THE SYNTHESIS OF THE STEREOISOMERS OF 1,X-DIMETHYL-4-OXO-1,6,7--8,9,9a-HEXAHYDRO-4H-PYRIDO[1,2-a] PYRIMIDINE-3-CARBOXAMIDES

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We have been studying the chemistry and pharmacology of the  $4-\infty$ -4H-pyrido [1,2-a] pyrimidines for over ten years. The  $/\pm/1$ ,  $6_{ax}$ -dimethyl-4-oxo-1,6,7,8,9,9a<sub>ax</sub>-hexahydro-4H-pyrido-[1,2-a] pyrimidine  $/\underline{10}$ / exhibited significant analgetic activity.

For structure—activity relationship study we aimed to synthethise 13 /the diastereomer of 10/, their optically active forms, as well as the structural isomers with the methyl-group in the 7 and 8 position. The synthetic routes are shown below.

Reduction of the quaternary salts /4,5,6/ with NaBH<sub>4</sub> /in H<sub>2</sub>O/resulted always in the formation of the thermodynamically more stable diastereoisomer, i.e. <u>10</u>, <u>11</u> and <u>15</u> respectively, while catalytic reduction /Pd/C, MeOH/ of the enamines /7,8,9/ led to mixtures of the diastereoisomers, with ratios depending on the position of the methyl-group on the piperidine ring.

Starting from the optically active forms of the tetrahydro-derivative  $\underline{1}$  we obtained the enantiomers of  $\underline{10}$  and those of  $\underline{13}$ .  $\underline{10}$  was also prepared by the alkylation of  $\underline{16}$ .

The conformation of the hexahydro-derivatives  $\underline{10}$ ,  $\underline{13}$  and  $\underline{16}$  was investigated, by  $^1$ H,  $^{13}$ C NMR as well as by CD and X-ray analysis. The same pyrimidine ring conformation was found for  $\underline{13}$  and  $\underline{16}$ , while that of  $\underline{10}$  differed.

10 was pharmacologically more active than 13, and no difference between enantiomers was found.