

# The Reactions of *N,N'*-Diphenyldithiomalonamide with Michael Acceptors <sup>†</sup>

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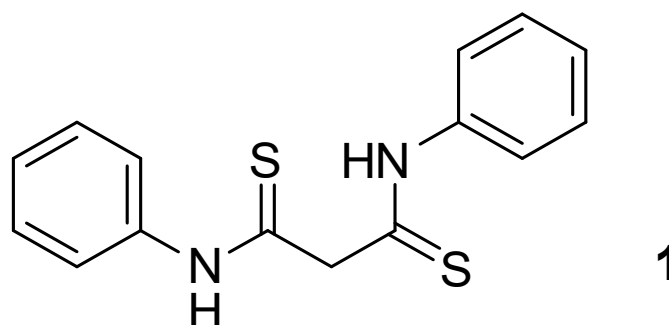
<sup>†</sup> Presented at the 24th International Electronic Conference on Synthetic Organic Chemistry, 15 November–15 December 2020; Available online: <https://ecsoc-24.sciforum.net/>.

**Abstract:** *N,N'*-diphenyldithiomalonamide (dithiomalonaldianilide) smoothly reacts with various Michael acceptors to give either stable Michael adducts or products of their further heterocyclization. The structure of the products was confirmed by 2D NMR experiments and X-ray data. The mechanisms of the reactions are discussed.

**Keywords:** dithiomalonaldianilide; heterocyclization; 2-cyanoacrylates; Meldrum's acid; Michael adducts

## 1. Introduction

N-Substituted thioamides play an important role in the synthesis of nitrogen- and sulfur-containing heterocyclic compounds. They are widely used in organic synthesis to prepare compounds with new, previously unknown core structures. *N,N'*-diphenyldithiomalonamide (dithiomalonaldianilide) **1** is a promising compound to build new heterocyclic systems since it has two thioanilide fragments and CH-acidity due to the methylene bridge (Figure 1).



**Figure 1.** The structure of dithiomalonaldianilide.

Earlier, we reported the reaction of *N,N'*-diphenyldithiomalonaldianilide **1** with aryl-methylenemalononitriles [1]. The products of the reaction were [1,2]dithiolo[3,4-b]pyridines **2**, as shown by means of X-ray analysis (Scheme 1).

*N,N'*-Diphenyldithiomalonaldianilide **1** is an active methylene compound that is rarely used in heterocyclization reactions. In continuation of our studies in this field, we decided to study the reactions of dithioamide **1** with other Michael acceptors.

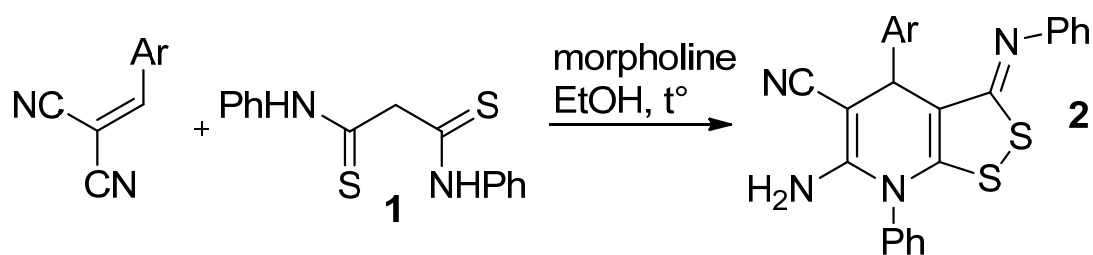
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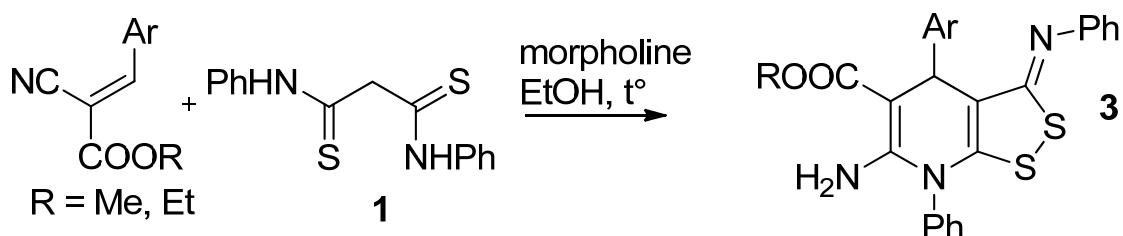
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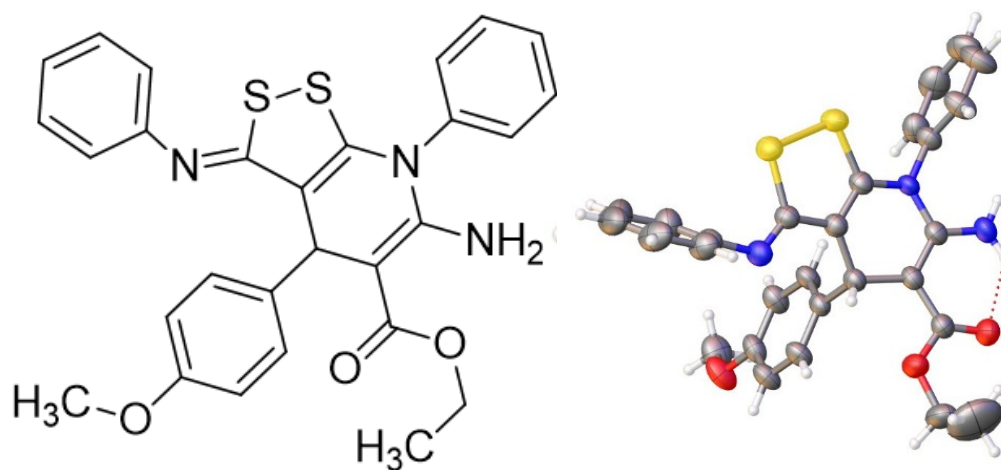
**Scheme 1.** The reaction of *N,N'*-diphenyldithiomalonamide **1** with arylmethylenemalononitriles.

## 2. Results and Discussion

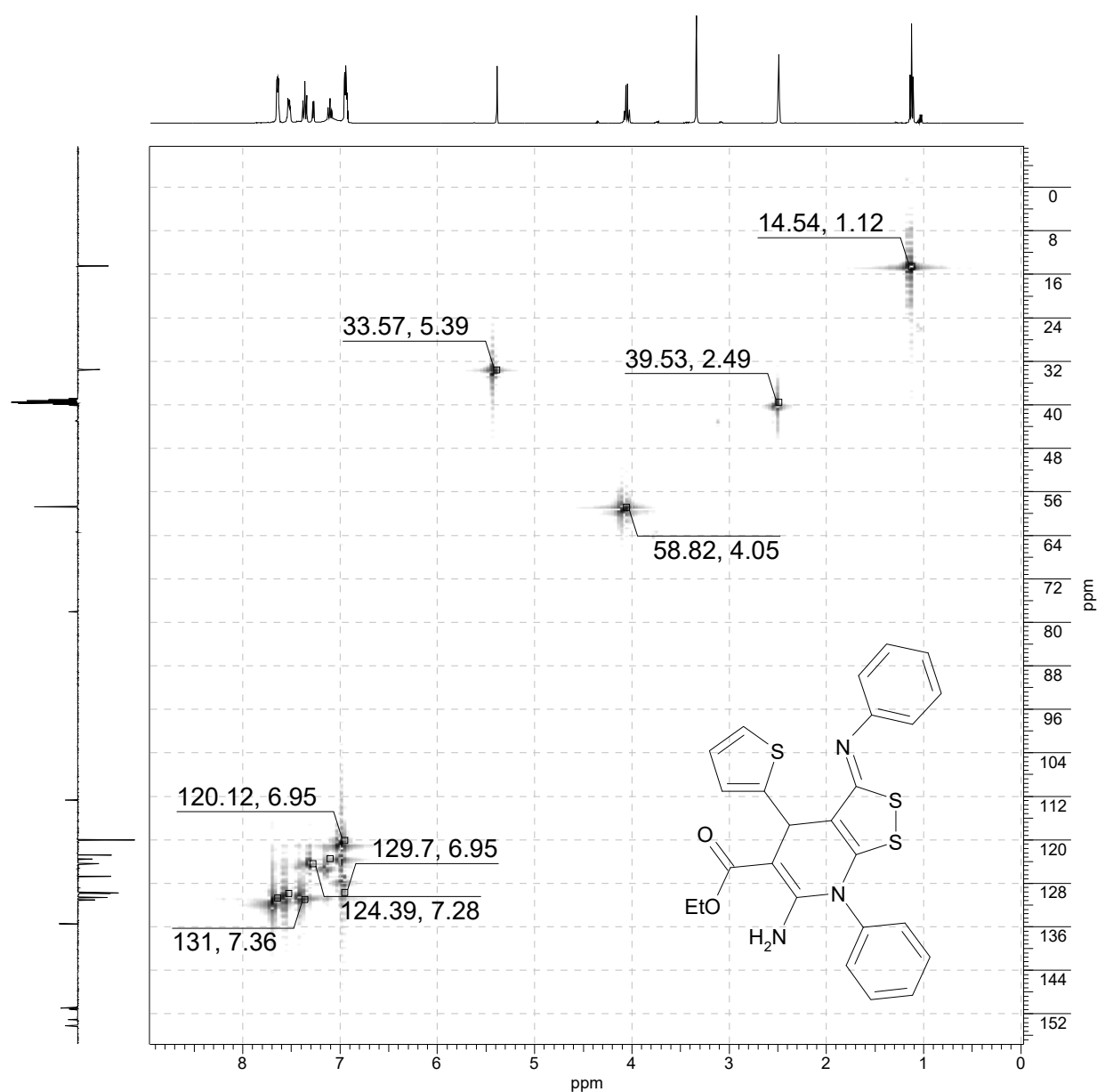
We found that the reaction of dithiomalonanilide **1** with arylmethylenecyanoacetic ethers proceeds readily in the presence of a basic catalyst and, in the presence of an oxidizing agent (atmospheric oxygen), gives [1,2]dithiolo[3,4-*b*]pyridines **3** in modest yields (Scheme 2). The structure of the obtained compounds was confirmed by a complex of spectral data including 2D NMR spectroscopy (HSQC, HMBC) as well as X-ray data (Figures 2 and 3).



**Scheme 2.** The reaction of *N,N'*-diphenyldithiomalonamide **1** with arylmethylenecyanoacetates.

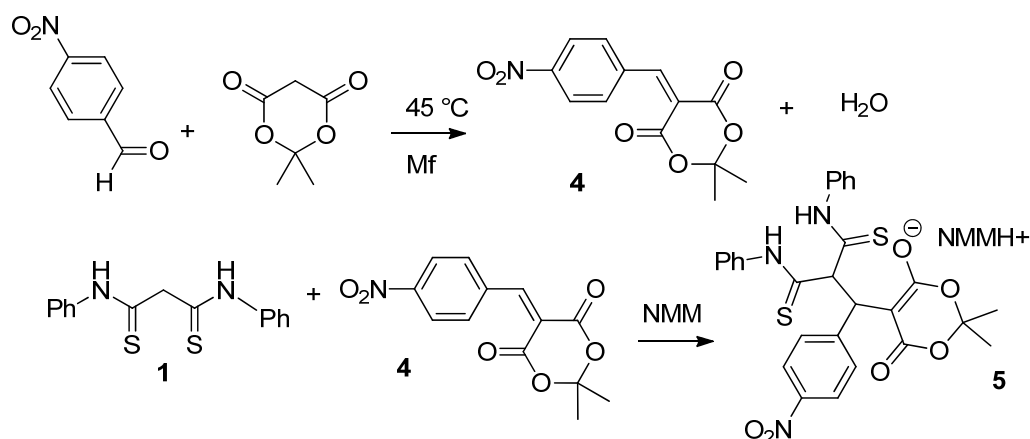


**Figure 2.** Structure of the reaction product of (4-methoxyphenyl)methylidenecyanoacetic ester and dithiomalonanilide **1** (according to X-ray diffraction data).



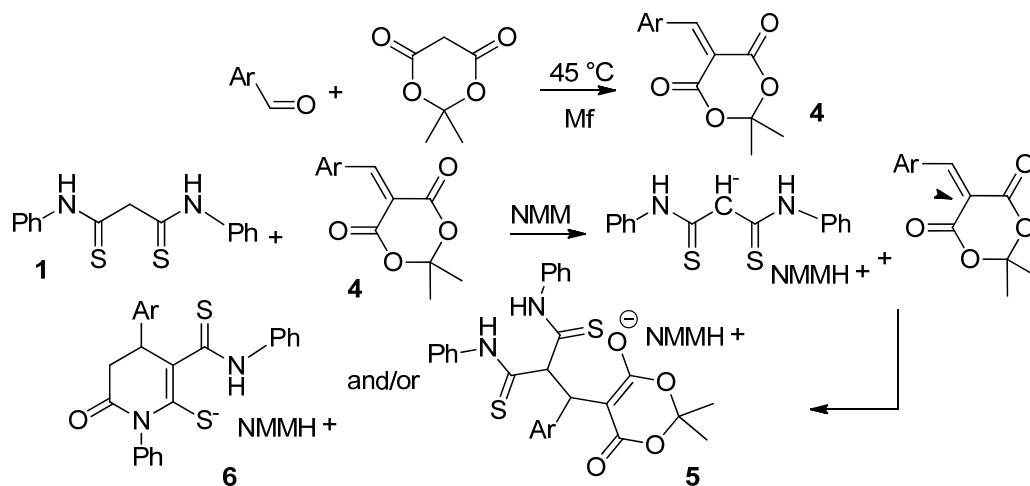
**Figure 3.** NMR  $^1\text{H}/^{13}\text{C}$  HSQC spectrum (400/101 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ) of **3b**.

Next, we decided to study the reaction of **1** with arylmethylene Meldrum's acids **4**. It was found that with the 4-nitrobenzylidene derivative, the reaction proceeds smoothly to give the Michael adduct **5** (Scheme 3):



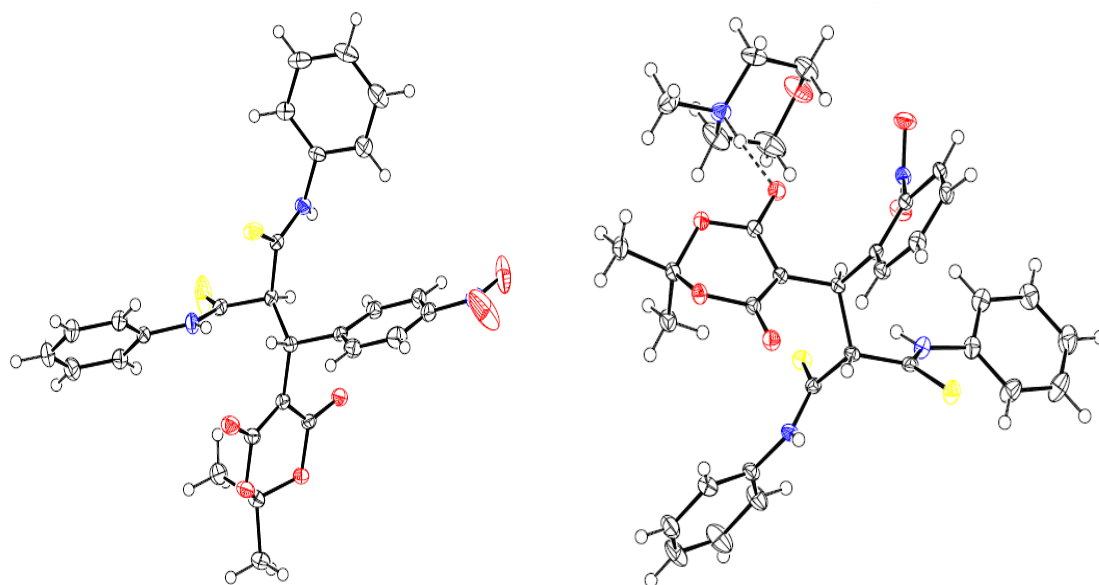
**Scheme 3.** The reaction of *N,N'*-diphenyldithiomalonamide **1** with 4-nitrobenzylidene Meldrum's acid.

We decided to expand the base of similar Michael adducts by using various aromatic aldehydes to prepare arylidene Meldrum's acids. However, we found that, along with the formation of the Michael adducts **5**, in most cases, the by-process of further cyclization occurred, giving rise to the formation of tetrahydropyridine-2-thiolates **6**. In these cases, the isolated crystalline products are mixtures of adducts **5** and their cyclization products **6** in various ratios. The plausible mechanism consists of two stages. In the first stage, the arylidene Meldrum's acid **4** is formed. The reaction proceeds as a Knoevenagel-type condensation [2]. Next, the aforementioned activated alkene undergoes the Michael addition with dithiomalonanilide **1** to form Michael adducts **5** and, followed by subsequent by-process, their cyclization products **6** (Scheme 4).



**Scheme 4.** The reaction of *N,N'*-diphenyldithiomalonamide **1** with arylidene Meldrum's acids.

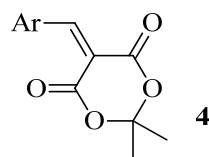
The structure of the products was confirmed by a complex of spectral methods (NMR  $^1\text{H}$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$  DEPTQ), IR spectroscopy; the structures of the adducts (**5a** and **5d**) were also proven using X-ray diffraction data (Figure 4):



**Figure 4.** Structures of the Michael adducts **5** (according to X-ray diffraction data).

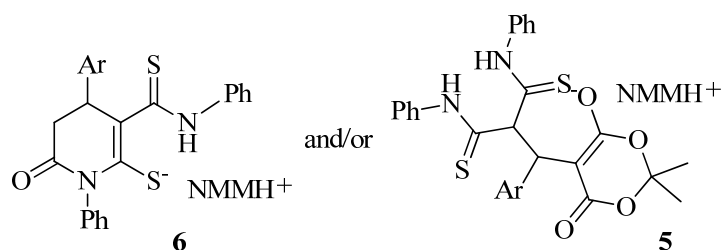
### 3. Experimental

#### 3.1. Method for the Synthesis of Arylidene Derivatives of Meldrum's Acid **4**



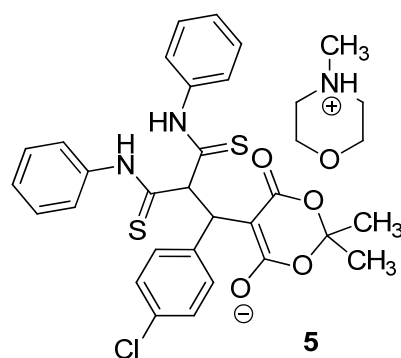
A beaker was charged with 15 mL of ethanol–water mixture (1:2), 0.5 g (0.0035 mol) of Meldrum's acid, 0.0035 mol of the corresponding aldehyde, and a catalytic amount of morpholine (1–2 drops). The mixture was stirred at 45 °C. Precipitation of the product was observed in the first 10 min. The reaction proceeds within 2 h, then the product is filtered off, and washed with aqueous alcohol.

#### 3.2. Method for the Synthesis of Michael Adducts **5** and Their Cyclization Products **6**



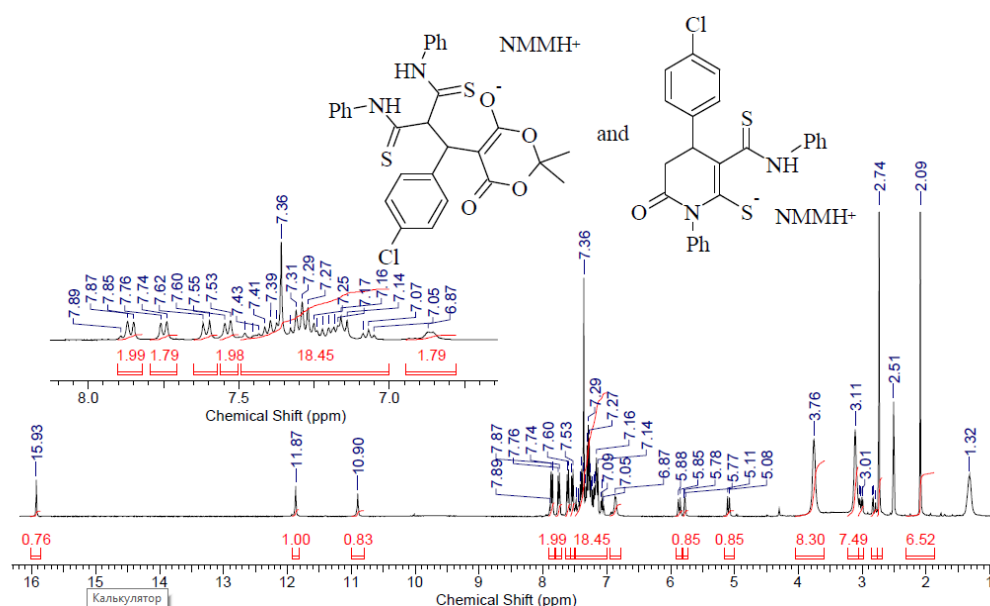
A mixture of 0.25 g of arylidene Meldrum's acid and an equimolar amount of dithiomalonanilide **1** was refluxed in 15 mL of dry acetone. The resulting solution was filtered through a paper filter to remove insoluble impurities. The filtrate was transferred into a flat-bottom flask and a 1.5-fold excess of base was added. The mixture was refluxed under vigorous stirring. Bright-yellow crystals began to precipitate from the hot solution within 5 min. The crystals obtained were filtered off, and washed with cold acetone.

*N*-Methylmorpholinium 5-[3-Anilino-2-(anilinothiocarbonyl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-thioxopropyl]-2,2-dimethyl-4-oxo-4H-1,3-dioxin-6-olate **5a**



The resulting product was soluble in DMF and DMSO, and insoluble in ethanol, ethyl acetate, acetone. The product contains an admixture (about 15% mol) of the cyclization product. The yield was 52%.

IR spectrum,  $\nu$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 3190–3128 (N–H), 3024–2862 (C–H), 1654 (C=O), 1595–1494 (C=C). The NMR  $^1\text{H}$  spectrum is given in Figure 5.



**Figure 5.** NMR  $^1\text{H}$  spectrum (400 MHz,  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ ) of compound **5a**.

**Author Contributions:** Conceptualization, methodology, V.V.D.; synthesis, A.E.S., V.V.D.; analysis, A.E.S., V.V.D., N.A.A.; writing—original draft preparation, V.V.D.; writing—review and editing, V.V.D.; supervision, V.V.D.; funding acquisition, V.V.D. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

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**Conflicts of Interest:** The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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