

REACTIONS OF CYCLIC ANHYDRIDES XI. A FACILE APPROACH TO  
PYRROLO-3, 1-BENZOXAZINONES VIA ANILIC ACIDS.

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**Summary** *ortho*-Carboxymaleanilic acids (I) undergo intramolecular double cyclisation to give pyrrolo-benzoxazinones (II) in excellent yields when treated with sodium acetate-acetic anhydride whereas the corresponding fumaranilic acids (III) under these conditions furnish 3, 1-benzoxazinones (IV.)

Recent publications from our laboratories have highlighted the applications of cyclic anhydrides for novel synthetic approaches<sup>1</sup> to organic heterocycles. The overall strategy involves Michael-type addition in maleanilic acids (I) derived from suitably *ortho* substituted anilines and maleic anhydride (MA) (quinolines<sup>2</sup>, 4,1-benzoxazines<sup>3</sup>, quinoxalines<sup>4</sup>, benzothiazines<sup>4-6</sup> and benzothiazoles<sup>7</sup>). We have now examined the behaviour of IA-F derived from reaction of anthranilic acids with MA. Their reactions have revealed interesting chemistry. The system I offers multiple pathways for intramolecular dehydration to give imide, isoimide or benzoxazinone.

When dicarboxylic acids IA-F were treated with sodium acetate-acetic anhydride, none of the expected dehydration products was obtained. Instead, it was transformed to the angular tricyclic system pyrrolobenzoxazinone II in excellent yields. In a typical experiment, to *o*-carboxymaleanilic acid (IA) (2.35g, 0.01 mole) were added anhydrous sodium acetate (0.5g) and acetic anhydride (15 ml); the resulting slurry was kept at room temperature for 8 hrs. Aqueous work up followed by crystallisation from benzene afforded IIA (m.p. 160°C; 77%). Predictably, *o*-carboxyfumaranilic acid (IIIA, m.p. 235°C, obtained from IA; aqueous methanol, thiourea, reflux 3.5 hrs.) under identical conditions gave only the bicyclic 3, 1-benzoxazinone (IVA) which revealed that *cis* geometry in anilic acid is essential for generation of IIA requiring double cyclisation. The structural assignments made for IIA-F are consistent with elemental analysis and spectral data<sup>9</sup>.

Structures related to II with angular oxygen functions are of current interest in synthesising mitomycin congeners<sup>10,11</sup>.

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Part X. Ref. 6. Part IX. V. Balasubramaniyan, V.G. Bhatia and S.B. Wagh, *Tetrahedron*, **39**, 1475 (1983).

