

HETEROCYCLES, Vol. 61, 2003, pp. 493 - 503

Received, 8th September, 2003, Accepted, 8th October, 2003, Published online, 20th October, 2003

## [4+2] CYCLOADDITION REACTIONS OF NEUTRAL 2-AZADIENES WITH ELECTRON-DEFICIENT DIENOPHILES

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**Abstract-** A method for the preparation of functionalized tetrahydropyridine and triazine derivatives is described, based on aza Diels-Alder reaction of neutral 2-aza-1,3-dienes with electron-poor dienophiles as tetracyanoethylene and *N*-phenyl-1,2,4-triazoline-3,5-dione.

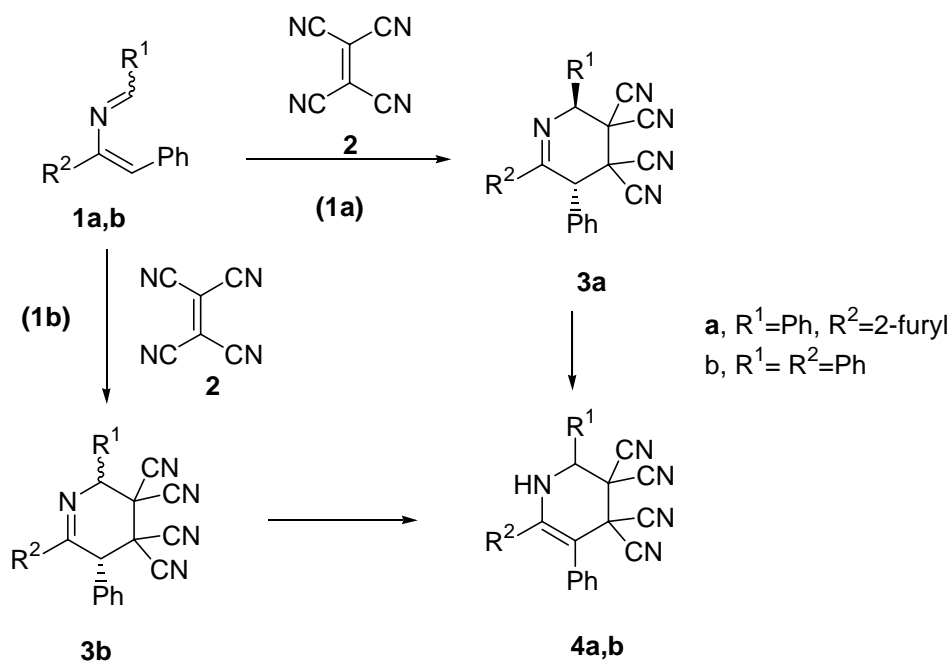
### INTRODUCTION

The Diels-Alder reaction has both enabled and shaped the art and science of synthesis in recent years and 2-azabutadiene systems have proved to be efficient heterodienes in Aza Diels-Alder processes.<sup>1,2</sup> Most 2-azadienes studied are substituted with electron donating groups and are excellent reagents in *normal* Diels-Alder reactions.<sup>1,2b-e,3</sup> Among them, neutral azadienes have been used as heterodienes, not only in *inverse*-electron demand Diels-Alder reactions with electron-rich dienophiles<sup>4</sup> but also in *normal* Diels-Alder reactions with electron-poor dienophiles<sup>1c,f</sup> and with heterodienophiles<sup>5a</sup> for the preparation of nitrogen containing heterocycles. These experimental results are corroborated by theoretical studies.<sup>5b</sup> The presence or absence of substituents especially in 3-position seems to play an important role in the reactivity of 2-azadienes.<sup>6</sup>

Given the above, we have been involved in the synthesis of electron-poor azadienes derived from aminophosphorus derivatives<sup>7</sup> and  $\beta$ -amino esters<sup>8</sup> as well as of neutral azadienes with electron-rich olefins and carbonyl compounds<sup>9</sup> and in the preparation of nitrogen containing heterocycles.<sup>10</sup> As a continuation of our work in the cycloaddition chemistry of neutral 2-azadienes,<sup>9</sup> here we aim to explore whether azadienes with aromatic substituents could react with electron-deficient dienophiles such as tetracyanoethylene (TCNE) and 4-phenyl-1,2,4-triazolin-3,5-dione (4-PTAD).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

**Aza Diels-Alder Reaction of 2-Azadienes (1) with Tetracyanoethylene (2).** We first investigated the Diels-Alder reaction of 1*E*-2-azadiene (**1a**) ( $R^1=Ph$ ,  $R^2=2\text{-furyl}$ ), easily prepared by aza-Wittig treatment of *N*-vinylic phosphazenes and aldehydes,<sup>9c</sup> with tetracyanoethylene (TCNE) (**2**) as electron-deficient alkene in  $CHCl_3$  or toluene at room temperature, leading to the formation of only the polysubstituted tetrahydropyridine (**3a**) with substituents  $R^1$  and Ph in *anti* configuration (Scheme 1, Table 1, Entry 1), in a stereoselective fashion. Compound (**3a**) was characterized on the basis of its spectroscopic data. Thus, the  $^{13}C$  NMR spectrum for compound (**3a**) showed absorptions for the corresponding quaternary carbons substituted with two nitrile groups. In order to study the stereochemistry of the process, azadiene (**1b**) containing phenyl substituents ( $R^1=R^2=Ph$ ) isolated as a mixture of *E*- and *Z*-imine isomers ( $1E/1Z=70/30$ ),<sup>9c</sup> was used affording **3b** as a mixture of isomeric tetrahydropyridines (**3b<sub>1</sub>**) and (**3b<sub>2</sub>**) in similar proportion to those presented in the precursor azadiene (**1b**) (Scheme 1, Table 1, Entry 2).



Scheme 1

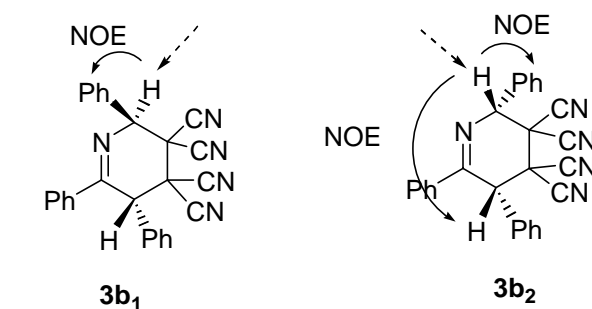


Figure 1

The relative configuration of hydrogens at C-3 and C-6 in both isomers was clarified by NOE difference experiments, which confirmed the proposed structure as no interaction was observed between hydrogens

at C-3 and C-6 in *trans* configuration in compound (**3b<sub>1</sub>**) of higher abundance, and as a significant integral enhancement was seen between protons at C-3 and C-6 in *cis* configuration in the compound (**3b<sub>2</sub>**) obtained in lower proportion (Figure 1).

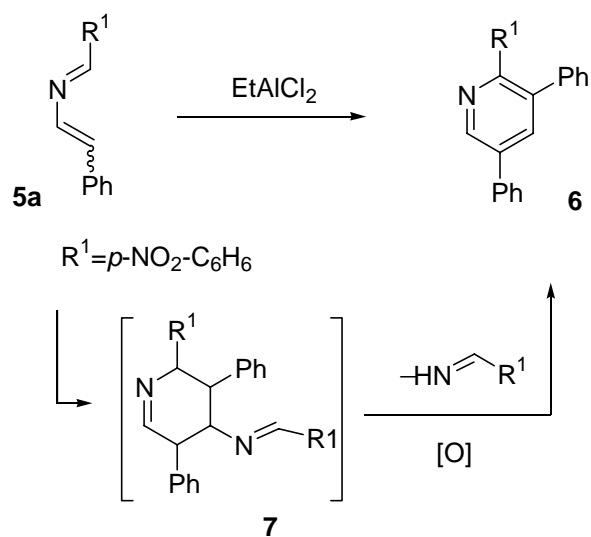
These results suggest that the formation of tetrahydropyridine derivatives (**3**) could be explained by [4+2] cycloaddition of the azadienes (**1**) and tetrasubstituted alkene (**2**). However, we were unable to obtain pure samples of compounds (**3**) by crystallization or by chromatographic purification on silica gel, given that when the purification of compounds (**3**) was attempted, tautomeric tetrahydropyridines (**4**) (Scheme 1, Table 1, Entries 3, 4) were isolated instead.

**Table 1:** Diels-Alder adducts (**3**) and (**4**) obtained.

Entry	Compound	R <sup>1</sup>	R <sup>2</sup>	Reaction conditions			
				T(°C)	time (h)	yield(%)	mp [°C] <sup>b</sup>
1	<b>3a</b>	phenyl	2-furyl	25	0.5	93	127-128
2	<b>3b</b>	phenyl	phenyl	25	0.5	89	_c
3	<b>4a</b>	phenyl	2-furyl	-	-	73a	130-131
4	<b>4b</b>	phenyl	phenyl	-	-	75a	154-155

<sup>a</sup> Purified by chromatography. <sup>b</sup> After recrystallization from CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/Hexane. <sup>c</sup> Evaporation of solvent under reduced pressure and crystallization in hexanes gave a mixture of **3b<sub>1</sub>** and **3b<sub>2</sub>** (70/30) as a white solid

Next, the effect of absence of substituents in position 3 of the heterodiene was explored. No cycloaddition was observed when azadiene (**5a**) (R<sup>1</sup> = *p*-NO<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub>, 3*E*/3*Z* = 40/60) reacted with tetracyanoethylene



Scheme 2



The compounds were characterized by their NMR spectral data, where  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **9a** showed two singlets at 6.29 and 7.06 ppm corresponding to hydrogens at 3 and 6 positions in bicyclic derivative respectively. The structure was finally determined by X-Ray study of **9a**<sup>14</sup> (Figure 2), confirming the stereochemistry proposed. The process could be explained through a [4+2] cycloaddition reaction, which is stereoselective and yields only one stereoisomer.

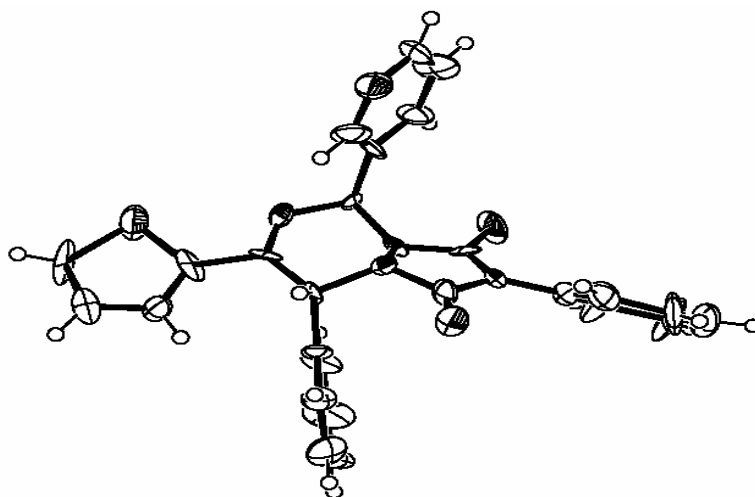
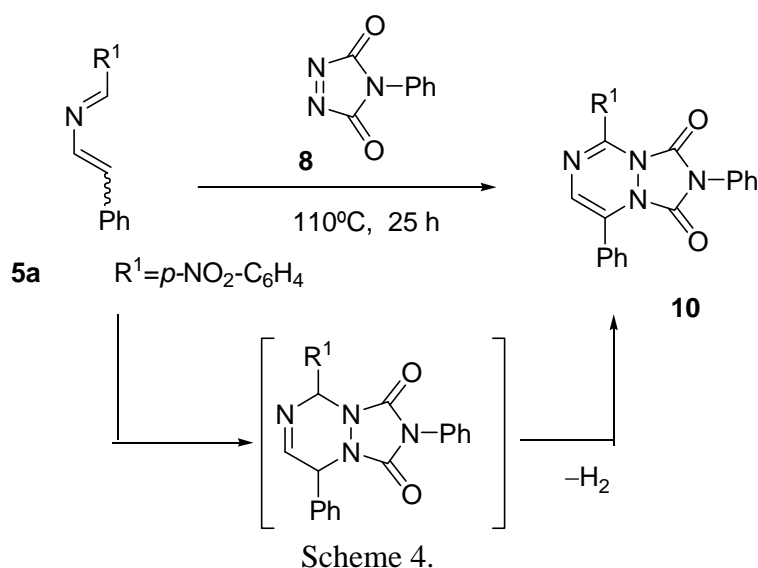


Figure 2. ORTEP view of compound (**9a**)

However, when 2-azadiene (**5a**) ( $\text{R}^1 = p\text{-NO}_2\text{-C}_6\text{H}_4$ ) with no substituent at C-3 position (Scheme 4) was used, very hard reactions conditions were necessary and in a sealed tube at refluxing toluene for 25 h, bicyclic product (**10**) was obtained directly (Scheme 4, Table 2, Entry 3). The formation of this compound (**10**) could be explained by [4+2] cycloaddition reaction followed by loss of an hydrogen molecule.



In summary, electronically neutral 2-aza-1,3-dienes (**1**) and (**5**) with aromatic and heteroaromatic substituents, are a class of heterodienes of great interest, owing to their remarkable aza Diels-Alder reactivity. With electron-deficient dienophiles such as tetracyanoethylene (TCNE) and

*N*-phenyl-1,2,4-triazoline-3,5-dione (PTAD) cycloadducts (**3**, **4**, **9**, **10**) (*normal* Diels-Alder reaction) can be obtained while the presence of a Lewis acid (EtAlCl<sub>2</sub>) catalyzes the dimerization of azadiene (**5a**), in which one molecule acts as electron-rich dienophile and the other as heterodiene (*inverse* electron demand Diels-Alder reaction) to give substituted pyridine (**6**). Pyridine ring systems have received considerable attention not only for their widespread occurrence in nature<sup>15</sup> but also for their remarkable versatility in preparative organic synthesis<sup>15</sup> and in medicinal chemistry,<sup>16</sup> In addition, the furan substituent can be considered as a synthetic equivalent of carboxylic acid. Therefore, through the strategies reported in this paper new access to polysubstituted pyridines can be designed.

## EXPERIMENTAL

**General.** All melting points are uncorrected. Analytical TLC was performed on 0.25 mm silica gel plates. Visualization was accomplished by *UV* light and iodine. Solvents for extraction and chromatography were technical grade and distilled from the indicated drying agents: CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>); *n*-hexane and ether (sodium benzophenone ketyl); ethyl acetate (K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>). All solvents used in reactions were freshly distilled from appropriate drying agents before use: CHCl<sub>3</sub> (P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>); Toluene (CaH<sub>2</sub>); Dioxane (Na, benzophenone). All other reagents were recrystallized or distilled as necessary. Column (flash) chromatography was carried out on silica gel (70-230 mesh). MS (EI) were obtained with a ionization voltage of 70 eV. Data are reported in the form *m/z* (intensity relative to base = 100). IR were taken as neat oils in NaCl, or as solids in KBr. Peaks are reported in cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded at 300 and 75 MHz, respectively, using tetramethylsilane (0.00 ppm) or chloroform (7.26 ppm) as an internal reference in CDCl<sub>3</sub> or D<sub>2</sub>O solutions for <sup>1</sup>H NMR, or chloroform (77.0 ppm) as an internal reference in CDCl<sub>3</sub> or D<sub>2</sub>O solutions for <sup>13</sup>C NMR. <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectra were recorded at 120 MHz with 85% phosphoric acid as an external reference. Chemical shifts are given in ppm ( $\delta$ ). Coupling constants, *J*, are reported in hertz. All reactions were performed in oven (125 °C) or flame-dried glassware under an inert atmosphere of dry N<sub>2</sub>. Azadienes (**1**) were prepared as described in the literature.<sup>9c,d</sup>

**General procedure for preparation of azadienes (5).** Aldehyde (2 mmol) was added to a 0-10 °C solution of phosphazene<sup>17</sup> (2 mmol) in CHCl<sub>3</sub> under N<sub>2</sub>. Then, the mixture was stirred at rt until TLC indicated the disappearance of phosphazene.

**4-Phenyl-1-(4-nitrophenyl)-2-azabuta-1,3-diene (5a)** The general procedure was followed using 4-phenyl-1,1,1-triphenyl-2-aza-1 $\lambda^5$ -phosphabuta-1,3-diene (0.94 g, 2 mmol) and 4-nitrobenzaldehyde (0.30 g, 2 mmol) for 5 h. Evaporation of solvent under reduced pressure and chromatographic purification on neutral aluminium oxide (1/10, ethyl acetate/hexane) gave 0.32 g (63.5 %) of a 40/60 diastereomeric

mixture of 1*E*/3*Z*, 1*E*/3*E* of **5a** as an orange solid, mp 138-139 °C. IR (KBr)  $\nu$  1513, 1348  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  6.23 (d, 1H,  $J = 8.3$  Hz) for 3*Z*, 6.97 (d, 1H,  $J = 8.3$  Hz) for 3*Z*, 7.07 (d, 1H,  $J = 13$  Hz) for 3*E*, 7.20-7.69 (m, 11H), 7.92 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.8$  Hz) for 3*Z*, 7.94 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.8$  Hz) for 3*E*, 8.23 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.8$  Hz) for 3*E*, 8.25 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.8$  Hz) for 3*Z*, 8.29 (s, 1H) for 3*Z*, 8.34 (s, 1H) for 3*Z*;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  124.4-130.9 (m, 11H), 134.2 (for 3*E*), 135.6, 140.3 (for 3*Z*), 141.0 (for 3*E*), 141.8, 142.4, 151.9, 157.9 (for 3*E*), 159.2 (for 3*Z*); MS (EI)  $m/z$  252 ( $\text{M}^+$ , 85). Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{12}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$ : C, 71.42; H, 4.79; N, 11.10. Found: C, 71.40; H, 4.83; N, 11.11.

**1-(4-Nitrophenyl)-2-azabuta-1,3-diene (5b)** The general procedure was followed using 1,1,1-triphenyl-2-aza-1 $\lambda^5$ -phosphabuta-1,3-diene (0.76 g, 2 mmol) and 4-nitrobenzaldehyde (0.30 g, 2 mmol) for 2 h. The reaction product is unstable to distillation or chromatography and therefore was not isolated and used for the following reactions.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of crude reaction mixture (**5a**+ $\text{Ph}_3\text{PO}$ )  $\delta$  5.21 (d, 1H,  $J = 7.3$  Hz), 5.64 (d, 1H,  $J = 14.6$  Hz), 6.76 (dd, 1H,  $J = 7.3$  Hz,  $J = 14.6$  Hz), 7.59-7.89 (m, 15H), 7.91 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.8$  Hz), 8.21 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.8$  Hz), 8.26 (s, 1H).

**General procedure for Aza Diels-Alder reactions.** Dienophile (5 mmol) was added to a 0-10 °C solution of azadiene (**1**) or (**5**) (5 mmol) in  $\text{CHCl}_3$  or toluene (15 mL) under  $\text{N}_2$ . Then, the mixture was stirred at adequate temperature until TLC indicated the disappearance of azadiene.

**6-Furan-2-yl-2,5-diphenyl-2,5-dihydropyridine-3,3,4,4-tetracarbonitrile (3a).** The general procedure was followed using 1,4-diphenyl-3-furan-2-yl-2-azabuta-1,3-diene (**1a**) (1.36 g, 5 mmol) and tetracyanoethylene (**2**) (0.64 g, 5 mmol) in toluene at rt for 0.5 h. Evaporation of solvent under reduced pressure and crystallization of crude reaction in hexane gave 1.86 g (93 %) of **3a** as a green solid, mp 127-128 °C. IR (KBr)  $\nu$  2203, 1633  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  5.01 (s, 1H), 5.78 (s, 1H), 6.33 (t, 1H,  $J = 1.7$  Hz), 6.79 (d, 1H,  $J = 3.6$  Hz), 7.13-7.63 (m, 11H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  45.3, 64.2, 107.7, 109.0, 111.0, 111.3, 112.2, 115.3, 125.1-152.9 (m); MS (CI)  $m/z$  402 ( $\text{M}^++1$ , 100). Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_5\text{O}$ : C, 74.80; H, 3.77; N, 17.45. Found: C, 75.05; H, 4.31; N, 17.16.

**6-Furan-2-yl-2,5-diphenyl-1,2-dihydropyridine-3,3,4,4-tetracarbonitrile (4a)** After column chromatography (10/1, hexane/ethyl acetate) of compound (**3a**), compound (**4a**) was obtained as a green solid, 1.35 g (73 %), mp 130-131 °C ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ /Hexane). IR (KBr)  $\nu$  3400, 1628, 1466  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  1.56 (s, 1H), 5.08 (s, 1H), 5.25 (d, 1H,  $J = 3.6$  Hz), 6.17 (dd, 1H,  $J = 3.6$  Hz,  $J = 1.5$  Hz), 7.19-7.72 (m, 13H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  59.7, 108.9, 109.9, 110.0, 111.6, 112.7, 114.1, 122.1-152.1 (m); MS (EI)  $m/z$  401 ( $\text{M}^+$ , 13). Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_5\text{O}$ : C, 74.80; H, 3.77; N, 17.45. Found: C, 74.85; H, 3.79; N, 17.44.

**trans-Triphenyl-2,5-dihydropyridine-3,3,4,4-tetracarbonitrile (3b<sub>1</sub>), cis-2,3,6-triphenyl-2,5-dihydropyridine-3,3,4,4-tetracarbonitrile (3b<sub>2</sub>) and 2,5,6-triphenyl-1,2-dihydropyridine-3,3,4,4-tetra-**

**carbonitrile (4b)** The general procedure was followed using a 70/30 diastereomeric mixture of 1*E*/1*Z* isomers of 3*Z*-1,3,4-triphenyl-2-azabuta-1,3-diene (**1b**) (1.41 g) and tetracyanoethylene (**2**) (0.64 g) in CHCl<sub>3</sub> for 0.5 h. Evaporation of solvent under reduced pressure and crystallization in hexanes gave 1.83 g (89 %) of a mixture of **3b<sub>1</sub>** and **3b<sub>2</sub>** compounds (70/30) as a white solid, mp 165-168 °C (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/Hexane). IR (KBr)  $\nu$  2245, 1640 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  5.02 (d, 1H, *J* = 3.2 Hz) for **3b<sub>2</sub>**, 5.12 (d, 1H, *J* = 1.8 Hz) for **3b<sub>1</sub>**, 5.78 (d, 1H, *J* = 3.2 Hz) for **3b<sub>2</sub>**, 5.84 (d, 1H, *J* = 1.8 Hz) for **3b<sub>1</sub>**, 7.14-7.78 (m, 30H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  45.9 for **3b<sub>1</sub>**, 48.5 for **3b<sub>2</sub>**, 63.6 for **3b<sub>2</sub>**, 64.6 for **3b<sub>1</sub>**, 107.9 for **3b<sub>1</sub>**, 108.4 for **3b<sub>2</sub>**, 109.3 for **3b<sub>1</sub>**, 109.5 for **3b<sub>2</sub>**, 110.0 for **3b<sub>2</sub>**, 110.4 for **3b<sub>2</sub>**, 111.3 for **3b<sub>1</sub>**, 111.5 for **3b<sub>1</sub>**, 125.1-135.6 (m), 161.4 for **3b<sub>1</sub>**, 164.1 for **3b<sub>2</sub>**; MS (CI) *m/z* 412 (M<sup>++1</sup>, 100). After column chromatography (10/1, hexane/ethyl acetate) of compound (**3b**), compound (**4b**) was obtained as a pink solid, 1.37 g (75 %), mp 154-155 °C (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/Hexane). IR (KBr)  $\nu$  2243, 1640 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  4.60 (s, 1H), 5.21 (s, 1H), 7.20-7.77 (m, 15H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  59.7, 108.7, 109.7, 110.1, 111.8, 127.4-135.6 (m), 145.8; MS (CI) *m/z* 412 (M<sup>++1</sup>, 100). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>17</sub>N<sub>5</sub>: C, 78.81; H, 4.16; N, 17.02. Found: C, 78.88; H 4.08; N, 16.96.

**2-(4-Nitrophenyl)-3,5-diphenylpyridine (6)** The general procedure was followed using a 40/60 diastereomeric mixture of 3*Z*/3*E* isomers of 1*E*-1-(4-nitrophenyl)-4-phenyl-2-azabuta-1,3-diene (**5a**) (1.25 g) and EtAlCl<sub>2</sub> (0.5 mL, 97%, 5 mmol). After stirring at rt during 120 h, the mixture was neutralized with 6 mL of NaOH (3 N) and stirred at rt for 3 h. Filtration over Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, extraction with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>) and evaporation of solvent under reduced pressure afforded an oil which was chromatographed on silicagel (10/1, ethyl acetate/ hexane) giving 0.22 g (63%) of **6** as a yellow solid, mp 143-144 °C (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/Hexane). IR (KBr)  $\nu$  1520, 1347 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.14-7.49 (m, 10H), 7.52 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 7.90 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.1 Hz) 8.04 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 8.89 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.1 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  123.1-138.9 (m), 146.3, 147.0, 147.2, 153.2; MS (EI) *m/z* 352 (M<sup>+</sup>, 72). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: C, 78.39; H, 4.58; N, 7.95. Found: C, 78.43; H, 4.50; N, 7.98.

**7-Furan-2-yl-2,5,8-triphenyl-5,8-dihydro-[1,2,4]-triazolo[1,2-*a*][1,2,4]triazine-1,3-dione (9a)** The general procedure was followed using 1*E*/3*Z*-1,4-diphenyl-3-furan-2-yl-2-azabuta-1,3-diene (**1a**) (1.36 g) and *N*-phenyl-1,2,4-triazoline-3,5-dione (**8**) (0.90 g, 5 mmol) in toluene at reflux for 1 h. Evaporation of solvent under reduced pressure and chromatographic separation (5/1, hexane/ethyl acetate) gave 1.54 g (69 %) of **9a** as a yellow solid, mp 185-186 °C (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/Hexane). IR (KBr)  $\nu$  1726 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  6.23 (s, 1H), 6.40-6.43 (m, 1H), 6.87 (d, 1H, *J* = 3.5 Hz), 7.12-7.54 (m, 16H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  58.9, 73.3, 112.0, 114.3, 125.1-152.4 (m); MS (EI) *m/z* 448 (M<sup>+</sup>, 50). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>20</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>3</sub>: C, 72.31; H, 4.49; N, 12.49. Found: C, 72.21; H, 4.37; N, 12.41.

**2,8-Diphenyl-5-pyridin-3-yl-2-thien-2-yl-5,8-dihydro[1,2,4]triazolo[1,2-*a*][1,2,4]triazine-1,3-dione**

**(9c)** The general procedure was followed using 3-thien-2-yl-4-phenyl-1-pyridin-3-yl-2-azabuta-1,3-diene **1c** (1.45 g) and *N*-phenyl-1,2,4-triazoline-3,5-dione (**8**) (0.90 g, 5 mmol) in toluene at rt for 1 h. Evaporation of solvent under reduced pressure and chromatographic separation (5/1, hexane/ethyl acetate) gave 1.63 g (70 %) of **9c** as a white solid, mp 147-149 °C (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/Hexane). IR (KBr)  $\nu$  1719 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  6.29 (s, 1H), 6.97-7.00 (m, 1H), 7.06 (s, 1H), 7.13-7.56 (m, 13H), 7.78-7.82 (m, 1H), 8.65 (dd, 1H, *J* = 4.9 Hz, *J* = 1.2 Hz), 8.77 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.3 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  60.1, 71.2, 123.5-156.5 (m); MS (CI) *m/z* 466 (M<sup>+</sup>+1, 100). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>19</sub>N<sub>5</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S: C, 67.08; H, 4.11; N, 15.04. Found: C, 66.99; H, 4.00; N, 14.96.

**2,8-Diphenyl-5-(*p*-nitrophenyl)[1,2,4]triazolo[1,2-*a*][1,2,4]triazine-1,3-dione (10)** The general procedure was followed using 1-(*p*-nitro-phenyl)-4-phenyl-2-azabuta-1,3-diene (**5a**) (1.27 g) and *N*-phenyl-1,2,4-triazoline-3,5-dione (**8**) (0.90 g, 1 mmol) in toluene at reflux for 25 h. Evaporation of solvent under reduced pressure and chromatographic separation (15/1, hexane/ethyl ether) gave 0.88 g (70 %) of **10** as an orange oil, *R*<sub>f</sub> = 0.59 (1/2, ethyl acetate/hexane). IR (KBr)  $\nu$  1600, 1520 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.18-7.69 (m, 10H), 8.01 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 8.26 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 8.49 (s, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  120.9-150.9 (m), 157.3; MS (EI) *m/z* 425 (M<sup>+</sup>, 11). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>15</sub>N<sub>5</sub>O<sub>4</sub>: C, 64.94; H, 3.55; N, 16.46. Found: C, 64.97; H, 3.50; N, 16.49.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The present work has been supported by the *Universidad del País Vasco* (UPV-GC/2002) and by the *Dirección General de Investigación Científica* of the *Ministerio de Ciencia y Tecnología* (Madrid DGI-MCYT, BQU2000-0217) and C.A. thanks the *Departamento de Educación, Universidades e Investigación* of *Gobierno Vasco* for a Postdoctoral Fellowship.

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