

Assembly of Isoquinolines via CuI-catalyzed Coupling of β -Keto Esters and 2-Halobenzylamines

Bao Wang¹, Biao Lu², Yongwen Jiang², Yihua Zhang¹, and Dawei Ma^{2*}

¹*Center of Drug Discovery, China Pharmaceutical University, Nanjing 210009, China,*

²*State Key Laboratory of Bioorganic and Natural Products Chemistry, Shanghai Institute of Organic Chemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences, 354 Fenglin Lu, Shanghai 200032, China*

Supporting information

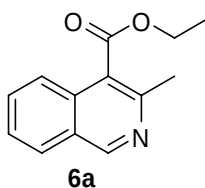
Table of contents

Experimental	S2
Copies of ¹ H NMR and ¹³ C NMR spectrum of 6a-6q	S10
Copies of ¹ H NMR ¹³ C NMR spectrum of 7 and 8	S44

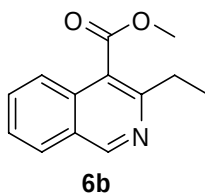
Experimental Section

General methods. ^1H NMR or ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded on Varian EM360A, EM-390, Bruker AMX-300. Proton chemical shifts were given in relative to tetramethylsilane (δ 0.00 ppm) in CDCl_3 . Carbon chemical shifts were internally referenced to the deuterated solvent signals in CDCl_3 (δ 77.00 ppm). Mass spectra were recorded on a Shimadzu LCMS-2010EV mass spectrometer (ESI). High resolution mass spectra were recorded on IonSpec 4.7 Tesla FTMS mass spectrometer (ESI) or Waters Micromass GCT mass spectrometer (EI).

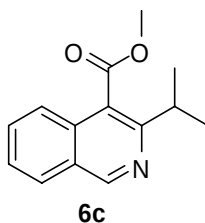
General Procedure for synthesis of isoquinolines. An oven-dried Schlenk tube was charged with CuI (10 mg, 0.05 mmol), and potassium carbonate (207 mg, 1.5 mmol), and 2-bromobenzylamine (0.5 mmol). The tube was evacuated and backfilled with argon (3 times), and then 2-bromobenzylamine, ethyl acetoacetate (130 μL , 1 mmol) and *i*-PrOH (1.5 mL) were added. The reaction mixture was stirred at 90 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 24-28 h. The cooled mixture was stirred at room temperature under the air atmosphere for 12-24 h before it was partitioned between ethyl acetate (40 mL) and saturated brine (10 mL). The organic layer was dried over Na_2SO_4 , and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by silica gel chromatography to give the desired product.



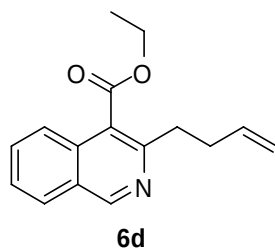
Ethyl 3-methylisoquinoline-4-carboxylate (6a). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 9.22 (s, 1H), 7.97 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 4.57 (q, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.75 (s, 3H), 1.48 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 168.6, 153.3, 149.5, 133.2, 131.4, 127.9, 126.8, 126.5, 123.6, 123.2, 61.7, 23.0, 14.3; ESI-MS m/z 216.0 ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$; HRMS (EI) calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{13}\text{NO}_2$ 215.0948 (M) $^+$, found 215.0946.



Methyl 3-ethylisoquinoline-4-carboxylate (6b). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 9.26 (s, 1H), 7.96 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.82 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.72 (t, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.58 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 4.06 (s, 3H), 2.97 (q, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 1.39 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 169.1, 154.6, 153.7, 133.2, 131.3, 127.9, 126.9, 126.5, 123.8, 122.5, 52.5, 29.9, 14.4; ESI-MS m/z 216.0 ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{14}\text{NO}_2$ 216.1028 ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$, found 216.1019.

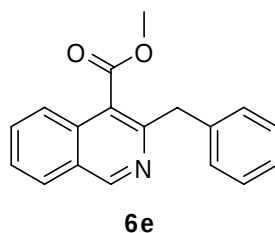


Methyl 3-isopropylisoquinoline-4-carboxylate (6c). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 9.29 (s, 1H), 7.96 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.74-7.58 (m, 3H), 4.06 (s, 3H), 3.26-3.18 (m, 1H), 1.38 (d, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 169.4, 157.4, 153.7, 133.0, 131.2, 127.8, 126.8, 126.5, 123.8, 122.1, 52.5, 33.8, 22.4 (2C); ESI-MS m/z 230.1 ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}_2$ 230.1184 ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$, found 230.1176.

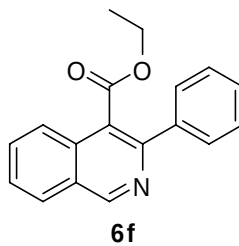


Ethyl 3-(but-3-enyl)isoquinoline-4-carboxylate (6d). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 9.25 (s, 1H), 7.97 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.86 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.72 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.59 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 5.98-5.84 (m, 1H), 5.11-4.97 (m, 2H), 4.55 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 3.05 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 2.63-2.56 (m, 2H), 1.47 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 168.5, 153.5, 152.4, 137.9, 133.2, 131.3, 127.9, 126.9, 126.5, 123.8, 123.3, 115.0, 61.7, 35.9, 34.1, 14.3; ESI-MS m/z 256.1 ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$;

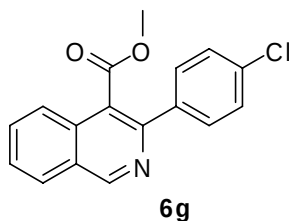
HRMS (ESI) calcd for $C_{16}H_{18}NO_2$ 256.1339 ($M + H$)⁺, found 256.1332.



Methyl 3-benzylisoquinoline-4-carboxylate (6e). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.25 (s, 1H), 7.96 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.86 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.73 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.29-7.18 (m, 5H), 4.37 (s, 2H), 3.99 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.9, 153.9, 151.8, 139.5, 133.3, 131.4, 129.1 (2C), 128.4 (2C), 127.9, 127.2, 126.6, 126.3, 124.0, 123.5, 52.5, 42.4; ESI-MS *m/z* 278.1 ($M + H$)⁺; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $C_{18}H_{16}NO_2$ 278.1182 ($M + H$)⁺, found 278.1176.

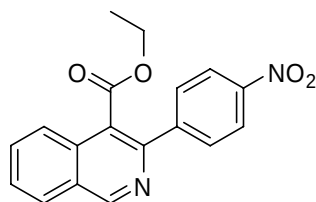


Ethyl 3-phenylisoquinoline-4-carboxylate (6f). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.38 (s, 1H), 8.05 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.81-7.63 (m, 3H), 7.49-7.42 (m, 3H), 4.25 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.05 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.7, 153.5, 151.1, 140.3, 133.4, 131.7, 128.8 (2C), 128.5, 128.4 (2C), 127.9, 127.6, 126.9, 124.2, 123.4, 61.7, 13.7; ESI-MS *m/z* 278.0 ($M + H$)⁺; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $C_{18}H_{16}NO_2$ 278.1182 ($M + H$)⁺, found 278.1176.



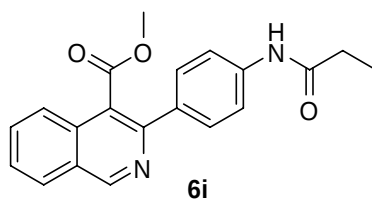
Methyl 3-(4-chlorophenyl)isoquinoline-4-carboxylate (6g). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.37 (s, 1H), 8.07 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.01 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 7.71-7.65 (m, 3H), 7.46 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.0, 153.6, 149.5, 138.5, 134.9, 133.4, 131.9, 130.1 (2C), 128.7 (2C), 128.0, 127.9, 126.9, 124.2, 123.2, 52.7; IR (CH₂Cl₂): ν 2947, 1727, 1618,

1577, 1498, 1221, 1092, 1026, 1011, 843, 798, 759 cm^{-1} ; ESI-MS m/z 298.0 ($\text{M} + \text{H}$)⁺; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{13}\text{NO}_2\text{Cl}$ 298.0635 ($\text{M} + \text{H}$)⁺, found 298.0629.



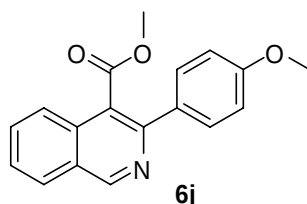
6h

Ethyl 3-(4-nitrophenyl)isoquinoline-4-carboxylate (6h). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 9.40 (s, 1H), 8.35 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H), 8.09 (t, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.92-7.74 (m, 4H), 4.30 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 1.12 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 167.9, 153.7, 148.3, 147.8, 146.5, 133.1, 132.1, 129.8 (2C), 128.4, 128.0, 127.3, 124.3, 124.2, 123.4 (2C), 62.0, 13.7; IR (CH_2Cl_2): ν 2987, 1718, 1604, 1517, 1497, 1348, 1230, 1033, 862, 850, 763, 706 cm^{-1} ; ESI-MS m/z 323.1 ($\text{M} + \text{H}$)⁺; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4$ 323.1034 ($\text{M} + \text{H}$)⁺, found 323.1026.



6i

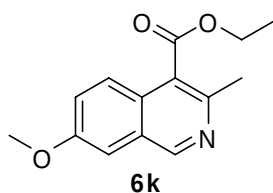
Methyl 3-(4-propionamidophenyl)isoquinoline-4-carboxylate (6i). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 9.36 (s, 1H), 8.04 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 8.00 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.79 (t, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.73-7.64 (m, 4H), 7.30 (s, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 2.43 (q, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 2H), 1.27 (t, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 172.1, 169.4, 153.5, 150.1, 138.7, 135.5, 133.5, 131.7, 129.4 (3C), 127.9, 127.6, 126.7, 124.1, 122.8, 119.4, 52.6, 30.7, 9.6; IR (CH_2Cl_2): ν 3295, 3253, 2976, 1732, 1661, 1597, 1570, 1525, 1421, 1223, 1078, 1032, 842, 762 cm^{-1} ; ESI-MS m/z 335.2 ($\text{M} + \text{H}$)⁺; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$ 335.1397 ($\text{M} + \text{H}$)⁺, found 335.1390.



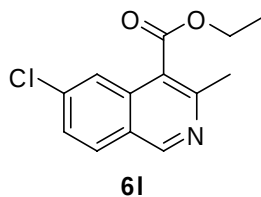
6j

Methyl 3-(4-methoxyphenyl)isoquinoline-4-carboxylate (6j). ^1H NMR (300

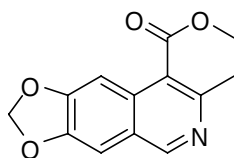
MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.35 (s, 1H), 8.02 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.97 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.77-7.63 (m, 3H), 7.01 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.81 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.5, 160.1, 153.4, 150.4, 133.5, 132.6, 131.6, 130.0 (2C), 127.9, 127.3, 126.5, 124.0, 122.3, 114.0 (2C), 55.3, 52.5; IR (CH₂Cl₂): ν 3014, 2950, 2844, 1712, 1609, 1515, 1436, 1299, 1259, 1228, 1177, 1033, 840, 801, 752 cm⁻¹; ESI-MS m/z 294.1 (M + H)⁺; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₈H₁₆NO₃ 294.1120 (M + H)⁺, found 294.1125.



Ethyl 7-methoxy-3-methylisoquinoline-4-carboxylate (6k). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.12 (s, 1H), 7.81 (d, J = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (dd, J = 2.7, 9.3 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (d, J = 2.7 Hz, 1H), 4.54 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.95 (s, 3H), 2.72 (s, 3H), 1.47 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.6, 158.0, 151.8, 147.5, 128.8, 127.8, 125.3, 124.5, 123.1, 105.0, 61.6, 55.5, 22.7, 14.3; IR (CH₂Cl₂): ν 2985, 2935, 2922, 2836, 1722, 1625, 1579, 1500, 1255, 1222, 1167, 1129, 1019, 925, 823 cm⁻¹; ESI-MS m/z 246.0 (M + H)⁺; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₄H₁₆NO₃ 246.1127 (M + H)⁺, found 246.1125.

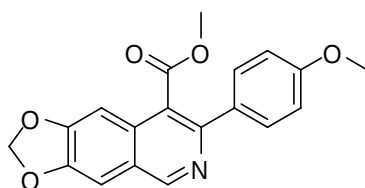


Ethyl 6-chloro-3-methylisoquinoline-4-carboxylate (6l). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.19 (s, 1H), 7.92-7.89 (m, 2H), 7.53 (dd, J = 2.1, 8.7 Hz, 1H), 4.56 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.76 (s, 3H), 1.48 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.0, 153.0, 151.1, 137.9, 134.0, 129.4, 128.0, 124.7, 123.0, 122.3, 61.9, 23.2, 14.3; ESI-MS m/z 249.9 (M + H)⁺; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₃H₁₃NO₂Cl 250.0631 (M + H)⁺, found 250.0629.



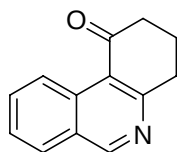
6m

Methyl 7-methyl-[1,3]dioxolo[4,5-g]isoquinoline-8-carboxylate (6m). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.93 (s, 1H), 7.18 (s, 1H), 7.17 (s, 1H), 6.11 (s, 2H), 4.03 (s, 3H), 2.67(s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 169.1, 152.0, 150.9, 148.9, 147.9, 131.9, 123.8, 103.2, 101.8, 100.3, 52.4, 22.0; ESI-MS m/z 246.0 ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{11}\text{NO}_4$ 246.0690 ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$, found 246.0688.



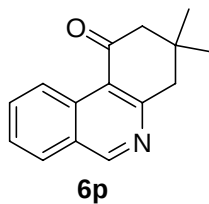
6n

Methyl 7-(4-methoxyphenyl)-[1,3]dioxolo[4,5-g]isoquinoline-8-carboxylate (6n). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 9.07 (s, 1H), 7.63 (d, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.28 (s, 1H), 7.24 (s, 1H), 6.98 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H), 6.14 (s, 2H), 3.87(s, 3H), 3.76(s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 169.7, 159.9, 152.2, 151.0, 150.0, 148.4, 132.8, 132.1, 129.8 (2C), 124.1, 122.2, 113.9 (2C), 103.3, 102.0, 100.6, 55.3, 52.5; IR (CH_2Cl_2): ν 3011, 2957, 2919, 2839, 1716, 1605, 1583, 1462, 1247, 1220, 1179, 1104, 1033, 935, 844 cm^{-1} ; ESI-MS m/z 338.2 ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}_5$ 338.1014 ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$, found 338.1023.

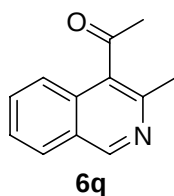


6o

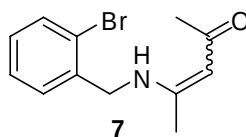
3,4-Dihydrophenanthridin-1-(2H)-one (6o). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 9.39 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 9.28 (s, 1H), 7.97 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.84 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.62 (t, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 3.35 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H), 2.81 (t, $J = 6.3$ Hz, 2H), 2.30-2.24 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 200.8, 161.2, 157.0, 133.8, 133.2, 128.3, 127.9, 127.1, 125.9, 120.7, 40.6, 33.9, 21.9; ESI-MS m/z 198.1 ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{12}\text{NO}$ 198.0923 ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$, found 198.0913.



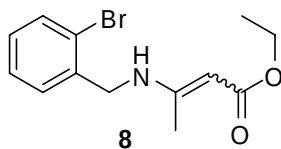
3,3-dimethyl-3,4-dihydrophenanthridin-1(2H)-one (6p). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 9.41 (d, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 1H), 9.30 (s, 1H), 7.97 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.85 (t, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.63 (t, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 1H), 3.24 (s, 2H), 2.67 (s, 2H), 1.18 (s, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 201.0, 159.6, 157.3, 133.5, 133.2, 128.3, 127.8, 127.1, 125.8, 119.7, 54.2, 47.7, 32.8, 28.1 (2C); ESI-MS m/z 226.1 ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}$ 226.1236 ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$, found 226.1226.



1-(3-methylisoquinolin-4-yl)ethanone (6q). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 9.13 (s, 1H), 7.90 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.66-7.48 (m, 3H), 2.59 (s, 3H), 2.58 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 205.9, 152.7, 145.9, 132.1, 131.3, 128.8, 128.1, 126.8, 126.5, 122.9, 32.7, 22.3; ESI-MS m/z 186.0 ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{12}\text{NO}$ 186.0922 ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$, found 186.0913.



4-(2-bromobenzylamino)pent-3-en-2-one (7). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 11.2 (br s, 1H), 7.55 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.34-7.28 (m, 2H), 7.18-7.12 (m, 1H), 5.08 (s, 1H), 4.50 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 2H), 2.05 (s, 3H), 1.92 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 195.7, 162.9, 137.3, 132.9, 129.0, 128.2, 127.9, 122.7, 96.3, 47.0, 29.0, 18.8; ESI-MS m/z 268.0 ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$; HRMS (EI) calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{14}\text{NOBr}$ 267.0259 (M) $^+$, found 267.0270.



Ethyl 3-(2-bromobenzylamino)but-2-enoate (8). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.97 (br s, 1H), 7.54 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.31-7.29 (m, 2H), 7.17-7.13 (m, 1H), 4.56 (s, 1H), 4.46 (d, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H), 4.10 (q, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 2H), 1.90 (s, 3H), 1.26 (t, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 170.0, 161.5, 137.8, 132.8, 128.8, 128.2, 127.8, 122.6, 83.7, 58.4, 47.0, 19.1, 14.6; ESI-MS m/z 298.0 ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$; HRMS (EI) calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}_2\text{Br}$ 297.0364 (M) $^+$, found 297.0377.

