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Dedicated with best wishes to Professor M. Tišler on the occasion of his 70th birthday

Reaction of hetarylacetonitriles **1** with ethyl esters of chloro- or bromo-substituted pyridinecarboxylic acids in the presence of a base affords a series of novel heterocycle-annulated [1,6]-, [2,6]-, and [2,7]naphthyridones with a bridgehead nitrogen atom.

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Introduction.

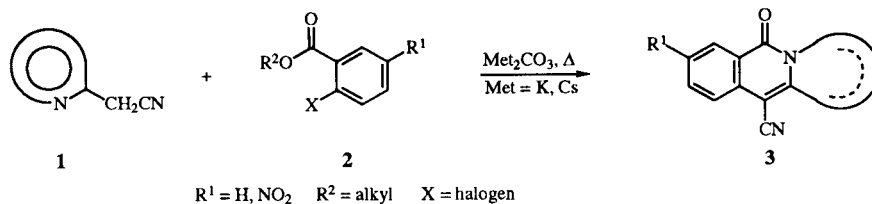
As shown recently, nucleophilic substitution reactions of hetarylacetonitriles of type **1** with 2-halobenzoates **2** in the presence of base give rise to the formation of fused isoquinolones of linear structure **3** shown in Scheme 1 [1]. In continuation of previous investigations of this reaction type, we became interested in replacement of the benzoic-acid-type building blocks by *N*-heterocyclic analogs. By starting from heteroaromatic carboxylic acid derivatives like nicotinoates or isonicotinoates, respectively, with an appro-

as a representative of a [*b*]-annulated [2,6]naphthyridone, using this methodology.

Results and Discussion.

In a first series of experiments, various hetarylacetonitriles featuring a ring nitrogen atom in the *ortho* position to the CH₂CN side chain [2-pyridylacetonitrile (**1a**), 2-quinolinylacetonitrile (**1b**), 2-benzimidazolylacetonitrile (**1c**), (1-methyl-2-benzimidazolyl)acetonitrile (**1d**), and 2-benzothiazolylacetonitrile (**1e**)] were treated with ethyl 2,6-

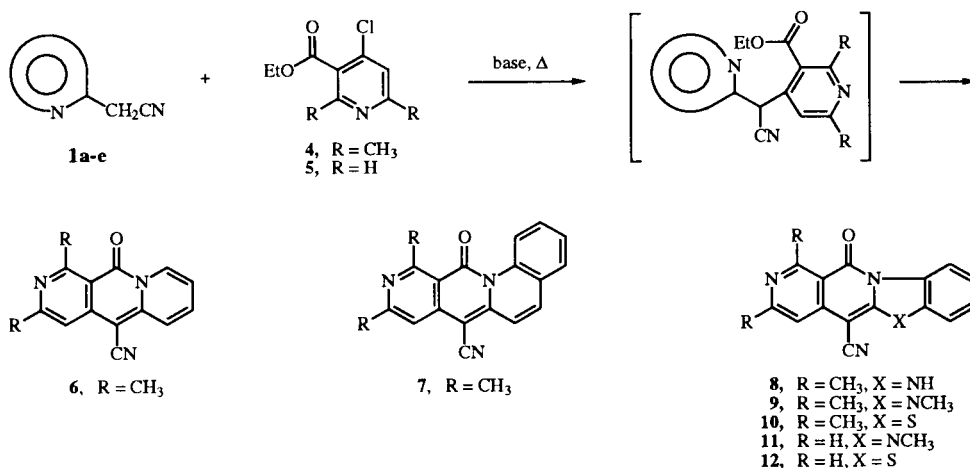
Scheme 1



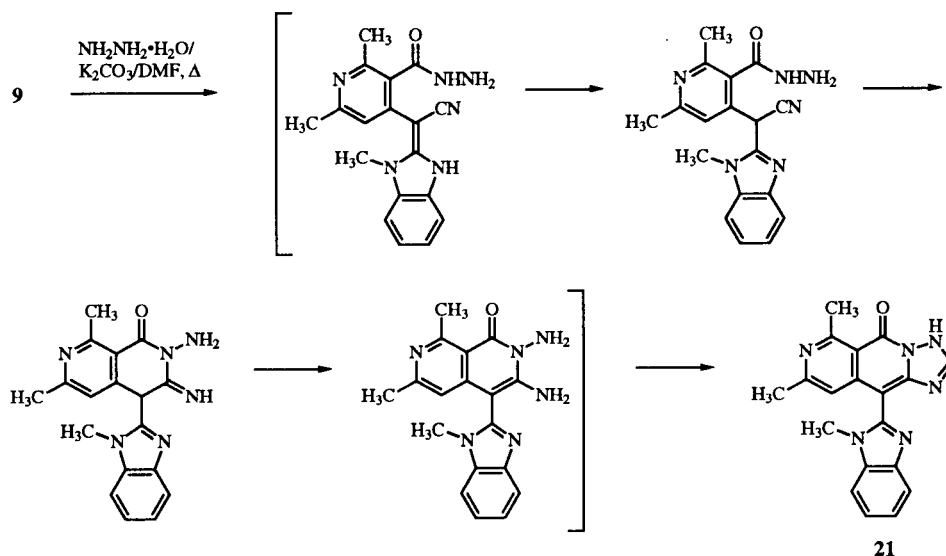
appropriate leaving group (like a halogen) in the *ortho* position to the alkoxycarbonyl function, a variety of hitherto unknown hetarenonaphthyridones should become accessible. Here we wish to report on the synthesis of a series of [*b*]-fused [2,7]naphthyridones, [*g*]-fused [1,6]naphthyridones, as well

dimethyl-4-chloronicotinoate (**4**) in dimethylformamide solution in the presence of a base. After 1.5 to 3 hours of refluxing, followed by aqueous work-up, the target naphthyridones **6-10** were isolated as almost insoluble solids in good to high yields. In most cases, employment of

Scheme 2



Scheme 6



hetarylacetonitriles under basic conditions offers a simple and versatile method for the synthesis of condensed naphthyridones with a bridgehead nitrogen atom. The struc-

tures of all new compounds are supported by their ir and nmr spectra as well as by their microanalyses; details are given in the Experimental and in Tables 1 and 2.

Table 1
Physical and Analytical Data for Compounds 6-12, 14-17, and 19

Compound No.	Method [a]	Reaction time (h)	Yield (%)	Mp, °C Recrystallization solvent	Molecular Formula	Analysis, %		
						C	H	N
6	A	1.5	82	247	C ₁₅ H ₁₁ N ₃ O	72.28	4.45	16.86
				DMF		72.04	4.37	16.78
7	A	3	64	243	C ₁₉ H ₁₃ N ₃ O x 0.1 H ₂ O	75.78	4.42	13.95
				DMF		75.68	4.26	14.11
8	A	2	85	>330	C ₁₇ H ₁₂ N ₄ O	70.82	4.20	19.43
	B	2	47	DMF		70.64	4.02	19.29
9	A	1.5	87	321	C ₁₈ H ₁₄ N ₄ O	71.51	4.67	18.53
	B	3	47	DMF		71.45	4.61	18.74
	C	3	54					
10	A	2	51	287	C ₁₇ H ₁₁ N ₃ OS	66.87	3.63	13.76
	B	3	58	DMF		66.60	3.53	13.58
11	A	2	78	>330	C ₁₆ H ₁₀ N ₄ O	70.07	3.67	20.43
	B	2	63	DMF		69.86	3.54	20.35
12	B	2	86	276	C ₁₅ H ₇ N ₃ OS	64.97	2.55	15.15
				1-propanol		64.76	2.63	15.13
14	B	2	44	283 [b]	C ₁₃ H ₇ N ₃ O	70.58	3.19	18.99
				1,4-dioxane		70.31	3.41	18.89
15	B	2	37	244	C ₁₇ H ₉ N ₃ O	75.27	3.34	15.49
				2-propanol		74.99	3.06	15.45
16	A	2	88	292-293	C ₁₆ H ₁₀ N ₄ O x 0.1 H ₂ O	69.61	3.72	20.29
	B	3	75	DMF		69.50	3.71	20.32
	C	2	58					
17	B	2	64	275	C ₁₅ H ₇ N ₃ OS x 0.2 H ₂ O	64.14	2.66	14.96
				1,4-dioxane		64.04	2.62	14.89
19	B	4	52	296	C ₁₆ H ₁₀ N ₄ O	70.07	3.67	20.43
	D	3	55	DMF		69.89	3.56	20.24

[a] See Experimental. [b] Lit[3] mp 275° (from acetic acid).

Table 2
IR and ¹H NMR Spectral Data for Compounds **6-12**, **14-17**, and **19**

Compound No.	IR (cm ⁻¹)	¹ H NMR (δ, ppm)
6	3138, 3038, 2212, 1686, 1636, 1600, 1566, 1510, 1146, 770	8.98 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H, 9-H), 7.90-7.70 (m, 2H, 6-H, 7-H), 7.29 (s, 1H, 4-H), 7.22-7.14 (m, 1H, 8-H), 2.96 (s, 3H, 1-CH ₃), 2.56 (s, 3H, 3-CH ₃)
7	3076, 2992, 2214, 1696, 1590, 1574, 1532, 1024, 812, 754	8.88 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H, 1-H), 7.93 (d, J = 9.3 Hz, 1H, 5-H), 7.83 (dd, J = 7.5 Hz and 1.5 Hz, 1H, 4-H), 7.68-7.61 (m, 1H, 2-H), 7.57-7.51 (m, 1H, 3-H), 7.48 (d, J = 9.3 Hz, 1H, 6-H), 7.27 (s, 1H, 8-H), 2.94 (s, 3H, 11-CH ₃), 2.56 (s, 3H, 9-CH ₃)
8	3260, 3194, 3078, 2984, 2212, 1682, 1660, 1610, 1560, 1280, 1250, 782, 764, 750	13.00-12.70 (broad s, 1H, NH), 8.39 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H, 10-H), 7.61 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H, 7-H), 7.41 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H, 8-H), 7.25 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H, 9-H), 7.05 (s, 1H, 4-H), 2.92 (s, 3H, 1-CH ₃), 2.41 (s, 3H, 3-CH ₃)
9	3120, 3030, 2998, 2928, 2202, 1684, 1580, 1530, 1160, 1120, 1026, 848, 756	8.65 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H, 10-H), 7.76 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H, 7-H), 7.59 (t, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H, 8-H), 7.43 (t, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H, 9-H), 7.29 (s, 1H, 4-H), 4.10 (s, 3H, 6-CH ₃), 2.99 (s, 3H, 1-CH ₃), 2.54 (s, 3H, 3-CH ₃)
10	3124, 2994, 2924, 2214, 1696, 1586, 1572, 1520, 1454, 1276, 1256, 852, 766	8.96 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H, 10-H), 8.10 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H, 7-H), 7.65-7.54 (m, 2H, 8-H, 9-H), 7.27 (s, 1H, 4-H), 2.99 (s, 3H, 1-CH ₃), 2.57 (s, 3H, 3-CH ₃)
11	3128, 3034, 2196, 1694, 1594, 1538, 1476, 1032, 782, 748	9.40 (s, 1H, 1-H), 8.72 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H, 3-H), 8.65 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H, 10-H), 7.81 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H, 7-H), 7.63 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H, 8-H), 7.57 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H, 4-H), 7.48 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H, 9-H), 4.14 (s, 3H, 6-CH ₃)
12	3120, 3022, 2214, 1696, 1594, 1520, 1454, 1238, 1022, 750	9.50 (s, 1H, 1-H), 9.00 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H, 10-H), 8.87 (d, J = 5.7 Hz, 1H, 3-H), 8.14 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H, 7-H), 7.70-7.57 (m, 3H, 4-H, 8-H, 9-H)
14	3126, 3100, 2216, 1690, 1634, 1588, 1526, 1426, 778	9.10 (dd, J = 4.2 Hz and 1.8 Hz, 1H, 2-H), 8.96 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H, 7-H), 8.71 (dd, J = 8.4 Hz and 1.8 Hz, 1H, 4-H), 7.88 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H, 10-H), 7.85-7.75 (m, 1H, 9-H), 7.58 (dd, J = 8.4 Hz and 4.2 Hz, 1H, 3-H), 7.23-7.15 (m, 1H, 8-H)
15	3160, 3080, 2222, 1682, 1586, 1544, 1466, 1442, 1366, 812, 780, 746	9.28 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H, 1-H), 9.09 (dd, J = 4.5 Hz and 1.8 Hz, 1H, 9-H), 8.72 (dd, J = 8.1 Hz and 1.8 Hz, 1H, 11-H), 7.95 (d, J = 9.6 Hz, 1H, 5-H), 7.88 (dd, J = 7.5 Hz and 1.5 Hz, 1H, 4-H), 7.73-7.63 (m, 3H, 2-H, 6-H, 10-H), 7.62-7.55 (m, 1H, 3-H)
16	3068, 2202, 1676, 1598, 1554, 1462, 1430, 1306, 776, 760	8.94 (dd, J = 4.5 Hz and 1.8 Hz, 1H, 2-H), 8.62-8.56 (m, 2H, 4-H, 7-H), 7.74 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H, 10-H), 7.58 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H, 9-H), 7.45-7.38 (m, 2H, 3-H, 8-H), 4.11 (s, 3H, 11-CH ₃)
17	3068, 2996, 2220, 1682, 1590, 1544, 1458, 1298, 786, 770	9.03 (dd, J = 4.5 Hz and 1.8 Hz, 1H, 2-H), 8.95 (dd, J = 7.5 Hz and 1.8 Hz, 1H, 7-H), 8.68 (dd, J = 8.1 Hz and 1.8 Hz, 1H, 4-H), 8.10 (dd, J = 6.9 Hz and 2.1 Hz, 1H, 10-H), 7.65-7.54 (m, 3H, 3-H, 8-H, 9-H)
19	3054, 2200, 1686, 1618, 1602, 1546, 1476, 1422, 782, 756	9.12 (s, 1H, 1-H), 8.64 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H, 7-H), 8.58 (d, J = 5.4 Hz, 1H, 3-H), 8.13 (d, J = 5.4 Hz, 1H, 4-H), 7.77 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H, 10-H), 7.62 (t, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H, 9-H), 7.45 (t, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H, 8-H), 4.12 (s, 3H, 11-CH ₃)

EXPERIMENTAL

Melting points were determined in a capillary tube and are uncorrected. The IR spectra were recorded for potassium bromide pellets on a Perkin-Elmer 1605 FT-IR spectrophotometer. The ¹H NMR spectra were obtained on a Varian Unityplus 300 (300 MHz) spectrometer, using deuteriodimethyl sulfoxide as solvent. For TLC, Merck aluminium sheets pre-coated with Kieselgel 60 F₂₅₄ were used (eluent: chloroform/methanol, 9:1). Elemental analyses were performed at the Microanalytical Laboratory, Institute of Physical Chemistry, University of Vienna.

Potassium carbonate and cesium carbonate were freshly dried over an open flame and ground before use. The following heteroarylacetonitriles were prepared according to literature procedures: 2-quinolinylacetonitrile (**1b**) [8], 2-benzimidazolylacetonitrile (**1c**) [9], (1-methyl-2-benzimidazolyl)acetonitrile (**1d**) [10], and 2-benzothiazolylacetonitrile (**1e**) [11].

The required pyridinecarboxylic acid esters were obtained following known procedures: ethyl 2,6-dimethyl-4-chloronicotinoate (**4**) [12], ethyl 4-chloronicotinoate (**5**) [13], ethyl 3-bromoisonicotinoate (**18**) [14,15], and ethyl 2-chloronicotinoate (**13**) [16].

General Procedure for the Preparation of the Condensed Naphthyridones **6-12**, **14-17**, and **19**.

Method A.

A mixture of the heteroarylacetonitrile of type **1** (10 mmoles), a suitable ester, **4**, **5**, **13**, or **18**, respectively (11 mmoles) and 1.68 g (15 mmoles) of potassium *tert*-butoxide in 30 ml of dimethylformamide was stirred at reflux temperature for 1.5 to 4 hours. After cooling, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. Water (25 ml) was added, and the reaction mixture was neutralized (pH 6-7) by addition of acetic acid. The precipitate was collected by filtration, washed with cold water, dried and recrystallized from a suitable solvent. For reaction times and yields, physical, analytical, and spectral data see Tables 1 and 2.

Method B.

The same reaction conditions were applied except that potassium carbonate (2.07 g, 15 mmoles) was used as a base.

Method C.

The same reaction conditions were applied except that 1,8-diazabicyclo[5.4.0]undec-7-ene (DBU) (2.28 g, 15 mmoles) was used as a base.

Method D.

The same reaction conditions were applied except that cesium carbonate (4.89 g, 15 mmoles) was used as a base.

5-Cyano-1,3-dimethyl-11*H*-pyrido[1,2-*b*][2,7]naphthyrid-11-one (6).

This compound was obtained from 2-pyridylacetonitrile (1a) and the ester 4 as orange-red crystals.

7-Cyano-9,11-dimethyl-12*H*-quino[1,2-*b*][2,7]naphthyrid-12-one (7).

This compound was obtained from 2-quinolinylacetonitrile (1b) and the ester 4 as yellow-brown crystals.

5-Cyano-6,12-dihydro-1,3-dimethylbenzimidazo[1,2-*b*][2,7]naphthyrid-12-one (8).

This compound was obtained from 2-benzimidazolylacetonitrile (1c) and the ester 4 as yellow crystals.

5-Cyano-6,12-dihydro-1,3,6-trimethylbenzimidazo[1,2-*b*][2,7]naphthyrid-12-one (9).

This compound was obtained from (1-methyl-2-benzimidazolyl)acetonitrile (1d) and the ester 4 as almost colorless crystals.

5-Cyano-1,3-dimethyl-12*H*-benzothiazolo[3,2-*b*][2,7]naphthyrid-12-one (10).

This compound was obtained from 2-benzothiazolylacetonitrile (1e) and the ester 4 as almost colorless crystals.

5-Cyano-6,12-dihydro-6-methylbenzimidazo[1,2-*b*][2,7]naphthyrid-12-one (11).

This compound was obtained from (1-methyl-2-benzimidazolyl)acetonitrile (1d) and the ester 5 as yellow crystals.

5-Cyano-12*H*-benzothiazolo[3,2-*b*][2,7]naphthyrid-12-one (12).

This compound was obtained from 2-benzothiazolylacetonitrile (1e) and the ester 5 as colorless crystals.

11-Cyano-5*H*-pyrido[1,2-*g*][1,6]naphthyrid-5-one [3] (14).

This compound was obtained from 2-pyridylacetonitrile (1a) and the ester 13 as yellow crystals.

7-Cyano-12*H*-quino[1,2-*g*][1,6]naphthyrid-12-one (15).

This compound was obtained from 2-quinolinylacetonitrile (1b) and the ester 13 as red crystals.

12-Cyano-5,11-dihydro-11-methylbenzimidazo[1,2-*g*][1,6]naphthyrid-5-one (16).

This compound was obtained from (1-methyl-2-benzimidazolyl)acetonitrile (1d) and the ester 13 as pale yellow crystals.

12-Cyano-5*H*-benzothiazolo[3,2-*g*][1,6]naphthyrid-5-one (17).

This compound was obtained from 2-benzothiazolylacetonitrile (1e) and the ester 13 as almost colorless crystals.

12-Cyano-5,11-dihydro-11-methylbenzimidazo[1,2-*b*][2,6]naphthyrid-5-one (19).

This compound was obtained from (1-methyl-2-benzimidazolyl)acetonitrile (1d) and the ester 18 as yellow crystals.

3,5-Dihydro-6,8-dimethyl-10-(1-methyl-2-benzimidazolyl)-[1,2,4]triazolo[2,3-*b*][2,7]naphthyrid-5-one (21).

A suspension of 302 mg (1 mmole) of compound 9 and 276 mg (2 mmoles) of potassium carbonate in 15 ml of dimethylformamide was stirred at reflux temperature for 16 hours. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure, water (20 ml) was added, and the reaction mixture was neutralized (pH 6-7) by addition of acetic acid. The precipitate was collected, washed with water, dried, and recrystallized from dimethylformamide to give 262 mg (76%) of yellow crystals, mp 320-321°; ¹H nmr: δ 13.00-12.20 (broad s, 1H, NH), 8.18 (s, 1H, 2-H), 7.68 (d, 1H, J = 8.1 Hz, benzimidazole 4-H), 7.58 (d, 1H, J = 7.8 Hz, benzimidazole 7-H), 7.32-7.20 (m, 2H, benzimidazole 5-H, 6-H), 7.04 (s, 1H, 9-H), 3.57 (s, 3H, NCH₃), 3.04 (s, 3H, 6-CH₃), 2.31 (s, 3H, 8-CH₃); ir: 2922, 1656, 1556, 1536, 1458, 1340, 1248, 1238, 1186, 970, 788, 738 cm⁻¹.

Anal. Calcd. for C₁₉H₁₆N₆O x 0.2 H₂O: C, 65.58; H, 4.75; N, 24.15. Found: C, 65.36; H, 4.59; N, 24.05.

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