

Article

Alkylation of 2,4-(1*H*,3*H*)-Quinazolinediones with Dialkyl Carbonates Under Microwave Irradiations

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Received: 16 March 2009; in revised form: 6 April 2009 / Accepted: 9 April 2009 / Published: 20 May 2009

Abstract: Alkylation is a very important chemical reaction which modifies the biological properties of drugs. Quinazolinedione derivatives are of considerable interest due to their wide array of pharmacological properties. We now report application of a practical alkylation procedure to several quinazolinediones, including pelanserine (**5f**), which shows antihypertensive properties, 1-methyl-3-(2'-phenylethyl)-1*H*,3*H*-quinazoline-2,4-dione (**1ab**) and 1-methyl-3-[2'-(4'-methoxyphenyl)ethyl]-1*H*,3*H*-quinazoline-2,4-dione (**1ae**), which had been isolated from natural sources. The alkylation was optimized using dimethyl and diethyl carbonates under microwave irradiations.

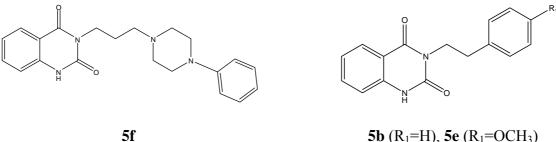
Keywords: alkylation; quinazoline-2,4-dione; antihypertensive activity; microwaves

Introduction

In general alkylation involves substitution of a hydrogen atom by an alkyl group and is a popular and fundamental process in organic synthesis. Several functional groups as α -carbon [1], alcohols [2], amines [3], carboxylic acids [4] and amides-NH [5] are protected by alkylation reactions. These modifications change the physic chemical and biological properties of such compounds. Our group has been working on the synthesis of quinazolinone and quinazolinedione derivatives, which are of considerable interest because of their wide array of pharmacological properties [6-20]. We have synthesized heterocycles containing the quinazoline-2,4-dione backbone, which are known to exhibit potential anti-hypertensive properties [21-25]. We have described the synthesis of pelanserine (5f), a potent anti-hypertensive agent [26], and a several quinazoline-2,4-diones with amino acids and dipeptide, which when tested showed mild to no antihypertensive properties [27].

Recently, we synthesized two alkaloids containing the quinazoline-2,4-dione ring skeleton -1-methyl-3-(2'-phenylethyl)-1H,3H-quinazoline-2,4-dione (1ab) and 1-methyl-3-[2'-(4'-methoxyphenyl)ethyl]-1H,3H-quinazoline-2,4-dione (1ae) – which have been isolated from the seed husks of Zanthoxylum arborescens [28]. Alkylation reactions were performed with methyl iodide and TMG as a base, but the reagents are expensive <u>abd</u> toxic and take about one hour at 55° C to complete the reaction [29]. Herein, we propose a novel methodology for the alkylation using inexpensive dimethyl and diethyl carbonates which are very stable liquids, non-reactive under normal conditions. The reactions were assisted and optimized by microwaves, taking only a few minutes to complete. This efficient process was applied to a quinazolinedione library to improve the methodology without toxic reagents.

Figure 1. Examples of quinazoline-2,4- diones: Pelanserine (5f) a potent anti-hypertensive agent, and two natural products [5(b,e)].

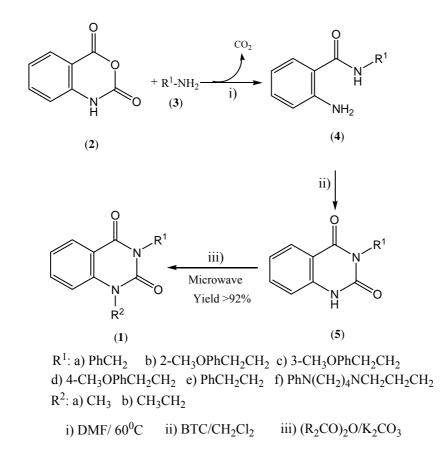


5b (R₁=H), **5e** (R₁=OCH₃)

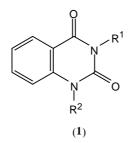
Results and Discussion

Alkylation of NH-containing heteroaromatic compounds is an important transformation that regularly employs toxic and hazardous reagents such as methyl iodide [29] or dimethyl sulfate [30]. Dialkyl carbonates are an attractive alternative as alkylating reagents for NH-containing heteroaromatic compounds. Quinazoline-2,4-diones 5(a,b,c,d,e,f) were thus prepared using our methodology [26]. Initially, we prepared the ortho-aminobenzamides from the reactions of isatoic anhydride with amines and the cyclization was carried out with bis(trichloride methyl)carbonate (BTC, triphosgene). Finally, the alkylation with dimethyl carbonate was optimized under microwave irradiation and the conditions were fixed at 200 W, 130 °C, for 15 minutes, using K₂CO₃ as base (Scheme 1). The reaction was filtered, to get a >94% yield. The alkylation with diethyl carbonate was similar, in this case it was necessary to increase the temperature to 160 °C to obtain the ethylquinazoline-2,4-diones in a >92% yield. Ethylation products had to be purified by column chromatography on silica gel to remove the excess of diethyl carbonate. By applying microwave irradiation further rate enhancements were accomplished.





The new methodology has the advantages of rapid reaction times, ease of operation and purification and the use of readily available reagents, and the avoidance of toxic alkylating reagents. In this work methyl and ethyl quinazoline-2,4-dione libraries were prepared, which are detailed in Table 1. The yields obtained with the optimized method were excellent, with conversions of 92-98%. Therefore, this is a very efficient method, with easy purification of products, since no by-products were observed.



Entries	\mathbb{R}^1	\mathbf{R}^2	% Yield
1 aa	PhCH ₂	CH ₃	94
1ab	PhCH ₂ CH ₂	CH ₃	98
1ac	2-CH ₃ OPhCH ₂ CH ₂	CH ₃	95
1ad	3-CH ₃ OPhCH ₂ CH ₂	CH ₃	96
1ae	4-CH ₃ OPhCH ₂ CH ₂	CH ₃	98
1af	PhN(CH ₂) ₄ NCH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₂	CH ₃	93
1ba	PhCH ₂	CH ₃ CH ₂	96
1bb	PhCH ₂ CH ₂	CH ₃ CH ₂	96
1bc	2-CH ₃ OPhCH ₂ CH ₂	CH ₃ CH ₂	95
1bd	3-CH ₃ OPhCH ₂ CH ₂	CH ₃ CH ₂	94
1be	4-CH ₃ OPhCH ₂ CH ₂	CH ₃ CH ₂	97
1bf	PhN(CH ₂) ₄ NCH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₂	CH ₃ CH ₂	92

Table 1. Alkylated quinazoline-2,4-diones.

Conclusions

We have developed a simple method to methyl or ethyl alkylation of amide-*NH* functions with dialkyl carbonates, which were assisted by microwave irradiation. We used several quinazoline-2,4-diones which were previously synthesized by our group for biological evaluation as potential antihypertensive agents. We have proven that this method is very fast, clean, with almost complete conversion, using stable reagents avoiding possible contamination. We are currently exploring this reaction without solvent, as a green chemistry process. The amounts of K_2CO_3 are important which were established at three equivalents, thus working in a more efficient way. After several experiments, optimum conditions were determined. The basic backbone provides a source for introduction of different heterocyclic extension on the amide -NH, in order to diversify the quinazoline-2,4-dione structural system.

Experimental

General

Melting points were measured on an Electrothermal 88629 apparatus and are uncorrected. Infrared (IR) spectra were recorded on a Perkin Elmer FT-IR 1600 spectrometer. ¹H-NMR and ¹³C-NMR spectra were recorded at 200 MHz and 50.289 MHz, respectively, on a Varian Mercury 200 spectrometer in CDCl₃ with TMS as internal standard. Mass spectra were obtained on an Agilent 1100 series LC/MSD Trap, SL Spectrometer by electrospray insertion. Microwave equipment was a self-tuning single mode CEM DiscoverTM Focused Synthesizer.

General Method for Methylation of Quinazoline-2,4-diones 4

1-Methyl-3-(2'-phenylethyl)-1H,3H-quinazoline-2,4-dione (**1ab**). Dimethyl carbonate (1.25 mL) was added to a solution of 3-phenylethyl-1H-quinazoline-2,4-dione (**5b**, 0.125g, 0.38 mmol) in DMF

(1.25 mL) and K₂CO₃ (3 equiv) as base. The mixture was placed in a microwave reactor vessel (10 mL) and heated at 130 °C for 15 minutes and cooled to RT, then diluted with CH₂Cl₂ and H₂O. The aqueous layer was removed, and the organic layer was washed with H₂O, twice with 2 M HCl or 10% aqueous citric acid, twice with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃, and twice with H₂O. The organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated under vacuum to afford **1ab** as a white solid. Yield >98 %; mp 99-101°C (Lit. [25], mp. 100-102°C); IR (KBr): 3042, 2929, 1701, 1654, 1610, 1481 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR: δ 8.23 (dd, 1H, *J*_{*I*}=1.7, *J*₂=7,8 Hz, Ar-H), 7.65 (ddd, 1H, *J*_{*I*}=1,7, *J*₂=7,3, *J*₃=8,4 Hz, Ar-H), 7.34-7.16 (m, 7H, Ar-H), 4.29 (ddd, *J*_{*I*}= 5.6, *J*₂= *J*₃=7.8 Hz, 2H, N-CH₂), 3.57 (s, 3H, N-CH₃), 2.96 (ddd, J₁= 5.2, J₂= J₃=8,0 Hz, Ar-CH₂) ppm; ¹³C-NMR: δ 161.3, 150.5, 140.2, 138.3, 134.8, 129.9, 128.7, 128.6, 128.2, 126.2, 122.7, 120.9, 113.3, 43.3, 33.9, 30.6 ppm; ESI-MS (m/e): 280.1[M+H]⁺.

The following compounds were prepared in similar fashion:

1-Methyl-3-[2'-(2'-methoxyphenyl)ethyl]-lH,3H-quinazoline-2,4-dione (**1ac**). White solid. Yield >95%; mp 155-163°C; IR (KBr): 2943, 1703, 1651, 1608, 1484, 1243, 1028 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR: δ 8.21 (dd, 1H, J_I =1.6, J_2 =7.9 Hz, Ar-H), 7.66 (ddd, 1H, J_I = 1.7, J_2 =7.3, J_3 =8.5 Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 7.28-7.16 (m, 5H, Ar-H), 6.85(ddd, 1H, J_I = 1.0, J_2 = J_3 =8.2 Hz, Ar-H), 4.33 (ddd, 2H, J_I = 5.6, J_2 = J_3 =7.4 Hz, Ar-CH₂), 3.81 (s, 3H, O-CH₃), 3.58(s, 3H, N-CH₃), 3.02 (ddd, 2H, J_I = 5.8, J_2 = J_3 =7.4 Hz, Ar-CH₂) ppm; ¹³C-NMR: δ 161.3, 157.8, 140.2, 134.9, 130.6, 128.6, 127.7, 127.1, 122.8, 120.4, 113.4, 110.2, 55.3, 41.8, 30.6, 28.7 ppm; ESI-MS (m/e): 310.9[M+H]⁺; 332 [M+Na]⁺.

1-Methyl-3-[2'-(3'-methoxyphenyl)ethyl]-lH,3H-quinazoline-2,4-dione (**1ad**). White solid. Yield 96%; mp 131-133°C; IR (KBr): 2945, 2833, 1699, 1656, 1604 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR: δ 8.23 (dd, 1H, J_I =1.7, J_2 =7.9 Hz, Ar-H), 7.63 (ddd, 1H, J_I =1.6, J_2 =7.2, J_3 =8.4 Hz, Ar-H), 7.25-7.15 (m, 4H, Ar-H), 6.78 (ddd, 1H, J_I =1.0, J_2 =2.5, J_3 =8.2 Hz, Ar-H), 4.30 (ddd, 2H, J_I = 5.4, J_2 = J_3 =7.6 Hz, N-CH₂), 3.79 (s, 3H, O-CH₃), 3.55 (s, 3H, N-CH₃), 2.98 (ddd, 2H, J_I =5.1, J_2 = J_3 =7.6 Hz, Ar-CH₂) ppm; ¹³C-NMR: δ 162.5, 159.9, 148.5, 140.5, 132.8, 132.4, 129.7, 127.0, 126.4, 122.7, 117.4, 116.8, 116.3, 112.1, 55.1, 40.7, 35.7 ppm; ESI-MS (m/e): 332.9 [M+Na]⁺

1-Methyl-3-[2'-(4'-methoxyphenyl)ethyl]-lH,3H-quinazoline-2,4-dione (**1ae**). White solid. Yield >98%; mp. 134-136°C. (Lit. [25] mp. 133-134°C); IR (KBr): 3301, 2928, 1700, 1647, 1600, 1400, 1261 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR: δ 8.21 (dd, 1H, J_I =1.6, J_2 =7.8 Hz, Ar-H), 7.69 (ddd, 1H, J_I = 1.7, J_2 =7.4, J_3 =8.5 Hz, Ar-H), 7.30-7.18 (m, 6H, Ar-H), 6.80 (ddd, 1H, J_I =1.0, J_2 =2.5, J_3 =8.2 Hz, Ar-H), 4.26 (ddd, 2H, J_I = 5.2, J_2 = J_3 =7.8 Hz, N-CH₂), 3.80 (s, 3H, O-CH₃), 3.59 (s, 3H, N-CH₃), 2.95 (ddd, 2H, J_I = 5.2, J_2 = J_3 =7.8 Hz, Ar-CH₂) ppm; ¹³C-NMR: δ 161.8, 158. 2, 140.5, 130.1, 129.2, 124.2, 114.0, 113.6, 55.5, 43.7, 33.4, 31.0 ppm; ESI-MS (m/e): 332.9 [M +Na]⁺.

1-Methyl-3-(benzyl)-1H,3H-quinazoline-2,4-dione (**1aa**). White solid. Yield 94%; mp.103-106°C; IR (KBr): 3416, 2918, 1700, 1652, 1604, 1480, 1266, cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR: δ 8.22 (dd, 1H, *J*₁=1.6, *J*₂=7.9 Hz, Ar-H), 7.64 (ddd, 1H, *J*₁=1.6, *J*₂=7.3, *J*₃ =8.5 Hz, Ar-H), 7.52 (dd, 2H, *J*₁=1.7, *J*₂=7.8 Hz, Ar-H), 7.34-

7.13 (m, 5H, Ar-H), 5.27 (s, 2H, N-CH₂), 3.57 (s, 3H, N-CH₃) ppm; ¹³C-NMR: δ 161.7, 150.9, 140.9, 137.0, 135.1, 129.7, 129.0, 128.3, 127.5, 122.9, 115.5, 113.5, 44.9, 30.7 ppm; ESI-MS (m/e) 288.9 [M+Na]⁺.

lMethyl-3-(3-(4-phenylpiperazin-1-yl)propyl)-1H,3H-quinazoline-2,4-dione (**1af**). White solid. Yield >93%; IR (KBr): 3018, 2932, 2880, 2803, 1695, 1647, 1604, 1223, 1110 cm⁻¹. ¹H-NMR: δ 8.18 (dd, 1H, J_1 =1.6, J_2 = 7.9 Hz, Ar-H), 7.62 (ddd, 1H, J_1 =1.6, J_2 =7.4, J_3 =8.4 Hz, Ar-H), 7.25-7.11 (m, 3H, Ar-H), 6.88-6.75 (m, 3H, Ar-H), 4.16 (m, 2H, N-CH₂), 3.58 (s, 1H, N-CH₃), 3.10 (m, 4H, N-CH₂), 2.55 (m, 6H, N-CH₂), 1.95 (dd, 3H, J_1 =7.1, J_2 =14.3 Hz, CH₂) ppm; ¹³C-NMR: δ 161.8, 151.3, 148.8, 140.5, 135.0, 129.1, 128.9, 128.8, 122.8, 119.5, 115.9, 112.8, 56.1, 55.2, 53.0, 49.1, 40.5, 30.6, 24.8 ppm; ESI-MS (m/e): 392.2 [M+ H]⁺.

General Method for Ethylation of 2,4 Quinazoline-2,4-diones 4

1-Ethyl-3-(2'-phenylethyl)-1H,3H-quinazoline-2,4-dione (**1bb**). Diethyl carbonate (1.25 mL), was added to a solution of 3-phenylethyl-1-H-quinazoline-2,4-dione (**5b**) (0.125g, 0.38 mmol) in DMF (1.25 mL) and K₂CO₃ (3 equiv) as base. The mixture was placed in a microwave reactor vessel (10 mL) and heated at 160 °C for 15 minutes and cooled to RT, then diluted with CH₂Cl₂ and washed with NaCl to remove DMF. The organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated under vacuum. The crude was purified by silica gel column chromatography with silica using gel first hexane (60 mL) and then EtOAc (60 mL) to give **1bc** as a yellow viscous liquid. Yield >96%; IR (NaCl): 3033, 2929, 1705, 1657, 1609, 1483, 1402, 1229 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR: δ 8.25 (dd, 1H, J_I =1.7, J_2 =7.8 Hz, Ar-H), 7.68 (ddd, 1H, J_I = 1.7, J_2 =7.3, J_3 =8.4 Hz, Ar-H), 7.34-7.20 (m, 7H, Ar-H), 4.31 (ddd, J_I = 5.6, J_2 = J_3 =7.8 Hz, 2H, N-CH₂), 4.20 (q, 2H, J=7.1 Hz, -CH₂), 2.98 (ddd, 2H, J_I = 5.2, J_2 = J_3 =8.0 Hz, Ar-CH₂), 1.34(t, 3H, J=7.1 Hz, -CH₃) ppm; ¹³C-NMR: δ 161.6, 150.4, 139.5, 138.6, 135.0, 129.1, 129.0, 128.4, 126.4, 122.7, 115.8, 113.3, 43.2, 38.7, 34.0, 12.5 ppm; ESI-MS (m/e): 294.1[M+H]⁺.

The following compounds were prepared in similar fashion:

1-Ethyl-3-(benzyl)-1H,3H-quinazoline-2,4-dione (**1ba**). White solid. Yield >96%; mp. 103-105 °C; IR (NaCl): 2974, 2922, 1701, 1657, 1605, 1483 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR: δ 8.26 (dd, 1H, J_I =1.7, J_2 =7.8 Hz, Ar-H), 7.66 (ddd, 1H, J_I = 1.7, J_2 =7.3, J_3 =8.4 Hz, Ar-H), 7.52 (dd, 2H, J_I =1.8, J_2 =7.9 Hz, Ar-H), 7.35-7.18 (m, 5H, Ar-H), 5.28 (s, 2H, N-CH₂), 4.20 (q, 2H, J=7.1 Hz, -CH₂), 1.34 (t, 3H, J=7.1 Hz, -CH₃) ppm; ¹³C-NMR: δ 161.4, 150.3, 139.6, 137.0, 135.1, 129.3, 129.0, 128.4, 127.5, 122.7, 120.2, 113.3, 44.9, 38.8, 12.5 ppm; ESI-MS (m/e): 280.1[M+H]⁺.

1-Ethyl-3-[2'-(2'-methoxyphenyl)ethyl]-lH,3H-quinazoline-2,4-dione (**1bc**). White solid. Yield >95%; mp.128-130°C; IR (NaCl): 2915, 2848, 1701, 1657, 1605, 1483, 1240 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR: δ 8.24 (dd, 1H, J_1 =1.7, J_2 =7.8 Hz, Ar-H), 7.66 (ddd, 1H, J_1 = 1.7, J_2 =7.3, J_3 =8.4 Hz, Ar-H), 7.28-7.16 (m, 5H, Ar-H), 6.85 (ddd, 1H, J_1 =1.0, J_2 = J_3 =8.2 Hz, Ar-H), 4.34 (ddd, 2H, J_1 = 5.6, J_2 = J_3 =7.8 Hz, N-CH₂), 4.16 (q,

2H, *J*=7.1 Hz, -CH₂), 3.79 (s, 3H, O-CH₃), 3.03 (ddd, 2H, J_I =5.8, J_2 = J_3 =7.4 Hz, Ar-CH₂), 1.30 (t, 3H, *J*=7.2 Hz, -CH₃) ppm; ¹³C-NMR: δ 161.6, 150.4, 157.5, 139.1, 134.5, 130.2, 128.8, 127.4, 122.2, 120.1, 112.9, 109.9, 55.1, 41.5, 38.5, 29.6, 12.5 ppm; ESI-MS (m/e): 324.1[M+H]⁺.

1-Ethyl-3-[2'-(3'-methoxyphenyl)ethyl]-lH,3H-quinazoline-2,4-dione (**1bd**). White solid. Yield >94%; mp.112-114°C; IR (NaCl): 2966, 2841, 1701, 1653, 1605, 1483, 1258 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR: δ 8.25 (dd, 1H, J_I =1.6, J_2 =8.0 Hz, Ar-H), 7.68 (ddd, 1H, J_I = 1.7, J_2 =7.3, J_3 =8.5 Hz, Ar-H), 7.29-7.18 (m, 4H, Ar-H), 6.91(m, 1H, Ar-H), 6.77 (ddd, 1H, J_I =0.9, J_2 = 2.6, J_3 =8.2 Hz, Ar-H), 4.31 (ddd, 2H, J_I = 5.6, J_2 = J_3 =7.8 Hz, N-CH₂), 4.20 (q, 2H, J=7.1 Hz, -CH₂), 3.79 (s, 3H, O-CH₃), 2.97 (ddd, 2H, J_I =5.6, J_2 = J_3 =8.4 Hz, Ar-CH₂), 1.35 (t, 3H, J=7.2 Hz, -CH₃) ppm; ¹³C-NMR: δ 161.6, 150.7, 140.2, 135.0, 131.5, 129.4, 129.1, 122.7, 121.4, 114.2, 113.3, 112.3, 55.1, 43.1, 38.7, 34.0, 12.5 ppm; ESI-MS (m/e): 324.1[M+H]⁺.

1-Ethyl-3-[2'-(4'-methoxyphenyl)ethyl]-lH,3H-quinazoline-2,4-dione (**1be**). White solid. Yield >97%; mp.110-112°C; IR (NaCl): 2974, 2833, 1701, 1657, 1609, 1509, 1483, 1244 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR: δ 8.24 (dd, 1H, J_I =1.7, J_2 =7.8 Hz, Ar-H), 7.66 (ddd, 1H, J_I = 1.4, J_2 = J_3 =8.4 Hz, Ar-H), 7.28-7.18 (m, 4H, Ar-H), 6.84(ddd, 2H, J_I =2.2, J_2 = J_3 =6.6 Hz, Ar-H), 4.31-4.12 (m, 4H, 2 N-CH₂), 3.77 (s, 3H, O-CH₃), 2.93 (ddd, 2H, J_I =5.6, J_2 = J_3 =8.2 Hz, Ar-CH₂), 1.34 (t, 3H, J=7.1 Hz, -CH₃) ppm; ¹³C-NMR: δ 161.6, 158., 150.3, 139.5, 135.0, 130.7, 129.9, 129.1, 122.7, 115.7, 113.9, 113.3, 55.2, 43.3, 38.7, 33.0, 12.5 ppm; ESI-MS (m/e): 324.1[M+H]⁺.

1-Ethyl-3-(3-(4-phenylpiperazin-1-yl)propyl)-1H,3*H-quinazoline-2*,4-*dione* (**1bf**). White solid. Yield >92%; mp. 94-96°C; IR (KBr): 3010, 2937, 2880, 2803, 1695, 1647, 1604, 1223, 1110 cm⁻¹. ¹H-NMR: δ 8.10 (dd, 1H, J_I =1.6, J_2 =7.8 Hz, Ar-H), 7.73 (ddd, 1H, J_I =1.8, J_2 =7.4, J_3 =8.8 Hz, Ar-H), 7.45 (d, 1H, J=8.4 Hz, Ar-H), 7.31-7.14 (m, 3H, Ar-H), 6.89-6.72 (m, 3H, Ar-H), 4.22-4.04 (m, 4H, 2 N-CH₂), 3.77 (s, 1H), 3.19-2.99 (m, 4H, N-CH₂), 2.56-2.40 (m, 6H, N-CH₂), 1.86 (dd, 3H, J_I =7.0, J_2 =14.2 Hz, CH₂), 1.25 (t, 3H, J=7.1 Hz, CH₃) ppm; ¹³C-NMR: δ 164.9, 154.7, 153.7, 143.1, 138.8, 132.5, 131.8, 126.2, 122.6, 119.1, 118.9, 117.7, 59.4, 56.5, 52.1, 51.4, 43.32, 28.0, 16.0 ppm; ESI-MS (m/e): 392.2[M+H]⁺.

Acknowledgements

We are grateful to Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología in México (CONACYT, grant No. SEP-2004-CO1-47835) and Dirección General de Educación Superior Tecnológica (DGEST) for supporting this project. Leticia Guerrero thanks to CONACYT for a scholarship.

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Sample Availability: Available from the authors.

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