

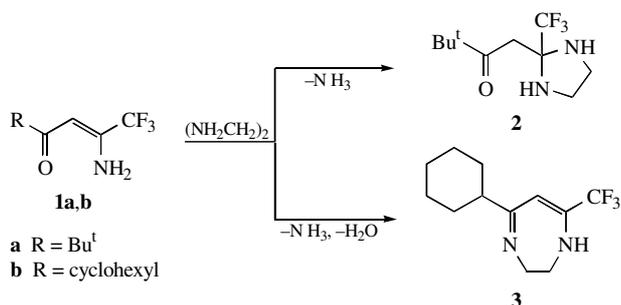
A novel synthesis of 2-acylmethyleneimidazolidines

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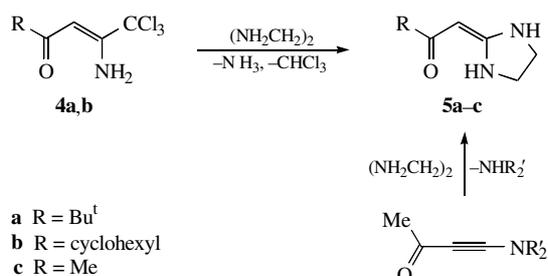
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The reaction of aliphatic α -amino- β -trichloromethyl vinyl ketones with ethylenediamine gives 2-acylmethyleneimidazolidines.

We have shown recently¹ that the reactions of aliphatic α -amino- β -trifluoromethyl vinyl ketones with ethylenediamine are very sensitive to steric factors under conditions of kinetic control (at room temperature without a solvent). For example, aminoenone **1a** obtained from pinacolone and trifluoroacetonitrile affords, under these conditions, imidazolidine **2**, whereas aminoenone **1b** with a cyclohexyl substituent at the carbonyl group results in the formation of dihydrodiazepine **3**.

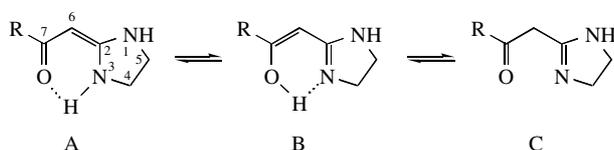


Taking into account these results and the ability of the CCl₃ group to be substituted under the action of N-nucleophiles,² we studied the reactions of aliphatic α -amino- β -trichloromethyl vinyl ketones **4a,b** with ethylenediamine and found that this reaction occurs as a double nucleophilic attack at the β -carbon atom. However, unlike CF₃-containing aminoenones, it is accompanied by substitution of the amino and trichloromethyl groups resulting in the formation of 2-acylmethyleneimidazolidines **5a,b**. The yields of compounds **5a,b** are 48% and 50%, respectively, since the reaction is complicated by the formation of by-products, which were not studied in detail.



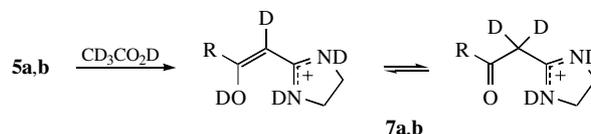
Compound **5c** was previously³ obtained by the reactions of ethylenediamine with 4-dialkylamino-3-butyn-2-ones, which allows one to consider aminoenones **4** as synthetic equivalents of the relatively inaccessible α -aminoethynyl ketones.

Theoretically, imidazolidines **5**, as α -aminovinyl ketones, can exist in three tautomeric forms: ketoenamine (A), iminoenole (B) and ketoimine (C), and the content of the latter, based on the absence of the *exo*-methylene group signal in the ¹H NMR spectra, does not exceed 5%.



The compound **5c** was described in ref. 3 as an enolic tautomer B, by analogy with 1-benzyl-2-(2-hydroxyprop-1-enyl)-4,5-dihydroimidazole **6**, to which structure B was ascribed on the basis of the spectroscopic and crystallographic data.⁴ It is noteworthy that the data presented in refs. 3 and 4 for compounds **5c** and **6** do not contradict the ketoenamine tautomer A, since the bands at 3300 and 3270 cm⁻¹ and the chemical shifts at 9.1 and 9.5 ppm assigned to the OH group can also be attributed to the hydrogen-bonded NH, and the crystallographic data only indicate the delocalised character of the C(2)–C(6) and C(6)–C(7) bonds in the crystals of dihydroimidazole **6**. Furthermore, the Me group signals in these compounds are described as singlets implying the lack of the expected allylic coupling between the Me and =CH groups in **5c** and **6** (which should be present in the enolic form B).⁵

The ¹H NMR spectrum of compound **5a** exhibits two multiplets AA'BB' due to the spin system of the CH₂ group protons of the imidazolidine ring with centres at 3.51 and 3.67 ppm, a singlet due to the vinyl proton at 4.89 ppm, and broadened signals due to the NH protons at 4.83 and 9.34 ppm, the latter belonging to the hydrogen atom involved in the formation of the intramolecular hydrogen bond. When deuterioacetic acid is added, the signals of the vinyl and NH protons disappear and the multiplets of the CH₂ groups merge to form a singlet at 3.82 ppm indicating a fast H/D exchange and formation of a symmetrically delocalised imidazolinium monocation **7a**. A similar situation was observed for imidazolidine **5b**.[‡]



‡ 2-(2-Hydroxyprop-1-enyl)-4,5-dihydroimidazole **5c**.³ ¹H NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 1.90 (s, 3H, Me), 3.55 (m, 4H, CH₂CH₂), 4.67 (s, 1H, =CH), 9.09 (s, 1H, OH). IR (KBr disc, ν /cm⁻¹): 3300 (OH), 1620 (C=C).

1-Benzyl-2-(2-hydroxyprop-1-enyl)-4,5-dihydroimidazole **6**.⁴ The bond lengths C(2)–C(6) and C(6)–C(7) are both 1.39 Å, intermediate between a double and a single bond. ¹H NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 2.0 (s, 3H, Me), 3.2–3.7 (m, 4H, CH₂CH₂), 4.3 (s, 2H, CH₂Ph), 4.85 (s, 1H, =CH, exchanges with D₂O), 7.4 (s, 5H, Ph), 9.5 (br. s, 1H, OH, exchanges with D₂O). IR (KBr disc, ν /cm⁻¹): 3280, 1605, 1530 (br.).

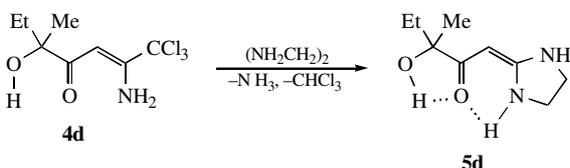
‡ 2-Pivaloylmethyleneimidazolidine **5a**. Aminoenone **4a** (305 mg, 1.25 mmol) was dissolved in 300 ml (270 mg, 4.5 mmol) of ethylenediamine, and the reaction mixture was kept for 6–7 days at room temperature. The resulting crystals of imidazolidine **5a** were washed with water and recrystallised from CCl₄, yield 100 mg (48%), mp 183–184 °C. ¹H NMR (250 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 1.12 (s, 9H, Bu^t), 3.51 (m, 2H, CH₂), 3.67 (m, 2H, CH₂), 4.83 (br. s, 1H, NH), 4.89 (s, 1H, =CH), 9.34 (br. s, 1H, NH); after addition of CD₃CO₂D: 1.13 (s, 9H, Bu^t), 3.82 (s, 4H, CH₂CH₂). IR (Vaseline oil, ν /cm⁻¹): 3300, 3240, 3150 (NH), 3040 (=CH), 1620 (C=O), 1545 (br., C=C, NH). Found (%): C, 64.10; H, 9.81; N, 16.66. Calc. for C₉H₁₆N₂O (%): C, 64.25; H, 9.59; N, 16.65.

2-Cyclohexylcarbonylmethyleneimidazolidine **5b**. Yield 50%, mp 162–163 °C. ¹H NMR (250 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 1.1–1.8 (m, 10H, cyclohexyl), 2.1 (m, 1H, CH of cyclohexyl), 3.51 (m, 2H, CH₂), 3.67 (m, 2H, CH₂), 4.55 (br. s, 1H, NH), 4.72 (s, 1H, =CH), 9.30 (br. s, 1H, NH); after addition of CD₃CO₂D: 1.1–1.8 (m, 10H, cyclohexyl), 2.3 (m, 1H, CH of cyclohexyl), 3.80 (s, 4H, CH₂CH₂). IR (Vaseline oil, ν /cm⁻¹): 3310, 3230, 3140 (NH), 1620 (C=O), 1545 (br., C=C, NH). Found (%): C, 67.69; H, 9.36; N, 14.50. Calc. for C₁₁H₁₈N₂O (%): C, 68.01; H, 9.34; N, 14.42.

The fast exchange for deuterium of the NH and vinyl protons is expected as such behaviour is consistent with the tautomerism observed in various heterocyclic systems containing exocyclic carbonyl moieties.^{4,6}

Unfortunately, based on the ¹H NMR spectroscopic data, we cannot choose unambiguously between structures A and B for compounds **5a,b**; however, taking into account the fact that ≥ 95% of α-aminovinyl ketones exist in the ketoenamine form, which has a greater ability to stabilise as compared to imino-enols,⁷ we prefer the enamine tautomer A, a choice favoured by the comparison of the IR and ¹H NMR spectra of imidazolidine **5a** and the corresponding α-aminovinyl ketone (5-amino-2,2-dimethyl-4-hexen-3-one^{8,8}). The IR spectra of these compounds in Vaseline oil contain an intense absorption band in the region of 1620–1625 cm⁻¹, which is characteristic of the C=O group coupled with the enamine fragment. In compounds **5b,c**, this band is observed at 1620 cm⁻¹, whereas for dihydroimidazole **6**⁴ it lies at 1605 cm⁻¹.

We have additionally confirmed the conclusion about the predominant contribution of the ketoenamine form A to the tautomeric equilibrium by the reaction of ethylenediamine with aminoenone **4d**⁹ resulting in the formation of imidazolidine **5d**.[¶]



§ 5-Amino-2,2-dimethyl-4-hexen-3-one.⁸ ¹H NMR (80 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 1.10 (s, 9H, Bu⁴), 1.93 (s, 3H, Me), 5.1 (br. s, 1H, NH), 5.20 (s, 1H, =CH), 9.8 (br. s, 1H, NH). IR (Vaseline oil, ν/cm⁻¹): 3300, 3160 (NH₂), 1625 (C=O), 1600, 1540 (C=C, NH₂).

¶ 2-(1-Hydroxy-1-methylpropyl)carbonylmethyleneimidazolidine **5d**. Yield 32%, mp 142–143 °C. ¹H NMR (250 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 0.83 (t, 3H, Me, *J* 7.3 Hz), 1.29 (s, 3H, Me), 1.61 (q, 1H, MeCHH, *J* 7.3 Hz), 1.62 (q, 1H, MeCHH, *J* 7.3 Hz), 3.57 (m, 2H, CH₂), 3.72 (m, 2H, CH₂), 4.73 (s, 1H, =CH), 4.81 (br. s, 1H, OH), 4.89 (br. s, 1H, NH), 8.87 (br. s, 1H, NH); after addition of CD₃CO₂D: 0.82 (t, 3H, Me, *J* 7.3 Hz), 1.28 (s, 3H, Me), 1.62 (q, 2H, MeCH₂, *J* 7.3 Hz), 3.69 (s, 4H, CH₂CH₂). IR (Vaseline oil, ν/cm⁻¹): 3380, 3270, 3220 (OH, NH), 1615 (C=O), 1560 (br., C=C, NH). Found (%): C, 58.35; H, 8.66; N, 15.06. Calc. for C₉H₁₆N₂O₂ (%): C, 58.67; H, 8.75; N, 15.21.

Unlike **5a–c**, compound **5d** contains a hydroxyl group in the β-position relative to the carbonyl and hence the keto form A stabilised by two intramolecular hydrogen bonds is more preferable *a priori*.

Similar spectral parameters for **5a–c** and **5d** make it possible to assign the ketoenamine structure A to all these compounds, while the reaction of aminoenones **4a,b,d** with ethylenediamine described in this work is a new and simple synthetic route to 2-acylmethyleneimidazolidines.

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