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# Photoinduced Molecular Transformations. Part 151.<sup>1</sup> One-Pot Synthesis of 1*H*-Benz[g]indole-4,5-diones by a Regioselective (3+2) Photoaddition of 4-Amino-1,2-naphthoquinones with Alkenes

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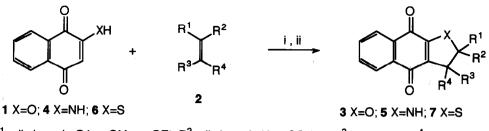
Abstract: 1H-Benz[g]indole-4,5-diones are formed in up to 82% yields by the (3+2) photoaddition of 4-amino-1,2-naphthoquinone with alkyl vinyl ethers in acetone with Pyrex-filtered light, while a 1:1 mixture of 2,3-dihydro-1H-benz[g]indole-4,5-dione and 2,3-dihydronaphtho[2,3-b]furan-4,9-dione is formed in 32% yield by the (3+2) photoaddition of 4-amino-1,2-naphthoquinone with isobutene in acetone. On the other hand, the irradiation of 4-phenylamino-1,2-naphthoquinone with alkenes, such as ethyl vinyl ether or isobutene, in acetone gave 2,3-dihydro-4-phenylaminonaphtho[2,3-b]furan-9-ones, arising from the (3+2) photoaddition in up to 34% yields. The intermediate hydroquinones in these (3+2) photoadditions was confirmed by the formation of acetates of the intermediate hydroquinones upon treating of the initial photoadducts with acetic anhydride. The formation mechanism of these (3+2) photoadducts is discussed.

In previous papers<sup>2</sup> we reported that 2,3-dihydronaphtho[2,3-*b*]furan-4,9-diones **3** are formed in high yields by a new regioselective (3+2) photoaddition of 2-hydroxy-1,4-naphthoquinones **1** with a variety of alkenes **2** in acetone or benzene with Pyrex-filtered light. Our subsequent studies have disclosed that 2,3-dihydro-1*H*-benz[*f*]indole-4,9-diones **5**<sup>3</sup> and 2,3-dihydronaphtho[2,3-*b*]thiophene-4,9-diones<sup>4</sup> can be obtained in a single procedure by a similar (3+2) photoaddition of 2-aminonaphthoquinone, such as **4**, and of photogenerated 2-mercapto-1,4-naphthoquinone **6** with various electron-rich alkenes **2**, respectively, as outlined in Scheme 1. We have reported since that these (3+2) photoadditions are a general reaction of 2-hydroxy-, 2-amino- and 2-mercapto-1,4-quinones which take place between 2-hydroxy- or 2-amino-1,4-anthraquinone,<sup>5</sup> 2-hydroxy-1,4-benzoquinones,<sup>6</sup> and 2-hydroxy-1,4-phenanthrenequinone<sup>7</sup> with alkenes.

In this paper we report that similar (3+2) photoadducts are formed when 4-amino-1,2-naphthoquinones with alkenes in solution are irradiated. There have been some reports concerning the photochemical reactions of 1,2-naphthoquinone and their derivatives: a photoinduced intramolecular hydrogen abstraction of 3-alkoxy-1,2-naphthoquinones<sup>8a</sup> and photoadditions of 1,2-naphthoquinone with alkenes<sup>8b</sup> and aliphatic aldehydes.<sup>8c</sup> No reaction analogous to the present (3+2) photoaddition involving amino group has, however, been reported in the area of the photochemistry of 1,2-naphthoquinones.

#### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Substrates and their Electronic Spectra. ——Known 4-amino-1,2-naphthoquinone  $8^9$  and 4-anilino-1,2-naphthoquinone  $14^{10}$  were used as substrates for the present work. The tautomerism of these quinones in solution has been studied by several groups.<sup>10</sup> Based on their studies of the <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of 4-amino- and 4-



 $R^1$ =alkyl, aryl, OAc, OMe or OEt;  $R^2$ =alkyl, aryl, H or CO<sub>2</sub>Me;  $R^3$ =H or alkyl;  $R^4$ =H or alkyl i, hv, acetone ; ii, air

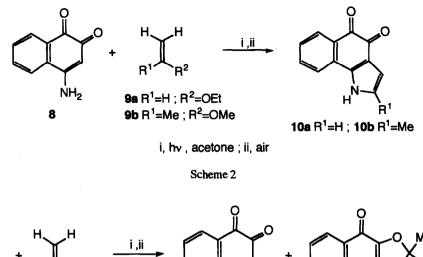
#### Scheme 1

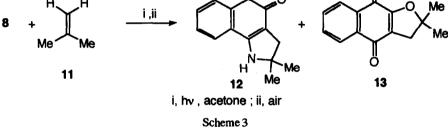
arylamino-1,2-naphthoquinones in neutral and basic solvents, Y ano and colleagues have concluded that the predominant tautomers of these quinones in neutral solvents are the orthoquinone forms.<sup>10c</sup> These results have also been supported by their studies of the electronic spectra of these quinones, which exhibited intense absorption maxima in the UV and visible regions [4-amino-1,2-naphthoquinone: 235 (log  $\varepsilon$  4.20), 273 (log  $\varepsilon$ : 4.31) and 456 (log  $\varepsilon$ ; 3.56)].<sup>10c,11</sup>

The (3+2)Photoadditions of 4-Amino- or 5-Anilino-1,2-naphthoquinones with Alkenes.——The photoadditions of 4-amino- or 4-anilino-1,2-naphthoquinones with alkenes were carried out in a  $6 \times 10^{-3}$  M acetone solution under the conditions described for the (3+2) photoaddition of 2-amino-1,4-naphthoquinones with alkenes by us.<sup>3</sup> Thus, the irradiation of a solution of 4-aminonaphthoquinone 8 and ethyl vinyl ether 9a in acetone with Pyrex-filtered light generated by a 500-W high-pressure Hg arc for 75 h gave a single crystalline product 10a in 82% yield. The high-resolution mass spectrum of product 10a indicated the molecular formula to be C12H7NO2. The IR spectrum exhibited a series of absorption bands assignable to NH and orthoquinone carbonyl groups. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum in DMSO-d6 showed two doublets at 6.78 and 7.30 (J 3.08) assignable to 3- and 2-H of the pyrrole nucleus. These results indicated that product 10a was 1H-benz[g]indole-4,5-dione, arising from the (3+2) photoaddition of 4-amino-1,2-quinone with alkenes, followed by a spontaneous elimination of ethanol from the adducts. The photoaddition of 4-aminoquinone 8 with 2-methoxypropene 9b took place in a manner parallel to the reaction mentioned above and gave 2-methyl-1H-benz[g]indole-4,5-dione 10b in 60% yield. (Scheme 2)

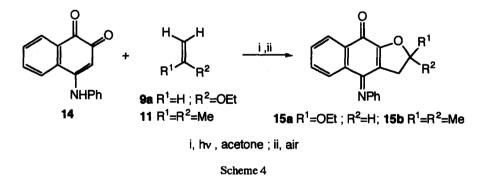
The irradiation of 4-aminoquinone 8 and isobutene 11 in acetone for 2.5 h under the conditions mentioned above, on the other hand, gave two products, 12 and 13, in modest yields. High-resolution mass spectrometry indicated the molecular formula of product 12 (14%) to be  $C_{14}H_{13}NO_2$ . The IR spectrum indicated a series of absorption bands due to the NH and orthoquinone carbonyl groups. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum indicated that a 6H singlet at  $\delta$  1.59 and a 2H singlet at  $\delta$  3.04 assignable to the dihydroindole nucleus. These spectral results indicated that product 12 was 2,3-dihydro-2,2-dimethy1-1H-benz[g]indole-4,5-dione. Product 13 (18%) was identical to 2,3-dihydro-2,2-dimethylnaphtho[2,3-b]furan-4,9-dione obtained by the (3+2) photoaddition of 2-hydroxy-1,4-naphthoquinone with isobutene by us.<sup>2</sup> (Scheme 3)

The photoaddition of 4-anilino-1,2-naphthoquinone 14 with vinyl ethers 9a and 11 under the abovementioned conditions gave 2-ethoxy-2,3-dihydro-4-phenyliminonaphtho[2,3-b]furan-9-one 15a and 2,3-

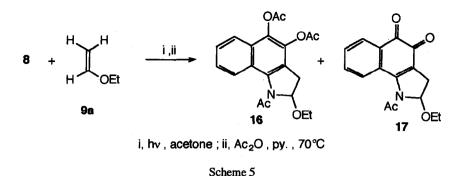




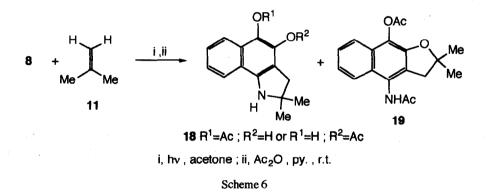
dihydro-2,2-dimethyl-4-phenyliminonaphtho[2,3b]furan-9-one **15b** in 15 and 34%, respectively. (Scheme 4) These structures were deduced by spectroscopic analysis, the details of which are described in the experimental section.



The initial products leading to 1H-benz[g]indole-4,5-diones 10a and 10b in the present photoadditions were proved to be the corresponding hydroquinones. Thus, 1-acetyl-4,5-bis(acetoxy)-2-ethoxy-2,3-dihydro-1Hbenz[g]indole 16 could be isolated in 32% yield together with 1-acetyl-2-ethoxy-2,3-dihydro-1H-benz[g]indole-4,5-dione 17 in 15% yield when the crude products from the photoaddition of 4-amino-1,2-naphthoquinone 8 and ethyl vinyl ether 9a were treated with acetic anhydride and pyridine under a nitrogen atmosphere for 3h at 70°C (Scheme 5). A similar treatment of the crude products obtained from the photoaddition of



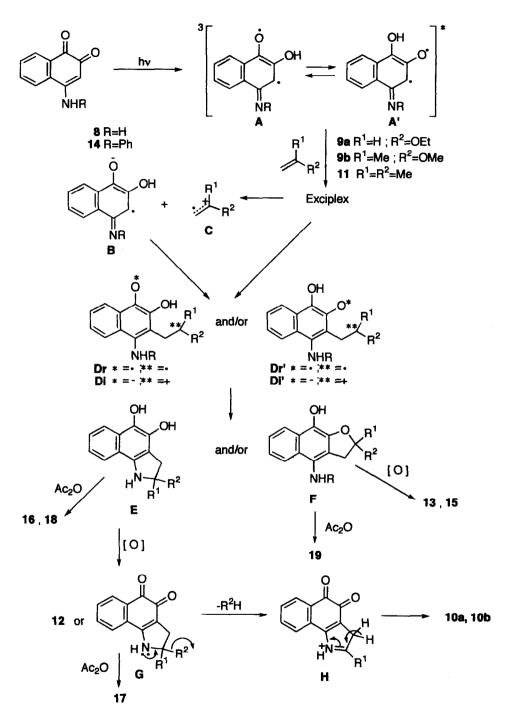
aminonaphthoquinone 8 and isobutene 11 with acetic anhydride and pyridine gave a mixture of 4 (or 5)-acetoxy-2,3-dihydro-5 (or 4)-hydroxy-2,2-dimethyl-1*H*-benz[g]indole 18 and 4-acetylamino-9-acetoxy-2,3-dihydro-2,2-dimethylnaphtho[2,3-b]furane 19 in 17 and 19% yield, respectively, as outlined in Scheme 6.



The aforementioned experiments have also shown that, in contrast to the above-mentioned results concerning the photoaddition of 4-amino-1,2-naphthoquinone 8, the photoreaction of 4-anilino-1,2-naphthoquinone 1 4 with either alkyl vinyl ether 9a or alkene 1 1 afforded 2,3-dihydro-4-phenylaminonaphtho [2,3-b]furan-9-ones 15a or 15b as the regioselective (3+2) photoadduct in lower yield, respectively.

We also confirmed the intermediacy of the hydroquinones in these (3+2) photoadditions by trapping the hydroquinones as their acetates by treating the initial photoadducts with acetic anhydride.

One of the suggested gross reaction pathways of the photoaddition leading to the (3+2) photoadducts,





(10a, 10b, 12, 13, 15a, and 15b), is outlined in Scheme 7. The irradiation of guinones 8 and 14 in acetone generates tautomeric excited triplets, A and A.' which are species analogous to the tautomeric-excited triplets generated from 2-hydroxy- or 2-amino-1,4-naphthoquinones by irradiation, as reported by us previously.<sup>2,3,5-7</sup> These excited species then react with an alkene through an exciplex to give biradical Dr and Dr'. These biradical species may either have an appreciable polar character or be ionic intermediates Di and Di', analogous to the biradical species generated in the (3+2) photoaddition of 2-hydroxy- or 2-aminonaphthoguinones with alkenes.<sup>3</sup> Alternatively, the ionic intermediates, Di and Di', may be formed through a pair of radical ions, B and C.  $^{12,13}$ The regioselectivity found in the present photoaddition may suggest that the photoaddition is a two-step process involving a more stabilized polar radical or ionic intermediates, such as Di and Di'. An intramolecular cyclization of the intermediate gives either hydroquinone E or F. The oxidation of E by air gives 1,2-naphthoquinone 12, while the oxidation of F gives para species 13 and 15. As mentioned previously, 1-acetyl-4,5-bis(acetoxy)-2ethoxy-2,3-dihydro-1H-benz[g]indole 16 and the corresponding orthoquinone 17 are isolated when the products obtained from the photoaddition of 4-amino-1,2-naphthoquinone 8 and ethyl vinyl ether 9a are treated with acetic anhydride and base and the 2-ethoxyl groups attached to products 16 and 17 are not eliminated under the conditions of the acetylation. These results indicates that 1H-benz[g]indole-4,5-diones 10a and 10b are formed by elimination of an element of alcohol from an intermediate G through a species H, as outlined in Scheme 7.

The aforementioned experiments have also shown that, in contrast to the exclusive formation of 1Hbenz[g]indole-4,5-diones 10, arising from an elimination of an element of alcohol from the initial adducts, the photoaddition of anilinoquinone 14 gave exclusively 2-alkoxy-2,3-dihydro-4-phenyliminonaphtho[2,3-b]furan-9-one 15 without the loss of an alcohol. These results indicates that the enamino nitrogen played a role to facilitate the elimination of alcohols in the photoaddition of 4-aminoquinone 8.

The above-mentioned product difference in the photoaddition between 4-aminoquinone 8 and 4anilinoquinone 1 4 suggest that the relative base strength and bulkiness of the amino and anilino substituents attached to the 4-position of quinones 8 and 1 4 seem to be of importance in directing whether the photoadditions lead to orthoquinones, such as 10, or paraquinones, such as 15; the photoaddition of 4-aminoquinone 8 goes exclusively through intermediate DI, while the photoaddition of 4-anilinoquinone 14 gives exclusively the paraquinones 15. Cyclization of intermediate Di with more bulky and less basic 4-amilino nitrogen should be more hindered than cyclization of intermediate Di with a less bulky and more basic 4-amino group.

The photoaddition described in this paper should be of value in organic molecular transformations.

#### **EXPERIMENTAL**

*General Method.* Regarding the instruments used and a general photolysis procedure, see the previous paper<sup>7</sup> of this series.

**1H-Benz[g]indole-4,5-diones 10a.**—A solution of 4-amino-1,2-naphthoquinone **8** (200 mg, 1.15 mmol) and ethyl vinyl ether **9a** (1.68 g, 23 mmol) in acetone (200 cm<sup>3</sup>, 5.8 × 10<sup>-3</sup>M) was irradiated with a 500-W high-pressure Hg arc through a Pyrex filter under nitrogen for 75 h. After evaporation of the solvent, the residue was subjected to PLC on silica gel (1:1 dichloromethane-acetone). The orange band (Rf 0.5-0.6) was collected and eluted with acetone. The eluent was evaporated to give a crude material which was recrystallized from diethyl ether-hexane to give pure indoledione **10a** (186 mg, 82%): m.p. 197 °C (dec.); vmax/cm<sup>-1</sup> 3220, 1684, 1639 and 1601;  $\delta$ H (90 MHz, DMSO-d6) 6.78 (1H, d, J 3.08, 3-H), 7.30 (1H, d, J 3.08, 2-H) and 7.5-8.6 (5H, m, ArH and NH); m/z 197 (M,<sup>+</sup> 64) and 169 [(M-CO),<sup>+</sup> 100%] (Found: M,<sup>+</sup> 197.0504. C12H7NO2 requires *M*, 197.0477).

**2-Methyl-1H-Benz[g]indole-4,5-dione 10b.** — The irradiation of a solution of **8** (86 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 2-methoxypropene, **9b** (360 mg, 5 mmol) in acetone (85 cm<sup>3</sup>,  $5.9 \times 10^{-3}$ M) for 7 days and separation of the product in a similar way to that described above gave indoledione **10b** (43 mg, 60%): m.p. 290 °C (diethyl edther-hexane); vmax/cm<sup>-1</sup> 3156, 1687, 1634 and 1611;  $\delta$ H (90 MHz, DMSO-d6) 2.26 (3H, s, 2-Me), 6.18 (1H, s, 3-H) and 7.15-8.1 (5H, m, ArH and NH); *m/z* 211 (M,<sup>+</sup> 72) and 182 [(M-CO),<sup>+</sup> 100%] (Found: M,<sup>+</sup> 211.0614. C13H9NO2 requires *M*, 211.0633).

**2,3**-Dihydro-2,2-dimethyl-1H-Benz[g]indole-4,5-dione 12 and 2,3-dihydro-2,2dimethylnaphtho[2,3-b]furan-4,9-dione 13. — A solution of 8 (49 mg, 0.28 mmol) and isobutene, 11 (157 mg, 2.8 mmol) in acetone (50 cm<sup>3</sup>, 5.6 × 10<sup>-3</sup>M) was irradiated as mentioned above for 2.5 h. The crude product was subjected to PLC on silica gel (10 : 1 dichloromethane-acetone) to give ortho- and paraquinones  $12^{3}$  (8.9 mg, 14%) and 13 (11 mg, 18%): 12 Rf 0.58; m.p. 135-137 °C (hexane-dichloromethane); vmax/cm<sup>-1</sup> 3260, 1671, 1629 and 1603; δH (90 MHz), 1.59 (6H, s, 2-Me), 3.04 (2H, s, 3-H) 7.55-7.75 (2H, m, 7- and 8-H) and 8.1-8.35 (3H, m, 6-, 9-H and NH); m/z 227 (M,<sup>+</sup> 100%) (Found: M,<sup>+</sup> 227.0949. C14H13NO2 requires M, 227.0946).

**2**-*Ethoxy*-**2**,**3**-*dihydro*-**4**-*phenyliminonaphtho*[**2**,**3**-*b*]*furan*-**9**-*one***15a**. —A solution of 4phenylamino-1,2-naphthoquinone **14** (200 mg, 0.80 mmol) and ethyl vinyl ether **9a** (580 mg, 8.0 mmol) in acetone (150 cm<sup>3</sup>, 5.5 × 10<sup>-3</sup>M) was irradiated for 41 h and the product was subjected to PLC on silica gel to give **15a** (38 mg, 15%): an oil; Rf 0.86 (1:1 THF-hexane); vmax/cm<sup>-1</sup> (neat) 1669, 1603 and 1591;  $\delta$ H (270 MHz), 1.17 (3H, t, *J* 6.93, -OCH2CH3), 2.23 (1H, dd, *J* 18.47 and 2.97, 3-H), 2.68 (1H, dd, *J* 18.47 and 7.26, 3-H), 3.57 (1H, dq, *J* 9.24 and 6.93, -OCHHCH3), 3.94 (1H, dq, *J* 9.24 and 6.93, OCHHCH3), 5.57 (1H, dd, *J* 7.26 and 2.97, 2-H), 6.82 (2H, d, *J* 7.59), 7.14 (1H, dd, J 7.59 and 7.26), 7.35 (2H, dd, *J* 7.91 and 7.59), 7.4-7.75 (2H, m, 6- and 7-H), 8.19 (1H, d, *J* 7.26) and 8.46 (1H, d, *J* 7.59); *m*/z 319 (M,<sup>+</sup> 100%) (Found: M,<sup>+</sup> 319.1210. C20H17NO4 requires *M*, 319.1208).

**2,3**-Dihydro-2,2-dimethyl-4-phenyliminonaphtho[2,3-b]furan-9-one 15b. — The irradiation of aminonaphthoquinone 14 (150 mg, 0.6 mmol) and isobutene 11 (336 mg, 6 mmol) in acetone (110 cm<sup>3</sup>, 5.5 ×  $10^{-3}$ M) for 70 h gave, after purification by PLC on silica gel (1:1 THF-hexane), **15b** (62 mg, 34 %): Rf 0.82; m.p. 105-107 °C (hexane-chloroform); vmax/cm<sup>-1</sup> 1670, 1602 and 1591;  $\delta$ H (90 MHz) 1.35 (6H, s, 2-Me), 2.25 (2H, s, 3-H), 6.75-7.75 (7H, m), 8.1-8.5 (1H, m) and 8.4-8.55 (1H, m); *m/z* 303 (M,<sup>+</sup> 100%) (Found: M,<sup>+</sup> 303.1257. C20H17NO2 requires *M*, 303.1259).

1-Acetyl-4,5-bis(acetoxy)-2-ethoxy-2,3-dihydro-1H-benz[g]indole 16 and 1-acetyl-2-ethoxy-2,3-dihydro-1H-benz[g]indole-4,5-dione 17. — A solution of 8 (200 mg, 1.15 mmol) and ethyl vinyl ether 9 (840 mg, 11.5 mmol) in acetone (200 cm<sup>3</sup>,  $5.8 \times 10^{-3}$ M) was irradiated as mentioned above for 23 h; the solvent was then evaporated. To the residue was added acetic anhydride and pyridine (each 3 cm<sup>3</sup>), and the resulting mixture was heated at 70 °C for 3h in an atmosphere of nitrogen. After removal of excess acetic anhydride and pyridine in vacuo the residue was subjected to PLC on silica gel (1:5 EtOAc-hexane) to give hydroquinone diacetate 16 (137 mg, 32 %) and orthoquinone 17 (49 mg, 15 %). 16: Rf 0.64; an oil; vmax/cm<sup>-1</sup> (neat) 1775, 1718 and 1658;  $\delta_{\rm H}$  (270 MHz) 1.22 (3H, t, J 6.93, -OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.18 (3H, s, Ac), 2.43 (3H, s, Ac), 2.48 (3H, s, Ac), 3.02 (1H, dd, J 17.16 and 1.98, 3-H), 3.35 (1H, dd, J 17.16 and 6.27, 3-H), 3.66 (1H, dq, J 9.57 and 6.93, -OCHHCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.93 (1H, dq, J 9.57 and 6.93, -OCHHCH<sub>3</sub>), 5.91 (1H, dd, J 6.27 and 1.98, 2-H), 7.35-7.6 (3H, m) and 7.84 (1H, d, J7.58); m/z 371 (M,<sup>+</sup> 15), 329 [(M-CH<sub>2</sub>O),<sup>+</sup> 32] and 199 (100 %) (Found: M,<sup>+</sup> 371.1362. C20H<sub>2</sub>1NOs requires M, 371.1369). 17: Rf 0.67; m.p. 103-106 °C (from dichloromethane-hexane); vmax/cm<sup>-1</sup> 3370, 1672, 1650 (sh) and 1613;  $\delta_{\rm H}$  (270 MHz) 1.25 (3H, t, J 6.93, -OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.38 (3H, s, Ac), 2.89 (1H, dd, J 17.49 and 2.97, 3-H), 3.34 (1H, dd, J 17.49 and 7.26, 3-H), 3.71 (1H, dq, J 9.57 and 6.93, -OCHHCH3), 4.03 (1H, dq, J 9.57 and 6.93, -OCHHCH3), 5.87 (1H, dd, J 7.26 and 2.97, 2-H), 7.6-7.75 (2H, m, 7- and 8-H) and 8.1-8.2 (2H, m, 6- and 9-H); *m/z* 285 (M,<sup>+</sup> 8.7), 257 [(M-CO),<sup>+</sup> 35], 186 (48) and 43 (100 %) (Found: M,<sup>+</sup> 285.0980. C16H15NO4 requires *M*, 285.1001).

4 (or 5)-Acetoxy-2,3-dihydro-5(or 4)-hydroxy-2,2-dimethyl-IH-benz[g]indole 18 and 4acetylamino-9-acetoxy-2,3-dihydro-2,2-dimethylnaphtho[2,3-b]furan 19.——The irradiation of a solution of 8 (48 mg, 0.28 mmol) and isobutene (157 mg, 2.8 mmol) in acetone (50 cm<sup>3</sup>, 5.6 × 10<sup>-3</sup>M) for 2.5 h according to the manner mentioned above, followed by evaporation of the solvent, gave a residue which was treated with acetic anhydride and pyridine (2 cm<sup>3</sup> each) overnight at room temperature. After removing excess acetic anhydride and pyridine the crude product was subjected to by PLC on silica gel (1:2 THF-hexane) to give 18 (13 mg, 17 %) and 19 (18 mg, 19 %). 18: Rf 0.26; an oil; vmax/cm<sup>-1</sup> (neat) 3370, 1765 and 1654;  $\delta_H$  (270 MHz) 1.54 (6H, s, 2-Me), 2.43 (3H, s, Ac), 3.00 (2H, s, 3-H), 4.0 (1H, br. s, NH) and 7.2-7.7 (5H, m, ArH and OH); m/z 271 (M,<sup>+</sup> 27) and 229 [(M-CH2CO),<sup>+</sup> 100 %) (Found: M,<sup>+</sup> 271.1119. C16H17NO3 requires M, 271.1209). 19: Rf 0.39; an oil; vmax/cm<sup>-1</sup> (neat) 3350, 1777, 1675, 1643 and 1612;  $\delta_H$  (270 MHz, CDCl3) 1.55 (6H, s, 2-Me), 2.36 and 2.37 (6H, each s, Ac), 2.94 (2H, s, 3-H), 7.65-7.75 (2H, m, 6- and 7-H) and 8.1-8.25 (3H, m, 5-, 8-H and NH); m/z 313 (M,<sup>+</sup> 1.8), 269 (61) and 43 (100 %) (Found: M,<sup>+</sup> 313.1324. C18H19NO4 requires M, 313.1315).

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