

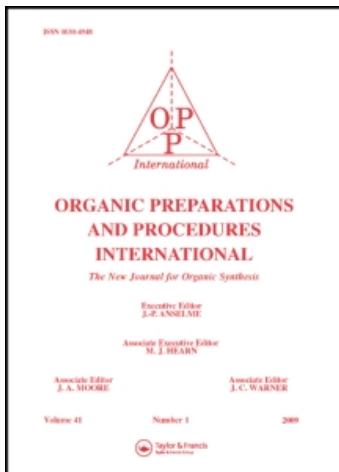
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AN IMPROVED SYNTHESIS OF DIMETHYL DIACETOXYFUMARATE AND ITS CONDENSATION WITH HETEROCYCLIC AMINES

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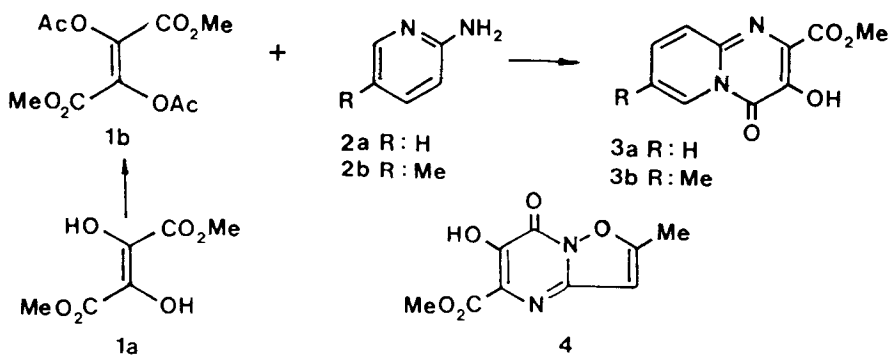
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AN IMPROVED SYNTHESIS OF DIMETHYL DIACETOXYFUMARATE
AND ITS CONDENSATION WITH HETEROCYCLIC AMINES

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(08/14/89)

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The synthetic routes to 4-oxo-4H-pyrido[1,2-a]pyrimidines have been reviewed.¹ For the most part, condensation between 2-aminopyridines and 1,3-ketoesters, malonates, alkoxymethylene malonates, cyanoacetates or lactones are employed. So far, the only attempt to use a fumarate for the preparation of the aforementioned bicyclic system is the reaction between tetrazolo[5,1-a]pyridine and dimethyl maleate or fumarate at elevated temperatures.² A similar rearrangement of a tetrazolylpyridine to the same bicyclic system was described by us.³



It appears that the acid-catalyzed condensation of dimethyl diacetoxyfumarate (**1b**) is limited to a few heterocyclic amines. With 2-aminopyridine (**2a**) or its 5-methyl analog (**2b**), 2-carbomethoxy-3-hydroxy-4-oxo-4H-pyrido[1,2-a]pyrimidine (**3a**) or its 7-methyl analog (**3b**) were formed. While condensation of **1b** with various aminopyrimidines failed, 3-amino-5-methylisoxazole reacted with **1b** to afford 5-carbomethoxy-6-hydroxy-2-methyl-7-oxo-isoxazolo[2,3-a]pyrimidine (**4**). The chemistry of several isomeric isoxazolopyrimidine systems was investigated in detail, but there is only one report on a 7-oxo-isoxazolo[2,3-a]pyrimidine. A derivative of this system was prepared by condensation of 3-aminoisoxazole with ethyl acetoacetate.⁴ Some mesoionic isoxazolo[2,3-a]pyrimidinediones were obtained by cycloaddition of C_3O_2 to 3-aminoisoxazoles.⁵

In all cases, the second acetoxy group of **1b** is transformed into a hydroxy group (see **3** and **4**). The advantage of the present method lies in the simultaneous introduction of a carbalkoxy and hydroxy group in the pyrimidine part of the bicyclic system. The reported

synthesis⁶ of dimethyl diacetoxyfumarate (**1b**) by acetylation of dimethyl dihydroxyfumarate (**1a**, prepared from dihydroxyfumaric acid⁷ by reaction with diazomethane⁶ or acid-catalyzed esterification with methanol⁸) is unreliable (considerable amounts of material were lost during purification) and thus is inadequate for the preparation of large quantities of **1b**. We have developed a more efficient approach by using isopropenyl acetate for the acetylation which provides **1b** in 86% yield.

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

Melting points were determined on a Kofler hot-stage microscope and are uncorrected. Nuclear magnetic resonance spectra were determined on a Varian EM 360 L instrument using TMS as the internal reference.

Dimethyl diacetoxyfumarate (1b).- Dimethyl dihydroxyfumarate (**1a**) (3 g), isopropenyl acetate (15 ml) and 0.1 g of *p*-toluenesulfonic acid were heated under reflux for 8 hrs. The mixture was left standing overnight; the precipitated solid was collected and the filtrate was evaporated to dryness. Upon crystallization of the residue from methanol, 1.12 g (86%) of **1b**, mp. 103-108°, lit. ⁶ mp. 105-108°, was obtained.

Anal. Calcd for C₁₀H₁₂O₈: C, 46.16; H, 4.65. Found: C, 46.14; H, 4.72

2-Carbomethoxy-3-hydroxy-4-oxo-4H-pyridol[1,2-a]pyrimidine (3a).- A mixture of (**1b**) (1.54 g), **2a** (0.188 g), methanol (10 ml) and a small amount of *p*-toluenesulfonic acid was heated under reflux for 3 hrs. After standing overnight at room temperature, some semisolid material separated. The solvent was evaporated and the residue treated with a small quantity of ethyl acetate to separate the solid material from the oil. Upon crystallization of the solid from ethanol, the product (75 mg, 17%), mp. 210-212°, was obtained.

Mass spectrum: M⁺ = 220. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 4.12 (s, 3H, COOMe), 7.05 (ddd, 1H, J_{6,7} = 7.3, J_{7,8} = 6.1 and J_{7,9} = 1.9 Hz, H-7), 7.53 (ddd, 1H, J_{8,9} = 9.0 Hz, H-8), 7.7 (dd, 1H, H₉), 8.86 (dd, 1H, H₆), 10.74 (bs, 1H, OH).

Anal. Calcd for C₁₀H₈N₂O₄: C, 54.55; H, 3.66; N, 12.72

Found: C, 54.51; H, 3.85; N, 12.50

2-Carbomethoxy-3-hydroxy-7-methyl-4-oxo-4H-pyridol[1,2-a]pyrimidine (3b).- A mixture of **1b** (520 mg), **2b** (216 mg), methanol (5 ml) and few drops of glacial acetic acid was heated under reflux for 3 hrs. Chromatographic analysis (Merck DC-Fertigplatten Kieselgel 60 F₂₄₅, 0.25 mm, chloroform and methanol, 10:1) revealed that the reaction was completed. The oily residue obtained upon evaporation was treated with ethyl acetate and the crystalline material obtained was crystallized from ethanol (248 mg, 53% yield) to give the product with mp. 186-188°.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 2.45 (s, 3H, Me-7), 4.1 (s, 3H, COOMe), 7.4 (d, 1H, J = 10Hz, H-9), 7.65 (d, 1H, H-8), 8.7 (s, 1H, H-6), 10.1-10.5 (bs, 1H, OH).

Anal. Calcd for $C_{11}H_{10}N_2O_4$: C, 56.41; H, 4.30; N, 11.96

Found: C, 56.52; H, 4.60; N, 12.04

5-Carbomethoxy-6-hydroxy-2-methyl-7-oxo-isoxazol[2,3-a]pyrimidine (4).- A mixture of 3-amino-5-methylisoxazole (98 mg), **1b** (260 mg) and methanol (4 ml) was heated under reflux for 4 hrs. The solvent was evaporated and the oily residue crystallized upon cooling. Crystallization from 1-propanol yielded the product (85 mg, 40% yield), mp. 164-166°.

1H NMR ($CDCl_3$): δ 2.20 (s, 3H, Me), 3.85 (s, 3H, COOMe), 5.65 (s, 1H, H-3), 6.80 (bs, 1H, OH).

Anal. Calcd for $C_8H_8N_2O_5$: C, 45.29; H, 3.80; N, 13.21

Found : C, 45.42; H, 4.02; N, 13.48

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DEOXYGENATION OF EPOXIDES WITH ALUMINUM

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Amalgamated aluminum dissolves readily in isopropanol to give aluminum isopropylate and hydrogen. It was thought that this economical and easy-to-handle system might be capable of reducing epoxides to alcohols and provide a useful alternate to expensive reagents