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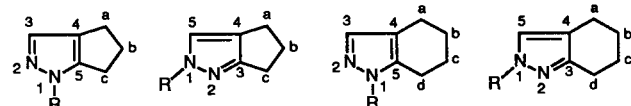
A series of 3(5),4-trimethylene and 3(5),4-tetramethylenepyrazoles (tetrahydroindazoles) have been prepared from 2-acylcyclohexanones using two methods: direct reaction with a substituted hydrazine and through an NH-pyrazole followed by nucleophilic substitution. The results mainly concern the 2-benzothiazolyl substituent, but 2,4-dinitrophenyl derivatives were also studied for comparison. The orientation of the reactions (isomer ratio), the deshielding in  $^1\text{H}$  nmr of the 5-methyl and 5-methylene signals when a benzothiazolyl residue is at position 1, and the ring strain effect on heterocyclic carbons chemical shifts, are discussed.

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This work results from the confluence of studies aimed at the understanding of the reactivity between heterocyclic hydrazines and  $\beta$ -dicarbonyl compounds [1-6] and those reporting the use of 2-acylcyclohexanones for the synthesis of pyrazoles [7,8].

Scheme 1 contains the compounds studied. Pyrazoles **1d**, **1e**, **2a**, **2b**, **2c**, **2d**, **2e**, **3a**, **3d**, **3e**, **4a**, **4d**, and **4e** were

## Scheme 1



R = 2',4'-dinitrophenyl:

**1d****1e**

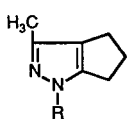
R = H:

**2a**

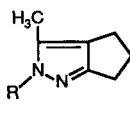
R = 2'-benzothiazolyl:

**2b****2c**

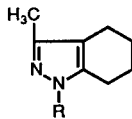
R = 2',4'-dinitrophenyl:

**2d****2e**

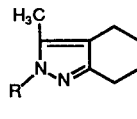
R = H:

**3a**

R = 2'-benzothiazolyl:

**3b****3c**

R = H:

**4a**

R = 2'-benzothiazolyl:

**4b****4c**

R = 2'-(5'-methylbenzothiazolyl):

**3b'**

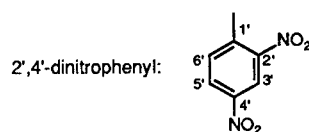
R = 2'-(5'-methylbenzothiazolyl):

**4b'****4c'**

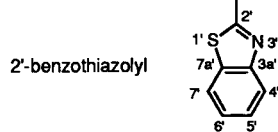
R = 2',4'-dinitrophenyl:

**3d****3e**

R = 2',4'-dinitrophenyl:

**4d****4e**

2',4'-dinitrophenyl:



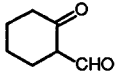
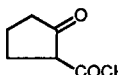
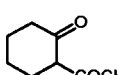
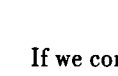
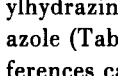
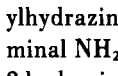
2'-benzothiazolyl

already known [7-9]. When samples were not available, they were reprepared according to reported methods. As the melting points were identical, only the nmr spectroscopy will be discussed,  $^1\text{H}$  nmr in the experimental part and  $^{13}\text{C}$  nmr in the discussion. Thus, the new compounds are: **3b**, **3b'**, **3c**, **4b**, **4b'**, **4c** and **4c'**.

To synthesize them we first use the reaction between 2-hydrazinobenzothiazole (or its 6'-methyl derivative) and, respectively, 2-acetylcyclopentanone and 2-acetylcyclohexanone. Two isomers were generally obtained whose ratio was determined by  $^1\text{H}$  nmr on the reaction crude (Table I).

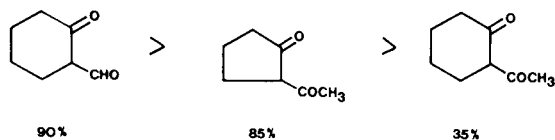
Table I

Percentages of Isomers Obtained from  
2-Acylcyclohexanones and Hydrazines

	2,4-dinitrophenyl hydrazine	2-hydrazinobenzothiazole
	95% <b>2d</b> (86%)	65% <b>2b</b> (68%)
	5% <b>2e</b> [7]	35% <b>2c</b>
	80% <b>3d</b> (81%)	95% <b>3b</b> (64%)
	20% <b>3e</b> [8]	5% <b>3c</b>
	25% <b>4d</b> (33%)	15% <b>4b</b> (26%)
	75% <b>4e</b> [8]	85% <b>4c</b>

If we compare the results obtained with 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazine with those obtained with 2-hydrazinobenzothiazole (Table I) some differences are observed. These differences can be explained assuming that 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazine reacts almost quantitatively (95%) by the terminal  $\text{NH}_2$  in the first step (yielding **d** isomers) whereas in 2-hydrazinobenzothiazole, both nitrogen atoms compete in the first step although the  $\text{NH}_2$  (yielding **b** isomers) is still the more reactive (75%). To obtain isomer distribu-

tion consistent with the experimental results, it is necessary to assume that compared with the endocyclic carbonyl group, the reactivity of the exocyclic one decreases in the order:



The percentages between parentheses in Table I are obtained with these values, *i.e.*, 75% x 35% = 26% for **4b**. Only in the case of **3b** the agreement is not satisfactory.

The reaction of aromatic or heteroaromatic halides with pyrazoles yields a mixture of isomers whose ratio depends on steric effects (Table II). In the case of 1-fluoro-2,4-dinitrobenzene, the increase of *e* isomers between series **3** and **4** was assigned [8] to an increase in the steric requirements of the methylene group from a five-membered ring ( $C_{\alpha}$ - $H_2$  in **3a**) to a six-membered ring ( $C_{\alpha}$ - $H_2$  in **4a**). The results obtained with 2-chlorobenzothiazole confirm that this conclusion is still true but with much lower steric requirements of the heterocycle. For instance, the C- $CH_3$  group of compound **4a** appears larger than the  $C_{\alpha}$ - $H_2$  when opposed to the 1-(2',4'-dinitrophenyl) substituent (75% of **4d**) and smaller when opposed to 1-(2'-benzothiazoly) (10% of **4b**). However, the differences in energy, which are proportional to the natural logarithms of the ratios, experience the same variation ( $\Delta \ln R = 3.3$ ).

Table II

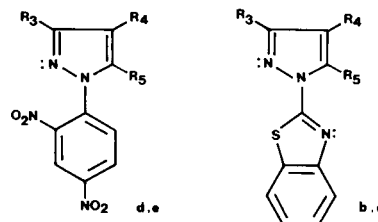
Percentages of Isomers Obtained from *N*-Substitution of 3(5)-Methyl-2(3),4-polymethylenepyrazoles

Pyrazole	1-fluoro-2,4-dinitrobenzene [8]	2-chlorobenzothiazole
<b>3a</b>	98% <b>3d</b> $R = 49, \ln R = 3.89$ 2% <b>3e</b> 75% <b>4d</b>	65% <b>3b</b> $R = 1.86, \ln R = 0.62$ 35% <b>3c</b> 10% <b>4b</b>
<b>4a</b>	$R = 3, \ln R = 1.1$ 25% <b>4e</b>	$R = 0.11, \ln R = 2.2$ 90% <b>4c</b>

Proton nmr studies have become routine and only two points will be discussed here, the rest is to be found in the experimental part: i) the assignment of methylene protons because they will be used to assign methylene carbons; ii) the anisotropic effects of the substituent at position 1 on protons of the position 5 of pyrazole.

i)  $^1H$ - $^1H$  COSY and NOESY experiments were performed on compounds **3a** and **4a**. Both kinds of bidimensional spectra show interaction spots corresponding to methyl-methylene a; methylene a-methylene b; methylene b-methylene c (only for **3a**), and methylene c-methylene d (only for **4a**).

ii) With regard to 1-(2',4'-dinitrophenyl)pyrazoles, the corresponding 1-(2'-benzothiazoly) derivatives show a large deshielding effect on the methyl and methylene of the position 5 ( $C_{\alpha}$ - $H_2$  in **3b** and  $C_{\alpha}$ - $H_2$  in **2b** and **4b**). These relative deshieldings are similar to those observed for  $H_5$  in 5-unsubstituted pyrazoles [1,4] (for instance, in **2c**,  $\delta H_5 = 8.15$  whereas in **2e**,  $\delta H_5 = 7.43$ ) and are due to differences in conformation (atropoisomerism) between both series of derivatives. In 1-(2',4'-dinitrophenyl)pyrazoles, series **d** and **e**, the 2'-nitro group is on the same side as the  $N_2$  atom [10], whereas in 1-(2'-benzothiazoly)pyrazoles, series **b** and **c**, like in bipyridine and 1-heteroarylpyrazoles, both nitrogen atoms are antiperiplanar:



It results that in **d** and **e** series the  $R^5$  substituent ( $CH_3$  or  $CH_2$ ) is unaffected by the anisotropy of the  $NO_2$  group. On the contrary, the lone pair of  $N_3$ , strongly deshielded the protons of  $R^5$ :  $\delta = 3.20$  for the methylenes of **2b**, **3b** and **4b**, and  $\delta = 2.65$  for the methylenes of **3c** and **4c**.

Carbon-13 NMR Results.

Literature reports on polymethylenepyrazoles are very scarce. Only the carbon-13 nmr spectrum of compound **2a** has been previously described [11]. Two kinds of assignment problems are found in these compounds: i) the assignment of methylene carbons  $C_{\alpha}$  and  $C_{\epsilon}$  (series **1** and **3**) or  $C_{\alpha}$  and  $C_{\alpha}$  (series **2** and **4**), that is, the  $sp^3$  carbons linked to positions 3(5) and 4 of the pyrazole ring; ii) the assignment of carbons  $C_3$  and  $C_5$  when both are quaternary (series **3** and **4**).

The first problem was solved through bidimensional experiments using  $^1J(^1H-^{13}C)$  correlation spectra (HETCOR). Since the methylene protons have been assigned without ambiguity so are the corresponding carbons. These experiments were carried out on compounds **3a**, **4a**, **3b** and **4c**.

The solution of the second problem comes from the  $^1H$ - $^{13}C$  coupled spectra. The carbon bearing the methyl group gives rise to a quartet with a  $^2J$  coupling constant of 6.6 Hz whereas the carbon bearing the methylene appears as a triplet with a  $^2J = 3.3$  Hz. The difference between these two values is probably related to the fact that the methyl group is free to rotate whereas the methylene protons are in a fixed position with regard to the carbon atom, position that seems to correspond to low values of  $^2J$ .

These experiments together with literature data on pyrazoles [4,12], 1-(2',4'-dinitrophenyl) derivatives [13] and benzothiazoles [14,15], lead to the values of Table III.

Table III  
 $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR Chemical Shifts (ppm) of Compounds 1-4 (Solvent: deuteriochloroform)

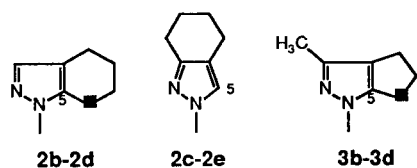
Compound	C <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>4</sub>	C <sub>5</sub>	C <sub>a</sub>	C <sub>b</sub>	C <sub>c</sub>	C <sub>d</sub>	3(5)-CH <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>1'</sub>	C <sub>2'</sub>	C <sub>3'</sub>	C <sub>4'</sub>	C <sub>5'</sub>	C <sub>6'</sub>	C <sub>7'</sub>	C <sub>3a'</sub>	C <sub>7a'</sub>	6'-CH <sub>3</sub>
1d	138.24	131.72	150.47	22.94	30.97	25.31	-	-	137.43	142.97	121.05	145.01	127.16	125.02	-	-	-	-
1e	167.66	130.41	122.47	22.75	30.96	24.37	-	-	137.61	142.01	121.04	144.16	127.23	124.43	-	-	-	-
2a [a]	131.7	114.8	143.2	20.5	23.6	22.1	23.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2b	141.76	120.41	141.00	20.75	22.69	22.69	24.33	-	-	161.32	-	122.30	126.12	124.38	121.27	151.64	132.69	-
2c	154.43	120.48	124.68	20.68	23.08	23.08	23.67	-	-	160.71	-	121.98	126.37	124.31	121.49	151.29	132.96	-
2d	141.87	119.61	139.55	20.30	22.30	22.30	22.52	-	137.42	144.58	120.87	145.45	127.33	127.10	-	-	-	-
2e	154.95	121.31	124.38	20.50	22.91	22.91	23.34	-	137.33	141.88	120.97	144.17	127.28	125.69	-	-	-	-
3a	133.62 [b]	122.56	159.53 [c]	22.08	30.40	24.31	-	10.40 [d]	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3b	147.50	130.13	151.59	22.32	30.28	26.58	-	12.97	-	160.19	-	121.99	126.10	124.04	121.30	150.98	132.77	-
3b'	147.26	129.97	150.92	22.23	30.28	26.48	-	12.67	-	159.43	-	121.55	127.51	134.09	121.19	149.58	132.88	21.25
3c	165.29	128.66	134.92	22.13	29.68	24.67	-	13.36	-	161.50	-	122.01	125.95	124.05	121.05	151.70	132.65	-
3d	148.04 [e]	131.33	150.73 [f]	22.45	30.94	25.80	-	12.55 [g]	137.36	142.05	121.16	144.15	127.18	124.41	-	-	-	-
3e	165.43	127.74	133.04	22.37	29.74	24.60	-	11.05	138.08	145.23	120.89	145.51	128.61	127.18	-	-	-	-
4a	139.27 [h]	113.38	143.32 [i]	18.83	21.06	21.72	22.17	9.38 [j]	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4b	150.00	119.47	141.31	20.20	22.50	22.59	24.37	11.86	-	160.91	-	122.01	126.02	124.04	121.13	n.o.	132.66	-
4c	151.73	118.49	137.34	20.16	22.98	22.98	23.55	12.03	-	161.73	-	122.10	125.96	124.09	121.08	153.34	132.74	-
4c'	149.75	118.38	137.28	20.26	23.05	23.57	24.35	12.01	-	160.98	-	121.70	127.41	134.16	121.05	153.19	132.87	21.45
4d	150.85	118.70	139.98	19.88	22.20	22.37	22.50	11.53	137.53	144.18	120.94	144.91	127.05	127.05	-	-	-	-
4e	153.26	117.54	135.75	20.31	22.96	22.96	23.34	9.91	138.23	145.29	120.79	145.84	127.05	128.93	-	-	-	-

[a] From reference [10], exchanging the methylene carbons C<sub>a</sub> and C<sub>b</sub>. [b]  $2J(^1\text{H}-^{13}\text{C}) = 6.5$  Hz. [c]  $2J(^1\text{H}-^{13}\text{C}) = 3.2$  Hz. [d]  $1J(^1\text{H}-^{13}\text{C}) = 127.8$  Hz. [e]  $2J(^1\text{H}-^{13}\text{C}) = 6.6$  Hz. [f]  $2J(^1\text{H}-^{13}\text{C}) = 3.6$  Hz.

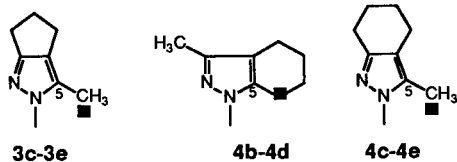
[g]  $1J(^1\text{H}-^{13}\text{C}) = 127.9$  Hz. [h]  $2J(^1\text{H}-^{13}\text{C}) = 6.7$  Hz. [i]  $2J(^1\text{H}-^{13}\text{C}) = 3.4$  Hz. [j]  $1J(^1\text{H}-^{13}\text{C}) = 128.7$  Hz.

We will discuss the chemical shifts of Table III according to the following points: i) a comparison of dinitrophenyl (DNP) and benzothiazolyl derivatives regarding the heterocyclic and the methylene signals; ii) the substituent chemical shifts produced by the methyl group at positions 3 or 5; iii) the effect of the pyrazole nature on the signals of the substituent at position 1 and, particularly, on the carbon  $C_2$ , of the dinitrophenyl group.

i) Defining  $\Delta\delta$  as  $\delta(\text{DNP}) - \delta(\text{benzothiazolyl})$ , i.e.  $\delta\mathbf{d} - \delta\mathbf{b}$  or  $\delta\mathbf{e} - \delta\mathbf{c}$ , it is possible to calculate the effect of replacing a dinitrophenyl by a benzothiazolyl group at position 1 on the signals of the pyrazole carbons ( $sp^2$  and  $sp^3$ ). The only important effects are observed for carbon  $C_5$  and for it directly bonded methylene or methyl carbon:



$\Delta\delta (C_5)$	-1.4	-0.3	-0.9
$\Delta\delta (C_{\blacksquare})$	-1.8	---	-0.3

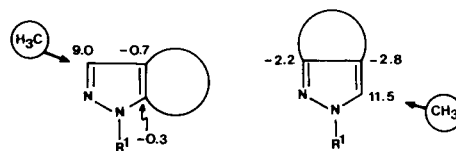


-1.9	-1.3	-1.6
-2.3(CH <sub>3</sub> )	-1.9	-2.1(CH <sub>3</sub> )

A methyl group or a six-membered methylene at position 5 is deshielded by the benzothiazolyl residue by a mechanism probably similar to that observed in  $^1\text{H}$  nmr (anisotropy of the  $N_3$ , lone pair). The methylene of the five-membered ring, more removed, is much less affected (**3d/3b** pair). Carbon  $C_5$  signal is deshielded only when the first effect is observed.

This deshielding of 5-methyl carbon by the 1-(2'-benzothiazolyl) residue produces a breakdown of the rule that in pyrazoles  $\delta \text{CH}_3\text{-4} < \delta \text{CH}_3\text{-5} < \delta \text{CH}_3\text{-3}$  (for instance, in 1,3,4,5-tetramethylpyrazole  $\delta \text{CH}_3\text{-4} = 7.9$ ,  $\delta \text{CH}_3\text{-5} = 9.2$  and  $\delta \text{CH}_3\text{-3} = 11.5$  [12]). This rule is followed in the case of 1-(2',4'-dinitrophenyl) derivatives,  $\delta \text{CH}_3\text{-5} < \delta \text{CH}_3\text{-3}$ , even for the methylene carbons:  $\delta \text{CH}_2\text{-4} < \delta \text{CH}_2\text{-5} < \delta \text{CH}_2\text{-3}$ . On the contrary, in the benzothiazolyl derivatives of Table III,  $\delta \text{CH}_3\text{-3} < \delta \text{CH}_3\text{-5}$  and  $\delta \text{CH}_2\text{-4} < \delta \text{CH}_2\text{-3} < \delta \text{CH}_2\text{-5}$ .

ii) The methyl substituent effects are similar to those observed for other pyrazoles [12] but larger on  $C_{ipso}$ . The averaged values for 3-methyl and 5-methyl are:



The main interest of these effects is that they provide a complementary proof of the consistency of Table III assignments.

iii) It is known that the chemical shifts of *ortho* carbons in *N*-arylazoles can be used as a measure of interannular conjugation [13]. In the case of 1-(2',4'-dinitrophenyl) derivatives, it is better to use  $C_2$ , than  $C_6$ , since  $C_2$  is far from the effects of the substituent at position 5 on the pyrazole ring. Taking the chemical shift of  $C_2$  as a measure of the dihedral angle between the pyrazole ring and the dinitrophenyl substituent, the conclusion that the angle increases in the following order is obtained: 5-unsubstituted ( $\delta = 141.9$ ) < five-membered ring ( $\delta = 142.5$ ) < six-membered ring ( $\delta = 144.4$ ) < 5-methyl group ( $\delta = 145.3$ ), order which correspond to the steric effects we have discussed in the reactivity part (Table II).

## EXPERIMENTAL

Melting points were recorded in open capillaries and are uncorrected. The  $^1\text{H}$  nmr spectra were recorded at 293 K on a Bruker AM-200 spectrometer operating at 200 MHz or a Varian XL-300 instrument operating at 300 MHz, in both cases TMS was used as internal standard. The  $^{13}\text{C}$  nmr spectra were recorded on the Bruker instrument operating at 50 MHz. Mass spectra were recorded on a Varian MAT-212 mass spectrometer.

### 2'-(Dihydro-3-methyl-1(*H*)-cyclopentapyrazolyl)benzothiazole (**3b**).

#### Method A.

A mixture of 2-hydrazinobenzothiazole [16] (825 mg, 5 mmoles) and 2-acetylcyclopentanone (630 mg, 5 mmoles) in ethanol (20 ml) containing 0.3 ml of hydrochloric acid was refluxed for 2 hours. On cooling a solid separated out, which was filtered and crystallized from ethanol, mp 153-154°, yield 900 mg (70%); ms:  $m/z$  255 (100%) ( $M^+$ );  $^1\text{H}$  nmr (deuteriochloroform):  $\delta$  ppm 2.25 (s, 3H,  $C_3\text{-CH}_3$ ), 2.57-2.68 (m, 4H,  $C_a\text{-CH}_2$  and  $C_b\text{-CH}_2$ ), 3.19 (m, 2H,  $C_c\text{-CH}_2$ ), 7.27 (t, 1H,  $C_6\text{-H}$ ), 7.41 (t, 1H,  $C_5\text{-H}$ ), 7.69 (d, 1H,  $C_7\text{-H}$ ), 7.81 (d, 1H,  $C_4\text{-H}$ ) ( $J_{45} = 8.3$ ,  $J_{46} = 1.1$ ,  $J_{47} = 0.5$ ,  $J_{56} = 1.4$  and  $J_{67} = 7.7$  Hz).

Anal. Calcd. for  $C_{14}H_{13}N_3S$ : C, 65.88; H, 5.10; N, 16.47. Found: C, 65.81; H, 5.07; N, 16.13.

In a similar manner **3b'** (the 6'-methyl derivative) was prepared by refluxing 2-hydrazino-6-methylbenzothiazole [17] (895 mg, 5 mmoles) and 2-acetylcyclopentanone (630 mg, 5 mmoles) in ethanol (30 ml) containing 0.3 ml of hydrochloric acid, mp 158-159° (ethanol), yield 1.1 g (82%); ms:  $m/z$  269 (100%) ( $M^+$ );  $^1\text{H}$  nmr (deuteriochloroform):  $\delta$  ppm 2.25 (s, 3H,  $C_3\text{-CH}_3$ ), 2.43 (s, 3H,  $C_6\text{-CH}_3$ ), 2.50-2.75 (m, 4H,  $C_a\text{-CH}_2$  and  $C_b\text{-CH}_2$ ), 3.00-3.30 (m, 2H,  $C_c\text{-CH}_2$ ), 7.18 (dd, 1H,  $C_5\text{-H}$ ), 7.55 (d, 1H,  $C_7\text{-H}$ ), 7.74 (d, 1H,  $C_4\text{-H}$ ) ( $J_{45} = 8.2$  and  $J_{57} = 1.8$  Hz).

*Anal.* Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_3\text{S}$ : C, 66.91; H, 5.88; N, 15.61. Found: C, 66.80; H, 5.85; N, 15.56.

#### Method B.

To a solution of **3a** (0.5 g, 0.004 mole) in anhydrous acetone (25 ml) and sodium hydroxide (0.15 g, 0.004 mole), 2-chlorobenzothiazole (0.7 g, 0.004 mole) was added. The reaction mixture was refluxed for 4 hours. The solid was filtered off and the organic phase was evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue, which was the mixture of the two isomers **3b** and **3c**, was chromatographed on silica gel (70-230 mesh) column using chloroform-hexane (10:1) as eluent, to give 2'-(dihydro-3-methyl-2H-cyclopentapyrazolyl)benzothiazole (**3c**), mp 148-149° (methanol), yield 200 mg (20%);  $^1\text{H}$  nmr (deuteriochloroform):  $\delta$  ppm 2.33 (m, 2H,  $\text{C}_b\text{-CH}_2$ ), 2.54 (m, 2H,  $\text{C}_c\text{-CH}_2$ ), 2.65 (s, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 2.68 (m, 2H,  $\text{C}_e\text{-CH}_2$ ), 7.20 (d, 1H,  $\text{C}_6\text{-H}$ ), 7.33 (t, 1H,  $\text{C}_5\text{-H}$ ), 7.70 (d, 1H,  $\text{C}_7\text{-H}$ ), 7.75 (d, 1H,  $\text{C}_4\text{-H}$ ) ( $J_{45} = 7.9$ ,  $J_{46} = 1.4$ ,  $J_{47} = 0.6$ ,  $J_{56} = 7.3$ ,  $J_{57} = 1.3$  and  $J_{67} = 7.3$  Hz).

*Anal.* Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}_3\text{S}$ : C, 65.88; H, 5.10; N, 16.47. Found: C, 66.10; H, 5.29; N, 16.70.

From the second column fraction, it was possible to isolate **3b** after evaporation *in vacuo* of the organic solvent, mp 162-163° (methanol), yield 400 mg (38%).

2'-(Tetrahydro-3-methyl-1H-indazol-1-yl)benzothiazole (**4b**) and 2'-(Tetrahydro-3-methyl-2H-indazol-2-yl)benzothiazole (**4c**).

#### Method A.

A mixture of 2-hydrazinobenzothiazole [16] (1.65 g, 0.01 mole) and 2-acetylcyclohexanone (1.40 g, 0.01 mole) in ethanol (50 ml) containing 0.5 ml of hydrochloric acid was refluxed for 3 hours. The reaction mixture was concentrated and left at room temperature for 4-5 hours. The crude solid which separated out was filtered, washed with little cold ethanol and dried. The crude solid (yield 89%) indicated the formation of two isomeric products. The column chromatographic separation using hexane:ethylacetate (100:2.5) as eluent afforded **4c**, mp 159° (hexane), yield 1.45 g (54%); ms:  $m/z$  269 (100%) ( $\text{M}^+$ );  $^1\text{H}$  nmr (deuteriochloroform):  $\delta$  ppm 1.80 (m, 4H,  $\text{C}_b\text{-CH}_2$  and  $\text{C}_c\text{-CH}_2$ ), 2.48 (t, 2H,  $\text{C}_a\text{-CH}_2$ ), 2.68 (s, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 2.73 (t, 2H,  $\text{C}_d\text{-CH}_2$ ), 7.28 (t, 1H,  $\text{C}_6\text{-H}$ ), 7.40 (t, 1H,  $\text{C}_5\text{-H}$ ), 7.79 (d, 1H,  $\text{C}_7\text{-H}$ ), 7.83 (d, 1H,  $\text{C}_4\text{-H}$ ) ( $J_{45} = 9.2$ ,  $J_{46} = 1.4$ ,  $J_{47} = 0.6$ ,  $J_{56} = 7.6$ ,  $J_{57} = 1.4$  and  $J_{67} = 8.8$  Hz).

*Anal.* Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_3\text{S}$ : C, 66.91; H, 5.58; N, 15.61. Found: C, 66.70; H, 5.79; N, 15.52.

The minor isomer **4b** could not be separated even after repeated column chromatography.

In a similar manner **4c'** was synthesized by refluxing 2-hydrazino-6-methylbenzothiazole [17] (895 mg, 5 mmoles) and 2-acetylcyclohexanone (700 mg, 5 mmoles) in ethanol (30 ml) containing 0.3 ml of hydrochloric acid. The crude solid indicated the formation of two isomeric products (90:10), which after column chromatographic separation afforded **4c'**, mp 148° (methanol), yield 680 mg (48%); ms:  $m/z$  283 (100%) ( $\text{M}^+$ );  $^1\text{H}$  nmr (deuteriochloroform):  $\delta$  ppm 1.60-1.95 (m, 4H,  $\text{C}_b\text{-CH}_2$  and  $\text{C}_c\text{-CH}_2$ ), 2.30-2.56 (m, 5H,  $\text{C}_a\text{-CH}_2$  and  $\text{C}_6\text{-CH}_3$ ), 2.56-2.85 (m, 5H,  $\text{C}_4\text{-CH}_2$  and  $\text{C}_3\text{-CH}_3$ ), 7.20 (dd, 1H,  $\text{C}_5\text{-H}$ ), 7.56 (d, 1H,  $\text{C}_7\text{-H}$ ), 7.74 (d, 1H,  $\text{C}_4\text{-H}$ ) ( $J_{45} = 8.2$  and  $J_{57} = 1.8$  Hz).

*Anal.* Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_3\text{S}$ : C, 67.84; H, 6.00; N, 14.84. Found: C, 67.69; H, 5.81; N, 14.71.

#### Method B.

To a solution of **4a** (1.8 g, 0.013 mole) in anhydrous acetone (40 ml) and sodium hydroxide (0.5 g, 0.013 mole), 2-chlorobenzothiazole (2.3 g, 0.013 mole) was added. The reaction mixture was refluxed for 4 hours. After cooling to room temperature, the solid was filtered off, and the organic phase was evaporated *in vacuo*. The residue which was a mixture of the two possible isomers, was chromatographed on silica gel (70-230 mesh) column eluting with chloroform:hexane (10:1). From the first fraction it was possible to isolate **4c**, mp 159° (hexane), yield 1.3 g (36%).

The minor isomer **4b**, could not be separated even after repeated column chromatography, although it was possible to obtain a very enriched mixture in **4b**, that was able to perform the nmr experiments;  $^1\text{H}$  nmr (deuteriochloroform):  $\delta$  ppm 2.16 (s, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 3.20 (t, 2H,  $\text{C}_d\text{-CH}_2$ ).

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