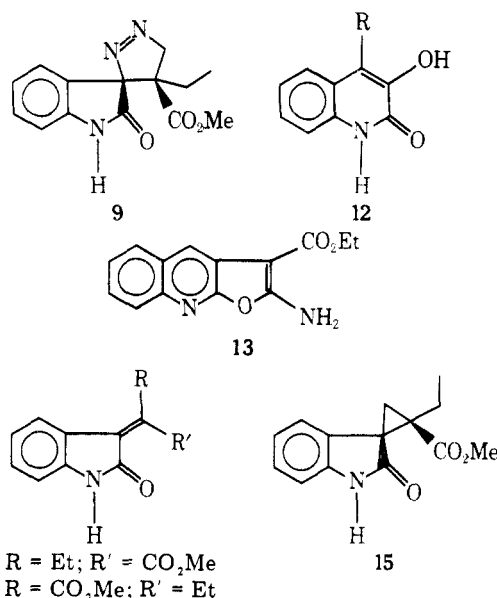


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- (11) For entries d, e, f, and g, chromatography was omitted in the workup.
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- (16) The material originally identified as 2-iodoimidazole [H. Pauly and E. Arauner, *J. Prakt. Chem.*, **118**, 33 (1928)] was shown later to be 4-iodoimidazole (ref 3). Authentic 2-iodoimidazole has been obtained in 5% yield by reaction of iodine with 1-benzenesulfonyl-2-lithioimidazole [R. J. Sundberg, *J. Heterocycl. Chem.*, **14**, 517 (1977)]; this N-protecting group was found unsuitable for general use in the preparation of 2-X-imidazoles, a conclusion we had also reached from early studies.



Reactivity of Oxindole- $\Delta^{3,\alpha}$ -acrylates toward Diazoalkanes: An Unusual Ring Expansion

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As part of our work on the regiospecific behavior of enedi-carbonyl compounds^{1a} we decided to examine the reaction of diazoalkanes^{1b} with oxindole- $\Delta^{3,\alpha}$ -acrylates (1). With diazomethane acrylate 1 (X = H)² provided pyrazoline 3a (X = H). The observed NMR coupling of the pyrazoline methylene and methine protons was sufficient evidence to assign structure 3a and not 2a to the product. Steric (tertiary vs. secondary carbon) as well as electronic (polarization of the C–C double bond) effects are such that the [1,3]-dipolar addition of diazomethane involves initial C–C bond formation α to the ester, with the reaction proceeding via a nonsynchronous intermediate such as 4 and not 5.³ When heated above its melting point or in refluxing xylene, pyrazoline 3a (X = H) underwent N₂ loss giving spirocyclopropane 7a (X = H). Reaction of acrylate 1, X = H, with phenyldiazomethane provided the corresponding spirocyclopropane 7b (X = H) as a single diastereomer.

Exposure of acrylate 1 (X = CN)⁶ to diazomethane did not afford either a pyrazoline (2 or 3) or a spirocyclopropane (7). Instead, only quinolone 11a (X = CN) could be isolated (92%). Rearrangement of the intermediate resulting from loss of N₂, 8, and isomerization of the resulting exocyclic double bond out of conjugation with the cyanoester and into aromatization would account for the observed product.⁷ The addition of a cyano group⁸ has thus reversed the polarization of the C–C double bond while equalizing the steric effects of substitution such that the diazomethane addition now involves initial C–C bond formation β to the ester moiety (5). The rearrangement of isatins to quinolones has precedent in the literature.⁹ Eistert and coworkers had reported that the reaction of isatin and *N*-methylisatin with diazoalkanes (RCHN₂) led in good yield to 4-*R*-substituted 3-hydroxycarbostyrils (12).

An equilibrium mixture of 11a (X = CN) and tricyclic 13 was established after only 12 h in Me₂SO at ambient temperature. Dissolution of either 11a or 13 in Me₂SO resulted in the same mixture. The ¹³C chemical shifts for compounds 11a (X = CN) and 13 were consistent with structural assign-

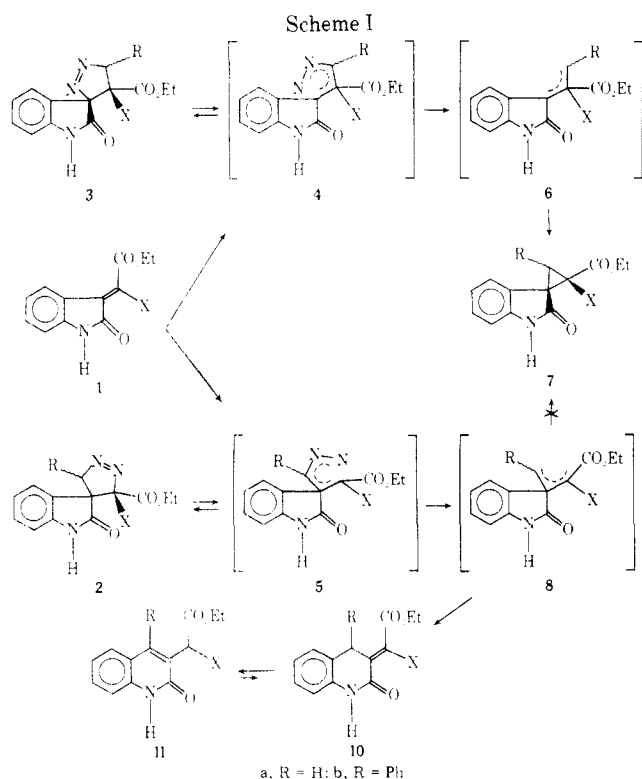
ments made on the basis of other spectral data.¹⁰ The ¹³C NMR spectrum of 11a displayed a single aliphatic, methine carbon which disappeared on isomerization in Me₂SO to 13. In addition the A ring aromatic carbons β to N shifted downfield on isomerization, an indication of the imino ether tautomeric form. The rather high-field (80.2 ppm) absorption of the furan ring C α to the ester in 13 is consistent with a high-electron density resulting from mesomeric O and NH₂ participation. Furthermore, hydrolysis of 11a (X = H) followed by decarboxylation provided the known quinolone-3-acetic acid (11a, X = H), identical in all respects^{11a} with the compound prepared by literature techniques.^{11b}

In a similar manner, reaction of 1 (X = CN) with PhCHN₂¹² provided the corresponding rearrangement product 11b (X = CN) mp >325 °C in a yield of 42%. Reaction of 14a^{9c} with diazomethane, on the other hand, provided pyrazoline 9 resulting from C–C bond formation α to the ester. When heated in refluxing xylene this pyrazoline underwent smooth conversion to spirocyclopropane 15. The double bond carbons of compound 14a are more sterically equivalent (tertiary vs. tertiary) than in the case where X = H and yet initial C–C bond formation has still occurred α to the ester. This result lends support to the argument that only when C–C double bond polarization of the oxindole- $\Delta^{3,\alpha}$ -acrylates has been reversed (as in the case where X = CN)¹³ such that dipolar species react initially at the carbon β to the ester will rearrangement to the quinolone ring system occur. Furthermore, the sequence provides an efficient procedure for the synthesis of quinolone-3-acetates. Additional work relating to this rearrangement and the regioselectivity of such dipolar addition reactions is now in process.

Experimental Section

The IR spectra were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer Model 257 or 457 grating spectrophotometer and NMR spectra were recorded using either a Varian T-60 or EM-360 spectrometer. ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded using a Varian XLFT-100 spectrometer. Chemical shifts (δ) are recorded relative to Me₄Si; coupling constants (*J*) are given in hertz. Mass spectra were recorded using either an LKB 9000 or an AEI MS-30-D5-50 spectrometer. Melting points were obtained on a Thomas-Hoover capillary melting point apparatus and are uncorrected. In all workup procedures, the drying process involved swirling over MgSO₄ and filtering prior to evaporation.

Ethyl 4',5'-Dihydro-2-oxospiro(3*H*-indole-3,3'-pyrazole)-4'-carboxylate (3a, X = H). To a solution of acrylate 1² (X = H) (21.9 g, 0.1 mol) in anhydrous Et₂O (700 mL) at 0 °C was added CH₂N₂ (ca. 5.1 g, 0.12 mol) (from 36 g of Diazald).²⁰ After an additional 18 h at ambient temperature, the excess CH₂N₂ was quenched with HOAc and the solution was washed with aqueous NaHCO₃, dried, and



evaporated. Recrystallization of the residue from *i*-PrOH gave 17.6 g (68%) of white solid: mp 113.5–114.5 °C; NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.74 (t, *J* = 7 Hz, 3 H), 3.45 (t, *J* = 8 Hz, 1 H), 3.83 (q, *J* = 7 Hz, 2 H), 5.12 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 2 H), 6.70–7.50 (m, 4 H), and 10.83 (broad s, 1 H); IR (KBr) 3420, 1730, and 1625 cm⁻¹.

Anal. Calcd for C₁₃H₁₃N₃O₃: C, 60.2; H, 5.1; N, 16.2. Found: C, 60.4; H, 5.5; N, 16.3.

Ethyl 1',2'-Dihydro-2'-oxospiro(cyclopropane-1,3'-[3H]-indole)carboxylate (7a, X = H). Pyrazoline 3a (X = H) (17.6 g, 0.068 mol) was heated in refluxing toluene (300 mL) for 4 h. Evaporation of the solvent and crystallization of the residue from cold *i*-PrOH gave 9.9 g (63%) of white crystals: mp 154–6 °C; NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.25 (t, *J* = 7 Hz, 3 H), 2.13 (d of ABq, 2 H), 2.89 (d of d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1 H), 4.17 (q, *J* = 7 Hz, 2 H), 6.90–7.50 (m, 4 H), and 9.82 (broad s, 1 H); IR (CH₂Cl₂) 3430, 1730, and 1625 cm⁻¹.

Anal. Calcd for C₁₃H₁₃N₃O₃: C, 67.5; H, 5.7; N, 6.1. Found: C, 67.1; H, 5.6; N, 6.2.

Ethyl 1',2'-Dihydro-2'-oxospiro(2-phenylcyclopropane-1,3'-[3H]indole)carboxylate (7b, X = H). To a solution of PhCHN₂ (prepared²¹ from 7.8 g of benzaldehyde) in Et₂O (300 mL) was added acrylate 1 (X = H) (6.54 g, 30 mmol) and the mixture was allowed to stir at ambient temperature for 18 h. After quenching of the excess PhCHN₂ with HOAc, filtration gave a white solid. Recrystallization from *i*-PrOH provided 5.7 g (62%) of white needles: mp 175–177 °C; NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.22 (t, *J* = 7 Hz, 3 H), 3.20 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1 H), 3.73 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1 H), 4.24 (q, *J* = 7 Hz, 2 H), 6.90–7.50 (m, 9 H), and 10.56 (broad s, 1 H); IR (CHCl₃) 1725 and 1515 cm⁻¹.

Anal. Calcd for C₁₉H₁₇N₃O₃: C, 74.2; H, 5.6; N, 4.6. Found: C, 74.1; H, 5.6; N, 4.5.

Ethyl 1,2-Dihydro-2-oxo-3-quinolinemalononitrile (11a, X = CN). To a solution of acrylate 1 (X = CN) (2.4 g, 10 mmol) in Et₂O (100 mL) and EtOH (20 mL) at 0 °C was added diazomethane (ca. 0.5 g, 12 mmol, from 3.5 g of Diazald²⁰) and, after an additional 18 h at ambient temperature, the reaction mixture was quenched with HOAc, washed with aqueous NaHCO₃ and brine, dried, and evaporated. Recrystallization of the residue from *i*-PrOH-CH₂Cl₂ provided 2.35 g (92%) of a white solid: mp 147.5–149 °C; NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.24 (t, *J* = 7 Hz, 3 H), 4.33 (q, *J* = 7 Hz, 2 H), 5.19 (s, 1 H), 7.10–7.70 (m, 4 H), 8.06 (s, 1 H), and 12.69 (broad s, 1 H); IR (CHCl₃) 3370, 2250, 1760, and 1670 cm⁻¹; UV (MeOH) 230 (31 910), 271 (7850), and 332 (5990) nm.

Anal. Calcd for C₁₄H₁₂N₂O₃: C, 65.6; H, 4.7; N, 10.9. Found: C, 65.5; H, 4.6; N, 10.8.

Upon dissolution in Me₂SO an equilibrium mixture of 11a and 13 was established after 12 h at ambient temperature. Crystallization from *i*-PrOH-CH₂Cl₂ left 13 in the filtrate. Evaporation and recrystallization of this residue from *i*-PrOH gave 13: mp 171.5–172.5 °C;

NMR (Me₂SO) δ 1.52 (t, *J* = 7 Hz, 3 H), 3.26 (s, 2 H, H₂O), 4.41 (q, *J* = 7 Hz, 2 H), 7.40–8.00 (m, 4 H), and 8.06 (s, 1 H); IR (CH₂Cl₂) 3500, 3380, 1685, and 1640 cm⁻¹; UV (MeOH) 215 (32 700), 259 (23 810), and 343 (13 460) nm.

Anal. Calcd for C₁₄H₁₂N₂O₃: C, 65.6; H, 4.7; N, 10.9. Found: C, 65.3; H, 5.2; N, 10.8.

Hydrolysis of Malonitrile (11a) (X = CN). A mixture of malonitrile (11a, X = CN; 150 mg), H₂O (2 mL), and concentrated H₂SO₄ (1.5 mL) was heated at reflux for 18 h, cooled and poured onto ice water (30 mL). Filtration of the resulting solids gave 11a (X = H), mp 273–275 °C; mmp 273–75 °C; lit.¹¹ mp 271–3 °C.

Ethyl 4-Phenyl-1,2-dihydro-2-oxo-3-quinolinemalononitrile (11b, X = CN). To a solution of PhCNH₂ (prepared from 2.65 g of benzaldehyde) in Et₂O (100 mL) was added acrylate 1 (X = CN) (2.42 g, 10 mmol) in EtOH (15 mL). After 18 h at ambient temperature, the mixture was quenched with HOAc, washed with aqueous NaHCO₃, and extracted with 2 N NaOH. Acidification of the hydroxide extract with 2 N HCl (to pH 2) left a white solid, which after recrystallization from EtOH gave 1.39 g (42%) of a white solid: mp >325 °C; NMR (CDCl₃-Me₂SO) 1.21 (t, *J* = 7 Hz, 3 H), 4.20 (q, *J* = 7 Hz, 2 H), 5.39 (s, 1 H), 7.20–7.90 (m, 9 H), and 12.10 (broad s, 1 H); IR (KBr) 2240, 1750, and 1660 cm⁻¹.

Anal. Calcd for C₂₀H₁₆N₂O₃: C, 72.3; H, 4.9; N, 8.4. Found: C, 72.4; H, 4.4; N, 8.2.

Methyl (Z)-2-Oxoindole-Δ^{3,α}-butyrate (14a). The procedure of Mori^{12c} provided a 2:1 mixture of *E* and *Z* isomers which had to be separated by chromatography over silica gel. The compound of larger *R_f* value was the *E* isomer, 14b: deep yellow crystals; mp 119–20 °C; NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.34 (t, *J* = 7 Hz, 3 H), 3.39 (q, *J* = 7 Hz, 2 H), 4.08 (s, 3 H), 6.88–7.50 (m, 4 H), and 9.46 (broad s, 1 H); IR (CHCl₃) 3450, 1710, and 1610 cm⁻¹.

Anal. Calcd for C₁₃H₁₃N₃O₃: C, 66.5; H, 5.7; N, 6.1. Found: C, 66.2; H, 5.3; N, 6.3.

The lower *R_f* value material, *Z* isomer (14a), was isolated as yellow crystals: mp 131–2 °C; NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.39 (t, *J* = 7 Hz, 3 H), 2.87 (q, *J* = 7 Hz, 2 H), 4.02 (s, 3 H), 6.90–7.60 (m, 4 H), and 9.52 (broad s, 1 H); IR (CHCl₃) 3450, 1715, and 1615 cm⁻¹.

Anal. Found: C, 66.3; H, 5.5; N, 6.2.

Methyl 4',5'-Dihydro-4'-ethyl-2-oxospiro(3H-indolo-3,3'-pyrazole)-4'-carboxylate (9). To a solution of (*Z*)-acrylate 14a (1.30 g, 6 mmol) in Et₂O (40 mL) at 0 °C was added CH₂N₂ (ca. 0.26 g, 6.2 mmol) (from 1.82 g of Diazald²⁰) and the resulting mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 18 h. After HOAc quench, the solution was washed with NaHCO₃, dried, and evaporated to give 1.40 g (83%) of a light-brown oil: NMR (CDCl₃) δ 0.87 (t, *J* = 7 Hz, 3 H), 1.68 (q, *J* = 7 Hz, 2 H), 3.64 (s, 3 H), 4.95 (d, *J* = 18 Hz, 1 H), 5.41 (d, *J* = 18 Hz, 1 H), 6.90–7.60 (m, 4 H), and 9.28 (broad s, 1 H); IR (CHCl₃) 3430, 1725, and 1615 cm⁻¹.

Anal. Calcd for C₁₄H₁₅N₃O₃: C, 61.5; H, 5.5; N, 15.4. Found: C, 62.0; H, 6.0; N, 15.7.

Treatment of the (*E*)-acrylate 14b in a small similar manner provided the corresponding spiroindole in 63% yield: mp 133–5 °C dec; NMR (CDCl₃) 0.90 (t, *J* = 7 Hz, 3 H), 1.98 (q, *J* = 7 Hz, 2 H), 3.40 (s, 3 H), 4.81 (d, *J* = 18 Hz, 1 H), 5.46 (d, *J* = 18 Hz, 1 H), 6.70–7.35 (m, 4 H), and 9.12 (broad s, 1 H); IR (CHCl₃) 3430, 1710, and 1620 cm⁻¹.

Methyl (Z)-1',2'-Dihydro-2-ethyl-2'-oxospiro(cyclopropane-1,3'-3H-indole)carboxylate (15). A solution of the (*Z*)-spiroindole (9) (1.40 g, 5.1 mmol) in xylene (75 mL) was heated at reflux for 8 h. After cooling, evaporation of the solvent and distillation (180–90 (0.025 mm)) gave 0.77 g (61%) of a light yellow oil: NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.06 (t, *J* = 7 Hz, 3 H), 2.39 (ABq, 2 H), 2.93 (q, *J* = 7 Hz, 2 H), 3.74 (s, 3 H), 6.90–7.40 (m, 4 H), and 10.00 (broad s, 1 H); IR (CH₂Cl₂) 3420, 1720, and 1620 cm⁻¹.

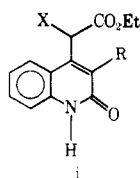
Anal. Calcd for C₁₄H₁₅N₃O₃: C, 68.6; H, 6.2; N, 5.7. Found: C, 68.6; H, 6.6; N, 5.6.

Registry No.—1 (X = H), 21728-28-9; 1 (X = CN), 59225-18-2; 3a (X = H), 67487-94-9; 7a (X = H), 67487-95-0; 7b (X = H), 67487-96-1; 9, 67487-97-2; 11a (X = H), 53244-93-2; 11a (X = CN), 67487-98-3; 11b (X = CN), 67487-99-4; 13, 67488-03-3; 14a, 67488-00-0; 14b, 67488-01-1; 15, 67488-02-2; CH₂N₂, 334-88-3; PhCHN₂, 766-91-6.

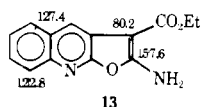
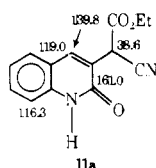
References and Notes

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- While our discussion (Scheme I) makes use of a nonsynchronous concerted mechanism⁴ governed by frontier orbitals, a synchronous or even a diradical mechanism⁵ would have served equally well to explain both the regio-specificity of addition and the unusual ring expansion.

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 (10) Structures **11a** and **13**.



- (11) (a) mp 273–5 °C; mmp 273–5 °C; as well as comparative TLC, MS, and solution IR; (b) H. A. Lloyd, L. V. Matternas and E. C. Horning, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **77**, 5932 (1955); UV (MeOH) 227 (32 700), 269 (8220), and 326 (7350).
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 (13) A referee suggested that the ethyl moiety might sterically drive the ester function out of planarity with the double bond, thus destabilizing any partial charge in a transition state such as **5**.

Thallium in Organic Synthesis. 53. Simple Procedures for the Replacement of a Phenolic OH Group by N=NAr, N=O, H, NH₂, and C Substituents^{1,2}

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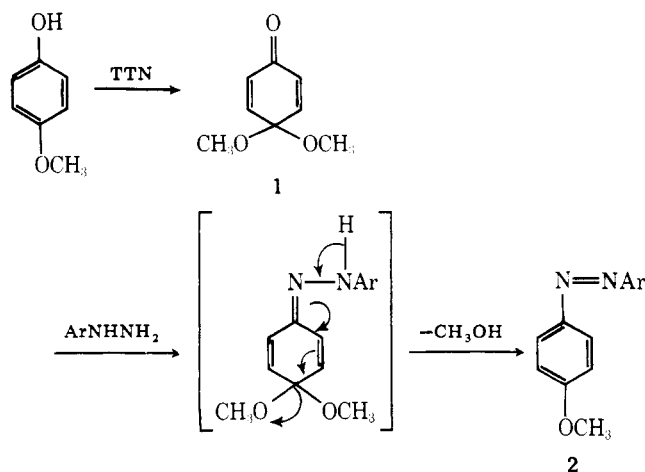
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Evans et al.³ have recently described an ingenious synthetic approach to the Amaryllidaceae alkaloid cherylline via a quinone methide prepared by a Wittig-type reaction of 4,4-dimethoxycyclohexadienones. We have recently described a general, efficient, and mild procedure for the oxidation of a variety of 4-substituted phenols to 4-substituted 4-methoxycyclohexadienones utilizing thallium(III) nitrate (TTN) in methanol or methanol/trimethyl orthoformate as solvent.⁴ We now report a series of simple transformations of these cyclohexadienones which effect overall replacement of the OH group of the precursor phenol by N=NAr, N=O, H, NH₂, and C substituents.

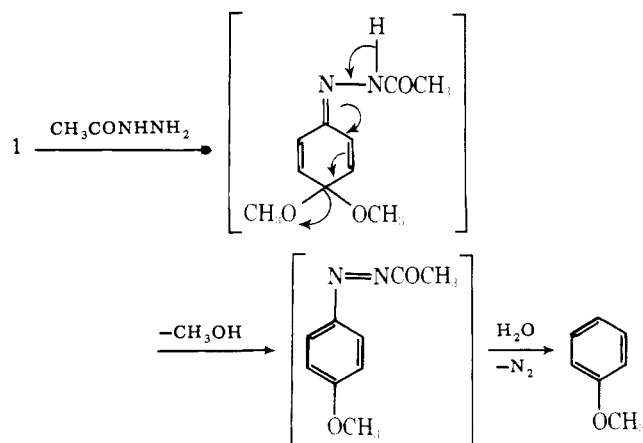
In 1963 Hecker and Lattrell⁵ reported the conversion of several 4-hydroxy-4-substituted cyclohexadienones (prepared by thallium(III) or lead(IV) acetate oxidation of the corresponding phenols) to 2,4-dinitrophenylazobenzenes by reaction with 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazine. Because of the inaccessibility of the requisite precursor cyclohexadienones, however, there has been no subsequent synthetic exploitation

Scheme I



- a, Ar = C₆H₅
 b, Ar = 4-CH₃C₆H₄
 c, Ar = 2,4-(NO₂)₂C₆H₃

Scheme II



of this type of transformation, but it appears to be general. Thus, treatment of **1** with phenylhydrazine smoothly gave 4-methoxyazobenzene **2a** in 90% yield (Scheme I). Similarly, reaction of **1** with 4-methyl- and 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazine gave 4-methyl-4'-methoxyazobenzene (**2b**) and 2,4-dinitro-4'-methoxyazobenzene (**2c**) in 92 and 98.5% yield, respectively. This transformation can also be carried out without isolation of the intermediate cyclohexadienone; 3,4-dimethylphenol, for example, was converted to 3,4-dimethylazobenzene in 55% overall yield. Extrapolation of these results to the replacement of a phenolic OH group by H was somewhat less successful. Reaction of **1** with hydroxylamine led directly to 4-methoxynitrosobenzene in 91% yield (Scheme III). The overall conversion of 4-methoxyphenol to 4-methoxynitrosobenzene can also be carried out as a one-pot operation without isolation of the intermediate cyclohexadienone, although this procedure gave a somewhat lower yield (70%). Using the latter technique, 4-methylphenol, 3,4-dimethyl-

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