

Combinatorial Synthesis of Substituted Thieno[3,2-*b*]pyridines and Other Annulated Heterocycles via New $S_N2 \rightarrow$ Thorpe–Ziegler \rightarrow Thorpe–Guareschi Domino Reactions

Anatoliy M. Shestopalov,* Lyudmila A. Rodinovskaya, and Alexander A. Shestopalov

N.D. Zelinsky Institute of Organic Chemistry, Russian Academy of Sciences, 119991 Moscow, Russian Federation

Received August 30, 2009

Known methods of synthesis of thieno[3,2-*b*]pyridines are significantly underrepresented compared to available information on thieno[2,3-*b*]pyridines.^{1,2} Nevertheless, several synthetic pathways toward thieno[3,2-*b*]pyridines have been previously described in the literature.^{3–6}

A thieno[3,2-*b*]pyridine structure can be approached via several pathways (Figure 1), all of which require synthesis or in situ generation of 3-aminothiophene. Pathway A was developed by Gronowitz et al.⁷ It was successfully used to prepare multiconjugated thieno[3,2-*b*]pyridines via the reaction of ortho-halogenated pyridines with 3-*tert*-butoxycarbonylamino-2-trimethylstannylthiophene.⁸ Thieno[3,2-*b*]pyridines can also be synthesized via pathways B and C using 3-amino-2-carboxy thiophene and β -ethoxymethylene carbonyl compounds (derivatives of ethyl orthoformate and malonodinitrile, acetoacetic ester, cyanoacetic ester, and others).^{9–11} For example, the condensation of 3-aminothiophene, triethyl orthoformate, and Meldrum's acid was used to prepare thieno[3,2-*b*]pyridines with anticancer activities.¹² The reaction of 3-amino-2-carboxy thiophene and 4-fluorobenzoyl acetoacetic ester (pathway D) was employed to obtain substituted thieno[3,2-*b*]pyridines, which were used as intermediates in the synthesis of γ -aminobutyric acid receptor modulators.¹³ Pathway E was used to synthesize rare pyrrolothienopyridines by the reaction of 3-amidinothiophene with maleic anhydride and the subsequent oxidation of the Diels–Alder adduct.¹⁴

Thieno[3,2-*b*]pyridines can also be synthesized using an alternative approach by attaching a thiophene ring to pyridine.^{15–18} As such, they were prepared via a base catalyzed reaction of 3-halogen-2-cyano(ethoxycarbonyl)-methylene pyridine with heterocumulenes, isothiocyanates, or carbon disulfide.^{16–18} Similarly, thieno[3,2-*b*]pyridines annulated with pyridine or pyrimidine were prepared via a one-step method using 3-cyanopyridine-2(1*H*)thiones (or 5-cyanopyridine-6(1*H*)thiones) and 4-chloroacetoacetic ester.^{19,20}

Biological properties of thieno[2,3-*b*]pyridines are relatively well studied. Very often, they tend to show higher activities than isomeric thienopyridines.^{9,10,13} Substituted thieno[3,2-*b*]pyridines are also known for their biologically properties. Among them were found potential ligands for the

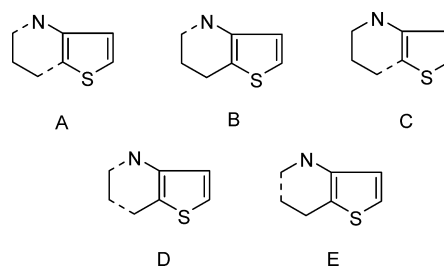


Figure 1. Possible approaches toward thieno[3,2-*b*]pyridines.

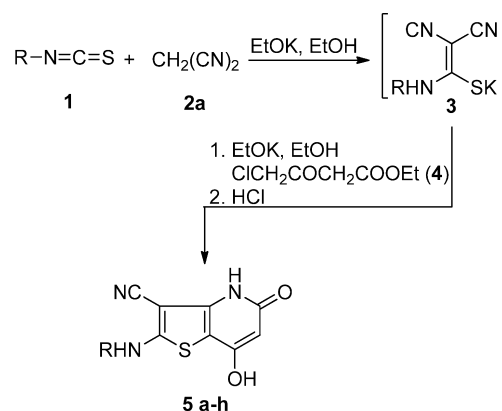
γ -aminobutyric acid receptor,¹³ immunomodulators,^{2,4,13} Ca channel inhibitors,^{13,21} and herbicides.¹³

Considering the practical importance of thieno[3,2-*b*]pyridines and a limited number of methods available for their synthesis, we decided to develop a new regioselective protocol for preparation of these compounds based on a domino-type reaction. The reaction includes the following consecutive steps: the S_N2 reaction \rightarrow the Thorpe–Ziegler reaction \rightarrow the Thorpe–Guareschi reaction, and significantly differs from the well-known domino pathways previously described by Tietze.²²

Thieno[3,2-*b*]pyridines were prepared by generating potassium salts of 2-amino-2,2-dicyanoethylene-2-thiolate **3** from isothiocyanates **1** and malonodinitrile (**2**) and reacting **3** with 4-chloroacetoacetic ester **4**. We determined that the reaction proceeds at elevated temperatures in the presence of potassium ethoxide and gives thieno[3,2-*b*]pyridines **5a–h** in high yields (75–93%) after acidification of the reaction mixture to pH \sim 7 (Scheme 1).

The IR spectra of compounds **5** contain a characteristic absorption band of the conjugated cyano-group in the 2204–2216 cm^{-1} region. The NMR spectra of **5** show corresponding R, NH, and OH signals, and includes a singlet peak that corresponds to the C⁶H hydrogen atom in the δ 5.15–6.06 ppm region. The IR spectra of **5** also demonstrate an intense CONH absorption band in the 1612–1644 cm^{-1} region, which suggests that **5** also exist in a pyridine-5(4*H*)-one tautomeric form, similar to pyridine-2(1*H*)-ones [1].

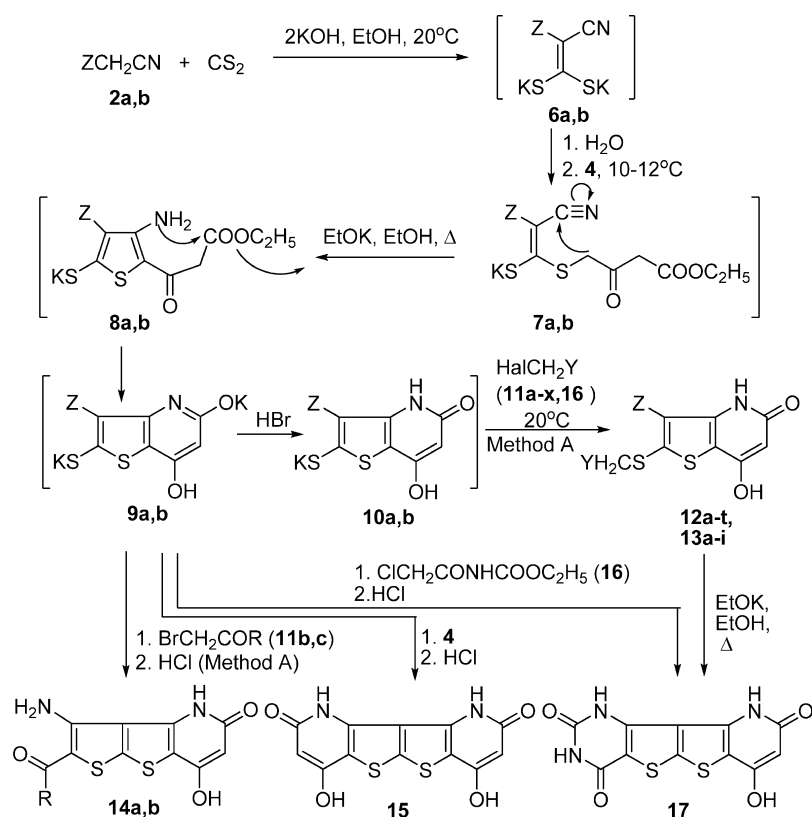
Scheme 1



5: R = CH₃ (**a**), C₂H₅ (**b**), *i*-C₃H₇ (**c**), CH₂CH=CH₂ (**d**), C₆H₅ (**e**), 4-F-C₆H₄ (**f**), 3-F-C₆H₄ (**g**), 3-Cl-C₆H₄ (**h**).

* Corresponding author. E-mail: shchem@dol.ru.



Scheme 2



2, 6-10: Z = CN (a), CONH₂ (b).

12: Z = CN, 13: Z = CONH₂.

14: R = CO-Ad¹ (a), CO-Ph (b).

	Hal	Y		Y
11a	I	H	12a	H
11b	Br	Ad ¹ -CO-	12b	Ad ¹ -CO
11c	Br	Ph-CO-	12c	Ph-CO
11d	Cl	3-F-C ₆ H ₄ -	12d	3-F-C ₆ H ₄
11e	Br	4-Br-C ₆ H ₄ -	12e	4-Br-C ₆ H ₄
11f	Cl	4-Cl-C ₆ H ₄ -	12f	4-Cl-C ₆ H ₄
11g	Cl	4-CH ₃ -C ₆ H ₄ -	12g	4-CH ₃ -C ₆ H ₄
11h	Cl	3-CH ₃ -C ₆ H ₄ -	12h	3-CH ₃ -C ₆ H ₄
11i	Cl	3-CF ₃ -C ₆ H ₄ -	12i	3-CF ₃ -C ₆ H ₄
11j	Cl	3-CH ₃ O-C ₆ H ₄ -	12j	3-CH ₃ O-C ₆ H ₄
11k	Cl	4-C ₅ H ₄ N-	12k	4-C ₅ H ₄ N
11l	Cl		12l	
11m	Cl	-CO-NH-CH(CH ₃) ₂	12m	CO-NH-CH(CH ₃) ₂
11n	Cl	CO-NH-C ₃ H ₅	12n	CO-NH-C ₃ H ₅
11o	Cl	Ad ¹ -NH-CO-	12o	Ad ¹ -NH-CO
11p	Cl	3-F-C ₆ H ₄ -NH-CO-	12p	3-F-C ₆ H ₄ -NH-CO
11q	Cl	3-F ₃ C-C ₆ H ₄ -NH-CO-	12q	3-F ₃ C-C ₆ H ₄ -NH-CO
11r	Cl	4-F ₃ C-C ₆ H ₄ -NH-CO-	12r	4-F ₃ C-C ₆ H ₄ -NH-CO
11s	Cl	3,4-F ₂ -C ₆ H ₃ -NH-CO-	12s	3,4-F ₂ -C ₆ H ₃ -NH-CO
16	Cl	CONHCOOC ₂ H ₅	12t	CONHCOOC ₂ H ₅
11a	I	H	13a	H
11t	Cl	Ph-	13b	Ph
11g	Cl	4-CH ₃ -C ₆ H ₄ -	13c	4-CH ₃ -C ₆ H ₄
11h	Cl	3-CH ₃ -C ₆ H ₄ -	13d	3-CH ₃ -C ₆ H ₄
11u	Cl	2-CH ₃ -C ₆ H ₄ -	13e	2-CH ₃ -C ₆ H ₄
11v	Cl	2,4-Cl ₂ -C ₆ H ₃ -	13f	2,4-Cl ₂ -C ₆ H ₃
11w	Cl	Ph-CH ₂	13g	Ph-CH ₂
11x	Br	COOCH ₃	13h	COOCH ₃
11b	Br	Ad ¹ -CO-	13i	Ad ¹ -CO

The combinatorial potential of the described method is determined by the number of available isothiocyanates and derivatives of cyanoacetic acid (malonodinitrile, cyanothioacetamides). The potential of this reaction can be doubled

by substituting isothiocyanates with other heterocumulenes, such as carbon disulfide. Moreover, the total possible outcome of this method can be further expanded in geometric progression by adding additional steps to the reaction

sequence. Such a strategy opens new preparation pathways not only toward substituted thieno[3,2-*b*]pyridines, but also toward more complex multiconjugated heterocyclic systems (Scheme 2).

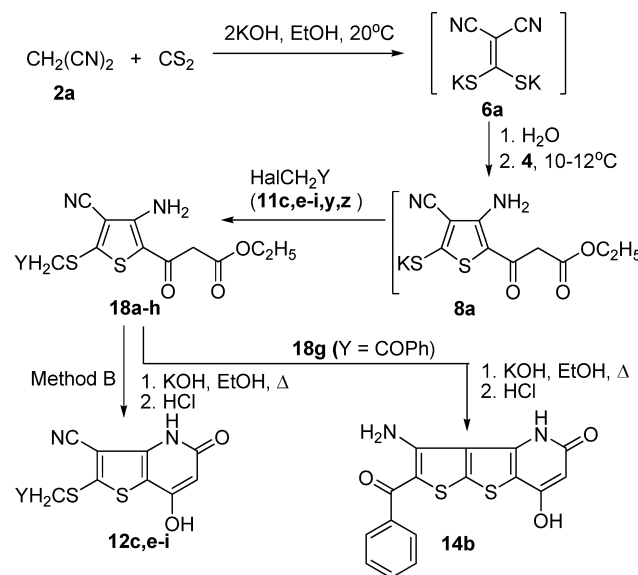
Dipotassium 2,2-dicyano-1,1-dithiolate (**6a**) or dipotassium 2-cyano-2-carbamoyl-1,1-dithiolate (**6b**) were generated in the ethanol solution by the reaction of malonodinitrile or cyanothioacetamide (**2b**) with carbon disulfide in the presence of two equivalents of KOH (Scheme 2). Subsequently, the reaction mixture was diluted with water (25% of total volume) and slowly reacted with 1 equiv of 4-chloroacetoacetic ester under vigorous stirring at 10–12 °C. Under such conditions, the S_N2 reaction proceeds highly regioselectively and gives intermediate **7** as the only product. Consequently, KOH in the solution catalyzes the Thorpe–Ziegler and Thorpe–Guareschi reactions and forms pyridine ring **9**.

To obtain compounds **12** and **13**, the reaction mixture was neutralized with 1 equiv of 48% HBr, filtered to remove an inorganic salt, and diluted with ethanol. Subsequently, the solution was divided into equal portions (up to 50 aliquots), and each portion was reacted at room temperature with alkyl halides **11a–x**, **16** (method A). Intermediate **9** has several nucleophilic centers, nonetheless, the reaction proceeds highly regioselectively at the sulfur atom and forms thieno[3,2-*b*]pyridine-5-ones **12**, **13** in 38–93% yields. Similar selectivity was observed in the past for 2-amino-5-cyanopyrimidine-6-thiolates,²³ 3-cyano-6-hydroxypyrimidine-2-thiolates,²⁴ substituted 1,4-dihydropyridine-2-thiolates,^{20,25} and 1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-2-oxopyridine-6-thiolates.²⁶ Thieno[3',2':4,5]thieno[3,2-*b*]pyridin-5(4*H*)-ones **14a,b** were obtained without initial acidification of the reaction mixture. As such, the solution of **9** was reacted with α-halogen ketones **11b,c** at 60–70 °C for 10 min and subsequently neutralized with an excess of HCl. The formation of compounds **14** proceeds via successive S_N2 and the Thorpe–Ziegler reactions, analogous to many other examples of the reactions between cyanopyridine thiones and α-halogen ketones.¹ New heterocyclic systems **15** and **17** were obtained by reacting dipotassium salt **9a** with 4-chloroacetoacetic ester **4** or chloroacetyl urethane **16**. Both of these reactions proceed via the usual S_N2 → Thorpe–Ziegler → Thorpe–Guareschi pathway, which was supported by obtaining **17** upon refluxing thieno[3,2-*b*]pyridine-5-one **12t** in ethanol.

The structures of compounds **12**, **13**, **14**, **15**, and **17** were confirmed by IR, NMR, and MS analyses (see the Supporting Information). The IR spectra of **12** and **13** contain N⁴HC⁵=O and CONH₂ absorption bands in the 1584–1664 and 1640–1664 cm^{−1} regions. The ¹H NMR spectra show a broaden N⁴H signal at ~11.9 ppm, which is characteristic of all pyridine-2(1*H*)-thiones [1]. A ¹³C NMR signal of the N⁴HC⁵=O fragment appears at 160–164 ppm, which supports the presence of the pyrimidone ring in **12** and **13**.

By modifying the conditions, we confirmed to a certain extent the sequence of reactions leading to compounds **12**. As such, when salt **6** was heated for several minutes with 4-chloroacetoacetic ester without the excess of KOH, the reaction stopped at thienylacetoacetic ester **8a**. Subsequently, the reaction mixture was divided into several portions, which were reacted with

Scheme 3



11: Hal = Cl, Y = 4-F-C₆H₄- (**y**); Hal = Cl, Y = 2,4-F₂-C₆H₃- (**z**).

18: 4-Br-C₆H₄ (**a**); 4-Cl-C₆H₄ (**b**); 3-CH₃-C₆H₄ (**c**); 4-CH₃-C₆H₄ (**d**); 4-F-C₆H₄ (**e**); 3-CF₃-C₆H₄ (**f**); Ph-CO (**g**); 2,4-F₂-C₆H₃- (**h**).

corresponding alkyl halogenides **11** to give compounds **18** in good to high yields (73–92%, Scheme 3).

The structures of molecules **18** were supported by IR, ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR, MS, and elemental analyses. The IR spectra of **18** contain valent and deformation absorption bands of the NH₂-group at 1604–1632 and 3164–3428 cm^{−1}, and absorption bands of the COOR- and conjugated CN-groups at 1712–1740 and 2212–2218 cm^{−1}. Probably, the C=O group forms intramolecular hydrogen bond with the neighboring NH₂-group (Figure 2), which leads to the shift of the C=O absorption band into the low region and its partial overlap with the NH₂ deformation band.

The ¹H NMR spectra of compounds **18** contain characteristic signals of Et, NH₂, and Y-groups, and CH₂(CO) singlet signals at the 3.47–3.68 ppm. The ¹³C NMR spectra show C=O signals at 151.62–155.25 ppm. This also supports the hydrogen bond formation instead of the possible enolization of the acetoacetic ester fragment.

Compounds **18a–d,f,g** were converted into **12c,e–i** in 62–75% yields via the Thorpe–Guareschi reaction under refluxing in ethanol at the presence of a base (method B). When compound **18g** (Y = COPh) was refluxed with an excess of a base, it gave triannulated heterocycle **14b** in a 70% yield.

Compound **5** has several reaction centers and, therefore, can be further modified. Previously, we have demonstrated that 4-hydroxypyridine-2(1*H*)-ones can be utilized in synthesis of annulated 2-amino-4*H*-pyrans,²⁰ some of which have demonstrated an anticancer activity.²⁷ Here, we utilized compounds **5** in a similar reaction to prepare annulated

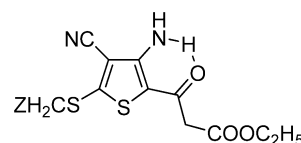
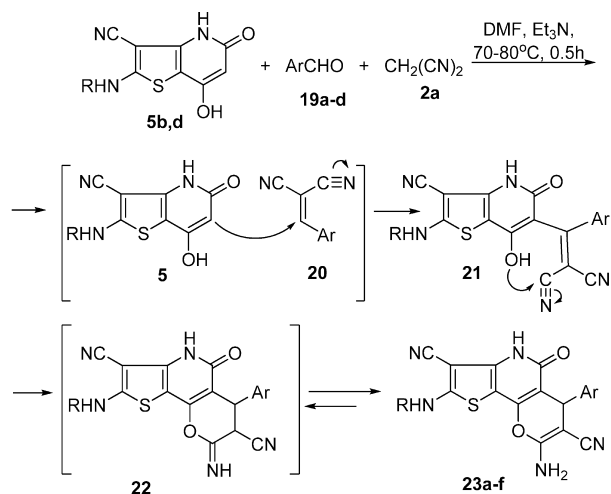


Figure 2. Intramolecular H-bond in ethyl 3-{3-amino-5-[*R*-methylenethio]-4-cyanothien-2-yl}-3-oxopropanoates.

Scheme 4



19: Ar = 4-Cl-C₆H₄ (**a**); 3-C₃H₄N (**b**); 4-C₃H₄N (**c**); 2-OCH₃-C₆H₄ (**d**).
23: R = C₂H₅, Ar = 4-Cl-C₆H₄ (**a**); R = C₂H₅, Ar = 3-C₃H₄N (**b**); R = C₂H₅, Ar = 4-C₃H₄N (**c**); R = CH₂CH=CH₂, Ar = 2-OCH₃-C₆H₄ (**d**); R = CH₂CH=CH₂, Ar = 3-C₃H₄N (**e**); R = CH₂CH=CH₂, Ar = 4-C₃H₄N (**f**).

pyrans. As such, a three-component condensation of **5b,d** with aldehydes **19** and malononitrile (**2a**) in DMF at 70–80 °C in the presence of Et_3N gives pyrans **23a-f** with high regioselectivity and 74–89% yields (Scheme 4).

Most likely, this domino-type reaction proceeds via the Knoevenagel → the Michael → and the Thorpe–Ziegler steps. This is supported by the numerous examples of stepwise pyrans syntheses, where unsaturated nitriles are first prepared via the Knoevenagel reaction and then used in the Michael reaction with 1,3-dicarbonyl compounds.^{20,27} Subsequently, the resulting Michael adducts undergo cyclization and 1,3-sigmatropic shift and form 2-amino-4H-pyrans **23**. The ¹H NMR spectra of **23** contain NH₂ and C⁶H singlets in the 7.17–7.20 and 4.43–4.48 ppm regions. Similar to **5**, **12**, **14**, **15**, and **17**, compounds **23** exist in a tautomeric form of pyridine-5(1H)-ones. The ¹³C NMR spectra of **23** contain characteristic C(O)NH signals at 158.25–158.77 ppm.

In conclusion, we have developed several domino-type protocols: (1) S_N2 reaction → Thorpe–Ziegler reaction → Thorpe–Guareschi reaction, (2) double domino reaction S_N2 reaction → Thorpe–Ziegler reaction → Thorpe–Guareschi reaction, (3) S_N2 reaction → Thorpe–Ziegler reaction, and (4) Knoevenagel reaction → Michael reaction → hetero-Thorpe–Ziegler reaction, which by themselves or in combinations significantly extend combinatorial potential for the synthesis of new complex heterocycle systems.

Acknowledgment. This work was supported in part by the Russian Foundation for Basic Research, grant no. 09-03-00349. We are also grateful to Bruker Moscow for providing us with a MicroTOF II instrument for spectroscopic measurements.

Supporting Information Available. Detailed experimental procedures and compound characterization data for all products. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

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