HETEROCYCLES, Vol. 63, No. 1, 2004, pp. 55 - 62
Received, 11th September, 2003, Accepted, 10th November, 2003, Published online, 14th November, 2003

# SYNTHESIS AND STRUCTURAL STUDIES OF (2-OXO-2,3-DIHYDROIMIDAZO[1,2-*a*]PYRIDIN-3-YL)ACETIC ACIDS

**Anton V. Dolzhenko,*[a] Nina V. Kolotova,[a] Vladislav O. Kozminykh,[a] Wai-Keung Chui,*[b] Paul W. S. Heng,[b] and Viktor N. Khrustalev [c]**

[a] Perm State Pharmaceutical Academy, 48 Lenin Street, Perm 61499, Russian Federation. E-mail: avdolzh@hotmail.com

[b] Department of Pharmacy, Faculty of Science, National University of Singapore, 18 Science Drive 4, Singapore 117543, Republic of Singapore. E-mail: phacwk@nus.edu.sg

[c] A. N. Nesmeyanov Institute of Organoelement Compounds, Russian Academy of Sciences, 28 Vavilov Street, Moscow 119991, Russian Federation

**Abstract** – (2-Oxo-2,3-dihydroimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridin-3-yl)acetic acids (**4a-c**, **9a-c**) were prepared from 2-aminopyridines by acylation with maleic or citraconic anhydrides and followed by Michael addition. Formation of 3-methyl substituted derivatives (**9a-c**) from citraconic anhydride was found to be regioselective. The molecular conformations of the products in the solution and in the crystal form were discussed based on $^1$H NMR spectral and X-Ray data.

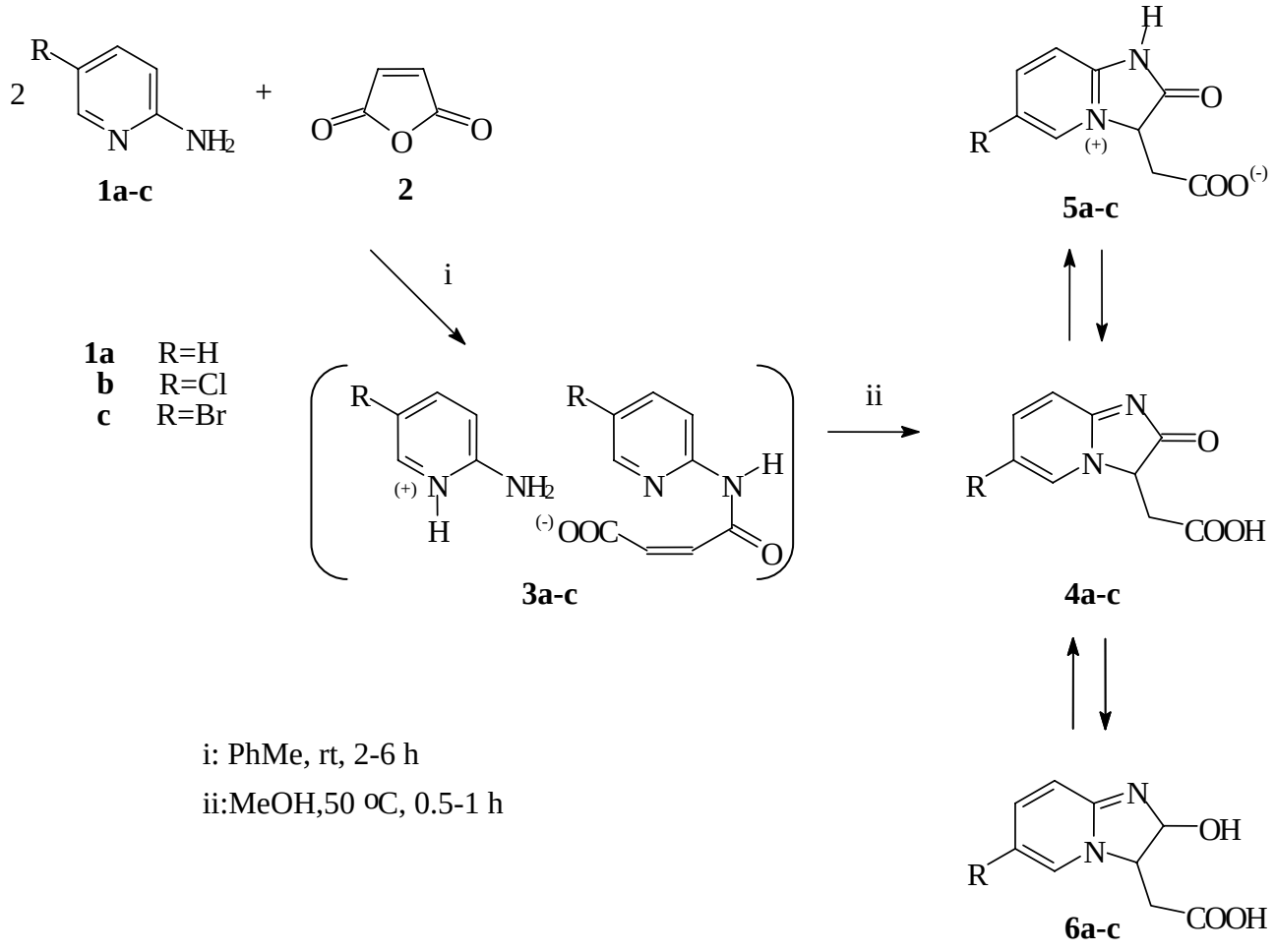
## INTRODUCTION

2-Oxo-2,3-dihydroimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridines are known to possess a good synthetic potential, especially in the preparation of disubstituted maleic anhydrides and maleimides.[1-8] It has been shown that several 2-oxo-2,3-dihydroimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridines and, in particular, 3,3-dibenzylimidazo-2-(3*H*)-one (ZSET845) are able to improve the cerebral function and may be of therapeutic value for the cognitive and memory disorders such as Alzheimer's disease.[9-11] In addition, fluorescent properties of 3,3-disubstituted 2-oxo-2,3-dihydroimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridines have been reported.[12] Clearly, this is considerable importance of this class of compounds and this study reports on the synthesis and structural analysis of some (2-oxo-2,3-dihydroimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridin-3-yl)acetic acids.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The reaction of 2-aminopyridines (**1a-c**) with maleic anhydride (**2**) in the ratio of 2:1 afforded salts (**3a-c**) that readily cyclized to form (2-oxo-2,3-dihydroimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridin-3-yl)acetic acids (**4a-c**) through intramolecular Michael addition (Scheme 1). X-Ray crystallographic data of **4a** showed that the crystal existed as tautomers (**4a**) and (**5a**) in equal proportion.[5] In aqueous solution, only form (**5a**) was found ($^1$H NMR spectral data, Table 1). However in DMSO solution, enolic form (**6a**) appeared together with zwitterion (**5a**) (Table 2). 6-Halogen-substituted analogues of **4a** were presented in DMSO only as enols (**6b,c**) that was confirmed by singlet at 3.85 ppm in $^1$H NMR spectra related to protons of the methylenic group next to the carboxyl (Table 1).

**Scheme 1**




Interestingly, the addition of trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) into DMSO solution of **4a** changed the ratio of the tautomers (**5a** and **6a**) that was observed as decreasing intensity of the enol signals in $^1$H NMR spectrum with concerted increasing intensity of the zwitterion signals (Table 2). When the same methodology was applied to (6-halogeno-2-oxo-2,3-dihydroimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridin-3-yl)acetic acids (**4b,c**) two pairs of doublets related to diastereotopic protons of the methylenic group pertinent to forms (**5b,c**) were indicated in $^1$H NMR spectra together with characteristic signals of enols (**6b,c**).

**Table 1.** $^{1}$H NMR spectral data of individual forms of (2-oxo-2,3-dihydroimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridin-3-yl)-acetic acids.

| Compd | R | $^{1}$H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-$d_6$, TMS) | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | $CH_2$ | $C^5H$ | $C^6H$ | $C^7H$ | $C^8H$ | NH |
| **5a*** | H | dd, 3.32, 3.37 ($J_{AB}$=18.08 Hz) | d, 8.57 (J=6.31 Hz) | m, 7.49-7.59 | t, 8.35 (J=8.10 Hz) | m, 7.49-7.59 | - |
| **6b** | Cl | s, 3.85 | s, 8.41 | - | d, 7.33 (J=9.42 Hz) | d, 7.16 (J=9.41 Hz) | br s, 11.59 |
| **6c** | Br | s, 3.85 | s, 8.46 | - | d, 7.28 (J=9.04 Hz) | d, 7.23 (J=9.04 Hz) | br s, 11.57 |

*- spectrum in $D_2O$, DSS as internal standard

**Table 2.** $^{1}$H NMR spectral data of the acid tautomerized (2-oxo-2,3-dihydroimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridin-3-yl)-acetic acids.

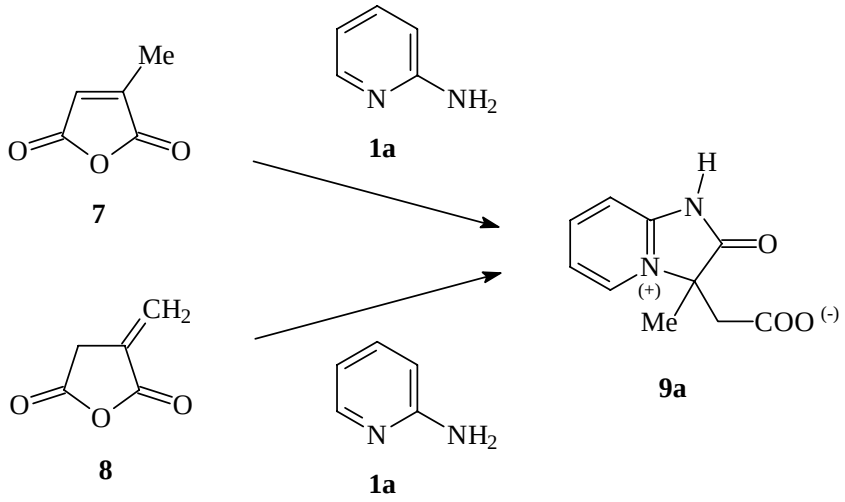
| Compd | R | Isomer | $^{1}$H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-$d_6$ +TFA, TMS) | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | $CH_2$ | $C^3H$ | $C^5H$ | $C^6H$ | $C^7H$ | $C^8H$ |
| **4a** | H | **5a*** | dd, 3.01, dd, 3.20 ($J_{AB}$=16.95 Hz, $J_{AX}$=4.14 Hz) | t, 4.70 (J=4.71 Hz) | d, 8.21 (J=6.03 Hz) | t, 6.78 (J=6.78 Hz) | t, 7.76 (J=7.91 Hz) | d, 7.05 (J=8.29 Hz) |
| | | **6a*** | s, 3.80 | - | d, 8.11 (J=6.41 Hz) | t, 6.88 (J=6.60 Hz) | t, 7.14 (J=7.91 Hz) | d, 7.28 (J=8.29 Hz) |
| | | **5a** | dd, 3.45, dd, 3.71 ($J_{AB}$=18.84 Hz, $J_{AX}$=4.14 Hz) | t, 5.53 (J=3.77 Hz) | d, 8.92 (J=6.45 Hz) | m, 7.55-7.69 | t, 8.44 (J=7.91 Hz) | m, 7.55-7.69 |
| | | **6a** | s, 4.09 | - | d, 8.69 (J=6.78 Hz) | t, 7.45 (J=9.78 Hz) | m, 7.71-7.86 | |
| **4b** | Cl | **5b** | dd, 3.46, dd, 3.75 ($J_{AB}$=18.84 Hz, $J_{AX}$=4.52 Hz) | t, 5.54 (J=3.77 Hz) | s, 9.29 | - | d, 8.56 (J=9.04 Hz) | d, 7.68 (J=9.04 Hz) |
| | | **6b** | s, 4.08 | - | s, 9.09 | - | d, 7.85 (J=9.42 Hz) | d, 7.77 (J=9.42 Hz) |
| **4c** | Br | **5c** | dd, 3.46, dd, 3.76 ($J_{AB}$=18.84 Hz, $J_{AX}$=4.52 Hz) | t, 5.53 (J=3.77 Hz) | s, 9.32 | - | d, 8.64 (J=9.04 Hz) | d, 7.61 (J=9.04 Hz) |
| | | **6c** | s, 4.09 | - | s, 9.14 | - | d, 7.93 (J=9.42 Hz) | d, 7.70 (J=9.42 Hz) |

* - spectrum in DMSO without acid

The reaction of citraconic anhydride (**7**) with 2-aminopyridine (**1a**) in ratio of 1:1 in ethyl acetate in the mild condition proceeded in a regioselective way to afford **9a** directly in a good yield (Scheme 2). The same product (**9a**) could be prepared from tautomer of **7** – itaconic anhydride (**8**). It was assumed that cycloaddition of itaconic anhydride (**8**) to 2-aminopyridine (**1a**) involved the tautomerization of **8** to **7**, catalyzed by **1a,** in the manner described for amines.[13] (3-Methyl-2-oxo-2,3-dihydroimidazo[1,2-*a*]-

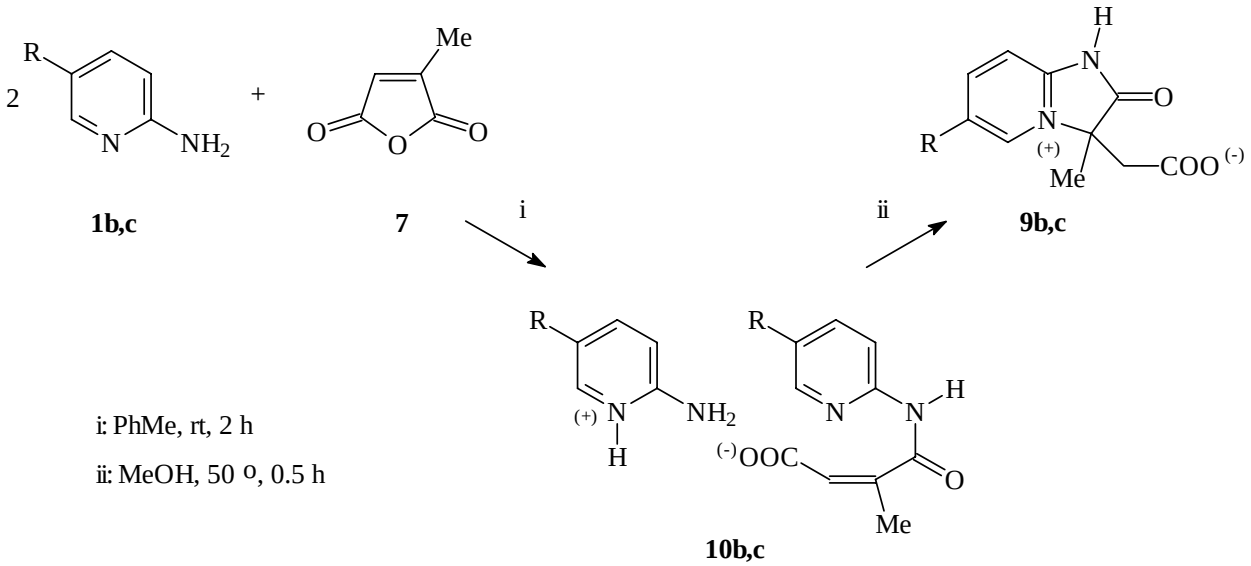
pyridin-3-yl)acetic acid (**9a**) in solution as well as in crystal form (*vide infra*) existed only in the zwitterion form.

**Scheme 2**




5-Halogeno-2-aminopyridines (**1b,c**), however, did not afford the corresponding (3-methyl-2-oxo-2,3-dihydroimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridin-3-yl)acetic acids (**9b,c**) in the conditions that led to **9a**. Compounds (**9b,c**) were obtained instead using the methodology applied for the preparation of **4a-c** (Scheme 3).

**Scheme 3**




X-Ray crystallographic structural analysis unambiguously showed that (3-methyl-2-oxo-2,3-dihydroimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridin-3-yl)acetic acid (**9a)** was a zwitterion with a positive charge delocalized at fragment N1-C9-N4 [$^{(+)}$N1=C9-N4 ↔ N1-C9=N4$^{(+)}$] and a negative charge delocalized at carboxylic group O2-C11-O3 [O2=C11-O3$^{(-)}$ ↔ $^{(-)}$O2-C11=O3] (Figure 1). Compound (**9a**) could be considered as internal salt. Molecule of **9a** has a long chain of conjugated bonds and it is practically flat except for the substitutes at the asymmetric carbon atom C3. X-Ray crystallographic data showed the

torsion angle C12-C3-C10-C11 equal 173.9(1)° indicating that steric hindrance between the carboxylic group and the methyl group was minimal.

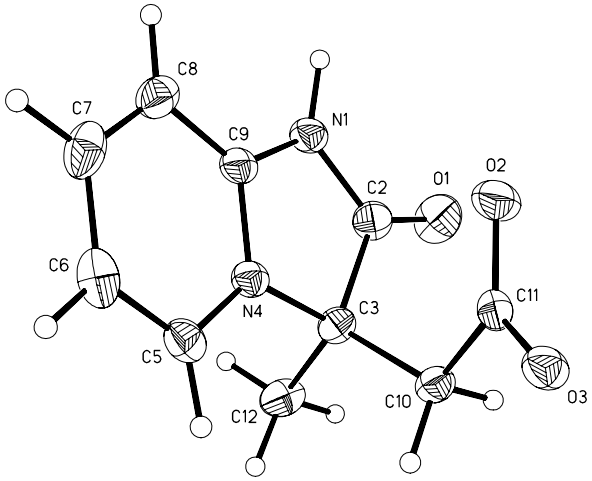



**Figure 1.** Molecular structure of **9a**, showing the atom labeling. Displacement ellipsoids of atoms are drawn at 50 % probability.

Crystal of **9a** was a racemate. The molecules were linked through very strong hydrogen bounds N1-H1N**...**O3 [-x+1/2, y+1/2, -z+1/2] (N-H 0.98(3), N...O 2.586(2), H...O 1.60(3) Å, angle N-H...O 176(1)°).

It was also found that solutions of the synthesized (2-oxo-2,3-dihydroimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridin-3-yl)acetic acids (**4a-c, 9a-c**) possessed fluorescent properties in UV light. The fluorescence of the compounds with angular methyl group (**9a-c**) was stronger than the one of corresponding **4a-c** that might be due to the characteristics of zwitterion forms. These phenomena could be a subject of further investigations.

## EXPERIMENTAL

**General Methods.** Melting points (uncorrected) were determined on a Gallenkamp melting point apparatus. NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker DPX-300 spectrometer using TMS or DSS as internal references. MS spectral data were obtained using a Kratos MS-30 spectrometer at 70 eV. IR spectra were performed on a Jasco FT-IR-430 spectrophotometer in KBr pellets.

**Collection of X-Ray Diffraction Data and the Structure Analysis of 9a.** Unit cell parameters were measured and 6595 reflections were collected with a Bruker SMART CCD 1000 diffractometer [T = 110 K, $\lambda$(Mo-K$_\alpha$), graphite monochromator, $\theta$/10-scan, $\theta_{max}$ = 28°] operating in the $\omega$-mode (0.3°). The structure was solved by direct method using SHELXTL PLUS programs.[14] All non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically by full-matrix least-squares procedure. The coordinates of the hydrogen atoms located from the difference Fourier electron density synthesis and were then refined isotropically.

Convergence was reached at $R_1 = 0.0460$ for 1826 reflections having $I > 2\sigma(I)$ and $wR_2 = 0.1293$ for 2262 independent reflections.

***(2-Oxo-2,3-dihydroimidazo[1,2-a]pyridin-3-yl)acetic acid (4a)***

To a solution of 2-aminopyridine (**1a**, 1.88 g, 0.02 mol) in toluene (20 mL) was slowly added at 0 °C a solution of maleic anhydride (**2**, 0.98 g, 0.01 mol) in toluene (10 mL). The mixture was stirred for 2 h at rt. The precipitated salt (**3a**) was filtered and washed with ether. Salt (**3a**) was dissolved in methanol (30 mL) and refluxed for 30 min. Resulting solid was filtered, dried and recrystallized from 70 % ethanol to give **4a**. Yield 1.11 g (58 %) (from **1a** and **2**); mp 221 °C (decomp) (lit.,[5] 220 °C); IR (KBr, ν $cm^{-1}$): 1765, 1709, 1644, 1493; Anal. Calcd for $C_9H_8N_2O_3$: C, 56.25; H, 4.20; N, 14.58. Found: C, 56.06; H, 4.23; N, 14.61.

***(6-Chloro-2-oxo-2,3-dihydroimidazo[1,2-a]pyridin-3-yl)acetic acid (4b)***

A mixture of 2-amino-5-chloropyridine (**1b**, 2.57 g, 0.02 mol) and maleic anhydride (**2**, 0.98 g, 0.01 mol) in toluene (20 mL) was stirred for 4 h at rt. The precipitated salt (**3b**) was filtered and washed with ether. Salt (**3b**) was dissolved in methanol (30 mL) and refluxed for 1 h. Resulting solid was filtered, washed with water and dried to give pure **4b**. Yield 1.18 g (52 %); mp 246 °C (decomp); IR (KBr, ν $cm^{-1}$): 1692, 1660, 1600, 1514, 1087; Anal. Calcd for $C_9H_7N_2O_3Cl$: C, 47.70; H, 3.11; N, 12.36. Found: C, 47.56; H, 3.18; N, 12.31.

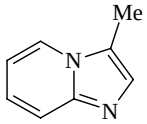
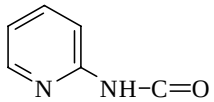
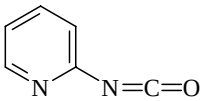
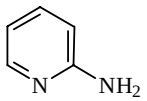
***(6-Bromo-2-oxo-2,3-dihydroimidazo[1,2-a]pyridin-3-yl)acetic acid (4c)***

A mixture of 2-amino-5-bromopyridine (**1c**, 3.46 g, 0.02 mol) and maleic anhydride (**2**, 0.98 g, 0.01 mol) in toluene (20mL) was stirred for 6 h at rt. The precipitated salt (**3c**) was filtered, washed with ether and treated following the procedure and experimental conditions described above for **4b**. Yield of **4c** was 1.22 g (45 %); mp 243 °C (decomp); IR (KBr, ν $cm^{-1}$): 1693, 1658, 1608, 1512, 1071. Anal. Calcd for $C_9H_7N_2O_3Br$: C, 39.88; H, 2.60; N, 10.33. Found: C, 39.77; H, 2.64; N, 10.39.

***(3-Methyl-2-oxo-2,3-dihydroimidazo[1,2-a]pyridin-3-yl)acetic acid (9a)***

*Method A.* To a solution of 2-aminopyridine (**1a**, 0.94 g, 0.01 mol) in ethyl acetate (15 mL) was slowly added a solution of citraconic anhydride (**7**, 1.12 g, 0.01 mol) in ethyl acetate (15 mL). The mixture was stirred for 2 h at rt. The precipitated solid (**9a**) was filtered and recrystallized from 70 % ethanol. Yield 1.75 g (85 %); mp 228 °C (decomp).

*Method B.* The methodology mentioned above in *Method A* was applied for the reaction of 2-aminopyridine (**1a**, 0.94 g, 0.01 mol) and itaconic anhydride (**8**, 1.12 g, 0.01 mol). Yield 0.93 g, 42 %;

mp 228 °C (decomp); IR (KBr, ν $cm^{-1}$): 1757, 1647, 1526; $^{1}H$ NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-$d_6$, TMS): δ 1.38 (3H, s, Me), 2.92, 3.21 (2H, dd, $J_{AB}$ = 17.33 Hz, $CH_2$), 6.81 (1H, t, *J* = 6.78 Hz, $C^6H$), 7.06 (1H, d, *J* = 8.67 Hz, $C^8H$), 7.75 (1H, t, *J* = 7.92 Hz, $C^7H$), 8.34 (1H, d, *J* = 6.40 Hz, $C^5H$), 12.37 (1H, br s, NH); $^{13}C$ NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-$d_6$, TMS): δ 24.4 (Me), 39.8 ($CH_2$), 65.2 (C-3), 111.7 (C-8), 114.3 (C-6), 134.7 (C-5), 142.1 (C-7), 166.3 (C-9), 169.6 (C-2), 187.6 ($COO^-$); MS, m/z (I (%)), for I > 5%: 206 (40) $[M]^+$, 189 (5) $[M - OH]^+$, 188 $[M - H_2O]^+$, 162 (16) $[M - CO_2]^+$, 161 (100) $[M - CO_2 - H]^+$, 160 (28) $[M - CO_2 - 2\ H]^+$, 133 (6) $[M - CO_2 - H - CO]^+$, 132 (23) $[M - CO_2 - 2\ H - CO]^+$, 131 (21) [  ]$^+$, 121 (57) [  ]$^+$, 120 (27) [  ]$^+$, 94 (31) [  ]$^+$, 92 (12), 79 (8), 78 (54), 69 (9), 68 (15), 67 (18). Anal. Calcd for $C_{10}H_{10}N_2O_3$: C, 58.25; H, 4.89; N, 13.59. Found: C, 58.09; H, 4.96; N, 13.48.

Crystal data[15]: $C_{10}H_{10}N_2O_3$; M = 206.2; monoclinic; space group C2/c, at T = 110 K: a = 18.3912(19), b = 10.2569(11), c = 13.1911(14) Å, β = 130.923(2)°, V = 1880.2(3) Å3, Z = 8, $d_{calc}$ = 1.457 g $cm^{-3}$, F(000) = 864, μ = 0.11 $mm^{-1}$.

***(6-Chloro-3-methyl-2-oxo-2,3-dihydroimidazo[1,2-a]pyridin-3-yl)acetic acid (9b)***

This compound was prepared from **1b** (2.57 g, 0.02 mol) and **7** (1.12 g, 0.01 mol) following the procedure and experimental conditions described above for **4a**. Yield 1.61 g, 67 %; mp 231 °C (decomp); IR (KBr, ν $cm^{-1}$): 1716, 1629, 1549, 1055; $^{1}H$ NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-$d_6$, TMS): δ 1.39 (3H, s, Me), 2.93, 3.26 (2H, dd, $J_{AB}$ = 17.33 Hz, $CH_2$), 7.11 (1H, d, *J* = 9.41 Hz, $C^8H$), 7.83 (1H, dd, *J* = 9.42 and 2.26 Hz, $C^7H$), 8.70 (1H, d, *J* = 2.27 Hz, $C^5H$), 12.46 (1H, br s, NH); $^{13}C$ NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-$d_6$, TMS): δ 24.2 (Me), 39.7 ($CH_2$), 66.2 (C-3), 115.5 (C-8), 117.2 (C-6), 133.2 (C-5), 142.4 (C-7), 165.5 (C-9), 169.6 (C-2), 187.8 ($COO^-$); Anal. Calcd for $C_{10}H_9N_2O_3Cl$: C, 49.91; H, 3.77; N, 11.64. Found: C, 49.72; H, 3.84; N, 11.60.

***(6-Bromo-3-methyl-2-oxo-2,3-dihydroimidazo[1,2-a]pyridin-3-yl)acetic acid (9c)***

This compound was prepared from **1c** (3.46 g, 0.02 mol) and **7** (1.12 g, 0.01 mol) following the procedure and experimental conditions described above for **4a**. Yield 1.54 g, 54 % mp 214 °C (decomp); IR (KBr, ν $cm^{-1}$): 1714, 1622, 1538, 1061; $^{1}H$ NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-$d_6$, TMS): δ 1.40 (3H, s, Me), 2.93, 3.27 (2H, dd, $J_{AB}$ = 17.33 Hz, $CH_2$), 7.05 (1H, d, *J* = 9.42 Hz, $C^8H$), 7.89 (1H, dd, *J* = 9.42 and 1.88 Hz, $C^7H$), 8.74 (1H, d, *J* = 2.27 Hz, $C^5H$), 12.46 (1H, br s, NH); $^{13}C$ NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-$d_6$, TMS): δ 24.3 (Me), 39.7

($CH_2$), 66.1 (C-3), 103.5 (C-8), 115.8 (C-6), 135.2 (C-5), 144.6 (C-7), 165.5 (C-9), 169.6 (C-2), 187.6 ($COO^-$); Anal. Calcd for $C_{10}H_9N_2O_3Br$: C, 42.13; H, 3.18; N, 9.83. Found: C, 41.96; H, 3.26; N, 9.76.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Authors thank Russian Foundation on Basic Research (projects 00-03-32807a and 00-15-97359) for financial support. A. V. Dolzhenko thanks Russian Government for the fellowship.

**REFERENCES AND NOTES**

1. N. P. Argade and R. H. Naik, *Bioorg. Med. Chem.*, 1996, **4**, 881.
2. C. Florac, M. Baudy-Floc'h, and A. Robert, *Tetrahedron*, 1990, **46**, 445.
3. M. E. Baumann, H. Bosshard, W. Breitenstein, and G. Rist, *Helv. Chim. Acta*, 1986, **69**, 396.
4. M. Baumann, H. Bosshard, W. Breitenstein, and H. Greuter, Org. Synth.: Interdiscip. Challenge, Proc. IUPAC Symp., 5th, ed. by J. Streith, H. Prinzbach, G. Schill, Blackwell, Oxford, UK, 1985, pp.157-166.
5. M. E. Baumann, H. Bosshard, W. Breitenstein, G. Ribs, and T. Winkler, *Helv. Chim. Acta*, 1984, **67**, 1897.
6. P. Wenk, W. Breitenstein, M. Baumann, *Pat. EP*, 78240, 1983 (*Chem. Abstr*., 1983, **99**, 158229).
7. W. Breitenstein, M. Baumann, and H. Bosshard, *Pat. EP*, 78239, 1983 (*Chem. Abstr*., 1983, **99**, 158221).
8. P. Wenk, W. Breitenstein, and M. Baumann, *Pat. EP*, 78241, 1983 (*Chem. Abstr*., 1983, **99**, 139751).
9. S. Kawashima, T. Matsuno, N. Fukuda, K. Saitoh, Y. Yamaguchi, and M. Higashi, *Pat. WO*, 0260907, 2002 (*Chem. Abstr*., 2002, **137**, 154933).
10. Y. Yamaguchi, T. Matsuno, and S. Kawashima, *Brain Res*., 2002, **945**, 259.
11. Y. Yamaguchi, M. Higashi, T. Matsuno, and S. Kawashima, *Jpn. J. Pharmacol.*, 2001, **87**, 240.
12. V. V. Zalesov and S. S. Kataev, *Pat. RU*, 2137772, 1999 (*Chem. Abstr*., 2000, **133**, 252432).
13. A. V. Galanti, B. T. Keen, R. H. Pater, and D. A. Scola, *J. Polymer Sci., Polymer Chem. Ed.*, 1981, **19**, 2243.
14. G. M. Sheldrick, SHELXTL, V5.10, Bruker AXS Inc., Madison, WI-53719, USA, 1997.
15. Crystallographic data for the structural analysis of **9a** have been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Center and may be obtained free of charge (CCDC, 12 Union Road, Cambridge CB2 1 EZ, UK; fax: +44-1223-336033; e-mail: deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk).