2-Aryl-N-tosylazetidines as formal 1,4 dipoles for [4+2] cycloaddition reactions with nitriles: An easy access to the tetrahydropyrimidine derivatives

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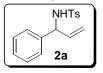
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Experimental Section

General

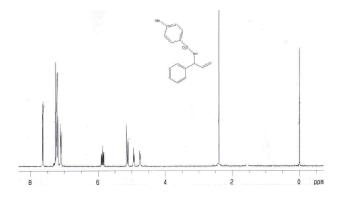
¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on Joel PMX (400 MHz) NMR spectrometer in CDCl₃. Tetramethylsilane (TMS) served as internal standard (0 ppm) for ¹H NMR and CDCl₃ was used as internal standard (77.0 ppm) for ¹³C NMR. Chemical shifts were reported in ppm and coupling constants were reported in Hz. IR spectra were measured with Bruker FT/IR Vector 22 spectrometer. Elemental (C, H, N) analyses were done on Perkin-Elmer 240-C automatic elemental analyzer. Routine monitoring of reactions were performed using precoated silicagel tlc plates from E-Merck. All the chromatographic separations were carried out by using silica gel (Acme's, 100–200 mesh). Petroleum ether used was of boiling range 60–80°C. Melting points were determined by using Perfit apparatus and are uncorrected. Dichloromethane (CH₂Cl₂) was distilled in presence of calcium hydride. All the nitriles were purchased from Lancaster and used as received. BF₃·Et₂O was obtained from Fluka and used after freshly distilling. All the reactions were carried out under argon atmosphere in dried glassware.

General experimental procedure for the synthesis of 2-aryl-*N*-tosylazetidines: 4-Methyl-*N*-(1-phenyl-allyl)-benzenesulphonamide (2a):



The *N*-tosylimine (1.81 g, 7 mmol) was taken in 1:1 mixture of THF:ether solvent (30 mL) and vinylmagnesium chloride (5.69 mL, 1.6 M in THF) was added slowly at rt and continued stirring for 12 h. The reaction mixture was quenched with addition of saturated NH₄Cl and extracted into ether. The combined organic layer was washed with water, brine and dried over *anhydrous* Na₂SO₄ and concentrated to give the crude product. Purification by column chromatography gave the pure Product (1.85 g, 92% yield).

Colourless Solid, Melting point 85-88 0 C, R_f = 0.6 (30% EtOAc in Petroleum ether); 1 H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ : 7.67- 7.69 (d, J= 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.13-7.30 (m, 7H), 5.86-5.94 (m, 1H), 5.32-5.34 (m, 1H), 5.12-5.17 (m, 2H), 4.96-4.99 (m, 1H), 2.42 (S, 3H); Anal. calcd for C₁₆H₁₇NO₂S. C, 66.87; H, 5.96; N, 4.87. Found: C, 66.69; H, 5.86;



N, 4.99.



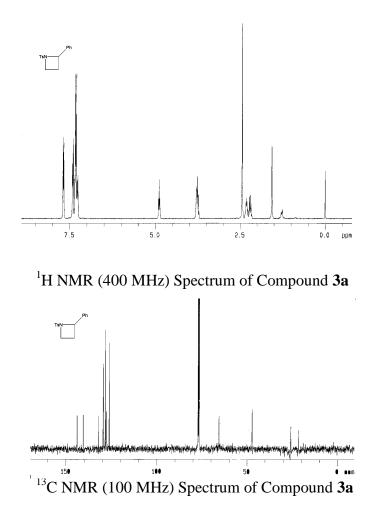
2-phenyl-1-(toluene-4-sulphonyl)-azetidine (3a):

1.85 g of (6.44 mmol) corresponding allylamine (**2a**) was taken in an oven dried rb, flushed with N₂, then it was evacuated and purged with N₂, this process was repeated three times. Then dry THF (25 mL) was added followed by dropwise addition of BH₃.DMS (1.53 mL, 16.10 mmol) and the reaction was allowed to proceed for 12 h at rt. Excess borane was destroyed by addition of 6 mL EtOH. Then to this 3M NaOH (2.2 mL) was added in one portion followed by dropwise addition of 30% H₂O₂ (2.2 mL) and stirred for 2 h at rt. Solvent was evaporated in vacuo and the residue was taken in water and extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic layer was dried over *anhydrous* Na₂SO₄, concentrated and directly set up for next step. To an oven dried roundbottom flask, crude 1,3 *N*-tosylaminoalcohol (1.96 g, 6.44 mmol) was taken in dry THF (20 mL) and the solution was brought to 0 °C, then DIAD (1.90 mL, 9.66 mmol) was added slowly and stirring was continued overnight with gradual warming to rt. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure then directly chromatographed over silicagel to give the pure azetidine (1.39 g, 75% yield). Overall yield starting from *N*-tosylaldimine 70%, as colourless solid. For all the other azetidine synthesis, we followed same procedures (same mmol scale).

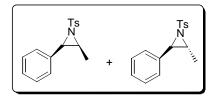


Colourless solid, Melting point 104-108 0 C, R_{f} 0.48 (30% EtOAc in Petroleum ether), ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ ; 7.64-7.66 (d, J = 8.04 Hz, 2H), 6.85-7.31 (m, 7H), 4.84 (t, J = 8.32 Hz, 1H), 3.76 (m, 2H), 2.45 (s, 3H),

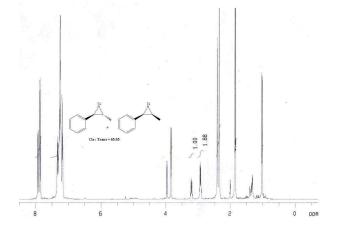
2.29 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃ 100 MHz) δ : 159.41, 143.82, 132.67, 132.27, 129.57, 128.38, 127.75, 113.85, 65.47, 47.02, 25.93, 21.55; Anal. calcd for C₁₆H₁₇NO₂S. C, 66.87; H, 5.96; N, 4.87. Found: C, 66.85; H, 6.43; N, 4.38.

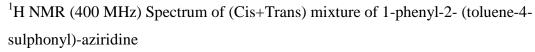


1-phenyl-2-methyl (toluene-4-sulphonyl)-aziridine:

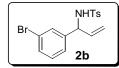


0.271 g, 15% yield, Colourless gel, (cis: trans = 65:35), R_f = 0.4 (30% EtOAc in Petroleum ether), ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ :7.90–7.92 (d, *J*= 8.32 Hz, 2H, for trans product), 7.84-7.87 (d, *J*= 12.00Hz, 2H, for cis product), 7.16-7.33 (m, 7H, for cis and trans), 3.95-3.97 (d, *J*= 7.32, 2H, for trans), 3.83-3.84 (d, *J*= 4.36, 2H, for cis), 3.18-3.22 (m, 1H, for trans), 2.91-2.94 (m, 1H, for cis), 2.40 (s, 3H, for trans), 2.34 (s, 3H, for cis), 1.84-1.86 (d, *J*= 8.00Hz, 3H. for cis), 1.02-1.03 (d, *J*= 5.84, 2H, for trans); Anal. calcd for C₁₆H₁₇NO₂S. C, 66.87; H, 5.96; N, 4.87. Found: C, 66.69; H, 5.87; N, 4.99.



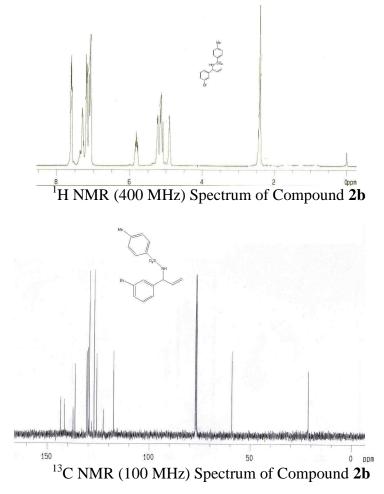


4-Methyl-*N*-(1-(3-Bromo)-phenyl-allyl)-benzenesulphonamide (2b):

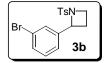


90% yield, Colourless gel, $R_f = 0.6$ (30% EtOAc in Petroleum ether); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ : 7.58-7.60 (m, 2H), 7.06-7.30 (m, 6H), 5.77-5.85 (m, 1H), 5.08-5.23 (m, 2H), 4.90-4.91 (m, 1H), 2.39 (bs, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃ 100 MHz) δ : 143.45, 141.46, 137.33, 136.33, 130.69, 130.22, 130.08, 129.86, 129.44, 127.08, 125.80, 122.53,

117.46, 59.26, 21.48; Anal. calcd for C₁₆H₁₆BrNO₂S. C, 52.47; H, 4.40; N, 3.82. Found: C, 51.99; H, 4.37; N, 4.02

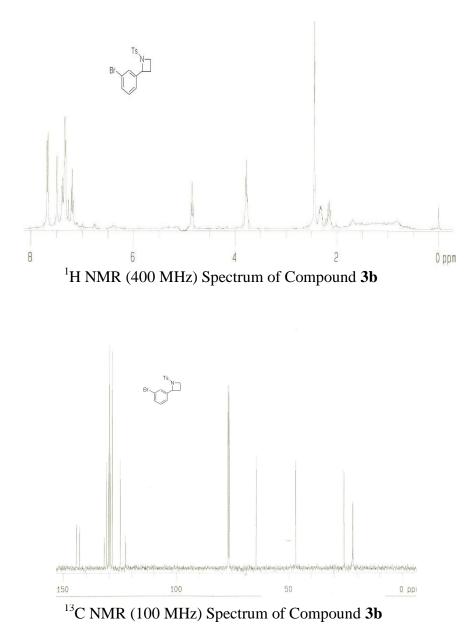


2-(3-Bromo-phenyl)-1-(toluene-4-sulphonyl)-azetidine (3b):

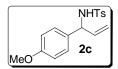


70% yield, Overall yield starting from *N*-tosylaldimine 63% as colourless Solid, Melting point 125-130 0 C, R_{f} 0.39 (30% EtOAc in Petroleum ether); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ : 7.66–7.68 (d, *J*= 8.00 Hz, 2H), 7.17-7.49 (m, 6H), 4.82-4.86 (t, *J*= 8.28 Hz, 1H), 3.75-3.79 (m, 2H), 2.44 (s, 3H); 2.29-2.35 (m, 1H); 2.13-2.17 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃ 100 MHz)

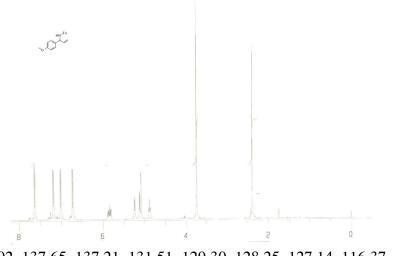
δ: 144.19, 142.82, 131.96, 130.94, 130.05, 129.68, 129.25, 128.35, 124.87, 122.50, 64.69 , 47.12, 25.47, 21.89; Anal. calcd for C₁₆H₁₆BrNO₂S. C, 52.47; H, 4.40; N, 3.82. Found: C, 52.43; H, 4.38; N, 4.39.



4-Methyl-*N*-(1-(4-methoxy)-phenyl-allyl)-benzenesulphonamide (2c):



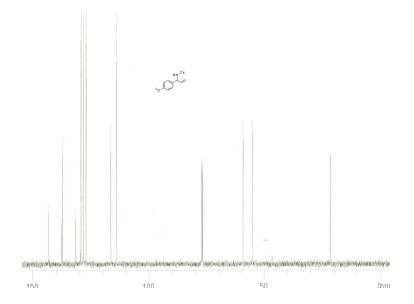
91% yield, colourless solid, Melting point 98-101 0 C, R_{f} 0.39 (40% EtOAc in Petroleum ether); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ : 7.61- 7.63 (d, J= 8.28 Hz, 2H), 7.17- 7.19 (d, J= 8.08 Hz, 2H), 6.99-7.01 (d, J= 8.52 Hz, 2H), 6.71-7.73 (d, J= 8.56 Hz, 2H), 5.81-5.88 (m, 1H), 5.22-5.24 (d, J= 7.32 Hz, 1H), 5.10-5.11 (m, 1H), 4.85-4.89 (t, J= 6.36 Hz, 2H), 3.74(s, 3H), 2.42 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃ 100 MHz)

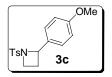


δ: 159.00, 143.02, 137.65, 137.21, 131.51, 129.30, 128.25, 127.14, 116.37, 113.84, 59.27 , 55.18, 21.42; Anal. calcd for C₁₇H₁₉NO₃S. C, 64.33; H, 6.03; N, 4.41. Found: C, 64.28; H, 5.99; N, 4.63.

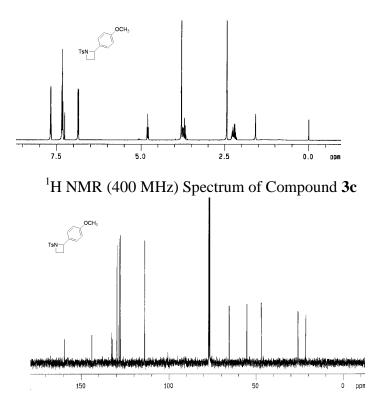
¹H NMR (400 MHz) Spectrum of Compound **2c** ¹³C NMR (100 MHz) Spectrum of Compound **2c**

2-(4-Methoxy-phenyl)-1-(toluene-4-sulphonyl)-azetidine (3c):





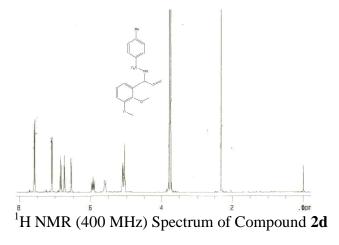
71% yield, Overall yield starting from *N*-tosylaldimine 65%, as colourless solid, Melting point 68-72 0 C, *R_f* 0.40 (40% EtOAc in Petroleum ether); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.65-7.67 (d, *J* = 8.04 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (m, 4H), 6.86 (m, 2H), 4.80 (t, *J* = 8.32 Hz, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.73 (m, 2H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 2.23 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃ 100 MHz) δ 159.41, 143.82, 132.67, 132.27, 129.57, 128.38, 127.75, 113.85, 65.47, 55.28, 47.02, 25.93, 21.55; Anal. calcd for C₁₇H₁₉NO₃S. C, 64.33; H, 6.03; N, 4.41. Found: C, 64.29; H, 6.01; N, 4.46.

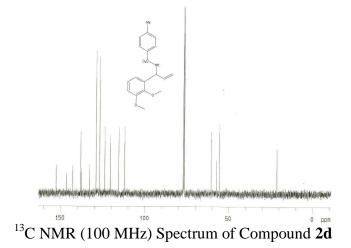


¹³C NMR (100 MHz) Spectrum of Compound **3c 4-Methyl-***N***-(1-(2,3-dimethoxy)-phenyl-allyl)-benzenesulphonamide (2d):**



94% yield, colourless solid, Melting point 95-99 0 C, R_f 0.29 (40% EtOAc in Petroleum ether); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ ; 7.56-7.58 (d, *J* = 8.03 Hz, 2H), 7.07-7.09 (d, *J* = 8.04, 2H), 6.82-6.86 (m, 1H), 6.72-7.74 (m, 1H), 6.53-6.55 (m, 1H), 5.89-5.97 (m, 1H), 5.57-5.59 (m, 1H), 5.02-5.11 (m, 3H), 3.79 (S, 3H), 3.74 (S, 3H), 2.32 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃ 100 MHz) δ 152.59, 146.28, 142.70, 138.17, 137.66, 132.79, 129.10, 126.96, 123.88, 120.56, 115.56, 112.10, 60.62, 57.43, 55.72, 21.38; Anal. calcd for C₁₈H₂₁NO₄S. C, 62.23; H, 6.09; N, 4.03. Found: C, 62.19; H, 6.18; N, 4.23.

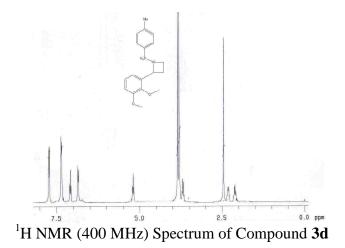




2-(2,3-dimethoxy-phenyl)-1-(toluene-4-sulphonyl)-azetidine (3d):



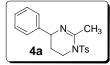
73% yield, Overall yield starting from *N*-tosylaldimine 69%, as colourless Solid, Melting point 99-112 0 C, R_{f} 0.29 (40% EtOAc in Petroleum ether); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ : 7.71–7.73 (d, *J* = 8.00Hz, 2H), 7.34–7.36 (m, 3H), 7.06-7.10 (t, *J*=8.01 Hz,1H), 6.84-6.86 (d, *J*= Hz, 1H), 5.17-5.21 (t, *J*= 8.00 Hz, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.65-3.72 (m, 2H), 2.45 (s, 3H), 2.28-2.35 (m, 1H), 2.08-2.15 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃ 100 MHz) δ : 154.74, 151.98, 145.47, 143.83, 134.40, 131.55, 129.50, 128.40, 124.11, 119.23, 111.71, 72.00, 70.04, 55.60, 47.53, 25.50, 21.74; Anal. calcd for C₁₈H₂₁NO₄S. C, 62.23; H, 6.09; N, 4.03. Found: C, 62.17; H, 5.97; N, 4.33.



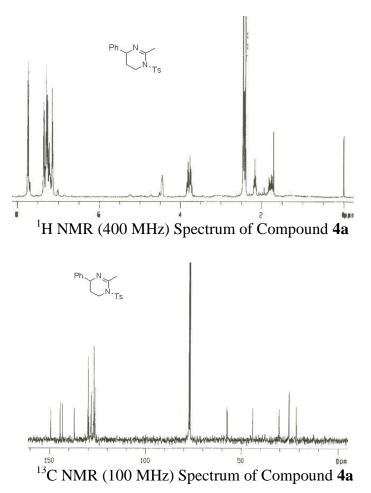
General procedure for [4+2] cycloaddition reaction of azetidines with nitriles:

A 10 mL round-bottom flask was charged with *N*-tosyl azetidine (1 mmol) in *anhydrous* dichloromethane (3 mL) under argon at rt. To this nitrile (1 mmol) was added followed by slow addition of freshly distilled $BF_3 \cdot Et_2O$ (0.2 mmol). After 3-6 h saturated *aqueous* NaHCO₃ solution (2 mL) was added. Organic layer was separated and the *aqueous* layer was extracted with dichloromethane (2 x 5 mL). The combined organic layer were washed with water, brine and dried over *anhydrous* Na₂SO₄ and concentrated to give the crude product. Purification by column chromatography (30% EtOAc in petroleum ether) gave the substituted pyrimidines.

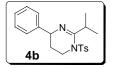
2-Methyl-4-phenyl-1-(toluene-4-sulphonyl)-1,4,5,6-tetrahydro-pyrimidine (4a):



60% yield, Colourless paste; R_f 0.42 (40% EtOAc in Petroleum ether); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) & 7.73 (d, J = 8.32 Hz, 2H), 7.36-7.13 (m, 7H), 4.45 (m, 1H), 3.82 (m, 1H), 3.74 (m, 1H), 2.45 (s, 3H), 2.40 (d, J = 1.72 Hz, 3H), 2.16 (m, 1H), 1.77 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃ 100 MHz) & 149.32, 144.45, 143.13, 129.98, 128.46, 126.82, 126.46, 57.51, 57.24, 44.00, 30.27, 25.27, 21.56; LCMS (EI, *m/z*) 328 (M⁺); Anal. calcd for C₁₈H₂₀N₂O₂S. C, 65.83; H, 6.14; N, 8.53. Found: C, 64.93; H, 6.76; N, 8.64.

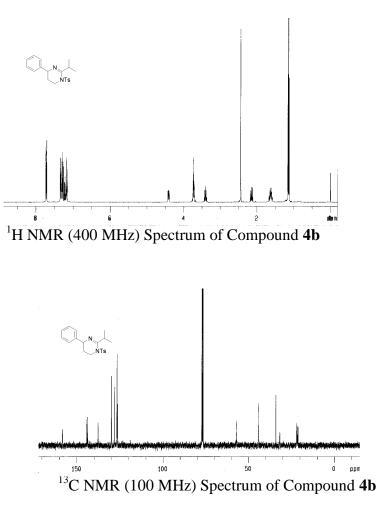


2-Isopropyl-4-phenyl-1-(toluene-4-sulphonyl)-1,4,5,6-tetrahydro-pyrimidine (4b):

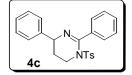


61% yield, Colourless solid, Melting point 113-117 0 C, *R_f* 0.43 (40% EtOAc in Petroleum ether); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ: 7.72 (m, 2H), 7.34-7.15 (m, 7H), 4.41

(dd, J = 8.32, 4.88 Hz, 1H), 3.73 (m, 2H), 3.40 (heptet, J = 6.84 Hz, 1H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 2.14 (m, 1H), 1.61 (m, 1H), 1.13 (t, J = 6.84 Hz, 6H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃ 100 MHz) δ : 158.61, 144.10, 143.66, 137.61, 129.91, 128.30, 126.75, 126.39, 57.01, 56.93, 44.22, 33.96, 31.65, 21.81, 21.52, 21.08; LCMS (EI, m/z) 356 (M⁺); Anal. calcd for C₂₀H₂₄N₂O₂S. C, 67.38; H, 6.79; N, 7.86. Found: C, 67.93; H, 6.76; N, 8.04.

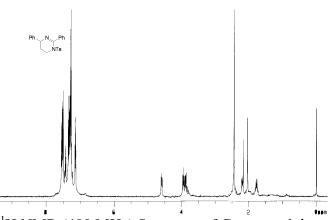


2,4-Diphenyl-1-(toluene-4-sulphonyl)-1,4,5,6-tetrahydro-pyrimidine (4c):

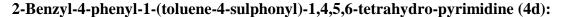


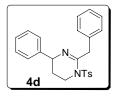
72% yield, Colourless paste, R_f 0.43 (40% EtOAc in Petroleum ether); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.52 (m, 4H), 7.43 (m, 1H), 7.34-7.24 (m, 7H), 7.13 (m, 2H), 4.59

(dd, J = 8.56, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 3.95 (m, 1H), 3.87 (m, 1H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 2.19 (m, 1H), 1.78 (m, 1H); LCMS (EI, m/z) 390 (M⁺); Anal. calcd for C₂₃H₂₂N₂O₂S. C, 70.74; H, 5.68; N, 7.17. Found: C, 70.03; H, 5.76; N, 7.81.

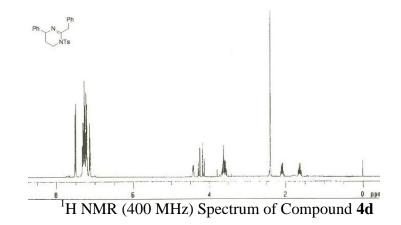


¹H NMR (400 MHz) Spectrum of Compound **4c**

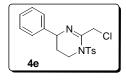




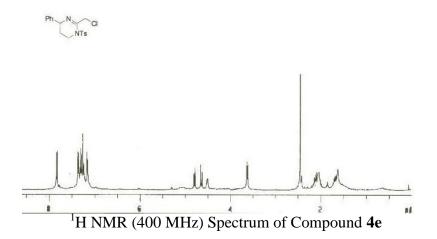
65% yield, Colourless paste; R_f 0.47 (40% EtOAc in Petroleum ether); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ; 7.51 (m, 2H), 7.32-7.12 (m, 7H), 4.43 (dd, J = 8.8, 4.88 Hz, 1H), 4.21 (ABq, J = 45.88 Hz, 2H), 3.61 (m, 2H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 2.09 (m, 1H), 1.63 (m, 1H); LCMS (EI, m/z) 404 (M⁺); Anal. calcd for C₂₄H₂₄N₂O₂S. C, 71.26; H, 5.98; N, 6.93. Found: C, 71.93; H, 5.76; N, 6.84.



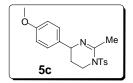
4-(3-Bromo-phenyl)-2-chloromethyl-1-(toluene-4-sulfonyl)-1,4,5,6-tetrahydropyrimidine (4e):



42% yield, Colourless paste; $R_f 0.48$ (40% EtOAc in Petroleum ether); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) § 7.83 (d, J = 8.52 Hz, 2H), 7.37-7.15 (m, 7H), 4.70 (ABq, J = 62.24 Hz, 2H), 4.50 (dd, J = 8.28, 5.12 Hz, 1H), 3.63 (dd, J = 6.84, 4.88 Hz, 2H), 2.45 (s, 3H), 2.11 (m, 1H), 1.67 (m, 1H); LCMS (EI, m/z) 362 (M⁺); Anal. calcd for C₁₈H₁₉ClN₂O₂S. C, 59.58; H, 5.28; N, 7.72. Found: C, 60.03; H, 5.76; N, 7.84.



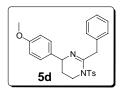
4-(4-Methoxy-phenyl)-2-methyl-1-(toluene-4-sulphonyl)-1,4,5,6-tetrahydropyrimidine (5c):



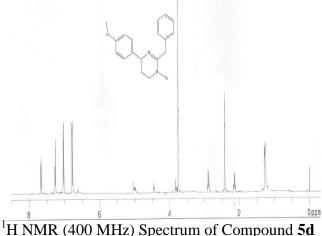
47% yield, Colourless paste; $R_f = 0.40$ (60% EtOAc in Petroleum ether); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ: 7.76-7.78 (m, 1H), 7.62-7.64 (m, 1H), 7.21-7.25 (m, 2H), 6.97-7.00 (m, 2H), 6.71-6.75 (m, 2H), 5.01-5.26 (m, 1H), 3.69-3.80 (m, 2H), 3.68 (S, 3H), 2.84-2.85 (m, 1H), 2.41 (bS, 3H), 2.38 (bs, 3H), 2.07-2.13 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃ 100MHz)δ:157.95, 154.82, 136.86, 136.16, 129.59, 128.47, 127.21, 126.36, 113.87, 72.

28, 70.26, 46.39, 41.64, 35.65; LCMS (EI, *m/z*) 358 (M⁺); Anal. calcd for C₁₉H₂₂N₂O₃S. C, 63.66; H, 6.19; N, 7.82. Found: C, 63.01; H, 5.99; N, 7.80.

2-benzyl-4-(4-Methoxy-phenyl)-1-(toluene-4-sulphonyl)-1,4,5,6-tetrahydropyrimidine (5d):

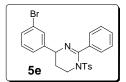


48% yield, Colourless paste; $R_f = 0.42$ (60% EtOAc in Petroleum ether); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ : 7.65–7.67 (d, *J*=8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.25-7.27 (m, 3H), 7.00-7.03 (m, 4H), 6.76-6.79 (m, 4H), 4.97-5.08 (m, 1H), 4.40-4.47 (t, *J*= 6.12 Hz, 1H), 3.78-3.85 (m, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 2.86-2.91 (m, 2H), 2.41 (S, 3H), 2.10-2.16 (m, 2H); LCMS (EI, *m/z*) 434 (M⁺); Anal. calcd for C₁₉H₂₂N₂O₃S. C, 69.10; H, 6.03; N, 6.45. Found: C, 68.98; H, 5.98; N, 6.51.



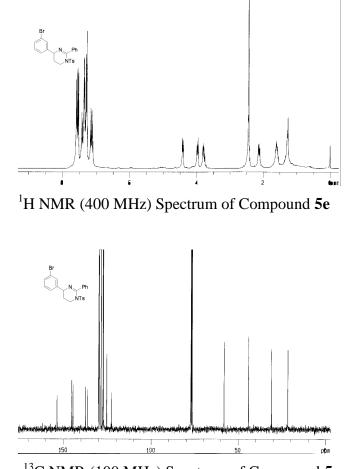
¹H NMR (400 MHz) Spectrum of Compound **5d**

4-(3-Bromo-phenyl)-2-phenyl-1-(toluene-4-sulphonyl)-1,4,5,6-tetrahydro-pyrimidine (5e):



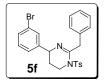
49% yield, Colourless paste; $R_f 0.49$ (40% EtOAc in Petroleum ether); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ ; 7.56 (m, 4H), 7.42-7.25 (m, 7H), 7.13 (m, 2H), 4.14 (dd, J = 9.24,

5.12 Hz, 1H), 3.97 (dt, J = 12.92, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 3.78 (m, 1H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 2.11 (m, 1H), 1.58 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃ 100 MHz) δ 153.54, 145.31, 144.52, 137.55, 136.26, 130.04, 129.97, 129.82, 129.58, 128.65, 127.43, 125.31, 122.53, 58.25, 44.15, 31.11, 29.65, 21.62; LCMS (EI, m/z) 469 (M⁺); Anal. calcd for C₂₃H₂₁BrN₂O₂S. C, 58.85; H, 4.51; N, 5.97. Found: C, 59.03; H, 4.96; N, 5.81.



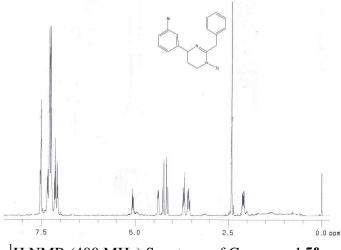
¹³C NMR (100 MHz) Spectrum of Compound **5e**

2-benzyl-4-(3-bromo-phenyl)-1-(toluene-4-sulphonyl)-1,4,5,6-tetrahydro-pyrimidine (5f):



48% yield, Colourless paste; R_f 0.44 (40% EtOAc in Petroleum ether); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ ; 7.52 (m, 2H), 7.43-6.98 (m, 11H), 5.01-5.14 (m, 1H), 4.13-4.40 (m, 3H), 3.53-3.72 (m, 2H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 2.06-2.13 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃ 100 MHz)

δ: 152.21, 145.59, 137.15, 130.09, 130.01, 129.94, 129.63, 129.54, 129.12, 128.30, 126.97, 126.51, 126.45, 125.13, 122.57, 72.20, 44.37, 43.31, 30.63; LCMS (EI, *m/z*) 482 (M⁺); Anal. calcd for C₂₄H₂₃BrN₂O₂S. C, 59.63; H, 4.80; N, 5.79. Found: C, 59.03; H, 4.96; N, 5.81.



 ^1H NMR (400 MHz) Spectrum of Compound $\mathbf{5f}$