Synthesis of Pyrazolo pyrano oxazoles

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A simple and efficient synthetic route to the novel 3a,4-dihydro-3H,7H- and 4H,7H-pyrazolo[4',3':5,6]pyrano[4,3-c] [1,2]oxazole ring systems from 3-(prop-2-en-1-yloxy)- or 3-(prop-2-yn-1-yloxy)-1H-pyrazole-4-carbaldehyde oximes has been developed by employing the intramolecular nitrile oxide cycloaddition (INOC) reaction as the key step.

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4-pyrazolaldoximes 1JCH isoxazole 15N NMR isoxazoline 15N NMR

1. Introduction

The 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition reaction of nitrile oxides as 1,3-dipoles and alkenes/alkynes as dipolarophiles has become an efficient tool in organic synthesis to obtain various substituted isoxazolines/isoxazoles [1][2][3]. The reaction was developed by Rolf Huisgen and described by Albert Padwa in their investigations on 1,3-dipolar cycloadditions [4][5]. Nitrile oxides, which are typically generated in situ, undergo subsequent 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition to form appropriate isoxazoles or isoxazolines. Numerous methods of nitrile oxide generation have been reported, mainly including the dehydration of nitroalkanes [6][7][8] and oxidation of aldoximes [9][10][11]. Alternatively, Svejstrupor described the synthesis of isoxazolines and isoxazoles from hydroxyimino acids via the visible-light-mediated generation of nitrile oxides by two sequential oxidative single electron transfer processes [12]. More recently, Chen et al. reported the synthesis of fully substituted isoxazoles from nitrile oxides, which were generated in situ from copper carbene and *tert*-butyl nitrite [13].

Notably, the intramolecular nitrile oxide cycloaddition (INOC) reaction can provide a route for the preparation of isoxazoles or isoxazolines annulated to various carbo- or heterocycles. For example, the intramolecular 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition of 2-phenoxybenzonitrile *N*-oxides to neighboring benzene rings, accompanied by dearomatization, formed the corresponding isoxazoles in high yields ^[14]. Recently, a method for the stereoselective synthesis of novel isoxazole-fused indolizidine-, pyrrolizidine- and quinolizidine-based iminosugars has been developed, employing *N*-alkenyl/alkynyl iminosugar *C*-nitromethyl glycosides as nitrile oxide precursors in 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition reactions ^[15]. The phthalate-tethered INOC strategy has also been described as a novel method for the synthesis of 12–15-membered chiral macrocycles having a bridged isoxazoline moiety in a highly regio- and diastereoselective manner ^[16]. Furthermore, diversity-oriented access to isoxazolino and isoxazolo benzazepines as possible bromodomain and extra-terminal motif protein (BET) inhibitors has been reported via a post-Ugi heteroannulation involving the intramolecular 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition reaction of nitrile oxide swith

alkenes and alkynes ^[17]. In addition, an intramolecular 1,3-dipolar nitrile oxide cycloaddition strategy has been applied as an efficient synthesis protocol for the regio- and diastereoselective construction of highly functionalized tricyclic tetrahydroisoxazoloquinolines ^[18].

Fused isoxazoles or isoxazolines obtained by the INOC reaction may also serve as synthetically important intermediates for many biologically active compounds. Such compounds, including the HBV inhibitor entecavir ^[19] ^[20], the antibiotic branimycin ^[21], the antiviral (+)-Brefeldin A ^[22], tricyclic isoxazoles combining serotonin (5-HT) reuptake inhibition with α_2 -adrenoceptor blocking activity ^[23] and the alkaloids meliacarpinin B ^[24] and Palhinine A ^[25], have been synthesized by employing INOC as a key step.

2. Synthesis

The synthetic strategy that researchers designed to construct the pyrazolo[4',3':5,6]pyrano[4,3-c][1,2]oxazole ring system employs difunctional substrates (**4a**–**d**) that contain an aldoxime unit next to the allyloxy group attached to the pyrazole core and can serve as intermediates for nitrile oxide generation and subsequent cycloaddition (Scheme 1).



Scheme 1. Synthetic route for the 3a,4-dihydro-3*H*,7*H*-pyrazolo[4',3':5,6]pyrano[4,3-c][1,2]oxazole ring system. Reagents and conditions: (i) NaH, DMF, 0 °C, 15 min, allylbromide, 60 °C, 1 h; (ii) DMF, POCl₃, −10 °C, 15 min, 70 °C, 1 h; (iii) NH₂OH·HCl, NaOAc, EtOH, reflux, 15 min; (iv) aq. NaOCl, DCM, rt, 1 h; (v) MnO₂, toluene, reflux, 4 h.

As starting materials for the synthesis of compounds **4a–d**, researchers used 1-phenyl-, 1-(4-fluorophenyl)-, 1-(4bromophenyl)- and 1-methylpyrazol-3-ols (**1a–d**), which are readily accessible from the oxidation of appropriate pyrazolidin-3-ones ^[26]. The *O*-allylation of **1a–d** with allylbromide in the presence of NaH gave *O*-allylated pyrazoles **2a**–**d** ^[27]. To introduce a formyl group to the 4-position of the pyrazole ring, researchers employed a previously reported Vilsmeier–Haack reaction procedure ^{[27][28]}. Heating compounds **2a**–**d** with Vilsmeier–Haack complex at 70 °C resulted in the formation of the desired pyrazole-4-carbaldehydes **3a–d** (<u>Scheme 1</u>).

In order to prepare the 3a,4-dihydro-3*H*,7*H*-pyrazolo[4',3':5,6]pyrano[4,3-c][1,2]oxazole derivatives **5a**–**d** by the INOC reaction, aldoximes **4a**–**d** were synthesized by the treatment of **3a**–**d** with hydroxylamine hydrochloride in the presence of sodium acetate ^[29]. As a result, the *syn-* and *anti-*3-allyloxy-4-pyrazolaldoximes were obtained in total yields of 82–97%. The ¹H NMR spectra of aldoximes **4a**–**c** showed the presence of two isomers in different ratios with a predominance of the *syn* isomer, while the compound **4d** was obtained as a pure *syn* isomer.

Over the years, the isomerism of aldoximes has been thoroughly studied and many different NMR-based approaches have been developed, mainly due to the large differences in chemical shifts, coupling constants and distinct through-space connectivities in NOESY measurements of aldoxime syn-anti isomers ^[30]. The configurational assignment of aldoximes 4a-c was relatively easy due to the presence of both isomers, as it is well established that the resonance of the iminyl-H proton in the syn isomer is greatly shifted upfield by approximately δ 0.5–0.7 ppm in the ¹H NMR spectra compared to the *anti* isomer $\frac{31}{2}$. Moreover, the 1D selective NOESY experimental data of aldoximes 4a-c showed that, upon irradiation of the hydroxyl proton N-OH of the predominant syn isomer, a strong positive NOE on the pyrazole 5-H proton was observed, while the minor isomer showed a positive NOE on the iminyl-H, therefore confirming the anti configuration. Finally, a heteronuclear 2D J-resolved NMR experiment was used in order to determine ${}^{1}J_{CH}$ coupling constants throughout the series of aldoximes. It is well established from previous studies that there is a large and constant difference between the magnitudes of ${}^{1}J_{CH}$ coupling constants of the iminyl moiety in syn-anti isomers [32], which is larger by at least 10–15 Hz for the syn isomer. The measurements of compounds 4a-c showed that the relevant ${}^{1}J_{CH}$ coupling constants of the iminul molety were around 175.0 Hz for the predominant syn isomer, while the minor anti isomer provided significantly lower coupling constant values by around 13.0 Hz. The configuration of aldoxime 4d as a pure syn isomer was easily deduced from NOESY measurements and the ${}^{1}J_{CH}$ coupling constant of the iminyl moiety, which was 174.5 Hz. The analysis of ¹⁵N NMR spectroscopic data showed highly consistent chemical shift values within each isomer, in a range from δ -18.2 to -25.7 ppm in the case of the syn isomer and in a range from δ -15.6 to -16.5 ppm for the anti isomer. A comparison of the relevant NMR data of aldoximes is presented in Table S1.

Several methods for the oxidation of aldoximes to nitrile oxides are known in the literature, including the application of oxidants such as chloramine T ^{[33][34]}, *N*-halosuccinimides (NXS) ^{[35][36][37]}, hypohalites ^{[38][39][40]}, hypervalent iodine reagents ^{[41][42][43]} and oxone ^{[44][45][46][47]}. The reaction conditions for 3a,4-dihydro-3*H*,7*H*-pyrazolo[4',3':5,6]pyrano[4,3-c][1,2]oxazole ring formation were optimized by using **4a** as a model compound (**Table 1**). When treating aldoxime **4a** with chloramine T in EtOH at 50 °C for 30 min, the polycyclic product **5a** was obtained in poor (20%) yield (**Table 1**, Entry 1). The intramolecular cyclization reaction of **4a** in the presence of the aq. NaOCI in DCM gave the desired product **5a** in 1 h in sufficient (68%) yield (**Table 1**, Entry 2). The experiment with TEA as an additive did not improve the yield of the product and **5a** was obtained in 52% yield (**Table 1**, Entry 3). A similar result showing that no additional base is required to facilitate the cycloaddition was also observed by

Roy and De in their investigation on the rate enhancement of nitrile oxide cyclization and, hence, rapid synthesis of isoxazolines and isoxazoles ^[48].

Entry	Conditions	Yield *, %
1	Chloramine T, EtOH, 50 °C, 30 min	20
2	10% NaOCI, DCM, rt, 1 h	68
3	10% NaOCI, TEA, DCM, rt, 3 h	52

Table 1. Optimization of the INOC reaction conditions for 5a synthesis.

The optimized conditions (aq. NaOCI in DCM at rt) for 5a synthesis were also applied to the synthesis of 7-(4fluorophenyl)-, 7-(4-bromophenyl)- and 7-methyl-3a,4-dihydro-3H,7H-pyrazolo[4',3':5,6]pyrano[4,3-c][1,2]oxazoles **5b**–d to evaluate the scope of the methodology. The products were obtained in yields of 63%, 64% and 42%, researchers investigated whether obtained respectively. In addition, the 3a,4-dihydro-3H,7Hpyrazolo[4',3':5,6]pyrano[4,3-c][1,2]oxazole system can be further oxidized. Several oxidation reaction conditions were tested, e.g., **5a** was stirred in DMSO at 110 °C in an open atmosphere ^[49] or treated with a catalytic amount of Pd/C in acetic acid $\frac{50}{50}$; the best result was obtained using activated MnO₂ as an oxidant in toluene in a Dean-Stark apparatus for 4 h at reflux temperature ^[51]. Furthermore, 4H,7H-Pyrazolo[4',3':5,6]pyrano[4,3-c][1,2]oxazole derivative 6 was formed in 38% yield.

A similar brief study on 5-chloropyrazole-4-carbaldehydes as synthons for intramolecular 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition was also reported by L'abbé et al. ^[52]. The authors noticed that 5-allyloxypyrazole-4-carbaldehyde derived from 5-chloropyrazole-4-carbaldehyde and further used as a precursor for intramolecular 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition reactions underwent a slow Claisen rearrangement to 4-allyl-5-hydroxypyrazole, even at room temperature. In contrast, researchers found 3-allyloxypyrazole-4-carbaldehydes to be stable. They can be stored in the laboratory at room temperature.

The formation of 3a,4-dihydro-3*H*,7*H*- and 4*H*,7*H*-pyrazolo[4',3':5,6]pyrano[4,3-*c*][1,2]oxazole ring systems was easily deduced after an in-depth analysis of NMR spectral data, which were obtained through a combination of standard and advanced NMR spectroscopy techniques, such as ¹H-¹³C HMBC, ¹H-¹³C *J*-HMBC, ¹H-¹⁵N HMBC, ¹H-¹³C HSQC, ¹H-¹³C H2BC, ¹H-¹H COSY, ¹H-¹H NOESY and 1,1-ADEQUATE experiments (**Figure 1**).



Figure 1. Relevant ¹H-¹³C HMBC, ¹H-¹³C *J*-HMBC, ¹H-¹⁵N HMBC, ¹H-¹H NOESY and 1,1-ADEQUATE correlations and ¹H NMR (italics), ¹³C NMR and ¹⁵N NMR (bold) chemical shifts of compounds **5a** (**a**) and **6** (**b**).

In the case of compound **5a**, the multiplicity-edited ¹H-¹³C HSQC spectrum allowed people to identify the pairs of geminally coupled methylene protons, since both protons displayed cross-peaks with the same carbon. For instance, it showed two pairs of negative signals at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 4.66, 3.79 and 4.78, 4.17 ppm, which have one-bond connectivities with the methylene carbons C-3 (δ 69.7 ppm) and C-4 (δ 70.9 ppm), respectively. The chemical shifts of these methylene groups are expected to be similar and downfield compared to a neighboring methine group at site 3a, because both are bound to the oxygen atoms O-2 and O-5. This adjacent protonated carbon C-3a (δ 46.7 ppm) relative to the aforementioned methylene sites was easily assigned from an appropriate correlation in the ¹H-¹³C H2BC spectrum.

In the ¹H-¹⁵N HMBC spectrum of **5a**, strong long-range correlations between the methylene 3-H proton at δ 4.66 ppm and the 3a-H proton at δ 3.86–3.91 ppm with the oxazole N-1 nitrogen at δ –32.2 ppm were observed. The lack of long-range correlations with another pair of methylene protons (δ 4.78, 4.17 ppm), and the aforementioned N-1 nitrogen, strongly hinted at assigning this methylene group to site 4. In order to unambiguously discriminate between these methylene groups, the ¹H-¹³C heteronuclear couplings were measured using a ¹H-¹³C *J*-HMBC experiment, thus providing complimentary evidence for correct structural assignment. The *J*-HMBC spectrum showed a strong correlation between the methylene proton δ 4.66 ppm correlated very weakly, with a *J* value of only 2.2 Hz, which was attributed to a ⁵*J*_{C-5a, H-3}. Finally, the pyrazole 8-H proton (δ 8.13 ppm) not only exhibited long-range HMBC correlations with neighboring N-7 "pyrrole-like" (δ –1177.4 ppm) and N-6 "pyridine-like" (δ –117.7 ppm) nitrogen atoms, but also with the C-5a, C-8a and C-8b quaternary carbons, which were unambiguously assigned with the subsequent 1,1-ADEQUATE experiment, thus allowing all the heterocyclic moieties to be connected together. The structure of compounds **5b–d** was determined by analogous NMR spectroscopy experiments, as

described above. The skeleton of the pyrazolo[4',3':5,6]pyrano[4,3-c][1,2]oxazole ring system contains three nitrogen atoms. The chemical shifts of the N-1, N-6 and N-7 atoms of compounds **5a**–**c** were in a range from δ –30.9 to –32.2, δ –116.9 to –117.7 and δ –177.4 to –179.5 ppm, respectively, while in the case of compound **5d**, which lacked a phenyl moiety at site 7, the chemical shifts of N-1, N-6 and N-7 atoms were δ –35.8, δ –112.3 and δ –194.4 ppm, respectively.

In the case of compound **6**, a comparison of the ¹H NMR spectra between **5a** and **6** clearly indicated the disappearance of methine 3a-H (δ 3.86–3.91 ppm) and methylene 3-H protons (δ 4.66 and 3.79 ppm) and the formation of a new downfield methine 3-H proton signal at δ 8.21 ppm. The aforementioned methine proton that appeared as a triplet was mutually coupled with methylene 4-H protons (doublet, δ 5.41 ppm), as indicated by their *meta*-coupling (${}^{4}J_{HH}$ = 1.3 Hz). Moreover, a comparison between the ¹H-¹H COSY and ¹H-¹H NOESY spectra showed a complete absence of COSY cross-peaks between 3-H and 4-H and only strong NOEs, which confirmed their proximity in space. This finding strongly hinted at a neighboring quaternary carbon at site 3a, which was unambiguously assigned from 1,1-ADEQUATE spectral data, where the protonated carbons C-3 (δ 150.7 ppm) and C-4 (δ 63.3 ppm) showed a sole correlation with C-3a at δ 109.8 ppm. As expected, the ¹⁵N chemical shifts of N-6 (δ –116.3) and N-7 (δ –179.6) atoms were highly comparable to those of compounds **5a–c**; only the N-1 atoms were slightly different and resonated at δ –20.4 ppm, which is in good agreement with the data reported in the literature [53].

To expand the structural diversity of the obtained 3a,4-dihydro-3*H*,7*H*-pyrazolo[4',3':5,6]pyrano[4,3-c][1,2]oxazole system, researchers prepared additional *vic*-cinnamyloxy-oxime **9** as a substrate for the INOC reaction (Scheme 2). As the cinnamyloxy group turned out to be sensitive towards Vilsmeier–Haack reaction conditions, the *O*-alkylation formylation sequence of compound **1a** successfully applied to the synthesis of 3-allyloxypyrazole-4-carbaldehydes **3a–d** was reorganized. In short, first, the hydroxy group of pyrazol-3-ol (**1a**) was transformed to a benzyloxy group; then, the obtained 3-benzyloxypyrazole was formylated under the Vilsmeier–Haack reaction conditions, and the protecting OBn group was cleaved by TFA to give 3-hydroxy-1*H*-pyrazole-4-carbaldehyde **7** ^[28]. The latter compound was subjected to an alkylation reaction with cinnamyl chloride and the appropriate 3-cinnamyloxy-1*H*-pyrazole-4-carbaldehyde (**8**) was obtained in very good (82%) yield. A subsequent reaction of **8** with hydroxylamine gave the aldoxime **9**, which was successfully used for the INOC reaction, and 3-phenyl-3a,4-dihydro-3*H*,7*H*-pyrazolo[4',3':5,6]pyrano[4,3-c][1,2]oxazole *trans*-**10** was obtained with a fair (62%) yield.



Scheme 2. Synthetic route for the 3a,4-dihydro-3*H*,7*H*-pyrazolo[4',3':5,6]pyrano[4,3-*c*][1,2]oxazole **10**. Reagents and conditions: (i) in accordance to ref. ^[28]; (ii) NaH, DMF, 0 °C, 15 min, cinnamyl chloride, 60 °C, 15 min; (iii) NH₂OH·HCl, NaOAc, EtOH, reflux, 15 min; (iv) NaOCl, DCM, rt, 1 h.

While the structural elucidation of compound trans-10 was straightforward and followed the same logical approach as in the case of compounds **5a-d** and **6**, determination of the relative configuration at C-3 and C-3a proved to be a more challenging task and was achieved by combined analysis of NOESY, J-coupling and molecular modeling data. For instance, the initial geometry optimizations were performed using MM2 and MMFF94 force fields [54], followed by DFT methods using B3LYP/def2-TZVP, as implemented in ORCA 5.0.0 [55], which provided the dihedral angle values between H-C(3)-C(3a)-H for structures trans-10 (154.34°) and cis-10 (19.28°). Then, the theoretical ¹H-¹H coupling constants were calculated with the same software package following a standard procedure using a B3LYP/PCSSEG-2 basis set. The dihedral angle values were used in the calculation of ³J_{H3,H3a} by the Haasnootde Leeuw–Altona (HLA) equation ^[56]. The ${}^{3}J_{H3,H3a}$ values estimated by the HLA method were 10.0 Hz for trans-10 and 8.2 Hz for cis-10, while ORCA 5.0.0 calculations were 13.4 and 10.8 Hz, respectively. The experimental value 13.1 Hz, which was obtained from the ¹H NMR spectrum, hinted in favor of the *trans*-10 structure. A highly similar class of heterocycles, naphthopyranoisoxazolines, were synthesized by Liaskopoulos et al. [57], where the target compounds possessed a *trans* configuration, as confirmed by X-ray and NMR analyses, and their ${}^{3}J_{H3,H3a}$ values were in the range of 12.2–12.5 Hz. Finally, unambiguous confirmation of trans-10 assignment was obtained from the ¹H-¹H NOESY spectrum, as it was evident from the geometrically optimized structures (Figures S80 and S81) that, in the case of *cis*-10, there should be a strong NOE between protons 3-H and 3a-H, while the NOE between 3a-H and the neighboring 3-phenyl group aromatic protons is not possible. However, in this case, the ${}^{1}H{}^{-1}H$ NOESY spectrum showed completely opposite measurements. Moreover, a distinct NOE between protons 3-H/4- H_a and $3a-H/4-H_b$ is only possible if the relative configuration is *trans*-10.

Researchers also investigated the INOC reaction of *vic*–alkyne–oxime substrates **12** and **14a–c** (Scheme 3). To obtain the intermediate compound **12**, firstly, 3-hydroxypyrazole **1a** was *O*-propargylated and formylated to give carbaldehyde **11** ^[58]. Compound **11** was then successfully converted to 4H,7*H*-pyrazolo[4',3':5,6]pyrano[4,3-c] [1,2]oxazole **6** via the INOC reaction of intermediate oxime **12**, and the targeted new polyheterocyclic compound **6** was obtained in good (79%) yield. In addition, alkyne **11** was further subjected to the Sonogashira cross-coupling reaction with various (het)arylhalides, i.e., iodobenzene, 1-iodonaphthalene and 2-bromopyridine, under the standard Sonogashira cross-coupling reaction conditions (Pd(PPh₃)₂Cl₂, CuI, DMF, 60 °C, argon atmosphere) to give alkynes **13a–c** in good yields ^[58]. Compounds **13a–c** were further treated with hydroxylamine hydrochloride to provide aldoximes **14a–c**, which were used in the INOC reaction without further purification. Aldoxime **14a** was subjected to a detailed NMR analysis, and, to delight, it was obtained as a pure *syn* isomer, which was easily elucidated from a ¹J_{CH} coupling constant of the iminyl moiety, which was **179.2** Hz. Moreover, *4H*,7H-pyrazolo[4',3':5,6]pyrano[4,3-c][1,2]oxazoles **15a–c** were obtained in good yields.



Scheme 3. Synthetic route for the 4*H*,7*H*-pyrazolo[4',3':5,6]pyrano[4,3-*c*][1,2]oxazole ring system. Reagents and conditions: (i) in accordance to ref. ^[58]; (ii) NH₂OH·HCl, NaOAc, EtOH, reflux, 15 min; (iii) NaOCl, DCM, rt, 1 h; (iv) RX, Pd(PPh₃)₂Cl₂, TEA, DMF, 60 °C, 15 min.

As expected, the chemical shifts of the 3-aryl-substituted compounds 15a-c were highly similar to those of compound **6**. A distinct difference in the ¹H NMR spectra of the aforementioned compounds was that they contained only a singlet for the methylene 4-H protons in the area of δ 5.32–6.03 ppm, which indicated the lack of coupling partners. The data from the ¹H-¹³C HMBC spectra revealed a distinct long-range correlation between the aforementioned methylene protons and a quaternary carbon at site 3. Moreover, the protons from a neighboring 3-aryl moiety shared an HMBC cross-peak with carbon C-3 as well, thus allowing different structural fragments to be

joined together. The chemical shifts of the N-1, N-6 and N-7 atoms of 3-aryl-substituted compounds were in ranges of δ –23.9 to –25.0, δ –116.4 to –117.4 and δ –179.6 to –180.1 ppm, respectively, while, in the case of compound **15c** with a pyridin-2-yl moiety, the pyridine nitrogen resonated at δ –72.8 ppm.

3. Conclusions

This entry has developed a convenient method for the preparation of 3a,4-dihydro-3*H*,7*H*- and 4*H*,7*H*-pyrazolo[4',3':5,6]pyrano[4,3-c][1,2]oxazoles from easily obtainable 3-(prop-2-en-1-yloxy)- or 3-(prop-2-yn-1-yloxy)-1*H*-pyrazole-4-carbaldehydes by INOC reaction of intermediate oximes. The key stage—nitrile oxide preparation from the corresponding aldoximes—was carried out by oxidation with sodium hypochlorite. The method was applied for the synthesis of pyrazolo[4',3':5,6]pyrano[4,3-c][1,2]oxazoles with various substituents in the third or seventh position. In addition, extensive NMR spectroscopic studies have been undertaken using standard and advanced methods to unambiguously determine the configuration of intermediate aldoximes, showing the predomination of the *syn*-isomer, as well as the structure of new polycyclic systems.

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