

Substrate-controlled, PBU_3 -catalyzed annulation of phenacylmalononitriles with allenates enables tunable access to cyclopentenenes

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

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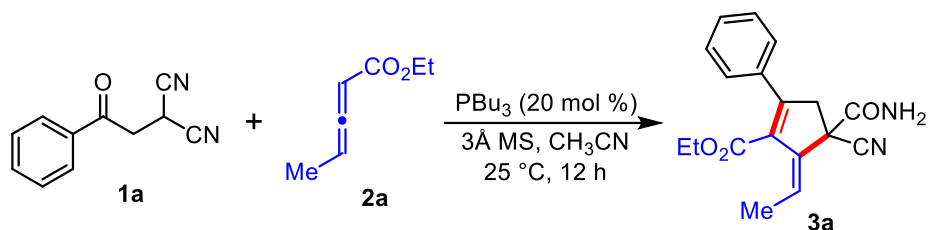
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General experimental information

Unless otherwise specified, all reactions were performed in oven-dried glasswares under nitrogenous atmosphere using dry deoxygenated solvent. The reactions were monitored by TLC visualized by UV (254 nm) and/or with iodine. Column chromatography was performed on 100-200 mesh silica gel using the gradient system ethyl acetate-hexane. NMR data were recorded at Bruker AV 400 MHz in DMSO-d₆/CDCl₃ using as internal standards the residual DMSO signal for ¹H NMR (δ = 2.50 ppm), CHCl₃ (δ = 7.26 ppm). The corresponding deuterated solvent signal for ¹³C were assigned as DMSO (δ = 39.51 ppm), CHCl₃ (δ = 77.16 ppm). Coupling constants are given in Hertz (Hz) and the classical abbreviations are used to describe the signal multiplicities. Melting points were measured with a Büchi B-540 apparatus and are uncorrected. High resolution mass spectra were obtained using Q-TOF mass spectrometer. All commercially available reagents were used as received. All allenic esters ¹ and phenacylmalononitriles ² were synthesized following literature procedure.

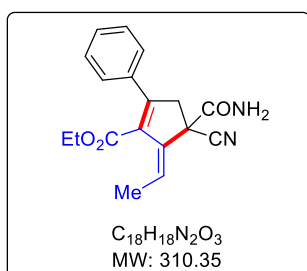
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1. L. Rout and A. M. Harned, *Chem. - Eur. J.* 2009, **15**, 12926–12928.
 2. (a) M. A. Saleh, S. M. Moustafa, M. Herbert, K. Heinz and H. E. Mohamed, *Molecules* 2009, **14**, 798-806; (b) F. M. Abdelrazek, H. M. Hassaneen, E. M. Nassar and A. Jager, *J. Heterocycl. Chem.* 2014, **51**, 475-479.

General procedure for the synthesis of substituted cyclopentenes 3a-3t



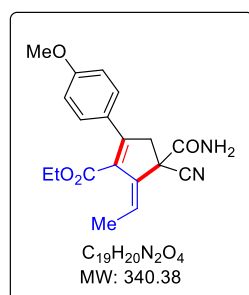
An oven-dried 10 mL Schlenk tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with 2-(2-oxo-2-phenylethyl)malononitrile **1a** (37 mg, 0.20 mmol) and 3Å MS (100 mg). Subsequently, it was sealed, evacuated, and backfilled with nitrogen. Freshly distilled CH₃CN (2.0 mL) and ethyl penta-2,3-dienoate **2a** (50 mg, 0.40 mmol) were added via syringe followed by the addition of PBu₃ (8 mg, 0.04 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 25 °C for 12 h. After the completion of the reaction, as indicated by TLC, the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified using column chromatography (100-200 mesh silica gel) using ethyl acetate/hexane as the eluent.

Compound 3a: ethyl 4-carbamoyl-4-cyano-5-ethylidene-2-phenylcyclopent-1-ene-1-carboxylate



Following the general procedure, treatment of 2-(2-oxo-2-phenylethyl)malononitrile **1a** (37 mg, 0.20 mmol) with ethyl penta-2,3-dienoate **2a** (50 mg, 0.40 mmol) in the presence of PBu₃ (8 mg, 0.04 mmol) in CH₃CN (2 mL) at 25 °C for 12 h followed by column chromatography afforded the product **3a** as white solid (47 mg, 75%). *R_f* (EtOAc/Hexane : 4/6) = 0.30. *Mp* 150-152 °C. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, δ ppm/CDCl₃): 169.1 (C), 167.3 (C), 146.1 (C), 140.2 (C), 133.5 (C), 129.7 (CH), 129.5 (C), 128.7 (CH), 128.7 (CH), 127.1 (CH), 127.1 (CH), 122.7 (CH), 120.0 (C), 61.9 (CH₂), 51.4 (C), 44.7 (CH₂), 14.0 (CH₃), 13.9 (CH₃). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, δ ppm/CDCl₃): 7.35 (s, 5H), 6.40 (s, 1H), 6.36 (s, 1H), 5.94 (q, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 4.29-4.21 (m, 2H), 3.59 (d, *J* = 17.2 Hz, 1H), 3.52 (d, *J* = 17.2 Hz, 1H), 1.79 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 3H), 1.23 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H). HRMS for C₁₈H₁₉N₂O₃⁺: calcd. [M+H]⁺: 311.1390, found: 311.1387.

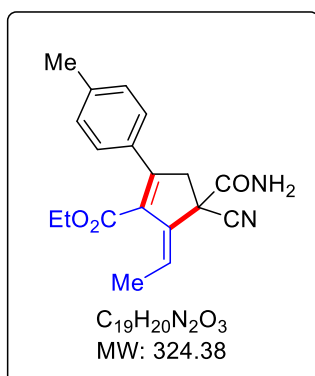
Compound 3b: ethyl 4-carbamoyl-4-cyano-5-ethylidene-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)cyclopent-1-ene-1-carboxylate



Following the general procedure, treatment of 2-(2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-oxoethyl)malononitrile **1b** (43 mg, 0.20 mmol) with ethyl penta-2,3-dienoate **2a** (50 mg, 0.40 mmol) in the presence of PBu₃ (8 mg, 0.04 mmol) in CH₃CN (2 mL) at 25 °C for 12 h followed by column chromatography afforded the product **3b** as white solid (42 mg, 62%). *R_f* (EtOAc/Hexane : 4/6) = 0.25. *Mp* 137-139 °C. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, δ ppm/CDCl₃): 168.9 (C), 167.7 (C), 160.8 (C), 145.5 (C), 140.4 (C), 128.8

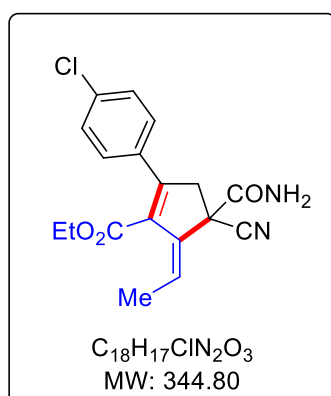
(CH), 128.8 (CH), 127.8 (C), 125.9 (C), 121.8 (CH), 120.0 (C), 114.2 (CH), 114.2 (CH), 61.9 (CH₂), 55.5 (CH₃), 51.6 (C), 44.6 (CH₂), 14.0 (CH₃), 14.0 (CH₃). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, δ ppm/CDCl₃): 7.31 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.88 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.28 (s, 1H), 5.90 (q, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 4.33-4.24 (m, 2H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.58 (d, *J* = 17.2 Hz, 1H), 3.51 (d, *J* = 16.8 Hz, 1H), 1.79 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 3H), 1.28 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H). HRMS for C₁₉H₂₁N₂O₄⁺: calcd. [M+H]⁺: 341.1496, found: 341.1496.

Compound 3c: ethyl 4-carbamoyl-4-cyano-5-ethylidene-2-(*p*-tolyl)cyclopent-1-ene-1-carboxylate



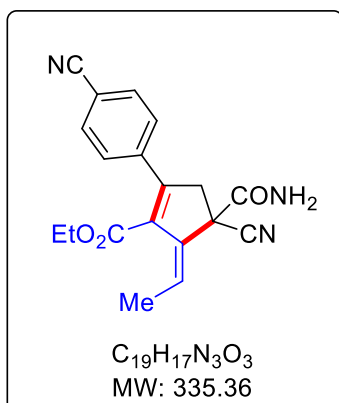
Following the general procedure, treatment of 2-(2-oxo-2-(*p*-tolyl)ethyl)malononitrile **1c** (40 mg, 0.20 mmol) with ethyl penta-2,3-dienoate **2a** (50 mg, 0.40 mmol) in the presence of PBu₃ (8 mg, 0.04 mmol) in CH₃CN (2 mL) at 25 °C for 12 h followed by column chromatography afforded the product **3c** as brown solid (40 mg, 62%). *R_f*(EtOAc/Hexane : 4/6) = 0.30. *Mp* 168-170 °C. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, δ ppm/CDCl₃): 168.9 (C), 167.5 (C), 146.0 (C), 140.3 (C), 140.0 (C), 130.6 (C), 129.5 (CH), 129.5 (CH), 128.8 (C), 127.1 (CH), 127.1 (CH), 122.2 (CH), 120.0 (C), 61.9 (CH₂), 51.6 (C), 44.7 (CH₂), 21.5 (CH₃), 14.0 (CH₃), 14.0 (CH₃). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, δ ppm/CDCl₃): 7.25 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 7.18-7.16 (m, 2H), 6.28 (s, 1H), 5.99 (s, 1H), 5.92 (q, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.32-4.21 (m, 2H), 3.59 (d, *J* = 18.0 Hz, 1H), 3.52 (d, *J* = 16.8 Hz, 1H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 1.80 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.27 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H). HRMS for C₁₉H₂₁N₂O₃⁺: calcd. [M+H]⁺: 325.1547, found: 325.1544.

Compound 3d: ethyl 4-carbamoyl-2-(4-chlorophenyl)-4-cyano-5-ethylidenecyclopent-1-ene-1-carboxylate



Following the general procedure, treatment of 2-(2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-oxoethyl)malononitrile **1d** (44 mg, 0.20 mmol) with ethyl penta-2,3-dienoate **2a** (50 mg, 0.40 mmol) in the presence of PBu₃ (8 mg, 0.04 mmol) in CH₃CN (2 mL) at 25 °C for 12 h followed by column chromatography afforded the product **3d** as white solid (45 mg, 65%). *R_f*(EtOAc/Hexane : 4/6) = 0.30. *Mp* 140-142 °C. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, δ ppm/DMSO-*d*₆): 167.4 (C), 166.9 (C), 144.0 (C), 140.4 (C), 133.9 (C), 132.2 (C), 129.0 (C), 128.7 (CH), 128.7 (CH), 128.7 (CH), 128.7 (CH), 121.3 (CH), 120.5 (C), 61.6 (CH₂), 50.6 (C), 43.0 (CH₂), 13.6 (CH₃), 13.3 (CH₃). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, δ ppm/DMSO-*d*₆): 7.70 (s, 2H), 7.50 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.41 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 5.94 (q, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.24 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.59-3.49 (m, 2H), 1.70 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.20 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H). HRMS for C₁₈H₁₈ClN₂O₃⁺: calcd. [M+H]⁺: 345.1000, found: 345.0996.

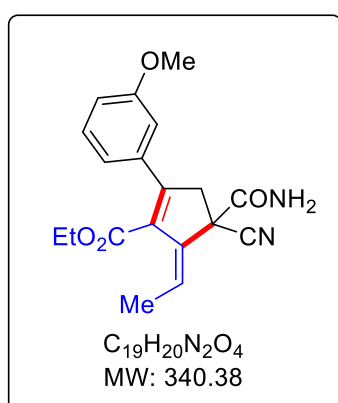
Compound 3e: ethyl 4-carbamoyl-4-cyano-2-(4-cyanophenyl)-5-ethylidenecyclopent-1-ene-1-carboxylate



Following the general procedure, treatment of 2-(2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-oxoethyl)malononitrile **1e** (42 mg, 0.20 mmol) with ethyl penta-2,3-dienoate **2a** (50 mg, 0.40 mmol) in the presence of PBu_3 (8 mg, 0.04 mmol) in CH_3CN (2 mL) at 25 °C for 12 h followed by column chromatography afforded the product **3e** as white solid (42 mg, 62%). R_f (EtOAc/Hexane : 4/6) = 0.30. **Mp** 145-147 °C. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, δ ppm/ $CDCl_3$): 168.5 (C), 167.1 (C), 144.8 (C), 140.2 (C), 135.7 (C), 132.0 (C), 130.0 (C), 129.0 (CH), 129.0 (CH), 128.5 (CH), 128.5 (CH), 123.2 (CH), 123.2 (C), 119.9 (C), 62.1 (CH_2), 51.3 (C), 44.5 (CH_2), 14.1 (CH_3), 14.0

(CH_3). 1H NMR (400 MHz, δ ppm/ $CDCl_3$): 7.35-7.32 (m, 2H), 7.30-7.28 (m, 2H), 6.32 (s, 1H), 6.03 (s, 1H), 5.97 (q, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.30-4.22 (m, 2H), 3.59 (d, J = 17.2 Hz, 1H), 3.47 (d, J = 17.2 Hz, 1H), 1.80 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 3H), 1.25 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). **HRMS** for $C_{19}H_{18}N_3O_3^+$: calcd. $[M+H]^+$: 336.1343, found: 336.1321.

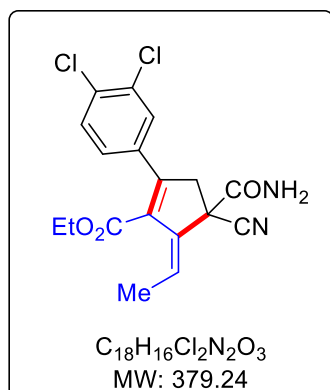
Compound 3f: ethyl 4-carbamoyl-4-cyano-5-ethylidene-2-(3-methoxyphenyl)cyclopent-1-ene-1-carboxylate



Following the general procedure, treatment of 2-(2-(3-methoxyphenyl)-2-oxoethyl)malononitrile **1f** (43 mg, 0.20 mmol) with ethyl penta-2,3-dienoate **2a** (50 mg, 0.40 mmol) in the presence of PBu_3 (8 mg, 0.04 mmol) in CH_3CN (2 mL) at 25 °C for 12 h followed by column chromatography afforded the product **3f** as white solid (45 mg, 66%). R_f (EtOAc/Hexane : 4/6) = 0.25. **Mp** 152-154 °C. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, δ ppm/ $CDCl_3$): 168.9 (C), 167.3 (C), 159.8 (C), 145.9 (C), 140.2 (C), 134.8 (C), 129.8 (CH), 129.8 (C), 122.8 (CH), 120.0 (C), 119.6 (CH), 115.3 (CH), 112.7 (CH), 62.0 (CH_2), 55.4 (CH_3), 51.4 (C), 44.8 (CH_2), 14.0 (CH_3), 13.9

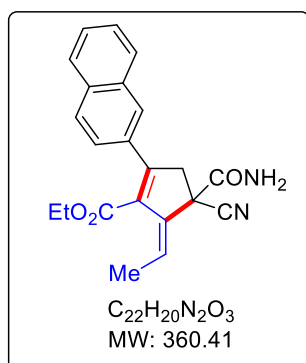
(CH_3). 1H NMR (400 MHz, δ ppm/ $CDCl_3$): 7.26-7.22 (m, 1H), 6.91-6.86 (m, 3H), 6.29 (s, 1H), 6.20 (s, 1H), 5.92 (q, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.27-4.19 (m, 2H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.56 (d, J = 17.6 Hz, 1H), 3.48 (d, J = 17.6 Hz, 1H), 1.77 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 3H), 1.22 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). **HRMS** for $C_{19}H_{21}N_2O_4^+$: calcd. $[M+H]^+$: 341.1496, found: 341.1498.

Compound 3g: ethyl 4-carbamoyl-4-cyano-2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-ethylidenecyclopent-1-ene-1-carboxylate



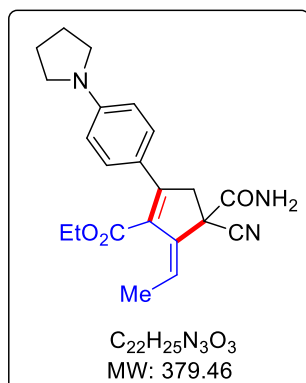
Following the general procedure, treatment of 2-(2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-2-oxoethyl)malononitrile **1g** (51 mg, 0.20 mmol) with ethyl penta-2,3-dienoate **2a** (50 mg, 0.40 mmol) in the presence of PBu_3 (8 mg, 0.04 mmol) in CH_3CN (2 mL) at 25 °C for 12 h followed by column chromatography afforded the product **3g** as white solid (56 mg, 74%). R_f (EtOAc/Hexane : 4/6) = 0.30. **Mp** 166-168 °C. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, δ ppm/ $CDCl_3$): 168.3 (C), 166.7 (C), 143.4 (C), 140.0 (C), 133.8 (C), 133.5 (C), 133.1 (C), 130.9 (C), 130.8 (CH), 129.1 (CH), 126.4 (CH), 123.9 (CH), 119.8 (C), 62.3 (CH_2), 51.1 (C), 44.3 (CH_2), 14.1 (CH_3), 14.0 (CH_3). 1H NMR (400 MHz, δ ppm/ $CDCl_3$): 7.46-7.43 (m, 2H), 7.20-7.17 (m, 1H), 6.33 (s, 1H), 6.03 (s, 1H), 6.00 (q, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.32-4.25 (m, 2H), 3.58 (d, J = 17.2 Hz, 1H), 3.44 (d, J = 17.2 Hz, 1H), 1.80 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 3H), 1.28 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H). **HRMS** for $C_{18}H_{17}Cl_2N_2O_3^+$: calcd. $[M+H]^+$: 379.0611, found: 379.0606.

Compound 3h: ethyl 4-carbamoyl-4-cyano-5-ethylidene-2-(naphthalen-2-yl)cyclopent-1-ene-1-carboxylate



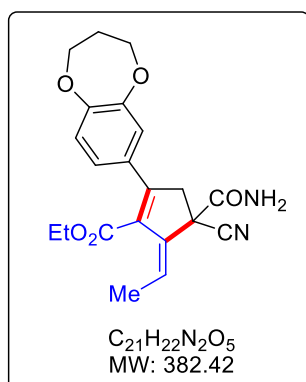
Following the general procedure, treatment of 2-(2-(naphthalen-2-yl)-2-oxoethyl)malononitrile **1h** (47 mg, 0.20 mmol) with ethyl penta-2,3-dienoate **2a** (50 mg, 0.40 mmol) in the presence of PBu_3 (8 mg, 0.04 mmol) in CH_3CN (2 mL) at 25 °C for 12 h followed by column chromatography afforded the product **3h** as brown solid (50 mg, 70%). R_f (EtOAc/Hexane : 4/6) = 0.55. **Mp** 156-158 °C. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, δ ppm/ $CDCl_3$): 168.7 (C), 167.4 (C), 146.0 (C), 140.4 (C), 133.7 (C), 133.1 (C), 131.0 (C), 129.8 (C), 128.6 (CH), 128.4 (CH), 127.8 (CH), 127.3 (CH), 127.1 (CH), 126.9 (CH), 124.3 (CH), 122.8 (CH), 120.0 (C), 62.0 (CH_2), 51.5 (C), 44.8 (CH_2), 14.1 (CH_3), 14.0 (CH_3). 1H NMR (400 MHz, δ ppm/ $CDCl_3$): 7.83-7.77 (m, 4H), 7.54-7.50 (m, 2H), 7.44 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 6.34 (s, 1H), 5.99 (q, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 5.90 (s, 1H), 4.32-4.23 (m, 2H), 3.73 (d, J = 16.8 Hz, 1H), 3.65 (d, J = 16.8 Hz, 1H), 1.83 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.24 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H). **HRMS** for $C_{22}H_{21}N_2O_3^+$: calcd. $[M+H]^+$: 361.1547, found: 361.1544.

Compound 3i: ethyl 4-carbamoyl-4-cyano-5-ethylidene-2-(4-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)phenyl)cyclopent-1-ene-1-carboxylate



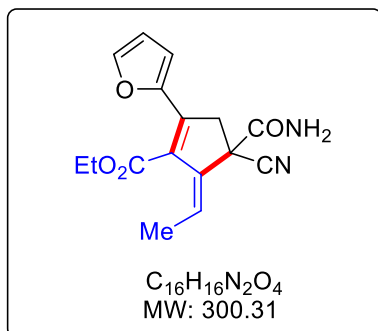
Following the general procedure, treatment of 2-(2-oxo-2-(4-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)phenyl)ethyl)malononitrile **1i** (51 mg, 0.20 mmol) with ethyl penta-2,3-dienoate **2a** (50 mg, 0.40 mmol) in the presence of PBu_3 (8 mg, 0.04 mmol) in CH_3CN (2 mL) at 25 °C for 12 h followed by column chromatography afforded the product **3i** as white solid (49 mg, 64%). R_f (EtOAc/Hexane : 4/6) = 0.25. **Mp** 132-134 °C. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, δ ppm/ $CDCl_3$): 169.3 (C), 168.5 (C), 148.8 (C), 145.8 (C), 140.7 (C), 128.7 (CH), 128.7 (CH), 124.8 (C), 120.1 (C), 119.9 (CH), 119.8 (C), 111.5 (CH), 111.5 (CH), 61.8 (CH_2), 51.9 (C), 47.6 (CH_2), 47.6 (CH_2), 44.5 (CH_2), 25.6 (CH_2), 25.6 (CH_2), 14.1 (CH_3), 13.9 (CH_3). 1H NMR (400 MHz, δ ppm/ $CDCl_3$): 7.32 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.56 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.31 (s, 1H), 5.88 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 5.81 (s, 1H), 4.43-4.34 (m, 2H), 3.62 (s, 2H), 3.38 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 4H), 2.10-2.04 (m, 4H), 1.85 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.39 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). **HRMS** for $C_{22}H_{25}N_3O_3^+$: calcd. $[M+H]^+$: 380.1969, found: 380.1970.

Compound 3j: ethyl 4-carbamoyl-4-cyano-2-(3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[1,4]dioxepin-7-yl)-5-ethylidenecyclopent-1-ene-1-carboxylate



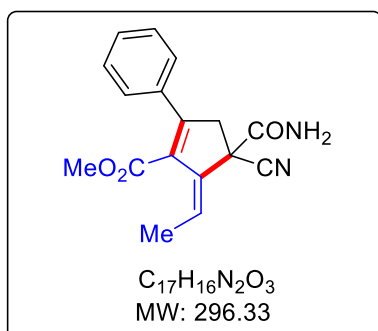
Following the general procedure, treatment of 2-(2-(3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[1,4]dioxepin-7-yl)-2-oxoethyl)malononitrile **1j** (51 mg, 0.20 mmol) with ethyl penta-2,3-dienoate **2a** (50 mg, 0.40 mmol) in the presence of PBu_3 (8 mg, 0.04 mmol) in CH_3CN (2 mL) at 25 °C for 12 h followed by column chromatography afforded the product **3j** as brown solid (43 mg, 56%). R_f (EtOAc/Hexane : 4/6) = 0.25. **Mp** 136-138 °C. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, δ ppm/ $CDCl_3$): 169.0 (C), 167.5 (C), 152.3 (C), 150.9 (C), 144.7 (C), 140.3 (C), 128.6 (C), 128.4 (C), 122.4 (CH), 122.2 (CH), 121.8 (CH), 120.6 (CH), 119.9 (C), 70.6 (CH_2), 70.5 (CH_2), 62.0 (CH_2), 51.4 (C), 44.5 (CH_2), 31.5 (CH_2), 14.0 (CH_3), 14.0 (CH_3). 1H NMR (400 MHz, δ ppm/ $CDCl_3$): 6.98 (s, 1H), 6.92 (s, 2H), 6.30 (s, 1H), 6.16 (s, 1H), 5.90 (q, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 4.31-4.27 (m, 2H), 4.25-4.20 (m, 4H), 3.54 (d, J = 18.0 Hz, 1H), 3.46 (d, J = 13.6 Hz, 1H), 2.22-2.16 (m, 2H), 1.78 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 3H), 1.29 (t, J = 5.6 Hz, 3H). **HRMS** for $C_{21}H_{23}N_2O_5^+$: calcd. $[M+H]^+$: 383.1601, found: 383.1600.

Compound 3k: ethyl 4-carbamoyl-4-cyano-5-ethylidene-2-(furan-2-yl)cyclopent-1-ene-1-carboxylate



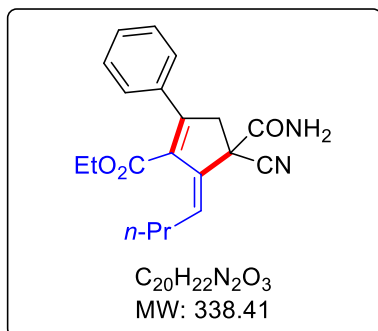
Following the general procedure, treatment of 2-(2-(furan-2-yl)-2-oxoethyl)malononitrile **1k** (35 mg, 0.20 mmol) with ethyl penta-2,3-dienoate **2a** (50 mg, 0.40 mmol) in the presence of PBu_3 (8 mg, 0.04 mmol) in CH_3CN (2 mL) at 25 °C for 12 h followed by column chromatography afforded the product **3k** as brown solid (44 mg, 73%). R_f (EtOAc/Hexane : 4/6) = 0.30. **Mp** 138-140 °C. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, δ ppm/DMSO- d_6): 167.4 (C), 166.7 (C), 147.9 (C), 145.5 (CH), 140.2 (C), 132.4 (C), 125.3 (C), 120.5 (C), 120.5 (CH), 113.0 (CH), 112.4 (CH), 61.3 (CH₂), 50.4 (C), 40.5 (CH₂), 13.8 (CH₃), 13.2 (CH₃). 1H NMR (400 MHz, δ ppm/DMSO- d_6): 7.82 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.71-7.70 (m, 2H), 6.79 (d, J = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 6.64-6.62 (m, 1H), 5.87 (q, J = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 4.32 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.55 (d, J = 17.2 Hz, 1H), 3.34 (d, J = 16.4 Hz, 1H), 1.70 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 3H), 1.30 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). **HRMS** for $C_{16}H_{17}N_2O_4^+$: calcd. $[M+H]^+$: 301.1183, found: 301.1180.

Compound 3l: methyl 4-carbamoyl-4-cyano-5-ethylidene-2-phenylcyclopent-1-ene-1-carboxylate



Following the general procedure, treatment of 2-(2-oxo-2-phenylethyl)malononitrile **1a** (37 mg, 0.20 mmol) with methyl penta-2,3-dienoate **2b** (45 mg, 0.40 mmol) in the presence of PBu_3 (8 mg, 0.04 mmol) in CH_3CN (2 mL) at 25 °C for 12 h followed by column chromatography afforded the product **3l** as white solid (40 mg, 67%). R_f (EtOAc/Hexane : 4/6) = 0.35. **Mp** 152-154 °C. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, δ ppm/ $CDCl_3$): 166.8 (C), 167.7 (C), 146.3 (C), 140.2 (C), 133.5 (C), 129.8 (CH), 129.0 (C), 128.8 (CH), 128.8 (CH), 127.1 (CH), 127.1 (CH), 122.7 (CH), 119.9 (C), 52.6 (CH₃), 51.4 (C), 44.6 (CH₂), 13.9 (CH₃). 1H NMR (400 MHz, δ ppm/ $CDCl_3$): 7.37-7.34 (m, 5H), 6.32 (s, 1H), 6.15 (s, 1H), 5.95 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.61 (d, J = 17.2 Hz, 1H), 3.52 (d, J = 17.2 Hz, 1H), 1.78 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 3H). **HRMS** for $C_{17}H_{17}N_2O_3^+$: calcd. $[M+H]^+$: 297.1234, found: 297.1227.

Compound 3m: ethyl 5-butylidene-4-carbamoyl-4-cyano-2-phenylcyclopent-1-ene-1-carboxylate

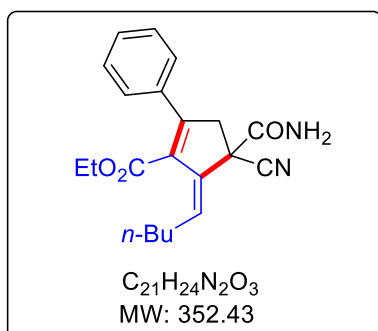


Following the general procedure, treatment of 2-(2-oxo-2-phenylethyl)malononitrile **1a** (37 mg, 0.20 mmol) with ethyl hepta-2,3-dienoate **2c** (62 mg, 0.40 mmol) in the presence of PBu_3 (8 mg, 0.04 mmol) in CH_3CN (2 mL) at 25 °C for 12 h followed by column chromatography afforded the product **3m** as white solid (45 mg, 66%). R_f (EtOAc/Hexane : 4/6) = 0.35.

Mp 123-125 °C. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, δ ppm/ $CDCl_3$): 168.7 (C), 167.3 (C), 146.0 (C), 139.4 (C), 133.6 (C), 129.7 (C), 129.7 (CH),

128.8 (CH), 128.8 (CH), 128.7 (CH), 127.1 (CH), 127.1 (CH), 119.9 (C), 62.0 (CH_2), 51.6 (C), 44.7 (CH_2), 30.4 (CH_2), 22.8 (CH_2), 13.9 (CH_3), 13.9 (CH_3). 1H NMR (400 MHz, δ ppm/ $CDCl_3$): 7.36 (s, 5H), 6.28 (s, 1H), 5.86 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 4.31-4.21 (m, 2H), 3.61 (d, J = 17.2 Hz, 1H), 3.54 (d, J = 16.8 Hz, 1H), 2.16-2.10 (m, 2H), 1.54-1.44 (m, 2H), 1.24 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 0.93 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). **HRMS** for $C_{20}H_{23}N_2O_3^+$: calcd. $[M+H]^+$: 339.1703, found: 339.1704.

Compound 3n: ethyl 4-carbamoyl-4-cyano-5-pentylidene-2-phenylcyclopent-1-ene-1-carboxylate

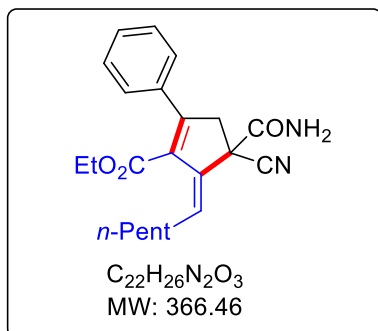


Following the general procedure, treatment of 2-(2-oxo-2-phenylethyl)malononitrile **1a** (37 mg, 0.20 mmol) with ethyl octa-2,3-dienoate **2d** (67 mg, 0.40 mmol) in the presence of PBu_3 (8 mg, 0.04 mmol) in CH_3CN (2 mL) at 25 °C for 12 h followed by column chromatography afforded the product **3n** as white solid (45 mg, 64%). R_f (EtOAc/Hexane : 4/6) = 0.35.

Mp 145-147 °C. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, δ ppm/ $CDCl_3$): 169.0 (C), 167.4 (C), 145.9 (C), 139.1 (C), 133.6 (C), 129.7 (C), 129.7 (CH),

128.9 (CH), 128.7 (CH), 128.7 (CH), 127.1 (CH), 127.1 (CH), 119.9 (C), 62.0 (CH_2), 51.6 (C), 44.6 (CH_2), 31.6 (CH_2), 28.2 (CH_2), 22.5 (CH_2), 14.0 (CH_3), 13.9 (CH_3). 1H NMR (400 MHz, δ ppm/ $CDCl_3$): 7.37-7.32 (m, 5H), 6.30 (s, 1H), 6.14 (s, 1H), 5.85 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.29-4.20 (m, 2H), 3.59 (d, J = 17.2 Hz, 1H), 3.53 (d, J = 16.8 Hz, 1H), 2.18-2.10 (m, 2H), 1.48-1.40 (m, 2H), 1.36-1.30 (m, 2H), 1.23 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 0.90 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). **HRMS** for $C_{21}H_{24}N_2NaO_3^+$: calcd. $[M+Na]^+$: 375.1679, found: 375.1680.

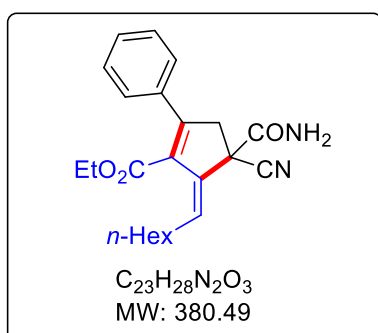
Compound 3o: ethyl 4-carbamoyl-4-cyano-5-hexylidene-2-phenylcyclopent-1-ene-1-carboxylate



Following the general procedure, treatment of 2-(2-oxo-2-phenylethyl)malononitrile **1a** (37 mg, 0.20 mmol) with ethyl nona-2,3-dienoate **2e** (73 mg, 0.40 mmol) in the presence of PBu_3 (8 mg, 0.04 mmol) in CH_3CN (2 mL) at 25 °C for 12 h followed by column chromatography afforded the product **3o** as white solid (47 mg, 64%). R_f (EtOAc/Hexane : 2/8) = 0.35. **Mp** 115-117 °C. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, δ ppm/ $CDCl_3$): 169.0 (C), 167.4 (C), 145.9 (C), 139.1 (C), 133.6 (C), 129.7 (C), 129.7 (CH),

129.0 (CH), 128.7 (CH), 128.7 (CH), 127.1 (CH), 127.1 (CH), 119.9 (C), 61.9 (CH_2), 51.6 (C), 44.6 (CH_2), 31.6 (CH_2), 29.2 (CH_2), 28.5 (CH_2), 22.5 (CH_2), 14.1 (CH_3), 13.9 (CH_3). 1H NMR (400 MHz, δ ppm/ $CDCl_3$): 7.37-7.32 (m, 5H), 6.30 (s, 1H), 6.19 (s, 1H), 5.85 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.29-4.20 (m, 2H), 3.59 (d, J = 17.2 Hz, 1H), 3.53 (d, J = 17.2 Hz, 1H), 2.19-2.09 (m, 2H), 1.49-1.42 (m, 2H), 1.32-1.27 (m, 4H), 1.23 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 0.89 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H). **HRMS** for $C_{22}H_{26}N_2NaO_3^+$: calcd. $[M+Na]^+$: 389.1836, found: 389.1838.

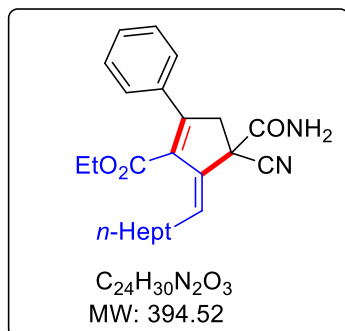
Compound 3p: ethyl 4-carbamoyl-4-cyano-5-heptylidene-2-phenylcyclopent-1-ene-1-carboxylate



Following the general procedure, treatment of 2-(2-oxo-2-phenylethyl)malononitrile **1a** (37 mg, 0.20 mmol) with ethyl deca-2,3-dienoate **2f** (79 mg, 0.40 mmol) in the presence of PBu_3 (8 mg, 0.04 mmol) in CH_3CN (2 mL) at 25 °C for 12 h followed by column chromatography afforded the product **3p** as white solid (57 mg, 75%). R_f (EtOAc/Hexane : 4/6) : 2/8) = 0.35. **Mp** 140-142 °C. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, δ ppm/ $CDCl_3$): 168.8 (C), 167.4 (C), 145.9 (C), 139.1 (C), 133.6 (C), 129.7 (C), 129.7 (CH), 129.0 (CH), 128.8 (CH), 128.8 (CH), 127.1 (CH), 127.1 (CH), 119.9 (C), 61.9 (CH_2), 51.6 (C),

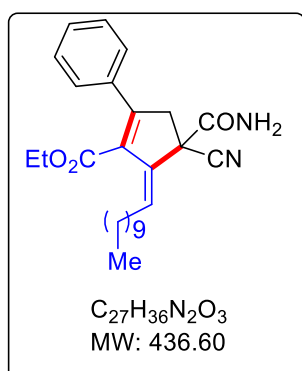
44.7 (CH_2), 31.7 (CH_2), 29.5 (CH_2), 29.1 (CH_2), 28.5 (CH_2), 22.7 (CH_2), 14.2 (CH_3), 13.9 (CH_3). 1H NMR (400 MHz, δ ppm/ $CDCl_3$): 7.37-7.33 (m, 5H), 6.28 (s, 1H), 5.96 (s, 1H), 5.86 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.29-4.20 (m, 2H), 3.60 (d, J = 17.2 Hz, 1H), 3.54 (d, J = 17.2 Hz, 1H), 2.17-2.12 (m, 2H), 1.49-1.41 (m, 2H), 1.33-1.25 (m, 6H), 1.24 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 0.88 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H). **HRMS** for $C_{23}H_{28}N_2NaO_3^+$: calcd. $[M+Na]^+$: 403.1992, found: 403.1993.

Compound 3q: ethyl 4-carbamoyl-4-cyano-5-octylidene-2-phenylcyclopent-1-ene-1-carboxylate



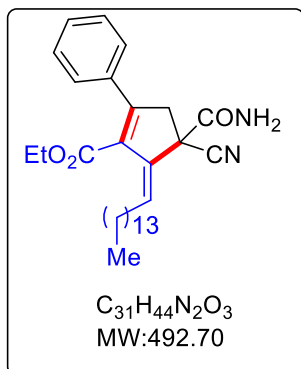
Following the general procedure, treatment of 2-(2-oxo-2-phenylethyl)malononitrile **1a** (37 mg, 0.20 mmol) with ethyl undeca-2,3-dienoate **2g** (84 mg, 0.40 mmol) in the presence of PBu_3 (8 mg, 0.04 mmol) in CH_3CN (2 mL) at 25 °C for 12 h followed by column chromatography afforded the product **3q** as brown solid (59 mg, 75%). R_f (EtOAc/Hexane : 4/6) = 0.40. **Mp** 155-157 °C. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, δ ppm/ $CDCl_3$): 168.8 (C), 167.4 (C), 145.9 (C), 139.1 (C), 133.6 (C), 129.7 (C), 129.7 (CH), 129.0 (CH), 128.8 (CH), 128.8 (CH), 127.1 (CH), 127.1 (CH), 119.9 (C), 62.0 (CH_2), 51.6 (C), 44.6 (CH_2), 31.9 (CH_2), 29.5 (CH_2), 29.4 (CH_2), 29.2 (CH_2), 28.6 (CH_2), 22.8 (CH_2), 14.2 (CH_3), 13.9 (CH_3). 1H NMR (400 MHz, δ ppm/ $CDCl_3$): 7.38-7.32 (m, 5H), 6.29 (s, 1H), 5.88 (s, 1H), 5.86 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 4.29-4.20 (m, 2H), 3.60 (d, J = 17.2 Hz, 1H), 3.54 (d, J = 17.2 Hz, 1H), 2.17-2.10 (m, 2H), 1.47-1.41 (m, 2H), 1.32-1.26 (m, 8H), 1.24 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 0.88 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H). **HRMS** for $C_{24}H_{31}N_2O_3^+$: calcd. $[M+H]^+$: 395.2329, found: 395.2321.

Compound 3r: ethyl 4-carbamoyl-4-cyano-2-phenyl-5-undecylidene-cyclopent-1-ene-1-carboxylate



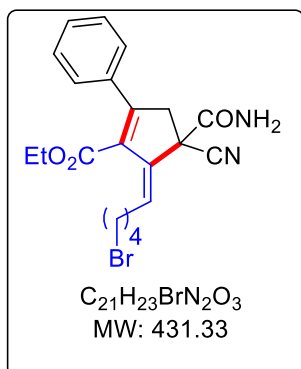
Following the general procedure, treatment of 2-(2-oxo-2-phenylethyl)malononitrile **1a** (37 mg, 0.20 mmol) with ethyl tetradeca-2,3-dienoate **2h** (101 mg, 0.40 mmol) in the presence of PBu_3 (8 mg, 0.04 mmol) in CH_3CN (2 mL) at 25 °C for 12 h followed by column chromatography afforded the product **3r** as brown solid (59 mg, 68%). R_f (EtOAc/Hexane : 4/6) = 0.45. **Mp** 70-72 °C. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, δ ppm/ $CDCl_3$): 169.0 (C), 167.4 (C), 145.9 (C), 139.1 (C), 133.6 (C), 129.7 (C), 129.7 (CH), 129.6 (CH), 128.7 (CH), 128.7 (CH), 127.1 (CH), 127.1 (CH), 119.9 (C), 62.0 (CH_2), 51.6 (C), 44.6 (CH_2), 32.0 (CH_2), 29.7 (CH_2), 29.7 (CH_2), 29.5 (CH_2), 29.5 (CH_2), 29.5 (CH_2), 29.4 (CH_2), 28.6 (CH_2), 22.8 (CH_2), 14.2 (CH_3), 13.9 (CH_3). 1H NMR (400 MHz, δ ppm/ $CDCl_3$): 7.38-7.34 (m, 5H), 6.30 (s, 1H), 6.11 (s, 1H), 5.85 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 4.29-4.20 (m, 2H), 3.59 (d, J = 17.2 Hz, 1H), 3.53 (d, J = 17.2 Hz, 1H), 2.16-2.11 (m, 2H), 1.48-1.41 (m, 2H), 1.31-1.25 (m, 14H), 1.23 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 0.88 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). **HRMS** for $C_{27}H_{37}N_2O_3^+$: calcd. $[M+H]^+$: 437.2799, found: 437.2791.

Compound 3s: ethyl 4-carbamoyl-4-cyano-5-pentadecylidene-2-phenylcyclopent-1-ene-1-carboxylate



Following the general procedure, treatment of 2-(2-oxo-2-phenylethyl)malononitrile **1a** (37 mg, 0.20 mmol) with ethyl octadeca-2,3-dienoate **2i** (123 mg, 0.40 mmol) in the presence of PBu_3 (8 mg, 0.04 mmol) in CH_3CN (2 mL) at 25 °C for 12 h followed by column chromatography afforded the product **3s** as brown solid (59 mg, 60%). R_f (EtOAc/Hexane : 4/6) = 0.50. **Mp** 115-117 °C. ^{13}C **NMR** (100 MHz, δ ppm/ $CDCl_3$): 168.9 (C), 167.4 (C), 145.9 (C), 139.1 (C), 133.6 (C), 129.7 (C), 129.7 (CH), 129.0 (CH), 128.8 (CH), 128.8 (CH), 127.1 (CH), 127.1 (CH), 119.9 (C), 62.0 (CH_2), 51.6 (C), 44.6 (CH_2), 32.1 (CH_2), 29.8 (CH_2), 29.8 (CH_2), 29.8 (CH_2), 29.8 (CH_2), 29.8 (CH_2), 29.8 (CH_2), 29.7 (CH_2), 29.5 (CH_2), 29.5 (CH_2), 29.5 (CH_2), 28.6 (CH_2), 22.9 (CH_2), 14.2 (CH_3), 13.9 (CH_3). 1H **NMR** (400 MHz, δ ppm/ $CDCl_3$): 7.38-7.32 (m, 5H), 6.29 (s, 1H), 6.01 (s, 1H), 5.85 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 4.29-4.20 (m, 2H), 3.60 (d, $J = 17.6$ Hz, 1H), 3.54 (d, $J = 17.6$ Hz, 1H), 2.17-2.11 (m, 2H), 1.48-1.38 (m, 2H), 1.32-1.26 (m, 22H), 1.23 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H), 0.88 (t, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 3H). **HRMS** for $C_{31}H_{45}N_2O_3^+$: calcd. $[M+H]^+$: 493.3425, found: 493.3416.

Compound 3t: ethyl 5-(5-bromopentylidene)-4-carbamoyl-4-cyano-2-phenylcyclopent-1-ene-1-carboxylate



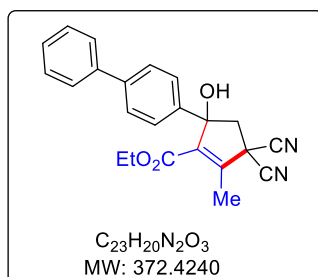
Following the general procedure, treatment of 2-(2-oxo-2-phenylethyl)malononitrile **1a** (37 mg, 0.20 mmol) with ethyl 8-bromoocta-2,3-dienoate **2j** (99 mg, 0.40 mmol) in the presence of PBu_3 (8 mg, 0.04 mmol) in CH_3CN (2 mL) at 25 °C for 12 h followed by column chromatography afforded the product **3n** as white solid (45 mg, 52%). R_f (EtOAc/Hexane : 4/6) = 0.35. **Mp** 153-155 °C. ^{13}C **NMR** (100 MHz, δ ppm/ $CDCl_3$): 168.9 (C), 167.3 (C), 145.6 (C), 139.8 (C), 133.5 (C), 129.7 (CH), 129.5 (C), 128.7 (CH), 128.7 (CH), 127.5 (CH), 127.1 (CH), 127.1 (CH), 119.9 (C), 62.0 (CH_2), 51.4 (C), 44.6 (CH_2), 33.4 (CH_2), 32.2 (CH_2), 27.9 (CH_2), 27.4 (CH_2), 13.9 (CH_3). 1H **NMR** (400 MHz, δ ppm/ $CDCl_3$): 7.37-7.31 (m, 5H), 6.36 (s, 2H), 5.81 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 4.28-4.20 (m, 2H), 3.59 (d, $J = 17.6$ Hz, 1H), 3.52 (d, $J = 17.6$ Hz, 1H), 3.40 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 2H), 2.21-2.15 (m, 2H), 1.90-1.83 (m, 2H), 1.65-1.59 (m, 2H), 1.22 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H). **HRMS** for $C_{21}H_{24}BrN_2O_3^+$: calcd. $[M+H]^+$: 431.0965, found: 431.0965.

General procedure for the synthesis of cyclopentenols 4a-4k.



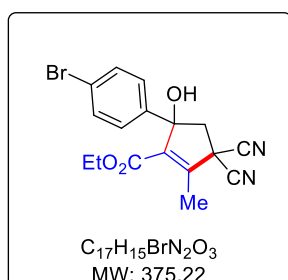
An oven-dried 10 mL Schlenk tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with 2-(2-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-2-oxoethyl)malononitrile **1l** (37 mg, 0.20 mmol) and 3Å MS (100 mg). Subsequently it was sealed, evacuated, and backfilled with nitrogen. Then, freshly distilled CH₃CN (2.0 mL), ethyl buta-2,3-dienoate **2k** (45 mg, 0.40 mmol) were added via syringe followed by addition of PBU₃ (8 mg, 0.04 mmol). This reaction mixture was stirred at 25 °C for 12 h. After the completion of reaction, as indicated by TLC, solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified using column chromatography (100-200 mesh silica gel) using ethyl acetate/hexane as the eluent.

Compound 4a: ethyl 5-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-3,3-dicyano-5-hydroxy-2-methylcyclopent-1-ene-1-carboxylate



Following the general procedure, treatment of 2-(2-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-2-oxoethyl)malononitrile **1l** (52 mg, 0.20 mmol) with ethyl buta-2,3-dienoate **2k** (45 mg, 0.40 mmol) in the presence of PBU₃ (8 mg, 0.04 mmol) in CH₃CN (2 mL) at 25 °C for 12 h followed by column chromatography afforded the product **4a** as yellow viscous liquid (66 mg, 88%). R_f (EtOAc/Hexane : 2/8) = 0.15. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, δ ppm/CDCl₃): 163.7 (C), 144.8 (C), 142.5 (C), 141.4 (C), 140.4 (C), 139.4 (C), 129.0 (CH), 129.0 (CH), 127.7 (CH), 127.7 (CH), 127.7 (CH), 127.2 (CH), 127.2 (CH), 124.8 (CH), 124.8 (CH), 113.9 (C), 113.9 (C), 86.2 (C), 62.0 (CH₂), 51.0 (C), 42.8 (CH₂), 14.0 (CH₃), 13.8 (CH₃). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, δ ppm/CDCl₃): 7.61-7.57 (m, 4H), 7.46-7.40 (m, 4H), 7.38-7.35 (m, 1H), 4.28-4.12 (m, 2H), 3.66 (s, 1H), 3.15 (d, *J* = 11.6 Hz, 1H), 2.85 (d, *J* = 11.6 Hz, 1H), 2.49 (s, 3H), 1.16 (t, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 3H). HRMS for C₂₃H₂₀N₂NaO₃⁺: calcd. [M+Na]⁺: 395.1366, found: 395.1353.

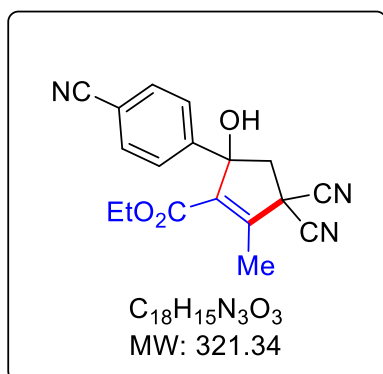
Compound 4b: ethyl 5-(4-bromophenyl)-3,3-dicyano-5-hydroxy-2-methylcyclopent-1-ene-1-carboxylate



Following the general procedure, treatment of 2-(2-(4-bromophenyl)-2-oxoethyl)malononitrile **1m** (53 mg, 0.20 mmol) with ethyl buta-2,3-dienoate **2k** (45 mg, 0.40 mmol) in the presence of PBU₃ (8 mg, 0.04 mmol) in CH₃CN (2 mL) at 25 °C for 12 h followed by column chromatography afforded the product **4b** as white solid (47 mg, 62%). R_f (EtOAc/Hexane : 2/8) = 0.15. **Mp** 146-148 °C. ¹³C NMR

(100 MHz, δ ppm/ CDCl_3): 163.5 (C), 145.3 (C), 142.7 (C), 138.9 (C), 132.2 (CH), 132.2 (CH), 126.2 (CH), 126.2 (CH), 122.6 (C), 113.7 (C), 113.6 (C), 85.9 (C), 62.1 (CH_2), 50.8 (C), 42.7 (CH_2), 14.0 (CH_3), 13.9 (CH_3). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, δ ppm/ CDCl_3): 7.52-7.48 (m, 2H), 7.24-7.20 (m, 2H), 4.25-4.16 (m, 2H), 3.64 (s, 1H), 3.10 (d, $J = 14.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.75 (d, $J = 13.2$ Hz, 1H), 2.46 (s, 3H), 1.17 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H). **HRMS** for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{16}\text{BrN}_2\text{O}_3^+$: calcd. $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 375.0339, found: 375.0333.

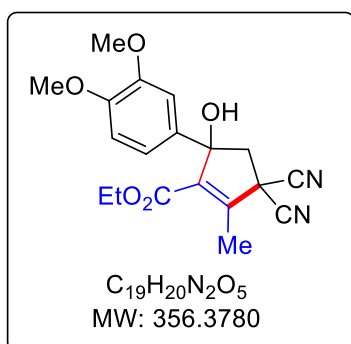
Compound 4c: ethyl 3,3-dicyano-5-(4-cyanophenyl)-5-hydroxy-2-methylcyclopent-1-ene-1-carboxylate



Following the general procedure, treatment of 2-(2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-oxoethyl)malononitrile **1e** (42 mg, 0.20 mmol) with ethyl buta-2,3-dienoate **2k** (45 mg, 0.40 mmol) in the presence of PBU_3 (8 mg, 0.04 mmol) in CH_3CN (2 mL) at 25 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 12 h followed by column chromatography afforded the product **4c** as white solid (42 mg, 65%). R_f (EtOAc/Hexane : 2/8) = 0.20. **Mp** 112-114 $^\circ\text{C}$. $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (100 MHz, δ ppm/ CDCl_3): 163.5 (C), 145.3 (C), 142.1 (C), 139.0 (C), 134.5 (CH), 129.3 (CH), 129.3 (CH), 125.9 (CH), 125.9 (C), 113.7 (C),

113.7 (C), 113.7 (C), 85.9 (C), 62.1 (CH_2), 50.9 (C), 42.7 (CH_2), 14.1 (CH_3), 13.9 (CH_3). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, δ ppm/ CDCl_3): 7.37-7.33 (m, 2H), 7.30-7.27 (m, 2H), 4.25-4.12 (m, 2H), 3.63 (s, 1H), 3.10 (d, $J = 14.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.75 (d, $J = 14.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.47 (s, 3H), 1.17 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H). **HRMS** for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_3\text{O}_3^-$: calcd. $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$: 320.1041, found: 320.1035

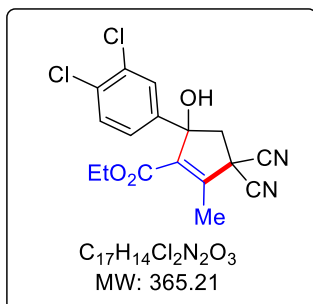
Compound 4d: ethyl 3,3-dicyano-5-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-5-hydroxy-2-methylcyclopent-1-ene-1-carboxylate



Following the general procedure, treatment of 2-(2-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-2-oxoethyl)malononitrile **1n** (49 mg, 0.20 mmol) with ethyl buta-2,3-dienoate **2k** (45 mg, 0.40 mmol) in the presence of PBU_3 (8 mg, 0.04 mmol) in CH_3CN (2 mL) at 25 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 12 h followed by column chromatography afforded the product **4d** as brown solid (50 mg, 70%). R_f (EtOAc/Hexane : 2/8) = 0.10. **Mp** 144-146 $^\circ\text{C}$. $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (100 MHz, δ ppm/ CDCl_3): 163.8 (C), 149.5 (C), 149.1 (C), 144.3 (C), 139.4 (C), 136.1 (C), 116.5 (CH), 113.9 (C), 113.8 (C), 111.3 (CH), 107.7 (CH), 86.1 (C), 61.9 (CH_2), 56.1 (CH_3), 56.0 (CH_3),

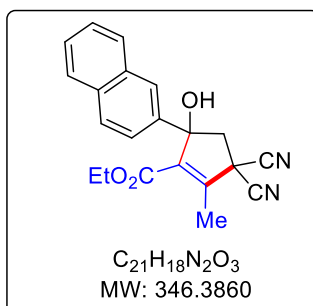
51.1 (C), 42.6 (CH_2), 14.1 (CH_3), 13.9 (CH_3). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, δ ppm/ CDCl_3): 6.92 (d, $J = 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.83-6.76 (m, 2H), 4.26-4.12 (m, 2H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.65 (s, 1H), 3.08 (d, $J = 14.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.79 (d, $J = 14.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.46 (s, 3H), 1.17 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H). **HRMS** for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_2\text{O}_5^+$: calcd. $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 357.1445, found: 357.1442.

Compound 4e: ethyl 3,3-dicyano-5-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-hydroxy-2-methylcyclopent-1-ene-1-carboxylate



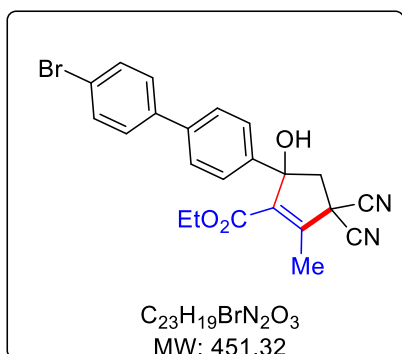
Following the general procedure, treatment of 2-(2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-2-oxoethyl)malononitrile **1g** (51 mg, 0.20 mmol) with ethyl buta-2,3-dienoate **2k** (45 mg, 0.40 mmol) in the presence of PBu_3 (8 mg, 0.04 mmol) in CH_3CN (2 mL) at 25 °C for 12 h followed by column chromatography afforded the product **4e** as white solid (51 mg, 70%). R_f (EtOAc/Hexane : 2/8) = 0.15. **Mp** 125-127 °C. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, δ ppm/ $CDCl_3$): 163.5(C), 145.8 (C), 143.9 (C), 138.4 (C), 133.6 (C), 132.8 (C), 131.1 (CH), 126.9 (CH), 123.8 (CH), 113.6 (C), 113.5 (C), 85.5 (C), 62.3 (CH_2), 50.7 (C), 42.7 (CH_2), 14.1 (CH_3), 14.0 (CH_3). 1H NMR (400 MHz, δ ppm/ $CDCl_3$): 7.51 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.45-7.43 (m, 1H), 7.14-7.11 (m, 1H), 4.28-4.15 (m, 2H), 3.68 (s, 1H), 3.10 (d, J = 14.8 Hz, 1H), 2.74 (d, J = 14.4 Hz, 1H), 2.48 (s, 3H), 1.20 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). **HRMS** for $C_{17}H_{15}Cl_2N_2O_3^+$: calcd. $[M+H]^+$: 365.0454, found: 365.0450.

Compound 4f: ethyl 3,3-dicyano-5-hydroxy-2-methyl-5-(naphthalen-2-yl)cyclopent-1-ene-1-carboxylate



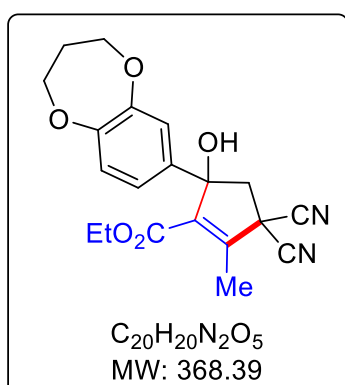
Following the general procedure, treatment of 2-(2-(naphthalen-2-yl)-2-oxoethyl)malononitrile **1h** (47 mg, 0.20 mmol) with ethyl buta-2,3-dienoate **2k** (45 mg, 0.40 mmol) in the presence of PBu_3 (8 mg, 0.04 mmol) in CH_3CN (2 mL) at 25 °C for 12 h followed by column chromatography afforded the product **4f** as white solid (51 mg, 73%). R_f (EtOAc/Hexane : 2/8) = 0.15. **Mp** 134-136 °C. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, δ ppm/ $CDCl_3$): 163.7(C), 144.9 (C), 140.8 (C), 139.5 (C), 133.3 (C), 133.1 (C), 129.3 (CH), 128.4 (CH), 127.8 (CH), 126.9 (CH), 126.7 (CH), 123.5 (CH), 122.2 (CH), 113.9 (C), 113.9 (C), 86.5 (C), 62.0 (CH_2), 51.0 (C), 42.9 (CH_2), 14.0 (CH_3), 13.9 (CH_3). 1H NMR (400 MHz, δ ppm/ $CDCl_3$): 7.87-7.83 (m, 4H), 7.54-7.49 (m, 2H), 7.40-7.38 (m, 1H), 4.20-4.09 (m, 2H), 3.75 (s, 1H), 3.17 (d, J = 11.6 Hz, 1H), 2.88 (d, J = 11.6 Hz, 1H), 2.52 (s, 3H), 1.09 (t, J = 5.8 Hz, 3H). **HRMS** for $C_{21}H_{18}N_2NaO_3^+$: calcd. $[M+Na]^+$: 369.1210, found: 369.1212.

Compound 4g: ethyl 5-(4'-bromo-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-3,3-dicyano-5-hydroxy-2-methylcyclopent-1-ene-1-carboxylate



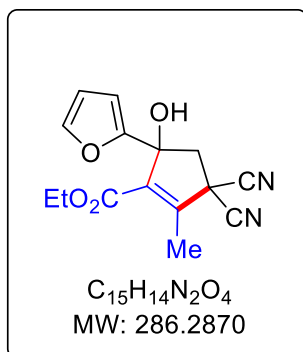
Following the general procedure, treatment of 2-(2-(4'-bromo-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-2-oxoethyl)malononitrile **1o** (68 mg, 0.20 mmol) with ethyl buta-2,3-dienoate **2k** (45 mg, 0.40 mmol) in the presence of PBu_3 (8 mg, 0.04 mmol) in CH_3CN (2 mL) at 25 °C for 12 h followed by column chromatography afforded the product **4g** as brown solid (77 mg, 85%). R_f (EtOAc/Hexane : 2/8) = 0.15. Mp 156-158 °C. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, δ ppm/ $CDCl_3$): 163.7 (C), 145.0 (C), 143.0 (C), 140.2 (C), 139.3 (C), 139.3 (C), 132.1 (CH), 132.1 (CH), 128.8 (CH), 128.8 (CH), 127.6 (CH), 127.6 (CH), 125.0 (CH), 125.0 (CH), 122.1 (C), 113.8 (C), 113.8 (C), 86.2 (C), 62.0 (CH_2), 51.0 (C), 42.8 (CH_2), 14.1 (CH_3), 13.9 (CH_3). 1H NMR (400 MHz, δ ppm/ $CDCl_3$): 7.57-7.54 (m, 4H), 7.45-7.40 (m, 4H), 4.29-4.11 (m, 2H), 3.68 (s, 1H), 3.14 (d, J = 14.0 Hz, 1H), 2.83 (d, J = 14.4 Hz, 1H), 2.49 (s, 3H), 1.17 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). HRMS for $C_{23}H_{19}BrN_2NaO_3^+$: calcd. $[M+Na]^+$: 473.0471, found: 473.0472.

Compound 4h: ethyl 3,3-dicyano-5-(3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo [1,4]dioxepin-7-yl)-5-hydroxy-2-methylcyclopent-1-ene-1-carboxylate



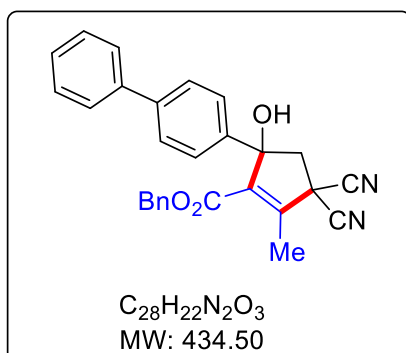
Following the general procedure, treatment of 2-(2-(3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[1,4]dioxepin-7-yl)-2-oxoethyl)malononitrile **1j** (51 mg, 0.20 mmol) with ethyl buta-2,3-dienoate **2k** (45 mg, 0.40 mmol) in the presence of PBu_3 (8 mg, 0.04 mmol) in CH_3CN (2 mL) at 25 °C for 12 h followed by column chromatography afforded the product **4h** as brown solid (52 mg, 71%). R_f (EtOAc/Hexane : 2/8) = 0.10. Mp 146-148 °C. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, δ ppm/ $CDCl_3$): 163.7 (C), 151.4 (C), 151.0 (C), 144.6 (C), 139.3 (C), 138.8 (C), 122.1 (CH), 119.2 (CH), 117.9 (CH), 113.9 (C), 113.8 (C), 85.8 (C), 70.6 (CH_2), 70.6 (CH_2), 61.9 (CH_2), 50.9 (C), 42.6 (CH_2), 31.7 (CH_2), 14.1 (CH_3), 13.8 (CH_3). 1H NMR (400 MHz, δ ppm/ $CDCl_3$): 6.95-6.93 (m, 2H), 6.85-6.83 (m, 1H), 4.27-4.11 (m, 6H), 3.56 (s, 1H), 3.06 (d, J = 14.4 Hz, 1H), 2.76 (d, J = 14.0 Hz, 1H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 2.22-2.16 (m, 2H), 1.16 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H). HRMS for $C_{20}H_{20}N_2NaO_5^+$: calcd. $[M+Na]^+$: 391.1264, found: 391.1264.

Compound 4i: ethyl 3,3-dicyano-5-(furan-2-yl)-5-hydroxy-2-methylcyclopent-1-ene-1-carboxylate



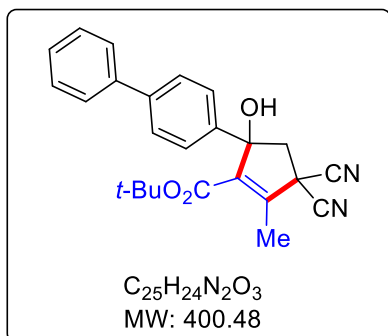
Following the general procedure, treatment of 2-(2-(furan-2-yl)-2-oxoethyl)malononitrile **1k** (35 mg, 0.20 mmol) with ethyl buta-2,3-dienoate **2k** (45 mg, 0.40 mmol) in the presence of PBu_3 (8 mg, 0.04 mmol) in CH_3CN (2 mL) at 25 °C for 12 h followed by column chromatography afforded the product **4i** as white solid (44 mg, 77%). R_f (EtOAc/Hexane : 2/8) = 0.15. **Mp** 135-137 °C. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, δ ppm/ $CDCl_3$): 163.5(C), 154.2 (C), 145.0 (C), 142.9 (CH), 137.3 (C), 113.8 (C), 113.4 (C), 110.9 (CH), 106.9 (CH), 82.1 (C), 62.1 (CH_2), 47.9 (C), 42.3 (CH_2), 14.1 (CH_3), 14.1 (CH_3). 1H NMR (400 MHz, δ ppm/ $CDCl_3$): 7.36-7.34 (m, 1H), 6.37-6.34 (m, 2H), 4.34-4.20 (m, 2H), 3.96 (s, 1H), 3.10 (d, J = 14.0 Hz, 1H), 2.98 (d, J = 14.4 Hz, 1H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 1.27 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). **HRMS** for $C_{15}H_{15}N_2O_4^+$: calcd. $[M+H]^+$: 287.1026, found: 287.1024.

Compound 4j: benzyl 5-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-3,3-dicyano-5-hydroxy-2-methylcyclopent-1-ene-1-carboxylate



Following the general procedure, treatment of 2-(2-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-2-oxoethyl)malononitrile **1l** (52 mg, 0.20 mmol) with benzyl buta-2,3-dienoate **2l** (70 mg, 0.40 mmol) in the presence of PBu_3 (8 mg, 0.04 mmol) in CH_3CN (2 mL) at 25 °C for 12 h followed by column chromatography afforded the product **4j** as white solid (81 mg, 93%). R_f (EtOAc/Hexane : 2/8) = 0.15. **Mp** 155-157 °C. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, δ ppm/ $CDCl_3$): 163.4 (C), 145.7 (C), 142.4 (C), 141.4 (C), 140.3 (C), 139.2 (C), 134.4 (C), 129.0 (CH), 129.0 (CH), 128.8 (CH), 128.8 (CH), 128.8 (CH), 128.4 (CH), 128.4 (CH), 127.8 (CH), 127.8 (CH), 127.8 (CH), 127.2 (CH), 127.2 (CH), 124.8 (CH), 124.8 (CH), 113.8 (C), 113.8 (C), 86.1 (C), 67.6 (CH_2), 51.0 (C), 42.8 (CH_2), 13.9 (CH_3). 1H NMR (400 MHz, δ ppm/ $CDCl_3$): 7.59-7.56 (m, 4H), 7.48-7.43 (m, 2H), 7.39-7.34 (m, 3H), 7.26-7.20 (m, 3H), 7.02-7.00 (m, 2H), 5.22 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 5.02 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 3.56 (s, 1H), 3.12 (d, J = 14.4 Hz, 1H), 2.81 (d, J = 14.4 Hz, 1H), 2.47 (s, 3H). **HRMS** for $C_{28}H_{23}N_2O_3^+$: calcd. $[M+H]^+$: 435.1703, found: 435.1680

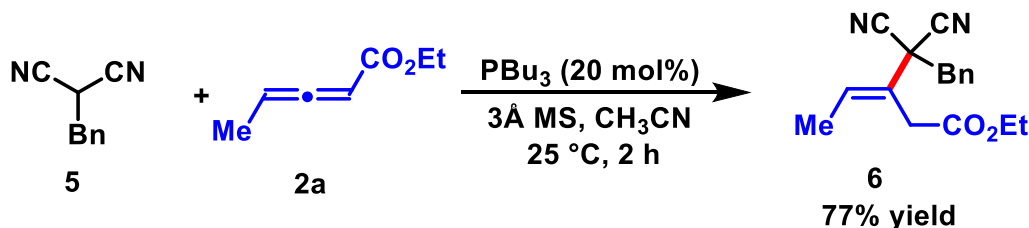
Compound 4k: *tert*-butyl 5-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-3,3-dicyano-5-hydroxy-2-methylcyclopent-1-ene-1-carboxylate



Following the general procedure, treatment of 2-(2-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-2-oxoethyl)malononitrile **1l** (52 mg, 0.20 mmol) with *tert*-butyl buta-2,3-dienoate **2m** (56 mg, 0.40 mmol) in the presence of PBu_3 (8 mg, 0.04 mmol) in CH_3CN (2 mL) at 25 °C for 12 h followed by column chromatography afforded the product **4k** as white solid (63 mg, 79%). R_f (EtOAc/Hexane : 2/8) = 0.15. **Mp** 156-158 °C. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, δ ppm/ $CDCl_3$): 162.7 (C), 144.0 (C), 142.8 (C), 141.3 (C), 140.8 (C), 140.4 (C), 129.0 (CH), 129.0 (CH), 127.8 (CH), 127.6 (CH), 127.6 (CH), 127.2 (CH), 127.2 (CH), 124.9 (CH), 124.9 (CH), 114.0 (C), 114.0 (C), 86.1 (C), 84.2 (C), 50.9 (C), 42.7 (CH_2), 28.0 (CH_3), 28.0 (CH_3), 28.0 (CH_3), 13.5 (CH_3). 1H NMR (400 MHz, δ ppm/ $CDCl_3$): 7.63-7.58 (m, 4H), 7.47-7.35 (m, 5H), 3.56 (s, 1H), 3.15 (d, J = 14.4 Hz, 1H), 2.80 (d, J = 14.4 Hz, 1H), 2.46 (s, 3H), 1.31 (s, 9H). **HRMS** for $C_{25}H_{24}N_2NaO_3^+$: calcd. $[M+Na]^+$: 423.1679, found: 423.1672.

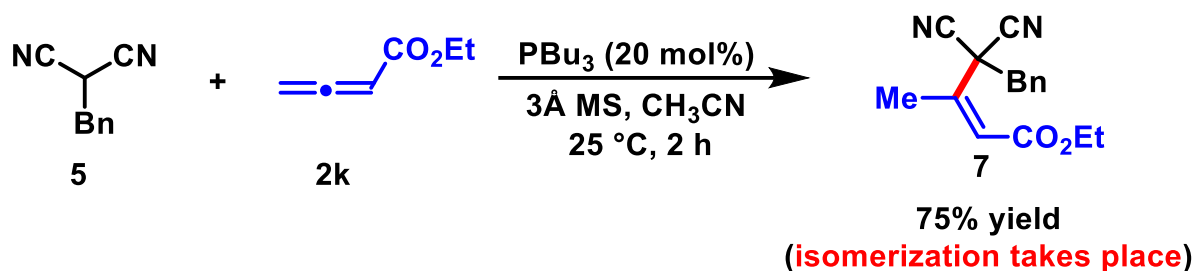
Mechanistic Experiments

Reaction of 2-benzylmalononitrile with γ -substituted allenic ester



An oven-dried 10 mL Schlenk tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with 2-benzylmalononitrile **5** (31 mg, 0.20 mmol) and 3 Å MS (100 mg). Subsequently, it was sealed, evacuated, and backfilled with nitrogen. Freshly distilled CH_3CN (2.0 mL) and ethyl penta-2,3-dienoate **2a** (50 mg, 0.40 mmol) were added via syringe followed by the addition of PBu_3 (8 mg, 0.04 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 25 °C for 12 h. After the completion of the reaction, as indicated by TLC, the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified using column chromatography to afford the product **6** as colorless oil (43 mg, 77%). R_f (EtOAc/Hexane : 1/9) = 0.40. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, δ ppm/ $CDCl_3$): 169.3 (C), 132.6 (CH), 132.0 (C), 130.5 (CH), 130.5 (CH), 128.9 (CH), 128.9 (CH), 128.9 (CH), 124.1 (C), 114.2 (C), 114.2 (C), 61.7 (CH_2), 46.2 (C), 44.3 (CH_2), 33.8 (CH_2), 14.4 (CH_3), 14.2 (CH_3). 1H NMR (400 MHz, δ ppm/ $CDCl_3$): 7.38-7.36 (m, 5H), 6.24 (q, J = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 4.21 (q, J = 9.6 Hz, 2H), 3.33 (s, 2H), 3.32 (s, 2H), 1.76 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 3H), 1.29 (t, J = 9.4 Hz, 3H). **HRMS** for $C_{17}H_{19}N_2O_2^+$: calcd. $[M+H]^+$: 283.1441, found: 283.1444.

Reaction of 2-benzylmalononitrile with unsubstituted allenic ester



Following the above mentioned procedure, treatment of 2-benzylmalononitrile **5** (31 mg, 0.20 mmol) with ethyl buta-2,3-dienoate **2k** (45 mg, 0.40 mmol) in the presence of PBu_3 (8 mg, 0.04 mmol) in CH_3CN (2 mL) at 25 °C for 2 h followed by column chromatography afforded the product **7** as colorless oil (40 mg, 75%). R_f (EtOAc/Hexane : 1/9) = 0.45. $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (100 MHz, δ ppm/ CDCl_3): 164.6 (C), 144.6 (C), 131.2 (C), 134.4 (CH), 134.4 (CH), 129.2 (CH), 129.1 (CH), 129.1 (CH), 122.3 (CH), 113.3 (C), 113.3 (C), 61.0 (CH_2), 47.0 (C), 43.8 (CH_2), 15.7 (CH_3), 14.2 (CH_3). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, δ ppm/ CDCl_3): 7.41-7.39 (m, 3H), 7.35-7.32 (m, 2H), 6.20 (q, $J = 1.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.21 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 3.33 (s, 2H), 2.41 (d, $J = 1.2$ Hz, 3H), 1.29 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 3H). **HRMS** for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2^+$: calcd. $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 269.1285, found: 269.1284.

X-Ray Data Collection and Structure Refinement Details for compound **3a**:

A good quality single crystal of size 0.33 x 0.21 x 0.15 mm, was selected under a polarizing microscope and was mounted on a glass fiber for data collection. Single crystal X-ray data for compound **3a** were collected on the Bruker APEX-II CCD area-detector at 100(2) K. Data collection was performed using ω -scans of at 100(2) K by Bruker APEX2¹. Cell determination, and data reduction was performed using the Bruker SAINT software. Structure solution and refinement were performed by using SHELX-97². Refinement of coordinates and anisotropic thermal parameters of non-hydrogen atoms were carried out by the full-matrix least-squares method. The hydrogen atoms attached to carbon atoms were generated with idealized geometries and isotropically refined using a riding model.

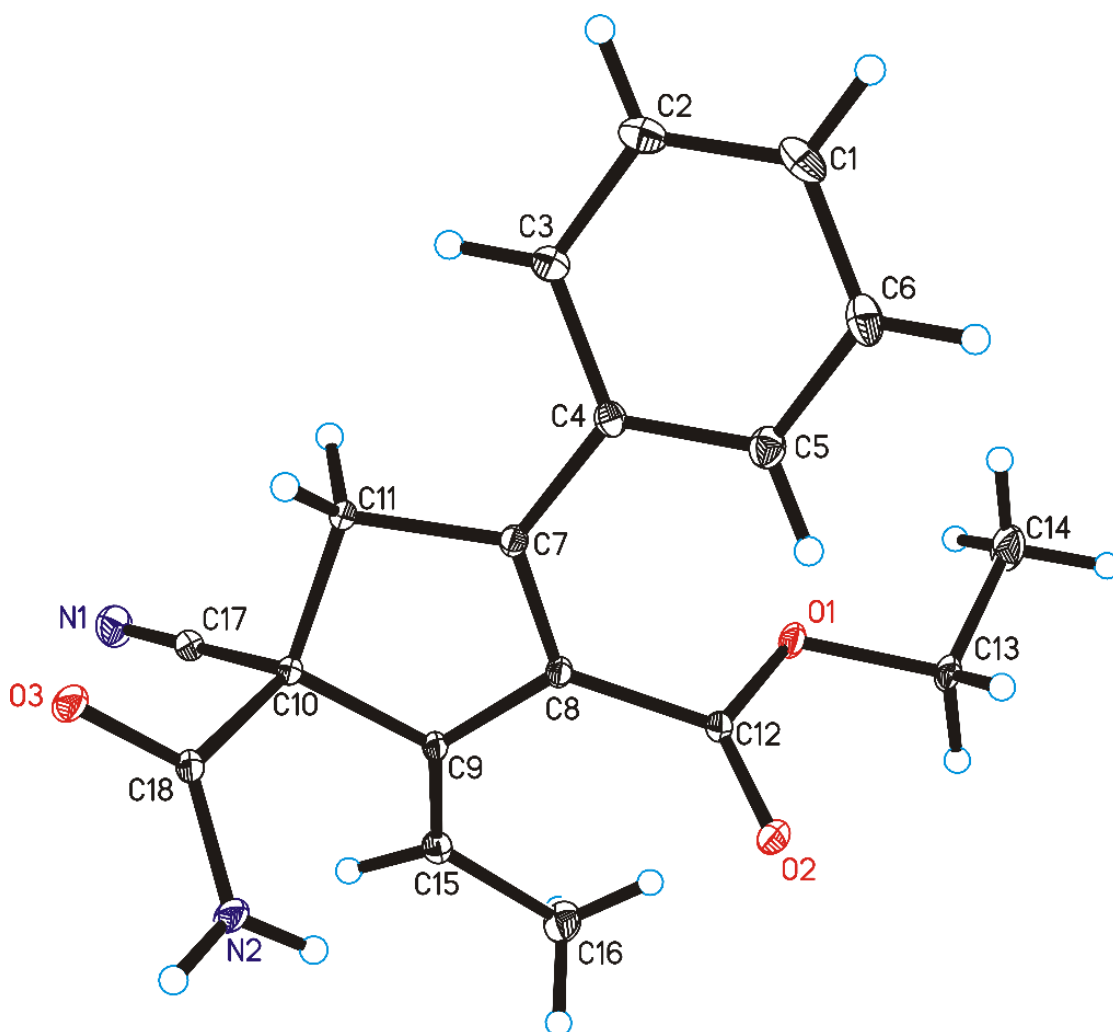


Figure S1. ORTEP diagram drawn with 30% ellipsoid probability for non-H atoms of the crystal structure of compound **3a** determined at 293 K.

Table S1 Crystal data and structure refinement details for **3a**.

Compound	3a
Empirical formula	C ₁₈ H ₁₈ N ₂ O ₃
Formula weight	310.34
Crystal System	Triclinic
Space group	<i>P</i> -1
<i>a</i> (Å)	7.6107(6)
<i>b</i> (Å)	9.6669(8)
<i>c</i> (Å)	11.6421(10)
α (°)	74.194(2)
β (°)	82.375(2)
γ (°)	75.798(2)
<i>V</i> (Å ³)	796.96(11)
<i>Z</i>	2
<i>D</i> _c (g/cm ³)	1.293
<i>F</i> ₀₀₀	328
μ (mm ⁻¹)	0.089
θ_{\max} (°)	28.34
Total reflections	12550
Unique reflections	3943
Reflections [<i>I</i> > 2 σ (<i>I</i>)]	3520
Parameters	210
<i>R</i> _{int}	0.0294
Goodness-of-fit	1.132
<i>R</i> [<i>F</i> ² > 2 σ (<i>F</i> ²)]	0.0420
<i>wR</i> (<i>F</i> ² , all data)	0.1272
CCDC No.	2006551

X-Ray Data Collection and Structure Refinement Details for compound 4b:

A good quality single crystal of size 0.29 x 0.17 x 0.12 mm, was selected under a polarizing microscope and was mounted on a glass fiber for data collection. Single crystal X-ray data for compound **4b** were collected on the Bruker APEX-II CCD area-detector at 100(2) K. Data collection was performed using ω -scans of at 100(2) K by Bruker APEX2¹. Cell determination, and data reduction was performed using the Bruker SAINT software. Structure solution and refinement were performed by using SHELX-97². Refinement of coordinates and anisotropic thermal parameters of non-hydrogen atoms were carried out by the full-matrix least-squares method. The hydrogen atoms attached to carbon atoms were generated with idealized geometries and isotropically refined using a riding model.

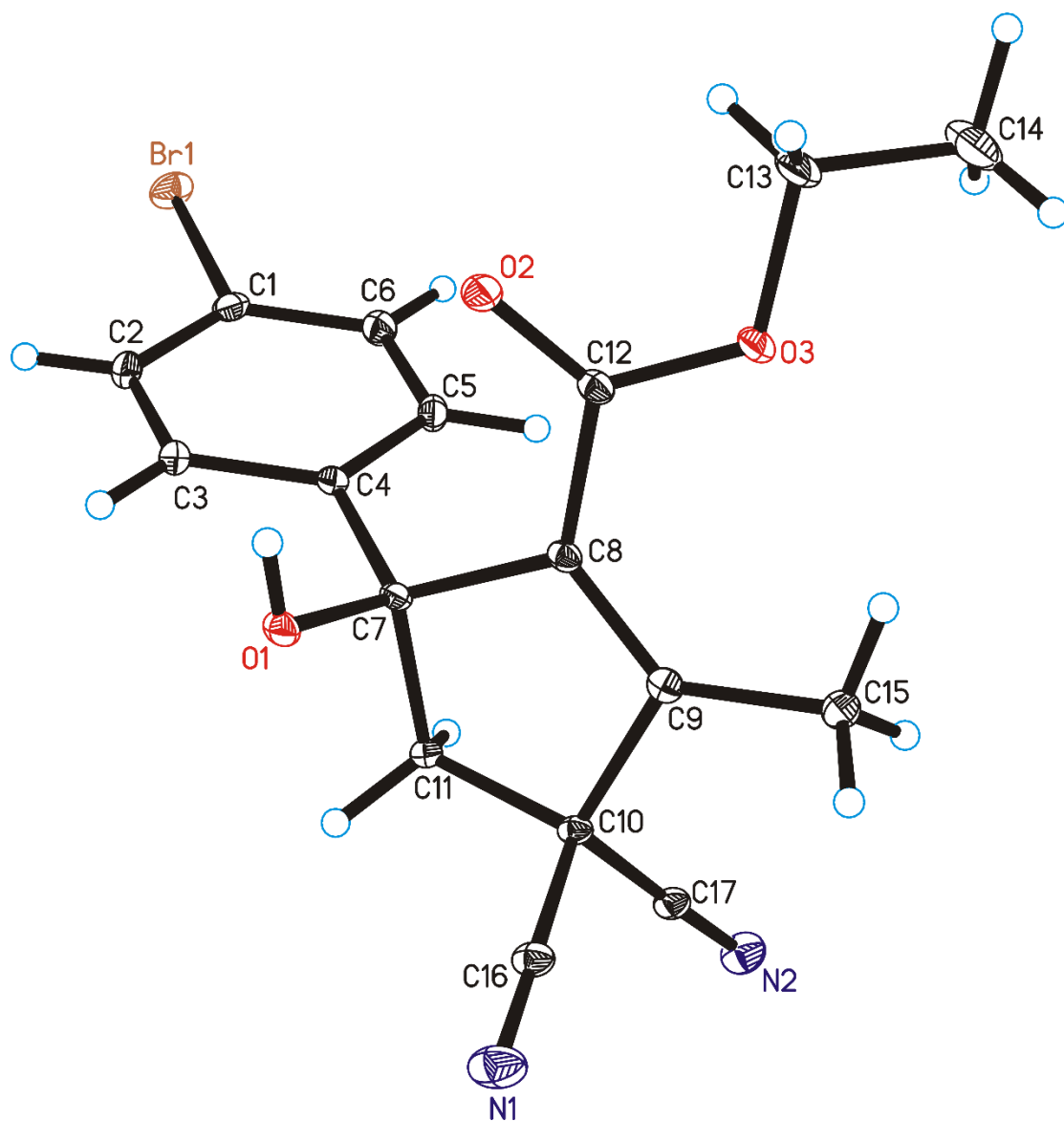


Figure S2. ORTEP diagram drawn with 30% ellipsoid probability for non-H atoms of the crystal structure of compound **4b** determined at 293 K.

Table S2 Crystal data and structure refinement details for **4b**.

Compound	4b
Empirical formula	C ₁₇ H ₁₅ Br N ₂ O ₃
Formula weight	375.22
Crystal System	Monoclinic
Space group	C 2/c
<i>a</i> (Å)	24.827(6)
<i>b</i> (Å)	6.5559(16)
<i>c</i> (Å)	21.173(5)
α (°)	90.00
β (°)	107.267(6)
γ (°)	90.00
<i>V</i> (Å ³)	3291.0(13)
<i>Z</i>	8
<i>D_c</i> (g/cm ³)	1.515
<i>F</i> ₀₀₀	1520
μ (mm ⁻¹)	2.514
θ_{\max} (°)	28.43
Total reflections	22762
Unique reflections	4131
Reflections [<i>I</i> > 2 σ (<i>I</i>)]	3626
Parameters	211
<i>R</i> _{int}	0.0578
Goodness-of-fit	1.066
<i>R</i> [<i>F</i> ² > 2 σ (<i>F</i> ²)]	0.0316
<i>wR</i> (<i>F</i> ² , all data)	0.0775
CCDC No.	2006837

1. CrystalClear 2.1, Rigaku Corporation, Tokyo, Japan
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