

## A Novel Skeletal Rearrangement of 2-Azabicyclo[2.2.1]hept-5-ene-3-carboxylic Acid Derivatives into 2-Oxabicyclo[3.3.0]oct-7-en-3-ones under Acidic Conditions

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The reaction of ethyl 2-azabicyclo[2.2.1]hept-5-ene-3-carboxylate with aroyl chloride and the subsequent hydrolysis of the ester group provided 2-aroyle-2-azabicyclo[2.2.1]hept-5-ene-3-carboxylic acid derivatives, which underwent a stereospecific rearrangement giving 4-aroyleamino-2-oxabicyclo[3.3.0]oct-7-en-3-ones by treatment with trifluoroacetic acid. On the other hand, the reaction of 2-benzoyl-2-azabicyclo[2.2.1]hept-5-ene with trifluoroacetic acid in heated benzene afforded 1-[(benzoylamino)methyl]-1,3-cyclopentadiene which afforded a Diels–Alder cycloadduct with *N*-phenylmaleimide. A plausible mechanism for the rearrangement is presented.

The chemistry of systems derived from 2-azabicyclo[2.2.1]hept-5-ene has attracted a great deal of attention in the past years, due to its applicability to the syntheses of derivatives of biological and theoretical interest.<sup>1)</sup> Although various methods of preparation of the 2-azabicyclo[2.2.1]hept-5-ene skeleton have been reported,<sup>1,2)</sup> the Diels–Alder reaction of 1,3-cyclopentadiene with iminium ions in aqueous solution expedited the preparation of 2-azabicyclo[2.2.1]hept-5-ene derivatives with various substituents even in optically pure forms.<sup>3,4)</sup> On the other hand, limited examples are known on the chemical properties of the skeleton, e.g., retro-Diels–Alder reactions,<sup>5)</sup> N(2)–C(3) bond cleavage reactions,<sup>1,3b)</sup> hetero [3,3] sigmatropic rearrangement reactions,<sup>6)</sup> and rearrangement reactions via nitrenium intermediates.<sup>7)</sup> We describe herein a novel type of acid-induced rearrangement of the 2-azabicyclo[2.2.1]hept-5-ene-3-carboxylic acid derivatives into 2-oxabicyclo[3.3.0]oct-7-en-3-one skeleton.

### Results and Discussion

The aza-Diels–Alder reaction of 1,3-cyclopentadiene (**1**) with the iminium ion **2** in aqueous solution gave ethyl 2-azabicyclo[2.2.1]hept-5-ene-3-carboxylate (**3**) in 84% yield.<sup>3)</sup> The amino ester **3** was consequently treated with benzoyl chloride and triethylamine in dichloromethane at room temperature to give the 3-*endo*-ester amide **4a** and the 3-*exo*-ester amide **4b** in 57% and 20% yields, respectively. The reaction of the amine ester **3** with *p*-nitrobenzoyl chloride gave only the 3-*endo* isomer **5** in 48% yield.

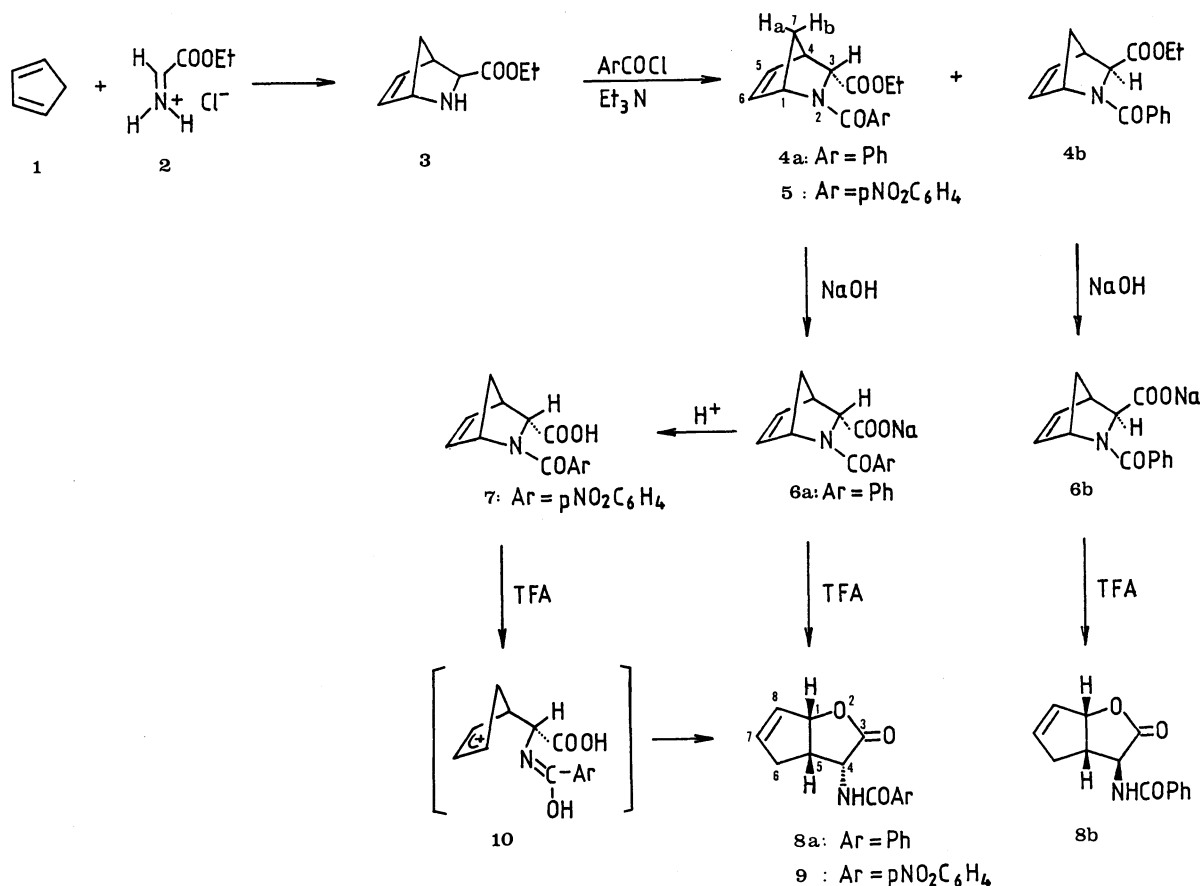
The ester amides **4a**, **4b**, and **5** showed temperature-dependent NMR signals, which broadened at room temperature and sharpened at higher temperature, probably due to the restricted rotation around the N–COAr group.<sup>8)</sup> The stereochemical determinations are based on <sup>1</sup>H NMR chemical shifts and vicinal <sup>1</sup>H coupling constants ( $\delta=4.62$ ,  $J_{3,4}=3.3$  Hz for 3-H of **4a**; and  $\delta=3.73$ ,  $J_{3,4}\approx 0$  Hz for 3-H of **4b**). These assignments are further confirmed by the <sup>1</sup>H–<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>1</sup>H–<sup>13</sup>C COSY NMR measurements of **4a**. The *p*-nitrobenzoyl

derivative **5** was determined to have a 3-*endo*-ethoxy-carbonyl group by comparison of the spectra with those of the 3-*endo*-ester amide **4a**. These spectral properties are in good agreement with other 2-azabicyclo[2.2.1]hept-5-ene derivatives<sup>9a)</sup> as well as norbornene systems.<sup>9b)</sup>

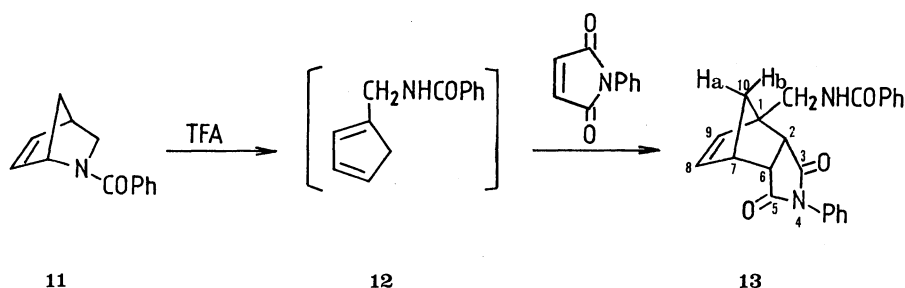
When the ester amide **4a** was hydrolyzed under alkaline conditions, the rearranged product subsequently identified as the lactone **8a** was obtained after acidification. Therefore, the ester amides **4a** and **4b** were converted respectively to the corresponding sodium carboxylates **6a** and **6b** in 86 and 59% yield without epimerization at the 3-position. The respective treatments of the 3-*endo* and the 3-*exo* carboxylates **6a** and **6b** with trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) resulted in the stereospecific formations of the 4-*endo* and the 4-*exo* lactones **8a** and **8b** in 86 and 60% yield. On the other hand, a similar hydrolysis of the *p*-nitrobenzoyl derivative **5** gave the 3-*endo* carboxylic acid **7** in 73% yield after acidification. Treatment of the acid **7** with TFA similarly afforded the 4-*endo* lactone **9** in 85% yield.

The structures of the lactones **8a**, **8b**, and **9** were unequivocally established by the spectroscopic and microanalytical data along with the <sup>1</sup>H–<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>1</sup>H–<sup>13</sup>C COSY spectra of **8a**. Comparison of the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra between the lactones **8a** and **8b** revealed a characteristic upfield shift by 0.65 ppm of 4-H for the 4-*exo* lactone **8b**, attributable to the shielding effect by the olefin moiety. The vicinal coupling constants between the 4-H and 5-H protons showed a large coupling constant ( $J_{4,5}=9.2$  Hz) in the case of the 4-*endo* lactone **8a** and a medium coupling constant ( $J_{4,5}=7.7$  Hz) in the case of the 4-*exo* lactone **8b**. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR data of the 4-*exo* lactone **8b** agree with those of the same skeleton previously reported.<sup>10)</sup>

On the other hand, the reaction of 2-benzoyl-2-azabicyclo[2.2.1]hept-5-ene (**11**) with TFA as solvent at room temperature resulted in the formation of a complex mixture. However, the treatment of the amide **11** with a catalytic amount of TFA in refluxing benzene provided labile crystals which were tentatively identified as 1-[(benzoylamino)methyl]-1,3-cyclopentadiene (**12**). A



Scheme 1.



Scheme 2.

similar reaction of **11** in the presence of *N*-phenylmaleimide afforded the cycloadduct **13** in 45% yield.

Based on the results presented above, the formation of the lactones **8a**, **8b**, and **9** is explainable by an acid-induced cleavage of the C(1)–N(2) bond of **6a**, **6b**, and **7** giving allyl cationic intermediates such as **10** and their subsequent cyclization to the lactones as shown for the *p*-nitrobenzoyl derivative in Scheme 1. Although an alternative route involving hetero [3,3] sigmatropic rearrangement<sup>6,10,11</sup> cannot be excluded, the stereospecificity observed in this rearrangement cannot reconcile to a route via retro-Diels–Alder fragmentation.<sup>12–14</sup>

In summary, the reactions described above offer a novel type of the acid-induced reactions of the 2-

azabicyclo[2.2.1]hept-5-enes, which have been reported to undergo the retro-Diels–Alder reaction under acidic conditions.<sup>5,12</sup> The products of the rearrangement reactions, 2-oxabicyclo[3.3.0]oct-7-en-3-ones, could be potentially useful for the syntheses of biologically active molecules.<sup>15</sup>

### Experimental

**General.** All the melting points were recorded with a Yanagimoto hot-stage apparatus and uncorrected. The IR spectra were obtained with a Hitachi 345 spectrometer. The  $^1\text{H}$  (90 MHz) and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (22.5 MHz) spectra were recorded with a JEOL-FX-90Q spectrometer with tetramethylsilane as an internal standard. The mass spectra were taken with a

Shimadzu GCMS-QP1000 and a JEOL 01SG spectrometers. Elemental analyses were performed with a Perkin-Elmer Model 240 apparatus.

**Ethyl 2-Benzoyl-2-azabicyclo[2.2.1]hept-5-ene-3-carboxylate (4a, 4b):** A solution of 1,3-cyclopentadiene (7.58 g, 115 mmol) and ethyl glyoxylate<sup>16)</sup> (5.50 g, 54 mmol) in saturated aq NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (26 ml) was stirred for 7 h at room temperature under nitrogen. The mixture was washed with ether and the pH of the aqueous phase was brought to 9 with NaHCO<sub>3</sub>. The product was extracted with CHCl<sub>3</sub> prior to drying over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. Removal of the solvent in vacuo gave ethyl 2-azabicyclo[2.2.1]hept-5-ene-3-carboxylate (**3**) as a yellow oil (7.59 g, 84%); IR (neat) 3329 (NH), 1733 (C=O) cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ=1.25 (2.25H, t, *J*=7.0 Hz, *endo* CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.29 (0.75H, t, *J*=6.9 Hz, *exo* CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.30–1.75 (2H, m, 7-H), 2.67 (1H, br, NH), 2.94 (0.25H, br s, *exo* 3-H), 3.25 (0.25H, br s, *exo* 4-H), 3.45 (0.75H, br s, *endo* 4-H), 3.92 (0.75H, d, *J*=3.1 Hz, *endo* 3-H), 3.94–4.40 (3H, m, CH<sub>2</sub> and 1-H), 5.80–6.05 (1H, m, 5-H), 6.21–6.40 (1H, m, 6-H); MS *m/z* (rel intensity) 167 (M<sup>+</sup>, 2), 121 (3), 102 (16), 94 (43), 66 (100). Attempted distillation of the amino ester **3** gave a red tarry material and conversion of **3** into the hydrochloride or oxalate was unsuccessful.

Benzoyl chloride (5.91 g, 42 mmol) was added to a solution of the amino ester **3** (7.59 g) and triethylamine (5.05 g, 50 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (30 ml), and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 20 h. The mixture was washed with aq NaHCO<sub>3</sub>, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated. The residue was separated with a Lobar column (silica gel, hexane–ethyl acetate=1/1) to provide the 3-*endo*-ester amide **4a** (8.33 g, 57%) and the 3-*exo*-ester amide **4b** (2.99 g, 20%). The yields are based on the amount of ethyl glyoxylate.

**4a:** Colorless oil; IR (neat) 1753 (COOEt), 1629 (NCOPh) cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR ((CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO, 100 °C) δ=1.11 (3H, t, *J*=7.1 Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.63 (1H, dt, *J*=8.6, 1.6 Hz, 7-H<sub>b</sub>), 1.72 (1H, dt, *J*=8.6, 1.6 Hz, 7-H<sub>a</sub>), 3.49 (1H, m, 4-H), 4.00 (2H, q, *J*=7.1 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.62 (1H, d, *J*=3.3 Hz, 3-H), 4.64 (1H, br s, 1-H), 6.17 (1H, dd, *J*=5.8, 2.6 Hz, 5-H), 6.57 (1H, dd, *J*=5.8, 2.6 Hz, 6-H), 7.44 (5H, br s, Ph); <sup>13</sup>C NMR ((CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO, 80 °C) δ=13.3 (q, CH<sub>3</sub>), 46.7 (d, C-4), 48.9 (t, C-7), 57.4 (d, C-1), 59.6 (t, CH<sub>2</sub>), 63.6 (d, C-3), 126.6 (d), 127.5 (d), 129.3 (d), 134.6 (d, C-5), 135.1 (s), 136.3 (d, C-6), 167.0, 168.4; MS *m/z* (rel intensity) 271 (M<sup>+</sup>, 6), 225 (40), 198 (17), 166 (79), 105 (100), 92 (21). Found: C, 71.21; H, 6.57; N, 4.93%. Calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>: C, 70.83; H, 6.32; N, 5.16%.

**4b:** Colorless oil; IR (neat) 1752 (COOEt), 1639 (NCOPh) cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR ((CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO, 100 °C) δ=1.24 (3H, t, *J*=7.1 Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.52 (1H, d, *J*=8.9 Hz, 7-H<sub>b</sub>), 2.13 (1H, d, *J*=8.9 Hz, 7-H<sub>a</sub>), 3.37 (1H, br s, 4-H), 3.73 (1H, s, 3-H), 4.17 (2H, q, *J*=7.1 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.75 (1H, br s, 1-H), 6.48 (2H, m, 5,6-H), 7.45 (5H, br s, Ph); <sup>13</sup>C NMR ((CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO, 80 °C) δ=13.3 (q, CH<sub>3</sub>), 44.6 (t, C-7), 47.3 (d, C-4), 58.0 (d, C-1), 60.1 (t, CH<sub>2</sub>), 62.4 (d, C-3), 126.2 (d), 127.7 (d), 129.2 (d), 135.6 (d, C-5), 136.1 (s), 137.4 (d, C-6), 168.4, 169.7; MS *m/z* (rel intensity) 271 (M<sup>+</sup>, 9), 206 (15), 198 (50), 166 (6), 105 (100), 65 (9). Found: C, 71.16; H, 6.59; N, 4.78%. Calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>: C, 70.83; H, 6.32; N, 5.16%.

**Ethyl 2-(*p*-Nitrobenzoyl)-2-azabicyclo[2.2.1]hept-5-ene-3-endo-carboxylate (5):** According to a similar procedure as described for **4**, the amino ester **3** (2.82 g, 17 mmol) was treated with *p*-nitrobenzoyl chloride (3.12 g, 17 mmol) and triethylamine (1.98 g, 18 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (20 ml) to give the 3-

*endo* isomer **5** (2.60 g, 48%) after recrystallization from ethanol: Mp 122–123 °C; IR (KBr) 1759 (COOEt), 1634 (NCOAr) cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR ((CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO, 100 °C) δ=1.11 (3H, t, *J*=7.0 Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.65 (1H, d, *J*=8.3 Hz, 7-H<sub>b</sub>), 1.80 (1H, d, *J*=8.3 Hz, 7-H<sub>a</sub>), 3.55 (1H, br s, 4-H), 3.98 (2H, q, *J*=7.0 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.66 (1H, d, *J*=3.3 Hz, 3-H), 4.68 (1H, m, 1-H), 6.08–6.30 (1H, m, 5-H), 6.44–6.68 (1H, m, 6-H), 7.71 (2H, d, *J*=8.9 Hz), 8.25 (2H, d, *J*=8.9 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR ((CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO, 80 °C) δ=13.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 46.8 (C-4), 48.9 (C-7), 57.4 (C-1), 59.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 63.7 (C-3), 122.9, 128.0, 134.8 (C-5), 135.0 (C-6), 142.2, 148.0, 165.0, 168.2; MS *m/z* (rel intensity) 316 (M<sup>+</sup>, 7), 243 (47), 150 (83), 104 (100), 92 (99), 66 (28). Found: C, 60.75; H, 4.82; N, 8.85%. Calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>: C, 60.76; H, 5.10; N, 8.86%.

**4-endo-Benzoylamino-2-oxabicyclo[3.3.0]oct-7-en-3-one (8a):** A solution of the ester amide **4a** (5.92 g, 22 mmol) and NaOH (0.88 g, 22 mmol) in a mixture of ethanol and water (15 ml, 2:1) was stirred at room temperature for 24 h. The mixture was concentrated and water (30 ml) was added into the residue. The aqueous solution was washed with benzene (10 ml×2) and concentrated to give the sodium 3-*endo*-carboxylate **6a** (4.97 g, 86%) as colorless plates: Mp 168 °C (decomp); IR (KBr) 1645 (NC=O), 1600 (COO<sup>-</sup>) cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR ((CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO, 100 °C) δ=1.52 (2H, br s, 7-H), 3.44 (1H, br s, 4-H), 4.32 (1H, d, *J*=3.3 Hz, 3-H), 4.53 (1H, br s, 1-H), 6.14–6.30 (1H, m, 5-H), 6.31–6.49 (1H, m, 6-H), 7.20–7.60 (5H, m, Ph). Found: C, 62.70; H, 4.63; N, 5.10%. Calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>12</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>Na: C, 63.40; H, 4.56; N, 5.28%. The sodium carboxylate **6a** was almost pure and used without further purification.

A solution of the sodium carboxylate **6a** (1.30 g, 4.9 mmol) in trifluoroacetic acid (TFA, 2 ml) was stirred at room temperature for 6 h. The solution was concentrated and the residue was dissolved in CHCl<sub>3</sub>, which was successively washed with aq NaHCO<sub>3</sub> and water, and dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. Removal of the solvent afforded **8a** (1.04 g, 87%) as colorless prisms: Mp 172–173 °C (benzene); IR (KBr) 3266 (NH), 1770 (O=C=O), 1643 (N=C=O) cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ=2.34–2.57 (2H, m, 6-H), 3.61 (1H, m, 5-H), 5.40 (1H, dd, *J*=9.2, 5.5 Hz, 4-H), 5.44 (1H, m, 1-H), 5.83–6.03 (1H, m, 8-H), 6.09–6.39 (1H, m, 7-H), 7.07–7.24 (1H, br, NH), 7.31–7.60 (3H, m), 7.70–7.94 (2H, m); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ=32.1 (t, C-6), 40.4 (d, C-5), 52.8 (d, C-4), 87.3 (d, C-1), 127.3 (d), 127.7 (d, C-8), 128.5 (d), 131.9 (d), 133.0 (s), 140.6 (d, C-7), 167.8 (s), 175.0 (s); MS *m/z* (rel intensity) 243 (M<sup>+</sup>, 1), 199 (15, M<sup>+</sup>–CO<sub>2</sub>), 121 (40), 105 (100), 78 (17). Found: C, 69.05; H, 5.27; N, 5.70%. Calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>13</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>: C, 69.12; H, 5.39; N, 5.76%.

**4-exo-Benzoylamino-2-oxabicyclo[3.3.0]oct-7-en-3-one (8b):** By a similar procedure as described for **8a**, the ester amide **4b** (1.35 g, 5 mmol) was treated with NaOH (0.20 g, 5 mmol) in a mixture of ethanol and water (6 ml, 2:1) to give the sodium 3-*exo* carboxylate **6b** (0.78 g, 59%) as colorless plates: Mp 170 °C (decomp); IR (KBr) 1642 (N=C=O), 1597 (COO<sup>-</sup>) cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR ((CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO, 100 °C) δ=1.30 (1H, d, *J*=8.0 Hz, 7-H<sub>b</sub>), 2.28 (1H, d, *J*=8.0 Hz, 7-H<sub>a</sub>), 3.28 (1H, br s, 4-H), 3.33 (1H, s, 3-H), 4.65 (1H, br s, 1-H), 6.36 (2H, m, 5,6-H), 7.22–7.60 (5H, m, Ph). Found: C, 62.53; H, 4.65; N, 5.10%. Calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>12</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>Na: C, 63.40; H, 4.56; N, 5.28%. The sodium carboxylate **6b** was almost pure and used without further purification.

The reaction of **6b** (200 mg, 0.75 mmol) with TFA (1 ml) provided the 4-*exo* lactone **8b** (109 mg, 60%) as colorless prisms: Mp 182–183 °C (benzene); IR (KBr) 3329 (NH), 1783 (O=C=O), 1648 (N=C=O) cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ=2.69–

2.91 (2H, m, 6-H), 3.00–3.35 (1H, m, 5-H), 4.39 (1H, dd,  $J=7.7$ , 6.7 Hz, 4-H), 5.64 (1H, m, 1-H), 5.80–6.00 (1H, m, 8-H), 6.04–6.21 (1H, m, 7-H), 7.00–7.20 (1H, m, NH), 7.29–7.60 (3H, m), 7.62–7.89 (2H, m);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta=37.3$  (t, C-6), 41.7 (d, C-5), 56.1 (d, C-4), 86.9 (d, C-1), 127.4 (d), 128.5 (d), 129.2 (d, C-8), 131.8 (d), 133.1 (s), 136.7 (d, C-7), 165.9 (s), 174.6 (s); MS  $m/z$  (rel intensity) 199 ( $\text{M}^+-\text{CO}_2$ , 19), 138 (11), 121 (40), 105 (100), 78 (19). Found: C, 69.49; H, 5.46; N, 5.88%. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{13}\text{NO}_3$ : C, 69.13; H, 5.39; N, 5.76%.

**2-(*p*-Nitrobenzoyl)-2-azabicyclo[2.2.1]hept-5-ene-3-endo-carboxylic Acid (7):** A solution of the ester amide **5** (316 mg, 1.0 mmol) and 5%-aq NaOH (2 ml) in ethanol (20 ml) was stirred at 40 °C for 24 h. After removal of ethanol in vacuo, water was added to the residue and the solution was acidified with 5%-aq HCl. The resulted solid was filtered and washed with water to give the carboxylic acid **7** (210 mg, 73%): Mp 168–169 °C ( $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ ); IR (KBr) 3441 (OH), 1764 (COOH), 1616 (N–C=O)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $(\text{CD}_3)_2\text{SO}$ , 100 °C)  $\delta=1.64$  (1H, d,  $J=8.3$  Hz, 7- $\text{H}_b$ ), 1.81 (1H, d,  $J=8.3$  Hz, 7- $\text{H}_a$ ), 3.69 (1H, br s, 4-H), 4.76 (1H, d,  $J=3.3$  Hz, 3-H), 4.78 (1H, br s, 1-H), 6.53 (2H, m, 5,6-H), 7.70 (2H, d,  $J=8.7$  Hz), 8.31 (2H, d,  $J=8.7$  Hz);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $(\text{CD}_3)_2\text{SO}$ , 100 °C)  $\delta=45.9$  (d, C-4), 49.0 (t, C-7), 57.5 (d, C-1), 63.7 (d, C-3), 123.0 (d), 128.2 (d), 135.0 (d, C-5), 135.2 (d, C-6), 142.5 (s), 148.1 (s), 165.3 (s), 169.6 (s); MS  $m/z$  (rel intensity) 288 ( $\text{M}^+$ , 2), 270 (38), 244 (100), 150 (90), 104 (50), 77 (82). Found: C, 58.61; H, 4.27; N, 10.02%. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{12}\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$ : C, 58.33; H, 4.20; N, 9.72%.

**4-endo-(*p*-Nitrobenzoylamino)-2-oxabicyclo[3.3.0]oct-7-en-3-one (9):** By a similar procedure as described for **8a**, the acid **7** (288 mg, 1.0 mmol) was stirred in TFA (1 ml) for 25 min to give **9** (244 mg, 85%) as colorless needles: Mp 222 °C (decomp,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ ); IR (KBr) 3291 (NH), 1770 (O–C=O), 1643 (N–C=O)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta=2.40$ –2.60 (2H, m, 6-H), 3.66 (1H, m, 5-H), 5.00 (1H, dd,  $J=9.3$ , 4.7 Hz, 4-H), 5.42–5.60 (1H, m, 1-H), 6.02 (1H, m, 8-H), 6.25 (1H, m, 7-H), 7.01 (1H, br, NH), 8.02 (2H, d,  $J=9.0$  Hz), 8.31 (2H, d,  $J=9.0$  Hz);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta=31.9$  (C-6), 39.2 (C-5), 51.3 (C-4), 86.3 (C-1), 123.4, 127.6 (C-8), 128.8, 138.9, 140.7 (C-7), 149.1, 164.9, 174.0; MS  $m/z$  (rel intensity) 244 ( $\text{M}^+-\text{CO}_2$ , 20), 150 (100), 104 (14), 66 (53). Found: C, 58.65; H, 4.13; N, 9.50%. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{12}\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$ : C, 58.33; H, 4.20; N, 9.72%.

**2-Benzoyl-2-azabicyclo[2.2.1]hept-5-ene (11):** A mixture of 1,3-cyclopentadiene (6.60 g, 0.1 mol) and 35% formalin (4.30 g, 0.05 mmol) in saturated aq  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$  (20 ml) was stirred for 18 h at room temperature.<sup>3a)</sup> The mixture was washed with ether and the aqueous layer was concentrated. To the residue were added benzoyl chloride (7.03 g, 0.05 mol) and 33% aq NaOH (37 ml, 120 mmol), and the mixture was stirred for 17 h at room temperature. The product was extracted with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , and the organic phase was dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  and concentrated. Purification by column chromatography (silica gel, hexane/ethyl acetate=1/1) gave **11** (3.34 g, 34% based on formalin) as colorless prisms: Mp 71–72 °C (hexane– $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ ); IR (KBr) 1622 (C=O)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $(\text{CD}_3)_2\text{SO}$ , 100 °C)  $\delta=1.44$ –1.74 (2H, m, 7-H), 2.67 (1H, d,  $J=9.8$  Hz, 3- $\text{H}_{\text{endo}}$ ), 3.26 (1H, br s, 4-H), 3.74 (1H, dd,  $J=9.8$ , 3.0 Hz, 3- $\text{H}_{\text{exo}}$ ), 4.69 (1H, br s, 1-H), 6.36 (2H, br s, 5,6-H), 7.44 (5H, br s, Ph);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $(\text{CD}_3)_2\text{SO}$ , 100 °C)  $\delta=42.2$ , 46.4, 47.3, 61.2, 126.5, 127.5, 128.5, 129.0, 133.4, 136.8, 168.4; MS  $m/z$  (rel intensity) 199 ( $\text{M}^+$ , 45), 134 (49), 105 (100), 77 (90), 65 (74). Found: C, 78.28; H, 6.66; N, 6.88%. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{13}\text{NO}$ : C, 78.36; H, 6.58; N, 7.03%.

**The Reaction of 11 with Trifluoroacetic Acid.** A solution of

**11** (200 mg, 1.0 mmol) and TFA (11 mg, 0.1 mmol) in anhydrous benzene (12 ml) was refluxed for 17 h. Removal of the solvent and trituration of the residue with  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  afforded white powders which were tentatively assigned as 1-[(benzoylamino)methyl]-1,3-cyclopentadiene (**12**) (47 mg, 24%): Mp 93–95 °C; IR (KBr) 3325 (NH), 1646 (N–C=O)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta=3.01$  (2H, d,  $J=0.9$  Hz, N– $\text{CH}_2$ ), 4.32–4.50 (2H, m, 5-H), 6.17–6.60 (4H, m), 7.31–7.58 (3H, m), 7.70–7.89 (2H, m); MS  $m/z$  (rel intensity) 199 ( $\text{M}^+$ , 18), 105 (100), 77 (97), 65 (15).

A similar reaction of **11** (200 mg, 1.0 mmol) in the presence of *N*-phenylmaleimide (173 mg, 1.0 mmol) gave the cycloadduct **13** (174 mg, 47%): Mp 169–170 °C (ethyl acetate); IR (KBr) 3401 (NH), 1702 (C=O), 1640 (N–CO–Ph)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta=1.71$  (1H, d,  $J=8.7$  Hz, 10- $\text{H}_b$ ), 1.81 (1H, d,  $J=8.7$  Hz, 10- $\text{H}_a$ ), 3.41 (1H, d,  $J=7.4$  Hz, 2-H), 3.45–3.59 (3H, m, 6-H, 7-H, and CH–NHCO), 4.32 (1H, dd,  $J=14.2$ , 7.7 Hz, CH–NHCO), 6.26 (2H, br s, 8-H and 9-H), 7.00–7.55 (8H, m), 7.80–8.00 (2H, m), 8.13 (1H, br, NH);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta=42.4$  (t), 45.2 (d), 48.0 (d), 49.8 (d), 55.8 (t), 57.9 (s), 126.7, 127.2, 128.5, 128.8, 129.1, 131.4, 131.7, 134.2, 135.1, 135.6, 167.6 (s), 176.0 (s), 177.9 (s); MS  $m/z$  (rel intensity) 372 ( $\text{M}^+$ , 9), 239 (15), 199 (18), 105 (100). Found: C, 74.24; H, 5.23; N, 7.36%. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$ : C, 74.18; H, 5.41; N, 7.52%.

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