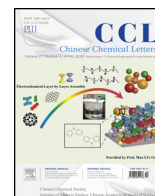




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Original article

Tandem intramolecular Diels–Alder/retro-Diels–Alder cycloaddition of 2*H*-chromen-2-one as dienes with the expulsion of CO₂

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ABSTRACT

To study the intramolecular Diels–Alder cycloaddition of 2*H*-chromen-2-one as a diene, a series of chiral *N*-allyl-*N*-benzylamides that contain a 2*H*-chromen-2-one moiety were designed for the synthesis of benzo[*f*]isindol-1-ones via an intramolecular Diels–Alder and a subsequent retro-Diels–Alder cycloaddition with the expulsion of CO₂. Both the yield (80%–89%) and absolute stereocontrol of the tandem reaction were high when an electron-withdrawing group was attached to the dienophile. The double bond in the styrene substructure remained in the products could be further derivatized by dihydroxylation.

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1. Introduction

Because of the stability of an aromatic ring, the exocyclic double bond in styrene commonly reacts as a dienophile in [4 + 2] cycloaddition reactions [1] and it is quite difficult for styrene to participate as a diene in thermal Diels–Alder cycloaddition unless extremely reactive dienophiles are employed [2]. 2*H*-pyran-2-one and its derivatives are a class of important electron-rich diene in the Diels–Alder reaction [3] and are widely used in organic synthesis [4]. There is a feature of this type of dienes in the Diels–Alder reaction: Retro-Diels–Alder reaction will happen under certain conditions by eliminating one molecule of CO₂, which introduces a carbon–carbon double bond in the ring [5]. Several reports claimed that 2*H*-chromen-2-one, a kind of 2*H*-pyran-2-one fused with a benzene ring, can be used in the Diels–Alder cycloaddition as a dienophile [6]. However, only one case where it was used as a diene was reported in the tandem intramolecular Diels–Alder (IMDA) and retro-Diels–Alder cycloaddition with acetylene as shown in Scheme 1 [7]. The reaction must be carried out in a sealed tube placed in a 300 °C bath, and surprisingly, the acetylenic hydrogen replaced by an electron-withdrawing group (EWG), carboethoxy, **1e** failed to cyclize to form **2e**. In our continuous works on synthesis of polycyclic compounds using

IMDA reaction [8], herein, we report the tandem IMDA and retro-Diels–Alder reaction of chiral *N*-(4-methoxybenzyl)-2-oxo-*N*-(1-phenylbut-3-en-2-yl)-2*H*-chromene-3-carboxamides for stereocontrolled synthesis of 3-benzyl-2-(4-methoxybenzyl)-2,3,3a,4-tetrahydro-1*H*-benzo[*f*]isindol-1-ones under relatively mild conditions.

2. Experimental

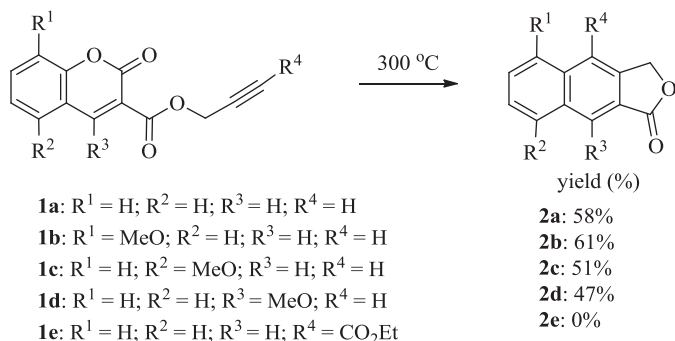
2.1. General procedure for the synthesis of **4a–g**

A solution of **3** (0.1 mmol) in CH₃CN (2 mL) in a sealed vial was heated in an oil bath at 160 °C. After the reaction completed (monitored by TLC analysis), the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by chromatography on silica gel (ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 1/3) to give **4** (Scheme 2).

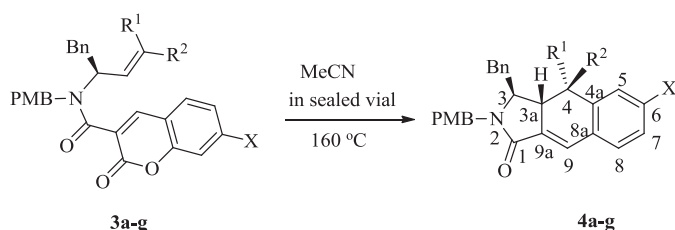
Ethyl (3*S*,3*aS*,4*R*)-3-benzyl-2-(4-methoxybenzyl)-4-methyl-1-oxo-2,3,3*a*,4-tetrahydro-1*H*-benzo[*f*]isindole-4-carboxylate **4a**: White crystalline solid, yield 82%, mp 204–205 °C (EtOAc–hexane); [α]_D²⁵ +13.9 (c 1.0, CHCl₃); *R*_f = 0.20 (20% EtOAc in hexane); IR (film, cm^{−1}): 3061, 3028, 2979, 2933, 2836, 1721, 1685, 1611, 1512, 1447, 1409, 1298, 1247, 1174, 1093, 1031, 909, 755, 731, 700; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.29–7.21 (m, 6H), 7.19 (d, 1H, *J* = 3.2 Hz), 7.11–7.09 (m, 2H), 6.94–6.90 (m, 3H), 6.78 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 5.34 and 3.91 (ABq, 2H, *J* = 14.8 Hz), 4.32 (dq, 1H, *J* = 10.8, 7.2 Hz), 4.19 (dq, 1H, *J* = 10.8, 7.2 Hz), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.76 (dt,

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Scheme 1. Tandem IMDA and retro-Diels-Alder reaction of 2H-chromen-2-one with acetylene.



Scheme 2. Synthesis of compounds 4a–g.

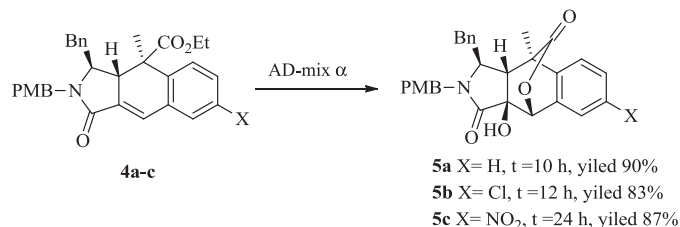
1H, $J = 5.2, 3.6$ Hz), 3.65 (dd, 1H, $J = 4.8, 3.2$ Hz), 3.12 (dd, 1H, $J = 15.2, 3.2$ Hz), 2.66 (dd, 1H, $J = 15.2, 5.6$ Hz), 1.31 (t, 3H, $J = 7.2$ Hz), 1.11 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 175.8, 167.0, 159.0, 139.6, 136.4, 132.2, 131.6, 129.7, 129.6 ($\times 2$), 129.2 ($\times 2$), 129.1, 128.6 ($\times 2$), 127.9, 127.7, 126.8, 126.0, 125.4, 114.0 ($\times 2$), 61.6, 55.6, 55.2, 51.2, 44.2, 42.9, 38.2, 17.2, 14.2; HRMS (+EI) calculated for $C_{31}H_{31}NO_4^+$ (M^+) 481.2253; found 481.2246.

(3S,3aR)-3-Benzyl-2-(4-methoxybenzyl)-4,4-dimethyl-2,3,3a,4-tetrahydro-1H-benzof[*j*]isoindol-1-one **4e**: Colorless oil, yield 11%, $[\alpha]_D^{25} +7.6$ (c 1.0, $CHCl_3$); $R_f = 0.19$ (25% EtOAc in hexane); IR (film, cm^{-1}): 3066, 3030, 3003, 2965, 2929, 2866, 2834, 1676, 1611, 1516, 1453, 1409, 1304, 1239, 1174, 1031, 834, 811, 751, 703; 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 7.27–7.19 (m, 8H), 7.09–7.04 (m, 4H), 6.85 (d, 2H, $J = 8.8$ Hz), 5.40 and 4.01 (ABq, 2H, $J = 14.8$ Hz), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.67–3.63 (m, 1H), 3.02–2.92 (m, 2H), 2.78–2.75 (m, 1H), 1.03 (s, 3H), 0.74 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 167.4, 159.1, 144.8, 136.6, 133.7, 132.5, 129.8 ($\times 2$), 129.5, 129.4 ($\times 2$), 128.9, 128.7 ($\times 2$), 128.1, 126.9, 126.8, 126.7, 123.6, 114.0 ($\times 2$), 56.2, 55.3, 46.0, 44.1, 40.1, 37.5, 24.3, 21.6; HRMS (+EI) calculated for $C_{29}H_{29}NO_2^+$ (M^+) 423.2198; found 423.2204.

2.2. General procedure for the synthesis of 5a–c

To a solution of **4** (0.1 mmol) in a mixed solvent of 2-methyl-2-propanol (1 mL) and water (1 mL) were added methanesulfonamide (0.1 mmol) and AD-mix α (145 mg). After stirring at 0 °C for 10–24 h, the reaction mixture was quenched with saturated aqueous $Na_2S_2O_3$ (5 mL) and stirred at room temperature for another 20 min, then the mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate (10 mL \times 3). The combined organic phase was dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 , filtrated and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/PE = 1/1) to give **5** (Scheme 3).

(1S,3aS,4R,9R,9aS)-1-Benzyl-3a-hydroxy-2-(4-methoxybenzyl)-9-methyl-3a,4,9a-tetrahydro-1H-4,9-(epoxymethano)benzo[*j*]isoindole-3,10(2H)-dione **5a**: White crystalline solid, yield 90%; mp 102–107 °C (EtOAc–hexane); $[\alpha]_D^{25} -4.2$ (c 1.0, $CHCl_3$); $R_f = 0.22$



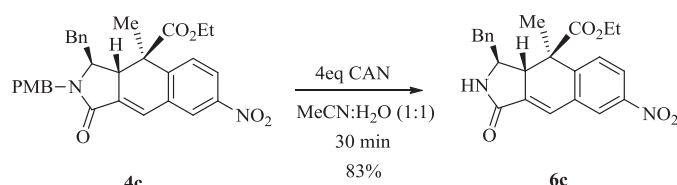
Scheme 3. Synthesis of compounds 5a–c.

(50% EtOAc in hexane); IR (film, cm^{-1}): 3387, 3063, 3033, 2980, 2938, 2840, 1757, 1676, 1513, 1453, 1373, 1245, 1043, 1004, 843, 778, 745, 701; 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 7.48–7.46 (m, 1H), 7.41–7.34 (m, 2H), 7.33–7.25 (m, 3H), 6.99–6.94 (m, 3H), 6.67 (d, 2H, $J = 8.8$ Hz), 6.23 (d, 2H, $J = 8.8$ Hz), 5.64 (s, 1H), 4.78 and 3.72 (ABq, 2H, $J = 14.8$ Hz), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.15 (dd, 1H, $J = 13.2, 3.6$ Hz), 2.73 (ddd, 1H, $J = 9.6, 3.6, 2.4$ Hz), 2.55 (dd, 1H, $J = 13.2, 9.6$ Hz), 2.34 (d, 1H, $J = 2.4$ Hz), 0.76 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 173.3, 170.7, 159.0, 135.5, 135.3, 134.3, 129.8, 129.7 ($\times 2$), 129.4 ($\times 2$), 129.0 ($\times 2$), 128.1, 127.4, 125.4, 125.3, 123.9, 114.1 ($\times 2$), 82.1, 81.5, 58.1, 55.3, 47.8, 47.6, 43.8, 39.8, 12.6; HRMS (+EI) calculated for $C_{29}H_{27}NO_5^+$ (M^+) 469.1889; found 469.1881.

2.3. Synthesis of 6c [9]

Some biological studies on the approved and developing γ -lactam drugs showed that the N-H type lactams are more active than the corresponding N-substituted one [11], therefore we completed the transformation of **4c** to **6c** as an example using ceric (IV) ammonium nitrate (CAN). To a solution of **4c** (72 mg, 0.137 mmol) in a mixed solvent of CH_3CN (3 mL) and H_2O (1 mL) was added ceric ammonium nitrate (298 mg, 0.544 mmol) in one portion. After stirring for 30 min at room temperature, H_2O (3 mL) was added and then the mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate (10 mL \times 3). The combined organic layer was washed with saturated aqueous $NaHCO_3$ (1.5 mL \times 3) and brine (1.5 mL). The organic phase was dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 , filtrated and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by chromatography on silica gel (ethyl acetate/petroleum = 1/1) to give **6c** (46 mg, 83%) as a colorless oil (Scheme 4).

Ethyl (3S)-3-benzyl-4-methyl-7-nitro-1-oxo-2,3,3a,4-tetrahydro-1H-benzof[*j*]isoindole-4-carboxylate **6c**: Yield 83%; $[\alpha]_D^{15} +2.1$ (c 1.0, $CHCl_3$); $R_f = 0.29$ (50% EtOAc in hexane); IR (film, cm^{-1}): 3405, 3214, 3066, 3024, 2979, 2935, 2873, 1730, 1697, 1608, 1584, 1519, 1456, 1346, 1292, 1239, 1090, 1050, 1016, 909, 825, 736, 698; 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 8.14–8.12 (m, 2H), 7.35 (t, 2H, $J = 7.2$ Hz), 7.29 (d, 1H, $J = 7.2$ Hz), 7.25 (d, 1H, $J = 3.2$ Hz), 7.21 (d, 1H, $J = 7.2$ Hz), 7.19 (d, 2H, $J = 8.0$ Hz), 6.18 (br s, 1H), 4.47–4.34 (m, 2H), 3.98–3.93 (m, 1H), 3.70 (dd, 1H, $J = 6.0, 3.6$ Hz), 2.98 (dd, 1H, $J = 13.6, 2.8$ Hz), 2.60 (dd, 1H, $J = 13.6, 10.0$ Hz), 1.39 (t, 3H, $J = 7.2$ Hz), 1.38 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 174.7, 167.1, 147.3, 146.1, 136.4, 135.3, 132.8, 129.1 ($\times 2$), 129.0 ($\times 2$), 127.3, 126.7, 124.32, 124.29, 123.4, 62.3, 54.6, 51.0, 46.4, 42.0, 17.8, 14.2; HRMS (+EI) calcd. for $C_{23}H_{22}N_2O_5^+$ (M^+) 406.1529; found 406.1538.



Scheme 4. Transformation from **4c** to **6c** by removing PMB with CAN.

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