

## REACTIONS OF 3,5-DIMETHYL-4-NITROISOXAZOLE WITH CYCLIC ENAMINES AND 1-DIETHYLAMINOPROPYNE

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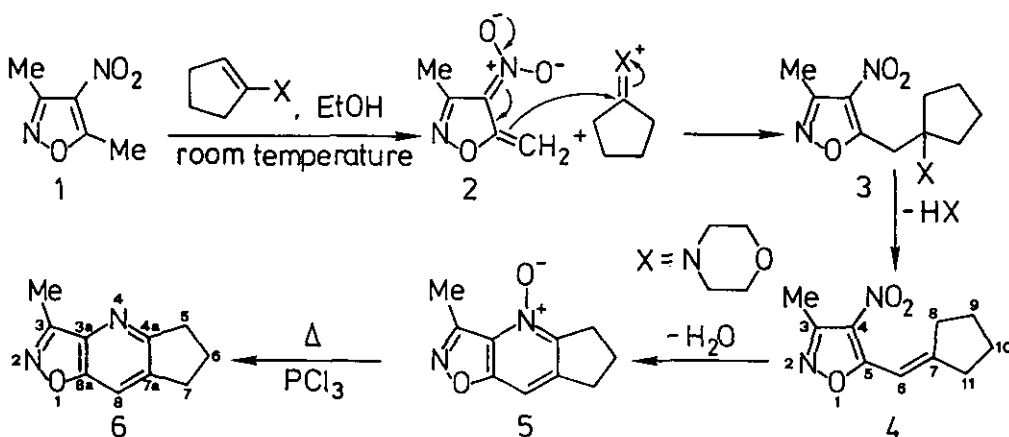
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**Abstract** - 3,5-Dimethyl-4-nitroisoxazole (**1**) was found to undergo tandem condensation-cyclization processes with 4-(1-cyclopenten-1-yl)- and 4-(1-cyclohexen-1-yl)morpholine in ethanol solution to give, through the intermediates (**4**) and (**7**), the *N*-oxides (**5**) and (**9**), respectively. The reactivity of **1** towards 1-diethylamino-propyne in different solvents was also investigated; the structure of the unexpected acyloxime (**13**), coming from the above reagents in acetonitrile, was determined by an X-ray analysis. Plausible mechanistic pathways for these new reactions are suggested.

Despite the interest shown over the past fifty years in the reactivity of the title compound with a variety of reagents,<sup>1</sup> its behaviour towards enamines and ynamines has been completely disregarded. On this basis, we wish now to report some findings on this topic.

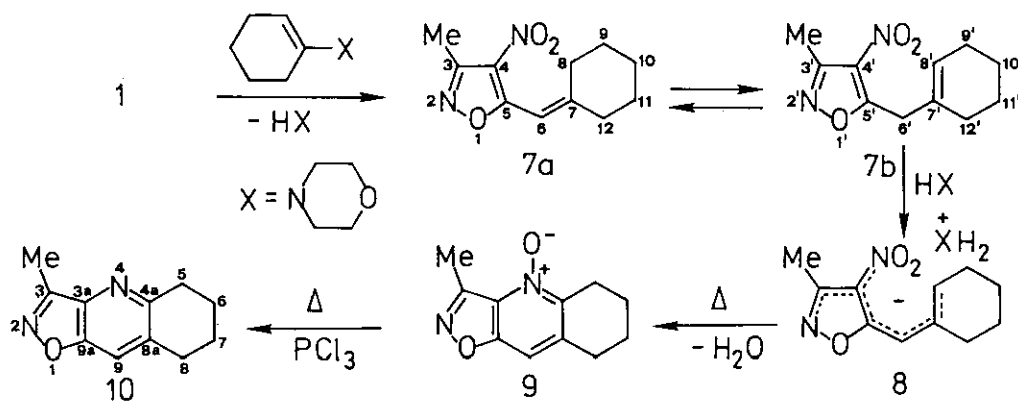


Scheme 1

When the nitro derivative (**1**) was allowed to react with an excess (molar ratio 1:2) of 4-(1-cyclopenten-1-yl)morpholine in anhydrous ethanol at room temperature for 5 days, the tricyclic N-oxide (**5**) was isolated in 80% yield; treatment of the latter with  $\text{PCl}_3$  in refluxing chloroform afforded the cyclopentisoxazolopyridine (**6**) in good yield.

Due to the remarkable acidity of the 5-methyl group of the starting material,<sup>2</sup> the formation of **5** can be accounted for by assuming that the corresponding carbanion (**2**) gives rise to the condensation product (**4**) through the adduct (**3**); the subsequent base-catalyzed cyclization of **4** into **5**, involving the attack of the C-8 carbon on the electrophilic nitrogen of the  $\text{NO}_2$  group, closely resembles other ring closures previously described for suitably ortho-substituted nitrobenzene derivatives<sup>3</sup> (Scheme 1).

Tlc monitoring of the reaction course clearly showed the presence of a key intermediate that slowly evolved into the final product; thus, when the reaction was carried out with 1 equiv. of the same reagent for 12 h, we succeeded in isolating compound (**4**) by flash chromatography.

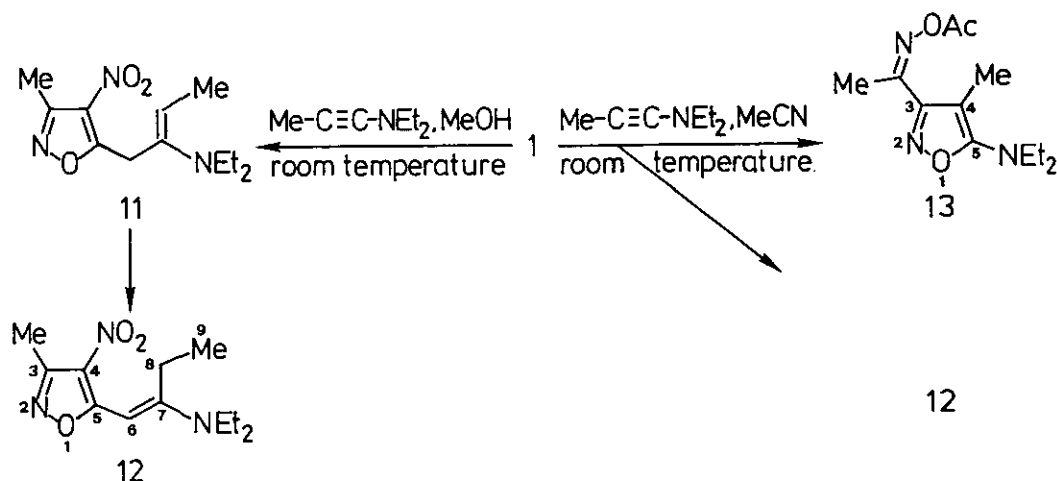


Replacement of the above enamine with the corresponding cyclohexene derivative afforded, under the original conditions, only a small amount of the N-oxide (**9**); the reaction mixture now contained predominantly the salt (**8**), that separated as a pure product by treatment with ether. Likewise for **4**, the precursor (**7**) was obtained with 1 equiv. of the same reagent and shorter reaction times; on the contrary, when the reaction was carried out under forcing conditions, we isolated in 39% yield the desired compound (**9**) which was easily converted into the tetrahydroisoxazoloquinoline (**10**) (Scheme 2). Comparable results were obtained by treatment of **1** with the same reagents in dry acetonitrile.

The dramatic difference observed for the terminal ring closure of the nitro derivatives (**4**) and (**7**) can be explained on the basis of the Brown's generalization for the reactivity trend of five- and six-membered rings containing an exocyclic double bond.<sup>4</sup>

On the same ground, whereas the former compound exists exclusively as **4** in chloroform solution,

the latter gives rise to a tautomeric equilibrium between **7a** and **7b** (ca. 2:1) in the same solvent. The structures of the isoxazoles (**4**), (**7**), and (**8**), as well as those of the novel ring systems (**5**), (**6**), (**9**), and (**10**) were determined by analytical and spectral evidence (Experimental). In particular, the ir bands of **4** and **7** ( $1570$  and  $1360\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) were replaced by a strong  $\text{N}^+-\text{O}^-$  absorption at  $1342$  and  $1322\text{ cm}^{-1}$  in the spectra of compounds (**5**) and (**9**), respectively. Moreover, whereas the  $^1\text{H}$  nmr spectrum of **4** showed a quintet at  $\delta$  7.11 for the vinyl proton, the coupled  $^{13}\text{C}$  nmr pattern was characterized by a doublet and a singlet at  $\delta$  105.85 and 169.87, attributable to the C-6 and C-7 carbons of the exocyclic double bond; similar resonances also appeared in the corresponding spectra of **7** for the same moiety of the form (**7a**), but the concomitant presence of **7b** was easily ascertained on the basis of a signal at  $\delta$  3.81 (6'-CH<sub>2</sub>) in the former, and a singlet and a doublet at  $\delta$  130.70 and 126.66 in the latter, for the endocyclic C(7')-C(8') double bond. Finally, both the  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  nmr resonances of the CH group exhibited diagnostic downfield shifts on going from compounds (**5**) and (**9**) to the corresponding deoxygenation products (**6**) and (**10**) ( $\delta$  7.205, 7.17 and  $\delta$  105.15, 108.24 vs.  $\delta$  7.57, 7.77 and  $\delta$  113.69, 120.95, respectively).

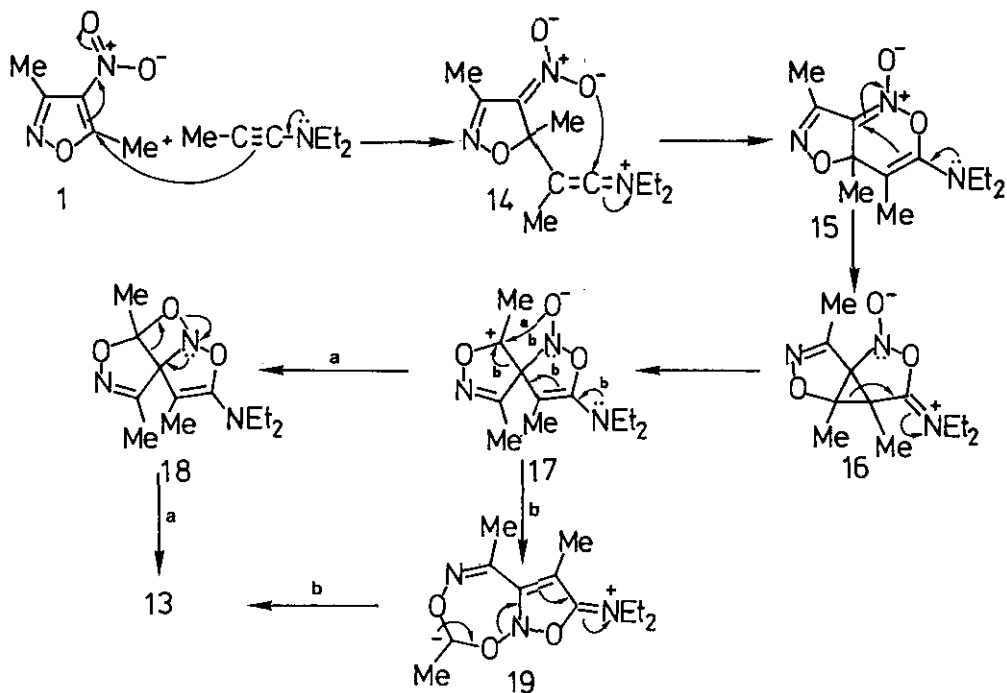


Scheme 3

Treatment of **1** with 1 equiv. of 1-diethylaminopropyne in methanol<sup>5</sup> at room temperature gave almost quantitatively compound (**12**), whose stereochemistry followed from a NOESY experiment; although **12**, coming from a prototropic isomerization of the enamine intermediate (**11**), formally resembled the nitro derivatives (**4**) and (**7**), no cyclization was observed for this product even under more drastic conditions (molar ratio 1:2, prolonged reflux), probably due to the reduced electrophilic properties of the NO<sub>2</sub> nitrogen at  $\delta$  position of a dienamine system (Scheme 3).

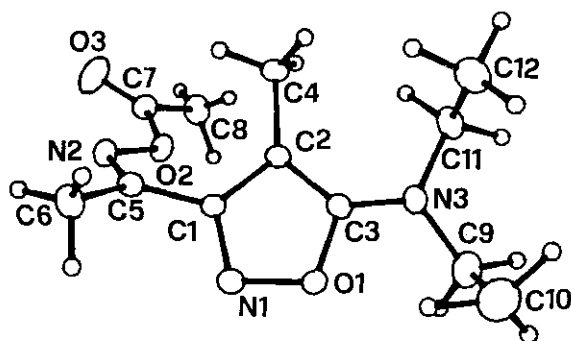
On the other hand, when methanol was replaced with acetonitrile, surprisingly we isolated from the complex reaction mixture only a small amount of **12** together with the more abundant isoxazole derivative (**13**), whose structure was determined by a single crystal X-ray analysis.

This not straightforward alternative reaction of **1** was tentatively explained as shown in the Scheme 4.



According to the well known behaviour of 4-nitrosoisoxazoles with nucleophiles,<sup>6</sup> it probably starts with a Michael addition leading to the nitronate (**14**) that, in turn, evolves into the derivative (**15**), through a formal [4 + 2] cycloaddition; ring contraction of the oxazine moiety of **15** gives rise to the spiran (**17**) via the unstable cyclopropane derivative (**16**). The final product can then arise from **17** through the tricyclic compound (**18**) (route a), or by conversion of the same intermediate into the seven-membered bicyclic system (**19**), followed by N-O ring opening of the latter (route b).

This mechanistic rationale appears to be confirmed by the firmly established Z configuration of the acyloxime (**13**) (see Figure).



**Figure:** A computer-generated drawing of **13** derived from the X-ray coordinates with hydrogens omitted for clarity.

## EXPERIMENTAL

Melting points were taken on a Büchi 510 apparatus and are uncorrected. Except where otherwise stated, infrared spectra were measured for dispersions in KBr with a Perkin-Elmer 283 spectrophotometer, while  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  nmr spectra were recorded in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  solutions on a Varian Gemini-200 instrument operating at 200 MHz and 50 MHz, respectively; the relative assignment of the  $^{13}\text{C}$  resonances was achieved on the basis of the coupled spectra and long-range heteronuclear correlation experiments. Elemental analyses were obtained by a Perkin-Elmer 240C Analyzer. Silica gel plates (Merck F254) and silica gel 60 (Merck; 230-400 mesh) were used for analytical and flash chromatographies, respectively. Petroleum ether refers to the fraction bp 40-70°C.

### Reactions of the Nitroisoxazole (1) with 4-(1-Cyclopenten-1-yl)morpholine. Preparation of Compounds (4) and (5).

**A** - Compound **(1)** (0.142 g, 1 mmol) was allowed to react with the title enamine (0.153 g, 0.16 ml, 1 mmol) in anhydrous ethanol (1 ml) at room temperature for 12 h; removal of the solvent left a semi-solid orange residue, which was subjected to flash chromatography with petroleum ether-ethyl acetate (12:1 v/v) as eluent. The first fraction ( $R_f=0.57$ ) afforded 5-cyclopentylidenemethyl-3-methyl-4-nitroisoxazole (**4**) as a pale yellow solid [0.030 g, 33% yield based on the starting material recovered from the second band ( $R_f=0.38$ ; 0.080 g)], mp 62-62.5°C (from pentane); ir  $\nu_{\text{max}}$ : 3075 (CH), 1570, and 1360  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  ( $\text{NO}_2$ );  $^1\text{H}$  nmr  $\delta$ : 1.70-1.90 (m, 4H, 9- $\text{CH}_2$  and 10- $\text{CH}_2$ ), 2.55 (s, 3H, 3- $\text{CH}_3$ ), 2.60-2.70 (m, 2H, 8- $\text{CH}_2$ /11- $\text{CH}_2$ ), 2.80-2.90 (m, 2H, 11- $\text{CH}_2$ /8- $\text{CH}_2$ ), 7.11 (quintet,  $J=2.2$  Hz, 1H, H-6);  $^{13}\text{C}$  nmr  $\delta$ : 11.88 (q, 3- $\text{CH}_3$ ), 25.79 (t, 9- $\text{CH}_2$ /10- $\text{CH}_2$ ), 26.71 (t, 10- $\text{CH}_2$ /9- $\text{CH}_2$ ), 34.12 (t, 8- $\text{CH}_2$ /11- $\text{CH}_2$ ), 37.50 (t, 11- $\text{CH}_2$ /8- $\text{CH}_2$ ), 105.85 (d, C-6), 126.60 (br s, C-4), 155.49 (s, C-3), 168.05 (s, C-5), 169.87 (s, C-7). Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{12}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$ : C, 57.69; H, 5.81; N, 13.45. Found: C, 57.46; H, 5.79; N, 13.23.

**B** - Treatment of **1** (0.142 g, 1 mmol) with an excess of the above reagent (0.306 g, 0.32 ml, 2 mmol) under the same conditions for 5 days gave 3-methylcyclopent[*b*]isoxazolo[5,4-*e*]pyridine-4-oxide (**5**), that was separated by filtration as an ivory-coloured solid (0.082 g, 43%); a second crop of the same product was recovered from the residue left by evaporation to dryness of the filtrate, by flash chromatography with ethyl acetate-acetone (5:1 v/v) as eluent ( $R_f=0.33$ , 0.070 g, 80% overall yield): silk needles mp 183-184°C (from ethyl acetate); ir  $\nu_{\text{max}}$ : 3080, 3060 (CH), and 1342  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  ( $\text{N}^+-\text{O}$ );  $^1\text{H}$  nmr  $\delta$ : 2.14-2.29 (m, 2H, 6- $\text{CH}_2$ ), 2.75 (s, 3H, 3- $\text{CH}_3$ ), 3.02-3.14 (m, 4H, 5- $\text{CH}_2$  and 7- $\text{CH}_2$ ), 7.21 (m, 1H, H-8);  $^{13}\text{C}$  nmr  $\delta$ : 11.02 (q, 3- $\text{CH}_3$ ), 22.79 (t, 6- $\text{CH}_2$ ), 27.90 (t, 5- $\text{CH}_2$ ), 31.53 (t, 7- $\text{CH}_2$ ), 105.15 (d, C-8), 129.85 (s, C-3a), 143.98 (s, C-7a), 150.24 (s, C-4a), 152.52 (s, C-3), 160.73 (s, C-8a). Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{10}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$ : C, 63.15; H, 5.30; N, 14.73. Found: C, 63.04; H, 5.29; N, 14.45.

### Reactions of 1 with 4-(1-Cyclohexen-1-yl)morpholine. Synthesis of Compounds (7), (8), and (9).

**A** - A mixture of **1** (0.142 g, 1 mmol) and the title enamine (0.167 g, 0.17 ml, 1 mmol) in anhydrous ethanol (1 ml) was stirred at room temperature for 12 h and evaporated to dryness; the residue was

resolved into two components by flash chromatography with petroleum ether-ethyl acetate (16:1 v/v) as eluent. The first fractions ( $R_f=0.46$ ) gave 5-cyclohexylidenemethyl-3-methyl-4-nitroisoxazole (**7**) [0.030 g, 60% yield based on **1** recovered from the following band ( $R_f=0.31$ , 0.11 g)] as a pale yellow oil; an analytical sample was obtained as a colourless liquid by dissolution in pentane, treatment with charcoal, filtration, evaporation to dryness, and prolonged evacuation under reduced pressure ( $10^{-2}$  mmHg);  $\nu_{\max}$  (neat): 3040 (CH), 1570, and  $1360\text{ cm}^{-1}$  ( $\text{NO}_2$ );  $^1\text{H}$  nmr  $\delta$ : 1.50-1.80 [m, 6H, (9- $\text{CH}_2$ , 10- $\text{CH}_2$ , and 11- $\text{CH}_2$ ) and 4H, (10'- $\text{CH}_2$  and 11'- $\text{CH}_2$ )], 1.93-2.06 (m, 4H, 9'- $\text{CH}_2$  and 12'- $\text{CH}_2$ ), 2.38-2.45 (m, 2H, 8- $\text{CH}_2$ /12- $\text{CH}_2$ ), 2.56 [s, 3H, (3- $\text{CH}_3$ ) and 3H, (3'- $\text{CH}_3$ )], 2.74-2.81 (m, 2H, 12- $\text{CH}_2$ /8- $\text{CH}_2$ ), 3.81 (br s, 2H, 6'- $\text{CH}_2$ ), 5.58 (m, 1H, H-8'), 6.78 (quintet,  $J=1.1\text{ Hz}$ , 1H, H-6);  $^{13}\text{C}$  nmr  $\delta$ : 11.73 (q, 3'- $\text{CH}_3$ ), 11.83 (q, 3- $\text{CH}_3$ ), 21.75 (t, 10'- $\text{CH}_2$ /11'- $\text{CH}_2$ ), 22.58 (t, 11'- $\text{CH}_2$ /10'- $\text{CH}_2$ ), 25.25 (t, 9'- $\text{CH}_2$ /12'- $\text{CH}_2$ ), 25.92 (t, 9- $\text{CH}_2$ /10- $\text{CH}_2$ /11- $\text{CH}_2$ ), 28.04 (t, 10- $\text{CH}_2$ /11- $\text{CH}_2$ /9- $\text{CH}_2$ ), 28.58 (t, 12'- $\text{CH}_2$ /9'- $\text{CH}_2$ ), 28.82 (t, 11- $\text{CH}_2$ /9- $\text{CH}_2$ /10- $\text{CH}_2$ ), 32.13 (t, 8- $\text{CH}_2$ /12- $\text{CH}_2$ ), 35.49 (t, 6'- $\text{CH}_2$ ), 38.97 (t, 12- $\text{CH}_2$ /8- $\text{CH}_2$ ), 106.85 (d, C-6), 126.66 (d, C-8'), 128.20 (br s, C-4), 129.50 (br s, C-4'), 130.70 (s, C-7'), 155.52 (s, C-3), 155.65 (s, C-3'), 163.94 (s, C-7), 168.14 (s, C-5), 173.36 (s, C-5'). Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$ : C, 59.45; H, 6.35; N, 12.60. Found: C, 59.68; H, 6.56; N, 12.27.

**B** - When **1** (0.142 g, 1 mmol) was treated with 2 equiv. of the above reagent (0.334 g, 0.34 ml) under the same conditions for 5 days, a small amount of compound (**9**) (0.015 g) was separated by filtration; evaporation to dryness of the filtrate gave a red-brown semisolid residue (0.285 g) containing (tlc,  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  nmr) morpholinium 5-[(1-cyclohexen-1-yl)methylene]-3-methyl-4,5-dihydroisoxazole-4-nitronate (**8**) as the largely predominant product (ca. 90%). An analytical sample, obtained as a pale yellow solid by repeated treatments with ether, gradually wrinkled above  $85^\circ\text{C}$  and melted at  $102\text{-}103^\circ\text{C}$ ;  $\nu_{\max}$ :  $3300\text{-}2300$  and  $2200\text{-}1700\text{ cm}^{-1}$  ( $\text{NH}_2^+$ );  $^1\text{H}$  nmr  $\delta$ : 1.05-1.53 (m, 3H, methylene protons), 1.67-1.86 (m, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 1.91-2.20 (m, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 1.98 (s, 3H, 3- $\text{CH}_3$ ), 2.52-2.68 (m, 1H, methylene proton), 2.80-2.87 (m, 4H, 2  $\text{H}_2\text{N}^+\text{CH}_2$ ), 3.61-3.67 (m, 4H, 2  $\text{OCH}_2$ ), 4.56-4.68 (m, 1H, H-8), 5.25 (t,  $J=2.0\text{ Hz}$ , 1H, H-6), 7.30 (br s, 2 H, exchangeable  $\text{NH}_2^+$ );  $^{13}\text{C}$  nmr  $\delta$ : 9.68 (q, 3- $\text{CH}_3$ ), 22.57 (t, 10- $\text{CH}_2$ /11- $\text{CH}_2$ ), 25.91 (t, 11- $\text{CH}_2$ /10- $\text{CH}_2$ ), 27.01 (t, 9- $\text{CH}_2$ /12- $\text{CH}_2$ ), 32.39 (t, 12- $\text{CH}_2$ /9- $\text{CH}_2$ ), 45.37 (t, 2  $\text{H}_2\text{N}^+\text{CH}_2$ ), 66.88 (t, 2  $\text{OCH}_2$ ), 84.34 (d, C-8), 111.39 (s, C-4), 112.52 (d, C-6), 149.11 (s, C-7), 153.06 (s, C-3), 154.22 (s, C-5). Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_3\text{O}_4$ : C, 58.24; H, 7.49; N, 13.58. Found: C, 58.45; H, 7.25; N, 13.42.

**C** - Heating of **1** (0.142 g, 1 mmol) with the enamine (0.334 g, 0.34 ml, 2 mmol) in the same solvent (1 ml) under reflux for 24 h yielded 3-methyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydroisoxazolo[4,5-*b*]quinoline-4-oxide (**9**), that was isolated by filtration (0.040 g); chromatographic workup [toluene-methanol (5:1 v/v) as eluent] of the residue recovered from the filtrate, afforded a further amount of the same compound ( $R_f=0.51$ , 0.040 g, 39% overall yield): white crystals mp  $206\text{-}207^\circ\text{C}$  (from ethyl acetate);  $\nu_{\max}$ : 3070, 3040 (CH), and  $1322\text{ cm}^{-1}$  ( $\text{N}^+\text{-O}^-$ );  $^1\text{H}$  nmr  $\delta$ : 1.70-1.98 (m, 4H, 6- $\text{CH}_2$  and 7- $\text{CH}_2$ ), 2.80 (s, 3H, 3- $\text{CH}_3$ ), 2.85-2.98 (m, 4H, 5- $\text{CH}_2$  and 8- $\text{CH}_2$ ), 7.17 (br s, 1H, H-9);  $^{13}\text{C}$  nmr  $\delta$ : 11.42 (q, 3- $\text{CH}_3$ ), 21.51 (t, 6- $\text{CH}_2$  and 7- $\text{CH}_2$ ), 24.12 (t, 5- $\text{CH}_2$ /8- $\text{CH}_2$ ), 29.80 (t, 8- $\text{CH}_2$ /5- $\text{CH}_2$ ), 108.24 (d, C-9), 129.10 (s, C-

3a), 137.45 (s, C-8a), 145.31 (s, C-4a), 152.46 (s, C-3), 157.96 (s, C-9a). Anal. Calcd for  $C_{11}H_{12}N_2O_2$ : C, 64.69; H, 5.92; N, 13.72. Found: C, 64.78; H, 5.90; N, 13.71.

#### Deoxygenation of the N-oxides (5) and (9) into 6 and 10.

**A** - A solution of  $PCl_3$  (0.412 g, 0.262 ml, 3 mmol) in chloroform (5 ml) was added dropwise to **5** (0.19 g, 1 mmol) in the same solvent (5 ml); the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 h and then refluxed for 1 h. The resulting solution was cooled, treated with ice water (15 ml), and made basic (pH 10) with 20% aqueous NaOH. After removal of the organic phase, the aqueous solution was extracted with  $CHCl_3$  (3x10 ml); evaporation to dryness of the combined extracts left a solid residue which was sublimed at  $50^\circ C$  ( $10^{-2}$  mmHg) to give 3-methylcyclopent[*b*]isoxazolo[5,4-*e*]pyridine (**6**) as a white solid (0.16 g, 92%), mp  $101.5-102^\circ C$  (from ether);  $ir \nu_{max}$ :  $3045\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (CH);  $^1H$  nmr  $\delta$ : 2.18 (quintet,  $J=7.5$  Hz, 2H, 6- $CH_2$ ), 2.56 (s, 3H, 3- $CH_3$ ), 2.99 (dt,  $J=7.5$  and 1.2 Hz, 2H, 7- $CH_2$ ), 3.05 (t,  $J=7.5$  Hz, 2H, 5- $CH_2$ ), 7.57 (t,  $J=1.2$  Hz, 1H, H-8);  $^{13}C$  nmr  $\delta$ : 9.11 (q, 3- $CH_3$ ), 24.16 (t, 6- $CH_2$ ), 30.60 (t, 7- $CH_2$ ), 33.00 (t, 5- $CH_2$ ), 113.69 (d, C-8), 138.52 (s, C-3a), 139.82 (s, C-7a), 155.08 (s, C-3), 155.98 (s, C-8a), 164.37 (s, C-4a). Anal. Calcd for  $C_{10}H_{10}N_2O$ : C, 68.95; H, 5.79; N, 16.08. Found: C, 69.21; H, 5.90; N, 15.87.

**B** - Operating as above, compound (**9**) (0.204 g, 1 mmol) afforded 3-methyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydroisoxazolo[4,5-*b*]quinoline (**10**) as a white solid (0.162 g, 86 %), mp  $88-88.5^\circ C$  after sublimation at  $50^\circ C$  ( $10^{-2}$  mmHg);  $ir \nu_{max}$ :  $3040\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (CH);  $^1H$  nmr  $\delta$ : 2.68-2.88 (m, 4H, 6- $CH_2$  and 7- $CH_2$ ), 2.62 (s, 3H, 3- $CH_3$ ), 2.85-2.96 (m, 2H, 5- $CH_2$ /8- $CH_2$ ), 3.10-3.19 (m, 2H, 8- $CH_2$ /5- $CH_2$ ), 7.77 (br s, 1H, H-9);  $^{13}C$  nmr  $\delta$ : 9.83 (q, 3- $CH_3$ ), 21.38 (t, 6- $CH_2$ /7- $CH_2$ ), 21.49 (t, 7- $CH_2$ /6- $CH_2$ ), 29.15 (t, 8- $CH_2$ ), 30.08 (t, 5- $CH_2$ ), 120.95 (d, C-9), 134.00 (s, C-3a), 135.63 (s, C-8a), 153.36 (s, C-3), 154.60 (s, C-4a), 155.51 (s, C-9a). Anal. Calcd for  $C_{11}H_{12}N_2O$ : C, 70.19; H, 6.43; N, 14.88. Found: C, 70.09; H, 6.54; N, 14.64.

#### Reactions of Compound (1) with 1-Diethylaminopropyne. Synthesis of the Isoxazole Derivatives (12) and (13).

**A** - A solution of **1** (0.142 g, 1 mmol) and ynamine<sup>7</sup> (0.111 g, 0.137 ml, 1 mmol) in methanol (5 ml) was stirred at room temperature for 24 h; removal of the solvent left a residue which was resolved into two components by flash chromatography with petroleum ether-ethyl acetate (3:1 v/v) as eluent. After the unreacted starting material was isolated from the first band ( $R_f=0.64$ , 0.060 g), the second one afforded 5-[(*E*)-2-diethylamino-1-buten-1-yl]-3-methyl-4-nitroisoxazole (**12**) as a yellow solid ( $R_f=0.30$ ; 0.14 g, 96% yield based on the recovered **1**), mp  $64-65^\circ C$  (from pentane);  $ir \nu_{max}$ :  $1571\text{ cm}^{-1}$  ( $NO_2$ );  $^1H$  nmr  $\delta$ : 1.21 (t,  $J=7.5$  Hz, 3H, 9- $CH_3$ ), 1.26 (t,  $J=7.2$  Hz, 6H, 2  $NCH_2CH_3$ ), 2.46 (s, 3H, 3- $CH_3$ ), 2.82 (br q,  $J=7.5$  Hz, 2H, 8- $CH_2$ ), 3.43 (q,  $J=7.2$  Hz, 4H, 2  $NCH_2CH_3$ ), 6.23 (br s, 1H, H-6);  $^{13}C$  nmr  $\delta$ : 12.40 (q, 9- $CH_3$ ), 12.70 (br q, two slowly interchangeable  $NCH_2CH_3$ ), 12.95 (q, 9- $CH_3$ ), 23.84 (t, 8- $CH_2$ ), 45.15 (br t, two slowly interchangeable  $NCH_2CH_3$ ), 81.75 (d, C-6), 121.86 (br s, C-4), 155.47 (s, C-3), 166.13 (s, C-7), 168.65 (s, C-5). Anal. Calcd for  $C_{12}H_{19}N_3O_3$ : C, 56.90; H, 7.56; N, 16.59. Found: C, 57.21; H, 7.75; N, 16.30.

**B** - The reaction was carried out in dry acetonitrile (5 ml) under the same conditions for 48 h; the raw

product was resolved into three components by chromatographic workup with toluene-ethyl acetate (5:1 v/v) as eluent. Whereas the fastest running fractions gave the unreacted nitro derivative (0.070 g), the second band afforded compound (**12**) ( $R_f=0.58$ , 0.015 g, 12% yield based on the recovered **1**) identical (ir,  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  nmr) with the material obtained as above; finally, the following band gave 3-[(Z)-1-acethoxyimino-1-ethyl]-5-diethylamino-4-methylisoxazole (**13**) ( $R_f=0.42$ , 0.030 g, 23% yield based on the recovered **1**) that was crystallized from pentane as colourless needles, mp 67-68°C; ir  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  1780  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (CO);  $^1\text{H}$  nmr  $\delta$ : 1.19 (t,  $J=7.1$  Hz, 6H, 2  $\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.83 (s, 3H, 4- $\text{CH}_3$ ), 2.08 (s, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3\text{CO}$ ), 2.33 (s, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3\text{C}=\text{N}$ ), 3.38 (q,  $J=7.1$  Hz, 4H, 2  $\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_3$ );  $^{13}\text{C}$  nmr  $\delta$ : 8.27 (q, 4- $\text{CH}_3$ ), 13.78 (q, 2  $\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ), 19.25 (q,  $\text{CH}_3\text{CO}$ ), 21.01 (q,  $\text{CH}_3\text{C}=\text{N}$ ), 43.61 (t, 2  $\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ), 85.63 (s, C-4), 156.13 (s,  $\text{CH}_3\text{C}=\text{N}$ ), 160.07 (s, C-3), 167.15 (s, C-5), 168.20 (s, CO). Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_3\text{O}_3$ : C, 56.90; H, 7.56; N, 16.59. Found: C, 57.01; H, 7.76; N, 16.40.

#### X-ray Crystal Structure Determination for **13**.

A single crystal of the product  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_3\text{O}_3$ , grown from pentane, was mounted on an Enraf-Nonius CAD4 diffractometer. No loss of intensity of three standard reflections was observed. Computer programs were those of SHELX76.<sup>8</sup> An absorption correction was applied once the structure was solved.<sup>9</sup> Crystal data: monoclinic; space group  $P2_1/n$ ;  $M = 253.3$ ;  $a = 6.749(6)$  Å,  $b = 21.574(5)$  Å,  $c = 9.799(3)$  Å,  $\beta = 105.77(5)^\circ$ ; cell vol = 1373(1) Å<sup>3</sup>;  $Z = 4$ ;  $d = 1.22$  g  $\text{cm}^{-3}$ ; abs coeff  $\mu = 6.99$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; Cu-K $\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda = 1.5418$  Å), graphite monochromator. Intensity data were collected in the range  $5 \leq 2\theta \leq 120^\circ$  by using the  $\theta/2\theta$  scan. A total of 2230 reflections were collected of which 1795 having  $I \geq 3\sigma(I)$  were used in the structure solution and refinement. The structure was solved by using direct methods and successive Fourier syntheses; then it was refined with the full-matrix least-squares technique. Anisotropic temperature factors were assigned to all the atoms except the hydrogen ones which were refined isotropically. The final difference map showed no significant features. A weighting scheme of  $w = 1/\sigma^2(F)$  was used. Final agreement factors were  $R = 0.063$  and  $R_w = 0.063$  (239 parameters).

Crystallographic data were deposited at the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre, University Chemical Laboratory, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1EW, England, and are available from there.

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