

**Synthesis and Analysis of
2-(2-Formyl-4-nitrophenoxy) phenyl palmitate**

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment
of the requirement for the degree of

**MASTERS OF SCIENCE
IN
CHEMISTRY**

Submitted by

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THAPAR INSTITUTE
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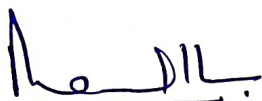
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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the dissertation entitled **Synthesis and Analysis of 2-(2-Formyl-4-nitrophenoxy) phenyl palmitate** being submitted by **Sanchita**(Roll N0. 302102025) to **School of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Thapar Institute of Engineering and Technology, Patiala** in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of degree of Master of Science in Chemistry, is an authentic record of the work carried out by the candidate under our guidance and supervision. She has fulfilled the requirements for submitting this dissertation, which has reached the requisite standard to our knowledge.

The results embodied in the dissertation have not been submitted in part or in full to any other university or institute for the award of any other degree or diploma.



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DECLARATION

I, hereby declare that the dissertation entitled **Synthesis and Analysis of 2-(2-Formyl-4-nitrophenoxy) phenyl palmitate** being submitted in the partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of the degree of Master of Science in Chemistry to **School of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Thapar Institute of Engineering and Technology, Patiala** is a record of my work carried out under the supervision of **Dr Manmohan Chhibber**, Professor, School of Chemistry and Biochemistry(SCBC) and **Dr Ranjana Prakash**, Professor, School of Chemistry and Biochemistry(SCBC), Thapar Institute of Engineering and Technology(TIET), Patiala from January 2023 to July 2023.

Further, the results embodied in the dissertation have not been submitted in part or in full to any other university or institute for the award of any other degree or diploma.

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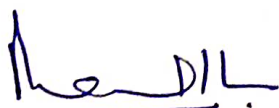
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**Synthesis and Analysis of
2-(2-Formyl-4- nitrophenoxy) phenyl palmitate**

ABSTRACT

Diphenyl ethers are essential compounds due to their antibacterial characteristics and materialistic purposes. Many of these have been obtained from natural sources and have various roles in the pharmaceutical and material worlds. Diphenyl ethers with long chain hydrocarbons have wide range of applications in different areas. The work presented here describes the synthesis and analysis of compound 2-(2-formyl-4-nitrophenoxy) phenyl palmitate (**Compound-G**) starting from compound 2-Bromo-5-nitrobenzaldehyde (**Compound-A**). All the synthesized (**compounds A-G**) were characterized by ^1H and ^{13}C -NMR spectroscopy. A detailed analysis of both the compounds- **E** and **G** was done using HRMS data.

CHAPTER-1

INTRODUCTION

Diphenyl Ether [(C₆H₅)₂O], represents a class of organic compounds consisting of two phenyl (C₆H₅) groups linked by an oxygen atom as shown in **Figure 1**. At room temperature, it is a colorless solid with a pleasant geranium-like aroma¹. It has unique electronic and physical characteristics because of the two aromatic rings present in the structure.

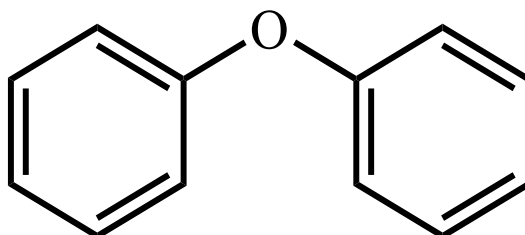


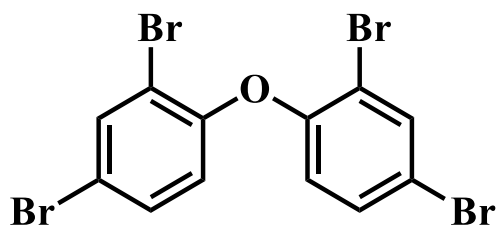
Figure -1: Molecular structure of Diphenyl Ether

This molecule is highly soluble in lipid-based solvents but is poorly soluble in water. The vapour pressure of diphenyl ether at 20⁰C is 6 x 10⁻² torr². Due to its beneficial properties, such as its excellent solvating power, low toxicity, and high thermal stability, it has a wide range of uses. This molecule is employed as a heat transfer agent and is frequently referred to as thermal oil due to its low vapour pressure and strong thermal stability. Heat transfer fluid is a eutectic combination of 73.5% diphenyl ether and 26.5% biphenyl, also known as Dowtherm A, Thermex, Diphyl, and VOT³.

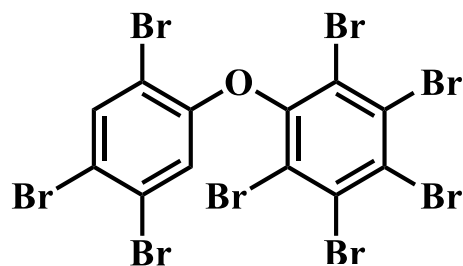
Among other things, the production of polyesters and soap fragrance both employ diphenyl ether. Diphenyl ether is employed as a chemical bridge in the halogenation, acylation, and alkylation of substances as well as the production of surfactants. They have unique properties that make them useful as building blocks in the synthesis of new compounds and materials.

Industrial procedures are used to create synthetic substances called polybrominated diphenyl ethers, which have bromine atoms bonded to the structure of the diphenyl ether molecule. They are served as flame suppressants⁴. There are 209 congeners - a term given to describe the family of PBDEs - that are possible. **Compounds-1** and **2** are a few examples of polybrominated

diphenyl ethers. Some of these are used in variety of polymers as electrical circuits, plastics, textiles, and other products to prevent the spread of fire.

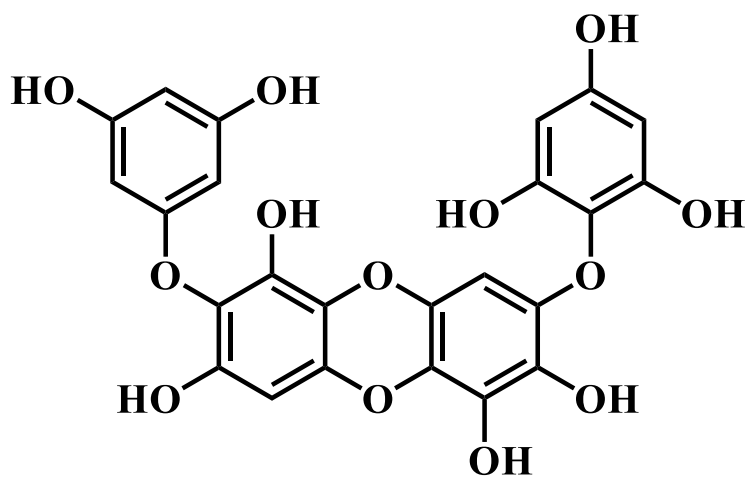


Compound -1



Compound -2

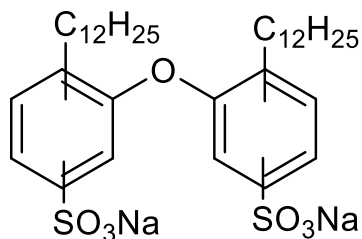
In addition to synthetic ones, there are also naturally occurring diphenyl ethers. Brown algae and other marine organisms include compounds such as diphenloethoxyhydroxycarmalol (DPHC) [Compound-3] which is naturally occurring chemicals containing diphenyl ether moiety. The antioxidant DPHC, which was isolated from the brown algae *Ishige okamurae*, lowers reactive oxygen species and has protective effects against high glucose-induced oxidative stress linked to diabetes in humans⁵. DPHC exhibit a preventive effect against UVB-caused damage⁶.



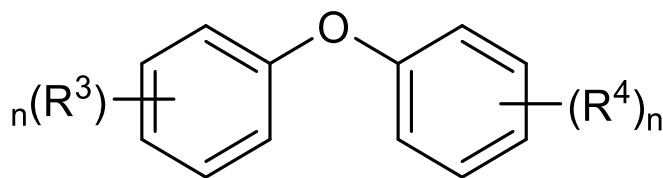
Compound -3

Many diphenyl ethers with long hydrocarbon chains on the phenyl ring have been synthesized and found to have many uses in various fields. Di-tetrapropylene diphenyl ether disulfonate (Compound-4) has been discovered to be an anionic gemini surfactant comprised of two tetrapropylene benzene sulfonates joined by an oxygen spacer⁷. Gemini surfactants are dimeric compounds with two hydrophobic chains and two hydrophilic heads connected by a spacer.

These surfactants have the potential to be tens to thousands of times more surface active than ordinary surfactants. **Compound-4** was discovered to have higher surface activity as a gemini surfactant, and the electrical conductivity results suggested that **Compound-4** formed micelles more easily⁸.



Compound -4



R^3, R^4 = Hydrocarbon chain of 10-26 carbons.

Compound -5

Alkyl diphenyl ethers are of interest as lubricants for specialized applications. High temperatures and speeds in bearing lubrication may cause oil film shortages or degradation, causing the lubricant's base oil to evaporate and damage the bearing, reducing the machine's lifetime. Various base oils, such as polyphenyl ether, silicone oil, and fluorinate oil, are used in lubrication. Alkyl diphenyl ether (**Compound-5**) has been identified for its exceptional heat and oxidation stability, with negligible evaporation at high temperatures and little viscosity fluctuation. Because of its unique feature, it has found to be excellent foundation oil for heat-resistant grease. This kind of grease has a broad range of uses, including ball bearings, roller bearings, and vehicle electric auxiliary machinery⁹.

As previously stated, diphenyl ethers with long hydrocarbon chains have shown great value in a variety of sectors. This thesis focuses on synthesizing and analyzing 2-(2-Formyl-4-nitrophenoxy) phenyl palmitate, which possesses an ester group with a long hydrocarbon chain. This unique feature presents exciting prospects for future applications and developments.

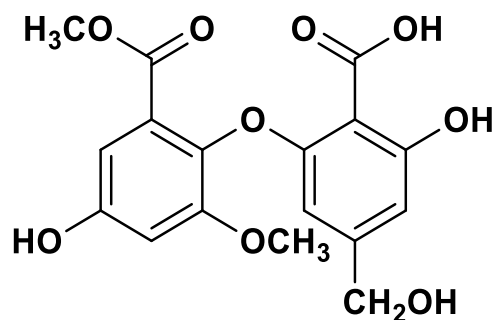
CHAPTER-2

LITERATURE REVIEW

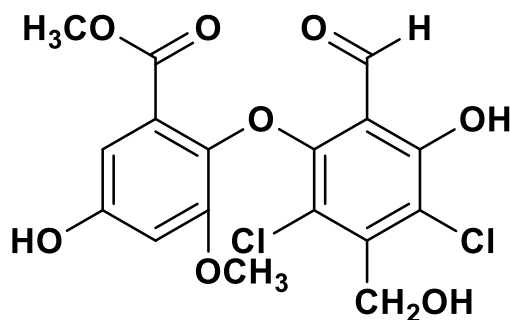
Diphenyl ether derivatives have been demonstrated to have antiinflammatory¹⁰, antimicrobial¹¹, antimalarial¹², and antiandrogenic properties¹³. These have been found in different kinds of marine organisms. Because of their promising biological effects, numerous publications have emerged regarding the utilization of organic chemistry as a technique for synthesizing these compounds..

Isolation from Natural Products

Diphenyl ether (**Compound-6**), a polyketide isolated from the marsh fungus *Aspergillus flavipes*, displayed higher inhibitory effects than acarbose¹⁴. Among the identified compounds, one was a previously reported diphenyl ether (**Compound -7**), which showed glucosidase inhibitory action. Because of the enzyme's capacity to absorb dietary carbohydrates, α -glucosidase inhibitors are thought to be helpful for diabetes therapy¹⁵.

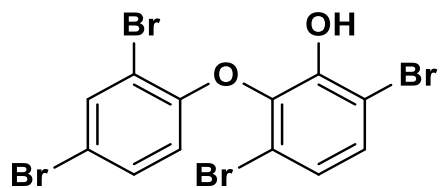


Compound-6

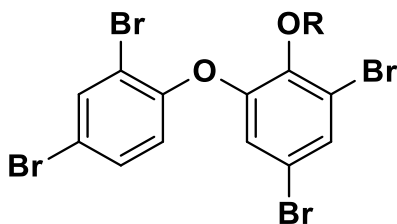


Compound-7

Polybrominated diphenyl ethers are a kind of brominated flame retardant that is used as a constituent in polymers for electronic devices, as well as in textiles¹⁶. Both hydroxylated and methoxylated PBDEs are recognized natural compounds. Both of them have been found in fish and wildlife from the Baltic Sea. **Compound-8** has been found in plasma of Baltic salmon. Red algae have been identified as the rich source of these compounds. **Compounds-9 and 10** have been isolated from red macroalga *Ceramium tenuicorne*¹⁷. Another OH-PBDE (**Compound-11**) and MeO-PBDE (**Compound-12**) have been found in Blue mussels (*Mytilus edulis*).

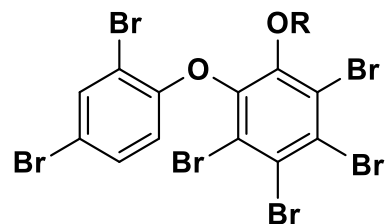


Compound- 8



**Compound
9
10**

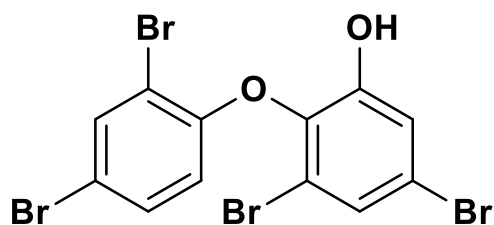
**R
H
CH₃**



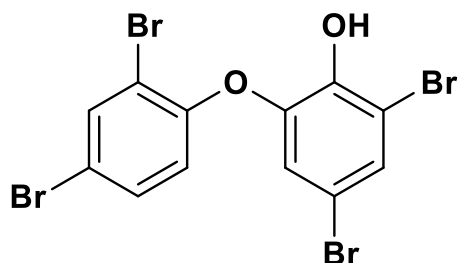
**Compound
11
12**

**R
H
CH₃**

Tie2 kinase is an enzyme that promotes angiogenesis, which is required for tumour development and survival. Tie2 kinase was discovered to be inhibited by a crude extract produced from a sponge of the *Dysidea* genus. The crude extract yielded two polybrominated diphenyl ethers (**Compound-13 and 14**) that inhibit Tie2 kinase¹⁸.

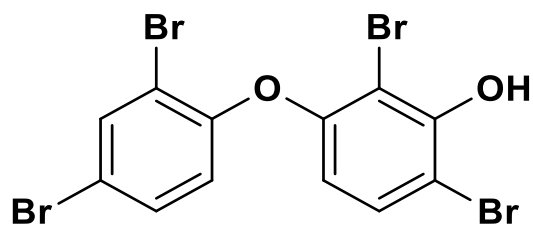


Compound-13

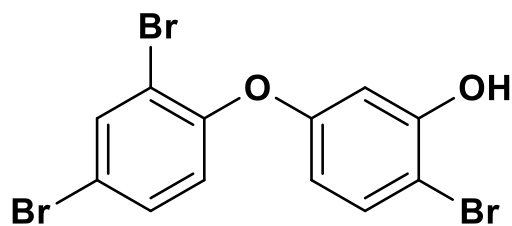


Compound-14

Recently some of the hydroxylated PBDEs have been isolated from rat faeces. Hydroxylated tetrabrominated diphenyl ethers (**Compound-15**) and Hydroxylated tribrominated PBDEs (**Compound-16**) were found in the rat faeces¹⁹.

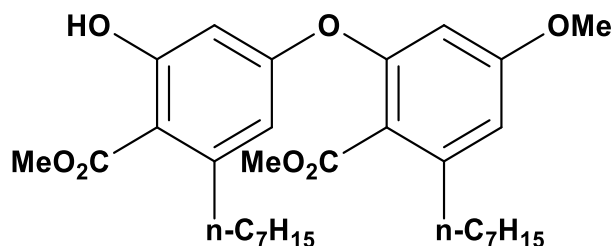


Compound-15

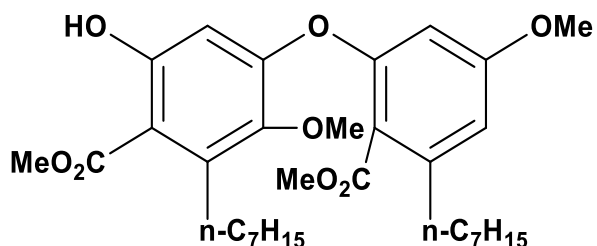


Compound-16

Two diphenyl ethers (**Compounds-17 and 18**) with a long hydrocarbon chain and a methyl ester group on the phenyl ring were discovered and isolated from the lichen *Micavea pvasina* Fr²⁰.

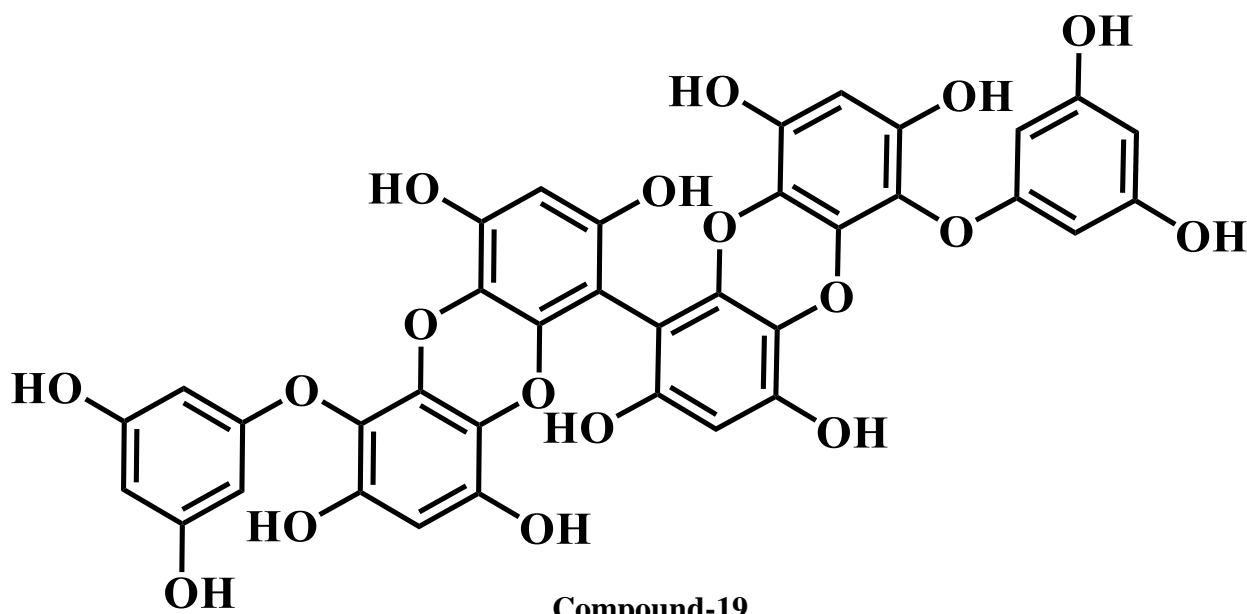


Compounds-17



Compounds-18

Ecklonia cava (brown algae) produced 6, 6'-Bieckol (**Compound-19**), which has been isolated. It has anti-inflammatory, anti-oxidant, and anti-microbial properties. **Compound-19** was discovered to have an HIV-1 inhibitory mode of action by reducing the activities of HIV-1 RT polymerase and ribonuclease. This compound effectively limit HIV-1 proliferation and reverse transcriptase actions²¹. Additionally, it can be used to treat obesity²².



Compound-19

As a result, the natural world offers a plentiful supply of diphenyl ether derivatives that have been found effective in a variety of biological applications.

Synthesis of Diphenyl ethers:- Diphenyl ethers have been synthesized since the beginning of the 20th century and their yearly output has grown to several thousand tonnes since 1930s (Kirk and Othmer, 1965)²³.

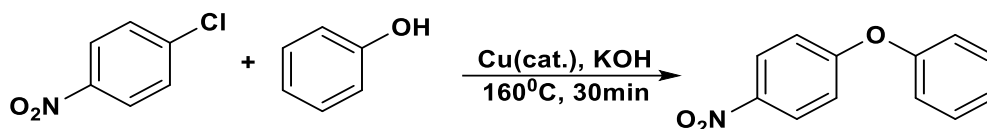
Historical Background: - Synthesis of diphenyl ether has an interesting historical background that can be summarized as follow:

Dr. K. List and H. Limpricht discovered diphenyl ether for the first time in 1854. They were studying the products obtained from distillation of copper benzoate and isolated a substance during fractional distillation they called phenyl oxide. Fittig and Kekule also attempted to create this molecule using different methods, but they were unable to create the necessary phenyl oxide.

In order to confirm its existence, W. Hoffmeister carried out an experiment in 1871²⁴. He used steam distillation instead of fractional distillation to isolate this compound from phenyl benzoate and obtained the diphenyl ether in much pure state.

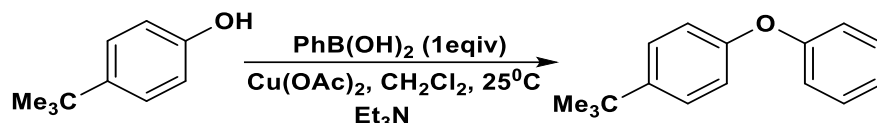
In 1850, Alexander William Williamson postulated the Williamson ether synthesis, an S_N^2 mechanism for ether formation involving the interaction of an alkoxide and a haloalkane²⁵.

In 1904, Ullmann pioneered the development of the copper-mediated arylation method, which involves coupling phenol with aryl halides²⁶. This transformational method, known as the Ullmann condensation, which involves the conversion of aryl halides to a variety of compounds such as aryl ethers, thioethers and nitriles. An illustrative demonstration of this method can be seen in the synthesis of 1-nitro-4-phenoxybenzene through the reaction of 4-chloronitrobenzene with phenol using copper with a base at elevated temperatures (**Scheme-1**).



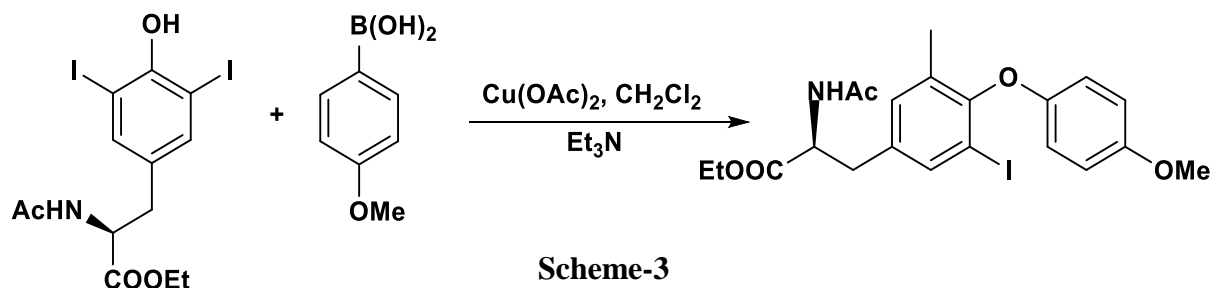
Scheme-1

Ullmann ether synthesis required high temperatures with base and may produce inconsistencies in functionalized systems. Later, Chan and colleagues describe the coupling of arylboronic acids with several nitrogen-containing substrates at room temperature to give the N-arylated compounds²⁷. **Scheme-2** depicts the synthesis of desired compound in methylene chloride from 4-tert-butylphenol and phenylboronic acid.



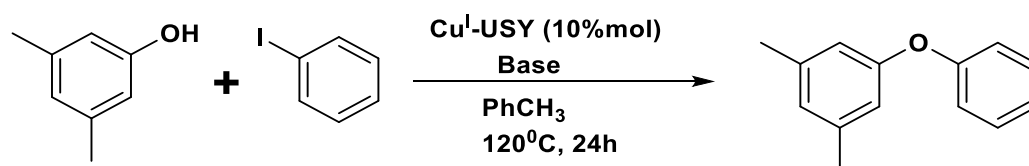
Scheme-2

The reaction, on the other hand, was conducted under ambient conditions, endures a wide range of substituents, providing good yields. Evans used this approach to successfully synthesise diphenyl ether, a critical intermediary in the synthesis of L-thyroxine, by combining phenol and 4-methoxyphenylboronic acid²⁸ (**Scheme-3**).



Scheme-3

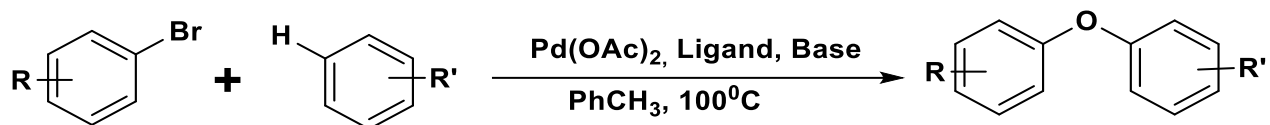
At 120 °C, using Cu (I)-USY as the catalyst and cesium carbonate as the base, electron-rich phenols like 3,5-dimethylphenol exhibit good reactivity with simple aryl iodides or bromides, resulting in the synthesis of diaryl ether (**Scheme-4**). Even at greater temperatures, up to 140 °C, the reaction remains efficient. One of the most obvious benefits of employing a copper catalyst is its reduced cost and toxicity when compared to other choices. While typical bases such as potassium phosphate are often used in such couplings, cesium carbonate proved to be the preferable option with Cu (I)-USY as the catalyst, delivering greater conversion rates and yields than potassium phosphate²⁹.



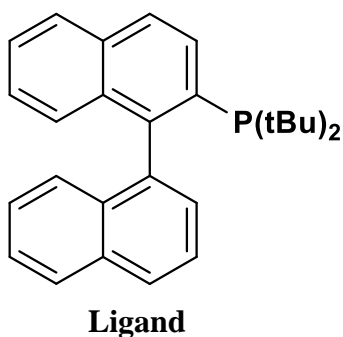
Scheme-4

The use of metal catalysed cross coupling reactions, such as palladium and copper, has become more important in the synthesis of diphenyl ethers. Buchwald synthesised a number of diphenyl

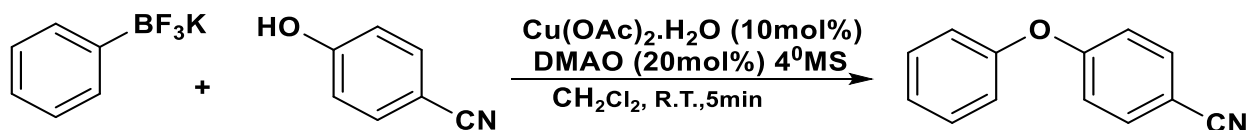
ethers (Scheme-5) in 1999 utilising a variety of electron deficient, electron rich, and alkyl halides²⁹. In the presence of biphenyl phosphine ligands, the palladium catalysed reaction produced the required product.



Scheme-5

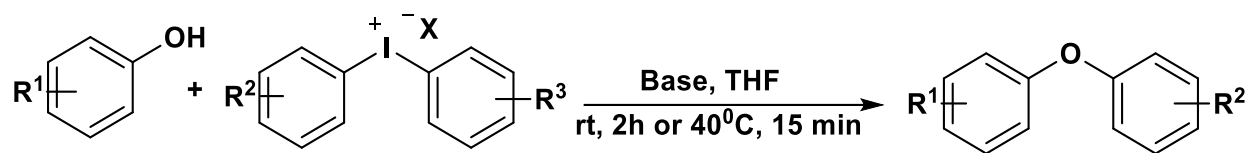


Pd-based techniques often need the use of costly catalyst/ligand combinations. Cross coupling reaction between alcohols or phenols and organometalloid reagents has been investigated as an alternate approach for ether production. Quach and Robert A. Batey made an important breakthrough in this field by developing a mild and practically neutral copper (II)-catalyzed etherification approach for aliphatic alcohols (**Scheme-6**). A catalytic quantity of copper (II) acetate is used in combination with DMAP as a ligand in this method, while the presence of four molecular sieves and an oxygen environment accelerates the reaction further.³⁰



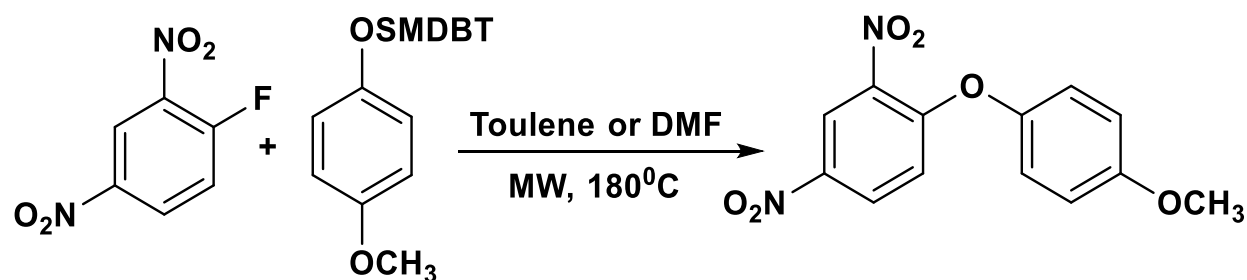
Scheme-6

Berit olfsson discovered a technique for high-yielding diaryl ether synthesis using mild and metal-free conditions (**Scheme-7**). They produced diphenyl ether without using any ligands or metals by combining phenol with diphenyl iodonium tflat³⁰. This method requires a strong base.



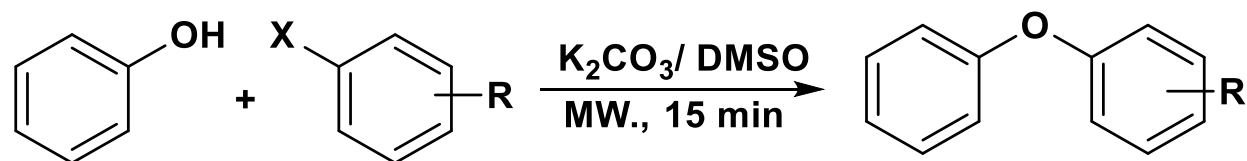
Scheme-7

Verkade's research team successfully synthesised diphenyl ethers using microwave irradiation. The synthesis used electron-deficient aryl fluorides and electron-rich TBDMS-protected phenols, as well as a base in the form of 10% t-Bu-P4³¹ (**Scheme-8**).



Scheme-8

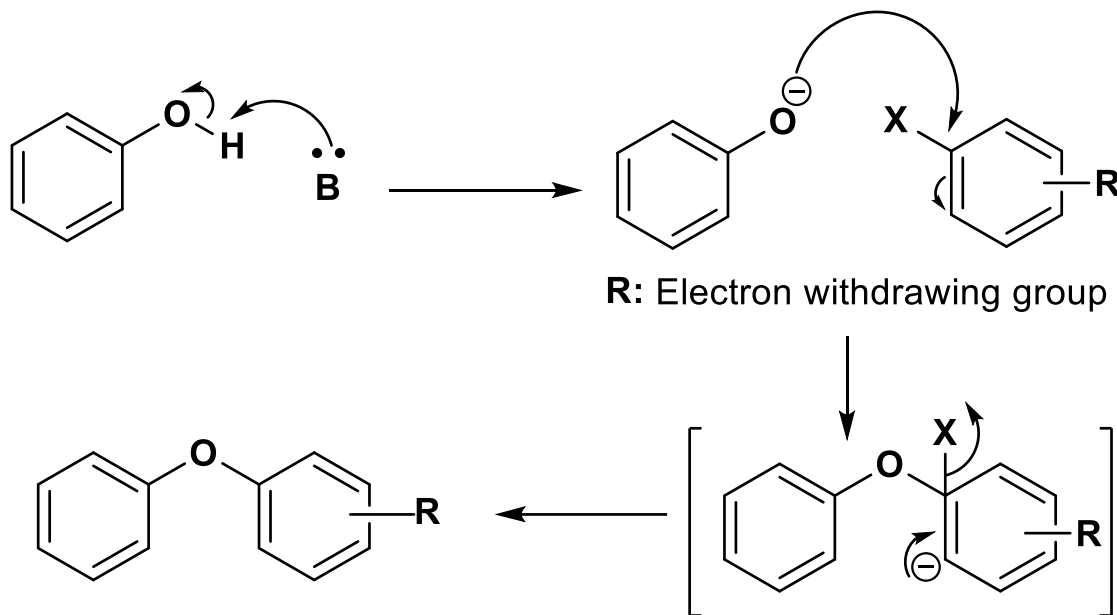
Quanrui Wang found a revolutionary technique for producing high to exceptional yields of diphenyl ethers. This method comprises the direct coupling of phenols with strong electron-withdrawing group with electron-deficient aryl halides in 5-10 minutes through aromatic nucleophilic substitution and microwave irradiation (**Scheme-9**). Notably, no catalysts are required for this process³².



Scheme-9

Scheme-10 below shows the proposed mechanism of the nucleophilic aromatic substitution reaction for the formation of diphenyl ethers. The reason for the reaction is the generation of the nucleophilic centre at the halide-containing carbon due to the electron-withdrawing effect of the NO₂ group. The critical step in this mechanism is the formation of intermediate II with sp³

hybridized carbon when a nucleophile containing phenoxy group attacks the nucleophilic centre. Finally, the halide, a good leaving group, departs to impart aromaticity and the resulting diphenyl ether.



Scheme-10

Many diphenyl ether derivatives are known, as shown by the preceding literature. On the other hand, a number of diphenyl ether derivatives and diphenyl ethers with long hydrocarbon chains have been isolated from natural resources and analysed for their biological activity with excellent findings as shown above. As a result, there is a need to investigate this series of compounds and assess their biological and other material features. This initiative, on the other hand, focuses on synthesising and characterising the 2-(2-Formyl-4-nitrophenoxy) phenyl palmitate.

CHAPTER -3

OBJECTIVES

GAP IN RESEARCH

Several derivatives of diphenyl ether have been synthesized and investigated for their antibacterial activities. However, diphenyl ethers with ester groups although well known need a study to better understand the possible biological activities and other material characteristics with long-chain hydrocarbon. The synthesis and characterization of such a compound is the main objectives of this project. Research on such synthesized diphenyl ethers may shed a new light on antibacterial and material properties of such molecules like involvement of esterase in antibacterial and display of liquid crystals. Also due to their long chain, a unique structural features, may allow them to be used in a wide range of materials, including coatings, polymers and deserve applications. This work involves synthesis and detailed characterization of diphenyl ethers with following objectives.

OBJECTIVES

1. To synthesis of diphenyl ether derivative containing an ester group with a long hydrocarbon chain.
2. To characterize synthesized compounds using spectroscopic techniques.
3. To correlate the analytical data with the structure of synthesized compounds.

CHAPTER-4

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Materials: All of the compounds were bought from various sources and were of purity 98% or above. 2-Bromo-5-nitrobenzaldehyde, Catechol and 48% HBr were purchased from Avra Synthesis Pvt. Ltd. Solvents were purchased from AVARICE Laboratories Pvt. Ltd. Organic substances were purified using column chromatography with silica gel having 60-120 mesh size and hexane and ethyl acetate as mobile phase. Aluminium sheets with a silica coating measuring 60 F₂₅₄ and 0.2 mm thick from Merck in India were used for TLC monitoring.

Instrumentation: The characterization of all organic compounds synthesized in this study was performed using advanced instrumentation. NMR spectroscopy was conducted using 400 and 100MHz JEOL model for ¹H and ¹³C-NMR spectrometer respectively at Sai Labs, Patiala, India. Mass analysis of the synthesized compounds was carried out using an XEVO G2 XS mass spectrometer. The ion source utilized a combined ESI and APCI source, enabling both positive and negative ion modes for scanning. The mass analyzer had a wide range, capable of analyzing compounds up to 40000 Daltons. A high-resolution of greater than 40000 FEMH was achieved. Detection of compounds was performed using a PDA detector with a range of 190-800 nm. These advanced analytical techniques ensured accurate and comprehensive characterization of the synthesized compounds.

Methods:

The work described below describes the methods of synthesis of diphenyl ether derivatives, specifically 2-bromo-5-nitrobenzaldehyde (**Compound-B**), 2-(2-methoxyphenoxy)-5-nitrobenzaldehyde (**Compound-D**), 2-(2-hydroxyphenoxy)-5-nitrobenzaldehyde (**Compound-E**) (by two different methods 1 and 2), and 2-(2-formyl-4-nitrophenoxy) phenyl palmitate (**Compound-G**).

Synthesis of Compound-B: 2-Bromo-5-nitrobenzaldehyde (**A**) (0.500g, 1.09mmol) was dissolved in 10ml DCM in a 100 ml RBF and stirred for 10-15 minutes. After 15 minutes, a 7:3 solution of H₂SO₄ (7ml) and HNO₃ (3ml) was added drop by drop to this reaction mixture. The flask was then placed in an ice bath, maintained at 0-10°C and the agitation continued for duration of two hours. Throughout the reaction, TLC was employed to monitor its progress.

After completion, the contents of reaction were poured to a beaker containing ice. To extract the organic compound, DCM (3x25ml) was used, followed by washing the organic layer with water (3x25ml). Any remaining moisture was removed using anhydrous Na₂SO₄. The solvent was evaporated. The solvent was evaporated, leaving the crude product, which was further purified using column chromatography to obtain the desired **compound-B** (0.354gm, Yield: 88.5%). ¹H NMR-(400 MHz; CDCl₃): 10.36 (s, 1H), 8.69(d, J=2.8Hz, 1H), 8.29 (dd, J=2.8, 8.72Hz, 1H), 7.87(d, J=8.72Hz, 1H).

Synthesis of compound-D: 2-methoxy phenol(C) (0.350g, 2.82mmol) was taken in 100ml RBF. DMF (10ml), K₂CO₃ (0.434g, 3.15mmol) and catalytic amount of 18-crown-6 were added to this RB. This mixture was allowed to stirred at rt. for about 20 min. **Compound-B** (0.648g, 2.82mmol) was added to this RB and further stirred for 12 hours. The course of the reaction was tracked by TLC. The reaction was eventually quenched by adding water to the mixture. To extract the organic compound, DCM (3x25ml) was used, followed by washing the organic layer with water (3x25ml). Any remaining moisture was removed using anhydrous Na₂SO₄. The solvent was evaporated, leaving the crude product, which was further purified using column chromatography to obtain the desired **compound-D** (0.550g, Yield: 71.6%). ¹H NMR-(δ ; 400 MHz; CDCl₃): 10.64 (s, 1H), 8.76 (d, J=2.88Hz, 1H), 8.24 (dd, J=2.88, 9.2Hz, 1H), 7.31(m, 1H), 7.18(dd, J=1.6, 7.Hz, 1H), 7.05 (m, 2H), 6.73 (d, J=9.2Hz, 1H), 3.75(s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ 187.6, 164.9, 151.4, 142.6 141.7, 130.1, 127.7, 124.6, 124.5, 122.8, 121.6, 115.8, 113.2, 55.8.

Synthesis of compound-E:

Method 1: The **compound-D** (0.200g, 0.771mmol) and acetic acid (10ml) were taken in 100ml RBF. To this 48% HBr (1ml) was added drop wise and refluxed for 6h. The course of the reaction was tracked by TLC. After the completion, acetic acid was evaporated in vacuo. Water (10ml) was added to dissolve the content. To extract the organic compound, ethyl acetate (3x25ml) was used. Any remaining moisture was removed using anhydrous Na₂SO₄. After evaporating the solvent crude product was purified by column chromatography to obtain solid (0.95mg, 50%).

Method 2: Catechol (F) (0.250g, 2.27mmol) was taken in 100ml RBF. DMF (10ml), K₂CO₃ (0.351g, 2.54mmol) and catalytic amount of 18-crown-6 was added to this. At rt. the contents of

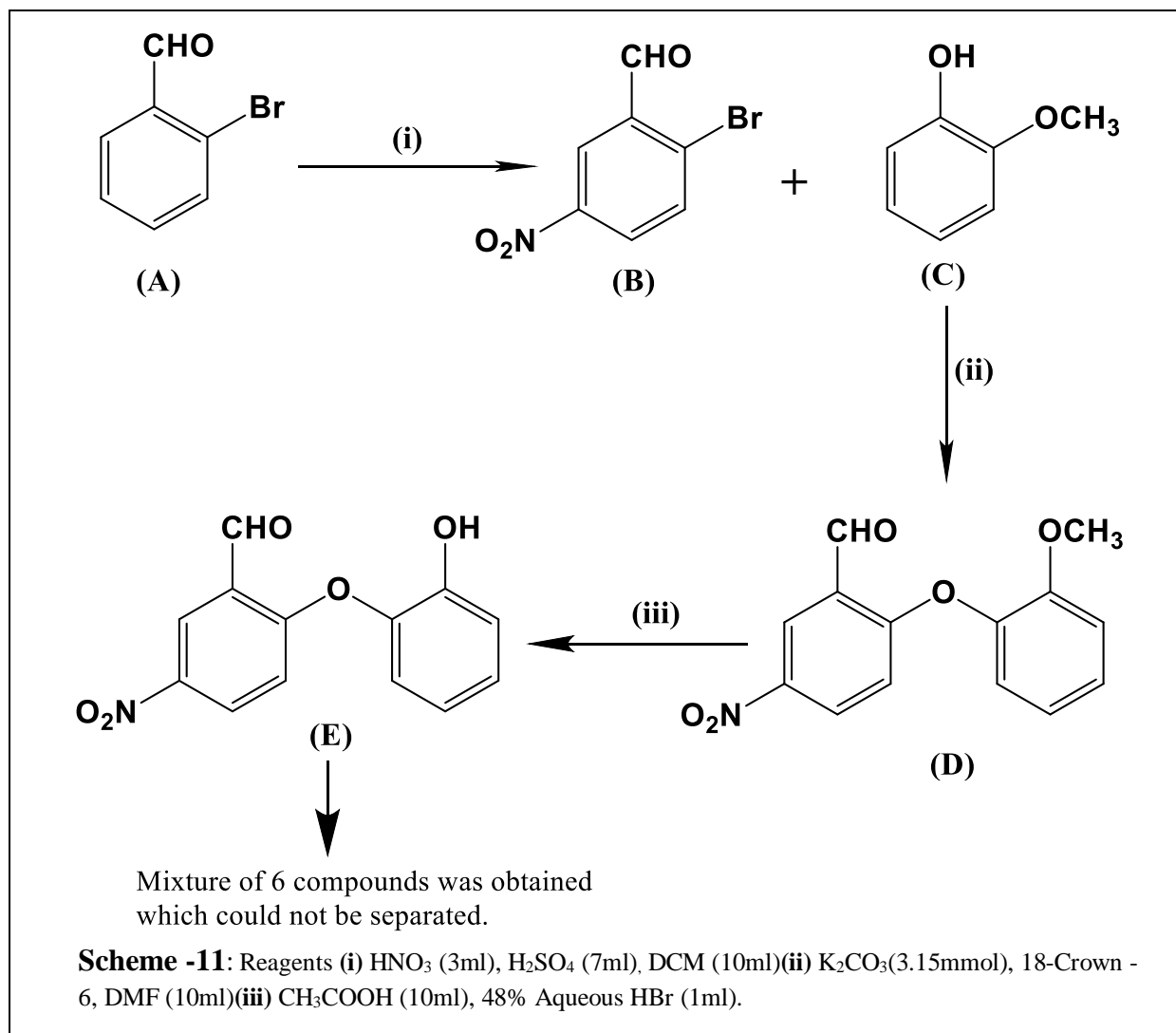
RB were stirred for 20 min. **Compound-B** (0.522g, 2.27mmol) was added to this RB and further stirred for 12 hours at rt. Throughout the reaction, TLC was employed to monitor its progress. The reaction was eventually quenched by adding water to the mixture. To extract the organic compound, DCM (3x25ml) was used, followed by washing the organic layer with water (3x25ml). Any remaining moisture was removed using anhydrous Na₂SO₄. The solvent was evaporated, leaving the crude product, which was further purified using column chromatography to obtain the desired **compound-E** (0.550g, Yield: 71.6%). ¹H NMR-(δ ; 400 MHz; CDCl₃): 10.56 (s, 1H), 8.72 (d, J=2.84Hz, 1H), 8.24 (dd, J=2.92, 9.2Hz, 1H), 7.21(m, 1H), 7.09(m, 2H), 6.99 (m, 1H), 6.92(d, J=9.2Hz, 1H), 5.88(br s,1H). ¹³C NMR-(CDCl₃): δ 187.6, 170.9, 163.9, 147.8, 143.0, 140.8, 130.5, 127.7, 125.2, 121.6, 118.0, 116.6. **HR-MS**: m/z= 282 [M+Na]⁺, 265 [M+Na-OH]⁺,256 [M+Na-CHO]⁺,243 [M-CHO]⁺, 230 [M-OH]⁺.

Synthesis of compound-G: The **compound-F** (0.300g, 1.16mmol) was taken in 100ml RBF. DMF (10ml), K₂CO₃ (0.239g, 1.73mmol) and catalytic amount of 18-crown-6 were added to RBF. At room temperature, the contents of RBF were stirred for 20min. Palmitic acid (0.222g, 0.866mmol) with phosphorus trichloride (0.119g, 0.866mmol) was taken in another 50ml round bottom flask and refluxed for 15 minutes. After refluxing, the content of RB-2 was transferred drop wise to the RB 1 with DCM (10ml). TLC was employed to monitor its progress. The reaction was eventually quenched by adding water to the mixture. To extract the organic compound, DCM (3x25ml) was used, followed by washing the organic layer with water (3x25ml). Any remaining moisture was removed using anhydrous Na₂SO₄. The solvent was evaporated, leaving the crude product, which was further purified using column chromatography to obtain the desired **compound-G** (0.550g, Yield: 71.6%). ¹H NMR-(δ ; 400 MHz; CDCl₃): 10.56 (s, 1H), 8.77 (d, J=2.92,Hz, 1H), 8.30 (dd, J=2.84, 9.2Hz, 1H), 7.34(m, 2H), 7.26(m, 1H), 7.19 (m, 1H), 6.93(d, J=9.2Hz, 1H), 2.34(t,2H), 2.03(m, 4H), 1.66(m, 4H), 1.26(m, 18H), 0.88(t, 3H). ¹³C NMR-(CDCl₃): δ 186.99, 171.41, 163.80, 145.44, 143.12, 142.58, 135.29, 130.35, 127.63, 127.63, 125.10, 124.52, 122.23, 116.99, 37.18, 33.95, 32.28, 32.07, 29.79, 29.68, 29.45, 29.20, 29.01, 27.17, 26.47, 24.87, 23.52, 22.78, 14.22. **HR-MS**: m/z= 303.05, 537.22, 467.27, 287.03,282.03,256.03,144.10,137.05.

CHAPTER-5

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The work described here details the synthesis and characterization of diphenyl ether derivatives, specifically **Compound-B**, **D**, **E** (by two different methods 1 and 2), and **Compound-G**. **Scheme-11** shows the route to synthesize compounds - **B**, **D** and **E**.



Nitration of **Compound-A** was done using conc. HNO₃ and H₂SO₄ in DCM under stirring in an ice bath at 0-10°C to obtain a yellow-coloured solid in the quantitative yields. After characterization using ¹H NMR spectroscopy (Figure-1), the product was conformed to be **Compound-B** was obtained. As shown in **figure-2**, the appearance of downfield signals at δ

value 7.8 and 8.7ppm due to the NO₂ group and the absence of one peak in the aromatic region corresponding to one proton confirmed the formation of nitration product.

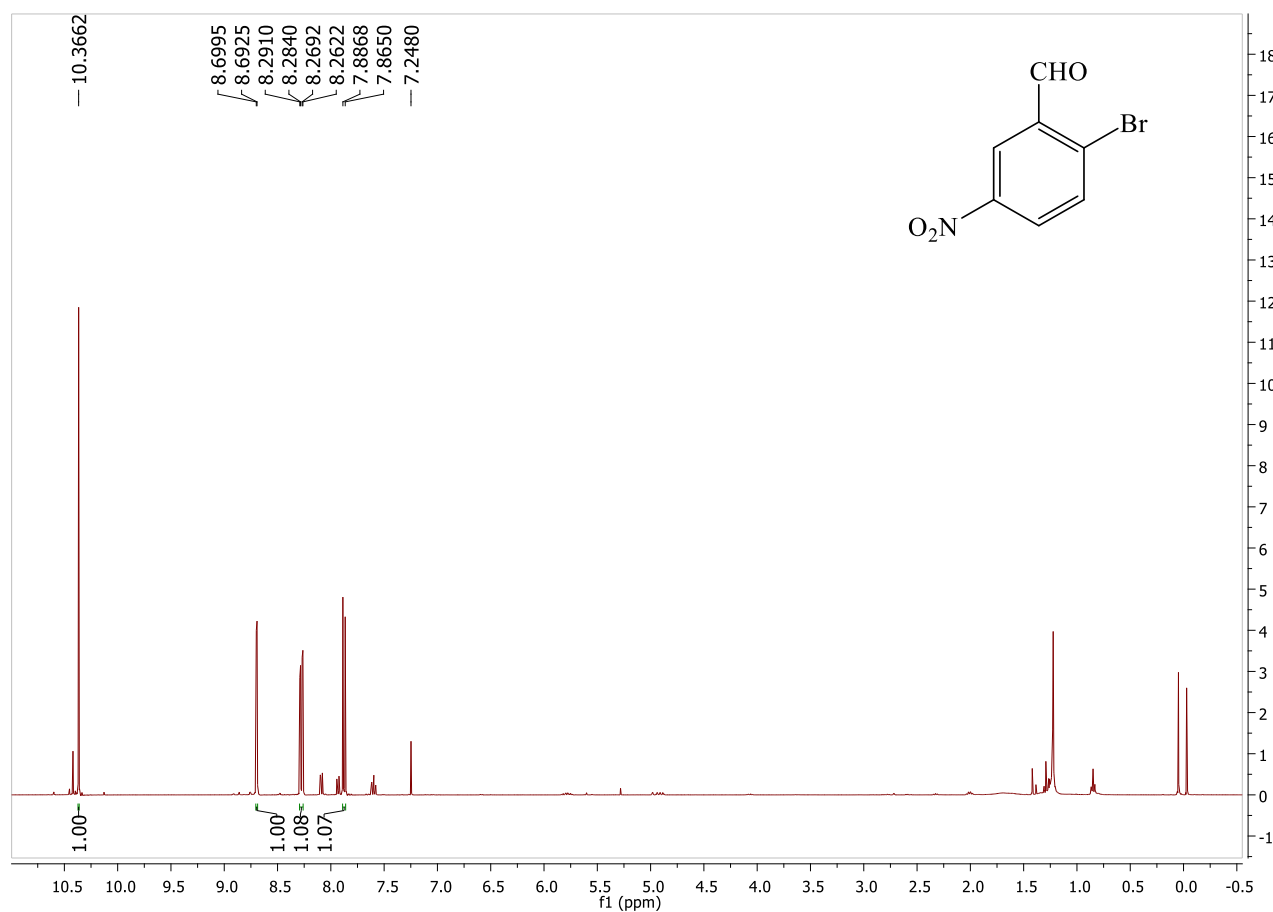


Figure-2: ¹H-NMR spectra of **Compound-B**.

Compound- **B** was reacted with **compound-C** through nucleophilic aromatic substitution using a mild base K₂CO₃, in DMF and 18-Crown-6 to obtain **Compound-D**. The formation of the **compound-D** was verified by ¹H and ¹³C-NMR spectroscopy. The presence of a singlet at 3.59 ppm represents 3H corresponding to methoxy group and a singlet at 10.64 ppm due to the proton of the aldehyde group, along with seven protons of the phenyl rings between 6.72-8.75 ppm confirmed the formation of product (**Figure-3**). Similarly, ¹³C-NMR showed four quaternary carbons at 164.9, 151.4, 142.6 and 130.1 ppm, corresponding to ethereal carbons and the ones attached to methoxy and aldehyde groups. Another quaternary carbon at 141.7 ppm due to

carbon attached to the nitro group, methoxy carbon at 55.8 ppm, and carbonyl carbon, way downfield at 187.7 ppm, further confirmed compound-D formation.

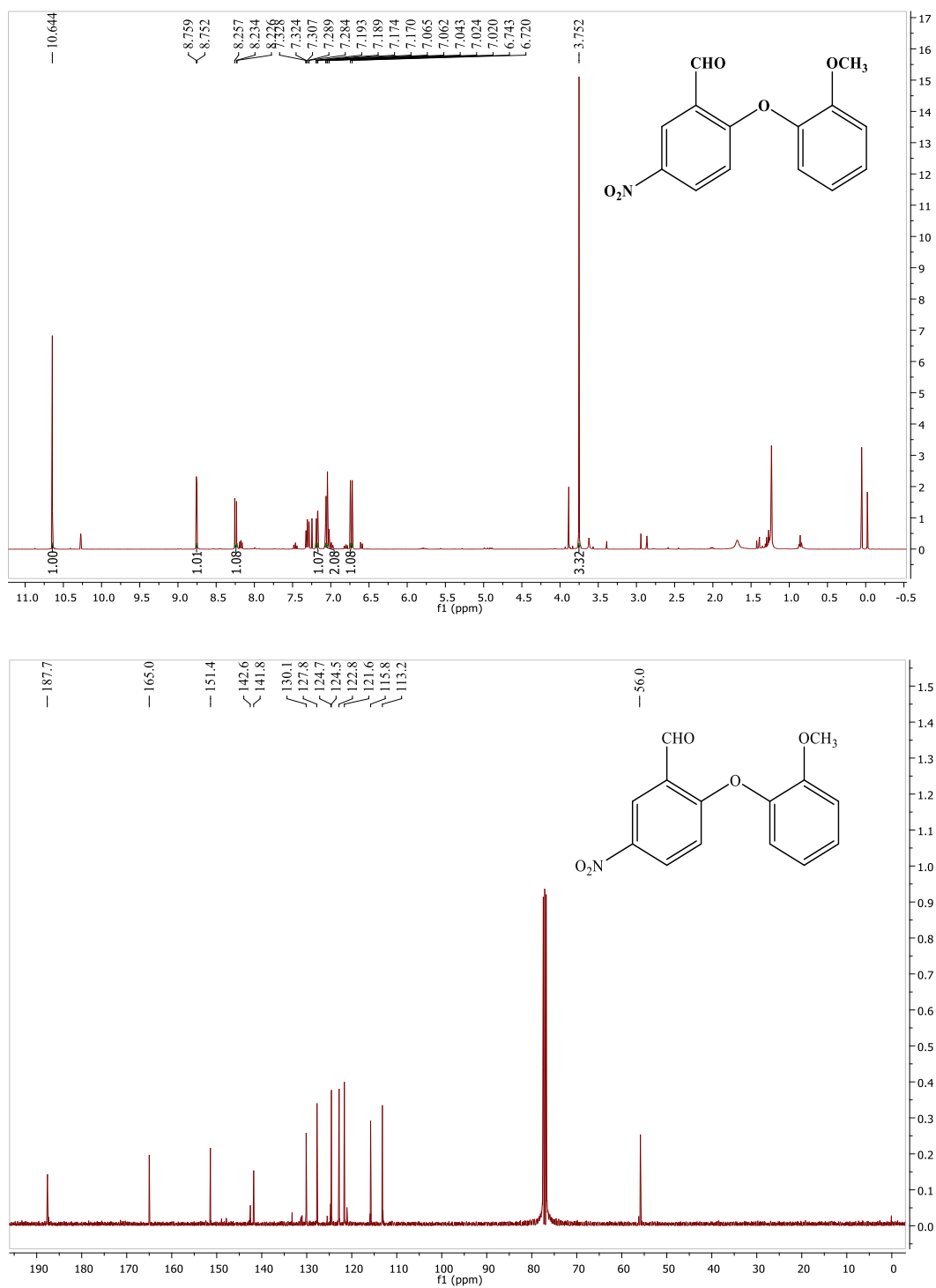
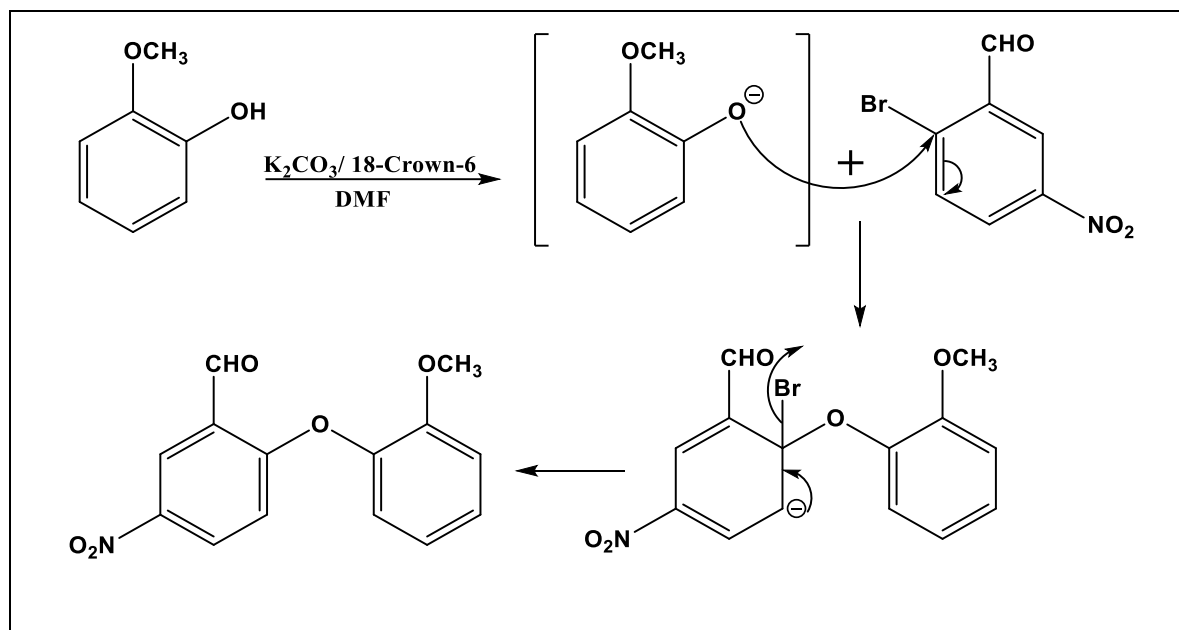


Figure-3a and 3b: ¹H and ¹³C-NMR spectra of compound-D respectively.

Scheme-12 below shows the nucleophilic aromatic substitution reaction for the formation of diphenyl ethers. The reason for the reaction is the generation of the nucleophilic centre at the halide-containing carbon due to the electron-withdrawing effect of the NO₂ group. The critical step in this mechanism is the formation of intermediate II with sp³ hybridized carbon when a nucleophile containing phenoxy group attacks the nucleophilic centre. Finally, the halide, a good leaving group, departs to impart aromaticity and the resulting diphenyl ether.

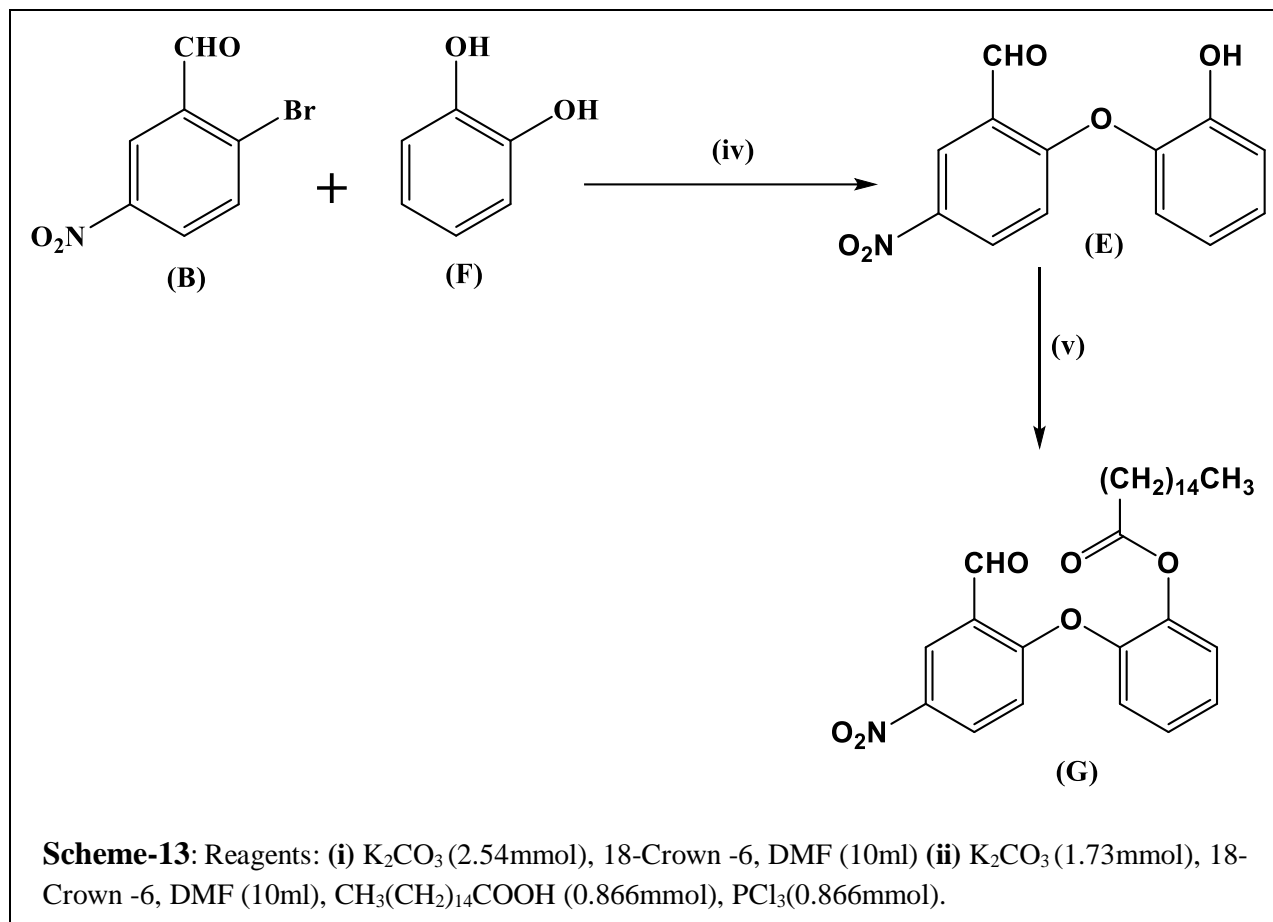


Scheme-12: Mechanism of formation of **compound-D**.

Compound-E was attempted to be synthesized by refluxing **compound-D**, 2-(2-methoxyphenoxy)-5-nitrobenzaldehyde in the presence of acetic acid and 48% aqueous HBr. However, using this methodology, a mixture of products was obtained with a lot of decomposed material. Attempts to separate the desired product using column chromatography were unsuccessful

Therefore an alternate approach was adopted, as shown in **Scheme-13**. In this case, **compound-B** obtained above was reacted with Catechol (**Compound-F**) under similar conditions as described for **compound-E** synthesis. **Compound (E)** was thus obtained using this method, a pure product in a 71.6% yield. The care was not to use any excess **compound-B** to avoid double substitution product. The mechanism of this reaction is the same as that for the synthesis of **compound (E)**. The formation of the **compound-E** was verified by ¹H and ¹³C-NMR spectra. In

$^1\text{H-NMR}$, a broad peak at 5.88ppm indicated the presence of hydroxyl group, and the loss of singlet from 3.72 ppm stated the absence of the methoxy group.



Similarly, $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ spectra displayed twelve aromatic carbons in the range of 171-116 ppm and a peak at 187.7 ppm due to carbonyl carbon of the aldehyde group. The absence of any peak in the aliphatic region (55.8ppm) was evident due to the choice of a different substrate. **Figures 4a** and **4b** show ^1H and $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ spectra of **compound-E**.

Figure-5 and **6** shows fragmentation pattern and mass spectra of **compound-E**. The mass spectra did not display molecular ion peak corresponding to the compound's molecular weight. However, a peak at $m/z = 282$ displayed sodiated molecular mass for the compound as shown in **figure-6a**. The loss of carbonyl group and hydroxyl group, respectively, from $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ corresponded to $m/z = 256$ (**Figure-6b**) and 265 (**Figure-6c**). Additionally, two peaks at $m/z = 230$ (**Figure-6d**) and 242 (**Figure-6e**) signifies the removal of aldehyde and hydroxyl groups from the phenyl ring verified the formation of the product.

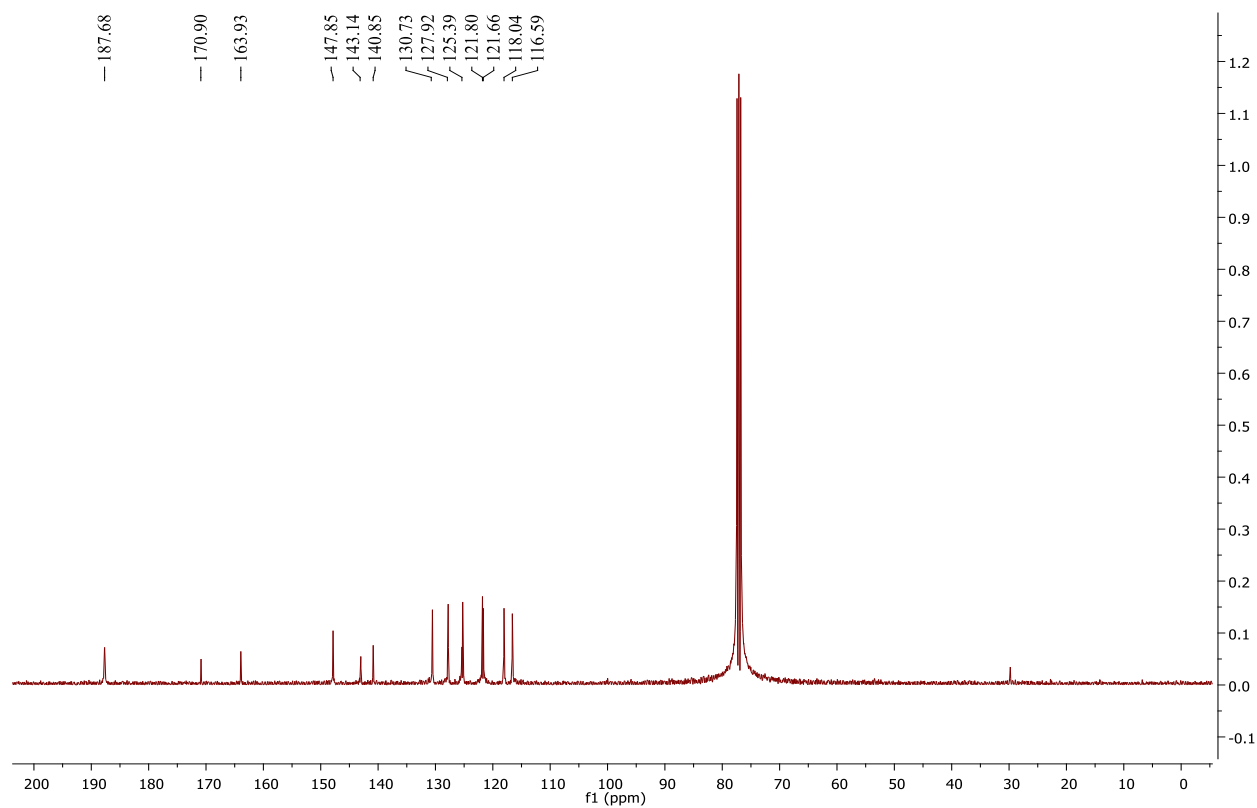
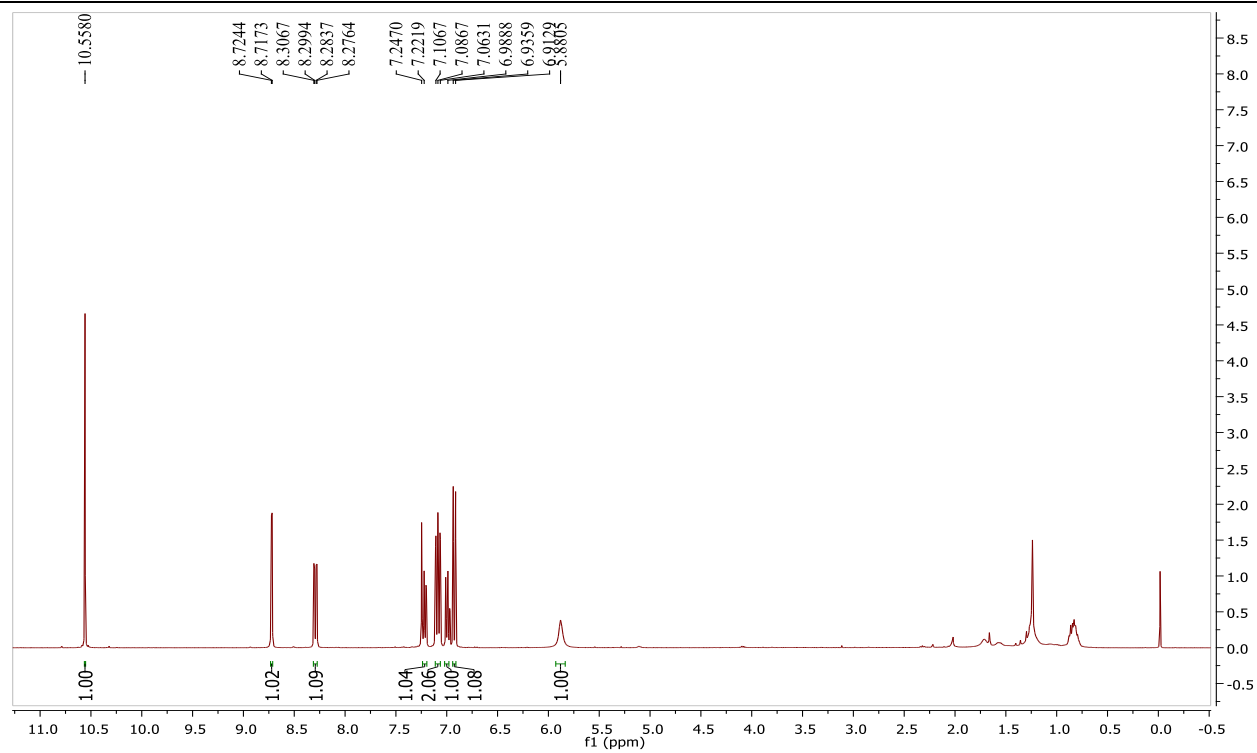


Figure-4a and 4b: ^1H and ^{13}C -NMR spectra of compound-E respectively.

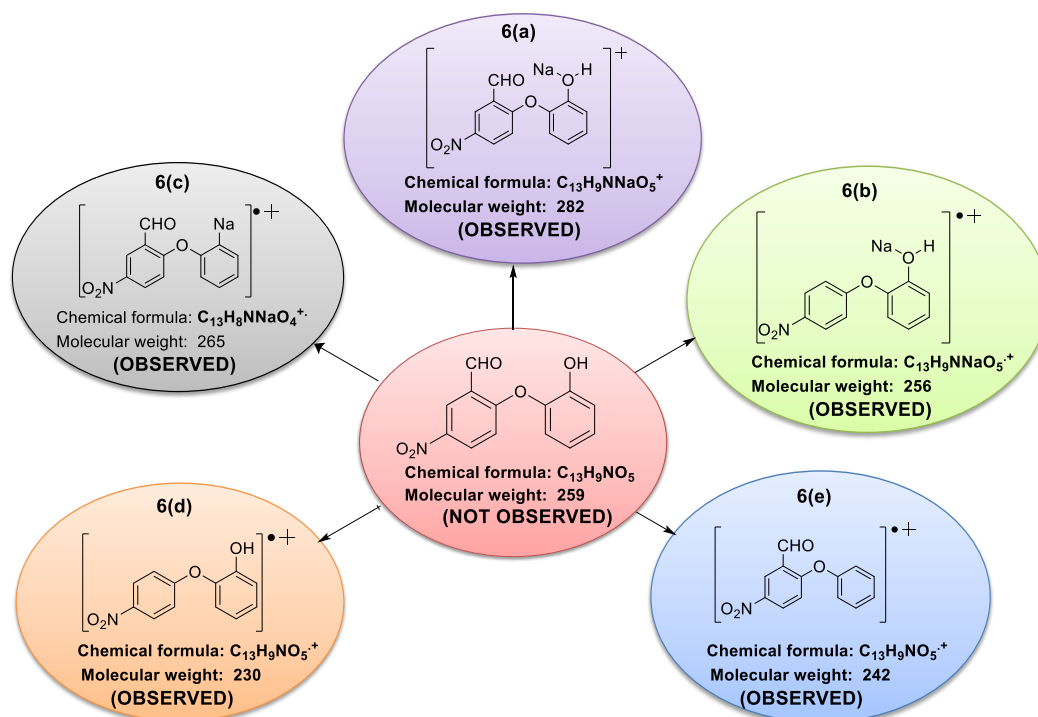
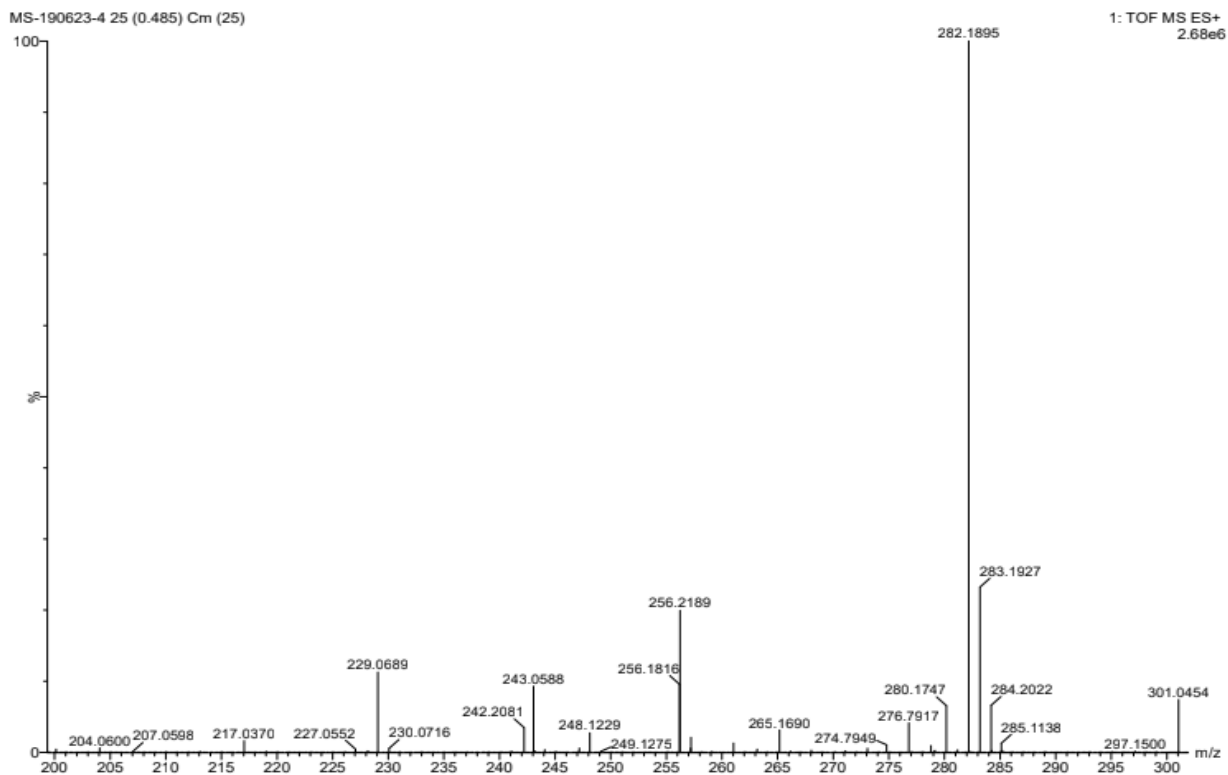


Figure-5 and 6 shows fragmentation pattern and mass spectra of **compound-E**

Finally, to synthesize the long chain ester of the diphenyl ether, **compound -E** was reacted with mild base (K_2CO_3) in DCM with palmityl chloride to give **Compound-G** with 71.6% yield. Before that Palmitic acid and phosphorus trichloride were heated in an oil bath till the evolution of hydrochloric acid gas ceased to afford its corresponding chloride. Conformation of synthesis was done by structure determination using 1H and ^{13}C -NMR (**Figure 7 and 8**). 1H -NMR spectral data displayed the seven aromatic protons in the range of 10.5-6.91ppm and triplet at 2.02ppm due to two protons at carbon adjacent to ester group and presence of fifteen protons in aliphatic region confirmed the formation of compound-G. In ^{13}C -NMR spectral data presence of 12 carbons in aromatic region in the range of 163.8-116.9 and peaks at 186.9 and 171.41 due the carbonyl carbon of aldehyde and ester group respectively. Also, the presence of 15 carbons in the aliphatic region verified the formation of **compound-G**.

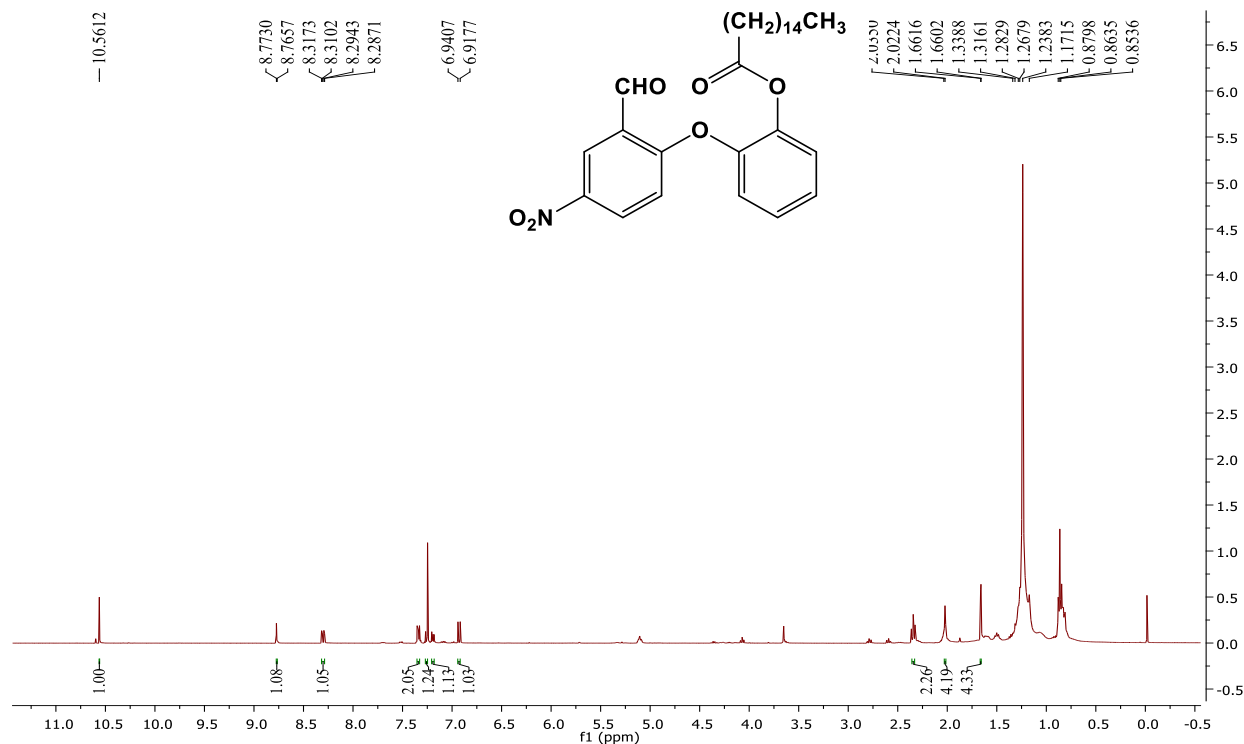


Figure-7: 1H -NMR spectra of **compound-G**.

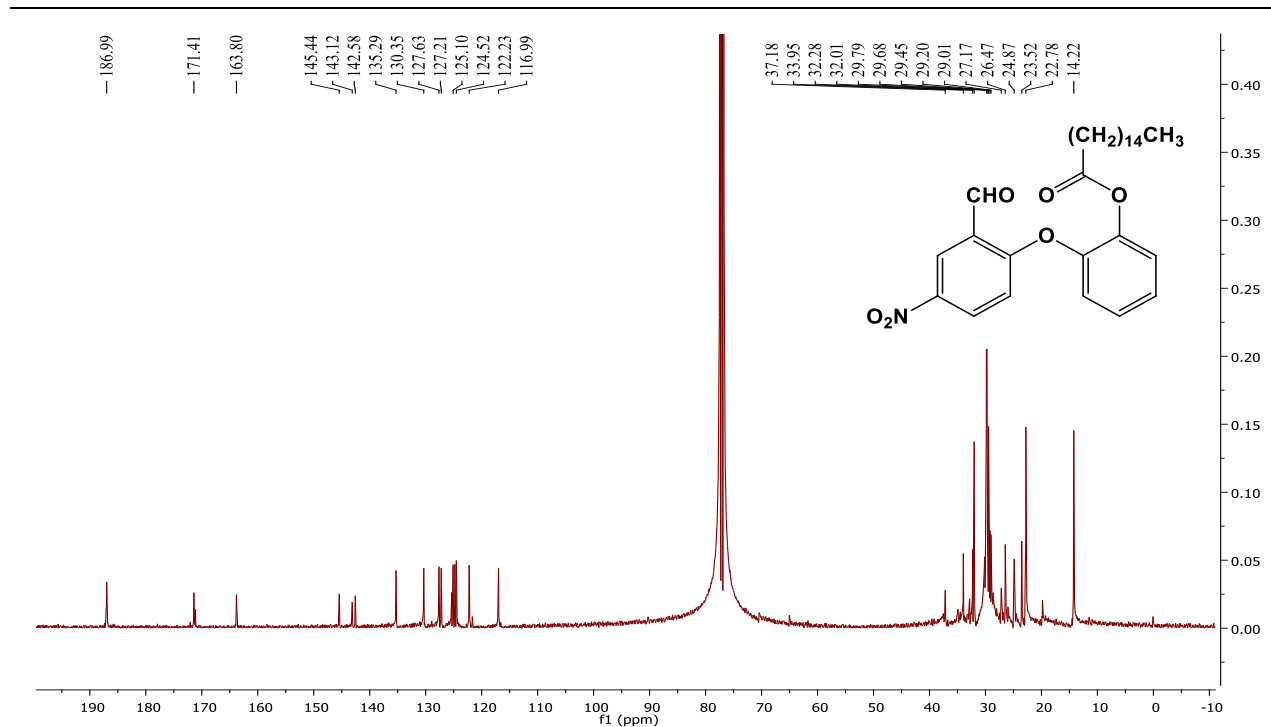


Figure-8: ^{13}C -NMR spectra of **compound-G**

Figure-9 and **10** below show mass spectra and the analysis of **Compound-G**. Potassiated peak at $m/z= 537.22$ $[\text{M}+\text{K}]^+$ (**Figure-10a**), followed by another one at $m/z= 467.05$ (**Figure-10b**) signifies the loss of carbonyl group which can be seen in **Figure-9**. The loss of the hydrocarbon chain of palmitic acid, keeping its carbonyl group intact, corresponded to the moiety shown in (**Figure-10c**) peaked at $m/z= 287.05$.

The peak at $m/z= 282.10$ signifies the loss of $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{31}\text{O}$ radical, and at 256.88 represents the removal of $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{31}\text{O}$ and carbonyl group from molecule followed by protonations with sodium matched the peaks as shown by its precursor (**figure-10h**). Thus, the synthesized diphenyl ether motif followed the same fragmentation pattern. The ^1H and ^{13}C NMRs did not reveal the presence of any starting material.

Further, the peak at $m/z= 144.94$ (**Figure-10d**) is due to the fragment arising from the hydrocarbon chain's C_8H_{17} radical and the loss of the phenyl ring. The sodiated segment generated by the loss of the phenyl ring and $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{21}$ radical from the hydrocarbon chain corresponded to a peak at $m/z= 136.96$ (**figure-10e**).

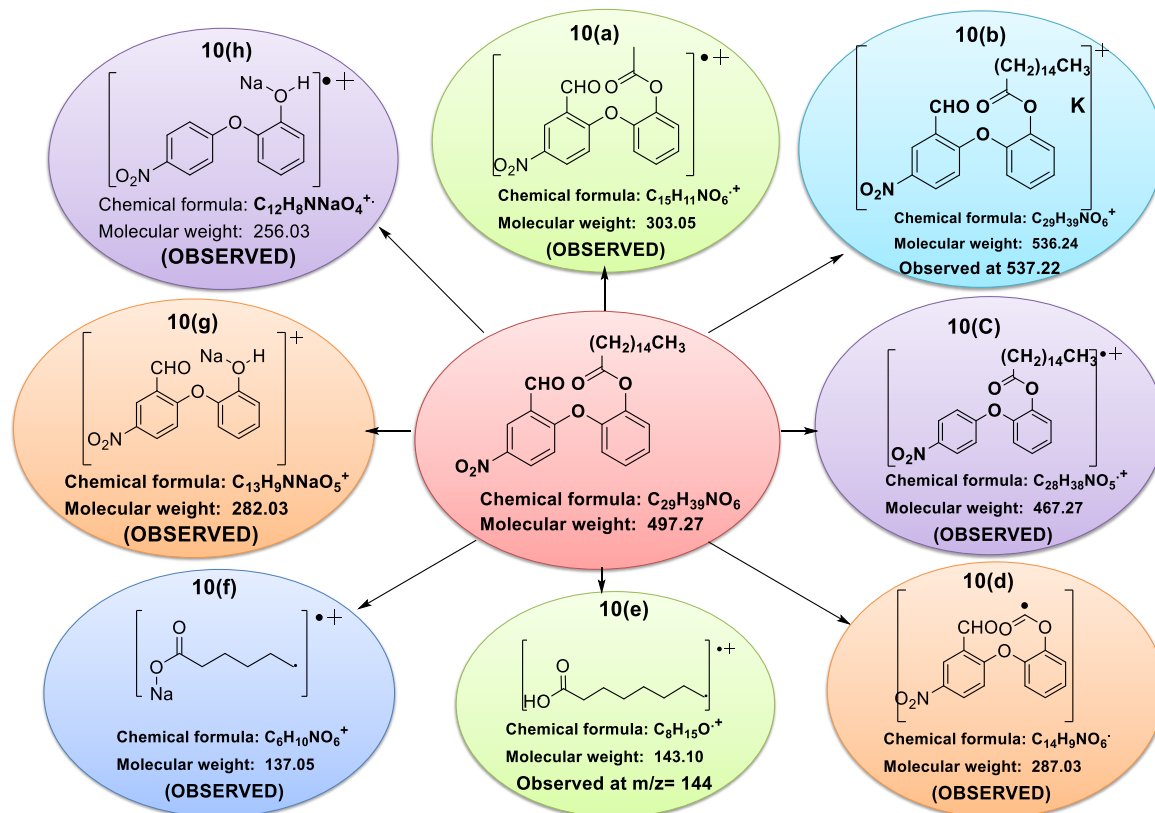
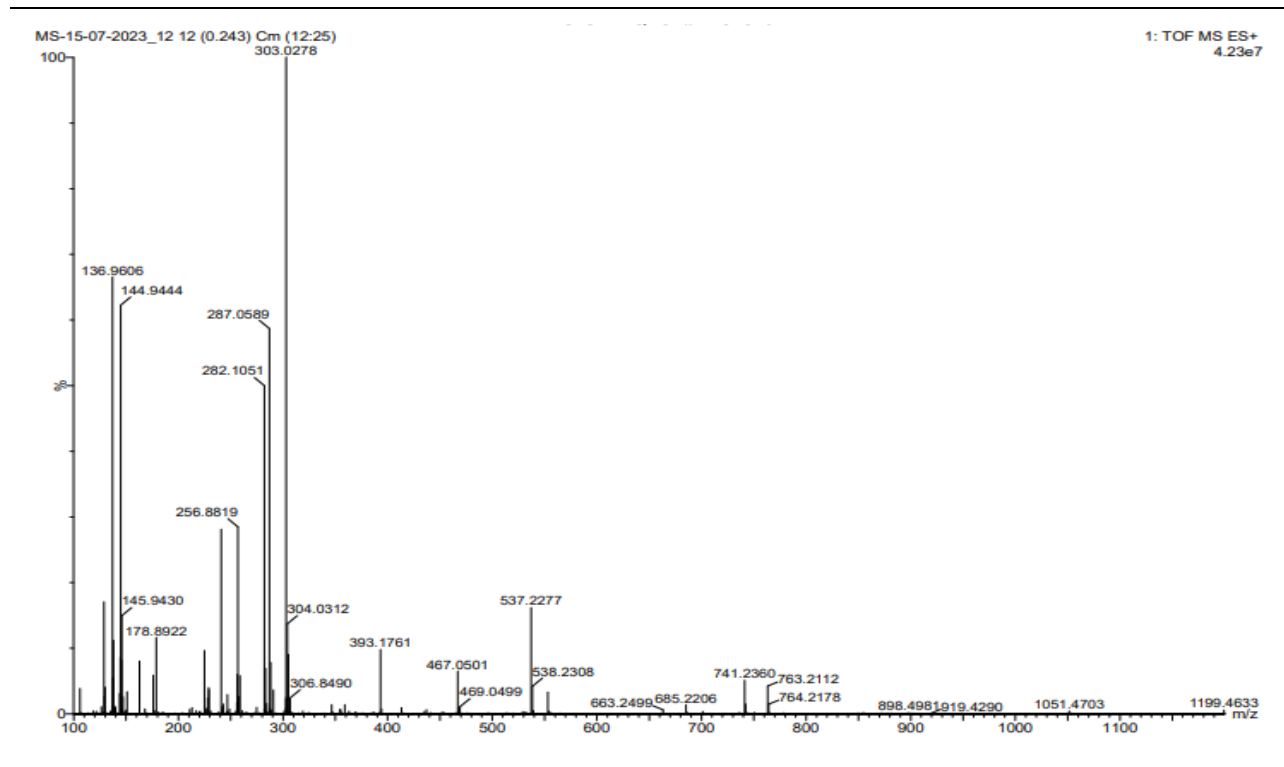
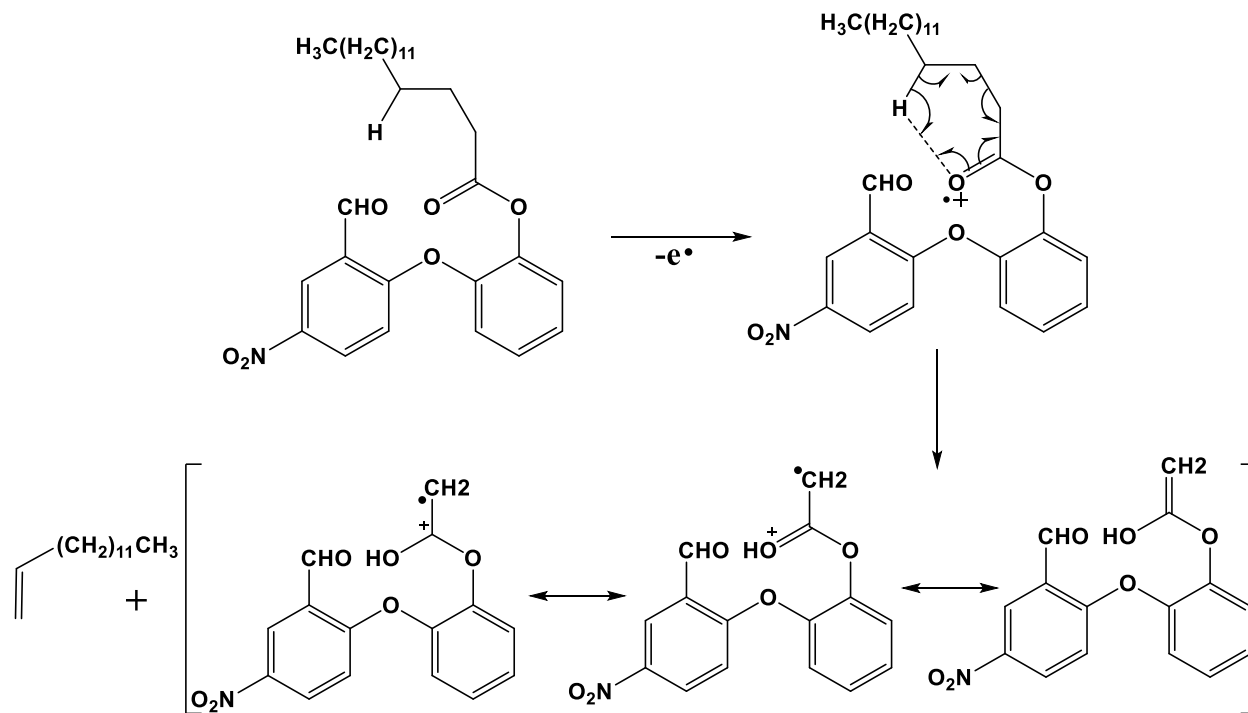


Figure-9 and 10 below show mass spectra and the analysis Compound-G respectively.



Scheme-14: Mechanism of McLafferty rearrangement in **Compound-G**.

The long hydrocarbon chains are known to display a classical McLafferty rearrangement. Therefore, in this case, the fragments due to the rearrangement were expected and prominently observed at $m/z = 303.02$. **Scheme-4** shows the mechanism of McLafferty rearrangements³³ in (**compound-G**) where the γ -hydrogen through a six-membered transition state, gives a terminal alkene (not observed) and a β -carbon-containing carbonyl residue ($m/z = 303.02$). Also this peak was observed as the base peak in mass spectra which proved the addition of aliphatic chain on diphenyl ether.

Thus the work done above demonstrates the synthesis and characterizations of all four compounds. Based on the spectroscopic results, the synthesis of compounds **B**, **D**, **E**, and **G** starting from compound **A** was successful resulting in the creation of diphenyl ether derivatives with unique structural modifications.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, antibacterial and material properties make diphenyl ethers useful chemicals. Many diphenyl ethers have been obtained from natural sources and have a wide range of uses in the medical and material sciences. This thesis describes the synthesis and characterisation of Compounds **B**, **D**, **E**, and **G**. Because of their unique structural features, diphenyl ethers with ester groups and lengthy hydrocarbon chains attached to the phenyl ring have been discovered to have a broad variety of uses in many fields. As a result, we synthesised and analysed **Compound-G**, which has an ester group with long hydrocarbon chain. The study of such synthesised diphenyl ethers may provide fresh information on the antibacterial and material characteristics of this molecule, such as the role of esterase in antibacterial and liquid crystal display. ^1H and ^{13}C -NMR were used to characterise all of the synthesised substances. A detailed analysis of both the compounds- **E** and **G** was done using HRMS data.

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