Supporting Information for

Copper-catalyzed synthesis of 1, 2,4-trisubstituted pyrroles via cascade reactions of aryloxy-enynes with amines

Ende Li, Xingcan Cheng, Chengyu Wang, Xia Sun and Yanzhong Li*

Shanghai Key Laboratory of Green Chemistry and Chemical Processes, Department of Chemistry, East China Normal University, Dongchuan Rd. 500, Shanghai, 200241, People's Republic of China

Fax: (+86) 021-54340096, E-mail: yzli@chem.ecnu.edu.cn

Contents:	Pages
General Methods	S01
Synthesis and characterization of products	S01-S08
X-ray crystal structure of compound 3m	S09
NMR spectra of all new compounds	S10-S24

Experimental section

General Methods. All reactions were carried out under nitrogen. THF, Tol. were distilled from sodium/benzophenone. DMF and DMSO were distilled after dried over anhydrous MgSO₄. Unless noted, all commercial reagents were used without further purification.

¹H NMR spectra was recorded at 400 MHz, ¹³C NMR spectra was recorded at 100 MHz, and in CDCl₃ (containing 0.03% TMS) solutions. ¹H NMR spectra was recorded with tetramethylsilane ($\delta = 0.00$ ppm) as internal reference; ¹³C NMR spectra was recorded with CDCl₃ ($\delta = 77.00$ ppm) as internal reference.

A typical procedure for the Cu-catalyzed synthesis of Ethyl 1-cyclohexyl-5-phenyl-1*H*-pyrrole-3-carboxylate (3a):

(*E*)-ethyl 2-(phenoxymethylene)-4-phenylbut-3-ynoate (88 mg, 0.3 mmol) in DMF (2 mL), CuI (6 mg, 0.03 mmol), cyclohexanamine (0.038 mL, 0.33 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (196 mg, 0.6 mmol) were added to a Schlenk tube under nitrogen. The resulting solution was stirred at 90 °C. After the reaction was complete as monitored by thin-layer chromatography, the mixture was treated with water and extracted with EA. The extract was washed with water and dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. The solvent was evaporated under the reduced pressure, and the residue was purified by chromatography on silica gel to afford the 1,2,4-trisubstituted pyrrole derivatives **3a** (71 mg, 80 %) as a yellow oil.



Ethyl 1-cyclohexyl-5-phenyl-1*H*-pyrrole-3-carboxylate (3a) Column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: n-hexane / ethyl acetate = 50:1) afforded the title product 3a in 80 % (71 mg) isolated yield as a yellow oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, Me₄Si) δ 1.18-1.29 (m, 3H), 1.34 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.60-1.69 (m, 3H), 1.76-1.84 (m, 2H), 1.97-2.00 (m, 2H), 3.94-4.00 (m, 1H), 4.29 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 6.55 (d, J = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.32-7.43 (m, 5H), 7.50 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃, Me₄Si) δ 14.40, 25.14, 25.61, 34.71, 55.63, 59.53, 109.39, 115.63, 123.51, 127.63, 128.53, 129.32, 132.71, 134.94, 165.11; HRMS (EI) calcd for C₁₉H₂₃NO₂ 297.1729, found 297.1730.



Ethyl 1-butyl-5-phenyl-1*H***-pyrrole-3-carboxylate (3b)** Column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: n-hexane / ethyl acetate = 50:1) afforded the title product **3b** in 68 % (55 mg) isolated yield as a yellow oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, Me₄Si) δ 0.82 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.17-1.23 (m, 2H), 1.35 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.60-1.64 (m, 2H), 3.91 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.29 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 6.58 (d, J = 2 Hz, 1H), 7.35-7.43 (m, 6H); ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃, Me₄Si) δ 13.47, 14.47, 19.60, 33.11, 47.31, 59.60, 109.70, 115.40, 126.78, 127.55, 128.44, 129.06, 132.49, 135.19, 164.92; HRMS (EI) calcd for C₁₇H₂₁NO₂ 271.1572, found 271.1575.



Ethyl 1-*tert*-butyl-5-phenyl-1*H*-pyrrole-3-carboxylate (3c) Column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: n-hexane / ethyl acetate = 50:1) afforded the title product 3c in 72 % (58 mg) isolated yield as a yellow oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, Me₄Si) δ 1.33 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.43 (s, 9H), 4.28 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 6.44 (d, J = 2 Hz, 1H), 7.35-7.38 (m, 5H), 7.56 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃, Me₄Si) δ 14.51, 31.52, 58.19, 59.52, 112.85, 113.36, 124.32, 127.50, 128.03, 131.81, 135.00, 135.81, 165.11; HRMS (EI) calcd for C₁₇H₂₁NO₂ 271.1572, found 271.1578.



Ethyl 1-benzyl-5-phenyl-1*H*-pyrrole-3-carboxylate (3d) Column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: n-hexane / ethyl acetate = 50:1) afforded the title product 3d in 78 % (72 mg) isolated yield as a yellow oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, Me₄Si) δ 1.33 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 4.28 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 5.10 (s, 2H), 6.68 (d, *J* = 2 Hz, 1H), 6.98-7.00 (m, 2H), 7.24-7.36 (m, 8H), 7.37 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz,

CDCl₃, Me₄Si) δ 14.43, 51.07, 59.67, 109.87, 116.10, 126.58, 127.52, 127.67, 127.70, 128.44, 128.75, 129.05, 132.02, 135.74, 137.36, 164.77; HRMS (EI) calcd for C₂₀H₁₉NO₂ 305.1416, found 305.1417.



Ethyl 1, 5-diphenyl-1*H*-pyrrole-3-carboxylate (3e) Column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: n-hexane / ethyl acetate = 50:1) afforded the title product 3e in 43 % (38 mg) isolated yield as a yellow oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, Me₄Si) δ 1.36 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 3H), 4.33 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 6.84 (d, *J* = 2 Hz, 1H), 7.10-7.21 (m, 7H), 7.31-7.34 (m, 3H), 7.55 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃, Me₄Si) δ 14.46, 59.84, 110.96, 116.91, 125.65, 126.96, 127.50, 128.13, 128.35, 128.66, 129.14, 131.81, 134.77, 139.48, 164.72; HRMS (EI) calcd for C₁₉H₁₇NO₂ 291.1259, found 291.1262.



Ethyl 1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-5-phenyl-1*H*-pyrrole-3-carboxylate (3f) Column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: n-hexane / ethyl acetate = 50:1) afforded the title product 3f in 42 % (40 mg) isolated yield as a yellow oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, Me₄Si) δ 1.36 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 4.32 (q, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 6.82 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 6.84-6.86 (m, 2H), 7.07-7.13 (m, 4H), 7.19-7.26 (m, 3H), 7.49 (d, *J* = 2 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃, Me₄Si) δ 14.49, 55.44, 59.82, 110.54, 114.25, 116.56, 126.88, 126.90, 128.14, 128.34, 128.83, 131.92, 132.59, 134.91, 158.76, 164.81; HRMS (EI) calcd for C₂₀H₁₉NO₃ 321.1365, found 321.1364.



Ethyl 1-(4-cyanophenyl)-5-phenyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylate (3g) Column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: n-hexane / ethyl acetate = 50:1) afforded the title product 3g in 68 % (65 mg) isolated yield as a yellow oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, Me₄Si) δ 1.28 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 4.25 (q, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 6.77 (d, J = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.01-7.02 (m, 2H), 7.17-7.19 (m, 5H), 7.49 (d, J = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃, Me₄Si) δ 14.09, 59.98, 111.21, 112.31, 118.07, 118.41, 126.12, 127.82, 128.23, 128.72, 131.37, 133.44, 135.01, 143.26, 164.64; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₀H₁₇N₂O₂ 317.1290, found 317.1296.



Ethyl 1-(4-nitrophenyl)-5-phenyl-1*H*-pyrrole-3-carboxylate (3h) Column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: n-hexane / ethyl acetate = 50:1) afforded the title product 3h in 79 % (80 mg) isolated yield as a yellow oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, Me₄Si) δ 1.37 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 4.34 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 6.86 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.01-7.12 (m, 2H), 7.27-7.32 (m, 5H), 7.60 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 8.20-8.22 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃, Me₄Si) δ 14.40, 60.12, 112.37, 118.41, 124.74, 125.72, 127.68, 128.02, 128.52, 128.54, 131.06, 134.86, 144.52, 146.20, 164.19; HRMS (EI) calcd for C₁₉H₁₆N₂O₄ 336.1110, found 336.1106.



Ethyl 5-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-(4-nitrophenyl)-1*H*-pyrrole-3-carboxylate (3i) Column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: n-hexane / ethyl acetate = 50:1) afforded the title product **3i** in 80 % (88 mg) isolated yield as a yellow solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, Me₄Si) δ 1.37 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 4.34 (q, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 6.79 (d, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 2H), 6.82 (s, 1H), 7.03 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 0.8 Hz, 1H), 8.22 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃, Me₄Si) δ 14.30, 55.14, 60.02, 111.65, 114.07, 118.36, 123.63, 124.74, 125.80, 127.52, 130.00, 134.87, 144.75, 146.29, 159.32, 164.37; HRMS (EI) calcd for C₂₀H₁₈N₂O₅ 366.1216, found 366.1219.



Ethyl 5-(naphthalen-1-yl)-1-(4-nitrophenyl)-1*H*-pyrrole-3-carboxylate (3j) Column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: n-hexane / ethyl acetate = 50:1) afforded the title product 3j in 89 % (103 mg) isolated yield as a yellow oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, Me₄Si) δ 1.39 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 4.37 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 6.94 (d, *J* = 2 Hz, 1H), 7.15-7.27 (m, 3H), 7.36-7.47 (m, 3H), 7.75-7.84 (m, 4H), 7.97-8.00 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃, Me₄Si) δ 14.44, 60.18, 114.28, 118.42, 124.53, 124.68, 125.05, 125.23, 126.21, 126.72, 127.03, 128.38, 128.82, 129.07, 129.15, 132.18, 132.57, 133.57, 144.43, 145.88, 164.32; HRMS (EI) calcd for C₂₃H₁₈N₂O₄ 386.1267, found 386.1266.



Ethyl 5-butyl-1-(4-nitrophenyl)-1*H***-pyrrole-3-carboxylate (3k)** Column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: n-hexane / ethyl acetate = 50:1) afforded the

title product **3k** in 65 % (62 mg) isolated yield as a yellow oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, Me₄Si) δ 0.85 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.25-1.33 (m, 2H), 1.35 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.47-1.53 (m, 2H), 2.53 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.30 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 6.54 (m, 1H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 2 Hz, 1H), 7.49-7.51 (m, 2H), 8.36-8.38 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃, Me₄Si) δ 13.44, 14.15, 21.94, 26.15, 30.61, 59.84, 109.39, 117.59, 125.17, 126.33, 126.55, 135.48, 144.99, 147.09, 164.95; HRMS (EI) calcd for C₁₇H₂₀N₂O₄ 316.1423, found 316.1425.



Ethyl 1-(4-nitrophenyl)-5-phenethyl-1*H*-pyrrole-3-carboxylate (3l) Column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: n-hexane / ethyl acetate = 50:1) afforded the title product 3l in 74 % (81 mg) isolated yield as a yellow oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, Me₄Si) δ 1.36 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 2.84 (brs, , 4H), 4.31 (q, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 6.64 (s, 1H), 7.01-7.03 (m, 2H), 7.18-7.26 (m, 3H), 7.31-7.37 (m, 3H), 8.27-8.30 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃, Me₄Si) δ 14.13, 28.40, 35.33, 59.89, 109.71, 117.67, 125.08, 126.45, 126.53, 126.65, 128.51, 128.71, 134.57, 140.81, 144.68, 147.08, 164.89; HRMS (EI) calcd for C₂₁H₂₀N₂O₄ 364.1423, found 364.1421.



Methyl 1-*tert*-butyl-5-phenyl-1*H*-pyrrole-3-carboxylate (3m) Column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: n-hexane / ethyl acetate = 50:1) afforded the title product 3m in 78 % (60 mg) isolated yield as a yellow solid. M.p. 105-106°C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, Me₄Si) δ 1.43 (s, 9H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 6.43 (s, 1H), 7.36-3.38 (m, 5H), 7.56 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃, Me₄Si) δ 31.50,

50.89, 58.23, 112.94, 113.12, 124.54, 127.59, 128.15, 131.90, 135.21, 135.91, 165.65; HRMS (EI) calcd for C₁₆H₁₉NO₂ 257.1416, found 257.1418.



Ethyl 1-(4-nitrophenyl)-5-*p*-tolyl-1*H*-pyrrole-3-carboxylate (3n) Column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: n-hexane / ethyl acetate = 50:1) afforded the title product 3n in 90 % (95 mg) isolated yield as a yellow oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, Me₄Si) δ 1.37 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 4.33 (q, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 6.81-6.83 (m, 1H), 6.98-7.01 (m, 2H), 7.06-7.09 (m, 2H), 7.26-7.32 (m, 2H), 7.58 (s, 1H), 8.19-8.22 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃, Me₄Si) δ 14.44, 21.15, 60.13, 112.00, 118.38, 124.74, 125.75, 127.77, 128.22, 128.50, 129.29, 135.04, 137.69, 144.68, 146.21, 164.30; HRMS (EI) calcd for C₂₀H₁₈N₂O₄ 350.1267, found 350.1263.



(*E*)-Ethyl 2-((cyclohexylamino)methylene)-4-phenylbut-3-ynoate (4) Column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: n-hexane / ethyl acetate = 50:1) afforded the title product **4** in 82 % (73 mg) isolated yield as a yellow oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, Me₄Si) δ 1.18-1.25 (m, 8H), 1.54-1.57 (m, 1H), 1.69-1.75 (m, 2H), 1.89-1.90 (m, 2H), 3.14 (s, br, 1H), 4.14 (q, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 5.38-5.43 (m, 1H), 7.19-7.25 (m, 3H), 7.37-7.39 (m, 2H), 7.76 (d, *J* = 14.8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃, Me₄Si) δ 14.43, 24.47, 24.99, 34.05, 56.54, 59.88, 82.43, 82.94, 96.89, 124.09, 127.47, 128.22, 131.09, 152.26, 167.54; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₉H₂₄NO₂ (M+H⁺) 298.1807, found 298.1803.

































