

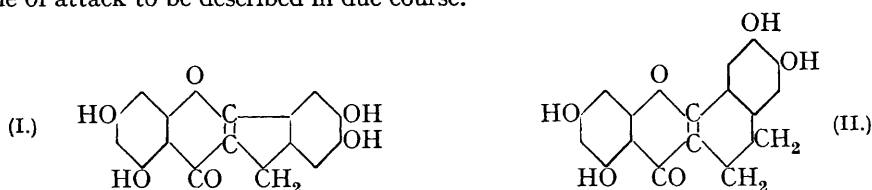
151. Anthoxanthins. Part XV. Experiments on the Synthesis of Garcinin.

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ACCORDING to Shinoda (*J. Pharm. Soc. Japan*, 1927, **541**, 35) the Japanese dye "fukugi" (from the bark of *Garcinia spicata* or *Xanthocymus ovalifolia*) contains garcinin, $C_{16}H_{10}O_6$ (or $C_{16}H_{12}O_6$), as well as the better known fukugetin, $C_{17}H_{12}O_6$.*

A. G. Perkin and Phipps (*J.*, 1904, **85**, 56) showed that fukugetin gives phloroglucinol and protocatechuic acid on fusion with potash, so the possibility that the substance is tetrahydroxy-2-styrylchromone was contemplated until synthetical experiments (Robinson and Shinoda, *J.*, 1925, **127**, 1973) showed that the properties of styryl analogues of flavonols were such as to throw considerable doubt on the validity of the hypothesis.

The alternatives have been discussed by Shinoda (*loc. cit.*), who showed that 3-ethyl- and 3-methyl-substituted luteolins are not identical with fukugetin and garcinin respectively. It is apparent that these colouring matters may contain a ring structure as in (I) for garcinin and (II) for fukugetin, but there is very little direct evidence for these suggestions and hence synthetical experiments were instituted. The present communication contains an account of some preliminary attempts, which have now been superseded by a more promising line of attack to be described in due course.

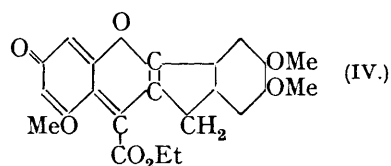
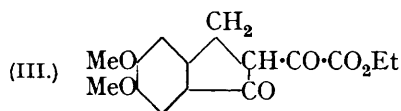


Bülow and Wagner (*Ber.*, 1903, **36**, 1941) found that 7-hydroxy-4-carboxyflavylium-betaine could be oxidised to 7-hydroxyflavone, and Robinson and Schwarzenbach (*J.*, 1930, 822) confirmed this observation and improved the yield but could not apply the reaction in analogous cases. Unfortunately an attempt to apply it to the synthesis of a substance of the formula (I) also failed.

5 : 6-Dimethoxyhydrindone (Perkin and Robinson, *J.*, 1907, **91**, 1081) was condensed with ethyl oxalate in alcoholic solution in the presence of sodium ethoxide, and the resulting *ethyl 5 : 6-dimethoxy-1-hydrindone-2-glyoxylate* (III) condensed with phloroglucinol dimethyl ether by means of hydrogen chloride to a pyrylium salt, most easily purified in the form of the related quinonoid *colour-base* (IV).

* Murakami (*Proc. Imp. Acad. Japan*, 1932, **8**, 500) has indicated that fukugetin and garcinin are isomerides of the formula $C_{22}H_{10}O_8$. They both appear to be *C-p*-hydroxybenzylquercetins.

The acid corresponding to the ester (IV) possesses the usual properties of a pyrylium-betaine; it furnished no γ -pyrone derivative on oxidation.



We have also to record the breakdown of the standard flavone synthesis of von Kostanecki in this series. The preparation of methyl 2:4:6-trimethoxybenzoate (Herzig, Wenzel, and Tölk, *Monatsh.*, 1902, **23**, 90) has been greatly improved, but this ester could not be condensed with 5:6-dimethoxyhydrindone even by means of sodium in boiling xylene. This is doubtless the result of hindrance by the *o*-situated methoxyl groups and it may be recalled that Mauthner (*J. pr. Chem.*, 1930, **124**, 319) was unable to bring methyl 2:6-dimethoxybenzoate and ethyl acetate into reaction in the presence of sodium, even during 8 hours at 100°.

The 2-benzoylation of hydrindone could be effected in the normal way or by the action of benzoyl chloride on the sodium derivative.

EXPERIMENTAL.

Ethyl 5:6-Dimethoxy-1-hydrindone-2-glyoxylate (III).—The difficulty experienced in dehydrating β -3:4-veratrylpropionic acid (Perkin and Robinson, *loc. cit.*) by means of P_2O_5 in C_6H_6 was traced to the use of carefully dried reagents. When the C_6H_6 was first shaken with H_2O , uniform satisfactory yields were obtained (7.8 g. of ketone from 10 g. of acid). Dimethoxyhydrindone crystallises from CCl_4 in yellow prisms, m. p. 116—118°.

A solution of dimethoxyhydrindone (25 g.) and ethyl oxalate (30 g.) in EtOH (50 c.c.) was added, with cooling, to one of NaOEt (2.9 g. Na) in EtOH (50 c.c.). Next day the reddish-yellow sodium salt was collected after addition of Et_2O to complete pptn., washed with Et_2O , and decomposed by dil. HCl in ice-cold aq. solution; the *product* (30 g.) crystallised from C_6H_6 or aq. acetone in yellow prismatic needles, m. p. 158—159° (Found: C, 61.9; H, 5.5. $C_{15}H_{16}O_6$ requires C, 61.6; H, 5.5%). The related *acid*, best obtained by hydrolysis of the ester (1 g.) in a mixture of conc. HCl (10 c.c.) and AcOH (10 c.c.) at 70—80° for 30 min., crystallised from AcOH in yellow prisms, m. p. 245—247° (Found: C, 58.3; H, 4.8. $C_{13}H_{12}O_6$ requires C, 59.1; H, 4.5%). The analysis indicates about 0.2 mol. of H_2O , and this seems to be difficult to remove.

*Colour-base * of 7-Hydroxy-5:5':6':6'-trimethoxy-4-carbethoxy-2:3(3':2')-indenobenzopyrylium Chloride* (IV).—A solution of phloroglucinol dimethyl ether (8 g.) and ethyl dimethoxyhydrindoneglyoxylate (15 g.) in AcOH (120 c.c.) was saturated with HCl at 60—70° for 10 hr. After 12 hr. at room temp. the solid was collected (4 g.) and recrystallised from hot AcOH containing HCl; it separated in deep orange prismatic needles with green reflex, gradual decomp. above 300°. The analysis (Found: C, 60.2; H, 4.7; Cl, 8.0; MeO, 26.8. $C_{22}H_{21}O_7Cl$ requires C, 61.0; H, 4.9; Cl, 8.2; 4MeO,† 28.7%) indicates partial demethylation and, fortunately, complete purification of the colour-base proved feasible. The ferrichloride crystallised from AcOH in reddish-violet prisms.

The 4-carboxy-derivative was prepared by refluxing the ester with AcOH—conc. HCl for many hours. The salt gradually separated in deep red crystals. This substance could not be obtained directly by employing dimethoxyhydrindoneglyoxylic acid in the original condensation.

The betaine was obtained from the carboxy-chloride by the action of NaOAc as a micro-cryst., deep red powder, decomp. above 300°. Its constitution follows from the method of prepn., analogies, and from its reversion into a pyrylium salt.

The original ester-chloride (2 g.) was dissolved in hot MeOH, and excess of NaOAc in hot

* Substances of this class have formerly been described as anhydro-benzopyranols, but it does not seem desirable to perpetuate superseded conceptions of reaction mechanism in the nomenclature and hence a change is now suggested. There can be little doubt that the formation of quinonoid colour-bases from kations of hydroxylated pyrylium salts (as also in analogous series) and vice versa is the result of the direct removal or attachment of protons and does not proceed *via* a pyranol stage.

† 3MeO, 1EtO.

612 *Letch and Linstead: The Preparation and Estimation*

MeOH added, quickly followed by AcOH. The *colour-base*, which was pptd. in micro-crystals, was collected, washed with MeOH, and recrystallised from CHCl_3 , forming small, dark brown-crimson prisms, m. p. $240-245^\circ$ after softening at $220-225^\circ$ (Found: C, 64.0; H, 5.1; MeO, 29.1. $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_8$ requires C, 63.8; H, 5.3; 4MeO, 29.2%). The CHCl_3 solution of this quinone is deep violet; it is readily changed by mineral acids to the orange-red pyrylium salts.

Methyl 2:4:6-Trimethoxybenzoate.—(a) Phloroglucinol trimethyl ether was condensed with methyl chloroformate in the presence of AlCl_3 (Herzig, Wenzel, and Tölk, *loc. cit.*); after separation from demethylated by-products the yield was 10%. Use of CS_2 as diluent reduced the yield (4%); use of FeCl_3 gave an amorphous product, m. p. $100-160^\circ$, and this could not be purified.

(b) The carboxylation of phloroglucinol dimethyl ether by means of KHCO_3 in glycerol solution succeeded, but the yield was inferior (0.2–0.5 g. from 5 g.) and this route was abandoned.

(c) Phloroglucinolcarboxylic acid was prepared by Skraup's method (*Monatsh.*, 1889, 10, 724), but the purification of the crude acid was found to be most easily carried out by solution in hot MeOH and addition of H_2O to incipient crystn. Methylation by CH_3N_2 in *dry* Et_2O , following Herzig, Wenzel, and Tölk (*loc. cit.*), afforded methyl 6-hydroxy-2:4-dimethoxybenzoate (1.5 g. from 1.7 g. of the acid) and in the further methylation by means of MeI and KOH in MeOH the ester (2 g.) gave fully methylated ester (1.5 g.).

(d) The complete methylation of phloroglucinolcarboxylic acid by means of CH_3N_2 succeeds in *moist* Et_2O and this is by far the most convenient method of prepn.

An Et_2O solution of CH_3N_2 (from 30 c.c. of $\text{NO}\cdot\text{NMe}\cdot\text{CO}_2\text{Et}$) was distilled into a suspension of phloroglucinolcarboxylic acid (5.1 g.) in Et_2O (25 c.c., dried over CaCl_2) and next day the excess of CH_3N_2 was destroyed by AcOH. On working up, incompletely methylated products (0.4 g.) were separated from the tetramethyl derivative (5 g.), which, best cryst. from CS_2 , formed colourless prisms, m. p. $67-69^\circ$. This ester could not be brought into reaction with 5:6-dimethoxyhydrindone in the presence of metallic Na: the failure cannot be attributed to the dimethoxyhydrindone, which condenses normally with ethyl oxalate (above) and was also found in preliminary trials to condense with ethyl benzoate to a characteristic β -diketone (copper salt and deep brown FeCl_3 reaction).

2-Benzoyl-1-hydrindone.—(a) 1-Hydrindone (2.6 g.) was added to a suspension of granulated Na (0.75 g.) in dry toluene, a vigorous reaction ensuing. BzOEt (6 g.) was gradually introduced, and the mixture refluxed for 3 hr. The solid was collected, shaken with dil. HCl and Et_2O , and the Et_2O solution separated and shaken with $\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2$ aq. The copper derivative (0.5 g.) was decomposed by means of dil. H_2SO_4 in the presence of Et_2O ; the resulting *diketone* crystallised from EtOH in almost colourless needles, m. p. 104° (Found: C, 81.2; H, 5.2. $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_2$ requires C, 81.2; H, 5.2%). The alc. solution is coloured deep brown on the addition of FeCl_3 .

(b) Powdered NaNH_2 (2 g.) was gradually added to 1-hydrindone (7 g.) in dry Et_2O (50 c.c.) and after the reaction had subsided NH_3 was removed below 10° in a stream of N. PhCOCl (3.5 g.) was added, and the mixture occasionally shaken for 24 hr. It was possible to isolate the copper derivative (1.5 g.) of the diketone from this reaction product, and the benzoyl-hydrindone crystallised from EtOH in faintly yellow needles, m. p. 104° .

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