[1,5]-REARRANGEMENT OF 4a-HETEROACYL-4a,5,8,8a-TETRAHYDRO-**1,4-NAPHTHOOUINONES**

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ABSTRACT: 2-Heteroacyl-5,8-dihydro-1,4-dihydroxynaphthalene derivatives have been prepared by [1,5]sigmatropic rearrangement of the adduct tetrahydro-1,4-naphthoquinones. The structures of the synthesised products have been established by spectral data as well as by semiempirical molecular orbital calculations.

INTRODUCTION

Heteroanthracyclinone analogues 4 exhibiting various biological properties contain 1,4 dihydroxynaphthalenes as the basic carbon skeleton. During the last two decades, various chemical modifications have been made leading to the development of new analogues with improved chemotherapeutic activities¹. In persuing our interest on quinone studies, we have previously reported the synthesis of some benzothioxanthentriones² which may serve as useful precursors for the total synthesis of heteroanthracyclinones. An alternative strategy to synthesize these compounds may be via [1,5]-rearrangement of the adducts 2 which in turn may be obtained by Diels-Alder reaction of heteroacyl-1,4-benzoquinones with 1,3-butadienes (Scheme 1).

In persuit of this theme, we have recently reported the synthesis of quinones³ 1 and a detailed synthetic and semiempirical study of the $[4+2]$ -cycloaddition reaction has been communicated.⁴ Herein we report the synthetic and semiempirical aspect of the $[1,5]$ -sigmatropic rearrangement.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The $[1,5]$ -sigmatropic rearrangement of the adducts 5 was smoothly carried out in dry pyridine at room temperature for 40-48 hours in 81-95% yield to afford regioisomeric mixture of substituted 1.4-dihydroxynaphthalene 6 and 7 as yellow to red solids and semi-solids (Scheme 2). Various substituents incorporated are listed in Table 1.

The rearrangement appears to take place via intermediate formation of the enol 8 followed by the [1,5]-heteroacyl migration to give another enol 9 as reported earlier by Bruce^{6,7}, Sammes⁵ and co-workers in case of acyl adducts. Subsequent aromatisation then affords dihydroxynaphthalenes 6. Alternatively, enol 8 may initially undergo [1,2]-heteroacyl migration to afford enol 10 which on subsequent [1,5]-heteroacyl migration followed by aromatization would afford regioisomeric dihydroxynaphthalenes 7. (Scheme 3)

However, the rearrangement may be designed to occur regiospecifically if the position 2 in the adduct 5 is blocked with a suitable substituent, for example, a methyl group. Indeed when the adducts 5 (j-m) were allowed to rearrange in pyridine at room temperature for 48 hours, it regiospecifically produced the compounds 6 ($j-m$).

SCHEME 1

SCHEME 2

Table 1 : SUBSTITUTION PATTERN IN 1,4-DIHYDROXYNAPHTHALENES (6/7)

SCHEME 3

The proposed mechanism has been supplemented on the basis of heat of formation calculated through semiempirical molecular orbital methods. Thus the ground state geometries of the final products and the intermediate enols were optimised using AMI methods and the heat of formation of various intermediates are compiled in Table 2.

From the above Table, it is evident that dihydroxynaphthalenes 6 and 7 have almost equal heat of formation and therefore there exists equal possibility of their formation. In other words, the regiospecificity will be lost and it was-indeed observed experimentally when the adducts 5 (a, b, e, f, g, i) were allowed to rearrange at room temperature in pyridine for 48 hours.

The rearranged products were characterised by their infra-red and ¹H NMR spectral data (Table 4). The hydroxyl absorption band appeared in the region of 3400-3260 cm⁻¹ as broad peaks and the carbonyl stretching band was found in the range of 1670-1640 cm⁻¹ as sharp strong peak. ¹H NMR spectra of the rearranged product showed singlets due to C-3, 6 and 7 methyl protons at δ 1.60-2.1 ppm. A multiplet between δ 2.02-2.90 was due to 2xH-5 protons and another multiplet at δ $3.02-3.30$ ppm was assignable to $2\times$ H-8 protons. Hydroxyl protons appeared as broad singlets in the range of δ 4.45-5.48 and 11.75-12.04 ppm. A singlet in the region of δ 6.50-7.04 was associated with the H-3 proton. Thienoyl/furanoyl protons (H-3',4',5') displayed multiplets/double doublets

with a coupling constants in the range of 1.5-4.0 Hz. The structures of all the products were further established by elemental analyses (Table3)

EXPERIMENTAL

Melting points were determined in open glass capillary and are uncorrected. The IR spectra were recorded on Nicolet Magna IR™ spectrometer model 550 in KBr pellets. ¹H NMR spectra were recorded on Jeol FX 90Q model at 89.55 MHz with TMS as internal standard, chemical shift are given in δ ppm. Pyridine and methanol were purified by standard procedure^{8,9}. Elemental analysis were performed by Perkin Elmer series 11 C.H.N.S.O analyser-2400. The semiempirical calculations were carried out on PCL-Pentium PS computer using MOPAC 93.

Synthesis of 1,4-dihydroxynaphthalene derivatives: The following procedure is representative. The adduct tetrahydronaphthoquinone derivative $5(0.20g, 0.68mmol)$ was dissolved in dry pyridine (0.4ml) and left at room temperature for 48 hour. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residue was exchanged with methanol $(1\times3\text{ml})$ to obtain yellowish to reddish-brown solid/semi-solid.

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