

SYNTHESIS OF BENZO[b]PHENANTHRIDINES BY THE PICTET—SPENGLER AND BISCHLER—NAPIERALSKI REACTIONS

T. I. Gogilashvili, V. I. Sladkov,* I. I. Levina,
Yu. A. Ershova, V. A. Chernov, and N. N. Suvorov

UDC 615.277.3:547.836.3].012.1

Previous reports have been made on a $AD \rightarrow C \rightarrow B$ pattern synthesis of benzo[b]phenanthridine with alkoxy substituents in rings A and D as well as with oxygen functions in ring C [2]. The amides of 1,4-diacetoxy-3-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-6,7-dimethoxynaphthalene have been shown to be easily cyclicized by the Bischler—Napieralski reaction. The present work is concerned with a further study of the above-indicated pattern as well as with the employment of the Pictet—Spengler reaction to obtain quinoid benzo[b]phenanthridines in order to examine their antitumor activity.

The starting compound for the synthesis of benzo[b]phenanthridines was 2,6,7-trimethoxy-3-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-1,4-naphthoxynone (I) (diagram I) which, when boiled with NH_3 or $MeNH_2$ in ethanol formed quantitative yields of the corresponding aminoquinones (II, III) [2]. When boiled with $AcOCHO$, amine III forms 6,7-dimethoxy-3-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-2-(N-methyl-N-formyl)amino-1,4-naphthoxynone (V). Amine II under the same conditions is converted to the mono- and diformyl derivatives of naphthoxynones (IV and VI) with yields of 83.1 and 2.6% respectively.

Our attempt to cyclicize the amides IV, V, and VI by the Bischler—Napieralski reaction was not successful. What we obtained was a multi-component mixture of products that was difficult to separate. We were also unsuccessful in our attempt to reduce these quinones with $NaBH_4$ or $Na_2S_2O_4$ in ethanol inasmuch as the resultant biphenols were unstable and quickly reoxidized to the original quinones.

By the reductive acylation of amide V we obtained a 55% yield of 1,4-diacetoxy-3-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-6,7-dimethoxy-2-(N-methyl-N-formyl)aminonaphthalene (VII) whose cyclization by the Bischler—Napieralski reaction resulted in the formation of 7,12-diacetoxy-6-methyl-2,3,9,10-tetramethoxybenzo[b]phenanthridinium chloride (VIII). A similar attempt at a reductive methylation of the amide V by dimethylsulfate was unsuccessful. Only the original compound was obtained.

Naphthoquinone II in Ac_2O is cyclicized with conc. H_2SO_4 into 7,12-dioxy-5-methyl-2,3,9,10-tetramethoxybenzo[b]phenanthridine (IX) (diagram 2). The same aminolquinone in the Pictet—Spengler reaction yields a complex mixture of products from which we obtained a 44.5% yield of 7,12-dioxo-2,3,9,10-tetramethoxybenzo[b]phenanthridine (X) which was formed upon the spontaneous dehydrogenation of the immediate reaction product. A seven-ringed product (XI) at a very low yield (0.93%) was also obtained from this reaction mixture.

*Deceased.

TABLE I. Physicochemical Characteristics and Spectral Data for Compounds II, IV-XIV

Compound	mp, °C (crystallization solvent)	UV-spectrum λ_{\max} , nm (log ϵ) (in ethanol)	IR spectrum, cm^{-1}	Empirical formula	M	
					found	calculated
II	83,0	273 (diethyl ether)	3430 (NH ₂); 3340 (NH ₂); 1675 (C=O); 1620 (C≡C)	C ₂₀ H ₁₉ NO ₄	369	369,40
IV	83,1	220 (toluene)	3308 (NH); 1730 (C=O); 1670 (C=O); 1620 (C≡C)	C ₂₁ H ₁₉ NO ₇	397	397,41
V	90,0	232 (benzene)	1705 (C=O); 1670 (C=O); 1620 (C≡C)	C ₂₂ H ₂₁ NO ₇	411	411,39
VI	2,6	240 (toluene)	1730 (C=O); 1690 (C=O); 1670 (C=O); 1650 (C=O); 1620 (C≡C)	C ₂₂ H ₁₉ NO ₈	425	425,41
VII	55,0	255 (acetone)	1775 (C=O); 1685 (C≡C); 1620 (C≡C)	C ₂₄ H ₁₇ NO ₉	497	497,51
VIII	96,0	205 (MeOH)	1775 (C=O); 1620 (C≡C)	C ₂₆ H ₁₇ NO ₈ Cl	379 (—CH ₂ Cl, 2COCH ₃)	515,95
IX	47,17	247 (ethyl acetate)	1640 (C=O); 1620 (C≡C)	C ₂₂ H ₁₉ NO ₉	393	393,40
X	44,5	323 (CHCl ₃)	1680 (C=O); 1625 (C≡C)	C ₂₁ H ₁₇ NO ₈	379	379,37
XI	0,93	209 (toluene)	1720 (C=O); 1670 (C=O); 1625 (C≡C)	C ₂₅ H ₂₅ NO ₇	451	451,48
XII	70,8	311 (ethanol)	1685 (C=O); 1620 (C≡C)	C ₃₁ H ₁₉ NO ₁₀ Cl	379 (—HClO ₄)	479,83
XIII	27,8	172 (ethanol)	1690 (C=O); 1620 (C≡C)	C ₂₂ H ₂₀ NO ₈ Cl	379 (—CH ₂ Cl)	429,86
XIV	26,9	250 (ethanol)	1670 (C=O); 1620 (C≡C)	C ₂₂ H ₁₉ NO ₇	409	409,40

TABLE 2. NMR ^1H Spectra for Compounds II, IV-XI, XIII, and XIV

Compound	Chemical shifts, δ , ppm, in CDCl_3 (200 MHz)
II	7,60 s (1H, $\text{C}^5\text{—H}$), 7,52 s (1H, $\text{C}^8\text{—H}$), 6,98 d ($I_{5'6'}$, 8,05 Hz, 1H, $\text{C}^{5'}\text{—H}$), 6,90 dd ($I_{2'6'}$, 1,92 Hz, 1H, $\text{C}^{6'}\text{—H}$), 6,87 dd (1H, $\text{C}^{2'}\text{—H}$), 5,20 br.s (2H, NH_2), 4,03 s (6H, 2OCH_3), 3,93 s (3H, OCH_3), 3,89 s (3H, OCH_3)
IV	8,32 d ($I_{\text{CH, NH}}$, 9,86 Hz, 1H, COH), 7,90 br.d. (1H, NH), 7,56 s (2H, $\text{C}^8\text{—H}$, $\text{C}^5\text{—H}$), 6,99 d ($I_{5'6'}$, 8,04 Hz, 1H, $\text{C}^{5'}\text{—H}$), 6,89 dd ($I_{2'6'}$, 1,83 Hz, 1H, $\text{C}^{6'}\text{—H}$), 6,82 dd (1H, $\text{C}^{2'}\text{—H}$), 4,05 s (3H, OCH_3), 4,04 s (3H, OCH_3), 3,94 s (3H, OCH_3), 3,89 s (3H, OCH_3)
V	8,08 s (1H, COH), 7,58 s (1H, $\text{C}^5\text{—H}$), 7,56 s (1H, $\text{C}^8\text{—H}$), 6,90 d ($I_{5'6'}$, 8,06 Hz, 1H, $\text{C}^{5'}\text{—H}$), 6,86 dd ($I_{2'6'}$, 1,71 Hz, 1H, $\text{C}^{6'}\text{—H}$), 6,79 dd (1H, $\text{C}^{2'}\text{—H}$), 4,06 s (3H, OCH_3), 4,05 s (3H, OCH_3), 3,93 s (3H, OCH_3), 3,88 s (3H, OCH_3), 2,89 s (3H, NCH_3)
VI	8,85 br.s * (2H, 2COH), 7,58 s (1H, $\text{C}^8\text{—H}$), 7,57 s (1H, $\text{C}^5\text{—H}$), 6,91 d ($I_{5'6'}$, 8,24 Hz, 1H, $\text{C}^{5'}\text{—H}$), 6,83 dd ($I_{2'6'}$, 1,83 Hz, 1H, $\text{C}^{6'}\text{—H}$), 6,76 dd (1H, $\text{C}^{2'}\text{—H}$), 4,05 s (6H, 2OCH_3), 3,92 s (3H, OCH_3), 3,84 s (3H, OCH_3)
VII	8,11 br.s * (1H, COH), 7,06 s (1H, $\text{C}^8\text{—H}$), 7,03 s (1H, $\text{C}^5\text{—H}$), 6,92 d ($I_{5'6'}$, 8,30 Hz, 1H, $\text{C}^{5'}\text{—H}$), 6,8 br.m * (2H, $\text{C}^{6'}\text{—H}$, $\text{C}^{2'}\text{—H}$), 4,03 s (3H, OCH_3), 4,01 s (3H, OCH_3), 3,92 s (3H, OCH_3), 3,84 br.s * (3H, OCH_3), 2,77 s (3H, N—CH_3), 2,43 s (3H, OCOCH_3), 2,09 s (3H, OCOCH_3)
VIII**	9,91 s (1H, $\text{C}^5\text{—H}$), 8,63 s (1H, $\text{C}^1\text{—H}$), 7,98 s (1H, $\text{C}^8\text{—H}$), 7,29 s (1H, $\text{C}^{11}\text{—H}$), 7,23 s (1H, $\text{C}^4\text{—H}$), 4,66 s (3H, $+\text{N—CH}_3$), 4,22 s (3H, OCH_3), 4,06 s (3H, OCH_3), 4,05 s (3H, OCH_3), 4,03 s (3H, OCH_3), 2,81 s (3H, OCOCH_3), 2,76 s (3H, OCOCH_3)
IX	7,73 s (1H, $\text{C}^1\text{—H}$), 7,72 s (1H, $\text{C}^{11}\text{—H}$), 7,54 s (1H, $\text{C}^8\text{—H}$), 7,27 s (1H, $\text{C}^4\text{—H}$), 4,13 s (3H, OCH_3), 4,11 s (3H, OCH_3), 4,09 s (3H, OCH_3), 4,02 s (3H, OCH_3), 2,84 s (3H, C—CH_3)
X	9,36 s (1H, $\text{C}^5\text{—H}$), 9,32 s (1H, $\text{C}^1\text{—H}$), 7,78 s (1H, $\text{C}^4\text{—H}$), 7,72 s (1H, $\text{C}^8\text{—H}$), 7,32 s (1H, $\text{C}^{11}\text{—H}$), 4,18 s (3H, OCH_3), 4,11 s (6H, 2OCH_3), 4,10 s (3H, OCH_3)
XI	8,12 s (1H, $\text{C}^1\text{—H}$), 7,63 s (1H, $\text{C}^{12}\text{—H}$), 7,45 s (1H, $\text{C}^8\text{—H}$), 6,63 s (1H, $\text{C}^4\text{—H}$), 4,83 t ($I_{5,6}$, 6,41 Hz, 1H, $\text{C}^5\text{—H}$), 4,06 s (3H, OCH_3), 4,00 s (3H, OCH_3), 3,97 s (3H, OCH_3), 3,90 s (3H, OCH_3), 3,57 s (3H, N—CH_3), 2,85 dd ($I_{5\text{H}^1\text{H}^2}$, 16,48 Hz, 1H, $\text{C}^5\text{—H}^1$), 2,67 dd (1H, $\text{C}^5\text{—H}^2$), 2,03 s (3H, COCH_3)
XIII**	9,95 s (1H, $\text{C}^5\text{—H}$), 9,17 s (1H, $\text{C}^1\text{—H}$), 7,95 s (1H, $\text{C}^4\text{—H}$), 7,66 s (1H, $\text{C}^8\text{—H}$), 7,61 s (1H, $\text{C}^{11}\text{—H}$), 4,69 s (3H, $+\text{NCH}_3$), 4,18 s (3H, OCH_3), 4,09 s (3H, OCH_3), 4,03 s (6H, 2OCH_3)
XIV	9,01 s (1H, $\text{C}^1\text{—H}$), 7,88 s (1H, $\text{C}^4\text{—H}$), 7,58 s (1H, $\text{C}^8\text{—H}$), 7,48 s (1H, $\text{C}^{11}\text{—H}$), 4,11 s (3H, OCH_3), 4,07 s (3H, OCH_3), 4,06 s (3H, OCH_3), 4,05 s (3H, OCH_3), 3,99 s (3H, NCH_3)

*Broadened through the retarded rotation around the amide bond.

**Compound's spectrum recorded in DMSO.

Reaction progress and purity of reaction products was controlled by TLC on Silufol UV-254 plates (Kavalier, Czechoslovakia) in a 12:5 toluene-acetone system. Silica gel 100/160 and 100/250 (Czechoslovakia) was used for column chromatography. Spot detection in UV-light. The found values of element analyses corresponded to the calculated ones.

2-Amino-6,7-dimethoxy-3-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-1,4-naphthoxyquinone (II). A suspension of 0.75 g of 3-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-2,6,7-trimethoxy-1,4-naphthoxyquinone I in 150 ml of ethanol saturated with NH_3 was placed into a 450 cc ampule which was then heated at 100° for 8 h. Upon cooling the product was filtered, washed with ethanol and dried. Yield was 0.59 g of substance II.

6,7-Dimethoxy-3-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-2-formylamino-1,4-naphthoxyquinone (IV). A mixture of 1 g of the amine II and 17 ml of AcOCHO (obtained from 7.6 ml of formic acid and 10.5 ml of Ac_2O at $50\text{--}60^\circ$ for 2 h) was boiled for 20 min. At 20° the mixture was decanted into 100 ml of cold water. The crystals were filtered, washed with water, and dried at 20°C . A yield of 0.89 g of compound IV was obtained by column chromatography in a 12:5 toluene-acetone system.

6,7-Dimethoxy-3-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-2-diformylamino-1,4-naphthoxyquinone (VI). A yield of 0.03 g of the imide VI was obtained by from appropriate portions of the eluate by chromatographing the products of the previous reaction.

6,7-Dimethoxy-3-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-2-(N-methyl-N-formylamino)-1,4-naphthoquinone (V). A mixture of 10 g of the amine III and 167 ml of AcOCHO (obtained from 76 ml of formic acid and 105 ml of Ac₂O at 50–60°C for 2 h) was boiled for 1.5 h. At 20°C the reaction mixture was decanted into 1 liter of cold water. The precipitate was filtered off to yield 9.66 g of the aminoquinone V.

1,4-Diacetoxy-3-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-6,7-dimethoxy-2-(N-methyl-N-formylamino)naphthalene (VII). A 0.2 g portion of NaBH₄ was added to a suspension of 0.3 g of compound V in 25 ml of MeOH. The mixture was boiled until the solution lost its color after which 2 ml of Ac₂O was added. At 20°C the mixture was decanted into 200 ml of cold water. The precipitate was filtered, washed with water until pH 7, and dried. The yield of substance VII was 0.37 g.

7,12-Diacetoxy-6-methyl-2,3,9,10-tetramethoxybenzo[b]phenanthridinium chloride (VIII). A 0.08 g portion of amide VII was dissolved in 5 ml of boiling anhydrous MeCN to which 0.1 ml of freshly distilled POCl₃ was added. The mixture was then boiled for 30 min. The reaction mixture was then cooled to 20°C and decanted into 50 ml of diethyl ether. The precipitate was filtered and washed with ether to yield 0.08 g of the VIII salt. NMR ¹³C spectrum (50 MHz, DMSO), δ, ppm: 2CO — 169.28, 168.65; C⁵ — 156.84; C², C³, C⁹, C¹⁰ — 157.89, 152.87, 152.66, 150.12; C⁷, C¹² — 139.86, 133.55; C^{4a}, C^{6a}, C^{7a}, C^{11a}, C^{12a}, C^{12b} — 128.67, 123.82, 123.50, 123.06, 118.13, 114.68; C¹, C⁴, C⁸, C¹¹ — 112.26, 106.46, 99, 62, 99.21; 4 OCH₃ — 56.79, 56.20, 56.20, 50.62; +NCH₃ — 37.29; 20 COCH₃ — 21.23, 21.08.

7,12-Dioxo-5-methyl-2,3,9,10-tetramethoxybenzo[b]phenanthridine (IX). A mixture of 0.1 g of amine II, 5 ml of Ac₂O, and 3 drops of conc. H₂SO₄ was left standing at 20°C for 24 h. The reaction mixture was then decanted into 50 ml of cold water. After 30 min the precipitate was filtered off, washed with water to pH 7, and dried. Column chromatography separation in a 12:5 toluene–acetone system yielded 0.05 g of compound IX. NMR ¹³C spectrum (50 MHz, CDCl₃), δ, ppm: 2CO — 179.77, 162.35; C⁵ — 146.58; C², C³, C⁹, C¹⁰ — 150.51, 149.52, 149.07, 148.89; C^{4a}, C^{6a}, C^{7a}, C^{11a}, C^{12a}, C^{12b} — 142.83, 130.58, 115.68, 113.78, 112.91, 110.83; C¹, C⁴, C⁸, C¹¹, — 103.21, 100.26, 95.47; 4 OCH₃ — 56.60, 56.19, 55.91, 55.91; CH₃ — 14.61.

7,12-Dioxo-2,3,9,10-tetramethoxybenzo[b]phenanthridine (X). A mixture of 0.9 g of amine II, 45 ml of formalin, 90 ml of ethanol, and 2 ml of conc. HCl was boiled for 2 h, then cooled to 20°C. The solvent was vacuum-evaporated and the residue was extracted with CHCl₃ after which the residue was washed with water and dried with Na₂SO₄. The solvent was vacuum evaporated to yield 0.41 g of compound X.

6-Acetyl-5,6-dihydro-7-methyl-7H,2,3,10,11-tetramethoxynaphthoquinone[2,3b]benzazine (XI) was obtained from the mother liquor upon recrystallizing the products of the previous reaction, followed by column chromatography to yield 0.02 g of compound XI.

7,12-Dioxo-2,3,9,10-tetramethoxybenzo[b]phenanthridinium perchlorate (XII). A mixture of 0.08 g of phenanthridine X, 20 ml of ethanol, and 5 ml of 33% HClO₄ was boiled for 30 min. At 20°C the precipitate was filtered, washed with ethanol to pH 7, and dried to yield 0.07 g of the perchlorate XII.

7,12-dioxo-2,3,9,10-tetramethoxy-6-methylbenzo[b]phenanthridinium chloride (XIII). A mixture of 0.25 g of amine III, 13 ml of formalin, 25 ml of ethanol, and 0.2 ml of conc. HCl was boiled for 2 h. At 20°C the mixture was filtered and the filtrate was vacuum-evaporated. The residue was recrystallized three times from a 3:1 mixture of CHCl₃–ethanol to yield 0.08 g of compound XIII.

5,7,12-Trioxo-6-methyl-2,3,9,10-tetramethoxybenzo[b]phenanthridine (XIV). A yield of 0.07 g of compound XIV was obtained from appropriate portions of the filtrate after recrystallizing the products of the previous reaction.

EXPERIMENTAL (BIOLOGICAL)

The antitumor activity of compounds VIII, X, and XIII was tested on non-line white male rats with Jensen's sarcoma. The preparations were administered daily ip 3–4 days after the tumor transplants in a 10% solution of polyvinylpyrrolidone with 0.8% Tween for a period of 8 days. The antiblastic effect was evaluated by the degree to which tumor growth was inhibited (I_T).

The greatest activity among the tested substances was exhibited by the quaternary salt VIII [1] which at doses of 15–30 mg/kg inhibited Jensen's sarcoma by 35–74%. Compound X at a dose of 25 mg/kg inhibited tumor growth by 32%. Quaternarized quinone XIII exhibited a poor antitumor action. At a dose of 10 mg/kg it suppressed Jensen's sarcoma by 30%. However, when the dose was increased to 15 mg/kg animal death resulted.

Thus, the replacement of a hydroquinone C ring in the benzo[b]phenanthridines by a quinoid ring resulted in lowered antitumor activity. An analogous phenomenon was observed in the case of mytomyacin C where the *in vivo* reduction of the quinone ring was essential to the manifestation of this activity.

LITERATURE CITED

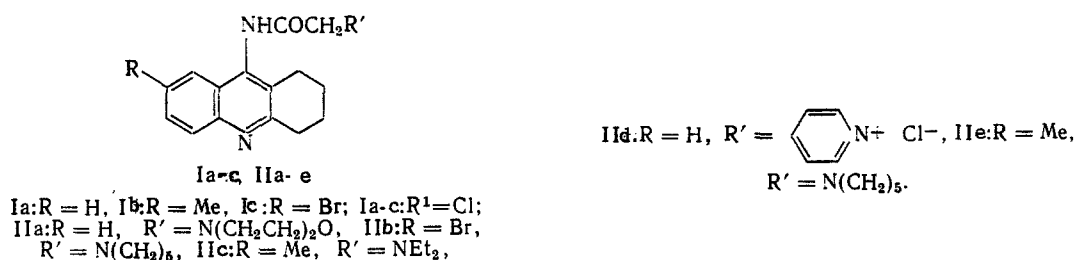
1. Yu. A. Ershova, V. A. Chernov, R. N. Akhvlediani, et al., Current Problems in Tumor Chemotherapy [in Russian], Chernogolovka, 1, (1987), pp. 14-16.
2. V. A. Khokhlov, V. I. Sladkov, L. N. Kurkovskaya, et al., Zh. Org. Khim., 21, No. 3, 594-601 (1985).
3. G. M. Badger, R. S. Pearce, and R. Pettit, J. Chem. Soc., 3204-3207 (1951).
4. S. Berger and A. Reiker, The Chemistry of Quinoid Compounds, S. Patay (ed.), New York (1974), Pt. 1, pp. 163-229.
5. W. J. Gensler, M. Vinoskis, and N. W. Ang, J. Org. Chem., 34, 3664-3666 (1969).
6. A. I. Scott, Interpretation of the Ultraviolet Spectra of Natural Products, New York (1964), p. 8.
7. I. Sigh, R. T. Ogata, R. F. Moore, et al., Tetrahedron, 24, 6053-6073 (1968).
8. R. H. Thomson, Naturally Occurring Quinones, London (1971), p. 66.

SYNTHESIS AND BIOLOGICAL ACTIVITY OF 9-[(N,N-DIALKYLAMINOACETYL)AMINO]-1,2,3,4-TETRAHYDROACRIDINES

L. P. Dontsova, V. É. Kolla,
S. N. Nikulina, and M. E. Konshin

UDC 547.835.615.21

9-Amino-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroacridine (tacrine) is a drug which is effective for the treatment of mental disturbances caused by esters of substituted glycol acids [4]. 9-[(N,N-diethylaminoacetyl)amino]-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroacridine has a strong local anesthetic action at comparatively low toxicity [5]. The present work was undertaken as part of a search for new 9-[(N,N-dialkylaminoacetyl)amino]-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroacridines (IIa-e) with antidepressant properties (see Table 1).



9-Chloroacetyl-amino-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroacridines (Ia-c) were obtained by heating a mixture of the corresponding 9-amino-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroacridine with chloroacetyl chloride.

Experiments showed that compounds Ia-c reacted with dialkylamines when a mixture of the starting compounds in alcohol was heated under reflux. The desired products IIa-e were obtained in yields of 52-71%, as colorless crystalline substances which absorbed in the IR at 3246-60 cm⁻¹ (NH) and at 1660-1680 cm⁻¹ (CO). The compounds were basic and formed hydrochlorides with HCl. Refluxing a mixture of the amide Ia and pyridine in ethanol gave the chloride of 9-(pyridinoacetyl)amino-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroacridine (IIId).