

A CYCLISATION REACTION OF 2-CYANOMETHYLBENZOTHAZOLE
WITH ACETYLENIC COMPOUNDS VIA MICHAEL ADDITION

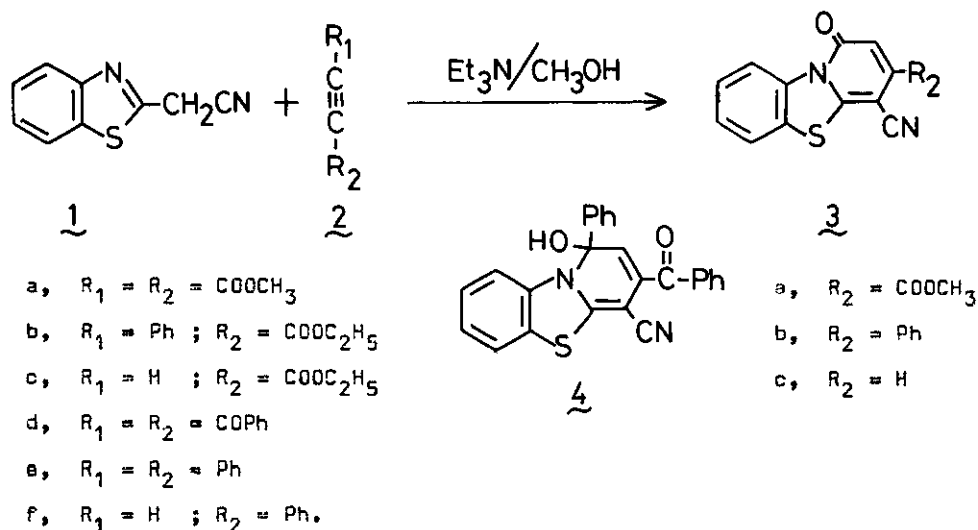
Dilip Konwar, Romesh Chandra Boruah, and Jagir Singh Sandhu*
Drugs and Pharmaceutical Chemistry Division,
Regional Research Laboratory, Jorhat 785 006, India

Abstract - 2-Cyanomethylbenzothiazole (1) reacts with acetylenic compounds (2) under the influence of base in Michael fashion followed by cyclisation to afford fused pyrido[2,1-b]benzothiazole (3&4) in excellent yields. The products were characterized through elemental and spectral analyses.

In 2-alkyl group of benzothiazoles the proton attached to the alkyl carbon atom are significantly activated and can be easily abstracted by bases¹. The C-2 methylene group of benzothiazole undergoes Michael addition with α,β -unsaturated ketones to yield open-chain products². 2-Cyanomethylbenzothiazole (1) conveniently condenses with arylaldehydes to give olefinic compounds³. There are sporadic reports to reaction of α,β -unsaturated nitriles with 1 affording a fused benzothiazole⁴. Acetylenic compounds are unique in their behaviour⁵ as dienophile as well as Michael acceptors in organic synthesis. It is significant to note that benzothiazole reacts with dimethylacetylenedicarboxylate (DMAD) through zwitterionic intermediate triggered from basic-nitrogen⁶. In this study we report a base catalysed reaction of 2-cyanomethylbenzothiazole with differently substituted acetylenic compounds where the reaction is initiated from carbanion at 2-alkyl group instead of the basic nitrogen atom.

Equimolar quantities of 2-cyanomethylbenzothiazole (1) and dimethylacetylenedicarboxylate (DMAD, 2a) were stirred in methanol at room temperature in presence of a catalytic amount of triethylamine for 1 h; subsequent work-up afforded 3-carbomethoxy-4-cyanopyrido[2,1-b]benzothiazol-1-one (3a) as yellow crystals, mp 224-226°C (from DMF) as the sole product. The

compound was identified through spectral and elemental analyses. The IR spectrum of **3a** in KBr showed absorption bands at 2200, 1725 and 1670 cm^{-1} , which were assigned to cyano, ester carbonyl and conjugated cyclic keto groups. The ^1H NMR of **3a** showed signal for ester methyl protons at δ 3.95 and a one proton singlet signal at δ 7.15 assignable to C-2 proton at the fused pyridone ring. The multiplet appeared at δ 7.60-9.20 integrating for four protons were assigned to aromatic protons of **3a**. The mass spectra showed molecular ion at m/z 284 (M^+) as the base peak followed by fragmentation ion peaks at m/z 256 ($\text{M}^+ - \text{CO}$) and at m/z 225 ($\text{M}^+ - \text{CO} - \text{OCH}_3$). The reaction of (**1**) with ethylphenylpropiolate (**2b**) and ethyl propiolate (**2c**) gave



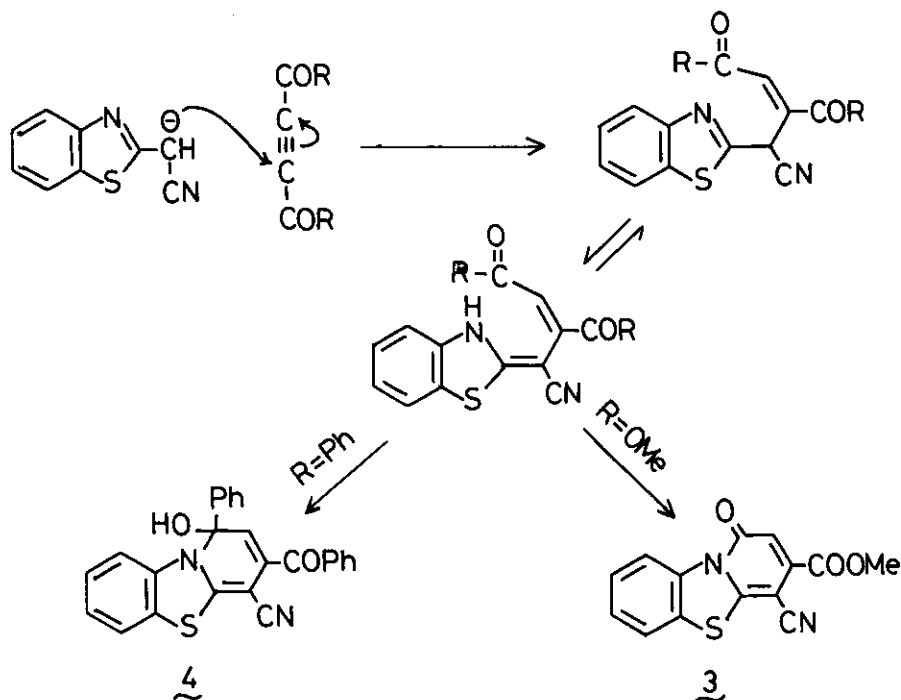
Table

Compd.	Mp $^{\circ}\text{C}$	Yield (%)	IR ν_{max} cm^{-1}	MS m/z (%)	^1H NMR (CDCl_3/TMS) δ ppm
3a	225-228	85	2200, 1725, 1670.	284(100) 256(23.2) 225(62.3)	3.95(s, 3H), 7.15(s, 1H), 7.60-9.20(m, 4H).
3b	270-272 (dec.)	80	2205, 1680.	302(84.4) 274(54.5)	6.52(s, 1H), 7.50-9.25(m, 9H).
3c	205-207 (dec.)	55	2200, 1675.	226(100) 198(40.5)	7.05-9.10(m, 6H).
4	213-215	90	3450, 2150, 1670.	408(3.3) 381(51.3)	7.16(s, 1H), 7.40(s, 1H), 7.45-8.30(m, 14H).

All compounds gave satisfactory microanalytical data.

4-cyano-3-phenylpyrido[2,1-b]benzothiazol-1-one (3b) and 4-cyano-pyrido[2,1-b]benzothiazol-1-one (3c) in good yields. But the reaction of (1) with dibenzoylacetylene (2d) gave hydroxy derivative, i.e. 3-benzoyl-4-cyano-1,1-(hydroxyphenyl)pyrido[2,1-b]benzothiazole (4) in excellent yield (Table).

Regarding the mechanism of this reaction it is proposed that the base induced carbanion at the 2-alkyl position adds to the acetylene compounds in Michael fashion followed by rearrangement and cyclisation to form 3 or 4.



Diphenylacetylene (2e) and phenylacetylene (2f) which are devoid of α -carbonyl group, did not react with (1) under the identical conditions, thus imparting further support for Michael type of reaction mechanism.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Authors are grateful to Prof. W. Pfeleiderer, Fakultät für Chemie, Universität Konstanz and analytical division of our laboratory for helping us by providing spectral and elemental analysis of our samples. They also thank Dr. J. N. Baruah, Director of this laboratory for his keen interest in this work.

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Received, 1st August, 1986