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## OPPI BRIEF

# An Efficient Multi-component Synthesis of 6-Amino-3-methyl-4-Aryl-2,4- dihydropyrano[2,3-c]Pyrazole-5-carbonitriles

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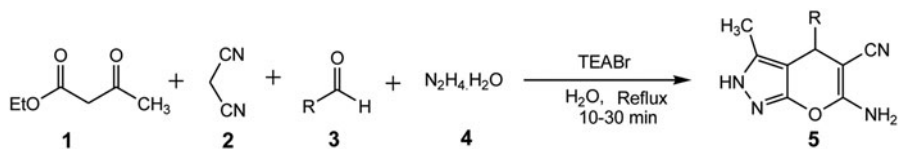
Multi-component reactions are effective in building complex molecules in a single step in a minimum amount of time and with facile isolation procedures; they have high economy<sup>1–7</sup> and thus have become a powerful synthetic strategy in recent years.<sup>8–10</sup> The multi-component protocols are even more attractive when carried out in aqueous medium. Water offers several benefits, including control over exothermicity, and the isolation of products can be carried out by single phase separation technique. Pyranopyrazoles are a biologically important class of heterocyclic compounds and in particular dihydropyrano[2,3-c]pyrazoles play an essential role in promoting biological activity and represent an interesting template in medicinal chemistry. Heterocyclic compounds bearing the 4-*H* pyran unit have received much attention in recent years as they constitute important precursors for promising drugs.<sup>11–13</sup> Pyrano[2,3-c]pyrazoles exhibit analgesic,<sup>14</sup> anti-cancer,<sup>15</sup> anti-microbial and anti-inflammatory<sup>16</sup> activity. Furthermore dihydropyrano[2,3-c]pyrazoles show molluscicidal activity<sup>17,18</sup> and are used in a screening kit for Chk 1 kinase inhibitor activity.<sup>19,20</sup> They also find applications as pharmaceutical ingredients and bio-degradable agrochemicals.<sup>21–29</sup> Junek and Aigner<sup>30</sup> first reported the synthesis of pyrano[2,3-c]pyrazole derivatives from 3-methyl-1-phenylpyrazolin-5-one and tetracyanoethylene in the presence of triethylamine. Subsequently, a number of synthetic approaches such as the use of triethylamine,<sup>31</sup> piperazine,<sup>32</sup> piperidine,<sup>33</sup> *N*-methylmorpholine in ethanol,<sup>34</sup> microwave irradiation,<sup>35,36</sup> solvent-free conditions,<sup>37–39</sup> cyclodextrins (CDs),<sup>40</sup> different bases in water,<sup>41</sup>  $\gamma$ -alumina,<sup>42</sup> and *L*-proline<sup>43</sup> have been reported for the synthesis of 6-amino-4-alkyl/aryl-3-methyl-2,4-dihydropyrano[2,3-c]pyrazole-5-carbonitriles. Recently, tetraethylammonium bromide (TEABr) has emerged as mild, water-tolerant, eco-friendly and inexpensive catalyst. To the best of our knowledge, quaternary ammonium salts, more specifically TEABr, have not

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been used as catalysts for the synthesis of pyrano[2,3-*c*]pyrazoles, and we decided to investigate the application of TEABr as a catalyst for the synthesis of a series of pyrazole-fused pyran derivatives *via* multi-component reactions.

Initial reactions of ethyl acetoacetate (**1**, 2.0 mmol), 98% hydrazine hydrate (**2**, 2.5 mmol), benzaldehyde (**3a**, 2.0 mmol), and malononitrile (**4**, 2.0 mmol) (*Scheme 1*) conducted in water without catalyst, led to no reaction.



**Scheme 1**

The same reaction was performed in water using TEABr. The product 2,4-dihydropyrano[2,3-*c*]pyrazole (**5a**) was formed in 90% yield in water using TEABr as catalyst presumably *via* initial formation of the pyrazolinone ring followed by condensation with benzylidenemalononitrile (generated *in situ* from benzaldehyde and malononitrile). The use of other catalysts such as 1,8-diazabicyclo[5.4.0]undec-7-ene (DBU), tetrabutylammonium bromide (TBABr) and neat grinding of the components gave marginally low

**Table 1**  
Preparation of 6-Amino-3-methyl-4-aryl-  
2,4-dihydropyrano[2,3-*c*]pyrazole-5-carbonitriles (**5a–5p**)

Cmpd	R	Time (min)	Yield (%)	mp (°C)	lit. mp (°C)
<b>5a</b>	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	15	90	244–245	244–245 <sup>42</sup>
<b>5b</b>	4-CH <sub>3</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	10	88	208–209	206–207 <sup>42</sup>
<b>5c</b>	4-CH <sub>3</sub> OC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	20	82	211–213	210–212 <sup>42</sup>
<b>5d</b>	4-BrC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	10	88	178–180	179–180 <sup>42</sup>
<b>5e</b>	4-ClC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	10	90	234–236	234–235 <sup>42</sup>
<b>5f</b>	3-FC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	10	89	181–184	—
<b>5g</b>	4-CNC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	15	91	196–198	196–198 <sup>39</sup>
<b>5h</b>	4-NO <sub>2</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	25	80	192–194	193–195 <sup>42</sup>
<b>5i</b>	3-NO <sub>2</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	30	76	250–252	251–253 <sup>42</sup>
<b>5j</b>	2,4-F <sub>2</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>3</sub>	15	85	178–179	176–178 <sup>44</sup>
<b>5k</b>	3-CF <sub>3</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	20	84	188–190	—
<b>5l</b>	2,5-(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>3</sub>	25	88	202–204	—
<b>5m</b>	2-Furyl	30	78	175–177	175–177 <sup>40</sup>
<b>5n</b>	2-Thienyl	30	75	189–190	190–191 <sup>40</sup>
<b>5o</b>	Styryl	30	70	180–182	—
<b>5p</b>	<i>n</i> -Propyl	15	68	162–164	—

yields. The scope of present protocol was extended to variously substituted aldehydes and 2,4-dihydropyrano[2,3-*c*]pyrazole-5-carbonitrile derivatives were obtained in high yields.

In summary, we have devised a simple, rapid, green method *via* a four-component reaction for the synthesis of 6-amino-4-alkyl/aryl-3-methyl-2,4-dihydropyrano[2,3-*c*]pyrazole-5-carbonitriles by using TEABr (10 mol%) as a catalyst and water as the solvent.

## Experimental Section

IR spectra were recorded as KBr pellets on a Perkin-Elmer FT-IR 240-C spectrophotometer using KBr optics. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were obtained on an Avance 300 MHz spectrometer in CDCl<sub>3</sub>, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub> and (D<sub>3</sub>C)<sub>2</sub>CO using TMS as an internal standard. Chemical ionization mass spectra were acquired on VG-7070 H instrument at 70 eV. All reactions were monitored by thin layer chromatography (TLC) on pre-coated silica gel 60 F<sub>254</sub> (mesh) using *n*-hexane-ethyl acetate. Spots were visualized with UV light. Merck silica gel (100–200 mesh) was used for column chromatography.

**Typical Procedure:** A mixture of the aromatic aldehyde (2 mmol), malononitrile (0.13 g, 2 mmol), ethyl acetoacetate (0.26 g, 2 mmol) 98% hydrazine hydrate (0.12 g, 2.5 mmol) and TEABr (10 mol%) was placed in 5 ml of water as a solvent in a round bottom flask. The mixture was stirred and heated at reflux for 10–30 min. After completion of the reaction, the content was allowed to cool to room temperature, and the precipitated solid product was collected through filtration, washed with water followed by chloroform (2 × 10 ml) and dried to afford products **5** as colorless solids. Compounds **5c**, **5d**, **5h**, **5i**, **5n** were purified by column chromatography using *n*-hexane and ethyl acetate in 1:3 ratio and other products were isolated in pure form without purification.

### 6-Amino-3-methyl-4-phenyl-2,4-dihydropyrano[2,3-*c*]pyrazole-5-carbonitrile (**5a**).

IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3420 (–NH<sub>2</sub>), 3400 (–NH<sub>2</sub>), 2198 (–CN); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CO, 300 MHz: δ 1.89 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 4.55 (s, 1H, –CH = ), 6.25 (br, s, 2H, NH<sub>2</sub>), 7.17–7.44 (m, 5H, Ar-H); MS (ESI): *m/z* [(M+H)<sup>+</sup>]: 253 [(M+Na)<sup>+</sup>]: 275.

*Anal.* Calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>12</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O: C, 66.65; H, 4.79; N, 22.21. Found: C, 66.32; H, 4.82; N, 22.11.

### 6-Amino-4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-3-methyl-2,4-dihydro pyrano[2,3-*c*]pyrazole-5 carbonitrile (**5b**).

IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3426 (–NH<sub>2</sub>), 3409 (–NH<sub>2</sub>), 2199 (–CN); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 300 MHz): δ 1.85 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.79 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 4.50 (s, 1H, –CH = ), 6.15 (br, s, 2H, NH<sub>2</sub>), 6.82 (d, *J* = 8.68 Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 7.09 (d, *J* = 8.68 Hz, 2H, Ar-H).

MS (ESI): *m/z* [(M+H)<sup>+</sup>]: 283 [(M+Na)<sup>+</sup>]: 305.

*Anal.* Calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>14</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: C, 63.82; H, 5.00; N, 19.85. Found: C, 63.62; H, 5.10; N, 19.82.

**6-Amino-4-(4-bromophenyl)-3-methyl-2,4-dihydropyrano[2,3-c]pyrazole-5-carbonitrile (5c).**

IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3425 (–NH<sub>2</sub>), 3400 (–NH<sub>2</sub>), 2200 (–CN); <sup>1</sup>H NMR ((CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CO, 300 MHz): δ 1.84 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 4.56 (s, 1H, –CH=), 6.02 (br, s, 2H, NH<sub>2</sub>), 7.11 (d, *J* = 7.96 Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 7.43 (d, *J* = 7.96 Hz, 2H, Ar-H).

MS (ESI): *m/z* [(M+H)<sup>+</sup>]: 331.

*Anal.* Calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>14</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: C, 50.77; H, 3.35; N, 16.92. Found: C, 50.48; H, 3.48; N, 16.79.

**6-Amino-4-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-methyl-2,4-dihydropyrano[2,3-c]pyrazole-5-carbonitrile (5d).**

IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3421 (–NH<sub>2</sub>), 3398 (–NH<sub>2</sub>), 2198 (–CN); <sup>1</sup>H NMR ((CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CO, 300 MHz): δ 1.83 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 4.55 (s, 1H, –CH=), 6.07 (br, s, 2H, NH<sub>2</sub>), 7.13 (d, *J* = 7.38 Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 7.83 (d, *J* = 7.38 Hz, 2H, Ar-H)

MS (ESI): *m/z* [(M+H)<sup>+</sup>]: 287.

*Anal.* Calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>11</sub>ClN<sub>4</sub>O: C, 58.65; H, 3.87; N, 19.54. Found: C, 58.48; H, 3.99; N, 19.42.

**6-Amino-3-methyl-4-(4-nitrophenyl)-2,4-dihydropyrano[2,3-c]pyrazole-5-carbonitrile (5e).**

IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3424 (–NH<sub>2</sub>), 3405 (–NH<sub>2</sub>), 2199 (–CN); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, 300 MHz): δ 1.84 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 4.54 (s, 1H, –CH=), 6.05 (br, s, 2H, NH<sub>2</sub>), 7.49 (d, *J* = 8.18 Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 7.95 (d, *J* = 7.18 Hz, 2H, Ar-H).

MS (ESI): *m/z* [(M+H)<sup>+</sup>]: 298.

*Anal.* Calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>11</sub>N<sub>5</sub>O<sub>3</sub>: C, 56.56; H, 3.73; N, 23.56. Found: C, 56.35; H, 3.63; N, 23.62.

**6-Amino-4-(3-fluorophenyl)-3-methyl-2,4-dihydropyrano[2,3-c]pyrazole-5-carbonitrile (5f).**

IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3418 (–NH<sub>2</sub>), 3398 (–NH<sub>2</sub>), 2201 (–CN); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, 300 MHz): δ 1.83 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 4.55 (s, 1H, –CH=), 6.07 (br, s, 2H, NH<sub>2</sub>), 7.05–7.12 (m, 3H, Ar-H), 8.52 (s, 1H, Ar-H).

MS (ESI): *m/z* [(M+H)<sup>+</sup>]: 271.

*Anal.* Calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>11</sub>FN<sub>4</sub>O: C, 62.22; H, 4.10; N, 20.73. Found: C, 62.56; H, 4.25; N, 20.61.

**6-Amino-4-(4-cyanophenyl)-3-methyl-2,4-dihydropyrano[2,3-c]pyrazole-5-carbonitrile (5g).**

IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3424 (–NH<sub>2</sub>), 3399 (–NH<sub>2</sub>), 2198 (–CN); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, 300 MHz): δ 1.83 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 4.54 (s, 1H, –CH=), 6.07 (br, s, 2H, NH<sub>2</sub>), 7.32 (d, *J* = 8.12 Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 7.54 (d, *J* = 8.12 Hz, 2H, Ar-H).

MS (ESI): *m/z* [(M+H)<sup>+</sup>]: 278.

*Anal.* Calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>11</sub>N<sub>5</sub>O: C, 64.97; H, 4.00; N, 25.26. Found: C, 64.65; H, 3.86; N, 25.13.

**6-Amino-3-methyl-4-(p-tolyl)-2,4-dihydropyrano[2,3-c]pyrazole-5-carbonitrile (5h).**

IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3422 (–NH<sub>2</sub>), 3398 (–NH<sub>2</sub>), 2199 (–CN); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, 300 MHz): δ 1.84 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.32 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 4.53 (s, 1H, –CH=), 5.66 (br, s, 2H, NH<sub>2</sub>), 6.85 (d, *J* = 8.68 Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 7.10 (d, *J* = 8.68 Hz, 2H, Ar-H).

MS (ESI): *m/z* [(M+H)<sup>+</sup>]: 267 [(M+Na)<sup>+</sup>]: 299.

*Anal.* Calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>14</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: C, 67.65; H, 5.30; N, 21.04. Found: C, 67.79; H, 5.21; N, 21.25.

**6-Amino-3-methyl-4-(3-nitrophenyl)-2,4-dihydropyrano[2,3-c]pyrazole-5-carbonitrile (5i).**

IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3419 (–NH<sub>2</sub>), 3399 (–NH<sub>2</sub>), 2200 (–CN); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, 300 MHz): δ 1.84 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 4.56 (s, 1H, –CH=), 6.07 (br, s, 2H, NH<sub>2</sub>), 7.05–7.12 (m, 3H, Ar-H), 8.52 (s, 1H, Ar-H).

MS (ESI): *m/z* [(M+H)<sup>+</sup>]: 298.

*Anal.* Calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>11</sub>N<sub>5</sub>O<sub>3</sub>: C, 56.56; H, 3.73; N, 23.56. Found: C, 56.38; H, 3.65; N, 23.78.

**6-Amino-4-(2,4-difluorophenyl)-3-methyl-2,4-dihydropyrano[2,3-c]pyrazole-5-carbonitrile (5j).**

IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3422 (–NH<sub>2</sub>), 3401 (–NH<sub>2</sub>), 2198 (–CN); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, 300 MHz): δ 1.89 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 4.94 (s, 1H, –CH=), 5.78 (br, s, 2H, NH<sub>2</sub>), 6.77–6.89 (m, 2H, Ar-H), 7.10–7.18 (m, 1H, Ar-H).

MS (ESI): *m/z* [(M+H)<sup>+</sup>]: 271.

*Anal.* Calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>10</sub>F<sub>2</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O: C, 58.33; H, 3.50; N, 19.44. Found: C, 58.10; H, 3.42; N, 19.68.

**6-Amino-3-methyl-4-(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-2,4-dihydropyrano[2,3-c]pyrazole-5-carbonitrile (5k).**

IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3420 (–NH<sub>2</sub>), 3402 (–NH<sub>2</sub>), 2199 (–CN); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, 300 MHz): δ 1.87 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 4.58 (s, 1H, –CH=), 6.07 (br, s, 2H, NH<sub>2</sub>), 7.05–7.12 (m, 3H, Ar-H), 8.52 (s, 1H, Ar-H).

MS (ESI): *m/z* [(M+H)<sup>+</sup>]: 321.

*Anal.* Calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>11</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O: C, 56.25; H, 3.46; N, 17.49. Found: C, 56.01; H, 3.39; N, 17.40.

**6-Amino-4-(2,5-dimethylphenyl)-3-methyl-2,4-dihydropyrano[2,3-c]pyrazole-5-carbonitrile (5l).**

IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3421 (–NH<sub>2</sub>), 3400 (–NH<sub>2</sub>), 2200 (–CN); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, 300 MHz): δ 1.76 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.23 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.30 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 4.81 (s, 1H, –CH=), 5.93 (br, s, 2H, NH<sub>2</sub>), 6.82 (s, 1H, Ar-H), 6.90 (d, *J* = 7.55 Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 7.84 Hz, 1H, Ar-H). MS (ESI): *m/z* [(M+H)<sup>+</sup>]: 281.

*Anal.* Calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O: C, 68.55; H, 5.75; N, 19.99. Found: C, 68.25; H, 5.62; N, 20.10.

**6-Amino-4-(2-furyl)-3-methyl-2,4-dihydropyrano[2,3-c]pyrazole-5-carbonitrile (5m).**

IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3422 (–NH<sub>2</sub>), 3405 (–NH<sub>2</sub>), 2199 (–CN); <sup>1</sup>H NMR ((CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CO, 300 MHz): δ 1.87 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 4.57 (s, 1H, –CH=), 6.65 (br, s, 2H, NH<sub>2</sub>), 6.11–6.27 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.20 (d, 2H, Ar-H).

MS (ESI): m/z [(M+H)<sup>+</sup>]: 243.

*Anal.* Calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>12</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O: C, 59.50; H, 4.16; N, 23.13. Found: C, 59.21; H, 4.08; N, 23.02.

**6-Amino-3-methyl-4-(2-thienyl)-2,4-dihydropyrano [2,3-c]pyrazole-5-carbonitrile (5n).**

IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3422 (–NH<sub>2</sub>), 3405 (–NH<sub>2</sub>), 2199 (–CN); <sup>1</sup>H NMR ((CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CO, 300 MHz): δ 1.87 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 4.57 (s, 1H, –CH=), 6.65 (br, s, 2H, NH<sub>2</sub>), 6.11–6.27 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.20 (d, 2H, Ar-H).

MS (ESI): m/z [(M+H)<sup>+</sup>]: 259.

*Anal.* Calcd for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>10</sub>N<sub>4</sub>OS: C, 55.80; H, 3.90; N, 21.69. Found: C, 55.53; H, 3.82; N, 21.81.

**6-Amino-2,4-dihydro-3-methyl-4-styryl-2,4-dihydropyrano[2,3-c]pyrazole-5-carbonitrile (5o).**

IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3415 (–NH<sub>2</sub>), 3400 (–NH<sub>2</sub>), 2199 (–CN); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, 300 MHz): δ 2.01 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 4.68 (s, 1H, –CH=), 6.58 (br, s, 2H, NH<sub>2</sub>), 6.27–7.20 (m, 7H, Ar-H).

MS (ESI): m/z [(M+H)<sup>+</sup>]: 279.

*Anal.* Calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>14</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O: C, 69.05; H, 5.07; N, 20.13. Found: C, 69.31; H, 5.12; N, 20.14.

**6-Amino-3-methyl-4-(n-propyl)-2,4-dihydropyrano[2,3-c]pyrazole-5-carbonitrile (5p).**

IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3420 (–NH<sub>2</sub>), 3390 (–NH<sub>2</sub>), 2200 (–CN); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, 300 MHz): δ 0.99(t, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.31–1.36 (m, 4H, –CH<sub>2</sub>–CH<sub>2</sub>–), 1.80 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.56 (s, 1H, –CH=), 6.55 (br, s, 2H, NH<sub>2</sub>).

MS (ESI): m/z [(M+H)<sup>+</sup>]: 219.

*Anal.* Calcd for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>14</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O: C, 60.53; H, 6.47; N, 25.67. Found: C, 60.31; H, 6.82; N, 25.53.

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