

SYNTHESIS OF β -LACTAMS USING THE PHOTOCHEMICAL REACTION OF
4-OXYGENATED 2-PYRIDONE DERIVATIVES

Nobuya Katagiri, Masayuki Sato, Makoto Muto, Toshiyuki Sakamoto,
Satoshi Saikawa, and Chikara Kaneko

Pharmaceutical Institute, Tohoku University, Aobayama, Sendai 980, Japan

Toshihiko Naito and Akemi Saito

Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Kanazawa University,
Takara-machi, Kanazawa 920, Japan

4-(2-Hydroxyethyl)azetidin-2-ones and 4-alkoxycarbonylmethylazetidin-2-ones, important synthetic intermediates for carbapenems, have been synthesized from 5-oxygenated photopyridones (3-oxo-2-azabicyclo[2.2.0]hex-5-enes).

A solution of 4-acetoxy-2-pyridones (1, Z=COMe) in ether or ether-acetonitrile was irradiated at ≥ 300 nm to give the photopyridones (2, Z=COMe) in good yields. Catalytic reduction of 2 over Pd-C gave 3-oxo-2-azabicyclo[2.2.0]hexanes (3, Z=COMe). Treatment of 3 (Z=COMe) with K_2CO_3 -NaBH₄ in MeOH, followed by acetylation with Ac₂O-pyridine afforded 4-(2-acetoxyethyl)azetidin-2-ones (6). On the other hand, compound 3 [R=H, Z=SiMe₂(t-Bu)], on treatment with acids, was transformed into 5-hydroxy-3-oxo-2-azabicyclo[2.2.0]hexane (3, R=Z=H), a stable synthetic equivalent of 4-(2-oxoethyl)azetidin-2-one (5, R=H). Compound 3 (R=Z=H) was also obtained from 3 (R=H, Z=CH₂Ph) by acidic hydrogenation over Pd-C. Compound 2 [R=H or Me, Z=SiMe₂(t-Bu)] was desilylated under acidic conditions to give 3,5-dioxo-2-azabicyclo[2.2.0]hexanes (4, R=H or Me) which was also prepared by treatment of 2 (Z=Me, CH₂Ph) with acids. Compound 4 reacted with various alcohols and hydro-sulfides to give 4-alkoxy- and 4-alkylthio-carbonylmethylazetidin-2-ones (7, R'=OR and SR), respectively.

