# **Supporting Information**

# Controllable Methylenation with Ethylene Glycol as Methylene

# Source: Bridging Enaminones and Synthesis of

# Tetrahydropyrimidines

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#### **General Information**

All glassware was oven dried at 100 °C for hours and cooled down under vacuum. Anhydrous DMF was prepared by distillation from CaH<sub>2</sub>. Unless otherwise noted, materials were obtained from commercial suppliers and used without further purification. The thin layer chromatography (TLC) employed glass 0.25 mm silica gel plates. Purification of reaction products was carried out by flash chromatography on silica gel (200~300 mesh). <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were recorded at 500 or 400 MHz, <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded at 125 or 100 MHz, and in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (containing 0.03% TMS) solutions with Bruker Advance III spectrometers. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were recorded with Me<sub>4</sub>Si ( $\delta = 0.00$ ) or CDCl<sub>3</sub> ( $\delta = 7.26$ ) as the internal reference and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded with CDCl<sub>3</sub> ( $\delta = 77.16$ ) as the internal reference. High-resolution mass spectra were obtained using a Bruker Maxis Impact mass spectrometer with a TOF (for ESI) analyzer. The enaminones **1** were prepared according to the literature methods.<sup>1-9</sup> Synthesis and characterization of 2



In an oven-dried Schlenk tube (25 mL) containing a magnetic stirring bar was added 1 (0.3 mmol), NaIO<sub>4</sub> (64.8 mg, 0.3 mmol). Then, the vessel was evacuated and refilled with Ar for three times. Under a stream of Ar, to this vessel were added DMF (1.5 mL) and ethylene glycol (16.8  $\mu$ L, 0.3 mmol). Then the vessel was stirred in a 100 °C oil bath for the corresponding time (see Table 2). The reaction could be monitored by TLC analysis. Finally, H<sub>2</sub>O (7 mL) was added to reaction system, and the resulting mixture was directly filtered and washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (5 mL × 6) to give pure products **2**.

**NOTE:** Products **2b**, **2f**, **2i**, **2m**, **2q**, are new compounds. Other products **2** are known compounds,<sup>10</sup> and the spectroscopic data are in agreement with that previously reported.



(2E, 4E)-1,5-Diphenyl-2,4-bis((phenylamino)methylene)pentane-1,5-dione (2a).<sup>10</sup> Compound 2a was prepared in 92% yield (63 mg) according to the general procedure.  $R_f = 0.2$  (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 15/1); Yellow solid; mp 194-196 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  10.89 (d, J = 13.3 Hz, 2H), 7.78 (d, J = 13.3 Hz, 2H), 7.60-7.58 (m, 4H), 7.52-7.45 (m, 6H), 7.30-7.27 (m, 4H), 7.07-7.01 (m, 6H), 3.84 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 197.5, 149.3, 140.8, 140.5, 130.3, 129.8, 128.9, 128.3, 123.3, 116.2, 113.8, 20.4; Analytical data for **2a** were consistent with our previous reports.<sup>10</sup>



(2*E*, 4*E*)-1,5-Diphenyl-2,4-bis(((3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)amino)methylene)pentane-1,5 -dione (2b). Compound 2b was prepared in 97% yield (93 mg) according to the general procedure.  $R_f = 0.2$  (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 4/1); Yellow solid; mp 213-215 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  10.79 (d, *J* = 13.2 Hz, 2H), 7.65 (d, *J* = 13.2 Hz, 2H), 7.58 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 4H), 7.49-7.42 (m, 8H), 6.25 (s, 2H), 3.81 (s, 12H), 3.79 (s, 8H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  197.3, 154.2, 149.7, 140.4, 137.3, 134.5, 130.5, 129.0, 128.2, 113.7, 94.0, 61.2, 56.3, 20.4; HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> Calcd for C<sub>37</sub>H<sub>39</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>8</sub> 639.2701, Found 639.2698.



(2E,4E)-2,4-Bis(((4-methoxyphenyl)amino)methylene)-1,5-diphenylpentane-1,5-dione (2c).<sup>10</sup> Compound 2c was prepared in 92% yield (72 mg) according to the general

procedure.  $R_f = 0.2$  (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 10/1); Yellow solid; mp 180-182 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  10.89 (d, J = 13.4 Hz, 2H), 7.68 (d, J = 13.4 Hz, 2H), 7.56 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 4H), 7.48-7.43 (m, 6H), 7.00 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 4H), 6.83 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 4H), 3.81 (s, 2H), 3.76 (s, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  196.8, 156.1, 150.1, 140.7, 134.5, 130.1, 128.8, 128.3, 117.5, 115.0, 113.1, 55.7, 20.4; Analytical data for **2c** were consistent with our previous reports.<sup>10</sup>



(2*E*, 4*E*)-2, 4-Bis(((4-(dimethylamino)phenyl)amino)methylene)-1, 5-diphenylpentane-1, 5-dione (2d).<sup>10</sup> Compound 2d was prepared in 90% yield (74 mg) according to the general procedure.  $R_f = 0.2$  (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 12/1); Yellow solid; mp 220-222 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  10.85 (d, *J* = 13.5 Hz, 2H), 7.67 (d, *J* = 13.6 Hz, 2H), 7.55 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 4H), 7.45-7.42 (m, 6H), 6.97 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 4H), 6.67 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 4H), 3.81 (s, 2H), 2.89 (s, 12H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$ 196.2, 150.1, 147.6, 141.0, 131.5, 129.8, 128.8, 128.2, 117.6, 114.0, 112.7, 41.1, 20.3; Analytical data for 2d were consistent with our previous reports.<sup>10</sup>



Diethyl 4,4'-(((1E,4E)-2,4-dibenzoylpenta-1,4-diene-1,5diyl)bis(azanediyl))dibenzoate (2e).<sup>10</sup> Compound 2e was prepared in 99% yield (89 mg) according to the general procedure.  $R_f = 0.2$  (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 10/1); White solid; mp 218-220 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  11.03 (d, J = 13.0 Hz, 2H), 7.97 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 4H), 7.78 (d, J = 13.0 Hz, 2H), 7.60 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 4H), 7.56-7.53 (m, 2H), 7.50-7.47 (m, 4H), 7.06 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 4H), 4.34 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 4H), 3.82 (s, 2H), 1.37 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  198.3, 166.2, 148.1, 144.5, 139.9, 131.6, 130.9, 128.9, 128.5, 125.0, 115.3, 115.1, 60.9, 20.7, 14.5; Analytical data for **2e** were consistent with our previous reports.<sup>10</sup>



(2*E*,4*E*)-2,4-Bis(((4-chlorophenyl)amino)methylene)-1,5-diphenylpentane-1,5-dione (2*f*). Compound 2f was prepared in 96% yield (76 mg) according to the general procedure.  $R_f = 0.2$  (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 12/1); Yellow solid; mp 247-249 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  10.94 (d, *J* = 13.0 Hz, 2H), 7.68 (d, *J* = 13.1 Hz, 2H), 7.56 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 4H), 7.53-7.51(m, 2H), 7.48-7.45(m, 4H), 7.23 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 4H), 6.97 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 4H), 3.79 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  197.8, 149.0, 140.2, 139.5, 130.6, 129.8, 128.9, 128.4, 128.3, 117.3, 114.2, 20.6; HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> Calcd for C<sub>31</sub>H<sub>25</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> 527.1288, Found 527.1283.



(2*E*, 4*E*)-2, 4-*Bis*(((4-(tert-butyl)phenyl)amino)methylene)-1, 5-diphenylpentane-1, 5-dio ne (2g).<sup>10</sup> Compound 2g was prepared in 94% yield (80 mg) according to the general procedure.  $R_f = 0.2$  (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 15/1); Yellow solid; mp 205-207 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  10.84 (d, *J* = 13.4 Hz, 2H), 7.75 (d, *J* = 13.4 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 4H), 7.51-7.43 (m, 6H), 7.31 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 4H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 4H), 3.83 (s, 2H), 1.29 (s, 18H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  197.2, 149.6, 146.4, 140.6, 138.4, 130.2, 128.9, 128.3 126.6, 115.9, 113.5, 34.4, 31.5, 20.3; Analytical data for **2g** were consistent with our previous reports.<sup>10</sup>



(2*E*, 4*E*)-1,5-Diphenyl-2,4-bis((*p*-tolylamino)methylene)pentane-1,5-dione (2*h*).<sup>10</sup> Compound 2*h* was prepared in 98% yield (72 mg) according to the general procedure.  $R_f = 0.2$  (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 15/1); Yellow solid; mp 188-190 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  10.86 (d, *J* = 13.3 Hz, 2H), 7.74 (d, *J* = 13.4 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 4H), 7.51-7.44 (m, 6H), 7.08 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 4H), 6.96 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 4H), 3.83 (s, 2H), 2.29 (s, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  197.1, 149.6,

140.6, 138.5, 133.0, 130.2, 130.2, 128.8, 128.3, 116.2, 113.4, 20.9, 20.4; Analytical data for **2h** were consistent with our previous reports.<sup>10</sup>



(2E, 4E)-1, 5-Diphenyl-2, 4-bis((o-tolylamino)methylene)pentane-1, 5-dione(2i). Compound **2i** was prepared in 92% yield (67 mg) according to the general procedure.  $R_f = 0.2$  (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 15/1); White solid; mp 156-158 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  10.13 (d, J = 12.9 Hz, 2H), 7.68 (d, J = 13.0 Hz, 2H), 7.55 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 4H), 7.47-7.40 (m, 6H), 7.19 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.12-7.10 (m, 2H), 7.01-6.98 (m, 2H), 6.81 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 3.89 (s, 2H), 2.58 (s, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  197.4, 151.8, 140.7, 140.2, 131.4, 130.1, 129.1, 128.8, 128.2, 127.0, 124.1, 117.4, 113.9, 20.2, 18.5; HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> Calcd for C<sub>33</sub>H<sub>31</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> 487.2380, Found 487.2377.



(2*E*, 4*E*)-2, 4-*Bis*((*tert-butylamino*)*methylene*)-1, 5-*diphenylpentane*-1, 5-*dione* (2*j*).<sup>10</sup> Compound 2*j* was prepared in 93% yield (58 mg) according to the general procedure.  $R_f = 0.2$  (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 12/1); Yellow solid; mp 122-124 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.94 (d, J = 14.2 Hz, 2H), 7.41-7.35 (m, 10H), 7.27 (d, J = 14.4, 2H), 3.54 (s, 2H), 1.23 (s, 18H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  194.3, 154.1, 141.7, 129.1, 128.3, 128.0, 110.1, 52.7, 29.9, 19.1; Analytical data for 2j were consistent with our previous reports.<sup>10</sup>



(2*E*, 4*E*)-1,5-Bis(4-methoxyphenyl)-2,4-bis((phenylamino)methylene)pentane-1,5-dion e (2*k*).<sup>10</sup> Compound 2*k* was prepared in 94% yield (73 mg) according to the general procedure.  $R_f = 0.2$  (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 9/1); Yellow solid; mp 189-191 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 10.91 (d, *J* = 13.2 Hz, 2H), 7.78 (d, *J* = 13.3 Hz, 2H), 7.60 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 4H), 7.31-7.27 (m, 4H), 7.07 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 4H), 7.02-6.99 (m, 2H), 6.97 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 4H), 3.89 (s, 6H), 3.80 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 196.8, 161.6, 148.3, 141.1, 132.9, 131.1, 129.7, 123.0, 116.0, 113.6, 55.5, 21.2; Analytical data for 2*k* were consistent with our previous reports.<sup>10</sup>



(2*E*, 4*E*)-1,5-Bis(4-chlorophenyl)-2,4-bis((phenylamino)methylene)pentane-1,5-dione (2*l*).<sup>10</sup> Compound 2l was prepared in 95% yield (75 mg) according to the general procedure.  $R_f = 0.2$  (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 10/1); Yellow solid; mp 236-238 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  10.86 (d, *J* = 13.3 Hz, 2H), 7.71 (d, *J* = 13.3 Hz, 2H), 7.52 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 4H), 7.44 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 4H), 7.32-7.29 (m, 4H), 7.05-7.04 (m, 6H) , 3.79 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  196.1, 149.2, 140.6, 138.8,

136.6, 130.3, 129.9, 128.7, 123.7, 116.2, 113.6, 20.6; Analytical data for **21** were consistent with our previous reports.<sup>10</sup>



(2*E*, 4*E*)-1,5-Bis(4-bromophenyl)-2,4-bis((phenylamino)methylene)pentane-1,5-dione (2*m*). Compound 2*m* was prepared in 94% yield (87 mg) according to the general procedure.  $R_f = 0.2$  (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5/1); Yellow solid; mp 262-263 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  10.87 (d, *J* = 13.3 Hz, 2H), 7.72 (d, *J* = 13.4 Hz, 2H), 7.60 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 4H), 7.46 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 4H), 7.33-7.29 (m, 4H), 7.06-7.04 (m, 6H) , 3.79 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  196.1, 149.2, 140.6, 139.2, 131.6, 130.5, 129.9, 124.9, 123.7, 116.2, 113.5, 20.5; HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> Calcd for C<sub>31</sub>H<sub>25</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> 615.0277, Found 615.0273.



(2*E*, 4*E*)-1,5-*Di*(furan-2-yl)-2,4-*bis*((*phenylamino*)*methylene*)*pentane*-1,5-*dione* (2*n*).<sup>10</sup> Compound 2*n* was prepared in 90% yield (59 mg) according to the general procedure.  $R_f = 0.2$  (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 10/1); Yellow solid; mp 168-170 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  10.93 (d, *J* = 13.2 Hz, 2H), 8.55 (d, *J* = 13.3 Hz, 2H), 7.63 (s, 2H), 7.36-7.32 (m, 4H), 7.21 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 4H), 7.10 (d, *J* = 3.3 Hz, 2H), 7.07-7.04 (m, 2H), 6.56-6.54 (m, 2H), 3.77 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$ 181.8, 153.5, 147.3, 145.1, 141.0, 129.8, 123.4, 116.9, 116.4, 112.9, 111.7, 20.8; Analytical data for **2n** were consistent with our previous reports.<sup>10</sup>



2,2'-Methylenebis(5,5-dimethyl-3-(phenylamino)cyclohex-2-en-1-one) (20).<sup>10</sup> Compound **20** was prepared in 93% yield (62 mg) according to the general procedure.  $R_f = 0.2$  (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5/1); White solid; mp 190-192 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  10.81 (s, 2H), 7.37-7.33 (m, 4H), 7.18-7.14 (m, 6H), 3.55 (s, 2H), 2.50-2.30 (m, 8H), 1.00 (s, 12H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  196.3, 162.0, 139.6, 129.2, 125.0, 124.5, 110.3, 50.1, 41.0, 32.8, 28.8, 18.1; Analytical data for **20** were consistent with our previous reports.<sup>10</sup>



2,2'-Methylenebis(3-(phenylamino)cyclopent-2-en-1-one) (2p).<sup>10</sup> Compound 2p was prepared in 93% yield (50 mg) according to the general procedure.  $R_f = 0.2$ (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 4/1); Yellow solid; mp 196-198 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  9.51 (s, 2H), 7.35-7.32 (m, 4H), 7.24-7.22 (m, 4H), 7.12-7.10 (m, 2H), 3.15 (s, 2H), 2.84 (s, br, 4H), 2.49 (t, J = 4.8 Hz, 4H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  203.4, 172.1, 139.8, 129.4, 124.3, 121.0, 116.2, 33.4, 26.6, 14.6; Analytical data for **2p** were consistent with our previous reports.<sup>10</sup>



2,2'-Methylenebis(5,5-dimethyl-3-(naphthalen-1-ylamino)cyclohex-2-en-1-one) (2q). Compound **2q** was prepared in 93% yield (76 mg) according to the general procedure.  $R_f = 0.2$  (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 10/1); White solid; mp 275-277 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  10.80 (s, 2H), 7.94-7.89 (m, 4H), 7.82 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.54-7.53 (m, 4H), 7.50-7.47 (m, 2H), 7.29 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.86 (s, 2H), 2.26-2.17 (m, 8H) , 0.96 (s, 12H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  196.0, 164.4, 135.7, 134.6, 131.3, 128.4, 127.5, 126.8, 126.6, 125.6, 125.0, 123.2, 109.4, 50.0, 40.5, 32.5, 28.2, 18.1; HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> Calcd for C<sub>37</sub>H<sub>39</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> 543.3006, Found 543.3004.



2,2'-Methylenebis(3-((4-fluorophenyl)amino)-5,5-dimethylcyclohex-2-en-1-one)

(2*r*).<sup>10</sup> Compound 2*r* was prepared in 93% yield (67 mg) according to the general procedure.  $R_f = 0.2$  (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5/1); White solid; mp 235-237 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  10.75 (s, 2H), 7.11-7.08 (m, 4H), 7.07-7.03 (m, 4H), 3.51 (s, 2H), 2.42-2.28 (m, 8H), 0.99 (s, 12H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  196.4, 162.2, 160.4 (d,  $J_{C-F} = 243.4$  Hz), 135.6 (d,  $J_{C-F} = 2.9$  Hz), 126.5 (d,  $J_{C-F} = 8.2$  Hz), 116.1 (d,  $J_{C-F} = 22.5$  Hz), 110.0, 50.0, 40.9, 32.8, 28.4, 18.1; Analytical data for **2r** were consistent with our previous reports.<sup>10</sup>



#### 2,2'-Methylenebis(3-((4-chlorophenyl)amino)-5,5-dimethylcyclohex-2-en-1-one)

(2s).<sup>10</sup> Compound 2s was prepared in 95% yield (73 mg) according to the general procedure.  $R_f = 0.2$  (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5/1); Yellow solid; mp 237-239 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  10.86 (s, 2H), 7.31 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 4H), 7.08 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 4H), 3.49 (s, 2H), 2.51-2.29 (m, 8H), 1.00-0.97 (m, 12H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  196.8, 161.6, 138.3, 130.3, 129.3, 125.5, 110.8, 50.1, 41.0, 32.9, 29.1, 27.4, 18.3; Analytical data for **2s** were consistent with our previous reports.<sup>10</sup>



#### 2,2'-Methylenebis(3-((4-methoxyphenyl)amino)-5,5-dimethylcyclohex-2-en-1-one)

(2*t*).<sup>10</sup> Compound 2*t* was prepared in 93% yield (70 mg) according to the general procedure.  $R_f = 0.2$  (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 4/1); White solid; mp 178-180 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  10.58 (s, 2H), 7.04 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 4H), 6.87 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 4H), 3.81 (s, 6H), 3.53 (s, 2H), 2.26 (s, br, 8H), 0.98 (s, 12H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125) MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 195.7, 162.7, 157.5, 132.5, 126.5, 114.4, 109.2, 55.6, 50.0, 40.8, 32.6, 28.4, 17.8; Analytical data for **2t** were consistent with our previous reports.<sup>10</sup>

Synthesis and characterization of 3



In an oven-dried Schlenk tube (25 mL) containing a magnetic stirring bar was added 1 (0.3 mmol), NaIO<sub>4</sub> (129.5 mg, 0.6 mmol), H<sub>2</sub>O/DMF (3.5 mL, v/v = 1/6) and ethylene glycol (33.5  $\mu$ L, 0.6 mmol), R<sup>1</sup>NH<sub>2</sub> (0.3 mmol). Then the vessel was stirred in a 90 °C oil bath for the corresponding time (see Table 3). The reaction could be monitored by TLC analysis.

For **3a**, **3c-3e**,  $H_2O$  (7 mL) was added to reaction system, and the resulting mixture was directly filtered and washed with  $H_2O$  (5 mL × 6) to give pure products.

For **3b**, **3f-3k**, the resulting mixture was brine (20 mL), and extracted with ethyl acetate (30 mL). The organic layers were washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, concentrated under reduced pressure and subjected to column chromatography for purification directly, using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (3:1-7:1) as the eluent.

**NOTE:** Products **3d-3f**, **3i**, are new compounds. Other products **3** are known compounds,<sup>11</sup> and the spectroscopic data are in agreement with that previously reported.



(1,3-Diphenyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydropyrimidin-5-yl)(phenyl)methanone (3a).<sup>11</sup> Compound 3a was prepared in 95% yield (97 mg) according to the general procedure.  $R_f = 0.2$ 

(petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 4/1); Yellow solid; mp 134-137 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.56-7.52 (m, 3H), 7.46-7.43 (m, 1H), 7.42-7.38 (m, 2H), 7.36-7.33 (m, 2H), 7.25-7.23 (m, 2H), 7.15-7.12 (m, 1H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 6.95-6.90 (m, 3H), 5.16 (s, 2H), 4.51 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  193.5, 148.6, 146.1, 144.0, 139.7, 130.4, 129.9, 129.4, 128.5, 128.3, 124.6, 121.3, 118.7, 117.9, 110.9, 65.6, 47.2; Analytical data for **3a** were consistent with our previous reports.<sup>11</sup>



(1,3-Diphenyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydropyrimidin-5-yl)(4-methoxyphenyl)methanone (**3b**).<sup>11</sup> Compound **3b** was prepared in 86% yield (96 mg) according to the general procedure.  $R_f = 0.2$  (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5/1); Yellow solid; mp 119-121 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.58-7.54 (m, 3H), 7.36-7.32 (m, 2H), 7.25-7.21 (m, 2H), 7.15-7.11 (m, 1H), 6.99 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.95 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 6.92-6.88 (m, 3H), 5.16 (s, 2H), 4.50 (s, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  192.6, 161.6, 148.6, 145.2, 144.2, 132.2, 130.6, 129.9, 129.4, 124.4, 121.2, 118.5, 118.0, 113.6, 111.1, 65.5, 55.5, 47.4; Analytical data for **3b** were consistent with our previous reports.<sup>11</sup>



(4-Chlorophenyl)(1,3-diphenyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydropyrimidin-5-yl)methanone (3c).<sup>11</sup> Compound **3c** was prepared in 83% yield (93mg) according to the general procedure.  $R_f = 0.2$  (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 10/1); Yellow solid; mp 138-141 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.50-7.47 (m, 3H), 7.38-7.34 (m, 4H), 7.23 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.17-7.14 (m, 1H), 6.99-6.90 (m, 5H), 5.16 (s, 2H), 4.49 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 192.0, 148.5, 146.0, 144.0, 138.0, 136.5, 130.0, 130.0, 129.5, 128.6, 124.9, 121.4, 118.8, 117.9, 110.8, 65.7, 47.1; Analytical data for **3c** were consistent with our previous reports.<sup>11</sup>



(1,3-Di-p-tolyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydropyrimidin-5-yl)(phenyl)methanone (3d). Compound 3d was prepared in 92% yield (102 mg) according to the general procedure.  $R_f = 0.2$ (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 10/1); Yellow solid; mp 139-141 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.54-7.53 (m, 2H), 7.47-7.37 (m, 4H), 7.13 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.04 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 6.90 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 6.83 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 5.09 (s, 2H), 4.46 (s, 2H), 2.31 (s, 3H), 2.26 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  193.3, 146.4, 146.3, 141.8, 139.9, 134.5, 130.7, 130.4, 130.3, 129.9, 128.5, 128.2, 118.9, 118.1, 110.3, 66.2, 47.3, 20.8, 20.6; HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> Calcd for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>25</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O 369.1961; found, 369.1958.



(1,3-Bis(4-chlorophenyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydropyrimidin-5-yl)(phenyl)methanone (3e).
Compound 3e was prepared in 77% yield (95mg) according to the general procedure.

 $R_f = 0.2$  (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5/1); Yellow solid; mp 127-129 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.54 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.48-7.45 (m, 1H), 7.42-7.39 (m, 3H), 7.29 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.18 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.88-6.83 (m, 4H), 5.08 (s, 2H), 4.45 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  193.5, 147.0, 145.3, 142.6, 139.3, 130.7, 130.1, 129.4, 128.5, 128.4, 126.4, 119.8, 119.2, 111.3, 65.8, 47.2; HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> Calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>19</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O 409.0869; found, 409.0865.



*Diethyl 4,4'-(5-benzoylpyrimidine-1,3(2H,4H)-diyl)dibenzoate (3f)*. Compound **3f** was prepared in 55% yield (80 mg) according to the general procedure.  $R_f = 0.2$  (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 15/1); White solid; mp 120-122 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.03 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.90 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.57-7.55 (m, 3H), 7.50-7.47 (m, 1H), 7.44-7.40 (m, 2H), 6.96-6.90 (m, 4H), 5.25 (s, 2H), 4.57 (s, 2H), 4.38-4.28 (m, 4H), 1.39-1.32 (m, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  193.6, 166.4, 165.8, 151.8, 147.0, 144.2, 139.0, 131.7, 131.4, 131.0, 128.6, 128.5, 126.1, 122.7, 116.8, 116.1, 113.0, 63.8, 61.2, 60.7, 47.0, 14.5, 14.5; HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> Calcd for C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>29</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> 485.2071; found, 485.2070.

(1,3-Diphenyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydropyrimidin-5-yl)(furan-2-yl)methanone (3g).<sup>11</sup> Compound 3g was prepared in 83% yield (82mg) according to the general procedure.  $R_f = 0.2$  (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 12/1); White solid; mp 104-107 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.38 (s, 1H), 7.51 (s, 1H), 7.42-7.39 (m, 2H), 7.23-7.17 (m, 3H), 7.09-7.06 (m, 3H), 6.98 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 6.91-6.88 (m, 1H), 6.49-6.48 (m, 1H), 5.16 (s, 2H), 4.48 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  177.9, 153.8, 148.6, 144.7, 144.5, 144.3, 130.0, 129.4, 124.7, 121.3, 118.8, 118.0, 116.0, 111.6, 110.1, 65.7, 47.0; Analytical data for 3g were consistent with our previous reports.<sup>11</sup>





(6-Butyl-1,3-diphenyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydropyrimidin-5-yl)(phenyl)methanone (**3h**).<sup>11</sup> Compound **3h** was prepared in 81% yield (96 mg) according to the general procedure.  $R_f = 0.2$  (petroleumm ether/ethyl acetate = 15/1); Yellow oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.68-7.66 (m, 2H), 7.46-7.40 (m, 3H), 7.34-7.31 (m, 2H), 7.25-7.21 (m, 3H), 7.03 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 6.92 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 6.89-6.87 (m, 1H), 4.89 (s, 2H), 4.32 (s, 2H), 2.11 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 1.15-1.09 (m, 2H), 0.76-0.68 (m, 2H), 0.46 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  196.3, 157.0, 148.4, 144.6, 142.5, 130.8, 129.5, 129.3, 128.4, 128.0, 127.4, 126.8, 120.6, 117.3, 109.4, 70.6, 49.9, 30.8, 30.7, 22.3, 13.3; Analytical data for **3h** were consistent with our previous reports.<sup>11</sup>



7,7-Dimethyl-1,3-di(naphthalen-1-yl)-2,3,4,6,7,8-hexahydroquinazolin-5(1H)-one (*3i*). Compound **3i** was prepared in 80% yield (104 mg) according to the general procedure.  $R_f = 0.2$  (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 4/1); Yellow solid; mp 171-173 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.09 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.82-7.76 (m, 3H), 7.62 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.46-7.30 (m, 9H), 4.92 (s, 2H), 4.53 (d, J = 16.3 Hz, 1H), 4.45 (d, J = 16.3 Hz, 1H), 2.36-2.29 (m, 2H), 2.15 (d, J = 16.8 Hz, 1H) 1.79 (d, J = 12.5 Hz, 1H), 0.99 (s, 3H), 0.98 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  193.8, 158,3, 146.3, 138.8, 135.0, 134.6, 131.0, 128.7, 128.6, 128.6, 128.5, 127.4, 126.9, 126.0, 125.9, 125.8, 125.7, 125.7, 124.4, 123.4, 122.4, 116.7, 105.0, 71.9, 50.3, 47.9, 40.7, 32.6, 29.1, 27.9; HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> Calcd for C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>29</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O 433.2274; found, 433.2269.



(1,3-Dibutyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydropyrimidin-5-yl)(phenyl)methanone (3j). Compound 3j was prepared in 75% yield (67 mg) according to the general procedure.  $R_f = 0.2$  (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 15/1); Yellow oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.48-7.38 (m, 5H), 7.06 (s, 1H), 3.99 (s, 2H), 3.68 (s, 2H), 3.09 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 2.53 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.56-1.48 (m, 4H), 1.40-1.27 (m, 4H), 0.96-0.90 (m, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  192.3, 150.5, 140.7, 129.6, 128.4, 128.1, 105.0, 67.3, 54.3, 53.1, 47.7, 31.1, 30.1, 20.7, 19.8, 14.1, 13.7; HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> Calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>29</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O 301.2274; found, 301.2272.

#### Synthesis and characterization of 1,4-dihydropyridines



In an oven-dried seal tube (25 mL) containing a magnetic stirring bar was added **2** (0.2 mmol) and ZnCl<sub>2</sub> (8.2 mg, 0.06 mmol). Then, the vessel was evacuated and refilled with argon (Ar) for three times. Under a stream of Ar, to this vessel was added MeCN (3 mL). Then the vessel was sealed and stirred in a 120 °C oil bath for the corresponding time (see Scheme 2). The reaction could be monitored by TLC analysis. The resulting mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure and subjected to column chromatography for purification directly, using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate/ dichloromethane/Et<sub>3</sub>N as the eluent.



(1-Phenyl-1,4-dihydropyridine-3,5-diyl)bis(phenylmethanone) (2a'). Compound 2a' was prepared in 70% yield (56 mg) according to the general procedure.  $R_f = 0.2$  ((petroleum ether/ethyl acetate/dichloromethane/Et<sub>3</sub>N = 100/10/10/1); Yellow solid; mp 142-144 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.63-7.62 (m, 4H), 7.51-7.48 (m, 2H), 7.45-7.42 (m, 4H), 7.37-7.34 (m, 2H), 7.24-7.21 (m, 1H), 7.17 (s, 2H), 7.06 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 3.65 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  194.9, 143.2, 141.6, 139.1, 131.2, 130.2, 128.6, 128.5, 126.8, 120.9, 117.4, 21.9; Analytical data for **2a'** were consistent with our previous reports.<sup>10</sup>



3,3,6,6-tetramethyl-10-phenyl-3,4,6,7,9,10-hexahydroacridine-1,8(2H,5H)-dione (2o'). Compound 2o' was prepared in 64% yield (45 mg) according to the general procedure.  $R_f = 0.2$  (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate/dichloromethane/Et<sub>3</sub>N = 100/10/10/1); Yellow solid; mp 248-250 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.51-7.49 (m, 3H), 7.16 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 3.22 (s, 2H), 2.20 (s, 4H), 1.78 (s, 4H), 0.91 (s, 12H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  196.8, 151.0, 139.4, 130.1, 130.2, 130.0, 129.3, 110.96, 50.1, 42.0, 32.4, 28.4, 18.6; Analytical data for **2o'** were consistent with our previous reports.<sup>10</sup>

#### **Gram-Scale Preparation of 2a**



In an oven-dried Schlenk tube (100 mL) containing a magnetic stirring bar was added **1a** (1.1 g, 5 mmol), NaIO<sub>4</sub> (1.1 g, 5 mmol). Then, the vessel was evacuated and refilled with Ar for three times. Under a stream of Ar, to this vessel were added DMF (25 mL) and ethylene glycol (279  $\mu$ L, 5 mmol). Then the vessel was stirred in a 100 °C oil bath for about 5 hours. The reaction could be monitored by TLC analysis. Finally, H<sub>2</sub>O (60 mL) was added to reaction system, and the resulting mixture was directly filtered and washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (50 mL × 6) to give pure products **2a** (1.00 g, 88%).

#### **Gram-Scale Preparation of 3a**



In an oven-dried Schlenk tube (100 mL) containing a magnetic stirring bar was added **1a** (0.67 g, 3 mmol), NaIO<sub>4</sub> (1.3 g, 6 mmol), H<sub>2</sub>O/DMF (35 mL, v/v = 1/6) and ethylene glycol (335  $\mu$ L, 6 mmol), PhNH<sub>2</sub> (273 uL, 3 mmol). Then the vessel was stirred in a 90 °C oil bath for about 4 hours. The reaction could be monitored by TLC analysis. Then, H<sub>2</sub>O (50 mL) was added to reaction system, and the resulting mixture was directly filtered and washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (50 mL × 6) to give pure **3a** (0.98 g, 96%).

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## NMR spectra of compounds 2









































## NMR spectra of compounds 3





















9.10-3-H PROTON

 $\sum_{1,2}^{7} \frac{4815}{1,4676}$  $\sum_{1,3676}^{7} \frac{4815}{3971}$  $\sum_{1,2814}^{7} \frac{3814}{2742}$ 



## NMR spectra of compounds 2'





## **Cross reaction result**



The above ratio is derived from a comparison of spectra of known compounds.<sup>11</sup>