Synthesis of 2-Imino-4-thiazolines, 2-Imino-4-alkoxythiazolidines, Thiazoles and 4-Imidazolin-2-ones from α -Halomethyl Ketimines

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A variety of heterocycles, including 3,4-disubstituted-2-imino-4-thiazolines, 3,4-disubstituted-4-methoxy-2-iminothiazolidines, 2,4-disubstituted-thiazoles, 2-amino-4-substituted-thiazoles and 1,5-disubstituted-4-imidazolin-2-ones, were synthesized from α -chloromethyl and α -bromomethyl ketimines by condensation with potassium thiocyanate, thiourea, ammonium thiocyanate and potassium cyanate.

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Introduction.

 α -Halomethyl ketimines 1, *i.e.* imines derived from 1-halo-2-alkanones, became only recently available as a convenient source of a 2-oxoalkyl unit [1]. These new reactive bielectrophilic reagents were found to react conveniently with iodide, alkoxides, thiolates and secondary amines to give the substitution products [1]. However, cyanide converted α -halomethyl ketimines into α -cyanoaziridines while primary amines afforded initially nucleophilic substitution, but the resulting α -(N-alkylamino)ketimines oxidized spontaneously in the air to give α -diimines [1]. The various nucleophilic interactions with the halogenated carbon and the imino carbon of α -halomethyl ketimines allow to predict

useful condensation reactions with ambident nucleophiles, e.g. thiocyanate, cyanate, thiourea, e.g. A double interaction with both electrophilic centers of α -halomethyl ketimines creates the possibility for the construction of heterocyclic compounds. In this report, attention is paid to reactions of α -halomethyl ketimines with potassium and ammonium thiocyanate, thiourea, thioacetamide and potassium cyanate because the target heterocycles have potential physiological activities in various domains such as in agrochemistry and the pharmaceutical field.

Results and Discussion.

 α -Bromomethyl and α -chloromethyl ketimines 3 and 5 were synthesized by condensation of the appropriate α -bromomethyl or α -chloromethyl ketone 2 and 4 with primary amines in diethyl ether in the presence of stoechiometric amounts of titanium(IV) chloride (Scheme 1) [1].

The ambident nucleophilic potassium thiocyanate reacted with α -halomethyl ketimines 3 and 5 to give the substitution

product 7 as an intermediate, which underwent intramolecular nucleophilic addition (*via* enamine 8) to provide 3-alkyl-2-imino-4-thiazolines 6 in 60-77% yield (Scheme 2, Table I). The synthesis of these heterocycles proceeded in acetonitrile as well as in methanol. Using methanol as solvent, the formation of 3,4-dialkyl-2-imino-4-methoxythiazo-

lidines 10 was also observed. The latter adduct of methanol disappeared gradually upon increasing the reaction temperature and the reaction time. For example, α-bromomethyl ketimine 3a reacted with potassium thiocyanate in methanol at room temperature for 22 hours to afford 4-t-butyl-2-imino-3-isopropyl-4-methoxythiazolidine 10a and 4-t-butyl-2-imino-4-thiazoline 6a in a 60:40 ratio, respectively. Under reflux conditions the ratios changed from 25:75 (reflux 20 minutes) to 10:90 (reflux 6.5 hours), respectively (Scheme 3). These results are indicative of the intermediacy of an adduct 9 which cyclizes and subsequently expels the elements of methanol (Scheme 2).

Table I gives a compilation of the conversion of α -halomethyl ketimines **3** and **5** into 3,4-disubstituted-2-imino-4-thiazolines **6**.

Table I

Synthesis of 3,4-Disubstituted-2-imino-4-thiazolines 6
from α-Halomethyl Ketimines 3 and 5

Starting Material	R ¹	R	X [a]	Reaction Conditions [b]	Yield
3a	t-Bu	<i>i</i> -Pr	Br	70°/2.5 hours	6a: 60%
3b	t-Bu	cyclohex	Br	60°/1 hour	6b : 77%
5a	C_6H_5	i-Pr	C1	70°/1.3 hours	6c : 75%
5b	4-MeC ₆ H ₄	i-Pr	C1	70°/2.5 hours	6d : 62%

[a] Halogen atom in the starting α -halomethyl ketimine. [b] Acetonitrile (1.5 molar equivalents of KSCN, 10% w/v).

Based on the above results, it is most probable that the substitution product 7 gives ring closure *via* the enamine form 8 [2], while in a nucleophilic solvent (e.g. methanol), adduct formation takes place, the resulting adduct 9 affording ring closure similarly.

Other ambident nucleophiles such as thiourea and thioacetamide condensed with α -halomethyl ketimines 3a and 5 in methanol to afford 2-aminothiazoles 11 and 2-methylthiazoles 12, respectively (Scheme 4). The thiazoles 11a and 12a are likewise obtained from the corresponding α -bromoketone, *i.e.* 1-bromo-3,3-dimethyl-2-butanone, according to the classical Hantzsch thiazole synthesis [3,4]. As the *N*-isopropyl moiety is lost during the condensation of the α -haloketimines 3a and 5, this synthetic procedure for thiazoles is less attractive.

However, the reaction of α -bromoketimine 3a with ammonium thiocyanate in acetonitrile yielded 2-amino-4-t-butylthiazole 11a as the major reaction product (90%), accompanied by 10% of 4-t-butyl-3-isopropyl-2-imino-4-thiazoline 6a (Scheme 5). The initial substitution product 13 underwent competitive cyclization to 2-imino-4-thiazoline 6a or 2-aminothiazole 11a, the latter according to

exchange of an intermediate isopropylamino moiety for an amino moiety. While the intermediate substitution product 13 can cyclize *via* the enamine 14, the addition of ammonia across the imino bond of 13 forms an adduct which is able to cyclize to 16 after which it looses isopropylamine to give the major heterocycle 11a.

In contrast to the foregoing results, the condensation of ketimines 3a and 5 with potassium cyanate took a different course in that it resulted in the formation of 4-imidazolin-2-ones 17. The reaction of α -bromomethyl ketimine

3a with 1.5 molar equivalents of potassium cyanate in acetonitrile under reflux for 1.5 hours afforded 5-t-butyl-1-isopropyl-4-imidazolin-2-one 17a in 75% yield (Scheme 6). α-Chloromethyl ketimines 5 reacted similarly with potassium cyanate (1.5 equivalents) to give 4-imidazolin-2-ones 17b,c. However, this reaction required a prolonged reaction time and a higher reaction temperature (5 hours reflux in DMF). The structure of the

Scheme 6

KOCN/MeCN or DMF
$$\Delta$$
 1.5-5 hours

NH

R1

17a, R1 = t-Bu (MeCN, Δ 1.5 hours; 75%)

5a, R1 = C₆H₅; X = Cl

17b, R1 = C₆H₅ (DMF, Δ 5 hours; 60%)

5b, R1 = 4-MeC₆H₄; X = Cl

17c, R1 = 4-MeC₆H₄; (DMF, Δ 5 hours; 63%)

4-imidazolin-2-ones 17 was established by spectroscopic methods and by comparison of ¹³C nmr data of known analogues. These results demonstrate that halomethyl ketimines can be used for the construction of these five membered heterocycles. It should be stressed that these syntheses of heterocycles are usually highly dependent on the substitution pattern in the starting material and that by no means general syntheses of such heterocycles exist. The present results show that 2-imino-4-thiazolines and 4-imidazolin-2-ones with aliphatic or aromatic substituents at the 4-position and no substituent at the 5-position are accessible.

In conclusion, α-halomethyl ketimines are suitable building blocks for the conversion into a variety of heterocycles with potential physiological activities. For instance, 2-imino-4-thiazolines have been reported to display insecticidal [5], schistosomicidal [6] and plant growth regulating [7] activity. On the other hand, 4-imidazolin-2-ones are known for their pharmaceutical and agrochemical properties. Activities of the former are situated in the field of herbicides [8] and antibacterials [9], while the latter properties refer to anticonvulsant [10], cardiotonic [11] and analgesic [12] activity.

EXPERIMENTAL

Ir spectra were recorded with a Perkin Elmer model 1310 spectrophotometer. The ¹H nmr spectra were measured with a Varian T-60, a Jeol PMX60 nmr spectrometer (60 MHz) or a Jeol JNM EX270 nmr spectrometer (270 MHz), while ¹³C nmr spectra were recorded with a Varian FT-80 nmr spectrometer (20 MHz) or a Jeol JNM EX270 nmr spectrometer (68 MHz). Mass spectra were obtained with a Varian Matt 112 mass spectrometer (70 eV) using a direct inlet system or by using a gc-ms coupling (capillary column).

 α -Bromomethyl ketimines 3a,b and α -chloromethyl ketimines 5 were synthesized by condensation of the corresponding α -haloketones 2 and 4 with primary amines in diethyl ether in the presence of stoechiometric amounts of titanium(IV) chloride [1].

General Procedure for the Reaction of α-Halomethyl Ketimines 3 and 5 with Potassium Thiocyanate.

A mixture of α-halomethyl ketimine 3 or 5 (0.005 mole) in acetonitrile (10 ml) (methanol was used in some experiments) was treated with potassium thiocyanate (0.0075 mole). The heterogeneous mixture was stirred at 60-70° during 1-2.5 hours (see Table I) after which the reaction mixture was poured into water. Extraction with dichloromethane, drying (magnesium sulfate) and evaporation of the solvent gave 3,4-disubstituted-2-imino-4-thiazolines 6 as dark viscous oils. The ¹H nmr analysis indicated a purity of >95%. Similar compounds, described in the literature, also were described as dark viscous oils [13,14]. All attempts to purify these materials resulted in partial decomposition (column chromatography, vacuum distillation).

4-t-Butyl-3-isopropyl-2-imino-4-thiazoline 6a (R = i-Pr, $R^1 = t$ -Bu).

This compound had ir (sodium chloride): v 3320 (NH), 1583-1560 (C=C, C=N) cm⁻¹; ¹H nmr (deuteriochloroform): δ 1.32 (s, 9H, *t*-Bu), 1.65 (d, 6H, Me₂, J = 7 Hz), 4.53 (septet, 1H, NCH, J = 7 Hz), 5.45 (s, 1H, S-CH=), 5.9 (1H, broad, NH); ¹³C nmr (deuteriochloroform): δ 17.7 (Me₂), 29.7 (Me₃), 33.5 (CMe₃), 49.5 (NCH), 91.6 (S-CH=), 147.2 (N-C=C), 165.6 (C=N).

Anal. Calcd. for C₁₀H₁₈N₂S: N, 14.12. Found: N, 14.38.

4-t-Butyl-3-cyclohexyl-2-imino-4-thiazoline **6b** (R = cyclohex, $R^1 = t$ -Bu).

This compound had ir (sodium chloride): v 3330 (NH), 1586-1560 (C=C, C=N) cm⁻¹; ¹H nmr (deuteriochloroform): δ 1.32 (s, 9H, *t*-Bu), 1.0-2.0 (m, 10H, (CH₂)₅), 3.0 (m, 1H, NCH), 5.2 (broad, 1H, NH), 5.42 (s, 1H, C-CH=); ms: m/z 238 (0.01), 228 (11), 227 (11), 177 (8), 176 (42), 175 (6), 156 (9), 141 (14), 135 (6), 134 (23), 112 (15), 105 (8), 104 (12), 91 (9), 79 (6), 77 (10), 72 (7), 57 (6), 56 (10), 55 (7), 45 (6), 44 (12), 43 (11), 41 (21), 40 (100), 39 (7).

3-Isopropyl-4-phenyl-2-imino-4-thiazoline **6c** (R = i-Pr, $R^1 = Ph$).

This compound had ir (sodium chloride): v 3330 (NH), 1660-1550 (C=C, C=N) cm⁻¹; ¹H nmr (deuteriochloroform): δ 1.44 (d, 6H, Me₂, J = 7 Hz), 4.13 (septet, 1H, NCH, J = 7 Hz), 5.5 (s, 1H, S-CH=), 6.5 (broad, 1H, NH), 7.35 (m, 5H, Ph); ¹³C nmr (deuteriochloroform): δ 49.7 (NCH), 96.0 (S-CH=), 140.9 and 132.9 (NC=C and C_{quat}), 128.8 and 128.5 (CH= arom), 130.6 (CH= arom), 164.6 (C=N); ms: m/z 218 (23), 217 (19), 176 (80), 156 (19), 141 (42), 134 (54), 105 (21), 104 (22), 77 (20), 44 (13), 41 (42), 40 (100), 39 (15).

Anal. Calcd. for C₁₂H₁₄N₂S: N, 12.83. Found: N, 13.06.

2-Imino-3-isopropyl-4-(4-methylphenyl)-4-thiazoline **6d** ($R = i\text{-Pr}, R^1 = p\text{-MeC}_6H_4$).

This compound had ir (sodium chloride): v 2970 (NH), 1595-1570 (C=C, C=N); ¹H nmr (deuteriochloroform): δ 1.46 (d, 6H, Me₂, J = 6.93 Hz), 2.40 (s, 3H, Me), 4.15 (septet, 1H, NCH, J = 6.93 Hz), 5.55 (s, 1H, S-CH=), 7.22 (s, 4H, C₆H₄ arom), NH invisible; ¹³C nmr (deuteriochloroform): δ 19.1 (CH Me_2), 21.3 (Me), 49.9 (NCH), 96.0 (S-CH), 128.9 and 129.3

(each CH= arom), 129.4, 130.0 and 139.1 (each C_q =), 165.4 (C=N); ms: m/z 232 (21), 231 (20), 191 (12), 190 (100), 148 (41), 147 (22), 118 (18), 91 (16), 43 (14), 42 (13), 41 (25).

Anal. Calcd. for C₁₃H₁₆N₂S: N, 12.06. Found: N, 11.91.

4-t-Butyl-2-imino-3-isopropyl-4-methoxythiazolidine **10a** (R¹ = t-Bu; R = i-Pr).

When the synthesis of 2-imino-4-thiazoline 6a (R = i-Pr, $R^1 = t$ -Bu) was performed in methanol as solvent (see detailed procedure above), the reaction mixture contained variable amounts of the labile 4-t-butyl-2-imino-3-isopropyl-4-methoxythiazolidine 10a ($R^1 = t$ -Bu, R = i-Pr) (see text); ¹H nmr (carbon tetrachloride): δ 0.95 (s, 9H, t-Bu), 1.02 (d, 6H, Me₂, J = 6 Hz), 2.76 (septet, 1H, NCH, J = 6 Hz), 3.06 and 3.56 (each d, each 1H, CH₂, AB, J = 12 Hz), 3.84 (s, 3H, OMe), NH invisible. Attempts to isolate this methoxylated 2-iminothiazolidine 10a by preparative gc resulted in conversion into the corresponding 2-imino-4-thiazoline 6a.

General Procedure for the Reaction of α -Halomethyl Ketimines 3a and 5 with Thiourea, Thioacetamide or Ammonium Thiocyanate.

The reactions of α -bromomethyl ketimine 3a ($R^1 = t$ -Bu, R = i-Pr) and α -chloromethyl ketimines 5 ($R^1 = C_6H_5$ or p-Me-C₆H₄, R = i-Pr) with thiourea, thioacetamide or ammonium thiocyanate were executed in a manner analogous to the procedure described above. Thus, the reaction of α -haloketimines 3a and 5 with 1.5 molar equivalents of the above ambident nucleophiles in acetonitrile or methanol (10% solution w/v) was executed for a time described in the text. Aqueous workup and extraction with dichloromethane yielded, after drying (magnesium sulfate), the crude heterocycles (purity > 95%).

2-Amino-4-t-butylthiazole 11a.

This compound had mp 100° (lit mp 99-101° [3,4]); ir (sodium chloride): v 3120 and 3400 (NH), 1600-1635 and 1520 (C=C and C=N) cm⁻¹; ¹H nmr (carbon tetrachloride): δ 1.21 (s, 9H, *t*-Bu), 5.91 (s, 1H, S-CH), 6.0 (broad, 2H, NH₂); ¹³C nmr (deuteriochloroform): δ 29.7 (Me₃), 34.5 (CMe₃), 99.0 (S-CH=), 162.1 and 168.0 (C=C-N and C=N); ms: m/z 156 (34), 141 (100), 114 (9), 113 (8), 99 (11), 97 (9), 65 (12), 45 (10), 41 (10), 40 (52), 39 (10).

2-Amino-4-phenylthiazole 11b.

This compound was recrystallized from ethanol, mp 148.5-149.4° (lit mp 151° [15]); ir (potassium bromide): v 3450 (NH), 1600 and 1520 (C=C and C=N) cm⁻¹; ¹H nmr (deuteriochloroform): δ 5.30 (s, 2H, NH₂), 6.70 (s, 1H, S-CH), 7.25-7.40 (m, 3H, CH= arom), 7.76 (d, 2H, CH= arom, *meta*, J=7.26 Hz); ¹³C nmr (deuteriochloroform): δ 102.8 (S-CH), 126.0, 127.7 and 128.6 (each CH= arom), 134.7 (Cq=), 151.4 and 167.5 (-N=C and N-C=); ms: m/z 176 (100), 175 (6), 134 (55), 133 (3), 108 (3), 104 (10), 90 (12), 89 (13), 88 (6), 77 (6), 69 (4), 63 (5), 51 (6), 45 (4).

2-Amino-4-(4-methylphenyl)thiazole 11c.

This compound was recrystallized from ethanol, mp 133.5-134.8° (lit mp 130-131° [15]); ir (potassium bromide): v 3450 (NH), 1625 and 1585 (C=C and C=N) cm⁻¹; ¹H nmr (deuteriochloroform): δ 2.36 (s, 3H, Me), 5.16 (br s, 2H, NH₂), 6.65 (s, 1H, S-CH), 7.18 (d, 2H, CH= arom, *ortho*, J = 7.92 Hz), 7.66 (d, 2H, CH= arom, *meta*, J = 7.92 Hz); ¹³C nmr (deuteriochloroform): δ 21.2 (Me), 102.0 (S-CH=), 125.9 and 129.3

(each CH=), 132.0 and 137.5 (each C_q =), 151.4 (N-C=), 167.3 (C=N); ms: m/z 190 (100), 189 (5), 149 (5), 148 (35), 147 (31), 118 (8), 115 (7), 104 (6), 103 (6), 94 (7), 91 (12), 77 (6), 45 (6).

2-Methyl-4-t-butylthiazole 12a.

This compound had ir (sodium chloride): v 1515 (arom); 1H nmr (carbon tetrachloride): δ 1.31 (s, 9H, t-Bu), 3.66 (s, 3H, Me), 6.66 (s, 1H, S-CH=); ^{13}C nmr (deuteriochloroform): δ 19.1 (Me), 30.0 (Me₃), 34.6 (*C*Me₃), 109.4 (S-*C*H=), 164.6 and 166.3 (*C*=N and N-*C*=); ms: m/z 155 (28), 140 (100), 123 (6), 99 (13), 97 (7), 91 (5), 65 (20), 59 (14), 58 (8), 57 (9), 55 (6), 53 (8), 45 (28), 42 (13), 41 (25), 40 (16), 39 (27).

Anal. Calcd. for C₈H₁₃NS: N, 9.02. Found: N, 8.87.

2-Methyl-4-phenylthiazole 12b.

This compound was recrystallized from ethanol, mp 66.7-67.8°; ir (potassium bromide): v 1498 (arom) cm⁻¹; 1 H nmr (deuteriochloroform): δ 2.76 (s, 3H, Me), 7.29 (s, 1H, S-CH=), 7.25-7.43 (m, 3H, CH= arom, ortho + para), 7.85-7.89 (m, 2H, CH= arom, meta); 13 C nmr (deuteriochloroform): δ 19.3 (Me), 112.2 (S-CH=), 126.4, 128.0 and 128.7 (each CH= arom), 134.6 (C_q=), 155.2 and 165.8 (C=N and N-C=); ms: m/z 175 (71), 136 (5), 134 (100), 90 (13), 89 (16), 88 (5), 69 (5), 67 (11), 63 (6), 51 (6).

2-Methyl-4-(4-methylphenyl)thiazole 12c.

This compound was recrystallized from ethanol, mp 53.1-55.0°; ir (potassium bromide): v 1500 (arom) cm⁻¹; ¹H nmr (deuteriochloroform): δ 2.37 (s, 3H, Me), 2.76 (s, 3H, S-CMe), 7.22 (d, 2H, CH= arom, ortho, J = 7.92 Hz), 7.26 (s, 1H, S-CH), 7.77 (d, 2H, CH= arom, meta, J = 7.92 Hz); $^{13}\mathrm{C}$ nmr (deuteriochloroform): δ 19.3 (S-CMe), 21.2 (Me), 11.4 (S-CH), 126.2 and 129.4 (each CH= arom), 131.9 and 137.8 (each C_q =), 155.3 and 165.7 (C=N and N-C=); ms: m/z 189 (100), 149 (13), 148 (81), 147 (48), 119 (10), 103 (7), 94 (9), 91 (14), 77 (6), 45 (5).

General Procedure for the Reaction of α -Halomethyl Ketimines 3a and 5 with Potassium Cyanate.

The reaction was run in the same way as described for the reactions with potassium thiocyanate. Aqueous workup afforded 1-isopropyl-4-imidazolin-2-ones 17.

5-t-Butyl-1-isopropyl-4-imidazolin-2-one 17a.

This compound was recrystallized from diethyl ether (-20°), mp 211°; ir (sodium chloride): v 3120 (NH), 1660-1680 (C=O, C=C) cm⁻¹; ¹H nmr (deuteriochloroform): δ 1.24 (s, 9H, *t*-Bu), 1.55 (d, 6H, Me₂, J = 7 Hz), 4.32 (septet, 1H, NCH, J = 7 Hz), 5.9 (broad s, 1H, NH), 5.95 (s, 1H, CH=); ¹³C nmr (deuteriochloroform): δ 19.5 (Me₂), 29.6 (Me₃), 30.6 (CMe₃), 47.1 (NCH), 102.8 (O-CH=), 131.5 (N-C=C), 155.8 (C=N); ms: m/z 182 (18), 140 (15), 125 (9), 44 (9), 43 (18), 42 (12), 41 (29), 40 (100). Anal. Calcd. for C₁₀H₁₈N₂O: N, 15.37. Found: N, 15.19.

5-Phenyl-1-isopropyl-4-imidazolin-2-one 17b.

This compound was recrystallized from ethanol, mp 251.3-252.2°; ir (potassium bromide): v 3110 (NH), 1650-1670 (C=O and C=C) cm⁻¹; ¹H nmr (deuteriochloroform): δ 1.48 (d, 6H, Me₂, J = 6.93 Hz), 4.16 (septet, 1H, NCHMe₂, J = 6.93 Hz), 6.26 (d, 1H, NH-CH=, J = 2.31 Hz), 7.26-7.44 (m, 5H, CH= arom), 10.64 (broad s, 1H, NH); 13 C nmr (deuteriochloroform): δ 20.5 (Me₂), 46.3 (NCHMe₂), 106.2 (NH-CH=), 128.1, 128.6 and 129.2 (each CH= arom), 125.6 and 130.5 (each C_q=), 155.1

(C=O); ms: m/z 202 (42), 160 (100), 159 (4), 132 (5), 117 (4), 104 (48), 89 (4), 77 (12), 43 (5), 42 (5), 41 (9).

Anal. Calcd. for C₁₂H₁₄N₂O: N, 13.85. Found: N, 13.74.

5-(4-Methylphenyl)-1-isopropyl-4-imidazolin-2-one 17c.

This compound was recrystallized from ethanol, mp 197.8-199.3°; ir (potassium bromide): v 3120 (NH), 1615-1650 (C=O and C=C) cm⁻¹; ¹H nmr (deuteriochloroform): δ 1.46 (d, 6H, Me₂, J = 6.93 Hz), 2.39 (s, 3H, Me), 4.14 (septet, 1H, NCHMe₂, J = 6.93 Hz), 6.22 (t, 1H, NH-CH=, J = 2.31 Hz), 7.21 (broad s, 4H, CH= arom), 11.59 (broad s, 1H, NH); ¹³C nmr (deuteriochloroform): δ 20.5 (Me₂), 21.2 (Me), 46.2 (NCHMe₂), 106.1 (NH-CH=), 125.4, 127.6 and 138.1 (each C_q=), 129.2 (CH= arom), 155.2 (C=O); ms: m/z 216 (43), 174 (100), 173 (6), 146 (4), 130 (5), 119 (5), 118 (33), 91 (6), 41 (6).

Anal. Calcd. for C₁₃H₁₆N₂O: N, 12.95. Found: N, 13.09.

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