Synthesis and Reduction of 10-Phthalimidocamphor Oxime

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Dedicated to Professor Emeritus Miha Tišler, University of Ljubljana, on the occasion of his 90th anniversary.

Abstract

10-Phthalimidocamphor oxime was prepared from easily available 10-iodocamphor in two steps. Reduction of the oxime functionality resulted in the formation of two novel polycyclic isoindolinone heterocycles, the attempted preparation of the primary amine failed. The structures of novel heterocycles were unambiguously confirmed by single crystal X-ray diffraction as well as NMR techniques.

Keywords: 10-iodocamphor, 10-phthalimidocamphor oxime, camphor derived amines, reduction

1. Introduction

(1R)-(+)–Camphor and its enantiomer are renewable enantiomerically pure chiral pool starting materials. The unique reactivity of camphor enables its derivatization at positions 2, 3, 4, 5, 8-10, as well as selective cleavage of the C1-C2 and C2-C3 bonds (Figure 1). All of the above makes camphor a very desirable starting compound for the preparation of a wide variety of products ranging from natural products to chiral auxiliaries, ligands in asymmetric synthesis, organocatalysts, and NMR shift reagents.

Within our continuing study on camphor-based diamines as potential organocatalyst scaffolds, we recently reported on the synthesis of a novel type of 1,3-diamine-derived bifunctional squaramide organocatalysts A prepared from 10-iodocamphor and their application as highly efficient catalysts in Michael additions of 1,3-di-carbonyl nucleophiles to trans-β-nitrostyrenes. 10-Iodocamphor has seen surprisingly limited application as the starting compound, although, it can easily be prepared in sufficient quantities from (1S)-(+)–10-camphorsulfonic acid. Herein we report the results of the synthesis and reduction of 10-phthalimidocamphor oxime (4), which is a potential precursor for the preparation of mono-protected primary diamine camphor building block 5.

Instead of the desired diamine 5, isoindolinone heterocycles 6 and 7 were isolated. Isoindolinone/isoindole derivatives can be found in numerous natural and pharmaceutical compounds showing multiple biological activities (Figure 1).
2. Results and Discussion

Following the literature procedure, (1S)-(+) 10-camphorsulfonic acid (1) was transformed into 10-iodocamphor (2). The following reaction of 2 with potassium phthalimide gave the corresponding 10-phthalimidocamphor (3) in 72% yield. Finally, condensation of 3 with NH₂OH furnished in 92% yield the expected 10-phthalimidocamphor oxime (4). Next, reduction of the oxime 4 was studied with the aim of preparing mono-protected primary diamine camphor building block 5 (Scheme 1).

Thus, the results of the reduction of oxime 4 are summarized in Scheme 2 and Table 1. Catalytic hydrogenation of 4 using Pd–C in MeOH with or without HCl yielded only the recovered starting material (Entries 1 and 2). On the other hand, reduction of 4 with Na in n-PrOH, as expected, gave a complex mixture of products (Entry 3). Catalytic hydrogenation using Raney-Ni gave the polycyclic secondary amine 6 in 37% isolated yield (Entry 4). Clearly, the reduction of oxime 4 was successful, though the reaction did not stop at the desired diamine level 5. Therefore, the reduction with Raney-Ni was repeated in the presence of AcOH (Entry 5) and aqueous formaldehyde (Entry 6) in order to obtain either the amine 5 or a tertiary dimethylamine derivative. The former reaction again delivered compound 6 in 20% yield, while the later

![Scheme 1](image1)

**Scheme 1.** Attempted synthesis of monoprotected diamine 5.

![Scheme 2](image2)

**Scheme 2.** Synthesis of amine 6 and imine 7 from oxime 4.

| Entry | Reducing agent | Solvent | T (°C) | t (h) | Product/Yield (%) |
|-------|----------------|---------|--------|-------|-------------------|
| 1     | Pd–C           | MeOH    | r.t.   | 8     | no reaction      |
| 2     | Pd–C/HCl       | MeOH    | r.t.   | 8     | no reaction      |
| 3     | Na             | n-PrOH  | 90     | 2     | complex mixture  |
| 4     | Raney-Ni       | MeOH    | r.t.   | 8     | 6 (37)           |
| 5     | Raney-Ni/AcOH  | MeOH    | r.t.   | 8     | 6 (20)           |
| 6     | Raney-Ni/HCHO  | MeOH    | r.t.   | 8     | complex mixture  |
| 7     | Zn/HCl         | MeOH    | r.t.   | a)    | 7 (45)           |
| 8     | Zn             | AcOH    | r.t.   | a)    | complex mixture  |
| 9     | Zn/HCl         | AcOH    | r.t.   | a)    | complex mixture  |

a) Till the disappearance of the starting material (TLC analysis).

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yielded a complex mixture of products. Next, reduction of oxime 4 with Zn in MeOH in the presence of excess aqueous HCl was performed, furnishing imine 7 in 45% yield (Entry 7). Repeating the reduction of 4 with Zn in AcOH with or without aqueous HCl yielded complex mixtures of products (Entries 8 and 9).

The formation of the products 6 and 7 could be rationalized by the initial formation of the primary amine 5, followed by the condensation with the proximal carbonyl group of the phthalimide functionality to give intermediate 8. Isomerization of 8 to imine 7 is explained by a simple imine-imine tautomerisation, while reduction (or isomerization/reduction) of 8 would lead to amine 6 (Scheme 3). The configuration of the newly formed stereogenic centers seems to be dictated by the reducing agent applied.

2.1. Crystal Structures of Compounds 6 and 7

The asymmetric units of compounds 6 and 7 are depicted in Figures 2 and 3, respectively. In both structures there is one molecule in the asymmetric unit. Bond lengths are given in Table 2. Most of bond lengths are very similar both in 6 and 7, with the exception of bonds including atoms N2 and C9. This is in accordance with their structural chemical formulas (as shown in Scheme 2) which differ only in the closeness of these two atoms. Bond N2-C9 in 6, 1.463(3) Å, is significantly longer than 1.265(2) Å in 7, which is in accordance with the fact that this is a single bond in 6 and a double bond in 7. The average C(sp³)-N(3) single bond and C(sp2) = N(2) double bond in the literature are 1.469(14) and 1.279(8) Å, respectively. Usually C(sp³)-C(sp³) bond distances are longer in comparison to C(sp³)-C(sp²). In accordance to this, C9-C10 and C9-C15 are longer in 6 than in 7.

Compound 6 was tested as a potential covalent organocatalyst in the addition of 1-methylindole to cinnamaldehyde. Amine 6 failed to catalyze the reaction (Scheme 4).

The structures of novel compounds 3, 4, 6, and 7 were determined by spectroscopic methods (¹H-NMR, ¹³C-NMR, IR, HRMS).

Molecules of 6 and 7 are asymmetric. In both structures, chiral carbon centres are C8, C10, and C14; in 6 C9 atom is also chiral. C10 and C14 from camphor part of the molecule have in both compounds absolute configuration (S) and (R), respectively. The absolute configuration of C8 atom from phthalimde ring is (R) in 6 and (S) in 7, respec-
tively. Consequently, the conformation of molecules of 6 and 7 is different in a way how a camphor part is bonded to the remaining part of molecule which is shown in Figure 4. In accordance with their optical activity, both compounds crystalize in chiral space group. Compound 6 crystallizes in orthorhombic crystal system in \( P2_12_12 \) and 7 in tetragonal \( P4_22_2 \), respectively. The packing of molecules is presented in Figures 5 and 6. In 6 molecules are connected via N2-H-…O1 hydrogen bonds into chains parallel to \( b \) axis. Geometrical parameters of this H-bond are given in Table 3. The distance between the donor, N2, and acceptor, O1, is not short, which means that H-bond is weak. In 7 there are no N-H or O-H groups and consequently no classical intermolecular H-bonds. N and O atoms are acceptors of weak intermolecular H-bonds, donated by C-H moieties and presented in Table 3. In 6 and 7

| bond     | 6      | 7      |
|----------|--------|--------|
| O1-C1    | 1.230(2) | 1.222(1) |
| N1-C1    | 1.347(3) | 1.356(2) |
| N1-C8    | 1.466(3) | 1.460(2) |
| N1-C11   | 1.453(3) | 1.451(2) |
| N2-C8    | 1.438(2) | 1.464(2) |
| N2-C9    | 1.463(3) | 1.265(2) |
| C1-C2    | 1.490(3) | 1.493(2) |
| C2-C7    | 1.381(3) | 1.379(2) |
| C2-C3    | 1.377(3) | 1.384(2) |
| C3-C4    | 1.375(4) | 1.387(2) |
| C4-C5    | 1.373(5) | 1.385(2) |
| C5-C6    | 1.389(4) | 1.381(2) |
| C6-C7    | 1.387(3) | 1.383(2) |
| C7-C8    | 1.504(3) | 1.502(2) |
| C9-C10   | 1.565(3) | 1.519(2) |
| C9-C15   | 1.546(3) | 1.522(2) |
| C10-C11  | 1.521(3) | 1.519(1) |
| C10-C12  | 1.551(3) | 1.550(2) |
| C10-C16  | 1.557(3) | 1.553(2) |
| C12-C13  | 1.540(3) | 1.556(2) |
| C13-C14  | 1.531(3) | 1.523(2) |
| C14-C15  | 1.532(3) | 1.536(2) |
| C14-C16  | 1.551(3) | 1.554(2) |
| C16-C17  | 1.538(3) | 1.531(2) |
| C16-C18  | 1.526(3) | 1.528(2) |

Figure 2. Ortep\(^{28}\) drawing of asymmetric unit of compound 6. Displacement ellipsoids are drawn with 25% probability level and the hydrogen atoms are shown as small spheres of arbitrary radii.

Figure 3. Ortep\(^{28}\) drawing of asymmetric unit of compound 7. Displacement ellipsoids are drawn with 25% probability level and the hydrogen atoms are shown as small spheres of arbitrary radii.
there are no \( \pi \cdots \pi \) or \( \pi \cdots \sigma \) stacking interaction between aromatic rings.

### 3. Conclusion

The title 10-phthalimidocamphor oxime (4) was prepared as a precursor for the preparation of monoprotected camphor derived 1,3-diamine building block 5. Reduction thereof under various reaction conditions could never be stopped at the diamine 5 level, instead polycyclic isocinolinone heterocycles 6 and 7 were isolated. The structures of 6 and 7 were confirmed by X-ray analysis of the corresponding monocrystals.

### 4. Experimental Section

Solvents for extractions and chromatography were of technical grade and were distilled prior to use. Extracts were dried over technical grade \( \text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4 \). Melting points were determined on a Kofler micro hot stage and on SRS OptiMelt MPA100 – Automated Melting Point System (Stanford Research Systems, Sunnyvale, California, United States). The NMR spectra were obtained on a Bruker UltraShield 500 plus (Bruker, Billerica, Massachusetts, United States) at 500 MHz for \( ^1\text{H} \) and 126 MHz for \( ^1\text{C} \) nucleus, using DMSO-\( d_6 \) and CDCl\( _3 \) with TMS as the internal standard, as solvents. Mass spectra were recorded on an Agilent 6224 Accurate Mass TOF LC/MS (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, California, United States), IR spectra on a Perkin-Elmer Spectrum BX FTIR spectrophotometer (PerkinElmer, Waltham, Massachusetts, United States). Catalytic hydrogenation was performed on a Parr Pressure Reaction Hydrogenation Apparatus (Moline, IL, USA).

Column chromatography (CC) was performed on silica gel (Silica gel 60, particle size: 0.035–0.070 mm (Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, Missouri, United States)).

**Synthesis of 2-(((1R,4R)-7,7-dimethyl-2-oxobicyclo[2.2.1]heptan-1-yl)methyl)isoindoline-1,3-dione (3).**

To a suspension of 10-iodocamphor (2) (420 mg, 1.51 mmol) in anhydrous DMSO (10 mL) under argon...
potassium phthalimide (524 mg, 2.83 mmol) was added and the resulting reaction mixture was heated at 100 °C under argon for 16 h. Volatile components were evaporated in vacuo. The residue was suspended in H2O (20 mL) and extracted with EtOAc (3 × 40 mL). The combined organic phase was washed with H2O (20 mL) and NaCl (aq. sat., 20 mL), dried over anhydrous Na2SO4, filtered, and volatile components evaporated in vacuo. The residue was purified by column chromatography (EtOAc:pentane ether = 1:2). Fractions containing the pure product 3 were combined and volatile components evaporated in vacuo. Yield: 320 mg (1.076 mmol, 72%) of white solid; mp 123–129 °C. \[ \delta \text{[}\text{1H}] = -2.4 \text{ (c = 0.25, CH2Cl2). El-HRMS: } m/z = 298.1437 \text{(MH}^+\text{)}; C_{18}H_{16}NO requires: } m/z = 298.1438 \text{(MH}^+\text{)}. \]

13C-NMR (126 MHz, CDCl3): δ 129.6, 131.7, 133.2, 142.8, 165.4.

To a solution of ketone 3 (2.76 g, 9.28 mmol) in EtOH (45 mL) NH2OH-HCl (1.30 g, 18.7 mmol) and pyridine (1.10 g, 13.9 mmol) were added and the resulting reaction mixture was heated under reflux for 16 h. Volatile components were evaporated in vacuo, followed by the addition of H2O (25 mL) and finely powdered NaOH till the pH ~ 10–12. The resulting mixture was extracted with EtO (5 × 40 mL). The combined organic phase was washed with H2O (5 mL) and NaCl (aq. sat., 5 mL), dried over anhydrous Na2SO4, filtered, and volatile components evaporated in vacuo. The residue was purified by column chromatography (EtOAc:pentane ether = 1:2). Fractions containing the pure product 4 were combined and volatile components evaporated in vacuo. Yield: 2.67 g (8.54 mmol, 92%) of white solid; mp 151–155 °C. \[ \delta \text{[}\text{1H}] = -50.6 \text{ (c = 0.33, CH2Cl2). El-HRMS: } m/z = 313.1547 \text{(MH}^+\text{)}; C_{18}H_{21}N_2O requires: } m/z = 313.1547 \text{(MH}^+\text{)}. \]

Synthesis of 2-(((4R,4R)-2-(hydroxyimino)-7,7-dimethylbicyclo[2.2.1]heptan-1-yl)methyl)isoindoline-1,3-dione (4).

To a solution of 3 (2.76 g, 9.28 mmol) in MeOH (10 mL) at room temperature HCl (aq. 12 M, 1 mL) was added. Next, at room temperature under vigorous stirring, Zn dust (100 mg, 1.53 mmol) was added. After the disappearance of the starting material (TLC analysis), the reaction mixture was filtered and the filtrate evaporated in vacuo. The residue was suspended in H2O (10 mL), finely powdered Na2SO4 was added till the pH ~ 10–12 followed by extraction with EtO (3 × 30 mL). The combined organic phase was washed with H2O (10 mL) and NaCl (aq. sat., 10 mL), dried over anhydrous Na2SO4, filtered, and volatile components evaporated in vacuo. The residue was purified by column chromatography (1. n-hexane:EtO = 1:3 to elute the nonpolar impurities; 2. Et3N:EtO = 1:40 to elute the product 6). Fractions containing the pure product 6 were combined and volatile components evaporated in vacuo. Yield: 83 mg (0.294 mmol, 37%) of white solid; mp 154–158 °C. \[ \delta \text{[}\text{1H}] = -163.0 \text{ (c = 0.40, CH2Cl2). El-HRMS: } m/z = 283.1801 \text{(MH}^+\text{)}; C_{13}H_{14}N_2O requires: } m/z = 283.1805 \text{(MH}^+\text{)}. \]

1H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl3): δ 7.72 – 7.77 (dd, J = 3.0, 5.5 Hz, 2H of Ar); 7.85 (dd, J = 3.1, 5.4 Hz, 2H of Ar). \[ \delta \text{[}\text{13C}\text{-NMR (126 MHz, CDCl3): } \delta \text{[}\text{13C}] = 19.5, 19.7, 26.7, 26.7, 34.7, 43.3, 43.5, 47.2, 61.1, 123.4, 132.2, 134.1, 168.9, 216.7. \]

Synthesis of (4bR,5aR,7R,9aS)-13,13-dimethyl-7,8,9-hexahydro-10H-7,9a-methanoisoindolo[1,2-b]quinazolin-12(4bH)-one (6).

A mixture of compound 4 (246 g, 0.788 mmol), MeOH (50 mL), and Raney-Ni (100 mg) was hydrogennated (4 bar of H2) at room temperature for 8 h. The reaction mixture was filtered through a short pad of Celite®, washed with MeOH (20 mL), and the filtrate evaporated in vacuo. The residue was purified by column chromatography (1. n-hexane:EtO = 1:3 to elute the nonpolar impurities; 2. Et3N:EtO = 1:40 to elute the product 6). Fractions containing the pure product 6 were combined and volatile components evaporated in vacuo. Yield: 83 mg (0.294 mmol, 37%) of white solid; mp 154–158 °C. \[ \delta \text{[}\text{1H}] = -163.0 \text{ (c = 0.40, CH2Cl2). El-HRMS: } m/z = 283.1801 \text{(MH}^+\text{)}; C_{13}H_{14}N_2O requires: } m/z = 283.1805 \text{(MH}^+\text{)}. \]

1H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl3): δ 7.72 – 7.77 (dd, J = 3.0, 5.5 Hz, 2H of Ar); 7.85 (dd, J = 3.1, 5.4 Hz, 2H of Ar). \[ \delta \text{[}\text{13C}\text{-NMR (126 MHz, CDCl3): } \delta \text{[}\text{13C}] = 19.5, 19.7, 26.7, 26.7, 34.7, 43.3, 43.5, 47.2, 61.1, 123.4, 132.2, 134.1, 168.9, 216.7. \]

Synthesis of (4bS,7R,9aS)-13,13-dimethyl-7,8,9-tetrahydro-10H-7,9a-methanoisoindolo[1,2-b]quinazolin-12(4bH)-one (7).

To a solution of 4 (113 mg, 0.362 mmol) in MeOH (10 mL) at room temperature HCl (aq. 12 M, 1 mL) was added. Next, at room temperature under vigorous stirring, Zn dust (100 mg, 1.53 mmol) was added. After the disappearance of the starting material (TLC analysis), the reaction mixture was filtered and the filtrate evaporated in vacuo. The residue was suspended in H2O (10 mL), finely powdered Na2SO4 was added till the pH ~ 10–12 followed by extraction with EtO (3 × 30 mL). The combined organic phase was washed with H2O (10 mL) and NaCl (aq. sat., 10 mL), dried over anhydrous Na2SO4, filtered, and volatile components evaporated in vacuo. The residue was purified by column chromatography (1. n-hexane:EtO = 1:3 to elute the nonpolar impurities; 2. Et3N:EtO = 1:25 to elute the product 7). Fractions containing the pure product 7 were combined and volatile components evaporated in vacuo. Yield: 46 mg (0.163 mmol, 45%) of white solid; mp 164–172 °C. \[ \delta \text{[}\text{1H}] = +110.25 \text{ (c = 0.33, CH2Cl2). El-HRMS: } m/z = 281.1646 \text{(MH}^+\text{)}; C_{13}H_{14}N_2O requires: } m/z = 281.1648 \text{(MH}^+\text{)}. \]

1H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl3): δ 7.63 (br s, 1H); 7.72 (dd, J = 5.5 Hz, 2H of Ar); 7.85 (dd, J = 3.1, 5.4 Hz, 2H of Ar). \[ \delta \text{[}\text{13C}\text{-NMR (126 MHz, CDCl3): } \delta \text{[}\text{13C}] = 19.2, 19.3, 27.0, 29.5, 32.9, 35.8, 44.6, 48.7, 55.5, 123.4, 132.2, 134.1, 168.5, 169.1. \]
4. 1. Single Crystal X-ray Structure Analysis of Compounds 6 and 7

Single crystal X-ray diffraction data of compounds 6 and 7 have been collected on an Agilent SuperNova dual source diffractometer with an Atlas detector with CuKa radiation (1.54184 Å) at room temperature. The diffraction data were processed using CrysAlis PRO software.20 Structure of both compounds was solved by direct methods, using Sir97.1 A full-matrix least-squares refinement on F2 was employed with anisotropic displacement parameters for all non-hydrogen atoms. H atoms were placed at calculated positions and treated as riding. For H atoms from methyl groups, torsion angles were calculated from electron density. Only H atom bonded to N2, was located from difference Fourier map and refined with isotropic displacement parameter. The absolute structure of both compounds was confirmed also by the refinement of Flack parameter. SHELXL97 software32 was used for structure refinement and interpretation. Drawings of the structures (m, 2H, 2H of Ar). 13C-NMR (126 MHz, CDCl3): δ 178.6, 20.0, 26.9, 30.0, 38.3, 39.6, 43.3, 47.1, 53.0, 73.8, 123.4, 123.5, 129.1, 131.5, 132.1, 143.4, 167.6, 180.4.

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Povzetek

10-Phalimidokafra oksim smo pripravili iz enostavno dostopne 10-jodokafre v dveh korakih. Pri redukciji oksima ni prišlo do tvorbe primarnega amina ampak sta nastala dva nova policiklična izoindolidinska heterocikla. Njuni strukturo smo nedvoumno potrdili z rentgensko strukturo in NMR tehnikami.