

Reaction of pyrido[2,1-*a*]isoindole with 1,4-naphthoquinone and study of the product by spectroscopic methods

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Key role of the electronic structure of condensed isoindols on the rearrangement pathway was shown. Influence of the dienophile manifests in the requirement of the cyclic form of the dienophile itself. In the reaction of pyrido[2,1-*a*]isoindole with naphthoquinone rearrangement product of the first type was obtained and its structure was proven by spectral methods. Products of reactions with naphthoquinone, 4-fluoro-, 2,5-difluorophenylmaleimides were isolated and characterized: (2E)-2-[(1,4-dihydroxy-2-naphthyl)(2-pyridin-2-ylphenyl)methylene]-4-hydroxynaphthalen-1(2H)-one, (3E)-1-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-[[1-(4-fluorophenyl)-2,5-dioxopyrrolidin-3-yl](2-pyridin-2-ylphenyl)methylene]pyrrolidine-2,5-dione, (3E)-1-(2,4-difluorophenyl)-3-[[1-(2,4-fluorophenyl)-2,5-dioxopyrrolidin-3-yl](2-pyridin-2-ylphenyl)methylene]pyrrolidine-2,5-dione.

Introduction

The study of isoindole derivatives and their chemical properties is an important area of heterocyclic chemistry with a long history of research. As a matter of fact the most typical reaction of [4+2]cycloaddition was extensively studied for the simple isoindole which led to the discovery of criteria for the identification of *exo*- and *endo*-adducts. During the pioneering research the hypothesis of isoindole electronic structure was formulated and the possibility of the practical use of isoindole derivatives was discussed [1-7]. Reaction of [4+2]cycloaddition has been methodically studied in our scientific group over the past few decades. Among other results, we discovered three new

rearrangements, each being a unique method of synthesis of the rearranged Michael-Diels-Alder adducts (intermediate 7-aza-benzo norbornene) of the *first* [8], *second* [9] and *third* [10] type of condensed isoindoles (**Figure 1**). It was shown that direction of the rearrangement depends on the electron structure of the condensed isoindoles. For example, introduction of the strong electron-withdrawing substituent into the isoindolobenzimidazole fragment results in the formation of the rearrangement product of the *third* type, along with the traditional for isoindolo[2,1-*a*]benzimidazole product of the *first* type [11]. It should be noted that rearranged products present huge interest for both structural as well as medicinal

chemistries. In particular, such reactions allow easy introduction of the pyrrolidine-2,5-dione fragment. Cyclic imides are an important class of molecules known for their diverse array of bioactivities, which include α -1A adrenergic receptor antagonist, androgen receptor antagonist, anxiolytic, antiviral, antibacterial, anti-inflammatory, and antitumor properties. Moreover, succinimide derivatives exhibit potent hypolipidemic and fungicidal properties [12-16]. 3-Heteryl substituted pyrrolidine-2,5-diones were shown to inhibit the enzyme InhA and thus are potential antituberculosis drug candidates [17, 18].

unsuccessful, resulting in the formation of only Michael-type adducts without rearrangement [20]. Replacement of the 5-membered pyrrolidine-2,5-dione cycle by the less strained 1,4-naphthoquinone in the reaction with isoindolo[2,1-a]quinazoline-5-one resulted in the formation of the adduct of *third* type - 2-[2-(4-hydroxy-1-oxo-1,2-dihydro-2-naphthalenilidenmethyl)phenyl]-3-methyl-3,4-dihydro-4-quinazolone [19]. Thus, we can state necessity of the cyclic dienophile for the rearrangement to occur, but question of the exact influence of the dienophile still remains. Thus, 1,4-naphthoquinone with isoindolo[2,1-a]quinazoline-5-one resulted in the rearranged adduct of the *third* type. But would it still form such product in case of

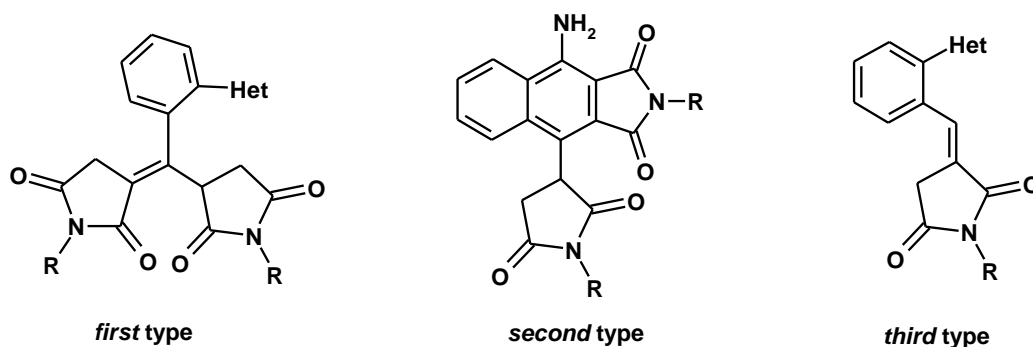


Figure 1. Rearranged Michael-Diels-Alder adducts of the *first*, *second* and *third* type for condensed isoindoles.

Studies of these three types of rearrangements in the cycloaddition reaction of condensed isoindoles were summarized in this thesis [19] and following articles [11, 20]. While it may seem that chemical behavior of the condensed isoindoles is well studied, properties of this system are so inexhaustible that new answers only spawn yet new questions. One of such aspects is influence of the dienophile on the reaction pathway, since all three rearrangements were discovered and studied using condensed isoindoles and maleimides. In other words, is pyrrolidine-2,5-dione cycle necessary for the reaction to go this way? It is worth noting that attempts of using non-cyclic dienophiles were

other condensed isoindoles? Or reaction way would still be determined by the electronic structure of the condensed isoindoles? This work is dedicated to answer this question.

Results and discussion

Pyrido[2,1-a]isoindole, having delocalized general 14π -electronic system, was chosen for the current study. For this isoindole only rearranged adducts of the first type were known before. In this way, we can avoid duality of the reaction behavior of azoloisoindole system, mentioned in the [11]. Therefore, conclusions from our work could be safely applied to other condensed isoindole systems. Thus, formation of the rearranged

adduct of the *first* type in the reaction of pyrido[2,1-*a*]isoindole with 1,4-naphthoquinone would show critical role electronic structure of the condensed isoindoles plays in determining reaction outcome. On the other hand formation of the rearranged adducts of the *third* type [19], or any other result would show key role of the dienophile.

Reaction between pyrido[2,1-*a*]isoindole **1** and 1,4-naphthoquinone **2** (**Figure 2**) was conducted and the reaction product was isolated in pure form. Elemental analysis suggested product being a 1:2 adduct, and thus the rearrangement of the *first* type was most plausible. We have previously shown that rearrangement of the *first* type, with maleimides as dienophiles, formed exclusively *E* isomer adducts, which was proved by X-ray analysis [8, 11, 21]. This process is thermodynamically favored because it involves cleavage of two bridge bonds (C-C and C-N) in a constrained cycle, followed by aromatization of the pyridine ring and formation of an exocyclic double bond. The exclusive formation of the rearranged products with *E* stereochemistry at exocyclic double bond shows that cleavage of the C-C and C-N bonds in 7-aza-benzo norbornene undergoes synchronously with formation of the new bonds in the rearranged product. If the rearrangement of the intermediately formed naphthoquinone cycloadduct proceeds via a similar mechanism it should result in the formation of only *E* isomer.

We have encountered certain complications during spectral identification of the rearranged product. In the case of rearranged products derived from maleimides their structures can be easily established as structure-defining NMR parameters of pyrrolidine-2,5-dione protons are known [8-11, 19, 21, 22]. In case of rearranged product formed from the reaction of pyridoisoindole with naphthoquinone only aromatic protons were observed in ^1H NMR spectrum. This indicated that tautomeric equilibrium between ketone and enol forms is significantly shifted toward the enol form **4**. Additional support for this comes from presence of the strong absorption bands in the IR spectrum at 1200-1300 cm^{-1} and at 1663 cm^{-1} with thin structure corresponding to C-O oscillations of the phenol and conjugated carbonyl group respectively.

It should be noted, that hindered rotation around single bonds directly attached to the tetrasubstituted alkene lead to the existence of atropodiastereomers in the rearranged products of the *first* type. Determination of the ratio of atropodiastereomers by ^1H NMR spectroscopy is sometimes complicated due to the signals overlap. We thought that introduction of the fluorine label into dienophile would greatly facilitate this task by allowing us to monitor their ratio by ^{19}F NMR spectroscopy.

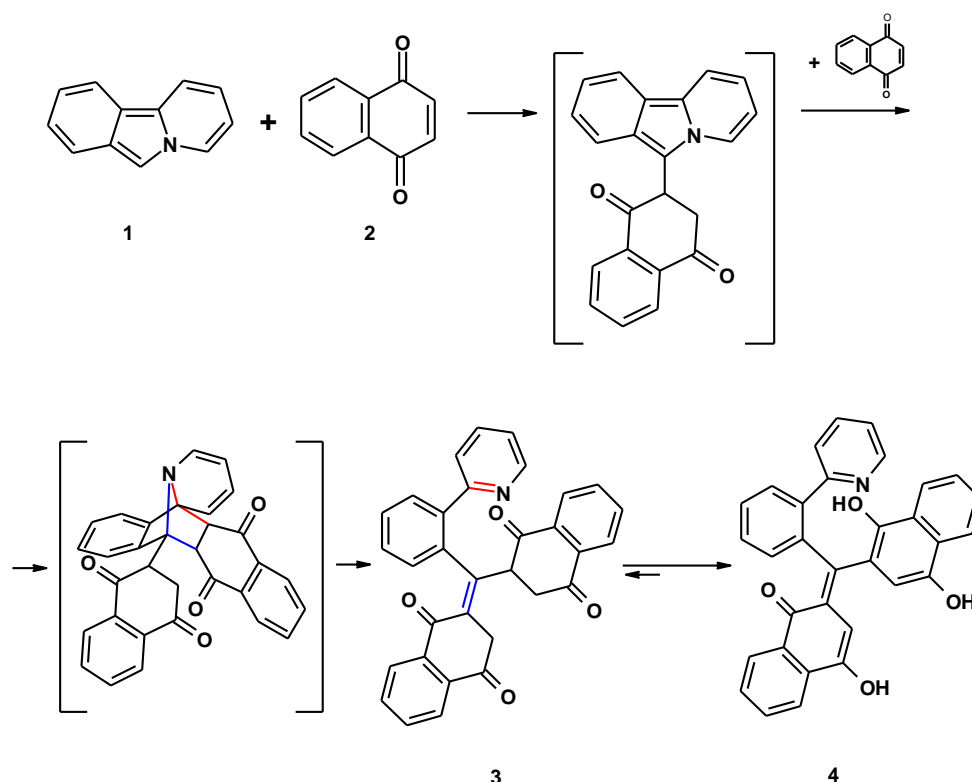


Figure 2. The reaction between pyrido[2,1-*a*]isoindole and naphthoquinone.

To test this hypothesis 4-fluorophenilmaleimide **5a** and 2,4-difluorophenilmaleimide **5b** were introduced

into the reaction with pyrido[2,1-*a*]isoindole to give two new rearrangement adducts of the *first* type (**Figure 3**).

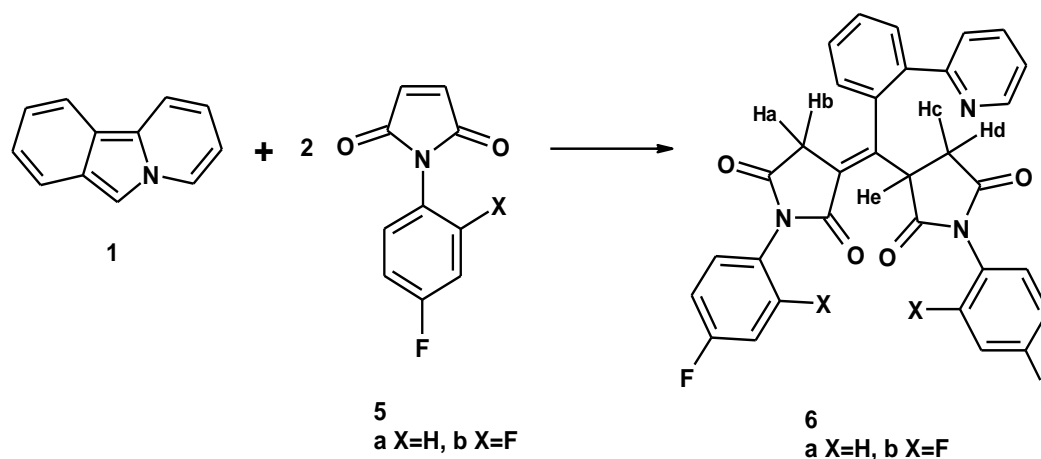


Figure 3. The reaction between pyrido[2,1-*a*]isoindole and 4-fluoro- and 2,4-difluorophenilmaleimides.

Rearranged products from the reaction with maleimides were identified and characterized by ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectroscopy.

Analysis of the ^{19}F NMR spectra showed that peaks corresponding to the

starting maleimides and atropodiastereomers are well resolved. Thus, it was shown that the rearranged products **6a** and **6b** were obtained as a mixture of 2 atropodiastereomers in a ratio 1:2 and 1:1 respectively. Interestingly, monitoring of the reaction between

pyridoisoindole and maleimide **5a** by ^{19}F spectroscopy showed that the ratio of atropodiastereomers is always 1:2 and does not depend on conversion, solvent (EtOH or DCM) or reaction temperature.

Conclusions

Key role of the electronic structure of the condensed isoindols in the reaction pathway was shown. In case of the reaction between pyrido[2,1-*a*]isoindole and naphthoquinone rearrangement adduct of the first type was obtained and its structure was proven by spectral methods. Products of reactions with naphthoquinone, 4-fluoro-, 2,4-difluorophenylmaleimides were isolated and characterized: (2*E*)-2-[(1,4-dihydroxy-2-naphthyl)(2-pyridin-2-ylphenyl)methylene]-4-hydroxynaphthalen-1(2*H*)-one, (3*E*)-1-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-[[1-(4-fluorophenyl)-2,5-dioxopyrrolidin-3-yl](2-pyridin-2-ylphenyl)methylene]pyrrolidine-2,5-dione, (3*E*)-1-(2,4-difluorophenyl)-3-[[1-(2,4-fluorophenyl)-2,5-dioxopyrrolidin-3-yl](2-pyridin-2-ylphenyl)methylene]pyrrolidine-2,5-dione.

Experimental part

^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR were recorded on the Varian VXR-400, ^{19}F NMR were recorded on the Varian VXR-200 with C_6F_6 as internal standart. IR spectra were recorded on the PerkinElmer Spectrum BX. Elemental analyses were made on the universal analyzer vario MikroCube.

(2*E*)-2-[(1,4-dihydroxy-2-naphthyl)(2-pyridin-2-ylphenyl)methylene]-4-hydroxynaphthalen-1(2*H*)-one **4**.

To a refluxed solution of pyrido[2,1-*a*]isoindole (0.45 g 2.7 mmol) in 40 ml of ethanol was added a solution of naphthoquinone (0.85 g, 5.39 mmol) in 10 ml

of ethanol and the resulting mixture was refluxed for 24 hr. Boiling reaction mixture was filtrated, the filtrate was cooled down to r.t. and the precipitated product was collected by filtration. The residue was recrystallized from ethanol.

Crystal solid of the brick color (Yield: 0.26 g, 20%). ^1H NMR δ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) 7.02 (1H, t, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.5$ Hz), 7.14 (1H, t, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.5$ Hz), 7.21 (1H, s), 7.23-7.24 (1H + CDCl_3), 7.28 (1H, s), 7.46 (2H, t, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.5$ Hz), 7.74 (2H, t, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.3$ Hz), 7.78 (2H, t, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.5$ Hz), 7.84 (2H, d, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.5$ Hz), 8.08 (2H, t, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.7$ Hz), 8.17 (2H, t, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.7$ Hz), 8.49 (1H, $\alpha\text{-CH Py}$).

^{13}C NMR δ (100.7 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) 101.65, 108.93, 116.03, 117.76, 118.84, 120.20, 120.32, 122.25, 122.86, 124.01, 124.61, 126.62, 126.92, 127.66, 127.81, 128.65, 130.12, 131.07, 132.03, 133.23, 133.92, 134.96, 138.72, 139.75, 141.24, 141.51, 147.68, 148.41, 149.67, 149.92, 152.62, 183.48.

IR (KBr) 3429, 3066, 2930, 2858, 1663, 1623, 1594, 1539, 1510, 1478, 1441, 1391, 1351, 1322, 1285, 1260, 1217, 1115, 1083, 1006, 967, 887, 818, 749, 720, 687, 615, 586, 492, 451, 412 cm^{-1}

Analysis (calcd, found)% C (79.49, 78.26); H (4.38, 3.47); N (2.90, 2.23).

(3*E*)-1-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-[[1-(4-fluorophenyl)-2,5-dioxopyrrolidin-3-yl](2-pyridin-2-ylphenyl)methylene]pyrrolidine-2,5-dione **6a**.

To a refluxed solution of pyrido[2,1-*a*]isoindole (0.2 g, 1.2 mmol) in 30 ml of ethanol was added a solution of 4-fluoromaleimide (0.46 g, 2.4 mmol) in 10 ml of ethanol and the resulting solution was refluxed for 12 hr. After cooling to r.t. the

precipitated product was filtrated and recrystallized from the minimal quantity of ethanol.

Grey crystal solid (Yield: 0.23 g, 35 %). ^{19}F NMR δ (188 MHz, CDCl_3) -113,01 (0.67F), -112,60 (1.33 F, t, $^3J_{\text{HF}} = 7.5$ Hz).

^1H NMR δ (400 MHz, CDCl_3), 2.73-3.21 (4H, br m, H_a , H_b , H_c , H_d), 4.23 (0.66H, br s, H_e), 5.94 (0.33H, br s, H_e), 7.13-7.29 (9H, br m, Ar), 7.47-7.71 (5H, br m, Ar), 7.82 (1H, q, 3H Py, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.3$ Hz), 8.57 (1H, α -CH Py).

^{13}C NMR δ (100.7 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) 34.64, 39.60, 47.12, 115.51 (4C, d, $^2J_{\text{CF}} = 21$ Hz) 122.68, 123.29, 123.78, 127.65, 128.96 (br, m), 129.05, 129.13, 129.75, 130.15, 136.66, 137.12, 137.79, 149.18, 156.76, 159.79 (2C, d, $^1J_{\text{CF}} = 245$ Hz), 171.92, 172.26, 175.34, 175.52.

IR (KBr) 3451, 3070, 2930, 1768, 1710, 1644, 1608, 1587, 1565, 1510, 1467, 1427, 1391, 1296, 1278, 1231, 1195, 1148, 1101, 1057, 1021, 988, 959, 941, 912, 883, 839, 821, 800, 760, 718, 671, 643, 589, 520, 495, 466, 423 cm^{-1}

Analysis (calcd, found)% C (69.94, 69.71); H (3.85, 3.59); N (7.65, 7.06).

(3E)-1-(2,4-difluorophenyl)-3-[[1-(2,4-fluorophenyl)-2,5-dioxopyrrolidin-3-yl](2-pyridin-2-ylphenyl)methylene]pyrrolidine-2,5-dione **6b**.

To a refluxed solution of pyrido[2,1-a]isoindole (0.2 g, 1.2 mmol) in 30 ml of ethanol was added a solution of 2,4-difluoromaleimide (0.5 g, 2.4 mmol) in 10 ml of ethanol and the resulting solution was refluxed for 12 hr. After cooling to r.t. the precipitated product was filtrated and

recrystallized from the minimal quantity of ethanol.

Grey crystal solid (0.16 g, 23 %). ^{19}F NMR δ (188 MHz, CDCl_3) -107,30 (2F, m), -114,61 (2F, m).

^1H NMR δ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) 2.77-3.23 (4H, br m, H_a , H_b , H_c , H_d), 4.23 (0.55H, br s, H_e), 6.23 (0.45H, br s, H_e), 6.96 (4H, br m, Ar), 7.26 (4H, br m, Ar), 7.61 (4H, br m, Ar), 7.83 (1H, q, 3H Py, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.0$ Hz), 8.58 (1H, α -CH Py).

^{13}C NMR δ (100.7 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) 34.72, 39.54, 47.29, 104.87 (2C, t, $^2J_{\text{CF}} = 21$ Hz), 112.06 (2C, d, br $^2J_{\text{CF}} = 21$ Hz), 117.29 (m, br), 122.65, 122.70, 123.12, 127.67, 129.15, 129.63, 129.69, 129.99, 131.32 (m, br), 134.95, 137.15, 137.99, 149.07, 156.99, 158.38 (2C, d, $^1J_{\text{CF}} = 245$ Hz), 160.88 (2C, d, $^1J_{\text{CF}} = 245$ Hz), 171.44, 174.40, 174.44, 174.51.

IR (KBr) 3451, 3080, 2930, 1779, 1717, 1663, 1648, 1608, 1587, 1568, 1514, 1467, 1441, 1427, 1394, 1300, 1275, 1255, 1227, 1195, 1140, 1101, 1061, 1021, 988, 970, 905, 887, 851, 803, 760, 713, 680, 665, 643, 611, 596, 557, 503, 484, 470, 452, 430, 408 cm^{-1}

Analysis (calcd, found)% C (65.64, 65.63); H (3.27, 2.85); N (7.18, 6.58).

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