

# SYNLETT Spotlight 332

## Synthetic Applications of Diethyl Ethoxymethylenemalonate

Compiled by Roberta Katlen Fusco Marra



This feature focuses on a reagent chosen by a postgraduate, highlighting the uses and preparation of the reagent in current research

Roberta Katlen Fusco Marra was born in 1985 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. She obtained her degree in Industrial Chemistry in 2007 and her M.Sc. degree in 2010, from the Universidade Federal Fluminense. She is currently working toward her Ph.D. degree in Chemistry under the supervision of Prof. Alice Maria Rolim Bernardino. Her research interests focus on the synthesis of pyrazolyl derivatives with potential antileishmanial activity.

Instituto de Química, Universidade Federal Fluminense, UFF, CEP 24020-150 Niterói, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil  
E-mail: katlenposorganica@yahoo.com.br

### Introduction

Diethyl ethoxymethylenemalonate (EMME, Figure 1), a liquid with a boiling point of 279–281 °C, is a very versatile reagent, extensively used for the synthesis of hetero-

cyclic systems. The main application of this reagent is its use in the Gould–Jacobs reaction.

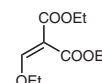
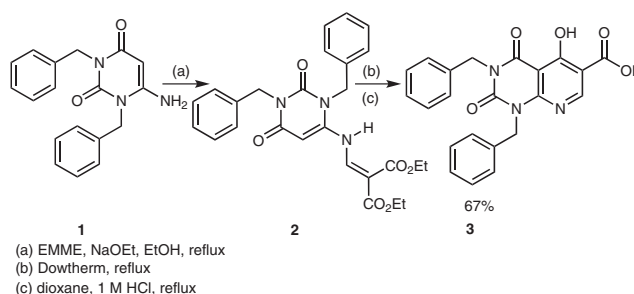


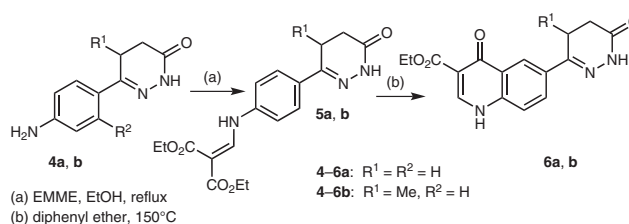
Figure 1 EMME

### Abstracts

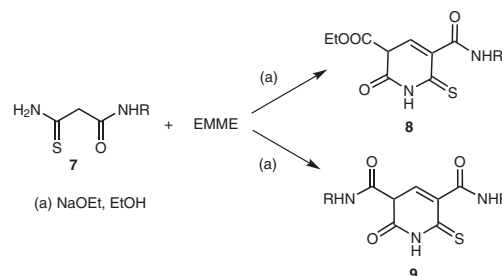
(A) Nair and co-workers reported the synthesis of 1,3-dibenzyl-5-hydroxy-2,4-dioxo-1,2,3,4-tetrahydropyrido[2,3-*d*]pyrimidine-6-carboxylic acid (**3**) with EMME. The synthesis followed the stages of cyclization and hydrolysis of the ester under acidic conditions. The target compound **3** was obtained as a crystalline solid in 67% yield. This compound exhibits strong activity against the dengue virus.<sup>1</sup>



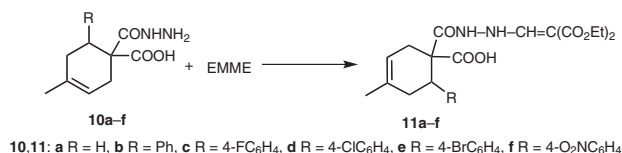
(B) Ethyl 6-(6-oxo-1,4,5,6-tetrahydropyridazin-3-yl)-4-oxo-1,4-dihydroquinoline-3-carboxylate (**6**) can be obtained by nucleophilic addition of the 6-(4-aminophenyl)-4,5-dihydropyridazin-3(2*H*)-one (**4**) to the  $\beta$ -carbon of EMME followed by elimination of ethanol. The compound **6** was obtained in 80% yield by heating the diester **5** in diphenyl ether.<sup>2</sup>



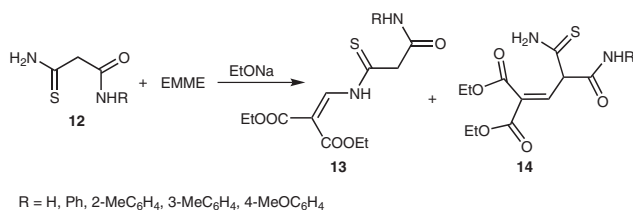
(C) In the literature it is reported that EMME can react with 2-thiocarbamoyl-*N*-arylacetamides (**7**) in two concurrent directions forming 1,2-dihydropyridine-6-thiones **8** and **9**. The yields depend on the excess of the thioamide **7**.<sup>3</sup>



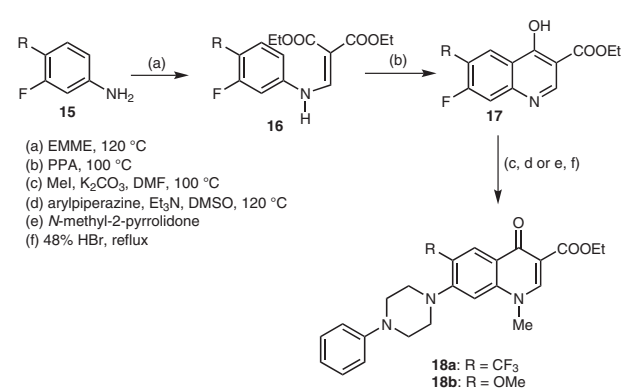
(D) Zicane et al. showed the condensation of EMME with hydrazides **10a–f** occurring exclusively at the enolic ethoxy group of this ester to yield *N*-(2,2-diethoxycarbonylethyl)hydrazides of 4-methylcyclohex-4-ene-1,1-dicarboxylic acids **11a–f**.<sup>4</sup>



(E) Reactions of various thioamides **12a–e**, bearing an activated methylene group, with EMME afforded the intermediates **13a–e**, which underwent readily cyclization involving the ethoxycarbonyl group. Finally, 1*H*-pyridine-2-ones **14a–e** were obtained.<sup>5</sup>



(F) Recently, 6-trifluoromethylquinolines were obtained by a modified Gould–Jacobs reaction. The reaction of 3-fluoro-4,4-(trifluoromethyl)aniline with EMME gave the compound **16**, which then cyclized with polyphosphoric acid (PPA) to give the key intermediate **17**. The subsequent sequential steps are N1-methylation (c), nucleophilic substitution with arylpiperazines (d), and basic hydrolysis (e, f) to the target acids **18a–c**.<sup>6</sup>



## References

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- (3) Britsun, V. N.; Lozinskii, M. O. *Chem. Heterocycl. Compd.* **2007**, *43*, 1083.
- (4) Zicane, D.; Ravina, I.; Teter, Z.; Petrova, M. *Chem. Heterocycl. Compd.* **2005**, *41*, 187.
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