The synthesis of 4-aryl-1H-pyrazolo[3,4-b]quinolines by cyclization of 4-arylidenepyrazolin-5-ones with anilines

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Abstract

In the reaction of anilines with 4-(benzylidene)-1,3-disubstituted pyrazol-5-ones, 1H-pyrazolo[3,4-b]quinolines were formed instead of anticipated 5-phenylimino derivatives. The same compounds were also available from the reaction of pyrazolin-5-ones with Schiff bases. In spite of moderate yields both methods present a facile route to 4-aryl-1H-pyrazolo[3,4-b]quinolines. These methods have advantages over the Friedländer cyclization commonly utilized for preparation of 4-aryl-1H-pyrazolo[3,4-b]quinolines. Thus, preparation of 2-aminobenzophenones, reagents indispensable in Friedländer synthesis, can be avoided.

Keywords: 1H-Pyrazolo[3,4-b]quinolines, luminophores, pyrazolin-5-ones

Introduction

In 1928 Michaelis\(^1\) reported that heating of 5-phenyliminopyrazoles \(\textbf{1}\) with aromatic aldehydes \(\textbf{2}\) resulted in the formation of 4-benzylidene-5-phenyliminopyrazoles \(\textbf{3}\) (Scheme 1).

![Scheme 1](image)

Products of this reaction exhibited a strong blue fluorescence in solution. We considered this
method as an appropriate, facile route providing a series of novel fluorophores for electroluminescent devices. A careful examination of the products of this reaction by $^1$H NMR indicated that Michaelis synthesized 1$H$-pyrazolo[3,4-$b$]quinolines (4). Thus, this synthesis appears to be very convenient for preparation of 4-arylpyrazolo[3,4-$b$]quinolines. Friedländer condensation as an alternative route to such compounds involves 2-aminobenzophenones and pyrazolin-5-ones, however availability of 2-aminobenzophenones limits the range of applicability of this reaction.

These results prompted us to look at the synthesis of 4-arylidene-5-aryliminopyrazoles 7 as promising intermediates for preparation of corresponding 4-aryl-1$H$-pyrazolo[3,4-$b$]quinolines (8). Thus, synthesis of the benzylidene compounds 7 was attempted by a heating an equimolar mixture of 4-(arylidene)-pyrazolin-5-ones (5) and aromatic amine 6 (Scheme 2).

Scheme 2. $R^1$ = OMe; $R^2$ = OMe (8a), H (8b), Me (8c), tert-Bu (8d), F (8e), Cl (8f), Br (8g); $R^1$ = Me; $R^2$ = H (8h), Me (8i), Et (8j), n-Bu (8k), F (8l), Cl (8m), Br (8n), OMe (8o), OPh (8p).

Results of this synthesis are described in this paper. When the first attempt to prepare 4-arylidene-5-phenyliminopyrazole failed we tried another way by condensing 4-arylidenepyrazol-5-one with anilines in the presence of anhydrous zinc chloride. But again in spite of our efforts the only resulted product was pyrazolo[3,4-$b$]quinolines and reduced benzylidene system. The
same product was obtained when the reaction was done without ZnCl$_2$. The yields of pyrazolo[3,4-$b$]quinolines never exceed 31-32%.

**Results and Discussion**

As in the Michaelis approach$^1$ the attempted preparation of 5-phenylimino-4-benzylidenepyrazolin-5-ones failed. Regardless of the nature of substituents R1 and R2 on substrates, and application of various condensation agents (ZnCl$_2$ or phosphorus pentoxide in xylene) 4-aryl-1$H$-pyrazolo[3,4-$b$]quinolines 8 were formed. They were accompanied by 4-methylarylpyrazolin-5-one 9 as the product of reduction of corresponding benzylidenepyrazolizin-5-ones. These products were isolated in the ratio 1:1 that provided evidence that the corresponding benzylidene compounds are one of the partners of condensation with anilines acted as oxidants for 4-benzylidene-5-aryliminopyrazolines 7. This reaction limits the overall yield of 8. The structures of both series were confirmed by results of NMR measurements and elemental analysis. The 4-(4´-methoxyphenyl)-pyrazolo[3,4-$b$]quinolines were also prepared$^5$ by reaction of substituted anilines and 4-(4´-anisoyl-5-chloro-3-methyl1-phenylpyrazole. The NMR spectra for products of both reactions were identical. Results of electroluminescent studies of 4-(4´-methoxyphenyl) derivatives were published recently.$^5$ Such data for 4-(4´-methylphenyl) series are collected in Table 1.

| Table 1. Luminescence of 4-(4´-methylphenyl) derivatives of 1$H$-pyrazolo[3,4-$b$]quinolines |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Compound  | Cyclohexane | Dichloromethane | Ethanol | Acetonitrile |
| 8h        | 437         | 463            | 458      | 467.5         |
| 8i        | 438.5       | 455.5          | 452      | 458.5         |
| 8j        | 437         | 449            | 449      | 453           |
| 8k        | 437         | 448            | 449      | 452           |
| 8l        | 444.5       | 468.5          | 466.5    | 479           |
| 8m        | 446         | 471            | 470      | 478.5         |
| 8n        | 447         | 468.5          | 471      | 482           |
| 8o        | 448.5       | 458            | 456.5    | 458.5         |
| 8p        | 446.5       | 460.5          | 455      | 465.5         |

Sensitivity of the pyrazoloquinoline system to the substituent effect from the 6-position expressed in terms of a shift of the longest-wavelength spectral band is low. The largest shift of the emission band in respect to 6-unsubstituted compound reached 11.5 nm. The methoxy group was the most spectrally active. Such moderate band shifts are common for the spectra of compounds with extended chromophore systems, for instance, compounds with three fused aromatic rings such as anthracenes, phenanthrenes, carbazoles.$^7$ Simultaneously, a shift of maximum of luminescence up to 35 nm could be afforded with involvement of the solvent effect.
A considerably strong solvatochromic effect noted for the parent pyrazoloquinoline increased in a consequence of substitution with halogen substituents (F, Cl, Br) but it was significantly reduced by alkyl and alkoxy (phenoxy) substituents. Order of solvents arranged according to increasing bathochromic shift of the luminescence band although slightly varying with substituents clearly showed that nonpolar solvent–solute interactions in solution had a priority.

**Experimental Section**

4-(Arylidene)-3-methyl-1-phenyl-pyrazolin-5-ones were prepared according to literature procedures. 6

**Synthesis of 4-(4′-methoxyphenyl)-3-methyl-6-substituted-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazolo[3,4-b]quinolines.**

**General procedure**

Equimolar amount of 4-(4′-methoxyphenyl)-3-methyl-1-phenyl-pyrazolin-5-one and substituted aniline (0.01 mole) were heated for 210 min in ethylene glycol (10 mL) at 180 °C. After cooling the solution was digested with methanol (20 mL) and refrigerated. Insoluble yellow residue was filtered off and methanolic filtrate was added to 10% NaOH (100 mL). The precipitate was dried and subjected to column chromatography (aluminum oxide 90, Merck, chloroform as eluent). After chromatography solution was evaporated and the residue was crystallized from toluene to give 6-methoxy-3-methyl-4-(4′-methoxyphenyl)-1-phenylpyrazolo[3,4-b]quinoline as yellow needleless (1.1 g, 31.3 %). The NaOH solution was extracted 2 times with toluene (25 mL). The NaOH solution was boiled with charcoal, filtered and acidified with 10% hydrochloric acid. The precipitate was filtered, dried and crystallized from ethanol/water yielded 4-(4′-methoxybenzal)-3-methyl-1-phenylpyrazolin-5-one as colorless needleless (0.75 g, 30.2 %). Toluene solution contained unreacted 4-methoxyaniline.

**Pyrazolo[3,4-b]quinolines from the reaction of 4- substituted anilines with 4-(4′-methoxyphenyl)-pyrazolin-5-one**

6-Methoxy-4-(4′-methoxyphenyl)-3-methyl-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazolo[3,4-b]quinoline (8a). Yellow crystals; 31.3% ; m.p.174-5 °C (Lit. 5 174.5 °C). 1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3): δ 8.50 (2H, d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2′-H,6′-H), 8.05 (1H, d, J = 9.34 Hz, 8-H), 7.54 (2H, t, J = 7.8 Hz, 3′-H, 5′-H), 7.25 (1H, t, J = 7.4 Hz, 4′-H), 7.10 (2H, d, J = 8.8 Hz, Harom), 6.93 (1H, d, J = 3.02 Hz, 5-H), 3.93 (3H, s, OMe), 3.70 (3H, s, OMe), 2.15 (3H, s, 3-Me).

4-(4′-Methoxyphenyl)-3-methyl-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazolo[3,4-b]quinoline (8b). Yellow needles, 30%, m.p. 205-7 °C (Lit. 5 205-7 °C). 1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3): δ 8.51 (2H, d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2′-H, 6′-H), 8.18 (1H, d, J = 8.51 Hz, 8-H), 7.70-7.77 (2H, m, 5-H, 7-H), 7.58 (2H, t, J = 7.6 Hz, 5′-H, 3′-H), 7.32-7.40 (3H, m, 6-H, 2Harom), 7.28 (1H, t, J = 7.4 Hz, 4′-H), 7.12 (2H, d, J = 8.5 Hz, H arom), 3.95 (3H, s, OMe), 2.20 (3H, s, 3-Me).

3,6-Dimethyl-4-(4′-methoxyphenyl)-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazolo[3,4-b]quinoline (8c). Yellow
crystals, 32%, m.p. 188-190 °C (Lit. 5 188-9 °C). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3): δ 8.51 (2H, d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2'-H, 6'-H), 8.08 (1H, d, J = 8.8 Hz, 8-H), 7.54-7.56 (3H, m, 7-H, H_arom), 7.53 (1H, s, 5-H), 7.36 (2H, d, J = 8.5 Hz, H_arom), 7.26 (1H, t, J = 7.4 Hz, H_arom), 7.11 (2H, d, J = 8.5 Hz, H_arom), 3.95 (3H, s, OMe), 2.43 (3H, s, 6-Me), 2.16 (3H, s, 3-Me).

6-tert-Butyl-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-3-methyl-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazolo[3,4-b]quinoline (8d).
Light yellow needles, 30.5% m.p. 210-1 °C (Lit. 5 210-1 °C). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3): δ 8.50 (2H, d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2'-H, 6'-H), 8.12 (1H, d, J = 9.0 Hz, 8-H), 7.85 (1H, dd, J = 9.0, 1.9 Hz, 7-H), 7.67 (1H, d, J = 1.9 Hz, 5-H), 7.58 (2H, t, J = 7.5 Hz, H_arom), 7.39 (2H, d, J = 8.51 Hz, H_arom), 7.26 (1H, t, J = 7.4 Hz, H_arom), 7.12 (2H, d, J = 8.5 Hz, H_arom), 3.96 (3H, s, OMe), 2.19 (3H, s, 3-Me), 1.32 (9H, s, 9H, tert-Bu).

6-Fluoro-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-3-methyl-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazolo[3,4-b]quinoline (8e).
Yellow crystals, 30%, m.p. 185-6 °C (Lit. 5 184-6 °C). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3): δ 8.47 (2H, d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2'-H, 6'-H), 8.15 (1H, d, J = 9.1 Hz, 8-H), 7.46-7.60 (3H, m, 5-H, 3''-H, 5''-H), 7.30-7.40 (3H, m, 7-H, 3''-H, 5''-H), 7.27 (1H, t, J = 7.4 Hz, 4'-H), 7.10 (2H, d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2''-H, 6''-H), 3.94 (3H, s, OMe), 2.17 (3H, s, 3-Me).

6-Chloro-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-3-methyl-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazolo[3,4-b]quinoline (8f).
Yellow crystals, 29%, m.p. 204-6 °C (Lit. 5 204-5 °C). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3): δ 8.45 (2H, d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2'-H, 6'-H), 8.09 (1H, d, J = 9.1 Hz, 8-H), 7.70 (1H, d, J = 2.2 Hz, 5-H), 7.64 (1H, dd, J = 9.1, 2.4 Hz, 7-H), 7.55 (2H, t, J = 7.4 Hz, H_arom), 7.35 (2H, d, J = 8.8 Hz, H_arom), 7.27 (1H, t, J = 7.4 Hz, H_arom), 7.11 (2H, d, J = 8.8 Hz, H_arom), 3.96 (3H, s, OMe), 2.17 (3H, s, 3-Me).

6-Bromo-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-3-methyl-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazolo[3,4-b]quinoline (8g).
Yellow crystals, 30%, m.p. 182-3 °C (Lit. 5 182-3 °C). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3): δ 8.46 (2H, d, J = 7.7 Hz, H_arom), 7.96 (1H, d, J = 9.1, 2.2 Hz, 8-H), 7.83 (1H, d, J = 2.2 Hz, 5-H), 7.7 (1H, dd, J = 9.1 Hz, 7-H), 7.53 (2H, t, J = 7.5 Hz, H_arom), 7.33 (2H, d, J = 6.6 Hz, H_arom), 7.26 (1H, t, J = 7.4 Hz, H_arom), 7.09 (2H, d, J = 6.6 Hz, H_arom), 3.94 (3H, s, OMe), 2.12 (3H, s, 3-Me).

4-(4'-Methoxybenzal)-3-methyl-1-phenylpyrazolin-5-one (9).
Colourless crystals, 31-32%, m.p. 166-8 °C. Anal. calc. for C_{18}H_{18}N_{2}O_{2}: C 73.45 H 6.16 N 9.52; found C 73.30 H 6.06 N 9.41.

**Pyrazolo[3,4-b]quinolines from the reaction of p-substituted anilines with 4-(4'-methylphenyl)-pyrazolin-5-ones**

4-(4'-Methylphenyl)-3-methyl-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazolo[3,4-b]quinoline (8h).
Yellow crystals, 32%, m.p. 206-7 °C, λ_{em}(cyclohexane) = 437 nm. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3): δ 8.51 (2H, d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2'-H, 6'-H), 8.21 (1H, d, J = 9.05 Hz, 8-H), 7.75 (1H, d, J = 8.7 Hz, 5-H), 7.74(1H, t, J = 8.65 Hz, 6-H), 7.56 (2H, t, J = 8.0 Hz, 3''-H, 5''-H), 7.32-7.42 (1H, m, 5-H), 7.4 (2H, d, J = 8.0 Hz, 3''-H, 5''-H), 7.34 (2H, d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2''-H, 6''-H), 7.28 (1H, t, J = 7.4 Hz, 4'-H), 2.52 (3H, s, 4-C_{6}H_{4}-CH_{3}), 2.17 (3H, s, 3-CH_{3}). Anal. calc. for C_{24}H_{19}N_{3}: C 82.49 H 5.48 N 12.03; found C 82.38 H 5.26 N 12.17.

3,6-Dimethyl-4-(4'-methylphenyl)-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazolo[3,4-b]quinoline (8i).
Yellow crystals, 31%, m.p. 197-8 °C. λ_{em} (cyclohexane) = 438.5 nm. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3): δ
8.50 (2H, d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2'-H, 6'-H), 8.11 (1H, d, J = 8.7 Hz, 8-H), 7.57 (1H, d, J = 8.76 Hz, 7-H), 7.55 (2H, t, J = 8.0 Hz, 3'-H, 5'-H), 7.47 (1H, s, 5-H), 7.40 (2H, d, J = 8.23 Hz, 3''-H, 5''-H), 7.33 (2H, d, J = 8.23 Hz, 2''-H, 6''-H), 7.27 (1H, t, J = 7.4 Hz, 4'-H), 2.53 (3H, s, 4-C₆H₄-CH₃), 2.43 (3H, s, 6-CH₃), 2.14 (3H, s, 3-CH₃). Anal. calc. for C₂₅H₂₁N₃: C 82.62 H 5.82 N 11.56; found C 82.51 H 5.67 N 11.32.

6-Ethyl-3-methyl-4-(4′-methylphenyl)-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazolo[3,4-b]quinoline (8j). Yellow crystals, 30%, m.p. 158-9°C. λₑₐₑ (cyclohexane) = 437 nm. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.53 (2H, d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2'-H, 6'-H), 8.13 (1H, d, J = 8.8 Hz, 8-H), 7.62 (1H, d, J = 8.8 Hz, 7-H), 7.55 (2H, t, J = 8 Hz, 3'-H, 5'-H), 7.49 (1H, s, J = 2 Hz, 5-H), 7.40 (2H, d, J = 7.8 Hz, 3''-H, 5''-H), 7.34 (2H, d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2''-H, 6''-H), 7.27 (1H, t, J = 7.4 Hz, 4'-H), 2.74 (2H, q, J = 7.5 Hz, 6-CH₂CH₃), 2.54 (3H, s, 4-C₆H₄-CH₃), 2.16 (3H, s, 3-CH₃), 1.25 (3H, t, J = 7.5 Hz, 6-CH₂CH₃). Anal. calc. for C₂₆H₂₃N₃: C 82.73 H 6.14 N 11.13; found C 82.52 H 6.21 N 11.31.

6-n-Butyl-3-methyl-4-(4′-methylphenyl)-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazolo[3,4-b]quinoline (8k). Yellow needles, 30%, m.p. 246-7°C. λₑₐₑ (cyclohexane) = 437 nm. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.49 (2H, d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2'-H, 6'-H), 8.13 (1H, d, J = 8.8 Hz, 8-H), 7.68-7.60 (9H, m, H arom), 2.52 (3H, s, 4-C₆H₄-CH₃), 2.14 (3H, s, 3-CH₃). Anal. calc. for C₂₈H₂₇N₃: C 82.93 H 6.71 N 10.36; found C 82.71 H 6.56 N 10.28.

6-Fluoro-3-methyl-4-(4′-methylphenyl)-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazolo[3,4-b]quinoline (8l). Light yellow crystals, 30%, m.p. 185-7°C. λₑₐₑ (cyclohexane) = 444.5 nm. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.47 (2H, d, J=8.7Hz, 2'-H, 6'-H), 8.18 (1H, dd, J₃H=9.4, J₅F=5.4Hz, 8-H), 7.24-7.60 (9H, m, H arom), 2.52 (3H, s, 4-C₆H₄-CH₃), 2.16 (3H, s, 3-CH₃). Anal. calc. for C₂₄H₁₈FN₃: C 78.46 H 4.94 N 11.44; found C 78.31 H 4.76 N 11.30.

6-Chloro-3-methyl-4-(4′-methylphenyl)-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazolo[3,4-b]quinoline (8m). Yellow needles, 30%, m.p. 201-3°C. λₑₐₑ (cyclohexane) = 446 nm. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.46 (2H, d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2'-H, 6'-H), 8.04 (1H, d, J = 9.1 Hz, 8-H), 7.68 (1H, s, J' = 2.3 Hz, 5-H), 7.64 (1H, d, J = 9.0, J' = 2.3 Hz, 7-H), 7.55 (2H, t, J = 8.0 Hz, 3''-H, 5''-H), 7.40 (2H, d, J = 8.1 Hz, 3''-H, 5''-H), 7.31 (1H, d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2''-H, 6''-H), 7.28 (1H, t, J = 7.4 Hz, 4'-H), 2.53 (3H, s, 3H, 4-C₆H₄-CH₃), 2.14 (3H, s, 3-CH₃). Anal. calc. for C₂₄H₁₈ClN₃: C 75.24 H 4.86 N 10.87; found C 75.24 H 4.86 N 10.87.

6-Methoxy-3-methyl-4-(4′-methylphenyl)-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazolo[3,4-b]quinoline (8n). 6-Bromo-3-methyl-4-(4′-methylphenyl)-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazolo[3,4-b]quinoline (8n). Yellow crystals, 32%, m.p. 205-6°C. λₑₐₑ (cyclohexane) = 447 nm. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.46 (2H, d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2'-H, 6'-H), 8.04 (1H, d, J = 9.1 Hz, 8-H), 7.68 (1H, s, J' = 2.0 Hz, 5-H), 7.75 (1H, d, J = 9.1, J' = 2.0 Hz, 7-H), 7.55 (2H, t, J = 8.0 Hz, 3''-H, 5''-H), 7.40 (2H, d, J = 8.1 Hz, 3''-H, 5''-H), 7.31 (2H, d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2''-H, 6''-H), 7.28 (1H, t, J = 7.4 Hz, 4'-H), 2.53 (3H, s, 3H, 4-C₆H₄-CH₃), 2.13 (3H, s, 3-CH₃). Anal. calc. for C₂₄H₁₈BrN₃: C 67.30 H 4.24 N 9.81; found C 67.05 H 4.34 N 9.76.

6-Methoxy-3-methyl-4-(4′-methylphenyl)-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazolo[3,4-b]quinoline
(8o). Yellow crystals, 30%, m.p. 231-2 °C. λ<sub>em</sub> (cyclohexane) = 448.5 nm. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.49 (2H, d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2'-H, 6'-H), 8.11 (1H, d, J = 9.2 Hz, 8-H), 7.54 (2H, t, J = 7.97 Hz, 3'-H, 5'-H), 7.43 (1H, d, J = 9.2 Hz, J' = 2.8 Hz, 7-H), 7.36-7.37 (4H, 2“-H, 3“-H, 5“-H, 6“-H), 7.26 (1H, t, J = 7.4Hz, 4'-H), 6.94 (1H, s, J' = 2.8 Hz, 5-H), 3.73 (3H, s, 6-OCH₃), 2.52 (3H, s, 4-C₆H₄-CH₃), 2.14 (3H, s, 3-CH₃). Anal. calc. for C₂₅H₂₁N₃O : C 79.13 H 5.58 N 11.07; found C 79.01 H 5.51 N 10.87.

3-Methyl-4-(4’-methylphenyl)-6-phenoxy-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazolo[3,4-b]quinoline (8p). Yellow crystals, 30%, m.p. 158-9 °C. λ<sub>em</sub> (cyclohexane) = 446.5 nm. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.50 (2H, d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2'-H, 6'-H), 8.20 (1H, d, J=9.1 Hz, 8-H), 7.46-7.61 (3H, m, Harom), 7.24-7.38 (8H, m, Harom), 7.07 (1H, t, J = 7.3Hz, 4’’-H in 6-OPh), 6.97 (2H, d, J = 8.5 Hz, Harom ), 6.97 (2H, d, 2’’’-H and 6’’’-H in 6-OPh), 2.48 (3H, s, 4-C₆H₄-CH₃), 2.17 (3H, s, 3-CH₃). Anal. calc. for C₃₀H₂₃N₃O : C 81.61 H 5.25 N 9.52; found C 81.52 H 5.23 N 9.43.

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