Synthesis of 1,2,4-Triazolo[4,3-a]pyrimidine Derivatives by Cyclocondensation of a 2-Thioxopyrimidin-4(3H)-one with Hydrazonoyl Halides

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The reaction of 1,2-dihydro-6-(phenylamino)-2-thioxopyrimidin-4(3H)one (16) with N-arylhydrazonoyl halides 15 in CHCl₃ in the presence of Et₃N under reflux afforded the corresponding 1,2,4-triazolo[4,3-a]pyrimidin-5-ones of type 20 in good yields $(Scheme 3)$. The structure of one of the derivatives, 20d, has been established by X-ray crystallography. Conceivable reaction mechanisms are discussed in Schemes 3 and 4. The products of type 20 easily undergo reactions with electrophiles such as benzenediazonium chloride, chloroacetyl chloride, and NaNO₂ in AcOH to give 6-phenylazo, 6-chloroacetyl, and 6-nitroso derivatives 21, 23, and 25, respectively (Scheme 5).

Introduction. – Recently, the chemistry of $1,2,4$ -triazolo[4,3-*a*]pyrimidines 1 has been reviewed comprehensively [1]. The other three isomeric 1,2,4-triazolopyrimidines are $2[2]$, $3[3]$, and $4[4]$ with $[1,5-a]$, $[4,3-c]$, and $[1,5-c]$ fusions, respectively, of the two heterocyclic systems. As with the other classes, derivatives of 1 have found broad applications in biology and medicine as well as in photography [5].

Chemically, one of the most remarkable features of compounds of type 1 is their tendency to rearrange to give [1,5-a] isomers 2 under acidic and basic conditions as well as by heating [6]. This isomerization via ring-opening/ring-closure processes is wellknown as the Dimroth rearrangement [7] and appears often as a difficulty in the preparation of 1. Another problem is the selectivity of the ring closure process, $e.g.,$ in the frequently used cyclizations of 2-hydrazinopyrimidines with C_1 building blocks (Scheme 1). For example, heating 5 in HCOOH to $50-60^{\circ}$ for 1 h gave a mixture of the isomeric 1,2,4-triazolo[4,3-a]pyrimidine derivatives 6 and 7, in addition to their

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precursor 8 [8]. Cyclization of 8 by ring closure via N(1) or N(3) of the pyrimidine ring and dehydration leads to 7 or 6, respectively.

A different synthetic approach to the ring skeleton $\bf{1}$ is the heterocyclization of a pyrimidine 9 with a C-N-N building block, $e.g.,$ the chemo- and regioselective 1,3dipolar cycloaddition of diaryl-nitrile imines generated in situ from 10 , leading to 11 [9] (Scheme 2). An intramolecular variant via 1,5-dipolar electrocyclization of a nitrile imine is also known $[10]$. On the other hand, pyrimidines bearing a leaving group at C(2) react with acid hydrazides [11], semicarbazide [12], thiosemicarbazide [13], and hydrazonoyl bromides [14]. For example, the reaction of pyrimidine derivative 12 with hydrazide $13 (R = alkyl)$ gave, after heating the intermediate 2-hydrazinopyrimidine in the presence of phenol, 3-alkyl-7-methyl-1,2,4-triazolo[4,3-a]pyrimidin-5-one 14 [15] (Scheme 2), whereas, with benzohydrazide under the same conditions, 5-methyl-3 phenyl-1,2,4-triazolo[4,3-a]pyrimidin-7-one was formed [16]. Recently, 5-substituted 1,2,4-triazolo[4,3-a]pyrimidines of type 1 have been prepared by the reaction of a 3- (dimethylamino)prop-2-en-1-one with 3-amino-1H-1,2,4-triazole [17].

One of us has a long-lasting interest in using heterocyclic compounds containing a thiourea moiety in the synthesis of fused heterocycles $(cf. [18][19])$. For example, it has been shown that hydrazonoyl halides 15 react with such heterocycles to give, in general, only one of the two possible isomers of the fused products. This selectivity has been explained by the assumption that one of the two ring-N-atoms is more basic and more nucleophilic (cf. [20] [21]). Therefore, in the case of 2-thioxopyrimidin-4-one derivatives of type 16, the ring closure is expected to occur at $N(1)$, as $N(3)$ is more desactivated by the neighboring C=O group. On the other hand, the dehydrocyclization of intermediate **8** (*Scheme 1*) yielded **6** as the major product, and the expected isomer 7 was obtained as the minor one.

Recently, first examples of the reaction of 6-(phenylamino)-2-thioxopyrimidin- $4(3H)$ -one (16) and C-(ethoxycarbonyl)hydrazonoyl chlorides leading to 5-oxo-1,2,4triazolo[4,3-a]pyrimidine-3-carboxylates have been described [22]. In the present

study, we report the generalization of the reaction of 16 with different hydrazonoyl halides of type 15. The latter are known as very useful $C-N-N$ building blocks that can react either *via* substitution by nucleophiles followed by cyclization (cf. [18] [19] [23]) or *via* intermediate nitrile imines by 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition $(cf. [9][24-27])$.

Results and Discussion. $-$ The reactions of 16 with equimolar amounts of hydrazonoyl halides $15a - 15h$ were carried out in refluxing CHCl₃ in the presence of Et₃N. When all 15 had disappeared $(4-6 h, TLC)$, the mixture was worked up by evaporating the solvent and treating the residue with MeOH. In all cases, a single product was obtained, which was recrystallized from a suitable solvent to give orange to yellow crystals. Both mass spectrometry and elemental analyses confirmed the absence of sulfur in all products (cf. [18] [19]). Therefore, structures **17** and **18** (Scheme 3), which are the products of a nucleophilic substitution of X of 15 by the S-atom of 16 and the cyclization product of the intermediate³), respectively, were ruled out.

³) Formally, **18** is the product of the 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition of the corresponding nitrile imine, generated in situ from **15** by elimination of HX, onto the C=S group. Although nonenolizable C=S groups belong to the most reactive dipolarophiles known, and, therefore, thioketones are called 'superdipolarophiles' [28], it is rather unlikely that 18 is formed by this mechanism as nitrile imines $-$ like other 1,3-dipoles $-$ are easily protonated by OH, SH, and NH compounds (cf. [26]). For this reason, a nitrile imine and 16 would react to give the 1,3-adduct 17.

However, the analytical and spectroscopic data of the isolated products were in accordance with structures 19 or 20 formed via a cyclocondensation of 15 and 16 by elimination of H_2S . For example, the product from the reaction with **15a** showed two intense IR absorptions (in KBr) at 1744 and 1692 cm⁻¹, which are characteristic for an acetate and a pyrimidinone. In the ${}^{1}H\text{-NMR}$ spectrum (CDCl₃), three *singlets* appeared at 7.05 (NH), 5.45 ($H-C(5)$ of pyrimidin-4-one), and 4.06 ppm (MeOCO), in addition to a multiplet at 8.15 – 7.3 ppm (10 arom. H). In Scheme 3, reaction mechanisms leading to 19 and 20 are proposed. The common intermediate A can be generated from the initially formed thiohydrazonate derivative 17 by an $S \rightarrow N$ migration of the pyrimidine ring via the spirocyclic intermediate 18. Cyclization of \bf{A} via nucleophilic attack of $N(1)$ (Route a) or $N(3)$ (Route b) of the pyrimidin-4-one onto the thioamide C-atom leads to **B** and **C**, respectively. Elimination of H₂S then yields either 19 or 20.

A different reaction mechanism *via* nucleophilic attack of $N(1)$ or $N(3)$ of 16 at the hydrazonoyl halide 15 to give the substitution products D and F , respectively, is formulated in *Scheme 4*. Cyclization of these intermediates could lead to E and G , which, by elimination of H_2S , could give 19 and 20, respectively. Although it is difficult to distinguish between the mechanisms in *Scheme 3* and 4, those via D/F are unlikely for the following reasons: *a*) although amidrazones of type **D** and **F** are known to be stable (cf. $[29-31]$), all attempts to isolate them from the reaction mixture failed; b) reactions of 2-thiouracil derivatives with various halogen compounds gave, in all reported cases, only the S-substituted products $(cf. [32-34])$. Therefore, we strongly favor the mechanism depicted in Scheme 3.

Unfortunately, neither the spectroscopic data4) of the products nor the proposed reaction mechanisms allowed discrimination between structures 19 and 20. For this

⁴⁾ All products showed a *singlet* at *ca.* 5.5 ppm in the ¹H-NMR spectrum, assignable to $H-C(5)$ of the pyrimidin-4-one moiety and, in the IR spectrum, absorption bands near 3280 and 1700 cm⁻¹ for an NH and amide CO group, respectively.

Figure. ORTEP Plot [35] of the molecular structure of 20d: disordered conformation A (arbitrary numbering of the atoms; 50% probability ellipsoids)

reason, the molecular structure of the product obtained with 15d has been established by X-ray crystallography as the $1,2,4$ -triazolo[4,3-a]pyrimidin-5-one derivative **20d** (Fig.).

In the structure of 20d, the EtO atoms of the ethyl ester group are disordered over two positions that are related by a ca. 180 $^{\circ}$ rotation about the O(11)–C(12) bond, with relative site occupation factors of $0.542:0.458$. The plane of the O=C-O moiety is almost orthogonal to the ring plane (torsion angle $O(10)-C(10)-C(1)-N(2)$) 76.6(3) $^{\circ}$). The six-membered heterocyclic ring shows evidence for strong bond delocalization in that the C=O bond is slightly elongated $(1.248(2)$ A), and most of the lengths of the ring bonds approach those normally found in Ph rings. Neither the aromatic residue at $N(3)$ nor PhNH at $C(6)$ is coplanar with the heterocyclic system; the angles between the planes are $44.59(8)$ and $13.70(7)^\circ$, respectively. The amine group $(N(6)H)$ of the molecule forms an intermolecular H-bond with $O(8)$ of the

amide C=O group of a neighboring molecule. The interactions link the molecules into infinite one-dimensional chains that run parallel to the ν -axis and have a graph-set motif of $C(6)$ [36].

In analogy to [22], the prepared 7-(phenylamino)-1,2,4-triazolo[4,3-a]pyrimidin-5 ones 20 undergo smooth reactions with electrophiles leading to C(6)-functionalized derivatives. For example, 20f was readily coupled with an equimolar amount of benzenediazonium chloride to give the corresponding 6-(phenylazenyl) derivative 21 as the only product (*Scheme 5*). The structure of 21 was established on the basis of the elemental analysis and spectroscopic data (IR, ¹H-NMR, MS). Furthermore, the structure was confirmed by an independent synthesis via the reaction of 1,2-dihydro-6- (phenylamino)-5-(phenyldiazenyl)-2-thioxopyrimidin-4(3H)-one [37] with 15f.

22 (R = MeOCO)

Acylation of $20a$ with ClCH₂COCl furnished the corresponding 6-(chloroacetyl) derivative 22, and nitrosation with $NaNO₂$ in AcOH gave the corresponding 6-nitroso-1,2,4-triazolo[4,3-a]pyrimidine derivative 23 in excellent yield. The same compound was obtained after treatment of 16 with $NaNO₂$ in AcOH (cf. [37]) and reaction of the intermediate with hydrazonoyl chloride 15a (Scheme 5).

In conclusion, we have shown that the reaction of 16 with differently substituted hydrazonoyl halides 15 is a general approach to 1,2,4-triazolo[4,3-a]pyrimidin-5-ones of type 20, which can be further substituted at C(6) by reactions with electrophiles. The initial reaction in the formation of 20 is a nucleophilic substitution of the halide of 15 rather than a 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition of an intermediate nitrile imine, in contrast to reactions with N-substituted 1H-pyrimidinethiones [9]. The structure of 20d was established by X-ray crystallography. The other structures of type 20 have been assigned on the basis of the similarity of spectroscopic data and under the assumption

that the regioselectivity of the cyclization in intermediate \mathbf{A} (Scheme 3) is not influenced by the variation of the substituents (cf. also [22]).

We thank the analytical units of our institutes for spectra and analyses. E.M.A. thanks the Swiss Federal Government for the provision of a National Scholarship for Foreign Students.

Experimental Part

1. General. See [23]. IR Spectra: in KBr. ¹H-NMR Spectra: in CDCl₃. Hydrazonoyl halides (chlorides or bromides) 15a - 15c, [38], 15d [39], 15e [40], 15f [41], 15g [42], and 15h [43], and 1,2-dihydro-6-(phenylamino)-2-thioxopyrimidin-4(3H)-one (16) [37] were prepared according to the procedures indicated in the literature.

2. Synthesis of 1,2,4-Triazolo[4,3-a]pyrimidin-5-ones 20. General Procedure. To a stirred soln. of 16 (1.1 g, 5 mmol) and the appropriate hydrazonoyl halide 15 (5 mmol) in CHCl₃ (40 ml), Et₃N (0.7 ml, 5 mmol) was added at r.t. The mixture was refluxed until 16 disappeared $(4-6 h; TLC)$. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure, and the residue was treated with MeOH (10 ml). The solid formed was collected and crystallized from a suitable solvent to give the corresponding 1,2,4-triazolo[4,3-a]pyrimidine derivative 20.

Methyl 5-Oxo-1-phenyl-7-(phenylamino)-1,2,4-triazolo[4,3-a]pyrimidine-3-carboxylate (20a). Yield 1.26 g (70%). M.p. 196° (AcOH). IR: 3287 (NH), 1744 (CO), 1692 (CO). ¹H-NMR: 4.06 (s, MeO); 5.45 (s, H–C(6)); 7.05 (s, NH); 7.3 - 8.15 (m, 10 arom. H). EI-MS: 361 (100, M⁺⁺), 303 (16), 213 (46), 193 (23), 144 (73), 117 (46), 77 (76). Anal. calc. for C₁₉H₁₅N₅O₃ (361.35): C 63.15, H 4.18, N 19.38; found: C 63.21, H 4.35, N 19.30.

Methyl 1-(4-Methylphenyl)-5-oxo-7-(phenylamino)-1,2,4-triazolo[4,3-a]pyrimidine-3-carboxylate (20b). Yield 1.41 g (75%). M.p. 225° (EtOH/DMF). IR: 3281(NH), 1746 (CO), 1691 (CO). ¹H-NMR: 2.45 (s, Me); 4.10 (s, MeO); 5.49 (s, H-C(6)); 6.80 (s, NH); 7.2 – 8.0 (m, 9 arom. H). EI-MS: 375 (100, M⁺⁺), 316 (8), 259 (14), 227 (62), 207 (43), 144 (59), 105 (37), 73 (85). Anal. calc. for C₂₀H₁₇N₅O₃ (375.38): C 63.99, H 4.57, N 18.66; found: C 64.20, H 4.25, N 18.59.

Methyl 1-(4-Chlorophenyl)-5-oxo-7-(phenylamino)-1,2,4-triazolo[4,3-a]pyrimidine-3-carboxylate (20c). Yield 1.39 g (70%). M.p. 232° (AcOH). IR: 3284 (NH), 1755 (CO), 1693 (CO). ¹H-NMR: 4.10 (s, MeO); 5.45 (s, H – C(6)); 6.82 (s, NH); 7.2 – 8.2 (m, 9 arom. H). EI-MS: 395 (0.4, M⁺⁺), 368 (1), 313 (1), 271 (2), 236 (9), 185 (7), 149 (11), 97 (52), 57 (100). Anal. calc. for C₁₉H₁₄N₅O₃Cl (395.81): C 57.66, H 3.57, N 17.69; found: C 57.36, H 3.29, N 17.57.

Ethyl 1-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-5-oxo-7-(phenylamino)-1,2,4-triazolo[4,3-a]pyrimidine-3-carboxylate (20d). Yield 1.62 g (80%). M.p. 186 $^{\circ}$ (EtOH). IR: 3280 (NH), 1740 (CO), 1690 (CO). ¹H-NMR: 1.45 (t, J=7, Me); 3.85 (s, MeO); 4.55 (q, J = 7, CH₂O); 5.45 (s, H – C(6)); 6.91 (s, NH); 7.05 – 8.0 (m, 9 arom. H). EI-MS: 406 (43) , 405 $(100, M⁺)$, 333 (4) , 262 (5) 243 (7) , 223 (8) , 148 (4) , 144 (9) , 77 (7) . Anal. calc. for $C_{21}H_{19}N_5O_4$ (405.42): C 62.21, H 4.72, N 17.28; found: C 62.12, H 4.65, N 17.21.

1-Phenyl-7-(phenylamino)-3-(2-phenylethenyl)-1,2,4-triazolo[4,3-a]pyrimidin-5-one (20e). Yield 1.58 g (78%) M.p. 265° (AcOH). IR: 3315 (NH), 1668 (CO). EI-MS: 406 (24), 405 (100, M⁺⁺), 328 (48), 289 (18), 261 (24), 219 (16), 144 (19), 129 (18), 91 (53). Anal. calc. for C₂₅H₁₉N₅O (405.46): C 74.06, H 4.72, N 17.28; found: C 74.35, H 4.54, N 17.10.

3-Acetyl-1-phenyl-7-(phenylamino)-1,2,4-triazolo[4,3-a]pyrimidin-5-one (20f). Yield 1.30 g (75%). M.p. 269° (EtOH/DMF). IR: 3282 (NH), 1731 (CO), 1682 (CO). EI-MS: 345 (100, M⁺⁺), 229 (22), 193 (13), 144 (40), 117 (17), 77 (41). Anal. calc. for C₁₉H₁₅N₅O₂ (345.35): C 66.07, H 4.38, N 20.28; found: C 66.00, H 4.21, N 20.05.

N-Phenyl 5-Oxo-1-phenyl-7-(phenylamino)-1,2,4-triazolo[4,3-a]pyrimidine-3-carboxamide (20g). Yield 1.48 g (70%). M.p. 285° (DMF). IR: 3250 (NH), 3214 (NH), 1703 (CO), 1645 (CO). EI-MS: 423 (7, [M+ 1]⁺), 408 (15), 338 (19), 297 (13), 251 (21) 193 (33), 152 (27), 97 (72), 57 (100). Anal. calc. for C₂₄H₁₈N₆O₂ (422.43): C 68.23, H 4.29, N 19.90; found: C 68.15, H 4.25, N 19.77.

1-(4-Nitrophenyl)-7-(phenylamino)-3-(thiophen-2-yl)-1,2,4-triazolo[4,3-a]pyrimidin-5-one (20h). Yield 1.61 g (75%). M.p. 290° (EtOH/DMF). IR: 3285 (NH), 1687 (CO). EI-MS: 430 (100, M⁺⁺), 314 (26), 287 (45) , 144 (44), 77 (29). Anal. calc. for C₂₁H₁₄N₆O₃S (430.43): C 58.59, H 3.28, N 19.53, S 7.45; found: C 58.55, H 3.12, N 19.20, S 7.30.

3. Synthesis of 3-Aceytyl-1-phenyl-7-(phenylamino)-6-(phenylazenyl)-1,2,4-triazolo[4,3-a]pyrimidin-5-one (21). Method A. To a soln. of 20f (5 mmol) in EtOH (100 ml), NaOH (0.2 g, 5 mmol) was added. A soln. of benzenediazonium chloride (prepared from aniline (0.5 ml, 5 mmol) and the appropriate quantities of aq. HCl and NaNO₂) was then added to the stirred mixture at r.t. The product precipitated on standing and was collected by filtration and crystallized from DMF to give 21. Yield 1.75 g (78%). M.p. 248° (AcOH). IR: 3363 (NH), 1726 (CO), 1695 (CO). ¹H-NMR: 2.88 (s; Me): 7.18 – 8.18 (m, 15 arom. H); 13.90 (s, NH). Anal. calc. for $C_{25}H_{19}N_7O_2$ (449.46): C 66.80, H 4.26, N 21.82; found: C 66.65, H 4.10, N 21.64.

Method B. Compound 21 was prepared by the same method described for the synthesis of 20 with 1,2 dihydro-6-(phenylamino)-5-(phenylazenyl-2-thioxopyrimidin-4(3H)-one [37] in place of 16. The product was identical to that obtained by Method A.

4. Synthesis of 6-(Chloroacetyl)-5-oxo-1-phenyl-7-(phenylamino)-1,2,4-triazolo[4,3-a]pyrimidine-3-carbox y late (22). A soln. of 20a (5 mmol) in ClCH₂COCl (10 ml) was heated to reflux for 3 h. Then, the mixture was cooled to r.t., the precipitate was collected and crystallized from AcOH to give 22. Yield 1.64 g(75%). M.p. 232° $(ACOH)$. IR: 3062 (NH), 1766 (CO), 1700 (CO), 1689 (CO). ¹H-NMR: 4.10 (s, MeO); 5.05 (s, CH₂Cl); 7.2–8.1 (m, 10 arom. H); 12.80 (s, NH). EI-MS: 439 (8), 402 (63), 388 (100), 328 (21), 288 (7), 213 (13), 170 (4), 144 (14), 77 (30). Anal. calc. for C₂₁H₁₆N₅O₄Cl (437.83): C 57.60, H 3.68, N 16.00; found: C 57.50, H 3.52, N 16.21.

5. Synthesis of Methyl 6-Nitroso-5-oxo-1-phenyl-7-(phenylamino)-1,2,4-triazolo[4,3-a]pyrimidine-3-carboxylate (23). Method A. To a stirred soln. of 20a (5 mmol) in AcOH (10 ml), a conc. soln. of NaNO₂ (2 g in 5 ml H2O) was added. The solid formed was collected and crystallized from EtOH to give 23. Yield 1.37 g(70%). M.p. 173° (AcOH). ¹H-NMR: 4.00 (s, MeO); 7.3 – 8.1 (m, 10 arom. H); 11.90 (s, NH). EI-MS: 391 (0.6, M⁺⁺), 359 (1), 346 (41), 288 (10), 244 (3), 213 (2), 144 (17), 129 (20), 91 (100). Anal. calc. for. C₁₉H₁₄N₆O₄ (390.35): C 58.46, H 3.61, N 21.53; found: C 58.30, H 3.55, N 21.31.

Method B. Compound 23 was prepared by the same method described for the synthesis of 20 with 1,2 dihydro-5-nitroso-6-(phenylamino)-2-thioxopyrimidin-4(3H)-one [37] in place of 16. The product was identical to that obtained by Method A.

6. Crystal-Structure Determination of 20d (see the Table and Fig.⁵). All measurements were performed on a *Rigaku AFC5R* diffractometer with graphite-monochromated Mok_a radiation ($\lambda = 0.71069$ A) and a 12-kW rotating anode generator. The intensities were corrected for Lorentz and polarization effects, but not for absorption. The structure was solved by direct methods with SHELXS86 [44], which revealed the position of all non-H-atoms. The EtO atoms of the ethyl ester group are disordered over two orientations with relative siteoccupation factors of 0.542 : 0.458. All of the H-atoms bonded to C-atoms were fixed in geometrically calculated positions $(d(C-H) = 0.95 \text{ Å})$. The amine H-atom was fixed in the position indicated by a difference-electrondensity map. Each H-atom was assigned a fixed isotropic displacement parameters with a value equal to 1.2 U_{eq} of its parent atom. Refinement of the structure was carried out on F by full-matrix least-squares procedures, which minimized the function $\Sigma w(|F_{o}|-|F_{c}|)^{2}$. A correction for secondary extinction was applied. Neutral atom scattering factors for non-H-atoms were taken from [45a], and the scattering factors for H-atoms were taken from [46]. Anomalous dispersion effects were included in F_{calc} [47]; the values for f' and f'' were those of [45b]. All calculations were performed with the TEXSAN crystallographic software package [48].

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⁵⁾ CCDC-181576 contains the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge via www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/conts/retrieving.html (or from the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre, 12 Union Road, Cambridge CB2 1EZ, U.K.: fax: 44 1223 336033; e-mail: deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk).

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Received November 12, 2002