Dedicated to Academician of the Russian Academy of Sciences N.S.Zefirov on occasion of his 70th anniversary

Nitropyridines: III.* Synthesis of *meta*-Terphenyls by Recyclization of Nitropyridinium Salts

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Abstract—A two-component Hantzsch synthesis was applied to preparation of nitropyridines and their quaternary salts from various enamines and chalcones based on nitroacetophenone. The recyclization of nitropyridinium quaternary salts under the treatment with an aqueous-alcoholic alkali led to preparation of 5'-methylamino-2'-nitro-*m*-terphenyl derivatives.

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The most of the known *m*-terphenyls were prepared by building up the central benzene ring using the recyclization of pyrilium, thiopyrilium, and 5-nitropyrimidine salts under the treatment of C-nucleophiles [2–4], by the central ring closure from acyclic precursors followed by aromatization [5–8], by cross-coupling [9, 10] and 1,2-addition of Grignard reagents to 1,5-diaryl-3-oxocyclohexenes [11]. The *m*-terphenyls derivatives exhibit a wide range of biological activity [12–15].

Scheme 1.

 $4-\text{MeOC}_6\text{H}_4, A = \text{ClO}_4$ (**b**).

The new approach to the *m*-terphenyls effected in this study was based on the recyclization of diphenyl-pyridinium salts **Va–Vf** by treating with an aqueous-alcoholic alkali. The key substances in this synthesis are unsymmetrical nitropyridines **IVa–IVf** obtained by a two-component Hantzsch synthesis from nitrochalcones **Ia** and **Ib** and various enamines with subsequent aromatization using sodium nitrite in the acetic acid. Pyridines **IVc–IVf** we described before [16], and compounds **IVa** and **IVb** were newly prepared in this study (Scheme 1). Both stages of the Hantzsch synthesis provided preparative yields. The alkylation of nitropyridinium salts was performed by prolonged heating of pyridines **IVa–IVf** with a triple excess of dimethyl sulfate.

The recyclization of diphenylpyridinium salts Va, Vd-Vf at the treatment with the aqueous-alcoholic alkali occurred by an attack of the hydroxy anion on the most electron-deficient position 6 of the pyridinium salt (in the ortho-position relative to the nitro group) followed by the isomerization of the pseudobase A into an open form B. The closure of the central benzene ring in terphenyls VIa, VId-VIf involved an intramolecular aldol-crotonic condensation of the arising benzoyl group with the methyl group in the open form C (Scheme 2). Yields of m-terphenyls amount to 46–70%. 5'-Methylaminoterphenyls VIa and VId are the only products of salts Va and Vd recyclization. The recyclization of salts Ve and Vf occurred with a partial hydrolysis of the enamine fragment of the open form C under the alkali action giving rise to 5'-hydroxyterphenyls **IXe** and **IXf**, but the contribution of the process is insignificant.

^{*} For communication II, see [1].

Scheme 2.

 $X = CONHPh(a), CN(d), Ac(e), Bz(f); V, A = MeSO_4(a, d), ClO_4(e), FSO_3(f).$

The recylization of quaternary salts **Vb** and **Vc** led mainly to the formation of 4'-ethoxycarbonyl-*m*-terphenyls **VIb** and **VIc** and 4'-carboxy-*m*-terphenyls **VIIb** and **VIIc** (Scheme 3). The heterocyclization process involving the ester group and giving pyridone **VIII** competes with the recyclization of salt **Vc**. The closure of pyridone **VIII** ring occurs via intramolecular acylation with the ester

group of the enamine fragment of open form **B** arising as a result of an attack of the hydroxy anion on the position 2 of the pyridinium salt (into the *ortho*-position with respect to the ester group). It should be noted that for the nicotinic acid esters salts containing in the position 5 electron-withdrawing substituents less strong than the nitro group (CN, COCH₃, COPh, CONHPh) this reaction path

Scheme 3.

R

$$O_2N$$
 O_2N
 O_2N

of recyclization involving the ester group to form pyridones is the principal one [17].

In the ^1H NMR spectra of terphenyls **VIa–VIf**, **VIIb**, and **VIIc** the singlet from the aromatic proton of the central benzene ring appeared in the region δ 6.59–7.07 ppm, and the methyl attached to NH gave rise to a doublet at 2.57–2.93 ppm.

The composition and the structure of the newly synthesized compounds were proved by elemental analysis, by IR, ¹H NMR, and mass spectra.

It should be stated in conclusion that the recyclization of the available nitropyridines quaternary salts provided a possibility to obtain under mild conditions *m*-terphenyls with a versatile set of substituents in the central benzene ring.

EXPERIMENTAL

¹H NMR spectra were registered on a spectrometer Bruker AC-200 (operating frequency 200 MHz), internal referenceTMS. IR spectra were recorded on a spectrophotometer Specord 75IR from chloroform solutions, mass spectra were measured on Finnigan MAT-8200 instrument with direct admission of the sample into the ion source, ionizing electrons emergy 70eV. The reaction progress was monitored and the purity of compounds obtained was checked by TLC on Silufol UV-254 plates, eluents chloroform, chloroform—ethyl acetate, 9:1 or 1:1. Melting points were determined on a Boëtius heating block.

Compounds **Ia**, **IIIc–IIIf–Vc–Vf** we described in [16], *m*-terphenyl **VId**, in [18], **Ib** was synthesized by procedure [19], **IIa**, by that of [20].

2-Methyl-5-nitro-*N***,4,6-triphenyl-1,4-dihydro-pyridine-3-carboxamide (IIIa).** A solution of 2.51 g (10 mmol) of reagent **Ia** and 1.76 g (10 mmol) of enamine **IIa** in 10 ml of glacial acetic acid was stirred for 12 h at room temperature. The precipitated crystals were filtered off and washed with ether to obtain 3.21 g (78%), mp 143–145°C (from aqueous ethenol). IR spectrum, cm⁻¹: 1310, 1520 (NO₂), 1670 (CO), 3380, 3420 (NH). ¹H NMR spectrum (DMSO- d_6), δ , ppm: 2.06 s (3H, CH₃), 5.43 s (1H, H⁴), 7.04–7.61 m (15H, 3Ph), 9.63 s (1H, NH Ht), 9.95 c (1H, NH_{amide}). Found, %: C 72.72; H 5.09. C₂₅H₂₁N₃O₃. Calculated, %: C 72.98; H 5.14.

Ethyl 2-methyl-4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-5-nitro-6-phenyl-1,4-dihydropyridine-3-carboxylate (IIIb) was similarly prepared from dihydropyridine IIIa. Yield 52%, mp 132–134°C (from ethanol). IR spectrum, cm⁻¹:

1320, 1500 (NO₂), 1690 (CO), 3440 (NH). ¹H NMR spectrum (CDCl₃), δ , ppm: 1.25 t (3H, CH₂CH₃, J 7.0 Hz), 2.35 s (3H, CH₃), 3.78 s (3H, OCH₃), 4.12 q (2H, CH₂CH₃, J 7.0 Hz), 5.40 s (1H, H⁴), 6.06 s (1H, NH), 6.83 d (2H, H³", H⁵", J 8.6 Hz), 7.30–7.44 m (7H, Ph, H²", H⁶"). Found, %: C 67.38; H 5.76. C₂₂H₂₂N₂O₅. Calculated, %: C 66.99; H 5.62.

2-Methyl-5-nitro-N,4,6-triphenylnicotinamide (IVa). To a stirred suspension of 4.11 g (10 mmol) of dihydropyridine IIIa in 25 ml of glacial acetic acid was added at $60-70^{\circ}$ C by portions 1.04 g (15 mmol) of sodium nitrite. On completion of addition of the oxidant the reaction mixture was stirred for 1 h more at the same temperature and then it was diluted with a three-fold volume of ice water and neutralized with ammonia solution. The precipitated crystals were filtered off and washed with water. Yield 2.43 g (80%), mp 201–203°C (from ethanol). IR spectrum, cm⁻¹: 1360, 1540 (NO₂), 1680 (CO), 3420 (NH). ¹H NMR spectrum (DMSO- d_6), δ , ppm: 2.69 s (3H, CH₃), 7.03–7.57 m (15H, 3 Ph), 10.58 s (1H, NH_{amide}). Found, %: C 73.65; H 4.72. C₂₅H₁₉N₃O₃. Calculated, %: C 73.34; H 4.68.

Ethyl 2-methyl-4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-5-nitro-6-phenylnicotinate (IVb) was prepared in the same way as dihydropyridine **IVa**. Yield 68%, mp 104–106°C (from ethanol). IR spectrum, cm⁻¹: 1360, 1540 (NO₂), 1730 (CO). ¹H NMR spectrum (CDCl₃), δ, ppm: 0.97 t (3H, CH₂CH₃, J 7.1 Hz), 2.70 s (3H, CH₃), 3.79 C (3H, OCH₃), 4.06 q (2H, CH₂CH₃, J 7.1 Hz), 6.89 d (2H, H³", H⁵", J 8.8 Hz), 7.24 d (2H, H²", H⁶", J 8.8 Hz), 7.39–7.65 m (5H, Ph). Found, %: C 67.80; H 5.29. C₂₂H₂₀N₂O₅. Calculated, %: C 67.34; H 5.14.

1,2-Dimethyl-5-nitro-N,4,6-triphenylnicotinamide methylsulfate (Va). A mixture of 2.05 g (5 mmol) of pyridine **IVa** and 1.4 ml (15 mmol) of dimethyl sulfate was heated for 10 h at 100°C, then cooled, washed with anhydrous ether, the precipitated crystals were filtered off. Yield 2.57 g (96%), mp 258–260°C (from ethanol, decomp.). 1 H NMR spectrum (DMSO- d_6), δ , ppm: 2.99 s (3H, CH₃), 3.42 s (3H, CH₃SO₄), 4.00 s (3H, CH₃), 7.10–7.75 m (15H, 3 Ph), 10.80 s (1H, NH). Found, %: C 60.29; H 4.67. C_{27} H₂₅N₃O₇S. Calculated, %: C 60.55; H 4.71.

1,2-Dimethyl-4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-5-nitro-6-phenyl-3-ethoxycarbonylpyridinium perchlorate (Vb). A mixture of 1.96 g (5 mmol) of pyridine IVb and 1.4 ml (15 mmol) of dimethyl sulfate was heated for 20 h at 100°C, then cooled and washed with ether (3×10 ml). The oily residue was dissolved in 5 ml of water, and

a saturated water solution containing 0.64 g (5.3 mmol) of NaClO₄ was added. The separated crystals were filtered off and dried. Yield 1.59 g (63%), mp143–145°C (from ethanol). ^1H NMR spectrum (DMSO- d_6), δ , ppm: 1.02 t (3H, CH₂CH₃, J7.1 Hz), 2.93 s (3H, CH₃), 3.83 s (3H, OCH₃), 3.93 s (3H, CH₃), 4.24 q (2H, CH₂CH₃, J7.1 Hz), 7.18 d (2H, H^{3"}, H^{5"}, J 8.8 Hz), 7.33 d (2H, H^{2"}, H^{6"}, J 8.8 Hz), 7.61–7.73 m (5H, Ph). Found, %: C 54.37; H 4.49. C₂₃H₂₃ClN₂O₉. Calculated, %: C 54.50; H 4.57.

Synthesis of *m*-terphenyls VIa–VIf, VIIb, VIIc, IXe, and IXf. To a suspension of 1 mmol of an appropriate pyridinium salt Va-Vf in 4 ml of ethanol was added 1.8 ml of 10% aqueous NaOH, and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for a time interval indicated further. Then the mixture was diluted with water, the precipitated crystals of terphenyls VIa-VIf were filtered off and washed with water. The filtrates after separating VIe and VIf were acidified with 50% aqueous AcOH, and the formed crystals of compounds IXe and IXf were filtered off and washed with water. Terphenyl VIc contained pyridone VIII, therefore the mixture was subjected to column chromatography on Silicagel L 60/100, eluent chloroform. Compounds VIIb and VIIc were isolated by acidifying with 10% HCl filtrates obtained after separation of compounds VIb and VIc.

5'-Methylamino-2'-nitro-*N***-phenyl-1,1':3'1''-terphenyl-4'-carboxamide (VIa).** Yield 70% (reaction time 3 h), mp 193–194°C (from ethanol). IR spectrum, cm⁻¹: 1360, 1520 (NO₂), 1670 (CO), 3420 (NH). ¹H NMR spectrum (DMSO- d_6), δ , ppm: 2.84 d (3H, NH<u>CH</u>₃, J4.6 Hz), 6.12 br.s (1H, NHCH₃), 6.60 s (1H, H⁶'), 7.16–7.49 m (15H_{arom}), 10.12 s (1H, NH_{amide}). Mass spectrum, m/z (I_{rel} , %): 424 (29.9), 423 (100) [M]+, 332 (19.2), 331 (88.8) [M–NHPh]+, 315 (21.0), 314 (90.7) [M–NHPh–OH]+, 298 (21.8), 297 (93.8), 285 (16.5)[M–NHPh–NO₂]+, 269 (18.5), 256 (17.6) [M–NHPh–OH–NO–CO]+, 93 (56.5). Found, %: C 73.91; H 5.12. C₂₆H₂₁N₃O₃. Calculated, %: C 73.74; H 5.00. M423.47.

Ethyl-5'-methylamino-4''-methoxy-2'-nitro-1,1':3'1''-terphenyl-4'-carboxylate (VIb). Yield 17% (reaction time 30 min), mp 142–143°C (from ethanol). IR spectrum, cm⁻¹: 1360, 1520 (NO₂), 1690 (CO), 3420 (NH). ¹H NMR spectrum (CDCl₃), δ, ppm: 0.75 t (3H, CH₂CH₃, *J* 7.1 Hz), 2.92 s (3H, NHCH₃, *J* 5.1 Hz), 3.81 s (3H, OCH₃), 3.86 q (2H, CH₂CH₃, *J* 7.1 Hz), 6.65 br.s (2H, NHCH₃, H⁶), 6.88 d (2H, H³', H⁵'', *J* 8.8 Hz), 7.19 d (2H, H²'', H⁶'', *J* 8.8 Hz), 7.35–7.52 m

(5H, Ph). Found, %: C 67.69; H 5.32. C₂₃H₂₂N₂O₅. Calculated, %: C 67.97; H 5.46.

5'-Methylamino-4''-methoxy-2'-nitro-1,1':3'1''-terphenyl-4'-carboxylic acid (VIIb). Yield 60% (reaction time 30 min), mp 201–202°C (from ethanol). IR spectrum, cm⁻¹: 1360, 1530 (NO₂), 1630 (CO), 3440 (NH). ¹H NMR spectrum (CDCl₃), δ, ppm: 2.62 d (3H, NH<u>CH₃</u>, *J* 4.9 Hz), 3.86 s (3H, OCH₃), 5.45 br.s (1H, NHCH₃), 7.01 d (2H, H³", H⁵", *J* 8.8 Hz), 7.04 s (1H, H⁶), 7.30 d (2H, H²", H⁶", *J* 8.8 Hz), 7.34–7.50 m (5H, Ph), 13.14 s (1H, COOH). Found, %: C 66.78; H 4.81. C₂₁H₁₈N₂O₅. Calculated, %: C 66.66; H 4.79.

Ethyl-5'-methylamino-2'-nitro-1,1':3'1''-terphenyl-4'-carboxylate (VIc). Yield 42% (reaction time 3 h), mp 183–185°C (from ethanol). IR spectrum, cm⁻¹: 1360, 1520 (NO₂), 1680 (CO), 3420 (NH). ¹H NMR spectrum (CDCl₃), δ, ppm: 0.66 t (3H, CH₂CH₃, J 7.2 Hz), 2.93 s (3H, NHCH₃, J 5.0 Hz), 3.81 q (2H, CH₂CH₃, J 7.2 Hz), 6.59 s (1H, H⁶), 6.69 br.s (1H, NHCH₃), 7.24–7.41 m (10H_{arom}). Mass spectrum, m/z (I_{rel} , %): 377 (24.6), 376 (100) [M]+, 330 (10.2) [M-NO₂]+, 301 (10.5) [M-NO₂-C₂H₅]+, 300 (16.9) [M-NO₂-NHCH₃]+, 285 (9.6), 273 (10.2), 256 (14.1), 228 (11.1), 226 (9.4), 215 (10.6). Found, %: C 69.86; H 5.42. C₂₂H₂₀N₂O₄. Calculated, %: C 70.20; H 5.36. M376.41.

5'-Methylamino-2'-nitro-1,1':3'1''-terphenyl-4'-carboxylic acid (VIIc). Yield 6% (reaction time 3 h), mp 243–245°C (from ethanol). IR spectrum, cm⁻¹: 1370, 1530 (NO₂), 1640 (CO), 3440 (NH). ¹H NMR spectrum (CDCl₃), δ , ppm: 2.57 d (3H, NH<u>CH₃</u>, J 4.8 Hz), 5.27 br.s (1H, NHCH₃), 7.07 s (1H, H⁶), 7.36–7.53 m (10H_{arom}), 13.02 s (1H, COOH). Mass spectrum, m/z ($I_{\rm rel}$, %): 349 (24.8), 348 (100) [M]+, 347 (15.8) [M-H]+, 318 (10.0) [M-NHCH₃]+, 317 (31.6) [M-H-NHCH₃]+, 300 (9.3), 272 (15.5) [M-NO₂-NHCH₃]+, 244 (10.7), 231 (9.3), 216 (13.0), 215 (44.5), 213 (18.5), 204 (9.4), 202 (14.3), 189 (9.6), 129 (19.8). Found, %: C 69.30; H 4.77. C₂₀H₁₆N₂O₄. Calculated, %: C 68.96; H 4.63. M 348.46.

3-Acetyl-1-methyl-5-nitro-4,6-diphenylpyridin- 2(1*H***)-one (VIII). Yield 9% (reaction time 3 h), mp 166–168°C (from ethanol). IR spectrum, cm⁻¹ (CHCl₃): 1700, 1640 (CO), 1530, 1360 (NO₂). ¹H NMR spectrum (CDCl₃), \delta, ppm: 2.27 s (3H, COCH₃), 3.31 s (3H, NCH₃), 7.25–7.56 m (10H_{arom}). Mass spectrum, m/z (I_{\rm rel}, %): 349 (14.3), 348 (66.95) [M]+, 347 (37.6)[M-H]+, 334 (9.0), 333 (40.6) [M-CH₃]+, 331 (20.6)[M-OH]+, 316 (12.4) [M-CH₃-OH]+, 301 (26.8) [M-OH-NO]+, 300 (100), 299 (13.0), 287 (11.1) [M-NO₂-CH₃]+, 286**

(43.8), 258 (12.4), 230 (9.5), 202 (11.9), 189 (11.2), 118 (76.6), 77 (43.7) [Ph]⁺, 43 (18.3) [COCH₃]⁺. Found, %: C 69.35; H 4.59. C₂₀H₁₆N₂O₄. Calculated, %: C 68.96; H 4.63. *M* 348.46.

1-(5'-Methylamino-2'-nitro-1,1':3'1''-terphenyl-4'-yl)ethanone (VIe). Yield 46% (reaction time 6 h), mp 158–160°C (from ethanol). IR spectrum, cm⁻¹: 1340, 1510 (NO₂), 1640 (CO), 3420 (NH). ¹H NMR spectrum (CDCl₃), δ , ppm: 1.65 s (3H, COCH₃), 2.90 d (3H, NH<u>CH₃</u>, J 5.0 Hz), 6.59 s (1H, H⁶), 6.87 br.s (1H, NHCH₃), 7.31–7.44 m (10H_{arom}). Mass spectrum, m/z ($I_{\rm rel}$, %): 347 (25.1), 346 (100) [M]+, 332 (14.1), 331 (65.0) [M – CH₃]+, 314 (12.0) [M – CH₃ – OH]+, 297 (15.7), 286 (11.1), 285 (18.3) [M – NO₂ – CH₃]+, 257 (10.7), 256 (11.9), 215 (10.5), 43 (15.2) [COCH₃]+. Found, %: C 72.65; H 5.34. C₂₁H₁₈N₂O₃. Calculated, %: C 72.82; H 5.24. M 346.39.

(5'-Methylamino-2'-nitro-1,1':3'1''-terphenyl-4'-yl)phenylmethanone (VIf) was obtained by heating for 15 min at 70°C followed by stirring at room temperature for 2 h. Yield 52%, mp 180–181°C (from ethanol). IR spectrum, cm⁻¹: 1360, 1520 (NO₂), 1640 (CO), 3440 (NH). ¹H NMR spectrum (CDCl₃), δ, ppm: 2.87 d (3H, NH<u>CH₃</u>, *J* 4.6 Hz), 5.39 br.s (1H, NHCH₃), 6.65 s (1H, H⁶), 7.05–7.45 m (15H_{arom}). Mass spectrum, *m/z* (*I*_{rel}, %): 409 (30.8), 408 (100) [*M*]⁺⁺, 407 (50.6) [*M*–H]⁺, 391 (12.7) [*M*–OH]⁺, 360 (10.9), 332 (10.0) [*M*–NO₂ – NHCH₃]⁺⁻, 331 (24.8) [M–Ph]⁺, 105 (28.3) [COPh]⁺, 77 (30.3) [Ph]⁺. Found, %: C 76.23; H 4.87. C₂₆H₂₀N₂O₃. Calculated, %: C 76.45; H 4.94. *M* 408.46.

1-(5'-Hydroxy-2'-nitro-1,1':3'1''-terphenyl-4'-yl)-ethanone (IXe). Yield 8% (reaction time 6 h), mp 109–111°C (from ethanol). IR spectrum, cm⁻¹: 1370, 1530 (NO₂), 1640 (CO). ¹H NMR spectrum (CDCl₃), δ, ppm: 1.76 s (3H, COCH₃), 7.08 s (1H, H^{6'}), 7.30–7.64 m (10H_{arom}), 12.24 s (1H, OH). Mass spectrum, *m/z* (*I*_{rel}, %): 334 (23.2), 333 (100) [*M*]⁺⁻, 316 (12.9) [*M*–OH]⁺, 301 (11.1) [*M*–OH–CH₃]⁺⁻, 287 (16.0), 286 (63.6) [*M*–OH–NO]⁺⁻, 284 (24.1), 274 (12.0), 271 (12.8), 268 (11.1), 244 (14.1), 239 (11.6), 216 (13.1), 215 (49.5), 213 (17.6), 202 (15.6), 189 (11.8), 77 (13.4) [Ph]⁺, 43 (69.7) [COCH₃]⁺. Found, %: C 71.98; H 4.68. C₂₀H₁₅NO₄. Calculated, %: C 72.06; H 4.54. *M* 333.34.

(5'-Hydroxy-2'-nitro-1,1':3'1''-terphenyl-4'-yl)-phenylmethanone (IXf) was obtained by heating for 15 min at 70°C followed by stirring at room temperature for 2 h. Yield 22%, mp 118–120°C (from ethanol). IR spectrum, cm⁻¹: 1380, 1540 (NO₂), 1650 (CO). ¹H NMR

spectrum (CDCl₃), δ , ppm: 7.00–7.44 m (16H $_{arom}$), 13.04 s (1H, OH). Mass spectrum, m/z (I_{rel} , %): 396 (28.4), 395 (100) [M]+, 394 (70.3) [M-H]+, 347 (11.7), 215 (17.1), 105 (83.3) [COPh]+, 77 (51.5) [Ph]+. Found, %: C 76.09; H 4.47. C₂₅H₁₇NO₄. Calculated, %: C 75.94; H 4.33. M 395.41.

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