



Review

The Recent Impact of Solid-Phase Synthesis on Medicinally Relevant Benzoannelated Nitrogen Heterocycles

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Dedicated to Professor Dr. Heinrich Wamhoff on the occasion of his 65th birthday

Abstract—Benzoannelated heterocycles such as benzodiazepines and indoles can be prepared efficiently through cyclization on solid supports, although no single approach is currently universal for the preparation of all benzoannelated *N*-heterocycle chemistries. In this review, a number of synthetic strategies for the generation of benzoannelated nitrogen heterocycles using resin-bound substrates have been described. Classical heterocycle forming reactions such as the Fischer indole, the Bischler–Napieralski tetrahydroisoquinoline, the Pictet–Spengler tetrahydro- β -carboline, the Tsuge, the Nenitzescu and the Richter cinnoline reaction are presented. In addition, the Heck, Sonogashira, Wittig, Diels–Alder, and olefin metathesis reactions have been also used. Multi-component reactions such as the Grieco three-component assembly have been exploited for the synthesis of heterocycles. Cyclative cleavage from the solid support is particularly suitable for the synthesis of heterocycles while particular emphasis has been focused on the synthesis of libraries and the use of combinatorial chemistry techniques. In addition, the most relevant pharmacological properties of benzoannelated nitrogen heterocycles are included. © 2002 Elsevier Science Ltd. All rights reserved.

Contents

Introduction	2416
Benzoannelated five-membered heterocycles	2417
Indoles and related heterocycles	2417
Benzimidazoles	2420
Benzotriazoles	2421
Indazoles	2421

Abbreviations: Ac, acetyl; AMEBA, acid-sensitive methoxy benzaldehyde linker; BOP, benzotriazol-1-yloxytris(dimethylamino)-phosphonium hexafluorophosphate; BSA, bis(trimethylsilyl)acetamide; CSA, 10-camphorsulfonic acid; DBU, 1,8-diazabicyclo[5.4.0]undec-7-ene; DCC, *N,N*-dicyclohexylcarbodiimide; DIC (DIPC), *N,N'*-diisopropylcarbodiimide; DMA, *N,N'*-dimethylacetamide; DMAP, 4-dimethylaminopyridine; DMF, *N,N*-dimethylformamide; DMSO, dimethylsulfoxide; DNA, deoxyribonucleic acid; EDC, (3-dimethylaminopropyl)-3-ethylcarbodiimide; Fmoc, fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl; HATU, *o*-(7-azabenzotriazol-1-yl)-1,1,4,4-tetramethyluronium-hexafluorophosphate; HBTU, 2-(1*H*-benzotriazol-1-yl)-1,1,3,3-tetramethyluronium hexafluorophosphate; HEPS, 2-hydroxyethyl polystyrene; HIV, human immunodeficiency

virus; HOAt, 1-hydroxy-7-azabenzotriazole; HOBt, *N*-hydroxybenzotriazole; 5-HT, 5-hydroxytryptamine; HTS, high throughput screening; Ms, mesyl; NMP, *N*-methylpyrrolidinone; PyBroP, bromotris-pyrrolidino-phosphonium hexafluorophosphate; SPOS, solid phase organic synthesis; TBTU, 2-(1*H*-benzotriazol-1-yl)-1,1,3,3-tetramethyluronium tetrafluoroborate; Tf, trifluoromethylsulfonyl; TFA, trifluoroacetic acid; THF, tetrahydrofuran; THP, tetrahydropyranyl; TMOF, trimethylorthoformate; TPCD, [Co(pyridine)₄ (HCrO₄)₂]; Trt, trityl; Ts, tosyl.

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Benzoxazoles and benzisoxazoles	2422
Benzoannelated six-membered heterocycles	2422
(Tetrahydro)quinolines and (tetrahydro)isoquinolines	2422
Quinazolines	2425
Cinnolines	2427
Quinoxalines	2427
Benzothiazines	2428
Benzoannelated seven-membered heterocycles	2428
Benzazepines	2428
Benzoxazepines	2428
Benzothiazepines	2429
Benzodiazepines	2430
Benzoannelated eight-membered heterocycles	2431
Benzoxazocines	2431
Conclusions and outlook	2432
Acknowledgements	2432
References and Notes	2432

Introduction

One of the main objectives of organic and medicinal chemistry is the design, synthesis, and production of molecules having value as human therapeutic agents.

The development of High Throughput Screening (HTS) has increased dramatically the demand for substances to test, and the search for new drug-like molecules has recently taken on a new urgency.¹ In recent years, the synthesis of combinatorial libraries^{2,3} has emerged as a valuable tool in the search for novel lead structures. The success of combinatorial chemistry in drug discovery is dependent, in part, on further advances in solid-phase organic synthesis (SPOS).⁴ This offers the opportunity of synthesizing molecules via novel routes, which may be difficult or impossible using traditional solution phase methods, and offers also the possibility for rapidly synthesizing drug-like molecules without tedious and time-consuming purification.⁵

The generation of molecular diversity to create libraries for drug discovery was originally focused on the synthesis of the peptide and nucleotide libraries. However, the

limitation of such libraries is that the pharmacokinetical properties of large polymeric and often hydrophilic structures make these molecules less suitable as leads in drug discovery. It is, therefore, desirable to develop methods to prepare small, non-polymeric molecules with sufficient diversity such, that they resemble classical drugs, for screening in different assay systems.⁶ The rapid generation of such small molecule libraries can be executed effectively by employing combinatorial or simultaneous parallel synthesis on solid supports.⁷

Experience has shown that compounds with biological activity are often derived from heterocyclic structures, such as indolines,⁸ tetrahydroquinolines⁹ or hydrobenzofuranes¹⁰ that appear frequently in natural products. Substituted heterocyclic compounds can offer a high degree of structural diversity and have proven to be broadly useful as therapeutic agents. For this reason, it is not surprising that this structural class has received special attention in combinatorial synthesis.^{11–13} Since the disclosure of the benzodiazepine libraries by Ellman's group in 1992,¹⁴ the development of strategies for the generation of heterocyclic libraries on solid support has sparked a great deal of interest.¹⁵

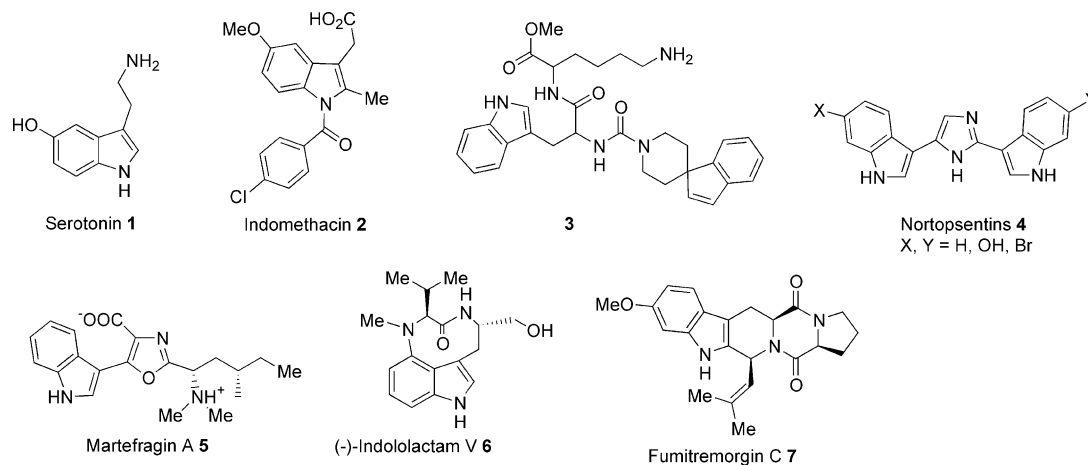


Figure 1. Relevant molecules with an indole moiety.

The results of such studies impact pharmaceutical research both in the area of new lead discovery and in the generation of rapid structure–activity relationship specifically through the combinatorial chemistry approach. In this review, we focus on methods for the synthesis of benzoannulated rings on solid support, because benzan-
nelation¹⁶ is an efficient method for the diversification of heterocycles. The benzo moiety is an integral part of numerous heterocyclic target molecules (e.g., benzimidazoles, benzodiazepines, quinoxalines, quinoxalines, etc.). The chapters on the cyclization methods for the preparation of five-, six-, seven- and eight-membered benzoannulated rings have been subdivided depending on the number of nitrogen atoms in the ring system.

In this review, modification of polymer-bound heterocycles without a ring-forming step will not be included.

Benzoannulated Five-Membered Heterocycles

Indoles and related heterocycles

The indole nucleus is a fundamental constituent of a number of natural and synthetic products with biological activity. This basic skeleton for example present in the neurotransmitter Serotonin [**1**, 5-hydroxytryptamine, (5-HT)], which plays an important role in a variety of processes through the activation of 5-HT receptors.¹⁷ Other indoles are present in drugs with a remarkable range of activities as demonstrated by the non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agent Indomethacin (**2**),¹⁸ the peptidomimetic somatostatin agonist **3**,¹⁹ selective dopamine D₄ receptor agonist cyanoindole derivatives²⁰ and potent and selective factor Xa inhibitors.²¹ A variety of natural products containing the indole ring have been identified such as the antitumoral Nortopsentins (**4**),²² the potent inhibitors of lipid peroxidation Martefragin A (**5**)²³ and other 5-(3-indolyl)oxazoles,²⁴ the protein kinase C activator Indololactam V (**6**),²⁵ as well as Fumitremorgin C (**7**),²⁶ that was recently identified as a specific reversal agent for the breast cancer resistance protein transporter (Fig. 1).

Some indole-related heterocycles have well recognized pharmacological properties. For example some indoli-

zines are antiarrhythmic,²⁷ while some oxindoles exhibit anti-rheumatic properties,²⁸ and are inhibitors of mandelonitrile lyase²⁹ and proteintyrosine kinases.³⁰ Derivatised indolines have also been shown to be potent and selective 5-HT₃ receptor antagonists.³¹

Due to the remarkable range of biological activities that have been displayed by indoles, several useful solid phase approaches to the construction of these heterocyclic core structures such as the 2-arylindole nucleus **8**,^{32,33} spiroindolines **9**³⁴ and 2-oxindoles derivatives **10**³⁵ have been reported (Fig. 2).

As demonstrated in Scheme 1, the indole moiety can be constructed using the Fischer,^{32,34,36} Nenitzescu³⁷ or Wittig³⁸ indole synthesis. It is also feasible to use a combination of the Sonogashira and Heck reactions,^{39–41} the Heck reaction with 1,3-dienes,⁴² cycloaddition reactions (**20**→**21**)⁴³ or C-arylation of substituted acetonitriles and 1,3-dicarbonyl compounds.⁴⁴

Collini and Ellingboe³⁹ described the palladium-catalyzed solid-phase synthesis of trisubstituted indoles (Scheme 2). Therefore, Wang resin (**25**) was converted to chloro Wang resin (**26**). After coupling with an iodoaminobenzoic acid **27**, Sonogashira coupling with a terminal alkyne **29** gave the resin **30**. Heck cyclization with concomitant loss of the trifluoroacetyl group yielded the indole unit **31**. Following cleavage from the solid phase, the indoles **32** were isolated in 34–76% yield. Using this approach, three substituents are available for variation and the preparation of a combinatorial library.

The solid-phase Nenitzescu indole synthesis was described by Ketcha, Wilson and Portlock³⁷ (Scheme 3). Fmoc-protected ArgoPore[®] Rink NH₂ resin **33** was used in

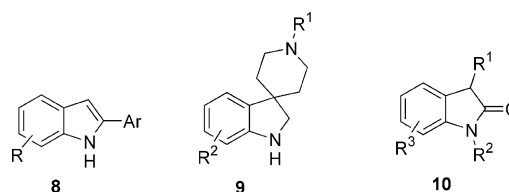
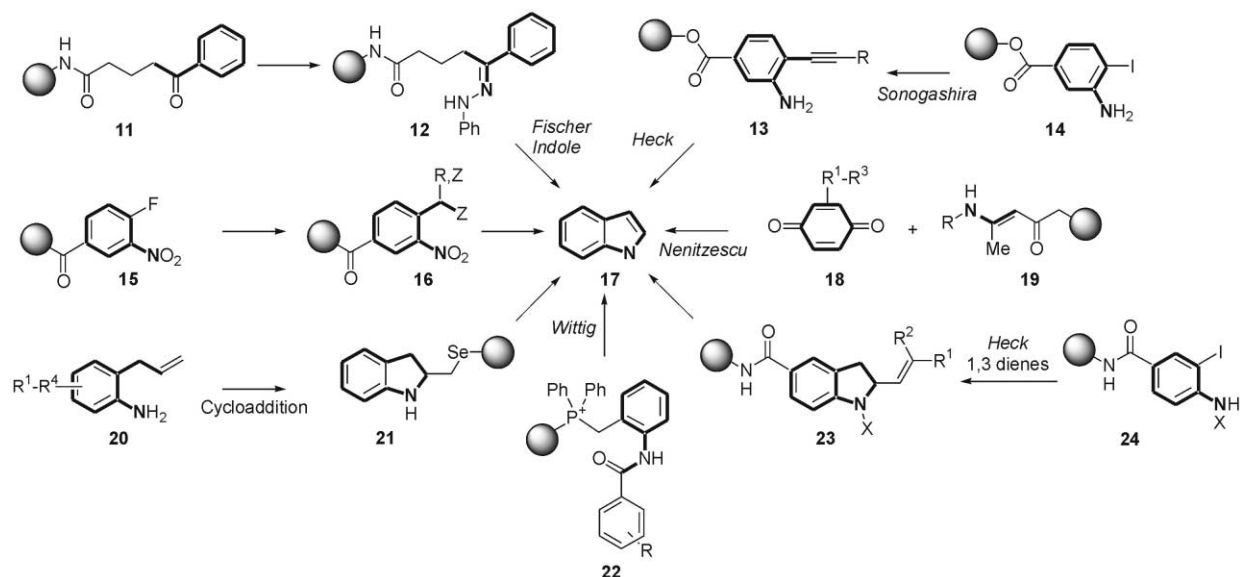
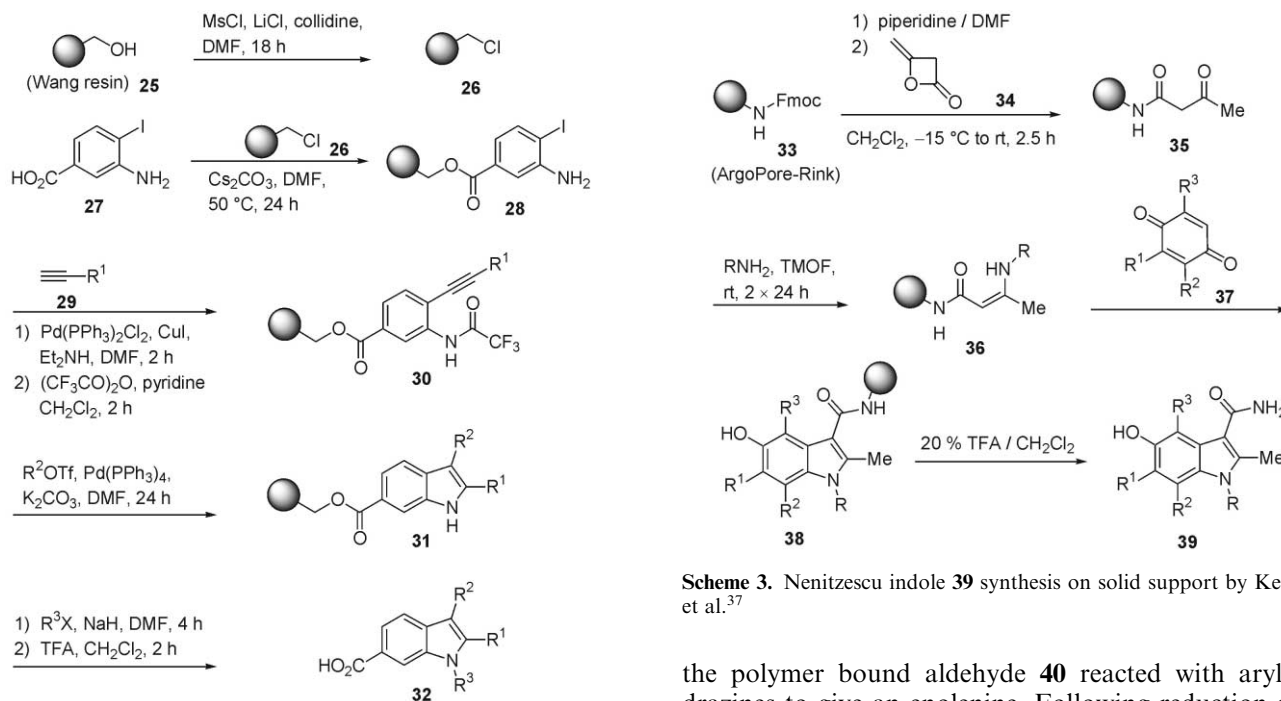


Figure 2. Indole-related heterocycles.



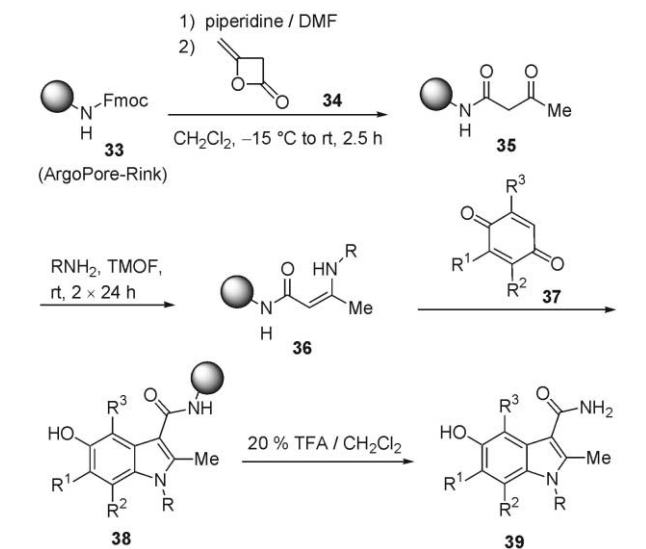
Scheme 1. Solid-phase pathways towards the indole core structure.



Scheme 2. Palladium-catalyzed synthesis of indoles **32** by Collini and Ellingboe.³⁹

this case as the solid support. In the first step, the resin was deprotected and the acetoacetamide **35** prepared using diketene (**34**). Treatment with primary amines forms the polymer bound enaminones **36**. The indole skeleton **38** was formed by Michael addition. Cleaving of the solid phase resulted in a library of indoles **39** with a high purity (>99%).

A solid-phase Fischer indole synthesis was described by Cheng and Chapman³⁴ (Scheme 4). TentaGel resin was used as the solid support. In the Fischer indole reaction,

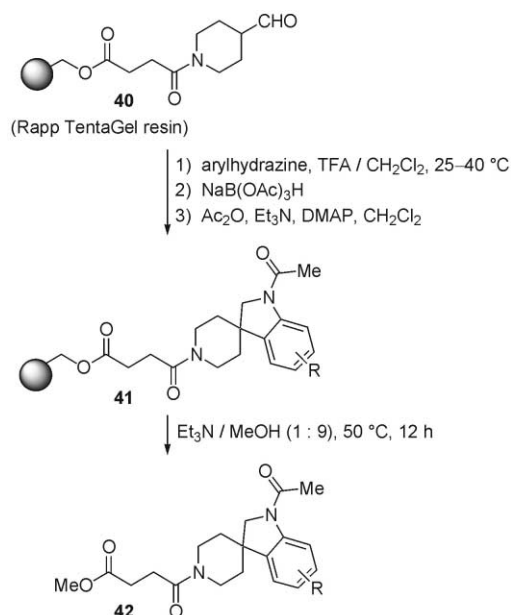
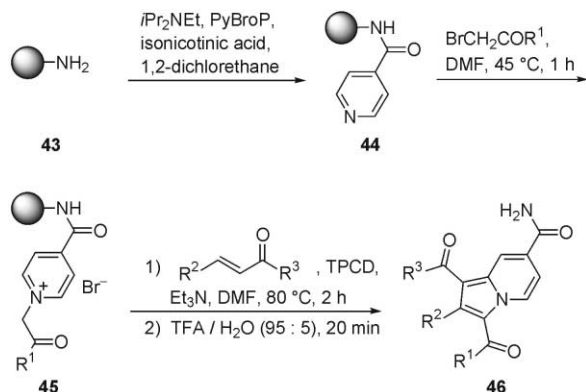
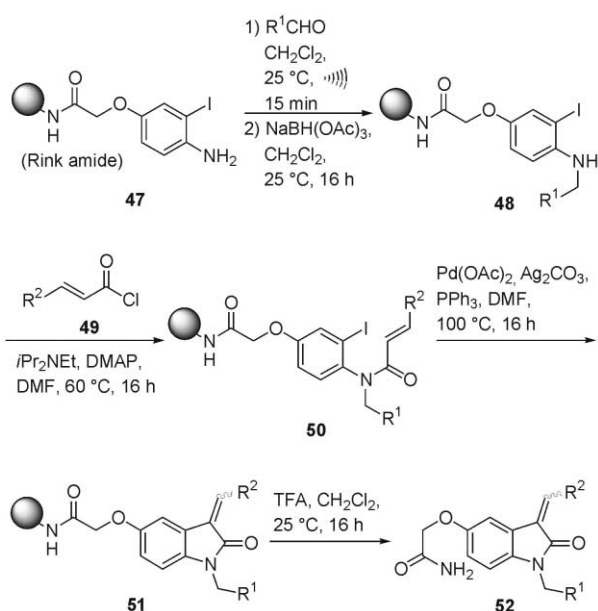


Scheme 3. Nenitzescu indole **39** synthesis on solid support by Ketcha et al.³⁷

the polymer bound aldehyde **40** reacted with arylhydrazines to give an enolenine. Following reduction and acylation, the spiroindolines **42** were cleaved from the resin in good yields and purities.

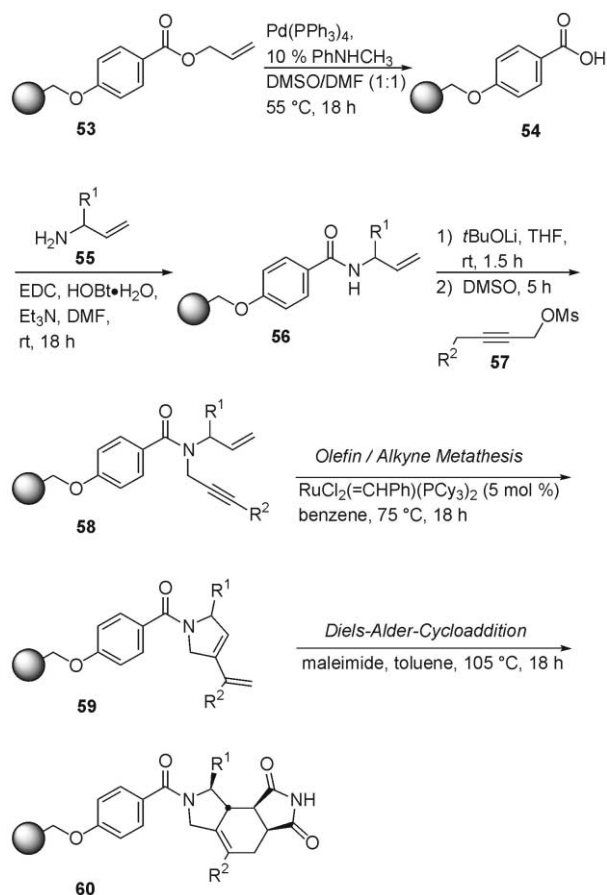
Combinatorial chemistry also offers a solid supported synthesis for indolizines.^{45,46} Scheme 5 shows the synthetic pathway used by Goff.⁴⁵ In the first step, isonicotinic acid was coupled to the deprotected Rink amine resin followed by treatment with 2-bromoaceto-phenones, structure **45** was assembled. A [3 + 2]-dipolar cycloaddition gave the indolizines **46** after cleavage. A small library of indolizines with high yields and purities was produced using this route.

The synthesis of 2-oxindole derivatives on solid support was published by Arumugam et al.³⁵ in 1997. As shown

Scheme 4. Synthesis of spiroindolines **42** by Cheng and Chapman.³⁴Scheme 5. Synthetic pathway for indolizines **46** by Goff.⁴⁵Scheme 6. Synthesis of 2-oxindole **52** derivatives by Arumugam et al.³⁵

in Scheme 6, the synthesis started with reductive alkylation of an aniline **47**. After construction of the tertiary amide **50**, an intermolecular Heck reaction formed the oxindoles **51** as a mixture of (*E*)- and (*Z*)-isomers.

The solid-phase synthesis of isoindoles and hydroindoles is only described in one publication.⁴⁷ Heerding et al. used an intramolecular olefin/alkyne metathesis in combination with a Diels–Alder cycloaddition as shown in Scheme 7. Wang resin (**25**) served as the solid-support linker combination. The allyl ester **53** was deprotected to give the benzoic acid **54**, which was reacted with an allyl amine. After the insertion of the olefin function, an intramolecular Ruthenium catalyzed olefin/alkyne metathesis yielded **59**. A Diels–Alder reaction with maleimide gave the resin-bound cycloadducts **60** as single diastereomers. This approach was used to prepare a 4200-membered combinatorial library of isoindoles.

Scheme 7. Solid-phase synthesis of isoindoles and hydroindoles **60** by Heerding et al.⁴⁷

Substituted indoles such as the *N*-arylazindoles⁴⁸ have also been reported. The Pictet–Spengler^{49,50} reaction has been used for the preparation of tetrahydro- β -carboline alkaloids **61**,⁵¹ while an efficient solid-phase Tsuge reaction has been employed for the synthesis of maleimide-fused indolizinium carboxylates **62**⁴⁶ (Fig. 3).

Employing some reactions previously described, new synthetic routes to indoles have been developed that

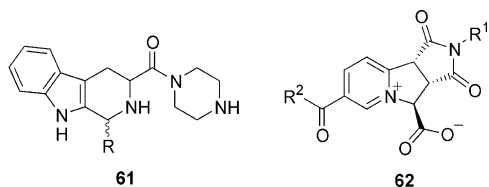


Figure 3. Annelated indole derivatives.

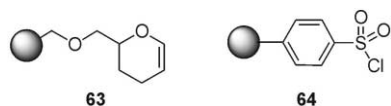


Figure 4. Linkers for indole synthesis.

take advantage of versatile linkers⁵² such as the THP linker **63**^{41,53} or a sulfonyl linker **64** (Fig. 4).^{54–56} The indole NH as a resin attachment point leads to effective linking of indoles.^{57,58} Recently, Macleod et al.⁵⁹ have developed novel titanium(IV) benzylidene reagents that allow the traceless solid-phase synthesis of indoles in high purity using a chameleon catch approach. A highly efficient method for the solid-phase synthesis of substituted indoline scaffolds, which can be elaborated and cleaved in a traceless manner providing access to members of the medically important 1-methyl indoline class, has been described.⁴³

Benzimidazoles

The benzimidazole is a crucial heterocyclic skeleton often associated with biological activity. The benzimidazole ring **65** represents an important pharmacophore in drug discovery notable clinical examples being the antihistamine Astemizole (**66**)⁶⁰ and the proton pump inhibitor Omeprazole (**67**)⁶¹ (Fig. 5).

In addition, benzimidazole based compounds have shown a broad range of biological activities, including

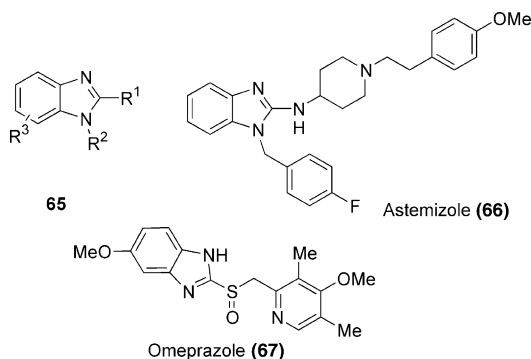
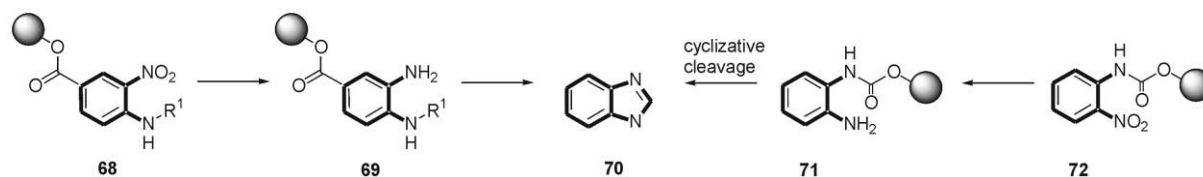


Figure 5. Relevant molecules with a benzimidazole moiety.



Scheme 8. Synthetic pathways for benzimidazoles.

selective inhibition of the platelet-derived growth factor receptor,⁶² class III antiarrhythmic activity,⁶³ neuropeptide Y₁ receptor antagonism,⁶⁴ antiproliferative activity,^{65,66} angiotensin II receptor antagonism⁶⁷ and antiviral properties.^{68,69}

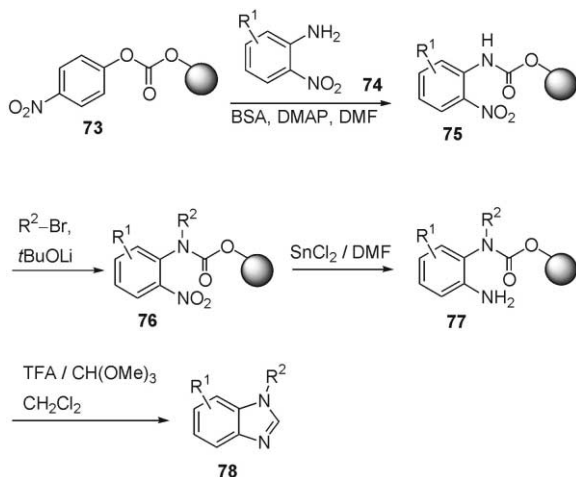
Because of their relative ease of synthesis and precedence as bioactive molecules, benzimidazoles have been an obvious target for the development of solid-phase synthesis. Recent reports have described the benzimidazole synthesis.^{70–81} As shown in Scheme 8, the key step was the reduction of the nitro group to a primary amine. The benzimidazole unit was then formed by a cyclization reaction.

One example for the solid-supported synthesis of benzimidazoles, wherein the five-membered ring compound was constructed on the site of the solid phase, was described by Huang and Scarborough.⁷¹ As outlined in Scheme 9, the first building blocks, substituted 2-nitroanilines **74** were attached to *p*-nitrophenyl carbonate Wang resin **73**. After alkylation of the carbonate moiety using strong bases as lithium *t*-butoxide, the nitro groups were reduced to the corresponding anilines **77**. The benzimidazoles were formed by treatment with trimethylorthoformate. Using this cyclative cleavage approach, a small library of nine compounds was synthesized.

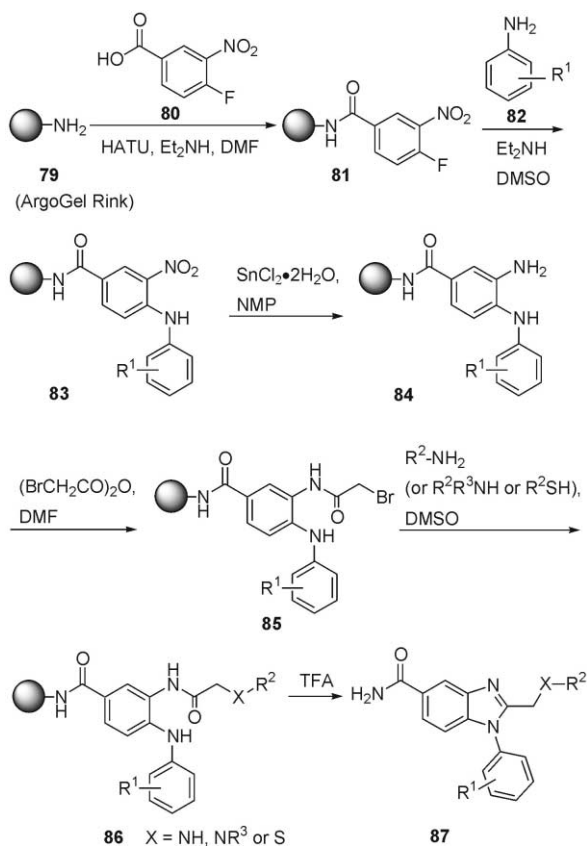
An example of cyclization on the other site was demonstrated by Tumelty et al. in 1998.⁸⁰ As shown in Scheme 10, fluoronitrobenzoic acid **80** was connected to the deprotected ArgoGelTM Rink Fmoc resin **79**. Nucleophilic aromatic substitution was followed by reduction to give the diamines **84**. The next step was a reaction with bromoacetic acid anhydride. After displacement of the bromide with a nucleophilic monomer, the benzimidazoles were formed and the products **87** were cleaved from the solid support in good yields (65–95%) and high purities (>95%).

A publication of Pan and Sun described the combinatorial synthesis of oxobenzimidazoles.⁸² As described in Scheme 11, the fluoro group was displaced by several primary amines in the first step. The nitroanilines **89** were then reduced to the diamines **90**. In the third step, the oxobenzimidazole building block was formed by a cyclization with triphosgene. The products **92** were obtained in good yields and purities after cleavage. Smith et al.⁸³ reported a synthesis of 2-arylamino benzimidazoles on SynPhaseTM Crowns, which involved *o*-nitroaniline intermediates. It is also possible to synthesize thiobenzimidazoles in a very analogous synthetic pathway.⁸⁴

Several other groups have reported the ‘traceless’ synthesis of benzimidazoles with three points of diversity.^{75,77,85,86} All of these traceless methods allow the attachment of the solid support through the anilinic nitrogen of the ring precursor.



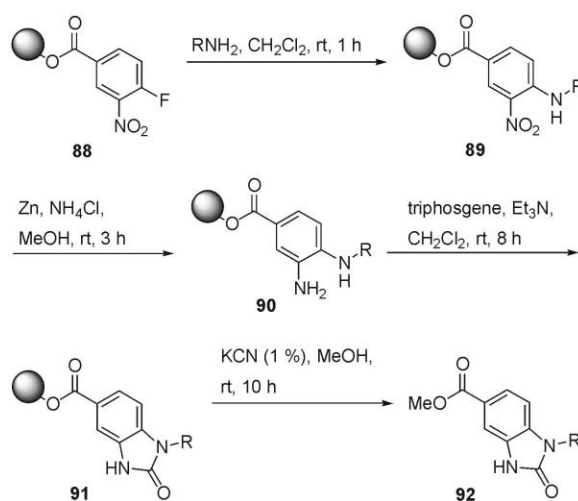
Scheme 9. Solid-supported synthesis of benzimidazoles **78** by Huang and Scarborough.⁷¹



Scheme 10. Synthesis of benzimidazoles **87** by Tumelty et al.⁸⁰

Benzotriazoles

Recently, a novel series of benzotriazoles derivatives has been synthesized and has been screened as anti-inflammatory,⁸⁷ antitumoral and anti-HIV agents.⁸⁸ The



Scheme 11. Solid-phase synthesis of oxobenzimidazoles **92** by Pan and Sun.⁸²

antiemetic Alizapride (**93**) is a benzotriazole that is used for the treatment of side effects of chemotherapy caused by Cisplatin⁸⁹ (Fig. 6).

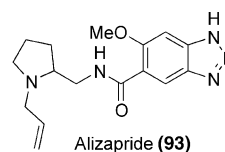
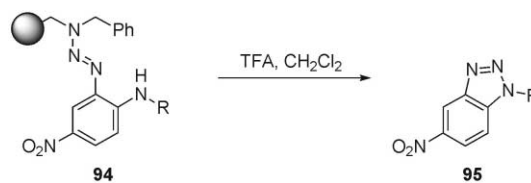


Figure 6. Structure of Alizapride (**93**).

The only solid-supported synthetic pathway to benzotriazoles was described by Bräse et al.⁹⁰ as shown in Scheme 12. The polymer-bound α -aminotriazenes **94**, readily available by substitution of a nitrofluoro resin,



Scheme 12. Synthetic pathway to benzotriazoles **95** by Bräse et al.⁹⁰

were converted to the benzotriazoles **95**. Cleavage from the solid support and cyclization of the α -aminotriazene salt with trifluoroacetic acid in dichloromethane gave the products **95** in good yields and excellent purities.

The unsubstituted benzotriazole core has been used as polymeric support for the synthesis of organic molecules libraries.^{91–96}

Indazoles

The indazole moiety is present in the marketed anti-inflammatory drugs Bendazac (**96**)⁹⁷ and Benzydamine (**97**).⁹⁸ Apart from this, the range of pharmacological effects of the indazole derivatives include DNA intercalating as the benzothiopyranindazoles CI-958,⁹⁹ anti-

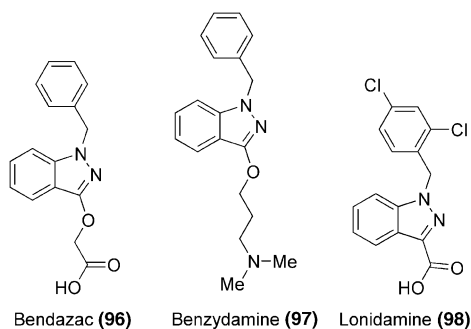
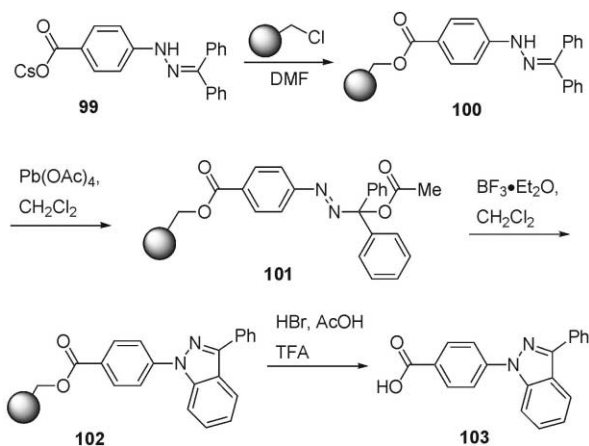


Figure 7. Relevant molecules with an indazole moiety.

vators of the nitric oxide receptor,¹⁰⁰ DY-9760 calmodulin antagonist,¹⁰¹ immunosuppressive effects of Bindarit,¹⁰² and the anticancer activity of Lonidamine (**98**)¹⁰³ (Fig. 7).

So far, only one synthetic pathway for indazoles on solid phase has been reported. Yan and Gstach described the synthesis shown in Scheme 13 in 1996.¹⁰⁴ Therefore, the hydrazone **99** was coupled to unmodified Merrifield resin. Subsequently, the immobilized hydrazone **100** was oxidized to the ester **101**. The indazole unit was formed by a Lewis catalyzed cyclization. The indazole **103** cleaved from the solid support in a final yield of 79% and purity >95%. All the reaction steps were monitored by single-bead IR.



Scheme 13. Synthetic pathway for an indazole **103** on solid support by Yan and Gstach.¹⁰⁴

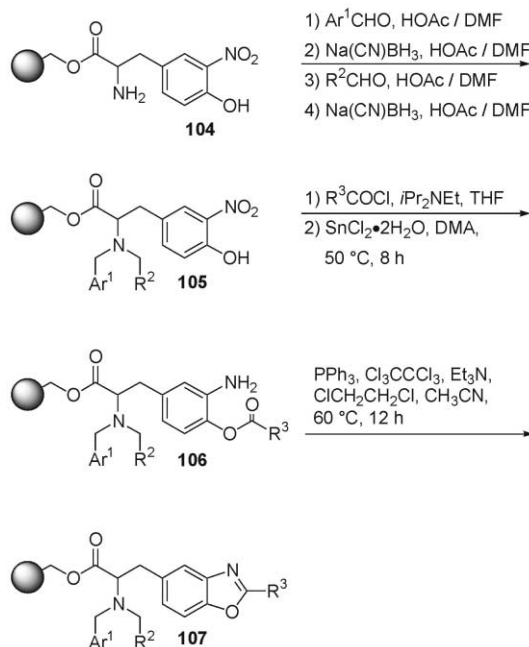
In addition, as numerous natural and non-natural guanidine-containing compounds have had a significant impact on medicinal chemistry,^{105,106} López-Cremades et al.¹⁰⁷ developed a simple method for the preparation of fused indazolobis(guanidines) on solid support via an Aza–Wittig intramolecular cyclization.

Benzoxazoles and benzisoxazoles

Until now, few papers have reported the solid-phase synthesis of benzoxazoles, although these heterocycles are present in biologically active compounds,¹⁰⁸ and have been described as 5-HT₃ partial agonists,¹⁰⁹ antibacterials,¹¹⁰ as well as inhibitors of thrombin,¹¹¹

human cytomegalovirus protease,¹¹² and chymase.¹¹³ Besides this, the benzisoxazoles Risperidone¹¹⁴ and Zonisamide¹¹⁵ have been approved for the treatment of schizophrenia and epilepsy, respectively.

Beebe et al. described a new strategy for synthesizing benzoxazoles in 2001.¹¹⁶ A modified Wang resin was used as the solid support. As formulated in Scheme 14, in the first two steps, the primary amine **104** was converted into a tertiary amine **105**. Subsequently, the phenol was esterified and the nitro group was reduced to the diamino ester **106**. The final step was a dehydrative cyclization to the benzoxazoles **107**.



Scheme 14. Synthesis of benzoxazoles **107** by Beebe et al.¹¹⁶

Lepore et al. described a synthetic pathway to isoxazoles¹¹⁷ (Scheme 15). The Boc-protected amine **109** was loaded on the Kaiser resin **108** and treated with trifluoroacetic acid to give **111**. This resin was treated with different electrophiles to give oximes **112**, which were cyclized by cleavage from the solid support to give the isoxazoles **113** in good yields and high purities (>93%).

Stephensen and Zaragoza used the partial reduction of nitro groups to hydroxylamines and subsequent cyclization with ketones as the synthesis strategy¹¹⁸ (Scheme 16). In the first step, the fluoride ion of **114** was substituted by the arylacetonitrile **115**. Reductive cyclization and cleavage of the solid support resulted in the benzisoxazole **117**.

Benzoannelated Six-Membered Heterocycles (Tetrahydro)quinolines and (tetrahydro)isoquinolines

Quinoline and isoquinolines as well as their tetrahydro derivatives are part of many biologically interesting

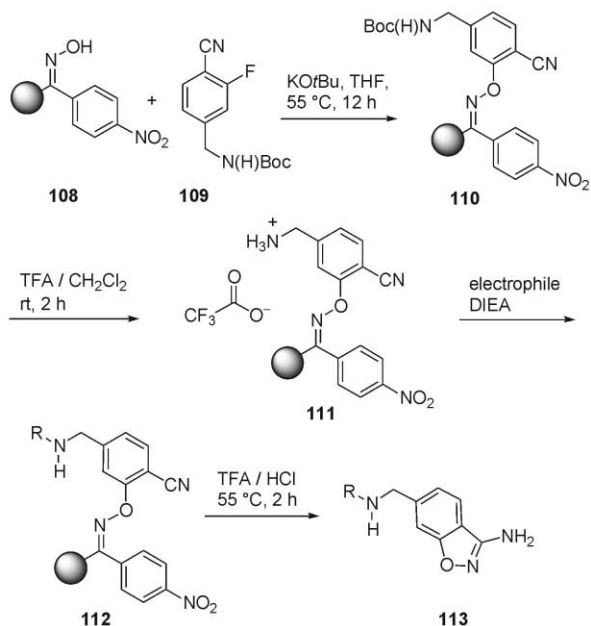
compounds. They appear in natural and synthetic products possessing significant pharmacological properties. In fact, they have been used as HIV protease inhibitors [e.g., Saquinavir (**118**)],¹¹⁹ antimalarial drugs [e.g., Mefloquine (**119**)],¹²⁰ drugs for the treatment of asthma [e.g., Montelukast (**120**)],¹²¹ broad spectrum antibacterial agents [e.g., Ciprofloxacin (**121**)], that can be used to

treat anthrax],¹²² and even as antidepressants [e.g., Nomifensine (**123**)]¹²³ and an inhibitor of angiotensin converting enzyme [e.g., Quinapril (**122**)]¹²⁴ (Fig. 8). This family of heterocycles have shown potential as ligands for the human glucocorticoid receptor,¹²⁵ inhibitors of platelet-derived growth factor receptor tyrosine kinase,¹²⁶ inhibitors of potassium ion channels on human T lymphocytes,¹²⁷ anti-inflammatory agents,¹²⁸ factor Xa inhibitors,¹²⁹ antitumorals,¹³⁰ phosphodiesterase 5 inhibitors¹³¹ and analgesics.¹³²

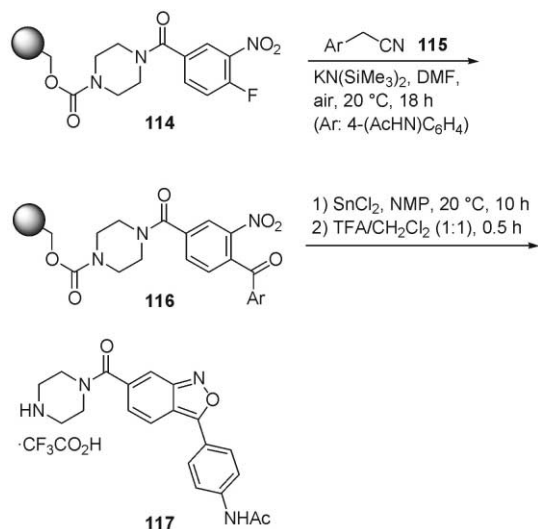
For these reasons, a general method for the solid-phase synthesis of these molecules would be extremely valuable.

Tetrahydroquinolines have been synthesized in two different ways on the solid support as shown in Scheme 17. Kiselyov et al.^{133–136} described different pathways to the tetrahydroquinolines using the Grieco three-component condensation. A 1,4-addition also offers a synthetic pathway to tetrahydroquinolines.

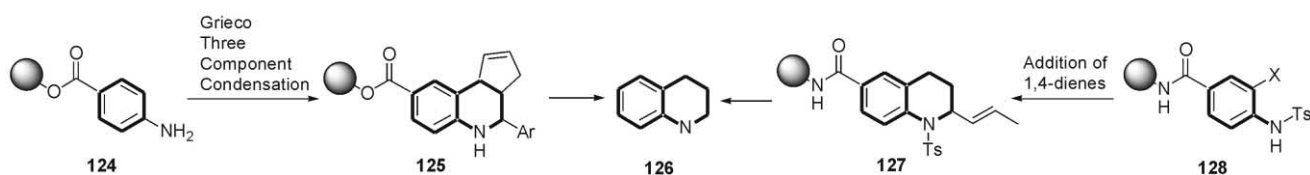
In the first example of the Grieco three-component condensation shown in Scheme 18, Kiselyov connected the 4-nitrophenylalanine **129** to the Wang resin (**25**) by esterification.¹³³ The amino group was deprotected, acylated and the nitro group reduced to the amine **133**. The Grieco three-component condensation of **133**, the



Scheme 15. Solid-phase synthesis of isoxazoles **113** by Lepore et al.¹¹⁷



Scheme 16. Synthetic pathway to benzisoxazoles **117** by Stephensen and Zaragoza.¹¹⁸



Scheme 17. Solid-phase synthesis of tetrahydroquinolines.

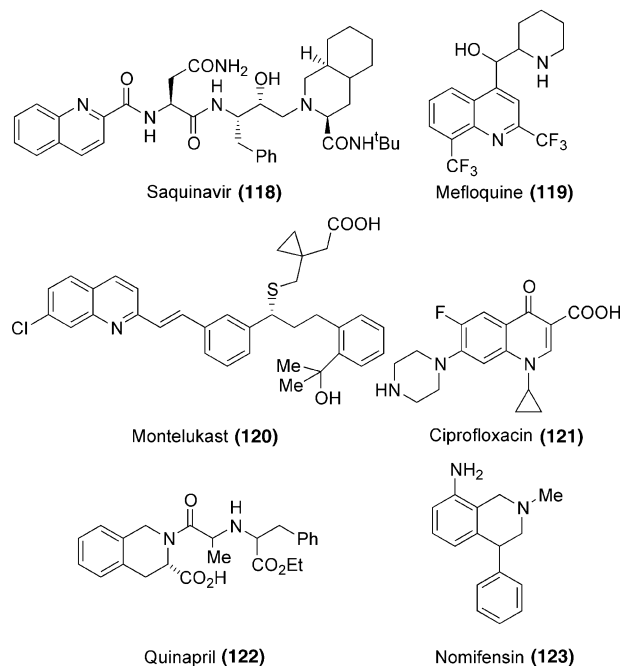
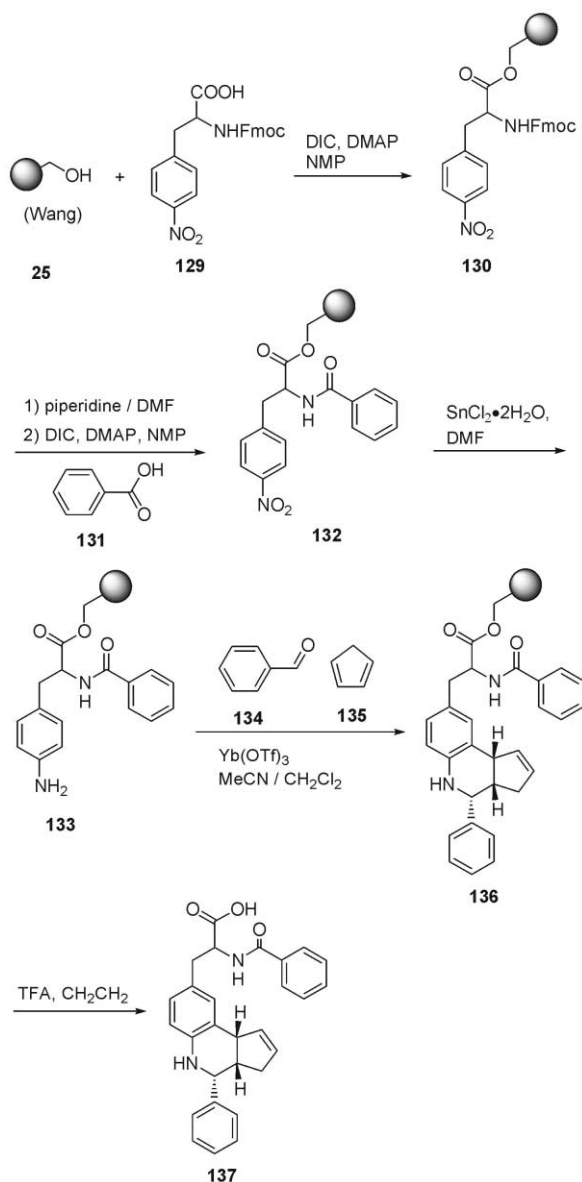


Figure 8. Relevant molecules with quinoline/quinolone and tetrahydroisoquinoline moiety.

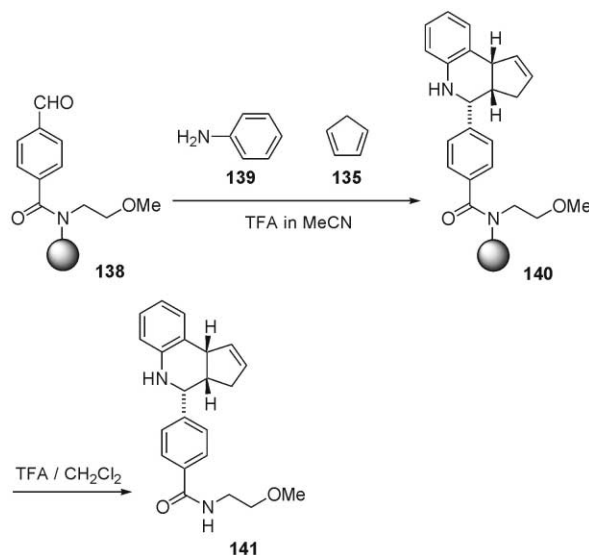


Scheme 18. Three-component condensation catalyzed by Yb(OTf)₃ according to Kiselyov et al.¹³³

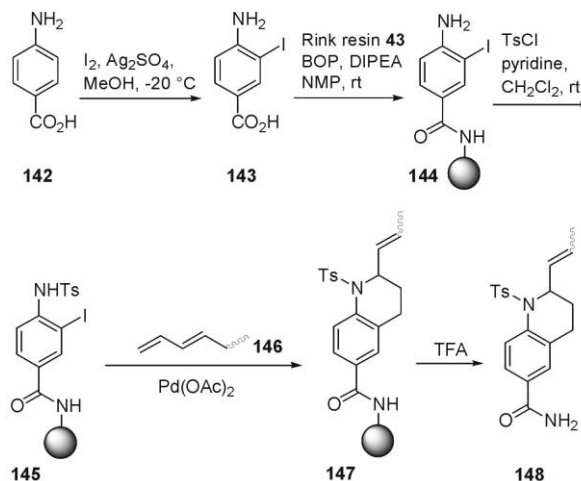
aldehyde **134** and the diene **135** furnished the desired tetrahydroquinoline derivative **137** after cleavage with TFA.

Kiselyov also connected the aldehyde position to the solid support¹³⁵ (Scheme 19). Therefore, the aldehyde resin **138** was reacted with aniline (**139**) and cyclopentadiene (**135**) to get the tetrahydroquinolines **140**. After cleavage with TFA, the tetrahydroquinolines **141** were isolated.

The other synthetic pathway to tetrahydroquinolines was described by Wang et al.⁴² (Scheme 20). 4-amino-benzoic acid (**142**) was iodinated to the 4-amino-3-iodobenzoic acid (**143**) and coupled to Rink resin (**43**). After tosylation, the palladium-catalyzed annelation of the solid-phase linked *o*-iodoanilines **145** with 1,4-dienes took place. Cleavage from the solid support gave the tetrahydroquinolines **148** in high yield (88%) and good purities (81%).



Scheme 19. Three-component condensation with the aldehyde connected to the solid support according to Kiselyov et al.¹³⁵

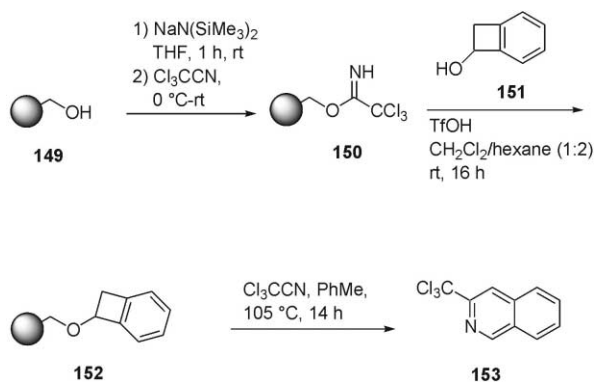


Scheme 20. Synthesis of a tetrahydroquinoline **148** by Wang et al.⁴²

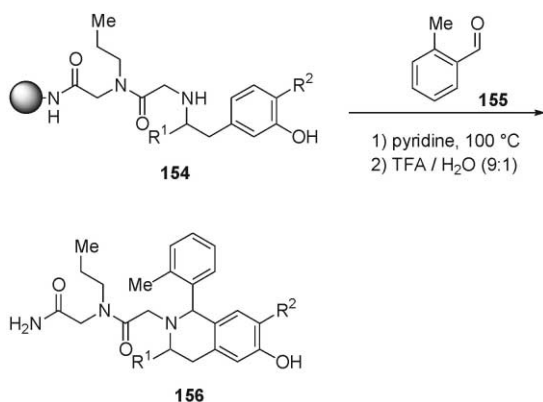
Various synthetic pathways offer the accessibility to isoquinolines. The first one was described by Craig et al. and shown in Scheme 21.¹³⁷ Hydroxymethylpolystyrene resin (**149**) was used as the solid support. Reaction with trichloroacetonitrile delivered the functionalized resin **150**. The benzocyclobutanole **151** was connected to the solid support and resulted in the *o*-quinodimethane precursor **152**. A Diels–Alder reaction with trichloroacetonitrile yielded 3-(trichloromethyl)isoquinoline (**153**) with concomitant cleavage from the solid support.

Another pathway was described by Hutchins et al.¹³⁸ As demonstrated in Scheme 22, they used a cyclization reaction for the preparation of tetrahydroisoquinolines **156**. The reactive intermediate was a resin-bound imine, which reacted at very mild conditions upon cleavage to the heterocycle.

Meutermans et al. and Röfling et al. exploited the Bischler–Napieralski reaction on solid support for the synthesis of tetrahydroisoquinolines.^{139,140}



Scheme 21. Traceless solid-phase synthesis of isoquinoline **153** by Diels-Alder reaction according to Craig et al.¹³⁷



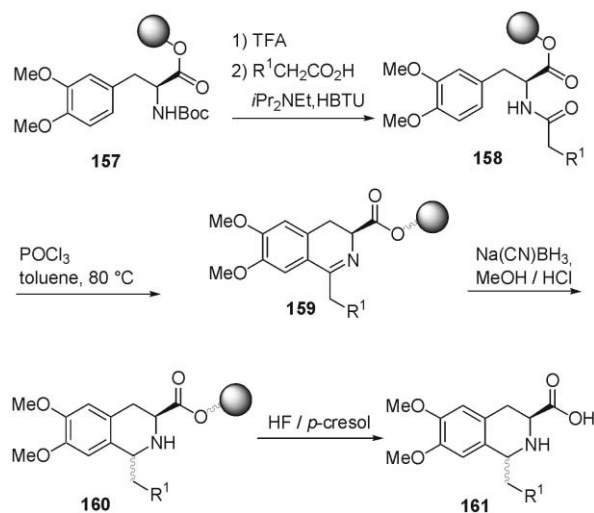
Scheme 22. Solid-phase synthesis of tetrahydroisoquinolines **156** by Hutchins et al.¹³⁸

Meutermans et al. deprotected the linked Boc-protected *L*-3,4-dimethoxyphenylalanine **157** and acylated it to yield **158** (Scheme 23). The cyclization took place by a Bischler–Napieralski reaction and gave the imine **159**. The reduction of the imine **159** and cleavage from the solid support yielded the tetrahydroisoquinolines **161** in high yield and good purities.

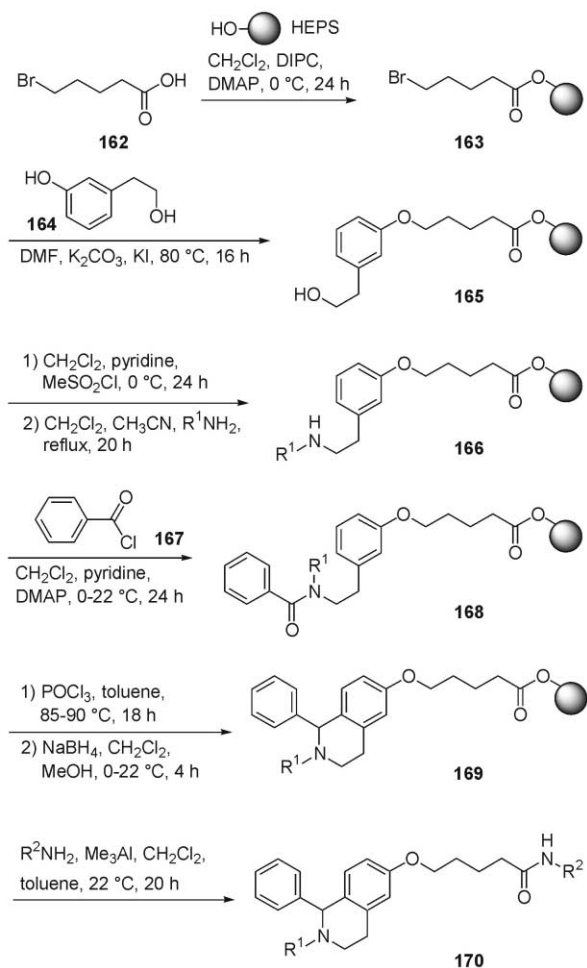
Röfling et al. started with bromocarboxylic acid **162**, which was connected to 2-hydroxyethylpolystyrene resin by esterification (Scheme 24). After a nucleophilic substitution **165**, the system was activated, so that the phenethylamine could be elaborated. The amine was connected to chlorobenzoic acid. Parallel Bischler–Napieralski type ring closure and iminium ion reduction furnished the isoquinoline skeleton. Cleavage of the solid support resulted the tetrahydroisoquinoline amide **170**. Röfling et al. produced a library of 24 tetrahydroisoquinoline amides by this synthetic pathway.¹⁴⁰

Quinazolines

Quinazolines are widely used as antitumorals, for example **171**,^{141–143} although they exhibit also a wide range of biological properties as potent non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors of HIV-1,¹⁴⁴ antibacterial agents **172**,¹⁴⁵ phosphodiesterase 5 inhibitors¹⁴⁶ and antagonist for the human adenosine A(3) receptor¹⁴⁷



Scheme 23. Solid-supported Bischler–Napieralski reaction by Meutermans et al.¹³⁹



Scheme 24. Solid-supported Bischler–Napieralski reaction by Röfling et al.¹⁴⁰

with potential action as anti-inflammatory, anti-asthmatic or anti-ischemic agents. This heterocycle is present also in the agent for the treatment of *Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia Trimetrexate (**173**),¹⁴⁸ in Anagrelide¹⁴⁹ that can be used for the treatment of thrombocythaemia,¹⁵⁰ in Prazosin (**174**)¹⁵¹ (Fig. 9) used in benign

prostatic hyperplasia, and in the antihypertensive agent Ketanserin.¹⁵² There are three different pathways described for the synthesis of quinazolines. Cobb et al., Zhang et al. and Makino et al. took a cyclocondensation as the key step.^{153–157} As shown in Scheme 25, Makino also used a cycloaddition for the construction of the quinazoline skeleton.¹⁵⁸

Cobb et al. described a two-step reaction for quinazolines.¹⁵³ In the first step, hydroxymethylpolystyrene (**149**) was reacted with ethyl oxalylchloride to the ethyl-oxalate linkage **182**, as shown in Scheme 26. The

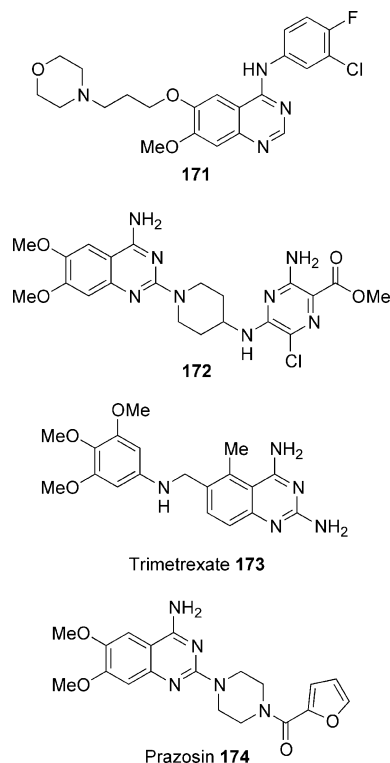
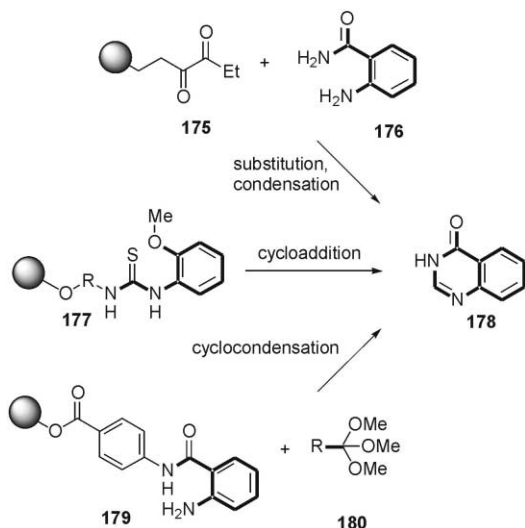


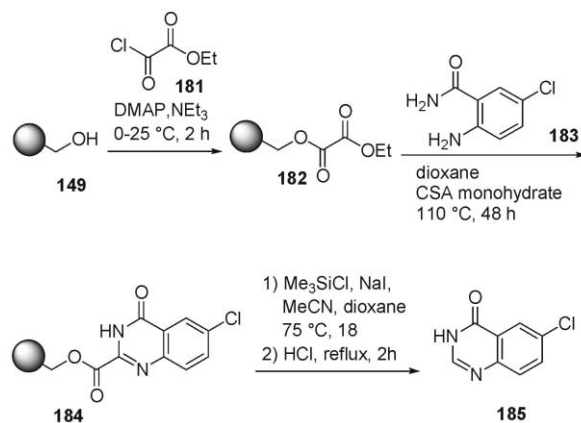
Figure 9. Relevant molecules with quinazoline moiety.



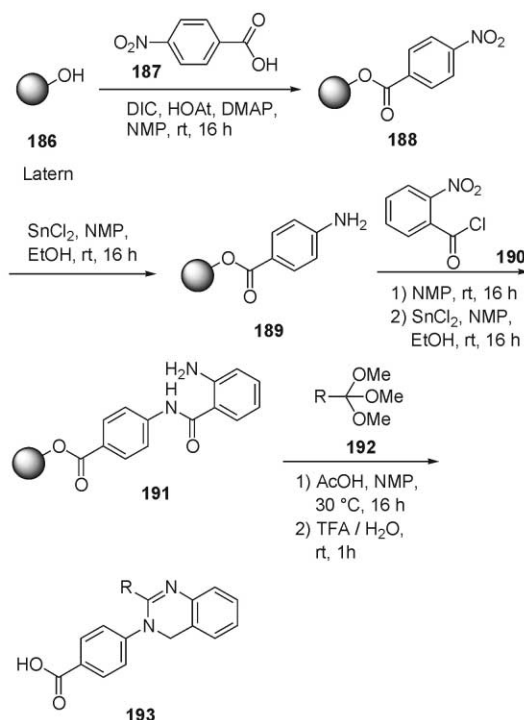
Scheme 25. Pathways to quinazolines.

cyclocondensation with the benzamide resulted in the linked quinazoline **184**, which was cleaved from the solid support by treatment with trimethylsilyliodide and finally decarboxylated hydrochloric acid.

Makino et al. synthesized various quinazolines by cycloaddition of anthranilamides with orthoformates.¹⁵⁸ As shown in Scheme 27, the solid-support **186** was treated with *p*-nitrobenzoic acid (**187**) to give **188**. The nitro group was reduced to the amine and transformed with the acid chloride **190** to the amide **191**. After cyclocondensation and cleavage of the solid support, the quinazolines **193** were produced in very high purities (>95%).

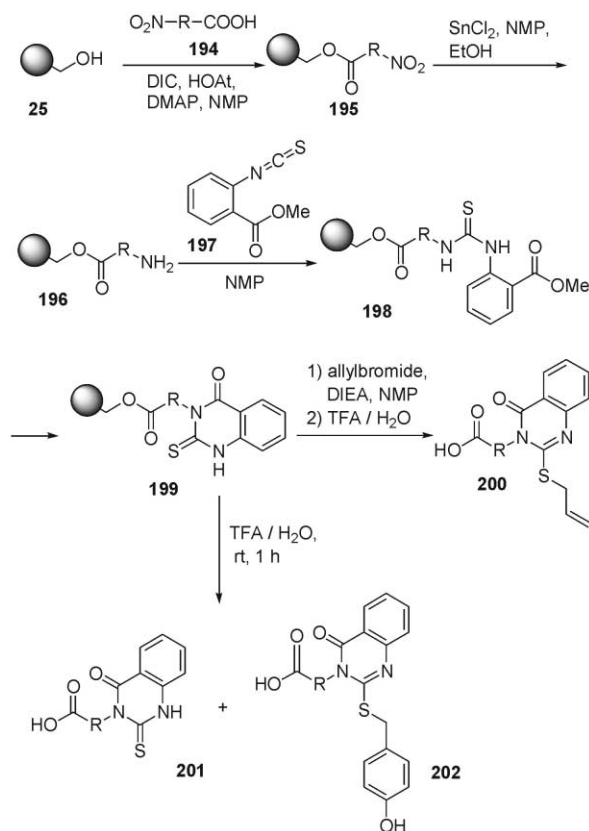


Scheme 26. Synthetic pathway to quinazolines **185** described by Cobb et al.¹⁵³



Scheme 27. Solid-phase synthesis of quinazolines **193** using a cyclocondensation by Makino et al.¹⁵⁸

Makino et al. also described a pathway to quinazolines using a cyclocondensation¹⁵⁵ (Scheme 28). The first step in this synthesis was the connection of nitro acids **194** by etherification onto Wang resin (**25**). After reduction to the corresponding amine, a cycloaddition with the 2-methoxycarbonyl phenylisothiocyanate (**197**) took place. Cleavage of the resin **199** with trifluoroacetic acid yielded a mixture of the products **201** and **202** depending of the acid concentration, which is due to fragmentation of the linker. However, after *S*-allylation of the quinazoline **199**, a clean synthesis of the *S*-allyl quinazoline **200** was achieved.



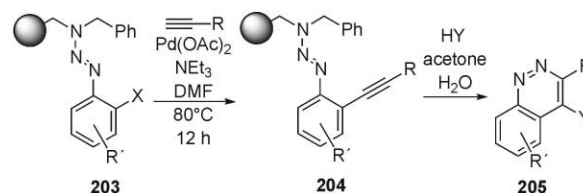
Scheme 28. Solid-phase synthesis of quinazolines **202** using a cyclocondensation by Makino et al.¹⁵⁵

Cinnolines

Recently, the synthesis and biological activity of indolo[3,2-*c*]cinnolines with antiproliferative, antifungal, and antibacterial activity have been described.¹⁵⁹ Before this, some cinnoline derivatives were screened for their effect on the Central Nervous System,¹⁶⁰ and it

was found that some of them had sedative action at low doses.¹⁶¹

Cinnolines were synthesized by a Richter type solid-phase reaction by Bräse et al.¹⁶² (Scheme 29). Starting from benzylaminomethyl polystyrene, the required diverse *o*-haloaryl resins **203** were prepared from substituted *o*-haloanilines. The following cross-coupling reaction with the alkynes was catalyzed by palladium. The Richter cleavage reaction with hydrobromic or hydrochloric acid yielded the cinnolines **205** in 47–95% yield and 60–95% purity.



Scheme 29. Synthetic pathway to cinnolines **205** by Bräse et al.¹⁶²

Quinoxalines

Examples of biologically active quinoxalines include antitrypanosomal drugs,¹⁶³ partial agonist of the γ -aminobutyric acid A/benzodiazepine receptor complex **207/208**,¹⁶⁴ angiotensin II receptor antagonist,¹⁶⁵ adenosine receptor antagonist,¹⁶⁶ and broadly active antitumoral agents as XK 469 (**206**)¹⁶⁷ (Fig. 10).

The solid-phase synthesis of benzopiperazinones (1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoxalin-2-ones) was described.^{168–171} Morales et al.¹⁶⁹ (Scheme 30), began the synthesis with esterification of 4-fluoro-3-nitrobenzoic acid **80** on to Wang resin **25** or bromo Wang resin **209**. *ipso*-Fluoride displacement of the resulting fluoronitro resin **210** yielded aniline resin **211**, which was reduced to the diamine **212**. Direct cyclization of the amine assembled the benzopiperazinones skeleton. Cleavage of the solid support yielded the products **214**.

A similar pathway to tetrahydroquinoxaline-diones was described by Nefzi et al.¹⁷²

The solid-phase traceless synthesis of tetrahydroquinoxalines has been reported, too.^{173–175}

The solid-phase synthesis of Quinoxalines on SynPhaseTM Laterns was described for the first time by Wu et al.¹⁷⁶

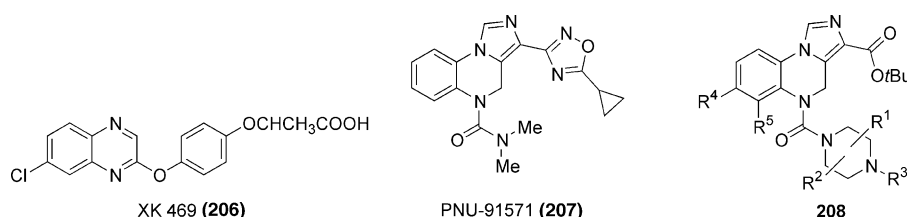
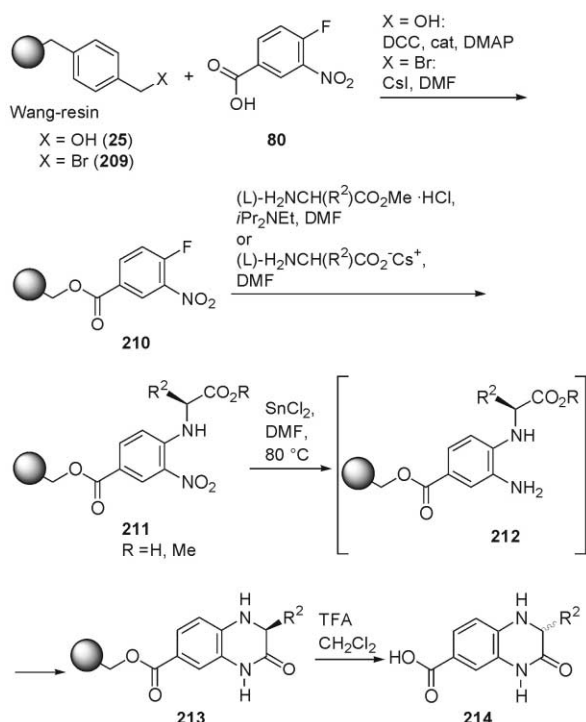


Figure 10. Structure of biologically active quinoxalines.



Scheme 30. Solid-phase synthesis of benzopiperazinones **214** by Morales et al.¹⁶⁹

Benzothiazines

Some benzothiazine derivatives have proven to be potent candidates to be new antiallergic¹⁷⁷ or antirheumatic¹⁷⁸ agents.

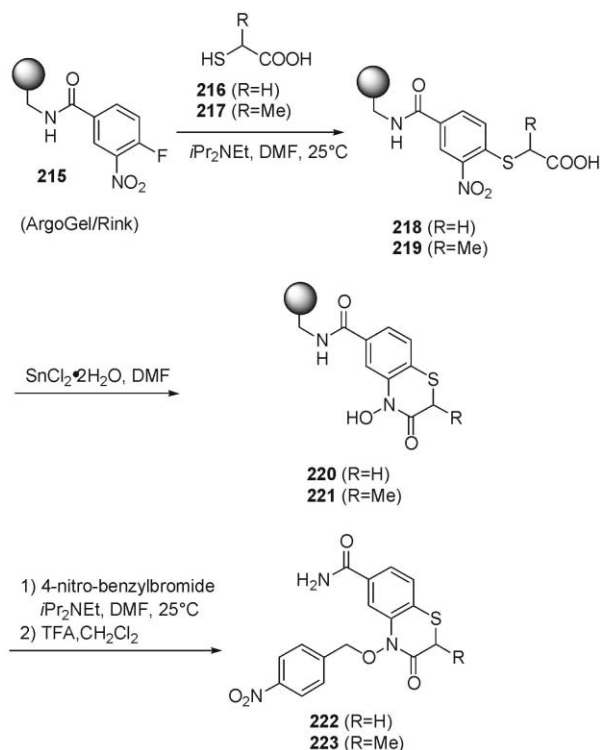
Schwarz and Gallop¹⁷⁹ described a synthesis (Scheme 31) in which the fluoronitro resin **215** was reacted with solutions of thiocarboxylic acids **216** or **217**, respectively. The solid-phase nucleophilic aromatic substitution reaction again proved reliable and afforded the corresponding *o*-nitroethers **218** or **219**, respectively. Exposure of these to standard nitro group reduction conditions, however, did not furnish the expected *o*-alkylthioanilines or the corresponding 1,4-benzothiazin-3-ones. Another set of products was obtained in purities exceeding 90%. These were the corresponding cyclic hydroxamic acids **220** and **221**. Thus, treatment of these with *p*-nitrobenzyl bromide at room temperature and subsequent cleavage resulted in smooth conversion to the corresponding **222** and **223**, respectively.

Using a similar procedure Lee et al.¹⁸⁰ reported the solid-phase synthesis of 1,4-benzoxazin-3(4*H*)-one and 1,4-benzothiazin-3(4*H*)-one derivatives.

Benzoannelated Seven-Membered Heterocycles

Benzazepines

Various benzazepines have been reported as potentially antitumoral agents, as the paullones **224**,¹⁸¹ and the related darpones **225**¹⁸² (Fig. 11). Another compounds having this nucleus have shown biological activity as



Scheme 31. Solid-phase synthesis of benzothiazines **222**, **223** by Schwarz and Gallop.¹⁷⁹

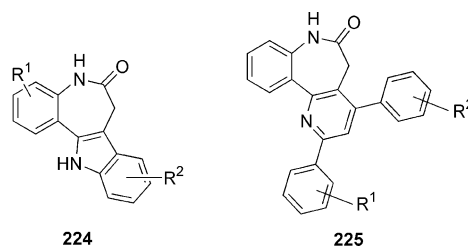


Figure 11. Relevant molecules with benzazepine moiety.

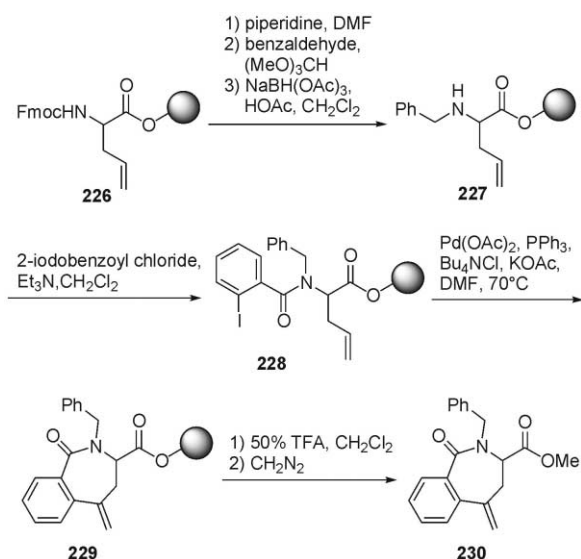
central selective acetylcholinesterase inhibitors,¹⁸³ vasopressin receptor antagonist¹⁸⁴ and specific bradycardiac agent as Zatebradine, whose solid-phase synthesis has been recently described.¹⁸⁵

Bolton and Hodges¹⁸⁶ described the synthesis of benzazepines via intramolecular Heck cyclization as shown in Scheme 32. Following deprotection of immobilized allylglycine ester **226**, reductive amination with benzaldehyde cleanly produced the secondary amine **227**. Subsequent acylation with 2-iodobenzoyl chloride provided **228**, which underwent efficient Heck cyclization to bicyclic lactam **229** following acidic cleavage and esterification. This new class of bicyclic amino acid scaffold can be efficiently functionalized at various sites.

Benzoxazepines

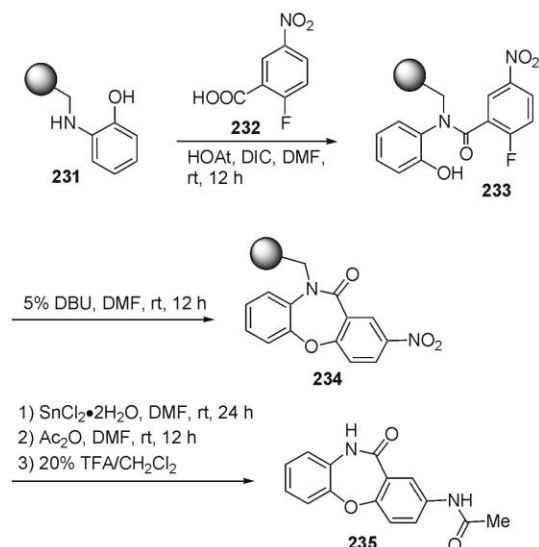
A series of new benzoxazepine derivatives has recently described as 5-HT₁ receptor agonists¹⁸⁷ with remarkable neuroprotective activity. Other derivatives exhibit suitable

properties as anticancer agents¹⁸⁸ or HIV-1 non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors.¹⁸⁹



Scheme 32. Synthesis of benzazepines **230** via intramolecular Heck cyclization by Bolton and Hodges.¹⁸⁶

Ouyang et al.¹⁹⁰ reported a synthetic strategy toward the benzoxazepine ring (Scheme 33). The resin **231** was prepared by the reductive amination of *o*-aminophenol on AMEBA polystyrene resin. This resin was further modified to afford the immobilized substrate **233**, which was ready for the assembly of the desired derivative **234**. Cleavage of the solid support amounts the benzoxazepine **235** in quantitative yield.



Scheme 33. Synthesis of a benzoxazepine **235** by Ouyang et al.¹⁹⁰

Benzothiazepines

Diltiazem (**236**) is a well-known 1,5-benzothiazepin-4-one that is among the most widely used drugs in the treatment of cardiovascular disorders, due of its role as calcium channel blocker.¹⁹¹ Recently, a new family of

potent and selective bradykinin receptor antagonist have been reported as JMV 1645 (**237**)¹⁹² and **238**¹⁹³ (Fig. 12). Schwarz et al. described a synthetic pathway to benzothiazepines¹⁹⁴ (Scheme 34). They started with a nucleophilic aromatic substitution of the benzoic acid **80** after immobilization. The nitro group was reduced by tin (II)chloride. Reductive alkylation of **240** gave the secondary anilines **242**. Intramolecular cyclization formed the 3,5-disubstituted 2,3-dihydro-1,5-benzothiazepin-4(5*H*)-ones **243**. Using the same procedure, the same group also synthesized benzothiazocine derivatives.¹⁷⁹

A similar pathway to benzothiazepines was described by Nefzi et al.¹⁹⁵ (Scheme 35) Therefore, *N*- α -Fmoc-*S*-trityl-L-cysteine was coupled to *p*-methylbenzhydrylamine resin, the trityl group was cleaved and the benzoic acid **80** was connected. The protected amine **245** was deprotected and reductively alkylated. Cyclization of **246** resulted in the benzothiazepine skeleton **247**. The nitro group was reduced and coupled to the carboxylic acid.

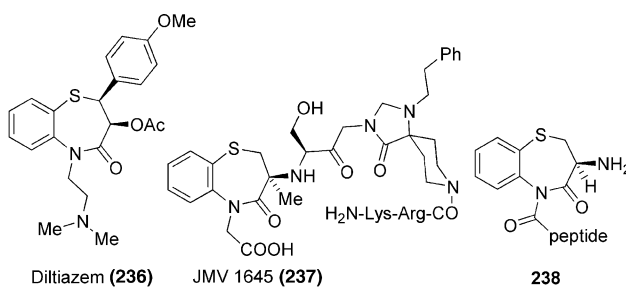
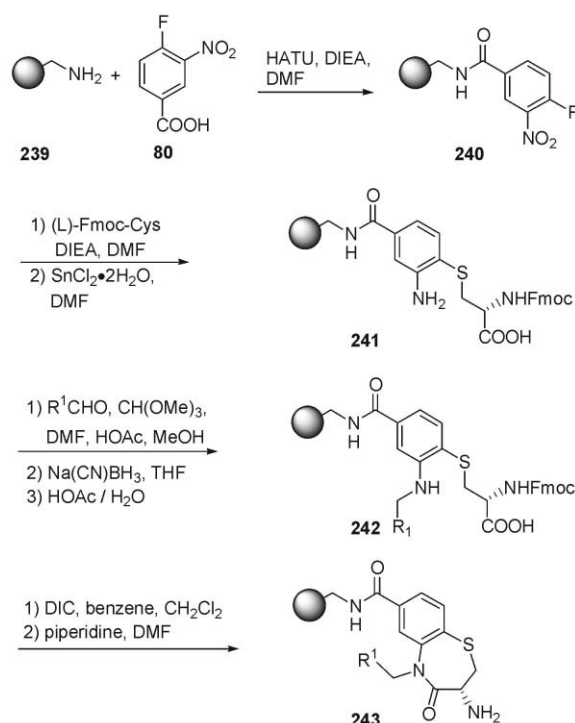


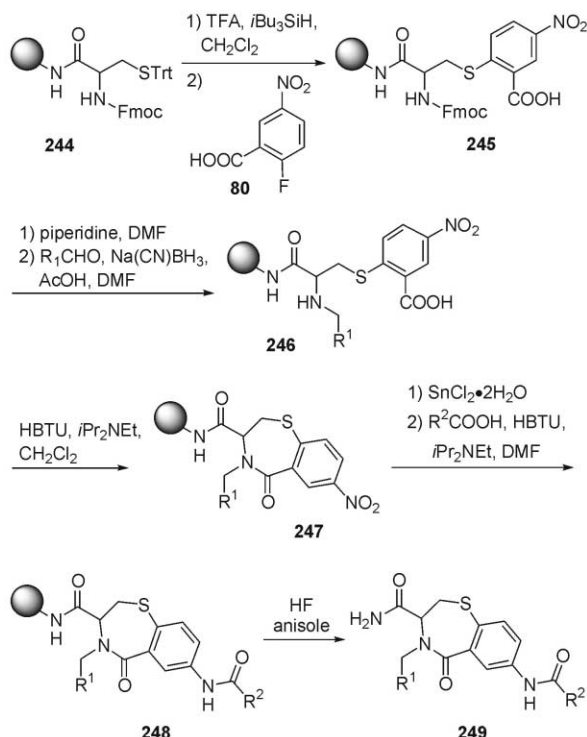
Figure 12. Structure of biologically active benzothiazepines.



Scheme 34. Solid-phase synthesis of 3,5-disubstituted 2,3-dihydro-1,5-benzothiazepin-4(5*H*)-ones **243** by Schwarz et al.¹⁹⁴

Cleavage of the solid support yielded the 1,4-benzothiazepine-5-ones **249** in very high purity.

Another routes for the synthesis of [1,5]-benzothiazepine derivatives, have been reported by Lee et al.¹⁹⁶ and by Micheli et al.¹⁹⁷



Scheme 35. Solid-phase synthesis of 1,4-benzothiazepine-5-ones **249** by Nefzi et al.¹⁹⁵

Benzodiazepines

Often the search for new drugs is initiated by modifications of well known drug; this has proven to be a common and reliable route to a new product. One such example has been the azepine class of drugs. Benzodiazepines are an important group of bioavailable therapeutic agents with widespread biological activities. The therapeutic applications of benzodiazepines such as Diazepam (**250**), Triazolam (**251**), Midazolam (**252**) (Fig. 13) are well-known anxiolytic,¹⁹⁸ sedative,¹⁹⁹ and anticonvulsant properties.²⁰⁰ They have also shown promising activities as antithrombotics²⁰¹ and fibrinogen receptor antagonists.²⁰² As well related structures have experimental applications as ethanol-intoxication antagonists.²⁰³ Members of this family also possess applications as

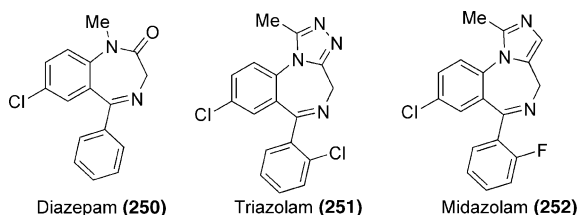


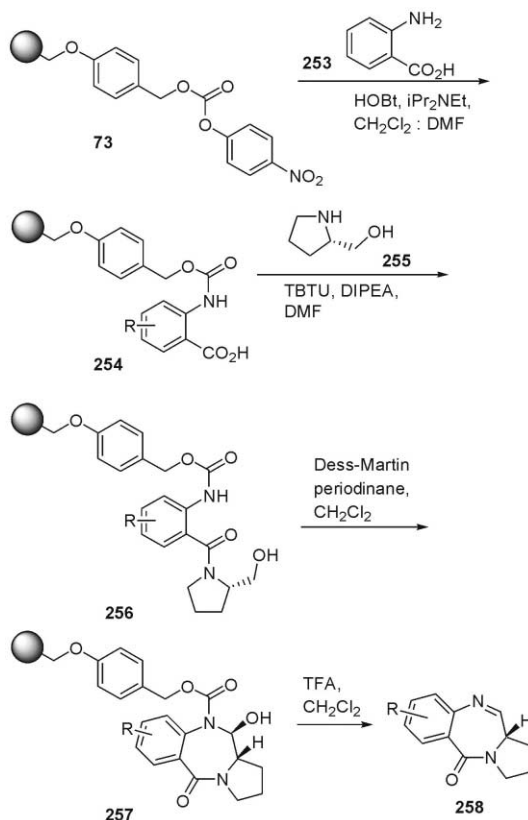
Figure 13. Structure of relevant molecules with benzodiazepine moiety.

antiarrhythmics,²⁰⁴ vasopressin antagonists,²⁰⁵ HIV reverse transcriptase inhibitors,²⁰⁶ and cholecystokinin antagonists.²⁰⁷ In addition, the 1,4-benzodiazepine-2,5-dione core appears in a number of natural products.^{208,209}

Due to their widespread biological activities and favorable pharmacokinetical properties,²¹⁰ benzodiazepines were among the first classes of small molecules to be synthesized on solid support.^{14,211} Since then, there have been numerous reports on the synthesis of similar skeletons, the first efforts to prepare libraries of this type were focused on 1,4-benzodiazepine-2-ones and 1,4-benzodiazepine-2,5-diones. There are also examples for the solid supported synthesis of 2,3-benzodiazepine-4-ones²¹² and 1,4-benzodiazepine-2,3-diones.²¹³

There are many pathway examples to synthesize benzodiazepines using cyclocondensation approaches.^{214–218} For example, the synthesis by Berry et al. is described in Scheme 36.²¹⁴ In the first step, they coupled anthranilic acid (**253**) to the *p*-nitrophenyl carbonate Wang resin **73**. After this, pyrrolidinemethanol (**255**) was added to the immobilized A-ring. The closure of the B-ring was achieved by an oxidation to give the benzodiazepine **257**. Cleavage from the solid support gave the product **258** in good yield.

The solid-phase synthesis of pyrrolo[2,1-*c*][1,4] benzodiazepine-5,11-diones using Wang resin through amide



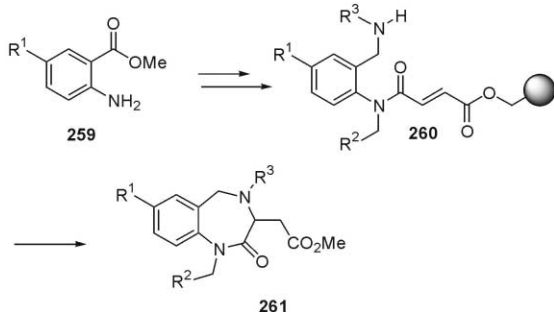
Scheme 36. Synthetic pathway to benzodiazepines **258** using a cyclocondensation by Berry et al.²¹⁴

formation and reductive cyclization procedures was described by Kamal et al.^{219,220}

Bhalay et al. described a synthesis of benzodiazepines by an exo 1,4-addition²²¹ (Scheme 37). An anthranilic ester was coupled to the solid support. The ester group was displaced by an amine. Subsequent to the cyclization by a 1,4-addition, cleavage of the solid support yielded the benzodiazepin-2-ones **261**. Using this pathway, they designed a 120 compound library with three points of diversity.

Boojamra et al. used a different synthetic strategy to 1,4-benzodiazepine-2,5-diones²²² (Scheme 38). Therefore, Merrifield resin (**263**) was derivatized with the sodium salt of the phenol **262**. The α -amino ester **265** was loaded this then formed BAL linker **264** by reductive amination. Acylation of the resulting secondary amine **266** with unprotected anthranilic acids **267** provides the support-bound tertiary amide **268**. After cyclization and introduction of R^2 , the 1,4-benzodiazepine-2,5-diones **272** were cleaved off the solid support.

The Aza–Wittig reaction was used for the cyclization in the synthetic pathway of Goff and Zuckermann.²²³ In the first step, they connected the Rink amide resin **43** with the bromoacetic acid. Then, the bromide was displaced by isobutylamine to give **274**. Bromoacetylation and displacement with amino acid esters affected the intermediates **275**, which were directly acylated with *o*-azidobenzoyl chloride (**276**) to **277**. Cleavage of the solid support yielded the 1,4-benzodiazepine-2,5-iones (Scheme 39).



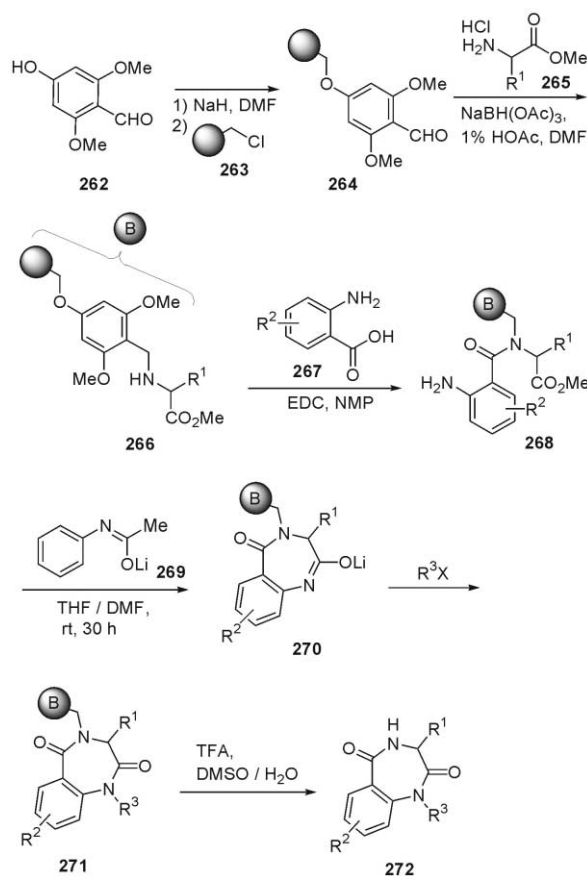
Scheme 37. Synthetic pathway to benzodiazepines **261** by using a 1,4-addition by Bhalay et al.²²¹

Benzoannelated Eight-Membered Heterocycles

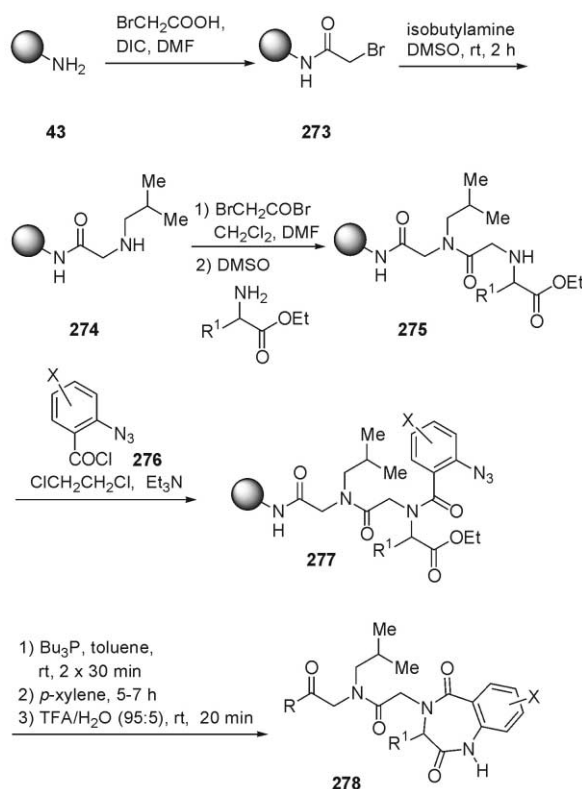
Benzoxazocines

Related heterocycles of the dibenzoxazocine ring have significant anti-inflammatory properties.²²⁴ The benzoxazocine Nefopam (**279**) is a non-narcotic analgesic not structurally related to other analgesic drugs (Fig. 14).²²⁵

Ouyang and Kiselyov have described an efficient approach to dibenzo[*b,g*]1,5-oxazocines on solid support^{226,227} (Scheme 40). They modified the Rink amide



Scheme 38. Synthetic pathway to 1,4-benzodiazepine-2,5-diones **272** by Boojamra et al.²²²



Scheme 39. Synthetic pathway to benzodiazepine-2,5-diones using an Aza–Wittig reaction by Goff and Zuckermann.²²³

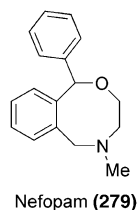
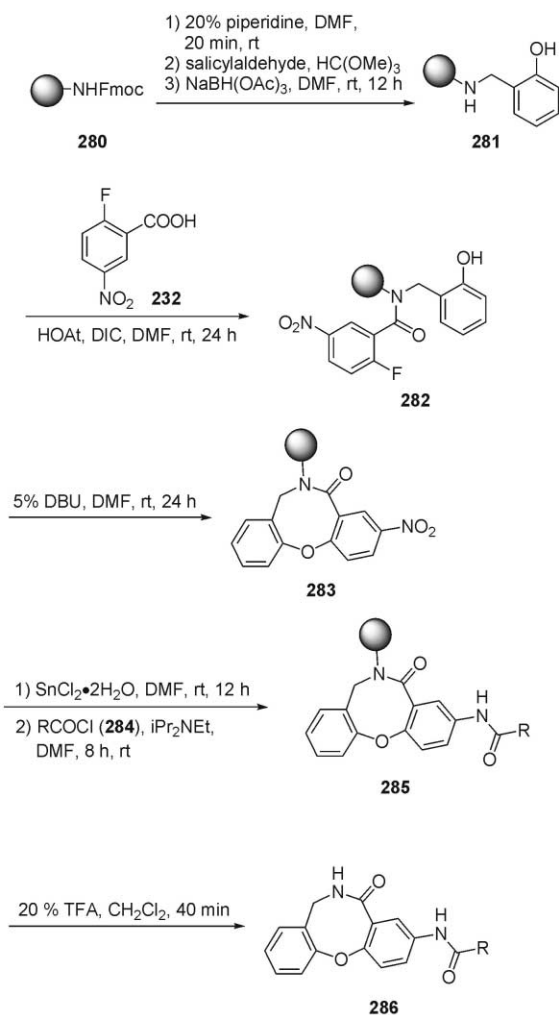


Figure 14. Structure of Nefopam (**279**).



Scheme 40. Synthesis of benzoxazocines by Ouyang and Kiselyov.²²⁶

resin with salicylaldehyde. The subsequent attachment of the 2-fluoro-5-nitrobenzoic acid (**232**) to the resulting resin **280** afforded the intermediate **282**. The cyclization took place by nucleophilic aromatic substitution, and the resultant immobilized nitrobenz[*b,f*]oxazocine **283** was reduced to the amino derivative, which was acylated and cleaved to provide **286** in good yields.

Conclusions and Outlook

The solid-phase synthesis of benzoannelated nitrogen heterocycles that have been reported to date, illustrate several different approaches to the challenge of preparing libraries of bioactive products and allows the synthesis of many novel chemical structures.

Due to the impressive pharmacological activities of some heterocycles such as benzodiazepines, benzimidazoles, indoles or (tetrahydro)quinolines for example, these have been targets of intense synthetic efforts, and different synthetic approaches have been reported. Although less extensively investigated, the solid phase synthesis of other interesting benzoannelated heterocycles have been reported also.

Several heterocycles system as benzimidazoles, quinoxalines, benzothiazines, benzothiazepines, benzodiazepines and benzothiazocines have been obtained via nucleophilic aromatic substitution reactions on solid support. Another common procedure for the synthesis of indoles, quinolines, cinnolines and benzazepines is a palladium-catalyzed transformation. However, so far, only one synthetic pathway on solid phase has been reported for the benzotriazoles, indazoles, benzoxazoles or quinoxalines. Therefore, the application of new reactions or well-known name reaction will find also application in solid phase synthesis of heterocycles.

The Grieco reaction is an example of a multicomponent reaction, which was used for the synthesis of quinoline rings. It can be expected that the use of multicomponent reactions will find more applications in the near future. As a traceless strategy²²⁸ for the synthesis of these heterocycles would be highly desirable, it has been developed several synthetic routes for a traceless combinatorial synthesis of indoles, benzimidazoles, quinolines, quinoxalines, benzodiazepines and benzoxazocines. Particularly useful is the cyclative cleavage and it can be expected that this strategy will be employed in various new strategies.

The area of the synthesis of benzoannelated nitrogen rings continues to grow, and the solid-phase chemistry will provide more and better methods for the synthesis of benzoannelated heterocycles, allowing the discovery of new libraries of novel compounds more active, more specific and safer.

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Carmen Gil, Stefan Bräse and Kerstin Knepper are working together in the fascinating area of solid-phase chemistry.

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