

(dd, $^1J_{CC} = 57.7$ Hz and $^2J_{CC} = 18.6$ Hz, C7a), 134.7, 127.3 (d, $J_{CC} = 2.9$ Hz), 127.0 (dd, $J_{CC} = 3.9$ Hz and $J_{CC} = 1.9$ Hz), 123.5, 36.4 (d, $^1J_{CC} = 39.1$ Hz, C2), 25.9 (dd, $^1J_{CC} = 35.2$ Hz and $^2J_{CC} = 2.9$ Hz, C3).

[2,3- ^{13}C]Bicyclo[3.2.2]nona-3,6,8-trien-2-ol (5).¹² The ketone **29** was reduced with lithium aluminum hydride in diethyl ether at $-80^\circ C$ and worked up as usual to yield 88% **5**. 1H NMR (CD_2Cl_2): δ 6.88-6.63 (m, 2 H), 6.40-6.06 (m, 3 H), 4.98 (dd, m, $^1J_{CH} = 157.2$ Hz and $J_{HH} = 10.7$ Hz, 0.9 H; d, m, $J_{CH} = 10.6$ Hz, 0.1 H), 4.01 (br d, $^1J_{CH} = 147$ Hz, 0.9 H; br, 0.1 H), 3.49 (m, 1 H), 3.25 (m, $J = 7$ Hz, 1 H), 2.20 (br, 1 H). ^{13}C NMR: δ 141.9 (C6 or C9), 140.7 (C6 or C9), 136.6 (d, $^1J_{CC} = 70.8$ Hz, C4), 128.9 (d, $^1J_{CC} = 46.4$ Hz, C3), 65.1 (d, $^1J_{CC} = 46.4$ Hz, C2), 44.6 (d, $^1J_{CC} = 35.4$ Hz, C1), 37.3 (C5).

2-Methyl[2,3- ^{13}C]bicyclo[3.2.2]nona-3,6,8-trien-2-ol (6).^{11a} Methyl-lithium was prepared by the addition of methyl iodide to lithium wire in ether under argon²⁵ and was titrated with 1,3-diphenyl-2-propanone tosylhydrazone (Ventron) in tetrahydrofuran, $[CH_3Li] = 0.9$ M.

The ketone **29** (20 mg, 0.15 mmol) was dissolved in diethyl ether, added to methyl lithium (1 mL, 0.9 M) in diethyl ether at $0^\circ C$, and

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stirred for 4 min. The reaction was quenched with ice and saturated NH_4Cl , extracted with diethyl ether, dried over K_2CO_3 , and evaporated, to give 18 mg (0.12 mmol, 80%) of **6**. Analysis with TLC and GLC revealed some minor impurities (<2% each). 1H NMR (CD_2Cl_2): δ 6.9-6.5 (d, t, 2 H), 6.3-6.0 (m, 3 H), 4.82 (ddd, $^1J_{CH} = 156.6$ Hz and $J_{HH} = 10.7$, 2.2 Hz, 0.9 H; dd, $J_{HH} = 10.7$, 2.2 Hz, 0.1 H), 3.31 (m, 2 H), 1.91 (br, 1 H), 1.28 (m, 3 H). ^{13}C NMR: δ 141.5 (C6 or C9), 139.3 (C6 or C9), 134.4 (d, $^1J_{CC} = 46.4$ Hz, C3), 130.8 (C7 or C8), 130.1 (C7 or C8), 68.4 (d, $^1J_{CC} = 46.4$ Hz, C2), 49.6 (d, $^1J_{CC} = 34$ Hz, C1), 37.3 (C5), 27.4 (d, $^1J_{CC} = 41.5$ Hz, CH_3).

Preparation of Ions. Ions were prepared in 5-mm NMR tubes with the ion-generation apparatus of Ahlberg and Engdahl.^{11b} Precursor alcohols (ca. 8 mg) were dissolved in $CHCl_3F$ (ca. 100 μL) at $-10^\circ C$ in a syringe and added to a mixture of $FSO_3H-SO_2ClF-SO_2F_2-CHCl_3F$ (2:7:7:2, v/v/v/v) under nitrogen gas at ca. $-135^\circ C$.¹² Rapid mixing gave pale-yellow solutions, which were sealed and stored in liquid nitrogen.

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Communications to the Editor

Remarkably Facile Synthesis of an Isoelectronic and Isostructural Boron Analogue of Acetylcholine

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We are interested in the synthesis and characterization of isoelectronic and isostructural boron analogues of biologically important molecules. These may be of use to probe fundamental biochemical events at the molecular level as well as to provide entirely new classes of compounds of potential pharmacological value. Along these lines we have prepared some of the first examples of boron analogues of the α -amino acids¹⁻³ and their related precursors^{4,5} and derivatives.^{6,7} These analogues, typified by the protonated glycine analogue¹ $H_3NBH_2CO_2H$, contain 4-coordinate boron and possess appreciable air and hydrolytic stability. They have been found to possess significant pharmacological activity, in particular, antitumor,⁸⁻¹⁰ antiarthritic,¹¹ and hypolipidemic^{12,13} activity in animal model studies.

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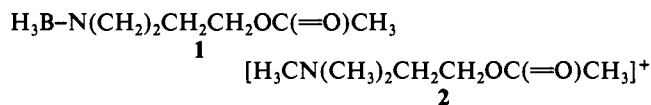
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Boron analogues of other important biologically active molecules such as neurotransmitters can be envisioned. In this paper, we wish to report a remarkably facile synthesis of (2-acetoxyethyl)dimethylamine-borane (**1**), an isoelectronic and isostructural

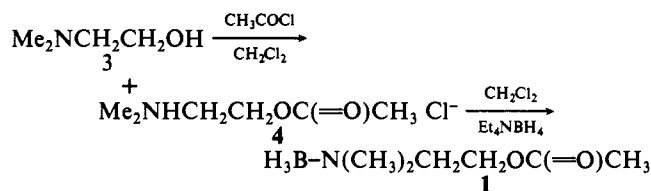


boron analogue of the important neurotransmitter the acetylcholine (ACh) cation (**2**).

This boron analogue of ACh is a molecular species since the boron and nitrogen atoms bear canceling formal negative and positive charges, respectively. Thus this analogue may be useful in studies designed to probe the importance of the so-called "anionic" subsite of acetylcholinesterase and ACh receptors. Although **1** belongs to the relatively well-known class of compounds, the amine-boranes, viewed as an analogue of ACh, suggests examination of its activity in novel areas.¹⁴

(2-Acetoxyethyl)dimethylamine-borane, **1** was prepared by an efficient synthesis shown below in Scheme I.

Scheme I



The ester hydrochloride **4** was prepared by adding $CH_3C(O)Cl$ ¹⁵ (10% mol excess) dropwise to an ice-cold solution of

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N,N-dimethylethanolamine (**3**)¹⁵ in CH₂Cl₂ under N₂. After the mixture was stirred overnight at ambient temperature, the solvent was evaporated off under reduced pressure. The white solid thus obtained was repeatedly washed with anhydrous ether to remove any unreacted starting materials and then vacuum pumped overnight to give a 91% yield of the extremely hygroscopic ester hydrochloride **4**: IR (CDCl₃) ν_{CO} 1740 (s), ν_{NH} 2200 (s), 2250 (s), 2400 (br s) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 2.1 (s, CH₃CO), 2.94 (s, CH₃N⁺CH₃), 3.43 (dist t, CH₂N), 4.48 (dist t, CH₂O). This ester hydrochloride was used as such without further purification considering its extreme hygroscopic behavior.

To obtain **1**, solid Et₄NBH₄¹⁵ (50% mol excess) was slowly added to a stirred solution of **4** in CH₂Cl₂. Vigorous evolution of H₂ gas took place initially. After the reaction had subsided, it was refluxed for 3 h, cooled, and washed 3 times with H₂O. The organic portion was dried over MgSO₄ and the solvent removed under reduced pressure to give an 85% yield of **1** (pure by ¹H and ¹¹B NMR spectra); vacuum distillation of the crude product yielded a colorless oil: bp 89–90 °C (0.4 torr); IR (CH₂Cl₂) ν_{CO} 1740 (s), ν_{BH} 2380 (s), 2310 (sh), 2270 (m) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 2.03 (s, CH₃CO), 2.62 (s, CH₃NCH₃), 2.98 (t, *J* = 6 Hz, CH₂N), 4.38 (t, *J* = 6 Hz, CH₂O); ¹¹B NMR (CDCl₃, BF₃/Et₂O) δ -9.42 (q, *J*_{BH} = 98 Hz). Anal. Calcd for C₆H₁₆BNO₂: C, 49.70; H, 11.12; N, 9.66; B, 7.46. Found: C, 49.63; H, 10.93; N, 9.32; B, 7.25.

When the reaction of **4** was carried out with NaBH₄¹⁵ (100% molar excess) for 1 day in refluxing THF, the yield of **1** after workup was only 19%. However, the yield of **1** could be increased up to 74% by carrying out the reaction for 6 days under identical reaction conditions.

In view of the important roles played by acetylcholine and its analogues in the transmission of the nerve impulse, the conformation of these compounds has been extensively studied. It has been postulated that acetylcholine is capable of existence in several conformations. On the basis of various X-ray¹⁶⁻¹⁸ and NMR¹⁹⁻²³ studies, it has been concluded that the predominant conformation of acetylcholine is gauche in solution as well as in the crystalline state.

By contrast, in the ¹H NMR spectrum²⁴ of **1** in CDCl₃, an apparently perfect A₂X₂ system, was observed for the CH₂CH₂ moiety as evidenced by the symmetrical 1:2:1 intensity distribution of the CH₂ multiplets with coupling constant *J* = 6 Hz. This implies that the two "A" protons are magnetically equivalent and, likewise, the two "X" protons. No observable difference exists in the free energy of the gauche and trans conformations.²⁵ This conclusion is supported by the fact that the spectrum of **1** did not change upon decreasing the temperature to -60 °C.

This boron analogue, like other tertiary amine-boranes, is thermally and hydrolytically stable (no hydrolysis of B-H bond

in pure H₂O). Also, since amine-boranes do not normally reduce esters,²⁶ this possible decomposition mode has not presented any difficulties.

The foregoing synthetic route readily lends itself to the preparation of substituted acetylcholines and a number of these, together with **1**, have been prepared. Additional efforts are under way involving the synthesis of analogues with boron in other positions of substitution. An LD₅₀ > 750 mg/kg (male mice) for **1** has been obtained indicating a relatively nontoxic compound.²⁷ Investigation in various biological activity studies is under way.

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Registry No. **1**, 100898-92-8; **2**, 51-84-3; **3**, 108-01-0; **4**, 17210-49-0; Et₄NBH₄, 17083-85-1.

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Synthesis and Structural-Magnetic Study of a New Type of High-Nuclearity Metal Carbonyl Cluster Possessing an 11-Atom Rh₅Ni₆ Core: Formation of a Heterometallic Core via Nickel Capping of a Pentarhodium Trigonal-Bipyramidal Kernel

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In connection with our extensive exploratory studies² of the chemistry of the [Ni₆(CO)₁₂]²⁻ dianion,³ we report herein the preparation and characterization of the [Rh₅Ni₆(CO)₂₁H₂]³⁻ trianion (**1**). This cluster, which represents the third example⁴ of an 11-atom heterometallic species,⁵ possesses a heretofore unknown close-packed 11-vertex D_{3h} polyhedron which has not been theoretically predicted⁶ and which is geometrically and

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