Thienopyrrolizines: New Condensed Triheterocyclic Systems Jean-Charles Lancelot, Bertrand Letois, Sylvain Rault and Max Robba*

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Cyclization of 3-(1-pyrrolyl)thiophene-2-carboxamide derivatives of methyl 3-(1-pyrrolyl)-2-thiophenecarboxylate afforded imminium salts and resulted in the formation of thieno[2,3-b]pyrrolizine derivatives.

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In previous work we reported the synthesis of new aminopyrroloindoles and aminomethylenedioxypyrroloindoles [1,2]. We wish to describe now the first application of this method to the preparation of new 8*H*-thieno[2,3-*b*]pyrrolizines and methyl iodides.

Scheme 1

$$\begin{array}{c} & \text{CH}_{i} \\ \text{OCH}_{i} \\ \text{NH}_{i} \\ \text{OCH}_{i} \\ \text{OCH}_{i}$$

Scheme 2

The presence of the pyrrolizine system makes thieno-[2,3-b]pyrrolizine derivatives interesting as potential antineoplasic agents. In fact, several natural substances belonging to the pyrrolizine class [3] as well as other related polycyclic compounds of pharmaceutical value, mitomycin C 1 and acodazole 2, were found display useful anticancer activities.

The reaction of methyl 3-amino-4-substituted-2-thiophenecarboxylates 3 [4,5] with 2,5-dimethoxytetrahydrofuran in glacial acetic acid according to the Clauson-Kaas method [6] gave methyl 3-(1-pyrrolyl)-2-thiophenecarboxylates 4. Compounds 4 in boiling pyrrolidine afford the pyrrolidinecarboxamides 5. Cyclization of the latter compounds in boiling phosphorus oxychloride affords the imminium salts 6 which were hydrolyzed to the ketones 7 by the action of the aqueous sodium hydroxide. The reduction of imminium salts 6 with a large excess of sodium borohydride gives the 8-pyrrolidino-8H-thieno[2,3-b]pyrrolizines 8 which were converted into the quaternary salts 9 by treatment in acetone with methyl iodide in excess. The studies concerning biological investigation are in progress.

EXPERIMENTAL

Melting points were determined on Kofler type WME apparatus and are uncorrected. The ir spectra were recorded on Philips P.U. spectrometer. The nmr spectra were recorded on a Varian E.M. 390 spectrometer at 90 MHz in hexadeuteriodimethyl sulfoxide with tetramethylsilane as an internal reference. Chemical shifts are expressed as δ (ppm) relative to TMS.

Methyl 3-(1-Pyrrolyl)-4-phenyl-2-thiophenecarboxylate (4a).

A solution of **3a** (20 g, 0.0858 mole) and 2,5-dimethoxytetrahydrofuran (11.32 g, 0.0858 mole) in glacial acetic acid (200 ml) was heated at reflux for 30 minutes, then the reaction mixture was cooled and evaporated *in vacuo*. The residue was diluted with water (200 ml) and extracted with ether (150 ml). The organic layer was washed with sodium bicarbonate, dried (sodium sulfate) and evaporated to yield a solid **4a** which was crystallized from ether-hexane (60/40) (18.5 g, 76%), mp 138°; ir (potassium bromide): ν CO 1720 cm⁻¹; ¹H nmr: δ 8.00 (s, 1H, H₅), 7.15-6.83 (2 m,

5H, C_6H_4), 6.56 (t, 2H, $H_{2',5'}$), 6.03 (t, 2H, $H_{3',4'}$), 3.63 ppm (s, 3H, CH_3).

Anal. Calcd. for C₁₆H₁₃NO₂S: C, 67.82; H, 4.62; N, 9.56; S, 11.31. Found: C, 67.80; H, 4.63; N, 9.60; S, 11.50.

Methyl 3-(1-Pyrrolyl)-4-para-chlorophenyl-2-thiophenecarboxylate (4b).

This compound was prepared as described for 4a, yield 76%, yellow solid (ether-hexane), mp 178°; ir (potassium bromide): ν CO 1720 cm⁻¹; ¹H nmr: δ 8.06 (s, 1H, H_s), 7.25-6.85 (2 d, 4H, C₆H₄), 6.60 (t, 2H, H_{2',5}), 6.06 (t, 2H, H_{3',4'}), 3.68 ppm (s, 3H, CH₃). Anal. Calcd. for C₁₆H₁₂ClNO₂S: C, 60.46; H, 3.80; N, 4.40; S, 10.09. Found: C, 60.50; H, 3.76; N, 4.36; S, 10.10.

Methyl 3-(1-Pyrrolyl)-4-para-bromophenyl-2-thiophenecarboxylate (4c).

This compound was prepared as described for **4a**, yield 72%, brown solid (ether-hexane), mp 173°; ir (potassium bromide): ν CO 1720 cm⁻¹; ¹H nmr: δ 8.06 (s, 1H, H_s), 7.36-6.80 (2 d, 4H, C₆H₄), 6.55 (t, 2H, H_{2',5}), 6.00 (t, 2H, H_{3',4'}), 3.63 ppm (s, 3H, CH₃). Anal. Calcd. for C₁₆H₁₂BrNO₂S: C, 53.04; H, 3.34; N, 3.86; S, 8.85. Found: C, 53.12; H, 3.36; N, 3.90; S, 8.79.

Methyl 3-(1-Pyrrolyl)-4-para-fluorophenyl-2-thiophenecarboxylate (4d).

This compound was prepared as described for 4a, yield 70%, yellow solid (ether-hexane), mp 140°; ir (potassium bromide): ν CO 1720 cm⁻¹; ¹H nmr: δ 8.00 (s, 1H, H₃), 6.93 (m, 4H, C₆H₄), 6.60 (t, 2H, H_{2'.5}), 6.06 (t, 2H, H_{3'.4}), 3.66 ppm (s, 3H, CH₃).

Anal. Calcd. for C₁₆H₁₂FNO₂S: C, 63.77; H, 4.01; N, 4.64; S, 10.64. Found: C, 63.82; H, 4.00; N, 4.72; S, 10.72.

Methyl 3-(1-Pyrrolyl)-4-para-methoxyphenyl-2-thiophenecarboxylate (4e).

This compound was prepared as described for 4a, yield 70%, pale yellow solid (ether-hexane), mp 116°; ir (potassium bromide): ν CO 1690 cm⁻¹; ¹H nmr: δ 7.90 (s, 1H, H₅), 6.80 (m, 4H, C₆H₄), 6.60 (t, 2H, H_{2',5'}), 6.06 (t, 2H, H_{3',4'}), 3.70 ppm (s, 6H, CO₂CH₃, OCH₃).

Anal. Calcd. for C₁₇H₁₅NO₃S: C, 65.15; H, 4.82; N, 4.46; S, 10.23. Found: C, 65.22; H, 4.76; N, 4.50; S, 10.31.

4-Phenyl-3-(1-pyrrolyl)-2-thiophene-N-pyrrolidinocarboxamide (5a).

A stirred solution of **4a** 4 g (10 g, 0.035 mole) in pyrrolidine (40 ml) was refluxed for 8 hours. The mixture was stirred for 1 hour at room temperature, then was diluted with water (400 ml) and extracted with ether (2 x 150 ml). The organic extracts were collected, dried (sodium sulfate) and evaporated to afford 9.0 g (79%) of **5a**, mp 122° (ether); ir (potassium bromide): ν CO 1615 cm⁻¹; ¹H nmr: δ 7.80 (s, 1H, H_s), 7.26-7.03 (2 m, 5H, C₆H_s), 6.56 (t, 2H, H_{2',5'}), 6.13 (t, 2H, H_{3',4'}), 3.30-1.66 ppm (2 m, 8H, pyrrolidine). Anal. Calcd. for C₁₀H₁₈N₂OS: C, 70.77; H, 5.62; N, 8.69; S, 9.94. Found: C, 70.92; H, 5.63; N, 8.70; S, 10.00.

4-para-Chlorophenyl-3-(1-pyrrolyl)-2-thiophene-N-pyrrolidinocarboxamide (5b).

This compound was prepared as described for **5a**, yield 60%, yellow solid (ether), mp 200°; ir (potassium bromide): ν CO 1620 cm⁻¹; ¹H nmr: δ 7.80 (s, 1H, H₅), 7.23-6.86 (2 d, 4H, C₆H₄), 6.46 (t, 2H, H_{2'.5}), 6.06 (t, 2H, H_{3'.4}), 3.26-1.56 ppm (2 m, 8H, pyrrolidine).

Anal. Caled. for C₁₉H₁₇ClN₂OS: C, 63.94; H, 4.80; N, 7.85; S, 8.98. Found: C, 64.00; H, 4.82; N, 7.90; S, 9.00.

4-para-Bromophenyl-3-(1-pyrrolyl)-2-thiophene-N-pyrrolidinocar-boxamide (5c).

This compound was prepared as described for 5a, yield 65%, yellow solid (ether), mp 209°; ir (potassium bromide): ν CO 1610 cm⁻¹; ¹H nmr: δ 7.80 (s, 1H, H₅), 7.40-6.83 (2 d, 4H, C₆H₄), 6.53 (t, 2H, H_{2',5}), 6.10 (t, 2H, H_{3',4'}), 3.30-1.66 ppm (2 m, 8H, pyrrolidine). Anal. Calcd. for C₁₉H₁₇BrN₂OS: C, 56.86; H, 4.27; N, 6.98; S, 7.98. Found: C, 56.90; H, 4.30; N, 7.00; S, 7.92.

4-para-Fluorophenyl-3-(1-pyrrolyl)-2-thiophene-N-pyrrolidinocarboxamide (5d).

This compound was prepared as described for **5a**, yield 72%, yellow solid (ether), mp 122°; ir (potassium bromide): ν CO 1620 cm⁻¹; ¹H nmr: δ 7.80 (s, 1H, H₅), 7.03 (m, 4H, C₆H₄), 6.40 (t, 2H, H_{2',5'}), 6.10 (t, 2H, H_{3',4'}), 3.76-1.61 ppm (2 m, 8H, pyrrolidine).

Anal Caled. for C₁₉H₁₇FN₂OS: C, 67.03; H, 5.03; N, 8.23; S, 9.41. Found: C, 67.00; H, 5.09; N, 8.30; S, 9.52.

4-para-Methoxyphenyl-3-(1-pyrrolyl)-2-thiophene-N-pyrrolidinocarboxamide (5e).

This compound was prepared as described for **5a**, yield 59%, yellow solid (ether), mp 165°; ir (potassium bromide): ν CO 1630 cm⁻¹; ¹H nmr: δ 7.63 (s, 1H, H₅), 6.83 (m, 4H, C₆H₅), 6.50 (t, 2H, H_{2',5'}), 6.06 (t, 2H, H_{3',4'}), 3.30-1.66 ppm (2 m, 8H, pyrrolidine).

Anal. Calcd. for $C_{20}H_{20}N_2O_2S$: C, 68.15; H, 5.72; N, 7.95; S, 9.09. Found: C, 68.22; H, 5.80; N, 7.96; S, 9.10.

3-Phenyl-8H-thieno[2,3-b]pyrrolizin-8-one (7a).

A stirred solution of **5a** (4 g, 0.0124 mole) in phosphorus oxychloride (30 ml) was refluxed for 1 hour. After cooling the mixture was diluted with water (200 ml), made basic with 50% sodium hydroxide solution and extracted with ethyl acetate (2 x 100 ml). The organic layer, washed with brine (2 x 100 ml), was dried (sodium sulfate) and evaporated to give **7a** as a solid, which was crystallized from diethyl ether (2.20 g, 71%), mp 78°; ir (potassium bromide): ν CO 1680 cm⁻¹; ¹H nmr: δ 8.03 (s, 1H, H₂), 7.50 (m, 5H, C₆H₅), 7.60 (dd, 1H, H₇), 6.66 (dd, 1H, H₅), 6.03 ppm (dd, 1H, H₄).

Anal. Calcd. for C₁₅H₅NOS: C, 71.69; H, 3.61; N, 5.57; S, 12.75. Found: C, 71.72; H, 3.70; N, 5.49; S, 12.80.

1-para-Chlorophenyl-8H-thieno[2,3-b]pyrrolizin-8-one (7b).

This compound was prepared as described for 7a, yield 60%, (acetonitrile), mp 186°; ir (potassium bromide): ν CO 1675 cm⁻¹; ¹H nmr: δ 8.13 (s, 1H, H₂), 7.60 (m, 4H, C₆H₄), 6.86 (dd, 1H, H₇), 6.73 (dd, 1H, H₅), 6.10 ppm (dd, 1H, H₆).

Anal. Calcd. for $C_{19}H_{\theta}CINOS$: C, 63.04; H, 2.82; N, 4.90; S, 11.22. Found: C, 63.07; H, 2.90; N, 4.95; S, 11.20.

3-para-Bromophenyl-8H-thieno[2,3-b]pyrrolizin-8-one (7c).

This compound was prepared as described for 7a, yield 71%, (acetonitrile), mp 164°; ir (potassium bromide): ν CO 1670 cm⁻¹; ¹H nmr: δ 8.06 (s, 1H, H₂), 7.73, 7.53 (2 d, 4H, C₆H₄), 6.86 (dd, 1H, H₇), 6.70 (dd, 1H, H₈), 6.03 ppm (dd, 1H, H₆).

Anal. Calcd. for $C_{15}H_aBrNOS$: C, 54.56; H, 2.44; N, 4.24; S, 9.71. Found: C, 54.60; H, 2.45; N, 4.30; S, 9.82.

3-para-Fluorophenyl-8H-thieno[2,3-b]pyrrolizin-8-one (7d).

This compound was prepared as described for 7a, yield 8%,

(acetonitrile), mp 145°; ir (potassium bromide): ν CO 1680 cm⁻¹; ¹H nmr: δ 8.01 (s, 1H, H₂), 7.60-7.30 (m, 4H, C₆H₄), 6.80 (dd, 1H, H₇), 6.71 (dd, 1H, H₅), 6.08 ppm (dd, 1H, H₆).

Anal. Calcd. for C₁₅H₈FNOS: C, 66.90; H, 2.99; N, 5.20; S, 11.90. Found: C, 67.00; H, 3.02; N, 5.24; S, 11.96.

3-para-Methoxyphenyl-8H-thieno[2,3-b]pyrrolizin-8-one (7e).

This compound was prepared as described for **7a**, yield 72%, (acetonitrile), mp 182°; ir (potassium bromide): ν CO 1670 cm⁻¹; ¹H nmr: δ 7.93 (s, 1H, H₂), 7.46-7.00 (2 d, 4H, C₆H₄), 7.11 (dd, 1H, H₇), 6.66 (dd, 1H, H₈), 6.03 (dd, 1H, H₆), 3.76 ppm (s, 3H, CH₃). Anal. Calcd. for C₁₆H₁₁NO₂S: C, 68.30; H, 3.94; N, 4.97; S, 11.39. Found: C, 68.42; H, 3.96; N, 4.92; S, 11.41.

3-Phenyl-8-pyrrolidino-8H-thieno[2,3-b]pyrrolizine (8a).

A stirred solution of **5a** (3 g, 0.0093 mole) in phosphorus oxychloride (20 ml) was refluxed for 25 minutes. The imminium salt precipitate which formed was filtered and washed with petroleum ether. The imminium salt was dissolved in methanol (150 ml), was added to a suspension of sodium borohydride in excess and refluxed for 2 hours. The solution was evaporated to dryness, taken-up with water and extracted with ethyl acetate. After workup, 1.70 g (60%) of **8a** as a viscous colorless oil was obtained; ir (potassium bromide): ν 2940, 2780, 1590, 1250, 1030, 840 and 720 cm⁻¹; ¹H nmr: δ 7.46 (m, 6H, C₆H₅, H₂), 6.63 (dd, 1H, H₃), 6.06 (m, 2H, H₂, H₃), 5.06 (s, 1H, H₃), 2.53-1.66 ppm (2 m, 8H, pyrrolidine).

Anal. Calcd. for C₁₉H₁₈N₂S: C, 74.47; H, 5.92; N, 9.14; S, 10.46. Found: C, 74.50; H, 5.87; N, 9.15; S, 10.52.

3-para-Chlorophenyl-8-pyrrolidino-8*H*-thieno[2,3-*b*]pyrrolizine (**8b**).

This compound was prepared ad described for 8a, yield 58%, oil; ir (potassium bromide): ν 2940, 2860, 1490, 1080, 820 and 700 cm⁻¹; ¹H nmr: δ 7.55 (m, 5H, C_6H_4 , H_2), 6.60 (dd, 1H, H_5), 6.03 (m, 2H, H_7 , H_6), 5.00 (s, 1H, H_8), 2.43-1.56 ppm (2 m, 8H, pyrrolidine). Anal. Calcd. for $C_{19}H_{17}ClN_2S$: C, 66.97; H, 2.93; N, 8.22; S, 9.40. Found: C, 67.00; H, 3.00; N, 8.31; S, 9.46.

3-para-Bromophenyl-8-pyrrolidino-8*H*-thieno[2,3-*b*]pyrrolizine (8c).

This compound was prepared as described for **8a**, yield 65°, (ether), mp 124°; ir (potassium bromide): ν 2980, 2840, 1510, 1130, 1020, 830 and 710 cm⁻¹; ¹H nmr: δ 7.60 (m, 5H, C₆H₄, H₂), 6.63 (dd, 1H, H₅), 6.06 (m, 2H, H₇, H₆), 5.00 (s, 1H, H₈), 2.46-1.60 ppm (2 m, 8H, pyrrolidine).

Anal. Calcd. for C₁₉H₁₇BrN₂S: C, 59.22; H, 4.44; N, 7.27; S, 8.32. Found: C, 59.33; H, 4.45; N, 7.30; S, 8.40.

3-para-Fluorophenyl-8-pyrrolidino-8H-thieno[3,2-b]pyrrolizine (8d).

This compound was prepared as described for **8a**, yield 71%, oil; ir (potassium bromide): ν 3940, 2800, 1600, 1220, 1030, 830 and 700 cm⁻¹; ¹H nmr: δ 7.56-7.30 (2 m, 5H, C₆H₄, H₂), 6.66 (dd, 1H, H₃), 6.13 (m, 2H, H₇, H₆), 5.13 (s, 1H, H₈), 2.60-1.76 (2 m, 8H, pyrrolidine).

Anal. Calcd. for C₁₉H₁₇FN₂S: C, 70.34; H, 5.28; N, 8.63; S, 9.88. Found: C, 70.36; H, 5.30; N, 8.72; S, 9.90.

3-para-Methoxyphenyl-8-pyrrolidino-8*H*-thieno[3,2-b]pyrrolizine (**8e**).

This compound was prepared as described for **8a**, yield 58%, oil; ir (potassium bromide): ν 2940, 2800, 1600, 1240, 1030, 820 and 700 cm⁻¹; ¹H nmr: δ 7.40 (m, 3H, H₃·, H₅·, H₂), 6.96 (d, 2H, H₂·, H₆·), 6.63 (dd, 1H, H₅), 6.03 (m, 2H, H₇, H₆), 5.00 (s, 1H, H₈), 3.73 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 2.46-1.60 ppm (2 m, 8H, pyrrolidine).

Anal. Calcd. for $C_{20}H_{20}N_2OS$: C, 71.39; H, 5.99; N, 8.32; S, 9.53. Found: C, 71.41; H, 6.00; N, 8.40; S, 9.62.

3-Phenyl-8-pyrrolidino-8*H*-thieno[2,3-*b*]pyrrolizine Methiodide (9a).

To a solution of compound 8a (1 g, 0.0032 mole) in acetone (15 ml) was added methyl iodide (2 ml) in excess. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 10 hours. The precipitate product was filtered and crystallized from ethanol to give 9a, yield (1.20 g, 82%), mp 152°; ir (potassium bromide): ν 1500, 1220, 1040 and 700 cm⁻¹; 'H nmr: δ 7.83 (s, 1H, H_2), 7.43 (m, 5H, C_6H_3), 6.76 (dd, 1H, H_3), 6.63 (dd, 1H, H_7), 6.16 (dd, 1H, H_8), 5.93 (s, 1H, H_8), 3.70-2.13 (2 m, 8H, pyrrolidine), 2.70 ppm (s, 3H, CH₃).

Anal. Calcd. for C₂₀H₂₁IN₂S: C, 53.57; H, 4.72; N, 6.24; S, 7.15. Found: C. 53.40; H, 4.76; N, 6.32; S, 7.20.

3-para-Chlorophenyl-8-pyrrolidino-8*H*-thieno[2,3-*b*]pyrrolizine Methiodide (**9b**).

This compound was prepared as described for 9a, yield 63%, (acetonitrile), mp 159°; ir (potassium bromide): ν 1590, 1090, 810 and 715 cm⁻¹; 'H nmr: δ 7.86 (s, 1H, H₂), 7.50 (m, 4H, C₆H₂), 6.83 (dd, 1H, H₃), 6.66 (dd, 1H, H₃), 6.20 (dd, 1H, H₆), 6.00 (s, 1H, H₈), 3.73, 2.23 (2 m, 8H, pyrrolidine), 2.76 ppm (s, 3H, CH₃).

Anal. Calcd. for $C_{20}H_{20}CIIN_2S$: C, 49.75; H, 4.17; N, 5.80; S, 6.64. Found: C, 49.82; H, 4.20; N, 5.85; S, 6.72.

3-para-Bromophenyl-8-pyrrolidino-8*H*-thieno[2,3-*b*]pyrrolizine Methiodide (9c).

This compound was prepared as described for **9a**, yield 70% (acetonitrile), mp 167°; ir (potassium bromide): ν 1470, 1380, 1010, 830 and 710 cm⁻¹; ¹H nmr: δ 7.90 (s, 1H, H₂); 7.53 (2 d, 4H, C₆H₄), 6.83 (dd, 1H, H₅), 6.63 (dd, 1H, H₇), 6.16 (dd, 1H, H₆), 6.00 (s, 1H, H₂), 3.73-2.16 (2 m, 8H, pyrrolidine), 2.76 ppm (s, 3H, CH₃). Anal. Calcd. for C₂₀H₂₀BrIN₂S: 45.55; H, 3.82; N, 5.31; S, 6.08. Found: C, 45.65; H, 3.80; N, 5.36; S, 6.12.

3-para-Fluorophenyl-8-pyrrolidino-8*H*-thieno[3,2-*b*]pyrrolizine Methiodide (**9d**).

This compound was prepared as described for **9a**, yield 72% (ethanol), mp 136°; ir (potassium bromide): ν 1510, 1220, 1040, 830 and 720 cm⁻¹; ¹H nmr: δ 7.86 (s, 1H, H₂), 7.56 (q, 2H, H₃, H₅), 7.03 (t, 2H, H₂, H₆), 6.80 (dd, 1H, H₅), 6.63 (dd, 1H, H₇), 6.20 (dd, 1H, H₆), 6.03 (s, 1H, H₈), 3.76-2.16 (2 m, 8H, pyrrolidine), 2.76 ppm (s, 3H, CH₃).

Anal. Calcd. for $C_{20}H_{20}FIN_2S$: C, 51.50; H, 4.32; N, 6.00; S, 6.87. Found: C, 51.55; H, 4.40; N, 6.10; S, 6.90.

3-para-Methoxyphenyl-8-pyrrolidino-8*H*-thieno[2,3-*b*]pyrrolizine Methiodide (**9e**).

This compound was prepared as described for 9a, yield 82%, (acetonitrile), mp 173°; ir (potassium bromide): ν cm⁻¹ 1520, 1250, 1040, 840 and 730 cm⁻¹; ¹H nmr: δ 7.76 (s, 1H, H₂), 7.43 7.00 (2 d, 4H, C₆H₄), 6.80 (dd, 1H, H₃), 6.60 (dd, 1H, H₇), 6.16 (dd, 1H, H₆), 5.93 (s, 1H, H₈), 3.66, 2.10 (2 m, 8H, pyrrolidine), 2.66 ppm (s, 3H, CH₃).

Anal. Calcd. for $C_{21}H_{23}IN_2OS$: C, 52.73; H, 4.84; N, 5.85; S, 6.70. Found: C, 52.30; H, 4.90; N, 5.85; S, 6.72.

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