

# AlCl<sub>3</sub>-Promoted Highly Regio- and Diastereoselective [3+2] Cycloadditions of Activated Cyclopropanes and Aromatic Aldehydes: Construction of 2,5-Diaryl-3,3,4-trisubstituted Tetrahydrofurans

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The AlCl<sub>3</sub>-catalyzed [3 + 2] cycloaddition reaction of diethyl *trans*-2,3-disubstituted cyclopropane-1, 1-dicarboxylates and aromatic aldehydes was carried out under mild conditions to provide a series of diethyl 2,5-diaryl-4-benzoyltetrahydrofuran-3,3-dicarboxylates in moderate to good yields with excellent diastereoselectivities. While common 2,5-*cis* products were obtained with electron-neutral or electron-poor aryl aldehydes, the much less common 2,5-*trans* products were obtained in excellent diastereoselectivities when electron-rich aryl aldehydes were used. The relative configurations of those typical products were confirmed by X-ray crystallographic analyses.

# Introduction

Substituted tetrahydrofurans are an important structural motif present in numerous natural products with a wide range of diverse biological and pharmacological activities. Consequently, the synthesis of these substituted tetrahydrofurans has received an intense interest among organic

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chemists, and plenty of elegant methods have been developed for this purpose.<sup>2</sup> Among those, the Lewis acid-catalyzed [3 + 2] cycloadditions of aldehydes/ketones with activated donor—acceptor (D—A) cyclopropanes are particularly attractive due to their good atomic economy and easy availability of the starting materials.<sup>3-6</sup> Johnson and co-workers have developed highly diastereoselective,<sup>4b,c</sup> enantiospecific,<sup>4a</sup> and enantioselective<sup>4c</sup> Lewis acid-catalyzed intermolecular [3+2] cycloadditions of aldehydes with carbon-based donor D—A cyclopropanes, and have applied it for the total synthesis of (+)-Polyanthellin A<sup>7</sup> and (+)-virgatusin.<sup>8</sup> Lately, Wang and co-workers reported a related intramolecular version of this reaction to construct complex oxa-[n.2.1]

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TABLE 1. Optimization of Reaction Conditions for the [3 + 2] Addition of 1a and  $2a^a$ 

entry	2a/equiv	Lewis acid/equiv	solvent	temp (°C)	time (h)	product/yield <sup>b</sup> (%)	product ratio <sup>c</sup> 3aa:4aa:5aa:6a
1	5.0	AlCl <sub>3</sub> /0.5	CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	20	22	3aa/41	66:8:8:18
2	5.0	$A1C1_{3}/0.5$	$CH_2Cl_2$	30	18	<b>3aa</b> /19	21:22:23:34
		-,				<b>4aa</b> /19	
						<b>5aa</b> /21	
3	5.0	$AlCl_3/0.5$	$CH_2Cl_2$	0	19	<b>3aa</b> /87	88:3:2:7
4	5.0	$AlCl_3/0.5$	$CH_2Cl_2$	-15	75	<b>3aa</b> /88	93:2:0:5
5	5.0	$AlCl_3/1.0$	$CH_2Cl_2$	0	19	<b>3aa</b> /38	38:15:6:41
6	5.0	$AlCl_3/0.3$	$CH_2Cl_2$	0	40	<b>3aa</b> /59	93:1:1:5
7	3.0	$AlCl_3/0.5$	$CH_2Cl_2$	0	25	<b>3aa</b> /65	73:6:3:18
8	2.0	$AlCl_3/0.5$	$CH_2Cl_2$	0	45	<b>3aa</b> /51	81:2:2:15
9	5.0	$AlCl_3/0.5$	DCE	0	19	<b>3aa</b> /79	83:5:3:9
10	5.0	$AlCl_3/0.5$	toluene	0	19	<b>3aa</b> /62	78:2:1:19
11	5.0	$AlCl_3/0.5$	benzene	10	19	<b>3aa</b> /12	57:7:3:33
12	5.0	$AlCl_3/0.5$	$CH_2Cl_2$	10	9	<b>3aa</b> /59	79:10:1:10
13	5.0	$Cu(OTf)_2^d/0.5$	$CH_2Cl_2$	0 - 30	26	NR	
14	5.0	$Yb(OTf)_3/0.5$	$CH_2Cl_2$	0 - 30	26	NR	
15	5.0	$ZnCl_2/0.5$	$CH_2Cl_2$	0 - 30	26	NR	
16	5.0	$BF_3 \cdot Et_2O/0.5$	$CH_2Cl_2$	0 - 30	26	NR	
17	5.0	$TiCl_4/0.5$	$CH_2Cl_2$	0	57	<b>6a</b> /90	2:0:0:98
18	5.0	$Al_2(SO_4)_3/0.5$	$CH_2Cl_2$	0 - 30	120	NR	
19	5.0	$Al(OTf)_{3}/0.5$	$CH_2Cl_2$	30	20	complicated	-e

<sup>a</sup>The reaction was conducted with 0.3 mmol of **1a**. <sup>b</sup>Isolated yield. <sup>c</sup>Determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR. <sup>d</sup>Tf refers to trifluoromethanesulfonyl. <sup>e</sup>No formation of **3aa** and **5aa** and only a trace of **4aa** were observed by crude <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis along with other unidentifiable signals.

skeletons, in which there is no strict requirement for the presence of a typical donor group in cyclopropane 1,1-diesters.

Most of the above examples are focused on the [3+2] cycloadditions of 2-substituted cyclopropane-1,1-diesters with aldehydes to afford 2,3,3,5-tetrasubstituted tetrahydrofurans with 2,5-cis diastereoselectivity. On the other hand, the corresponding reaction of 2,3-disubstituted cyclopropane-1, 1-diesters, especially those with an electron-withdrawing group at the 3-position, with aldehydes to provide 2,3,3, 4,5-pentasubstituted tetrahydrofurans, has rarely been studied. Moreover, to the best of our knowledge, this kind of cycloaddition with a high 2,5-trans diastereoselectivity has so far not been reported.

Our group has recently developed a method for the facile synthesis of 2,3-disubstituted cyclopropane-1,1-diesters like 1a, 9 which have an aryl carbonyl group at the 3-position of the cyclopropane ring. As an effort to extend the synthetic utility of these resultant products in this work, we investigated the application of 2,3-trans-disubstituted cyclopropane-1,1-diesters 1 in the cycloaddition reactions with aromatic aldehydes. Some interesting results were obtained and were compared with those well-studied 2-substituted cyclopropane-1,1-diesters.

## **Results and Discussion**

The reaction of diethyl *trans*-2-benzoyl-3-phenylcyclopropane-1,1-dicarboxylate **1a**<sup>9</sup> with benzaldehyde **2a** was selected

as a model reaction to screen the reaction conditions. Table 1 summarizes the results. Initially, the reaction of **1a** (1.0 equiv) and 2a (5.0 equiv) in the presence of AlCl<sub>3</sub> (50 mol %) was performed in dichloromethane (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) at room temperature (about 20 °C) (Table 1, entry 1). Three [3 + 2]cycloaddition products 3aa (2,4,5-cis-isomer), 4aa (2,4trans-2,5-trans-isomer), and 5aa (2,4-trans-2,5-cis-isomer) were isolated with a byproduct 6a resulting from the chloride addition to the cyclopropane. The structure of these compounds was characterized by spectral analyses and confirmed by X-ray crystallographic analyses. 10 It is worth mentioning that the isolation and characterization of 6a corroborated a presumption for the formation of this kind of byproducts in related reactions in literature. 4d In comparison with Johnson's result (81% NMR yield, 2:1 dr), 4d in which the 2-benzoyl group was absent, the diastereoselectivity (cis vs trans at the 2,5-positions) for the major product 2,4,5-cis-isomer 3aa was significantly improved in our system under extremely similar conditions, although the isolated yield was lower (41%). Raising the reaction temperature (30 °C) decreased the selectivity of this reaction

<sup>(9)</sup> Yang, G. S.; Hua, Y. Y.; Shen, Y. Chin. J. Chem. 2009, 27, 1811–1819. (10) See the Supporting Information. The crystal structures have been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre; deposition nos. CCDC 795516, 795517, 795518, and 795519 for 3aa, 4aa, 5aa, and 6a, respectively. These data can be obtained free of charge from the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre, 12 Union Rd., Cambridge CB2 1EZ, UK or via www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/conts/retrieving.html.

TABLE 2. Aldehyde Scope in AlCl<sub>3</sub>-Catalyzed [3 + 2] Cycloaddition of 1a <sup>a</sup>

entry	$Ar^1$	temp (°C)	time (h)	product/yield <sup>b</sup> (%)	product ratio <sup>c</sup> 3:4:5:6
1	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> <b>2a</b>	0	19	<b>3aa</b> /87	88:3:2:7
2	4-ClC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> <b>2b</b>	0	26	3ab/77	85:1:2:12
$3^d$	$2,4-Cl_2C_6H_3$ <b>2c</b>	0	20	<b>3ac</b> /88	90:0:0:10
4	$4-BrC_6H_4$ <b>2d</b>	0	29	<b>3ad</b> /77	88:1:1:10
5	$4-NO_2C_6H_4$ <b>2e</b>	0	29	<b>3ae</b> /37	43:0:1:56
6	$4-\text{MeC}_6H_4$ <b>2f</b>	0	44	<b>3af</b> /57	75:16:1:8
7	$4-\text{MeC}_6\text{H}_4$ 2f	30	29	<b>4af</b> /51	4:65:10:21
$8^d$	$4-\text{MeOC}_6\text{H}_4$ <b>2g</b>	30	6d	<b>4ag</b> /67	4:81:3:12
9	$3.4-(MeO)_2C_6H_3$ <b>2h</b>	30	55	<b>4ah</b> /81	0:82:2:16
10	$4-BnOC_6H_4$ <b>2i</b>	30	90	<b>4ai</b> /50	3:62:2:33
11	3-MeO-4-BnOC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>3</sub> <b>2j</b>	30	90	<b>4aj</b> /47	0:77:2:21

"The reaction was conducted with 0.3 mmol of 1a. "Isolated yield. "Determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR. "The structures of 3ac and 4ag were confirmed by X-ray crystallographic analyses."

(Table 1, entry 2), while the decreasing of the reaction temperature to 0 °C led to the improvements of both the yield and the selectivity of **3aa** (87%) (Table 1, entry 3). Further decreasing the reaction temperature to −15 °C brought in a negligible improvement even with a much longer reaction time (Table 1, entry 4). Screening of other conditions including the loading of AlCl₃, the ratio of the aldehyde **2a**, the variation of solvents (e.g., 1,2-dichloroethane, toluene, and benzene), and Lewis acids (e.g., Cu(OTf)₂, Yb(OTf)₃, ZnCl₂, BF₃·Et₂O, TiCl₄, and other aluminum salts such as Al₂(SO₄)₃ and Al(OTf)₃) all failed to improve the results (Table 1, entries 5−19). Thus, 5 equiv of aldehyde and 50 mol % of AlCl₃ in CH₂Cl₂ at 0 °C were chosen as the optimal conditions for further investigation.

With the optimized reaction conditions in hand, the scope of this reaction was then probed with a range of different aromatic aldehydes (Table 2). In general, most of the electronneutral and electron-poor aldehydes were suitable for this reaction and smoothly generated the desired 2,4,5cis-pentasubstituted tetrahydrofuran derivatives 3aa-3ad in good yields with high diastereoselectivities (Table 2, entries 1-4). Although excellent diastereoselectivity was obtained for p-nitrobenzaldehyde 2e, the yield was low (Table 2, entry 5), which may be attributed to the significant decomposition of **1a** as observed in some related studies. <sup>4</sup> In contrast to the better reactivities observed for highly electronrich aldehydes in Johnson's system,<sup>4</sup> these substrates are less reactive here and a higher temperature (30 °C) was required to react with 1a (Table 2, entries 8-11). This may be due to the preferential coordination of AlCl<sub>3</sub> with electron-rich

aldehydes than with **1a**. In addition, the 2,4-trans-2,5-trans-pentasubstituted tetrahydrofurans **4ag**—**4aj** were obtained here as the major products in moderate to good yields with excellent diastereoselectivity. Such an inversion of the 2,5-diastereoselectivity seemed to be favored at a high reaction temperature as in the case of the slightly electron-rich *p*-methylbenzaldehyde **2f** (Table 2, entries 6 and 7). It is also worth mentioning that only one regioisomer of the cycloaddition products was isolated in all the cases described above.

Furthermore, several other diethyl cyclopropane-1, 1-dicarboxylates were also examined in the reaction (Table 3). It was found that the presence of electron-donating groups on the phenyl ring (Ar<sup>2</sup> or Ar<sup>3</sup>) lead to a rather messy system (Table 3, entries 5, 6, and 10–12). The electron-donating groups on Ar<sup>3</sup> in 1 may inhibit the nucleophilic attack of an electron-deficient or electron-neutral aldehyde, facilitating an intramolecular attack of the oxygen atom of the ester group in 1f, and lead to the formation of lactone 7f as the major product similar to that described in literature (Table 3, entries 10 and 11).<sup>12</sup>

A reaction mechanism similar to that of Johnson's was proposed for this reaction (Scheme 1). Compound 1a was activated through the coordination of the diester group with AlCl<sub>3</sub>. Subsequently, a nucleophilic attack of an aldehyde was performed to form a zwitterion (I), which then underwent a bond rotation and an ensuing intramolecular nucleophilic attack to form the product 3.<sup>4d</sup> For those electron-rich aromatic aldehydes, two pathways may be used to explain the inversion of the diastereoselectivity. One is similar to that proposed in literature: the initially formed *cis* product 3 undergoes the isomerization via a carbenium ion (III), which

<sup>(11)</sup> See the Supporting Information. The crystal structures have been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre; deposition numbers: CCDC 795520 and 795521 for 3ac and 4ag, respectively. These data can be obtained free of charge from the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre, 12 Union Rd., Cambridge CB2 1EZ, UK or via www.ccdc.cam.ac. uk/conts/retrieving.html.

<sup>(12)</sup> For examples of the formation of similar products in related reactions, see: (a) Wu, X.; Cao, W.; Zhang, H.; Chen, J.; Jiang, H.; Deng, H.; Shao, M.; Zhang, J.; Chen, H. *Tetrahedron* **2008**, *64*, 10331–10338. (b) Kolsaker, P.; Jensen, A. K. *Acta Chem. Scand., Ser. B* **1988**, *42*, 345–353.

TABLE 3. Cyclopropane Scope in AlCl<sub>3</sub>-Catalyzed [3 + 2] Cycloaddition of Ar<sup>1</sup>CHO<sup>a</sup>

$$Ar^{2} \xrightarrow{CO_{2}Et} + Ar^{1} \xrightarrow{H} \frac{AlCl_{3} (50 \text{ mol}\%)}{CH_{2}Cl_{2} \text{ temperature}}$$

$$1 \qquad 2$$

$$Ar^{2} \xrightarrow{CO_{2}Et} + Ar^{1} \xrightarrow{Ar^{2}} \frac{CO_{2}Et}{Ar^{3} Ar^{1}} + Ar^{3} \xrightarrow{CO_{2}Et} + Ar^{2} \xrightarrow{CO_{2}Et} + Ar^{3} \xrightarrow{$$

		1					
entry	$\mathrm{Ar}^1$	$Ar^2$	$Ar^3$	temp (°C)	time (h)	$product^b$	yield <sup>c</sup> (%)
1	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> 2a	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> 1a	0	19	3aa	87
2	$C_6H_5$ 2a	$4-BrC_6H_4$	$C_6H_5$ 1b	0	55	3ba	60
3	$C_6H_5$ 2a	$4-MeC_6H_4$	$C_6H_5$ 1c	0	80	3ca	56
4	4-ClC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> <b>2b</b>	$4-MeC_6H_4$	$C_6H_5$ 1c	0	84	3cb	55
5	$3,4-(MeO)_2C_6H_3$ <b>2h</b>	$4-MeC_6H_4$	$C_6H_5$ 1c	30	120	4ch	29
6	$C_6H_5$ 2a	$4-MeOC_6H_4$	$C_6H_5$ 1d	0	60	3da	21
7	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> <b>2a</b>	$C_6H_5$	4-ClC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> 1e	0	60	3ea	45
8	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> <b>2a</b>	$C_6H_5$	4-ClC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> 1e	30	46	3ea	33
9	4-ClC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> <b>2b</b>	$C_6H_5$	4-ClC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> 1e	0	100	3eb	67
10	$C_6H_5$ 2a	$C_6H_5$	$3,4-(MeO)_2C_6H_3$ 1f	0	53	7 <b>f</b>	18
11	4-ClC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> <b>2b</b>	$C_6H_5$	$3,4-(MeO)_2C_6H_3$ 1f	0	50	7 <b>f</b>	32
12	$3.4-(MeO)_2C_6H_3$ <b>2h</b>	$C_6H_5$	$3,4-(MeO)_2C_6H_3$ 1f	30	100	5fh	19

SCHEME 1. Possible Mechanism for the Reaction

is stabilized by the strong electron-donating substituents (Scheme 1, path A), <sup>8,4d,13</sup> with the assistance of AlCl<sub>3</sub> to generate the thermodynamically more stable *trans* product 4. However, the complete absence of the product derived from (III') indicates the possibility of an alterative pathway for this reaction. This latter one <sup>14</sup> involves the bond rotation of

the resonance structure (IV) of the intermediate (II) favored by electron-rich Ar groups, and the subsequent cyclization to give 4 (Scheme 1, path B).

### Conclusion

In summary, we have developed a AlCl<sub>3</sub>-catalyzed [3 + 2] cycloaddition reaction of 2,3-disubstituted D-A cyclopropane 1,1-diesters with aromatic aldehydes. The facile synthesis of 2,5-diaryl-3,3,4-trisubstituted tetrahydrofurans from

<sup>(13)</sup> In a control experiment, the 2,5-cis product **3af** was subjected to the similar reaction conditions (30 °C, 0.5 equiv of AlCl<sub>3</sub>, 5 equiv of 4-methylbenzaldehyde, in CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>), and it was converted to the desired 2,5-trans product **4af** as the major product along with a small amount of **5af** (**4af**: **5af** = 4:1) as monitored by  ${}^{1}H$  NMR analyses (4 h, > 90% conversion). For detailed information see the Supporting Information (S58–S59).

<sup>(14)</sup> We thank one of the reviewers for proposing this mechanism.

easily available reactants and inexpensive catalyst has been achieved in moderate to good yield with excellent regioselectivity and diastereoselectivity.

### **Experimental Section**

General Procedure for the Cycloaddition Reaction. To a solution of 2,3-trans-disubstituted cyclopropane-1,1-diesters 1 (0.3 mmol) and aromatic aldehydes (1.5 mmol) in 10.0 mL of dichloromethane was added AlCl<sub>3</sub> (0.15 mmol) at 0 or 30 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at 0 or 30 °C and monitored by TLC. Upon completion, the reaction mixture was passed through a small plug of silica, eluting with 20 mL of CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, and the solvent was removed under vacuum. 1H NMR analyses of the unpurified products gave the diastereomeric ratio. The crude products were purified by flash chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 20/1 to 10/1, v/v) to give the pure products.

Diethyl r-4-benzoyl-c-2,c-5-diphenyltetrahydrofuran-3,3dicarboxylate (3aa): white solid; mp 103–104 °C; IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>)  $\nu$  1728, 1695, 1595, 1580, 1497, 1449, 1099, 1020, 764, 698; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)  $\delta$  7.85 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.55 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.45-7.30 (m, 6H), 7.26-7.18 (m, 2H),7.14-7.00 (m, 3H), 5.53 (s, 1H), 5.39 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 5.19(d, J = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 4.50-4.31 (m, 2H), 3.73-3.57 (m, 2H), 1.36 $(t, J = 7.2 \text{ Hz}, 3H), 0.71 (t, J = 7.2 \text{ Hz}, 3H); {}^{13}\text{C NMR (CDCl}_3,$ 75 MHz) δ 197.1, 170.5, 166.2, 138.3, 137.2, 135.9, 132.2, 128.5, 128.0, 127.9, 127.7, 127.6, 127.5, 126.7, 84.9, 81.5, 68.8, 62.6, 61.1, 58.0, 14.0, 13.2; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $C_{29}H_{29}O_6$  ([M + H]<sup>+</sup>) 473.1964, found 473.1965. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>28</sub>O<sub>6</sub> (472.53): C, 73.71; H, 5.97. Found: C, 73.49; H, 5.99.

Diethyl r-4-benzoyl-t-2,c-5-diphenyltetrahydrofuran-3,3dicarboxylate (4aa): white solid; mp 146–147 °C; IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>)  $\nu$  1753, 1732, 1672, 1593, 1495, 1454, 1447, 1092, 1045, 773, 700;  $^{1}$ H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)  $\delta$  7.64 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.48-7.43 (m, 2H), 7.38-7.23 (m, 6H), 7.22-7.15 (m, 2H), 7.06-6.93 (m, 3H), 6.56 (s, 1H), 6.28 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 1H), 5.18(d, J = 6.3 Hz, 1H), 4.04 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.79 (dq, J = 7.1,3.5 Hz, 1H), 3.48 (dq, J = 7.1, 3.5 Hz, 1H), 0.97 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 0.77 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H);  $^{13}$ C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz) δ 199.2, 169.0, 168.3, 139.2, 137.7, 137.1, 132.6, 128.0, 127.95, 127.9, 127.8, 126.9, 126.6, 84.8, 84.75, 70.3, 62.0, 61.6, 59.0, 13.6, 13.3; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $C_{29}H_{29}O_6$  ([M + H]<sup>+</sup>) 473.1964,

found 473.1960. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>28</sub>O<sub>6</sub> (472.53): C, 73.71; H, 5.97. Found: C, 73.62; H, 5.99.

Diethyl r-4-benzoyl-t-2,t-5-diphenyltetrahydrofuran-3,3dicarboxylate (5aa): white solid; mp 106-107 °C; IR (KBr, cm ν 1751, 1720, 1678, 1597, 1582, 1495, 1472, 1450, 1082, 1055, 1030, 770, 750, 696; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz) δ 7.85–7.79 (m, 2H), 7.65-7.60 (m, 2H), 7.54-7.47 (m, 3H), 7.40-7.24 (m, 8H), 6.01 (s, 1H), 5.31 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 5.23 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 4.04 (dq, J = 7.2, 3.5 Hz, 1H), 3.86 (dq, J = 7.2, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 3.79 (dq, J = 7.2, 3.5 Hz, 1H), 3.32 (dq, J = 7.2, 3.5 Hz, 1H), 0.82 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 0.70 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H);  $^{13}$ C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz) δ 199.4, 168.9, 168.0, 138.7, 137.5, 136.9, 133.6, 128.7, 128.62, 128.59, 128.5, 128.3, 127.9, 127.3, 126.7, 85.5, 85.1, 70.8, 62.0, 61.5, 59.6, 13.2; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $C_{29}H_{29}O_6([M+H]^+)$ 473.1964, found 473.1961. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>28</sub>O<sub>6</sub> (472.53): C, 73.71; H, 5.97. Found: C, 73.73; H, 5.94.

Diethyl 2-(1-benzoyl-2-chloro-2-phenylethyl)malonate (6a): white solid; mp 104–105 °C; IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>)  $\nu$  1740, 1719, 1678, 1597, 1495, 1452, 1022, 758, 696; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.94 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.56–7.22 (m, 8H), 5.33 (d, J =8.1 Hz, 1H, 4.989 (t, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 4.15 - 3.82 (m, 5H), 1.20 -1.10 (m, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 198.7, 167.6, 167.4, 138.0, 133.0, 128.9, 128.7, 128.6, 128.5, 128.3, 128.1, 62.1, 61.9, 53.9, 51.4, 13.8; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $C_{22}H_{24}ClO_5$  ([M + H]<sup>+</sup>) 403.1312, found 403.1314. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>23</sub>ClO<sub>5</sub> (402.87): C, 65.59; H, 5.75. Found: C, 65.44; H, 5.78.

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Supporting Information Available: X-ray structures of 3aa, 4aa, 5aa, 6a, 3ac, and 4ag; characterization data for 3ab-3af, 4af-4aj, 3ba-3ea, 3cb, 3eb, 4ch, 7f, and 5fh; copies of <sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C, COSY, and NOESY NMR spectra for all compounds; and crystal data of 3aa, 4aa, 5aa, 6a, 3ac, and 4ag in CIF format. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http:// pubs.acs.org.