



Among The Smallest Building Blocks in Organic Synthesis: Oxalate Half-Esters and Their Derivatives

メタデータ	言語: eng 出版者: PUBTEXTO 公開日: 2021-06-29 キーワード (Ja): キーワード (En): oxalate, building block, half-ester, organic synthesis 作成者: 庭山, 聡美 メールアドレス: 所属:
URL	http://hdl.handle.net/10258/00010416

Among The Smallest Building Blocks in Organic Synthesis: Oxalate Half-Esters and Their Derivatives

Niwayama S*

Graduate School of Engineering, Muroran Institute of Technology, 27-1 Mizumoto-cho, Muroran, Hokkaido, 050-8585, Japan

Article Info

Article History:

Received: 29 November 2020

Accepted: 01 December 2020

Published: 07 December 2020

***Corresponding author:** Niwayama S, Graduate School of Engineering, Muroran Institute of Technology, 27-1 Mizumoto-cho, Muroran, Hokkaido, 050-8585, Japan; Tel: +81-143-46-5746; DOI: <https://doi.org/10.36266/JPCR/125>

Abstract

Although oxalate half-esters and their derivatives are among the smallest units of building blocks in organic synthesis, they are very important for synthesis of a wide range of significant compounds. Utilized as building blocks for pharmaceuticals and natural products, they are typically prepared by partial hydrolysis of symmetric diesters or by partial alkylation of oxalyl chloride. Their structural properties that enable them to undergo radical deoxygenation are also applied to various significant reactions, further leading to synthesis of complex pharmaceuticals and natural products. Oxalate half-esters are also applied to the preparation of new polymers with novel properties.

Keywords: Oxalate; Building block; Half-ester; Organic synthesis

Copyright: © 2020 Niwayama S. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.

Introduction

Half-esters possess both an ester group and a carboxyl group within the same molecule. They are typically obtained by desymmetrization of symmetric compounds such as symmetric diesters. As the reactivities of these two functional groups are distinct, they and their derivatives constitute versatile building blocks, and have been utilized for the synthesis of a variety of significant compounds [1]. Among them, oxalate half-esters have no carbon unit between the ester group and the carboxyl group, and therefore have the smallest structures. Notably, such units are prevalent in natural products and in the body. They also play important roles in organic synthesis. This commentary outlines some examples of preparations and applications of oxalate half-esters and their derivatives (Figure 1).

yields are not particularly high (Figure 2). Their derivatives, such as acid chlorides, can also be prepared by partial alkylation of oxalyl chloride, 4, in the presence of a base, which can further produce non-symmetric diesters (double half-esters), for example. All these compounds have two different functional groups that exhibit distinct reactivities. Brown et al. synthesized some ¹³C-labeled oxalates using these classical reactions for their NMR studies [2].

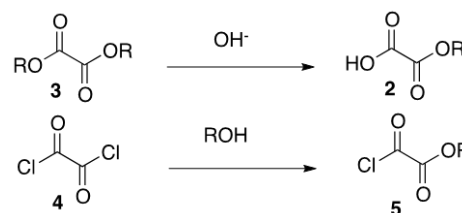


Figure 2: Classical synthesis of oxalate half-ester and their derivatives.

Our laboratory has previously reported highly efficient selective monohydrolysis of a series of symmetric diesters (Figure 3) [3-7]. These reactions work for selective monohydrolysis of symmetric dialkyl oxalates as well, although some tuning of reaction conditions based on our mechanistic hypothesis as well as the effects of co-solvents [6] and the type of base [7], etc., which we reported earlier significantly enhances the selectivity. These studies will be reported in due course.

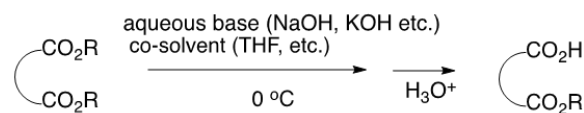


Figure 3: Selective monohydrolysis of symmetric diesters reported by Niwayama, et al.

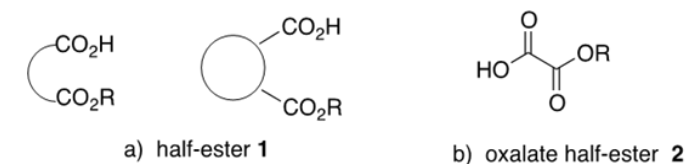


Figure 1: a) General structure of half-ester.

b) General structure of oxalate half-esters.

Preparation of Oxalate Half-Esters and Their Derivatives

The commercial availability of oxalate half-esters, 2, including their derivatives, is rather limited. Among the most classical and typical methods to obtain oxalate half-esters, 2, are partial saponification/hydrolysis of dialkyl oxalates, 3, although the

Some oxalate half-esters and/or their derivatives were prepared through cyclic oxalate esters of diols such as glycols or cycloalkanediol as shown in Figure 4 [8-10]. They include non-symmetric cyclic oxalate diesters.

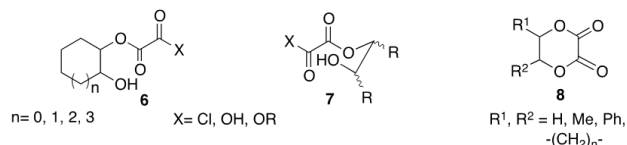


Figure 4: Some oxalate half-esters and the derivatives prepared through cyclic oxalate esters of diols.

More recently, Wan et al. reported preparation of various non-symmetric oxalate diesters from α -bromo ketones, 9, diazo acetate, 10, and molecular oxygen mediated by visible light (Figure 5) [11]. This reaction is compatible with a wide range of α -bromo ketones and diazo acetates.

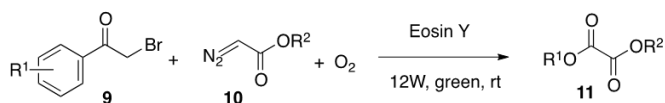


Figure 5: Synthesis of non-symmetric oxalate esters reported by Wan et al.

Application of Oxalate Half-Esters and Their Derivatives

Oxalate half-esters and their derivatives have been applied as building blocks for synthesis of various significant compounds, such as natural products and pharmaceuticals. For example, the total synthesis of (-)- and *ent*-(+)-Vindoline and related alkaloids was accomplished by Boger et al., and they prepared an intermediary oxadiazole unit using a derivative of an oxalate half-ester, methyl oxalylhydrazide, 13 (Figure 6) [12].

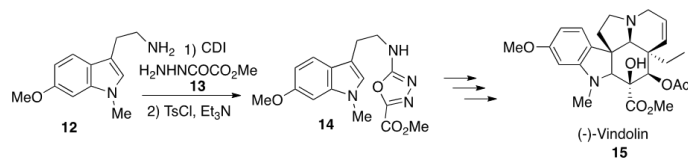


Figure 6: Synthesis of alkaloids reported by Boger et al.

A series of pharmaceuticals with the structures of oxalamide derivatives has been synthesized for discovery of novel cyclophilin D inhibitors with the use of oxalate half-esters (Figure 7 (a)) [13]. These oxalyl linker portions, along with the amide or urea linker portions, have been found to play key roles in the enhancement of the inhibitory activities in the biochemical and biophysical assays, providing a suitable base for further optimization. In addition, since oxalates are among the smallest building blocks, they have been utilized as short linkers for the synthesis of pharmaceuticals as in the discovery of inhibitors of apoptosis as studied by Bristol-Myers Squibb (Figure 7 (b)) [14].

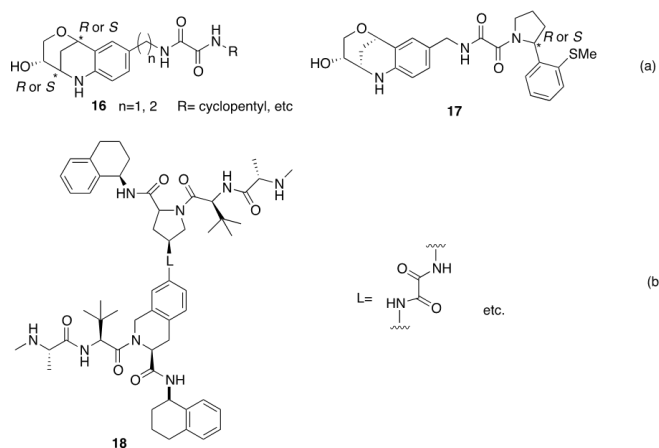


Figure 7: (a) Synthesis of pharmaceuticals for discovery of Cyclophilin D inhibitors and (b) apoptosis inhibitors

Several other structure-activity relationship (SAR) studies including oxalates for various biological activities have also been reported (Figure 8). For example, Mikolajczak et al. synthesized several cephalotaxine esters for their antitumor activities as in 19 [15]. Boger and Benkovic et al. reported some analogues of 5,8,10-trideazafolate, 20, which can serve as potential inhibitors of GAR Tfase or AICAR Tfase [16]. Pettit et al. also reported SAR studies of synthetic derivatives of a natural product, narciclasine, isolated from *Narcissus sp.* for anti-neoplastic activities as in 21 [17].

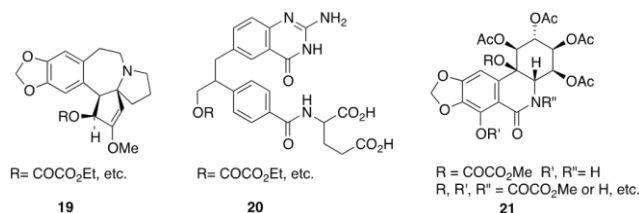


Figure 8: Synthesis of some oxalates for SAR studies.

Because of their structural characteristics, oxalates are prone to radical decarboxylation. This property has been applied to various reactions. For example, Minisci et al. reported silver-catalyzed selective alkoxycarbonylation of heteroaromatic bases, 22, with the use of monomethyl oxalate and monoethyl oxalate in the presence of $S_2O_8^{2-}$ under simple two-phase conditions (Figure 9) [18].

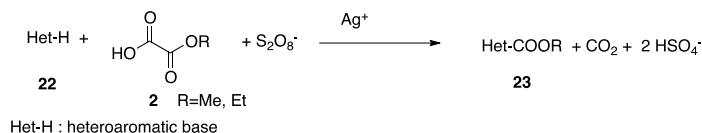


Figure 9: Selective alkoxycarbonylation of heteroaromatic bases reported by Minisci et al.

Barton and Crich reported deoxygenation of tertiary alcohols with the use of derivatives of half-esters of oxalates (Figure 10) [19-20]. The reaction selectively occurs with tertiary alcohols, producing the corresponding hydrocarbons in good yields, allowing cleavage of rather strong C(sp³)-O bonds.

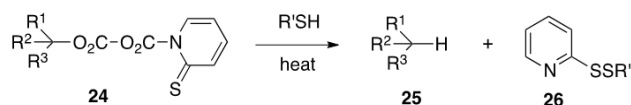


Figure 10: Deoxygenation of tertiary alcohols reported by Barton and Crich.

Inspired by their pioneering work, Overman and MacMillan et al. applied oxalate half-ester salts to deoxygenation of tertiary and secondary alcohols in the presence of photoredox catalysts [21-22]. Such deoxygenation reactions can also be followed by coupling reactions with aryl halides or by addition reactions to Michael acceptors. Overman et al. reported more stable *N*-phthalimidoyl oxalates, 27, allowing similar decarboxylation catalyzed by visible-light photoredox [23-25]. This reaction further leads to the construction of 1,4-dicarbonyl structural units followed by the conjugate additions to various Michael acceptors (Figure 11). The stereoselectivities for the formation of the new quaternary stereocenter can also be high (>20:1) when the precursors are chiral. Such strategies have been applied to synthesis of various complex natural products with quaternary centers, such as Cheloviden A, 29, Dendrillolide C, 30, and Cheloviden B, 31 [26]. They also extended this study to the generation of the methoxycarbonyl radical and subsequent coupling reactions with various alkenes [27]. Similarly, Fu et al. applied these *N*-phthalimidoyl oxalates, 27, to visible-light mediated deoxygenation reactions of *tert*-alcohols and the subsequent coupling reactions with various alkynes [28].

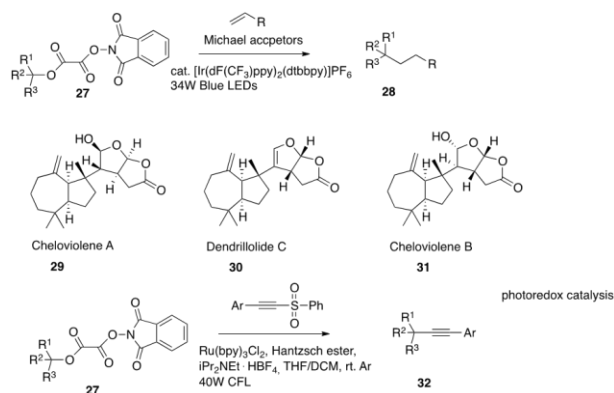


Figure 11: Deoxygenation and subsequent Michael addition reported by Overman et al.

Gong et al. also reported that oxalates from *tert*-alcohols, 33, undergo coupling reactions with various sources such as Michael reactants, TEMPO, and aromatic compounds via C-O bond fragmentation, allowing formation of new quaternary carbon centers (Figure 12) [29].

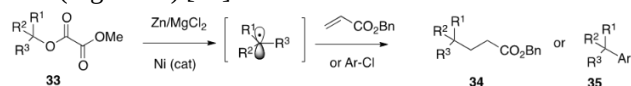


Figure 12: Coupling reactions reported by Gong et al.

Opatz et al. utilized oxalate half-esters for deoxygenative photoredox coupling reactions of alcohols from the oxalate with aromatic nitriles under transition metal-free conditions (Figure 13) [30]. They demonstrated that similar coupling reactions are also possible with carboxylic acids.

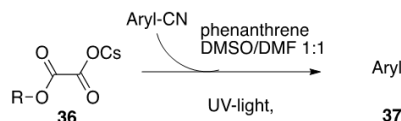


Figure 13: Transition metal-free coupling reported by Opatz et al.

Reiser et al. has reported that ethyl oxalates of 1,2-diols or β -amino alcohols undergo similar visible-light-mediated deoxygenation, further leading to synthesis of various chiral tetrahydrofurans or pyrrolidines (Figure 14) [31].

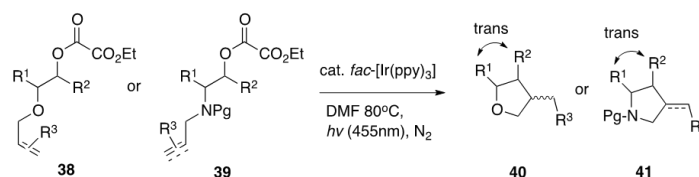


Figure 14: Visible-light-mediated deoxygenation reported by Reiser et al.

Reisman et al. furthered the radical deoxygenation reaction of alcohols with the use of half-esters of cesium oxalates, and reported deoxychlorination with ethyl 2,2,2-trichloroacetate (ETCA), 43, an Ir-catalyst, and blue LED [32]. Their method appears to be superior to traditional reagents such as thionyl chloride and triphenyl phosphine/ CCl_4 , allowing the deoxychlorination to occur on the secondary alcohols as well (Figure 15). They also showed that deoxybromination with diethyl bromomalonate and deoxyfluorination with Selectfluor are possible under essentially the same conditions.

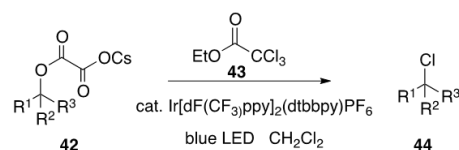


Figure 15: Deoxychlorination reported by Reisman et al.

Interestingly, an oxalate half-ester was utilized for formation of crystalline in the process of the synthesis of cathepsin S inhibitor (Figure 16) [33]. After numerous trials, the authors accidentally found that monoethyl oxalate forms a stable crystalline white solid with a purity of 96% for purification of an important intermediate, 45, and confirmed the structure by X-ray crystal analysis.

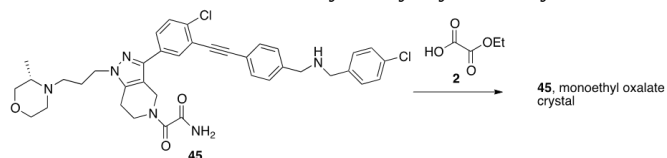


Figure 16: Crystallization of Intermediate for cathepsin S inhibitor.

Oxalate half-esters have also been applied to preparation of esterified starch with new properties. Zhang et al. reported that starch oxalate half-esters with different degrees of substitution can be prepared depending on the quantities of oxalic acid added in the reaction (Figure 17) [34]. They demonstrated that the average viscometric molecular weight, crystallization and thermal stability vary according to the degree of substitution, suggesting a potential use of oxalic acid-modified starches as bread softening agents and starch gelation inhibitors.

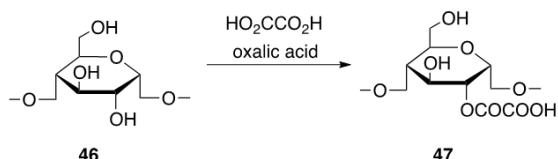


Figure 17: Starch oxalate half-ester reported by Zhang et al.

Oxalate half-esters are the simplest half-esters with no chiral center in the parent chain, and therefore their applicability may be tend to be overlooked. However, with this structural characteristic, they exert reactivities that other half-esters do not have as exemplified here. Future studies for their efficient and economical production will be of significance for the synthetic organic chemistry community.

Acknowledgements:

The author thanks financial support from JST J-RAPID Grant (Grant Number JPMJRR2003), Japan.

References

- Shi J, Niwayama S. Recent advancements in the synthesis of half-esters and their derivatives. *Heterocycles*, 2019, 98, 3-18.
- Brown LJ, Pileio G, Levitt MH, Brown RCD. Synthesis of carbon-13 labeled oxalates exhibiting extended nuclear singlet state lifetimes. *J Label Compd Radiopharm*. 2017; 60: 135-139.
- Niwayama S. Highly efficient selective monohydrolysis of symmetric diesters. *J Org Chem*. 2000; 65: 5834-5836.
- Niwayama S, Cho H, Lin C. Highly efficient selective monohydrolysis of dialkyl malonates and their derivatives. *Tetrahedron Lett*. 2008; 49: 4434-4436.
- Niwayama S. Highly efficient and practical selective monohydrolysis of symmetric diesters: Recent progress and scope. *J Synth Org Chem Jpn*. (Yuki Gosei Kagaku Kyokaishi). 2008; 66: 983-994.
- Niwayama S, Wang H, Hiraga Y, Clayton JC. Influence of co-solvents in the highly efficient selective monohydrolysis of a symmetric diester. *Tetrahedron Lett*. 2007; 48: 8508-8510.
- Niwayama S, Rimkus A. Effects of counter cations in selective monohydrolyses of symmetric diesters. *Bull Chem Soc Jpn*. 2005; 78: 498-500.
- Itaya T, Iida T, Gomyuo Y, Natsutani I, Ohba M. Reactions of oxalyl chloride with 1,2-cycloalkanediols in the presence of triethylamine. *Chem Pharm Bull*. 2002; 50: 83-86.
- Itaya T, Iida T, Natsutani I, Ohba M. Efficient synthesis and hydrolysis of cyclic oxalate esters of glycols. *Chem Pharm Bull*. 2002; 50: 346-353.
- Lloyd WD, Navarette BJ, Shaw MF. The cyclic oxalates of cis- and trans-1,2-cyclohexanediols. *Org Prep Proced Int*. 1975; 7: 207-210.
- Ma M, Hao W, Ma L, Zheng Y, Lian P, Wan X. Inception of radicals by molecular oxygen and diazo compounds: Direct synthesis of oxalate esters using visible-light catalysis. *Org Lett*. 2018; 20: 5799-5802.
- Ishikawa H, Elliott GI, Velcicky J, Choi Y, Boger DL. Total synthesis of (-)- and ent-(+)-Vindoline and related alkaloids. *J Am Chem Soc*. 2006; 128: 10596-10612.
- Grädler U, Schwarz D, Blaesse M, Leuthner B, Johnson TL, Bernard F, Jiang X, Marx A, Gilardone M, Lemoine H, Roche D, Jorand-Lebrun C. Discovery of novel Cyclophilin D inhibitors starting from three dimensional fragments with millimolar potencies. *Bioorg Med Chem Lett*. 2019; 29: 126717.
- Perez HL, Chaudhry C, Emanuel SL, Fanslau C, Fargnoli J, Gan J, Kim KS, Lei M, Naglich JG, Traeger SC, Vuppugalla R, Wei DD, Vite GD, Talbott RL, Borzilleri RM. Discovery of potent heterodimeric antagonists of inhibitor of apoptosis proteins (IAPs) with sustained antitumor activity. *J Med Chem*. 2015; 58: 1556-1562.
- Mikolajczak KL, Smith CR. Jr Weisleder D. Synthesis of cephalotaxine esters and correlation of their structures with antitumor activity. *J Med Chem*. 1977; 20: 328-332.
- Boger DL, Haynes NE, Warren MS, Gooljarsingh LT, Ramcharan J, Kitos PA, et al. Functionalized analogues of 5,8,10-Trideazafolate as potential inhibitors of GAR Tfase or AICAR Tfase. *Bioorg Med Chem*. 1997; 5: 1831-1838.
- Pettit GR, Melody N, Herald DL, Knight JC, Chapuis JC. Antineoplastic agents. 550. Synthesis of 10b(S)-Epipancrastatin from (+)-Narciclasine. *J Nat Prod*. 2007; 70: 417-422.
- Coppa F, Fontana F, Lazzarini E, Minisci F, Pianese G, Zhao LA. Novel convenient and selective alkoxyacylation of heteroaromatic bases by oxalic acid monoesters. *Tetrahedron Lett*. 1992; 33: 3057-3060.
- Barton DHR, Crich D. Formation of quaternary carbon centers from tertiary alcohols by free radical method. *Tetrahedron Lett*. 1985; 26: 757-760.
- Barton DHR, Crich D. The invention of new radical chain reactions. Part 11. A new method for the generation of tertiary radicals from tertiary alcohols. *J Chem Soc Parkin Trans*. 1986; 1603-1611.
- Nawrat CC, Jamison CR, Slutsky Y, MacMillan DWC, Overman LE. Oxalates as activating group for alcohols in visible light photoredox catalysis: Formation of quaternary centers by redox-neutral fragment coupling. *J Am Chem Soc*. 2015; 137: 11270-11273.
- Zhang X, MacMillan DWC. Alcohols as latent coupling fragments for metallaphotoredox catalysis: sp³-sp² cross-coupling of oxalates with aryl halides. *J Am Chem Soc*. 2016; 138: 13862-13865.
- Lackner GL, Quasdorf KW, Overman LE. Direct construction of quaternary carbons from tertiary alcohols via photoredox-catalyzed fragmentation of tert-alkyl N-phthalimidoyl oxalates. *J Am Chem Soc*. 2013; 135: 15342-15345.
- Lackner GL, Quasdorf KW, Pratsch G, Overman LE. Fragment coupling and construction of quaternary carbons using tertiary radicals generated from tert-alkyl N-phthalimidoyl oxalates by visible-light photocatalysis. *J Org Chem*. 2015; 80: 6012-6024.

25. Jamison CR, Overman LE. Fragment coupling with tertiary radicals generated by visible-light photocatalysis. *Acc Chem Res.* 2016; 49: 1578-1586.
26. Slutskyy Y, Jamison CR, Zhao P, Lee J, Rhee YH, Overman LE. Versatile construction of 6-substituted cis-2,8-dioxabicyclo[3.3.0]octan-3-ones: Short enantioselective total syntheses of Cheloviolenes A and B and Dendrillolide C. *J Am Chem Soc.* 2017; 139: 7192-7195.
27. Slutskyy Y, Overman LE. Generation of the methoxycarbonyl radical by visible-light photoredox catalysis and its conjugate addition with electron-deficient olefins. *Org Lett.* 2016; 18: 2564-2567.
28. Chang G, Li J, Yu J, Yang H, Fu H. Visible-light photoredox synthesis of internal alkynes containing quaternary carbons. *Chem Commun.* 2016; 52: 7292-7294.
29. Ye Y, Cheng H, Sessler JL, Gong H. Zn-mediated fragmentation of tertiary alkyl oxalates enabling formation of alkylated and arylated quaternary carbon centers. *J Am Chem Soc.* 2019; 141: 820-824.
30. Lipp B, Nauth AM, Opatz T. Transition-metal-free decarboxylative photoredox coupling of carboxylic acids and alcohols with aromatic nitriles. *J Org Chem.* 2016; 81: 6875-6882.
31. Rackl D, Kais V, Lutsker E, Reiser O. Synthesis of chiral tetrahydrofurans and pyrrolidines by visible-light-mediated deoxygenation. *Eur J Org Chem.* 2017; 2130-2138.
32. Su JY, Grünenfelder DC, Takeuchi K, Reisman SE. Radical deoxychlorination of cesium oxalates for the synthesis of alkyl chlorides. *Org Lett.* 2018; 20: 4912-4916.
33. Deng X, Liang JT, Peterson M, Rynberg R, Cheung E, Mani NS. Practical synthesis of a Cathepsin S. inhibitor: Route identification, purification strategies, and serendipitous discovery of a crystalline salt form. *J Org Chem.* 2010; 75: 1940-1947.
34. Zhang SD, Zhang YR, Huang HX, Yan BY, Zhang X, Tang Y. Preparation and properties of starch oxalate half-ester with different degrees of substitution. *J Polym Res.* 2010; 17: 43-51.