

3-HYDROXYPYRROLES. IV.¹

RING-ENLARGEMENT OF 3-HYDROXYPYRROLE-2-CARBOXYLATES

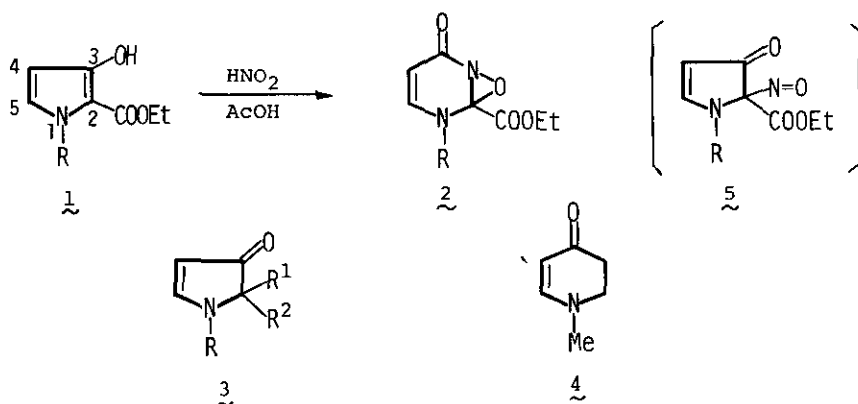
Takefumi Momose,* Tetsuaki Tanaka, Takashi Yokota, Norio Nagamoto,
Hideko Kobayashi, and Sonoko Takano

Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Osaka University
133-1, Yamada-kami, Suita, Osaka 565, Japan

Abstract - 3-Hydroxypyrrole-2-carboxylates (1) yielded ring-expanded compounds, 4-pyrimidinone derivatives (2 and 10), on nitrosation and on the reaction with p-nitrobenzenediazonium chloride, respectively.

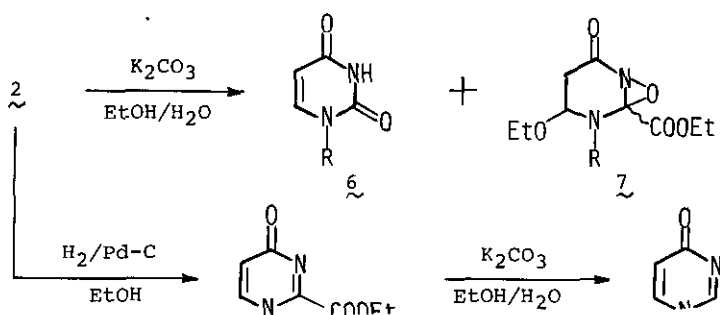
Ring-enlargement reactions are of interest in the mechanistic and synthetic aspects of heterocyclic chemistry. As for the pyrrole field, the conversion of pyrroles² or ring-fused pyrroles³ into the pyrimidine or the ring-fused pyrimidine system is known. In this paper, we wish to report the transformation of the 3-hydroxypyrrole into the 4-pyrimidinone system.

In the course of our studies⁴ on the reactivity of ethyl 3-hydroxypyrrole-2-carboxylates⁵ (1) at C₂ and C₄ toward some electrophiles, we investigated the nitrosation of the 1-benzyl derivative (1; R=CH₂Ph), which resulted not in the formation of the 2- or 4-nitroso compound but in the ring-enlargement.



Compound 1 (R=CH₂Ph) yielded an unstable crystalline product (2) in 60% yield on treatment with sodium nitrite in acetic acid [2: mp 114-115°; IR(CHCl₃) 1725, 1640, 1580 cm⁻¹; UV(EtOH) nm(ε) 250(7300), 307(2400); MS m/e 274(M⁺, 0.6%), 91(100%);

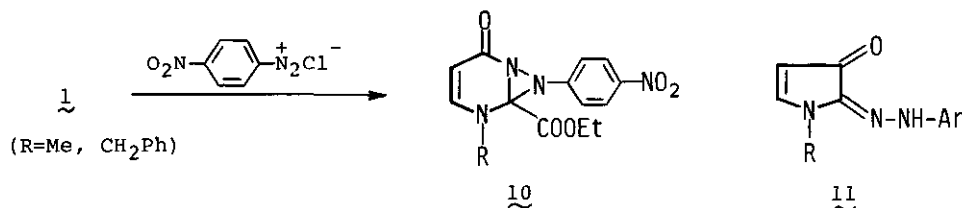
$^1\text{H-NMR}(\text{CDCl}_3)$ δ 1.33(3H, t, $\underline{J}=7.2\text{Hz}$), 4.34(2H, q, $\underline{J}=7.2$), 4.76(2H, s), 5.48(1H, d, $\underline{J}=9$), 6.84(1H, d, $\underline{J}=9$), 7.33(5H, s)]. The olefinic ring protons appear at δ 5.48 and 6.84 as doublets in the $^1\text{H-NMR}$ spectrum, and no hydroxyl absorption is detected in the IR spectrum, the feature indicating that the reaction occurred by an attack on C_2 in 1. The coupling constant ($\underline{J}=9\text{Hz}$) is, however, fairly larger than that for pyrrolinones (3) ($\underline{J}=3\sim 4\text{Hz}$)⁴ and similar to that for a dihydropyridone (4) ($\underline{J}=8\text{Hz}$),⁶ and the UV absorption at 307 nm is not intense enough for the pyrrolinone system.⁷ The facts suggest that the nitrosation product is, despite its satisfactory combustion data, not a nitrosopyrrolinone (5) but a six-membered compound.



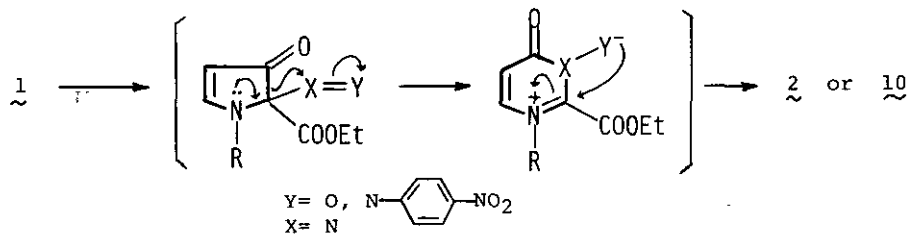
Compound 2 was hydrolyzed with potassium carbonate in aqueous ethanol to yield 1-benzyluracil (6)⁸ (33% yield) and an ethanol-added product (7)⁹ [7: 30% yield, a mixture of the diastereomers; IR(CHCl_3) 1735, 1575 cm^{-1} ; UV(EtOH) $\text{nm}(\epsilon)$ 295(2900); MS m/e 320(M^+ , 7.3%), 91(100%); $^1\text{H-NMR}(\text{CDCl}_3)$ δ 1.21(3H, t, $\underline{J}=7$), 1.37(3H, t, $\underline{J}=7$), 2.58 & 2.61(1H, d, $\underline{J}=5.5$ for each), 4.05(2H, q, $\underline{J}=7$), 4.34(2H, q, $\underline{J}=7$), 4.58(2H, s), 5.87(1H, t, $\underline{J}=5.5$), 7.26(5H, s)]. In addition, hydrogenation of 2 over palladium charcoal gave a 4-pyrimidinone-2-carboxylate (8) in 84% yield [8: mp 109.5-110°; IR(CHCl_3) 1740, 1650, 1630 cm^{-1} ; UV(EtOH) $\text{nm}(\epsilon)$ 247(13700); MS m/e 258(M^+ , 13.4%), 91(100%); $^1\text{H-NMR}(\text{CDCl}_3)$ δ 1.28(3H, t, $\underline{J}=7$), 4.31(2H, q, $\underline{J}=7$), 5.13(2H, s), 6.22(1H, d, $\underline{J}=8$), 7.1~7.5(5H, m), 7.42(1H, d, $\underline{J}=8$)]. The 4-pyrimidinone carboxylated at C_2 is an uncommon type¹⁰ of pyrimidine compounds, and the ester (8) was very easily hydrolyzed with potassium carbonate in aqueous ethanol at room temperature and decarboxylated on the usual work-up for isolation to yield 1-benzyl-4-pyrimidinone (9)¹¹ in quantitative yield. The newly produced C_2 -proton in 9 appears at δ 8.23 ($\underline{J}=2.8\text{Hz}$) as a doublet in the $^1\text{H-NMR}$ spectrum (in CDCl_3), being indicative of the exact location of the ester group in 8. On the basis of the derivation of six-membered compounds 6 and 8 from 2, it is evident that the nitrosation product from

$\underline{1}$ (R=CH₂Ph) is the 4-pyrimidinone derivative ($\underline{2}$).

Similar ring-expanded products ($\underline{10}$) were obtained on the reaction between p-nitrobenzenediazonium chloride and $\underline{1}$ (R=Me, CH₂Ph) in the pH region 7-8 (acetate buffer) [$\underline{10}$ (R=Me, 67% yield): mp 119-120°; IR(CHCl₃) 1743, 1691, 1665, 1596 cm⁻¹; UV(EtOH) nm(ε) 333(10400), 255(10600), 232(12300); MS m/e 318(M⁺, 36%), 277(100%); ¹H-NMR(CDCl₃) δ 1.43(3H, t, J=7), 3.12(3H, s), 4.42(2H, q, J=7), 5.26(1H, d, J=9), 6.48(1H, d, J=9), 7.62(2H, d, J=9), 8.24(2H, d, J=9). $\underline{10}$ (R=CH₂Ph, 77% yield): mp 123.4-125.5°; IR(CHCl₃) 1730, 1675, 1590 cm⁻¹; UV(EtOH) nm(ε) 330(11300), 255(12500); MS m/e 394(M⁺, 1.6%), 91(100%); ¹H-NMR(CDCl₃) δ 1.34(3H, t, J=7), 4.33(2H, q, J=7), 4.60(2H, s), 5.27(1H, d, J=9), 6.56(1H, d, J=9), 7.32(5H, m), 7.64(2H, d, J=9), 8.22(2H, d, J=9)]. In contrast, the reaction in the pH region above 9 gave no pyrimidinones but the arylhydrazones ($\underline{11}$) possibly via the pathway similar to that of the Japp-Klingemann reaction¹² [$\underline{11}$ (R=Me, Ar=Ph): mp 109-112°; IR(Nujol) 1627, 1595, 1588 cm⁻¹; UV(EtOH) nm 258, 372, 467; MS m/e 201(M⁺, 100%); ¹H-NMR(CDCl₃) δ 3.35(3H, s), 5.37(1H, d, J=4), 7.45(1H, d, J=4), 6.8~7.3(5H, m)].



The reaction mechanism of the ring-enlargement may be speculated as depicted below: When a polar double bond moiety is introduced as the second C-2 substituent in the pyrrolinone system, the ring-expansion occurs via a 'push-pull' mechanism by participation of the ring-nitrogen lone pair.¹³ Further exploration of these and related reactions is under investigation.



All new compounds described above gave satisfactory combustion data.

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7. The pyrrolinone system (3) displays an intensive UV absorption in the region of about 300 to 330 nm: see refs. 1 and 4. Compound 2 is so labile that it decomposes gradually on standing in several solvents. The maximum absorption at 307 nm may result from the decomposed products. By the way, the low intensity of the UV absorption and the less-deshielded NMR feature of the olefinic ring protons also exclude any conjugated N-oxide structure for 2.
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9. Compound 7 was also obtained in good yield on refluxing the ethanol solution of 2 for a few hours.
10. Only two, 4-hydroxy-2-pyrimidinecarboxylic acid and ethyl 1,4-dihydro-6-hydroxy-4-oxo-2-pyrimidinecarboxylate, have been reported: the former by W. Huber and H.A. Hölscher (Ber., 1938, 71B, 87), the latter by B. Narr, J. Roch, E. Mueller, and W. Haarmann (Chem. Abstr., 1975, 83, 43369h).
11. L. Bauer, G.E. Wright, B.A. Mikrut, and C.L. Bell, J. Heterocyclic Chem., 1965, 2, 447. The authors described the ¹H-NMR data for 9 measured in DMSO.
12. R.R. Phillips, Organic Reactions, ed. by R. Adams, 1959, Vol. 10, pp. 143 - 178.
13. A similar reaction mechanism has been presented: see T. Eicher, J.L. Weber and G. Chatila, Liebigs Ann. Chem., 1978, 1203.

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