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Contents

1. Introduction
2. Synthesis of 2-acylamino-3-dimethylaminopropenoates, *O*-substituted 2-hydroxy-3-dimethylaminopropenoates and 2-[(2-substituted ethenyl)amino]-3-dimethylaminopropenoates.
3. Synthesis of heterocyclic systems
 - 3.1 Synthesis of pyranones and fused pyranones
 - 3.2 Synthesis of fused pyridinones
 - 3.3 Synthesis of fused pyrimidinones
 - 3.4 Synthesis of pyrroles
 - 3.4.1 Substituted 3-aminopyrrole-2,4-dicarboxylates
 - 3.4.2 Pyrrole-2-carboxylates
 - 3.5 Synthesis of imidazolecarboxylates
 - 3.6 Synthesis of pyrazoles
 - 3.7 Synthesis of 1,2,4-oxadiazoles
 - 3.8 Synthesis of aplysinopsins and azaaplysinopsins
4. Synthesis and transformations of 2-acylamino-3-cyanopropenoates
5. References and notes

1. Introduction.

α -Amino and α -hydroxy acids and their derivatives play an important role in organic synthesis, especially in asymmetric synthesis as chiral synthons, chiral auxiliaries, and resolving agents [1-3].

In the course of our studies of heteroaryl substituted α -amino and α -hydroxy acids and their derivatives we have prepared easily accessible 2-acylamino-3-dimethyl-

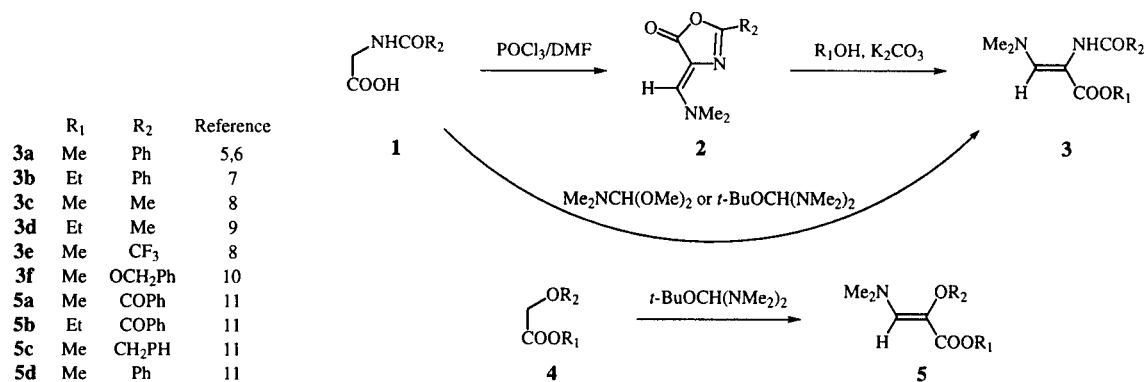
aminopropenoates, 2-(*O*-substituted hydroxy)-3-dimethylaminopropenoates, and 2-ethenylamino-3-dimethylaminopropenoates, masked α -formyl- α -amino- and α -formyl- α -hydroxy acids, and their derivatives. They have turned out to be excellent reagents for the preparation of a variety of heterocyclic systems with an amino or hydroxy acid structural element incorporated or partially incorporated into the newly formed heterocyclic ring [4].

2. Synthesis of 2-Acylamino-3-dimethylaminopropenoates, *O*-Substituted 2-Hydroxy-3-dimethylaminopropenoates and 2-[(2-Substituted ethenyl)amino]-3-dimethylaminopropenoates.

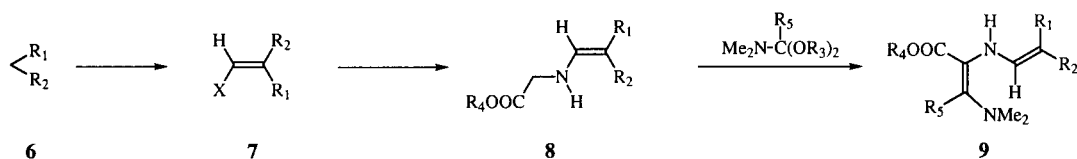
Alkyl 2-acylamino-3-dimethylaminopropenoates (**3**) can be prepared by two methods: a) by reaction of *N*-acylglycine (**1**) with phosphorus oxychloride in *N,N*-dimethylformamide to afford 4-dimethylaminomethyliden-5(4*H*)-oxazolone (**2**) followed by alcoholysis in the presence of potassium carbonate to give **3**, or b) by treatment of **1** with *N,N*-dimethylformamide dimethyl acetal or *t*-BuOCH(NMe)₂ to give **3** in one pot procedure. Similarly, alkyl *O*-substituted 2-hydroxyacetates (**4**) when treated with *tert*-butyloxy-*bis*(dimethylamino)-methane give **5** (Scheme 1).

2-[(2-Substituted ethenyl)amino]-3-dimethylaminopropenoates (**9**) can be prepared from compounds with an active methylene group **6** by transformation into ethoxymethylidene- or dimethylaminomethylidene derivatives **7**. These are transformed with an alkyl glycinate into **8** and further with *N,N*-dimethylformamide dimethyl acetal into **9** (Scheme 2).

Scheme 1
Synthesis of 2-Acylamino- and *O*-Substituted 2-Hydroxy-3-dimethylaminopropenoates



Scheme 2
Synthesis of 2-[(2-Substituted Ethenyl)amino]-3-dimethylaminopropenoates



| 9 | R ₁ | R ₂ | R ₃ | R ₄ | R ₅ | Reference |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------|
| a | COOEt | COOEt | H | Me | H | 12 |
| b | COOEt | COOEt | H | Et | H | 13 |
| c | COOMe | COOMe | H | Et | H | 14 |
| d | COOEt | COPh | H | Me | H | 15 |
| e | COOEt | COPh | H | Et | H | 15 |
| f | COOEt | COMe | H | Me | H | 16 |
| g | COOMe | COMe | H | Me | H | 17 |
| h | COPh | COPh | H | Et | H | 18 |
| i | COMe | COPh | H | Et | H | 19 |
| j | COMe | COMe | H | Me | H | 20 |
| k | COOBn | COMe | H | Me | H | 17 |
| l | COOEt | Ph | H | Me | H | 21 |
| m | COOEt | CN | H | Et | H | 22,23 |
| n | COOEt | CN | Me | Me | H | 23 |
| o | COOEt | CN | Me | Et | H | 23 |
| p | COOEt | COOEt | H | Me | Me | 24 |

3. Synthesis of Heterocyclic Systems.

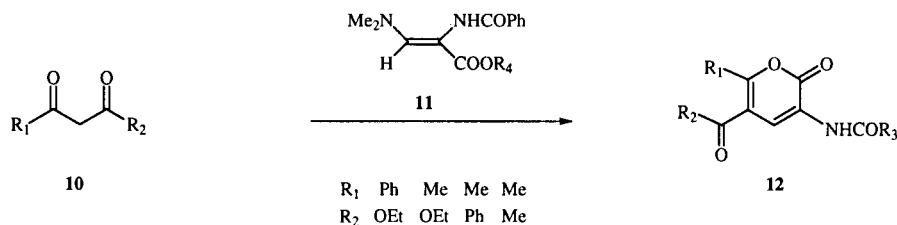
2-Acylamino- and *O*-substituted 2-hydroxy-3-dimethylaminopropenoates and their derivatives can be applied as three carbon synthons for the synthesis of a variety of monocyclic and polycyclic heterocyclic systems, in which α -amino- or α -hydroxy acid structural element is incorporated into the heterocyclic system.

3.1 Synthesis of Pyranones and Fused Pyranones.

In the reaction of 1,3-dicarbonyl compounds **10** with **11** in the presence of acetic acid 3-acylamino-2*H*-pyran-2-ones **12** are formed [25] (Scheme 3).

Cyclic 1,3-dicarbonyl compounds, such as 1,3-cyclohexanedione (**14**) and its 5,5-dimethyl derivative (**16**), afford with benzyloxycarbonylamino-3-dimethylaminopropenoate (**13**), as an example, 5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-2*H*-1-benzopyran-2-ones **15** and **17**, respectively. Phenol itself does not react, while resorcinol (**18**) and its 2-methyl derivative **20** form 2*H*-1-benzopyran-2-one derivatives **15** and **17** [26]. On the other hand, 1- (**22**) and 2-naphthol (**23**) are activated enough to give the corresponding 2*H*-naphtho[1,2-*b*]pyran-3-one **24** and 3*H*-naphtho[2,1-*b*]pyran-2-one **25** derivatives, respectively [27]. Similarly, 2,3-dihydroxynaphthalene (**26**) produces, naphthopyra-

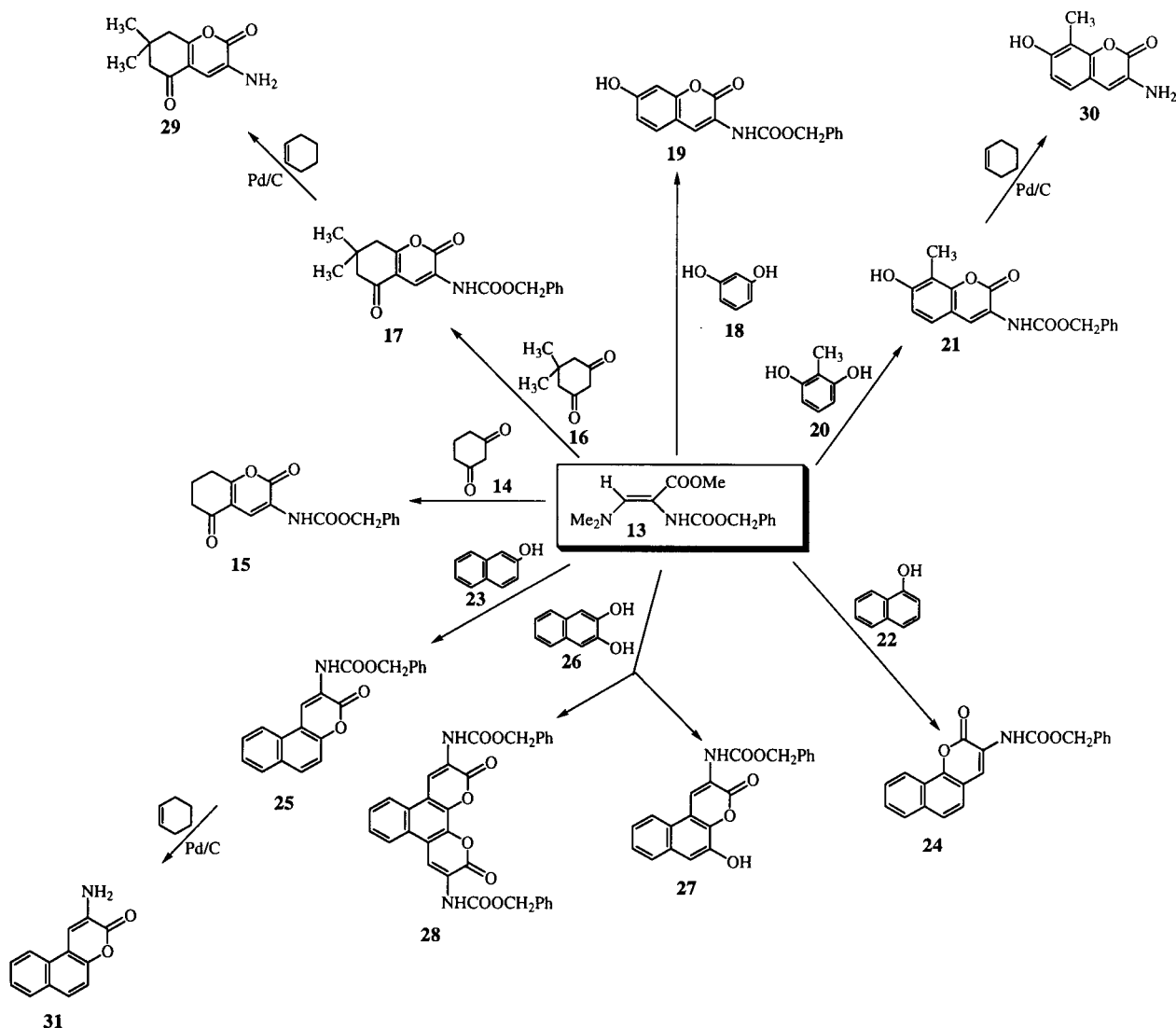
Scheme 3
Synthesis of Pyranones



none **27** or naphthobispyranone **28**. Benzyloxycarbonyl protecting group can be easily removed by catalytic transfer hydrogenation to give free amino compounds **29**, **30**, and **31** [10] (Scheme 4).

Similarly react also heterocyclic systems with a carbonyl and an adjacent methylene group as a part of the ring system **41**, or their tautomeric hydroxy forms, such as pyrazole, pyridine, pyran, benzopyran, quinoline, pyrid-

Scheme 4
Synthesis of Pyranones Fused to Carbocyclic Systems

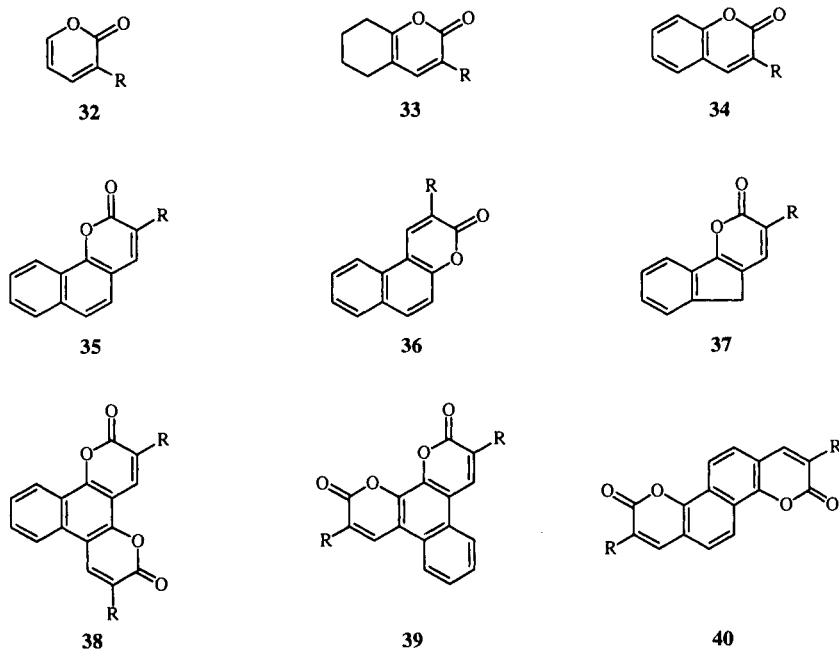


Accordingly, derivatives of the following systems have been prepared: *2H*-pyran-2-ones **32** [8,10,25,27], 5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-*2H*-benzopyran-2-one **33** [10,15,17,20,22,27,28], *2H*-1-benzopyran-2-one **34** [8,10,11,15,17,22,28], *2H*-naphtho[1,2-*b*]pyran-2-one **35** [8,10,11,27,28,29], *3H*-naphtho[2,1-*b*]pyran-3-one **36** [8,10,11,15,28,30,31], *5H*-indano[1,2-*b*]pyran-2-one **37** [30], *2H,6H*-naphtho[1,2-*b*:3,4-*b'*]dipyran-2,6-dione **38** [30], *2H,11H*-naphtho[2,1-*b*:3,4-*b'*]dipyran-2,11-dione **39** [30], and *3H,9H*-naphtho[1,2-*b*:5,6-*b'*]dipyran-3,9-dione **40** [30] (Scheme 5).

azine, tetrazolo[1,5-*b*]pyridazine, and pyrimidine derivatives, with 2-substituted 3-dimethylaminopropenoates **42** to yield pyranones fused to a heterocyclic system **43** (Scheme 6).

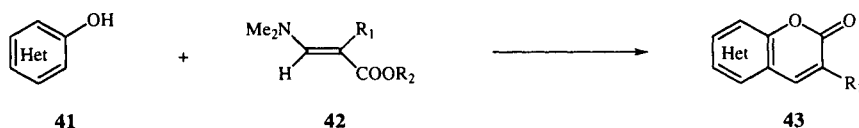
The following heterocyclic systems fused pyranones have been prepared: *1H,6H*-pyrano[2,3-*c*]pyrazole **44** [8,10,11,31,32], *2H*-pyrano[3,2-*c*]pyridine-2,5-dione **45** [8,10,11,15,28,31,33], *2H,7H*-pyrano[2,3-*c*]pyridine-2,8-dione **46**, *2H,5H*-pyrano[4,3-*b*]pyran-2,5-dione **47** [10,11,14,15,28,34]. *2H,5H*-pyrano[3,2-*c*]benzopyran-

Scheme 5
Pyranones and Fused Pyranones



R = NHCOR₁, OR₁, OH, NH₂...

Scheme 6
Synthesis of Pyranones Fused to a Heterocyclic System



2,5-dione **48** [8,10,11,14,15,27,28], 2*H*-pyrano[3,2-*c*]quinoline-2,5-dione **49** [8,11,28,33], 2*H*-pyrano[2,3-*d*]pyridazine-2,5-dione **50** [8,28,33], 8*H*-pyrano[3,2-*d*]tetrazolo[1,5-*b*]pyridazin-8-one **51** [33], and 7*H*-pyrano[2,3-*d*]pyrimidin-7-one (**52**) [8,10,11,26,28,31] (Scheme 7).

3.2 Synthesis of Fused Pyridinones.

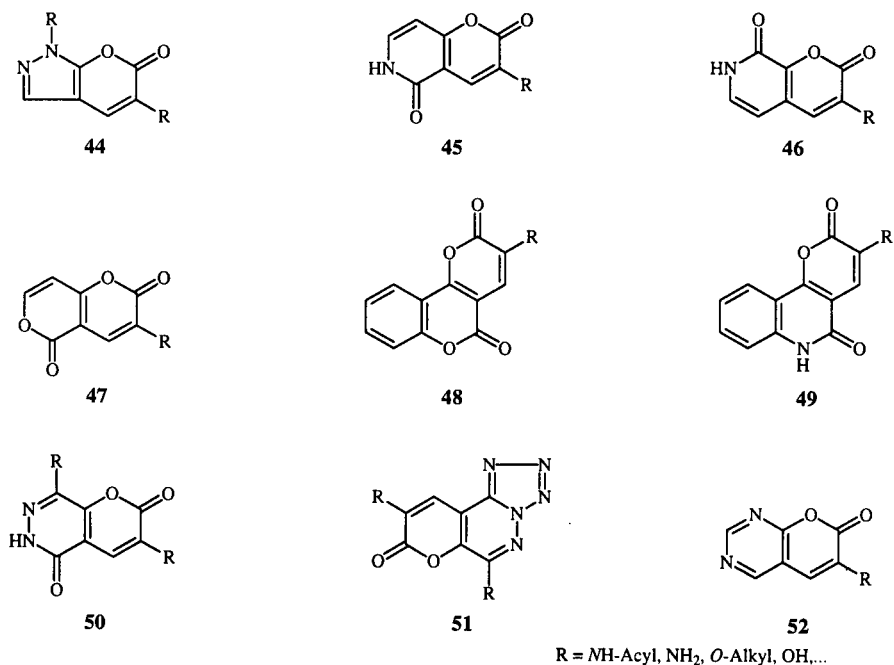
(Pyridinyl-2)acetic acid or its derivatives **53**, such as ethyl (pyridinyl-2)acetate, (pyridinyl-2)acetonitrile, and ethyl (quinolinyl-2)acetate and 2-substituted 3-dimethylaminopropenoates **42** yield by heating in acetic acid the corresponding 4*H*-quinolizin-4-ones **54** and related systems (Scheme 8).

Derivatives of the following systems have been prepared: 4*H*-quinolizin-4-one **55** [14,15,17,20,28,31,35,36], 8*H*-pyrido[1,2-*b*]pyridazin-8-one **56** [36], 8*H*-pyrido[1,2-*c*]pyrimidin-8-one **57** [36], 6*H*-pyrido[1,2-*a*]pyrazin-6-one **58** [36], and 6*H*-pyrido[1,2-*a*]pyrimidin-6-one **59** [36] (Scheme 9).

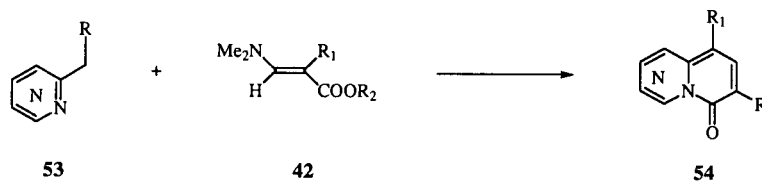
3.3 Synthesis of Fused Pyrimidinones.

Heterocyclic α -amino compounds **60**, such as 2-aminopyridines, 3-aminopyridazines, 2- and 4-aminopyrimidines, 2-aminopyrazines, 3-aminopyrazoles, 2-aminothiazoles and others, react with 2-substituted 3-dimethylaminopropenoates **42** and related compounds to form fused pyrimidinones **61** with a bridgehead nitrogen atom (Scheme 10).

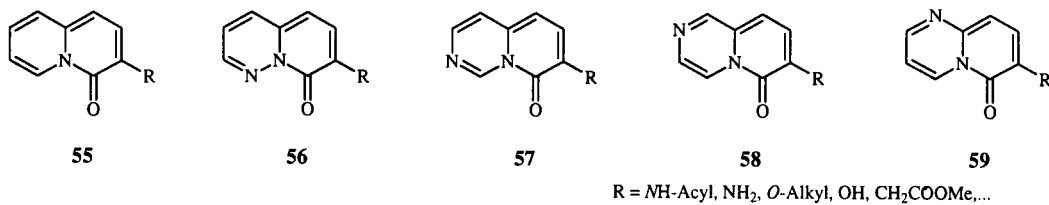
Scheme 7
Pyranones Fused to Nitrogen or Oxygen Containing Heterocycles



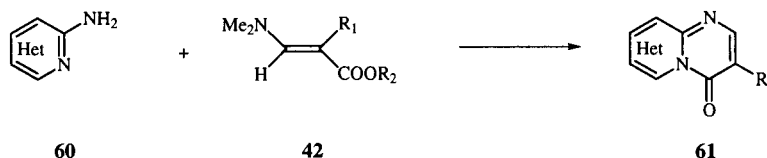
Scheme 8
Synthesis of Fused Pyridinones



Scheme 9
Pyridinones Fused to Azole or Azine Ring



Scheme 10
Synthesis of Fused Pyrimidinones



Accordingly, derivatives of the following systems have been prepared: *4H*-pyrido[1,2-*a*]pyrimidin-4-one **62** [8,13,14,17,20,22,31,37,38,39,40], *4H*-pyrimido[1,2-*b*]pyridazin-4-one **63** [17,37,38,40], *4H*-pyrimido[3,4-*a*]pyrimidin-4-one **64**, *4H*-pyrazino[1,2-*a*]pyrimidin-4-one **65** [37,38], *4H*-pyrimido[3,4-*a*]pyrimidin-4-one **66**, *5H*-thiazolo[3,2-*a*]pyrimidin-4-one **67** [8,14,17,18,20,35,37,38,41], *7H*-pyrazolo[1,5-*a*]pyrimidin-7-one **68** [13,31,37], and *7H*-1,2,4-triazolo[1,5-*a*]pyrimidin-4-one **69** [8,37,38], and others, such as **70** and **71** (Scheme 11).

3.4 Synthesis of Pyrroles.

3.4.1 Substituted 3-Aminopyrrole-2,4-dicarboxylates.

Alkyl 2-(2-alkoxycarbonyl-2-cyano-1-ethenyl)amino-3-dimethylaminopropenoates **72** undergo intramolecular

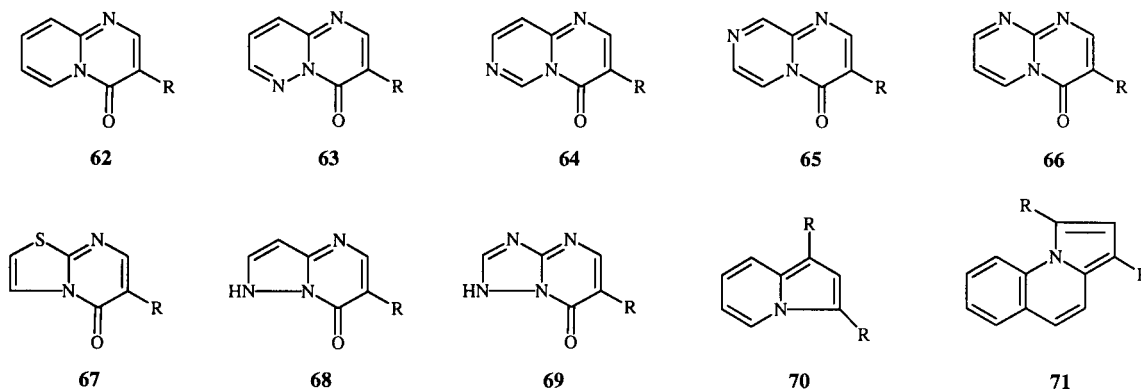
cyclization, catalysed by acid, to give 3-aminopyrrole-2,4-dicarboxylates **73**. The structure of the final product is dependent upon the reaction conditions [23] (Scheme 12).

3.4.2 Pyrrole-2-carboxylates.

2-(2-Acetyl-2-benzoyl-1-ethenyl)amino-3-dimethylaminopropenoate and other alkyl 2-(2,2-*bis*(acyl)-1-ethenyl)amino-3-dimethylaminopropenoates and alkyl 2-(2-acyl-2-alkoxycarbonyl-1-ethenyl)amino-3-dimethylaminopropenoates **74** cyclize by heating in various solvents to give 3,4-disubstituted- **75** and 1-acyl-3,4-disubstituted pyrrole-2-carboxylates **76** [42,43] (Scheme 13).

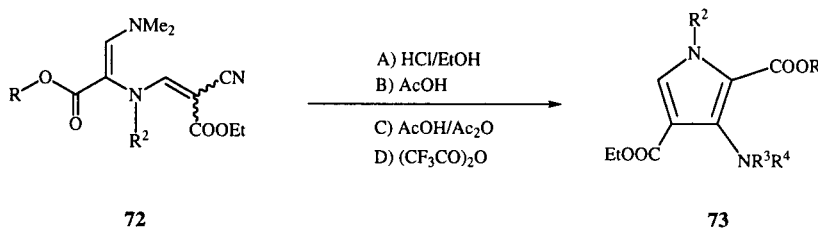
Methyl 2-(*N*-benzyloxycarbonyl)amino-3-dimethylaminopropenoate **78** gives with 1,3-dicarbonyl compounds **77** 5-substituted 4-acyl-1-benzyloxycarbonylpyrrole-2-carboxylate **79** [10] (Scheme 14).

Scheme 11
Pyrimidinones Fused to Azole or Azine Ring



R = NH-Acyl, NH_2 , *O*-Alkyl, OH, CH_2COOMe ,...

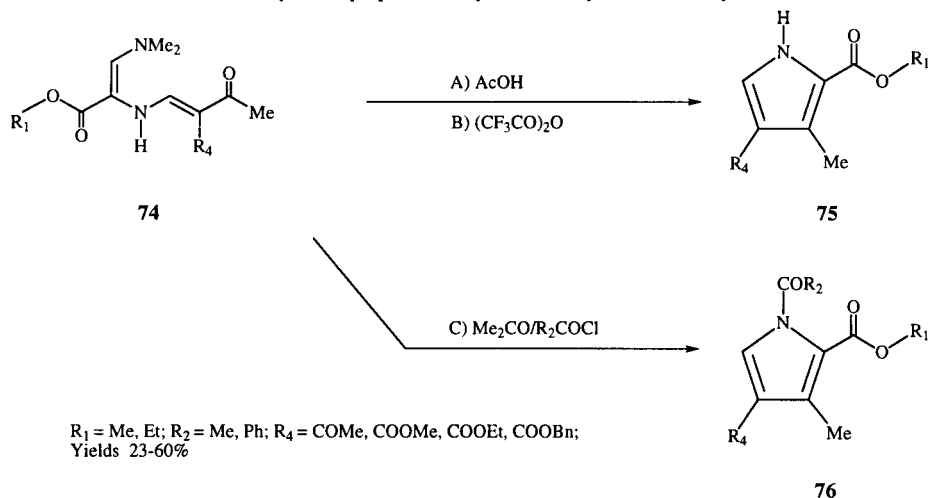
Scheme 12
Transformations of Alkyl 2-(2-Cyano-2-ethoxycarbonylethenyl)amino-3-dimethylaminopropenoates. Synthesis of 3-Aminopyrrole-2,4-dicarboxylates



$\text{R}_1 = \text{Me, Et}$; $\text{R}_2 = \text{H, Me}$; $\text{R}_3 = \text{H, COMe}$; $\text{R}_4 = \text{H, COMe, COCF}_3$, $\text{CH}=\text{C}(\text{COOEt})\text{NHCH}=\text{C}(\text{CN})\text{COOEt}$;
Yields 17-90%

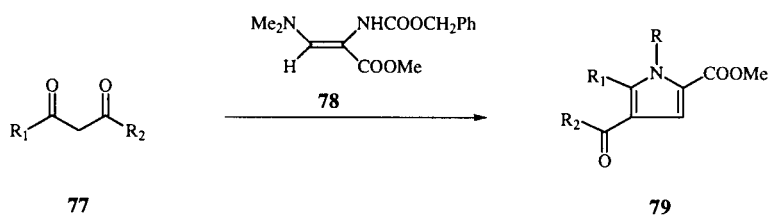
Scheme 13

Transformations of Alkyl 2-(2-Acetyl-2-substituted-ethenyl)amino-3-dimethylaminopropenoates. Synthesis of Pyrrole-2-carboxylates



Scheme 14

Synthesis of 4,5-Disubstituted Pyrrole-2-carboxylates



| 79 | R | R ₁ | R ₂ |
|----|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|
| a | H | Me | Me |
| b | H | Me | Ph |
| c | COOCH ₂ Ph | Me | Me |

3.5 Synthesis of Imidazole-4-carboxylates.

As mentioned earlier, alkyl 2-(2,2-disubstituted 1-ethenyl)amino-3-dimethylaminopropenoates **80** and heterocyclic compounds **81**, with an amino group attached at α -position in respect to ring nitrogen atom, form intermediates **82**, which cyclize according to path A into the corresponding azolo- and azinopyrimidinones **83**. However, when these compounds are prepared from amines in which the ring nitrogen atom is sterically hindered by a substituent attached close to the ring nitrogen atom, such as in 2-amino-6-methylpyridine, 2-amino-4-chlorobenzothiazole, and its 5-methyl derivative, the reaction resulted in the formation of imidazole derivatives **85** via intermediate **84**. In this manner, methyl 1-(6-methylpyridin-2-yl)-1*H*-imidazole-4-carboxylate (**86**), methyl 1-(4-chlorobenzothiazol-2-yl)-1*H*-imidazole-4-carboxylate (**87a**), and its 5-methyl derivative **87b** are formed [12] (Scheme 15).

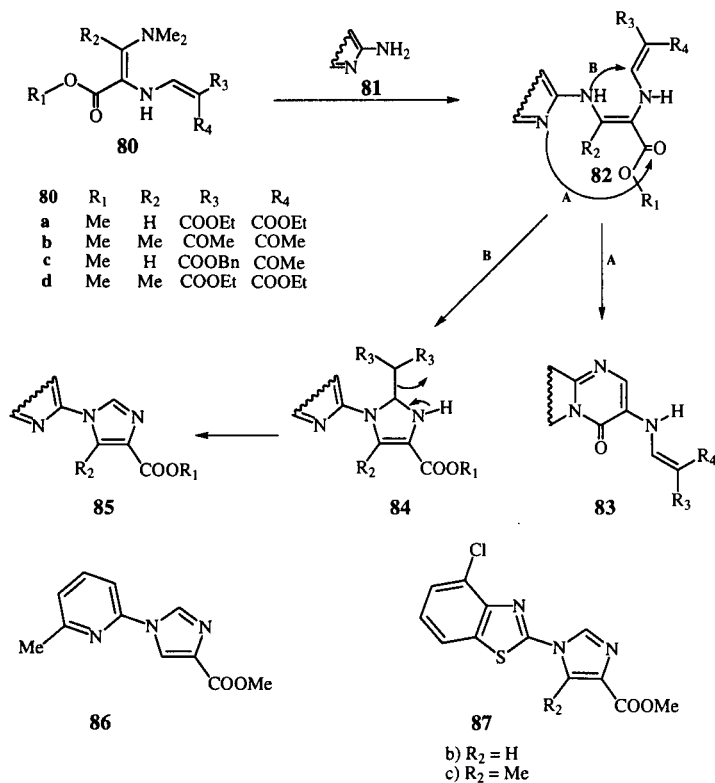
3.6 Synthesis of Pyrazoles.

4-(1-Dimethylaminoethylidene)-2-phenyl-5(4*H*)-oxazolone (**88**), prepared from hippuric acid and *N,N*-dimethylacetamide as an intermediate in preparation of the corresponding propenoates, gives by hydrolysis 2-benzoylamino-2-oxobutanoate (**89**). In the reaction with hydrazines the corresponding 1-substituted 4-benzoylamino-3-methylpyrazol-5(2*H*)-ones (**90**) are formed. In some cases the hydrazones **91** can be isolated as intermediates [44] (Scheme 16).

In the case of 2-(2-benzoyl-2-ethoxycarbonyl-1-ethenyl)amino-3-dimethylaminopropenoate (**92**) two concurrent reactions take place, in which 2-(2-benzoyl-2-ethoxycarbonyl-1-ethenyl)amino-3-heteroarylhydrazinopropenoates (**93**) and/or 4-ethoxycarbonyl-1-heteroaryl-3-phenylpyrazoles (**94**) are formed [45] (Scheme 17).

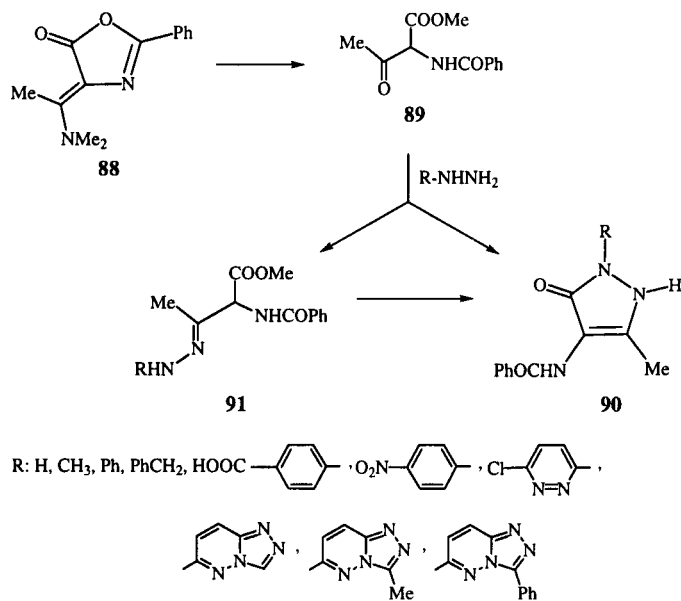
Scheme 15

Transformations of 2-(2,2-Disubstituted-ethenyl)amino-3-dimethylaminopropenoates.
Synthesis of 1-Heteroaryl-imidazole-4-carboxylates.

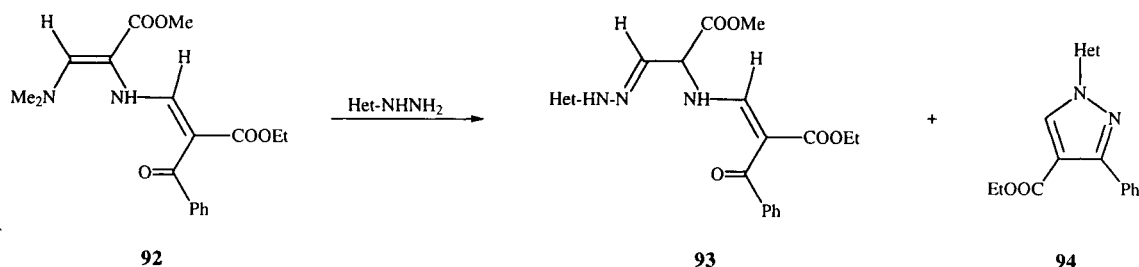


Scheme 16

Transformations of Methyl 2-Benzoylamino-3-oxobutanoate.
Synthesis of Pyrazole Derivatives.



Scheme 17
Synthesis of Pyrazole-4-carboxylates

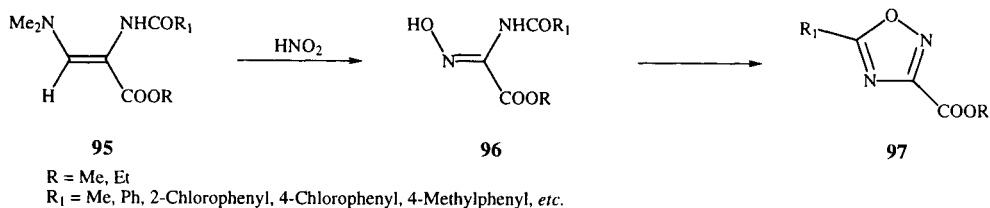


3.7 Synthesis of 1,2,4-Oxadiazoles.

By treatment of 2-acylamino-3-dimethylaminopropenoates (**95**) with nitrous acid at 0°C the corresponding oximes **96** are formed, which cyclize into 5-substituted 1,2,4-oxadiazole-3-carboxylates **97** [7,46] (Scheme 18).

Recently, a considerable interest arose also in the synthesis of azaaplysinopsins and their analogs [47]. In this connection a new method for the construction of the fused imidazole ring connected to oxazolone ring through a conjugated double bond in a single step is represented by

Scheme 18
Synthesis of 1,2,4-Oxadiazoles



3.8 Synthesis of Aplysinopsins and Azaaplysinopsins.

Aplysinopsins (**98**) and azaaplysinopsins (**99**) are interesting class of compounds because of their biological properties [47]. 2-(2,2-Disubstituted ethenylamino)-3-dimethylaminopropenoates can be successfully employed in the synthesis of these compounds. For example, ethyl 2-[(2-acetyl-2-methoxy(or benzyloxy)carbonyl)ethenyl]amino-3-dimethylaminopropenoates (**100**) react with indole (**101**) to form intermediates **102**. These, when treated with hydrazine, give intermediates **103**, from which aplysinopsin (**104**) is formed by cyclization with urea. Alternatively, the same type of compounds can be obtained also from indole (**101**) and 5-dimethylamino-methylenehydantoin (**106**), prepared from hydantoin (**105**) and *N,N*-dimethylformamide dimethyl acetal, in good yields [48] (Scheme 19).

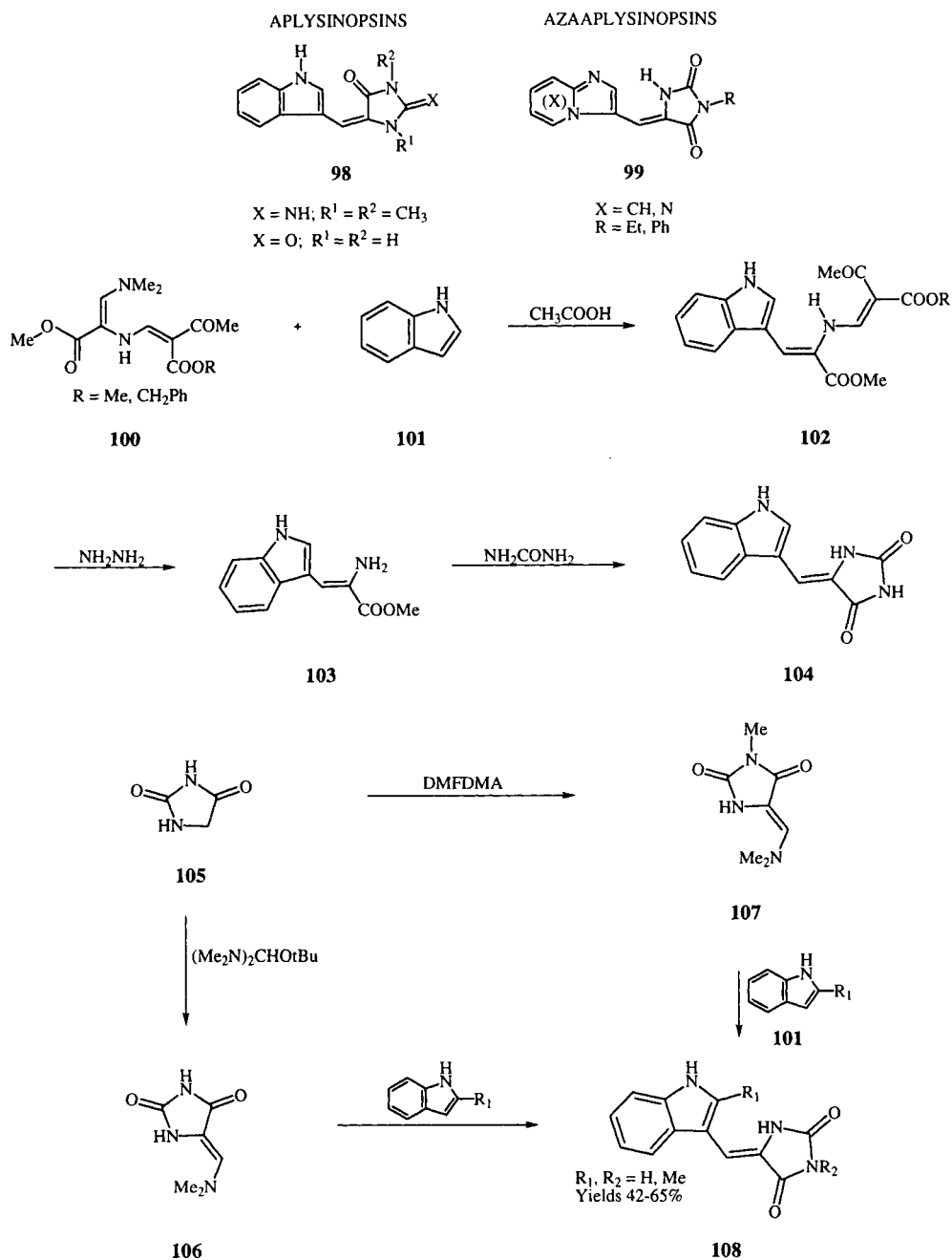
the reaction of 4-(2-bromo-1-dimethylaminoethylidene)-2-phenyl-5(4*H*)-oxazolone (**111**) with *N,N*-dimethyl-*N'*-heteroarylformamidines (**110**) in acetonitrile or *N,N*-dimethylformamide [48] (Scheme 20). The method is an extension of the previously described synthesis of fused imidazo[1,2-*x*]azines from *N,N*-dimethyl-*N'*-heteroarylformamidines and α -halo ketones [50-53].

4. Synthesis and Transformations of 2-Acylamino-3-cyanopropenoates.

Dimethylamino group in alkyl (*Z*)-2-acylamino-3-dimethylaminopropenoates **116** can be easily replaced by a cyano group to give the corresponding (*E*)-2-acylamino-3-cyanopropenoates **117** in good yields [9,54,55] (Scheme 21).

They are useful reagents for preparation of several polyfunctional 5- and 6-membered heterocycles, such as pyrroles **118**, pyrimidines **119** and **120**, and pyridazines

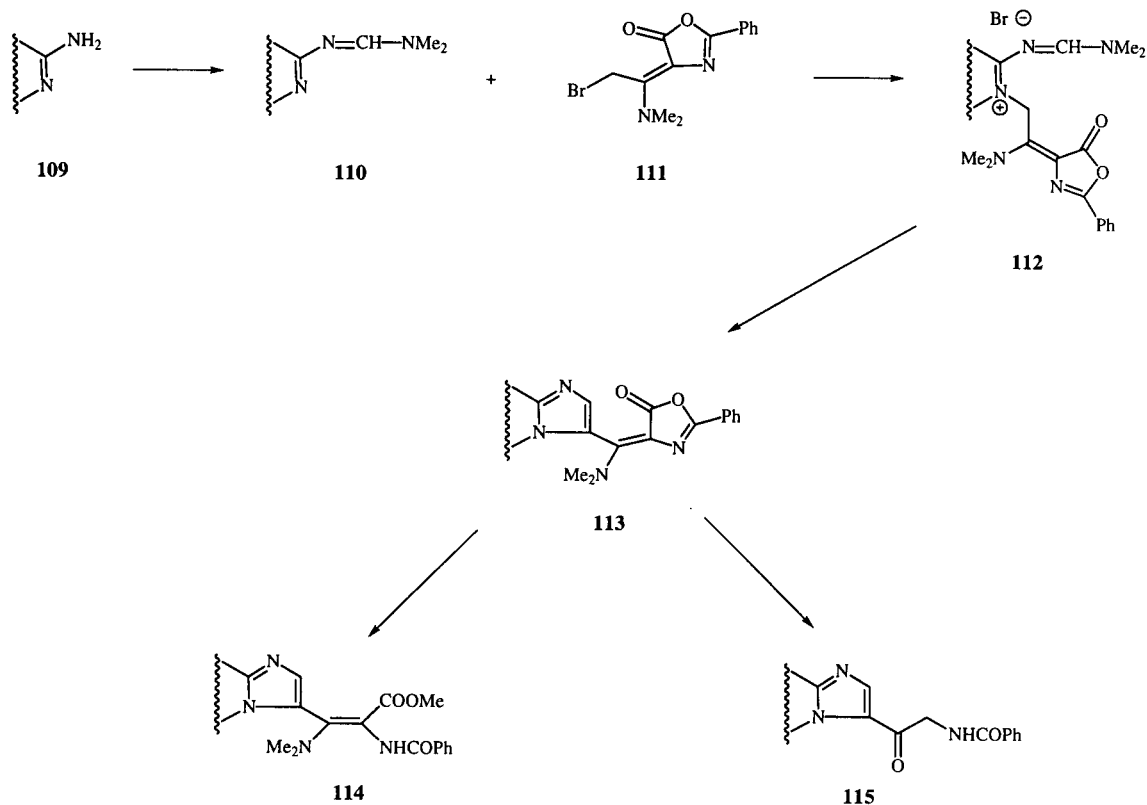
Scheme 19
Application of 2-(2-Acyl-2-alkoxycarbonylethenyl)amino-3-dimethylaminopropenoates and 5-Dimethylaminomethylenehydantoins in the Synthesis of Aplysinopsins



121. 1,3-Dipolar cycloadditions of diazomethane, nitrile oxides, and nitrile imines yield the corresponding 3,4-disubstituted pyrazolecarboxylates **122** and **123**, isoxazolecarboxylates **124**, and 2,4,5-trisubstituted pyrazole-3-carboxylates **125** [54,55] (Scheme 22).

Chiral 3-dimethylaminopropenoate analogs, derived from L-pyroglutamic acid, 5-substituted tetrahydrofuran-2-ones, and pyrrolidin-2-ones, can be utilized for the preparation of chiral 3-heteroaryl-2-amino- and -2-hydroxy acid derivatives [56-59].

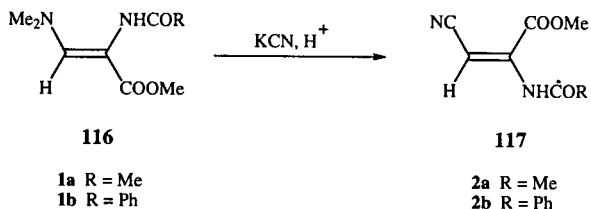
Scheme 20
Synthesis of Azaaplysinopsin Derivatives



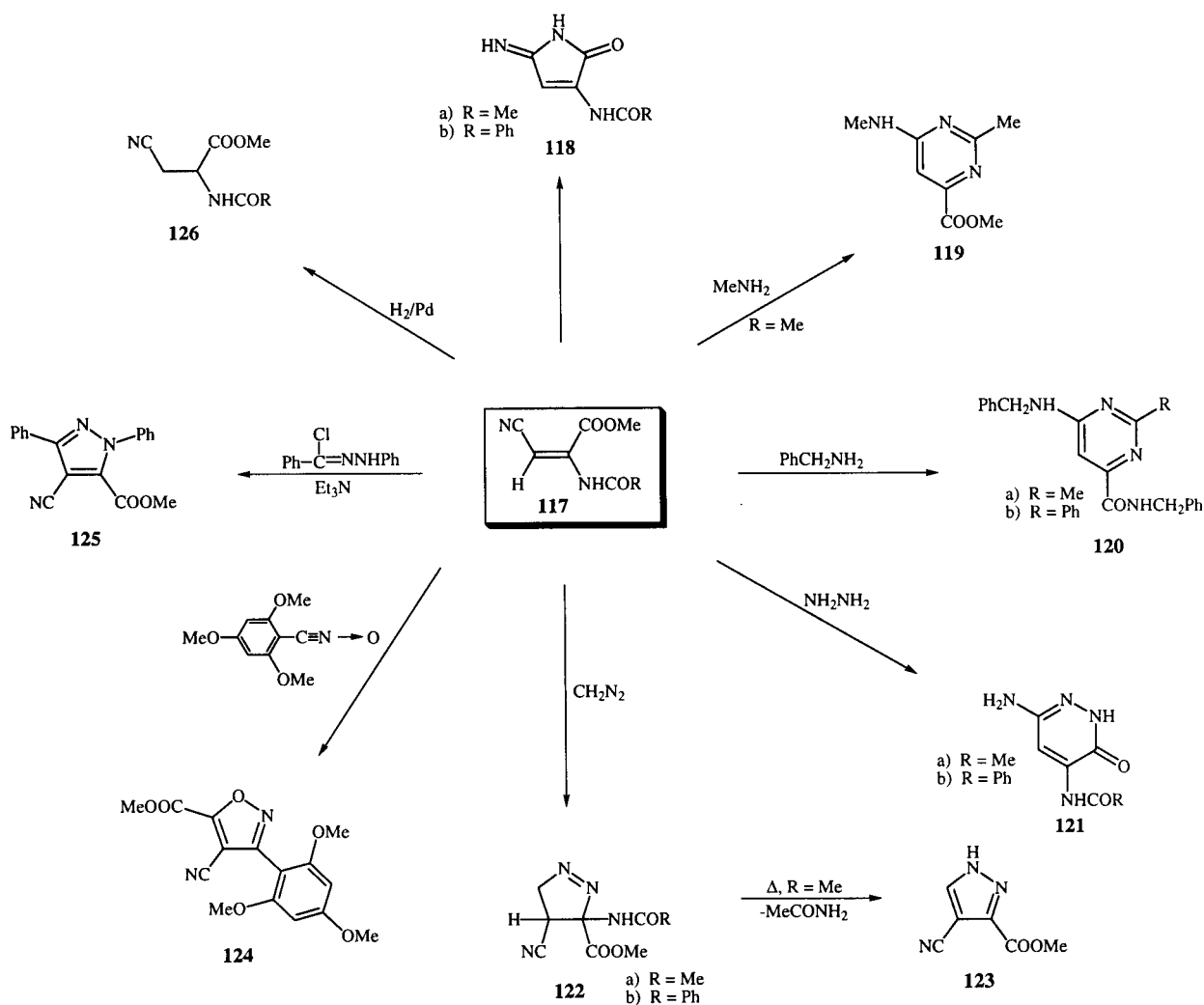
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Scheme 21
Synthesis of Alkyl 2-Acylamino-3-cyanopropenoates



Scheme 22
Transformations of Alkyl 2-Acylamino-3-dimethylaminopropenoates



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