

SYNTHESIS OF 3-(2-OXO-2H-PYRANYL-3) SUBSTITUTED LACTIC ACID DERIVATIVES

Marko Škof, Jurij Svete,* and Branko Stanovnik*

Faculty of Chemistry and Chemical Technology, University of Ljubljana,
Aškerčeva 5, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia

Dedicated to Professor Teruaki Mukaiyama, Science University of Tokyo, on the occasion of his 73rd birthday

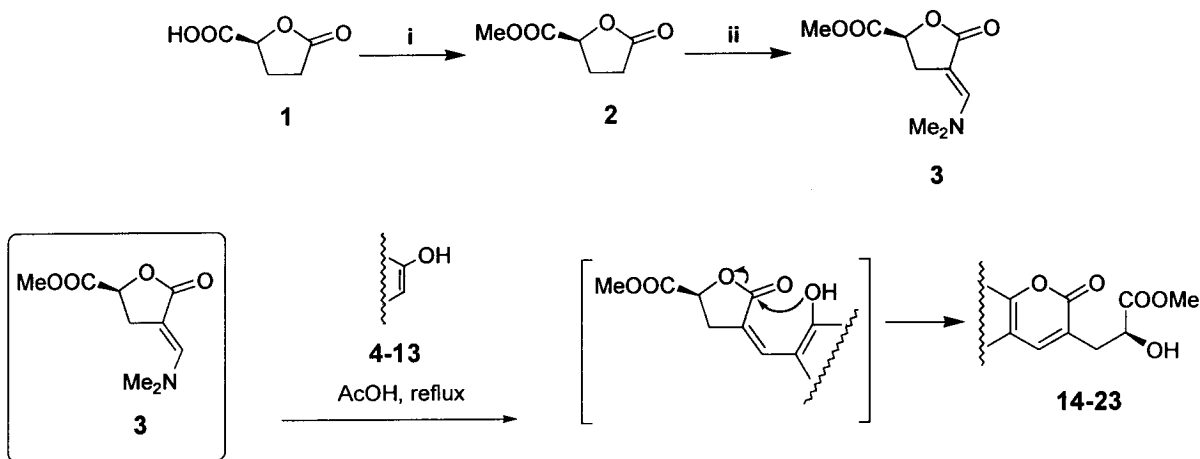
Abstract – (S)-3-[(E)-Dimethylaminomethylidene]-5-(methoxycarbonyl)tetrahydrofuran-2-one (**3**) was transformed in one step with various C,O-dinucleophiles (**4-13**) into the corresponding 3-(2-oxo-2H-pyranyl-3)-2-hydroxypropanoates (**14-23**).

Chiral hydroxy acids, such as lactic acid, malic acid, mandelic acid, tartaric acid, and their derivatives found a wide applicability in asymmetric synthesis, especially as chiral synthons, chiral auxiliaries, and resolving agents.¹ However, much less attention has been paid to the synthesis and utilisation of heteroaryl substituted α -hydroxy acid derivatives. Previously, we have shown that 3-dimethylaminopropenoates can serve as versatile reagents for the preparation of a variety of heterocyclic systems.^{2,3} In this connection we have recently shown the utilisation of chiral 3-dimethylaminopropenoate analogs, derived from L-pyroglutamic acid, for the preparation of 3-heteroarylalanine derivatives and heterocyclic systems with an α -amino acid structural element.⁴⁻⁶ In continuation of our work in this field, we now report on novel, one step synthesis of methyl 3-(2-oxo-2H-pyranyl-3)-2-hydroxypropanoates (**14-23**) from easily available (S)-3-[(E)-dimethylaminomethylidene]-5-(methoxycarbonyl)tetrahydrofuran-2-one (**3**).⁶

The starting compound, (S)-3-[(E)-dimethylaminomethylidene]-5-(methoxycarbonyl)tetrahydrofuran-2-one (**3**), was prepared from commercially available (S)-5-oxotetrahydrofuran-2-carboxylic acid (**1**).⁶ When compound (**3**) was treated with carbocyclic and heterocyclic 1,3-dicarbonyl compounds and their analogs (**4-13**), the corresponding methyl 3-heteroaryl-2-hydroxypropanoates (**14-23**) with fused 2H-pyran-2-one heterocyclic residue were formed (Scheme 1).

The following 1,3 dicarbonyl compounds and their analogs were chosen: cyclohexane-1,3-dione (**4**), 5,5-dimethylcyclohexane-1,3-dione (**5**), 1,5-dihydroxynaphthalene (**6**), 2,3-dihydroxynaphthalene (**7**), 2,7-

Scheme 1



Reagents and conditions: i MeOH, SOCl_2 ; ii $(\text{Me}_2\text{N})_2\text{CHO}-t\text{-Bu}$, toluene, 100° .

dihydroxynaphthalene (**8**), 1,3,5-trihydroxybenzene (**9**), 4-hydroxypyridin-2-one (**10**), 4-hydroxy-6-methyl-2*H*-pyran-2-one (**11**), 4-hydroxy-2*H*-benzo[*b*]pyran-2-one (**12**) and 1,3-dimethylbarbituric acid (**13**).

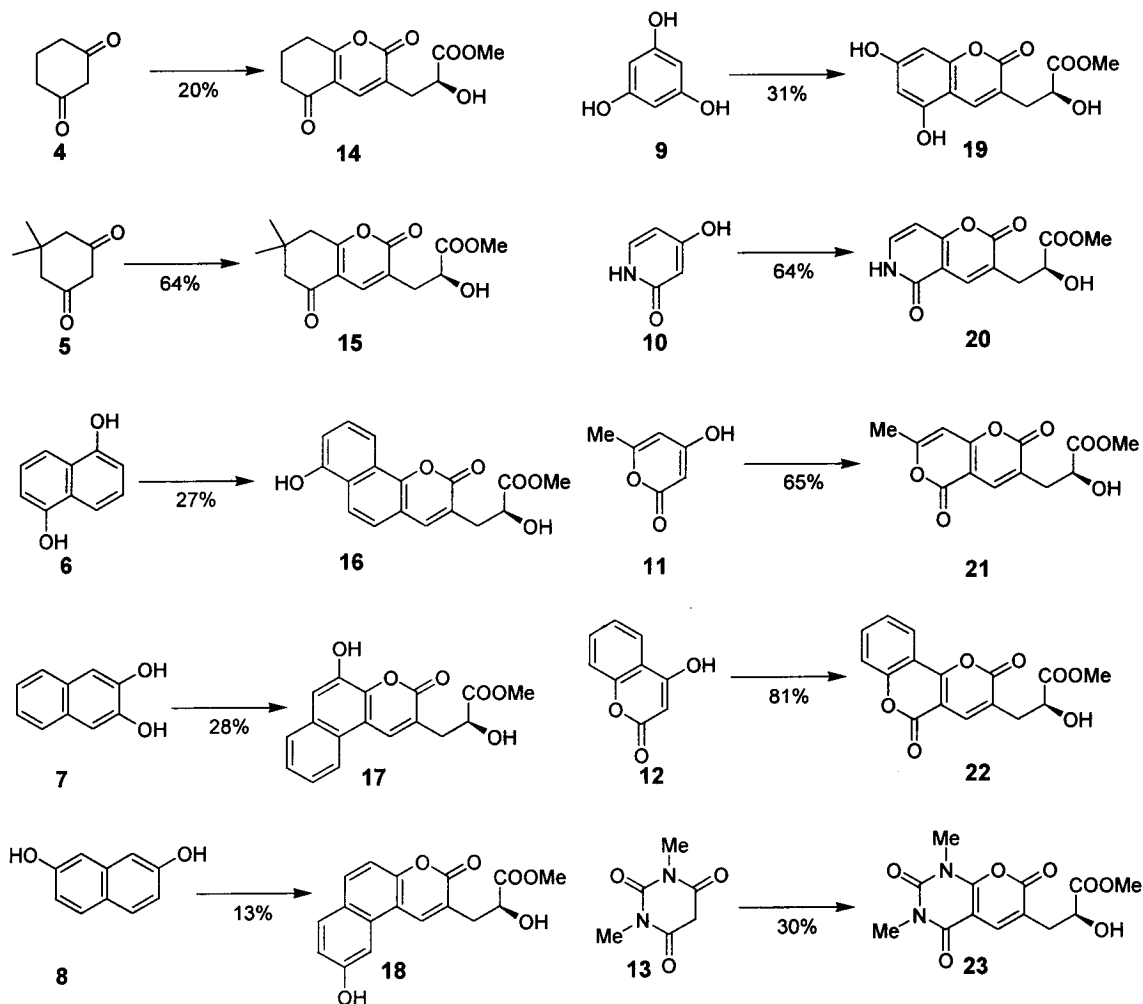
Compounds (**4-13**) gave after treatment with **3** in refluxing acetic acid, the corresponding methyl (*S*)-3-heteroaryl-2-hydroxypropanoates with the following heteroaryl residues: 2,5-dioxo-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-2*H*-benzo[*b*]pyranyl-3 (**14**), 7,7-dimethyl-2,5-dioxo-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-2*H*-benzo[*b*]pyranyl-3 (**15**), 7-hydroxy-2-oxo-2*H*-naphtho[1,2-*b*]pyranyl-3 (**16**), 10-hydroxy-2-oxo-2*H*-naphtho[2,1-*b*]pyranyl-3 (**17**), 6-hydroxy-2-oxo-2*H*-naphtho[2,1-*b*]pyranyl-3 (**18**), 5,7-dihydroxy-2-oxo-2*H*-benzo[*b*]pyranyl-3 (**19**), 2,5-dioxo-5,6-dihydro-2*H*-pyrano[3,2-*c*]pyridinyl-3 (**20**), 2,5-dioxo-7-methyl-2*H*,5*H*-pyrano[4,3-*b*]pyranyl-3 (**21**), 2,5-dioxo-2*H*,5*H*-benzo[*b*]pyrano[4,3-*b*]pyranyl-3 (**22**), and 1,3-dimethyl-2,4,7-trioxo-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-7*H*-pyrano[2,3-*d*]pyrimidinyl-6 (**23**), respectively (Scheme 2).

EXPERIMENTAL

Melting points were taken on a Kofler micro hot stage. The ^1H NMR spectra and ^{13}C NMR spectra were obtained on a Bruker Avance DPX 300 (300 MHz) spectrometer with $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ and CDCl_3 as solvents and Me_4Si as internal standard. The microanalyses for C, H, and N were obtained on a Perkin-Elmer CHN Analyser 2400. The optical rotations were measured on a Perkin-Elmer 241 MC Polarimeter.

(*S*)-5-(Methoxycarbonyl)tetrahydrofuran-2-one (**2**) and (*S*)-3-[(*E*)-dimethylaminomethylidene]-5-(methoxycarbonyl)tetrahydrofuran-2-one (**1**) were prepared according to the procedures described in the literature.^{6, 7}

Scheme 2



(*S*)-3-[(*E*)-Dimethylaminomethylidene]-5-(methoxycarbonyl)tetrahydrofuran-2-one (**3**).⁶ A mixture of (*S*)-5-(methoxycarbonyl)tetrahydrofuran-2-one (**2**) (1.441 g, 10 mmol), toluene (20 ml), and bis(dimethylamino)-*tert*-butoxymethane (2.61 g, 15 mmol) was heated at 90–100°C for 2 h, volatile components were evaporated *in vacuo*, and the solid residue was crystallised from ethyl acetate. The precipitate was collected by filtration to give **3**; yield: 1.154 g, 58%; mp 113–115°C (from ethyl acetate); $[\alpha]_D^{23} = +2.3^\circ$ ($c = 1.10$, CH_2Cl_2). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 3.04 (6H, s, NMe_2), 3.20 (1H, ddd, $J = 1.3, 4.7, 14.3$ Hz, 4-Ha), 3.43 (1H, ddd, $J = 1.1, 10.0, 14.1$ Hz, 4-Hb), 3.79 (3H, s, OMe), 4.86 (1H, dd, $J = 5.0, 10.0$ Hz, 5-H), 7.13 (1H, t, $J = 1.5$ Hz, 3'-H). ^{13}C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 30.2, 42.1, 52.8, 72.6, 84.8, 148.4, 171.8, 174.2. *Anal.* Calcd for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_{13}\text{NO}_4$: C, 54.26; H, 6.58; N, 7.03. Found: C, 54.31; H, 6.79; N, 7.14.

General Procedure for the Preparation of Fused 2*H*-Pyran-2-one Hydroxypropanoates (13-24):

A mixture of (*S*)-3-[(*E*)-dimethylaminomethylidene]-5-(methoxycarbonyl)tetrahydrofuran-2-one (**3**) (0.199 g, 1 mmol), 1,3-dinucleophile (**4-13**) (1 mmol), and glacial acetic acid (4 mL) was heated at reflux temperature for 2–5 h. Volatile components were evaporated *in vacuo*, the solid residue was crystallised from the appropriate solvent and the precipitate was collected by filtration to give substituted lactic acid derivatives (**14-23**).

Methyl (*S*)-3-(2,5-Dioxo-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-2*H*-benzo[*b*]pyranyl-3)-2-hydroxypropanoate (14**).** This compound was prepared from cyclohexane-1,3-dione (**4**), reflux for 2 h; the crude product was purified by column chromatography using ethyl acetate/*n*-hexane (10 : 1) as solvent to give **14**; yield 20%; mp 122–124°C (from ethyl acetate/ether = 1 : 1); $[\alpha]_D^{23} = +25.5^\circ$ ($c = 1.00$, CH₂Cl₂). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 2.06 (2H, deg. tt, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 7-CH₂), 2.48 (2H, t, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 8-CH₂), 2.62 (1H, dd, $J = 8.7, 14.3$ Hz, 3-Ha), 2.82 (1H, dd, $J = 4.5, 14.0$ Hz, 3-Hb), 2.85 (2H, t, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 6-CH₂), 3.64 (3H, s, OMe), 4.28 (1H, ddd, $J = 4.7, 8.7, 6.2$ Hz, 2-H), 5.59 (1H, d, $J = 6.4$ Hz, OH), 7.65 (1H, s, 4'-H). ¹³C NMR (75.5 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 20.7, 28.0, 35.7, 36.9, 52.4, 68.7, 114.7, 122.6, 138.2, 161.6, 174.3, 174.4, 195.0. *Anal.* Calcd for C₁₃H₁₄O₆: C, 58.65; H, 5.30. Found: C, 58.47; H, 5.29.

Methyl (*S*)-3-(7,7-Dimethyl-2,5-dioxo-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-2*H*-benzo[*b*]pyranyl-3)-2-hydroxypropanoate (15**).** This compound was prepared from 5,5-dimethylcyclohexane-1,3-dione (**5**), reflux for 3 h; yield 64%; mp 109–111°C (from ethyl acetate); $[\alpha]_D^{23} = -2.2^\circ$ ($c = 1.16$, CHCl₃). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 1.05 (6H, s, 7-Me), 2.41 (2H, s, CH₂), 2.62 (1H, dd, $J = 8.7, 13.9$ Hz, 3-Ha), 2.80 (2H, s, CH₂), 2.82 (1H, dd, $J = 4.4, 14.3$ Hz, 3-Hb), 3.63 (3H, s, OMe), 4.29 (1H, ddd, $J = 4.5, 8.7, 6.4$ Hz, 2-H), 5.60 (1H, d, $J = 6.4$ Hz, OH), 7.64 (1H, s, 4'-H). ¹³C NMR (75.5 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 27.5, 27.6, 32.3, 34.8, 49.7, 51.5, 67.8, 112.9, 121.7, 137.0, 161.0, 171.8, 173.5, 194.0. *Anal.* Calcd for C₁₅H₁₈O₆: C, 61.22; H, 6.16. Found: C, 60.92; H, 6.50.

Methyl (*S*)-3-(7-Hydroxy-2-oxo-2*H*-naphtho[1,2-*b*]pyranyl-3)-2-hydroxypropanoate (16**).** This compound was prepared from 1,5-dihydroxynaphthalene (**6**), reflux for 6 h; the crude product was purified by column chromatography using ether as solvent to give **16**; yield 27%; mp 171–173°C (from ethyl acetate); $[\alpha]_D^{23} = -39.5^\circ$ ($c = 1.16$, DMF). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 2.77 (1H, dd, $J = 9.0, 13.7$ Hz, 3-Ha), 2.97 (1H, dd, $J = 4.7, 13.8$ Hz, 3-Hb), 3.66 (3H, s, OMe), 4.43 (1H, dt, $J = 5.3, 7.9$ Hz, 2-H), 5.68 (1H, d, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 2-OH), 7.06 (1H, d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 8'-H), 7.50 (1H, t, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 9'-H), 7.61 (1H, d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 10'-H), 7.79 (1H, d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 6'-H), 8.01 (1H, s, 4'-H), 8.02 (1H, d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 5'-H), 10.48 (1H, br

s, 7'-OH). ^{13}C NMR (75.5 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 36.5, 52.4, 68.9, 111.7, 112.4, 115.8, 119.3, 123.4, 124.3, 124.9, 125.9, 128.9, 143.4, 150.1, 154.4, 161.8, 174.5. *Anal.* Calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{14}\text{O}_6$: C, 64.97; H, 4.49. Found: C, 64.57; H, 4.79.

Methyl (S)-3-(10-Hydroxy-2-oxo-2H-naphtho[2,1-b]pyranyl-3)-2-hydroxypropanoate (17). This compound was prepared from 2,3-dihydroxynaphthalene (7), reflux for 6 h; the crude product was purified by column chromatography using ether as solvent to give **17**; yield 28%; mp 192–195°C (from ethyl acetate); $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{23} = -8.0^\circ$ ($c = 0.99$, CHCl_3). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 2.85 (1H, dd, $J = 8.7, 13.9$ Hz, 3-Ha), 3.03 (1H, dd, $J = 4.9, 13.6$ Hz, 3-Hb), 3.65 (3H, s, OMe), 4.48 (1H, dd, $J = 4.9, 8.7$ Hz, 2-H), 5.65 (1H, br s, 2-OH), 7.44 (1H, s, 9'-H), 7.47–7.54 (2H, m, 6'-H and 7'-H), 7.80–7.84 (1H, m, 8'-H), 8.35–8.38 (1H, m, 5'-H), 8.73 (1H, s, 4'-H), 10.45 (1H, br s, 10'-OH). ^{13}C NMR (75.5 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 35.8, 51.5, 68.1, 113.0, 114.2, 121.9, 123.1, 123.7, 124.8, 126.0, 126.7, 130.6, 138.2, 144.0, 144.1, 160.5, 173.6. *Anal.* Calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{14}\text{O}_6$: C, 64.97; H, 4.49. Found: C, 64.57; H, 4.55.

Methyl (S)-3-(6-Hydroxy-2-oxo-2H-naphtho[2,1-b]pyranyl-3)-2-hydroxypropanoate (18). This compound was prepared from 2,7-dihydroxynaphthalene (8), reflux for 5 h; the crude product was purified by column chromatography using ether as solvent to give **18**, yield 13%; mp 181–183°C (from ethyl acetate); $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{23} = -6.5^\circ$ ($c = 0.65$, DMF). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 2.83 (1H, dd, $J = 8.3, 13.9$ Hz, 3-Ha), 3.00 (1H, dd, $J = 4.9, 13.9$ Hz, 3-Hb), 3.65 (3H, s, OMe), 4.45 (1H, ddd, $J = 5.3, 6.0, 8.7$ Hz, 2-H), 5.67 (1H, d, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 2-OH), 7.17 (1H, dd, $J = 2.3, 9.0$ Hz, 7'-H), 7.30 (1H, d, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 10'-H), 7.65 (1H, d, $J = 2.3$ Hz, 5'-H), 7.89 (1H, d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 8'-H), 8.00 (1H, d, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 9'-H), 8.52 (1H, s, 4'-H), 10.16 (1H, br s, 6'-OH). ^{13}C NMR (75.5 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 36.5, 52.4, 69.1, 105.3, 112.7, 113.7, 118.7, 123.5, 125.2, 131.5, 131.6, 133.1, 138.9, 153.7, 158.5, 161.9, 174.6. *Anal.* Calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{14}\text{O}_6$: C, 64.97; H, 4.49. Found: C, 65.14; H, 4.51.

Methyl (S)-3-(5,7-Dihydroxy-2-oxo-2H-benzo[b]pyranyl-3)-2-hydroxypropanoate (19). This compound was prepared from 1,3,5-trihydroxybenzene (9), reflux for 3 h; the crude product was purified by column chromatography using ethyl acetate/*n*-hexane (2 : 1) as solvent to give **19**; yield 31%; mp 205–207°C (from methanol); $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{23} = +1.3^\circ$ ($c = 0.90$, CHCl_3). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 2.60 (1H, dd, $J = 8.3, 13.9$ Hz, 3-Ha), 2.82 (1H, dd, $J = 4.7, 13.7$ Hz, 3-Hb), 3.62 (3H, s, OMe), 4.28 (1H, ddd, $J = 4.9, 6.4, 8.3$ Hz, 2-H), 5.56 (1H, d, $J = 6.4$ Hz, OH), 6.17 (1H, d, $J = 1.9$ Hz, 6'-H), 6.26 (1H, d, $J = 2.3$ Hz, 8'-H), 7.80 (1H, s, 4'-H), 10.24 (1H, s, Het-OH), 10.56 (1H, s, Het-OH). ^{13}C NMR (75.5 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 35.5, 51.4, 68.4, 93.6, 98.2, 101.9, 116.6, 137.2, 155.4, 155.5, 161.2, 161.5, 173.3. *Anal.* Calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_7$: C, 55.72; H, 4.32. Found: C, 55.30; H, 4.30.

Methyl (S)-3-(2,5-Dioxo-5,6-dihydro-2H-pyrano[3,2-c]pyridinyl-3)-2-hydroxypropanoate (20). This compound was prepared from 4-dihydroxypyridin-2-one (**10**), reflux for 3 h; yield 64%; mp 227–229°C (from ethyl acetate); $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{23} = -2.1^\circ$ ($c = 0.78$, CHCl_3). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6): δ 2.66 (1H, ddd, $J = 0.8, 8.4, 13.9$ Hz, 3-Ha), 2.86 (1H, ddd, $J = 0.8, 4.5, 13.9$ Hz, 3-Hb), 3.64 (3H, s, OMe), 4.31 (1H, dt, $J = 8.3, 5.3$ Hz, 2-H), 5.62 (1H, d, $J = 6.4$ Hz, OH), 6.34 (1H, dd, $J = 7.5, 0.8$ Hz, 8'-H), 7.58 (1H, d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 7'-H), 7.82 (1H, d, $J = 0.8$ Hz, 4'-H), 11.88 (1H, br s, 6'-H). ^{13}C NMR (75.5 MHz, DMSO-d_6): δ 36.1, 52.4, 68.9, 98.3, 109.1, 122.2, 139.0, 139.1, 160.9, 161.2, 163.3, 174.4. *Anal.* Calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{11}\text{NO}_6$: C, 54.34; H, 4.18; N, 5.28. Found: C, 54.12; H, 4.24; N, 5.37.

Methyl (S)-3-(2,5-Dioxo-7-methyl-2H,5H-pyrano[4,3-b]pyranyl-3)-2-hydroxypropanoate (21). This compound was prepared from 4-hydroxy-6-methyl-2H-pyran-2-one (**11**), reflux for 3 h; yield 65%; mp 162–164°C (from ethyl acetate); $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{23} = +0.9^\circ$ ($c = 0.57$, CH_2Cl_2). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6): δ 2.32 (3H, s, 7'-Me), 2.67 (1H, dd, $J = 8.5, 14.1$ Hz, 3-Ha), 2.86 (1H, dd, $J = 4.1, 13.6$ Hz, 3-Hb), 3.64 (3H, s, OMe), 4.32 (1H, dt, $J = 5.4, 7.7$ Hz, 2-H), 5.64 (1H, d, $J = 6.4$ Hz, OH), 6.64 (1H, s, 4'-H), 7.72 (1H, s, 8'-H). ^{13}C NMR (75.5 MHz, DMSO-d_6): δ 20.8, 35.9, 52.5, 68.7, 99.6, 101.8, 123.4, 138.8, 160.4, 160.8, 165.5, 166.4, 174.3. *Anal.* Calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_7$: C, 55.72; H, 4.32. Found: C, 55.28; H, 4.31.

Methyl (S)-3-(2,5-Dioxo-2H,5H-benzo[b]pyrano[4,3-b]pyranyl-3)-2-hydroxypropanoate (22). This compound was prepared from 4-hydroxy-2H-benzo[b]pyran-2-one (**12**), reflux for 2 h; yield 81%; mp 208–210°C (from ethyl acetate); $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{23} = -35.9^\circ$ ($c = 1.14$, CHCl_3). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6): δ 2.77 (1H, dd, $J = 8.4, 14.3$ Hz, 3-Ha), 2.95 (1H, dd, $J = 4.0, 14.2$ Hz, 3-Hb), 3.66 (3H, s, OMe), 4.38 (1H, ddd, $J = 4.7, 6.4, 8.5$ Hz, 2-H), 5.70 (1H, d, $J = 6.4$ Hz, OH), 7.48–7.55 (2H, m, 7'-H and 9'-H), 7.79 (1H, ddd, $J = 8.6, 7.2, 1.5$ Hz, 8'-H), 7.87 (1H, s, 4'-H), 8.00 (1H, br dd, $J = 7.9, 1.5$ Hz, 10'-H). ^{13}C NMR (75.5 MHz, DMSO-d_6): δ 35.9, 52.5, 68.7, 104.4, 113.8, 118.0, 123.7, 125.5, 126.2, 135.1, 139.1, 153.6, 159.4, 160.1, 160.6, 174.3. *Anal.* Calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_7$: C, 60.76; H, 3.82. Found: C, 60.77; H, 3.83.

Methyl (S)-3-(1,3-Dimethyl-2,4,7-trioxo-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-7H-pyrano[2,3-d]pyrimidinyl-6)-2-hydroxy-propanoate (23). This compound was prepared from 1,3-dimethylbarbituric acid (**13**), reflux for 5 h; the crude product was purified by column chromatography using ethyl acetate as solvent to give **13**; yield 30%; mp 172–174°C (from ethyl acetate); $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{23} = +2.0^\circ$ ($c = 0.82$, CH_2Cl_2). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6): δ 2.65 (1H, ddd, $J = 0.8, 8.7, 13.9$ Hz, 3-Ha), 2.83 (1H, ddd, $J = 0.8, 4.7, 14.1$ Hz, 3-Hb), 3.23 (3H, s, Het-Me), 3.38 (3H, s, Het-Me), 3.64 (3H, s, OMe), 4.27 (1H, ddd, $J = 4.9, 8.3, 6.4$ Hz, 2-H), 5.62 (1H, d, $J = 6.4$ Hz, OH), 7.81 (1H, s, 4'-H). ^{13}C NMR (75.5 MHz, DMSO-d_6): δ 28.9, 29.7, 35.3, 52.5, 68.9, 93.0,

115.1, 141.2, 150.3, 158.3, 159.4, 159.7, 174.4. *Anal.* Calcd for $C_{13}H_{14}N_2O_7$: C, 50.33; H, 4.55; N, 9.03. Found: C, 50.16; H, 4.52; N, 8.87.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The financial support from the Ministry of Science and Technology of Slovenia is gratefully acknowledged.

REFERENCES AND NOTES

1. For an illustration see: J. Mulzer, "Basic Principles of EPC Synthesis" in "Stereoselective Synthesis", Methods of Organic Chemistry (Houben-Weyl), 4th ed., Vol. 1, ed. by G. Helmchen, **1996**, pp. 75–146.
2. For short reviews see: B. Stanovnik, *Molecules*, **1996**, *1*, 123; B. Stanovnik, "Methyl 2-Benzoylamino-3-dimethylaminopropenoate in the Synthesis of Heterocyclic Systems" in "Progress in Heterocyclic Chemistry", Vol 5, ed. by H. Suschitzky and E. F. V. Scriven, Pergamon Press, Oxford, **1993**, pp. 34–53.
3. For recent publications see: L. Selič, S. Golič-Grdadolnik, and B. Stanovnik, *Helv. Chim. Acta*, **1997**, *80*, 2418; J. Smodiš and B. Stanovnik, *Tetrahedron*, **1998**, *54*, 9799; L. Selič and B. Stanovnik, *Helv. Chim. Acta*, **1998**, *81*, 1634; L. Selič, S. Strah, R. Toplak, and B. Stanovnik, *Heterocycles*, **1998**, *47*, 1017; L. Pizzioli, B. Ornik, J. Svete, and B. Stanovnik, *Helv. Chim. Acta*, **1998**, *81*, 231; U. Bratušek, A. Hvala, and B. Stanovnik, *J. Heterocycl. Chem.*, **1998**, *35*, 1281; G. Soršak, S. Golič-Grdadolnik, and B. Stanovnik, *J. Heterocycl. Chem.*, **1998**, *35*, 1275; L. Selič and B. Stanovnik, *J. Heterocycl. Chem.*, **1998**, *35*, 1527; L. Selič and B. Stanovnik, *Synthesis*, **1999**, 479; R. Toplak, J. Svete, B. Stanovnik, and S. Golič-Grdadolnik, *J. Heterocycl. Chem.*, **1999**, *35*, 225; R. Toplak, J. Svete, S. Golič-Grdadolnik, and B. Stanovnik, *Coll. Czech. Chem. Commun.*, **1999**, *64*, 177.
4. M. Škof, J. Svete, B. Stanovnik, L. Golič, S. Golič-Grdadolnik, and L. Selič, *Helv. Chim. Acta*, **1998**, *81*, 2332.
5. M. Škof, J. Svete, and B. Stanovnik, *Heterocycles*, **1999**, *51*, 1051.
6. M. Škof, J. Svete, M. Kmetič, B. Stanovnik, and S. Golič-Grdadolnik, *Eur. J. Org. Chem.*, **1999**, in print.
7. O. Červinka and L. Hub, *Coll. Czech. Chem. Commun.*, **1968**, *33*, 2927.

Received, 10th May, 1999