



Synthesis of tetrahydropyridines by one-pot multicomponent reaction using Niobium Pentaethoxide.

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INTRODUCTION

Tetrahydropyridines derivatives (THP) and their analogues have high pharmacological potential. That potential is explained by the piperidine subunit, present in various natural alkaloids and biologically active synthetic drugs widely used in medicine and known as a good pharmacophore (figure 1).¹ In this context, recently Misra and co-workers described excellent results obtained for antimalarial activity to THP derivatives.²

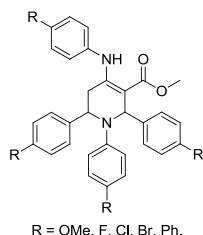
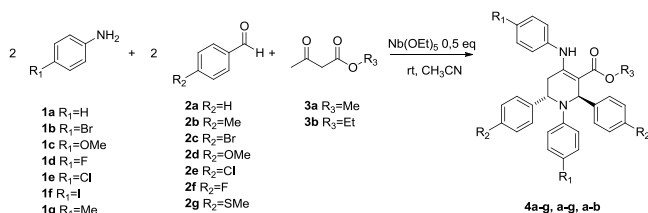


Figure 1. Tetrahydropyridine derivative

In this work, we describe our studies about the synthesis of THP derivatives by Multicomponent Reaction (MCR) catalyzed by Nb(OEt)₅.³

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The reactions proceeded at room temperature, in nitrogen atmosphere and anhydrous solvent (CH₃CN). We used aniline derivatives, benzaldehyde derivatives and methyl or ethyl acetoacetate, in the 2:2:1 stoichiometric ratio respectively, using 0,5 mmol of Nb(OEt)₅ (Scheme 1). The reactions were monitored for a time of five days, when no significant changes were observed.



Scheme 1. MCRs catalyzed by Nb(OEt)₅

The product obtained was purified by recrystallization and characterized by spectroscopic and spectrometric methods. In all reactions only *trans* adduct was obtained, confirmed by NOE experiments. The reaction yields varied between 40-91% depending on the substrate. (Scheme 1 and Table 1).

Table 1. Results obtained in MCRs in the presence of Nb(OEt)₅.

Aniline	Aldehyde	β-ketoester	Yield (%)
1a	2a	3b	40 (4aab)
1b	2a	3b	48 (4bab)
1c	2a	3b	49 (4cab)
1d	2a	3b	46 (4dab)
1e	2a	3b	44 (4eab)
1f	2a	3b	53 (4fab)
1g	2a	3b	43 (4gab)
1a	2b	3a	80 (4aba)
1a	2c	3a	77 (4aca)
1a	2d	3a	81 (4ada)
1a	2e	3a	67 (4aea)
1a	2f	3a	71 (4afa)
1a	2g	3a	91 (4aga)

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, we present a efficient, and practical methodology for the preparation of tetrahydropyridines derivatives through Multicomponent reaction catalyzed by Nb(OEt)₅. The method offers several advantages such as Atom economy, good yields, environmentally benign, and mild reaction conditions.

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