

PRENYLATION OF TRYPTOPHAN DERIVATIVES  
SYNTHETIC APPROACH TO FUMITREMORGIN B AND BREVIANAMIDE E

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The introduction of a prenyl group into 2-position of the indole nucleus has been investigated and biomimetic syntheses of fumitremorgin B (FTB) **12** and deoxybrevianamide E **13** were attempted.

The reaction of Nb-methoxycarbonyltryptamine **1** with an excess 3,3-dimethylallyl bromide **2** in an acetate buffer (pH 2.7) provided **3a** which rearranged to **4a** by  $\text{CF}_3\text{CO}_2\text{H}$  in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ . Dye-sensitized photooxygenation of **4b**, obtained by catalytic hydrogenation of **4a**, followed by reduction with dimethyl sulfide gave **5** which was further converted to **6** by heating in  $\text{CF}_3\text{CO}_2\text{H}$ . The similar reaction of cyclo-L-prolyl-L-tryptophanyl **7a** with **2** provided **8a** as a mixture of two diastereoisomers in about 1 : 1 ratio. On treatment with  $\text{CF}_3\text{CO}_2\text{H}-\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , the more polar isomer of **8a** rearranged to the 1,2-di-prenylated derivative **9a**. Likewise, **8b** was transformed to the corresponding methoxy derivative **9b**. Catalytic hydrogenation of the double bonds of **9b** and subsequent photooxygenation followed by reduction with dimethyl sulfide afforded **10b**.

On the other hand, the reaction of **1** with 3-chloro-3-methyl-1-butyne **11** in the presence of NaH in DMF gave **3b**. The reduction product **3c** was rearranged to **4c** and **4d** by  $\text{CF}_3\text{CO}_2\text{H}$  in 13% and 24% yields, respectively, whereas in AcOH **4d** (53%) and **4c** (10%) were obtained. Analogous reaction of **7a** with **11** followed by hydrogenation and acid-catalyzed rearrangement to deoxybrevianamide E was investigated.

