SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

Oxidation of 1-Oxa-5-azaspiro[5.5]undecane with Cyclohexanone

B. F. Kukharev, V. K. Stankevich, G. R. Klimenko, V. V. Bayandin, and V. A. Kukhareva

Favorskii Irkutsk Institute of Chemistry, Siberian Branch, Russian Academy of Sciences,
ul. Favorskogo 1, Irkutsk, 664033 Russiae-mail:
irk_inst_chem@irioch.irk.ru

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We previously reported that oxidation of five-membered cyclic N,O-acetals (oxazolidines) with carbonyl compounds leads to the formation of pyrroles [1]. In the present communication we describe the oxidation of 1-oxa-5-azaspiro[5.5]undecane (**I**) with cyclohexanone to produce 5,6,7,8-tetrahydroquinoline (**II**) as an example of synthesis of pyridine derivatives via oxidation of perhydro-1,3-oxazines having no substituent on the nitrogen atom with carbonyl compounds.

Presumably, as in the oxidation of oxazolidines with carbonyl compounds, initial oxidation of imino alcohol **III** (an open-chain tautomer of perhydro-1,3-

oxazine **I**) gives imino aldehyde **A** which undergoes intramolecular condensation (like crotonization) to 2,3,5,6,7,8-hexahydroquinoline **B**, and the latter is oxidized with the second cyclohexanone molecule to quinoline **II**.

A mixture of 31 g (0.2 mol) of compound **I**, 39.2 g (0.4 mol) of cyclohexanone, and 4.48 g (0.08 mol) of powdered potassium hydroxide was heated for 5 h under reflux. The mixture was cooled, 25.2 ml (0.21 mol) of 36% hydrochloric acid was added, and the aqueous phase was separated, extracted with diethyl ether (3 × 50 ml), made alkaline by addition of potassium hydroxide, and extracted with benzene. The benzene extract was subjected to distillation to isolate 4.2 g (16%) of 5,6,7,8-tetrahydroquinoline **II** with bp 89–93°C (10 mm), $d_4^{20} = 1.0314$, $n_D^{20} = 1.5428$; published data [2]: bp 92–95°C (12 mm), $d_4^{20} = 1.0304$, $n_D^{20} = 1.5435$. ^1H NMR spectrum, δ , ppm (J , Hz): 1.74 m (4H, 6-H, 7-H), 2.68 t (2H, 5-H), 2.80 t (2H, 8-H, $J_{5,6} = 6.0$, $J_{7,8} = 6.0$), 7.0 d.d (1H, 3-H, $J_{3,4} = 8.0$), 7.33 t (1H, 4-H), 8.24 d (1H, 2-H, $J_{2,3} = 5.0$). Found, %: C 81.33; H 8.26; N 10.41. $\text{C}_9\text{H}_{11}\text{N}$. Calculated, %: C 81.16; H 8.32; N 10.52.

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