A Facile Synthesis of Bridged Polycyclic Naphthooxazocine Skeletons: Eight-Membered-Ring Constructions via Tandem Dinucleophilic Addition of Naphthalenols to Quinolinium Salts

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The efficient synthesis of bridged polycyclic naphthooxazocines 3 via addition of naphthalenols 1 as a bis-nucleophile to N-alkylquinolinium salts 2 is described (*Scheme 1* and *Table 2*). This new approach provides a powerful entry into polycyclic structures containing bicyclic N,O-acetals related to bioactive compounds.

Introduction. – In recent years, many researches in organic chemistry have focused on discovering new methods for ring construction [1]. In this respect, methodologies leading to the synthesis of bridgehead heterocycles containing an eight-membered ring are particularly appealing because these molecules with functional groups having cleftlike shapes have recently emerged as useful tools in molecular-recognition studies [2]. Among the members of this family, benzoxazocines have received considerable attention because of their pharmacological properties, such as their antidepressant, antithrombotic, antipsychotic (for the central nervous system (CNS)), and antibreastcancer activities [3]. On the other hand, the quinoline skeleton is found in a large number of naturally occurring and synthetic biologically active heterocyclic compounds. Notably, bicyclic N,O-acetals are present in a number of natural products, such as quinocarcin, tetrazomine, and the bioxalomycins, showing good antitumor or antimicrobial activity [4].

We have earlier demonstrated an efficient synthesis of indole-fused pentacyclic tetrahydroquinoline, tetrahydroisoquinoline, and benzoxazocin skeletons via addition of indoline-2-thiones $(=1,3$ -dihydro-2H-indole-2-thione) as bis-nucleophiles to quinolinium and isoquinolinium salts [5]. In the context of our interest in exploring convenient accesses to heterocyclic systems [6], we wish to report a tandem process for the construction of heterotetracyclic naphthooxazocines. The reaction generally involves the initial addition of naphthalenols 1 to quinolinium salts 2 to form an enamine intermediate which can be trapped by intramolecular cyclization of naphthalenols (Scheme 1).

Result and Discussion. – Initially, we set out to investigate solvent, base, time, and temperature effects in the reaction of N-methylquinolinium iodide (2a; $R^1 = Me$, $R^2 =$

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Scheme 1. Synthesis of Naphthooxazocine Derivatives 3a-3i

 $R^3 = H$, $X = I$) and naphthalen-2-ol (1a; $R^4 = R^5 = H$) as simple model substrates (*Table 1*). The results showed that the presence of a base is required to achieve the synthesis of the desired product 3a. The effect of temperature was studied by carrying out the model reaction at room temperature (23°) and in refluxing solvents. It was observed that the yield increased as the reaction temperature was raised. The effect of solvent was studied, with MeCN providing the highest yields and short reaction times. Considering the reaction time, the amount of substrates, and the yield, the best optimized condition is achieved with $Cs₂CO₃$ (1 equiv.), quinolinium salt (1 equiv.), and naphthalenol (2 equiv.) in MeCN (5 ml) at 80° for 10 h (Table 1).

Table 1. Optimization of the Conditions of the Model Reaction $1a + 2a \rightarrow 3a$

Base	Solvent	$T[\degree]$	Time[h]	Ratio 1/2	Yield ^a) [%]
K_2CO_3	MeCN	r.t.	72	1:1	trace
K_2CO_3	CHCl ₃	r.t.	72	1:1	
K_2CO_3	toluene	r.t.	24	1:1	
K_2CO_3	DMF	r.t.	24	1:1	
K_2CO_3	MeCN	80	10	1:1	27
K_2CO_3	MeOH	70	10	1:1	22
K_2CO_3	toluene	110	10	1:1	12
Cs_2CO_3	MeCN	80	10	1:1	33
Cs_2CO_3	MeCN	80	10	1:2	57
Cs_2CO_3	MeCN	80	10	2:1	80

The ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR, and 2D-NMR (¹H,¹H-COSY, HMQC, and HMBC) spectra and elemental analysis (CHN) of the product clearly indicated the formation of 3a. The ¹H-NMR spectrum of **3a** showed the bridgehead N,O-acetal H_a atom (see Fig.) as a m at $\delta(H)$ 5.59 – 5.61, the bridgehead H_b as a m at $\delta(H)$ 4.74 – 4.76, and H_c and H_d as two *ddd* (*J* = 12.5, 2.5, and 2.5 Hz) at δ (H) 2.20 and 2.39. The ¹H-decoupled ¹³C-NMR spectrum of 3a revealed 20 distinct resonances in agreement with the proposed structure. ¹³C-DEPT Experiments indicated the presence of a resonance at $\delta(C)$ 26.5 readily recognized as the CH₂ group (C(15)), signals at δ (C) 83.5 (C(6)), 29.7 (C(14)), and 37.2 (MeN), ten distinct resonances for aromatic CH groups, and six signals for quaternary C-atoms. Further evidence for the bridged structure was given by the HMBC spectrum, in which the correlations were in agreement with the suggested structure. Some key HMBCs are shown in the Figure.

Figure. Key HMBCs of compound 3a

In view of the success of the above reaction, we explored the scope of this promising transformation by varying the structure of the naphthalenol 1 and N-alkylquinolinium salt 2 (Table 2). The reaction proceeded smoothly under the previously optimized mild conditions, and no undesirable side reactions were observed. The same methanobridged N,O-acetal structure as for $3a$ was assumed for the other derivatives $3b - 3i$ on account of their NMR spectroscopic similarities. This outcome is in agreement with the relative topicity observed in our previously reported nucleophilic additions of 2 [5].

Table 2. Synthesis of Naphthoxazocine Derivatives 3 from Naphthalenols 1 and N-Alkylquinolinium Salts 2 (see Scheme 1)

\mathbb{R}^1	\mathbb{R}^2	R^3	R ⁴	R^5	Product	Yield $[\%]$ ^a)
Me	Н	Н	Н	Н	3a	80
Et	Н	Н	Н	Н	3b	82
$4-Br-C6H4CH2$	Н	Н	Н	Н	3с	58
Bn	Н	Н	Н	Н	3d	56
Me	Me	Η	Н	H	3 _e	67
Me	Н	Me	Н	Н	3f	73
Me	Н	Н	Н	OH	3g	84
Me	Н	H	OН	H	3h	90
Me	Н	Me	OН	Н	3i	75

Next, we investigated the scope of the analogous reaction of naphthalenols with isoquinolinium salts under the optimized reaction conditions, but no reaction was observed, and the starting isoquinolinium salts and naphthalenols remained unchanged.

A plausible reaction mechanism to account for the formation of naphthooxazocines 3 is proposed in Scheme 2. C(1)-Atom of the naphthalenolate attacks $C(4)$ of the quinolinium salt. The resulting enamine 4 can in turn be reactivated via iminium intermediate 5 which then undergoes a second nucleophilic addition. Intramolecular nucleophilic cyclization by the O-atom gives the desired product 3. The excessive amount of naphthalenol may act as a proton source for the transformation of enamine 4 to iminium ion 5.

Scheme 2. A Plausible Mechanism for the Formation of $3a-3i$

Conclusions. – We reported a highly efficient method for the synthesis of bridged polycyclic naphthooxazocines. This method offers several advantages such as high conversions, high selectivity, and straightforward starting from easily accessible starting materials, which makes it a useful and attractive strategy for the preparation of polycyclic naphthooxazocines in a single-step operation.

We gratefully acknowledge financial support from the Research Council of Sharif University of Technology and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) for financial backing to purchase a 500 MHz NMR spectrometer.

Experimental Part

General. Commercially available materials were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich and Merck and were used without any additional purification. TLC: silica gel 60 F_{254} (SiO₂) plates from Merck. M.p.: Büchi-B-540 melting-point apparatus; in sealed capillaries; uncorrected. ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR and DEPT Spectra: Bruker-Avance-DRX-500 spectrometer; in CDCl₃ and (D_6)DMSO at r.t.; δ in ppm rel. to Me₄Si as internal standard, J in Hz. Elemental analyse: Perkin-Elmer-2004(II) CHN analyzer.

Polycyclic Naphtooxazocines 3a – 3i: General Procedure. A mixture of a naphthalenol 1 (2 mmol), quinolinium salt 2 (1 mmol), and Cs₂CO₃ (1 mmol) in MeCN (5 ml) was heated at 80 $^{\circ}$ for 10 h (TLC monitoring). After completion of the reaction, the solvent was evaporated, and the residue was separated by flash column chromatography (FC) (SiO₂, petroleum ether/AcOEt 6:1): pure 3 as a light yellow solid.

5,14-Dihydro-5-methyl-6,14-methano-6H-benzo[d]naphtho[1,2-g][1,3]oxazocine (3a): White solid. M.p. $106 - 109^{\circ}$. ¹H-NMR: 8.38 (d, J = 8.5, 1 H); 7.77 (d, J = 8.0, 1 H); 7.56 – 7.62 (m, 3 H); 7.35 (t, J = 8.0, 1 H); 7.14 $(d, J = 8.5, 1 \text{ H})$; 7.11 $(t, J = 8.0, 1 \text{ H})$; 6.70 – 6.75 $(m, 2 \text{ H})$; 5.59 – 5.61 $(m, 1 \text{ H})$; 4.74 – 4.76 $(m,$ 1 H); 3.25 (s, 3 H); 2.39 (ddd, J = 12.5, 2.5, 2.5, 1 H); 2.20 (ddd, J = 12.5, 2.5, 2.5, 1 H). ¹³C-NMR: 150.2

(C); 143.0 (C); 132.3 (C); 129.7 (C); 129.1 (CH); 128.4 (CH); 127.7 (CH); 127.3 (CH); 127.0 (C); 126.8 (CH); 123.4 (CH); 122.3 (CH); 119.3 (CH); 118.4 (C); 117.6 (CH); 110.8 (CH); 83.5 (CH); 37.2 (Me); 29.7 (CH); 26.5 (CH₂). Anal. calc. for C₂₀H₁₇NO (287.36): C 83.59, H 5.96, N 4.87; found: C 83.40, H 6.00, N 4.81.

5-Ethyl-5,14-dihydro-6,14-methano-6H-benzo[d]naphtho[1,2-g][1,3]oxazocine (3b): White solid. M.p. 112 – 114°. ¹H-NMR: 8.39 (d, J = 8.5, 1 H); 7.78 (d, J = 8.0, 1 H); 7.59 – 7.64 (m, 3 H); 7.38 (t, J = 7.5, 1 H); 7.16 (d, $J = 9.0, 1$ H); 7.11 (t, $J = 7.5, 1$ H); 6.72 – 6.77 (m, 2 H); 5.66 – 5.68 (m, 1 H); 4.73 – 4.75 $(m, 1 H)$; 3.87 – 3.94 $(m, 1 H)$; 3.54 – 3.61 $(m, 1 H)$; 2.42 $(dd, J=12.5, 2.5, 2.5, 1 H)$; 2.17 $(dd,$ $J = 12.5, 2.5, 2.5, 1$ H); 1.28 (t, $J = 7.5, 3$ H). ¹³C-NMR: 150.0 (C); 141.7 (C); 132.4 (C); 129.7 (C); 129.2 (CH); 128.4 (CH); 127.7 (CH); 127.6 (CH); 127.2 (C); 126.8 (CH); 123.4 (CH); 122.4 (CH); 119.4 (CH); 118.2 (C); 117.3 (CH); 110.8 (CH); 82.4 (CH); 44.2 (CH₂); 29.9 (CH); 26.6 (CH₂); 13.4 (Me). Anal. calc. for $C_{21}H_{19}NO$ (301.38): C 83.69, H 6.35, N 4.65; found: C 83.51, H 6.20, N 4.61.

 $5-(4-Bromobenzyl)-5,14-dihydro-6,14-methano-6H-benzo/d|naphtho[1,2-g]/[1,3]oxazocine$ (3c): Yellow solid. M.p. $185-187^{\circ}$. ¹H-NMR: 8.39 (d, $J=8.5, 1$ H); 7.78 (d, $J=8.0, 1$ H); 7.59–7.65 (m, $3 H$); 7.42 (d, $J = 8.5$, 1 H); 7.37 (t, $J = 8.0$, 1 H); 7.10 – 7.13 (m, 3 H); 6.96 (t, $J = 7.5$, 1 H); 6.73 (t, $J = 7.5$, 1 H); 6.49 (d, J = 8.0, 1 H); 5.65 – 5.67 (m, 1 H); 4.98 (d, J = 17.5, 1 H); 4.79 – 4.81 (m, 1 H); 4.69 (d, J = $17.5, 1 \text{ H}$); 2.48 (ddd, J = 12.5, 3.0, 3.0, 1 H); 2.28 (ddd, J = 12.5, 2.5, 2.5, 1 H). ¹³C-NMR: 149.8 (C); 142.0 (C); 137.8 (C); 132.4 (C); 132.1 (CH); 129.8 (C); 129.2 (C); 128.7 (CH); 128.5 (CH); 127.7 (CH); 127.5 (CH); 127.1 (C); 126.9 (CH); 123.6 (CH); 122.3 (CH); 121.0 (C); 119.3 (CH); 118.2 (CH); 118.1 (C); 111.4 (CH); 82.5 (CH); 52.9 (CH₂); 29.7 (CH); 26.7 (CH₂). Anal. calc. for C₂₆H₂₀BrNO (442.34): C 70.60, H 4.56, N 3.17; found: C 70.55, H 4.51, N 3.16.

5-Benzyl-5,14-dihydro-6,14-methano-6H-benzo[d]naphtho[1,2-g][1,3]oxazocine (3d): Yellow solid. M.p. $121 - 123^\circ$. ¹H-NMR: 8.43 (d, J = 8.5, 1 H); 7.81 (d, J = 8.0, 1 H); 7.62 – 7.68 (m, 3 H); 7.28 – 7.41 (m, 6 H), 7.18 $(d, J = 9.0, 1$ H); 6.99 $(t, J = 8.5, 1$ H); 6.74 $(t, J = 7.5, 1$ H); 6.59 $(d, J = 8.0, 1$ H); 5.05 $(d, J = 1)$ $17.0, 1 H$); 4.83 (m, 1 H); 4.78 (d, J = 17.0, 1 H); 2.49 (ddd, J = 12.5, 3.0, 3.0, 1 H); 2.31 (ddd, J = 12.5, 2.5, 2.5, 1 H). 13C-NMR: 150.0 (C); 142.4 (C); 138.7 (C); 132.4 (C); 129.8 (C); 129.2 (CH); 129.1 (CH); 128.6 (CH); 127.7 (CH); 127.4 (CH); 127.3 (CH); 127.0 (C); 126.9 (CH); 126.7 (CH); 123.6 (CH); 122.4 (CH); 119.4 (CH); 118.1 (C); 117.9 (CH); 111.6 (CH); 82.3 (CH); 53.2 (CH₂); 29.8 (CH); 26.7 (CH₂). Anal. calc. for $C_{26}H_{21}NO$ (363.45): C 85.92, H 5.82, N 3.85; found: C 85.81, H 5.75, N 3.82.

5,14-Dihydro-5,6-dimethyl-6,14-methano-6H-benzo[d]naphtho[1,2-g][1,3]oxazocine (3e): White solid. M.p. $150-152^\circ$. 1 H-NMR: 8.33 (d, J = 8.5, 1 H); 7.75 (d, J = 7.5, 1 H); 7.61 (d, J = 8.5, 1 H); $7.53 - 7.57$ $(m, 2 H)$; 7.33 $(t, J = 8.5, 1 H)$; 7.11 $(d, J = 8.5, 1 H)$; 7.07 $(t, J = 8.5, 1 H)$; 6.71 $(t, J = 7.5, 1 H)$; 6.67 (d, J = 8.0, 1 H); 4.65 (dd, J = 3.5, 2.5, 1 H); 3.10 (s, 3 H); 2.36 (dd, J = 12.5, 3.5, 1 H); 2.24 (dd, J = 12.5, 2.5, 1 H); 1.89 (s, 3 H). 13C-NMR: 150.7 (C); 144.7 (C); 132.6 (C); 129.8 (C); 129.0 (CH); 128.5 (CH); 128.2 (C); 127.5 (CH); 126.78 (CH); 126.75 (CH); 123.4 (CH); 122.5 (CH); 119.5 (CH); 117.4 (CH); 117.1 (C); 111.8 (CH); 85.5 (C); 35.3 (CH₂); 31.9 (Me); 31.6 (CH); 26.2 (Me). Anal. calc. for $C_{21}H_{19}NO$ (301.38): C 83.69, H 6.38. N 4.65; found: C 83.52, H 6.30, N 4.65.

5,14-Dihydro-2,5-dimethyl-6,14-methano-6H-benzo[d]naphtho[1,2-g][1,3]oxazocine (3f): White solid. M.p. $154-156^{\circ}$. 1 H-NMR: 8.37 (d, $J = 8.5, 1$ H); 7.60 (d, $J = 8.5, 1$ H); 7.59 – 7.62 (m, 2 H); 7.33 – 7.36 $(m, 2 H)$; 7.12 $(d, J = 8.5, 1 H)$; 6.90 $(d, J = 8.0, 1 H)$; 6.61 $(d, J = 8.0, 1 H)$; 5.57 – 5.59 $(m,$ 1 H); 4.69 – 4.71 (m, 1 H); 3.22 (s, 3 H); 2.37 (ddd, J = 12.5, 3.0, 2.5, 1 H); 2.26 (s, 3 H); 2.20 (ddd, J = 12.5, 3.0, 2.5, 1 H). 13C-NMR: 150.3 (C); 140.7 (C); 132.3 (C); 129.7 (C); 129.1 (CH); 128.3 (CH); 128.1 (CH); 128.0 (CH); 127.0 (C); 126.7 (CH); 123.3 (CH); 122.3 (CH); 119.3 (CH); 118.5 (C); 110.9 (CH); 83.7 (CH); 37.2 (Me); 29.6 (CH); 26.6 (CH₂); 20.8 (Me). Anal. calc. for C₂₁H₁₉NO (301.38): C 83.69, H 6.35, N 4.65; found: C 83.62, H 6.30, N 4.64.

5,14-Dihydro-5-methyl-6,14-methano-6H-benzo[d]naphtho[1,2-g][1,3]oxazocin-12-ol (3g): White solid. M.p. $140-143^\circ$. 1 H-NMR: 7.70 $(d, J=2.5, 1$ H); 7.62 $(d, J=8.5, 1$ H); 7.53 $(d, J=7.5, 1$ H); 7.50 $(d, J = 8.5, 1 \text{ H})$; 7.09 $(t, J = 8.0, 1 \text{ H})$; 6.93 – 6.98 $(m, 2 \text{ H})$; 6.66 – 6.70 $(m, 2 \text{ H})$; 5.80 $(s, 1 \text{ H})$; 5.57 – 5.59 (m, 1 H); 4.52 – 4.54 (m, 1 H); 3.24 (s, 3 H); 2.33 (ddd, J ¼ 12.5, 3.0, 3.0, 1 H); 2.14 (ddd, J ¼ 12.5, 2.5, 2.5, 1 H). 13C NMR: 154.7 (C); 150.8 (C); 143.0 (C); 133.8 (C); 131.0 (CH); 128.2 (CH); 127.7 (CH); 127.3 (CH); 126.8 (C); 125.0 (C); 117.6 (CH); 116.9 (CH); 114.9 (CH); 110.8 (CH); 105.4 (CH); 83.5 (CH); 37.1, 29.8 (CH); 26.5 (CH₂). Anal. calc. for C₂₀H₁₇NO₂ (303.35): C 79.19, H 5.65, N 4.62; found: C 79.12, H 5.57, N 4.60.

5,14-Dihydro-5-methyl-6,14-methano-6H-benzo[d]naphtho[1,2-g][1,3]oxazocin-8-ol (3h): Yellow solid. M.p. $135-138^{\circ}$. ¹H-NMR: 8.30 (d, J = 8.5, 1 H); 7.68 (d, J = 8.0, 1 H); 7.58 (d, J = 8.0, 1 H); 7.50 $(t, J = 8.0, 1 \text{ H})$; 7.36 $(t, J = 8.0, 1 \text{ H})$; 7.18 $(s, 1 \text{ H})$; 7.13 $(t, J = 8.0, 1 \text{ H})$; 6.78 $(t, J = 7.5, 1 \text{ H})$; 6.73 $(d, J = 1.5, 1.5)$ 8.5, 1 H); 6.01 (br. s, 1 H); 5.71 – 5.73 $(m, 1 H)$; 4.75 – 4.77 $(m, 1 H)$; 3.23 $(s, 3 H)$; 2.38 $(ddd, J = 12.5, 3.0$, 3.0, 1 H); 2.23 (ddd, J = 12.5, 2.5, 2.5, 1 H). ¹³C-NMR: 145.5 (C); 142.5 (C); 140.3 (C); 130.3 (C); 127.9 (CH); 127.8 (CH); 127.5 (CH); 126.9 (C); 126.6 (C); 124.3 (CH); 124.2 (CH); 122.2 (CH); 119.3 (C); 118.2 (CH); 111.1 (CH); 108.5 (CH); 84.6 (CH); 37.3 (Me); 29.5 (CH); 26.4 (CH2). Anal. calc. for $C_{20}H_{17}NO_2$ (303.35): C 79.19, H 5.65, N 4.62; found: C 79.22, H 5.64, N 4.61.

5,14-Dihydro-2,5-dimethyl-6,14-methano-6H-benzo[d]naphtho[1,2-g][1,3]oxazocin-8-ol (3i): White solid. M.p. $145-147^{\circ}$. 1 H-NMR: 8.29 (d, $J = 8.5, 1$ H); 7.67 (d, $J = 8.0, 1$ H); 7.50 (t, $J = 7.5, 1$ H); 7.36 (s, 1 H); 7.35 (t, J = 7.5, 1 H); 7.14 (s, 1 H); 6.93 (d, J = 8.0, 1 H); 6.63 (d, J = 8.5, 1 H); 6.10 (br. s, 1 H); $5.71 - 5.73$ (m, 1 H); $4.70 - 4.72$ (m, 1 H); 3.23 (s, 3 H); 2.38 (ddd, $J = 12.5$, 2.5 , 3.0 , 1 H); 2.28 (s, 3 H); 2.24 (ddd, $J = 12.5, 2.5, 2.5, 1$ H). ¹³C-NMR: 145.5 (C); 140.5 (C); 140.2 (C); 130.2 (C); 128.3 (CH); 128.2 (CH); 127.8 (CH); 127.3 (C); 126.9 (C); 126.6 (C); 124.2 (CH); 124.1 (CH); 122.2 (CH); 119.4 (C); 111.2 (CH); 108.4 (CH); 84.8 (CH); 37.4 (Me); 29.4 (CH); 26.6 (CH2); 20.8 (Me). Anal. calc. for $C_{21}H_{19}NO_2$ (317.38): C 79.47, H 6.03, N 4.41; found: C 79.35, H 6.05, N 4.38.

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Received April 7, 2010