

Syntheses of Isoalloxazines, Alloxazines, Toxoflavins, and Fervenuilins by Oxidative Cyclization of the Michael-type Adducts from Substituted 6-Aminouracils and Azo-compounds

By Fumio Yoneda,* Yoshiharu Sakuma, Tomohisa Nagamatsu, and Shunjiro Mizumoto, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Kumamoto University, Oe-honmachi, Kumamoto 862, Japan

Treatment of the Michael-type adducts from 6-anilino-uracil derivatives and diethyl azodiformate (DAD) or 4-phenyl-1,2,4-triazoline-3,5-dione (PTAD) with an oxidizing agent caused oxidative rearrangement, followed by thermal or photochemical cyclization, to give the corresponding (iso)alloxazines. Similarly, oxidative cyclization of the Michael-type adducts from 6-benzylidenehydrazinouracil derivatives and DAD gave toxoflavin and fervenuilin derivatives.

DIETHYL AZODIFORMATE (DAD) reacts readily with 6-aminopyrimidines unsubstituted in position 5 to give Michael-type adducts [6-amino-5-(1,2-bisethoxycarbonylhydrazino)pyrimidines].¹ 4-Phenyl-1,2,4-triazoline-3,5-dione (PTAD) is also effective in such Michael-type additions, giving the corresponding 5-(3,5-dioxo-4-phenyl-1,2,4-triazolidin-1-yl)pyrimidines.^{2,3} These adducts are useful starting materials for preparations of several fused pyrimidines,⁴⁻⁷ the DAD or PTAD acting as a nitrogen source for direct cyclization. We now describe a new synthesis of biologically interesting fused pyrimidines (isoalloxazines, alloxazines, toxoflavins, and fervenuilins) by oxidative cyclization of the Michael-type adducts with several oxidizing agents. The reaction proceeds through *NN*-bisethoxycarbonylhydrazones, formed by dehydrogenation of the Michael-type adducts followed by rearrangement.

Synthesis of Isoalloxazines.—Treatment of 6-(*N*-ethyl-anilino)-3-methyluracil (Ib)⁸ with an equimolar amount of DAD under reflux in chlorobenzene gave 5-(1,2-bisethoxycarbonylhydrazino)-6-(*N*-ethyl-anilino)-3-methyluracil (IIb). Heating the product (IIb) with an excess of lead tetra-acetate in dioxan under reflux for 5 h gave 10-ethyl-3-methylisoalloxazine (IIIb)⁸ in good yield. When this reaction was carried out at lower temperature (*ca.* 40 °C) for 3 h, the product was the oxidised and rearranged intermediate *NN*-bisethoxycarbonylhydrazone (IVb). Compound (IVb) was readily converted into the isoalloxazine (IIIb) by heating its solution in tetramethylene sulphone at 200 °C, in good yield. Irradiation of (IVb) in ethanol with a tungsten lamp also gave the isoalloxazine (IIIb).

¹ E. C. Taylor and F. Sowinski, *J. Org. Chem.*, 1974, **39**, 907.

² F. Yoneda, S. Matsumoto, and M. Higuchi, *J.C.S. Chem. Comm.*, 1974, 551.

³ F. Yoneda, S. Matsumoto, and Y. Sakuma, *Chem. and Pharm. Bull. (Japan)*, 1975, **23**, 2425.

⁴ E. C. Taylor and F. Sowinski, *J. Org. Chem.*, 1975, **40**, 2321.

⁵ E. C. Taylor and F. Sowinski, *J. Org. Chem.*, 1975, **40**, 2329.

⁶ F. Yoneda, S. Matsumoto, and M. Higuchi, *J.C.S. Chem. Comm.*, 1975, 146.

The structure of the intermediate (IVb) was based on the following facts. The two carbonyl bands (1 752 and 1 732 cm⁻¹) of the 1,2-bisethoxycarbonylhydrazino-group of (IIb) were replaced by two equivalent carbonyl bands (1 755 cm⁻¹), and the two amino-absorptions (3 230 and 3 180 cm⁻¹) of (IIb) had disappeared. The n.m.r. spectrum showed signals for two equivalent ethyl ester groups, whereas that of (IIb) showed those of two different ethyl ester systems. The mass spectrum of (IVb) revealed a strong molecular ion peak at *m/e* 417.

Similarly, the Michael-type adducts (IIa and c) from other 6-(*N*-alkylanilino)-3-methyluracils (Ia and c) with DAD gave the corresponding isoalloxazines (IIIa and c) by oxidative cyclization with lead tetra-acetate. Oxidation of the adducts (II) with lead dioxide in dioxan under reflux also gave (III), in lower yields. Although other oxidizing agents, such as DAD itself and nitrobenzene, can be used for the cyclization, the yields are poor. However, these adducts did not give any isoalloxazines on pyrolysis or on refluxing in solvents without oxidizing agents.

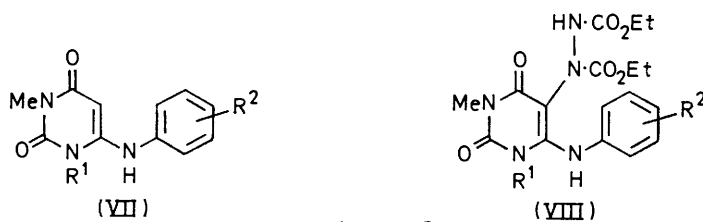
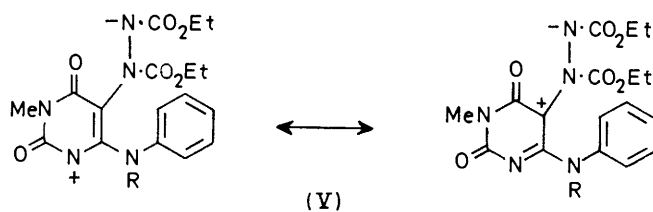
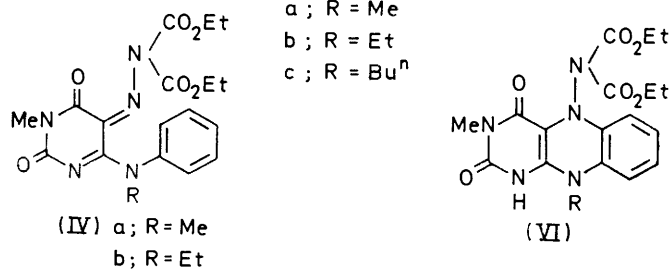
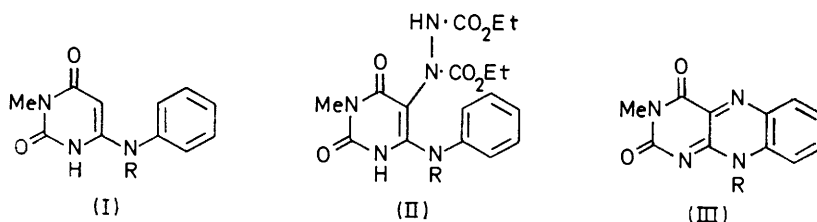
The oxidizing agents probably abstract two hydrogen atoms from the adduct to give the 1,5- or 1,3-dipolar intermediate (V), which undergoes intramolecular rearrangement to the *NN*-bisethoxycarbonylhydrazone (IV).⁹ Compound (IV) could then cyclize thermally or photochemically to the dihydro-isoalloxazine derivative (VI), which is converted into the isoalloxazine by the loss of diethyl iminodiformate, although this product was not detected. The mechanism of the other reactions described below could be similarly explained.

Synthesis of Alloxazines.—Next, the oxidative cyclization of 6-anilino-5-(1,2-bisethoxycarbonylhydrazino)-

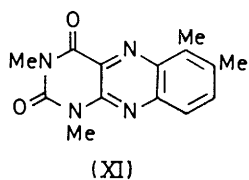
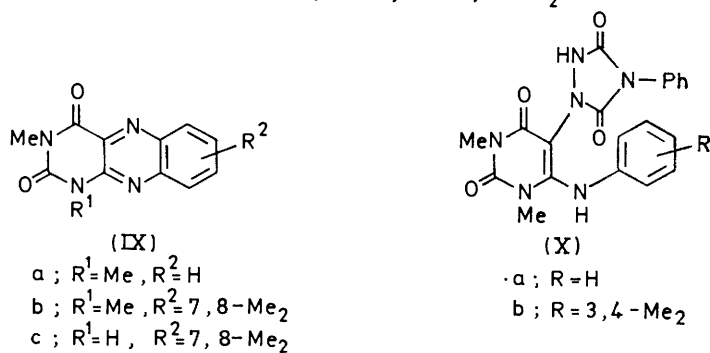
⁷ F. Yoneda, S. Fukazawa, and S. Nishigaki, *J.C.S. Chem. Comm.*, 1971, 83.

⁸ F. Yoneda, Y. Sakuma, M. Ichiba, and K. Shinomura, *J. Amer. Chem. Soc.*, 1976, **98**, 830.

⁹ There is precedent for a rearrangement of this type of 1,3-dipolar compound to the *NN*-bisethoxycarbonylhydrazone: E. Fahr, K. Döppert, and F. Scheckenbach, *Angew. Chem.*, 1963, **75**, 670.



a; R¹ = Me, R² = H
b; R¹ = Me, R² = 3,4-Me₂
c; R¹ = H, R² = 3,4-Me₂



DAD in dimethylformamide under reflux gave (XVII) directly, in lower yields.

Treatment of 6-benzylidenehydrazino-3-methyluracil (XVe)¹⁴ with DAD gave 6-benzylidenehydrazino-5-(1,2-bisethoxycarbonylhydrazino)-3-methyluracil (XVIe), which was heated in nitrobenzene to give 3-phenyl-1-demethyltoxoflavin (3-phenyl-8-demethylfervenuin) (XVIIe).¹³

EXPERIMENTAL

5-(1,2-Bisethoxycarbonylhydrazino)-6-(N-ethylanilino)-3-methyluracil (IIb).—A mixture of 6-(N-ethylanilino)-3-methyluracil (Ib) (4.9 g, 0.02 mol) and DAD (3.8 g, 0.022 mol) in methylcellosolve (50 ml) was refluxed for 5 h. The mixture was evaporated *in vacuo* to dryness and the residue was treated with ether. The crystals which separated were filtered off and recrystallized from ethanol to give *needles* (5.5 g, 65%), m.p. 141°, ν_{\max} (Nujol) 3 230, 3 180, 1 752, 1 732, 1 695, 1 640, 1 609, and 1 583 cm^{-1} , M^+ 419 (Found:

carbonylhydrazone (IVa).—To a solution of the adduct (IIIa) (2 g, 0.005 mol) in dioxan (30 ml) was added lead tetraacetate (4.5 g, 0.01 mol), and the mixture was treated as above to give pale yellow *crystals* (1.7 g, 75%), m.p. 115°, M^+ 403 (Found: C, 53.85; H, 5.3; N, 17.05. $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_5\text{O}_6$ requires C, 53.6; H, 5.25; N, 17.35%).

10-Ethyl-3-methylisoalloxazine (IIIb).—*Method A.* The hydrazone (IVb) (0.3 g, 0.000 7 mol) was dissolved in tetramethylene sulphone (5 ml) and heated at 200 °C for 2 h. The solution was evaporated to dryness and the residue was recrystallized from ethanol to give yellow *needles* (0.15 g, 78%), m.p. 299°.⁸

Method B. A solution of the hydrazone (IVb) (0.1 g, 0.000 23 mol) in ethanol (20 ml) was irradiated with a tungsten lamp (300 W) at 50 cm range for 5 h. The mixture was evaporated to dryness and the residue was washed with ether to give yellow *needles* (0.05 g, 78%), m.p. 299°.⁸

In the dark, refluxing (IVb) in ethanol or dioxan for 4 h did not give the product (IIIb); starting material was recovered.

TABLE I

Michael-type adducts from 6-benzylidenehydrazinouracils and DAD

Compd.	M.p. (°C)	Yield (%)	Found (%)			Formula	Required (%)		
			C	H	N		C	H	N
(XIIIa)	179	61	52.65	5.3	19.5	$\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_6\text{O}_6$	52.75	5.6	19.45
(XIIIb)	205	68	49.0	4.9	17.75	$\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{23}\text{ClN}_6\text{O}_6$	48.9	4.95	18.0
(XIIIc)	219	78	51.75	5.6	18.05	$\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{26}\text{N}_6\text{O}_7$	51.95	5.65	18.15
(XIIId)	216	66	52.95	6.2	20.4	$\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{28}\text{N}_7\text{O}_6$	53.05	6.15	20.6
(XIIIe)	235	79	50.7	5.2	17.75	$\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_6\text{O}_8$	50.4	5.1	17.65
(XVIa)	192	76	52.7	5.55	19.2	$\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_6\text{O}_6$	52.75	5.6	19.45
(XVIb)	186	72	48.8	5.0	18.2	$\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{23}\text{ClN}_6\text{O}_6$	48.9	4.95	18.0
(XVIc)	195	63	51.85	5.6	18.1	$\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{26}\text{N}_6\text{O}_7$	51.95	5.65	18.15
(XVI d)	193	59	53.25	6.15	20.45	$\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{28}\text{N}_7\text{O}_6$	53.05	6.15	20.6

C, 54.5; H, 6.2; N, 16.7. $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{25}\text{N}_5\text{O}_6$ requires C, 54.4; H, 6.0; N, 16.7%).

5-(1,2-Bisethoxycarbonylhydrazino)-6-(N-methylanilino)-3-methyluracil (IIa).—A mixture of 6-(N-methylanilino)-3-methyluracil (Ia) (2.3 g, 0.01 mol) and DAD (2.1 g, 0.012 mol) in methylcellosolve (20 ml) was treated as above to give the *adduct* (3.2 g, 70%), m.p. 205°, ν_{\max} (Nujol) 3 235, 3 185, 1 753, 1 735, 1 700, 1 640, 1 612, 1 595, and 1 585 cm^{-1} , M^+ 405 (Found: C, 53.4; H, 5.8; N, 17.2. $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_5\text{O}_6$ requires C, 53.35; H, 5.7; N, 17.3%).

5-(1,2-Bisethoxycarbonylhydrazino)-6-(N-n-butylanilino)-3-methyluracil (IIc).—This was prepared analogously from 6-(N-n-butylanilino)-3-methyluracil (Ic) and DAD in 60% yield; m.p. 143°, ν_{\max} (Nujol) 3 240, 1 758, 1 739, 1 700, 1 635, 1 615, 1 599, and 1 585 cm^{-1} , M^+ 447 (Found: C, 56.4; H, 6.5; N, 15.55. $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{29}\text{N}_5\text{O}_6$ requires C, 56.35; H, 6.55; N, 15.65%).

6-(N-Ethylanilino)-3-methyl-5-oxouracil 5-NN-Bisethoxycarbonylhydrazone (IVb).—To a solution of the adduct (IIb) (2.1 g, 0.005 mol) in dioxan (30 ml) was added lead tetraacetate (4.5 g, 0.01 mol); the mixture was stirred at 40 °C for 3 h, then filtered, and the filtrate was diluted with water (50 ml) and set aside overnight. The separated product was filtered off, washed with water, dried, and extracted with hot ethanol. The extracts were evaporated *in vacuo* to give the *hydrazone* (1.6 g, 76%). Recrystallization from ethanol gave pale yellow prisms, m.p. 143°, ν_{\max} (Nujol) 1 755, 1 708, 1 652, 1 602, 1 540, and 1 496 cm^{-1} , M^+ 417 (Found: C, 54.45; H, 5.45; N, 16.5. $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_5\text{O}_6$ requires C, 54.65; H, 5.55; N, 16.8%).

3-Methyl-6-(N-methylanilino)-5-oxouracil 5-NN-Bisethoxy-

3,10-Dimethylisoalloxazine (IIIa).—The hydrazone (IVa) (0.4 g, 0.001 mol) was heated in tetramethylene sulphone (3 ml) at 200 °C for 1 h and the mixture was diluted with water. The crystals which separated were filtered off and washed with ethanol to give almost pure *isoalloxazine* (0.2 g, 83%), m.p. 334°.⁸

Direct Synthesis of Isoalloxazines from the Michael-type Adducts. General Procedure.—A solution of the adduct (0.001 mol) with lead tetraacetate (0.003 mol) in dioxan (10 ml) was refluxed for 5 h. After cooling, the mixture was filtered, and the filtrate was diluted with water and set aside overnight. The separated product was extracted with hot ethanol, the extracts were evaporated to dryness, and the residue was recrystallized from ethanol to give the *isoalloxazine*. By this method compounds (IIIa), (IIIb), and 10-n-butyl-3-methylisoalloxazine (IIIc) were obtained in 70, 75, and 55% yields respectively.

6-Anilino-5-(1,2-bisethoxycarbonylhydrazino)-1,3-dimethyluracil (VIIIa).—A mixture of 6-anilino-1,3-dimethyluracil (VIIa) (2.3 g, 0.01 mol) and DAD (2.1 g, 0.012 mol) in chlorobenzene (25 ml) was refluxed for 4 h. Evaporation to a small volume and dilution with ether caused separation of crystals, which were filtered off and washed with ether. Recrystallization from ethanol gave *needles* (2.4 g, 60%), m.p. 145°, ν_{\max} (Nujol) 3 237, 3 200, 1 739, 1 715, 1 635, and 1 620 cm^{-1} , M^+ 405 (Found: C, 53.4; H, 5.8; N, 17.25. $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_5\text{O}_6$ requires C, 53.35; H, 5.7; N, 17.3%).

5-(1,2-Bisethoxycarbonylhydrazino)-1,3-dimethyl-6-(3,4-xylidino)uracil (VIIIb).—A mixture of 1,3-dimethyl-6-(3,4-xylidino)uracil (VIIb) (2.6 g, 0.01 mol) and DAD (1.9 g, 0.011 mol) in chlorobenzene (25 ml) was refluxed for 3 h and

treated as above. Recrystallization from ethanol gave *needles* (3.2 g, 75%), m.p. 143°, ν_{\max} (Nujol) 3 235, 3 175, 1 740, 1 702, 1 622, 1 610, and 1 532 cm^{-1} , M^+ 433 (Found: C, 55.5; H, 6.35; N, 16.2. $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{27}\text{N}_5\text{O}_6$ requires C, 55.4; H, 6.3; N, 16.15%).

5-(1,2-Bisethoxycarbonylhydrazino)-3-methyl-6-(3,4-xylylidino)uracil (VIIIc).—A mixture of 3-methyl-6-(3,4-xylylidino)uracil (VIIc) (2.5 g, 0.01 mol) and DAD (1.9 g, 0.011 mol) in chlorobenzene (25 ml) was refluxed for 3 h and treated as above. Recrystallization from ethanol gave *needles* (3.1 g, 74%), m.p. 245°, ν_{\max} (Nujol) 3 190, 1 738, 1 700, 1 619, 1 599, and 1 518 cm^{-1} , M^+ 419 (Found: C, 54.44; H, 6.2; N, 16.55. $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{25}\text{N}_5\text{O}_6$ requires C, 54.4; H, 6.0; N, 16.7%).

1,3-Dimethylalloxazine (IXa).—*Method A*. The adduct (VIIIa) (0.3 g, 0.000 7 mol) was heated in nitrobenzene (2 ml) at 220 °C for 4 h. After cooling, the mixture was diluted with ether and set aside overnight. The crystals were filtered off and recrystallized from ethanol to give yellow *needles* (0.15 g, 84%), m.p. 247°. ¹⁰

Method B. 6-Anilino-5-(3,5-dioxo-4-phenyl-1,2,4-triazolidin-1-yl)-1,3-dimethyluracil (Xa) ⁸ (0.41 g, 0.001 mol) was heated in nitrobenzene (3 ml) at 240 °C for 4 h and then treated as above to give (IXa) (0.24 g, 90%), m.p. 247°. ¹⁰

1,3-Dimethyl-lumichrome (IXb).—*Method A*. The adduct (VIIIb) (0.5 g, 0.001 mol) was heated in nitrobenzene (3 ml) at 240 °C for 4 h. After cooling, the mixture was diluted with ethanol-ether to cause separation of crystals. Recrystallization from ethanol gave pale yellow *needles* (0.25 g, 89%), m.p. 255°. ¹⁰

Method B. 5-(3,5-Dioxo-4-phenyl-1,2,4-triazolidin-1-yl)-1,3-dimethyl-6-(3,4-xylylidino)uracil (Xb) ³ (0.44 g, 0.001 mol) was heated in nitrobenzene (3 ml) at 240 °C for 3 h and treated as above to give (IXb) (0.21 g, 77%), m.p. 255°. ¹⁰

3-Methyl-lumichrome (IXc).—The adduct (VIIIc) (0.42 g, 0.001 mol) was refluxed in nitrobenzene (5 ml) for 8 h. After cooling, the mixture was diluted with ethanol and set aside overnight. Recrystallization of the resulting crystals from dimethyl formamide gave pale yellow *needles* (0.2 g, 79%), m.p. > 300°, M^+ 256 (Found: C, 61.1; H, 4.75; N, 21.55. $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{12}\text{N}_4\text{O}_2$ requires C, 60.95; H, 4.7; N, 21.85%).

Michael-type Adducts (XIII) from 6-(2-Benzylidene-1-methylhydrazino)-3-methyluracil and DAD. *General Procedure*.—6-(2-Benzylidene-1-methylhydrazino)-3-methyluracil (XII) (0.01 mol) was dissolved in dioxan (120 ml), DAD (0.015 mol) and aluminium oxide (2 g) were added, and the mixture was refluxed for 3–6 h. The aluminium oxide was then filtered off, and the filtrate evaporated *in vacuo*. The residue was recrystallized from ethanol to give crystals of the *adduct* (XIII) (Table 1).

3-Substituted Toxoflavins (XIV). *General Procedure*.—To a solution of the adduct (XIII) (0.002 mol) in dioxan

(50 ml) was added lead tetra-acetate (0.0045 mol), and the mixture was heated at 90 °C for 5 h with stirring. The solution was diluted with water and set aside several days. The separated *toxoflavin* (XIV) was filtered off, washed with water, and recrystallized from ethanol or dioxan (Table 2).

6-Benzylidenehydrazino-5-(1,2-bisethoxycarbonylhydrazino)-1,3-dimethyluracils (XVI). *General Procedure*.—The 6-Benzylidenehydrazino-1,3-dimethyluracil (XV) (0.01 mol), DAD (0.014 mol), and aluminium oxide (3 g) were added to dioxan (140 ml), and the mixture was refluxed for 3–6 h. The aluminium oxide was then filtered off and the filtrate evaporated to dryness. The residue was recrystallized from ethanol to give the *adduct* (XVI) (Table 1).

3-Substituted Fervenuilins (XVII). *General Procedure*.—The adduct (XVI) (0.002 mol) was heated in nitrobenzene (2 ml) at 200 °C for 1 h. The mixture was diluted with ethanol and set aside overnight. The *fervenuilin* (XVII) was filtered off, washed with ether, and recrystallized from ethanol (Table 2).

TABLE 2
3-substituted toxoflavins and fervenuilins

Compd.	M.p. (°C)	Yield (%)	Oxidizing agent
(XIVa) ¹³	228 (decomp.)	44	Pb(OAc) ₄
(XIVb) ¹³	227	50	Pb(OAc) ₄
(XIVc) ¹³	244 (decomp.)	40	Pb(OAc) ₄
(XIVd) ¹³	270 (decomp.)	38	Pb(OAc) ₄
(XIVe) ¹³	264 (decomp.)	52	Pb(OAc) ₄
(XVIIa) ¹⁵	270	55	PhNO ₂
(XVIIb) ¹⁵	280	57	PhNO ₂
(XVIIc) ¹⁵	268	48	PhNO ₂
(XVIIId) ¹⁵	> 330	42	PhNO ₂

6-Benzylidenehydrazino-5-(1,2-bisethoxycarbonylhydrazino)-3-methyluracil (XVIe).—6-Benzylidenehydrazino-3-methyluracil (XVe) ¹⁴ (2.4 g, 0.01 mol), DAD (2.1 g, 0.012 mol), and aluminium oxide were added to dioxan (150 ml) and the mixture was refluxed for 6 h. Aluminium oxide was filtered off, the filtrate was evaporated *in vacuo* to dryness, and the residue was diluted with ethanol and set aside overnight. The precipitated crystals were recrystallized from ethanol to give *prisms* (3.1 g, 75%), m.p. 237°, ν_{\max} (Nujol) 3 220, 1 739, 1 700, 1 620, and 1 520 cm^{-1} , M^+ 418 (Found: C, 51.55; H, 5.5; N, 20.25. $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_6\text{O}_6$ requires C, 51.65; H, 5.3; N, 20.1%).

3-Phenyl-1-demethyltoxoflavin (3-Phenyl-8-demethylfervenuilin (XVIIe).—The adduct (XIX) (2.1 g, 0.005 mol) was gently refluxed in nitrobenzene (3 ml) for 1 h. The mixture was diluted with ethanol and set aside overnight to precipitate a pale yellow powder (0.7 g, 55%), m.p. > 300°. ¹³