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Citation: Altuna-Urquijo, Marta, Gehre, Alexander, Stanforth, Stephen and Tarbit, Brian (2009) A convenient synthesis of pyridine and 2,2'-bipyridine derivatives. *Tetrahedron*, 65 (5). pp. 975-984. ISSN 0040-4020

Published by: Elsevier

URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.tet.2008.11.090>
<<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.tet.2008.11.090>>

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A convenient synthesis of pyridine and 2,2'-bipyridine derivatives

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Abstract

α -Chloro- α -acetoxy- β -keto-esters **9** were readily prepared from β -keto-esters **6** in good overall yields. These compounds reacted as α,β -diketo-ester equivalents **2** with amidrazones **1** yielding triazines **3**, generally in good yields. Picolinates **10** provided an alternative source of α,β -diketo-ester equivalents **2** when treated with copper(II) acetate. A 'one-pot' reaction of the α,β -diketo-ester equivalents **2** with amidrazones **1** in the presence of 2,5-norbornadiene **5** in boiling ethanol yielded the pyridines **4** and 2,2'-bipyridines **4** ($R^1=2$ -pyridyl) directly without the need to isolate the corresponding triazines **3**. Triazine **3c** reacted with the azadienophiles **13** and **17** affording the products **16** and **18**, respectively, in good yields.

Graphical abstract

