



Communication Synthesis of 5-Aroyl-2-aryl-3-hydroxypyridin-4(1H)-ones

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Abstract: A two-stage synthesis of 5-aroyl-2-aryl-3-hydroxypyridin-4(1*H*)-ones (56–66% overall yields) was carried out by refluxing 5-aroyl-3-(benzyloxy)-2-(het)aryl-4*H*-pyran-4-ones with ammonium acetate in AcOH and subsequent debenzylation. The prepared *N*-unsubstituted 4-pyridones exist in the pyridone tautomeric form.

Keywords: 3-hydroxy-4-pyridones; 4-pyrones; debenzylation; metalloenzyme inhibitors; chelating agents; tautomerism

1. Introduction

3-Hydroxy-4-pyridones (3,4-HPOs) are well-known bidentate chelation agents for many metals [1–3]. The first marketed drug possessing a 3,4-HPO scaffold, deferiprone (Ferriprox), is an iron chelating agent for treating thalassemia approved in 1999 (Figure 1). Since the pyridine ring offers great possibilities for functionalization, a number of new 3,4-HPO-based polydentate chelators [2,4] and also 3,4-HPO-grafted fabrics for filtering uranium from wastewater [5] were developed afterward. Moreover, there are some natural examples of 3,4-HPOs, such as rubrifacine [6] and mimosine (leucenol), an amitotic agent first isolated from *Mimosa pudica* [7].



Figure 1. Some important 3-hydroxy-4-pyridones.

Additionally, 3-hydroxy-4-pyridones have recently received considerable attention as promising metal-binding pharmacophores, such as inhibitors of metalloenzymes, and thus are being now intensively investigated to design novel drugs, including antiviral ones [8]. As a result, approved HIV integrase strand transfer inhibitors (INSTI) dolutegravir, bictegravir, and cabotegravir, as well as several newly developed drug candidates (Figure 1),



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Copyright: © 2023 by the authors. Licensee MDPI, Basel, Switzerland. This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (https:// creativecommons.org/licenses/by/ 4.0/). possess a 3,4-HPO structural motif designed to coordinate magnesium ions of HIV integrase and thus prevent integration of the viral DNA [9–15]. Additionally, the inhibitors of catechol-O-methyltransferase (contains Mg^{2+}) [16], human cytomegalovirus pUL89 protein (Mn^{2+}) [17], and influenza cap-dependent endonuclease (Mn^{2+}) [18] were discovered.

However, methods for preparing 3,4-HPOs can dramatically differ depending on the substituent location and type and may require multi-stage synthetic schemes with restricted reaction scope [12,19]. For some of them, there is still no efficient synthetic approach.

In this article, we focused our attention on the synthesis of hitherto unknown *N*-unsubstituted 5-aroyl-2-(het)aryl-3-hydroxypyridin-4(1*H*)-ones.

2. Results and Discussion

Recently, we synthesized a series of 5-aroyl-3-(benzyloxy)-2-(het)aryl-4*H*-pyran-4-ones **1** by acylation of enaminodiones with acylbenzotriazoles *via* soft enolization [20]. To the best of our knowledge, no examples of *N*-unsubstituted 3,4-HPOs **3** bearing 2-(het)aryl and 5-aroyl substituents have been described in the literature to date. Therefore, we decided to employ the ANRORC reaction of pyrones **1a–c** with ammonia to synthesize pyridones **2a–c** and then reach desired 3-hydroxy-4-pyridones **3** by the debenzylation of the latter.

We found that pyrones **1a–c** on heating at 100 °C for 3 h with ammonium acetate in glacial AcOH afforded corresponding pyridones **2a–c** in 61–72% yields (Scheme 1, Table 1). Subsequent dilution with water and recrystallization from toluene made it possible to isolate the products in pure form. In the reaction with ethanolic ammonia solution, however, it turned out that two equivalents of ammonia were involved, and [4-amino-5-(benzyloxy)-6-phenylpyridin-3-yl](phenyl)methanone was obtained from the corresponding pyrone [20]. Additionally, no reaction appeared when pyrones **1** were refluxed in an ethanolic solution of ammonium chloride. The reaction mechanism includes the attack of the ammonia molecule at the C-6 position, followed by the pyrone ring opening and intramolecular cyclization [21].



Scheme 1. Synthesis of pyridones 2 and 3,4-HPOs 3.

Table 1. Yields of products 2 and 3.

Entry	Compounds 1–3	R ¹	R ²	Yield of 2	Yield of 3
1	а	Ph	furan-2-yl	68	89
2	b	$4-ClC_6H_4$	furan-2-yl	72	92
3	c	$4-ClC_6H_4$	Ph	61	92

The debenzylation of products **2a–c** under the action of TMSI generated in situ in anhydrous acetonitrile from TMSCl and NaI allowed us to obtain 5-acyl-2-hetaryl substituted 3,4-HPOs **3a–c** in 89–92% yields. It is important to note that the purification of products **3** did not require chromatography and could be achieved by simple recrystallization.

The structures of all synthesized compounds were characterized based on ¹H, ¹³C NMR (see SM), and IR spectroscopy data and supported by HRMS values. Although *N*-unsubstituted pyridones can undergo pyridinol/pyridone tautomerism [22,23], compounds **2** and **3** exist in the pyridone form. The ¹H NMR spectra of these compounds display the presence of the characteristic pyridone H-6 singlet or doublet ($J_{H-6,NH} = 3.6-6.6$ Hz) at δ 7.78–7.90 ppm and the downfield singlet or doublet of the NH group at δ 12.14–12.30 ppm. The ¹³C NMR spectra show the characteristic peaks of the acyl moiety and the pyridone

carbonyl group at δ 192.6–194.1 and 168.6–171.6 ppm, respectively. For compound **2**, the NMR signals of the aliphatic methylene group appeared at δ 5.03–5.30 ppm (¹H NMR) and 71.5–72.1 ppm (¹³C NMR).

In summary, we described a convenient two-step way (starting from pyrones) for synthesizing new 5-aroyl-2-(het)aryl-3-hydroxypyridin-4(1*H*)-ones in 56–66% overall yields. This will expand the design possibilities in the search for new inhibitors of metalloenzymes with antiviral activity.

3. Materials and Methods

NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker Avance III-500 (¹H—500 MHz and ¹³C—126 MHz) spectrometers (Bruker BioSpin GmbH, Rheinstetten, Germany) in DMSO- d_6 . Chemical shifts are reported relative to TMS as an internal standard in ppm, and *J* values are given in Hz. IR spectra were recorded on a Shimadzu IRSpirit-T (QATR-S) instrument (FTIR mode, diamond crystal, Shimadzu Corp., Kyoto, Japan). The mass spectra (ESI-MS) were measured with a Waters Xevo QTof instrument (Waters Corp., Milford, MA, USA). All solvents used were dried and distilled per standard procedures. Melting points were determined on a Stuart SMP40 apparatus. Pyrones **1a–c** were prepared according to the literature data [20].

3.1. General Procedure for the Synthesis of 3-Benzyloxypyridin-4(1H)-ones 2

Pyrone 1 (0.27 mmol) was dissolved in glacial AcOH, and NH₄OAc (83.2 mg, 1.08 mmol) was added. The resulting mixture was stirred at 100 $^{\circ}$ C for 3 h, and then excess water was added. The precipitate formed was filtered and recrystallized from toluene.

5-*Benzoyl*-3-(*benzyloxy*)-2-(*furan*-2-*yl*)*pyridin*-4(1*H*)-*one* (**2a**). Brown solid (68 mg, 68%), mp 190–191 °C. IR (ATR) ν 2879, 2854, 1655, 1614, 1540, 1314, 1255, 1188, 999, and 743 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 5.30 (s, 2H, CH₂), 6.74 (dd, *J* = 3.4, *J* = 1.7, 1H, H-4 furan), 7.17 (d, *J* = 3.4, 1H, H-3 furan), 7.31–7.39 (m, 3H, Ph), 7.41 (d, *J* = 7.0, 2H, H-2, H-6 Ph), 7.50 (t, *J* = 7.7, 2H, H-3, H-5 Ph), 7.61 (t, *J* = 7.4, 1H, H-4 Ph), 7.72 (d, *J* = 7.2, 2H, H-2, H-6 Ph), 7.79 (s, 1H, H-6 pyridone), 8.01 (d, *J* = 1.0, 1H, H-5 furan), and 12.14 (s, 1H, NH). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 71.5 (CH₂), 112.9, 114.1, 125.3, 126.4, 128.1, 128.16, 128.2, 128.6, 128.9, 129.1, 129.6, 132.7, 137.0, 137.6, 143.6, 144.6, 171.2 (C=O), and 194.1 (C=O). HRMS (ESI): calculated for C₂₃H₁₈NO₄ [M + H]⁺ 372.1236, found 372.1249.

3-(*Benzyloxy*)-5-(4-chlorobenzoyl)-2-(*furan*-2-yl)pyridin-4(1H)-one (**2b**). Brown solid (79 mg, 72%), mp 194–195 °C. IR (ATR) v 2779, 2682, 1647, 1616, 1536, 1191, 1008, and 794 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 5.28 (s, 2H, CH₂), 6.75 (dd, *J* = 3.4, *J* = 1.8, 1H, H-4 furan), 7.16 (d, *J* = 3.4, 1H, H-3 furan), 7.33 (tt, *J* = 7.2, *J* = 1.4, 1H, H-4 Ph), 7.37 (t, *J* = 7.2, 2H, H-3, H-5 Ph), 7.41 (d, *J* = 7.0, 2H, H-2, H-6 Ph), 7.56 (d, *J* = 8.5, 2H, H-3, H-5 Ar), 7.72 (d, *J* = 8.5, 2H, H-2, H-6 Ar), 7.83 (s, 1H, H-6 pyridone), 8.01 (d, *J* = 1.0, 1H, H-5 furan), and 12.21 (s, 1H, NH). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 71.6 (CH₂), 112.9, 114.1, 125.7, 128.1, 128.2, 128.2, 128.5, 130.9, 136.4, 137.0, 137.4, 138.2, 143.5, 143.7, 144.6, 171.2 (C=O), and 193.0 (C=O). HRMS (ESI): calculated for C₂₃H₁₇ClNO₄ [M + H]⁺ 406.0846, found 406.0853.

3-(Benzyloxy)-5-(4-chlorobenzoyl)-2-phenylpyridin-4(1H)-one (**2c**). Brown solid (68 mg, 61%), mp 160–161 °C. IR (ATR) v 3019, 2866, 1657, 1613, 1535, 1190, and 752 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 5.03 (s, 2H, CH₂), 7.10–7.19 (m, 2H, Ph), 7.21–7.26 (m, 3H, Ph), 7.49–7.53 (m, 3H, Ph), 7.54–7.57 (m, 2H, Ph), 7.58 (d, *J* = 8.5, 2H, H-3, H-5 Ar), 7.77 (d, *J* = 8.5, 2H, H-2, H-6 Ar), 7.90 (d, *J* = 6.2, 1H, H-6 pyridone), and 12.18 (d, *J* = 6.2, 1H, NH). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 72.1 (CH₂), 126.5, 127.7, 128.0, 128.1, 128.25, 128.33, 129.0, 129.6, 131.0, 136.4, 137.1, 138.0, 140.3, 145.5, 171.6 (C=O), and 193.3 (C=O). HRMS (ESI): calculated for C₂₅H₁₈ClNO₃ [M + H]⁺ 416.1053, found 416.1042.

3.2. General Procedure for the Synthesis of 3-Hydroxypyridin-4(1H)-ones 3

Corresponding pyridone **2** (0.25 mmol) and NaI (69 mg, 0.37 mmol) were dissolved in anhydrous MeCN (3 mL), and Me₃SiCl (53 mg, 0.49 mmol) was added. The solution

was stirred at 80 °C for 1.5 h (TLC monitoring). Then, water (4 mL) was added, and the precipitated product was filtered and recrystallized from toluene.

5-*Benzoyl*-2-(*furan*-2-*yl*)-3-*hydroxypyridin*-4(1*H*)-*one* (**3a**). Brown solid (63 mg, 89%), mp 234–235 °C. IR (ATR) ν 3334, 3054, 1600, 1482, 1233, and 746 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 6.77 (dd, *J* = 3.3, *J* = 1.3, 1H, H-4 furan), 7.13 (d, *J* = 3.3, 1H, H-3 furan), 7.46 (t, *J* = 7.6, 2H, H-3, H-5 Ph), 7.59 (t, *J* = 7.3, 1H, H-4 Ph), 7.75 (d, *J* = 7.5, 2H, H-2, H-6 Ph), 7.78 (d, *J* = 3.6, 1H, H-6 pyridone), 7.99 (s, 1H, H-5 furan), and 12.24 (s, 1H, NH); the OH proton was not observed. ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 112.5, 112.8, 119.2, 121.2, 128.0, 129.2, 132.4, 136.6, 137.9, 143.8, 144.1, 144.5, 168.6 (C=O), and 193.7 (C=O). HRMS (ESI): calculated for C₁₆H₁₂NO₄ [M + H]⁺ 282.0766, found 282.0764.

5-(4-Chlorobenzoyl)-2-(furan-2-yl)-3-hydroxypyridin-4(1H)-one (**3b**). Brown solid (72 mg, 92%), mp 298–299 °C. IR (ATR) v 3311, 3060, 2958, 1648, 1523, 1405, 1273, and 736 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 6.77 (dd, J = 3.1, J = 1.6, 1H, H-4 furan), 7.13 (d, J = 3.3, 1H, H-3 furan), 7.53 (d, J = 8.4, 2H, H-3, H-5 Ar), 7.75 (d, J = 8.4, 2H, H-2, H-6 Ar), 7.81 (d, J = 6.6, 1H, H-6 pyridone), 7.99 (s, 1H, H-5 furan), and 12.30 (d, J = 6.6, 1H, NH); the OH proton was not observed. ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 112.6, 112.9, 119.3, 120.8, 128.1, 131.1, 136.7, 137.0, 137.2, 143.8, 144.1, 144.7, 168.7 (C=O), and 192.6 (C=O). HRMS (ESI): calculated for C₁₆H₁₀ClNO₄ [M + H]⁺ 316.0377, found 316.0376.

5-(4-Chlorobenzoyl)-3-hydroxy-2-phenylpyridin-4(1H)-one (**3c**). Brown solid (75 mg, 92%), mp 292–293 °C. IR (ATR) ν 3234, 3070, 1641, 1594, 1379, 1263, 1087, and 752 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 7.48 (tt, J = 7.3, J = 1.2, 1H, H-4 Ph), 7.52–7.57 (m, 4H, Ph, Ar), 7.75–7.79 (m, 4H, Ar, Ph), 7.88 (d, J = 6.1, 1H, H-6 pyridone), 8.40–9.40 (br s, 1H, OH), and 12.22 (d, J = 6.1, 1H, NH). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 120.8, 127.4, 128.1, 128.40, 128.43, 129.1, 131.16, 131.19, 136.6, 136.9, 137.3, 146.1, 169.0 (C=O), and 192.7 (C=O). HRMS (ESI): calculated for C₁₈H₁₂ClNO₃ [M + H]⁺ 326.0584, found 326.0599.

Supplementary Materials: The following supporting information can be downloaded online: Full ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra of all synthesized compounds.

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