

Microwave-assisted synthesis of 2-pyridone and 2-pyridone-based compounds

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Abstract

2-Pyridones are important heterocyclic compounds that are widely used in medical chemistry, and their various derivatives have significant biological and medical applications. In this paper, the synthesis of 2-pyridones as well as 2-pyridone-based compounds, such as 2-quinolones, using microwave assisted organic chemistry is reviewed. The review is divided in three parts. In the first part, microwave synthesis of 2-pyridones according to the type of condensation is discussed. In the second part, microwave assisted synthesis of 2-quinolones is listed. At the end of the review several examples of microwave synthesis of other 2-pyridone based compounds (ring fused *N*-substituted 2-pyridones) are given.

Keywords: heterocyclic compounds, medical chemistry, microwave assisted organic chemistry, 2-quinolone ring fused *N*-substituted 2-pyridones.

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Aromatic heterocyclic compounds represent an important group of compounds due to their biological and medical applications. The six-member heterocyclic rings containing nitrogen (*e.g.*, pyridine, pyridone, pyrimidine, piperidine and piperazine) are used in medicine since they possess certain pharmacological properties. Among them, 2-pyridone compounds are particularly significant (Figure 1).

2-Pyridone derivatives are especially interesting because the 2-pyridone structure is present in many compounds of natural origin [1], many of which possess biological activity. Most of these compounds possess antibacterial [2,3], antifungal [4], anti-inflammatory [5], antiviral [6,7], antitumor [8] and antiplatelet [9,10] properties. 2-Pyridone derivatives are used in the manufacturing of paints [11], pigments, additives for fuels and lubricants, acid-base indicators, stabilizers for polymers and coatings [12]. Due to a variety of pharmacological properties, the 2-pyridone structure is important in the pharmaceutical industry [13]. Many medications contain 2-pyridone structure: cardiotonics (milrinone (Figure 1a) and amrinone (Figure 1b) used for the treatment of heart failure [14,15]; and antibiotics (pilicides (Figure 1c) and curlicides) which treat bacterial infections caused by Gram-negative bacteria [16,17]. A derivative of *N*-phenyl-2-pyridone, perampanel (Figure 1d), acts as a non-competitive and selective antagonist of α -amino-3-hydroxy-5-methyl-4-isoxazolepropionic acid receptor, and improves motor symptoms in animal models of Parkinson's disease [18].

It should be noted that 4-pyridone, isomer of 2-pyridone, due to mesogenic properties, is used in the synthesis of liquid crystals [19]. It has antioxidant properties and is used in the treatment of hyperglycemia [20]. 4-pyridone also has the capability of complexation and can be used for the preparation of supramolecular structures [21]. Methylated *N*-4-pyridone derivatives are used as intermediates for the synthesis of pharmaceuticals, pesticides, insecticides, fungicides, etc. *N*-Methyl-4-pyridone is used in the production of compounds that are used to produce images [22].

Due to the many applications of the compounds that contain 2-pyridone structure, a number of procedures for their synthesis was developed [23,24]. A general procedure for obtaining substituted 2-pyridones is the Guareschi-Thorpe condensation reaction of 1,3-dicarbonyl compounds with cyanoacetamide [25,26], which was used for the synthesis of large number of pyridones [27–29]. Cyclization of cyanoacetamide with 1,3-dicarbonyl compounds belongs to the 3-2 type of condensation that leads to the formation of pyridone ring. The mechanism of the reaction is complex and involves Knoevenagel reaction, addition of Michael or Perkin reaction, whereby the degree of enolization of dioxo compounds determines the participation of Michael addition [30,31]. Also, this type of reaction is used to obtain arylazo pyridone dyes [32–37]. Unlike conventional conditions (high temperature, polar organic solvents), the newer approach, enzymatically catalyzed synthesis of 2-pyridones, carried under mild reaction conditions, is characterized by high regio- and stereo-selectivity, high purity and final yield of the obtained products [38,39].

The conventional way of performing organic synthesis involves heating by external heat sources (*e.g.*, oil bath). In this way, heat is transferred by conduction,

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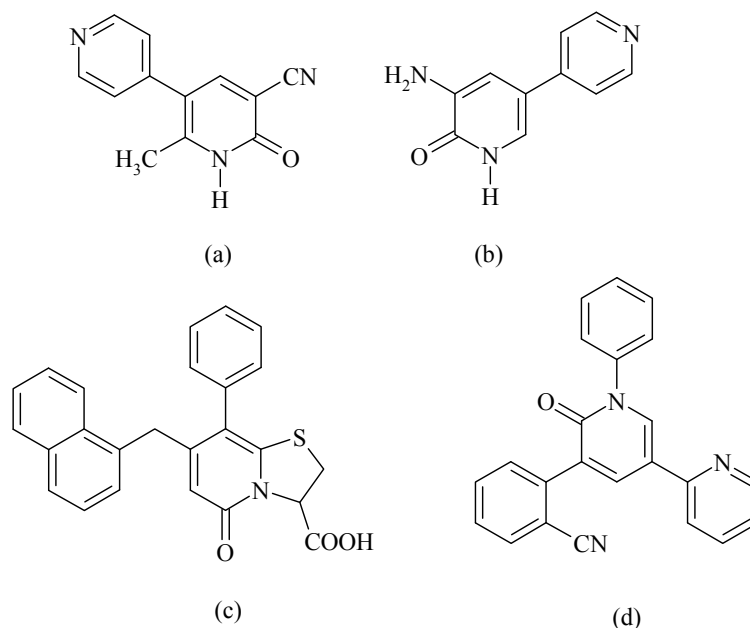


Figure 1. 2-Pyridone compounds which possess physiological activity: a) milrinone, b) amrinone, c) ring fused pyridone with pilicide activity and d) perampamel.

which is a slow and inefficient method of energy transfer, because it depends on the thermal conductivity of the materials and the reactor temperature is higher than the temperature of the reaction mixture. On the other hand, microwave irradiation is an efficient way of heating where energy is transmitted directly through interaction with polar molecules present in the reaction mixture [40,41].

Microwave irradiation is not ionizing and does not belong to harmful radiation. Microwaves have a frequency between 0.3 GHz and 300 GHz, corresponding to wavelengths between 1 cm and 1 m [42]. The main advantages of microwave-assisted organic chemistry are the increase of product yields and the reduction of reaction time [43,44]. The short reaction time and the increasing number of microwave assisted reactions lead to the application of this technique in the various fields of industry. For example, the modern pharmaceutical industry requires the creation of a growing number of new molecules, forcing chemists to conduct a number of experiments in a short period of time [45]. Also, the microwave technique is used in the food industry as well as in the pyrolysis of waste materials [46], the preparation of samples for analysis [47], extraction of natural products [48] and hydrolysis of proteins and peptides [49].

Microwave synthesis is among methods that respect the principles of the so-called “green chemistry” which is one more reason for performing this type of synthesis [50].

In this paper, the synthesis of the certain 2-pyridones and 2-pyridone based compounds using micro-

wave irradiation will be discussed. We will point out the advantages of microwave assisted synthesis in comparison to conventional heating. First, we will discuss the microwave synthesis of 2-pyridones. In the second part, microwave assisted synthesis of 2-quionolones will be given. At the end of the review, examples of microwave synthesis of ring fused *N*-substituted 2-pyridones will be discussed.

MICROWAVE SYNTHESIS OF 2-PYRIDONE

The application of microwave techniques in the synthesis of organic compounds has inevitably led to the microwave synthesis of compounds with the 2-pyridone ring. In the beginning, the synthesis was performed using conventional microwave ovens. Due to the problems associated with the use of these ovens in the synthesis (reproducibility, controllability and safety), dedicated microwave reactors were introduced. The basic principles of synthesis of heterocyclic molecules used in conventional synthesis were applied to microwave synthesis [51]. Thus conducted synthetic route yield pyridone ring from fragments containing different numbers of carbon atoms. Different combinations of fragments were used: 4-1, 3-2, 1-3-1, 2-2-1 and 2-1-2. Condensation of type 4-1 means that the condensation involves two acyclic systems one of which has four and the other only one carbon atom. Nitrogen can be a part of one of the fragments, or be introduced as a separate fragment.

A good example of such a combination is given in a paper by Gorobets *et al.* [1], in which different carbonyl building blocks were reacted with *N,N*-dimethyl-

formamide dimethyl acetal (DMFDMA) to obtain enamines in high yields (the reaction is carried out in the absence of solvent and at elevated temperature). The obtained enamines, without purification, react with different methylene nitriles at 100 °C for 5 min in 2-propanol and in the presence of a catalytic amount of piperidine (base). In this way, the authors were able to isolate 18 different 2-pyridones of 80 possible with yields varying from 27 to 96%, while some products were obtained in pure form after simple filtration. This synthesis is given in Figure 2.

An example of 3-2 type condensation of 3-cyano-2-pyridones is shown in Figure 3 [28]. *N*-substituted 4,6-dimethyl-3-cyano-2-pyridones were obtained from acetylacetone and the corresponding *N*-substituted cyanoacetamide using conventional and microwave synthesis in the presence of piperidine as a catalyst.

Conventional synthesis was performed by heating the reaction mixture under reflux (solvent mixture water/ethanol). Microwave synthesis was performed using a conventional microwave oven in the absence of solvent. The products were obtained in high yields and in a short reaction time (up to 7 min), while the conventional method of synthesis required up to 4 h with lower yields (Figure 4).

6-Hydroxy-3-cyano-4-methyl-2-pyridone was also synthesized using microwave technique (condensation type 3-2). The first microwave synthesis was reported in 1994 in the German patent [52]. Compared to the conventional synthesis which takes 16.5 h with a yield of 80%, microwave synthesis is carried out for 5 min with a yield of 96%. In this synthesis, product was obtained starting from cyanoacetamide, ethyl cyanoacetate and ethylamine. This pyridone can also be

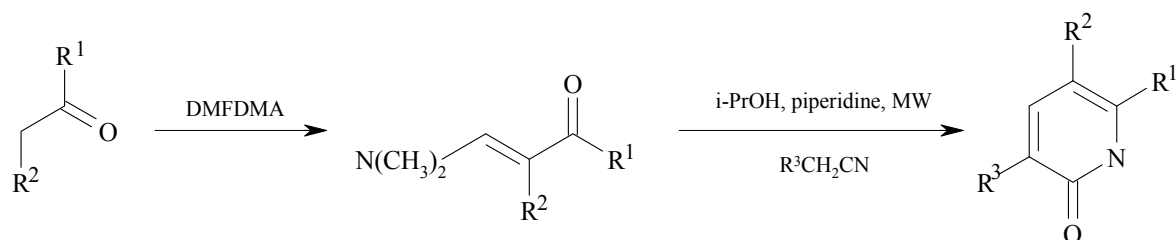


Figure 2. Microwave synthesis of substituted 2-pyridones from enamines.

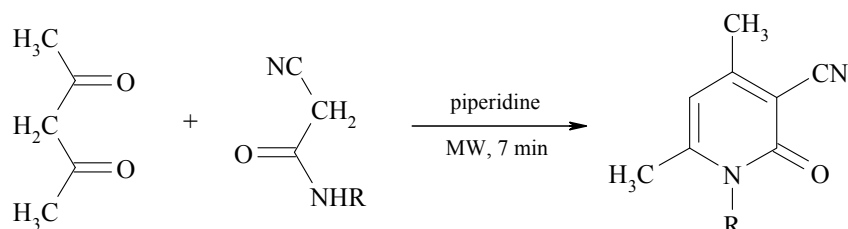


Figure 3. Synthesis of *N*-substituted 4,6-dimethyl-3-cyano-2-pyridones.

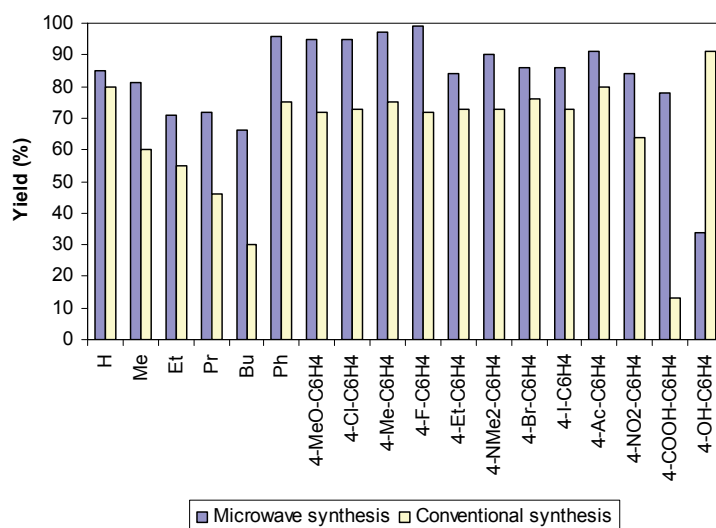


Figure 4. *N*-Substituted 4,6-dimethyl-3-cyano-2-pyridones yields obtained by microwave and conventional synthesis.

obtained using conventional synthesis with potassium hydroxide as a catalyst [27,53]. Reaction times varied from 1 to 8 h, with yields ranging from 40–60%. Recently, a synthesis of this pyridone was published, using microwave irradiation in a conventional microwave oven, in the absence of solvent starting from ethyl cyanoacetate and cyanoacetamide, using powdered potassium hydroxide as a catalyst (Figure 5). The isolated yield was 60%, after only 4 min of irradiation [54].

Dave *et al.* reported on microwave synthesis of 4,6-diaryl-3-cyano-2-pyridones starting from cyanoacetamide and 1,3-diarylpropen-1-ones in the presence of powdered potassium hydroxide, with phenyl or substituted phenyl groups in positions 4 and 6 [55]. The authors have reported yields that ranged from 74 to 81% with high purity of compounds after only 1–2 min of irradiation (Figure 6).

Microwave synthesis of arylazo pyridone dyes [56] is based on the previously described 3-2 type of condensation. This type of synthesis involves the reaction of phenylazo carbonyl compounds and cyanoacetamide using KOH as base and ethanol as solvent in a dedicated microwave reactor. Synthesis of 5-phenylazo-4,6-dimethyl-3-cyano-2-pyridones and 5-phenylazo-4,6-diphenyl-3-cyano-2-pyridone are shown in Figure 7.

The synthesized derivatives of 4,6-dimethyl-3-cyano-2-pyridone (Table 1, entries 1–6) were obtained in nearly quantitative yield, while the derivatives of 4,6-diphenyl-3-cyano-2-pyridones (Table 1, entries 7–9) were obtained in lower yields. Synthesis of 5-phenylazo-4,6-dimethyl-3-cyano-2-pyridone in the conventional manner [35] also takes place in the presence of a base in ethanol, except that this synthesis lasted for 3 h with somewhat lower yields (70–80%).

Similarly, the synthesis of the 5-phenylazo-2-hydroxy-4-methyl-3-cyano-2-pyridones starting from β -phenylazo ketoesters under the same conditions was performed (Figure 7, Table 1, entries 10–13). In addition to these products a derivative of 2-hydroxy-4-phenyl-3-cyano-2-pyridones was also obtained (Table 1, entry 14). In comparison to derivatives of dialkyl 2-pyridone, lower yields were obtained as a result of lower reactivity of β -keto esters compared to 1,3-diketones [56], in which is still higher yield compared to conventional synthesis (30–60%) [32].

Synthesis of substituted 3-cyano-2-pyridones at positions 4 and 6 was also carried out using microwave irradiation (1-2-2 type condensation) [57], and under conventional conditions [58] (Figure 8). By applying microwave irradiation (dedicated microwave reactor) yields of 90–95% over 5–7 min were obtained, while

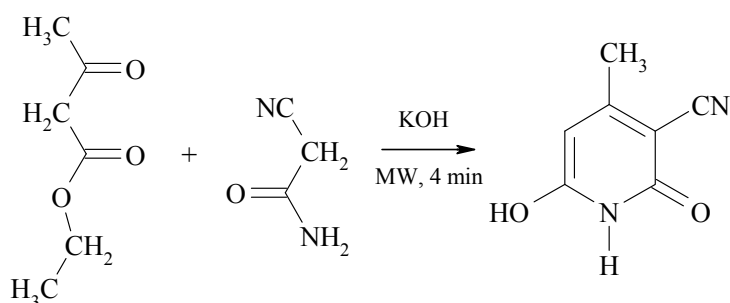


Figure 5. Synthesis of 4-methyl-6-hydroxy-3-cyano-2-pyridones.

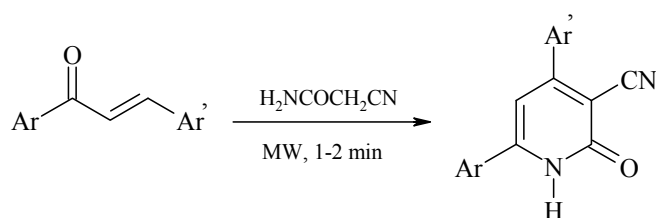


Figure 6. Synthesis of 4,6-diaryl-3-cyano-2-pyridones.

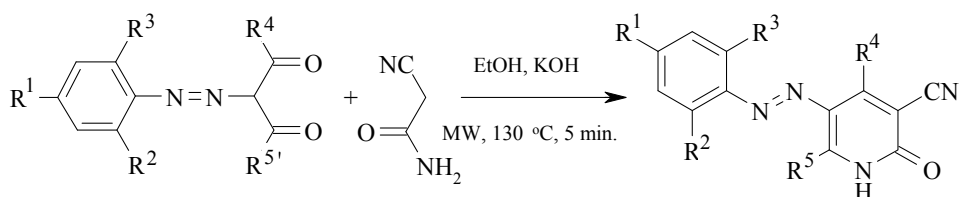
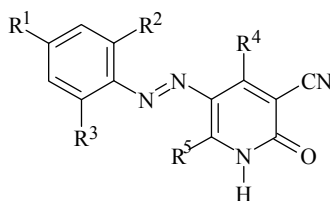


Figure 7. Microwave synthesis of arylazo 4,6-dimethyl- and 4,6-diphenyl-3-cyano-2-pyridone dyes.

Table 1. Synthesized arylazo 4,6-dimethyl- and 4,6-diphenyl-3-cyano-2-pyridone dyes with their yields



Entry	R ¹	R ²	R ³	R ⁴	R ⁵	Yield, %
1	H	H	H	Me	Me	99
2	H	H	NO ₂	Me	Me	100
3	Br	H	H	Me	Me	92
4	Br	Me	Me	Me	Me	100
5	H	Me	Me	Me	Me	100
6	H	H	I	Me	Me	100
7	H	H	H	Ph	Ph	72
8	Br	Me	Me	Ph	Ph	72
9	H	Me	Me	Ph	Ph	83
10	H	H	H	Me	OH	47
11	Br	H	H	Me	OH	93
12	Br	Me	Me	Me	OH	80
13	H	Me	Me	Me	OH	50
14	H	H	H	Ph	OH	78

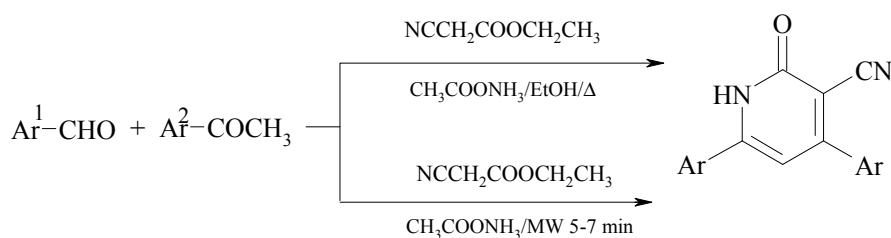


Figure 8. Conventional and microwave synthesis of substituted 3-cyano-2-pyridones.

the conventional method of synthesis lasted for 6 h and gave lower yields (67–85%).

Another example of microwave synthesis of 2-2-1 condensing type of 2-pyridones is shown in Figure 9 [59]. The synthesis of 3,5-dicyano-2-pyridone is carried out in aqueous solution starting from aldehydes and malononitrile in the presence of sodium hydroxide as a base. The advantage of this synthesis is short reaction time, efficiency and use of water instead of organic solvents which have a favorable impact on the environ-

ment. The method is applicable not only to aromatic aldehydes with electron-donor and electron-acceptor groups, but also to heterocyclic and aliphatic aldehydes.

Syntheses were performed at 100 °C both in the conventional and the microwave method. The reaction time of microwave synthesis was 2–3 min while conventional synthesis took 2–3 h. On the other hand, reaction yields increased from 25–37% (conventional) to 40–49% (microwave synthesis).

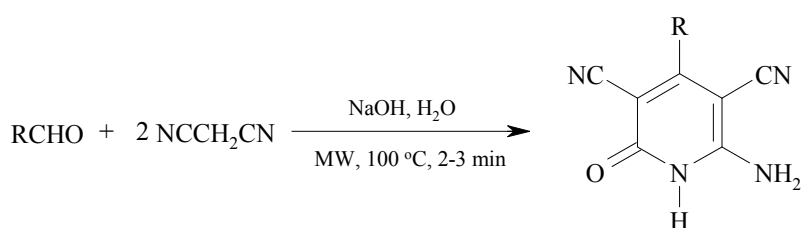


Figure 9. Synthesis of 4-substituted 6-amino-3,5-dicyano-2-pyridones in aqueous media under microwave irradiation.

4-Ary substituted 5-alkoxycarbonyl-6-methyl-3,4-dihydropyridones were prepared by the reaction of Meldrum's acid, methyl acetoacetate and appropriate benzaldehyde in the presence of ammonium acetate (2-2-1 condensation type, Figure 10) [60–62]. Microwave assisted synthesis, performed in a dedicated microwave reactor, produced pure products in high yields (81–91%), while the conventional synthesis gave yields lower by 17–28%.

Synthesis of 2-pyridone based bifunctional compounds (1,4-dihydropyridines) by the condensation of dialdehyde, Meldrum's acid, acetoacetic acid and ammonium acetate is another example of 2-2-1 type condensation of pyridones (Figure 11) [63]. This synthesis was achieved by heating the reaction mixture in a conventional microwave oven for 8 min using small

amounts of glycol as an energy transfer reagent (yield 83%).

MICROWAVE SYNTHESIS OF RING FUSED 2-PYRIDONE DERIVATIVES

Synthesis of 2-quinolones

The most widely used procedure for the synthesis of 2-quinolones is the reaction of aniline with malonic acid esters. However, this reaction is conducted at high temperatures (250–350 °C) that are difficult to achieve by conventional heating methods. The reaction of aniline with malonic acid esters produces two moles of ethanol, which affect the equilibrium between the reactants and the reaction products (Figure 12). There-

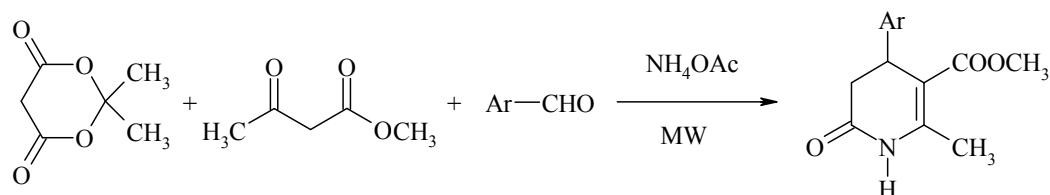


Figure 10. Synthesis of 4-aryl substituted 5-alkoxycarbonyl-6-methyl-3,4-dihydropyridones.

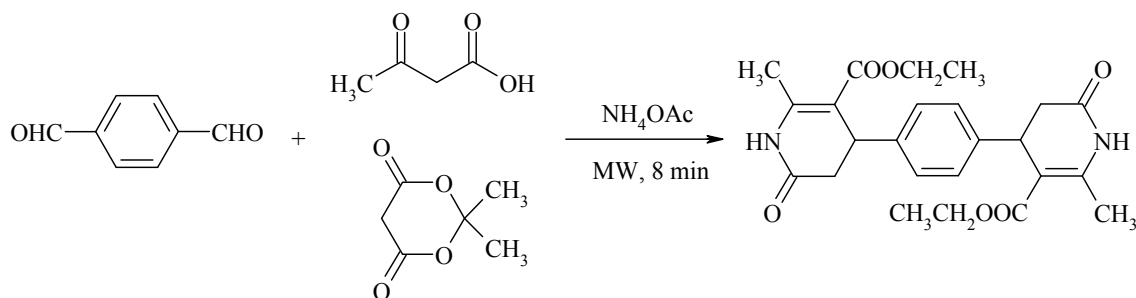


Figure 11. Synthesis of bifunctional 2-pyridone.

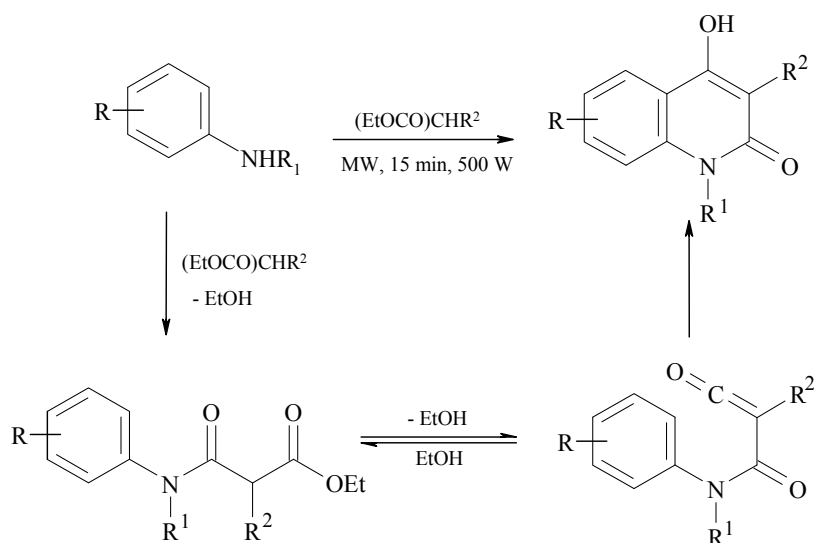


Figure 12. Formation of 3-substituted 4-hydroxy-2-quinolones in the reaction between anilines and substituted malonic esters.

fore, it is essential, if the reaction is carried out in a closed reactor, to maintain the volume and concentration of reactants low, in order to shift the equilibrium towards the products. On the other hand, the reaction can be carried out in an open vessel even on a larger scale without such demands [64]. It was found that the synthesis of 4-hydroxy-2-quinolones proceeds best when an electron-donor group (R) is substituent in aniline. The nucleophilicity of the nitrogen is increased and therefore both reactions, the condensation with the malonic ester and the ring closing acylation proceed faster (Figure 5). The presence of R²-aryl group provides additional conjugation and stability of the product, which is reflected in the high product yield (up to 94%) [64].

This method cannot be applied in cases where an electron-acceptor group (*e.g.*, trifluoromethyl group) is substituent in aniline. In this case, malondianilide was treated with Eaton's reagent (7.7% phosphorus pentoxide in methanesulfonic acid) and resulted in high yield products (80–90%, Figure 13) [65,66].

In addition to Eaton's reagent, *p*-toluenesulfonic acid can be used in the microwave synthesis of 2-quinolones. 2-Quinolones can be obtained from substituted aniline and diethyl malonate with a yield of 89–96% in only 6 min [67]. Instead of *p*-toluenesulfonic acid, silica gel or aluminum oxide can be used, but yields were lower with longer reaction times. Also,

malonic acid can be used. Microwave synthesis of 2-quinolones can be achieved in a conventional microwave oven by irradiation of a mixture of aniline and malonic acid in the presence of dimethylformamide for 3–5 min (yield 85–94%) [68].

Instead of diethyl malonate/malonic acid, acetoacetic ester can be used. In this manner, carbostyryl analogues can be synthesized (Figure 14). The synthesis is favored by electron-donor groups in the aniline ring and electron-acceptor groups in electrophilic compounds [69]. Microwave synthesis reduces the reaction time from 18–58 h to just 80 min giving products of high purity and in higher yield (58%).

In a similar way, 2-quinolones can be obtained from *o*-aminoarylketones and acetoacetic ester using microwave synthesis (4–6 min at 160 °C in the presence of a catalyst (CeCl₃·7H₂O) – yields 85–95%) (Figure 15) [70]. In comparison to conventional synthesis, microwave reactor synthesis shows that the reaction is 5 or more times faster using microwave technique.

2-Quinolones can also be obtained by intramolecular Heck cyclizations of heteroarylamide [71]. Conventionally Heck cyclizations are achieved with *N,N*-dimethylacetamide (DMA) as a solvent, potassium acetate and Pd(PPh₃)₄ as a catalyst at 120 °C for 24 h with yields from 56 to 89%. Microwave irradiation often has a positive effect on the metal-catalyzed reactions [72–75] and in this case 2-quinolones were

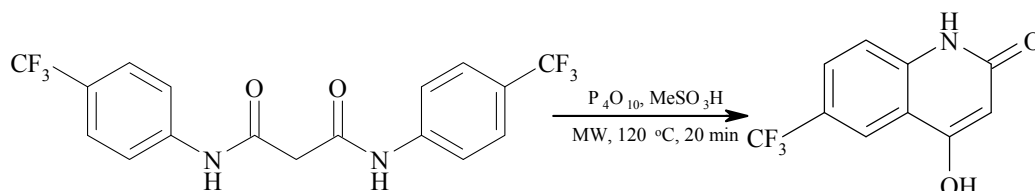


Figure 13. Synthesis of 2-quinolones from 1,3-dicarbonyl compounds.

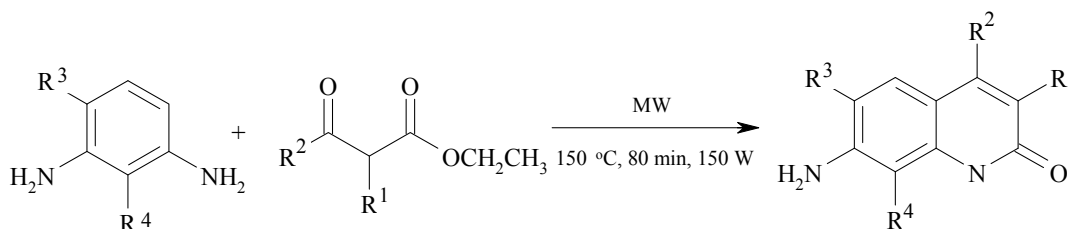


Figure 14. Synthesis of carbostyryl analogues of 2-quinolones from 1,3-dicarbonyl compounds.

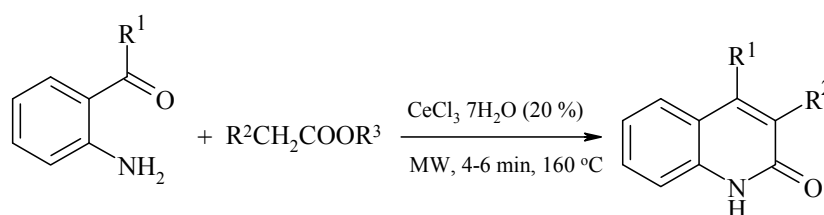


Figure 15. Synthesis of 2-quinolones by the CeCl₃-catalysed reaction.

stituted 2-pyridones) will be presented. The optically active bicyclo-2-pyridone was obtained by the reaction of acyl-ketenes with substituted Δ^2 -thiazolines by microwave heating at 140 °C for 2 min with the yield of 73 to 95% (Figure 19). The thiazolines were prepared from iminoethers and cysteine while the acyl-ketenes were generated *in situ* from acyl Meldrum's acid derivatives [79]. This type of synthesis leads to the preparation of pilicide and curlicide compounds, based on the same peptidomimetic scaffold, that target bacterial virulence factors in Gram-negative bacteria [16,17].

It was demonstrated that the sulfur in the pilicide scaffold could be exchanged for oxygen with an almost retained pilicide activity. Dihydrooxazolo and dihydrothiazolo ring fused 2-pyridones were prepared using microwave assisted organic synthesis in good yields and high enantiomeric purity. Trifluoro acetic acid (TFA), tosic acid and pyridinium *p*-toluenesulfonate were used to optimize reaction conditions. Reactions were performed in 1,2-dichloroethane (DCE) at 120 °C for 140 s [80].

The above mentioned reactions were carried out in the presence of solvents [81] and in the solid state [82] using the conventional synthesis. However, the use of microwave irradiation has a number of advantages over both conventional methods: the reaction is carried out in two steps by reducing the reaction time from 2 days (conventional method) to 8±2 min with yields up to 79%. Microwave synthesis requires less acid which results in milder reaction conditions. Instead of Δ^2 -thiazoline, imines can be used, thus making possible synthesis of multiple ring fused 2-pyridones (Figure 20) [83]. TFA was used as a proton source reducing the formation of byproducts and increasing the isolated yields.

Condensed 2-pyridone derivatives can also be obtained from aminopropenoate obtained from dimethylformamide diethyl acetal (DMFDEA) and CH-acidic carbonyl compounds. Microwave technology is used in both synthetic steps. Disubstituted quinalozines were obtained by reaction of intermediates (aminopropenoate) with bident C,N nucleophiles (Figure 21) in yields of up to 92% [84]. Synthesis can be also performed in the solid phase.

In addition, condensed 2-pyridone can be obtained by the reaction of 1,3-dicarbonyl compounds and substituted benzaldehydes or phenylendialdehyde in the presence of ammonium acetate using microwave irradiation in the absence of a solvent, as previously described for the synthesis of 2-pyridones [61–63].

It should be pointed out that a significant number of papers on the reactions of functionalization of 2-pyridone ring exist. One such review was published by Pemberton *et al.* which summarized papers published until 2006 [85]. This issue requires special attention and is beyond the scope of this paper.

CONCLUSION

2-Pyridone and 2-pyridone-based compounds, such as 2-quinolones, are known for having specific pharmacological properties and are widely used in medicine. Because of the various applications of compounds that contain 2-pyridone structure a number of procedures for their synthesis was developed. Besides the conventional synthesis, microwave assisted syntheses were also developed. Synthesis of 2-pyridone and compounds based on 2-pyridones under microwave irradiation has certain advantages over conventional methods of synthesis primarily in terms of higher

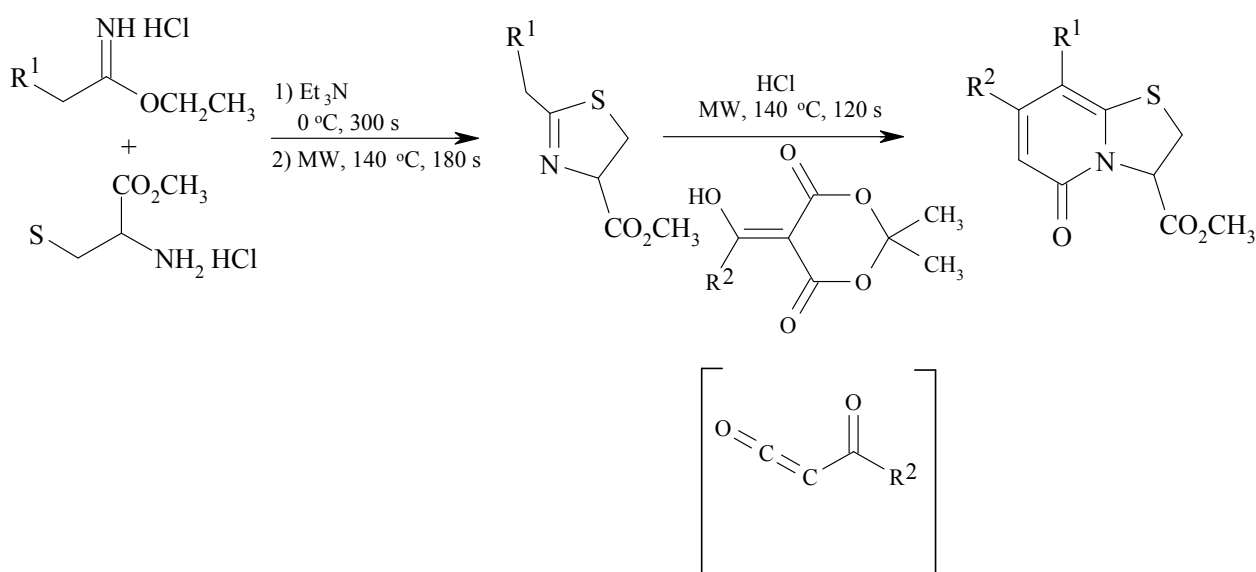


Figure 19. Synthesis of chiral bicyclic 2-pyridones via acyl-ketenes and Δ^2 -thiazolines.

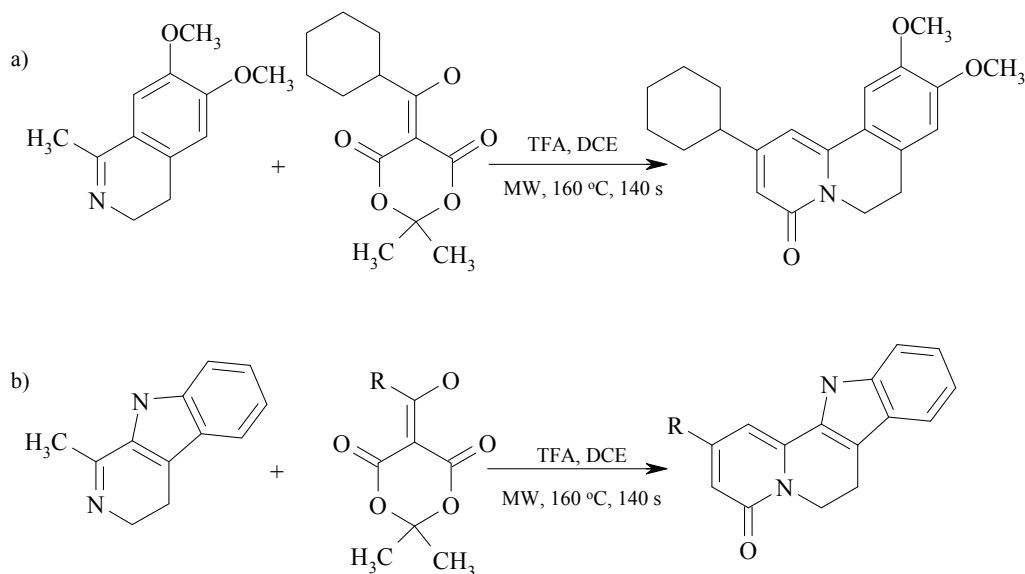


Figure 20. 2-Pyridone synthesis from the reaction of acyl-ketenes and imines.

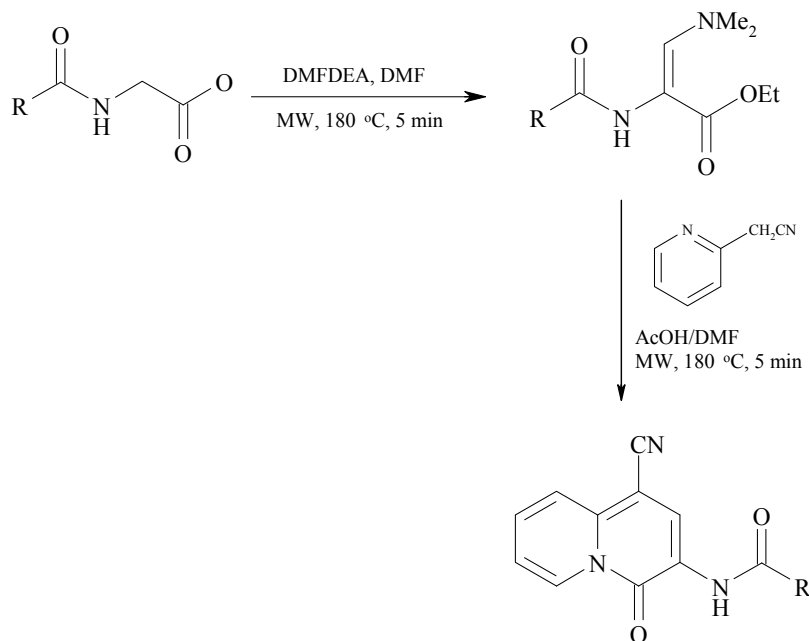


Figure 21. Synthesis of ring fused 2-pyridones via aminopropenoates.

yields and shorter reaction time. Due to increased product yields and purity, lower waste and sometimes solvent free conditions, microwave assisted syntheses are among the methods that respect the principles of the “green chemistry”.

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IZVOD

MIKROTALASNA TEHNIKA U SINTEZI 2-PIRIDONA I JEDINJENJA NA BAZI 2-PIRIDONA

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Aromatična heterociklična jedinjenja predstavljaju veoma značajnu grupu jedinjenja zbog svoje biološke i medicinske primene. Šestočlana heterociklična jedinjenja koja sadrže azot (npr. piridini, piridoni, pirimidini, piperidini, piperazini) se puno koriste u medicini jer poseduju određena farmakološka svojstva, a poseban značaj imaju 2-piridoni i 4-piridoni. Derivati 2-piridona su posebno interesantni jer je 2-piridonska struktura prisutna u mnogim jedinjenjima prirodnog porekla od kojih mnoga poseduju biološku aktivnost. Zbog široke primene jedinjenja koja u sebi sadrže piridonsku strukturu razvijen je veliki broj postupaka za njihovu sintezu. Konvencionalni način izvođenja organskih sinteza podrazumeva zagrevanje spoljašnjim izvorima toplote pri čemu se toplota prenosi kondukcijom, što predstavlja spor i neefikasan metod prenosa energije, jer zavisi od toplotne provodljivosti materijala, pa je temperatura reaktora veća od temperature reakcione smeše. Nasuprot tome, mikrotalasno zračenje je efikasan izvor zagrevanja koji direktno prenosi energiju kroz interakciju sa polarnim molekulima prisutnim u reakcionoj smeši. Mikrotalasne sinteze se ubrajaju među metode koje poštuju principe takozvane „zelene hemije” što predstavlja razlog više za ovakvo izvodjenje sinteza. U okviru rada dat je pregled sinteza 2-piridona i jedinjenja koja sadrže 2-piridonsko jezgro primenom mikrotalasne tehnike. Pregled obuhvata sinteze koje su izvršene kako u savremenim laboratorijskim mikrotalasnim reaktorima tako i one koje su izvršene u komercijalnim mikrotalasnim pećnicama za domaćinstvo. Takođe je ukazano na prednosti mikrotalasne sinteze u odnosu na konvencionalni način zagrevanja.

Ključne reči: Heterociklična jedinjenja • Medicinska hemija • Mikrotalasna organska hemija • 2-Hinolon • Kondenzovani *N*-supstituisani 2-piridoni