

Supporting Information

***N*-Heterocyclic Carbene-Catalyzed Double Acylation of Enones with Benzils**

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General remarks.

NMR spectra were taken on a Varian 400-MR (^1H , 399.82 MHz; ^{13}C , 100.54 MHz) spectrometer or Varian 500-MR (^1H , 499.82 MHz; ^{13}C , 125.68 MHz) spectrometer using residual chloroform (^1H , δ = 7.26) or CDCl_3 (^{13}C , δ = 77.0) as an internal standard. Mass spectra were obtained at 70 eV on a Shimadzu GC-MS QP5050 spectrometer. High-resolution mass spectra were recorded with Thermo Fisher Scientific LTQ Orbitrap XL (ESI or APCI/FTMS mode). Melting points were measured on a Shimadzu melting point apparatus and are uncorrected. TLC monitoring was performed with Merck silica gel (60 F₂₅₄). All reactions were conducted with a standard Schlenk technique under nitrogen atmosphere. DCE and DMF solvents were distilled from CaH. EtOH was dried over Mg powder. Et₃N and DIPEA bases were distilled from molecular sieves 4Å. The Lewis acids, other than Ti(OiPr)₄, were dried by heat gun under vacuum.

Materials.

Symmetrical 1,2-diketones **1** were conventionally prepared by benzoin condensation of the corresponding aldehydes with KCN, followed by CrO₃ or NH₄NO₃ oxidation. Unsymmetrical diketones **1f** was prepared by the reaction of *p*-tolylmagnesium bromide with phenylglyoxal, generated from 2,2-dihydroxyacetophenone by the azeotropic dehydration with toluene, and subsequent oxidation with dioxygen in the presence of ZnCl₂ and DABCO.¹ Enones **2** were obtained by the oxidation of allylic alcohols prepared from aldehydes and vinylmagnesium bromide. The NHC salts, 3-(2,4,6-Trimethyl-phenyl)-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-4*H*-cycloheptathiazol-3-ium perchlorate (**A**),² 2-Phenyl-6,7-dihydro-5*H*-pyrrolo[2,1-*c*][1,2,4]triazol-2-ium chloride (**D**)³ and 1,3-dimesityl-1*H*-imidazol-3-ium chloride (**E**),⁴ were prepared according to the literature procedures. 3-Benzyl-5-(2-hydroxyethyl)-4-methylthiazol-3-ium chloride (**B**) and 3-ethyl-5-(2-hydroxyethyl)-4-methylthiazol-3-ium bromide (**C**) were purchased from Aldrich.

General procedure for the double acylation of enone with benzil.

A Schlenk tube was charged with benzil (**1a**) (105 mg, 0.5 mmol), thiazolium salt **A** (37 mg, 0.1 mmol), phenyl vinyl ketone (**2a**) (65 mg, 0.5 mmol), DMF (1 mL), and DIPEA (13 mg, 0.1 mmol) under N₂. The mixture was stirred at 50 °C for 12 h. After

quenching with water, accurately weighted diphenylmethane was added to the mixture as an internal standard. The organic layer was extracted with ether, washed with brine, dried over MgSO_4 , and concentrated in vacuum. The residue was measured by ^1H NMR to determine NMR yield of **3aa** (94% yield). Then, the crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel with hexane-EtOAc eluent to give analytically pure sample (157 mg, 92% yield).

2-Benzoyl-1,4-diphenylbutane-1,4-dione (3aa).⁵

Isolated in 92% yield as yellow solid: mp 156-157 °C; R_f = 0.39 (Hexane / EtOAc = 5 / 1); ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 399.82 MHz) δ 3.78 (2H, d, J = 6.4 Hz, CH_2), 6.13 (1H, t, J = 6.4 Hz, CH), 7.46 (6H, t, J = 6.4 Hz), 7.58 (3H, t, J = 7.4 Hz), 8.00-8.03 (6H, m); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100.54 MHz) δ 38.0, 51.3, 128.3, 128.6, 128.9, 133.6, 133.7, 135.5, 136.0, 195.7, 196.6 (one carbon was obscured); MS m/z 324 (100), 323 (32), 247 (29), 105 (68), 77 (72); HRMS m/z ($[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$) calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_3\text{Na}$, 365.1148, found 365.1151.

2-Benzoyl-4-phenyl-1-(*o*-tolyl)butane-1,4-dione (3ab).

Isolated in 58% yield as a yellow oil: R_f = 0.39 (Hexane / EtOAc = 5 / 1); ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 399.82 MHz) δ 2.41 (3H, s, CH_3), 3.67 (1H, dd, J = 18.4, 5.6 Hz, CHH), 3.91 (1H, dd, J = 18.2, 7.0 Hz, CHH), 6.06 (1H, br t, J = 6.4 Hz, CH), 7.20-7.28 (2H, m), 7.33-7.46 (1H, m), 7.40-7.48 (4H, m), 7.52-7.59 (2H, m), 7.87 (1H, d, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.96 (2H, d, J = 7.2 Hz) 8.01 (2H, d, J = 7.2 Hz); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100.54 MHz) δ 20.9, 38.1, 54.1, 125.8, 128.2, 128.3, 128.6, 128.8, 131.6, 132.0, 133.5, 133.6, 135.7, 136.1, 137.0, 139.0, 196.0, 196.9, 198.6 (one carbon was obscured); MS m/z 338 (78), 207 (41), 119 (100), 105 (69), 91 (37); HRMS m/z ($[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$) calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_3\text{Na}$, 379.1305, found 379.1307.

2-Benzoyl-4-phenyl-1-(*m*-tolyl)butane-1,4-dione (3ac).

Isolated in 80% yield as a white solid; mp 100-102 °C; R_f = 0.41 (Hexane / EtOAc = 5 / 1); ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 399.82 MHz) δ 2.38 (3H, s, CH_3), 3.73 (1H, dd, J = 18.0, 6.4 Hz, CHH), 3.82 (1H, dd, J = 17.8, 6.6 Hz, CHH), 6.12 (1H, t, J = 6.6 Hz, CH), 7.33-7.40 (2H, m), 7.44-7.48 (4H, m), 7.55-7.59 (2H, m), 7.82 (2H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 8.00-8.03 (4H, m); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100.54 MHz) δ 21.3, 38.0, 51.4, 125.9, 128.3, 128.6, 128.8,

128.9, 129.1, 133.5, 133.6, 134.5, 135.5, 135.6, 136.1, 138.8, 195.7, 196.0, 196.6 (one carbon was obscured); MS m/z 338 (100), 119 (62), 105 (68), 91 (27), 77 (37); HRMS m/z ($[M+Na]^+$) calcd for $C_{24}H_{20}O_3Na$, 379.1305, found 379.1306.

2-Benzoyl-4-phenyl-1-(*p*-tolyl)butane-1,4-dione (3ad).⁶

Isolated in 89% yield as a yellow oil: R_f = 0.42 (Hexane / EtOAc = 5 / 1); 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$, 399.82 MHz) δ 2.40 (3H, s, CH_3), 3.73 (1H, dd, J = 18.0, 6.2 Hz, CHH), 3.81 (1H, dd, J = 18.0, 6.2 Hz, CHH), 6.10 (1H, t, J = 6.4 Hz, CH), 7.23 (2H, d, J = 7.2 Hz), 7.43-7.48 (4H, m), 7.55-7.59 (2H, m), 7.93 (2H, d, J = 7.6 Hz), 8.01 (4H, t, J = 8.0 Hz); ^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$, 100.54 MHz) δ 21.7, 38.0, 51.3, 128.3, 128.6, 128.8, 128.9, 129.6, 132.9, 133.5, 133.6, 135.6, 136.1, 144.7, 195.4, 195.7, 196.7 (one carbon was obscured); MS m/z 338 (100), 220 (31), 119 (78), 105 (60), 77 (31); HRMS m/z ($[M+Na]^+$) calcd for $C_{24}H_{20}O_3Na$, 379.1305, found 379.1297.

2-Benzoyl-1-mesityl-4-phenylbutane-1,4-dione (3ae).⁷

Isolated in 13% yield as a yellow solid: mp 124-126 °C; R_f = 0.45 (Hexane / EtOAc = 5 / 1); 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$, 399.82 MHz) δ 2.16 (6H, s, 2 CH_3), 2.13 (3H, s, CH_3), 3.78 (1H, dd, J = 18.4, 4.4 Hz, CHH), 4.05 (1H, dd, J = 18.4, 8.8 Hz, CHH), 5.76 (1H, dd, J = 8.8, 4.4 Hz, CH), 6.68 (2H, s), 7.32 (2H, t, J = 7.8 Hz), 7.48 (3H, t, J = 7.8 Hz), 7.57-7.61 (1H, m), 7.81 (2H, d, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.03 (2H, d, J = 7.2 Hz); ^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$, 100.54 MHz) δ 19.5, 21.0, 37.7, 57.9, 128.26, 128.32, 128.5, 128.60, 128.64, 133.08, 133.11, 133.5, 136.2, 137.0, 137.9, 139.2, 195.5, 197.6, 202.7; MS m/z 366 (17), 281 (13), 207 (100); HRMS m/z ($[M+Na]^+$) calcd for $C_{26}H_{24}O_3Na$, 407.1618, found 407.1629.

2-Benzoyl-1-(*p*-anisyl)-4-phenylbutane-1,4-dione (3af).⁷

Isolated in 75% yield as a white solid; mp 109-111 °C; R_f = 0.23 (Hexane / EtOAc = 5 / 1); 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$, 399.82 MHz) δ 3.69 (1H, dd, J = 18.0, 6.0 Hz, CHH), 3.85 (3H, s, OCH_3), 3.85 (1H, dd, J = 18.0, 7.0 Hz, CHH), 6.08 (1H, br t, J = 6.4 Hz, CH), 6.92-6.95 (2H, m), 7.26-7.48 (4H, m), 7.54-7.59 (2H, m), 8.00-8.03 (6H, m); ^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$, 100.54 MHz) δ 38.0, 51.1, 55.5, 114.1, 128.2, 128.3, 128.59, 128.61, 128.8, 131.1, 133.48, 133.53, 135.6, 136.1, 164.0, 194.3, 195.7, 196.8; MS m/z 354 (97), 207 (100), 135 (53), 105 (32), 77 (46); HRMS m/z ($[M+Na]^+$) calcd for $C_{24}H_{20}O_4Na$, 395.1254, found 395.1259.

2-Benzoyl-1-(2-chlorophenyl)-4-phenylbutane-1,4-dione (3ag).

Isolated in 53% yield as a yellow oil: $R_f = 0.33$ (Hexane / EtOAc = 5 / 1); ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 399.82 MHz) δ 3.77 (1H, dd, $J = 18.0, 6.8$ Hz, CHH), 3.91 (1H, dd, $J = 18.2, 6.6$ Hz, CHH), 6.14 (1H, t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, CH), 7.26-7.61 (10H, m), 7.95 (2H, d, $J = 8.6$ Hz), 8.01 (2H, d, $J = 8.2$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100.54 MHz) δ 38.0, 55.5, 127.0, 128.3, 128.66, 128.70, 128.74, 129.7, 130.5, 131.0, 132.1, 133.6, 135.95, 135.99, 138.0, 195.4, 196.8, 197.2 (one carbon was obscured); MS m/z 360 (45), 358 (100), 139 (52), 105 (67), 77 (58); HRMS m/z ($[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$) calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{17}\text{ClO}_3\text{Na}$, 399.0758; found 399.0758.

2-Benzoyl-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-4-phenylbutane-1,4-dione (3ah).

Isolated in 87% yield as a white solid: mp 109-111 °C; $R_f = 0.40$ (Hexane / EtOAc = 5 / 1); ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 399.82 MHz) δ 3.71 (1H, dd, $J = 18.0, 6.0$ Hz, CHH), 3.85 (1H, dd, $J = 18.0, 6.8$ Hz, CHH), 6.01 (1H, dd, $J = 6.8, 6.0$ Hz, CH), 7.41-7.50 (6H, m), 7.57-7.62 (2H, m), 7.93-7.97 (2H, m), 7.99-8.02 (4H, m); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100.54 MHz) δ 38.0, 51.3, 128.3, 128.66, 128.69, 129.0, 129.2, 130.0, 133.6, 133.9, 134.0, 135.3, 135.9, 140.1, 194.4, 195.6, 196.5; MS m/z 360 (37), 358 (91), 139 (57), 105 (100), 77 (60); HRMS m/z ($[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$) calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{17}\text{ClO}_3\text{Na}$, 399.0758, found 399.0767.

2-Benzoyl-1-(4-cyanophenyl)-4-phenylbutane-1,4-dione (3ai).

Isolated in 37% yield as a white solid: mp 144-146 °C; $R_f = 0.25$ (Hexane / EtOAc = 5 / 1); ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 399.82 MHz) δ 3.60 (1H, dd, $J = 18.0, 4.4$ Hz, CHH), 4.01 (1H, dd, $J = 18.2, 7.8$ Hz, CHH), 6.07 (1H, dd, $J = 7.8, 4.4$ Hz, CH), 7.46-7.53 (4H, m), 7.59-7.66 (2H, m), 7.75 (2H, d, $J = 8.8$ Hz), 7.99-8.03 (4H, m), 8.07 (2H, d, $J = 8.4$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100.54 MHz) δ 38.1, 51.7, 116.6, 117.8, 128.3, 128.7, 128.8, 128.9, 129.2, 132.7, 133.8, 134.2, 134.9, 135.7, 139.0, 194.3, 195.7, 196.3; MS m/z 349 (100), 272 (22), 105(25), 77 (26); HRMS m/z ($[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$) calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}_3\text{Na}$, 390.1101, found 390.1107.

2-Benzoyl-1-(1-naphthyl)-4-phenylbutane-1,4-dione (3aj).

Isolated in 67% yield as a yellow solid: mp 44-46 °C; $R_f = 0.39$ (Hexane / EtOAc = 5 / 1); ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 399.82 MHz) δ 3.75 (1H, dd, $J = 18.0, 6.0$ Hz, CHH), 4.00 (1H,

dd, $J = 18.2, 7.2$ Hz, CHH), 6.23 (1H, dd, $J = 7.2, 6.0$ Hz, CH), 7.36 (2H, t, $J = 7.8$ Hz), 7.44-7.52 (5H, m), 7.54-7.59 (2H, m), 7.82 (1H, d, $J = 8.2$ Hz), 7.94-7.97 (3H, m), 8.01-8.04 (2H, m), 8.11 (1H, d, $J = 7.2$ Hz), 8.52 (1H, d, $J = 8.8$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100.54 MHz) δ 38.2, 54.6, 124.3, 125.7, 126.6, 127.6, 128.1, 128.2, 128.3, 128.63, 128.65, 128.8, 130.4, 133.1, 133.6, 133.9, 135.2, 135.7, 136.1, 196.0, 197.0, 198.6 (one carbon was obscured); MS m/z 374 (100), 269 (36), 127 (65), 105 (65), 77 (39); HRMS m/z ($[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$) calcd for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_3\text{Na}$, 415.1305, found 415.1304.

2-Benzoyl-1-(2-naphthyl)-4-phenylbutane-1,4-dione (3ak).

Isolated in 87% yield as a yellow solid: mp 107-109 °C; $R_f = 0.40$ (Hexane / EtOAc = 5 / 1); ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 399.82 MHz) δ 3.79 (1H, dd, $J = 18.0, 6.0$ Hz, CHH), 3.91 (1H, dd, $J = 18.0, 7.2$ Hz, CHH), 6.29 (1H, br t, $J = 6.2$ Hz, CH), 7.44-7.49 (4H, m), 7.55-7.63 (4H, m), 7.86-7.94 (3H, m), 8.05 (5H, t, $J = 8.0$ Hz), 8.56 (1H, s); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100.54 MHz) δ 38.2, 51.5, 124.1, 127.0, 127.8, 128.3, 128.7, 128.90, 128.94, 129.7, 130.6, 132.5, 132.8, 133.6, 133.7, 135.7, 135.8, 136.1, 195.6, 195.8, 196.8 (two carbons were obscured); MS m/z 374 (100), 207 (53), 127 (68), 105 (33), 77 (33); HRMS m/z ($[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$) calcd for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_3\text{Na}$, 415.1305, found 415.1300.

2-Benzoyl-4-phenyl-1-(thiophen-2-yl)butane-1,4-dione (3al).

Isolated in 87% yield as a yellow solid: mp 139-141 °C; $R_f = 0.35$ (Hexane / EtOAc = 5 / 1); ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 399.82 MHz) δ 3.74 (1H, dd, $J = 18.0, 6.0$ Hz, CHH), 3.89 (1H, dd, $J = 18.0, 6.8$ Hz, CHH), 5.95 (1H, br t, $J = 6.4$ Hz, CH), 7.11 (1H, dd, $J = 5.2, 4.0$ Hz), 7.43-7.48 (4H, m), 7.55-7.60 (2H, m), 7.65 (1H, dd, $J = 5.0, 1.2$ Hz), 7.85 (1H, dd, $J = 4.0, 1.2$ Hz), 7.98-8.10 (4H, m); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100.54 MHz) δ 38.3, 52.8, 128.2, 128.4, 128.6, 128.7, 128.9, 133.0, 133.5, 133.7, 135.0, 135.6, 135.9, 142.8, 188.1, 194.9, 196.5; MS m/z 330 (100), 111 (55), 105 (55), 77 (56); HRMS m/z ($[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$) calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_3\text{SNa}$, 371.0712, found 371.0714.

2-Benzoyl-4-phenyl-1-(thiophen-3-yl)butane-1,4-dione (3am).

Isolated in 89% yield as a yellow solid: mp 146-148 °C; $R_f = 0.35$ (Hexane / EtOAc = 5 / 1); ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 399.82 MHz) δ 3.74 (1H, dd, $J = 18.0, 6.4$ Hz, CHH), 3.85 (1H, dd, $J = 18.0, 6.8$ Hz, CHH), 5.92 (1H, br t, $J = 6.4$ Hz, CH), 7.32 (1H, dd, $J = 5.0, 3.0$ Hz), 7.45-7.49 (4H, m), 7.56-7.61 (3H, m), 8.00-8.05 (4H, m), 8.19 (1H, dd, $J = 2.8, 1.2$

Hz); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100.54 MHz) δ 38.1, 53.3, 126.9, 127.3, 128.3, 128.65, 128.69, 128.9, 133.4, 133.6, 133.7, 135.7, 136.0, 140.8, 189.5, 195.4, 196.6; MS m/z 330 (100), 207 (51), 111 (57), 105 (33), 77 (36); HRMS m/z ($[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$) calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_3\text{SNa}$, 371.0712, found 371.0716.

3-Benzoyl-1-phenylpentane-1,4-dione (3an).⁸

Isolated in 68% yield as a yellow solid: mp 83-84 °C; R_f = 0.35 (Hexane / EtOAc = 5 / 1); ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 399.82 MHz) δ 2.25 (3H, s, CH_3), 3.61 (1H, dd, J = 18.4, 6.4 Hz, CHH), 3.80 (1H, dd, J = 18.2, 7.0 Hz, CHH), 5.30 (1H, br t, J = 6.6 Hz, CH), 7.44-7.48 (2H, m), 7.51-7.65 (4H, m), 7.98 (2H, dd, J = 8.4, 1.2 Hz), 8.07-8.09 (2H, m); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100.54 MHz) δ 29.6, 38.0, 56.7, 128.2, 128.6, 128.9, 129.0, 133.5, 133.9, 135.9, 136.0, 196.2, 196.9, 202.3; MS m/z 262 (100), 247 (60), 105 (48), 77 (25); HRMS m/z ($[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$) calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_3\text{Na}$, 303.0992, found 303.0993.

2-Benzoyl-1,4-di-*p*-tolylbutane-1,4-dione (3ba).

Isolated in 48% yield as a yellow oil: R_f = 0.3 (Hexane / EtOAc = 5 / 1); ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 499.82 MHz) δ 2.40 (3H, s, CH_3), 2.41 (3H, s, CH_3), 3.69 (1H, dd, J = 18.0, 6.0 Hz, CHH), 3.81 (1H, dd, J = 18.0, 6.0 Hz, CHH), 6.10 (1H, t, J = 6.0 Hz, CH), 7.25-7.27 (4H, m), 7.45 (2H, t, J = 7.5 Hz), 7.57 (1H, t, J = 7.5 Hz), 7.92 (4H, t, J = 7.5 Hz), 8.01 (2H, d, J = 7.5 Hz); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 125.68 MHz) δ 21.7, 37.9, 51.3, 128.4, 128.6, 128.8, 128.9, 129.3, 129.6, 133.0, 133.5, 133.7, 135.7, 144.4, 144.7, 195.5, 195.8, 196.3; MS m/z 370 (1), 352 (100), 275 (7), 234 (21), 119 (78); HRMS: m/z ($[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$) calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_3\text{Na}$, 393.1461, found 393.1466.

2-Benzoyl-1,4-bis(*p*-anisyl)butane-1,4-dione (3ca).

Isolated in 16% yield as a yellow oil: R_f = 0.09 (Hexane / EtOAc = 5 / 1); ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 399.82 MHz) δ 3.64 (1H, dd, J = 18.0, 6.2 Hz, CHH), 3.80 (1H, dd, J = 18.0, 6.8 Hz, CHH), 3.86 (3H, s, OCH_3), 3.87 (3H, s, OCH_3), 6.07 (1H, br t, J = 6.4 Hz, CH), 6.91-6.96 (4H, m), 7.43-7.47 (2H, m), 7.54-7.59 (1H, m), 7.98-8.04 (6H, m); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 125.68 MHz) δ 37.7, 51.2, 55.47, 55.51, 113.8, 114.1, 128.4, 128.6, 128.8, 129.2, 130.6, 131.1, 133.5, 135.7, 163.8, 163.9, 194.4, 195.2, 195.8; MS m/z 384 (100), 369 (25), 207 (15), 105 (13); HRMS m/z ($[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$) calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_5\text{Na}$, 425.1359, found 425.1364.

2-Benzoyl-1,4-bis(4-chlorophenyl)butane-1,4-dione (3da).

Isolated as a yellow solid in 70% yield: mp 151-153°C; R_f = 0.25 (Hexane / AcOEt = 10 / 1); ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 399.82 MHz) δ 3.66 (1H, dd, J = 18.0, 5.6 Hz, CHH), 3.80 (1H, dd, J = 18.0, 6.8 Hz, CHH), 6.04 (1H, br t, J = 6.4 Hz, CH), 7.42 (2H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.44, (2H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.45 (2H, t, J = 7.2 Hz), 7.60 (1H, t, J = 7.2 Hz), 7.93-7.95 (4H, m), 8.00 (2H, d, J = 7.2 Hz); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100.53 MHz) δ 37.9, 51.4, 128.6, 129.01, 129.04, 129.2, 129.7, 130.0, 133.9, 134.0, 134.3, 135.2, 140.1, 140.2, 194.3, 195.4, 195.5; MS m/z 392 (100), 207 (43), 179 (25), 139 (38), 105 (93); HRMS m/z ($[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$) calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{16}\text{Cl}_2\text{O}_3\text{Na}$ 433.0369, found 433.0370.

2-Benzoyl-1,4-bis(4-bromophenyl)butane-1,4-dione (3ea).

Isolated in 73% yield as a yellow solid: mp 158-159°C; R_f = 0.25 (Hexane / AcOEt = 10 / 1); ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 499.82 MHz) δ 3.65 (1H, dd, J = 18.0, 6.0 Hz, CHH), 3.79 (1H, dd, J = 18.0, 7.0 Hz, CHH), 6.03 (1H, br t, J = 6.5 Hz, CH), 7.48 (2H, t, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.58-7.62 (5H, m), 7.856 (2H, d, J = 9.0 Hz), 7.861 (2H, d, J = 8.5 Hz), 8.00 (2H, d, J = 8.5 Hz); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 125.68 MHz) δ 37.9, 51.3, 128.7, 128.9, 129.0, 129.1, 129.8, 130.1, 132.0, 132.2, 134.0, 134.3, 134.6, 135.1, 194.5, 195.5, 195.6; MS m/z 482 (100), 207 (29), 202 (13), 183 (23), 155 (12); HRMS m/z ($[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$) calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{16}\text{Br}_2\text{O}_3\text{Na}$ 520.9358, found 520.9366.

2-benzoyl-1-phenyl-4-(p-tolyl)butane-1,4-dione (3fa).⁶

This product was obtained as a mixture of **3fa** and **3ad** in 80% yield in a ratio of 40 / 60, because they could not be separated by column chromatography. Assignment of the spectra to **3fa** was done by omitting the signals of **3ad** from those of the mixture. **3fa**: yellow oil; R_f = 0.42 (Hexane / EtOAc = 5 / 1); ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 399.82 MHz) δ 2.40 (3H, s, CH_3), 3.76 (2H, d, J = 6.4 Hz, CH_2), 6.13 (1H, t, J = 6.4 Hz, CH), 7.25-7.28 (2H, m), 7.44-7.48 (4H, m), 7.55-7.60 (2H, m), 7.92 (2H, t, J = 8.8 Hz), 8.00-8.03 (4H, m); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100.54 MHz) δ 21.7, 37.9, 51.3, 128.4, 128.82, 128.88, 128.91, 129.3, 133.6, 135.5, 144.5, 195.8, 196.2; MS m/z 338 (100), 119 (75), 105 (71), 91 (33), 77 (46); HRMS m/z ($[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$) calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_3\text{Na}$, 379.1305; found 379.1310.

2-Benzoyl-4-(4-chlorophenyl)-1-phenylbutane-1,4-dione (3ga).⁹

Isolated in 85 % yield as a mixture of **3ga** and **3ah** in a ratio of 55 / 45. Assignment of the spectra to **3ga** was done as described above. **3ga**: yellow oil; R_f = 0.40 (Hexane / EtOAc = 5 / 1); ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 399.82 MHz) δ 3.73 (2H, d, J = 6.4 Hz, CH_2), 6.12 (1H, t, J = 6.4 Hz, CH), 7.36-7.45 (6H, m), 7.52-7.55 (2H, m), 7.89-8.02 (6H, m); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100.54 MHz) δ 37.8, 51.2, 128.5, 128.8, 129.5, 133.6, 134.2, 135.3, 139.7, 195.4, 195.5 (one carbon was obscured); MS m/z 254 (31), 220 (25), 139 (36), 105 (100), 77 (47); HRMS m/z ($[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$) calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{17}\text{ClO}_3\text{Na}$, 399.0758, found 399.0766.

2-Benzoyl-1-phenylpentane-1,4-dione (**3ha**).⁸

The reaction of **1h** with **2a** gave a mixture of **3ha** and **3an** in a ratio of 83 / 17, which could be separated by column chromatography to provide the two products in 35% and 7% yields, respectively. **3ha**: yellow oil; R_f = 0.20 (Hexane / EtOAc = 5 / 1); ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 399.82 MHz) δ 2.28 (3H, s, CH_3), 3.20 (2H, d, J = 6.4 Hz, CH_2), 5.88 (1H, t, J = 6.4 Hz, CH), 7.46 (4H, t, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.56-7.60 (2H, m), 7.95-7.97 (4H, m); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100.54 MHz) δ 30.0, 42.0, 51.5, 128.6, 128.9, 133.7, 135.4, 195.7, 205.2; MS m/z 262 (27), 158 (31), 158 (23), 105 (100), 77 (53); HRMS m/z ($[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$) calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_3\text{Na}$, 303.0992; found 303.0991.

3-Benzoylhexane-2,5-dione (**3ia**).¹⁰

Isolated in 16% yield as a yellow oil: R_f = 0.13 (Hexane : AcOEt = 5 / 1); ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 399.82 MHz) δ 2.18 (3H, s, CH_3), 2.23 (3H, s, CH_3), 3.02 (1H, dd, J = 18.0, 6.5 Hz, CHH), 3.20 (1H, dd, J = 18.0, 6.5 Hz, CHH), 5.08 (1H, t, J = 6.5 Hz, CH), 7.51 (2H, t, J = 7.5 Hz), 7.63 (1H, t, J = 7.5 Hz), 8.00 (2H, d, J = 7.5 Hz); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100.53 MHz) δ 29.4, 29.8, 42.0, 56.7, 128.8, 129.0, 133.9, 135.8, 196.1, 202.4, 205.4 ; MS m/z 218 (M^+ , 1), 133 (64), 105 (100), 96 (52), 77 (80); HRMS m/z ($[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$) calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{14}\text{O}_3\text{Na}$ 241.0835, found 241.0836.

2-Benzoylcyclooctane-1,4-dione (**3ja**).

Isolated in 27% yield as a yellow oil: R_f = 0.38 (Hexane : AcOEt = 3 : 1) ; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 499.82 MHz) δ 1.80-1.87 (2H, m), 1.98-2.06 (2H, m), 2.37-2.41 (1H, m), 2.56-2.65 (3H, m), 2.68 (1H, dd, J = 12.0, 4.5 Hz, CHCHH), 3.45 (1H, t, J = 12.0, CHCHH), 4.86 (1H, dd, J = 12.0, 4.5 Hz, CHCH_2), 7.46 (2H, t, J = 7.5 Hz), 7.56 (1H, t, J = 7.5 Hz),

7.85 (2H, d, $J = 7.5$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100.53 MHz) δ 24.5, 25.4, 40.9, 42.3, 42.5, 59.9, 128.3, 128.9, 133.7, 135.7, 193.4, 209.4, 213.5; MS m/z 244 (M^+ , 27), 133 (26), 105 (100), 77 (72); HRMS m/z ($[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$) calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_3\text{Na}$ 267.0992, found 267.0994.

1,4-Diphenylbutane-1,4-dione (4).⁵

Isolated as a white solid: mp 147-149 °C; $R_f = 0.45$ (Hexane / EtOAc = 5 / 1); ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 499.82 MHz) δ 3.47 (4H, s, CH_2), 7.48 (4H, t, $J = 7.5$ Hz), 7.58 (2H, t, $J = 7.5$ Hz), 8.04 (4H, d, $J = 7.5$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 125.68 MHz) δ 32.5, 128.1, 128.6, 133.1, 136.7, 198.7; MS m/z 238 (M^+ , 12), 133 (15), 105 (100), 77 (82); HRMS m/z ($[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$) calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{14}\text{O}_2\text{Na}$, 261.0886; found 261.0889.

Attempt to improve the product yields of 3 by use of Lewis acid co-catalysts.

The reaction of **1b** with **2a** gave **3ba** in 55% yield under the standard conditions as described in the text. In order to improve the yield, effect of Lewis acid co-catalysts was investigated (Table S1). Consequently, 20 mol% of anhydrous LiCl and MgCl_2 gave **3ba** in 88% and 90% yields, respectively.

Table S1 Effect of Lewis acids

$\mathbf{1b} + \mathbf{2a} \xrightarrow[\text{DMF (0.5 M), 50 } ^\circ\text{C, 12 h}]{\text{A (20 mol\%), DIPEA (20 mol\%)
Lewis acid}}$

3ba

Entry	Lewis Acid	Mol %	Yield (%) ^a
1	none	—	55
2	LiCl	20	88
3	LiCl	40	74
5	MgCl ₂	20	90
6	MgCl ₂	40	79
7	Mg(<i>Or</i> Bu) ₂	20	73
8	Sc(OTf) ₃	20	0
9	Ti(<i>Oi</i> Pr) ₄	20	46

^a NMR yield.

Representative results using MgCl_2 in other reactions are summarized in Table S2.

The product yields of **3** were improved in most of the reaction tested. However, the effect was not always positive, for example, yields of **3ag** and **3ea** were nearly unchanged.

Table S2 Improvement of the product yields

Entry	Product	Yield (%) ^a	Yield (%) ^a
		without MgCl ₂	with MgCl ₂ ^b
1	3ab	70	83
2	3ae	14	23
3	3ag	53	58
4	3an	72	79
5	3ca	20	49
6	3ea	76	81
7	3ha+3an	40 + 8	39 + 23

^a NMR yield. ^b MgCl₂ (20 mol%).

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