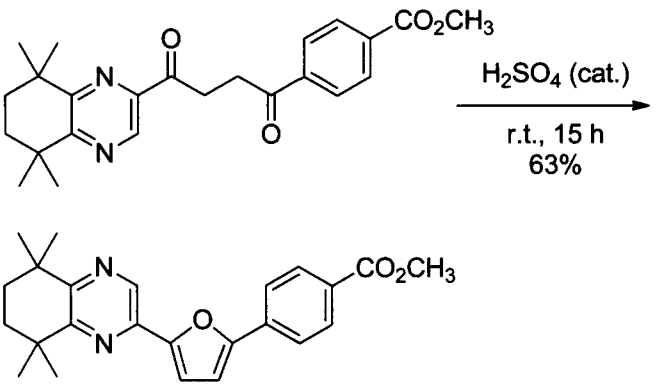
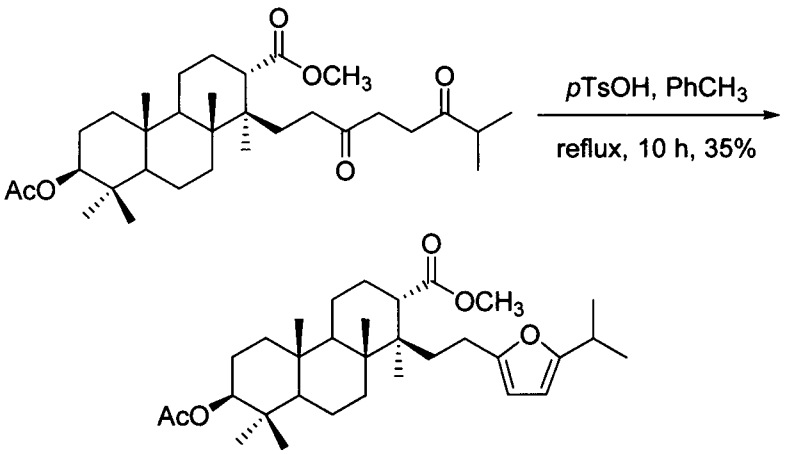


Denisenko and co-workers employed the Paal–Knorr synthesis in their preparation of a steroid-based furan with potential anti-inflammatory properties.[42] Treatment of the corresponding chiral 1,4-dione precursor with catalytic *p*-toluenesulfonic acid generated the desired furan in 35% yield.



The Paal–Knorr synthesis has also been employed in the synthesis of triaryl furans. For example, de Laszlo and co-workers prepared several 2,3,5-triarylfurans as potential inhibitors of P38 kinase by treating the 1,4 diketo-precursors with *p*-toluenesulfonic acid as illustrated below.[43]