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# Synthesis and Stereostructure of Saturated Isoindolone-Fused Hetero Tri-, Tetra-, and Pentacyclic Compounds

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**Summary.** *t*-2-Benzoyl-*t*-4-phenylcyclohexane-*r*-1-carboxylic acid reacts with hydrazine to give the saturated 1,7-diphenyl-*trans*-phthalazin-4(3*H*)-one. The reaction of the acid with ethylenediamine yields diastereomeric *trans*-imidazo[2,3-*a*]isoindoles, which differ in their C-1 configuration. The cyclizations of the acid with *cis*-2-aminocyclohexane- or 4-cyclohexenemethanol result in *trans*-iso-indolo[2,1-*a*][3,1]benzoxazines, while in its reactions with the analogous di-*endo*- and di-*exo*-norbornane- and -norborneneamino alcohols, the acid gives methylene-bridged isomeric di-*endo*-norbornanes or a norbornene derivative; the corresponding diastereomeric di-*exo* derivatives have also been prepared. After isolation, the structures were established by means of <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectroscopy, with application of DIFFN*O*E, DEPT, HMQC, HMBC, and 2D-COSY techniques.

Keywords. Isoindolones; Diastereomers; Methanobenzoxazinones; NMR; DIFFNOE.

# Introduction

Both literature data [1-3] and our own results [4-6] indicate that the AlCl<sub>3</sub>-catalysed reaction of *cis*-cyclohex-4-ene-1,2-dicarboxylic anhydride with benzene results in *t*-5-phenyl-*c*-2-benzoyl-*r*-1-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid. However, the reaction of *t*-4-phenyl-*c*-1,2-cyclohexanedicarboxylic anhydride with benzene yields mainly *t*-4-phenyl-*c*-2-benzoyl-*r*-1-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid (67%), together with a minor amount (11%) of the corresponding *t*-5-phenyl derivative. On treatment with NaOH, the former underwent ready transformation to *t*-4-phenyl-*t*-2-benzoyl-*r*-1-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid **1** [4], which has now been applied

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to prepare fused isoindolones. This supplements our stereochemical studies on saturated derivatives containing two condensed heterorings, when stereoisomeric non-substituted and differently phenyl-substituted cyclohexane aminoacids were applied as starting synthons [6–9]. The pharmacological activity of the target compounds is likewise of interest because the aromatic analogues with related structures are used in therapy [10–12].

### **Results and Discussion**

On boiling in toluene in the presence of a catalytic amount of *PTSA*, 4-phenyltrans-2-benzoylcyclohexane-1-carboxylic acid **1** was cyclized with hydrazine hydrate to furnish the hexahydro trans-phthalazinone **2** (Scheme). In its reaction with ethylenediamine, **1** gives a mixture of diastereomeric, trans A/B-annelated imidazo[2,3-a]isoindolones differing in C-1 configuration, **3** and **4**, which were separated by chromatography. Here, the first step may be the formation of an azomethine, followed by cyclization and intramolecular acylation to **3** and **4**. *cis-trans*-Isomerization in cyclohexane derivatives and analogous compounds [6, 9, 13] was observed a) in the presence of acids or bases, b) on heating, and c) after



Scheme

intramolecular transacylation for cyclohexane-condensed azetidinones [14]. In the thermal cyclizations of *cis*-ethoxycarbonylcyclohexylureas to cyclohexane-condensed dihydrouracils [15], and also on starting from the isomeric *t*-2-benzoyl-*t*-5-phenylcyclohexane-*r*-1-carboxylic acid [8] or isoindolones prepared from 4- and 5-phenyl 2-*cis*-aroyl-cyclohexanecarboxylic acids [5, 9], no isomerization was found. Consequently, in syntheses from either *cis*- or *trans*-aroylcy-clohexanecarboxylic acids, isomerization has to be taken into account and the stereostructures of the new derivatives must always be clarified. As concerns the compounds discussed in this paper, the *cis*, di-*endo* or di-*exo* nature of the amino alcohols applied was exclusively retained in the cyclic products [5, 6, 9].

In its reactions with *cis*-2-aminocyclohexane- and -cyclohex-4-ene-methanol, **1** yielded the saturated or partly saturated isoindolo[2,1-*a*][3,1]benzoxazinones **5** and **6**. With di-*endo*- or di-*exo*-3-aminobicyclo[2.2.1]heptane- and -hept-5-ene-2-methanols, **1** afforded the corresponding methylene-bridged derivatives **7**–**11**; the reaction with di-*endo*-3-aminonorbornane-2-methanol furnished a mixture of diastereomers **7** and **8**, which were separated by column chromatography.

### Structures

The constitutions (molecular skeletons) of 2–11 were confirmed by their IR, <sup>1</sup>H, and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra (Tables 1 and 2). The rather complicated stereostructures, however, need further consideration. The following points have to be clarified: (*i*) The *cis* or *trans* annelation of the condensed pyrrolidone-cyclohexane rings (the A/B annelation). (*ii*) The configuration of C-6 (the phenyl-substituted carbon in ring A). (*iii*) The *cis* or *trans* C/D annelation in 5 and 6 (the annelation of the condensed oxazine-cyclohexane rings). (*iv*) The di-*exo* or di-*endo* annelation of the 1-phenyl group, for example relative to the other phenyl or the hydrogens on the A/B annelation). (*vi*) The steric position of the bridging CH<sub>2</sub> in the norbornane/ene moiety relative to the skeleton (*e.g.* to the phenyl substituents or the hydrogens on the A/B annelation) in 7–11.

(*i*) A decision between *cis* or *trans* A/B annelation is possible on the basis of the multiplicity, the splitting pattern (vicinal H,H-couplings), and/or the <sup>1</sup>H NMR chemical shifts of H-3a and/or H-7a. For comparison of the spectroscopic data, a special numbering system is used in this part and in the Tables, *cf.* the structures of **5** and **6**, Scheme. In the event of hidden or coalesced signals, it is also possible to deduce the axial or equatorial orientation of H-3a and H-7a from the splits (multiplicity) of H-4(*ax*) and/or H-7(*ax*). For this purpose, the C-3a and C-7a <sup>13</sup>C NMR chemical shifts are also utilizable [16a]. For **3**, **5**, and **7–10** the double triplet split of the H-3a signal {two large and one smaller couplings due to two diaxial and one axial–equatorial interactions [17]: 3a,4(*ax*), 3a,7a, and 3a,4(*eq*)} is certain proof of the *trans* **A**/**B** annelation and the diaxial orientation of H-3a and H-7a. The double quartet splitting pattern of the H-4(*ax*) signal in **2**, **4**, and **11** confirms the axial position of H-4a(*ax*): a large geminal 4(*ax*), 4(*eq*) and two diaxial couplings: 3a,4(*ax*) and 4(*ax*), 5(*ax*) with similar values, and a small one, the axial–equatorial interaction of 4(*ax*), 5 (*eq*).

	$\nu$ C=O band	$\begin{array}{c} \text{OCH}_2 \\ (2 \times 1 \text{H}) \end{array}$	I) <sup>d</sup>	H-3a <i>dt</i> (1H) <sup>e</sup>	H-4( <i>ax</i> ) <i>dqa</i> (1H) <sup>g</sup>	H-6 <i>tt</i> (1H) <sup>h</sup>	$\begin{array}{l} \text{H-7}(ax) \\ qa \ (1\text{H})^{\text{i}} \end{array}$	H-7a <i>dt</i> (1H) <sup>j</sup>
2	1674	_		2.27	1.37	2.63	1.25	2.92
3	1683	3.12	3.25	2.41	1.34	2.58	0.88	2.15
4	1687	2.75	3.15	1.95	1.43	2.44	1.56	2.20
5	1706	3.54	3.99	2.28	1.45	2.30	1.59	1.62
6	1712	3.55	3.79	$\sim 2.3^{\rm r}$	$\sim 1.5^{s}$	$\sim 2.3^{\rm r}$	$\sim 1.6^{s}$	1.67
7	1687	3.62 <sup>r</sup>	3.65 <sup>r</sup>	1.72	1.43	2.59	0.78	$\sim 2.26^{s,v}$
8	1704	3.53	3.79	2.06	1.34	2.44	0.38	2.14
9	1692	3.04	3.88	1.98	1.36 <sup>r</sup>	2.43	0.37	2.09
10	1696	3.70	3.75	1.82	1.54 <sup>r</sup>	2.66	0.86	2.24
11	1712	3.60	4.20	$\sim 2.4^{\rm r}$	1.43	$\sim 2.4^{\rm r}$	$\sim \! 1.75^{s}$	$\sim \! 1.75^{s}$

Table 1. Characteristic IR frequencies<sup>a</sup> and <sup>1</sup>H NMR data<sup>b</sup> for 2–11<sup>c</sup>

Cyclohexane/ene (ring **D**) or norbornane/ene moiety

	$CH_2 (7')^{k,l}$		H-1 <sup>/m</sup>	H-2′ <sup>n</sup>	H-3′°	H-4′°	H-5′ <sup>n</sup>	H-6′ <sup>p</sup>	
2	_		_	_	_	_	_	_	
3	2.94	3.87	_	_	_	_	-	-	
4	2.86	3.74	_	_	_	_	_	_	
5	_		4.34	-	1.05	0.76	-	2.03	
6	_		4.60	-	$\sim 5.3^{t}$	$\sim 5.3^{t}$	-	2.15	
7	1.32	1.38	3.94	3.32	1.48	1.80	$\sim 2.08^{t}$	1.60	
8	1.22	1.43	3.97	2.63	1.13	0.98	2.03	2.29	
9	1.34 <sup>r</sup>	1.39 <sup>r</sup>	4.25	3.34	5.66	5.47	2.59 <sup>s</sup>	2.63 <sup>s</sup>	
10	1.27	1.89	3.77	3.64	1.71	1.56	2.09	$\sim \! 1.5^r$	
11	0.61	0.99	4.08	2.80	6.38	5.95	2.32	$\sim 1.88^{t}$	

<sup>a</sup> In KBr discs (cm<sup>-1</sup>), further bands,  $\nu$ NH band: ~3205, broad (2), 3278 (3), 3455 and 3315 (4),  $\nu$ C– O: 1015 (5), 1026 (6), 1039 (7), 1043 (8), 1062 (9), 1081 (10), 1031 (11),  $\gamma C_{Ar}H$  and  $\gamma C_{Ar}C_{Ar}$  bands: 2-4 maxima between 777-698; <sup>b</sup> in CDCl<sub>3</sub> solution (in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> for 2) at 500 MHz, chemical shifts in ppm ( $\delta_{TMS} = 0$  ppm), coupling constants in Hz; <sup>c</sup> assignments were supported by HMQC, HMBC, and DIFFNOE (except for 2-4, 6, 11), for 2, 4, 7, 10, 11 also by 2D-COSY measurements;  $d^{1/1}$  CH<sub>2</sub> bound to the amine/amide-NH,  $2 \times m$  (3, 4), dd (J: 11.5 and 4.2) and t (J: 12.0) for 5 and 6<sup>u</sup>, t (J: 11.5) and dd (J: 12.0 and 8.2) for 8 and 9, 2 × dd, J: 12.4, 3.2 and 12.4, 6.5, resp. (10), 12.2, 10.5 and 12.2, 9.2, resp. (11); <sup>e</sup> J: 12.3 and 2.5 (7), 11.6 and 3.4 (8), m<sup>f</sup> (3, 5, 9, and 10), m<sup>r</sup> (4, 6, and 11); <sup>f</sup> multiplet with unresolved lines; <sup>g</sup> J: 12.8 and 3.7 (3), 12.4 and 3.4 (7),  $m^{f}$  (2, 4, 8, 11),  $m^{r}$  (5, 6, 9, 10); <sup>h</sup> J: ~12 and ~3.5 (3, 4, 7–10), m<sup>f</sup> (2), m<sup>r</sup> (5, 6, 11); <sup>i</sup> J: ~12 (12.4 for 2, 3), m<sup>r</sup> (5, 6, 11); <sup>j</sup> J: 12.4 and 2.9 (8), dt<sup>f</sup> (4, **6**, **9**, **10**),  $m^{r}$  (**3**, **5**, **7**, **11**); <sup>k</sup> *AB*-type spectrum,  $2 \times d(2 \times 1H)$ , *J*: 10.2 (**7**, **10**), 9.5 (**8**, **11**), 8.9 (**9**); <sup>m</sup> *td*, *J*: 12.5, 4.4 (5), dt, J: 8.8, 5.0 (6), dd, J: 11.5, 4.1 (7), 12.0, 2.5 (8), 10.0, 3.2 (9), 9.0, 1.5 (11), d, J: 8.5 (10);  $^{n} \sim s(1H)$ ;  $^{o} H(ax), 2 \times 1H, 2 \times qa$  (5),  $\sim s(2H)$  for 6,  $2 \times 1H$  and  $\sim 1.35 m$  (2H) for 7,  $2 \times m$  $(2 \times 2H)$  for **8**,  $2 \times dd$   $(2 \times 1H)$ , J: 5.6, 2.8, and 5.6, 3.1 (**9**, **11**),  $4 \times m$   $(4 \times 1H)$  with the two further signals at 1.20 and 1.28 (10);  ${}^{p} m$  (1H);  ${}^{r,s,t}$  overlapped signals;  ${}^{u}$  further split of the upfield dd of 6 to a ddd/downfield d of 7 to a dd due to <sup>4</sup>J-long range coupling; <sup>v</sup> overlapped with the H-4(eq) signal

Similarly, three large couplings (one geminal and two diaxial) result in a quartet split of H-7(ax) in 2 and 4, which prove the axial position of H-7a and thus the *trans* A/B annelation. Because of signal overlaps, it is not possible to

	Isoindole ring <sup>d</sup>									
	C-1	C=O(3)	C-3a	C-4	C-5	C-6	C-7	C-7a	OCH <sub>2</sub> <sup>e</sup>	
2	156.9	170.0	39.6	26.4	33.0	43.5	37.8	38.8	_	
3	89.3	176.9	48.3	26.0	33.2	44.3	35.9	57.0	48.1	
4	88.6	182.7	49.8	26.2	34.7	45.3	33.1	47.5	46.7	
5	92.7	180.9	45.7	26.1	$34.8^{\mathrm{f}}$	44.9	30.8	54.5	63.3	
6	92.9	181.4	45.9 <sup>g</sup>	27.1	34.8	44.9 <sup>g</sup>	30.8	54.7	64.2	
7	93.1	175.1	43.5	26.2	33.7	44.3	34.6	54.4	62.8	
8	94.1	179.1	43.2	26.0	33.5	44.1	34.9	56.6	62.4	
9	93.4	178.2	43.0	25.9	33.6	44.1	34.9	56.7	64.8	
10	93.3	174.8	44.1	26.1	33.7	44.3	34.4	53.8	64.9	
11	92.2	181.6	45.2 <sup>g</sup>	26.1	34.7	45.0 <sup>g</sup>	31.1	54.0	67.5	

Table 2. <sup>13</sup>C NMR chemical shifts<sup>a</sup> for 2–11<sup>b,c</sup>

Cyclohexane/ene (ring D in 5 and 6) or norbornane/ene moiety

	C-1′	C-2′	C-3′	C-4′	C-5′	C-6′	CH <sub>2</sub> (7')
2	_	_	_	_	_	_	_
3	42.5	-	_	_	_	_	_
4	44.2	_	_	_	_	_	-
5	53.3	27.7	26.0	21.4	27.9	$34.8^{\mathrm{f}}$	-
6	50.1	26.0	123.9 <sup>h</sup>	124.7 <sup>h</sup>	25.5	32.9	_
7	51.3	41.6	22.4	22.8	42.8	33.1	36.9
8	54.5	42.0	22.2	24.0	38.5	32.8	38.0
9	52.5	47.9	137.5	136.2	43.9	35.6	48.6
10	57.4	39.6	25.9	30.4	44.7	39.5	34.7
11	54.2	47.8	139.6	135.4	45.1 <sup>f,g</sup>	29.0	45.1 <sup>f</sup>

Further signals, 1-phenyl, C-1: 137.3 (2, 9), 138.8 (3), 142.0 (4, 6), 141.7 (5, 11), 136.4 (7, 10), 137.7 (8); C-2,6:<sup>i</sup> 127.0  $\pm$  1.2, broadened signal for 7 and 10; C-3,5:<sup>i</sup> 127.7  $\pm$  0.7; C-4: 127.4 (8), 128.7  $\pm$  0.5; 6-phenyl, C-1: 147.2 (2), 146.1 (4), 146.4  $\pm$  0.1; C-2,6: 127.6 (2), 127.3  $\pm$  0.1; C-3,5: 129.2 (2), 128.8  $\pm$  0.1; C-4: 127.0 (2), 126.7  $\pm$  0.1

<sup>a</sup> In ppm ( $\delta_{TMS}$  = 0 ppm) at 125.7 MHz, solvent: CDCl<sub>3</sub> (for **2** *DMSO*-d<sub>6</sub>); <sup>b</sup> assignments were supported by DEPT, HMQC, and HMBC measurements; <sup>c</sup> for numbering see Scheme; <sup>d</sup> for **2** phthalazine ring; <sup>e</sup> CH<sub>2</sub> bound to the amine-NH in **3** and **4**; <sup>f</sup> two overlapping lines; <sup>g,h</sup> interchange-able assignments; <sup>i</sup> two separated lines for **5**, **6**, **8**, **9**, and **11** 

draw an analogous conclusion for **11**. However, the practically unaltered C-3a and C-7a shifts for **10** and **11** (44.1 and 53.8 ppm for **10**, and  $\sim$ 45.2 and 54.0 ppm for **11**) indicate the same stereostructure in the analogous part of these molecules.

(*ii*) For **3**, **4**, and **7–10** the equatorial position (*cis* to H-3a and *trans* to H-7a) of the 6-phenyl group follows from the triple triplet split of the H-6 signal (two large diaxial and two smaller axial–equatorial vicinal couplings, *i.e.* the axial orientation of H-6). For **2**, **5**, **6**, and **11** the similar C-6 chemical shifts demonstrate the analogous steric position of the 6-phenyl group: these shifts are within a 1 ppm interval for compounds **3–11** (44.8  $\pm$  0.5 ppm).

- (*iii*) For the NCH group the triple doublet split (only one diaxial interaction) in the <sup>1</sup>H NMR signal confirms the *cis* C/D annelation in **5**. For the more flexible **6** (due to the flattened cyclohexene ring **D**), however, the splits are smaller, and hence are not convincing as concerns the annelation. For **5** the shifts of the annelational carbons, however, are smaller (by 3.2 and 1.9 ppm) and a *cis*  $\rightarrow$  *trans* change in the C/D annelation should lead to an opposite difference [16a]. Consequently, the C/D annelation must be unaltered *cis* for **6**.
- (*iv*) By application of our "splitting rule" [18, 19], the starting di-*endo* (7–9) or di-*exo* (10, 11) annelation of the reacting bicyclic partners (*E*-*H*, Scheme) remain the same in the pentacyclic products. The 1',6'-vicinal coupling leads to a doublet split of the corresponding H-1' and H-6' signals by  $\sim$ 8–9 Hz. For the di-*endo* compounds, the H-1',2' and H-5',6' couplings result in further splits of these signals to double doublets (due to a dihedral angle of  $\sim$ 30°), whereas in the di-*exo* analogues, these couplings are small (the dihedral angle is about 90°), which causes no further split.
- (v) The steric orientation of the 1-phenyl group follows from the anisotropic shielding caused by the benzene ring on the close-lying hydrogens; the <sup>1</sup>H NMR signals are shifted upfield by this effect [16b]. When the 1-phenyl ring is in the *exo* position (on the same side of the skeleton as H-3a), its anisotropy results in a dramatic upfield shift of the H-7(*ax*) and H-3a signals, as observed for **3** and **7–10** (the H-7(*ax*) shifts are <1 ppm, whereas they are 1.25–1.75 ppm for the other compounds). The close arrangement of the 1-phenyl group and the 3a and 7(*ax*) hydrogens was confirmed by DIFFN*O*E measurements. On irradiation of one of the signals of the *ortho*-hydrogens of the 1-phenyl groups or H-3a or H-7(*ax*), the other displayed an intensity enhancement.
- (vi) For 7 the DIFFNOE results demonstrate the close arrangement of the H-1', H-6' on the norbornane moiety (to the oxazine ring) and the 1-phenyl group. As regards the di-*endo* annelation, it has been proved that the latter group and the bridging CH<sub>2</sub> are on the same side of the skeleton. Since all the other parts of molecule **8** have the same steric structure as in 7, the bridging CH<sub>2</sub> must be in an opposite position in **8**, *i.e.* the CH<sub>2</sub> lies on the opposite side of the skeleton from the 1-phenyl group. Accordingly, the two neighbouring methylene groups (in Pos. 3' and 4', Q in **8**) are close to the 1-phenyl group, and the anisotropy of the latter results in an upfield shift of the signals of these methylene hydrogens (0.98 and 1.13 ppm for **8**, and ~1.35, 1.48, and 1.80 ppm for **7**).

Though norbornene 9 has no isomeric counterpart, the upfield shifts of H-3' and H-4' (olefinic hydrogens in the norbornene moiety) relative to those in 11 (5.66 and 5.47 ppm in 9, and 6.38 and 5.95 ppm in 11) suggest the opposite position of the 1-phenyl and the bridging  $CH_2$  in 9, similarly as in 8.

Thus, it is easy to see that for **11** the relative position of the two groups in question is opposite to that in **8** and **9**: the bridging  $CH_2$  and 1-phenyl group are on the same side of the skeleton, similarly as in **7**. Because of the di*-exo* annelation, however, the two groups are situated close to one another and the anisotropic effect of the benzene ring leads to an upfield shift of the hydrogens of the bridging  $CH_2$  (0.61 and 0.99 ppm, whereas the corresponding values in **9** are 1.34 and 1.39 ppm).

DIFFNOE between the *ortho*-hydrogens (1-phenyl) and H-1' (NCH group) and the lack of anisotropic shielding on the bridging  $CH_2$  suggest a stereostructure with these two groups on opposite sides of the skeleton for **10**, analogously as in **8** and **9**.

From the above, it can be concluded that the *endo* position of the 1-phenyl group in **4**–**6** and **11** is reflected in a downfield shift of the 3-carbonyl signal (these shifts are >180 ppm, whereas they are <180 ppm for the other compounds). The configurations in **1** remain unaltered in all products: *trans*  $\rightarrow$  *cis* isomerization was not observed with these compounds. Similarly, the original stereostructures are retained in the products. The isomeric pair **3** and **4** differ in the position of the 1-phenyl, while **7** and **8** differ in the positions of the 1-phenyl and the bridging CH<sub>2</sub> of the norbornane moiety. For **8**, the steric hindrance between the 1-phenyl and the neighbouring methylene hydrogens (Pos. 3' and 4'), leads to formation of the isomeric **7**, whereas **9**, in which the steric hindrance is only moderate, did not undergo isomerization. The steric structure of **10** can be explained analogously (in this structure, the molecule avoids an unfavourable interaction of the 1-phenyl group with the bridging CH<sub>2</sub>).

#### Experimental

IR spectra were run in KBr discs on a Bruker IFS-55 FT-spectrometer controlled by Opus 3.0 software. The <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded in CDCl<sub>3</sub> solution in 5 mm tubes at rt on a Bruker DRX-500 spectrometer at 500.13 (<sup>1</sup>H) and 125.76 (<sup>13</sup>C) MHz with the deuterium signal of the solvent as the lock and *TMS* as internal standard. The VT-NMR measurements were carried out in *DMSO*-d<sub>6</sub> from 298 K to 353 K on BRUKER AM 300 equipment. The standard Bruker microprogram NOEMULT to generate NOE [20] and DIFFNOE spectra [16c, 21] was used with a selective pre-irradiation time. DEPT spectra [22] were run in a standard manner [23], using only a  $\Theta = 135^{\circ}$  pulse to separate the CH/CH<sub>3</sub> and CH<sub>2</sub> lines phased "up" and "down", respectively. The 2D-COSY [24a, 25a], HMQC [24b, 25b], and HMBC [26, 27] spectra were obtained by using the standard Bruker pulse programs COSY-45, INV4GSSW, and INV4GSLRNDSW, respectively.

#### General Procedure for the Preparation of 2-11

A mixture of 3.08 g of 1 (0.01 mol), aminoalcohol (0.6 g ethylenediamine, 1.3 g *cis*-2-aminocyclohexanemethanol, or -cyclohex-4-enemethanol, 1.4 g di-*endo*- or di-*exo*-3-aminobicyclo[2.2.1]heptane-, or -hept-5-enemethanol, 0.01 mol) and 0.05 g of *PTSA* in dry toluene (for 2 and 5–9) or chlorobenzene (for 3, 4, 10, and 11) was refluxed for 2 h with the application of a water separator. After the solvent had been evaporated, the residue was transferred to an aluminum oxide (Acros basic, 50–200  $\mu$ , for 2, 6, and 9–11) or silica gel (Silica gel Merck 60, 0.040–0.063 mm, for 3–5, 7, and 8) column and eluted with benzene (for 5), *EtOAc* (for 2, 9, and 11) or *n*-hexane:*EtOAc* = 2:1 (for 3 and 4) or *n*hexane:*EtOAc* = 4:1 (for 6–8 and 10), with monitoring by TLC (silica gel TLC aluminum sheets, solvent: benzene:*Et*OH:petroleum ether (bp 40–60°C) = 4:1:3, development in iodine vapour; higher *R*<sub>f</sub> 4 and 7, lower *R*<sub>f</sub> 3 and 8).

1,7-Diphenyl-4a,5,6,7,8,8a-hexahydrophthalazin-4(3H)-one (2, C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>20</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O)

Yield 2.19 g (72%); mp 235–236°C (*Et*OH).

8,9b-Diphenylperhydroimidazo[2,3-a]isoindolone (3, C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>24</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O)

Yield 0.86 g (26%); mp 237-239°C (EtOH).

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8,9b-Diphenylperhydroimidazo[2,3-a]isoindolone (**4**, C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>24</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O) Yield 0.93 g (28%); mp 248–250°C (*Et*OH).

6*a*,8-*Diphenyl-11-oxoperhydroisoindolo*[2,1-*a*][3,1]*benzoxazine* (**5**, C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>31</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>) Yield 2.65 g (66%); mp 263–265°C (*Et*OH).

6a,8-Diphenyl-11-oxo-1,4,4a,6b,7,8,9,10,10a,12a-decahydroisoindolo[2,1-a][3,1]benzoxazine (**6**, C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>29</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>)

Yield 2.32 g (58%); mp 226-228°C (EtOH).

di-endo-6a,8-Diphenyl-1,4-methano-11-oxoperhydroisoindolo[2,1-a][3,1]benzoxazine (7, C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>31</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>)

Yield 1.32 g (32%); mp 195-197°C (EtOH).

*di-endo-6a*,8-*Diphenyl-1*,4-*methano-11-oxoperhydroisoindolo*[2,1-*a*][3,1]*benzoxazine* (**8**, C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>31</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>)

Yield 1.24 g (30%); mp 193–195°C (*Et*OH).

*di-endo-6a*,8-*Diphenyl-1*,4-*methano-11-oxo-1*,4,4*a*,6*b*,7,8,9,10,10*a*,12*a*-*decahydroisoindolo*[2,1-*a*][3,1]*benzoxazine* (**9**, C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>29</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>)

Yield 3.13 g (76%); mp 280–281°C (*Et*OH).

 $\label{eq:constraint} \begin{array}{l} \textit{di-exo-6a,8-Diphenyl-1,4-methano-11-oxoperhydroisoindo-lo[2,1-a][3,1]benzoxazine~(10,~C_{28}H_{31}NO_2) \end{array}$ 

Yield 3.30 g (80%); mp 197–199°C (*EtOAc*).

*di-exo-6a*,8-*Diphenyl-1*,4-*methano-11-oxo-1*,4,4*a*,6*b*,7,8,9,10,10*a*,12*a*-*decahydroisoindolo*[2,1-*a*][3,1]*benzoxazine* (**11**, C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>29</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>)

Yield 2.88 g (70%); mp 250-252°C (EtOH).

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