

Aromatization of 3,4-dihydro-1-phenanthrylate with NBS is preferable to the classical high-temp reaction with S. The yields for the latter procedure were about 10% higher, but the product from the NBS reaction was easier to purify. While phenanthrenes⁵ as well as a variety of other compds⁶ have been prepared by this aromatization reaction, few examples in which the aromatized ring contains a deactivating group such as carbomethoxy are recorded.⁷ The reaction proceeds satisfactorily with NBS in refluxing CH₂Cl₂, CHCl₃, or CCl₄, or with *N*-chlorosuccinimide in CCl₄. In the former case, an induction period was noted, the duration of which was inversely proportional to the temp of the refluxing mixture.

Experimental Section⁸

β -(4-Chlorobenzoyl)propionic acid was prepared by the procedure described by Rioult and Vialle;⁹ mp 125–127°, lit.¹⁰ mp 131° (84%).

β -(3,4-Dichlorobenzoyl)propionic Acid.—Succinic anhydride was allowed to react with *o*-Cl₂C₆H₄ in the presence of AlCl₃ according to the usual procedure.¹¹ As an alternative to steam distillation, however, the reaction mixture was poured over ice, and the organic layer was sepd. The crude acid was pptd by the addition of an equal vol of CH₂Cl₂, collected, and triturated with C₆H₆ to give crude product, mp 150–155° (87%). Recrystn from petr ether gave mp 161–163°, lit.¹² mp 166–166.7°.

γ -(4-Chlorophenyl)- and γ -(3,4-dichlorophenyl)butyric acids were prepared in 75–95% yield from the corresponding β -benzoyl-propionic acids by the Huang-Minlon modification of the Wolff-Kishner reduction as described by Wilds and Werth,¹³ except that ethylene glycol was substituted for diethylene glycol. Crude γ -(3,4-dichlorophenyl)butyric acid was recrystd from *n*-C₇H₁₆, mp 64–68°, and then sublimed at 75° (0.1 mm) to give mp 66–68°. Anal. (C₁₀H₁₀Cl₂O₂) C, H.

7-Chloro- and 6,7-Dichloro-3,4-dihydro-1(2*H*)-naphthalenone.—The cyclization of the γ -phenylbutyric acids by the procedure of Newman and Seshadri¹⁴ was carried out by heating with polyphosphoric acid at 70–85° to give 72% of 7-chloro-3,4-dihydro-1(2*H*)-naphthalenone, mp 89–91°, lit.¹⁵ mp 94°. 6,7-Dichloro-

3,4-dihydro-1(2*H*)-naphthalenone was extd with CH₂Cl₂ and distd, bp 155–160° (0.25 mm), to give 91%, mp 102–104°. Anal. (C₁₀H₈Cl₂O) C, H.

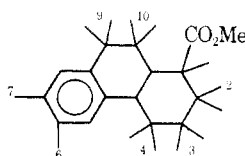
Ethyl 4-(7-Chloro-3,4-dihydro-1-naphthyl)butyrate.¹⁶—The structure of these compounds is based only on precedent; we have not attempted to establish whether the double bond is exocyclic or endocyclic. The exptl procedure is given in some detail since reaction conditions have been shown¹⁷ to be a structural determinant in some cases. A mixture of 154 g (2.4 moles) of activated granular Zn, 0.5 g of HgCl₂, and 3 l. of Et₂O was refluxed for 5 min, and 396 g (2.2 moles) of 7-chloro-3,4-dihydro-1(2*H*)-naphthalenone was added. After an additional 5 min of reflux, 502 g (2.1 moles) of ethyl γ -bromocrotonate was added dropwise over 5 hr. The mixture was stirred under reflux for 18 hr and about 1.5 l. of cold dil (ca. 6*N*) HCl was added. The Et₂O layer was sepd, dried, and concd. The residue dissolved in 300 ml of C₆H₆ was added to a large excess (ca. 250 g) of Raney Ni and reduced in a Paar low-pressure hydrogenator. The catalyst was removed and the product dehydrated using a Dean-Stark separator. The soln was concd and the residue was distd to give 478 g (78%), bp 157–165° (0.7 mm). Anal. (C₁₆H₁₉ClO₂) C, H.

Ethyl 4-(6,7-dichloro-3,4-dihydro-1-naphthyl)butyrate¹⁶ was prepd by the Reformatsky procedure outlined above in a yield of 77%, bp 155–160° (0.2 mm). Anal. (C₁₆H₁₈Cl₂O₂) C, H. In this case, the dehydration step required the presence of catalytic amounts of *p*-TosOH.

Halogenated 4-Naphthylbutyric Acids and Esters (Table I).

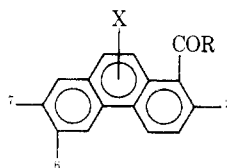
TABLE I
HALOGENATED NAPHTHYLBUTYRIC ACIDS AND ESTERS

6	7	R	Method	Mp, °C	Formula ^a
H	Cl	Me	A	45-47	C ₁₅ H ₁₃ ClO ₂
H	Cl	Et	B	^b	C ₁₆ H ₁₇ ClO ₂
Cl	Cl	Et	B	38-39 ^c	C ₁₆ H ₁₆ Cl ₂ O ₂
H	Cl	H	C	165-168	C ₁₄ H ₁₈ ClO ₂
Cl	Cl	H	C	123-127	C ₁₄ H ₁₂ Cl ₂ O ₂

TABLE II
METHYL HALODIHYDRO-1-PHENANTHRYLATES

1	2	3	4	6	7	9	10	Method	Mp, °C	% yield	Formula ^a
	Br	H ₂	H ₂	H	H	H	H	A ^b	100-102	27	C ₁₆ H ₁₃ BrO ₂
	H	H ₂	H ₂	Cl	H	H	H	B	81.5-82.5 ^c	50	C ₁₆ H ₁₃ ClO ₂
	H	H ₂	H ₂	Cl	Cl	H	H	B	137-138	60	C ₁₆ H ₁₂ Cl ₂ O ₂
Br	H, Br	H ₂	H ₂	H	H	H	H	C	130-134 ^d	86	C ₁₆ H ₁₄ Br ₂ O ₂
	H	H	H	Cl	H	H, Cl	H, Cl	D	170 ^d	83	C ₁₆ H ₁₁ Cl ₃ O ₂
	H	H	H	Cl	Cl	H, Cl	H, Cl	D	165-193 ^d	65	C ₁₆ H ₁₀ Cl ₄ O ₂

^a Correct C and H analyses were obtained for all compounds. ^b Thermolysis $\approx 150^\circ$. ^c Bp 170-175° (5 mm). ^d Decom at mp.

TABLE III
HALOGENATED 1-PHENANTHROIC ACIDS AND ESTERS

R	2	6	7	X	Method	Recrystn solvent	Mp, °C	% yield	Formula ^a
OMe	Br	H	H	H	A	EtOH	123-125	73	C ₁₆ H ₁₁ BrO ₂ ^b
OMe	H	H	H	10-Br	B	EtOH-C ₆ H ₆	142.5-143.5		C ₁₆ H ₁₁ BrO ₂ ^b
OMe	H	Cl	H	H	C		115-118	85	C ₁₆ H ₁₁ ClO ₂
OMe	H	Cl	Cl	H	C	EtOH	196-201	70	C ₁₆ H ₁₀ Cl ₂ O ₂ ^b
OMe	H	Cl	H	9-Cl	B	EtOH	180-182	76	C ₁₆ H ₁₀ Cl ₂ O ₂ ^b
OMe	H	Cl	Cl	9-Cl	B	THF ^d	195-196	85	C ₁₆ H ₉ Cl ₃ O ₂ ^b
OH	Br	H	H	H	D	MeCN	220-222	84	C ₁₅ H ₉ BrO ₂ ^e
OH	H	H	H	10-Br	D	THF ^d	319-323	100	C ₁₅ H ₉ BrO ₂
OH	H	Cl	H	H	D	^f	285-287	82	C ₁₅ H ₉ ClO ₂ ^g
OH	H	Cl	Cl	H	D	THF ^d	314-317	81	C ₁₅ H ₈ Cl ₂ O ₂
OH	H	Cl	H	9-Cl	D	^f	251-253	82	C ₁₅ H ₈ Cl ₂ O ₂
OH	H	Cl	Cl	9-Cl	D	EtOH	319-320.5		C ₁₅ H ₇ Cl ₃ O ₂

^a Correct C and H analyses were obtained for the formulas shown unless otherwise indicated. ^b Structure verified by nmr. ^c Purified by distn, bp 175-180° (0.25 mm). ^d A second crop was obtained by addn of EtOH to the filtrate. ^e Calcd: C, 59.82; H, 3.01. Found: C, 60.12; H, 3.48. ^f Sufficiently pure product pptd on addn of the reaction soln to cold dil HCl. ^g Calcd: C, 70.18; H, 3.54. Found: C, 69.25; H, 3.65.

yields of the methyl halo-3,4-dihydro-1-phenanthrylates, which were purified finally by recrystn from EtOH.

Method C.—Br₂ (32 g, 0.20 mole) was added to a refluxing soln of 48 g (0.20 mole) of methyl 3,4-dihydro-1-phenanthrylate^{4,19} in 400 ml of Et₂O and 400 ml of CH₂Cl₂. The mixture was stirred under reflux for 1 hr and cooled. The ppt was collected and washed with EtOH.

Method D.—The ester, suspended in CH₂Cl₂, was treated with Cl₂ at room temp until a soln formed. The product pptd upon cooling in an ice bath.

Halogenated 1-Phenanthroic Acids and Esters (Table III).

Method A.—An equimolar mixture of methyl halo-3,4-dihydro-1-phenanthrylate and NBS in CCl₄ was stirred under reflux for 1.5 hr. The mixture was cooled to room temp, filtered, and concd under reduced pressure. The residue recrystd from the solvents indicated.

Method B.—The substituted methyl 9,10-dihalo-9,10-dihydro-1-phenanthrylate was heated neat at 200-220° until no further acidic fumes were evolved (ca. 1.5 hr). The residue was then purified as indicated.

Method C.—Equimolar amounts of methyl halo-3,4-dihydro-1-phenanthrylate and S were heated at 200-250° until evoln of H₂S was complete. A small amount of powdered Zn was added to the hot mixture and the resulting material was purified as indicated.

Method D.—The substituted methyl 1-phenanthrylate was refluxed in aq alcoholic 5-10% KOH until hydrolysis was complete (4-10 hr) and acidified with aq HCl. The solid product was collected and purified as indicated.

TABLE IV
HALOGENATED 1-PHENANTHROYL CHLORIDES
(R = Cl)

2	6	7	Mp, °C	% yield	Formula	Anal.
H	Cl	Cl	191-193 ^a	100	C ₁₅ H ₇ Cl ₃ O	C, H
Br	H	H	134-137		C ₁₅ H ₈ BrClO	C, H

^a Triturated with cyclohexane.

Halogenated 1-Phenanthroic Acids (Table IV).—The halogenated 1-phenanthroic acid (ca. 0.02 mole) was heated under reflux with ca. 150 ml of SOCl₂ for 2-8 hr and the excess SOCl₂ was removed under reduced pressure. About 200 ml of C₆H₆ was added and removed under reduced pressure to give the crude halogenated 1-phenanthroic acid, which, in most cases, was used immediately for the prepn of the diethyl malonate derivative.

Halogenated Diethyl 1-Phenanthroilmalonates (Table V).—These compounds were prepd by reaction of the acid chloride with diethylethoxymagnesium malonate in THF according to the method of Walker and Hauser.²¹ Considerable difficulty was encountered in the prepn of analytically pure samples of these materials, presumably because of the presence of small amounts of ester or unconverted acid in the crude acid chlorides employed.

TABLE V
HALOGENATED DIETHYL 1-PHENANTHROYLMALONATES
R = CH(CO₂Et)₂

2	6	7	X	Recrystn from	Mp, °C	% yield	Formula	Anal.
Br	H	H	H	EtOH	130–131.5	91	C ₂₂ H ₁₉ BrO ₅	H; C ^a
H	H	H	10-Br	EtOH	93–95	73	C ₂₂ H ₁₉ BrO ₅	H; C ^b
H	Cl	H	H	EtOH	93–96	50	C ₂₂ H ₁₉ ClO ₅	H; C ^c
H	Cl	Cl	H	CH ₃ CN	124–128	70	C ₂₂ H ₁₈ Cl ₂ O ₅	C, H
H	Cl	H	9-Cl	<i>d</i>	110–115		C ₂₂ H ₁₈ Cl ₂ O ₅	
H	Cl	Cl	9-Cl	EtOH	135–136.5	82	C ₂₂ H ₁₇ Cl ₃ O ₅	C, H

^a C: Calcd, 59.60. Found, 59.06. ^b C: Calcd, 59.60. Found, 59.17. ^c C: Calcd, 66.26. Found, 65.83. ^d The crude product was converted immediately into the corresponding Ac derivative.

TABLE VI
HALOGENATED 1-ACETYLPHENANTHRENE
R = CH₃

2	6	7	X	Recrystn from	Mp, °C	% yield	Formula	Anal.
Br	H	H	H	EtOH	116–118	81	C ₁₆ H ₁₁ BrO	C, H
H	H	H	10-Br	C ₆ H ₆	123–125	78	C ₁₆ H ₁₁ BrO	C, H
H	Cl	H	H	EtOH	129–130	74	C ₁₆ H ₁₁ ClO	C, H
H	Cl	Cl	H	<i>a</i>	186–187.5	92	C ₁₆ H ₁₀ Cl ₂ O	C, H
H	Cl	H	9-Cl	EtOH	147–151	60	C ₁₆ H ₁₀ Cl ₂ O	<i>b</i>
H	Cl	Cl	9-Cl	C ₆ H ₆	228–229	83	C ₁₆ H ₉ Cl ₃ O	C, H

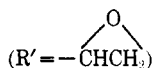
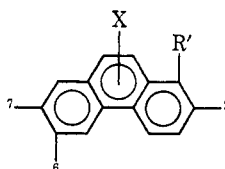
^a Triturated with *i*-PrOH and sublimed at 160–170° (0.1 mm). ^b Calcd (C₁₆H₁₀Cl₂O · 0.5H₂O): C, 64.46; H, 3.72. Found: C, 64.19; H, 3.29.

TABLE VII
HALOGENATED 1-BROMOACETYLPHENANTHRENES
R = CH₂Br

2	6	7	X	Method	Recrystn from	Mp, °C	% yield	Formula ^a
Br	H	H	H	A	EtOH	120–124	75	C ₁₆ H ₁₀ Br ₂ O
H	H	H	10-Br	B	EtOH	161–163	74	C ₁₆ H ₁₀ Br ₂ O
H	Cl	H	H	A	<i>b</i>	138–140	26	C ₁₆ H ₁₀ BrClO
H	Cl	Cl	H	B	C ₆ H ₆	178–180	75	C ₁₆ H ₉ BrCl ₂ O
H	Cl	H	9-Cl	A	<i>b</i>	210–213	75	C ₁₆ H ₉ BrCl ₂ O
H	Cl	Cl	9-Cl	A	EtOH	228–230	85	C ₁₆ H ₈ BrCl ₃ O

^a All analyzed correctly for C and H. ^b Sufficiently pure product pptd from chilled reaction soln.

TABLE VIII
1-PHENANTHRYLETHYLENE OXIDES



2	6	7	X	Reaction solvent	Recrystn from	Mp, °C	% yield	Formula ^a
Br	H	H	H	Diglyme	EtOH	125–128	63	C ₁₆ H ₁₁ BrO
H	H	H	10-Br	Diglyme	EtOH	168–169.5	97	C ₁₆ H ₁₁ BrO
H	Cl	H	H	MeOH	<i>b</i>	119–121	96	C ₁₆ H ₁₁ ClO
H	Cl	Cl	H	MeOH		160–163	71	C ₁₆ H ₁₀ Cl ₂ O
H	Cl	H	9-Cl	Diglyme	EtOH	138–141	89	C ₁₆ H ₁₀ Cl ₂ O ^c
H	Cl	Cl	9-Cl	Diglyme		202–206	83	C ₁₆ H ₉ Cl ₃ O

^a Correct C and H analysis were obtd unless otherwise noted. ^b Sufficiently pure product pptd from the reaction mixture. ^c Calcd (C₁₆H₁₀Cl₂O · 0.5H₂O): C, 64.46; H, 3.72. Found: C, 64.36; H, 3.35.

Halogenated 1-Acetylphenanthrenes (Table VI).—These compounds were prepared by hydrolysis and decarboxylation of the corresponding 1-phenanthroylmalonates as described previously.²¹

Halogenated 1-Bromoacetylphenanthrenes (Table VII).
Method A.—This procedure utilized the AlCl₃-catalyzed reaction of Br₂ in CHCl₃ with the substituted 1-acetylphenanthrene in Et₂O-CH₂Cl₂.^{3,22}

Method B.—A soln of 0.04 mole of Br₂ in *ca.* 10 ml of CH₂Cl₂ was added slowly to a suspension of 0.04 mole of halogenated 1-acetylphenanthrene in 150 ml of Et₂O and 65 ml of CH₂Cl₂ at room temp. This mixture was stirred an additional hour and cooled. The resulting product was collected and purified as indicated.

1-Phenanthrylethylene Oxides (Table VIII).—These compounds were prepd as previously described.⁴ In cases in which

TABLE IX
PROPERTIES AND ANTIMALARIAL ACTIVITY OF PHENANTHRENE-1-AMINO ALCOHOLS

									Antimalarial activity ^d						
									IMST ^e at indicated dosage (mg/kg)					Cures	
2	6	7	9	10	R ^a	Mp, °C	% yield ^b	Formula ^c	40	80	160	320	640	320	640
Br	H	H	H	H	C ₇	155-157	86	C ₃₀ H ₄₃ BrClNO	1.4	4.0	5.8	12.2	14.2	Active	Active
H	H	H	H	Br	C ₇	126-129	66	C ₃₀ H ₄₃ BrClNO	0.3	3.7	4.3	7.9	9.5	Active	Active
H	Cl	H	H	H	C ₇	109-112	28	C ₃₀ H ₄₃ Cl ₂ NO	0.6	2.4	4.2	5.2			
H	Cl	Cl	H	H	C ₄	74-75 ^f	52	C ₂₄ H ₂₉ Cl ₂ NO	3.0	6.6	10.4	15.1	14.8	1	3
H	Cl	Cl	H	H	C ₇	150-155	22	C ₃₀ H ₄₂ Cl ₃ NO	0.2	0.4	4.2	4.8			
H	Cl	H	Cl	H	C ₇	197-198.5	22	C ₃₀ H ₄₂ Cl ₃ NO	1.0	6.6	7.8	15.3		3	5
H	Cl	Cl	Cl	H	C ₇	193-196	38	C ₃₀ H ₄₁ Cl ₄ NO	0.3	3.3	5.9	7.1	10.4	Active	1

^a All *n*-alkyl groups. ^b From the epoxide. ^c Correct analyses for C, H, and N were obtained for all compds. ^d For details of test procedure, see T. S. Osdene, P. B. Russell, and L. Rane, *J. Med. Chem.*, **10**, 431 (1967). Test data supplied by Walter Reed Army Institute of Research. ^e Increase in mean survival time. Mean survival time for mice infected with *P. berghei*, 6.5 ± 0.5 days. ^f Isolated and submitted as the free base.

Diglyme was used as solvent, the reduction and treatment with NaOH were carried out at a slightly above room temp, and the reaction mixture was worked up by addn to ice-water. The pptd product was collected by filtration.

Phenanthrene-1-amino Alcohols (Table IX).—All of the phenanthrene amino alcohols were prepd by reaction of the corresponding epoxide with an excess of the appropriate amine.²³ In accordance with earlier recommendations,⁴ the reaction was carried out at 125° for 16 hr. Under these conditions, ir, nmr, and mass spectra of the products were as expected for the structure indicated, with no evidence for the presence of the isomer resulting from attack by the secondary amine at the secondary

epoxide carbon, *i.e.*, the undesired ArCH(CH₂OH)NR₂. The reaction products were purified by removal of excess amine by vacuum and/or steam distillation and usually were isolated as the hydrochlorides from Et₂O, followed by recrystn from C₆H₆ and/or cyclohexane.

The antimalarial activity of the halogen-substituted phenanthrene-1-amino alcohols was comparable with the activity of related compds that we described earlier.⁴ Some showed moderate curative activity against *P. berghei* in mice. None of the intermediates had any antimalarial activity, and no toxic deaths resulted from treatment with either target or intermediate compds.

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Chemotherapeutic Nitroheterocycles. 6.¹ Substituted 5-Aminomethyl-3-(5-nitro-2-imidazolylmethyleneamino)-2-oxazolidinones²

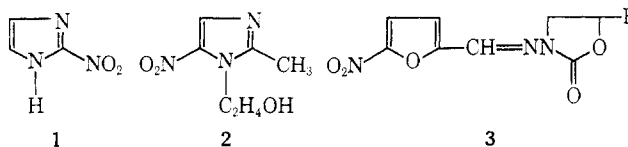
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A series of nitroimidazole derivatives was synthesized by condensation of 1-substituted 5-nitroimidazole-2-carboxaldehydes with 3-amino-5-methyl-2-oxazolidinones substituted at the 5-methyl group by secondary amines. The compounds displayed high activity against *Trichomonas vaginalis* *in vitro* and most of them *in vivo*.

The antibiotic azomycin³ (**1**) was the first nitroimidazole which was reported to be active against *Trichomonas vaginalis*. Later 5-nitroimidazoles were shown to have better therapeutic qualities and of this series metronidazole⁴ (**2**) became the drug of choice against trichomoniasis. In contrast to the 5-nitroimidazoles biologically active nitrofurans such as furazolidone⁵ (**3**, R =



H) and furaltadone⁶ (**3**, R = morpholinomethyl) are in general derived from a carboxaldehyde or carboxyl group in position 2 of this heterocycle.

In some patents^{7,8} corresponding 5-nitroimidazoles

(*) To whom inquiries should be addressed.

(1) Part V: R. Albrecht, H.-J. Kessler, and E. Schröder, *Chim. Ther.*, in press.

(2) A preliminary report of part of this work has been presented at the Vth International Congress of Chemotherapy, Tokyo, August 1969.

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(8) Merck and Co., Inc., Belgium Application 661,262 (1965); *Chem. Abstr.*, **64**, 2093 (1966).