

The influence of ionic liquids on the Knoevenagel condensation of pyrrole with phenyl acetonitriles

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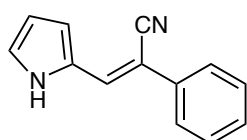
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Supplementary Data

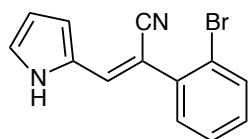
Material

All starting materials were purchased from Aldrich Chemical Co. and Lancaster Synthesis. Solvents were bulk, and distilled from glass prior to use. TLC monitored reaction progress, on aluminium plates coated with silica gel with fluorescent indicator (Merck 60 F₂₅₄) and flash chromatography was conducted utilising SNAP Biotage KP-SIL columns.

General method for synthesis of (Z)-2-phenyl-3-(1H-pyrrol-2-yl)acrylonitrile (3).

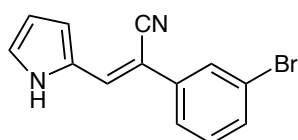


1H-Pyrrole-2-carbaldehyde (165 mg, 1.74 mmol) was added to vigorously stirred H₂O (10 mL) and heated to 50 °C upon which it dissolved. Phenylacetonitrile (193 mg, 1.65 mmol) was then slowly added forming a suspension. Heating was continued at 50 °C and once a clear solution was evident, typically 5–10 min, added room temperature ionic liquid (7 mL) was added dropwise. The reaction vessel was sealed and the mixture stirred at 50 °C for 5 h, the solution filtered hot, washed with warm H₂O and dried under suction and recrystallised from EtOH to afford compound (3) as a brown solid. MP 93–94 °C; IR ν R(CM⁻¹): 3396, 2206, 1600, 1588, 1129, 753, 729, 681, 588, 484; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.80 (brs, 1H), 7.61 – 7.55 (m, 2H), 7.44 – 7.38 (m, 3H), 7.36 – 7.29 (m, 2H), 7.10 – 7.04 (m, 1H), 6.74 – 6.66 (m, 1H), 6.37 – 6.32 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 134.0, 131.4, 129.2, 128.3, 127.9, 125.1, 124.1, 120.8, 119.3, 110.9, 101.5.



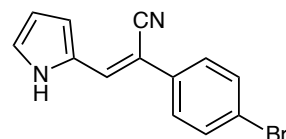
(Z)-2-(2-Bromophenyl)-3-(1H-pyrrol-2-yl)acrylonitrile (4).

Synthesised using the general procedure as described for (3) from 1H-pyrrole-2-carbaldehyde (1) and 2-bromophenylacetonitrile to afford 4 as a light yellow solid. MP 122–123 °C; IR ν R(CM⁻¹): 3309, 2205, 1596, 1139, 731, 596, 444; ¹H NMR: (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 9.99 (brs, 1H), 7.79 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.57 – 7.45 (m, 2H), 7.40 (s, 1H), 7.41 – 7.32 (m, 1H), 7.27 – 7.20 (m, 1H), 6.84 – 6.77 (m, 1H), 6.53 – 6.46 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR: (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 137.5, 135.7, 133.8, 131.0, 130.1, 128.1, 127.4, 124.5, 123.0, 120.1, 119.6, 110.9, 100.7.



(Z)-2-(3-Bromophenyl)-3-(1H-pyrrol-2-yl)acrylonitrile (5).

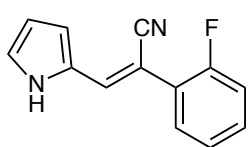
Synthesised using the general procedure as for the synthesis of (3) from 1H-pyrrole-2-carbaldehyde (1) and 3-bromophenylacetonitrile to afford 5 as a brown solid. MP 121–22 °C. IR ν R(CM⁻¹): 3309, 2205, 1597, 1430, 1139, 731, 596, 444; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 9.79 (brs, 1H), 7.71 (t, *J* = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.52 – 7.47 (m, 1H), 7.47 – 7.42 (m, 1H), 7.39 (s, 1H), 7.31 – 7.27 (m, 1H), 7.09 (q, *J* = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 6.73 (t, *J* = 3.7 Hz, 1H), 6.40 – 6.33 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR: (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 136.2, 132.2, 131.2, 130.7, 127.9, 127.6, 124.8, 123.8, 123.4, 120.4, 120.1, 111.2, 99.8.



(Z)-2-(4-Bromophenyl)-3-(1H-pyrrol-2-yl)acrylonitrile (6)

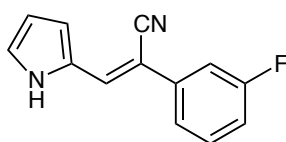
Synthesised using the general procedure as for the synthesis of (3) from 1H-

pyrrole-2-carbaldehyde (**1**) and 4-bromophenylacetonitrile to afford **6** as a yellow solid. MP 123–124 °C; IR ν (CM^{-1}): 3374, 2213, 1487, 1131, 817, 739, 594, 489; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 9.77 (brs, 1H), 7.53 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (s, 1H), 7.11 – 7.06 (m, 1H), 6.74 – 6.66 (m, 1H), 6.40 – 6.32 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 133.1, 132.3, 131.6, 127.7, 126.6, 124.6, 122.2, 120.4, 119.8, 111.2, 100.3.



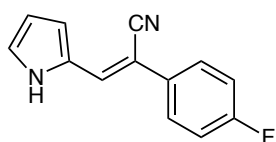
(*Z*)-2-(2-Fluorophenyl)-3-(1*H*-pyrrol-2-yl)acrylonitrile (**7**)

Synthesised using the general procedure as for the synthesis of (**3**) from 1*H*-pyrrole-2-carbaldehyde (**1**) and 2-fluorophenylacetonitrile to afford **7** as a brown solid. MP 100–102 °C; IR ν (CM^{-1}): 3409, 2205, 1603, 1125, 740, 677. ^1H NMR: (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 9.83 (brs, 1H), 7.57 – 7.47 (m, 2H), 7.35 – 7.06 (m, 4H), 6.75 – 6.65 (m, 1H), 6.40 – 6.31 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR: (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 159.7 (d, J = 248.7 Hz), 135.9 (d, J = 9.35 Hz), 129.7 (d, J = 8.55 Hz), 129.1 (d, J = 2.5 Hz), 127.8, 124.8 (d, J = 3.69 Hz), 124.6, 122.4 (d, J = 10.7 Hz), 120.6, 119.9, 116.6 (d, J = 22.2 Hz), 111.0, 95.9 (d, J = 2.2 Hz).



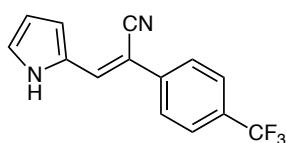
(*Z*)-2-(3-Fluorophenyl)-3-(1*H*-pyrrol-2-yl)acrylonitrile (**8**)

Synthesised using the general procedure described for (**3**) from 1*H*-pyrrole-2-carbaldehyde (**1**) and 3-fluorophenylacetonitrile to afford **8** as a green solid. MP 104–107 °C; IR ν (CM^{-1}): 3396, 2208, 1583, 1407, 1121, 745, 594, 522; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 9.79 (brs, 1H), 7.41 – 7.34 (m, 3H), 7.30 – 7.27 (m, 1H), 7.09 (td, J = 2.8, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.04 – 6.98 (m, 1H), 6.73 (dd, J = 3.7, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 6.37 (dt, J = 3.7, 2.4 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 163.3 (d, J = 245.2 Hz), 136.3 (d, J = 8.1 Hz), 132.1, 130.8 (d, J = 8.5 Hz), 127.6, 124.7, 120.9 (d, J = 2.9 Hz), 120.4, 120.0, 115.1 (d, J = 21.2 Hz), 111.9 (d, J = 23.4 Hz), 111.2, 100.2 (d, J = 2.9 Hz).



(*Z*)-2-(4-Fluorophenyl)-3-(1*H*-pyrrol-2-yl)acrylonitrile (**9**)

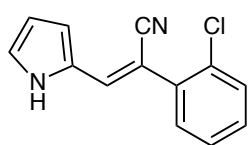
Synthesised using the general procedure as described for (**3**) from 1*H*-pyrrole-2-carbaldehyde (**1**) and 4-fluorophenylacetonitrile to afford **9** as a light yellow solid. MP 10–103 °C; IR ν (CM^{-1}): 3393, 2208, 1593, 1122, 857, 745, 687; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) δ 9.76 (s, 1H), 7.54 (dd, J = 8.7, 5.2 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (s, 1H), 7.16 – 7.04 (m, 3H), 6.69 (s, 1H), 6.35 (q, J = 2.8 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 162.7 (d, J = 246.7 Hz), 131.3 (d, J = 22.1 Hz), 130.3 (d, J = 3.4 Hz), 127.7, 126.9 (d, J = 8.2 Hz), 124.2, 120.6, 119.3, 116.2 (d, J = 21.9 Hz), 111.0, 100.4.



(*Z*)-3-(1*H*-Pyrrol-2-yl)-2-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)acrylonitrile (**10**).

Synthesised using the general procedure as described for (**3**) from 1*H*-pyrrole-2-carbaldehyde (**1**) and 4-trifluoromethylphenylacetonitrile to afford **10** as a yellow solid. MP 149–150 °C; IR ν (CM^{-1}): 3389, 2205, 1590, 1167, 1111, 833, 752, 583; ^1H NMR: (CDCl_3) δ 9.83 (brs, 1H), 7.72 – 7.62 (m, 4H), 7.48 (s, 1H), 7.16 – 7.09 (m, 1H), 6.80 – 6.73 (m, 1H), 6.42 – 6.35 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR: (CDCl_3) δ 137.6 (q, J = 1.4 Hz), 132.8, 130.0 (q, J = 32.6 Hz), 127.6,

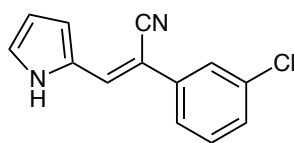
126.2 (q, $J = 3.8$ Hz), 125.2, 124.0 (q, $J = 270.3$ Hz), 120.6, 120.3, 111.4, 99.7.



(*Z*)-2-(2-Chlorophenyl)-3-(1*H*-pyrrol-2-yl)acrylonitrile (**11**)

Synthesised using the general procedure as described for (**3**) from 1*H*-pyrrole-2-carbaldehyde (**1**) and 2-chlorophenylacetonitrile to afford **11** as a brown solid. MP

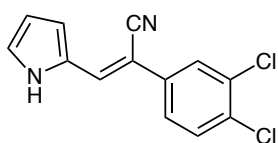
110–112 °C. IR $\nu(\text{CM}^{-1})$: 3309, 2207, 1595, 1141, 730, 595. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 9.87 (brs, 1H), 7.47 – 7.43 (m, 1H), 7.42 – 7.38 (m, 1H), 7.34 – 7.29 (m, 2H), 7.18 (s, 1H), 7.12 – 7.06 (m, 1H), 6.72 – 6.65 (m, 1H), 6.40 – 6.32 (m, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 137.5, 133.8, 133.1, 130.6, 130.5, 129.9, 127.5, 124.5, 120.2, 119.6, 110.9, 98.9.



(*Z*)-2-(3-Chlorophenyl)-3-(1*H*-pyrrol-2-yl)acrylonitrile (**12**)

Synthesised using the general procedure as described for (**3**) from 1*H*-pyrrole-2-carbaldehyde (**1**) and 3-chlorophenylacetonitrile to afford **12** as a yellow solid.

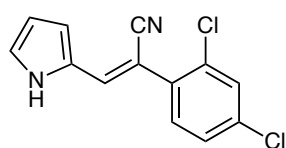
MP 111–112 °C; IR $\nu(\text{CM}^{-1})$: 3386, 2212, 1605, 1528, 1398, 1132, 1039, 732, 681, 590. ^1H NMR: (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 9.79 (brs, 1H), 7.62 – 7.51 (m, 1H), 7.50 – 7.42 (m, 2H), 7.40 (s, 1H), 7.34 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.13 – 7.06 (m, 1H), 6.76 – 6.69 (m, 1H), 6.40 – 6.33 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR: (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 135.9, 135.3, 132.1, 130.4, 128.2, 127.6, 125.0, 124.8, 123.3, 120.4, 120.1, 111.2, 100.0.



(*Z*)-2-(3,4-Dichlorophenyl)-3-(1*H*-pyrrol-2-yl)acrylonitrile (**13**). Synthesised

using the general procedure as described for (**3**) from 1*H*-pyrrole-2-carbaldehyde (**1**) and 3,4-dichlorophenylacetonitrile to afford **13** as a yellow solid. MP 140–141

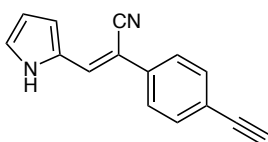
°C; IR $\nu(\text{CM}^{-1})$: 3416, 2200, 1604, 1125, 748, 590, 492; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3): δ 9.77 (brs, 1H), 7.65 (d, $J = 2.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.47 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.41 (d, $J = 2.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.38 (s, 1H), 7.15 – 7.07 (m, 1H), 6.77 – 6.72 (m, 1H), 6.40 – 6.34 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3): δ 134.2, 133.6, 132.2, 131.1, 130.1, 127.5, 126.7, 125.1, 124.2, 120.4, 120.1, 111.4, 98.9.



(*Z*)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-3-(1*H*-pyrrol-2-yl)acrylonitrile. (**14**). Synthesised

using the general procedure as described for (**3**) from 1*H*-pyrrole-2-carbaldehyde (**1**) and 2,4-dichlorophenylacetonitrile to afford **14** as a light yellow solid. MP

148–156.6 °C; IR $\nu(\text{CM}^{-1})$: 3381, 2208, 1593, 1141, 742, 594; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) δ 9.83 (brs, 1H), 7.47 (d, $J = 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.36 – 7.27 (m, 2H), 7.16 (s, 1H), 7.12 – 7.08 (m, 1H), 6.71 – 6.66 (m, 1H), 6.39 – 6.33 (m, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3) δ 137.7, 135.2, 133.8, 132.4, 131.3, 130.4, 127.9, 127.3, 124.9, 120.2, 120.0, 111.1, 97.7.

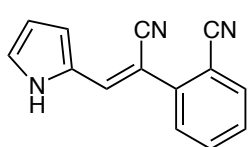


(*Z*)-2-(4-Ethynylphenyl)-3-(1*H*-pyrrol-2-yl)acrylonitrile (**15**)

Synthesised using the general procedure as described for (**3**) from 1*H*-pyrrole-2-carbaldehyde (**1**) and 4-ethynylphenylacetonitrile to afford **15** as a brown solid. MP

100 – 102 °C; IR $\nu(\text{CM}^{-1})$: 3446, 3268, 2194, 1588, 1037, 831, 720, 520, 435. ^1H NMR: (400 MHz,

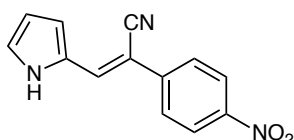
Chloroform-*d*) δ 9.79 (brs, 1H), 7.60 – 7.47 (m, 4H), 7.41 (s, 1H), 7.12 – 7.05 (m, 1H), 6.75 – 6.68 (m, 1H), 6.40 – 6.32 (m, 1H), 3.16 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR: (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 134.4, 132.9, 131.7, 127.8, 124.8, 124.7, 121.9, 120.4, 119.9, 111.2, 100.6, 83.2, 78.8.



(*Z*)-2-(1-Cyano-2-(1*H*-pyrrol-2-yl)vinyl)benzonitrile (**16**)

Synthesised using the general procedure as described for (**3**) from 1*H*-pyrrole-2-carbaldehyde (**1**) and 2-cyanophenylacetonitrile to afford (**16**) as a green solid. MP

148–149 °C; IR $\nu_{\text{R}}(\text{CM}^{-1})$: 3420, 2218, 2199, 1605, 1403, 1333, 740, 572. ^1H NMR: (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 9.79 (brs, 1H), 7.75 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.68 – 7.61 (m, 2H), 7.56 (s, 1H), 7.43 (ddd, $J = 7.7, 5.9, 2.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.14 (q, $J = 2.7$ Hz, 1H), 6.85 – 6.81 (m, 1H), 6.41 – 6.37 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR: (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 138.2, 137.3, 134.7, 133.4, 129.2, 128.5, 127.2, 125.6, 121.1, 120.0, 117.9, 111.6, 110.0, 97.2.



(*Z*)-2-(4-Nitrophenyl)-3-(1*H*-pyrrol-2-yl)acrylonitrile (**17**)

Synthesised using the general procedure as described for (**3**) from 1*H*-pyrrole-2-carbaldehyde (**1**) and 4-nitrophenylacetonitrile to afford **16** as a brown solid.

MP 130–133 °C; IR $\nu_{\text{R}}(\text{CM}^{-1})$: 3368, 2208, 1507, 1576, 1327, 1034, 757, 683, 482. ^1H NMR: (^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 9.87 (brs, 1H), 8.27 (d, $J = 8.9$ Hz, 2H), 7.72 (d, $J = 8.9$ Hz, 2H), 7.55 (s, 1H), 7.22 – 7.10 (m, 1H), 6.88 – 6.73 (m, 1H), 6.47 – 6.29 (m, 1H). ^{13}C NMR: (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 147.1, 140.5, 133.8, 127.6, 126.2, 125.4, 124.6, 121.8, 120.0, 111.8, 98.8.

General method for recycling of ionic liquid:

The procedure generally employed was to dissolve the ionic liquid in the EtOAc (10 mL), and wash it with H_2O (3×5 mL) and saturated brine solution (5 mL). The second step is added of Et_2O (20 mL), so that form two layers. The lower being essentially pure ionic liquid.

Table 6. Model reaction of pyrrole 2-carboxaldehyde with phenyl acetonitrile and recycling of [BMIM][Br] in recycled ILs.

Entry	Run ^a	Yield %
1	1	56
2	2	53
3	3	49

^a Reaction conditions: Pyrrole-2-carboxaldehyde (165 mg, 1.74 mmol), phenylacetonitrile (193 mL, 1.65 mmol), piperidine (2 drops, catalytic), H_2O (10 mL) and room temperature ionic liquid (7 mL) heated at 50 °C for 5 h.

