ANTHRACYCLINES . CYCLOADDITIONS OF 9-CHLORO-10-HYDROXY-1,4-ANTHRAQUINONE WITH VARIOUS BUTA-1,3-DIENES

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Summary: The Diels-Alder type cycloaddition of several substituted buta-1,3dienes with 9-chloro-10-hydroxy-1,4-anthraquinone (10) affords an efficient, regiospecific access in two steps to tetracyclic ketones (12-14) which have been investigated as intermediates for the synthesis of anthracycline derivatives. Butadienes with a less asymmetric π -electron distribution than 9 give lower regiospecificity in cycloadditions with 10. Depending on the substituents in the used butadiene, the obtained cycloadducts are transformed under the reaction circumstances into the aromatized products (15-20).

The outstanding anticancer properties¹ of anthracyclines like adriamycin 1 and daunorubicin 2, and the awareness of the limited supply and serious side effects of these drugs have prompted the search for new synthesis of these and analogous compounds². As 4-demethoxydaunorubicin and 4-demethoxyadriamycin were found to be markedly more active and less toxic³⁻⁶ many chemists have been encouraged to develop efficient syntheses of the 4-demethoxyaglycone derivatives⁷. The recent isolation and reported activity⁸ of the 11-deoxy-derivatives 3 and 4 further demonstrate that aglycone modification is important to enhance the therapeutic index of these drugs. The reported syntheses of aglycones⁷,⁹ are, however, still lengthy and tedious, with low overall yield, or involve expensive starting materials.

$$\begin{array}{c} 0 & R_{3} & 0 \\ 1 & 12 & 17 & 10 \\ 3 & 0 & C & B \\ 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 \\ R_{1} & 0 & OH & OR_{2} \end{array} \qquad S = \begin{array}{c} H_{3}C & 0 \\ H_{0} & NH_{2} \\ 0 & H_{0} & NH_{2} \end{array}$$

1: adriamycin R_1 =OCH₃, R_2 =S, R_3 =OH, R=OH

Scheme I

2: daunorubicin R_1 =OCH₃, R_2 =S, R_3 =OH, R=H

3: 11-deoxyadriamycin R_1 =OCH₃, R_2 =S, R_3 =H, R=OH

4: 11-deoxydaunorubicin R₁=OCH₃, R₂=S, R₃=H, R=H

5: 4-demethoxyadriamycinone $R_1=H$, $R_2=H$, $R_3=OH$, R=OH

6: 4-demethoxydaunomycinone $R_1=H$, $R_2=H$, $R_3=OH$, R=H

Easily available starting materials containing three rings have already extensively been investigated⁷ in Diels-Alder reactions. Generally the synthetic route leads to 7 which can be transformed into 6 in four steps. For example 8 has successfully been converted into 7 via a reaction with 2acetoxybuta-1,3-diene¹⁰. Furthermore, it is well known that dienes of type 9 (Y=SiMe₃) and naphthoquinones give adducts which after mild hydrolysis contain^{11,12} the ring A of the tetracyclic ketone 7 a. Unfortunately, the reaction of 9 with 8 gives exclusive addition to the internal double bond^{13,14}, so that the expected \overline{Z}_{q} , which might give 6 in two steps, cannot be obtained in this way. Winkler¹⁵ and Hodge¹⁶ *et al.* reported the reaction of 9-chloro-10-hydroxy-1,4-anthraquinone^{17,18} (10) with some dienes. The latter workers were unable to develop a simple and efficient route for \overline{Z} from the cycloadducts of 10 with buta-1,3-diene.



In this communication we disclose a simple, efficient, regiospecific approach to 13, an important analogue of anthracyclinones. The key step is the cycloaddition of the inexpensive and easily prepared 10 with suitable butadienes: 1,3-bis (trimethylsilyloxy)butadiene¹⁹ in CH₂Cl₂ gave the unstable adduct 11 after 20 h at room temperature. After mild hydrolysis (0.1N HCl) 11^{200} yielded the tetracyclic ketone 12 (yield 84%, crystallized from acetone-hexane, m.p. 202-210°) which on controlled hydrolysis with 3N HCl in MeOH-CH₂Cl₂, at -5° overnight, afforded a mixture of 13 (80%, m.p. >260°, from acetone-hexane) and 15 (12%, m.p. >260° from acetone-hexane). The replacement of Cl in 13 by OH could provide directly a key intermediate for the anthracyclinones 5 and 6. Cycloaddition of 10 with 1-*tert*. butoxy-3-trimethylsilyloxybutadiene²¹ under the same conditions proceeds also regiospecific; mild hydrolysis (0.1N HCl) of the adduct gave 14 (75%, from CH₂Cl₂-hexane, m.p. 232-234°2°^b). The cycloaddition of 10 with 1-acetoxy-3-trimethylsilyloxybutadiene¹⁴, followed by mild hydrolysis, led to aromatization of the primary formed adduct, yielding 15 (80%). Apparently the acetoxy group is more liable to elimination than the trimethylsilyloxy group. Reflux of 10 and 1-methoxybutadiene in CH₂Cl₂ for 18 h yielded 18 (82%, m.p. 200° from CHCl₃-hexane). Under the same conditions 1-acetoxybutadiene gave no cycloadduct with 10.





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The cycloaddition of 10 with the highly electron-rich 1,2-diethoxy-3-trimethylsilyloxybutadiene $(CH_2Cl_2, 2 \text{ days}, 20^\circ)$, followed by mild hydrolysis, afforded directly a mixture of the regioisomers 16 and 17 (76%, m.p. >260°) as appeared from the ¹H NMR spectrum. The aromatization can be due to the stabilizing effect of the ethoxy group on the double bond. Analogous results were observed in the cycloaddition of this diene with naphthoquinone²¹. The isomers could not be separated by TLC. Ace-tylation of the mixture with acetic anhydride-pyridine gave a reaction mixture, which could be separated by TLC into mono^{22b} and diacetylated products (main product). ¹H NMR of the latter²²⁴ indicated the presence of two isomers, which could not be separated (19a and 19b).

The absence of regioselectivity has also been reported^{15,16} for the cycloaddition of 10 with simple, alkyl substituted butadienes. These results demonstrate that a high regioselectivity in [4+2]-cycloadditions of 10 can only be expected with electron-rich butadienes having a strongly asymmetric π -electron distribution.

The purity of all end products was ascertained by TLC in several solvents; the structures were supported by elemental analyses, mass spectroscopy, NMR and IR^{23-25} .

Treatment of 12 and 13 with sodium methoxide or sodium hydroxide under various conditions in order to replace the chlorine yielded 15. Ketalization of 13 with ethylene glycol, PTS, in benzene or CH_2Cl_2 afforded 21²⁴ (75%, m.p. 165-170° (dec) from CH_2Cl_2 -hexane), in which the chlorine could also not be replaced by treatment with sodium methoxide or sodium hydroxide. Compound 13 has shown an interesting way for the synthesis of aglycones having new substituents in ring B, because one of the carbonyl group at ring B has enhanced reactivity. Treatment of 13 with excess of ethynyl magnesium bromide followed by hydrolysis with mercuric oxide in dilute sulphuric acid afforded 22^{25} (16%, m.p. 192-194°, after chromatographic separation and crystallized from CH_2Cl_2 -hexane) confirming two acetyl functions in the molecule. The oxidation of 21 and 22 with various oxidizing agents are under way.

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- 20a 11 decomposes at melting solidifies again, and does not melt then up to 260°. b 14 melts at 232-234° after discoloration at 210°, solidifies again and does not melt up to 260°.
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- 22a The NMR-spectrum (CDCl₃, δ 1.39 (t, 3H, OCH₂CH₃), 2.35 (s, 3H, 5-OAc), 2.62 and 2.63 (s, 3H, 8-and 9-OAc), 4.25 and 4.26 (q, 2H, 8- or 9-OCH₂), 7.25-8.74 (m, 6H, aromatic protons), points to structures 19g and 19b.
 - b The product contains two compounds. The assignment of structures 20a and 20b was based on a comparison of the NMR spectrum with those of the diacetylated product (19a and 19b) and of 2-acetoxy-3-ethoxy-9,10-anthraquinone.
- 23. The ¹H NMR and IR(KBr) data of the compounds 12-18 are:
 - 12: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ-0.301 (s, 9H), 2.16-2.79 (m, 3H), 3.37-3.70 (m, 3H), 4.71-4.80 (m, 1H), 7.63-7.97 (m, 2H), 8.52-8.64 (m, 2H), 14.62 (s, 1H, 0H, D₂0 exchangeable; IR(KBr): 3390, 1710,1628,1575 cm⁻¹
 - 13: ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆): δ2.18-3.2 (m, 3H), 3.60-3.99 (m, 3H), 4.54-4.57 (m, 1H), 7.82-8.01 (m, 2H), 8.43-8.54 (m, 2H), 14.73 (s, 1H, OH, D₂O exchangeable); IR(KBr): 3490,1720,1618, 1586 cm⁻¹
 - 14: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ0.79 (s, 9H, C(CH₃)₃), 2.17-2.83 (m, 3H), 3.40-3.74 (m, 3H), 4.60-4.66 (m, 1H), 7.64-7.97 (m, 2H), 8.55-8.63 (m, 2H), 14.64 (s, 1H, 0H, D₂O exchangeable); IR(KBr): 3382,3080,1709,1624,1575 cm⁻¹
 - 15: ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆): δ7.15-8.65 (m, 7H), OH protons not visible; IR(KBr): 3400,1656,1620,1595, 1572 cm⁻¹
 - 16 and 17: ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆): δ 1.42 (t, 3H, J=7 Hz, -CH₃), 4.26 and 4.27 (q, 2H, -OCH₂), 7.43-8.56 (m, 6H), OH protons not visible; IR(KBr): 3420,1660,1608,1580,1515 cm⁻¹
 - 18: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ1.26-2.75 (m, 2H), 3.05 (s, 3H, 0CH₃), 3.28-3.49 (m, 2H), 3.84-4.15 (m, 1H), 5.92-6.22 (m, 2H), 7.36-8.06 (m, 2H), 8.20-8.89 (m, 2H), 14.47 (s, 1H, 0H, D₂0 exchangeable); IR(KBr): 3060,3020,2860,1725,1625,1570 cm⁻¹
- 24a The structure of 20 was tentatively assigned on ¹H NMR and IR data. The alternative glycosidation at quinonoid carbonyl adjacent to chlorine was ruled out because 18 under similar glycosidation conditions have no reaction.
 ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): 61.13-3.29 (m, 6H), 3.5-4.73 (m, 2H), 3.95 (s, 4H, -OCH₂CH₂O-), 7.4-8.73 (m, 4H), 14.8 (s, 1H, 110H, D₂O exchangeable); IR(KBr): 3390,2960,1700,1642,1590 cm⁻¹.
 b It starts to change the color at 135° and dec 165-170 °C.
- 25a The structure of 21 was assigned on basis of high resolution MS, ¹H NMR and IR data and was a mixture of stereoišomers. The possibility of having the acetyl group on the other side appears to be less probable because the attack of ethynyl magnesium bromide on the hydrogen bonded quinonoid carbonyl group has never reported⁷.
 ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ1.22-2.24 (m, 2H), 2.64-3.24 (m, 2H), 2.33 (s, 3H, COCH₃), 2.40 (s, 3H, COCH₃), 4.24-4.6 (m, 1H), 3.71-5.15 (m, 2H, 0H protons, D₂O exchangeable), 7.65-7.83 (m, 2H), 8.27-8.61 (m, 2H), 14.89 (s, 1H, 0H proton, D₂O exchangeable); IR(KBr): 3260,1718,1625,1612 cm⁻¹; MS, found: m/e 414.2022 Calcd for C₂₂H₁₉ClO₆: M, 414.2042.
 b It starts to shrink at 174° and melts at 192-194 °C.

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