Angular Regioselectivity in the Reactions of 2-Thioxopyrimidin-4-ones and Hydrazonoyl Chlorides: Synthesis of Novel Stereoisomeric Octahydro[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinazolin-5-ones

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Abstract: The regioselective synthesis of cis and trans stereoisomers of variously functionalized octahydro[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinazolin-5-ones was performed. The 2-thioxopyrimidin-4-ones used in the synthesis reacted with hydrazonoyl chlorides in a regioselective manner to produce the angular regioisomers [1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinazolin-5-ones rather than the linear isomers [1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinazolin-5-ones. The synthesis process took place with electronic control. The angular regiochemistry of the products was confirmed by X-ray experiments and two-dimensional NMR studies.

Keywords: regioselective reactions; hydrazonoyl chlorides; 2-thioxopyrimidin-4-ones; [1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinazolin-5-ones

1. Introduction

The [1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyrimidinone scaffold has been known to exhibit a wide range of pharmacological activities such as antitumor, anti-inflammatory, antimicrobial, and antifungal activity, as well as macrophage activation [1–9].

A reaction between hydrazonoyl chlorides decorated with different functionalities [10–12] and 2-thioxopyrimidin-4-ones is an efficient strategy for incorporating the [1,2,4]triazolo moiety into [1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyrimidinones [13,14].

Recently, we reported that 2-thioxopyrimidin-4-one constructed on the norbornene skeleton gave an angular regioisomer ([1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyrimidin-7(1H)-one), functionalized with various hydrazonoyl chlorides, as the sole product of the reaction [15]. This was in contrast to findings observed previously, where [1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyrimidin-5(1H)-one, the linear regioisomer, was the sole product of the reaction [16–21].

Herein, we report the extension of our research for the regioselective synthesis of novel cis- and trans-octahydro[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinazolin-5-ones 4a–g and 5a–g via the reaction of cyclohexane-fused cis- or trans-2-thioxopyrimidin-4-ones 1 and 2 with hydrazonoyl chlorides 3a–g, taking place under electronic control. Moreover, X-ray and two-dimensional NMR studies were used to prove the stereochemistry of the products.
2. Results and Discussion

Cyclohexane-fused cis- and trans-2-thioxopyrimidin-4-one 1 and 2 were prepared according to previously described procedures [22]. The thioxopyrimidinone derivatives 1 or 2 thus prepared were reacted with the hydrazonoyl chlorides 3a–g bearing varied functionalities in dioxane in the presence of triethylamine as a base under reflux conditions (Scheme 1). According to the reaction mechanism depicted in Scheme 2, the angular regioisomers [1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinazolin-5(3H)-one 4a–g and 5a–g and linear regioisomers [1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinazolin-5(3H)-one 6a–g and 7a–g were expected to be formed. The outcome of the reactions depends on the involvement of the tautomeric structures I or II of the cyclohexane-fused 2-thioxopyrimidin-4-ones 1 and 2. The reactions proceeded through S-alkylation [17–21] to give S-alkylated products A followed by Smiles rearrangement [23], affording intermediates B, which cyclized in situ under the employed reaction conditions via the elimination of hydrogen sulfide gas to give the desired products 4a–g and 5a–g [20]. As evidenced by TLC and NMR spectroscopy, the transformations took place in a regioselective manner, producing the corresponding angular regioisomers as the sole products.

![Scheme 1. Synthesis of [1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinazolin-5(3H)-one 4a–g and 5a–g.](image1)

![Scheme 2. Proposed reaction pathways to form angular and linear regioisomers.](image2)

The steric structure of the angular regioisomers was evidenced with information acquired through various instrumental techniques, namely, ¹H-NMR, ¹³C-NMR, and two-dimensional NMR including NOESY (neighboring Overhauser effect spectroscopy correlation), HMBC (heteronuclear multiple
bond correlation), and X-ray crystallographic analysis. The $^1$H-NMR spectra of the products formed by the hydrazonoyl chloride ethyl esters 3a–f show a more multiplicated signal pattern corresponding to the CH$_2$ moiety of the ester functional group (Supplementary Materials), which suggests the steric proximity of the ester group and the cyclohexane skeleton. Moreover, the NOESY spectra exhibit a mutual correlation between the hydrogens of CH$_2$ and cyclohexane. In addition, the HMBC spectra show a mutual correlation between H-9a and C-1, which are separated by three bonds in the angular regioisomers. However, this correlation cannot exist in the linear regioisomers, because the C-3 and H-9a atoms are separated by five bonds (Figure 1a). Last but not least, the $^{13}$C-NMR spectra reveal the signal of the carbonyl carbon of the pyrimidinone ring residue at nearly 176 ppm. These chemical shift values are similar to those of annelated pyrimidinones of type A rather than those of type B (Figure 1b) [24]. Finally, the X-ray crystallographic analysis of 5b provided conclusive evidence for the angular regiochemistry of the products (Figure 2).

**Figure 1.** (a) Heteronuclear multiple bond correlation (HMBC) and neighboring Overhauser effect (NOE) mutual correlations in angular regioisomers, and the lack of a similar correlation in their linear counterparts. (b) $^{13}$C-NMR data used for assigning the stereochemistry of the products.

**Figure 2.** TELP image of 5b at 50% probability level.

On the basis of the above evidence, the angular structures 4a–g and 5a–g were assigned for the products, and, consequently, the linear structures 6a–g and 7a–g could be rejected.
The regioselectivity of these reactions delivering the angular regioisomers was ascribed to electronic factors rather than steric factors. That is, since the tautomeric form I is electronically and energetically predominant, the reaction proceeds through tautomeric form I and leads to the formation of the angular regioisomer (Scheme 2).

3. Materials and Methods

3.1. General Methods

NMR analyses were performed at 500.20 MHz for \(^1\)H-NMR and at 125.62 MHz for \(^{13}\)C-NMR in CDCl\(_3\) at room temperature, using a Bruker AV NEO Ascend 500 spectrometer (Bruker Biospin, Karlsruhe, Germany) with a Double Resonance Broad Band Probe (BBO). Tetramethylsilane (TMS) was used as an internal standard. The reactions were monitored by thin-layer chromatography (TLC) using aluminum sheets coated with silica gel (POLYGRAM\textsuperscript{®} SIL G/UV254, Merck, Kenilworth, NJ, USA). The TLC plates were visualized under UV light. The melting points were measured using a Hinotek-X4 micro melting point apparatus (Hinotek, Ningbo, China).

The cyclohexane-fused cis- and trans-2-thioxopyrimidin-4-ones 1 and 2 were prepared from the corresponding amino esters according to reported procedures \[25–27\]. The hydrazonoyl chlorides 2a–h were synthesized according to procedures reported previously \[27,28\].

X-ray diffraction data were collected on a Rigaku Oxford Diffraction Supernova diffractometer using Cu K\(\alpha\) radiation, measured at a temperature of 120 K using a crystal of 5b immersed in cryo-oil and mounted in a loop. The CrysAlisPro \[29\] software package was used for cell refinement and data reduction. An analytical absorption correction (CrysAlisPro) was applied to the intensities before structure solution. The structure was solved by an intrinsic phasing method (SHELXT \[30,31\]). Structural refinement was carried out using the SHELXL \[31\] software with the SHELXLE \[31\] graphical user interface. Hydrogen atoms were positioned geometrically and constrained to ride on their parent atoms, with C–H = 0.95–1.00 Å and \(U_{iso} = 1.2–1.5\) \(U_{eq}\) (parent atom). The crystallographic details are summarized in Table S1.

3.2. Synthesis of Cis- and Trans-[1,2,4]triazolo-[4,3-a]quinazolin-5(3H)-one 4a–g and 5a–g

A mixture of 0.5 mmol of cyclohexane-fused 2-thioxopyrimidin-4-one 1 or 2 and 0.5 mmol of hydrazonoyl chloride (3a–g) in dioxane (10 mL) was treated at reflux temperature in the presence of 100 \(\mu\)L of triethylamine (TEA) for 5–7 h. The reactions were monitored by TLC (n-hexane/EtOAC = 1:1 as the eluent) until completion. After solvent evaporation under reduced pressure, the residue was dissolved in CHCl\(_3\) (20 mL), followed by extraction with water (3 \(\times\) 10 mL). The CHCl\(_3\) solution was dried on Na\(_2\)SO\(_4\), the solvent was evaporated, and the residue was purified by column chromatography using n-hexane/EtOAC = 1:1 as the eluent.

\[(5aR^*,9aS^*)-Ethyl 5-oxo-3-phenyl-3,5,5a,6,7,8,9,9a-octahydro-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-alquinazoline-1-carboxylate (4a): 69\%, m.p. 223–225 °C \(^1\)H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl\(_3\)) \(\delta\) = 8.09 (d, \(J = 7.7, 2\)H), 7.45 (t, \(J = 8.0, 2\)H), 7.33 (t, \(J = 7.4, 1\)H), 5.08–4.98 (m, 1H, H-4a), 4.58–4.45 (m, 2H, CH\(_2\)CH\(_3\)), 2.92 (d, \(J = 4.2, 1\)H), 2.68 (d, \(J = 12.5, 1\)H), 2.03 (d, \(J = 9.5, 1\)H), 1.86 (d, \(J = 10.9, 1\)H), 1.47 (t, \(J = 7.1, 3\)H, CH\(_2\)CH\(_3\)), 1.51–1.41 (m, 5H). \(^{13}\)C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl\(_3\)) \(\delta\) = 176.0 (C=O), 156.3 (C=O), 153.2 (C), 136.85 (C), 136.3 (C), 129.1 (CH), 127.8 (CH), 121.8 (CH), 63.3 (OCH\(_2\)), 55.4 (CH), 55.2 (CH), 38.2 (CH\(_2\)), 28.8 (CH\(_2\)), 24.7 (CH\(_2\)), 24.6 (CH\(_2\)), 21.22 (CH\(_3\)), 14.29, 14.1 (CH\(_3\)).

\[(5aR^*,9aS^*)-Ethyl 5-oxo-3-(p-tolyl)-3,5a,6,7,8,9,9a-octahydro-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-alquinazoline-1-carboxylate (4b): 62\%, m.p. 263–264 °C \(^1\)H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl\(_3\)) \(\delta\) = 7.94 (d, \(J = 8.5, 2\)H), 7.24 (d, \(J = 8.3, 2\)H), 5.10–4.95 (m, 1H, H-4a), 4.52 (pd, \(J = 7.6, 3.6, 1\)H, CH\(_2\)CH\(_3\)), 2.91 (d, \(J = 5.5, 1\)H, H-8a), 2.68 (d, \(J = 12.2, 1\)H), 2.37 (s, 3H, p-tolyl), 2.03 (d, \(J = 12.1, 1\)H), 1.86 (d, \(J = 11.1, 1\)H), 1.47 (t, \(J = 7.1, 3\)H, CH\(_2\)CH\(_3\)), 1.62–1.4 (m, 4H). \(^{13}\)C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl\(_3\)) \(\delta\) = 176.1 (C=O), 156.4 (C=O), 153.1 (C), 137.9 (C), 136.6 (C), 133.9 (C), 129.7 (CH), 121.7 (CH), 63.3 (OCH\(_2\)), 55.3 (CH), 38.1 (CH), 28.8 (CH\(_2\)), 24.7 (CH\(_2\)), 24.6 (CH\(_2\)), 21.3 (CH\(_3\)), 21.11(CH\(_3\), p-tolyl), 14.13(CH\(_2\)CH\(_3\)).

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(5aR,9aS*)-Ethyl 5-oxo-3-(4-nitrophenoxy)-3,5a,6,7,8,9,9a-octahydro-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinazoline-1-carboxylate (4e): 61%, m.p. 262–265 ºC. 1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl3) δ = 8.51 (d, J = 9.3, 2H), 8.33 (d, J = 12.0, 2H), 5.07 (ddd, J = 11.3, 6.5, 4.4, 1H), 4.60–4.49 (m, 2H, CH2CH2), 2.95 (d, J = 6.0, 1H), 2.68 (d, J = 8.0, 1H), 2.05 (d, J = 12.5, 1H), 1.88 (d, J = 10.2, 1H), 1.50 (t, J = 7.1, 3H, CH2CH3), 1.63–1.43 (m, 5H). 13C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl3) δ = 176.0 (C=O), 156.0 (C=O), 155.6(C), 146.0(C), 141.4(C), 137.6(C), 124.8(CH), 121.2(CH), 77.3(OCH3), 77.0(CH), 76.8(CH), 63.7(CH2), 55.5(CH), 38.2(CH), 28.8(CH2), 24.6(CH2), 24.5(CH2), 21.1(CH3), 14.11(CH3).

(5aR,9aS*)-Ethyl 5-oxo-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-3,5a,6,7,8,9,9a-octahydro-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinazoline-1-carboxylate (4d): 69%, m.p. 215–216 ºC. 1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl3) δ = 7.94 (d, J = 9.1 Hz, 2H), 6.96 (dd, J = 9.1 Hz, 2H), 5.15–4.92 (m, 1H), 4.67–4.39 (m, 2H, CH2CH2), 3.83 (s, 3H), 2.93 (d, J = 5.7 Hz, 1H), 2.68 (d, J = 12.2 Hz, 1H), 2.03 (d, J = 12.5 Hz, 1H), 1.86 (d, J = 12.5 Hz, 2H), 1.47 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H, CH2CH3). 1.62–1.4 (m, 4H). 13C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl3) δ 175.9(C=O), 159.1(C=O), 156.3(C), 152.9(C), 136.6(C), 136.6(C), 129.2(C), 123.7(CH), 114.3(CH), 63.3(OCH3), 55.6(OCH3), 55.4(CH), 38.2(CH), 28.8(CH2), 24.7(CH2), 24.6, 24.2(CH2), 21(CH3), 14.1(CH3).

(5aR,9aS*)-Ethyl 5-oxo-3-(4-chlorophenoxy)-3,5a,6,7,8,9,9a-octahydro-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinazoline-1-carboxylate (4f): 62%, m.p. 202–206 ºC. 1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl3) δ = 8.86 (dd, J = 8.3, 3.0, 1H), 8.27 (s, 1H), 7.62–7.58 (m, 2H), 5.20–4.89 (m, 1H), 4.66–4.39 (m, 2H, CH2CH2), 2.94 (d, J = 3.8, 1H), 2.68 (d, J = 9.9, 1H), 2.05 (dd, J = 8.7, 3.7, 1H), 1.87 (d, J = 10.2, 1H), 1.74 (s, 1H), 1.50 (t, J = 7.1, 3H, CH2CH3), 1.61–1.41 (m, 4H). 13C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl3) δ = 176.0 (C=O), 156.2(C=O), 153.1(C), 136.9(C), 134.9(C), 133.4(C), 129.3(CH), 122.7(CH), 63.5(OCH3), 55.4(CH), 38.1(CH), 28.8(CH2), 24.6(CH2), 24.6(CH2), 21.2(CH2), 14.1(CH3).

(5aR,9aS*)-Ethyl 5-oxo-3-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-3,5a,6,7,8,9,9a-octahydro-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinazoline-1-carboxylate (4g): 62%, m.p. 196–198 ºC. 1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl3) δ = 7.96 (d, J = 8.5, 2H), 7.27 (d, J = 7.0, 2H), 5.13–5.00 (m, 1H), 2.92 (d, J = 2.3, 1H), 2.69 (s, 3H, COCH3), 2.66 (d, J = 7.7, 1H), 2.39 (s, 3H, CH3, p-toly1), 1.98 (d, J = 12.3, 1H), 1.85 (br, 2H), 1.62–1.45 (m, 4H). 13C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl3) δ = 188.1(C=O), 176.0(C=O), 153.6(C), 141.4(C), 138.1(C), 133.9(C), 129.8(CH), 121.6(CH), 55.0(CH), 38.2(CH2), 28.6(COCH3), 26.5, 24.6(CH2), 24.5(CH2), 21.3(CH2), 21.1(CH3, p-toly1).

(5aR,9aS*)-Ethyl 5-oxo-3-(4-phenyl)-3,5a,6,7,8,9,9a-octahydro-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinazoline-1-carboxylate (5a): 65%, m.p. 203–206 ºC. 1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl3) δ = 8.04 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.48–7.41 (m, 2H), 7.33 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 4.58–4.44 (m, 2H, CH2CH3), 4.08–3.97 (m, 1H), 2.82 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 2.50 (d, J = 13.0 Hz, 1H), 2.30–2.21 (m, 2H), 1.94 (t, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 1.46 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H, CH2CH3), 1.54–1.35 (m, 4H). 13C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl3) δ = 176.7(C=O), 157.5(C=O), 153.3(C), 138.9(C), 136.2(C), 129.1(CH), 127.7(CH), 121.7(CH), 68.3(OCH3), 58.2(CH), 43.4(CH), 31.2(CH2), 25.4(CH2), 25.0(CH2), 24.2(CH2), 14.0 (CH3).

(5aR,9aS*)-Ethyl 5-oxo-3-(p-toly1)-3,5a,6,7,8,9,9a-octahydro-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinazoline-1-carboxylate (5b): 67%, m.p. 213–214 ºC 1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl3) δ = 7.89 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 4.71–4.35 (m, 2H, CH2CH3), 4.17–3.87 (m, 1H), 2.82 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 2.50 (d, J = 10.5 Hz, 1H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 2.32–2.19 (m, 1H), 1.93 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 1.46 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H, CH2CH3). 1.47–1.32 (m, 4H). 13C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl3) δ = 176.7(C=O), 157.5(C=O), 153.2(C), 138.7(C), 137.8(C), 133.8(C), 129.7(CH), 121.7(CH), 63.7(CH2), 58.2(CH), 43.4(CH), 31.2(CH2), 25.4(CH2), 25.1(CH2), 24.2(CH2), 21.1(CH3, p-toly1), 14.0(CH3).
Herein, we report the unexpected regioselectivity of the reaction between 2-thioxopyrimidin-4-ones with hydrazonoyl chlorides to produce the angular regioisomers [1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinazoline-5-ones, rather than the linear isomers [1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinazolin-5-ones. The transformations are controlled by electronic factors of 2-thioxopyrimidin-4-one. This phenomenon was exploited in the synthesis of the novel stereoisomeric octahydro[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinazolin-5-ones 4a–g and 5a–g starting from cis or trans cyclohexane-fused 2-thioxopyrimidin-4-one 1 or 2, respectively. The stereochemistry of the products was assigned on the basis of one- and two-dimensional NMR spectra and by X-ray measurements providing conclusive evidence.

**Supplementary Materials:** NMR spectra of all the synthesized compounds and crystallographic data for 5b are available online.

**Author Contributions:** F.F., A.I.S., and M.P. planned and designed the project. A.I.S. and M.P. performed the synthesis and characterized the synthesized compounds. M.H. performed and analyzed the X-ray measurements of compound 5b. A.I.S. prepared the manuscript for publication, and all the authors discussed.
the results and commented on the manuscript. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

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