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# **Supporting Information**

## HFIP-Promoted Michael Reactions: Direct para-Selective C-H

### Activation of Anilines with Maleimides

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### **1. General Information**

<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were recorded on 400 or 600 MHz (100 or 150 MHz for <sup>13</sup>C NMR) agilent NMR spectrometer with CDCl<sub>3</sub> as the solvent and tetramethylsilane (TMS) as the internal standard. Chemical shifts were reported in parts per million (ppm,  $\delta$  scale) downfield from TMS at 0.00 ppm and referenced to the CDCl<sub>3</sub> at 7.26 ppm (for <sup>1</sup>H NMR) or 77.16 ppm (for <sup>13</sup>C NMR). HRMS was recorded on a GCT PremierTM (CI) Mass Spectrometer. Column chromatography was carried out on silica gel (200–300 mesh). All reactions were monitored using thin layer chromatography (TLC) on silica gel plates. All commercially available reagents, unless otherwise indicated, were used without further purification. The uncommercial 1-phenylpyrrolidines **1a**, **1f-1k** were readily prepared from tetrahydrofuran and the corresponding anilines (*Catal. Comm.* **2017**, *94*, 56-59), while the uncommercial maleimides **4a-4b** were readily prepared from *cis*-butenedioic anhydride and the corresponding alkylamines (*J. Agric. Food Chem.* **2016**, *64*, 4876–4881).

## 2. General Procedures (GP)

#### Coupling reaction of aromatic and hetro-aromatic compounds with maleimides

A 15 mL pressure tube equipped with screw cap and stirring was charged with aromatic amines or hetro-aromatic compounds 1 (0.5 mmol) and dissolved in HFIP (4 mL). Subsequently maleimides **2a** or **4** (2.0 mmol) were added. The reaction mixture was stirred under nitrogen at 100 °C for 24 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature. After removal of the solvent, the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (PE : EA = 5 : 1) to afford corresponding products **3** or **5**.

## 3. Characterization of Synthesized Compounds 3a-3z and 5a-5j

#### 1-Methyl-3-(4-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)phenyl)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione (3a)



According to **GP**, 1-phenylpyrrolidine **1a** (74 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 1-methyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione **2a** (222 mg, 2.0 mmol) were converted to the desired product **3a** (117 mg, 91%) as a white solid (mp 174.8–175.5 °C). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  6.97 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.45 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 3.83 (dd, *J* = 9.1, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 3.20 – 3.15 (m, 4H), 3.14 – 3.04 (m, 1H), 2.97 (s, 3H), 2.71 (dd, *J* = 18.4, 4.2 Hz, 1H), 1.93 – 1.89 (m, 4H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  178.68, 176.80, 147.50, 128.00, 123.15, 112.02, 47.57, 45.20, 37.27, 25.44, 25.07. HRMS (CI) calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>19</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 259.1447, found 259.1440.

#### 1-Methyl-3-(4-(piperidin-1-yl)phenyl)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione (3b)



According to **GP**, 1-phenylpiperidine **1b** (81 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 1-methyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione **2a** (222 mg, 2.0 mmol) were converted to the desired product **3b** (55 mg, 40%) as a colorless oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  6.99 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 6.82 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 3.85 (dd, J = 8.9, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 3.11 – 3.04 (m, 5H), 2.97 (s, 3H), 2.72 (dd, J = 18.4, 3.8 Hz, 1H), 1.62 – 1.59 (m, 4H), 1.49 (d, J = 4.3 Hz, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  178.35, 176.58, 151.72, 127.92, 126.85, 116.73, 50.32, 45.15, 37.12, 25.67, 25.12, 24.22. HRMS (CI) calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>21</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 273.1603, found 273.1605.

#### 1-Methyl-3-(4-(4-methylpiperidin-1-yl)phenyl)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione (3c)



According to **GP**, 4-methyl-1-phenylpiperidine **1c** (87 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 1-methyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione **2a** (222 mg, 2.0 mmol) were converted to the desired product **3c** (80 mg, 56%) as a colorless oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDC13)  $\delta$  7.08 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 6.92 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 3.95 – 3.94 (m, 1H), 3.64 (d, J = 11.8 Hz, 2H), 3.17 (dd, J = 18.4, 9.5 Hz, 1H), 3.06 (s, 3H), 2.81 (dd, J = 18.4, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 2.69 (t, J = 12.0 Hz, 2H), 1.73 (d, J = 12.6 Hz, 2H), 1.52 – 1.51 (m, 1H), 1.33 (d, J = 10.7 Hz, 2H), 0.98 (d, J = 6.2 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  178.36, 176.59, 151.42, 127.94, 126.81, 116.71, 49.69, 45.15, 37.12, 33.91, 30.66, 25.13, 21.85. HRMS (CI) calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>23</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 287.1760, found 287.1756.

#### 3-(4-(Diethylamino)phenyl)-1-methylpyrrolidine-2,5-dione (3d)

According to **GP**, *N*,*N*-diethylaniline **1d** (75 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 1-methyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione **2a** (222 mg, 2.0 mmol) were converted to the desired product **3d** (105 mg, 81%) as a colorless oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.05 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 6.66 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 3.92 (dd, *J* = 9.3, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 3.35 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 4H), 3.17 (dd, *J* = 18.4, 9.5 Hz, 1H), 3.06 (s, 3H), 2.81 (dd, *J* = 18.4, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 1.16 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 6H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  178.70, 176.79, 147.30, 128.17, 123.01, 112.01, 45.07, 44.31, 37.20, 25.07, 12.49. HRMS

(CI) calcd for  $C_{15}H_{21}N_2O_2 [M+H]^+$ : 261.1603, found 261.1594.

#### 3-(4-(Dimethylamino)phenyl)-1-methylpyrrolidine-2,5-dione (3e)



According to **GP**, *N*,*N*-dimethylaniline **1e** (61 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 1-methyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione **2a** (222 mg, 2.0 mmol) were converted to the desired product **3e** (46 mg, 40%) as a colorless oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.07 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.71 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 3.93 (dd, *J* = 9.3, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 3.16 (dd, *J* = 18.4, 9.5 Hz, 1H), 3.05 (s, 3H), 2.94 (s, 6H), 2.85 – 2.76 (m, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  178.55, 176.70, 150.10, 127.97, 124.41, 112.97, 45.11, 40.53, 37.17, 25.10. HRMS (CI) calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>17</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 233.1290, found 233.1292.

#### 3-(2-Methoxy-4-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)phenyl)-1-methylpyrrolidine-2,5-dione (3f)



According to **GP**, 1-(3-methoxyphenyl)pyrrolidine **1f** (89 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 1-methyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione **2a** (222 mg, 2.0 mmol) were converted to the desired product **3f** (125 mg, 87%) as a colorless oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  6.97 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.10 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.04 (s, 1H), 3.86 – 3.76 (m, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.28 – 3.26 (m, 4H), 3.05 (s, 3H), 3.09 – 2.98 (m, 1H), 2.71 (d, *J* = 18.0, Hz, 1H), 2.01 – 1.99 (m, 4H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  179.62, 177.41, 157.78, 149.20, 131.06, 112.45, 103.78, 95.36, 55.23, 47.70,

43.36, 36.77, 25.43, 24.85. HRMS (CI) calcd for  $C_{16}H_{21}N_2O_3$  [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 289.1552, found 289.1549.

#### 3-(2-Chloro-4-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)phenyl)-1-methylpyrrolidine-2,5-dione (3g)



According to **GP**, 1-(3-chlorophenyl)pyrrolidine **1g** (91 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 1-methyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione **2a** (222 mg, 2.0 mmol) were converted to the desired product **3g** (108 mg, 74%) as a yellow oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  6.97 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.55 (s, 1H), 6.40 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 4.17 (dd, J = 9.4, 5.5 Hz, 1H), 3.26 – 3.23 (m, 4H), 3.17 (dd, J = 18.4, 9.6 Hz, 1H), 3.08 (s, 3H), 2.75 (dd, J = 18.4, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 2.02 – 1.99 (m, 4H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  178.14, 176.37, 148.33, 134.12, 130.35, 120.56, 112.60, 110.53, 47.57, 44.22, 36.88, 25.41, 25.08. HRMS (CI) calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>18</sub>ClN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>:

293.1057, found 293.1056.

#### 1-Methyl-3-(6-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)-[1,1'-biphenyl]-3-yl)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione (3h)



According to **GP**, 1-([1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)pyrrolidine **1h** (112 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 1-methyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione **2a** (222 mg, 2.0 mmol) were converted to the desired product **3h** (134 mg, 80%) as a colorless oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.39 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.34 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.29 – 7.23 (m, 1H), 7.05 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.95 (s, 1H), 6.82 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 3.94 (dd, *J* = 9.2, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 3.16 (dd, *J* = 18.5, 9.5 Hz, 1H), 3.03 (s, 3H), 2.87 – 2.79 (m, 5H), 1.74 – 1.71 (m, 4H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  178.43, 176.58, 147.49, 142.63, 131.15, 130.29, 129.04, 127.94,

126.68, 126.40, 125.86, 114.90, 50.93, 45.19, 37.23, 25.40, 25.12. HRMS (CI) calcd for  $C_{21}H_{23}N_2O_2$  [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 335.1760, found 335.1750.

#### 1-Methyl-3-(3-methyl-4-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)phenyl)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione (3i)



According to **GP**, 1-(*o*-tolyl)pyrrolidine **1i** (81 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 1-methyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione **2a** (222 mg, 2.0 mmol) were converted to the desired product **3i** (102 mg, 75%) as a colorless oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  6.96 – 6.92 (m, 2H), 6.84 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 3.93 (dd, *J* = 9.2, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 3.21 – 3.14 (m, 5H), 3.07 (s, 3H), 2.82 (dd, *J* = 18.5, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 1.95 – 1.92 (m, 4H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  178.46, 176.67, 149.18, 130.53, 129.09, 128.00, 125.07, 116.07, 50.96, 45.25, 37.24, 25.11, 24.99, 20.74. HRMS (CI) calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>21</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 273.1603, found 273.1605.

#### 1-Methyl-3-(2-methyl-4-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)phenyl)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione (3j)



According to **GP**, 1-(*m*-tolyl)pyrrolidine **1j** (81 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 1-methyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione **2a** (222 mg, 2.0 mmol) were converted to the desired product **3j** (96 mg, 70%) as a colorless oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  6.83 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.39 – 6.36 (m, 2H), 4.14 (dd, J = 9.0, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 3.26 – 3.24 (m, 4H), 3.16 (dd, J = 18.5, 9.6 Hz, 1H), 3.07 (s, 3H), 2.67 (dd, J = 18.4, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 2.31 (s, 3H), 2.00 – 1.96 (m, 4H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  179.06, 176.82, 147.41, 136.95, 127.26, 122.42, 113.90, 109.85, 47.53, 42.53, 37.33, 25.42, 25.04, 20.25. HRMS (CI) calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>21</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 273.1603,

found 273.1604.

#### 3-(2,6-Dimethyl-4-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)phenyl)-1-methylpyrrolidine-2,5-dione (3k)



According to **GP**, 1-(3,5-dimethylphenyl)pyrrolidine **1k** (88 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 1-methyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione **2a** (222 mg, 2.0 mmol) were converted to the desired product **3k** (116mg, 82%) as a white solid (mp: 192.1–193.2 °C). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  6.24 (d, *J* = 13.6 Hz, 2H), 4.27 (dd, *J* = 9.2, 6.4 Hz, 1H), 3.24 – 3.21 (m, 4H), 3.17 – 3.03 (m, 1H), 3.6 (s, 3H), 2.64 (dd, *J* = 18.5, 6.1 Hz, 1H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 2.00 (s, 3H), 1.97 – 1.94 (m, 4H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  179.42, 176.52, 147.16, 138.08, 136.46, 120.29, 113.05, 111.75, 47.44, 41.16,

36.02, 25.40, 24.97, 21.50, 20.25. HRMS (CI) calcd for  $C_{17}H_{23}N_2O_2$  [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 287.1760, found 287.1749.

#### 3-(1-Ethyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinolin-6-yl)-1-methylpyrrolidine-2,5-dione (31)



According to **GP**, 1-ethyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline **11** (81 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 1-methyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione **2a** (222 mg, 2.0 mmol) were converted to the desired product **31** (120 mg, 88%) as a yellow oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  6.86 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 6.75 (s, 1H), 6.54 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 3.85 (dd, *J* = 9.3, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 3.32 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 3.25 (t, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 2H), 3.14 (dd, *J* = 18.5, 9.4 Hz, 1H), 3.05 (s, 3H), 2.79 (dd, *J* = 18.5, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 2.71 (t, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 2H), 2.00 – 1.87

(m, 2H), 1.11 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  178.77, 176.85, 144.66, 127.86, 125.94, 123.10, 122.97, 110.75, 48.27, 45.26, 45.17, 37.30, 28.14, 25.07, 22.04, 10.74. HRMS (CI) calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>21</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 273.1603, found 273.1602.

#### 3-(1-Ethylindolin-5-yl)-1-methylpyrrolidine-2,5-dione (3m)



According to **GP**, 1-ethylindoline **1m** (74 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 1-methyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione **2a** (222 mg, 2.0 mmol) were converted to the desired product **3m** (121 mg, 94%) as a colorless oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  6.89 – 6.87 (m, 2H), 6.41 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 3.90 (dd, *J* = 9.1, 4.2 Hz, 1H), 3.34 (t, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 3.19 – 3.09 (m, 3H), 3.05 (s, 3H), 2.93 (t, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 2.78 (dd, *J* = 18.4, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 1.17 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  178.74, 176.77, 42, 126.51, 125.50, 123.17, 107.03, 52.22, 45.55, 42.88, 37.46, 28.34

152.12, 131.42, 126.51, 125.50, 123.17, 107.03, 52.22, 45.55, 42.88, 37.46, 28.34, 25.09, 11.81. HRMS (CI) calcd for  $C_{15}H_{19}N_2O_2$  [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 259.1447, found 259.1443.

# 3-(1,2,3,5,6,7-Hexahydropyrido[3,2,1-ij]quinolin-9-yl)-1-methylpyrrolidine-2,5-di one (3n)



According to **GP**, 1,2,3,5,6,7-hexahydropyrido[3,2,1-ij]quinoline **1n** (87 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 1-methyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione **2a** (222 mg, 2.0 mmol) were converted to the desired product **3n** (84 mg, 59%) as a yellow oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  6.59 (s, 2H), 3.80 (dd, *J* = 9.3, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 3.16 – 3.08 (m, 5H), 3.05 (s, 3H), 2.80 – 2.70 (m, 5H), 2.00 – 1.90 (m, 4H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  178.80, 176.89, 142.60,

125.68, 123.50, 122.03, 49.84, 45.28, 37.38, 27.62, 25.08, 21.85. HRMS (CI) calcd for  $C_{17}H_{21}N_2O_2 \left[M+H\right]^+$ : 285.1603, found 285.1607.

#### 3-(4-(Dimethylamino)naphthalen-1-yl)-1-methylpyrrolidine-2,5-dione (3p)



According to **GP**, *N*,*N*-dimethylnaphthalen-1-amine **1p** (86 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 1-methyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione **2a** (222 mg, 2.0 mmol) were converted to the desired product **3p** (130 mg, 92%) as a yellow oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.38 – 8.27 (m, 1H), 7.74 (d, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 1H), 7.58 – 7.48 (m, 2H), 7.19 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.01 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 4.67 (dd, *J* = 9.3, 4.7 Hz, 1H), 3.34 (dd, *J* = 18.3, 9.6 Hz, 1H), 3.16 (s, 3H), 2.88 (s, 6H), 2.80 (dd, *J* = 18.4, 4.7 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  178.47, 176.25, 151.17, 132.36,

129.43, 127.92, 126.63, 125.35, 125.28, 124.78, 123.03, 113.53, 45.16, 42.97, 37.71, 25.21. HRMS (CI) calcd for  $C_{17}H_{19}N_2O_2$  [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 283.1447, found 283.1446.

#### 1-Methyl-3-(1-methyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione (3t)



According to **GP**, 1-methyl-1*H*-indole **1t** (66 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 1-methyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione **2a** (222 mg, 2.0 mmol) were converted to the desired product **3t** (112 mg, 92%) as a white solid (mp 123.2–125.2 °C). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.42 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.28 – 7.25 (m, 1H), 7.15 – 7.13 (m, 1H), 7.04 (s, 1H), 4.31 – 4.28 (m, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.27 (dd, *J* = 18.1, 9.3 Hz, 1H), 3.12 (s, 3H), 2.92 (d, *J* = 18.2 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C

NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  178.33, 176.55, 137.35, 126.73, 126.12, 122.25, 119.61, 118.59, 109.85, 109.74, 38.13, 36.67, 32.77, 25.10. HRMS (CI) calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>15</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 243.1134, found 243.1134.

#### 3-(1*H*-indol-3-yl)-1-methylpyrrolidine-2,5-dione(3u)



According to **GP**, 1*H*-indole **1u** (59 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 1-methyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione **2a** (222 mg, 2.0 mmol) were converted to the desired product **3u** (86 mg, 75%) as a white solid (mp 181.1–182.8 °C). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, d<sup>6</sup>-DMSO)  $\delta$  11.05 (s, 1H), 7.41 – 7.35 (m, 2H), 7.34 (s, 1H), 7.10 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.99 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 4.36 (dd, *J* = 9.1, 4.9 Hz, 1H), 3.23 (dd, *J* = 18.0, 9.4 Hz, 1H), 2.92 (s, 3H), 2.79 (dd, *J* = 18.0, 4.8 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR

(151 MHz, d<sup>6</sup>-DMSO)  $\delta$  178.86, 177.08, 136.88, 126.35, 123.87, 121.76, 119.20, 118.82, 112.11, 111.16, 38.03, 36.57, 25.03. HRMS (CI) calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>12</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 229.0972, found 229.0962.

#### 3-(5-fluoro-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-1-methylpyrrolidine-2,5-dione(3v)



According to **GP**, 5-fluoro-1*H*-indole **1v** (68 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 1-methyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione **2a** (222 mg, 2.0 mmol) were converted to the desired product **3v** (39 mg, 32%) as a yellow oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, d<sup>6</sup>-DMSO)  $\delta$  11.16 (s, 1H), 7.42 (s, 1H), 7.37 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (d, *J* = 9.8 Hz, 1H), 6.95 (t, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 4.35 (dd, *J* = 8.6, 5.3 Hz, 1H), 3.22 (dd, *J* = 17.9, 9.3 Hz, 1H), 2.91 (s, 3H), 2.82 (dd, *J* = 18.0, 4.9 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C

NMR (151 MHz, d<sup>6</sup>-DMSO)  $\delta$  178.68, 176.96, 157.94, 156.41, 133.50, 126.82, 126.76, 125.77, 113.09, 113.02, 111.41, 111.38, 110.04, 109.87, 103.85, 103.70, 37.82, 36.25, 25.03. HRMS (CI) calcd for  $C_{13}H_{11}FN_2O_2$  [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 247.0877, found 247.0877.

#### 3-(5-methoxy-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-1-methylpyrrolidine-2,5-dione(3w)



According to **GP**, 5-methoxy-1*H*-indole **1w** (74 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 1-methyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione **2a** (222 mg, 2.0 mmol) were converted to the desired product **3w** (89 mg, 69%) as a white solid (mp 155.3–156.1 °C). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, d<sup>6</sup>-DMSO)  $\delta$  10.89 (s, 1H), 7.27 (s, 2H), 6.87 (s, 1H), 6.75 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 4.33 (dd, *J* = 8.7, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.23 (dd, *J* = 17.9, 9.3 Hz, 1H), 2.92 (s, 3H), 2.79 (dd, *J* = 17.9, 4.5 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C

NMR (151 MHz, d<sup>6</sup>-DMSO)  $\delta$  178.68, 176.96, 157.94, 156.41, 133.50, 126.82, 126.76, 125.77, 113.09, 113.02, 111.41, 111.38, 110.04, 109.87, 103.85, 103.70, 37.82, 36.25, 25.03. HRMS (CI) calcd for  $C_{14}H_{14}N_2O_3$  [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 259.1077, found 259.1078.

#### 1-methyl-3-(1-methyl-1*H*-pyrrol-2-yl)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione(3x)



According to **GP**, 1-methyl-1*H*-pyrrole **1x** (45 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 1-methyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione **2a** (222 mg, 2.0 mmol) were converted to the desired product **3x** (54 mg, 56%) as a yellow oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  6.66 - 6.61 (m), 6.11 - 6.04 (m), 5.96 (dd, J = 3.5, 1.2 Hz), 4.10 (dd, J = 9.4, 4.8 Hz), 3.74 (s), 3.16 (dd, J = 18.3, 9.4 Hz), 3.01 (s), 2.91 (dd, J = 18.3, 4.8 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  178.68,

176.96, 157.94, 156.41, 133.50, 126.82, 126.76, 125.77, 113.09, 113.02, 111.41, 111.38, 110.04, 109.87, 103.85, 103.70, 37.82, 36.25, 25.03. HRMS (CI) calcd for  $C_{10}H_{12}N_2O_2$  [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 193.0972, found 193.0971.

#### 1-methyl-3-(1H-pyrrol-2-yl)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione(3y)



According to **GP**, 1*H*-pyrrole **1y** (34 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 1-methyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione **2a** (222 mg, 2.0 mmol) were converted to the desired product **3w** (38 mg, 43%) as a yellow oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  9.52 (s, 1H), 6.80 (s, 1H), 6.16 (d, *J* = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 6.02 (s, 1H), 4.09 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 3.19 (dd, *J* = 18.3, 9.2 Hz, 1H), 2.99 (d, *J* = 10.7 Hz, 4H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub> + CD<sub>3</sub>OD)  $\delta$  177.84, 176.34, 125.31, 118.82, 108.15, 105.45, 38.66, 34.34, 24.92. HRMS (CI) calcd for  $C_{14}H_{14}N_2O_3$  [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 179.0815, found 179.0812.

#### 1-Methyl-3-(5-methylfuran-2-yl)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione (3z)



According to **GP**, 2-methylfuran **1z** (41 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 1-methyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione **2a** (222 mg, 2.0 mmol) were converted to the desired product **3z** (56 mg, 58%) as a colorless oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  6.50 (d, J = 4.1 Hz, 1H), 6.31 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 5.18 (s, 1H), 2.98 – 2.97 (m, 1H), 2.96 (s, 3H), 2.72 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 1.73 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  176.22, 175.01, 140.47, 136.87, 88.08, 80.55, 50.65, 49.44, 24.85, 15.61. HRMS (CI) calcd for

 $C_{10}H_{12}NO_3 [M+H]^+$ : 194.0817, found 194.0816.

#### 1-Butyl-3-(4-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)phenyl)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione (5a)



According to **GP**, 1-phenylpyrrolidine **1a** (74 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 1-butyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione **4a** (306 mg, 2.0 mmol) were converted to the desired product **5a** (116 mg, 77%) as a colorless oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  6.95 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.45 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 3.80 (dd, J = 9.4, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 3.47 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 3.18 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 4H), 3.05 (dd, J = 18.4, 9.5 Hz, 1H), 2.67 (dd, J = 18.4, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 1.91 (t, J = 6.1 Hz, 4H), 1.56 – 1.44 (m, 2H), 1.28 – 1.22 (m, 2H), 0.85 (t, J =7.3 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  178.55, 176.76, 147.45, 127.94, 123.57, 112.04, 47.57, 45.06, 38.72, 37.32, 29.79, 25.45, 20.06, 13.64. HRMS (CI) calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>25</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 301.1916, found

301.1911.

#### 1-Isopropyl-3-(4-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)phenyl)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione (5b)



According to **GP**, 1-phenylpyrrolidine **1a** (74 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 1-isopropyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione **4b** (278 mg, 2.0 mmol) were converted to the desired product **5b** (116 mg, 81%) as a colorless oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.03 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 6.53 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 4.46 – 4.39 (m, 1H), 3.82 (dd, *J* = 9.3, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 3.28 – 3.25 (m, 4H), 3.09 (dd, *J* = 18.3, 9.6 Hz, 1H), 2.71 (dd, *J* = 18.3, 4.2 Hz, 1H), 2.01 - 1.97 (m, 4H), 1.41 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 6H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  178.53, 176.75, 147.45, 127.85, 123.78, 112.06, 47.57, 44.83, 43.86, 37.26, 25.43, 19.32,

19.17. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $C_{17}H_{23}N_2O_2$  [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 287.1754, found 287.1756.

#### 1-Phenyl-3-(4-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)phenyl)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione (5c)



According to **GP**, 1-phenylpyrrolidine **1a** (74 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 1-phenyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione **4c** (346 mg, 2.0 mmol) were converted to the desired product **5c** (128 mg, 80%) as a white solid (mp 180.6–181.8 °C). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.48 – 7.44 (m, 2H), 7.31 – 7.29 (m, 1H), 7.30 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.13 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 6.55 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 4.07 (dd, *J* = 9.4, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 3.43 – 3.19 (m, 5H), 2.96 (dd, *J* = 18.5, 4.2 Hz, 1H), 2.01 - 1.97 (m, 4H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  177.42, 175.70, 147.58, 132.06, 129.12, 128.54, 128.00, 126.49, 123.21, 112.11, 47.59, 45.25, 37.45, 25.45. HRMS (CI) calcd

for  $C_{20}H_{21}N_2O_2$  321.1603  $[M+H]^+$ , found 321.1602.

#### 3-(4-(Diethylamino)phenyl)-1-phenylpyrrolidine-2,5-dione (5d)



According to **GP**, *N*,*N*-diethylaniline **1d** (75 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 1-phenyl-1*H*-pyrrole -2,5-dione **4d** (346 mg, 2.0 mmol) were converted to the desired product **5d** (126 mg, 78%) as a colorless oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.49 – 7.45 (m, 2H), 7.41 – 7.37 (m, 1H), 7.32 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.13 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 6.67 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 4.08 (dd, *J* = 9.3, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 3.36 – 3.29 (m, 5H), 2.97 (dd, *J* = 18.5, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 1.15 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 6H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  177.42, 175.69, 147.40, 132.05, 129.12, 128.54, 128.17, 126.49, 123.06, 112.08, 45.11,

44.33, 37.38, 12.50. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $C_{20}H_{23}N_2O_2$  [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 323.1754, found 323.1753.

#### 1-Benzyl-3-(4-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)phenyl)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione (5e)



According to **GP**, 1-phenylpyrrolidine **1d** (74 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 1-benzyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione **4e** (374 mg, 2.0 mmol) were converted to the desired product **5e** (135 mg, 81%) as a white solid (mp 161.0–161.8 °C). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.38 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 7.33 – 7.22 (m, 3H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.49 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 4.69 (q, *J* = 14.0 Hz, 2H), 3.89 (dd, *J* = 9.5, 4.6 Hz, 1H), 3.24 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 4H), 3.13 (dd, *J* = 18.5, 9.5 Hz, 1H), 2.76 (dd, *J* = 18.5, 4.6 Hz, 1H), 2.01 – 1.94 (m, 4H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  178.20, 176.27, 147.49, 135.92, 128.73, 128.61, 127.98, 127.86, 123.27, 112.03, 47.57,

45.14, 42.55, 37.32, 25.43. HRMS (CI) calcd for  $C_{21}H_{23}N_2O_2$  [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 335.1760, found 335.1758.

1-Benzyl-3-(4-(diethylamino)phenyl)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione (5f)



According to GP, N,N-diethylaniline 1d (75 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 1-phenyl-1H-pyrrole-2,5-dione 4f (346 mg, 2.0 mmol) were converted to the desired product 5f (126 mg, 78%) as a white solid (mp 99.2–100.2 °C). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.43 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 7.36 - 7.31 (m, 3H), 7.01 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.64 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.74 (q, J = 14.0 Hz, 2H), 3.93 (dd, J = 9.3, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 3.36 (q, J = 7.0 Hz, 4H), 3.17 (dd, J = 18.5, 9.5 Hz, 1H), 2.81 (dd, J = 18.5, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 1.17 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 6H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  178.21, 176.26, 147.31, 135.92, 128.74, 128.62, 128.15, 127.87, 123.14, 112.04, 45.02, 44.30, 42.57,

37.27, 12.50. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $C_{21}H_{25}N_2O_2$  [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 337.1911, found 337.1909.

#### 3-(4-(Pyrrolidin-1-yl)phenyl)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione (5g)



According to GP, 1-phenylpyrrolidine 1a (74 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 1H-pyrrole-2,5-dione 4g (194 mg, 2.0 mmol) were converted to the desired product 5g (101 mg, 82%) as a white solid (mp 165.8–167.3 °C). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.28 (s, 1H), 7.09 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 6.55 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 3.98 (dd, J = 9.3, 4.9 Hz, 1H), 3.38 - 3.16 (m, 5H),2.85 (dd, J = 18.6, 4.7 Hz, 1H), 2.02 - 1.98 (m, 4H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) & 178.73, 176.54, 147.58, 128.03, 122.66, 112.07, 47.58, 46.63, 38.40, 25.44. HRMS (CI) calcd for  $C_{14}H_{17}N_2O_2$  [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 245.1290, found

245.1301.

#### 3-(4-(Diethylamino)phenyl)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione (5h)



According to GP, N,N-diethylaniline 1d (75 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 1H-pyrrole-2,5-dione 4h (194 mg, 2.0 mmol) were converted to the desired product **5h** (75 mg, 61%) as a colorless oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  8.52 (s, 1H), 7.09 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 6.68 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 3.99 (dd, *J* = 9.3, 4.9 Hz, 1H), 3.36 (q, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 4H), 3.22 (dd, *J* = 18.6, 9.6 Hz, 1H), 2.87 (dd, J = 18.6, 4.9 Hz, 1H), 1.17 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 6H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 178.96, 176.72, 147.39, 128.22, 122.55, 112.03, 46.51, 44.32, 38.36, 12.49. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>19</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>

[M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 247.1441, found 247.1446.

#### 4-(4-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)phenyl)pentan-2-one (5i)



According to GP, 1-phenylpyrrolidine 1a (74 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 3-penten-2-one 4i (168 mg, 2.0 mmol) were converted to the desired product **5i** (25 mg, 21%) as a colorless oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.07 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 6.52 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 3.32 - 3.17 (m, 5H), 2.66 (ddd, J = 23.5, 15.7, 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.05 (s, 3H), 1.98 (s, 4H), 1.23 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  208.67, 146.60, 132.74, 127.39, 111.72, 52.55, 47.67, 34.84, 30.59, 25.47, 22.32. HRMS (ESI)

calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>21</sub>NO [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 232.1698, found 232.1696.

#### 4. Synthesis of Succinimides Derivatives 6a-8a



1-Methyl-3-(4-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)phenyl)-1H-pyrrole-2,5-dione (6a)

The compound **3a** (60 mg, 0.23 mmol 1 equiv),  $K_2CO_3$  (5 equiv) and diethyl azodicarboxylate (1 equiv) were taken in a dried schlenk tube with a magnetic stir bar. Then dry DMF (2 mL) was added and the reaction mixture was allowed to stir for 4 h at room temperature. After completion of the reaction (TLC monitored), the reaction mixture was extracted with EtOAc and washed with brine solution. The organic layer was dried with anhydrous magnesium sulfate and concentrated under reduced pressure. The resulting residue was directly purified by silica gel column chromatography (PE: EA = 5: 1) to provide the product **6a** (40 mg, 69%) as a yellow oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.94 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.59 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.43 (s, 1H), 3.41 – 3.39 (m, 4H), 3.07 (s, 3H), 2.09 – 2.05 (m, 4H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  171.83, 171.64, 149.55, 143.89, 130.32, 115.91, 115.83, 111.75, 47.51, 25.42, 23.58. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>17</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 257.1285, found 257.1284.

#### 1-Methyl-3-(4-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)phenyl)pyrrolidine (7a)



The compound **3a** (65 mg, 0.25 mmol, 1 equiv) and LiAlH<sub>4</sub> (5 equiv) were taken in a dried schlenk tube with a magnetic stir bar. Then dry THF (2 mL) was added and the reaction mixture was allowed to stir for 4 h at room temperature. After completion, the reaction mixture was quenched with 10% NaOH solution. The reaction mixture was extracted with EtOAc (5 mL  $\times$  3), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The resulting residue was directly purified by silica gel column chromatography (DCM: MeOH = 15: 1) to provide desired product

**7a** as a colorless oil. (39 mg, 68%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.13 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 6.53 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 3.65 – 3.55 (m, 3H), 3.40 – 3.35 (m, 1H), 3.28 – 3.24 (m, 4H), 3.11 – 3.05 (m, 1H), 2.90 (s, 3H), 2.55 – 2.45 (m, 1H), 2.27 – 2.17 (m, 1H), 2.03 – 1.97 (m, 4H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  147.38, 127.78, 124.05, 123.99, 111.92, 70.50, 61.30, 55.50, 47.57, 42.58, 41.47, 25.40. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>23</sub>N<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 231.1856, found 231.1863.

#### 3-Benzyl-1-methyl-3-(4-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)phenyl)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione (8a)



The compound **3a** (70 mg, 0.27 mmol, 1 equiv) and K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (5 equiv) and benzyl bromide (1.5 equiv) were taken in a dried schlenk tube with a magnetic stir bar. Then dry DMF (2 mL) was added and the reaction mixture was allowed to stir for 8 h at room temperature. After completion of the reaction (TLC monitored), the reaction mixture was extracted with EtOAc and washed with brine solution. The organic layer was dried with anhydrous magnesium sulfate and concentrated under reduced pressure. The resulting residue was directly purified by silica gel column chromatography (PE : EA = 5: 1) to provide the product **8a** (49 mg, 52%) as a yellow oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.33 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.26 – 7.23 (m, 3H), 7.08 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 6.56 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 3.52 (d, *J* = 13.4 Hz, 1H), 3.31 – 3.26 (m, 4H), 3.06 (d, *J* = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 2.98 (s, 2H), 2.82 (s, 3H), 2.03 – 1.98 (m, 4H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  180.49, 175.67, 135.92, 130.03, 128.47, 127.26, 126.96, 111.74, 52.49, 47.59, 45.09, 39.90, 25.44, 24.70. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>25</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 349.1911, found 349.1912.

# 5. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C-NMR Spectra





# $\int_{-7.073}^{7.094}$

# $\begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} -3.952\\ -3.052\\ -3.628\\ -3.628\\ -3.628\\ -3.661\\ -2.837\\ -2$











S18









230 220 210 200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 -10 fl (ppm)















6.252
6.218







230 220 210 200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 -10 f1 (ppm)

-6.885< 6.422< 6.401






















 $\begin{array}{c} 6.641\\ 6.636\\ 6.$ 



































# 6. X-ray Crystallography of 3k

Identification code	entification code a			
Empirical formula	C17 H22 N2 O2	C17 H22 N2 O2		
Formula weight	286.36	286.36		
Temperature	296(2) K			
Wavelength	0.71073 Å			
Crystal system	Monoclinic			
Space group	C2/c			
Unit cell dimensions	a = 18.8452(14) Å	<i>α</i> = 90°.		
	b = 5.9542(4)  Å	β=103.868(2)°.		
	c = 27.679(2)  Å	$\gamma = 90^{\circ}$ .		
Volume	3015.3(4) Å <sup>3</sup>			
Z	8			
Density (calculated)	1.262 Mg/m <sup>3</sup>			
Absorption coefficient 0.083 mm <sup>-1</sup>				
F(000)	1232			
Crystal size	0.300 x 0.200 x 0.100 m	m <sup>3</sup>		
Theta range for data collection	3.598 to 27.536°.	3.598 to 27.536°.		
Index ranges -24<=h<=24, -7<=k<=7, -36<=l<=35		, -36<=l<=35		
Reflections collected 36497				
Independent reflections	3460 [R(int) = 0.0426]			
Completeness to theta = $25.242^{\circ}$	99.5 %			
Absorption correction	None	None		
Max. and min. transmission	0.992 and 0.980			
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares	Full-matrix least-squares on F <sup>2</sup>		
Data / restraints / parameters	' restraints / parameters 3460 / 0 / 193			
Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	1.028			
Tinal R indices [I>2sigma(I)] $R1 = 0.0522$ , $wR2 = 0.1608$		608		
R indices (all data) $R1 = 0.0632, wR2 = 0.1714$		714		
Extinction coefficient	n/a	n/a		
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.253 and -0.183 e.Å <sup>-3</sup>	0.253 and -0.183 e.Å <sup>-3</sup>		

Table 1. Crystal data and structure refinement for a.

	Х	У	Z	U(eq)
O(1)	974(1)	9096(3)	6583(1)	79(1)
O(2)	2255(1)	2886(2)	7202(1)	57(1)
N(1)	3930(1)	27(2)	5546(1)	44(1)
N(2)	1506(1)	5885(2)	6950(1)	41(1)
C(1)	4779(1)	-2707(4)	5422(1)	70(1)
C(2)	4683(1)	-700(4)	5733(1)	55(1)
C(3)	3614(1)	1508(3)	5820(1)	37(1)
C(4)	2859(1)	1797(3)	5722(1)	37(1)
C(5)	2536(1)	3232(2)	6003(1)	33(1)
C(6)	2969(1)	4468(2)	6395(1)	32(1)
C(7)	2638(1)	5925(2)	6733(1)	35(1)
C(8)	2137(1)	4659(3)	6989(1)	38(1)
C(9)	933(1)	5214(4)	7189(1)	68(1)
C(10)	4043(1)	-3241(4)	5094(1)	59(1)
C(11)	4043(1)	2822(3)	6199(1)	41(1)
C(12)	3733(1)	4278(3)	6483(1)	38(1)
C(13)	2187(1)	7993(3)	6511(1)	42(1)
C(14)	1485(1)	7819(3)	6674(1)	46(1)
C(15)	1710(1)	3301(3)	5879(1)	42(1)
C(16)	4242(1)	5631(4)	6881(1)	58(1)
C(17)	3495(1)	-1800(3)	5275(1)	46(1)

Table 2. Atomic coordinates  $(x \ 10^4)$  and equivalent isotropic displacement parameters (Å<sup>2</sup>x  $10^3$ ) for a. U(eq) is defined as one third of the trace of the orthogonalized U<sup>ij</sup> tensor.

O(1)-C(14)	1.206(2)
O(2)-C(8)	1.2038(19)
N(1)-C(3)	1.3873(19)
N(1)-C(2)	1.455(2)
N(1)-C(17)	1.457(2)
N(2)-C(8)	1.377(2)
N(2)-C(14)	1.377(2)
N(2)-C(9)	1.452(2)
C(1)-C(10)	1.497(3)
C(1)-C(2)	1.509(3)
C(1)-H(5)	0.9700
C(1)-H(1)	0.9700
C(2)-H(6)	0.9700
C(2)-H(7)	0.9700
C(3)-C(4)	1.395(2)
C(3)-C(11)	1.400(2)
C(4)-C(5)	1.390(2)
C(4)-H(17)	0.9300
C(5)-C(6)	1.401(2)
C(5)-C(15)	1.5117(19)
C(6)-C(12)	1.406(2)
C(6)-C(7)	1.5135(19)
C(7)-C(8)	1.511(2)
C(7)-C(13)	1.538(2)
C(7)-H(13)	0.9800
C(9)-H(10)	0.9600
C(9)-H(11)	0.9600
C(9)-H(2)	0.9600
C(10)-C(17)	1.517(2)
C(10)-H(3)	0.9700
C(10)-H(4)	0.9700
C(11)-C(12)	1.390(2)
C(11)-H(8)	0.9300
C(12)-C(16)	1.510(2)
C(13)-C(14)	1.499(2)
С(13)-Н(12)	0.9700

Table 3. Bond lengths [Å] and angles  $[\circ]$  for a.

C(13)-H(9)	0.9700
C(15)-H(15)	0.9600
C(15)-H(14)	0.9600
C(15)-H(16)	0.9600
C(16)-H(20)	0.9600
C(16)-H(18)	0.9600
C(16)-H(19)	0.9600
C(17)-H(21)	0.9700
C(17)-H(22)	0.9700
C(3)-N(1)-C(2)	120.25(13)
C(3)-N(1)-C(17)	119.61(13)
C(2)-N(1)-C(17)	109.96(14)
C(8)-N(2)-C(14)	113.35(13)
C(8)-N(2)-C(9)	122.77(15)
C(14)-N(2)-C(9)	123.86(15)
C(10)-C(1)-C(2)	107.08(16)
C(10)-C(1)-H(5)	110.3
C(2)-C(1)-H(5)	110.3
C(10)-C(1)-H(1)	110.3
C(2)-C(1)-H(1)	110.3
H(5)-C(1)-H(1)	108.6
N(1)-C(2)-C(1)	105.79(15)
N(1)-C(2)-H(6)	110.6
C(1)-C(2)-H(6)	110.6
N(1)-C(2)-H(7)	110.6
C(1)-C(2)-H(7)	110.6
H(6)-C(2)-H(7)	108.7
N(1)-C(3)-C(4)	121.57(13)
N(1)-C(3)-C(11)	121.26(13)
C(4)-C(3)-C(11)	117.15(13)
C(5)-C(4)-C(3)	122.03(13)
C(5)-C(4)-H(17)	119.0
C(3)-C(4)-H(17)	119.0
C(4)-C(5)-C(6)	120.32(13)
C(4)-C(5)-C(15)	117.03(13)
C(6)-C(5)-C(15)	122.60(13)
C(5)-C(6)-C(12)	118.25(13)

C(5)-C(6)-C(7)	122.03(13)
C(12)-C(6)-C(7)	119.68(12)
C(8)-C(7)-C(6)	113.50(12)
C(8)-C(7)-C(13)	103.79(12)
C(6)-C(7)-C(13)	118.84(13)
C(8)-C(7)-H(13)	106.7
C(6)-C(7)-H(13)	106.7
С(13)-С(7)-Н(13)	106.7
O(2)-C(8)-N(2)	123.89(15)
O(2)-C(8)-C(7)	127.23(15)
N(2)-C(8)-C(7)	108.87(12)
N(2)-C(9)-H(10)	109.5
N(2)-C(9)-H(11)	109.5
H(10)-C(9)-H(11)	109.5
N(2)-C(9)-H(2)	109.5
H(10)-C(9)-H(2)	109.5
H(11)-C(9)-H(2)	109.5
C(1)-C(10)-C(17)	106.58(15)
C(1)-C(10)-H(3)	110.4
С(17)-С(10)-Н(3)	110.4
C(1)-C(10)-H(4)	110.4
С(17)-С(10)-Н(4)	110.4
H(3)-C(10)-H(4)	108.6
C(12)-C(11)-C(3)	121.76(14)
С(12)-С(11)-Н(8)	119.1
C(3)-C(11)-H(8)	119.1
C(11)-C(12)-C(6)	120.36(13)
C(11)-C(12)-C(16)	117.75(14)
C(6)-C(12)-C(16)	121.89(14)
C(14)-C(13)-C(7)	105.54(13)
С(14)-С(13)-Н(12)	110.6
C(7)-C(13)-H(12)	110.6
С(14)-С(13)-Н(9)	110.6
C(7)-C(13)-H(9)	110.6
H(12)-C(13)-H(9)	108.8
O(1)-C(14)-N(2)	123.96(16)
O(1)-C(14)-C(13)	127.71(16)
N(2)-C(14)-C(13)	108.33(13)

C(5)-C(15)-H(15)	109.5
C(5)-C(15)-H(14)	109.5
H(15)-C(15)-H(14)	109.5
C(5)-C(15)-H(16)	109.5
H(15)-C(15)-H(16)	109.5
H(14)-C(15)-H(16)	109.5
C(12)-C(16)-H(20)	109.5
C(12)-C(16)-H(18)	109.5
H(20)-C(16)-H(18)	109.5
C(12)-C(16)-H(19)	109.5
H(20)-C(16)-H(19)	109.5
H(18)-C(16)-H(19)	109.5
N(1)-C(17)-C(10)	104.37(13)
N(1)-C(17)-H(21)	110.9
C(10)-C(17)-H(21)	110.9
N(1)-C(17)-H(22)	110.9
C(10)-C(17)-H(22)	110.9
H(21)-C(17)-H(22)	108.9

Symmetry transformations used to generate equivalent atoms:

	U <sup>11</sup>	U <sup>22</sup>	U <sup>33</sup>	U <sup>23</sup>	U <sup>13</sup>	U <sup>12</sup>
O(1)	51(1)	69(1)	124(1)	32(1)	34(1)	26(1)
O(2)	79(1)	46(1)	50(1)	16(1)	24(1)	13(1)
N(1)	33(1)	50(1)	49(1)	-15(1)	11(1)	1(1)
N(2)	37(1)	44(1)	44(1)	4(1)	14(1)	-2(1)
C(1)	52(1)	73(1)	85(2)	-28(1)	14(1)	12(1)
C(2)	36(1)	68(1)	61(1)	-17(1)	10(1)	7(1)
C(3)	33(1)	42(1)	36(1)	-4(1)	10(1)	0(1)
C(4)	32(1)	42(1)	35(1)	-6(1)	5(1)	-3(1)
C(5)	28(1)	36(1)	34(1)	2(1)	6(1)	0(1)
C(6)	31(1)	32(1)	33(1)	0(1)	7(1)	1(1)
C(7)	34(1)	34(1)	38(1)	-3(1)	8(1)	2(1)
C(8)	44(1)	38(1)	32(1)	1(1)	10(1)	2(1)
C(9)	55(1)	77(1)	80(1)	17(1)	36(1)	-2(1)
C(10)	54(1)	60(1)	62(1)	-20(1)	14(1)	7(1)
C(11)	26(1)	48(1)	46(1)	-9(1)	7(1)	0(1)
C(12)	32(1)	41(1)	40(1)	-6(1)	5(1)	-2(1)
C(13)	44(1)	31(1)	56(1)	4(1)	20(1)	3(1)
C(14)	38(1)	41(1)	59(1)	5(1)	14(1)	4(1)
C(15)	30(1)	48(1)	45(1)	-5(1)	4(1)	2(1)
C(16)	35(1)	71(1)	64(1)	-30(1)	6(1)	-5(1)
C(17)	42(1)	50(1)	48(1)	-13(1)	14(1)	-4(1)

Table 4.Anisotropic displacement parameters $(Å^2x \ 10^3)$  for a.The anisotropicdisplacement factor exponent takes the form: $-2\pi^2$ [  $h^2 \ a^{*2}U^{11} + ... + 2 \ h \ k \ a^* \ b^* \ U^{12}$  ]

	х	у	Z	U(eq)
H(5)	5123	-2364	5221	84
H(1)	4964	-3979	5634	84
H(6)	4772	-1112	6081	66
H(7)	5019	489	5698	66
H(17)	2562	1005	5460	44
H(13)	3046	6480	6995	43
H(10)	850	3627	7147	101
H(11)	491	6007	7040	101
H(2)	1079	5564	7537	101
H(3)	3932	-4821	5119	70
H(4)	4033	-2897	4750	70
H(8)	4550	2717	6263	49
H(12)	2443	9366	6635	51
H(9)	2093	7983	6151	51
H(15)	1521	2687	5552	63
H(14)	1549	4828	5886	63
H(16)	1535	2432	6118	63
H(20)	4739	5349	6868	87
H(18)	4176	5203	7202	87
H(19)	4136	7201	6828	87
H(21)	3123	-1228	4997	55
H(22)	3260	-2652	5492	55

Table 5. Hydrogen coordinates (  $x\;10^4$  ) and isotropic displacement parameters (Å  $^2x\;10^{\;3}$  ) for a.

Table 6. Torsion angles [°] for a.

C(3)-N(1)-C(2)-C(1)	165.39(17)
C(17)-N(1)-C(2)-C(1)	20.3(2)
C(10)-C(1)-C(2)-N(1)	-6.0(3)
C(2)-N(1)-C(3)-C(4)	-163.38(16)
C(17)-N(1)-C(3)-C(4)	-21.6(2)
C(2)-N(1)-C(3)-C(11)	18.3(2)
C(17)-N(1)-C(3)-C(11)	160.16(16)
N(1)-C(3)-C(4)-C(5)	178.26(14)
C(11)-C(3)-C(4)-C(5)	-3.4(2)
C(3)-C(4)-C(5)-C(6)	0.8(2)
C(3)-C(4)-C(5)-C(15)	-176.61(14)
C(4)-C(5)-C(6)-C(12)	2.4(2)
C(15)-C(5)-C(6)-C(12)	179.61(14)
C(4)-C(5)-C(6)-C(7)	-175.70(13)
C(15)-C(5)-C(6)-C(7)	1.5(2)
C(5)-C(6)-C(7)-C(8)	57.00(18)
C(12)-C(6)-C(7)-C(8)	-121.05(15)
C(5)-C(6)-C(7)-C(13)	-65.43(19)
C(12)-C(6)-C(7)-C(13)	116.52(16)
C(14)-N(2)-C(8)-O(2)	-177.85(16)
C(9)-N(2)-C(8)-O(2)	3.7(3)
C(14)-N(2)-C(8)-C(7)	3.12(18)
C(9)-N(2)-C(8)-C(7)	-175.32(17)
C(6)-C(7)-C(8)-O(2)	47.2(2)
C(13)-C(7)-C(8)-O(2)	177.59(16)
C(6)-C(7)-C(8)-N(2)	-133.85(13)
C(13)-C(7)-C(8)-N(2)	-3.43(16)
C(2)-C(1)-C(10)-C(17)	-9.4(3)
N(1)-C(3)-C(11)-C(12)	-178.72(15)
C(4)-C(3)-C(11)-C(12)	2.9(2)
C(3)-C(11)-C(12)-C(6)	0.1(2)
C(3)-C(11)-C(12)-C(16)	-179.74(17)
C(5)-C(6)-C(12)-C(11)	-2.8(2)
C(7)-C(6)-C(12)-C(11)	175.31(14)
C(5)-C(6)-C(12)-C(16)	177.06(16)
C(7)-C(6)-C(12)-C(16)	-4.8(2)

C(8)-C(7)-C(13)-C(14)	2.56(17)
C(6)-C(7)-C(13)-C(14)	129.71(15)
C(8)-N(2)-C(14)-O(1)	177.87(19)
C(9)-N(2)-C(14)-O(1)	-3.7(3)
C(8)-N(2)-C(14)-C(13)	-1.4(2)
C(9)-N(2)-C(14)-C(13)	177.05(17)
C(7)-C(13)-C(14)-O(1)	179.9(2)
C(7)-C(13)-C(14)-N(2)	-0.91(19)
C(3)-N(1)-C(17)-C(10)	-171.32(15)
C(2)-N(1)-C(17)-C(10)	-25.9(2)
C(1)-C(10)-C(17)-N(1)	21.2(2)

Symmetry transformations used to generate equivalent atoms: