

# Synthesis of 1-amino-5-cyano-2-oxo-1,2-dihydronicotic acid <sup>†</sup>

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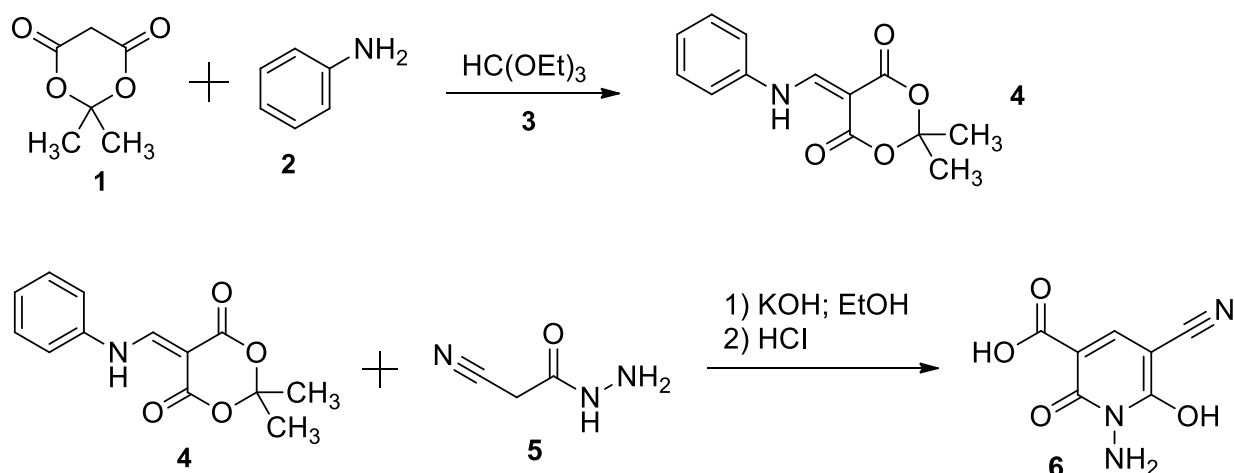
**Abstract:** 2,2-Dimethyl-5-((phenylamino)methylene)-1,3-dioxane-4,6-dione, prepared by ternary condensation of Meldrum's acid with triethyl orthoformate and aniline, reacts with cyanoacetic acid hydrazide in the presence of KOH to give 1-amino-5-cyano-2-oxo-1,2-dihydropyridine-3-carboxylic acids, which are useful as drug precursors or perspective ligands.

**Keywords:** nicotinic acids; Meldrum's acid; 1-amino-5-cyano-2-oxo-1,2-dihydronicotic acid, cyanoacetic acid hydrazide.

## 1. Introduction

It is known that nicotinic acid (pyridine-3-carboxylic acid, niacin, vitamin PP, vitamin B3) and nicotinic acid derivatives have a wide spectrum of biological activity. Thus, nicotinic acid and nicotines exhibit hypocholesterolemic, neuroprotective and other effects. The close structural analogue of nicotinic acid, 4-methyl-2-oxo-5-cyano-1,2-dihydropyridine-3-carboxylic acid, is less studied and is of interest as a complexing agent [1,2] or as a precursor for biologically active compounds [3].

We have developed a method for preparation of substituted 2-oxonicotinic acids based on the reaction of 5-anilinomethylidene-2,2-dimethyl-1,3-dioxane-4,6-dione 4 with cyanoacetamides 5. Compound 4 was prepared by reaction of Meldrum's acid 1 with triethyl orthoformate 3 and aniline 2. The reaction of 4 with cyanoacetylhydrazide 5 (R = NH<sub>2</sub>) afforded 1-amino-5-cyano-2-oxo-1,2-dihydronicotic acid 6. The structure was confirmed by means of FTIR, NMR and X-ray data.



Scheme 1. Preparation of 1-amino-5-cyano-2-oxo-1,2-dihyronicotic acid 6.

In order to cast light on the possible extension of this Knoevenagel/cation approach for the development of new, highly-fluorescent photo-theragnostic agents based on selective accumulation into mitochondria, this communication describes preliminary results on the use of different cations (specifically, trimethylammonium) and spacers.

## 2. Experimental

### 2.1. Anilinomethylidene Derivative of Meldrum's Acid

A mixture of the powdered Meldrum's acid (0.1 mol), triethyl orthoformate (21.6 mL, 0.13 mol), and freshly distilled aniline (9.1 mL, 0.1 mol) was refluxed with vigorous stirring for 5 min to afford a syrupy reaction mass. It was diluted with 30 mL of EtOH and refluxed for an additional 3 min. Then, it was cooled with stirring to  $\sim 20$  °C and diluted with water to 100 mL. After 2 h, the product was filtered off and washed with water, twice with 60% EtOH, and with hexane.

### 2.2. 2,2-Dimethyl-5-(Phenylamino)Methylene-1,3-Dioxane-4,6-Dione (4)

Yield 92%, m.p. 156–157 °C. Found (%): C, 63.19; H, 5.32; N, 5.66.  $C_{13}H_{13}NO_4$ . Calculated (%): C, 63.15; H, 5.30; N, 5.67.  $^1H$  NMR,  $\delta$ : 1.70 (s, 6 H, 2 Me); 7.19–7.51 (m, 5 H, Ph); 8.58 (d, 2 H,  $-\text{CH}=\text{}$ ,  $3J = 14.7$  Hz); 11.27 (d, 1 H, NH,  $3J = 14.7$  Hz).

### 2.3. Compounds 6

Potassium hydroxide (1.12 g, 0.02 mol) was added to a vigorously stirred suspension of compound 4 (0.01 mol) and cyanoacetic acid hydrazide (0.01 mol) in 10 mL of EtOH. After 24 h, the reaction mixture was acidified with concentrated HCl to pH 5 and maintained for 3 h. The formed precipitate was recrystallized from water. The yield of pyridine 6 was 65%.

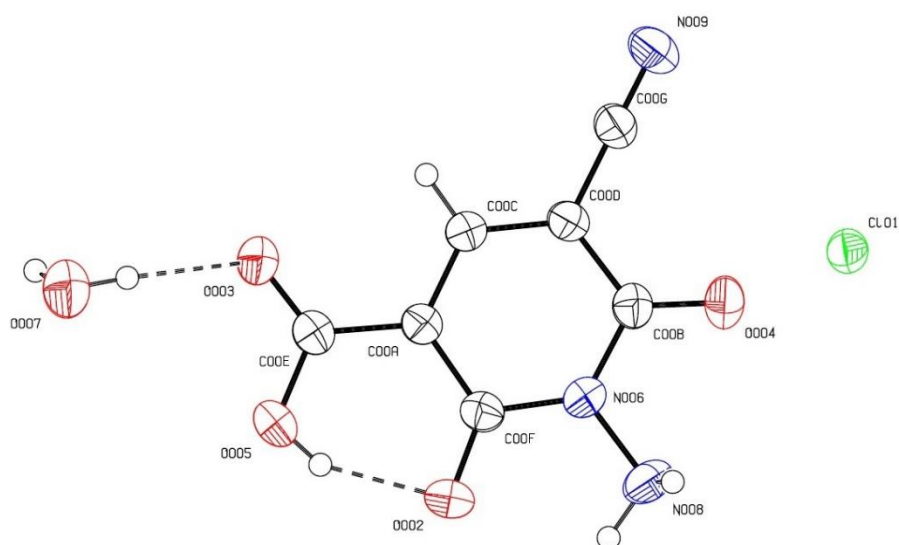


Figure 1. Molecular Structure of compound 6 (X-ray data).

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