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Heteroarenium salts in synthesis. Highly functionalized tetra- and pentasubstituted pyridines

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Abstract—Activation of chloropyridines by heteroarenium substituents allows sequential substitutions by O-, N-, and S-nucleophiles. Reaction of 2,3,5,6-tetrachloropyridine and 4-ethylsulfanyl-2,3,5,6-tetrachloropyridine with 4-(dimethylamino)pyridine, 4-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)pyridine, or 4-aminopyridine results in the formation of 2,6-bis-heteroarenium substituted 3,5-dichloropyridines. On nucleophilic displacement of the heteroarenium substituents by O-, N-, or S-nucleophiles highly functionalized 3,5-dichloropyridines form which possess N^2 , S^4 , N^6 -, O^2 , S^4 , O^6 -, O^2 , O^6 -, N^2 , N^6 -, and S^2 , S^6 -substitution patterns.

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1. Introduction

Substitution reactions on halogenated heteroaromatics are widely applied reactions in organic synthesis. An impressive number of monographs and review articles reflect that synthetically, biologically, pharmaceutically, or industrially important pyridines can be synthesized from halogenated precursors.^{1–4} Heteroaromatic substitutions proceed by different mechanisms. Mostly, a two-step AE-mechanism^{1–3} is observed, but $S_N(ANRORC)$ -,⁵ EA-,⁶ or S_{RN1} mechanisms⁷ have also been described. It is also known that the 2-, 3-, and 4-positions of the pyridine ring system display different reactivities.^{1–3} The 3-position is often inert against nucleophilic attacks,⁸ unless EA-mechanisms by amide ions⁹ or metal-catalyses are applied.¹⁰

However, the vast majority of known substitutions was limited to the synthesis of mono- or bisubstituted pyridines. Thus, the reaction of pentachloropyridine with aliphatic amines generates only mono-amino tetrachloropyridines.¹¹ Vigorous reaction conditions are necessary to form 3,4-bisamino substituted trichloropyridines¹² or lead to mixtures of compounds. These limitations cannot be circumvented by alternative pyridine syntheses such as Hantźsch synthesis,¹³ Kröhnke synthesis,¹⁴ gasphase reactions of aldehydes and ketones with acrolein and ammonia,¹⁵ electrocyclic ring closures,¹⁶ ring transformations,¹⁷ cycloadditions,¹⁸ directed metallations,¹⁹ or

transition-metal catalysed reactions.²⁰ As a consequence, the number of reported tetra- and penta-substituted pyridines is very small. The need for these pyridines, however, is reflected in recent publications dealing with sequential controlled substitution reactions on pentafluor-opyridines as promising avenues for the synthesis of macrocycles.²¹

As part of an ongoing project we recently described the synthesis and characterization of mono-, tris-, and pentakisheteroarenium substituted pyridines bearing up to 10 positive charges within a common π -electron system.²² These heteroarenium salts proved to be valuable starting materials for the regioselective synthesis of hitherto unavailable pyridine ethers²³ and pyridine thioethers.²⁴ We report here the scope and limitations of reactions leading to first examples of N²,S⁴,N⁶-trisubstituted dichloropyridines, and to a variety of O²,S⁴,O⁶-trisubstituted as well as O²,O⁶-, N²,N⁶-, and S²,S⁶-disubstituted dichloropyridines, which are symmetrically (R²=R³, Fig. 1) or non-symmetrically substituted (R² \neq R³).

2. Results and discussion

2.1. Activation of pentachloropyridine by heteroarenium substituents

Our earlier work reveals that the 4-chlorine atom of pentachloropyridine is the most susceptible leaving group toward substitution reactions with nucleophilic

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Figure 1. Retrosynthesis of substituted pyridines, available by sequential regioselective substitutions on heteroarenium activated chlorinated pyridines.

heteroaromatics such as 4-(dimethylamino)pyridine (DMAP), 4-(pyrrolidino)pyridine, and 1-methylimidazole.²² We therefore focussed our interest on substitution reactions on pyridines without chlorine in the 4-position. In view of the interest in 4-sulfanyl-substituted pyridines (most of which are patented²⁵) and other pyridine thioethers as bacterizides,²⁶ pesticides,²⁷ and intermediates for the synthesis of fungicides²⁸ and other biologically active compounds,²⁹ we focussed our interest on tetrachloro-4sulfanylpyridines as starting materials. No substitution, however, was observable starting from 2,3,5,6-tetrachloropyridine-4-thiol or tetrachloropyridines with oxygen-or amino-groups in the 4-position under the reaction conditions applied. Deprotonation of acidic groups such as the SH-group resulted in a considerably decreased leaving group tendency of the α -chlorine substituents. Thus, treatment of 2,3,5,6-tetrachloro-pyridine-4-thiol with DMAP gave the salt 4-(dimethylamino)pyridinium 2,3,5,6-tetrachloropyridine-4-thiolate in quantitative yield (Scheme 1).



Scheme 1.

We found that 4-ethylsulfanyl-2,3,5,6-tetrachloropyridine, prepared regioselectively in 93% yield starting from 4-dimethylamino-(2,3,5,6-tetrachloropyridin-4-yl)pyridinium chloride,²⁴ does react with 4-aminopyridine, 4-(dimethylamino)pyridine, and 4-(pyrrolidino)pyridine to the bis-heteroarenium salts 1, 4, and 7, respectively, (Table 1). Correspondingly, 4-(2-propylsulfanyl)-2,3,5,6tetrachloro-pyridine gives 2, 5, and 8. 2,3,5,6-Tetrachloropyridine affords the bis-heteroarenium salts 3, 6, and 9 in very good to excellent yields. All reactions were conducted at 120 °C in DMF, from which the salts precipitated in analytical purity on addition of ethyl acetate. The salts 1–9 are soluble in water, alcohols, amines, thiols, and DMF, Table 1. Preparation of the bis-heteroarenium substituted pyridines



stable on storage in air and on heating to $150 \,^{\circ}$ C. The amino derivatives (1, 2, 3) are slightly hygroscopic.

Suitable single crystals of the bis-heteroarenium salt 5 as tetrafluoroborate were obtained by slow evaporation of a concentrated solution in $H_2O:EtOH:HBF_4$ (50% in H_2O) = 1:1:1. The molecular structure and the crystallographic numbering are shown in Figure 2. The dication 5 crystallized triclinic. The two pyridinium rings are twisted. Two different dihedral angles N1-C2-N21-C22 [123.4(3)°] and N1–C6–N61–C66 [115.3(3)°] were determined. The corresponding C2-N21 and C6-N61 bond distances (crystallographic numbering) are 144.2(3) pm, which corresponds to long $C(sp^2)$ –N bonds. The dimethylamino group is joined to the pyridinium ring by a shortened C-N bond, the bond length of which was determined to be 133.2(4) and 133.2(4) pm. Bond distances of C22-C23 = 134.6(4) and C62-C63 = 134.9(4) pm do not hint at quinoidal characters of the pyridinium substituents.

2.2. Reaction of the bis-heteroarenium salts

Scope and limitations of substitution reactions of bisheteroarenium salts to highly functionalized and hitherto unknown pyridines were investigated by examining first the reaction with O-, N-, and S-nucleophiles. 4-(Pyrrolidin-1-yl)pyridine gave the highest yields of the corresponding bis-heteroarenium salts 7-9, but to our experience 4-(dimethylamino)pyridinium had the best leaving group tendencies for substitution reactions. Table 2 shows the reactions of the DMAP derivatives 4, 5, and 6 with oxygen nucleophiles. Sodium methanolate in methanol changed the heteroarenium substituents of 4 to methoxy groups to give 10, which is a new substance (Table 2, entry 1). Likewise, the same reaction conditions converted 5 to 14 and 6 to 18 (entries 5 and 9, respectively). The synthesis of 3,5dichloro-2,6-dimethoxypyridine 18 was described earlier. It was formed on reaction of 2,3,5,6-tetrachloropyridine with sodium methanolate in moderate yield.³⁰ No reaction occured on treatment of 4, 5, and 6 with 4-methoxyphenol in



Figure 2. Molecular structure of 5.

Table 2. Reaction of the dications 4, 5, and 6 with O-nucleophiles

$$\mathbf{I}, \mathbf{5}, \mathbf{6} \xrightarrow{2 \operatorname{R}^2 \operatorname{O}^{\bigcirc} \operatorname{in} \operatorname{R}^3 \operatorname{OH}}_{-2 \operatorname{DMAP}} \xrightarrow{\operatorname{CI}}_{\operatorname{R}^2 \operatorname{O}} \operatorname{R}^3$$

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Entry	Starting material	R^1	R^2	R ³	Base added	Method	Product	Yield (%)
1	4	S-Et	Me	Me	Na	3 h/64 °C	10	57
2	4	S-Et	4-MeO-Ph	Me	NaNH ₂	6 h/64 °C	11	23
3	4	S-Et	4-MeO-Ph	iPr	$NaNH_2$	6 h/82 °C	12	20
4	4	S-Et	4-MeO-Ph	4-MeO-Ph	$NaNH_2$	6 h/82 °C	13	45
5	5	S-iPr	Me	Me	Na	3 h/64 °C	14	59
6	5	S-iPr	4-MeO-Ph	Me	NaNH ₂	6 h/64 °C	15	43
7	5	S-iPr	4-MeO-Ph	iPr	$NaNH_2$	6 h/82 °C	16	15
8	5	S-iPr	4-MeO-Ph	4-MeO-Ph	$NaNH_2$	6 h/82 °C	17	42
9	6	Н	Me	Me	Na	3 h/64 °C	18	55
10	6	Н	4-MeO-Ph	Me	NaNH ₂	6 h/64 °C	19	40
11	6	Н	4-MeO-Ph	iPr	$NaNH_2$	6 h/82 °C	20	14
12	6	Н	4-MeO-Ph	4-MeO-Ph	NaNH ₂	6 h/82 °C	21	43

DMF in the presence of sodium amide. Non-symmetrically substituted pyridines $(R^1 \neq R^2 \neq R^3)$, however, were obtained in a one-pot reaction of 4-methoxyphenol and NaNH₂ in methanol, although in moderate to low yields. Applying this reaction conditions pyridine thioethers with two different alkoxy groups in the α -positions of pyridine (11, 15, 19) were obtained. Thus, treatment of bis-heteroarenium salt 4 with 4-methoxyphenol in the presence of sodium amide in methanol gave 3,5-dichloro-4-ethylsulfanyl-2-(4-methoxyphenoxy)-6-methoxypyridine 11 (R³=Me; entry 2). 2-Propanol as solvent resulted in the formation of a mixture of symmetrically and nonsymmetrically substituted pyridines. The main products in the reactions of the bis-heteroarenium salts with 4-methoxyphenol in 2-propanol as solvent are the 2,6-(4methoxyphenol)-substituted pyridines **13**, **17**, and **21** (Table 2, entries 4, 8 and 12), which can easily be separated from the non-symmetrically substituted α -(2-propoxy)pyridines **12**, **16**, and **20** (entries 3, 7 and 11) by column chromatography (silica gel; EtOAC/petrol ether=1:1), respectively. To the best of our knowledge, the compounds **10–17** are the first representatives of O^2 , S^4 , O^6 -substituted 3,5-dichloropyridines. Even without chlorine in the β -positions this substitution pattern is very rare; we found that only five O^2 , S^4 , O^6 -substituted pyridines have been synthesized by multi-step procedures³¹ and patented³² to date. O^2 , O^6 -substituted 3,5-dichloropyridines with hydrogen in the 4-position are pharmacologically interesting
 Table 3. Reaction of the bis-heteroarenium salts 4, 5, and 6 with sodium amide



Entry	Starting material	\mathbb{R}^1	Product	Yield (%)
1	4	S-Et	22	30
2	5	S-iPr	23	55
3	6	Н	24	20

compounds; some derivatives with a broad variety of biological activities were prepared by multi-step procedures earlier.³³

We next examined nitrogen nucleophiles. The dications 4 and 5 are attacked by amide in DMF in the presence of morpholine (or piperidine) to give the 2,6-diamino-4-sulfanylpyridines 22 and 23 (Table 3). Seemingly, these compounds are the first examples of N^2 , S^4 , N^6 -substituted dichloropyridines. The bis-heteroarenium salt 6 affords 2,6-diamino-3,5-dichloropyridine 24 in low yield, which is also available starting from tetrachloroisonicotinic acid and ammonia at 200 °C in a sealed tube,³⁴ or from 2,6-diaminopyridine and hydrogen peroxide in hydrochloric acid in 60% yield.³⁵ No traces of the morpholine-substituted pyridines were isolable.

Table 4. Reaction of the dications with *n*-butylthiolate



Entry	Starting material	R^1	R ²	Product	Yield (%)
1	4	S-Et	S–nBu	25	46
2	5	S-iPr	S-nBu	25	40
3	6	Н	Н	26	25

Finally, we examined thiolates as reagents. In acetone, methanol, or mixtures of both and triethylamine as base substitutions were observed, and the pyridinium rings were replaced. Surprisingly, the ethylsulfanyl- and the 2-propyl-sulfanyl group at C-4 of **4** and **5** were substituted as well to yield **25**. The bis-heteroarenium salt **6** reacted in low yields to the bis-sulfanyl derivative **26** (Table 4).

In summary, we present an approach to highly functionalized pyridines possessing rare or hitherto unknown substitution patterns, which are of interest from chemical and biological viewpoints.

3. Experimental

3.1. General

The ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker Digital FT-NMR Avance 400 and Avance DPX 200 spectrometers. Multiplicities are described by using the following abbreviations: s = singlet, d = doublet, m = multiplet. ¹⁵N NMR spectra: reference MeNO₂. FT-IR spectra were obtained on a Bruker Vektor 22 in the range of $400-4000 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ (2.5% pellets in KBr). The electrospray ionisation mass spectra (ESIMS) were measured with an Agilent LCMSD Series HP1100 with APIES. Samples were sprayed from methanol at 0 V fragmentor voltage. Melting points are uncorrected. Crystallographic data have been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre as supplementary publication no. CCDC 287940. Copies of the data can be obtained free of charge on application to CCDC, 12 Union Road, Cambridge CB2 1EZ, UK (fax: +44 1223 336 033; e-mail: deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk). Some crystal data of **5**: $[C_{22}H_{27}Cl_2N_5S]^{2+2}$ [BF₄]⁻, M =638.07; space group P-1 (No. 2); dimensions $0.40 \times 0.20 \times$ 0.10 mm, a=9.2815(6), b=9.5981(4), c=15.9010(9) Å; $\alpha = 93.103(3)^{\circ}, \quad \beta = 90.874(3)^{\circ}; \quad \gamma = 94.325(3)^{\circ}, \quad V = 1410.16(13)^{\circ}, \quad \beta_{c} = 1.503 \text{ Mg m}^{-3}, \quad Z = 2, \quad \mu(\text{Mo } \text{K}\alpha) = 1.503 \text{ Mg m}^{-3}, \quad Z = 2, \quad \mu(\text{Mo } \text{K}\alpha) = 1.503 \text{ Mg m}^{-3}, \quad Z = 2, \quad \mu(\text{Mo } \text{K}\alpha) = 1.503 \text{ Mg m}^{-3}, \quad Z = 2, \quad \mu(\text{Mo } \text{K}\alpha) = 1.503 \text{ Mg m}^{-3}, \quad Z = 2, \quad \mu(\text{Mo } \text{K}\alpha) = 1.503 \text{ Mg m}^{-3}, \quad Z = 2, \quad \mu(\text{Mo } \text{K}\alpha) = 1.503 \text{ Mg m}^{-3}, \quad Z = 2, \quad \mu(\text{Mo } \text{K}\alpha) = 1.503 \text{ Mg m}^{-3}, \quad Z = 2, \quad \mu(\text{Mo } \text{K}\alpha) = 1.503 \text{ Mg m}^{-3}, \quad Z = 2, \quad \mu(\text{Mo } \text{K}\alpha) = 1.503 \text{ Mg m}^{-3}, \quad Z = 2, \quad \mu(\text{Mo } \text{K}\alpha) = 1.503 \text{ Mg m}^{-3}, \quad Z = 2, \quad \mu(\text{Mo } \text{K}\alpha) = 1.503 \text{ Mg m}^{-3}, \quad Z = 2, \quad \mu(\text{Mo } \text{K}\alpha) = 1.503 \text{ Mg m}^{-3}, \quad Z = 2, \quad \mu(\text{Mo } \text{K}\alpha) = 1.503 \text{ Mg m}^{-3}, \quad Z = 2, \quad \mu(\text{Mo } \text{K}\alpha) = 1.503 \text{ Mg m}^{-3}, \quad Z = 2, \quad \mu(\text{Mo } \text{K}\alpha) = 1.503 \text{ Mg m}^{-3}, \quad Z = 2, \quad \mu(\text{Mo } \text{K}\alpha) = 1.503 \text{ Mg m}^{-3}, \quad Z = 2, \quad \mu(\text{Mo } \text{K}\alpha) = 1.503 \text{ Mg m}^{-3}, \quad Z = 2.503 \text{ Mg m}^{-3},$ 0.380 mm^{-1} ; T = 123(2) K; F(000) = 652, 10104 reflections were collected in a Nonius KappaCD diffractometer $(2\Theta_{\max}=50^{\circ}, -11 \le h \le 10, -11 \le k \le 11, -16 \le l \le 18),$ 4934 symmetry independent reflections ($R_{int} = 0.0347$) were used for the structure solution (direct methods)³⁶ and refinement (full-matrix least-squares on $F^{2,37}$ 365 parameters), non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically, H atoms localized by difference electron density, and were defined using a riding model; wR2 (all data) = 0.1182 [R1 = 0.0482 for 3741 $I > 2\sigma(I)$].

3.2. General procedure for the preparation of dications (1–9)

2,3,5,6-Tetrachloropyridine (2.17 g, 10 mmol) or 2,3,5,6-tetrachloro-4-ethylsulfanylpyridine²⁴ (2.77 g, 10 mmol) or 2,3,5,6-tetrachloro-4-(2-propylsulfanyl)pyridine (2.91 g, 10 mmol) and 4-aminopyridine (1.88 g, 20 mmol) or 4-dimethylaminopyridine (2.44 g, 20 mmol) or 4-(pyrro-lidin-1-yl)pyridine (2.96 g, 20 mmol) were dissolved in 200 mL of DMF and stirred for 3 h at 120 °C. After cooling to room temperature 200 mL of ethyl acetate were added whereupon yellow precipitates formed, which were filtered off, washed with ethyl acetate, and dried in vacuo.

3.2.1. 1,1'-Bis[4-amino-(3,5-dichloro-4-ethylsulfanylpyridine-2,6-diyl)pyridinium]dichloride (1). Yellow solid, mp 317 °C (Found: C, 43.54; H, 4.56; N, 15.13. $C_{17}H_{17}Cl_4N_5S$ requires C, 43.89; H, 3.68; N, 15.05); δ_H [D₂O-CD₃OD (1/1)] 8.34 (d, ${}^{3}J$ =7.9 Hz, 4H), 7.05 (d, ${}^{3}J$ = 7.9 Hz, 4H), 3.32 (q, 2H; ${}^{3}J$ =7.4 Hz, CH₂), 1.33 (d, ${}^{3}J$ = 7.4 Hz, 3H; CH₃), no signals of the amino groups were detectable due to H/D exchange; δ_C [D₂O-CD₃OD (1/1)] 160.3, 153.5, 146.4, 141.7, 132.4, 109.2, 29.9, 14.3; ν_{max} (KBr) (cm⁻¹) 1655, 1543, 1376, 1202, 843.

3.2.2. 1,1'-Bis[4-amino-(3,5-dichloro-4-(2-propylsulfanyl)pyridine-2,6-diyl)pyridinium]dichloride (2). Yellow solid, dec > 260 °C (Found: C, 43.74; H, 4.73; N, 14.60. C₁₈H₁₉Cl₄N₅S requires C, 45.11; H, 4.00; N, 14.61); $\delta_{\rm H}$ [DMSO] 9.47 (s, 4H; NH₂), 8.58 (d, ${}^{3}J$ =7.3 Hz, 4H), 7.16 (d, ${}^{3}J$ =7.3 Hz, 4H), 3.94 (h, ${}^{3}J$ =6.6 Hz, 1H), 1.32 (d, ${}^{3}J$ = 6.6 Hz, 6H); $\delta_{\rm C}$ [DMSO] 160.1, 150.6, 146.3, 141.9, 132.7, 109.0, 41.2, 23.4; $\nu_{\rm max}$ (KBr) (cm⁻¹) 3433, 3257, 3095, 1661, 1542, 1376, 1198, 1165, 1103, 846.

3.2.3. 1,1^{*I*}-Bis[4-amino-(3,5-dichloro-pyridine-2,6-diyl)pyridinium]dichloride (3). Yellow solid, mp 255 °C (Found: C, 43.72; H, 4.20; N, 17.20. $C_{15}H_{13}Cl_4N_5 \cdot \frac{1}{2}$ H₂O requires C, 43.50; H, 3.41; N, 16.91); $\delta_{\rm H}$ [DMSO–D₂O (1/1)] 8.97 (s, 1H), 8.53 (d, ³J=7.6 Hz, 4H), 7.11 (d, ³J=7.6 Hz, 4H), no signals of the amino groups detectable due to H/D exchange; $\delta_{\rm C}$ [DMSO–D₂O (1/1)] 159.7, 145.8, 144.5, 141.8, 127.4, 108.9; $\nu_{\rm max}$ (KBr) (cm⁻¹) 3059, 1663, 1542, 1387, 1285, 1189, 1105, 842.

3.2.4. 1,1^{*i*}-Bis[4-dimethylamino-(3,5-dichloro-4-ethylsulfanyl-pyridine-2,6-diyl)pyridinium]dichloride (4). Yellow solid, mp 238 °C (Found: C, 45.38; H, 5.14; N, 13.46; S, 5.57. C₂₁H₂₅Cl₄N₅S·2H₂O requires C, 45.25; H, 5.24; N, 12.57; S, 5.75); $\delta_{\rm H}$ [DMSO] 8.80 (d, ³*J*=7.8 Hz, 4H), 7.32 (d, ³*J*=7.8 Hz, 4H), 3.37 (q, ³*J*=7.3 Hz, 2H), 3.36 (s, 12H), 1.32 (t, ³*J*=7.3 Hz, 3H); $\delta_{\rm C}$ [DMSO] 156.5, 151.2, 146.1, 141.1, 132.0, 107.6, 40.5, 29.8, 15.3; $\nu_{\rm max}$ (KBr) (cm⁻¹) 1648, 1577, 1543, 1406, 1380, 1219, 829.

3.2.5. 1,1^{*I*}-Bis[4-dimethylamino-(3,5-dichloro-4-(2-propylsulfanyl)-pyridine-2,6-diyl)pyridinium]dichloride (5). Yellow solid, mp 215 °C (Found: C, 49.34; H, 4.95; N, 12.69; C₂₂H₂₇Cl₄N₅S requires: C, 49.36; H, 5.08; N, 13.08); $\delta_{\rm H}$ [DMSO] 8.82 (d, ³*J*=7.8 Hz, 4H), 7.33 (d, ³*J*=7.8 Hz, 4H), 4.00 (h, ³*J*=6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.36 (s, 12H), 1.37 (d, ³*J*= 6.6 Hz, 6H); $\delta_{\rm C}$ [DMSO] 156.5, 150.5, 146.2, 141.1, 133.0, 107.6, 48.4, 40.4, 23.4; $\nu_{\rm max}$ (KBr) (cm⁻¹) 3409, 1648, 1578, 1407, 1380, 1222, 1163.

3.2.6. 1,1[']-Bis[4-dimethylamino-(3,5-dichloro-pyridine-2,6-diyl)pyridinium]dichloride (6). Yellow solid, mp 134 °C (Found: C, 43.45; H, 6.04; N, 14.07; C₁₉H₂₁Cl₄-N₅·3,5H₂O requires C, 43.57; H, 5.38; N, 13.36); $\delta_{\rm H}$ [DMSO] 9.20 (s, 1H), 8.75 (d, ³*J*=7.8 Hz, 4H), 7.29 (d, ³*J*=7.8 Hz, 4H), 3.34 (s, 12H); $\delta_{\rm C}$ [DMSO] 156.5, 145.9, 144.4, 140.9, 127.5, 107.6, 40.5; $\nu_{\rm max}$ (KBr) (cm⁻¹) 1649, 1582, 1562, 1429, 1406, 1230, 1212, 1105, 832.

3.2.7. 1,1'-**Bis**[**4**-**pyrrolidino**-(**3,5**-**dichloro**-**4**-(**ethyl-sulfanyl**)-**pyridine**-**2,6**-**diyl**)**pyridinium**]**dichloride** (**7**). Yellow solid, mp 204 °C (Found: C, 49.99; H, 5.66; N,

12.41; S, 5.02; C₂₅H₂9Cl₄N₅S·2H₂O requires C, 49.27; H, 5.46; N, 11.49; S, 5.26); $\delta_{\rm H}$ [DMSO–CD₃OD (1/1)] 8.68 (d, ${}^{3}J$ =7.7 Hz, 4H), 7.31 (d, ${}^{3}J$ =7.7 Hz, 4H), 4.51 (q, ${}^{3}J$ = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 3.90–4.10 (m, 8H), 2.40–2.60 (m, 8H), 1.68 (t, ${}^{3}J$ =6.9 Hz, 3H); $\delta_{\rm C}$ [DMSO–CD₃OD (1/1)] 154.2, 146.6, 145.0, 140.8, 129.9, 107.6, 49.2, 29.9, 24.6, 14.2; $\nu_{\rm max}$ (KBr) (cm⁻¹) 1648, 1572, 1430, 1214, 1087, 828.

3.2.8. 1,1[']-Bis[4-pyrrolidino-(3,5-dichloro-4-(2-propylsulfanyl)-pyridine-2,6-diyl)-pyridinium]dichloride (8). Yellow solid, mp 214 °C (Found: C, 47.22; H, 6.15; N, 11.38; S, 4.81; $C_{26}H_{31}Cl_4N_5S \cdot 4H_2O$ requires C, 47.35; H, 5.96; N, 10.62; S, 4.81); $\delta_{\rm H}$ [DMSO] 8.74 (d, ³*J*=7.7 Hz, 4H), 7.13 (d, ³*J*=7.7 Hz, 4H), 3.97 (h, ³*J*=6.8 Hz, 1H), 3.65 (s, 8H), 2.03 (s, 8H), 1.34 (d, ³*J*=6.8 Hz, 6H); $\delta_{\rm C}$ [DMSO] 153.6, 150.5, 146.3, 141.0, 132.9, 108.3, 49.1, 41.3, 24.5, 23.4; $\nu_{\rm max}$ (KBr) (cm⁻¹) 1647, 1571, 1548, 1429, 1215, 1087, 828.

3.2.9. 1,1^{*I*}-Bis[4-pyrrolidino-(3,5-dichloro-pyridine-2,6diyl)-pyridinium]dichloride (9). Pale yellow solid, mp 232 °C (Found: C, 48.95; H, 5.87; N, 12.82; C₂₃H₂₅Cl₄-N₅· 3H₂O requires C, 48.69; H, 5.51; N, 12.34); $\delta_{\rm H}$ [DMSO] 9.22 (s, 1H), 8.76 (d, ³*J*=7.7 Hz, 4H), 7.15 (d, ³*J*=7.7 Hz, 4H), 3.68 (s, 8H), 2.06 (s, 8H); $\delta_{\rm C}$ [DMSO] 153.6, 146.0, 144.4, 140.9, 127.5, 108.3, 49.1, 24.5; $\nu_{\rm max}$ (KBr) (cm⁻¹) 1648, 1573, 1429, 1389, 1351, 1206, 1105, 831.

3.3. General procedure for the reaction of the 1,1'-bis[4dimethylamino-(3,5-dichloro-pyridine-2,6-diyl)pyridinium]dichlorides 4, 5, and 6 with sodium methanolate to 10, 14, and 18

In 100 mL of methanol were dissolved the salt **4** (5.21 g, 10 mmol), or **5** (5.35 g, 10 mmol), or **6** (4.61 g, 10 mmol) and sodium methanolate (2.70 g, 50 mmol), respectively. After 6 h stirring at reflux temperature the solvent was distilled off, and the residue was worked up by chromatography (silica gel 60 HF₂₅₄ from Merck, ethyl acetate–petrol ether (1/1)).

3.3.1. 3,5-Dichloro-4-ethylsulfanyl-2,6-dimethoxypyridine (10). Colourless liquid; (Found: C, 40.04; H, 3.71; N, 5.14; S, 11.81; C₉H₁₁Cl₂NO₂S requires C, 40.31; H, 4.18; N, 5.22; S, 11.96); $\delta_{\rm H}$ [CDCl₃] 4.01 (s, 6H), 3.04 (q, ${}^{3}J=$ 7.4 Hz, 2H), 1.23 (t, ${}^{3}J=7.4$ Hz, 3H); $\delta_{\rm C}$ [CDCl₃] 156.0, 145.8, 113.2, 54.6, 29.1, 14.8; $\nu_{\rm max}$ (NaCl) (cm⁻¹) 2984, 2950, 2867, 1562, 1538, 1470, 1448, 1370, 1318, 1200, 1121, 1098, 1031, 787, 746; GC–MS: *m*/*z*=268 (M, 100); 237 (M–C₂H₅, 9); 199 (M–C₅H₅–Cl, 13) amu.

3.3.2. 3,5-Dichloro-2,6-dimethoxy-4-(2-propylsulfanyl)pyridine (14). Colourless liquid; (Found: C, 42.58; H, 4.66; N, 4.96; S, 10.93; $C_{10}H_{13}Cl_2NO_2S$ requires C, 42.56; H, 4.64; N, 4.96; S, 11.36); $\delta_{\rm H}$ [CDCl₃] 4.02 (s, 6H), 3.74 (h, ${}^{3}J$ =6.7 Hz, 1H), 1.27 (d, ${}^{3}J$ =6.7 Hz, 6H); $\delta_{\rm C}$ [CDCl₃] 156.1, 145.9, 113.6, 54.6, 39.4, 23.1; $\nu_{\rm max}$ (NaCl) (cm⁻¹) 2951, 2866, 1558, 1538, 1471, 1446, 1369, 1317, 1244, 1199, 1121, 1097, 786, 749; GC–MS: m/z=282 (M, 100); 238 (M–C₃H₇, 5) amu.

3.3.3. 3,5-Dichloro-2,6-dimethoxypyridine (18). White solid, mp 48 °C (Found: C, 40.41; H, 3.62; N, 6.67;

 $C_7H_7Cl_2NO_2$ requires C, 40.41; H, 3.39; N, 6.73); δ_H [CDCl₃] 7.58 (s, 1H), 4.00 (s, 6H); δ_C [CDCl₃] 156.0, 139.9, 107.8, 54.4; ν_{max} (KBr) (cm⁻¹) 1582, 1470, 1398, 1225, 1095, 1009, 786, 739; GC–MS: *m*/*z*=208 (M, 100), 177 (M–CH₃O, 52) amu.

3.4. General procedure for the reaction of the 1,1'-bis[4dimethylamino-(3,5-dichloropyridine-2,6-diyl)pyridinium]dichlorides 4, 5, and 6 with 4-methoxyphenol in methanol to 11, 15, and 19

In 100 mL of methanol were dissolved the salt **4** (5.21 g, 10 mmol), or **5** (5.35 g, 10 mmol), or **6** (4.61 g, 10 mmol), and 4-methoxyphenol (2.48 g, 20 mmol), respectively. Then, sodium amide (0.78 g, 20 mmol) was added and the mixture was heated under reflux for 6 h. After this period the solvent was distilled off and the residue was worked up chromatographically (silica gel 60 HF₂₅₄ from Merck, ethyl acetate–petrol ether (1/1)).

3.4.1. 3,5-Dichloro-4-ethylsulfanyl-2-(4-methoxyphenoxy)-6-methoxypyridine (11). Pale yellow liquid; (Found: C, 49.32; H, 4.29; N, 4.35; $C_{15}H_{15}Cl_2NO_3S$ requires C, 50.01; H, 4.20; N, 3.89); δ_H [CDCl₃] 7.07 (d, ${}^{3}J=9.2$ Hz, 2H), 6.89 (d, ${}^{3}J=9.2$ Hz, 2H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.67 (s, 3H), 3.09 (h, ${}^{3}J=7.4$ Hz, 2H), 1.27 (t, ${}^{3}J=7.4$ Hz, 3H); δ_C [CDCl₃] 157.2, 156.7, 156.0, 146.9, 145.8, 122.4 (overlapped), 114.1, 113.2, 55.5, 54.6, 29.1, 14.9; ν_{max} (NaCl) (cm⁻¹) 2951, 1561, 1504, 1460, 1369, 1247, 1198, 1101, 1033; GC–MS: m/z=361 (MH⁺, 100) amu.

3.4.2. 3,5-Dichloro-2-(4-methoxyphenoxy)-6-methoxy-4-(**2-propylsulfanyl)pyridine** (**15).** Colourless liquid; (Found: C, 50.46; H, 4.24; N, 3.73; C₁₆H₁₇Cl₂NO₃S requires C, 51.34; H, 4.58; N, 3.74); $\delta_{\rm H}$ [CDCl₃] 7.01– 7.11 (m, 2H), 6.82–6.92 (m, 2H), 3.78 (h, ${}^{3}J$ =6.7 Hz, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.65 (s, 3H), 1.29 (d, ${}^{3}J$ =6.7 Hz, 6H); $\delta_{\rm C}$ [CDCl₃] 156.6, 155.9, 155.4, 146.8, 146.7, 122.3, 115.5, 114.0, 113.8, 55.3, 54.4, 39.5, 23.1; $\nu_{\rm max}$ (NaCl) (cm⁻¹) 2951, 1558, 1505, 1462, 1367, 1246, 1196, 1097, 1034, 843; GC–MS: *m*/*z*=389 (M, 100) amu.

3.4.3. 3,5-Dichloro-2-(4-methoxyphenoxy)-6-methoxypyridine (**19).** Colourless liquid; (Found: C, 52.02; H, 3.69; N, 4.67; $C_{13}H_{11}Cl_2NO_3$ requires C, 50.57; H, 3.21; N, 4.75); δ_H [CDCl₃] 7.62 (s, 1H), 7.00–7.10 (m, 2H), 6.82–6.92 (m, 2H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.64 (s, 3H); δ_C [CDCl₃] 156.6, 155.8, 155.3, 146.8, 140.5, 122.3, 114.1, 109.9, 108.5, 55.4, 54.4; ν_{max} (NaCl) (cm⁻¹) 2954, 1578, 1506, 1469, 1409, 1380, 1222, 1192, 1095, 1036, 988, 837; GC–MS: m/z=329 (MH⁺, 100), 264 (M–C₃H₇, 83), 108 (C₇H₇O, 53) amu.

3.5. General procedure for the reaction of the 1,1'-bis[4dimethylamino-(3,5-dichloropyridine-2,6-diyl)pyridinium]dichlorides 4, 5, and 6 with 4-methoxyphenol in 2-propanole to 12, 13, 16, 17, 20, and 21

In 100 mL of 2-propanol were dissolved the salt 4 (5.21 g, 10 mmol), or 5 (5.35 g, 10 mmol), or 6 (4.61 g, 10 mmol), and 4-methoxyphenol (2.48 g, 20 mmol), respectively. Then, sodium amide (0.78 g, 20 mmol) was dissolved and the mixture was heated at reflux temperature for 6 h. After this period the solvent was distilled off and the residue was

chromatographed (silica gel 60, ethyl acetate-petrol ether (1/1)).

3.5.1. 3,5-Dichloro-4-ethylsulfanyl-2-(4-methoxyphenoxy)-6-(2-propoxy)-pyridine (12). Colourless liquid; (Found: C, 51.02; H, 4.71; N, 3.70; $C_{17}H_{19}Cl_2NO_3S$ requires C, 52.58; H, 4.93; N, 3.61); $\delta_{\rm H}$ [CDCl₃] 7.05 (m, 2H), 6.89 (m, 2H), 4.70 (h, ${}^{3}J$ = 6.2 Hz, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.09 (h, ${}^{3}J$ = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 1.28 (t, ${}^{3}J$ = 7.3 Hz, 3H), 1.27 (d, ${}^{3}J$ = 6.2 Hz, 6H); $\delta_{\rm C}$ [CDCl₃] 160.4, 156.7, 155.2, 147.0, 146.4, 122.5, 122.4, 114.5, 114.1, 70.9, 55.6, 29.2, 21.6, 15.0; $\nu_{\rm max}$ (NaCl) (cm⁻¹) 2979, 2931, 1557, 1504, 1374, 1246, 1195, 1095, 1036, 945; GC–MS: m/z=389 (MH⁺, 100) amu.

3.5.2. 3,5-Dichloro-4-ethylsulfanyl-2,6-bis(4-methoxyphenoxy)-pyridine (13). Colourless solid, mp 82 °C; (Found: C, 55.41; H, 4.42; N, 3.10; S, 6.92; $C_{21}H_{19}Cl_2NO_4S$ requires C, 55.76; H, 4.23; N, 3.10; S, 7.09); $\delta_{\rm H}$ [CDCl₃] 6.80–6.87 (m, 4H), 6.64–6.73 (m, 4H), 3.77 (s, 6H), 3.13 (q, ³*J*=7.4 Hz, 2H), 1.31 (t, ³*J*=7.4 Hz, 3H); $\delta_{\rm C}$ [CDCl₃] 156.6, 155.3, 147.4, 146.5, 122.4, 115.2, 113.9, 55.4, 29.4, 15.0; $\nu_{\rm max}$ (KBr) (cm⁻¹) 1559, 1501, 1369, 1249, 1193, 1029, 828; GC–MS: *m/z*=452 (M, 100) amu.

3.5.3. 3,5-Dichloro-2-(4-methoxyphenoxy)-6-(2-propoxy)-4-(2-propylsulfanyl)pyridine (16). Pale yellow liquid; (Found: C, 53.34; H, 5.64; N, 3.56; $C_{18}H_{21}Cl_2NO_3S$ requires C, 53.73; H, 5.26; N, 3.48); $\delta_{\rm H}$ [CDCl₃] 7.00–7.10 (m, 2H), 6.85–6.95 (m, 2H), 4.70 (h, ${}^{3}J$ =6.3 Hz, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.80 (h, ${}^{3}J$ =6.5 Hz, 1H), 1.31 (d, ${}^{3}J$ =6.3 Hz, 6H), 1.17 (d, ${}^{3}J$ =6.5 Hz, 6H); $\delta_{\rm C}$ [CDCl₃] 156.7, 155.5, 155.3, 147.0, 146.5, 122.5, 115.9, 114.2, 113.4, 70.9, 55.6, 39.5, 23.3, 21.6; $\nu_{\rm max}$ (NaCl) (cm⁻¹) 2977, 2931, 1558, 1503, 1374, 1246, 1196, 1109, 1037, 946, 832; GC–MS: m/z=403 (MH⁺, 100), 359 (M–C₃H₇, 15), 317 (M–2C₃H₇, 28), 280 (M–2C₃H₇–Cl, 21) amu.

3.5.4. 3,5-Dichloro-2,6-bis(4-methoxyphenoxy)-4-(2-propyl-sulfanyl)pyridine (**17**). Pale yellow solid, mp 52 °C; (Found: C, 56.22; H, 4.78; N, 3.00; S, 6.80; $C_{22}H_{21}Cl_2NO_4S$ requires C, 56.66; H, 4.54; N, 3.00; S, 6.88); δ_H [CDCl₃] 6.86–6.90 (m, 2H), 6.62–6.72 (m, 2H), 3.84 (h, 3J =6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.76 (s, 6H), 1.34 (d, 3J =6.6 Hz, 6H); δ_C [CDCl₃] 156.6, 155.3, 147.5, 146.5, 122.5, 115.7, 113.9, 55.4, 39.7, 23.3; ν_{max} (KBr) (cm⁻¹) 2957, 2834, 1551, 1505, 1369, 1264, 1193, 1036, 825; GC–MS: *m/z*=467 (M, 100) amu.

3.5.5. 3,5-Dichloro-2-(4-methoxyphenoxy)-6-(2-propoxy)pyridine (20). Colourless liquid; (Found: C, 54.41; H, 4.39; N, 4.35; C₁₅H₁₅Cl₂NO₃ requires C, 54.90; H, 4.61; N, 4.27); $\delta_{\rm H}$ [CDCl₃] 7.66 (s, 1H), 7.00–7.08 (m, 2H), 6.85–6.93 (m, 2H), 4.71 (h, ³*J*=6.3 Hz, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 1.17 (d, ³*J*=6.3 Hz, 6H); $\delta_{\rm C}$ [CDCl₃] 156.7, 155.3, 155.2, 147.0, 140.5, 122.5, 114.1, 110.3, 107.7, 70.7, 55.6, 21.6; $\nu_{\rm max}$ (NaCl) (cm⁻¹) 2980, 1569, 1505, 1436, 1247, 1218, 1191, 1092, 1036, 833; GC–MS: *m/z*=329 (MH⁺, 100) amu.

3.5.6. 3,5-Dichloro-2,6-bis(4-methoxyphenoxy)pyridine (**21).** Colourless solid, mp 104 °C; (Found: C, 58.00; H, 3.49; N, 3.48; $C_{19}H_{15}Cl_2NO_4$ requires C, 58.18; H, 3.85; N, 3.57); δ_H [CDCl₃] 7.75 (s, 1H), 6.79–6.89 (m, 4H), 6.63–6.73 (m, 4H), 3.77 (s, 6H); δ_C [CDCl₃] 156.5, 155.2, 146.6, 141.1, 122.4, 113.9, 110.1, 55.5; ν_{max} (KBr) (cm⁻¹) 2958,

1574, 1508, 1428, 1249, 1221, 1180, 1091, 1034, 829; GC–MS: *m*/*z*=392 (M, 100) amu.

3.6. General procedure for the reaction of the 1,1⁷-bis[4dimethylamino-(3,5-dichloropyridine-2,6-diyl)pyridinium]dichlorides 4, 5, and 6 with sodium amide in DMF to 22–24

In 100 mL of DMF were dissolved the salt **4** (5.21 g, 10 mmol), or **5** (5.35 g, 10 mmol), or **6** (4.61 g, 10 mmol), and morpholine (8.2 g, 0.1 mol) as well as sodium amide (3.9 g, 0.1 mol), respectively. The mixture was stirred at 100 °C for 6 h. Then, the solvent was distilled off and the residue was chromatographed (silica gel 60, ethyl acetate–petrol ether (1/1)).

3.6.1. 2,6-Diamino-3,5-dichloro-4-ethylsulfanylpyridine (22). Yellow solid, mp 63 °C; (Found: C, 35.83; H, 4.11; N, 17.09; S, 13.62; C₇H₉Cl₂N₃S requires C, 35.31; H, 3.81; N, 17.65; S, 13.46); $\delta_{\rm H}$ [CDCl₃] 4.81 (s, 4H), 3.00 (q, ³*J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 1.24 (t, ³*J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H); $\delta_{\rm C}$ [CDCl₃] 152.1, 142.5, 108.0, 29.2, 14.9; $\nu_{\rm max}$ (KBr) (cm⁻¹) 3397, 3319, 1605, 1426, 1409, 1263, 746; GC–MS: *m*/*z*=238 (MH⁺, 100) amu.

3.6.2. 2,6-Diamino-3,5-dichloro-4-(2-propylsulfanyl)pyridine (23). Yellow solid, mp 64 °C; (Found: C, 38.49; H, 4.55; N, 15.98; S, 12.61; $C_8H_{11}Cl_2N_3S$ requires C, 38.10; H, 4.40; N, 16.66; S, 12.72); δ_H [CDCl₃] 4.89 (s, 4H), 3.65 (h, ${}^{3}J$ =6.6 Hz, 1H), 1.27 (d, ${}^{3}J$ =6.6 Hz, 6H); δ_C [CDCl₃] 152.1, 142.7, 108.3, 39.3, 23.2; ν_{max} (KBr) (cm⁻¹) 3425, 3323, 1627, 1603, 1531, 1412; GC–MS: *m*/*z*=253 (MH⁺, 100); 208 (M–C₃H₇, 31); 175 (M–C₃H₇S, 43) amu.

3.6.3. 2,6-Diamino-3,5-dichloropyridine (**24**). Yellow solid, mp 202 °C; (Found: C, 33.87; H, 2.70; N, 24.00; C₃H₅N₃Cl₂ requires C, 33.73; H, 2.83; N, 23.60); $\delta_{\rm H}$ [CDCl₃–CD₃OD (1/2)] 7.68 (s, 1H), the protons of the amino groups gave no signal due to H/D-exchange; $\delta_{\rm C}$ [CDCl₃–CD₃OD (1/2)] 161.1, 140.0, 104.7; $\nu_{\rm max}$ (KBr) (cm⁻¹) 3457, 3409, 3317, 1626, 1458, 1295, 902, 737; GC–MS: m/z=180 (MH⁺, 100) amu.

3.7. General procedure for the reaction of the 1,1⁷-bis[4-dimethylamino-(3,5-dichloro-pyridine-2,6-diyl)pyridinium]-dichlorides 4, 5, and 6 to 2,4,6-tris(*n*-butylsulfanyl)-3,5-dichloropyridine (25)

In 100 mL of methanol were dissolved the salt 4 (5.21 g, 10 mmol) or 5 (5.35 g, 10 mmol), *n*-butylthiol (5.4 g, 50 mmol) and triethylamine (5.2 g, 50 mmol). The mixture was then stirred for 18 h at room temperature. Then, the solvent was distilled off and the residue was chromatographed (silica gel, ethyl acetate-petrol ether (1/1)).

3.7.1. 2,4,6-Tris(*n*-butylsulfanyl)-**3,5-dichloropyridine** (**25**). Colourless liquid; (Found: C, 49.79; H, 6.64; N, 3.05; S, 24.30; C₁₇H₂₇Cl₂NS₃ requires C, 49.50; H, 6.60; N, 3.40; S, 23.32); $\delta_{\rm H}$ [CDCl₃] 3.17 (t, ${}^{3}J$ =7.5 Hz, 4H), 2.97 (t, ${}^{3}J$ =7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.72 (m, 4H), 1.66 (m, 2H), 1.46 (m, 4H), 1.43 (m, 2H), 0.95 (t, ${}^{3}J$ =7.5 Hz, 6H), 0.89 (t, ${}^{3}J$ =7.1 Hz, 3H); $\delta_{\rm C}$ [CDCl₃] 155.4, 142.4, 127.7, 34.9, 31.8, 31.2, 30.7, 22.2, 21.7, 13.7, 13.5; $\nu_{\rm max}$ (NaCl) (cm⁻¹) 2959, 2930, 2872, 1492, 1464, 1287, 1209, 1187, 1076, 806; GC–MS: *m*/ *z*=414 (MH⁺, 80); 376 (M–Cl, 100), 334 (M–Cl–C₃H₇, 38) amu.

3.7.2. Preparation of 2,6-bis(n-butylsulfanyl)-3,5dichloro-pyridine (26). In 100 mL of methanol were dissolved 1,1'-bis[4-dimethylamino-(3,5-dichloropyridine-2,6-diyl)pyridinium]dichloride (5.21 g, 10 mmol), *n*-butylthiol (5.4 g, 50 mmol), and triethylamine (5.2 g, 50 mmol). The mixture was stirred for 18 h at room temperature. Then, the solvent was distilled off and the residue was chromatographed (silica gel 60, ethyl acetatepetrol ether (1/1)). Pale yellow liquid; (Found: C, 48.85; H, 6.22; N, 2.84; C₁₃H₁₉Cl₂NS₂ requires C, 48.14; H, 5.90; N, 4.32); $\delta_{\rm H}$ [CDCl₃] 7.42 (s, 1H), 3.19 (t, ³J= 7.4 Hz, 4H), 1.62-1.79 (m, 4H), 1.39-1.54 (m, 4H), 0.95 (t, ${}^{3}J=7.2$ Hz, 6H); δ_{C} [CDCl₃] 154.2, 135.2, 123.6, 38.8, 31.3, 22.2, 13.7; ν_{max} (NaCl) (cm⁻¹) 2957, 2930, 2873, 1545, 1515, 1464, 1371, 1334, 1218, 1147, 1062; GC-MS: *m*/*z*=325 (M, 100); 288 (M-Cl, 41), 266 $(M - C_4 H_9, 10)$ amu.

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