

A convenient synthesis of furo[3,2-*c*]pyran-3-carboxylates from 3-bromo-3-nitroacrylates

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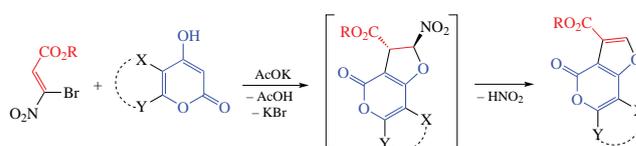
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Novel 4-oxo-4*H*-furo[3,2-*c*]pyran-3-carboxylates and 4-oxo-4*H*-furo[3,2-*c*]chromene-3-carboxylates were prepared from available alkyl 3-bromo-3-nitroacrylates and 4-hydroxy-6-methyl-2*H*-pyran-2-one or 4-hydroxycoumarin, respectively. Their structures were confirmed by NMR and X-ray data.

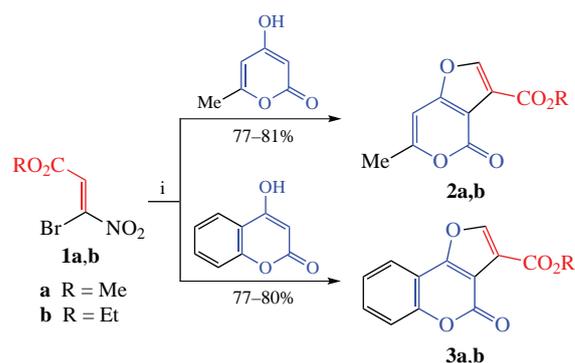


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Furocoumarins are plant-derived oxygen heterocycles which have long been the subject of interest because of their biological applications.^{1–3} Compared to the biological properties and chemistry of psoralene and other related furocoumarins, the properties and synthesis of isomeric furo[3,2-*c*]coumarins have so far remained less studied.^{4,5} Meanwhile, furo[3,2-*c*]coumarins recently showed their potential as anticancer agents,⁶ chemosensors⁷ and fluorescent dyes,⁸ antibacterials^{9,10} or fungicides.¹¹ One of the most convenient approaches towards furo[3,2-*c*]coumarins and related 4*H*-furo[3,2-*c*]pyran-4-ones is based on the reaction of 4-hydroxycoumarin or 4-hydroxypyranone with substituted nitroethylenes.^{12–15} In continuation of our studies on the reactions of 3-bromo-3-nitroacrylates,^{16–19} we report herein the synthesis of new 4-oxo-4*H*-furo[3,2-*c*]pyran-3-carboxylates and 4-oxo-4*H*-furo[3,2-*c*]chromene-3-carboxylates from alkyl 3-bromo-3-nitroacrylates²⁰ **1a,b** and 4-hydroxy-6-methyl-2*H*-pyran-2-one or 4-hydroxycoumarin (Scheme 1). Noteworthy, 3-alkoxycarbonyl-4-oxo-4*H*-furo[3,2-*c*]pyrans and -chromenes are hardly available and the data on their synthesis are scarce.^{21–24} The transformation proceeded under mild conditions, the yields of products **2** and **3** approached 77–81%.[†]

The plausible mechanism includes the initial formation of the Michael adducts **A** and subsequent intramolecular O-alkylation of enol hydroxyl to form nitrofuran intermediates (Scheme 2). Further aromatization occurs by elimination of HNO₂. One of the intermediate products, ethyl 2-nitro-4-oxo-2,3-dihydro-4*H*-

furo[3,2-*c*]chromene-3-carboxylate **4**, was isolated in 78% yield when ethyl 3-bromo-3-nitroacrylate **1b** was reacted with 4-hydroxycoumarin in anhydrous MeOH for 1 h in the presence of 1 equiv. AcOK.[‡] This result provides evidence in support of the proposed mechanism. In addition, quantum-chemical studies¹⁶ of the possible reaction pathways in the related reactions using 3-bromo-3-nitroacrylates are also in favour of the proposed mechanism. When compound **4** was treated with 1 equiv. AcOK in anhydrous MeOH for another 1 h, furochromene-3-carboxylate **3b** was formed in 90% yield.[§] Compound **3b** was also prepared by heating of intermediate **4** in EtOH for 3 h in the absence of any base (see Scheme 2).

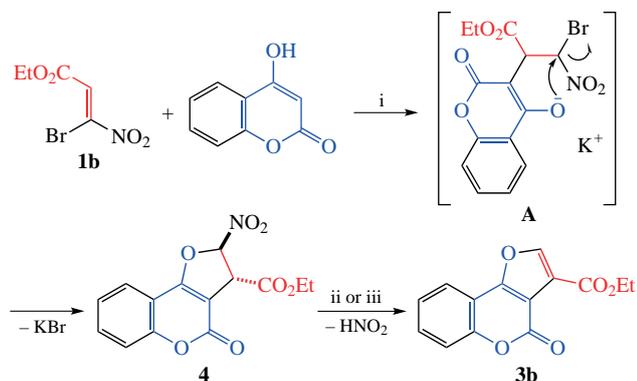


Scheme 1 Reagents and conditions: i, AcOK, MeOH, 18–20 °C, 3 h.

[†] *General procedure for the synthesis of 3-alkoxycarbonyl-4-oxo-4*H*-furo[3,2-*c*]pyrans and -chromenes 2, 3.* To a solution of 4-hydroxy-6-methyl-2*H*-pyran-2-one or 4-hydroxycoumarin (1.43 mmol) and freshly molten AcOK (210 mg, 2.14 mmol) in anhydrous MeOH (5 ml), a solution of the corresponding 3-bromo-3-nitroacrylate **1a,b** (1.43 mmol) in anhydrous MeOH (5 ml) was added dropwise. The resulted mixture was stirred at 18–20 °C for 3 h and then poured on crushed ice. The product was extracted with CHCl₃ (3×20 ml). The combined extracts were dried over MgSO₄, filtered and evaporated to dryness to give **2, 3** as crystalline solids.

[‡] *Ethyl 2-nitro-4-oxo-2,3-dihydro-4*H*-furo[3,2-*c*]chromene-3-carboxylate 4.* To a solution of 4-hydroxycoumarin (362 mg, 2.23 mmol) and freshly molten AcOK (218 mg, 2.23 mmol) in anhydrous MeOH (16 ml), a solution of ethyl 3-bromo-3-nitroacrylate **1b** (500 mg, 2.23 mmol) in anhydrous MeOH (14 ml) was added dropwise. The mixture was stirred for 1 h and then poured on crushed ice. The formed solid was filtered off and recrystallized from EtOH to furnish compound **4** as light yellow crystals, yield 530 mg (78%), mp 141–144 °C (EtOH).

[§] *Preparation of compound 3b from intermediate 4.* To a solution of compound **4** (70 mg, 0.23 mmol) in anhydrous MeOH (6 ml), a solution



Scheme 2 Reagents and conditions: i, AcOK (1 equiv.), MeOH, 18–20 °C, 1 h; ii, AcOK, MeOH, 18–20 °C, 1 h; iii, EtOH, reflux 3 h.

The structure of compounds **2**, **3** and intermediate **4** was confirmed by IR and NMR studies including 2D NMR ^1H – ^{13}C correlation experiments (key correlations in the ^1H – ^{13}C HMBC NMR spectrum of compound **2a** are given in Online Supplementary Materials). The observed in the ^1H NMR spectrum of **4** two doublets with coupling constant 3J of 2.3 Hz as well as calculations using Haasnoot–DeLeeuw–Altona equation²⁵ suggested *trans*-geometry for C^2H – C^3H protons. The structures of products **3b** and **4** were ultimately established by X-ray diffraction analysis (Figure 1, see also Online Supplementary Materials).[†] The X-ray diffraction study of compound **4** showed that dihydrofuran ring had an envelope conformation with C(2) atom out of plane by 0.378 Å. Nitro and CO_2Et groups are located in axial positions. Noteworthy that NO_2 group is located antiperiplanar towards one of the lone pairs of atom O(1) with a *pseudo*-torsion angle $\text{Lp-O}(1)\text{-C}(2)\text{-N}(11)$ equal to 25°. Since the length of C(2)–N(11) bond is somewhat

of freshly molten AcOK (22.5 mg, 0.23 mmol) in anhydrous MeOH (4 ml) was added dropwise. The resulted mixture was stirred at 20 °C for 1 h and then poured on crushed ice. The solid was filtered off and recrystallized from EtOH to give 53 mg (90%) of product **3b** as light yellow crystals, mp 118–120 °C (EtOH).

[†] Crystals of compounds **3b** and **4** were grown from EtOH.

Crystal data for 3b. $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{10}\text{O}_5$, $M = 258.22$, monoclinic, space group $P2_1/c$ (no. 14), 393(2) K, $a = 7.5281(2)$, $b = 20.3294(4)$ and $c = 7.9529(2)$ Å, $\alpha = 90^\circ$, $\beta = 111.7957(10)^\circ$, $\gamma = 90^\circ$, $Z = 4$, $V = 1130.12(5)$ Å³, $d_{\text{calc}} = 1.518$ mg mm⁻³, $F(000) = 536.0$. A single crystal with dimensions 0.320 × 0.230 × 0.190 mm was selected and intensities of 50079 reflections were measured using a SMART APEX II CCD diffractometer [ω -scans, $\mu(\text{MoK}\alpha) = 0.117$ mm⁻¹, 2θ range for data collection 4.008 to 59.998°]. After merging of equivalents and absorption correction, 3296 unique reflections ($R_{\text{int}} = 0.0346$) were used for the structure solution and refinement. Final R factors: $R_1 = 0.0358$ [$I > 2\sigma(I)$] and $wR_2 = 0.1036$ (all reflections), GOF = 1.043.

Crystal data for 4. $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{11}\text{NO}_7$, $M = 305.24$, orthorhombic, space group $Pna2_1$ (no. 33), 393(2) K, $a = 10.0342(12)$, $b = 29.333(4)$ and $c = 4.5913(6)$ Å, $\alpha = 90^\circ$, $\beta = 90^\circ$, $\gamma = 90^\circ$, $Z = 4$, $V = 1351.4(3)$ Å³, $d_{\text{calc}} = 1.500$ mg mm⁻³, $F(000) = 632.0$. A single crystal with dimensions 0.320 × 0.210 × 0.180 mm was selected and intensities of 6410 reflections measured, using a SMART APEX II CCD diffractometer [ω -scans, $\mu(\text{MoK}\alpha) = 0.123$ mm⁻¹, 2θ range for data collection 4.29 to 54.996°]. After merging of equivalents and absorption correction, 2377 unique reflections ($R_{\text{int}} = 0.1412$) were used for the structure solution and refinement. Final R factors: $R_1 = 0.0702$ [$I > 2\sigma(I)$] and $wR_2 = 0.1767$ (all reflections), GOF = 0.968.

The structures were solved using Charge Flipping and refined using Gauss-Newton minimisation. All calculations were carried out with SHELXTL 5.10²⁶ software package.

CCDC 2108637 (for **3b**) and 2109286 (for **4**) contain the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge from The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre via <http://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk>.

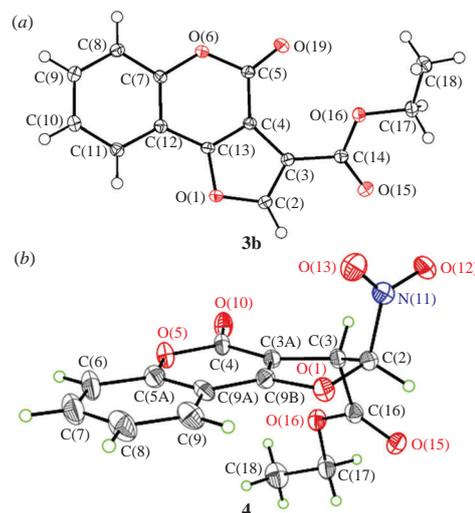


Figure 1 Perspective views of compounds (a) **3b** and (b) **4** (X-ray data).

shortened, we suggest that it is due to the crystal packing effect. In fact, very strong $\text{NO}_2 \cdots \text{NO}_2$ intermolecular contacts with $\text{N}(11) \cdots \text{O}(12)$ distance equal to 2.799(4) Å were realized in the crystal (see Online Supplementary Materials).

In summary, we have proposed an effective synthesis of new 4-oxo-4H-furo[3,2-*c*]pyran-3-carboxylates and their chromene analogues. The approach is operationally simple and based on the reaction of accessible alkyl 3-bromo-3-nitroacrylates with 4-hydroxy-2H-pyran-2-ones. The reported reaction could broaden the scope of furo[3,2-*c*]pyran chemistry.

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Online Supplementary Materials

Supplementary data associated with this article can be found in the online version at doi: 10.1016/j.mencom.2022.07.009.

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