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Multicomponent Synthesis of Pyroglutamic Acid Derivatives via Knoevenagel-Michael-Hydrolysis-Lactamization-Decarboxylation (KMHL-D) Sequence

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1. Section 1

¹ H NMR studies to prove the intermediates formation	S2-S4
HRMS spectra of 4a' and 6a	S5
Appendix I:Time dependent ¹ H-NMR Studies to calculate the yields of 4a'	
Appendix II- ¹ H NMR Kinetic study of the formation of 4a'	S11

2. Section 2

Experimental data of compounds 4a-4u	
Application of the protocol: Deprotection of benzyl ester	S24
Gram Scale Synthesis of compound 4a and 4h	S25
3. Section 3	
¹ H, ¹³ C Spectra of 4a-4u and 8	S26-S69
Molecular Structure of 4a _{trans} Single Crystal X-ray Analytical data	
4. References	S72

Section 1

¹H NMR studies to prove the intermediates formation



Reaction conditions: In an oven dried 10 mL round bottommed flask with a tefloncoated stir bar, Meldrum's acid 1 (200 mg, 1.39 mmol, 1 equiv.) was dissolved in 6 mL of EtOAc. Then benzaldehyde 2a (150 μ L, 1.47 mmol, 1.06 equiv.) and Schiff's base 3a (532. 9 mg, 1.8 mmol, 1.3 equiv.) were added subsequently and the reaction mixture was stirred for 24 h at room temperature.



For ¹H NMR 100 μ L of reaction mixture was taken out and evaporated. The resulting crude mixture was directly submitted for ¹H NMR in CDCl₃.



Conditions: Upon completion of the reaction (confirmed by TLC), the reaction mixture was directly transferred in to separating funnel. Then saturated aq. NaHCO₃ solution (25 mL) and EtOAc (20 mL) were added to the separating funnel and extracted. The aqueous layer containing pyroglutamic acid derivative **4a'** was separated and the extraction procedure repeated twice. The combined aqueous layer was acidified with 1 N aq. HCl solution till it becomes a turbid solution (~ pH 2). After which, the pyroglutamic acid derivative **4a'** was extracted with EtOAc (3 X 20 mL) and the combined organic layers was washed with brine solution and dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. The organic extract was evaporated under vacuuo to afford crude **4a'**. The resulting crude **4a'** was directly submitted for ¹H NMR in CDCl₃.

*It is found that imine hydrolysis and lactamization of intermediate 6 takes place in *situ*.



Hydrolysis of Schiff's base 3a catalysed of Meldrum's acid



^aReaction Conditions: Meldrum's acid **1** (100 mg, 0.69 mmol, 1 equiv.), Schiff's base **3a** (205 mg, 0.69 mmol, 1 equiv.), H_2O (15 µL, 0.72 mmol, 1.04 equiv.) in 1 ml EtOAc for 8 h, then 100 µL of reaction mixture was taken out and evaporated. The resulting crude mixture was directly submitted for ¹H NMR.





Appendix I: Time dependent ¹H-NMR Studies to calculate the yields of 4a'



¹H NMR kinetic experiments for the reaction of Meldrum's acid (300 mg, 2.08 mmol), Benzaldehyde (225 μ L, 2.19 mmol), Schiff's base **3** (799.3 mg, 2.71 mmol) and 1,3,5trimethoxy benzene (350.1 mg, 2.08 mmol) in 8 ml ethyl acetate at room temperature (25 °C). 1,3,5-Trimethoxy benzene (1 equiv.) was used an internal standard δ (s, 6.09 3H, s, 3.76). ¹H-NMR spectra were recorded over a period of time to study the formation of 4a'. Yields were calculated with reference internal standard peak δ (s, 6.09 3H). Based on the time dependent ¹H NMR studies we observed that product **4a'** (diastereomers) formation increased significantly after one hour. Using the ¹H NMR data kinetics of the reaction was studied (see Fig 2)









Stacked spectra of reaction mixture at different time interval





Appendix II: ¹H NMR Kinetic study of the formation of 4a'

¹H NMR kinetic experiments for the reaction of Meldrum's acid (300 mg, 2.08 mmol), Benzaldehyde (225 μ L, 2.19 mmol), Schiff's base **3** (799.3 mg, 2.71 mmol) and 1,3,5trimethoxy benzene (350.1 mg, 2.08 mmol) in 8 ml ethyl acetate at room temperature (25 °C). To quantify the kinetics of this reaction, we followed the production of **4a'** using ¹H NMR spectroscopy. The aliquot sampling was taken during different time interval and the solvent (EtOAc) was evaporated and the residue was dissolved in CDCl₃. ¹H-NMR of the reaction mixture was recorded at different time intervals to calculate the yield of **4a'** and to study the kinetics of the reaction. The yield of **4a'** was calculated by integrating the tert-butyl protons against trimethoxy benzene peak (δ s, 6.09 3H) as an internal standard. Based on the time dependent ¹H-NMR studies the kinetics follows the sigmoidal curve which is a characteristic of autocatalytic reaction (black line). Further, autocatalytic process was supported as the concentration of intermediate **6** followed the reverse trend as reaction progressed (red line).

Section 2

trans-tert-butyl 5-oxo-3-phenylpyrrolidine-2-carboxylate (4a)



Compound **4a** was synthesized following the general procedure. Compound **4a** was obtained as white solid in 65% (235 mg, *trans/cis*; 3.6:1, 20:1 after recrystallization from DCM/n-Hexane).

M.p. 108-110 °C (reported 104-107 °C);¹ ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.38 – 7.34 (m, 2H), 7.30 – 7.26 (m, 3H), 6.31 (s, 1H), 4.15 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 3.68 – 3.63 (m, 1H), 2.85 (dd, *J* = 17.3, 9.5 Hz, 1H), 2.54 (dd, *J* = 17.3, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 1.43 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 176.5, 170.3, 141.9, 129.1, 127.6, 127.2, 82.8, 63.6, 44.4, 38.4, 28.1; HRMS (ESI-TOF) *m*/*z*: [M + H]⁺ calcd. for C₁₅H₂₀NO₃ 262.1443, found 262.1450. FTIR cm⁻¹ (neat) 3233, 2978, 2927, 1702, 1453, 1370, 1236, 1154, 845.

trans-tert-butyl 3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-5-oxopyrrolidine-2-carboxylate (4b)



Compound **4b** was synthesized following the general procedure. Compound **4b** was obtained as colourless oil in 58% (235 mg, *trans/cis*; >20:1).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.20 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.88 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.18 (s, 1H), 4.09 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.60 (ddd, J = 9.4, 7.5, 6.2 Hz, 1H), 2.81 (dd, J = 17.2, 9.4 Hz, 1H), 2.50 (dd, J = 17.2, 7.5 Hz, 1H), 1.43 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 176.5, 170.4, 159.0, 133.9, 128.3, 114.4, 82.8, 63.8, 55.5, 43.8, 38.5, 28.1; HRMS (ESI-

TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ calcd. for C₁₆H₂₂NO₄ 292.1549, found 292.1554. FTIR cm⁻¹ (neat) 3234, 2976, 2925, 1698, 1614, 1513, 1456, 1369, 1294, 1243, 1153, 1033, 833.

trans-tert-butyl 3-(3-methoxyphenyl)-5-oxopyrrolidine-2-carboxylate (4c)



Compound **4c** was synthesized following the general procedure. Compound **4c** was obtained as colourless oil in 62% (251 mg, *trans/cis*; >20:1).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.27 (dt, J = 7.6, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 6.87 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 6.84 – 6.78 (m, 2H), 6.11 (s, 1H), 4.13 (d, J = 5.8 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.68 – 3.58 (m, 1H), 2.83 (dd, J = 17.3, 9.5 Hz, 1H), 2.53 (dd, J = 17.3, 7.3 Hz, 1H), 1.43 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 176.3, 170.3, 160.1, 143.6, 130.1, 119.4, 113.3, 112.6, 82.9, 63.4, 55.4, 44.3, 38.3, 28.1; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + H]⁺ calcd. for C₁₆H₂₂NO₄ 292.1549, found 292.1548. FTIR cm⁻¹ (neat) 3234, 2924, 2853, 1704, 1601, 1489, 1457, 1369, 1245, 1157, 1046, 846.51, 782.

trans-tert-butyl 3-(2-fluorophenyl)-5-oxopyrrolidine-2-carboxylate (4d)



Compound **4d** was synthesized following the general procedure. Compound **4d** was obtained as colourless oil in 70% (270 mg, *trans/cis*; 5:1).

trans isomer- ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.34 – 7.20 (m, 2H), 7.19 – 7.03 (m, 2H), 6.52 (s, 1H), 4.24 (dd, J = 16.8, 7.7 Hz, 1H), 3.86 (td, J = 8.7, 7.0 Hz, 1H), 2.80 (ddd, J = 17.1, 9.5, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 2.60 (dd, J = 17.1, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 1.39 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 176.1, 170.1, 160.8 (d, J = 246.4 Hz), 129.2 (d, J = 8.4 Hz), 128.9 (d, J = 4.2 Hz), 128.3 (d, J = 17.1, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 1.39 (s, 9H).

= 13.0 Hz), 124.6 (d, *J* = 3.6 Hz), 116.0 (d, *J* = 22.0 Hz), 82.8, 62.1, 38.5 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz), 37.4 (d, *J* = 1.4 Hz), 27.9.

cis isomer- ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.27 (m, 2H), 7.18 – 6.94 (m, 2H), 6.52 (s, 1H), 4.54 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 4.23 (s, 1H), 2.71 (dd, *J* = 15.0, 8.2 Hz, 2H), 1.05 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 177.2, 169.1, 161.2 (d, *J* = 247.0 Hz), 129.4 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 129.0 (d, *J* = 4.2 Hz), 128.2 (d, *J* = 5.9 Hz), 124.6 (d, *J* = 3.5 Hz), 115.3 (d, *J* = 22.3 Hz), 82.4, 60.2, 36.1 (d, *J* = 3.8 Hz), 34.9, 27.5.

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ calcd. for C₁₅H₁₉FNO₃ 280.1349, found 280.1355. FTIR cm⁻¹ (neat) 3231, 2979, 2929, 1700, 1492, 1455, 1369.80, 1230, 1152, 844, 758.

trans-tert-butyl 3-(3-fluorophenyl)-5-oxopyrrolidine-2-carboxylate (4e)



Compound **4e** was synthesized following the general procedure. Compound **4e** was obtained as colourless oil in 69% (267 mg, *trans/cis*; 5:1).

trans isomer- ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.43 – 7.25 (m, 1H), 7.13 – 7.03 (m, 1H), 7.03 – 6.84 (m, 2H), 6.48 (s, 1H), 4.12 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 3.73 – 3.57 (m, 1H), 2.93 – 2.76 (m, 1H), 2.51 (dd, *J* = 17.3, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 1.43 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 176.1, 170.1, 163.1 (d, *J* = 246.8 Hz), 144.4 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz), 130.6 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 122.8 (d, *J* = 2.9 Hz), 114.5 (d, *J* = 19.4 Hz), 114.3 (d, *J* = 20.2 Hz), 83.0, 63.3, 44.1 (d, *J* = 1.7 Hz), 38.3, 28.1.

cis isomer- ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.32 (td, *J* = 7.8, 6.1 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.05 – 6.91 (m, 2H), 6.48 (s, 1H), 4.49 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 3.96 – 3.85 (m, 1H), 2.79 (dd, *J* = 16.8, 8.7 Hz, 1H), 2.65 (dd, *J* = 16.8, 5.9 Hz, 1H), 1.09 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 176.9, 168.6, 162.8 (d, *J* = 246.7 Hz), 141.7 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 130.3 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz), 123.5 (d, *J* = 3.0 Hz), 115.2 (d, *J* = 21.8 Hz), 114.7 (d, *J* = 21.0 Hz), 82.6, 61.2, 43.0 (d, *J* = 1.7 Hz), 36.9, 27.6.

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ calcd. for C₁₅H₁₉FNO₃ 280.1349, found 280.1357. FTIR cm⁻¹ (neat) 3233, 2978, 2919, 1705, 1621, 1592, 1489, 1452, 1371, 1241, 115, 786.

trans-tert-butyl 3-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-oxopyrrolidine-2-carboxylate (4f)



Compound **4f** was synthesized following the general procedure. Compound **4f** was obtained as colourless oil in 72% (295 mg, *trans/cis*; 4:1).

trans isomer- ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.36 – 7.29 (m, 2H), 7.25 – 7.19 (m, 2H), 6.39 (s, 1H), 4.09 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 3.68 – 3.58 (m, 1H), 2.83 (dd, *J* = 17.3, 9.4 Hz, 1H), 2.48 (dd, *J* = 17.3, 7.5 Hz, 1H), 1.43 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 176.1, 170.1, 140.4, 133.4, 129.2, 128.6, 83.1, 63.4, 43.8, 38.3, 28.1.

cis isomer- ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.28 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.18 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 6.39 (s, 1H), 4.49 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 3.88 (td, *J* = 8.3, 5.6 Hz, 1H), 2.79 (dd, *J* = 15.8, 9.1 Hz, 1H), 2.61 (dd, *J* = 16.8, 5.5 Hz, 1H), 1.08 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 177.0, 168.7, 137.8, 133.6, 129.3, 128.8, 82.7, 61.2, 42.6, 37.1, 27.6.

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ calcd. for C₁₅H₁₉ClNO₃ 296.1053, found 296.1058. FTIR cm⁻¹ (neat) 3229, 2978, 2927, 1700, 1492, 1369, 1235, 1154, 1093, 1014, 832, 730.

trans-tert-butyl 3-(2-bromophenyl)-5-oxopyrrolidine-2-carboxylate (4g)



Compound **4g** was synthesized following the general procedure. Compound **4g** was obtained as colourless oil in 59% (235 mg, *trans/cis*; 2.5:1).

trans isomer- ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.65 – 7.46 (m, 1H), 7.35 – 7.28 (m, 2H), 7.20 – 7.08 (m, 1H), 6.31 (s, 1H), 4.27 – 4.06 (m, 1H), 2.88 (ddd, J = 10.8, 9.5, 6.2 Hz, 1H), 2.72

(qd, J = 16.7, 8.3 Hz, 1H), 2.53 - 2.38 (m, 1H), 1.43 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 176.3, 170.2, 140.9, 133.4, 129.0, 128.3, 128.0, 124.2, 82.9, 62.3, 43.1, 37.6, 28.0.

cis isomer- ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.58 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.32 – 7.29 (m, 2H), 7.18 – 7.11 (m, 1H), 6.28 (s, 1H), 4.68 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 4.43 (q, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 2.94 – 2.83 (m, 1H), 2.42 (dd, *J* = 4.8, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 1.05 (s, 9H): ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 177.0, 169.1, 138.0, 133.1, 129.3, 128.2, 128.1, 125.8, 82.5, 59.5, 42.3, 35.6, 27.6.

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ calcd. for C₁₅H₁₉BrNO₃ 340.0548, found 340.0538. FTIR cm⁻¹ (neat) 3233, 2977, 2928, 1699, 1471, 1437, 1369, 1233, 1153, 1024, 845, 754, 663.

trans-tert-butyl 3-(4-cyanophenyl)-5-oxopyrrolidine-2-carboxylate (4h)



Compound **4h** was synthesized following the general procedure. Compound **4h** was obtained as colourless oil in 68% (270 mg, *trans/cis*; >20:1).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.68 – 7.66 (m, 2H), 7.44 – 7.32 (m, 2H), 7.03 (s, 1H), 4.14 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 3.75 – 3.69 (m, 1H), 2.88 (dd, J = 17.3, 9.5 Hz, 1H), 2.51 (dd, J = 17.3, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 1.43 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 175.9, 169.7, 147.2, 132.8, 128.1, 118.5, 111.5, 83.2, 63.1, 44.2, 38.1, 28.0; HRMS (ESI-TOF) *m*/*z*: [M + H]⁺ calcd. for C₁₆H₁₉N₂O₃ 287.1395, found 287.1402. FTIR cm⁻¹ (neat) 3233, 2924, 2855, 2229, 1697, 1611, 1457, 1421, 1370, 1237, 1153, 972, 839, 784.

trans-tert-butyl 5-oxo-3-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)pyrrolidine-2-carboxylate (4i)



Compound **4i** was synthesized following the general procedure. Compound **4i** was obtained as colourless oil in 71% (324 mg, *trans/cis*; >20:1).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.63 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 6.10 (s, 1H), 4.14 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 3.87 – 3.59 (m, 1H), 2.87 (dd, J = 17.3, 9.5 Hz, 1H), 2.53 (dd, J =17.3, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 1.43 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 175.5, 169.7, 145.7, 129.9 (q, J = 37 Hz), 127.5, 126.7(q, J = 267 Hz), 126.0 (q, J = 3.7 Hz), 83.1, 62.9, 43.9, 38.0, 27.9; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + H]⁺ calcd. for C₁₆H₁₉F₃NO₃ 330.1317, found 330.1328. FTIR cm⁻¹ (neat) 3232, 2979, 2925, 1706, 1623, 1424, 1371, 1327, 1240, 1160, 1122, 1069, 842.

trans-tert-butyl 3-(2-nitrophenyl)-5-oxopyrrolidine-2-carboxylate (4j)



Compound **4j** was synthesized following the general procedure. Compound **4j** was obtained as colourless oil in 61% (259 mg, *trans/cis*; 3:1).

trans isomer- ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCL3) δ 7.87 (dd, J = 8.2, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.67 – 7.61 (m, 1H), 7.55 – 7.51 (m, 1H), 7.47 – 7.42 (m, 1H), 6.64 (s, 1H), 4.22 (m, 2H), 3.01 (dt, J = 18.0, 8.9 Hz, 1H), 2.56 – 2.39 (m, 1H), 1.40 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 176.2, 169.8, 149.6, 136.7, 133.7, 128.4, 128.3, 124.8, 83.3, 62.9, 38.5, 38.2, 27.9.

cis isomer- ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.91 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.82 – 7.78 (m, 1H), 7.61 – 7.56 (m, 1H), 7.49 – 7.34 (m, 1H), 6.57 (s, 1H), 4.66 – 4.57 (m, 2H), 3.26 – 3.16 (m, 1H), 2.81 – 2.74 (m, 1H), 1.02 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 176.5, 168.9, 150.1, 133.6, 130.2, 128.7, 128.6, 124.9, 82.9, 60.0, 37.8, 36.4, 27.5.

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ calcd. for C₁₅H₁₉N₂O₅ 307.1294, found 307.1300. FTIR cm⁻¹ (neat) 3232, 2923, 2854, 1697, 1453, 1369, 1234, 1151, 1044, 967, 843.



Compound **4k** was synthesized following the general procedure. Compound **4k** was obtained as colourless oil in 65% (276 mg, *trans/cis*; 9:1).

trans isomer- ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.27 – 8.07 (m, 2H), 7.68 – 7.62 (m, 1H), 7.59 – 7.50 (m, 1H), 6.57 (s, 1H), 4.18 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 3.79 (ddd, *J* = 9.4, 7.9, 6.4 Hz, 1H), 2.90 (dd, *J* = 17.3, 9.5 Hz, 1H), 2.56 (dd, *J* = 17.3, 7.9 Hz, 1H), 1.42 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 175.5, 169.6, 148.6, 143.7, 133.4, 130.2, 122.7, 122.6, 83.5, 63.1, 43.9, 38.2, 28.0.

cis isomer- ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.16 – 8.08 (m, 2H), 7.69 – 7.49 (m, 2H), 6.57 (s, 1H), 4.57 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 4.08 – 3.97 (m, 1H), 2.87 (dd, *J* = 16.8, 8.7 Hz, 1H), 2.67 (dd, *J* = 16.9, 5.5 Hz, 1H), 1.05 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 133.6, 130.0, 83.0, 27.6 other peaks were not visible.

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ calcd. for C₁₅H₁₉N₂O₅ 307.1294, found 307.1298. FTIR cm⁻¹ (neat) 3233, 2977, 2925, 1702, 1529, 1451, 1348, 1236, 1154, 812, 737.

trans-tert-butyl 3-(4-nitrophenyl)-5-oxopyrrolidine-2-carboxylate (4l)



Compound **4I** was synthesized following the general procedure. Compound **4I** was obtained as colourless oil in 56% (238 mg, *trans/cis*; >20:1).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.23 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.48 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.55 (s, 1H), 4.15 (d, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 1H), 3.94 - 3.60 (m, 1H), 2.89 (dd, *J* = 17.3, 9.5 Hz, 1H), 2.53 (dd, *J* =

17.3, 7.5 Hz, 1H), 1.43 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 175.5, 169.6, 149.1, 147.4, 128.3, 124.4, 83.5, 62.9, 44.0, 38.2, 28.1; HRMS (ESI-TOF) *m/z*: [M + H]⁺ calcd. for C₁₅H₁₉N₂O₅ 307.1294, found 307.1300. FTIR cm⁻¹ (neat) 3234, 2978, 2925, 1702, 1602, 1520, 1454, 1346, 1238, 1155, 1113, 852, 754.

trans-tert-butyl 3-(3,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-5-oxopyrrolidine-2-carboxylate (4m)



Compound **4m** was synthesized following the general procedure. Compound **4m** was obtained as colourless oil in 68% (303 mg, *trans/cis*; >20:1).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.42 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 2H), 6.38 – 6.36 (m, 1H), 6.32 (s, 1H), 4.13 (d, J = 5.7 Hz, 1H), 3.79 (s, 6H), 3.65 – 3.51 (m, 1H), 2.82 (dd, J = 17.4, 9.6 Hz, 1H), 2.51 (dd, J = 17.4, 7.1 Hz, 1H), 1.44 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 176.5, 170.3, 161.3, 144.5, 105.3, 99.1, 82.8, 63.4, 55.5, 44.4, 38.2, 28.1; HRMS (ESI-TOF) *m/z*: [M + H]⁺ calcd. for C₁₇H₂₄NO₅ 322.1654, found 322.1657. FTIR cm⁻¹ (neat) 3227, 2925, 2851, 1701, 1598, 1462, 1365, 1295, 1237, 1202, 1151, 1064, 968, 926, 840.

trans-tert-butyl 3-(benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-5-oxopyrrolidine-2-carboxylate (4n)



Compound **4n** was synthesized following the general procedure. Compound **4n** was obtained as colourless oil in 55% (233 mg, *trans/cis*; 5:1).

trans isomer- ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.79 – 6.75 (m, 2H), 6.74 – 6.69 (m, 1H), 6.22 (s, 1H), 5.96 (s, 2H), 4.07 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 3.57 (ddd, J = 9.4, 7.4, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.89 – 2.73 (m, 1H), 2.47 (dd, J = 17.3, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 1.43 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 176.3, 170.3, 148.2, 147.0, 135.7, 120.6, 108.6, 107.3, 101.3, 82.9, 63.7, 44.2, 38.5, 28.1. *cis* isomer- ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.77 (dd, J = 4.7, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 6.74 – 6.68 (m, 1H), 6.22 (s, 1H), 5.96 (s, 1H), 4.48 – 4.41 (m, 1H), 3.90 – 3.76 (m, 1H), 2.76 (dd, J = 16.8, 8.7 Hz, 1H), 2.61 (dd, J = 16.8, 5.9 Hz, 1H), 1.14 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 177.2, 169.9, 147.9, 146.6, 136.6, 121.2, 108.5, 108.3, 101.2, 82.4, 61.4, 43.1, 37.2, 27.7. HRMS (ESI-TOF) *m/z*: [M + H]⁺ calcd. for C₁₆H₂₀NO₅ 306.1341, found 306.1348. FTIR cm⁻¹ (neat) 3232, 2976, 2924, 1697, 1492, 1445, 1369, 1237, 1152, 1036, 931, 847, 812, 732.

trans-tert-butyl 3-(naphthalen-1-yl)-5-oxopyrrolidine-2-carboxylate (40)



Compound **40** was synthesized following the general procedure. Compound **40** was obtained as colourless oil in 65% (281 mg, *trans/cis*; 3:1).

trans isomer- ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.16 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (dd, *J* = 6.6, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 7.84 – 7.76 (m, 1H), 7.65 – 7.38 (m, 4H), 6.80 (s, 1H), 4.56 – 4.41 (m, 1H), 4.26 (d, *J* = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 3.06 – 2.94 (m, 1H), 2.73 – 2.61 (m, 1H), 1.45 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 177.5, 170.8, 137.8, 134.2, 131.0, 129.4, 128.4, 128.2, 126.6, 126.0, 125.6, 122.9, 82.9, 63.1, 38.8, 37.2, 28.0.

cis isomer- ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.11 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.87 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.83 – 7.75 (m, 1H), 7.63 – 7.35 (m, 4H), 6.86 (s, 1H), 4.84 – 4.67 (m, 2H), 3.05 (dd, *J* = 16.7, 8.2 Hz, 1H), 2.76 (dd, *J* = 16.6, 8.1 Hz, 1H), 0.66 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 177.9, 169.2, 137.7, 133.8, 132.3, 129.1, 129.0, 128.4, 126.5, 125.9, 124.2, 123.4, 81.8, 60.7, 39.5, 35.3, 27.1.

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ calcd. for C₁₉H₂₂NO₃ 312.1599, found 312.1608. FTIR cm⁻¹ (neat) 3223, 2976, 2926, 1700, 1425, 1369, 1237, 1151, 967, 84, 780.

trans-tert-butyl 3-(naphthalen-2-yl)-5-oxopyrrolidine-2-carboxylate (4p)



Compound **4p** was synthesized following the general procedure. Compound **4p** was obtained as colourless oil in 60% (259 mg, *trans/cis*; >20:1).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.46 (s, 1H), 8.07 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.53 (m, 4H), 6.42 (s, 1H), 5.29 (ddd, J = 11.4, 9.0, 7.5 Hz, 1H), 4.81 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 3.16 (dd, J = 18.0, 9.1 Hz, 1H), 3.04 (dd, J = 18.0, 11.4 Hz, 1H), 1.20 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 176.3, 171.0, 147.2, 132.2, 131.9, 128.4, 126.6, 125.0, 123.6, 82.9, 62.2, 38.2, 36.4, 27.8; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + H]⁺ calcd. for C₁₉H₂₂NO₃ 312.1599, found 312.1608. FTIR cm⁻¹ (neat) 3209, 2975, 2924, 2855, 1696, 1452, 1369, 1238, 1153, 887, 842.

trans-tert-butyl 3-(furan-2-yl)-5-oxopyrrolidine-2-carboxylate (4q)



Compound **4q** was synthesized following the general procedure. Compound **4q** was obtained as colourless oil in 52% (181 mg, *trans/cis*; >20:1).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.37 (dd, J = 1.8, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 6.33 (dd, J = 3.2, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 6.19 (d, J = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 5.93 (s, 1H), 4.23 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 3.86 – 3.71 (m, 1H), 2.74 (dd, J = 17.0, 9.2 Hz, 1H), 2.64 (dd, J = 17.0, 7.9 Hz, 1H), 1.46 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 175.5, 169.9, 153.4, 142.3, 110.5, 106.6, 83.1, 60.7, 37.9, 35.4, 28.1; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]⁺ calcd. for C₁₃H₁₇NO₄ Na 274.1055, found 274.1057. FTIR cm⁻¹ (neat) 3295, 2976, 2927, 1694, 1370, 1241, 1153, 1017, 971, 840.

trans-tert-butyl 5-oxo-3-(thiophen-2-yl)pyrrolidine-2-carboxylate (4r)



Compound **4r** was synthesized following the general procedure. Compound **4r** was obtained as colourless oil in 58% (215 mg, *trans/cis*; >20:1).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.26 (s, 1H), 7.22 (dd, J = 3.8, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.98 – 6.95 (m, 1H), 6.06 (s, 1H), 4.17 (d, J = 6.1 Hz, 1H), 3.98 (ddd, J = 9.1, 7.8, 6.2 Hz, 1H), 2.89 (dd, J = 17.1, 9.2 Hz, 1H), 2.60 (dd, J = 17.1, 7.7 Hz, 1H), 1.47 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 175.4, 169.8, 144.7, 127.1, 124.9, 124.5, 83.2, 63.8, 39.7, 39.1, 28.1; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]⁺ calcd. for C₁₃H₁₇NO₃SNa 290.0826, found 290.0831. FTIR cm⁻¹ (neat) 3227, 2924, 2856, 1704, 1453, 1369, 1240, 1154, 844, 780.

trans-tert-butyl 3-ethyl-5-oxopyrrolidine-2-carboxylate (4s)



Compound **4s** was synthesized following the general procedure. Compound **4s** was obtained as colourless oil in 35% (104 mg, *trans/cis*; 2:1).

trans isomer- ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.05 (s, 1H), 4.09 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 2.59 – 2.47 (m, 1H), 2.42 – 2.33 (m, 1H), 2.21 – 2.11 (m, 1H), 1.63 – 1.52 (m, 1H), 1.46 (s, 9H), 1.33 (m, 1H), 0.95 (t, J = 7.4, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 178.4, 170.4, 82.7, 60.2, 40.6, 35.0, 28.2, 23.4, 12.4.

cis isomer- ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.07 (s, 1H), 3.76 (d, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 1H), 2.61 – 2.47 (m, 1H), 2.37 (dd, *J* = 16.5, 8.2 Hz, 1H), 2.10 – 1.96 (m, 1H), 1.82 – 1.69 (m, 1H), 1.46 (s, 9H), 1.33 (ddd, *J* = 13.4, 9.2, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 0.95 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 177.3, 171.1, 82.5, 61.4, 40.7, 35.8, 29.8, 28.1, 11.7.

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + Na]^+$ calcd. for C₁₁H₁₉NO₃Na 236.1262, found 236.1264. FTIR cm⁻¹ (neat) 3236, 2967, 2926, 1698, 1457, 1422, 1369, 1227, 1154, 844.

trans-tert-butyl 3-isobutyl-5-oxopyrrolidine-2-carboxylate (4t)



Compound **4t** was synthesized following the general procedure. Compound **4t** was obtained as colourless oil in 41% (137 mg, *trans/cis*; 1.3:1).

trans isomer- ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.86 (s, 1H), 4.01 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 2.55 – 2.39 (m, 1H), 2.34 – 2.22 (m, 1H), 2.19 – 2.05 (m, 1H), 1.65 – 1.49 (m, 1H), 1.46 – 1.36 (m, 9H), 1.33 – 1.15 (m, 2H), 0.92 – 0.77 (m, 6H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 178.8, 170.5, 82.4, 60.4, 39.3, 36.6, 28.1, 26.0, 23.3, 21.8.

cis isomer- ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.89 (s, 1H), 3.69 (d, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 2.54 – 2.39 (m, 1H), 2.28 (ddt, *J* = 16.4, 8.1, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 2.10 (m, 1H), 2.01 – 1.89 (m, 1H), 1.41 (s, 9H), 1.33 – 1.18 (m, 2H), 0.92 – 0.78 (m, 6H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 177.6, 171.1, 82.2, 61.9, 44.5, 37.1, 35.4, 28.0, 23.0, 22.0.

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ calcd. for C₁₃H₂₄NO₃ 242.1756, found 242.1763. FTIR cm⁻¹ (neat) 3233, 2958, 1698, 1460, 1423, 1368, 1292, 1225, 1152, 844.

trans-benzyl-5-oxo-3-phenylpyrrolidine-2-carboxylate (4u)



Compound **4u** was synthesized following the general procedure using **3b** as Schiff's base. Compound **4u** was obtained as colourless oil in 56% (229 mg, *trans/cis*; 10:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.37 – 7.21 (m, 10H), 6.78 (s, 1H), 5.23 (d, *J* = 12.2 Hz, 1H), 5.13 (d, *J* = 12.2 Hz, 1H), 4.29 (d, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 1H), 3.67 (ddd, *J* = 9.5, 6.8, 5.6 Hz, 1H), 2.85 (dd, *J* = 17.4, 9.5 Hz, 1H), 2.53 (dd, *J* = 17.4, 6.9 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 177.1, 171.1, 141.6, 135.1, 129.2, 128.8, 128.7, 128.5, 127.7, 127.1, 67.5, 63.1, 44.1, 38.1; HRMS (ESI-TOF) *m*/*z*: [M + H]⁺ calcd. for C₁₈H₁₈NO₃ 296.1281, found 296.1287.

Application of the protocol

trans-5-oxo-3-phenylpyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid



To the stirred solution of product 4u (200 mg) in methanol, 10% Pd/C was added at room temperature. The resulting mixture was stirred for 12 hours under H₂ (1 atm, balloon) and then filtered through celite bed and concentrated under reduced pressure on rotatory evaporator. Further, the crude product **8** was purified by column chromatography on silica gel using dichloromethane/methanol (90:10) as an eluent. The acid **8** obtained as a white solid in 75% (139 mg) yield with 10:1 *dr* ratio.

M.p. 141-143 °C (reported 166.5-167.0 °C);^{2 1}H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 7.38 – 7.24 (m, 5H), 4.22 (d, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 1H), 3.73 – 3.66 (m, 1H), 2.85 (dd, *J* = 17.2, 9.4 Hz, 1H), 2.43 (dd, *J* = 17.2, 6.0 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 179.7, 175.0, 143.9, 123.0, 128.4, 127.9, 64.6, 45.5, 39.2; HRMS (ESI-TOF) *m*/*z*: [M + H]⁺ calcd. for C₁₁H₁₂NO₃ 206.0812, found 206.0808.

Gram Scale Synthesis of compound 4a



For the gram scale synthesis general procedure described in the manuscript was followed on a higher scale. Meldrum's acid **1** (1 g, 6.95 mmol, 1 equiv.), benzaldehyde **2a** (750 μ L, 7.35 mmol, 1.06 equiv.) and Schiff's base **3a** (3.07 g, 10.25 mmol, 1.5 equiv.) in 15 mL of EtOAc. Workup was performed according to general procedure described in the manuscript. Product **4a** obtained as white solid in 55% yield (0.99 g).

Gram Scale Synthesis of compound 4h



For the gram scale synthesis general procedure described in the manuscript was followed on a higher scale. Meldrum's acid **1** (1 g, 6.95 mmol, 1 equiv.), 4-cyanobenzaldehyde **2h** (955.4 mg, 7.35 mmol, 1.05 equiv.) and Schiff's base **3a** (3.07 g, 10.25 mmol, 1.5 equiv.) in 15 mL of EtOAc. Workup was performed according to general procedure described in the manuscript. Product **4h** obtained as colourless viscous liquid in 59% yield (1.17 g).















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20160908-ADS-169-RGB ADS-169-RGB






S37









4h





























































Crystal Structure data 4a-trans

No syntax errors found. CIF dictionary Inter

Interpreting this report

Datablock: 4a-trans

Bond precision:	C-C = 0.0041 A	Wavelength=1.54178			
Cell:	a=10.3681(6) alpha=90	b=11.3036 beta=111.	(6) 487(4)	c=13.4537(8) gamma=90	
Temperature:	296 К				
	Calculated		Reported		
Volume	1467.15(15)		1467.15(15	5)	
Space group	P 21/c		P 21/c		
Hall group	-P 2ybc		-P 2ybc		
Moiety formula	C15 H19 N O3		C15 H19 N	03	
Sum formula	C15 H19 N O3		C15 H19 N	03	
Mr	261.31		261.31		
Dx,g cm-3	1.183		1.183		
Z	4		4		
Mu (mm-1)	0.667		0.667		
F000	560.0		560.0		
F000'	561.72				
h,k,lmax	12,13,16		12,13,16		
Nref	2593		2593		
Tmin,Tmax	0.808,0.905		0.105,0.32	25	
Tmin'	0.808				
Correction method= # Reported T Limits: Tmin=0.105 Tmax=0.325 AbsCorr = MULTI-SCAN					
Data completeness= 1.000		Theta(m	Theta(max) = 66.642		
R(reflections) = 0.0622(1866) wR2(reflections) = 0.1845(2573)					
S = 1.045 Npar= 175					







4a-trans

References

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