

Research Article

Solvent-Free Ring Cleavage Hydrazinolysis of Certain Biginelli Pyrimidines

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Certain Biginelli pyrimidines with ester substitution in C5 were subjected to unexpected ring opening upon solvent-free reaction with hydrazine hydrate to give three products: pyrazole, arylidenehydrazines, and urea/thiourea, respectively. The nonisolable carbohydrazide intermediates are formed firstly followed by the intermolecular nucleophilic attack of terminal amino group of hydrazide function on sp^2 C6 rather than the sp^3 C4 to give the ring adduct which was produced as a final product.

1. Introduction

Pyrimidine derivatives Uracil and Thymine are an integral part of RNA and DNA, respectively. Compounds with pyrimidine scaffolds exhibit wide range of diverse pharmacological actions [1, 2] and biological activities [3] such as anti-HIV agent Stavudine [4], antibiotic Fervennuline [5], antihypertensive drug Minoxidil [6], and antibacterial drug Sulfamethazine [7]. Pyrimidines of Biginelli type (3,4dihydropyrimidines, DHPMs) showed a broad spectrum of biological activities such as anticancer agent, Monastrol (Figure 1) [8, 9]. The straight forward synthesis of DHPMs resulted in the discovery of many important agents such as calcium channel modulators, adrenergic receptor antagonists, and mitotic kinesin inhibitors, in addition to anticancer, anti-inflammatory, antimicrobial, and antioxidant activities [9–13].

Synthesis of DHPMs (4) is carried out through the reaction of urea/thiourea 1, aldehyde 2, and β -ketone 3

(Figure 1). This reaction was reported by Biginelli and Gazz in 1893 and was then catalyzed by acids [14]. DHPMs can be obtained by few other synthetic protocols [9, 15–17] and several improvements were made to obtain good reaction conditions and better yields [11, 18–27].

DHPMs could be developed with six diversity points (R_1 , X, N_3 , R_4 , R_5 , and R_6) [28] (Figure 1). When $R_1 = H$, DHPMs 4 could be alkylated at N_1 [29] whereas the formylation or acylation of N_3 of 4 furnishes the N_3 -formylated or N_3 -acylated derivatives [30]. DHPMs 4 (X = S) could be alkylated in the presence of base [30]. With respect to R_4 , the reaction works best with aromatic aldehydes [31]. On the other hand, when R_5 is an ester group, free carboxylic acids can be produced [32–34]. Finally, when $R_6 = Me$, it can be subjected to bromination [35, 36]. To the best of our knowledge, there are no reports concerned with the accessibility of C6 for the nucleophilic reaction by hydrazine hydrate. However, C5 esters reacted with hydrazine hydrate, in ethyl alcohol and in the presence of H_2SO_4 , to give hydrazides 5 [37, 38] (Figure 1).

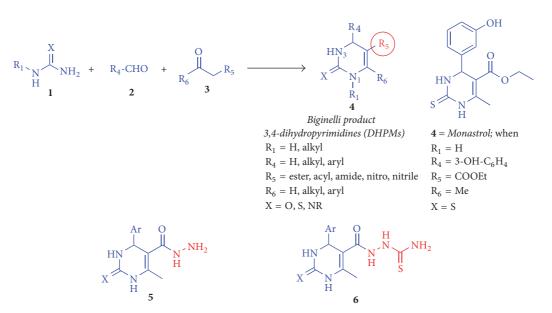


FIGURE 1: The structure of 3,4-dihydropyrimidinones (DHPMs) 4, anticancer agent Monastrol, hydrazide 5, and thiosemicarbazone 6.

The reaction of C5 esters with thiosemicarbazide, in acetone, to afford thiosemicarbazones 6 is reported (Figure 1) [39].

The latter data stimulate our interest to investigate the reactivity of C5 ester towards hydrazine hydrate under solvent-free conditions which produce three different ring cleavage products. This unexpected result leads us to perform further extensive survey in literature to discover the effect of hydrazine hydrate on pyrimidines other than DHPMs.

Interestingly, the reported findings revealed that the hydrazinolysis of pyrimidine-2(1*H*)-one (**7a**), 4-methylpyrimidin-2(1*H*)-one (**7b**), or 4,6-dimethylpyrimidin-2(1*H*)-one (**7c**) resulted in the formation of 1*H*-pyrazole (**8a**), 3-methyl-1*H*-pyrazole (**8b**) and 3,5-dimethyl-1*H*-pyrazole (**8c**), respectively, in addition to urea (**1a**) in each case (Figure 2) [40]. Furthermore, we found that the reaction of pyrimidines **9a** and **9b** (R = H, R = Me) with hydrazine hydrate gave pyrazoles **10a** and **10b** whereas the 2,4-dioxo-1,2,3,4-tetrahydropyrimidine-5-carbaldehyde **9c** (R = -CHO) gave pyrazole derivative **10c** (Figure 2) [41]. These facts showed the reactivity of sp^2 C6 of pyrimidines towards hydrazine hydrate and, subsequently, the ring opening of pyrimidine moiety.

Recently, we reported a unique behavior of hydrazine hydrate towards certain benzofurans to produce phenolicbased pyrazoles [42]. We also identified malonohydrazide as reaction product besides salicylaldehyde azine upon the reaction of ethyl 2-oxo-2*H*-chromene-3-carboxylate with hydrazine hydrate [43]. In the light of previous data and in continuation of our interest in the chemistry of hydrazine hydrate towards certain heterocycles [44–48], we aim herein to study the solvent-free reaction of hydrazine hydrate on C5 ester Biginelli pyrimidines **4a–4h** (Figure 3).

2. Experimental

2.1. General. Melting points were measured with a Stuart melting point apparatus and were uncorrected. ¹H NMR

Spectra were recorded on a Varian Mercury NMR spectrometer. ¹H spectrum was run at 400 MHz in deuterated dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO- d_6). Chemical shifts are expressed in values (ppm) using the solvent peak as internal standard. All coupling constant (*J*) values are given in hertz. The abbreviations used are as follows: s: singlet; d: doublet; m: multiplet.

2.2. General Procedure for the Synthesis of Ethyl 6-Methyl-4-(substituted)phenyl-2-($\infty o/thi ox o$)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydropyrimidine-5-carboxylates **4a**-**4h**. To a solution of urea (**1a**)/thiourea (**1b**) (0.050 mol), different aromatic aldehydes **2a**-**2d** (0.075 mol), and ethylacetoacetate **3a** (0.075 mol) in ethanol (35 mL), a catalytic amount of CaCl₂ (0.020 mol) was added. The reaction mixture was heated under reflux for 2 h, and the progress of reaction was monitored by TLC. After reaction completion, the reaction mass was cooled and treated with crushed ice. Then the precipitated solid was filtered off, crystallized using methanol/water mixture, and then dried to give DHPMs **4a**-**h**.

2.3. The Reaction of DHPMs Esters 4a-h with Hydrazine Hydrate in Ethanol. To a solution of DHPMs 4a-h (0.01 mol) in ethanol (20 mL), hydrazine hydrate (0.03 mol) was added. Then the reaction mixture was heated under reflux for 6 h. The reaction progression was monitored using TLC, which indicated that no reaction occurred [37].

2.4. General Procedure for the Neat Reaction of DHPMs Esters 4a-4h with Hydrazine Hydrate. A mixture of DHPMs 4a-4h (0.01 mol) and excess hydrazine hydrate (5 mL) was heated under reflux for 6 h. The reaction mixture was allowed to cool and poured on crushed ice. The obtained solid product 16a-16d was filtered, crystallized from ethanol, and finally dried. The evaporation of the filtrate gave solid residue which upon fractional crystallization from water gave the pyrazole 13 and urea (1a)/thiourea (1b), respectively.

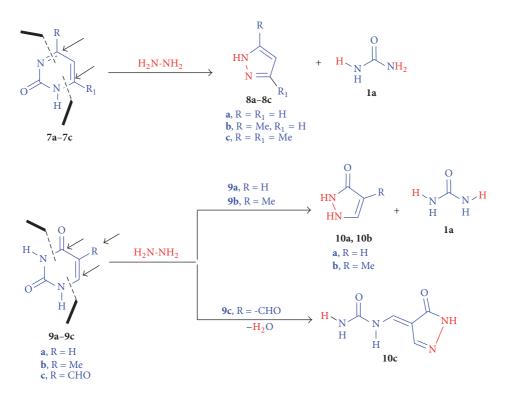


FIGURE 2: The reported reactions of hydrazine hydrate with pyrimidines 7a-7c and 9a-9c.

2.4.1. 3-Methyl-1H-pyrazol-5-ol (13). Yield: 42–55% (for 4a– 4h); m.p. 221–223°C (Lit. [49] m.p. 220–222°C); ¹H-NMR (DMSO- d_6) δ (ppm): 2.47 (s, 3H, -CH3), 6.83 (s, 1H, Ar-H), 10.07 (s, 1H, OH), 12.10 (s, 1H, NH).

2.4.2. Benzylidenehydrazine (16a). Yield: 62% (for 4a) and 67% (for 4e); m.p. 89–91°C (Lit. [50] m.p. 90–92°C); ¹H-NMR (DMSO- d_6) δ (ppm): 5.37 (s, 2H, NH₂, D₂O-exchangeable), 7.38–7.41 (m, 3H, Ar-H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H, Ar-H,), 7.71 (s, 1H, CH=N).

2.4.3. 4-Methylbenzylidenehydrazine (16b). Yield: 58% (for 4b) and 69% (for 4f); m.p. 58-59°C (Lit. [51] m.p. 55-56°C); ¹H-NMR (DMSO- d_6) δ (ppm): 2.21 (s, 3H, CH₃), 5.31 (s, 2H, NH₂, D₂O-exchangeable), 6.96 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 7.56 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 7.70 (s, 1H, CH=N).

2.4.4. 4-Methoxybenzylidenehydrazine (16c). Yield: 60% (for 4c) and 66% (for 4g); m.p. 161-162°C (Lit. [52] m.p. 168°C); ¹H-NMR (DMSO- d_6) δ (ppm): 3.82 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 5.36 (s, 2H, NH₂, D₂O-exchangeable), 6.92 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 7.54 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 7.75 (s, 1H, -CH=N).

2.4.5. 4-Chlorobenzylidenehydrazine (16d). Yield: 62% (for 4d) and 70% (for 4h); m.p. 59–61°C (Lit. [53] m.p. 57-58°C); ¹H-NMR (DMSO- d_6) δ (ppm): 5.38 (s, 2H, NH₂, D₂O-exchangeable), 7.31 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 7.70 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 7.77 (s, 1H, -CH=N).

3. Results and Discussion

In a typical experimental procedure a solution of urea (R = H, X = O, **1a**)/thiourea (R = H, X = S, **1b**), aldehydes **2a–2d** ($R_4 =$ Ph, 4-MeC₆H₄, 4-MeO-C₆H₄, 4-Cl-C₆H₄), and ethyl acetoacetate ($R_5 = COOEt$, $R_6 = Me$, **3a**) in absolute ethanol was heated under reflux in the presence of catalytic amount of CaCl₂ to give the required DHPM derivatives **4a–4h**. Then, we heated DHPM derivatives **4a–4h** with hydrazine hydrate in ethanol under reflux (6 h) but we gave no reaction [54]. The reaction of DHPM derivatives **4a–4h** with excess amount of hydrazine hydrate, in absence of ethanol, under reflux for 6 h showed the disappearance of Biginelli pyrimidines **4a–4h** on TLC. The latter reaction gave three products, none of them being the expected hydrazide **11a–11h**.

The analyses of the isolated products established their assigned structure as pyrazole 13, arylidenehydrazines 16a–16d, and urea/thiourea 1a and 1b (Figure 3).

The previous conclusions encouraged us to suppose a mechanism for ring opening of DHPMs by hydrazine hydrate (Figure 3). This reaction proceeds through the formation of nonisolable intermediate carbohydrazide **11a–11h** at C5 followed by nucleophilic attack of $-NH_2$ of hydrazide on sp^2 C6 rather than the sp^3 C4 to give the ring opening adducts **12a–12h** which produce pyrazole **13** as final product in addition to arylidene of urea/thiourea **14a–14h** as nonisolable intermediate. Additional hydrazinolysis of **14a–14h** gave arylidenehydrazines **16a–16d** and urea/thiourea **1a** and **1b** as end products.

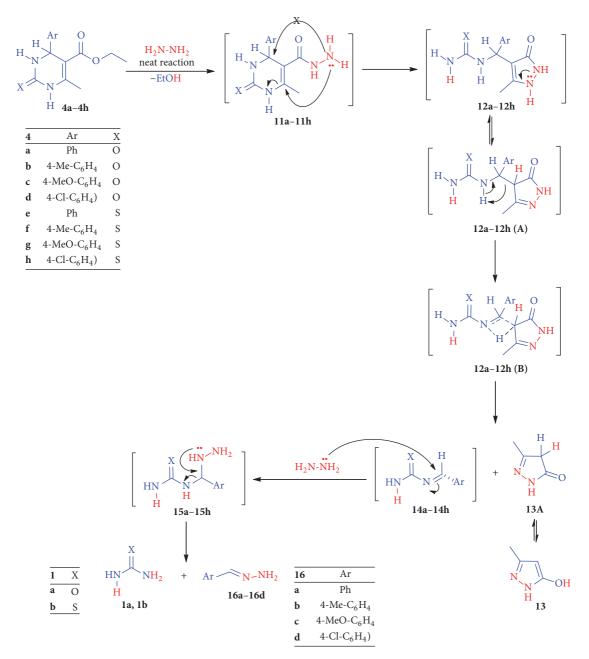


FIGURE 3: The proposed mechanism for the reaction of DHPM derivatives 4a-4h with hydrazine hydrate.

4. Conclusion

We studied the action of hydrazine hydrate as *N*-nucleophile on Biginelli pyrimidine esters **4a**–**4h**. They were subjected to unexpected ring cleavage to give pyrazole **13**, arylidenehydrazines **16a–16d**, and urea/thiourea **1a** and **1b** where the reaction proceeded through C5 ester and C6.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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Supplementary Materials

Graphical abstract figure shows the ring opening of certain Biginelli pyrimidines using hydrazine. (*Supplementary Materials*)

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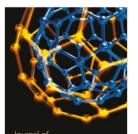
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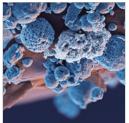


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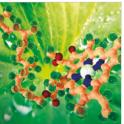


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