# Isoxazole to Oxazole: a Mild and Unexpected Transformation

Raymond C F Jones,\*<sup>*a*</sup> Alexander Chatterley,<sup>*a*</sup> Romain Marty,<sup>*a*</sup> W Martin Owton,<sup>*b*</sup> and Mark R J Elsegood<sup>*a*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Chemistry, Loughborough University, Leics. LE11 3TU, UK. Fax: +44 1509 223926; Tel: +44 1509 222557; E-mail: r.c.f.jones@lboro.ac.uk

<sup>b</sup> Lilly UK, Erl Wood Manor, Windlesham, Surrey, GU20 6PH, UK

# Supporting Information

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#### **General directions**

Commercially available reagents and solvents were used throughout without further purification, except tetrahydrofuran (THF) (distilled from benzophenone/Na). Light petroleum refers to the fraction with b.p 40-60 °C. Thin layer chromatography was carried out on Merck Kieselgel 60 GF254 coated onto aluminium foil-backed plates. The plates were visualized under UV light. Flash column chromatography was carried out using Merck Kieselgel 60 H silica or Matrix silica 60, with eluent as specified. IR spectra were recorded using a Perkin Elmer FTIR Spectrometer (Paragon 100) either neat, or as solutions using dichloromethane as solvent or using attenuated total reflectance (ATR) for solids. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded using a Bruker 400 MHz NMR spectrometer (frequencies <sup>1</sup>H 400 MHz and <sup>13</sup>C 100 MHz). Chemical shifts  $\delta$  are quoted in ppm and coupling constants J are quoted in Hz; d-chloroform was used as solvent throughout unless otherwise stated. In the <sup>13</sup>C spectra, signals corresponding to C, CH, CH<sub>2</sub> or CH<sub>3</sub> groups are noted, as assigned from either DEPT or HMQC experiments. Quaternary carbons were assigned using a combination of NMR techniques including COSY & HMQC unless otherwise stated. Spectra were calibrated to residual solvent peaks. High resolution mass spectra were recorded on a Thermofisher Exactive (Orbi) high resolution mass spectrometer. Melting points were recorded on a Stuart Scientific apparatus and are uncorrected. Unless otherwise stated all air sensitive reactions were carried out under an atmosphere of nitrogen.

#### **General Procedure for formation of Benzisoxazoles 4**

Sodium isopropoxide (2 mMol) was added to a solution of dione (2 mMol) in isopropanol (10 mL) at room temperature and left to stir for 10 minutes. Afterwards this solution was added very slowly to a solution of benzimidoyl chloride (1mMol) in isopropanol (10 mL) at 0°C and left to stir for 4 hours at room temperature under an atmosphere of nitrogen. Following this, the reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude mixture was then dissolved in either ethyl acetate or dichloromethane (20 mL) and washed with water (2 x 20 mL) and once with saturated sodium chloride solution (20 mL), dried over magnesium sulfate and concentrated under reduced pressure to yield crude benzisoxazole **4**. This was used without purification, recrystallized from a mixture of ethyl acetate and petrol or purified via column chromatography using light petroleum: ethyl acetate (1:1 v/v) as a solvent.

## 3-(2-Hydroxyphenyl)-6,7-dihydrobenzo[d]isoxazol-4(5H)-one 4a



Pale yellow solid (94%), m.p. 108-110 °C; HRMS (EI<sup>+</sup>) [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 252.0623,  $C_{13}H_{11}NO_3$  requires [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 252.0631;  $v_{max}$  (ATR)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 1679 (C=O), 3136 (OH);  $\delta_H$  (400MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 2.28 (2H, dt, J = 6.4, 12.4, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.67 (2H, t, J = 6.4, OCCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.10 (2H, t, J = 12.4, O=CCH<sub>2</sub>), 7.01-7.08 (2H, m, Ar-H), 7.36-7.41 (1H, m, Ar-H), 8.60 (1H, dd, J = 1.60, 8.00, Ar-H), OH not observed;  $\delta_C$  (100MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 21.6, 23.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 39.0 (O=CCH<sub>2</sub>), 112.9, 114.8 (C), 117.5, 119.9, 131.9, 132.5 (Ar-CH), 156.6, 159.5, 181.6 (C), 192.2 (CO).

# 3-(2-Hydroxyphenyl)-6-methyl-6,7-dihydrobenzo[d]isoxazol-4(5H)-one 4b



Pale yellow solid (83%), m.p. 121-122 °C; HRMS (EI<sup>+</sup>) [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 266.0782, C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>13</sub>NO<sub>3</sub> requires [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 266.0788;  $v_{max}$  (ATR)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 1689 (C=O), 3078 (OH);  $\delta_{H}$  (400MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 1.24-1.26 (3H, d, *J* = 6.8, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.38-2.42 (1H, m, CHH), 2.45-2.59 (1H, m, CH), 2.70-2.76 (2H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.20-3.26 (1H, dd, *J* = 5.2, 17.2, CHH), 6.99-7.08 (2H, m, Ar-H), 7.35-7.41 (1H, m, Ar-H), 8.62-8.65 (1H, dd, *J* = 2.0, 8.0, Ar-H), 9.49 (1H, s, Ar-OH);  $\delta_{C}$  (100MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 20.7 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 29.9 (CH), 31.1, 47.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 112.8, 114.6 (C), 117.5, 119.8, 131.9, 132.5 (Ar-CH), 156.6, 159.5, 181.5 (C), 191.7 (CO).

## 3-(2-Hydroxyphenyl)-6,6-dimethyl-6,7-dihydrobenzo[d]isoxazol-4(5H)-one 4c



Clear crystals (78%), m.p. 111-113 °C; HRMS (EI<sup>+</sup>) [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 280.0946,  $C_{15}H_{15}NO_3$  requires [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 280.0944;  $v_{max}$  (ATR)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 1685 (C=O), 3103 (OH);  $\delta_{H}$  (400MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 1.25 (6H, s, 2 x CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.58 (2H, s, OCCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.98 (2H, s, O=CCH<sub>2</sub>), 7.04-7.12 (2H, m, Ar-H), 7.39-7.43 (1H, m, Ar-H,) 8.67-8.69 (1H, dd, *J* = 1.6, 8.0, Ar-H), OH not observed;  $\delta_{C}$  (100MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 28.1 (2 x CH<sub>3</sub>), 34.8 (*C*CH<sub>3</sub>), 36.9, 53.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 112.8, 113.8 (C), 117.5, 119.8, 131.9, 132.5 (Ar-CH), 156.7, 159.5, 181.1 (C), 191.5 (CO).

#### 3-(2-Hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)-6,7-dihydrobenzo[d]isoxazol-4(5H)-one 4d



Beige solid (50%), m.p. 112-114 °C; HRMS (EI<sup>+</sup>)  $[M+Na]^+$  282.0732,  $C_{14}H_{13}NO_4$  requires  $[M+Na]^+$  282.0737;  $v_{max}$  (DCM)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 1692 (C=O), 3521 (OH);  $\delta_H$  (400MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 2.29-2.32 (2H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.66 (2H, t, J = 6.0, OCCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.13 (2H, t, J = 6.4, O=CCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.95 (3H, s, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 6.99-7.03 (2H, m, Ar-H), 7.88 (1H, d, J = 6.0, Ar-H), 8.55 (1H, br s, Ar-OH);  $\delta_C$  (100MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 21.7, 23.3, 38.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 56.1 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 113.6 (C), 113.8, 119.6, 123.2 (Ar-CH), 145.9, 148.2, 158.6, 181.6 (C), 192.2 (CO).

## 3-(3,5-dichloro-2-hydroxyphenyl)-6,7-dihydrobenzo[d]isoxazol-4(5H)-one 4g



Brown solid (19%), decomp. 133-135 °C;  $v_{max}$  (DCM)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 1692 (C=O), 3690 (OH);  $\delta_{H}$  (400MHz; d<sub>6</sub>-DMSO) 2.16-2.19 (2H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.47-2.52 (2H, m, OCCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.14 (2H, t, *J* = 6.0, O=CCH<sub>2</sub>), 7.41, 7.71 (each 1H, d, *J* = 2.4, Ar-H,) 10.08 (1H, br s, Ar-OH);  $\delta_{C}$  (100MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 21.6, 23.4, 38.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 114.7, 115.8, 123.1, 124.6 (C), 130.0 (Ar-CH), 132.4 (Ar-CH), 151.4, 158.3, 182.1 (C), 192.4 (CO).

#### 3-(2-Fluoro-6-hydroxyphenyl)-6,7-dihydrobenzo[d]isoxazol-4(5H)-one 4h



White crystals (47%), m.p. 133-135 °C; HRMS (EI<sup>+</sup>) MH<sup>+</sup> 248.0716,  $C_{13}H_{10}NO_3F$  requires MH<sup>+</sup> 248.0717;  $v_{max}$  (DCM)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 1692 (C=O), 3690 (OH);  $\delta_H$  (400MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 2.32 (2H, quin, J = 6.4, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.70 (2H, t, J = 6.4, OCCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.15 (2H, t, J = 6.4, O=CCH<sub>2</sub>), 6.85 (1H, td, J = 8.4, 5.2, Ar-H), 7.21-7.26 (1H, m, Ar-H), 8.39 (1H, dt, J = 8.0, 1.6, Ar-H), 9.49 (1H, br s, Ar-OH);  $\delta_C$  (100MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 21.6, 23.3, 38.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 114.9 (C), 115.3 (d,  ${}^4J_{CF} = 3$ , C), 118.7 (d,  ${}^2J_{CF} = 18$ , Ar-CH), 119.6 (d,  ${}^3J_{CF} = 7$ , Ar-CH), 126.9 (d,  ${}^4J_{CF} = 4$ , Ar-CH), 145.2 (d,  ${}^2J_{CF} = 13$ , Ar-C), 152.1 (d,  ${}^1J_{CF} = 240$ , Ar-CF), 158.1 (d,  ${}^3J_{CF} = 3$ , C), 181.9 (C), 192.4 (CO).

#### 3-(2-Hydroxy-4-nitrophenyl)-6,7-dihydrobenzo[d]isoxazol-4(5H)-one 4i



Pale yellow solid (23%), m.p. 159-161 °C; HRMS (EI<sup>+</sup>) MH<sup>+</sup> 275.0659,  $C_{13}H_{10}N_2O_5$  requires MH<sup>+</sup> 275.0662;  $v_{max}$  (DCM)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 1342 (NO<sub>2</sub>) 1691 (C=O), 3689 (OH);  $\delta_H$  (400MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 2.33-2.40 (2H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.77 (2H, t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, OCCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.19 (2H, t, *J* = 6.4 O=CCH<sub>2</sub>), 7.17 (1H, d, *J* = 8.8, Ar-H), 8.30 (1H, d, *J* = 2.8, 8.8, Ar-H,) 10.01 (1H, d, *J* = 2.80, Ar-H), 10.50 (1H, br s, Ar-OH);  $\delta_C$  (100MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 21.6, 23.3, 38.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 112.6, 113.5 (C), 118.1, 127.8, 128.9 (Ar-CH), 139.8, 158.7, 162.1, 182.1 (C), 192.8 (CO).

#### General Procedure for rearrangement to Benzoxazoles 6

Benzisoxazole **4** (4.37 mMol) and caesium carbonate (4.37 mMol) in dry THF (30 mL) were heated under reflux for the stated period of time (see Table 2). The reaction mixture was then cooled to room temperature and hydrochloric acid (2M; 10 mL) and dichloromethane (25 mL) or ethyl acetate (25 mL) was added. The mixture was then separated and the organic layer washed with water (25 mL) and saturated sodium chloride solution (25 mL), dried over magnesium sulfate and concentrated under reduced pressure to yield crude benzoxazole **6** which was used without purification, or purified via column chromatography eluting with light petroleum:ethyl acetate (1:1 v/v).

## 2-(2-Hydroxyphenyl)-6,7-dihydrobenzo[d]oxazol-4(5H)-one 6a



Beige solid (87%), decomp. 202-204 °C; HRMS (EI<sup>+</sup>) MH<sup>+</sup> 230.0809, C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>11</sub>O<sub>3</sub>N requires MH<sup>+</sup> 230.0812;  $v_{max}$  (DCM)/cm<sup>-1</sup>) 1694 (C=O), 3408 (OH);  $\delta_{H}$  (400MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 2.20-2.27 (2H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.57 (2H, t, J = 5.6, OCCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.00 (2H, t, J = 6.0, O=CCH<sub>2</sub>), 6.86-6.90 (1H, m, Ar-H), 7.10 (1H, dd, J = 0.8, 8.4, Ar-H), 7.30-7.34 (1H, m, Ar-H), 7.74 (1H, dd, J = 1.6, 8.0, Ar-H), 10.58 (1H, br s, OH);  $\delta_{C}$  (100MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 22.2 (2 x CH<sub>2</sub>), 37.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 110 (C), 117.6, 119.5, 126.3, 133.2 (Ar-CH), 133.7, 157.7, 161.2, 163.0 (C), 190.7 (CO).

## 2-(2-Hydroxyphenyl)-6-methyl-6,7-dihydrobenzo[d]oxazol-4(5H)-one 6b



Beige solid (88%), m.p. 154-156 °C; HRMS (EI<sup>+</sup>) MH<sup>+</sup> 244.0968, C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>13</sub>O<sub>3</sub>N requires MH<sup>+</sup> 244.09737;  $v_{max}$  (ATR)/cm<sup>-1</sup>) 1680 (C=O), 3187 (OH);  $\delta_{H}$  (400MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 1.20 (3H, d, *J* = 6.4, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.32 (1H, dd, *J* = 16.0, 11.2, CH), 2.49-2.70 (3H, m, 3 x CH), 3.07 (1H, dd, *J* = 4.8, 17.2, CH), 6.87 (1H, dd, *J* = 8.0, Ar-H), 7.00 (1H, d, 8.4, Ar-H), 7.30-7.34 (1H, m, Ar-H), 7.69 (1H, dd, *J* = 1.6, 8.0, Ar-H), 10.59 (1H, br s, OH);  $\delta_{C}$  (100MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 21.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 29.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 30.6 (CH), 46.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>) 109.9 (C), 117.3, 119.5, 126.3, 133.1 (Ar-CH), 133.2, 157.4, 161.2, 162.8 (C), 190.3 (CO).

# 2-(2-Hydroxyphenyl)-6,6-dimethyl-6,7-dihydrobenzo[d]oxazol-4(5H)-one 6c



Beige solid (82%), m.p. 125-127 °C; HRMS (EI<sup>+</sup>) MH<sup>+</sup> 258.1125,  $C_{15}H_{15}O_3N$  requires MH<sup>+</sup> 258.1125;  $v_{max}$  (DCM)/cm<sup>-1</sup>) 1694 (C=O), 3410 (OH);  $\delta_H$  (400MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 1.08 (6H, s, 2 x CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.41 (2H, s, OCCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.83 (2H, s, O=CCH<sub>2</sub>) 6.85 (1H, t, *J* = 8.0, Ar-H), 6.97 (1H, t, *J* = 8.0, Ar-H), 7.29 (1H, t, *J* = 8.0, Ar-H), 7.69 (1H, d, *J* = 8.0, Ar-H), 10.54 (1H, br s, OH);  $\delta_C$  (100MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 27.6 (2 x CH<sub>3</sub>), 34.5 (C) 34.9, 51.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>) 109 (C), 116.4, 118.5, 125.3 (Ar-CH), 131.9 (C), 132.1 (Ar-CH), 156.5, 160.6, 161.2 (C), 189.2 (CO).

2-(2-Hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)-6,7-dihydrobenzo[d]oxazol-4(5H)-one 6d



White solid (70%), m.p. 114-115 °C; HRMS (EI<sup>+</sup>) [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 282.0731,  $C_{14}H_{13}NO_4$  requires [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 282.0737;  $v_{max}$  (DCM)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 1693 (C=O), 3580 (OH);  $\delta_H$  (400MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 2.30 (2H, quin, J = 6.4. CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.63 (2H, t, J = 6.4, OCCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.06 (2H, t, J = 6.4, O=CCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.92 (3H, s, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 6.89 (1H, t, J = 8.0, Ar-H), 6.98 (1H, d, J = 8.0, Ar-H), 7.41 (1H, d, J = 8.0, Ar-H), 10.79 (1H, br s, OH);  $\delta_C$  (100MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 21.1,

21.2, 36.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 55.4 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 109.2 (C), 113.7, 116.8, 118.3 (Ar-CH), 132.6, 146.8, 147.6, 160.2, 161.9 (C), 189.6 (CO).

# 2-(3,5-Dichloro-2-hydroxyphenyl)-6,7-dihydrobenzo[d]oxazol-4(5H)-one 6g



Brown solid (58%), decomp. 165-167 °C; HRMS (EI<sup>+</sup>) MH<sup>+</sup> 298.0027,  $C_{13}H_9NO_3Cl_2$  requires MH<sup>+</sup> 298.0032;  $v_{max}$  (DCM)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 1698 (C=O), 3691 (OH);  $\delta_H$  (400MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 2.32-.235 (2H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.66 (2H, t, J = 6.4, OCCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.11 (2H, t, J = 6.0, O=CCH<sub>2</sub>), 7.46 (1H, d, J = 2.4, Ar-H), 7.70 (1H, d, J = 2.4, Ar-H), 11.20 (1H, br s, OH);  $\delta_C$  (100MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 22.1, 22.2, 37.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 111.7, 123.4 (C), 124.2 (Ar-CH), 124.3 (C), 132.9 (Ar-CH), 133.7, 152.2, 159.5, 163.6 (C), 190.4 (CO).

#### 2-(2-Fluoro-6-hydroxyphenyl)-6,7-dihydrobenzo[d]oxazol-4(5H)-one 6h



White solid (75%), m.p. 200-202 °C; HRMS (EI<sup>+</sup>) MH<sup>+</sup> 248.0714,  $C_{13}H_{10}O_3NF$  requires MH<sup>+</sup> 248.0717;  $v_{max}$  (DCM)/cm<sup>-1</sup>) 1684 (C=O), 3396 (OH);  $\delta_H$  (400MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 2.23-.236 (2H, m. CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.67 (2H, t, J = 7.2, OCCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.11 (2H, t, J = 6.4, O=CCH<sub>2</sub>), 6.90 (1H, td, J = 8.0, 4.8 Hz, Ar-H), 7.18-7.23 (1H, m, Ar-H), 7.29 (1H, dt, J = 8.0, 1.20, Ar-H), 10.54 (1H, br s, OH);  $\delta_C$  (100MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 21.1, 21.2, 36.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 111.3 (d, J = 4, C), 118.1 (d, J = 2, Ar-CH) 118.3 (d, J = 13, Ar-CH), 120.3 (d, J = 3, Ar-CH), 145.2 (d, J = 13, C), 150.6 (d, J = 244, Ar-CF), 159.4 (d, J = 4, C), 162.1 (C), 189.5 (CO).

#### 2-(2-Hydroxy-4-nitrophenyl)-6,7-dihydrobenzo[d]oxazol-4(5H)-one 6i



Yellow solid (77%), m.p. 184-186 °C; HRMS (EI<sup>+</sup>) [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 275.0659,  $C_{13}H_{10}N_2O_5$  requires [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 275.0662;  $v_{max}$  (DCM)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 1344 (NO<sub>2</sub>) 1698 (C=O), 3584 (OH);  $\delta_H$  (400MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 2.35 (2H, quin, J = 6.4, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.69 (2H, t, J = 6.4, OCCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.14 (2H, t, J = 6.4, O=CCH<sub>2</sub>), 7.19 (1H, d, J = 9.2, Ar-H), 8.28 (1H, dd, J = 9.2, 2.8, Ar-H), 8.78 (1H, d, J = 2.8, Ar-H), 11.50 (1H, br s, OH);  $\delta_C$  (100MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 21.1, 21.2, 36.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 109.2 (C), 117.4, 121.8, 127.3 (Ar-CH), 132.7, 139.4, 158.4, 161.3, 162.6 (C), 189.3 (CO).

2-Hydroxy-N-(2-hydroxy-6-oxocyclohex-1-en-1-yl)benzamide 7a



3-(2-Hydroxyphenyl)-6,7-dihydrobenzo[*d*]isoxazol-4(5*H*)-one **4a** (2.18 mMol, 0.50 g) and caesium carbonate (4.36 mMol, 1.42 g) in ethanol (30 mL) was heated under reflux for 4 h. Hydrochloric acid (1M; 20 mL) and dichloromethane (50 mL) were added to the reaction mixture after it had cooled to 20 °C. The mixture was separated and the organic layer washed with water (50 mL) and saturated sodium chloride solution (50 mL), dried over magnesium sulfate and concentrated under reduced pressure to yield 2-hydroxy-N-(2-hydroxy-6-oxocyclohex-1-en-1-yl)benzamide **7a** as a beige solid (0.49 g, 91%), m.p. 172-174 °C; HRMS (EI<sup>+</sup>) [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 270.0729, C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>13</sub>NO<sub>4</sub> requires [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 270.0737;  $v_{max}$  (ATR)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 1587 (CONH), 3177 (OH);  $\delta_{H}$  (400MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 2.06 (2H, quin, *J* = 6.4, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.56 (2H, t, *J* = 6.4, OCCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.68 (2H, t, *J* = 6.4, O=CCH<sub>2</sub>), 6.98 (1H, t, *J* = 7.6, Ar-H), 7.05 (1H, d, *J* = 8.4, Ar-H), 7.46-7.50 (1H, m, Ar-H), 7.67 (1H, d, *J* = 8.4, Ar-H), 9.48, 10.93 (each 1H, br s, OH), 12.88 (1H, br s, NH);  $\delta_{C}$  (100MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 20.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 30.2(CH), 35.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 113.4, 113.7 (C), 118.9, 119.8, 127.1, 135.2 (Ar-CH), 160.8, 165.9, 167.4 (C), 192.9 (CO). A sample was submitted for X-ray crystal structure determination, see Fig. 3 page 9.

*Crystal data for* **7a**:  $C_{13}H_{13}NO_4$ , M = 247.24, monoclinic,  $P2_1/n$ , a = 5.5001(6), b = 15.2463(18), c = 13.6680 (16) Å,  $\beta = 97.7388(18)^\circ$ , V = 1135.7(2) Å<sup>3</sup>, Z = 4,  $\mu$ (Mo-K $\alpha$ ) = 0.11 mm<sup>-1</sup>, 12997 reflections measured, 3446 unique,  $R_{int} = 0.026$ ,  $R_1$ [for 2970 data with  $F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)$ ] = 0.045, wR2 (all data) = 0.131. Two-fold disorder at atom C(4); major component 85.5(4)%. CCDC 962974.

#### N-(2-(Ethylthio)-6-oxocyclohex-1-en-1-yl)-2-hydroxybenzamide 7b



3-(2-Hydroxyphenyl)-6,7-dihydrobenzo[d]isoxazol-4(5H)-one **4a** (2.18 mMol, 0.50 g), ethanethiol (2.18 mMol, 0.135 g) and caesium carbonate (2.18 mMol, 0.72 g) in dry THF (10 mL) was heated under reflux for 4 h. Hydrochloric acid (2M; 10 mL) and dichloromethane (10 mL) were added to the reaction mixture after it had cooled to 20 °C. The mixture was separated and the organic layer washed with water (10 mL) and saturated sodium chloride solution (10 mL), dried over magnesium sulfate and concentrated under reduced pressure to yield N-(2-(ethylthio)-6-oxocyclohex-1-en-1-yl)-2-hydroxybenzamide **7b** as colourless crystals (38.1 mg, 6%), decomp. 159-161 °C; HRMS (EI<sup>+</sup>) [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 314.0819, C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>17</sub>O<sub>3</sub>NS requires [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 314.0821;  $v_{max}$  (ATR)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 1564 (CONH) 1628 (C=O), 3327 (OH);  $\delta_{H}$  (400MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 1.31 (3H, t, *J* = 7.2, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.14 (2H, quin, *J* = 6.4, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.55 (2H, t, *J* = 6.4, O=CCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.82 (2H, t, *J* = 6.4, O=CCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.90 (2H, q, *J* = 7.2, SCH<sub>2</sub>), 6.84-6.89 (1H, m, Ar-H), 6.95 (1H, dd, *J* = 8.4, 1.2, Ar-H), 7.38-7.40 (1H, m, Ar-H), 7.59 (1H, dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.6, Ar-H), 8.06 (1H, br s, NH), 11.85 (1H, br s, OH);  $\delta_{C}$  (100MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 14.3 (Ar-CH), 159.0, 161.7, 168.0 (C), 191.2 (CO). A sample was submitted for X-ray crystal structure determination, see Fig. 4 below.

*Crystal data for* **7b**: C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>S, *M* = 291.35, monoclinic, *P*2<sub>1</sub>/*c*, *a* = 9.7309(7), *b* = 7.3003(5), *c* = 20.4979(14) Å,  $\beta$  = 91.2676(10)°, *V* = 1455.78(18) Å<sup>3</sup>, *Z* = 4,  $\mu$ (Mo-K $\alpha$ ) = 0.23 mm<sup>-1</sup>, 16546 reflections measured, 4425 unique, *R*<sub>int</sub> = 0.024, *R*<sub>1</sub>[for 3740 data with *F*<sup>2</sup> > 2 $\sigma$ (*F*<sup>2</sup>)] = 0.042, *wR*<sub>2</sub> (all data) = 0.121. CCDC 962975.



Figure 3: X-ray crystal structure of amide **7a** 

Figure 4: X-ray crystal structure of amide 7b

#### 2-(2-(Pyrimidin-2-yloxy)phenyl)-6,7-dihydrobenzo[d]oxazol-4(5H)-one 8



2-(2-Hydroxyphenyl)-6,7-dihydrobenzo[d]oxazol-4(5H)-one **6a** (2.18 mMol, 0.50 g), 2chloropyrimidine (6.54 mMol, 0.75 g), copper powder (2.18 mMol, 0.14 g) and caesium carbonate (2.18 mMol, 0.72 g) in dry DMF (25 mL) was heated under reflux for 18 h. Dichloromethane (50 mL) was added to the reaction mixture after it had cooled to 20 °C. The mixture was separated and the organic layer washed with water (2 x 25mL) and saturated sodium chloride solution (25 mL), dried over magnesium sulfate and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified via flash column chromatography (eluent light petroleum:ethyl acetate, 1:1 v/v) to yield 2-(2-(pyrimidin-2-yloxy)phenyl)-6,7-dihydrobenzo[d]oxazol-4(5H)-one as intense yellow solid (0.315 g, 47%), m.p. 178-180 °C; HRMS (EI<sup>+</sup>) [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 330.0846, C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>13</sub>O<sub>3</sub>N<sub>3</sub> requires [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 330.0849; v<sub>max</sub> (DCM)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 1692 (C=O); δ<sub>H</sub> (400MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 2.17 (2H, quin, J = 6.4, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.55 (2H, t, J = 6.4, O=CCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.80 (2H, t, J = 6.4, O=CCH<sub>2</sub>), 7.04 (1H, t, J = 4.8, Ar-H), 7.31 (1H, dd, J = 8.4, 1.2, Ar-H), 7.38-7.42 (1H, m, Ar-H), 7.56-7.60 (1H, m, Ar-H), 8.30 (1H, dd, J = 8.0, 1.6, Ar-H), 8.55 (1H, d, J = 4.8 Ar-H), 11.85 (1H, br s, OH); δ<sub>C</sub> (100MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 22.1, 22.2, 37.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 116.1 (Ar-CH), 120.0 (C), 124.0, 126.2, 130.5, 132.5 (Ar-CH, C), 134.8, 159.3, 159.7 (C), 164.0 (Ar-CH), 165.6 (C), 191.4 (CO).











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