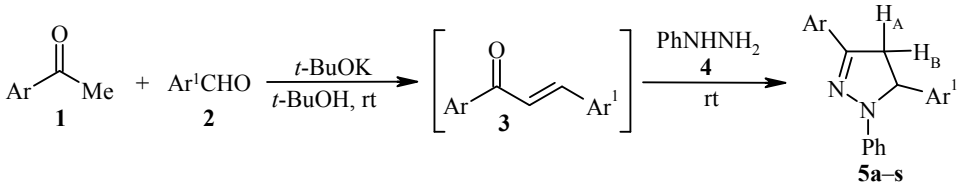
A MILD AND HIGHLY EFFICIENT ONE-POT SYNTHESIS OF 1,3,5-TRIARYL-2-PYRAZOLINES

Keywords: *tert*-butyl alcohol, chalcones, potassium *tert*-butoxide, 1,3,5-triaryl-2-pyrazolines, Claisen–Schmidt condensation, one-pot synthesis.

Pyrazolines are prominent 5-membered nitrogen-containing heterocyclic compounds, which play a crucial role in the development of theory in heterocyclic chemistry and are also extensively used as useful synthons in organic synthesis [1]. Among its various derivatives, 2-pyrazolines (4,5-dihydro-1*H*-pyrazines) seem to be the most frequently studied pyrazoline-type compounds. One of the most popular methods for the preparation of 2-pyrazolines involves the reaction of α,β-unsaturated aldehydes and ketones with hydrazines [2]. Because of various

disadvantages such as long reaction times, high temperatures, and a two-step procedure, encountered in the reported methodologies, we decided to develop a more efficient and convenient method. As far as we know, there is only one report on constructing 1,3,5-triaryl-2-pyrazolines by one-pot reaction of an aryl aldehyde, acetophenone derivatives, and phenylhydrazine in 10% NaOH [3], but the reaction mixture was refluxed in ethanol for relatively long times.

We have now developed an improved and highly convenient methodology for the synthesis of 3,5-diaryl-1-phenyl-2-pyrazoline derivatives *via* the reaction of phenylhydrazine with various chalcones, generated *in situ* by Claisen–Schmidt condensation of aryl methyl ketones and aldehydes, with catalytic amount of *t*-BuOK (5 mol %) in anhydrous *t*-BuOH at room temperature.



***t*-BuOK-Catalysed one-pot synthesis of 3,5-diaryl-1-phenyl-2-pyrazolines**

Compound	Ar	Ar^1	Time, min	Yield*, %	Mp, °C
5a	Ph	Ph	6	87	135–137 (134–135 [4])
5b	Ph	4-$MeOC_6H_4$	5	81	121–123 (110–113 [4])
5c	Ph	2-ClC_6H_4	11	82	135–137 (134–135 [5])
5d	Ph	4-MeC_6H_4	5	79	133–135 (128–130 [4])
5e	Ph	4-ClC_6H_4	13	82	135–137 (135–136 [4])
5f	Ph	1-Naphthyl	11	69	174–176 (173–174 [6])
5g	Ph	4-$O_2NC_6H_4$	24 h	–	–
5h	Ph	9-Anthranyl	24 h	–	–
5i	Ph	4-NCC_6H_4	8	83	178–180 (151–152 [7])
5j	4-MeC_6H_4	4-MeC_6H_4	6	82	144–146 (143–145 [8])
5k	4-MeC_6H_4	4-ClC_6H_4	11	77	142–144 (155 [9])
5l	4-ClC_6H_4	Ph	6	87	148–149 (149–151 [10])
5m	4-ClC_6H_4	4-ClC_6H_4	6	73	154–156 (167–169 [10])
5n	4-ClC_6H_4	4-MeC_6H_4	3	88	151–153 (162–164 [10])
5o	4-ClC_6H_4	4-BrC_6H_4	5	86	173–175 (174–176 [10])
5p	4-$MeOC_6H_4$	4-$MeOC_6H_4$	11	78	145–147 (147–148 [6])
5q	4-BrC_6H_4	4-ClC_6H_4	9	84	152–154 (120 [9])
5r	4-BrC_6H_4	Ph	6	85	135–137 (144–147 [5])
5s	4-FC_6H_4	4-ClC_6H_4	3	89	146–148 (110 [9])

* Yields of pure isolated products.

To establish the generality of this process, various acetophenones and aromatic aldehydes possessing either electron-withdrawing or electron-donating groups were treated with phenylhydrazine (Table). These reactions are in general very fast (3–13 min) and clean, and 2-pyrazolines are obtained as the sole products in high yields (69–89%). Surprisingly, the reactions of acetophenone with 4-nitrobenzaldehyde and 9-anthraldehyde did not produce the expected 2-pyrazolines (**5g**,**h**, Table) after prolonged reaction times (24 h) and even at the reflux. It was observed, that in the synthesis of compound **5g** the low solubility of the corresponding

chalcone in *t*-BuOH prevented its reaction with phenylhydrazine, while in the case of the compound **5h** the expected chalcone was not formed at all.

In conclusion we have developed a new convenient and efficient method for the one-pot synthesis of 3,5-diaryl-1-phenyl-2-pyrazolines. This method offers significant advantages over earlier reported procedures in that it avoids the need to prepare and isolate chalcones, features a simple reaction procedure and mild conditions, very short reaction times, and high product yields.

IR spectra (KBr) were obtained using an ABB FTLA 2000 instrument. ^{1}H and ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AQS-300 spectrometer at 300 and 75 MHz, respectively, in $CDCl_3$ solution using TMS as internal standard. Melting points were determined by a Büchi B-540 apparatus and were uncorrected. Chemicals were purchased from Merck company.

Synthesis of compounds 5a–s (General Method). A solution of *t*-BuOK (0.011 g, 0.1 mmol) in dry *t*-BuOH (2 ml) is placed in a round-bottom flask. While stirring at the room temperature (25°C), a mixture of aldehyde (2.0 mmol) and ketone (2.0 mmol) is added to the above solution and stirring is continued for several minutes. The progress of the reaction is monitored by TLC (*n*-hexane–EtOAc 4:1) until the starting materials have completely disappeared; then phenylhydrazine (3.0 mmol) is added, and the mixture is stirred to the completion of the reaction. The solid product is collected after filtration, washed with water, and recrystallized from 95% EtOH. Spectral data of compounds **5a–e**,**g**,**h**,**j–o**,**q–s** correspond to that given in the literature.

5-(1-Naphthyl)-1,3-diphenyl-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-pyrazine (5f). IR spectrum, ν, cm^{-1}: 1602 (C=N). ^{1}H NMR spectrum, δ, ppm (*J*, Hz): 3.18 (1H, dd, *J* = 16.9, *J* = 6.7, 4-C$\underline{H}_A$H$_B$); 4.07 (1H, dd, *J* = 16.9, *J* = 12.6, 4-CH$_A\underline{H}_B$); 5.96 (1H, dd, *J* = 12.6, *J* = 6.7, 5-CH); 6.82 (1H, t, *J* = 7.2, H Ar); 7.08–7.80 (14H, m, H Ar); 7.97 (1H, d, *J* = 7.8, H Ar); 8.12 (1H, d, *J* = 8.2, H Ar). ^{13}C NMR spectrum, δ, ppm: 42.7 (C-4); 63.2 (C-5); 113.3, 119.1, 122.9, 123.3, 125.7, 125.8, 126.0, 126.5, 128.1, 128.6, 128.7, 129.0, 129.3, 129.9, 132.7, 134.4, 136.6, 147.3 (C Ar); 144.9 (C-3).

5-(4-Cyanophenyl)-1,3-diphenyl-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-pyrazine (5i). IR spectrum, ν, cm^{-1}: 1597 (C=N); 2228 (C≡N). ^{1}H NMR spectrum, δ, ppm (*J*, Hz): 3.10 (1H, dd, *J* = 17.0, *J* = 7.0, 4-C$\underline{H}_A$H$_B$); 3.88 (1H, dd, *J* = 17.0, *J* = 12.7, 4-CH$_A\underline{H}_B$); 5.32 (1H, dd, *J* = 12.7, *J* = 7.0, 5-CH); 6.79–7.74 (14H, m, H Ar). ^{13}C NMR spectrum, δ, ppm: 43.3 (C-4); 64.0 (C-5); 111.6 (C≡N); 113.3, 118.6, 119.7, 125.8, 126.8, 128.7, 129.0, 129.1, 132.2, 133.1, 144.4, 147.8 (C Ar); 146.8 (C-3).

5,3-Bis(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-phenyl-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-pyrazine (5p). IR spectrum, ν, cm^{-1}: 1597 (C=N). ^{1}H NMR spectrum, δ, ppm (*J*, Hz): 3.09 (1H, dd, *J* = 17.0, *J* = 7.3, 4-C$\underline{H}_A$H$_B$); 3.73–3.85 (1H, m, 4-CH$_A\underline{H}_B$); 3.79 (3H, s, OCH_3); 3.85 (3H, s, OCH_3); 5.18 (1H, dd, *J* = 12.1, *J* = 7.3, 5-CH); 6.79 (1H, t, *J* = 7.2, H Ar); 6.88 (2H, d, *J* = 8.6, H Ar); 6.93 (2H, d, *J* = 8.8, H Ar); 7.08–7.28 (6H, m, H Ar); 7.68 (2H, d, *J* = 8.8, H Ar). ^{13}C NMR spectrum, δ, ppm: 43.9 (C-4); 55.4 ($2OCH_3$); 64.0 (C-5); 113.3, 114.0, 114.5, 118.8, 125.6, 127.1, 127.2, 128.9, 134.8, 145.3, 158.9, 160.1 (C Ar); 146.8 (C-3).

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B. Movassagh*, H. Rooh, H. R. Bijanzadeh[a]

Department of Chemistry, *K. N. Toosi University of Technology*,
P.O. Box 16315-1618, *Tehran*, *Iran*
e-mail: bmovass1178@yahoo.com

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[a] *Department of Chemistry, Tarbiat Modares University*,
P.O. Box 14115-175, *Tehran*, *Iran*
e-mail: bijan_hr@yahoo.com

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