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# Synthesis, characterization and biological activitve 5-(hydroxymethyl)pyrrolidin-2-one at room temperature

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**Abstract**

A new class of chiral pyrrolidinone was synthesized from (5*S*)-5-[(trityloxy)methyl]pyrrolidin-2-one (6) (***Schemes 1* and *2***). The synthetic design followed led to the insertion of various substituents at 1 and 5 of the pyrrolidinone moiety. Some of them possess two or three stereo centers, here configuration was retained under the mild condition. The new compounds also carry an imidazole moiety, which, along with the 2-pyrrolidinone template, may prove pivotal to several biological processes.

**Keywords**

N-methyl -2, 6-diphynyl-piperidin-4-one oxime, Kinetic study, oxidant, rate constant, slope, least square method.

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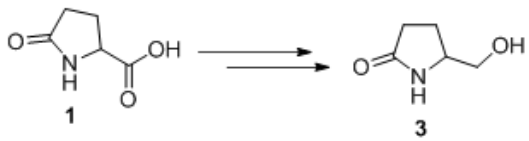
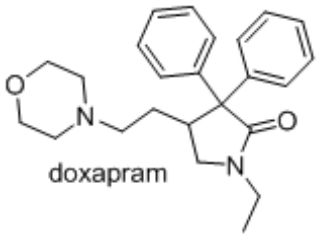
## Contents

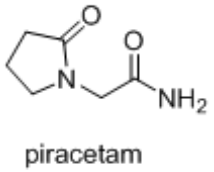


## 1. Introduction

The chiral pyrrolidinone (*R*) ring is incorporatedin various compounds with biological and pharmaceutical activities. [1] Some of them are well known medicines, e.g., doxapram for patients with respiratory failure,piracetam for patients with Alzheimer's seizures, and senile dementia, concussion and other neurological problems. The properties and applications of pyroglutamic acid as a versatile building block in asymmetric synthesis has extensively been reviewed in the literature [4,5]. Some of them exhibited anti-inflammatory and antihypertensive activity [6 – 10].




In recent years, we have designed and synthesized 2-pyrrolidi nones, starting from the naturally derived 2-oxotetrahydro pyrrol-5 *S*-carboxylic acid, which is considered as a unique chiral synthon.

## 2. Experimental

*GENERAL*The melting pointswere measured in open capillary tubes and are uncorrected. The $^{1}H$ and$^{13}C$ NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker (Avance) 300 MHz NMR instrument using TMS as internal standard and DMSO as solvent. Standard

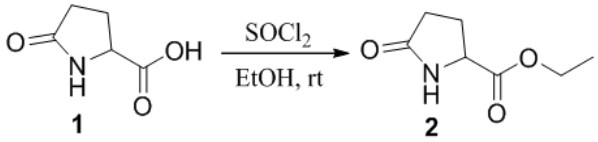



**Figure 1.** Scheme 1. Synthesis of ethyl-5-oxopyrrolidine

Bruker software was used throughout. Chemical shifts are

given in parts per million (-scale) and the coupling constants are given in Hertz. Elemental analyses were performed on a

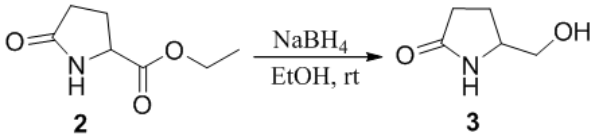



**Figure 2.** Scheme 2. Synthesis of ethyl-5-oxopyrrolidine

Perkin Elmer 2400 Series II Elemental CHNS analyzer. Silica gel-G plates (Merck) were used for tlc analysis with a mixture of petroleum ether (60–80$^o$C) and ethyl acetate as eluent. All the chemicals were purchased from Aldrich and used without any further purification.

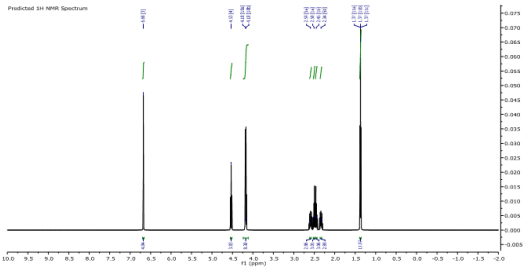


**Figure 3.** $^1$H NMR spectrum of 2

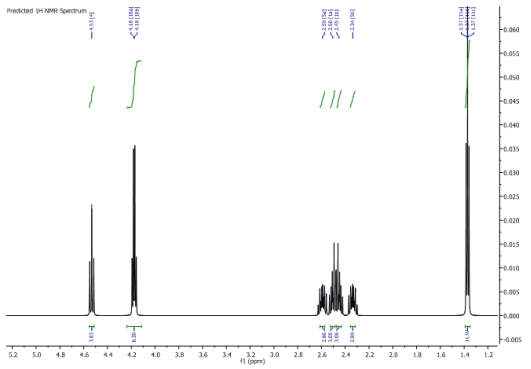


**Figure 4.** $^1$H NMR (expanded) spectrum

## 2.1 Synthesis of ethyl-5-oxopyrrolidine (2)

In the present work, the reaction of pyroglutamic acid **1** (1 mmol) in EtOH was added drop wise $SOCl_2$(1.2 mmol). The resulting solution was stirred for overnight, the reaction was monitored by TLC, after completion of the reaction neutralized with saturated $NaHCO_3$ and extracted with $CHCl_3$. The combined organics were dried ($Na_2SO_4$) and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure to give a green oil which was purified by reduced pressure distillation to afford ethyl-5-oxopyrrolidine**2** (82%) as a white solid by known literature method.

Isolated as green oil; Yield 82%; $^1$H NMR (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$) $\delta_H$1.31 (t, 3H, $J$ =7.0), 2.27–2.15 (m, 1H), 2.52–2.32 (m, 3H), 4.24 (q, 2H, $J$= 7.0), 4.29–4.17 (m, 1H) and 7.23 (br s, 1H, NH).

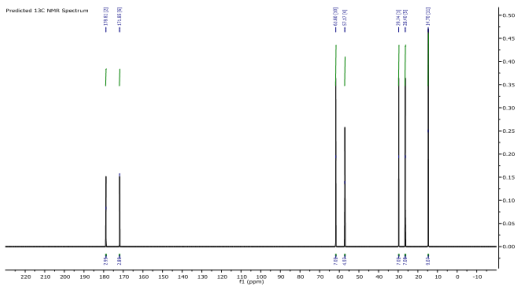


**Figure 5.** $^{13}$C NMR spectrum of **2**

## 2.2 Synthesis of ethyl-5-oxopyrrolidine (3)

Sodium borohydride (1 mmol) was added portionwise, over 15 min, to a solution of ethyl-2-pyrrolidinone- 5-carboxylate **2** (1 mmol) in ethanol. The reaction mixture was allowed to stir at room temperature for additional 2-4 h. After completion of the reaction HCl (12 M) was added to the reaction mixture and the resulting mixture was filtered. The filtrate was concentrated in vacuo to give crude ethyl-5-oxopyrrolidine **3**, which was used for the next step.

Isolated as colourless oil; Yield 80%; $^1$H NMR (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$)$\delta_H$ 1.75–1.83 (m, 1H), 2.10–2.21 (m, 1H), 2.31–2.44 (m, 2H), 3.45 (dd, $J$=11.0, 6.8, 1H), 3.73 (dd, $J$= 11.0, 3.1, 1H), 3.80 (m, 1H), 4.56 (br s, 1H), 7.60 (br s, 1H).

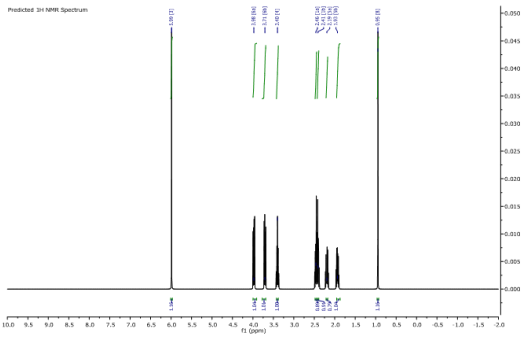


**Figure 6.** $^1$H NMR spectrum of 3

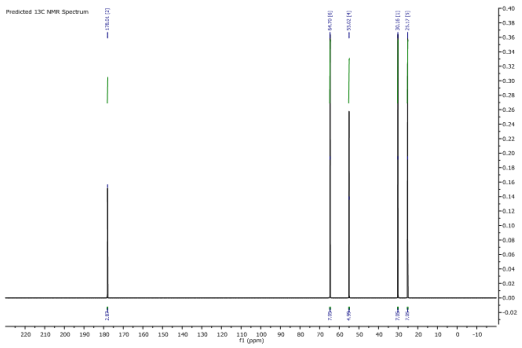


**Figure 7.** $^{13}$C NMR spectrum of **3**

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