# Synthesis of 8,9,10,11,12,13,13a,14-Octahydro-7,11; 9,13-dimethanoazonino[1,2-b]isoquinolin-5(7H)-ones and Some Related Derivatives by Photocyclization Reactions of 5-Methylene-4-aroyl- and -acryloyl-4azatricyclo[4.3.1.1 ${ }^{3,8}$ ]undecanes (4-Azahomoadamantanes) ${ }^{1}$ 

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#### Abstract

5-Methylene-4-aroyl- and -acryloyl-4-azatricyclo[4.3.1.1.1.8] undecanes ( $2 a-h$ ) have been prepared by acylation of 5-methyl-4-azatricyclo[4.3.1.1 ${ }^{3.8}$ ]undec-4-ene (1). Irradiation of 4-aroyl derivatives (2a-d) afforded 2- or 4-substituted 8,9,10,11,12,13,13a,14-octahydro-7,11;9,13-dimethanoazonino-[1,2-b]isoquinolin-5(7H)-ones (3a-d) in good yields via enamide photocyclization. DDQ oxidation of (3a-d) gave the corresponding hexahydroisoquinolin-5(7H)-ones (4a-d). Among the acryloyl derivatives, only the methacryloyl derivative ( $\mathbf{2 g}$ ) afforded the enamide photocyclization product (5) in a lower yield, the other acryloyl derivatives ( $2 e, f, h$ ) when irradiated yielding the corresponding vinylogous amide derivatives (6a-c) via a 1,3-acyl shift.


#### Abstract

The six-electron photocyclization of enamides provides a useful route to a nitrogen-containing six-membered ring and has been widely applied to the synthesis of alkaloids and related products. ${ }^{2.3}$ We now report the results of the synthetic application of such enamide photocyclizations to some novel 8,9,10,-11,12,13-hexa- and 8,9,10,11,12,13,13a,14-octahydro-7,11; 9,13dimethanoazonino $[1,2-b]$ isoquinolin- $5(7 H)$-ones.


## Results and Discussion

5-Methyl-4-azatricyclo[4.3.1.1 ${ }^{3,8}$ ]undec-4-ene (1) was the compound of choice as starting material since it is both readily prepared from 2-methyladamantan-2-ol and known to be converted exclusively into 5 -methylene derivatives on acylation. ${ }^{4}$ Thus, acylation of (1) with benzoyl chloride in the presence of triethylamine in ether afforded the corresponding 4-benzoyl-5-methylene compound (2a) (enamide-II type) ${ }^{2 b}$ $(82 \%)$, the structure of which was supported by appearance of characteristic i.r. absorption at $1620 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1},{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ n.m.r. signals at $\delta$ 4.52 and $4.07\left(\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right)$, and by elemental analysis (Table 1). Similar acylation of (1) with p-methyl-, p-methoxy-, and omethylbenzoyl chlorides gave the corresponding 5-methylene-4-aroyl-compounds ( $\mathbf{2 b}-\mathbf{d}$ ) in good yields (see Table 1), whilst acryloyl-, crotonyl-, methacryloyl-, and cinnamoyl chlorides afforded the corresponding 5 -methylene-4-acryloyl derivatives ( $2 \mathrm{e}-\mathrm{h}$ ) (enamide-I type) in good yields (Scheme). The structure of all these products was confirmed by spectral and analytical data (Table 1).

Irradiation of (2a) in ether with a low-pressure Hg-lamp through a quartz filter under argon for 0.5 h afforded a cyclization product (3a) $(66 \%$ ), the structure of which was evidenced by appearance of characteristic ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ n.m.r. signals at $\delta$ $3.78(\mathrm{dd}, J 13.5$ and 3.0 Hz ), $3.10(\mathrm{dd}, J 15.0$ and 13.5 Hz ), and $2.50(\mathrm{dd}, J 3.0$ and 15.0 Hz$)(13 \mathrm{a}-\mathrm{H}$ and $14-\mathrm{H} \times 2)$ and also by the appearance of signals for only four aromatic protons (Tables 2 and 3). Similar irradiation of para-substituted (2b) and (2c) gave cyclization products (3b) and (3c) in 75 and $83 \%$ yields respectively. The irradiation of the $o$-methyl substituted derivative (2d) yielded regioselectively the 4-methyl-octahydro compound (3d) accompanied with the corresponding hexahydro compound (4d) (Table 2); there was no trace of the isomeric compound ( $\mathbf{3 d}^{\prime}$ ) which might arise from regioisomeric
photocyclization of (2d), followed by a suprafacial [1,5] migration of the o-methyl group (Scheme). These results are compatible with the reported substituent effects in the photocyclization of $N$-benzoylenamines by Ninomiya and coworkers. ${ }^{5}$ The latter workers obtained 5-benzyl-7-methyl-1,2,3,4,4a,10b-hexahydrophenanthridin-6( $5 H$ )-one selectively on irradiation of $o$-methyl- $N$-benzylcyclohex-1-enylbenzamide, whilst regiospecific photocyclization followed by a [1,5] shift of the substituent occurred for o-methoxy- or o-methylenedioxy substituted $N$-benzyl- $N$-benzoylenamines. ${ }^{5}$ These results suggest that the steric effect on geometrical conformation is greater than the electronic effect for an o-methyl substituent in the photocyclization of $N$-benzoylenamines.

The cyclization products ( $\mathbf{3 a - d}$ ) were readily converted into the corresponding hexahydro derivatives ( $\mathbf{4 a - d}$ ) in high yields by 2,3-dichloro-5,6-dicyano-1,4-benzoquinone (DDQ) oxidation in benzene under reflux (Scheme). The structural assignments for these oxidation products were supported by spectral and analytical data (Table 3). Thus, appearance of singlet signals at $\delta 6.00-6.12$ for one proton ( $14-\mathrm{H}$ ) instead of the ABX pattern mutiplet of (3a-d) was compatible with the structures shown.

The photochemical behaviour of the acryloyl derivatives ( $\mathbf{2 e - h}$ ) was quite different from that of aroyl derivatives. Thus, irradiation of the acryloyl derivative (2e) under conditions similar to those described above afforded a complex mixture, from which the sole product, after preparative t.l.c., was the vinylogous amide derivative (6a) ( $40 \%$ ); this was a 1,3 -acyl rearrangement product. ${ }^{2 a .3 c}$ Compound ( $6 a$ ) had an i.r. absorption at $1590 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ and a ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ n.m.r. signal at $\delta 11.75$ (NH, $\mathrm{D}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ exchangeable) which permitted the structural assignment shown. Similarly, irradiation of (2f) and (2h) afforded the corresponding vinylogous amides ( $\mathbf{6 b}$ ) and ( $\mathbf{6 c}$ ) in 44 and $61 \%$ yields, respectively (Tables 2 and 3 ). The irradiation of the methacryloyl derivative $(2 \mathrm{~g})$ also yielded a complex mixture, from which, however, the corresponding cyclization product (5) was isolated ( $25 \%$ ) after preparative t.l.c.; the structural assignment was supported by spectral and analytical data (Table 3).

In the photocyclization of N -acryloylenamines and N acryloylanilides, the $x$-substituent of the acyl moiety is known to improve the cyclization as a result of a steric effect which favours the requisite s-trans conformation of the $\alpha, \beta$-unsaturated

Table 1. Physical and analytical data for 5-methylene-4-aroyl- and -acryloyl-4-azatricyclo[4.3.1.1 ${ }^{3.8}$ ]undecanes (2a-h)

|  |  |  |  |  | \% Found (requires) |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Compound $\left[\text { M.p. }{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right]^{a}$ | \% Yield | $\nu_{\text {max }} . \mathrm{cm}^{-1} \mathrm{~b}$ | $\delta_{\text {H }}$ |  | C | H | N |
| $\begin{aligned} & (2 a) \\ & {[122-125]} \end{aligned}$ | (82) | $\begin{aligned} & 3060,2920,2840,1620 \\ & 1580,1450,1395,1335,870 \\ & 690 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 7.6-7.1(\mathrm{~m}, 5 \mathrm{H}), 5.10(\mathrm{br} \mathrm{~s}, 1 \\ & \mathrm{H}), 4.52(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 4.07(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), \\ & 2.90(\mathrm{br} \mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 2.3-1.5(\mathrm{~m}, 12 \\ & \mathrm{H})^{d} \end{aligned}$ | $\mathrm{C}_{18} \mathrm{H}_{21} \mathrm{NO}$ | $\begin{gathered} 80.85 \\ (80.86) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 7.8 \\ (7.92) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 5.35 \\ (5.24) \end{gathered}$ |
| $\begin{aligned} & (\mathbf{2 b}) \\ & {[93-94]} \end{aligned}$ | (74) | $\begin{aligned} & 3100,3030,2920,2850 \text {, } \\ & 1630,1575,1510,1440, \\ & 1395,1330,835,790,770 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 7.50-6.85(\mathrm{~m}, 4 \mathrm{H}), 5.10(\mathrm{br} \mathrm{~s}, \\ & 1 \mathrm{H}), 4.46(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 4.00(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}) \\ & 2.88(\mathrm{br} \mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 2.34(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), \\ & 2.3-1.4(\mathrm{~m}, 12 \mathrm{H}) \end{aligned}$ | $\mathrm{C}_{19} \mathrm{H}_{23} \mathrm{NO}$ | $\begin{gathered} 81.1 \\ (81.10) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 8.35 \\ (8.24) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 4.85 \\ (4.98) \end{gathered}$ |
| $\begin{aligned} & (2 \mathrm{c}) \\ & {[94.5-95.5]} \end{aligned}$ | (59) | $\begin{aligned} & 3100,2920,2850,1630 \\ & 1510,1390,1330,1250,840 \\ & 770 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 7.5-6.5(\mathrm{~m}, 4 \mathrm{H}), 5.08(\mathrm{br} \mathrm{~s}, 1 \\ & \mathrm{H}), 4.48(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 4.20(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), \\ & 3.78(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 2.90(\mathrm{br} \mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), \\ & 2.2-1.5(\mathrm{~m}, 12 \mathrm{H}) \end{aligned}$ | $\mathrm{C}_{19} \mathrm{H}_{23} \mathrm{NO}_{2}$ | $\begin{gathered} 76.8 \\ (76.73) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 7.9 \\ (7.80) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 4.55 \\ (4.71) \end{gathered}$ |
| $\begin{aligned} & (\text { 2d }) \\ & {[90-91]} \end{aligned}$ | (87) | $3170,2930,2860,1640$, $1601,1520,1450,1400$, $1335,1241,1159,870,762$ | $\begin{aligned} & 7.3-7.0(\mathrm{~m}, 4 \mathrm{H}), 5.05(\mathrm{br} \mathrm{~s}, 1 \\ & \mathrm{H}), 4.55(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 4.18(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), \\ & 2.85(\mathrm{br} \mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 2.39(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), \\ & 2.3-1.5(\mathrm{~m}, 12 \mathrm{H}) \end{aligned}$ | $\mathrm{C}_{19} \mathrm{H}_{23} \mathrm{NO}$ | $\begin{gathered} 81.25 \\ (81.10) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 8.15 \\ (8.24) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 4.9 \\ & (4.98) \end{aligned}$ |
| $\begin{aligned} & (2 e) \\ & {[54-55]} \end{aligned}$ | (83) | $\begin{aligned} & 3090,2910,2840,1640, \\ & 1610,1400,1320,1310, \\ & 1250,1235,960,785 \end{aligned}$ | $6.82(\mathrm{dd}, J 9.0$ and $17.0,1 \mathrm{H})$, <br> 6.26 (dd, $J 17.0$, and $3.0,1 \mathrm{H}$ ), <br> 5.50 (dd, $J 3.0$ and $9.0,1 \mathrm{H}$ ), <br> 5.00 (br s, 1 H), 4.94 (s, 1 H), <br> 4.58 (s, 1 H ), 2.95 (br s, 1 H ), <br> $2.5-1.1(\mathrm{~m}, 12 \mathrm{H})$ | $\mathrm{C}_{14} \mathrm{H}_{19} \mathrm{NO}$ | $\begin{gathered} 77.35 \\ (77.38) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 8.85 \\ (8.81) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 6.45 \\ (6.45) \end{gathered}$ |
| $\begin{aligned} & (\mathbf{2 f}) \\ & {[80-83]} \end{aligned}$ | (56) | $\begin{aligned} & 3090,2910,2850,1660 \\ & 1635,1450,1435,1385 \\ & 1330,1235,1200,960,885 \end{aligned}$ | $6.70(\mathrm{dq}, J 16.0$ and $17.0,1 \mathrm{H})$, 6.32 (d, J 16.0, 1 H ), 4.90 (br s, 1 H ), 4.80 ( $\mathrm{s}, 1 \mathrm{H}$ ), 4.48 ( s , 1 <br> H), 2.88 (br s, 1 H ), 1.82 (d, J $6.0,3 \mathrm{H}), 2.2-1.4(\mathrm{~m}, 12 \mathrm{H})$ | $\mathrm{C}_{15} \mathrm{H}_{21} \mathrm{NO}$ | $\begin{gathered} 77.88 \\ (77.88) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 9.25 \\ (9.15) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 5.95 \\ (6.05) \end{gathered}$ |
| $\begin{aligned} & (\mathbf{2 g}) \\ & {[74-76]} \end{aligned}$ | (82) | $\begin{aligned} & 3080,2920,2895,2850, \\ & 1625,1450,1435,1390, \\ & 1340,1195,880 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 5.25-4.80(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 4.80(\mathrm{br} \mathrm{~s}, \\ & 1 \mathrm{H}), 4.62(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 4.54(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \\ & \mathrm{H}), 2.90(\mathrm{br} \mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 2.3-1.3 \\ & (\mathrm{~m}, 12 \mathrm{H}), 1.90(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}) \end{aligned}$ | $\mathrm{C}_{15} \mathrm{H}_{21} \mathrm{NO}$ | $\begin{gathered} 77.79 \\ (77.88) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 9.15 \\ (9.05) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 6.13 \\ (6.05) \end{gathered}$ |
| $\begin{aligned} & (\mathbf{2 h}) \\ & {[88-90]} \end{aligned}$ | (99) | $\begin{aligned} & 3060,2920,2840,1620, \\ & 1580,1450,1395,1335, \\ & 870,690 \end{aligned}$ | $7.70-6.85(\mathrm{~m}, 7 \mathrm{H}), 5.20(\mathrm{br} \mathrm{s}$, $1 \mathrm{H}), 4.90(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 4.70(\mathrm{~s}, 1$ H), 2.98 (br s, 1 H), 2.2-1.5 (m, 12 H ) | $\mathrm{C}_{20} \mathrm{H}_{23} \mathrm{NO}$ | $\begin{gathered} 81.88 \\ (81.87) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 8.00 \\ (7.90) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 4.67 \\ (4.77) \end{gathered}$ |

${ }^{a}$ Purified by chromatography (Woelm N alumina or Merck aluminium oxide 60 PF -254, type $\mathrm{E}, \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$-hexane system) and recrystallized from $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}-$ hexane. ${ }^{b}$ As KBr discs. ${ }^{c}$ All ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ n.m.r. spectra were measured in $\mathrm{CCl}_{4}$ unless otherwise noted. Multiplicities and $J$ values ( Hz ) are given in parentheses. ${ }^{d}$ In $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$.

Table 2. Photolysis of 5-methylene-4-aroyl- and -acryloyl-4-azatricyclo[4.3.1.1 ${ }^{3.8}$ ] undecanes ( $\mathbf{2 a}-\mathbf{h}$ )

| Compound | Irrad'n time ( h ) | $c / \mathrm{mM}^{\text {a }}$ | Products | \% Yield ${ }^{\text {b }}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| (2a) | 0.5 | (0.28) | (3a) | (66) |
| (2b) | 0.5 | (0.21) | (3b) | (75) |
| (2c) | 0.5 | (0.20) | (3c) | (83) |
| (2d) | 1.0 | (0.60) | (3d) | (29) ${ }^{\text {c }}$ |
|  |  |  | (4d) | (36) ${ }^{\text {c }}$ |
| (2e) | 1.5 | (0.46) | (6a) | (40) |
| (2f) | 0.7 | (0.32) | (6b) | (44) |
| (2g) | 1.5 | (0.17) | (5) | (25) |
| (2h) | 1.5 | (0.48) | (6c) | (61) |

${ }^{a}$ An ethereal solution of (2) deoxygenated by bubbling argon through it for 0.5 h , was irradiated with a low-pressure mercury lamp ( 60 W ) through a quartz filter at room temperature. ${ }^{b}$ Isolated yields after preparative t.l.c. (Merck aluminium oxide PF-254, type E, $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ hexane system). ${ }^{c}$ The irradiation in hexane also afforded (3d) and (4d) in 37 and $26 \%$ yields respectively.
carbonyl group. ${ }^{2 b .6}$ The geometrical constraint of enamide molecules by hydrogen-bonding is also known to prohibit the photochemical cyclization ${ }^{3 b}$ or to control the regiochemistry of the photocyclizations. ${ }^{5,7}$

The observed photochemical behaviour of the acryloylen-
amines ( $\mathbf{2 e - h}$ ) can be rationalized in terms of conformational factors, i.e. on the basis of a molecular model study and ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ n.m.r. data [3-H appears at $\delta 5.20-4.80$ and $5-\mathrm{CH}_{2}$ at $\delta 4.94-$ 4.00 for ( $\mathbf{2 a - h}$ ), Table 1]. Of the four possible conformations, the $Z^{*}$ isomers seem to be less important. Assuming, therefore, the presence of $E$ isomers, the steric repulsion between the 5methylene group and $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{C}$ group in the $E$-s-trans conformation disfavours the cyclization for $\mathbf{R}^{4}=\mathrm{H}(\mathbf{2 e}, \mathbf{f}, \mathrm{h})$, on the grounds of molecular geometry. In contrast, the presence of an $\alpha$-methyl substituent ( $2 \mathrm{~g} ; \mathrm{R}^{4}=\mathrm{Me}$ ) permits the $E$-s-cis conformation to equilibrate with the prerequisite $E$-s-trans geometry as a result of steric repulsion between the 5 -methylene and $\mathrm{R}^{4}(\mathrm{Me})$ groups, thus, leading to the photocyclization. $\dagger$ The 1,3 -acyl shift, the major photochemical reaction of enamides, suffers, in general, no geometrical constraint ${ }^{2 a}$ and, therefore, the

[^0]


$\begin{gathered}\text { E-s-trans } \\ (2 e-h)\end{gathered} \quad E-s$-cis
(5)

(3d')
(6)
$a: R^{4}=R^{5}=H$
$b: R^{4}=H \cdot R^{5}=M e$
$c: R^{4}=H \cdot R^{5}=P h$

Scheme.
acryloylenamines (2e,f,h) afford the vinylogous amides ( $\mathbf{6 a - c}$ ) upon irradiation.

## Experimental

M.p.s were taken in a sealed tube on a Yanagimoto micromelting point apparatus and are uncorrected. Microanalyses were performed with a Perkin-Elmer 240B elemental analyzer. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ n.m.r. spectra were taken at $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ with a JEOL JMN-C60 HL instrument at 60 MHz using $\mathrm{Me}_{4} \mathrm{Si}$ as internal standard. I.r. spectra were recorded on a JASCO A-100 spectrometer.

4-Benzoyl-5-methylene-4-azatricyclo[4.3.1.1 ${ }^{3,8}$ ]undecane
(2a).-Benzoyl chloride ( $106 \mathrm{mg}, 0.75 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) in ether ( 1 ml ) was
added to an ice-cooled and stirred mixture of 5-methyl-4tricyclo[4.3.1.1 ${ }^{3,8}$ ]undec-4-ene ( 1$)^{4}(81 \mathrm{mg}, 0.50 \mathrm{mmol})$ and triethylamine ( $76 \mathrm{mg}, 0.75 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) in anhydrous ether ( 3 ml ), and the stirring was continued for 3 h at room temperature. The mixture was filtered and the filtrate evaporated under reduced pressure to give a residue which was chromatographed on an alumina (Woelm N) column by elution with $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ to afford the benzoyl derivative ( 2 a ) as crystals ( $110 \mathrm{mg}, 82 \%$ ); for the physical and analytical data, see Table 1.
The acylation of (1) with $p$-methyl-, $p$-methoxy-, and $o$ -methyl-benzoyl chlorides, and acryloyl-, crotonyl-, methacroyl-, and cinnamoyl chlorides was carried out similarly to afford the corresponding 5-methylene-4-aroyl- and -acryloyl-compounds (2b-h) (see Table 1).

Table 3. Physical and analytical data for the photoproducts (3a-d), (5), (6a-c) and some related derivatives (4a-d)

${ }^{a}$ For isolation, see Table 2 and Experimental section. ${ }^{b}$ Solid compounds were scanned as KBr discs and oils were scanned as neat films. ${ }^{c}$ All ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ n.m.r. spectra were measured $\mathrm{CCl}_{4}$. Multiplicities and $J$ values $(\mathrm{Hz})$ are given in parentheses. ${ }^{d} \mathrm{D}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ exchangeable. ${ }^{e}$ For the yields, see Experimental section.

General Procedure for Photolysis of 5-Methylene-4-aroyland -acryloyl-4-azatricyclo[4.3.1.1 ${ }^{3,8}$ ]undecanes ( $2 \mathrm{a}-\mathrm{h}$ ).—An ethereal solution of the appropriate compound (2) was deoxygenated by bubbling argon through the solution for 0.5 h and irradiated with a low-pressure mercury lamp ( 60 W ) through a quartz filter at room temperature for $0.5-1.5 \mathrm{~h}$. Removal of the solvent under reduced pressure gave a solid residue which was purified by preparative t.l.c. (Merck aluminium oxide $60 \mathrm{PF}-254$, type E ) by eluting with $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}-$ hexane to afford either the photocyclization or 1,3 -acyl shift product. The results are summarized in Tables 2 and 3 .

8,9,10,11,12,13-Hexahydro-7,11; 9,13-dimethanoazonino-[1,2b]isoquinolin-5(7H)-one (4a).-A mixture of the octahydro derivative (3a) ( $36 \mathrm{mg}, 0.14 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) and DDQ ( $46 \mathrm{mg}, 0.20$ mmol ) in anhydrous benzene ( 2 ml ) was heated to reflux for 26 h . After removal of the solvent, a solid residue was purified on a preparative t.l.c. (Merck aluminium oxide 60PF-254, type E) by elution with $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ to give the hexahydro derivative (4a) as crystals ( $24 \mathrm{mg}, 77 \%$ ). The oxidation of (3b), (3c), and (3d) was carried out similarly to afford (4b), (4c), and (4d) in 80,65 , and $60 \%$ yields, respectively. The physical and analytical data of ( $\mathbf{4} \mathbf{a}-\mathbf{d}$ ) are also summarized in Table 3.

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[^0]:    * Concerning the amide bond.
    $\dagger$ The calculated strain energies on a carbon analogue (i.e. a triene system) by molecular mechanics using the $\mathrm{MMP}_{2}$ program ${ }^{8}$ are 28.70 (for a corresponding geometry to $E$-s-trans in Scheme) and 22.83 ( $E$-scis) $\mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ for $\mathbf{R}^{4}=\mathbf{R}^{5}=\mathbf{H}$, and 30.22 ( $E$-s-trans) and 29.76 ( $E$-scis) $\mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ for $\mathbf{R}^{4}=\mathbf{M e}, \mathbf{R}^{5}=\mathbf{H}$, respectively. The results are in agreement with the above view: further details will be published in a future publication.

