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### ACTIVATED NITRILES IN HETEROCYCLIC SYNTHESIS: NOVEL SYNTHESIS OF PYRROLO[1,2-c]IMIDAZOLE AND PYRANO[2,3-d]IMIDAZOLE DERIVATIVES

Mahfouz A. Abdelaziz<sup>a</sup>; H. H. Moharram<sup>b</sup>; Samy A. Essawy<sup>c</sup>; A. A. Mohamed<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, Cairo University, <sup>b</sup> National Organisation for Drug Control and Research, Egypt <sup>c</sup> Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, Banha University,

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## ACTIVATED NITRILES IN HETEROCYCLIC SYNTHESIS: NOVEL SYNTHESIS OF PYRROLO[1,2-*c*]IMIDAZOLE AND PYRANO[2,3-*d*]IMIDAZOLE DERIVATIVES

MAHFOUZ A. ABDELAZIZ,\* H. H. MOHARRAM,\*\* SAMY A.  
ESSAWY\*\*\* and A. A. MOHAMED\*

*\* Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, Cairo University*

*\*\* National Organisation for Drug Control and Research, Egypt*

*\*\*\* Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, Banha University*

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Several new pyrrolo[1,2-*c*]imidazole derivatives (**4a, b**), (**8a, b**), (**10a, b**) and pyrano[2,3-*d*]imidazole derivatives (**12a, b**), (**14a, b**) were synthesised via the reaction of each 2-thiohydantoin derivatives (**2**) and (**11**) with 3-(2-furanyl) or 3-(2-thienyl)-acrylonitrile derivatives (**1a, b, e, f**). On the treatment of 2-ylidene ethyl cyanoacetate (**1c, d**) with each of (**2**) and (**11**) afforded the 5-ylidene-2-thiohydantoins (**5a, b**), (**13a, b**) respectively. Compounds **5a, b** react with each of malononitrile and ethyl cyanoacetate to give the corresponding pyrroloimidazole derivatives (**4a, b**) and (**8a, b**) respectively. The structure of the isolated products were established by elemental analyse and spectral data studies.

### INTRODUCTION

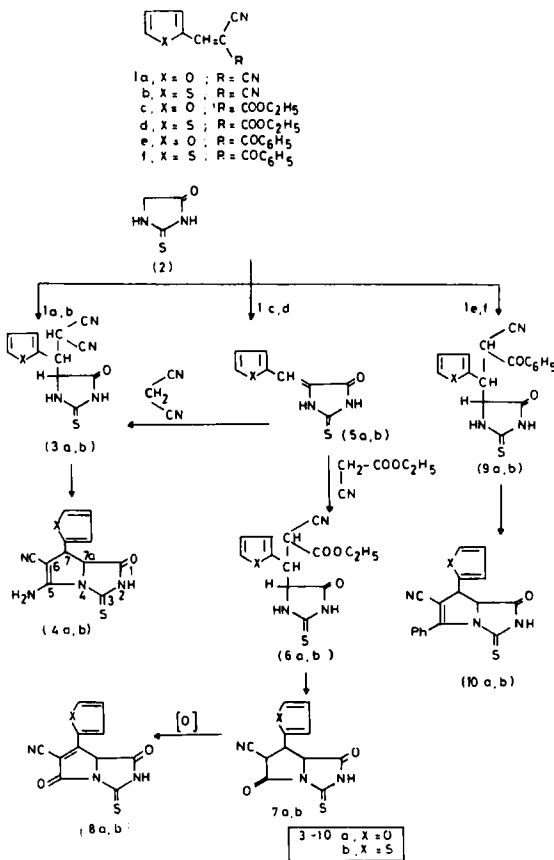
As a part of our programme directed towards the development of new simple procedures for the synthesis of fused azoles,<sup>1–5</sup> we have investigated the reaction of 2-thiohydantoin derivatives with 3-(2-furanyl)- or 3-(2-thienyl)acrylonitrile derivatives. The work resulted in the synthesis of several, otherwise difficult obtainable, new pyrrolo[1,2-*c*]imidazole and pyrano[2,3-*d*]imidazole derivatives. The newly synthesised compounds contain both a cyano group and the furanyl or the thienyl group which make them excellent candidates for both biological activity studies as well as for further chemical transformations.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

We have now found that 2-furfurylidene malononitrile **1a** and 2-thienylidene malononitrile **1b** react with 2-thiohydantoin (**2**) in ethanolic solution and in presence of triethylamine as a catalyst to yield 1:1 adducts **4a, b**. The IR spectra of the adducts revealed a strong (C=O) absorption at  $\sim \nu$  1710 cm<sup>-1</sup> indicating that the ring C=O group was not involved in the reaction. The <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectra showed a pattern different from that anticipated for the acyclic structure (**3a, b**). Thus the cyclic structure **4a, b** was established for the reaction products. The formation of **4a, b** is assumed to proceed via Michael adduct by initial addition of hydrogen atom of active methylene group of compound (**2**) to the activated

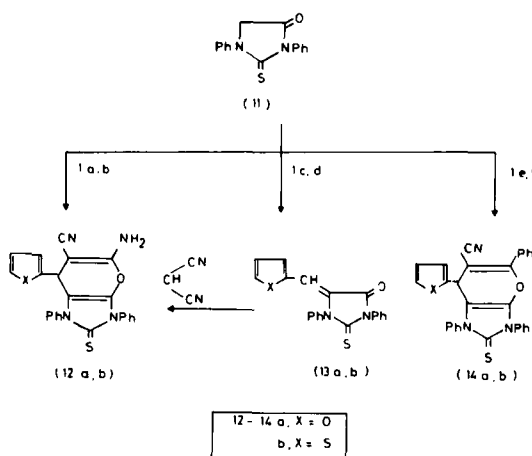
double bond of **1a, b** to yield the acyclic intermediate **3a, b** which could then be cyclized to **4a, b**. In contrast to the behaviour of (2) towards **1a, b**, the 2-thiohydantoin reacted with 2-furfurylidene ethylcyano-acetate **1c** or 2-thienylidene ethyl-cyanoacetate **1d** to yield 5-ylidene-2-thiohydantoin (**5a, b**),<sup>6,7</sup> which inturn react with malononitrile under the same experimental conditions to give the above products **4a, b** (m.p. and mixed m.p. determinations). **5a, b** react also with ethyl cyanoacetate afforded the 6-cyano-1,5-dioxo-3-thioxo-7-ylidene pyrrolo[1,2-*c*]imidazole **8a, b**. The reaction was assumed to proceed via Michael adduct by initial addition of hydrogen atom of active methylene group of ethyl cyanoacetate to the double bond of (**5a, b**) to yield the acyclic intermediate (**6a, b**) which could then be cyclized to (**7a, b**) with loss of ethanol which are consequently autoxidized under the applied reaction conditions to furnish the final isolable products **8a, b** (autoxidation of similar ring systems has been previously reported<sup>8,9</sup>).

Similarly 2-thiohydantoin reacted with 2-benzoyl-3-(2-furanyl)acrylonitrile **1e** or 2-benzoyl-3-(2-thienyl)acrylonitrile **1f** to yield the pyrrolo[1,2-*c*]imidazole derivatives **10a, b**. The formation of **10a, b** is assumed to proceed via initial addition to the double bond in **1e, f** to yield the acyclic intermediate **9a, b** which could then be cyclized to **10a, b** via elimination of water (cf. Chart 1).



On the other hand 1,3-diphenyl-2-thiohydantoin (**11**) reacts with **1a, b** under the same experimental conditions afforded the pyrano[2,3-*d*]-imidazole derivatives (**12a, b**). The same products (**12a, b**) can be obtained when 5-ylidene-1,3-diphenyl-2-thiohydantoin (**13a, b**) were treated with malononitrile under the same experimental conditions (m.p. and mixed m.p. determinations). Treatment of (**11**) with **1c, d** afforded the products which proved to be identical with authentic specimen of the corresponding ylidene derivatives of the type (**13a, b**) (cf. experimental part).

Also, it has been found that 1,3-diphenyl-2-thioxo-5-amino-6-cyano-1,2,3,7-tetrahydropyrano[2,3-*d*]imidazole derivatives (**14a, b**) was formed from reaction of 1,3-diphenyl-2-thiohydantoin (**11**) with **1e, f**, via Michael addition, followed by cyclization with elimination of water (cf. Chart 2).



## EXPERIMENTAL

All melting points are uncorrected. IR spectra were recorded on a Pye Unicam SP-1100 spectrophotometer using KBr discs. The  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  spectra were recorded on a Varian EM-390-90 MHz spectrometer using  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$  as a solvent and TMS as an internal standard. Chemical shifts are expressed as  $\delta$  ppm units. The microanalyses were performed by the microanalytical center at Cairo University.

**Reaction of compounds 1a-f with 2-thiohydantoin derivatives (2 or 11): General procedure:** A solution of each of **1a-f** (0.01 mole) in ethanol (50 ml) was treated with each of 2-thiohydantoin derivatives (**2** or **11**) (0.01 mole) in presence of 3 drops of triethylamine. The reaction mixture was refluxed for 5 hours, then evaporated to one half of its volume and triturated with water, the resulting solid product was filtered off and crystallized from ethanol to give yellow crystals of pyrrolo[1,2-*c*]imidazole derivatives **4a, b**, **10a, b**, 5-ylidene-2-thiohydantoin derivatives (**5a, b**) and (**13a, b**) [identified by comparison with authentic samples] and pyrano[2,3-*d*]imidazole derivatives (**12a, b**), (**14a, b**) respectively (cf. Tables I and II).

**Reaction of 5-ylidene-2-thiohydantoin derivatives (5a, b, 13a, b) with malononitrile or ethyl cyanoacetate.** A solution of malononitrile or ethyl cyanoacetate (0.01 mole) and each of **5a, b** or **13a, b** (0.01 mole) in absolute ethanol (50 ml) and triethylamine (3 drops) was heated for 5 hours, and the reaction mixture was worked up as above to yield the products **4a, b** & **8a, b** and **12a, b**. The products **4a, b** and **12a, b** give no depression when admixed with authentic sample prepared as above. The products **8a, b** were crystallised from ethanol as pale yellow crystals (cf. Tables I and II).

TABLE I

1-Oxo-3-thioxopyrrolo[1,2-*c*]imidazoles (**4a, b**; **8a, b** and **10a, b**) and 2-thioxo-1,2,3,7-tetrahydropyrano[2,3-*d*]imidazoles (**12a, b** and **14a, b**)

| Compound   | M.P.<br>[°C] | Yield<br>[%] | Mol. Formula  | C             | % Analysis<br>Calcd./Found |               |               |
|------------|--------------|--------------|---|---------------|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|
|            |              |              |   |               | H                          | N             | S             |
| <b>4a</b>  | 242          | 70           | C <sub>11</sub> H <sub>8</sub> N <sub>4</sub> O <sub>2</sub> S              | 50.76<br>50.5 | 3.07<br>3.2                | 21.53<br>21.8 | 12.30<br>12.5 |
| <b>4b</b>  | 225          | 68           | C <sub>11</sub> H <sub>8</sub> N <sub>4</sub> OS <sub>2</sub>               | 47.82<br>48.1 | 2.89<br>3.2                | 20.28<br>20.0 | 23.18<br>23.5 |
| <b>8a</b>  | 250          | 69           | C <sub>11</sub> H <sub>5</sub> N <sub>3</sub> O <sub>3</sub> S              | 50.96<br>51.2 | 1.93<br>2.1                | 16.21<br>16.0 | 12.35<br>12.1 |
| <b>8b</b>  | 237          | 70           | C <sub>11</sub> H <sub>5</sub> N <sub>3</sub> O <sub>2</sub> S <sub>2</sub> | 48.0<br>47.7  | 1.81<br>2.0                | 15.27<br>15.0 | 23.27<br>23.5 |
| <b>10a</b> | 220          | 73           | C <sub>17</sub> H <sub>11</sub> N <sub>3</sub> O <sub>2</sub> S             | 63.55<br>63.3 | 3.42<br>3.6                | 13.08<br>13.2 | 9.96<br>9.6   |
| <b>10b</b> | 238          | 75           | C <sub>17</sub> H <sub>11</sub> N <sub>3</sub> OS <sub>2</sub>              | 60.53<br>60.3 | 3.26<br>3.5                | 12.46<br>12.2 | 18.99<br>19.2 |
| <b>12a</b> | 170          | 72           | C <sub>23</sub> H <sub>16</sub> N <sub>4</sub> O <sub>2</sub> S             | 66.99<br>66.8 | 3.88<br>4.1                | 13.59<br>13.7 | 7.76<br>7.5   |
| <b>12b</b> | 210          | 75           | C <sub>23</sub> H <sub>16</sub> N <sub>4</sub> OS <sub>2</sub>              | 64.48<br>64.6 | 3.73<br>3.9                | 13.03<br>12.8 | 14.95<br>14.7 |
| <b>14a</b> | 132          | 66           | C <sub>29</sub> H <sub>19</sub> N <sub>3</sub> O <sub>2</sub> S             | 73.57<br>73.4 | 4.01<br>3.8                | 8.87<br>9.1   | 6.76<br>6.5   |
| <b>14b</b> | 185          | 70           | C <sub>29</sub> H <sub>19</sub> N <sub>3</sub> OS <sub>2</sub>              | 71.16<br>71.4 | 3.88<br>4.1                | 8.58<br>8.4   | 13.08<br>12.7 |

TABLE II

Spectral data of the newly synthesised compounds

| Compound   | IR [cm <sup>-1</sup> ]  | <sup>1</sup> H-NMR [δppm]  |
|------------|---|--|
| <b>4a</b>  | 3410, 3330, 3280, (NH <sub>2</sub> and NH), 2220 (CN) and 1720 (C=O). | 4.5 (d, 1H, 7a-H, <i>J</i> = 4.5 Hz); 4.8 (d, 1H, 7-H, <i>J</i> = 4.5 Hz); 6.7–7.0 (m, 3H, furan H-3, H-4, H-5) and [8.2(s, 2H, NH <sub>2</sub> ); 11.5(s, 1H, NH) exchangeable with D <sub>2</sub> O]         |
| <b>4b</b>  | 3400, 3300, 3290 (NH <sub>2</sub> and NH); 2210 (CN) and 1720 (C=O).  | 4.3 (d, 1H, 7a-H, <i>J</i> = 5.0 Hz); 4.5 (d, 1H, 7-H, <i>J</i> = 5.0 Hz); 6.5–6.9 (m, 3H, thiophene H-3, H-4, H-5); 7.6 (s, 2H, NH <sub>2</sub> ) and 10.8 (s, 1H, NH).                                       |
| <b>8a</b>  | 3370 (NH); 2225 (CN); 1710, 1700 (2C=O) and 1620 (C=C).               | 5.2 (s, 1H, 7a-H); 6.6–7.1 (m, 3H, furan H-3, H-4, H-5) and 11.8 (s, 1H, NH exchangeable with D <sub>2</sub> O).   |
| <b>8b</b>  | 3340 (NH); 2220 (CN); 1710, 1700 (2C=O) and 1620 (C=C).               |  |
| <b>10a</b> | 3320 (NH); 2220 (CN) and 1710 (C=O)                                   | 4.7 (d, 1H, 7a-H, <i>J</i> = 5.5 Hz); 5.0 (d, 1H, 7-H, <i>J</i> = 5.5 Hz); 6.6–7.0 (m, 3H, furan H-3, H-4, H-5) and 7.2–7.4 (m, 5H, aromatic protons) and 11.2 (s, 1H, NH exchangeable with D <sub>2</sub> O). |
| <b>10b</b> | 3380 (NH); 2210 (CN) and 1720 (C=O).                                  |  |
| <b>12a</b> | 3400, 3380 (NH <sub>2</sub> ); 2220 (CN) and 1620 (C=C).              | 6.1 (s, 1H, pyran H-4); 6.8–7.1 (m, 3H, furan H-3, H-4, H-5); 7.3–7.6 (m, 10H, aromatic protons) and 8.5 (s, 2H, NH <sub>2</sub> exchangeable with D <sub>2</sub> O).  |
| <b>12b</b> | 3400, 3320 (NH <sub>2</sub> ); 2200 (CN) and 1630 (C=C).              |  |
| <b>14a</b> | 2230 (CN), 1630 (C=C) and 1200 (C=S).                                 |  |
| <b>14b</b> | 2220 (CN); 1630 (C=C) and 1205 (C=S)                                  | 6.0 (s, 1H, pyran H-4), 6.7–7.0 (m, 3H, thiophene H-3, H-4, H-5); 7.4–7.7 (m, 15H, aromatic protons).  |

*Preparation of 5-ylidene-1,3-diphenyl-2-thiohydantoin derivatives (13a, b):* A mixture of (0.01 mole) of **11**, fused sodium acetate (3 g) and a slight excess (0.011 mole) of each of furfural or thiophen-2-aldehyde in 25 ml glacial acetic acid was refluxed for 2 hours. The reaction mixture was cooled, poured over cold water, then the separated solid was filtered off, washed with water and recrystallised from ethanol as yellow crystals of **13a, b**. The structure assigned for **13a, b** was established on the basis of elemental analyses and spectral data studies.

**13a:** m.p. 240°C, yield 85%. Analysis:  $C_{20}H_{14}N_2O_2S$ . Calcd.: C, 69.36; H, 4.04; N, 8.09; S, 9.24. Found: C, 69.6; H, 4.2; N, 7.9; S, 9.1.

**13b:** m.p. 192°C; yield 83%. Analysis:  $C_{20}H_{14}N_2OS_2$ . Calcd.: C, 66.29; H, 3.86; N, 7.73; S, 17.67. Found: C, 66.0; H, 4.0; N, 7.9; S, 17.8.

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