A SYNTHESIS OF 2,3,4,5-TETRAHYDRO-1H-3-BENZAZEPINES VIA
PUMMERER-TYPE CYCLIZATION OF N-(2-ARYLETHYL)-N-(2-PHENYLSULFINYLETHYL)FORMAMIDES

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Abstract - A construction of 2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1H-3-benzazepine ring system
(7) was achieved via Pummerer-type cyclization of N-(2-arylethyl)-N-2-(phenylsulfinylethyl)formamides (6). This route produced the benzazepines (10) and (11) in six steps starting from readily available 2-arylethylamines (2) and 2-chloroethyl phenyl sulfide.

2,3,4,5-Tetrahydro-1H-3-benzazepine derivatives have received considerable attention, in part due to their interesting pharmacological activities observed in the compounds (1), a class of dopamine receptor antagonists and neuroleptics. In a series of paper we reported the synthesis of 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolines, and 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinolines using an aromatic cyclization of the in situ formed thionium ion generated under the acidic conditions from a sulfynyl precursor (Pummerer reaction). We now describe a further extension of this method to the synthesis of 2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1H-3-benzazepines.

Preparation of Sulfoxides

N-(2-Arylethyl)-N-(2-phenylsulfinylethyl)formamides (6a-b), substrates of
the Pummerer-type cyclization, were prepared from 2-arylethylamines (2a-b) via the route shown in Scheme 1. A mixture of 2a-b and 2-chloroethyl phenyl sulfide in dioxane was heated under reflux for 3 days in the presence of a phase transfer catalyst to afford secondary amines (3a-b) in good yields, although the undesired dialkyl derivatives (4a-b) were accompanied as a minor product. The amines (3a-b) were then treated with formic acid-acetic anhydride to give N-formyl derivatives (5a-b). Oxidation of 5a-b with sodium metaperiodate in aqueous methanol gave sulfoxides (6a-b) in good overall yields.

**Scheme 1**

**Pummerer Reaction.** The sulfoxide (6a), on treatment with trifluoroacetic anhydride (TFAA) in benzene at room temperature for 24 h (method A), readily induced the cyclization to afford 3-formyl-7,8-dimethoxy-1-phenylsulfanyl-1H-3-benzazepine (7a) in 80% yield. On the other hand, the sulfoxide (6b) lacking an OMe group in the benzene ring, when treated as described above, did not induce the cyclization and merely produced a disulfide (8b) in 38% yield. In our previous investigations, we found that a similar cyclization, in the presence of BF₃•Et₂O used as an additive reagent proceeded in a highly effective manner, particularly in the cases of the aromatic ring with weak nucleophilicity. In fact, application of this reaction (method B) for the sulfoxide (6b) induced the cyclization to afford 3-formyl-1-phenylsulphanyl-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1H-3-benzazepine (7b) in 47% yield, although 8b and a sulfide (5b) were accompanied as minor products. The reaction of 6a under the method B condition only decreased the yield of 7a (63%), although the reaction was
much accelerated.

The results demonstrated that the Pummerer reaction is applicable for the construction of the 3-benzazepine ring even in the substrate whose nucleophilic aromatic ring is not activated by electron donating group such as OMe. However, this cyclization is less effective than that achieved in the 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline synthesis via this reaction.²

![Scheme 2](image)

**Preparation of 2,3,4,5-Tetrahydro-1H-3-benzazepines.** Reductive removal of the phenylsulfanyl group of 7a-b proceeded by treatment with NiCl₂-NaBH₄ in MeOH-THF to give N-formyl-3-benzazepines (9a-b) in good yields. Deprotection of the N-formyl group was readily achieved by conventional methods. Alkaline hydrolysis of 9a-b gave 3-benzazepines (10a-b). Reduction of 9a-b with LiAlH₄ gave N-methylbenzazepines (11a-b).

Thus, this route produces the benzazepines (10a) and (11a) in 38 and 24% overall yields, respectively, from commercially available homoveratrylamine (2a) and 2-chloroethyl phenyl sulfide, thus providing a convenient and general method of 3-benzazepine synthesis. The benzazepines (10a) and (11a) are the synthetic intermediates of biologically important 3-benzazepines (1).³,⁶

**EXPERIMENTAL**
General Notes. Melting points were taken on a Yanagimoto SP-M1 hot-stage melting point apparatus. TLC was performed on Merck precoated Silica gel 60 F254 plates (Merck). Column chromatography was carried out with silica gel (Wakogel C-200). Medium pressure liquid chromatography (MPLC) was performed on Kusano CIG prepacked column. IR spectra were obtained as KBr disks with a HORIBA FT-710 spectrophotometer and are given in cm⁻¹. NMR spectra were measured on a JEOL JNM-EX90 (¹H-NMR 90 MHz, ¹³C-NMR 22.5 MHz) or JEOL JMS-AL 300 (¹H-NMR 300 MHz, ¹³C-NMR 75.0 MHz) spectrometer in CDCl₃ with tetramethylsilane as an internal standard, and the chemical shifts are given in δ values. Low-resolution MS spectra (LR-MS) and high-resolution MS spectra (HR-MS) were determined on a JEOL JMS-HX110A or JMS-D300 spectrometer at 30 eV with a direct inlet system. The organic extract from each reaction mixture was washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ before concentration in vacuo.

Alkylation of 1 with 2-Chloroethyl Phenyl Sulfide. Typical Procedure. A mixture of 2a (1.0 g, 5.5 mmol), 2-chloroethyl phenyl sulfide (1.15 g, 6.6 mmol), Na₂CO₃ (0.88 g, 8.3 mmol), NaI (0.83 g, 5.5 mmol), and tetrabutylammonium bromide (TBAB) (0.89 g, 2.8 mmol) in dioxane (25 mL) was refluxed for 72 h under argon atmosphere. After removal of inorganic precipitates by filtration, the residual oil was concentrated in vacuo, and the residue after dilution with H₂O was extracted with CHCl₃. The residual oil was chromatographed with hexane/ethyl acetate (1:2) to give 4a (0.38 g, 15%). Further elution with MeOH gave 3a (1.4 g, 80%).

N-[2-(3,4-Dimethoxyphenyl)ethyl]-2-phenylsulfonyl-ethylamine (3a): Pale yellow oil. IR (film): 3312, 1518. ¹H-NMR (90 MHz): 1.73 (1H, br s, >NH), 2.7-3.1 (8H, m, ArCH₂CH₂-, PhSCH₂CH₂-), 3.86 (6H, s, OCH₃x2), 6.7-6.8 (3H, m, ArH), 7.1-7.4 (5H, m, PhH). ¹³C-NMR (22.5 MHz): 34.0 (t), 35.7 (t), 48.0 (t), 50.6 (t), 55.7 (q), 55.8 (q), 111.3 (d), 111.9 (d), 120.4 (d), 126.0 (d), 128.7 (dx2), 129.5 (dx2), 132.3 (s), 135.6 (s), 147.4 (s), 148.8 (s). LR-MS m/z: 317 (M⁺, 4), 137 (100). HR-MS m/z (M⁺): Calcd for C₁₈H₂₃NO₂S: 317.1449. Found: 317.1484.

N-[2-(3,4-Dimethoxyphenyl)ethyl]-di[2-(phenylsulfanyl)ethyl]amine (4a): Yellow gum. IR (film): 1518. ¹H-NMR (90 MHz): 2.6-3.1 (12H, m, ArCH₂CH₂-, PhSCH₂CH₂-x2), 3.85, 3.86 (each 3H, s, OCH₃x2), 6.6-6.9
N-(2-Phenylethyl)-2-phenylsulfanylethylamine (3b): From 2-phenylethylamine (2b) (8 g, 66 mmol), 2-chloroethyl phenyl sulfide (12.0 g, 72.8 mmol), Na₂CO₃ (10.6 g, 100 mmol), NaI (10.0 g, 66 mmol), and TBAB (5.4 g, 33 mmol) in dioxane (200 mL); column chromatography (hexane/ethyl acetate 1:4) gave 3b (10.7 g, 63%) as pale yellow oil; IR (film): 3303, 1583. ¹H-NMR (90 MHz): 1.54 (1H, br s, >NH), 2.6-3.2 (8H, m, PhCH₂CH₂-, PhSCH₂CH₂-), 6.9-7.5 (10H, m, PhH₂). ¹³C-NMR (75 MHz): 34.1 (t), 36.3 (t), 48.1 (t), 50.7 (t), 126.16 (d), 126.20 (d), 128.4 (dx2), 128.7 (dx2), 128.9 (dx2), 129.7 (dx2), 135.6 (s), 139.8 (s). CI-MS m/z: 258 (MH⁺, 100). HR-MS m/z (M⁺): Calcd for C₁₆H₁₉NS: 257.1236. Found: 257.1219.

N-(2-Phenylethyl)-di[2-(phenylsulfanyl)ethyl]amine (4b): Elution of hexane/ethyl acetate (20:1) gave 4b (1.5 g, 6%) as yellow oil. IR (film): 1583. ¹H-NMR (90 MHz): 2.5-3.2 (12H, m, PhCH₂CH₂-, PhSCH₂CH₂-x2), 6.9-7.5 (10H, m, PhH₂). ¹³C-NMR (22.5 MHz): 31.6 (tx2), 34.0 (t), 53.4 (tx2), 56.1 (t), 125.9 (dx2), 126.0 (dx2), 128.3 (dx2), 128.6 (dx2), 128.8 (dx3), 129.1 (dx4), 136.3 (sx2), 140.1 (s). CI-MS m/z: 394 (MH⁺, 100). HR-MS m/z (M⁺): Calcd for C₂₄H₂₇NS₂: 393.1585. Found: 393.1586.

Formylation of 3. Typical Procedure. To a solution of 3a (11 g, 34.7 mmol) in formic acid (10 mL) was added slowly the mixed anhydride prepared from formic acid (25 mL, 0.66 mol) and acetic anhydride (33 mL, 0.35 mol) at 0 °C, and the mixture was heated at 60°C for 1 h. The reaction mixture was concentrated in vacuo and extracted with CHCl₃. The residue was chromatographed with CHCl₃ to give 5a (11.9 g, 99%) as yellow gum.

N-[2-(3,4-Dimethoxyphenyl)ethyl]-N-(2-phenylsulfanylethyl)formamide (5a): IR (film): 1671, 1518. ¹H-NMR (90 MHz): 2.6-3.7 (8H, m, ArCH₂CH₂-, PhSCH₂CH₂-), 3.85 (6H, s, OCH₃x2), 6.5-6.8 (3H, m, ArH), 7.2-7.4 (5H, m, PhH), 7.83, 8.00 (total 1H, each s, CHO). LR-MS m/z: 345 (M⁺, 7), 164 (100). HR-MS m/z
N-(2-Phenylethyl)-N-(2-phenylsulfanylethyl)formamide (5b): From 3b (8.5 g, 33.1 mmol); column chromatography (hexane/ethyl acetate 5:4) gave 5b (9.3 g, 99%) as yellow gum. IR (film): 1668. $^1$H-NMR (90 MHz): 2.6-3.7 (8H, m, PhCH$_2$CH$_2$-, PhSCH$_2$CH$_2$-), 6.9-7.6 (10H, m, PhHx2), 7.82, 7.99 (total 1H, eachs, CHO). LR-MS $m/z$: 285 (M$^+$, 6), 136 (100). HR-MS $m/z$ (M$^+$): Calcd for C$_{17}$H$_{19}$NOS: 285.1186. Found: 285.1216.

Oxidation of 5a with NaIO$_4$. Typical Procedure. A solution of 5a (5 g, 14.5 mmol) and NaIO$_4$ (4.65 g, 21.75 mmol) in MeOH (60 mL) and H$_2$O (30 mL) was stirred at rt for 1.5 h. After removal of inorganic precipitates by filtration, the filtrate was concentrated in vacuo. The residue was extracted with CHCl$_3$. The product was chromatographed with hexane/ethyl acetate (1:2) to give 6a (4.9 g, 93%) as yellow gum.

N-[2-(3,4-Dimethoxyphenyl)ethyl]-N-(2-phenylsulfinylethyl)formamide (6a): IR (film): 1669, 1518. $^1$H-NMR (90 MHz): 2.7-3.8 (8H, m, ArCH$_2$CH$_2$-, PhS(O)CH$_2$CH$_2$-), 3.86 (6H, s, OCH$_3$x2), 6.6-6.9 (3H, m, ArH), 7.4-7.7 (5H, m, PhH), 7.81, 8.10 (total 1H, each s, CHO). CI-MS $m/z$: 362 (MH$^+$, 91). HR-MS $m/z$ (M$^+$): Calcd for C$_{19}$H$_{23}$NO$_4$S: 361.1347. Found: 361.1347.

N-(2-Phenylethyl)-N-(2-phenylsulfinylethyl)formamide (6b): From 5b (9 g, 31.6 mmol); column chromatography (hexane/ethyl acetate 2:1) gave 6b (8.7 g, 92%) as yellow gum. IR (film): 1668. $^1$H-NMR (90 MHz): 2.6-3.8 (8H, m, Ph-CH$_2$CH$_2$-, PhS(O)-CH$_2$CH$_2$-), 7.0-7.7 (10H, m, PhHx2), 7.78, 8.10 (total 1H, each s, CHO). CI-MS $m/z$: 302 (MH$^+$, 92). HR-MS $m/z$ (M$^+$): Calcd for C$_{17}$H$_{19}$NO$_2$S: 301.1137. Found: 301.1173.

Pummerer Reaction of 6a.

i) Method A: TFAA (580 mg, 2.76 mmol) in benzene (5 mL) was added to a solution of 6a (200 mg, 0.55 mmol) in benzene (15 mL) at rt under argon atmosphere, and the mixture was stirred for 24 h at the same temperature. After concentration of the mixture in vacuo, the residue was chromatographed with hexane/ethyl acetate (3:1) to give 7a (153 mg, 80%) as pale yellow gum.

ii) Method B: A solution of TFAA (1.45 g, 6.9 mmol) in benzene (5 mL) was added to a solution of 6a (500 mg, 1.39 mmol) at rt under argon atmosphere, and the mixture was stirred for 30 min. To this mixture was added
BF₃•Et₂O (600 mg, 4.2 mmol) and the mixture was further stirred at rt for 1.5 h. After concentration of the mixture in vacuo, the residue was treated with 5% NaHCO₃, and extracted with CHCl₃. The product was chromatographed with hexane/ethyl acetate (3:1) to give 7a (300 mg, 63%).

**3-Formyl-7,8-dimethoxy-1-phenylsulfanyl-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1H-3-benzazepine (7a):** IR (film): 1667, 1520. ¹H-NMR (90 MHz): 2.6-4.7 (7H, m, H-1, 2, 4, 5), 3.64, 3.72, 3.87 (total 6H, each s, OCH₃x2), 6.31, 6.45, 6.62, 6.65 (total 2H, each s, H-6, 9), 7.1-7.5 (5H, m, PhH), 7.95, 8.17 (total 1H, each s, CHO). LR-MS m/z: 343 (M⁺, 10), 206 (100). HR-MS m/z (M⁺): Calcd for C₁₉H₂₁NO₃S: 343.1243. Found: 343.1265.

**Pummerer Reaction of 6b.**

i) Method A: TFAA (719 mg, 3.42 mmol) in benzene (5 mL) was added to a solution of 6b (206 mg, 0.68 mmol) at rt under argon atmosphere, and the mixture was stirred for 48 h at the same temperature. After concentration of the mixture in vacuo, the residue was chromatographed with hexane/ethyl acetate (5:1) to give 8b (47 mg, 36%) as pale yellow gum.

**N-(2-Phenylethyl)-N-(2,2-diphenylsulfanylethyl)formamide (8b)**

IR (film): 1673. ¹H-NMR (90 MHz): 2.5-2.9 (2H, m, PhCH₂CH₂-), 3.3-3.8 (4H, m, PhCH₂CH₂-, (PhS)₂CHCH₂-), 4.27, 4.89 (total 1H, each t, J=7 Hz, (PhS)₂CHCH₂-), 6.9-7.6 (15H, m, PhHx3), 7.81, 8.04 (total 1H, each s, CHO). CI-MS m/z: 394 (MH⁺, 19), 284 (100). HR-MS m/z (M⁺): Calcd for C₂₃H₂₃NOS₂: 393.1218. Found: 393.1207.

ii) Method B: TFAA (1.74 g, 8.3 mmol) in benzene (5 mL) was added to a solution of 6b (500 mg, 1.66 mmol) at rt under argon atmosphere, and the mixture was stirred for 30 min. To the mixture was added BF₃•Et₂O (700 mg, 5 mmol) and the mixture was further stirred at rt for 1.5 h. After concentration of the mixture in vacuo, the residue was basified with 5% NaHCO₃, and extracted with CHCl₃. The product was chromatographed with hexane/ethyl acetate (5:1) to give 8b (37 mg, 9%), 5b (41 mg, 11%), and 7b. Further purification of the crude 7b by MPLC with hexane/ethyl acetate (5:1) gave 7b (220 mg, 47%) as colorless gum.

**3-Formyl-1-phenylsulfanyl-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1H-3-benzazepine (7b):** IR (film): 1668. ¹H-NMR (90 MHz):
Reductive Desulfurization of 7a. General Procedure. To a stirred solution of 7 (a or b) (1 mol eq) NiCl₂•6H₂O (7 mol eq) in MeOH-THF (3:1) was added NaBH₄ (21 mol eq) by portions at 0°C. After the addition was complete, stirring was continued at rt for 20 min. The reaction mixture was filtered and the filtrate was concentrated in vacuo. The products were purified by column chromatography.

3-Formyl-7,8-dimethoxy-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1H-3-benzazepine (9a): From 7a (218 mg, 0.64 mmol); column chromatography (hexane/CHCl₃ 1:2) gave 9a (131 mg, 88%) as colorless prisms from Et₂O, mp 101-103 °C. IR: 1665. ¹H-NMR (300 MHz): 2.8-2.9 (4H, m, H-1, 5), 3.46, 3.66 (each 2H, each t, J=5 Hz, H-2, 4), 3.87 (6H, s, OCH₃x2), 6.66, 6.69 (each 1H, s, H-6, 9), 8.14 (1H, s, CHO). LR-MS m/z: 235 (M⁺, 100). Anal. Calcd for C₁₃H₁₇NO₃: C, 66.36; H, 7.28; N, 5.95. Found: C, 66.58; H, 7.35; N, 5.88.

3-Formyl-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1H-3-benzazepine (9b): From 7b (200 mg, 0.7 mmol); column chromatography (hexane/ethyl acetate 2:3) gave 9b (95 mg, 77%) as colorless plates from Et₂O, mp 71-73 °C. IR: 1654. ¹H-NMR: 2.7-3.0 (4H, m, H-1, 5), 3.3-3.8 (4H, m, H-2, 4), 7.0-7.4 (2H, m, H-6, 7, 8, 9), 8.14 (1H, s, CHO). LR-MS m/z: 175 (M⁺, 59), 117 (100). Anal. Calcd for C₁₁H₁₃NO: C, 75.40; H, 7.48; N, 7.99. Found: C, 75.36; H, 7.35; N, 7.93.

Hydrolysis of 9a. Typical Procedure. A solution of 9a (207 mg, 0.88 mmol) in EtOH (10 mL) and 10% NaOH (10 mL) was refluxed for 1 h. The mixture was concentrated in vacuo, and the residue after diluted with H₂O was extracted with CHCl₃. The product was recrystallized from Et₂O to give 10a (147 mg, 81%) as colorless prisms, mp 93-95 °C (lit., mp 94-95 °C).

7,8-Dimethoxy-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1H-3-benzazepine (10a): IR: 3550, 1520. ¹H-NMR (300 MHz): 1.99 (1H, br s, >NH), 2.8-2.9 (4H, m, H-1, 5), 2.9-3.0 (4H, m, H-2, 4), 3.85, 3.86 (each 3H, s, OCH₃x2), 6.64 (2H, s, H-6, 9). ¹³C-NMR: 39.9 (tx2), 48.8 (tx2), 56.0 (qx2), 113.4 (dx2), 134.4 (sx2), 146.5 (sx2). LR-MS m/z: 207 (M⁺, 71), 165 (100). HR-MS m/z (M⁺): Calcd for C₁₂H₁₇NO₂: 207.1257. Found: 207.1249.
2,3,4,5-Terahydro-1H-3-benzazepine (10b): From 9b (200 mg, 1.14 mmol); column chromatography (CHCl₃/MeOH 9:1) gave 10b (130 mg, 77%) as colorless prisms from Et₂O-hexane, mp 157-159 °C (lit.,⁸ bp 18126-127 °C). IR: 3272. ¹H-NMR (90 MHz): 1.82 (1H, br s, >NH), 2.60 (8H, s, H-1, 2, 4, 5), 6.6-7.0 (4H, m, H-6, 7, 8, 9). ¹³C-NMR: 40.3 (tx2), 48.6 (tx2), 126.1 (dx2), 129.2 (dx2), 142.3 (sx2). LR-MS m/z: 147 (M⁺, 98), 117 (100). HR-MS m/z (M⁺): Calcd for C₁₀H₁₃N: 147.1046. Found: 147.1046.

Reduction of 9a with LiAlH₄. Typical Procedure. LiAlH₄ (50 mg, 1.3 mmol) was added to a solution of 9a (150 mg, 0.64 mmol) in dry THF (30 mL) under ice-cooling, and the mixture was refluxed for 1 h. Et₂O saturated with water was added to the reaction mixture, and insoluble material was filtered off. The product was chromatographed with CHCl₃/ethyl acetate (1:1) to give 11a (71 mg, 50%) as colorless prisms from hexane, mp 37-39 °C (lit.,⁹ mp 262-263 °C as HCl salt).

7,8-Dimethoxy-3-methyl-2,3,4,5-terahydro-1H-3-benzazepine (11a): IR: 1517. ¹H-NMR: 2.37 (3H, s, >NCH₃), 2.4-2.7 (4H, m, H-1, 5), 2.7-3.0 (4H, m, H-2, 4), 3.85 (6H, s, OCH₃x2), 6.64 (2H, s, H-6, 9). ¹³C-NMR: 36.1 (tx2), 47.5 (q), 56.0 (qx2), 57.7 (tx2), 113.0 (dx2), 134.1 (sx2), 146.8 (sx2). LR-MS m/z: 221 (M⁺, 69), 165 (100). HR-MS m/z (M⁺): Calcd for C₁₃H₁₉NO₂: 221.1416. Found: 221.1417.

3-Methyl-2,3,4,5-terahydro-1H-3-benzazepine (11b): From 9b (400 mg, 2.3 mmol); column chromatography (ethyl acetate) gave 11b (300 mg, 82%) as colorless gum. IR (film): 1494. ¹H-NMR (90 MHz): 2.37 (3H, s, >NCH₃), 2.4-2.7 (4H, m, H-1, 5), 2.7-3.2 (4H, m, H-2, 4), 7.0-7.3 (4H, m, H-6, 7, 8, 9). ¹³C-NMR: 36.5 (tx2), 47.5 (q), 57.4 (tx2), 126.2 (dx2), 128.8 (dx2), 141.9 (sx2). FAB-LRMS m/z: 162 (MH⁺, 100). FAB-HRMS m/z (MH⁺): Calcd for C₁₁H₁₆N: 162.1283. Found: 162.1284.

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REFERENCES AND NOTES


