Synthesis and Conformational Study of Stereoisomeric 2-Phenyl-4a,5,6,7,8,8a-hexahydro-4*H*-1,3,4-benzoxadiazines

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New stereoisomeric hexahydro-4*H*-1,3,4-benzoxadiazines were synthesised and their conformational behaviour, ring and nitrogen inversion, was investigated by means of NMR spectroscopy and ¹H NMR simulation.

Although several papers have described the syntheses and conformational behaviour of saturated and partially unsaturated 1,3-oxazines condensed with a cyclohexane ring,¹ much less attention has been paid to the related bicyclic stereoisomeric cyclohexane-fused 1,3,4-oxadiazines.^{2a,c}

trans-Hydrazine alcohols **2a,b** were prepared from the *trans*-1,2-amino alcohols **1a,b**, obtained by ring opening of cyclohexane oxide with the appropriate amine. Nitrosation (NaNO₂, H⁺) of **1a,b** followed by reduction (LiAlH₄/THF) afforded *trans*-2-(1-R-hydrazino)cyclohexan-1-ol **2a,b** in moderate yields. *cis*-Hydrazino alcohols **4a,b** were prepared from the corresponding *trans*-1,2-amino alcohols **1a,b** (acetylation, ring closure with inversion using thionyl chloride, hydrolysis of the *cis*-oxazolidine, nitrosation and reduction).⁵ The attempted ring closure of the benzoylated derivatives of **2a,b** by applying thionyl chloride⁷ failed,⁸ whereas the acid-catalysed one-pot reaction of treating **2a–c** and **4a,b** with benzimidate⁹ afforded the desired 2-phenyl-4a,5,6,7,8,8a-hexahydro-4*H*-1,3,4-benzoxadiazines **8a–c** and **9a,b** (Scheme A).



Estimation of the *O-in* and *O-out* conformational equilibrium in bicyclic *cis*-fused 1,3,4-heterocycles, using vicinal H–H coupling constants, encounters problems in the extraction of reliable ${}^{3}J_{\rm HH}$ values from complex ${}^{1}{\rm H}$ NMR spectra of higher order. The ${}^{1}{\rm H}$ NMR simulation program Perch⁴ proved most useful, resolving the vicinal H–H coupling constants for both the complex model compounds **8a–c** and those in equilibrium **9a,b** (Scheme B). However, the better



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extraction of ${}^{3}J_{\rm HH}$ values using Perch brought to our attention new difficulties in the choice of correct model values for the estimation of the O-in and O-out conformational equilibrium in 9a,b. The obvious deformation in the carbocycle ring of 9b (R = Bn), as concluded from its vicinal coupling constant values, made the model values for vicinal H-H coupling constants of an ideal chair form not applicable. In low-temperature ¹³C NMR experiments two sets of 13 C NMR signals for **9a,b** were obtained, as the signals of the O-in and O-out conformers readily separated at 193 K. Estimation of the equilibrium at room temperature, based on the ¹³C NMR signals $[\delta_{obs} = \delta_{Major}(x) + \delta_{Minor}(1-x)],$ was not possible due to the rapid nitrogen inversion still taking place in the O-in and O-out conformers and which could not be frozen out. Only the equilibrium of the ring inversion at 193 K, based on the ¹³C signal integrals of the two conformers was measurable, showing the O-in form to be predominant in both isomers 9a,b (70:30 ± 5 and $85:15 \pm 5$, respectively).

Techniques used: ¹H NMR, ¹H NMR simulation, low temperature $^{13}\mathrm{C}$ NMR

References: 18

Schemes: 4 (preparation of starting materials; ring closure reactions; conformational route map)

Tables: 5 (selected ¹H and ¹³C NMR chemical shifts; vicinal H–H coupling constants)

Figures: 1 (the observed spectrum of **9a** and the simulated spectrum of **9a**)

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