

A Simple Method for *N*-Amination of Peptide Derivatives

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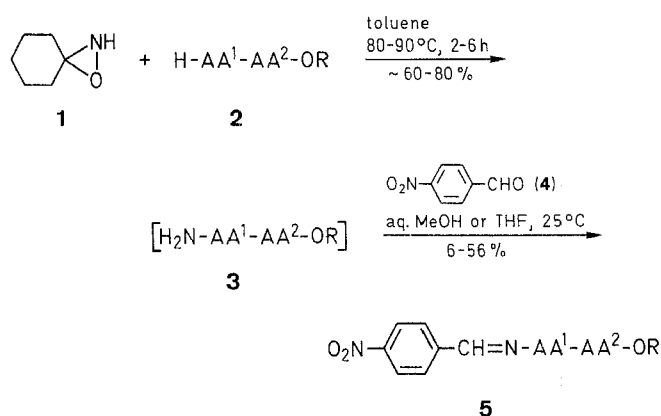
A smooth and mild procedure is reported for the *N*-amination of α -amino acid and peptide derivatives with cyclohexanespiro-3'-oxaziridine; the chiral integrity is preserved throughout.

Since 1960 great interest has been focussed on the synthesis¹⁻⁶ of α -hydrazino carboxylic acids due to their diverse biological activity.⁵⁻⁷ Related compounds serve as chiral auxiliaries in asymmetric syntheses.^{8,9} Nevertheless, no simple and mild method for *N*-amination of amino acid and peptide derivatives has been published up to now. Difficulties have been encountered² in such an attempt with hydroxylamine-*O*-sulfonic acid. The amination by chloramine of a deprotonated *N*-acyl aminonitrile was reported,² but this method required extremely strong base (NaH/DMSO).² A third procedure,^{2,3,6,9} preparation of an urea from the appropriate amino acid (derivative)

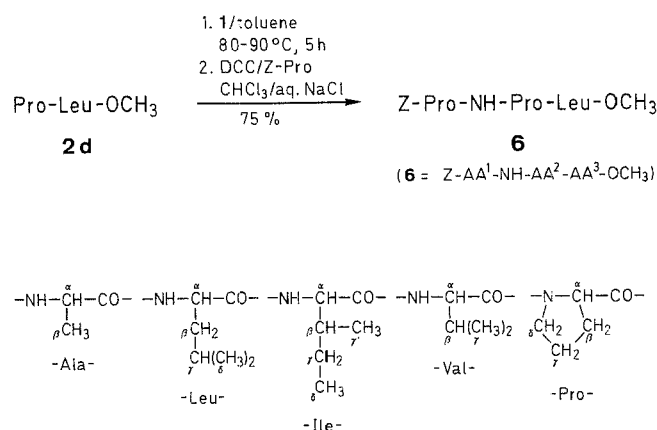
followed by treatment with alkaline hypochlorite solution to bring about N—N bond formation, has recently been significantly improved.^{6,9} However, this process^{6,9} is unsuitable for substrates sensitive to the harsh reaction conditions of the Hofmann (Shestakov) rearrangement.⁶ The reported⁴ multi-step approach is disfavored, because of the mutagenic nature of the *N*-nitroso intermediates.⁹ Asymmetric syntheses⁵ seem to be attractive mainly for producing hydrazino acids corresponding to unnatural α -amino acids.

Now we wish to report here, that our method for the synthesis of α -hydrazino carboxylic acid derivatives by *N*-amination with oxaziridines¹⁰⁻¹² also proved to be useful for the amination of the free *N*-terminus of peptides. The readily available cyclohexanespiro-3'-oxaziridine **1**¹² was applied as aminating

agent in the process. The starting materials,^{13,14} amino acid and dipeptide esters **2**,^{15,16} were treated with a toluene¹⁷ solution of reagent **1** in slight excess, usually at 80–90°C for several hours. Hydrazino compound **3** was extracted with cold diluted aqueous acid, and conveniently derivatized for characterization by admixing the buffered aqueous solution with 4-nitrobenzaldehyde (**4**) dissolved in methanol or tetrahydrofuran. The yellow hydrazones **5** were obtained in 6–56% yield¹⁵ by flash chromatography¹⁸ and/or crystallization. Physical and spectral data are collected in Tables 1 and 2.¹⁹ Racemization was not observed. Thus, **5c** could not be detected by TLC in crude **5b** prepared from **2b**,²⁰ although a mixture of the corresponding diastereoisomers **5b** and **5c**, synthesized starting from Boc-(*R,S*)-Ala-(*S*)-Pro-OBzl was clearly separated by chromatography.^{21,22}



The moderate yield of the hydrazones **5a–g** are partly the consequence of incomplete condensation reaction of hydrazines **3** with the aldehyde **4**. The amination step itself often proceeds with high yield.²³ This statement, as well as the preparative value of this method, is demonstrated by a straightforward synthesis of tripeptide **6**, in which *N*-aminated proline is incorporated. In this reaction sequence the amination of dipeptide ester **2d** was followed by the DCC-mediated acylation of hydrazino compound **3d** with *Z*-proline to afford hydrazide **6** in fair yield.



Products of this type may serve as versatile building blocks for larger peptides containing hydrazino acid residues. The scope of the recorded procedure is under investigations.²⁴

Table 1. Hydrazones 5 Prepared

Prod- uct	Amino Acid, Peptide, Moieties	Method	Reaction Time (h)	Yield ^a (%)	mp (°C) (solvent)	Molecular Formula ^b	[α] _D ²⁵ (CHCl ₃)	IR (neat) ν (cm ⁻¹)	¹ H-NMR (CDCl ₃ /TMS) ^c δ, J (Hz)	MS (70 eV) m/z (%)
5a	Ala-Pro-OBu- <i>t</i>	B	4	39	oil	C ₁₉ H ₂₆ N ₄ O ₅ (390.4)	–52° (c = 2)	3240, 1735, 1642, 1596, 1512, 1338, 850	1.43 (d, 3H, J = 7, CHCH ₃); 1.45 (s, 9H, <i>t</i> -C ₄ H ₉); 1.9–2.2 (m, 4H, β ² -CH ₂ , γ ² -CH ₂); 3.63, 3.74 (m, 2H, δ ² -CH ₂); 4.40 (dd, 1H, J = 8.4, α ² -CH); 4.41 (m, 1H, J = 3 × 7, 9, α ¹ -CH); 6.48 (d, 1H, J = 9, NH); 7.65 (d, 2H, J = 9, H-2, H-6); 7.68 (s, 1H, CH =N); 8.18 (d, 2H, J = 9, H-3, H-5)	390 (M ⁺ , 4); 334 (6); 289 (2); 192 (100); 174 (4)
5b	Ala-Pro-OBzl	C ^d	3	23 ^e	oil	C ₂₂ H ₂₄ N ₄ O ₅ (424.5)	–95° (c = 1)	3230, 1742, 1642, 1596, 1515, 1339, 850, 750, 695	1.38 (d, 3H, J = 7, CHCH ₃); 1.95–2.3 (m, 4H, β ² - CH ₂ + γ ² -CH ₂); 3.67, 3.76 (m, 2H, δ ² -CH ₂); 4.44 (m, 1H, J = 3 × 7, 6, α ¹ -CH); 4.60 (dd, 1H, J = 8, 3.5, α ² -CH); 5.10, 5.22 (2d, 2H, J _{gem} = 12.5, CO ₂ CH ₂); 6.39 (d, 1H, J = 6, NH); 7.35 (m, 5H _{arom}); 7.62 (d, 2H, J = 9, H-2, H-6); 7.69 (s, 1H, CH=N); 8.15 (d, 2H, J = 9, H-3, H-5)	424 (M ⁺ , 6); 394 (<1); 316 (2); 204 (3); 192 (100); 168 (11); 149 (2); 108 (11); 107 (9); 91 (34); 70 (53)
5c	(<i>R</i>)-Ala-(<i>S</i>)- Pro-OBzl	C ^d	3	6 ^f	oil	C ₂₂ H ₂₄ N ₄ O ₅ (424.5)	+27° (c = 2)	3230, 1747, 1647, 1599, 1518, 1342, 850, 752, 698	1.41 (d, 3H, J = 7, CHCH ₃); 1.9–2.3 (m, 4H, β ² - CH + γ ² -CH ₂); 3.60, 3.93 (m, 2H, δ ² -CH ₂); 4.46 (q, 1H, J = 7, α ¹ -CH); 4.56 (dd, 1H, J = 8.5, 3.5, α ² - CH); 5.07 (s, 2H, CO ₂ CH ₂); 6.40 (d, 1H, J = 7, NH); 7.35 (m, 5H _{arom}); 7.60 (d, 2H, J = 9, H-2, H- 6); 7.63 (s, 1H, CH=N); 8.12 (d, 2H, J = 9, H-3, H-5)	424 (M ⁺ , 6); 394 (<1); 316 (1); 204 (2); 192 (100); 168 (7); 149 (2); 108 (8); 107 (6); 91 (30); 70 (43)

5d	Pro-Leu-OCH ₃	A	5	56	oil	C ₁₉ H ₂₆ N ₄ O ₅ (390.4)	-335° (c = 2)	3380, 3310, 1747, 1670 (br), 1597, 1553, 1512, 1338, 846	0.90 (d, 6H, J = 6, (CH ₃) ₂); 1.4-2.4 (m, 7H, β ¹ -CH ₂ , β ² -CH ₂ , γ ¹ -CH ₂); 3.2-3.6 (m, 2H, δ ¹ -CH ₂); 3.69 (s, 3H, OCH ₃); 4.14 (t, 1H, J = 7, α ¹ -CH); 4.5-4.8 (m, 1H, α ² -CH); 6.83 (br, 1H, NH); 7.27 (s, 1H, CH=N); 7.68 (d, 2H, J = 9, H-2, H-6); 8.17 (d, 2H, J = 9, H-3, H-5)	390 (M ⁺ , 2); 360 (1); 331 (1); 241 (4); 218 (100); 172 (5)
5e	Pro-Ile-OCH ₃	A	2	50	87-89 (ether/ hexane)	C ₁₉ H ₂₆ N ₄ O ₅ (390.4)	-290° (c = 2)	3305, 1748, 1660, 1595, 1547, 1508, 1334, 850 ^g	0.84 (t, 3H, J = 7, CH ₂ CH ₃); 0.86 (d, 3H, J = 7, CHCH ₃); 1.28 (m, 2H, γ ² -CH ₂); 2.05-2.24 (m, 5H, β ² -CH, β ¹ -CH ₂ , γ ¹ -CH ₂); 3.66 (m, 2H, δ ¹ -CH ₂); 3.68 (s, 3H, OCH ₃); 4.15 (t, 1H, J = 6.5, α ¹ -CH); 4.62 (dd, 1H, J = 8.5, 5, α ² -CH); 6.96 (d, 1H, J = 8.5, NH); 7.27 (s, 1H, CH=N); 7.68 (d, 2H, J = 9, H-2, H-6); 8.16 (d, 2H, J = 9, H-3, H-5)	390 (M ⁺ , 2); 360 (1); 331 (1); 241 (4); 218 (100); 149 (1)
5f	Pro-OBu- <i>l</i>	B	6	48	110-111 (ether/ hexane)	C ₁₆ H ₂₁ N ₃ O ₄ (319.4)	-206° (c = 1)	1730, 1597, 1506, 1330, 850 ^g	1.44 (s, 9H, <i>t</i> -C ₄ H ₉); 2.15 (m, 4H, β-CH ₂ , γ-CH ₂); 3.5 (m, 2H, δ-CH ₂); 4.28 (t, 1H, J = 5.5, α-CH); 7.12 (s, 1H, CH=N); 7.62 (d, 2H, J = 9, H-2 + H-6); 8.14 (d, 2H, J = 9, H-3, H-5)	319 (M ⁺ , 6); 263 (1); 218 (100); 172 (5); 149 (1)
5g	Val-Leu-OCH ₃	A	2	35	oil	C ₁₉ H ₂₈ N ₄ O ₅ (392.5)	-47° (c = 1)	3240, 1747, 1670 (br), 1596, 1550, 1513, 1338, 850	0.80-1.10 [4d, 12H, 2 × CH(CH ₃) ₂]; 1.35-2.45 (m, 4H, β ² -CH ₂ + β ¹ -CH + γ ² -CH); 3.67 (s, 3H, OCH ₃); 4.5-4.8 (m, 2H, α ¹ -CH, α ² -CH); 6.50 (d, 1H, J = 8, NH); 7.2 (br, 1H, NHN); 7.28 (s, 1H, CH=N); 7.66 (d, 2H _{arom} , J = 9, H-2, H-6); 8.18 (d, 2H _{arom} , J = 9, H-3, H-5)	392 (M ⁺ , 4); 349 (4); 220 (100); 151 (7); 149 (5)

^a Isolated yields, not optimized.^b Satisfactory microanalyses obtained: C ± 0.35, H ± 0.29, N ± 0.26.^c Compounds **5a-c** were recorded at 400 MHz and compounds **5d-g** at 100 MHz.^d Reaction carried out in toluene/CHCl₃ (3 : 1) at 60°C.^e Based on the hydrochloride of compound **2b**. Starting material **2b** was liberated *in situ* in CHCl₃ solution that was used in this experiment.^f Based on Boc-(*R,S*)-Ala-(*S*)-Pro-OBzl. Hydrazone **5b** (10%) was also isolated in this reaction, cf. experimental part.^g KBr pellet.**Table 2.** ¹³C-NMR Data of Compounds **5** (CDCl₃/TMS), δ

Com- pound	C _{arom}			AA ¹			AA ²			R-Group				
	C-1	C-2 C-6	C-3 C-5	C-4	CH=N	C _α	C _β	C _γ	C _δ	CO	C _α	C _β	C _γ	CO
5a	142.0	126.2	123.9	147.0	136.7	56.6	17.1	-	-	171.0 ^a	59.7	29.0	24.9	46.7
5b	141.8	126.3	123.9	147.1	136.9	56.3	17.0	-	-	171.8 ^a	58.9	28.9	24.9	46.6
5c	142.1	126.2	123.8	146.9	136.0	56.1	17.2	-	-	171.6 ^a	59.2	29.0	24.8	46.8
5d	142.9	125.8	124.0	146.6	131.7	66.6	28.8	21.9	50.7	173.0 ^a	50.7	41.4	25.1	22.9
5e	142.8	125.8	124.0	146.6	131.6	66.7	28.6	22.9	50.4	172.0 ^a	56.4	37.9	25.2	11.5
5f	143.8	125.2	124.0	145.9	128.4	-	-	-	-	-	65.5	22.5	28.3	48.7
5g	141.9	126.3	123.9	147.1	128.5	69.0	30.2	18.7	-	173.1 ^a	50.6	41.2	24.9	22.8
								19.4						21.5

^a Assignments of CO within a line may be interchanged.^b Assigned to C_γ.

Table 3. ^{13}C -NMR Data of **6** (CDCl_3/TMS), δ^a

Amino Acid Component	Assignments				
	C_α	C_β	C_γ	C_δ	CO
AA ¹ (Pro)	59.8	29.0	22.4	47.3	171.5 ^b
AA ² (Pro)	68.5	24.9	21.7	55.9	173.4 ^b
AA ³ (Leu)	50.9	40.3	25.1	22.9	172.9 ^b

^a Other signals: $\delta = 51.8$ (OCH_3); 67.5 ($\text{CH}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$); 156.5 (CO_2CH_2); 127.9, 128.2, 128.6, 136.3 (C_{arom}).

^b Assignments may be interchanged.

Melting points are uncorrected, $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ values were measured on a POLAMAT A polarimeter. IR spectra were taken on a Nicolet 170SX FTIR spectrophotometer. Mass spectra were measured on an AEI MS902 apparatus (70 eV, direct inlet). ^1H -NMR spectra were recorded on Varian XL 100 (100 MHz) and Varian XL 400 (400 MHz) spectrometers at 60 °C; ^{13}C -NMR (25 MHz) spectra were measured using a Varian XL 100 instrument. Flash chromatography was performed according to the literature¹⁸ on silica gel columns (Merck's Kieselgel 60, No. 9385, 40–63 μm). Analytical TLC plates were purchased from Merck (No. 5554).

N-Amination of Amino Acid and Peptide Derivatives, Typical Procedures:

Method A. Methyl *N*-amino-(*S*)-prolyl-(*S*)-leucinate 4-Nitrophenylhydrazine (5d**):** A 0.1 M toluene solution of cyclohexanespiro-3'-oxaziridine (**1**; 45 mL, 4.5 mmol) is added to methyl (*S*)-prolyl-(*S*)-leucinate (0.73 g, 3.0 mmol) and stirred under an inert atmosphere at 80–90 °C for 5 h. The reaction is monitored with TLC. The consumption of the reagent **1** can be followed by iodometric titration.¹² A 10% aq. H_2SO_4 (7 mL) is added to the ice cooled, stirred mixture. The toluene phase is separated and extracted again with ice-cold 10% H_2SO_4 (3 \times 4 mL). The combined cold water layer is washed with ether (2 \times 5 mL), and cautiously concentrated (foaming!) *in vacuo* using an oil pump (< 20 °C) to remove the remaining cyclohexanone. Crushed ice (20 g) is added and the stirred acidic solution is neutralized by dropwise addition of 10% aq. KHCO_3 (about 40 mL) at 5–10 °C, poured slowly into a stirred solution of 4-nitrobenzaldehyde (**4**; 0.45 g, 3.0 mmol) in MeOH (150 mL) preheated to 45 °C. The mixture is stirred at room temperature for 2 h, and diluted with water (500 mL). The product is extracted with CHCl_3 (1 \times 100 mL, 5 \times 20 mL), the collected organic layer is then washed with brine (15 mL), dried (Na_2SO_4) and stripped off the solvent. Flash chromatography (cyclohexane/EtOAc, 1:1, column dimension: 25 \times 4 cm) affords **5d** as a yellow oil; yield: 0.66 g (56%).

Several related simple peptide derivatives (e.g. **2e**, **g**) have successfully been aminated analogously. Details are given in Tables 1 and 2. In special cases some modifications are advisable to minimize certain side reactions.

Method B (for moderately acid sensitive substrates): *tert*-Butyl ester group is stable enough to survive a brief exposure to ice-cold diluted strong mineral acid. Hence, compounds **2a** and **2f** are treated as above but the concentration of the obtained aqueous solutions is omitted, and the derivatization with aldehyde **4** is performed immediately.²⁵

Method C (for substrates prone to form piperazinediones): *Amination of benzyl (R,S)-alanyl-(S)-prolinate:* $\text{CF}_3\text{CO}_2\text{H}$ (10 mL) is added to an ice cooled, stirred solution of benzyl *N*-*tert*-butoxycarbonyl-(*R,S*)-alanyl-(*S*)-prolinate (3.77 g, 10.0 mmol) in CHCl_3 (10 mL). The mixture is stirred for 1 h at 0 °C, concentrated *in vacuo*, then poured into a stirred mixture of crushed ice (100 g) and sat. aq. NaHCO_3 solution (200 mL). The organic phase is separated, and the aqueous solution is extracted with CHCl_3 (4 \times 15 mL). The combined organic layer is quickly dried (Na_2SO_4) in a refrigerator, and admixed with a 0.1 M toluene solution of cyclohexanespiro-3'-oxaziridine (180 mL, 18 mmol). The mixture is stirred at 60 °C under argon overnight, and worked up as described above (Method A), but 4-nitrobenzaldehyde is dissolved in THF instead of MeOH. Purification of the crude product by flash chromatography (cyclohexane/EtOAc, 1.5:1, column dimension: 30 \times 5 cm) results in two epimeric products **5b** and **5c**.

5b yield (based on 10.0 mmol protected dipeptide): 0.43 g (10%); $R_f = 0.4$ (ether); $[\alpha]_D^{25} = -91^\circ$ ($c = 1$, CHCl_3).

$\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{28}\text{N}_4\text{O}_5$ calc. C 58.15 H 7.19 N 14.28 (392.5) found 57.82 7.44 14.39

The same compound with identical spectral properties is prepared from **2b** freshly liberated from HCl-Ala-Pro-OBzl in CHCl_3 .

5c; yield: 0.26 g (6%); $R_f = 0.3$ (ether). Physical and spectral characteristics are listed in Tables 1 and 2.

Methyl *N*-(*N*-Benzyloxycarbonyl-(*S*)-prolyl-amino)-(*S*)-prolyl-(*S*)-leucinate (**6**):

The amination of (*S*)-prolyl-(*S*)-leucine methyl ester (0.73 g, 3.0 mmol) is carried out as given under Method A. The neutralized aqueous solution of hydrazine **3d** is added dropwise to a vigorously stirred mixture of *N,N'*-dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (0.69 g, 3.3 mmol), *N*-carbobenzyloxy-(*S*)-proline (0.75 g, 3.0 mmol) dissolved in CHCl_3 (75 mL) and brine (75 mL) at +5 °C under argon during a period of 10 min. The stirring is continued at +5 °C for 2 h and at ambient temperature overnight. The mixture is diluted with sat. aq. NaHCO_3 (50 mL), filtered, and the organic layer is separated. The water phase is then extracted with CHCl_3 (4 \times 10 mL), the collected organic layer is washed with sat. aq. NaHCO_3 (10 mL), dried (Na_2SO_4) and evaporated *in vacuo*. The residue is taken up in ether (70 mL), filtered and evaporated. Flash chromatography ($\text{CHCl}_3/\text{MeOH}$, 30:1 \rightarrow 10:1, column dimension: 30 \times 5 cm) gives **6** as a colorless oil; yield: 1.10 g (75%); $[\alpha]_D^{25} = -109^\circ$ ($c = 2.5$, CHCl_3).

$\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{36}\text{N}_4\text{O}_6$ calc. C 61.46 H 7.43 N 11.47 (488.6) found 61.13 7.68 11.20

MS: m/z (%): 488 (0.9, M^+); 316 (80); 241 (13); 208 (100); 204 (7); 111 (52); 108 (13); 107 (10); 91 (86).

IR (neat): $\nu = 3260, 3060, 3035, 1749, 1675$ (v br), 1538, 698 cm^{-1} .

^1H -NMR (CDCl_3/TMS , 400 MHz): $\delta = 0.93, 0.98$ [2 d, 6 H, $J = 7$ Hz each, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$]; 1.4–2.5 (m, 11 H, $\beta^1\text{-CH}_2$, $\beta^2\text{-CH}_2$, $\beta^3\text{-CH}_2$, $\gamma^1\text{-CH}_2$, $\gamma^2\text{-CH}_2$, $\gamma^3\text{-CH}$); 3.31 (dd, 1 H, $J = 9, 6$ Hz, $\alpha^2\text{-CH}$); 3.47–3.80 (m, 4 H, $\delta^1\text{-CH}_2$, $\delta^2\text{-CH}_2$); 3.64 (s, 3 H, OCH_3); 4.32 (dd, 1 H, $J = 8.5, 2.5$ Hz, $\alpha^1\text{-CH}$); 4.43 (q, 1 H, $J = 3 \times 7.5$ Hz, $\alpha^3\text{-CH}$); 5.14 + 5.20 (2 d, 2 H, $J_{\text{gem}} = 12.5$ Hz, CO_2CH_2); 7.36 (s, 5 H_{arom}); 7.7 (br, 1 H, NHN); 8.38 (d, 1 H, $J = 7.5$ Hz, NH).

^{13}C -NMR: see Table 3.

Similar coupling reaction of **3d** with mixed anhydride *Z*-Pro-O- CO_2Et offers no advantage over the reported method.

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- (19) Amino acid residues have (*S*)-configuration unless otherwise indicated.
- (20) The crude product **5b** was contaminated with ≤ 1% of **5c** revealed by HPLC. The Gilson HPLC system used in these studies was assembled with Model 303 pump and Model 116 UV detector at 360 nm. The mobile phase, 100% CHCl₃ (1.00 mL/min) was pumped through a LiChrosorb Si-60 (7 μm) column with the dimension of 250 × 0.4 mm. The samples for analyses were freshly dissolved in the mobile phase. The quantitative evaluation was carried out with the Waters 740 Data Modul recording integrator. The retention times of epimers **5b** and **5c** were 5.5 and 6.9 min, respectively.
- (21) Routine coupling (DCC/1-hydroxybenztriazole/THF, according to Ref. 22) of Boc-(*R,S*)-Ala and Pro-OBzl afforded this protected dipeptide.
- (22) König, W., Geiger, R. *Chem. Ber.* **1970**, *103*, 788, 2024.
- (23) Unstable hydrazino compounds **3** could be isolated in the form of salts (e.g. with HCl), however these derivatives proved to be oily, amorphous or strongly hygroscopic. A related work in progress deals with the synthesis of crystalline α-hydrazino acids and their salts.
- (24) Attempted amination of Ser-Ile-OCH₃ resulted in a rather contaminated form of the corresponding hydrazone **5**, probably due to side reactions at the hydroxy group of serine.
- (25) Cold 0.5 M aq. citric acid can also be applied for extraction of acid labile products **3** giving no higher yield in the case of **5a**.