## 3-(Nitromethyl)-3,4-dihydroquinoxalin-2(1*H*)-ones: synthesis and structure

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 $R^1 = R^2 = H$ , Me, CI;  $R^1 = Me$ , CI;  $R^2 = H$ 

Reactions of ethyl 3-nitroacrylate with o-phenylenediamine and its substituted derivatives were used for the synthesis of 3-(nitromethyl)-3,4-dihydroquinoxalin-2(1H)-ones, followed by structural characterization. These compounds were found to undergo elimination of nitromethane, leading to quinoxalin-2(1H)-ones.

Keywords: 1,2-diaminobenzene, ethyl 3-nitroacrylate, 3-(nitromethyl)-3,4-dihydroquinoxalin-2(1*H*)-one, quinoxalin-2(1*H*)-one, aza-Michael reaction.

Quinoxaline (1,4-benzopyrazine) is an important example of benzocondensed nitrogen-containing heterocycles.<sup>1</sup> This heterocycle is a part of the molecular structure of the natural antibiotic echinomycin,<sup>2–4</sup> as well as synthetic antibacterial drugs: quinoxidine and dioxidine.<sup>5,6</sup> The practical applications of quinoxaline derivatives, substituted quinoxalin-2(1*H*)-ones, show even greater promise.<sup>7</sup> Certain substituted quinoxalin-2(1*H*)-ones have exhibited antibacterial<sup>8,9</sup> and anti-inflammatory,<sup>8</sup> as well as antidiabetic<sup>10</sup> and antiviral activity, including effects against HIV.<sup>11</sup> Such compounds are being considered as effective inhibitors of aldose reductase<sup>12</sup> and partial antagonists of  $\gamma$ -aminobutyric acid.<sup>13</sup>

Compounds of quinoxalin-2(1*H*)-one series have been synthesized by various methods,<sup>7</sup> typically based on *o*-phenylenediamine reactions with bifunctional carbonyl substrates, such as acetylene dicarboxylates,<sup>14</sup>  $\alpha$ -bromoesters,<sup>15</sup> glyoxylic acid and its esters,<sup>16,17</sup> as well as 2,3-epoxyaldehydes.<sup>18</sup> Representatives of nitroalkenes, ethyl 3-alkyl-3-nitroacrylates, have also been used successfully as substrates in reactions with *o*-phenylenediamine for the preparation of 3-( $\alpha$ -nitroalkyl)-3,4-dihydroquinoxalin-2(1*H*)-ones, although these products required additional chromatographic purification.<sup>19</sup>

In this work, we used a reaction of the simplest unsubstituted ethyl 3-nitroacrylate with a series of o-phenylenediamines to synthesize previously unknown derivatives of 3,4-dihydroquinoxalin-2(1*H*)-one that contained 3-nitromethyl groups. The reaction of ethyl 3-nitroacrylate (1) with *o*-phenylenediamines  $2\mathbf{a}-\mathbf{c}$  (in 1:1.25 ratio) in anhydrous ethyl acetate solution at room temperature was complete in 2 h and led to the formation of the respective 3-(nitromethyl)-3,4-dihydroquinoxalin-2(1*H*)-ones  $3\mathbf{a}-\mathbf{c}$  in 51–81% yields (Scheme 1).

This tandem reaction involved initial formation of aza-Michael adduct **A**, which then underwent intramolecular heterocyclization *via* an attack by the second nucleophilic center at the ester group.

In contrast to the reactions of *o*-phenylenediamine (2a) and its symmetrically substituted analogs 2b,c, the reactions of 4-methyl- and 4-chloro-1,2-diaminobenzenes (2d,e) with ethyl 3-nitroacrylate (1) under analogous conditions led to the formation of two regioisomers in the ratios of 17:10 (3'd:3''d) and 25:10 (3'e:3''e) according to <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectral data. Besides that, it was found that the synthesized dihydroquinoxalin-2(1*H*)-ones **3a**–e underwent elimination of nitromethane upon refluxing in aqueous solution, as demonstrated in the case of compounds **3a**,b, which were transformed in quantitative yields to the known quinoxalin-2(1*H*)-ones **4a**,b<sup>16,20</sup> under these conditions.

The structure of 3-(nitromethyl)-3,4-dihydroquinoxalin-2(1*H*)-ones **3a**–e was characterized by IR, UV, and one-dimensional <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra, two-dimensional <sup>1</sup>H–<sup>1</sup>H COSY, <sup>1</sup>H–<sup>1</sup>H NOESY, <sup>1</sup>H–<sup>13</sup>C HMQC, and <sup>1</sup>H–<sup>13</sup>C HMBC experiments, while the physicochemical characteristics of quinoxalin-2(1*H*)-ones **4a,b** matched those described in



2-4 a R = H, b R = Cl; 2, 3 c R = Me; 2d, 3'd, 3"dR<sup>1</sup> = Me; 2e, 3'e, 3"e R<sup>1</sup> = Cl

the literature.<sup>16,20</sup> IR spectra of compounds **3a–e** contained absorption bands due to a covalent nitro group at 1542–1548 ( $v_{as}$ ) and 1377–1380 cm<sup>-1</sup> ( $v_s$ ), characteristic for aliphatic nitro compounds,<sup>21,22</sup> absorption bands of amide carbonyl group at 1674–1679 cm<sup>-1</sup>, as well as a set of absorption bands characteristic for amide and amine NH groups (3183–3188, 3366–3417 cm<sup>-1</sup>). UV absorption spectra of compounds **3a–e** contained long-wavelength absorption maxima at 267–277 ( $\varepsilon$  3000–4100 l·mol<sup>-1</sup>·cm<sup>-1</sup>) and 307–325 nm ( $\varepsilon$  4300–5100 l·mol<sup>-1</sup>·cm<sup>-1</sup>), and were in agreement with the data from structurally related dihydroquinoxalinones.<sup>23–25</sup>

An interesting structural feature of the synthesized dihydroquinoxalinones 3a-e containing nitromethyl groups was the presence of a chiral C-3 atom in their molecules, creating a diastereotopic difference between the CH<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> group protons and forming an ABC spin system with the 3-CH methine proton. The signal of the latter  $(H_c)$  was observed as a multiplet at 4.38-4.66 ppm, while the protons of 3-CH<sub>2</sub> methylene group (H<sub>A</sub> and H<sub>B</sub>) gave double doublets at 4.72–4.76 and 4.82–4.97 ppm  $(^{2}J_{AB} = 13.6-14.1, {}^{3}J_{AC} = 4.2-4.7, {}^{3}J_{BC} = 5.0-5.5$  Hz). This coupling pattern was manifested in <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H COSY spectra by the respective cross peaks, while the presence of cross peaks between the H<sub>C</sub> methine proton signal and the broadened split signal at 6.06-6.74 ppm allowed to assign the latter to the 4-NH amine proton. Such interpretation was also supported by <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H NOESY spectra, which contained additional cross peaks between the broadened downfield singlet of 1-NH group and the signal of H-8 proton in the aromatic ring.



Figure 1. The main correlations in  ${}^{1}H-{}^{1}H$  COSY and  ${}^{1}H-{}^{1}H$  NOESY NMR spectra of compounds **3a**–e.

Thus, we have shown that the reaction of ethyl 3-nitroacrylate with 1,2-diaminobenzenes at room temperature gave good yields of heterocyclic compounds belonging to 3-(nitromethyl)-3,4-dihydroquinoxalin-2(1H)-one series. These compounds showed a tendency to eliminate nitromethane, resulting in conversion to quinoxalin-2(1H)-ones.

## Experimental

IR spectra were recorded on a Shimadzu IR Prestige-21 FT-IR spectrometer in KBr pellets. Electronic absorption spectra were recorded on a Shimadzu UV–2401PC spectrophotometer in DMSO solution in quartz cuvettes (optical path length 1.01 mm). <sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C, <sup>1</sup>H–<sup>1</sup>H COSY, <sup>1</sup>H–<sup>1</sup>H NOESY (mixing time 1 s), <sup>1</sup>H–<sup>13</sup>C HMQC, and <sup>1</sup>H–<sup>13</sup>C HMBC NMR spectra were acquired on a Jeol ECX–400A instrument at 400 (for <sup>1</sup>H nuclei) and 100 MHz (for <sup>13</sup>C nuclei) in DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>. The internal standards were residual solvent protons for <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra ( $\delta$  2.47 ppm) and solvent carbon atoms for <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra ( $\delta$  40.0 ppm). Elemental analysis was performed on a EuroVector EA3000 CHN Dual analyzer.

Ethyl 3-nitroacrylate was synthesized according to a modified literature procedure.  $^{26}\,$ 

3-(Nitromethyl)-3,4-dihydroquinoxalin-2(1H)-one (3a). A solution of ethyl 3-nitroacrylate (1) (160 mg, 1.103 mmol) in anhydrous ethyl acetate (10 ml) was added dropwise at room temperature to a solution of *o*-phenylenediamine (2a) (149 mg, 1.379 mmol) in anhydrous ethyl acetate (10 ml), and the reaction mixture was maintained for 2 h. After the removal of solvent, the resinified residue was crystallized from ethyl alcohol and the precipitate that formed was filtered off. Yield 169 mg (74%), yellow powder, mp 165-167°C (EtOH). IR spectrum, v, cm<sup>-1</sup>: 1380 (s), 1542 (s, NO<sub>2</sub>), 1674 (vs, C=O), 3188 (w), 3382 (w), 3417 (m, NH). UV spectrum,  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$ , nm ( $\epsilon$ , l×mol<sup>-1</sup>×cm<sup>-1</sup>): 268 (3000), 307 (4300). <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum, δ, ppm (*J*, Hz): 4.49–4.56 (1H, m, 3-CH); 4.76 (1H, dd,  ${}^{2}J = 13.8$ ,  ${}^{3}J = 4.5$ ) and 4.89 (1H, dd,  ${}^{2}J = 13.8$ ,  ${}^{3}J = 5.2$ , CH<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>); 6.32 (1H, br. d,  ${}^{3}J = 1.9$ , 4-NH); 6.58  $(1H, t, {}^{3}J = 7.5, H-7); 6.64 (1H, d, {}^{3}J = 7.3, H-5); 6.70 (1H, d, d)$ J = 7.9, H-8); 6.74 (1H, t,  ${}^{3}J = 7.5$ , H-6); 10.51 (1H, s, 1-NH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum, δ, ppm: 54.4 (C-3); 76.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>); 114.1 (C-5); 115.5 (C-8); 118.7 (C-7); 123.6 (C-6); 125.6 (C-8a); 133.3 (C-4a); 164.5 (C=O). Found, %: C 52.23; H 4.43; N 20.33. C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>9</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub>. Calculated, %: C 52.17; H 4.38; N 20.28.

6,7-Dichloro-3-(nitromethyl)-3,4-dihydroquinoxalin-2(1H)-one (3b) was obtained from 1,2-diamino-4,5dichlorobenzene (2b) (244 mg, 1.379 mmol) and ethyl 3-nitroacrylate (1) (160 mg, 1.103 mmol) analogously to compound 3a. Yield 154 mg (51%), yellow powder, mp 264-266°C (EtOH). IR spectrum, v, cm<sup>-1</sup>: 1379 (s), 1546 (s, NO<sub>2</sub>), 1675 (vs, C=O), 3184 (w), 3363 (m), 3380 (m), 3397 (m, NH). UV spectrum,  $\lambda_{max}$ , nm ( $\epsilon$ ,  $1 \times mol^{-1} \times cm^{-1}$ ): 277 (3400), 325 (4900). <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum, δ, ppm (*J*, Hz): 4.60–4.66 (1H, m, 3-CH); 4.77 (1H, dd,  ${}^{2}J = 14.1$ ,  ${}^{3}J = 4.2$ ) and 4.97 (1H, dd,  ${}^{2}J = 14.1$ ,  ${}^{3}J = 5.0$ , CH<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>); 6.74 (1H, br. d,  ${}^{3}J = 1.7$ , 4-NH); 6.80 (1H, s, H-5); 6.82 (1H, s, H-8); 10.74 (1H, s, 1-NH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum, δ, ppm: 53.8 (C-3); 76.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>); 114.4 (C-5); 116.1 (C-8); 118.9 (C-7); 124.7 (C-6); 125.8 (C-8a); 133.7 (C-4a); 164.1 (C=O). Found, %: C 39.29; H 2.45; N 15.46. C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>7</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub>. Calculated, %: C 39.15; H 2.56; N 15.22.

6,7-Dimethyl-3-(nitromethyl)-3,4-dihydroquinoxalin-2(1H)-one (3c) was obtained from 1,2-diamino-4,5-dimethylbenzene (2c) (188 mg, 1.379 mmol) and ethyl 3-nitroacrylate (1) (160 mg, 1.103 mmol) analogously to compound 3a. Yield 189 mg (73%), orange powder, decomp. temp. 295°C (CCl<sub>4</sub>-MeOH, 3:2). IR spectrum, v, cm<sup>-1</sup>: 1377 (s), 1544 (s, NO<sub>2</sub>), 1679 (vs, C=O), 3184 (m), 3191 (m), 3387 (w), 3416 (m, NH). UV spectrum,  $\lambda_{max}$ , nm  $(\epsilon, 1 \times mol^{-1} \times cm^{-1})$ : 271 (3000), 313 (4600). <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum, δ, ppm (J, Hz): 2.01 (3H, s, CH<sub>3</sub>); 2.02 (3H, s, CH<sub>3</sub>); 4.38–4.47 (1H, m, 3-CH); 4.72 (1H, dd,  $^{2}J = 13.6$ ,  ${}^{3}J = 4.7$ ) and 4.82 (1H, dd,  ${}^{2}J = 13.6$ ,  ${}^{3}J = 5.5$ , CH<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>); 6.06 (1H, br. d,  ${}^{3}J$  = 2.1 4-NH); 6.44 (1H, s, H-5); 6.48 (1H, s, H-8): 10.38 (1H, s. 1-NH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum, δ, ppm: 19.1 (CH<sub>3</sub>); 19.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>); 54.7 (C-3); 76.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>); 115.7 (C-5); 116.7 (C-8); 123.5 (C-8a); 126.1 (C-7); 130.9 (C-4a); 131.0 (C-6); 164.5 (C=O). Found, %: C 56.00; H 5.63; N 17.81. C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>13</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub>. Calculated, %: C 56.16; H 5.57; N 17.86.

7-Methyl-3-(nitromethyl)-3,4-dihydroquinoxalin-2(1H)one (3d') and 6-methyl-3-(nitromethyl)-3,4-dihydroquinoxalin-2(1H)-one (3d") were obtained from 1,2-diamino-4-methylbenzene (2d) (316 mg, 2.586 mmol) and ethyl 3-nitroacrylate (1) (300 mg, 2.069 mmol) analogously to compound 3a. Yield 372 mg (81%), yellow powder, a mixture of compounds 3d' and 3d'' (17:10) with mp 154-155°C (CCl<sub>4</sub>–MeOH, 3:1). IR spectrum, v, cm<sup>-1</sup>: 1377 (s), 1548 (s, NO<sub>2</sub>), 1676 (vs, C=O), 3183 (m), 3366 (m), 3388 (s, NH). UV spectrum,  $\lambda_{max}$ , nm ( $\epsilon$ ,  $1 \times mol^{-1} \times cm^{-1}$ ): 267 (3500), 311 (4600). **Isomer 3d'**. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum, δ, ppm (J, Hz): 2.10 (3H, s, CH<sub>3</sub>); 4.43–4.51 (1H, m, 3-CH); 4.74– 4.78 (1H, m) and 4.85 (1H, dd,  ${}^{2}J = 13.7$ ,  ${}^{3}J = 5.4$ ,  $CH_2NO_2$ ; 6.15 (1H, br. d,  ${}^{3}J = 2.2$ , 4-NH); 6.51–6.57 (3H, m, H-5,6,8); 10.46 (1H, s, 1-NH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum, δ, ppm: 20.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>); 54.5 (C-3); 76.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>); 114.2 (C-5); 116.0 (C-8); 124.0 (C-6); 125.7 (C-8a); 127.6 (C-7); 130.9 (C-4a); 164.8 (C=O). Isomer 3d". <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum,  $\delta$ , ppm (*J*, Hz): 2.10 (3H, s, CH<sub>3</sub>); 4.43–4.51 (1H, m, 3-CH); 4.70–4.74 (1H, m) and 4.86 (1H, dd,  ${}^{2}J = 13.7$ ,  ${}^{3}J = 5.2$ , CH<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>); 6.24 (1H, br. d,  ${}^{3}J = 2.0, 4$ -NH); 6.39 (1H, dd,  ${}^{3}J = 7.8, {}^{4}J = 1.2, H$ -7); 6.45 (1H, br. s, H-5); 6.58 (1H, d,  ${}^{3}J = 7.8$ , H-8); 10.43 (1H, s,

1-NH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum,  $\delta$ , ppm: 21.2 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 54.4 (C-3); 76.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>); 114.6 (C-5); 115.4 (C-8); 119.2 (C-7); 123.3 (C-8a); 132.6 (C-6); 133.1 (C-4a); 164.3 (C=O). Found, %: C 54.41; H 5.01; N 18.76. C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>11</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub>. Calculated, %: C 54.29; H 5.01; N 19.00.

7-Chloro-3-(nitromethyl)-3,4-dihydroquinoxalin-2(1H)one (3e') and 6-chloro-3-(nitromethyl)-3,4-dihydroquinoxalin-2(1H)-one (3e") were obtained from 1,2-diamino-4-chlorobenzene (2e) (197 mg, 1.379 mmol) and ethyl 3-nitroacrylate (1) (160 mg, 1.103 mmol) analogously to compound 3a. Yield 162 mg (61%), brown powder, a mixture of compounds 3e' and 3e" (25:10) with mp 182-185°C (CCl<sub>4</sub>-MeOH, 3:2). IR spectrum, v, cm<sup>-1</sup>: 1378 (s), 1544 (s, NO<sub>2</sub>), 1675 (vs, C=O), 3184 (m), 3371 (m), 3392 (s, NH). UV spectrum,  $\lambda_{max}$ , nm ( $\epsilon$ ,  $1 \times mol^{-1} \times cm^{-1}$ ): 273 (4100), 317 (5100). Isomer 3e'. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum,  $\delta$ , ppm (*J*, Hz): 4.54–4.61 (1H, m, 3-CH); 4.757 (1H, dd,  $^{2}J = 13.9$ ,  ${}^{3}J = 4.4$ ) and 4.927 (1H, dd,  ${}^{2}J = 13.9$ ,  ${}^{3}J = 5.0$ , CH<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>); 6.51 (1H, d,  ${}^{3}J$  = 1.9, 4-NH); 6.63 (1H, d,  ${}^{3}J$  = 8.4, H-5); 6.71 (1H, d,  ${}^{4}J = 2.3$ , H-8), 6.76 (1H, dd,  ${}^{3}J = 8.4$ ,  ${}^{4}J = 2.3$ , H-6); 10.64 (1H, br. s, 1-NH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum, δ, ppm: 54.1 (C-3); 76.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>); 114.8 (C-8); 115.1 (C-5); 121.6 (C-7); 123.0 (C-6); 126.8 (C-8a); 132.3 (C-4a); 164.5 (C=O). **Isomer 3e''**. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum,  $\delta$ , ppm (*J*, Hz): 4.54–4.61 (1H, m, 3-CH); 4.761 (1H, dd,  ${}^{2}J = 13.9$ ,  ${}^{3}J = 4.3$ ) and 4.933  $(1H, dd, {}^{2}J = 13.9, {}^{3}J = 5.1, CH_{2}NO_{2}); 6.59 (1H, dd,$  ${}^{3}J = 8.3, {}^{4}J = 2.2, \text{H-7}$ ; 6.60 (1H, br. s, 4-NH); 6.65 (1H, d,  ${}^{4}J = 2.2, \text{H-5}$ ; 6.67 (1H, d,  ${}^{3}J = 8.3, \text{H-8}$ ); 10.64 (1H, br. s, 1-NH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum, δ, ppm: 53.9 (C-3); 76.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>); 113.1 (C-5); 116.5 (C-8); 117.8 (C-7); 124.5 (C-8a); 127.2 (C-6); 134.7 (C-4a); 164.1 (C=O). Found, %: C 44.64; H 3.48; N 17.27. C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>8</sub>ClN<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub>. Calculated, %: C 44.74; H 3.39; N 17.39.

**Quinoxalin-2(1***H***)-one (4a)**. A suspension of 3-nitromethyl)-3,4-dihydroquinoxalin-2(1*H*)-one (**3a**) (100 mg, 0.483 mmol) in water (10 ml) was refluxed for 1.5 h by heating a flask equipped with reflux condenser on a sand bath. The mixture was cooled to room temperature and maintained for 18 h, the precipitate that formed was filtered off on a sintered glass filter. Yield 69 mg (98%), lightyellow crystals, mp 263–265°C (H<sub>2</sub>O) (mp 268–269°C (EtOH)<sup>16</sup>). <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum,  $\delta$ , ppm (*J*, Hz): 7.24–7.30 (2H, m), 7.48–7.55 (1H, m) and 7.71–7.77 (1H, m, H-5,6,7,8); 8.13 (1H, s, 3-CH); 12.40 (1H, br. s, 1-NH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum,  $\delta$ , ppm: 116.2; 123.8; 129.3; 131.3; 132.3; 132.5 (C-5,6,7,8,4a,8a); 152.1 (C-3); 155.4 (C=O).

**6,7-Dichloroquinoxalin-2(1***H***)-one (4b)** was obtained analogously to compound **4a** from 6,7-dichloro-3-(nitromethyl)-3,4-dihydroquinoxalin-2(1*H*)-one (**3b**) (100 mg, 0.362 mmol) by refluxing in water (10 ml) for 9 h. Yield 59 mg (75%), yellowish-white crystals, decomp. temp. 286°C (H<sub>2</sub>O) (decomp. temp. 275°C (2-PrOH)<sup>20</sup>). <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum,  $\delta$ , ppm (*J*, Hz): 7.41 (1H, s) and 8.02 (1H, s, H-5,8); 8.18 (1H, s, 3-CH); 12.51 (1H, br. s, 1-NH).

Supplementary information file containing spectral data for the synthesized compounds is available at http://link.springer.com/journal/10593.

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