

To achieve the ring closure reaction with **1**, the reaction mixture was heated, the only exception was the reaction with 70% sulfuric acid, where a short reaction time and room temperature was enough to carry out ring closure. At room temperature, with other acids, only the N-hydroxymethylated intermediate **8** was obtained together with some starting compound. With starting materials **2,4-6** the use of 70% sulfuric acid caused decomposition, therefore we applied trifluoroacetic acid.

Table

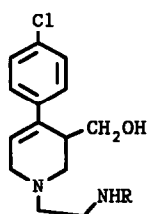
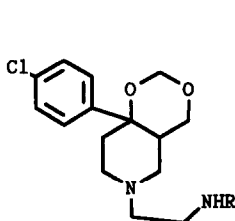
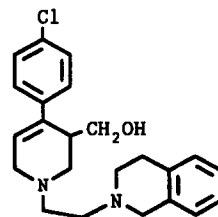
cyclization precursor no.	X	R	reaction conditions	products ^a	yield ^b	m.p °C
1	Cl	-COOEt	36% HCl, RT, 40h	8	43%	oil
			HCOOH, RT, 40h	8	40%	oil
			CF ₃ COOH, RT, 40h	8	38%	oil
			70% H ₂ SO ₄ , RT, 40min	9	69%	265-267 ^c
			36% HCl, reflux, 2, 5h	9	57%	
2	Cl	-CH ₂ COOEt	CF ₃ COOH, reflux, 6h	9	59%	
			CF ₃ COOH, reflux, 8h	10	26%	oil
3	Cl	-COCF ₃	CF ₃ COOH, reflux, 6h	11	42%	oil
			70% H ₂ SO ₄ , RT, 1h	12	61%	235-9 ^c
4	Cl	-CH ₂ C ₆ H ₅	CF ₃ COOH, reflux, 6h	13	73%	229-30 ^d
5	Cl	-CH ₂ CH ₂ C ₆ H ₅	CF ₃ COOH, reflux, 6h	14	20%	oil
				15	15%	120-1
6	H	-CH ₂ C ₆ H ₅	CF ₃ COOH, reflux, 8h	16	74%	235-6 ^d

a) NMR data refer to the basic forms. See under ref 15

b) Isolated yield of purified product

c) HCl salt d) 2HCl salt

Interestingly, if the nitrogen atom serving for the iminium ion generation was integrated in an amide conjugation (see **3**) no N-hydroxymethylated intermediate or ring closure reaction was observed. In this case product **11** results from a Prins reaction and **12** obviously arises from **11** through a reaction with an additional formaldehyde molecule. Such a reaction of tetrahydropyridines has been known¹⁴. Although earlier authors prepared 1,3-dioxane derivatives with at least a 10-fold excess of paraformaldehyde, we could reach product-selectivity merely through different reaction conditions using, in both cases, the same threefold paraformaldehyde excess. In the cyclization reaction of **5** the tetrahydroisoquinoline derivative **15** was also produced, as a byproduct, besides the expected **14**. Compound **15** obviously resulted from a Pictet-Spengler reaction competing with the ring closure process. The formation of **15** is interesting because the phenyl group involved in the ring closure reaction had no electron-donating substituents. According to other observations¹⁰ an alkoxy or hydroxy group were necessary for ring closure in meta or para position to the amine containing side chain.

**11****12****15**

None of the compounds synthesized showed a remarkable MAO-A or MAO-B inhibitory effect but some of them possessed weak dopamine uptake inhibitory characteristics.

References and notes:

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12. Starting materials **1,4-6** were prepared in the usual alkylation procedure from known unsubstituted tetrahydropyridines and the corresponding known 2-bromoethylamino derivatives in DMF using potassium carbonate as a base. Hydrolysis of **1** with Claisen alkali produced the N-(2-aminoethyl)tetrahydropyridine intermediate which in turn after alkylation with ethyl chloroacetate gave **2**, and after acylation with trifluoroacetic anhydride provided **3**.
13. Column chromatography was performed on Kieselgel 60 (MERCCK) using CHCl₃:MeOH (9:1) for **8,9**; ratio (4:1) for **10,13,14,16** and (12:1) for **11,12**.
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15. All the ¹H NMR data were determined at 250 MHz in CDCl₃ as solvent (TMS as standard), all the ¹³C NMR data were determined at 63 MHz in CDCl₃ as solvent (CDCl₃ at 77.0 ppm), and temperature at T=298K
- 8** ¹H NMR 7.25(4H,s) 6.04(1H,m) 4.75(2H,s) 4.18(2H,q, J=7.8 Hz) 3.54(2H,m) 3.25(2H,q, J=2.9 Hz) 2.82(2H,t, J=5.9 Hz) 2.6(4H,m) 1.28(3H,t, J=7.8 Hz)
¹³C NMR 155.8(s) 138.5(s) 134.1(s) 133.0(s) 128.4(d) 126.1(d) 120.9(d) 72.6(t) 61.7(t) 56.7(t) 52.8(t) 49.8(t) 46.4(t) 27.1(t) 14.5(q)
- 9** (two rotamers a/b 45:55) ¹H NMR 7.25(2H,d, J=8.0 Hz) 7.15(2H,d, J=8.0 Hz) 6.07(1H,m) 4.1-2.7(13H,m) 1.15(1.35H,t, J=7.0 Hz) 0.90(1.65H,t, J=7.0 Hz)
¹³C NMR 156.0(s) 138.7(s) 138.6(s) 137.4(s) 133.1(s) 132.9(s) 128.6(d) 128.5(d) 127.4(d) 127.3(d) 126.9(d) 126.7(d) 61.2(d) 61.1(t) 56.9(t) 55.6(t) 52.9(t) 52.8(t) 50.9(t) 49.6(t) 48.3(t) 48.2(t) 46.6(t) 46.5(t) 34.5(d) 34.0(d)
- 10** ¹H NMR 7.30(2H,d, J=7.8 Hz) 7.25(2H,d, J=7.8 Hz) 6.02(1H,s,br) 4.05(2H,q, J=7.2) 3.99(1H,d, partially overlap) 3.65(1H,d, J=14.7 Hz) 3.50(1H,m) 3.40-3.15(4H,m) 3.05-2.75(5H,m) 2.65(1H,d, J=11.8 Hz) 1.15(3H,t, J=7.2)
¹³C NMR 170.9(s) 139.8(s) 138.2(s) 133.4(s) 128.7(d) 127.6(d) 123.0(d) 60.3(t) 59.8(t) 57.9(t) 56.4(t) 53.5(t) 52.5(t) 48.8(t) 34.1(d) 14.1(q)

- 11 ^1H NMR 7.75(1H,s,br NH) 7.22(4H,s,br) 6.01(1H,m) 4.10(1H,s,br, OH) 3.62(1H,dd, $J_1=10.4$ Hz $J_2=2.8$ Hz) 3.55-3.25(3H,m) 3.11(1H,d, $J=11.1$ Hz) 2.82(1H,d, $J=17.1$ Hz) 2.74(1H,s,br) 2.86-2.43(3H,m)
 ^{13}C NMR 157.6(q $J_{\text{CCF}}=37$ Hz) 137.8(s) 135.1(s) 133.1(s) 128.6(d) 127.1(d) 124.8(d) 115.8(q, $J_{\text{CF}}=289$ Hz) 64.4(t) 55.4(t) 53.7(t) 53.4(t) 38.5(d) 36.7(t)
- 12 ^1H NMR 7.35(4H,s,b) 5.0-4.1(1H, NH) 4.87(1H,d, $J=7.0$ Hz) 4.75(1H,d, $J=7.0$ Hz) 3.82(1H,d, $J=11.8$ Hz) 3.60(1H,d, $J=11.8$ Hz) 3.50(2H,m) 3.05(1H,t, $J=11.0$ Hz) 2.90(1H,dd, $J_1=11.0$ Hz $J_2=5.0$ Hz) 2.65(3H,m) 2.54(1H,td, $J_{1,2}=11.8$ Hz $J_3=2.5$ Hz) 2.44(1H,dd, $J_1=10.8$ Hz $J_2=4.9$ Hz) 1.8(1H,d, $J=11.8$ Hz) 1.65(1H,td, $J_{1,2}=11.8$ Hz $J_3=5.0$ Hz)
 ^{13}C NMR 157.1(q, $J_{\text{CCF}}=37$ Hz) 141.8(s) 133.1(s) 129.1(d) 127.2(d) 115.8(q, $J_{\text{CF}}=289$ Hz) 89.4(t) 74.8(s) 65.9(t) 55.7(t) 52.7(t) 48.8(t) 41.8(t) 36.3(t) 35.4(d)
- 13 ^1H NMR 7.20(2H,d, $J=8.8$ Hz) 7.14(2H,d, $J=8.8$ Hz) 7.12(4H,s,br) 6.02(1H,m) 3.74(1H,dt, $J_1=19.0$ Hz $J_2=3.0$ Hz) 3.48(1H,d, $J=13.5$ Hz) 3.46(1H,d, $J=14.0$ Hz) 3.37(1H,d, $J=13.5$ Hz) 3.25-3.05 (3H,m) 2.77-2.58(3H,m) 2.53-2.32(3H,m)
 ^{13}C NMR 139.7(s) 139.4(s) 139.2(s) 132.6(s) 128.4(d) 128.3(d) 128.0(d) 127.5(d) 126.7(d) 126.2(d) 63.4(t) 58.3(t) 58.2(t) 54.4(t) 54.0(t) 49.0(t) 34.1(d)
- 14 ^1H NMR 7.40-6.90(9H,m) 5.99(1H,s,br) 3.75(1H,dt, $J_1=19.0$ Hz, $J_2J_3=3.3$ Hz) 3.41(1H,d, $J=14.1$ Hz) 3.25-3.05(3H,m) 2.85-2.65(3H,m) 2.65-2.40(7H,m)
 ^{13}C NMR 140.5(s) 139.6(s) 139.4(s) 132.7(s) 128.7(d) 128.5(d) 128.2(d) 127.5(d) 126.6(d) 125.8(d) 61.0(t) 58.4(t) 57.8(t) 54.5(t) 48.9(t) 34.3(d) 34.0(t) 29.6(t)
- 15 ^1H NMR 7.25-7.15(4H,m) 7.10-6.85(4H,m) 5.96(1H,m) 3.62(2H,s) 3.16(2H,q, $J=2.8$ Hz) 2.84(2H,t, $J=5.9$ Hz) 2.77-2.64(8H,m) 2.46(2H,m)
 ^{13}C NMR 139.2(s) 134.6(s) 134.2(s) 134.0(s) 132.6(s) 128.6(d) 128.3(d) 126.5(d) 126.2(d) 126.1(d) 125.6(d) 122.4(d) 56.5(t) 56.1(t) 55.9(t) 53.6(t) 51.4(t) 50.7(t) 29.0(t) 28.0(t)
- 16 ^1H NMR 7.40-7.10(9H,m) 6.10(1H,s,br) 3.85(1H,dt, $J_1=19.0$ Hz $J_{2,3}=2.2$ Hz) 3.57(1H,d, $J=14.0$ Hz) 3.55(1H,d, $J=13.6$ Hz) 3.45(1H,d, $J=13.6$ Hz) 3.30-3.05(3H,m) 2.9-2.65(3H,m) 2.57(2H,d, $J=4.3$ Hz) 2.55-2.35(1H,m)
 ^{13}C NMR 140.9(s) 140.7(s) 139.7(s) 128.4(d) 128.3(d) 128.0(d) 126.9(d) 126.6(d) 126.2(d) 125.7(d) 63.4(t) 58.4(t) 54.4(t) 53.9(t) 49.0(t) 34.1(d)

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