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## Synthesis of functionalized chromeno[2,3-*b*]pyrrole-2,3-dicarboxylate *via* Zn(OTf)<sub>2</sub>-catalyzed annulation of 2-amino-4*H*-chromen-4-one and electron-deficient acetylenes

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A Zn(OTf)<sub>2</sub>-mediated annulation of 2-amino-4*H*-chromen-4-one with diethyl acetylenedicarboxylate (DEAD) has been investigated to provide access to functionalized chromeno[2,3-*b*]pyrrole-2,3-dicarboxylate in excellent yields with good functional group tolerance. Furthermore, this method has also been used to synthesize a variety of novel annulated chromeno[2,3-*b*]pyrroles **3a-n** through a plausible new mechanism.

**Keywords:** Zn(OTf)<sub>2</sub>-catalyzed, chromeno[2,3-*b*]pyrroles, 2-aminochromen-4-one, annulation, cycloaddition