of these products was found to result from the attack of the dipole *syn* to the hydrogen at the 4-position of the 2-pyridone. In order to resolve the issue of selectivity unambiguously the X-ray crystallographic analysis of a single crystal of **21f** was performed (Fig. 1).¹² This clearly showed that the pyridone and isoxazoline rings are almost perpendicular to one another and the relative configuration is the one shown in Scheme 2. This unusual stereoselectivity is probably related to the bulkiness of the phenyl or the substituted phenyl group in the dipolarophile.

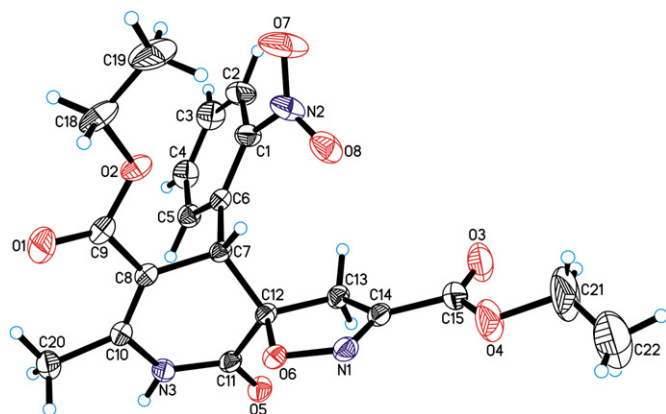


Figure 1. ORTEP diagram of compound **21f** showing atomic numbering scheme (all hydrogens are omitted for clarity).

3. Conclusions

The present work demonstrates a facile approach to the synthesis of substituted 3-methylene-2-pyridones. The 1,3-dipolar cycloadditions of these substrates with nitrile oxides occur in highly regio- and stereo-selective fashion to provide a new spirocyclic system containing substituted 2-pyridone and isoxazoline rings.

4. Experimental

4.1. General

Melting points are uncorrected and were determined in capillary tubes on an apparatus containing silicon oil. IR spectra were recorded using a Perkin Elmer's Spectrum RX I FTIR spectrophotometer. ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded either on a Bruker DPX-200 FT or Bruker Avance DRX-300 spectrometer, using TMS as an internal standard (chemical shifts in δ). The ESMS and FABMS were recorded on MICROMASS Quadro-II LCMS and JEOL SX/102/DA 6000 systems, respectively. Elemental analyses were performed on a Carlo Erba's 108 or an Elementar's Vario EL III microanalyzer.

4.2. General procedure for the preparation of compounds **3–4a–h** as exemplified for **3a**

To a stirred solution of acetate **2a** (1.5 g, 7.5 mmol) in a mixture of THF/water (16 mL, 1:1, v/v), DABCO (1.25 g, 11.2 mmol) was added and stirred for 15 min at room temperature. Thereafter, acetyl acetone (0.92 mL, 9.2 mmol) was added dropwise and the reaction was stirred for 2 h. After completion of the reaction as monitored by TLC, THF was evaporated in vacuo and the residue was extracted with EtOAc (3 $\times$ 50 mL) and water (70 mL). The organic layers were combined and washed with brine (50 mL), dried over Na₂SO₄, and concentrated to yield the crude product. Purification via silica gel column chromatography using hexane/EtOAc (9:1, v/v) afforded 1.57 g (87%) pure **3a** as a white solid.

4.2.1. 2-(2-Acetyl-3-oxo-1-phenylbutyl)acrylonitrile (**3a**)

Mp 75–78 °C, R_f =0.51 (hexane/EtOAc, 70:30); $\nu_{\max}$ (KBr) 1698 (CO), 2226 (CN) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =1.95 (s, 3H, COCH₃), 2.33 (s, 3H, COCH₃), 4.40 (d, 1H, J =12.0 Hz, CH), 4.67 (d, 1H, J =12.0 Hz), 5.89 (s, 1H, =CHH), 5.94 (s, 1H, =CHH), 7.28–7.38 (m, 5H, ArH); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =29.7, 30.5, 49.5, 71.5, 117.2, 124.0, 127.8, 128.5, 129.5, 132.1, 136.9, 200.5, 200.9; mass (ES⁺) m/z =242.2 (M⁺+1, 30%). Anal. Calcd for C₁₅H₁₅NO₂: C, 74.67; H, 6.27; N, 5.81. Found: C, 74.52; H, 6.11; N, 5.89.

4.2.2. 2-[2-Acetyl-1-(4-methylphenyl)-3-oxobutyl]-acrylonitrile (**3b**)

Yield: 85% (1.05 g from 0.93 g) as a white solid, mp 116–117 °C, R_f =0.40 (hexane/EtOAc, 70:30); $\nu_{\max}$ (KBr) 1699 (CO), 2226 (CN) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =1.95 (s, 3H, COCH₃), 2.32 (s, 6H, COCH₃ and ArCH₃), 4.36 (d, 1H, J =12.0 Hz, CH), 4.64 (d, 1H, J =12.0 Hz, CH), 5.87 (s, 1H, =CHH), 5.91 (s, 1H, =CHH), 7.14 (d, 2H, J =9.0 Hz, ArH), 7.17 (d, 2H, J =9.0 Hz, ArH); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =21.1, 29.7, 30.5, 49.1, 71.5, 117.2, 124.3, 127.7, 130.1, 131.8, 133.8, 138.2, 200.6, 201.0; mass (ES⁺) m/z =256.2 (M⁺+1, 100%). Anal. Calcd for C₁₆H₁₇NO₂: C, 75.27; H, 6.71; N, 5.49. Found: C, 75.33; H, 6.62; N, 5.78.

4.2.3. 2-[2-Acetyl-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-oxobutyl]-acrylonitrile (**3c**)

Yield: 88% (1.63 g from 1.5 g) as a white solid, mp 102–103 °C, R_f =0.52 (hexane/EtOAc, 70:30); $\nu_{\max}$ (KBr) 1698 (CO), 2227 (CN) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =1.98 (s, 3H, COCH₃), 2.33 (s, 3H, COCH₃), 4.39 (d, 1H, J =11.9 Hz, CH), 4.62 (d, 1H, J =11.9 Hz, CH), 5.91 (s, 1H, =CHH), 5.94 (s, 1H, =CHH), 7.23 (d, 2H, J =8.5 Hz, ArH), 7.33 (d, 2H, J =8.5 Hz, ArH); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =29.9, 30.6, 48.8, 71.4, 117.0, 123.5, 129.2, 129.7, 132.5, 134.5, 135.5, 200.1, 200.5; mass (ES⁺) m/z =276.2 (M⁺+1, 100%), 278.2 (M⁺+3). Anal. Calcd for C₁₅H₁₅ClNO₂: C, 65.34; H, 5.12; N, 5.08. Found: C, 65.29; H, 5.01; N, 4.91.

4.2.4. 2-[2-Acetyl-1-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-oxobutyl]-acrylonitrile (**3d**)

Yield: 67% (0.79 g from 1.0 g) as a white solid, mp 113–114 °C, R_f =0.38 (hexane/EtOAc, 80:20); $\nu_{\max}$ (KBr) 1698 (CO), 2229 (CN) cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl_3) δ =1.97 (s, 3H, COCH_3), 2.33 (s, 3H, COCH_3), 4.40 (d, 1H, J =12.0 Hz, CH), 4.62 (d, 1H, J =12.0 Hz, CH), 5.90 (s, 1H, =CHH), 5.93 (s, 1H, =CHH), 7.01–7.09 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.24–7.31 (m, 2H, ArH); ^{13}C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl_3) δ =30.1, 30.9, 49.0, 71.9, 116.6, 117.0, 117.4, 124.0, 129.8, 130.0, 132.6, 133.0, 200.6, 201.0; mass (ES^+) m/z =260 (M^+ +1, 80%), 282 (M^+ +Na, 100%). Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{14}\text{FNO}_2$: C, 69.49; H, 5.44; N, 5.40. Found: C, 69.74; H, 5.60; N, 5.29.

4.2.5. 2-[2-Acetyl-1-(2-chlorophenyl)-3-oxobutyl]-acrylonitrile (**3e**)

Yield: 82% (0.78 g from 0.81 g) as a white solid, mp 58–59 °C, R_f =0.41 (hexane/EtOAc, 80:20); $\nu_{\max}$ (KBr) 1705 (CO), 2223 (CN) cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl_3) δ =1.95 (s, 3H, COCH_3), 2.36 (s, 3H, COCH_3), 4.71 (d, 1H, J =12.0 Hz, CH), 5.09 (d, 1H, J =12.0 Hz), 5.94 (s, 1H, =CHH), 6.11 (s, 1H, =CHH), 7.25–7.45 (m, 4H, ArH); ^{13}C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl_3) δ =28.4, 31.4, 44.8, 71.5, 117.0, 121.8, 128.3, 128.6, 130.0, 131.0, 134.1, 134.3, 134.5, 200.5, 201.1; mass (ES^+) m/z =276.1 (M^+ +1, 100%), 278.1 (M^+ +3, 30%). Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{14}\text{ClNO}_2$: C, 65.34; H, 5.12; N, 5.08. Found: C, 65.55; H, 5.04; N, 5.22.

4.2.6. 2-[2-Acetyl-1-(2-nitrophenyl)-3-oxobutyl]-acrylonitrile (**3f**)

Yield: 65% (0.79 g from 1.01 g) as a white solid, mp 133–134 °C, R_f =0.20 (hexane/EtOAc, 80:20); $\nu_{\max}$ (KBr) 1706 (CO), 2227 (CN) cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl_3) δ =1.98 (s, 3H, COCH_3), 2.35 (s, 3H, COCH_3), 4.70 (d, 1H, J =12.0 Hz, CH), 5.21 (d, 1H, J =12.0 Hz, CH), 6.02 (s, 1H, =CHH), 6.19 (s, 1H, =CHH), 7.45–7.65 (m, 3H, ArH), 7.88 (d, 1H, J =7.5 Hz, ArH); ^{13}C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl_3) δ =29.3, 31.0, 42.6, 72.0, 117.0, 121.4, 125.8, 128.9, 129.6, 131.1, 133.8, 135.7, 150.3, 199.9, 200.3; mass (FAB^+) m/z =287 (M^+ +1, 25%). Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4$: C, 62.93; H, 4.93; N, 9.79. Found: C, 63.09; H, 5.05; N, 9.66.

4.2.7. 2-[2-Acetyl-1-(2-fluorophenyl)-3-oxobutyl]-acrylonitrile (**3g**)

Yield: 91% (1.61 g from 1.77 g) as a white solid, mp 92–94 °C, R_f =0.35 (hexane/EtOAc, 70:20); $\nu_{\max}$ (KBr) 1696 (CO), 2226 (CN) cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ =2.00 (s, 3H, COCH_3), 2.35 (s, 3H, COCH_3), 4.73 (d, 1H, J =12.1 Hz, CH), 4.80 (d, 1H, J =12.1 Hz, CH), 5.93 (s, 1H, =CHH), 6.00 (s, 1H, =CHH), 7.05–7.18 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.27–7.34 (m, 2H, ArH); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ =28.8, 30.8, 41.9, 70.5, 116.3, 116.5, 116.9, 122.4, 124.0, 124.2, 125.1, 125.2, 128.7, 130.2, 130.3, 133.2, 158.8, 162.0, 200.1, 200.7; mass (ES^+) m/z =260.2 (M^+ +1, 100%). Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{14}\text{FNO}_2$: C, 69.49; H, 5.44; N, 5.40. Found: C, 69.77; H, 5.23; N, 5.55.

4.2.8. 2-[2-Acetyl-1-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-3-oxobutyl]-acrylonitrile (**3h**)

Yield: 78% (1.00 g from 1.26 g) as colorless oil, R_f =0.40 (hexane/EtOAc, 70:30); $\nu_{\max}$ (neat) 1698 (CO), 2226 (CN) cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl_3) δ =2.02 (s, 3H, COCH_3), 2.37 (s, 3H, COCH_3), 5.27 (d, 1H, J =12.1 Hz, CH), 5.59 (d, 1H, J =12.1 Hz, CH), 5.69 (s, 1H, =CHH), 6.05 (s, 1H, =CHH), 7.15–7.42 (m, 3H, ArH); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ =29.7, 30.0, 41.9, 68.7, 117.6, 121.8, 129.3, 130.1, 130.3, 133.0, 133.7, 135.5, 137.2, 200.1, 200.3; mass (ES^+) m/z =311.2 (M^+ +1, 100%). Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{13}\text{Cl}_2\text{NO}_2$: C, 58.08; H, 4.22; N, 4.52. Found: C, 58.44; H, 4.10; N, 4.25.

4.2.9. Ethyl 2-acetyl-4-cyano-3-phenylpent-4-enoate (**4a**) (diastereoisomeric mixture, 2:1)

Yield: 95% (0.89 g from 0.75 g) as a white solid, mp 73–74 °C, R_f =0.65 (hexane/EtOAc, 70:30); $\nu_{\max}$ (KBr) 1703 (CO), 1737 (CO_2Et), 2225 (CN) cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ =0.97 (t, 3H, J =7.1 Hz, OCH_2CH_3), 1.31 (t, 3H, J =7.1 Hz, OCH_2CH_3), 2.07 (s, 3H, COCH_3), 2.38 (s, 3H, COCH_3), 3.90–3.98 (m, 2H, OCH_2CH_3), 4.25 (q, 2H, J =7.1 Hz, OCH_2CH_3), 4.34–4.46 (m, 4H, $2\times\text{CHAr}$ and $2\times\text{CHCO}$), 5.89 (s, 1H, =CHH), 5.90 (s, 1H, =CHH), 5.94 (s, 1H, =CHH), 5.96 (s, 1H, =CHH), 7.28–7.37 (m, 10H, $2\times 5\text{ArH}$); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ =13.7, 14.1, 30.4, 30.8, 48.9, 49.4, 61.9, 62.1, 62.2, 62.7, 117.3, 123.9, 124.2, 127.0, 128.2, 128.3, 129.1, 129.3, 131.6, 132.4, 137.1, 137.5, 166.2, 167.9, 199.9, 200.0; mass (ES^+) m/z =272 (M^+ +1, 33%). Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}_3$: C, 70.83; H, 6.32; N, 5.16. Found: C, 71.16; H, 6.15; N, 5.21.

4.2.10. Ethyl 2-acetyl-4-cyano-3-(4-methylphenyl)pent-4-enoate (**4b**) (diastereoisomeric mixture, 3:2)

Yield: 85% (0.78 g from 0.69 g) as yellow oil, R_f =0.47 (hexane/EtOAc, 80:20); $\nu_{\max}$ (neat) 1720 (CO), 1742 (CO_2Et), 2224 (CN) cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ =1.01 (t, 3H, J =7.1 Hz, OCH_2CH_3), 1.27–1.33 (m, 3H, OCH_2CH_3), 2.07 (s, 3H, COCH_3), 2.32 (s, 6H, $2\times\text{ArCH}_3$), 2.38 (s, 3H, COCH_3), 3.96 (q, 2H, J =7.1 Hz, OCH_2CH_3), 4.20–4.35 (m, 3H, OCH_2 merged with CH), 4.37–4.44 (m, 3H, $2\times\text{ArCH}$ and CH), 5.87 (s, 1H, =CHH), 5.89 (s, 1H, =CHH), 5.93 (s, 1H, =CHH), 5.95 (d, 1H, =CHH), 7.13–7.22 (m, 8H, $2\times 4\text{ArH}$); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ =13.8, 14.1, 30.3, 30.7, 48.5, 49.1, 61.9, 62.2, 62.5, 117.4, 124.2, 124.5, 127.6, 129.7, 130.0, 131.3, 132.0, 134.0, 134.5, 137.9, 138.1, 166.3, 168.0, 200.0, 200.1; mass (ES^+) m/z =286.2 (M^+ +1, 90%). Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{19}\text{NO}_3$: C, 71.56; H, 6.71; N, 4.91. Found: C, 71.60; H, 6.80; N, 5.02.

4.2.11. Ethyl 2-acetyl-3-(4-chlorophenyl)-4-cyanopent-4-enoate (**4c**) (diastereoisomeric mixture, 3:2)

Yield: 89% (1.17 g from 1.00 g) as yellow oil, R_f =0.50 (hexane/EtOAc, 80:20); $\nu_{\max}$ (neat) 1721 (CO), 1744 (CO_2Et), 2225 (CN) cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ =1.02 (t, 3H, J =7.1 Hz, OCH_2CH_3), 1.30 (t, 3H, J =7.1 Hz, OCH_2CH_3), 2.09 (s, 3H, COCH_3), 2.37 (s, 3H, COCH_3),

3.96 (q, 2H, $J=7.1$ Hz, OCH_2CH_3), 4.22 (q, 2H, $J=7.1$ Hz, OCH_2CH_3), 4.34 (s, 2H, $2\times\text{ArCH}$), 4.37 (s, 2H, $2\times\text{COCH}$), 5.90 (s, 1H, $=\text{CH}$), 5.91 (s, 1H, $=\text{CH}$), 5.94 (s, 1H, $=\text{CH}$), 5.95 (s, 1H, $=\text{CH}$), 7.22–7.27 (m, 4H, $2\times 2\text{ArH}$), 7.29–7.32 (m, 4H, $2\times 2\text{ArH}$); ^{13}C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta=14.1$, 14.4, 30.8, 31.1, 48.5, 49.0, 62.5, 62.8, 117.4, 123.7, 124.1, 129.5, 129.6, 129.8, 132.3, 133.1, 134.5, 134.6, 136.0, 136.4, 166.3, 166.9, 199.8, 200.0; mass (ES^+) $m/z=306.1$ (M^++1 , 100%), 308.1 (M^++3 , 35%). Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{16}\text{ClNO}_3$: C, 62.85; H, 5.27; N, 4.58. Found: C, 63.11; H, 5.40; N, 4.47.

4.2.12. Ethyl 2-acetyl-4-cyano-3-(4-fluorophenyl)pent-4-enoate (4d) (diastereoisomeric mixture, 1:1)

Yield: 78% (0.62 g from 0.50 g) as colorless oil, $R_f=0.49$ (hexane/EtOAc, 80:20); ν_{max} (neat) 1720 (CO), 1744 (CO_2Et), 2225 (CN) cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta=1.01$ (t, 3H, $J=7.1$ Hz, OCH_2CH_3), 1.30 (t, 3H, $J=7.1$ Hz, OCH_2CH_3), 2.08 (s, 3H, COCH_3), 2.37 (s, 3H, COCH_3), 3.92–4.00 (m, 2H, OCH_2CH_3), 4.24 (q, 2H, $J=7.1$ Hz, OCH_2CH_3), 4.34 (s, $2\times 1\text{H}$, ArCH), 4.37 (s, $2\times 1\text{H}$, COCH), 5.90 (s, 1H, $=\text{CHH}$), 5.91 (s, 1H, $=\text{CHH}$), 5.94 (s, 1H, $=\text{CHH}$), 5.95 (d, 1H, $=\text{CHH}$), 7.01–7.06 (m, 4H, $2\times 2\text{ArH}$), 7.25–7.32 (m, 4H, $2\times 2\text{ArH}$); ^{13}C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta=14.1$, 14.4, 30.7, 31.1, 48.4, 48.9, 62.4, 62.6, 62.7, 63.0, 116.1, 116.4, 116.6, 116.8, 117.5, 124.0, 124.3, 129.8, 129.9, 132.0, 132.8, 133.1, 133.2, 133.6, 133.7, 160.3, 165.2, 166.4, 167.0, 199.9, 200.1; mass (ES^+) $m/z=290.2$ (M^++1 , 100%). Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{16}\text{FNO}_3$: C, 66.43; H, 5.57; N, 4.84. Found: C, 66.54; H, 5.66; N, 5.02.

4.2.13. Ethyl 2-acetyl-3-(2-chlorophenyl)-4-cyanopent-4-enoate (4e) (diastereoisomeric mixture, 1:1)

Yield: 88% (1.20 g from 1.26 g) as colorless oil, $R_f=0.48$ (hexane/EtOAc, 80:20); ν_{max} (neat) 1703 (CO), 1733 (CO_2Et), 2223 (CN) cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta=0.97$ (t, 3H, $J=7.1$ Hz, OCH_2CH_3), 1.31 (t, 3H, $J=7.1$ Hz, OCH_2CH_3), 2.13 (s, 3H, COCH_3), 2.40 (s, 3H, COCH_3), 3.95 (q, 2H, $J=7.1$ Hz, OCH_2CH_3), 4.24 (q, 2H, $J=7.1$ Hz, OCH_2CH_3), 4.44 (d, 1H, $J=11.9$ Hz, CH), 4.48 (d, 1H, $J=11.9$ Hz, CH), 4.98 (d, 1H, $J=11.9$ Hz, CH), 5.04 (d, 1H, $J=11.9$ Hz, CH), 5.93 (s, 1H, $=\text{CHH}$), 5.94 (s, 1H, $=\text{CHH}$), 6.08 (s, 1H, $=\text{CHH}$), 6.10 (s, 1H, $=\text{CHH}$), 7.20–7.35 (m, 6H, $2\times 3\text{ArH}$), 7.36–7.43 (m, 2H, $2\times 1\text{ArH}$); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta=13.7$, 14.1, 29.6, 30.6, 44.0, 44.8, 50.3, 61.9, 62.0, 62.1, 62.4, 116.9, 121.8, 122.0, 127.4, 127.7, 127.8, 128.0, 129.2, 129.4, 130.4, 130.7, 133.3, 134.0, 134.2, 134.4, 134.9, 166.0, 166.9, 199.3, 199.6; mass (ES^+) $m/z=306.2$ (M^++1 , 100%), 308.2 (M^++3 , 35%). Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{16}\text{ClNO}_3$: C, 62.85; H, 5.27; N, 4.58. Found: C, 63.07; H, 5.29; N, 4.70.

4.2.14. Ethyl 2-acetyl-4-cyano-3-(2-nitrophenyl)pent-4-enoate (4f) (diastereoisomeric mixture, 3:2)

Yield: 70% (1.35 g from 1.50 g) as a white solid, mp 82–83 °C, $R_f=0.50$ (hexane/EtOAc, 70:30); ν_{max} (KBr) 1723 (CO), 1736 (CO_2Et), 2226 (CN) cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (200 MHz,

CDCl_3) $\delta=0.96$ (t, 3H, $J=7.1$ Hz, OCH_2CH_3), 1.31 (t, 3H, $J=7.1$ Hz, OCH_2CH_3), 2.12 (s, 3H, COCH_3), 2.39 (s, 3H, COCH_3), 3.91 (q, 2H, $J=7.1$ Hz, OCH_2CH_3), 4.25 (q, 2H, $J=7.1$ Hz, OCH_2CH_3), 4.41 (d, 1H, $J=11.8$ Hz, ArCH), 4.47 (d, 1H, $J=11.8$ Hz, ArCH), 5.07 (d, 2H, $J=11.8$ Hz, $2\times\text{COCH}$), 6.05 (s, 1H, $=\text{CH}$), 6.06 (s, 1H, $=\text{CH}$), 6.24 (s, 1H, $=\text{CH}$), 6.28 (s, 1H, $=\text{CH}$), 7.42–7.48 (m, 2H, $2\times 1\text{ArH}$), 7.56–7.65 (m, 4H, $2\times 2\text{ArH}$), 7.83–7.89 (m, 2H, $2\times 1\text{ArH}$); ^{13}C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta=13.6$, 14.1, 29.7, 30.6, 41.7, 42.2, 62.4, 62.6, 62.8, 117.0, 120.9, 121.2, 125.1, 125.4, 128.0, 128.6, 129.0, 131.7, 131.9, 133.3, 135.2, 136.0, 150.1, 166.3, 198.8, 199.0; mass (ES^+) $m/z=317.1$ (M^++1 , 92%), 339.1 (M^++Na , 48%). Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$: C, 60.75; H, 5.10; N, 8.86. Found: C, 60.93; H, 5.12; N, 9.08.

4.2.15. Ethyl 2-acetyl-4-cyano-3-(2-fluorophenyl)pent-4-enoate (4g) (diastereoisomeric mixture, 1:1)

Yield: 85% (2.25 g from 2.00 g) as colorless oil, $R_f=0.47$ (hexane/EtOAc, 80:20); ν_{max} (neat) 1696 (CO), 1726 (CO_2Et), 2224 (CN) cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta=0.98$ (t, 3H, $J=7.1$ Hz, OCH_2CH_3), 1.31 (t, 3H, $J=7.1$ Hz, OCH_2CH_3), 2.15 (s, 3H, COCH_3), 2.39 (s, 3H, COCH_3), 3.96 (q, 2H, $J=7.1$ Hz, OCH_2CH_3), 4.25 (q, 2H, $J=7.1$ Hz, OCH_2CH_3), 4.46–4.52 (m, 2H, $2\times\text{CH}$), 4.67–4.76 (m, 2H, $2\times\text{CH}$), 5.92 (s, 2H, $2\times=\text{CHH}$), 5.99 (s, 2H, $2\times=\text{CHH}$), 7.03–7.24 (m, 4H, ArH), 7.25–7.36 (m, 4H, ArH); ^{13}C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta=14.0$, 14.4, 30.4, 30.8, 41.7, 41.8, 42.5, 42.6, 61.4, 61.8, 62.4, 62.7, 116.2, 116.4, 116.6, 116.9, 117.3, 117.4, 122.8, 123.0, 124.9, 125.0, 125.2, 125.3, 128.9, 130.1, 130.2, 130.4, 132.9, 133.6, 166.3, 167.1, 199.7, 200.0; mass (ES^+) $m/z=290.1$ (M^++1 , 100%). Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{16}\text{FNO}_3$: C, 66.43; H, 5.57; N, 4.84. Found: C, 66.74; H, 5.34; N, 4.95.

4.2.16. Ethyl 2-acetyl-4-cyano-3-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)pent-4-enoate (4h) (diastereoisomeric mixture, 3:2)

Yield: 90% (1.13 g from 1.00 g) as colorless oil, $R_f=0.51$ (hexane/EtOAc, 80:20); ν_{max} (neat) 1722 (CO), 1742 (CO_2Et), 2225 (CN) cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta=0.97$ (t, 3H, $J=7.1$ Hz, OCH_2CH_3), 1.32 (t, 3H, $J=7.1$ Hz, OCH_2CH_3), 2.15 (s, 3H, COCH_3), 2.41 (s, 3H, COCH_3), 3.91 (q, 2H, $J=7.1$ Hz, OCH_2CH_3), 4.29 (q, 2H, $J=7.1$ Hz, OCH_2CH_3), 4.98 (d, 1H, $J=11.3$ Hz, CH), 5.08 (d, 1H, $J=11.6$ Hz, CH), 5.56 (d, 2H, $J=11.3$ Hz, $2\times\text{CH}$), 5.67–5.80 (m, 2H, $2\times=\text{CHH}$), 6.02–6.07 (m, 2H, $2\times=\text{CHH}$), 7.13–7.39 (m, 6H, $2\times 3\text{ArH}$); ^{13}C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta=14.0$, 14.4, 29.8, 30.6, 41.5, 42.8, 59.6, 60.8, 62.3, 62.9, 117.7, 118.0, 122.0, 122.5, 129.1, 129.7, 130.0, 130.2, 130.4, 131.0, 132.9, 133.1, 133.7, 135.0, 136.1, 137.7, 166.4, 167.5, 199.7, 200.1; mass (ES^+) $m/z=340.0$ (M^++1 , 100%). Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{15}\text{Cl}_2\text{NO}_3$: C, 56.49; H, 4.44; N, 4.12. Found: C, 56.52; H, 4.22; N, 4.39.

4.3. General procedure for the preparation of 5–6a–f as exemplified for 5a

To a flask containing compound **3a** (0.5 g, 2.06 mmol), 3.0 mL of TFA/ H_2SO_4 (4:1, v/v) was added and stirred

vigorously for 3 min at room temperature. The reaction mixture was quenched by pouring into crushed ice and stirring vigorously with a glass rod. The product was extracted with EtOAc (3×25 mL). The organic layer was then neutralized with saturated Na₂CO₃ solution, washed with 50 mL brine, and concentrated in vacuo. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (60–120 mesh, deactivated by adding 12 mL of water to 100 g of silica gel) using hexane/EtOAc (85:15 v/v) as eluent yielded 0.34 g (68%) of pure **5a** as a white solid.

4.3.1. 5-Acetyl-6-methyl-3-methylene-4-phenyl-3,4-dihydropyridin-2(1H)-one (**5a**)

Mp 150–152 °C, R_f =0.53 (hexane/EtOAc, 70:30); $\nu_{\max}$ (KBr) 1637 (CONH), 1670 (CO) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =2.13 (s, 3H, CH₃), 2.40 (s, 3H, COCH₃), 4.78 (s, 1H, CH), 5.71 (s, 1H, =CHH), 6.24 (s, 1H, =CHH), 7.19–7.32 (m, 5H, ArH), 8.75 (s, 1H, NH); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =19.8, 29.9, 47.5, 115.5, 125.7, 126.8, 127.5, 129.3, 139.6, 141.1, 144.9, 164.9, 197.6; mass (ES⁺) m/z =242.2 (M⁺+1, 100%). Anal. Calcd for C₁₅H₁₅NO₂: C, 74.67; H, 6.27; N, 5.81. Found: C, 74.76; H, 6.24; N, 5.98.

4.3.2. 5-Acetyl-6-methyl-3-methylene-4-(4-methylphenyl)-3,4-dihydropyridin-2(1H)-one (**5b**)

Yield: 70% (0.14 g from 0.20 g) as a white solid, mp 158–159 °C, R_f =0.54 (hexane/EtOAc, 70:30); $\nu_{\max}$ (KBr) 1640 (CONH), 1690 (CO) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =2.12 (s, 3H, ArCH₃), 2.30 (s, 3H, CH₃), 2.39 (s, 3H, COCH₃), 4.74 (s, 1H, CH), 5.69 (s, 1H, =CHH), 6.22 (s, 1H, =CHH), 7.09 (s, 4H, ArH), 8.77 (s, 1H, NH); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =19.7, 21.1, 29.9, 47.2, 115.6, 125.4, 126.7, 129.9, 137.2, 138.1, 139.9, 144.8, 165.0, 197.7; mass (ES⁺) m/z =256.1 (M⁺+1, 72%). Anal. Calcd for C₁₆H₁₇NO₂: C, 75.27; H, 6.71; N, 5.49. Found: C, 75.38; H, 6.91; N, 5.50.

4.3.3. 5-Acetyl-4-(4-chlorophenyl)-6-methyl-3-methylene-3,4-dihydropyridin-2(1H)-one (**5c**)

Yield: 64% (0.62 g from 0.95 g) as a white solid, mp 179–180 °C, R_f =0.30 (hexane/EtOAc, 70:30); $\nu_{\max}$ (KBr) 1633 (CONH), 1677 (CO) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =2.16 (s, 3H, CH₃), 2.41 (s, 3H, COCH₃), 4.79 (s, 1H, CH), 5.72 (s, 1H, =CHH), 6.27 (s, 1H, =CHH), 7.15 (d, 2H, J =8.4 Hz, ArH), 7.27 (d, 2H, J =8.4 Hz, ArH), 8.88 (s, 1H, NH); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =19.8, 30.0, 46.7, 115.4, 126.0, 128.2, 129.3, 133.3, 139.2, 139.6, 145.2, 164.9, 197.2; mass (ES⁺) m/z =276.2 (M⁺+1, 100%), 278.2 (M⁺+3, 30%). Anal. Calcd for C₁₅H₁₄ClNO₂: C, 65.34; H, 5.12; N, 5.08. Found: C, 65.44; H, 5.14; N, 4.95.

4.3.4. 5-Acetyl-4-(4-fluorophenyl)-6-methyl-3-methylene-3,4-dihydropyridin-2(1H)-one (**5d**)

Yield: 61% (0.37 g from 0.6 g) as a white solid, mp 130–131 °C, R_f =0.25 (hexane/EtOAc, 70:30); $\nu_{\max}$ (KBr) 1634 (CONH), 1701 (CO) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =2.16 (s, 3H, CH₃), 2.42 (s, 3H, COCH₃), 4.79 (s, 1H, CH), 5.73 (s, 1H, =CHH), 6.26 (s, 1H, =CHH), 6.96–7.02 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.16–7.21 (m, 2H, ArH), 8.97 (s, 1H, NH); ¹³C

NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =19.9, 30.0, 46.6, 115.6, 116.0, 116.2, 125.9, 128.4, 128.5, 136.7, 136.8, 144.9, 160.5, 164.9, 197.4; mass (ES⁺) m/z =260.1 (M⁺+1, 85%). Anal. Calcd for C₁₅H₁₄FNO₂: C, 69.49; H, 5.44; N, 5.40. Found: C, 69.60; H, 5.41; N, 5.33.

4.3.5. 5-Acetyl-4-(2-chlorophenyl)-6-methyl-3-methylene-3,4-dihydropyridin-2(1H)-one (**5e**)

Yield: 67% (0.52 g from 0.78 g) as a white solid, mp 150–151 °C, R_f =0.40 (hexane/EtOAc, 70:30); $\nu_{\max}$ (KBr) 1633 (CONH), 1680 (CO) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =2.05 (s, 3H, CH₃), 2.41 (s, 3H, COCH₃), 5.43 (d, 1H, J =0.9 Hz, CH), 6.00 (s, 1H, =CHH), 6.30 (s, 1H, =CHH), 7.19 (t, 3H, J =1.9 Hz, ArH), 7.39–7.42 (m, 1H, ArH), 8.88 (s, 1H, NH); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =19.7, 29.4, 42.9, 115.1, 126.9, 128.0, 128.7, 130.6, 132.8, 137.7, 138.6, 145.2, 164.4, 197.7; mass (ES⁺) m/z =276.1 (M⁺+1, 100%), 278.2 (M⁺+3, 25%). Anal. Calcd for C₁₅H₁₄ClNO₂: C, 65.34; H, 5.12; N, 5.08. Found: C, 65.59; H, 4.96; N, 5.08.

4.3.6. 5-Acetyl-4-(2-nitrophenyl)-6-methyl-3-methylene-3,4-dihydropyridin-2(1H)-one (**5f**)

Yield: 35% (0.05 g from 0.2 g) as a white solid, mp 135–136 °C, R_f =0.15 (hexane/EtOAc, 70:30); $\nu_{\max}$ (KBr) 1627 (CONH), 1698 (CO) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =2.16 (s, 3H, CH₃), 2.43 (s, 3H, COCH₃), 5.81 (s, 1H, CH), 5.86 (s, 1H, =CHH), 6.31 (s, 1H, =CHH), 7.32–7.42 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.50 (q, 1H, J =1.3 Hz, ArH), 7.82 (dd, 1H, J_1 =1.2 Hz, J_2 =8.0 Hz, ArH), 8.08 (s, 1H, NH); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =19.8, 30.0, 40.2, 115.1, 125.3, 127.8, 128.3, 128.5, 133.4, 135.5, 137.3, 145.5, 148.9, 164.4, 197.0; mass (ES⁺) m/z =287.1 (M⁺+1, 100%). Anal. Calcd for C₁₅H₁₄N₂O₄: C, 62.93; H, 4.93; N, 9.79. Found: C, 63.07; H, 5.11; N, 9.60.

4.3.7. 2-Methylene-3-(2-nitrophenyl)-5-oxo-hexanoic acid (side product)

Yield: 20% (0.04 g from 0.2 g) as a white solid, mp 129–130 °C, R_f =0.12 (hexane/EtOAc, 70:30); $\nu_{\max}$ (KBr) 1626 (CO₂H), 1695 (COCH₃) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =2.18 (s, 3H, COCH₃), 3.06 (d, 2H, J =7.4 Hz, CH₂CO), 5.00 (t, 2H, J =7.4 Hz, CHAr), 5.70 (d, 1H, J =1.2 Hz, =CHH), 6.50 (s, 1H, =CHH), 7.28–7.40 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.50–7.55 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.85 (dd, 1H, J_1 =0.8 Hz, J_2 =7.4 Hz, ArH); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =29.4, 36.7, 47.8, 124.7, 125.7, 127.5, 129.1, 132.7, 136.4, 141.3, 149.5, 168.0, 205.8; mass (ES⁺) m/z =264.1 (M⁺+1, 50%). Anal. Calcd for C₁₃H₁₃NO₅: C, 59.31; H, 4.98; N, 5.32. Found: C, 59.48; H, 5.13; N, 5.19.

4.3.8. 5-Acetyl-4-(2-fluorophenyl)-6-methyl-3-methylene-3,4-dihydropyridin-2(1H)-one (**5g**)

Yield: 45% (0.20 g from 0.45 g) as a white solid, mp 139–141 °C, R_f =0.24 (hexane/EtOAc, 70:30); $\nu_{\max}$ (KBr) 1637 (CONH), 1692 (CO) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =2.09 (s, 3H, CH₃), 2.42 (s, 3H, COCH₃), 5.21 (s, 1H, CH), 5.85 (s, 1H, =CHH), 6.31 (s, 1H, =CHH), 7.03–7.14

(m, 3H, ArH), 7.19–7.25 (m, 1H, ArH), 8.15 (s, 1H, NH); ^{13}C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl_3) δ =19.7, 29.5, 40.0, 114.0, 116.1, 116.4, 124.8, 124.9, 127.0, 127.7, 127.8, 128.3, 128.5, 129.3, 137.9, 145.7, 158.6, 161.9, 164.7, 197.4; mass (ES^+) m/z =260.1 (M^+ +1, 100%). Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{14}\text{FNO}_2$: C, 69.49; H, 5.44; N, 5.40. Found: C, 69.67; H, 5.19; N, 5.22.

4.3.9. 5-Acetyl-4-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-6-methyl-3-methylene-3,4-dihydropyridin-2(1H)-one (**5h**)

Yield: 43% (0.35 g from 0.83 g) as a white solid, mp 89–91 °C, R_f =0.38 (hexane/EtOAc, 70:30); ν_{max} (KBr) 1633 (CONH), 1677 (CO) cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ =2.08 (s, 3H, CH_3), 2.21 (s, 3H, COCH_3), 5.44 (d, 1H, J =2.3 Hz, CH), 5.87 (d, 1H, J =1.7 Hz, =CHH), 6.50 (d, 1H, J =2.9 Hz, =CHH), 7.14 (t, 1H, J =8.0 Hz, ArH), 7.32 (d, 2H, J =8.0 Hz, ArH), 7.84 (s, 1H, NH); ^{13}C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl_3) δ =20.0, 30.6, 42.3, 114.9, 127.1, 129.2, 129.8, 135.8, 136.4, 140.2, 141.2, 163.4, 198.6; mass (ES^+) m/z =310.2 (M^+ +1, 100%). Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{13}\text{Cl}_2\text{NO}_2$: C, 58.08; H, 4.22; N, 4.52. Found: C, 57.86; H, 4.44; N, 4.65.

4.3.10. Ethyl 2-methyl-5-methylene-6-oxo-4-phenyl-1,4,5,6-tetrahydropyridine-3-carboxylate (**6a**)

Yield: 64% (0.33 g from 0.52 g) as a white solid, mp 140–142 °C, R_f =0.50 (hexane/EtOAc, 70:30); ν_{max} (KBr) 1632 (CONH), 1704 (CO_2Et) cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ =1.20 (t, 3H, J =7.1 Hz, OCH_2CH_3), 2.44 (s, 3H, CH_3), 4.13 (q, 2H, J =7.1 Hz, OCH_2CH_3), 4.89 (s, 1H, CH), 5.69 (d, 1H, J =0.6 Hz, =CHH), 6.32 (s, 1H, =CHH), 7.20–7.31 (m, 5H, ArH), 8.87 (s, 1H, NH); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ =14.5, 19.4, 46.6, 60.6, 107.9, 126.6, 127.1, 127.3, 129.1, 139.7, 143.0, 145.5, 165.6, 166.7; mass (ES^+) m/z =272.1 (M^+ +1, 100%). Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}_3$: C, 70.83; H, 6.32; N, 5.16. Found: C, 71.10; H, 6.33; N, 5.27.

4.3.11. Ethyl 2-methyl-5-methylene-4-(4-methylphenyl)-6-oxo-1,4,5,6-tetrahydropyridine-3-carboxylate (**6b**)

Yield: 67% (0.14 g from 0.2 g) as a white solid, mp 158–159 °C, R_f =0.51 (hexane/EtOAc, 70:30); ν_{max} (KBr) 1640 (CONH), 1698 (CO_2Et) cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl_3) δ =1.20 (t, 3H, J =7.1 Hz, OCH_2CH_3), 2.29 (s, 3H, ArCH_3), 2.41 (s, 3H, CH_3), 4.12 (q, 1H, J =7.1 Hz, OCH_2CH_3), 4.83 (s, 1H, CH), 5.66 (s, 1H, =CHH), 6.28 (s, 1H, =CHH), 7.08 (s, 4H, ArH), 7.85 (s, 1H, NH); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ =14.3, 19.2, 21.1, 46.0, 60.3, 107.8, 126.1, 126.7, 129.5, 136.6, 139.6, 139.8, 145.0, 165.3, 166.7; mass (ES^+) m/z =286.3 (M^+ +1, 100%). Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{19}\text{NO}_3$: C, 71.56; H, 6.71; N, 4.91. Found: C, 71.50; H, 6.66; N, 5.09.

4.3.12. Ethyl 4-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-methyl-5-methylene-6-oxo-1,4,5,6-tetrahydropyridine-3-carboxylate (**6c**)

Yield: 62% (0.25 g from 0.41 g) as a white solid, mp 159–160 °C, R_f =0.45 (hexane/EtOAc, 70:30); ν_{max} (KBr) 1634 (CONH), 1705 (CO_2Et) cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ =1.19 (t, 3H, J =7.1 Hz, OCH_2CH_3), 2.42 (s, 3H, CH_3), 4.11 (q, 2H, J =7.1 Hz, OCH_2CH_3), 4.83 (s, 1H, CH), 5.67 (s, 1H, =CHH), 6.30 (s, 1H, =CHH), 7.14 (d, 2H, J =8.5 Hz, ArH),

7.23 (d, 2H, J =8.5 Hz, ArH), 8.81 (s, 1H, NH); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ =14.3, 19.2, 45.8, 60.5, 107.2, 126.7, 128.2, 129.0, 132.9, 139.1, 141.3, 145.6, 165.1, 166.4; mass (ES^+) m/z =306.3 (M^+ +1, 100%), 308.3 (M^+ +3, 30%). Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{16}\text{ClNO}_3$: C, 62.85; H, 5.27; N, 4.58. Found: C, 63.00; H, 5.11; N, 4.49.

4.3.13. Ethyl 4-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-methyl-5-methylene-6-oxo-1,4,5,6-tetrahydropyridine-3-carboxylate (**6d**)

Yield: 56% (0.39 g from 0.69 g) as a white solid, mp 145–146 °C, R_f =0.49 (hexane/EtOAc, 70:30); ν_{max} (KBr) 1631 (CONH), 1704 (CO_2Et) cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ =1.19 (t, 3H, OCH_2CH_3), 2.42 (s, 3H, CH_3), 4.08–4.15 (m, 2H, OCH_2CH_3), 4.85 (s, 1H, CH), 5.66 (d, 1H, J =0.6 Hz, =CHH), 6.30 (s, 1H, =CHH), 6.91–6.98 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.14–7.19 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.76 (s, 1H, NH); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ =14.3, 19.1, 45.6, 60.4, 107.5, 115.5, 115.8, 126.1, 126.5, 128.4, 138.4, 139.3, 145.5, 160.3, 163.5, 165.3, 166.5; mass (ES^+) m/z =290.4 (M^+ +1, 100%). Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{16}\text{FNO}_3$: C, 66.43; H, 5.57; N, 4.84. Found: C, 66.28; H, 5.66; N, 4.77.

4.3.14. Ethyl 4-(2-chlorophenyl)-2-methyl-5-methylene-6-oxo-1,4,5,6-tetrahydropyridine-3-carboxylate (**6e**)

Yield: 62% (0.37 g from 0.60 g) as a white solid, mp 140–141 °C, R_f =0.45 (hexane/EtOAc, 70:30); ν_{max} (KBr) 1680 (CONH), 1704 (CO_2Et) cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl_3) δ =1.12 (t, 3H, J =7.1 Hz, OCH_2CH_3), 2.48 (s, 3H, CH_3), 4.00–4.08 (m, 2H, OCH_2CH_3), 5.54 (d, 1H, J =1.1 Hz, CH), 5.94 (s, 1H, =CH), 6.35 (s, 1H, =CH), 7.11–7.20 (m, 3H, ArH), 7.37–7.39 (m, 1H, ArH), 8.79 (s, 1H, NH); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ =14.1, 19.0, 42.1, 60.3, 107.2, 127.3, 127.5, 128.1, 128.2, 130.2, 132.9, 138.0, 140.8, 145.8, 164.5, 166.3; mass (ES^+) m/z =306.2 (M^+ +1, 100%), 308.2 (M^+ +3, 35%). Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{16}\text{ClNO}_3$: C, 62.85; H, 5.27; N, 4.58. Found: C, 62.61; H, 5.33; N, 4.81.

4.3.15. Ethyl 4-(2-nitrophenyl)-2-methyl-5-methylene-6-oxo-1,4,5,6-tetrahydropyridine-3-carboxylate (**6f**)

Yield: 69% (0.50 g from 0.75 g) as a white solid, mp 169–171 °C, R_f =0.35 (hexane/EtOAc, 70:30); ν_{max} (KBr) 1637 (CONH), 1702 (CO_2Et) cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ =1.07 (t, 3H, J =7.1 Hz, OCH_2CH_3), 2.47 (s, 3H, CH_3), 3.95–4.07 (m, 2H, OCH_2CH_3), 5.67 (d, 1H, J =1.0 Hz, CH), 6.09 (s, 1H, =CHH), 6.51 (s, 1H, =CHH), 7.28–7.40 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.48–7.54 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.78 (dd, 1H, J_1 =1.2 Hz, J_2 =8.1 Hz, ArH), 8.99 (s, 1H, NH); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ =14.0, 19.1, 39.4, 60.5, 107.1, 124.6, 127.7, 129.1, 129.4, 133.4, 137.2, 138.7, 146.1, 148.8, 164.4, 165.8; mass (ES^+) m/z =317.1 (M^+ +1, 86%). Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$: C, 60.75; H, 5.10; N, 8.86. Found: C, 61.05; H, 4.93; N, 9.09.

4.3.16. Ethyl 4-(2-fluorophenyl)-2-methyl-5-methylene-6-oxo-1,4,5,6-tetrahydropyridine-3-carboxylate (**6g**)

Yield: 70% (0.70 g from 1.00 g) as a white solid, mp 134–136 °C, R_f =0.45 (hexane/EtOAc, 70:30); ν_{max} (KBr) 1639

(CONH), 1695 (CO₂Et) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ=1.13 (t, 3H, *J*=7.1 Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 2.44 (s, 3H, CH₃), 4.04 (q, 2H, *J*=7.1 Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 5.25 (s, 1H, CH), 5.75 (s, 1H, =CHH), 6.34 (s, 1H, =CHH), 6.98–7.04 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.11–7.18 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.68 (s, 1H, NH); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ=14.1, 19.1, 39.5, 60.3, 106.0, 115.8, 116.1, 124.4, 127.4, 128.2, 128.6, 128.7, 130.2, 130.4, 138.1, 146.0, 158.7, 161.9, 164.7, 166.3; mass (ES⁺) *m/z*=290.5 (M⁺+1, 100%). Anal. Calcd for C₁₆H₁₆FNO₃: C, 66.43; H, 5.57; N, 4.84. Found: C, 66.54; H, 5.33; N, 4.98.

4.3.17. Ethyl 4-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-2-methyl-5-methylene-6-oxo-1,4,5,6-tetrahydropyridine-3-carboxylate (**6h**)

Yield: 70% (0.78 g from 1.10 g) as a white solid, mp 193–195 °C, *R*_f=0.53 (hexane/EtOAc, 70:30); *ν*_{max} (KBr) 1628 (CONH), 1693 (CO₂Et) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ=1.02 (t, 3H, *J*=7.1 Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 2.34 (s, 3H, CH₃), 3.96 (q, 2H, *J*=7.1 Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 5.48 (d, 1H, *J*=2.6 Hz, CH), 5.83 (d, 1H, *J*=1.8 Hz, =CHH), 6.50 (d, 1H, *J*=1.8 Hz, =CHH), 7.09 (t, 1H, *J*=8.0 Hz, ArH), 7.26 (s, 2H, ArH), 7.86 (s, 1H, NH); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ=13.9, 19.4, 41.4, 60.1, 103.7, 127.1, 128.2, 136.4, 141.4, 144.8, 163.3, 166.3; mass (ES⁺) *m/z*=340.2 (M⁺+1, 100%), 342.2 (M⁺+3, 70%). Anal. Calcd for C₁₆H₁₅Cl₂NO₃: C, 56.49; H, 4.44; N, 4.12. Found: C, 56.35; H, 4.18; N, 3.91.

4.4. General procedure for the preparation of **7a–c** as exemplified for **7a**

Following the general procedure described for **3–4a–f**, acetate **2a** (1.05 g, 5.2 mmol) was reacted with cyclopentanone-2-carboxylate (0.83 mL, 5.32 mmol) in the presence of DABCO (0.87 g, 7.83 mmol) for 2 h. Usual work up followed by purification with hexane/EtOAc (9:1, v/v) yielded 1.29 g (83%) of compound **7a** as colorless oil.

4.4.1. Ethyl 1-(2-cyano-1-phenylallyl)-2-oxocyclopentane-carboxylate (**7a**) (diastereoisomeric mixture, 2.5:1)

*R*_f=0.50 (hexane/EtOAc, 90:10); *ν*_{max} (neat) 1721 (CO₂Et), 1753 (CO), 2225 (CN) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ=0.96 (t, 3H, *J*=7.1 Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 1.29 (t, 3H, *J*=7.1 Hz, CO₂CH₂CH₃), 1.47–1.56 (m, 2H, 2×1H of CH₂), 1.59–1.66 (m, 1H, 1H of CH₂), 1.78–1.92 (m, 1H, 1H of CH₂), 1.99–2.04 (m, 1H, 1H of CH₂), 2.19–2.32 (m, 4H, 2×CH₂), 2.41–2.55 (m, 1H, 1H of CH₂), 2.87–2.95 (m, 2H, 2×1H of CH₂), 3.93 (q, 2H, *J*=7.1 Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 4.21 (q, 2H, *J*=7.1 Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 4.62 (s, 1H, CH), 4.72 (s, 1H, CH), 5.84 (s, 1H, *J*=0.6 Hz, =CHH), 5.88 (s, 1H, *J*=1.1 Hz, =CHH), 6.00 (s, 1H, =CHH), 6.06 (s, 1H, =CHH), 7.24–7.33 (m, 2×5H, ArH); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ=13.7, 14.1, 19.6, 19.8, 27.5, 28.3, 30.0, 38.0, 38.2, 52.7, 52.8, 54.9, 61.4, 62.1, 62.4, 64.8, 65.9, 118.5, 118.8, 123.1, 123.5, 128.1, 128.2, 128.9, 129.3, 130.0, 133.0, 135.6, 135.9, 136.3, 168.5, 212.2, 212.3; mass (ES⁺) *m/z*=298.2 (M⁺+1, 100%). Anal. Calcd for C₁₈H₁₉NO₃: C, 72.71; H, 6.44; N, 4.71. Found: C, 72.97; H, 6.29; N, 4.44.

4.4.2. Ethyl 1-[2-cyano-1-(4-methylphenyl)allyl]-2-oxocyclopentanecarboxylate (**7b**) (diastereoisomeric mixture, 3:1)

Yield: 78% (1.25 g from 1.10 g) as colorless oil, *R*_f=0.51 (hexane/EtOAc, 90:10); *ν*_{max} (neat) 1724 (CO₂Et), 1753 (CO), 2223 (CN) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ=0.99 (t, 3H, *J*=7.1 Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 1.28 (t, 3H, *J*=7.1 Hz, CO₂CH₂CH₃), 1.55–1.67 (m, 2H, 2×1H of CH₂), 1.82–1.99 (m, 2H, 2×1H of CH₂), 2.24–2.31 (m, 10H, 2×CH₂ and 2×ArCH₃), 2.39–2.47 (m, 2H, 2×1H of CH₂), 2.86–2.92 (s, 2H, 2×1H of CH₂), 3.93 (q, 2H, *J*=7.1 Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 4.20 (q, 2H, *J*=7.1 Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 4.57 (s, 1H, CH), 4.68 (s, 1H, CH), 5.85 (s, 1H, =CHH), 5.86 (s, 1H, =CHH), 5.97 (s, 1H, =CHH), 6.04 (s, 1H, =CHH), 7.12–7.18 (m, 8H, 2×4ArH); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ=13.8, 14.1, 19.6, 19.9, 21.1, 27.5, 28.2, 30.0, 38.1, 38.2, 38.3, 52.4, 52.5, 54.9, 62.1, 62.4, 64.8, 65.9, 118.7, 118.9, 123.2, 123.7, 129.2, 129.6, 129.8, 132.7, 132.8, 133.2, 135.4, 137.9, 138.0, 167.9, 168.6, 212.3, 212.5; mass (ES⁺) *m/z*=312.1 (M⁺+1, 100%). Anal. Calcd for C₁₉H₂₁NO₃: C, 73.29; H, 6.80; N, 4.50. Found: C, 73.33; H, 6.90; N, 4.54.

4.4.3. Ethyl 1-[1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-cyanoallyl]-2-oxocyclopentanecarboxylate (**7c**) (diastereoisomeric mixture, 2:1)

Yield: 72% (1.25 g from 1.28 g) as colorless oil, *R*_f=0.49 (hexane/EtOAc, 90:10); *ν*_{max} (neat) 1724 (CO₂Et), 1735 (CO), 2225 (CN) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ=1.01 (t, 3H, *J*=7.1 Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 1.29 (t, 3H, *J*=7.1 Hz, CO₂CH₂CH₃), 1.60–1.68 (m, 4H, 2×2CH₂), 1.86–1.99 (m, 1H, 1H of CH₂), 2.23–2.32 (m, 4H, 2×2CH₂), 2.39–2.52 (m, 1H, 1H of CH₂), 2.87–2.92 (s, 2H, 2×1H of CH₂), 3.94 (q, 2H, *J*=7.1 Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 4.21 (q, 2H, *J*=7.1 Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 4.61 (s, 1H, CH), 4.70 (s, 1H, CH), 5.86 (s, 1H, =CHH), 5.90 (s, 1H, =CHH), 6.01 (s, 1H, =CHH), 6.08 (s, 1H, =CHH), 7.20–7.26 (m, 4H, 2×2ArH), 7.28–7.33 (m, 4H, 2×2ArH); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ=13.8, 14.1, 19.6, 19.8, 21.1, 28.3, 29.8, 37.9, 38.1, 52.0, 52.2, 54.9, 62.3, 62.5, 64.8, 65.8, 118.3, 118.6, 122.6, 123.1, 129.1, 130.6, 131.3, 133.3, 134.2, 134.4, 134.5, 134.9, 135.9, 167.6, 168.2, 211.9; mass (ES⁺) *m/z*=332.2 (M⁺+1, 55%), 349 (M⁺+18, 100%). Anal. Calcd for C₁₈H₁₈ClNO₃: C, 65.16; H, 5.47; N, 4.22. Found: C, 65.26; H, 5.50; N, 4.15.

4.5. General procedure for the preparation of **8a–c** as exemplified for **8a**

Following the general procedure for **5–6a–f**, compound **7a** (1.25 g, 4.2 mmol) was treated with 7.5 mL of TFA/H₂SO₄ (4:1, v/v) for 7 min. Normal work up followed by purification through column chromatography using benzene/EtOAc (70:30, v/v) as eluent first yielded 0.12 g *trans*-**8a** as a white solid followed by 0.09 g of *cis*-**8a** also as a white solid [a total of 0.64 g (51%) of compound **8a** (both isomers, 0.43 g obtained as mixture of *cis* and *trans*) was isolated during column chromatography].

4.5.1. *trans*-Ethyl 3-methylene-2-oxo-4-phenyl-1,2,3,4,5,6-hexahydro-4aH-cyclopenta[b]pyridine-4a-carboxylate (**8a**)

Mp 142–143 °C, R_f =0.47 (benzene/EtOAc, 70:30); $\nu_{\max}$ (KBr) 1675 (CONH), 1703 (CO₂Et) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =1.24 (t, 3H, J =7.0 Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 1.62–1.67 (m, 1H, 1H of CH₂), 2.03–2.07 (m, 2H, 1H of CH₂ merged with 1H of other CH₂), 2.27–2.34 (m, 1H, 1H of CH₂), 4.19 (q, 2H, J =7.0 Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 4.36 (s, 1H, CH), 5.18 (s, 1H, =CH), 5.55 (s, 1H, =CHH), 6.40 (d, 1H, J =1.2 Hz, =CHH), 7.13 (d, 2H, J =7.2 Hz, ArH), 7.27 (t, 3H, J =7.2 Hz, ArH), 8.85 (s, 1H, NH); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =14.2, 28.9, 31.5, 51.0, 58.6, 61.7, 109.1, 127.4, 127.7, 128.8, 128.9, 129.4, 136.1, 138.0, 139.9, 163.9, 174.4; mass (ES⁺) m/z =298.2 (M⁺+1, 48%). Anal. Calcd for C₁₈H₁₉NO₃: C, 72.71; H, 6.44; N, 4.71. Found: C, 72.40; H, 6.49; N, 4.49.

4.5.2. *cis*-Ethyl 3-methylene-2-oxo-4-phenyl-1,2,3,4,5,6-hexahydro-4aH-cyclopenta[b]pyridine-4a-carboxylate (**8a**)

Mp 176–177 °C, R_f =0.49 (benzene/EtOAc, 70:30); $\nu_{\max}$ (KBr) 1672 (CONH), 1730 (CO₂Et) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =1.22 (t, 3H, J =7.1 Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 1.70–1.74 (m, 2H, CH₂), 2.30–2.42 (m, 2H, CH₂), 3.76 (t, 1H, J =2.7 Hz, =CH), 4.15 (q, 2H, J =7.1 Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 5.09 (s, 1H, CH), 5.17 (s, 1H, =CHH), 6.50 (d, 1H, J =1.6 Hz, =CHH), 7.12–7.15 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.27–7.36 (m, 3H, ArH), 8.65 (s, 1H, NH); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =14.0, 28.6, 34.4, 55.3, 58.6, 61.3, 106.3, 124.3, 127.9, 128.8, 129.4, 130.1, 137.0, 137.7, 139.4, 164.7, 170.7; mass (ES⁺) m/z =298.2 (M⁺+1, 100%). Anal. Calcd for C₁₈H₁₉NO₃: C, 72.71; H, 6.44; N, 4.71. Found: C, 73.05; H, 6.58; N, 4.59.

4.5.3. *trans*-Ethyl 3-methylene-2-oxo-4-(4-methylphenyl)-1,2,3,4,5,6-hexahydro-4aH-cyclopenta[b]pyridine-4a-carboxylate (**8b**)

Yield: 47% (0.31 g from 0.65 g, total yield of trans and cis diastereoisomers) as a white solid, mp 96–97 °C, R_f =0.50 (benzene/EtOAc, 70:30); $\nu_{\max}$ (KBr) 1679 (CONH), 1724 (CO₂Et) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =1.24 (t, 3H, J =7.2 Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 1.61–1.72 (m, 1H, 1H of CH₂), 1.99–2.12 (m, 2H, 1H of CH₂ merged with 1H of CH₂), 2.31–2.36 (m, 4H, 1H of CH₂ and ArCH₃), 4.19 (q, 2H, J =7.2 Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 4.31 (s, 1H, CH), 5.14 (s, 1H, =CH), 5.53 (s, 1H, =CHH), 6.37 (d, 1H, J =1.0 Hz, =CHH), 7.00 (d, 2H, J =8.0 Hz, ArH), 7.11 (d, 2H, J =8.0 Hz, ArH), 8.27 (s, 1H, NH); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =14.3, 21.1, 28.9, 31.5, 31.7, 50.7, 58.7, 61.7, 108.9, 127.5, 128.7, 129.6, 136.3, 136.8, 137.1, 138.3, 163.9, 174.5; mass (ES⁺) m/z =312.1 (M⁺+1, 100%). Anal. Calcd for C₁₉H₂₁NO₃: C, 73.29; H, 6.80; N, 4.50. Found: C, 73.55; H, 6.98; N, 4.29.

4.5.4. *cis*-Ethyl 3-methylene-2-oxo-4-(4-methylphenyl)-1,2,3,4,5,6-hexahydro-4aH-cyclopenta[b]pyridine-4a-carboxylate (**8b**)

Yield: 47% (0.31 g from 0.65 g, total yield of trans and cis diastereoisomers) as a white solid, mp 106–107 °C, R_f =0.48 (benzene/EtOAc, 70:30); $\nu_{\max}$ (KBr) 1680 (CONH), 1732 (CO₂Et) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =1.23 (t, 3H,

J =7.2 Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 1.68–1.77 (m, 2H, CH₂), 2.29–2.42 (m, 5H, 2H of CH₂ merged with 3H of ArCH₃), 3.72 (t, 1H, J =2.7 Hz, CH), 4.14 (q, 2H, J =7.2 Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 5.06 (s, 1H, =CH), 5.18 (s, 1H, =CHH), 6.49 (d, 1H, J =1.5 Hz, =CHH), 7.01 (d, 2H, J =8.1 Hz, ArH), 7.14 (d, 2H, J =8.1 Hz, ArH), 8.32 (s, 1H, NH); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =11.4, 18.6, 26.0, 56.0, 56.2, 58.8, 104.0, 121.8, 124.8, 125.9, 126.7, 127.0, 127.5, 131.2, 131.7, 135.0, 136.5, 136.9, 170.0; mass (ES⁺) m/z =312.3 (M⁺+1, 100%). Anal. Calcd for C₁₉H₂₁NO₃: C, 73.29; H, 6.80; N, 4.50. Found: C, 73.55; H, 6.98; N, 4.29.

4.5.5. *trans*-Ethyl 4-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-methylene-2-oxo-1,2,3,4,5,6-hexahydro-4aH-cyclopenta[b]pyridine-4a-carboxylate (**8c**)

Yield: 53% (0.53 g from 1.0 g, total yield of trans and cis diastereoisomers) as colorless oil, R_f =0.50 (benzene/EtOAc, 70:30); $\nu_{\max}$ (KBr) 1634 (CONH), 1722 (CO₂Et) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =1.23 (t, 3H, J =7.0 Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 1.56–1.66 (m, 1H, 1H of CH₂), 2.03–2.13 (m, 2H, 1H of CH₂ merged with 1H of CH₂), 2.28–2.39 (s, 1H, 1H of CH₂), 4.19 (q, 2H, J =7.0 Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 4.35 (s, 1H, CH), 5.15 (t, 1H, J =2.4 Hz, =CH), 5.54 (s, 1H, =CHH), 6.40 (d, 1H, J =1.2 Hz, =CHH), 7.06 (d, 2H, J =8.5 Hz, ArH), 7.26 (d, 2H, J =8.5 Hz, ArH), 8.06 (s, 1H, NH); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =14.2, 28.9, 31.4, 50.3, 53.5, 58.5, 61.8, 109.7, 128.1, 129.1, 129.3, 130.1, 130.8, 133.3, 135.8, 137.7, 138.4, 163.8, 174.1; mass (ES⁺) m/z =332.1 (M⁺+1, 100%). Anal. Calcd for C₁₈H₁₈ClNO₃: C, 65.16; H, 5.47; N, 4.22. Found: C, 64.88; H, 5.44; N, 4.39.

4.5.6. *cis*-Ethyl 4-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-methylene-2-oxo-1,2,3,4,5,6-hexahydro-4aH-cyclopenta[b]pyridine-4a-carboxylate (**8c**)

Yield: 53% (0.53 g from 1.0 g, total yield of trans and cis diastereoisomers) as colorless oil, R_f =0.48 (benzene/EtOAc, 70:30); $\nu_{\max}$ (neat) 1670 (CONH), 1734 (CO₂Et) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =1.24 (t, 3H, J =7.2 Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 1.68–1.72 (m, 1H, CH₂), 2.30–2.43 (m, 3H, 1H of CH₂ merged with CH₂), 3.76 (t, 1H, J =2.7 Hz, =CH), 4.10–4.18 (m, 3H, 2H of OCH₂CH₃), 5.14 (s, 1H, =CH₂), 6.52 (s, 1H, =CH₂), 7.10 (d, 2H, J =8.4 Hz, ArH), 7.33 (d, 2H, J =8.4 Hz, ArH), 8.95 (s, 1H, NH); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =14.0, 29.6, 34.3, 54.7, 58.5, 61.4, 106.4, 124.1, 129.0, 130.8, 133.8, 135.6, 140.5, 139.2, 164.4, 170.5; mass (ES⁺) m/z =332.0 (M⁺+1, 100%), 334.0 (M⁺+3, 30%). Anal. Calcd for C₁₈H₁₈ClNO₃: C, 65.16; H, 5.47; N, 4.22. Found: C, 65.29; H, 5.57; N, 4.11.

4.6. General procedure for the preparation of compounds **9–12b**, **13–17c**, **18–21f** as exemplified for **18f**

To a stirred solution of **6f** (0.2 g, 0.63 mmol) and benzene hydroxymoyl chloride (0.147 g, 0.95 mmol) in anhydrous diethylether (15 mL) was added dropwise a solution of Et₃N (0.13 mL, 0.95 mmol) at –78 °C under stirring. After the addition was complete the reaction was allowed to stir at

room temperature. After 6 h of stirring the reaction was quenched with water (60 mL) and the resulting mixture was partitioned in a separating funnel. The aqueous layer was separated and further extracted with EtOAc (2×20 mL). The organic layers were pooled, washed with brine (45 mL), dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, and concentrated to afford a residue which was purified via silica gel column chromatography. Elution with hexane/EtOAc (9:1, v/v) furnished 0.28 g (89%) of **18f** as a white solid.

4.6.1. 9-Acetyl-8-methyl-10-(4-methylphenyl)-3-phenyl-1-oxa-2,7-diazaspiro[4.5]deca-2,8-dien-6-one (**9b**)

Yield: 82% (0.27 g from 0.23 g) as a white solid, mp 160–162 °C, R_f =0.28 (hexane/EtOAc, 70:30); $\nu_{\max}$ (KBr) 1680 (CONH), 1720 (CO₂Et) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =2.15 (s, 3H, ArCH₃), 2.33 (s, 3H, CH₃), 2.43 (s, 3H, COCH₃), 3.15 (d, 1H, J =17.2 Hz, CHH), 3.80 (d, 1H, J =17.2 Hz, CHH), 4.17 (s, 1H, CH), 7.06 (d, 2H, J =8.0 Hz, ArH), 7.14 (d, 2H, J =8.0 Hz, ArH), 7.39 (d, 3H, J =7.1 Hz, ArH), 7.59 (s, 1H, NH), 7.62–7.67 (m, 2H, ArH); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =20.3, 21.5, 30.5, 38.6, 50.4, 87.2, 117.0, 127.4, 128.7, 129.2, 130.6, 130.9, 133.9, 138.6, 143.9, 157.7, 167.0, 197.6; mass (ES⁺) m/z =375.0 (M⁺+1, 100%). Anal. Calcd for C₂₃H₂₂N₂O₃: C, 73.78; H, 5.92; N, 7.48. Found: C, 73.61; H, 6.16; N, 7.28.

4.6.2. 9-Acetyl-8-methyl-3,10-di(4-methylphenyl)-1-oxa-2,7-diazaspiro[4.5]deca-2,8-dien-6-one (**10b**)

Yield: 83% (0.38 g from 0.3 g) as a white solid, mp 187–189 °C, R_f =0.32 (hexane/EtOAc, 70:30); $\nu_{\max}$ (KBr) 1636 (CONH), 1700 (COCH₃) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =2.14 (s, 3H, ArCH₃), 2.33 (s, 3H, CH₃), 2.37 (s, 3H, ArCH₃), 2.43 (s, 3H, COCH₃), 3.13 (d, 1H, J =17.2 Hz, CHH), 3.78 (d, 1H, J =17.2 Hz, CHH), 4.16 (s, 1H, CH), 7.06 (d, 2H, J =8.1 Hz, ArH), 7.14 (d, 2H, J =8.0 Hz, ArH), 7.19 (d, 2H, J =8.0 Hz, ArH), 7.53 (br d, 3H, J =8.1 Hz, 1H of NH merged with ArH); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =20.0, 21.2, 21.6, 30.2, 38.4, 50.1, 86.7, 116.7, 126.0, 127.0, 128.4, 129.5, 130.3, 133.6, 138.2, 141.0, 143.7, 157.3, 166.8, 197.4; mass (FAB⁺) m/z =389 (M⁺+1, 100%). Anal. Calcd for C₂₄H₂₄N₂O₃: C, 74.21; H, 6.23; N, 7.21. Found: C, 74.48; H, 6.39; N, 7.50.

4.6.3. 9-Acetyl-3-(4-chlorophenyl)-8-methyl-10-(4-methylphenyl)-1-oxa-2,7-diazaspiro[4.5]deca-2,8-dien-6-one (**11b**)

Yield: 85% (0.82 g from 0.6 g) as a white solid, mp 233–235 °C, R_f =0.34 (hexane/EtOAc, 70:30); $\nu_{\max}$ (KBr) 1643 (CONH), 1700 (COCH₃) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =2.16 (s, 3H, ArCH₃), 2.33 (s, 3H, CH₃), 2.43 (s, 3H, COCH₃), 3.12 (d, 1H, J =17.2 Hz, CHH), 3.76 (d, 1H, J =17.2 Hz, CHH), 4.18 (s, 1H, CH), 7.06 (d, 2H, J =8.0 Hz, ArH), 7.14 (d, 2H, J =8.0 Hz, ArH), 7.34–7.41 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.53–7.64 (m, 3H, NH merged with ArH); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =18.2, 20.0, 29.2, 36.8, 48.4, 86.1, 114.8, 126.5, 127.2, 127.3, 128.0, 129.0, 133.0, 135.0, 136.7, 144.4, 152.3, 165.2, 196.1; mass (ES⁺) m/z =409.1

(M⁺+1, 100%), 411.1 (M⁺+3, 35%). Anal. Calcd for C₂₃H₂₁ClN₂O₃: C, 67.56; H, 5.18; N, 6.85. Found: C, 67.35; H, 5.30; N, 6.77.

4.6.4. Ethyl 9-acetyl-8-methyl-6-oxo-10-(4-methylphenyl)-1-oxa-2,7-diazaspiro[4.5]deca-2,8-diene-3-carboxylate (**12b**)

Yield: 87% (0.38 g from 0.3 g) as a white solid, mp 138–140 °C, R_f =0.25 (hexane/EtOAc, 70:30); $\nu_{\max}$ (KBr) 1683 (CONH), 1724 (COCH₃) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =1.36 (s, 3H, J =7.1 Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 2.14 (s, 3H, ArCH₃), 2.32 (s, 3H, CH₃), 2.43 (s, 3H, COCH₃), 3.04 (d, 1H, J =18.4 Hz, CHH), 3.65 (d, 1H, J =18.4 Hz, CHH), 4.12 (s, 1H, CH), 4.35 (q, 3H, J =7.1 Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 7.03 (d, 2H, J =8.0 Hz, ArH), 7.13 (d, 2H, J =8.0 Hz, ArH), 7.53 (d, 2H, J =8.6 Hz, ArH), 7.58 (s, 1H, NH), 7.62 (d, 2H, J =8.6 Hz, ArH); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =14.2, 20.0, 21.1, 30.2, 37.0, 49.8, 62.5, 89.3, 116.5, 128.3, 130.4, 132.6, 138.5, 143.4, 152.2, 160.0, 165.5, 197.1; mass (ES⁺) m/z =371.1 (M⁺+1, 100%). Anal. Calcd for C₂₀H₂₂N₂O₅: C, 64.85; H, 5.99; N, 7.56. Found: C, 65.06; H, 6.20; N, 7.60.

4.6.5. Ethyl 10-(4-chlorophenyl)-8-methyl-6-oxo-3-phenyl-1-oxa-2,7-diazaspiro[4.5]deca-2,8-diene-9-carboxylate (**13c**)

Yield: 86% (0.42 g from 0.35 g) as a white solid, mp 105–107 °C, R_f =0.50 (hexane/EtOAc, 70:30); $\nu_{\max}$ (KBr) 1640 (CONH), 1708 (CO₂Et) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =1.21 (t, 3H, J =7.1 Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 2.47 (s, 3H, CH₃), 2.96 (d, 1H, J =17.1 Hz, CHH), 3.80 (d, 1H, J =17.1 Hz, CHH), 4.10 (q, 3H, J =7.1 Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 4.32 (s, 1H, CH), 7.12 (d, 2H, J =8.5 Hz, ArH), 7.27–7.30 (m, 3H, ArH), 7.35 (d, 2H, J =8.5 Hz, ArH), 7.41 (s, 1H, NH), 7.55 (d, 2H, J =8.5 Hz, ArH); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =14.2, 19.3, 38.6, 49.1, 60.6, 86.4, 108.2, 127.1, 127.7, 128.8, 128.9, 129.0, 129.5, 129.8, 130.2, 130.7, 134.0, 136.6, 144.6, 157.2, 166.1, 166.7; mass (FAB⁺) m/z =425 (M⁺+1, 100%). Anal. Calcd for C₂₃H₂₁ClN₂O₄: C, 65.02; H, 4.98; N, 6.59. Found: C, 64.84; H, 5.01; N, 6.66.

4.6.6. Ethyl 10-(4-chlorophenyl)-8-methyl-3-(4-methylphenyl)-6-oxo-1-oxa-2,7-diazaspiro[4.5]deca-2,8-diene-9-carboxylate (**14c**)

Yield: 86% (0.23 g from 0.2 g) as a white solid, mp 177–179 °C, R_f =0.50 (hexane/EtOAc, 70:30); $\nu_{\max}$ (KBr) 1680 (CONH), 1705 (CO₂Et) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =1.20 (t, 3H, J =7.1 Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 2.37 (s, 3H, ArCH₃), 2.46 (s, 3H, CH₃), 2.98 (d, 1H, J =17.1 Hz, CHH), 3.82 (d, 1H, J =17.1 Hz, CHH), 4.09 (q, 3H, J =7.1 Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 4.31 (s, 1H, CH), 7.12 (d, 2H, J =8.4 Hz, ArH), 7.18 (d, 2H, J =8.1 Hz, ArH), 7.28 (d, 2H, J =8.4 Hz, ArH), 7.52 (d, 2H, J =8.1 Hz, ArH), 7.57 (s, 1H, NH); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =14.2, 19.3, 21.6, 38.7, 49.1, 60.6, 86.2, 108.1, 125.9, 127.0, 129.5, 129.6, 129.8, 133.9, 136.6, 141.0, 144.7, 157.2, 166.1, 166.9; mass (FAB⁺) m/z =439 (M⁺+1, 20%). Anal. Calcd for C₂₄H₂₃ClN₂O₄: C, 65.68; H, 5.28; N, 6.38. Found: C, 65.88; H, 5.09; N, 6.55.

4.6.7. Ethyl 3,10-di(4-chlorophenyl)-8-methyl-6-oxo-1-oxa-2,7-diazaspiro[4.5]deca-2,8-diene-9-carboxylate (**15c**)

Yield: 87% (0.46 g from 0.35 g) as a white solid, mp 178–180 °C, R_f =0.52 (hexane/EtOAc, 70:30); $\nu_{\max}$ (KBr) 1677 (CONH), 1706 (CO₂Et) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =1.20 (t, 3H, J =7.2 Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 2.44 (s, 3H, CH₃), 2.98 (d, 1H, J =17.1 Hz, CHH), 3.80 (d, 1H, J =17.1 Hz, CHH), 4.09 (q, 3H, J =7.1 Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 4.33 (s, 1H, CH), 7.13 (d, 2H, J =8.6 Hz, ArH), 7.29 (d, 2H, J =8.6 Hz, ArH), 7.36 (d, 2H, J =8.6 Hz, ArH), 7.56 (d, 2H, J =8.6 Hz, ArH), 8.42 (s, 1H, NH); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =14.5, 19.6, 38.7, 49.3, 60.9, 86.9, 108.4, 127.5, 128.6, 129.5, 129.8, 130.0, 134.3, 136.7, 137.0, 144.9, 156.6, 166.3, 167.0; mass (FAB⁺) m/z =459.0 (M⁺+1, 82%), 461 (M⁺+3, 52%). Anal. Calcd for C₂₃H₂₀Cl₂N₂O₄: C, 60.14; H, 4.39; N, 6.10. Found: C, 59.91; H, 4.59; N, 6.06.

4.6.8. Diethyl 10-(4-chlorophenyl)-8-methyl-6-oxo-1-oxa-2,7-diazaspiro[4.5]deca-2,8-diene-3,9-dicarboxylate (**16c**)

Yield: 91% (0.29 g from 0.23 g) as a white solid, mp 101–103 °C, R_f =0.48 (hexane/EtOAc, 70:30); $\nu_{\max}$ (KBr) 1641 (CONH), 1716 (CO₂Et) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =1.21 (t, 3H, J =7.1 Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 1.35 (t, 3H, J =7.1 Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 2.47 (s, 3H, CH₃), 2.89 (d, 1H, J =18.2 Hz, CHH), 3.69 (d, 1H, J =18.2 Hz, CHH), 4.01 (q, 3H, J =7.1 Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 4.28 (s, 1H, CH), 4.34 (q, 3H, J =7.1 Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 7.07 (d, 2H, J =8.5 Hz, ArH), 7.27 (d, 2H, J =8.5 Hz, ArH), 7.47 (s, 1H, NH); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =14.2, 19.3, 22.7, 31.7, 37.3, 48.8, 60.7, 62.5, 88.8, 108.0, 129.6, 129.7, 134.2, 135.6, 144.5, 152.0, 160.0, 165.6, 165.9; mass (FAB⁺) m/z =421 (M⁺+1, 100%). Anal. Calcd for C₂₀H₂₁ClN₂O₆: C, 57.08; H, 5.03; N, 6.66. Found: C, 57.31; H, 5.16; N, 6.79.

4.6.9. Ethyl 3-(2-chlorophenyl)-10-(4-chlorophenyl)-8-methyl-6-oxo-1-oxa-2,7-diazaspiro[4.5]deca-2,8-diene-9-carboxylate (**17c**)

Yield: 91% (0.14 g from 0.1 g) as a white solid, mp 148–150 °C, R_f =0.51 (hexane/EtOAc, 70:30); $\nu_{\max}$ (KBr) 1638 (CONH), 1704 (CO₂Et) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =1.22 (t, 3H, J =7.1 Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 2.48 (s, 3H, CH₃), 3.25 (d, 1H, J =17.6 Hz, CHH), 3.89 (d, 1H, J =17.6 Hz, CHH), 4.11 (q, 2H, J =7.1 Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 4.37 (s, 1H, CH), 7.13 (d, 2H, J =8.5 Hz, ArH), 7.27 (d, 3H, J =8.6 Hz, ArH), 7.31–7.44 (m, 3H, ArH), 7.51 (s, 1H, NH), 7.59 (dd, 1H, J_1 =1.8 Hz, J_2 =7.4 Hz, ArH); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =14.3, 19.2, 40.8, 48.9, 60.6, 86.9, 108.1, 127.2, 128.1, 129.5, 129.7, 130.7, 131.0, 131.4, 133.0, 136.3, 144.6, 157.2, 166.1, 166.6; mass (ES⁺) m/z =459.0 (M⁺+1, 70%), 461.0 (M⁺+3, 50%). Anal. Calcd for C₂₃H₂₀Cl₂N₂O₄: C, 60.14; H, 4.39; N, 6.10. Found: C, 60.30; H, 4.55; N, 5.95.

4.6.10. Ethyl 8-methyl-10-(2-nitrophenyl)-6-oxo-3-phenyl-1-oxa-2,7-diazaspiro[4.5]deca-2,8-diene-9-carboxylate (**18f**)

Mp 236–237 °C, R_f =0.25 (hexane/EtOAc, 70:30); $\nu_{\max}$ (KBr) 1644 (CONH), 1704 (CO₂Et) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =1.09 (t, 3H, J =7.1 Hz, OCH₂CH₃),

2.49 (s, 3H, CH₃), 3.33 (d, 1H, J =16.7 Hz, CHH), 3.91–4.10 (m, 3H, CHH merged with OCH₂CH₃), 5.10 (s, 1H, CH), 7.31–7.48 (m, 4H, ArH), 7.63–7.67 (m, 3H, NH merged with ArH), 7.79–7.83 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.63–7.67 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.72–7.75 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.88 (s, 1H, NH); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =14.3, 19.5, 39.1, 43.1, 61.0, 86.5, 108.2, 125.1, 127.5, 128.8, 129.0, 129.1, 130.9, 133.5, 134.2, 146.2, 150.7, 158.1, 165.9, 166.9; mass (ES⁺) m/z =436.0 (M⁺+1, 35%). Anal. Calcd for C₂₃H₂₁N₃O₆: C, 63.44; H, 4.86; N, 9.65. Found: C, 63.12; H, 4.98; N, 9.76.

4.6.11. Ethyl 8-methyl-3-(4-methylphenyl)-10-(2-nitrophenyl)-6-oxo-1-oxa-2,7-diazaspiro[4.5]deca-2,8-diene-9-carboxylate (**19f**)

Yield: 87% (0.25 g from 0.2 g) as a white solid, mp 165–167 °C, R_f =0.26 (hexane/EtOAc, 70:30); $\nu_{\max}$ (KBr) 1640 (CONH), 1709 (CO₂Et) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =1.08 (t, 3H, J =7.1 Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 2.37 (s, 3H, CH₃), 2.49 (s, 3H, ArCH₃), 3.30 (d, 1H, J =16.7 Hz, CH₂), 3.92–4.04 (m, 3H, OCH₂CH₃ and CHH), 5.09 (s, 1H, CH), 7.18 (d, 2H, J =8.0 Hz, ArH), 7.26–7.30 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.41–7.47 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.52–7.57 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.64 (s, 1H, NH), 7.79–7.82 (m, 1H, ArH); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =13.8, 19.0, 21.4, 38.7, 42.6, 60.6, 85.9, 107.7, 124.6, 125.7, 127.0, 128.3, 128.8, 129.4, 133.1, 133.7, 140.8, 145.9, 150.3, 157.6, 165.5, 166.6; mass (ES⁺) m/z =450.0 (M⁺+1, 100%). Anal. Calcd for C₂₄H₂₃N₃O₆: C, 64.13; H, 5.16; N, 9.35. Found: C, 64.10; H, 5.30; N, 9.52.

4.6.12. Ethyl 3-(4-chlorophenyl)-8-methyl-10-(2-nitrophenyl)-6-oxo-1-oxa-2,7-diazaspiro[4.5]deca-2,8-diene-9-carboxylate (**20f**)

Yield: 92% (0.31 g from 0.2 g) as a white solid, mp 121–123 °C, R_f =0.24 (hexane/EtOAc, 70:30); $\nu_{\max}$ (KBr) 1639 (CONH), 1704 (CO₂Et) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =1.09 (t, 3H, J =7.1 Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 2.49 (s, 3H, CH₃), 3.29 (d, 1H, J =16.7 Hz, CHH), 3.91–4.14 (m, 3H, OCH₂CH₃ and CHH), 5.07 (s, 1H, CH), 7.27–7.45 (m, 4H, ArH), 7.49–7.61 (m, 3H, ArH), 7.82 (d, 1H, J =7.9 Hz, ArH), 7.96 (s, 1H, NH); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =14.0, 19.2, 38.6, 42.8, 60.8, 86.5, 107.9, 124.8, 127.2, 128.4, 129.0, 129.1, 133.0, 136.7, 145.9, 150.4, 156.9, 165.5, 166.4; mass (ES⁺) m/z =470.0 (M⁺+1, 100%), 472.0 (M⁺+3, 34%). Anal. Calcd for C₂₃H₂₀ClN₃O₆: C, 58.79; H, 4.29; N, 8.94. Found: C, 58.88; H, 4.22; N, 9.06.

4.6.13. Diethyl 8-methyl-10-(2-nitrophenyl)-6-oxo-1-oxa-2,7-diazaspiro[4.5]deca-2,8-diene-3,9-dicarboxylate (**21f**)

Yield: 93% (0.25 g from 0.2 g) as a white solid, mp 163–164 °C, R_f =0.25 (hexane/EtOAc, 70:30); $\nu_{\max}$ (KBr) 1641 (CONH), 1716 (CO₂Et) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =1.09 (t, 3H, J =7.1 Hz, CH=CO₂CH₂CH₃), 1.37 (t, 3H, J =7.1 Hz, N=CO₂CH₂CH₃), 2.50 (s, 3H, CH₃), 3.18 (d, 1H, J =17.8 Hz, CHH), 3.82 (d, 1H, J =17.8 Hz, CHH), 4.01 (q, 2H, J =7.1 Hz, CO₂CH₂CH₃), 4.37 (q, 2H, J =7.1 Hz, CO₂CH₂CH₃), 5.06 (s, 1H, CH), 7.20–7.27 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.42–7.47 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.51–7.56 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.82–

7.85 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.91 (s, 1H, NH); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ =13.8, 14.0, 19.0, 37.5, 42.5, 60.7, 62.4, 88.3, 107.4, 124.8, 128.2, 129.0, 132.3, 133.8, 145.7, 150.2, 152.3, 159.7, 165.2; mass (ES^+) m/z =432.0 (M^+ +1, 100%). Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_3\text{O}_8$: C, 55.68; H, 4.91; N, 9.74. Found: C, 55.85; H, 5.13; N, 9.55.

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Supplementary data

Spectroscopic data of all compounds are provided. ^1H NMR, ^{13}C NMR, and mass spectra of several new compounds have been included. Supplementary data associated with this article can be found in the online version, at doi:10.1016/j.tet.2008.01.074.

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12. Crystal data of compound **21f** (crystallized from CHCl_3): $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_3\text{O}_8$, $M=431.40$, triclinic, $P-1$, $a=12.626$ (28.200(1)), $b=10.234(1)$, $c=13.433(2)$ Å, $\alpha=103.11(1)$, $\beta=105.14(1)$, $\gamma=94.99(1)$, $V=1046.9(2)$ Å³, $Z=2$, $D_c=1.369$ g cm⁻³, $\mu(\text{Mo K}\alpha)=0.107$ mm⁻¹, $F(000)=452$, colorless block, dimension $0.25\times0.225\times0.175$ mm, 4475 reflections measured ($R_{\text{int}}=0.0234$), 3645 unique, $wR2=0.1454$, conventional $R=0.0520$ on F^2 values of 2616 reflections with $I>2\sigma(I)$, $(\Delta/\sigma)_{\text{max}}=0.000$, $S=1.022$ for all

data and 284 parameters. Unit cell determination and intensity data collection ($2\theta=50^\circ$) were performed on a Bruker P4 diffractometer at 293(2) K. Structure solutions by direct methods and refinements by full-matrix least-squares methods on F^2 . Programs: XSCANS (Siemens Analytical X-ray Instrument Inc.: Madison, WI, USA, 1996) for data collection and data processing; SHELXTL-NT (Bruker AXS Inc.: Madison, Wisconsin, USA, 1997) for structure determination, refinements, and molecular graphics. Further details of the crystal structure investigation can be obtained from the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre, 12 Union Road, Cambridge, CB2 1EZ, UK (CCDC deposition no. 670413).