

Cycloaddition of (*E*)-*N*-[2-([2.2]paracyclophan-4-yl)ethylidene]methylamine-*N*-oxide with 2,3-diphenylcyclopropanones and dibenzoyl acetylene; synthesis of new paracyclophanylpyrroles

Ashraf A. Aly

Chemistry Department, Faculty of Science, El-Minia University, 61519-El-Minia, Egypt

When *N*-[2-([2.2]paracyclophan-4-yl)ethylidene]methylamine-*N*-oxide (**1**) is treated with cyclopropanones **6a–c**, the [2.2]paracyclophane-based pyrrole(-2-one, -thione and -ylidene malnonitrile) **7a–c** are formed in good yields via formal [3 π + 3 π]cycloaddition. The reaction of **1** with dibenzoyl acetylene (**12**) afforded, via a Michael-type reaction, the stereoisomeric pyrrole **13**. The reaction mechanism described the products formation is discussed.

Keywords: paracyclophanyl-nitrone, cyclopropanones, dibenzoyl acetylene, pyrroles

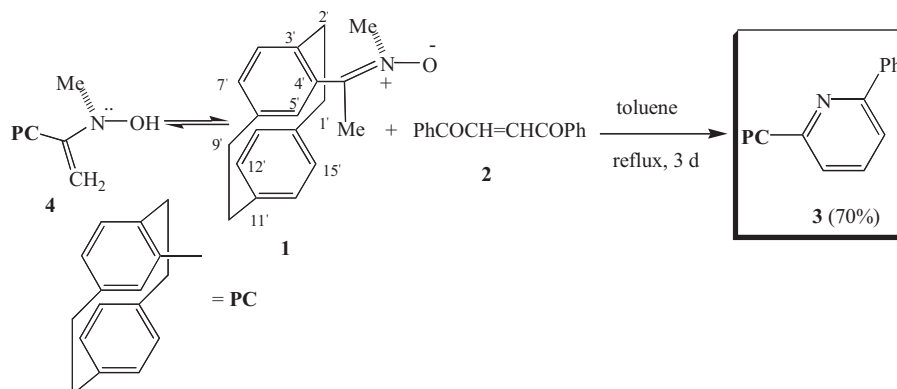
Chiral paracyclophanyl substituents are growing in importance as ligands and auxiliaries in asymmetric synthesis,¹ derivatives of this class of layered compounds reported in the literature is increasing rapidly.^{2,3} For a long time, paracyclophanyl derivatives were mostly studied because of their unusual geometry, their steric, transannular, and ring strain effects as well as the electronic interaction between their aromatic rings.^{4,5} Recently, the stereochemical properties of these systems especially their planar chirality have been the focus of studies in this field. In particular, paracyclophanyl derivatives carrying a nitrogen atom in the 4-position are of growing interest as auxiliaries.^{6,7} These derivatives having substituted amino functions have also been shown to be useful as effective photoconductive components.⁸ Cycloaddition reactions still play an important part in the synthesis of various classes of polycyclic and/or heterocyclic compounds derived and/or fused to the [2.2]paracyclophane moiety.⁹ Our initial studies on the chemistry of (*E*)-*N*-[2-([2.2]paracyclophan-4-yl)ethylidene]methylamine-*N*-oxide (**1**) were studied towards dibenzoyl ethylene (**2**) and the corresponding paracyclophanyl-phenylpyridine **3** was obtained.¹⁰ Furthermore, aldehydic nitrone as in *N*[2.2(paracyclophan-4-yl)methylene]methylamine-*N*-oxide yielded various classes of five-member heterocyclic rings (imidazole, isoxazole and pyrrole derivatives of PC), when it was allowed to react with various dipolarophiles.¹¹ It has been shown that the use of cyclopropanone chemistry is of systematic interest in constructing a wide variety of heterocycles.¹² Recently, Aly *et al.* has reported on the synthesis of pyridazinethiones and [1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-*b*]pyridazinethiones from the reaction of thiosemicarbazides with 2,3-diphenylcyclopropanone.¹³ On the basis that the reactivity of the target nitrone **1** is varied from

one dipolarophile to another,^{9b,10,11} we decided to reinvestigate its chemical behaviour with other types of dipolarophiles such as cyclopropanones and dibenzoyl acetylene.

Results and discussion

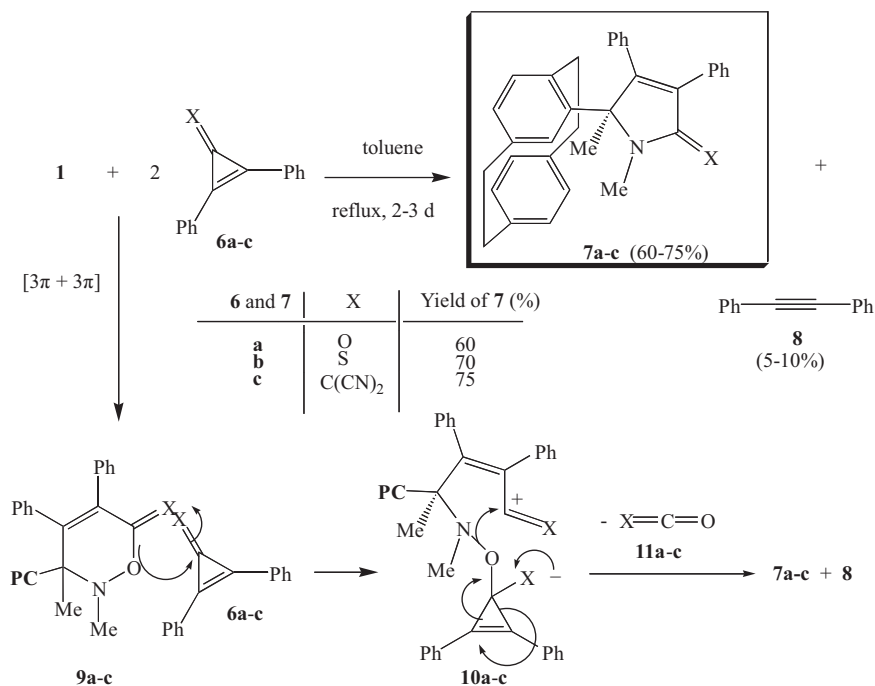
Nitrones are a well-studied class of 1,3-dipoles that react with numerous unsaturated systems,¹⁴ among them 1,2-dibenzoylacetylene,¹⁵ to yield the corresponding isoxazolidine derivatives, usually under mild conditions and in good yield. Diphenylcyclopropanone has been found to react with a wide range of imines and other compounds containing the C=N moiety, usually to form azacyclopentenones (pyrrolinones) *via* a formal [2 π + 3 π]cycloaddition reactions.^{16–18} In view of our previous results,¹⁰ we expected another pyridine skeleton from the reaction between **1** and cyclopropanones **6a–c**. To our surprise, on heating the two compounds together, we in fact obtained 1,5-dimethyl-3,4-diphenyl-5-([2.2]paracyclophan-4-yl)-1,5-dihydropyrrol-2-(one, thione or propenylidene malnonitrile) **7a–c** in good yields along with diphenyl acetylene (**8**) (Scheme 2). The structure elucidation of these unusual adducts rests primarily on their ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra, which were fully assigned by the techniques mentioned above.

During the course of reaction, thin layer analyses indicated that the reaction was completed when one equivalent of **1** reacted with two equivalents from **6a–c** (Scheme 2). The proton signals of the paracyclophanyl moiety were analysed by COSY H H, C H and NOE experiments. The points of attachment of the paracyclophanyl and pyrrole follow from the cross-peaks in the COSY H H and C H spectra. NOE experiments were done between the two methyl groups along with the methyl protons in position 5 and H-5' of the paracyclophanyl moiety.



Scheme 1

* Correspondent. E-mail: ashraf160@yahoo.com



Scheme 2

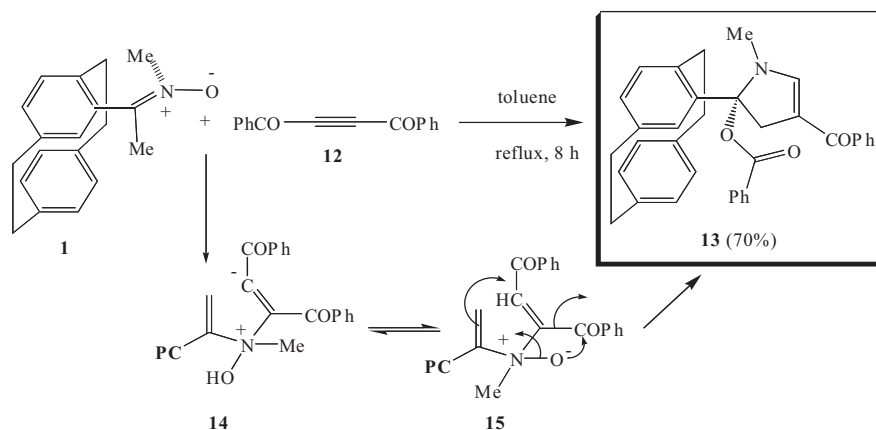
Logically, it can be expected the formation of [3 + 3] cycloadducts **9a-c** as a formal step from the reaction of **1** with **6a-c** (Scheme 2). In the next step of the sequence, the oxygen with its bond electrons in **9a-c** could then attack the C = X of another molecule of **6a-c** forming the salt **10a-c** (Scheme 2). Intramolecular cyclisation process then occurred accompanied by loss of the X-C=O **11a-c**, thus generating the two isolated products **7a-c** and diphenyl acetylene (**8**) as shown in Scheme 2.

In a different manner, the reaction of nitrone **1** with dibenzoyl acetylene (**12**) in refluxing toluene produced the stereoisomeric pyrrole **13** in 70% yield (Scheme 3). Mass spectra and elemental analysis established the molecular formula of **13** as C₃₅H₃₁NO₃. The IR spectrum of **13** did not indicate the absorption of any hydroxyl or amino group (see the experimental). However, a broad band at $\nu = 1710\text{--}1685\text{ cm}^{-1}$ was assigned to the carbonyl groups. The ¹H NMR spectrum showed a singlet at $\delta = 3.64$ assigned to the NMe protons. The other methyl protons present in the main nitrone **1** disappeared and a singlet at $\delta = 4.20$ related to the presence of the CH₂-pyrrole protons. NOE experiments confirmed the proposed structure, since saturation of the CH₂ of pyrrole protons causes an enhancement of the ethano-bridge protons,

which are also enhanced during irradiation of the NMe protons. COSY C H showed that the CH₂ protons have a correlation with C-5 ($\delta = 80.0$) and C-3 ($\delta = 141.4$). The carbonyl carbon signals resonated in the ¹³C NMR spectrum of **13** at two different values ($\delta = 176.7$ and 191.4). For the mechanism of the formation of **13**, we propose that the tautomer **4** initially attacks the activated triple bond of the dipolarophile **12** in a Michael-type reaction, thus resulting in the formation of the salt **14**. That intermediate would be found in tautomerism as in **15** (Scheme 3). In previous consequences^{9b} of similar reactions such as the reaction between **1** and dimethyl acetylenedicarboxylate, the final step involves elimination of water. In our case, the reaction of **1** with dibenzoyl ethylene proceeds by the regioselective rearrangement of benzoate anion by the pathway shown in Scheme 3.

Conclusion

Nitrones derived from paracyclophanyl group still show new chemistry towards various dipolarophiles in a different reactivity compared to the classical aromatic system. Therefore much work has to be done for more investigation of the reactivity of nitrone **1** towards another diepolarophiles.



Scheme 3

Experimental

General procedure

Melting points: Koffler hot stage, uncorrected. NMR: Bruker AM-400, solvent: CDCl_3 , internal standards: TMS ($\delta = 0.00$) for ^1H , CDCl_3 ($\delta = 77.05$) for ^{13}C . The results of NOE difference experiments are given in the form: irradiated signal \rightarrow enhanced signal. The spin systems of both CH_2CH_2 bridges in compounds **7a–c** and **13** were also fully analysed. Chromatography columns were packed with silica gel 7714 (Merck). For preparative layer chromatography (PLC), glass plates (20 cm x 48 cm) were covered with a slurry of silica gel Merck PF₂₅₄ and the solvents listed for development and air-dried. Zones were detected by the quenching of indicator fluorescence upon exposure to 254 nm UV light. Elemental analyses were performed at the Institut für Anorganische und Analytische Chemie, Technische Universität Braunschweig. MS: Finnigan MAT 8430 spectrometer at 70 eV. IR: Nicolet 320 FT-IR with KBr pellets and paraffin films. (E)-N-[2-((2.2)paracyclophan-4-yl)ethylidene]methylamine-N-oxide (**1**) was synthesised by the procedure mentioned in ref. 9a. 2,3-Diphenylcyclopropenone (**6a**) was bought from Fluka. 2,3-Diphenylcyclopropen-1-thione (**6b**) and 2-(2,3-diphenylcycloprop-2-enylidene)-malononitrile (**6c**) were prepared according to ref. 19, whereas dibenzoyl acetylene (**12**) was prepared according to ref. 20.

Reaction of nitron 1 with cyclopropenones 6a–c

(6): A mixture of **1** (279 mg, 1 mmol) and cyclopropenones **6a–c** (2 mmol) was heated at reflux in toluene (100 ml) for 2–3 d (the reaction was followed by TLC analysis). The solvent was evaporated in vacuo and the residue was column chromatographed on silica gel with toluene to give **7a–c** as the slowest migrating zones and **8** as the fastest migrating zones. The products **7a–c** were recrystallised from the stated solvents.

1,5-Dimethyl-3,4-diphenyl-5-((2.2)paracyclophan-4-yl)-1,5-dihydropyrrol-2-one (7a): (0.20 g, 60%), obtained as colourless crystals, $R_f = 0.3$ (toluene), m.p. 240°C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 1.62$ (s, 3 H, 5-Me), 2.62 (s, 3 H, NMe), 2.80 (ddd, 1 H, 2'-Ha, ethano bridge), 2.85 (ddd, 1 H, 1'-Ha, ethano bridge), 2.92 (ddd, 1 H, 9'-H_s, ethano bridge), 3.20 (ddd, 1 H, 10'-H_a, ethano bridge), 3.10–3.14 (ddd, 1 H, 1'-H_s, ethano bridge), 3.13 (ddd, 1 H, 10'-H_s, ethano bridge), 3.22–3.24 (m, 1 H, 9'-H_a, ethano bridge), 3.32 (ddd, 1 H, 2'-H_s, ethano bridge), 6.35 (dd, 1 H, 12'-H, PC-H), 6.52 (dd, 1 H, 13'-H, PC-H), 6.60 (m, 2 H, 7'-, 15'-H, PC-H), 6.73 (dd, 1 H, 16'-H, PC-H), 6.85 (d, 1 H, 5'-H, PC-H), 7.03–7.08 (m, 1 H, 8'-H, PC-H), 7.05 (td, 2 H, Ph-H), 7.10–7.13 (m, 2 H, Ph-H), 7.34 (dd, 2 H, Ph-H, $J = 8.0, 1.2$ Hz, Ph-H), 7.35–7.40 (m, 2 H, Ph-H), 7.47–7.54 (m, 2 H, Ph-H); J_{HH} in the paracyclophane fragment: $J_{5,7} = 1.7, J_{7,8} = 8.0, J_{12,13} = 8.0, J_{12,16} = 2.1, J_{13,15} = 2.0, J_{15,16} = 7.8, J_{1a',1s'} = -13.1, J_{1a',2a} = 10.4, J_{1a',2s'} = 3.9, J_{1s',2a} = 4.1, J_{1s',2s'} = 10.2, J_{2a',2s'} = -13.6, J_{9a',9s'} = -13.4, J_{9a',10a'} = 10.6, J_{9a',10s'} = 3.0, J_{9s',10a'} = 5.2, J_{9s',10s'} = 10.5, J_{10a',10s'} = -13.2$ Hz; ^{13}C NMR: $\delta = 25.4$ (q, 5-Me), 26.6 (q, C-2'), 29.4 (q, 1-NMe), 33.2 (t, C-9'), 34.9 (t, C-10'), 35.4 (t, C-1'), 73.8 (s, C-5), 108.6 (s, C-3), 125.0, 127.9 (d, para Ph-H), 128.1, 128.5 (d, meta-2 Ph-CH), 129.2, 129.3 (d, ortho-2 Ph-CH), 131.4 (d, C-5'), 131.6 (d, C-7'), 132.6 (d, C-12'), 133.0 (d, C-16'), 133.7 (d, C-13'), 134.6 (d, C-15'), 136.8 (C-4), 138.1 (s, C-4'), 138.8 (d, C-8'), 139.4, 139.8 (Ph-C), 140.0 (s, C-6), 140.4 (s, C-11'), 140.6 (s, C-14'), 140.8 (s, C-3'), 171.2 (C-2); IR ν_{max} (KBr): 3060–3000 cm^{-1} (Ar-CH, s), 2960–2860 (aliph.-CH, m), 1685 (C=O, vs), 1610, 1130 (N–O, s); UV (CH_3CN): λ_{max} (log ϵ) 350 nm (3.2); m/z (%): 469 [M^+] (86), 440 (12), 365 (50), 336 (8), 308 (10), 293 (14), 261 (12), 218 (74), 202 (10), 178 (16), 158 (20), 144 (24), 118 (100), 91 (22), 77 (42), 44 (28). Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{34}\text{H}_{31}\text{NO}$ (469.63): C, 86.96; H, 6.65; N, 2.98. Found: C, 86.80; H, 6.50; N, 3.05.

1,5-Dimethyl-3,4-diphenyl-5-((2.2)paracyclophan-4-yl)-1,5-dihydropyrrol-2-thione (7b): Obtained (0.32 g, 66%) as pale yellow crystals (ethanol), $R_f = 0.6$ (toluene), m.p. 280°C; ^1H NMR: $\delta = 1.60$ (s, 3 H, 5-Me), 2.70 (s, 3 H, NMe), 2.69 (ddd, 1 H, 2'-Ha, ethano bridge), 2.80 (ddd, 1 H, 1'-Ha, ethano bridge), 2.90 (ddd, 1 H, 9'-H_s, ethano bridge), 3.20 (ddd, 1 H, 10'-H_a, ethano bridge), 3.30 (ddd, 1 H, 1'-H_s, ethano bridge), 3.13 (ddd, 1 H, 10'-H_s, ethano bridge), 3.22–3.24 (m, 1 H, 9'-H_a, ethano bridge), 3.32 (ddd, 1 H, 2'-H_s, ethano bridge), 6.30 (dd, 1 H, 12'-H, PC-H), 6.50 (dd, 1 H, 13'-H, PC-H), 6.54 (dd, 1 H, 7'-H, PC-H), 6.65 (m, 1 H, 15'-H, PC-H), 6.70 (dd, 1 H, 16'-H, PC-H), 6.83 (d, 1 H, 5'-H, PC-H), 7.03–7.08 (m, 1 H, 8'-H, PC-H), 7.10 (td, 2 H, Ph-H), 7.15–7.18 (m, 2 H, Ph-H), 7.36 (dd, 2 H, Ph-H, $J = 8.0, 1.2$ Hz, Ph-H), 7.40–7.50 (m, 2 H, Ph-H), 7.52–7.56 (m, 2 H, Ph-H); J_{HH} in the paracyclophane fragment: $J_{5,7} = 1.6, J_{7,8} = 7.8, J_{12,13} = 8.0, J_{12,16} = 2.1, J_{13,15} = 1.8, J_{15,16} = 7.8, J_{1a',1s'} = -12.8, J_{1a',2a} = 10.6, J_{1a',2s'} = 4.0, J_{1s',2a} = 4.0, J_{1s',2s'} = 10.2, J_{2a',2s'} = -13.5,$

$J_{9a',9s'} = -13.6, J_{9a',10a'} = 10.8, J_{9a',10s'} = 3.0, J_{9s',10a'} = 5.0, J_{9s',10s'} = 10.5, J_{10a',10s'} = -13.0$ Hz; ^{13}C NMR: $\delta = 25.8$ (q, 5-Me), 27.4 (q, C-2'), 29.8 (q, 1-NMe), 33.4 (t, C-9'), 34.6 (t, C-10'), 35.0 (t, C-1'), 74.2 (s, C-5), 109.0 (s, C-3), 125.8, 127.4 (d, para Ph-H), 128.0, 128.2 (d, meta-2 Ph-CH), 129.0, 129.6 (d, ortho-2 Ph-CH), 131.2 (d, C-5'), 131.5 (d, C-7'), 132.0 (d, C-12'), 133.2 (d, C-16'), 133.6 (d, C-13'), 134.4 (d, C-15'), 136.7 (C-4), 138.0 (s, C-4'), 138.5 (d, C-8'), 139.0, 139.6 (Ph-C), 140.0 (s, C-6), 140.2 (s, C-11'), 140.6 (s, C-14'), 141.8 (s, C-3'), 182.0 (C-2); IR ν_{max} (KBr): 3050–3008 cm^{-1} (Ar-CH, s), 2940–2860 (aliph.-CH, m), 1315, 1100 (s, C=S), 1610, 1130 (N–O, s); UV (CH_3CN): λ_{max} (log ϵ) 380 nm (3.8); m/z (%): 485 [M^+] (100), 470 (16), 455 (18), 380 (22), 205 (40), 178 (22), 158 (20), 142 (24), 118 (60), 91 (20), 77 (40), 44 (32). Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{34}\text{H}_{31}\text{NS}$ (485.70): C, 84.08; H, 6.43; N, 2.88; S, 6.60. Found: C, 84.20; H, 6.40; N, 2.95; S, 6.52.

[1,5-Dimethyl-3,4-diphenyl-5-((2.2)paracyclophan-4-yl)-1,5-dihydropyrrol-2-ylidene]malononitrile (7c): (0.31 g, 75%) obtained as yellow crystals (methanol), $R_f = 0.2$ (toluene), m.p. 200°C; ^1H NMR: $\delta = 1.52$ (s, 3 H, 5-Me), 2.80 (s, 3 H, NMe), 2.90 (ddd, 1 H, 2'-Ha, ethano bridge), 3.00 (ddd, 1 H, 1'-Ha, ethano bridge), 3.10 (ddd, 1 H, 9'-H_s, ethano bridge), 3.18 (ddd, 1 H, 10'-H_a, ethano bridge), 3.20–3.25 (m, 2 H, 1'-H_s, 10'-H, ethano bridge), 3.32–3.36 (m, 1 H, 9'-H_a, ethano bridge), 3.40 (ddd, 1 H, 2'-H_s, ethano bridge), 6.38 (dd, 1 H, 12'-H, PC-H), 6.52 (dd, 1 H, 13'-H, PC-H), 6.60–6.66 (m, 3 H, 7'-, 15'-, 16'-H, PC-H), 6.75 (d, 1 H, 5'-H, PC-H), 6.90–7.00 (m, 1 H, 8'-H, PC-H), 7.08–7.16 (m, 5 H, Ph-H), 7.40–7.48 (m, 3 H, Ph-H), 7.60–7.66 (m, 2 H, Ph-H); J_{HH} in the paracyclophane fragment: $J_{5,7} = 1.8, J_{7,8} = 8.0, J_{12,13} = 8.2, J_{12,16} = 2.1, J_{13,15} = 2.0, J_{15,16} = 8.0, J_{1a',1s'} = -13.0, J_{1a',2a} = 10.5, J_{1a',2s'} = 3.9, J_{1s',2a} = 4.0, J_{1s',2s'} = 10.0, J_{2a',2s'} = -13.4, J_{9a',9s'} = -13.6, J_{9a',10a'} = 10.4, J_{9a',10s'} = 3.0, J_{9s',10a'} = 5.0, J_{9s',10s'} = 10.6, J_{10a',10s'} = -13.2$ Hz; ^{13}C NMR: $\delta = 25.4$ (q, 2-Me), 26.6 (q, C-2'), 32.4 (q, 1-NMe), 33.2 (t, C-9'), 34.9 (t, C-10'), 35.4 (t, C-1'), 48.0 (q, C(CN)₂), 73.8 (s, C-5), 113.0, 113.6 (q, CN), 118.0 (s, C-3), 127.0, 128.0 (d, para Ph-H), 128.3, 128.7 (d, meta-2 Ph-CH), 129.6, 129.8 (d, ortho-2 Ph-CH), 131.0 (d, C-5'), 131.4 (d, C-7'), 132.4 (d, C-12'), 133.2 (d, C-16'), 133.6 (d, C-13'), 134.0 (d, C-15'), 134.6 (C-4), 138.1 (s, C-4'), 138.8 (d, C-8'), 139.4, 139.8 (Ph-C), 140.0 (s, C-6), 140.4 (s, C-11'), 140.5 (s, C-14'), 140.4 (s, C-3'), 185.0 (C-2); IR ν_{max} (KBr): 3090–3015 cm^{-1} (Ar-CH, s), 2960–2820 (aliph.-CH, m), 2220–2210 (CN, vs), 1612, 1120 (N–O, s); UV (CH_3CN): λ_{max} (log ϵ) 300 nm (3.2); m/z (%): 518 [M^+] (26), 517 [M^+] (80), 502 (14), 488 (22), 413 [M-C(CN)₂] (100), 282 (34), 260 (22), 218 (50), 178 (36), 144 (20), 118 (20), 91 (32), 77 (62). Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{37}\text{H}_{31}\text{N}_3$ (517.68): C, 85.85; H, 6.04; N, 8.12. Found: C, 86.00; H, 6.10; N, 8.08.

Reaction of nitron 1 with dibenzoyl acetylene (12): A mixture of **1** (279 mg, 1 mmol) and **12** (234 mg, 1 mmol) was heated at reflux in toluene (300 ml) for 8 h. The solvent was evaporated in vacuo and the residue was applied on plates chromatography (silica gel) with dichloromethane to give **13**.

4-Benzoyl-1-methyl-2-((2.2)paracyclophan-4-yl)-2,3-dihydropyrrol-2-yl benzoate (13): (0.36 g, 70%) obtained as colourless needles (ethanol), $R_f = 0.3$ (dichloromethane), mp 290°C; ^1H NMR: $\delta = 2.70$ (ddd, 1 H, 2'-Ha, ethano bridge), 2.83–2.90 (m, 2 H, 9'-H_s, 1'-H_a, ethano bridge), 3.10–3.16 (m, 2 H, 1'-H_s, 10'-H_a, ethano bridge), 3.20–3.26 (m, 2 H, 9'-H_a, 10'-H_s, ethano bridge), 3.35 (ddd, 1 H, 2'-H_s, ethano bridge), 3.64 (s, 3 H, NMe), 4.20 (s, 2 H, CH₂-pyrrole), 6.400 (m, 1 H, 12'-H, PC-H), 6.52 (d, 4 H, 13'-, 7'-, 15'-, 16'-H, PC-H), 6.73 (dd, 1 H, 8'-H, PC-H), 6.78 (d, 1 H, 5'-H, PC-H), 7.20–7.25 (m, 2 H, Ph-meta-H), 7.27–7.32 (m, 4 H, Ph-H), 7.37 (s, 1 H, pyrrole-2-H), 7.50–7.55 (m, 2 H, Ph-ortho-H), 7.82–7.85 (m, 2 H, Ph-ortho-H); ^{13}C NMR: $\delta = 27.2$ (t, C-2'), 33.2 (t, C-9'), 34.9 (t, C-10'), 35.4 (t, C-1'), 45.3 (q, NMe), 48.5 (CH₂-2), 80.0 (s, C-5), 112.1 (d, C-3), 125.0, 127.9 (d, para Ph-H), 128.1, 128.5 (d, meta-2 Ph-CH), 129.2, 129.3 (d, ortho-2 Ph-CH), 131.4 (d, C-5'), 131.6 (d, C-7'), 132.6 (d, C-12'), 133.0 (d, C-16'), 133.7 (d, C-13'), 134.6 (d, C-15'), 138.1 (s, C-4'), 138.8 (d, C-8'), 139.4, 139.8 (Ph-C), 140.0 (s, C-6), 140.4 (s, C-11'), 140.6 (s, C-14'), 141.4 (s, C-3'), 142.7 (s, C-2), 176.7 (OCOPh), 191.4 (COPh); IR ν_{max} (KBr): 3060–3000 cm^{-1} (Ar-CH, s), 2960–2860 (aliph.-CH, m), 1710–1685 (C=O, vs), 1610 (C=N, s); UV (CH_3CN): λ_{max} (log ϵ) 270 nm (2.8); m/z (%): 513 [M^+] (100), 495 (14), 466 (8), 408 (14), 390 (16), 363 (14), 303 (10), 286 (12), 133 (20), 105 (60), 91 (18), 77 (40), 57 (18). Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{35}\text{H}_{31}\text{NO}_3$ (513.64): C, 81.84; H, 6.08; N, 2.73. Found: C, 81.70; H, 6.18; N, 2.70.

Prof Dr Ashraf A Aly thanks DAAD foundation for its financial support.

Received 7 June 2007; accepted 23 July 2007

Paper 07/4688 doi: 10.3184/030823407X236363

References

- 1 (a) A. Rozenberg, E. Sergeeva and H. Hopf, *In Modern Cyclophane Chemistry*, R. Gleiter and H. Hopf (eds), Wiley-VCH, 2004, chap. 17, 435-462; (b) S. E. Gibson and J.D. Knight, *J. Org. Biomol. Chem.*, 2003, **1**, 1256.
- 2 E. Yu. Schmidt, N.V. Zorina, A.B. Zaitsev, A.I. Mikhaleva, A.M. Vasil-Tsov, P. Audebert, G. Clavier, R. Meallet-Renault and R.B. Pansu, *Tetrahedron Lett.*, 2004, **45**, 5489.
- 3 D.C. Braddock, S.M. Ahmad and G.T. Douglas, *Tetrahedron Lett.*, 2004, **45**, 6583.
- 4 (a) A.A. Aly, A.A. Hassan and A.E. Mourad, *J. Can. Chem.*, 1993, **71**, 1845; (b) A.A. Aly, *Spectrochim Acta*, 1999, **55A**, 79; (c) V. Rozenberg, V. Kharitonov, D. Antonov, E. Sergeeva, A. Aleshkin, N. Ikonnikov, S. Orlova and Y. Belokon, *Angew. Chem.*, 1994, **106**, 106. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. Engl.*, 1994, **33**, 91; (d) H. Hopf and D.G. Barrett, *Liebigs Ann.*, 1995, 449.
- 5 (a) M.L. Birsa, P.G. Jones and H. Hopf, *Eur. J. Org. Chem.*, 2005, **15**, 3263; (b) L. Minuti, A. Taticchi, A. Marrocchi, S. Landi, and E. Gacs-Baitz, *Tetrahedron Lett.* 2005, **46**, 5735; (c) T. Ueda, N. Kanomata and H. Machida, *Org. Lett.*, 2005, **7**, 2365.
- 6 (a) B. Altava, M.I. Burguete, V.S. Luis, J.F. Miravet, E. Garcia-Espana, V. Marcelino and C. Soriano, *Tetrahedron*, 1997, **53**, 4751; (b) A. Haticchi, L. Minuti, D. Lanari, A. Marrocchi, I. Tesei and E. Gacs-Baitz, *Tetrahedron*, 2004, **60**, 11759; (c) A.A. Aly and A.E. Mourad, *Tetrahedron*, 1993, **70**, 7761.
- 7 I. Dix, H. Hopf and P.G. Jones, *Acta Crystallogr., Sect. C.*, 1999, **55**, 756.
- 8 (a) S. Prakash and N.L. Singh, *Indian J. Pure Appl. Phys.*, 1965, **3**, 374; (b) I. Held, A. Villinger and H. Zipse, *Synthesis*, 2005, **9**, 1425.
- 9 (a) A.A. Aly, H. Hopf and L. Ernst, *Eur. J. Org. Chem.* 2000, 3021; (b) A.A. Aly, S. Ehrhardt, H. Hopf, I. Dix and P.G. Jones, *Eur. J. Org. Chem.*, 2006, 335.
- 10 H. Hopf, A.A. Aly, V.N. Swaminathan, L. Ernst, I. Dix and P.G. Jones, *Eur. J. Org. Chem.* 2005, 68.
- 11 A.A. Aly, H. Hopf, I. Dix and P.G. Jones, *Tetrahedron*, 2006, **62**, 4498.
- 12 (a) A. Kascheres, H.C. Schumacher and R.A.F. Rodrigues, *J. Heterocycl. Chem.*, 1997, **34**, 757; (b) A. Kascheres and R.A.F. Rodrigues, *Tetrahedron*, 1996, **52**, 12919; (c) A. Kascheres, J. Correa Filho and S. Cunha, *Tetrahedron*, 1993, **49**, 381; (d) A. Kascheres, C. Kascheres and A.C.H. Braga, *J. Org. Chem.* 1993, **58**, 1702; (e) S. Cunha and A. Kascheres, *J. Heterocycl. Chem.*, 1993, **30**, 567; (f) A. Kascheres, C. Kascheres and J.A.R. Rodrigues, *Synth. Commun.* 1984, **14**, 905; (g) A. Kascheres, J.L. Reyes and S.M. Fonseca, *Heterocycles*, 1984, **22**, 2529; (h) C. Kascheres, A. Kascheres and P.S.H. Pilli, *J. Org. Chem.*, 1980, **45**, 5340.
- 13 A.A. Aly, A.A. Hassan, M.A.-M. Goma and E. El-Shereif, *Arkivoc*, 2007, **xiv**, 1.
- 14 D.S.C. Black, R.F. Crozier and V.C. Davis, *Synthesis*, 1975, 205.
- 15 R. Huisgen, H. Hauck, R. Grashey and H. Seidl, *Chem. Ber.*, 1969, **102**, 736. *cf.* H.R. Seidl, R. Huisgen and R. Knorr, *Chem. Ber.*, 1969, **102**, 904.
- 16 T. Eicher, J.L. Weber and G. Chatila, *Liebigs Ann. Chem.*, 1978, 1203.
- 17 T. Eicher and G. Franke, *Liebigs Ann. Chem.*, 1981, 1337.
- 18 T. Eicher and D. Krause, *Synthesis*, 1986, 899.
- 19 S. Andreades, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 1989, **87**, 3941.
- 20 J.-J. Zhang and G.B. Schuster, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 1989, **111**, 7149.