

Multicomponent Reaction, Ionic Liquid and Aqua Mediated: A Perfect Synergy for Eco-compatible Heterocyclic Synthesis

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Received 30 November 2014 / Accepted 16 December 2014

Abstract: The combination of multicomponent reactions as potential synthetic processes with ionic liquids as catalysts and water as reaction medium is a suitable approach that respects, in some extent, the requirements of sustainable chemistry. In this context, we describe herein an efficient and high yielding four-component synthesis of 6-amino-4-alkyl/aryl-3-methyl-2,4-dihydropyrano[2,3-*c*]pyrazole-5-carbonitriles involving ethyl acetoacetate, hydrazine hydrate, malononitrile, and various aldehydes using methyltriphenylphosphonium bromide as catalyst and water as solvent under mild reaction conditions.

Keywords: Pyranopyrazoles, Triphenylphosphine, Methyltriphenylphosphonium bromide, Ionic liquid, Aqueous medium, Multicomponent reactions, Organocatalyst, Rate enhancements

Introduction

Nowadays, the challenge in synthesis is how a molecule can be prepared from readily available starting materials, in maximum yield and high atom and step economy *via* a clean and environmentally benign chemical process. In this sense, multi-component reactions (MCRs); known to be selective, effective atom economic, time saving and easy to perform; have attracted significant interest from pharmaceutical groups¹.

Due to their environmentally benign nature, high polarity and good thermal stability, ionic liquids (ILs) have received substantial attention in organic synthesis in the past decade. Furthermore, high yields, shorter reaction times, cleaner reaction products and high selectivity are often obtained on using ILs either as solvents or as catalysts² as a result; recently, ionic liquids have attracted increasing interest in the context of green organic synthesis.

Besides ILs, carrying organic reactions in aqueous media is another attractive area in green chemistry³. As a reaction medium, water offers several advantages such as environmental compatibility, reduction of by-products and direct isolation of products by

precipitation and filtration as they are often insoluble. Furthermore, considerable rate enhancements are often observed in reactions carried in water over those in organic solvents⁴, in particular, reactions with negative activation volume⁵ such as multicomponent reactions⁶.

Pyranopyrazoles constitute important fused heterocyclic compounds; thus their synthesis has received much attention especially in the field of medicinal/pharmaceutical chemistry due to their wide range of biological/pharmacological activities such as anticancer, antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory, insecticidal and as biodegradable agrochemicals⁷. The first procedure to synthesize pyranopyrazole derivatives involves the reaction between 3-methyl-1-phenylpyrazolin-5-one and tetracyanoethylene under basic conditions⁸. Owing to the above mentioned properties, various methods were developed for the synthesis of these compounds among which we cite the two-component reaction involving pyran derivatives and hydrazine hydrate under combined microwave and ultrasound irradiation⁹, the three-component reaction between pyrazolone, an aldehyde and malononitrile using triethylamine as catalyst¹⁰, the four-component synthesis between ethyl acetoacetate, hydrazine hydrate, aldehyde, and malononitrile in the presence of bases such as piperidine, pyrrolidine, morpholine and triethylamine as catalysts¹¹. Recently, several catalysts have been reported for the one-pot synthesis of pyranopyrazole derivatives including glycine¹², *L*-proline and γ -alumina¹³, per-6-amino- β -cyclodextrin¹⁴ and cetyltrimethylammonium chloride (CTACl)¹⁵.

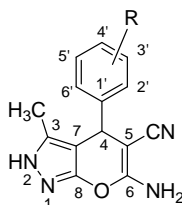
Taking into account the importance of pyranopyrazoles, the significant rate enhancement of MCRs in water and the merits of organocatalysis induced by ILs, herein, we wish to report the catalytic efficiency of methyltriphenylphosphonium bromide (MTPB) for the synthesis of 6-amino-5-cyano-4-aryl-4*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*b*]pyran derivatives **5** via the four-component reaction of hydrazine hydrate **1**, ethyl acetoacetate **2**, aromatic aldehydes **3** and malononitrile **4** in aqueous medium (Scheme 1).

Experimental

All chemicals were used without further purification. Reactions were monitored by thin-layer chromatography (TLC), visualising with ultraviolet. Melting points were determined on Banc Kofler apparatus and are uncorrected. IR spectra were recorded on Shimadzu FT IR 8201 PC spectrometer as KBr pellets with absorptions in cm^{-1} . ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker BRUKER AVANCE DPX spectrometer using DMSO-*d*₆ as solvent and TMS as an internal standard. Chemical shifts (δ) are expressed in ppm, downfield from internal standard TMS and *J* values in hertz (Hz).

*General procedure for the preparation of 6-Amino-4-aryl-3-methyl-2,4-dihydropyrano[2,3-*c*]pyrazole-5-carbonitriles or carboxylate (5a-m)*

A mixture of hydrazine hydrate **1** (0.107 g, 2.0 mmol), ethyl acetoacetate **2** (0.260 g, 2.0 mmol), aromatic aldehyde derivatives **3** (2.0 mmol) and malononitrile **4** (0.132 g, 2.0 mmol) in water (5 mL) was refluxed under stirring for 1 h in the presence of MTPB (5 mol %). The precipitated solid was filtered, washed with water and then with a mixture of ethyl acetate/hexane (20/80). The product obtained was pure by TLC and ¹H NMR spectroscopy. However, the products were further purified by recrystallization from ethanol. All the synthesized compounds are reported in Table 4 and were confirmed by their physical constants and characterized by IR, ¹H and ¹³C NMR. The spectroscopic data were in full agreement with the literature values.



Spectral data for prepared compounds

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

White crystals, mp. 245–246 °C; V_{\max} (KBr): 3309, 3170 (NH₂), 2191 (CN), 1647 (C=N), 1610, 1604 (Ar) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (250 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 12.02 (s, 1H, NH), 7.45–7.15 (m, 5H, arom), 6.74 (s, 2H, NH₂), 4.56 (s, 1H, 4-H), 1.79 (s, 3H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (63.9 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 159.3 (C6), 153.2 (C3), 142.2 (C8), 133.9 (C1'), 126.6 (C2', C6'), 125.8 (C3', C5'), 125.0 (C4'), 119.1 (CN), 95.9 (C7), 55.8 (C5), 34.8 (C4), 8.1 (CH₃).

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

Yellow solid, mp. 239–240 °C; V_{\max} (KBr): 3367, 3174 (NH₂), 2187 (CN), 1653 (C=N), 1600 (Ar) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (250 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 12.0 (s, 1H, NH), 7.17 (d, 2H, $J = 7.0$, H_{arom}), 7.07 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 2H, H_{arom}), 6.38 (s, 2H, NH₂), 4.51 (s, 1H, 4-H), 1.77 (s, 3H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (63.9 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 159.8 (C6), 153.8 (C3), 141.6 (C8), 134.8 (C4'), 130.8 (C1'), 128.0 (C2', C6'), 127.2 (C3', 5'), 119.7 (CN), 95.9 (C7), 56.6 (C5), 35.0 (C4), 8.9 (CH₃).

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

Yellow solid, mp. 229–230 °C; V_{\max} (KBr): 3300, 3130 (NH₂), 2179 (CN), 1650 (C=N), 1596 (Ar) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (250 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 12.0 (s, 1H, NH), 9.21 (s, 1H, OH), 7.0 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 2H, arom), 6.70 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 2H, arom), 6.65 (s, 2H, NH₂), 4.44 (s, 1H, 4-H), 1.79 (s, 3H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (63.9 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 160.6 (C6), 154.8 (C3), 135.5 (C8), 156.0, 134.6, 128.4 and 115.1 (C_{arom}), 121.0 (CN), 98.0 (C7), 58.0 (C5), 35.6 (C4), 9.8 (CH₃).

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

White solid, mp. 225–226 °C; V_{\max} (KBr): 3360 (NH₂), 2191 (CN), 1640 (C=N), 1600 (Ar) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (250 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 12.0 (s, 1H, NH), 7.03 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 2H, arom), 6.70 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 2H, arom), 6.60 (s, 2H, NH₂), 4.45 (s, 1H, 4-H), 3.68 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 1.79 (s, 3H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (63.9 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 161.7 (C6), 154.8 (C3), 136.3 (C8), 158.0, 135.6, 128.5 and 113.6 (C_{arom}), 120.9 (CN), 97.7 (C7), 57.9 (C5), 54.9 (OCH₃), 35.7 (C4), 9.8 (CH₃).

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

Yellow crystals, mp. 219–220 °C; V_{\max} (KBr): 3400, 3047 (NH₂), 2191 (CN), 1643 (C=N), 1600 (Ar) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (250 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 12.11 (s, 1H, NH), 7.12 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 2H, arom), 7.05 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 2H, arom), 6.89 (s, 2H, NH₂), 4.55 (s, 1H, 4-H), 2.27 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.79 (s, 3H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (63.9 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 160.8 (C6), 154.8 (C3), 135.8 (C8), 141.6, 129.1, 127.5 and 120.9 (C_{arom}), 119.4 (CN), 97.8 (C7), 57.4 (C5), 35.9 (C4), 20.7 (CH₃), 9.9 (CH₃).

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

Brown crystals, mp. 249-250 °C; V_{\max} (KBr): 3475, 3186 (NH₂), 2190 (CN), 1651 (C=N), 1601 (Ar) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (250 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 12.00 (s, 1H, NH), 8.0(d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H, arom), 7.4 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H, arom), 6.6 (s, 2H, NH₂), 4.70 (s, 1H, 4-H), 1.8 (s, 3H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (63.9 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 159.8 (C6), 150.3 (C3), 134.5 (C8), 145.1, 153.4, 127.3 and 122.3 (C_{arom}), 119.1 (CN), 94.9 (C7), 55.1 (C5), 35.0 (C4), 8.5 (CH₃).

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

White powder, mp. 248-249 °C; V_{\max} (KBr): 3363, 3166 (NH₂), 2179 (CN), 1647 (C=N), 1600 (Ar) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (250 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 11.91 (s, 1H, NH), 9.12 (s, 1H, OH), 7.05 (td, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H, arom), 6.70 (s, 2H, NH₂), 6.60 (m, 3H, arom), 4.40 (s, 1H, 4-H), 1.82 (s, 3H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (63.9 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 161.0 (C6), 154.8 (C3), 135.5 (C8), 157.4, 145.7, 129.1, 120.8, 114.2 and 113.8 (C_{arom}), 118.1 (CN), 97.5 (C7), 57.5 (C5), 36.3 (C4), 9.8 (CH₃).

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

Brown powder, mp. 229-230 °C; V_{\max} (KBr): 3489, 3191 (NH₂), 2193 (CN), 1648 (C=N), 1600 (Ar) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (250 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 12.02 (s, 1H, NH), 8.0 (m, 2H, arom), 7.6 (m, 2H, arom), 6.6 (s, 2H, NH₂), 4.71 (s, 1H, 4-H), 1.8 (s, 3H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (63.9 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 156.0 (C6), 146.8 (C3), 134.8 (C8), 153.7, 145.2, 132.9, 128.5, 120.9 and 120.7 (C_{arom}), 119.3 (CN), 95.2 (C7), 55.7 (C5), 35.1 (C4), 8.7 (CH₃).

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

White powder, mp. 253-254 °C; V_{\max} (KBr): 3336 (NH₂), 2191 (CN), 1654 (C=N), 1600 (Ar) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (250 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 12.00 (s, 1H, NH), 7.17 (td, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H, arom), 6.92 (m, 3H, arom), 6.72 (s, 2H, NH₂), 5.00 (s, 1H, 4-H), 3.80 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 1.80 (s, 3H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (63.9 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 161.5 (C6), 155.0 (C3), 135.0 (C8), 156.2, 132.1, 128.6, 127.7, 120.9 and 110.9 (C_{arom}), 120.7 (CN), 97.7 (C7), 56.4 (C5), 55.4 (OCH₃), 28.9 (C4), 9.5 (CH₃).

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

Blackish powder, mp. 246-247 °C; V_{\max} (KBr): 3477, 3170 (NH₂), 2188 (CN), 1650 (C=N), 1600 (Ar) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (250 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 12.00 (s, 1H, NH), 7.8(d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H, arom), 7.6(t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H, arom), 7.4(t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H, arom), 7.3(d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H, arom), 6.9 (s, 2H, NH₂), 5.1(s, 1H, 4-H), 1.8 (s, 3H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (63.9 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 161.1 (C6), 149.0 (C3), 137.8 (C8), 154.9, 135.6, 133.1, 131.1, 127.8 and 123.3 (C_{arom}), 120.1 (CN), 96.3 (C7), 56.2 (C5), 31.1 (C4), 9.5 (CH₃).

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

Yellow crystals, mp. 180-183 °C; V_{\max} (KBr): 3394, 3182 (NH₂), 2187 (CN), 1650 (C=N), 1600 (Ar) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (250 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 12.15 (s, 1H), 7.41 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H, arom), 7.11 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H, arom), 6.82(s, 2H, NH₂), 4.57 (s, 1H, 4-H), 1.78 (s, 3H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (63.9 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 161.2 (C6), 154.9 (C3), 143.9 (C8), 136.1, 131.6, 129.9 and 121.0 (C_{arom}), 120.2 (CN), 97.3 (C7), 57.1 (C5), 36.1 (C4), 10.0 (CH₃).

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

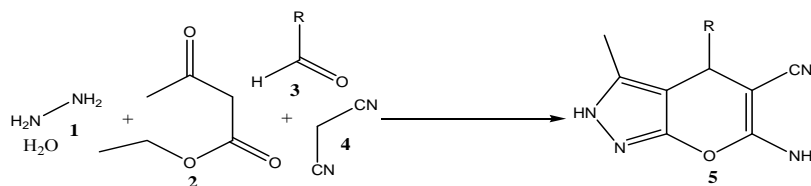
White solid, mp.226-228 °C; $V_{\max}(\text{KBr})$: 3355 (NH_2), 2191 (CN), 1647 ($\text{C}=\text{N}$), 1604 (Ar) cm^{-1} ; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (250 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 12.13 (s, 1H, NH), 7.31 (d, $J = 3.8$ Hz, 1H, arom) 7.00 (d, $J = 3.3$ Hz, 1H, arom), 6.91(td, $J = 3.4$ Hz, 1H, arom), 6.88 (s, 2H, NH_2), 4.89 (s, 1H, 4-H), 1.92 (s, 3H, CH_3); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (63.9 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 160.6 (C6), 154.3 (C3), 149.66 (C8), 126.3, 124.7, 124.2 and 120.6 (C_{arom}), 97.4 (C7), 57.5 (C5), 31.5 (C4), 9.7(CH_3).

6-Amino-4-(4-(dimethylamino) phenyl)-3-methyl-2, 4-dihydropyrano [2,3-c] pyrazole-5-carbonitrile (5m)

Red crystals, mp.219-222 °C; $V_{\max}(\text{KBr})$: 3390 (NH_2), 2200 (CN), 1643 ($\text{C}=\text{N}$), 1600 (Ar) cm^{-1} ; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (250 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 11.88 (s, 1H), 6.95 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 2H), 6.60 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H), 6.46 (s, 2H), 4.4 (s, 1H), 2.86 (s, 6H), 1.78 (s, 3H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (63.9 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 158.4 (C6), 149.0 (C3), 133.5 (C8), 154.0, 127.9, 120.3,112.1 (C_{arom}), 118.7 (CN), 97.9 (C7), 69.5 (C5), 58.3 (2 CH_3), 35.5 (C4), 9.7(CH_3).

Results and Discussion

The reaction (Scheme 1) between hydrazine hydrate, ethyl acetoacetate, malonitrile, and benzaldehyde ($\text{R} = \text{C}_6\text{H}_5$) was chosen as a model condensation reaction for optimizing the various reaction parameters: solvent, temperature, catalyst and concentration.

**Scheme 1**

Initially, the reaction was tried without any catalyst in solvent-free conditions at ambient temperature, but the reaction could not complete even after 24 h stirring (Table 1, entry 1). Interestingly, when 5 mL of water was added to the reaction mixture, an oily product was obtained (Table 1, entry 2) and on raising the temperature of the reaction to 100 °C, the desired product was obtained within 4 h in 70% yield (Table 1, entry 3). To increase the reaction rate and minimize the consumption of energy, we performed the model reaction using 5 mol% of PPh_3 and MTPB as catalysts in aqueous media under reflux conditions. From these preliminary studies, it was observed that (i) the rate of the catalyzed reaction is higher than the corresponding uncatalyzed one at the same temperature and (ii) MTPB is far superior to PPh_3 for efficient catalysis (Table 1, entries 4, 5).

Table 1. The Influence of temperature on one-pot condensation of ethyl acetoacetate, hydrazine hydrate, benzaldehyde and malonitrile

Entry	Catalyst	Solvent	Temperature, °C	Time, h	Yield, %
1	Cat free	Neat	Room temperature	24	-
2	Cat free	H_2O	Room temperature	24	oil
3	Cat free	H_2O	Reflux	4	70
4	MTPB (5 mol%)	H_2O	Reflux	1h	94
5	PPh_3 (5 mol%)	H_2O	Reflux	1.5h	76

The choice of a solvent is a crucial factor for multicomponent reactions, so different organic solvents were examined for the reaction (Table 2, entries 2-6) and we found that

water was the solvent of choice which provided the highest rate and yield (Table 2, entry 6). Similar yield was also obtained under solvent free conditions but relatively longer reaction time was needed (Table 2, entry 1).

Table 2. The Influence of solvent on the model reaction in the presence of MTPB (5 mol%)

Entry	Solvent	Temperature	Time, h	Yield, % ^b
1	Solvent-free	80°C	3	91
2	CH ₃ CN	reflux	5	67
3	DMSO	reflux	2	55
4	EtOH	reflux	5	69
5	EtOH/H ₂ O	reflux	1	84
6	H ₂ O	reflux	1	94

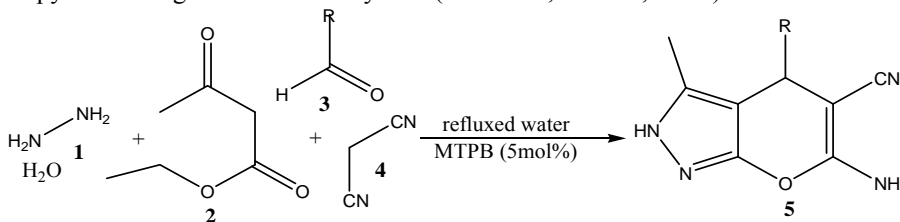
^aReaction conditions: ethyl acetoacetate (2.0 mmol), hydrazine hydrate(2.0 mmol), benzaldehyde (2.0 mmol) and malononitrile (2.0 mmol). ^bIsolated yield

Apart from the solvent, the efficiency of the multicomponent reactions is mainly affected by the amount of the catalyst and the reaction time. Thus, to enhance the yield of the desired product, we changed the amount of the catalyst from 5 to 20 mol%. As indicated in Table 3, maximum yield (94%) was obtained when the reaction was loaded with 5mol% of the catalyst (regarding to the aldehyde).

Table 3. Influence of MTPB amount on the model reaction^a

Entry	MTPB, % mol	Yield, %	Time, h
1	5	94	1
2	10	82	1
3	20	76	1

With the optimized reaction conditions in hand and to study the efficiency of this catalyst, we extended our study with different aromatic aldehydes to prepare a series of pyranopyrazoles in good to excellent yields (Scheme 2, Table 4, **5a-m**).



Scheme 2. Synthesis of pyranopyrazoles (**5a-m**)

Table 4. One-pot synthesis of pyranopyrazoles catalyzed by MTPB^a

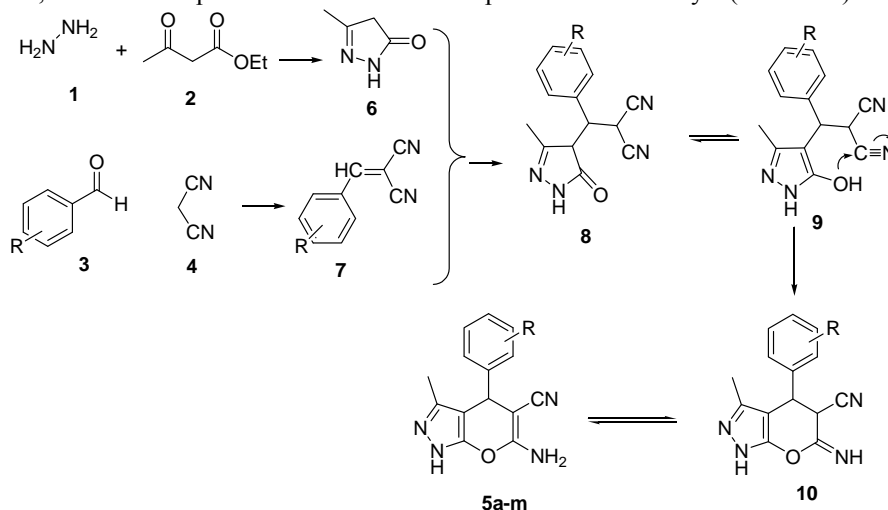
Entry	Aldehyde	Time, min	Product	Yield, %	mp, °C	
					Found	Reported
1	C ₆ H ₅	60	5a	94	245–246	243-245 ^[9]
2	4-Cl-C ₆ H ₄	60	5b	98	239-240	233-235 ^[9]
3	4-OH-C ₆ H ₄	60	5c	93	229-230	225-227 ^[16]
4	4-MeO-C ₆ H ₄	90	5d	89	225-226	208-210 ^[9]
5	4-CH ₃ -C ₆ H ₄	60	5e	94	219-220	206-207 ^[16]
6	4-NO ₂ -C ₆ H ₄	60	5f	93	248-250	249-252 ^[9]

Contd...

7	3-OH-C ₆ H ₄	60	5g	83	248-249	248-249 ^[16]
8	3-NO ₂ -C ₆ H ₄	120	5h	85	215-217	214-216 ^[17]
9	2-MeO-C ₆ H ₄	90	5i	95	253-254	249-250 ^[18]
10	2-NO ₂ -C ₆ H ₄	120	5j	96	243-245	243-244 ^[18]
11	4-Br-C ₆ H ₄	60	5k	90	180-183	182-184 ^[19]
13	Thien-2-yl	60	5l	94	226-228	224-226 ^[18]
14	4-NMe ₂ -C ₆ H ₄	60	5m	80	219-222	217-219 ^[20]

^aReactions were performed on a 2.0 mmol scale of all reactants with 5 mol % of MTPB in refluxed water (5 mL)

On the basis of the chemistry of pyranopyrazoles, we propose the possible following mechanism: One molecule of hydrazine derivative **1** was firstly condensed with ethyl acetoacetate **2** to yield pyrazolone derivative **6**. On the other hand, aromatic aldehyde **3** condensed with malononitrile **4** to afford α -cyanocinnamitrile derivative **7**. The next step may involve Michael addition of the active methylene of **6** to an electron deficient carbon of dicyanoalkene **7**, which gives an intermediate **8** tautomerization to the intermediate **9** followed by the nucleophilic attack of OH group on the cyano (CN) moiety to give the cyclic intermediate **10**, which is tautomerized to target pyranopyrazoles **5a-m**. In this process, MTPB could promote these reactions as phase transfer catalyst (Scheme 3).



Scheme 3. Plausible mechanism of pyranopyrazoles synthesis

Conclusion

The combination of multicomponent reactions (MCRs) and unconventional solvents has become a new research direction, which enables simultaneous growth of both MCRs and green solvents toward ideal organic synthesis. The present protocol couples the advantages of multi-component reactions (MCRs) with those of water as reaction media and ionic liquid (MTPB) as catalyst, thus representing a simple and green synthetic procedure to perform near-ideal methodologies for pyranopyrazoles synthesis.

Acknowledgement

We gratefully acknowledge the MESRES (Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche Scientifique) for Financial support.

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