

And

Electronic Supplementary Information

## On-water, Catalyst-Free and Room-temperature Construction of 2-Aryl-1,3,4-oxadiazole Derivatives from 1,1-Dichloro-2-nitroethene and Hydrazides

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#### 1. General information

Melting points (mp) were recorded on Büchi B540 apparatus (Büchi Labortechnik AG, Flawil, Switzerland) and are uncorrected. <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker AM-400 (<sup>1</sup>H at 400 MHz, <sup>13</sup>C at 100 MHz) spectrometer with DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub> as the solvent and TMS as the internal standard. Chemical shifts are reported in  $\delta$  (parts per million) values. High-resolution electron mass spectra (ESI-TOF) were performed on a Micromass LC-TOF spectrometer. Analytical thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was carried out on precoated plates (silica gel 60 F254), and spots were visualized with ultraviolet (UV) light. Chromatographic analysis was performed using an ACQUITY UPLC-H Class system (Waters Corp., USA), equipped with BEH C18 reversed phase column with 50 mm×2.1 mm i.d. and 1.7  $\mu$ m particle size, equipped with a quaternary solvent delivery system, a 48-vial autosampler (10  $\mu$ L loop), and a photodiode array detector (PDA). The UPLC separations were carried out using gradient separation at a flow rate of 0.4 mL min<sup>-1</sup>. The mobile phase was a mixture of MilliQ ultrapure water (A) and acetonitrile (B). The following elution gradient totally lasted 15 min: initial mobile-phase composition, 90:10 (v/v) phase A:B; 0-3.5 min, linear change from 10 to 45% B; 3.5-7 min, linear change from 45 to 60% B; 7-8 min linear change from 60 to 100% B; 8-10 min 100% B; 10-11 min, 90:10 (v/v) phase A:B. The column and injection chamber were maintained at 40 and 25 °C, respectively. The sample injection volume was 3  $\mu$ L and the detector was set at 321 nm. The following abbreviations were used to explain the multiplicities: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet, coupling constant (Hz) and integration. Gaussian09 calculated the electron cloud density and Multiwfn plotted electron cloud density map.

**Reagents:** Phthalohydrazide was synthesized according to the reported procedures<sup>1</sup>, *N*-phenyl-4-

(trifluoromethyl)benzohydrazide and *N*-phenylbenzohydrazide were synthesized according to method reported by Zheng-Ming Li *et. al.*<sup>2</sup>, 1,1-dichloro-2-nitroethene (DCNE) synthesis under the following steps: 36% hydrochloric acid (41.7 g, 0.411 mol) and 65% nitric acid (39.8 g, 0.411 mol) were added to round-bottom flask, drop add the 1,1-dichloroethylene (31.0 g, 0.315 mol) with constant pressure hopper and keep temperature at 20-25 °C, after reaction of 3 h, the mixture was continuously stirred for 1 h, washed with water, and extracted by chloroform, collect the organic phase, then add the chloroform layer to 235 mL 4% sodium hydroxide solution at the conditions of ice bath agitation, after simple separation and chloroform washing, concentrate the organic phase, dried with anhydrous magnesium sulfate, then obtain 29 g pale yellow oil. All other solvents and reagents were purchased directly from commercial suppliers and used as received without further purification.

<sup>1</sup>C.-Y. Zhang, X.-H. Liu, B.-L. Wang, S.-H. Wang and Z.-M. Li, *Chem. Biol. Drug Des.*, 2010, **75**, 489-493.

<sup>2</sup>K. Karthik, K. B. Priyanka, S. Manjula and G. Sammaiah, *Int. J. Pharm. Pharm. Sci.*, 2013, **5**, 224-227.

## 2. General Procedure for the Synthesis of 2-(nitromethyl)-5-phenyl-1,3,4-oxadiazole

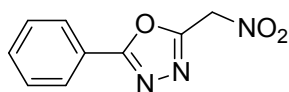
### Toluene as the solvent:

Benzohydrazide (136.1 mg, 1 mmol) and 1,1-dichloro-2-nitroethene (169.1 mg, 1.2 mmol) were added to 10 mL of toluene in a 25 mL round-bottom flask. Then stirred for 2 h at reflux state, then the mixture was purified by chromatography eluting with petroleum ether / acetic ester (3:1) and afforded the desired product (192.7 mg, 94% yield).

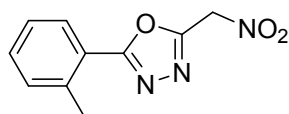
### Water as the solvent:

Benzohydrazide (136.1 mg, 1 mmol) and 1,1-dichloro-2-nitroethene (169.1 mg, 1.2 mmol) were added to 10 mL of water in a 25 mL round-bottom flask. Then stirred for 12 h at room temperature, the product precipitated from the reaction mixture and can be easily separated by filtration, then give the product (184.5 mg, 90% yield).

## 3. Characterization data of products

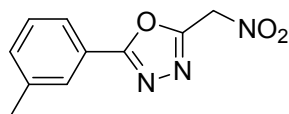


**2-(nitromethyl)-5-phenyl-1,3,4-oxadiazole.** Isolated as a yellowish powder; m.p. 137.2–137.7 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ<sub>H</sub>: 8.07 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.77–7.56 (m, 3H), 6.52 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ<sub>C</sub>: 165.56, 157.50, 132.60, 129.57, 126.78, 122.62, 68.64; HRMS (ESI) calc. for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>6</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub> [M - H]<sup>-</sup> 204.0409, found 204.0412.

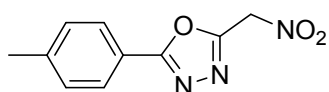


**2-(nitromethyl)-5-(o-tolyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazole.** Isolated as a yellowish powder; m.p. 67.1–67.7 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ<sub>H</sub>: 7.92 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (m, 1H), 7.48 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz,

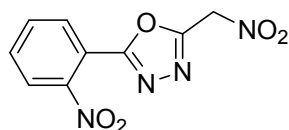
1H), 7.43–7.47 (m, 1H), 6.50 (s, 2H), 2.65 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ<sub>C</sub> 165.77, 157.09, 131.98, 131.83, 128.91, 126.59, 121.82, 68.60, 21.26; HRMS (ESI) calc. for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>8</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub> [M - H]<sup>-</sup> 218.0566, found 218.0567.



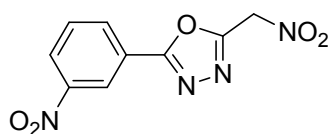
**2-(nitromethyl)-5-(m-tolyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazole.** Isolated as a yellowish powder; m.p. 128.8–129.3 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ<sub>H</sub> 7.86 (m, 2H), 7.58–7.42 (m, 2H), 6.50 (s, 2H), 2.42 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ<sub>C</sub> 165.64, 157.41, 139.12, 133.22, 129.45, 127.04, 123.94, 122.53, 68.63, 20.72; HRMS (ESI) calc. for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>8</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub> [M - H]<sup>-</sup> 218.0566, found 218.0563.



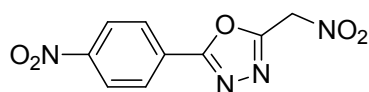
**2-(nitromethyl)-5-(p-tolyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazole.** Isolated as a yellowish powder; m.p. 134.8–135.3 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ<sub>H</sub> 7.94 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.45 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.48 (s, 2H), 2.42 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ<sub>C</sub> 165.65, 157.24, 142.88, 130.10, 126.72, 119.86, 68.64, 21.11; HRMS (ESI) calc. for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>8</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub> [M - H]<sup>-</sup> 218.0566, found 218.0565.



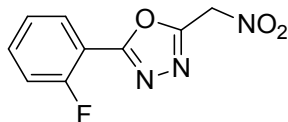
**2-(nitromethyl)-5-(2-nitrophenyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazole** Isolated as a yellowish powder; m.p. 104.0–104.7 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ<sub>H</sub> 8.33–8.21 (m, 1H), 8.13–8.05 (m, 1H), 8.01–7.98 (m, 2H), 6.55 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ<sub>C</sub> 162.43, 158.37, 147.77, 133.99, 133.90, 131.57, 125.04, 116.59, 68.36; HRMS (ESI) calc. for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>5</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>5</sub> [M - H]<sup>-</sup> 249.0260, found 249.0256.



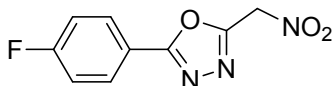
**2-(nitromethyl)-5-(3-nitrophenyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazole.** Isolated as a yellowish powder; m.p. 123.8–124.5 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ<sub>H</sub> 8.71 (s, 1H), 8.50–8.53 (m, 1H), 8.47–8.49 (m, 1H), 7.94–7.98 (m, 1H), 6.54 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ<sub>C</sub> 164.03, 158.05, 148.22, 132.77, 131.50, 126.90, 124.06, 121.34, 68.53; HRMS (ESI) calc. for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>5</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>5</sub> [M - H]<sup>-</sup> 249.0260, found 249.0259.



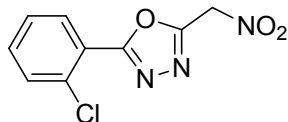
**2-(nitromethyl)-5-(4-nitrophenyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazole.** Isolated as a yellowish powder; m.p. 132.4–133.1 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ<sub>H</sub> 8.47 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 8.31 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.53 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ<sub>C</sub> 164.20, 158.32, 149.56, 128.28, 128.11, 124.76, 68.59; HRMS (ESI) calc. for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>5</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>5</sub> [M - H]<sup>-</sup> 249.0260, found 249.0258.



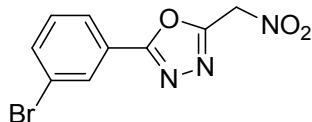
**2-(2-fluorophenyl)-5-(nitromethyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazole.** Isolated as a yellowish powder; m.p. 120.9–121.6 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ<sub>H</sub> 8.08 (m, 1H), 7.83–7.68 (m, 1H), 7.61–7.36 (m, 2H), 6.53 (s, 2H); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ<sub>F</sub> -110.46 (m); HRMS (ESI) calc. for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>5</sub>FN<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub> [M - H]<sup>-</sup> 222.0315, found 222.0314.



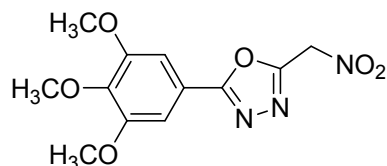
**2-(4-fluorophenyl)-5-(nitromethyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazole.** Isolated as a yellowish powder; m.p. 92.4–93.0 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ<sub>H</sub> 8.13 (dd, *J* = 8.6, 5.4 Hz, 2H), 7.50 (t, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.52 (s, 2H); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ<sub>F</sub> -106.36 (m); HRMS (ESI) calc. for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>5</sub>FN<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub> [M - H]<sup>-</sup> 222.0315, found 222.0312.



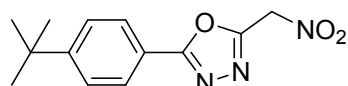
**2-(2-chlorophenyl)-5-(nitromethyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazole.** Isolated as a yellowish powder; m.p. 74.0–74.8 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ<sub>H</sub> 8.02 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (m, 1H), 7.62 (m, 1H), 6.54 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ<sub>C</sub> 163.74, 157.90, 133.77, 131.97, 131.46, 131.21, 128.01, 121.86, 68.54; HRMS (ESI) calc. for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>5</sub>ClN<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub> [M - H]<sup>-</sup> 238.0019, found 238.0018.



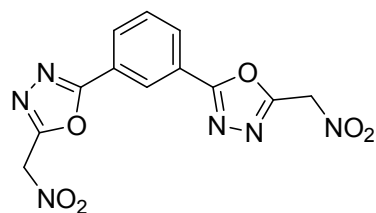
**2-(3-bromophenyl)-5-(nitromethyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazole.** Isolated as a yellowish powder; m.p. 86.3–86.8 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ<sub>H</sub> 8.02–7.86 (m, 2H), 7.73–7.49 (m, 2H), 6.54 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ<sub>C</sub> 164.38, 157.93, 134.40, 133.81, 131.89, 128.39, 124.03, 120.98, 68.54; HRMS (ESI) calc. for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>5</sub>BrN<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub> [M - H]<sup>-</sup> 281.9514, found 281.9513.



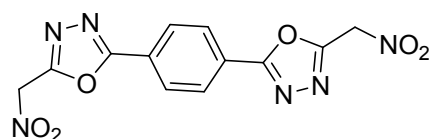
**2-(nitromethyl)-5-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazole.** Isolated as a yellowish powder; m.p. 137.5–138.1 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  7.31 (s, 2H), 6.47 (s, 2H), 3.90 (s, 6H), 3.77 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  165.49, 157.39, 153.50, 140.95, 117.71, 104.08, 68.59, 60.22, 56.13. HRMS (ESI) calc. for  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{12}\text{N}_3\text{O}_6$  [ $\text{M} - \text{H}$ ] $^-$  294.0726, found 294.0724.



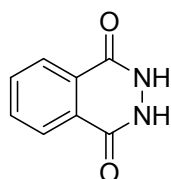
**2-(4-(tert-butyl)phenyl)-5-(nitromethyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazole.** Isolated as a yellowish powder; m.p. 89.5–91.0 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  7.98 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 7.66 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 6.49 (s, 2H), 1.33 (s, 9H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  165.56, 157.29, 155.62, 126.65, 126.42, 119.90, 68.63, 34.86, 30.72; HRMS (ESI) calc. for  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_3\text{O}_3$  [ $\text{M} - \text{H}$ ] $^-$  260.1035, found 260.1036.



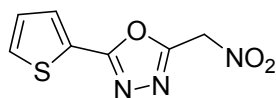
**1,3-bis(5-(nitromethyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazol-2-yl)benzene.** Isolated as a yellowish powder; m.p. 155.6–156.4 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  8.59 (s, 1H), 8.35 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1=2H), 7.93 (m, 1H), 6.53 (s, 4H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  164.59, 157.90, 131.22, 130.43, 124.58, 123.93, 68.58; HRMS (ESI) calc. for  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_7\text{N}_6\text{O}_6$  [ $\text{M} - \text{H}$ ] $^-$  331.0427, found 331.0427.



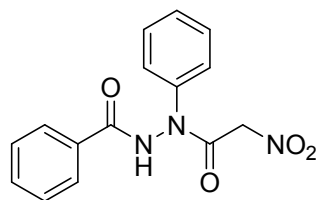
**1,4-bis(5-(nitromethyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazol-2-yl)benzene.** Isolated as a yellowish powder; m.p. 213.1–213.6 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  8.30 (s, 4H), 6.54 (s, 4H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  164.75, 157.97, 127.95, 125.84, 68.63; HRMS (ESI) calc. for  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_7\text{N}_6\text{O}_6$  [ $\text{M} - \text{H}$ ] $^-$  331.0427, found 331.0430.



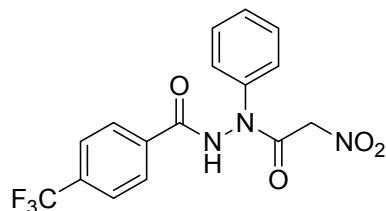
**2,3-dihydrophthalazine-1,4-dione.** Isolated as a yellowish powder; m.p. 332.8–333.6 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ<sub>H</sub> 11.58 (s, 2H), 8.24–7.98 (m, 2H), 7.91 (dd, *J* = 5.6, 3.2 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ<sub>C</sub> 154.62, 132.55, 127.12, 125.09.



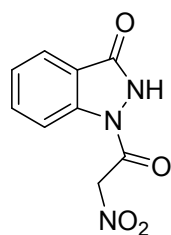
**2-(nitromethyl)-5-(thiophen-2-yl)-1,3,4-oxadiazole.** Isolated as a yellowish powder; m.p. 133.7–134.2 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ<sub>H</sub> 8.04 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 7.91 (d, *J* = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (m, 1H), 6.48 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ<sub>C</sub> 161.86, 156.84, 132.59, 131.20, 128.97, 123.36, 68.49; HRMS (ESI) calc. for C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>4</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub>S [M - H]<sup>-</sup> 209.9973, found 209.9973.



**N'-(2-nitroacetyl)-N'-phenylbenzohydrazide.** Isolated as a yellowish powder; m.p. 192.1–192.6 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ<sub>H</sub> 11.69 (s, 1H), 7.95 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.65 (m, 1H), 7.55 (m, 4H), 7.44 (m, 2H), 7.31 (m, 1H), 6.00 (d, *J* = 14.8 Hz, 1H), 5.60 (d, *J* = 14.8 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ<sub>C</sub> 166.07, 163.40, 140.12, 132.83, 131.00, 128.92, 128.69, 127.84, 127.01, 123.53, 78.77; HRMS (ESI) calc. for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>12</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> [M - H]<sup>-</sup> 298.0828, found 298.0831.



**N'-(2-nitroacetyl)-N'-phenyl-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzohydrazide.** Isolated as a yellowish powder; m.p. 167.3–168.0 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ<sub>H</sub> 11.94 (s, 1H), 8.16 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.96 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.55 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.49–7.42 (m, 2H), 7.32 (m, 1H), 6.05 (d, *J* = 14.8 Hz, 1H), 5.70 (d, *J* = 14.8 Hz, 1H); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ<sub>F</sub> -61.63 (s); HRMS (ESI) calc. for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>11</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> [M - H]<sup>-</sup> 366.0702, found 366.0700.



**1-(2-nitroacetyl)-1H-indazol-3(2H)-one.** Isolated as a yellowish powder; m.p. 191.3–191.6 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ<sub>H</sub> 12.57 (s, 1H), 8.23 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (m, 1H), 7.47 (m, 1H), 6.19 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ<sub>C</sub> 160.21, 159.46,

139.43, 130.95, 125.25, 120.84, 118.50, 114.79, 78.42; HRMS (ESI) calc. for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>7</sub>N<sub>3</sub>NaO<sub>4</sub> [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 244.0334, found 244.0331.

#### 4. Copies of <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of products

