Electronic Supplementary Material (ESI) for Organic & Biomolecular Chemistry. This journal is © The Royal Society of Chemistry 2015

Regiodivergent Lewis-base promoted O- to C-carboxyl transfer of furanyl carbonates

Craig D. Campbell, Caroline Joannesse, Louis C. Morrill, Douglas Philp and Andrew D. Smith *

EaStCHEM, School of Chemistry, University of St Andrews, North Haugh, St Andrews, KY16 9ST, UK.

e-mail: ads10@st-andrews.ac.uk

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Contents

1.1 General Information	S2
1.2 General Experimental Procedures	S 3
1.3 Experimental Procedures and Characterization Data	S3
1.4 References and Notes	S15
1.5 ¹ H and ¹³ C NMR Spectra for Novel Compounds	S16

1.1 General information

Reactions involving moisture sensitive reagents were carried out under an argon atmosphere using standard vacuum line techniques in addition to freshly distilled solvents. All glassware used was flame dried and cooled under vacuum.

Solvents (THF, CH₂Cl₂, toluene, hexane and Et₂O) were obtained anhydrous and purified by an alumina column (Mbraun SPS-800). Anhydrous CH₃CN was obtained by distillation over calcium hydride. Petrol is defined as petroleum ether 40-60 °C. All other solvents and commercial reagents were used as supplied without further purification unless stated otherwise.

Methylmagnesium bromide and phenylmagnesium bromide were both used as a 3M solution in Et_2O as supplied (Aldrich). Potassium bis(trimethylsilyl)amide (KHMDS) was used as a 0.5M solution in toluene as supplied (Aldrich). Hydrogen chloride was used as a 4M solution in dioxane as supplied (Aldrich). Sodium hydride refers to a 60% wt. dispersion in mineral oil as supplied (Aldrich) and was used unwashed.

Room temperature (rt) refers to 20-25 °C. Temperatures of 0 °C and -78 °C were obtained using ice/water and $CO_2(s)$ /acetone baths respectively. Temperatures of 0 °C to -50 °C for overnight reactions were obtained using an immersion cooler (HAAKE EK 90). Reflux conditions were obtained using an oil bath equipped with a contact thermometer. *In vacuo* refers to the use of a Büchi Rotavapor R-2000 rotary evaporator with a Vacubrand CVC₂ vacuum controller or a Heidolph Laborota 4001 rotary evaporator with a vacuum controller.

Analytical thin layer chromatography was performed on pre-coated aluminium plates (Kieselgel 60 F_{254} silica). TLC visualisation was carried out with ultraviolet light (254 nm), followed by staining with a 1% aqueous KMnO₄ solution. Flash column chromatography was performed on Kieselgel 60 silica in the solvent system stated.

¹H and ¹³C nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectra were acquired on either a Bruker Avance 300 (300 MHz, ¹H, 75 MHz ¹³C) or a Bruker Avance II 400 (400 MHz, ¹H, 100 MHz ¹³C) spectrometer at ambient temperature in the deuterated solvent stated. All chemical shifts are quoted in parts per million (ppm) relative to the residual solvent as the internal standard. All coupling constants, *J*, are quoted in Hz. Multiplicities are indicated by: s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), ABq (AB quartet), sept (septet), oct (octet), m (multiplet), dd (doublet of doublets), ddd (doublet of doublet of doublets, dt (doublet of triplets) and td (triplet of doublets). The abbreviation Ar is used to denote aromatic, br to denote broad and app. to denote apparent.

Infrared spectra (v_{max}) were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer Spectrum GX FT-IR spectrometer using either thin films on NaCl plates or KBr discs. Only the characteristic peaks are quoted. Melting points were recorded on an Electrothermal apparatus and are uncorrected.

Mass spectrometry (m/z) data were acquired by electrospray ionisation (ESI), electron impact (EI) or nanospray ionisation (NSI) either at the University of St Andrews or the EPSRC National Mass Spectrometry Service Centre, Swansea. At the University of St Andrews, low and high resolution ESI MS were carried out on a Micromass LCT spectrometer. At the EPSRC National Mass Spectrometry Service Centre, low resolution NSI MS was carried out on a Micromass Quattro II spectrometer and high resolution NSI MS on a Thermofisher LTQ Orbitrap XL spectrometer.

The following furanyl carbonates were made according to the literature procedure:¹

$$R^{1} = Ph, R^{2} = Me, R^{3} = Ph, 5$$

$$R^{1} = 4-FC_{6}H_{4}, R^{2} = Me, R^{3} = Ph, 17$$

$$R^{1} = Me, R^{2} = Ph, R^{3} = Ph, 11$$

$$R^{1} = Me, R^{2} = Ph, R^{3} = Ph, 11$$

$$R^{1} = 4-FC_{6}H_{4}, R^{2} = Me, R^{3} = CH_{2}CCI_{3}, 18$$

$$R^{1} = Ph, R^{2} = Bn, R^{3} = Ph, 12$$

$$R^{1} = 4-FC_{6}H_{4}, R^{2} = Bn, R^{3} = Ph, 19$$

$$R^{1} = Ph, R^{2} = Bn, R^{3} = CH_{2}CCI_{3}, 13$$

$$R^{1} = 4-FC_{6}H_{4}, R^{2} = Et, R^{3} = Ph, 20$$

$$R^{1} = Ph, R^{2} = Et, R^{3} = Ph, 14$$

$$R^{1} = Ph, R^{2} = Et, R^{3} = Ph, 14$$

$$R^{1} = Ph, R^{2} = 4-BrC_{6}H_{4}, R^{3} = Ph, 21$$

$$R^{1} = Ph, R^{2} = 4-BrC_{6}H_{4}, R^{3} = Ph, 21$$

$$R^{1} = Ph, R^{2} = 4-BrC_{6}H_{4}, R^{3} = Ph, 21$$

$$R^{1} = Ph, R^{2} = 4-BrC_{6}H_{4}, R^{3} = Ph, 21$$

1.2 General Experimental Procedures

General procedure A: DMAP-promoted rearrangement.

To a solution of carbonate (1 equiv.) in THF (~1 mL per 100 mg of carbonate) was added DMAP (10 mol%). The mixture was stirred for 5 min and then concentrated *in vacuo*.

General procedure B: NHC-promoted rearrangement.

To a solution of carbonate (1 equiv.) in THF (~1 mL per 100 mg of carbonate) was added the requisite triazolium salt (1 or 10 mol%) and finally KHMDS (0.9 or 9 mol%). The mixture was stirred for 1 min to 5 min and then concentrated *in vacuo*.

1.3 Experimental Procedures and Characterization Data

phenyl 3-methyl-2-oxo-5-phenyl-2,3-dihydrofuran-3-carboxylate



Following general procedure A, carbonate **5** (100 mg, 0.34 mmol) and DMAP (4.22 mg, 0.034 mmol) in THF (1 mL) for 5 min gave a ratio of products (α : γ 60:40). Chromatographic purification (eluent Et₂O:petrol 20:80) gave **6** (60.0 mg, 60%) as a colorless solid with spectroscopic data in accordance with the literature.² mp 61 °C {Lit.¹ mp 62-64 °C}; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (400 MHz, CDCl₃) 1.82 (3H, s, CH₃), 6.03 (1H, s, C(4)*H*), 7.11-7.12 (2H, m, Ar*H*), 7.24-7.27 (1H, m, Ar*H*), 7.37-7.40 (2H, m, Ar*H*), 7.46-7.48 (3H, m, Ar*H*) and 7.69-7.71 (2H, m, Ar*H*).

phenyl 4-methyl-5-oxo-2-phenyl-2,5-dihydrofuran-2-carboxylate



Following general procedure B, carbonate **5** (200 mg, 0.68 mmol), triazolium BF₄ salt precursor to **8** (14.1 mg, 0.068 mmol) and KHMDS (0.122 mL, 0.061 mmol) in THF (1 mL) for 5 min gave a ratio of products (α : γ 16:84). Chromatographic purification (eluent Et₂O:petrol 20:80) gave **7** (144 mg, 72%) as a colorless oil with spectroscopic data in accordance with the literature.² $\delta_{\rm H}$ (400 MHz, CDCl₃) 1.99 (3H, s, CH₃), 6.98-7.00 (2H, m, Ar*H*), 7.18-7.20 (1H, m, Ar*H*), 7.30-7.34 (2H, m, Ar*H*) 7.39-7.44 (3H, m, Ar*H*) and 7.55-7.58 (3H, m, C(3)*H* and Ar*H*).

Following general procedure B, carbonate **5** (200 mg, 0.68 mmol), triazolium BF₄ salt precursor to **8** (1.41 mg, 6.80 μ mol) and KHMDS (12.2 μ L, 6.12 μ mol) in THF (1 mL) for 5 min gave a ratio of products (α : γ <2:98). Chromatographic purification (eluent Et₂O:petrol 20:80) gave **7** (170 mg, 85%) as a colorless oil. Data are in accordance with those given previously.

phenyl 3-benzyl-2-oxo-5-phenyl-2,3-dihydrofuran-3-carboxylate



Following general procedure A, carbonate **12** (100 mg, 0.34 mmol) and DMAP (4.22 mg, 0.034 mmol) in THF (1 mL) for 5 min gave a ratio of products (α : γ 64:36). Chromatographic purification (eluent Et₂O:petrol 10:90) gave **23** (45.2 mg, 45%) as a colorless solid with spectroscopic data in accordance with the literature.¹ mp 110-112 °C {Lit.¹ mp 110-112 °C}; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (400 MHz; CDCl₃) 3.49 (1H, ABq, *J* 13.6, CH*H*), 3.64 (1H, ABq, *J* 13.6, C*H*H), 5.96 (1H, s, C(4)*H*), 7.04-7.08 (2H, m, Ar*H*), 7.22-7.27 (6H, m, Ar*H*), 7.35-7.40 (5H, m, Ar*H*) and 7.53-7.57 (2H, m, Ar*H*).



Following general procedure B, carbonate **12** (200 mg, 0.54 mmol), triazolium BF₄ salt precursor to **8** (14.7 mg, 0.054 mmol) and KHMDS (0.097 mL, 0.049 mmol) in THF (1 mL) for 5 min gave a ratio of products (α : γ 19:81). Chromatographic purification (eluent Et₂O:petrol 20:80) gave **24** (134 mg, 67%) as a colorless oil; IR (thin film) v_{max}/cm^{-1} : 1773 (C=O), 1761 (C=O), 1647 (Ar C=C), 1493, 1451, 1189 (C-O), 1053, 1025, 734 and 676; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (400 MHz, CDCl₃) 3.67 (1H, ABq, *J* 16.9, 1.6, CH*H*), 3.72 (1H, ABq, *J* 16.9, 1.6, C*H*H), 6.97–7.01 (2H, m, Ar*H*), 7.21–7.38 (9H, m, Ar*H* and C(3)*H*), 7.41–7.46 (3H, m, Ar*H*) and 7.53–7.56 (2H, m, Ar*H*); $\delta_{\rm C}$ (100 MHz, CDCl₃) 32.0, 87.9, 121.0, 126.0, 126.7, 127.3, 129.1, 129.1, 129.2, 129.7, 129.7, 135.2, 135.4, 136.6, 147.1, 150.3, 166.1 and 171.3; *m/z* (ESI+) 388 (100, [M+NH₄]⁺); HRMS (ESI+) C₂₄H₂₂NO₄⁺ ([M+NH₄]⁺) requires 388.1543, found 388.1543 (-0.1 ppm).

Following general procedure B, carbonate **12** (200 mg, 0.54 mmol), triazolium BF₄ salt precursor to **8** (1.47 mg, 5.40 μ mol) and KHMDS (9.72 μ L, 4.86 μ mol) in THF (1 mL) for 1 min gave a ratio of products (α : γ 4:96). Chromatographic purification (eluent Et₂O:petrol 20:80) gave **24** (134 mg, 67%) as a colorless oil. Data are in accordance with those given previously.

3-benzyl-5-phenylfuran-2-yl (1,1,1-trichloro-2-methylpropan-2-yl) carbonate



To a solution of 3-benzyl-5-phenylfuran-2(5*H*)-one¹ (0.80 g, 3.20 mmol) in THF (15 mL) at 0 °C was added triethylamine (0.89 mL, 6.40 mmol) and 1,1,1-trichloro-2-methylpropan-2-yl carbonochloridate (1.54 g, 6.40 mmol). After 30 min at rt the reaction mixture was poured into 0.5M HCl, and extracted with Et₂O (x 3). The organic fraction was washed with brine, dried (MgSO₄), filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. Chromatographic purification (15:85, CH₂Cl₂/petrol) gave carbonate **25** (0.81 g, 55%) as a colorless solid; mp 78-80 °C; IR (KBr) v_{max} /cm⁻¹: 2954, 1786 (C=O), 1234, 1153 (C-O), 801 and 694; δ_{H} (300 MHz; CDCl₃) 2.00 (6H, s, (CH₃)₂), 3.74 (2H, s, CH₂), 6.46 (1H, s, C(4)*H*), 7.22-7.38 (8H, m, Ar*H*) and 7.56-7.59 (2H, m, Ar*H*); δ_{C} (75 MHz, CDCl₃): 21.1, 30.0, 92.0, 104.8, 107.7, 108.6, 123.4, 126.5, 127.5, 128.7, 128.8, 130.2, 129.2, 146.4, 147.4 and 149.1; *m/z* (ES+) 470.1 (39,

 $[M+NH_4]^+$) and 453.0 (100, $[M+H]^+$); HRMS (ES+) $C_{22}H_{19}O_4Cl_3^+$ required 453.0422, found 453.0422 (+0.1 ppm).

1,1,1-trichloro-2-methylpropan-2-yl3-benzyl-2-oxo-5-phenyl-2,3-dihydrofuran-3-
carboxylate



Following general procedure A, carbonate **25** (91.0 mg, 0.20 mmol) and DMAP (2.40 mg, 0.02 mmol) in THF (0.9 mL) for 15 min gave a ratio of products (α : γ 62:38). Chromatographic purification (eluent CH₂Cl₂:petrol 50:50 to 100% CH₂Cl₂) gave the alpha product **26** (51.0 mg, 56%) as a colorless solid and the gamma product (26.0 mg, 26%) as a pale yellow oil. Data for alpha product **26**; mp 132-134 °C; IR (KBr) v_{max} /cm⁻¹: 2938, 1792 (C=O), 1742 (C=O), 1233, 1152 (C-O), 993, 795 and 765; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (300 MHz, CDCl₃) 1.88 (3H, s, CH₃), 1.92 (3H, s, CH₃), 3.38 (1H, ABq, *J* 13.6, CH*H*), 3.50 (1H, ABq, *J* 13.6, C*H*H), 5.80 (1H, s, C(4)*H*), 7.18-7.25 (5H, m, Ar*H*), 7.34-7.36 (3H, m, Ar*H*) and 7.46-7.49 (2H, m, Ar*H*); $\delta_{\rm C}$ (75 MHz, CDCl₃): 21.3, 21.4, 40.2, 62.7, 90.8, 101.8, 105.5, 125.3, 127.6, 127.7, 128.6, 128.8, 130.1, 130.3, 134.4, 154.5, 165.3 and 172.9; *m*/*z* (ES+) 470.1 (100, [M+NH4]⁺) and 453.0 (5, [M+H]⁺); HRMS (ES+) C₂₂H₂₃O₄NCl₃⁺ required 470.0687, found 470.0687 (+0 ppm).

1,1,1-trichloro-2-methylpropan-2-yl carboxylate





Following general procedure B, carbonate **25** (91.0 mg, 0.20 mmol), triazolium BF₄ salt precursor to **8** (5.50 mg, 0.02 mmol) and KHMDS (0.036 mL, 0.018 mmol) in THF (0.9 mL) for 5 min gave a ratio of products (α : γ 4:96). Chromatographic purification (eluent 100% CH₂Cl₂) gave **27** (72.8 mg, 80%) as a pale yellow oil; IR (thin film) ν_{max} /cm⁻¹: 2923, 1776 (broad, 2×C=O), 1452, 1152 (C-O), 1032, 791 and 697; δ_{H} (300 MHz, CDCl₃): 1.80 (3H, s, CH₃), 1.88 (3H, s, CH₃), 3.60 (1H, ABq, *J* 16.9, 1.7, CH*H*), 3.70 (1H, ABq, *J* 16.9, 1.6, C*H*H), 7.21-7.24 (3H, m, Ar*H*), 7.27-7.32 (2H, m, Ar*H*), 7.35 (1H, app. t, *J* 2.0, C(3)*H*), 7.37-7.41 (3H, m, Ar*H*) and 7.47-7.51 (2H, m, Ar*H*); δ_{C} (75 MHz, CDCl₃): 21.1, 21.4, 31.9, 88.1, 91.1, 105.3, 126.1, 127.2, 128.9, 129.0, 129.0, 129.5, 134.9, 135.2, 136.6, 146.9, 164.8 and

171.2; m/z (ES+) 470.1 (100, $[M+NH_4]^+$) and 453.0 (8, $[M+H]^+$); HRMS (ES+) $C_{12}H_{23}O_4NCl_3^+$ required 470.0687, found 470.0679 (-1.7 ppm).

Following general procedure B, carbonate **25** (91.0 mg, 0.20 mmol), triazolium BF₄ salt precursor to **8** (0.55 mg, 2.00 μ mol) and KHMDS (3.6 μ L, 1.80 μ mol) in THF (1 mL) for 1 min gave a ratio of products (α : γ 1:99). Chromatographic purification (eluent 100% CH₂Cl₂) gave **27** (82.8 mg, 91%) as a pale yellow oil. Data are in accordance with those given previously.

2,2,2-trichloroethyl 3-benzyl-2-oxo-5-phenyl-2,3-dihydrofuran-3-carboxylate



Following general procedure A, carbonate **13** (85.0 mg, 0.20 mmol) and DMAP (2.40 mg, 0.02 mmol) in THF (0.9 mL) for 15 min gave a ratio of products (α : γ 54:46). Chromatographic purification (eluent CH₂Cl₂:petrol 50:50 to 100% CH₂Cl₂) gave the alpha product **28** (37.6 mg, 44%) as a colorless solid and the gamma product (31.3 mg, 37%) as a colorless solid. Data for the alpha product **28**; Spectroscopic data in accordance with the literature.¹ mp 110-112 °C {Lit.¹ mp 110-112 °C}; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (300 MHz; CDCl₃) 3.45 (1H, ABq, *J* 13.6, CH*H*), 3.56 (1H, ABq, *J* 13.6, C*H*H), 4.75 (1H, ABq, *J* 11.9, OCH*H*), 4.88 (1H, ABq, *J* 11.9, OC*H*H), 5.84 (1H, s, C(4)*H*), 7.18-7.26 (5H, m, Ar*H*), 7.35-7.39 (3H, m, Ar*H*) and 7.48-7.51 (2H, m, Ar*H*).

2,2,2-trichloroethyl 4-benzyl-5-oxo-2-phenyl-2,5-dihydrofuran-2-carboxylate



Following general procedure B, carbonate **13** (85.0 mg, 0.20 mmol), triazolium BF₄ salt precursor to **8** (5.50 mg, 0.02 mmol) and KHMDS (0.036 mL, 0.018 mmol) in THF (0.9 mL) for 5 min gave a ratio of products (α : γ 5:95). Chromatographic purification (eluent 100% CH₂Cl₂) gave **29** (60.4 mg, 71%) as a colorless solid with spectroscopic data in accordance with the literature.¹ mp 94-96 °C {Lit.¹ mp 94-96 °C}; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (400 MHz; CDCl₃) 3.62 (1H, ABq, *J* 16.9, 1.7, CH*H*), 3.69 (1H, ABq, *J* 16.9, 1.6, C*H*H), 4.71 (1H, ABq, *J* 11.9, OCH*H*), 4.82 (1H, ABq, *J* 11.8, OC*H*H), 7.22-7.24 (2H, m, Ar*H*), 7.27-7.30 (2H, m, C(3)*H* and Ar*H*), 7.32-7.36 (2H, m, Ar*H*), 7.39-7.41 (3H, m, Ar*H*) and 7.48-7.51 (2H, m, Ar*H*).

Following general procedure B, carbonate **13** (85.0 mg, 0.20 mmol), triazolium BF₄ salt precursor to **8** (0.55 mg, 2.0 μ mol) and KHMDS (4.00 μ L, 1.80 μ mol) in THF (0.9 mL) for 1 min gave a ratio of products (α : γ 1:99). Chromatographic purification (eluent 100% CH₂Cl₂) gave **29** (72.8 mg, 86%) as a colorless solid. Data are in accordance with those given previously.

phenyl 3-ethyl-2-oxo-5-phenyl-2,3-dihydrofuran-3-carboxylate



Following general procedure A, carbonate **14** (61.7 mg, 0.20 mmol) and DMAP (2.40 mg, 0.02 mmol) in THF (0.7 mL) for 5 min gave a ratio of products (α : γ 47:53). Chromatographic purification (eluent CH₂Cl₂:petrol 50:50) gave **30** (20.0 mg, 32%) as a sticky colorless solid with spectroscopic data in accordance with the literature.¹ $\delta_{\rm H}$ (300 MHz; CDCl₃) 1.05 (3H, t, *J* 7.5, CH₃), 2.30 (2H, q, *J* 7.5, CH₂), 5.96 (1H, s, C(4)*H*), 7.09 (2H, dd, *J* 8.6, 1.1, Ar*H*), 7.22-7.26 (1H, m, Ar*H*), 7.37 (2H, t, *J* 7.9, Ar*H*), 7.44-7.47 (3H, m, Ar*H*) and 7.68-7.71 (2H, m, Ar*H*).

phenyl 4-ethyl-5-oxo-2-phenyl-2,5-dihydrofuran-2-carboxylate



Following general procedure B, carbonate **14** (61.7 mg, 0.20 mmol), triazolium BF₄ salt precursor to **8** (5.50 mg, 0.02 mmol) and KHMDS (0.036 mL, 0.018 mmol) in THF (0.9 mL) for 5 min gave a ratio of products (α : γ 21:79). Chromatographic purification (eluent 100% CH₂Cl₂) gave **31** (33.3 mg, 54%) as a colorless oil; IR (KBr) v_{max} /cm⁻¹: 2974, 1777 (broad, 2×C=O), 1493, 1191 (C-O), 1027, 965, 736 and 689; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (400 MHz, CDCl₃) 1.24 (3H, t, *J* 7.4, CH₃), 2.34-2.49 (2H, m, CH₂), 7.02-7.04 (2H, m, Ar*H*), 7.22-7.26 (1H, m, Ar*H*), 7.34-7.38 (2H, m, Ar*H*), 7.42-7.48 (3H, m, Ar*H*), 7.54 (1H, t, *J* 1.8, C(3)*H*) and 7.60-7.63 (2H, m, Ar*H*). $\delta_{\rm C}$ (100 MHz, CDCl₃): 11.7, 19.0, 87.7, 121.0, 125.9, 126.6, 129.2, 129.6, 129.7, 135.4, 136.9, 145.2, 150.3, 166.2 and 171.6; *m*/*z* (ES+) 326.1 (100, [M+NH₄]⁺) and 309.1 (12, [M+H]⁺); HRMS (ES+) C₁₉H₂₀O₄N⁺ required 326.1387, found 326.1389 (+0.7 ppm).

Following general procedure B, carbonate 14 (61.7 mg, 0.20 mmol), triazolium BF₄ salt precursor to 8 (0.55 mg, 2.0 μ mol) and KHMDS (4.00 μ L, 1.80 μ mol) in THF (0.9 mL) for 1 min gave a ratio of products (α : γ 1:99). Chromatographic purification (eluent 100% CH₂Cl₂) gave 31 (44.0 mg, 71%) as a colorless oil. Data are in accordance with those given previously.

phenyl 3-(4-bromobenzyl)-2-oxo-5-phenyl-2,3-dihydrofuran-3-carboxylate



Following general procedure A, carbonate **15** (60.2 mg, 0.134 mmol) and DMAP (1.61 mg, 0.0134 mmol) in THF (1 mL) for 5 min gave a ratio of products (α : γ 53:47). Chromatographic purification (eluent CH₂Cl₂:petrol 50:50) gave **32** (25.9 mg, 43%) as a colorless solid with spectroscopic data in accordance with the literature.¹ mp 150-152 °C {Lit.¹ mp 150-152 °C}; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (400 MHz; CDCl₃) 3.46 (1H, ABq, *J* 13.7, CH*H*), 3.58 (1H, ABq, *J* 13.7, C*H*H), 5.94 (1H, s, C(4)*H*), 7.06–7.09 (2H, m, Ar*H*), 7.12–7.16 (2H, m, Ar*H*), 7.26–7.29 (1H, m, Ar*H*), 7.37-7.43 (7H, m, Ar*H*) and 7.56–7.59 (2H, m, Ar*H*).

phenyl 4-(4-bromobenzyl)-5-oxo-2-phenyl-2,5-dihydrofuran-2-carboxylate



Following general procedure A, carbonate **15** (60.2 mg, 0.134 mmol), triazolium BF₄ salt precursor to **8** (3.65 mg, 0.0134 mmol) and KHMDS (0.024 mL, 0.012 mmol) in THF (1 mL) for 5 min gave a ratio of products (α : γ 10:90). Chromatographic purification (eluent 100% CH₂Cl₂) gave **33** (48.0 mg, 80%) as a colorless oil; IR v_{max} (thin film) /cm⁻¹ 3107, 3057, 1804 (C=O), 1760 (C=O), 1652, 1591 (C=C), 1490, 1406, 1281, 1188 (C-O), 1126, 1072, 1013, 94, 833, 755 and 688 (C-Br); δ_{H} (400 MHz, CDCl₃) 3.62 (1H, ABq, *J* 16.9, 1.5, CH*H*), 3.67 (1H, ABq, *J* 16.9, 1.5, C*H*H), 7.00–6.98 (2H, m, Ar*H*), 7.14 (2H, app d, *J* 8.4, Ar*H*), 7.24–7.20 (1H, m, Ar*H*), 7.38–7.35 (3H, m, Ar*H* and C(3)*H*), 7.49–7.43 (2H, m, Ar*H*), 7.56–7.54 (5H, m, Ar*H*); δ_{C} (100 MHz, CDCl₃) 31.4, 88.0, 121.0, 121.3, 125.9, 126.7, 129.3, 129.7, 129.8, 130.8, 132.2, 134.7, 135.0, 135.5, 147.4, 150.3, 165.9 and 171.1; *m*/z MS (ESI+) 449 (100,

 $[{^{79}Br}M+H]^+)$ and 451 (98, $[{^{81}Br}M+H]^+)$; HRMS (ESI+) $C_{24}H_{18}^{79}BrO_4^+$ ($[{^{79}Br}M+H]^+)$ requires 449.0383, found 449.0378, (-1.1 ppm).

phenyl 3-allyl-2-oxo-5-phenyl-2,3-dihydrofuran-3-carboxylate



Following general procedure A, carbonate **16** (64.0 mg, 0.20 mmol) and DMAP (2.40 mg, 0.03 mmol) in THF (0.6 mL) for 5 min gave a ratio of products (α : γ 61:39). Chromatographic purification (eluent CH₂Cl₂:petrol 50:50 then 100% CH₂Cl₂) gave the alpha product **34** (34.5 mg, 54%) as a colorless oil and the gamma product (20.5 mg, 32%) as a colorless oil. Data for the alpha product **34**; Spectroscopic data in accordance with the literature.¹ $\delta_{\rm H}$ (400 MHz; CDCl₃) 2.92 (1H, ABq, *J* 13.9, *J* 7.9, CH*H*), 3.05 (1H, ABq, *J* 13.9, *J* 6.8, C*H*H), 5.20-5.22 (1H, m, =CH*H*), 5.28 (1H, app. dd, *J* 17.0, 1.4, =C*H*H), 5.75-5.85 (1H, m, C*H*=CH₂), 5.98 (1H, s, C(4)*H*), 7.08-7.10 (2H, m, Ar*H*), 7.22-7.26 (1H, m, Ar*H*), 7.35-7.39 (2H, m, Ar*H*), 7.43-7.46 (3H, m, Ar*H*) and 7.67-7.69 (2H, m, Ar*H*).

phenyl 4-allyl-5-oxo-2-phenyl-2,5-dihydrofuran-2-carboxylate



Following general procedure B, carbonate **16** (64.0 mg, 0.20 mmol), triazolium BF₄ salt precursor to **8** (5.50 mg, 0.02 mmol) and KHMDS (0.036 mL, 0.018 mmol) in THF (0.7 mL) for 5 min gave a ratio of products (α : γ 31:69). Chromatographic purification (eluent 100% CH₂Cl₂) gave the alpha product (15.3 mg, 24%) as a colorless oil and the gamma product **35** (32.1 mg, 50%) as a colorless oil. Data for the gamma product **35**; Spectroscopic data in accordance with the literature.¹ $\delta_{\rm H}$ (400 MHz; CDCl₃) 3.08-3.19 (2H, m, CH₂), 5.21 (1H, t, *J* 1.3, =CH*H*), 5.23-5.25 (1H, m, =C*H*H), 5.85-5.98 (1H, m, C*H*=CH₂), 7.02-7.04 (2H, m, Ar*H*), 7.22-7.26 (1H, m, Ar*H*), 7.34-7.38 (2H, m, Ar*H*), 7.43-7.48 (3H, m, Ar*H*), 7.58 (1H, t, *J* 1.7, C(3)*H*) and 7.59-7.62 (2H, m, Ar*H*).

Following general procedure B, carbonate **16** (64.0 mg, 0.20 mmol), triazolium BF₄ salt precursor to **8** (0.55 mg, 2.00 μ mol) and KHMDS (3.6 μ L, 1.80 μ mol) in THF (0.7 mL) for 1 min gave a ratio of products (α : γ 6:94). Chromatographic purification (eluent 100% CH₂Cl₂)

gave **35** (52.0 mg, 81%) as a colorless oil. Data are in accordance with those given previously.

Phenyl 5-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-methyl-2-oxo-2,3-dihydrofuran-3-carboxylate



Following general procedure A, carbonate **17** (100 mg, 0.32 mmol) and DMAP (3.92 mg, 0.032 mmol) in THF (1 mL) for 5 min gave a ratio of products (α : γ 71:29). Chromatographic purification (eluent CH₂Cl₂:petrol 70:30) gave alpha product **36** (52.0 mg, 52%) as a colorless solid with spectroscopic data in accordance with the literature.¹ mp 42-44 °C {Lit.¹ mp 42-44 °C}; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (400 MHz, CDCl₃) 1.71 (3H, s, CH₃), 5.86 (1H, s, C(4)*H*), 7.00-7.09 (4H, m, Ar*H*), 7.14-7.18 (1H, m, Ar*H*), 7.27-7.31 (2H, m, Ar*H*), 7.57-7.61 (2H, m, Ar*H*).

Phenyl 2-(4-fluorophenyl)-4-methyl-5-oxo-2,5-dihydrofuran-2-carboxylate



Following general procedure B, carbonate **17** (100 mg, 0.32 mmol), triazolium BF₄ salt precursor to **8** (8.75 mg, 0.032 mmol) and KHMDS (0.058 mL, 0.029 mmol) in THF (1 mL) for 5 min gave a ratio of products (α : γ 12:88). Chromatographic purification (eluent 100% CH₂Cl₂) gave gamma product **37** (67.0 mg, 67%) as a colorless oil; v_{max} (thin film) 3532, 3084, 2960 (C-H), 1770 (C=O), 1660, 1603, 1509; δ_{H} (400 MHz, CDCl₃) 1.95 (3H, d, *J* 1.6, CH₃), 6.93-6.95 (2H, m, Ar*H*), 7.03-7.08 (2H, m, Ar*H*), 7.14-7.18 (1H, m, Ar*H*), 7.26-7.30 (2H, m, Ar*H*), 7.48-7.53 (3H, m, C(3)*H* and Ar*H*); δ_{C} (100 MHz, CDCl₃) 10.9, 87.0, 116.2 (d, *J* 22.2), 121.0, 126.7, 128.0 (d, *J* 8.3), 129.7, 131.3, 131.3, 146.3, 150.2, 163.2 (d, *J* 248.2), 166.0, 171.9; *m/z* (NSI⁺) 330 ([M+NH₄]⁺, 100%); HRMS (NSI⁺) C₁₈H₁₇O₄NF⁺ ([M+NH₄]⁺) requires 330.1136; found 330.1137 (+0.3 ppm).

Following general procedure B, carbonate **17** (100 mg, 0.32 mmol), triazolium BF₄ salt precursor to **8** (0.875 mg, 3.2 μ mol) and KHMDS (5.77 μ L, 2.9 μ mol) in THF (1 mL) for 1 min gave a ratio of products (α : γ 10:90). Chromatographic purification (eluent 100% CH₂Cl₂) gave **37** (71.0 mg, 71%) as a colorless oil. Data are in accordance with those given previously.

2,2,2-trichloroethyl 5-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-methyl-2-oxo-2,3-dihydrofuran-3-carboxylate



Following general procedure A, carbonate **18** (36.8 mg, 0.10 mmol) and DMAP (1.22 mg, 0.01 mmol) in THF (0.4 mL) for 5 min gave a ratio of products (α : γ 67:33). Chromatographic purification (eluent CH₂Cl₂:petrol 40:60) gave **38** (22.0 mg, 60%) as a colorless oil with spectroscopic data in accordance with the literature.¹ $\delta_{\rm H}$ (500 MHz, CDCl₃) 1.69 (3H, s, CH₃), 4.67 (1H, ABq, *J* 11.9, CHH), 4.80 (1H, ABq, *J* 11.9, CHH), 5.77 (1H, s, C(4)H), 7.04-7.08 (2H, m, ArH), 7.54-7.57 (2H, m, ArH).

2,2,2-trichloroethyl 2-(4-fluorophenyl)-4-methyl-5-oxo-2,5-dihydrofuran-2-carboxylate



Following general procedure B, carbonate **18** (36.8 mg, 0.10 mmol), triazolium BF₄ salt precursor to **8** (2.73 mg, 0.01 mmol) and KHMDS (0.018 mL, 0.009 mmol) in THF (0.4 mL) for 5 min gave a ratio of products (α : γ 15:85). Chromatographic purification (eluent CH₂Cl₂:petrol 70:30) gave **39** (28.0 mg, 76%) as a colorless solid with spectroscopic data in accordance with the literature.¹ mp 84-86 °C {Lit.¹ mp 84-86 °C}; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (500 MHz, CDCl₃) 1.94 (3H, d, *J* 1.5, CH₃), 4.69-4.74 (2H, m, CH₂), 7.02-7.05 (2H, m, Ar*H*), 7.43-7.44 (1H, m, C(3)*H*), 7.46-7.49 (2H, m, Ar*H*).

Following general procedure B, carbonate **18** (36.8 mg, 0.10 mmol), triazolium BF₄ salt precursor to **8** (0.27 mg, 1 μ mol) and KHMDS (1.8 μ L, 0.9 μ mol) in THF (0.4 mL) for 10 min gave a ratio of products (α : γ 4:96). Chromatographic purification (eluent CH₂Cl₂:petrol 70:30) gave **39** (32.0 mg, 87%) as a colorless solid. Data are in accordance with those given previously.

Phenyl 3-benzyl-5-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-oxo-2,3-dihydrofuran-3-carboxylate



Following general procedure A, carbonate **19** (50.0 mg, 0.13 mmol) and DMAP (1.58 mg, 0.013 mmol) in THF (1 mL) for 5 min gave a ratio of products (α : γ 71:29). Chromatographic purification (eluent CH₂Cl₂:petrol 50:50) gave **40** (28.0 mg, 56%) as a colorless solid with spectroscopic data in accordance with the literature.¹ mp 108-110 °C {Lit.¹ mp 108-110 °C}; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (400 MHz, CDCl₃) 3.41 (1H, ABq, *J* 13.6, PhC*H*H), 3.55 (1H, ABq, *J* 13.6, PhCH*H*), 5.82 (1H, s, C(4)*H*), 6.98-7.02 (4H, m, Ar*H*), 7.16-7.20 (6H, m, Ar*H*), 7.28-7.32 (2H, m, Ar*H*), 7.44-7.47 (2H, m, Ar*H*).

Phenyl 4-benzyl-2-(4-fluorophenyl)-5-oxo-2,5-dihydrofuran-2-carboxylate



Following general procedure B, carbonate **19** (50 mg, 0.13 mmol), triazolium BF₄ salt precursor to **8** (3.52 mg, 0.013 mmol) and KHMDS (0.023 mL, 0.012 mmol) in THF (1 mL) for 5 min gave a ratio of products (α : γ 20:80). Chromatographic purification (eluent CH₂Cl₂:petrol 70:30) gave **41** (28.0 mg, 56%) as a colorless solid; mp 78-80 °C; v_{max} (KBr) 3087, 2924 (C-H), 1776 (C=O), 1655, 1602, 1509; δ_{H} (400 MHz, CDCl₃) 3.57-3.67 (2H, m, CH₂Ph), 6.90-6.92 (2H, m, ArH), 7.03-7.07 (2H, m, ArH), 7.15-7.31 (9H, m, ArH and C(3)H), 7.44-7.48 (2H, m, ArH); δ_{C} (100 MHz, CDCl₃) 32.0, 87.4, 116.2 (d, *J* 21.9), 121.0, 126.7, 127.3, 128.0 (d, *J* 8.6), 128.9, 129.1, 129.7, 131.0 (d, *J* 3.0), 135.7, 136.4, 146.8, 150.2, 163.3 (d, *J* 248.3), 165.9 and 171.1; *m/z* (NSI⁺) 406 ([M+NH₄]⁺, 75%); HRMS (NSI⁺) C₂₄H₂₁O₄NF⁺ ([M+NH₄]⁺) requires 406.1449; found 406.1449 (-0.0 ppm).

Following general procedure B, carbonate **19** (50.0 mg, 0.13 mmol), triazolium BF₄ salt precursor to **8** (0.352 mg, 1.29 μ mol) and KHMDS (2.32 μ L, 1.16 μ mol) in THF (1 mL) for 1 min gave a ratio of products (α : γ 7:93). Chromatographic purification (eluent CH₂Cl₂:petrol 70:30) gave **41** (39.0 mg, 78%) as a colorless solid. Data are in accordance with those given previously.

phenyl 3-ethyl-5-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-oxo-2,3-dihydrofuran-3-carboxylate



Following general procedure A, carbonate **20** (32.6 mg, 0.100 mmol) and DMAP (1.22 mg, 0.01 mmol) in THF (0.3 mL) for 5 min gave a ratio of products (α : γ 48:52). Chromatographic

purification (eluent CH₂Cl₂:petrol 50:50) gave **42** (15.0 mg, 46%) as a colorless solid with spectroscopic data in accordance with the literature.¹ mp 62-64 °C {Lit.¹ mp 62-64 °C}; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (400 MHz, CDCl₃) 0.98 (3H, t, *J* 7.5, CH₃), 2.22 (2H, q, *J* 7.5, CH₂CH₃), 5.82 (1H, s, C(4)*H*), 7.01-7.10 (4H, m, Ar*H*), 7.15-7.19 (1H, m, Ar*H*), 7.28-7.33 (2H, m, Ar*H*), 7.59-7.63 (2H, m, Ar*H*).

phenyl 4-ethyl-2-(4-fluorophenyl)-5-oxo-2,5-dihydrofuran-2-carboxylate



Following general procedure B, carbonate **20** (32.6 mg, 0.100 mmol), triazolium BF₄ salt precursor to **8** (2.73 mg, 0.01 mmol) and KHMDS (0.018 mL, 0.009 mmol) in THF (0.3 mL) for 5 min gave a ratio of products (α : γ 20:80). Chromatographic purification (eluent CH₂Cl₂:petrol 70:30) gave **43** (20.0 mg, 61%) as a colorless solid; mp 44-46 °C; ν_{max} (KBr) 3074, 2985 (C-H), 2944, 1769 (C=O), 1601, 1592, 1509; δ_{H} (400 MHz, CDCl₃) 1.18 (3H, t, *J* 7.5, CH₃), 2.30-2.38 (2H, m, CH₂CH₃), 6.94-6.97 (2H, m, Ar*H*), 7.05-7.09 (2H, m, Ar*H*), 7.16-7.20 (1H, m, Ar*H*), 7.27-7.31 (2H, m, Ar*H*), 7.44 (1H, t, *J* 1.8, C(3)*H*), 7.51-7.55 (2H, m, Ar*H*); δ_{C} (100 MHz, CDCl₃) 11.7, 19.0, 87.2, 116.2 (d, *J* 21.8), 121.0, 126.7, 128.0 (d, *J* 8.5), 129.7, 131.3 (d, *J* 3.3), 137.3, 144.9, 150.3, 163.2 (d, *J* 248.2), 166.2 and 171.4; *m/z* (NSI⁺) 344 ([M+NH₄]⁺, 100%); HRMS (NSI⁺) C₁₉H₁₉O₄NF⁺ ([M+NH₄]⁺) requires 344.1293; found 344.1294 (+0.4 ppm).

Following general procedure B, carbonate **20** (32.6 mg, 0.1 mmol), triazolium BF₄ salt precursor to **8** (0.27 mg, 1 μ mol) and KHMDS (1.8 μ L, 0.9 μ mol) in THF (0.3 mL) for 1 min gave a ratio of products (α : γ 4:96). Chromatographic purification (eluent CH₂Cl₂:petrol 70:30) gave **43** (27.0 mg, 83%) as a colorless solid. Data are in accordance with those given previously.

phenyl 5-methyl-2-oxo-3-phenyl-2,3-dihydrofuran-3-carboxylate



Following general procedure A, carbonate **11** (29.4 mg, 0.1 mmol) and DMAP (1.22 mg, 0.01 mmol) in THF (0.3 mL) for 5 min gave a ratio of products (α : γ 57:43). Chromatographic purification (eluent CH₂Cl₂:petrol 50:50) gave **44** (14.0 mg, 48%) as a colorless solid with

spectroscopic data in accordance with the literature.¹ mp 56-58 °C {Lit.¹ mp 56-58 °C}; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (400 MHz, CDCl₃) 2.11 (3H, d, *J* 1.5, C*H*₃), 5.72 (1H, q, *J* 1.5, C(4)*H*), 6.97-7.00 (2H, m, Ar*H*), 7.14-7.18 (1H, m, Ar*H*), 7.26-7.38 (5H, m, Ar*H*), 7.49-7.52 (2H, m, Ar*H*).

phenyl 2-methyl-5-oxo-4-phenyl-2,5-dihydrofuran-2-carboxylate



Following general procedure B, carbonate **11** (29.4 mg, 0.1 mmol), triazolium BF₄ salt precursor to **8** (2.73 mg, 0.01 mmol) and KHMDS (0.018 mL, 0.009 mmol) in THF (0.3 mL) for 5 min gave a ratio of products (α : γ 1:99). Chromatographic purification (eluent CH₂Cl₂:petrol 70:30) gave **45** (25.0 mg, 85%) as a colorless oil with spectroscopic data in accordance with the literature.¹ $\delta_{\rm H}$ (400 MHz, CDCl₃) 1.87 (3H, s, CH₃), 7.01-7.05 (2H, m, Ar*H*), 7.17-7.21 (1H, m, Ar*H*), 7.29-7.39 (5H, m, Ar*H*), 7.59 (1H, s, C(3)*H*), 7.83-7.86 (2H, m, Ar*H*).

Following general procedure B, carbonate **11** (29.4 mg, 0.1 mmol), triazolium BF₄ salt precursor to **8** (0.27 mg, 1 μ mol) and KHMDS (1.8 μ L, 0.9 μ mol) in THF (0.3 mL) for 1 h gave a exclusively the γ product. Chromatographic purification (eluent CH₂Cl₂:petrol 70:30) gave **45** (26.0 mg, 88%) as a colorless oil. Data are in accordance with those given previously.

1.4 References and Notes:

¹ C. Joannesse, L. C. Morrill, C. D. Campbell, A. M. Z. Slawin and A. D. Smith, *Synthesis*, 2011, 1865-1879.

² P. Aleman, J. Christy, J. W. Kampf, S. A. Shaw, P. Va and E. Vedejs, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2006, **128**, 925-934.

1.5 ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra for Novel Compounds















S22























