## **Reaction between 2-Phenylaziridines and 3-Halogenocyclohex-2-enones**

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The reaction of 2-phenyl- or 2-(3,4-methylenedioxyphenyl)aziridine with 3-chlorocyclohex-2-enone give principally 3-(2-hydroxy-2-phenylethylamino)cyclohex-2-enone or 3-[2-hydroxy-2-(3,4-methylenedioxyphenyl)ethylamino]cyclohex-2-enone, respectively, instead of the expected aziridines, in each case *via* the 2-chloroderivative. 2-Benzyl-3-phenylaziridine and 2-chlorocyclohex-2-enone combine to form the expected 3-aziridinylcyclohex-2-enone, which does not easily undergo ring expansion with iodide ion.

THE reaction of 2-phenylaziridine (1a) with 3-chlorocyclohex-2-enone (IIa) was expected to give the 3aziridinylcyclohex-2-enone (IIIa), which would undergo ring-expansion with iodide ion (Scheme). Earlier work by Whitlock <sup>1</sup> had shown that aziridine (Ib) reacted with 3-chloro-2-(3,4-methylenedioxyphenyl)cyclohex-2-enone (IIb) in the presence of triethylamine as non-nucleophilic base to give the 3-aziridinylcyclohex-2-enone (IIIb), which was rearranged by iodide ion (*cf.* Scheme).

In the event, the product from the reaction of (Ia) and (IIa) consisted of a complex mixture from which two major components were isolated (t.l.c.). Both were  $\alpha\beta$ -unsaturated ketones (u.v. and i r data), but showed i.r. absorption at *ca.* 3 400 cm<sup>-1</sup> and had exchangeable protons (<sup>1</sup>H n.m.r.). The *N*-methylene protons were

magnetically equivalent (unlike those of substituted aziridines). Analysis showed the two compounds to contain the elements of HCl and  $H_2O$ , respectively, in addition to the formula expected for (IIIa); they were identified as the chloro- and hydroxy-derivatives (IVa and b).

The formation of the open-chain chloro-compound (IVa) strongly implied that the initially formed aziridine (IIIa) was attacked by chloride ion at the benzylic position; subsequent hydrolysis would then give (IVb). It was shown that even t.l.c. partially converted (IVa) into (IVb), and that hydrolysis with hydroxide ion in ethanol quantitatively achieved the same conversion.

<sup>1</sup> H. W. Whitlock and G. L. Smith, J. Amer. Chem. Soc., 1967, **89**, 3600.

The possibility that ring opening had occurred at the non-benzylic position of the aziridine (IIIa) to give the primary chloride (V) was eliminated by the <sup>1</sup>H n.m.r. spectrum of (IVa) in  $(CD_3)_2SO$ , in which the methylene signal, a double doublet (J 6.5 and 6.0 Hz) collapsed to a doublet (J 6.5 Hz) on deuteriation. Clearly the vinylogous amido-NH of structure (V) would exhibit coupling with only one proton. Similar conclusions about structure could be drawn from the <sup>1</sup>H n.m.r. spectra of the hydroxy-enone (IVb) in various solvents.

Rigorous examination of the products of the reaction



SCHEME

showed that no N-substituted aziridine (IIIa) was present nor was there any evidence to suggest that ring expansion had occurred to give (VI) or its tautomer (as in Scheme). In fact, only iodide 1-3 ion or azide ion 4 is known to affect such a ring expansion.

Since no N-substituted aziridine (IIIa) was isolated, presumably because the 2-phenyl group makes the aziridine even more susceptible to nucleophilic attack, the next logical step was to study the reaction of the aziridine (Ia) with 3-iodocyclohex-2-enone (IIc). It was anticipated that initial formation of (IIIa) would be followed by iodide-catalysed ring-opening and subsequent closure (as in Scheme) to give the pyrroline (VI).

The iodo-ketone (IIc) was synthesised by a Finkelstein<sup>5</sup> reaction with the chloro-ketone (IIa). The concentrations of halogeno-ketones in the mixture could easily be determined from the <sup>1</sup>H n.m.r. spectrum; the olefinic protons resonated at  $\delta$  6.83 (IIc) and 6.26 (IIa). Bulb-tube distillation at low pressure allowed pure iodo-ketone to be obtained on a small scale, but extensive decomposition occurred and it was decided that, for the purposes of reaction with (Ia), a mixture of the two would be used.

Accordingly, a mixture of iodo- and chloro-ketones (IIc and a) (4:1) was stirred with 2-phenylaziridine (Ia) and triethylamine. Only one product was isolated, an unstable yellow compound showing  $\lambda_{max}$  349, 289, and 254 nm, and having <sup>1</sup>H n.m.r. absorptions corresponding to three olefinic protons, one a singlet and the other two mutually coupled doublets, J 15.0 Hz. On the basis of this and other evidence (see Experimental section) the

product was assigned the styrene structure (VII). Hydrogenation over palladised charcoal gave the dihydro-derivative (VIII), whose structure was confirmed by comparison with the product of unambiguous synthesis from 2-phenylethylamine and the chloroketone (IIa). In common with several other compounds encountered in this work, the styrene (VII) was unstable at room temperature, and subsequent attempts to isolate it were unsuccessful. As a photolysis of (VII) to give the required ring system seemed an attractive proposition, attempts were made to prepare (VII) by elimination from



(IVa) and (IVb) (with t-butoxide and toluene-p-sulphonic acid, respectively). These failed, as did a Finkelstein reaction with (IVa).

Concurrently with the above work, 2-(3,4-methylenedioxyphenyl)aziridine (Ic) had been made by a highly effective recent modification<sup>6</sup> of the normal reduction of the corresponding ketoxime with lithium aluminium hydride. When the aziridine (Ic) reacted with chloro-ketone (IIa) and triethylamine, the products

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> H. W. Heine, J. Amer. Chem. Soc., 1963, 85, 2743.

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> H. W. Heine, Angew. Chem. Internat. Edn., 1962, 1, 528.
<sup>4</sup> R. D. Guthrie and D. Murphy, J. Chem. Soc., 1965, 3828.

A. H. Ford-Moore, Org. Synth., Coll. Vol. 4, 1963, p. 84.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> H. Tanida, T. Okada, and K. Kotera, Bull. Chem. Soc. Japan, 1973, **46**, 934.

were the ethoxy-, methoxy-, and hydroxy-derivatives (IXa-c). By varying the isolation procedure (t.l.c. with methylene chloride alone) it was possible to show that (IXa) and (IXb) were artefacts from the solvents used in chromatography; with dichloromethane (IXc) was the sole product. As in the case of the earlier reaction of (Ia) with (IIa), no aziridine was isolated. The expected chloro-enone (IXd) could not be isolated either, suggesting that the methylenedioxy-group had further activated the benzylic position of the transient aziridine (X).

These disappointing observations meant that our primary objective, synthesis of the alkaloid manthine <sup>7</sup> (XI) for which the key step was to be the iodidecatalysed ring expansion of the aziridine (IIId)], could not be achieved in this way. Nonetheless, we decided to test the generality of the iodide-catalysed rearrangement (Scheme) by making 3-(2-benzyl-3-phenylaziridinyl)cyclohex-2-enone (IIIc) from cis-2-benzyl-3-phenylaziridine (Id) and the chloro-ketone (IIa). The aziridine



(Id) was chosen partly because we had found it to be<sup>8</sup> much the stablest of the aziridines encountered in the present work, but principally because examination 9 of the n.m.r. spectrum of the phenyl isocyanate derivative of (Id) strongly supported structure (XIII), with the aziridine ring intact. By contrast, the corresponding derivative of (Ic) was assigned the ring-expanded structure (XIII) on the basis of (i) the low chemical shift observed for the two magnetically non-equivalent Nmethylene protons [ $\delta$  3.91 and 4.45, respectively; those

<sup>7</sup> Y. Inubushi, H. M. Fales, E. W. Warnhoff, and W. C. Wildman, J. Org. Chem., 1960, 25, 2153. <sup>8</sup> B. W. Singer, Ph.D. Thesis, Leeds.

of the parent aziridine (Ic) resonate at  $\delta$  1.69 and 2.12] and (ii) the observed coupling constants  $(J_{gem}$  for aziridines is rarely above  $\pm 3$  Hz; the observed value is -11 Hz). No mechanism for the formation of (XIII) is suggested, since it is difficult to envisage a suitable mechanism which would also account for the failure of (XII) to undergo this rearrangement.

In the event, the reaction of the aziridine (Id) and the chloro-ketone (IIa) gave the expected aziridinylenone (IIIc) in good yield, identified on the basis of aziridinelike characteristics of the <sup>1</sup>H n.m.r. spectrum (cf. the spectra in ref. 9), and the absence of a NH group (i.r. and <sup>1</sup>H n.m.r.). Iodide-catalysed rearrangement of (IIIc) in diethyl ketone gave only a small quantity of a very unstable compound having no olefinic protons (<sup>1</sup>H n.m.r.). The compound appeared to be an  $\alpha\beta$ -unsaturated ketone (u.v. and i.r. data) and had an exchangeable proton. The <sup>1</sup>H n.m.r. spectrum was consistent with structure (XIV), but further evidence is desirable.

The difficulties encountered in the present work lead us to believe that the rearrangement of the Scheme may only be applicable to aziridines which do not possess a 2-phenyl group.

## EXPERIMENTAL

T.l.c. refers to separations on silica gel plates or columns, according to scale. Spectra were run in ethanol (u.v.), as liquid film (i.r.), and as solutions in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (60 MHz <sup>1</sup>H n.m.r.) unless otherwise stated.

3-(2-Chloro-2-phenylethylamino)cyclohex-2-enone (IVa) and its Hydroxy-analogue (IVb).-2-Phenylaziridine 10 (1.8 g), triethylamine (3.0 ml), and tetrahydrofuran (50 ml) were stirred under nitrogen during addition of a solution of 3chlorocyclohex-2-enone<sup>11</sup> (2.0 ml) in tetrahydrofuran (50 ml). After 4 days, the triethylamine hydrochloride was filtered off and the solution was evaporated to dryness. T.l.c. (5% methanol in chloroform) gave (i) the enone (IVa) (0.98 g) as an oil (Found:  $M^+$ , 249.092036 and 251.089085. C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>17</sub><sup>35</sup>ClNO requires *M*, 249.091763. C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>17</sub><sup>37</sup>ClNO requires M, 251.088911),  $\lambda_{max}$  288 nm (log  $\varepsilon$  4.328),  $\nu_{max}$  3 420 and 1 585 cm<sup>-1</sup>;  $\delta$  7.50–7.20 (5 H, m, ArH), 5.60 (1 H, s, NH), 5.33 (1 H, s, olefinic H), 5.25-5.10 (1 H, m, CHCl), 3.61 (2 H, dd, / 6.0 and 6.5 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>N), and 2.55-1.70 (6 H, m, methylene); & [(CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO] 3.61 (2 H, dd, J 6.0 and 6.5 Hz, collapsing to 2 H, d, J 6.5 Hz on addition of  $D_2O$ ) and 3.40br (1 H, s, NH, exchangeable with D<sub>2</sub>O), m/e 251 (12%), 249 (30), 213 (9), 156 (7), 138 (20), 134 (20), 124 (100), and 121 (50); and (ii) the enone (IVb) (0.5 g), white prisms, and 121 (30), and (1) the choice (1) (0.5 g), while prisms, m.p. 175—176° (from chloroform) (Found: C, 72.5; H, 7.25; N, 6.1%;  $M^+$ , 231.125921. C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> requires C, 72.8; H, 7.4; N, 6.05%; M, 231.125562);  $\lambda_{max}$ . 290 nm (log  $\varepsilon$  4.389);  $\nu_{max}$ . (Nujol) 3320br, 3 180, and 1 585 cm<sup>-1</sup>;  $\delta$  [(CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO] 7.50—7.20 (5 H, m, ArH), 7.00br (1 H, t, NH, exchangeable with  $D_2O$ ), 5.57 (1 H, d, J 5.0 Hz, OH, exchangeable with D<sub>2</sub>O), 4.90 (1 H, s, olefinic H), 4.72 (1 H, t, J 5.5 Hz, CH·O), 3.12 (2 H, dd, J 5.0 and 5.5 Hz,  $CH_2$ ·N, collapsing to 2 H, d, J 5.5Hz on additon of  $D_2O$ ), and 2.40-1.50 (6 H, m, methylene), m/e 231 (18%), 213 (10), 156 (10), 149 (8), 124 (100), 123 (100), and 121 (60).

<sup>9</sup> K. Kotera, Y. Matsukawa, H. Takahashi, T. Okada, and K. Kitahonoki, Tetrahedron, 1968, 24, 6177.

- <sup>10</sup> A. Hassner and C. Heathcock, Tetrahedron, 1964, 20, 1039.
- <sup>11</sup> L. Bateman and F. W. Shipley, J. Chem. Soc., 1955, 1996.

3-Iodocyclohex-2-enone (IIc).12-3-Chlorocyclohex-2-enone (1.5 g), sodium iodide (5.0 g), and acetone (250 ml) were refluxed for 24 h. Evaporation and extraction of the residue into dichloromethane gave a solution which was shown to contain two components (4:1). Careful distillation (bulb-tube) of a small quantity gave the iodo-enone as a pale yellow oil, b.p.  $110-120^{\circ}$  at 0.1  $\tau$  (oven temperature; much decomposition) (Found:  $M^+$ , 221.954347. C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>2</sub>IO requires M, 221.954408); § 6.83 (1 H, m, olefinic H) and 3.05-1.75 (6 H, m, methylene); m/e 222 (100%), 194 (20), 132 (10), 130 (16), 128 (15), 127 (10), 112 (20), 104 (18), 102 (28), 95 (90), 67 (65), and 55 (36). This preparation was difficult to reproduce; the addition of a catalytic amount of toluene-p-sulphonic acid is recommended.

3-(Styrylamino)cyclohex-2-enone (VII).-2-Phenylaziridine (0.34 g), triethylamine (2 ml), tetrahydrofuran (50 ml), and a mixture of 3-chloro- and 3-iodo-cyclohex-2-enones (0.65 g) (1:4) were stirred under nitrogen for 4 days. Evaporation followed by trituration with ether left a gum which was dissolved in dichloromethane and separated (t.l.c.) to give the styrene (0.28 g) as a deep yellow glass which decomposed on attempted crystallisation or sublimation;  $\lambda_{max}$  254, 289, and 349 nm (log z 3.623, 3.760, and 4.013);  $v_{max}$  (CHCl<sub>3</sub>) 3 260 and 1 590 cm<sup>-1</sup>; δ 8.0br (1 H, s, NH, exchangeable with D<sub>2</sub>O), 7.51-7.00 (5 H, m, ArH), 7.04 (1 H, d, J 15 Hz, olefinic H), 6.21 (1 H, d, J 15 Hz, olefinic H), 5.53 (1 H, s, olefinic H), and 2.60-1.65 (6 H, m, methylene), m/e 213 (10%), 212 (10), 188 (20), 186 (50), 184 (15), 180 (25), 172 (70), 159 (22), 152 (70), 138 (100), 123 (80), and 119 (100). Hydrogenation of the styrene (VII) over 10% palladiumcharcoal gave 3-(2-phenylethylamino)cyclohex-2-enone, identical with authentic material (see below).

3-(2-Phenylethylamino)cyclohex-2-enone (VIII).-Freshly distilled 3-chlorocyclohex-2-enone (1.0g), triethylamine (2g), 2-phenylethylamine (0.98 g), and tetrahydrofuran (50 ml) were stirred under nitrogen for 3 days. Work-up in the usual way gave the enone (0.2 g) as an oil, b.p. 180–183° at 0.05 Torr (Found:  $M^+$ , 215.13043.  $C_{14}H_{17}NO$  requires M, 215.131007);  $\lambda_{max}$  289 nm (log  $\epsilon$  4.305);  $\nu_{max}$  3 440, 1 620, and 1 600 cm<sup>-1</sup>;  $\delta$  7.45–7.05 (5 H, m, ArH), 5.25br (1 H, s, NH, exchangeable with  $D_2O$ ), 5.19 (1 H, s, olefinic H), 3.31 (2 H, t, J 7.0 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>·N), 2.86 (2 H, t, J 7.0 Hz, ArCH<sub>2</sub>), and 2.45-1.70 (6 H, m, methylene), m/e 215 (40%), 149 (60), 124 (100), 122 (42), 118 (15), 105 (80), 104 (100), 91 (50), 84 (30), and 77 (60).

2-(3,4-Methylenedioxyphenyl)aziridine (Ic).—A solution of the oxime (m.p. 157-159°; lit.,<sup>13</sup> 156-157°) of 3',4'methylenedioxyacetophenone (1 g) in tetrahydrofuran (20 ml) was slowly added to a solution of lithium aluminium hydride (1 g) in tetrahydrofuran (25 ml) and N-methylbutylamine (2.25 g). The mixture was refluxed for 1 h, and the excess of hydride was destroyed with ice-water. The organic layer was extracted into dichloromethane; the extract was dried (K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>) and evaporated to give the aziridine (0.88 g) as a pale yellow oil which decomposed on attempted distillation;  $v_{max}$  3 430 cm<sup>-1</sup>;  $\delta$  6.90—6.66 (3 H, m, ArH), 5.91 (2 H, s, O·CH<sub>2</sub>·O), 2.93 (1 H, dd, J 6.0 and 3.5 Hz), 2.12 (1 H, d, J 6.0 Hz), 1.69 (1 H, d, J 3.5 Hz), and 1.40br (1 H, s, NH, exchangeable with  $D_2O$ ); phenyl isocyanate derivative (XIII), white prisms, m.p. 145-147° (Found: C, 68.2; H, 4.8; N, 10.25. C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>13</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> requires C, 68.2; H, 4.95; N, 9.95%);  $v_{max}$  (CHCl<sub>3</sub>) 1 700 and 1 670 cm<sup>-1</sup>;  $\delta$  3.91 (1 H, dd, J 8.5 and 11.0 Hz, CH<sub>B</sub>-N), 4.45 (1 H,

\* Part of the spectrum analysed by NMRCAL for a four-spin system.

dd, / 8.5 and 11.0 Hz, CH<sub>A</sub>-N), 5.43 (1 H, t, / 8.5 Hz, PhCH), 5.93 (2 H, s, O·CH<sub>2</sub>·O), 6.70-6.83 (3 H, m, ArH), 6.95-7.63 (5 H, m, ArH), and 11.79br (1 H, s, NH, exchangeable with  $D_2O$ ).

3-[2-Ethoxy-2-(3,4-methylenedioxyphenyl)ethylamino]cyclohex-2-enone (IXa) and its Methoxy- and Hydroxy-analogues (IXb and c).-2-(3,4-Methylenedioxyphenyl)aziridine (0.98 g), triethylamine (3.0 g), 3-chlorocyclohex-2-enone (0.48 g), and tetrahydrofuran (30 ml) were stirred for 6 days under nitrogen. The solution was filtered, diluted with ether, washed with sodium carbonate (2N), dried, and separated [t.l.c.; 5% methanol in chloroform (containing 0.67%) ethanol)] to give (i) the *ethoxy-enone* (0.13 g) as an oil, which decomposed upon attempted distillation (Found:  $M^+$ , 303.147048.  $C_{17}H_{21}NO_4$  requires M, 303.145979),  $\nu_{max}$ , 3 420, 1 610, and 1 585 cm<sup>-1</sup>, 8 6.95-6.80 (3 H, m, ArH), 5.94 (2 H, s, O·CH<sub>2</sub>·O), 5.4br (1 H, t, NH), 5.12 (1 H, s, olefinic H), 4.40 (1 H, t, J 6.5 Hz), 3.48 (2 H, t, J 6.5 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>·N), 3.29 (2 H, q, J 6.0 Hz, O·CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.55-1.67 (6 H, m, methylene), and 1.19 (3 H, t, J 6.0 Hz), m/e 303 (60%), 273 (70), 258 (16), 251 (16), 242 (8), 241 (12), 213 (40), 192 (44), 181 (80), and 67 (100); (ii) the methoxy-enone (IXb) (0.10 g) as an oil, also unstable to distillation (Found:  $M^+$ , 289.132399.  $C_{16}H_{19}NO_4$  requires *M*, 289.131399),  $v_{max}$  3 420, 1 610, and 1 585 cm<sup>-1</sup>, δ 6.90—6.70 (3 H, m, ArH), 5.99 (2 H, s, O·CH<sub>2</sub>· O), 5.12 (1 H, s, olefinic H), 5.01 (1 H, m, NH), 4.29 (1 H, t, 6.0 Hz), 3.24 (3 H, s, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.23 (2 H, t, J 6.0 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>·N), and 2.55-1.62 (6 H, m, methylene), m/e 289 (2.1%), 166 (32.1), 165 (42.1), 154 (10.6), 150 (100), 139 (20), 121 (66),and 111 (67); and (iii) the hydroxy-enone (IXc) (0.17 g), as white prisms, m.p. 171-172° (from chloroform) (Found: C, 65.25; H, 6.0; N, 4.8%;  $M^+$ , 275.115749.  $C_{15}H_{17}NO_4$ requires C, 65.5; H, 6.25; H, 5.1%, M, 275.114684), v<sub>max</sub>. (Nujol) 3 420, 1 615, and 1 585 cm<sup>-1</sup>,  $\delta$  (C<sub>5</sub>D<sub>5</sub>N) 8.71 (1 H, s, OH, exchangeable with D<sub>2</sub>O), 7.65-6.80 (3 H, m, ArH), 5.95 (2 H, s, O·CH<sub>2</sub>·O), 5.61 (1 H, s, olefinic H), 5.20 (1 H, t, J 6.0 Hz, NH, exchangeable with D<sub>2</sub>O), 3.32 (2 H, t, J 6.0 Hz,  $CH_2$ ·N, collapsing to 2 H, d, J 6.0 Hz on addition of  $D_2O$ ), and 2.55-1.55 (6 H, m, methylene), m/e 275 (5%), 257 (53), 256 (50), 228 (15), 215 (24), 214 (36), 201 (30), 200 (30), 183 (32), 182 (50), 173 (100), 171 (100), 160 (57), 150 (60), and 149 (100).

2-Benzyl-N-(3-oxocyclohex-1-enyl)-3-phenylaziridine (IIIc). -2-Benzyl-3-phenylaziridine, m.p. 44-45° (lit.,<sup>14</sup> 44-45°) [characterised as the phenylcarbamoyl derivative (XII), m.p. 122-123° (lit., 9 123-125°), v<sub>max.</sub> 3 270 and 1 662 cm<sup>-1</sup>, δ \* 7.50—6.80 (15 H, m, ArH), 6.65br (1 H, s, NH, exchangeable with D<sub>2</sub>O), 3.84 (1 H, d,  $J_{ab}$   $\pm 6.0$  Hz, H<sub>a</sub>), 2.85 (1 H, m,  $J_{\rm bd}$  +6.5,  $J_{\rm be}$  +5.0,  $J_{\rm ab}$   $\pm 6.0$  Hz, H<sub>b</sub>), 2.61 (1 H, dd,  $J_{\rm cd}$  –11.5,  $J_{\rm bc}$  +5.0 Hz, H<sub>c</sub>), and 2.46 (1 H, dd,  $J_{\rm cd}$  –11.5,  $J_{\rm bd}$  +6.5 Hz, H<sub>d</sub>)], (2 g) was treated as above with 3-chlorocyclohex-2-enone (1.2 g) and triethylamine (2 ml). The usual work-up followed by t.l.c. (benzeneether, 10:1) gave the N-substituted aziridine (1.1 g), b.p. 160—163° at 1.5 Torr, as an oil (Found:  $M^+$ , 303.162446.  $\begin{array}{l} C_{21}H_{21} {\rm NO} \ {\rm requires} \ M, \ 303.162306); \ \lambda_{\rm max}, \ 279 \ {\rm nm} \ (\log \ \varepsilon \\ 4.356); \ \nu_{\rm max}, \ 1 \ 635 \ {\rm and} \ 1 \ 590 \ {\rm cm}^{-1}, \ \delta \ 1.55 \\ -2.38 \ (6 \ {\rm H}, \ {\rm m}, \\ {\rm methylene}), \ 2.43 \\ -2.63 \ (3 \ {\rm H}, \ {\rm m}), \ 3.28 \ (1 \ {\rm H}, \ {\rm m}, \ {\rm Ph}CH), \ 5.42 \end{array}$ (1 H, s, olefinic H), and 6.89-7.48 (10 H, m, ArH), m/e 303 (46%), 275 (12), 264 (13), 245 (24), 244 (20), 212 (12), 211 (50), 210 (100), 209 (38), 206 (20), 192 (30), and 190 (37).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> An alternative preparation has been reported (E. Piers and I. Nagakura, Synth. Comm., 1975, 5, 193).
<sup>13</sup> G. Maneli, Gazzetta, 1909, 39, 165.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> K. Kotera and K. Kitahonoki, Org. Synth., 1968, 48, 20.

Attempted Rearrangement of the Aziridine (IIIc) into 8-Benzyl-9-phenyl-7-azabicyclo[4.3.0]non-1(6)-en-2-one.— A solution of the aziridine (IIIc) (1.5 g), sodium iodide (2.1 g), and diethyl ketone (10 ml) was refluxed under nitrogen for 3 days. Evaporation and chromatography of the complex product gave an oil (0.1 g), believed to be the bicyclo[4.3.0]- nonenone (XIV);  $\lambda_{max}$  300 nm (log  $\varepsilon$  4.029);  $\nu_{max}$  3 240 and 1 595 cm<sup>-1</sup>;  $\delta$  1.8—2.5 (6 H, m, methylene H), 2.78 (2 H, d, 7.0 Hz, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.9 (2 H, m), 6.2br (1 H, s, NH, exchangeable with D<sub>2</sub>O), and 6.9—7.40 (10 H, m, ArH).

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