From α-Keto Acids to Nitrile Oxides Enabled by

Copper Nitrate: A Facile Access to Fused Isoxazolines

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1. General Information

All reagents were obtained from commercial sources without further purification, and commercially available solvents were purified before use. All new compounds were fully characterized. All melting points were taken on a SGWX-4A Digital Melting Point Apparatus without correction. Infrared spectra were obtained using an AVATAR 370 FT-IR spectrometer. ¹H and ¹³C spectra were recorded with a Bruker AV-500 spectrometer operating at 500 MHz and 125 MHz, respectively, with chemical shift values being reported in ppm relative to chloroform ($\delta = 7.26$ ppm), dimethyl sulfoxide ($\delta = 2.50$ ppm), acetone ($\delta = 2.05$ ppm) or TMS ($\delta = 0.00$ ppm) for ¹H NMR; chloroform (δ = 77.16 ppm), acetone (δ = 206.68, 29.92 ppm) or dimethyl sulfoxide (δ = 39.52 ppm) for 13 C NMR; Mass spectra (MS) and high resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were recorded with an Agilent 5975N or Thermo Fisher Scientific LTQ FTICR-MS using an Electron impact (EI) or Electrospray ionization (ESI) techniques. The crystal structure was recorded on SMART APEXII X-ray diffraction spectrometer. Silica gel plate GF254 was used for thin layer chromatography (TLC) and silica gel 300-400 mesh was used for flash column chromatography. Yields refer to chromatographically and spectroscopically pure compounds, unless otherwise indicated. α-Keto acids including 2-oxobutanoic acid (1a), 4-methyl-2-oxopentanoic acid (1e), 2-oxo-4-phenylbutanoic acid (1i), 2-oxo-3-phenylpropanoic acid (1m) were purchased commercially. Ethyl 2-oxo-4-phenylbutanoate 5 is also commercially available. α-Keto acids including 2-oxohexanoic acid (1b), 2-oxononanoic acid (1c), 5-methyl-2-oxohexanoic acid (1d), 3-cyclopentyl-2-oxopropanoic acid (1f),3-cyclohexyl-2-oxopropanoic acid (1g), 4,4-dimethyl-2-oxopentanoic acid (1h), 2-oxo-3-(*p*-tolyl)propanoic acid (1n) and 3-(4-bromophenyl)-2-oxopropanoic acid (1o) were prepared from 1,4-diacetylpiperazine-2,5-dione and aldehyde following literature procedure.¹ 2-Oxo-5-phenylpentanoic acid (1j), 4-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-oxobutanoic acid (1k) and 5-(benzyloxy)-2-oxopentanoic acid (1l) were prepared by addition of appropriate Grignard reagents to tert-butyl 2-(methoxy(methyl)amino)-2-oxoacetate followed by hydrolysis with trifluoroacetic acid.^{2,3}

2. Synthesis and Characterization of a-Keto Acids

General Procedure A¹

 \sim

AcN + R¹CHO
$$\frac{1) tBuOK, tBuOH, THF or DCM, rt}{2) 6 M HCI, 100 °C}$$
 R¹ COOH

1,4-Diacetyl-piperazine-2,5-dione (5 mmol) was dissolved in dry THF (or DCM) (5 mL) under N₂ atmosphere. aldehyde (5 mmol) were added to this solution. potassium *tert*-butoxide (5 mmol) in a *tert*-butanol (5-10 mL) was added dropwise to this solution over 15 min at room temperature. The reaction mixture was stirred for 3 h, then a saturated aqueous solution of NH₄Cl (10 mL) was added to quench the reaction. The aqueous layer was extracted with DCM (3×10 mL) and the combined organic extracts were washed with water and brine (10 mL), dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered and dried in vacuum. The residue was recrystallized from hot DCM/ Hexane to solid. The solid (1.0 mmol) was dissolved in 6 M aqueous HCl (5 mL) and heated to 100 °C for 8 h. The reaction was then cooled to room temperature and extracted with ethyl acetate (3×5 mL). The combined organic phase was washed with water and brine (5 mL). The organic phase was dried over anhydrous solium sulfate, and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was recrystallized from hot Hexane or purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel to α-keto acids.

General Procedure B^{2,3}



Step 1: A 3-neck round-bottomed flask affixed with a reflux condenser and constant pressure separation funnel was charged with magnesium turnings (14 mmol, 1.4 equiv). The apparatus was flame-dried under high vacuum. Upon cooling to room temperature, the apparatus was placed under an atmosphere of nitrogen, a piece of iodine and diethyl ether (5 mL) was added. A solution of the alkyl bromide (14 mmol, 1.4 equiv) in diethyl ether (15 mL) was added 1/5 from the constant pressure separation funnel. The solution was heated to reflux until the yellow color of iodine had faded out. Following addition, a solution of the alkyl bromide (14 mmol, 1.4 equiv) in diethyl ether (15 mL) was added dropwise from the constant pressure separation funnel over 30 min. The reaction was allowed to age for 1 h at 40 °C following addition. A flame-dried round-bottomed flask with a low temperature thermometer was charged with tert-butyl 2-(methoxy-(methyl)amino)-2-oxoacetate (10 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in methylene chloride (20 mL) under a nitrogen atmosphere. The solution was cooled to -78 °C. The previously prepared Grignard solution (~0.7 M, 1.4 equiv) was added dropwise to the reaction over 30 min. Following addition, the reaction was allowed to stir for 3 h at -78 °C. The reaction was quenched with sat. aq. NH₄Cl (30 mL) and allowed to warm to room temperature.²

Step 2: The α -keto ester (2 mmol) was added to CF₃CO₂H (5 mL) and stirred in an ice bath. After approximately 3 h, TLC monitoring showed the reaction to be complete and the CF₃CO₂H was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was recrystallized from hot ethyl acetate/hexane or purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel to a-keto acids.³



2-Oxohexanoic acid (1b):⁴ This compound was prepared according to the General Procedure A using butyraldehyde as the aldehyde and purified by column chromatography (SiO₂, *n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 5:1) to afford **1b** in 53% yield as brown liquid. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3502, 2930, 2863, 2548, 2370, 1732, 1460, 1390, 1049; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.06 (s, br, 1H), 2.94 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 1.68-1.62 (m, 2H), 1.41-1.34 (m, 2H), 0.93 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 195.95, 159.61, 37.02, 25.11, 22.06, 13.69; MS (ESI): *m/z* 129.1 [M-H]⁺.



2-Oxononanoic acid (1c):⁵ The title compound was prepared according to the General Procedure A using heptanal as the aldehyde and purified by column chromatography (SiO₂, *n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 5:1) to afford **1c** in 51% yield as brown flake solid. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3515, 2965, 2922, 2876, 1717, 1460, 1265, 1074; M.p.33-35 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.20 (s, br, 1H), 2.94 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 1.69-1.63 (m, 2H), 1.34-1.22 (m, 8H), 0.89-0.87 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 196.20, 159.50, 37.36, 31.70, 29.03, 29.01, 23.24, 22.70, 14.18; MS (ESI): *m/z* 171.2 [M-H]⁺.

5-Methyl-2-oxohexanoic acid (1d):⁶ The title compound was prepared according to the General Procedure A using 3-methylbutanal as the aldehyde and purified by column chromatography (SiO₂, *n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 5:1) to afford **1d** in 56% yield as brown liquid. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 2957, 2872, 1723, 1469, 1386, 1368, 1321, 1211, 1170, 1132, 1064, 1023, 764, 666; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.92 (s, br, 1H), 2.94 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.65-1.53 (m, 3H), 0.92 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 6H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 195.97, 160.41, 35.68, 31.75, 27.55, 22.19; MS (ESI): *m/z* 143.1 [M-H]⁺.

3-Cyclopentyl-2-oxopropanoic acid (1f):⁷ The title compound was prepared according to the General Procedure A using cyclopentanecarbaldehyde as the aldehyde and purified by column chromatography (SiO₂, *n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 5:1) to afford **1f** in 77% yield as brown liquid. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3407, 2955, 2878, 2420, 2345, 1732, 1389, 1360, 1211, 1048; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.37 (s, br, 1H), 2.96 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.35-2.26 (m, 1H), 1.91-1.84 (m, 2H), 1.69-1.55 (m, 4H), 1.19-1.12 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 195.55, 160.47, 43.59, 34.95, 32.42, 24.85; MS (ESI): *m/z* 155.1 [M-H]⁺.



3-Cyclohexyl-2-oxopropanoic acid (1g):¹ The title compound was prepared according to the General Procedure A using cyclohexanecarbaldehyde as the aldehyde and purified by recrystallized from hot hexane to afford **1g** in 91% yield as brown flake solid. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3509, 2924, 2851, 2793, 1733, 1449, 1337, 1280, 1205, 1047; M.p. 36-38 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.24 (s, br, 1H), 2.80 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 1.94-1.87 (m, 1H), 1.70-1.63 (m, 5H), 1.31-1.24 (m, 2H), 1.18-1.11 (m, 1H), 1.03-0.96 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 195.63, 160.30, 44.76, 33.83, 33.15, 26.10, 26.04; MS (ESI): *m/z* 169.1 [M-H]⁺.

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4,4-Dimethyl-2-oxopentanoic acid (1h):¹ The title compound was prepared according to the General Procedure A using pivalaldehyde as the aldehyde and purified by recrystallized from hot hexane to afford **1h** in 40% yield as brown flake solid. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 2970, 1727, 1473, 1368, 1307, 1191, 1083; M.p. 44-46 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.14 (s, br, 1H), 2.85 (s, 2H), 1.05 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 196.00, 160.28, 48.48, 31.97, 29.59; MS (ESI): *m/z* 143.1 [M-H]⁺.



2-Oxo-5-phenylpentanoic acid (1j):⁸ The title compound was prepared according to the General Procedure B using (3-bromopropyl)benzene as the bromide and purified by recrystallized from hot ethyl acetate/hexane to afford **1j** in 50% yield as white solid. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3538, 3503, 3045, 2938, 2893, 1734, 1694, 1392, 1303, 1084, 752, 701; M.p. 65-67 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.58 (s, br, 1H), 7.33-7.30 (m, 2H), 7.25-7.19 (m, 3H), 2.99 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.70 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.07-2.01 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 195.79, 159.69, 140.91, 128.68, 128.60, 126.38, 36.88, 34.91, 24.75; MS (ESI): m/z 191.1 [M-H]⁺.



4-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2-oxobutanoic acid (1k):⁹ The title compound was prepared according to the General Procedure B using 1-(2-bromoethyl)-4-chlorobenzene as the bromide and purified by column chromatography (SiO₂, *n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 5:1) to afford **1k** in 52% yield as light-yellow solid. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3458, 3120, 1722, 1493, 1340, 1268, 1083, 1014, 820; M.p. 26-28 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.27 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.14 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 3.28 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 194.60, 159.25, 137.95, 132.41, 129.71, 128.78, 38.86, 28.31; MS (ESI): *m/z* 211.0 [M-H]⁺.



5-(Benzyloxy)-2-oxopentanoic acid (11): The title compound was prepared according to the General Procedure B using 3-(benzyloxy)propyl bromide as the bromide and purified by column chromatography (SiO₂, *n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 5:1) to afford **11** in 57% yield as light yellow liquid. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3453, 2942, 2868, 2371, 1732, 1450, 1361, 1206, 1098, 743, 699; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.38-7.35 (m, 2H), 7.33-7.28 (m, 3H), 4.46 (s, 2H), 3.54 (t, *J* = 5.7 Hz, 2H), 3.02 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 2.10-2.05 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 195.68, 160.11, 137.68, 128.43, 127.84, 127.80, 72.93, 68.77, 34.70, 24.79; MS (ESI): *m/z* 221.1 [M-H]⁺; HRMS (DART) *m/z* calcd for C₁₂H₁₃O₄ [M-H]⁺ 221.0819, found 221.0815.



2-Oxo-3-(p-tolyl)propanoic acid (1n):¹⁰ The title compound was prepared according to the General Procedure A using 4-methylbenzaldehyde as the aldehyde and purified by recrystallized from hot ethyl acetate/hexane to afford **1n** in 39% yield as white dendrites. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3470, 3098, 2971, 2871, 1669, 1449, 1236, 868; M.p. 177-178 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO): δ 13.12 (s, 1H), 9.11 (s, 1H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 6.37 (s, 1H), 2.29 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO): δ 166.45, 141.17, 136.61, 132.16, 129.26, 128.96, 109.74, 20.93; MS (ESI): *m/z* 177.1 [M-H]⁺.



3-(4-Bromophenyl)-2-oxopropanoic acid (10):¹¹ The title compound was prepared according to the General Procedure A using 4-bromobenzaldehyde as the aldehyde and purified by recrystallized from hot ethyl acetate/hexane to afford **10** in 41% yield as white dendrites. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3583, 3479, 2907, 2828, 1691, 1576, 1486, 1220, 872, 818; M.p. 187-189 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO): δ 13.30 (s, 1H), 9.50 (s, 1H), 7.71 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.53 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.37 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO): δ 166.56, 143.08, 134.74, 131.71, 131.58, 120.47, 108.67; MS (ESI): *m/z* 242.9 [M-H]⁺.



3-(2-Fluorophenyl)-2-oxopropanoic acid (1p):¹² The title compound was prepared according to the General Procedure A using 2-fluorobenzaldehyde as the aldehyde and purified by recrystallized from hot ethyl acetate/hexane to afford **1p** in 46% yield as white solide. M.p. 124-126 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO): δ 13.33 (s, 1H), 9.64 (s, 1H), 8.23 (td, *J* = 8.0, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.32-7.24 (m, 1H), 7.23-7.16 (m, 2H), 6.53 (s, 1H); ¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO): δ -117.90; ¹³C NMR (125 MHz,

*d*₆-DMSO): δ 165.92, 159.09 (d, ¹*J*_{C-F} = 246.3 Hz), 143.48, 130.22 (d, ⁴*J*_{C-F} = 2.5 Hz), 128.89 (d, ³*J*_{C-F} = 8.9 Hz), 124.43 (d, ²*J*_{C-F} = 16.3 Hz), 122.61 (d, ³*J*_{C-F} = 11.3 Hz), 115.00 (d, ²*J*_{C-F} = 21.3 Hz), 99.37 (d, ³*J*_{C-F} = 7.5 Hz).

3. Synthesis and Characterization of Products



3-Methyl-5-phenyl-3*aH***-pyrrolo**[**3**,4-*d*]**isoxazole-4**,6(**5***H*,6**a***H*)**-dione** (**3a**):¹³ To a 15 mL oven-dried test tube containing Cu(NO₃)₂·3H₂O (145.0 mg, 0.6 mmol), 1-phenyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione **2a** (103.9 mg, 0.6 mmol) and 2-oxobutanoic acid **1a** (30.6 mg, 0.3 mmol), was added 1.5 mL dioxane and purged with nitrogen. The mixture was stirred at 75 °C for 8 h as monitored by TLC. Upon completion, the reaction mixture was cooled down to room temperature, and purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (eluted with petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 2:1) to afford **3a** (50.4 mg, 74%) as a pale-yellow solid. M.p. 181-183 °C; IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3066, 2960, 1720, 1495, 1386, 1288, 1197, 870, 742; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.50-7.47 (m, 2H), 7.44-7.41 (m, 1H), 7.28-7.26 (m, 2H), 5.46 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 4.40 (d, *J* = 9.5 Hz, 1H), 2.20 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 171.51, 170.07, 151.53, 130.90, 129.48, 129.35, 126.24, 78.98, 58.05, 11.98; MS (EI) m/z (%): m/z 230 (20) [M]⁺, 119 (100), 91 (20).

Gram scale preparation of 3a: To a 50 mL flask were added $Cu(NO_3)_2 \cdot 3H_2O$ (4.830 g, 20 mmol), 1-phenyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione **2a** (3.463 g, 20 mmol), 2-oxobutanoic acid **1a** (1.121 g, 11 mmol) and 15 mL dioxane. After purged with nitrogen, the mixture was stirred at 75 °C for 9 h as monitored by TLC. Upon completion, the reaction mixture was cooled down to room temperature, and purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (eluted with petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 2:1) to afford **3a** (1.66 g, 66%) as a pale-yellow solid.



3,6a-Dimethyl-5-phenyl-3*aH***-pyrrolo**[**3,4***-d*]**isoxazole-4,6(5***H***,6***aH***)-dione (3b**):¹⁴ Following the same procedure used for **3a** with Cu(NO₃)₂·3H₂O (145.0 mg, 0.6 mmol), 3-methyl-1-phenyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione **2a'** (112.2 mg, 0.6 mmol) and 2-oxobutanoic acid **1a** (32.5 mg, 0.3 mmol) in dioxane (1.5 mL) for 8 h. The reaction mixture was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluted with petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 2:1) to afford **3b** (41.4 mg, 56%) as a white solid. M.p. 179-181 °C; IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3063, 2962, 1716, 1506, 1381,1131, 867, 743, 688; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.51-7.48 (m, 2H), 7.44-7.41 (m, 1H), 7.31-7.29 (m, 2H), 4.01 (d, *J*

= 0.6 Hz, 1H), 2.19 (d, J = 0.7 Hz, 3H), 1.79 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 173.53, 169.71, 151.59, 131.07, 129.44, 129.28, 126.26, 86.37, 62.52, 19.13, 12.39; MS (ESI): m/z 245.1 [M+H]⁺.



5-Phenyl-3-propyl-3aH-pyrrolo[3,4-d]isoxazole-4,6(5H,6aH)-dione (3c):¹³

Following the same procedure used for **3aa** with Cu(NO₃)₂·3H₂O (145.0 mg, 0.6 mmol), 1-phenyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione **2a** (103.9 mg, 0.6 mmol) and 2-oxohexanoic acid **1b** (39.9 mg, 0.3 mmol) in dioxane (1.5 mL) for 8 h. The reaction mixture was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluted with petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 4:1) to afford **3c** (48.2 mg, 61%) as a white solid. M.p. 134-136 °C; IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3066, 2964, 2877, 1720, 1501, 1385, 1191, 872, 742; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.50-7.47 (m, 2H), 7.44-7.41 (m, 1H), 7.28-7.26 (m, 2H), 5.45 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 4.43 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 2.62-2.56 (m, 1H), 2.50-2.44 (m, 1H), 1.84-1.77 (m, 1H), 1.73-1.64 (m, 1H), 1.01 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 171.66, 170.18, 154.82, 130.93, 129.45, 129.31, 126.24, 78.78, 57.05, 28.38, 19.34, 13.81; MS (ESI): *m/z* 259.1 [M+H]⁺.



6a-Methyl-5-phenyl-3-propyl-3aH-pyrrolo[3,4-d]isoxazole-4,6(5H,6aH)-dione

(3d): Following the same procedure used for 3a with Cu(NO₃)₂·3H₂O (145.0 mg, 0.6 mmol), 3-methyl-1-phenyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione 2a' (112.3 mg, 0.6 mmol) and 2-oxohexanoic acid 1b (39.9 mg, 0.3 mmol) in dioxane (1.5 mL) for 8 h. The reaction mixture was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluted with petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 4:1) to afford 3d (35.1 mg, 42%) as a white solid. M.p. 137-139 °C; IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 2965, 1727, 1501, 1386, 1242, 1140, 751; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.50-7.47 (m, 2H), 7.43-7.41 (m, 1H), 7.30-7.28 (m, 2H), 4.03 (s, 1H), 2.60-2.53 (m, 1H), 2.49-2.43 (m, 1H), 1.84-1.65 (m, 5H), 1.00 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 173.56, 169.76, 154.87, 131.05, 129.36, 129.18, 126.20, 86.08, 61.47, 28.65, 19.27, 19.07, 13.76; MS (ESI): *m/z* 273.1 [M+H]⁺; HRMS (DART) *m/z* calcd for C₁₅H₁₇O₃N₂ [M+H]⁺ 273.1234, found 273.1234.



3-Hexyl-5-phenyl-3aH-pyrrolo[3,4-d]isoxazole-4,6(5H,6aH)-dione (3e): Following

the same procedure used for **3a** with Cu(NO₃)₂·3H₂O (145.0 mg, 0.6 mmol), 1-phenyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione **2a** (103.9 mg, 0.6 mmol) and 2-oxononanoic acid **1c** (51.6 mg, 0.3 mmol) in dioxane (1.5 mL) for 8 h. The reaction mixture was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluted with petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5:1) to afford **3e** (62.7 mg, 70%) as a white solid. M.p. 88-90 °C; IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3066, 2928, 2860, 1721, 1498, 1387, 1190, 870, 739; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.52-7.49 (m, 2H), 7.47-7.44 (m, 1H), 7.31-7.28 (m, 2H), 5.48 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 4.47 (d, *J* = 9.5 Hz, 1H), 2.68-2.61 (m, 1H), 2.53-2.46 (m, 1H), 1.83-1.63 (m, 2H), 1.43-1.31 (m, 6H), 0.91 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 171.64, 170.19, 155.02, 130.94, 129.48, 129.34, 126.25, 78.78, 57.05, 31.46, 28.93, 26.49, 25.85, 22.60, 14.14; MS (ESI): *m/z* 301.1 [M+H]⁺; HRMS (DART) *m/z* calcd for C₁₇H₂₁O₃N₂ [M+H]⁺ 301.1547, found 301.1551.



3-Isobutyl-5-phenyl-3aH-pyrrolo[3,4-*d*]isoxazole-4,6(5*H*,6a*H*)-dione (3f):¹⁵

Following the same procedure used for **3aa** with Cu(NO₃)₂·3H₂O (145.0 mg, 0.6 mmol), 1-phenyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione **2a** (103.9 mg, 0.6 mmol) and 5-methyl-2-oxohexanoic acid **1d** (44.5 mg, 0.3 mmol) in dioxane (1.5 mL) for 8 h. The reaction mixture was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluted with petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 2:1) to afford **3f** (59.3 mg, 71%) as a white solid. M.p. 145-147 °C; IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3068, 2962, 2870, 1720, 1499, 1462, 1388, 1190, 830, 745; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.50-7.41 (m, 3H), 7.27-7.25 (m, 2H), 5.45 (d, *J* = 9.5 Hz, 1H), 4.42 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 2.44 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.18-2.13 (m, 1H), 1.05 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 3H), 0.96 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 171.54, 170.04, 154.06, 130.81, 129.38, 129.23, 126.11, 78.57, 57.07, 34.95, 25.79, 22.89, 21.96; MS (ESI): *m/z* 273.1 [M+H]⁺.



3-Isopropyl-5-phenyl-3aH-pyrrolo[3,4-d]isoxazole-4,6(5H,6aH)-dione (3g):¹⁵

Following the same procedure used for **3a** with Cu(NO₃)₂·3H₂O (145.0 mg, 0.6 mmol), 1-phenyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione **2a** (103.9 mg, 0.6 mmol) and 4-methyl-2-oxopentanoic acid **1e** (39.5 mg, 0.3 mmol) in dioxane (1.5 mL) for 8 h. The reaction mixture was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluted with petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 2:1) to afford **3g** (40.5 mg, 52%) as a white solid. M.p. 115-117 °C; IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3064, 2972, 1721, 1500, 1388, 1191, 870; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.50-7.47 (m, 2H), 7.44-7.41 (m, 1H), 7.29-7.27 (m, 2H), 5.47 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 4.53 (d, *J* = 9.7 Hz, 1H), 2.94-2.85 (m, 1H), 1.33 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.32 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 171.57, 170.21, 159.18, 130.85,

129.35, 129.20, 126.13, 79.01, 55.96, 27.30, 20.40, 19.12; MS (ESI): m/z 259.1 [M+H]⁺.



3-Cyclopentyl-5-phenyl-3aH-pyrrolo[3,4-d]isoxazole-4,6(5H,6aH)-dione (3h):

Following the same procedure used for **3a** with Cu(NO₃)₂·3H₂O (145.0 mg, 0.6 mmol), 1-phenyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione **2a** (103.9 mg, 0.6 mmol) and **1f** (48.5 mg, 0.3 mmol) in dioxane (1.5 mL) for 8 h. The reaction mixture was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluted with petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 2:1) to afford **3h** (37.7 mg, 44%) as a white solid. M.p. 166-168 °C; IR (KBr, cm⁻¹):2969, 1721, 1502, 1384, 1190; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.53-7.49 (m, 2H), 7.47-7.44 (m, 1H), 7.32-7.29 (m, 2H), 5.49 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 4.50 (dd, *J* = 9.6, 0.85 Hz, 1H), 3.02-2.96 (m, 1H), 2.22-2.16 (m, 1H), 2.04-1.90 (m, 2H), 1.84-1.78 (m, 2H), 1.71-1.63 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 171.71, 170.29, 157.88, 130.99, 129.48, 129.32, 126.26, 79.04, 57.22, 37.71, 31.42, 29.62, 25.26, 25.11; MS (ESI): *m/z* 285.1 [M+H]⁺; HRMS (DART) *m/z* calcd for C₁₆H₁₇O₃N₂ [M+H]⁺ 285.1234, found 285.1233.



3-Cyclohexyl-5-phenyl-3aH-pyrrolo[3,4-d]isoxazole-4,6(5H,6aH)-dione (3i):¹³

Following the same procedure used for **3aa** with Cu(NO₃)₂·3H₂O (145.0 mg, 0.6 mmol), 1-phenyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione **2a** (103.9 mg, 0.6 mmol), and 3-cyclohexyl-2-oxopropanoic acid **1g** (51.0 mg, 0.3 mmol) in dioxane (1.5 mL) for 8 h. The reaction mixture was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluted with petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 2:1) to afford **3i** (48.5 mg, 54%) as a white solid. M.p. 178-180 °C; IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3063, 2932, 2857, 1721, 1500, 1388, 1188, 869; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.50-7.47 (m, 2H), 7.44-7.41 (m, 1H), 7.29-7.27 (m, 2H) 5.44 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 4.52 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 2.61-2.56 (m, 1H), 2.12-2.10 (m, 1H), 2.00-1.97 (m, 1H), 1.83-1.81 (m, 2H), 1.72-1.70 (m, 1H), 1.64-1.57 (m, 1H), 1.42-1.24 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 171.68, 170.39, 158.46, 130.98, 129.47, 129.31, 126.24, 78.81, 56.00, 36.38, 30.86, 29.51, 26.00, 25.89, 25.59; MS (ESI): *m/z* 299.1 [M+H]⁺.



3-(*tert*-Butyl)-5-phenyl-3aH-pyrrolo[3,4-d]isoxazole-4,6(5H,6aH)-dione (3j):

Following the same procedure used for **3a** with Cu(NO₃)₂·3H₂O (145.0 mg, 0.6 mmol), 1-phenyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione **2a** (103.9 mg, 0.6 mmol) and 4,4-dimethyl-2-oxopentanoic acid **1h** (43.2 mg, 0.3 mmol) in dioxane (1.5 mL) for 8 h. The reaction mixture was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluted with petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5:1) to afford **3j** (38.2 mg, 47%) as a white solid. M.p. 154-156 °C; IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3064, 2968, 1722, 1497, 1386, 1197, 883; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.53-7.49 (m, 2H), 7.47-7.43 (m, 1H), 7.29-7.27 (m, 2H) 5.52 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 4.60 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 1.39 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 171.63, 170.87, 161.59, 131.06, 129.53, 129.36, 126.28, 80.05, 55.94, 34.25, 28.72; MS (ESI): *m/z* 273.1 [M+H]⁺; HRMS (DART) *m/z* calcd for C₁₅H₁₇O₃N₂ [M+H]⁺ 273.1234, found 273.1235.



3-Benzyl-5-phenyl-3aH-pyrrolo[3,4-d]isoxazole-4,6(5H,6aH)-dione (3k):¹³

Following the same procedure used for **3a** with Cu(NO₃)₂·3H₂O (145.0 mg, 0.6 mmol), 1-phenyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione **2a** (103.9 mg, 0.6 mmol) and 2-oxo-4-phenylbutanoic acid **1i** (53.4 mg, 0.3 mmol) in dioxane (1.5 mL) for 8 h. The reaction mixture was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluted with petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 3:1) to afford **3k** (72.8 mg, 68%) as a white solid. M.p. 176-178 °C; IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 1713, 1495, 1385, 1187, 868; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.49-7.46 (m, 2H), 7.44-7.36 (m, 5H), 7.32-7.30 (m, 1H), 7.24-7.22 (m, 2H), 5.38 (d, *J* = 9.7 Hz, 1H), 4.29 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 4.04 (d, *J* = 14.7 Hz, 1H), 3.74 (d, *J* = 14.7 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 171.28, 169.94, 153.89, 133.86, 130.77, 129.45, 129.35, 129.24, 129.10, 127.65, 126.09, 79.06, 55.64, 32.28; MS (ESI): *m/z* 307.1 [M+H]⁺.



3-Phenethyl-5-phenyl-3aH-pyrrolo[3,4-d]isoxazole-4,6(5H,6aH)-dione (3l):¹³

Following the same procedure used for **3a** with Cu(NO₃)₂·3H₂O (145.0 mg, 0.6 mmol), 1-phenyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione **2a** (103.9 mg, 0.6 mmol) and 2-oxo-5-phenylpentanoic acid **1j** (57.6 mg, 0.3 mmol) in dioxane (1.5 mL) for 8 h. The reaction mixture was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluted with petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 2:1) to afford **3l** (59.3 mg, 62%) as a white solid. M.p. 165-167 °C; IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 2954, 1715, 1499, 1381, 1184, 877; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, d_6 -DMSO): δ 7.53-7.44 (m, 3H), 7.32-7.20 (m, 7H), 5.54 (d, J = 9.4 Hz, 1H), 4.77 (d, J = 9.5 Hz, 1H), 3.02-2.90 (m, 2H), 2.83-2.73 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, d_6 -DMSO): δ 172.69, 171.02, 154.74, 140.52, 131.57, 129.00, 128.76, 128.39, 128.25,

126.86, 126.15, 79.39, 57.55, 30.91, 27.68; MS (ESI): *m/z* 321.1 [M+H]⁺.



3-(4-Chlorobenzyl)-5-phenyl-3aH-pyrrolo[3,4-d]isoxazole-4,6(5H,6aH)-dione

(3m): Following the same procedure used for 3a with Cu(NO₃)₂·3H₂O (145.0 mg, 0.6 mmol), 1-phenyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione 2a (103.9 mg, 0.6 mmol) and 4-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-oxobutanoic acid 1k (63.6 mg, 0.3 mmol) in dioxane (1.5 mL) for 8 h. The reaction mixture was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluted with petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 3:1) to afford 3m (81.9 mg, 80%) as a white solid. M.p. 155-157 °C; IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 2981, 1721, 1498, 1380, 1189, 889; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.50-7.47 (m, 2H), 7.45-7.42 (m, 1H), 7.36-7.32 (m, 4H), 7.23-7.21 (m, 2H), 5.42 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 4.29 (d, *J* = 9.7 Hz, 1H), 4.00 (d, *J* = 14.9 Hz, 1H), 3.71 (d, *J* = 14.9 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 171.25, 169.99, 153.61, 133.88, 132.41, 130.97, 130.82, 129.52, 129.44, 129.40, 126.17, 79.24, 55.69, 31.84; MS (ESI): *m/z* 341.1 [M+H]⁺; HRMS (DART) *m/z* calcd for C₁₈H₁₄O₃N₂Cl [M+H]⁺ 341.0687, found 341.0691.



3-Benzyl-6a-methyl-5-phenyl-3aH-pyrrolo[3,4-d]isoxazole-4,6(5H,6aH)-dione

(3n): Following the same procedure used for **3aa** with Cu(NO₃)₂·3H₂O (145.0 mg, 0.6 mmol), 3-methyl-1-phenyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione **2a'** (112.2 mg, 0.6 mmol) and 2-oxo-4-phenylbutanoic acid **1i** (53.4 mg, 0.3 mmol) in dioxane (1.5 mL) for 8 h. The reaction mixture was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluted with petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5:1) to afford **3n** (45.5 mg, 47%) as a white solid. M.p.172-174 °C; IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3060, 2926, 2861, 1728, 1492, 1385, 1240, 1131; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.50-7.47 (m, 2H), 7.44-7.38 (m, 5H), 7.34-7.30 (m, 1H), 7.28-7.26 (m, 2H), 4.01 (d, *J* = 14.8 Hz, 1H), 3.90 (s, 1H), 3.72 (d, *J* = 14.9 Hz, 1H), 1.69 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 173.43, 169.70, 154.20, 134.31, 131.06, 129.44, 129.42, 129.27, 129.23, 127.70, 126.21, 86.68, 60.08, 32.76, 18.99; MS (ESI): *m/z* 321.1 [M+H]⁺; HRMS (DART) *m/z* calcd for C₁₉H₁₇O₃N₂ [M+H]⁺ 321.1234, found 321.1232.



3-(2-(Benzyloxy)ethyl)-5-phenyl-3a*H*-pyrrolo[**3**,**4**-*d*]isoxazole-**4**,**6**(5*H*,**6**a*H*)-dione (**30**): Following the same procedure used for **3a** with Cu(NO₃)₂·3H₂O (145.0 mg, 0.6

mmol), 1-phenyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione **2a** (103.9 mg, 0.6 mmol) and 5-(benzyloxy)-2-oxopentanoic acid **1l** (68.5 mg, 0.3 mmol), in dioxane (1.5 mL) for 8 h. The reaction mixture was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluted with petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 2:1) to afford **3o** (37.7 mg, 35%) as a white solid. M.p. 92-94 °C; IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 1720, 1502, 1381, 1190, 870; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.51-7.47 (m, 2H), 7.46-7.43 (m, 1H), 7.39-7.32 (m, 5H), 7.29-7.27 (m, 2H), 5.45 (d, J = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 4.58 (s, 2H), 4.53 (d, J = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 3.93-3.89 (m, 1H), 3.86-3.82 (m, 1H), 3.00-2.95 (m, 1H), 2.86-2.81 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 171.51, 170.21, 153.28, 137.90, 130.93, 129.44, 129.29, 128.62, 127.98, 127.89, 126.25, 78.96, 73.02, 66.38, 57.23, 26.82; MS (ESI): *m/z* 351.1 [M+H]⁺; HRMS (DART) *m/z* calcd for C₂₀H₁₉O₄N₂ [M+H]⁺ 351.1339, found 351.1338.



3,5-Diphenyl-3*aH***-pyrrolo**[**3,4-***d***]isoxazole-4,6**(**5***H*,**6***aH*)**-dione** (**3p**):¹³ Following the same procedure used for **3a** with Cu(NO₃)₂·3H₂O (145.0 mg, 0.6 mmol), 1-phenyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione **2a** (103.9 mg, 0.6 mmol) and 2-oxo-3-phenyl-propanoic acid **1m** (49.2 mg, 0.3 mmol), KI (49.8 mg, 0.3 mmol), in dioxane (1.5 mL) for 8 h. The reaction mixture was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluted with petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 2:1) to afford **3p** (42.0 mg, 48%) as a pale-yellow solid. M.p. 171-173 °C; IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3064, 1723, 1498, 1387, 1311, 1198, 897; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.04-8.02 (m, 2H), 7.47-7.39 (m, 6H), 7.27 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 5.66 (d, *J* = 9.7 Hz, 1H), 4.97 (d, *J* = 9.7 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 170.98, 169.95, 152.93, 131.38, 130.96, 129.43, 129.35, 129.00, 128.22, 126.84, 126.28, 80.54, 55.04; MS (ESI): *m/z* 293.1 [M+H]⁺.



5-Phenyl-3-(*p*-tolyl)-3aH-pyrrolo[3,4-*d*]isoxazole-4,6(5H,6aH)-dione (3q):¹⁶

Following the same procedure used for **3a** with Cu(NO₃)₂·3H₂O (145.0 mg, 0.6 mmol), 1-phenyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione **2a** (103.9 mg, 0.6 mmol), 2-oxo-3-(p-tolyl)-propanoic acid **1n** (55.0 mg, 0.3 mmol) and KI (49.8 mg, 0.3 mmol) in dioxane (1.5 mL) for 8 h. The reaction mixture was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluted with petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 3:1) to afford **3q** (34.1 mg, 36%) as a pale-yellow solid. M.p. 170-172 °C; IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3051, 2964, 1724, 1498, 1385, 1192, 891; ¹HNMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.94 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.50-7.46 (m, 2H), 7.45-7.41 (m, 1H), 7.31-7.28 (m, 4H), 5.68 (d, *J* = 9.7 Hz, 1H), 4.98 (d, *J* = 9.8 Hz, 1H), 2.42 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 171.07, 170.01, 152.86, 141.92, 130.99, 129.72, 129.42, 129.33, 128.18, 126.29, 123.99, 80.37, 55.15, 21.68; MS (ESI): *m/z* 307.1 [M+H]⁺.



3-(4-Bromophenyl)-5-phenyl-3aH-pyrrolo[3,4-d]isoxazole-4,6(5H,6aH)-dione

(3r):¹⁷ Following the same procedure used for 3a with Cu(NO₃)₂·3H₂O (145.0 mg, 0.6 mmol), 1-phenyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione 2a (103.9 mg, 0.6 mmol), 3-(4-bromophenyl)-2-oxopropanoic acid 1o (73.5 mg, 0.3 mmol) and KI (49.8 mg, 0.3 mmol) in dioxane (1.5 mL) for 8 h. The reaction mixture was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluted with petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 2:1) to afford 3r (51.3 mg, 46%) as a white solid. M.p. 194-196 °C; IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3062, 2961, 1722, 1493, 1389, 1190, 890, 832; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.94 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.62 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.51-7.43 (m, 3H), 7.30-7.28 (m, 2H), 5.71 (d, *J* = 9.8 Hz, 1H), 4.96 (d, *J* = 9.8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 170.57, 169.71, 152.06, 132.18, 130.71, 129.50, 129.35, 129.32, 126.10, 125.94, 125.66, 80.58, 54.72; MS (ESI): *m/z* 370.9 [M+H]⁺.



3-Methyl-5-(*p*-tolyl)-3a*H*-pyrrolo[3,4-*d*]isoxazole-4,6(5*H*,6a*H*)-dione (3ab):

Following the same procedure used for **3a** with Cu(NO₃)₂·3H₂O (145.0 mg, 0.6 mmol), 1-(*p*-tolyl)-1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione **2b** (112.3 mg, 0.6 mmol) and 2-oxobutanoic acid **1a** (30.6 mg, 0.3 mmol) in dioxane (1.5 mL) for 8 h. The reaction mixture was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluted with petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 2:1) to afford **3ab** (55.8 mg, 74%) as a white solid. M.p. 174-176 °C; IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 2965, 1772, 1515, 1388, 1195; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.29 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 5.46 (d, *J* = 9.5 Hz, 1H), 4.39 (d, *J* = 9.5 Hz, 1H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 2.21 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 171.7, 170.2, 151.6, 139.6, 130.1, 128.2, 126.0, 79.0, 58.0, 21.4, 11.98; MS (ESI): *m/z* 245.0 [M+H]⁺; HRMS (DART) *m/z* calcd for C₁₃H₁₃O₃N₂ [M+H]⁺ 245.0921, found 245.0921.



5-(4-Chlorophenyl)-3-methyl-3aH-pyrrolo[3,4-d]isoxazole-4,6(5H,6aH)-dione

(3ac): Following the same procedure used for 3a with $Cu(NO_3)_2 \cdot 3H_2O$ (145.0 mg, 0.6 mmol), 1-(4-chlorophenyl)-1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione 2c (124.6 mg, 0.6 mmol) and 2-oxobutanoic acid 1a (30.6 mg, 0.3 mmol) in dioxane (1.5 mL) for 8 h. The reaction mixture was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluted with petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 2:1) to afford 3ac (53.0 mg, 65%) as a white solid. M.p. 177-179 °C; IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 2965, 1720, 1551, 1388, 1195, 837, 771; ¹H NMR (500 MHz,

CDCl₃): δ 7.47 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.26 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 5.47 (d, J = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 4.41 (dd, J = 9.6, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 2.21 (d, J = 0.8 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 171.18, 169.77, 151.39, 135.27, 129.71, 129.32, 127.45, 78.90, 58.04, 12.00; MS (ESI): m/z 265.1 [M+H]⁺; HRMS (DART) m/z calcd for C₁₂H₁₀O₃N₂Cl [M+H]⁺ 265.0374, found 265.0374.



3-Methyl-5-(4-nitrophenyl)-3*aH*-**pyrrolo**[**3**,**4***-d*]**isoxazole-4**,**6**(*5H*,**6***aH*)-**dione (3ad):** Following the same procedure used for **3a** with Cu(NO₃)₂·3H₂O (145.0 mg, 0.6 mmol), 1-(4-nitrophenyl)-1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione **2d** (130.9 mg, 0.6 mmol) and 2-oxobutanoic acid **1a** (30.6 mg, 0.3 mmol) in dioxane (1.5 mL) for 8 h. The reaction mixture was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluted with petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 2:1) to afford **3ad** (53.6 mg, 65%) as a pale-yellow solid. M.p. 187-189 °C; IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 2987, 1727, 1525, 1348, 1181, 842; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.36 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz, 2H), 7.60 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz, 2H), 5.51 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 4.47 (dd, *J* = 9.7, 0.85 Hz, 1H), 2.23 (d, *J* = 0.8 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 170.67, 169.27, 151.19, 147.56, 136.32, 126.86, 124.73, 78.87, 58.11, 12.00; MS (EI): *m/z* (%) 275 (60) [M]⁺, 164 (100), 134 (50); HRMS (DART) *m/z* calcd for C₁₂H₁₀O₅N₃ [M+H]⁺ 276.0615, found 276.0615.



3,5-Dimethyl-3a*H*-**pyrrolo**[**3,4-***d***]isoxazole-4,6**(**5***H*,**6a***H*)-**dione** (**3ae**): Following the same procedure used for **3a** with Cu(NO₃)₂·3H₂O (145.0 mg, 0.6 mmol), 1-methyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione **2e** (66.7 mg, 0.6 mmol) and 2-oxobutanoic acid **1a** (30.6 mg, 0.3 mmol) in dioxane (1.5 mL) for 8 h. The reaction mixture was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluted with petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 2:1) to afford **3ae** (34.3 mg, 68%) as a white solid. M.p. 128-130 °C; IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 2998, 2967, 1709, 1439, 1387, 1289, 1139, 982, 851; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 5.32 (d, *J* = 9.4 Hz, 1H), 4.25 (d, *J* = 9.4 Hz, 1H), 3.02 (s, 3H), 2.15 (d, *J* = 0.95 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 172.57, 171.09, 151.38, 79.01, 58.10, 25.54, 11.92; MS (EI): *m/z* (%) 168 (98) [M]⁺, 82 (100); HRMS (EI) *m/z* calcd for C₇H₈N₂O₃ [M]⁺ 168.0535, found 168.0536.



5-Butyl-3-methyl-3a*H*-pyrrolo[3,4-*d*]isoxazole-4,6(5*H*,6a*H*)-dione (3af):

Following the same procedure used for **3a** with $Cu(NO_3)_2 \cdot 3H_2O$ (145.0 mg, 0.6 mmol), 1-butyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione **2f** (93.5 mg, 0.6 mmol) and 2-oxobutanoic acid **1a** (29.0 mg, 0.3 mmol) in dioxane (1.5 mL) for 8 h. The reaction mixture was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluted with petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 2:1) to afford **3af** (42.4 mg, 72%) as a colorless liquid. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 2965, 1711, 1551, 1363; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 5.30 (d, J = 9.4 Hz, 1H), 4.22 (dd, J = 9.4, 0.85 Hz, 1H), 3.56-3.47 (m, 2H), 2.14 (d, J = 1.0 Hz, 3H), 1.56-1.50 (m, 2H), 1.31-1.24 (m, 2H), 0.91 (t, J = 7.3, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 172.57, 171.15, 151.50, 78.94, 57.99, 39.39, 29.57, 20.00, 13.63, 11.88; MS (ESI): m/z 211.1 [M+H]⁺; HRMS (DART) m/z calcd for C₁₀H₁₅O₃N₂ [M+H]⁺211.1077, found 211.1077.



5-Benzyl-3-methyl-3aH-pyrrolo[3,4-d]isoxazole-4,6(5H,6aH)-dione (3ag):

Following the same procedure used for **3a** with Cu(NO₃)₂·3H₂O (145.0 mg, 0.6 mmol), 1-benzyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione **2g** (112.3 mg, 0.6 mmol) and 2-oxobutanoic acid **1a** (33.5 mg, 0.3 mmol) in dioxane (1.5 mL) for 8 h. The reaction mixture was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluted with petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 2:1) to afford **3ag** (51.4 mg, 64%) as a white solid. M.p. 136-138 °C; IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 2965, 1713, 1491, 1437, 1395, 1348, 1175, 888, 750, 701; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.34-7.28 (m, 5H), 5.28 (d, *J* = 9.4 Hz, 1H), 4.65 (s, 2H), 4.22 (dd, *J* = 9.2, 0.5 Hz, 1H), 2.12 (d, J = 0.65 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 172.20, 170.78, 151.39, 134.76, 128.97, 128.49, 128.48, 79.01, 58.07, 43.14, 11.86; MS (ESI): *m/z* 245.1 [M+H]⁺; HRMS (DART) *m/z* calcd for C₁₃H₁₃O₃N₂ [M+H]⁺ 245.0921, found 245.0921.



5-Cyclopropyl-3-methyl-3aH-pyrrolo[3,4-*d*]isoxazole-4,6(5*H*,6a*H*)-dione (3ah):

Following the same procedure used for **3a** with Cu(NO₃)₂·3H₂O (145.0 mg, 0.6 mmol), 1-cyclopropyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione **2h** (82.3 mg, 0.6 mmol) and 2-oxobutanoic acid **1a** (34.0 mg, 0.3 mmol) in dioxane (1.5 mL) for 8 h. The reaction mixture was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluted with petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 2:1) to afford **3ah** (28.2 mg, 44%) as a white solid. M.p. 112-114 °C; IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 2967, 1712, 1550, 1450, 1215, 852; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 5.23 (d, *J* = 9.5 Hz, 1H), 4.17 (d, *J* = 9.5 Hz, 1H), 2.66-2.61 (m, 1H), 2.14 (d, *J* = 0.7 Hz, 3H), 1.00-0.96 (m, 3H), 0.92-0.87 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 172.86, 171.44, 151.49, 78.55, 57.63, 22.94, 11.90, 4.98, 4.91; MS (ESI): *m/z* 195.1 [M+H]⁺; HRMS (DART) *m/z* calcd for C₉H₁₁O₃N₂ [M+H]⁺ 195.0764, found 195.0765.



5-Cyclohexyl-3-methyl-3aH-pyrrolo[3,4-d]isoxazole-4,6(5H,6aH)-dione (3ai):

Following the same procedure used for **3a** with Cu(NO₃)₂·3H₂O (145.0 mg, 0.6 mmol), 1-cyclohexyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione **2i** (107.5 mg, 0.6 mmol), 2-oxobutanoic acid **1a** (32.5 mg, 0.3 mmol), in dioxane (1.5 mL) for 8 h. The reaction mixture was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluted with petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 2:1) to afford **3ai** (49.8 mg, 66%) as a white solid. M.p. 145-147 °C; IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 2931, 2855, 1706, 1388, 1196, 856; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 5.24 (d, *J* = 9.45 Hz, 1H), 4.16 (dd, *J* = 9.4, 0.86 Hz, 1H), 3.97-3.92 (m, 1H), 2.14 (d, *J* = 0.8 Hz, 3H), 2.11-2.03 (m, 2H), 1.84-1.82 (m, 2H), 1.67-1.65 (m, 1H), 1.58-1.56 (m, 3H), 1.35-1.16 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 172.66 , 171.17, 151.64, 78.63, 57.70, 52.70, 28.77, 28.68, 25.80, 25.78, 24.96, 11.87; MS (ESI): *m/z* 237.1 [M+H]⁺; HRMS (DART) *m/z* calcd for C₁₂H₁₇O₃N₂ [M+H]⁺ 237.1234 found 237.1234.



5-(*tert*-Butyl)-3-methyl-3aH-pyrrolo[3,4-d]isoxazole-4,6(5H,6aH)-dione (3aj):

Following the same procedure used for **3a** with Cu(NO₃)₂·3H₂O (145.0 mg, 0.6 mmol), 1-(*tert*-butyl)-1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione **2j** (91.9 mg, 0.6 mmol) and 2-oxobutanoic acid **1a** (38.0 mg, 0.4 mmol) in dioxane (1.5 mL) for 8 h. The reaction mixture was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluted with petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 2:1) to afford **3aj** (40.6 mg, 52%) as a white solid. M.p. 103-105 °C; IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 2984, 1709, 1341, 1166, 849; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 5.14 (d, *J* = 9.55 Hz, 1H), 4.06 (dd, *J* = 9.7, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 2.13 (d, *J* = 0.9 Hz, 3H), 1.57 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 173.77, 172.02, 151.94, 78.66, 59.79, 57.81, 28.22, 11.93; MS (ESI): *m/z* 211.0 [M+H]⁺; HRMS (DART) *m/z* calcd for C₁₀H₁₅O₃N₂ [M+H]⁺ 211.1077, found 211.1078.



3-Methyl-3a*H*-**pyrrolo**[**3**,**4**-*d*]**isoxazole-4**,**6**(**5***H*,**6a***H*)-**dione** (**3a***k*): Following the same procedure used for **3a** with Cu(NO₃)₂·3H₂O (145.0 mg, 0.6 mmol), 1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione **2k** (58.2 mg, 0.6 mmol) and 2-oxobutanoic acid **1a** (32.5 mg, 0.3 mmol) in dioxane (1.5 mL) for 8 h. The reaction mixture was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluted with petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 2:1) to afford **3ak** (27.9 mg, 57%) as a white solid. M.p.172-174 °C; IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3267,

2987, 2732, 1720, 1551, 1344, 1187, 860, 753; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, *d*₆-Acetone): δ 10.54 (s, 1H), 5.38 (d, J = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 4.53 (d, J = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 2.09 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, *d*₆-Acetone): δ 173.75, 172.23, 151.72, 80.58, 59.25, 10.59; MS (ESI): *m*/*z* 155.0 [M+H]⁺; HRMS (DART) *m*/*z* calcd for C₆H₇O₃N₂ [M+H]⁺ 155.0451, found 155.0451.



5,5'-(Methylenebis(4,1-phenylene))bis(3-methyl-3aH-pyrrolo[3,4-d]isoxazole-4,6 (**5H,6aH)-dione)** (**3al):** Following the same procedure used for **3a** with $Cu(NO_3)_2 \cdot 3H_2O$ (289.8 mg, 1.2 mmol), 1,1'-(methylenebis(4,1-phenylene))bis(1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione) **2l** (107.5 mg, 0.3 mmol) and 2-oxobutanoic acid **1a** (102.0 mg, 1.0 mmol) in dioxane (3.0 mL) for 10 h. The reaction mixture was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluted with petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 1:1) to afford **3al** (78.6 mg, 55%) as a pale-yellow solid. M.p. 164-166 °C; IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 2973, 1724, 1513, 1430, 1381, 1294, 1186, 867, 754; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.29 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 4H), 7.21 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 4H), 5.45 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 2H), 4.39 (dd, *J* = 9.5, 0.95 Hz, 2H), 4.40 (s, 2H), 2.20 (d, *J* = 0.9 Hz, 6H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 171.53, 170.10, 151.53, 141.58, 130.03, 129.18, 126.37, 78.96, 58.03, 41.24, 11.99; MS (ESI): *m/z* 473.1 [M+H]⁺; HRMS (DART) *m/z* calcd for C₂₅H₂₁O₆N4 [M+H]⁺ 473.1467, found 473.1455.



5,5'-(1,4-Phenylene)bis(3-methyl-3*aH*-**pyrrolo[3,4-***d***]isoxazole-4,6(5***H*,6*aH*)-**dione)** (**3am**): Following the same procedure used for **3a** with Cu(NO₃)₂·3H₂O (289.8 mg, 1.2 mmol) 1,1'-(1,4-phenylene)bis(1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione) **2m** (80.5 mg, 0.3 mmol) and 2-oxobutanoic acid **1a** (91.9 mg, 0.9 mmol) in dioxane (3.0 mL) for 10 h. The reaction mixture was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluted with petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 1:1) to afford **3am** (67.5 mg, 59%) as a pale-yellow solid. M.p. 164-166 °C; IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 2977, 1712, 1463, 1412, 1214, 853; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, *d*₆-Acetone): δ 7.53 (s, 4H), 5.58 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 2H), 4.76 (dd, *J* = 9.5, 1.0 Hz, 2H), 2.14 (d, *J* = 1.0 Hz, 6H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, *d*₆-Acetone): δ 173.13, 171.58, 152.62, 132.99, 128.18, 80.65, 59.33, 11.75; MS (EI) *m/z* (%): 382 (25) [M]⁺, 160 (30), 55 (100); HRMS (DART) *m/z* calcd for C₁₈H₁₅O₆N₄ [M+H]⁺ 383.0986, found 383.0986.



3-Methylnaphtho[2,3-*d*]isoxazole-4,9-dione (3an):¹⁸ Following the same procedure used for 3a with Cu(NO₃)₂·3H₂O (145.0 mg, 0.6 mmol), naphthalene-1,4-dione 2n (94.8 mg, 0.6 mmol) and 2-oxobutanoic acid 1a (30.6 mg, 0.30 mmol), in dioxane (1.5 mL) for 8 h. The reaction mixture was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluted with petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 2:1) to afford 3an (27.5 mg, 43%) as a pale yellow solid. M.p. 176-178 °C; IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 2927, 1680, 1591, 1428, 1342, 1253, 1201, 1161, 1053, 923, 719; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.26-8.21 (m, 2H), 7.86-7.80 (m, 2H), 2.69 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 179.85, 173.38, 165.22, 158.70, 135.23, 134.48, 133.49, 132.54, 127.67, 127.36, 120.85, 10.98; MS (EI): *m/z* (%) 213 (100) [M]⁺, 104 (90), 76 (50).



3-Methyl-5-phenyl-5,6a-dihydroisothiazolo[**5,4-***d*]**isoxazol-6(3***aH***)-one 4,4-dioxide** (**3ao**): Following the same procedure used for **3a** with Cu(NO₃)₂·3H₂O (145.0 mg, 0.6 mmol), 2-phenylisothiazol-3(2*H*)-one-1,1-dioxide **2o** (125.5 mg, 0.6 mmol) and 2-oxobutanoic acid **1a** (30.6 mg, 0.30 mmol) in dioxane (1.5 mL) for 8 h. The reaction mixture was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluted with petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 2:1) to afford **3ao** (36.3 mg, 45%) as a white solid. M.p. 175-177 °C; IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 2972, 1746, 1492, 1354, 1321, 1227, 1156, 1029, 990, 885; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.54-7.53 (m, 3H), 7.38-7.36 (m, 2H), 5.75 (d, *J* = 10.4 Hz, 1H), 5.23 (d, *J* = 10.4 Hz, 1H), 2.36 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 160.84, 149.06, 130.90, 130.22, 128.70, 128.09, 80.95, 72.03, 12.87; MS (ESI): *m/z* 267.0 [M+H]⁺; HRMS (DART) *m/z* calcd for C₁₁H₁₁O₄N₂S [M+H]⁺ 267.0434, found 267.0434.



3-(2-Fluorophenyl)naphtho[**2**,**3**-*d*]isoxazole-4,**9**-dione (**3**ap):¹⁹

Following the same procedure used for **3a** with Cu(NO₃)₂·3H₂O (145.0 mg, 0.6 mmol), naphthalene-1,4-dione **2n** (94.8 mg, 0.6 mmol), 3-(2-fluorophenyl)-2-oxo- propanoic acid **1p** (54.7 mg, 0.3 mmol) and KI (49.8 mg, 0.3 mmol) in dioxane (1.5 mL) for 8 h. The reaction mixture was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluted with petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 10:1) to afford **3ap** (40.1 mg, 46%) as a yellow solid. M.p. 189-190 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.32-8.25 (m, 1H), 8.25-8.16 (m, 1H), 7.88-7.78 (m, 2H), 7.70 (td, *J* = 7.3, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.64-7.54 (m, 1H), 7.38-7.23 (m, 2H); ¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -111.22 (dt, *J* = 11.6, 6.1 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 178.19, 173.33, 165.65, 160.67 (d, ¹*J*_{C-F} = 251.3 Hz), 156.48, 135.41, 134.48, 133.70, 133.19 (d, ³*J*_{C-F} = 8.8 Hz), 132.14, 131.28 (d, ⁴*J*_{C-F} = 1.3 Hz), 114.78 (d, ²*J*_{C-F} = 13.8 Hz).



Methyl 3-benzylisoxazole-5-carboxylate (3s): Following the same procedure used for 3a with Cu(NO₃)₂·3H₂O (145.0 mg, 0.6 mmol), methyl propiolate (100.8 mg, 1.2 mmol) and 2-oxo-4-phenylbutanoic acid 1i (53.4 mg, 0.3 mmol) in dioxane (1.5 mL) for 9 h. The reaction mixture was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluted with petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 20:1) to afford 3s (25.1 mg, 39%) as a white solid. M.p. 45-47 °C; IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 1735, 1465, 1420, 1286, 1225, 1080, 995, 710; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.34-7.31 (m, 2H), 7.28-7.22 (m, 3H), 6.70 (s, 1H), 4.07 (s, 2H), 3.93 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 163.92, 160.25, 157.34, 136.54, 129.06, 128.91, 127.33, 109.67, 52.92, 32.46; MS (ESI): m/z 218.0 [M+H]⁺; HRMS (DART) m/z calcd for C₁₂H₁₂O₃N [M+H]⁺ 218.0812, found 218.0812.

4. X-ray Crystallographic Data for Compounds 3n and 3an



Crystallographic data for **3n**: C₁₉H₁₆N₂O₃, M = 320.21, monoclinic, P 21/c, a = 5.556 (3) Å, b = 25.565 (13) Å, c = 11.983 (5) Å, β = 104.38 (2)°, V = 1648.7 (14) Å³, Z = 4, Crystal size: 0.23 × 0.15 × 0.13 mm, T = 295 K, ρ_{calcd} = 1.290 g.cm⁻³, R₁ = 0.0528 (I>4 σ (I)), wR₂ = 0.1734 (all data), GOF = 1.053, reflections collected/unique: 10338 / 3845 (Rint = 0.0274), Data: 2276, restraints: 0, parameters: 234. The crystallographic data for the structure reported in this paper have been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre as supplementary publication (CCDC 1913835). The data can be obtained free of charge from The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre via www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data_request/cif.



X-ray structure of **3an**

Crystallographic data for **3an**: C₁₂H₇NO₃, M = 213.19, monoclinic, P21, a = 5.611 (5) Å, b = 6.369 (5) Å, c = 13.868 (5) Å, β = 96..958 (5)o, V = 491.9 (6) Å3, Z = 2, Crystal size: 0.25 × 0.15 × 0.12 mm, T = 295 K, ρ_{calcd} = 1.439 g.cm⁻³, R₁ = 0.036 (I>4 σ (I)), wR2 = 0.0956 (all data), GOF = 1.050, reflections collected/unique: 2938 / 1972 (Rint = 0.0224), Data: 1792, restraints: 0, parameters: 145. The crystallographic data for the structure reported in this paper have been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre as supplementary publication (CCDC 1985053). The data can be obtained free of charge from The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre via www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data_request/cif.

5. Mechanistic Studies

5.1 Possible Intermediates Investigation



To a 15 mL oven-dried test tube containing $Cu(NO_3)_2 \cdot 3H_2O$ (145.0 mg, 0.6 mmol), 1-phenyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione **2a** (103.9 mg, 0.6 mmol), 2-oxo-4-phenylbutanoic acid **1i** (53.4 mg, 0.3 mmol), was added 1.5 mL dioxane. After purged with nitrogen, the mixture was stirred at 75 °C for 5 h. The reaction mixture was cooled down to room temperature, and purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel to afford **4a** (8.0 mg, 18%) as light yellow liquid, **4b** (6.7 mg, 12%) as yellow liquid and to afford **3k** (48.7 mg, 53%) as a white solid.

Ph NO₂

Compound **4a:**²⁰ ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.38-7.35 (m, 2H), 7.32-7.29 (m, 1H), 7.25-7.23 (m, 2H), 4.64 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 3.35 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 135.76, 129.08, 128.68, 127.55, 76.38, 33.55.

$$Ph \xrightarrow{NO_2} NO_2$$

Compound **4b**:²¹ ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.42-7.37 (m, 3H), 7.27-7.25 (m, 2H), 6.37 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.84 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 130.10, 129.53, 129.10, 128.87, 112.34, 37.13; IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 1574, 1327, 745, 693; MS (EI) *m/z* (%): *m/z* 196 (20) [M]⁺, 103 (100), 91 (80).



To a 15 mL oven-dried test tube containing $Cu(NO_3)_2 \cdot 3H_2O$ (145.0 mg, 0.6 mmol), (2-nitroethyl)benzene **4a** (45.3 mg, 0.3 mmol), was added 1.5 mL dioxane after purged with nitrogen. The mixture was stirred at 75 °C for 8 h. No reaction occurred.



To a 15 mL oven-dried test tube containing $Cu(NO_3)_2 \cdot 3H_2O$ (145.0 mg, 0.6 mmol), 1-phenyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione **2a** (103.9 mg, 0.6 mmol), (2-nitroethyl)benzene **4a** (45.3 mg, 0.3 mmol), was added 1.5 mL dioxane after purged with nitrogen. The mixture was stirred at 75 °C for 8 h. No product **3k** was isolated.



To a 15 mL oven-dried test tube containing $Cu(NO_3)_2 \cdot 3H_2O$ (145.0 mg, 0.6 mmol), 1-phenyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione **2a** (103.9 mg, 0.6 mmol), (2,2-dinitroethyl)benzene **4b** (58.0 mg, 0.3 mmol), was added 1.5 mL dioxane. After purged with nitrogen, the mixture was stirred at 75 °C for 8 h. The reaction mixture was cooled down to room temperature, and purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel to afford **3k** (77.6 mg, 86%) as a white solid.



To a 15 mL oven-dried test tube containing $Cu(NO_3)_2 \cdot 3H_2O$ (21.7 mg, 30 mmol%), 1-phenyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione **2a** (103.9 mg, 0.6 mmol), (2,2-dinitroethyl)benzene **3b** (58.0 mg, 0.3 mmol), was added 1.5 mL dioxane after purged with nitrogen. The mixture was stirred at 75 °C for overnight. The reaction mixture was cooled down to room temperature, and purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel to afford **3k** (62.1 mg, 68%) as a white solid and **4b** (13.5 mg, 23%) was recovered as yellow liquid.



To a 15 mL oven-dried test tube containing 1-phenyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione **2a** (103.9 mg, 0.6 mmol), (2,2-dinitroethyl)benzene **4b** (58.0 mg, 0.3 mmol), was added 1.5 mL dioxane after purged with nitrogen. The mixture was stirred at 75 °C for overnight. Compound **3k** was not observed.



To a 20 mL oven-dried microwave tube containing Cu(NO₃)₂·3H₂O (145.0 mg, 0.6 mmol) and 2-oxo-3-phenyl-propanoic acid (49.3 mg, 0.3 mmol) was added 1.5 mL dioxane and purged with nitrogen three times. The mixture was then stirred at 75 °C for 8 h as monitored by TLC. Upon completion, the reaction mixture was cooled down to room temperature, and purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (eluted with petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 100 : 1) to afford 2-oxido-3,4-diphenyl-1,2,5-oxadiazol-2-ium **5** (13.8 mg, 19%) as a white solid.²² M.p. 110-112 ° C. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.56-7.51 (m, 5H), 7.49-7.43 (m, 5H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 156.21, 130.97, 130.53, 129.01, 128.94, 128.68, 128.28, 126.66, 122.87, 114.28; MS (ESI): *m/z* 238.9 [M+H]⁺.

5.2 α-Keto Carboxylic Acid Derivatives Investigation



To a 15 mL oven-dried test tube containing $Cu(NO_3)_2 \cdot 3H_2O$ (145.0 mg, 0.6 mmol), 1-phenyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione **2a** (103.9 mg, 0.6 mmol), ethyl 2-oxo-4-phenylbutanoate **6** (61.8 mg, 0.3 mmol), was added 1.5 mL dioxane after purged with nitrogen. The mixture was stirred at 75 °C for 8 h. The reaction mixture was cooled down to room temperature, and purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel to afford **3k** (30.3 mg, 33%) as a white solid and **4b** (24.0 mg, 41%) as yellow liquid.



To a 15 mL oven-dried test tube containing $Cu(NO_3)_2 \cdot 3H_2O$ (145.0 mg, 0.6 mmol), 1-phenyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione **2a** (103.9 mg, 0.6 mmol), *tert*-butyl 2-oxo-4-phenyl-butanoate **7** (70.5 mg, 0.3 mmol), was added 1.5 mL dioxane after purged with nitrogen. The mixture was stirred at 75 °C for 8 h. The reaction mixture was cooled down to room temperature, and purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel to afford **3k** (42.1 mg, 46%) as a white solid and **4b** (13.6 mg, 23%) as yellow liquid.

1,4-Diacetyl-piperazine-2,5-dione (990.0 mg, 5 mmol) was dissolved in dry THF (5 mL) under N₂ atmosphere. Cyclopropanecarbaldehyde (354.5 mg, 5 mmol) were added to this solution. Potassium tert-butoxide (673.3 mg, 6 mmol) in a tert-butanol (5-10 mL) was added dropwise to this solution over 15 min at room temperature. The reaction mixture was stirred for 3 h, then a saturated aqueous solution of NH₄Cl (10 mL) was added to quench the reaction. The aqueous layer was extracted with dichloromethane (3×10 mL) and the combined organic extracts were washed with water and brine (10 mL), dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered and dried in vacuum. The residue was recrystallized from hot dichloromethane/hexane to give a solid. Part of the solid (3.0 mmol) was dissolved in 6 M aqueous HCl (10 mL) and heated to 40 °C for 4 h. The reaction was then cooled to room temperature and extracted with ethyl acetate (3×10 mL). The combined organic phase was washed with water and brine (10 mL), The organic phase was dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was recrystallized from hot ethyl acetate/hexane to afford 8 (293 mg, 53%) as a white solid. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3292, 1731, 1666, 1530, 1426, 1337, 1251, 1134, 950, 690; M.p. 87-89 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.19 (s, br, 1H), 7.52 (s, br, 1H), 4.17 (d, J = 5.8 Hz, 2H), 2.84 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 1.09-1.01 (m, 1H), 0.61-0.57 (m, 2H), 0.2-0.17 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 197.58, 173.31, 160.46, 41.77, 40.79, 5.37, 4.30. MS (ESI): m/z 208.1 [M+Na]⁺; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C₈H₁₁O₄NNa 208.0580 [M+Na]⁺, found 208.0578.



To a 15 mL oven-dried test tube containing Cu(NO₃)₂·3H₂O (145.0 mg, 0.6 mmol), 1-phenyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione **2a** (103.9 mg, 0.6 mmol), 2-(3-cyclopropyl-2-oxopropanamido)acetic acid **8** (47.1 mg, 0.3 mmol), was added 1.5 mL dioxane after purged with nitrogen. The mixture was stirred at 75 °C for 8 h. The reaction mixture was cooled down to room temperature, and purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel to afford **3t** (25.0 mg, 33%) as a white solid. M.p. 150-152 °C; IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 2963, 1720, 1498, 1385, 1190, 876, 742, 689, 615; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.53-7.50 (m, 2H), 7.47-7.44 (m, 1H), 7.31-7.28 (m, 2H), 5.48 (d, *J* = 9.5 Hz, 1H), 4.50 (d, *J* = 9.5 Hz, 1H), 1.86-1.81 (m, 1H), 1.12-1.02 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 171.58, 170.17, 157.00, 130.86, 129.38, 129.23, 126.16, 79.19, 57.36, 8.50, 7.80, 7.45; MS (ESI): *m/z* 257.1 [M+H]⁺; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₄H₁₃O₃N₂ [M+H]⁺ 257.0921, found 257.0919.

5.3 Radical Inhititors



To a 15 mL oven-dried test tube containing $Cu(NO_3)_2 \cdot 3H_2O$ (145.0 mg, 0.6 mmol), 1-phenyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-dione **2a** (103.9 mg, 0.6 mmol), 2-oxobutanoic acid **1a** (32.4 mg, 0.3 mmol), and 1,4-dinitrobenzene (100.8 mg, 0.6 mmol) in dioxane (1.5 mL) for 8 h. the reaction mixture was cooled down to room temperature and purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel to afford **3a** (53.8 mg, 73%) as a pale-yellow solid.

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—160.41

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