## A NEW ROUTS TO THE INDOLOPYRIDONAPHTHYRIDINE RING SYSTEM: SYNTHESIS OF N-BENZYL-13b,14-DIHYDRONAUCLEFINE AND N-BENZYL-13b,14-DIHYDROANGUSTINE<sup>8</sup>

JARANGIR, MICHAEL A. BROOK, DAVID B. MACLEAN BROOK B. HOLLANDC

A preliminary account of a part of this work has appeared 1.

<sup>b</sup>Department of Chemistry, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, L8S 4Ml <sup>C</sup>Department of Chemistry, Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada, L2S 3Al

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ABSTRACT - The indolo[2:3,3':4']pyrido[1,2-b]naphthyridine ring system, which is present in several alkeloids, has been prepared in a single reaction between the lithio derivative of a 3-cyano-4-methylpyridine and N-benzyl-3,4-dihydro-p-carboline in the presence of trimethylsilyl trifluoromethanesulfonate. Using appropriately substituted starting materials, N-benzyl-13b,14-dihydronauclefine and N-benzyl-13b,14-dihydronauclefine and N-benzyl-13b,14-dihydronauclefine in this way. A new preparation of the synthetic intermediate 9-benzyl-3,4-dihydro-p-carboline is also described.

In recent years a relatively large number of alkaloids containing the indolopyridosaphthyridine ring system have been isolated and characterized. The alkaloids of this group are considered to be derived from secologanin 1 and tryptamine 2 as shown in Figure 1 and often occur together with the structurally related glycoalkaloids, 3-6<sup>2</sup>. The structures of the alkaloids are shown in Figure 2 and references to their isolation are collated in Table 1. The majority of the alkaloids retain the 10 carbon framework of secologanin but in others this structural feature has been modified.

FIGURE 1

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7 CH=CH<sub>2</sub> Angustine 12 13 8 CH(OH)CH<sub>3</sub> Angustoline 13b,14-dihydrogngustine Angustidine

9 H Naucléfine 10 COCH<sub>3</sub> Nauclétine

11 CH(OAc)CH3 O-Acetylangustoline

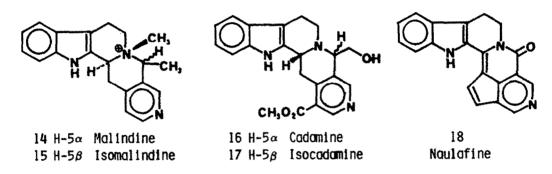


FIGURE 2

Table 1
Indolo[2:3,3':4']pyrido[1,2-b]naphthyridine alkaloids

| <u>Name</u>              | Structure | Reference | Source                   |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------------------------|
| O-Acetylangustoline      | 11        | 3         | Nauclea pobequinii       |
| Angustidine              | 13        | 4         | Strychnos angustifolia   |
| Angustine                | 7         | 4,5,6,7   | S. Angustifolia          |
| Angustoline              | 8         | 4,5       | S. angustifolia          |
| Cadamine                 | 16        | 8         | Anthocephalus cadamba    |
| 13b, 14-Dihydroangustine | 12        | 3         | N. pobequinii            |
| Isocadamine              | 17        | 8         | A. cadamba               |
| Isomalindine             | 15        | 9         | S. usa <b>mba</b> rensis |
| Malindine                | 14        | 10        | S. decussata             |
| Naulafine                | 18        | 6         | N. latifolia             |
| Nauclefine               | 9         | 4,6,7     | S. latifolia             |
| Naucletine               | 10        | 4         | N. latifolia             |

A variety of strategies have been employed in the synthesis of alkaloids of this series<sup>2</sup>. These can most easily be compared by considering which of the five rings is closed in the final steps of the sequence. The approach of Essetani et al. 11,12 ultimately involved the closure of ring C in a single C-C bond forming process under acidic conditions to form augustine 7 and naucléfine 9, respectively. Pandit and co-workers 13 have also synthesized naucléfine 9 in a sequence which ends with the formation of a single C-C bond to give ring C. In contrast, in the synthesis of augustidine 13, Shafiee and Winterfeldt 4 added rings sequentially, essentially in alphabetical order, finishing with the cyclization of ring E in which two C-N bonds were formed. In several syntheses of alkaloids of this series (e.g., naucléfine 9) ring D is formed in the final step of the sequence through cyclization of an enamide. 4,7,15-20

We report here a new synthetic route to the ring system present in this class of alkaloids. In this sequence, ring D is created by the formation of a C-C and a C-N bond in the final step by the condensation of lithio derivatives of 3-cyano-4-methylpyridines (ring E) with 9-benzyl-3, 4-dihydro-\$\beta\$-carboline 19c (ring C), previously complexed with trimethylsilyl trifluoromethane-sulfonate (TMSOTf). The procedure used is similar to that employed by us in the synthesis of Alangium alkaloids containing the isoquino[2,1-b][2,7]naphthyridine ring system. \( \frac{1}{2} \) We also report a convenient preparation of 1-benzyltryptamine 20 which was converted to 9-benzyl-3,4-dihydro-\$\beta\$-carboline 19c, a key intermediate in this investigation.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

It has been previously demonstrated by us 1,21 that 3,4-dihydroisoquinolines react readily with the lithio derivative of furo[3,4-c]pyridine-3[1H]-one 21 forming isoquino[2,1-b][2,7]-naphthyridines. Our attempts to prepare indolo[2',3',3,4]-pyrido-[1,2-b][2,7]-naphthyridines by carrying out a related condensation on 3,4-dihydro-\(rho\)-carboline 19m, its 9-lithio derivative 19b or its 9-benzyl derivative 19c were unsuccessful (Scheme 1); only starting materials were recovered. The lithio derivatives of 3-cyano-4-methylpyridine 22m and 3-cyano-4-methyl-5-vinylpyridine 22b were similarly unreactive toward the same carbolines. We found, however, that the complex 23 formed between 9-benzyl-3,4-dihydro-\(rho\)-carboline and trimethylsilyl trifluoromethanesulfonate reacted readily with the lithio derivatives of 22m and 22b affording in one step the pentacyclic amidines, 24m and 24b (Scheme 2). Hydrolysis of the amidines was effected with boiling alkali; the corresponding lactams, 25m and 25b, were isolated in high yield. Lactam 25m is the N-benzyl derivative of 13b,14-dihydronauclefine and lactam 25b is the N-benzylderivative of 13b,14-dihydroangustine. The spectroscopic properties (\frac{1}{1}\) and \frac{13}{2}\) nmr, ir and mass) of 24m, 24b, 25m, and 25b agree with the structural assignments.

The 9-benzyl-3,4-dihydro-p-carboline used in this investigation was prepared from 3-indolylacetonitrile by the route outlined in Scheme 3. 3-Indolylacetonitrile 26 was converted to its N-benzyl derivative 27 in 78% yield by treatment of 26 with sodium hydride followed by

SCHEME 1

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SCHEME 2

SCHEME 3

benzylation with benzyl bromide. N-Benzyltryptamine 20 was prepared by the reduction of 27 in ethenolic emmonia with hydrogen (2.5 atm.) over rhodium on alumina at room temperature. <sup>25</sup> N-formyltryptamine, prepared by treatment of 20 with ethyl formate at 120°C in a sealed tube, was cyclized to 19c with neat POCl<sub>3</sub>. This procedure compares favourably with a previously reported method for the synthesis of 19c. <sup>26</sup>

The synthetic method described in this investigation should be applicable to the synthesis of many of the alkaloids depicted in Figure 2. The introduction of a double bond into the 13b,14 position of 25a or 25b by oxidation with I<sub>2</sub> in MeOH should proceed without complication as it does in the related isoquinonaphthyridines 21 thereby providing access to alkaloids such as angustine 7 and naucléfine 9. Modification of the vinyl side chain should provide entry into compounds such as 8, 10 and 11. The alkaloids, malindine 14 and isomalindine 15, should also be accessible using the procedure reported for synthesis of alamaridine 23, an isoquinonaphthyridine analogue. The application of this reaction to the synthesis of the alkaloids themselves is currently under investigation.

#### EXPERIMENTAL

The experimental methods used in this investigation have been reported previously (21-23).

Condensation of 9-benzyl-3.4-dihydro-a-carboline 19c activated by reaction with trimethylsilyl trifluoromethaneeulfonate with lithium salts of 3-cyano-4-methylpyridines:

(a) 13-Benzyl-8,13,13b,14-tetrahydroindolo[2',3':3:4]pyrido[1.2-b][2.7]-naphthyridip-6[7H]-imine 24a

A solution of 9-benzyl-3,4-dihydro-p-carboline 19c (0.54 g, 2.0 mmol) in dry THF (8 mL) was treated dropwise with TMSOTf (0.45 mL, 2.2 mmol), at -78°C under an argon atmosphere. The resulting cloudy suspension was stirred first at -78°C for 1 h then at 0°C for an additional 2 h. Meanwhile a solution of n-BuLi (1.42 mL, 1.55 M in hexane, 2.2 mmol) was added dropwise to a stirred solution of 1,1,1,3,3,3 hexamethyldisilazane (0.46 mL, 2.2 mmol) in THF (3 mL) at -78°C. The lithium hexamethyldisilazide (LHS) solution so generated was stirred for an additional 10 min at -20°C and then cooled to -78°C. A solution of 3-cyano-4-methylpyridine 22a (0.248 g, 2.0 mmol) in THF (2 mL) was added dropwise to the above LHS solution at -78°C, and the red solution so generated was stirred for a further 20 min at -78°C. The red anion solution was then added dropwise at -78°C to the imine-TMSOTf complex and when the addition was complete the mixture was stirred at -40°C for 4 h. The mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred for ca. 12 h. The reaction mixture was quenched with saturated NH<sub>d</sub>Cl solution (1 mL aq.) and the resulting mixture was evaporated, water added, and the contents extracted with CHCl2; the CHCl2 extract was dried (Na, SO, anhyd.) and evaporated to dryness in vacuo. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on neutral alumina, eluting first with CHCl2 then with increasing concentrations of MeOH (5-25%) in CHClq. The product 24a, after the removal of the solvent, was crystallized from ethyl acetate (0.669 g, 89%); mp 190-192°C; ir (CHCl2, film),  $\nu_{\rm max}$ : 1615 cm  $^{-1}$ ;  $^{1}$ H nmr (500 MHz) CDCl $_{3}$ , 5: 2.84-3.08 (5H, complex m, C-7 H $_{\rm SX}$ , C-8, and C-14 H's), 4.71 (lH, apparent d, J=11.6 Hz, C-13b H), 5.08 (lH, m, C-7 H<sub>or</sub>) 5.11 (lH, br s, -NH), 5.32 (2H, s, -NCH,Ar), 6.91 (1H, d, J=4.9 Hz, C-1 H), 6.99 (2H, m, aromatic H's), 7.18 - 7.32 (6H, complex m, aromatic H's), 7.62 - 7.64 (1H, apparent d, J=7.1 Hz, aromatic H), 8.54 (1H, d, J=4.9 Hz, C-2 H), and 9.11 (1H, s, C-4 H); 13C mmr (125.76 MHz), 5: 21.5 (C-8), 37.2 (C-14), 40.5 (C-7), 47.4 (-NCH<sub>2</sub>Ar), 51.4 (C-13b), 110.0, 118.7, 120.1, 122.2, 122.5, 125.9, 125.9, 127.8, 129.1, 129.1 147.9, and 150.8 (12 x ArCH's), 110.9, 125.3, 126.5, 132.6, 137.3, 138.2 and 144.0 (7 x ArC's), and 159.7 (>C=NH); ms(RI), m/z(%): 379 (57)M<sup>+</sup>, 377 (25), 361 (23), 287 (100), 286 (5), 285 (10), 261 (5), 260 (7), 259 (7), 170 (10), 169 (23), 168 (9), 118 (7), and 91 (67); Exact mass (hrms): calcd. for C25H22N4: 378.184; found: 378.181; calcd. for fragment ion C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>15</sub>N<sub>4</sub> (M-CH<sub>2</sub>C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>5</sub>): 287.130; found: 287.128.

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# (b) <u>13-Benzyl-1-ethenyl-8, 13, 13b, 14-tetrehydroindolo[2', 3':3, 4]pyrido[2, 1-b][2, 7]naphthyridir-5[7H]-imine 24b</u>

Addition of the red anion of 3-cyano-4-methyl-5-vinylpyridine 22b (288 mg, 2.0 mmol), prepared in the same manner as the anion of 3-cyano-4-methylpyridine, to the complex of 9-benzyl-3,4-dihydro-\$\rho\$-carboline 23 (542 mg, 2.0 mmol) with TMSOTf (0.45 mL, 2.2 mmol), and work-up as described for the preparation of 24a, gave a residue which furnished amidine 24b (458 mg) on crystallization from MeOH. The mother liquor was chromatographed on neutral alumina, first eluting with CHCl2, then with increasing concentrations of MeOH in CHCl2. In this way another 234 mg of 24b was obtained, [combined yield (86%)]; mp 276-278°C (MeOH); ir (nujol),  $\nu_{\rm max}$  1620 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H nmr (500 MHz), CDCl<sub>3</sub> + CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 5: 2.69 (1H, dd, J=17.0 and 13.4 Hz, C-7 H<sub>ax</sub>), 3.13-3.54 (4H, complex m, C-8, C-14 H's), 4.65 (1H, dd, J=13.0 and 3.5 Hz, C-13b H), 5.06 (1H,  $\mathbf{m}$ , C-7  $\mathbf{H}_{\mathbf{m}}$ ), 5.28 (1H, d, J=17.9 Hz, -MCH<sub>2</sub>Ar), 5.32 (1H, d, J=11.2 Hz, -CH= $\frac{\mathbf{CH}_{\mathbf{m}}}{2}$ ), 5.46 (1H, d, J-17.9 Hz, -NCH\_Ar), 5.62 (1H, d, J=17.5 Hz, -CH=CH\_2), 5.99 (1H, dd, J=17.5 and 11.2 Hz, -CH-CH<sub>2</sub>), 7.03-7.04 (2H, m, aromatic H's), 7.24-7.41 (6H, complex m, aromatic H's), 7.66-7.67 (1H, m, aromatic H), 8.80 (1H, s, C-2 H), and 9.03 (1H, s, C-4 H);  $^{13}$ C nmr (125.76 MHz), CDC1<sub>2</sub> + CD\_OD, 5: 20.9 (C-8), 32.6 (C-14), 44.5 (C-7), 47.0 (-NCH\_Ar), 52.5 (C-13b), 110.0, 119.2, 120.7, 123.5, 125.8, 125.8, 127.9, 128.4, 129.4, 146.7 and 151.7 (11 x ArCH's + -CH=CH<sub>2</sub>), 109.5, 120.1, 121.8, 125.7, 130.3, 131.8, 137.0, 138.5 and 143.2 (8 x ArC's + -CH=CH<sub>2</sub>), and 158.9 (>C=NH); ms(EI), m/z(%): 404 (15)M<sup>16</sup>, 403 (6), 313 (30), 287 (17), 286 (3), 260 (6), 259 (3), 169 (18), 168 (7), 144 (5), 143 (12), 117 (4) and 91 (100); Exact mass (hrms): calcd. for  $C_{27}H_{24}N_{\Delta}$ : 404.200; found: 404.192; calcd. for fragment ion C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>17</sub>N<sub>4</sub> (M-CH<sub>2</sub>C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>): 313.145, found: 313.142; calcd. for fragment ion C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N<sub>2</sub>: 260.131, found: 260.129.

## Hydrolysis of amidines 24a and 24b to lactage 25a and 25b

# (a) <u>13-Benzyl-13b, 14-dihydronauclefine</u> [14-Benzyl-8, 13, 13b, 14-tetrahydroindolo[2', 3':3, 4]pyrido [1, 2-b][2, 7]naphthyridin-5[7#]one) <u>25a</u>

A solution of amidine 24a (250 mg) in dioxane (30 mL) and 20% KOH solution (aq., 10 mL) was gently heated under reflux for 48 h and the progress of the reaction was monitored by tlc. When the reaction was complete the mixture was evaporated in vacuo, the residue treated with water (50 mL) and the solution thoroughly extracted with CH2Cl2. The combined CH2Cl2 extracts were washed with brine, dried (MgSO $_4$  anhyd.) and solvent removed in vacuo affording lactam 25a (223 mg, 89%); mp 125-127)  $^{\circ}$ C (EtOAc); R<sub>f</sub> 0.52 (alumina, EtOAc); ir (CHCl<sub>3</sub>, film),  $\nu_{\text{max}}$ : 1655 cm<sup>-1</sup>;  $^{1}$ H nmr (500 MHz), CDCl<sub>3</sub> 5: 2.86-3.07 (5H, complex m, C-7 H<sub>ax</sub>, C-8, and C-14 H's), 4.97 (1H, apparent d, J=12.6 Hz, C-13b H), 5.21-5.23 (1H, m, C-7 H<sub>an</sub>), 5.35 (2H, s, -NCH<sub>2</sub>Ar), 6.94 (1H, d, J=4.9 Hz, C-1 H), 7.00-7.02 (2H, d, J=6.9 Hz, aromatic H's), 7.18-7.33 (6H, complex m, aromatic H's), 7.62 (1H, m, aromatic H), 8.60 (1H, d, J=4.9 Hz, C-2 H), and 9.26 (1H, s, C-4 H); 13C nmr (125.76 MHz), 5: 21.6 (C-8), 36.0 (C-14), 39.6 (C-7), 47.6 (-NCH<sub>2</sub>Ar), 51.8 (C-13b), 111.3, 118.9, 120.3, 121.5, 122.8, 126.0, 126.0, 128.0, 129.3, 129.3, 150.4 and 152.3 (12 x ArCH's), 110.1, 124.9 126.9, 133.1, 137.2, 138.2 and 145.1 (7  $\times$  ArC's), and 163.6 ( $\times$ C=0); ms (EI), m/z (%): 379 (63), 378 (10), 288 (35), 287 (9), 260 (7), 259 (13), 169 (5), 168 (5), 119 (14), and 91 (100); Exact mass (hrms): calcd. for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>21</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O: 379.168, found: 379.165; calcd. for fragment ion  $C_{18}H_{14}N_3O$  (M-CH<sub>2</sub> $C_6H_5$ ): 288.114; found 288.112.

# (b) 13-Benzy1-13b, 14-dihydroangustine[13-Benzy1-1-etheny1-8, 13, 13b, 14-tetrahydroindolo[2', 3':3, 4] pyrido[2, 1-b][2,7]naphthyridin-5[7H]-one] 25b

The hydrolysis of amidine 24b (300 mg) was carried out in a similar manner to that described above for amidine 24m yielding lactam 25b (283 mg, 94%); mp 226-230°C (BtOH);  $R_f$  0.35 (alumina, EtOAc); ir (CHCl<sub>3</sub>, film),  $\nu_{\rm max}$ : 1650 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H nmr (500 MHz), CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 5: 2.60 (1H, dd,

J=16.6 and 13.0 Hz, C-7 H<sub>ax</sub>), 2.93-3.06 (3H, complex m, C-8 and C-14 H's), 3.25 (1H, dd, J=16.6 and 3.4 Hz, C-14 H), 4.95 (1H, d, J=11.8 Hz, C-13b H), 5.19 (1H, d, partially overlapped by C-7 H<sub>eq</sub> signal, J=11.2 Hz, -CH=CH<sub>2</sub>), 5.27 (1H, m, C-7 H<sub>eq</sub>), 5.27 (1H, d, J=17.6 Hz, -CH=CH<sub>2</sub>), 5.46-5.52 (2H, m, four lines, -NCH<sub>2</sub>Ar), 6.02 (1H, dd, J=17.6 and 11.2 Hz, -CH=CH<sub>2</sub>), 7.04 (2H, d, J=6.6 Hz, aromatic H's), 7.06-7.35 (6H, complex m, aromatic H's), 7.63-7.65 (1H, m, aromatic H), 8.67 (1H, s, C-2 H), and 9.17 (1H, s, C-4 H); <sup>13</sup>C nmr (125.76 MHz), 5: 21.6 (C-8), 32.9 (C-14), 39.6 (C-7), 47.5 (-NCH<sub>2</sub>Ar), 51.4 (C-13b), 109.9, 118.9, 120.4, 123.0, 125.9, 125.9, 127.8, 129.3, 129.3, 129.8, 149.4, and 150.1 (11 x ArCH's and -CH=CH<sub>2</sub>), 111.1, 119.7, 124.5, 126.4, 130.4, 133.1, 137.4, 138.5, and 142.0 (8 x ArC's and -CH=CH<sub>2</sub>), and 163.8 (>C=0); ms (BI), m/z (%): 405 (61) M<sup>+\*</sup>, 404 (9), 314 (32), 313 (7), 261 (4), 260 (11), 259 (8), 169 (6), 168 (5), 145 (3), 117 (13), and 91 (100); Exact mass (hrms): calcd. for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>23</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O: 405.184, found: 405.183; calcd. for fragment ion C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O (M-CH<sub>2</sub>C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>): 314.129, found: 314.123.

### Preparation of 9-benzyl-3.4-dihydro-6-carboline 19c

#### (a) 1-Benzyl-3-indolylacetonitrile 27

To a stirred solution of 3-indolylacetonitrile 26 (25 g, 0.16 mol) in dry benzene (300 mL) was added NaH (9.2 g, 50% suspension in oil, 1.2 equiv.) and the reaction mixture was heated under reflux for 15 min. Benzyl chloride (20 mL) was then added dropwise at room temperature with stirring, the mixture heated under reflux for 20 min, and then left at room temperature for ca. 12 h. The mixture was poured into ice-water (200 mL), the benzene layer was meparated and the aqueous phase extracted with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ . The combined organic extract was dried ( $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  anhyd.) and evaporated yielding the crude product 27 which crystallized from BtOH. (30.5 g, 78%); mp 95-96°C (lit. 27 mp 95-96°C). H nmr (90 MHz),  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 5: 3.38 (2H, a,  $\text{-CH}_2\text{-CN}$ ), 5.28 (2H, a,  $\text{-NCH}_2\text{-Ar}$ ), 7.05-7.43 (9H, m, aromatic H's), 7.54-7.70 (1H, m, aromatic H); ms(EI), m/z(%): 246 (35)M<sup>40</sup>, 156 (14), 155 (19), 130 (10), and 91 (100).

## (b) 1-Benzyltryptamine 20

A mixture containing 1-benzyl-3-indolylacetomitrile 27 (10 g, 40.65 mmol), THF (50 mL), 10% ethanolic-ammonia (150 mL) and 5% Rh-Al $_2$ O $_3$  (2 g) was treated with H $_2$  at 40 psi for 2 days. The catalyst was removed by filtration and the evaporation of the filtrate *in vacto* afforded the desired 1-benzyltryptamine 20 (9.7 g, 95%), bp 193-198°C/O.1 Torr (1it. <sup>28</sup>, bp 148-200°C/O.5 Torr);  $^1$ H nmr (90 MHz), CDCl $_3$ , 5: 1.15 (2H, br s, -NH $_2$  exchanges with D $_2$ O), 2.75-3.20 (4H, m, -CH $_2$ -CH $_2$ ), 5.23 (2H, s, -NCH $_2$ Ar), 6.96 (1H, s, C-2 H), 7.03-7.50 (7H, m, aromatic H's), 7.55-7.85 (2H, m, aromatic H's); ms(EI); m/z(%): 250(9)M $^{+\bullet}$ , 221(25), 220(42), and 91(100).

#### (c) 1-Benzyl-N-formyltryptemine 28

A mixture of 1-benzyltryptamine 20 (15 g) and ethyl formate (100 mL) was heated in a sealed tube at  $120\,^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 2 h. The removal of excess ethyl formate and EtOH in vacuo gave 1-benzyl-N-formyltryptamine 28 (16.05 g, 96%) as an oil;  $^{1}\text{H}$  (90 MHz), CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 5: 2.85-3.05 (2H, m,  $^{-}\text{CH}_{2}\text{CH}_{2}\text{-N-}$ ), 3.37-3.75 (2H, m,  $^{-}\text{CH}_{2}\text{CH}_{2}\text{-N-}$ ), 5.02 (2H, s,  $^{-}\text{NCH}_{2}\text{Ar}$ ), 5.70 (1H, br s,  $^{-}\text{NH}$ ), 6.96 (1H, s, C-2 H), 7.00-7.30 (8H, m, aromatic H's), 7.60-7.80 (1H, m, aromatic H), and 8.05 (1H, br, s,  $^{-}\text{CHO}$ ); ms(E1), m/z(%): 278(15)M<sup>+o</sup>, 233 (27), 220 (71), 129 (9), and 91 (100).

### (d) 9-Benzyl-3,4-dihydro-s-carboline 19c

This compound was prepared from 1-benzyl-N-formyltryptamine 28 (5 g) by treatment with freshly distilled POCl<sub>3</sub> (30 ml) at ice bath temperature in a flask protected with a CaCl<sub>2</sub> tube. When the vigorous initial reaction subsided, the mixture was warmed to room temperature over a period of 10-20 min, then heated to 40°C for 5 min, and finally kept at room temperature for 2h.

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The excess  ${\rm POCl}_3$  was destroyed carefully by addition of the reaction mixture to crushed ice and the resulting solution made basic with conc. aqueous  ${\rm NH}_3$ . The mixture was extracted with  ${\rm CHCl}_3$ , the  ${\rm CHCl}_3$  extract dried  $({\rm Na}_2{\rm SO}_4$  anhyd.) and evaporated, and the residue purified by bulb to bulb distillation.

The product 19c crystallized from ethanol or ethyl acetate (3.58 g, 77%); mp 148-149°C (EtOAc), and 140-141°C (EtOH) (lit.  $^{26}$  mp 138°C (EtOH));  $R_f$  0.76 (alumina, EtOAc);  $^1$ H nmr (90 MHz), CDCl<sub>s</sub>, 5: 2.95 (2H, t, J=8.0 Hz, C-4 H's), 3.94 (2H, d of t, J=8.0 and 2.0 Hz, C-3 H's), 5.42 (2H, s, benzylic H's), 6.95-7.45 (8H, m, aromatic H's), 7.55-7.73 (1H, m, aromatic H), and 8.50 (1H, m, C-1 H); ms(EI), m/z(%): 260(100)M<sup>+</sup>, 169(36), 156(16), 142(34), 140(15), 116(21), 115(41), 91(87), and 65(26).

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