



Palladium-catalyzed synthesis of benzo[*c*]pyrimido[1,6-*a*]azepine scaffold from Morita–Baylis–Hillman adducts: intramolecular 6-arylation of uracil nucleus

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ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 24 October 2011

Revised 11 November 2011

Accepted 11 November 2011

Available online 1 December 2011

Keywords:

Benzo[*c*]pyrimido[1,6-*a*]azepine

Morita–Baylis–Hillman adducts

Palladium

Uracil

6-Arylation

ABSTRACT

Palladium-catalyzed intramolecular arylation at the C-6 position of uracil moiety was examined. Morita–Baylis–Hillman adducts bearing an uracil moiety at the primary position served an efficient way to a benzo[*c*]pyrimido[1,6-*a*]azepine scaffold.

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Recently various tetracyclic fused indole derivatives have been synthesized via a palladium-catalyzed cyclization of indole-containing Morita–Baylis–Hillman adducts in our group.¹ As a continuous study, we were interested in the synthesis of benzoazepine derivatives² fused with a uracil moiety, because these compounds have a potential hepatitis C virus (HCV) NS5B polymerase inhibitory activity.³

The arylation of uracil ring was carried out most frequently by palladium-catalyzed cross-coupling reactions of 5-halouracils with arylboronic acids⁴ or arylstannanes.⁵ Very recently, a palladium-catalyzed direct arylation of uracil derivatives with aryl halides has been reported.^{6,7} We also reported a regioselective palladium-catalyzed direct arylation of uracil derivatives.⁸

In these respects, we decided to check the feasibility of the Pd-catalyzed intramolecular arylation to the 6-position of uracil moiety in order to synthesize benzoazepine derivatives as shown in Scheme 1. The reaction of Morita–Baylis–Hillman acetate **1a** and uracil (**2a**) in the presence of K₂CO₃ in DMF afforded the starting material **3a** in a good yield (80%). However, a palladium-catalyzed cyclization of **3a** failed completely under various reaction conditions.⁹ Literature survey revealed that a Pd-catalyzed C-arylation of free (N–H)-containing heterocycles is a difficult task.^{6,10} Thus we decided to protect the N³-position of **3a** with a benzyl group to prepare **4a** (94%). To our delight, a Pd-catalyzed cyclization of **4a** provided **5a** in a good yield (78%) in a short time (30 min) in

the presence of Pd(OAc)₂, TBAB (tetrabutylammonium bromide) and KOAc in DMF.^{1,7a,11}

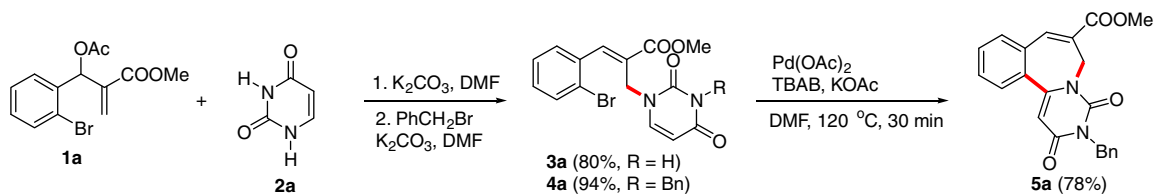
Encouraged by the successful results, we prepared starting materials **4b–f** by the selective N¹-alkylation of uracil derivatives **2a–d** with Morita–Baylis–Hillman acetates **1a–c** and a subsequent N³-protection with benzyl bromide, as shown in Table 1. All entries showed good to moderate yields (73–89% for the first cinnamylation at N¹-position, 79–96% for the second benzylation at N³-position). During the preparation of **3a–f**, the corresponding *Z*-isomers were formed in trace amounts; however, we separated *E*-isomers of **3a–f** and used for the next benzylation. As uracil derivatives, we used uracil (**2a**), thymine (**2b**), 5-fluorouracil (**2c**), and 5-ethyluracil (**2d**). With these starting materials **4b–f** we examined the palladium-catalyzed cyclization, and the results are summarized in Table 1. 5-Substituted uracil derivatives **4b–d** with methyl, fluoro, and ethyl groups afforded the corresponding benzo[*c*]pyrimido[1,6-*a*]azepine derivatives **5b–d** in moderate yields (62–83%). Naphthalene derivative **4e** and dimethoxyphenyl derivative **4f** also produced the corresponding products **5e** and **5f** in reasonable yields (59–78%).

The reaction mechanism could be proposed as shown in Scheme 2. An oxidative addition of C–Br bond of **4a** to Pd⁰ produced an arylpalladium intermediate **I**. A subsequent 7-exo-carbopalladation of **I** to form **II**, and the following epimerization at C-5 position of the uracil moiety via a corresponding *O*-palladium intermediate **III** gave **IV**, which produced **5a** by a syn β-H elimination process.¹²

However, the Pd-catalyzed cyclization reaction with 5-nitrouracil derivative **4g** failed, as shown in Scheme 3. Expected compound **5g** was not formed in any trace amount. Instead, rearranged MBH acetate **6** was isolated in 62% along with many intractable side

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**Table 1**Preparation of starting materials **4a–f** and Pd-catalyzed synthesis of **5a–f**

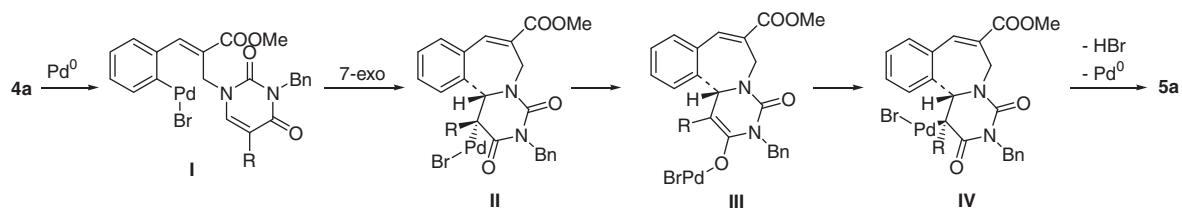
Entry	1+2	Substrate 4 ^a (%)	Product 5 ^b (%)
1	1a+2a	 4a (80/94)	 5a (78)
2	1a+2b	 4b (89/89)	 5b (83)
3	1a+2c	 4c (88/95)	 5c (62)
4	1a+2d	 4d (84/86)	 5d (79)
5	1b+2a	 4e (78/96)	 5e (78)
6	1c+2a	 4f (73/79)	 5f (59)

^a Conditions: (i) **1** (1.0 mmol), **2** (1.5 equiv), K₂CO₃ (2.0 equiv), DMF, rt, 5 h (**3a–f**); (ii) **3** (0.8 mmol), PhCH₂Br (1.5 equiv), K₂CO₃ (2.0 equiv), DMF, rt, 5 h (**4a–f**). Yields were noted in the parenthesis as follows (**3a–f**/**4a–f**).

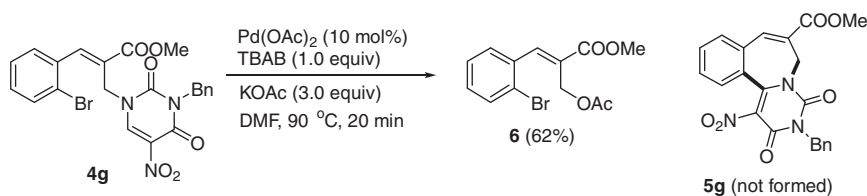
^b Conditions: **4** (0.5 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (10 mol %), TBAB (1.0 equiv), KOAc (3.0 equiv), DMF, 120 °C, 30 min (for **5a–e**) and 80 min (for **5f**).

products. Compound **6** could be formed via the nucleophilic displacement of 5-nitro-3-benzyluracil moiety with an acetate ion. Compound **5g** was not formed also when we use K₂CO₃ or Cs₂CO₃ instead of KOAc in order to suppress the formation of **6**.

Thus, we turned our attention to a functionalization at the 5-position of the uracil moiety of **5a**, in order to synthesize a variety of similar benzoazepine derivatives including a 5-nitro derivative **5g**. The results are summarized in Table 2. As shown in entry 1,



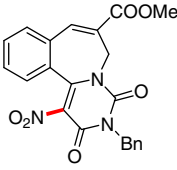
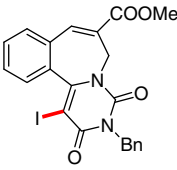
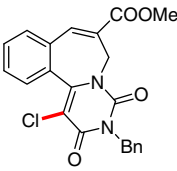
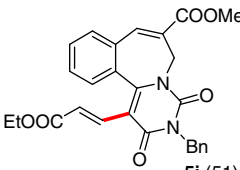
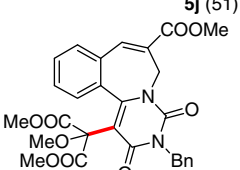
Scheme 2.



Scheme 3.

Table 2

Various functionalization at the 5-position of uracil moiety in **5a**

Entry	Conditions	Product 5 (%)
1	Cu(NO ₃) ₂ (2.0 equiv), Ac ₂ O, rt, 8 h	 5g (54)
2	I ₂ (1.5 equiv), Ce(NH ₄) ₂ (NO ₃) ₆ (1.0 equiv) CH ₃ CN, reflux, 10 h	 5h (80)
3	LiCl (1.2 equiv), Ce(NH ₄) ₂ (NO ₃) ₆ (2.0 equiv) CH ₃ CN/AcOH, 80 °C, 1 h	 5i (70)
4	Ethyl acrylate (30 equiv), Pd(TFA) ₂ (10 mol %), AgOAc (4.0 equiv), PivOH (6.0 equiv), 100 °C, 18 h	 5j (51)
5	Dimethyl malonate (6.0 equiv) Ce(NH ₄) ₂ (NO ₃) ₆ (6.0 equiv) CH ₃ CN/MeOH (3:1), rt, 3 h	 5k (65)

nitration of **5a** under the influence of Cu(NO₃)₂/Ac₂O afforded product **5g** in moderate yields (54%).¹³ Iodination of **5a** with iodine in the presence of ammonium cerium nitrate (CAN) afforded **5h** (entry 2) in a good yield (80%).¹⁴ Chlorination of **5a** was carried out to form **5i** (70%) by LiCl/CAN according to the reported meth-

od.¹⁵ In addition, a palladium-catalyzed Fujiwara–Moritani reaction¹⁶ of **5a** with ethyl acrylate afforded the corresponding compound **5j** in a reasonable yield (51%). As a last entry (entry 5), an introduction of a malonate moiety was performed according to the literature method to form **5k** in a moderate yield (65%).¹⁷

Although the yields were moderate in some entries (entries 1 and 4), we could prepare variously functionalized benzoazepine derivatives.

In summary, a palladium-catalyzed intramolecular arylation at the C-6 position of the uracil moiety was examined. Morita–Baylis–Hillman adducts bearing an uracil moiety at the primary position provided an efficient way to a novel benzo[c]pyrimido[1,6-a]azepine scaffold. In addition, various functionalizations of the synthesized benzoazepine derivative were successfully carried out. Further studies on the biological activities are underway and the results will be published in due course.

Acknowledgments

This work was supported by the National Research Foundation of Korea Grant funded by the Korean Government (2011-0002570). Spectroscopic data were obtained from the Korea Basic Science Institute, Gwangju branch.

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- Typical procedure for the synthesis of **4a** and **5a**: A solution of MBH acetate (**1a**, 313 mg, 1.0 mmol), uracil (**2a**, 168 mg, 1.5 mmol), and K₂CO₃ (276 mg, 2.0 mmol) in DMF (2.0 mL) was stirred at room temperature for 5 h. After the usual aqueous extractive workup and column chromatographic purification process (hexanes/ether, 1:2) compound **3a** was obtained as a white solid, 293 mg (80%). A solution of **3a** (292 mg, 0.8 mmol), benzyl bromide (205 mg, 1.2 mmol), and K₂CO₃ (221 mg, 1.6 mmol) in DMF (2.0 mL) was stirred at room temperature for 5 h. After the usual aqueous extractive workup and column chromatographic purification process (hexanes/ether, 1:2) compound **4a** was obtained as colorless oil, 343 mg (94%). A mixture of compound **4a** (228 mg, 0.5 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (11 mg, 10 mol %), TBAB (161 mg, 0.5 mmol), and KOAc (147 mg, 1.5 mmol) in DMF (2.0 mL) was heated to 120 °C for 30 min. After the usual aqueous extractive workup and column chromatographic purification process (hexanes/ether, 1:1) compound **5a** was obtained as a white solid, 146 mg (78%). Other compounds were synthesized similarly, and the selected spectroscopic data of **4a** and **5a–k** are as follows. Compound **4a**: 94%; colorless oil; IR (film) 1710, 1663, 1449, 1230 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 3.77 (s, 3H), 4.68 (s, 2H), 5.02 (s, 2H), 5.60 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.05 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.15–7.30 (m, 6H), 7.42 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.58 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.93 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) δ 44.05, 45.00, 52.44, 101.24, 123.17, 127.32, 127.36, 127.82, 128.13, 128.96, 129.56, 130.39, 132.69, 134.54, 136.66, 141.68, 143.98, 151.05, 162.61, 166.24; ESIMS m/z 455 (M⁺H), 457 (M⁺+H₂). Anal. Calcd. For C₂₂H₁₉BrN₂O₄: C, 58.04; H, 4.21; N, 6.15. Found: C, 58.33; H, 4.42; N, 6.08. Compound **5a**: 78%; white solid, mp 118–120 °C; IR (KBr) 1718, 1658, 1460, 1433 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 3.45 (d, J = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 5.08 (d, J = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 5.24 (d, J = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 5.79 (s, 1H), 6.01 (d, J = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 7.23–7.34 (m, 3H), 7.45 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.50–7.62 (m, 4H), 7.69 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.93 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) δ 40.20, 44.62, 52.66, 102.64, 127.59, 128.30, 129.29, 129.74, 130.36, 130.77, 130.87, 132.26, 133.38, 134.39, 136.73, 142.00, 150.52, 152.20, 161.97, 165.22; ESIMS m/z 375 (M⁺+H). Anal. Calcd. For C₂₂H₁₈N₂O₄: C, 70.58; H, 4.85; N, 7.48. Found: C, 70.37; H, 4.93; N, 7.37. Compound **5b**: 83%; white solid, mp 100–102 °C; IR (KBr) 1718, 1697, 1643, 1459, 1439 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 1.80 (s, 3H), 3.37 (d, J = 14.4 Hz, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 5.13 (d, J = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 5.27 (d, J = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 6.02 (d, J = 14.4 Hz, 1H), 7.23–7.34 (m, 3H), 7.44–7.58 (m, 6H), 7.92 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) δ 14.24, 40.18, 44.87, 52.55, 109.58, 127.50, 128.24, 128.66, 129.39, 129.66, 130.00, 131.89, 132.12, 132.80, 135.65, 136.90, 141.82, 146.69, 149.91, 163.34, 165.28; ESIMS m/z 389 (M⁺+H). Anal. Calcd. For C₂₃H₂₀N₂O₄: C, 71.12; H, 5.19; N, 7.21. Found: C, 71.34; H, 5.02; N, 7.12. Compound **5c**: 62%; white solid, mp 146–148 °C; IR (KBr) 1719, 1660, 1275, 1262 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 3.42 (d, J = 14.1 Hz, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 5.10 (d, J = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 5.28 (d, J = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 6.02 (d, J = 14.1 Hz, 1H), 7.25–7.35 (m, 3H), 7.48–7.62 (m, 5H), 7.69–7.74 (m, 1H), 7.93 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) δ 40.20, 45.19, 52.66, 127.02 (d, J_{C-F} = 3.5 Hz), 127.88, 128.38, 129.48, 129.56, 130.71, 130.94, 131.91 (d, J_{C-F} = 7.5 Hz), 132.17, 135.17, 136.17 (d, J_{C-F} = 29.3 Hz), 136.10, 137.59 (d, J_{C-F} = 22.2 Hz), 141.92, 148.52, 156.86 (d, J_{C-F} = 26.3 Hz), 165.11; ESIMS m/z 393 (M⁺+H). Anal. Calcd. For C₂₂H₁₇FN₂O₄: C, 67.34; H, 4.37; N, 7.14. Found: C, 67.55; H, 4.39; N, 7.02. Compound **5d**: 79%; white solid, mp 128–130 °C; IR (KBr) 1720, 1697, 1645, 1454, 1438 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 0.98 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 2.03–2.39 (m, 2H), 3.35 (d, J = 14.1 Hz, 1H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 5.10 (d, J = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 5.29 (d, J = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 6.01 (d, J = 14.1 Hz, 1H), 7.23–7.34 (m, 3H), 7.44–7.58 (m, 6H), 7.93 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) δ 13.75, 21.20, 40.22, 44.74, 52.55, 115.58, 127.47, 128.26, 128.72, 129.38, 129.55, 130.00, 130.82, 132.28, 133.00, 135.65, 136.99, 141.73, 146.83, 149.88, 162.79, 165.30; ESIMS m/z 403 (M⁺+H). Anal. Calcd. For C₂₄H₂₂N₂O₄: C, 71.63; H, 5.51; N, 6.96. Found: C, 71.38; H, 5.82; N, 6.93. Compound **5e**: 78%; white solid, mp 164–166 °C; IR (KBr) 1718, 1656, 1450, 1262 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 3.51 (d, J = 14.4 Hz, 1H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 5.12 (d, J = 13.8 Hz, 1H), 5.29 (d, J = 13.8 Hz, 1H), 5.81 (s, 1H), 6.05 (d, J = 14.4 Hz, 1H), 7.26–7.37 (m, 3H), 7.45 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.50–7.62 (m, 4H), 7.89 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.96 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.04 (s, 1H), 8.29 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) δ 40.70, 44.62, 52.66, 105.52, 126.19, 126.60, 127.62, 127.87, 128.33 (2C), 129.41, 130.64, 131.03, 131.27, 133.05, 133.24, 133.96, 136.72, 142.03, 148.47, 150.75, 161.55, 165.14 (one carbon was overlapped); ESIMS m/z 425 (M⁺+H). Anal. Calcd. For C₂₆H₂₀N₂O₄: C, 73.57; H, 4.75; N, 6.60. Found: C, 73.81; H, 4.78; N, 6.43. Compound **5f**: 59%; white solid, mp 198–200 °C; IR (KBr) 1714, 1656, 1518, 1454, 1440 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 3.45 (d, J = 14.4 Hz, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.95 (s, 3H), 3.96 (s, 3H), 5.08 (d, J = 13.8 Hz, 1H), 5.24 (d, J = 13.8 Hz, 1H), 5.77 (s, 1H), 6.01 (d, J = 14.4 Hz, 1H), 6.88 (s, 1H), 7.13 (s, 1H), 7.21–7.35 (m, 3H), 7.54 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.86 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) δ 40.45, 44.58, 52.54, 56.13, 56.20, 101.45, 111.95, 112.65, 126.73, 127.53, 128.05, 128.28, 129.20, 130.49, 136.78, 141.94, 150.38, 150.55, 150.94, 152.02, 162.13, 165.31; ESIMS m/z 435 (M⁺+H). Anal. Calcd. For C₂₄H₂₂N₂O₆: C, 66.35; H, 5.10; N, 6.45. Found: C, 66.41; H, 5.37; N, 6.23. Compound **5g**: 54%; white solid, mp 208–210 °C; IR (KBr) 1726, 1669, 1528, 1465, 1434 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 3.37 (d, J = 14.4 Hz, 1H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 5.09 (d, J = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 5.29 (d, J = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 6.08 (d, J = 14.4 Hz, 1H), 7.30–7.37 (m, 3H), 7.47–7.70 (m, 6H), 8.01 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) δ 40.66, 45.79, 52.86, 127.97, 128.23, 128.54, 128.91, 129.89, 130.38, 130.46, 130.81, 132.41, 132.80, 135.20, 135.45, 141.63, 147.42, 148.23, 154.98, 164.65; ESIMS m/z 420 (M⁺+H). Anal. Calcd. For C₂₄H₁₇N₃O₆: C, 63.01; H, 4.09; N, 10.02. Found: C, 63.33; H, 4.29; N, 9.89. Compound **5h**: 80%; white solid, mp 218–220 °C; IR (KBr) 1718, 1649, 1579, 1447, 1430 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 3.40 (d, J = 14.4 Hz, 1H), 3.88 (s,

- 3H), 5.17 (d, $J = 13.5$ Hz, 1H), 5.30 (d, $J = 13.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.08 (d, $J = 14.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.26–7.35 (m, 3H), 7.44–7.62 (m, 5H), 7.84 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.94 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz) δ 41.77, 46.56, 52.66, 109.68, 127.84, 128.36, 128.74, 129.38, 129.72, 131.03, 132.93, 133.40, 134.60, 135.02, 136.30, 141.75, 149.72, 152.59, 160.14, 165.01; ESIMS m/z 523 ($\text{M}^+ + \text{Na}$). Anal. Calcd. For $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{17}\text{IN}_2\text{O}_4$: C, 52.82; H, 3.43; N, 5.60. Found: C, 52.95; H, 3.71; N, 5.73.
- Compound **5i**: 70%; white solid, mp 198–200 °C; IR (KBr) 1720, 1657, 1452, 1433 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ 3.39 (d, $J = 14.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 5.14 (d, $J = 13.5$ Hz, 1H), 5.30 (d, $J = 13.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.03 (d, $J = 14.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.25–7.35 (m, 3H), 7.46–7.62 (m, 5H), 7.80 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.94 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz) δ 41.01, 45.91, 52.67, 109.07, 127.88, 128.37, 128.75, 129.70, 129.81, 130.28, 130.87, 132.56, 132.64, 135.41, 136.16, 141.82, 147.19, 148.97, 159.05, 165.00; ESIMS m/z 431 ($\text{M}^+ + \text{Na}$), 433 ($\text{M}^+ + 2 + \text{Na}$). Anal. Calcd. For $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{17}\text{ClN}_2\text{O}_4$: C, 64.63; H, 4.19; N, 6.85. Found: C, 64.70; H, 4.42; N, 6.81.
- Compound **5j**: 51%; white solid, mp 150–152 °C; IR (KBr) 1719, 1657, 1459, 1436 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ 1.23 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H), 3.39 (d, $J = 14.1$ Hz, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 4.05–4.20 (m, 2H), 5.15 (d, $J = 13.5$ Hz, 1H), 5.29 (d, $J = 13.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.08 (d, $J = 14.1$ Hz, 1H), 6.79 (d, $J = 15.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.12 (d, $J = 15.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.24–7.36 (m, 3H), 7.47–7.67 (m, 6H), 7.96 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz) δ 14.16, 40.51, 45.03, 52.68, 60.06, 108.42, 120.87, 127.75, 128.36, 128.84, 129.52, 129.81, 130.76, 131.36, 133.00, 133.42, 135.99, 136.48, 137.22, 141.73, 149.07, 152.39, 160.85, 164.93, 167.88; ESIMS m/z 473 ($\text{M}^+ + \text{H}$). Anal. Calcd. For $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_2\text{O}_6$: C, 68.63; H, 5.12; N, 5.93. Found: C, 68.74; H, 5.03; N, 5.68.
- Compound **5k**: 65%; white solid, mp 126–128 °C; IR (KBr) 1744, 1721, 1649, 1455, 1438 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ 3.19 (s, 3H), 3.30 (d, $J = 14.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.61 (s, 3H), 3.65 (s, 3H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 5.07 (d, $J = 13.8$ Hz, 1H), 5.25 (d, $J = 13.8$ Hz, 1H), 6.04 (d, $J = 14.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.24–7.34 (m, 3H), 7.43–7.65 (m, 6H), 7.96 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz) δ 40.24, 45.23, 52.57, 53.02, 53.10, 53.47, 83.57, 109.60, 127.68, 128.27, 128.84 (2C), 129.33, 130.75, 131.43, 131.93, 133.24, 136.22, 141.75, 149.14, 153.93, 162.44, 164.91, 166.28, 167.51 (one carbon was overlapped); ESIMS m/z 557 ($\text{M}^+ + \text{Na}$). Anal. Calcd. For $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{26}\text{N}_2\text{O}_9$: C, 62.92; H, 4.90; N, 5.24. Found: C, 63.10; H, 4.96; N, 5.15.
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