

Supporting Information

Organocatalysed Michael addition on arylmethylenemalonates involving 4-(2-nitrophenyl)acetoacetate: a diversity-oriented access to 8,9-dihydropyrido[1,2-*a*]indol-6(7*H*)-one and salicylate scaffolds

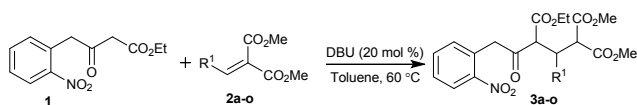
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General information :

All reactions were carried out under air and monitored by TLC using Merck 60 F₂₅₄ pre coated silica gel plates (0.25 mm thickness) and the products were visualized by UV detection. Flash chromatography was carried out with silica gel (200-300 mesh). FT-IR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Tensor-27 spectrometer. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Avance (III) 400 MHz spectrometer. Data for ¹H NMR are reported as a chemical shift (δ ppm), multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, q = quartet, m = multiplet), coupling constant *J* (Hz), integration, and assignment, data for ¹³C are reported as a chemical shift. High resolutions mass spectral analyses (HRMS) were carried out using ESI-TOF-MS.

General experimental procedure for the synthesis of various Michael adducts (3a-o):

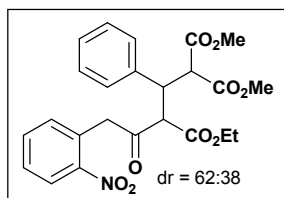


To a stirred mixture of ethyl 4-(2-nitrophenyl)acetoacetate (**1**, 0.25 mmol) and alkylidene malonates (**2a-o**, 0.3 mmol) in dry toluene (0.5 mL) was added catalyst DBU (20 mol%) and heated to 60 °C for 22-28h (monitored by TLC). After completion of the reaction, the reaction mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate before being quenched with aqueous diluted HCl, washed with brine and dried over Na₂SO₄. The evaporation of the solvent left the crude product which was purified by column chromatography over silica-gel 230-400 mesh using

EtOAc/hexane as eluent to furnish the pure product. All the products were fully characterized by their corresponding spectroscopic data (IR, ^1H and ^{13}C NMR and HRMS). The diastereomeric ratio was determined by ^1H NMR data of crude product.

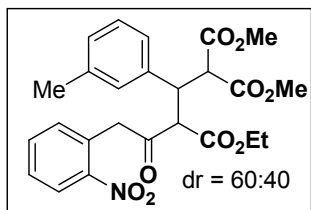
All the products in Table 2 were followed the above procedure.

3-Ethoxycarbonyl-1,1-dimethoxycarbonyl-5-(2-nitrophenyl)-2-phenyl-pentan-4-one (3a):



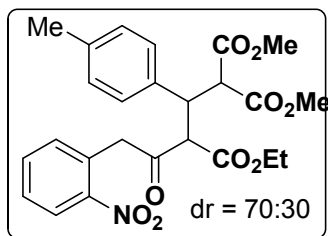
Yield 71%; IR (KBr) ν 3443, 2953, 1752, 1731, 1714, 1614, 1581, 1525, 1497, 1453, 1405, 1352, 1326, 1259 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (mixture of diastereomers dr = 62:38) 8.11-8.13 (m, 0.62H), 8.02-8.04 (m, 0.38H), 7.57-7.61 (m, 0.76H), 7.42-7.48 (m, 1.24H), 7.36-7.40 (m, 0.62H), 7.28-7.32 (m, 4H), 7.21-7.24 (m, 1H), 6.70-6.72 (m, 0.38H), 4.65 (d, J = 10.5 Hz, 0.62H), 4.55 (d, J = 9.5 Hz, 0.38H), 4.44-4.48 (m, 0.76H), 4.32-4.36 (m, 1H), 4.22-4.27 (m, 1.24H), 4.16-4.21 (m, 1H), 3.93-3.98 (m, 1.24H), 3.82-3.87 (m, 0.76H), 3.67 (s, 1.14H), 3.58 (s, 1.86H), 3.53 (s, 1.14H), 3.51 (s, 1.86H), 1.29 (t, J = 7.28 Hz, 1.14H), 0.98 (t, J = 7.28 Hz, 1.86H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (major diastereomer) 199.1, 168.7, 168.2, 167.0, 148.7, 137.8, 133.7, 133.5, 129.4, 129.0, 128.4, 128.3, 127.7, 125.2, 62.3, 61.8, 55.2, 52.6, 52.5, 47.5, 43.5, 13.6; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (minor diastereomer) 199.1, 168.5, 168.2, 167.8, 148.7, 137.5, 133.3, 133.2, 129.4, 128.9, 128.5, 128.5, 127.8, 125.1, 62.1, 61.0, 54.6, 52.7, 52.4, 48.4, 44.3, 13.9; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd For $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{25}\text{NO}_9$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$: 494.1422. Found 494.1412.

3-Ethoxycarbonyl-1,1-dimethoxycarbonyl-5-(2-nitrophenyl)-2-(3-methylphenyl)-pentan-4-one (3b):



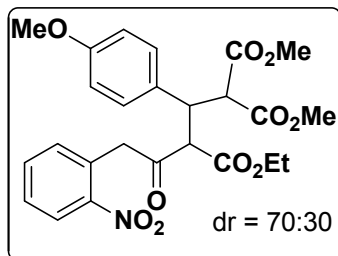
Yield 77%; IR (KBr) ν 3449, 2956, 1748, 1745, 1611, 1528, 1437, 1349, 1154 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (mixture of diastereomers dr = 60:40) 8.11 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 0.60H), 8.02 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 0.40H), 7.57-7.60 (m, 0.60H), 7.42-7.48 (m, 1H), 7.36-7.40 (m, 0.6H), 7.31-7.32 (m, 0.4H), 7.11-7.16 (m, 1H), 7.01-7.09 (m, 3H), 6.69-6.71 (m, 0.40H), 4.63 (d, J = 10.5 Hz, 0.60H), 4.44-4.52 (m, 1H), 4.27-4.32 (m, 1.40H), 4.17-4.22 (m, 1.6H), 4.13-4.15 (m, 0.4H), 3.94-3.99 (m, 1H), 3.81-3.86 (m, 1H), 3.67 (s, 1.20H), 3.58 (s, 1.80H), 3.55 (s, 1.20H), 3.52 (s, 1.80H), 2.30 (s, 3H), 1.29 (t, J = 7.28 Hz, 1.20H), 0.99 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 1.80H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (major diastereomer) 199.2, 168.7, 168.2, 167.0, 148.7, 137.8, 137.8, 133.7, 133.5, 129.7, 129.4, 128.5, 128.4, 128.4, 125.8, 125.2, 62.3, 61.8, 55.2, 52.6, 52.4, 47.6, 43.4, 21.4, 13.7; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (minor diastereomer) 199.2, 168.5, 168.3, 167.9, 148.8, 138.1, 137.4, 133.3, 133.2, 130.2, 129.0, 128.5, 128.4, 128.1, 126.1, 125.1, 62.0, 61.1, 54.6, 52.7, 52.4, 48.3, 44.2, 21.4, 14.0; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd For $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{27}\text{NO}_9$ $[\text{M}+\text{K}]$: 524.1317. Found 524.1309.

3-Ethoxycarbonyl-1,1-dimethoxycarbonyl-5-(2-nitrophenyl)-2-(4-methylphenyl)-pentan-4-one (3c):



Yield 76%; **IR** (KBr) ν 3062, 3030, 2984, 2951, 2917, 1755, 1734, 1710, 1662, 1553, 1518, 1447, 1431, 1414, 1399, 1363, 1336, 1297, 1247, 1227 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (mixture of diastereomers dr = 70:30) 8.10-8.13 (m, 0.70H), 8.01-8.04 (m, 0.30H), 7.57-7.61 (m, 0.70H), 7.42-7.48 (m, 1.3H), 7.36-7.40 (m, 0.3H), 7.29-7.32 (m, 0.70H), 7.16-7.21 (m, 2.0H), 7.05-7.08 (m, 1.7H), 6.71-6.74 (m, 0.3H), 4.62 (d, J = 10.5 Hz, 0.7H), 4.52 (d, J = 9.3 Hz, 0.30H), 4.44-4.48 (m, 0.7H), 4.30-4.32 (m, 1H), 4.27-4.28 (m, 0.30H), 4.18-4.24 (m, 1.0H), 4.13-4.17 (m, 0.60H), 3.94-4.00 (m, 1.4H), 3.82-3.89 (m, 1.0H), 3.67 (s, 0.9H), 3.58 (s, 2.10H), 3.55 (s, .90H), 3.52 (s, 2.10H), 2.29 (s, 0.90H), 2.28 (s, 2.10H), 1.29 (t, J = 7.28 Hz, 0.90H), 1.01 (t, J = 7.28 Hz, 2.10H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (major diastereomer) 199.2, 168.7, 168.2, 167.1, 148.7, 137.3, 134.7, 133.7, 133.5, 133.3, 129.4, 129.0, 128.8, 125.2, 62.4, 61.8, 55.2, 52.6, 52.4, 47.6, 43.1, 21.1, 13.7; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (minor diastereomer) 199.2, 168.5, 168.3, 168.0, 148.7, 137.4, 134.2, 133.7, 133.5, 133.3, 129.2, 128.5, 128.4, 125.1, 62.1, 61.1, 54.6, 52.7, 52.4, 48.2, 43.9, 21.1, 14.0; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd For $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{27}\text{NO}_9$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$: 508.1578. Found 508.1576.

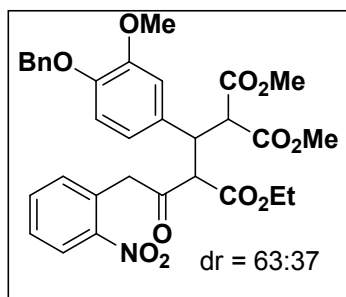
3-Ethoxycarbonyl-1,1-dimethoxycarbonyl-5-(2-nitrophenyl)-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-pentan-4-one (3d):



Yield 71%; **IR** (KBr) ν 3443, 2956, 2929, 2843, 2360, 2340, 1745, 1742, 1613, 1582, 1528, 1463, 1437, 1410, 1350, 1306 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (mixture of diastereomers dr = 70:30) 8.10-8.13 (m, 0.70H), 8.01-8.04 (m, 0.30H), 7.56-7.60 (m, 0.70H), 7.43-7.48 (m, 1H), 7.37-7.40 (m, 0.30H), 7.29-7.32 (m, 0.7H), 7.21-7.25 (m, 2H), 6.77-6.80 (m, 2.30H), 4.59 (d, J = 10.3 Hz, 0.7H), 4.51 (d, J = 9.3 Hz, 0.30H), 4.41-4.46 (m, 0.70H), 4.26-4.31 (m, 1H), 4.20-4.22 (m, 1H), 4.13-4.18 (m, 0.70H), 3.95-4.00 (m, 1.70H), 3.88-3.92 (0.7H), 3.82-3.84 (m, 0.3H), 3.77 (s, 0.90H), 3.76 (s, 2.10H), 3.67 (s, 0.90H), 3.58 (s, 2.10H), 3.55 (s, 0.90H), 3.53 (s, 2.10H), 1.29 (t, J = 7.04 Hz, 0.90H), 1.03 (t, J = 7.28 Hz, 2.10H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (major diastereomer) 199.2, 168.7, 168.2, 167.1, 158.9, 148.8, 133.7, 133.3, 130.2, 129.7, 129.4, 128.5, 125.2, 113.6, 62.5, 61.8, 55.1, 52.6, 52.4, 47.5, 42.8, 13.7; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (minor diastereomer) 199.2, 168.5, 168.3, 168.0, 159.0, 148.8, 133.4, 133.3, 130.6, 129.2, 129.0, 128.4, 125.1, 113.8, 62.0, 61.1, 55.2, 54.6, 52.6, 52.4, 48.2, 43.6, 14.0; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd For $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{27}\text{NO}_{10}$ $[\text{M}+\text{K}]^+$: 540.1267. Found 540.1267.

3-Ethoxycarbonyl-1,1-dimethoxycarbonyl-5-(2-nitrophenyl)-2-(4-benzyloxy-3-methoxyphenyl)-pentan-4-one (3e):

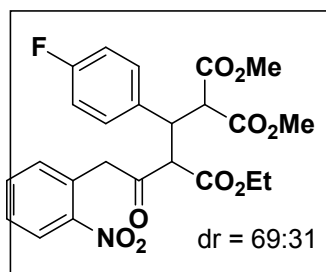
Yield 67%; IR (KBr) ν 3462, 2936, 1745, 1728, 1591, 1521, 1455, 1424, 1382, 1348, 1291,



1263, 1217, 1173 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (mixture of diastereomers dr = 63:37) 8.11-8.13 (m, 0.63H), 8.02-8.04 (m, 0.37H), 7.56-7.60 (m, 0.63H), 7.46-7.48 (m, 0.63H), 7.40-7.44 (m, 3H), 7.33-7.36 (m, 2.37H), 7.28-7.30 (m, 1.37H), 6.90-6.91 (m, 0.63H), 6.75-6.77 (m, 2H), 6.71-6.73 (m, 0.37H), 5.12 (s, 0.74H), 5.11 (s, 1.26H), 4.62 (d, J = 10.3 Hz, 0.63H), 4.49 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 0.37H), 4.39-4.44 (m, 0.63H), 4.22-4.30 (m, 1.63H), 4.11-4.22 (m, 2.37H), 3.94-3.99 (m, 1.37H), 3.86 (m, 1.89H), 3.82 (s,

1.11H), 3.66 (s, 1.11H), 3.57 (s, 1.89H), 3.53 (s, 1.11H), 3.51 (s, 1.89H), 1.28 (t, J = 7.28 Hz, 1.11H), 0.99 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 1.89H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (major diastereomer) 199.1, 168.8, 168.2, 167.0, 149.1, 148.6, 147.3, 137.0, 133.6, 133.4, 130.7, 129.3, 128.5, 128.4, 127.8, 127.3, 125.2, 120.9, 113.4, 113.0, 70.8, 62.3, 61.8, 55.9, 55.2, 52.6, 52.4, 47.5, 43.1, 13.7; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (minor diastereomer) 199.2, 168.4, 168.2, 167.8, 149.3, 148.7, 147.4, 137.0, 133.3, 133.2, 130.2, 128.9, 128.5, 128.4, 127.8, 127.2, 125.0, 121.3, 113.5, 113.3, 70.8, 62.0, 61.1, 55.9, 54.6, 52.6, 52.4, 48.2, 43.9, 13.9; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd For $\text{C}_{32}\text{H}_{33}\text{NO}_{11}[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$: 630.1946. Found 630.1962.

3-Ethoxycarbonyl-1,1-dimethoxycarbonyl-5-(2-nitrophenyl)-2-(4-fluorophenyl)-pentan-4-one (3f):

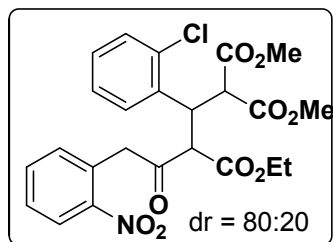


Yield 82%; IR (KBr) ν 3444, 2954, 1753, 1718, 1607, 1529, 1513, 1436, 1402, 1359, 1264, 1225, 1180, 1164, 1148, 1102, 1078 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (mixture of diastereomers dr = 69:31) 8.12-8.14 (m, 0.69H), 8.04-8.06 (m, 0.31H), 7.58-7.62 (m, 0.69H), 7.45-7.49 (m, 1.0H), 7.41-7.43 (m, 0.31H), 7.28-7.34 (m, 3.0H), 6.93-6.98 (m, 1.69H), 6.86-6.88 (m, 0.31H), 4.62 (d, J = 10.3 Hz, 0.69H), 4.56 (d, J = 9.04 Hz, 0.31H), 4.40-4.45 (m,

0.69H), 4.30-4.35 (m, 1.31H), 4.19-4.27 (m, 1.30H), 3.95-4.01 (m, 1.69H), 3.83-3.92 (m, 1H), 3.68 (s, 0.93H), 3.58 (s, 2.07H), 3.54 (s, 3H), 1.28 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 0.93H), 1.02 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 2.07H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (major diastereomer) 199.0, 168.5, 168.3, 166.9, 163.3, 160.9, 148.6, 133.7, 133.6, 133.5, 133.0, 130.9, 130.8, 129.3, 128.7, 125.3, 115.3, 115.0, 62.3, 62.0, 54.9, 52.7, 52.5, 47.6, 42.6, 13.7; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (minor diastereomer) 199.1, 168.2, 168.1, 167.8, 148.6, 133.5, 133.3, 131.3, 131.2, 128.9, 128.6, 125.2, 115.4, 115.2,

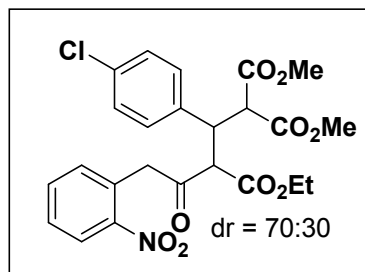
60.7, 54.2, 52.7, 52.5, 48.4, 43.5, 14.0; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd For $C_{24}H_{24}FNO_9[M+Na]^+$: 512.1327. Found 512.1322.

3-Ethoxycarbonyl-1,1-dimethoxycarbonyl-5-(2-nitrophenyl)-2-(2-chlorophenyl)-pentan-4-one (3g):



Yield 80%; IR (KBr) ν 3449, 2950, 1749, 1719, 1527, 1480, 1436, 1356, 1315, 1261, 1227, 1201, 1180, 1154, 1083 cm^{-1} ; 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ (major diastereomer) 8.11 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.58-7.61 (m, 1H), 7.44-7.48 (m, 1H), 7.36-7.39 (m, 3H), 7.15-7.22 (m, 2H), 4.96 (s, 2H), 4.63 (d, $J = 18$ Hz, 1H), 4.25-4.29 (m, 1H), 3.97-3.99 (m, 2H), 3.67-3.87 (m, 1H), 3.58 (s, 3H), 3.54 (s, 3H), 1.00 (t, $J = 7.04$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ (major distereomer) 198.7, 168.4 (2C), 166.5, 148.8, 136.3, 134.9, 133.8, 133.4, 130.0, 129.4, 128.7, 128.5, 127.1, 126.9, 125.1, 62.0, 61.2, 53.8, 52.7, 52.5, 47.8, 39.1, 13.6; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd For $C_{24}H_{24}NClO_9[M+K]^+$: 544.0771. Found 544.0777.

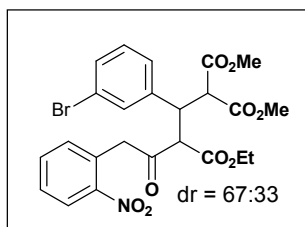
3-Ethoxycarbonyl-1,1-dimethoxycarbonyl-5-(2-nitrophenyl)-2-(4-chlorophenyl)-pentan-4-one (3h):



Yield 84%; IR (KBr) ν 3033, 2997, 2951, 1751, 1715, 1633, 1599, 1527, 1492, 1433, 1414, 1399, 1338, 1314, 1295, 1258, 1243, 1195, 1181, 1147, 1094 cm^{-1} ; 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ (mixture of diastereomers dr = 70:30) 8.13 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 0.70H), 8.05 (d, $J = 8$ Hz, 0.30H), 7.58-7.62 (m, 0.7H), 7.47-7.51 (m, 1.3H), 7.40-7.44 (m, 0.3H), 7.27-7.31 (m, 2.0H), 7.24-7.25 (m, 1.7H), 7.21-7.23 (m, 0.7H) 6.86-6.88 (m, 0.3H), 4.63 (d, $J = 10.3$ Hz, 0.70H), 4.56 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 0.30H), 4.41-4.45 (m, 0.70H), 4.29-4.34 (m, 1.30H), 4.16-4.26 (m, 1.7H), 3.92-4.02 (m, 2.0H), 3.83-3.85 (m, 0.30H), 3.68 (s, 0.90H), 3.59 (s, 2.10H), 3.55 (s, 3H), 1.28 (t, $J = 7.28$ Hz, 0.90H), 1.03 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 2.10H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ (major diastereomer) 198.9, 168.4, 168.1, 166.8, 148.6, 136.3, 133.7, 133.6, 133.6, 130.5, 129.3, 128.7, 128.4, 125.3, 62.0, 61.9, 54.7, 52.7, 52.6, 47.7, 42.7, 13.7; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ (minor diastereomer) 199.1, 168.3, 168.2, 167.7, 148.6, 135.9, 133.5, 133.5, 133.3, 131.0, 128.8, 128.6, 128.6, 125.2, 62.2, 60.6, 54.1, 52.8, 52.5, 48.3, 43.6, 14.0; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd For $C_{24}H_{24}NO_9Cl[M+Na]^+$: 528.1032. Found 528.1042.

3-Ethoxycarbonyl-1,1-dimethoxycarbonyl-5-(2-nitrophenyl)-2-(3-bromophenyl)-pentan-4-one (3i):

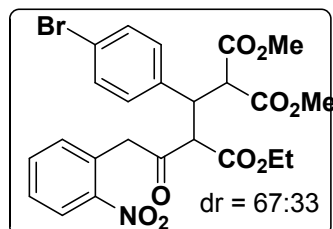
Yield 81%; IR (KBr) ν 3444, 2955, 1747, 1728, 1613, 1527, 1435, 1349, 1155 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR



(400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (mixture of diastereomers dr = 67:33) 8.13 (d, $J = 7.28$ Hz, 0.67H), 8.06 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 0.33H), 7.58-7.62 (m, 0.67H), 7.44-7.52 (m, 2.67H), 7.29-7.37 (m, 2.33H), 7.11-7.16 (m, 1H), 6.89-6.91 (m, 0.33H), 4.64 (d, $J = 10.3$ Hz, 0.67H), 4.57 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 0.33H), 4.42-4.46 (m, 0.67H), 4.27-4.32 (m, 1.67H), 4.17-4.23 (m, 1H), 4.15-4.14 (m, 0.33H), 3.97-4.03 (m, 1.33H), 3.83-3.93 (m, 1H), 3.69 (s, 0.99H), 3.60 (s, 2.01H), 3.57 (s, 3H), 1.29 (t, $J = 7.28$ Hz, 0.99H), 1.04 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 2.01H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (major diastereomer) 198.8, 168.4, 168.0, 166.7, 148.6, 140.2, 133.7, 133.6, 132.1, 130.8, 129.8, 129.3, 128.7, 127.9, 125.3, 122.2, 62.1, 61.8, 54.6, 52.7, 52.6, 47.7, 42.9, 13.7; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (minor diastereomer) 198.9, 168.2, 168.1, 167.6, 148.6, 139.8, 133.5, 133.3, 132.3, 130.9, 130.0, 128.8, 128.6, 128.4, 125.2, 122.3, 62.3, 60.4, 54.0, 52.8, 52.5, 48.5, 43.8, 14.0; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd For $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{24}\text{BrNO}_9[\text{M}+\text{K}]^+$: 588.0266. Found 588.0259.

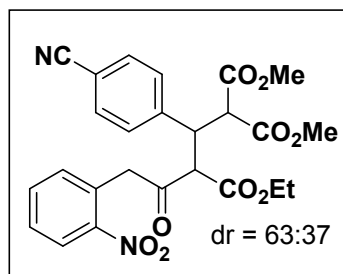
3-Ethoxycarbonyl-1,1-dimethoxycarbonyl-5-(2-nitrophenyl)-2-(4-bromophenyl)-pentan-4-one (3j):

Yield 79%; IR (KBr) ν 3061, 2997, 2976, 2949, 2921, 1747, 1712, 1631, 1606, 1526, 1488,



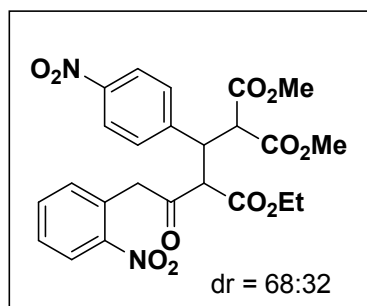
1450, 1434, 1401, 1341, 1314, 1295, 1257 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (mixture of diastereomers dr = 67:33) 8.12-8.14 (m, 0.67H), 8.04-8.06 (m, 0.33H), 7.58-7.62 (m, 0.67H), 7.43-7.52 (m, 1.33H), 7.37-7.40 (m, 2.0H), 7.29-7.31 (m, 0.67H), 7.18-7.23 (m, 2.0), 6.85-6.87 (m, 0.33H), 4.63 (d, $J = 10.3$ Hz, 0.67H), 4.55-4.57 (m, 0.33H), 4.41-4.45 (m, 0.67H), 4.26-4.32 (m, 1.33H), 4.18-4.23 (m, 1.67H), 3.96-4.02 (m, 1.33H), 3.91-3.96 (m, 0.33H), 3.82-3.84 (m, 0.67H), 3.68 (s, 0.99H), 3.59 (s, 2.01H), 3.56 (s, 0.99H), 3.55 (s, 2.01H), 1.28 (t, $J = 7.28$ Hz, 0.99H), 1.04 (t, $J = 7.28$ Hz, 2.01H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (major diastereomer) 198.9, 168.4, 168.1, 166.8, 148.6, 136.8, 133.7, 133.6, 131.4, 130.9, 129.3, 128.7, 125.3, 121.7, 62.1, 61.8, 54.6, 52.7, 52.6, 47.7, 42.8, 13.7; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (minor diastereomer) 199.0, 168.3, 168.1, 167.7, 148.6, 136.4, 133.5, 133.3, 131.5, 131.3, 128.8, 128.6, 125.2, 121.9, 62.2, 60.5, 54.0, 52.8, 52.5, 48.3, 43.7, 14.0; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd For $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}_9\text{Br}[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$: 572.0527. Found 572.0488.

3-Ethoxycarbonyl-1,1-dimethoxycarbonyl-5-(2-nitrophenyl)-2-(4-cyanophenyl)-pentan-4-one (3k):



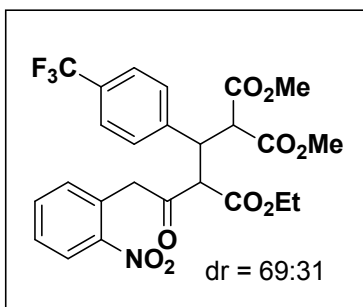
Yield 83%; IR (KBr) ν 3457, 2956, 2230, 1746, 1610, 1580, 1528, 1437, 1351, 1262, 1158 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (mixture of diastereomers dr = 63:37) 8.12 (d, J = 8 Hz, 0.63H), 8.03 (d, J = 8 Hz, 0.37H), 7.50-7.61 (m, 3.63H), 7.44-7.48 (m, 2.37H), 7.40-7.42 (m, 0.37H), 7.28-7.30 (m, 0.63H), 6.95-6.97 (m, 0.37H), 4.68 (d, J = 10.3 Hz, 0.63H), 4.63 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 0.37H), 4.35-4.45 (m, 1.63H), 4.24-4.30 (m, 1.37H), 4.17-4.22 (m, 1H), 3.95-4.02 (m, 1.63H), 3.86-3.88 (m, 0.37H), 3.66 (s, 1.11H), 3.58 (s, 1.89H), 3.54 (s, 1.89H), 3.53 (s, 1.11H), 1.26 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 1.11H), 1.01 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 1.89H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (major diastereomer) 198.4, 168.1, 167.8, 166.5, 148.5, 143.4, 133.6, 133.5, 133.2, 131.9, 130.1, 129.0, 128.7, 125.2, 111.5, 62.1, 61.3, 54.1, 52.7, 52.6, 47.7, 43.0, 13.6; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (minor diastereomer) 198.7, 167.9, 167.9, 167.3, 148.5, 142.9, 131.9, 130.4, 128.7, 128.6, 125.1, 118.4, 62.3, 60.2, 53.6, 52.8, 52.5, 48.2, 43.9, 13.9; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd For $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_2\text{O}_9[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$: 519.1374. Found 519.1373.

3-Ethoxycarbonyl-1,1-dimethoxycarbonyl-5-(2-nitrophenyl)-2-(4-nitrophenyl)-pentan-4-one (3l):



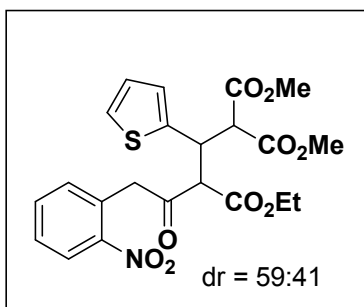
Yield 85%; IR (KBr) ν 2956, 2852, 2360, 2340, 1744, 1739, 1608, 1580, 1526, 1437, 1406, 1349, 1244, 1157, 1111 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (mixture of diastereomers dr = 68:32) 8.13-8.16 (m, 1.68H), 8.09-8.11 (m, 0.68H), 8.04-8.07 (m, 0.32H), 7.59-7.63 (m, 0.68H), 7.51-7.58 (m, 2.32H), 7.41-7.51 (m, 1.32H), 7.30-7.32 (m, 0.68H), 6.99-7.01 (m, 0.32H), 4.73 (d, J = 10.3 Hz, 0.68H), 4.68 (d, J = 9.04 Hz, 0.32H), 4.41-4.47 (m, 1.32H), 4.29-4.36 (m, 1H), 4.20-4.24 (m, 1H), 4.07-4.18 (m, 0.68H), 3.97-4.03 (m, 1.32H), 3.90-3.92 (m, 0.68H), 3.69 (s, 0.96H), 3.61 (s, 2.04H), 3.58 (s, 2.04H), 3.56 (s, 0.96H), 1.29 (t, J = 7.28 Hz, 0.96H), 1.04 (t, J = 7.28 Hz, 2.04H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (major diastereomer) 198.5, 168.1, 167.9, 166.5, 148.5, 147.3, 145.5, 133.7, 133.6, 130.3, 128.8, 128.8, 125.3, 123.3, 62.3, 61.3, 54.1, 52.8, 52.7, 47.8, 42.8, 13.7; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (minor diastereomer) 198.7, 168.0, 167.9, 167.4, 148.5, 147.3, 145.1, 133.3, 130.7, 129.1, 128.7, 125.3, 123.4, 62.5, 60.2, 53.6, 52.9, 52.7, 48.2, 43.7, 14.0; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd For $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_2\text{O}_{11}[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$: 539.1272. Found 539.1272.

3-Ethoxycarbonyl-1,1-dimethoxycarbonyl-5-(2-nitrophenyl)-2-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)-pentan-4-one (3m):



Yield 74%; IR (KBr) ν 2961, 1748, 1722, 1617, 1580, 1531, 1460, 1439, 1422, 1407, 1350, 1325, 1268 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (mixture of diastereomers dr = 69:31) 8.12-8.15 (m, 0.69H), 8.04-8.06 (m, 0.31H), 7.58-7.62 (m, 0.69H), 7.50-7.54 (m, 2.31H), 7.44-7.48 (m, 2.69H), 7.41-7.43 (m, 0.31H), 7.29-7.32 (m, 0.69H), 6.81-6.84 (m, 0.31H), 4.70 (d, J = 10.3 Hz, 0.69H), 4.62 (d, J = 9.3 Hz, 0.31H), 4.38-4.46 (m, 1.31H), 4.28-4.32 (m, 1H), 4.18-4.24 (m, 1.31H), 3.95-4.00 (m, 1.69H), 3.87-3.92 (m, 0.69H), 3.68 (s, 0.93H), 3.60 (s, 2.07H), 3.55 (s, 3H), 1.28 (t, J = 7.04 Hz, 0.93H), 0.99 (t, J = 7.28 Hz, 2.07H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (major diastereomer) 198.7, 168.3, 168.0, 166.7, 148.6, 142.0, 133.7, 133.6, 130.0, 129.7 (m), 129.6, 129.2, 128.7, 125.3, 125.2, 62.1, 61.7, 54.5, 52.7, 52.6, 47.7, 43.0, 13.6; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (minor diastereomer) 198.9, 168.2, 168.1, 167.5, 148.6, 141.6, 133.5, 133.2, 129.7, 128.7, 125.3, 125.1, 122.6, 62.3, 60.4, 53.9, 52.8, 52.6, 48.4, 43.9, 13.9; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd For $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{24}\text{F}_3\text{NO}_9[\text{M}+\text{K}]^+$: 578.1035. Found 578.1049.

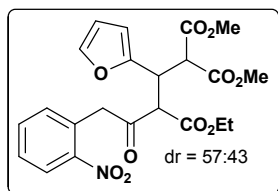
3-Ethoxycarbonyl-1,1-dimethoxycarbonyl-5-(2-nitrophenyl)-2-(thiophen-2-yl)-pentan-4-one (3n):



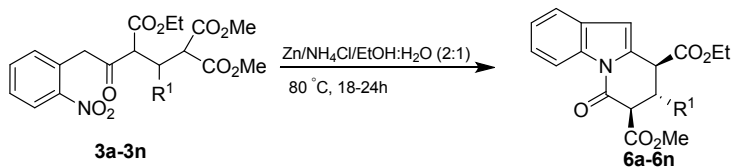
Yield 81%; IR (KBr) ν 3443, 3113, 2957, 2924, 2853, 2359, 2335, 1746, 1662, 1614, 1578, 1527, 1437, 1406, 1349, 1263, 1158, 1096 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (mixture of diastereomers dr = 59:41) 8.11-8.14 (m, 0.59H), 8.05-8.08 (m, 0.41H), 7.57-7.61 (m, 0.82H), 7.47-7.52 (m, 1.18H), 7.41-7.44 (m, 0.59H), 7.27-7.29 (m, 0.41H), 7.16-7.20 (m, 1.0H), 6.96-6.97 (m, 0.41H), 6.92-6.95 (m, 0.59H), 6.87-6.89 (m, 1H), 4.69-4.71 (m, 0.59H), 4.60-4.64 (m, 1H), 4.51-4.56 (m, 0.41H), 4.36-4.40 (m, 0.82H), 4.27-4.32 (m, 1H), 4.2-4.25 (m, 1.17H), 4.05-4.07 (m, 1H), 3.93-3.99 (m, 1.0H), 3.70 (s, 1.23H), 3.64 (s, 1.77H), 3.62 (s, 1.23H), 3.61 (s, 1.77H), 1.29 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 1.23H), 1.10 (t, J = 7.28 Hz, 1.77H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (major diastereomer) 198.9, 168.3, 168.1, 166.8, 148.6, 139.7, 133.7, 133.6, 129.3, 128.6, 127.3, 126.4, 125.3, 125.2, 62.5, 62.0, 54.8, 52.6, 52.6, 47.7, 38.7, 13.7 (minor diastereomer) 199.1, 168.2, 168.1, 167.5, 148.7, 138.9, 133.5, 133.4, 129.1, 128.5, 128.5, 126.5, 125.7, 125.1, 62.2, 60.8, 54.4, 52.7, 52.5, 48.5, 39.8, 13.9; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd For $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{23}\text{SNO}_9[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$: 500.0986. Found 500.0966

3-Ethoxycarbonyl-1,1-dimethoxycarbonyl-5-(2-nitrophenyl)-2-(2-furyl)-pentan-4-one (3o):

Yield 78%; IR (KBr) ν 3448, 2957, 2927, 2852, 2361, 2340, 1746, 1613, 1580, 1528, 1437, 1409, 1349, 1265, 1159, 1097 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (mixture of diastereomers dr = 57:43) 8.11-8.13 (m, 0.57H), 8.05-8.07 (m, 0.43H), 7.57-7.61 (m, 0.57H), 7.49-7.53 (m, 0.43H), 7.44-7.48 (m, 0.57H), 7.39-7.43 (m, 0.43H), 7.28-7.32 (m, 1.43H), 6.99-7.01 (m, 0.57H), 6.28-6.30 (m, 0.43H), 6.24-6.29 (m, 1.57H), 4.60 (d, J = 9.8 Hz, 0.57H), 4.55 (d, J = 9.5 Hz, 0.43H), 4.45-4.49 (m, 0.86H), 4.37-4.43 (m, 1.14H), 4.31-4.32 (m, 0.86H), 4.23-4.29 (m, 1.14H), 4.10-4.13 (m, 1H), 4.00-4.03 (m, 0.57H), 3.87-3.88 (m, 0.43H), 3.72 (s, 1.29H), 3.67 (s, 1.71H), 3.64 (s, 1.29H), 3.62 (s, 1.71H), 1.31 (t, J = 7.28 Hz, 1.29H), 1.16 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 1.71H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (major diastereomer) 198.7, 168.2, 168.0, 166.9, 151.2, 148.7, 141.8, 133.7, 133.3, 129.3, 128.6, 125.2, 110.4, 108.5, 62.0, 60.1, 52.8, 52.6, 52.6, 47.6, 37.2, 13.8; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (minor diastereomer) 198.6, 168.1, 168.0, 167.5, 150.9, 148.9, 141.8, 133.5, 129.0, 128.5, 125.1, 110.8, 109.5, 62.2, 58.9, 52.8, 52.7, 47.9, 37.8, 13.9; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd For $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{23}\text{NO}_{10}[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$: 484.1214. Found 484.1214.

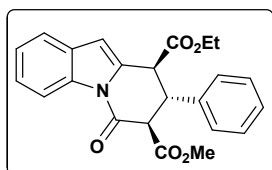


General procedure for the diastereoselective synthesis of substituted 8,9-dihydropyrido[1,2-a]indole-6(7H)-ones:



To a stirred mixture of compound (**3a-n**, 0.1 mmol)] in EtOH/ H_2O ratio (4.5 mL, 2:1) was added Zn-dust (0.3 mmol) and NH_4Cl (1.0 mmol) and heated at 80 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 18-24 h (monitored by TLC). After that, solvent was evaporated by rotary evaporator under reduced pressure. The crude product was diluted with ethyl acetate and filtered through celite-545, washed with ethyl acetate. The filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure to leave the crude residue which was purified by column chromatography over silica-gel 230-400 mesh using EtOAc/hexane as eluent to furnish the pure product. All the products were fully characterized by their corresponding spectroscopic data (IR, ^1H and ^{13}C NMR and HRMS).

(*trans-trans-trans*)-9-Ethoxycarbonyl-7-methoxycarbonyl-8-phenyl-8,9-dihydropyrido[1,2-*a*]indol-6(7*H*)-one (6a):



Yield 80%; dr = 95:5; IR (KBr) ν 3443, 3286, 2924, 2852, 2361, 2340, 1746, 1702, 1595, 1572, 1496, 1455, 1380, 1355, 1262, 1149, 1096 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (major diastereomer **5a**) 8.44 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.51 (d, $J = 7.04$ Hz, 1H), 7.27-7.38 (m, 7H), 6.43 (s, 1H), 4.26-4.29 (m, 1H), 4.05-4.18 (m, 4H), 3.61 (s, 3H), 1.09 (t, $J = 7.24$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (major diastereomer **5a**) 169.2, 167.9, 164.3, 137.1, 134.9, 133.4, 129.6, 128.9, 128.3, 127.7, 125.3, 124.8, 120.5, 116.6, 107.0, 61.7, 57.0, 52.7, 47.7, 45.3, 13.9; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd For $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{21}\text{NO}_5[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$: 414.1312. Found 414.1319.

The relative configuration of major diastereomer was confirmed by its single crystal x-ray diffraction data.

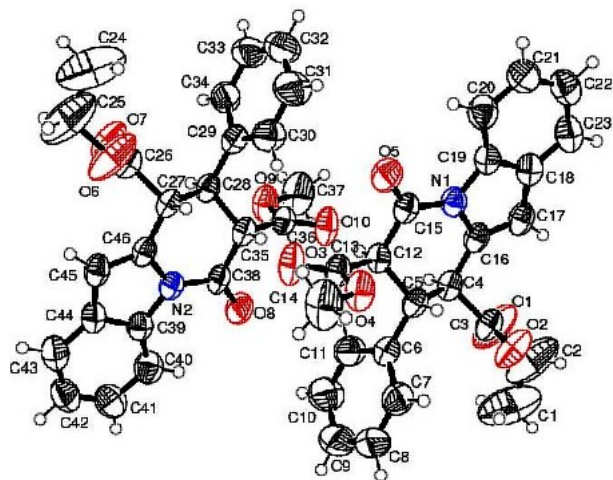


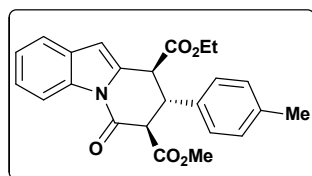
Figure 1. ORTEP diagram of compound **6a**, thermal ellipsoid drawn at the 50% probability level.

Table 1. Crystal data for compound **6a**.

Compound	Compound 6a
Empirical formula	$\text{C}_{46}\text{H}_{42}\text{N}_2\text{O}_{10}$
Molecular weight	782.82
Temperature	150(2) K
Wavelength ($\text{\AA}$)	0.71073 $\text{\AA}$
Crystal system, space group	Triclinic, $P - 1$

a (Å)	$a = 9.8354(5)$ Å
b (Å)	$b = 13.4213(8)$ Å
c (Å)	$c = 16.8559(9)$ Å
α (°)	$\alpha = 95.977(4)$ deg.
β (°)	$\beta = 103.638(4)$ deg.
γ (°)	$\gamma = 102.512(4)$ deg.
Volume (Å ³)	$2082.5(2)$ Å ³
Z, Calculated density (mg/m ³)	2, 1.248 Mg/m ³
Absorption coefficient (mm ⁻¹)	0.088 mm ⁻¹
F(000)	824
Crystal size (mm)	0.08 x 0.06 x 0.05 mm
θ range (deg)	2.92 to 25.00 deg.
Limiting indices	$-11 \leq h \leq 11$, $-15 \leq k \leq 15$, $-20 \leq l \leq 19$
Reflections collected / unique	19605 / 7324 [R(int) = 0.0325]
Completeness to $\theta = 25$	99.8 %
Max. and min. transmission	0.9956 and 0.9930
Data / restraints / parameters	7324 / 0 / 527
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.042
Final R indices [I > 2 σ (I)]	R1 = 0.0711, wR2 = 0.2285
R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.1252, wR2 = 0.2855
Largest diff. peak and hole (e.Å ⁻³)	0.581 and -0.409 e.Å ⁻³
CCDC	1045133

(trans-trans-trans)-9-Ethoxycarbonyl-7-methoxycarbonyl-8-(4-methylphenyl)-8,9-

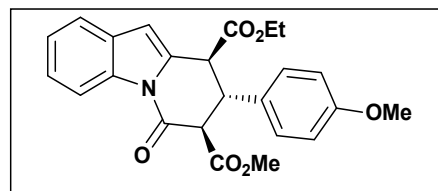


dihydropyrido[1,2-a]indol-6(7H)-one (6c): Yield 77%; dr = 96:4;

IR (KBr) ν 3442, 2955, 2925, 2853, 2360, 2340, 1753, 1729, 1706, 1594, 1573, 1515, 1456, 1357, 1319, 1291, 1263, 1229, 1194, 1147, 1096 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (major diastereomer) 8.44 (d, J = 8.04 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (d, J = 7.28 Hz, 1H), 7.28-7.37 (m, 2H),

7.11-7.21 (m, 4H), 6.42 (s, 1H), 4.23-4.26 (m, 1H), 4.03-4.14 (m, 4H), 3.63 (s, 3H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 1.12 (t, J = 7.04 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (major diastereomer) 169.3, 167.9, 164.5, 138.0, 135.0, 134.0, 133.6, 129.7, 129.6, 127.5, 125.3, 124.7, 120.5, 116.6, 107.0, 61.7, 57.1, 52.6, 47.8, 44.9, 21.1, 14.0; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd For C₂₄H₂₃NO₅[M+Na]⁺: 428.1468. Found 428.1469.

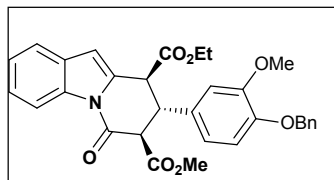
(trans-trans-trans)-9-Ethoxycarbonyl-7-methoxycarbonyl-8-(4-methoxyphenyl)-8,9-



dihydropyrido[1,2-a]indol-6(7H)-one (6d): Yield 81%; dr = 93: 7; **IR** (KBr) ν 3443, 2955, 2924, 2852, 2360, 2340, 2267, 1740, 1699, 1611, 1572, 1514, 1455, 1382, 1250, 1213, 1179, 1153, 1108 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (major diastereomer) 8.47 (d, J = 8.04 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (d, J = 7.28 Hz, 1H), 7.29-7.40 (m, 3H), 7.23-7.24 (m, 1H), 6.88-

6.90 (m, 2H), 6.44 (s, 1H), 4.24-4.27 (m, 1H), 4.04-4.19 (m, 4H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.66 (s, 3H), 1.16 (t, $J = 7.04$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (major diastereomer) 169.3, 167.9, 164.4, 159.3, 135.0, 133.6, 129.7, 129.1, 128.8, 125.3, 124.7, 120.5, 116.6, 114.3, 106.9, 61.7, 57.2, 55.2, 52.6, 48.0, 44.6, 14.0; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd For $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{23}\text{NO}_6[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$: 444.1418. Found 444.1431.

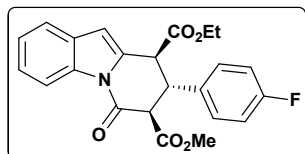
(*trans-trans-trans*)-9-Ethoxycarbonyl-7-methoxycarbonyl-8-(4-benzyloxy-3-methoxyphenyl)-8,9-dihydropyrido[1,2-*a*]indol-6(7*H*)-one



(6e): Yield 78%; dr = 90:10; IR (KBr) ν 3440, 2926, 2852, 2360, 1744, 1704, 1594, 1573, 1517, 1454, 1374, 1264, 1144, 1107 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (major diastereomer) 8.44 (d, $J = 8.04$ Hz, 1H), 7.50 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.42-7.43 (m, 2H), 7.28-7.38 (m, 5H), 6.76-6.86 (m, 3H), 6.42 (s, 1H), 5.13 (s, 2H), 4.21-4.24

(m, 1H), 4.01-4.15 (m, 4H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.63 (s, 3H), 1.11 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (major diastereomer) 169.3, 168.0, 164.4, 149.6, 147.9, 136.9, 134.9, 133.5, 130.1, 129.6, 128.5, 127.9, 127.3, 125.3, 124.8, 120.5, 119.6, 116.5, 114.0, 111.5, 107.0, 70.9, 61.7, 57.1, 56.1, 52.7, 47.8, 44.9, 14.0; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd For $\text{C}_{31}\text{H}_{29}\text{NO}_7[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$: 550.1836. Found 550.1836.

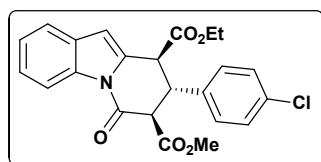
(*trans-trans-trans*)-9-Ethoxycarbonyl-7-methoxycarbonyl-8-(4-fluorophenyl)-8,9-dihydropyrido[1,2-*a*]indol-6(7*H*)-one (6f):



Yield 73%; dr = 95:5; IR (KBr) ν 2926, 2853, 2380, 2349, 1742, 1698, 1654, 1601, 1577, 1509, 1456, 1379, 1265, 1223, 1156, 1101 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (major diastereomer) 8.43 (d, $J = 8.04$ Hz, 1H), 7.51 (d, $J = 7.24$ Hz, 1H), 7.27-7.38 (m, 4H), 7.02-7.06 (m, 2H), 6.43 (s, 1H), 4.20-4.24 (m, 1H), 4.01-4.17 (m, 4H), 3.63 (s, 3H), 1.12 (t, $J = 7.28$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz,

CDCl_3) δ (major diastereomer) 169.1, 167.7, 164.1, 134.9, 133.2, 129.6, 129.5, 129.4, 125.4, 124.8, 120.6, 116.5, 116.0, 115.8, 107.1, 61.8, 57.0, 52.7, 47.8, 44.6, 14.0; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd For $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{20}\text{FNO}_5[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$: 432.1218. Found 432.1217.

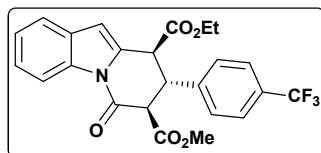
(*trans-trans-trans*)-9-Ethoxycarbonyl-7-methoxycarbonyl-8-(4-chlorophenyl)-8,9-dihydropyrido[1,2-*a*]indol-6(7*H*)-one (6h):



Yield 75%; dr = 95:5; IR (KBr) ν 3442, 2963, 2924, 2854, 2362, 2331, 1749, 1703, 1596, 1572, 1494, 1455, 1378, 1261, 1146, 1096 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (major diastereomer) 8.43 (d, $J = 7.28$ Hz, 1H), 7.51 (d, $J = 7.28$ Hz, 1H), 7.29-7.38 (m, 4H), 7.22-7.26 (m, 2H), 6.43 (s, 1H),

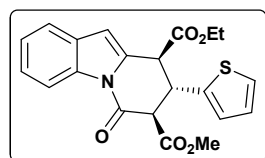
4.21-4.24 (m, 1H), 4.07-4.17 (m, 3H), 4.01-4.04 (m, 1H), 3.64 (s, 3H), 1.14 (t, $J = 7.04$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (major diastereomer) 169.0, 167.7, 164.0, 135.7, 135.0, 134.2, 133.0, 129.6, 129.2, 129.1, 125.4, 124.9, 120.6, 116.6, 107.2, 61.9, 56.8, 52.8, 47.6, 44.6, 14.0; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd For $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{20}\text{ClNO}_5[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$: 448.0922. Found 448.0921.

(*trans-trans-trans*)-9-Ethoxycarbonyl-7-methoxycarbonyl-8-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)-8,9-dihydropyrido[1,2-*a*]indol-6(7*H*)-one (6m):



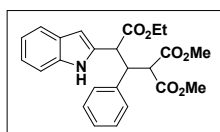
Yield 62%; dr = 93:7; IR (KBr) ν 3444, 2961, 2924, 2853, 2361, 2340, 1743, 1698, 1621, 1601, 1578, 1557, 1540, 1457, 1382, 1326, 1262, 1211, 1172, 1129, 1069 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (major diastereomer) 8.44 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (d, J = 8.04 Hz, 2H), 7.52 (d, J = 7.04 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (d, J = 8.04 Hz, 2H), 7.30-7.39 (m, 2H), 6.45 (s, 1H), 4.21-4.30 (m, 2H), 4.06-4.16 (m, 3H), 3.64 (s, 3H), 1.12 (t, J = 7.28 Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (major diastereomer) 168.8, 167.5, 163.7, 141.3, 135.0, 132.8, 129.5, 128.3, 126.0, 125.9, 125.5, 124.9, 122.5, 120.6, 116.6, 107.4, 61.9, 56.6, 52.8, 47.4, 44.9, 13.9; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd For $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_5\text{F}_3[\text{M}+\text{K}]^+$: 498.0925. Found 498.0946.

(*trans-trans-trans*)-9-Ethoxycarbonyl-7-methoxycarbonyl-8-(thiophen-2-yl)-8,9-



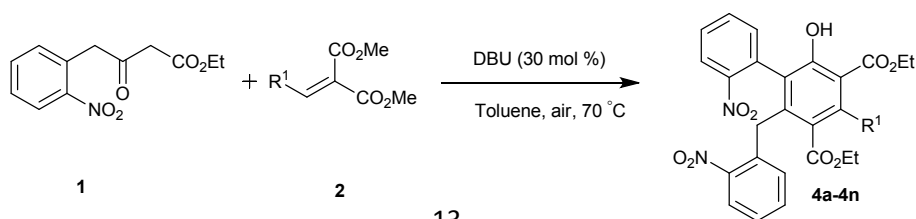
dihydropyrido[1,2-*a*]indol-6(7*H*)-one (6n):Yield 61%; dr = 4:1; IR (KBr) ν 3450, 2958, 2925, 2853, 2361, 2341, 1741, 1706, 1595, 1571, 1456, 1379, 1262, 1180, 1151, 1105 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (major diastereomer) 8.44 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.30-7.37 (m, 2H), 7.23-7.24 (m, 1H), 6.92-6.70 (m, 2H), 6.45 (s, 1H), 4.44-4.53 (m, 1H), 4.16-4.26 (m, 3H), 4.02-4.04 (m, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 1.20 (t, J = 7.04 Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (major diastereomer) 169.0, 167.7, 163.6, 140.4, 134.9, 132.8, 129.6, 127.0, 126.2, 125.4, 125.2, 124.8, 120.6, 116.6, 107.3, 62.0, 57.9, 52.8, 48.7, 40.6, 14.0; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd For $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{19}\text{NO}_5\text{S}[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$: 420.0876. Found 420.0895.

3-Ethoxycarbonyl-1,1-dimethoxycarbonyl-2-phenyl-3-(1*H*-indol-2-yl)propane (5a): ^1H

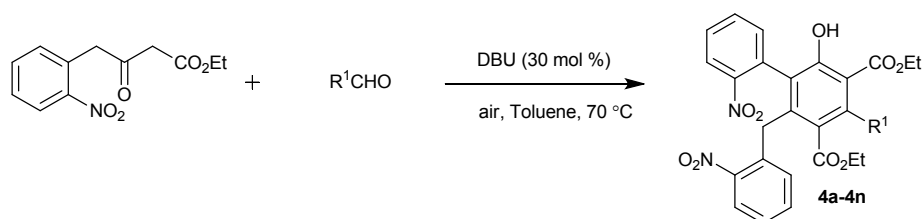


NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.76 (s, 1H), 7.54-7.56 (m, 1H), 7.34-7.38 (m, 1H), 7.31-7.33 (m, 2H), 7.26-7.29 (m, 2H), 7.22-7.25 (m, 1H), 7.15-7.20 (m, 1H), 7.06-7.10 (m, 1H), 6.50-6.51 (m, 1H), 4.54 (d, J = 11.3 Hz, 1H), 4.17-4.21 (m, 1H), 3.80-3.93 (m, 2H), 3.75 (d, J = 7 Hz, 1H), 3.35 (s, 3H), 3.29 (s, 3H), 0.90 (t, J = 7.28 Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 171.6, 168.9, 167.9, 137.9, 136.5, 131.9, 128.9, 128.3, 128.0, 127.8, 122.2, 120.3, 119.9, 111.1, 103.8, 61.2, 55.2, 52.4, 52.3, 49.5, 48.6, 13.7; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd For $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{25}\text{NO}_6[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$: 446.1574. Found 446.1571

General procedure for the synthesis of ploy-substituted salicylate derivatives (4a-4n):

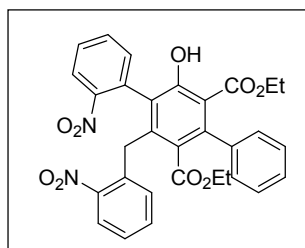


Method A: A mixture of ethyl-4-(2-nitrophenyl)-3-oxobutanoate(**1**, 0.5 mmol), alkylidene malonates (**2a-n**, 0.25 mmol), H₂O (0.25 mmol) and DBU (30 mol%) in toluene (0.5 mL) under air was heated at 70 °C for 24-28h (monitored by TLC). After that, toluene was evaporated by rotary evaporator under reduced pressure. The crude product was extracted with ethyl acetate, washed with aqueous diluted HCl, brine and dried over Na₂SO₄. The evaporation of the solvent gave the crude product which was purified by column chromatography over silica-gel 230-400 mesh using EtOAc/hexane as eluent (1:9 to 1:5) to furnish the pure product. All the products were fully characterized by their corresponding spectroscopic data (IR, ¹H and ¹³C NMR and HRMS).



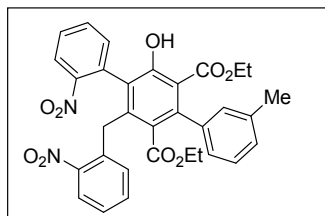
Method B: To a stirred mixture of ethyl-4-(2-nitrophenyl)-3-oxobutanoate(**1**, 0.5 mmol) and aldehydes (0.25 mmol) in toluene (0.5 mL) was added catalyst DBU (30 mol%) and heated at 70 °C under air. The reaction was monitored by TLC. After completion of the reaction, the reaction mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate, washed with aqueous diluted HCl, brine and dried over Na₂SO₄. The evaporation of the solvent gave the crude product which was purified by column chromatography over silica-gel 230-400 mesh using EtOAc/hexane as eluent (1:9 to 1:5) to furnish the pure product. All the products were fully characterized by their corresponding spectroscopic data (IR, ¹H and ¹³C NMR and HRMS).

2,4-Diethoxycarbonyl-5-(2-nitrobenzyl)-6-(2-nitrophenyl)-3-phenylphenol(**4a**):



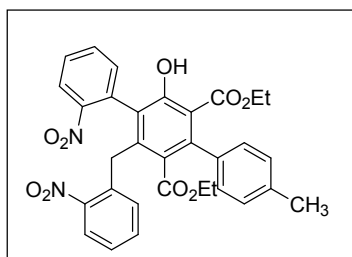
¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 11.4 (s, 1H), 8.02-8.05 (m, 1H), 7.66-7.68 (m, 1H), 7.56-7.60 (m, 1H), 7.49-7.53 (m, 1H), 7.41-7.45 (m, 1H), 7.27-7.35 (m, 5H), 7.21-7.25 (m, 2H), 7.15-7.17 (m, 1H), 4.26-4.30 (m, 1H), 4.09-4.13 (m, 1H), 3.91-3.97 (m, 2H), 3.62-3.69 (m, 2H), 0.69-0.73 (m, 6H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.5, 168.4, 159.5, 148.6, 148.3, 142.2, 140.0, 139.1, 133.6, 133.4, 132.9, 132.1, 130.3, 129.6, 129.4, 129.0, 128.5, 128.0, 127.4, 127.4, 127.3, 127.1, 124.9, 123.9, 111.5, 61.6, 61.2, 33.4, 13.4, 12.8; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd For C₃₁H₂₆N₂O₉[M+Na]⁺: 593.1531. Found 593.1535.

2,4-Diethoxycarbonyl-5-(2-nitrobenzyl)-6-(2-nitrophenyl)-3-(3-methylphenyl)phenol(4b):



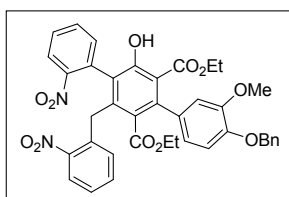
¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 11.4 (s, 1H), 8.02-8.04 (m, 1H), 7.66-7.68 (m, 1H), 7.56-7.60 (m, 1H), 7.49-7.53 (m, 1H), 7.41-7.45 (m, 1H), 7.29-7.31 (m, 1H), 7.19-7.26 (m, 2H), 7.12-7.16 (m, 3H), 7.00-7.03 (m, 1H), 4.25-4.30 (m, 1H), 4.08-4.12 (m, 1H), 3.88-4.00 (m, 2H), 3.66-3.69 (m, 2H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 0.69-0.74 (m, 6H); **¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 170.5, 168.4, 159.4, 148.5, 148.3, 142.4, 139.6, 139.0, 136.8, 136.8, 133.6, 133.4, 133.4, 132.9, 132.2, 132.1, 130.3, 129.5, 129.5, 129.4, 129.1, 127.9, 127.8, 127.3, 127.3, 127.1, 126.0, 125.6, 124.9, 123.9, 111.5, 61.5, 61.1, 33.4, 21.3, 13.3, 12.8; **HRMS (ESI)** m/z calcd For C₃₂H₂₈N₂O₉[M+Na]⁺: 607.1687. Found 607.1684.

2,4-Diethoxycarbonyl-5-(2-nitrobenzyl)-6-(2-nitrophenyl)-3-(4-methylphenyl)phenol(4c):



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 11.4 (s, 1H), 8.01-8.03 (m, 1H), 7.66-7.68 (m, 1H), 7.56-7.59 (m, 1H), 7.48-7.52 (m, 1H), 7.41-7.44 (m, 1H), 7.29-7.31 (m, 1H), 7.21-7.24 (m, 2H), 7.08-7.16 (m, 4H), 4.25-4.30 (m, 1H), 4.07-4.12 (m, 1H), 3.92-3.97 (m, 2H), 3.66-3.70 (m, 2H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 0.70-0.76 (m, 6H); **¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 170.6, 168.5, 159.3, 148.5, 148.3, 142.3, 138.9, 137.0, 136.8, 133.6, 133.6, 133.4, 132.9, 132.1, 132.1, 130.3, 129.7, 129.4, 128.7, 128.3, 128.0, 128.0, 127.7, 127.1, 124.9, 123.9, 111.7, 61.6, 61.1, 33.4, 21.2, 13.4, 12.8; **HRMS (ESI)** m/z calcd For C₃₂H₂₈N₂O₉[M+Na]⁺: 607.1687. Found 607.1694.

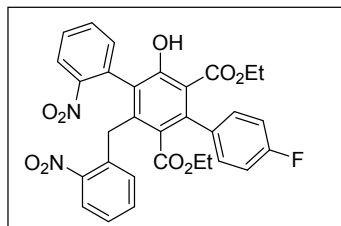
2,4-Diethoxycarbonyl-5-(2-nitrobenzyl)-6-(2-nitrophenyl)-3-(3-methoxy-4-benzyloxyphenyl)phenol(4e):



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 11.3 (s, 1H), 8.02-8.04 (m, 1H), 7.66-7.68 (m, 1H), 7.49-7.59 (m, 2H), 7.44-7.55 (m, 3H), 7.34-7.37 (m, 2H), 7.26-7.31 (m, 3H), 7.12-7.17 (m, 1H), 6.79-6.91 (m, 2H), 6.67-6.69 (m, 1H), 5.21 (s, 2H), 4.25-4.29 (m, 1H), 4.08-4.13 (m, 1H), 3.87-3.95 (m, 5H), 3.65-3.74 (m, 2H), 0.73-0.74 (m, 6H); **¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 170.5, 168.5, 168.4, 159.3 (159.3*), 148.9 (148.8*), 148.5 (148.5*), 148.3 (148.3*), 147.3 (147.3*), 141.7 (141.7*), 139.0 (139.0*), 137.0 (137.0*), 133.6 (133.6*), 133.4, 133.2, 132.9 (132.8*), 132.1, 132.1, 130.3 (130.3*), 129.8, 129.4, 128.5, 127.9, 127.1, 124.9 (124.9*), 124.0 (123.9*), 121.4, 120.8, 113.2, 113.1, 113.0, 112.6, 111.7, 70.9, 61.6, 61.2 (61.1*), 56.2 (56.1*), 33.4 (33.3*), 13.5, 13.2; **HRMS (ESI)** m/z calcd For C₃₉H₃₄N₂O₁₁[M+Na]⁺: 729.2201. Found 729.2199

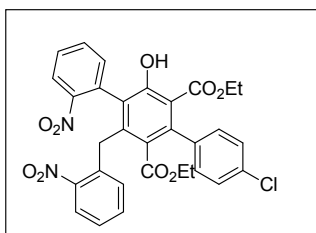
*the peak may be the existence of rotamer.

2,4-Diethoxycarbonyl-5-(2-nitrobenzyl)-6-(2-nitrophenyl)-3-(4-fluorophenyl)phenol(4f):



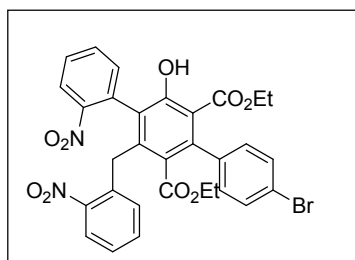
¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 11.5 (s, 1H), 8.03-8.05 (m, 1H), 7.67-7.69 (m, 1H), 7.57-7.61 (m, 1H), 7.50-7.54 (m, 1H), 7.41-7.45 (m, 1H), 7.31-7.34 (m, 1H), 7.26-7.29 (m, 2H), 7.15-7.24 (m, 2H), 7.03-7.09 (m, 2H), 4.26-4.30 (m, 1H), 4.08-4.13 (m, 1H), 3.95-4.00 (m, 2H), 3.67-3.70 (m, 2H), 0.76-0.81 (m, 6H); **¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 170.4, 168.2, 162.3 (d, *J* = 244.9 Hz), 159.7, 148.5, 148.3, 140.9, 139.1, 135.7, 135.6, 133.6, 133.2, 132.9, 132.0, 130.7 (2C), 130.2 (2C), 129.8, 129.5, 128.3, 127.2, 124.9, 124.0, 114.4 (d, *J* = 6.56 Hz), 114.2 (d, *J* = 5.83 Hz), 111.4, 61.7, 61.3, 33.4, 13.5, 13.0; **HRMS (ESI)** *m/z* calcd For C₃₁H₂₅FN₂O₉[M+Na]⁺: 611.1436. Found 611.1440.

2,4-Diethoxycarbonyl-5-(2-nitrobenzyl)-6-(2-nitrophenyl)-3-(4-chlorophenyl)phenol(4h):



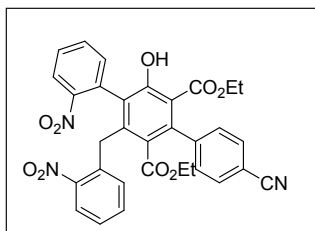
¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 11.5 (s, 1H), 8.03-8.05 (m, 1H), 7.67-7.69 (m, 1H), 7.57-7.61 (m, 1H), 7.50-7.54 (m, 1H), 7.41-7.45 (m, 1H), 7.31-7.37 (m, 3H), 7.24-7.28 (m, 2H), 7.14-7.18 (m, 2H), 4.26-4.30 (m, 1H), 4.09-4.13 (m, 1H), 3.96-3.99 (m, 2H), 3.69-3.71 (m, 2H), 0.78-0.79 (m, 6H); **¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 170.2, 168.1, 159.7, 148.5, 148.2, 140.7, 139.3, 138.2, 133.6, 133.4, 133.2, 132.9, 132.0, 130.4, 130.1, 129.9, 129.5, 129.5, 128.5, 127.6, 127.5, 127.2, 124.9, 124.0, 111.1, 61.9, 61.3, 33.4, 13.4, 12.9; **HRMS (ESI)** *m/z* calcd For C₃₁H₂₅ClN₂O₉[M+Na]⁺: 627.1141. Found 627.1148

2,4-Diethoxycarbonyl-5-(2-nitrobenzyl)-6-(2-nitrophenyl)-3-(4-bromophenyl)phenol(4j):



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 11.5 (s, 1H), 8.03-8.06 (m, 1H), 7.67-7.69 (m, 1H), 7.57-7.61 (m, 1H), 7.48-7.54 (m, 3H), 7.41-7.45 (m, 1H), 7.23-7.28 (m, 3H), 7.11-7.16 (m, 2H), 4.26-4.30 (m, 1H), 4.09-4.13 (m, 1H), 3.96-4.01 (m, 2H), 3.68-3.73 (m, 2H), 0.77-0.80 (m, 6H); **¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 170.2, 168.1, 159.7, 148.5, 148.2, 140.7, 139.3, 138.7, 133.6, 133.2, 132.9, 132.0, 130.7, 130.5, 130.5, 130.3, 130.1, 129.5, 129.4, 128.5, 127.2, 124.9, 124.0, 121.5, 111.1, 61.9, 61.3, 33.4, 13.4, 12.9; **HRMS (ESI)** *m/z* calcd For C₃₁H₂₅BrN₂O₉[M+Na]⁺: 671.0636. Found 671.0610.

2,4-Diethoxycarbonyl-5-(2-nitrobenzyl)-6-(2-nitrophenyl)-3-(4-cyanophenyl)phenol(4k):



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 11.6 (s, 1H), 8.05-8.07 (m, 1H), 7.66-7.70 (m, 3H), 7.59-7.63 (m, 1H), 7.49-7.56 (m, 2H), 7.41-7.45 (m, 1H), 7.37-7.39 (m, 1H), 7.23-7.28 (m, 2H), 7.15-7.17 (m, 1H), 4.27-4.31 (m, 1H), 4.11-4.15 (m, 1H), 3.95-4.00 (m, 2H), 3.62-3.67 (m, 2H), 0.72-0.76 (m, 6H); **¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 169.8, 167.7, 160.0, 148.6, 148.2, 144.9, 139.7, 139.7, 133.7, 133.0, 132.9, 131.9, 131.9, 131.1, 131.1, 130.0, 129.9, 129.7, 129.5, 129.3, 129.0,

127.3, 125.0, 124.1, 118.7, 111.2, 110.5, 62.0, 61.4, 33.5, 13.4, 12.9; **HRMS** (ESI) m/z calcd For $C_{32}H_{25}N_3O_9[M+Na]^+$: 618.1483. Found 618.1485.

2,4-Diethoxycarbonyl-5-(2-nitrobenzyl)-6-(2-nitrophenyl)-3-(2-thiophenyl)phenol(4n):

1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 11.3 (s, 1H), 8.03-8.05 (m, 1H), 7.67-7.68 (m, 1H), 7.52-7.59 (m, 2H), 7.38-7.44 (m, 2H), 7.26-7.30 (m, 2H), 7.14-7.15 (m, 1H), 7.00-7.01 (m, 2H), 4.27-4.31 (m, 1H), 4.05-4.12 (m, 3H), 3.80-3.81 (m, 2H), 0.87-0.89 (m, 6H); **^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$)** δ 170.2, 168.1, 159.3, 148.5, 148.1, 139.7, 138.8, 134.1, 133.7, 133.1, 132.9, 132.1, 131.9, 131.1, 130.1, 129.5, 129.1, 127.6, 127.2, 126.2, 126.1, 124.9, 123.9, 112.8, 61.8, 61.4, 33.4, 13.5, 13.0; **HRMS** (ESI) m/z calcd For $C_{29}H_{24}SN_2O_9[M+Na]^+$: 599.1095. Found 599.1095.

