#### **Supporting Information**

#### Synthesis of 1,3,4-Oxadiazoles from 1,2-Diacylhydrazines Using [Et<sub>2</sub>NSF<sub>2</sub>]BF<sub>4</sub> as a Practical Cyclodehydration Agent

Marie-France Pouliot, Laetitia Angers, Jean-Denys Hamel and Jean-François Paquin\*

Canada Research Chair in Organic and Medicinal Chemistry, Département de chimie, 1045 avenue de la Médecine, Université Laval, Québec, QC, Canada G1V 0A6



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#### I. General information

The following includes general experimental procedures, specific details for representative reactions and spectroscopic information for the new compounds prepared. All reactions were carried out under a nitrogen or argon atmosphere with dry solvents under anhydrous conditions. <sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C, and <sup>19</sup>F NMR spectra were recorded on a VARIAN Inova 400 MHz or BRUKER Avance 300 MHz in CDCl<sub>3</sub> at ambient temperature using tetramethylsilane (<sup>1</sup>H NMR) or residual CHCl<sub>3</sub> or DMSO (<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR) as the internal standard, or CFCl<sub>3</sub> (<sup>19</sup>F NMR) as the external standard. Infrared spectra were recorded on a Thermo Scientific Nicolet 380 FT-IR spectrometer. High-resolution mass spectra were obtained on a LC/MS-TOF Agilent 6210 using electrospray ionization (ESI). Melting points were recorded on a Stanford Research System OptiMelt capillary melting point apparatus and are uncorrected.

#### II. General procedure for 1,2-diacylhydrazides synthesis



**Method A - General protocol:** To a stirred solution of the acyl hydrazine (1 mmol) in dry dichloromethane (15 mL) was added dry triethylamine (2 mmol) under N<sub>2</sub>. The mixture was cooled to 0 °C and the acyl chloride (1 mmol) was added dropwise to the solution. The resulting mixture was stirred for 12 h at room temperature. The crude solution was then quenched by a saturated solution of NaHCO<sub>3</sub> and extracted with dichloromethane (3×). The combined organic extracts were washed with water (1×), brine (1×), dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude material was purified by flash chromatography to give the desired product.



**Method B - General Protocol:**<sup>1</sup> To a stirred solution of the acyl chloride (1.8 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (5 mL) at 0 °C was added a solution of benzoic hydrazine (1.8 mmol) and anhydrous sodium carbonate (1.8 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (10 mL) and water (10 mL). The

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Hua, G.; Li, Y.; Fuller, A. L.; Slawin, A. M. Z.; Woollins, J. D. Eur. J. Org. Chem. 2009, 15, 1612-1618.

mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 1 h, and at room temperature for 4 h. Diethyl ether was then added and a precipitation was observed. The residue was collected by filtration, washed with cold diethyl ether and dried *in vacuo*.

The data for the 1,2-diacylhydrazides not described previously are given below.

#### III. 1,2-Diacylhydrazines characterization



*N*'-Benzoyl-2-cyclohexylhydrazide (1a). Following the general Method A on a 3.7 mmol scale of benzoic hydrazine, the desired product (837 mg, 93%) was isolated as a white solid. The resulting crude product has been used directly without further purification.

mp 157-160 °C; IR (ATR, ZnSe) v = 3228, 3022, 2927, 2856, 1688, 1636, 1516, 1487, 1452, 690 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  9.68 (br s, 1H), 9.30 (br s, 1H), 7.82 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz , 2H), 7.53-7.48 (m, 1H), 7.42-7.37 (m, 3H), 2.38-2.29 (m, 1H), 1.90-1.78 (m, 4H), 1.68 (m, 1H), 1.56-1.38 (m, 2H), 1.32-1.19 (m, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  173.3, 164.2, 132.4, 131.6, 128.8, 127.4, 43.3, 29.4, 25.7, 25.6; HRMS-ESI calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>19</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 247.1441, found 247.1455.



*N'*-Benzoyl-1,1-dimethylethylhydrazide (1b). Following the general Method A on a 3.7 mmol scale of benzoic hydrazine, the desired product (730 mg, 90%) was isolated as a white solid. The resulting crude has been directly used without purification.

mp 189-190 °C; IR (ATR, ZnSe) v = 3223, 2970, 1645, 1519, 1284, 1224, 1143, 932, 710, 689 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  9.98 (br s, 1H), 9.07 (br s, 1H), 7.84 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.48 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 1.25 (s, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  176.0,

164.7, 132.3, 131.6, 128.7, 127.5, 38.4, 27.3; HRMS-ESI calcd for  $C_{12}H_{17}N_2O_2$  [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 221.1285, found 221.1294.



*N*'-Benzoylmethylhydrazide (1c). Following the general Method B on a 1.8 mmol scale benzoic hydrazine, the desired product (318 mg, 97%) was isolated as a white solid by trituration using diethyl ether.

mp 174-175 °C; IR (ATR, ZnSe) v = 3321, 3201, 1657, 1559, 1523, 1434, 1387, 710, 691, 676 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  10.30 (br s, 1H), 9.90 (br s, 1H), 7.88 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.59-7.46 (m, 3 H), 1.93 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  168.59, 165.5, 132.6, 131.8, 128.5, 127.4, 20.6; HRMS-ESI calcd for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>10</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>Na [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 201.0634, found 201.0632.



*N*'-Benzoylpentylhydrazide (1d). Following the general Method A on a 1.8 mmol scale of benzoic hydrazine, the desired product (395 mg, 92%) was isolated as a white solid by flash chromatography using ethyl acetate/hexane (30/70).

mp 105-106 °C; IR (ATR, ZnSe) v = 3223, 3007, 2959, 2927, 1686, 1645, 1529, 1488, 1261, 715 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  10.11 (br s, 1H), 9.73 (br s, 1H), 7.83 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7,49 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.29 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 1.65-1.61 (m, 2H), 1.29-1.25 (m, 4H), 0.87-0.84 (m, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  171.8, 165.1, 132.2, 131.4, 128.6, 127.6, 34.1, 31.4, 25.2, 22.4, 14.0; HRMS-ESI calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>19</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 235.1441, found 235.1441.

*N*'-Benzoyl-2-phenylmethylhydrazide (1e). Following the general Method A on a 3.7 mmol scale of benzoic hydrazine, the desired product (926 mg, 95%) was isolated as a colorless solid by flash chromatography using methanol/dichloromethane (10/90).

mp 147-148 °C; IR (ATR, ZnSe) v = 3263, 3029, 1688, 1653, 1599, 1484, 1469, 1247, 713, 690 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  10.38 (br s, 1H), 10.20 (br s, 1H), 7.87 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.59-7.46 (m, 3H), 7.35-7.22 (m, 5H), 3.54 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  169.5, 165.5, 135.8, 132.5, 131.8, 129.1, 128.5, 128.3, 127.4, 126.5, 40.3; HRMS-ESI calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>15</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 255.1128, found 255.1127.



*N*'-Benzoylbenzohydrazide (1f). Following the general Method B on a 1.8 mmol scale of benzoic hydrazine, the desired product (349 mg, 79%) was isolated as a white solid by crystallization using diethyl ether. Spectral data for 1f were identical with those previously reported.<sup>1</sup>



*N*'-Benzoyl-4-chlorobenzohydrazide (1g). Following the general Method B on a 1.8 mmol scale of benzoic hydrazine, the desired product (396 mg, 78%) was isolated as a white solid by trituration using diethyl ether. Spectral data for 1g were identical with those previously reported.<sup>1</sup>



*N*'-Benzoyltrifluoromethylhydrazide (1h). Following the general Method A on a 1.8 mmol scale of benzoic hydrazine and using triflic anhydride (1 equiv.) instead of an acyl chloride, the desired product (349 mg, 82%) was isolated as a white solid by flash chromatography using diethyl ether/ hexane (30/70).

mp 153-154 °C; IR (neat) ν = 3207, 1713, 1626, 1601, 1579, 1471, 1311, 1144, 958, 713 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ) δ 11.60 (br s, 1H), 10.77 (br s, 1H), 7.85 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.58 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ) δ 165.3, 155.9 (q,  $J_{C-F}$  = 36.6 Hz), 132.3, 131.7, 128.7, 127.5, 115.9 (q,  $J_{C-F}$  = 287.9 Hz); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ) δ -75.1; HRMS-ESI calcd for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>8</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 233.0532, found 233.0490.



*N'*-Pentylformylhydrazide (1i). Following the general Method A on a 14.7 mmol scale of formic hydrazine, the desired product (664 mg, 29%) was isolated as a white solid by flash chromatography using methanol/hexane (5/95).

mp 93-95 °C; IR (ATR, ZnSe) v = 3194, 2953, 2924, 1603, 1574, 1466, 1386, 1194, 1113, 661 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  9.15 (br s, 1H), 8.96 (br s, 1H), 8.09 (s, 1H), 2.29 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.66 (m, 2H), 1.34-1.32 (m, 4H), 0.91-0.88 (m, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  170.6, 157.1, 34.2, 31.4, 25.1, 22.5, 14.0; HRMS-ESI calcd for C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>14</sub>N<sub>2</sub>ONa [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 181.0952, found 181.0947.

#### IV. Procedure for the synthesis of a thiosemicarbazide



*N*'-Methylbenzoic acid thiosemicarbazide (1j). Following the literature  $\text{protocol}^2$  on a 1.8 mmol scale of benzoic hydrazine and 1.8 mmol scale of methyl isothiocyanate, the desired product (336 mg, 87%) was isolated as a white solid after trituration using Et<sub>2</sub>O.

mp 187-189 °C; IR (ATR, ZnSe) v = 3293, 3165, 2938, 1677, 1559, 1456, 1408, 1238, 1062, 692 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  10.34 (br s, 1H), 9.33 (br s, 1H), 8.04 (br s, 1H), 7.92 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.58 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.87 (m, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  182.3, 166.0, 132.5, 131.9, 127.8, 127.9, 31.0; HRMS-ESI calcd for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>12</sub>N<sub>3</sub>OS [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 210.0701, found 210.0696.

**V.** <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C spectrum

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Dolman, S. J.; Gosselin, F.; O'Shea, P. D.; Davies, I. W. J. Org. Chem. 2006, 71, 9548-9551.

























































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