

Cu^{II}-Catalyzed Decarboxylative Acylation of Acyl C–H of Formamides with α -Oxocarboxylic Acids Leading to α -Ketoamides

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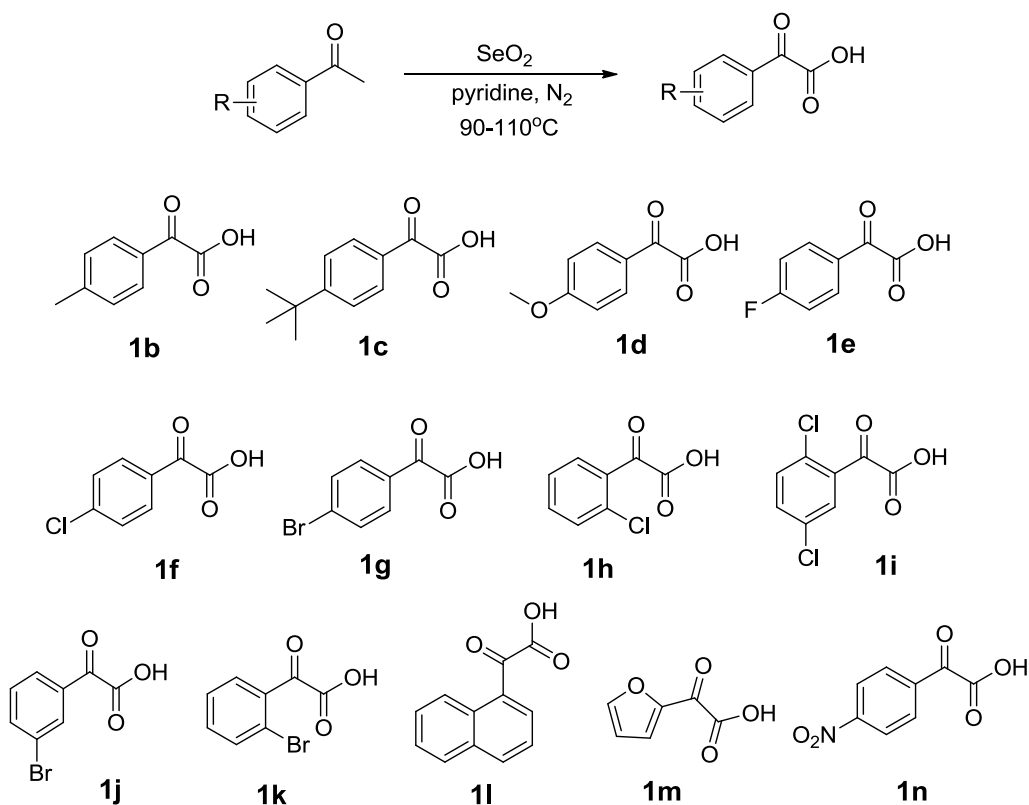
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1. General considerations

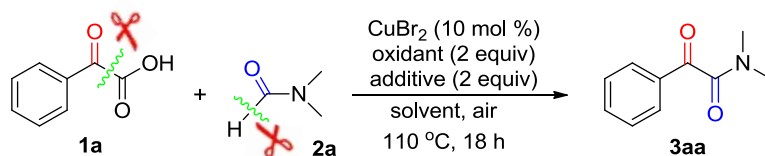
All the reactions of α -oxocarboxylic acids and formamides were carried out under an air atmosphere. ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra were measured on a Bruker Avance NMR spectrometer (400 MHz or 100 MHz, respectively) with CDCl_3 as solvent and recorded in ppm relative to internal tetramethylsilane standard. The peak patterns are indicated as follows: s, singlet; d, doublet; t, triplet; m, multiplet; q, quartet. The coupling constants, J , are reported in Hertz (Hz). High resolution mass spectroscopy data of the product were collected on a Waters Micromass GCT instrument. Solvents and general chemicals were purchased from commercial suppliers and used without further purification.

2. Starting materials

For this study, all formamides (**2a–2h**) and α -oxocarboxylic acid (**1a**) were purchased from commercial sources. Other α -oxocarboxylic acids (**1b–1n**) can be prepared from oxidation of corresponding methyl ketones with SeO_2 according to the reported procedure.^[1]



3. Optimization of oxidant, additive, solvent and temperature (TS1) ^a



Entry	Oxidant	Additive	Solvent	Yield (%) ^b
1	H ₂ O ₂	PivOH	toluene	<10 ^c
2	TBHP	PivOH	toluene	<5 ^d
3	TBPB	PivOH	toluene	23
4	BQ	PivOH	toluene	<10
5	K ₂ S ₂ O ₈	PivOH	toluene	trace
6	–	PivOH	toluene	20
7	O ₂	PivOH	toluene	34
8	DTBP	TFA	toluene	14
9	DTBP	HOAc	toluene	<5
10	DTBP	PhCO ₂ H	toluene	<10
11	DTBP	CF ₃ SO ₃ H	toluene	NR
12	DTBP	pyridine	toluene	24
13	DTBP	NEt ₃	toluene	trace
14	DTBP	K ₂ CO ₃	toluene	NR
15	DTBP	K ₃ PO ₄	toluene	NR
16	DTBP	–	toluene	43
17	DTBP	PivOH	toluene	81
18	DTBP	PivOH	–	61
19	DTBP	PivOH	<i>t</i> -AmOH	37
20	DTBP	PivOH	dioxane	41
21	DTBP	PivOH	CH ₂ ClCH ₂ Cl	35
22	DTBP	PivOH	CH ₃ OCH ₂ CH ₂ OCH ₃	35
23	DTBP	PivOH	CH ₂ Cl ₂	42
24	DTBP	PivOH	DMA	39
25	DTBP	PivOH	benzene	30
26	DTBP	PivOH	CH ₃ CN	27
27	DTBP	PivOH	CH ₃ COOEt	25
28	DTBP	PivOH	THF	24
29	DTBP	PivOH	EtOH	10
30	DTBP	PivOH	NMP	trace
31	DTBP	PivOH	CH ₃ NO ₂	trace
32	DTBP	PivOH	DMSO	NR
33	DTBP	PivOH	HOAc	NR
34	DTBP	PivOH	H ₂ O	NR
35	DTBP	PivOH	toluene	72 ^e
36	DTBP	PivOH	toluene	77 ^f

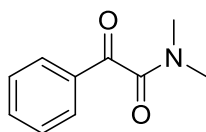
^a Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.50 mmol), **2a** (5.0 equiv), CuBr₂ (10 mol %), oxidant (2.0 equiv), additive (2.0 equiv), solvent (1.5 mL), air atmosphere, 110 °C, 18 h. ^b Isolated yields. ^c H₂O₂ (30% in water). ^d TBHP (*tert*-butyl hydroperoxide, 70% in water). ^e 100 °C. ^f 120 °C.

4. General procedure

Under air atmosphere, a sealable reaction tube with a Teflon-coated screw cap equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with 2-oxo-2-phenylacetic acid (**1a**, 0.50 mmol), *N,N*-dimethylformamide (**2a**, DMF, 2.5 mmol), CuBr₂ (0.05 mmol), di-*tert*-butyl peroxide (DTBP, 1.0 mmol), pivalic acid (PivOH, 1.0 mmol), and toluene (1.5 mL). The rubber septum was then replaced by a Teflon-coated screw cap, and the reaction vessel placed in an oil bath at 110 °C for 18 h. After the reaction was completed, it was cooled to room temperature and quenched with water and extracted with ethyl acetate and then dried with Na₂SO₄. The resulting solution was directly filtered through a pad of silica gel using a sintered glass funnel, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (eluant: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate) to give the desired product *N,N*-dimethyl-2-oxo-2-phenylacetamide (**3aa**).

5. Characterization data for all products

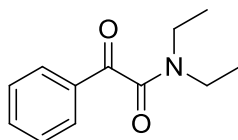
N,N-Dimethyl-2-oxo-2-phenylacetamide



3aa:^[2] Yellow oil.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.96–7.94 (m, 2H), 7.66–7.62 (m, 1H), 7.53–7.49 (m, 2H), 3.12 (s, 3H), 2.96 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 191.74, 167.04, 134.65, 133.13, 129.63, 128.98, 37.01, 33.99.

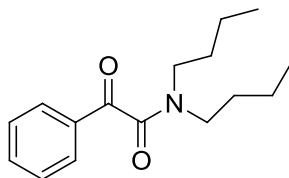
N,N-Diethyl-2-oxo-2-phenylacetamide



3ab:^[3] Yellow oil.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.95–7.93 (m, 2H), 7.65–7.61 (m, 1H), 7.52–7.49 (m, 2H), 3.56 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.24 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.29 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.15 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 191.55, 166.74, 134.50, 133.32, 129.59, 128.92, 42.10, 38.81, 14.07, 12.80.

N,N-Dibutyl-2-oxo-2-phenylacetamide

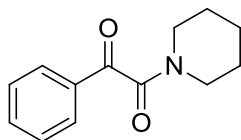


3ac:^[4] Yellow oil.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.94–7.92 (m, 2H), 7.64–7.60 (m, 1H), 7.51–7.48 (m, 2H), 3.49 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 3.14 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 1.71–1.63 (m, 2H), 1.57–1.49 (m, 2H), 1.46–1.37 (m, 2H), 1.25–1.14 (m, 2H), 0.99 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 3H), 0.81 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 191.55, 167.07, 134.44, 133.38, 129.57, 128.89,

47.42, 44.03, 30.61, 29.43, 20.21, 19.73, 13.80, 13.49.

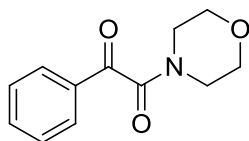
1-Phenyl-2-(piperidin-1-yl)ethane-1,2-dione



3ad:^[3,4] Yellow oil.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.96–7.94 (m, 2H), 7.65–7.62 (m, 1H), 7.53–7.49 (m, 2H), 3.71 (s, 2H), 3.29 (t, J = 5.6 Hz, 2H), 1.70 (s, 4H), 1.55 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 191.91, 165.45, 134.59, 133.31, 129.54, 128.97, 47.02, 42.15, 26.19, 25.43, 24.37.

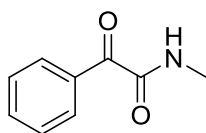
1-Morpholino-2-phenylethane-1,2-dione



3ae:^[3,4] Yellow oil.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.96–7.94 (m, 2H), 7.66–7.63 (m, 1H), 7.53–7.49 (m, 2H), 3.78 (s, 4H), 3.65–3.63 (m, 2H), 3.38–3.36 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 191.13, 165.45, 134.89, 133.09, 129.64, 129.07, 66.71, 66.63, 46.25, 41.62.

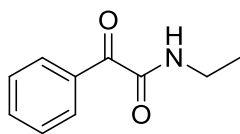
N-Methyl-2-oxo-2-phenylacetamide



3af: Yellow oil.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.36–8.35 (m, 2H), 7.65–7.61 (m, 1H), 7.51–7.47 (m, 2H), 7.11 (s, 1H), 2.98 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 187.65, 162.42, 134.34, 133.36, 131.20, 128.46, 25.98. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): ($\nu_{C=O}$) 1665, 1595. HRMS (EI) ([M]⁺) Calcd. for C₉H₉NO₂: 163.0633, Found: 163.0636.

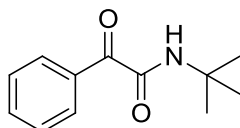
***N*-Ethyl-2-oxo-2-phenylacetamide**



3ag: Yellow oil.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 8.35–8.33 (m, 2H), 7.64–7.61 (m, 1H), 7.50–7.46 (m, 2H), 7.11 (s, 1H), 3.48–3.41 (m, 2H), 1.26 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 187.92, 161.69, 134.30, 133.41, 131.18, 128.44, 34.36, 14.45. IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): ($\nu_{\text{C=O}}$) 1663, 1595. HRMS (EI) ($[\text{M}]^+$) Calcd. for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{11}\text{NO}_2$: 177.0790, Found: 177.0786.

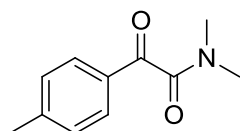
***N*-tert-Butyl-2-oxo-2-phenylacetamide**



3ah: Yellow oil.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 8.32–8.30 (m, 2H), 7.63–7.59 (m, 1H), 7.49–7.45 (m, 2H), 6.93 (s, 1H), 1.47 (s, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 188.57, 161.14, 134.10, 133.43, 131.19, 128.35, 51.65, 28.38. IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): ($\nu_{\text{C=O}}$) 1667, 1597. HRMS (EI) ($[\text{M}]^+$) Calcd. for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{15}\text{NO}_2$: 205.1103, Found: 205.1099.

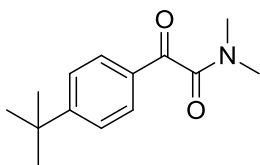
***N,N*-Dimethyl-2-oxo-2-*p*-tolylacetamide**



3ba:^[5] Yellow oil.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.85–7.83 (m, 2H), 7.31–7.29 (m, 2H), 3.11 (s, 3H), 2.95 (s, 3H), 2.43 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 191.50, 167.28, 145.94, 130.69, 129.76, 129.71, 37.03, 33.96, 21.85.

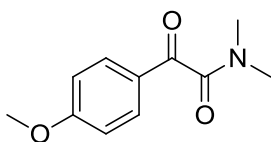
2-(4-*tert*-Butylphenyl)-*N,N*-dimethyl-2-oxoacetamide



3ca: Yellow oil.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.88 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.53–7.51 (m, 2H), 3.12 (s, 3H), 2.96 (s, 3H), 1.34 (s, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 191.49, 167.29, 158.79, 130.57, 129.63, 126.00, 37.06, 35.34, 33.97, 30.97. IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): ($\nu_{\text{C=O}}$) 1678, 1650. HRMS (ESI) $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ Calcd. for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_2$: 234.1494 Found: 234.1491.

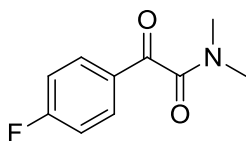
2-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-*N,N*-dimethyl-2-oxoacetamide



3da:^[6] Yellow oil.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.90 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.98–6.95 (m, 2H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.09 (s, 3H), 2.94 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 190.46, 167.38, 164.84, 132.08, 127.01, 114.31, 55.60, 37.05, 33.94.

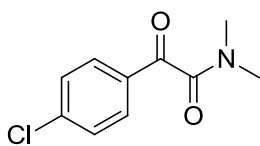
2-(4-Fluorophenyl)-*N,N*-dimethyl-2-oxoacetamide



3ea:^[7] White solid.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 8.00–7.97 (m, 2H), 7.20–7.16 (m, 2H), 3.11 (s, 3H), 2.97 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 189.97, 166.66 (d, J = 256.0 Hz), 166.60, 132.47 (d, J = 10.0 Hz), 129.67 (d, J = 3.0 Hz), 116.29 (d, J = 22.0 Hz), 37.02, 34.05.

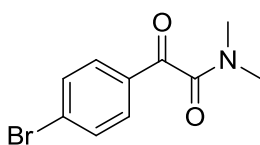
2-(4-Chlorophenyl)-*N,N*-dimethyl-2-oxoacetamide



3fa:^[7] Yellow oil.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.91–7.89 (m, 2H), 7.50–7.48 (m, 2H), 3.12 (s, 3H), 2.97 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 190.26, 166.47, 141.31, 131.53, 131.01, 129.37, 37.02, 34.08.

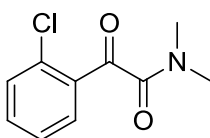
2-(4-Bromophenyl)-N,N-dimethyl-2-oxoacetamide



3ga: Yellow oil.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.82–7.80 (m, 2H), 7.66–7.64 (m, 2H), 3.11 (s, 3H), 2.96 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 190.48, 166.43, 132.37, 131.92, 131.04, 130.16, 37.02, 34.09. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): ($\nu_{C=O}$) 1679, 1646. HRMS (ESI) [M+H]⁺ Calcd. for C₁₀H₁₁BrNO₂: 255.9973, Found: 255.9970.

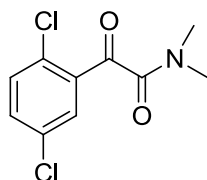
2-(2-Chlorophenyl)-N,N-dimethyl-2-oxoacetamide



3ha: Yellow oil.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.89–7.87 (m, 1H), 7.52–7.48 (m, 1H), 7.44–7.37 (m, 2H), 3.07 (s, 3H), 3.07 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 190.14, 166.93, 134.27, 133.72, 133.45, 132.22, 130.76, 127.27, 37.04, 34.50. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): ($\nu_{C=O}$) 1679, 1650. HRMS (ESI) [M+H]⁺ Calcd. for C₁₀H₁₁ClNO₂: 212.0478, Found: 212.0475.

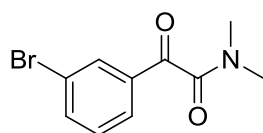
2-(2,5-Dichlorophenyl)-N,N-dimethyl-2-oxoacetamide



3ia: Yellow solid.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.84–7.83 (m, 1H), 7.47–7.44 (m, 1H), 7.38–7.36 (m, 1H), 3.08 (s, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 188.67, 166.18, 134.91, 133.99, 133.67, 131.85, 131.74, 131.69, 37.04, 34.60. IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): ($\nu_{\text{C=O}}$) 1675, 1648. HRMS (ESI) $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ Calcd. for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_9\text{Cl}_2\text{NO}_2$: 246.0089, Found: 246.0087.

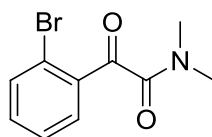
2-(3-Bromophenyl)-N,N-dimethyl-2-oxoacetamide



3ja: Yellow solid.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 8.09 (s, 1H), 7.88 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.41–7.37 (m, 1H), 3.13 (s, 3H), 2.97 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 190.05, 166.20, 137.48, 134.92, 132.38, 130.54, 128.27, 123.25, 37.03, 34.12. IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): ($\nu_{\text{C=O}}$) 1683, 1650. HRMS (ESI) $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ Calcd. for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{11}\text{BrNO}_2$: 255.9973, Found: 255.9971.

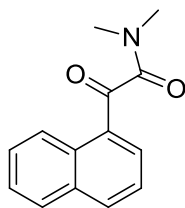
2-(2-Bromophenyl)-N,N-dimethyl-2-oxoacetamide



3ka: Yellow oil.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.83–7.81 (m, 1H), 7.64–7.62 (m, 1H), 7.45–7.37 (m, 2H), 3.09 (s, 3H), 3.07 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 190.79, 166.27, 135.37, 134.06, 134.03, 132.57, 127.69, 121.48, 37.18, 34.61. IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): ($\nu_{\text{C=O}}$) 1675, 1646. HRMS (ESI) $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ Calcd. for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{11}\text{BrNO}_2$: 255.9973, Found: 255.9975.

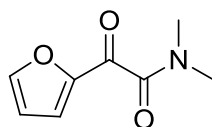
***N,N*-Dimethyl-2-(naphthalen-1-yl)-2-oxoacetamide**



3la:^[7] Yellow oil.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 9.27–9.25 (m, 1H), 8.12–8.10 (m, 1H), 8.01–7.99 (m, 1H), 7.93–7.91 (m, 1H), 7.72–7.68 (m, 1H), 7.61–7.52 (m, 2H), 3.16 (s, 3H), 3.02 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 194.20, 167.68, 135.84, 134.29, 134.08, 130.98, 129.29, 128.72, 128.51, 126.97, 125.80, 124.54, 37.17, 34.15.

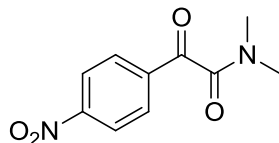
2-(Furan-2-yl)-*N,N*-dimethyl-2-oxoacetamide



3ma:^[7] Yellow oil.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.69 (s, 1H), 7.34 (br s, 1H), 6.59–6.58 (m, 1H), 3.05 (s, 3H), 3.01 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 178.50, 165.41, 150.17, 148.69, 122.28, 112.82, 37.14, 34.45.

***N,N*-Dimethyl-2-(4-nitrophenyl)-2-oxoacetamide**



3na:^[7] Yellow solid.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.34–8.32 (m, 2H), 8.14–8.13 (m, 2H), 3.14 (s, 3H), 3.00 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 189.24, 165.60, 151.08, 137.57, 130.76, 124.05, 37.05, 34.28.

6. References

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7. ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra of the products

