

## Recyclization of diethoxymethyl substituted benzimidazo-fused thiazolium salts

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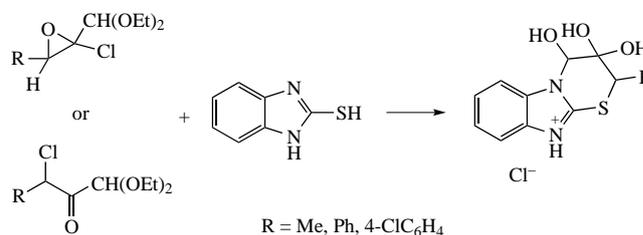
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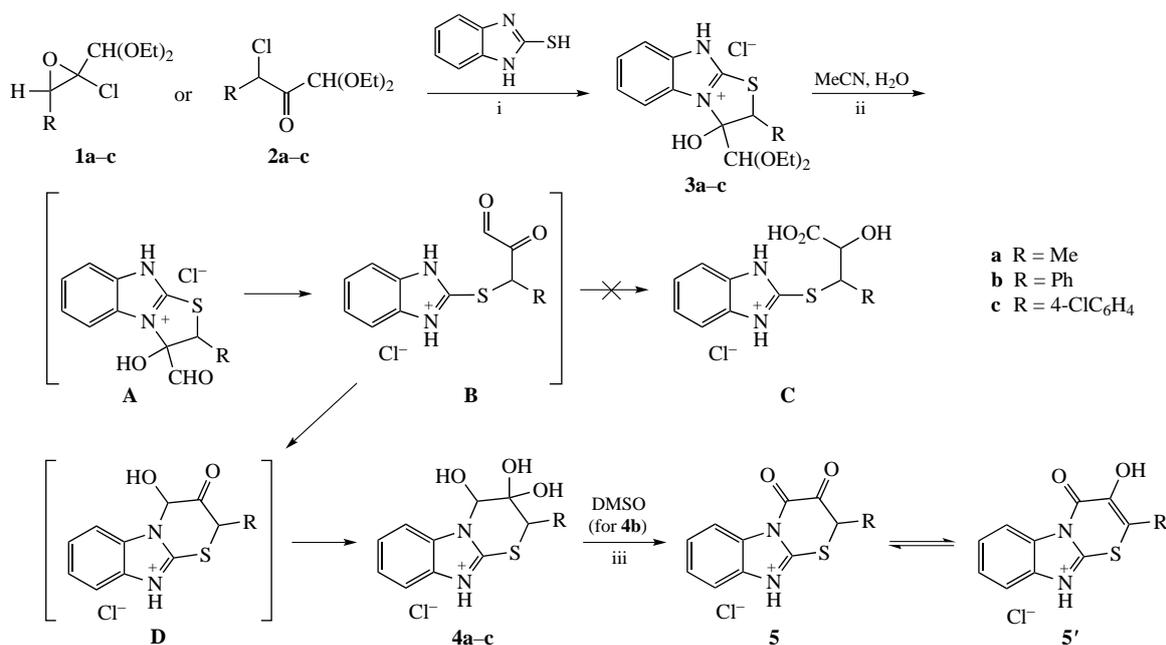
**3-Diethoxymethyl-3-hydroxy-3,9-dihydro-2H-benz[4,5]-imidazo[2,1-b]thiazol-4-ium salts** were synthesized by reaction of chloro oxiranes or isomeric  $\alpha$ -chloro ketones with 2-mercaptobenzimidazole. The acetal group of the aforementioned salts undergoes hydrolysis in acidic medium to liberate aldehyde which would react with the NH-moiety of mercaptobenzimidazole, thus leading to cycle expansion with the formation of 3,3,4-trihydroxy-3,4-dihydro-2H-benz[4,5]imidazo[2,1-b][1,3]thiazinium salts. In DMSO solution, the 3,3,4-trihydroxythiazine moiety of the latter compounds is oxidized into 3,4-dioxothiazine one existing in enol form.



**Keywords:** benz[4,5]imidazo[2,1-b]thiazoles,  $\alpha$ -chloro oxiranes,  $\alpha$ -chloro ketones, X-ray crystallography, 2-mercaptobenzimidazole, benz[4,5]imidazo[2,1-b][1,3]thiazines.

Substituted benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-b][1,3]thiazines are important intermediates in organic synthesis<sup>1–3</sup> and possess pronounced antiviral,<sup>4</sup> antitumor,<sup>5</sup> antimicrobial activity against tuberculosis pathogens,<sup>6</sup> and also have the ability to lower cholesterol level<sup>7</sup> and demonstrate antioxidant

properties.<sup>8</sup> Acetal-containing  $\alpha$ -chloro oxiranes in reactions with bi- and polyfunctional nucleophiles turned out to be convenient in molecular design of various heterocyclic systems, in particular, heterocyclic carbaldehydes and their derivatives.<sup>9–14</sup>



**Scheme 1** Reagents and conditions: i, EtOH (abs.), room temperature, 4 h; ii, MeCN/H<sub>2</sub>O (10:1), reflux, 4 h; iii, air, room temperature, 7 days.

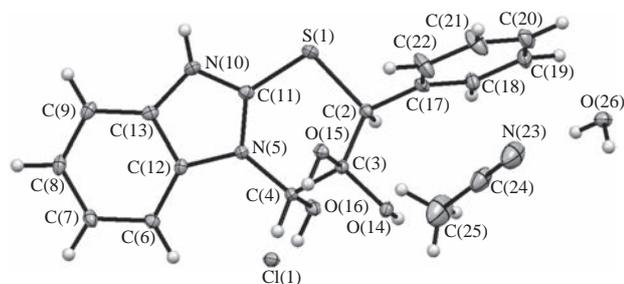


Figure 1 Molecular structure of compound 4b.

Previously, we showed that thiazolo[2,3-*a*]pyridinium chlorides containing 4-positioned hydroxy and acetal groups would undergo an unusual intramolecular redox reaction when heated in acidic medium yielding  $\alpha$ -hydroxy acids.<sup>11</sup> To determine the scope of similar reactions, we studied herein the behavior of 3-diethoxymethyl-3-hydroxy-3,9-dihydro-2*H*-benz[4,5]imidazo[2,1-*b*]thiazolium salts **3a–c**, representing similar heterocyclic systems (Scheme 1). Compounds **3a–c** were synthesized by the reaction of  $\alpha$ -chloro oxiranes **1a–c** or  $\alpha$ -chloro ketones **2a–c** with 2-mercaptobenzimidazole at room temperature in ethanol in 90–92% yields. Unexpectedly, boiling these benzimidazole salts **3a–c** in acetic medium for several hours afforded benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-*b*][1,3]thiazine derivatives **4a–c** instead of expected hydroxy acids **C**.

The proposed mechanism for formation of compounds **4a–c** comprises the initial hydrolysis of the acetal group in reactants **3a–c** to give aldehydes **A**. Intermediates **A** undergo ring opening to generate  $\alpha$ -keto aldehydes **B**. Their expected intramolecular redox transformation into hydroxy acids **C** did not occur. Instead, cyclic ketones **D** were formed upon the reaction of aldehyde group of intermediates **B** with the NH-moiety. Hemiaminals **D** easily add water molecule giving trihydroxy compounds **4a–c**. In DMSO solution at room temperature on contact with air, product **4b** underwent oxidation to dioxo derivative **5** that would exist in enol form **5'**.

Compounds **3a–c**, **4a–c** and **5'** are white crystalline substances soluble in DMF, DMSO and in less polar organic solvents when heated. Their structure was confirmed by <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectroscopy, elemental analysis, as well as X-ray diffraction analysis for compound **4b** (Figure 1).<sup>†</sup>

<sup>†</sup> Crystal data for **4b**. C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>15</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>S<sup>+</sup>·C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>3</sub>N·H<sub>2</sub>O·Cl<sup>−</sup> (*M* = 409.89), triclinic, space group *P* $\bar{1}$  at 150 K: *a* = 8.0155(9), *b* = 9.52025(11) and *c* = 14.0284(17) Å,  $\alpha$  = 71.499(2)°,  $\beta$  = 76.161(2)°,  $\gamma$  = 75.480(2)°, *V* = 967.8(2) Å<sup>3</sup>, *Z* = 2, *d*<sub>calc</sub> = 1.407 g cm<sup>−3</sup>,  $\mu$  = 0.334 mm<sup>−1</sup>, *F*(000) = 428. The data was obtained at *T* = 150 K on a Smart APX II CCD Bruker automatic diffractometer [ $\lambda$ (MoK $\alpha$ ) = 0.71073 Å,  $\omega$ -scan], 2 $\theta$  < 54°, *R*<sub>int</sub> = 0.044. 10931 reflections were measured out of which 4155 were independent, the number of observed reflections with *I* > 2 $\sigma$ (*I*) was 3569. Final value of factors of deviation *R* = 0.0415, *wR*<sub>2</sub> = 0.1333, GOOF = 0.94, the number of determined parameters was 265. Considering that absorption was carried out using the program SADABS.<sup>15</sup> The structure was found using a straightforward method with program SIR<sup>16</sup> and confirmed using SHELXL-97.<sup>17</sup> All calculations were carried out using WINGX<sup>18</sup> and APEX2.<sup>19</sup>

CCDC 970273 contains the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge from The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre via <http://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk>.

In conclusion, the recyclization of 3-diethoxymethyl-3-hydroxy-3,9-dihydro-2*H*-benz[4,5]imidazo[2,1-*b*]thiazolium salts in an acidic medium proceeds with an expansion of the cycle and can serve as a convenient synthesis of dioxo-substituted benz[4,5]imidazo[2,1-*b*][1,3]thiazines.

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#### Online Supplementary Materials

Supplementary data associated with this article can be found in the online version at doi: 10.1016/j.mencom.2020.09.041.

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