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Received December 29, 2000

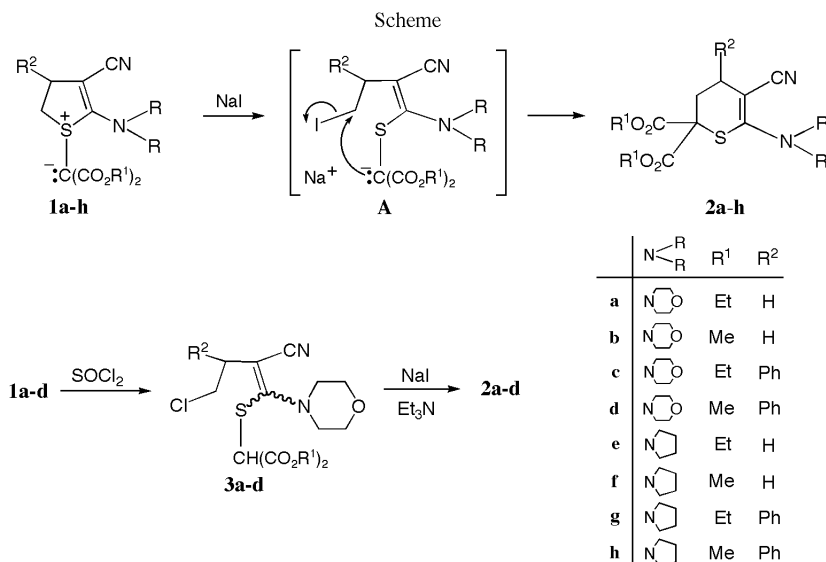
Sulfonium ylides **1a-h** reacted with sodium iodide to afford the corresponding thiopyrans **2a-h**. On the other hand, compounds **1a-d** were treated with thionyl chloride to give the ring opening products **3a-d**. The reaction of compounds **3a-d** with sodium iodide and triethylamine provided the corresponding thiopyrans **2a-d**.

J. Heterocyclic Chem., **39**, 217 (2002).

Thiopyrans are attractive compounds for chemical synthesis because their similarity with pyrans hints at useful biological properties that should be relatively easy to discover due to their simple framework [1,2]. Rearrangement of sulfonium ylides is known to produce thiopyrans [3,4]. This paper presents a new synthesis of thiopyrans from sulfonium ylides. In the course of our studies on heterocyclic enamionitriles, we have shown that the reactions of 2-amino-4,5-dihydro-3-furancarbonitriles with sodium iodide [5,6] or titanium(IV) chloride [7] proceed through an initial ring opening between the oxygen and the 5-position of the furan ring by the attack of a halide ion on the 5-position of the furan ring. Under the same conditions, in the case of the corresponding 4,5-dihydro-3-thiophene carbonitriles, ring opening reactions did not take place. In contrast with 4,5-dihydro-3-thiophenecarbonitriles, the sulfonium ylides **1** of 4,5-dihydro-3-thiophenecarbonitriles undergo cleavage at the sulfur—C-5 bond and subsequent recyclization in the presence of a base [8]. These findings suggest that the sulfur—C-5 bond of the sulfonium ylides is more easily cleaved than that of 4,5-dihydro-3-thiophenecarbonitriles. Hence, we

examined the reaction of the sulfonium ylides with sodium iodide to see whether or not cleavage at the sulfur—C-5 bond takes place. The starting compounds dihydrothiophenium-1-bis(ethoxycarbonyl)methylides **1a,c,e,g** were prepared by previously reported method [8]. Dihydrothiophenium-1-bis(methoxycarbonyl)methylides **1b,d,f,h** were synthesized by the reaction of the corresponding 2-amino-4,5-dihydro-3-thiophenecarbonitriles [8] with dimethyl diazomalonate [9] in the presence of rhodium(II) acetate dimer.

When a mixture of sulfonium ylides **1a,c-h** and sodium iodide (2 equivalents) in acetone was refluxed for 7 hours, the corresponding 3,4-dihydro-2*H*-thiopyrans **2a,c-h** were obtained, and the expected ring opening products could not be isolated. In a similar manner, no reaction occurred in the case of **1b**, and **1b** was recovered unchanged. When *N,N*-dimethylformamide was used in place of acetone, compound **1b** reacted with sodium iodide at 100° to provide **2b**. Although ring expansion of thiophenes to thiopyrans *via* a process involving sulfonium ylide intermediates has been reported [3,4], to our knowledge, ring expansion of sulfonium ylides by use of sodium iodide has not been



reported. A reasonable pathway for the formation of **2** is shown in Scheme. An iodide ion attacks at the 5-position of **1** to form the intermediate carbanion **A**, which then undergoes fast intramolecular cyclization to give **2**.

Subsequently, the reaction of **1a-d** with thionyl chloride resulted in the formation of the expected ring opening products **3a-d** in moderate yields. Finally, we synthesized **2a-d** from **3a-d**. Compounds **3a-d** were allowed to react with sodium iodide and triethylamine in refluxing acetone to afford the desired **2a-d** together with the corresponding 2-amino-4,5-dihydro-3-thiophenecarbonitriles. The structural assignments of **2** and **3** were made on the basis of elemental analyses and the spectral data.

EXPERIMENTAL

All melting points are uncorrected. The ir spectra were recorded on a JASCO A-302 spectrometer. The ^1H nmr spectra were measured in deuteriochloroform on a HITACHI R-90 H spectrometer (90 MHz). Chemical shifts (δ) are reported in parts per million (ppm) relative to tetramethylsilane as internal standard. Elemental analyses were performed on a HERAUS CHNO-RAPID analyzer.

General Procedure for the Preparation of 4,5-Dihydrothiophenium-1-bis(methoxycarbonyl)methylides **1b,d,f,h**.

A mixture of 4,5-dihydro-2-morpholino(or -2-pyrrolidino)-3-thiophenecarbonitriles [8] (20 mmoles), dimethyl diazomalonate [9] (4.74 g, 30 mmoles) and rhodium(II) acetate dimer (80 mg, 0.18 mmole) in toluene (40 ml) was refluxed for 2 hours. After removal of the solvent *in vacuo*, the residue was purified by column chromatography on alumina with methylene chloride-acetone (4:1) as the eluent to give **1b,d,f,h**.

3-Cyano-4,5-dihydro-2-morpholinothiophenium-1-bis(methoxycarbonyl)methylide (**1b**).

This compound was obtained as colorless prisms (2.94 g, 45%), mp 110-112° (methylene chloride-petroleum ether); ir (potassium bromide): ν 2210 (C \equiv N), 1630 (C=O) cm^{-1} ; ^1H nmr: δ 3.42-3.73 [m, 12H, 4-H, 5-H, 4xCH₂ (morpholine)], 3.73 ppm (s, 6H, 2xCO₂CH₃).

Anal. Calcd. for C₁₄H₁₈N₂O₅S: C, 51.52; H, 5.56; N, 8.58. Found: C, 51.46; H, 5.51; N, 8.61.

3-Cyano-4,5-dihydro-2-morpholino-4-phenylthiophenium-1-bis(methoxycarbonyl)methylide (**1d**).

This compound was obtained as colorless needles (5.09 g, 63%), mp 133-135° (acetone-petroleum ether); ir (potassium bromide): ν 2195 (C \equiv N), 1620 (C=O) cm^{-1} ; ^1H nmr: δ 3.28-4.19 [m, 11H, 4-H, 5-H, 4xCH₂ (morpholine)], 3.76 (s, 6H, 2xCO₂CH₃), 7.35-7.50 ppm (m, 5H, aromatic H).

Anal. Calcd. for C₂₀H₂₂N₂O₅S: C, 59.69; H, 5.51; N, 6.96. Found: C, 59.41; H, 5.49; N, 7.04.

3-Cyano-4,5-dihydro-2-pyrrolidinothiophenium-1-bis(methoxycarbonyl)methylide (**1f**).

This compound was obtained as colorless prisms (2.79 g, 45%), mp 132-133° (methylene chloride-petroleum ether); ir (potassium bromide): ν 2198 (C \equiv N), 1630 (C=O) cm^{-1} ; ^1H nmr:

δ 1.80-2.03 [m, 4H, 2xCH₂ (pyrrolidine)], 3.44-3.72 [m, 8H, 4-H, 5-H, 2xCH₂ (pyrrolidine)], 3.76 ppm (s, 6H, 2xCO₂CH₃).

Anal. Calcd. for C₁₄H₁₈N₂O₄S: C, 54.18; H, 5.85; N, 9.03. Found: C, 54.12; H, 5.77; N, 9.06.

3-Cyano-4,5-dihydro-4-phenyl-2-pyrrolidinothiophenium-1-bis(methoxycarbonyl)methylide (**1h**).

This compound was obtained as colorless needles (4.49 g, 58%), mp 194-196° (chloroform-petroleum ether); ir (potassium bromide): ν 2180 (C \equiv N), 1625 (C=O) cm^{-1} ; ^1H nmr: δ 1.76-2.06 [m, 4H, 2xCH₂ (pyrrolidine)], 3.46-4.15 [m, 7H, 4-H, 5-H, 2xCH₂ (pyrrolidine)], 3.76 (s, 6H, 2xCO₂CH₃), 7.30-7.52 ppm (m, 5H, aromatic H).

Anal. Calcd. for C₂₀H₂₂N₂O₄S: C, 62.16; H, 5.74; N, 7.25. Found: C, 61.89; H, 5.71; N, 7.24.

General Procedure for the Preparation of **2a-h** from **1a-h**.

Procedure A.

A mixture of **1a,c-h** (10 mmoles) and NaI (3.00 g, 20 mmoles) in acetone (20 ml) was refluxed for 7 hours. After removal of the solvent *in vacuo*, cold water was added to the residue. The resulting mixture was extracted with chloroform. The extract was dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel with chloroform as the eluent to give **2a,c-h**. Further the elution with chloroform-acetone (4:1) gave the starting material **1e** (0.89 g, 26%), **1f** (0.63 g, 20%) and **1h** (0.43 g, 11%), respectively.

Procedure B.

A mixture of **1b** (3.26 g, 10 mmoles) and NaI (1.50 g, 10 mmoles) in *N,N*-dimethylformamide (20 ml) was heated at 100° with stirring for 5 hours. After work-up as described for the preparation of **2a,c-h** from **1a,c-h**. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel with chloroform as the eluent to give **2b**.

Diethyl 5-Cyano-3,4-dihydro-6-morpholino-2H-thiopyran-2,2-dicarboxylate (**2a**).

This compound was obtained as pale yellow oil (3.15 g, 89%); ir (neat): ν 2190 (C \equiv N), 1740 (C=O) cm^{-1} ; ^1H nmr: δ 1.28 (t, J = 7 Hz, 6H, 2xCO₂CH₂CH₃), 2.46 (s, 4H, 3-H, 4-H), 3.29-3.40 [m, 4H, 2xCH₂ (morpholine)], 3.63-3.79 [m, 4H, 2xCH₂ (morpholine)], 4.26 ppm (q, J = 7 Hz, 4H, 2xCO₂CH₂CH₃).

Anal. Calcd. for C₁₆H₂₂N₂O₅S: C, 54.22; H, 6.26; N, 7.90. Found: C, 53.98; H, 6.17; N, 8.12.

Dimethyl 5-Cyano-3,4-dihydro-6-morpholino-2H-thiopyran-2,2-dicarboxylate (**2b**).

This compound was obtained as colorless prisms (2.93 g, 90%), mp 50-52° (diethyl ether-petroleum ether); ir (potassium bromide): ν 2190 (C \equiv N), 1740 (C=O) cm^{-1} ; ^1H nmr: δ 2.46 (s, 4H, 3-H, 4-H), 3.30-3.40 [m, 4H, 2xCH₂ (morpholine)], 3.69-3.81 [m, 4H, 2xCH₂ (morpholine)], 3.81 ppm (s, 6H, 2xCO₂CH₃).

Anal. Calcd. for C₁₄H₁₈N₂O₅S: C, 51.52; H, 5.56; N, 8.58. Found: C, 51.78; H, 5.76; N, 8.82.

Diethyl 5-Cyano-3,4-dihydro-6-morpholino-4-phenyl-2H-thiopyran-2,2-dicarboxylate (**2c**).

This compound was obtained as pale yellow oil (4.14 g, 96%); ir (neat): ν 2200 (C \equiv N), 1740, 1730 (C=O) cm^{-1} ; ^1H nmr: δ 1.05 (t,

$J = 7$ Hz, 3H, $\text{CO}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$), 1.24 (t, $J = 7$ Hz, 3H, $\text{CO}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$), 2.77 (dd, $J = 5.5$, 16 Hz, 1H, 3-H), 3.13 (dd, $J = 7$, 16 Hz, 1H, 3-H), 3.31-3.57 [m, 4H, $2\times\text{CH}_2$ (morpholine)], 3.67-3.81 [m, 4H, $2\times\text{CH}_2$ (morpholine)], 3.92 (dd, $J = 5.5$, 7 Hz, 1H, 4-H), 4.23 (q, $J = 7$ Hz, 4H, $2\times\text{CO}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$), 7.27 ppm (s, 5H, aromatic H).

Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{26}\text{N}_2\text{O}_5\text{S}$: C, 61.38; H, 6.09; N, 6.51. Found: C, 61.11; H, 5.97; N, 6.56.

Dimethyl 5-Cyano-3,4-dihydro-6-morpholino-4-phenyl-2*H*-thiopyran-2,2-dicarboxylate (**2d**).

This compound was obtained as colorless prisms (3.82 g, 95%), mp 68-70° (diethyl ether-petroleum ether); ir (potassium bromide): ν 2180 ($\text{C}\equiv\text{N}$), 1735 ($\text{C}=\text{O}$) cm^{-1} ; ^1H nmr: δ 2.75 (dd, $J = 5.5$, 16 Hz, 1H, 3-H), 3.15 (dd, $J = 7$, 16 Hz, 1H, 3-H), 3.20-3.78 [m, 8H, $4\times\text{CH}_2$ (morpholine)], 3.45 (s, 3H, CO_2CH_3), 3.78 (s, 3H, CO_2CH_3), 4.20 (dd, $J = 5.5$, 7 Hz, 1H, 4-H), 7.27 ppm (s, 5H, aromatic H).

Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_2\text{O}_5\text{S}$: C, 59.69; H, 5.51; N, 6.96. Found: C, 59.96; H, 5.64; N, 7.15.

Diethyl 5-Cyano-3,4-dihydro-6-pyrrolidino-2*H*-thiopyran-2,2-dicarboxylate (**2e**).

This compound was obtained as colorless prisms (1.69 g, 50%), mp 37-38° (diethyl ether-petroleum ether); ir (potassium bromide): ν 2170 ($\text{C}\equiv\text{N}$), 1735 ($\text{C}=\text{O}$) cm^{-1} ; ^1H nmr: δ 1.28 (t, $J = 7$ Hz, 6H, $2\times\text{CO}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$), 1.83-1.98 [m, 4H, $2\times\text{CH}_2$ (pyrrolidine)], 2.43 (s, 4H, 3-H, 4-H), 3.56-3.71 [m, 4H, $2\times\text{CH}_2$ (pyrrolidine)], 4.26 ppm (q, $J = 7$ Hz, 4H, $2\times\text{CO}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$).

Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_2\text{O}_5\text{S}$: C, 56.79; H, 6.55; N, 8.28. Found: C, 57.00; H, 6.61; N, 8.37.

Dimethyl 5-Cyano-3,4-dihydro-6-pyrrolidino-2*H*-thiopyran-2,2-dicarboxylate (**2f**).

This compound was obtained as colorless needles (1.74 g, 56%), mp 126-128° (acetone-petroleum ether); ir (potassium bromide): ν 2170 ($\text{C}\equiv\text{N}$), 1742 ($\text{C}=\text{O}$) cm^{-1} ; ^1H nmr: δ 1.84-1.98 [m, 4H, $2\times\text{CH}_2$ (pyrrolidine)], 2.43 (s, 4H, 3-H, 4-H), 3.57-3.72 [m, 4H, $2\times\text{CH}_2$ (pyrrolidine)], 3.81 ppm (s, 6H, $2\times\text{CO}_2\text{CH}_3$).

Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_2\text{O}_5\text{S}$: C, 54.18; H, 5.85; N, 9.03. Found: C, 54.24; H, 5.93; N, 8.97.

Diethyl 5-Cyano-3,4-dihydro-4-phenyl-6-pyrrolidino-2*H*-thiopyran-2,2-dicarboxylate (**2g**).

This compound was obtained as colorless prisms (3.85 g, 93%), mp 92-93° (diethyl ether-petroleum ether); ir (potassium bromide): ν 2190 ($\text{C}\equiv\text{N}$), 1735 ($\text{C}=\text{O}$) cm^{-1} ; ^1H nmr: δ 0.93 (t, $J = 7$ Hz, 3H, $\text{CO}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$), 1.24 (t, $J = 7$ Hz, 3H, $\text{CO}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$), 1.86-2.04 [m, 4H, $2\times\text{CH}_2$ (pyrrolidine)], 2.72 (dd, $J = 7$, 16 Hz, 1H, 3-H), 3.03 (dd, $J = 7$, 16 Hz, 1H, 3-H), 3.56-4.03 [m, 4H, $2\times\text{CH}_2$ (pyrrolidine)], 4.23 (t, $J = 7$ Hz, 1H, 4-H), 4.24 (q, $J = 7$ Hz, 4H, $2\times\text{CO}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$), 7.27 ppm (s, 5H, aromatic H).

Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{26}\text{N}_2\text{O}_5\text{S}$: C, 63.75; H, 6.32; N, 6.76. Found: C, 63.50; H, 6.30; N, 6.73.

Dimethyl 5-Cyano-3,4-dihydro-4-phenyl-6-pyrrolidino-2*H*-thiopyran-2,2-dicarboxylate (**2h**).

This compound was obtained as colorless prisms (2.46 g, 64%), mp 125-127° (acetone-petroleum ether); ir (potassium bromide): ν 2180 ($\text{C}\equiv\text{N}$), 1740 ($\text{C}=\text{O}$) cm^{-1} ; ^1H nmr: δ 1.85-2.10 [m, 4H, $2\times\text{CH}_2$ (pyrrolidine)], 2.76 (dd, $J = 7$, 16 Hz, 1H, 3-H), 3.06 (dd, $J = 7$, 16 Hz, 1H, 3-H), 3.40 (s, 3H, CO_2CH_3), 3.61-3.86 [m,

4H, $2\times\text{CH}_2$ (pyrrolidine)], 3.79 (s, 3H, CO_2CH_3), 4.21 (t, $J = 7$ Hz, 1H, 4-H), 7.28 ppm (s, 5H, aromatic H).

Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4\text{S}$: C, 62.16; H, 5.74; N, 7.25. Found: C, 62.03; H, 5.75; N, 7.24.

General Procedure for the Preparation of **3a-d** from **1a-d**.

A solution of **1a-d** (10 mmoles) and thionyl chloride (1.79 g, 15 mmoles) in chloroform (10 ml) was refluxed for 5 hours. After removal of the solvent *in vacuo*, the residue was basified with a saturated aqueous sodium hydrogen carbonate, and extracted with chloroform. The extract was dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography on alumina with chloroform as the eluent to give **3a-d**.

Diethyl [(4-Chloro-2-cyano-1-morpholino-1-buten-1-yl)thio]propanedioate (**3a**).

This compound was obtained as pale yellow oil (2.17 g, 56%); ir (neat): ν 2200 ($\text{C}\equiv\text{N}$), 1735 ($\text{C}=\text{O}$) cm^{-1} ; ^1H nmr: δ 1.30 (t, $J = 7$ Hz, 6H, $2\times\text{CO}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$), 2.54-2.73 (m, 2H, 3-H), 2.85-3.01 (m, 2H, 4-H), 3.24-3.36 [m, 4H, $2\times\text{CH}_2$ (morpholine)], 3.70-3.80 [m, 4H, $2\times\text{CH}_2$ (morpholine)], 4.18 [s, 1H, $\text{CH}(\text{CO}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3)_2$], 4.26 ppm (q, $J = 7$ Hz, 4H, $2\times\text{CO}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$).

Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{23}\text{ClN}_2\text{O}_5\text{S}$: C, 49.16; H, 5.93; N, 7.17. Found: C, 49.19; H, 5.67; N, 7.39.

Dimethyl [(4-Chloro-2-cyano-1-morpholino-1-buten-1-yl)thio]propanedioate (**3b**).

This compound was obtained as pale yellow oil (2.61 g, 72%); ir (neat): ν 2200 ($\text{C}\equiv\text{N}$), 1735 ($\text{C}=\text{O}$) cm^{-1} ; ^1H nmr: δ 2.55-2.71 (m, 2H, 3-H), 2.85-3.02 (m, 2H, 4-H), 3.25-3.37 [m, 4H, $2\times\text{CH}_2$ (morpholine)], 3.72-3.89 [m, 4H, $2\times\text{CH}_2$ (morpholine)], 3.80 (s, 6H, $2\times\text{CO}_2\text{CH}_3$), 4.23 ppm [s, 1H, $\text{CH}(\text{CO}_2\text{CH}_3)_2$].

Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{19}\text{ClN}_2\text{O}_5\text{S}$: C, 46.35; H, 5.28; N, 7.72. Found: C, 46.29; H, 5.23; N, 7.97.

Diethyl [(4-Chloro-2-cyano-1-morpholino-3-phenyl-1-buten-1-yl)thio]propanedioate (**3c**).

This compound was obtained as pale yellow oil (3.72 g, 80%); ir (neat): ν 2190 ($\text{C}\equiv\text{N}$), 1730 ($\text{C}=\text{O}$) cm^{-1} ; ^1H nmr: δ 1.29 (t, $J = 7$ Hz, 6H, $2\times\text{CO}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$), 2.82 (dd, $J = 5.5$, 11 Hz, 1H, 4-H), 3.19-3.35 [m, 5H, 4-H, $2\times\text{CH}_2$ (morpholine)], 3.69-3.83 [m, 4H, $2\times\text{CH}_2$ (morpholine)], 4.04-4.37 (m, 1H, 3-H), 4.19 [s, 1H, $\text{CH}(\text{CO}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3)_2$], 4.25 (q, $J = 7$ Hz, 4H, $2\times\text{CO}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$), 7.32 ppm (s, 5H, aromatic H).

Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{27}\text{ClN}_2\text{O}_5\text{S}$: C, 56.59; H, 5.83; N, 6.00. Found: C, 56.78; H, 5.80; N, 6.25.

Dimethyl [(4-Chloro-2-cyano-1-morpholino-3-phenyl-1-buten-1-yl)thio]propanedioate (**3d**).

This compound was obtained as pale yellow oil (3.33 g, 76%); ir (neat): ν 2200 ($\text{C}\equiv\text{N}$), 1740 ($\text{C}=\text{O}$) cm^{-1} ; ^1H nmr: δ 2.80-2.91 (m, 1H, 4-H), 3.21-3.39 [m, 5H, 4-H, $2\times\text{CH}_2$ (morpholine)], 3.70-3.82 [m, 4H, $2\times\text{CH}_2$ (morpholine)], 3.80 (s, 6H, $2\times\text{CO}_2\text{CH}_3$), 4.00-4.22 (m, 1H, 3-H), 4.22 [s, 1H, $\text{CH}(\text{CO}_2\text{CH}_3)_2$], 7.32 ppm (s, 5H, aromatic H).

Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{23}\text{ClN}_2\text{O}_5\text{S}$: C, 54.73; H, 5.28; N, 6.38. Found: C, 54.60; H, 5.56; N, 6.29.

General Procedure for the Preparation of **2a-d** from **3a-d**.

A mixture of **3a-d** (10 mmoles), NaI (3.00 g, 20 mmoles) and triethylamine (2.02 g, 20 mmoles) in acetone (20 ml) was

refluxed for 7 hours. After removal of the solvent *in vacuo*, cold water was added to the residue. The resulting mixture was extracted with chloroform. The extract was dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel with chloroform as the eluent. The first fraction provided 4,5-dihydro-2-morpholino-3-thiophenecarbonitrile [8] [from **3a** (0.82 g): yield 42%, from **3b** (0.67 g): yield 34%] and 4,5-dihydro-2-morpholino-4-phenyl-3-thiophenecarbonitrile [8] [from **3c** (1.08 g): yield 40%, from **3d** (0.95 g): yield 35%]. The second fraction gave the corresponding thiopyrans **2a** (1.66 g, 47%), **2b** (1.71 g, 52%), **2c** (2.32 g, 54%) and **2d** (1.89 g, 47%), respectively. Compounds **2a-d** were identical with samples prepared from **1a-d** and sodium iodide on the basis of a comparison of the ir spectra.

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