

Reductive *trans*-1,3-dialkylation of isoquinoline on treatment with RLi and triallylborane*

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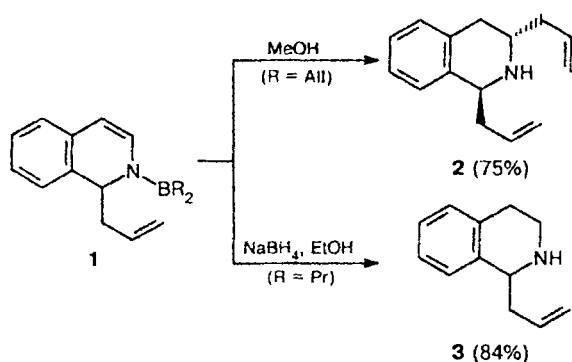
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The preparative synthesis of *trans*-1-alkyl(aryl)-3-allyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolines based on the 1,2-addition of RLi to isoquinoline and *trans*-allylboration is described.

Key words: isoquinoline, 1,2-addition, alkyl(aryl)lithium; allylboration, triallylborane; *trans*-1-alkyl(aryl)-3-allyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolines, stereochemistry.

Isoquinoline reacts with triallyl- and allyl(di-propyl)borane at room temperature to give aminoboranes **1**, the products of 1,2-addition of the boron–allyl fragment to the C=N bond. Subsequent treatment of compound **1** (R = All) with methanol (20 °C, 2 h) and an alkali gave *trans*-1,3-diallyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (**2**). Reduction of compound **1** (R = Pr) with NaBH₄ in ethanol resulted in unsaturated amine **3** (Scheme 1).^{1–3}

Scheme 1



It has been shown recently that successive treatment of pyridine with alkyl- or phenyllithium, triallylborane, and an alcohol gives *trans*-2-allyl-6-alkyl(phenyl)-1,2,3,6-tetrahydropyridines.^{4,5} The latter are transformed almost quantitatively into the corresponding *cis*-isomers on heating (160–195 °C) with triallylborane.^{5,6}

In a continuation of studies in this field, we developed a preparative method for the synthesis of *trans*-1-alkyl(aryl)-3-allyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolines (**4a–c**) based on a combination of 1,2-addition of RLi to isoquinoline and *trans*-allylboration (Scheme 2).

According to GLC analyses and NMR spectroscopy data, the yields of amines **4** exceed 90% (see below), with the preparative yields ranging from 55 to 70%.

The transformation of isoquinoline into amines **4** is a multistage process, which involves a series of successive reactions as shown in Scheme 2.

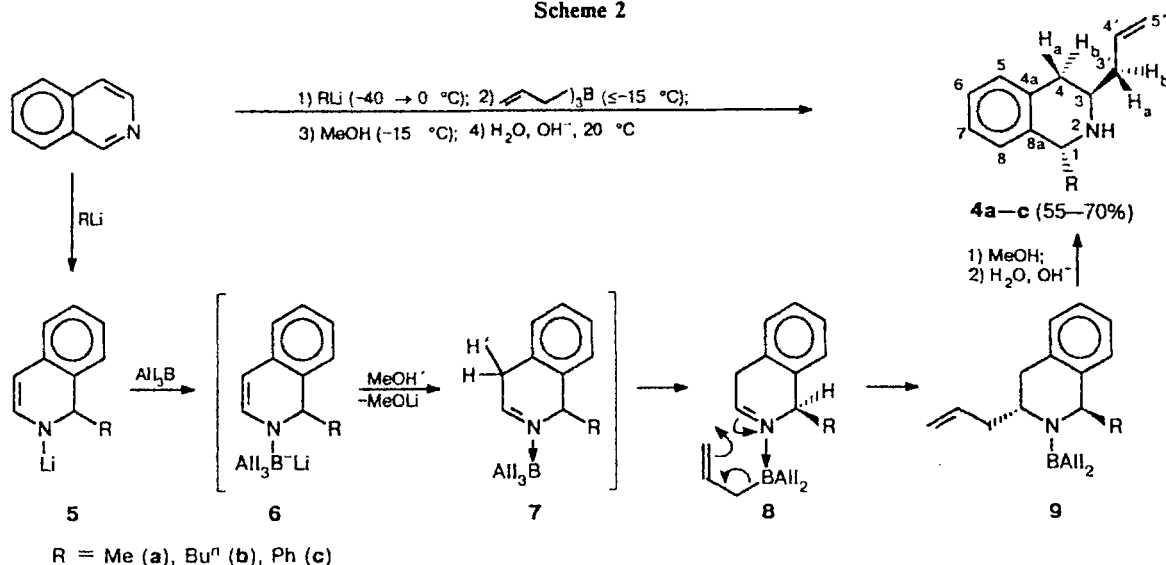
Probably, the *N*-lithium derivative **5**, which results from the addition of RLi to isoquinoline,^{7,8} forms the corresponding ate-complex **6** with triallylborane. The protolytic cleavage of the B–N bond in this complex involves an allyl-type rearrangement and results in an imine complex of triallylborane **7**. The C=N bond in the latter undergoes instant allylboration through the six-centered intermediate **8**. The addition of the allyl fragment occurs stereoselectively, namely at the *trans*-position relative to the R group. Deboronation of the resulting aminoborane **9** with an excess of methanol and an alkali gives the target amine **4**, in which the substituents are *trans* relative to the heterocycle.

It was found that the series of reactions leading to amines **4** (see Scheme 2) is accompanied by a side process, namely, the formation of the corresponding 1-R-isoquinolines (5–6% according to GLC analyses). The latter result from the aromatization (disproportionation or oxidation) of *N*-lithium adducts **5**. Thus, the raw product of the reaction with MeLi contains amine **4a** (95%) along with 1-methylisoquinoline (5%), while amine **4b** obtained from BuⁿLi contains 6% of 1-butylisoquinoline.

Because hydrochlorides **4a**·HCl and **4b**·HCl are virtually insoluble in water, separation of the admixture

* Dedicated to the memory of Academician M. E. Vol'pin timed to his 75th birthday.

Scheme 2



of the corresponding 1-R-isoquinolines and isolation of amines **4a** and **4b** do not present serious problems. For example, work-up of a mixture of compound **4a** and 1-methylisoquinoline with 2 *N* HCl produces a precipitate of solid **4a** · HCl, whereas isoquinolinium hydrochloride is transferred to the aqueous phase. Free amine **4a** is obtained by treatment of recrystallized salt **4a** · HCl with boiling 20% NaOH followed by extraction with pentane. Amine **4b** was isolated in a similar way (60%).

The structure of compounds **4a–c** was confirmed by elemental analyses and by physicochemical methods (¹H and ¹³C NMR and IR spectroscopy, mass spectrometry). The signals in the NMR spectra were assigned on the basis of ¹H–¹H COSY-45 spectra.

The *trans*-configuration of amines **2** and **4a–c** was determined by two-dimensional phase-sensitive 2D NOESY spectroscopy.

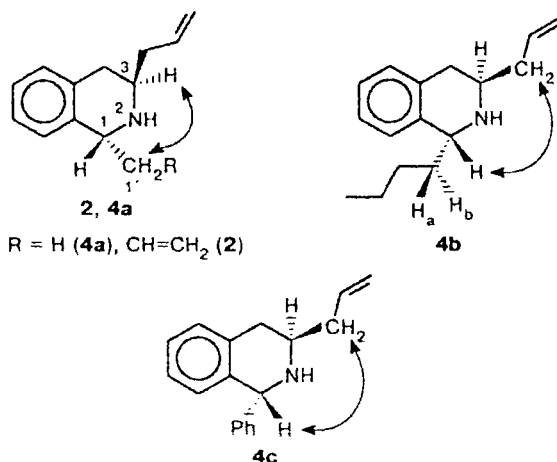
(**2**), and H(1) with CH₂ of the allyl group (**4b** and **4c**) indicate unambiguously the *trans*-arrangement of the substituents in molecules **2** and **4a–c**.

The stereoselective method for the synthesis of the hitherto unknown *trans*-1-R-3-allyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolines **4** described in this paper opens up wide prospects in the isoquinoline chemistry. The presence of an NH₂ group, a double bond, and a benzene ring in amines **4** will provide the possibility of performing various subsequent functionalizations of these compounds, e.g., they can be used as the starting compounds for the synthesis of tricyclic systems with a ring junction N atom by closing a five-membered cycle (as it was done in the case of other α-allylated heterocyclic systems^{9,10}). Moreover, it can be assumed that *trans*- and/or *cis*-1,3-disubstituted tetrahydroisoquinolines are produced by some plant and animal organisms and can be found in natural objects.

Experimental

All operations with organoboron compounds were carried out in a dry argon atmosphere. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AC-200P spectrometer in CDCl₃. ¹H–¹H COSY and 2D NOESY spectra were recorded on a Bruker AMX-400 instrument using SiMe₄ as the internal standard. IR spectra were obtained on a UR-20 spectrophotometer. Mass spectra (EI, 70 eV) were recorded on a Varian-MAT spectrometer. GLC analyses were carried out on a Khrom-5 instrument with an OV-1 column (1 m), Chromaton as the stationary phase, and helium as the carrier gas.

trans-3-Allyl-1-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (**4a**). A 2.03 *N* solution of methyl lithium (15 mL, 30.45 mmol) in ether was placed in a three-necked flask equipped with a thermometer, a reflux condenser, a dropping funnel, and an inlet for argon. Anhydrous THF (16 mL) and a solution of isoquinoline (3.93 g, 30.5 mmol) in anhydrous THF (16 mL) were successively added with cooling (0 °C). The reaction mixture was stirred for 1 h at 20 °C, triallylborane (4.08 g,



The positive cross-peaks of the H(3) proton with the Me group (**4a**), H(3) with C(1')H₂ of the allyl group

30.5 mmol) was added at -15°C , and the solution was gradually (in 1 h) heated to 10°C . After that, anhydrous MeOH (5 mL, 124 mmol) and then 20% NaOH (13 mL) were cautiously added at -15°C . The organic layer was separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with ether (3×10 mL). The low-boiling compounds were distilled off; the residue contained 95% of compound **4a** and 5% of 1-methylisoquinoline (according to GLC data). Ether (20 mL) and 5 *N* HCl (4.7 mL) were added to the above mixture. The remaining salt, which was insoluble in water and in ether, was filtered off and recrystallized from an ethyl acetate–PrOH mixture to give 4.93 g (73%) of hydrochloride **4a**·HCl, m.p. 209–210 $^{\circ}\text{C}$. The resulting salt was treated with boiling 20% NaOH solution until it was completely dehydrochlorinated. The aqueous layer was extracted with pentane, and the extract was dried with K_2CO_3 . The solvents were concentrated *in vacuo*. Distillation of the residue gave amine **4a**, b.p. 102 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ (1 Torr), n_{D}^{19} 1.5419. Found (%): C, 83.44; H, 9.21; N, 7.32. $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}$. Calculated (%): C, 83.37; H, 9.15; N, 7.48. IR (pure compound), ν/cm^{-1} : 3300 (br), 3080, 3020, 2970, 2920, 2830, 1640, 1490, 1445, 1370, 1330, 1200, 1140, 1040, 1000, 920, 830, 760, 735, 675, 630, 600, 535, 450. ^1H NMR (400 MHz), δ : 1.38 (d, 3 H, CH_3 , $J = 6.9$ Hz); 1.91 (br.s, 1 H, NH); 2.22 (m, 2 H, $\text{H}(3'')$); 2.45 (dd, 1 H, $\text{H}_a(4)$, $^2J = 16.2$ Hz, $^3J = 9.9$ Hz); 2.72 (dd, 1 H, $\text{H}_b(4)$, $^2J = 16.2$ Hz, $^3J = 4$ Hz); 3.15 (m, 1 H, $\text{H}(3)$); 4.15 (q, 1 H, $\text{H}(1)$, $^3J = 6.9$ Hz); 5.09 (m, 1 H, $\text{H}_a(5'')$); 5.13 (m, 1 H, $\text{H}_b(5'')$); 5.81 (m, 1 H, $\text{H}(4'')$); 7.02 (m, 2 H, Ph); 7.08 (m, 2 H, Ph). ^{13}C NMR, δ : 23.60 (CH_3); 35.04 ($\text{C}(4)$); 40.23 ($\text{C}(3'')$); 46.07 ($\text{C}(3)$); 50.15 ($\text{C}(1)$); 116.93 ($\text{C}(5'')$); 125.20, 125.45, 126.18 ($\text{C}(5)$, $\text{C}(6)$, $\text{C}(7)$); 128.65 ($\text{C}(8)$); 133.71 ($\text{C}(4a)$); 134.84 ($\text{C}(4')$); 139.64 ($\text{C}(8a)$). MS, m/z : 187 [M] $^+$, 146 [$\text{M}-\text{C}_3\text{H}_5$] $^+$.

***trans*-3-Allyl-1-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline hydrochloride (4a·HCl)**. M.p. 209–210 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ (from an ethyl acetate–PrOH mixture). IR (pellets with KBr), ν/cm^{-1} : 3420 (br), 2940, 2710, 2500, 1590, 1500, 1450, 1395, 1360, 1090, 1040, 1000, 935, 790, 740, 455, 405. ^1H NMR (200 MHz), δ : 1.80 (d, 3 H, CH_3); 2.45–2.8 (m, 1 H, $\text{H}_a(3'')$); 2.9–3.3 (m, 3 H, $\text{H}(4)$, $\text{H}_b(3'')$); 3.5–3.8 (m, 1 H, $\text{H}(3)$); 4.6–4.9 (m, 1 H, $\text{H}(1)$); 5.1–5.5 (m, 2 H, $\text{H}(5'')$); 5.7–6.1 (m, 1 H, $\text{H}(4'')$); 7.0–7.4 (m, 4 H, Ph); 9.95 (br.s, 2 H, NH_2^+). ^{13}C NMR, δ : 20.57 (CH_3); 30.60 ($\text{C}(4)$); 35.98 ($\text{C}(3'')$); 48.61 ($\text{C}(3)$); 49.98 ($\text{C}(1)$); 119.54 ($\text{C}(5'')$); 126.08, 126.86, 127.50 ($\text{C}(5)$, $\text{C}(6)$, $\text{C}(7)$); 128.95 ($\text{C}(8)$); 130.20 ($\text{C}(4a)$); 131.59 ($\text{C}(4')$); 133.09 ($\text{C}(8a)$).

***trans*-3-Allyl-1-butyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (4b)**. Isoquinoline (6.6 g, 51.2 mmol) was added at -40°C to a mixture of a 1.28 *N* solution of *n*-butyllithium (40 mL, 51.2 mmol) in hexane and anhydrous ether (20 mL). The mixture was stirred for 0.5 h at -30°C , and triallylborane (6.86 g, 51.2 mmol) was then added. The solution temperature was brought to 5°C in 1.5 h, the solution was cooled to -30°C , and anhydrous MeOH (8.3 mL, 204.8 mmol) was added cautiously. The reaction mixture was worked-up with 20% NaOH and refluxed for 5 h. The organic layer was separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with ether (3×20 mL). According to GLC data, the ethereal solution contained 94% of amine **4b** and 6% of 1-butylisoquinoline. Ether (50 mL) and 5 *N* HCl (5.7 mL) were added to the solution of these compounds. The resulting water-insoluble salt **4b**·HCl was filtered off and recrystallized from an ether–MeOH mixture. A 20% NaOH solution (15 mL) was added to the salt obtained (10 g, 74% with respect to isoquinoline), and the mixture was refluxed until complete dehydrochlorination. The aqueous layer was extracted with ether, and the extract was dried with K_2CO_3 . The solvents were concentrated *in vacuo*.

Distillation of the residue gave 7.06 g (60% with respect to isoquinoline) of amine **4b**, b.p. 131–132 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ (1 Torr), n_{D}^{19} 1.5251. IR (pure compound), ν/cm^{-1} : 3300 (br), 3080, 3020, 2930, 2870, 1640, 1580, 1490, 1455, 1380, 1330, 1140, 1110, 1045, 1000, 920, 745, 675. ^1H NMR (400 MHz), δ : 0.91 (t, 3 H, CH_3); 1.34 (m, 4 H, $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{Me}$); 1.53 (m, 1 H, CH_2HPr); 1.69 (m, 2 H, NH and CH_2HPr); 2.11 (m, 1 H, $\text{H}_2(3'')$); 2.16 (m, 1 H, $\text{H}_b(3'')$); 2.38 (dd, 1 H, $\text{H}_a(4)$, $^2J = 16.2$ Hz, $^3J = 10.2$ Hz); 2.61 (dd, 1 H, $\text{H}_b(4)$, $^2J = 16.2$ Hz, $^3J = 3.9$ Hz); 2.99 (m, 1 H, $\text{H}(3)$); 3.83 (dd, 1 H, $\text{H}(1)$, $^3J = 10.3$ Hz, 3.8 Hz); 5.05 (dd, 1 H, $\text{H}_a(5'')$, $^3J = 10.2$ Hz, $^2J = 2$ Hz); 5.09 (dd, 1 H, $\text{H}_b(5'')$, $^3J = 15.7$ Hz, $^2J = 2$ Hz); 5.79 (m, 1 H, $\text{H}(4'')$); 6.94 (m, 2 H, Ph); 7.00 (m, 2 H, Ph). ^{13}C NMR, δ : 13.61 (CH_3); 22.08 ($\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{CH}_2\text{Me}$); 28.48 ($\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{Et}$); 35.17 ($\text{C}(4)$); 35.88 (CH_2Pr); 40.48 ($\text{C}(3'')$); 45.62 ($\text{C}(3)$); 54.97 ($\text{C}(1)$); 116.71 ($\text{C}(5'')$); 124.90, 125.23, 126.17 ($\text{C}(5)$, $\text{C}(6)$, $\text{C}(7)$); 128.48 ($\text{C}(8)$); 133.77 ($\text{C}(4a)$); 134.91 ($\text{C}(4')$); 139.40 ($\text{C}(8a)$). MS, m/z : 229 [M] $^+$, 188 [$\text{M}-\text{C}_3\text{H}_5$] $^+$, 172 [$\text{M}-\text{C}_4\text{H}_9$] $^+$, 130 [$\text{M}-(\text{C}_4\text{H}_9+\text{CH}_2=\text{CH}-\text{CH}_3)$] $^+$.

***trans*-3-Allyl-1-butyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline hydrochloride (4b·HCl)**. M.p. 165.5–167 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ (from an ether–MeOH mixture). Found (%): C, 71.91; H, 9.16; N, 5.32; Cl, 13.49. $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}\cdot\text{HCl}$. Calculated (%): C, 72.29; H, 9.10; N, 5.27; Cl, 13.34. IR (pellets with KBr), ν/cm^{-1} : 3420 (br), 2940, 2960, 2620, 2470, 1600, 1495, 1460, 1430, 1380, 1000, 930, 770, 760, 745, 440. ^1H NMR (400 MHz), δ : 0.92 (t, 3 H, CH_3); 1.41 (m, 2 H, $\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{CH}_2\text{Me}$); 1.59 (m, 2 H, $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{Et}$); 1.99 (m, 1 H, CH_2HPr); 2.24 (m, 1 H, CH_2HPr); 2.52 (m, 1 H, $\text{H}_a(3'')$); 3.08 (m, 2 H, $\text{H}_b(3'')$, $\text{H}_2(4)$); 3.19 (dd, 1 H, $\text{H}_b(4)$, $^2J = 17.2$ Hz, $^3J = 4.8$ Hz); 3.73 (m, 1 H, $\text{H}(3)$); 4.52 (dd, 1 H, $\text{H}(1)$, $^3J = 6.3$ Hz, 6.2 Hz); 5.19 (m, 1 H, $\text{H}_a(5'')$); 5.21 (m, 1 H, $\text{H}_b(5'')$); 5.84 (m, 1 H, $\text{H}(4'')$); 7.12 (m, 2 H, Ph); 7.23 (m, 2 H, Ph); 9.79 (br.s, 1 H, NH); 10.31 (br.s, 1 H, NH). ^{13}C NMR, δ : 13.50 (CH_3); 22.19 ($\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{CH}_2\text{Me}$); 27.59 ($\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{Et}$); 30.25 ($\text{C}(4)$); 34.26 (CH_2Pr); 35.66 ($\text{C}(3'')$); 49.23 ($\text{C}(3)$); 53.84 ($\text{C}(1)$); 119.28 ($\text{C}(5'')$); 126.29, 126.44, 127.52 ($\text{C}(5)$, $\text{C}(6)$, $\text{C}(7)$); 129.05 ($\text{C}(8)$); 130.34 ($\text{C}(4a)$); 131.71 ($\text{C}(4')$, $\text{C}(8a)$).

***trans*-3-Allyl-1-phenyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (4c)**. A solution of isoquinoline in anhydrous ether (25 mL) was added at -15°C to a 1.3 *N* solution of PhLi (15.2 mL, 19.7 mmol) in ether. The mixture was stirred for 1 h at 10°C , and triallylborane (2.64 g, 19.7 mmol) was then added at -30°C . The solution temperature was brought to 0°C (in 1 h), and anhydrous MeOH (3.2 mL, 79 mmol) was cautiously added at -30°C . The reaction mixture was worked up at 20°C with a 20% solution of NaOH (8.5 mL) and refluxed for 1 h. The organic layer was separated; the aqueous layer was extracted with ether (3×8 mL), and the extract was dried with K_2CO_3 . The solvents were evaporated *in vacuo*; distillation of the residue gave 2.68 g (55%) of amine **4c**, b.p. 160–162 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ (1 Torr), n_{D}^{19} 1.5896. IR (pure compound), ν/cm^{-1} : 3320 (br), 3060, 3020, 2970, 2910, 2830, 1640, 1595, 1580, 1490, 1450, 1310, 1120, 1075, 1030, 1000, 920, 840, 790, 740, 705, 600, 575, 440. ^1H NMR (400 MHz), δ : 2.31 (m, 3 H, $\text{H}(3'')$, NH); 2.77 (dd, 1 H, $\text{H}_a(4)$, $^2J = 16.3$ Hz, $^3J = 9.6$ Hz); 3.03 (dd, 1 H, $\text{H}_b(4)$, $^2J = 16.3$ Hz, $^3J = 4.1$ Hz); 3.22 (m, 1 H, $\text{H}(3)$); 5.14 (m, 1 H, $\text{H}_a(5'')$); 5.17 (m, 1 H, $\text{H}_b(5'')$); 5.38 (s, 1 H, $\text{H}(1)$); 5.80 (m, 1 H, $\text{H}(4'')$); 7.05 (m, 1 H, Ph); 7.13–7.40 (m, 8 H, Ar). ^{13}C NMR, δ : 35.03 ($\text{C}(4)$); 40.16 ($\text{C}(3'')$); 46.13 ($\text{C}(3)$); 59.45 ($\text{C}(1)$); 117.14 ($\text{C}(5'')$); 125.38, 126.28, 126.73, 127.97, 128.29, 128.84 (C_o , C_m , C_p , $\text{C}(5)$, $\text{C}(6)$, $\text{C}(7)$, $\text{C}(8)$); 134.79 ($\text{C}(4')$); 135.14 ($\text{C}(4a)$); 136.11 (C_i); 145.30 ($\text{C}(8a)$). MS, m/z (I_{rel} (%)): 249 [M] $^+$ (2), 208 [$\text{M}-\text{C}_3\text{H}_5$] $^+$ (100), 179 [$\text{M}-(\text{C}_5\text{H}_5+\text{CH}_2=\text{NH})$] $^+$ (16), 165

$[M-(C_5H_5+C_2H_5N)]^+$ (18.5), 130 $[M-(C_5H_5+C_6H_6)]^+$ (70), 103 $[M-(C_5H_5+C_6H_6+HCN)]^+$ (12), 91 $[C_7H_7]^+$ (12.5).

trans-3-Allyl-1-phenyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline hydrochloride (4c · HCl) was obtained by treatment of amine **4c** with an ethereal solution of HCl, yield 86%, m.p. 211.5–212.5 °C (from an ether–MeOH mixture). Found (%): C, 75.44; H, 7.09; N, 5.11; Cl, 12.55. $C_{18}H_{19}N \cdot HCl$. Calculated (%): C, 75.64; H, 7.05; N, 4.90; Cl, 12.42. IR (pellets with KBr), ν/cm^{-1} : 3420 (br), 2850, 2820, 1650, 2590, 2510, 2470, 1640, 1590, 1490, 1470, 1455, 1430, 1290, 1010, 990, 930, 785, 750, 700, 645, 610, 570, 440, 410. 1H NMR (400 MHz), δ : 2.42 (m, 1 H, $H_a(3')$); 2.86 (m, 1 H, $H_b(3')$); 3.12 (dd, 1 H, $H_a(4)$, $^2J = 17.3$ Hz, $^3J = 8.6$ Hz); 3.25 (dd, 1 H, $H_b(4)$, $^2J = 17.3$ Hz, $^3J = 4.6$ Hz); 3.50 (m, 1 H, $H(3)$); 5.08 (m, 1 H, $H_a(5')$); 5.11 (m, 1 H, $H_b(5')$); 5.52 (m, 1 H, $H(1)$); 5.67 (m, 1 H, $H(4')$); 6.83 (m, 1 H, Ph); 7.14 (m, 2 H, Ar); 7.25 (m, 1 H, Ar); 7.33 (m, 5 H, Ar); 9.77 (m, 1 H, NH); 10.81 (m, 1 H, NH). ^{13}C NMR, δ : 30.14 (C(4)); 35.42 (C(3')); 48.91 (C(3)); 57.29 (C(1)); 119.35 (C(5')); 126.76, 127.91, 128.11, 128.62, 129.0, 129.25, 130.34, 130.64, 131.58 (Ar); 131.80 (C(4')); 136.09 (C(8a)).

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