

**SUBSTITUTED VINYL AZIDES IN SYNTHESIS OF FURO[3,2-*b*:4,5-*b'*]-
DIPYRROLES AND PYRROLO[2',3':4,5]FURO[3,2-*c*]PYRIDINES**

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*(Dedicated to Professor Alan R. Katritzky
on the occasion of his 65th birthday)*

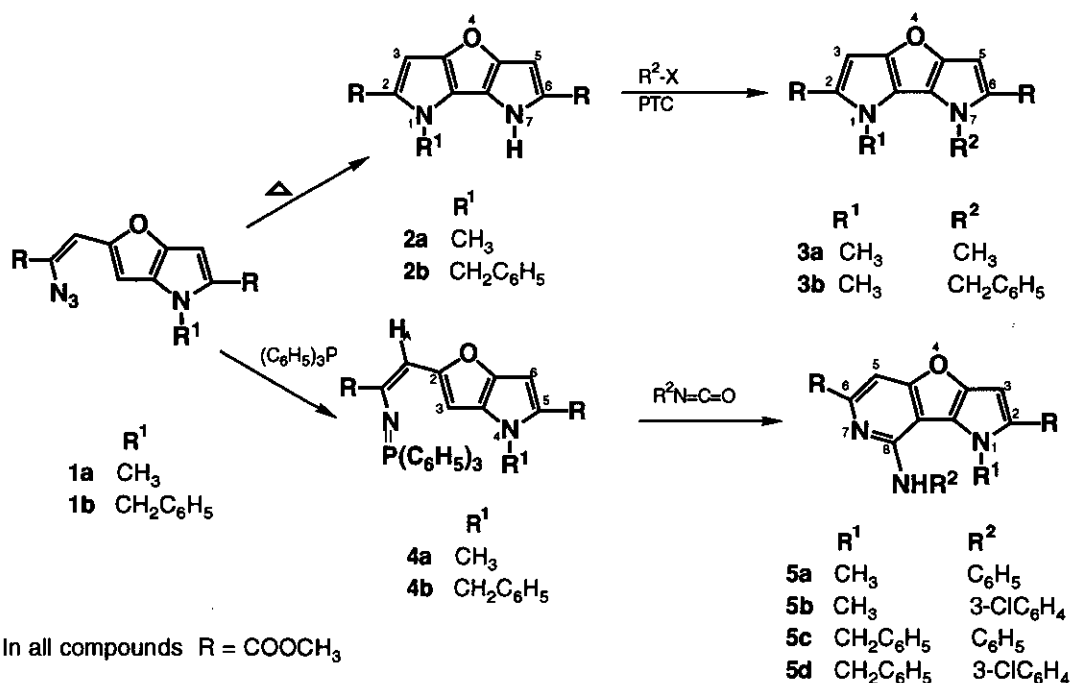
Abstract - A number of pyrrolo[2',3':4,5]furo[3,2-*c*]pyridines (**5a-5d**) were prepared by the reaction of corresponding iminophosphoranes (**4a, 4b**), available from substituted vinylazides (**1a, 1b**) and triphenylphosphine, with phenyl or 3-chlorophenyl isocyanates. The appropriate vinylazides (**1a, 1b**) were used for the preparation of substituted furo[3,2-*b*:4,5-*b'*]-dipyrroles (**2a, 2b**). Compounds (**3a, 3b**) were prepared in phase transfer catalysis conditions.

The several reaction centres of substituted furo[3,2-*b*]pyrroles were studied¹ and utilized in the synthesis of new heterocyclic systems. The paper¹ presents the formylation, nitration, Mannich reaction and copulation of variously substituted furo[3,2-*b*]pyrroles or their benzo[*b*]derivatives. The studies¹ of addition and cycloaddition reactions of furo[3,2-*b*]pyrroles and their condensed derivatives showed that their reaction course is influenced by the substituents attached to this system.

Several methods have been described² for the synthesis of furo[3,2-*c*]pyridine system, starting either from pyridines or furans.³⁻⁶ Electrophilic⁷ and nucleophilic⁸ reactions and biological properties⁹ of the substituted furo[3,2-*c*]pyridines were studied.

In continuation of our previous efforts^{1,11} towards the preparation of condensed *O,N*-heterocycles we here report efficient syntheses of some representatives of the title ring systems (Scheme 1).

Reaction of methyl 2-formyl-4-methylfuro[3,2-*b*]pyrrole-5-carboxylate with methyl azidoacetate in the presence of a sodium ethoxide was found¹¹ to proceed smoothly to give **1a**, the thermolysis of which was carried out in boiling toluene and lent to dimethyl 1-methyl-7-*H*-furo[3,2-*b*:4,5-*b'*]dipyrrole-2,6-carboxylate (**2a**). Analogously (**2b**) was prepared. This reaction was relatively rapid and afforded the product in good yield.



Scheme 1

The phase transfer catalysis was found to be successful for methylation and benzylation of compound (**2a**) or (**2b**) to give **3a** or **3b**.

Further the compounds (**1a**) and (**1b**) reacted with triphenylphosphine in dry dichloromethane to give iminophosphoranes (**4a**) and (**4b**) in very good yield. Compounds (**4a**) and (**4b**) reacted with phenyl or 3-chlorophenyl isocyanate in dry toluene under reflux to give triphenylphosphine oxide and corresponding substituted pyrrolo[2'3':4,5]furo[3,2-*c*]pyridines (**5a-5d**) via appropriate carbodiimides which were not isolated.

EXPERIMENTAL

Melting points were determined on a Kofler hot apparatus and are uncorrected. ¹H Nmr (300 MHz) and ¹³C nmr (75.43 MHz) spectra were recorded on a Bruker AM-300 FT nmr spectrometer at 298 K. Chemical shifts are expressed in ppm relative to TMS as internal standard. The *uv* spectra

were measured on a M-40 (Carl Zeiss Jena) spectrophotometer in methanol, concentration 10^{-4} mol.dm⁻³ or saturated solution of (**5a**, **5b**, **5d**) ($\lambda_{\max}/\log \epsilon$; $\lambda_{\max}$ in nm, ϵ in m²mol⁻¹). The *ir* spectra were recorded on a FTIR PU 9802/25 (Philips) spectrophotometer using KBr technique (0.5 mg / 300 mg KBr, ν in cm⁻¹). The starting compounds (**1a**) and (**1b**) were prepared according to ref.¹¹

Dimethyl 1-Methyl-7H-furo[3,2-b:4,5-b']dipyrrole-2,6-dicarboxylate (2a)

Methyl 2-azido-3-[(5-methoxycarbonyl-4-methyl)furo[3,2-b]-2-pyrrolyl]propenoate (**1a**) (1g, 3.29 mmol) was dissolved in toluene (100 ml). The mixture was refluxed under stirring for 1 h, the solvent was evaporated in *vacuo* and the product was crystallized. Yield 66 %; mp 291-293°C (methanol). *Anal.* Calcd for C₁₃H₁₂N₂O₅: C, 56.52; H, 4.38; N, 10.14 %. Found: C, 56.79; H, 4.46; N, 10.02 %. *uv*: 358 (3.83), 345sh (3.74), 273 (2.84), 227 (2.99); *ir*: 1695, 1666 (C=O), 3290 (NH);

¹H *nmr* (DMSO-*d*₆): 6.75 (s, 1H, H-3), 6.78 (d, 1H, H-5, J_{5,7} = 2.0 Hz), 12.43 (br s, 1H, NH), 4.06 (s, 3H, N-CH₃), 3.71 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 3.76 (s, 3H, OCH₃); ¹³C *nmr* (DMSO-*d*₆): 121.90 (C-2), 99.02 (C-3) 150.07 (C-3a), 152.65 (C-4a), 97.29 (C-5), 121.90 (C-6), 117.27 (C-7a), 121.10 (C-7b), 161.30 and 161.25 (CO), 52.35 and 51.07 (OCH₃), 35.86 (N-CH₃).

Starting from **1b** analogously was prepared methyl 1-benzyl-7H-furo[3,2-b:4,5-b']dipyrrole-2,6-carboxylate (**2b**). Yield 74 %; mp 226-227°C (methanol). *Anal.* Calcd for C₁₉H₁₆N₂O₅: C, 64.77; H, 4.58; N, 7.95 %. Found: C, 64.99; H, 4.66; N, 7.84 %. *uv*: 359 (3.77), 346sh (3.68), 274 (2.81), 227 (2.94); *ir*: 1699, 1664 (C=O), 3294 (NH); ¹H *nmr* (DMSO-*d*₆): 6.98 (br s, 1H, H-3), 6.91 (s, 1H, H-5), 12.42 (br s, 1H, NH), 7.00-7.37 (m, 5H, H_{arom}), 5.82 (s, 2H, CH₂), 3.75 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 3.62 (s, 3H, OCH₃); ¹³C *nmr* (DMSO-*d*₆): 122.21 (C-2), 100.37 (C-3), 150.42 (C-3a), 152.96 (C-4a), 97.45 (C-5), 121.90 (C-6), 117.20 (C-7a), 120.55 (C-7b), 161.32 and 161.02 (CO), 51.43 and 51.15 (OCH₃), R¹: 50.50 (CH₂), 138.6 (C-1'), 128.45 (C-3', 5'), 127.16 (C-4'), 126.36 (C-2', 6').

Dimethyl 1,7-Dimethylfuro[3,2-b:4,5-b']dipyrrole-2,6-dicarboxylate (3a)

A solution of sodium hydroxide (50%, 30 ml), methyl iodide (1.56 g, 11 mmol) and triethylbenzylammonium chloride (0.4 g, 1.76 mmol) were added to a stirred solution of **2a** (2.76, 10 mmol) in toluene (100 ml). The temperature was then raised to 65°C and the mixture was stirred for 4 h, diluted with water and the organic layer was separated. The aqueous layer was extracted with ether and combined with toluene solution, dried over sodium sulfate and the solvent was removed. The residue was crystallized. Yield 86 %; mp 240-241°C (dimethylformamide). *Anal.* Calcd for C₁₄H₁₄N₂O₅:

C, 57.93; H, 4.86; N, 9.65 %. Found: C, 57.79; H, 4.76; N, 9.82 %. *uv*: 359 (3.66), 345sh (3.61), 275 (2.65) 229 (2.78); *ir*: 1709, 1691 (C=O); ^1H *nmr* (DMSO- d_6): 6.82 (s, 2H, H-3,5), 4.15 (s, 6H, 2x N-CH₃) 3.72 (s, 6H, 2x OCH₃); ^{13}C *nmr* (DMSO- d_6): 121.30 (C-2,6), 99.03 (C-3,5), 150.31 (C-3a,4a), 121.30 (C-7a,7b), 161.30 (CO), 51.24 (OCH₃), 35.69 (N-CH₃).

Starting from **2b** was made *dimethyl 1-benzyl-7-methylfuro[3,2-b:4,5-b']dipyrrole-2,6-dicarboxylate* (**3b**). Yield 84 %; mp 197-200°C (methanol). *Anal.* Calcd for C₂₀H₁₈N₂O₅: C, 65.56; H, 4.95; N, 7.65 %. Found: C, 65.79 ; H, 4.86; N, 7.72 %. *uv*: 359 (3.73), 345sh (3.64), 274 (2.74), 229 (2.77); *ir*: 1691 (C=O); ^1H *nmr* (DMSO- d_6): 7.40-6.90 (m, 5H, H_{arom}), 6.98 (s, 1H, H-3), 6.82 (s, 1H, H-5), 5.94 (s, 2H, CH₂), 3.80 (s, 3H, N-CH₃), 3.68 (s, 6H, 3x OCH₃); ^{13}C *nmr* (DMSO- d_6): 100.01 (C-3), 150.74 (C-3a), 150.60 (C-4a), 99.12 (C-5), 121.70, 121.65, 121.50, 121.40 (C-2, 6, 7a, 7b), 161.15 (CO), 51.28 (OCH₃), 35.07 (N-CH₃). R²: 35.07 (CH₂), 137.86 (C-1'), 128.79 (C-3', 5'), 127.25 (C-4'), 125.40 (C-2',6').

Methyl 2-Triphenylphosphoimino-3-[(4-methyl-5-methoxycarbonyl)furo[3,2-b]pyrrol-2-yl]propenoate (**4a**). A solution of triphenylphosphine (1.31 g, 5 mmol) in dry dichloromethane (20 ml) was added dropwise under nitrogen to a stirred solution of **1a** (1.52 g, 5 mmol) in the same solvent (10 ml) at 0°C. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm to the room temperature and stirring was continued for 20 h. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residual solid was recrystallized to give **4a**. Yield 2.42 g, 90%; mp 215-217°C (dichloromethane / isohexane 1:1). *Anal.* Calcd for C₃₁H₂₇N₂O₅P: C, 69.14; H, 5.05; N, 5.20 %. Found: C, 69.29; H, 4.96 ; N, 5.32%. *uv*: 411 (3.60), 289 (2.91); *ir*: 1690 (C=O); ^1H *nmr* (CDCl₃): 6.71 (d, 1H, H-6, J_{3,6} = 0.8 Hz), 6.80 (d, 1H, H_A, J_{A,P} = 7.2 Hz), 7.25-7.87 (m, 16H, H_{arom} and H-3), 3.83 (s, 3H, N-CH₃), 3.81 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 3.42 (s, 3H, OCH₃).

Starting from **1b** analogously was prepared *methyl 2-triphenylphosphoimino-3-[(4-benzyl-5-methoxycarbonyl)furo[3,2-b]pyrrol-2-yl]propenoate* (**4b**). Yield 76 %; mp 217-220 °C (dichloromethane / isohexane 1:1). *Anal.* Calcd for C₃₇H₃₁N₂O₅P: C, 72.30; H, 5.08; N, 4.56 %. Found: C, 72.29; H, 5.16; N, 4.32 %. *uv*: 412 (3.60), 290 (2.91); *ir*: 1693 (C=O); ^1H *nmr* (CDCl₃): 6.77(d, 1H, H-6, J_{3,6} = 0.8 Hz), 6.81 (d, 1H, H_A, J_{A,P}=7.0 Hz), 7.00-7.87 (m, 21H, H_{arom} and H-3), 5.49 (s, 2H, CH₂), 3.77 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 3.41 (s, 3H, OCH₃).

Dimethyl 1-Methyl-8-phenylaminopyrrolo[2',3':4,5]furo[3,2-c]pyridine-2,6-dicarboxylate (5a)

A solution of the phenyl isocyanate (0.60 g, 5 mmol) in dry toluene (50 ml) was added dropwise under nitrogen to stirred solution of **4a** (2.69 g, 5 mmol). The reaction mixture was refluxed for 12 h. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the solid residue was crystallized. Yield 1.02 g, 66%; mp 215-217°C (methanol). *Anal.* Calcd for $C_{20}H_{17}N_3O_5$: C, 63.32; H, 4.52; N, 11.08 %. Found: C, 63.29; H, 4.58; N, 11.18 %. *uv*: 368, 318, 270; *ir*: 1738, 1734, 1703 (C=O), 3290 (NH); 1H nmr (DMSO- d_6): 6.99 (s, 1H, H-3), 7.84 (s, 1H, H-5), 8.90 (br s, 1H, NH), 6.75-7.60 (m, 5H, H_{arom}), 4.11 (s, 3H, N-CH₃), 3.82 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 3.75 (s, 3H, OCH₃); ^{13}C nmr (DMSO- d_6): 125.82 (C-2), 97.89 (C-3), 104.62 (C-5), 141.17 (C-6), 147.47 (C-8), 147.20 (C-3a), 160.90 (C-4a), 125.82 (C-8b), 107.58 (C-8a), 165.25 and 164.90 (CO), 52.42 and 51.57 (OCH₃), 35.52 (N-CH₃), R²: 141.65 (C-1'), 128.72 (C-3', 5'), 121.14 (C-4'), 117.94 (C-2', 6').

Starting from **4a** analogously was prepared *dimethyl 1-methyl-8-(3-chlorophenylamino)pyrrolo[2',3':4,5]furo[3,2-c]pyridine-2,6-dicarboxylate (5b)*. Yield 67 %; mp 214-217 °C (methanol). *Anal.* Calcd for $C_{20}H_{16}ClN_3O_5$: C, 58.05; H, 3.89; N, 10.15 %. Found: C, 58.19; H, 3.88; N, 10.18 %. *uv*: 367, 319, 270; *ir*: 1738, 1709 (C=O), 3462 (NH); 1H nmr (DMSO- d_6): 6.99 (s, 1H, H-3), 7.86 (s, 1H, H-5), 9.02 (br s, 1H, NH), 7.81 (t, 1H, H-2', J_{2',4'} = J_{2',6'} = 2.0 Hz), 6.70-7.50 (m, 3H, H-4',5',6'), 4.19 (s, 3H, N-CH₃), 3.84 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 3.77 (s, 3H, OCH₃); ^{13}C nmr (DMSO- d_6): 125.98 (C-2), 97.90 (C-3), 104.97 (C-5), 140.88 (C-6), 147.62 (C-8), 146.42 (C-3a), 160.90 (C-4a), 107.58 (8a), 125.18 (8b), 165.22 and 164.74 CO), 52.47 and 51.60 (OCH₃), 35.68 (N-CH₃), R²: 142.88, 116.45, 133.20, 120.63, 130.20, 117.53 (C-1', 2', 3', 4', 5', 6').

Starting from **4b** analogously were prepared: *Dimethyl 1-Benzyl-8-phenylaminopyrrolo[2',3':4,5]furo[3,2-c]pyridine-2,6-dicarboxylate (5c)*. Yield 69 %; mp 206-209 °C (methanol). *Anal.* Calcd for $C_{26}H_{21}N_3O_5$: C, 68.56; H, 4.65, N, 9.23 %. Found: C, 68.49; H, 4.69; N, 9.33 %. *uv*: 372 (3.28), 317 (3.30), 270 (3.41); *ir*: 1738, 1705 (C=O), 3408, 3381 (NH); 1H nmr (DMSO- d_6): 7.16 (s, 1H, H-3), 7.85 (s, 1H, H-5), 8.61 (br s, 1H, NH), 6.02 (s, 2H, CH₂), 6.75-7.50 (m, 5H, H_{arom}), 3.81 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 3.74 (s, 3H, OCH₃); ^{13}C nmr (DMSO- d_6): 125.40 (C-2), 99.60 (C-3), 104.58 (C-5), 141.20 (C-6), 148.02 (C-8), 147.07 (C-3a), 160.92 (C-4a), 125.24 (C-8b), 107.21 (C-8a), 165.50 and 164.84 (CO), 52.47 and 51.74 (OCH₃), 50.15 (CH₂), R¹: 138.02 (C-1''), 128.65 (C-3'', 5''), 127.40 (C-4''), 125.74 (C-2'', 6''), R²: 141.40 (C-1'), 128.65 (C-3',5'), 121.37 (C-4'), 116.19 (C-2', 6').

Dimethyl 1-Benzyl-8-(3-chlorophenylamino)pyrrolo[2',3':4,5]furo[3,2-c]pyridine-2,6-dicarboxylate (5d). Yield 79 %; mp 225-226°C (methanol). *Anal.* Calcd. for $C_{26}H_{20}ClN_3O_5$: C, 63.74; H, 4.11; N, 8.58 %. Found: C, 63.49; H, 4.19; N, 8.43 %. *uv*: 367, 319, 270; *ir*: 1711 (C=O), 3372 (NH); 1H *nmr* (DMSO- d_6): 7.18 (s, 1H, H-3), 7.90 (s, 1H, H-5), 8.84 (br s, 1H, NH), 7.65 (t, 1H, H-2' in R², $J_{2',4'} = J_{2',6'} = 2.0$ Hz), 6.75-7.50 (m, 8H, H_{arom}), 6.10 (s, 2H, CH₂), 3.82 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 3.75 (s, 3H, OCH₃); ^{13}C *nmr* (DMSO- d_6): 125.91 (C-2), 99.63 (C-3), 105.06 (C-5), 141.20 (C-6), 148.20 (C-8), 146.30 (C-3a), 160.90 (C-4a), 107.51 (C-8a), 125.10 (C-8b), 165.50 and 164.70 (CO), 52.53 and 51.80 (OCH₃), 50.28 (CH₂), R¹: 137.96 (C-1"), 128.58 (C-3", 5"), 125.64 (C-2", 6"), 127.35 (C-4"), R²: 142.67, 116.53, 133.10, 120.78, 130.14, 117.59 (C-1', 2', 3', 4', 5', 6').

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This study was supported by Grant Agency of Slovak Ministry of Education (Registr. No. of the project 1/141/92). The excellent assistance of Mrs. J. Lehká is gratefully acknowledged.

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