

## Stereochemistry of *cis*- and *trans*-4,6-diaryltetrahydropyran-2-ones

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**Abstract.** *cis*- and *trans*-4,6-Diaryltetrahydropyran-2-ones were synthesised from the corresponding ketoesters. High resolution NMR spectral data reveal that they are stabilised in half-chair conformations.

**Keywords.** Stereochemistry of diaryltetrahydropyran-2-ones; NMR spectral analysis; half-chair conformation.

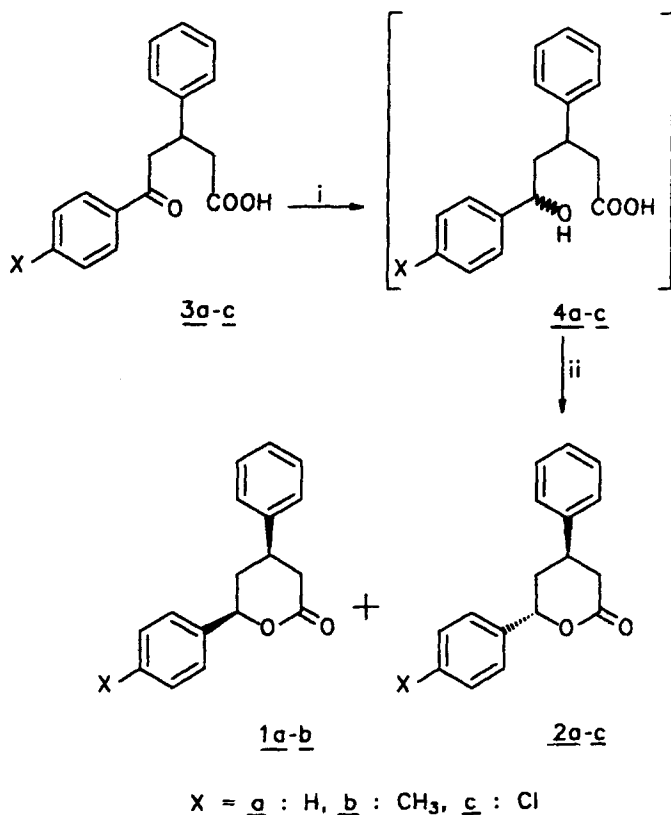
### 1. Introduction

Studies on the synthesis and stereochemistry of 4,6-disubstituted tetrahydropyran-2-ones attract the attention of organic chemists since they occur as structural moieties in several secondary metabolites (Ohloff 1978; Brand *et al* 1979) such as rhizoxin (Keck *et al* 1993), compactin (Brown *et al* 1976) and mevinolin (Alberts *et al* 1980). The relationship between the structure and conformation of substituted tetrahydropyran-2-ones has been elucidated with spectroscopic techniques such as ultraviolet (UV); (Closson *et al* 1967), infrared (IR) (Cheung *et al* 1965), proton nuclear magnetic resonance ( $^1\text{H}$  NMR); (Stanley *et al* 1990, 1991), optical rotatory dispersion (ORD) and circular dichroism (CD) (Wolf 1966). There is general agreement that the O–CO–C moiety in tetrahydropyran-2-one tends to maintain coplanarity (McConnell *et al* 1962; Cheung *et al* 1965). However, steric and torsional interactions in the molecule dictate the actual conformation (Philip *et al* 1981). Unsubstituted tetrahydropyran-2-one ( $\delta$ -valerolactone) adopts a half-chair conformation in preference to a boat conformation (Fronza *et al* 1982). Earlier it has been found that both *cis*- and *trans*-4,6-dimethyltetrahydropyran-2-ones also stabilise in half-chair conformation with the latter being slightly flattened (Allinger and Chang 1977). Recently there has been renewed interest in the synthesis and stereochemistry of aryl-substituted tetrahydropyran-2-ones (Stanley *et al* 1990, 1991; Bennett *et al* 1991; Takano *et al* 1992) many years after Meerwein (1918) had originally prepared some of them. We report herein our studies on the synthesis and stereochemistry of hitherto unreported *cis*- (1a-b) and *trans*- (2a-c) 4,6-diaryltetrahydropyran-2-ones.

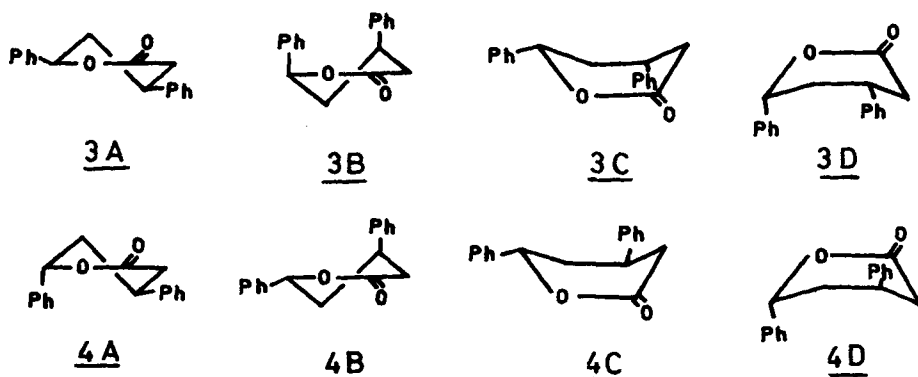
### 2. Results and discussion

Synthesis of tetrahydropyran-2-ones (1a-b, 2a-c) is given in scheme 1. Sodium borohydride reduction of the keto group of 3,5-diaryl-5-oxopentanoic acid (3a-c) in methanol and subsequent dehydration at elevated temperature and reduced pressure

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**Scheme 1.** Reagents and conditions: (i)  $\text{NaBH}_4$ , MeOH,  $0^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $\text{H}^+$ ; (ii)  $120^\circ\text{C}$ , 2 mm.



**Figure 1.** Possible half-chair and boat conformations of 1a and 2a.

resulted in the required tetrahydropyran-2-ones which were chromatographically separated and analysed.

Assignment of the configurations and conformations for 1a-b and 2a-c depends mainly on the analysis of their first order 400 MHz  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra. Possible half-chair and boat conformations (3A-D, 4A-D) for *cis*- and *trans*-tetrahydropyran-2-ones (1a, 2a) are shown in figure 1.

The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of *cis*-4,6-diphenyltetrahydropyran-2-one (**1a**) indicated that  $\text{C}_4\text{-H}$  was a triple doublet (*tdd*), with coupling constants ( $J$ ),  $J_{4\text{ax},3\text{ax}}$  and  $J_{4\text{ax},5\text{ax}} = 11.7$  Hz;  $J_{4\text{ax},3\text{eq}} = 5.9$  Hz;  $J_{4\text{ax},5\text{eq}} = 3.9$  Hz, and  $\text{C}_6\text{-H}$  a double doublet (*dd*), with  $J_{6\text{ax},5\text{ax}} = 11.7$  Hz,  $J_{6\text{ax},5\text{eq}} = 2.9$  Hz. These data indicate that both  $\text{C}_4\text{-H}$  and  $\text{C}_6\text{-H}$  are in axial positions and consequently, the two phenyl rings occupy equatorial positions. A long range coupling of 2.0 Hz between  $\text{C}_{3\text{eq}}\text{-H}$  and  $\text{C}_{5\text{eq}}\text{-H}$  indicates that these two hydrogens are present in near planar *W* configuration (Jackman and Sternhell 1969). A geminal coupling constant of 18.1 Hz seen between  $\text{C}_{3\text{eq}}\text{-H}$  and  $\text{C}_{3\text{ax}}\text{-H}$  indicates that the  $\text{C}_3$ -methylene group bisects the adjacent carbonyl (Barfield and Grant 1963). These data are consistent with the half-chair conformation for tetrahydropyran-2-one, **1a**. The carbonyl absorption at  $1730\text{ cm}^{-1}$  also supports a half-chair conformation for **1a** (Cheung *et al* 1965; Herz *et al* 1970; Lindsay and Overton 1973). A global minimum energy conformation of **1a** generated by molecular mechanics calculations utilising PCMODEL version 1.0 software gives theoretical coupling constants, which agree well with experimental values (table 1). Interestingly, the  $\text{C}_4$ -carbon having a phenyl substituent in tetrahydropyran-2-one, **1a**, resonates upfield (37.63 ppm), compared to  $\text{C}_5$  (38.93 ppm) in  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra. This can be attributed to the  $\gamma$ -gauche effect of the ring oxygen atom (Atta-ur-Rahman 1986).

The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of *trans*-4,6-diphenyltetrahydropyran-2-one (**2a**) showed that  $\text{C}_4\text{-H}$  was a doublet of quartets (*dq*; broad), with  $J_{4\text{ax},3\text{ax}} = 9.3$  Hz,  $J_{4\text{ax},5\text{ax}}$ ,  $J_{4\text{ax},3\text{eq}}$  and  $J_{4\text{ax},5\text{eq}} \approx 6.3$  Hz, and  $\text{C}_6\text{-H}$  a doublet (*dd*) with  $J_{6\text{eq},5\text{ax}} = 6.9$  Hz,  $J_{6\text{eq},5\text{eq}} = 4.9$  Hz. These data indicate that  $\text{C}_4\text{-H}$  and  $\text{C}_6\text{-H}$  occupy axial and equatorial positions respectively and, consequently,  $\text{C}_4$ -phenyl and  $\text{C}_6$ -phenyl groups are in equatorial and axial positions respectively.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR also revealed large geminal

**Table 1.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectral data with observed and calculated coupling constants for *cis*-4,6-diphenyltetrahydropyran-2-one **1a** and *trans*-4,6-diphenyltetrahydropyran-2-one, **2a**.

Proton splitting pattern	$J$ values, <b>1a</b> ( <i>cis</i> -isomer)		Proton splitting pattern	$J$ values, <b>2a</b> ( <i>trans</i> -isomer)	
	Observed	Calculated		Observed	Calculated
$H_{3\text{ax}} = 2.68$ , <i>dd</i> ,	$J_{3\text{ax},3\text{eq}} = 18.1$	(11.9)	2.80, <i>dd</i>	$J_{3\text{ax},3\text{eq}} = 17.6$	(11.07)
	$J_{3\text{ax},4\text{ax}} = 11.7$			$J_{3\text{ax},4\text{ax}} = 9.3$	
$H_{3\text{eq}} = 3.05$ , <i>ddd</i> ,	$J_{3\text{eq},3\text{ax}} = 18.1$	(4.7)	2.90, <i>dd</i> ,	$J_{3\text{eq},3\text{ax}} = 17.6$	(5.0)
	$J_{3\text{eq},4\text{ax}} = 5.9$			$J_{3\text{eq},4\text{ax}} = 6.4$	
	$J_{3\text{eq},4\text{ax}} = 2.0$			$J_{3\text{eq},4\text{ax}} = --$	
$H_{4\text{ax}} = 3.39$ , <i>tdd</i> ,	$J_{3\text{eq},5\text{eq}} = 11.7$	(11.9)	3.28, <i>dq</i> ,	$J_{3\text{eq},5\text{eq}} = 9.3$	(11.7)
	$J_{4\text{ax},3\text{ax}} = 11.7$			$J_{4\text{ax},3\text{ax}} = 9.3$	
	$J_{4\text{ax},5\text{ax}} = 11.7$	(12.3)		$J_{4\text{ax},5\text{ax}} = 7.2$	(12.3)
	$J_{4\text{ax},3\text{eq}} = 5.9$	(4.7)		$J_{4\text{ax},3\text{eq}} = 4.9$	(5.0)
	$J_{4\text{ax},5\text{eq}} = 3.9$	(2.6)		$J_{4\text{ax},5\text{eq}} = 5.9$	(2.4)
$H_{5\text{ax}} = 2.05$ , <i>dt</i> ,	$J_{5\text{ax},5\text{eq}} = 14.2$	(12.3)	2.37, <i>ddd</i> ,	$J_{5\text{ax},5\text{eq}} = 14.0$	(12.3)
	$J_{5\text{ax},4\text{ax}} = 11.7$			$J_{5\text{ax},4\text{ax}} = 7.2$	
	$J_{5\text{ax},6\text{ax}} = 11.7$	(11.6)		$J_{5\text{ax},6\text{ax}} = 6.9$	(5.3)
	$J_{5\text{eq},5\text{ax}} = 14.2$	(2.1)	2.32, <i>ddd</i> ,	$J_{5\text{eq},5\text{ax}} = 14.0$ ,	(1.3)
	$J_{5\text{eq},6\text{ax}} = 2.9$			$J_{5\text{eq},6\text{ax}} = 4.9$	
$H_{5\text{eq}} = 2.42$ ,	$J_{5\text{eq},4\text{ax}} = 3.9$	(2.6)		$J_{5\text{eq},4\text{ax}} = 5.9$	(2.4)
<i>dddd</i>	$J_{5\text{eq},3\text{eq}} = 2.0$			$J_{5\text{eq},3\text{eq}} = --$	
$H_{6\text{ax}} = 5.47$ , <i>dd</i>	$J_{6\text{ax},5\text{ax}} = 11.7$	(11.6)	5.52, <i>td</i> ,	$J_{6\text{ax},5\text{ax}} = 6.9$	(5.3)
	$J_{6\text{ax},5\text{eq}} = 2.9$	(2.1)	( $H_{6\text{eq}}$ )	$J_{6\text{ax},5\text{eq}} = 4.9$	(1.3)
Ar-H = 7.2-7.6 ( <i>m</i> , 10H)			Ar-H = 7.2-7.4 ( <i>m</i> , 10H)		

coupling constant of 17.6 Hz for C<sub>3</sub>-methylene group which indicates that it is bisected by the adjacent carbonyl (Barfield and Grant 1963). Therefore, it can be concluded that *trans* isomer **2a** is stabilised in a half-chair conformation rather than in the boat conformation. The IR spectrum of **2a** showed carbonyl stretching frequency at 1730 cm<sup>-1</sup>, confirming a chair conformation for the molecule (Cheung *et al* 1965; Herz *et al* 1970; Lindsay and Overton 1973). However, since the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum did not reveal any long range W coupling (Jackman and Sternhell 1969) between C<sub>3eq</sub>-H and C<sub>5eq</sub>-H, we favour a dynamic twisted half-chair conformation for **2a** with C<sub>4</sub>-Ph in an equatorial position and C<sub>6</sub>-Ph in an axial position. The location of the C<sub>6</sub>-Ph in an axial position may relieve dipole interactions with the neighbouring oxygen atom. A twisted half-chair conformation may decrease unfavourable 1,3-diaxial interactions between C<sub>6</sub>-Ph and C<sub>4ax</sub>-H. However, vicinal coupling constants generated by theoretical calculations for the half-chair conformation of **2a** do not agree well with the experimental values (table 1), indicating the dynamic behaviour of **2a**.

A few more *cis*- (**1b**) and *trans*- (**2b-c**) tetrahydropyran-2-ones having electron-withdrawing and-donating substituents at the para position of the C<sub>6</sub>-phenyl ring were synthesised to study the effect of substituents in a reduction-cyclisation sequence. Interestingly, when 5(4-chlorophenyl)-3-phenylpentanoic acid (**3c**) was subjected to the reduction-cyclisation sequence only *trans*-6(4-chlorophenyl)-4-phenyltetrahydropyran-2-one (**2c**) resulted from the reaction. However, the NMR spectrum of the crude reduction product of the ketoester precursor revealed the presence of two diastereomeric alcohol esters (like and unlike, Juaristi 1991) in the ratio of 85:15. Since the single product **2c** resulted from the reaction, we believe that the cyclization step may go through a benzylic carbocation intermediate leading to the formation of the thermodynamically more stable isomer. NMR spectra of tetrahydropyran-2-ones **1b**, **2b** and **2c** show expected patterns.

In conclusion, we have reported spectral and stereochemical properties of hitherto unknown *cis*- and *trans*-4,6-diaryltetrahydropyran-2-ones.

### 3. Experimental section

Thin layer chromatography (TLC silica gel, Qualigens, India) was used to monitor the progress of the reactions. Chromatographic separations were carried out on silica column using 5% ethyl acetate in hexane as the eluent. The organic extracts were dried over anhydrous sodium sulphate. Solvents were reagent grade. Melting points are uncorrected and were taken using a Gallenkamp melting point apparatus. Infrared spectra were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer spectrometer. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were recorded at 400 MHz and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra at 100 MHz in CDCl<sub>3</sub> solvent on a JEOL GSX 400 MHz instrument. Mass spectra were recorded on a Finnigan Mat 8320 mass spectrometer with 70 eV ionisation energy.

#### 3.1 General procedure for the synthesis of *cis*- and *trans*-4,6-diaryltetrahydropyran-2-ones

To a magnetically stirred solution of 3,5-diphenylpentanoic acid **3a** (536 mg, 2 mmol) in MeOH (15 ml) at 0°C was added NaBH<sub>4</sub> (74 mg, 2 mmol) portionwise. The reaction mixture was stirred for an hour and acidified with conc. hydrochloric acid. Stirring was continued for an hour at room temperature; methanol was then removed under reduced pressure. The residue was extracted with chloroform and the organic solution was washed with water and brine, dried over anhydrous sodium sulphate and

concentrated. The residue after removal of solvent *in vacuo* was heated to 120 °C under reduced pressure (2 mm) for an hour to yield a mixture of *cis*- and *trans*-tetrahydropyran-2-ones. They were separated and purified by column chromatography on silica gel (elution with 95:5 hexane-ethyl acetate) to afford 210 mg (42%) of *cis*-isomer 1a and 267 mg (53%) of *trans*-isomer 2a as colourless solids.

### 3.2 *cis*-4,6-diphenyltetrahydropyran-2-one (1a)

Yield = 42%; m.p. = 88–89 °C; IR 3020, 2960, 2920, 1730, 1600, 1540, 1260, 1225, 1065, 1055, 960 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz) δ 2.05 (*dt*, 1H, *J* = 14.2, 11.7 Hz, C<sub>5ax</sub>-H), 2.42 (*dddd*, 1H, *J* = 14.2, 3.9, 2.9, 2.0 Hz, C<sub>5eq</sub>-H), 2.68 (*dd*, 1H, *J* = 18.1, 11.7 Hz, C<sub>3ax</sub>-H), 3.05 (*ddd*, 1H, *J* = 18.1, 5.9, 2.0 Hz, C<sub>3eq</sub>-H), 3.4 (*tdd*, 1H, *J* = 11.7, 5.9, 3.9 Hz, C<sub>4ax</sub>-H), 5.47 (*dd*, 1H, *J* = 11.7, 2.9 Hz, C<sub>6ax</sub>-H), 7.2–7.6 (*m*, 10H, Ar-H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz) δ 37.63 (*d*, C<sub>4</sub>), 37.99 (*t*, C<sub>5</sub>), 38.93 (*t*, C<sub>3</sub>), 81.83 (*d*, C<sub>6</sub>), 125.71, 126.43, 127.34, 128.49, 128.53, 128.69 (*d*, Ar-C), 139.45, 142.53 (*s*, Ar-C), 170.55 (*s*, C<sub>2</sub>); LRMS 252 (*M*<sup>+</sup>, 10), 212 (27), 195 (18), 194 (92), 193 (21), 149 (35), 107 (100), 105 (25), 104 (27), 91 (37), 78 (28), 77 (48), HRMS *m/z* (*M*<sup>+</sup>) calculated for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>16</sub>O<sub>2</sub> 252.1150, observed 252.1138.

### 3.3 *trans*-4,6-diphenyltetrahydropyran-2-one (2a)

Yield = 53%; m.p. = 68–69 °C; IR 3040, 2970, 1745, 1730, 1605, 1265, 1250, 1070, 965 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz) δ 2.32 (*ddd*, 1H, *J* = 14.0, 5.9, 4.9 Hz, C<sub>5eq</sub>-H), 2.37 (*ddd*, 1H, *J* = 14.0, 7.2, 6.9 Hz, C<sub>5ax</sub>-H), 2.8 (*dd*, 1H, *J* = 17.6, 9.3 Hz, C<sub>3ax</sub>-H), 2.9 (*dd*, 1H, *J* = 17.6, 6.4 Hz, C<sub>3eq</sub>-H), 3.28 (*dq*, 1H, *J* = 9.2, 6.3 Hz, C<sub>4ax</sub>-H), 5.52 (*dd*, 1H, *J* = 6.9, 4.9 Hz, C<sub>6eq</sub>-H), 7.2–7.4 (*m*, 10H, Ar-H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz) δ 34.11 (*d*, C<sub>4</sub>), 36.31 (*t*, C<sub>5</sub>), 37.23 (*t*, C<sub>3</sub>), 78.70 (*d*, C<sub>6</sub>), 125.49, 126.58, 127.17, 128.13, 128.64, 128.98 (*d*, Ar-C), 139.53, 142.62 (*s*, Ar-C), 171.36 (*s*, C<sub>2</sub>); LRMS 252 (*M*<sup>+</sup>, 40), 234 (35), 224 (23), 192 (12), 146 (23), 132 (100), 120 (40), 105 (60), 104 (58), 91 (11), 78 (15), 77 (10); HRMS *m/z* calculated for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>16</sub>O<sub>2</sub> 252.1150, observed 252.1186.

### 3.4 *cis*-4-phenyl-6-*p*-tolyltetrahydropyran-2-one (1b)

Yield = 47%; m.p. = 82–83 °C; IR 3040, 2960, 2930, 1730, 1600, 1515, 1410, 1380, 1260, 1070, 1060 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz) δ 2.05 (*dt*, 1H, *J* = 13.7, 11.7 Hz, C<sub>5ax</sub>-H), 2.36 (*s*, 3H, Ar-CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.38 (*dddd*, 1H, *J* = 13.7, 3.9, 2.9, 2.0 Hz, C<sub>5eq</sub>-H), 2.66 (*dd*, 1H, *J* = 18.1, 11.7 Hz, C<sub>3ax</sub>-H), 3.04 (*ddd*, 1H, *J* = 18.1, 5.9, 2.0 Hz, C<sub>3eq</sub>-H), 3.37 (*tdd*, 1H, *J* = 11.7, 5.9, 3.9 Hz, C<sub>4ax</sub>-H), 5.43 (*dd*, 1H, *J* = 11.7, 2.9 Hz, C<sub>6ax</sub>-H), 7.2–7.5 (*m*, 9H, Ar-H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz) δ 21.16 (Ar-CH<sub>3</sub>), 37.61 (*d*, C<sub>4</sub>), 37.96 (*t*, C<sub>5</sub>), 38.83 (*t*, C<sub>3</sub>), 81.82 (*d*, C<sub>6</sub>), 125.71, 126.41, 127.29, 129.00, 129.31 (*d*, Ar-C), 136.48, 138.33, 142.61 (*s*, Ar-C), 170.67 (*s*, C<sub>2</sub>); LRMS 266 (*M*<sup>+</sup>, 100), 188 (11), 118 (28), 104 (35), 91 (10), 77 (10); HRMS *m/z* calculated for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>18</sub>O<sub>2</sub> 266.1306, observed 266.1342.

### 3.5 *trans*-4-phenyl-6-*p*-tolyltetrahydropyran-2-one (2b)

Yield = 50%; m.p. = 63 °C; IR 3060, 3040, 2830, 1735, 1730, 1605, 1456, 1380, 1245, 1155, 1070, 975 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz) δ 2.31 (*ddd*, 1H, *J* = 14.2, 6.8, 4.4 Hz, C<sub>5eq</sub>-H), 2.35 (*s*, 3H, Ar-CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.38 (*dt*, 1H, *J* = 14.2, 7.3, C<sub>5ax</sub>-H), 2.81 (*dd*, 1H, *J* = 17.6, 8.8 Hz, C<sub>3ax</sub>-H), 2.91 (*dd*, 1H, *J* = 17.6, 6.4 Hz, C<sub>3eq</sub>-H), 3.29 (*m*, 1H, C<sub>4ax</sub>-H), 5.51 (*dd*, 1H, *J* = 7.3, 4.4, C<sub>6eq</sub>-H), 7.2–7.5 (*m*, 9H, Ar-H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz) δ 21.10 (Ar-CH<sub>3</sub>), 34.14 (*d*, C<sub>4</sub>), 36.38 (*t*, C<sub>5</sub>), 37.25 (*t*, C<sub>3</sub>), 78.72 (*d*, C<sub>6</sub>), 125.47, 126.61,

127.17, 128.99, 129.33 (*d*, Ar-C), 136.54, 137.93, 142.73 (*s*, Ar-C), 171.40 (*s*, C<sub>2</sub>); LRMS 266 (*M*<sup>+</sup>, 5), 209 (10), 134 (12), 121 (35), 120 (18), 119 (65), 118 (18), 115 (20), 104 (100), 103 (18), 91 (58), 77 (46); HRMS *m/z* calculated for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>18</sub>O<sub>2</sub> 266.1306, observed 266.1294.

### 3.6 *trans*-6(4-Chlorophenyl)-4-phenyltetrahydropyran-2-one (2c)

Yield = 95%; m.p. = 116–117 °C; IR 3055, 2915, 1739, 1730, 1600, 1540, 1250, 1085, 1030 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz) δ 2.34 (*t*, 2 H, *J* = 6.4, C<sub>5eq</sub>-H & C<sub>5ax</sub>-H), 2.85 (*dd*, 1 H, *J* = 17.6, 8.8 Hz, C<sub>3ax</sub>-H), 2.93 (*dd*, 1 H, *J* = 17.6, 6.4 Hz, C<sub>3eq</sub>-H), 3.31 (*dq*, 1 H, *J* = 8.8, 6.4 Hz, C<sub>4ax</sub>-H), 5.5 (*t*, 1 H, *J* = 6.3, C<sub>6eq</sub>-H), 7.2–7.4 (*m*, 9 H, Ar-H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz) δ 34.11 (*d*, C<sub>4</sub>), 36.31 (*t*, C<sub>5</sub>), 37.23 (*t*, C<sub>3</sub>), 78.70 (*d*, C<sub>6</sub>), 126.59, 126.94, 127.34, 128.90, 129.10 (*d*, Ar-C), 134.06, 138.08, 142.38, (*s*, Ar-C), 170.92 (*s*, C<sub>2</sub>); LRMS 288 (10), 286 (25, *M*<sup>+</sup>, 10), 270 (25), 268 (51), 260 (13), 258 (29), 245 (13), 243 (30), 210 (16), 208 (41), 180 (26), 156 (21), 154 (50), 132 (42), 104 (64), 91 (41), 77 (10); HRMS *m/z* calculated for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>15</sub>O<sub>2</sub>Cl 286.0760, observed 286.0776.

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