

8. Locoselective [4 + 2] Cycloadditions of Vinylindoles with Inverse Electron Demand: A New Access of Indolyl-Substituted and Annellated Pyridazines

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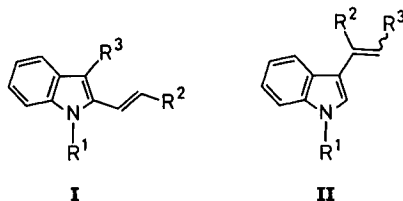
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Dedicated to Prof. Dr. C. H. Brieskorn (Würzburg, FRG) on the occasion of his 75th birthday

(10.X.88)

2-Vinylindole (**1a**) and its donor- and acceptor-substituted (*E*)-derivatives **1b–e** react highly locoselectively with dimethyl 1,2,4,5-tetrazine-3,6-dicarboxylate (**3**) to form the novel (indol-2-yl)-1,4-dihydropyridazines **4a** and **7** as well as the heterocyclic annellated pyridazines **4b**, **5**, and **6**. The reactions of the structurally related 3-vinylindoles **2a–e** with **3** also gave rise to new indol-3-ylpyridazines **8**, **9**, and **10**. The locoselectivities of these *Diels-Alder* reactions were controlled mainly by steric effects.

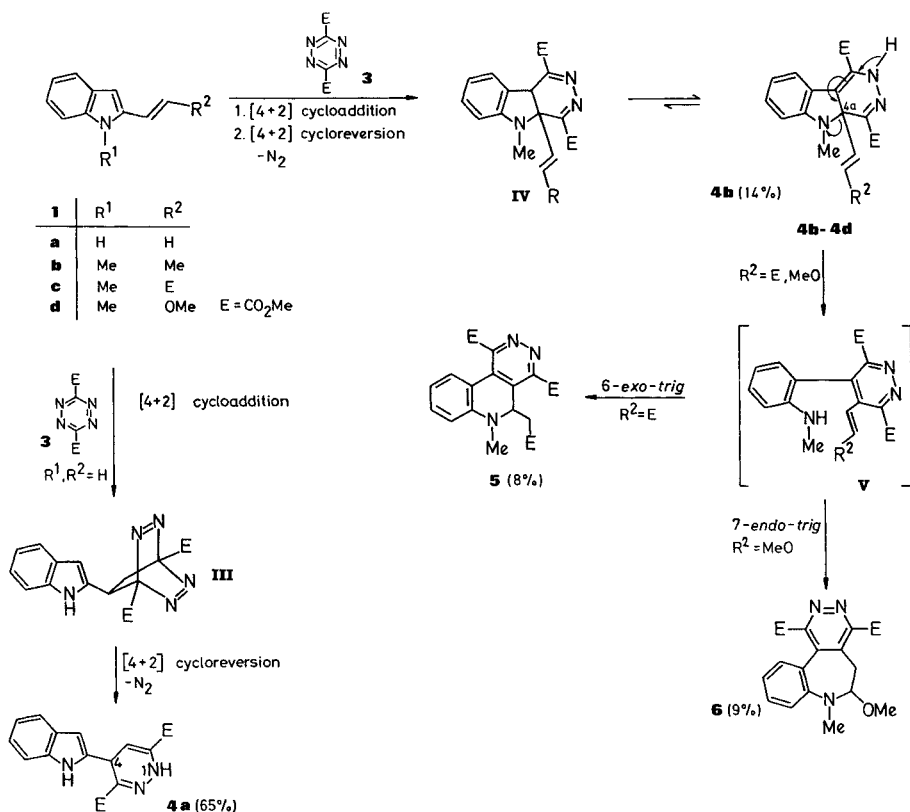
Introduction. – 2- and 3-Vinylindoles **I** and **II** are heterocyclic dienes and, thus, represent synthetically attractive building blocks for the regio- and stereocontrolled [*b*]annellation of the indole skeleton [1–5]. In these cases, in particular, the *Diels-Alder* reaction with usual electron demand offers a valuable synthetic concept for the preparation of numerous pharmacologically interesting lead substances [5] and alkaloids [6] [7].



As a consequence of their 4π -donor reactivity, 2- and 3-vinylindoles **I** and **II** ($E_{\text{HOMO}} \approx -7$ to -8 eV) [8] should also participate in [4 + 2] cycloaddition reactions with inverse electron demand [9] with electron-poor dienes. In reactions of this type, the question concerning the locoselectivity (or periselectivity) at the aminobutadiene moiety of the vinylindole arises. In the light of the *Diels-Alder* reactions of indole [10] and *N*-substituted indoles [11] with dimethyl 1,2,4,5-tetrazine-3,6-dicarboxylate and derivatives, high dienophilicities of **I** and **II** should also be expected as the consequence of the $\text{LUMO}_{\text{diene}} - \text{HOMO}_{\text{dienophile}}$ controlled reactions. In continuation of our preliminary reports [12] [13], we present here more details and include full experimental data together with further new results from the cycloadditions of vinylindoles **I** and **II** with dimethyl 1,2,4,5-tetrazine-3,6-dicarboxylate (**3**) as a highly reactive and *s-cis*-fixed 2,3-diazadiene enophile. The method reported here also lead to new annellated and/or functionalized pyridazines, compounds of pharmacological interest as antihypertensive or antithrombotic drugs [14] [15], respectively.

Results and Discussion. – The parent compound **1a** [4] reacts highly locoselectively (and periselectively) with dimethyl 1,2,4,5-tetrazine-3,6-dicarboxylate (**3**), under very mild conditions, to furnish exclusively the 4-(indol-2-yl)-substituted dimethyl 1,4-dihydropyridazinedicarboxylate **4a** (Scheme 1). The reaction probably proceeds *via* a [4 + 2] cycloaddition/[4 + 2] cycloreversion sequence by way of the bicyclic intermediate **III**

Scheme 1



which cannot be isolated (*cf.* [10–13]). The highly selective reaction at the 2-amino-butadiene moiety in **1a** is, according to models (*Büchi-Dreiding*), the result of steric interactions, *i.e.* tetrazine **3** undergoes addition to the sterically less hindered 2-vinyl functional group more rapidly than to the C(2)=C(3) bond.

The locoselectivity of this reaction can be displaced from the 2-vinyl group to the indole enamine system by the specific introduction of substituents into **1a** at the vinyl function. Thus, the dimethylated 2-vinylindole **1b** reacts with the tetrazine **3** to yield exclusively the dihydropyridazinoindole **4b**. Within the limits of the 400-MHz 1H -NMR detection, the tautomeric equilibrium lies completely upon the side of **4a** and **4b**¹⁾. This

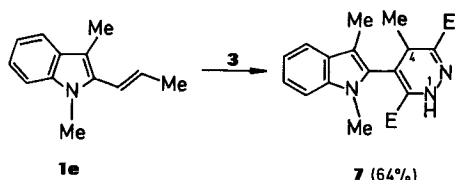
¹⁾ These and some of our further results demonstrate that the 4,5-dihydropyridazine tautomer (*e.g.* **IV**) is the less stable isomer in the series of cycloaddition products from vinylindoles with **3** (see also [9c]).

shift of the equilibrium position in favor of **4a** and **4b** is also in accord with the products of *Diels-Alder* reactions of styrenes with **3** [9c].

If a π -donor or π -acceptor substituent is introduced on to the vinyl group of **1**, further transformation of **4** occurs during the reaction with **3**. The primary cycloadducts **4c** and **4d**, obtained from the reactions of **1c** and **1d**, respectively, with **3**, are very unstable and decompose in the course of the further purification (EI-MS: **4c**: 385 (M^+), **4d**: 357 (M^+)). Thus, we additionally isolated the stable tricyclic compound **5** from the cycloaddition of **1c** with **3** and the new pyridazino[*d*]benzazepine **6** from that of **1d** with **3**. From a mechanistic point of view, **4c** and **4d** undergo initial oxidative heterolysis at the N–C(4a) bonds [12] to furnish the postulated intermediates **V**. Depending on the charge distribution at the vinyl moiety, intermediates **V** undergo cyclization *via* two different routes. When R = CO₂Me, a *Michael*-type addition to give the pyridazino[*c*]dihydroquinoline **5** occurs, whereas, when R = MeO, the new benzazepine derivative **6** is formed. The orientations of the two cyclizations are plausible in terms of the electrostatic model and are allowed processes according to *Baldwin's* rules [16].

As a further example, we have also tested the reaction of the trimethylated 2-vinylindole **1e** with **3**, in order to determine the influence of a Me group at C(3) of the indole moiety on the results of the reaction (*Scheme 2*).

Scheme 2



Similar to **1a**, the 2-vinylindole **1e** also reacted under mild conditions with high locoselectivity at the vinyl moiety to yield the 5-(indol-2-yl)dihydropyridazine **7** as a consequence of steric control by the additional, space-filling indolic 3-Me group in the transition state. According to ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR, **7** exists in solution (CD₂Cl₂ or (D₆)DMSO) preferentially in the formulated constitution. The presence of two *ortho*-Me groups on the indole skeleton in comparison to **4a** favors a shift of the tautomeric equilibrium to **7**.

The ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR spectra (400 and 100.6 MHz, respectively) of **7** at 20° reveal double sets of signals which, in (D₆)DMSO, begin to coalesce at 110°. In accordance with model (*Büchi-Dreiding*), compound **7** (axial and central chirality) should exist as a diastereoisomeric mixture of atropisomeric forms ((PR)/(MS) and (PS)/(MR)). The ¹H{¹H}-NOE measurements of **7** demonstrate that the population of the two diastereoisomeric conformers **VI** and **VII** predominates within the range of the NMR time scale and the limits of ¹H-NMR detection (*Fig.*).

MNDO calculations [18] performed for 2-vinylindole (**1a**) do indeed predict a LUMO_{diene} – HOMO_{dienophile}-controlled reaction [19] of **1** with the tetrazine **3** tested ($E_{\text{HOMO}}(\mathbf{1a}) = -8.25 \text{ eV}$, $E_{\text{LUMO}}(\mathbf{3}) = -1.11 \text{ eV}$). However, the magnitudes of the HOMO coefficients at the 2-aminobutadiene moiety in **1a** do not allow an unambiguous prediction of the locoselectivity 'vinyl function *vs.* indole-enamine' (coefficients: C(2) = 0.405,

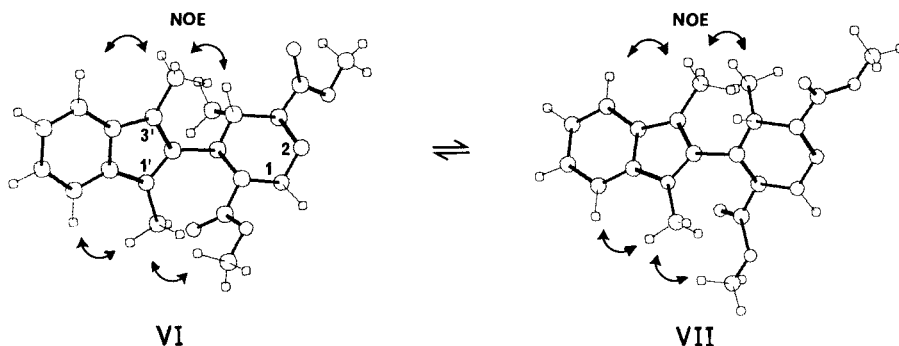


Figure. Computer-simulated stereorepresentations of the atropisomeric forms **VI** and **VII** of **7** with the largest population²⁾ as determined from $^1\text{H}\{^1\text{H}\}$ -NOE experiments (NOE's: 3'-Me of indole to H-C(4) of pyridazine (in **VI**); 3'-Me of indole to 4-Me of pyridazine (in **VII**); 1'-Me of indole to 6-COOMe of pyridazine (in **VI** and **VII**); the reverse NOE's were observed in all cases)

$C(3) = 0.502$, $C(1') = -0.157$, $C(2') = -0.289$). Hence, the preferred orientations of the tetrazine tested here towards the 2-aminobutadiene moiety of the 2-vinylindoles in the $[4 + 2]$ transition state should be controlled less by electronic and more by steric effects.

In the 3-vinylindole series, we investigated the cycloadditions of the *N*-methylated compound **2a** and of some selected donor- and acceptor-substituted compounds **2b–e** with the tetrazine **3** (Scheme 3). In these cases also, the question of the locoselectivity 'vinyl function *vs.* indole-enamine group' arises. The tested 3-vinylindoles **2** react with **3** under mild conditions exclusively at the 3-vinyl function.

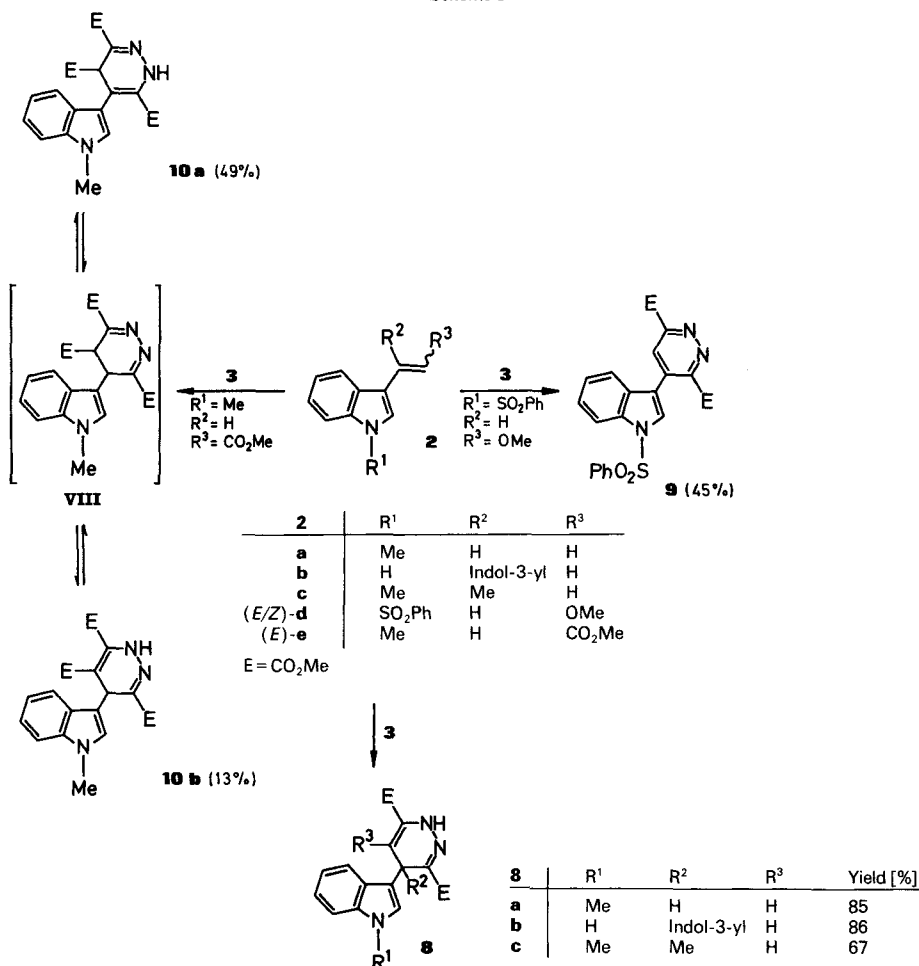
The reactions of **2a**, **2b**, and **2c** with **3** yield exclusively the novel 4-indolyl-substituted 1,4-dihydropyridazines **8a**, **8b**, and **8c**, respectively. Within the limits of the 400-MHz ^1H -NMR detection and in all three cases, only the tautomeric compounds **8** were detected.

The tetrazine **3** also undergoes cycloaddition to the vinyl function of (*E/Z*)-**2d** to furnish the 4-(indol-3-yl)-1,2-pyridazine **9** as the only stable reaction product. From a mechanistic point of view, the reaction sequence comprises $[4 + 2]$ cycloaddition, $[4 + 2]$ cycloreversion, and elimination of MeOH. The driving force for the formation of the 6π -heteroaromatic product is most probably the gain of energy of aromatization (see [9c]). The reaction of **2e** with **3** yields a mixture of the new indolyl-substituted 1,4-dihydro-1,2-pyridazines **10a** and **10b** which can be separated. This reaction probably also proceeds through $[4 + 2]$ cycloaddition and $[4 + 2]$ cycloreversion to form the intermediate **VIII** which subsequently undergoes stabilization by way of [1,3]-prototropic shifts to furnish the two tautomers **10a** and **10b**. The products **10a** and **10b** were separated by flash chromatography and are thermodynamically very stable; they do not undergo equilibration in solution within the limits of the 400-MHz ^1H -NMR detection.

In analogy to the reaction of **1** with **3**, MNDO calculations performed with the parent compound of the series **2** also predict a $\text{LUMO}_{\text{diene}} - \text{HOMO}_{\text{dienophile}}$ -controlled cycloaddi-

²⁾ The geometries used for the computer-aided graphical representation (*Atari mega ST* computer; *Chem Graph* programme) were deduced from *Büchi-Dreiding* models and X-ray crystallographic data of structurally related compounds [17]. The 1,4-dihydropyridazine ring has the boat conformation. The torsional angles around the central $C(2')-C(5)$ bond were taken as -40° and $+40^\circ$.

Scheme 3



tion [9] ($E_{\text{HOMO}} = -8.16 \text{ eV}^3$). In the 3-vinylindole series, the locoselectivity found should be controlled mostly by the more electron-rich vinyl group⁴⁾ in comparison to the enamine and proceed in the same direction as a result of steric effects.

The constitutions of the new pyridazines described here were elucidated basically by 200- or 400-MHz ¹H-NMR spectroscopy including NOE measurements and selective decoupling experiments. In some cases, 100.6-MHz ¹³C-NMR spectroscopy including use of the *J*-modulated ¹³C-spin-echo technique, the DEPT-pulse sequence method, and registration of the 'gated' spectra was also applied.

³⁾ This value correlates with the first vertical ionization potential obtained from He(I)α PE spectra [8].

⁴⁾ MNDO calculation of the parent compound of **2**: HOMO coefficients: C(2) = 0.370; C(3) = 0.473; C(1') = -0.227; C(2') = -0.387; net atomic charges of the 2-aminobutadiene moiety. N(1) = -0.2403; C(2) = +0.0427; C(3) = -0.1250; C(1') = -0.0245; C(2') = -0.0933.

We are grateful to the *Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft*, Bonn, for financial support of this work and to Prof. R. Gleiter, University of Heidelberg, for measurements of the PE spectra of some 3-vinylindoles and for the experimental evaluation of HOMO energies.

Experimental Part

General. All reactions were performed in highly pure, anhydrous solvents under inert-gas atmospheres. Flash chromatography (FC): silica gel 60 (Merck, 0.040–0.063-mm particle size). M.p.: Büchi SMP-20; not corrected. ^1H - and ^{13}C -NMR spectra: Bruker WM 400 and Bruker AC 200 spectrometers, δ [ppm] scale, coupling constants J in Hz, TMS as internal standard. EI-MS (70 eV): Varian MAT 7, data given as m/z (%). FD-MS: Varian MAT 312. C, H, N Analyses: Carlo Erba Strumentazione Analyser 1106.

Dimethyl 1,4-Dihydro-4-(indol-2-yl)pyridazine-3,6-dicarboxylate (4a). 2-Vinylindole (**1a**; 0.430 g, 3 mmol) was dissolved in CH_2Cl_2 (30 ml) and the 1,2,4,5-tetrazine-3,6-dicarboxylate (**3**; 0.595 g, 3 mmol) was added slowly in portions. The mixture was stirred at -75° for 1 h and then at 20° for 4 h. The organic solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure, and the residue was separated by FC using petroleum ether (40–60 $^\circ$)/AcOEt 1:1: 611 mg (65%) of **4a**. Colorless crystals. M.p. 152° (petroleum ether (40–60 $^\circ$)). ^1H -NMR (400 MHz, $(\text{D}_6)\text{DMSO}$): 3.68 (s, COOCH_3); 3.76 (s, COOCH_3); 4.89 (d, $^3J = 5.9$, H-C(4)); 6.00 (s, H-C(3')); 6.05 (dd, $^3J = 5.9$, $^4J = 2.2$, H-C(5)); 6.92 (t, $^3J = 7.2$, 7.6, H-C(6)); 7.12 (t, $^3J = 7.3$, H-C(5')); 7.35 (d, $^3J = 8.0$, H-C(7)); 7.40 (d, $^3J = 7.8$, H-C(4')); 10.78 (d, $^4J = 2.2$, pyridazine NH); 10.92 (s, indole NH). ^{13}C -NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl_3): 30.82 (C(4)); 52.79 (COOCH_3); 52.81 (COOCH_3); 101.70 (C(5)); 106.76 (C(3')); 110.94 (C(7)); 119.88 (C(6')); 120.41 (C(4')); 122.12 (C(5')); quaternary $\text{sp}^2\text{-C}$: 128.20 (C(3a')); 129.23 (C(2')); 130.81 (C(7a')); 136.30 (C(6)); 137.44 (C(3)); 161.63 (CO); 165.58 (CO). MS: 313 (26, M^+), 149 (100). Anal. calc. for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_3\text{O}_4$ (313.31): C 61.34, H 4.83, N 13.41; found: C 60.93, H 4.92, N 12.99.

Dimethyl 2,4a-Dihydro-5-methyl-4a-(1-propenyl)-5H-pyridazino[4,5-b]indole-1,4-dicarboxylate (4b). 1-Methyl-2-(1-propenyl)indole (**1b**; 0.514 g, 3 mmol) was dissolved in CH_2Cl_2 (30 ml) and cooled to -75° . To this soln., **3** (0.594 g, 3 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (30 ml) was slowly added in several portions. The resultant mixture was stirred at -75° for 2 h and then at 10° for 3 h. The organic solvent was evaporated and the residue separated by FC using petroleum ether (40–60 $^\circ$)/AcOEt 1:1: 143 mg (14%) of **4b**. Colorless crystals. M.p. 131° (Et_2O /petroleum ether). ^1H -NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): 1.58 (dd, $^3J = 6.5$, $^4J = 1.6$, $=\text{CHCH}_3$); 3.13 (s, COOCH_3); 3.85 (s, CH_3N); 3.96 (s, COOCH_3); 4.74 (dd, $^3J = 15.4$, $^4J = 1.6$, $\text{CH}=\text{CHCH}_3$); 5.31 (dq, $^3J = 6.5$, 15.4, $\text{CH}=\text{CHCH}_3$); 6.69 (d, $^3J = 8$, H-C(6)); 6.80 (ddd, $^3J = 8$, $^4J = 0.8$, H-C(8)); 7.30 (ddd, $^3J = 8$, $^4J = 1.2$, H-C(7)); 8.34 (d, $^3J = 8$, H-C(9)); 9.14 (s, NH). ^{13}C -NMR (CDCl_3): 17.35 ($=\text{CHCH}_3$); 34.39 (CH_3N); 52.31 (CH_3O); 52.41 (CH_3O); 109.35 ($=\text{CHCH}_3$); 118.74 (C-H= CHCH_3); 121.76 (indole C(7)); 127.04 (indole C(6)); 128.59 (indole C(4)); 131.87 (indole C(5)); quaternary $\text{sp}^2\text{-C}$: 69.79 (C(4a)); 118.47; 120.16; 123.39; 124.54; 155.14; 161.66 (CO); 163.83 (CO). MS: 341 (19, M^+), 282 (98), 59 (100). Anal. calc. for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_3\text{O}_4$ (341.37): C 63.33, H 5.61, N 12.31; found: C 63.16, H 5.50, N 12.54.

Dimethyl 5,6-Dihydro-5-[methoxycarbonylmethyl]-6-methylpyridazino[4,5-c]quinoline-1,4-dicarboxylate (5). Methyl 3-(1-methylindol-2-yl)-2-propenoate (**1c**; 0.430 g, 2 mmol) was dissolved in dioxane (30 ml). To this soln., **3** (0.396 g, 2 mmol) in dioxane (20 ml) was added slowly. The resultant mixture was stirred at 100° for 81 h. The organic solvent was evaporated, and the residue was separated by FC using petroleum ether (40–60 $^\circ$)/AcOEt 5:5: 61 mg (8%) of **5**. Colorless crystals. M.p. 235° (acetone). ^1H -NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): 3.52 (dd, $^2J = 17.4$, $^3J = 12.6$, CH_2); 3.63 (dd, $^2J = 17.4$, $^3J = 5$, CH_2); 3.69 (s, CH_3N); 3.74 (s, COOCH_3); 3.80 (s, COOCH_3); 3.91 (s, COOCH_3); 4.15 (dd, $^3J = 12.6$, 5, H-C(5)); 7.11 (dt, $^3J = 7.3$, $^4J = 1.1$, H-C(9)); 7.20 (mc, H-C(7), H-C(8), H-C(10)). ^{13}C -NMR (CDCl_3): 30.31 (CH_3N); 52.67 ($\text{CH}_3\text{OCO}-\text{C}(5)$); 53.03 (COOCH_3); 53.24 (COOCH_3); 28.53 (CH_2); 39.42 (C(5)); $\text{sp}^2\text{-CH}$: 109.34 (C(9)); 119.35 (C(8)); 121.29 (C(10)); 122.84 (C(7)); quaternary $\text{sp}^2\text{-C}$: 102.75 (C(4a)); 126.45 (C(10b)); 137.09 (C(10a)); 138.38 (C(6a)); 140.80 (C(4)); 144.23 (C(1)); 164.43, 169.59, 169.90 (3 CO). MS: 385 (43, M^+), 241 (100). Anal. calc. for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_3\text{O}_6$ (385.38): C 59.22, H 4.97, N 10.90; found: C 58.90, H 4.99, N 10.87.

Dimethyl 6,7-Dihydro-6-methoxy-7-methyl-5H-benzo[b]pyridazino[4,5-d]azepine-1,4-dicarboxylate (6). 2-(2-Methoxyvinyl)-1-methylindole (**1d**; 0.337 g, 1.8 mmol) was dissolved in CH_2Cl_2 (30 ml). The soln. was cooled to -75° and **3** (0.396 g, 2 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (20 ml) was added slowly at this temp. The mixture was stirred at -75° for 3 h and then at 20° for 18 h. The organic solvent was evaporated and the residue separated by FC using petroleum ether (40–60 $^\circ$)/AcOEt 1:1: 58 mg (9%) of **6**. Colorless crystals. M.p. 145° (CH_2Cl_2 /petroleum ether (40–60 $^\circ$)). ^1H -NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): 2.91 (s, $\text{CH}_3\text{O}-\text{C}(6)$); 3.30 (dd, $^2J = 16$, $^3J = 1.5$, H-C(5)); 3.50 (s, COOCH_3); 3.65 (dd, $^2J = 16$, $^3J = 4.2$, H-C(5)); 3.71 (s, CH_3N); 4.01 (s, COOCH_3); 5.73 (q, $^3J = 1.5$, 4.2, H-C(6)); 7.29 (mc,

H–C(8), H–C(9), H–C(10)); 8.16 (*d*, $^3J = 8.9$, H–C(11)). ^{13}C -NMR (CDCl_3): 29.67 (CH_3N); 52.79 (COOCH_3); 53.24 (COOCH_3); 56.07 (CH_3O); 28.30 (C(5)); 90.66 (C(6)); $\text{sp}^2\text{-CH}$: 109.45; 120.31; 121.07; 122.19; quaternary $\text{sp}^2\text{-C}$: 102.14; 124.04; 132.06; 137.94; 145.55; 166.94; 193.03 (CO); 199.26 (2 CO). FD-MS: 357 (3, M^+), 240 (100). EI-MS: 325 (100, $M^+ - \text{OCH}_3$). Anal. calc. for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_3\text{O}_5$ (357.37): C 60.50, H 5.36, N 11.76; found: C 60.22, H 5.16, N 11.79.

Dimethyl 1,4-Dihydro-5-(1,3-dimethylindol-2-yl)-4-methylpyridazine-3,6-dicarboxylate (7). 1,3-Dimethyl-2-(1-propenyl)indole (**1e**; 0.278 g, 1.5 mmol) was dissolved in CH_2Cl_2 (30 ml) and cooled to -75° . At this temp. **3** (0.396 g, 2 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (20 ml) was added slowly. The resultant mixture was stirred at 40° for 7 h. The org. solvent was evaporated and the residue separated by FC using petroleum ether ($40\text{--}60^\circ$)/AcOEt 1:1: 338 mg (63%) of **7**. Colorless crystals. M.p. 141° (CH_2Cl_2 /petroleum ether ($40\text{--}60^\circ$)). ^1H -NMR (400 MHz, CD_2Cl_2 , 20° , mixture of atropisomers): 1.06 (*dd*, $^3J = 6.9$, $\text{CH}_3\text{--C}(5)$); 2.10, 2.24 (2s, $\text{CH}_3\text{--C}(3')$); 3.51, 3.64 (2s, $\text{CH}_3\text{--C}(1')$); 3.60 (s, COOCH_3); 3.69 (*q*, $^3J = 6.9$, H–C(5)); 3.84 (s, COOCH_3); 7.08 (2t, $^3J = 6.8$, $^4J = 0.9$, H–C(6')); 7.19 (2t, $^3J = 7.2$, $^4J = 0.9$, H–C(5')); 7.28 (*dd*, $^3J = 8$, H–C(7')); 7.52 (*m*, H–C(4')); 8.81 (s, NH). ^{13}C -NMR (CD_2Cl_2): 9.23, 9.94 ($\text{CH}_3\text{--C}(3')$); 15.69, 16.12 ($\text{CH}_3\text{--C}(5)$); 30.44, 31.22 (CH_3N); 33.39, 34.47 (C(5)); 57.70, 53.02, 53.08 (4 CH_3O); $\text{sp}^2\text{-CH}$: 109.33; 109.47; 118.81; 119.06; 119.19; 119.21; 121.72; 122.12; quaternary $\text{sp}^2\text{-C}$: 112.35; 113.96; 114.04; 128.53; 128.87; 129.88; 129.99; 132.24; 134.52; 135.78; 135.81, 137.33; 137.97; 161.86 (CO); 162.18 (CO); 164.44 (CO); 164.61 (CO). MS: 355 (3, M^+), 84 (100). Anal. calc. for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_3\text{O}_4$ (355.39): C 64.21, H 5.96, N 11.82; found: C 64.28, H 5.77, N 12.02.

Dimethyl 1,4-Dihydro-4-(1-methylindol-3-yl)pyridazine-3,6-dicarboxylate (8a). Indole **2a** (0.472 g, 3 mmol) was dissolved in CH_2Cl_2 (30 ml) and cooled to -75° . At this temp., **3** (0.594 g, 23 mmol) was added in portions. The resultant mixture was stirred for 1 h at -75° to 0° . The org. solvent was evaporated and the residue separated by FC using petroleum ether ($40\text{--}60^\circ$)/AcOEt 1:1: 830 mg (85%) of **8a**. Colorless crystals. M.p. 150° (petroleum ether ($40\text{--}60^\circ$)). ^1H -NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): 3.70 (s, CH_3N); 3.74 (s, COOCH_3); 3.80 (s, COOCH_3); 5.03 (*d*, $^3J = 6$, H–C(4)); 6.11 (*dd*, $^3J = 6$, $^4J = 1.4$, H–C(5)); 6.85 (s, H–C(2')); 7.12 (t, $^3J = 7.9$, H–C(6')); 7.23 (*m*, H–C(6'), H–C(7')); 7.67 (*d*, $^3J = 7.9$, H–C(4')); 8.38 (br. s, NH). MS: 327 (21, M^+), 268 (100). Anal. calc. for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_3\text{O}_4$ (327.34): C 62.38, H 5.23, N 12.84; found: C 62.77, H 5.55, N 13.10.

Dimethyl 4,4-Bis(indol-3-yl)-1,4-dihydropyridazine-3,6-dicarboxylate (8b). To a soln. of **2b** (1.0 g, 3.9 mmol) in dioxane (25 ml) was added, at r.t., **3** (0.92 g, 4.6 mmol) in one portion. After 10 min, the resultant mixture was poured on to ice and then extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (5×20 ml). The org. layer was dried (CaCl_2) and then concentrated. The residue was separated by FC using petroleum ether ($40\text{--}60^\circ$)/AcOEt 6:4: 1.43 g (86%) of **8b**. Colorless crystals. M.p. 165° (petroleum ether/AcOEt). ^1H -NMR (200 MHz, CDCl_3): 3.49 (s, COOCH_3); 3.71 (s, COOCH_3); 6.41 (*d*, $^4J = 2.2$, H–C(5)); 6.90 (s, H–C(2')); 6.92 (s, H–C(2')); 7.00 (ψ t, H–C(5') or H–C(6')); 7.15 (ψ t, H–C(6') or H–C(5')); 7.31 (*d*, $^3J = 8.0$, H–C(7')); 7.51 (*d*, $^3J = 7.9$, H–C(4')); 8.19 (br. s, indole NH); 8.47 (*d*, $^4J = 2.2$, pyridazine NH). MS: 428 (1, M^+), 43 (100). Anal. calc. for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_4\text{O}_4$ (428.15): C 67.28, H 4.71, N 13.08; found: C 67.66, H 4.56, N 12.99.

Dimethyl 1,4-Dihydro-4-methyl-4-(1-methylindol-3-yl)pyridazine-3,6-dicarboxylate (8c). A mixture of **2c** (0.3 g, 1.75 mmol) and **3** (0.42 g, 2.1 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (29 ml) was stirred at r.t. for 5 min. The further workup was as described for **8b**: 0.40 g (67%) of **8c**. Colorless crystals. M.p. 179° (AcOEt). ^1H -NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): 1.94 (s, $\text{CH}_3\text{--C}(4)$); 3.58 (s, CH_3N); 3.75 (s, COOCH_3); 3.76 (s, COOCH_3); 5.61 (*d*, $^4J = 2.2$, H–C(5)); 6.93 (s, H–C(2')); 7.05 (ψ t, H–C(5') or H–C(6')); 7.19 (ψ t, H–C(6') or H–C(5')); 7.28 (*d*, $^3J = 8.2$, H–C(7')); 7.46 (*d*, $^3J = 8.0$, H–C(4')); 8.33 (br. s, 4J not resolved, NH). MS: 341 (9, M^+), 282 (100). Anal. calc. for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_3\text{O}_4$ (341.14): C 63.32, H 5.61, N 12.32; found: C 63.41, H 5.54, N 12.39.

Dimethyl 4-[1-(Phenylsulfonyl)indol-3-yl]pyridazine-3,6-dicarboxylate (9). A mixture of (*E/Z*)-**2d** (1:1; 0.45 g, 1.4 mmol) and **3** (0.28 g, 1.4 mmol) was dissolved in CH_2Cl_2 (20 ml) at -65° , and the mixture was then stirred at r.t. for 8 h. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure, the residue was titrated with some toluene, and filtered. The solid obtained was recrystallized from MeOH: 0.28 g (45%) of **9**. Colorless crystals. M.p. $207\text{--}209^\circ$ (MeOH, dec.). ^1H -NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): 3.79 (s, COOCH_3); 4.09 (s, COOCH_3); 7.31 (ψ t, 1 arom. H); 7.41 (ψ t, 1 arom. H); 7.48 (ψ t, H–C(3), H–C(5) of Ph); 7.47 (ψ d, 1 arom. H); 7.58 (ψ t, 1 arom. H); 7.89 (s, H–C(2')); 7.93 (*d*, $^3J = 8.2$, H–C(2), H–C(6) of Ph); 8.06 (*d*, $^3J = 8.4$, 1 arom. H); 8.38 (s, H–C(5)). MS: 451 (94, M^+), 77 (100). Anal. calc. for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_3\text{O}_6\text{S}$ (451.09): C 58.52, H 3.80, N 9.32; found: C 58.12, H 3.84, N 9.27.

Trimethyl 1,4-Dihydro-5-(1-methylindol-3-yl)pyridazine-3,4,6-tricarboxylate (10a) and Trimethyl 1,4-Dihydro-4-(1-methylindol-3-yl)pyridazine-3,5,6-tricarboxylate (10b). Indole **2e** (0.430 g, 2 mmol) and **3** (0.396 g, 2 mmol) were dissolved in CH_2Cl_2 (30 ml), and the mixture was stirred at 20° for 4 h. The org. solvent was evaporated, and the residue was separated by FC using petroleum ether ($40\text{--}60^\circ$)/AcOEt 1:1. The first fraction gave 378 mg (49%) of **10a**. The following eluate was concentrated, and the residue subjected to renewed FC: 100 mg (13%) of **10b**.

10a: Yellow crystals. M.p. 206° (petroleum ether (40–60°)). ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 3.49 (s, COOCH₃); 3.72 (s, CH₃N); 3.83 (s, COOCH₃); 3.86 (s, COOCH₃); 4.92 (s, H–C(4)); 7.09 (t, ³J = 8, 7, H–C(6′)); 7.18 (t, ³J = 8, H–C(5′)); 7.22 (d, ³J = 7, H–C(7′)); 7.31 (d, ³J = 8, H–C(4′)); 7.62 (s, H–C(2′)); 9.20 (s, NH). ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃): 33.13 (CH₃N); 52.36 (CH₃O); 52.71 (CH₃O); 52.81 (CH₃O); 44.87 (C(4)); 109.75 (C(7′)); 119.87 (C(6′)); 120.47 (C(4′)); 122.24 (C(5′)); 132.69 (C(2′)); quaternary sp²-C: 107.01; 113.67; 123.97; 124.48; 126.56; 136.56; 163.62 (CO); 164.33 (CO); 170.20 (CO). MS: 385 (27, M⁺), 326 (95), 294 (100). Anal. calc. for C₁₉H₁₉N₃O₆ (385.38): C 59.22, H 4.97, N 10.90; found: C 59.33, H 5.18, N 11.14.

10b: Colorless crystal. M.p. 156° (petroleum ether (40–60°)). ¹H-NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃): 3.66 (s, COOCH₃); 3.69 (s, CH₃N); 3.77 (s, COOCH₃); 3.87 (s, COOCH₃); 5.33 (s, H–C(4)); 6.87 (s, H–C(2′)); 7.16 (mc, H–C(5′), H–C(6′), H–C(7′)); 7.76 (dd, ³J = 7.1, ⁴J = 1.1, H–C(4′)); 8.62 (s, NH). ¹³C-NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃): 28.43 (C(4)); 32.80 (CH₃N); 52.14 (CH₃O); 52.70 (CH₃O); 53.30 (CH₃O); sp²-CH: 109.27; 119.66; 119.75; 121.83; 128.56; quaternary sp²-C: 106.08; 114.91; 126.20; 134.15; 137.09; 137.36; 163.38 (CO); 164.07 (CO); 165.95 (CO). MS: 385 (28, M⁺), 326 (100), 294 (40). Anal. calc. for C₁₉H₁₉N₃O₆ (385.38): C 59.22, H 4.97, N 10.90; found: C 59.28, H 5.20, N 10.95.

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