

# A Novel Preparation of 2-Aminocyclopentanecarboxamides

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**Summary.** Different syntheses of *cis*- and *trans*-2-aminocyclopentanecarboxamides were studied. A convenient and effective method was devised for the preparation of *cis*-2-aminocyclopentanecarboxamide derivatives starting from the readily available 6-*tert*-butoxycarbonyl-6-azabicyclo[3.2.0]heptan-7-one.

**Keywords.**  $\beta$ -Amino acids; *cis-trans* Isomerization;  $\beta$ -Lactams; Small rings.

## Introduction

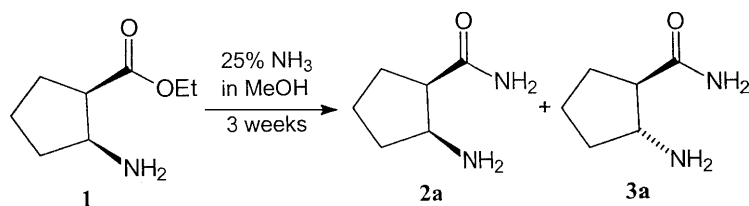
In recent years, a number of cyclic  $\beta$ -aminocarboxylic acid derivatives have been synthesized. Some of them have useful pharmacological effects, and they are widely used synthons for the preparation of saturated 1,3-heterocycles [1]. Various *cis*- and *trans*-2-aminocycloalkanecarboxamides have been produced in order to examine the relations between stereochemistry and pharmacological activity [2, 3] by the mixed anhydride method from N-protected 2-aminocycloalkanecarboxylic acids [3–8] or by amidation of alkyl 2-aminocycloalkanecarboxylates [9, 10].

The discovery of the antimycotic cispentacin, (-)-(1*R*,2*S*)-2-aminocyclopentanecarboxylic acid, among the natural amino acids aroused interest in investigations of cyclopentane derivatives [11], and the synthesis, transformations, and some of the biological features of 2-aminocyclopentanecarboxylic acids have been reviewed [12, 13]. During our investigations relating to cispentacin [13, 14], our aim was to prepare carboxamide derivatives of racemic *cis*- and *trans*-2-aminocyclopentanecarboxylic acids and to study the ring opening of the starting 6-azabicyclo[3.2.0]heptan-7-one and its N-*tert*-butoxycarbonyl derivative.

## Results and Discussion

A simple and mild amidation procedure has been developed earlier in our laboratory for the preparation of 2-aminocyclohexanecarboxamides starting from the corresponding ethyl 2-aminocyclohexanecarboxylates [10]. Surprisingly, with

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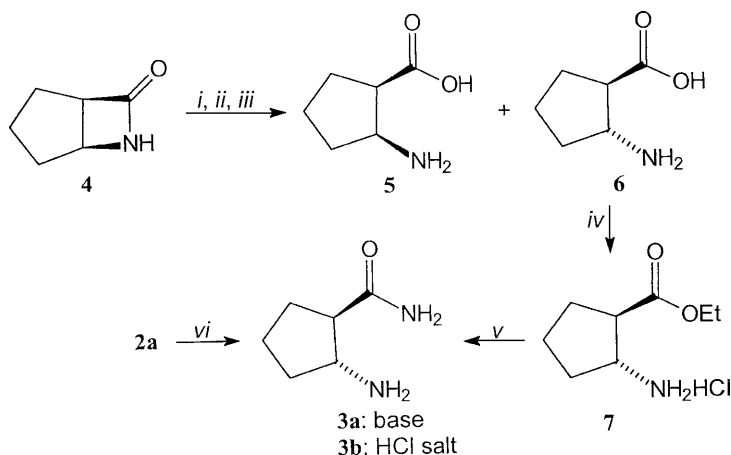
Scheme 1

the same method (25% methanolic ammonia at room temperature) the homologue ethyl *cis*-2-aminocyclopentanecarboxylate **1** resulted in a mixture of *cis*-2-aminocyclopentanecarboxamide (**2a**) and the corresponding *trans* isomer **3a** (Scheme 1). The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of the crude product revealed a 4:1 mixture of **2a** and **3a**.

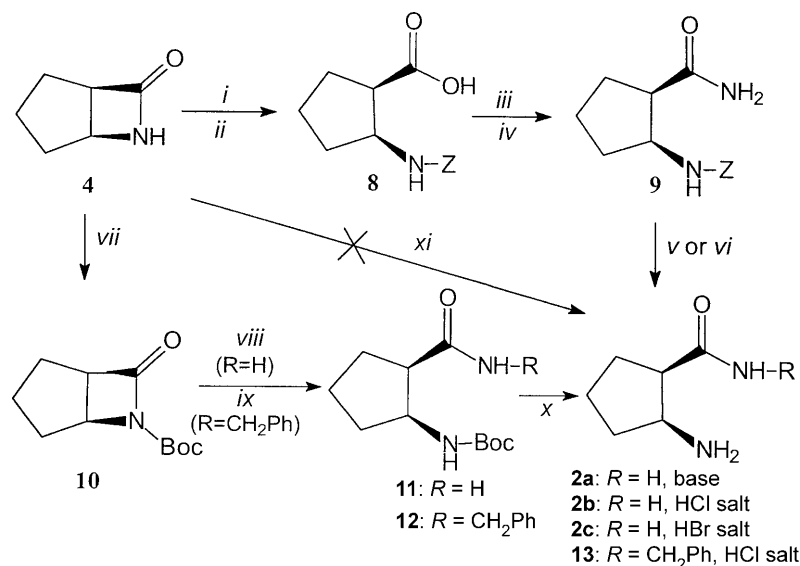
This fact led us to reinvestigate our earlier results; however, in accordance with those findings [10], no isomerization was observed in the amidation of ethyl *cis*- and *trans*-2-aminocyclohexanecarboxylates.

The isomerization of **2a** was also investigated. In the presence of 0.5 equivalents of sodium methoxide at 150°C, a mixture of **2a** and **3a** was obtained in a ratio of 1:9. From this mixture, the hydrochloride was prepared; it was recrystallized from ethanol/diethyl ether, furnishing **3b** (Scheme 2).

When 6-azabicyclo[3.2.0]heptan-7-one (**4**), readily available by cycloaddition of chlorosulfonyl isocyanate to cyclopentene [13, 16], was refluxed in dry ethanol with sodium ethoxide and the intermediate esters were hydrolyzed, *cis*- and *trans*-2-aminocyclopentanecarboxylic acids **5** and **6** were obtained in a ratio of 1:9. This mixture was recrystallized from ethanol and water, affording **6** in moderate overall yield. Esterification of *trans*-2-aminocyclopentanecarboxylic acid provided the hydrochloride of ethyl *trans*-2-aminocyclopentanecarboxylate (**7**). The amidation of **7** in 25% methanolic ammonia at room temperature gave *trans*-2-aminocyclopentanecarboxamide **3a** as a single product (Scheme 2).



**Scheme 2.** i) 1.2 equiv. NaOEt, EtOH, reflux, 12 h; ii) 18% HCl, reflux, 24 h; iii) ion-exchange chromatography, recrystallization; iv) SOCl<sub>2</sub>, EtOH, <−10°C, r.t., 3 h, reflux, 1 h; v) 25% NH<sub>3</sub>/MeOH, 3 weeks; vi) 150°C, 0.5 equiv. NaOEt, 10 min, purification as HCl salt by recrystallization



**Scheme 3.** *i)* conc. HCl, r.t., 1 h; *ii)* Z-Cl, NaOH/H<sub>2</sub>O; *iii)* ethyl chloroformate, Et<sub>3</sub>N, toluene, <−10°C; *iv)* 25% NH<sub>3</sub>/MeOH, <−10°C; *v)* HBr/AcOH, r.t., 1 h; *vi)* 10% Pd/C, H<sub>2</sub>, MeOH, 1 atm, 40°C; *vii)* Boc<sub>2</sub>O, DMAP, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, r.t., 17 h; *viii)* 25% NH<sub>3</sub>/MeOH, 4°C, 12 h; *ix)* benzylamine, dry toluene, 24 h reflux; *x)* 3 M HCl/EtOH, r.t., 2 h; *xi)* 25% NH<sub>3</sub>/MeOH, r.t., 3 weeks

For the preparation of amide **2a**, a 0.1 mol scale method was devised involving the mixed anhydride procedure (Scheme 3). Compound **2a** has also been prepared by this method earlier [6], but no experimental details and physical data were given. The Z-protected amino acid **8** reacted with ethyl chloroformate to give the anhydride which was allowed to react with 2 equivalents of ammonia in methanol. The protective Z-group was eliminated with 33% hydrobromic acid in glacial acetic acid or by hydrogenolysis with 10% palladium on activated charcoal.

No reaction was observed between  $\beta$ -lactam **4** and methanolic ammonia at room temperature. Although activated monocyclic derivatives can be opened with different amines [15], it was argued that by activating the lactam ring with the protecting group *Boc* the amidation reaction might be achieved under mild conditions. The reaction of the N-*Boc* derivative of the bicyclic  $\beta$ -lactam **10** with 25% methanolic ammonia was complete after 12 h at 4°C, resulting in the *cis*-carboxamide **11**. In this reaction no isomerization was observed. The *Boc* group was easily removed by 3 M hydrogen chloride in dry ethanol at room temperature, affording the hydrochloride **2b**.

When **10** was reacted with benzylamine at elevated temperature, benzamide **12** was formed in good yield. After removal of the *Boc* group, the benzamide **13** was obtained.

## Experimental

Melting points were determined on a Kofler melting point apparatus and are uncorrected. 6-Azabicyclo[3.2.0]heptan-7-one (**4**) was prepared by 1,2-dipolar cycloaddition of chlorosulfonyl isocyanate to cyclopentene; from this, *cis*-2-aminocyclopentanecarboxylic acid hydrochloride was obtained by acidic hydrolysis [16].

The  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra were recorded in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  or  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$  solution in 5 mm tubes at room temperature on a Bruker Avance DRX-400 spectrometer at 400.13 ( $^1\text{H}$ ) and 100.61 ( $^{13}\text{C}$ ) MHz, utilizing the deuterium signal of the solvent for the field-frequency lock and *TMS* as internal standard. Elemental analyses were found to agree satisfactorily with the calculated data.

*trans*-2-Aminocyclopentanecarboxylic acid (**6**;  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_{12}\text{NO}_2$ )

To a solution of 3.3 g **4** (30 mmol) in 50 cm<sup>3</sup> dry EtOH, 2.5 g EtONa (36 mmol) were added, and the mixture was refluxed for 12 h. The solvent was evaporated, and the residue was dissolved in 50 cm<sup>3</sup> 18% HCl and refluxed for 24 h. After evaporation to dryness, the residue was dissolved in 30 cm<sup>3</sup> MeOH, and the inorganic salt was filtered off. The MeOH was evaporated, and the residue was purified on Varion KS ion-exchange resin. The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of the crude product revealed the presence of *cis*- and *trans*-2-aminocyclopentanecarboxylic acids **5** and **6** in a 1:9-ratio. This mixture was recrystallized, affording 3.04 g *trans*-2-aminocyclopentanecarboxylic acid **6** (78%).

Colourless crystals; m.p.: 262°C (90% EtOH; Ref. [17]; m.p.: 239–240°C);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ ):  $\delta$  = 1.65–2.20 (m,  $3 \times \text{CH}_2$ ), 2.68 (m, H-1), 3.77 (m, H-2) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ ):  $\delta$  = 23.0 (C4), 29.7 (C5), 30.6 (C3), 51.9 (C1), 55.3 (C2), 181.7 (COOH) ppm.

*Ethyl trans*-2-aminocyclopentanecarboxylate hydrochloride (**7**;  $\text{C}_8\text{H}_{16}\text{ClNO}_2$ )

Thionyl chloride (0.56 cm<sup>3</sup>, 7.6 mmol) was added dropwise under stirring to 7 cm<sup>3</sup> dry EtOH below –10°C, followed by 0.9 g (7 mmol) **6** in one portion, and the mixture was stirred for 30 min at 0°C. After stirring for additional 3 h at room temperature, the mixture was refluxed for 1 h and evaporated. To the brown oily residue, diethyl ether was added, and upon standing at –18°C 1.06 g of a white crystalline powder was obtained (78%).

M.p.: 67–72°C (EtOAc);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ ):  $\delta$  = 1.26 (t,  $J$  = 7.2,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.62–2.32 (m,  $3 \times \text{CH}_2$ ), 2.96 (m, H-1), 3.90 (m, H-2), 4.20 (q,  $J$  = 7.2,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ ):  $\delta$  = 13.7 ( $\text{CH}_3$ ), 23.1 (C4), 29.0 (C5), 30.9 (C3), 48.8 (C1), 54.3 (C2), 62.8 ( $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ), 175.7 (COO) ppm.

*trans*-2-Aminocyclopentanecarboxamide (**3a**;  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_{12}\text{N}_2\text{O}$ )

Ethyl *trans*-2-aminocyclopentanecarboxylate (**7**; 0.46 g, 2.93 mmol) was dissolved in 10 cm<sup>3</sup> of 25% ammonia in dry MeOH. The solution was kept at room temperature for 3 weeks. The solvent was then evaporated, and the white crystalline powder was recrystallized resulting in 0.28 g **3a** (74%).

Colourless crystals; m.p.: 123–124°C (EtOAc);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 1.32–2.22 ( $3 \times \text{CH}_2$ ), 1.59 (bs,  $\text{CHNH}_2$ ), 2.25 (m, H-1), 3.24 (m, H-2), 5.50 (bs,  $\text{CONH}_2$ ), 7.05 (bs,  $\text{CONH}_2$ ) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 22.4 (C4), 27.2 (C5), 37.9 (C3), 53.3 (C1), 58.0 (C2), 178.0 ( $\text{CONH}_2$ ) ppm.

*cis*-2-Benzoyloxycarbonylaminocyclopentanecarboxylic acid (**8**;  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}_4$ )

*cis*-2-Aminocyclopentanecarboxylic acid hydrochloride (49.7 g, 0.3 mol) was dissolved under stirring in 120 cm<sup>3</sup> 10% NaOH, and a few crystals of phenolphthalein were added. The solution was cooled with ice- $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , and 61.4 g benzyl chloroformate (0.36 mol) and 10% NaOH were then added in parallel dropwise during 1 h; care was taken that the reaction mixture always remained slightly alkaline. Stirring was continued at 0°C for 1 h and for further 4 h at room temperature. The excess benzyl chloroformate was next removed from the mixture by extraction with 100 cm<sup>3</sup> diethyl ether. The aqueous phase was cooled in ice and acidified to pH 2 with 18% HCl. The oil that separated was extracted with  $3 \times 200$  cm<sup>3</sup>  $\text{CHCl}_3$ . The organic phase was dried ( $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ ), filtered, and evaporated. Trituration of the oily residue with *n*-hexane gave 55.3 g **8** as a white crystalline powder (70%). After filtration, the powder was used for the next step. A small sample was purified by recrystallization from diisopropyl ether.

Colourless crystals; m.p.: 92–94°C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 1.48–2.12 ( $3 \times \text{CH}_2$ ), 3.03 (m, H-1), 4.26 (m, H-2), 5.11 (m,  $\text{NCH}_2\text{Ph}$ ), 7.20–7.48 (m,  $5 \times \text{CH}$ ) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 22.6, 23.3 (C4), 28.1, 28.5 (C5), 32.2, 32.6 (C3), 47.1 (C1), 54.9, 55.9 (C2), 67.5, 68.3 ( $\text{OCH}_2\text{Ph}$ ), 128.8, 129.2 (Ph, C2'–C6'), 137.1 (Ph, C1'), 156.7, 158.8 ( $\text{NHCOO}$ ), 179.0, 179.9 ( $\text{COOH}$ ) ppm.

*cis*-2-Benzoyloxycarbonylaminocyclopentanecarboxamide (**9**;  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$ )

To a salt-ice cooled, intensively stirred solution of 31.6 g **8** (0.12 mol) and 12.1 g triethylamine (0.12 mol) in 400  $\text{cm}^3$  dry toluene, 13.0 g ethyl chloroformate (0.12 mol) was added dropwise below  $-10^\circ\text{C}$ . After 15 min at  $-10^\circ\text{C}$ , 16.3 g 25% ammonia in dry MeOH (0.24 mol  $\text{NH}_3$ ) was added in a steady stream (during the addition, the reaction temperature rose to  $-5^\circ\text{C}$ ). The reaction mixture was stirred at  $-10^\circ\text{C}$  for 3 h and then allowed to stand at room temperature overnight. The crystals that precipitated were filtered off and washed 4 times with 100  $\text{cm}^3$  of dist.  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and 2 times with 100  $\text{cm}^3$  toluene. The obtained 21.4 g of white crystalline powder (68%) were used for the next step. A small sample was further purified by recrystallization.

Colourless crystals; m.p.: 166–168°C (MeOH);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 1.45–2.15 (m,  $3 \times \text{CH}_2$ ), 2.89 (m, H-1), 4.19 (m, H-2), 5.07 (AB,  $J$  = 12 Hz,  $\text{OCH}_2\text{Ph}$ ), 5.32 (bs,  $\text{CONH}_2$ ), 5.45 (bs,  $\text{CHNHCO}$ ), 5.60 (bs,  $\text{CONH}_2$ ), 7.27–7.43 (m,  $5 \times \text{CH}$ ) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 23.3 (C4), 28.71 (C5), 33.10 (C3), 47.68 (C1), 55.22 (C2), 67.32 ( $\text{OCH}_2\text{Ph}$ ), 128.75, 129.15 (Ph, C2'–C6'), 137.23 (Ph, C1'), 157.08 ( $\text{NHCOO}$ ), 176.73 ( $\text{CONH}_2$ ) ppm.

*cis*-2-Aminocyclopentanecarboxamide (**2a**;  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_{12}\text{N}_2\text{O}$ )

*cis*-2-Benzoyloxycarbonylaminocyclopentanecarboxamide (**9**; 20 g, 0.076 mol) were dissolved in 600  $\text{cm}^3$  MeOH and hydrogenated in the presence of 2 g 10% Pd/C at atmospheric pressure at  $40^\circ\text{C}$  until the indicated amount of hydrogen was absorbed (8 h). The catalyst was removed by filtration. After evaporation, **2a** was obtained as a white crystalline powder (7.6 g, 78%) which was purified by recrystallization.

Colourless crystals; m.p.: 135–137°C (EtOAc);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 1.51–2.08 (6H,  $3 \times \text{CH}_2$ ), 1.56 (2H, bs,  $\text{CHNH}_2$ ), 2.62 (1H, m, H-1), 3.56 (1H, m, H-2), 5.73 (1H, bs,  $\text{CONH}_2$ ), 6.74 (1H, bs,  $\text{CONH}_2$ ) ppm,  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 22.4 (C4), 26.1 (C5), 34.1 (C3), 50.3 (C1), 54.6 (C2), 179.8 ( $\text{CONH}_2$ ) ppm.

*trans*-2-Aminocyclopentanecarboxamide hydrochloride (**3b**;  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_{13}\text{ClN}_2\text{O}$ )

*cis*-2-Aminocyclopentanecarboxamide (**2a**; 1.1 g, 8.6 mmol) was thoroughly mixed with sodium methoxide (0.23 g, 4.3 mmol), and the mixture was maintained at  $150^\circ\text{C}$  for 10 min. After cooling to room temperature, the reaction mixture was washed with  $3 \times 25 \text{ cm}^3$  hot ethyl acetate and filtered. After evaporation of the solvent, the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of the crude product revealed **3a** and **2a** in a ratio of 9:1. The hydrochloride of this mixture was prepared. Upon trituration of the residue with ethyl acetate and EtOH, 0.45 g of a white crystalline powder were obtained. The hydrochloride **3b** was obtained by recrystallization (yield 32%).

Colourless crystals; m.p.: 198–201°C (90% EtOH);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ ):  $\delta$  = 1.62–2.38 ( $3 \times \text{CH}_2$ ), 2.88 (m, H-1), 3.86 (m, H-2) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ ):  $\delta$  = 23.5 (C4), 30.6 (C5), 30.9 (C3), 49.4 (C1), 54.3 (C2), 178.5 ( $\text{CONH}_2$ ) ppm.

*cis*-2-Aminocyclopentanecarboxamide hydrobromide (**2c**;  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_{13}\text{BrN}_2\text{O}$ )

*cis*-2-Benzoyloxycarbonylaminocyclopentanecarboxamide (**9**; 2.62 g, 10 mmol) was added to 8.8  $\text{cm}^3$  33% HBr in glacial acetic acid. The solution was stirred for 1 h, during which time a precipitate was

formed. To the suspension, 20 cm<sup>3</sup> diethyl ether were added, and 1.80 g of white crystalline powder were filtered off (86%), washed with diethyl ether, and purified by recrystallization.

Colourless crystals; m.p.: 338–233°C (EtOH/Et<sub>2</sub>O); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (D<sub>2</sub>O):  $\delta$  = 1.70–2.22 (3  $\times$  CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.04 (m, H-1), 3.87 (m, H-2) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (D<sub>2</sub>O):  $\delta$  = 21.9 (C4), 28.5 (C5), 30.6 (C3), 45.7 (C1), 53.8 (C2), 177.9 (CONH<sub>2</sub>) ppm.

*6-tert-Butoxycarbonyl-6-azabicyclo[3.2.0]heptan-7-one (10; C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>)*

6-Azabicyclo[3.2.0]heptan-7-one (**4**; 3.3 g, 30 mmol) was dissolved in 20 cm<sup>3</sup> dry CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The solution was stirred, and 0.37 g 4-dimethylaminopyridine was added, followed by 7.2 g Boc<sub>2</sub>O (33 mmol). After stirring at room temperature for 5 h, the reaction mixture was left overnight. The brownish reaction mixture was then extracted with brine and dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>). Evaporation left a pale-yellow oil which was passed over a short column, with toluene:ethyl acetate = 4:1 as eluent. After evaporation, 5.26 g of **10** were obtained as a white crystalline powder upon trituration with *n*-hexane (83%).

Colourless crystals; m.p.: 47–50°C (*i*-Pr<sub>2</sub>O); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 1.36–2.25 (3  $\times$  CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.52 (s, 3  $\times$  CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.47 (m, H-1), 4.33 (m, H-2) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 23.1 (C3), 25.9 (C2), 28.6 (3  $\times$  CH<sub>3</sub>), 29.4 (C4), 54.7 (C1), 58.0 (C5), 83.31 (OC(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 148.0 (NCOO), 168.2 (CON) ppm.

*cis-2-tert-Butoxycarbonylaminocyclopentanecarboxamide (11; C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>20</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>)*

6-*tert*-Butoxycarbonyl-6-azabicyclo[3.2.0]heptan-7-one (**10**; 3 g, 14.2 mmol) was dissolved in 30 cm<sup>3</sup> 25% solution of NH<sub>3</sub> in dry MeOH. The reaction mixture was allowed to stand at 4°C for 12 h and was then evaporated, first at room temperature and then on a 60°C water bath. The white crystalline powder obtained was purified by recrystallization (2.50 g, yield 77%).

Colourless crystals; m.p.: 163–166°C (EtOAc); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 1.32–2.15 (3  $\times$  CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.42 (s, 3  $\times$  CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.92 (m, H-1), 4.14 (m, H-2) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 23.3 (C4), 28.5 (C5), 29.0 (3  $\times$  CH<sub>3</sub>), 33.2 (C4), 47.9 (C1), 54.8 (C2), 80.1 (OC(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 156.7 (NHCOO), 176.9 (CONH<sub>2</sub>) ppm.

*cis-2-Aminocyclopentanecarboxamide hydrochloride (2b; C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>13</sub>ClN<sub>2</sub>O)*

*cis*-2-*tert*-Butoxycarbonylaminocyclopentanecarboxamide (**11**; 1.8 g, 7.9 mmol) was dissolved in 20 cm<sup>3</sup> 3 M HCl solution in EtOH. The reaction mixture was left to stand at room temperature for 2 h and then evaporated at room temperature. After evaporation, 1.10 g **2b** were obtained as a white crystalline powder (85%) which was purified by recrystallization.

Colourless crystals; m.p.: 243°C (EtOH/Et<sub>2</sub>O); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (D<sub>2</sub>O):  $\delta$  = 1.70–2.22 (3  $\times$  CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.04 (m, H-1), 3.87 (m, H-2) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (D<sub>2</sub>O):  $\delta$  = 21.9 (C4), 28.4 (C5), 30.6 (C3), 45.7 (C1), 53.8 (C2), 177.9 (CONH<sub>2</sub>) ppm.

*cis-N-Benzyl-2-tert-butoxycarbonylaminocyclopentanecarboxamide (12; C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>26</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>)*

6-*tert*-Butoxycarbonyl-6-azabicyclo[3.2.0]heptan-7-one (**10**; 1.59 g, 7.5 mmol) was dissolved in 50 cm<sup>3</sup> dry toluene, and 0.81 g benzylamine (7.5 mmol) and a catalytic amount of *p*-toluenesulfonic acid were added. The mixture was refluxed for 24 h, extracted with 5% NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution, dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), and evaporated. The 2.20 g resulting white crystalline powder (92%) were purified by recrystallization.

Colourless crystals; m.p.: 146–148°C (EtOAc);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 1.40 (s,  $3 \times \text{CH}_3$ ), 1.48–2.14 ( $3 \times \text{CH}_2$ ), 2.82 (m, H-1), 4.11 (qui,  $J$  = 7.8, H-2), 4.41 (AB system,  $J$  = 8 Hz, coup. with NH,  $\text{NHCH}_2\text{Ph}$ ), 5.10 (b,  $\text{CONHCH}_2$ ), 6.05 (bs,  $\text{NHCOO}$ ), 7.20–7.38 (m,  $5 \times \text{CH}$ ) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 23.3 (C4), 28.8 (C5), 29.1 ( $3 \times \text{CH}_3$ ), 33.3 (C3), 44.3 ( $\text{NCH}_2\text{Ph}$ ), 48.7 (C1), 54.9 (C2), 79.9 ( $\text{OC}(\text{CH}_3)_3$ ), 128.1 (Ph, C4'), 128.4 (Ph, C3', C5'), 129.4 (Ph, C2', C6') 138.9 (Ph, C1'), 156.6 ( $\text{NHCOO}$ ), 174.3 ( $\text{CHCON}$ ) ppm.

*cis-N-Benzyl-2-aminocyclopentanecarboxamide* (**13**;  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{19}\text{ClN}_2\text{O}$ )

*cis-N-Benzyl-2-tert-butoxycarbonylaminocyclopentanecarboxamide* (**12**; 0.7 g, 2.2 mmol) was dissolved in a 3 M HCl solution in 20 cm<sup>3</sup> dry EtOH. The reaction mixture was left to stand at room temperature for 2 h and evaporated at room temperature. The 0.44 g obtained white crystalline powder (78%) were purified by recrystallization.

Colourless crystals; m.p.: 150–153°C (*i*-Pr<sub>2</sub>O);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 1.70–2.28 ( $3 \times \text{CH}_2$ ), 3.04 (m, H-1), 3.87 (m, H-2), 4.41 (AB,  $J$  = 15.3,  $\text{NHCH}_2\text{Ph}$ ), 5.10 (b,  $\text{CONHCH}_2$ ), 7.34–7.45 (m,  $5 \times \text{CH}$ ) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 21.9 (C4), 28.7 (C5), 30.6 (C3), 43.3 ( $\text{NCH}_2\text{Ph}$ ), 46.1 (C1), 53.9 (C2), 127.6 (Ph, C3', C5'), 127.9 (Ph, C4'), 129.3 (Ph, C2', C6'), 138.3 (Ph, C1'), 175.0 ( $\text{CONH}_2$ ) ppm.

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