Selected Reactions on the o-Aminonitrile System of Substituted Pyrroles [1]

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The synthesis of the difficult to obtain pyrrolo[2,3-d]pyrimidine-2,4-diamine (4) is reported. Furthermore, some unexpected reactions on the 2-aminopyrrole-3-carbonitrile system are described 15-17.

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Aromatic and heterocyclic o-aminonitriles are widely used building blocks for condensed nitrogen heterocycles. In most cases they are readily available and open a fascinating field of study for chemists [2]. For a long time now the special 2-amino-pyrrole-3-carbonitrile system has been our preferential basis for the synthesis of condensed heterocycles, e.g. pyrrolo[2,3-d]- and [1,2-a]pyrimidines, pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridines, pyrrolo[2,3-c]thiadiazines [3a-f]. As one aspect of our ongoing work, we have a special interest in the synthesis of the pyrrolo[2,3-d]pyrimidine-2,4-diamines of type 4. In general, condensed pyrimidine-2,4-diamines can be obtained by the following two methods:

1) Substitution of a suitable pyrimidine derivative with ammonia, 2) appropriate cyclisation directly to the pyrim-

idine-2,4-diamine system.

Robins and co-workers have recently failed in the bisamination of pyrrolopyrimidine derivatives in positions 2 and 4 [4]. Nevertheless, we decided to examine both methods for the synthesis of the above mentioned compounds. The present paper deals with the results of this study.

Using following method 1), we synthesized the pyrrolo-[2,3-d]pyrimidine-2,4-dione 3a by cyclisation of the pyrrolecarbonamide 2a with urea in dimethylformamide (Scheme 1). The chlorination with phosphorus oxychloride yielded no results. In contrast, the chlorination of a monolactam such as 5,6-dimethylpyrrolo[2,3-d]pyrimidin-4-one led to the 4-chloro-compound [3b]. The attempted direct amination procedure of 3a with phenylphosphorusdiamide (PPDA) was also unsuccessful.

Scheme 1

Scheme II

In the following experiment we tried to replace the functional sulfur groups with ammonia. There are two alternatives for the synthesis of pyrrolopyrimidine-2,4,-dithione 5a and its derivative. Starting from the pyrrolocarbonitrile 1a [3a] either a) reaction with carbon disulfide in pyridine [6] or b) direct cyclisation with potassium xanthogenate [7] is possible (Scheme II).

Methylation of 6a yielded the hydroiodide 7a. A second methylation step resulted in a ring opening reaction and led to 8a. It was not possible to convert 8a into 4a with liquid ammonia under pressure. It was only possible to replace one methylmercapto-group, resulting in 9a. Oxidation of 9a with m-chloroperoxybenzoic acid led to 10a. When 10a was treated with liquid ammonia under pressure, no reaction could be registered. By modifying 5a by methylation and oxidation, with reaction in the same manner as above, compounds 11a and 12a were obtained. Neither of the two, when treated with liquid ammonia, led to the desired compound 4a. Only 12a could be induced to react to the monoamine 10a. The use of a stronger nucleophile than ammonia - i.e. sodium amide in toluene - proved to be more successful. Compound 4a could be synthesized in low yields (20%) via the Tschischibabin reaction.

However, because of the less satisfying results, we tried to obtain the desired compound by direct cyclisation of the 2-amino-pyrrole-3-carbonitrile (Method 2). Several methods have been previously described. Most favoured is the ring closure with guanidine or chloroformamidine, although the yields in most cases are low [2,8-11]. With neither reagent, under various conditions, was it possible to obtain the desired compound 4a. A further possibility exists in the reaction of cyanamide in the presence of pyridine hydrochloride [9]. This method also failed in our case. However, by changing the reaction conditions, we are able to obtain the guanidine derivative 13a as an intermediate in good yield (Scheme III). In order to achieve this, it was necessary to apply a drastic method, e.g. boiling for 27 hours in dioxane in the presence of gaseous hydrogen chloride. The ensuing ring closure in methanol saturated with ammonia was nearly quantitative.

Treatment of 4b with polyphosphoric acid yielded 4c [5]. Working according to the general method for synthesis of condensed pyrimidines described by Shishoo and coworkers [13], we found that 2-aminopyrrolo-3-carbonitriles required stronger conditions for ring closure with aliphatic or aromatic nitriles as described in the literature. In 1980 Shishoo [13] suggested that the cyclisation reaction

Scheme III

1a,b + CN
$$R^2$$
 H_3C NH_2 H_3C NH_2 R^2 R^1 13 $R^1 = C_6H_5$, $R^2 = NH_2$ 13 b $R^1 = C_6H_5$, $R^2 = NH_2$ CH_3 13 c $R^1 = C_6H_5$, $R^2 = CH_3$ CH_3 13 c $R^1 = C_6H_5$, $R^2 = CH_3$ CH_3 14 a - c, 14 a - l (s. Table I)

4a $R^1 = C_6H_5$, $R^2 = NH_2$ CH_3 4b $R^1 = C_6H_5$, $R^2 = NH_2$ CH_3 4c CH_3 CH_3

procedes via an amidine intermediate. We can now confirm this, because we are able to successfully isolate this intermediate 13a-c, by the reaction of 1a,b respectively with cyanamide or with acetonitrile. Furthermore, we were able to show that it is possible to bring aromatic nitriles with space-filling groups to reaction (Table 1). By treating 14g-i with polphosphoric acid [5], it is possible to obtain isomers of the 7-substituted pyrrolopyrimidines, with proven antiphlogistic and anticonvulsant properties [14a,b] (Scheme IV).

Scheme IV

It is noteworthy that 14k showed none of these activities, although it has the same base unit as Zaprinast, a potent inhibitor of reagin-mediated anaphylaxis [14c]. An appropriate study of this research is currently in progress. An interesting phenomenon can be observed in the ¹H-nmr spectra of the above-mentioned compounds. For 14k for example, the aromatic hydrogens exhibit signals with different chemical shifts at different integrations. A signal

group of 3 aromatic hydrogens is found at 7.4 ppm, whereas 2 hydrogen signals are detected at 8.4 ppm. Similar effects are revealed in the spectra of the 2-ortho-chlorophenyl derivative 14e. The aromatic region is also split into two different signal groups at 8.1 ppm (1H) and 7.6 ppm (3H). So it is evident that the ortho-hydrogens of the 2-phenyl moiety are shifted downfield under the influence of the lone pairs of the nitrogens at position 1 and 3 respectively. This interpretation is clearly supported by a study from Murrell and co-workers on the steric requirements of phenylsubstituents in nitrogen heterocycles [15].

According to published reports, it should be impossible to synthesize iminoethers using aromatic or heteroaromatic nitriles which are substituted in the ortho position [8,16]. Therefore, it is interesting to note that 1a reacts in ethanol which is saturated with hydrogen chloride gas to the iminoether derivative 15 in high yield. The reaction in ethanol saturated with ammonia produces the resulted amidine derivative 16 in low yield (Scheme I). Likewise by compound 1a we can demonstrate its ability to reduce the cyanogroup to the aldehyde function 17. This reaction requires drastic conditions i.e. refluxing with lithium aluminum hydride in dioxane.

EXPERIMENTAL

Melting points (°C) were determined in open capillaries and are uncorrected. Infrared spectra were recorded in potassium bromide on a Beckmann spectrometer IR 33, The 'H-nmr spectra were taken on a Varian T 60, with TMS as the internal reference. The pyrrolecarboni-

triles la and lb were prepared according to [3a,5].

2-Amino-4,5-dimethyl-1-phenyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carbonamide (2a).

Compound 1a (6.3 g, 30 mmoles) was stirred in a mixture of polyphosphoric acid (60.0 g)/phosphoric acid (75.0 g) and heated for 5 hours. The temperature was held constant at 110-120°. After cooling, crushed ice and ammonia (25%) was added until pH 7 obtained. The precipitate was collected, and recrystallized from ethanol, yield 1.4 g (66%), mp 198-200°.

Anal. Calcd. for C₁₃H₁₅N₃O: C, 68.13; H, 6.56; N, 18.35. Found: C, 68.08; H, 6.60; N, 18.47.

5,6-Dimethyl-7-phenyl-7H-pyrrolo[2,3-d]pyrimidine-2,4(1H,3H)-dione (3a).

Compound 2a (4.3 g, 20 mmoles) and urea (25.0 g) were dissolved in 50.0 g of dimethylformamide and refluxed for 4 hours. After cooling, the white crystals were collected and recrystallized from dimethylformamide, yield 1.65 g (65%), mp 320-325°.

Anal. Calcd. for C₁₄H₁₃N₃O₂: C, 65.87; H, 5.13; N, 16.46. Found: C, 65.72: H, 5.20; N, 16.96.

5,6-Dimethyl-7-phenyl-7H-pyrrolo[2,3-d]pyrimidine-2,4-diamine (4a).

- a) Compound 11a (2.52 g, 8 mmoles) was dissolved in 20 ml of dry toluene. After addition of a suspension of sodiumamide (10 ml) the mixture was refluxed for 30 minutes. After cooling, the reaction mixture was stirred with care in a cold solution of sodium hydroxide (5%). The resulting precipitate from both phases was collected by filtration and recrystallized from ethanol, yield 0.5 g (20%).
- b) Compound 13a (6.50 g, 26 mmoles) was dissolved in a solution of sodium (2.6 g, 0.1 mole) in 100 ml of methanol. After stirring for 12 hours at room temperature, the precipitate was collected by filtration and recrystallized, yield 5.45 g (84%).
- c) Compound 13a (6.50 g, 26 mmoles) was dissolved in methanol (60.0 ml), saturated with ammonia gas, and stirred for 12 hours at room temperature, yield 5.84 g (90%), mp 278-280°; 'H-nmr (DMSO-d₆): δ (ppm) 2.05 (s, 3H, H₆); 2.15 (s, 3H, H₅), 5.45 (s, 2H, NH₂), 6.1 (s, 2H, NH₂) 7.45 (m, 5H, C₆H₆).

Anal. Calcd. for C₁₄H₁₈N₅: C, 66.38; H, 5.97; N, 27.65. Found: C, 66.51; H, 6.01; N, 27.28.

5,6-Dimethyl-7-(DL-1-phenylethyl)-7*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*d*]pyrimidine-2,4-diamine (4b).

d) Compound 13b (4.2 g, 15 mmoles) was dissolved in a solution of sodium methylate (2.0 g) in methanol (100 ml). The precipitate was collected by filtration and recrystallized from ethanol, yield 3.7 g (88%), mp 177°.

Anal. Calcd. for C₁₆H₁₉N₅: C, 68.30; H, 6.82; N, 21.04. Found: C, 68.23; H, 6.77; N, 20.79.

5,6-Dimethyl-7H-pyrrolo[2,3-d]pyrimidine-2,4-diamine (4c) see ref [5].

5,6-Dimethyl-7-phenyl-7H-pyrrolo[2,3-d]pyrimidine-2,4(1H,3H)-dithione (5a).

According to ref [7], 1a (14.5 g, 0.70 mmoles) was refluxed in a mixture of potassium xanthogenate (16.0 g, 0.1 mole) in l-butanol (115.0 g) for 3.5 hours. After cooling, the solid mass was collected by filtration, dissolved in dimethylformamide/water (40 ml/60 ml) and acidified with acetic acid (~50%). The precipitate was collected and recrystallized from methanol, yield 19.3 g (98%), mp 278°.

Anal. Calcd. for C₁₄H₁₃N₃S₂: C, 58.54; H, 4.53; N, 14.63. Found: C, 58.09; H, 4.60; N, 14.99.

4-Imino-5,6-dimethyl-7-phenyl-4,7-dihydropyrrolo[2,3-d][1,3]thiazine-2(1H)-thione (**6a**).

According to ref [6], 1a (5.0 g, 24 mmoles) was refluxed for 2 hours in a mixture of 50 ml of carbon disulfide and 40 ml of pyridine. After cooling the crystals were collected by filtration and recrystallized from ethanol, yield 7.2 g (74%), mp 313-316°.

Anal. Calcd. for C₁₄H₁₃N₃S₂: C, 58.54; H, 4.53; N, 14.63. Found: C, 58.58; H, 4.49; N, 14.51.

4-Imino-5,6-dimethyl-2-methylthio-7-phenyl-4,7-dihydropyrrolo-[2,3-d][1,3]thiazine Hydroiodide (7a).

A solution of **6a** (3.0 g, 10 mmoles) in methanol (100 ml) was added with methyl iodide (15.0 g). The mixture was refluxed for one hour. The excess methanol was removed *in vacuo*. The resulting oily residue was mixed with diethylether. The precipitate was collected by filtration, yield 4.0 g (96%), mp 208°.

Anal. Caled. for C₁₅H₁₆IN₃S₂: C, 41.96; H, 3.73; N, 9.80. Found: C, 41.87; H, 3.68; N, 9.99.

 $3\text{-}Cyano-4, 5\text{-}dimethyl-1-phenyl-1} \\ H\text{-}pyrrole-2-imiddimethyldithiocarbnate} \\ \textbf{(8a)}.$

Compound 7a (2.0 g, 5 mmoles) was stirred at room temperature for one hour in a mixture of potassium hydroxide (5%) and methyl iodide (4.0 g). The resulting precipitate was collected by filtration and recrystallized from ethanol, yield 0.9 g (57%), mp 140-142°; 'H-nmr (DMSO-d₆): δ (ppm) 1.95 (s, 3H, H₅), 2.1 (s, 3H, H₄), 2.4 (s, 6H, 2 x SCH₃), 7.4 (m, 5H, C₆H₅).

Anal. Calcd. for C₁₆H₁₇N₃S₂: C, 60.94; H, 5.43; N, 13.33. Found: C, 60.81; H, 5.37; N, 13.66.

5,6-Dimethyl-2-methylthio-7-phenyl-7*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*d*]pyrimidine-4-amine (9n).

Compound 8a (3.0 g, 9.5 mmoles) was suspended in liquid ammonia (100 ml), and immediately sealed in a steel vessel and heated at 100° for 3 hours. After cooling the vessel in an ice bath, the pressure in the vessel was carefully released. The resulting solid was recrystallized from ethanol, yield 2.8 g (100%), mp 192°; 'H-nmr (DMSO-d_o): δ (ppm) 2.1 (s, 3H, H_o), 2.35 (s, 6H, H_s, SCH₃), 6.6 (s, 2H, NH₂), 7.5 (m, 5H, C_oH₅).

Anal. Calcd. for C₁₅H₁₆N₄S: C, 63.26; H, 5.67; N, 19.71. Found: C, 62.92; H, 5.72; N, 19.55.

4-Amino-5,6-dimethyl-7-phenyl-7H-pyrrolo[2,3-d]pyrimidine-2-methyl-sulfone (10a).

- a) Compound 9a (2.0 g, 7 mmoles) was dissolved in 100.0 ml of ethanol, after addition of m-chloroperoxybenzoic acid (3.6 g, 40 mmoles) the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 12 hours. The yellowish crystals were collected by filtration and recrystallized from ethanol, yield 1.9 g (96%), mp 237-240°; 'H-nmr (DMSO-d₆): δ (ppm) 2.15 (s, 3H, H₆), 2.4 (s, 3H, H₅), 3.2 (s, 3H, SO₂CH₃), 7.2 (s, 2H, NH₂), 7.5 (s, 5H, C₆H₅).

 Anal. Calcd. for C₁₅H₁₆N₄O₂S: C, 56.96; H, 5.10; N, 17.71. Found: C, 56.91; H, 5.05; N, 17.98.
- b) Compound **12a** (1.2 g, 3.2 mmoles) was suspended in liquid ammonia (50 ml), and treated in an analogous manner to that described for **9**0

5,6-Dimethyl-2,4-bis(methylthio)-7-phenyl-7H-pyrrolo[2,3-d]pyrimidine (11a).

Compound 5a (4.05 g, 15 mmoles) was added to ammonium hydroxide (100 ml, 0.75%) and methyl iodide (20.8 g). After refluxing for 30 minutes, the reaction mixture was evaporated in vacuo. The residue was acidified with acetic acid (20%) and extracted with methylene chloride (3 x 40 ml). The organic layer was removed on a rotary evaporator. The residue was recrystallized from methanol, yield 3.1 g (66%), mp 149°; 'H-nmr (DMSO-d₆): δ (ppm) 2.1 (s, 3H, H₆), 2.4 (s, 3H, H₅), 2.5 (s, 3H, C₂-SCH₃), 2.65 (s, 3H, C₄-SCH₃), 7.5 (m, 5H, C₆H₅).

Anal. Calcd. for C₁₆H₁₇N₃S₂: C, 60.94; H, 5.43; N, 13.33. Found: C, 60.84; H, 5.34; N, 13.48.

5,6-Dimethyl-7-phenyl-2,4-bis(methylsulfonyl)-7H-pyrrolo[2,3-d]pyrimidine (12a).

Compound 11a (2.0 g, 7 mmoles) was dissolved in ethanol (90.0 ml), m-chloroperoxybenzoic acid (3.6 g, 40 mmoles) was added. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 12 hours. The resulting crystals were

collected by filtration and recrystallized from ethanol, yield 1.8 g (75%), mp 174° .

Anal. Calcd. for $C_{16}H_{17}N_3O_4S_2$: C, 50.66; H, 4.52; N, 11.08. Found: C, 50.78; H, 4.60; N, 11.30.

3-Cyano-4,5-dimethyl-1H-pyrrole-2-amidines 13a-c.

Compound 13a.

Compound 1a (5.25 g, 25 mmoles) and cyanamide (1.16 g, 27 mmoles) were dissolved in p-dioxane (50.0 ml). The solution was continuously saturated with hydrogen chloride gas at room temperature for 5 hours, and subsequently for 2 hours at 80°. After this time the mixture was refluxed for 20 hours. The solvent was removed on a rotary evaporator. Ice-water was added to the residue, following alkalisation with ammonium hydroxide (10%). The solid was collected by filtration and recrystallized from benzene, yield 4.1 g (65%), mp 267-269°; ¹H-nmr (DMSO-d₆): δ (ppm) 1.9 (s, 3H, H₅), 2.05 (s, 3H, H₄), 5.55 (s broad, 4H, 2 x NH₂), 7.4 (m, 5H, C₆H₅).

Anal. Caled. for C₁₄H₁₅N₅: C, 66.38; H, 5.97; N, 27.65. Found: C, 66.05; H, 6.05; N, 27.90.

Compound 13b.

Compound **1b** (5.76 g, 20 mmoles) brought to reaction in an analogous manner as described for compound **13a**, yield 5.0 g (74%); mp 168-170°. Anal. Calcd. for C₁₆H₁₉N₅: C, 68.30; H, 6.81; N, 24.89. Found: C, 68.36; H, 6.76; N, 24.97.

Compound 13c.

Compound 13c was isolated in low yield (20%) from the filtrate of 14g after the filtrate had been allowed to stand at 0° for 24 hours. The white crystals were collected by filtration and recrystallized from ethanol, mp 232-234°.

Anal. Calcd. for $C_{17}H_{20}N_4$: C, 72.82; H, 7.19; N, 19.99. Found: C, 72.90; H, 7.25; N, 20.13.

General Method for the Synthesis of the 2,7-Disubstituted-5,6-dimethylpyrrolo[2,3-d]pyrimidine-4-amines 14a-1.

The pyrrole 1a or 1b (20 mmoles) was dissolved in 2-propanol (40 ml). Sodium methylate (2.72 g, 40 mmoles) and acetonitrile (or another nitrile, according to the compound to be prepared) (20 mmoles) were added to the solution. The solution was refluxed for several hours (see Table I).

2-Amino-4,5-dimethyl-1-phenyl-1*H*-pyrrol-3-ylimino Ethyl Ether Hydrochloride (15).

Compound 1a (4.22 g, 20 mmoles) was dissolved in ethanol (100.0 ml), saturated with hydrogen chloride gas and stirred at room temperature for 3 days. The solid was collected by filtration and recrystallized from ethanol, yield 4.6 g (78%), mp 257°.

Anal. Calcd. for $C_{15}H_{20}CIN_3O$: C, 61.33; H 6.87; N, 14.31. Found: C, 61.43; H, 6.84; N, 14.19.

2-Amino-4,5-dimethyl-1-phenyl-1*H*-pyrrol-3-ylcarbamidine Hydrochloride (16).

Compound 15 (2.93 g, 10 mmoles) was added to a solution of ethanol, saturated with ammonia gas (40 ml). The mixture was stirred for 12 days at room temperature. The solvent was removed on a rotary evaporator. The residue was suspended in methylene chloride, and 16 was isolated by filtration, yield 0.7 g (27%); mp 280°.

Anal. Calcd. for $C_{13}H_{17}ClN_4$: C, 58.97; H, 6.49; N, 21.17. Found: C, 58.91; H, 6.44; N, 21.34.

2-Amino-4,5-dimethyl-1-phenyl-1*H*-pyrrol-3-ylcarbaldehyde (17).

Compound 1a (4.22 g, 20 mmoles) was dissolved in dry dioxane (50.0 ml). The mixture was added to a stirred suspension of lithium aluminium hydride (0.78 g, 20 mmoles) in dry dioxane (30.0 ml). The temperature was slowly raised in order to reflux for 30 minutes (caution). After cooling, first ice-water (75 ml) was added dropwise, then sulfuric acid (3N, 30 ml). The solvent was removed with an evaporator to 50 ml. Subsequently

Table I

2 - Substituted Pyrrolo [2,3-d] pyrimidine - 4 - amines

Compound No	R ¹	R²	reaction time	Mp °C	% yield	Molecular Formula	Molecular Weight	Microanalysis Calcd./Found % C %H %N		
14 a	C ₆ H ₅	H ₃ C—	20 h	239	59.0	C15H16N4	252.31	: 71.40 71.20	6.39 6.36	22.21 22.24
b	C 6 Hs	C 6 H5	24h	212 –15	20.7	C 20H18 N4	314.38	76.40 76.11	5.77 5.75	17 82 17 68
c	C ₆ H ₅	[1] naphthyl—CH2—	18 h	191	50.4	C25H22N4	378.46	79.33 79.44	5.86 5.91	14.81 14.99
đ	C ₆ H ₅	benzhydryl	62h	176 –78	67.5	C24H24N4	368.46	76.23 78.13	6.57 6.51	15.21 15.38
e	C ₆ H ₅	o—CI—C ₆ H ₄	30 h	215	57.4	C20H10ClN4	349.87	68.67 68.58	5.19 5.13	16.02 16.52
f	C ₆ H ₅	p—Cl —C ₆ H ₄	18h	212	64.5	C20H18 CLN4	349.87	68 67 68 72	5.19 5.23	16.02 16.44
9	C 6 H5 — CH — CH3	H ₃ C—	44 h	292	51.8	C ₁₇ H ₂₀ N ₄	280.36	72.82 72.78	7.19 7.37	19.99 19.85
h	C ₆ H ₅ —CH—CH ₃	C ₆ H ₅	30h	175	38.1	C22H22N4	342.43	77.16 77.26	6.48	16 36 16.06
i	C 6 H5—CH—CH3	p—Cl—C ₆ H ₄	20 h	181	33.5	C22H20Cl N4	375.88	70.30 70.43	5.37 5.31	14 91 14 86
j	н	H ₃ C—	20h	347	33.8	C 9 H12N4	176.22	61.34 61.45	6.86 6.92	31 80 31 71
k	н	C ₆ H ₅	20h	259	76.4	C14H14N4	238.28	70.56 70.34	5.92 6.02	23 51 23 64
ι	н	pClC ₆ H ₄	24 h	290	98.2	C13H14ClN4	272.74	59.66 59.56	5 40 5 45	21 41 21 49

the residue was alkalized with potassium hydroxide (3N), and extracted with diethyl ether. The organic solvent was separated and removed on a rotary evaporator. The residue was recrystallized from ethanol, yield 2.1 g (49%), mp 147-149°; 'H-nmr (DMSO-d₆): δ (ppm) 1.83 (s, 3H, H₅), 2.1 (s, 3H, H₄), 6.35 (s, 2H, NH₂), 7.5 (s, 5H, C₆H₅), 9.45 (s, 1H, CHO).

Anal. Calcd. for C₁₃H₁₄N₂O: C, 72.87; H, 6.59; N, 13.08. Found: C, 72.78; H, 6.52; N, 12.95.

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