

## Syntheses of 5,5'-Methylenebisoxazole Derivative and Its Reactions with Electrophiles<sup>1)</sup>

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A potential tetra- $\beta$ -ketide compound, 5,5'-methylenebisoxazole-3,3'-dicarboxylate (IV) was prepared from 1,4-pentadiyne (I) and carboethoxynitriloxide (II). The bisoxazole (IV) was also synthesized by way of diethyl 5,5'-methylene-bis(2-isoxazoline)-3,3'-dicarboxylate (VII) (racemi) and (VIII) (meso). The methylene hydrogens of the compound (IV) was shown to have a nature of an active methylene group and to react with various electrophiles. The four position of the isoxazole ring of IV had also nucleophilic character, which was useful for obtaining a cyclohexane derivative. A possibility was presented that the compound (IV) could be an important starting material for a synthesis of poly  $\beta$ -diketone system.

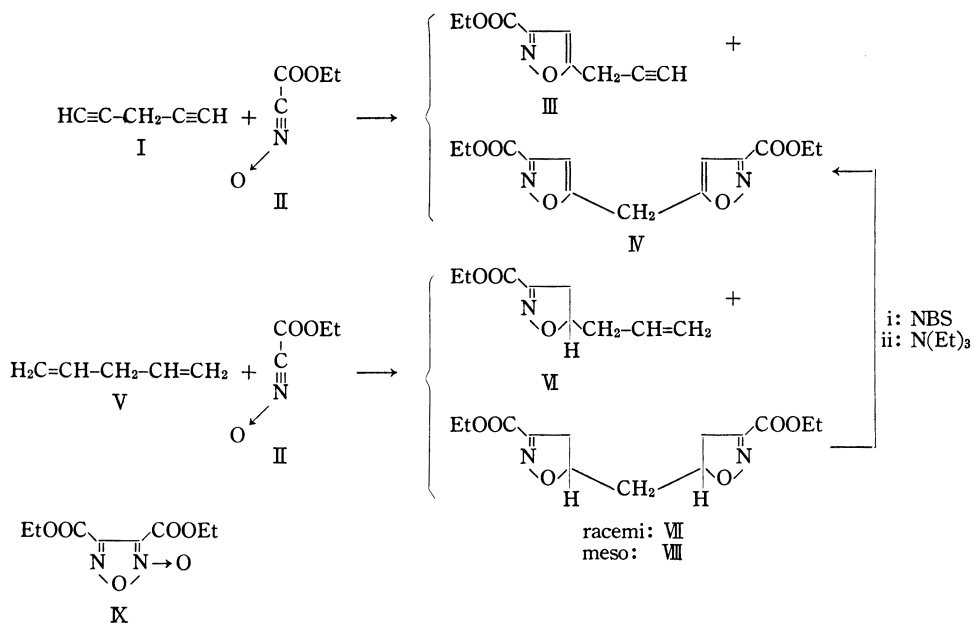
In the preceding paper<sup>1)</sup> we reported a synthetic approach to a poly  $\beta$ -ketide system starting from a diacetylenic ketone. This time our object is directed toward another approach in which an isoxazole derivative is regarded as a potential or masked 1,3-diketone system.

With regard to ring opening of isoxazole derivatives, four main modes of reactions have been known<sup>3)</sup>: (i) reductive cleavage (mainly by hydrogenation) (type 1) (ii) base catalyzed ring opening initiated by proton removal at 3-position (type 2) (iii) ring opening after a nucleophile attacks a conjugated carbonyl function situated at 3-position. This type includes decarboxylative ring opening of isoxazole-3-carboxylic acid (type 3) (iv) strong base catalyzed ring opening initiated by proton removal at 5-position to give a ketene intermediate (type 4).

Considering these modes of ring opening, 5,5'-methylenebisoxazole derivative would be most suitable for tetra- $\beta$ -ketonic compound and syntheses of these derivatives were attempted. The same kind of approach has been done by an Italian group,<sup>4)</sup> who reductively cleaved a bisoxazole compound to obtain a  $\beta$ -tetraketone derivative. In our case we found interesting properties of a synthesized bisoxazole which reacts with various electrophiles.

1,4-Pentadiyne (I) was prepared from ethynylmagnesium bromide and propargyl bromide by coupling reaction. Although this compound was already known in literatures<sup>4,5)</sup> purification was difficult because it condensed with ether or tetrahydrofuran. Therefore, this substance was titrated according to Evans' method<sup>6)</sup> and used in the next reaction without purification. Treatment of this diyne (I) with carbethoxynitriloxide<sup>7)</sup> (II) prepared

- 1) Synthesis of  $\beta$ -Ketide System II. Part I: Y. Kishida, T. Hiraoka and M. Yoshimoto, *Chem. Pharm. Bull.* (Tokyo), **17**, 2161 (1969).
- 2) Location: 2-58, 1-chome, Hiromachi, Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo.
- 3) a) "Five- and Six-Membered Compounds with Nitrogen and Oxygen," ed. by R.H. Wiley; A. Quilico, "Isoxazoles and Related Compounds," Interscience Publishers, New York, 1962, p. 1; b) "Advances in Heterocyclic Chemistry," ed. by A.R. Katritzky, Vol. 2; N.K. Kochetkov, S.D. Sokolov, "Recent Developments in Isoxazol Chemistry," Academic Press, New York and London, 1963, p. 365.
- 4) G. Casnati, A. Quilico, A. Ricca and P. Vita-Finzi, *Tetrahedron Letters*, **1966**, 233; *idem*, *Gazz. Chim. Ital.*, **96**, 1064 (1966).
- 5) F. Serratos, *Tetrahedron Letters*, **1964**, 895.
- 6) See G. Eglinton and M.C. Whiting, *J. Chem. Soc.*, **1953**, 3055.
- 7) G.S. Skinner, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **46**, 731 (1924).



from ethyl chloroximino acetate and triethylamine gave ethyl 5-(2-propynyl)isoxazole-3-carboxylate (III) mp 60.5—61.5° and diethyl 5,5'-methylenebis(isoxazole-3,3'-dicarboxylate) (IV) mp 94—95°. The product ratio of III to IV was deeply affected by the reaction conditions. When one equivalent of I and two equivalent of II were mixed in a low concentration isolable compounds were the monoisoxazole (III) and diethyl furoxane-3,4-dicarboxylate (IX),<sup>8)</sup> however, if the reaction was carried out in a high concentration, both III and IV were obtained in addition to by-product (IX). When excess II was used and the reaction was conducted in a high concentration, only bis(isoxazole) (IV) and IX were obtained. The structure of the compounds (III and IV) were unambiguous on the basis of spectroscopic data and already known analogous reactions.<sup>9)</sup> In these reactions, the yield of the desired substance (IV) did not exceed over 20%. Therefore, another synthetic method of IV was investigated. According to literature<sup>9)</sup> a double bond is more reactive to 1,3-dipolar species than a triple bond. Then, 1,4-pentadiene (V) was chosen as the 1,3-dipolarophile. Treatment of V with carbethoxy nitriloxide (II) liberated from ethyl chloroximino acetate and triethylamine afforded ethyl 5-(2-propenyl)-2-isoxazoline-3-carboxylate (VI), racemic diethyl 5,5'-methylenebis(2-isoxazoline)-3,3'-dicarboxylate (VII), meso diethyl 5,5'-methylenebis(2-isoxazoline)-3,3'-dicarboxylate (VIII) and the by-product (IX) which were carefully separated by chromatography on silica gel. As in the case of the reaction of I with II the usage of excess II and a high concentration gave higher yield of VII and VIII. Racemic VII and meso- VIII were easily distinguished by comparison of nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) with that of racemic and meso-2,4-dichloropentane,<sup>10)</sup> and racemic and meso-2,4-pentanethiol.<sup>11)</sup> The methylene protons between two isoxazole rings of the racemic compound (VII) gave a triplet signal in NMR, whereas those of the meso compound (VIII) showed multiplet peaks which were in good agreement with the literature.<sup>10,11)</sup> For the synthesis of IV, separation of VII and VIII

8) H.R. Snyder and N.E. Boyer, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **77**, 4233 (1955).

9) R. Huisgen, *Angew. Chem.*, **75**, 742 (1963).

10) Y. Fujiwara and S. Fujiwara, *Bull. Chem. Soc. Japan*, **37**, 1005 (1964).

11) C.G. Overberger and T. Kurtz, *J. Org. Chem.*, **31**, 288 (1966), and references cited therein.

is unnecessary. Then conversion of VII and/or VIII into IV was examined. Tetrachloro-*benzoquinone* and dichlorodicyanobenzoquinone (DDQ) were not effective as a dehydrogenation reagent and the starting materials were recovered. Therefore we used Bianchi's method.<sup>12)</sup> Isoxazoline (VII) and/or (VIII) were brominated with NBS and the resulting crude dibromo compound was treated with triethyl amine or potassium acetate without purification to give the desired bisisoxazole (IV).

Treatment of IV with hydrochloric acid in aqueous dioxane gave 5,5'-methylenebisisoxazole-3,3'-dicarboxylic acid (X), mp 183—185°. When X was heated to its melting point, this diacid lost carbon dioxide to give a tarry material. Then decarboxylation of the acid (X) was examined in a variety of solvent at 125—200°. Dimethylsulfoxide with triethylamine gave a good result and the product could be recrystallized from ethanol. However, this decarboxylated product was unstable for heating and the recrystallized sample was a polymer. Some polymerization reaction would occur even during decarboxylation reaction in dimethylsulfoxide at 125°, because infrared (IR) spectrum of the recrystallized sample was almost same as that of nonrecrystallized one. An absorption at 2220  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  assignable to nitrile group indicated that decarboxylation and ring opening reaction of the isoxazole ring occurred. From the elemental analysis the sample obtained here was a polymer with dehydration.

In order to cleave the isoxazole ring according to type-3 reaction the bisisoxazole (IV) was treated with sodium ethoxide in ethanol to give precipitates, which did not dissolve even by heating. Acidification afforded the starting bisisoxazole (IV). Therefore, the precipi-

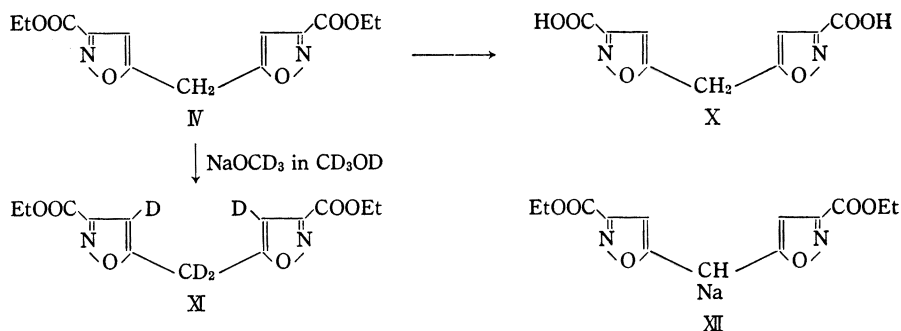


Chart 2

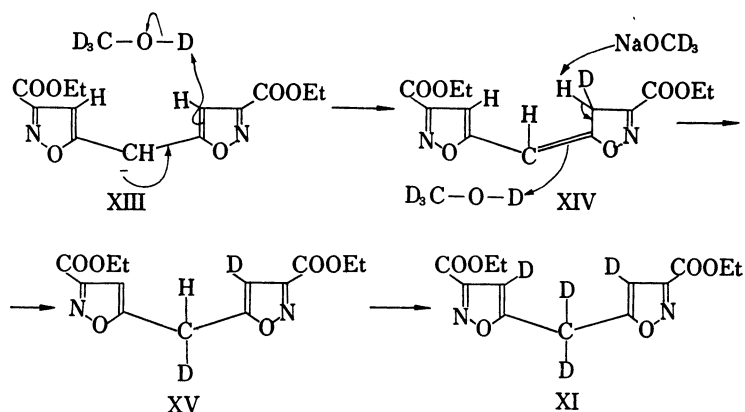


Chart 3

tates can be concluded as sodium salt of diethyl 5,5'-methylenebis(isoxazole-3,3'-dicarboxylate (XII). This fact clearly suggests that the methylene hydrogens of the compound (IV) are more acidic than alcoholic -OH hydrogen. The nature of these active hydrogens of IV was further examined by NMR spectroscopy. To 10% solution of IV in deuteriodimethylsulfoxide in a NMR tube was added 2*N* NaOCD<sub>3</sub> in CD<sub>3</sub>OD and immediately its NMR was measured. Unexpectedly, both signals of methylene hydrogens between two isoxazole rings and isoxazole hydrogens at 4 position disappeared and only peaks due to ethyl ester groups remained in the spectrum. Thus, the initially formed carbanion (XXIII) would isomerize to an isomer (XXIV), which would re-isomerize to deuterated compound (XXV) and finally tetra-

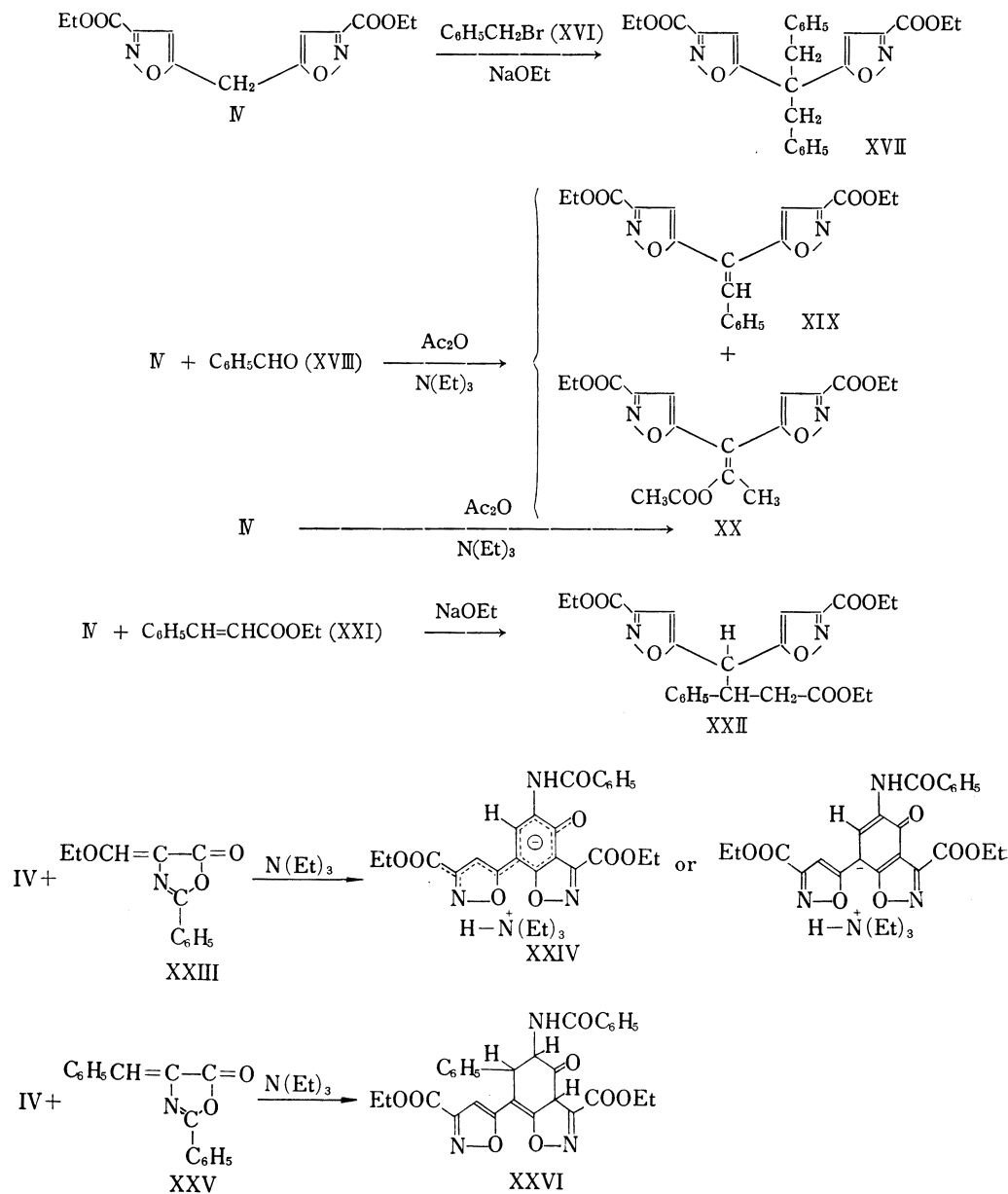


Chart 4





product was analyzed for  $C_{29}H_{25}O_8N_3$ . The NMR spectrum exhibited signals at 5.57 ppm (1H, doublet,  $J=11.5$  Hz), 5.96 ppm (1H, doublet,  $J=11.5$  Hz), 6.46 ppm (1H, singlet), 6.82 ppm (1H, singlet) and 9.13 ppm (1H, broad singlet, exchangeable with deuterium oxide) in addition to two kinds of ethyl ester peaks and aromatic hydrogen peaks (10H, multiplet). The UV spectrum of the product showed maximum at 237.5  $m\mu$  ( $\log \epsilon: 4.42$ ), which was very similar to that of the starting bisisoxazole (IV). The UV spectrum of isoxazole-3-carboxylic acid has been known to show only ROOC-C=N- chromophore<sup>3a)</sup> and that of 5-phenylisoxazole is similar to styrene absorptions.<sup>3a)</sup> Considering these facts the most reasonable structure for the reaction product from IV and XXV would be ethyl 5-benzoylamino-7-(3-carbethoxy-

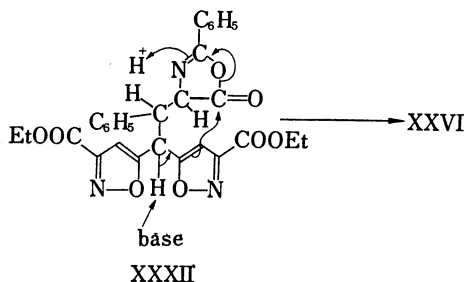


Chart 7

The vicinal hydrogens in the cyclohexene ring of XXVI would be situated in pseudo diaxial positions since the coupling constant between these two hydrogens is relatively large (11.5 Hz).

These reactions described here might be very useful for a synthesis of a natural product originated from a poly acetate unit because the isoxazole ring can be regarded as a potential or a masked  $\beta$ -diketone.

#### Experimental<sup>17)</sup>

**Ethyl 5-(2-Propynyl)isoxazole-3-carboxylate (III) and Diethyl 5,5'-Methylenebisoxazole-3,3'-dicarboxylate (IV)**—Ethylnylmagnesium bromide solution was prepared from Mg (16.8 g: 3/4 mole), EtBr (81.8 g: 3/4 mole), acetylene gas and dry tetrahydrofuran (750 ml) according to the usual method.<sup>18)</sup> After addition of CuCl (1.0 g), propargyl bromide (71.4 g) was dropwise added to this Grignard solution at room temperature during 12 hr. After addition the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 20 hr. Then it was heated at 40° (inner temperature) for 10 hr. The cooled reaction mixture was poured into cold 10%  $H_2SO_4$  solution (1 liter) and extracted with ether. The combined extracts were washed with  $NaHCO_3$  solution and saturated NaCl solution until neutral to litmus, and dried over  $Na_2SO_4$ . The dried solution was distilled at atmospheric pressure and a distillate boiling at 34–68° was collected (410 ml). One milliliter of this solution contained 0.644 milimole (36 mg) of 1,4-pentadiyne (I),  $HC\equiv C-CH_2-C\equiv CH$ , which was analyzed by titration according to Evans' method.<sup>9)</sup> This 1,4-pentadiyne could not be isolated in pure state from ether and tetrahydrofuran. Therefore, it was submitted to the next reaction without purification.

To a mixture of 1,4-pentadiyne (I) [ $0.644 \times 203$  milimole in ether and tetrahydrofuran (203 ml)], ethyl chloroximino acetate<sup>7)</sup> (39.7 g:  $0.644 \times 203 \times 2$  milimole) and dry tetrahydrofuran (300 ml) was dropwise added  $Et_3N$  (26.9 g:  $0.644 \times 203 \times 2 \times 1.015$  milimole) at 24–25° (inner temperature). After addition the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature (22–26°) for 24 hr. Water and ether were added and the aqueous phase was separated, the organic layer was washed three times with saturated NaCl solution, dried over  $Na_2SO_4$  and evaporated to give an oil (37.1 g). This oil was chromatographed on silica gel (620 g). Elution with *n*-hexane–benzene (2:1 and 1:1) and evaporation gave diethyl furoxane-3,4-dicarboxylate (IX)<sup>8)</sup> as an oil (21 g). Elution with *n*-hexane–benzene (1:1) and benzene gave crystalline ethyl 5-(2-propynyl)isoxazole-3-carboxylate (III) (6.5 g, 27.8% yield based on 1,4-pentadiyne). Recrystallization from

17) All melting points were uncorrected. NMR spectra were taken using Varian A-60 and HA-100 spectrometers with tetramethylsilane as an internal standard.

18) L. Skattebøl, E. R. H. Jones and M. C. Whiting, *Org. Synth.*, **39**, 56.

*n*-hexane gave prisms of mp 60.5—61.5° (4.0 g). *Anal.* Calcd. for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>9</sub>O<sub>3</sub>N: C, 60.33; H, 5.06; N, 7.82. Found: C, 60.19; H, 5.10; N, 8.04. UV  $\lambda_{\text{max}}^{\text{EtOH}}$  m $\mu$  (log  $\epsilon$ ): 235 (3.56). IR  $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{Nujol}}$  cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3260 (C≡C-H), 3170 (isoxazole-H at 4 position), 1737, 1244 (ester), 1600 (isoxazole ring). NMR (10% solution in CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  ppm: 1.41 (3H, triplet,  $J=7.2$  Hz, -COOCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.27 (1H, triplet,  $J=2.8$  Hz, -C≡C-H), 3.79 (2H, doublet of doublets,  $J_1=2.8$  Hz,  $J_2=1$  Hz, -CH<sub>2</sub>-C≡C-), 4.46 (2H, quartet,  $J=7.2$  Hz, -COOCH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>3</sub>), 6.68 (1H, triplet,  $J=1$  Hz, isoxazole-H at 4 position).

Elution with CHCl<sub>3</sub> and evaporation gave crystalline diethyl 5,5'-methylenebis(isoxazole-3,3'-dicarboxylate (IV) (3.4 g, 7.1% yield based on 1,4-pentadiene). Recrystallization from *n*-heptane-benzene afforded pure IV, mp 94—95° (2.13 g). *Anal.* Calcd. for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>14</sub>O<sub>6</sub>N<sub>2</sub>: C, 53.06; H, 4.80; N, 9.52. Found: C, 53.22; H, 4.80; N, 9.62. UV  $\lambda_{\text{max}}^{\text{EtOH}}$  m $\mu$  (log  $\epsilon$ ): 236.6 (3.85). IR  $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{Nujol}}$  cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3140 (isoxazole-H at 4 position), 1730 (C=O), 1601, 1591 (isoxazole ring). NMR (10% solution in CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  ppm: 1.41 (6H, triplet,  $J=7.3$  Hz, 2 × COOCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 4.46 (4H, quartet,  $J=7.3$  Hz, 2 × COOCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 4.46 (2H, triplet,  $J=0.8$  Hz, -CH<sub>2</sub>-), 6.64 (2H, triplet,  $J=0.8$  Hz, isoxazole-H at 4 position).

In another run starting from 0.16 mole of 1,4-pentadiene in ether and tetrahydrofuran (610 ml), ethyl chloroximino acetate (145.4 g: 0.96 mole) and Et<sub>3</sub>N (97 g: 0.96 mole), 6.6 g of IV was obtained (14% yield). If the reaction is carried out in high concentration and excess ethyl chloroximino acetate is used, the compound (III) is not obtained.

**Ethyl 5-(2-Propenyl)-2-isoxazoline-3-carboxylate (VI) and Diethyl 5,5'-Methylenebis(2-isoxazoline)-3,3'-dicarboxylate [Racemi (VII) and Meso (VIII)]**—To a mixture of ethyl chloroximino acetate (35.6 g: 0.334 mole) and 1,4-pentadiene<sup>19)</sup> (8.00 g: 0.117 mole) in ether (700 ml) was dropwise added Et<sub>3</sub>N (33.8 g: 0.334 mole) at -30—-40° (inner temperature) with vigorous stirring during 14 hr. After stirring for 2 hr further ethyl chloroximino acetate (17.8 g: 0.117 mole) and ether (350 ml) were added, followed by addition of Et<sub>3</sub>N (16.9 g: 0.117 mole) during 5 hr. Stirring was continued at -10—-40° for 3 days. White precipitates (Et<sub>3</sub>N·HCl) were filtered off, washed with ether. The combined ethereal filtrate was washed successively with 1N HCl solution, 5% NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution and finally with H<sub>2</sub>O until neutral to litmus, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and evaporated to give an oil (40 g). The precipitates obtained above were dissolved in H<sub>2</sub>O and extracted with ether. The combined extracts were washed successively with 1N HCl solution, 5% NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution and H<sub>2</sub>O until neutral to litmus. After drying over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, ether was evaporated to give an oil (2.0 g), which was combined with the major oil obtained above and chromatographed on silica gel (500 g). Elution with benzene and evaporation afforded diethyl furoxane-3,4-dicarboxylate (IX)<sup>9)</sup> (18.6 g). Elution with benzene-ether (97:3) gave ethyl 5-(2-propenyl)-2-isoxazoline-3-carboxylate (VI) (11.4 g) as an oil, bp 89—90° (0.05 mmHg) (56% yield based on 1,4-pentadiene). *Anal.* Calcd. for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>13</sub>O<sub>3</sub>N: C, 59.00; H, 7.15; N, 7.65. Found: C, 58.68; H, 7.09; N, 8.10. UV  $\lambda_{\text{max}}^{\text{EtOH}}$  m $\mu$  (log  $\epsilon$ ): 247.2 (3.76). IR  $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{liq}}^{\text{d}}$  cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3070 (olefinic hydrogens), 1723 (ester), 1643, 1580 (isoxazole ring). NMR (10% solution in CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  ppm: 1.37 (3H, triplet,  $J=7.3$  Hz, -COOCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.48 (2H, triplet,  $J_1=J_2=6.3$  Hz, -CH<sub>2</sub>-CH=CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.92 (1H, doublet of doublets,  $J_3=17.1$  Hz,  $J_4=8.7$  Hz, one of ring methylene protons), 3.18 (1H, doublet of doublets,  $J_5=17.1$  Hz,  $J_6=10.3$  Hz, another ring methylene protons), 4.37 (2H, quartet,  $J=7.3$  Hz, -COOCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 6.2—4.6 (4H, multiplets, three vinyl protons and isoxazoline ring methine proton).

Elution with benzene-ether (7:3) afforded a mixture of racemic and meso diethyl 5,5'-methylenebis(2-isoxazoline)-3,3'-dicarboxylate (VII and VIII) (3.50 g) (10% yield based on 1,4-pentadiene). Recrystallization of the former eluate from EtOH gave racemic product (VII), mp 94°. *Anal.* Calcd. for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>18</sub>O<sub>6</sub>N<sub>2</sub>: C, 52.34; H, 6.08; N, 9.39. Found: C, 52.18; H, 6.23; N, 9.44. UV  $\lambda_{\text{max}}^{\text{EtOH}}$  m $\mu$  (log  $\epsilon$ ): 246.2 (4.13). IR  $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{Nujol}}$  cm<sup>-1</sup>: 1716 (ester), 1588 (C=N). NMR (10% solution in CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  ppm: 1.36 (6H, triplet,  $J=7.1$  Hz, 2 × COOCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.01 (2H, triplet,  $J=6.8$  Hz, methylene protons between two isoxazoline rings), 2.98 (2H, doublet of doublets,  $J_1=17.4$  Hz,  $J_2=8.3$  Hz, 2 × -N=C-CH-), 3.25 (2H, doublet of doublets,  $J_1=17.4$  Hz,  $J_3=10.5$  Hz, 2 × -N=C-HC-), 4.34 (4H, quartet,  $J=7.1$  Hz, 2 × COOCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 5.05 (2H, tripletting quartet,  $J_2=8.3$  Hz,  $J_3=10.5$  Hz,  $J_4=6.8$  Hz, ring methine protons).

Recrystallization of the latter eluate from ether gave meso-isomer (VIII) as leaflets, mp 73°. *Anal.* Calcd. for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>18</sub>O<sub>6</sub>N<sub>2</sub>: C, 52.34; H, 6.08; N, 9.39. Found: C, 52.27; H, 6.15; N, 9.41. UV  $\lambda_{\text{max}}^{\text{EtOH}}$  m $\mu$  (log  $\epsilon$ ): 246.4 (4.11). IR  $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{Nujol}}$  cm<sup>-1</sup>: 1721 (ester), 1595 (C=N). NMR (10% solution in CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  ppm: 1.37 (6H, triplet,  $J=7.2$ , 2 × COOCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.01 (2H, multiplet, methylene protons between two isoxazoline rings), 3.05 (2H, doublet of doublets,  $J_1=17.5$  Hz,  $J_2=9.0$  Hz, 2 × -N=C-CH-), 3.38 (2H, doublet of doublets,  $J_1=17.5$  Hz,  $J_3=10.3$  Hz, 2 × -N=C-HC-), 4.38 (4H, quartet,  $J=7.2$  Hz, 2 × COOCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 5.00 (2H, multiplet, ring methine protons).

In another run, starting from 1,4-pentadiene (68 g: 1.0 mole), ethyl chloroximino acetate (966 g: 6.38 mole), tetrahydrofuran (800 ml) and Et<sub>3</sub>N (645 g), 240.5 g of a mixture of racemic (VII) and meso (VIII) was obtained (80.8% yield based on 1,4-pentadiene).

**Diethyl 5,5'-Methylenebis(2-isoxazoline)-3,3'-dicarboxylate Racemi (VII) and Meso (VIII) from Ethyl 5-(2-Propenyl)-2-isoxazoline-3-carboxylate (VI)**—To a mixture of ethyl chloroximino acetate (14.5 g: 0.0954 mole) and ethyl 5-(2-propenyl)-2-isoxazoline-3-carboxylate (VI) (10.99 g: 0.0601 mole) in dry ether



(500 ml) was dropwise added  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$  (9.67 g; 0.0954 mole) with vigorous stirring below  $10^\circ$  during 1.5 hr. The reaction mixture was stirred at  $23\text{--}25^\circ$  for 21 hr. Precipitates were filtered off, washed three times with ether. The combined filtrate was washed successively with 1N HCl solution, 5%  $\text{NaHCO}_3$  solution and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  until neutral to litmus, dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  and evaporated to give an oil (20.2 g). This oil was chromatographed on silica gel (350 g). Elution with benzene afforded diethyl furoxane-3,4-dicarboxylate (IX)<sup>8</sup> (9.0 g) and recovered ethyl 5-(2-propenyl)-2-isoxazoline-3-carboxylate (VI) (3.9 g). Elution with benzene-ether (7:3) gave a mixture of racemic and meso diethyl 5,5'-methylenebis(2-isoxazoline)-3,3'-dicarboxylate (VII and VIII) (5.73 g, 20.2% yield), whose IR spectrum was identical with that of a mixture of VII and VIII obtained in the former reaction.

**Diethyl 5,5'-Methylenebisoxazole-3,3'-dicarboxylate (IV) from Diethyl 5,5'-Methylenebis(2-isoxazoline)-3,3'-dicarboxylate (VII)**—Diethyl 5,5'-methylenebis(2-isoxazoline)-3,3'-dicarboxylate (VII-racemi) (22.0 g; 0.0738 mole) was dissolved in  $\text{CCl}_4$  (160 ml) by heating. To this hot solution was added crystalline NBS (freshly recrystallized and finely powdered) (27.6 g;  $0.0738 \times 2.1$  mole) and  $\alpha,\alpha$ -azobisisobutyronitrile (100 mg). The reaction mixture was heated under reflux by irradiation with an UV lamp for 26 hr. The solid substance was filtered off, washed with  $\text{CHCl}_3$ . The combined filtrate was evaporated under reduced pressure. To the residue was added  $\text{CHCl}_3$  and insoluble substance was removed by filtration, washed with  $\text{CHCl}_3$ . The filtrate was again evaporated under reduced pressure to give a red oil (38.7 g). This oil was dissolved in dry tetrahydrofuran (200 ml) and to this solution was dropwise added  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$  (31.4 g;  $0.0738 \times 4.2$  mole) in tetrahydrofuran (50 ml) under ice-water cooling. After stirring at room temperature for 12 hr the reaction mixture was heated under reflux for 2.5 hr. The cooled mixture was diluted with benzene and washed successively with  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , 10% HCl solution,  $\text{NaHCO}_3$  solution and finally with  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  until neutral to litmus, dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  and evaporated to give an oil (23 g). This oil was chromatographed on silica gel (500 g) impregnated with 5%  $\text{AgNO}_3$  solution (dried at  $115^\circ$ ). Elution with benzene and  $\text{CHCl}_3$  gave crystalline diethyl 5,5'-methylenebisoxazole-3,3'-dicarboxylate (IV) (5.45 g). Recrystallization from *n*-hexane-EtOH afforded pure IV as prisms, mp  $94\text{--}95^\circ$  (2.30 g), which was identical in all respects with a sample obtained from 1,4-pentadiyne and ethyl chloroximino acetate. *Anal.* Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{14}\text{O}_6\text{N}_2$ : C, 53.06; H, 4.80; N, 9.52. Found: C, 52.75; H, 4.65; N, 9.70.

**5,5'-Methylenebisoxazole-3,3'-dicarboxylic Acid (X)**—Diethyl 5,5'-methylenebisoxazole-3,3'-dicarboxylate (IV) (50 mg) was dissolved in dioxane (6 ml) and to this solution was added aqueous 20% HCl solution (6 ml). The reaction mixture was heated on a water bath ( $40^\circ$ ) for 40 hr. The solution was evaporated under reduced pressure to give a white crystalline substance, mp  $155\text{--}158^\circ$  with previous softening (43 mg). Recrystallization from  $\text{CH}_3\text{COOEt}$ -benzene gave 5,5'-methylenebisoxazole-3,3'-dicarboxylic acid (X) as prisms, mp  $173\text{--}175^\circ$  (decomp.) (30 mg). Two more recrystallization from the same solvents afforded a sample melting at  $183\text{--}185^\circ$  (decomp.). *Anal.* Calcd. for  $\text{C}_9\text{H}_6\text{O}_6\text{N}_2$ : C, 45.39; H, 2.54; N, 11.76. Found: C, 45.46; H, 2.55; N, 11.68. UV  $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{EtOH}}$   $m\mu$  (log  $\epsilon$ ): 234.5 (3.92). IR  $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{Nujol}}$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 3070—2500 (COOH), 1709 (CO), 1590 (isoxazole).

**Decarboxylation Reaction of 5,5'-Methylenebisoxazole-3,3'-dicarboxylic Acid (X)**—5,5'-Methylenebisoxazole-3,3'-dicarboxylic acid (X) (399 mg) in DMSO (25 ml) and  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$  (2.5 ml) was heated on an oil bath ( $125^\circ$ ) for 30 minutes. After 20 minutes heating, the evolution of  $\text{CO}_2$  gas ceased. The solution was evaporated under reduced pressure on a water-bath ( $60\text{--}65^\circ$ ) to dryness to give a crystalline substance (319 mg) mp  $250\text{--}270^\circ$ . Recrystallization from EtOH gave black crystals, mp  $242\text{--}245^\circ$  with previous softening (50 mg). From the filtrate, further black crystals, mp  $240^\circ$  (with previous softening) was obtained (37 mg). IR  $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{Nujol}}$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 2220 (C $\equiv$ N). IR spectrum of the recrystallized sample was almost same as that of non-recrystallized sample.

**2,2-Bis(3-carbethoxy-5-isoxazolyl)-1,3-diphenylpropane (XVII)**—Sodium (57 mg; 2.47 mmole) was dissolved in absolute EtOH (12 ml) and to this solution was added crystalline diethyl 5,5'-methylenebisoxazole-3,3'-dicarboxylate (IV) (729 mg; 2.47 mmole) and dimethylsulfoxide (4 ml). After stirring at room temperature for 30 minutes, benzyl bromide (424 mg; 2.47 mmole) in absolute EtOH (2 ml) was added and the reaction mixture was heated on a water bath ( $80\text{--}85^\circ$ ) for 5.5 hr. The mixture was poured into ice-water and extracted with ether. The combined extracts were washed three times with  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  and evaporated to give an oil (818 mg). This oil was chromatographed on silica gel (40 g). Elution with benzene- $\text{CHCl}_3$  (20:1) and evaporation afforded an oil (156 mg), which crystallized on standing. Recrystallization from EtOH gave 2,2-bis(3-carbethoxy-5-isoxazolyl)-1,3-diphenylpropane (XVII) as leaflets, mp  $159\text{--}160^\circ$  (130 mg). *Anal.* Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{26}\text{O}_6\text{N}_2$ : C, 68.34; H, 5.52; N, 5.90. Found: C, 68.21; H, 5.64; N, 5.93. UV  $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{EtOH}}$   $m\mu$  (log  $\epsilon$ ): 238.5 (3.89). IR  $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{Nujol}}$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 1732 (CO), 1588 (isoxazole). NMR (10% solution in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  ppm: 1.41 (6H, triplet,  $J=7.0$  Hz,  $2 \times \text{COOCH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ), 3.64 (4H, singlet,  $2 \times \text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{-CH}_2$ ), 4.46 (4H, quartet,  $J=7.0$  Hz,  $2 \times \text{COOCH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ), 6.34 (2H, singlet, isoxazole H at 4 position), 6.60—7.30 (10H, multiplet, aromatic hydrogens).

Further elution with  $\text{CHCl}_3$  gave a crystalline substance (295 mg), which was rechromatographed on silica gel (7.0 g). Elution with benzene and benzene- $\text{CHCl}_3$  (1:1) afforded the starting material, diethyl 5,5'-methylenebisoxazole-3,3'-dicarboxylate (IV) (93 mg).

**2,2-Bis(3-carbethoxy-5-isoxazolyl)styrene (XIX) and 1,1-Bis(3-carbethoxy-5-isoxazolyl)-1-propenyl-2-acetate (XX)**—A mixture of diethyl 5,5'-methylenebisoxazole-3,3'-dicarboxylate (IV) (2.50 g; 8.5 mmole),

benzaldehyde (0.90 g: 8.5 mmole),  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$  (0.86 g: 8.5 mmole) and acetic anhydride (20 ml) was heated on a water-bath (80—85°) for 16 hr. The cooled solution was poured into ice-water (300 ml) and extracted with ether. The combined extracts were washed with  $\text{NaHCO}_3$  solution and saturated  $\text{NaCl}$  solution, dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  and evaporated to give an oil (3.0 g). This oil was chromatographed on silica gel (30 g). Elution with benzene and evaporation gave 2,2-bis(3-carbethoxy-5-isoxazolyl)styrene (XIX) as an oil, which was distilled under high vacuum to give pure XIX, bp 230—240° (bath temperature) (0.0001 mmHg). *Anal.* Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_6\text{N}_2$ : C, 62.82; H, 4.75; N, 7.33. Found: C, 62.77; H, 4.78; N, 7.45. UV  $\lambda_{\text{max}}^{\text{EtOH}}$   $m\mu$  (log  $\epsilon$ ): 228 (4.06) (plateau), 259.5 (3.97) (plateau), 314 (4.35). IR  $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{liquid}}$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 3140 (isoxazole H at 4 position), 1732 (C=O), 1630, 1575. NMR (10% solution in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  ppm: 1.41 (3H, triplet,  $J=7.3$  Hz,  $-\text{COOCH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.45 (3H, triplet,  $J=7.3$  Hz,  $-\text{COOCH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ), 4.48 (2H, quartet,  $J=7.3$  Hz,  $-\text{COOCH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ), 4.50 (2H, quartet,  $J=7.3$  Hz,  $-\text{COOCH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ), 6.57 (1H, singlet, isoxazole H at 4 position), 6.76 (1H, singlet, isoxazole H at 4 position), 7.00—7.60 (5H, multiplet, aromatic hydrogens), 7.83 (1H, singlet,  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{-CH-C}$ ).

Further elution with benzene afforded 1,1-bis(3-carbethoxy-5-isoxazolyl)-1-propenyl-2-acetate (XX) as an oil. High vacuum distillation gave pure XX, bp 200—205° (bath temperature) (0.0001 mmHg) (500 mg), which solidified on standing. Recrystallization from cyclohexane gave needles, mp 66—67°. *Anal.* Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_8\text{N}_2$ : C, 53.97; H, 4.80; N, 7.41. Found: C, 53.80; H, 4.87; N, 7.45. UV  $\lambda_{\text{max}}^{\text{EtOH}}$   $m\mu$  (log  $\epsilon$ ): 240 (4.05) (shoulder), 263 (4.17). IR  $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{solid}}$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 3160 (isoxazole H at 4 position), 1775, 1732 (C=O), 1658, 1588. NMR (10% solution in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  ppm: 1.42 (3H, triplet,  $J=7.2$  Hz,  $-\text{COOCH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.44 (3H, triplet,  $J=7.2$  Hz,  $-\text{COOCH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ), 2.28 (3H, singlet,  $-\text{CH}_3$ ), 2.33 (3H, singlet,  $-\text{CH}_3$ ), 4.46 (2H, quartet,  $J=7.2$  Hz,  $-\text{COOCH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ), 4.48 (2H, quartet,  $J=7.2$  Hz,  $-\text{COOCH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ), 6.63 (1H, singlet), 6.78 (1H, singlet).

**1,1-Bis(3-carbethoxy-5-isoxazolyl)-1-propenyl-2-acetate (XX) from Diethyl 5,5'-Methylenebisoxazole-3,3'-dicarboxylate (IV) and Acetic Anhydride**—A mixture of diethyl 5,5'-methylenebisoxazole-3,3'-dicarboxylate (IV) (200 mg),  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$  (200 mg) and acetic anhydride (4 ml) was heated on an oil bath (115°) for 9 hr. The cooled solution was poured into ice-water and stirred for 2 hr after addition of ether in order to decompose the excess of acetic anhydride. Ethereal layer was separated and washed with  $\text{NaHCO}_3$  solution, and then with  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  until neutral to litmus. After drying over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  ether was evaporated to give an oil (254 mg), which was chromatographed on silica gel (12 g). Elution with benzene- $\text{CHCl}_3$  (7:3) and evaporation afforded 1,1-bis(3-carbethoxy-5-isoxazolyl)-1-propenyl-2-acetate (XX) as an oil (180 mg), which crystallized on standing for a long time. Recrystallization from cyclohexane gave tufts of needles, mp 65—66° with previous softening (104 mg). An analytical sample melted at 66—67°, which was identical in all respects with a sample obtained in the reaction of IV with benzaldehyde and acetic anhydride. *Anal.* Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_8\text{N}_2$ : C, 53.97; H, 4.80; N, 7.41. Found: C, 54.16; H, 5.02; N, 7.67.

**Ethyl 4-Bis(3-carbethoxy-5-isoxazolyl)-3-phenylbutyrate (XXII)**—Sodium (13 mg) was dissolved in absolute EtOH (1 ml) and to this solution was added crystalline diethyl 5,5'-methylenebisoxazole-3,3'-dicarboxylate (IV) (294 mg: 1 mmole) and then, ethyl cinnamate (XXI) (176 mg: 1 mmole) in absolute EtOH (1.3 ml) was added at room temperature. The reaction mixture was heated under reflux for 6 hr. To the cooled mixture were added AcOH (34 mg) and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and extracted with ethyl acetate (the aqueous solution was saturated with NaCl). The combined extracts were washed once with saturated NaCl solution, dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  and evaporated to give an oil (455 mg). This oil was chromatographed on silica gel (10 g). Elution with benzene and benzene- $\text{CHCl}_3$  (2:1) gave ethyl 4-bis(3-carbethoxy-5-isoxazolyl)-3-phenylbutyrate (XXII) as an oil (213 mg), which could not be distilled even in high vacuum (0.0001 mmHg). *Anal.* Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{26}\text{O}_8\text{N}_2$ : C, 61.27; H, 5.57; N, 5.96. Found: C, 62.15; H, 5.80; N, 5.97. UV  $\lambda_{\text{max}}^{\text{EtOH}}$   $m\mu$  (log  $\epsilon$ ): 237 (4.02). IR  $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{liquid}}$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 3135 (isoxazole H at 4 position), 1725 (CO), 1593 (isoxazole). NMR (10% solution in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  ppm: 1.10 (3H, triplet,  $J=7.3$  Hz,  $-\text{COOCH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.39 (3H, triplet,  $J=7.3$  Hz,  $-\text{COOCH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.44 (3H, triplet,  $J=7.3$  Hz,  $-\text{COOCH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ), 2.75 (2H, doublet,  $J=7.5$  Hz,  $-\text{CH}_2\text{-COO-}$ ), 4.01 (2H, quartet,  $J=7.3$  Hz,  $-\text{COOCH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ), 4.06 [1H, multiplet (obscure),  $J_1=7.5$  Hz,  $J_2=9.5$  Hz,  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{-CH}$ ], 4.42 (2H, quartet,  $J=7.3$  Hz,  $-\text{COOCH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ), 4.48 (2H, quartet,  $J=7.3$  Hz,  $-\text{COOCH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ), 5.00 (1H, doublet,  $J=9.5$  Hz, methine between two isoxazole rings), 6.43 (1H, singlet, isoxazole ring H at 4 position), 6.68 (1H, singlet, isoxazole ring H at 4 position), 7.00—7.40 (5H, multiplet, aromatic hydrogens).

**Triethylamine Salt of Ethyl 5-Benzoylamino-7-(3-carbethoxy-5-isoxazolyl)-4,7-dihydro-4-oxo-1,2-benzisoxazol-3-carboxylate (XXIV)**—To a mixture of diethyl 5,5'-methylenebisoxazole-3,3'-dicarboxylate (IV) (1.0 g: 0.0034 mole) and 4-ethoxymethylene-2-phenyl-2-oxazoline-5-one (738 mg: 0.0034 mole) in dimethyl sulfoxide (11 ml) was added  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$  (378 mg: 0.0034  $\times$  1.1 mole) in dimethyl sulfoxide (2 ml) at room temperature. The reaction mixture was allowed to stand at room temperature for 48 hr. The solution was poured into ice-water and the appeared precipitate was collected by centrifugation, dried *in vacuo* to give a red crystalline substance (1.36 g), mp 146—150°. Recrystallization from dioxane gave pure triethylamine salt of ethyl 5-benzoylamino-7-(3-carbethoxy-5-isoxazolyl)-4,7-dihydro-4-oxo-1,2-benzisoxazol-3-carboxylate (XXIV) as needles, mp 152—154° (870 mg). An analytical sample melted at 153—155° after recrystallization from ethyl acetate. *Anal.* Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{34}\text{O}_8\text{N}_4$ : C, 61.47; H, 6.05; N, 9.89. Found: C, 61.84; H, 6.19; N, 9.76. UV  $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{EtOH}}$   $m\mu$  (log  $\epsilon$ ): 255 (4.16), 338 (3.95), 354 (3.96), 477 (4.58). IR  $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{solid}}$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 2640, 2520, 1743, 1730, 1648, 1608, 1597, 1585, 1566, 1528, 1271, 1253, 1232. NMR (10% solution in  $\text{CD}_3\text{-SOCD}_3$ )  $\delta$  ppm (100 Mc): 1.21 (9H, triplet,  $J=7$  Hz,  $>\text{N-CH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.36 (3H, triplet,  $J=7$  Hz,  $-\text{COOCH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.43 (3H, triplet,  $J=7$  Hz,  $-\text{COOCH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ), 3.10 (6H, quartet,  $J=7$  Hz,  $-\text{N-CH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ), 4.39 (2H, quartet,

$J=7$  Hz,  $-\text{COOCH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ), 4.45 (2H, quartet,  $J=7$  Hz,  $-\text{COOCH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ), 6.55 (1H, singlet, isoxazole H at 4 position), 7.32 (1H, singlet,  $\text{H}-\text{C}=\text{C}-\text{NHCOCH}_3$ ), 8.04 (1H, broad singlet,  $-\text{NH}$ ), 7.35—7.88 (5H, multiplet, aromatic hydrogens).

**Ethyl 5-Benzoylamino-7-(3-carbethoxy-5-isoxazolyl)-6-phenyl-5,6-dihydro-1,2-benzisoxazol-4(3aH)-oxo-3-carboxylate (XXVI)**—To a mixture of diethyl 5,5'-methylenebisoxazole-3,3'-dicarboxylate (IV) (100 mg: 0.34 mmole) and 4-benzal-2-phenyl-2-oxazoline-5-one (XXV) (84.8 mg: 0.34 mmole) in dimethylformamide (1 ml) was dropwise added  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$  (37.8 mg;  $0.34 \times 1.1$  mmole) in dimethylformamide (1 ml). The reaction mixture was allowed to stand at room temperature for 40 hr. The yellow clear solution was poured into ice-water and extracted three times with  $\text{CHCl}_3$ . The combined extracts were evaporated under reduced pressure to give an oil (188 mg), which was chromatographed on silica gel (6.5 g). Elution with benzene- $\text{CHCl}_3$  (1:1) and evaporation gave an oil (86 mg), which crystallized when dissolved in small amount of benzene and left overnight. Recrystallization from EtOH gave ethyl 5-benzoylamino-7-(3-carbethoxy-5-isoxazolyl)-6-phenyl-5,6-dihydro-1,2-benzisoxazol-4(3aH)-oxo-3-carboxylate (XXVI) as flakes, mp 166—168° (57 mg). One more recrystallization from the same solvent gave a sample melting at 175—177° (33 mg). *Anal.* Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{25}\text{O}_8\text{N}_3$ : C, 64.08; H, 4.64; N, 7.73. Found: C, 63.66; H, 4.75; N, 7.80. UV  $\lambda_{\text{max}}^{\text{EtOH}}$   $m\mu$  (log  $\epsilon$ ): 237.5 (4.42). IR  $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{Nujol}}$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 3280, 3160, 1732, 1687, 1604, 1588, 1514, 1269, 1244. NMR (10% solution in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  ppm: 1.35 (3H, triplet,  $J=7$  Hz,  $-\text{COOCH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.37 (3H, triplet,  $J=7$  Hz,  $-\text{COOCH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ), 4.38 (2H, quartet,  $J=7$  Hz,  $-\text{COOCH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ), 4.43 (2H, quartet,  $J=7$  Hz,  $-\text{COOCH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ), 5.57 (1H, doublet,  $J=11.5$  Hz,  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{CH}$ ), 5.96 (1H, doublet,  $J=11.5$  Hz,  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{CONH-CH}$ ), 6.46 (1H, singlet,  $-\text{CO-CH}$  or isoxazole H at 4 position), 6.82 (1H, singlet, isoxazole H at 4 position or  $-\text{CO-CH}$ ), 7.20—8.00 (10H, multiplet, aromatic hydrogens), 9.13 (1H, broad singlet, NH).

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