

UTILITY OF α -SUBSTITUTED CINNAMONITRILES IN HETEROCYCLIC SYNTHESIS

By MOHAMED KAMAL AHMED IBRAHIM

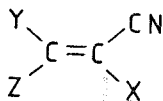
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ABSTRACT

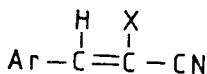
New approaches for synthesis of different mono and polyheterocyclic derivatives utilising α -substituted nitriles are surveyed. The reaction mechanism is considered as Michael addition followed by cyclization on the cyano group of α -substituted cinnamionitrile or via dipolar cycloaddition reaction followed by elimination of hydrogen cyanide of the intermediate. The scope and limitation of the most important of these approaches are demonstrated.

INTRODUCTION

α , β -Unsaturated nitriles (1) are versatile reagents which have been extensively utilised in heterocyclic synthesis. In spite of enormous number of reports on the utility of these compounds in synthesis of heterocycles, up to our knowledge, the utility of α -substituted cinnamionitrile (2 a-h) in heterocyclic synthesis has never been surveyed. The utility of acrylonitrile in heterocyclic synthesis was surveyed¹³ in a chapter on cyanoethylation. Also, the utility of tetracyanoethylene in heterocyclic synthesis was reported previously⁶⁹ in a part of a book on chemistry of cyano group. Recently, the reactions of α,β -unsaturated nitriles in heterocyclic synthesis were reported^{52,32}. The reactivities of α -substituted cinnamionitriles (2 a-h) and their use as starting material for a wide variety of reactions have been studied. Recently, in my laboratory good results have been obtained in this subject.



1



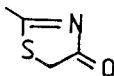
2 a-h

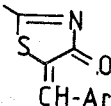
a, X = CN

b, X = COOC₂H₅

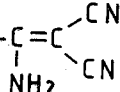
c, X = COC₆H₅

d, X = CONHC₆H₅

e, X = 

f, X = 

g, X = SC₂H₅

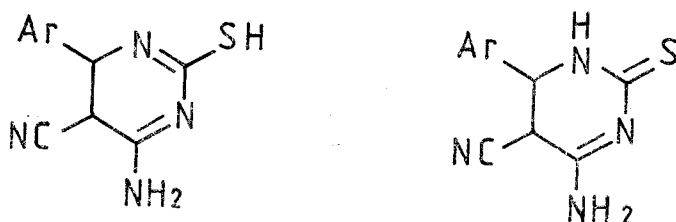
h, X = 

In the following, the general reactions of α -substituted cinnamionitriles (2 a-h) which have been reported are outlined.

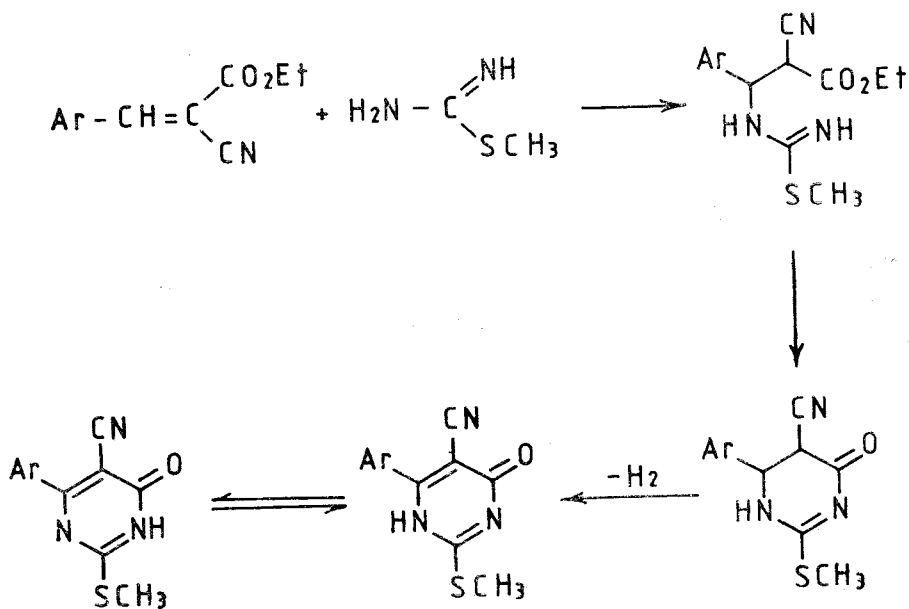
I) Reaction with amino derivatives as:

A) Thiourea and S-methylthiourea:

Thiourea reacts with α -cyanocinnamionitrile derivatives (2 a) in ethanol/piperidine to yield the corresponding pyrimidine derivative (3)^{59,57}. The reaction mechanism was considered as Michael addition followed by cyclization on the cyano group of α -cyanocinnamionitrile.

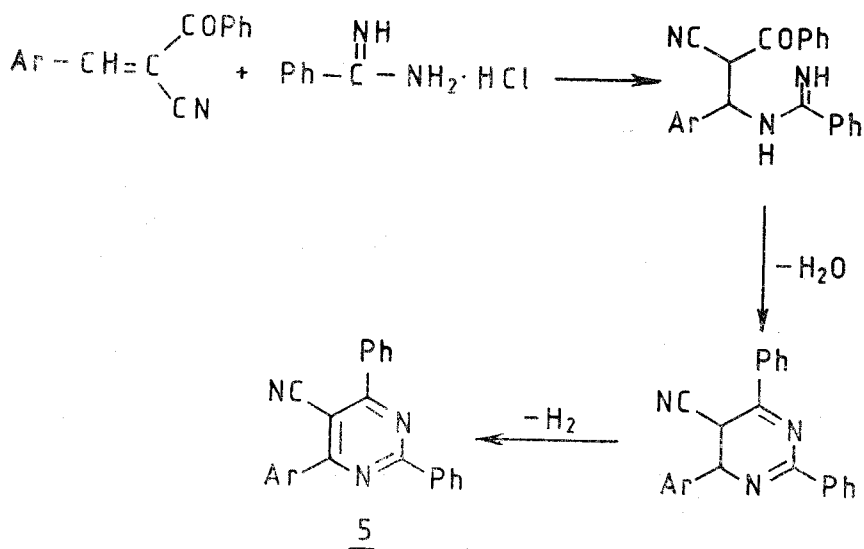


Similarly, the reaction of S-methylthiourea with α -carbethoxycinnamionitrile (2 b) in pyridine, 2-methylmercaptopyrimidinones (4) were obtained. This reaction proceeds via Michael addition then the loss of ethanol followed by autoxidation¹⁹, as the following.



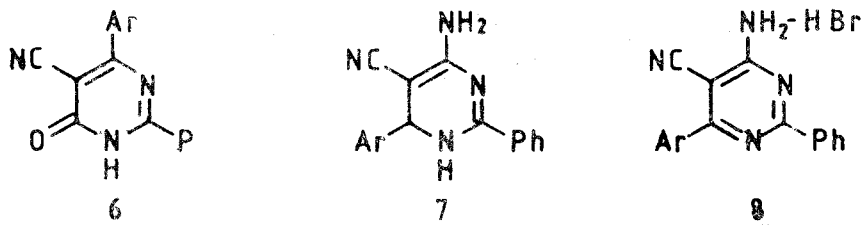
B) Benzamidine and acetamidine:

It has been shown that, benzamidine hydrochloride reacts with α -benzoylcinnamionitrile (2 c) in pyridine to give the fully aromatized arylpyrimidine derivative (5)¹, as the following.



Similarly to the behaviour of the (2 c), α -carbethoxycinnamionitrile (2 b) reacts with benzamidine hydrochloride to give 4-aryl-5-cyano-6-oxo-2-phenyl-1,6-dihydropyrimidine derivative (6)¹.

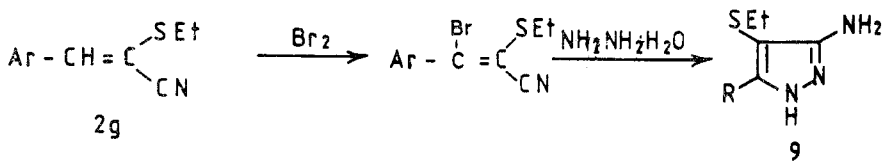
In contrast to the behaviour of (2 b, c) toward benzamidine hydrochloride, α -cyanocinnamionitrile (2 a) reacts with benzamidine hydrochloride under the same reaction conditions to give 4-amino-6-aryl-5-cyano-2-phenyl-1,6-dihydropyrimidine derivative (7)¹. The latter could be dehydrogenated to the fully aromatized analogues (8) by treatment with bromine in acetic acid^{46,10}. The reaction of guanidine with unsaturated nitrile was reported^{88,4}.



Several synthesis of pyrimidine derivative from the reaction of unsaturated nitriles (1-2) with acetamide were reported^{86,85}. Synthesis of vast number of heterocyclic six membered derivatives utilising unsaturated nitriles (1-2) as starting materials has been reported^{5-7,11,14-16,50,64,68,71,73,79,84,85,89}.

C) Hydrazine derivatives:

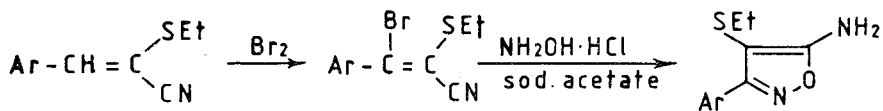
It has been shown that, α -substituted cinnamitriles (2 a-h) reacts with hydrazine hydrate to yield the aminopyrazole derivative, such as α -ethylmercaptocinnamitrile (2 g) afforded aminopyrazole derivative (9) via reaction with hydrazine hydrate³² as the following.



A variety of new pyrazole derivatives have been synthesised utilising the same idea of reacting unsaturated nitriles (1-2) with hydrazine derivatives^{3, 9, 12, 20-23, 29, 33, 53, 55-56, 62-63, 66-67, 72, 74-76, 80-81, 83, 87}. Also pyrazole derivatives were obtained via reaction of (1-2) with hydrazides, semicarbazides and thiosemicarbazides²⁰. The formation of aminopyrazole was assumed as Michael addition of the hydrogen of hydrazine derivative to C=C group of unsaturated nitriles, followed by the addition of unsubstituted hydrazine nitrogen of the hydrazine to the cyano group of the unsaturated nitrile.

D) Hydroxylamine:

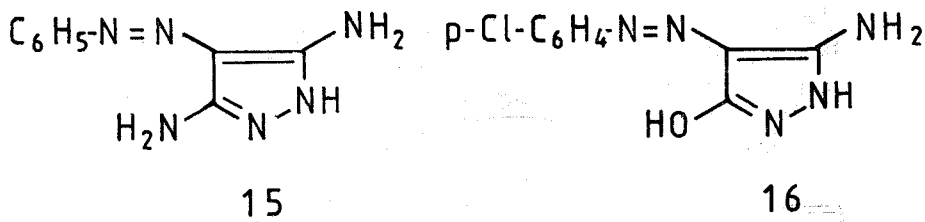
Unsaturated nitriles (1-2) have been extensively utilised for the synthesis of amino-1,2-oxazoles^{34,65}. Such as, α -methylmercaptocinnamitrile (2 g) reacts with hydroxylamine hydrochloride in sodium acetate to give amino-1,2-oxazole derivatives (10) as the following.



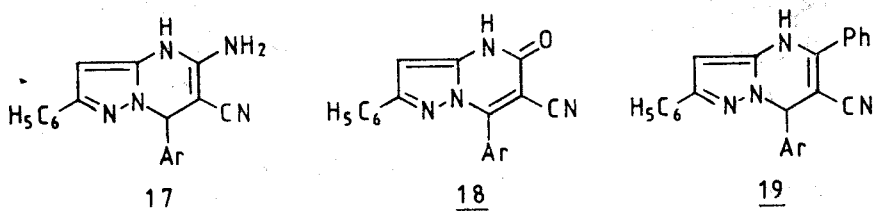
E) Amino-heterocyclic compounds:

Several syntheses of azolopyrimidine derivative from α -substituted cinnamitriles (2 a-g) have recently been reported^{57,24}. It has been

found that, α -cyanocinnamitrile (2 a) reacts with 3,5-diamino-4-penylazopyrazole (11), 3-amino-4-(p-Cl-phenylazo)5-pyrazolone (12), 2-aminobenzimidazole and 3-amino-1,2,4-triazole in ethanol/piperidine solution. The reaction products are pyrazolo-[1,5-b] pyrimidine (13), pyrazolo [1,5-b] oxazine (14), benzimidazolo-[1,2-b] pyrimidine (15) and (pyrimidino [1,2-b] triazole (16) respectively⁵⁷. (cf. Scheme 1).

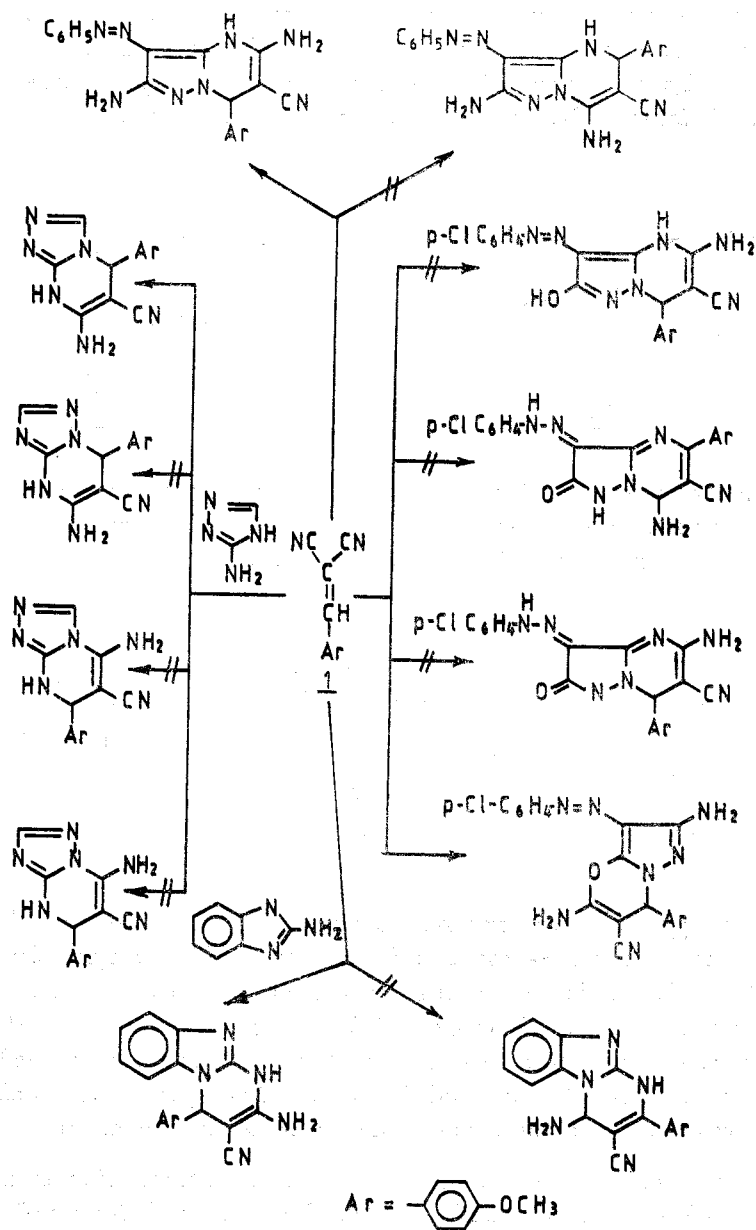


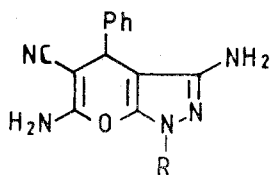
On the other hand, 5-amino-3-phenylpyrazole reacts with α -substituted cinnamitriles (2 a-c) to give the corresponding pyrazolo [1,5-a] pyrimidine derivatives (17-19)¹¹ respectively.



Aminopyrazole and aminoisoxazole derivatives have also been reported to react with α -unsaturated nitrile to yield fused pyrimidine^{31, 36-40, 42-45, 48}. The formation of fused pyrimidine is considered as the Michael addition of the hydrogen of the nitrogen ring to the C=C of α -unsaturated nitrile to give an intermediate, which readily cyclized to fused pyrimidines, through addition of the hydrogen of the amino-heterocyclic group to the cyano group of α -unsaturated nitrile.

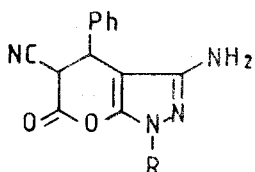
In contrast to the previous results, α -substituted cinnamitriles (2 a-c) react with 3-amino-2-pyrazolin-5-one and 3-amino-1-phenyl-2-pyrazolin-5-one to give the corresponding pyrano [2,3-c] pyrazole derivatives (20-25)²⁴ respectively.





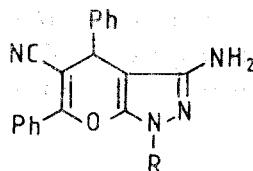
20, R = H

23, R = Ph



21, R = H

24, R = Ph



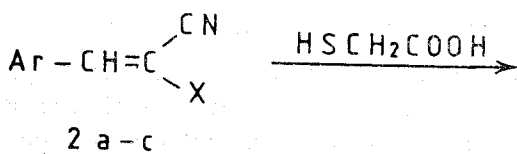
22, R = H

25, R = Ph

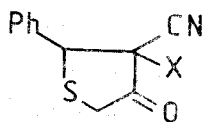
II) Reaction with mercaptance:

A) Thioglycollic acid:

Recently, the formation of thiophens (26) from the reaction of α -substituted cinnamionitriles (2 a-g) with thioglycollic acid has been reported^{35,30}. The reaction may be thus considered as an extension of the thiophen synthesis⁵¹.



2 a-c

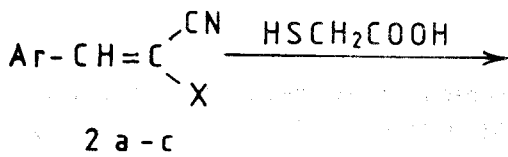


26, X = CN

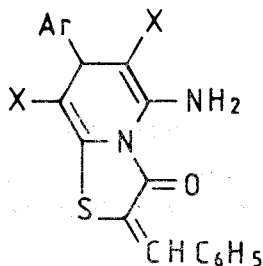
X = COOEt

X = COPh

In contrast to the above results, it has been found that, thioglycollic acid reacts with α -substituted cinnamionitriles (2 a-e) in ethanol/piperidine solution to give thiazolo [2,3-a] pyridine derivatives (27)²⁷, as following.



2 a-c

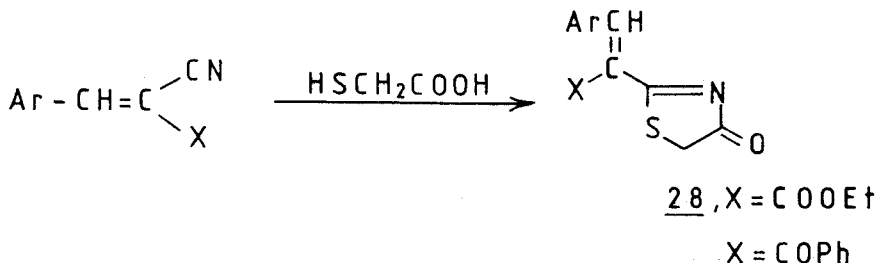


27, X = CN

X = COOEt

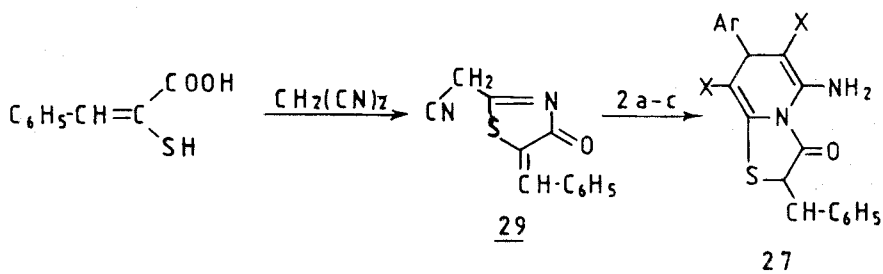
X = COPh

The same result could be obtained via reaction of α -substituted cinnamitriles (2 a-c) with ethyl thioglycollate⁶¹. Also the reaction of thioglycollic acid and α -substituted cinnamitriles (2 b,c) was reported¹¹ to give 2-substituted thiazolin-4-one derivative (28), as following.



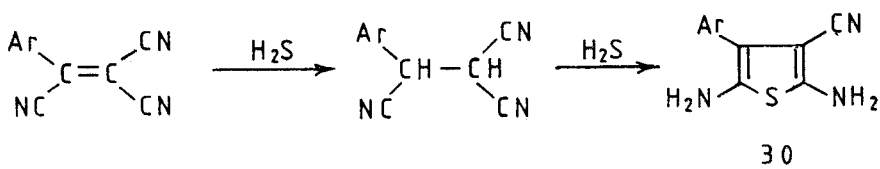
The formation of thiazolo [2,3-a] pyridine derivative (27) proceeds in two steps. The first molecule of α -substituted cinnamitrile reacts with thioglycollic acid to give 2-substituted thiazolin-4-one derivative (28). The latter reacts with second molecule of α -substituted cinnamitrile immediately under the same reaction conditions to give (27).

Also α -mercaptocinnamic acid reacts with malonitrile to give 2-substituted thiazolin-4-one (29), then the latter reacts with α -substituted cinnamitrile to give the corresponding thiazolo-[2,3-a]-pyridine derivative (27)²⁷, as following.



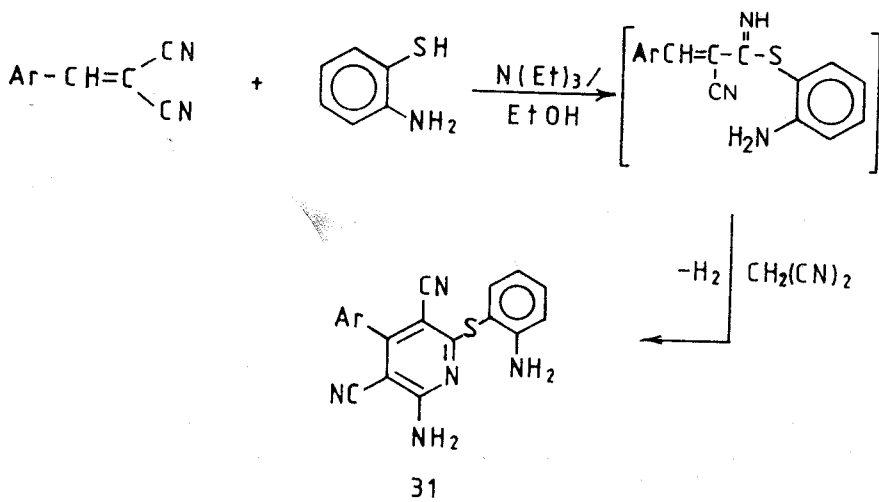
B) Hydrogen sulphide:

α , β -unsaturated, nitrile (1) has been reported to react with hydrogen sulphide to yield the thiophen derivative (30)⁷⁰, as following.



C) Aminothiophenol:

Several synthesis of pyridine derivatives from α -substituted cinnamonitriles (2 a-g) have recently been reported⁶¹. For example, the reaction of substituted amines as o-aminothiophenol with α -cyanocinnamonitrile (2 a) affords pyridine derivatives (31), as the following equation:

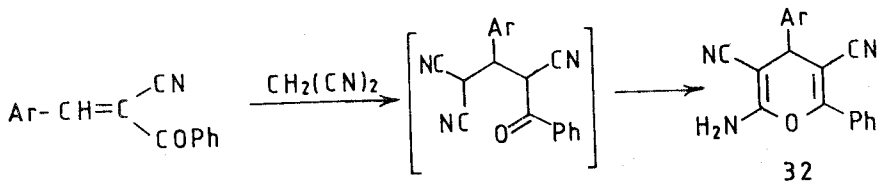


III) Reaction with active methylene reagents:

Several synthesis of pyran and pyridine derivatives from α -substituted cinnamonitrile and active methylene reagent as starting materials has been reported, as following:

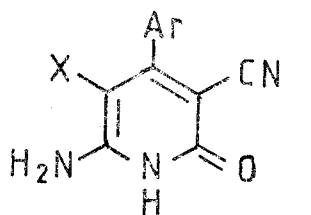
A) Malononitrile and acetonitrile derivatives:

It has been found that, malononitrile reacts with α -benzoylcinnamonitrile (2 c) to give the corresponding pyran derivative (32)⁸⁴.



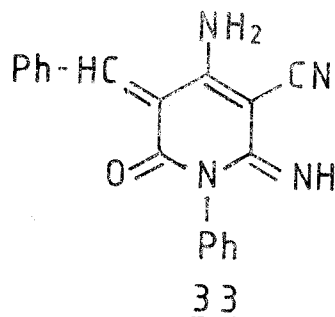
Recently, malononitrile reacts with α -phenylcarbamoylcinnamonitrile (2 d) to give pyridine derivative (33)²⁵.

Other interesting examples for the application of similar ideas have appeared in recent literature. For example, α -(1-amino-2,2-dicyanoethylenyl) cinnamitrile (2 h) has been reported to react with malononitrile and ethyl cyanoacetate to yield pyridine derivatives (34 and 35)⁵⁴⁻⁴⁹ respectively.



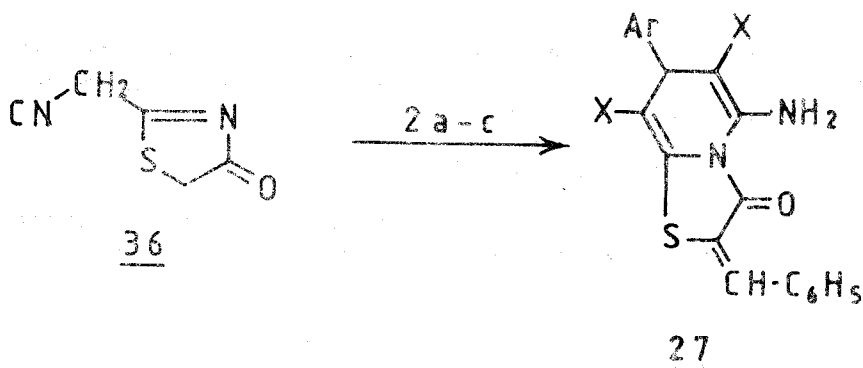
34, X = CN

35, X = COOEt



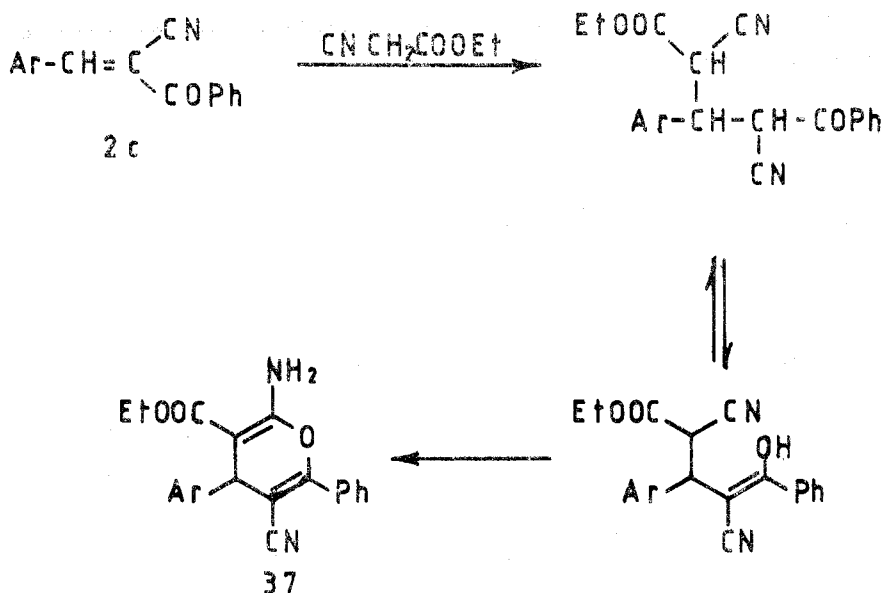
33

On the other hand, 2-(cyanomethyl) thiazolin-4-one (36) reacts with α -substituted cinnamitrile in ethanol/piperidine solution to give the corresponding thiazolo [2,3-a] pyridine derivative (27) as following³⁵⁻²⁷.

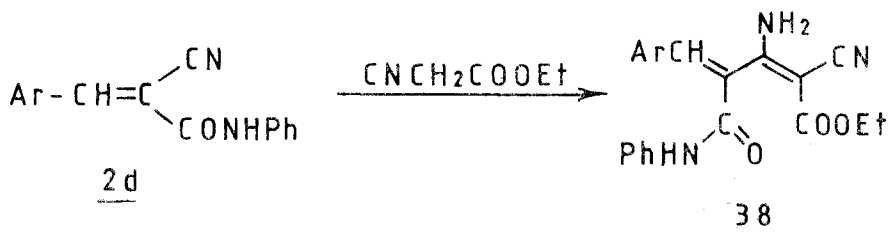


B) β -Cyanoesters and β -ketonitriles:

The reaction of ethyl cyanoacetate with α -benzoylcinnamitrile (2 c) leads to the formation of pyran derivative (37) via Michael addition, as the following equation²⁸:



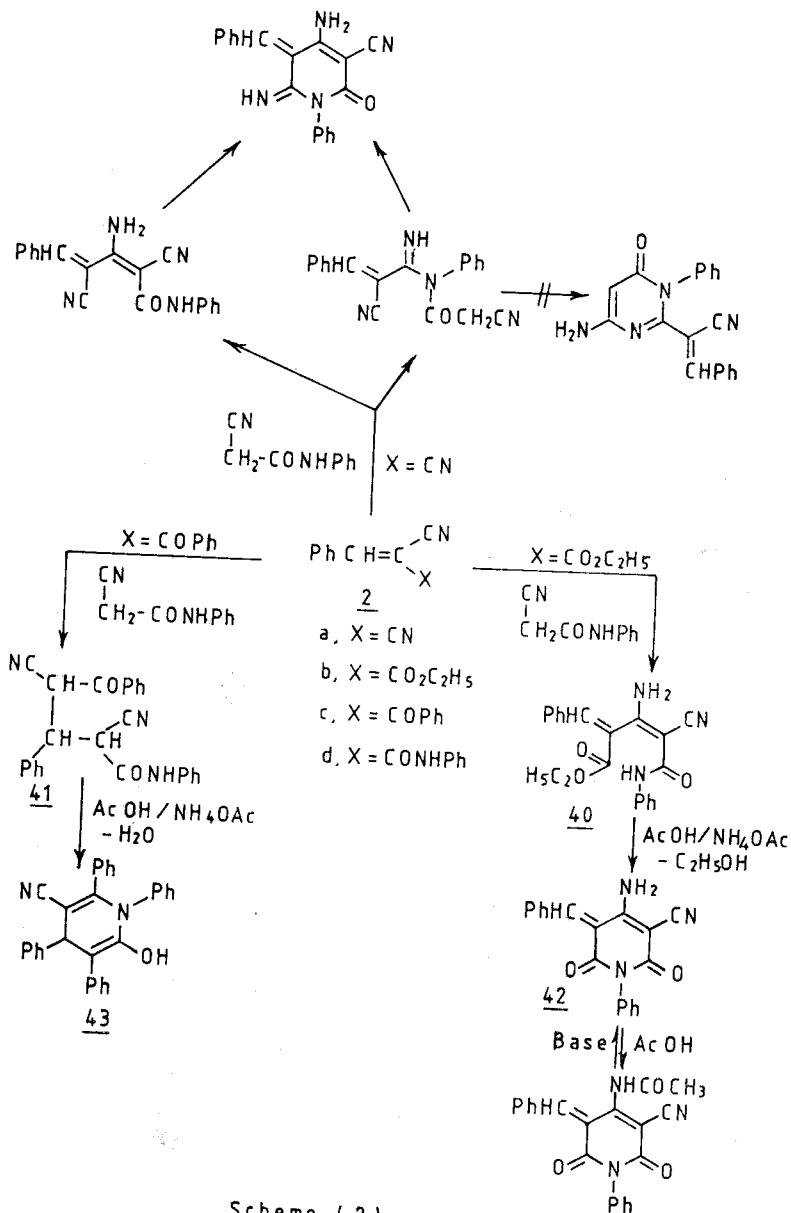
In contrast to this result, ethyl cyanoacetate reacts with α -phenyl-carbamoylcinnamionitrile (2 d) to give the acyclic product (38)²⁵, as following.



Recently, reaction of α -substituted cinnamionitriles (2 a-d) with cyanoacetanilide was reported²⁵. It has been found that, α -cyanocinnamionitrile (2 a) reacts with cyanoacetanilide to give pyridine derivative (39), several other theoretically possible isomeric structures were considered. The formation of pyridine derivative (39) is assumed as two pathway. (cf. Scheme 2).

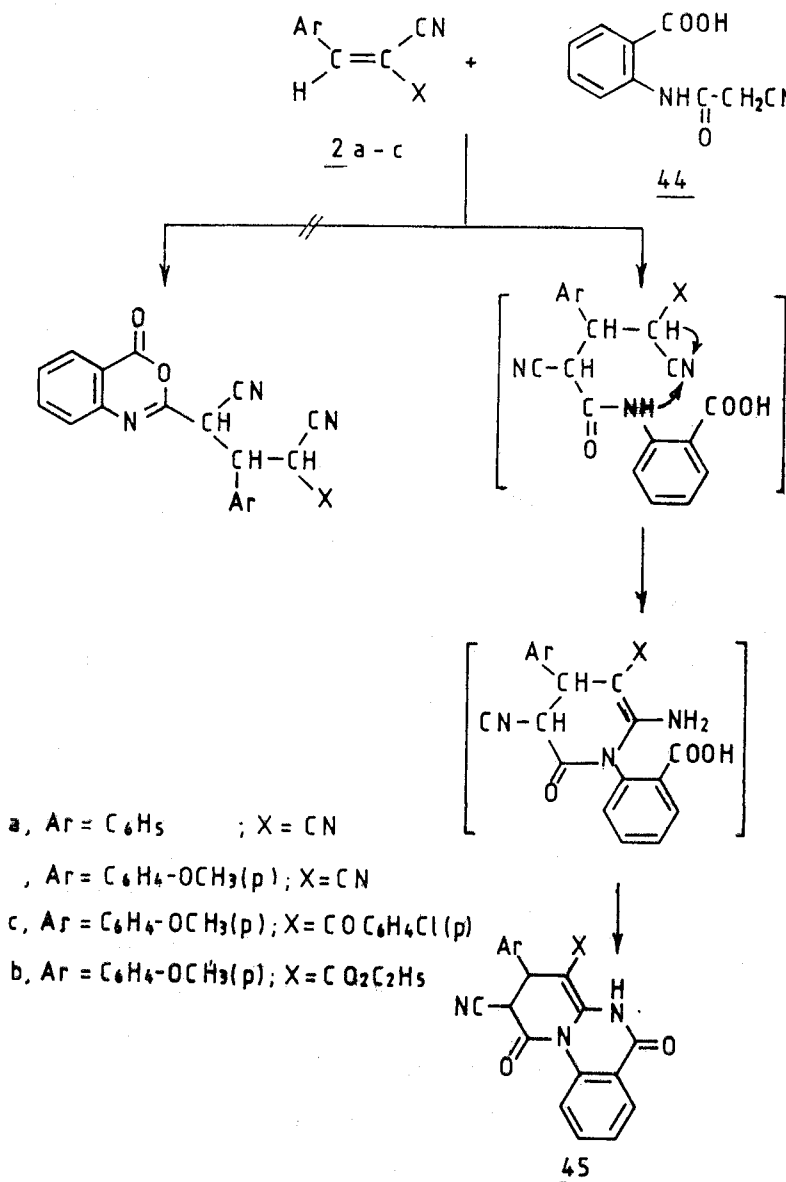
In contrast to the above result, it was found that cyanoacetanilide reacts with α -carbethoxycinnamionitrile (2 b) and α -benzoyl-cinnamionitrile (2 c) in ethanol/triethylamine solution to give the acyclic products (40) and (41) respectively. The last two compounds were conver-

ted to pyridine derivatives (42) and (43) respectively, through refluxing in acetic acid²⁵. (cf. Scheme 2).



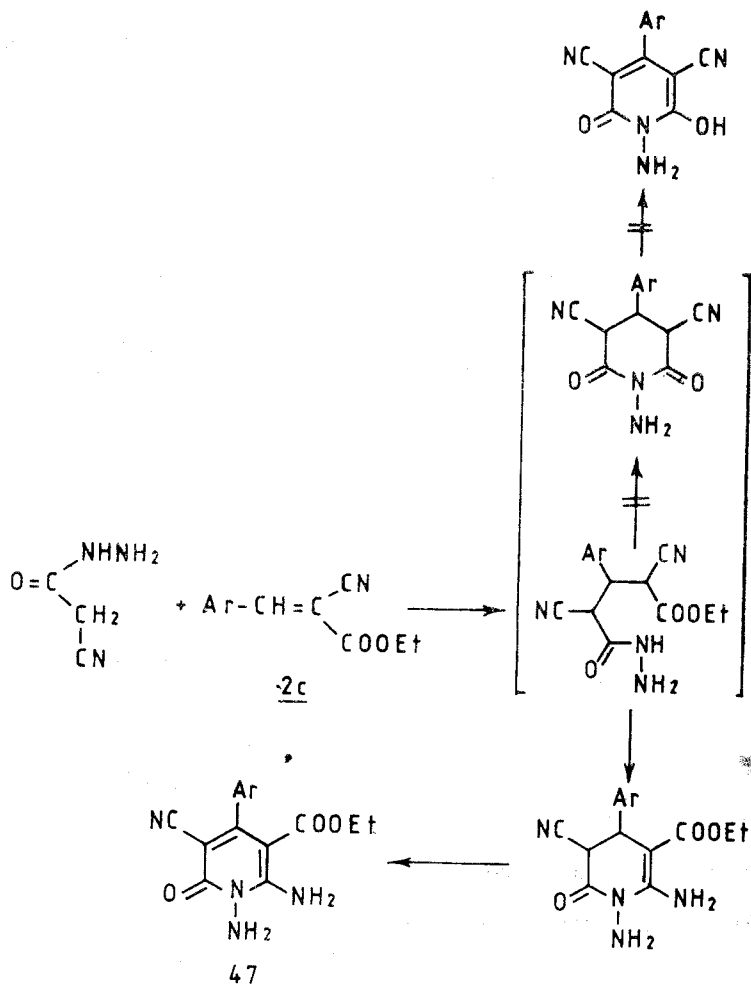
Scheme (2)

On the other hand, o-carboxycyanoacetanilide (44) reacts with α -substituted cinnamionitriles (2 a-c) to give quinoxalinopyridine derivatives (45)⁹⁰. (cf. Scheme 3).



Scheme (3)

Similarly, it was recently reported²⁶ that, 2-cyanoethanoic acid hydrazide (46) reacts with α -carboethoxycinnamionitrile (2 b) to yield the corresponding 2-pyridone derivative (47). The formation of pyridone derivative (47) is assumed as the Michael addition of the active methylene group of (46) to the C=C group of the (2 b) to give the acyclic product. The latter undergoes intramolecular cyclization, via the addition of the hydrogen atom of the substituted nitrogen of the acyclic intermediate to the cyano group, leads to pyridone derivative (47) under the same reaction conditions. (cf. Scheme 4)²⁶.



47

a, Ar = C₆H₅-

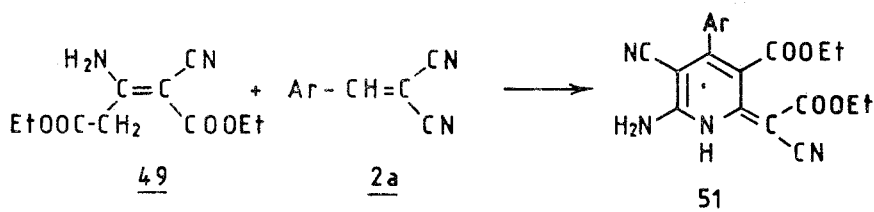
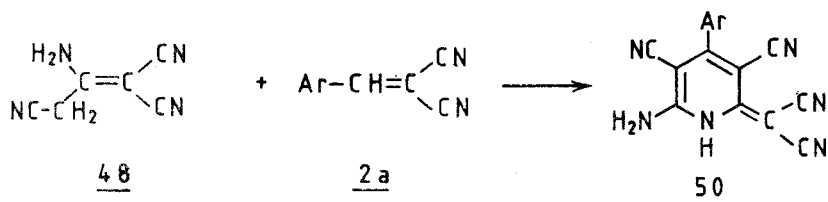
b, Ar = 4-Cl-C₆H₄-

c, Ar = 4-NO₂-C₆H₄-

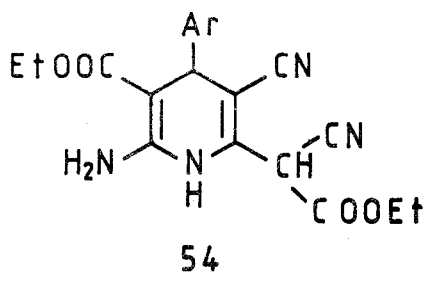
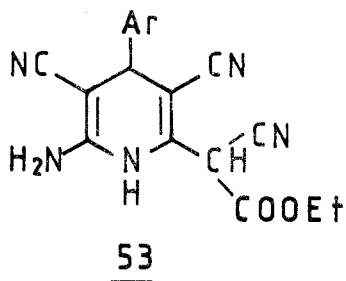
Scheme (4)

C) Active methylene enamino nitrile:

Other interesting examples for the application of similar ideas have appeared in recent literature. For example, α -substituted cinnamionitrile reacts with active methylene enamino nitriles (48-49). It has been reported that, 2-amino-1,1,3-tricyanoprop-2-ene (48) reacts with α -cyanocinnamionitrile (2 a) to yield pyridine derivative (50)^{54,49}. Similarly, diethyl 3-amino-2-cyanopent-2-ene 1,5-dicarboxylate (49) was reacted with (2 a) to yield pyridine derivative (51)^{49,78,47}, as following.

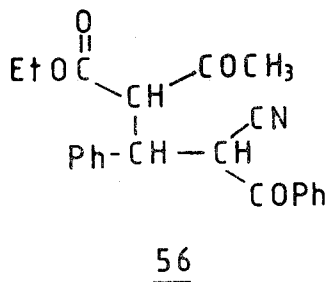
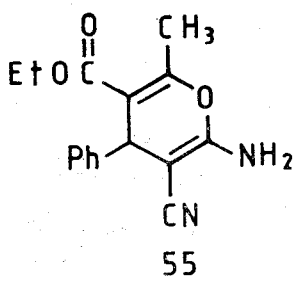


Also, ethyl 3-amino-2,4-dicyanobut-2-ene 1-carboxylate (52) reacts with α -substituted cinnamionitriles (2 a, b) to give the corresponding pyridine derivatives (53) and (54)⁴⁹ respectively.


 D) β Ketoester:

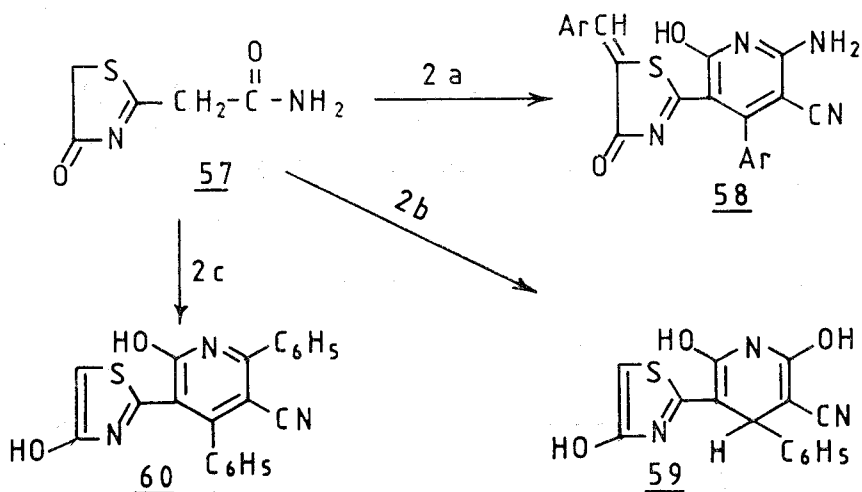
Recently, the reaction of α -cyanocinnamionitrile (2 a) with ethyl acetoacetate was reported²⁵, which leads to pyran derivative (55)²⁵.

In contrast the behaviour of α cyanocinnamitrile (2 a) with ethyl acetoacetate, α -benzoylcinnamitrile (2 c) reacts with ethyl acetoacetate to afford the acyclic product (56)²⁵.

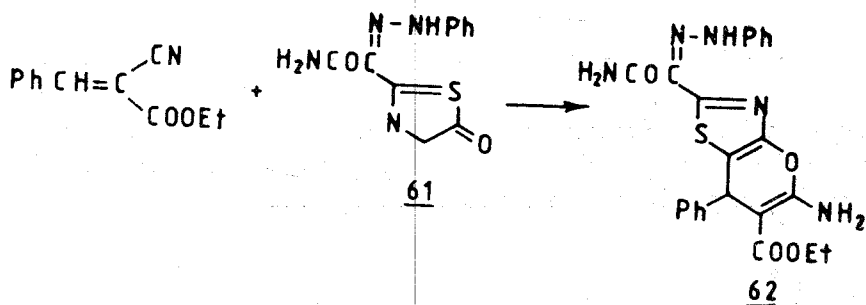


E) Active methylene of heterocyclic compounds:

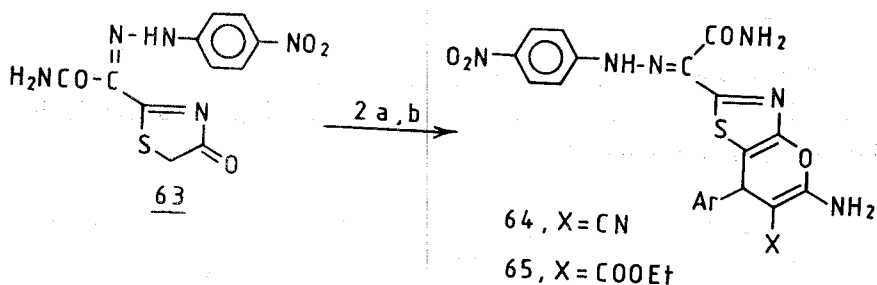
The reaction of several heterocyclic active methylene with α -substituted cinnamitrile was reported⁷⁷. Such as α -(2-thiazolin-4-onyl) acetamide (57) reacts with α -substituted cinnamitriles (2 a-c) to give the corresponding 3-(2-thiazolin-4-onyl) pyridine derivatives (58-60)⁷⁷ respectively.



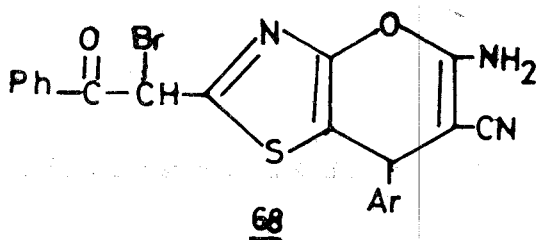
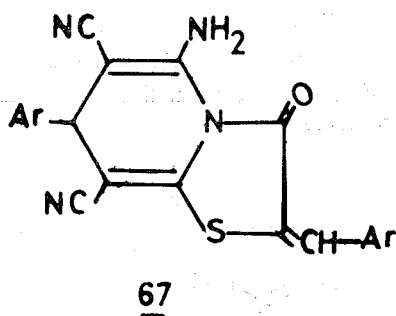
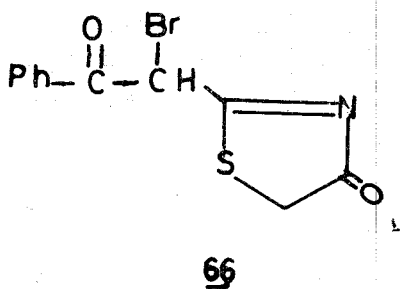
Recently, it was found that, α -carbethoxycinnamitrile (2 b) reacts with α -(2-thiazolin-4-onyl)- α -phenylhydrazonoacetamide (61) to give the corresponding pyrano [2,3-d] thiazole derivative (62)⁵⁹, as following.



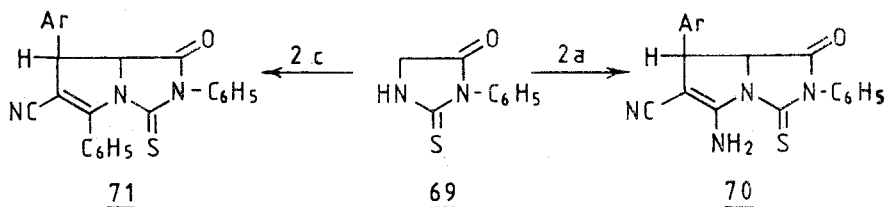
Also, α -substituted cinnamionitriles (2 a, b) react with other thiazolin-4-one derivatives (63) to give the corresponding pyrano-[2,3-d]thiazole derivatives (64) and (65) respectively⁵⁸.



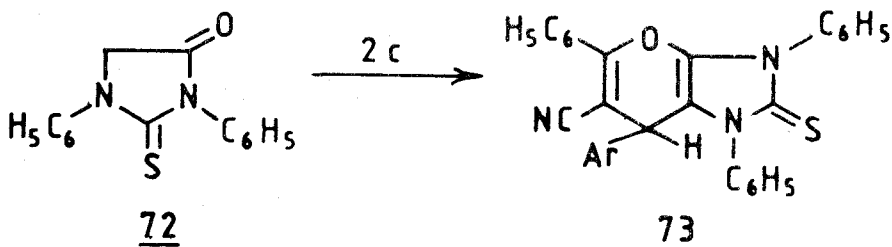
Similarly, α -cyanocinnamionitrile (2 a) reacts with (2 e) and 2-thiazolin-4-onylbenzoylbromomethane (66) to give the corresponding thiazolo [3,2-a] pyridine derivative (67) and pyrano [2,3-d] thiazole derivative (68) respectively⁵⁹, as following.



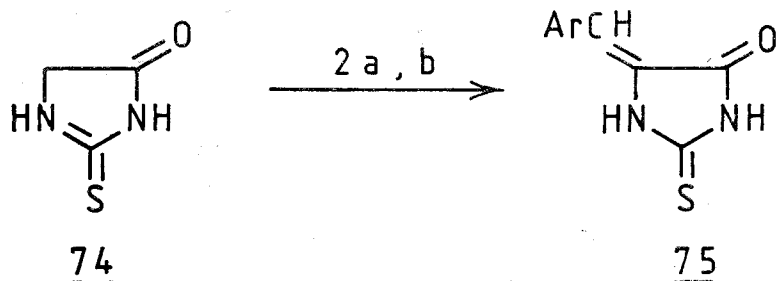
Recently, the reactions of α -substituted cinnamitriles (2 a-c) with thiohydantoin derivatives were reported¹⁸. It was found that, 3-phenyl-2-thiohydantoin (69) reacts with α -substituted cinnamitriles (2 a, c) to give the corresponding pyrrolo [1,2-c] imidazole (70) and (71) respectively¹⁸, as the following equation:



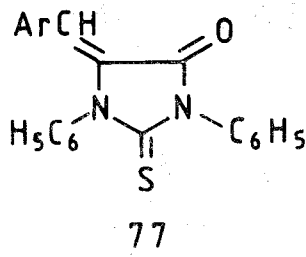
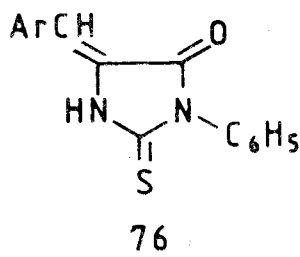
But 1,3-diphenylthiohydantoin (72) reacts with α -benzoylcinnamitrile (2 c) to give the corresponding pyrano [2,3-d] imidazole derivative (73)¹⁸, as following.



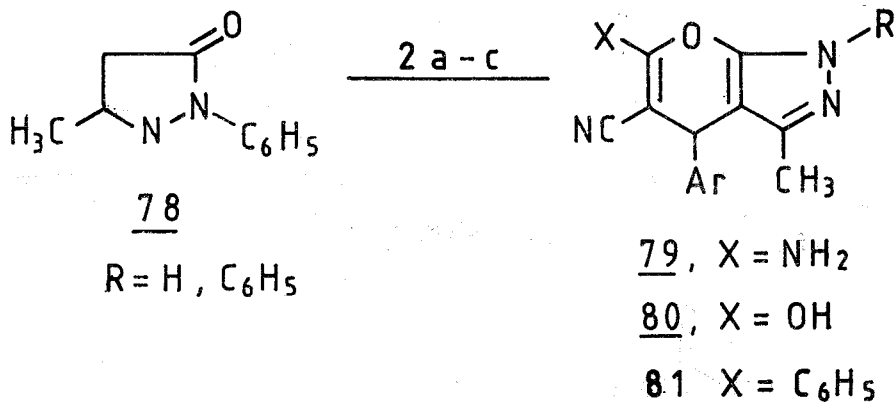
In contrast to the behaviour of thiohydantoin derivatives (69 and 72) toward α -substituted cinnamitrile (2 c), thiohydantoin (74) reacts with α -substituted cinnamitrile (2 a, b) to yield the 5-arylidene derivatives (75)¹⁸.



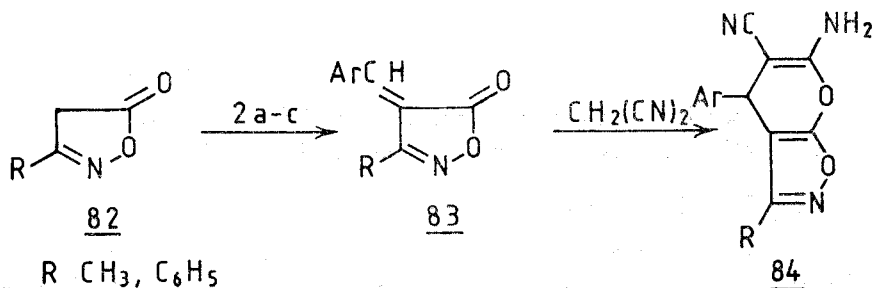
Also, compounds (69 and 72) react with (2 b) to give 5-arylidene derivatives (76) and (77) respectively¹⁸.



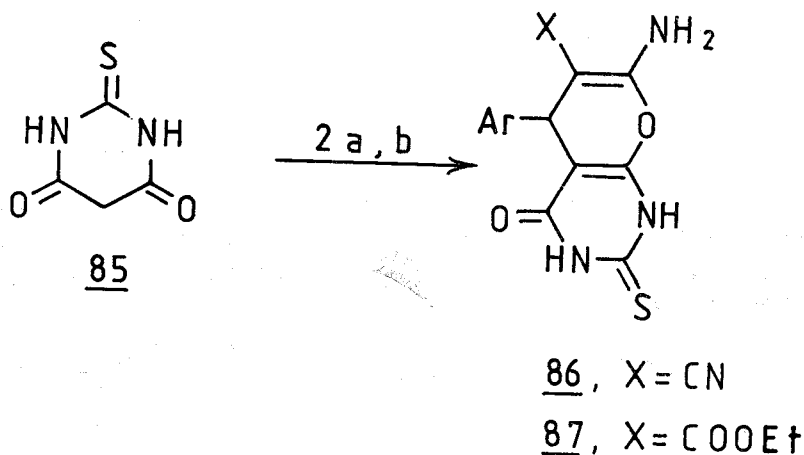
On the other hand, it was reported that, 3-methylpyrazol-5-one derivative (78) reacts with α -substituted cinnamionitrile (2 a-c) to give the corresponding pyrano [2,3-c] pyrazole derivatives (79-81) respectively^{32,54,52}, as following.



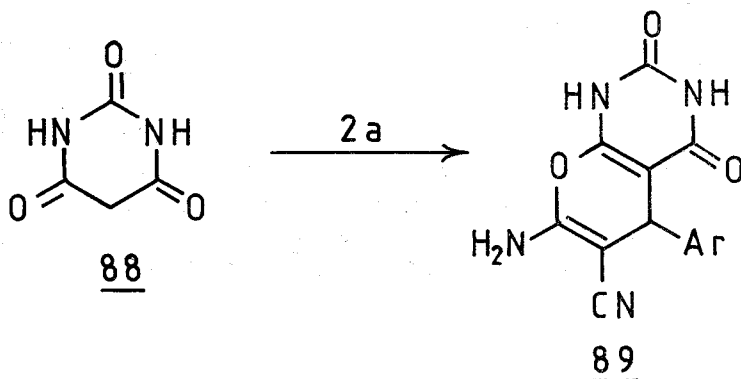
The reaction of 2-isoxazolin-5-one derivative (82) with α -substituted cinnamionitrile (2 a-c) was reported⁸ to yield 4-arylidene-2-isoxazolin-5-one (83). The latter was reacted with malononitrile to produce pyrano [2,3-c] isoxazole derivative (84)⁸, as the following equation:



Recently, it was found that, thiobarbituric acid (85) reacted with α -substituted cinnamitriles (2, a b) to yield the corresponding pyrano [2,3-d] pyrimidine derivatives (86) and (87) respectively⁵⁹.



Similarly, it was found that, barbituric acid (88) reacted with α -cyanocinnamitrile (2 a) to give the corresponding pyrano-[2,3-d] pyrimidine derivative (89)⁵⁹, as following.

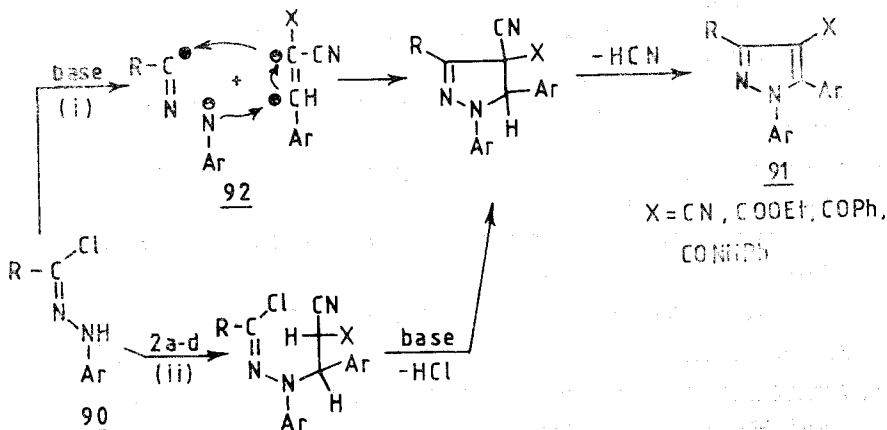


The reaction mechanism is considered as Michael addition followed by cyclization on the cyano group of α -substituted cinnamitrile.

IV) Reaction with hydrazidoyl halide:

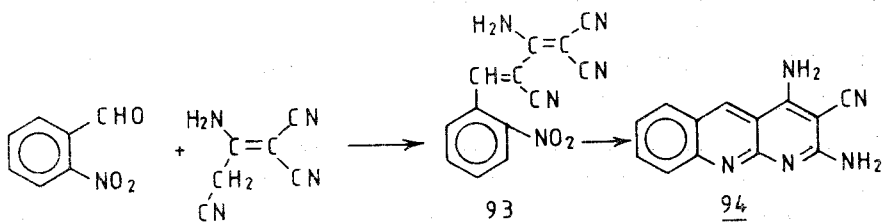
Recently, several pyrazole derivatives (91) were synthesised⁶⁰, through the reaction of α -substituted cinnamitriles (2 a-d) with hydra-

zidoyl halides (90). The reaction mechanism is assumed as 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition of nitrile imine (92) (as shown at pathway i), or via Michael addition followed by cyclization (pathway ii)⁶⁰, as following.

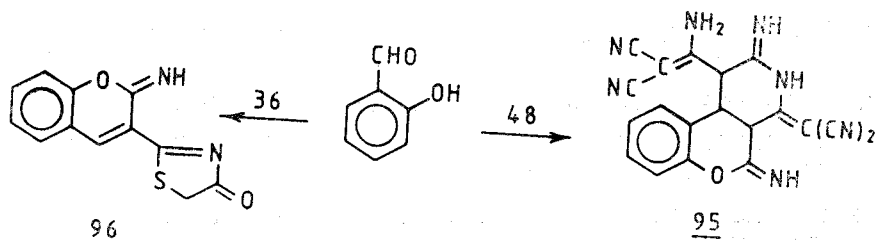


V) Intramolecular reaction:

It has been reported that, several α -substituted cinnamitriles [bearing a nitro or hydroxyl groups in ortho position of the phenyl group] converted spontaneously after its formation, under the reaction conditions. Such as, *o*-nitrobenzaldehyde reacted with 2-amino-1,1,3-tricyanoprop-1-ene (48) to yield the condensation product (α -substituted cinnamitrile derivative) (93), which readily cyclised into (94)³² as the following equation:



Also salicylaldehyde reacts with (48) and (36) to give the benzopyrano [3,4-*c*] pyridine derivative (95) and iminocoumarin derivative (96) respectively^{32,60}, as following.



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