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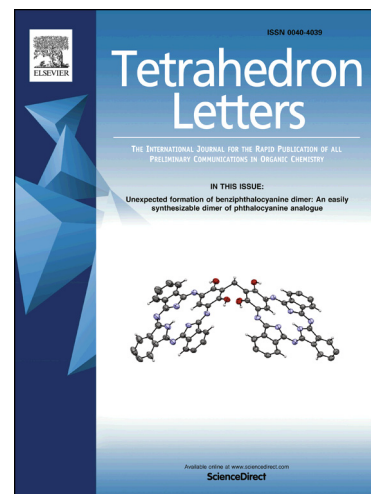
Effective synthesis of 6-substituted 7*H*-tetrazolo[5,1-*b*][1,3,4]thiadiazines via a one-pot condensation/nitrosation/azide-tetrazole tautomerism reaction sequence

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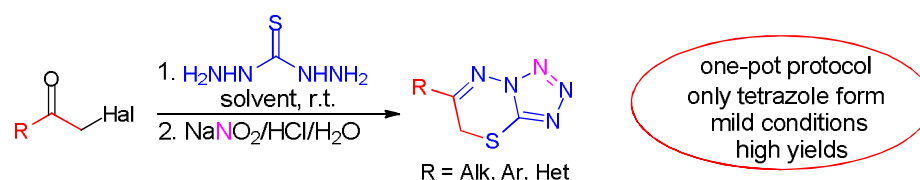
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## Effective synthesis of 6-substituted 7*H*-tetrazolo[5,1-*b*][1,3,4]thiadiazines via a one-pot condensation/nitrosation/azide-tetrazole tautomerism reaction sequence

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### Abstract

A new, simple, and general method for the synthesis of 6-*R*-7*H*-tetrazolo[5,1-*b*][1,3,4]thiadiazines (*R* = Ar, Het, Alk) has been developed. The described method is based on the one-pot condensation of  $\alpha$ -haloketones with thiocarbohydrazide, nitrosation of the formed hydrazinylthiadiazine using NaNO<sub>2</sub>/HCl, and intramolecular cyclization of the nitrosation product via azide-tetrazole tautomerism. Spectroscopic and structural investigations revealed that the azide-tetrazole equilibrium is completely shifted to the tetrazole form both in solution and the solid state.

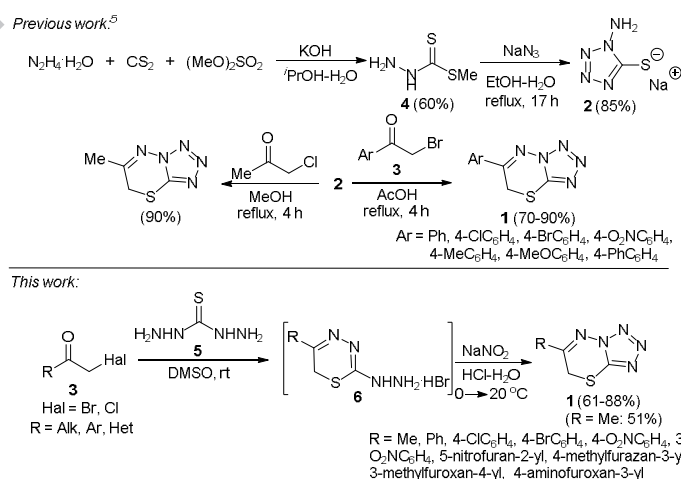
**Keywords:** 7*H*-tetrazolo[5,1-*b*][1,3,4]thiadiazines; furoxan;  $\alpha$ -haloketones; nitrosation; azide-tetrazole tautomerism.

During the last years, *N*-bridged fused heterocyclic systems have received significant attention owing to their diverse pharmacological activities.<sup>1</sup> Among them, the heterocycle-fused 1,2,4-triazole scaffold has been identified as one of the privileged structures in drug discovery.<sup>2</sup> In particular, 1,2,4-triazolo[3,4-*b*][1,3,4]thiadiazines are cholinesterase and other enzyme inhibitors, and can be used for the therapy of Alzheimer's disease.<sup>3a</sup> Additionally, they represent therapeutic agents, possessing antiproliferative and antileishmanial activities.<sup>3b</sup> The introduction of the thiadiazine motif makes an appreciable contribution to their biological activity, with applications as antibacterial,<sup>4a</sup> antifungal,<sup>4b</sup> and antidepressant<sup>4c</sup> agents.

The analogous structures containing a fused tetrazole ring, namely 6-R-7*H*-tetrazolo[5,1-*b*][1,3,4]thiadiazines **1** (R = Ar, Alk), were previously described in only one report, along with an examination of their free radical scavenging activity.<sup>5</sup> Meanwhile, these structures may have potential as pharmacologically active compounds due to the tetrazole ring being an important pharmacophore in medicinal chemistry,<sup>6</sup> with pharmaceutical applications which have been widely explored and comprehensively documented in the literature.<sup>7</sup> Tetrazole-based drug candidates possess anticonvulsant,<sup>8</sup> antihypertensive,<sup>9a</sup> antiallergic,<sup>9b</sup> and antibiotic activities,<sup>9c</sup> and have also shown promising results in the treatment of various diseases, such as cancer and AIDS.<sup>10</sup>

The key step of the single existing method for the construction of heterocyclic systems **1** is the cyclocondensation of sodium 1-amino-1*H*-tetrazole-5-thiolate **2** with  $\alpha$ -bromoacetophenones **3** in AcOH at reflux for 4 hours.<sup>5</sup> The corresponding reaction with chloroacetone was carried out at reflux in MeOH. Initial compounds **2** were, in turn, synthesized by prolonged heating of methyl dithiocarbazate **4** with NaN<sub>3</sub> in EtOH–H<sub>2</sub>O. The synthesis of compound **4** is based on the condensation of hydrazine-hydrate, CS<sub>2</sub>, and dimethyl sulfate in the presence of KOH (Scheme 1).

Herein, we present the development of a new, simple, and general approach for the synthesis of 6-R-7*H*-tetrazolo[5,1-*b*][1,3,4]thiadiazines **1** (R = Ar, Het, Alk) *via* condensation of the corresponding  $\alpha$ -haloketones **3** with commercially available thiocarbohydrazide **5** at room temperature, subsequent one-pot nitrosation of the formed hydrazinylthiadiazine **6**, and intramolecular cyclization of the nitrosation product *via* azide-tetrazole tautomerism to give the desired compounds **1** in good to high yields (Scheme 1).

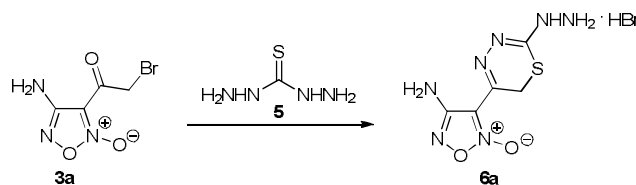


**Scheme 1.** Known and new methods for the synthesis of 6-R-7*H*-tetrazolo[5,1-*b*][1,3,4]thiadiazines.

Our ongoing scientific interests are connected with the synthesis of pharmacologically oriented structures comprising of the 1,2,5-oxadiazole 2-oxide (furoxan) scaffold, which is capable of exogenous NO release in the presence of thiol cofactors,<sup>11</sup> and other heterocycles with known pharmacological activities. In particular, we have recently developed effective methods for the preparation of hybrid heterocyclic structures that combine a furoxan ring with different pharmacophoric heterocycles (1,2,3-<sup>12a-c</sup> and 1,2,4-triazole,<sup>12d</sup> 1,2,4-,<sup>12e</sup> 1,2,5-<sup>12f,g</sup> and 1,3,4-oxadiazoles,<sup>12h</sup> tetrazole,<sup>12i</sup> pyridines,<sup>12j</sup> and others<sup>12k-o</sup>). In continuation of these investigations, we aimed to synthesize hybrid structures containing a furoxan ring linked to the 7*H*-tetrazolo[5,1-*b*][1,3,4]thiadiazine moiety.

Our investigation began with the development of optimal conditions for the synthesis of (2-hydrazinyl-1,3,4-thiadiazin-5-yl)furoxans **6**. We expected to nitrosate the hydrazine group in these compounds, with formation of the corresponding azides which are prone to ring-chain (azide-tetrazole) tautomerism, resulting in the target 6-furoxanyl-7*H*-tetrazolo[5,1-*b*][1,3,4]thiadiazines **1**. The synthesis of ( $\alpha$ -bromoacetyl)furoxans **3a,b** was previously developed by bromination of the corresponding acetylfuroxans in concentrated HCl,<sup>13</sup> and 4-amino-3-( $\alpha$ -bromoacetyl)furoxan **3a** was chosen as a model substrate. The synthesis of 5-aryl-2-hydrazinyl-1,3,4-thiadiazines is typically based on reaction of the corresponding aromatic  $\alpha$ -haloketones **3** with thiocarbohydrazide **5** in AcOH<sup>14a</sup> or EtOH<sup>14b</sup> at reflux or under microwave irradiation in the presence of K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>.<sup>14c</sup> Using this approach, we carried out a search for the optimal conditions for the reaction of bromoacetylfuroxan **3a** with thiocarbohydrazide **5** in order to find milder conditions for preparation of the target thiadiazine **6a**. The solvent, temperature, and reaction time were varied (Table 1). Moderate yields were obtained in EtOH (Entries 1, 2) and decomposition was observed in 1,4-dioxane (Entry 3), while the reactions in MeCN, DMF, or DMSO were more successful (Entries 4-7). The optimal conditions were stirring for 1 h at 20 °C in DMSO (Entry 7). The possible intramolecular cyclization between the amino group and the bromoacetyl functionality can be excluded since aminofuroxans are very weak nucleophiles.<sup>12n</sup> Furoxan derivative **6b** was also prepared in high yield.

**Table 1.** Reaction conditions screening for the synthesis of 4-amino-3-(2-hydrazino-1,3,4-thiadiazin-5-yl)furoxan **6a**.<sup>a</sup>



| Entry | Solvent     | T (°C) | Time (h) | Yield <b>6a</b> (%) <sup>b</sup> |
|-------|-------------|--------|----------|----------------------------------|
| 1     | EtOH        | 20     | 12       | 55                               |
| 2     | EtOH        | 20     | 12       | 60 <sup>c</sup>                  |
| 3     | 1,4-Dioxane | 20     | 1        | - <sup>d</sup>                   |
| 4     | MeCN        | 0→20   | 2        | 84                               |
| 5     | MeCN        | 20     | 1        | 77                               |
| 6     | DMF         | 20     | 0.5      | 85                               |
| 7     | DMSO        | 20     | 0.5      | 90                               |
| 8     | DMSO        | 20     | 1        | 95                               |

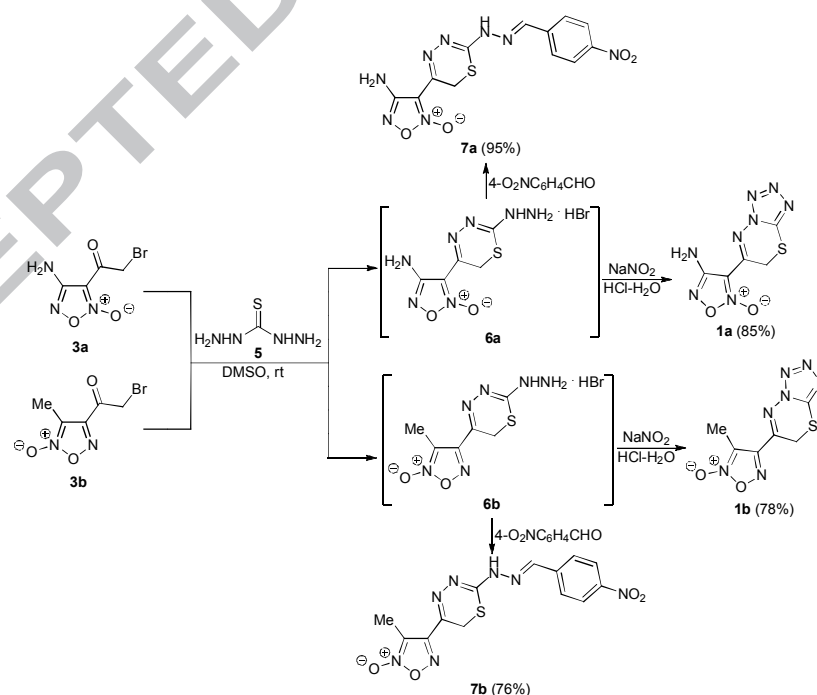
<sup>a</sup> Reagents and conditions: furoxan **3a** (1 mmol), thiocarbohydrazide **5** (1 mmol), solvent (2 mL) (TLC, CHCl<sub>3</sub>:EtOAc =3:1).

<sup>b</sup> Isolated yield.

<sup>c</sup> conc. HCl used as an additive.

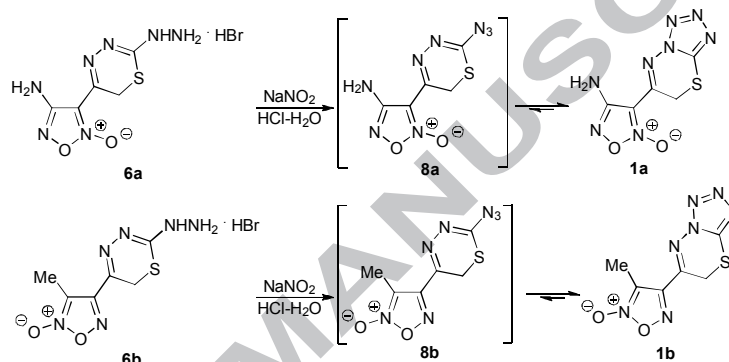
<sup>d</sup> Decomposition was observed.

Compounds **6a,b** proved to be insufficiently stable for storage, evidently due to the high sensitivity of the furoxan ring to strong bases<sup>15</sup> (hydrazine group) and, hence, they were characterized as hydrazones **7a,b**. Therefore, for further transformations, solutions of hydrazine derivatives **6a,b** in DMSO were utilized in the nitrosation reaction without isolation, and the required 6-furoxanyl-7*H*-tetrazolo[5,1-*b*][1,3,4]thiadiazines **1a,b** were obtained in high yields (Scheme 2).

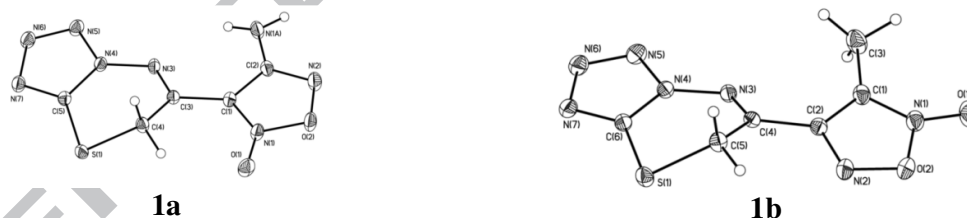


**Scheme 2.** One-pot synthesis of 6-furoxanyl-7*H*-tetrazolo[5,1-*b*][1,3,4]thiadiazines **1a,b**.

Diazotization of compounds **6a,b** results in the initial formation of azides **8a,b**. The isolation of tetrazolo[5,1-*b*][1,3,4]thiadiazines **1a,b** may serve as evidence for the complete shift of the azide **8** – tetrazole **1** equilibrium towards the tetrazole in the solid state (Scheme 3). The absence of characteristic bands for the azido group in the IR spectra (2130-2150 cm<sup>-1</sup>, KBr pellets) and the presence of only one singlet for the methylene group protons of the 1,3,4-thiadiazine ring in the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) indicated the existence of the tetrazole form of compounds **1a,b**. Finally, the structure of compounds **1a,b** was confirmed by single-crystal X-ray diffraction (Fig. 1).



**Scheme 3.** Azide-tetrazole tautomerism of azide **8** and tetrazole **1** forms.



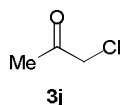
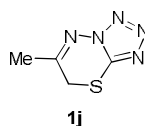
**Figure 1.** General view of compounds **1a,b**. Atoms are represented by probability ellipsoids of atomic vibrations (*p*=0.5).

The optimized conditions also proved suitable for the synthesis of further 6-*R*-7-*H*-tetrazolo[5,1-*b*][1,3,4]thiadiazines **1c-j** from the corresponding  $\alpha$ -haloketones **3c-j** containing heteroaromatic, aromatic, and aliphatic substituents (Table 2).  $\alpha$ -Haloketones **3c**,<sup>18a</sup> **3d**,<sup>18b</sup> **3e-i**,<sup>18c</sup> **3j**<sup>18d</sup> were synthesized *via* halogenation of the corresponding acetyl derivatives according to literature procedures. The intermediate hydrazine derivatives were isolated and characterized in separate experiments, either as individual compounds (**6c,h-j**) or as the acetone hydrazone **7d** (see ESI). Intermediates **6e-g** are known compounds.<sup>19</sup>

**Table 2.** Scope for the synthesis of 6-substituted 7*H*-tetrazolo[5,1-*b*][1,3,4]thiadiazines **1a-j**.<sup>a</sup>

| Entry | $\alpha$ -Haloketone <b>3</b> | Compound <b>1</b> | Yield <b>1</b> (%) <sup>b</sup> |
|-------|-------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1     |                               |                   | 85                              |
| 2     |                               |                   | 78                              |
| 3     |                               |                   | 61                              |
| 4     |                               |                   | 68                              |
| 5     |                               |                   | 85                              |
| 6     |                               |                   | 82                              |
| 7     |                               |                   | 88                              |
| 8     |                               |                   | 80                              |
| 9     |                               |                   | 76                              |

10

**3j****1j**

51

<sup>a</sup> Reagents and conditions: haloacetyl derivative **3** (2 mmol), thiocarbohydrazide **5** (2 mmol), DMSO (2 mL), 20 °C (TLC, CHCl<sub>3</sub>-EtOAc, 3:1), then conc. HCl (0.4 mL), NaNO<sub>2</sub> (3 mmol), 0 → 20 °C.

<sup>b</sup> Isolated yield.

The observed azide-tetrazole tautomerism is a well-known process, which has been examined by both theoretical<sup>20</sup> and experimental techniques.<sup>21</sup> The predominance of either the azide or tetrazole form depends on various factors; mainly the reaction conditions (temperature, solvents) and the structure of substituents attached to the heterocyclic system. In particular, it was found<sup>20d</sup> that the azide form predominates in non-polar solvents, while the tetrazole one is the major tautomer in polar solvents. To estimate the possibility for the azide form of structures **1a-j** to exist in non-polar solvents, the IR and <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of compounds **1b**, **1g**, and **1j** were recorded as solutions in CHCl<sub>3</sub> and CDCl<sub>3</sub>, respectively, because in most cases, these solvents shift the azide-tetrazole equilibrium towards the azide form.<sup>20d</sup> However, neither the characteristic bands of the azido group in the IR spectrum (2130-2150 cm<sup>-1</sup>) nor the double set of methylene group protons of the 1,3,4-thiadiazine ring in the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were observed. Therefore, the azide-tetrazole equilibrium in compounds **1a-j** is completely shifted to the tetrazole tautomer both in solution and the solid state.

In summary, a general, and highly effective method for the synthesis of diverse 6-R-7H-tetrazolo[5,1-*b*][1,3,4]thiadiazines has been developed.<sup>22</sup> This method is based on a sequence of one-pot reactions: condensation of substituted α-haloketones **3** with commercially available thiocarbohydrazide **5** at room temperature, nitrosation of the formed hydrazinyl-1,3,4-thiadiazine **6** using NaNO<sub>2</sub>/HCl, and intramolecular cyclization of the nitrosation product *via* azide-tetrazole tautomerism to give the desired compounds **1** in good to high yields. According to IR, NMR, and single crystal X-ray data, it was established that the synthesized 6-R-7H-tetrazolo[5,1-*b*][1,3,4]thiadiazines **1** are not prone to ring-chain tautomerism either in solution or the solid state. To the best of our knowledge, this study represents one of the rare examples of a complete shift of the azide-tetrazole equilibrium towards the tetrazole.

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## Supplementary data

Supplementary data associated with this article can be found, in the online version, at

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22. *General procedure for the synthesis of 6-substituted 7H-tetrazolo[5,1-b][1,3,4]thiadiazines 1.* Haloacetyl derivative **3** (2 mmol) was added to a magnetically stirred solution of thiocarbonylhydrazide **5** (0.21 g, 2 mmol) in DMSO (2 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 1 h at 20 °C until substrate **3** was consumed (TLC, CHCl<sub>3</sub>-EtOAc, 3:1), then water (10 mL) and conc. HCl (0.4 mL) were added. A solution of NaNO<sub>2</sub> (0.21 g, 3 mmol) in water (1.5 mL) was added dropwise to the resulting suspension at 2-4 °C over a period of 15 min. The reaction mixture was stirred for 1 h at the same temperature and for 1 h at 20 °C. The formed solid was filtered off, washed with water, dried in air and recrystallized from EtOH. Compound **1j** was extracted with CHCl<sub>3</sub> (3x15 mL), dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, the solvent evaporated and the residue recrystallized from EtOH.

**Highlights**

- A novel method for the synthesis of tetrazolo[5,1-*b*]thiadiazines was developed.
- The target structures were obtained in good to high yields.
- A single tetrazole tautomer was found both in solution and in solid state.