# HETEROCYCLES, Vol. 106, No. 8, 2023, pp. 1397-1406. © 2023 The Japan Institute of Heterocyclic Chemistry <br> Received, 13th June, 2023, Accepted, 3rd July, 2023, Published online, 5th July, 2023 <br> DOI: 10.3987/COM-23-14876 <br> EFFICIENT ONE-POT, THREE-STEP SYNTHESIS OF 1,2,3,5-TETRASUBSTITUTED PYRROLES VIA AZA-MICHAEL ADDITION OF METHYL 3-IMINOACRYLATES 

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#### Abstract

An efficient one-pot, three-step procedure for the aza-Michael addition of methyl 3-iminoacrylates with secondary amines followed by intramolecular cyclization and silylation successfully afforded novel 1,2,3,5-tetrasubstituted pyrroles in high yields.


Pyrrole is one of the most important heterocycles because of its numerous biological activities and therapeutic potentials. ${ }^{1-3}$ Hence, there are many reports on the synthesis of substituted pyrroles. ${ }^{4-9}$ In particular, a one-pot procedure for the synthesis of substituted pyrroles and their derivatives is a useful and practical method. ${ }^{10-15}$ We recently demonstrated novel synthetic approaches for disubstituted and trisubstituted thiophenes based on the thia-Michael addition of allenyl esters with thiols bearing electrophilic moieties. ${ }^{16,17}$ In continuation of our efforts to synthesize polysubstituted heterocycles, we herein describe a novel one-pot synthesis of 1,2,3,5-tetrasubstituted pyrroles via the aza-Michael addition of methyl 3-iminoacrylates with secondary amines followed by intramolecular cyclization and silylation. We started our investigation with the aza-Michael addition of dibenzylamine to methyl 3-iminoacrylate 3a (Scheme 1). Methyl 3-iminoacrylate 3a was prepared by a Wittig reaction between dimethyl (triphenylphosphoranylidene)succinate (1) ${ }^{18,19}$ and phenyl isocyanate (2a) in $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ at room temperature. The aza-Michael addition of methyl 3-iminoacrylate 3a proceeded rapidly at $0{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ in THF, affording diastereomerically pure, racemic imine 4 . Unfortunately, the $E / Z$ geometry of $\mathbf{4}$ has not been determined. Next, intramolecular cyclization of aza-Michael adduct $\mathbf{4}$ was investigated in the presence of bases (Table 1). Treatment of 4 with 1.5 equiv of sodium hydride in THF at $0{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 5 min resulted in the formation of 1,4,5-trisubstituted 1,3-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-one 5 in only $2 \%$ yield with the recovery of 4 (88\%) (Entry 1). In the case of the reaction using $n$-butyllithium or isopropylmagnesium bromide as a base, the yield of 5 was increased to 17 and $46 \%$ (Entries 2 and 3). Each hexamethyldisilazide was found to be suitable for the intramolecular cyclization of aza-Michael adduct 4 (Entries 4-6), and sodium hexamethyldisilazide (NHMDS) provided 1,4,5-trisubstituted 1,3-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-one 5 in 86\% yield (Entry 5). Finally,
the silylation of 1,4,5-trisubstituted 1,3-dihydro- $2 H$-pyrrol-2-one 5 with 3 equiv of tert-butyldimethylsilyl trifluoromethanesulfonate (TBDMSOTf) and 6 equiv of 2,6-lutidine in THF at $0{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 5 min furnished a novel 1,2,3,5-tetrasubstituted pyrrole 6 in $87 \%$ yield (Scheme 2).


Scheme 1. Synthesis of aza-Michael adduct 4

Table 1. Intramolecular cyclization of aza-Michael adduct 4 in the presence of bases

|  |  | $\xrightarrow[\substack{\text { THF } \\ 0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}, 5 \mathrm{~min}}]{\substack{\text { Base } \\ \text { (1.5 mol eq) }}}$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Entry | Base | Yield of 5 (\%) ${ }^{\text {a }}$ | Recovery of 4 (\%) ${ }^{\text {a) }}$ |
| 1 | NaH | 2 | 88 |
| 2 | $n$-BuLi | 17 | ca. $54{ }^{\text {b) }}$ |
| 3 | $j-\mathrm{PrMgBr}$ | 46 | 50 |
| 4 | LHMDS | 72 | 20 |
| 5 | NHMDS | 86 | 0 |
| 6 | KHMDS | 82 | 0 |

a) Isolated yields.
b) Small amounts of impurities were included.


Scheme 2. Synthesis of 1,2,3,5-tetrasubstituted pyrrole 6 by silylation of 1,4,5-trisubstituted 1,3-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-one 5

In pursuit of our objective of one-pot operation, we investigated the synthesis of 1,2,3,5-tetrasubstituted pyrroles 6-14 via the aza-Michael addition of methyl 3-iminoacrylates $\mathbf{3}$ with secondary amines again (Table 2). Remarkably, the reagents for intramolecular cyclization (NHMDS) and silylation (TBDMSOTf, 2,6-lutidine) were sequentially added to a mixture of methyl 3-iminoacrylate 3a and dibenzylamine at $0{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 5 min intervals. The resulting mixture was stirred for an additional 5 min , resulting in the formation of 1,2,3,5-tetrasubstituted pyrrole $\mathbf{6}$ in a yield of $80 \%$ (Entry 1). The one-pot reaction of methyl 3-iminoacrylates $\mathbf{3 b} \mathbf{- d}$ and dibenzylamine was also found to afford 1,2,3,5-tetrasubstituted pyrroles 7-9 in $81-90 \%$ yields (Entries $2-4$ ). In the reaction of $\mathbf{3 b}, \mathbf{d}$ bearing either the $4-\mathrm{MeOC}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{4}$ group or the Bn group, aza-Michael addition required a higher reaction temperature and/or a longer reaction time, probably due to the reduced electrophilicity of methyl 3-iminoacrylates $\mathbf{3 b}$ and $\mathbf{3 d}$ (Entries 2 and 4). Methyl 3-iminoacrylates $\mathbf{3 b}-\mathbf{d}$ were synthesized in $35-80 \%$ yields by reacting phosphonium ylide $\mathbf{1}$ with the corresponding isocyanates $\mathbf{2 b} \mathbf{b} \mathbf{d}$.

Table 2. One-pot, three-step synthesis of 1,2,3,5-tetrasubstituted pyrroles 6-14

a) Isolated yields.
b) Reaction conditions of aza-Michael addition: THF, $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}, 30 \mathrm{~min}$.
c) Reaction conditions of aza-Michael addition: THF, rt, 3 h .

The reaction of methyl 3-iminoacrylate 3a with dimethylamine, diethylamine, and benzylmethylamine provided 1,2,3,5-tetrasubstituted pyrroles 10-12 in $89 \%$ yield (Entries 5-7). In addition, 1,2,3,5-tetrasubstituted pyrroles $\mathbf{1 3}$ and $\mathbf{1 4}$ were also obtained in $66 \%$ and $82 \%$ yields, respectively, from the one-pot reaction of methyl 3-iminoacrylate $\mathbf{3 a}$ with cyclic secondary amines such as pyrrolidine and piperidine (Entries 8 and 9). The structures of novel 1,2,3,5-tetrasubstituted pyrroles $\mathbf{6 - 1 4}$ were confirmed by spectroscopic methods including ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ and ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR, IR, and HRMS.

Scheme 3 illustrates a reaction pathway for the synthesis of 1,2,3,5-tetrasubstituted pyrrole 6, including both stepwise and one-pot approaches. Aza-Michael addition of dibenzylamine to methyl 3-iminoacrylate 3a resulted in the formation of aza-Michael adduct 4. Subsequently, intramolecular cyclization of $\mathbf{4}$ promoted by NHMDS afforded 1,4,5-trisubstituted 1,3-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-one 5. Finally, the enolizable carbonyl oxygen of $\mathbf{5}$ was silylated with TBDMSOTf mediated by 2,6-lutidine, resulting in the formation of $1,2,3,5$-tetrasubstituted pyrrole 6. The reaction pathway can also account for the formation of 1,2,3,5-tetrasubstituted pyrroles $\mathbf{7 - 1 4}$ through a reaction similar to that of methyl 3-iminoacrylate $\mathbf{3}$ with secondary amines.

methyl 3-iminoacrylate 3a


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Scheme 3. Reaction pathway for the formation of 1,2,3,5-tetrasubstituted pyrrole 6

In conclusion, we have succeeded in developing an efficient one-pot, three-step synthesis of novel 1,2,3,5-tetrasubstituted pyrroles 6-14 via the aza-Michael addition of methyl 3-iminoacrylates $\mathbf{3}$ with secondary amines followed by intramolecular cyclization and silylation. This method will be valuable for the rapid and practical synthesis of functionalized tetrasubstituted pyrroles.

## EXPERIMENTAL

All melting points were determined using a Yanagimoto micro melting point apparatus and are uncorrected. IR spectra were obtained with a JASCO FT/IR-6200 IR Fourier transform spectrometer. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( 500 MHz ) and ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( 125 MHz ) spectra were recorded with a JEOL JNM-ECZL500R. Chemical shifts are given in $\delta$ values ( ppm ) using TMS as an internal standard. HRMS (ESI) data were recorded with a Waters LCT Premier spectrometer. Elemental combustion analyses were performed with a J-SCIENCE LAB JM10. All reactions were monitored by TLC employing 0.25 mm silica gel plates (Merck 5715; $60 \mathrm{~F}_{254}$ ). Column chromatography was carried out on silica gel [Silica Gel PSQ 60B (Fuji Silysia Chemical)]. Anhydrous $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ and THF were used as purchased from Kanto Chemical. All other reagents were used as purchased.

## Dimethyl 2-[(Phenylimino)methylene]succinate (3a)

To a solution of dimethyl 2-(triphenylphosphoranylidene)succinate (1) ${ }^{18,19}$ ( $1.22 \mathrm{~g}, 3.00 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) in anhydrous $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}(5 \mathrm{~mL})$ was added phenyl isocyanate (2a) ( $390 \mu \mathrm{~L}, 3.60 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) at room temperature under argon. After stirring for 2 h , the reaction mixture was purified by column chromatography [Silica Gel PSQ 60B: $n$-hexane-AcOEt (5:1)] to afford 3a ( $556 \mathrm{mg}, 75 \%$ ).
Pale yellow oil; ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 3.32(\mathrm{~s}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 3.72(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 3.75(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 7.33-7.45(\mathrm{~m}, 5 \mathrm{H})$; ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}^{\mathrm{NMR}}\left(125 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right.$ ) $\delta 30.4,52.0,52.2,60.1,124.9,128.8,129.7,137.1,169.1,171.3,179.7$; IR (neat) 2952, 2044, 1741, 1704, 1592, 1490, 1437, 1279, 1200, 1176, 1154, $1108 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$; HRMS (ESI): m/z $[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{Na}]^{+}$calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{13} \mathrm{H}_{13} \mathrm{NO}_{4} \mathrm{Na}$ : 270.0742 ; found: 270.0751.

## Dimethyl 2-\{[(4-Methoxyphenyl)imino]methylene\}succinate (3b)

White powder (Et $\mathrm{O}_{2}-n$-hexane); mp $46-47{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C} ;{ }^{1} \mathrm{H} \operatorname{NMR}\left(500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta 3.30(\mathrm{~s}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 3.72(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H})$, $3.73(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 3.83(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 6.90-6.94(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.33-7.38(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}) ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $125 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 30.6$, $52.0,52.3,55.6,59.8,114.8,126.7,129.2,160.0,169.5,171.6,178.0$; IR (KBr) 2952, 2845, 2043, 1732, 1688, 1583, 1509, 1442, 1290, 1248, 1215, 1178, 1113, $1020 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1} ;$ HRMS (ESI): $m / z[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{Na}]^{+}$calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{14} \mathrm{H}_{15} \mathrm{NO}_{5} \mathrm{Na}: 300.0848$; found: 300.0843. Anal. Calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{14} \mathrm{H}_{15} \mathrm{NO}_{5}$ : C, 60.64; H, 5.45; N, 5.05. Found: C, 60.64; H, 5.55; N, 5.15\%.

## Dimethyl 2-\{[(4-Fluorophenyl)imino]methylene\}succinate (3c)

Colorless oil; ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 3.32(\mathrm{~s}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 3.73(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 3.75(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 7.08-7.14(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H})$, $7.38-7.43(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}) ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C} \operatorname{NMR}\left(125 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta 30.4,52.2,52.4,60.5,116.7\left(\mathrm{~d},{ }^{2} J_{\mathrm{C}, \mathrm{F}}=23.0 \mathrm{~Hz}\right)$, $126.9\left(\mathrm{~d},{ }^{3} J_{\mathrm{C}, \mathrm{F}}=8.8 \mathrm{~Hz}\right), 133.1\left(\mathrm{~d},{ }^{4} J_{\mathrm{C}, \mathrm{F}}=3.2 \mathrm{~Hz}\right), 162.5\left(\mathrm{~d},{ }^{1} J_{\mathrm{C}, \mathrm{F}}=249.5 \mathrm{~Hz}\right), 169.1,171.4,180.2(\mathrm{~d}$,
${ }^{6} J_{\mathrm{C}, \mathrm{F}}=1.7 \mathrm{~Hz}$ ); IR (neat) 2954, 2040, 1741, 1703, 1597, 1505, 1438, 1280, 1227, 1177, 1158, $1107 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$; HRMS (ESI): $m / z[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{Na}]^{+}$calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{13} \mathrm{H}_{12} \mathrm{FNO}_{4} \mathrm{Na}$ : 288.0648; found: 288.0639.

## Dimethyl 2-[(Benzylimino)methylene]succinate (3d)

Colorless oil; ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 3.14$ (s, 2H), 3.68 (s, 3H), $3.70(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 4.85(\mathrm{~s}, 2 \mathrm{H})$, $7.31-7.40(\mathrm{~m}, 5 \mathrm{H}) ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $125 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 30.1,51.8,52.1,54.9,58.2,127.8,128.1,128.7,135.6$, 169.9, 171.5, 176.4; IR (neat) 2952, 2060, 1741, 1699, 1438, 1281, 1197, 1173, $1118 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1} ;$ HRMS (ESI): $m / z[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{Na}]^{+}$calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{14} \mathrm{H}_{15} \mathrm{NO}_{4} \mathrm{Na}$ : 284.0899; found: 284.0884.

## Dimethyl 2-( $N, N$-Dibenzyl- $N$ '-phenylcarbamimidoyl)succinate (4)

To a solution of $\mathbf{3 a}(41.9 \mathrm{mg}, 0.170 \mathrm{mmol})$ in anhydrous THF ( 1.3 mL ) was added dibenzylamine ( 35.7 $\mu \mathrm{L}, 0.186 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) at $0{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ under argon. After stirring for 5 min , the reaction mixture was treated with $1 / 15$ $\mathrm{mol} / \mathrm{L}$ phosphate buffer ( $\mathrm{pH} 7.0,10 \mathrm{~mL}$ ) and then extracted with $\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}(20 \mathrm{~mL} \times 3)$. The extract was dried over anhydrous $\mathrm{MgSO}_{4}$, filtered, and concentrated in vacuo. The oily residue was purified by column chromatography [Silica Gel PSQ 60B: $n$-hexane-AcOEt (5:1)] to afford 4 ( $71.9 \mathrm{mg}, 96 \%$ ).

Colorless amorphous solid; ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 2.52$ (dd, $J=4.5,16.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}$ ), 3.02 (dd, $J=$ $9.2,16.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 3.50(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 3.58(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 4.49-4.55(\mathrm{~m}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 4.60(\mathrm{~d}, J=16.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 6.74-6.78(\mathrm{~m}$, 2H), 6.97-7.01 (m, 1H), 7.22-7.26 (m, 5H), 7.27-7.30 (m, 3H), 7.33-7.37 (m, 4H); ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( 125 MHz , $\left.\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta 33.9,41.2,50.3,52.0,52.5,121.7,122.3,127.2,127.4,128.5,128.9,137.6,149.9,154.4,170.8 ;$ IR ( KBr ) 2952, 1737, 1613, 1592, 1437, 1222, $1170 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$; HRMS (ESI): $m / z[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{2} \mathrm{H}_{29} \mathrm{~N}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{4}$ : 445.2127; found: 445.2119.

## Methyl 2-(Dibenzylamino)-5-oxo-1-phenyl-4,5-dihydro-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylate (5)

To a solution of $4(65.2 \mathrm{mg}, 0.147 \mathrm{mmol})$ in anhydrous THF $(1.1 \mathrm{~mL})$ was added NHMDS $(1 \mathrm{~mol} / \mathrm{L}$ in THF, $220 \mu \mathrm{~L}, 0.220 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) at $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ under argon. After stirring for 5 min , the reaction mixture was treated with $1 / 15 \mathrm{~mol} / \mathrm{L}$ phosphate buffer $(\mathrm{pH} 7.0,40 \mathrm{~mL})$ and then extracted with $\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}(25 \mathrm{~mL} x \mathrm{3})$. The extract was dried over anhydrous $\mathrm{MgSO}_{4}$, filtered, and concentrated in vacuo. The oily residue was purified by column chromatography [Silica Gel PSQ 60B: $n$-hexane-AcOEt (5:1)] to afford 5 ( 51.8 mg , 86\%).

Colorless amorphous solid; ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 3.56(\mathrm{~s}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 3.76(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 4.06(\mathrm{~s}, 4 \mathrm{H})$, 6.99-7.03 (m, 2H), 7.12-7.15 (m, 4H), 7.28-7.35 (m, 9H); $\left.{ }^{13} \mathrm{C} \mathrm{NMR} \mathrm{(125} \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta 37.4,51.0$, 54.9, 87.9, 127.7, 128.3, 128.5, 128.63, 128.65, 129.3, 135.1, 136.6, 158.5, 163.6, 174.9; IR (KBr) 2947, 1740, 1687, 1578, 1224, $1096 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$; HRMS (ESI): $m / z[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{Na}]^{+}$calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{26} \mathrm{H}_{24} \mathrm{~N}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3} \mathrm{Na}: 435.1685$; found: 435.1673.

## Methyl 5-[(tert-Butyldimethylsilyl)oxy]-2-(dibenzylamino)-1-phenyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylate (6)

To a solution of $5(35.8 \mathrm{mg}, 0.0868 \mathrm{mmol})$ in anhydrous THF $(1 \mathrm{~mL})$ were added TBDMSOTf ( $59.8 \mu \mathrm{~L}$, 0.260 mmol ) and 2,6-lutidine ( $60.6 \mu \mathrm{~L}, 0.521 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) at $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ under argon. After stirring for 5 min , the reaction mixture was treated with $1 / 15 \mathrm{~mol} / \mathrm{L}$ phosphate buffer $(\mathrm{pH} 7.0,20 \mathrm{~mL})$ and then extracted with $\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}$ (20 mL x 3). The extract was dried over anhydrous $\mathrm{MgSO}_{4}$, filtered, and concentrated in vacuo. The oily residue was purified by column chromatography [Silica Gel PSQ 60B: $n$-hexane-AcOEt (30:1)] to afford 6 ( $39.9 \mathrm{mg}, 87 \%$ ).
Pale yellow oil; ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta-0.02(\mathrm{~s}, 6 \mathrm{H}), 0.63(\mathrm{~s}, 9 \mathrm{H}), 3.90(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 4.16$ (brs, 4 H ), $5.63(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 6.40-6.45(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 6.87-6.92(\mathrm{~m}, 4 \mathrm{H}), 7.14-7.23(\mathrm{~m}, 8 \mathrm{H}), 7.29-7.34(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}) ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR $\left(125 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta-5.1,17.6,25.1,51.0,56.9,88.3,106.8,126.8,127.6,127.9,129.2,129.4,135.3$, 138.0, 138.8, 139.1, 165.2; IR (neat) 2950, 2930, 2858, 1704, 1578, 1532, 1439, 1319, 1305, 1254, 1223, 1098, $1051 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$; HRMS (ESI): $m / z[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{Na}]^{+}$calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{32} \mathrm{H}_{38} \mathrm{~N}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3} \mathrm{SiNa}: 549.2549$; found: 549.2539. Anal. Calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{32} \mathrm{H}_{38} \mathrm{~N}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3} \mathrm{Si}$ : C, 72.97 ; H, 7.27; N, 5.32. Found: C, 72.77; H, 7.48; N, 5.22\%.

## Typical procedure for the one-pot, three-step synthesis of 1,2,3,5-tetrasubstituted pyrroles 6-14

To a solution of $\mathbf{3 a}(59.7 \mathrm{mg}, 0.242 \mathrm{mmol})$ in anhydrous THF $(1.8 \mathrm{~mL})$ was added dibenzylamine ( 50.9 $\mu \mathrm{L}, 0.266 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) at $0{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ under argon. After stirring for 5 min , NHMDS ( $1 \mathrm{~mol} / \mathrm{L}$ in THF, $362 \mu \mathrm{~L}, 0.362$ mmol ) was added, followed by an additional 5 min of stirring, TBDMSOTf ( $167 \mu \mathrm{~L}, 0.724 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) and 2,6-lutidine ( $169 \mu \mathrm{~L}, 1.45 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) were then added. After stirring for 5 min , the reaction mixture was treated with $1 / 15 \mathrm{~mol} / \mathrm{L}$ phosphate buffer ( $\mathrm{pH} 7.0,10 \mathrm{~mL}$ ) and then extracted with $\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}(20 \mathrm{~mL} \mathrm{x} 3)$. The extract was dried over anhydrous $\mathrm{MgSO}_{4}$, filtered, and concentrated in vacuo. The oily residue was purified by column chromatography [Silica Gel PSQ 60B: $n$-hexane-AcOEt (30:1)] to afford $\mathbf{6}$ (102 mg, $80 \%$ ).

## Methyl 5-[(tert-Butyldimethylsilyl)oxy]-2-(dibenzylamino)-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1H-pyrrole-3-

 carboxylate (7)Pale yellow oil; ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta-0.02(\mathrm{~s}, 6 \mathrm{H}), 0.65(\mathrm{~s}, 9 \mathrm{H}), 3.84(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 3.90(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 4.15$ (brs, 4H), $5.61(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 6.29-6.33(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 6.70-6.74(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 6.90-6.94(\mathrm{~m}, 4 \mathrm{H}), 7.15-7.20(\mathrm{~m}, 6 \mathrm{H}) ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR (125 MHz, $\left.\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta-5.1,17.7,25.2,51.0,55.6,56.9,88.2,106.6,113.1,126.8,127.9,128.3$, $129.4,130.1,138.2,139.0,139.2,159.0,165.2$; IR (neat) 2952, 2931, 2858, 1703, 1578, 1532, 1515, 1441, 1384, 1316, 1298, 1222, 1098, $1052 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$; HRMS (ESI): $m / z[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{Na}]^{+}$calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{33} \mathrm{H}_{40} \mathrm{~N}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{4} \mathrm{SiNa}$ : 579.2655; found: 579.2696.

## Methyl 5-[(tert-Butyldimethylsilyl)oxy]-2-(dibenzylamino)-1-(4-fluorophenyl)-1H-pyrrole-3carboxylate (8)

Colorless plates ( $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}-n$-hexane); mp 131-132 ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C} ;{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta-0.01$ ( $\mathrm{s}, 6 \mathrm{H}$ ), 0.64 (s, 9H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 4.17 (brs, 4H), 5.63 (s, 1H), 6.26-6.32 (m, 2H), 6.84-6.94 (m, 6H), 7.15-7.22 (m, 6H); ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $125 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta-5.1,17.6,25.1,51.0,57.1,88.4,107.1,114.7\left(\mathrm{~d},{ }^{2} J_{\mathrm{C}, \mathrm{F}}=22.6 \mathrm{~Hz}\right.$ ), 126.9 , $128.0,129.3,130.8\left(\mathrm{~d},{ }^{3} J_{\mathrm{C}, \mathrm{F}}=8.7 \mathrm{~Hz}\right), 131.3\left(\mathrm{~d},{ }^{4} J_{\mathrm{C}, \mathrm{F}}=3.3 \mathrm{~Hz}\right), 138.0,138.8,139.0,161.9\left(\mathrm{~d},{ }^{1} J_{\mathrm{C}, \mathrm{F}}=\right.$ 246.9 Hz ), 165.2; IR (KBr) 2957, 2930, 2856, 1702, 1578, 1535, 1514, 1457, 1441, 1386, 1316, 1236, 1217, 1149, 1103, $1049 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$; HRMS (ESI): $m / z[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{Na}]^{+}$calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{32} \mathrm{H}_{37} \mathrm{FN}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3}$ SiNa: 567.2455; found: 567.2490. Anal. Calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{32} \mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{FN}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3}$ Si: C, 70.56 ; H, 6.85; N, 5.14. Found: C, 70.43; H, 6.93; N, 5.17\%.

## Methyl 1-Benzyl-5-[(tert-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy]-2-(dibenzylamino)-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylate (9)

 White powder ( $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}-n$-hexane); mp $91-92{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C} ;{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 0.05(\mathrm{~s}, 6 \mathrm{H}), 0.72(\mathrm{~s}, 9 \mathrm{H})$, $3.87(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 4.16(\mathrm{brd}, 4 \mathrm{H}), 4.53(\mathrm{~s}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 5.57(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 6.73-6.77(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.00-7.05(\mathrm{~m}, 4 \mathrm{H}), 7.08-7.13$ $(\mathrm{m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.14-7.20(\mathrm{~m}, 8 \mathrm{H}) ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $125 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta-5.0,17.8,25.4,43.5,50.9,57.4,87.5,106.3$, $125.5,126.5,126.9,128.0,128.3,129.5,138.0,138.1,138.4,139.1,165.2$; IR (KBr) 2929, 2859, 1704, 1578, 1528, 1461, 1443, 1388, 1258, 1233, 1216, 1175, 1093, 1074, $1028 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$; HRMS (ESI): $m / z[M+$ $\mathrm{Na}]^{+}$calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{33} \mathrm{H}_{40} \mathrm{~N}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3} \mathrm{SiNa}$ : 563.2706 ; found: 563.2654. Anal. Calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{33} \mathrm{H}_{40} \mathrm{~N}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3} \mathrm{Si}$ : C, 73.29; H , 7.46; N, 5.18. Found: C, 73.13; H, 7.46; N, 5.21\%.
## Methyl 5-[(tert-Butyldimethylsilyl)oxy]-2-(dimethylamino)-1-phenyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylate (10)

 Colorless plates $\left(\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}-n\right.$-hexane); mp $84-85{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C} ;{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 0.06(\mathrm{~s}, 6 \mathrm{H}), 0.72$ (s, $9 \mathrm{H}), 2.65(\mathrm{~s}, 6 \mathrm{H}), 3.81(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 5.53(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.19-7.22(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.32-7.37(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.39-7.43(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H})$; ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $125 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta-5.1,17.7,25.2,42.7,50.8,87.2,103.5,127.4,128.2,128.3,135.9,137.8$, 141.2, 164.9; IR (KBr) 2947, 2859, 1710, 1578, 1545, 1444, 1325, 1227, 1207, $1079 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$; HRMS (ESI): $m / z[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{Na}]^{+}$calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{20} \mathrm{H}_{30} \mathrm{~N}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3} \mathrm{SiNa}$ : 397.1923; found: 397.1939. Anal. Calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{20} \mathrm{H}_{30} \mathrm{~N}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3} \mathrm{Si}: \mathrm{C}$, 64.13; H, 8.07; N, 7.48. Found: C, 63.98; H, 8.01; N, 7.42\%.
## Methyl 5-[(tert-Butyldimethylsilyl)oxy]-2-(diethylamino)-1-phenyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylate (11)

Colorless plates ( $t$-BuOMe- $n$-hexane); mp $47-49{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C} ;{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 0.06(\mathrm{~s}, 6 \mathrm{H}), 0.71$ (s, $9 \mathrm{H}), 0.83(\mathrm{t}, J=7.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 6 \mathrm{H}), 2.99(\mathrm{q}, ~ J=7.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 4 \mathrm{H}), 3.79(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 5.59(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.18-7.21(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H})$, $7.31-7.35(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.37-7.42(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}) ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $125 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta-5.0,13.7,17.7,25.2,47.2,50.7$, 87.7, 105.4, 127.4, 128.1, 129.0, 135.9, 138.0, 139.4, 164.9; IR (KBr) 2969, 2933, 2862, 1711, 1538,

1223, 1187, $1091 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$; HRMS (ESI): $m / z[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{Na}]^{+}$calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{22} \mathrm{H}_{34} \mathrm{~N}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3} \mathrm{SiNa}: 425.2236$; found: 425.2197. Anal. Calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{22} \mathrm{H}_{34} \mathrm{~N}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3} \mathrm{Si}: \mathrm{C}, 65.63 ; \mathrm{H}, 8.51 ; \mathrm{N}, 6.96$. Found: C, $65.42 ; \mathrm{H}, 8.52 ; \mathrm{N}, 7.00 \%$.

## Methyl 2-[Benzyl(methyl)amino]-5-[(tert-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy]-1-phenyl-1H-pyrrole-3carboxylate (12)

Pale yellow oil; ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 0.06$ (s, 6H), 0.71 ( $\mathrm{s}, 9 \mathrm{H}$ ), $2.64(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 3.85(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 4.07$ $(\mathrm{s}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 5.58(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 6.78-6.81(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.08-7.13(\mathrm{~m}, 5 \mathrm{H}), 7.38-7.42(\mathrm{~m}, 3 \mathrm{H}) ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( 125 MHz , $\left.\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta-5.0,17.7,25.2,40.2,50.9,59.4,87.6,105.3,126.6,127.6,127.9,128.3,128.5,128.8,135.8$, 137.9, 139.1, 140.6, 165.0; IR (neat) 2949, 2930, 2887, 1707, 1578, 1543, 1440, 1254, 1226, $1074 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$; HRMS (ESI): $m / z[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{Na}]^{+}$calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{26} \mathrm{H}_{34} \mathrm{~N}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3} \mathrm{SiNa}: 473.2236$; found: 473.2267 .

## Methyl 5-[(tert-Butyldimethylsilyl)oxy]-1-phenyl-2-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylate (13)

Colorless plates ( $t$-BuOMe- $n$-hexane); mp $60-61{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C} ;{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 0.06(\mathrm{~s}, 6 \mathrm{H}), 0.74$ (s, $9 \mathrm{H}), 1.73-1.77(\mathrm{~m}, 4 \mathrm{H}), 3.05-3.09(\mathrm{~m}, 4 \mathrm{H}), 3.79(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 5.55(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.20-7.22(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.30-7.35(\mathrm{~m}$, $1 \mathrm{H}), 7.37-7.41(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}) ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $125 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta-5.0,17.8,25.3,26.1,50.7,51.4,87.2,103.1$, 127.3, 128.0, 128.2, 136.0, 138.0, 138.7, 164.8; IR (KBr) 2932, 2858, 1704, 1577, 1536, 1438, 1416, 1323, 1252, 1225, $1094 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$; HRMS (ESI): $m / z[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{Na}]^{+}$calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{22} \mathrm{H}_{32} \mathrm{~N}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3} \mathrm{SiNa}$ : 423.2080; found: 423.2065 .

## Methyl 5-[(tert-Butyldimethylsilyl)oxy]-1-phenyl-2-(piperidin-1-yl)-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylate (14)

 Colorless plates (Et $2 \mathrm{O}-n$-hexane); mp $68-69{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C} ;{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 0.06(\mathrm{~s}, 6 \mathrm{H}), 0.72(\mathrm{~s}, 9 \mathrm{H})$, $1.24-1.30(\mathrm{~m}, 4 \mathrm{H}), 1.34-1.41(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 2.94-2.99(\mathrm{~m}, 4 \mathrm{H}), 3.80(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 5.52(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.18-7.21(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H})$, 7.32-7.36 (m, 1H), 7.38-7.42 (m, 2H); ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $125 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta-5.0,17.7,24.0,25.2,26.1,50.7$, 51.0, 87.1, 103.6, 127.3, 128.1, 128.6, 135.8, 137.9, 141.0, 165.0; IR (KBr) 2936, 2857, 1709, 1533, 1439, 1328, 1219, $1094 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$; HRMS (ESI): $m / z[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{Na}]^{+}$calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{23} \mathrm{H}_{34} \mathrm{~N}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3} \mathrm{SiNa}: 437.2236$; found: 437.2194.
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