

Potential mechanism-based tyrosine kinase inhibitors. Part 1. Phosphorylation chemistry of pyridine *N*-oxides

David M. Andrews,^c Timothy C. M. Page,^{a,b} Josephine M. Peach^a and Andrew J. Pratt^{*a,b,†}

^a Dyson Perrins Laboratory, South Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3QY, UK

^b Oxford Centre for Molecular Sciences, South Parks Road, Oxford UK

^c Medicinal Chemistry II, Glaxo Research and Development, Greenford Road, Greenford, Middlesex UB6 0HE, UK

Phosphorylated derivatives of 4-picoline *N*-oxide have been observed on treatment with both phosphorylating and phosphitylating agents. These intermediates were trapped by external nucleophiles. Propane-1-thiol reacted preferentially at carbon to yield a propylsulfanylpyridine whereas propylamine reacted preferentially at phosphorus. This chemistry carries implications for the design of mechanism-based tyrosine kinase inhibitors.

Phosphorylation of tyrosine residues of specific proteins is a key step in cell proliferation.¹ Inhibitors of tyrosine kinases are of interest both for the study of these enzymes and for therapeutic purposes. A range of reversible inhibitors of these enzymes have been described² as well as reactive active-site labels³ but, to our knowledge, no mechanism-based irreversible inhibitors⁴ have been reported. Such compounds might provide therapeutic advantages over those already described. Appropriately substituted pyridine *N*-oxides are analogues of tyrosine and their phosphorylation chemistry might provide the basis of mechanism-based tyrosine kinase inhibitors (see Fig. 1). Were such compounds phosphorylated by tyrosine kinases the resulting phosphorylated intermediate **1** would be electrophilic and may react with nucleophilic active-site residues of the enzyme leading to inhibition. We elected to study the phosphorylation chemistry of a model *N*-oxide, 4-picoline *N*-oxide **4**, and to evaluate the possibility of interception of *O*-phosphoryl *N*-oxides with external nucleophiles.

It is well documented that phosphorylating agents bearing nucleophilic leaving groups can be used to generate 2-substituted pyridines.⁵ For example 2-chloropyridines can be formed by treatment of the parent pyridine *N*-oxide with POCl₃; 2-cyanopyridines can likewise be prepared from phosphoryl cyanide derivatives.⁶ These reactions are believed to proceed via *O*-phosphorylated intermediates⁷ by analogy with other Reissert–Henze type reactions.⁸ However, in contrast with related reactions,⁹ there appear to be no reports of the detection of such intermediates and only limited reports of reactions of this type utilising added nucleophiles.¹⁰ We here report the detection of such *O*-phosphoryl intermediates and their reaction with biologically relevant nucleophiles: amines and thiols.¹¹

Results and discussion

As a prelude to studies on intermediates in the phosphorylation chemistry of *N*-oxides we carried out phosphorylation reactions on *p*-cresol to provide comparative spectroscopic data. We employed both phosphorylating agents (reaction with diphenyl chlorophosphate to form **3c**) and phosphitylating agents {tetrazole-mediated reaction with bis(benzyloxy)(diisopropylamino)phosphane (PhCH₂O)₂P[N(CHMe₂)₂] and reaction with chloro(diisopropylamino)methoxyphosphane, MeOP[N-

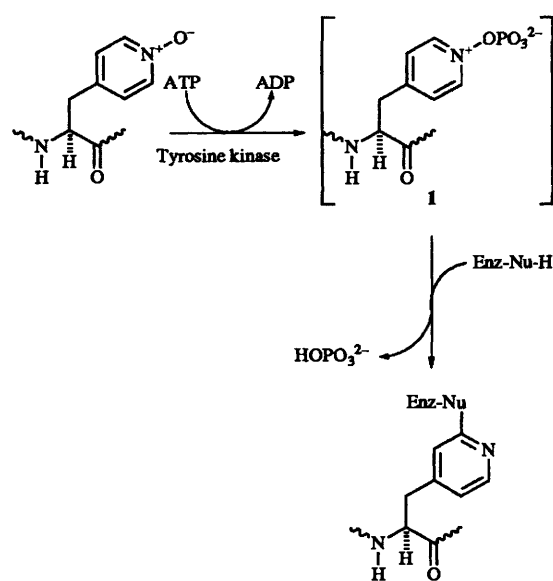
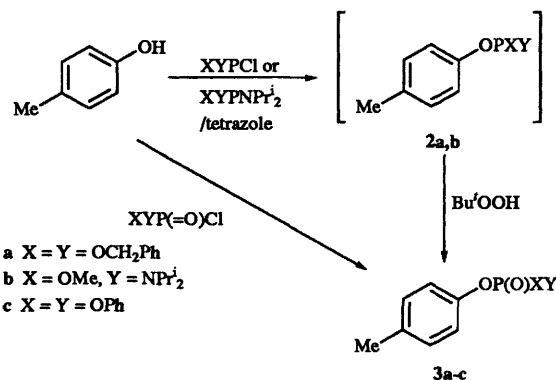


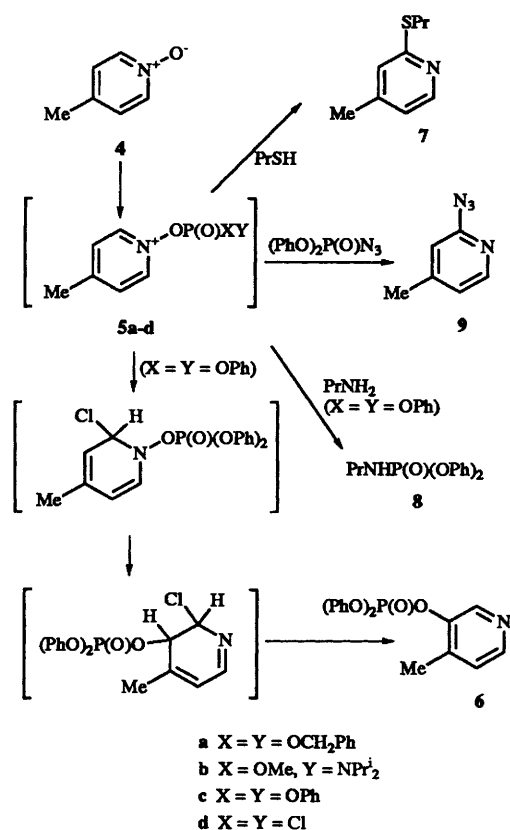
Fig. 1

{(CHMe₂)₂]Cl were both evaluated}. In the case of phosphitylation reactions we determined the spectroscopic properties of the intermediate phosphorus(III) species **2a, b** (δ_p 161 and 148,



respectively; phosphorus NMR shift values are quoted relative to 85% phosphoric acid) *in situ* prior to oxidation of the crude phosphite products to the corresponding phosphates **3a, b** (δ_p –5.1 and +5.7, respectively). The NMR spectra produced in

† Current address: Department of Chemistry, University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand.



these studies provided the basis for the study of the transient intermediates formed in the equivalent reactions of 4-picoline *N*-oxide.

The reaction of 4-picoline *N*-oxide **4** with diphenyl chlorophosphate in dry CDCl₃ was followed by ¹H and ³¹P NMR spectroscopy. Over the course of 12 h at room temperature the characteristic resonances of the starting materials were replaced by new resonances consistent with the accumulation of **5c**; in particular a new phosphorus(v) species (δ_p -11.1) accumulated as judged by ³¹P NMR spectroscopy. That this species retained the symmetry properties of the starting 4-picoline *N*-oxide was shown by ¹H NMR (two 2 H doublets due to the pyridine ring protons). Diphenyl 4-methyl-3-pyridyl phosphate **6** accumulated in the reaction mixture at a slower rate. On standing **5c** isomerised to **6** which was isolated. The assignment of regiochemistry of this derivative rests on NOE experiments in particular irradiation of the resonance due to the methyl group gives rise to an enhancement of one aromatic resonance; no enhancement of the resonance due to the proton adjacent to the phosphoryl group was observed. The formation of a 3-*O*-phosphoryl pyridine parallels the formation of analogous 3-substituted products in reactions of pyridine *N*-oxides with arylsulfonyl chlorides.¹² The latter may arise *via* rearrangement of an intermediate formed by chloride ion attack on the *O*-phosphoryl *N*-oxide as illustrated. Reaction of **4** with POCl₃ at low temperature led to a similar *O*-phosphoryl *N*-oxide intermediate, **5d** (δ_p -3.9), although it did not accumulate to the same extent. With diphenylphosphoryl azide as the phosphorylating agent the phosphorylated *N*-oxide was not detected, instead only accumulation of 2-azido-4-methylpyridine **9**, was observed.

We investigated the possibility that phosphitylating agents might provide a route to *O*-phosphoryl *N*-oxides. When MeOP-[N(CHMe₂)₂]Cl was mixed with **4** there was an immediate reaction to generate, in a 1:1 ratio, 4-picoline and a phosphorus(v) species (δ_p 13.1) assigned as *O*-phosphoryl *N*-oxide

derivative **5b**. In this process **4** is acting as both nucleophile and oxidant. A similar process, resulting in **5a** (δ_p -12.2), was observed upon tetrazole-mediated reaction of **4** with bis(benzyloxy)(diisopropylamino)phosphane.

We next turned to an examination of the reactions of *O*-phosphoryl *N*-oxides with added nucleophiles. Phosphorylated intermediates **5b** and **5c**, generated *in situ*, were trapped at room temperature by one equivalent of propane-1-thiol to generate 4-methyl-2-propylsulfanylpyridine **7** which accumulated *in situ* (as judged by ¹H NMR spectroscopy) and was isolated in up to 22% overall yield. Since both 2- and 3-substituted pyridines can result from Reissert-Henze type reactions¹³ we took the precaution of confirming the regiochemistry of this product by an NOE experiment. When **5c** was the reacting *O*-phosphoryl species the product of thiol trapping, **7**, was accompanied by a similar quantity of the rearranged 3-*O*-phosphorylpyridine **6**. The latter compound was not an intermediate in the formation of **7** since it did not react with propane-1-thiol under the reaction conditions.

In contrast, the reaction of **5c** with one equivalent of propylamine under similar conditions, led to PrNHP(O)(OPh)₂, the product of nucleophilic substitution at phosphorus rather than attack at the pyridine ring. As with thiol trapping experiments, the rearranged phosphorylated intermediate **6** was also isolated.

These results indicate that *O*-phosphoryl derivatives of pyridine *N*-oxides do accumulate and can be trapped by external nucleophiles in competition with rearrangement chemistry. The exact nature of the trapping process is dependent upon the nucleophile. In a succeeding paper¹⁴ we report the application of these results to the design and testing of potential inhibitors of epidermal growth factor receptor tyrosine kinase.

Experimental

Melting points were determined on a Gallenkamp hot stage apparatus, and are uncorrected. IR spectra were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer 1750 Fourier transform instrument. ¹H NMR spectra were recorded on a Gemini 200 (at 200 MHz) or on a Bruker AM500 (at 500 MHz). ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on a Gemini 200 (at 50 MHz) or on a Bruker AM500 (at 125 MHz). ³¹P NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AM250 at 101 MHz and referenced to 85% phosphoric acid. *J* values are given in Hz. Mass spectra were recorded on a VG Micromass ZAB IF (FAB⁺, DCI⁺) and VG Trio 1 (GCMS-CI⁺, EI⁺) by Drs R. Aplin and R. Procter. High resolution mass spectra were recorded on a VG Autospec. All solvents were purified by conventional methods and moisture sensitive reactions were carried out under an anhydrous inert atmosphere.

Reaction of *p*-cresol with bis(benzyloxy)(diisopropylamino)-phosphane and subsequent oxidation

Bis(benzyloxy)(diisopropylamino)phosphane (0.11 cm³, 0.31 mmol) was added to a solution of dry *p*-cresol (33 mg, 0.31 mmol) in dry deuteriated chloroform (2 cm³) containing tetrazole (64 mg, 0.92 mmol) and 3 drops of dry dimethylformamide (DMF) at 0 °C. The resulting solution showed spectroscopic features consistent with the presence of *dibenzyl p*-tolyl phosphite **2a**: δ_H (CDCl₃; 200 MHz) 2.29 (3 H, s, CH₃), 4.99 (4 H, d, *J* 8, CH₂), 6.93 (2 H, d, *J* 8, ArH), 7.07 (2 H, d, *J* 8, ArH) and 7.30–7.40 (10 H, m, ArH); δ_P (CDCl₃) 161.0; *m/z* [CI⁺(NH₃)] 353 (MH⁺, 20%).

After stirring for 3 h at room temperature, anhydrous *tert*-butyl hydroperoxide (305 mm³ of a 3 mol dm⁻³ solution in hexanes, 0.92 mmol) was added to the above solution and stirring continued for 14 h. Purification by flash column chromatography (dichloromethane, *R_f* product 0.4) afforded *dibenzyl p*-tolyl phosphate **3a** as a colourless oil (28 mg, 38%); δ_H (CDCl₃; 500 MHz) 2.32 (3 H, s, CH₃), 5.12 (4 H, d, *J* 8, CH₂),

7.05 (2 H, dd, *J* 2 and 8, ArH), 7.09 (2 H, dd, *J* 2 and 8, ArH) and 7.30–7.40 (10 H, m, ArH); $\delta_{\text{C}}(\text{CDCl}_3; 125 \text{ MHz})$ 20.7, 69.8 (d, *J*_p 5), 119.8 (d, *J*_p 4), 128.0, 128.6 (2 C), 130.1, 134.7, 135.6 (d, *J*_p 7) and 148.4; $\delta_{\text{P}}(\text{CDCl}_3; 110 \text{ MHz})$ –5.10; $\nu_{\text{max}}(\text{CHCl}_3)/\text{cm}^{-1}$ 1278; *m/z* [$\text{Cl}^+(\text{NH}_3)$] 369 (MH⁺, 100%) (Found: *M*, 369.1258. Calc. for C₂₁H₂₂O₄P: *M*, 369.1256).

Reaction of *p*-cresol with chloro(diisopropylamino)methoxyphosphane and subsequent oxidation

Diisopropylethylamine (49 mm³, 0.28 mmol) and then chloro(diisopropylamino)methoxyphosphane (55 mm³, 0.28 mmol) were added to a solution of dry *p*-cresol (31 mg, 0.28 mmol) in dry dichloromethane (1.5 cm³) or deuteriated chloroform at 0 °C. The resulting solution exhibited spectroscopic features consistent with the presence of (diisopropylamino)methoxy(*p*-tolyl)phosphane **2b**: $\delta_{\text{H}}(\text{CDCl}_3; 500 \text{ MHz})$ 1.12 (6 H, d, *J* 7, NCCH₃), 1.16 (6 H, d, *J* 7, NCCH₃), 2.23 (3 H, s, ArCH₃), 3.43 (3 H, d, *J* 13, OCH₃), 3.65 (2 H, m, NCH), 6.88 (2 H, dd, *J* 2 and 8, ArH) and 6.99 (2 H, dd, *J* 2 and 8, ArH); $\delta_{\text{P}}(\text{CDCl}_3)$ 148.0; *m/z* [$\text{Cl}^+(\text{NH}_3)$] 270 (MH⁺, 40%).

The above solution was stirred at room temperature for 45 min and then the mixture was cooled to 0 °C and a solution of anhydrous *tert*-butyl hydroperoxide (93 mm³ of a 3 mol dm⁻³ solution in hexanes, 0.28 mmol) was added at 0 °C and stirring continued for 1 h. Purification by flash column chromatography (dichloromethane–ethyl acetate, 4:1, *R*_f product 0.5) afforded methyl *p*-tolyl *N,N*-diisopropylamidophosphate **3b** (38 mg, 47%) as an oil; $\delta_{\text{H}}(\text{CDCl}_3; 500 \text{ MHz})$ 1.18 (6 H, d, *J* 7, NCCH₃), 1.26 (6 H, d, *J* 7, NCCH₃), 2.30 (3 H, s, CH₃), 3.50 (2 H, dq, *J* 7 and 14, NCH), 3.73 (3 H, d, *J* 11, OCH₃), 7.09 (2 H, d, *J* 8, ArH) and 7.14 (2 H, d, *J* 8, ArH); $\delta_{\text{C}}(\text{CDCl}_3; 125 \text{ MHz})$ 20.7, 22.3, 22.6, 46.2, 52.8 (d, *J*_p 6), 119.8, 129.8, 133.6 and 149.2; $\delta_{\text{P}}(\text{CDCl}_3)$ 5.7; $\nu_{\text{max}}(\text{CHCl}_3)/\text{cm}^{-1}$ 1260; *m/z* [$\text{Cl}^+(\text{NH}_3)$] 286 (MH⁺, 100%) (Found: *M*, 286.1572. Calc. for C₁₄H₂₅NO₃P: *M*, 286.1572).

Diphenyl *p*-tolyl phosphate **3c**

Diphenyl chlorophosphate (2.40 cm³, 11.6 mmol) was added to a solution of dry *p*-cresol (1.250 g, 11.6 mmol) in dry dichloromethane (14 cm³) containing triethylamine (1.61 cm³, 11.6 mmol) at 0 °C. After stirring at room temperature for 3 h, the white precipitate was filtered off and the solution left at 5 °C overnight. The crystals that precipitated were filtered and the liquors reduced in volume on a rotary evaporator. Purification by flash column chromatography (dichloromethane, *R*_f product 0.3) afforded a colourless oil (1.200 g, 31%) which solidified on cooling to give the *title compound* mp 18 °C (lit.¹⁵ 18–20 °C); $\delta_{\text{H}}(\text{CDCl}_3; 200 \text{ MHz})$ 2.33 (3 H, s, CH₃), 7.12 (2 H, d, *J* 9, ArH), 7.14 (2 H, d, *J* 9, ArH) and 7.20–7.37 (10 H, m, ArH); $\delta_{\text{C}}(\text{CDCl}_3; 125 \text{ MHz})$ 20.7, 119.8 (d, *J*_p 5), 120.1 (d, *J*_p 4), 125.5, 129.8, 130.2, 135.2, 148.3 (d, *J*_p 8) and 150.5 (d, *J*_p 7); $\delta_{\text{P}}(\text{CDCl}_3)$ –16.7; $\nu_{\text{max}}(\text{CHCl}_3)/\text{cm}^{-1}$ 1295; *m/z* [$\text{Cl}^+(\text{NH}_3)$] 341 (MH⁺, 100%) (Found: *M*, 341.0942. Calc. for C₁₉H₁₈O₄P: *M*, 341.0942).

Reaction of 4-picoline *N*-oxide (4-methylpyridine *N*-oxide) with diphenyl chlorophosphate

Diphenyl chlorophosphate (488 mm³, 2.35 mmol) was added dropwise to a stirred solution of dry 4-picoline *N*-oxide (257 mg, 2.35 mmol) in dry deuteriated chloroform (1.5 cm³) at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirring continued for 20 h. The tan solution showed spectroscopic properties consistent with the accumulation of diphenyl 4-methylpyridinium phosphate **5c**: $\delta_{\text{H}}(\text{CDCl}_3; 200 \text{ MHz})$ 2.58 (3 H, s, CH₃), 7.14–7.42 (10 H, m, 2 × C₆H₅), 7.63 (2 H, d, *J* 7, PyH) and 8.76 (2 H, d, *J* 7, PyH); $\delta_{\text{P}}(\text{CDCl}_3)$ –11.1.

Reaction of 4-picoline *N*-oxide with phosphorus oxychloride

Phosphorus oxychloride (17 mm³, 0.18 mmol) was added

dropwise to a solution of dry 4-picoline *N*-oxide (20 mg, 0.18 mmol) in dry deuteriated chloroform (0.5 cm³) at –78 °C. The solution showed spectroscopic properties consistent with the accumulation of 4-methylpyridinium dichlorophosphate **5d**: $\delta_{\text{H}}(\text{CDCl}_3; 200 \text{ MHz})$ 2.67 (3 H, s, CH₃), 7.93 (2 H, d, *J* 7, PyH) and 9.81 (2 H, d, *J* 7, PyH); $\delta_{\text{P}}(\text{CDCl}_3)$ –3.9.

Tetrazole-mediated reaction of bis(benzyloxy)(diisopropylamino)phosphane with 4-picoline *N*-oxide

A solution containing bis(benzyloxy)(diisopropylamino)phosphane (128 mm³, 0.38 mmol), tetrazole (79 mg, 1.14 mmol) and 2 drops of dry DMF in dry deuteriated chloroform (2 cm³) was added to a solution of dry 4-picoline *N*-oxide (41 mg, 0.38 mmol) in dry deuteriated chloroform (1 cm³). The resulting solution showed spectroscopic properties consistent with the presence of a 1:1 mixture of 4-picoline (confirmed by doping) and dibenzyl 4-methylpyridinium phosphate **5a**: $\delta_{\text{H}}(\text{CDCl}_3; 500 \text{ MHz})$ 2.52 (3 H, s, CH₃), 4.96 (4 H, d, *J* 9, CH₂), 7.20–7.40 (10 H, m, 2 × C₆H₅), 7.68 (2 H, d, *J* 6, PyH) and 8.87 (2 H, d, *J* 6, PyH); $\delta_{\text{P}}(\text{CDCl}_3)$ –12.2.

Reaction of 4-picoline *N*-oxide with chloro(diisopropylamino)methoxyphosphane

Chloro(diisopropylamino)methoxyphosphane (54 mm³, 0.278 mmol) was added to a solution of dry 4-picoline *N*-oxide (30 mg, 0.278 mmol) in dry deuteriated chloroform (1 cm³). The spectroscopic properties of the solution were consistent with the presence of a 1:1 mixture of 4-picoline (confirmed by doping) and methyl 4-methylpyridinium *N,N*-diisopropylamidophosphate **5b**: $\delta_{\text{H}}(\text{CDCl}_3; 200 \text{ MHz})$ (partial) 2.74 (3 H, s, ArCH₃), 8.28 (2 H, d, *J* 7, ArH) and 9.30 (2 H, d, *J* 7, PyH); $\delta_{\text{P}}(\text{CDCl}_3)$ 13.1.

4-Methyl-2-propylsulfanylpyridine **7**

Method 1. Diphenyl chlorophosphate (506 mm³, 2.44 mmol) was added dropwise to a stirred solution of dry 4-picoline *N*-oxide (266 mg, 2.44 mmol) in dry deuteriated chloroform (1.5 cm³) at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirring continued for 20 h. Propane-1-thiol (221 mm³, 2.44 mmol) was added to the tan coloured solution and stirring continued at room temperature. After 10 days of stirring, the solution was taken up in dichloromethane (10 cm³) and washed with saturated aqueous sodium carbonate (10 cm³). The organic extract was reduced in volume and the *title compound* was isolated after flash column chromatography (dichloromethane–ethyl acetate, 3:2, *R*_f product 0.7) as an oil (20 mg, 5%); $\delta_{\text{H}}(\text{CDCl}_3; 500 \text{ MHz})$ 1.05 (3 H, t, *J* 7, CH₃), 1.74 (2 H, m, CH₂Me), 2.28 [3 H, s, ArCH₃; irradiation gave NOE enhancements of the resonances at δ 6.78 (*ca.* 4%) and 7.01 (*ca.* 6%)], 3.14 (2 H, t, *J* 7, SCH₂), 6.78 (1 H, d, *J* 5, ArH), 7.01 [1 H, s, Py-3-H; irradiation gave NOE enhancements of the resonances at δ 1.05 (*ca.* 5%), 1.74 (*ca.* 3.5%), 2.28 (*ca.* 5.5%) and 3.14 (*ca.* 5%)], and 8.28 (1 H, d, *J* 5, ArH); *m/z* [$\text{Cl}^+(\text{NH}_3)$] 168 (MH⁺, 100%) (Found: *M*, 168.0847. Calc. for C₉H₁₄NS: *M*, 168.0847).

Diphenyl (4-methyl-3-pyridyl) phosphate 6 was also isolated by chromatography (*R*_f 0.4) as a colourless oil (80 mg, 10%); $\delta_{\text{H}}(\text{CDCl}_3; 500 \text{ MHz})$ 2.24 [3 H, s, ArCH₃; irradiation gave an NOE enhancement of the resonance at δ 7.16 (*ca.* 7%)], 7.16 [1 H, d, *J* 5, PyH, irradiation gave an NOE enhancement of the resonances δ 2.24 (*ca.* 5%) and 8.34 (*ca.* 3.5%)], 7.24–7.43 (10 H, m, ArH), 8.34 (1 H, d, *J* 5, PyH) and 8.57 (1 H, s, PyH); δ_{C} 15.8, 120.1, 125.8, 126.2, 129.9 (2 C), 138.8, 141.7, 146.7 and 150.3; $\delta_{\text{P}}(\text{CDCl}_3)$ –16.37; $\nu_{\text{max}}(\text{CHCl}_3)/\text{cm}^{-1}$ 1297; *m/z* [$\text{Cl}^+(\text{NH}_3)$] 342 (MH⁺, 100%) (Found: *M*, 342.0892. Calc. for C₁₈H₁₇NO₄P: *M*, 342.0895).

Method 2. Chloro(diisopropylamino)methoxyphosphane (221 mm³, 1.14 mmol) was added to a solution of dry 4-picoline

N-oxide (124 mg, 1.14 mmol) in dry dichloromethane (4 cm³) at 0 °C. After stirring for 5 h at room temperature, *tert*-butyl hydroperoxide was added (378 mm³ of a 3 mol dm⁻³ solution in hexanes, 1.14 mmol) at 0 °C and stirring continued at room temperature for 30 min. Propane-1-thiol (103 mm³, 1.14 mmol) was added to the tan coloured solution and stirring continued at room temperature. After 10 days of stirring, the solution was taken up in dichloromethane (10 cm³) and washed with saturated aqueous sodium carbonate (10 cm³). The organic extract was reduced in volume and purified by flash column chromatography (dichloromethane–ethyl acetate, 3:2, *R_f* product 0.7) to give 4-methyl-2-propylsulfanylpiperidine as an oil (20 mg, 22%) having identical ¹H NMR and mass spectra to that obtained from method 1.

Diphenyl propylamidophosphate 8

Diphenyl chlorophosphate (846 mm³, 408 mmol) was added dropwise to a stirred solution of dry 4-picoline *N*-oxide (445 mg, 4.08 mmol) in dry deuteriated chloroform (2.0 cm³) at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirring continued for 20 h. Propylamine (336 mm³, 4.08 mmol) was added to the tan coloured solution and stirring continued at room temperature. After 10 days of stirring, the solution was taken up in dichloromethane (10 cm³) and washed with saturated aqueous sodium carbonate (10 cm³). The organic extract was reduced in volume and purified by flash column chromatography (dichloromethane–ethyl acetate, 1:1, *R_f* product 0.5). The title compound was crystallised from dichloromethane (232 mg, 28%), mp 52–53 °C (lit.,¹⁶ 56–57 °C); δ_{H} (CDCl₃; 200 MHz) 0.85 (3 H, t, *J* 7, CH₃), 1.42 (2 H, m, CH₂) 2.97–3.06 (2 H, m, NCH₂) and 7.10–7.38 (10 H, m, ArH); *m/z* [CI⁺(NH₃)] 242 (MH⁺, 100%).

Also isolated from the column was a compound identified as diphenyl 4-methyl-3-pyridyl phosphate 6, a colourless oil (*R_f* 0.3, 77 mg, 6%), identical by ¹H, ³¹P NMR and mass spectra to the previous sample.

2-Azido-4-methylpyridine 9

To a stirred solution of dry 4-picoline *N*-oxide (127 mg, 1.17 mmol) in dry deuteriated chloroform (1 cm³) at 0 °C was added diphenylphosphoryl azide (251 mm³, 1.17 mmol). The reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and then heated at reflux for 3 days.

The tan coloured solution was taken up in dichloromethane (10 cm³) and washed with saturated aqueous sodium carbonate (10 cm³). The organic extract was concentrated under reduced pressure. Flash column chromatography (dichloromethane–ethyl acetate, 1:1, *R_f* product 0.4) afforded the *title compound* (35 mg, 22%); δ_{H} (CDCl₃; 200 MHz) 2.53 [3 H, s, CH₃; irradiation gave NOE enhancement of the resonances at δ 7.04 (ca. 7.5%) and 7.73 (ca. 8.5%)], 7.04 (1 H, dd *J* 1 and 7, PyH), 7.73 [1 H, s, PyH; irradiation gave NOE enhancement of the resonance at δ 2.53 (ca. 5%) and 8.68 (1 H, d, *J* 7, PyH); δ_{C} (CDCl₃; 125 MHz) 21.6, 113.7, 119.3, 124.2, 143.8 and 148.8;

m/z [CI⁺(NH₃)] 135 (MH⁺, 40%) (Found: *M*, 135.0671. Calc. for C₆H₇N₄: *M*, 135.0671).

Acknowledgements

We thank the SERC and Glaxo Research and Development for financial support.

References

- 1 E. G. Krebs, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. Engl.*, 1993, **32**, 1122; E. H. Fischer, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. Engl.*, 1993, **32**, 1130; S. E. Egan and R. A. Weinberg, *Nature*, 1993, **365**, 781.
- 2 See, e.g. A. M. Thompson, G. W. Rewcastle, M. Terce, E. M. Dubrosin, D. W. Fry, A. J. Kraker and W. A. Denny, *J. Med. Chem.*, 1993, **36**, 2459; R. M. Lyall, A. Zilberstein, A. Gazit, C. Gilon, A. Levitzki and J. Schlessinger, *J. Biol. Chem.*, 1989, **264**, 14503; T. Akiyama and H. Ogawara, *Methods in Enzymology*, eds. T. Hunter and B. M. Sefton, Academic Press, California, 1991, vol. 201, p. 362; Y. Uehara and H. Fukazawa, *Methods in Enzymology*, eds. T. Hunter and B. M. Sefton, Academic Press, California, 1991, vol. 201, p. 370; K. Umezawa and M. Imoto, *Methods in Enzymology*, eds. T. Hunter and B. M. Sefton, Academic Press, California, 1991, vol. 201, p. 379 and references cited therein.
- 3 J. Navarro, M. Abdel Ghany and E. Racker, *Biochemistry*, 1982, **21**, 6138.
- 4 C. T. Walsh, *Tetrahedron*, 1982, **38**, 871; R. B. Silverman, *Mechanism-Based Enzyme Inactivation: Chemistry and Enzymology*, CRC Press, Florida, 1988, vols. I and II.
- 5 E. F. V. Scriven, in *Comprehensive Heterocyclic Chemistry*, eds. A. R. Katritzky and C. W. Rees, Pergamon Press, 1984, vol. 2, p. 216.
- 6 S. Harusawa, Y. Hamada and T. Shioiri, *Heterocycles*, 1981, **15**, 981.
- 7 See, e.g. J. Nasielski, S. Heilporn, R. Nasielski-Hinkens and F. Geerts-Evrard, *Tetrahedron*, 1987, **43**, 4329.
- 8 W. K. Fife and E. F. V. Scriven, *Heterocycles*, 1984, **22**, 2375.
- 9 J. Nasielski, S. Heilporn, R. Nasielski-Hinkens, B. Tinant and J. P. Declercq, *Tetrahedron*, 1989, **45**, 7795; S. Oae, K. Ogino, S. Tamagaki and S. Kozuka, *Tetrahedron*, 1969, **25**, 5761; L. Bauer and L. A. Gardella, *J. Org. Chem.*, 1963, **28**, 1320, 1323; S. Prachayasittikul, G. Doss and L. Bauer, *J. Heterocycl. Chem.*, 1991, **28**, 1051.
- 10 See, e.g. W. K. Fife, *J. Org. Chem.*, 1983, **48**, 1375.
- 11 This work was reported in part at the 4th RSC SCI joint meeting on Heterocyclic Chemistry, St Helier, Jersey, 4–8 May, 1994.
- 12 By analogy with the corresponding *O*-sulfonyl derivatives: S. Oae and K. Ogino, *Heterocycles*, 1977, **6**, 583; S. Oae, T. Kitao and Y. Kitaoka, *Tetrahedron*, 1963, **19**, 827; S. Oae, K. Ogino, S. Tamagaki and S. Kozuka, *Tetrahedron*, 1969, **25**, 5761.
- 13 See, e.g. S. Prachayasittikul, G. Doss and L. Bauer, *J. Heterocycl. Chem.*, 1991, **28**, 1051.
- 14 D. M. Andrews, M. Gregoriou, T. C. M. Page, J. M. Peach and A. J. Pratt, *J. Chem. Soc., Perkin Trans. 1*, 1995, in press.
- 15 D. G. Cole, H. N. Rydon and B. L. Tonge, *J. Chem. Soc.*, 1957 (Part I), 323.
- 16 J. A. Stock, W. J. Hopwood and P. D. Regan, *J. Chem. Soc.*, 1966, 637.

Paper 4/06623E

Received 31st October 1994

Accepted 18th January 1995