

SHORT  
COMMUNICATIONS

# Acylation of 2',5',5'-Trimethyl-4',5'-dihydro-4*H*-spiro[naphthalene-1,3'-pyrrol]-4-one with 5-Arylfuran-2,3-diones

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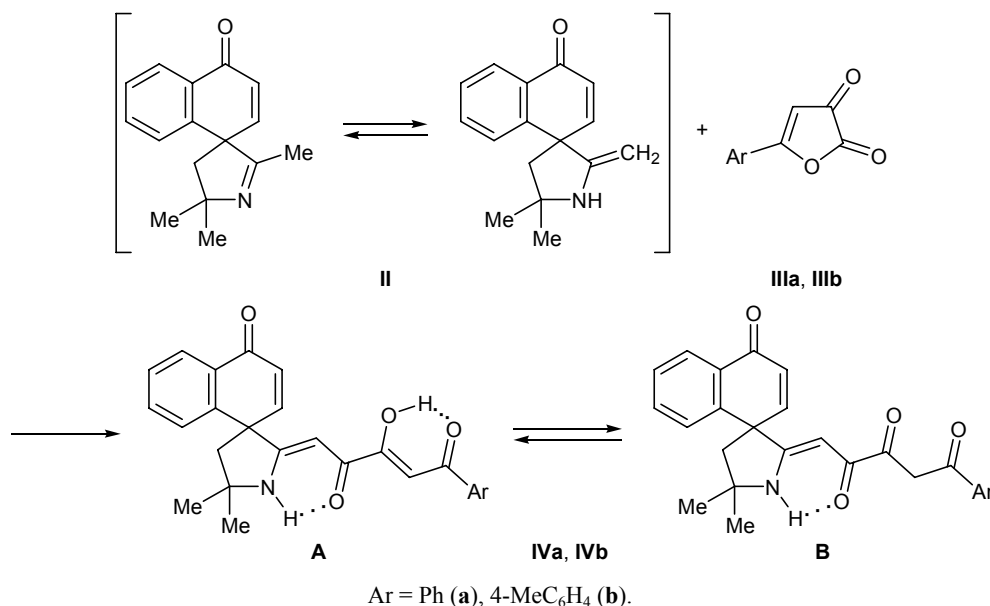
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We previously showed that cyclic Schiff bases, e.g., 3,3-dialkyl-1-methyl-3,4-dihydroisoquinolines (**I**), readily react with unsaturated electrophiles such as isocyanates [1], hexafluoroisopropylidenemalononitrile [2], 3-nitro-2-trifluoromethylchromene [3], and 5-arylfuran-2,3-diones [4]. Although enamino tautomer of compounds **I** was not detected by modern instrumental methods, the above reactions unambiguously indicated formation of that tautomer as reactive species at least in solution. Spirocyclic 2-methyl-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-pyrroles, in particular 2',5',5'-trimethyl-4',5'-dihydro-4*H*-spiro[naphthalene-1,3'-pyrrol]-4-one (**II**), also exist in the imino form [5]; enamino tautomer is possible for derivatives containing an electron-acceptor substituent on the β-carbon atom in the enamine fragment. Taking

into account structural similarity of compounds **I** and **II**, we presumed that the latter are also capable of reacting with 5-arylfuran-2,3-diones, though in this case steric hindrances should be more considerable than for isoquinoline derivatives **I**.

In fact, 2',5',5'-trimethyl-4',5'-dihydro-4*H*-spiro[naphthalene-1,3'-pyrrol]-4-one (**II**) reacted with an equimolar amount of 5-arylfuran-2,3-dione **IIIa** or **IIIb** on heating in anhydrous benzene over a period of 3–4 h (TLC monitoring) to give the corresponding (2*Z*,5*Z*)-1-aryl-3-hydroxy-5-(5',5'-dimethyl-4-oxo-2'*H*,4*H*-spiro[naphthalene-1,3'-pyrrolidin]-2'-ylidene)-pent-2-ene-1,4-diones **IVa** and **IVb**. The spectral parameters of compounds **IVa** and **IVb** indicated that they exist in DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub> as mixtures of keto enol and



diketone tautomers **A** and **B** at a ratio of ~5:1. Presumably, the described reaction involves acylation of the =CH<sub>2</sub> carbon atom in the enamino tautomer of **II** by the C<sup>2</sup>=O carbonyl group in furandione **III**, followed by opening of the furan ring at the O<sup>1</sup>–C<sup>2</sup> bond, as in the reaction of 5-arylfuran-2,3-diones with 1-methyl-3,4-dihydroisoquinolines [4].

Thus we can state that spirocyclic dihydropyrrole derivatives like **II** also give rise to imine–enamine tautomerism and that considerable steric hindrances created by geminal methyl groups on C<sup>5</sup> and spiro-fused naphthalene fragment on C<sup>3</sup> do not hamper reaction of **II** with 5-arylfuran-2,3-diones.

**(2Z,5Z)-3-Hydroxy-5-(5',5'-dimethyl-4-oxo-2'H,4H-spiro[naphthalene-1,3'-pyrrolidin]-2'-ylidene)-1-phenylpent-2-ene-1,4-dione (IVa)**. A solution of 1.0 mmol of 5-phenylfuran-2,3-dione (**IIIa**) and 1.0 mmol of compound **II** in 20 ml of anhydrous benzene was heated for 4 h under reflux. The mixture was cooled, and the precipitate was filtered off. Yield 82%, mp 194–195°C (decomp., from ethanol). IR spectrum,  $\nu$ , cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3150 br (OH, NH), 1660 (C<sup>4</sup>=O), 1595 br (C=O). <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum,  $\delta$ , ppm: **A**: 1.59 s and 1.65 s (3H each, Me), 2.46 m (2H, 4'-H, AB system), 5.08 s (1H, 5''-H), 6.45 d (1H, 3-H), 6.92 s (1H, 2''-H), 7.26 d (1H, 2-H), 7.41–8.06 m (9H, H<sub>arom</sub>), 10.77 s (1H, NH), 16.04 br.s (1H, OH); **B**: 1.53 s and 1.60 s (3H each, Me), 2.41 m (2H, 4'-H, AB system), 4.31 s (2H, 2''-H), 4.85 s (1H, 5''-H), 6.43 d (1H, 3-H), 7.22 d (1H, 2-H), 7.37–8.05 m (9H, H<sub>arom</sub>), 10.57 s (1H, NH). Found, %: C 75.46; H 5.63; N 3.24. C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>23</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>. Calculated, %: C 75.53; H 5.61; N 3.39.

**(2Z,5Z)-3-Hydroxy-5-(5',5'-dimethyl-4-oxo-2'H,4H-spiro[naphthalene-1,3'-pyrrolidin]-2'-ylidene)-1-(4-methylphenyl)pent-2-ene-1,4-dione (IVb)** was synthesized in a similar way. Yield 79%, mp 183–185°C (decomp., from ethanol). IR spectrum,  $\nu$ , cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3180 br (OH, NH), 1660 (C<sup>4</sup>=O), 1598 br (C=O). <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum,  $\delta$ , ppm: **A**: 1.59 s and 1.64 s (3H each, Me), 2.41 s (3H, MeC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 2.45 m (2H, 4'-H, AB system), 5.06 s (1H, 5''-H), 6.44 d (1H,

3-H), 6.90 s (1H, 2''-H), 7.25 d (1H, 2-H), 7.49–8.04 m (8H, H<sub>arom</sub>), 10.82 s (1H, NH), 16.10 br.s (1H, OH); **B**: 1.53 s and 1.58 s (3H each, Me), 2.39 s (3H, MeC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 2.41 m (2H, 4'-H, AB system), 4.33 s (2H, 2''-H), 4.84 s (1H, 5''-H), 6.40 d (1H, 3-H), 7.21 d (1H, 2-H), 7.43–8.00 m (8H, H<sub>arom</sub>), 10.52 s (1H, NH). Found, %: C 75.69; H 5.95; N 3.17. C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>25</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>. Calculated, %: C 75.86; H 5.89; N 3.28.

The IR spectra were recorded on a UR-20 spectrometer from samples dispersed in mineral oil. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were measured on a Varian Mercury Plus 300 spectrometer (300 MHz) from solutions in DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub> using tetramethylsilane as internal reference. The purity of the isolated compounds was checked by TLC on Silufol plates using ethyl acetate as eluent; spots were developed by treatment with a 0.5% solution of tetrachloro-1,4-benzophenone in toluene.

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