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It was shown previously that α -arylideneisochromenes (I) are converted in acid nucleophilic media into α -naphthols (II) [1].

It has been discovered that such conversions are intramolecularly feasible on heating melts of compound (Ia-c) at 220-250°C in a stream of argon for 40-60 min.

All the physicochemical characteristics of naphthols (IIa-c) were in accordance with those described in [1]. Their yields were reduced depending on the increase in size of substituents R and R'. Compounds, yield, Treac, and reaction time were (IIa), 95%, 220°C, 40 min; (IIb), 75%, 220°C, 40 min; (IIc), 25%, 250°C, 60 min.

I, II a, b R = CH_3 , c R = C_6H_5 ; a, c R¹ = H, b R¹ = 3,4-(OCH₃)₂

On thermolysis it is probable that fission of the $O-C_{(3)}$ bond in molecule (I), rotation about the $C_{(1)}$ -nucleus bond, and formation of a new bond between $C_{(3)}$ and the β -carbon atom of the enol fragment occurs, i.e., similar to the scheme for the thermal isomerization of anhydro-bases of the pyridine series considered on the basis of the calculated data of [2].

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