

## Oxindole Synthesis by Direct C-H, Ar-H Coupling

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## Supporting Information

### Known compounds:

The following compounds referred to in this communication have previously been reported in the literature: **1b**,<sup>1</sup> **1f**,<sup>2</sup> **1g**,<sup>3</sup> **4a**,<sup>4</sup> **4c**,<sup>4</sup> **4d**,<sup>5</sup> **5**.<sup>6</sup>

### Data for novel compounds:

#### Ethyl 2-methyl-3-(methyl(phenyl)amino)-3-oxopropanoate **1a**

Colourless oil,  $R_f = 0.4$  (1:1 petrol:EtOAc);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 7.47\text{--}7.35$  (m, 3H; Ph 3-, 4- and 5-H), 7.25 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H; Ph 2- and 6-H), 4.17–4.04 (m, 2H;  $\text{OCH}_2$ ), 3.39 (q,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 1H; 2-H), 3.29 (s, 3H; NMe), 1.31 (d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 3H; 1-Me), 1.23 ppm (t,  $J = 7.0$ , 3H;  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$ );  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 170.8$ , 170.1, 143.6, 129.9, 128.2, 127.5, 61.1, 43.5, 37.6, 14.1, 14.0 ppm; IR (Neat):  $\tilde{\nu} = 2983$ , 1741, 1661, 1595, 1496, 1385, 1197  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (ESI) calculated for  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}_3$   $[\text{MH}]^+$  requires 236.1281, found 236.1283 (0.8 ppm error).

#### Ethyl 3-(methyl(phenyl)amino)-3-oxo-2-phenylpropanoate **1c**

Colourless oil,  $R_f = 0.3$  (7:3 petrol:EtOAc);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (270 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 7.44\text{--}7.37$  (m, 3H; Ph 3-, 4- and 5-H), 7.30–7.24 (m, 3H; Ph 3-, 4- and 5-H), 7.19–7.07 (m, 4H; Ph 2- and 6-H), 4.58 (s, 1H; 2-H), 4.15 (q,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 2H;  $\text{OCH}_2$ ), 3.27 (s, 3H; NMe), 1.22 ppm (t,  $J = 7.0$ , 3H;  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$ );  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (68 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 168.7$ , 167.6, 143.1, 133.4, 129.6, 129.3, 128.2, 128.1, 127.7, 127.6, 61.4, 55.6, 37.6, 13.

### **2-Cyano-*N*-methyl-*N*-phenylpropanamide 1d**

Colourless oil,  $R_f = 0.4$  (1:1 petrol:EtOAc);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 7.51\text{--}7.39$  (m, 3H; Ph 3-, 4- and 5-H), 7.26 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H; Ph 2- and 6-H), 3.43 (q,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 1H; 2-H), 3.30 (s, 3H; NMe), 1.44 ppm (d,  $J = 7.0$ , 3H; 3-H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 165.5, 142.2, 130.4, 128.9, 127.2, 118.3, 38.2, 29.4, 15.8$  ppm; IR (Neat):  $\tilde{\nu} = 2921, 2201, 1667, 1596, 1496, 1388, 1122$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (ESI) calculated for  $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}_2\text{O}$   $[\text{MH}]^+$  requires 189.1022, found 189.1022 (0.0 ppm error).

### **Diethyl (1-(methyl(phenyl)amino)-1-oxopropan-2-yl)phosphonate 1e**

Colourless oil,  $R_f = 0.2$  (EtOAc);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (270 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 7.46\text{--}7.24$  (m, 5H; Ph 2-, 3-, 4-, 5- and 6-H), 4.25-3.90 (m, 2H;  $\text{OCH}_2$ ), 3.27 (d,  $J(\text{H,P}) = 1.0$  Hz, 3H; NMe), 3.03 (dq,  $J(\text{H,P}) = 20.5$  Hz,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 1H; 2-H), 1.33 (dd,  $J(\text{H,P}) = 18.5$  Hz,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 3H; 3-H), 1.32 (t,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 3H;  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.25 ppm (t,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 3H;  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$ );  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (68 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 169.1$  (d,  $J(\text{C,P}) = 4.0$  Hz), 143.3, 129.3, 127.6, 126.9, 62.3 (d,  $J(\text{C,P}) = 7.5$  Hz), 61.5 (d,  $J(\text{C,P}) = 7.5$  Hz), 37.1, 36.2 (d,  $J(\text{C,P}) = 139$  Hz), 15.9 (d,  $J(\text{C,P}) = 6.0$  Hz), 15.8 (d,  $J(\text{C,P}) = 6.0$  Hz), 12.6 ppm (d,  $J(\text{C,P}) = 7.5$  Hz); IR (Neat):  $\tilde{\nu} = 2980, 1658, 1595, 1496, 1385, 1249, 1027$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (ESI) calculated for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{23}\text{NO}_4\text{P}$   $[\text{MH}]^+$  requires 300.1359, found 300.1358 (0.3 ppm error).

### **Diethyl (1,3-dimethyl-2-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-indol-3-yl)phosphonate 4e**

**Ethyl 3-benzyl-1-methyl-2-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-indole-3-carboxylate 4f**

Colourless needles, m.p. 117-118 °C;  $R_f$  = 0.2 (6:4 petrol:EtOAc);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (270 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 7.34 (dd,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz,  $J$  = 1.0 Hz, 1H; 4-H), 7.23 (td,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz,  $J$  = 1.0 Hz, 1H; 6-H), 7.07 (td,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz,  $J$  = 1.0 Hz, 1H; 5-H), 7.06-6.97 (m, 3H; Ph 3-, 4- and 5-H), 6.85 (dd,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz,  $J$  = 2.0 Hz, 2H; Ph 2- and 6-H), 6.58 (d,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz, 1H; 7-H), 4.20 (qd,  $J$  = 7.0 Hz,  $J$  = 2.0 Hz, 2H;  $\text{OCH}_2$ ), 3.52 (s, 2H;  $\text{CH}_2\text{Ph}$ ), 2.93 (s, 3H; NMe), 1.19 ppm (t,  $J$  = 7.0 Hz, 3H;  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$ );  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 173.5, 169.2, 144.0, 134.3, 129.9, 128.9, 127.5, 127.4, 126.7, 123.8, 122.4, 108.1, 62.0, 60.9, 40.0, 26.1, 13.9 ppm; IR (Neat):  $\tilde{\nu}$  = 2930, 1739, 1715, 1611, 1470, 1352, 1234  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (ESI) calculated for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{19}\text{NO}_3\text{Na}$   $[\text{MNa}]^+$  requires 332.1257, found 332.1251 (1.0 ppm error).

**Ethyl 1-methyl-2-oxo-3-(prop-2-en-1-yl)-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-indole-3-carboxylate 4g**

Colourless oil,  $R_f$  = 0.5 (6:4 petrol:EtOAc);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 7.33 (td,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz,  $J$  = 1.0 Hz, 1H; 6-H), 7.28 (dd,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz,  $J$  = 1.0 Hz, 1H; 4-H), 7.08 (td,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz,  $J$  = 1.0 Hz, 1H; 5-H), 6.85 (d,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz, 1H; 7-H), 5.37 (dddd,  $J$  = 17.0 Hz,  $J$  = 10.0 Hz,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz,  $J$  = 7.0 Hz, 1H; allyl 2-H), 5.05 (dd,  $J$  = 17.0 Hz,  $J$  = 1.5 Hz, 1H; allyl 3-H), 4.93 (dd,  $J$  = 10.0 Hz,  $J$  = 1.5 Hz, 1H; allyl 3-H), 4.15 (qd,  $J$  = 7.0 Hz,  $J$  = 6.0 Hz, 2H;  $\text{OCH}_2$ ), 3.18 (s, 3H; NMe), 3.01 (dd,  $J$  = 14.0 Hz,  $J$  = 7.0 Hz, 1H; allyl 1-H), 2.95 (dd,  $J$  = 14.0 Hz,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H; allyl 1-H), 1.10 ppm (t,  $J$  = 7.0 Hz, 3H;  $\text{CH}_2\text{$

169.9, 169.0, 143.5, 129.8, 128.2, 127.8, 61.1, 54.2, 37.7, 14.1, 11.0, 4.2, 3.8 ppm; IR (Neat):  $\tilde{\nu}$  = 2919, 1746, 1660, 1595, 1496, 1384, 1147  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (ESI) calculated for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_3$   $[\text{MH}]^+$  requires 262.1438, found 262.1437 (0.2 ppm error).

### **Ethyl (2Z)-2-(methyl(phenyl)carbamoyl)penta-2,4-dienoate 1i**

Colourless oil,  $R_f$  = 0.6 (2:8 petrol:EtOAc);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 7.32-7.22 (m, 3H; Ph 3-, 4- and 5-H), 7.14-7.09 (m, 2H; Ph 2- and 6-H), 6.97 (d,  $J$  = 11.5 Hz, 1H; 3-H), 6.61 (ddd,  $J$  = 16.5 Hz,  $J$  = 11.5 Hz,  $J$  = 10.0 Hz, 1H; 4-H), 5.62 (d,  $J$  = 16.5 Hz, 1H; 5-H), 5.60 (d,  $J$  = 10.0 Hz, 1H; 5-H), 4.14 (q,  $J$  = 7.0 Hz, 2H;  $\text{OCH}_2$ ), 3.45 (s, 3H; NMe), 1.25 ppm (t,  $J$  = 7.0, 3H;  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$ );  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 165.8, 164.2, 142.9, 141.3, 132.1, 130.8, 129.2, 127.9, 127.7, 126.8, 61.1, 36.9, 14.2 ppm; IR (Neat):  $\tilde{\nu}$  = 2928, 1714, 1650, 1595, 1496, 1384, 1241  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (ESI) calculated for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}_3\text{Na}$   $[\text{MNa}]^+$  requires 282.1101, found 282.1099 (0.3 ppm error).

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