

SHORT  
COMMUNICATIONS

# Recyclization of 4,5-Bis(aroil)-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrole-2,3-diones by the Action of Aromatic Amines

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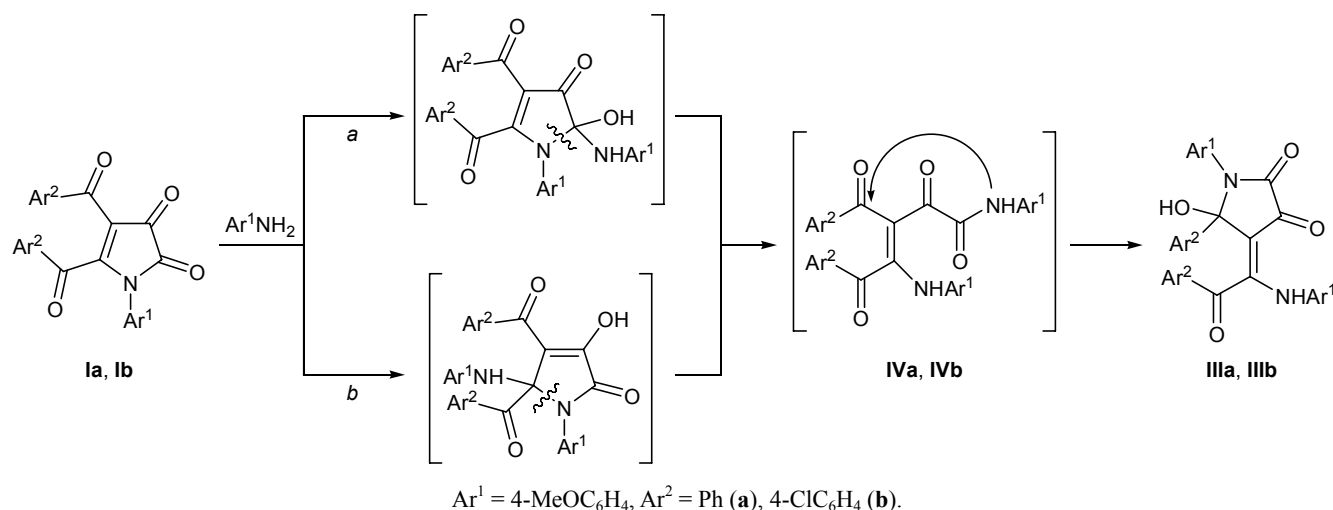
We previously reported on reactions of monocyclic 2,3-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrole-2,3-diones with aromatic amines, which resulted in the formation of addition products at the C<sup>5</sup> atom in the pyrrole ring, 5-aryl-amino-3-hydroxy-1*H*-pyrrole-2(5*H*)-ones [1–3]. By reaction of 4,5-bis(aroil)-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrole-2,3-diones **Ia** and **Ib** with *p*-anisidine at a molar ratio of 1:1 in anhydrous chloroform at room temperature (reaction time 8–10 h) we obtained (4*Z*)-5-aryl-[2-aryl-1-(4-methoxyphenylamino)-2-oxoethylidene]-5-hydroxy-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)pyrrolidine-2,3-diones **IIIa** and **IIIb** in good yields. The product structure was proved by X-ray analysis.

Presumably, compounds **IIIa** and **IIIb** are formed via initial addition of the primary amino group in *p*-anisidine at the carbon atom in position 2 of the pyrrole ring in **Ia** or **Ib** (path *a*), opening of the pyrrole

ring at the N<sup>1</sup>–C<sup>2</sup> bond with formation of intermediate compound **IVa** or **IVb**, and subsequent closure of new pyrrole ring as a result of intramolecular nucleophilic addition of the NH group at the ketone carbonyl group in the aroil substituent. An alternative mechanism is also possible (path *b*); it involves initial addition of the amino group at the C<sup>5</sup> atom in the pyrrole ring, followed by opening of the pyrrole ring via cleavage of the N<sup>1</sup>–C<sup>5</sup> bond, which also gives intermediate **IV**.

The described reaction is an example of recyclization of pyrrolediones by the action of aromatic amines, i.e., opening of the pyrrole ring and subsequent closure of new pyrrole ring.

**(4*Z*)-5-Hydroxy-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4-[1-(4-methoxyphenylamino)-2-oxo-2-phenylethylidene]-5-phenylpyrrolidine-2,3-dione (**IIIa**)**. A solution of 1.0 mmol of compound **Ia** and 1.0 mmol of *p*-anisidine



in 15 ml of anhydrous chloroform was kept for 8–10 h at room temperature. The solvent was removed, and the residue was ground with ethanol. Yield 79%, mp 153–154°C (from ethyl acetate–methanol). IR spectrum,  $\nu$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 3266–3359 br (OH, NH), 1701 ( $\text{C}^2=\text{O}$ ), 1677 (PhCO), 1647 ( $\text{C}^3=\text{O}$ , assoc.).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum,  $\delta$ , ppm: 3.59 s (3H,  $\text{CH}_3\text{O}$ ), 3.69 s (3H,  $\text{CH}_3\text{O}$ ), 6.88–7.43 m (19H,  $\text{H}_{\text{arom}}$ , OH), 12.29 br.s (1H, NH). Found, %: C 71.83; H 4.85; N 5.18.  $\text{C}_{32}\text{H}_{26}\text{N}_2\text{O}_6$ . Calculated, %: C 71.90; H 4.90; N 5.24.

**(Z)-5-(4-Chlorophenyl)-4-[2-(4-chlorophenyl)-1-(4-methoxyphenylamino)-2-oxoethylidene]-5-hydroxy-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)pyrrolidine-2,3-dione (IIIb)** was synthesized in a similar way. Yield 72%, mp 200–201°C (from ethyl acetate). IR spectrum,  $\nu$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 3310 br (OH, NH), 1705 ( $\text{C}^2=\text{O}$ ), 1680 (4-ClC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>CO), 1650 ( $\text{C}^3=\text{O}$ , assoc.).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum,  $\delta$ , ppm: 3.69 s (3H,  $\text{CH}_3\text{O}$ ), 3.75 s (3H,  $\text{CH}_3\text{O}$ ), 6.60–7.95 m (17H,  $\text{H}_{\text{arom}}$ , OH), 12.18 br.s (1H, NH). Found, %: C 63.61; H 3.95; N 4.56.  $\text{C}_{32}\text{H}_{24}\text{Cl}_2\text{N}_2\text{O}_6$ . Calculated, %: C 63.69; H 4.01; N 4.64.

The IR spectra were recorded on an FSM-1201 spectrometer from samples dispersed in mineral oil. The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra were obtained on a Bruker AM-400 instrument (400 MHz) from solutions in DMSO- $d_6$  using tetramethylsilane as internal reference. The purity of the products was checked by TLC on Silufol plates using benzene–ethyl acetate (5:1) or ethyl acetate as eluent.

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