

A Simple Synthesis of 1-Substituted Diethyl Pyrrole-3,4-dicarboxylates

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Dedicated to Professor Gerhard Maas on the occasion of his 60th birthday

A series of 1-substituted diethyl 1*H*-pyrrole-3,4-dicarboxylates **4a – o** were prepared in 14 – 93 % yield by acid-catalysed treatment of diethyl 2,3-bis[(*E,E*)-(dimethylamino)-methylidene]succinate (**2**) with various aliphatic and (hetero)aromatic primary amines **3a – o**. The configuration of the C=C double bonds in the bis-enaminone **2** was determined by ¹H NMR and HMBC spectroscopy.

Key words: Pyrroles, Enaminones, Amines, Cyclisations, Heterocycles