

# Synthesis, X-ray structure and NMR data of 12-amino-15-phenyl-2,5,8-trioxa-13-azabicyclo[9.2.2]pentadeca-1(14),12-diene-11,14-dicarbonitrile†

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## Synthesis of unprecedented oxygen-bridged [n](2,5)pyridinophane dihydro-analogues

The development of new methods which allow the synthesis of [n]pyridinophanes and their dihydro-analogues is a major focus in supramolecular chemistry due to the many roles played by cyclophanes in biology and new technologies.<sup>1</sup> Pyridinophanes and their dihydro-analogues constituted the first examples of NADH models<sup>2,3</sup> capable of mimicking the diastereo-differentiating course of hydride exchange at pyridine dinucleotides under enzymatic conditions. In this way the asymmetric reduction of carbonyl substrates by optically active NADH model compounds has received wide attention.<sup>3,4</sup> Recently, crown ether annelated tetrathiafulvalenes were described as attractive components for sensor technology<sup>5–7</sup> and in some of these cases<sup>6</sup> pyridinophanes incorporating the tetrathiafulvalene (TTF) moiety have been studied as metal cations sensors.

In 1968 Gerlach and Huber<sup>8</sup> synthesized the first [n](2,5)pyridinophanes, carbon-bridged compounds, some sulfur-bridged [n](2,5)pyridinophanes were constructed and described as Vitamin B<sub>6</sub>,<sup>9</sup> pyridoxal<sup>10</sup> and pyridoxamine<sup>11</sup> analogues; however, no synthetic procedure was reported to afford [n](2,5)pyridinophanes in which some methylene groups of the bridge were replaced by oxygen.

The synthesis of nearly all [n](2,5)pyridinophanes known has previously been accomplished using different synthetic strategies: (i) *via* the construction of the pyridine ring as happens in the acid-catalyzed cyclization of bis(β-aminovinyl)diketones<sup>8</sup> or (ii) by building the *ansa-chain* around the pyridine ring as in the thermal 1,6-Hofmann elimination from an intimate mixture of (4-methylbenzyl)trimethylammonium hydroxide and (5-methyl-2-picolinyl)trimethylammonium hydroxide.<sup>12</sup> Sulfur-bridged [n](2,5)pyridinophanes have been obtained through the Vögtle method by the condensation of dithiols with dihalogenopyridine compounds.<sup>13</sup>

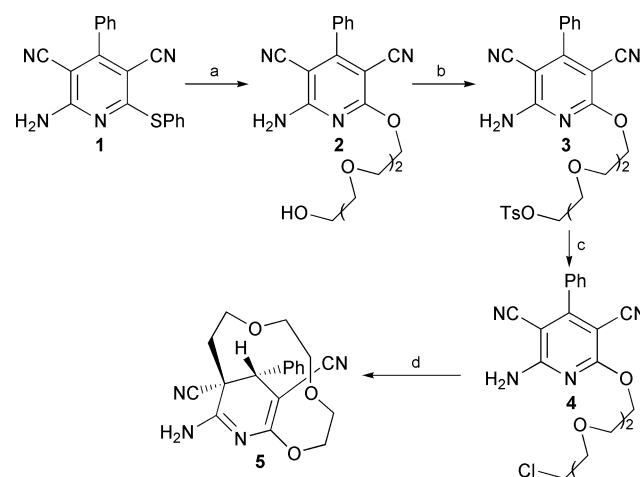
Herein we present an unprecedented method for synthesis of dihydro-analogues of oxygen-bridged [n](2,5)pyridinophanes by a C–C bond formation between the pyridine ring and the ω-position of a chain. As a preliminary result we report here the synthesis and structural studies of the oxygen-bridged [9](2,5)pyridinophane‡ dihydro-analogues **5**.

Cyclic voltammetric data on the mercury cathode of the 2-amino-6-methoxy-4-phenylpyridine-3,5-dicarbonitrile<sup>14</sup> showed two peaks in the cathodic region at –1.88 and –2.20 V (*vs.* Ag/Ag<sup>+</sup>),§ which make this compound susceptible to reduction by amalgam (Na–Hg).<sup>15</sup> On the basis of this behavior, we have developed a molecular system containing a latent nucleophilic pyridine ring moiety, switched on by electro-

chemical reduction, and an electrophilic center moiety linked by oxyethylene bridges. Pyridine derivative **4**, also having two reduction peaks at –1.88 and –2.20 V (*vs.* Ag/Ag<sup>+</sup>),§ was chosen as a molecular model of this system. We have carried out its synthesis in multistep processes from pyridine **1**<sup>16</sup> as depicted in Scheme 1, *via* the substitution of the phenylthio group by triethylene glycol to afford **2** and followed by tosylation to **3** which could be converted in good yield to chloride **4**.

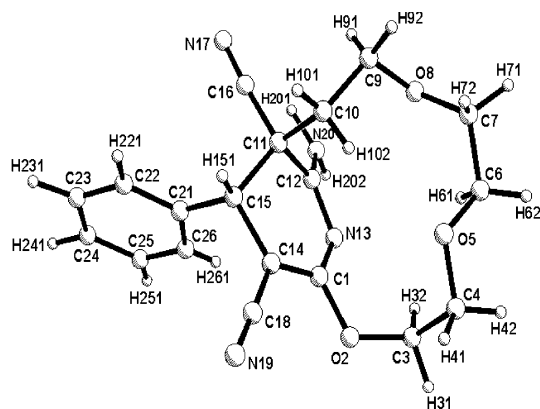
The synthesis of the oxygen-bridged [9](2,5)pyridinophane dihydro-analogues **5** was accomplished with an amalgam (Na–Hg) reduction of **4** in *N,N*-dimethylformamide under argon and required two eq. of Na per mol of **4**. The structure of **5** was well established by NMR spectroscopy,¶ X-ray diffraction study|| and elemental analysis.

The structure of **5** can be clearly seen in the X-ray crystal structure (Fig. 1). Noteworthy structural features are the *trans* stereochemistry between the phenyl group on C15 and the *ansa-chain* bonding to the C11 atom, the very short distance C12–N20 (1.330 (4) Å) and sp<sup>2</sup> hybridization of N20.



**Scheme 1** Reagents and conditions: (a) Under argon atmosphere, NaH (9 eq.), triethylene glycol (18 eq.), **1** (3 eq.), DMF, rt, 48 h, then poured on water, the precipitate was chromatographed (silica gel, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>–EtOH, 25:1), 70%; (b) Under argon atmosphere, triethylamine (3.3 eq.), **2** (3 eq.) in dry CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (25 ml), 30 min, then toluene-*p*-sulfonyl chloride (3.3 eq.) in dry CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 ml) was added dropwise, rt, 12 h, then was neutralized with HCl (10%), solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the residue was chromatographed (silica gel, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>–hexane, 25:1), 70%; (c) **3** (2 eq.), LiCl (8 eq.), dry MeOH (50 ml), reflux 4 d, purified by column chromatography (silica gel, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>), 60%; (d) Under argon atmosphere, **4** (2 eq.), dry DMF (4 ml), amalgam (Na–Hg) (0.97% w.w. Na = 92 mg = 4 eq.), 0 °C, 24 h, then the solution was separated and evaporated to dryness and the residue was purified by column chromatography (neutral aluminium oxide, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>–hexane, 20:1), 40%.

† Electronic supplementary information (ESI) available: 2D-J resolved <sup>1</sup>H spectra, 2D-COSY <sup>1</sup>H–<sup>1</sup>H–<sup>13</sup>C spectra of **5**. See <http://www.rsc.org/suppdata/cc/b0/b0044741/>



**Fig. 1** View of the molecular structure of compound **5**. Selected bond lengths [Å] and angles [°]: C(1)–C(14) 1.343(5), C(1)–O(2) 1.352(4), C(1)–N(13) 1.369(4), C(11)–C(12) 1.524(5), C(11)–C(15) 1.564(4), C(12)–N(13) 1.298(4), C(12)–N(20) 1.330(4), C(14)–C(18) 1.411(5), C(14)–C(15) 1.523(4), C(15)–C(21) 1.517(4), N(13)–C(12)–N(20) 119.0(3), N(20)–C(12)–C(11) 119.0(3).

The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of **5**¶ shows two multiplets for the Ph ring, one singlet for the C15–H resonance and the three expected ABCD spin systems with typical values of SSCC for  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2$  groups of *ansa*-moiety, which were assigned by using the  $^1\text{H}$  *J*-resolved, 2D-COSY  $^1\text{H}$ – $^1\text{H}$  and 2D-COSY  $^1\text{H}$ – $^{13}\text{C}$  spectra.† The observation of two unequivalent protons for the  $\text{NH}_2$  group at  $\delta = 8.5$  and 7.8 ppm is due to very slow rotation around the  $\text{C}_{12}$ –N bond.

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## Notes and references

‡ The IUPAC name for [9](2,5)pyridinophane is 12-azabicyclo[9.2.2]pentadeca-11,13,14-triene.

§ *Measurement of reduction potential.* The reduction potentials of the 2-amino-3,5-dicyano-6-methoxypyridine and **4**, were measured by means of cyclic voltammetry at 25 °C and at the scan rate of 0.2 V  $\text{s}^{-1}$  using a mercury cathode as the working electrode and Ag/AgCl as the reference electrode.

¶ *Selected data for 5:* mp. 265–266 °C (from ethyl acetate–hexane, 15:1);  $\nu_{\text{max}}(\text{KBr})/\text{cm}^{-1}$  3420, 3352, 2900, 2220 (*weak*), 2186, 1630, 1548, 1450, 1366, 1314, 1150, 1130, 702;  $\delta_{\text{H}}(500 \text{ MHz, DMSO-}d_6, 25^\circ\text{C})$  8.49 (1H, s,

$\text{NH}_2$ ), 7.79 (1H, s,  $\text{NH}_2$ ), 7.34 (3H, m, *meta*- and *para*-Ph), 7.15 (2H, m, *ortho*-Ph), 5.12 and 3.81 ( $\text{C}_3\text{H}_2$ ), 3.70 and 3.47 ( $\text{C}_4\text{H}_2$ ), 3.50, 3.27, 3.74 and 3.39 ( $\text{C}_6\text{H}_2\text{C}_7\text{H}_2$ ), 3.76 and 3.64 ( $\text{C}_9\text{H}_2$ ), 2.77 and 2.02 ( $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_2$ ), 3.82 (1H, s, C15H);  $\delta_{\text{C}}(125 \text{ MHz, DMSO-}d_6, 25^\circ\text{C})$  166.54 (m, C1), 62.59 (t,  $^1J_{\text{C-H}} = 145.8 \text{ Hz}$ , C3), 70.40 (t,  $^1J_{\text{C-H}} = 140.8 \text{ Hz}$ , C4), 70.41 and 71.94 (two t,  $^1J_{\text{C-H}} = 140.8, 140.8 \text{ Hz}$ , C6, C7), 67.89 (t,  $^1J_{\text{C-H}} = 140.8 \text{ Hz}$ , C9), 35.69 (t,  $^1J_{\text{C-H}} = 134.6 \text{ Hz}$ , C10), 44.25 (m, C11), 160.58 (tm,  $^2J_{\text{C-H}} = 6.66 \text{ Hz}$ , C12), 61.52 (d,  $^2J_{\text{C-H}} = 6.2 \text{ Hz}$ , C14), 46.05 (d,  $^1J_{\text{C-H}} = 138.7 \text{ Hz}$ , C15), 117.82 (dd,  $^3J_{\text{C-H}} = 9.46, 3.05 \text{ Hz}$ , C16), 119.67 (d,  $^3J_{\text{C-H}} = 4.90 \text{ Hz}$ , C18), 137.73, 127.96, 127.66 and 127.58 (*ipso*-, *meta*-, *ortho*-, *para*- of Ph ring); MS (CI)  $m/z$  353 [ $M + \text{H}^+$ ]; Anal. calc. for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_4\text{O}_3$ , C, 64.77, H, 5.68, N, 15.91. Found C, 64.95, H, 5.52, N, 16.15%.

|| Crystals of **5**, suitable for X-ray crystallography grown from ethyl acetate. Crystal data of **5**.  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_4\text{O}_3$ ,  $M_r = 352.39$ , triclinic, space group  $P1$ ,  $a = 9.377(1)$ ,  $b = 9.409(1)$ ,  $c = 11.909(1) \text{ Å}$ ,  $\alpha = 68.17(2)$ ,  $\beta = 84.5(1)$ ,  $\gamma = 60.62(2)^\circ$ ,  $V = 845.0(1) \text{ Å}^3$ ,  $T = 293 \text{ K}$ ,  $Z = 2$ ,  $\mu(\text{MoK}\alpha) = 0.096 \text{ mm}^{-1}$ ; 3225 measured reflections, 2976 were independent;  $R1 = 0.056$  and  $wR2 = 0.118$  (for 1623 reflections with  $F > 4\sigma(F)$ ). CCDC 182/1757.

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