

# Pyrimidine Derivatives and Related Compounds. 31.<sup>1</sup> A New Photochemical Transformation of 6-Azido-1,3- dimethyluracil to 6-Alkylamino-5-amino-1,3-dimethyluracils and Its Application to One-Step Synthesis of Lumazines and Fervenulins<sup>2</sup>

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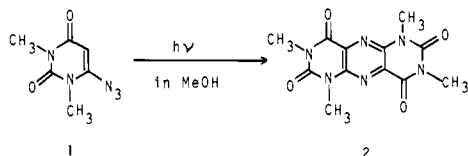
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**Abstract:** Irradiation of 6-azido-1,3-dimethyluracil (**1**) in the presence of primary or secondary alkylamines in THF gave 6-alkylamino-5-amino-1,3-dimethyluracils (**3**) in which the amines employed were introduced regiospecifically to the 6 position of uracils via a nitrene intermediate. This type of photochemical transformation was applied to a one-step synthesis of biologically interesting fused pyrimidines such as lumazines and fervenulins. Thus, irradiation of **1** in the presence of  $\alpha$ -amino acid ethyl esters,  $\alpha$ -amino ketones, acylhydrazines, or  $\beta$ -alanine ethyl ester gave 7-substituted 7,8-dihydrolumazines (**16**), 6-substituted 7,8-dihydrolumazines (**17**), fervenulins (7-azalumazines) (**20**), or pyrimido[4,5-*b*][5,9]diazepine (**18**), respectively.

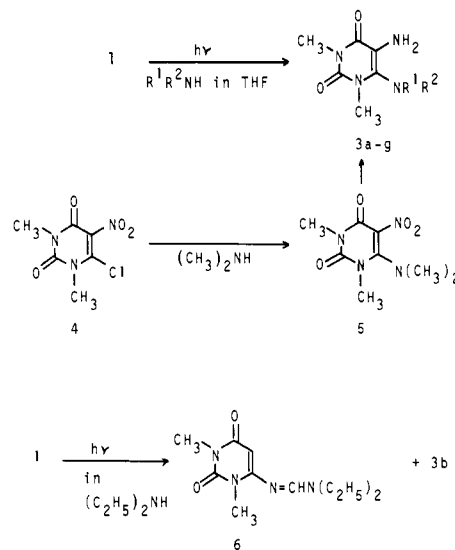
Because of their biological importance, many investigators have directed their effort toward the synthesis of fused pyrimidines such as purines, pteridines, and flavines.<sup>3</sup> Since Traube synthesized guanine for the first time from 2,5,6-triaminopyrimidine-4(3*H*)-one and formic acid,<sup>4</sup> 5,6-diaminopyrimidine has been recognized to be the most important and useful key intermediate for preparing fused pyrimidines.

Such 5,6-diaminopyrimidines are generally synthesized stepwise from 6-aminopyrimidines by nitration or nitrosation followed by reduction<sup>5</sup> or by a Michael-type addition of diethyl azodicarboxylate.<sup>6</sup> A more convenient method overcoming such complicated procedures has not been reported yet. In fact, a simple and novel way to introduce a nitrogen source into the 5 and 6 positions of pyrimidines has long been desired.

Incidentally, 6-azidopyrimidines are regarded as masked 6-aminopyrimidines and are expected as potential intermediates for preparation of fused pyrimidines, because the azido group possesses all the necessary properties as a starting group in organic synthesis;<sup>7</sup> for instance, aryl azides display a variety of thermochemical and photochemical reactivities.<sup>8</sup> However, only a few works concerning the chemistry of 6-azidopyrimidines have appeared in the literature<sup>9</sup> and, with reference to the photochemistry, quite a lot of attention has been paid. So far as we know, only Pfeleiderer et al. reported the photolysis of 6-azido-1,3-dimethyluracil (**1**) in methanol giving 1,3,5,7-tetramethylpyrimido[4,5-*g*]pteridine-2,4,6,8(1*H*,3*H*,5*H*,7*H*)-tetrone (**2**) via a nitrene intermediate.<sup>10</sup>



Scheme I



## Results and Discussion

A solution of 6-azido-1,3-dimethyluracil (**1**) and dimethylamine in tetrahydrofuran (THF) was irradiated with a 100-W high-pressure mercury arc lamp through a Pyrex filter under nitrogen. After evaporation of the solvent, trituration of the residue with ether gave 5-amino-6-dimethylamino-1,3-dimethyluracil (**3a**) in 59% yield. Identification of the structure **3a** was established by an alternate synthesis of this compound from 6-chloro-1,3-dimethyl-5-nitrouracil (**4**). Thus, 6-dimethylamino-1,3-dimethyl-5-nitrouracil (**5**), prepared by condensation of **4** and dimethylamine, was converted to **3a** by catalytic hydrogenation (Scheme I). Similar photolysis of **1** with other primary or secondary alkylamines in THF gave the corresponding 6-alkylamino-5-amino-1,3-dimethyluracils (**3b-g**) in which the amines employed were introduced to the 6 positions (Table I). However, photolysis of **1** in the presence of arylamines such as aniline and *N*-methylaniline did not give the desired 5-amino-6-arylamino-1,3-dimethyluracils.

In the course of the studies described above, we noticed that the formation of **3** was considerably affected by the solvents used. When irradiation was carried out in acetonitrile in place of THF, the yield of **3** was low and many byproducts were detected on TLC. Similar treatment of **1** in benzene, acetone,

From this viewpoint, we have investigated the photochemistry of **1** in the presence of various nucleophiles. This paper reports a new type of procedure to introduce a nitrogen source into both the 5 and 6 position of uracils by the photolysis of **1** with primary or secondary alkylamines. This paper also describes a one-step synthesis of biologically interesting fused pyrimidines such as lumazines and fervenulins by the reaction of **1** with amino acid esters,  $\alpha$ -amino ketones, or acylhydrazines in place of alkylamines.

**Table I.** Photochemical Formation of 6-Alkylamino-5-amino-1,3-dimethyluracils (**3**)

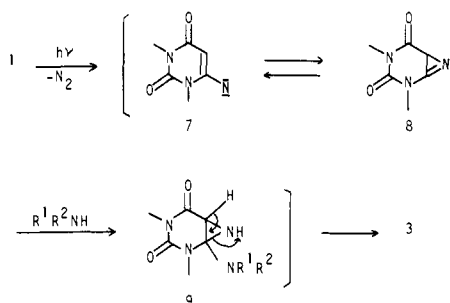
product	R <sup>1</sup>	R <sup>2</sup>	mp, °C <sup>b</sup>	yield, %	formula	anal. <sup>c</sup>
<b>3a</b>	CH <sub>3</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub>	142-143	59	C <sub>8</sub> H <sub>14</sub> O <sub>2</sub> N <sub>4</sub>	C, H, N
<b>3b<sup>a</sup></b>	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	164-165	60	C <sub>16</sub> H <sub>21</sub> O <sub>9</sub> N <sub>7</sub>	C, H, N
<b>3c</b>	(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>5</sub>		128-130	64	C <sub>11</sub> H <sub>18</sub> O <sub>2</sub> N <sub>4</sub>	C, H, N
<b>3d</b>	(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> O(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	220-221	83		C <sub>10</sub> H <sub>16</sub> O <sub>3</sub> N <sub>4</sub>	C, H, N
<b>3e<sup>a</sup></b>	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	189-190	42	C <sub>13</sub> H <sub>15</sub> O <sub>9</sub> N <sub>7</sub>	C, H, N
<b>3f<sup>a</sup></b>	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	H	245-246	30	C <sub>14</sub> H <sub>17</sub> O <sub>9</sub> N <sub>7</sub>	C, H, N
<b>3g</b>	<i>i</i> -C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>7</sub>	H	121-122.5	27	C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>16</sub> O <sub>2</sub> N <sub>4</sub>	C, H, N

<sup>a</sup> Isolated as picrate. <sup>b</sup> Solvent of recrystallization: **3a**, ligroin; **3b,d,e,f**, MeOH; **3c,g**, EtOH. <sup>c</sup> Analyses were within 0.3% of theory.

**Table II.** Photochemical Formation of Lumazines (**16**)

product	R	mp, °C <sup>a</sup>	NMR, <sup>b</sup> ppm	yield, %	formula	anal. <sup>c</sup>
<b>16a</b>	H	285	4.60 (2 H, s, 7-CH <sub>2</sub> )	69	C <sub>8</sub> H <sub>10</sub> O <sub>3</sub> N <sub>4</sub>	C, H, N
<b>16b</b>	CH <sub>3</sub>	270	4.78 (1 H, m, C7 H)	76	C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>12</sub> O <sub>3</sub> N <sub>4</sub>	C, H, N
<b>16c</b>	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> CH <sub>2</sub>	223-225	4.25 (1 H, m, C7 H)	55	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>16</sub> O <sub>3</sub> N <sub>4</sub> ·H <sub>2</sub> O	C, H, N
<b>16d</b>	CH <sub>3</sub> S(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	197-200	4.75 (1 H, m, C7 H)	61	C <sub>11</sub> H <sub>16</sub> O <sub>3</sub> N <sub>4</sub> S	C, H, N

<sup>a</sup> Solvent of recrystallization: **16a,c**, H<sub>2</sub>O; **16b,d**, MeOH. <sup>b</sup> Solvent: **16a,b,d**, CF<sub>3</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>H; **16c**, Me<sub>2</sub>SO-*d*<sub>6</sub>. <sup>c</sup> Analyses were within 0.3% of theory.

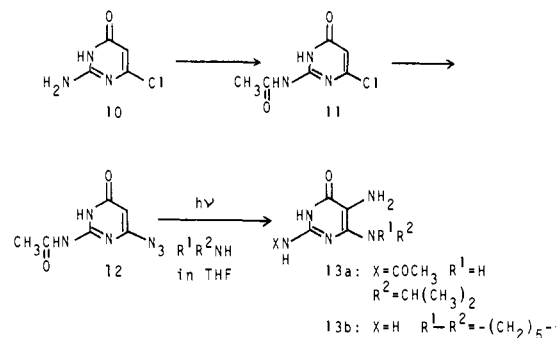
**Scheme II**

or methanol in the presence of alkylamines did not afford the expected 6-alkylamino-5-aminouracils. Photolysis of **1** in alkylamines without solvent (THF) caused a side reaction giving an unexpected product. Thus, **1** was irradiated in diethylamine under nitrogen to afford 6-(*N,N*-diethylaminomethylene)amino-1,3-dimethyluracil (**6**, 13%) together with **3b** (70%) (Scheme I). The formation of **6** can be explained by the mechanism proposed by Tišler et al.<sup>11</sup> On the other hand, thermolysis of **1** with amines in a variety of solvents did not give the expected 5,6-diaminouracils.<sup>12</sup> It indicates that the formation of **3** requires photochemical activation.

A plausible mechanism for the formation of **3** is presented in Scheme II. Photochemically induced loss of nitrogen from **1** gives a nitrene (**7**), which is in equilibrium with an azirine intermediate (**8**) as discussed previously.<sup>13</sup> Nucleophilic addition of the alkylamine to **8** affords an aziridine intermediate (**9**) which is followed by electrocyclic ring cleavage to give the product (**3**).

We have also tried photolysis of 2-acetamido-6-azidopyrimidin-4(3H)-one (**12**), prepared from 2-amino-6-chloropyrimidin-4(3H)-one (**10**) in two steps (Scheme III), with isopropylamine to afford 2-acetamido-5-amino-6-isopropylaminopyrimidin-4(3H)-one (**13a**). The irradiation of **12** with piperidine gave a deacetylation product, 2,5-diamino-6-piperidinopyrimidin-4(3H)-one (**13b**).

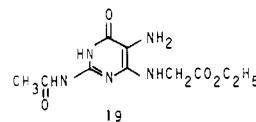
After having established a new type of photochemical transformation of **1** in the presence of alkylamines giving 5,6-diaminouracils, we turned our attention to the application of this method to the synthesis of fused pyrimidines. Photolysis of **1** and *N*-methylglycine ethyl ester gave 7,8-dihydro-1,3,8-trimethylumazin-6(5H)-one (**14**) in 73% yield. The structure of **14** was determined from the spectral data and the ultimate proof was provided by a comparison of authentic **14** prepared by another route. Thus, **4** was treated with *N*-

**Scheme III**

methylglycine ethyl ester and the resulting 6-(*N*-ethoxycarbonylmethyl-*N*-methyl)amino-1,3-dimethyl-5-nitrouacil (**15**) was subjected to a reductive ring closure to give lumazine **14** which was found to be identical with the product obtained above (Scheme IV).

The photolysis of **1** and various  $\alpha$ -amino acid ethyl esters gave the corresponding 7-substituted lumazines (**16a-d**) in a single step and, furthermore, in good yields (Table II). Additionally, 6-substituted lumazines (**17a,b**) were prepared from **1** and  $\alpha$ -aminoketones. Upon using  $\beta$ -alanine ethyl ester, the product was 7,8-dihydro-1,3-dimethyl-9H-pyrimido[4,5-*b*]-5,9-diazepine-2,4,6(1*H*,3*H*,5*H*)-trione (**18**) (Scheme V).

For the further application of the one-step synthesis to pterins, we applied this method to azidopyrimidine **12**. Thus, irradiation of **12** with glycine ethyl ester did not give the expected pterin, but 2-acetamido-5-amino-6-(*N*-ethoxycarbonylmethyl)aminopyrimidin-4(3H)-one (**19**) was obtained



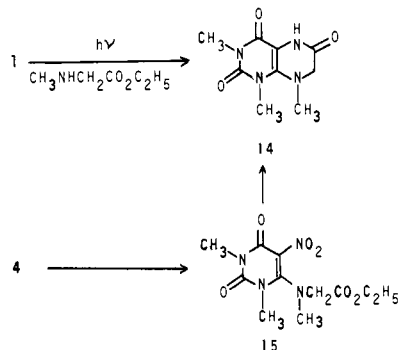
in quantitative yield. All attempts to convert **19** into pterin were unsuccessful.<sup>14</sup>

This type of photochemical conversion of azidopyrimidines is not only useful for preparation of lumazines **16** and **17** and their analogue **18** as described above, but also widely applicable as a general method for synthesis of 7-azalumazines (fervenulins). Thus, a solution of **1** and various acylhydrazines such as formylhydrazine, acetylhydrazine, benzoylhydrazine, phenylacetylhydrazine, and isonicotinoylhydrazine in THF was irradiated with aeration to afford antibiotic fervenulin

Table III. Photochemical Formation of Fervenuins (20)

product	R	yield, %
20a	H	55
20b	CH <sub>3</sub>	68
20c	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	81
20d	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> CH <sub>2</sub>	72
20e	4-pyridyl	60

Scheme IV



(20a)<sup>15</sup> and its 3-substituted derivatives (20b–e)<sup>16</sup> (Scheme V, Table III). This reaction involves an oxidation process.<sup>17</sup> Further application of new synthetic routes to other heterocycles, i.e., purines, azapurines, and flavines, employing the 6-azidouracils is under study.

### Experimental Section

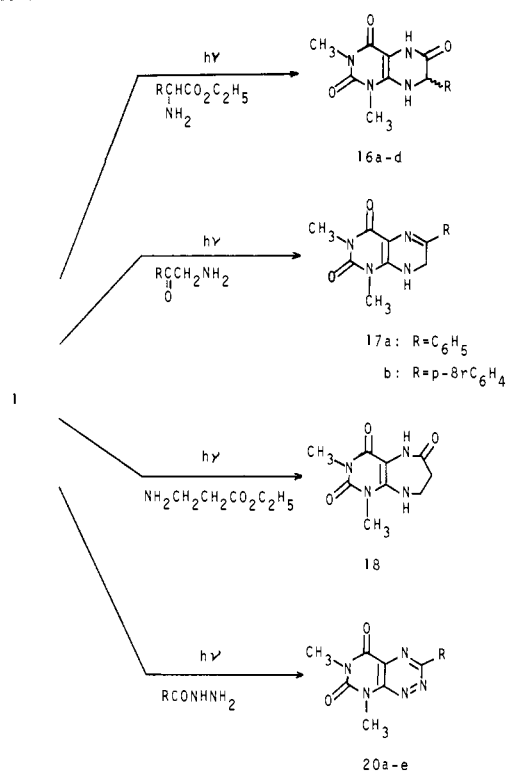
All melting points were determined on a Yanagimoto micro melting point apparatus and were uncorrected. Elemental analyses were carried out at the Microanalytical Laboratory of our college. Proton magnetic resonance spectra (60 MHz) were recorded on a Hitachi Perkin-Elmer R-20B spectrometer, with tetramethylsilane (Me<sub>4</sub>Si) as internal reference. Chemical shifts are reported in parts per million ( $\delta$ ) and signals are quoted as s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), or m (multiplet); and *J* values are first order. Infrared spectra were taken on a Hitachi 215 instrument as KBr pellets. Ultraviolet spectra were obtained from a diluted ethanol solution on a Hitachi 323 spectrophotometer. Irradiation was carried out at 25–30 °C in a flask equipped with a Pyrex-jacketed immersion lamp until the spot of **1** on TLC completely disappeared. The light source was a Riko-UVL 100-W high-pressure mercury arc lamp. Prior to irradiation, the solution was flushed with nitrogen and nitrogen was bubbled through the solution at a constant rate during irradiation unless specified otherwise. Column chromatography was carried out in silica gel (Wakogel C-200) using chloroform as eluent. TLC was performed on plastic sheets coated with silica gel (Merck 60 F 254).

**6-Azido-1,3-dimethyluracil (1).** The method of Pfeleiderer et al.<sup>18</sup> was used with slight modification. A solution of 10 g (0.057 mol) of 6-chloro-1,3-dimethyluracil and 5.6 g (0.086 mol) of sodium azide in 100 mL of ethanol was refluxed for 1 h. Ethanol was removed by evaporation and the residue was washed with water. The separated crystals were recrystallized from methanol to give 9 g (87%) of **1** as pale yellow plates, mp 148 °C (lit.<sup>18</sup> mp 149–151 °C).

**Photochemical Formation of 6-Alkylamino-5-amino-1,3-dimethyluracils (3a–g).** A solution of 0.5 g (0.0028 mol) of **1** and 0.0084 mol of alkylamine in 250 mL of THF was irradiated for 3 h. After evaporation of the solvent, the residue was treated with ether to give the corresponding 6-alkylamino-5-aminouracils (**3a,c,d,g**). When the oily residue was not solidified, then it was dissolved in 5 mL of absolute ether and 5 mL of ether saturated with picric acid was added. The resulting precipitate was collected by filtration and recrystallized to give the picrate (**3b,e,f**) as yellow prisms (Table I).

**5-Amino-6-dimethylamino-1,3-dimethyluracil (3a).** A suspension of 0.5 g (0.002 mol) of 6-dimethylamino-1,3-dimethyl-5-nitouracil (**5**) in methanol (200 mL) containing 5% palladium/carbon (0.2 g) was hydrogenated at 20 °C under 30 atm for 3 h. The reaction mixture was filtered and the filtrate was concentrated and allowed to stand overnight to give 0.18 g (45%) of **3a** which was identical in all respects with the product obtained by the photochemical formation: mp

Scheme V



142–143 °C; NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  2.28 (6 H, s, N(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 3.38 and 3.40 (each 3 H, each s, each NCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.50 (2 H, s, NH<sub>2</sub>, deuterium exchangeable); IR (KBr) 3340 and 3420 cm<sup>-1</sup> (NH<sub>2</sub>).

**6-Dimethylamino-1,3-dimethyl-5-nitouracil (5).** To a solution of 2 g (0.009 mol) of 6-chloro-1,3-dimethyl-5-nitouracil (**4**)<sup>19</sup> in 20 mL of chloroform was added dropwise, over a period of 10 min, 1.6 g (0.018 mol) of 50% aqueous dimethylamine. The reaction mixture was stirred for an additional 1 h at room temperature and then evaporated to dryness. The residue was triturated with ether, and the separated crystals were collected by filtration and recrystallized from methanol to give 1.6 g (80%) of **5** as yellow prisms: mp 206–207 °C; NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  2.90 (6 H, s, N(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>). Anal. (C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>12</sub>O<sub>4</sub>N<sub>4</sub>) C, H, N.

**Photolysis of 1 in Diethylamine.** A solution of 1 g (0.0056 mol) of **1** in 250 mL of diethylamine<sup>20</sup> was irradiated for 5 h. After removal of the solvent under reduced pressure, the residue was subjected to silica gel column chromatography. Elution with chloroform gave 0.88 g (70%) of 5-amino-6-diethylamino-1,3-dimethyluracil (**3b**) which was identical with an authentic sample obtained by the photolysis in THF. Successive elution with the same solvent gave 0.17 g (13%) of 6-(*N,N*-diethylaminomethylene)amino-1,3-dimethyluracil (**6**). Recrystallization from ligroin gave colorless needles of **6**: mp 141–142 °C; NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.22 and 1.28 (each 3 H, each t, each CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>, each *J* = 7 Hz), 3.55 and 3.43 (each 3 H, each s, each NCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.46 and 3.48 (each 2 H, each q, each CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>, each *J* = 7 Hz), 5.08 (1 H, s, C5 H), 7.75 (1 H, s, CH=NH). Anal. (C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>15</sub>O<sub>2</sub>N<sub>4</sub>) C, H, N.

**2-Acetamido-6-chloropyrimidin-4(3H)-one (11).** A solution of 10 g (0.069 mol) of 2-amino-6-chloropyrimidin-4(3H)-one (**10**)<sup>21</sup> and 100 mL of acetic anhydride was refluxed for 4 h. After evaporation of the solvent, the residue was treated with water and allowed to stand overnight. The resulting precipitate was washed with water and recrystallized from water to give 8.6 g (66%) of **11** as pale yellow plates: mp 225–227 °C; NMR (Me<sub>2</sub>SO-*d*<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  2.19 (3 H, s, CH<sub>3</sub>), 5.48 (1 H, s, C5H). Anal. (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub>O<sub>2</sub>N<sub>3</sub>Cl) C, H, N.

**2-Acetamido-6-azidopyrimidin-4(3H)-one (12).** A solution of 5 g of **11** (0.027 mol) and 2 g (0.03 mol) of sodium azide in 20 mL of dimethylformamide was warmed at 80 °C for 2 h. After evaporation of the solvent, the resulting precipitate was washed with water and recrystallized from water to give 4 g (77%) of **12**: mp 163–165 °C; NMR (Me<sub>2</sub>SO-*d*<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  2.18 (3 H, s, CH<sub>3</sub>), 6.11 (1 H, s, C5H); IR (KBr) 2120 cm<sup>-1</sup> (N<sub>3</sub>). Anal. (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub>O<sub>2</sub>N<sub>6</sub>) C, H, N.

**2-Acetamido-5-amino-6-isopropylaminopyrimidin-4(3H)-one (13a).** A solution of 0.5 g (0.0025 mol) of **12** and 0.456 g (0.0077 mol) of isopropylamine in 250 mL of THF was irradiated for 3 h. After

