# Synthesis of 7-thia-1,4,6,8-tetraazabenzo[de]anthracenes

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#### **Abstract**

New polyheterocyclic ensembles of 8,9,10,11-tetrahydro-7-thia-1,4,6,8-tetraazabenzo[de]anthracenes were prepared by reaction of easily available 5H-pyrido[2',3':2,3]thiopyrano[4,5-b]pyridines with  $Ac_2O$  or acyl chlorides. The starting 5H-pyrido[2',3':2,3]thiopyrano[4,5-b]pyridines were prepared by reaction of N-methylmorpholinium 4-aryl-3-cyano-6-oxo-1,4,5,6-tetrahydropyridine-2-thiolates with malononitrile dimer.

# **Keywords**

malononitrile dimer, thiatetraazabenzo[de]anthracene, tetrahydropyridine-2-thiolates, acylation, heterocyclization, Meldrum's acid

Earlier we have shown [1,2] that 3-cyanopyridine-2-thiolates react with malononitrile dimer (2-amino-1,1,3-tricyanopropene) in hot EtOH to afford 2,4-diamino-5-imino-5H-pyrido[2',3':2,3]thiopyrano[4,5-b]pyridines **1**. The compounds **1** are promising reagents to prepare polyheterocyclic ensembles. We found that compounds **1a,b** easily react with acid chlorides with the closure of the pyrimidine ring and the formation of new polyheterocyclic ensembles, 8,9,10,11-tetrahydro-7-thia-1,4,6,8-tetraazabenzo[de]anthracenes

**2a,b** in modest (34-57%) yields (Scheme 1). The relatively low yields of the polycycles **2** are due to non-optimal reaction conditions, the presence of several nucleophilic centers in the molecule of **1** and associated ambiguity of acylation. A confirmation of this assumption resulted from the fact that acylation of compounds **1a,c** with  $Ac_2O$  gives mixtures. Thus, when **1a,c** were heated under reflux in  $Ac_2O$ , products of acylation at the 2-NH<sub>2</sub> group **2c',d'** were obtained along with the expected compounds **2c,d** (the molar ratio of compounds **2d:2d'** was  $\sim$ 1:2 ( $\sim$ 24% and  $\sim$ 47%, respectively), whereas the molar ratio of compounds **2c:2c'** was  $\sim$ 3:1 ( $\sim$ 59% and  $\sim$ 20%, respectively). The starting compound **1b** was prepared by analogy with known procedure [1] from pyridine-2-thiolate **3b** and malononitrile dimer **4**.

## Scheme 1

**1 a** Ar = Ph; **b** Ar = 2-furyl; **c** Ar = 2-ClC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>; **2 a** Ar = Ph, R = ClCH<sub>2</sub>; **b** Ar = 2-furyl, R = Ph; **c,c'** Ar = 2-ClC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>; **d,d'** Ar = Ph.

Presumably, the formation of the tetracyclic system of **2** proceeds as a cascade process starting with acylation of the 4-NH<sub>2</sub> group of compound **1** followed by the intramolecular cyclization involving the imino group at the *peri* position. Thiatetraazabenzo[de]anthracenes 2 are yellow-brown or green-brown powders that are insoluble in EtOH, sparingly soluble in acetone, AcOH, DMF, and moderately soluble in hot DMSO. As we have shown prior [3-5], such polycyclic assemblies can be used as chemical protection agents for plants, corrosion inhibitors, antitumor agents, DNA intercalators, etc. The structure of polyheterocyclic ensembles **2** was confirmed by the results of spectral studies (IR spectroscopy, <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy, HPLC-MS) and elemental analysis. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of tetraazabenzo[de]anthracenes 2 showed the ABX pattern of protons 10-CH<sub>2</sub> and 11-CH<sub>2</sub>: the signals of protons 10-CH*cis* are observed upfield (δ 2.60-2.81 ppm) as a pseudo doublet (unresolved doublet of doublets) with coupling constants in the range / 16.3–16.4 Hz, while signals of proton 10-CH*trans* appeared as doublet of doublets with  $^2J$  = 16.3–16.4 Hz and  $^{3}I = 7.0-7.4$  Hz at  $\delta$  3.17-3.28 ppm. The signals of protons 11-CH were observed as a pseudo doublet (unresolved doublet of doublets) in the region of  $\delta$  4.91–5.22 ppm. In addition, <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of compounds **2** showed the signals of 8-NH protons at  $\delta$  11.21–11.40 ppm as well as the characteristic signals of substituents at C-5 and C-11. The signals of the 2-NH<sub>2</sub> group appeared as a broadened peak at 7.42–7.76 ppm, whereas in the case of NHAc derivatives 2c',d' this signal disappeared and singlets at  $\delta$  10.51 and  $\delta$  10.68 ppm were observed, respectively.

In summary, we have demonstrated that polyheterocyclic ensembles of 1,4,6,8-tetraaza-7-thiabenzo[de]anthracene may be prepared in moderate yields by acylation of the available 2,4-diamino-5-imino-5H-pyrido[2',3':2,3]thiopyrano[4,5-b]pyridines. In the presence of a large excess of the acylating agent, acylation may take place concurrently at the 2-NH<sub>2</sub> group.

# **Experimental**

IR spectra were recorded on a Thermo Nicolet Magna-IR 750 spectrometer in KBr pellets. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker DPX-400 spectrometer (400 MHz) in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> using TMS as an internal standard. HPLC-MS analysis was performed on a Shimadzu LC-10AD LC with a Shimadzu SP D-10A UV–Vis (254 nm) detector and Sedex 75 ELSD, combined

with a PE SCIEX API 150EX mass spectrometer, atmospheric pressure electrospray ionization. Selected experimental procedures are given.

2,4-Diamino-10-(2-furyl)-5-imino-8-oxo-7,8,9,10-tetrahydro-5*H*pyrido[2',3': 4,5]thiopyrano[2,3-b]pyridine-3-carbonitrile (1b), DMF solvate (2:1). A mixture of thiolate 3b [6,7] (3.0 g, 9.34 mmol), malononitrile dimer **4** [8] (1.85 g, 14.0 mmol) in 96% EtOH (30 ml) was heated under reflux for 25 h. The mixture was then kept for 48 h at 20°C, and black precipitate was filtered and dried at 60°C. After recrystallization from DMF, the solvate containing 0.5 molecules of DMF was obtained. Yield was 1.72 g (52%), large greenish-brown crystals, decomp. temp. >250°C. IR spectrum, v, cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3464, 3320, 3223, 3171 (NH, NH<sub>2</sub>), 2206 (C $\equiv$ N), 1705 (C=O). <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (400) MHz),  $\delta$ , ppm (J, Hz): 2.61 (1H, br. d,  ${}^{2}J$  = 16.4, 9-CH<sub>A</sub>); 2.72 (1.5H, s) and 2.87  $(1.5H, s, 0.5N(CH_3)_2 \text{ of DMF}); 2.96 (1H, dd, ^2I = 16.4, ^3I = 7.0, 9-CH_B); 5.04-5.05$ (1H, m, 10-CH); 6.06-6.07 (1H, m) and 6.26-6.27 (1H, m, H-3,4 furyl); 6.85 (2H, br. s, 2-NH<sub>2</sub>); 7.16 (1H, br. s, 4-NH<sub>A</sub>); 7.45-7.46 (1H, m, H-5 furyl); 7.94 (0.5H, br. s, 0.5 HC(0) of DMF); 10.09 (1H, br. s, =NH); 10.48 (1H, s, C(0)NH); 10.80 (1H, br. s, 4-NH<sub>B</sub>). Mass spectrum, m/z: 647 [2M-C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>3</sub>O]<sup>+</sup>, 613 [2M-2C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>3</sub>O+H+MeCN]+, 353 [M+H]+, 285 [M-C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>3</sub>O]+. Found, %: C 54.01; H 4.08; N 23.37. C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>12</sub>N<sub>6</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S ⋅ 0.5C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>7</sub>NO. Calculated, %: C 54.05; H 4.02; N 23.41.

2-Amino-5-chloromethyl-9-oxo-11-phenyl-8,9,10,11-tetrahydro-7-thia-**1,4,6,8-tetraazabenzo**[*de*]anthracene-3-carbonitrile (2a). Chloroacetyl chloride (1 ml, 12.6 mmol) was added to a suspension of compound 1a [1] (1.0 g, 2.76 mmol) in dry DMF (5 ml), and a mixture was stirred for 20 min (the suspension turns into a solution). Then AcOH (7 ml) was added to the prepared solution (an exothermic reaction observed), and stirring continued for another 30 min, while a mixture was slowly heated to the boiling point. The mixture was heated under reflux with stirring for another 2 h for complete conversion and then cooled to room temperature. Product 2a was filtered off and washed with EtOH. Yield was 0.66 g (57%), yellow-brown fine crystalline powder, decomp. temp. >250°C. IR spectrum, v, cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3455, 3319, 3214, 3154 (NH), 2214 (C≡N), 1701 (C=O). <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (400 MHz),  $\delta$ , ppm (*J*, Hz): 2.74 (1H, br. d,  ${}^{2}J$  = 16.4) and 3.23 (1H, dd,  ${}^{2}J$  = 16.4,  ${}^{3}J$  = 7.4, 10-CH<sub>2</sub>); 4.67 (2H, s, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl); 4.92–4.93 (1H, m, 11-CH); 7.19–7.27 (5H, m, H Ph); 7.76 (2H, br. s, NH<sub>2</sub>); 11.31 (1H, s, NH). Mass spectrum, m/z: 421 [M( $^{35}$ Cl)+H]+, 423  $[M(^{37}Cl)+H]^+$ .

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