

Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI)

An efficient Sn(II)-catalyzed one-pot synthesis of 3-substituted azetidine-2,4-dione framework†

Santosh S. Chavan, Mrudul V. Supekar, Pralhad A. Burate, Bapurao D. Rupanwar, Anil M. Shelke and Gurunath Suryavanshi*

Chemical Engineering & Process Development Division, Academy of Scientific & Innovstive Research (AcSIR), CSIR-National Chemical Laboratory, Dr. Homi Bhaba Road, Pune 411008, Maharashtra, India.

Tel: +91 20 25902396; Fax: +91 20 25902676; E-mail: gm.suryavanshi@ncl.res.in

CONTENTS

S. No.	Description	Page No.
1	General Remarks	S2
2	Control Experiments	S2
3	General Procedure for the Gram Scale Synthesis of Azetidine 3g	S5
4	Transformation of 3-benzylideneazetidine-2,4-dione	S6
5	Spectral Data of Azetidine	S9
6	¹ H NMR and ¹³ C NMR Spectra	S11

1. General Remarks:

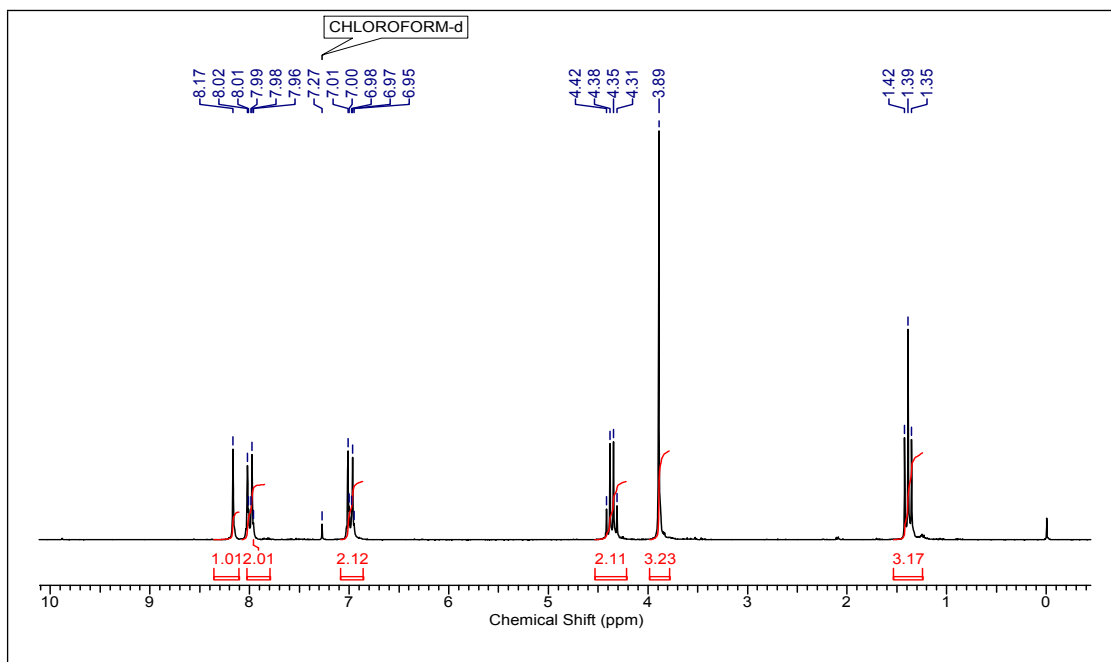
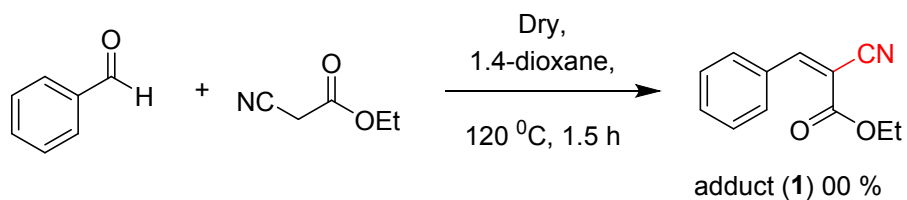
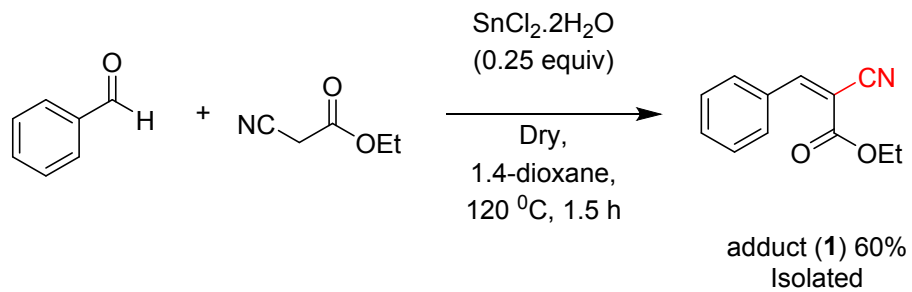
Unless otherwise specified, all reactions were carried out under an open atmosphere in solvent free condition and Reaction temperatures are reported as the temperature of the bath surrounding the reaction vessel. All reagents and solvents were obtained from commercial suppliers and Aldrich, Merck Millipore, Alfa Aesar and Avra Synthesis. Aldehydes were purified either by distillation or washing with NaHCO₃ after dissolving in ether, prior to use and all AR grade solvents were used without further purification.

Analytical thin layer chromatography was performed on Polygram SIL G/UV254 plates. Visualization was accomplished with short UV light or KMnO₄ staining solutions followed by heating. Flash chromatography was performed on Merck silica gel (100-200 mesh) by standard techniques eluting with solvents as indicated.

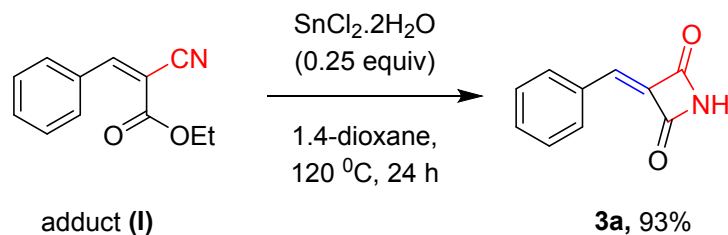
All compounds were fully characterized. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker AV 200, 400, 500 MHz INOVA instruments in solvents as indicated. Chemical shifts (δ) are given in ppm relative to TMS. Abbreviations for signal couplings are: s, singlet; d, doublet; t, triplet; m, multiplet; brs, broset. The residual solvent signals were used as references and the chemical shifts converted to the TMS scale (CDCl₃: δH = 7.26 ppm, δC = 77.16 ppm and DMSO-D₆: δH = 2.5 ppm, δC = 39.5 ppm). HRMS data were recorded on a Thermo Scientific Q-Exactive, Accela 1250 pump.

2. Control Experiments

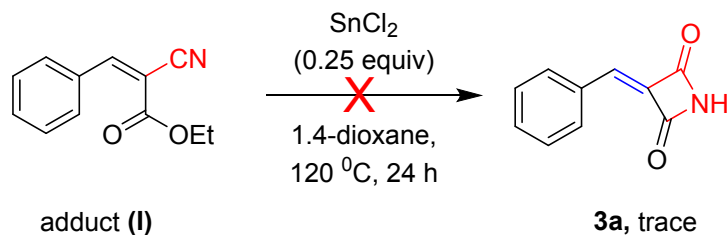
2.1 General Procedure for the Synthesis of Azetidine 3a from Adduct



Adduct (**1**) was isolated after 1.5 h. in 60% yield. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (200 MHz, CDCl_3) δ ppm 8.17 (s, 1 H) 7.85 - 8.08 (m, 2 H) 6.86 - 7.08 (m, 2 H) 4.36 (q, $J=7.2$ Hz, 2 H) 3.89 (s, 3 H) 1.39 (t, $J=7.1$ Hz, 3 H)

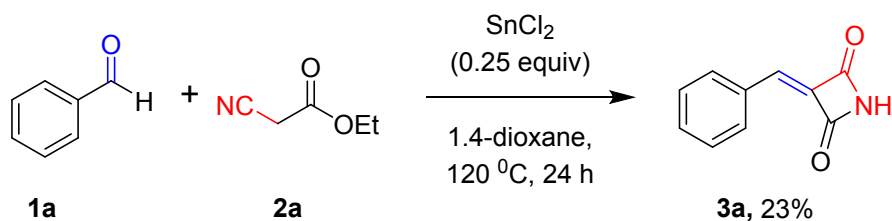


In a 10 mL round bottom flask equipped with a magnetic stir bar was added the adduct **(I)** (1 mmol), $\text{SnCl}_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (25 mol %) and 1,4-dioxane (4 mL) were taken. Then the resultant reaction mixture was kept in stirring at 120 °C for 24. Upon completion of the reaction, reaction mixture was dried under vacuum. Then the crude reaction mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate (10 mL) and filtered through a pad of silica gel and eluted with EtOAc (20 mL). The solvent was evaporated and the crude residue was preadsorbed on silica gel and purified by column chromatography to afford the corresponding azetidines **3a** in 93% yields.

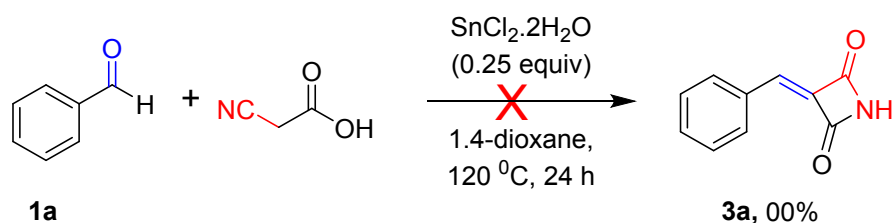


The above same reaction condition was applied while using SnCl_2 as catalyst then the reaction was failed to generate the corresponding azetidine derivative **3a** in high yield.

2.2 General Procedure for the Synthesis of Azetidine **3a** from Adduct

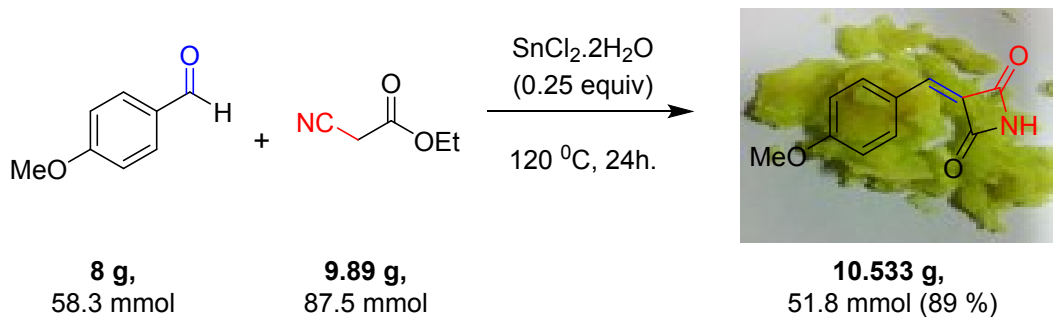


In a 10 mL round bottom flask equipped with a magnetic stir bar was added the benzaldehyde **1a** (1 mmol), ethyl cyanoacetate **2a** (1.5 mmol), SnCl₂ (25 mol %) and 1,4-dioxane (4 mL) were taken. Then the resultant reaction mixture was kept in stirring at 120 °C for 24. Upon completion of the reaction, reaction mixture was dried under vacuum. Then the crude reaction mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate (10 mL) and filtered through a pad of silica gel and eluted with EtOAc (20 mL). The solvent was evaporated and the crude residue was preadsorbed on silica gel and purified by column chromatography to afford the corresponding azetidines **3a** in 23% yields.



In a 10 mL round bottom flask equipped with a magnetic stir bar was added the benzaldehyde **1a** (1 mmol), 2-cyanoacetic acid (1.5 mmol), SnCl₂·2H₂O (25 mol %) and 1,4-dioxane (4 mL) were taken. Then the resultant reaction mixture was kept in stirring at 120 °C for 24. The progress of the reaction was monitored by TLC, but reaction was failed to generate the desired compound **3a**.

3. General Procedure for the Gram Scale Synthesis of Azetidine **3g**

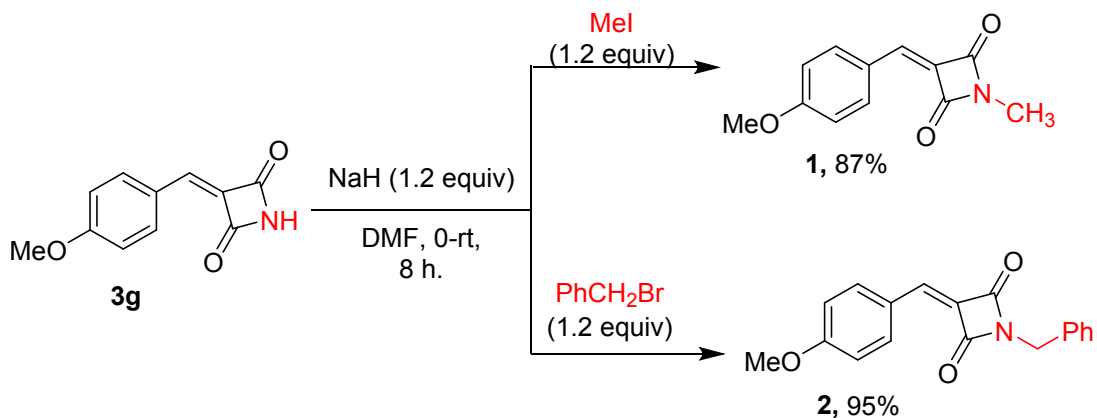


In a 100 mL bottom flask charged with the magnetic stirrer and 4-anisaldehyde (**8 g**, 58.3 mmol), Ethyl cyanoacetate (**9.89 g**, 87.5 mmol), catalyst SnCl₂·2H₂O (**3.30 g**, 0.0147 mmol) and 1,4-dioxane (80 mL) were taken. The round bottom flask was equipped with condenser and the resultant reaction mixture was refluxed at 120 °C for 24 h. The progress of the reaction was monitored by TLC. Upon completion of the reaction, the reaction mixture was dried under vacuum. Then the crude reaction mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate (50 mL) and filtered through a pad of silica gel and eluted with EtOAc (100 mL). The solvent was evaporated and the crude residue was preadsorbed on silica gel and purified by column chromatography with eluted solvent (pet.ether + ethylacetate 6:4) to afford the corresponding azetidine derivate **3g** in (10.53 g, 89%) yields.

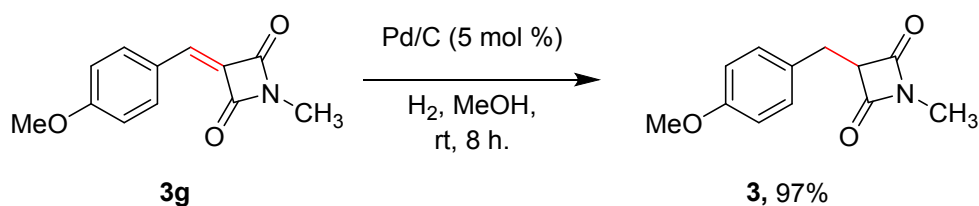
4. Transformation of 3-benzylideneazetidine-2,4-dione

4.1 General Procedure for the Synthesis of *N*-protected Azetidine Derivative 1 and 2

N-alkylated azetidine derivatives were prepared from commercially available methyl iodide, benzyl bromide with **3g** in the presence of NaH in DMF at room temperature for 8 h. MeI or PhCH₂Br (1.2 equiv) was added to a stirred solution of 3-benzylideneazetidine-2,4-dione **3g** (1 equiv) and NaH (1.2 equiv) in DMF and stirred for 8 h at room temperature. The reaction mixture was quenched with water and extracted with dichloromethane (3 x 20 mL). The combined organic phases were washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated *in vacuum*. The crude residue was then purified by column chromatography on silica gel with ethyl acetate-pet.ether (10/90 to 20/80) to provide compounds **1** and **2**.

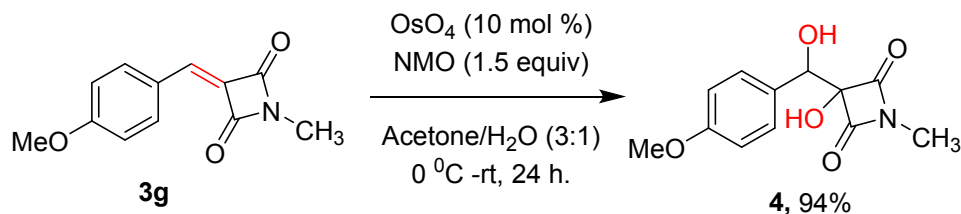


4.2 General Procedure for the Hydrogenation



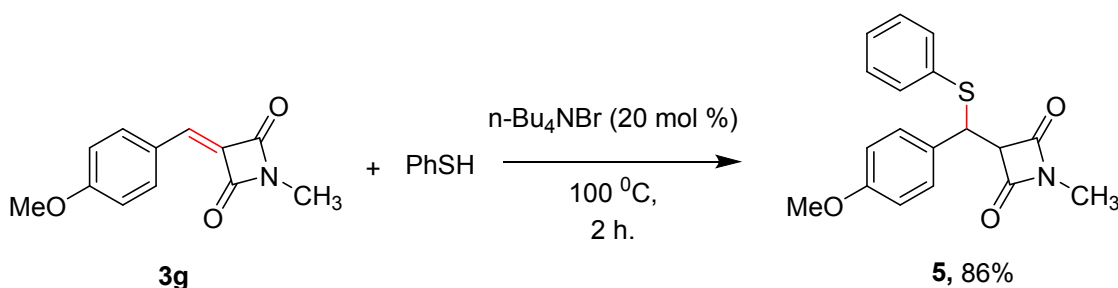
A oven dried 10 ml round bottom flask charged with a magnetic stir bar and vacuum/H₂ cycles flushed twice, then the added 3-(4-methoxybenzylidene)-1-methylazetidine-2,4-dione **1** (0.108 g, 1 mmol), 10% Pd/C (10% of the weight of comp.) in an absolute solvent (4 mL) was hydrogenated at ambient pressure (balloon) and temperature (*ca.* 25 °C) for 24 h. The reaction mixture was filtered through a pad of silica gel and the filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude mixture was purified by flash silica gel column chromatography (pet.ether/ethyl acetate, 9:1) to give compound **3** as a pale yellow solid (97%).

4.3 General Procedure for the Dihydroxylation



To a stirred solution of compound 3-(4-methoxybenzylidene)-1-methylazetidine-2,4-dione (0.217 g, 1 mmol) in acetone/ H₂O (3:1, 4 mL) was added NMO monohydrate (0.202 g, 1.5 mmol) followed by OsO₄ (0.025 g, 0.10 mmol) at 0 °C and stirred at room temperature for 24 h. After the addition of Na₂SO₃ (0.158 g, 1.1 mmol), acetone was removed under reduced pressure and the reaction mixture was diluted with water and extracted with dichloromethane (3 × 10 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over Na₂SO₄, concentrated under reduced pressure, purified by column chromatography (pet. ether/ethyl acetate, 7:3) to give compound **4** as a yellow solid (94%).

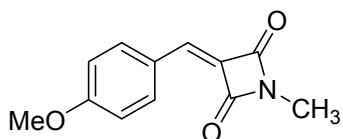
4.4 General Procedure for the Thiophenol Addition



A mixture of azetidine (1 mmol) and thiophenol (1.2 mmol) was added to molten tetrabutylammonium bromide (20 mol %) and the whole mixture was stirred at 100 °C (oil bath) for 2. TLC was monitored and after completion of reaction. The reaction mixture was then allowed to cool to room temperature and extracted with ethyl acetate (20 mL). The ethyl acetate extract was washed with water and dried over Na₂SO₄. Evaporation of solvent followed by column chromatography of the crude product over silica gel (Pet. Ether/ethyl acetate 80:20) furnished the pure (**5**) 3-((4-methoxyphenyl)(phenylthio)methyl)-1-methylazetidine-2,4-dione as a off white solid (86%).

5. Spectral Data of Azetidine

3-(4-methoxybenzylidene)-1-methylazetidine-2,4-dione (1)



R_f: 0.25 (Pet. ether /EtOAc = 90/10); Yield: 93 mg, 87%;

Yellow solid; mp: 134-136 °C; **¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ

ppm 8.19 (s, 1 H) 7.96 - 8.06 (m, 2 H) 6.96 - 7.05 (m, 2 H) 3.92

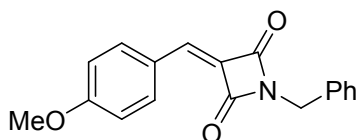
(s, 3 H) 3.90 (s, 3 H); **¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ ppm

163.8, 163.6, 154.6, 133.7, 124.3, 116.2, 114.8, 98.8, 55.6, 53.1;

HRMS (ESI) calculated [M+H]⁺ for C₁₂H₁₂NO₃: 218.0815,

found: 218.0812.

1-benzyl-3-(4-methoxybenzylidene)azetidine-2,4-dione (2)



R_f: 0.30 (Pet. ether /EtOAc = 85/15); Yield: 137 mg, 95%; Off

white solid; mp: 171-173 °C; **¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ

ppm 8.20 (s, 1 H) 7.96 - 8.06 (m, 2 H) 7.35 - 7.49 (m, 5 H) 6.97

- 7.04 (m, 2 H) 5.35 (s, 2 H) 3.90 (s, 3 H); **¹³C NMR (50 MHz,**

CDCl₃) δ ppm 163.9, 163.0, 154.8, 135.1, 133.7, 128.6, 128.5,

128.2, 124.3, 116.0, 114.8, 113.6, 110.3, 105.9, 99.0, 67.8, 55.6;

HRMS (ESI) calculated [M+Na]⁺ for C₁₈H₁₅NO₃Na: 316.0947,

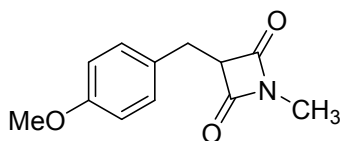
found: 316.0950.

3-(4-methoxybenzyl)-1-methylazetidine-2,4-dione(3)

R_f: 0.27 (Pet. ether /EtOAc = 95/05); Yield: 97 mg, 97%; white

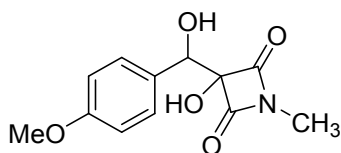
solid; mp: 133-134 °C; **¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ ppm

7.50 - 7.56 (d, 2 H) 7.12 - 7.24 (m, 2 H) 4.46 - 4.61 (m, 1 H)



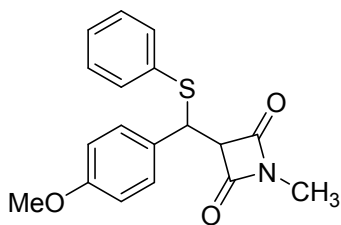
4.18 (s, 3 H) 4.10 (s, 3H) 3.41 - 3.59 (m, 2 H); ^{13}C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl_3) δ ppm 164.3, 159.2, 132.5, 130.1, 129.2, 126.9, 114.3, 114.0, 113.8, 55.5, 55.3, 34.9; HRMS (ESI) calculated $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{14}\text{NO}_3$: 220.0966, found: 220.0974.

3-hydroxy-3-(hydroxy(4-methoxyphenyl)methyl)-1-methylazetidine-2,4-dione (4)



R_f: 0.37 (Pet. ether /EtOAc = 80/20); Yield: 108 mg, 94%; white solid; mp: 159-160 °C; ^1H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl_3) δ ppm 7.46 - 7.55 (m, 2 H) 7.38 - 7.44 (m, 1 H) 6.88 - 6.96 (m, 3 H) 4.88 (s, 1 H) 4.25 (s, 3 H) 3.84 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl_3) δ ppm 170.9, 162.0, 150.1, 131.0, 129.1, 128.2, 126.4, 126.3, 118.7, 118.0, 114.5, 114.0, 93.4, 69.0, 59.6, 55.5; HRMS (ESI) calculated $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{14}\text{NO}_5$: 252.0874, found: 252.0872.

3-((4-methoxyphenyl)(phenylthio)methyl)-1-methylazetidine-2,4-dione (5)



R_f: 0.30 (Pet. ether /EtOAc = 80/20); Yield: 86%; white solid; mp: 140-141 °C; ^1H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl_3) δ ppm 7.81 (d, $J=9.0$ Hz, 1 H) 7.37 - 7.43 (m, 4 H) 6.89 - 7.02 (m, 4 H) 5.73 (d, $J=16.5$ Hz, 1 H) 5.30 (d, $J=12.1$ Hz, 1 H) 3.75 - 3.97 (m, 6 H); ^{13}C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl_3) δ ppm 159.6, 157.6, 144.5, 139.1, 133.7, 130.1, 129.3, 128.6, 118.1, 114.3, 65.0, 55.3, 48.7, 25.3; HRMS (ESI) calculated $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}_3\text{S}$: 328.1002, found: 328.1010.

6) ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR Spectra of Azetidine:

