



## Design and Synthesis of a New Androgen Derivative using Some Strategies

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### ABSTRACT

A new androgen derivative was synthesized using some strategies; in the first stage the compound of *N*-(1,10-phenanthroline-5-ylmethyl)ethane-1,2-diamine (**3**) was obtained by the reaction of 1,10-phenanthroline with ethylenediamine in presence of formaldehyde. The second stage was achieved by the reaction of **3** with testosterone using boric acid as catalyst to form the compound 10,13-dimethyl-3-{2-[[[1,10]phenanthroline-5-ylmethyl)-amino]-ethylimino}-2,3,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17-tetradecahydro-1H-cyclopenta[a]phenanthren-17-ol (**5**). Finally, the compound **7** (Chloro-acetic acid 3-((3-chloro-2-oxo-cyclobutyl)-{2-[(3-chloro-2-oxo-cyclobutyl)-[1,10]phenanthroline-5-ylmethyl-amino]ethyl)-amino)-10,13-dimethyl-2,3,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17-tetradecahydro-1H-cyclopenta[a]phenanthren-17-yl ester was synthesized by the reaction of **5** with chloroacetyl chloride in presence of triethylamine. The structure of the compounds obtained was confirmed by elemental analysis, spectroscopy and spectrometry data. The proposed method offers some advantages such as good yields, simple procedure, low cost, and ease of workup.

**Key words:** 1,10-phenanthroline, testosterone, boric acid.

### INTRODUCTION

There are several reports on development of some androgen derivatives; for example, the synthesis of 17 $\alpha$ -(tributylstannylethynyl)-4-

androst-17-en-17-ol-3-one by the reaction of 17-ethynyl-4-androst-17-en-17-ol-3-one with Bu<sub>3</sub>SnOMe to reflux<sup>1</sup>. Other data indicate the preparation of 3-oxoandrost-4-en-17 $\beta$ -yl-2-methyl-1H-imidazole-1-carboxylate by the reaction of 17-hydroxyandrost-

4-en-3-one-1,1-carbonylbis(2-methylimidazole) in anhydrous acetonitrile<sup>2</sup>. In addition, other study showed the synthesis of (17S)-spiro-3,3-(dimethoxy)-5 $\alpha$ -androst-17 $\beta$ ,2'-oxirane by the reaction of 3,3-(dimethoxy)-5 $\alpha$ -androst-17-one with trimethylsulfonium iodide in DMF<sup>3</sup>. There is other report which shown the synthesis of the dehydroisoandrosterone derivative by the reaction between a brucine derivative and dehydroisoandrosterone 3-sulfate using boric acid as catalyst<sup>4</sup>. Other data indicate the preparation of 17-(2-[(2-hydroxy-naphthalen-1-yl)phenyl-methyl]-amino)ethyl amino)-10,13-dimethyl-2,2,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17-tetradecahydro-1H-cyclopenta [a] phenanthren-3-ol by the reaction between 1-[(2-amino-ethylamino)- phenyl-methyl]-naphthalen-2-ol and androsterone using boric acid as catalyst<sup>5</sup>. Additionally, other androgen (Succinic acid mono-{6-[(2-amino-ethylamino)-methyl]-1-ethynyl-10a,12a-dimethyl-2,3,3a,3b,4,5,10,10a,10b, 11,12,12a-dodecahydro-1H-7-oxa-8-aza-dicyclopenta-[a,h]-phenanthren-1-yl}ester) was prepared by reaction of hemisuccinate of danazol with ethylenediamine hydrochloride in presence of formaldehyde<sup>6</sup>. Also Other report<sup>7-9</sup> indicate the preparation of 17<sup>2</sup>-(N-Acetyl-42 -imidazolyl)-3 $\beta$ -acetoxyandrost-5-ene by the reaction of 17 $\beta$ -(42 -Imidazolyl)androst-5-en-3<sup>2</sup>-ol in pyridine/Ac<sub>2</sub>O. All these experimental results show several procedures which are available for synthesis of diverse androgen derivatives; nevertheless, expensive reagents and special conditions are required. Therefore, in this study an androgen derivative was synthesized using some strategies.

## EXPERIMENTAL

The compounds evaluated in this study were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich Co. Ltd. The melting points for the different compounds were determined on an Electrothermal (900 model). Infrared spectra (IR) were recorded using KBr pellets on a Perkin Elmer Lambda 40 spectrometer. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian VXR-300/5 FT NMR spectrometer at 300 and 75.4 MHz in CDCl<sub>3</sub> using TMS as internal standard. EIMS spectra were obtained with a Finnigan Trace GCPolaris Q. spectrometer. Elemental analysis data were acquired from a Perkin Elmer Ser. II CHNS/O 2400 elemental analyzer.

### **N-(1,10-phenanthroline-5-ylmethyl)ethane-1,2-diamine (3)**

A solution of 1,10-phenanthroline (100 mg, 0.55 mmol), ethylenediamine (100  $\mu$ l, 1.50 mmol) and 10 ml of formaldehyde was stirred for 72 h to room temperature. The reaction mixture was evaporated to a smaller volume. After the mixture was diluted with water and extracted with chloroform. The organic phase was evaporated to dryness under reduced pressure, the residue was purified by crystallization from methanol:water (3:1) yielding 85 % of product, m.p. 98°C; IR ( $V_{max}$ , cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3382, 3310, 1540; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta_H$ : 2.40 (broad, 3H), 2.69 (t, 2H, J = 6.0), 2.83 (t, 2H, J = 6.0), 3.53 (m, 2H), 7.27-8.12 (m, 4H), 8.18-8.78 (m, 2H), 8.87 (d, 1H, J = 4.0 Hz) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75.4 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta_C$ : 41.50, 53.12, 53.48, 120.90, 123.17, 127.50, 129.15, 130.42, 133.91, 135.02, 141.08, 144.10, 145.12, 148.20, 152.03 ppm. EI-MS  $m/z$ : 252.12 (M<sup>+</sup>10). Anal. Calcd. for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N<sub>4</sub>: C, 71.40; H, 6.39; N, 22.21. Found: C, 71.38; H, 6.36.

### **10,13-dimethyl-3-{2-[[[1,10]phenanthroline-5-ylmethyl]-amino]-ethylimino}-2,3,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17-tetradecahydro-1H-cyclopenta [a] phenanthren-17-ol(5)**

A solution of 3 (100 mg, 0.40 mmol), testosterone (118 mg, 0.40 mmol) and boric acid (90 mg, 1.45 mmol) in 10 ml of methanol was stirred for 72 h to room temperature. The reaction mixture was evaporated to a smaller volume. After the mixture was diluted with water and extracted with chloroform. The organic phase was evaporated to dryness under reduced pressure, the residue was purified by crystallization from methanol:water (4:1) yielding 62 % of product, m.p. 80-82°C; IR ( $V_{max}$ , cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3410, 3324, 3312; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta_H$ : 0.80 (s, 3H), 0.92-1.00 (m, 2H), 1.02 (s, 3H), 1.06-1.40 (m, 6H), 1.56-1.62 (m, 4H), 1.86 (m, 2H), 2.04-2.38 (m, 5H), 3.04 (t, 2H, J = 6.44 Hz), 3.50 (t, 2H, J = 6.44 Hz), 3.68 (m, 1H), 4.10 (t, 2H, J = 6.44 Hz), 4.70 (broad, 2H), 5.97 (d, 1H, J = 1.84), 7.20-7.80 (m, 7H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75.4 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta_C$ : 11.133, 17.75, 20.75, 23.38, 30.11, 30.27, 30.4, 32.98, 33.21, 35.58, 36.64, 37.86, 50.61, 50.97, 51.01, 51.73, 53.16, 80.72, 115.5, 120.95, 124.35, 127.54, 129.51, 133.18, 134.09, 136.84, 141.08, 145.18, 146.49, 148.29, 155.11, 157.83, 165.96 ppm. EI-MS  $m/z$ : 522.30 (M<sup>+</sup>12). Anal. Calcd. for C<sub>34</sub>H<sub>42</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O: C, 78.12; H, 8.10; N, 10.72; O, 3.06. Found: C, 78.10; H, 8.08.

**Chloro-acetic acid 3-((3-chloro-2-oxo-cyclobutyl)-{2-[(3-chloro-2-oxo-cyclobutyl)-[1,10]phenanthroline-5-ylmethyl-amino]ethyl}-amino)-10,13-dimethyl-2,3,6,7,8,9,10,11, 12, 13,14,15, 16,17-tetradecahydro-1H-cyclopenta [a]phenanthrene-17-yl ester (7)**

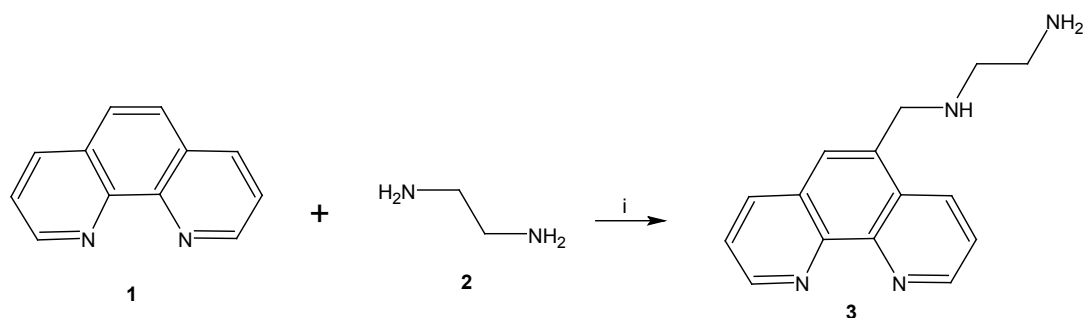
A solution of **5** (200 mg, 0.38 mmol), triethylamine (100  $\mu$ l, 1.50 mmol) and chloroacetyl chloride (128  $\mu$ l, 1.60 mmol) in 10 ml of methanol was stirred for 72 h to room temperature. The reaction mixture was evaporated to a smaller volume. After the mixture was diluted with water and extracted with chloroform. The organic phase was evaporated to dryness under reduced pressure, the residue was purified by crystallization from methanol:water (4:1) yielding 70 % of product, m.p. 122 °C; IR ( $V_{max}$ ,  $cm^{-1}$ ): 1738, 1705, 1208;  $^1H$  NMR (300 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta_H$ : 0.76 (m, 1H), 0.80 (s, 3H), 0.86 (m, 1H), 1.00 (s, 3H), 1.06-1.18 (m, 2H), 1.50-1.66 (m, 7H), 1.69 (m, 1H), 1.72 (m, 1H), 1.80 (m, 1H), 1.88-1.90 (m, 2H), 1.96 (m, 1H), 2.06 (m, 1H), 2.08 (m, 1H), 2.10-2.60 (m, 4H), 2.62-2.90 (m, 4H), 3.60 (m, 1H), 3.72-3.76 (m, 2H), 3.98 (t, 1H, J = 15.94 Hz), 4.08 (t, 2H, J = 15.94 Hz), 4.30 (t, 1H, J = 15.94 Hz), 4.60 (m, 2H), 4.80 (m, 1H), 5.01 (d, 1H), 7.20-8.80 (m, 7) ppm.  $^{13}C$  NMR (75.4 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta_C$ : 12.00, 18.86, 20.64, 23.80, 27.53, 28.25, 29.66, 32.30, 32.49, 32.76, 33.35, 35.80, 35.92, 37.44, 40.80, 42.63, 50.02, 51.76, 53.07, 56.00, 57.28, 59.02, 62.88, 62.96, 69.77, 71.44, 81.44, 120.38, 121.45, 124.08, 127.54, 128.88, 130.90, 133.18, 134.12, 140.45, 144.41, 145.02, 146.20, 148.12, 155.33, 168.14, 201.34, 202.22 ppm. EI-MS  $m/z$ : 804.26 ( $M^+$ 12). Anal. Calcd. for  $C_{44}H_{51}Cl_3N_4O_4$ : C, 65.55; H, 6.38; Cl, 13.19; N, 6.95; O, 7.94. Found: C, 65.52; H, 6.34.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

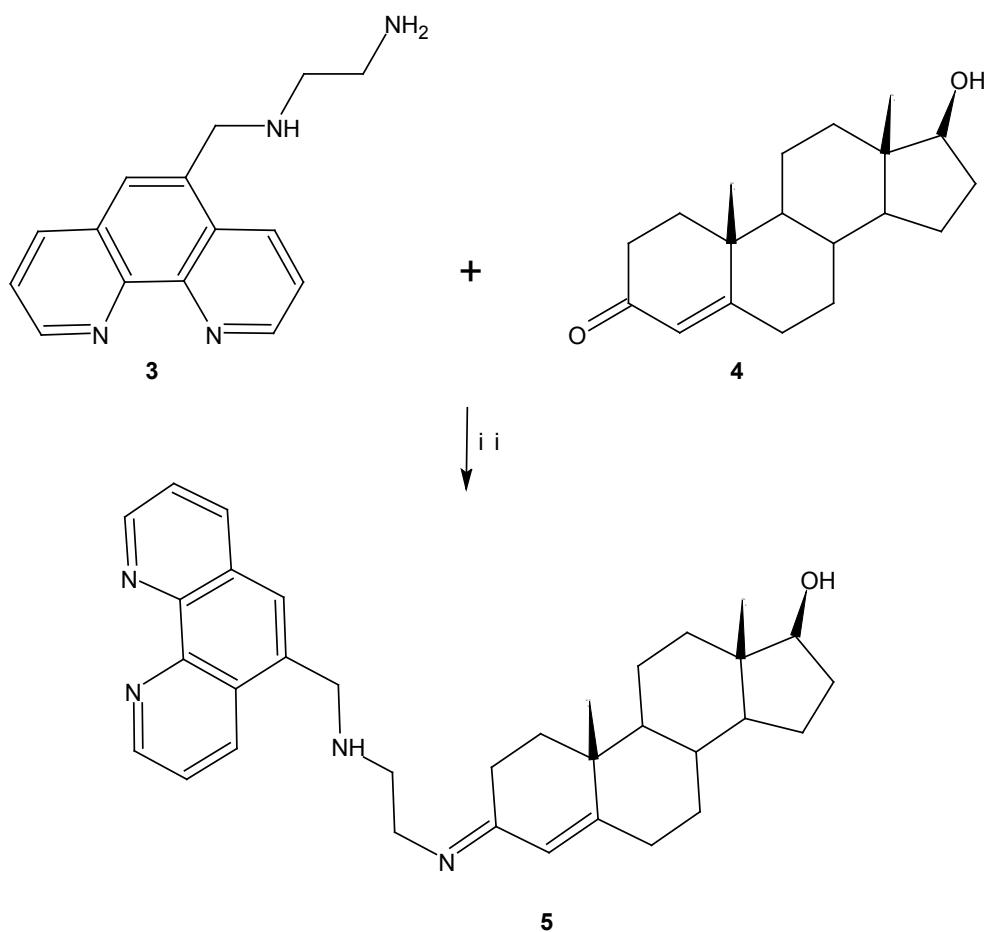
There are many procedures for preparation of several androgen derivatives; nevertheless, despite its wide scope, have some drawbacks; for example, several agents used have limited stability and their preparation require special conditions<sup>8-10</sup>. Analyzing these data, we report a straightforward route for synthesis of an androgen derivative using some strategies. The first stage was achieved by the synthesis of *N*-(1,10-phenanthroline-5-ylmethyl) ethane-1,2-diamine (**3**). It is important to mention that there are reports which show the condensation of some compounds with formaldehyde and amino groups;

for example, the synthesis of an androgen derivative (6-[(1-Ethynyl-1-hydroxy-10a,12a-dimethyl-2,3,3a,3b,4,5,10,10a, 11,12,12a,dodecahydro-1H-7-oxa-8-aza-dicyclopenta[a,h]phenanthrene-6-ylmethyl)-amino]hexanoic acid) by the reaction of danazol and 6-aminohexanoic acid in presence of formaldehyde<sup>6</sup>. Therefore, in this study **3** was prepared by the reaction of 1,10-phenanthroline with ethylenediamine in presence of formaldehyde (Fig. 1). The  $^1H$  NMR spectrum of **3** shows signals at 2.40 ppm for amino groups; at 2.69 and 2.83 ppm for arm bound phenanthroline fragment; at 3.53 ppm for methylene group bound to both amino and phenyl groups; at 7.27-8.87 ppm for phenanthroline fragment. The  $^{13}C$  NMR spectrum of **3** contains at 41.50 and 53.48 ppm for methylene groups involved in the arm bound to phenanthroline fragment; at 53.12 ppm for amino group bound to phenyl group; at 120.90-152.03 ppm for phenanthroline fragment. Finally, the presence of compound **3** was further confirmed from mass spectrum which showed a molecular ion at  $m/z$  252.12.

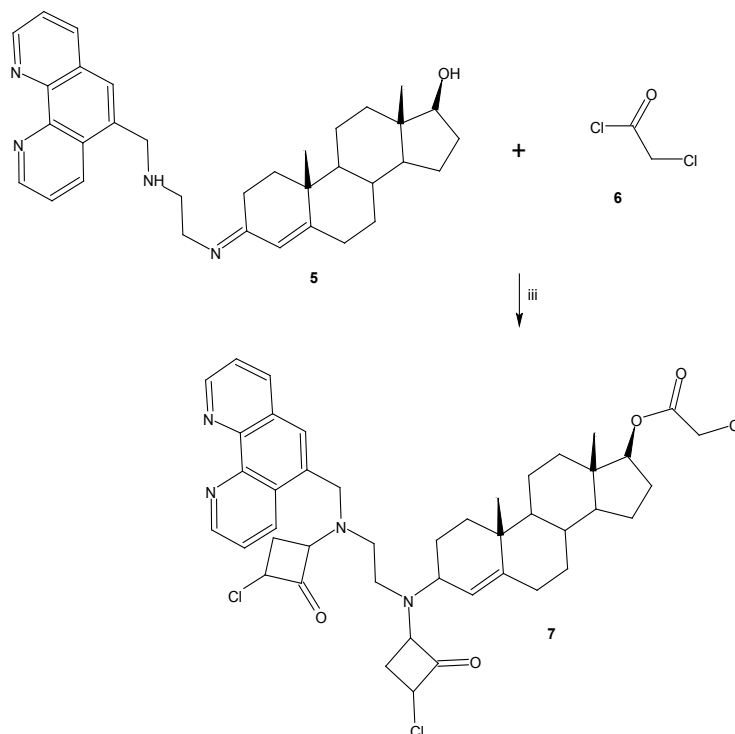
The second stage was achieved by reaction of the compound **3** with testosterone (Figure 2) resulting in imino bond formation involved in the compound **5** (10,13-Dimethyl-3-{2-[(1,10]phenanthroline-5-ylmethyl)-amino]ethylimino}-2,3,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16, 17-tetradecahydro-1H-cyclopenta[a]phenanthrene-17-ol). It is noteworthy that there are several procedures for the synthesis of imino groups are previously described in the literature<sup>13-15</sup>; for example the synthesis of a steroid derivative by the reaction of *N*'-(2,3-dimethoxystrychnidin-10-ylidene)-ethane-1,2-diamine with a steroid derivative using boric acid as catalyst<sup>4</sup>. For this reason, in this study this reagent was used as catalyst in the reaction of the compound **3** with testosterone (Figure 1) to form the compound **5**. The  $^1H$  NMR spectrum of **5** shows signals at 0.80 and 1.02 ppm for methyl groups; at 0.92-1.00, 1.06-2.38, 3.68 and 5.90 ppm for steroid nucleus; at 3.04 and 3.50 ppm for methylene groups bound to both imino and amino groups; at 4.10 ppm for methylene group bound to both phenyl and amino groups; at 4.70 ppm for both amino and hydroxyl groups; at 7.00-7.80 for phenanthroline fragment. Finally, the presence of compound **5** was further confirmed from mass spectrum which showed a molecular ion at  $m/z$  522.30.



**Fig. 1: Synthesis of *N*-(1,10-phenanthrolin-5-ylmethyl)ethane-1,2-diamine (3). Reaction of 1,10-phenanthroline (1) with ethylenediamine (2) to form 3. i = formaldehyde/rt**



**Fig. 2: Synthesis of 10,13-dimethyl-3-[2-[[[1,10]phenanthrolin-5-ylmethyl)-amino]-ethylimino]-2,3,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17-tetradecahydro-1H-cyclopenta[a]phenanthren-17-ol (5). Reaction of *N*-(1,10-phenanthrolin-5-ylmethyl)ethane-1,2-diamine (3) with testosterone (4) to form 5. ii = boric acid/rt**



**Fig. 3: Synthesis of Chloro-acetic acid 3-((3-chloro-2-oxo-cyclobutyl)-{2-[(3-chloro-2-oxo-cyclobutyl)-[1,10]phenanthroline-5-ylmethyl-amino]ethyl}-amino)-10,13-dimethyl-2,3,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17-tetradecahydro-1H-cyclopenta[a]phenanthren-17-yl ester (7). Reaction of 10,13-dimethyl-3-[2-[(1,10]phenanthroline-5-ylmethyl)-amino]-ethylimino-2,3,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17-tetradecahydro-1H-cyclopenta[a]phenanthren-17-ol (5) with chloroacetyl chloride(6) to form 7. iii = triethylamine/rt**

The third step was achieved by the synthesis of 7 (Chloro-acetic acid 3-((3-chloro-2-oxo-cyclobutyl)-{2-[(3-chloro-2-oxo-cyclobutyl)-[1,10]phenanthroline-5-ylmethyl-amino]ethyl}-amino)-10,13-dimethyl-2,3,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17-tetradecahydro-1H-cyclopenta[a]phenanthren-17-yl ester) by reaction of 5 with chloroacetyl chloride in the presence of triethylamine. This method has been previously reported for other type of compound with both amino and imino groups involved in its structure chemical, which react with chloroacetyl chloride to form cyclobutanone groups<sup>16</sup>. However, it is noteworthy that hydroxyl group of compound 5 was esterified with acetyl chloride. This phenomenon is similar to esterification of other type of compounds<sup>17,18</sup>. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of 7 shows signals at 12.00 and 18.86 ppm for methyl groups; at 20.64-29.66, 32.76-37.44, 42.63, 51.76, 56.00, 59.02, 81.44, 121.45 and 146.20 ppm for steroid nucleus; at 32.30, 32.49, 62.88-71.44

ppm for cyclobutanone groups; at 40.80 ppm for methylene group bound to both ester and chloride groups; at 50.02 and 53.07 ppm for methylene groups bound to both amino groups; at 57.28 ppm for methylene group bound to both amino and phenyl groups; at 120.38, 124.45-145.02 and 148.12-155.33 ppm for phenanthroline group; at 168.14 ppm for ester group; at 201.34 and 202.22 ppm for ketone groups. Finally, the presence of compound 7 was further confirmed from mass spectrum which showed a molecular ion at *m/z* 804.26.

## CONCLUSIONS

In this study, we reported an efficient and simple method for synthesis of an androgen derivative. It is important to mention that this method is highly versatile and the yield is good.

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