

Purines, pyrimidines, and related fused systems
19.* Use of S_N^H methodology for the synthesis
of a new heterocyclic system, pyrrolo[3',2':3,4]pyrimido[4,5-c]pyridazine

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Sonogashira cross-coupling of 3-chloro-6,8-dimethylpyrimido[4,5-c]pyridazine-5,7(6*H*,8*H*)-dione with terminal alkynes afforded the corresponding 3-(alkyn-1-yl) derivatives. Oxidative amination of the latter compounds with primary alkylamines was accompanied by heterocyclization to give 6,8-dimethylpyrrolo[3',2':3,4]pyrimido[4,5-c]pyridazine-7,9(6*H*,8*H*)-diones.

Key words: 3-chloro-6,8-dimethylpyrimido[4,5-c]pyridazine-5,7(6*H*,8*H*)-dione, 1-alkynes, cross-coupling, Sonogashira reaction, catalysis, palladium complexes, 3-(alkyn-1-yl)-6,8-dimethylpyrimido[4,5-c]pyridazine-5,7(6*H*,8*H*)-diones, oxidative amination, 6,8-dimethylpyrrolo[3',2':3,4]pyrimido[4,5-c]pyridazine-7,9(6*H*,8*H*)-diones.

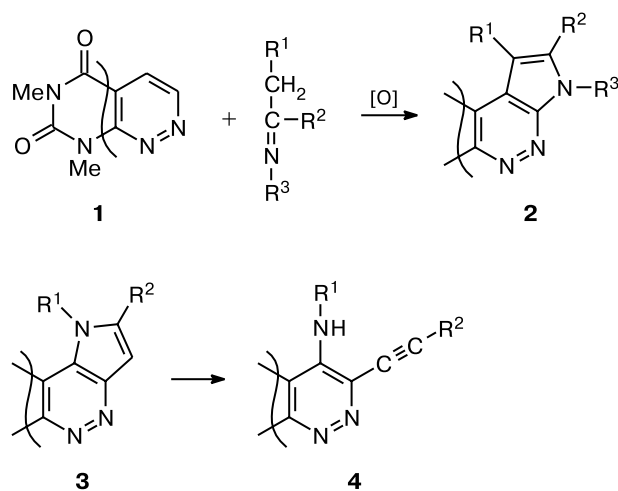
Recently,² we have reported a new procedure for annelation of the pyrrole ring to neutral azines based on the tandem S_N^H – S_N^H process involving the formation of the C–C and C–N bonds between the π -deficient substrate and bifunctional C,N-nucleophile. In particular, the reaction of 6,8-dimethylpyrimido[4,5-c]pyridazine-5,7(6*H*,8*H*)-dione (**1**) with aliphatic imines in the presence of an oxidant afforded 1- R^1 -2- R^2 -3- R^3 -6,8-dimethylpyrrolo[3',2':3,4]pyrimido[4,5-c]pyridazine-7,9(6*H*,8*H*)-diones (**2**) (Scheme 1). In the present study, we applied the S_N^H methodology³ to the synthesis of derivatives of a previously unknown isomeric heterocyclic system, *viz.*, pyrrolo[3',2':3,4]pyrimido[4,5-c]pyridazine **3**.

One would expect that 3-alkynyl-4-aminopyrimido-pyridazines **4** would serve as direct precursors of compounds **3** since it is known that such compounds undergo cyclization to form the pyrrole ring under the action of bases^{4,5} and other catalysts.^{6–8} We chose 3-chloro-6,8-dimethylpyrimido[4,5-c]pyridazine-5,7(6*H*,8*H*)-dione (**5**) as the starting compound for the synthesis of pyridazines **4**.⁹ Then we intended to use successively Sonogashira cross-coupling¹⁰ and oxidative amination because the Cl atom in compound **5** can be replaced with a CH-acid residue,¹¹ whereas pyrimidopyridazinedione **1** is readily aminated at the C(4) atom in an RNH_2 -oxidant system.¹²

We found that chloropyridazine **5** (Scheme 2) reacted with terminal alkynes **7a–e** in DMF under argon in the

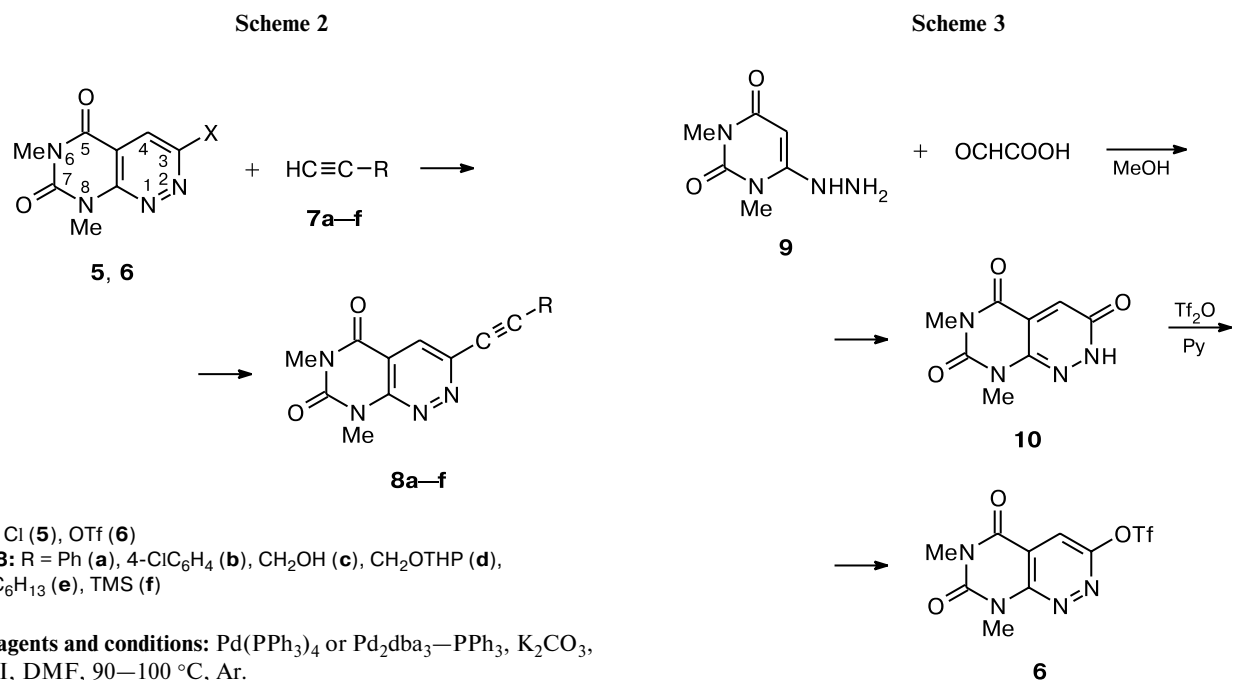
* For Part 18, see Ref. 1.

Scheme 1



presence of palladium complexes and catalytic amounts of CuI and K_2CO_3 to give 3-(alkyn-1-yl) derivatives **8a–e** in 22–74% yields. The reaction of compound **5** with volatile trimethylsilylacetylene (**7f**) was carried out in a sealed tube in the absence of a solvent with the use of the Pd_2dba_3 – PPh_3 system (dba is dibenzylideneacetone as the ligand) as the catalyst and Et_3N as the base.

It is known that additives of CuI make it possible to perform such transformations at room temperature.^{13,14} However, the reaction of compound **5** with alkynes proceeds at a noticeable rate only at 90–100 °C. Apparently, the reason is that the Cl atom in molecule **5** is insuffi-

**Table 1.** Characteristics of 3-(alkyn-1-yl)-6,8-dimethylpyrimido[4,5-*c*]pyridazine-5,7(6*H*, 8*H*)-diones **8a–f**

Compound	R	Synthesis method	<i>R</i> _f	<i>τ</i> ^a /h	Yield (%)	M.p. /°C	¹ H NMR (CDCl ₃), δ (J/Hz)			IR, ν/cm ⁻¹			UV, λ _{max} /nm (logε)
							N–Me	H(4)	R	Ring	C=O	C≡C	
8a	Ph	<i>A, B, C</i>	0.6	1	74–80	175–176	3.49, 3.90	8.22	7.39 (m, 3 H, Ph); 7.62 (m, 2 H, Ph)	1558, 1585, 1599	1666, 1787	2218	295 (4.46); 357 (3.47)
8b	4-ClC ₆ H ₄	<i>A</i>	0.6	5	22	317–319	3.40, ^b 3.79	7.96	7.67 (d, 2 H, C ₆ H ₄ , <i>J</i> = 8.7); 8.19 (d, 2 H, C ₆ H ₄ , <i>J</i> = 8.6)	1573, 1586, 1600	1660, 1713	2270	365 (4.45)
8c	CH ₂ OH	<i>A, C</i>	0.1	8	32–38	203–205	3.48, 3.88	8.13	4.58 (s, 2 H, CH ₂)	1554, 1594, 1648	1675, 1728	2238	276 (4.30); 349 (3.53)
8d	CH ₂ OTHP	<i>B</i>	0.5	2	46	103–105	3.48, 3.89	8.14	1.50–2.95 (m, 8 H, THP); 4.56 (d, 2 H, CH ₂ , <i>J</i> = 1.9); 4.90 (m, 1 H, THP)	1558, 1598	1665, 1718	2250	276 (4.35); 350 (3.54)
8e	C ₆ H ₁₃	<i>B</i>	0.65	1	47	76–77	3.47, 3.87	8.06	0.89 (t, 3 H, Me, <i>J</i> = 6.7); 1.28–1.38 (m, 4 H, (CH ₂) ₃ (CH ₂) ₂ Me); 1.41–1.52 (m, 2 H, (CH ₂) ₂ CH ₂ C ₃ H ₇); 1.60–1.72 (m, 2 H, CH ₂ CH ₂ C ₄ H ₉); 2.49 (t, 2 H, CH ₂ C ₅ H ₁₁ , <i>J</i> = 7.0)	1572, 1612	1679, 1732	2237	269 (4.29); 355 (3.44)
8f	TMS	—	0.65	1	71	120–121	3.47, 3.87	8.21	0.28 (s, 9 H, SiMe ₃)	1572, 1612	1679, 1732	2184	281 (4.37); 347 (3.64)

^a Reaction time.^b DMSO-*d*₆ was used as the solvent.

ciently mobile because of the electron-releasing effect of the N atom at position 8. Product **8b** was obtained in low yield due, probably, to its further cross-coupling with the starting arylacetylene.

The use of aryl iodides or aryl triflates as the electrophilic component in the catalytic cross-coupling gave the best results.^{15,16} Hence, we prepared triflate **6** by condensation of hydrazinouracil **9** with glyoxylic acid followed by acylation of pyrimidopyridazinetrione **10** with trifluoromethanesulfonic anhydride (Scheme 3). However, cross-coupling of compound **6** with phenylacetylene and propargyl alcohol under the above-mentioned conditions afforded the products in only slightly higher yields (80 and 38%, respectively, compared to 74 and 32% obtained in the reactions with compound **5**).

The structures of substituted acetylenes **8** were confirmed by UV, IR, and ^1H NMR spectroscopy (Table 1). Compounds **8** are virtually colorless (λ_{max} 347–365 nm). Their IR spectra have a band at 2180–2270 cm^{-1} ($\nu_{\text{C}=\text{C}}$). The ^1H NMR spectra show singlets of two NMe groups at δ 3.5 and 3.9 and signals for H(4) at δ 8.0–8.2.

Oxidative amination of 3-(alkyn-1-yl)pyrimidopyridazinones **8a,d–f** with primary alkylamines in the presence of $\text{AgPy}_2\text{MnO}_4$ at 0–20 °C afforded 1- R^1 -2- R^2 -6,8-dimethylpyrrolo[3',2':3,4]pyrimido[4,5-*c*]pyridazine-7,9(6*H*,8*H*)-diones (**11a–i**) in 22–85% yields (Scheme 4). Treatment of trimethylsilylethynyl derivative **8f** with propylamine and an oxidant gave not the expected pyrrole **11i** but the product of its desilylation **11j** in 22% yield. An attempt to prepare pyrrole **11k** by the reaction of compound **8f** with KNH_2 in liquid ammonia and KMnO_4 at the temperature from –60 to –55 °C failed (the starting

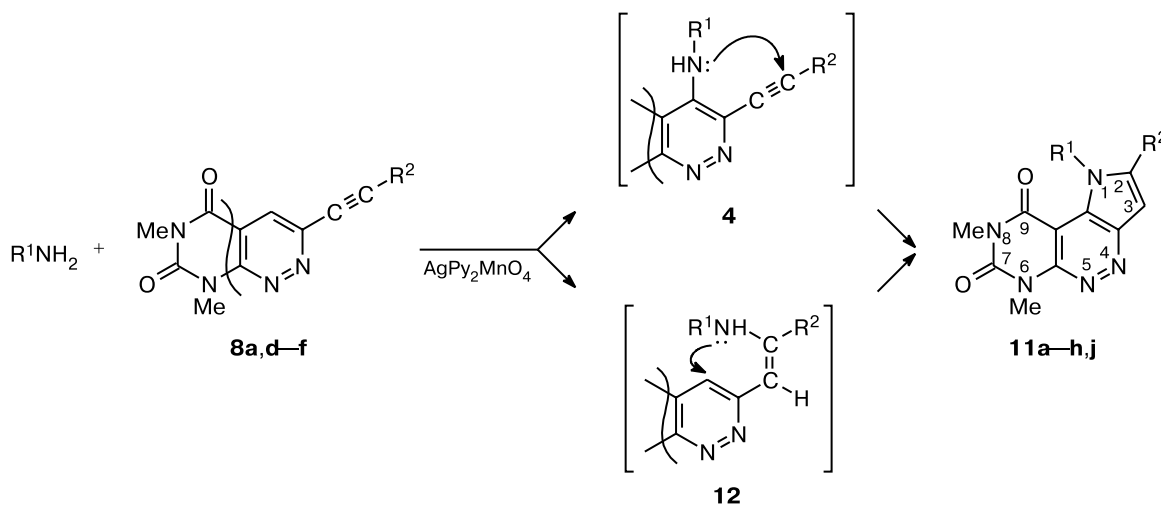
compound remained unconsumed). Compounds **8a,d** also did not react with KNH_2 under these conditions.

The physicochemical characteristics of pale-yellow compounds **11a–h,j** (λ_{max} 365–372 nm) are given in Table 2. Their IR spectra have absorption bands at 1650–1720 cm^{-1} ($\nu_{\text{C}=\text{O}}$). The ^1H NMR spectra of these compounds show a signal for the H(3) proton of the pyrrole ring at δ 6.81–7.06, which is characteristic of fused pyrroles.¹⁷ It should be noted that the protons of the α - CH_2 and α -CH groups of the substituent at the N(1) atom in compounds **11** are deshielded by the C(9)=O group and are observed at low field (δ 4.73–5.55), whereas the protons of the terminal Me group of pyrroles **11b,d** are, apparently, shielded by the benzene ring (δ 0.50–0.59).

It is reasonable to assume that the transformation **8** \rightarrow **11** occurs through spontaneous heterocyclization of intermediate *o*-aminohetarylacetylenes **4**. An analogous tandem process involving S_N^H -amination followed by intramolecular cyclization under the conditions of the classical Chichibabin reaction has been described earlier for 3-ethynylpyridine.¹⁸ However, we do not rule out that the reaction proceeds through enamine intermediate **12**, because an attempt to perform oxidative amination of hetarylacetylene **8a** with piperidine (Scheme 5) led to the formation of ketone **15** in 20% yield instead of the expected amino derivative **13**. The formation of ketone **15** can be explained only as a result of hydrolysis of enamine **14**. The ability of acetylenes to add amines at the triple bond giving rise to enamines is well known.¹⁹

To summarize, we prepared a series of derivatives of the new heterocyclic system, *viz.*, pyrrolo[3',2':3,4]pyrimido[4,5-*c*]pyridazine **11**. Evidently, hetarylacetylenes **8**

Scheme 4



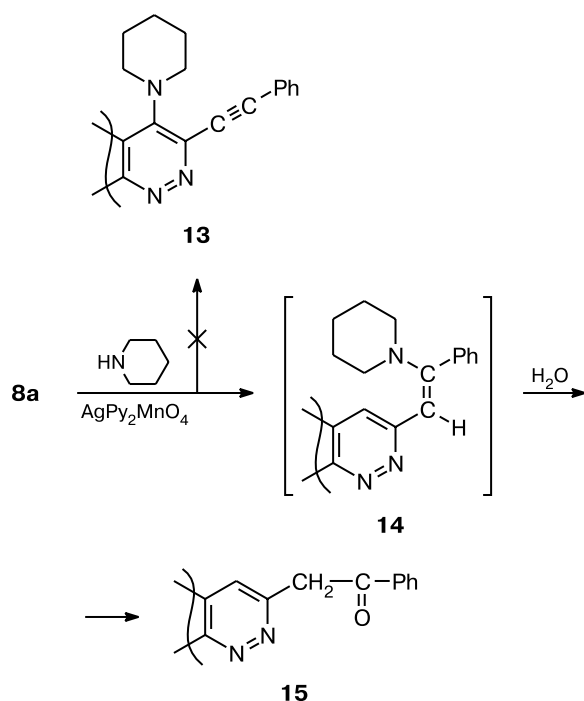
11:	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k
R^1	Et	Pr	Pr ⁱ	Bu	<i>cyclo</i> -C ₆ H ₁₁	Pr	Pr	Bu	Pr	Pr	H
R^2	Ph	Ph	Ph	Ph	Ph	CH ₂ OTHP	<i>n</i> -C ₆ H ₁₃	<i>n</i> -C ₆ H ₁₃	TMS	H	H

Table 2. Characteristics of 1,2-disubstituted 6,8-dimethylpyrrolo[3',2':3,4]pyrimido[4,5-c]pyridazine-7,9(6*H*,8*H*)-diones **11a–h,j**

Compound	R ¹	R ²	R _f	Yield (%)	M.p. /°C	¹ H NMR (CDCl ₃), δ (J/Hz)					IR, v/cm ⁻¹		UV, λ _{max} /nm (logε)
						N–Me	H(3)	R ¹		R ²	Ring	C=O	
								NCH ₂ (NCH)	Other				
11a	Et	Ph	0.45	62	214–216	3.53 3.98	7.05	4.86 (q, 2 H, <i>J</i> = 7.0)	0.98 (t, 3 H, Me, <i>J</i> = 7.0)	7.52 (s, 5 H, Ph)	1526, 1573, 1633	1673, 1700, 372 (3.63)	266 (4.50), 325 (3.83), 372 (3.63)
11b	Pr	Ph	0.50	61	175–178	3.53 3.99	7.05	4.79 (t, 2 H, <i>J</i> = 7.2)	0.50 (t, 3 H, Me, <i>J</i> = 7.4); 1.37 (m, 2 H, CH ₂ CH ₂ Me)	7.52 (s, 5 H, Ph)	1545, 1572, 1599	1652, 1705, 372 (3.65)	267 (4.53), 327 (3.85), 373 (3.65)
11c	Pr ⁱ	Ph	0.43	41	221–222	3.53 3.97	6.97	5.55 (sept, 1 H, <i>J</i> = 7.0)	1.32 (d, 6 H, CHMe ₂ , <i>J</i> = 7.0)	7.46–7.48 (m, 3 H, Ph); 7.55–7.58 (m, 2 H, Ph)	1545, 1585, 1612	1665, 1718, 365 (3.58)	266 (4.50), 325 (3.80), 365 (3.58)
11d	Bu	Ph	0.52	85	145–146	3.53 3.98	7.04	4.82 (t, 2 H, <i>J</i> = 7.2)	0.59 (t, 3 H, Me, <i>J</i> = 7.2); 0.80–0.95 (m, 2 H, (CH ₂) ₂ CH ₂ Me); 1.23–1.35 (m, 2 H, CH ₂ CH ₂ Et)	7.52 (s, 5 H, Ph)	1532, 1572, 1599	1652, 1705, 372 (3.64)	267 (4.51), 328 (3.85), 372 (3.64)
11e	<i>cyclo</i> -C ₆ H ₁₁	Ph	0.40	47	207–209	3.54 3.98	6.96	5.04 (m, 1 H)	0.80–2.00 (m, 10 H, <i>cyclo</i> -C ₆ H ₁₁)	7.44–7.49 (m, 3 H, Ph); 7.53–7.56 (m, 2 H, Ph)	1545, 1572	1665, 1718	267 (4.51), 327 (3.83)
11f	Pr	CH ₂ OTHP	0.35	23	122–123	3.56 3.95	7.06	0.90 (t, 3 H, Me, <i>J</i> = 7.3); 1.50–2.00 (m, 8 H, CH ₂ CH ₂ Me and THP); 3.65–3.89 (m, 2 H, OCH ₂ THP); 4.66–4.96 (m, 5 H, CH ₂ Et, OCH THP and C(2)CH ₂)			1573	1660, 1700	325 (3.78)
11g	Pr	C ₆ H ₁₃	0.40	59	80–81	3.51 3.94	6.81	4.73 (t, 2 H, <i>J</i> = 7.2)	0.90 (t, 3 H, Me, <i>J</i> = 7.2); 1.75–1.80 (m, 2 H, CH ₂ CH ₂ Me)	0.88 (t, 3 H, Me, <i>J</i> = 7.2); 1.20–1.70 (m, 8 H, CH ₂ (CH ₂) ₄ Me); 2.76 (t, 3 H, CH ₂ (CH ₂) ₄ Me, <i>J</i> = 7.6)	1545, 1572, 1585	1665, 1705,	324 (3.75), 366 (3.48)
11h	Bu	<i>n</i> -C ₆ H ₁₃	0.40	42	85–86	3.50 3.93	6.81	4.77 (t, 2 H, <i>J</i> = 7.6)	0.85–0.95 (m, 6 H, (CH ₂) ₃ Me and (CH ₂) ₅ Me); 1.27–1.37 (m, 6 H, (CH ₂) ₂ CH ₂ Me and (CH ₂) ₃ (CH ₂) ₂ Me); 1.40–1.58 (m, 4 H, CH ₂ CH ₂ Et and (CH ₂) ₂ CH ₂ Pr); 1.80 (m, 2 H, CH ₂ CH ₂ Bu); 2.75 (t, 2 H, CH ₂ C ₅ H ₁₁ , <i>J</i> = 7.6)		1585, 1599, 1619	1678, 1718	324 (3.77), 68 (3.50), 464 (2.68)
11j	Pr	H	0.20	22	139–140	3.51 3.96	7.04 (d, 1 H, <i>J</i> = 3.5); 7.39 ^a (d, 1 H, <i>J</i> = 3.5)	4.78 (t, 2 H, <i>J</i> = 7.2)	0.73 (t, 3 H, Me, <i>J</i> = 7.4); 1.79 (m, 2 H, CH ₂ CH ₂ Me)	—	1545, 1599	1665, 1705	322 (3.73), 362 (3.49)

^a The chemical shift of H(2).

Scheme 5



can also be used in the synthesis of other fused polynuclear systems based on pyrimidopyridazinedione **1**.

Experimental

The IR spectra were recorded on a Specord IR-71 instrument in Nujol mulls. The ^1H NMR spectra were measured on Bruker-250 (250 MHz) and Unity-300 (300 MHz) spectrometers with Me_4Si as the internal standard. The UV spectra were recorded on a Specord M-40 instrument in CHCl_3 . Chromatography was carried out on Al_2O_3 (Brockmann activity III–IV) using CHCl_3 as the eluent; visualization was carried out with iodine vapor. The melting points were measured in glass tubes on a PTP instrument and were not corrected.

The physicochemical characteristics of the resulting compounds are given in Tables 1 and 2. The results of elemental analysis are presented in Table 3.

3-(Alkyn-1-yl)-6,8-dimethylpyrimido[4,5-c]pyridazine-5,7(6H,8H)-diones (8a–e) (general procedure). *A.* A mixture of compound **5** (1 mmol), alkyne **7** (1.5 mmol), K_2CO_3 (1.5 mmol), $\text{Pd}(\text{PPh}_3)_4$ (0.02 mmol), and CuI (0.05 mmol) in anhydrous DMF (3 mL) was stirred at 90–100 °C under argon (reaction times are given in Table 1) and then concentrated to dryness. The residue was extracted with CHCl_3 . The extract was concentrated to ~5 mL and chromatographed on a column with Al_2O_3 using CHCl_3 as the eluent. The pale-yellow fraction was collected (R_f are given in Table 1). The product was recrystallized from MeOH (compound **8b** was recrystallized from DMSO). Compounds **8** were obtained as colorless crystals.

B. A mixture of compound **5** (1 mmol), alkyne **7** (1.5 mmol), K_2CO_3 (1.5 mmol), Pd_2dba_3 (0.02 mmol), PPh_3 (0.16 mmol), and CuI (0.05 mmol) in anhydrous DMF (3 mL) was stirred at

Table 3. Results of elemental analysis of compounds **8a–f** and **11a–h,j**

Compound	Molecular formula	Found (%)		
		Calculated	C	H
8a	$\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{12}\text{N}_4\text{O}_2$	65.90	4.05	18.97
		65.75	4.11	19.18
8b	$\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{11}\text{N}_4\text{O}_2\text{Cl}$	58.78	3.10	17.31
		58.81	3.37	17.15
8c	$\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{10}\text{N}_4\text{O}_3$	53.90	4.01	22.58
		53.65	4.07	22.76
8d	$\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_4\text{O}_4$	58.35	5.70	17.04
		58.18	5.45	16.97
8e	$\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_4\text{O}_2$	64.23	6.70	18.54
		64.00	6.67	18.67
8f	$\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_4\text{O}_2\text{Si}$	54.30	5.70	19.24
		54.17	5.56	19.44
11a	$\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_5\text{O}_2$	64.54	5.09	20.76
		64.48	5.07	20.90
11b	$\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_5\text{O}_2$	65.29	5.42	20.30
		65.33	5.44	20.06
11c	$\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_5\text{O}_2$	65.50	5.27	20.17
		65.33	5.44	20.06
11d	$\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_5\text{O}_2$	66.34	5.57	19.17
		66.12	5.79	19.28
11e	$\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_5\text{O}_2$	67.83	5.88	17.96
		67.87	5.91	17.99
11f	$\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{25}\text{N}_5\text{O}_4$	58.85	6.25	18.13
		58.91	6.46	18.09
11g	$\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{27}\text{N}_5\text{O}_2$	63.60	7.45	19.73
		63.87	7.56	19.61
11h	$\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{29}\text{N}_5\text{O}_2$	64.81	7.55	18.95
		64.69	7.82	18.87
11j	$\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_5\text{O}_2$	57.05	5.61	25.44
		57.14	5.49	25.64

90–100 °C under argon (reaction times are given in Table 1) and then treated as described in the method *A*.

C. A mixture of compound **6** (0.5 mmol), alkyne **7** (1 mmol), K_2CO_3 (1 mmol), $\text{Pd}(\text{PPh}_3)_4$ (0.01 mmol), and CuI (0.01 mmol) in anhydrous DMF (3 mL) was stirred at 90–100 °C under argon (reaction times are given in Table 1) and then treated as described in the method *A*.

6,8-Dimethyl-3-(trimethylsilylethynyl)pyrimido[4,5-c]pyridazine-5,7(6H,8H)-dione (8f). A mixture of compound **5** (227 mg, 1 mmol), trimethylsilylacetylene (0.2 mL, 1.2 mmol), Pd_2dba_3 (20 mg, 0.02 mmol), CuI (10 mg, 0.05 mmol), PPh_3 (42 mg, 0.16 mmol), and Et_3N (5 mL) was heated in a sealed tube under argon at 100 °C for 1 h and then treated as described above for compounds **8a–e**.

6,8-Dimethylpyrimido[4,5-c]pyridazine-3,5,7(2H,6H,8H)-trione (10). A mixture of compound **9** (138 mg, 1 mmol) and glyoxylic acid (111 mg, 1 mmol) in MeOH (5 mL) was refluxed for 2 h and concentrated to dryness. The residue was extracted with CHCl_3 . The extract was concentrated to ~5 mL and chromatographed on a column with Al_2O_3 using a CHCl_3 –MeOH mixture (20 : 1) as the eluent. The colorless

fraction with R_f 0.5 was collected and concentrated to obtain compound **10** as colorless crystals in a yield of 112 mg (53%), m.p. 238–240 °C (from MeCN). IR, ν/cm^{-1} : 3300–3600 (NH); 1782, 1728, 1662 (C=O). ^1H NMR (DMSO- d_6), δ : 3.20 (s, 3 H, N(8)Me); 3.51 (s, 3 H, N(6)Me); 7.41 (s, 1 H, H(4)); 13.2 (br.s, disappeared after deuteration, 1 H, NH). Found (%): C, 46.32; H, 3.59; N, 27.12. $\text{C}_8\text{H}_8\text{N}_4\text{O}_3$. Calculated (%): C, 46.15; H, 3.85; N, 26.92.

6,8-Dimethyl-3-(trifluoromethylsulfonyl)pyrimido[4,5-*c*]pyridazine-5,7(6*H*,8*H*)-dione (6). Trifluoromethanesulfonic anhydride (0.2 mL, 1.2 mmol) was added portionwise to a solution of compound **10** (207 mg, 1 mmol) in pyridine (3 mL) cooled to 0 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 1 h and then at 20 °C for 48 h. Then the reaction mixture was diluted with water (3 mL) and the precipitate that formed was filtered off. Compound **6** was obtained as colorless crystals in a yield of 210 mg (68%), m.p. 159–160 °C (from Pr^iOH). IR, ν/cm^{-1} : 3106 (C–H arom.); 1772, 1720 (C=O). ^1H NMR (CDCl_3), δ : 3.50 (s, 3 H, N(8)Me); 3.89 (s, 3 H, N(6)Me); 8.06 (s, 1 H, H(4)). Found (%): C, 32.00; H, 2.06; N, 16.34. $\text{C}_9\text{H}_7\text{F}_3\text{N}_4\text{O}_5\text{S}$. Calculated (%): C, 31.76; H, 2.05; F, 16.76; N, 16.47; S, 9.41.

1,2-Disubstituted 6,8-dimethylpyrrolo[3',2':3,4]pyrimido[4,5-*c*]pyridazine-7,9(6*H*,8*H*)-diones (11a–h,j) (general procedure). A solution of compound **8** (1 mmol) in amine (30–40 mL) was stirred at 20 °C for 15 min (in the case of EtNH_2 , at 0 °C) and then $\text{AgPy}_2\text{MnO}_4$ (1 mmol) was added. The completion of the reaction was determined chromatographically. The reaction mixture was concentrated to dryness and the residue was extracted with CHCl_3 . The extract was concentrated to ~5 mL and chromatographed on a column with Al_2O_3 using CHCl_3 as the eluent. The first yellow fraction was collected and concentrated. The residue was recrystallized from Pr^iOH and compound **11** was obtained as yellow crystals.

3-Benzoylmethyl-6,8-dimethylpyrimido[4,5-*c*]pyridazine-5,7(6*H*,8*H*)-dione (15). A solution of compound **8a** (292 mg, 1 mmol) in piperidine (25 mL) was stirred at 20 °C for 15 min and then $\text{AgPy}_2\text{MnO}_4$ (385 mg, 1 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was kept at 20 °C for one week and concentrated to dryness. The residue was extracted with CHCl_3 . The extract was concentrated to ~5 mL and chromatographed on a column with Al_2O_3 using CHCl_3 as the eluent. The yellow fraction was collected and concentrated to obtain compound **15** as dark-yellow crystals in a yield of 62 mg (20%), m.p. 236–238 °C (from Pr^iOH). IR, ν/cm^{-1} : 3062 (C–H arom.); 1718, 1692, 1678 (C=O). ^1H NMR (DMSO- d_6), δ : 3.36 (s, 3 H, N(8)Me); 3.73 (s, 3 H, N(6)Me); 4.89 (s, 2 H, CH_2); 7.54–8.10 (m, 5 H, Ph); 8.16 (s, 1 H, H(4)). Found (%): C, 62.10; H, 4.36; N, 18.15. $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_4\text{O}_3$. Calculated (%): C, 61.93; H, 4.52; N, 18.06.

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