

The Structure of the Product Formed by Condensation of Malononitrile with Dialkyl Acetone-1,3-dicarboxylates

Petr Šimuněk, Jernej Baškovč, Uroš Grošelj, Anton Meden, Jurij Svete,
and Branko Stanovnik

Faculty of Chemistry and Chemical Technology, University of Ljubljana, Aškerčeva 5,
1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia

Reprint requests to Prof. Dr. Branko Stanovnik. Fax: +386 1 2419 220.
E-mail: branko.stanovnik@fkkt.uni-lj.si

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Dedicated to Professor Peter Stanetty, Vienna University of Technology, on the occasion of his 65th birthday

By the condensation of malononitrile (**1**) with dialkyl acetone-1,3-dicarboxylates **2a, b** alkyl (3-cyano-6-alkoxy-2-oxo-1,2-dihydropyridin-4-yl)acetates **6a, b** are formed in contrast to an earlier report according to which diethyl 3-(dicyanomethylene)glutarate **3b** was obtained in the reaction of **1** and **2a**. Compounds **6a, b** were transformed with DMFDMA into the corresponding (*E*)-alkyl 2-(3-cyano-6-alkoxy-2-oxo-1,2-dihydropyridin-4-yl)-3-(dimethylamino)propenoates **7a, b**. The structures of **6a** and **7a** were confirmed by X-ray structural analysis.

Key words: Enamino Esters, Malononitrile, Dialkyl Acetone-1,3-dicarboxylates, X-Ray Structures