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## Stereoselective synthesis of spirofused 3-substituted 2,3,4,4a,5,6-hexahydro-6*H*-benzo[*c*]quinolizine using the *tert*-amino effect

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The interaction of 2-(4-R-piperidino) benzaldehyde and cyclic CH-active compounds occurred as a tandem of Knövenagel condensation and cyclization by *tert*-amino effect and led to spiro-fused 3-substituted 2,3,4,4a,5,6-hexahydro-6H-benzo[c]quinolizine.

New strategies for the stereoselective synthesis of nitrogencontaining heterocycles are of interest in organic chemistry, and various methods have been proposed.<sup>1–3</sup> The  $\alpha$ -cyclization of





tertiary amines is a mechanistically intriguing and synthetically useful cyclization.<sup>4</sup> Meth-Cohn and Suschitzky<sup>5</sup> have coined the term 'tertiary amine effect' to describe such processes, which have been further developed by Verboom and Reinhoudt.<sup>6</sup> The use of the *tert*-amino effect for preparation of pyrido-fused ring systems has been well documented.<sup>7,8</sup> The stereochemical studies on the cyclization of derivatives of type **1** substituted at the atom adjacent to the nitrogen of *tert*-amine moieties revealed high regio- and stereoselectivity of the reaction.<sup>9</sup> We found that in the case when substituted at the  $\beta$ -carbon of cyclic amino group

the reaction is also stereoselective.<sup>10</sup> Here, we report a stereoselective reaction of 2-(4-phenylpiperidino)benzaldehyde  $1^{\dagger}$ and cyclic CH-active compounds **2a**,**b**, which led to a single isomer<sup>‡</sup> with an axiality hydrogen in the 3- and 4a-positions of benzo[*c*]quinolizine (Scheme 1). The structures of **3a**,**b** were determined by 2D correlation NMR spectroscopy (DEPT, COSY, HETCOR) and ax-eq coupling constants.

In contrast to the cyclization of 1 with 2a,b, the reaction of 1 and malononitrile led to benzylidene malononitrile 5, similarly to published data.<sup>9</sup> The cyclization of  $4^{\$}$  led to a mixture<sup>¶</sup> of two isomers 5 and 6 in a ratio of 1:1 (Scheme 2).

Our present results indicate that the cyclization of benzaldehyde **1** and CH-active compounds occurred stereoselectively for reaction with cyclic CH-active compounds but not for one of malononitrile.

<sup>†</sup> 4-Phenylpiperidine (0.160 mg, 0.988 mmol) and potassium carbonate (0.138 g, 0.988 mmol) were added to a solution of 2-fluorobenzaldehyde (0.118 g, 0.949 mmol) in DMF (1.0 ml). The reaction mixture was refluxed in a glycerol bath at 150 °C for 20 h. The completion of the reaction was judged from TLC. The reaction mixture was cooled to ~20 °C, water (15 ml) was added, and the product was extracted with ethyl acetate (3×20 ml). The combined organic extract was washed with a solution of ammonium chloride. The organic layer was dried with Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and the solvent was removed in vacuo. Data for 1: 2-(4-phenylpiperidino)benzaldehyde. Yield, 75%; mp 122 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR ([<sup>2</sup>H<sub>6</sub>]DMSO)  $\delta$ : 10.26 (s, 1H, CHO), 7.70 (dd, 1H,  $H_{Ar}$ , *J* 7.7 and 1.7 Hz), 7.61 (ddd, 1H,  $H_{Ar}$ , *J* 8.3, 8.5 and 1.7 Hz), 7.30–7.33 (m, 4H,  $H_{Ar}$ ), 7.25 (d, 1H,  $H_{Ar}$ ), J 8.3 Hz), 7.21 (ddd, 1H, H<sub>Ar</sub>, J 7.7, 7.0 and 4.7 Hz), 7.14 (dd, 1H, H<sub>Ar</sub>, J 7.7 and 8.5 Hz), 3.32-3.38 (m, 2H, 2NCH), 3.01 (ddd, 2H, 2NCH, J 11.9, 11.8 and 2.9 Hz), 2.64-2.74 (m, 1H, CH), 1.87-1.99 (m, 4H, 2CH<sub>2</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR ([<sup>2</sup>H<sub>6</sub>]DMSO) δ: 33.09 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 41.28 (CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 54.64 (NCH<sub>2</sub>), 119.33 (ArH), 121.90 (ArH), 126.10 (Ph), 126.74 (Ph), 127.86 (Ph), 128.34 (Ph), 128.97 (ArH), 135.07 (ArH), 145.82 (Ar), 155.86 (Ar), 190.80 (CHO). MS, m/z: 265 (M+). Found (%): N, 5.15. Calc. for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>19</sub>NO (%): N, 5.28.

<sup>\*</sup> Meldrum's acid (or dimedone) (2.3 mmol) was added to a solution of benzaldehyde **1** (0.608 g, 2.3 mmol) in toluene (20 ml). The reaction mixture was refluxed for 3 h. The completion of the reaction was determined by TLC. The reaction mixture was cooled to ~20 °C and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was triturated with ethanol.

3-Phenvl-2',2'-dimethvl-2,3,4,4a,5,6-hexahydro-6H-spiro(benzo[c]quinolizine-5,5'-[1,3]dioxane)-4',6'-dione 3a. Yield, 80%; mp 240 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.27 (dd, 2H, H<sub>Ph</sub>, J 7.4 and 7.4 Hz), 7.19 (tt, 1H,  $H_{Ph}$ , J 7.4 and 1.9 Hz), 7.15 (ddd, 1H,  $H_{Ar}$ , J 8.2, 6.9 and 1.3 Hz), 7.09–7.12 (m, 2H,  $H_{Ar}$ ), 6.97 (d, 1H,  $H_{Ar}$ , J 7.3 Hz), 6.93 (d, 1H, Hz), 7.3 H J 8.3 Hz), 6.74 (ddd, 1H, H<sub>Ar</sub>, J 7.4, 7.4 and 1.0 Hz), 4.10 [ddd, 1H, CH(1), J 12.8, 4.6 and 2.6 Hz], 3.52 [d, 1H, CH(6), J 16.4 Hz], 3.43 [dd, 1H, CH(4a), J 11.8 and 2.4 Hz], 3.11 [d, 1H, CH(6), J 16.4 Hz], 2.72 [ddd, 1H, CH(1), J 12.8, 12.8 and 2.6 Hz], 2.60 [dd, 1H, CH(4), J 13.7 and 6.0 Hz], 2.50 [dd, 1H, CH(3), J 13.7 and 7.8 Hz], 1.76 (s, 3H, Me), 1.75 (s, 3H, Me), 1.72-1.78 [m, 1H, CH(4)], 1.36 [ddd, 1H, CH(2), J 12.8, 12.8 and 4.6 Hz], 1.15 [ddd, 1H, H(2), J 12.8, 12.8 and 12.8 Hz]. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 169.28 (CO), 164.78 (CO), 144.60 (Ar), 139.46 (Ar), 129.06 (ArH), 128.71 (ArH), 128.37 (ArH), 127.67 (ArH), 126.23 (ArH), 119.50 (Ar), 118.49 (ArH), 113.52 (ArH), 61.24 (C4a), 52.21 (OCO), 48.27 (C1), 43.00 (C5), 37.63 (C3), 34.72 (C6), 34.56 (C4), 30.62 (C<sup>2</sup>), 30.28 (Me), 28.20 (Me). MS, *m/z*: 391 (M<sup>+</sup>). Found (%): N, 3.58. Calc. for C24H25NO4 (%): N, 3.58.

3-Phenyl-5',5'-dimethyl-2,3,4,4a,5,6-hexahvdro-6H-spiro(benzo[c]quinolizine-5,2'-cyclohexane)-1',3'-dione 3b. Yield, 68%; mp 230 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR ([ ${}^{2}H_{6}$ ]DMSO)  $\delta$ : 7.23 (dd, 2H, H<sub>Ph</sub>, J 7.6 and 7.6 Hz), 7.16 (tt, 1H,  $H_{Ph}$ , J 7.6 and 1.3 Hz), 7.07 (d, 1H,  $H_{Ar}$ , J 7.6 Hz), 7.05–7.10 (m, 2H,  $H_{Ar}$ ), 7.00 (ddd, 1H,  $H_{Ar}$ , J 7.9, 7.2 and 1.3 Hz), 6.86 (d, 1H,  $H_{Ar}$ , J 7.9, 7.2 and 1.3 Hz), 7.9 (d, 1H,  $H_{Ar}$ , J 7.9, 7.9 (d, 1H,  $H_{Ar}$ , J 7.9, 7.9 (d, 1H,  $H_{Ar}$ , J 7 J 7.9 Hz), 6.66 (ddd, 1H,  $\ddot{H}_{Ar}$ , J 7.3, 7.4 and 1.0 Hz), 4.59 [dd, 1H, CH(1), J 12.2 and 3.1 Hz], 4.13 [d, 1H, CH(4a), J 14.5 Hz], 3.48 [d, 1H, CH(6), J 13.3 Hz], 3.11-3.32 (m, 3H, 3CH), 3.11 [d, 1H, CH(6), J 13.3 Hz], 2.64 [d, 1H, CH(4'), J 16.9 Hz], 2.27 (dd, 1H, CH, J 13.8 and 2.1 Hz), 2.14 (dd, 1H, CH, J 13.8 and 2.1 Hz), 1.47-1.59 (m, 2H, 2CH), 1.18-1.23 (m, 2H, 2CH), 1.23 (s, 3H, Me), 0.68 (s, 3H, Me). <sup>13</sup>C NMR ([<sup>2</sup>H<sub>6</sub>]DMSO) δ: 205.99 (CO), 205.01 (CO), 145.22 (Ar), 141.67 (Ar), 129.32 (ArH), 128.37 (ArH), 126.45 (ArH), 125.37 (ArH), 126.15 (ArH), 122.32 (Ar), 117.66 (ArH), 113.22 (ArH), 67.32 (C4a), 60.09 (C1), 50.83 (C<sup>5</sup>), 49.09 (C<sup>4</sup>), 48.09 (C<sup>6</sup>), 42.11 (C<sup>5</sup>), 31.14 (C<sup>3</sup>), 30.69 (C<sup>6</sup>), 29.46 (C<sup>4</sup>), 27.91 (C<sup>5</sup>), 26.18 (Me), 23.56 (Me). MS, *mlz*: 387 (M<sup>+</sup>). Found (%): N, 3.47. Calc. for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>29</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> (%): N, 3.61.

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 $^{\$}$  2-[2-(4-Phenylpiperidino)benzylidene]malononitrile 4. Yield, 85%; mp 116 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR ([<sup>2</sup>H<sub>6</sub>]DMSO)  $\delta$ : 8.26 (s, 1H, CH=), 7.98 (dd, 1H, H<sub>Ar</sub>, J 8.1 and 1.2 Hz), 7.58 (ddd, 1H, H<sub>Ar</sub>, J 8.4, 7.4 and 1.2 Hz), 7.00–7.30 (m, 7H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 3.20–3.26 (m, 2H, 2NCH), 2.94–3.06 (m, 2H, 2NCH), 2.60–2.70 (m, 1H, CH), 1.90–2.08 (m, 4H, 2CH<sub>2</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR ([<sup>2</sup>H<sub>6</sub>]DMSO)  $\delta$ : 33.07 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 41.26 (CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 54.22 (NCH<sub>2</sub>), 81.10 (C=), 113.32 (CN), 114.51 (CN), 119.58 (ArH), 122.18 (ArH), 124.37 (Ph), 126.13 (Ph), 126.76 (Ph), 128.34 (Ph), 129.00 (ArH), 134.84 (ArH), 145.75 (Ar), 154.59 (Ar), 158.34 (C=). MS, m/z: 313 (M<sup>+</sup>). Found (%): N, 13.51. Calc. for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>19</sub>N<sub>3</sub> (%): N, 13.41.

<sup>¶</sup> A solution of vinyl compound 4 (0.225 g, 0.72 mmol) in BuOH (10 ml) was heated at 100 °C for 3 h and then filtered with charcoal. The solvent was evaporated, and the residue was recrystallised from ethyl acetate.

A mixture of 3-phenyl-2,3,4,4a,5,6-hexahydro-6H-benzo[c]quinolizine-5,5-dicarbonitriles **5**, **6**: Yield, 91%; mp 115 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR ([<sup>2</sup>H<sub>6</sub>]DMSO)  $\delta$ : two isomers 6.90–7.40 (m, 7H, H<sub>Ar</sub>), 6.78 (d, 1H, H<sub>Ar</sub>, J 7.0 Hz), 6.74 (dd, 1H, H<sub>Ar</sub>, J 7.0 and 7.0 Hz), 4.18 (d, 0.5H, CH, J 12.5 Hz), 3.50–3.90 (m, 3.5H, CH), 3.35–3.40 (m, 1H, CH), 2.80–3.12 (m, 1H, CH), 2.58–2.65 (m, 1H, CH), 2.10–2.38 (m, 3H, CH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR ([<sup>2</sup>H<sub>6</sub>]DMSO)  $\delta$ : 144.37, 142.39, 129.13, 128.58, 127.37, 126.62, 126.12, 118.75, 116.59, 115.21, 114.69, 113.89, 54.44, 43.52, 36.41, 35.34, 33.71, 32.99, 28.49, isomer 144.47, 143.78, 129.35, 129.12, 128.62, 128.40, 126.55, 118.89, 116.59, 115.18, 114.46, 114.03, 58.10, 47.45, 36.51, 35.78, 34.78, 34.13, 31.24. MS, *m/z*: 313 (M<sup>+</sup>). Found (%): N, 13.19. Calc. for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>19</sub>N<sub>3</sub> (%): N, 13.41.