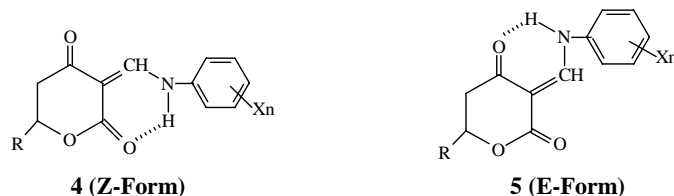
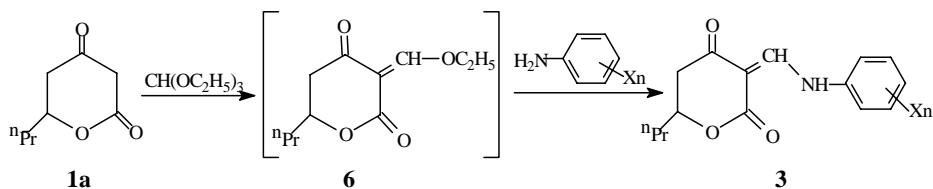


In a general procedure, dianion of ethyl acetoacetate reacted with aldehyde in THF for 6h at 0°C, and was poured into ice-cooled water. The solution was allowed to stir overnight at room temperature, then acidified with diluted hydrochloric acid and extracted with ether to give light yellow crystals **1**. Heating **1** and substituted anilines **2** in the presence of ethyl orthoformate led to anilinomethylene compounds **3**. The products **3**, confirmed by ¹HNMR spectra, are composed of a pair of isomers **4** and **5**, the formation of which give rise to two types of intramolecular hydrogen bonds. The Chemical shift of hydrogen atom on nitrogen atom of **4**(**Z**) lies in lower field because of the electron-withdrawing effect of oxygen atom in the 1 position.



In order to elucidate the reaction mechanism, we postulated the structure of intermediate **6**, and by checking with GCD (Gas-Chromatograph Detector) technique the molecular ion m/z 212 was formed.



References and Notes

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