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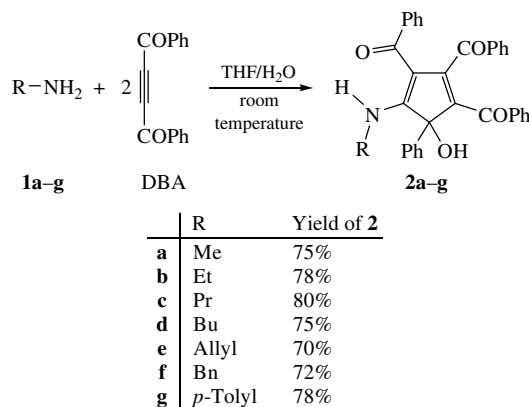
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The reaction of one equivalent of primary amines with two equivalents of dibenzoylacetylene in the THF/H<sub>2</sub>O system leads to 1-alkylamino-5-hydroxy-5-phenyl-2,3,4-tribenzoylcyclopenta-1,3-dienes in good yields.

The synthesis and synthetic applications of multifunctional cyclopentadienes have been widely investigated.<sup>1–4</sup> In spite of the extensive development in the chemistry of cyclopentadienyl ligands, little attention has been paid to the synthesis of fully substituted cyclopentadienes.<sup>5,6</sup> The reaction of primary amines with acetylenic esters has been discussed.<sup>7–9</sup> The products of these reactions are *cis* and *trans* isomers of the related enamines. As a part of our studies on heterocyclic and carbocyclic systems,<sup>10</sup> we now report a convenient and facile preparation of fully substituted cyclopentadienes using primary amines **1** and dibenzoylacetylene (DBA) in 1:1 THF/H<sub>2</sub>O as a solvent. This reaction produces 1-alkylamino-5-hydroxy-5-phenyl-2,3,4-tribenzoylcyclopenta-1,3-dienes **2** in good yields<sup>†</sup> (Scheme 1).



Scheme 1

The structures of **2a–g** were deduced from their elemental analyses and IR, <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectroscopy, and mass spectrometric data. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **2a** exhibited a doublet ( $\delta$  3.05 ppm, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> 5.6 Hz) and a broad singlet ( $\delta$  10.97 ppm), identified as methyl and N–H protons along with multiplets for aromatic ring systems. The OH proton of **2a** appears as a fairly broad singlet at  $\delta$  5.10 ppm. The OH and NH proton resonances disappeared after addition of D<sub>2</sub>O to the CDCl<sub>3</sub> solution of **2a**. The <sup>1</sup>H decoupled <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **2a** showed 25 distinct resonances in agreement with the proposed structure. The methylene

protons of the benzyl group in **2f** are diastereotopic and exhibit an ABX system (*J*<sub>AB</sub> 15.1 Hz, *J*<sub>AX</sub> = *J*<sub>BX</sub> = 5.0 Hz,  $\delta$ <sub>A</sub> 4.56,  $\delta$ <sub>B</sub> 4.62 ppm). The mass spectra of compounds **2a–g** displayed molecular ion peaks at appropriate *m/z* values.

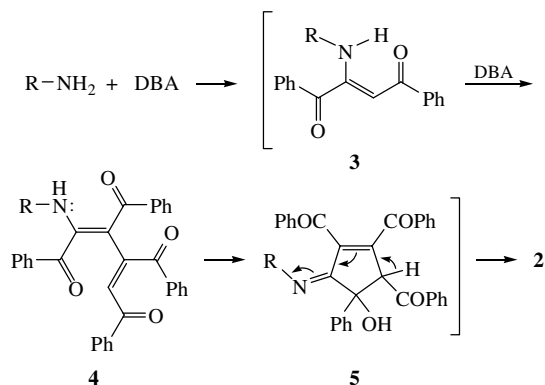
A possible mechanism for the formation of **2** is proposed in Scheme 2. The reaction involves the sequence of two Michael additions of the primary amine to the electron-deficient acetylenic ketone to produce enamincarbonyl compound **4**. Such an addition product may undergo cyclization under the reaction conditions employed to produce imine derivative **5**, which undergoes an imine-to-enamine tautomerism to generate highly functionalised cyclopentadiene **2**.

<sup>†</sup> Melting points were measured on an Electrothermal 9100 apparatus. Elemental analyses for C, H, and N were performed using a Heraeus CHN-O-Rapid analyzer. IR spectra were recorded on a Shimadzu IR-460 spectrometer. Mass spectra were recorded on a Finnigan-MAT 8430 mass spectrometer operating at an ionization potential of 70 eV. The NMR spectra were recorded at 500.1 (<sup>1</sup>H) and 125.7 (<sup>13</sup>C) MHz on a Bruker Avance DRX-500 MHz NMR instrument with CDCl<sub>3</sub> as a solvent. Chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) are reported relative to TMS as an internal standard.

*Typical experimental procedure for the preparation of 5-hydroxy-1-methylamino-5-phenyl-2,3,4-tribenzoylcyclopenta-1,3-diene 2a.* 0.16 g (40%) of methylamine (2 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of 0.94 g dibenzoylacetylene (4 mmol) in 10 ml of THF and 10 ml of H<sub>2</sub>O at room temperature. The reaction mixture was then stirred for 12 h. The precipitate was filtered off and crystallised in *n*-hexane–EtOAc. Product **2a** was obtained as yellow crystals, yield 0.75 g (75%), mp 178–180 °C. IR (KBr,  $\nu$ /cm<sup>–1</sup>): 3418 (OH), 3230 (NH), 1654–1630 (C=O) and 1620–1590 (Ph). <sup>1</sup>H NMR,  $\delta$ : 3.05 (d, 3H, NMe, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> 5.6 Hz), 5.26 (br. s, 1H, OH), 6.86–7.72 (m, 20H, Ar), 10.97 (br. s, 1H, NH...O=C). <sup>13</sup>C NMR,  $\delta$ : 31.5 (NMe), 85.8 (COH), 108.1 (N–C=C), 124.6, 126.9, 127.5, 127.6, 127.8, 128.1, 128.2, 128.3, 128.4, 128.9, 129.3 and 131.7 (19CH), 130.6 (C), 133.2 (CH), 136.7, 138.0, 138.9, 140.6 and 153.9 (5C), 178.4 (N–C=C), 192.2, 192.4 and 194.5 (3C=O). MS, *m/z* (%): 499 (M<sup>+</sup>, 3), 394 (5), 105 (100), 77 (95). Found (%): C, 79.73; H, 5.09; N, 2.78. Calc. for C<sub>33</sub>H<sub>25</sub>NO<sub>4</sub> (499.6) (%): C, 79.34; H, 5.04; N, 2.80.

*For 5-hydroxy-1-ethylamino-5-phenyl-2,3,4-tribenzoylcyclopenta-1,3-diene 2b:* light yellow crystals, yield 0.80 g (78%), mp 190–192 °C. IR (KBr,  $\nu$ /cm<sup>–1</sup>): 3420 (OH), 3205 (NH), 1674–1635 (C=O), 1620–1590 (Ph). <sup>1</sup>H NMR,  $\delta$ : 1.10 (t, 3H, Me, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> 7.2 Hz), 3.52 (m, 2H, NCH<sub>2</sub>), 6.35 (br. s, 1H, OH), 6.88–7.82 (m, 20H, Ar), 10.98 (br. s, 1H, NH...O=C). <sup>13</sup>C NMR,  $\delta$ : 14.8 (Me), 39.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 85.6 (COH), 107.6 (N–C=C), 124.6, 127.0, 127.6, 127.7, 128.1, 128.2, 128.3, 128.4, 129.0 and 129.9 (18CH), 130.1 (C), 131.8 and 133.3 (2CH), 136.9, 138.9, 139.2, 140.8 and 154.1 (5C), 177.8 (N–C=C), 192.6, 192.9 and 195.0 (3C=O). MS, *m/z* (%): 513 (M<sup>+</sup>, 4), 408 (3), 122 (10), 105 (100), 77 (75). Found (%): C, 79.22; H, 5.35; N, 2.77. Calc. for C<sub>34</sub>H<sub>27</sub>NO<sub>4</sub> (513.6) (%): C, 79.51; H, 5.30; N, 2.73.

*For 5-hydroxy-1-propylamino-5-phenyl-2,3,4-tribenzoylcyclopenta-1,3-diene 2c:* yellow crystals, yield 0.84 g (80%), mp 212–214 °C. IR (KBr,  $\nu$ /cm<sup>–1</sup>): 3428 (OH), 3210 (NH), 1664–1634 (C=O) and 1627–1590 (Ph). <sup>1</sup>H NMR,  $\delta$ : 0.79 (t, 3H, Me, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>HH</sub> 7.3 Hz), 1.27 and 1.43 (2m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.39 and 3.56 (2m, 2H, NCH<sub>2</sub>), 6.83–7.71 (m, 21H, Ar and OH), 11.05 (br. s, 1H, NH...O=C). <sup>13</sup>C NMR,  $\delta$ : 10.9 (Me), 23.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 46.6 (NCH<sub>2</sub>), 85.6 (COH), 107.7 (N–C=C), 124.5, 126.9, 127.5, 127.6, 128.0, 128.2, 128.3, 128.8, 129.8 and 131.7 (18CH), 130.1 (C), 131.7 and 133.2 (2CH), 136.7, 138.8, 139.0, 140.6 and 153.9 (5C), 177.7 (N–C=C), 192.4, 192.5 and 193.3 (3C=O). MS, *m/z* (%): 528 (M<sup>+</sup> + 1, 2), 105 (100), 77 (85), 51 (40). Found (%): C, 79.34; H, 5.58; N, 2.68. Calc. for C<sub>35</sub>H<sub>29</sub>NO<sub>4</sub> (527.6) (%): C, 79.68; H, 5.54; N, 2.65.



Scheme 2

This reaction of primary amines with dibenzoylacetylene in the THF/H<sub>2</sub>O system provides a simple one-pot entry into the synthesis of 1-alkylamino-5-hydroxy-5-phenyl-2,3,4-tribenzoylcyclopenta-1,3-dienes of potential synthetic interest.

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- For 5-hydroxy-1-butylamino-5-phenyl-2,3,4-tribenzoylcyclopenta-1,3-diene **2d**: yellow crystals, yield 0.81 g (75%), mp 154–156 °C. IR (KBr,  $\nu/\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3412 (OH), 3204 (NH), 1672–1636 (C=O), 1630–1592 (Ph). <sup>1</sup>H NMR,  $\delta$ : 0.79 (t, 3H, Me, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> 6 Hz), 1.20–1.43 (m, 4H, 2CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.42 and 3.58 (2m, 2H, NCH<sub>2</sub>), 5.82 (br. s, 1H, OH), 6.82–7.71 (m, 20H, Ar), 11.04 (br. s, 1H, NH···O=C). <sup>13</sup>C NMR,  $\delta$ : 13.4 (Me), 19.6 and 31.8 (2CH<sub>2</sub>), 44.8 (NCH<sub>2</sub>), 85.6 (COH), 107.7 (N–C=C), 124.6, 126.9, 127.5, 127.6, 127.8, 128.0, 128.1, 128.2, 128.3, 128.8 and 129.8 (18CH), 129.9 (C), 131.7 and 133.1 (2CH), 136.7, 138.7, 139.0, 140.6, and 153.9 (5C), 177.6 (N–C=C), 192.3, 192.4 and 194.6 (3C=O). MS, *m/z* (%): 542 (M<sup>+</sup> + 1, 2), 105 (100), 77 (85), 51 (35). Found (%): C, 80.12; H, 5.74; N, 2.62. Calc. for C<sub>36</sub>H<sub>31</sub>NO<sub>4</sub> (541.6) (%): C, 79.83; H, 5.77; N, 2.59.
- For 5-hydroxy-1-allylamino-5-phenyl-2,3,4-tribenzoylcyclopenta-1,3-diene **2e**: yellow crystals, yield 0.74 g (70%), mp 172–174 °C. IR (KBr,  $\nu/\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3405 (OH), 3212 (NH), 1674–1636 (C=O), 1630–1590 (Ph). <sup>1</sup>H NMR,  $\delta$ : 4.04 and 4.18 (2m, 2H, NCH<sub>2</sub>), 5.05 (m, 2H, =CH<sub>2</sub>), 5.51 (m, 1H, HC=), 6.25 (br. s, 1H, OH), 6.84–7.70 (m, 20H, Ar), 10.93 (br. s, 1H, NH···O=C). <sup>13</sup>C NMR,  $\delta$ : 47.4 (NCH<sub>2</sub>), 85.8 (COH), 108.0 (N–C=C), 118.1 (=CH<sub>2</sub>), 124.6, 127.0, 127.5, 127.6, 128.1, 128.2, 128.3, 128.4, 129.0 and 129.9 (18CH), 130.3 (C), 131.8, 132.3 and 133.2 (3CH), 136.7, 138.6, 139.0, 140.6 and 153.6 (5C), 177.2 (N–C=C), 192.4, 192.5 and 194.6 (3C=O). MS, *m/z* (%): 525 (M<sup>+</sup>, 3), 420 (5), 105 (100), 77 (98), 57 (30). Found (%): C, 80.43; H, 5.22; N, 2.63. Calc. for C<sub>35</sub>H<sub>27</sub>NO<sub>4</sub> (525.6) (%): C, 79.98; H, 5.18; N, 2.66.
- For 5-hydroxy-1-(4-methylphenyl)amino-5-phenyl-2,3,4-tribenzoylcyclopenta-1,3-diene **2g**: yellow crystals, yield 0.90 g (78%), mp 182–184 °C. IR (KBr,  $\nu/\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3456 (OH), 3168 (NH), 1674–1638 (C=O), 1631–1595 (Ph). <sup>1</sup>H NMR,  $\delta$ : 2.30 (s, 3H, Me), 6.27 (br. s, 1H, OH), 6.85–7.43 (m, 24H, Ar), 12.54 (br. s, 1H, NH···O=C). <sup>13</sup>C NMR,  $\delta$ : 21.0 (Me), 86.3 (COH), 109.0 (N–C=C), 124.6, 125.7, 127.1, 127.6, 127.7, 128.0, 128.1, 128.2, 128.4 and 128.7 (20CH), 130.3 (CH), 131.7 (C), 132.0 (CH), 133.2 (CH), 133.4 (C), 136.9 (C), 137.1 (CH), 137.2, 138.9, 140.5 and 152.5 (5C), 174.8 (N–C=C), 192.4, 193.0 and 195.0 (3C=O). MS, *m/z* (%): 575 (M<sup>+</sup>, 8), 105 (100), 91 (20), 77 (80). Found (%): C, 81.78; H, 5.13; N, 2.50. Calc. for C<sub>39</sub>H<sub>29</sub>NO<sub>4</sub> (575.7) (%): C, 81.37; H, 5.08; N, 2.43.

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