

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

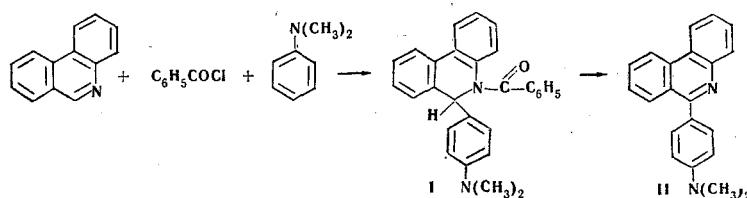
### INTRODUCTION OF THE PHENANTHRIDINE RESIDUE INTO NUCLEOPHILIC ORGANIC COMPOUNDS

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Existing methods for the preparation of 6-substituted phenanthridines from o-aminobiphenyl are inconvenient as a result of the inaccessibility of the latter. We have developed a very simple method for the preparation of these derivatives by reaction of phenanthridine, which is an unsaleable by-product of the coking process, with nucleophilic organic compounds, in the presence of acyl halides.

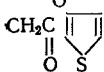
Thus, on heating phenanthridine with dimethylaniline and benzoyl chloride, 5-benzoyl-6-p-dimethylaminophenyl-5, 6-dihydrophenanthridine (I) was obtained in high yield. Alkaline hydrolysis of this afforded the known 6-p-dimethylaminophenylphenanthridine (II) [1].



Similarly, the phenanthridine residue was readily introduced into the activated aromatic rings of 1-alkyl-1, 2, 3, 4-tetrahydroquinolines, 1-alkyl-2, 3-dihydroindoles, and into the molecules of nucleophilic five-membered heterocycles and ketones.

The yields and properties of the compounds obtained are given in Table 1.

TABLE 1

R	Mp, °C (solvent)	Molecular formula	Found, %			Calculated, %			Yield, %
			C	H	N	C	H	N	
<i>p</i> -C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> N(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	184—185 C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> OH: petroleum ether, 5:1	C <sub>28</sub> H <sub>24</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O	82.92	6.06	6.74	83.13	5.98	6.93	65
1-CH <sub>3</sub> -1, 2, 3, 4-tetrahydro-6-quinolyl	184—186 isoamyl alcohol	C <sub>30</sub> H <sub>26</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O	83.71	6.58	6.31	83.69	6.09	6.50	60
1-CH <sub>3</sub> -2, 3-dihydro-5-indolyl	115—116 amyl alcohol	C <sub>29</sub> H <sub>24</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O	83.19	5.93	6.71	83.62	5.81	6.72	62
C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> C(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	149—150 ethanol	C <sub>28</sub> H <sub>21</sub> NO <sub>2</sub>	82.96	5.26	3.96	83.35	5.25	3.47	17
	209—210 ethanol	C <sub>26</sub> H <sub>19</sub> NO <sub>2</sub> S	76.4	5.0	3.50	76.26	4.67	3.43	15

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LITERATURE CITED

1. J. Morgan, J. Walls, C. Bravning, R. Gulbransen, and J. Robb, *J. Chem. Soc.*, 389 (1938).