

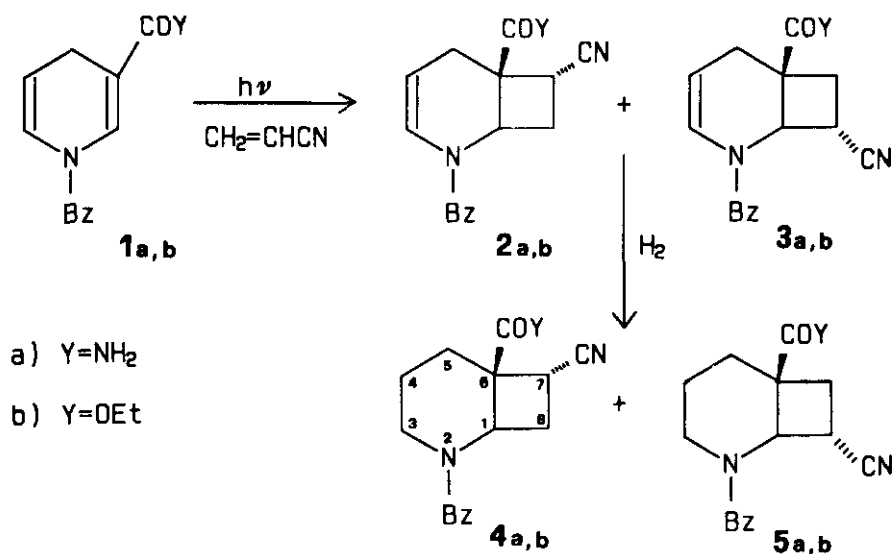
PHOTOCHEMICAL ROUTE TO CYCLOBUT[b]ISOXAZOLO[4,5-e]PYRIDINE, A NEW
HETEROCYCLIC SYSTEM

Giorgio Adembri*, Donato Donati, Stefania Fusi, and Fabio Ponticelli
Istituto di Chimica Organica dell'Università
Pian dei Mantellini 44, 53100 Siena, Italy

Abstract - Photochemical adducts between 3-carbamoyl- or 3-ethoxycarbonyl-1-benzyl-1,4-dihydropyridine and $\text{CH}_2=\text{CH}-\text{CN}$ were transformed to derivatives of title compound (6a,b and 7a,b) via regio- and stereospecific 1,3-dipolar addition of p-Cl-benzonitriloxide. Isomers 8 and 9 with inverted configuration at carbon bearing CN group can be obtained in EtOH/EtO⁻ solution.

As recently reported ¹, irradiation of 1-benzyl-1,4-dihyronicotinamide 1a in presence of acrylonitrile, give two photoadducts (2a,3a) deriving from 2+2 cycloaddition on the 2-3 double bond. A trans configuration between -CN and -CONH₂ groups was demonstrated for both compounds, after catalytic hydrogenation of the residue double bond (scheme 1). The 7-cyano-2-azabicyclo[4.2.0]octane-6-carboxamide 4a so obtained, non-competitively inhibited the lactoperoxidase ². Such preliminary result, suggesting pharmacological interest for this type of compounds, prompted us to extend the above reaction to the ethyl 1-benzyl-1,4-dihyronicotinate 1b in order to obtain more versatile intermediates.

Photochemical addition of acrylonitrile on 1b displayed an analogous trend in respect to 1a both from the regio- and stereochemical point of view. In fact we isolated compounds 4b and 5b, after hydrogenation of the crude reaction mixture.



Scheme 1

The CN group position was assigned at C₇ for compound 4b and at C₈ for compound 5b on the basis of the multiplicity of the H₁ signal in the ¹H-nmr spectrum. The trans configuration of the CN group in respect to the COOEt group followed from the comparison of the coupling constants of cyclobutane protons between carbetoxy and carbamoyl derivatives, whose structure was previously demonstrated ¹. The similarity between the coupling constants (fig. 1) exclude any different configuration.

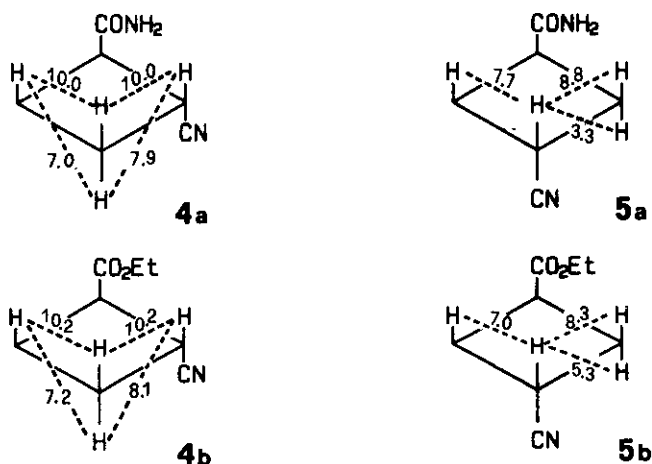
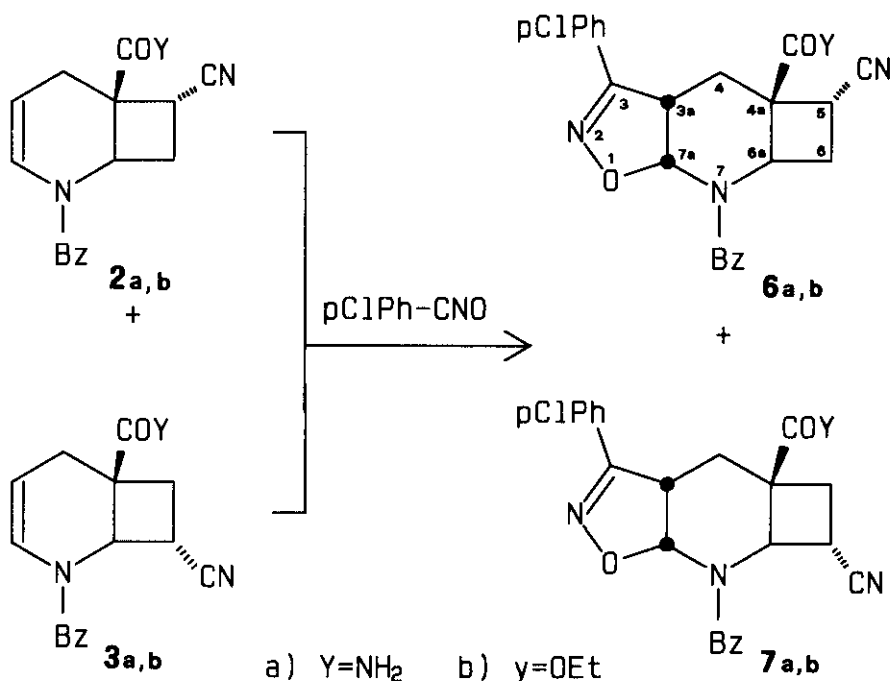


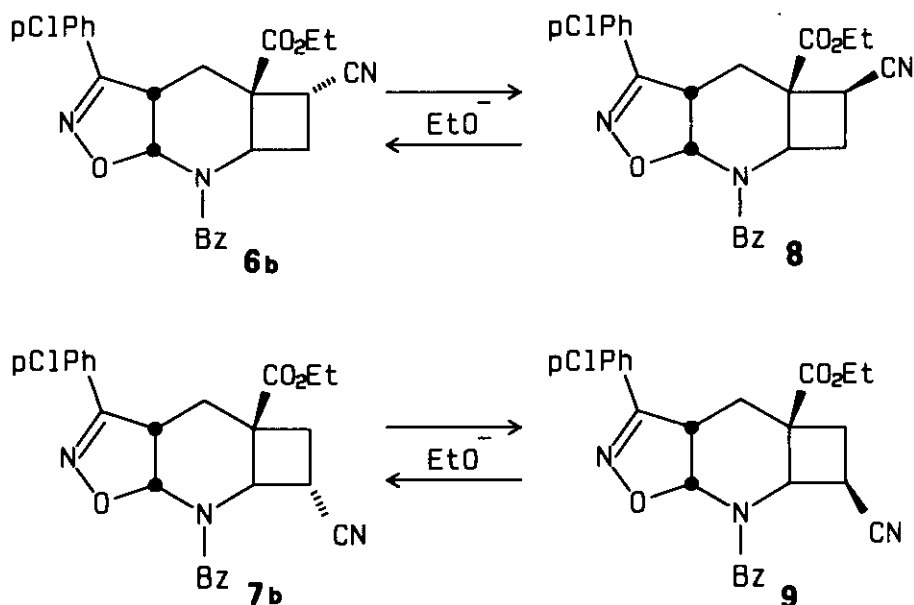
Fig 1:
Coupling constants
between cyclobutane
ring protons.

The presence of an enamino system renders the adducts 2a,b and 3a,b suitable intermediates towards polycyclic condensed piperidines via 1,3-dipolar addition. To this purpose we investigated the 1,3 dipolar addition of p-Cl-benzonitriloxide on the photoadducts 2a,b and 3a,b.



Scheme 2

In both cases only two isomers with cyclobut[*b*]isoxazolo[4,5-*e*]pyridine structure **6a,b** and **7a,b** were obtained (scheme 2). ^1H -nmr spectra of these compounds indicate the presence of a $\text{N-CH-CH}_2\text{-CHCN}$ (**6a,b**) or N-CH-CHCN-CH_2 skeleton (**7a,b**) as expected for the cyclobutane ring system. The regiochemistry of attack followed unequivocally from the chemical shift of the $7\text{a}'$ proton, whose doublet was found in the range 5.57-5.70 ppm³. Indications on the stereochemistry of the isoxazoline ring fusion (*endo* or *exo* in respect to the cyclobutane ring) were found analysing the $\text{H}_{3\text{a}}\text{-H}_4$ and $\text{H}_{3\text{a}}\text{-H}_4'$ coupling constants. In fact modellistic considerations strongly suggest that the hypothetical *endo* configuration compels $\text{H}_{3\text{a}}$ and one of the C_4 protons (H_4 or H_4') in axial conformation as a consequence of steric hindrance. However the values of $J_{3\text{a},4}$ and $J_{3\text{a},4'}$, ranging between 0.7-3.7 Hz and 5.9-6.7 Hz respectively, exclude the presence of protons in axial conformation⁴. On this basis we may assume *exo* configuration between cyclobutane and isoxazoline rings⁵. Compounds **6b** and **7b**, on heating in EtOH solution with catalytic amount of EtO^- , undergoes an isomerization process leading to an equilibrium mixture of compounds **6b** - **8** (65:35) or **7b** - **9** (40:60)⁶ (scheme 3). The structures of **8** and **9** were demonstrated performing the reaction in EtOD. ^1H -nmr spectra of the equilibrium mixtures showed deuterium exchange in the CH-CN moiety, so indicating that the **8** and **9** isomers differ from **6b** and **7b** respectively, in the C_5 or C_6 configuration. In this way it was possible to prepare also stereoisomers having *cis* configuration between CN and CO_2Et groups, whereas only *trans* configuration was directly attainable from the photoreaction.



Scheme 3

Table 1
¹H-Nmr data for compounds 6a,b , 7a,b , 8 and 9

	δ (multiplicity,assignment)	Coupling constants (Hz)
6a	3.78(ddd,H _{3a}); 2.38(<u>ABX</u> ,H ₄); 2.30(<u>ABX</u> ,H ₄); 3.07(t,H ₅); 2.31(<u>ABXY</u> ,H ₆); 2.06(<u>ABXY</u> ,H ₆); 3.73(t,H _{6a}); 5.70(d,H _{7a}); 3.98,3.91(AB,NCH ₂); 5.4,5.8(br,NH ₂); 7.34-7.58(m,Ar)	3a,4'=6.5; 3a,4=3.7; 3a,7a=10.1; 4,4'=14.4; 5,6=5,6'=9.6; 6,6'=12.3; 6a,6=6a,6'=7.2; NCH ₂ =13.2
6b	3.72(ddd,H _{3a}); 2.59(<u>ABX</u> ,H ₄); 2.38(<u>ABX</u> ,H ₄); 2.98(dd,H ₅); 2.36(<u>ABXY</u> ,H ₆); 2.11(<u>ABXY</u> ,H ₆); 3.99(t,H _{6a}); 5.62(d,H _{7a}); 3.96,3.85(AB,NCH ₂); 3.96,3.57(<u>AMX</u> ₃ ,OCH ₂); 0.84(t,CH ₃); 7.31-7.37,7.40-7.60(m,Ar)	3a,4=1.9; 3a,4'=6.6; 3a,7a=10.5; 4,4'=14.1; 5,6=9.0; 5,6'=9.6; 6,6'=12.2; 6a,6=6a,6'=7.1; NCH ₂ =13.0; OCH ₂ =10.7; CH ₂ -CH ₃ =7.2
7a	3.67(ddd,H _{3a}); 2.41(<u>ABX</u> ,H ₄); 2.35(<u>ABX</u> ,H ₄); 2.48(<u>ABX</u> ,H ₅); 2.28(<u>ABX</u> ,H ₅); 3.26(ddd,H ₆); 4.06(d,H _{6a}); 5.69(d,H _{7a}); 4.03,3.97(AB,NCH ₂); 5.26,5.80(br,NH ₂); 7.27-7.58(m,Ar)	3a,4'=5.9; 3a,4=2.8; 3a,7a=10.3; 4,4'=12.7; 5,5'=12.6; 5,6=9.9; 5',6=3.8; 6a,6=7.7; NCH ₂ =12.7
7b	3.60(ddd,H _{3a}); 2.63(<u>ABX</u> ,H ₄); 2.35(<u>ABX</u> ,H ₄); 2.42(<u>ABX</u> ,H ₅); 2.23(<u>ABX</u> ,H ₅); 3.31(ddd,H ₆); 4.31(d,H _{6a}); 5.57(d,H _{7a}); 3.99,3.92(AB,NCH ₂); 3.98,3.60(<u>AMX</u> ₃ ,OCH ₂); 0.85(t,CH ₃); 7.25-7.55(m,Ar)	3a,4=0.7; 3a,4'=6.7; 3a,7a=9.9; 4,4'=14.3; 5,5'=12.7; 5,6=10.0; 5',6=4.4; 6a,6=7.6; NCH ₂ =12.7; OCH ₂ =10.9; CH ₂ -CH ₃ =7.1
8	3.71(ddd,H _{3a}); 2.76(<u>ABX</u> ,H ₄); 2.04(<u>ABX</u> ,H ₄); 3.19(ddd,H ₅); 2.52(dt,H ₆); 2.34(ddd,H ₆); 4.03(ddd,H _{6a}); 5.56(d,H _{7a}); 3.91,3.81(AB,NCH ₂); 3.50,3.98(<u>AMX</u> ₃ ,OCH ₂); 0.97(t,CH ₃); 7.34-7.60(m,Ar)	3a,4=2.0; 3a,4'=5.7; 3a,7a=10.4; 4,4'=14.0; 5,6=7.5; 5,6'=9.1; 5,6a=1.0; 6,6'=12.8; 6a,6=7.5; 6a,6'=4.1; NCH ₂ =13.4; OCH ₂ =10.7; CH ₂ -CH ₃ =7.2
9	3.60(ddd,H _{3a}); 2.58(<u>ABX</u> ,H ₄); 1.95(<u>ABX</u> ,H ₄); 2.31(<u>ABX</u> ,H ₅); 2.27(<u>ABX</u> ,H ₅); 2.94(td,H ₆); 4.37(d,H _{6a}); 5.56(d,H _{7a}); 4.10,3.96(AB,NCH ₂); 3.71,4.08(<u>AMX</u> ₃ ,OCH ₂); 0.95(t,CH ₃); 7.26-7.54(m,Ar)	3a,4=0.7; 3a,4'=6.8; 3a,7a=10.4; 4,4'=14.3; 5,5'=11.5; 5,6=5',6=9.5; 6a,6=6.6; NCH ₂ =13.6; OCH ₂ =10.8; CH ₂ -CH ₃ =7.1

EXPERIMENTAL

Ir spectra were run on a Perkin-Elmer 782 grating spectrometer. ^1H (200 MHz) and ^{13}C nmr spectra were recorded on a Varian XL200 instrument, in CDCl_3 solution using tetramethylsilane as internal standard; chemical shifts are reported in δ (ppm) and coupling constants in Hz. ^{13}C assignments were confirmed by off-resonance and selective decoupling experiments. Melting points were determined on a Kofler hot stage and are uncorrected. Irradiation were carried out with a medium pressure immersion mercury lamp (125 watts), filtered and cooled by a CuSO_4 saturated solution. N_2 was bubbled through the irradiated solution. Column chromatographies were carried out on silica gel (230-400 mesh).

Preparation of Ethyl 1-Benzyl-1,4-dihydronicotinate (1b).

Compound **1b** was prepared following the procedure reported for the corresponding methyl ester ⁷. The crude oily product was purified by flash-chromatography with neutral alumina eluting with ethyl ether and immediately used for the photoreaction.

Ir: 1680 (CO) cm^{-1} ; ^1H nmr δ : 7.11(d, $J=1.8$, H_2), 3.13(m, H_4 , H_4'), 4.74(dt, $J_{4,5}=J_{4',5}=3.2$, $J_{5,6}=8.4$, H_5), 5.66(dq, $J_{2,6}=J_{4,6}=J_{4',6}=1.8$, $J_{5,6}=8.4$, H_6), 4.26(s, $\text{CH}_2\text{-C}_6\text{H}_5$), 7.15-7.39 (m, C_6H_5), 4.13(q, $J=6.6$, OCH_2), 1.23(t, $J=6.6$, CH_3).

Photoaddition of Acrylonitrile on 1b.

Ethyl 1-benzyl-1,4-dihydronicotinate (**1b**) (5 g) and acrylonitrile (13 g) in anhydrous ethyl ether were irradiated and hydrogenated as previously reported for **1a** ¹. Evaporation of ethyl acetate afforded an oily residue which was column chromatographed with light petroleum-ethyl ether 1:1 to give, in order of mobility:

-Ethyl trans-2-benzyl-7-cyano-2-azabicyclo[4.2.0]octane-6-carboxylate (4b)

(0.40 g); ir: 2235 (CN), 1725 (CO) cm^{-1} ; ^1H nmr δ : 3.53 (dd, $J_{1,8}=10.2$, $J_{1,8'}=7.2$, H_1), 2.51 (td, $J_{3a,3e}=J_{3a,4a}=11.7$, $J_{3a,4e}=2.0$, H_{3a}), 2.74 (dt, $J_{3a,3e}=11.7$, $J_{3e,4a}=J_{3e,4e}=2.2$, H_{3e}), 1.6-1.9, 2.3-2.5 (m, H_{4a} , H_{4e} and H_{5a} , H_{5e}), 3.07 (dd, $J_{7,8}=10.2$, $J_{7,8'}=6.1$, H_7), 2.44 (q, $J_{1,8}=J_{7,8}=J_{8,8'}=10.2$, H_8), 2.05 (ddd, $J_{1,8'}=7.2$, $J_{7,8'}=8.1$, $J_{8,8'}=10.2$, $\text{H}_{8'}$), 3.59, 3.54 (AB, $J=13.7$, $\text{CH}_2\text{-C}_6\text{H}_5$), 4.18 (q, $J=7.2$, OCH_2), 1.28 (t, $J=7.2$, CH_3), 7.25-7.32 (m, C_6H_5).

^{13}C nmr δ : 172.9 (CO), 138.0-127.2 (C_6H_5), 119.0 (CN), 61.3 (OCH_2), 58.2 (NCH_2), 55.5 (C_1), 48.7 (C_6), 46.6 (C_3), 25.7 (C_5), 25.3 (C_7), 23.5 (C_8), 21.45 (C_4), 14.2 (CH_3). mp (picrate) = 68-71 $^\circ\text{C}$; Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{25}\text{N}_5\text{O}_9\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$: C, 52.85; H, 4.95; N, 12.83. Found: C, 53.14; H, 4.65; N, 12.90.

-Ethyl trans-2-benzyl-8-cyano-2-azabicyclo[4.2.0]octane-6-carboxylate (5b)

(0.60 g); ir: 2235 (CN), 1725 (CO) cm^{-1} ; ^1H nmr δ : 3.73 (dd, $J_{1,7}=1.0$, $J_{1,8}=7.0$, H_1); 3.15 (ddd, $J_{3a,3e}=11.5$, $J_{3a,4a}=8.1$, $J_{3a,4e}=3.9$, H_{3a}), 2.39 (m, H_{3e}), 1.58-1.77 (m, H_{4a} and H_{4e}), 1.95-2.18 (m, H_{5a} and H_{5e}), 2.41 (ABXY, $J_{7,7'}=11.7$, $J_{7,8}=8.8$, $J_{1,7}=1.0$, H_7), 2.26 (ABX, $J_{7,7'}=11.7$, $J_{7',8}=5.4$, $\text{H}_{7'}$), 3.01 (ddd, $J_{1,8}=7.0$, $J_{7,8}=8.8$, $J_{7',8}=5.4$, H_8), 3.97, 3.62 (AB, $J_{AB}=13.6$, $\text{CH}_2\text{-C}_6\text{H}_5$), 4.16 (q, $J=7.2$, OCH_2), 1.26 (t, $J=7.2$, CH_3), 7.25-7.48 (m, C_6H_5).

^{13}C nmr δ : 174.5 (CO), 137.9-126.0 (C_6H_5), 122.1 (CN), 61.1 (OCH_2), 59.0 (C_1), 58.6 ($\text{CH}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$), 46.7 (C_3), 46.6 (C_6), 30.9 (C_7), 28.7 (C_5), 23.3 (C_8), 21.9 (C_4), 14.2 (CH_3). mp (hydrochloride) = 106-108 $^\circ\text{C}$; Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2\cdot\text{HCl}$: C, 64.57; H, 6.62; N, 8.37. Found: C, 65.02; H, 6.85; N, 8.53.

Cycloaddition of p-Cl-Benzonitriloxide on Compounds 2a,b and 3a,b

1-Benzyl-1,4-dihydronicotinamide (1a) (5 g) or ethyl 1-benzyl-1,4-dihydronicotinate (1b) (5 g) and acrylonitrile (13 g) were irradiated as above described. After evaporation of the solvent, the reaction mixture of the enamines 2a, 3a or 2b, 3b was dissolved in tetrahydrofuran or anhydrous ether (50 ml), respectively. A 0.23 M solution of p-chlorobenzonitriloxide⁷ (100 ml or 50 ml respectively) was added and the solution kept under nitrogen overnight. Solvent was then removed and the reaction mixture column chromatographed to yield compounds 6a, 7a, or 6b, 7b respectively.

- (3aRS,4aSR,5RS,6aSR,7aSR)-7-benzyl-3-(p-chlorophenyl)-5-cyano-3a,4,4a,5,6,6a,7,7a-octahydrocyclobut[b]isoxazolo[4,5-e]pyridin-4a-carboxamide (6a)

was obtained by elution with ethyl ether; yield 0.70 g, mp 203-207 °C (from ethanol). Anal. Calcd for $C_{23}H_{21}N_4O_2Cl$. $1/2 H_2O$: C, 64.26; H, 5.16; N, 13.03. Found: C, 64.24; H, 4.81; N, 12.86; ir: 3480, 3420, 3180 (NH_2), 2235 (CN), 1680 (CO) cm^{-1} ; ^{13}C nmr (DMSO- d_6) δ : 172.6 (CO), 157.4 (C_3), 137.5-127.3 (Arom.), 119.4 (CN), 94.1 (C_{7a}), 54.8 ($CH_2-C_6H_5$), 50.1 (C_{6a}), 45.8 (C_{4a}), 29.6 (C_5), 28.1 (C_4), 22.2 (C_6).

-(3aRS,4aRS,6SR,6aSR,7aSR)-7-benzyl-3-(p-chlorophenyl)-6-cyano-3a,4,4a,5,6,6a,7,7a-octahydrocyclobut[b]isoxazolo[4,5-e]pyridin-4a-carboxamide (7a)

was obtained by elution with ethyl ether/methanol 95:5; yield 2.40 g; mp 206-215 °C (from ethanol). Anal. Calcd for $C_{23}H_{21}N_4O_2Cl \cdot 1/2 H_2O$: C, 64.26; H, 5.16; N, 13.03. Found: C, 63.87; H, 5.26; N, 13.00; ir: 3470, 3380, 3200 (NH_2), 2235 (CN), 1670 (CO) cm^{-1} ; ^{13}C nmr (DMSO- d_6) δ : 173.5 (CO), 157.1 (C_3), 136.8-127.5 (Arom.), 121.4 (CN), 91.7 (C_{7a}), 53.8 ($CH_2-C_6H_5$), 51.8 (C_{6a}), 42.8 (C_{4a}), 33.3 (C_5), 25.1 (C_4), 24.2 (C_6).

- ethyl (3aRS,4aSR,5RS,6aSR,7aSR)-7-benzyl-3-(p-chlorophenyl)-5-cyano-3a,4,4a,5,6,6a,7,7a-octahydrocyclobut[b]isoxazolo[4,5-e]pyridin-4a-carboxylate (6b)

was obtained by elution with ethyl ether/light petroleum 1:1 and purified by column chromatography with benzene/ethyl ether 20:3 as eluent; yield 0.03 g, mp 164-167 °C. Anal. Calcd for $C_{25}H_{24}N_3O_3Cl$: C, 66.74; H, 5.38; N, 9.34. Found: C, 66.32; H, 5.41; N, 9.15; ir: 2240 (CN), 1770 (CO) cm^{-1} ; ^{13}C nmr δ : 171.1 (CO), 156.9 (C_3), 136.7-127.4 (arom.), 118.1 (CN), 94.0 (C_{7a}), 61.8 (OCH_2), 55.5 ($CH_2C_6H_5$), 50.3 (C_{6a}), 45.6 (C_{4a}), 40.8 (C_{3a}), 30.5 (C_4), 28.1 (C_5), 22.0 (C_6), 13.3 (CH_3).

- ethyl (3aRS,4aRS,6SR,6aSR,7aSR)-7-benzyl-3-(p-chlorophenyl)-6-cyano-3a,4,4a,5,6,6a,7,7a-octahydrocyclobut[b]isoxazolo[4,5-e]pyridin-4a-carboxylate (7b)

was obtained by further elution; yield 1.60 g, mp 182-184 °C (from ethanol). Anal. Calcd for $C_{25}H_{24}N_3O_3Cl$: C, 66.74; H, 5.38; N, 9.34. Found: C, 66.67; H, 5.34; N, 9.13; ir: 2240 (CN), 1755 (CO) cm^{-1} ; ^{13}C nmr δ : 171.9 (CO), 157.2 (C_3), 135.7-127.1 (Arom.), 120.3 (CN), 92.2 (C_{7a}), 61.4 (OCH_2), 54.8 ($CH_2-C_6H_5$), 52.8 (C_{6a}), 42.9 (C_{4a}), 40.8 (C_{3a}), 33.3 (C_5), 25.3 (C_6), 24.9 (C_4), 13.4 (CH_3).

Isomerization of Compounds 6b and 7b

To a solution of sodium (15 mg) in anhydrous ethanol (5 ml), 100 mg of compounds 6b or 7b was added. The mixture was refluxed for 30 min, cooled and neutralised with acetic acid. Solvent was evaporated and the residue column chromatographed with ethyl ether/light petroleum 2:3 as eluent to give the starting materials 6b (45 mg) or 7b (25 mg) and the isomers 8 (25 mg) or 9 (40 mg) respectively.

- ethyl(3aRS,4aSR,5SR,6aSR,7aSR)-7-benzyl-3-(p-chlorophenyl)-5-cyano-3a,4,4a,5,6,6a,7,7a-octahydrocyclobut[blisoxazolo[4,5-e]pyridin-4a-carboxylate (8)
mp 152-155 °C (from ether). Anal. Calcd. for $C_{25}H_{24}N_3O_3Cl$: C,66.74; H,5.38; N,9.34. Found: C,66.95; H,5.02; N,9.68; ir: 2235 (CN), 1725(CO) cm^{-1} .
- ethyl(3aRS,4aRS,6RS,6aSR,7aSR)-7-benzyl-3-(p-chlorophenyl)-6-cyano-3a,4,4a,5,6,6a,7,7a-octahydrocyclobut[blisoxazolo[4,5-e]pyridin-4a-carboxylate (9)
mp 177-180 °C (from ether). Anal. Calcd. for $C_{25}H_{24}N_3O_3Cl$: C,66.74; H,5.38; N,9.34. Found: C,66.77; H,5.22; N,9.19; ir: 2235 (CN), 1730 (CO) cm^{-1} ; ^{13}C nmr δ : 171.6 (CO), 157.2 (C_3), 136.2-127.4 (Arom.), 119.9 (CN), 93.4 (C_{7a}), 61.6 (OCH_2), 57.1 (C_{6a}), 55.7 ($CH_2C_6H_5$), 41.7 (C_{4a}), 41.1 (C_{3a}), 33.2 (C_5), 26.3 (C_6), 24.3 (C_4), 13.4 (CH_3).

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