4-ARYL-2-(*o*-HYDROXYMETHYLPHENYLAMINO)-4-OXO-*Z*-2-BUTENOIC ACIDS AS INTERMEDIATES IN THE SYNTHESIS OF *Z*-2-PHENACYLIDENE-1,2,3,5-TETRAHYDRO-4,1-BENZOXAZEPIN-3-ONES

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Keywords: *o*-aminobenzyl alcohol, 4-aryl-2-(*o*-hydroxymethylphenylamino)-4-oxo-2-butenoic acids, aroylpyruvic acids, 2-phenacylidene-1,2,3,5-tetrahydro-4,1-benzoxazepin-3-ones.

Andreichikov et al. [1] described a synthesis of 2-phenacylidene-1,2,3,5-tetrahydro-4,1-benzoxazepin-3-one (1) and 2-*p*-chlorophenacylidene-1,2,3,5-tetrahydro-4,1-benzoxazepin-3-one (2) by heating aroylpyruvic acids with *o*-aminobenzyl alcohol in toluene at reflux for 2 h with 70-76% yields.

We have isolated intermediate 2-(o-hydroxymethylphenylamino)-4-oxo-4-phenyl-butenoic acid (3) and 2-(o-hydroxymethylphenylamino)-4-oxo-4-p-chlorophenyl-Z-2-butenoic acid (4) by carrying out this reaction in benzene at reflux for 10-15 sec. Acids 3 and 4 smoothly cyclize to the corresponding benzoxazepinones 1 and 2 upon heating in decane at reflux for 4-5 min.

ArCOCH₂COCOOH +
$$\begin{array}{c} CH_2OH \\ NH_2 \end{array}$$

Ar $\begin{array}{c} CH_2OH \\ -H_2O \end{array}$

Ar $\begin{array}{c} CH_2OH \\ -H_2O \end{array}$
 $\begin{array}{c} COOH \\ -H_2O \end{array}$
 $\begin{array}{c} CH_2OH \\ -H_2O \end{array}$

1, 3 Ar = Ph, 2, 4 Ar = p -ClC₆H₄

Regioselective nucleophilic attack of the amino group of the reagent by the ketonic carbonyl group at $C_{(2)}$ of the acids probably occurs in the first step of the reaction of o-aminobenzyl alcohol and the aroylpyruvic acids. Intermediates **3** and **4** exist in the enaminoketone form with an H-chelate intramolecular hydrogen bond (IHB) between the NH group and carbonyl group at $C_{(4)}$, i.e., in the form of Z-isomers. Upon heating, **3** and **4** undergo regioselective cyclodehydration to give benzoxazepinones **1** and **2**, which also exist in the enaminoketone form with an intramolecular hydrogen bond between the NH group and carbonyl group of the phenacylidene substituent, i.e., in the form of Z-isomers.

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- **2-(o-Hydroxymethylphenylamino)-4-oxo-4-phenyl-Z-2-butenoic** Acid (3). A solution of benzoylpyruvic acid (0.01 mol) and *o*-aminobenzyl alcohol (0.01 mol) in benzene (10 ml) was heated at reflux for 15 sec and cooled. The precipitate formed was filtered off to give 2.55 g (86%) of compound 3; mp 103-104°C (dec., from benzene). IR spectrum (vaseline), v, cm⁻¹: 3200 br (OH, NH in IHB), 1660 (C=O in CO₂H), 1605 br (C₍₄₎=O in IHB). ¹H NMR spectrum (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆, HMDS as the internal standard), δ , ppm (J, Hz): 4.56 (2H, s, CH₂); 5.48 (1H, br. s, OH); 6.43 (1H, s, CH=); 6.97-7.61 (7H, m, o-C₆H₄ + C₆H₃); 7.98 (2H, d, J = 6.91, 2 o-CH in COC₆H₅); 12.01 (1H, s, NH), 13.70 (1H, br. s, CO₂H). Found, %: C 68.72; H 5.11; N 4.66. C₁₇H₁₅NO₄. Calculated, %: C 68.68; H 5.09; N 4.71.
- **4-***p***-Chlorophenyl-2-(***o***-hydroxymethylphenylamino)-4-oxo-***Z***-2-butenoic Acid (4)** was obtained analogously in 88% yield (2.92 g); mp 152-153°C (benzene). IR spectrum (vaseline), v, cm⁻¹: 3310 br, 3120 br (OH, NH in IHB), 1670 (C=O in CO₂H), 1610 br (C₍₄₎=O in IHB). ¹H NMR spectrum (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆, HMDS as the internal standard), δ, ppm (*J*, Hz): 4.55 (2H, s, CH₂); 5.41 (1H, br. s, OH); 6.38 (1H, s, CH=); 6.97-7.67 (6H, m, C₆H₄ + 2 *m*-CH in COC₆H₄Cl-*p*); 7.98 (2H, d, J = 8.85, 2 *o*-CH in COC₆H₄Cl-*p*); 12.01 (1H, s, NH); 14.00 (1H, br. s, CO₂H). Found, %: C 61.59; H 4.33; Cl 10.71; N 4.20. C₁₇H₁₄ClNO₄. Calculated, %: C 61.55; H 4.25; Cl 10.69; N 4.22.
- **Z-2-Phenacylidene-1,2,3,5-tetrahydro-4,1-benzoxazepin-3-one** (1). A solution of **3** (0.01 mol) in decane (5 ml) was heated at reflux for 5 min and cooled. The precipitate formed was filtered off to give 2.32 g (83%) of compound **1**; mp 152-154°C (hexane). IR spectrum (vaseline), v, cm⁻¹: 3085 br (N₍₁₎H in IHB), 1732 (C₍₃₎=O), 1604 br (COC₆H₅ in IHB). ¹H NMR spectrum (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆, HMDS as the internal standard), δ, ppm (*J*, Hz): 5.21 (2H, s, CH₂); 6.62 (1H, s, CH=); 7.18-7.58 (7H, m, C₍₆₋₉₎H + C₆H₃); 7.98 (2H, d, *J* = 7.00, 2 *o*-CH in COC₆H₅); 13.01 (1H, s, NH). Found, %: C 73.09; H 4.77; N 5.12. C₁₇H₁₃NO₃. Calculated, %: C 73.11; H 4.69; N 5.01.
- **Z-2-p-Chlorophenacylidene-1,2,3,5-tetrahydro-4,1-benzoxazepin-3-one** (2) was synthesized analogously in 84% yield (2.64 g); mp 165-167°C (hexane). IR spectrum (vaseline), ν , cm⁻¹: 3080 br (N₍₁₎H in IHB), 1740 (C₍₃₎=O), 16.08 br (COC₆H₄Cl-*p* in IHB). ¹H NMR spectrum (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆, HMDS as the internal standard), δ, ppm (*J*, Hz): 5.20 (2H, s, CH₂); 6.55 (1H, s, CH=); 7.17-7.47 (6H, m, C₍₆₋₉₎H + 2 *m*-CH in COC₆H₄Cl-*p*); 7.92 (2H, d, J = 8.58, 2 *o*-CH in COC₆H₄Cl-*p*); 12.99 (1H, s, NH). Found, %: C 65.09; H 3.88; Cl 11.43; N 4.39. C₁₇H₁₂ClNO₃. Calculated, %: C 65.08; H 3.86; Cl 11.30; N 4.46.

This work was carried out with the financial support of the Russian Basic Research Fund (Grants Nos. 01-03-32641 and 02-03-96411) and the NMR spectra were taken at the Urals NMR Center (Russian Basic Research Fund Grant No. 00-03-40139).

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