

Synthesis and Spectroscopic Characterizations of both 1-Ethyl-4,8-dihydro-10-methoxy-3-methyl-8-R<sub>1</sub>-6-R<sub>2</sub>-dipyrazolo[3,4-*b*:4',3'-*f*][1,5]diazocin-5(1*H*)-ones and 1-Ethyl-1,4,8,9-tetrahydro-3,9-dimethyl-8-R<sub>1</sub>-6-R<sub>2</sub>-dipyrazolo[3,4-*b*:4',3'-*f*][1,5]diazocine-5,10-diones of Pharmaceutical Interest

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The non-selective methylation of compounds **3a-d** using ethereal diazomethane, allowed the synthesis of isomers **4** and **5** which were useful intermediates for the preparation, by a simple approach, of the title compounds **7** and **9**. A complete assignment of the chemical shifts to the carbon atoms of the compounds **7** and **9** was performed by different nmr experiments, such as DEPT and XHDEPT for one-bond C-H correlations and COLOC experiments for long-range C-H correlations.

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### Introduction.

In the course of our investigation towards the design and synthesis of novel potentially active agents on CNS related to 8,9-dihydrodipyrazolo[3,4-*b*:4',3'-*f*][1,5]diazocin-10(1*H*)-one derivatives [1], compounds **3a-d** were needed as valuable key intermediates for the synthesis of model compounds **7a-d** and **9a-d**.

In this paper we report a simple and quick approach to the title compounds. A common feature of all of these transformations (see Scheme) is the non-selective methylation of **3a-d** using ethereal diazomethane [2-3], in fact compounds **4a-d** and **5a-d** were obtained. Particularly, the structure of compounds **4**, was confirmed on the basis of chemical behavior, in fact all products **4**, in hydrochloric acid medium gave compounds **3**. Catalytic reduction, over Raney nickel, of compounds **4a-d** and **5a-d** afforded the products **6a-d** and **8a-d**, respectively, which were not isolated but directly converted, in acidic medium, into **7a-d** and **9a-d**, respectively.

The nmr spectra in deuteriodimethyl sulfoxide solutions of compounds **3**, **4** and **5** were in accord with the assigned structures. The <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C nmr chemical shifts are reported in Table 1. The assignment of the chemical shifts in the fully proton decoupled <sup>13</sup>C nmr spectra of all the examined compounds was made on the basis of both known substituent effects and DEPT-135 experiments and confirmed by <sup>13</sup>C-<sup>1</sup>H heterocorrelated spectra which provided for both one-bond and long-range C-H interactions [4]. In particular, both <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C spectra of **4** and **5** were well characterized by the signals of the C(=N)OCH<sub>3</sub> and C(=O)NCH<sub>3</sub> sequences, respectively (Table 1). Also the signals of the neighboring carbon atoms showed marked differences in the two series of compounds, being the signals of C-5 and C-5' for **5** deshielded and shielded, respectively, of ca. 4 ppm with respect to the corresponding carbons for **4**, whereas the signal of C-4' for **5** resulted

downfield shifted of ca. 7 ppm with respect to the signal of C-4' for **4**. In addition, both <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C nmr spectra of **5** showed doubled signals for each atom or group, providing evidence for the presence of two conformation isomers due to the partial double bond character of the C-N bond. Thus, two signals were detected for the NCH<sub>3</sub> carbon atom, the downfield one being more abundant in all derivatives. According to the literature [5], the downfield resonance was assigned to the conformer bearing the methyl group *anti* to the carbonyl. Also the carbonyl carbon resonance of the more abundant conformer resulted in a downfield shift with respect to the corresponding isomer. The relative abundances of the two conformers were 35:65 for **5a,b** and 20:80 for **5c,d**. Proton and carbon chemical shift values of the less abundant isomer are reported in parentheses in Table 1.

As expected, also the nmr spectra of **7** and **9** (Table 2) were characterized by the signals of the C(=N)OCH<sub>3</sub> and C(=O)NCH<sub>3</sub> groups, respectively. Once again the signals of C-5a and C-10a for **7** were deshielded when compared to the corresponding carbons for **9** and the signal of C-8a shielded for **7** with respect to **9**. A complete assignment of the chemical shifts to the carbon atoms in both **7** and **9** was possible performing different 2D nmr experiments, such as XHDEPT or COLOC sequences for one-bond or long-range C-H correlations, respectively. Thus, e.g., COLOC experiments performed for **7** gave evidence of the C-H interactions of C-3a, C-5, C-5a and C-10a with the NH proton, together with interactions of either C-10a with *N*-methylene protons or C-3, C-3a and C-10a with the methyl protons at C-3, thus allowing the assignment of the signals of the quaternary carbon atoms C-3a and C-10a.

Lastly, it is noteworthy that the <sup>1</sup>H spectra of compounds **5a,b** exhibited two different signals for the protons of the *N*-ethyl group, which resulted from magnetic non-equivalence due to hindered rotation around to the N-C bond. Two



Table 1  
 $^{13}\text{C}$  and  $^1\text{H}$  NMR Chemical Shift Values of Compounds 3-5 [a]

	3a	3b	3c	3d	4a	4b	4c	4d	5a	5b	5c	5d
C-3	144.5	144.4	144.5	144.4	144.7	144.8	144.7	144.7	145.1 (144.3)	145.2 (144.3)	145.4 (144.4)	145.3 (144.5)
C-4	129.8	129.7	130.1	130.1	129.5	129.7	129.9	130.0	129.6 (129.2)	129.6 (129.3)	129.8 (129.4)	129.6 (129.2)
C-5	135.7	135.6	136.0	136.0	130.3	130.5	130.8	131.0	134.4 (133.5)	134.5 (133.5)	135.0 (134.1)	135.0 (134.3)
C-3'	141.4 8.21	150.0	139.8 7.92	148.6	141.1 7.87	149.4	139.5 7.59	147.8	141.9 8.24 (141.4)	151.0 (150.1)	140.1 (140.2)	148.9 (149.0)
C-4'	109.6	107.5	108.0	105.6	101.9	100.7	100.7	99.1	109.0 (110.0)	107.0 (107.5)	108.0 (108.3)	105.5 (106.2)
C-5'	135.9	136.3	136.1	136.6	144.5	145.0	145.0	145.6	140.6 (139.5)	141.3 (140.0)	140.3 (140.2)	140.7 (140.7)
CO	157.2	157.0	157.2	157.1					159.4 (158.3)	159.4 (158.3)	159.8 (159.2)	159.6 (159.0)
NH NCH <sub>3</sub>	11.59	11.46	11.51	11.44					37.9 3.50 (37.7)	38.2 3.48 (37.6)	37.3 3.24 (35.8)	37.1 3.19 (35.2)
C=N OCH <sub>3</sub>					152.9 56.3 4.08	152.4 56.2 4.06	153.3 56.1 4.18	152.8 56.0 4.14				
N1CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub>	46.1 4.16	46.0 4.05	46.2 4.31	46.2 4.29	47.5 4.06	47.3 4.04	47.7 4.18	47.5 4.15	45.2 2.99 [b] (46.1) (4.33)	45.2 2.93 [b] (46.3) (4.31)	46.2 4.27 (46.8) (4.30)	46.1 4.24 (46.5) (4.29)
N1CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub>	15.1 1.33	15.0 1.29	15.0 1.43	14.9 1.42	14.3 1.41	14.3 1.36	14.2 1.46	14.2 1.43	14.7 1.03 [c] (14.5)	14.7 1.02 [c] (14.9)	14.7 1.44 (14.5)	14.6 1.40 (14.4)
C-3CH <sub>3</sub>	13.2 2.47	13.2 2.45	13.1 2.51	13.1 2.50	13.1 2.35	13.1 2.35	13.0 2.34	13.0 2.35	13.1 2.45 (12.7) (2.29)	13.3 2.45 (12.8) (2.29)	13.2 2.53 (12.7) (2.30)	13.1 2.51 (12.7) (2.30)
CO <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub>	161.4	162.1	161.4	162.2	161.7	162.5	161.9	162.7	161.3 (160.7)	162.2 (161.8)	161.4 (161.2)	162.0 (161.8)
CO <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub>	60.1 4.30	59.9 4.27	59.7 4.24	59.5 4.22	59.5 4.06	59.4 4.04	59.3 3.99	59.1 3.99	60.4 4.31 (60.4) (4.34)	60.3 4.32 (60.3) (4.32)	60.1 4.27 (60.2) (4.18)	59.8 4.24 (59.9) (4.19)
CO <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub>	14.2 1.30	14.1 1.29	14.2 1.26	14.1 1.26	14.0 1.14	14.0 1.18	14.1 1.10	14.1 1.14	14.1 1.32 (14.0) (1.35)	14.1 1.34 (14.0) (1.37)	14.1 1.30 (14.0) (1.24)	14.1 1.29 (14.0) (1.23)
R <sub>1</sub> = Ph: C-1	137.6	137.5			138.1	138.0			137.2 (136.7)	137.3 (136.6)		
C-2,6	124.8 7.57	124.7 7.54			123.6 7.70	123.5 7.64			125.0 7.57 (123.8)	125.0 7.55 (123.8)		
C-3,5	129.3 7.57	129.2 7.54			128.8 7.54	128.8 7.51			129.4 7.57 (129.9)	129.3 7.55 (130.0)		
C-4	128.9 7.57	128.6 7.54			127.6 7.42	127.4 7.39			129.4 7.57 (129.3)	129.6 7.60 (129.2)		
R <sub>1</sub> = CH <sub>3</sub>			36.0 3.83	35.6 3.74			35.0 3.68	34.5 3.58			35.8 3.87 (35.9)	35.3 3.77 (35.7)
R <sub>2</sub> = CH <sub>3</sub>		14.4 2.45		14.2 2.35		14.5 2.27		14.4 2.16		14.4 2.49 (14.3) (2.35)		14.2 2.37 (13.9) (2.20)

[a] Chemical shift values are given in ppm downfield from internal TMS in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> solutions. The values in parentheses are for the less abundant isomer (20-35%). [b] In the proton spectra recorded at 23° two different resonances are detected for the methylene protons: 5a, 2.85 and 3.13 ppm; 5b, 2.74 and 3.12 ppm. [c] In the proton spectra recorded at 23° two different resonances are detected for the methyl protons: 5a, 0.97 and 1.08 ppm; 5b, 0.96 and 1.08 ppm.

Table 2  
<sup>13</sup>C and <sup>1</sup>H NMR Chemical Shift Values of Compounds 7 and 9 [a]

	7a	7b	7c	7d	9a	9b	9c	9d
C-3	141.5	141.4	141.3	141.3	141.3	141.3	140.8	140.8
C-3a	122.7	122.5	122.7	122.7	120.6	120.6	120.5	120.6
NH	9.48	9.36	9.08	9.08	9.77	9.71	9.54	9.46
C-5	165.6	165.7	165.9	166.3	163.8	164.1	164.3	164.7
C-5a	107.3	105.0	105.8	103.4	112.4	110.1	110.9	108.4
C-6	141.1	149.0	139.0	147.1	139.4	147.7	137.4	145.7
	7.85		7.49		7.91		7.58	
C-8a	142.5	142.9	142.6	143.2	138.5	138.6	138.8	139.0
C-10	156.8	156.6	156.4	156.3	160.4	160.4	160.3	160.3
C-10a	126.0	126.2	126.2	126.5	129.6	129.7	129.8	129.9
N-1-CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub>	46.1	45.9	46.0	46.0	45.4	45.3	45.3	45.2
	4.10 [b]	4.07 [b]						
N-1-CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub>	15.3	15.3	15.1	15.1	15.3	15.4	15.4	15.4
	1.26	1.21	1.25	1.24	1.40	1.39	1.25	1.23
C-3 CH <sub>3</sub>	10.5	10.5	10.4	10.4	10.5	10.5	10.3	10.3
	2.18	2.13	2.09	2.10	2.14	2.13	2.06	2.04
R <sub>1</sub> = Ph: C-1	138.2	138.1			137.6	137.5		
C-2,6	124.3	123.9			123.9	123.7		
	7.56	7.51			7.40	7.35		
C-3,5	128.9	128.8			129.9	129.9		
	7.56	7.50			7.64	7.61		
C-4	127.6	127.2			129.1	128.8		
	7.43	7.45			7.55	7.52		
R <sub>1</sub> = CH <sub>3</sub>			34.6	34.1			36.2	35.7
			3.64	3.57			3.76	3.66
R <sub>2</sub> = CH <sub>3</sub>		13.0		12.8		12.5		12.2
		2.25		2.14		2.26		2.11
NCH <sub>3</sub>					35.1	35.0	35.6	35.5
					2.82	2.80	3.34	3.30
OCH <sub>3</sub>	55.6	55.5	55.2	55.2				
	3.97	3.94	4.10	4.10				

[a] Chemical shift values are given in ppm downfield from internal TMS in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> solutions. [b] In the proton spectra recorded at 23° two different resonances are detected for the methylene protons: 7a, 4.09 and 4.11 ppm; 7b, 4.06 and 4.08 ppm; 9c, 4.04 and 4.12 ppm; 9d, 4.02 and 4.12 ppm.

Hz) and long-range (6.5 or 3.0 Hz) C-H interactions, respectively. Mass spectra were recorded on a Jeol JMS-01-SG-2 spectrometer at 75 eV (100 μA). Elemental analyses were determined by labo. de Chimie Pharmaceutique—service de microchimie—Dr. H. Eder, Université de Geneve, Suisse.

General Procedure for the Synthesis of 1-Ethyl-3-methyl-4-nitro-*N*-(1-*R*<sub>1</sub>-3-*R*<sub>2</sub>-4-carbomethoxy-1*H*-pyrazol-5-yl)-1*H*-pyrazole-5-carboxamides 3a-d.

A solution of 1 (10 mmoles), aminopyrazoles 2a-d (10 mmoles) in toluene (100 ml) was refluxed for 7 hours. The solvent was then evaporated under reduced pressure and the residue was recrystallized from ethanol.

Compound 3a (R<sub>1</sub> = C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>2</sub> = H) was obtained in a yield of 48%, mp 158-159°; ir: 3220 (NH), 1720, 1690 (CO) cm<sup>-1</sup>.

Anal. Calcd. for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>20</sub>O<sub>5</sub>N<sub>6</sub>: C, 55.33; H, 4.89; N, 20.38. Found: C, 55.42; H, 4.86; N, 20.32.

Compound 3b (R<sub>1</sub> = C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>2</sub> = CH<sub>3</sub>) was obtained in a yield of 52%, mp 145-146°; ir: 3200 (NH), 1710-1680 (CO) cm<sup>-1</sup>.

Anal. Calcd. for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>22</sub>O<sub>5</sub>N<sub>6</sub>: C, 56.33; H, 5.20; N, 19.71. Found: C, 56.12; H, 5.22; N, 19.87.

Compound 3c (R<sub>1</sub> = CH<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>2</sub> = H) was obtained in a yield of 54%, mp 165-166°; ir: 3210 (NH), 1720, 1690 (CO) cm<sup>-1</sup>.

Anal. Calcd. for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>18</sub>O<sub>5</sub>N<sub>6</sub>: C, 47.99; H, 5.18; N, 23.99. Found: C, 47.77; H, 5.25; N, 24.07.

Compound 3d (R<sub>1</sub> = CH<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>2</sub> = CH<sub>3</sub>) was obtained in a yield of 58%, mp 177-178°; ir: 3210 (NH), 1710, 1690 (CO) cm<sup>-1</sup>.

Anal. Calcd. for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>20</sub>O<sub>5</sub>N<sub>6</sub>: C, 49.44; H, 5.53; N, 23.07. Found: C, 49.30; H, 5.37; N, 23.22.

General Procedure for the Synthesis of Ethyl 5-[[[1-Ethyl-3-methyl-4-nitro-1*H*-pyrazol-5-yl)methoxymethylene]amino]-1-*R*<sub>1</sub>-3-*R*<sub>2</sub>-1*H*-pyrazole-4-carboxylates 4a-d and 1-Ethyl-*N*,3-dimethyl-4-nitro-*N*-(1-*R*<sub>1</sub>-3-*R*<sub>2</sub>-4-carbomethoxy-1*H*-pyrazol-5-yl)-1*H*-pyrazole-5-carboxamides 5a-d.

Five mmoles of 3a-d were stirred with diazomethane (ether solution, 50 ml) for 1 hour and then allowed to stand at room temperature overnight. The ethereal liquor was decomposed with acetic acid and then evaporated to give a residue which was subjected to flash chromatography on Merck Kieselgel 60 (column, 3 x 45 cm), prepacked in petroleum ether 40-70°. Elution of the column with increasing amounts of ethyl acetate in petroleum ether 40-70°, gave the isomeric products 4 and 5.

Compound 4a (R<sub>1</sub> = C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>2</sub> = H) was obtained in a yield of 73% (elution with petroleum ether-ethyl acetate, 95:5), mp 157-158° (from ethanol); ir: 1730, 1680 (CO) cm<sup>-1</sup>.

Anal. Calcd. for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>22</sub>O<sub>5</sub>N<sub>6</sub>: C, 56.33; H, 5.20; N, 19.71. Found: C, 56.39; H, 5.31; N, 19.85.

Compound 5a (R<sub>1</sub> = C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>2</sub> = H) was obtained in a yield of 19% (elution with petroleum ether-ethyl acetate, 80:20), mp

165-166° (from ethanol); ir: 1715, 1685 (CO)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

*Anal.* Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_5\text{N}_6$ : C, 56.33; H, 5.20; N, 19.71. Found: C, 56.25; H, 5.35; N, 19.91.

Compound **4b** ( $\text{R}_1 = \text{C}_6\text{H}_5$ ,  $\text{R}_2 = \text{CH}_3$ ) was obtained in a yield of 58% (elution with petroleum ether-ethyl acetate, 90:10), mp 125-126° (from ethanol); ir: 1710, 1680 (CO)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

*Anal.* Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{24}\text{O}_5\text{N}_6$ : C, 57.26; H, 5.49; N, 19.08. Found: C, 57.32; H, 5.37; N, 19.24.

Compound **5b** ( $\text{R}_1 = \text{C}_6\text{H}_5$ ,  $\text{R}_2 = \text{CH}_3$ ) was obtained in a yield of 38% (elution with petroleum ether-ethyl acetate, 80:20), mp 120-121°; ir: 1700, 1670 (CO)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

*Anal.* Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{24}\text{O}_5\text{N}_6$ : C, 57.26; H, 5.49; N, 19.08. Found: C, 57.36; H, 5.28; N, 19.29.

Compound **4c** ( $\text{R}_1 = \text{CH}_3$ ,  $\text{R}_2 = \text{H}$ ) was obtained in a yield of 40% (elution with petroleum ether-ethyl acetate, 80:20), mp 105-106° (from ethanol); ir: 1700, 1670 (CO)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

*Anal.* Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_5\text{N}_6$ : C, 49.44; H, 5.53; N, 23.07. Found: C, 49.55; H, 5.42; N, 23.28.

Compound **5c** ( $\text{R}_1 = \text{CH}_3$ ,  $\text{R}_2 = \text{H}$ ) was obtained in a yield of 46% (elution with petroleum ether-ethyl acetate, 70:30), mp 138-140° (from ethanol); ir: 1710, 1680 (CO)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

*Anal.* Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_5\text{N}_6$ : C, 49.44; H, 5.53; N, 23.07. Found: C, 49.49; H, 5.63; N, 23.15.

Compound **4d** ( $\text{R}_1 = \text{CH}_3$ ,  $\text{R}_2 = \text{CH}_3$ ) was obtained in a yield of 27% (elution with petroleum ether-ethyl acetate, 75:25), mp 95-96° (from ethanol); ir: 1700, 1680 (CO)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

*Anal.* Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_5\text{N}_6$ : C, 50.78; H, 5.86; N, 22.21. Found: C, 50.65; H, 5.79; N, 22.10.

Compound **5d** ( $\text{R}_1 = \text{CH}_3$ ,  $\text{R}_2 = \text{CH}_3$ ) was obtained in a yield of 32% (elution with petroleum ether-ethyl acetate, 60:40), mp 175-176° (from ethanol); ir: 1700-1680 (CO)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

*Anal.* Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_5\text{N}_6$ : C, 50.78; H, 5.86; N, 22.21. Found: C, 50.83; H, 5.95; N, 22.34.

#### Hydrolysis of **4a-d**.

Two mmoles of **4a-d** in ethanol (40 ml) were refluxed with 10% aqueous hydrochloric acid (10 ml) for 10 hours. Then the solution was concentrated to small volume and a solid product precipitated, which was identical in all respects with the compounds **3a-d** (mp, ir, tlc).

General Procedure for the Synthesis of 1-Ethyl-4,8-dihydro-10-methoxy-3-methyl-8- $\text{R}_1$ -6- $\text{R}_2$ -dipyrzolo[3,4-*b*:4',3'-*f*][1,5]diazocin-5(1*H*)-ones **7a-d**.

A mixture of **4a-d** (5 mmoles) in ethanol (100 ml) and 1 g of W-2 Raney-nickel was hydrogenated in a Parr apparatus at 45-50 psi for 24 hours at room temperature. Removal of the catalyst and evaporation of the solvent gave a residue which was treated with toluene (40 ml), acetic acid (2 ml) and refluxed for 30 hours. After evaporation of the solvent under reduced pressure, the residue was washed with 5% sodium bicarbonate solution and then recrystallized from ethanol.

Compound **7a** ( $\text{R}_1 = \text{C}_6\text{H}_5$ ,  $\text{R}_2 = \text{H}$ ) was obtained in a yield of 50%, mp 230-231°; ir: 3150 (NH), 1680 (CO)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; ms: m/z 350 (molecular ion).

*Anal.* Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_2\text{N}_6$ : C, 61.70; H, 5.18; N, 23.99. Found: C, 61.85; H, 5.33; N, 24.07.

Compound **7b** ( $\text{R}_1 = \text{C}_6\text{H}_5$ ,  $\text{R}_2 = \text{CH}_3$ ) was obtained in a yield of 38%, mp 247-248°; ir: 3160 (NH), 1670 (CO)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; ms: m/z 364 (molecular ion).

*Anal.* Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_2\text{N}_6$ : C, 62.62; H, 5.53; N, 23.06.

Found: C, 62.70; H, 5.65; N, 23.19.

Compound **7c** ( $\text{R}_1 = \text{CH}_3$ ,  $\text{R}_2 = \text{H}$ ) was obtained in a yield of 50%, mp 266-267°; ir: 3200 (NH), 1650 (CO)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; ms: m/z 288 (molecular ion).

*Anal.* Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_2\text{N}_6$ : C, 54.15; H, 5.59; N, 29.15. Found: C, 54.27; H, 5.63; N, 29.28.

Compound **7d** ( $\text{R}_1 = \text{CH}_3$ ,  $\text{R}_2 = \text{CH}_3$ ) was obtained in a yield of 38%, mp 255-256°; ir: 3160 (NH), 1670 (CO)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; ms: m/z 302 (molecular ion).

*Anal.* Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_2\text{N}_6$ : C, 55.61; H, 6.00; N, 27.80. Found: C, 55.63; H, 6.24; N, 27.92.

General Procedure for the Synthesis of 1-Ethyl-1,4,8,9-tetrahydro-3,9-dimethyl-8- $\text{R}_1$ -6- $\text{R}_2$ -dipyrzolo[3,4-*b*:4',3'-*f*][1,5]diazocin-5,10-diones **9a-d**.

A mixture of **5a-d** (5 mmoles) in ethanol (100 ml) and 1 g of W-2 Raney-nickel was hydrogenated in a Parr apparatus at 45-50 psi for 24 hours at room temperature. Removal of the catalyst and evaporation of the solvent left a crude product which was treated with toluene (40 ml), acetic acid (2 ml) and refluxed for 15 hours. After evaporation to dryness under reduced pressure, the residue was washed with 5% sodium bicarbonate solution and recrystallized from ethanol.

Compound **9a** ( $\text{R}_1 = \text{C}_6\text{H}_5$ ,  $\text{R}_2 = \text{H}$ ) was obtained in a yield of 58%, mp 239-240°; ir: 3150 (NH), 1660 (CO)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; ms: m/z 350 (molecular ion).

*Anal.* Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_2\text{N}_6$ : C, 61.70; H, 5.18; N, 23.99. Found: C, 61.66; H, 5.03; N, 23.85.

Compound **9b** ( $\text{R}_1 = \text{C}_6\text{H}_5$ ,  $\text{R}_2 = \text{CH}_3$ ) was obtained in a yield of 39%, mp 264-265°; ir: 3100 (NH), 1675 (CO)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; ms: m/z 364 (molecular ion).

*Anal.* Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_2\text{N}_6$ : C, 62.62; H, 5.53; N, 23.06. Found: C, 62.58; H, 5.51; N, 23.12.

Compound **9c** ( $\text{R}_1 = \text{CH}_3$ ,  $\text{R}_2 = \text{H}$ ) was obtained in a yield of 66%, mp 273-274°; ir: 3200 (NH), 1670 (CO)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; ms: m/z 288 (molecular ion).

*Anal.* Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_2\text{N}_6$ : C, 54.15; H, 5.59; N, 29.15. Found: C, 54.10; H, 5.54; N, 29.27.

Compound **9d** ( $\text{R}_1 = \text{CH}_3$ ,  $\text{R}_2 = \text{CH}_3$ ) was obtained in a yield of 60%, mp 302-303°; ir: 3190 (NH), 1670 (CO)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; ms: m/z 302 (molecular ion).

*Anal.* Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_2\text{N}_6$ : C, 55.61; H, 6.00; N, 27.80. Found: C, 55.36; H, 6.14; N, 27.84.

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