## 2-Aryl-5-arylsulfanyl-1,3-oxazole-4-carboxylic Acids and Their Derivatives

S. G. Pil'o, V. M. Prokopenko, V. S. Brovarets, and B. S. Drach<sup>†</sup>

Institute of Bioorganic and Petroleum Chemistry, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, ul. Murmanskaya 1, Kiev, 02660 Ukraine
e-mail: brovarets@bpci.kiev.ua

Received June 18, 2009

**Abstract**—A convenient preparative procedure has been developed for the synthesis of previously unknown 2-aryl-5-arylsulfanyl-1,3-oxazole-4-carboxylic acids and their functional derivatives from accessible multicenter substrates of the general formula  $Cl_2C=C(NHCOR)C(O)OMe$ . The products turned out to be suitable for various subsequent transformations. Some oxazole-4-carboxylic acid hydrazide derivatives containing a substituted oxazol-5-yl fragment at the  $N^2$  atom in the hydrazine moiety underwent recyclization on heating in acetic acid; as a result, one oxazole ring was converted into 1,3,4-oxadiazole.

**DOI:** 10.1134/S1070363210070212

Extensive development of the chemistry of functional 1,3-oxazole derivatives over the past two decades was undoubtedly related to search for effective bioregulators. The role of 1,3-oxazole derivatives in vital processes turned out to be more significant than it was believed previously; this followed from the recent isolation of numerous bio-active oxazole compounds from natural sources [1–3]. Among these, virginiamycin, madumycin II, griseoviridin, dendro-amide A, and other antibiotics are derivatives of oxazole-4-carboxylic acid, which exhibit not only strong bactericidal but also antiblastic effect [4–7].

It is quite obvious that studies performed in 1950–60 [1, 8–10] on the development of methods for the preparation of oxazole-4-carboxylic acid derivatives should be continued with account taken of considerable improvement of synthetic tools in the chemistry of oxazole, which was attained in the recent years.

In the present work we used accessible methyl 2-acylamino-3,3-dichloroacrylates I and their cyclization products II to develop convenient synthetic approaches to numerous new 5-sulfanyl-1,3-oxazole-4-carboxylic acid derivatives III–XIII (Scheme 1). The first reaction in Scheme 1 was reported previously [11–13], while all other reactions were performed for the first time.

The key transformation sequence  $\mathbf{II} \to \mathbf{III} \to \mathbf{V}$  afforded reactive compounds, 2-aryl-5-arylsulfanyl-1,3-oxazole-4-carbonyl chlorides which were brought into further transformations to obtain the corresponding hydrazides  $\mathbf{IV}$  and N-arylamides  $\mathbf{IX}$  (Table 1). It is more convenient to synthesize compounds  $\mathbf{IV}$  from substrates  $\mathbf{II}$ , while acid chlorides  $\mathbf{V}$  are indispensable for the synthesis of  $\mathbf{IX}$  and  $\mathbf{X}$ .

More profound modification of the substituent on  $C^4$  in the oxazole ring can be achieved following the transformation sequences  $IV \to VII$  and  $V \to X \to XIII$ . The first process is a particular case of cyclization of carboxylic acid hydrazides with triethyl orthoformate [14]. On the other hand, the second process is much more complex, for it is likely to involve regioselective reaction of compounds V and VIII, probable prototropic transformation  $X \leftrightarrow XI$ , and subsequent recyclization  $XI \to XIII \to XIII$ . Analogous recyclization was recently examined in detail for simpler acylation products of methyl 2-aryl-5-hydrazino-1,3-oxazole-4-carboxylates [13].

The structure of all new oxazole derivatives shown in Scheme 1 directly followed from their synthesis and was confirmed by IR and  $^{1}H$  NMR spectroscopy (Table 2). The products obtained by alkaline hydrolysis of ester II lacked signal at  $\delta$  3.87 ppm (MeO) in the  $^{1}H$  NMR spectra, but displayed a downfield signal at  $\delta$  13.21 ppm due to proton in the carboxyl group of acid

<sup>†</sup> Deceased.

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 $\begin{array}{l} \textbf{I}, \ R^1 = Ph \ \textbf{(a)}, \ 4\text{-MeC}_6H_4 \ \textbf{(b)}; \ \textbf{II-VII}, \ R^1 = Ph, \ Ar^1 = 4\text{-MeC}_6H_4 \ \textbf{(a)}, \ R^1 = Ar^1 = 4\text{-MeC}_6H_4 \ \textbf{(b)}, \ R^1 = 4\text{-MeC}_6H_4, \ Ar^1 = 4\text{-ClC}_6H_4 \ \textbf{(c)}; \ \textbf{VIII}, \ R^2 = Ph \ \textbf{(a)}, \ 4\text{-MeC}_6H_4 \ \textbf{(b)}; \ \textbf{IX}, \ R^1 = Ar^1 = Ar^2 = 4\text{-MeC}_6H_4 \ \textbf{(a)}, \ R^1 = Ar^1 = 4\text{-MeC}_6H_4, \ Ar^2 = 4\text{-ClC}_6H_4 \ \textbf{(b)}, \ R^1 = Ar^2 = 4\text{-MeC}_6H_4, \ Ar^1 = Ar^2 = 4\text{-MeC}_6H_4, \ Ar^1 = R^2 = Ph, \ Ar^1 = 4\text{-MeC}_6H_4, \ R^2 = Ph \ \textbf{(c)}, \ R^1 = 4\text{-MeC}_6H_4, \ Ar^1 = 4\text{-ClC}_6H_4, \ R^2 = Ph \ \textbf{(d)}. \end{array}$ 

Table 1. Yields, melting points, and elemental analyses of compounds II-VII and IX-XIII

Comp. no.	Yield, %	mp, °C (solvent)	Found, %			Calculated, %	
			N (Cl)	S	Formula	N (Cl)	S
IIa	64	93–95 (EtOH)	4.22	9.79	C <sub>18</sub> H <sub>15</sub> NO <sub>3</sub> S	4.30	9.85
IIb	65	98–100 (EtOH)	3.95	9.35	$C_{19}H_{17}NO_3S$	4.13	9.45
IIc	69	126–129 <sup>a</sup> (EtOH)	3.78 (9.80)	8.85	C <sub>18</sub> H <sub>14</sub> ClNO <sub>3</sub> S	3.89 (9.85)	8.91
IIIa	70	188–190 (EtOH)	4.52	10.27	$C_{17}H_{13}NO_3S$	4.50	10.30
IIIb	75	191–194 (EtOH)	4.21	9.80	$C_{18}H_{15}NO_3S$	4.30	9.85
IIIc	75	205–208 (EtOH)	3.95 (10.31)	9.29	C <sub>17</sub> H <sub>12</sub> ClNO <sub>3</sub> S	4.05 (10.25)	9.27
IVa	84 <sup>b</sup>	162–163 (EtOH)	12.85	9.80	$C_{17}H_{15}N_3O_2S$	12.91	9.85
IVb	82	125–127 (EtOH)	12.34	9.44	$C_{18}H_{17}N_3O_2S$	12.38	9.45
IVc	85	176–178 (EtOH)	11.61 (9.92)	8.83	$C_{17}H_{14}CIN_3O_2S$	11.68 (9.85)	8.91
Va	80	118–120°	4.12 (10.83)	9.58	C <sub>17</sub> H <sub>12</sub> ClNO <sub>2</sub> S	4.25 (10.75)	9.72
Vb	80	153–155°	3.85 (10.43)	9.12	C <sub>18</sub> H <sub>14</sub> ClNO <sub>2</sub> S	4.07 (10.31)	9.33
Vc	85	140–142°	3.70 (19.56)	8.68	$C_{17}H_{11}Cl_2NO_2S$	3.85 (19.47)	8.80
VIa	76	190–192 (EtOH)	3.89	9.21	$C_{17}H_{13}NO_5S$	4.08	9.34
VIb	80	178–180 (EtOH)	3.90	8.99	$C_{18}H_{15}NO_5S$	3.92	8.97
VIc	80	192–196 (EtOH)	3.65 (9.40)	8.55	C <sub>17</sub> H <sub>12</sub> ClNO <sub>5</sub> S	3.71 (9.38)	8.49
VIIa	60	112–115 (EtOH)	12.39	9.50	$C_{18}H_{13}N_3O_2S$	12.53	9.56
VIIb	62	128–132 (EtOH)	11.85	9.03	$C_{19}H_{15}N_3O_2S$	12.03	9.18
VIIc	65	135–138 (EtOH)	9.40	8.52	$C_{18}H_{12}ClN_3O_2S$	9.59	8.67
Xa	80	146–148 (MeCN)	6.71	7.68	$C_{25}H_{22}N_2O_2S$	6.76	7.74
Xb	80	170–173 (MeCN)	6.28 (8.19)	7.22	$C_{24}H_{19}CIN_2O_2S$	6.44 (8.15)	7.37
Хc	78	168–172 (MeCN)	6.30 (8.20)	7.25	$C_{24}H_{19}CIN_2O_2S$	6.44 (8.15)	7.37
Xd	80	180–184 (MeCN)	6.03 (15.63)	6.88	$C_{23}H_{16}Cl_2N_2O_2S$	6.15 (15.57)	7.04
Xa	82	212-216 (MeCN-DMF, 3:1)	10.69	6.01	$C_{28}H_{22}N_4O_5S$	10.64	6.09
Xb	82	222-224 (MeCN-DMF, 3:1)	10.25	5.89	$C_{29}H_{24}N_4O_5S$	10.36	5.93
Xc	85	222-224 (MeCN-DMF, 3:1)	10.45	5.90	$C_{29}H_{24}N_4O_5S$	10.36	5.93
Xd	85	220–224 (MeCN–DMF, 3:1)	9.85 (6.40)	5.75	C <sub>28</sub> H <sub>21</sub> ClN <sub>4</sub> O <sub>5</sub> S	9.99 (6.32)	5.72
XIIIa	76	179–182 (EtOH)	10.55	6.12	$C_{28}H_{22}N_4O_5S$	10.64	6.09
XIIIb	78	172–175 (EtOH)	10.30	5.98	$C_{29}H_{24}N_4O_5S$	10.36	5.93
XIIIc	75	190–192 (AcOH)	10.40	5.91	$C_{29}H_{24}N_4O_5S$	10.36	5.93
XIIId	75	215–217 (AcOH)	9.88 (6.30)	5.75	C <sub>28</sub> H <sub>21</sub> ClN <sub>4</sub> O <sub>5</sub> S	9.99 (6.32)	5.72

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> The melting point corresponds to published data [16]. <sup>b</sup> Yield according to method a. <sup>c</sup> After washing with hexane.

III. The transformation IV  $\rightarrow$  VII leading to closure of oxadiazole ring is accompanied by disappearance from the IR spectra of absorption bands typical of carbonyl and hydrazine groups in the regions 1645–1800 and 3050–3600 cm<sup>-1</sup>, respectively. Recyclization  $X \rightarrow XIII$  characteristically gives rise to CH–NH proton

signals ( ${}^{3}J_{HH} = 7.5 \text{ Hz}$ ) in the  ${}^{1}H$  NMR spectrum of XIII, which is consistent with published data [13].

To conclude, it should be noted that acids **III** smoothly undergo oxidation with hydrogen peroxide in acetic acid to produce previously unknown 2-aryl-5-

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**Table 2.** IR and <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of compounds **II–VII** and **IX–XIII** 

Comp.	IR spectrum (KBr), v, cm <sup>-1</sup>	<sup>1</sup> H NMR spectrum, δ, ppm (DMSO-d <sub>6</sub> )			
IIa	1730 (C=O)	2.37 s (3H, CH <sub>3</sub> ), 3.87 s (3H, OCH <sub>3</sub> ), 7.30–7.79 m (9H, H <sub>arom</sub> )			
IIb	1728 (C=O)	2.37 s (6H, 2CH <sub>3</sub> ), 3.87 s (3H, OCH <sub>3</sub> ), 7.28–7.68 m (8H, H <sub>arom</sub> )			
IIIa	1687 (C=O), 3667 (OH, assoc.)	2.37 s (3H, CH <sub>3</sub> ), 7.30–7.72 m (9H, H <sub>arom</sub> ), 13.21 br.s (1H, COOH)			
IIIb	1693 (C=O), 3640 (OH, assoc.)	2.31 s (3H, CH <sub>3</sub> ), 2.35 s (3H, CH <sub>3</sub> ), 7.24–7.72 m (8H, H <sub>arom</sub> ), 13.21 br.s (1H, COOH)			
IIIc	1690 (C=O), 3590 (OH, assoc.)	2.38 s (3H, CH <sub>3</sub> ), 7.30–7.74 m (8H, H <sub>arom</sub> ), 13.21 br.s (1H, COOH)			
IVa	1654 (C=O) <sup>a</sup> , 3208 (NH, NH <sub>2</sub> , assoc.)	2.33 s (3H, CH <sub>3</sub> ), 4.48 br.s (2H, NH <sub>2</sub> ), 7.24–7.86 m (9H, H <sub>arom</sub> ), 9.47 s (1H, NH)			
IVb	1657 (C=O) <sup>a</sup> , 3252 (NH, NH <sub>2</sub> , assoc.)	2.33 s (3H, CH <sub>3</sub> ), 2.38 s (3H, CH <sub>3</sub> ), 4.46 br.s (2H, NH <sub>2</sub> ), 7.30–7.80 m (8H H <sub>arom</sub> ), 9.40 s (1H, NH)			
IVc	1660 (C=O) <sup>a</sup> , 3210 (NH, NH <sub>2</sub> , assoc.)	2.38 s (3H, CH <sub>3</sub> ), 4.55 br.s (2H, NH <sub>2</sub> ), 7.30–7.80 m (8H, H <sub>arom</sub> ), 9.50 s (1H, NH)			
VIa	1149, 1303 (SO <sub>2</sub> ), 1723 (C=O) <sup>a</sup> , 3250 (NH, assoc.)	2.44 s (3H, CH <sub>3</sub> ), 7.44–8.01 m (9H, H <sub>arom</sub> )			
VIb	1122, 1305 (SO <sub>2</sub> ), 1735 (C=O) <sup>a</sup> , 3232 (NH, assoc.)	2.42 s (6H, 2CH <sub>3</sub> ), 7.43–8.03 m (8H, H <sub>arom</sub> )			
VIc	1118, 1301 (SO <sub>2</sub> ), 1729 (C=O) <sup>a</sup> , 3228 (NH, assoc.)	2.41 s (3H, CH <sub>3</sub> ), 7.41–8.15 m (8H, H <sub>arom</sub> )			
VIIa	1645-1800, 3050-3600 (no absorption)	2.32 s (3H, CH <sub>3</sub> ), 7.24–7.96 m (9H, H <sub>arom</sub> ), 9.40 s (1H, 5'-H)			
VIIb	1645–1800, 3050–3600 (no absorption)	2.29 s (3H, CH <sub>3</sub> ), 2.39 s (3H, CH <sub>3</sub> ), 7.24-7.87 m (8H, H <sub>arom</sub> ), 9.47 s (1H, 5'-H)			
VIIc	1645-1800, 3050-3600 (no absorption)	2.39 s (3H, CH <sub>3</sub> ), 7.40–7.94 m (8H, H <sub>arom</sub> ), 9.44 s (1H, 5'-H)			
IXa	1672 (C=O), 3390 (NH, assoc.)	2.28 s (3H, CH <sub>3</sub> ), 2.32 s (3H, CH <sub>3</sub> ), 2.37 s (3H, CH <sub>3</sub> ), 7.24–7.88 m (12H, H <sub>arom</sub> ), 10.07 s (1H, NH)			
IXb	1679 (C=O), 3392 (NH, assoc.)	2.33 s (3H, CH <sub>3</sub> ), 2.37 s (3H, CH <sub>3</sub> ), 7.30–7.86 m (12H, H <sub>arom</sub> ), 10.30 s (1H, NH)			
IXc	1670 (C=O), 3380 (NH, assoc.)	2.28 s (3H, CH <sub>3</sub> ), 2.38 s (3H, CH <sub>3</sub> ), 7.20–7.84 m (12H, H <sub>arom</sub> ), 10.13 s (1H, NH)			
IXd	1675 (C=O), 3375 (NH, assoc.)	2.38 s (3H, CH <sub>3</sub> ), 7.40–7.94 m (12H, H <sub>arom</sub> ), 10.37 s (1H, NH)			
Xa	1634 (C=O), 1677 (C=O), 3284 (NH, assoc.)	2.34 s (3H, CH <sub>3</sub> ), 3.82 s (3H, OCH <sub>3</sub> ), 7.32–7.94 m (14H, H <sub>arom</sub> ), 9.32 s (1H, NH), 10.75 s (1H, NH)			
Xb	1641 (C=O), 1681 (C=O), 3265 (NH, assoc.)	2.34 s (6H, 2CH <sub>3</sub> ), 3.81 s (3H, OCH <sub>3</sub> ), 7.26–7.92 m (13H, H <sub>arom</sub> ), 9.27 s (1H, NH), 10.72 s (1H, NH)			
Xc	1638 (C=O), 1685 (C=O), 3310 (NH, assoc.)	2.34 s (3H, CH <sub>3</sub> ), 2.40 s (3H, CH <sub>3</sub> ), 3.82 s (3H, OCH <sub>3</sub> ), 7.30–7.87 m (13H, H <sub>arom</sub> ), 9.28 s (1H, NH), 10.69 s (1H, NH)			
Xg	1643 (C=O), 1679 (C=O), 3292 (NH, assoc.)	2.40 s (3H, CH <sub>3</sub> ), 3.81 s (3H, OCH <sub>3</sub> ), 7.40–7.84 m (13H, H <sub>arom</sub> ), 9.35 s (1H, NH), 10.80 s (1H, NH)			
XIIIa	1642 (C=O), 1762 (C=O), 3264 (NH, assoc.)	2.31 s (3H, CH <sub>3</sub> ), 3.82 s (3H, OCH <sub>3</sub> ), 6.24 d (1H, CH, ${}^{3}J_{HH} = 7.5$ Hz), 7.26–7.97 m (14H, H <sub>arom</sub> ), 9.73 d (1H, NH, ${}^{3}J_{HH} = 7.5$ Hz)			
XIIIb	1646 (C=O), 1755 (C=O), 3198 (NH, assoc.)	2.31 s (3H, CH <sub>3</sub> ), 2.39 s (3H, CH <sub>3</sub> ), 3.82 s (3H, OCH <sub>3</sub> ), 6.25 d (1H, CH, ${}^{3}J_{HH} = 7.5 \text{ Hz}$ ), 7.30–8.03 m (13H, H <sub>arom</sub> ), 9.63 d (1H, NH, ${}^{3}J_{HH} = 7.5 \text{ Hz}$ )			
XIIIc	1645 (C=O), 1758 (C=O), 3205 (NH, assoc.)	2.31 s (3H, CH <sub>3</sub> ), 2.40 s (3H, CH <sub>3</sub> ), 3.83 s (3H, OCH <sub>3</sub> ), 6.24 d (1H, CH, ${}^{3}J_{HH} = 7.5 \text{ Hz}$ ), 7.22–7.96 m (13H, H <sub>arom</sub> ), 9.70 d (1H, NH, ${}^{3}J_{HH} = 7.5 \text{ Hz}$ )			
XIIId	1642 (C=O), 1763 (C=O), 3244 (NH, assoc.)	2.41 s (3H, CH <sub>3</sub> ), 3.82 s (3H, OCH <sub>3</sub> ), 6.27 d (1H, CH, ${}^{3}J_{HH} = 7.5$ Hz), 7.36–7.98 m (13H, H <sub>arom</sub> ), 9.71 d (1H, NH, ${}^{3}J_{HH} = 7.5$ Hz)			

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> Band with a shoulder.

arylsulfonyl-1,3-oxazole-4-carboxylic acids **VI**. The properties of acids **VI** and their analogs **III** having a bivalent sulfur atom will be compared elsewhere.

## **EXPERIMENTAL**

The IR spectra were recorded in KBr on a Vertex 70 spectrometer. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were measured on a Varian VXR-300 spectrometer from solutions in DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub> using tetramethylsilane as internal reference.

Methyl 2-acylamino-3,3-dichloroacrylates **Ia** and **Ib** were synthesized according to the procedure reported in [11]. Methyl 2-aryl-5-arylsulfanyl-1,3-oxazole-4-carboxylates (**IIa–IIc**) were prepared as described in [15].

**2-Aryl-5-arylsulfanyl-1,3-oxazole-4-carboxylic acid IIIa–IIIc** (general procedure). A solution of 0.015 mol of sodium hydroxide in 5 ml of water was added to a solution of 0.01 mol of compound **IIa–IIc** in 30 ml of ethanol, and the mixture was stirred for 1 h on heating. After cooling, the mixture was neutralized to pH ~7–6 with hydrochloric acid, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure, the residue was treated with water, and the precipitate was filtered off and purified by recrystallization.

**2-Aryl-5-arylsulfanyl-1,3-oxazole-4-carboxylic acid hydrazides IVa–IVc.** *a.* Hydrazine hydrate, 0.015 mol, was added to a solution of 0.005 mol of compound **IIa–IIc** in 20 ml of ethanol. The mixture was heated for 3 h under reflux and was then left to stand for 12 h at room temperature. The precipitate was filtered off, washed with water, and pyrified by recrystallization.

b. A solution of 0.03 mol of hydrazine hydrate in 50 ml of water was cooled with ice water, a solution of 0.01 mol of compound **Va** in 15 ml of anhydrous acetonitrile was added dropwise under stirring, and the mixture was stirred for 1 h. The precipitate was filtered off and purified by recrystallization. Yield of compound **IVa** 88%. Samples of **IVa** obtained by the two methods (a and b) showed no depression of the melting point on mixing, and their IR and <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were identical.

**2-Aryl-5-arylsulfanyl-1,3-oxazole-4-carbonyl chlorides Va–Vc** (general procedure). Thionyl chloride, 0.006 mol, was added to a solution of 0.005 mol of compound **IIIa–IIIc** in 20 ml of anhydrous benzene. The solution was heated under reflux until gaseous products no longer evolved, the solvent was

removed under reduced pressure, the residue was treated with anhydrous hexane, and the precipitate was filtered off, dried under reduced pressure, and used in further syntheses without additional purification.

**2-Aryl-5-arylsulfonyl-1,3-oxazole-4-carboxylic acids VIa–VIc** (general procedure). A solution of 0.005 mol of compound **IIIa–IIIc** in 10 ml of glacial acetic acid was heated to the boiling point, a 30% solution of hydrogen peroxide was added to the hot mixture in three 1-ml portions over a period of 1 h, the mixture was kept for 8 h at room temperature, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure, the residue was treated with water, and the precipitate was filtered off and purified by recrystallization.

2-(2-Aryl-5-arylsulfanyl-1,3-oxazol-4-yl)-1,3,4-oxadiazoles VIIa-VIIc (general procedure). A mixture of 0.001 mol of compound IVa-IVc and 0.005 mol of triethyl orthoformate was heated for 12 h under reflux and was then left to stand for 12 h at room temperature. The resulting oily material was treated with water, and the precipitate was filtered off and purified by recrystallization.

**2-Aryl-5-arylsulfantl-1,3-oxazole-4-carbox- amides IXa–IXd** (general procedure). The corresponding amine, 0.001 mol, was dissolved in 20 ml of anhydrous acetonitrile, 0.001 mol of triethylamine and 0.001 mol of compound **Va–Vc** were added, and the mixture was heated to the boiling point and left to stand for 12 h at room temperature. The precipitate was treated with water, filtered off, and purified by recrystallization.

Methyl 2-aryl-5-[2-(2-aryl-5-arylsulfanyl-1,3-oxazole-4-carbonyl)hydrazino]-1,3-oxazole-4-carboxylates Xa–Xd (general procedure). Compound VIIIa or VIIIb, 0.005 mol, was dissolved in 30 ml of anhydrous acetonitrile, 0.005 mol of dimethylaniline and 0.005 mol of compound Va–Vc was added, and the mixture was heated to the boiling point and left to stand for 12 h at room temperature. The precipitate was treated with water, filtered off, and purified by recrystallization.

Methyl acylamino[5-(2-aryl-5-arylsulfanyl-1,3-oxazol-4-yl)-1,3,4-oxadiazol-2-yl]acetates XIIIa-XIIId (general procedure). A solution of 0.005 mol of compound Xa-Xd in 20 ml of glacial acetic acid was heated for 8 h under reflux and was then left to stand for 12 h at room temperature. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure, the residue was

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treated with water, and the precipitate was filtered off and purified by recrystallization.

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