# Radicals from Aldehydes: A Convergent Access to Dienes and $\delta$ -Lactones

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Abstract: A convenient method for the generation of O,S-acetal xanthates from aldehydes has been developed. The corresponding nucleophilic radicals undergo facile addition to unactivated olefins and the resulting adducts can be further elaborated to generate dienes and unsaturated  $\delta$ -lactones.

Key words: aldehydes, xanthates, radical reactions, lactones, dienes

Aldehydes are considered as the epitome electrophilic partners in addition reactions of organometallic reagents, and thousands of carbinols have been prepared this way. Through conversion into protected cyanohydrins or dithianes aldehydes can acquire nucleophilic character, and such an umpolung has further expanded their synthetic utility.<sup>1</sup> In contrast, the use of aldehydes as radical precursors has remained somewhat limited, especially in terms of intermolecular radical reactions.<sup>2</sup>

We have recently shown that the xanthate **1** derived from trifluoroacetaldehyde can be applied for the preparation of a wide variety of  $\alpha$ -trifluoromethyl alcohol derivatives **2** by radical addition to unactivated olefins (Scheme 1).<sup>3</sup> The high yields of adduct **2** obtained (up to 92%) could be attributed to the strongly electron-withdrawing trifluoromethyl group which modifies the reactivity of the corresponding radical to give highly efficient propagation steps.



#### Scheme 1

However, the question remained as to whether the presence of an electron-withdrawing group was essential for successful radical addition, or could parallel chemical transformations be accomplished with ordinary aldehydes.

Our initial target was the xanthate derived from acetaldehyde 4a since it was analogous to the trifluorinated compound 1 (Scheme 2). To this end, a neat mixture of acetaldehyde and acetyl chloride was stirred in the

SYNLETT 2006, No. 10, pp 1485–1490 Advanced online publication: 12.06.2006 DOI: 10.1055/s-2006-941582; Art ID: D02806ST © Georg Thieme Verlag Stuttgart · New York presence of catalytic anhydrous zinc chloride to generate 1-chloroethyl acetate 3a.<sup>4</sup> Treatment of the crude product mixture with potassium *O*-ethyl xanthate then cleanly furnished the desired radical precursor 4a in an overall yield of 78%. This fast and efficient two-step protocol was then applied to additional aldehydes in order to assemble a group of radical precursors 4a-e (Scheme 2).<sup>15</sup>



Scheme 2

With xanthates **4** in hand, we next investigated their ability to undergo group transfer radical addition. Pleasingly, when treated with a substoichiometric amount of lauroyl peroxide (DLP, 5–25%) and the corresponding olefin **A**–**F** (2 equiv) in refluxing 1,2-dichloroethane (DCE), xanthates **4** furnished good to excellent yields of olefin addition adducts **5** (Scheme 3, Table 1).<sup>16</sup>



Scheme 3

The adducts **5** were isolated as a mixture of diastereomers with low overall diasteroselectivity being observed during the radical addition step. In some cases interesting, separable minor products of double addition to olefin **B** could be isolated, e.g. **5bB'** and **5eB'** (entries 4 and 10). Moreover, one-pot radical addition to N-protected allyl-aniline followed by intramolecular cyclisation provided rapid access to the functionalised indoline **6** in excellent overall yield (Scheme 4).<sup>5</sup>



Scheme 4

Entry	Substrate	Olefin A–F	Product(s) 5	Xa = SC(S)OEt	Yield (%) <sup>b</sup>	dr <sup>c</sup>
1	<b>4</b> a	A	5aA	AcO C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>13</sub>	71	1:1
2	4a	В	5aB	AcO CAc	78	1:1
3	4a	$\mathbf{C}^{\mathrm{d}}$	5aC	Aco TMS	74	1:1
4	4b	В	5bB	OAc Xa OAc	57	1:1
			5bB′	OAc OAc OAc	22	1:1:1:1
5	4b	$\mathbf{C}^{d}$	5bC	OAc Xa TMS	70	1:1
6	4c	В	5cB	OAc Xa OAc	91	1:1
7	4c	Е	5cE	OAc Xa CO <sub>2</sub> H	95	1:1
8	4c	F	5cF	OAc Xa CO <sub>2</sub> H	81	1:1:1:1
9	4d	D	5dD	n-C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>19</sub> OAc Xa	81	1:1
10	4e	В	5eB	OAc Xa OAc	50	1:1
			5eB′	OAc OAc OAc	26	1:1:1:1
11	4e	$\mathbf{C}^{d}$	5eC	OAc Xa TMS	81	1:1
12	4e	D	5eD	OAc Xa CN	41 (52) <sup>e</sup>	1:1
Olefins A-F:	<b>A B</b>	C OAc TMS	B CN E	CO <sub>2</sub> H		

Table 1 Radical Addition of Xanthates 4a-e to Olefins A-F<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> For general experimental procedures, see ref. 16.

<sup>b</sup> Reported yields are of isolated products.

<sup>c</sup> Diastereomeric ratio was measured after purification by NMR spectroscopy.

<sup>d</sup> Olefin was used as the reaction solvent due to its volatile nature.

<sup>e</sup> Reported yield is based upon recovered xanthate **4e**.

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It may now be concluded that the presence of an electronwithdrawing group in the xanthate precursor (e.g. 1) is unnecessary, and simple aldehyde derivatives 4a-e are sufficiently reactive to undergo radical addition. In order to ascertain whether ketones could fulfill an analogous role as radical precursors, we briefly investigated the reactivity of cyclohexanone and levulinic acid (10).

Zinc chloride catalysed chloroacetylation of cyclohexanone to generate 1-chlorocyclohexyl acetate **7** followed by in situ treatment with potassium *O*-ethyl xanthate furnished the desired xanthate precursor **8** in reasonable overall yield (Scheme 5).<sup>4,6</sup> Radical addition to allyltrimethylsilane (olefin **C**) to afford **9C** was higher yielding than the corresponding transformation with allyl cyanide (olefin **D**), possibly due to a side reaction in which the corresponding radical was reduced.



**Scheme 5**<sup>6,7</sup>

Levulinic acid (10) was transformed into xanthate 12 in 90% overall yield by initial thionyl chloride-mediated conversion to chlorolactone 11, followed by nucleophilic substitution (Scheme 6).<sup>8,17</sup> To our delight, lauroyl peroxide (DLP, 5–25%) initiated radical addition of precursor 12 to olefins **B–J** afforded adducts 13**B–J** in excellent yields (Table 2).<sup>16,18</sup>





The product derived from (-)- $\beta$ -pinene **13J** (entry 5) is particularly interesting since it was formed after initial radical addition followed by fragmentation of the cyclobutane ring. Furthermore, adduct **13G** (entry 2) provided facile access to the medicinally important azocin-2-one structural motif **15** through a rapid two-step reaction sequence.<sup>9</sup> Reductive dexanthylation followed by amine deprotection and subsequent base induced in situ cyclisation,<sup>10</sup> converted **13G** into the desired eight-membered lactam **15** in good overall yield (Scheme 7).<sup>11</sup>

Adducts generated by radical addition to allyl cyanide (olefin **D**) are of further significance since they provide new synthetic routes to the valuable building blocks: 1-cyanodienes and unsaturated six-membered lactones. Simply stirring adducts **5dD**, **5eD** (Table 1) and **9D** (Scheme 5) with DBU (2.2 equiv) in dichloromethane



Scheme 7

or acetonitrile at room temperature, furnished the corresponding dienes **16**, **17**, and **18**, respectively, in high yields and with high *E*-selectivity for the  $\gamma$ , $\delta$ -double bond (Scheme 8).<sup>19</sup> In contrast, refluxing an ethanolic solution of **5dD** in the presence of concentrated hydrochloric acid afforded unsaturated  $\delta$ -lactone **19**.<sup>20</sup>





Facile entry into the  $\delta$ -lactone domain was also obtained through similar thermal acidic treatment of adducts **5cE** and **5cF** (Table 1) to afford cyclisation products **20** and **21**, respectively (Scheme 9). The ready introduction of a methyl substituent is noteworthy since it is ubiquitous amongst natural products.<sup>12,20</sup>



## Scheme 9

More complex dienes can be assembled in a highly convergent and efficient manner by radical addition of a xanthate to vinyl pivalate (olefin I). The reaction product is a new radical precursor having an equivalent *O*,*S*-acetal moiety to the xanthates derived from aldehydes **4a–e**. Thus, xanthates **23**, **26**, and **13I** were prepared in exceptional yields from their corresponding precursors **22**,<sup>13</sup> **25**,<sup>14</sup> and **12** (Table 2, entry 4), respectively (Scheme 10). Radical addition of **23**, **26**, and **13I** to allyl cyanide (olefin **D**) to generate the corresponding addition adducts followed by base-induced elimination finally afforded the

Table 2 Radical Addition of Xanthate 12 to Olefins<sup>a</sup>

Entry	Olefin	Product(s) 13	Xa = SC(S)OEt	Yield (%) <sup>b</sup>	dr <sup>c</sup>			
1	В	13B	Xa OAc	92	1:1			
2	G	13G	Xa NHBoc	89	1:1			
3	Н	13H	Xa O O $CO_2Me$	80	1:1			
4	Ι	131	Xa PivO O O	85	1:1			
5	J	13J	Xa LO DO	71	1:1			
Olefins B-J: $\xrightarrow{B} OAc$ $\xrightarrow{G} NHBoc$ $\xrightarrow{H} OPiv$ $\xrightarrow{J} OPiv$								

<sup>a</sup> For general experimental procedures, see ref. 16.

<sup>b</sup> Reported yields are of isolated products.

<sup>c</sup> Diastereomeric ratio was measured after purification.

structurally diverse cyanodienes **24**, **27**, and **28**, respectively, in good overall yields.<sup>19</sup> In line with our previous results (Scheme 8), a high selectivity for the  $E \gamma$ , $\delta$ -double bond was observed (Scheme 10).

In summary, a facile and highly efficient method for the generation of radicals from aldehydes and their subsequent addition to unactivated olefins has been devised. The addition products have then been demonstrated as excellent precursors to cyanodienes and unsaturated  $\delta$ -lactones. Since our approach represents an umpolung of the normal electrophilic reactivity of aldehydes, many of the key structural units prepared would be tedious to obtain through existing procedures.

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Scheme 10

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- (15) General Procedure for Preparation of Xanthates 4a-e. To a flask containing freshly fused catalytic  $ZnCl_2$  (ca. 5 mg) under argon was added acetyl chloride (2.4 mmol) and the mixture cooled to -5 °C to -10 °C. The aldehyde (1 mmol) was then added dropwise and the resulting reaction mixture stirred at r.t. for 1 h. The mixture was then concentrated under reduced pressure to afford crude chloride 3. To a solution of crude chloride 3 in EtOH or acetone (1 M) at 0 °C under argon was added portionwise potassium O-ethyl xanthate (1.5 mmol) and the resulting mixture stirred at r.t. for 18 h overnight. The mixture was then concentrated under reduced pressure and diluted with H<sub>2</sub>O and Et<sub>2</sub>O. The aqueous layer was extracted with Et2O and the organic layers were combined, washed with H<sub>2</sub>O, brine, dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and concentrated in vacuo. Purification by flash chromatography (silica gel) gave xanthates 4 as yellow oils. Note that in some cases, using 0.5 equiv of acetyl chloride gave higher product yields.

### Data for (±)-Xanthate 4e.

$$\begin{split} R_f &= 0.2 \ [\text{PE} \ (40-60)-\text{Et}_2\text{O}, 97:3]. \ \text{IR} \ (\text{film}): \nu_{\text{max}} = 2929 \ (\text{s}), \\ 2855 \ (\text{s}), 1753 \ (\text{s}), 1368 \ (\text{s}), 1221 \ (\text{s}), 1111 \ (\text{s}), 1051 \ (\text{s}) \ \text{cm}^{-1}. \\ ^{1}\text{H} \ \text{NMR} \ (400 \ \text{MHz}, \text{CDCl}_3): \delta &= 0.93-1.30 \ (5 \ \text{H}, \ \text{m}), 1.40 \\ (3 \ \text{H}, \ \text{t}, J = 7.0 \ \text{Hz}), 1.61-1.90 \ (6 \ \text{H}, \ \text{m}), 2.07 \ (3 \ \text{H}, \ \text{s}), 4.55- \\ 4.70 \ (2 \ \text{H}, \ \text{m}), 6.57 \ (1 \ \text{H}, \ \text{d}, J = 5.5 \ \text{Hz}). \ ^{13}\text{C} \ \text{NMR} \ (100.6 \\ \text{MHz}, \text{CDCl}_3): \delta &= 13.7 \ (\text{CH}_3), 20.9 \ (\text{CH}_3), 25.8 \ (2 \ \text{CH}_2), \\ 26.0 \ (\text{CH}_2), 28.5 \ (\text{CH}_2), 28.9 \ (\text{CH}_2), 42.0 \ (\text{CH}), 70.1 \ (\text{CH}_2), \\ 84.7 \ (\text{CH}), 169.3 \ (\text{C}), 210.7 \ (\text{C}). \ \text{MS} \ (\text{CI}): m/z \ (\%) = 294 \\ (10) \ [\text{MNH}_4^+], 277 \ (10) \ [\text{MH}^+], 217 \ (100). \ \text{HRMS}: m/z \ \text{calcd} \\ \text{for $C_{12}H_{20}O_3S_2: 276.0854. \ \text{Found:} 276.0845 \ [\text{M}^+]. \end{split}$$

(16) General Procedure for Radical Addition.
A solution of xanthate (1 mmol) and the desired olefin (2 mmol) in 1,2-dichloroethane (DCE, 2 mL) was refluxed for 15 min under nitrogen. Lauroyl peroxide (DLP, 5% mol) was then added to the refluxing solution, followed by

additional portions (5% mol) every 1.5 h until the xanthate was completely consumed. The mixture was then cooled to r.t., concentrated under reduced pressure and purified by flash chromatography (silica gel). A small layer of basic alumina was placed on top of the silica to remove any lauric acid present.

#### Data for (±)-Xanthate Adduct 5eD.

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$$\begin{split} R_f &= 0.2 \ [\text{PE} \ (40-60)-\text{Et}_2\text{O}, 4:1]. \ \text{IR} \ (\text{film}): \nu_{\text{max}} = 2929 \ (\text{s}), \\ 2855 \ (\text{s}), 2251 \ (\text{w}), 1735 \ (\text{s}), 1446 \ (\text{s}), 1234 \ (\text{s}), 1051 \ (\text{s}), 733 \\ (\text{s}) \ \text{cm}^{-1}. \ ^{1}\text{H} \ \text{NMR} \ (400 \ \text{MHz}, \text{CDCl}_3): \delta &= 0.93-1.28 \ (10 \ \text{H}, \\ \text{m}), 1.36-1.45 \ (6 \ \text{H}, \text{m}), 1.45-1.59 \ (2 \ \text{H}, \text{m}), 1.59-1.80 \ (10 \\ \text{H}, \text{m}), 1.97-2.08 \ (4 \ \text{H}, \text{m}), 2.05 \ (3 \ \text{H}, \text{s}), 2.09 \ (3 \ \text{H}, \text{s}), 2.80-3.05 \ (4 \ \text{H}, \text{m}), 3.78-3.87 \ (1 \ \text{H}, \text{m}), 3.88-3.97 \ (1 \ \text{H}, \text{m}), 4.59-4.68 \ (4 \ \text{H}, \text{m}), 4.78-4.86 \ (1 \ \text{H}, \text{m}), 4.88-4.97 \ (1 \ \text{H}, \text{m}). ^{13}\text{C} \\ \text{NMR} \ (100.6\text{MHz}, \text{CDCl}_3): \delta &= 13.8 \ (2 \ \text{CH}_3), 21.1 \ (2 \ \text{CH}_3), \\ 22.6 \ (\text{CH}_2), 24.4 \ (\text{CH}_2), 25.9 \ (2 \ \text{CH}_2), 26.0 \ (2 \ \text{CH}_2), 26.2 \ (\text{CH}_2), 26.3 \ (\text{CH}_2), 27.9 \ (\text{CH}_2), 28.2 \ (\text{CH}_2), 28.5 \ (\text{CH}_2), 28.9 \ (\text{CH}_2), 33.8 \ (\text{CH}_2), 34.3 \ (\text{CH}_2), 41.5 \ (\text{CH}), 41.9 \ (\text{CH}), 43.1 \ (\text{CH}), 43.9 \ (\text{CH}), 70.5 \ (\text{CH}_2), 70.6 \ (\text{CH}_2), 74.4 \ (2 \ \text{CH}), 116.9 \ (\text{C}), 117.1 \ (\text{C}), 170.5 \ (\text{C}), 171.0 \ (\text{C}), 212.0 \ (\text{C}), 212.3 \ (\text{C}). \\ \text{MS} \ (\text{EI}): m/z \ (\%) = 343 \ (40) \ [\text{M}^+], 283 \ (100). \ \text{HRMS}: m/z \ \text{calcd for } C_{16}H_{25}O_3\text{NS}_2: 343.1276. \ \text{Found:} 343.1287 \ [\text{M}^+]. \end{split}$$

#### (17) Procedure for Preparation of Xanthate 12.

To a flask containing levulinic acid (10, 8 g, 69 mmol, 1 equiv) under nitrogen at 0 °C was added dropwise freshly distilled SOCl<sub>2</sub> (6 mL, 83 mmol, 1.2 equiv) and the resulting mixture stirred for 1 h. The reaction mixture was then allowed to warm to r.t. and concentrated in vacuo to afford crude chloride 11. To a solution of crude chloride 11 in acetone (70 mL) at 0 °C under nitrogen was added portionwise potassium O-ethyl xanthate (13.3 g, 83 mmol, 1.2 equiv) and the resulting mixture stirred at r.t. for 18 h overnight. The mixture was then concentrated under reduced pressure and diluted with H2O and Et2O. The aqueous layer was extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O and the organic layers were combined, washed with brine, dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and concentrated in vacuo. Purification by flash chromatography [PE (40-60)-EtOAc, 9:1] gave xanthate 12 as a yellow oil (13.7 g, 90%, 2 steps).

#### Data for (±)-Xanthate 12.

$$\begin{split} R_f &= 0.1 \; [\text{PE} \; (40-60) - \text{EtOAc}, 9:1]. \; \text{IR} \; (\text{film}): v_{\text{max}} = 2981 \; (\text{s}), \\ 2933 \; (\text{s}), 1791 \; (\text{s}), 1241 \; (\text{s}), 1128 \; (\text{s}), 1040 \; (\text{s}), 896 \; (\text{s}) \; \text{cm}^{-1}. \\ ^1\text{H} \; \text{NMR} \; (400 \; \text{MHz}, \text{CDCl}_3): \delta = 1.50 \; (3 \; \text{H}, t, J = 7.0 \; \text{Hz}), \\ 1.96 \; (3 \; \text{H}, \text{s}), 2.35-2.42 \; (1 \; \text{H}, \text{m}), 2.63-2.91 \; (3 \; \text{H}, \text{m}), 4.67-4.77 \; (2 \; \text{H}, \text{m}). \\ ^{13}\text{C} \; \text{NMR} \; (100.6 \; \text{MHz}, \text{CDCl}_3): \delta = 13.7 \\ \; (\text{CH}_3), 28.6 \; (\text{CH}_3), 28.8 \; (\text{CH}_2), 35.2 \; (\text{CH}_2), 70.2 \; (\text{CH}_2), 94.4 \\ \; (\text{C}), 175.1 \; (\text{C}), 209.4 \; (\text{C}). \; \text{MS} \; (\text{CI}): m/z \; (\%) = 238 \; (100) \\ \; [\text{MNH}_4^+], 221 \; (48) \; [\text{MH}^+]. \; \text{HRMS}: m/z \; \text{calcd for } \text{C}_8\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_3\text{S}_2: \\ 220.0228. \; \text{Found:} \; 220.0234 \; [\text{M}^+]. \end{split}$$

#### (18) Data for (±)-Xanthate Adduct 13H.

 $R_f = 0.15$  [PE (40–60)–Et<sub>2</sub>O–CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 7.5:1.5:1]. IR (film):  $v_{max} = 2829$  (s), 2856 (s), 1774 (s), 1737 (s), 1444 (s), 1364 (s), 1216 (s), 1052 (s), 734 (s) cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 1.23–1.50 (17 H, m), 1.46 (6 H, t, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 1.47 (3 H, s), 1.53 (3 H, s), 1.57-1.97 (9 H, m), 2.00-2.22 (8 H, m), 2.33 (4 H, t, J = 7.5 Hz), 2.36–2.46 (2 H, m), 2.54– 2.75 (4 H, m), 3.69 (6 H, s), 3.78-3.96 (2 H, m), 4.67 (4 H, q, J = 7.0 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 13.8$  (2 CH<sub>3</sub>), 24.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 24.9 (2 CH<sub>2</sub>), 27.0 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 27.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 28.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 29.0 (2 CH<sub>2</sub>), 29.1 (3 CH<sub>2</sub>), 29.2 (4 CH<sub>2</sub>), 29.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 32.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 34.0 (2 CH<sub>2</sub>), 34.7 (2 CH<sub>2</sub>), 35.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 44.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 45.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 46.7 (CH), 47.3 (CH), 51.3 (2 CH<sub>3</sub>), 69.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 70.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 85.9 (C), 86.1 (C), 174.2 (2 C), 176.2 (C), 176.3 (C), 214.0 (C), 214.1 (C). MS (CI): *m*/*z* (%) = 436 (100)  $[MNH_4^+]$ , 419 (44)  $[MH^+]$ . HRMS: m/z calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>34</sub>O<sub>5</sub>S<sub>2</sub>: 418.1848. Found: 418.1844 [M<sup>+</sup>].

#### (19) General Procedure for Diene Formation.

To a solution of xanthate (1 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> or MeCN (0.1 M) at r.t. under nitrogen was added DBU (2.2 mmol) dropwise and the resulting mixture stirred for 18 h overnight. The mixture was then concentrated under reduced pressure and diluted with H<sub>2</sub>O and Et<sub>2</sub>O. The aqueous layer was extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O and the organic layers were combined, washed several times with sat. aq NH<sub>4</sub>Cl and then brine, dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and concentrated in vacuo. Purification was performed by flash chromatography (silica gel). **Data for** (±)-(2*E*,4*E*)- and (±)-(2*Z*,4*E*)-5-Cyclohexylpenta-2,4-dienenitrile (17).

Purification by flash chromatography [PE(40–60)–CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 7:3) gave diene **17** as a pale yellow oil (81%) and as a mixture of 2 diastereomers in a 2E,4E/2Z,4E ratio of 1.3:1. Only traces of the 2E,4Z and 2Z,4Z diastereomers could be detected in the NMR spectra.

 $R_f = 0.5$  and 0.35 [PE (40–60)–CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 1:1]. IR (film):  $v_{max} = 3039$  (m), 2927 (s), 2856 (s), 2214 (s), 1637 (s), 1595 (s), 994 (s), 742 (s) cm<sup>-1</sup>. MS (CI): m/z (%) = 179 (100) [MNH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>], 162 (1) [MH<sup>+</sup>]. HRMS: m/z calcd for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>15</sub>N: 161.1205. Found: 161.1207 [M<sup>+</sup>]

NMR Data for (±)-(2*E*,4*E*)-Isomer.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 1.08-1.43$  (5 H, m), 1.59– 1.86 (5 H, m), 2.07–2.26 (1 H, m), 5.28 (1 H, d, J = 16.0 Hz), 6.11–6.16 (2 H, m), 7.01 (1 H, dd, J = 16.0, 10.0 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 24.3$  (CH<sub>2</sub>), 24.4 (2 CH<sub>2</sub>), 30.6 (2 CH<sub>2</sub>), 41.2 (CH), 96.5 (CH), 115.4 (CN, very weak), 125.5 (CH), 151.4 (CH), 151.6 (CH).

#### NMR Data for (±)-(2Z,4E)-Isomer.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 1.08–1.43 (5 H, m), 1.59– 1.86 (5 H, m), 2.07–2.26 (1 H, m), 5.14 (1 H, d, *J* = 11.0 Hz), 6.11–6.20 (1 H, m), 6.55 (1 H, dd, *J* = 15.0, 11.0 Hz), 6.82 (1 H, t, *J* = 11.0 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 24.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 24.5 (2 CH<sub>2</sub>), 30.7 (2 CH<sub>2</sub>), 41.1 (CH), 94.8 (CH), 117.1 (CN, very weak), 124.4 (CH), 150.2 (CH), 151.3 (CH).

#### (20) General Procedure for Lactone Formation.

To a solution of **5dD**, **5cE** or **5cF** (100 mg) in EtOH (10 mL) at r.t. under nitrogen was added concd HCl (1 mL) and the resulting mixture refluxed (EtOH) for 72 h. The mixture was then cooled to r.t., concentrated under reduced pressure and diluted with  $Et_2O$  (50 mL). The ethereal phase was washed with sat. aq  $K_2CO_3$ , dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and concentrated in vacuo. Purification by flash chromatography (silica gel) gave lactones **19**, **20**, **21** as yellow oils.

# Data for $(\pm)$ -6-Isobutyl-3-methyl-5,6-dihydro-pyran-2-one (21).

$$\begin{split} R_f &= 0.2 \; [\text{PE} \; (40-60) - \text{EtOAc}, 9:1]. \; \text{IR} \; (\text{film}): v_{\text{max}} = 2959 \; (\text{s}), \\ 2929 \; (\text{s}), \; 1726 \; (\text{s}), \; 1368 \; (\text{s}), \; 1113 \; (\text{s}), \; 786 \; (\text{s}) \; \text{cm}^{-1}. \; ^1\text{H} \; \text{NMR} \\ (400 \; \text{MHz}, \; \text{CDCl}_3): \; \delta &= 0.88 \; (6 \; \text{H}, \; \text{d}, \; J = 6.5 \; \text{Hz}), \; 1.26-1.37 \\ (1 \; \text{H}, \; \text{m}), \; 1.65-1.75 \; (1 \; \text{H}, \; \text{m}), \; 1.77-1.92 \; (1 \; \text{H}, \; \text{m}), \; 1.86 \; (3 \; \text{H}, \\ \text{s}), \; 2.17-2.28 \; (2 \; \text{H}, \; \text{m}), \; 4.34-4.46 \; (1 \; \text{H}, \; \text{m}), \; 6.49-6.58 \; (1 \; \text{H}, \\ \text{m}). \; ^{13}\text{C} \; \text{NMR} \; (100.6 \; \text{MHz}, \; \text{CDCl}_3): \; \delta &= 17.0 \; (\text{CH}_3), \; 22.1 \\ (\text{CH}), \; 23.0 \; (\text{CH}_3), \; 23.9 \; (\text{CH}_3), \; 30.3 \; (\text{CH}_2), \; 44.0 \; (\text{CH}_2), \; 76.4 \\ (\text{CH}), \; 128.4 \; (\text{C}), \; 139.0 \; (\text{CH}), \; 166.2 \; (\text{C}). \; \text{MS} \; (\text{CI}): \; m/z \; (\%) = 186 \; (100) \; [\text{MNH}_4^+], \; 169 \; (100) \; [\text{MH}^+]. \end{split}$$