General Remarks

1. All the melting points are uncorrected and the temperatures are in the centigrade scale.
2. The compound numbers, scheme numbers and reference numbers given in each section refer to that section only.
3. All the solvents were distilled before use. Petroleum ether refers to the fraction boiling in the range of 60-80 ºC.
4. Organic layers were dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate.
5. TLC analysis was carried out using thin layer plates pre-coated with silica gel 60 F_{254} (Merck) and visualized by fluorescence quenching or Iodine or by charring after treatment with p-anisaldehyde.
6. In cases where chromatographic purification was done, silica gel (200-400 mesh) was used as the stationary phase or otherwise as stated.
7. IR spectra were recorded on Perkin-Elmer Infrared Spectrophotometer Model 68B or on Perkin-Elmer 1615 FT Infrared Spectrophotometer.
8. $^1$H NMR and $^{13}$C NMR were recorded on Bruker AV-200 (50 MHz) or Bruker AV-400 (100 MHz) or Bruker DRX-500 (125 MHz). Figures in the parentheses refer to $^{13}$C frequencies. Tetramethyl silane was used as the internal standard. NMR values are expressed in $\delta$ (ppm).
9. Mass spectra were recorded at an ionization energy of 70 eV on Finnigan MAT-1020, automated GC/MS instrument and on API-QSTAR PULSAR using electron spray ionization [(ESI), solvent medium: a mixture of water, acetonitrile and ammonium acetate] technique and mass values are expressed as $m/z$, HRMS were recorded on a micromass Q-T of micro with spray source (ESI$^+$) mode.
10. Starting materials were obtained from commercial sources or prepared using known procedures.
11. Microanalysis data were obtained using a Carlo-Erba CHNS-O EA 1108 elemental analyzer within the limits of accuracy (± 0.4%).