

NOVEL HETEROCYCLES FROM CREATININE

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Abstract: Creatinine **1** interacts with some π -deficient compounds such as tetracyanoethylene, 2,3-dichloro-5,6-dicyano-1,4-benzoquinone, 2,3,5,6-tetrachloro-1,4-benzoquinone, 2,3-dichloro-1,4-naphthoquinone and 2,3-dicyano-1,4-naphthoquinone to give imidazolidinone, imidazoliny-azomethine, furobisimidazolidine, naphthoimidazoimidazolidine and benzobisimidazoimidazolidines derivatives.

Introduction

1-Methyl-2-amino-1,5-dihydroimidazol-4-one (creatinine) belongs to a class of compounds called glycoamidines. Dry condensation of creatinine with aldehydes under focused microwave irradiation afforded Z-arylidene creatinines¹. Aminomethylation of creatinine and its 5-arylidene derivative with paraformaldehyde, aliphatic primary amines and piperidines gave imidazotriazines² and stereoisomeric piperidinomethyl derivatives³. It has been reported that, creatinine reacted with bi(methylthio)methylenemalononitrile, amino acids (alanine, threonine) and glucose to afford bridgehead nitrogen compounds⁴ as well as heterocyclic amines⁵. Furthermore, there are some studies on the structure of the main colouring matter formed in the Jaffe reaction^{6,7} and oxidation of creatinines⁸. Quantitative estimation of creatinine in biological fluids is of great physiological importance⁹⁻¹². Creatinine is a final product of creatine metabolism in physiological systems⁹, also displays also biological activities such as antiparasitic¹³ agents and antimicrobial activities¹⁴.

Motivated by these facts and pursuing our research in the field of synthesis of heterocyclic as well as fused heterocyclic compounds *via* reaction of electron-poor multiple bonded compounds with electron-donor compounds,¹⁵⁻²¹ we report here the results of our investigations on the behavior of creatinine towards some π -deficient compounds to gain further insight into the chemistry of creatinine (Figure 1).

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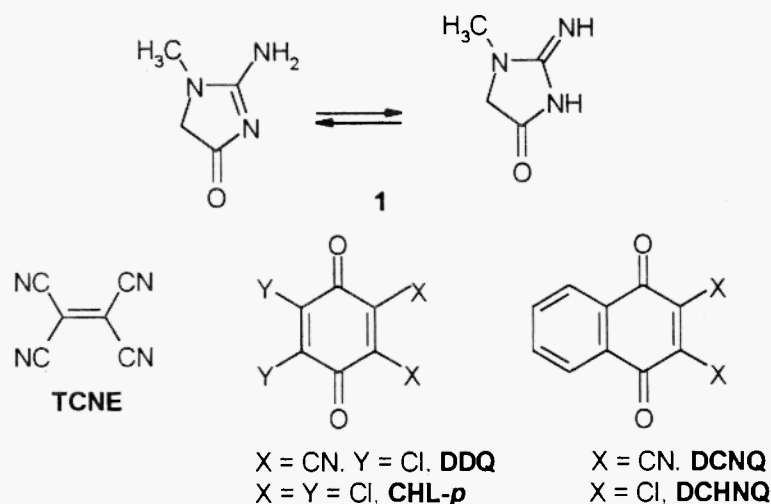


Figure 1

Results and Discussion

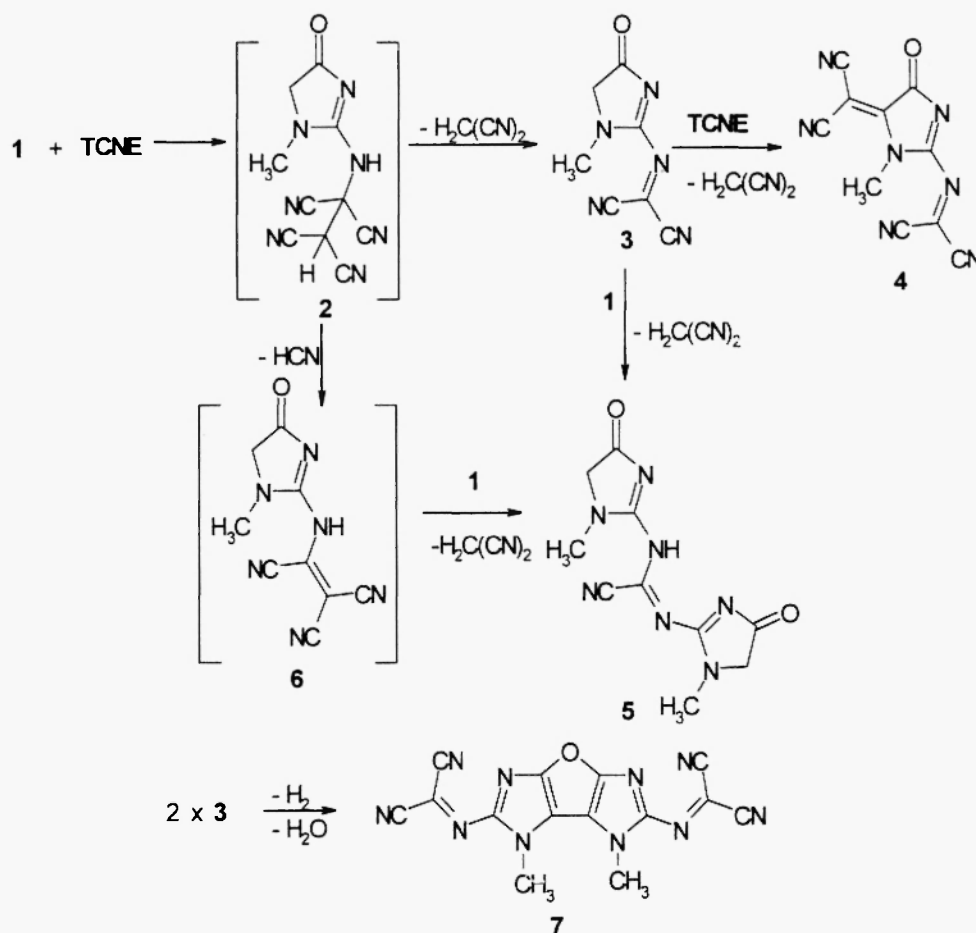
Dimethylformamide solutions of tetracyanoethylene (TCNE) and creatinine (1) were kept with stirring at room temperature for 96 hours with admission of air. Chromatographic separation of the residue gave numerous zones, from which products 3-5 and 7 could be isolated (Scheme 1).

Structural assignments of compounds 3-5 and 7 are based on spectral data and combustion analyses. For 1-methylimidazolidin-4-one-2-aminomalononitrile (3) the gross formula $C_7H_5N_5O$ was confirmed by the mass spectrum, which exhibited a molecular ion at m/z 175 (100%). The 1H -NMR spectrum of 3 displayed two signals at δ 2.96 (s, 3H, N-CH₃) and 3.95 (s, 2H, CH₂). ^{13}C -NMR spectrum showed the characteristic signals of imidazolidine-CH₂ at δ 61.4 ppm and 4-imidazolone carbonyl carbon atom at δ 168.5 ppm. Also the carbon atom of [C(CN)₂] resonates at δ 164.6 ppm, whereas the cyano groups at 118.2 ppm. Moreover, the structure of 5-dicyanomethylene-1-methylimidazolin-4-one-2-aminomalononitrile (4) has been assigned on the basis of elemental analysis supporting the gross formula $C_{11}H_5N_7O$. This was also confirmed by the mass spectrum which gave a correct molecular ion at m/z 237 (100%). 1H -NMR and ^{13}C -NMR as well as IR spectra (see experimental).

For the formation of diimidazolylazomethine derivative 5, two routes can be suggested: in the first one, compound 3 interact with another molecule of 1 with elimination of a molecule of malononitrile. In the second route, compound 2 split off a molecule of HCN to give tricyanovinyl product 6, which interacts with another molecule of 1 with elimination of a molecule of malononitrile to give 5. Elucidation of structure 5 based on 1H -NMR spectrum which reveals the presence of a signal of imidazole-CH₂ protons at δ = 3.99 ppm indicating that this group is not involved in the course of the reaction. The ^{13}C -NMR spectrum supports the presence of imidazole-CH₂ at 60.5 ppm, and azomethine carbon atom at 163 ppm in addition to the cyano

and carbonyl carbon atoms. The fragmentation pattern of mass spectrum reveals the presence of (creatinine-H) at m/z 112 and the rest of the molecule at m/z 149 ($M^+ - 112$). The elemental analysis of compound **5** is a further support of its structure.

Structural proof of furo[2,3-*b*:4,5-*d'*]bis(1-methylimidazolyl-2-iminomalononitrile) **7** rests on the IR spectrum, which clearly indicates the presence of the cyano groups at 2210 cm^{-1} and the absence of the carbonyl groups. Also, the ^1H -NMR spectrum displayed the presence of a singlet at δ 2.95 ppm (6H, 2CH_3); whereas ^{13}C -NMR spectrum showed the imidazole-carbon atoms at C-2, C-4, and C-5 at 163.5, 143.2 and



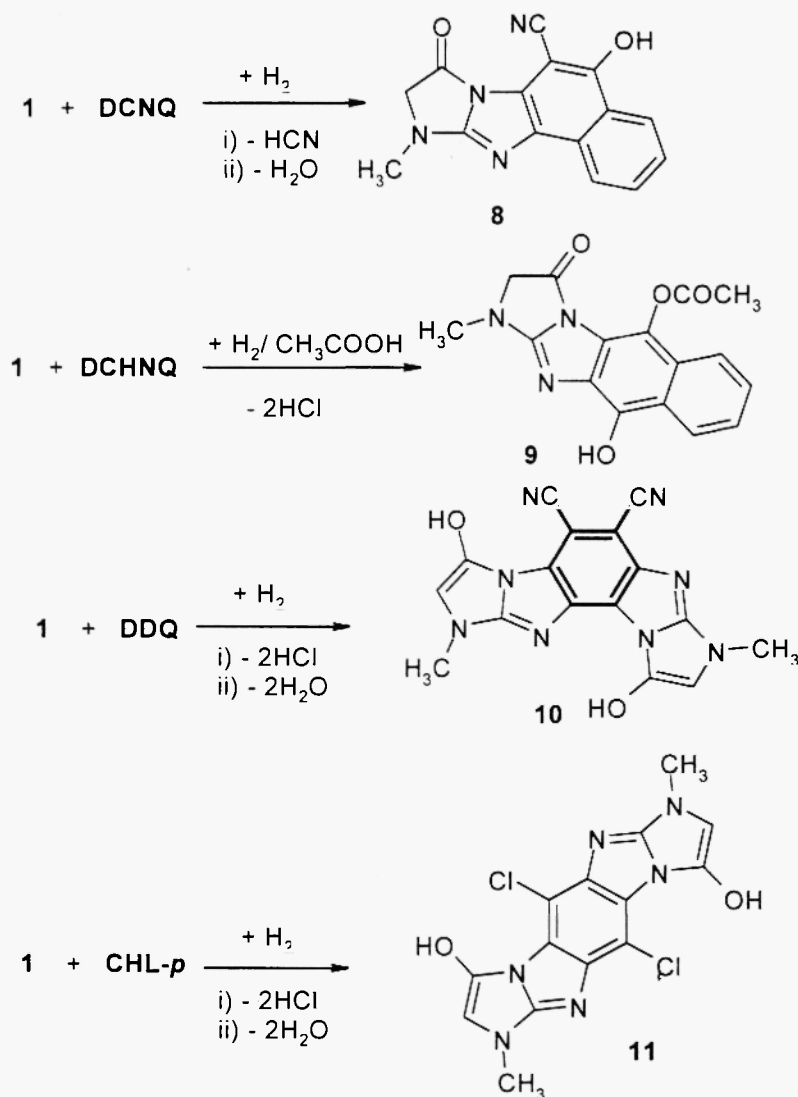
Scheme 1

110.6 ppm, respectively. Correct elemental analysis and mass spectrum further supported the identity of compound **7**, which were compatible with the assigned structure.

Since, the reactions occurring when **1** reacted with TCNE require a multitude of steps and are by necessity very complex, moderate yields as found (based throughout on the amount of starting materials used) are acceptable, this needs to be taken into account when determining and evaluating yields.

In order to study the behavior of creatinine towards benzo-, and naphthoquinone derivatives, creatinine was subjected to react with 2,3-dicyano-1,4-naphthoquinone (DCNQ) with elimination of one molecule of HCN and another of water to give 5-cyano-2-dihydro-6-hydroxy-1-methyl-naphthoimidazoimidazole (**8**) (Scheme 2).

The IR spectrum of **8** showed characteristic absorption for hydroxyl group between 3330 and 3400 cm^{-1} .



Scheme 2

2209 cm^{-1} (CN), as well as 1675 cm^{-1} (CO). The ^1H -NMR spectrum showed two singlets: one at 2.99 ppm (N- CH_3) and another at 4.1 ppm (imidazole- CH_2), in addition to the aromatic protons. The ^{13}C -NMR spectrum showed some characteristic signals at 168.8 ppm (CO), 155.4 (Ar-C-OH), 163.5 (imidazole-C-2), 121.1, 143.6 due to aromatic carbon atoms attached to imidazole nitrogen.

On the other hand, 2,3-dichloro-1,4-naphthoquinone (DCHNQ) reacted with creatinine with elimination two molecules of HCl and acetylation of one hydroxyl group of hydroquinone to give 5-acetyl-2-dihydro-10-

hydroxy-1-methylnaphthoimidazoimidazole (**9**) (Scheme 2). The IR spectrum of **9** showed characteristic absorption between 1660 and 1700 cm^{-1} due to creatinine and acetyl carbonyl groups. The ^1H -NMR spectrum confirmed the presence of (CH_3CO) at 2.15 ppm and (N-CH_3) at 2.99 as well as imidazole- CH_2 at 4.13 ppm. The ^{13}C -NMR showed also the following characteristic signals: 58.8 (imidazole- CH_2), 165.3 ($\text{CH}_3\text{COO-}$), in addition to the signals due to aromatic carbon atoms in their expected values. The structures of **8** and **9** were established also from the mass spectra, which gave correct molecular ions supported by the elemental analyses.

In a different manner, creatinine reacted with 2,3-dicyano-5,6-dichloro-1,4-benzoquinone (DDQ) and 2,3,5,6-tetrachloro-1,4-benzoquinone (CHL-*p*) to give bisimidazobenzobisimidazole derivatives **10** and **11** respectively *via* elimination of two molecules of HCl and another two of H_2O . The elemental analysis of 1,6-dimethyl-3,8-dihydroxy-10,11-dicyanobisimidazo[3,3-*b*:3,2-*b'*]benzo[1,2-*d*:4,3-*d'*]bisimidazole (**10**) showed no evidence for the presence of halogen. Furthermore, the mass spectrum gave strong evidence for the structure of **10**, which exhibited a molecular ion at m/z 346 (29%). The ^1H -NMR spectrum showed the presence of two singlets: one at 5.6 ppm due to imidazole-CH and the other at 2.97 (N-CH_3). The ^{13}C -NMR spectrum of **10** showed absorption signals at δ 141.8, 125.7, and 89.9 for imidazole-C-2, C-4, and C-5 respectively, beside the other carbons. The IR spectrum of **10** showed absorption bands at 3450 - 3300 (OH) and at 2210 (CN) cm^{-1} .

1,8-Dimethyl-3,3-dihydroxy-5,12-dichlorobisimidazo[3,2-*b*:3,2-*b'*]benzo-[1,3-*d*:4,3-*d'*]bisimidazole (**11**) exhibited one absorption band in the IR spectrum around 3430-3300 cm^{-1} due to hydroxyl groups in addition to the aromatic C=C absorption bands. In its ^{13}C -NMR spectrum, the characteristic resonance signals of the two carbon atoms of chloranil at $\delta = 169.9 \text{ ppm}^{22,23}$ is replaced by two signals at 130.2 and 134.7 ppm, which are characteristic for aromatic carbon attached to imidazole-N. The elemental analysis and fragmentation pattern of the mass spectrum further confirms the structure of **11**.

In conclusion, the results obtained in this paper have demonstrated that the products resulted from the reaction of **1** with TCNE confirms that the secondary nitrogen atom in position 3 and the imino group in position 2. In addition, the methylene group in position 5 are considered as the reaction sites, whereas, in case of the reaction of **1** with benzo-, and naphthoquinones, positions 2 and 3 are the active centers. On the basis of structure features of benzo-, and naphthoquinones, they react with **1** in a different manner as TCNE. Consequently, interesting and unexpected novel reaction products were obtained in one step that can not be easily prepared by conventional synthetic methods.

Experimental

Mps are uncorrected. The IR spectra were recorded on a Nicolet 320 FT. IR and Shimadzu 470, 408 spectrophotometers using potassium bromide pellets. ^1H -NMR and ^{13}C -NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AM 400 (400.1 MHz) spectrometer; the chemical shifts were expressed as δ (ppm) with TMS as internal standard. The mass spectra (70 eV, electron impact mode) were obtained on a Finnigan MAT 8430 and Jeol JMS 600 spectrometers. The microanalytical unit at Cairo University carried out combustion analyses. Preparative layer chromatography used air-dried 1.0 mm thick layers of slurry-applied silica gel

Merck PF₂₅₄ on 48 cm wide and 20 cm high glass plates. Zones were detected by their color or by quenching of indicator fluorescence upon exposure to 254 nm light.

Starting Materials: Creatinine(1-methyl-2-amino-1,5-dihydroimidazol-4-one.1) was purchased from Aldrich. TCNE, DCNQ, DDQ, CHL-*p* and DCHNQ were prepared and purified as described before.¹⁶

Reaction of creatinine (1) with TCNE. - To 1 mmol (113 mg) of creatinine in DMF (10 ml) an equimolar amount of TCNE in 10 ml of DMF was added with stirring at room temperature. The reaction mixture was stirred further 48 hours, then filtered and the precipitate was washed several times with ethanol to give compound 7. The filtrate was concentrated and the obtained brown residue was dissolved in acetone and separated by preparative layer chromatography using toluene/ethyl acetate (2:1) as eluent to give numerous zones, three of which were extracted. The fastest migrating one contained 1-methylimidazolidin-4-only-2-iminomalononitrile (3); the second zone, which was characterized by its blue color, contained compound (4). The material confined to the start was rechromatographed using toluene/ethyl acetate (1:1) to give compound (5).

1-Methylimidazolidin-4-only-2-iminomalononitrile (3): (26 mg, 15%) mp 296-98 °C: buff crystals from acetonitrile: $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ 2920 (Ali. CH), 2210 (CN), 1678 (CO); δ_{H} (DMSO-*d*₆) 3.95 (s, 2H, imidazole-CH₂), 2.90 (s, 3H, N-CH₃); δ_{C} (DMSO-*d*₆) 168.5 (imidazole-C-4), 164.6 [C(CN)₂], 160.3 (imidazole-C-2), 118.2 (CN), 61.4 (imidazole-C-5), 30.3 (CH₃); *m/z* (%) 175 (M⁺, 100), 149 (44), 147 (18), 119 (23); (Found: C, 47.83; H, 2.93; N, 3.91. C₅H₅N₃O (175.079) requires C, 47.98; H, 2.88; N, 4.00%);

5-Dicyanomethylene-1-methylimidazolidin-4-only-2-iminomalononitrile (4) (45 mg, 19%) mp 314-16: blue crystals from methanol: $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ 2210 (CN); δ_{H} (DMSO-*d*₆) 2.91 (s, 3H, N-CH₃); δ_{C} (DMSO-*d*₆) 168.4 (imidazole-C-4), 163.7 [C(CN)₂], 117.8 (CN), 29.8 (CH₃); *m/z* (%) 237 (M⁺, 100), 221(31), 195(42), 77(22). (Found: C, 50.81; H, 1.36; N, 41.29. C₁₀H₅N₅O (237.080) requires C, 50.62; H, 1.28; N, 41.36%).

2-Iminobis(1'-methyl-4'-oxo-2'-dihydro)imidazolylcyanoazomethine (5) (57 mg, 22%) mp 331-33 °C: brown crystals from methanol: $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ 2980 (Ali-CH), 2210 (CN), 1670 (CO); δ_{H} (DMSO-*d*₆) 2.94 (s, 6H, 2N-CH₃), 3.99 (s, 4H, 2-imidazole-CH₂), 8.05 (br.1H, NH, D₂O); δ_{C} (DMSO-*d*₆) 168.6 (imidazole-C-4), 163.7 [C(CN)₂], 118.2 (CN), 60.5 (imidazole-C-5), 30.3 (2CH₃); *m/z* (%) 261 (M⁺, 42), 149(26), 112 (100), 105 (21). (Found: C, 46.08; H, 4.18; N, 37.42. C₁₀H₁₁N₅O₂ (261.143) requires C, 45.96; H, 4.25; N, 37.55%).

Furo[2,3-*b*:4,5-*d'*]bis(1-methylimidazolyl)-2-iminomalononitrile (7): (125 mg, 38%) mp 342-44 °C: brown crystals from DMF: $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ 2980 (Ali-CH), 2210 (CN); δ_{H} (DMSO-*d*₆) 2.95 (s, 6H, 2NCH₃); δ_{C} (DMSO-*d*₆) 163.5 [C(CN)₂], 143.2 (imidazole-C-4), 118.1 (CN), 110.6 (imidazole-C-5), 30 (CH₃); *m/z* (%) 330 (M⁺, 22), 294 (17), 277(11), 235 (19), 167(64), 149 (53), 105 (100); (Found: C, 51.06; H, 1.69; N, 42.54. C₁₄H₆N₁₀O (330.128) requires C, 50.89; H, 1.83; N, 42.43%).

Reaction of creatinine (1) with DCNQ - A solution of DCNQ (208 mg, 1.0 mmol) in 10 ml DMF was added dropwise to a solution of creatinine 1 (113 mg, 1.0 mmol) in 10 ml of DMF at room temperature. The reaction mixture becomes deeply blue and later turns into green color. It was left standing for 48 hours, then concentrated and the residue was purified by plc using toluene/ethyl acetate (1:1) to give product (8).

5-Cyano-2-dihydro-6-hydroxy-1-methylnaphthoimidazoimidazole (8): (225 mg, 81%) mp 252-54 °C: green crystals from methanol: $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ 3400-3330 (OH), 2209 (CN), 1675 (CO); δ_{H} (DMSO-*d*₆) 7.5-8.2 (m, 4H,

Ar-H), 4.1 (s, 2H, imidazole-CH₂), 2.99 (s, 3H, NCH₃); δ_C (DMSO-d₆) 168.8 (imidazole-C-4), 163.5 (imidazole-C-2), 155.4 (Ar-C-OH), 143.6 (Ar-C-imidazole-N), 118.2, 121, 124.3, 126, 130.2, 131 (Ar-C), 116.4 (CN), 58.9 (imidazole-C-5), 31.1 (CH₃); m/z (%) = 278 (M⁺, 29), 166 (80), 148 (100), 71(56), 57(61); (Found: C, 64.59; H, 3.74; N, 20.21. C₁₅H₁₀N₄O₂ (278.12) requires C, 64.73; H, 3.62; N, 20.14%).

Reaction of creatinine (1) with DCHNQ A solution of DCHNQ (227 mg, 1.0 mmol) in glacial acetic acid (15 ml) was added in small portions to creatinine (113 mg, 1 mmol) in glacial acetic acid (10 ml) with constant shaking. The mixture was refluxed for 4 hours and left aside overnight. A crude reddish brown solid product was obtained. It was filtered, washed well with water and then recrystallized from DMF/ethanol to give compound (9).

5-Acetyl-2-dihydro-10-hydroxy-1-methyl-3-oxonaphthoimidazoimidazole (9): (230 mg, 74%) mp 283-85 °C: reddish-brown crystals from DMF/ethanol; $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ 3400-3300 (OH), 1660-1700 (CO); δ_H (DMSO-d₆): δ 7.44-8.18 (m, 4H, Ar-H), 4.13(s, 2H, imidazole-CH₂), 2.99(s, 3H, NCH₃); δ_C (DMSO-d₆): 168.8 (imidazole-C-4), 165.3 (acetyl carbonyl carbon), 144.6 (Ar-C-OH), 133.4 (Ar-C-N), 128, 127.1, 123.4, 121.2, 120.4, 119.2 (Ar-C), 58.8 (imidazole-C-5), 30.4 (CH₃); m/z (%) 311(M⁺, 36), 279 (32), 192(100), 163(94), 135(66), 99 (62); (Found: C, 61.59; H, 4.33; N, 13.58. C₁₆H₁₃N₃O₄ (311.136) requires C, 61.71; H, 4.21; N, 13.51%).

Reaction of creatinine (1) with DDQ and CHL-p

General procedure: A solution of benzoquinone (1.0 mmol) in glacial acetic acid (15 ml) was added in small portions to creatinine (1, 113 mg, 1.0 mmol) in glacial acetic acid (10 ml) with constant stirring for 5 hours at room temperature. The reaction mixture becomes deeply blue or purple and later turns into brown or pale green color. It was left standing for 96 hours at room temperature. A crude solid product was obtained. It was filtered, washed with water and then recrystallized from an appropriate solvent to give the products 10 and 11.

1,6-Dimethyl-3,8-dihydroxy-10,11-dicyanobisimidazo[3,2-b:3,2-b']-benzo[1,2-d:4,3-d']bisimidazole (10): (235 mg, 68%) mp 327-29 °C: brown crystals from DMF; $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ 3450-3300 cm⁻¹ (OH), 2210 (CN); δ_H (DMSO-d₆) 5.6 (s, 2H, imidazole-CH), 2.97(s, 6H, NCH₃); δ_C (DMSO-d₆) 140.3, 141.8 (Ar-C = N-imidazole), 126.4 (Ar-C -N- imidazole), 125.7 (imidazole-C-4), 116.8 (CN), 100.8, 104.6 (Ar-C-CN), 89.9 (imidazole-C-5), 31.3(CH₃); m/z (%) 346(M⁺, 29), 320 (18), 294 (12), 264 (20), 230 (32), 111(52), 57(100); (Found: C, 55.58; H, 2.83; N, 32.46. C₁₆H₁₀N₈O₂ (346.147) requires C, 55.47; H, 2.91; N, 32.37%).

1,8-Dimethyl-3,10-dihydroxy-5,12-dichlorobisimidazo[3,2-b:3,2-b']-benzo-[1,3-d:4,3-d']bisimidazole (11): (281 mg, 77%) mp 293-95 °C: pale yellow crystals from DMF; $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ 3430-3300 (OH), 1610 (Ar-C=C); δ_H (DMSO-d₆) 5.6 (s, 2H, imidazole-CH), 2.93 (s, 6H, NCH₃); δ_C (DMSO-d₆) 141.4 (imidazole-C-2), 134.7, 130.2 (Ar-C-N-imidazole), 125.4 (imidazole-C-4), 105.00, 104.1 (Ar-C-Cl), 89.8 (imidazole-C-5), 30.2 (CH₃); m/z (%) 370/366 (M⁺, 32), 330 (27), 294 (19), 264 (34), 111(41), 73(100); (Found: C, 45.91; H, 2.84; N, 22.89, Cl, 19.55. C₁₄H₁₀N₆ Cl₂O₂ (365.038) requires C, 46.03; H, 2.76; N, 23.02; Cl, 19.42%).

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