

Supplementary Information

Facile synthesis of 4,5,6a,7 tetrahydrodibenzo[de,g]chromene heterocycles and their transformation to phenanthrene alkaloids

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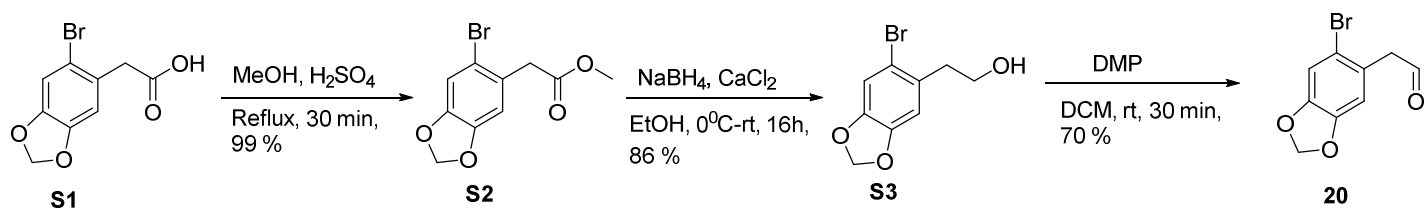
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Experimental Procedures:



methyl 2-(6-bromobenzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)acetate (S2)

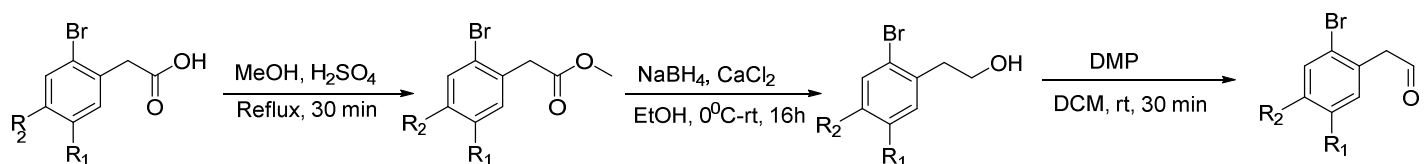
A solution of compound **S1** (5.00 g, 19.3 mmol) and conc. H₂SO₄ (catalytic) in methanol (50 mL) was refluxed for 30 min. After 30 min, the reaction mixture was cooled to rt and was evaporated under reduced pressure. To the resulting crude product water (30 mL) was added, followed by extraction with three portions of dichloromethane (30 mL each). The combined organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄, and evaporated under reduced pressure to afford **S2** as a white solid. (5.21 g, 99 %); Mp: 66 – 69 °C.

2-(6-bromobenzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)ethanol (S3)

In a three neck round bottom flask, CaCl₂ (6.29 g, 57.25 mmol) was dissolved in ethanol (50 mL) under argon atmosphere. The resulting solution was cooled to 0 °C, followed by the addition of NaBH₄ (1.08 g, 28.62 mmol) at the same temperature. The suspension was allowed to stir at 0 °C for 30 min, after which a solution of **S2** (5.21 g, 19.08 mmol) in ethanol (50 mL) was added at the same temperature. The resulting reaction mixture was allowed to stir at 0 °C for another 30 min, and then at rt for 15 h. After 15 h, 50 mL of a mixture of water and dichloromethane (1:1) was added to the reaction mixture which was then sonicated for 1 h. The resulting mixture was then subjected to vacuum filtration over celite. The filtrate was collected and evaporated under reduced pressure. Water was added to the resulting crude product, which was then extracted with three portions of dichloromethane (30 mL each). The combined organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄, and evaporated under reduced pressure, to get a crude mixture which was purified using silica gel column chromatography eluting in 30 % ethyl acetate – petroleum ether, to afford **S3** as a white solid. (4.02 g, 86 %); 63 – 67 °C.

2-(6-bromobenzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)acetaldehyde (20)

Dess-Martin Periodinane (3.80 g, 8.97 mmol) was added to a three neck round bottom flask containing dichloromethane (40 mL) under argon atmosphere. The resulting solution was stirred for 15 min, followed by the addition of compound **S3** (2.0 g, 8.16 mmol). The resulting suspension was stirred for 1 h, after which the reaction mixture was subjected to vacuum filtration over a silica gel bed. The filtrate was collected and evaporated under reduced pressure. The resulting crude **20** obtained as brown oil was used without further purification. (1.38 g, 70 %).



S4a: R₁ = OMe R₂ = OMe
S4b: R₁ = OMe, R₂ = H
S4c: R₁ = H, R₂ = OMe
S4d: R₁ = H R₂ = H

S5a: R₁ = OMe R₂ = OMe; 99 %
S5b: R₁ = OMe, R₂ = H; 99 %
S5c: R₁ = H, R₂ = OMe; 99 %
S5d: R₁ = H R₂ = H; 99 %

S6a: R₁ = OMe R₂ = OMe; 60 %
S6b: R₁ = OMe, R₂ = H; 42 %
S6c: R₁ = H, R₂ = OMe; 55 %
S6d: R₁ = H R₂ = H; 55 %

28a: R₁ = OMe R₂ = OMe; 77 %
28b: R₁ = OMe, R₂ = H; 44 %
28c: R₁ = H, R₂ = OMe; 74 %
28d: R₁ = H R₂ = H; 60 %

General procedure for the synthesis of compounds S5a-S5d (Using S5a as a representative)

A solution of **S4a** (5.0 g, 18.18 mmol) and conc. H₂SO₄ (catalytic) in methanol (50 mL) was refluxed for 30 min. After 30 min, the reaction mixture was cooled to rt and was evaporated under reduced pressure. To the resulting crude water (30 mL) was added, followed by extraction with three portions of 20 mL of dichloromethane. The combined organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄, and evaporated under reduced pressure to afford **S5a**.

methyl 2-(2-bromo-4,5-dimethoxyphenyl)acetate (S5a): Brown Oil; (5.19 g, 99 %).

methyl 2-(2-bromo-5-methoxyphenyl)acetate (S5b): Brown Oil; (2.09 g, 99 %).

methyl 2-(2-bromo-4-methoxyphenyl)acetate (S5c): Brown Oil; (2.09 g, 99 %).

methyl 2-(2-bromophenyl)acetate (S5d): Clear Oil; (5.27 g, 99 %).

General procedure for the synthesis of compounds S6a-S6d (Using S6a as a representative)

In a three neck round bottom flask, CaCl₂ (1.12 g, 10.2 mmol) was dissolved in ethanol (50 mL) under argon atmosphere. The resulting solution was cooled to 0 °C, followed by the addition of NaBH₄ (0.19 g, 5.1 mmol) at the same temperature. The resulting suspension was allowed to stir at 0 °C for 30 min, after which a solution of **S5a** (1.0 g, 3.4 mmol) in 60 mL of Ethanol was added at the same temperature. The resulting reaction mixture was allowed to stir at 0 °C for another 30 min, and then at rt for 15 h. After 15 h, 50 mL of a mixture of water and dichloromethane (1:1) was added to the reaction mixture which was then sonicated for 1 h. The resulting mixture was then subjected to vacuum filtration over celite. The filtrate was collected and evaporated under reduced pressure. 50 mL of water was added to the resulting crude, which was then extracted with three portions of dichloromethane (30 mL each). The combined organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄, and evaporated under reduced pressure to afford **S6**

2-(2-bromo-4,5-dimethoxyphenyl)ethanol (S6a): Brown Oil; (2.56 g, 60 %).

2-(2-bromo-5-methoxyphenyl)ethanol (S6b): Clear Oil; (1.29 g, 42 %).

2-(2-bromo-4-methoxyphenyl)ethanol (S6c): Clear Oil; (1.03 g, 55 %).

2-(2-bromophenyl)ethanol (S6d): Clear Oil; (2.41 g, 55 %).

General procedure for the synthesis of compounds 28a-28d: (Using 28a as a representative)

Dess-Martin Periodinane (1.78 g, 3.83 mmol) was added to a three neck round bottom flask containing 40 mL dichloromethane under argon atmosphere. The resulting solution was stirred for 15 min, followed by the addition of compound **S6** (1.0 g, 3.83 mmol). The resulting suspension was stirred for 1 h, after which the reaction mixture was subjected to vacuum filtration over silica gel. The filtrate was collected and evaporated under reduced pressure. The resulting crude aldehyde **28a** was used without further purification.

2-(2-bromo-4,5-dimethoxyphenyl)acetaldehyde (28a): Pale Yellow Solid; (0.76 g, 77 %).

2-(2-bromo-5-methoxyphenyl)acetaldehyde (28b): Clear Oil; (0.30 g, 44 %).

2-(2-bromo-4-methoxyphenyl)acetaldehyde (28c): Clear Oil; (0.33 g, 74 %).

2-(2-bromophenyl)acetaldehyde (28d): Clear Oil; (1.05 g, 60 %).

