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Iron-Catalyzed Acylation-Oxygenation of Terminal Alkenes for the Synthesis of Dihydrofurans Bearing a Quaternary Carbon

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Supporting Information

ABSTRACT: Iron-catalyzed acylation-oxygenation of terminal alkenes is reported. Acyl radicals generated by the oxidation of aldehydes add to terminal alkenes and followed by intramolecular oxygenation give functionalized 2,3-dihydrofuran derivatives bearing a quaternary carbon.

C arbonylation of alkenes has gained widespread acceptance in both industry and academia for the synthesis of carbonyl compounds. Hydroformylation and the Reppe process using carbon monoxide present a reliable and powerful strategy for carbonylation of alkenes (Scheme 1, Method A).¹ Direct

Scheme 1. Examples for the Synthesis of Carbonyl Compounds from Alkenes



transformation of formyl C–H bonds to form C–C bonds provides great synthetic benefits for carbonylation reactions from the points of view of the difficulty in handling gaseous carbon monoxide and the readily available aldehydes (Scheme 1, Method B).² Difunctionalization of alkenes deserves diligent attention in view of its rapid introduction of two functional groups across a C–C double bond in one step.³ Despite this successful approach, difunctionalization of alkenes with a carbonyl and other functional groups remained challenging,⁴ including the limitations of alkene carbonylation reactions and the difficulty of the introduction of the second functional group. To address this issue, we envisioned that aldehyde as a carbonyl unit might facilitate the process and extend the scope of carbonylation of alkenes (Scheme 1, Method C).⁵

The dihydrofuran skeleton is an important subunit of biologically active compounds and also a useful building block in organic synthesis.⁶ A variety of synthetic methods have been successfully developed for synthesis of dihydrofuran derivatives.^{7–9} Oxidative cyclization of alkenes with ketones presents one of the typical routes for 2,3-dihydrofuran formation (Scheme 2A).⁸ Halocyclization of olefinic carbonyl compounds provided an excellent access to introduce a functional group into the dihydrofuran skeleton, which could



cat. [Fe]

R³ = alkyl, aryl, ester



be used for the further transformation (Scheme 2B).⁹ Following our efforts on acylation of alkenes with aldehydes,¹⁰ we here wish to report an iron-catalyzed¹¹ acylation-oxygenation of terminal alkenes to synthesize 2,3-dihydrofurans (Scheme 2C). The salient feature of the method includes the introduction of a carbonyl substituent and a quaternary carbon bearing a variety of functional groups (alkyl, aryl, and ester) onto the dihydrofuran skeleton.

Initially, the reaction of benzaldehyde 1a with alkene 2a was chosen as a model reaction to establish the reaction conditions (Table 1). A 65% yield of the desired dihydrofuran product 3a was obtained by applying FeCl₂ as catalyst and di-*tert*-butylperoxide as oxidant (entry 1). Interestingly, the yields of 3a were less affected by the choice of iron catalysts (entries 2-5), while other catalysts such as Cu, Co, and Mn completely inhibited the desired transformation and over 95% of 2a was recovered (entries 6-9). Importantly, 3a was formed in a 20% yield along with the recovery of 2a in 19% without a catalyst (entry 10). These results indicate that the iron catalyst is unique and important for the efficiency of this transformation. Other oxidants such as *tert*-butyl hydroperoxide, *tert*-butyl

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Table 1. Optimization of Reaction Conditions^a



^{*a*}Reaction conditions: **1a** (1.5 mmol), **2a** (0.3 mmol), [Fe] (2.5 mol %), [O] (0.75 mmol), PhCl (1.0 mL), 120 °C, 1 h, under N₂. ^{*b*}NMR yields were determined by ¹H NMR using an internal standard (the yield in parentheses). ^{*c*}An acylation-peroxidation product was obtained in 70% yield; see ref 10d. ^{*d*}100 °C; Not Detected.

peroxybenzoate, and benzoyl peroxide were also examined and found less effective than di-*tert*-butyl peroxide (entries 11–13). It should be noted that the reaction failed to facilitate the desired transformation and **2a** was recovered quantitatively at 100 °C (entry 14). This result supported that (1) the acylation step of this reaction is most likely reversible; (2) the formation of **3a** plays a driving force in the present transformation. On the basis of the above optimization, we chose FeCl₂ as catalyst and di-*tert*-butylperoxide as oxidant under 120 °C (entry 1) for the following studies.

Subsequently, the generality of the transformation was investigated under the optimized reaction conditions (Tables 2 and 3). First, the scope and limitation of alkenes were investigated under the optimized reaction conditions (Table 2). Olefinic β -diketones smoothly reacted with benzaldehyde 1a to give the corresponding dihydrofurans 3b-d. Olefinic β -ketone esters (R^2 is ester group) were also successfully applied to this transformation and led to 3e-g in moderate yields. However, the reaction of benzaldehyde 1a and the substrate with a SO₂Ph group was messy and the desired product 3i was not observed by ¹H NMR analysis. The low yield of **3**j was obtained when R² is a methyl group. We hypothesized that the efficiency of the reaction might be associated with the step of the deprotonation of the intermediate H (Scheme 3) in the latter case. To our delight, the substrates bearing a benzyl ester, phenyl group, and methyl at the C=C moiety (R^3) smoothly underwent the acylation-oxygenation transformation to give 3k-m in good to moderate yields under the standard reaction conditions.

Next, the scope of aldehydes 1 was investigated. Both aromatic and aliphatic aldehydes reacted smoothly with 2a and afforded the desired products 3n-s in good to moderate yields under the standard conditions (Table 3). However, the decarbonylation products 4 and 5 were obtained when cyclohexane carboxaldehyde 1h and pivaldehyde 1i were applied (eqs 1 and 2). These results are consistent with the stabilities of the generated acyl radicals.¹²

Table 2. Scope of Alkene $2^{a,b,c}$



^aReaction conditions: **1a** (1.5 mmol), **2** (0.3 mmol), FeCl_2 (2.5 mol %), (*t*-BuO)₂ (0.75 mmol), PhCl (1.0 mL), 120 °C, 1 h, under N₂. ^bReported yields were based on **2** and determined by ¹H NMR using an internal standard; the yields are given in parentheses. ^c2 h.

Table 3. Scope of Aldehyde $1^{a,b}$



^{*a*}Reaction conditions: **1** (1.5 mmol), **2a** (0.3 mmol), FeCl₂ (2.5 mol %), (*t*-BuO)₂ (0.75 mmol), PhCl (1.0 mL), 120 °C, 1 h, under N₂. ^{*b*}Reported yields were based on **2a** and determined by ¹H NMR using an internal standard; the yields are given in parentheses.

Scheme 3. A Tentative Reaction Mechanism



To further understand the mechanism of this reaction, the control experiments were carried out under the standard



conditions (eqs 3-5). The radical scavengers 2,2,6,6tetramethyl-1-piperidinyloxy (TEMPO) and butylated hydroxytoluene (BHT) completely inhibited the dihydrofuran formation, and 2a was recovered quantitatively (eq 3). These results supported that the present transformation is initiated by the addition of the generated acyl radical to the C=C bond. The reaction of 1a with olefinic ketone 2k gave the desired dihydrofuran 3u in 55% yield (eq 4). In contrast, a tetrahydronaphthalene product 7 was obtained as a major product when the alkene 6 bearing a hydroxyl group instead of a carbonyl group was applied, followed by dehydration to give the dihydronaphthalene derivative 8 (eq 5). The expected tetrahydrofuran product 9 via the possible intermediate A or B was not observed (Figure 1, above). On the basis of these results, we hypothesized that the formation of dihydrofuran 3u was not likely through the possible intermediate C or D (Figure 1, below).



Based on our results and the previous results, 5,10 a tentative reaction mechanism for the iron-catalyzed oxidative acylation-oxygenation process is illustrated in Scheme 3. Hydrogen abstraction of aldehyde 1 by *tert*-butoxyl radical gives acyl



Figure 1. Types of the possible intermediates.

radical E. Subsequently, the radical addition of E to the C==C bond of 2 affords the corresponding carbon radical intermediate F, which undergoes S-endo-trig radical addition to generate the intermediate G.¹³ Following iron-catalyzed oxidation, the oxonium cation H is formed. The reduced iron catalyst reacts with di-*tert*-butylperoxide to give a *tert*-butoxyl radical along with a *tert*-butoxide anion. Finally, deprotonation of H releases the dihydrofuran 3.

In summary, we have demonstrated a new and practical strategy for the acylation-oxygenation of terminal alkenes in the presence of an iron catalyst. A variety of multifunctional dihydrofuran derivatives bearing a quaternary carbon were synthesized selectively. The reaction may proceed via a tandem C-C/C-O radical oxidative coupling pathway.

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

General Information. ¹H NMR spectra were recorded on a 400 MHz spectrometer, and the chemical shifts were reported in parts per million (δ) relative to the internal standard TMS (0 ppm) for CDCl₃. The peak patterns are indicated as follows: s, singlet; d, doublet; dd, doublet of doublet; t, triplet; q, quartet; m, multiplet. The coupling constants, J, are reported in hertz (Hz). ¹³C NMR spectra were obtained at 100 MHz and referenced to the internal solvent signals (central peak is 77.0 ppm in CDCl₃, 29.8 ppm in (CD₃)₂CO). CDCl₃ was used as the NMR solvent. Flash column chromatography was performed over silica gel 200-300. All reagents were weighed and handled in air at room temperature. All reagents were purchased from a commercial source and used without further purification. FeCl₂ was purchased from Alfa, and the purity was 99.5% (metals basis). Chlorobenzene was dried and purified according to the procedure from the Purification of Laboratory Chemicals book.¹⁴ The HRMS measurements were recorded on an FTMS analyzer using an ESI source in the positive mode.

General Procedure for Substrates 2. The substrates 2 were prepared according to the reported literatures. 9,15

General Procedure for Products 3. To a mixture of alkene 1 (0.3 mmol), aldehyde 2 (1.5 mmol), and FeCl₂ (1.0 mg, 2.5 mol %), chlorobenzene (1.0 mL) was added under nitrogen at room temperature. Then, pure *di-tert*-butyl peroxide (137 μ L, 0.75 mmol) was dropped into the mixture. The resulting mixture was stirred at 120 °C for 1 h. After the mixture was cooled to room temperature, the resulting solution was directly filtered through a pad of silica by EtOAc. The solvent was evaporated in vacuo to give the crude products. NMR yields were determined by ¹H NMR using dibromomethane as an internal standard. The residue was purified

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by flash column chromatography on silica gel (ethyl acetate/petroleum ether) to give the pure product **3**.

Methyl 4-Benzoyl-2-(2-oxo-2-phenylethyl)-5-phenyl-2,3-dihydrofuran-2-carboxylate (**3a**). (72 mg, 55%). Isolated by flash column chromatography (ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 1:3, $R_f = 0.5$); IR (neat): ν_{max} 1745, 1689, 1605, 1570, 1364, 1225, 1050, 1025, 899 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.97 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.58 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.48–7.45 (m, 4H), 7.26–7.21 (m, 3H), 7.16 (t, J =7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.04 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 3.95 (d, J = 17.5 Hz, 1H), 3.87 (d, J = 17.5 Hz, 1H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.68 (d, J =15.8 Hz, 1H), 3.50 (d, J = 15.8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 195.3, 193.0, 171.6, 164.4, 138.4, 136.1, 133.6, 131.4, 130.2, 129.4, 129.2, 128.9, 128.7, 128.1, 127.7, 127.5, 111.0, 85.1, 52.9, 46.2, 42.9; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₇H₂₃O₅ [M + H⁺], 427.1540; found: 427.1547.

Methyl 4-(4-*Methylbenzoyl*)-2-(2-oxo-2-*phenylethyl*)-5-(*p*-tolyl)-2,3-dihydrofuran-2-carboxylate (**3b**). (75 mg, 55%). Isolated by flash column chromatography (ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 1:3, R_f = 0.3); IR (neat): ν_{max} 1743, 1688, 1604, 1365, 1227, 1182, 1037, 895, 823 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.96 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.17 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 6.92 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.86 (d, J = 17.4 Hz, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.84 (d, J = 17.4 Hz, 1H), 3.67 (d, J = 15.7 Hz, 1H), 3.46 (d, J = 15.7 Hz, 1H), 2.42 (s, 3H), 2.21 (s, 3H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 195.4, 192.8, 171.7, 163.5, 142.0, 140.4, 136.1, 135.8, 133.5, 129.3, 129.1, 128.6, 128.4, 128.2, 128.1, 126.4, 110.1, 84.8, 52.9, 46.2, 43.1, 21.4, 21.3; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₉H₂₇O₅ [M + H⁺], 455.1853; found: 455.1851.

Methyl 4-(4-Methoxybenzoyl)-5-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(2-oxo-2phenylethyl)-2,3-dihydrofuran-2-carboxylate (**3c**). (66 mg, 45%). Isolated by flash column chromatography (ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 1:2, R_f = 0.3); IR (neat): ν_{max} 1743, 1688, 1600, 1510, 1364, 1255, 1175, 1029, 895, 840 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.96 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.46 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.25 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.63 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.59 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 3.92 (d, J = 17.4 Hz, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.84 (d, J = 17.4 Hz, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.69 (s, 3H), 3.62 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 195.5, 191.8, 171.8, 162.7, 162.4, 160.9, 136.1, 133.6, 131.3, 131.1, 128.6, 128.1, 121.7, 113.1, 109.2, 84.5, 55.2, 55.1, 52.9, 46.3, 43.4; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₉H₂₇O₇ [M + H⁺], 487.1751; found: 487.1750.

Methyl 4-(4-Chlorobenzoyl)-5-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2-oxo-2-phenylethyl)-2,3-dihydrofuran-2-carboxylate (**3d**). (88 mg, 59%). Isolated by flash column chromatography (ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 1:3, R_f = 0.3); IR (neat): ν_{max} 1745, 1689, 1613, 1592, 1488, 1448, 1401, 1361, 1250, 1225, 1140, 1092, 893, 839 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.97 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.59 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.43 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.21 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.12 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.08 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 3.92 (d, J = 17.5 Hz, 1H), 3.87 (d, J = 17.5 Hz, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.63 (d, J = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 3.48 (d, J = 15.9 Hz, 1H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 195.1, 191.3, 171.4, 163.1, 138.0, 136.7, 136.6, 136.0, 133.7, 130.7, 130.3, 128.7, 128.2, 128.1, 128.0, 127.5, 111.1, 85.2, 53.0, 46.1, 42.9; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₇H₂₁Cl₂O₅ [M + H⁺], 495.0761; found: 495.0774.

Dimethyl 2-(2-Oxo-2-phenylethyl)-5-(p-tolyl)-2,3-dihydrofuran-2,4-dicarboxylate (**3e**). (56 mg, 47%). Isolated by flash column chromatography (ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 1:3, $R_f = 0.3$); IR (neat): ν_{max} 1755, 1710, 1688, 1450, 1353, 1257, 1223, 1096, 831 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.95 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.72 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (t, J = 17.4 Hz, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.75 (d, J = 17.4 Hz, 1H), 3.68 (s, 3H), 3.65 (d, J = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 3.22 (d, J = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 2.36 (s, 3H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 195.5, 171.4, 165.0, 164.0, 141.0, 136.2, 133.5, 129.4, 128.6, 128.3, 128.1, 126.1, 100.9, 84.7, 52.9, 51.0, 46.3, 41.2, 21.5; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₃H₂₃O₆ [M + H⁺], 395.1489; found: 395.1490.

Dimethyl 5-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2-(2-oxo-2-phenylethyl)-2,3dihydrofuran-2,4-dicarboxylate (3f). (58 mg, 47%). Isolated by flash column chromatography (ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 1:3, R_f = 0.6); IR (neat): ν_{max} 2957, 2926, 2855, 1749, 1699, 1678, 1622, 1595, 1489, 1450, 1433, 1364, 1344, 1282, 1265, 1254, 1224, 1217, 1014, 1001, 840, 762 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.94 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.79 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.58 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 3.89 (d, J = 17.5 Hz, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.76 (d, J = 17.5 Hz, 1H), 3.68 (s, 3H), 3.63 (d, J = 16.1 Hz, 1H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 195.4, 171.3, 164.7, 162.5, 136.6, 136.1, 133.6, 130.8, 128.7, 128.1, 127.9, 127.4, 102.1, 84.9, 53.0, 51.2, 46.2, 41.2; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₂H₂₀ClO₆ [M + H⁺], 415.0943; found: 415.0944.

Dimethyl 5-(Naphthalen-1-yl)-2-(2-oxo-2-phenylethyl)-2,3dihydrofuran-2,4-dicarboxylate (**3g**). (61 mg, 47%). Isolated by flash column chromatography (ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 1:3, R_f = 0.5); IR (neat): ν_{max} 1745, 1691, 1438, 1365, 1264, 1116, 1078 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.09–8.04 (m, 1H), 7.97 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.90 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.86–7.83 (m, 1H), 7.61–7.56 (m, 2H), 7.49–7.44 (m, 5H), 4.01 (d, J = 17.6 Hz, 1H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 3.86 (d, J = 17.6 Hz, 1H), 3.78 (d, J = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 3.48 (s, 3H), 3.38 (d, J = 15.8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 195.4, 171.2, 164.6, 164.2, 136.1, 133.6, 133.2, 131.0, 130.4, 128.6, 128.2, 128.1, 127.3, 126.5, 125.9, 125.2, 124.6, 105.1, 86.2, 53.0, 51.0, 46.3, 40.3; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₆H₂₃O₆ [M + H⁺], 431.1489; found: 431.1495.

4-Ethyl 2-Methyl 2-(2-oxo-2-phenylethyl)-5-phenyl-2,3-dihydrofuran-2,4-dicarboxylate (**3h**). (67 mg, 57%). Isolated by flash column chromatography (ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 1:5, $R_f = 0.3$); IR (neat): ν_{max} 2917, 2849, 1738, 1687, 1449, 1251, 1224, 1094, 1072 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.95 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.81 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.40–7.33 (m, 3H), 4.14 (qd, J = 7.2, 1.7 Hz, 2H), 3.92 (d, J = 17.4 Hz, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.76 (d, J = 17.4 Hz, 1H), 3.67 (d, J = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 3.24 (d, J = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 1.22 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 195.5, 171.4, 164.4, 163.5, 136.2, 133.6, 130.5, 129.4, 129.1, 128.6, 128.1, 127.5, 101.9, 84.8, 59.9, 52.9, 46.3, 41.2, 14.1; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₃H₂₃O₆ [M + H⁺], 395.1489; found: 395.1502.

Methyl 4-Methyl-2-(2-oxo-2-phenylethyl)-5-phenyl-2,3-dihydrofuran-2-carboxylate (**3***j*). (22 mg, 22%). Isolated by flash column chromatography (ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 1:10, $R_f = 0.4$); IR (neat): ν_{max} 2951, 2918, 2856, 1748, 1732, 1687, 1597, 1580, 1495, 1449, 1314, 1256, 1223, 1207, 1134, 1065, 765, 694 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, (CD₃)₂CO) δ 8.04 (m, 2H), 7.64 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.54–7.49 (m, 4H), 7.36 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.31–7.28 (m, 1H), 3.95 (d, J = 17.4 Hz, 1H), 3.76 (d, J = 17.4 Hz, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.38 (dd, J = 16.4, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 2.95 (dd, J = 16.4, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 1.90 (s, 3H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, (CD₃)₂CO) δ 197.3. 172.7, 147.4, 137.7, 134.1, 132.4, 129.5, 128.9, 128.6, 127.8, 105.8, 83.6, 52.6, 47.3, 47.2, 12.5; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₁H₂₀NaO₄ [M + Na⁺], 359.1254; found: 359.1264.

Benzyl 4-Benzoyl-2-(2-oxo-2-phenylethyl)-5-phenyl-2,3-dihydrofuran-2-carboxylate (**3k**). (76 mg, 50%). Isolated by flash column chromatography (ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 1:3, $R_f = 0.3$); IR (neat): ν_{max} 2925, 1736, 1689, 1619, 1597, 1493, 1448, 1365, 1224, 1180, 1118, 1072, 891 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.97 (d, J= 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.58 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.41– 7.39 (m, 4H), 7.35–7.32 (m, 3H), 7.23–7.20 (m, 3H), 7.15 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.03 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.01(t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 5.33 (d, 2H), 3.97 (d, J = 17.6 Hz, 1H), 3.91 (d, J = 17.6 Hz, 1H), 3.67 (d, J = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 3.54 (d, J = 15.8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 195.3, 193.2, 171.0, 164.6, 138.3, 136.1, 135.2, 133.6, 131.4, 130.1, 129.4, 129.2, 128.9, 128.6, 128.5, 128.4, 128.3, 128.1, 127.6, 127.5, 111.1, 85.2, 67.6, 46.2, 43.0; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₃₃H₂₇O₅ [M + H⁺], 503.1853; found: 503.1856.

1H), 7.23–7.15 (m, 4H), 7.08–7.02 (m, 4H), 3.92 (d, J = 15.3 Hz, 1H), 3.84 (d, J = 15.3 Hz, 1H), 3.74 (d, J = 14.8 Hz, 2H); ${}^{13}C{}^{1}H$ NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 196.2, 193.1, 163.8, 144.6, 138.8, 137.3, 133.1, 131.1, 129.9, 129.7, 129.2, 128.8, 128.5, 128.4, 128.3, 127.6, 127.5, 127.4, 124.8, 112.0, 88.5, 49.3, 44.6; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $C_{31}H_{25}O_3$ [M + H⁺], 445.1798; found: 445.1810.

2-(4-Benzoyl-2-methyl-5-phenyl-2,3-dihydrofuran-2-yl)-1-phenylethanone (**3m**). (58 mg, 50%). Isolated by flash column chromatography (ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 1:3, R_f = 0.5); IR (neat): ν_{max} 1688, 1594, 1491, 1447, 1369, 1217, 1069, 1003, 865 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.00 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.58 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.21 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.17–7.12 (m, 3H), 7.07 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.03 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 3.57 (s, 2H), 3.41 (d, *J* = 15.4 Hz, 1H), 3.27 (d, *J* = 15.4 Hz, 1H), 1.73 (s, 3H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 196.7, 193.4, 164.0, 139.0, 137.3, 133.3, 131.0, 130.1, 129.8, 129.2, 128.8, 128.6, 128.2, 127.6, 127.5, 112.0, 86.4, 48.0, 44.3, 26.8; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₆H₂₃O₃ [M + H⁺], 383.1642; found: 383.1641.

Methyl 4-Benzoyl-2-(2-oxo-2-(p-tolyl)ethyl)-5-phenyl-2,3dihydrofuran-2-carboxylate (**3n**). (70 mg, 53%). Isolated by flash column chromatography (ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 1:5, R_f = 0.3); IR (neat): ν_{max} 1742, 1686, 1608, 1575, 1365, 1230, 1205, 1138, 1049, 1027, 893 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.87 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.47–7.45 (m, 2H), 7.27–7.21 (m, 5H), 7.16 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.03 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 3.93 (d, J = 17.5 Hz, 1H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.85 (d, J = 17.5 Hz, 1H), 3.67 (d, J = 15.7 Hz, 1H), 3.49 (d, J = 15.7 Hz, 1H), 2.40 (s, 3H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 194.9, 193.1, 171.7, 164.5, 144.5, 138.4, 133.6, 131.4, 130.2, 129.5, 129.3, 129.2, 128.9, 128.2, 127.7, 127.5, 111.0, 85.1, 53.0, 46.2, 42.9, 21.6; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₈H₂₅O₅ [M + H⁺], 441.1697; found: 441.1700.

Methyl 4-Benzoyl-2-(2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-oxoethyl)-5-phenyl-2,3-dihydrofuran-2-carboxylate (**30**). (80 mg, 58%). Isolated by flash column chromatography (ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 1:5, R_f = 0.3); IR (neat): ν_{max} 1740, 1679, 1599, 1574, 1447, 1364, 1260, 1235, 1172, 1028, 893 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.94 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.46 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.26–7.21(m, 3H), 7.16 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.03 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 3.90 (d, *J* = 17.3 Hz, 1H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.82 (d, *J* = 17.3 Hz, 1H), 3.67 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 3.48 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 193.8, 193.0, 172.0, 164.4, 163.9, 138.4, 131.4, 130.4, 130.1, 129.5, 129.3, 128.9, 127.7, 127.5, 113.8, 111.0, 85.3, 55.4, 52.9, 45.9, 42.9; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₈H₂₅O₆ [M + H⁺], 457.1646; found: 457.1647.

Methyl 4-Benzoyl-2-(2-(4-bromophenyl)-2-oxoethyl)-5-phenyl-2,3-dihydrofuran-2-carboxylate (**3p**). (65 mg, 43%). Isolated by flash column chromatography (ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 1:3, R_f = 0.3); IR (neat): ν_{max} 1742, 1689, 1613, 1586, 1446, 1365, 1223, 1137, 1072, 998, 893 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.83 (d, J= 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.61 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.46 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.25–7.22 (m, 3H), 7.17 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.04 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 3.89 (d, J = 17.6 Hz, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.83 (d, J = 17.6 Hz, 1H), 3.65 (d, J = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 3.49 (d, J = 15.8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 194.4, 193.0, 171.6, 164.4, 138.3, 134.8, 132.0, 131.5, 130.2, 129.6, 129.4, 129.1, 128.9, 127.7, 127.6, 110.9, 84.9, 53.1, 46.1, 42.9; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₇H₂₂BrO₅ [M + H⁺], 505.0645; found: 505.0651.

Methyl 4-Benzoyl-2-(2-oxo-2-(thiophen-2-yl)ethyl)-5-phenyl-2,3dihydrofuran-2-carboxylate (**3q**). (81 mg, 62%). Isolated by flash column chromatography (ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 1:3, R_f = 0.2); IR (neat): ν_{max} 2954, 2924, 2852, 1742, 1659, 1613, 1596, 1461, 1416, 1376, 1237, 1137, 1050, 892 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.76 (dd, J = 3.8, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (dd, J = 4.9, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.25–7.21 (m, 3H), 7.17 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.15–7.13 (m, 1H), 7.08 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.04 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.85 (d, J = 17.0 Hz, 1H), 3.80 (d, J = 17.0 Hz, 1H), 3.64 (d, J = 15.7 Hz, 1H), 3.52 (d, J = 15.7 Hz, 1H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 192.9, 188.0, 171.5, 164.3, 143.4, 138.4, 134.4, 132.6, 131.4, 130.2, 129.4, 129.1, 128.9, 128.2, 127.7, 127.5, 110.9, 85.0, 53.0, 46.4, 42.8; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $C_{25}H_{21}O_5S\ [M + H^+]$, 433.1104; found: 433.1111.

Methyl 4-Benzoyl-2-(2-cyclopropyl-2-oxoethyl)-5-phenyl-2,3dihydrofuran-2-carboxylate (**3r**). (65 mg, 55%). Isolated by flash column chromatography (ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 1:3, R_f = 0.2); IR (neat): ν_{max} 2953, 2923, 2854, 1744, 1702, 1614, 1596, 1492, 1446, 1390, 1366, 1248, 1210, 1074, 1046, 893 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.43 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.25–7.19 (m, 3H), 7.16 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.08–7.02 (m, 4H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.54 (d, J = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 3.50 (d, J = 17.3 Hz, 1H), 3.43 (d, J = 17.3 Hz, 1H), 3.88 (d, J = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 1.98–1.92 (m, 1H), 1.09–1.06 (m, 2H), 0.93–0.88 (m, 2H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 205.8, 193.0, 171.6, 164.5, 138.4, 131.4, 130.2, 129.4, 129.2, 128.9, 127.6, 127.5, 110.9, 84.8, 52.9, 50.3, 42.8, 20.9, 11.3; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₄H₂₃O₅ [M + H⁺], 391.1540; found: 391.1537.

Methyl 4-Benzoyl-2-(2-oxohexyl)-5-phenyl-2,3-dihydrofuran-2carboxylate (**3s**). (43 mg, 35%). Isolated by flash column chromatography (ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 1:3, $R_f = 0.5$); IR (neat): ν_{max} 2957, 1743, 1719, 1615, 1596, 1492, 1447, 1365, 1248, 890 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.43 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.25–7.20 (m, 3H), 7.16 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.08–7.02 (m, 4H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.52 (d, J = 15.7 Hz, 1H), 3.37 (d, J = 15.7 Hz, 1H), 3.33 (d, J =17.4 Hz, 1H), 3.28 (d, J = 17.4 Hz, 1H), 2.45 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.56 (m, 2H), 1.29 (m, 2H), 0.87 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 206.2, 193.0, 171.7, 164.4, 138.4, 131.4, 130.2, 129.4, 129.2, 128.9, 127.7, 127.6, 110.9, 84.9, 52.9, 49.6, 42.9, 25.5, 22.1, 13.7; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₅H₂₇O₅ [M + H⁺], 407.1853; found: 407.1861.

Methyl 4-Benzoyl-2-(2-cyclohexyl-2-oxoethyl)-5-phenyl-2,3dihydrofuran-2-carboxylate (**3t**). (13 mg, 10%). Isolated by flash column chromatography (ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 1:5, R_f = 0.5); IR (neat): ν_{max} 2920, 2850, 1739, 1712, 1615, 1596, 1448, 1368, 1250, 1119, 1072, 889 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.44 (d, J= 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.25–7.21 (m, 3H), 7.18 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.09–7.03 (m, 4H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.55 (d, J = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 3.36 (s, 2H), 3.36 (d, J = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 2.40–2.33 (m, 1H), 1.89–1.86 (m, 2H), 1.80–1.76 (m, 2H), 1.67–1.65 (m, 2H), 1.41–1.25 (m, 4H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 209.2, 193.0, 171.7, 164.5, 138.4, 131.4, 130.1, 129.4, 129.2, 128.9, 127.6, 127.5, 110.9, 85.0, 52.9, 50.7, 47.8, 42.9, 29.6, 28.1, 28.0, 25.6, 25.4, 25.3; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₇H₂₉O₅ [M + H⁺], 433.2010; found: 433.2021.

Dimethyl 5-(3,4-Dimethoxyphenyl)-2-(2-oxo-2-phenylethyl)-2,3dihydrofuran-2,4-dicarboxylate (**3u**). (60 mg, 45%). Isolated by flash column chromatography (ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 1:3, R_f = 0.3); IR (neat): ν_{max} 2945, 2922, 1746, 1701, 1684, 1632, 1601, 1587, 1518, 1450, 1441, 1364, 1317, 1265, 1248, 1229, 1179, 1144, 1099, 1020, 819, 760, 691 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.95 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.60–7.56 (m, 2H), 7.51 (dd, J = 2.0, 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 6.84 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 3.91 (d, J = 17.2 Hz, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.73 (d, J = 17.2 Hz, 1H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 3.64 (d, J = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 3.23 (d, J = 15.9 Hz, 1H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 195.6, 171.4, 165.0, 163.3, 151.0, 147.9, 136.2, 133.5, 128.6, 128.0, 123.2, 121.4, 112.6, 110.0, 100.3, 84.5, 55.9, 55.8, 52.9, 51.1, 46.2, 41.4; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₇H₂₃O₅ [M + H⁺], 427.1540; found: 427.1547.

Methyl 4-Benzoyl-2-(cyclohexylmethyl)-5-phenyl-2,3-dihydrofuran-2-carboxylate (4). (62 mg, 51%). Isolated by flash column chromatography (ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 1:5, $R_f = 0.3$); IR (neat): ν_{max} 2924, 2852, 1742, 1616, 1596, 1492, 1447, 1365, 1245, 1139, 1073, 1023, 888 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.40 (d, J= 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.26 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.21 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 4H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.51 (d, J = 15.5 Hz, 1H), 3.33 (d, J = 15.5 Hz, 1H), 2.10 (dd, J = 14.6, 6.2 Hz, 1H), 1.97 (dd, J = 14.6, 6.2 Hz, 1H), 1.89–1.86 (m, 1H), 1.75–1.51 (m, 5H), 1.30–1.14 (m, 3H), 1.07–0.94 (m, 2H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 193.1, 173.3, 165.1, 138.6, 131.2, 130.1, 129.6, 129.5, 128.8, 127.6, 127.5, 111.0, 88.7, 52.6, 45.0, 43.7, 34.2, 34.0, 33.6, 26.1, 26.0; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₆H₂₉O₄ [M + H⁺], 405.2060; found: 405.2058. *Methyl* 4-Benzoyl-2-neopentyl-5-phenyl-2,3-dihydrofuran-2-carboxylate (5). (108 mg, 95%). Isolated by flash column chromatography (ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 1:5, $R_f = 0.5$); IR (neat): ν_{max} 2954, 1746, 1616, 1596, 1492, 1366, 1244, 1201, 1179, 1136, 1059, 1019, 888 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.42 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.22 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.08–7.04 (m, 4H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.48 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 3.34 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 2.30 (d, J = 14.8 Hz, 1H), 2.06 (d, J = 14.8 Hz, 1H), 1.03 (s, 9H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 193.1, 173.8, 165.2, 138.6, 131.2, 130.1, 129.6, 129.5, 128.8, 127.6, 127.5, 110.5, 88.2, 52.4, 50.7, 46.4, 31.2, 30.3; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₄H₂₇O₄ [M + H⁺], 379.1904; found: 379.1906.

Dimethyl 6,7-Dimethoxy-1-(2-oxo-2-phenylethyl)-1,2-dihydronaphthalene-1,3-dicarboxylate (**8**). (41 mg, 32%). Isolated by flash column chromatography (ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 1:3, R_f = 0.7); IR (neat): ν_{max} 3001, 2951, 2914, 2837, 1701, 1686, 1630, 1600, 1560, 1516, 1240, 1078, 1001 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.87 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.53 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (s, 1H), 7.41 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.03 (s, 1H), 6.79 (s, 1H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.56 (d, *J* = 18.0 Hz, 1H), 3.48 (d, *J* = 18.0 Hz, 1H), 3.26–3.15 (m, 2H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 196.8, 174.7, 167.3, 150.3, 148.2, 136.6, 135.5, 133.2, 129.9, 128.5, 127.9, 124.9, 124.7, 112.0, 109.9, 56.0, 52.6, 51.8, 47.9, 44.6, 30.2; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₄H₂₄NaO₇ [M + Na⁺], 447.1414; found: 447.1416.

ASSOCIATED CONTENT

S Supporting Information

Copies of ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra of all new compounds. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

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Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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