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# USEFUL SYNTHESES OF PRENYLATED- AND PYRANO-3-ARYLCOUMARINS

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### SYNTHETIC COMMUNICATIONS, 31(18), 2753-2760 (2001)

## USEFUL SYNTHESES OF PRENYLATED-AND PYRANO-3-ARYLCOUMARINS

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### ABSTRACT

Convenient syntheses of 6-prenyl- and 8-isoprenyl-3-arylcoumarins (7a-d and 8c-d) from 2-prenyloxy-4-methoxybenzaldehydes (5a and 5b) and of pyrano-3-arylcoumarins (10a-b) from 2-hydroxy-4-(1,1-dimethylpropynyloxy) benzaldehyde (9) using Wittig reaction are described.

Coumarins constitute an important class of naturally occurring oxygen ring compounds.<sup>1</sup> Various simple and 3-substituted coumarins have been isolated<sup>1</sup> from natural sources. A few simple 3-arylcoumarins (**1a–c**), 6-prenyl-3-arylcoumarins (glycyrin **2a** and glycycoumarin **2b**) and 8-isoprenyl-3-arylcoumarin (licoarylcoumarin, **3**) have also been reported<sup>2</sup> from various plant sources. A large number of natural coumarins<sup>1</sup> possess prenyl- or funtionalised prenyl-units at C-6 position. The number of natural 3-arylcoumarins having prenyl unit at C-6 position is small. Some natural 3-arylcoumarins<sup>1</sup> have a pyran ring instead of the prenyl or isoprenyl group.

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Thus, the pyrano-3-arylcoumarins viz. kanzonol W (4a) and its mono methyl ether (4b) have been isolated<sup>3</sup> from *Glycyrrhiza glabra*. Apart from their importance as natural products, 3-arylcoumarins are reported to possess interesting biological activities. Thus, glycycoumarin (2b) is known to possess anti-HIV<sup>4</sup> and antitumor activities<sup>5</sup> besides being anti-oxidant.<sup>6</sup> It also inhibit xanthine oxidase activity<sup>2d</sup> (an enzyme responsible for formation of gout). Licoarylcoumarin (3) exhibits strong inhibition of cAMP phosphodiesterase.<sup>7</sup> Recently,<sup>8</sup> glycyrin (2a), glycycoumarin (2b) and kanzonol W (4a) have been found to be potent antibacterials.



In view of the natural occurrence associated with various biological activities, a few methods, making use of the classical Perkin<sup>9</sup> and Knoevenagel<sup>10</sup> reactions, have been reported for the synthesis of simple 3-arylcoumarins of type **1**. The synthesis of 6-prenylcoumarins from naturally occurring 7-hydroxy/alkyloxy coumarins have been reported in the literature,<sup>11</sup> however, the synthesis of 6- and 8-prenylated-3-arylcoumarins of type **2** and **3** remain almost untouched. Pyrano-3-arylcoumarins **4a** and **4b**, however, have been synthesized recently<sup>3b</sup> by making use of the classical Perkin reaction. The overall yields of the final products (**1** and **4**) in these reactions are invariably low and/or involve a multistep sequence of reactions.<sup>3b</sup> The syntheses of prenylated 3-arylcoumarins have not been



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reported in the literature. Hence, it was decided to develop convenient methods for the syntheses of prenylated-3-arylcoumarins of type 2 and 3 and pyrano-3-arylcoumarins of type 4.





In continuation of our work<sup>12,13</sup> on the synthesis of naturally occurring coumarins, we report herein a simple and convenient method (Scheme 1) for the synthesis of 6-prenyl-3-arylcoumarins (**7a–d**) and 8-isoprenyl-3-arylcoumarins (**8c–d**) from the corresponding 2-prenyloxy-4-methoxybenzal-dehydes (**5a** and **5b**).

The synthesis of angular pyrano-3-arylcoumarins (**10a–b**) has been achieved (Scheme 2) starting from 2-hydroxy-4-(1,1-dimethylpropynyloxy) benzaldehyde<sup>13</sup> (9). The literature method for the synthesis of pyrano-3-arylcoumarin requires several steps and provide the final product in low overall yield.<sup>3b</sup>

In our approach 2-prenyloxy-4-methoxybenzaldehyde<sup>14</sup> (**5a**) was refluxed with phosphoranes (**6a** and **6b**) in N,N-dimethylaniline, to give 7-methoxy-6-prenyl-3-phenylcoumarin (**7a**) and 2',5-dideoxy-4'-O-methyl-glycyrin (**7b**) respectively. 4,6-Dimethoxy-2-prenyloxybenzaldehyde<sup>12</sup> (**5b**) when reacted similarly with phosphoranes **6a** and **6b**, provided 5,7-dimethoxy-6-prenyl-3-phenylcoumarin (**7c**) and 2'-deoxy-4'-O-methyl-glycyrin (**7d**) along with minor amounts of 5,7-dimethoxy-8-isoprenyl-3-phenylcoumarin (**8c**) and 2'-deoxy-4'-O-methyl licoarylcoumarin (**8d**)



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respectively. 2-Hydroxy-4-(1,1-dimethylpropynyloxy) benzaldehyde<sup>13</sup> (9) on similar reaction with phosphoranes **6a** and **6b** gave the desired pyrano-3-phenylcoumarin (**10a**) and 2'-deoxy-4'-O-methyl kanzonol W (**10b**) respectively. The synthesis of pyrano-3-phenylcoumarin (**10a**) has been reported<sup>15</sup> in the literature starting from 7-hydroxy-3-phenylcoumarin.

The syntheses of 6- and 8-prenylated-3-arylcoumarins (**7a–d** and **8c–d**) have been reported here for the first time. The approaches (Schemes 1 and 2) described here for the syntheses of prenylated-3-arylcoumarins (**7a–d** and **8c–d**) and pyrano-3-arylcoumarins (**10a** and **10b**) do not require preformed coumarins. In both the approaches the Claisen rearrangement, Wittig reaction and cyclization occur in one-pot.

#### **EXPERIMENTAL**

All mps are uncorrected. The IR spectra were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer model 337 IR spectrophotometer. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz) spectra were recorded on Varian VXR 300S instrument in CDCl<sub>3</sub> with tetramethylsilane as an internal standard. Chemical shifts are expressed in  $\delta$  (ppm) downfield from TMS and coupling constants are in Hertz. Analyses were obtained on a Hosli's rapid carbon-hydrogen analyzer.

The preparation of phosphorane **6a** is reported<sup>16</sup> in the literature. Phosphorane **6b** was prepared from ethyl- $\alpha$ -bromo-4-methoxyphenyl-acetate<sup>17</sup> following the procedure reported for **6a**.

**General procedure for the syntheses of 6-prenyl- and 8-isoprenyl-3-arylcoumarins (7a–d and 8c–d).** A mixture of 2-prenyloxy-4-methoxy benzaldehyde (5a, <sup>14</sup> 5b, <sup>12</sup> 1.2 mmol) and phosphorane<sup>16</sup> (6a and 6b, 1.8 mmol)



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in N,N-dimethylaniline (15 ml) was refluxed, under nitrogen atmosphere, for 4–12h (monitored by TLC). Excess of N,N-dimethylaniline was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was extracted with ethyl acetate  $(3 \times 15 \text{ m})$ , washed first with dilute hydrochloric acid and finally with water. The combined organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and evaporated. The residue was chromatographed over silica gel using pet. ether-ethyl acetate (98:2) as an eluent to provide 6-prenyl-3-arylcoumarins (7a-d) in initial fractions. In the reaction of 4,6-dimethoxy-2-prenyloxybenzaldehyde (5b) with phosphoranes **6a** and **6b**, the 6-prenyl-3-arylcoumarins **7c** and **7d** were obtained in the initial fractions and the 8-isoprenyl-3-arylcoumarins **8c** and **8d** in later fractions. All these solid products were recrystallized from pet. ether-ethyl acetate.

7-Methoxy-6-prenyl-3-phenylcoumarin (7a). A mixture of 5a and 6a was refluxed for 12 h to give 7a in 37% yield, mp 77–78°C,  $v_{max}/cm^{-1}$ (Nujol) 1716 (C=O);  $\delta_{\rm H}$  1.71 (3H, s, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.78 (3H, s, CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.33 (2H, d, J 7.3 Hz, ArCH<sub>2</sub>CH=), 3.91 (3H, s, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 5.3 (1H, m, ArCH<sub>2</sub>CH=), 6.81 (1H, s, 8-H), 7.24 (1H, s, 5-H), 7.4–7.46 (3H, m, Ar-H), 7.67–7.7 (2H, m, Ar-H), 7.76 (1H, s, 4-H) (Found: C, 78.58; H, 6.42. C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>20</sub>O<sub>3</sub> requires C, 78.72; H 6.29%).

2',5-Dideoxy-4'-O-methylglycyrin (7b). A mixture of 5a and 6b was refluxed for 11 h to give 7b in 38% yield, mp 97–99°C,  $v_{max}/cm^{-1}$  (Nujol) 1717 (C=O); δ<sub>H</sub> 1.71 (3H, s, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.77 (3H, s, CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.32 (2H, d, J 7.3 Hz, ArCH<sub>2</sub>CH=), 3.85 (3H, s, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.9 (3H, s, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 5.3 (1H, m, ArCH<sub>2</sub>CH=), 6.8 (1H, s, 8-H), 6.96 (2H, d, J 8.8 Hz, Ar-H), 7.23 (1H, s, 5-H), 7.65 (2H, d, J 8.8 Hz, Ar-H), 7.7 (1H, s, 4-H) (Found: C, 75.64; H, 6.22. C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>22</sub>O<sub>4</sub> requires C, 75.41; H, 6.33%).

5,7-Dimethoxy-6-prenyl-3-phenylcoumarin (7c). A mixture of 5b and 6a was refluxed for 4h to give 7c (20% yield) in the initial fractions, mp 133–135°C,  $v_{max}/cm^{-1}$  (Nujol) 1720 (C=O);  $\delta_{H}$  1.69 (3H, s, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.79 (3H, s, CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.37 (2H, d, J 6.8 Hz, ArCH<sub>2</sub>CH=), 3.85 (3H, s, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.89 (3H, s, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 5.16 (1H, m, ArCH<sub>2</sub>CH=), 6.66 (1H, s, 8-H), 7.38–7.48 (3H, m, Ar-H), 7.68–7.76 (2H, m, Ar-H), 7.98 (1H, s, 4-H) (Found: C, 75.21; H, 6.55. C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>22</sub>O<sub>4</sub> requires C, 75.41; H 6.33%).

Further elution with the same solvent gave 8c in 10% yield.

5,7-Dimethoxy-8-(isoprenyl)-3-phenylcoumarin (8c). Mp 158-160°C,  $v_{max}/cm^{-1}$  (Nujol) 1708 (C=O);  $\delta_{H}$  1.67 (6H, s, 2×CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.85 (3H, s, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.94 (3H, s, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.87 (1H, dd, J 1.1 and 10.4 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>=), 4.89 (1H, dd, J 1.1 and 17.4 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>=), 6.3 (1H, dd, J 17.4 and 10.4 Hz, CH=), 6.33 (1H, s, 6-H), 7.34–7.46 (3H, m, Ar-H), 7.72–7.76 (2H, m, Ar-H), 8.15 (1H, s, 4-H) (Found: C, 75.38; H, 6.47. C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>22</sub>O<sub>4</sub> requires C, 75.41; H, 6.33%).

2'-Deoxy-4'-O-methylglycyrin (7d). A mixture of 5b and 6b was refluxed for 10 h to give 7d in (27% yield) in the initial fractions, mp  $102-104^{\circ}C$ ,



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 $v_{max}/cm^{-1}$  (Nujol) 1716 (C=O);  $\delta_{H}$  1.68 (3H, s, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.79 (3H, s, CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.37 (2H, d, J 6.6 Hz, Ar*CH*<sub>2</sub>CH=), 3.85 (3H, s, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.86 (3H, s, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.89 (3H, s, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 5.16 (1H, m, ArCH<sub>2</sub>*CH*=), 6.65 (1H, s, 8-H), 6.97 (2H, d, J 8.8 Hz, Ar-H), 7.67 (2H, d, J 8.8 Hz, Ar-H), 7.92 (1H, s, 4-H) (Found: C, 72.53; H, 6.6. C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>24</sub>O<sub>5</sub> requires C, 72.61; H, 6.36%).

Further elution with the same solvent furnished 8d in 10% yield.

**2'-Deoxy-7,4'-di-O-methyllicoarylcoumarin** (8d). Mp 147–151°C,  $v_{max}/cm^{-1}$  (Nujol) 1702 (C=O);  $\delta_{\rm H}$  1.67 (6H, s, 2 × CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.84 (6H, s, 2 × OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.93 (3H, s, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.86 (1H, dd, *J* 1.5 and 10.4 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>=), 4.88 (1H, dd, *J* 1.5 and 17.4 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>=), 6.3 (1H, dd, *J* 17.4 and 10.4 Hz, CH=), 6.33 (1H, s, 6-H), 6.95 (2H, d, *J* 8.8 Hz, Ar-H), 7.7 (2H, d, *J* 8.8 Hz, Ar-H), 8.09 (1H, s, 4-H) (Found: C, 72.46; H, 6.48. C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>24</sub>O<sub>5</sub> requires C, 72.61; H, 6.36%).

General procedure for the synthesis of pyrano-3-arylcoumarins (10a and 10b). A mixture of 2-hydroxy-4-(1,1-dimethylpropynyloxy)benzaldehyde<sup>13</sup> (9, 1.5 mmol) and appropriate phosphorane<sup>16</sup> (6a and 6b, 2.2 mmol) in N,N-dimethylaniline was refluxed, under nitrogen atmosphere, for 4–9 h (monitored by TLC). The residue obtained on usual work up, was chromatographed over silica gel using pet. ether–ethyl acetate (98:2) as an eluent to give a solid product which was recrystallized from pet. ether–ethyl acetate to provide pyrano-3-arylcoumarin 10a and 10b respectively.

**Pyrano-3-phenylcoumarin (10a).** A mixture or **9** and **6a** was refluxed for 4h to give **10a** in 45% yield, mp 139–141°C (lit.,<sup>15</sup> 143–144°C),  $v_{max}/cm^{-1}$  (Nujol) 1717 (C=O); 1.48 (6H, s, 2 × CH<sub>3</sub>), 5.74 (1H, d, *J* 10 Hz, 9-H), 6.74 (1H, d, *J* 8.8 Hz, 6-H), 6.94 (1H, d, *J* 10 Hz, 10-H), 7.27 (1H, d, *J* 8.8 Hz, 5-H), 7.39–7.49 (3H, m, Ar-H), 7.66–7.69 (2H, m, Ar-H), 7.71 (1H, s, 4-H) (Found: C, 79.02; H, 5.4. C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>16</sub>O<sub>3</sub> requires C, 78.93; H, 5.3%).

**2'-Deoxy-4'-O-methylkanzonol W (10b).** A mixture of **9** and **6b** was refluxed for 9h to give **10b** in 57% yield, mp 152–153°C,  $v_{max}/cm^{-1}$  (Nujol) 1712 (C=O);  $\delta_{\rm H}$  1.48 (6H, s, 2 × CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.85 (3H, s, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 5.73 (1H, d, *J* 10 Hz, 9-H), 6.73 (1H, d, *J* 8.4 Hz, 6-H), 6.94 (1H, d, *J* 10 Hz, 10-H), 6.96 (2H, d, *J* 8.7 Hz, Ar-H), 7.25 (1H, d, *J* 8.4 Hz, 5-H), 7.64 (2H, d, *J* 8.7 Hz, Ar-H), 7.66 (1H, s, 4-H) (Found: C, 75.54; H, 5.58. C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>18</sub>O<sub>4</sub> requires C, 75.43; H, 5.43%).

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