

Simple, Facile, and One-Pot Conversion of the Baylis–Hillman Adducts into Functionalized 1,2,3,4-Tetrahydroacridines and Cyclopenta[*b*]quinolines

Deevi Basavaiah,* Jamjanam Srivardhana Rao, and Raju Jannapu Reddy

School of Chemistry, University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad 500 046, India

dbsc@uohyd.ernet.in

Received June 16, 2004

Abstract: A simple, facile, and one-pot synthesis of functionalized 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroacridines and cyclopenta[*b*]quinolines from the Baylis–Hillman alcohols, i.e., 2-[hydroxy-(2-nitroaryl)methyl]cycloalk-2-enones, is described.

The Baylis–Hillman reaction is an atom-economical, carbon–carbon, bond-forming reaction providing densely functionalized molecules whose applications in many organic transformation methodologies have been well documented.^{1,2} Acridine moiety is an important structural unit present in many biologically important molecules such as amsacrine (cytotoxic, antiviral agent),^{3a,b} boti-

acrine (antiparkinsonian drug),^{3c,d} clomacran (tranquilizer),^{3e,f} monometacrine (antidepressant),^{3g,h} and in natural products such as plakinidine A and B³ⁱ and dercitin.^{3j} Also, acridine derivatives have been employed or examined as antitumor agents,^{3k} acetylcholinesterase inhibitors,^{3l} anticancer agents,^{3m} and DNA binding agents.³ⁿ Cyclopenta[*b*]quinoline derivatives are yet another class of important molecules which are found to possess biological properties such as antiinflammatory activity,^{4a} antimalarial activity,^{4b} and cholinesterase inhibition activity.^{4c} Also, cyclopenta[*b*]quinoline moiety is present in certain natural products such as isoschizogaline^{4d} and isoschizogamine.^{4d,e} Therefore, development of simple and convenient methodologies for synthesis of acridine derivatives^{3l,m,5a–h} and cyclopenta[*b*]quinoline derivatives^{4b–d,5f–j} is an interesting and attractive endeavor in synthetic organic chemistry. In continuation of our interest in the synthesis of heterocyclic molecules with Baylis–Hillman chemistry,⁶ we herein report a facile and one-pot synthesis of functionalized 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroacridines and cyclopenta[*b*]quinolines using the Baylis–Hillman adducts.

Applications of the Baylis–Hillman adducts for synthesis of quinolines, 1,4-dihydroquinolines, and quinoline *N*-oxides have been well demonstrated.^{6l,7} However, literature survey reveals that there is no report on the synthesis of acridines and cyclopenta[*b*]quinolines with the Baylis–Hillman adducts. Recently, we have reported a simple synthesis of substituted quinolines from the

* To whom correspondence should be addressed. Fax: +91-40-23012460.

(1) (a) Basavaiah, D.; Rao, A. J.; Satyanarayana, T. *Chem. Rev.* **2003**, *103*, 811. (b) Ciganek, E. In *Organic Reactions*; Paquette, L. A., Ed.; Wiley: New York, 1997; Vol. 51, pp 201–350. (c) Basavaiah, D.; Dharmarao, P.; Suguna Hyma, R. *Tetrahedron* **1996**, *52*, 8001. (d) Drewes, S. E.; Roos, G. H. P. *Tetrahedron* **1988**, *44*, 4653.

(2) (a) Navarre, L.; Darses, S.; Genet, J.-P. *Chem. Commun.* **2004**, 1108. (b) Luo, S.; Wang, P. G.; Cheng, J.-P. *J. Org. Chem.* **2004**, *69*, 555. (c) Xu, Y.-M.; Shi, M. *J. Org. Chem.* **2004**, *69*, 417. (d) Yeo, J. E.; Yang, X.; Kim, H. J.; Koo, S. *Chem. Commun.* **2004**, 236. (e) Maher, D. J.; Connon, S. J. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2004**, *45*, 1301. (f) McDougal, N. T.; Schaus, S. E. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2003**, *125*, 12094. (g) Basavaiah, D.; Sreenivasulu, B.; Rao, A. J. *J. Org. Chem.* **2003**, *68*, 5983. (h) Yang, K.-S.; Lee, W.-D.; Pan, J.-F.; Chen, K. *J. Org. Chem.* **2003**, *68*, 915. (i) Aggarwal, V. K.; Emme, I.; Fulford, S. Y. *J. Org. Chem.* **2003**, *68*, 692. (j) Kraiem, H.; Abdullh, M. I.; Amri, H. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2003**, *44*, 553. (k) Basavaiah, D.; Sharada, D. S.; Kumaragurubaran, N.; Reddy, R. M. *J. Org. Chem.* **2002**, *67*, 7135. (l) Reddy, M. V. R.; Rudd, M. T.; Ramachandran, P. V. *J. Org. Chem.* **2002**, *67*, 5382. (m) Yu, C.; Hu, L. *J. Org. Chem.* **2002**, *67*, 219. (n) Walsh, L. M.; Winn, C. L.; Goodman, J. M. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2002**, *43*, 8219. (o) Li, G.; Gao, J.; Wei, H.-X.; Enright, M. *Org. Lett.* **2000**, *2*, 617. (p) Racker, R.; Doring, K.; Reiser, O. *J. Org. Chem.* **2000**, *65*, 6932. (q) Kataoka, T.; Iwama, T.; Tsujiyama, S.-i. *Chem. Commun.* **1998**, 197.

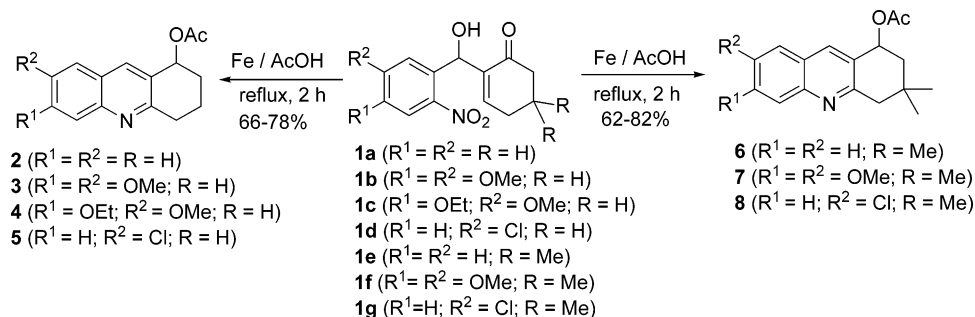
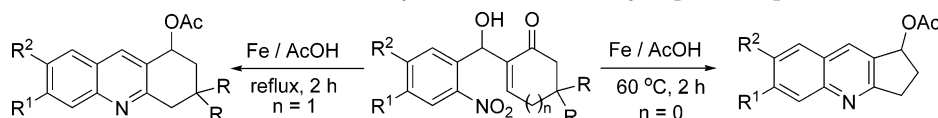
(3) (a) *Dictionary of Drugs*, 1st ed.; Elks, J., Ganellin, C. R., Eds.; Chapman and Hall: London, 1990; p 84. (b) Cain, B. F.; Atwell, G. J.; Denny, W. A. *J. Med. Chem.* **1975**, *18*, 1110. (c) *Dictionary of Drugs*, 1st ed.; Elks, J., Ganellin, C. R., Eds.; Chapman and Hall: London, 1990; p 170. (d) Molnar, I.; Wagner-Jauregg, T.; Jahn, U. U.S. Patent 3,830,918; *Chem. Abstr.* **1975**, *83*, 58674c. (e) *Dictionary of Drugs*, 1st ed.; Elks, J., Ganellin, C. R., Eds.; Chapman and Hall: London, 1990; p 297. (f) Zirkle, C. L. German Patent 1,470,245; *Chem. Abstr.* **1973**, *78*, 147825s. (g) *Dictionary of Drugs*, 1st ed.; Elks, J., Ganellin, C. R., Eds.; Chapman and Hall: London, 1990; p 835. (h) Siegfried, A.-G. French Patent 1,438,357; *Chem. Abstr.* **1967**, *66*, 10856j. (i) Inman, W. D.; O'Neill-Johnson, M.; Crews, P. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1990**, *112*, 1. (j) Gunawardana, G. P.; Kohmoto, S.; Gunasekara, S. P.; McConnell, O. J.; Koehn, F. E. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1988**, *110*, 4856. (k) Dzierzicka, K.; Kolodziejczyk, A. M. *J. Med. Chem.* **2001**, *44*, 3606. (l) Gatta, F.; Del Giudice, M. R.; Pomponi, M.; Marta, M. *Heterocycles* **1992**, *34*, 991. (m) Gamage, S. A.; Spicer, J. A.; Atwell, G. J.; Finlay, G. J.; Baguley, B. C.; Denny, W. A. *J. Med. Chem.* **1999**, *42*, 2383. (n) Bentin, T.; Nielsen, P. E. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2003**, *125*, 6378.

(4) (a) Burdi, N. Z. *Biol. Deistvie Prod. Org. Sint. Prir. Soedin.* **1978**, *3–7*; *Chem. Abstr.* **1979**, *91*, 151096r. (b) Sanders, J. M.; Clifford, D. P.; Lutz, R. E. *J. Med. Chem.* **1971**, *14*, 1126. (c) Upadysheva, A. V.; Grigor'eva, N. D.; Znamenskaya, A. P.; Sarkisyan, D. A.; Metkalova, S. E.; Antonyan, S. G.; Fleiderman, S. N.; Lavretskaya, E. F. *Khim.-Farm. Zh.* **1977**, *11*, 40; *Chem. Abstr.* **1977**, *86*, 189676q. (d) Mago-medov, N. A. *Org. Lett.* **2003**, *5*, 2509. (e) Hubbs, J. L.; Heathcock, C. H. *Org. Lett.* **1999**, *1*, 1315.

(5) (a) McNaughton, B. R.; Miller, B. L. *Org. Lett.* **2003**, *5*, 4257. (b) Goossens, R.; Smet, M.; Dehaen, W. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2002**, *43*, 6605. (c) Katritzky, A. R.; Arend, M. *J. Org. Chem.* **1998**, *63*, 9989. (d) Dinesen, J.; Jacobsen, J. P.; Hansen, F. P.; Pedersen, E. B.; Eggert, H. *J. Med. Chem.* **1990**, *33*, 93. (e) Tilak, B. D.; Berde, H.; Gogte, V. N.; Ravindranathan, T. *Indian J. Chem.* **1970**, *8*, 1. (f) Palimkar, S. S.; Siddiqui, S. A.; Daniel, T.; Lahoti, R. J.; Srinivasan, K. V. *J. Org. Chem.* **2003**, *68*, 9371. (g) Arcadi, A.; Chiarini, M.; Giuseppe, S. D.; Marinelli, F. *Synlett* **2003**, 203. (h) Cho, C. S.; Kim, B. T.; Kim, T.-J.; Shim, S. C. *Chem. Commun.* **2001**, 2576. (i) Du, W.; Curran, D. P. *Org. Lett.* **2003**, *5*, 1765. (j) Curran, D. P.; Liu, H. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1991**, *113*, 2127.

(6) (a) Basavaiah, D.; Sharada, D. S.; Veerendhar, A. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2004**, *45*, 3081. (b) Basavaiah, D.; Srivardhana Rao, J. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2004**, *45*, 1621. (c) Basavaiah, D.; Satyanarayana, T. *Chem. Commun.* **2004**, 32. (d) Basavaiah, D.; Jaganmohan Rao, A. *Chem. Commun.* **2003**, 604. (e) Basavaiah, D.; Satyanarayana, T. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2002**, *43*, 4301. (f) Basavaiah, D.; Reddy, R. M.; Kumaragurubaran, N.; Sharada, D. S. *Tetrahedron* **2002**, *58*, 3693. (g) Basavaiah, D.; Sreenivasulu, B.; Srivardhana Rao, J. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2001**, *42*, 1147. (h) Basavaiah, D.; Satyanarayana, T. *Org. Lett.* **2001**, *3*, 3619. (i) Basavaiah, D.; Bakthadoss, M.; Pandiaraju, S. *Chem. Commun.* **1998**, 1639.

(7) (a) O'Dell, D. K.; Nicholas, K. M. *J. Org. Chem.* **2003**, *68*, 6427. (b) Kim, J. N.; Chung, Y. M.; Im, Y. *J. Tetrahedron Lett.* **2002**, *43*, 6209. (c) Kim, J. N.; Lee, K. Y.; Ham, H.-S.; Kim, H. R.; Ryu, E. K. *Bull. Korean Chem. Soc.* **2001**, *22*, 135. (d) Kim, J. N.; Lee, H. J.; Lee, K. Y.; Kim, H. S. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2001**, *42*, 3737. (e) Chung, Y. M.; Lee, H. J.; Hwang, S. S.; Kim, J. N. *Bull. Korean Chem. Soc.* **2001**, *22*, 799. (f) Kim, J. N.; Kim, H. S.; Gong, J. H.; Chung, Y. M. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2001**, *42*, 8341. (g) Kim, J. N.; Lee, K. Y.; Kim, H. S.; Kim, T. Y. *Org. Lett.* **2000**, *2*, 343. (h) Familoni, O. B.; Kaye, P. T.; Klaas, P. J. *J. Chem. Commun.* **1998**, 2563.

SCHEME 1. Reductive Cyclization of Baylis–Hillman Alcohols (1a–g) with Fe/AcOH into 1,2,3,4-Tetrahydroacridines

TABLE 1. Synthesis of Functionalized 1,2,3,4-Tetrahydroacridines and Cyclopenta[*b*]quinolines^a


B-H alcohol	R ¹	R ²	R	<i>n</i>	product ^b	yield ^c (%)	mp (°C)
1a	H	H	H	1	2^d	73	71–73
1b	OMe	OMe	H	1	3^d	76	98–100
1c	OEt	OMe	H	1	4^d	66	58–61
1d	H	Cl	H	1	5^d	78	79–81
1e	H	H	Me	1	6^{d,e}	82	62–64
1f	OMe	OMe	Me	1	7^d	62	112–115
1g	H	Cl	Me	1	8^d	80	124–126
1h	H	H	H	0	9	79	
1i	OMe	OMe	H	0	10^d	63	108–111
1j	OEt	OMe	H	0	11	61	97–99
1k	H	Cl	H	0	12^d	74	90–92

^a All reactions were carried out on 1 mmol scale of Baylis–Hillman alcohol with Fe powder (6 mmol)/AcOH (5 mL) at reflux (for **1a–g**) or 60 °C (for **1h–k**) for 2 h. ^b **2–8** and **10–12** were obtained as solids while compound **9** was obtained as a viscous liquid. **2–12** were characterized by IR, ¹H NMR (200 MHz/400 MHz), ¹³C NMR (50 MHz) spectral data and elemental analysis. ^c Yields of pure products (based on alcohols) after purification through silica gel column chromatography. ^d Structures of these molecules were further confirmed by mass spectral analyses. ^e The structure of this molecule was also established from the single-crystal X-ray data.

Baylis–Hillman adducts obtained from 2-nitrobenzaldehydes and acyclic enones, via the treatment with Fe/AcOH.^{6f} It occurred to us that the Baylis–Hillman adducts derived from 2-nitrobenzaldehydes and cycloalk-2-enones could be easily transformed into acridines and cyclopenta[*b*]quinolines by treatment with Fe/AcOH in one-pot operation. In this direction, we first carried out the reaction of 2-[hydroxy(2-nitrophenyl)methyl]cyclohex-2-enone (**1a**), Baylis–Hillman alcohol obtained from 2-nitrobenzaldehyde and cyclohex-2-enone, with Fe powder in AcOH. The best results were obtained when Baylis–Hillman alcohol **1a** was treated with Fe powder in acetic acid at reflux for 2 h, providing the desired product 1-acetoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroacridine (**2**) in 73% yield (Scheme 1).

Encouraged by this result, we have successfully transformed representative Baylis–Hillman alcohols (B–H alcohols) (**1b–d**) obtained from various 2-nitrobenzaldehydes and cyclohex-2-enone via the treatment with Fe/AcOH at reflux for 2 h into the desired substituted 1-acetoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroacridines (**3–5**) in 66–78% yields (Scheme 1, Table 1).

We have also transformed the Baylis–Hillman alcohols, 5,5-dimethyl-2-[hydroxy(2-nitroaryl)methyl]cyclohex-2-enones (**1e–g**), obtained from 5,5-dimethylcyclohex-2-enone and various 2-nitrobenzaldehydes, into the corresponding acridine derivatives (**6–8**), via the treat-

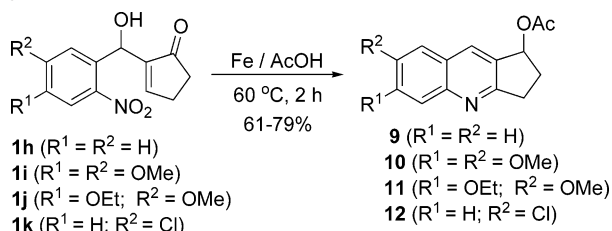
ment with Fe/AcOH under reflux for 2 h, in 62–82% yields (Scheme 1, Table 1). In fact, we could obtain the single crystals for 1-acetoxy-3,3-dimethyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroacridine (**6**) and further confirmed the structure of this molecule **6** by the single-crystal X-ray data (see Supporting Information).

After developing a simple methodology for synthesis of acridine derivatives, we directed our attention toward the synthesis of cyclopenta[*b*]quinoline derivatives. Thus, we have successfully employed the Baylis–Hillman alcohols, 2-[hydroxy(2-nitroaryl)methyl]cyclohex-2-enones (**1h–k**), obtained from cyclohex-2-enone and various 2-nitrobenzaldehydes for the synthesis of 2,3-dihydro-1*H*-cyclopenta[*b*]quinolines (**9–12**) via treatment with Fe/AcOH at 60 °C for 2 h (the reaction was not clean at reflux temperature) in 61–79% yields (Scheme 2, Table 1).

A plausible mechanism for the formation of tetrahydroacridines and cyclopenta[*b*]quinolines is presented in Scheme 3. We have in fact proposed a similar mechanism for the formation of quinoline derivatives from the Baylis–Hillman adducts derived via the reaction of 2-nitrobenzaldehydes with alkyl vinyl ketones or acrylates.^{6f}

We have also transformed representative acetates **2** and **3** into the corresponding alcohols, 1-hydroxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroacridine (**13**) and 6,7-dimethoxy-1-hydroxy-

SCHEME 2. Reductive Cyclization of Baylis–Hillman Alcohols (1h–k) with Fe/AcOH into Cyclopenta[b]quinolines



1,2,3,4-tetrahydroacridine (**14**), by treating them respectively with aqueous $K_2CO_3/MeOH$ (Scheme 4).

In conclusion, we have successfully developed a convenient, operationally simple, one-pot procedure for the synthesis of functionalized 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroacridines and cyclopenta[b]quinolines from Baylis–Hillman alcohols, thus demonstrating the application of Baylis–Hillman chemistry in synthetic organic chemistry.

Experimental Section:

Typical Experimental Procedure. 1-Acetoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroacridine (2): To a stirred solution of Baylis–Hillman alcohol, i.e., 2-[hydroxy(2-nitrophenyl)methyl]cyclohex-2-enone (**1a**) (1 mmol, 0.247 g), in acetic acid (5 mL) was added Fe powder (6 mmol, 0.335 g) and the reaction mixture was heated under reflux for 2 h. Then the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and acetic acid was removed under reduced pressure. The reaction mixture was diluted with EtOAc (10 mL) and stirred for 2 min and filtered to remove any iron impurities. The insoluble iron residue was washed with EtOAc (10 mL). The filtrate and washings were combined and dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 . Solvent (EtOAc) was removed under reduced pressure and the crude product thus obtained was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, 10% EtOAc in hexanes) to afford the desired 1-acetoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroacridine **2** as a light yellow solid in 73% (0.176 g) yield; mp 71–73 °C; IR (KBr) 1726, 1620 cm^{-1} ; 1H NMR (400 MHz) δ 1.98–2.31 (m, 7H), 3.07–3.32 (m, 2H), 6.23 (t, 1H, $J = 5.2$ Hz), 7.48–7.54 (m, 1H), 7.68–7.75 (m, 1H), 7.80 (d, 1H, $J = 7.6$ Hz), 8.02 (d, 1H, $J = 8.8$ Hz), 8.14 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR δ 18.6, 21.3, 28.8, 32.9, 69.8, 125.8, 126.8, 127.7, 128.3, 128.8, 129.7, 136.6, 147.6, 158.5, 170.5; EIMS (m/z) 241 (M^+). Anal. Calcd for $C_{15}H_{15}NO_2$: C, 74.67; H, 6.27; N, 5.80. Found: C, 74.87; H, 6.26; N, 5.75.

1-Acetoxy-6,7-dimethoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroacridine (3): yield 76%; mp 98–100 °C; IR (KBr) 1730, 1620 cm^{-1} ; 1H NMR (200 MHz) δ 1.88–2.29 (m, 7H), 2.91–3.30 (m, 2H), 3.99 (s, 3H), 4.01 (s, 3H), 6.17 (t, 1H, $J = 4.8$ Hz), 7.01 (s, 1H), 7.34 (s, 1H), 7.97 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR δ 18.6, 21.4, 28.9, 32.5, 55.9, 56.1, 70.0, 105.0, 106.8, 122.4, 126.8, 135.4, 144.7, 149.4, 153.0, 155.9, 170.7; LCMS (m/z) 302 ($M^+ + 1$). Anal. Calcd for $C_{17}H_{19}NO_4$: C, 67.76; H, 6.36; N, 4.65. Found: C, 67.87; H, 6.35; N, 4.67.

1-Acetoxy-6-ethoxy-7-methoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroacridine (4): yield 66%; mp 58–61 °C; IR (KBr) 1707, 1622 cm^{-1} ; 1H NMR (200 MHz) δ 1.55 (t, 3H, $J = 7.4$ Hz), 1.90–2.29 (m, 7H), 2.90–3.28 (m, 2H), 3.98 (s, 3H), 4.25 (q, 2H, $J = 7.4$ Hz), 6.17 (t, 1H, $J = 4.8$ Hz), 7.00 (s, 1H), 7.31 (s, 1H), 7.95 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR δ 14.5, 18.8, 21.5, 29.0, 32.7, 56.0, 64.4, 70.1, 105.2, 107.8, 122.3, 126.8, 135.2, 145.0, 149.7, 152.3, 156.0, 170.8; EIMS (m/z) 315 (M^+). Anal. Calcd for $C_{18}H_{21}NO_4$: C, 68.55; H, 6.71; N, 4.44. Found: C, 68.39; H, 6.78; N, 4.41.

1-Acetoxy-7-chloro-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroacridine (5): yield 78%; mp 79–81 °C; IR (KBr) 1734, 1620 cm^{-1} ; 1H NMR (400 MHz) δ 1.94–2.27 (m, 7H), 2.99–3.11 (m, 1H), 3.15–3.25 (m, 1H), 6.15 (t, 1H, $J = 4.0$ Hz), 7.57 (dd, 1H, $J = 2.0$ and 8.8 Hz), 7.71 (d, 1H, $J = 2.0$ Hz), 7.90 (d, 1H, $J = 8.8$ Hz), 8.00 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR δ 18.6, 21.4, 28.8, 32.9, 69.8, 126.3, 127.5, 130.0, 130.8, 131.6, 135.7, 146.0, 159.0, 170.6. Anal. Calcd for $C_{15}H_{14}NO_2Cl$: C, 65.34; H, 5.12; N, 5.08. Found: C, 65.40; H, 5.09; N, 5.10.

1-Acetoxy-3,3-dimethyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroacridine (6): yield 82%; mp 62–64 °C; IR (KBr) 1732, 1622 cm^{-1} ; 1H NMR (200 MHz) δ 1.08 (s, 3H), 1.17 (s, 3H), 1.75–1.89 (m, 1H), 2.05–2.27 (m, 4H), 2.92 and 3.03 (ABq, 2H, $J = 17.2$ Hz), 6.25 (t, 1H, $J = 7.4$ Hz), 7.40–7.55 (m, 1H), 7.60–7.71 (m, 1H), 7.77 (d, 1H, $J = 7.8$ Hz), 8.00 (d, 1H, $J = 8.6$ Hz), 8.05 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR δ 21.3, 27.2, 30.3, 30.6, 41.7, 47.1, 69.5, 125.8, 126.9, 127.5, 128.0, 128.3, 129.5, 135.2, 147.5, 157.9, 170.7; EIMS (m/z) 269 (M^+). Anal. Calcd for $C_{17}H_{19}NO_2$: C, 75.81; H, 7.11; N, 5.20. Found: C, 75.88; H, 7.17; N, 5.19. Crystal data for **6**: empirical formula, $C_{17}H_{19}NO_2$; formula weight, 269.33; crystal color and habit, colorless, rectangular; crystal dimensions, $0.6 \times 0.5 \times 0.4$ mm³; crystal system, triclinic; lattice type, primitive; lattice parameters, $a = 9.2092(9)$ Å, $b = 11.5236(12)$ Å, $c = 16.450(3)$ Å, $\alpha = 95.221(12)^\circ$; $\beta = 106.244(13)^\circ$; $\gamma = 113.528(9)^\circ$; $V = 1495.4(4)$ Å³; space group, $P\bar{1}$ (no. 2); $Z = 4$; $D_{calcd} = 1.196$ g/cm³; $F_{000} = 576$; $\lambda(Mo K\alpha) = 0.71073$ Å; $R(I \geq 2\sigma_1) = 0.0565$, $wR^2 = 0.1353$. Detailed X-ray crystallographic data are available from the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre, 12 Union Road, Cambridge CB2 1EZ, UK (for compound **6** CCDC No. 238062).

1-Acetoxy-6,7-dimethoxy-3,3-dimethyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroacridine (7): yield 62%; mp 112–115 °C; IR (KBr) 1732, 1622 cm^{-1} ; 1H NMR (200 MHz) δ 1.06 (s, 3H), 1.15 (s, 3H), 1.70–1.89 (m, 1H), 2.05–2.24 (m, 4H), 2.84 and 2.96 (ABq, 2H, $J = 16.6$ Hz), 3.99 (s, 3H), 4.01 (s, 3H), 6.22 (t, 1H, $J = 6.8$ Hz), 7.01 (s, 1H), 7.33 (s, 1H), 7.90 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR δ 21.2, 27.2, 30.1, 30.6, 41.7, 46.8, 55.76, 55.82, 69.6, 104.9, 107.0, 122.3, 125.9, 133.5, 144.7, 149.4, 152.7, 155.2, 170.7; LCMS (m/z) 330 ($M^+ + 1$). Anal. Calcd for $C_{19}H_{23}NO_4$: C, 69.28; H, 7.04; N, 4.25. Found: C, 69.16; H, 7.00; N, 4.29.

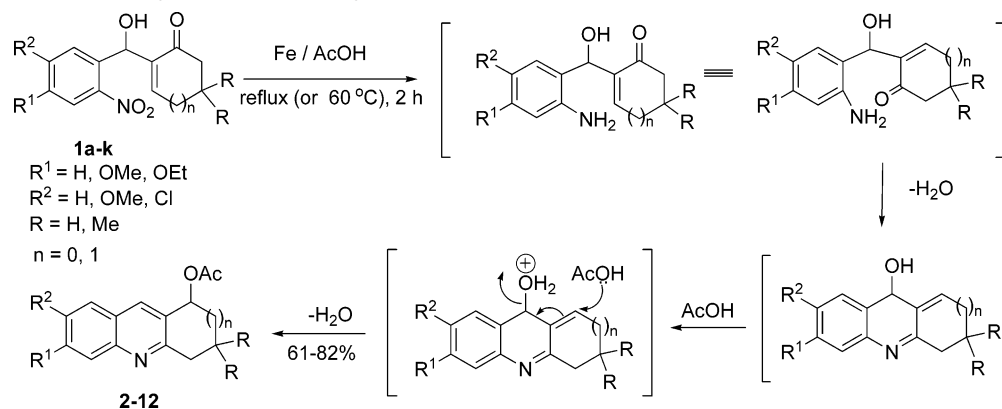
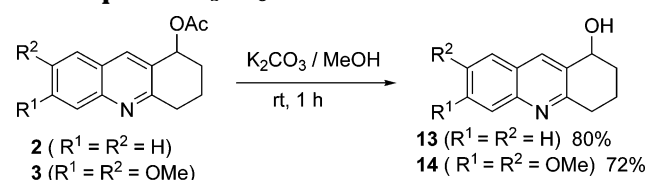
1-Acetoxy-7-chloro-3,3-dimethyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroacridine (8): yield 80%; mp 124–126 °C; IR (KBr) 1726, 1614 cm^{-1} ; 1H NMR (200 MHz) δ 1.07 (s, 3H), 1.16 (s, 3H), 1.71–1.90 (m, 1H), 2.06–2.31 (m, 4H), 2.88 and 2.99 (ABq, 2H, $J = 18.6$ Hz), 6.22 (t, 1H, $J = 6.8$ Hz), 7.59 (dd, 1H, $J = 1.8$ and 8.8 Hz), 7.76 (d, 1H, $J = 1.8$ Hz), 7.92 (d, 1H, $J = 8.8$ Hz), 7.96 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR δ 21.3, 27.3, 30.4, 30.7, 41.7, 47.1, 69.3, 126.2, 127.5, 129.2, 130.1, 130.5, 131.5, 134.2, 145.9, 158.4, 170.7; EIMS (m/z) 303 (M^+), 305 ($M^+ + 2$). Anal. Calcd for $C_{17}H_{18}NO_2Cl$: C, 67.21; H, 5.97; N, 4.61. Found: C, 67.49; H, 6.00; N, 4.58.

1-Acetoxy-2,3-dihydro-1H-cyclopenta[b]quinoline (9): To a stirred solution of Baylis–Hillman alcohol, 2-[hydroxy(2-nitrophenyl)methyl]cyclopent-2-enone (**1h**) (1 mmol, 0.233 g), in acetic acid (5 mL) was added Fe powder (6 mmol, 0.335 g) and the reaction mixture was heated at 60 °C for 2 h. Then the reaction mixture was worked up following the similar procedure as mentioned for **2** and the product thus obtained was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, 8% EtOAc in hexanes) to afford 1-acetoxy-2,3-dihydro-1H-cyclopenta[b]quinoline (**9**) as a viscous colorless liquid in 79% yield (0.179 g). IR (neat) 1736, 1626 cm^{-1} ; 1H NMR (400 MHz) δ 2.11 (s, 3H), 2.25–2.36 (m, 1H), 2.56–2.68 (m, 1H), 3.11–3.21 (m, 1H), 3.35–3.46 (m, 1H), 6.31–6.37 (m, 1H), 7.50–7.57 (m, 1H), 7.69–7.76 (m, 1H), 7.84 (dd, 1H, $J = 1.2$ and 8.4 Hz), 8.07 (d, 1H, $J = 8.4$ Hz), 8.22 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR δ 21.0, 30.5, 32.0, 75.5, 125.8, 127.0, 128.2, 128.6, 129.6, 132.8, 133.4, 148.8, 166.0, 170.8. Anal. Calcd for $C_{14}H_{13}NO_2$: C, 73.99; H, 5.77; N, 6.16. Found: C, 73.77; H, 5.82; N, 6.09.

1-Acetoxy-2,3-dihydro-6,7-dimethoxy-1H-cyclopenta[b]quinoline (10): Yield 63%; mp 108–111 °C; IR (KBr) 1728, 1620 cm^{-1} ; 1H NMR (200 MHz) δ 2.07 (s, 3H), 2.17–2.35 (m, 1H), 2.47–2.69 (m, 1H), 2.97–3.16 (m, 1H), 3.25–3.44 (m, 1H), 3.99 (s, 3H), 4.02 (s, 3H), 6.28 (dd, 1H, $J = 3.6$ and 7.0 Hz), 7.05 (s, 1H), 7.39 (s, 1H), 8.04 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR δ 21.0, 30.4, 31.8, 55.8, 55.9, 76.0, 105.8, 107.4, 122.3, 130.9, 131.8, 145.9, 149.1, 152.6, 163.6, 170.8; EIMS (m/z) 287 (M^+). Anal. Calcd for $C_{16}H_{17}NO_4$: C, 66.89; H, 5.96; N, 4.87. Found: C, 67.08; H, 5.94; N, 4.91.

1-Acetoxy-2,3-dihydro-6-ethoxy-7-methoxy-1H-cyclopenta[b]quinoline (11): yield 61%; mp 97–99 °C; IR (KBr) 1730, 1620 cm^{-1} ; 1H NMR (200 MHz) δ 1.55 (t, 3H, $J = 6.8$ Hz), 2.08 (s, 3H), 2.16–2.36 (m, 1H), 2.49–2.70 (m, 1H), 2.99–3.20 (m, 1H), 3.24–3.47 (m, 1H), 3.99 (s, 3H), 4.26 (q, 2H, $J = 6.8$ Hz), 6.28 (dd, 1H, $J = 3.8$ and 6.8 Hz), 7.05 (s, 1H), 7.37 (s, 1H), 8.05

SCHEME 3. Reductive Cyclization of Baylis–Hillman Alcohols with Fe/AcOH: Mechanism

SCHEME 4. Hydrolysis of Acetates into Alcohols with Aqueous $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3/\text{MeOH}$ 

(s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR δ 14.5, 21.2, 30.6, 31.9, 55.9, 64.3, 76.1, 105.9, 108.1, 122.3, 131.0, 132.0, 146.0, 149.5, 152.0, 163.7, 171.1. Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{19}\text{NO}_4$: C, 67.76; H, 6.36; N, 4.65. Found: C, 67.51; H, 6.40; N, 4.63.

1-Acetoxy-7-chloro-2,3-dihydro-1H-cyclopenta[b]quinoline (12): yield 74%; mp 90–92 °C; IR (KBr) 1724, 1622 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (200 MHz) δ 2.09 (s, 3H), 2.18–2.38 (m, 1H), 2.52–2.73 (m, 1H), 3.05–3.21 (m, 1H), 3.28–3.48 (m, 1H), 6.29 (dd, 1H, $J = 4.0$ and 6.8 Hz), 7.63 (dd, 1H, $J = 2.0$ and 8.8 Hz), 7.79 (d, 1H, $J = 2.0$ Hz), 7.98 (d, 1H, $J = 8.8$ Hz), 8.10 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR δ 21.0, 30.6, 32.0, 75.4, 126.9, 127.8, 130.3, 130.5, 131.6, 132.4, 134.0, 147.4, 166.6, 170.8; EIMS (m/z) 261 (M^+), 263 ($\text{M}^+ + 2$). Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{12}\text{NO}_2\text{Cl}$: C, 64.25; H, 4.62; N, 5.35. Found: C, 64.35; H, 4.67; N, 5.40.

1-Hydroxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroacridine (13): A mixture of 1-acetoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroacridine (**2**) (0.5 mmol, 0.120 g) and K_2CO_3 (1.5 mmol, 0.207 g) in methanol (2 mL) containing a drop of water was stirred at room temperature for 1 h. The salts were removed by filtration and washed with methanol (2×5 mL). The filtrate and washings were combined. Solvent was removed and the crude product thus obtained was subjected to crystallization from methanol at 0 °C to provide 1-hydroxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroacridine (**13**) as a colorless solid in 80% (0.079 g) yield; mp 161–163 °C; IR (KBr) 3196 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (200 MHz) δ 1.84–2.33 (m, 5H), 3.05–3.23 (m, 2H), 4.95–5.10 (m, 1H), 7.41–

7.56 (m, 1H), 7.61–7.74 (m, 1H), 7.78 (dd, 1H, $J = 1.2$ and 8.0 Hz), 7.99 (d, 1H, $J = 8.6$ Hz), 8.25 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR δ 19.0, 32.5, 33.1, 68.6, 125.9, 127.3, 127.7, 128.3, 129.5, 133.4, 135.4, 147.4, 158.5; LCMS (m/z) 200 ($\text{M}^+ + 1$). Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{13}\text{NO}$: C, 78.36; H, 6.58; N, 7.03. Found: C, 78.49; H, 6.55; N, 7.10.

6,7-Dimethoxy-1-hydroxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroacridine (14): yield 72%; mp 133–136 °C; IR (KBr) 3119 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (200 MHz) δ 1.80–2.45 (m, 5H), 2.90–3.20 (m, 2H), 3.97 (s, 3H), 3.98 (s, 3H), 4.90–5.01 (m, 1H), 6.94 (s, 1H), 7.30 (s, 1H), 8.05 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR δ 19.0, 32.6, 32.8, 56.0, 56.1, 68.5, 105.0, 107.0, 122.7, 131.3, 134.0, 144.5, 149.4, 152.7, 155.8. Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}_3$: C, 69.48; H, 6.61; N, 5.40. Found: C, 69.26; H, 6.64; N, 5.36.

Acknowledgment. We thank CSIR (New Delhi) for funding this project. We thank UGC (New Delhi) for recognizing our University of Hyderabad as “University with potential for excellence” (UPE) and also recognizing our School of Chemistry as a Center for Advanced Studies in Chemistry and providing some instrumental facilities. J.S.R. thanks UGC and DST (New Delhi) and R.J.R. thanks CSIR (New Delhi) for their research fellowships. We also thank the National Single Crystal X-ray Facility in our School of Chemistry funded by the DST (New Delhi). We thank Prof. T. P. Radhakrishnan for helpful discussions regarding the X-ray crystal structure.

Supporting Information Available: ORTEP diagram for compound **6**, general experimental details, and ^{13}C NMR spectra of all products **2–14**; crystallographic information data file for **6** (CIF). This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

JO0489871