

STUDIES ON THE FURAN SERIES. PART VIII.
 THE REACTION OF YNAMINES WITH ACYLOINS. A CONVENIENT
 PREPARATION OF 4,5-DI(2-FURYL AND 2-THIENYL)-2(5H)-
 FURANONES AND -FURANS

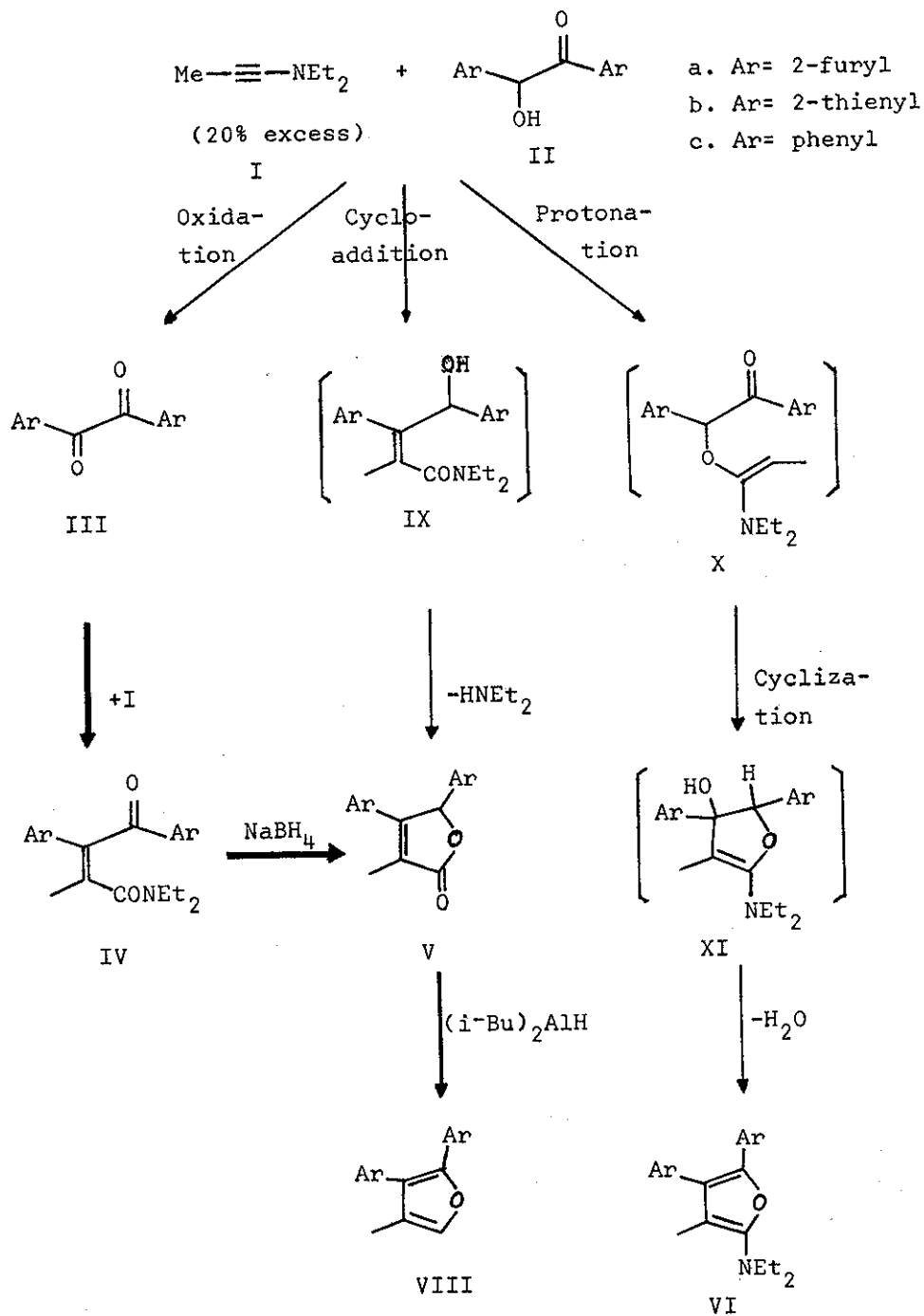
Seppo I. Pennanen

Department of Chemistry, Helsinki University of Technology,
02150, Otaniemi, Finland.

In the reaction of 1-diethylaminopropyne with hetero-
 aromatic acyloins three different competing reactions
 take place: cycloaddition, protonation and oxidation
 (followed by cycloaddition) giving the 2(5H)-furanone V,
 the 2-aminofuran VI and the α -diketone III (the amide
 IV), respectively. When heteroaromatic α -diketones (III)
 are used as starting material, 4,5-di(2-furyl and 2-
 thienyl)-2(5H)-furanones (V) and -furans (VIII) are read-
 ily prepared in good yields.

During studies¹ of the reactions of heteroaromatic acyloins
 with acetylenic compounds it was noticed that there are no re-
 ports dealing with the reactions of ynamines with α -hydroxyketo-
 nes. Because acyloins (e.g. furoin) have both an electrophilic
 carbon (=C=O) and an acidic hydrogen (-OH), there are possibil-
 ities for the cycloaddition or protonation of ynamines. The cy-
 cloaddition should lead to α,β -unsaturated amides.² The protona-
 tion of ynamine with furoin for example, is likely to be follow-
 ed by one of two possible secondary reactions of the adduct
 formed: an interaction with the adjacent carbonyl group leading
 to internal cyclization or via a Claisen-type (3,3)-sigmatropic
 rearrangement² to γ -unsaturated amides.

Furoin (IIa), thenoin (IIb) and benzoin (IIc) were selected
 as acyloins and the commercially available 1-diethylaminopropyne
 was used as the ynamine.³ The results are summarized in
 Scheme 1 and Table 1.



Postulated intermediates in parentheses.

SCHEME 1.

TABLE 1.

Solvent	Yields of products (%)					Starting material	Reaction time at r. t.
	Ar	III	IV	V	VI		
Benzene	a.	4	52	22	10 ^d	0	12 hrs
	b.	38	36	12	tr.	0	12 hrs
	c.	8	36	11	0	32	16 hrs ^e
MeCN	a.	20	60	0	0	0	2 hrs
	b.	32	57	4	tr.	0	2 hrs
	c.	4	36	0	0	20 ^f	24 hrs
BF ₃ / Benzene	a.	tr.	tr.	tr.	70-90 ^d	0	15 mins
	b.	tr.	17	12	50-70 ^d	0	15 mins
	c.	tr.	69	19	0	0	15 mins

tr. = traces

d. The amounts were estimated by TLC, because of the lability of the compounds.

e. The mixture was refluxed.

f. 11% of benzoin propionate (VII) was isolated.

When the reaction starts with the attack of I on the acyloin carbonyl followed by rearrangement the proposed labile species IX is formed. Lactonisation then occurs spontaneously to give V by expulsion of diethylamine (c.f. the NaBH₄-reduction of IV to V).

The protonation of I by an acyloin is followed by two successive reactions and the formation of VI can be rationalized in terms of cycloaddition and elimination of water via the species X and XI.

In addition to the expected cycloaddition and protonation there is a third competing reaction, the oxidation of acyloin by ynamine. However, the oxidation is followed by a cycloaddition

TABLE 2. The spectral data of the new compounds.^x

Compd.	IR (cm ⁻¹)	NMR (δ)	
IVa	1660s, 1630s	7.50(1H,s), 7.37(1H,s), 6.83(1H,d), 6.30(3H,m), 3.27(4H,q), 2.20(3H,s), 1.03(6H,m)	Viscous oil.
IVb	1650s, 1630s	7.50(2H,m), 7.26(1H,m), 6.92(4H,m), 3.20(4H,m), 2.17(3H,s), 1.00(6H,m)	Viscous oil
IVc	1660s, 1630s	7.80(2H,m), 7.20(8H,m), 3.20(4H,m), 2.00(3H,s), 1.00(6H,m)	Viscous oil
Va	1745s, 1650s	7.47(1H,d), 7.30(1H,s), 6.37(4H,s), 5.93(1H,d), 2.20(3H,d)	m.p. 103°C
Vb	1750s, 1655s	7.50-6.80(6H,m), 6.20(1H,s), 2.20(3H,s)	m.p. 156°C
Vc	1745s, 1655s	7.17(10H,s), 5.97(1H,s), 2.07(3H,s)	Viscous oil
VIa	2960m, 1765m, 1010m, 880m	7.30(2H,m), 6.43(4H,m) 2.00(3H,s), 1.03(6H,t)	Very un- stable
VIIIa	1800w, 1780m, 1725w, 910m, 890m, 880m	7.37(2H,s), 7.33(1H,s), 6.53(2H,m), 6.38(2H,m), 2.33(3H,s)	Viscous oil
VIIIb	3110w, 3080w, 1760m	7.30-6.80(6H,m), 7.25(1H,s), 2.30(3H,s)	Viscous oil
VIIIc	3070w, 2950m, 1765m	7.43(10H,s), 7.32(1H,s), 1.92(3H,s)	m.p. 35°C

^xThe mass spectrum of each compound is consistent with the assigned structure.

giving via rearrangement the α,β -ethylenic amide IV(a,b,c). The reaction of an equivalent of I with III(a,b,c) giving IV(a,b,c) in 91-98% yield indicates that III is an intermediate of IV when acyloins are used as the starting material. Only the more stable (Z)-isomer⁴ of IV is produced, which was confirmed by the NaBH_4 -reduction of IV to V(a,b,c) in 95-98% yield.

Benzoin is the most unreactive acyloin studied, because in addition to the oxidation and cycloaddition in pure solvents, 20-32% of starting material was recovered (Table 1). However, some evidence of protonation in MeCN was furnished by the isolation of the compound VII (Table 1, footnote f). It can be considered as a hydrolyzed end product of the enamine-type species X.

Oxidation followed by cycloaddition is the main pathway in the reactions of IIa and IIb with I in pure solvents. The reaction velocities are greatly accelerated by increasing the polarity of the solvent. In MeCN, however, the acceleration of oxidation is greater than that of cycloaddition or protonation. In the presence of BF_3 -etherate protonation with its secondary reactions predominates, presumably facilitated by the greater charge separation² in this case.

Like other 2-aminofurans⁵, VIa is very unstable. It decomposed on a TLC-plate in a few minutes, developing a red spot and tail when exposed to oxygen, or gave resinous material when kept overnight at -20°C under argon. A small amount of crude, decomposing VIa was isolated and its IR- and NMR-spectra were determined to confirm its molecular structure. VIb is even more unstable than VIa and was not isolable. Its structure was suggested to be similar to VIa by its red colour reaction on a TLC-plate.

If aromatic α -diketones (III) are used as starting material, the Scheme 1 (strong arrows) affords a facile two step process for the preparation of new 3,4,5-trisubstituted 2(5H)-furanones (V a,b) in excellent yields (overall 87-96%).

The previously unknown 2,3-di(2-furyl and 2-thienyl)furans (VIII a,b) were readily prepared from the appropriate 2(5H)-

furanones by (*i*-Bu)₂AlH-reduction⁶ in 72-86% yield. An interesting observation is that in the IR-spectra of VIII(a,b,c) and VIa there are 1-3 weak or medium intensity combination peaks at the region 1725-1800 cm⁻¹. The very sharp medium intensity peak of VIa at 1765 cm⁻¹ was shown not to be due to a carbonyl group VIa being stable towards LAH.

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References and footnotes

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