A Green and Efficient One-pot Synthesis of Propanamides by a Three-component Reaction of 2-(2-oxopropyl)isoindoline-1,3-dione, Alkyl isocyanide and an E-cinnamic acid under Catalyst-free Conditions in Water

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Abstract

A green and convenient protocol is described for the preparation of E-1-(alkylamino)-3-(1,3-dioxoisooindolin-2-yl)-2-methyl-1-oxopropan-2-yl via one-pot three-component reaction between 2-(2-oxopropyl)isoindoline-1,3-dione, an alkyl isocyanide and an E-cinnamic acid in water at room temperature. The methods used to follow the reactions are TLC and NMR, which indicated that there is no side product and the products were obtained without any purification. The structures of the products were deduced from their 1H NMR, 13C NMR and IR spectra. The present methodology offers several advantages such as a simple procedure, catalyst-free, mild reaction conditions, high yields, and the absence of any volatile and hazardous organic solvents.

Keywords: 2-(2-oxopropyl)isoindoline-1,3-dione, Alkyl isocyanide, E-cinnamic acid.

Introduction

For the synthetic chemist, water is an ideal solvent for chemical synthesis because in the past years, water was not used as a solvent it is safe, non-toxic, not inflammable, and cheap compared to organic solvents [1]. However, water is environmentally friendly, readily available, and safe.
solubility and, in some cases, the instability of organic reagents in aqueous solutions. But nowadays, it is well known that chemical reactions in mixed aqueous solutions or two-phase systems often give better results than in organic solvents and often the insolubility of the final products facilitates their isolation [2,3]. Organic reactions in water exhibit unique reactivity and selectivity that are different from reactions in organic solvents. In particular, reactions with negative activation volume are reported to occur faster in water than in organic solvents [4]. In 1980, Rideout and Breslow [5] discovered a rate increase by a factor of more than 700 when the Diels-Alder reaction is performed in water instead of hydrocarbons. Breslow explained his results on the basis of hydrophobic interactions that induce a favorable association of the apolar components in the polar water.

In recent years, multicomponent reactions (MCRs) have become an important tool in novel primary synthetic chemistry as these reactions expand the efficiency by combining several operational steps without any isolation of intermediates or changes in the conditions [6–16]. Hence, this principle is very efficient in terms of time as nice as resources [17]. Amongst the known MCRs, the most valuable reactions are those based on isocyanides. Isocyanide-based multicomponent reactions (abbreviated to IMCRs by Ugiand Dömling) [18–21] due to their synthetic potential, their inherent atom efficiency, convergent nature, ease of implementation, and molecular diversity have attracted much attention. Therefore, because of these advantages they offer a valuable tool in the field of combinatorial chemistry [22–24].

Catalyst-free organic reactions in water are very important based on green chemistry protocols [25]. Herein a catalyst-free and an efficient green protocol for the synthesis of E-1-(alkylamino)-3-(1,3-dioxoisodolindolin-2-yl)-2-methyl-1-oxoprop-2-yl derivatives (4) via one-pot three-component reaction between 2-(2-oxopropyl)isoindoline-1,3-dione (1), an alkyl isocyanide (2) and an E-cinnamic acid (3) in water at room temperature is reported (Scheme 1).

**Experimental**

**Material and methods**

Starting materials and solvents were purchased from Merck (Germany) and Fluka (Switzerland) and were used without further purification. The methods used to follow the reactions are TLC and NMR, which indicated that there is no side product. Melting points were measured on an Electrothermal 9100 apparatus and are uncorrected. The IR spectra were measured on a Jasco 6300 FTIR spectrometer. $^1$H- and $^{13}$C-NMR spectra were measured (CDCl$_3$) with a BRUKER DRX-250 AVANCE spectrometer at 250.0 and 62.89 MHz, respectively. 2-(2-oxopropyl)
isoindoline-1,3-dione (I) were prepared based on known procedure [26].

**General procedure for the preparation of 4a-j**

A mixture of 2-(2-oxopropyl)isoindoline-1,3-dione (I) (1 mmol, 0.203 g), an alkyl isocyanide (2) (1 mmol, cyclohexylisocyanide, t-butyl isocyanide and n-butylisocyanide) and an E-cinnamic acid (3) (1 mmol; 0.162 g, α-methyl E-cinnamic acid; 0.182 g, 3-Chloro E-cinnamic acid; 0.166 g, 4-Fluoro E-cinnamic acid; 0.162 g, 4-Methyl E-cinnamic acid) in H₂O (5 mL) was stirred at room temperature for 24 h. After the completion of the reaction, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure, and the products were obtained without any purification. The products were dried at room temperature during two days.

**Table 1.** Preparation of E-1-(alkylamino)-3-(1,3-dioxoisindolin-2-yl)-2-methyl-1-oxopropan-2-yl derivatives.

<table>
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<th>R</th>
<th>R'</th>
<th>Yield%</th>
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<td>Me</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
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<td>b</td>
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<td>93</td>
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<td>4-Me</td>
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<tr>
<td>j</td>
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<td>87</td>
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</table>

The characterization data of the compounds (4a-j) are given below:

**(E)-1-(Cyclohexylamino)-3-(1,3-dioxoisindolin-2-yl)-2-methyl-1-oxopropan-2-yl 2-methyl-3-phenylacrylate (4a)**

Pale Yellow oil, yield: 95%, IR (KBr): ν = 3342, 3057, 2925, 2854, 1777, 1732, 1670, 1537 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (250MHz, CDCl₃): 1.00-1.86 (10H, 5CH₂), 1.72 (3H, s, CH₃), 2.10 (3H, s, CH₃), 3.79 (1H, d, JHH = 7.75 Hz, CH), 4.29 and 4.36 (2H, AB quartet, JHH = 16.0 Hz, CH₂), 5.89 (1H, d, JHH = 7.75 Hz, NH), 7.35-7.83 (m, 10H, 9CH, arom, 1CH, alkene) ppm. ¹³C NMR (62.59MHz, CDCl₃): 14.10 (CH₃), 20.97 (CH₂), 24.62 (CH₃), 25.45 (2CH₂), 32.66 (2CH₂), 43.35 (CH), 48.14 (CH₂), 82.31 (C), 123.42, 123.42, 123.42, 139.94, 135.74, 134.13, 131.88, 129.80, 128.50, 128.50, 128.50, 128.50, 128.50, 128.50 ppm. (C=O), 166.99 (C=O), 168.05 (C=O), 169.19 (C=O) ppm.

**(E)-1-(Cyclohexylamino)-3-(1,3-dioxoisindolin-2-yl)-2-methyl-1-oxopropan-2-yl 3-(4-fluorophenyl)acrylate (4b)**

Pale Yellow oil, yield: 92%, IR (KBr): ν = 3325, 3068, 2930, 2854, 1776, 1723, 1638, 1509, 1451 ppm. ¹H NMR (250MHz, CDCl₃): 1.00-1.86 (10H, 5CH₂), 1.72 (3H, s, CH₃), 2.10 (3H, s, CH₃), 3.79 (1H, d, JHH = 7.75 Hz, CH), 4.29 and 4.36 (2H, AB quartet, JHH = 16.0 Hz, CH₂), 5.89 (1H, d, JHH = 7.75 Hz, NH), 7.35-7.83 (m, 10H, 9CH, arom, 1CH, alkene) ppm. ¹³C NMR (62.59MHz, CDCl₃): 14.10 (CH₃), 20.97 (CH₂), 24.62 (CH₃), 25.45 (2CH₂), 32.66 (2CH₂), 43.35 (CH), 48.14 (CH₂), 82.31 (C), 123.42, 123.42, 123.42, 139.94, 135.74, 134.13, 131.88, 129.80, 128.50, 128.50, 128.50 ppm. (C=O), 166.99 (C=O), 168.05 (C=O), 169.19 (C=O) ppm.
721 cm\(^{-1}\). \(^1\)H NMR (250MHz, CDCl\(_3\)): 0.84-1.92 (10H, 5CH\(_2\)), 1.69 (3H, s, CH\(_3\)), 3.76 (1H, d, \(J_{HH}=7.75\) Hz, CH), 4.36 (2H, CH\(_2\)), 5.88 (1H, d, \(J_{HH}=8.0\) Hz, NH), 6.32 (1H, d, \(J_{HH}=16.0\) Hz, CH), 7.07-7.83 (m, 9H, 4CH, Arom, 1CH, alkene) ppm.

\(^{13}\)C NMR (62.89MHz, CDCl\(_3\)):
21.24 (CH\(_2\)), 24.71 (CH\(_3\)), 25.45 (2CH\(_2\)), 32.72 (2CH\(_2\)), 43.10 (CH), 82.33 (C), 116.02 (d, \(J_{CF}=22.0\) Hz, CH), 117.63 (CH), 123.45 (2CH,arom), 130.39 (d, \(J_{CF}=8.5\) Hz, 2CH, orto), 130.54 (C), 131.88 (2C,arom), 134.12 (2CH,arom), 144.57 (12C, arom, 2C, alken), 164.23 (d, \(J_{CF}=251\) Hz, C) 165.08 (C=O), 168.13 (C=O), 169.10 (C=O) ppm.

(E)-1-(Cyclohexylamino)-3-(1,3-dioxoisindolin-2-yl)-2-methyl-1-oxopropan-2-yl 3-(3-chlorophenyl)acrylate (4d)

Pale Yellow oil, yield: 93%, IR (KBr): \(\nu \approx 3323, 2929, 2854, 1776, 1719, 1661, 1539, 720\) cm\(^{-1}\) . \(^1\)H NMR (250MHz, CDCl\(_3\)):
1.08-1.91 (10H, 5CH\(_2\)), 1.68 (3H, s, CH\(_3\)), 3.76 (1H, d, \(J_{HH}=7.75\) Hz, CH), 4.36 (2H, CH\(_2\)), 5.88 (1H, d, \(J_{HH}=8.0\) Hz, NH), 6.34 (1H, d, \(J_{HH}=8.0\) Hz, CH), 7.17-7.83 (m, 9H, 4CH, Arom, 1CH, alkene) ppm.

\(^{13}\)C NMR (62.89MHz, CDCl\(_3\)):
21.28 (CH\(_2\)), 24.70 (CH\(_3\)), 25.44 (2CH\(_2\)), 32.70 (2CH\(_2\)), 43.11 (CH), 48.21 (CH\(_2\)), 82.20 (C), 116.73, 123.47, 128.26, 129.58, 131.89, 134.09, 140.97, 145.90 (12C, arom, 2C, alken), 165.38 (C=O), 168.09 (C=O), 169.23 (C=O) ppm.

(E)-1-(tert-Butylamino)-3-(1,3-dioxoisindolin-2-yl)-2-methyl-1-oxopropan-2-yl 3-(3-chlorophenyl)acrylate (4e)

White Powder, yield: 95%, m.p. 120-122\(^\circ\)C. IR (KBr): \(\nu \approx 3436, 3059, 2966, 1776, 1716, 1670, 1519, 715\) cm\(^{-1}\) . \(^1\)H NMR (250MHz, CDCl\(_3\)):
1.30 (9H, s, 3CH\(_3\)), 1.71 (3H, s, CH3), 2.11 (3H, s, CH\(_3\)), 4.32 and 4.34 (2H, AB quartet, \(J_{HH}=14.75\) Hz, CH\(_2\)), 7.34-8.09 (m, 9H, 6CH, Arom, 1CH, alkene) ppm.

\(^{13}\)C NMR (62.89MHz, CDCl\(_3\)):
14.10 (CH\(_3\)), 21.00 (CH\(_2\)), 28.50 (3CH\(_3\)), 43.21 (CH\(_2\)), 51.37 (C), 82.62 (C), 123.42, 128.23, 128.36, 128.47, 129.79, 131.91, 134.11, 135.76, 139.94 (12C, arom, 2C, alken), 166.96 (C=O), 168.04 (C=O) ppm.
(2C=O), 169.29 (C=O) ppm.

\((E)-1-(\text{tert-Butylamino})-3-(1,3\text{-dioxoisoindolin-2-yl})-2\text{-methyl-1-oxopropan-2-yl} \ 3-(4\text{-fluorophenyl})\text{acrylate} \ (4f)\)

White Powder, yield: 94\%, m.p. 116-118°C. IR (KBr): \(\nu = 3385, 2964, 2853, 1773, 1716, 1670, \ 1509, \ 713\text{cm}\ ^{-1}. \ ^{1}\text{H}\ NMR (250MHz, CDCl\textsubscript{3}): 1.31(9H, s, 3CH\textsubscript{3}), 1.67 (3H, s, CH\textsubscript{3}), 4.34 and 4.36 (2H, AB quartet, \(^2J_{HH} = 14.75\text{Hz}, \ CH\textsubscript{2}), 5.80 (1H, s, NH), 6.32 (1H, d, \(^3J_{HH} = 16.0\text{Hz}, \ CH\)), 7.07-7.83 (m, 9H, 4CH, arom, 1CH, alkene) ppm. \(^{13}\text{C}\) NMR (62.89MHz, CDCl\textsubscript{3}): 21.27 (CH\textsubscript{3}), 28.48 (3CH\textsubscript{3}), 43.21 (CH\textsubscript{2}), 51.37 (C), 82.57 (C), 116.01 (d, \(^2J_{CF} = 22.0\text{Hz}), 117.65 \ (CH), 123.41 (2CH), 123.91 (2C), 130.16 (d, \(^3J_{CF} = 8.5\text{Hz}, \ CH\textsubscript{2}), 131.49 (2C), 134.13 (2CH), 144.49(CH), 167.13 (d, \(^1J_{CF} = 261.5\text{Hz}), C\) 165.05 (C=O), 168.13 (C=O), 169.21 (C=O) ppm.

\((E)-1-(\text{Butylamino})-3-(1,3\text{-dioxoisoindolin-2-yl})-2\text{-methyl-1-oxopropan-2-yl} \ 2\text{-methyl-3-phenylacrylate} \ (4h)\)

White Powder, yield: 95\%, m.p. 124°C. IR (KBr): 3352, 2929, 2871, 1777, 1716, 1667, 1538, 715 cm\(^{-1}. \ ^{1}\text{H}\) nmr (250MHz, CDCl\textsubscript{3}): 0.869 (3H, t, \(^3J_{HH} = 7.0\text{Hz}), \ CH\textsubscript{3}), 1.24-1.48 (4H, 2CH\textsubscript{2}), 1.72 (3H, s, CH\textsubscript{3}), 2.10 (3H, s, CH\textsubscript{3}), 3.26 (2H, q, \(^3J_{HH} = 6.0\text{Hz}, \ CH\textsubscript{2}), 4.29, 4.37 (2H, AB quartet, \(^3J = 14.75\text{Hz}, \ CH\textsubscript{2}), 6.06 (1H, NH), 7.35-7.84 (m, 9H, 8CH, arom, 1CH, alkene) ppm. \(^{13}\text{C}\) nmr (62.89MHz, CDCl\textsubscript{3}): 13.67 (CH\textsubscript{3}), 14.07 (CH\textsubscript{3}), 19.97 (CH\textsubscript{2}), 20.99 (CH\textsubscript{3}), 31.36 (CH\textsubscript{2}), 39.43 (CH\textsubscript{3}), 43.40 (CH\textsubscript{2}), 82.25 (C), 123.43 (2CH), 128.10 (C), 128.37 (2CH\textsubscript{2}), 128.51 (CH), 129.80 (2CH), 131.89 (2C), 134.14 (2CH), 135.73 (C), 140.06 (CH), 167.04 (C=O), 168.07 (C=O), 170.12 (C=O) ppm.

\((E)-1-(\text{Butylamino})-3-(1,3\text{-dioxoisoindolin-2-yl})-2\text{-methyl-1-oxopropan-2-yl} \ 3\text{-p-tolylacrylate} \ (4g)\)

White Powder, yield: 88\%, m.p. 118-119°C. IR (KBr): \(\nu = 3431, 2923, 2853, 1770, 1634, 1514, \ 724\text{cm}\ ^{-1}. \ ^{1}\text{H}\) nmr (250MHz, CDCl\textsubscript{3}): 1.30 (9H, s, 3CH\textsubscript{3}), 1.67 (3H, s, CH\textsubscript{3}), 2.36 (3H, s, CH\textsubscript{3}), 3.75 (1H, d, \(^3J_{HH} = 8.0\text{Hz}), \ CH\)), 4.34,4.36 (2H, CH\textsubscript{2}), 5.82 (1H, s, NH), 6.34 (1H, d, \(^3J_{HH} = 15.75\text{Hz}), \ CH\)), 7.18-7.84(m, 9H, 4CH, arom, 1CH, alkene) ppm.\(^{13}\text{C}\) nmr (62.89MHz, CDCl\textsubscript{3}): 21.29 (CH\textsubscript{3}), 28.48 (3CH\textsubscript{3}), 32.78(CH\textsubscript{3}), 43.00 (CH\textsubscript{2}), 51.37 (C), 82.50 (C), 116.09 (CH), 123.39 (2CH), 128.26(2CH), 129.63 (2CH), 131.90 (C), 132.04 (2C), 134.05 (2CH), 140.81(C), 146.70 (CH), 165.38 (C=O), 168.09 (C=O), 169.23 (C=O)ppm.

\((E)-1-(\text{Butylamino})-3-(1,3\text{-dioxoisoindolin-2-yl})-2\text{-methyl-1-oxopropan-2-yl} \ 2\text{-methyl-3-phenylacrylate} \ (4i)\)

White Powder, yield: 86\%, m.p. 130°C. IR (KBr): 3316, 2923, 2852, 1775, 1717, 1652, 1540, 718 cm\(^{-1}. \ ^{1}\text{H}\) nmr (250MHz, CDCl\textsubscript{3}): 0.875 (3H, t, \(^3J_{HH} = 7.25\text{Hz}, \ CH\textsubscript{3}), 1.25-1.45
(4H, 2CH2), 1.71 (3H, s, CH3), 3.26 (2H, q, JHH=6.75Hz, CH2), 4.30, 4.38 (2H, AB quartet, J=14.75Hz, CH2), 6.08 (1H, d, JHH=6.75Hz, NH), 6.35 (1H, d, JHH=16.0Hz, CH), 7.09-7.86 (m, 9H, 8CH, arom, 1CH, alkene) ppm.

13C nmr (62.89MHz, CDCl3): 13.67 (CH3), 19.21 (CH2), 21.44 (CH3), 31.37 (CH2), 39.41 (CH2), 43.00 (CH2), 82.48 (C), 116.02 (2CH, d, JCF=22.0Hz), 123.39 (2CH), 129.63 (2C), 131.52 (C), 131.94 (2CH, d, JCF=7.5Hz), 134.05 (2CH), 143.81 (CH), 164.13 (1C, d, JCF=255.5Hz), 165.32 (C=O), 167.59 (C=O), 168.09 (C=O) ppm.

Results and discussion

The E-cinnamic acid derivative 3 was reacted with 2-(2-oxopropyl)isoindoline-1,3-dione 1 and an alkylisocyanide 2 in H2O in a 1:1:1 ratio at room temperature to produce E-1-(alkylamino)-3-(1,3-dioxoisoindolin-2-yl)-2-methyl-1-oxopropan-2-yl derivative 4. The reaction proceeded smoothly and cleanly under mild conditions and no side reactions were observed. Structures of compounds 4a–j were determined on the basis of their IR, 1H NMR, 13C NMR spectra. In the 1H NMR spectrum of 4a are displayed one multiplet at 1.00-1.86 (10H, 5CH2) for cyclohexyl group, two singlet at 1.72 and 2.10 for two methyl group, one doublet at 3.79 (d, JHH=7.75 Hz, CH) for cyclohexyl group, two doublet at 4.29 and 4.36(AB quartet, JHH=16.0 Hz) for CH2, one doublet at 5.89 (d, JHH=7.75 Hz) for NH and one multiplet at 7.35-7.83 (m, 10 H; 9 CH arom and 1CH alkene) ppm. In 13C NMR spectrum of 4a showed 17 different resonances in agreement with the proposed structure. The carbonyl groups resonances in the 13C NMR spectra of 4a are appeared at 166.99(C=O), 168.05 (C=O) and 169.19 (C=O) ppm. The 1H and 13C NMR spectra of compounds 4b–j were similar to those of 4a, except for the aromatic and aliphatic moieties, which exhibited characteristic signals with appropriate chemical shifts. A proposed mechanism for this reaction to achievement of compound 4 is shown in Scheme2. On the basis of the chemistry of isocyanides, it is reasonable
to assume that the first step may involve protonation of 2-(2-oxopropyl)isoindoline-1,3-dione 1 by the E-cinnamic acid 3 to form an intermediate, which is then attacked by the alkyl isocyanide 2, leading to the formation of 4 [25].

Scheme 1. Synthesis of E-1-(alkylamino)-3-(1,3-dioisoindolin-2-yl)-2-methyl-1-oxopropan-2-yl derivatives in water.

Scheme 2. A proposed mechanism for the formation of compound 4.
Conclusion
We believe that the reported protocol offers a mild, simple, and efficient route for the preparation of $E$-1-(alkylamino)-3-(1,3-dioxoisooindolin-2-yl)-2-methyl-1-oxopropan-2-yl derivatives 4 from 2-(2-oxopropyl)isoindoline-1,3-dione 1, alkyl isocyanides 2 and E-cinnamic acids 3 in $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ at room temperature. This procedure offers significant advantages such as operational simplicity, mild reaction conditions, high yields, ease of isolation of products, cleaner reaction profiles, and $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ as medium, rendering it a useful protocol for the synthesis of these compounds.

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References