## Photochemical Synthesis of Tricyclic $\beta$ -Lactams and their Isomerization to $\beta$ -Thiolactones

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The photochemistry of cyclic N-( $\alpha$ , $\beta$ -unsaturated carbonyl)-thionocarbamates and -dithiocarbamates has been studied. Photolysis of a benzene solution of 3-(methacryloyl)thiazolidine-2-thione gave 4-methyl-2,9-dithia-6-azatricyclo[4.3.0.0<sup>1.4</sup>]nonan-5-one (a tricyclic- $\beta$ -lactam) (30%) and 2-(3'methyl-2'-oxothietan-3'-yl)-2-thiazoline (a  $\beta$ -thiolactone) (30%). Irradiation of 3-(2'-methylbut-2enoyl)thiazolidine-2-thione, 3-(methacryloyl)oxazolidine-2-thione, and 3-(2'-methylbut-2enoyl)oxazolidine-2-thione gave the corresponding  $\beta$ -lactams (33–67%), whereas that of the sixmembered compounds, 3-(methacryloyl)- and 3-(2'-methylbut-2-enoyl)tetrahydro-1,3-oxazine-2thione, led to  $\beta$ -thiolactones (33–66%). The ring transformation of this new ring system (thietane-fused penams and oxapenams) to  $\beta$ -thiolactones was confirmed by the fact that, on pyrolysis, the  $\beta$ -lactams gave the corresponding  $\beta$ -thiolactones in quantitative yield.

Considerable ingenuity has been demonstrated over many years in devising syntheses of the  $\beta$ -lactam system, the core element of penicillin and cephalosporin antibiotics, much effort having also been expended in the preparation of simple  $\beta$ -lactams.<sup>1</sup> Also, the photochemical behaviour of thiocarbonyl compounds has received much attention since it differs from that of the corresponding carbonyl derivatives, the mechanistic and synthetic features being of particular interest.<sup>2</sup> The Paterno–Büchi reaction of thioamides <sup>3</sup> and cyclic thioimides <sup>4</sup> are examples of this. Recently we reported the photochemical synthesis of thietane-fused  $\beta$ -lactams **2** involving intramolecular [2 + 2] cyclization of acyclic *N*-( $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ -unsaturated carbonyl)-thiobenzamides **1** (Scheme 1).<sup>5</sup> The substituent on the 1-



position of the  $\beta$ -lactams was limited to aryl groups because of the stability of the starting materials 1. In this study of the photochemistry of monothioimides, we have discovered that irradiation of *N*-( $\alpha$ , $\beta$ -unsaturated carbonyl)-thionocarbamates and -dithiocarbamates gave new  $\beta$ -lactam systems, thietanefused penams and oxapenams. Furthermore, the ring transformation of these new ring systems to  $\beta$ -thiolactones has also been studied.

All the N-acyl cyclic dithiocarbamates **3a**, **b** and thionocarbamates **3c**-**f** were obtained by condensing  $\alpha$ , $\beta$ -unsaturated carboxylic acid chlorides with the corresponding cyclic dithiocarbamates or thionocarbamates in the presence of triethylamine.<sup>†</sup> A benzene solution of 3-(methacryloyl)thiazolidine-2-thione **3a** in a Pyrex vessel when irradiated under an argon atmosphere with the UV light from a 1 kW high-pressure mercury lamp until the starting material had disappeared, gave 4-methyl-2,9-dithia-6-azatricyclo[4.3.0.0<sup>1,4</sup>]nonan-5-one **4a** (30%) and 2-(1'-methyl-2'-oxothietan-3'-yl)-4,5-dihydrothiazole **5a** (30%). The structure of 4a was inferred from the results of elemental analysis and spectral data.<sup>‡</sup> The IR spectrum of 4a exhibits absorption at 1755 cm<sup>-1</sup> attributable to the carbonyl bond of the four-membered lactam. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum shows an ABq at  $\delta$  3.03 and 3.60 assignable to the methylene protons of the thietane ring and the absence of olefinic protons. The <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum exhibits two singlet peaks at  $\delta$  84.3 (1-C) and 69.8 (4-C), and a triplet at 31.3 (3-C). No signals which could be attributed to the thiocarbonyl and olefinic group carbons were observed. The structure of 5a was determined by a comparison of spectral data for 2-(5',5'-dimethyl-4'-oxothiolan-3'-yl)-4,5-dihydrothiazole 7 which was obtained from a photoreaction of N-(2',2'-dimethylbut-3'-enoyl)thiazolidine-2-thione 6 (see Scheme 2) and the structure of 7 was unequivocally



Scheme 2

established by X-ray crystallographic analysis.<sup>6</sup> The IR spectrum of **5a** exhibits absorption at 1755 cm<sup>-1</sup> derived from the  $\beta$ -thiolactone carbonyl group whereas that of **7** was shown at 1720 cm<sup>-1</sup>. For the <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra, peaks attributable to the 4,5-dihydrothiazole entity are

<sup>†</sup> Since all N-acyl dithiocarbamates **3a**, **b** and thionocarbamates **3c**-f were unstable, they were used as soon as possible without purification after removal of the solvent and precipitated  $Et_3N$ ·HCl from the reaction mixture of thionourethane or dithiourethane,  $Et_3N$  and  $\alpha_s\beta$ -unsaturated carboxylic acid chloride. The crude materials were used for the photochemical step and the yields of  $\beta$ -lactams **4** and  $\beta$ -thiolactones **5** were determined on the basis of the amount of corresponding thionocarbamates and dithiocarbamates.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>‡</sup> The assignments were performed by 2D proton-carbon correlation experiments.





<sup>a</sup> Isolated yields.

identical with those of compound 7. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum for the  $\beta$ -thiolactone group showed an ABq at  $\delta$  2.95 and 3.69 attributable to 4'-H, and the <sup>13</sup>C NMR exhibits a triplet at  $\delta$  28.8 (4'-C) and two singlets at 78.1 (1'-C) and 192.0 (s, 2'-C=O).

The photolysis of other five-membered compounds 3b-dgave the corresponding  $\beta$ -lactams 4b-d (Table 1), whereas that of the six-membered compounds, *N*-acyl-tetrahydro-1,3oxazine-2-thione 3e and 3f, provided the  $\beta$ -thiolactones 5e, fin which the corresponding  $\beta$ -lactams 4e, f were not detected.

Furthermore, the structure of the  $\beta$ -lactams 4 was supported by the fact that desulfurization of the  $\beta$ -lactam 4c by Raney Ni (W-2) in methanol gave 8 (Scheme 3). Formation of compound



**8** is explainable in terms of the initial nucleophilic addition of methanol at the 1-position of the  $\beta$ -lactam **4c** followed by cleavage of the C(O)–N bond and desulfurization.

In order to determine the configuration of both  $\beta$ -lactams and  $\beta$ -thiolactones obtained from the tigloyl derivatives 1b, d, f, an NOE study was carried out. Irradiation of the 3-methyl doublet at  $\delta$  1.54 of the  $\beta$ -lactam 4b resulted in an increase in the area of both the 3-H methine quartet and the 4-methyl singlet at  $\delta$  4.15 and 1.28, respectively. Alternatively, irradiation of the 3-H methine quartet gave an increase in the 3-methyl singlet, but led to no observable NOE for the 4-methyl singlet resonance. Furthermore, irradiation of the 4-methyl singlet gave an increase in the 3-methyl doublet resonance but there was an absence of NOE between it and the 3-H methine quartet resonance. From these results, a syn configuration was assigned to the 3-Me and 4-Me of the  $\beta$ -lactams 4b. The anti configuration of 5b was also determined on the basis of an NOE experiment. Enhancement was shown for both 3'-Me singlet and 4'-Me doublet resonances when the 4'-H quartet was irradiated. Irradiation of the 3'-Me singlet gave an increase in the 4'-H methine resonance, but led to no observable NOE effect for the 4'-methyl doublet resonance. The syn configuration for 4d and *anti* for 5d and 5f were also determined in a manner similar to that described above.

As mentioned above, we have already reported the photochemical reaction of 6 followed by a similar rearrangement to provide 7 (Scheme 2).\* It is reasonable to presume that the  $\beta$ -thiolactone 5 is a secondary product from the primary photoproduct, the  $\beta$ -lactam 4. In fact, when a dry toluene solution of 4a or 4b was heated under reflux for 4 h under a nitrogen atmosphere, 5a or 5b was obtained quantitatively. It is concluded that the transformation of  $\beta$ -lactams 4 to the  $\beta$ thiolactones 5 involves the zwitterionic intermediate 9, whereas the mechanism by way of a homolytic cleavage or a concerted process is also plausible (Scheme 4). We were unsuccessful in



attempts to trap the intermediate by dipolarophiles such as dimethyl maleate or furan, since the thiolactone 5b was formed, as in the absence of them, when 4b was used for the reaction.<sup>†</sup>

Finally, the photolysis of various N-( $\alpha$ , $\beta$ -unsaturated carbonyl)-thionocarbamates **3a**, **b** and -dithiocarbamates **3c**-**f** gave new  $\beta$ -lactam systems, thietane-fused penams **4a**, **b** and oxapenams **4c**, **d**, and  $\beta$ -thiolactones **5a**-**f**. Ring-opening, which reveals the angle strain in the tricyclic  $\beta$ -lactams, is facilitated by the electron-donating effect of the two heteroatoms adjacent to the thietane ring. The present reaction provides a useful synthetic route to new  $\beta$ -lactam systems, thietane-fused penams and oxapenams. Furthermore, the ring transformation of these new ring systems to  $\beta$ -thiolactones was also studied.

## Experimental

IR spectra of  $CDCl_3$  solutions were recorded with a Shimadzu IR-420 spectrophotometer. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of  $CDCl_3$  solutions were recorded with JEOL FX-270 and GSX-500 spectrometers, respectively; *J*-values are given in Hz. An Eikosya 1 kW high-pressure Hg lamp was used in the irradiations. Silica gel (Merck, Kieselgel 60, 230–400 mesh) was used for flash chromatography.

of N-( $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ -Unsaturated Preparation Carbonyl)-dithiocarbamates 3a, b and -thionocarbamates 3c-f.-To a cold (0 °C) stirred solution of the thionourethane or dithiourethane (3.0 mmol), Et<sub>3</sub>N (3.6 mmol) and THF (30 cm<sup>3</sup>) under N<sub>2</sub> was added dropwise the  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated carboxylic acid chloride (3.6 mmol). The mixture was stirred for 2 h at room temperature after which it was evaporated under reduced pressure. A mixture of solvents (benzene-hexane, 1:1; 50 cm<sup>3</sup>) was added to the residue to precipitate the Et<sub>3</sub>N•HCl which was then filtered off through a Celite 545 column. The filtrate was evaporated under reduced pressure to provide the N-acyldithiocarbamates 3a, b and -thionocarbamates 3c-f, since these were unstable they were used as soon as possible without further purification. The crude products were used for the

<sup>\*</sup> A similar rearrangement has been reported for aminothietane generated by intermolecular 2 + 2 cycloaddition of indolethione and alkenes.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>†</sup> It is known that dimethyl maleate is one of the most reactive dipolarophiles for 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition.<sup>8</sup>

photochemical step and the yields of  $\beta$ -lactams and  $\beta$ -thiolactones were determined on the basis of the amount of the corresponding thionocarbamates and dithiocarbamates.

3-Methacryloylthiazolidine-2-thione **3a**:  $v_{max}/cm^{-1}$  1700;  $\delta_{\rm H}$  2.06 (d, J 0.9, 3 H, 2'-Me), 3.3–3.4 (m, 2 H, 5-CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.3–4.4 (m, 2 H, 4-CH<sub>2</sub>), 5.47 (m, 1 H, 3'-H) and 5.59 (d, J 0.6, 1 H, 3'-H);  $\delta_{\rm C}$  18.8 (q, 2'-Me), 29.8 (t, 5-C), 55.9 (t, 4-C), 122.5 (t, 3'-C), 140.1 (s, 2'-C), 172.7 (s, C=O) and 201.6 (s, C=S).

3-(2'-*Methylbut*-2-*enoyl*)*thiazolidine*-2-*thione* **3b**:  $v_{max}/cm^{-1}$ 1700;  $\delta_{H}$  1.79 (d, J 7.2, 3 H, 3'-Me), 1.90 (d, J 1.1, 3 H, 2'-Me), 3.39 (dd, J 7.2 and 7.4, 2 H, 5-CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.37 (dd, J 7.2 and 7.4, 2 H, 4-CH<sub>2</sub>) and 6.35–7.45 (m, 1 H, 3'-H);  $\delta_{C}$  13.0 (q, 3'-Me), 14.5 (q, 2'-Me), 29.7 (t, 5-C), 56.2 (t, 4-C), 128.6 (s, 2'-C), 137.3 (d, 3'-C), 173.3 (s, C=O) and 201.6 (s, C=S).

3-Methacryloyloxazolidine-2-thione **3c**:  $v_{max}/cm^{-1}$  1680 and 1640;  $\delta_{\rm H}$  2.09 (dd, J 1.1 and 1.65, 3 H, 2'-Me), 4.17 (dd, J 8.0 and 8.3, 2 H, 5-CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.59 (dd, J 8.0 and 8.3, 2 H, 4-CH<sub>2</sub>), 5.47 (d, J 1.65, 1 H, 3'-H), and 5.53 (s, 1 H, 3'-H);  $\delta_{\rm C}$  19.3 (q, Me), 47.3 (t, 4-C), 67.1 (t, 5-C), 122.0 (t, 3'-C), 139.5 (s, 2'-C), 172.1 (s, C=O) and 185.9 (s, C=S).

3-(2'-Methylbut-2-enoyl)oxazolidine-2-thione **3d**:  $\gamma_{max}/cm^{-1}$ 1680 and 1640;  $\delta_{H}$  1.80 (d, J 7.0, 3 H, 3'-Me), 1.86 (d, J 1.1, 3 H, 2'-Me), 4.1-4.2 (m, 2 H, 5-CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.5-4.6 (m, 2 H, 4-CH<sub>2</sub>) and 6.3-6.5 (m, 1 H, 3'-H);  $\delta_{C}$  13.3 (q, 3'-Me), 14.7 (q, 2'-Me), 47.5 (t, 4-C), 67.0 (t, 5-C), 128.5 (s, 2'-C), 136.3 (d, 3'-C), 172.7 (s, C=O) and 186.4 (s, C=S).

3-*Methacryloyl-tetrahydro*-1,3-*oxazine*-2-*thione* **3e**:  $v_{max}/cm^{-1}$ 1700 and 1630 cm <sup>1</sup>;  $\delta_{H}$  2.09 (d, J 0.7, 3 H, 2'-Me), 2.2–2.3 (m, 2 H, 5-CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.70 (t, J 6.9, 2 H, 4-CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.43 (t, J 5.5, 2 H, 6-CH<sub>2</sub>), 5.50 (m, 1 H, 3'-H), and 5.64 (d, J 0.6, 1 H, 3'-H);  $\delta_{C}$  18.7 (q, Me), 21.5 (t, 5-C), 44.3 (t, 4-C), 68.4 (t, 6-C), 121.8 (t, 3'-C), 140.9 (s, 2'-C), 174.2 (s, C=O) and 188.9 (s, C=S).

3-(2'-Methylbut-2-enoyl)-tetrahydro-1,3-oxazine-2-thione **3f**:  $v_{max}/cm^{-1}$  1680 and 1640;  $\delta_{H}$  1.82 (d, J 7.0, 3 H, 3'-Me), 1.94 (d, J 1.1, 3 H, 2'-Me), 2.2–2.3 (m, 2 H, 5-CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.66 (t, J 6.8, 2 H, 4-CH<sub>2</sub>), 6.4–6.5 (m, 1 H, 3'-H);  $\delta_{C}$  12.6 (q, 3'-Me), 14.6 (q, 2'-Me), 21.2 (t, 5-C), 44.5 (t, 4-C), 68.2 (t, 6-C), 133.2 (s, 2'-C), 136.9 (d, 3'-C), 174.3 (s, C=O) and 187.7 (s, C=S).

General Procedure for the Photolysis of the N-Acyl-dithiocarbamates **3a**, **b** and -thiocarbamates **3c**-f.—A benzene solution of **3a**-f in a Pyrex vessel under Ar was irradiated at 15 °C with the UV light from a 1 kW high-pressure mercury lamp until the starting material had disappeared (*ca.* 4–6 h in all cases). The residue obtained by concentrating the reaction mixture was purified by flash chromatography (eluent: benzene–EtOAc, 10:1-3:1). The crystalline products were recrystallized from Et<sub>2</sub>O–hexane.

4-Methyl-2,9-dithia-6-azatricyclo[ $4.3.0.0^{1.4}$ ]nonan-5-one **4a**: m.p. 97.5–99 °C;  $v_{max}/cm^{-1}$  1755;  $\delta_{H}$  1.36 (s, 3 H, 4-Me), 3.03 and 3.60 (ABq, J 11, 2 H, 3-CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.0–3.4 (m, 3 H, 8-CH<sub>2</sub> and 7-CH) and 3.9–4.2 (m, 1 H, 7-CH);  $\delta_{C}$  14.7 (q, 4-Me), 31.3 (t, 3-C), 39.8 (t, 8-C), 43.5 (t, 7-C), 69.8 (s, 4-C), 84.3 (s, 1-C) and 172.7 (s, 5-C=O) (Found: C, 44.7; H, 4.85; N, 7.5. Calc. for C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>9</sub>NOS<sub>2</sub>: C, 44.89; H, 4.84; N, 7.47%).

2-(3'-Methyl-2'-oxothietan-3'-yl)-4,5-dihydrothiazole **5a**: b.p. 60 °C (10 <sup>3</sup> Torr);  $v_{max}/cm^{-1}$  1755 and 1610;  $\delta_{H}$  1.71 (s, 3 H, 3'-Me), 2.95 and 3.69 (ABq, J 8.8, 2 H, 4'-CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.36 (t, J 7.8, 2 H, 5-CH<sub>2</sub>) and 4.28 (t, J 7.8, 2 H, 4-CH<sub>2</sub>);  $\delta_{C}$  22.2 (q, 3'-Me), 28.8 (t, 4'-C), 33.8 (t, 5-C), 64.0 (t, 4-C), 78.1 (s, 3'-C), 168.2 (s, 2-C) and 192.0 (s, 2'-C=O) (Found: C, 45.15; H, 4.85; N, 7.3. Calc. for C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>9</sub>NOS<sub>2</sub>: C, 44.89; H, 4.84; N, 7.47%).

(syn)-3,4-Dimethyl-2,9-dithia-6-azatricyclo[4.3.0.0<sup>1,4</sup>]nonan-5-one **4b**: m.p. 71–72 °C;  $v_{max}/cm^{-1}$  1755;  $\delta_{H}$  1.28 (s, 3 H, 4-Me), 1.45 (d, J 7.0, 3 H, 3-Me), 3.1–3.2 (m, 3 H, 8-CH<sub>2</sub> and 7-CH), 4.0–4.1 (m, 1 H, 7-CH) and 4.15 (q, J 7.0, 1 H, 3-CH);  $\delta_{C}$  9.5 (q, 4-Me), 18.5 (q, 3-Me), 39.6 (t, 8-C), 40.0 (d, 3-C), 43.4 (t, 7-C), 64.4 (s, 4-C), 72.4 (s, 1-C), and 173.7 (s, 5-C=O) (Found: 4-Methyl-9-oxa-2-thia-6-azatricyclo[ $4.3.0.0^{1.4}$ ]nonan-5-one **4c**: m.p. 67–68 °C;  $v_{max}/cm^{-1}$  1755;  $\delta_{H}$  1.36 (s, 3 H, 4-Me), 3.03 and 3.60 (ABq, J 11, 2 H, 3-CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.0–3.4 (m, 3 H, 8-CH<sub>2</sub> and 7-CH) and 3.9–4.2 (m, 1 H, 7-CH);  $\delta_{C}$  14.7 (q, 4-Me), 31.3 (t, 3-C), 39.8 (t, 8-C), 43.5 (t, 7-C), 69.8 (s, 4-C), 84.3 (s, 1-C) and 172.7 (s, 5-C=O) (Found: C, 49.35; H, 5.4; N, 8.2. Calc. for C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>9</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>S: C, 49.12; H, 5.30; N, 8.18%).

(syn)-3,4-Dimethyl-9-oxa-2-thia-6-azatricyclo[4.3.0.0<sup>1,4</sup>]nonan-5-one **4d**: m.p. 64–65 °C;  $v_{max}/cm^{-1}$  1765;  $\delta_{H}$  1.26 (s, 3 H, 4-Me), 1.44 (d, J 7.0, 3 H, 3-Me), 3.2–3.25 (m, 1 H, 7-CH), 3.8– 3.9 (m, 1 H, 7-CH), 3.92 (q, J 7.0, 1 H, 3-CH), 4.0–4.2 (m, 1 H, 8-CH) and 4.4–4.45 (m, 1 H, 8-CH);  $\delta_{H}$  7.24 (q, 4-Me), 18.2 (q, 3-Me), 36.8 (d, 3-C), 42.3 (t, 7-C), 73.8 (s, 4-C), 74.1 (s, 8-C), 98.0 (s, 1-C) and 178.1 (s, 5-C=O) (Found: C, 52.0; H, 6.0; N, 7.6. Calc. for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>11</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>S: C, 51.88; H, 5.99; N, 7.56%).

(anti)-2-(3',4'-*Dimethyl*-2'-*oxothietan*-3'-*yl*)-4,5-*dihydrooxazine* **5f**:  $v_{max}$ /cm<sup>-1</sup> 1755 and 1660;  $\delta_{H}$  1.58 (s, 3 H, 3'-Me), 1.62 (d, *J* 6.8, 4'-Me), 1.85–1.95 (m, 2 H, 5-CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.40 (q, *J* 6.8, 1 H, 4'-CH), 3.4–3.5 (m, 2 H, 4-CH<sub>2</sub>) and 4.20–4.25 (m, 2 H, 6-CH<sub>2</sub>);  $\delta_{C}$  18.1 (q, 3'-Me), 20.9 (q, 4'-Me), 21.6 (t, 5-C), 40.4 (d, 4'-C), 42.2 (t, 4-C), 65.1 (t, 6-C), 77.3 (s, 3'-C), 155.9 (s, 2-C) and 192.8 (s, 2'-C=O) [Found: *m*/*z* (FAB) 200.0744. Calc. for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>14</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>S (MH<sup>+</sup>): 200.0745].

*Desulfurization of* **4c** *by Raney Ni.*—To a mixture of methanol and Raney Ni (W-2) was added a methanol solution of the βlactam **4c** and the mixture was stirred for 1 h. The Raney Ni was filtered off and the filtrate was evaporated under reduced pressure to provide a residue. This was subjected to silica gel column chromatography (eluent: benzene–EtOAc, 4:1) to afford *methyl* 2,2-*dimethyl*-N-(2-*hydroxyethyl*)*malonamate* **8** (38%);  $v_{max}/cm^{-1}$  3400 (NH), 3250 (OH), 1725 (C=O) and 1640 (C=O);  $\delta_{\rm H}$  1.49 (s, 6 H, 2,2-Me<sub>2</sub>), 2.1 (br, 1 H, OH), 3.73 (s, 3 H, CO<sub>2</sub>Me), 3.87 (t, J 9.2, 2 H, CH<sub>2</sub>NH) and 4.29 (t, J 9.2, 2 H, CH<sub>2</sub>OH);  $\delta_{\rm C}$  23.4 (q, 2,2-Me<sub>2</sub>), 44.1 (s, 2-C), 52.5 (q, CO<sub>2</sub>Me), 54.2 (t, CH<sub>2</sub>NH), 67.9 (t, CH<sub>2</sub>OH), 169.4 (s, C=O) and 173.8 (s, C=O) [Found: *m*/*z* (FAB), 190 (MH<sup>+</sup>). Calc. for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>: 190].

Thermal Rearrangement of **4b** to **5b**.—A toluene solution (5 cm<sup>3</sup>) of **4b** (100 mg) was refluxed for 4 h under N<sub>2</sub> after which the reaction mixture was subjected to column chromatography on silica gel, to give a quantitative yield of (anti)-2-(3',4'dimethyl-2'-oxothietan-3'-yl)-4,5-dihydrothiazoline **5b**;  $v_{max}/$  cm<sup>-1</sup> 1755 and 1610;  $\delta_{\rm H}$  1.59 (d, J 7.0, 3 H, 4'-Me), 1.71 (s, 3 H, 3'-Me), 3.2–3.4 (m, 2 H, 5-CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.54 (q, J 6.8, 1 H, 4'-CH) and 4.2–4.4 (m, 2 H, 4-CH<sub>2</sub>);  $\delta_{\rm C}$  18.2 (q, 4'-Me), 22.9 (q, 3'-Me), 33.6 (t, 5-C), 41.2 (d, 4'-C), 64.5 (t, 4-C), 78.1 (s, 3'-C), 167.9 (s, 2-C) and 192.7 (s, 2'-C=O) [Found: m/z (EI), 201.0277. Calc. for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>11</sub>NOS<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): 201.0288].

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