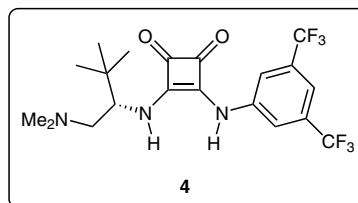
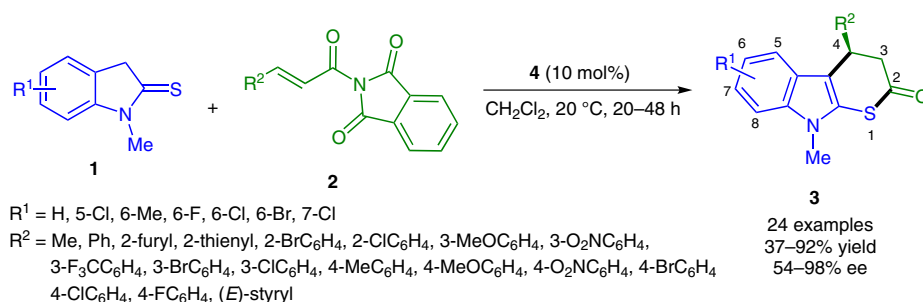


S. CHEN, J. PAN, Y. WANG, Z. ZHOU* (NANKAI UNIVERSITY, TIANJIN, P. R. OF CHINA)
Stereocontrolled Construction of the 3,4-Dihydrothiacarbazol-2(9*H*)-one Skeleton by Using Bifunctional Squaramide-Catalyzed Cascade Reactions
Eur. J. Org. Chem. **2014**, 7940–7947.

Enantioselective Synthesis of 3,4-Dihydrothiacarbazol-2(9*H*)-ones



Significance: Reported is the enantioselective synthesis of 3,4-dihydrothiacarbazol-2(9*H*)-ones **3** by reaction of indoline-2-thiones **1** with *N*-alkenylphthalimides **2** catalyzed by the chiral squaramide **4**. Screening of organocatalysts with double hydrogen-bond donor ability led to squaramide **4** derived from *L*-*tert*-leucine as the best catalyst for this transformation affording high enantioselectivity. The reaction conditions were optimized in terms of solvent, temperature, and catalyst loadings. Lower temperatures (0 °C) culminated in lengthy reaction time and lower yield but equivalent ee, while higher temperatures (40 °C) provided equivalent reaction yields but loss of stereocontrol. The study of the reaction scope showed that the presence of different substituents on both **1** and **2** were tolerated, but in some cases loss of stereocontrol without following a pattern was observed.

Comment: The indole skeleton is an important class of heterocycles present in many natural products with broad biological activities, and can be synthesized by many well-described methodologies (see Review below). The thiopyran indole **3** was obtained by an activation process promoted by two hydrogen-bonding interactions of **2** with the squaramide organocatalyst, followed by a Michael addition step and a thiolysis reaction. The starting materials **1** and **2** are readily available. Although a mild process, the reported approach has long reaction times and the study of the reaction scope is narrow.

Review: G. R. Humphrey, J. T. Kuethe *Chem. Rev.* **2006**, *106*, 2875–2911.

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Synfacts 2015, 11(1), 0026 Published online: 15.12.2014
DOI: 10.1055/s-0034-1379703; **Reg-No.:** V15014SF

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