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# BENZIMIDAZOLES AND CONGENERIC TRICYCLIC COMPOUNDS

## PART 1

*Edited by*

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DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY,  
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AN INTERSCIENCE \* PUBLICATION

JOHN WILEY & SONS

**New York . Chichester . Brisbane . Toronto**

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**Benzimidazoles and Congeneric  
Tricyclic Compounds**

IN TWO PARTS

PART ONE

*This is the fortieth volume in the series*

**THE CHEMISTRY OF HETEROCYCLIC COMPOUNDS**

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**THE CHEMISTRY OF HETEROCYCLIC COMPOUNDS**

A SERIES OF MONOGRAPHS

**ARNOLD WEISSBERGER and EDWARD C. TAYLOR**

*Editors*

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## **The Chemistry of Heterocyclic Compounds**

The chemistry of heterocyclic compounds is one of the most complex branches of organic chemistry. It is equally interesting for its theoretical implications, for the diversity of its synthetic procedures, and for the physiological and industrial significance of heterocyclic compounds.

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In order to continue to make heterocyclic chemistry as readily accessible as possible, new editions are planned for those areas where the respective volumes in the first edition have become obsolete by overwhelming progress. If, however, the changes are not too great so that the first editions can be brought up-to-date by supplementary volumes, supplements to the respective volumes will be published in the first edition.

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## Preface to Part 1

More than 25 years have elapsed since the publication in this series of *Imidazole and Its Derivatives* by Klaus Hofmann. In updating this work, Leroy Townsend has undertaken the task of editing a volume on monocyclic imidazoles, and the present book covers the chemistry of benzimidazole and its dihydro derivatives, as well as congeneric tricyclic compounds that contain a condensed benzimidazole moiety. Because many ring systems are covered, it has proved necessary to divide the volume into Part 1 (Chapters 1 to 5) and Part 2 (Chapters 6 to 10).

Chapters 1 to 3 on benzimidazoles, benzimidazole *N*-oxides, and dihydro derivatives update the book of Hofmann through Volume 87 of *Chemical Abstracts*. The chemistry of tricyclic compounds containing a condensed benzimidazole moiety is covered comprehensively from early literature through the same Volume 87 of *Chemical Abstracts*.

Chapters 4 to 9 on the condensed ring systems are organized in terms of the position and size of the ring fused to the benzimidazole skeleton (denoted "6-5"). Thus Chapters 4 through 8 are concerned with compounds in which fusion of the third ring is at the benzo and imidazole rings respectively.

Chapter 9 deals with the chemistry of tricyclic compounds in which a benzimidazole moiety may be considered to be formally annulated from N-1 to C-7.

The growth of benzimidazole chemistry in the past 25 years has paralleled that of purines and stems from the determination of the partial structures of nucleic acids in the early 1950s. Benzimidazoles and congeneric compounds are substrates that might act as inhibitors in nucleic acid biosynthesis, and their relative ease of preparation and low cost make them attractive as potential pharmacological agents. The variety of marketed products described in chapter 10 bears witness to the large commitment to benzimidazole chemistry. I hope that this book will stimulate further research, particularly on the synthesis of new tricyclic derivatives and related condensed analogs.

I am indebted to a number of friends and colleagues who have contributed to this book. It has been a pleasure to collaborate with David Smith and with Malcolm Stevens and George Tennant, and I thank them for their large collective contribution. Information on commercially marketed products is difficult to obtain, but my task was simplified with the generous assistance of Colin C. Beard, Gerald Farrow, Janet M. Shether, Brian K. Snell, and Ian S. Swanson. I also thank my wife, Veronica, who carried out an initial estimate of the magnitude of literature on benzimidazoles and

congeneric tricyclic compounds. Thanks are due also to Susan Bobby who typed part of the manuscript, Anthony F. Fell who translated a number of documents from Russian, and my former research students Alex Davidson and Ian E. P. Murray who helped to check the manuscript. Finally, I express my appreciation of the help and enthusiasm of the Series Editors, Edward C. Taylor and Arnold Weissberger, of Stanley F. Kudzin, and of the staff of John Wiley and Sons, Inc.

P. N. PRESTON

*Edinburgh, Scotland*  
*January 1981*

## **Contents**

### **PART ONE**

- |   |            |
|---|------------|
| <b>1. Benzimidazoles</b>  | <b>1</b>   |
| P. N. PRESTON   |            |
| <b>2. Benzimidazole N-Oxides</b>  | <b>287</b> |
| D. M. SMITH   |            |
| <b>3. Dihydrobenzimidazoles, Benzimidazolones,<br/>Benzimidazolethiones and Related<br/>Compounds</b> | <b>331</b> |
| D. M. SMITH   |            |
| <b>4. Condensed Benzimidazoles of Type 5-6-5</b>  | <b>391</b> |
| G. TENNANT  |            |
| <b>5. Condensed Benzimidazoles of Type 6-6-5</b>  | <b>483</b> |
| P. N. PRESTON AND G. TENNANT  |            |
| <b>Author Index</b>   | <b>645</b> |
| <b>Subject Index</b>  | <b>675</b> |

### **PART TWO**

- |  |          |
|--|----------|
| <b>6. Condensed Benzimidazoles of Type 6-5-5</b> | <b>1</b> |
| G. TENNANT                                       |          |

<b>7. Condensed Benzimidazoles of Type 6-5-6</b>	<b>257</b>
G. TENNANT	
<b>8. Condensed Benzimidazoles of Type 6-5-7 and Higher Homologs</b>	<b>463</b>
M. F. G. STEVENS	
<b>9. Condensed Benzimidazoles Bridged Between N-1 and C-7</b>	<b>505</b>
M. F. G. STEVENS	
<b>10. Commercial Applications of Benzimidazoles</b>	<b>531</b>
P. N. PRESTON	
<b>Author Index</b>	<b>543</b>
<b>Subject Index</b>	<b>567</b>

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## CHAPTER 1

# Benzimidazoles

P. N. PRESTON

1.1	Introduction: Literature Coverage and Organization of the Book	5
1.2	Synthesis of Benzimidazoles	6
1.2.1	From Reactions of <i>o</i> -Arylenediamines with:	6
	Carboxylic Acids	6
	Carboxylic Acid Derivatives (Esters, Amides, Anhydrides, and Chlorides)	10
	Imino Ethers (Imidates)	13
	Aldehydes	15
	Cyano Derivatives	18
	Isothioureas and Related Compounds	20
	Miscellaneous Compounds	21
1.2.2	From <i>o</i> -( <i>N</i> -acylamino- and -aroylamino)arylamines and -nitroarenes	28
1.2.3	From <i>N</i> - <i>o</i> -Aminoaryl- <i>N'</i> -Arylthioureas and Related Compounds	32
1.2.4	From <i>N</i> -Substituted <i>N'</i> -( <i>o</i> -Amino- and -nitro)arylhydrazines	33
1.2.5	From <i>o</i> -Nitroarylamines and <i>o</i> -Dinitroarenes	36
1.2.6	From <i>ortho</i> -Substituted <i>N</i> -Benzylideneaniline Derivatives	39
	Nitro Compounds	39
	Azido Compounds	39
	Amino Compounds	40
1.2.7	From Amidines	42
1.2.8	From Quinone Derivatives	44
1.2.9	From Heterocyclic Compounds	45
	Three-Membered Ring Compounds: (Intermediate) Diazirines	46
	Five-Membered Ring Compounds	46
	Imidazoles	46
	Indazoles	49
	Oxadiazoles	49
	Triazoles	52
	Tetrazoles	53
	Six-Membered Ring Compounds	56
	Quinoxalines	56
	<i>s</i> -Triazines	57
	Benzo-1,2,4-triazines	58
	Benzo-2,1,4-thiadiazines	58
	Seven-Membered Ring Compounds	59
	Thiepinof[5,4- <i>d</i> ]imidazoles	59
	Benzo[2,3][1,4]diazepines	59
1.3	Physicochemical Studies	60

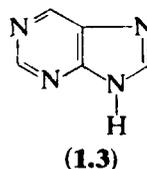
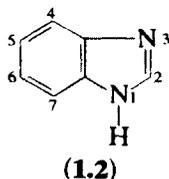
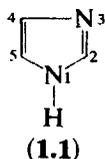
1.3.1	Crystal and Molecular Structure . . . . .	60
1.3.2	Dipole Moments . . . . .	62
1.3.3	Spectroscopic Properties . . . . .	63
	Infrared Spectra . . . . .	63
	Ultraviolet and Fluorescence Spectra . . . . .	64
	Ultraviolet Spectra . . . . .	64
	Fluorescence Spectra . . . . .	66
	Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectra . . . . .	67
	<sup>1</sup> H Spectra . . . . .	67
	<sup>13</sup> C Spectra . . . . .	72
	<sup>19</sup> F Spectra . . . . .	73
	<sup>14</sup> N Spectra . . . . .	74
	<sup>3</sup> H Spectra . . . . .	75
	Electron Spin Resonance Spectra . . . . .	75
	Spectra of Neutral Free Radicals . . . . .	75
	Spectra of Radical Anions . . . . .	76
	Nuclear Quadrupole Resonance Spectra . . . . .	76
	Mass Spectra . . . . .	76
1.3.4	General Studies . . . . .	79
	Acidity Constants . . . . .	79
	Formation of Molecular Complexes . . . . .	80
	Molecular Orbital Calculations . . . . .	81
	Analytical Studies . . . . .	82
	Chromatographic Analysis . . . . .	82
	Thermal Analysis . . . . .	82
1.4	Reactions of Benzimidazoles . . . . .	83
1.4.1	Reactions with Electrophilic Reagents . . . . .	83
	Substitution in the Carbocyclic Ring . . . . .	83
	Substitution in the Imidazole Ring . . . . .	86
	Electrophilic Attack at the 1-(or 3-) Position: Alkylation and Related Reactions . . . . .	87
	General Comments . . . . .	87
	Alkylation by Alkyl Halides and Related Compounds . . . . .	88
	Ring-Opening of Epoxides and Lactones . . . . .	92
	Alkylation by Mannich Reactions . . . . .	94
	Alkylation by Activated Alkenes . . . . .	95
	Acylation and Sulfonation by Acid Halides and Sulfonyl Halides . . . . .	96
	Carbamoylation by Isocyanate Derivatives . . . . .	99
	Reactions with Activated Alkynes . . . . .	100
	Intramolecular Alkylation and Acylation . . . . .	101
	Synthesis of Benzimidazolium Compounds . . . . .	103
	Miscellaneous Reactions . . . . .	104
	Electrophilic Attack at Side-Chain Substituents . . . . .	105
1.4.2	Metalation Reactions . . . . .	110
1.4.3	Reactions with Nucleophilic Reagents . . . . .	111
	Substitution in the Carbocyclic Ring . . . . .	111
	Substitution in the Imidazole Ring . . . . .	112
	The Chichibabin Reaction . . . . .	112
	Displacement of Chloride and Other Anions . . . . .	114
	Substitution Within Side-Chain Substituents . . . . .	116
	Addition Reactions of Nucleophilic Reagents . . . . .	120
	To the Imidazole Ring . . . . .	120
	To Side-Chain Substituents . . . . .	121
	Reactions of Benzimidazolium Derivatives . . . . .	124

	Nucleophilic Substitution in the Imidazole Ring . . . . .	124
	Intramolecular Nucleophilic Addition . . . . .	125
	Base-Induced Cleavage of the Imidazole Ring . . . . .	125
	Miscellaneous Reactions . . . . .	129
1.4.4	Reactions with Reactive Intermediates (Free Radicals, Arynes, and Nitrenes). . . . .	130
1.4.5	Thermal and Photochemical Reactions . . . . .	131
	Thermal Reactions . . . . .	131
	Photochemical Reactions . . . . .	133
1.4.6	Oxidation . . . . .	136
	Oxidation of the Carbocyclic Ring . . . . .	136
	Oxidation of the Imidazole Ring . . . . .	136
	Oxidation of Substituents . . . . .	137
1.4.7	Reduction . . . . .	141
	Reduction of the Carbocyclic Ring . . . . .	141
	Reduction of the Imidazole Ring . . . . .	141
	Reduction of Substituents . . . . .	142
1.4.8	Electrocyclic Reactions . . . . .	145
	Benzimidazoles . . . . .	145
	Benzimidazolium Compounds . . . . .	146
1.5	Systematic Survey of Benzimidazole Derivatives . . . . .	147
1.5.1	Scope of the Survey . . . . .	147
Appendix A. Benzimidazole Derivatives Cited During the Period 1950 to 1977. . . . .		149
Table 1.47	Alkyl and Cycloalkyl Derivatives . . . . .	149
Table 1.48	Aralkyl Derivatives . . . . .	151
Table 1.49	Alkenyl Derivatives . . . . .	152
Table 1.50	Alkynyl Derivatives . . . . .	155
Table 1.51	Aryl Derivatives . . . . .	155
Table 1.52	Hetaryl Derivatives . . . . .	159
Table 1.53	Nitroso and Nitro Derivatives . . . . .	169
Table 1.54	Amino Derivatives . . . . .	170
Table 1.55	Alkyl- and Aryl Benzimidazole-2-Carbamates . . . . .	180
Table 1.56	Miscellaneous Nitrogen-Containing Groups: Anils, Ureas, Thioureas, Thiosemicarbazides, Amidines, and Guanidines . . . . .	188
Table 1.57	Hydrazines, Hydrazones, and Formazans . . . . .	189
Table 1.58	Azo Compounds and Triazenes . . . . .	190
Table 1.59	Nitriles and Nitrile Oxides . . . . .	191
Table 1.60	Azido Derivatives . . . . .	192
Table 1.61	Thiocyanates and Isothiocyanates . . . . .	192
Table 1.62	Halogeno Derivatives . . . . .	193
Table 1.63	Hydroxy and Mercapto Derivatives . . . . .	196
Table 1.64	Alkoxy and Aryloxy Derivatives . . . . .	199
Table 1.65	Alkyl-, Alkenyl-, and Arylthio Derivatives . . . . .	200
Table 1.66	Aldehydes and Ketones . . . . .	203
Table 1.67	Oximes . . . . .	204
Table 1.68	Carboxylic Acids, Esters, and Amides . . . . .	205
Table 1.69	Amino Acids . . . . .	208
Table 1.70	Sulfonic Acids, Sulfonyl Chlorides, Sulfonamides, and Sulfones . . . . .	208
Table 1.71	Organophosphorus, -Silicon, and -Iron Derivatives . . . . .	210
Table 1.72	Bisbenzimidazoles (Containing a Benzimidazol-2-yl Group) . . . . .	211
Table 1.73	Miscellaneous Bis, tris-, and Tetrakisbenzimidazoles . . . . .	217

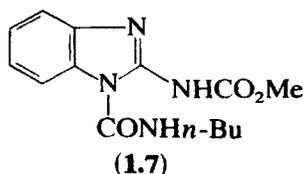
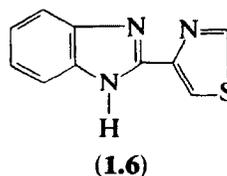
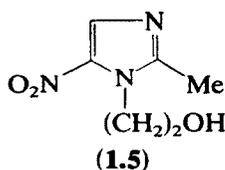
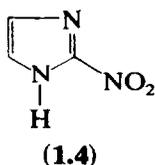
Table 1.74	Benzimidazolium Compounds . . . . .	219
Table 1.75	Benzimidazolium Betaines . . . . .	220
Table 1.76	Isotopically-labelled Derivatives . . . . .	221
Appendix B. Benzimidazole Derivatives Cited During the Period 1919 to 1950 (Compiled by K. Hofmann and Reprinted from Reference 1) . . . . .		222
Table 1.77	Alkyl and Aryl Benzimidazoles . . . . .	222
Table 1.78	Alkyl and Aryl Benzimidazolium Salts . . . . .	225
Table 1.79	Mono and Polyhydroxyalkyl- and Hydroxyaryl Benzimidazoles, Their Ethers, and Halogen Derivatives . . . . .	225
	(a) Hydroxy- Hydroxyalkyl-, and Hydroxyarylbenzimidazoles, Their Ethers, and Sulfur Analogs . . . . .	225
	(b) Hydroxy-, Hydroxyalkyl-, and Hydroxyarylbenzimidazoles containing Halogen . . . . .	226
	(c) Polyhydroxyalkylbenzimidazoles . . . . .	227
Table 1.80	Benzimidazolecarboxaldehydes, Ketones, and Quinones . . . . .	229
Table 1.81	Halogeno-, Halogenoalkyl-, and halogenoaryl- Benzimidazoles . . . . .	230
Table 1.82	Nitro-, Nitroalkyl-, and Nitroaryl Benzimidazoles Including Those Containing Additional Functional Groups . . . . .	231
Table 1.83	Aminobenzimidazoles . . . . .	232
	(1) Amino-, Aminoalkyl-, and Aminoarylbenzimidazoles . . . . .	232
	(2) Amino-, Aminoalkyl-, and Aminoarylbenzimidazoles Containing Additional Functional groups . . . . .	234
Table 1.84	Cyanobenzimidazoles . . . . .	237
Table 1.85	Benzimidazole Carboxylic Acids . . . . .	237
	1. Monocarboxylic Acids . . . . .	237
	(a) Alkyl- and Arylbenzimidazole carboxylic acids including those containing additional functional groups . . . . .	237
	(b) Carboxyalkyl-, Carboxyalkanyl-, and Carboxyarylbenzimidazoles. . . . .	238
	2. Dicarboxylic Acids . . . . .	240
Table 1.86	Benzimidazolesulfonic acids, Sulfoalkyl-, and Sulfoarylbenzimidazoles . . . . .	240
Table 1.87	Benzimidazole Arsenicals . . . . .	241
Table 1.88	Heteroring-Substituted Benzimidazoles . . . . .	242
	(1) Furan Derivatives . . . . .	242
	(2) Thiophene Derivatives . . . . .	242
	(3) Pyrrole Derivatives . . . . .	242
	(4) Pyrazole Derivatives . . . . .	242
	(5) Pyridine Derivatives . . . . .	242
	(6) Piperidine Derivatives . . . . .	242
	(7) Morpholine Derivatives . . . . .	242
	(8) Xanthyl Derivatives . . . . .	243
	(9) Phthalide Derivatives . . . . .	243
	(10) Indane and Indole Derivatives . . . . .	243
	(11) Quinoline Derivatives . . . . .	243
	(12) Benzodiazepine Derivative . . . . .	243
	(13) Acenaphthene Derivative . . . . .	243
Table 1.89	Bisbenzimidazoles . . . . .	244

## 1.1. INTRODUCTION: LITERATURE COVERAGE AND ORGANIZATION OF THE BOOK

In 1953 the extent of the literature was such that Klaus Hofmann was able to comprehensively cover the entire chemistry of monocyclic imidazoles (1.1) and benzimidazoles (1.2) in *Imidazole and Its Derivatives, Part I*.<sup>1</sup>



The early 1950s was an important period regarding the biological significance of benzimidazoles and the closely related purines (1.3);<sup>2</sup> the vital role of purines in biological systems was established,<sup>2</sup> and it was discovered that 5,6-dimethyl-1-( $\alpha$ -D-ribofuranosyl)benzimidazole is an integral part of the structure of vitamin B<sub>12</sub>.<sup>3</sup> These findings stimulated great interest in the chemistry of imidazoles and related compounds, and considerable commercial success has accrued from these studies: a new antibacterial agent [azomycin (1.4)],<sup>4</sup> a trichomonacide [metronidazole (1.5)],<sup>5</sup> and a variety of benzimidazole derivatives of use as anthelmintic agents [e.g., thiabendazole (1.6)] and fungicides [e.g., benomyl (1.7)] are well-established marketed products (see also Chapter 10).



Systematic reviews on benzimidazoles appeared in 1951,<sup>6</sup> 1953,<sup>1</sup> and 1974,<sup>7</sup> although surveys have appeared in articles<sup>8-10</sup> covering the chemistry of both imidazoles and benzimidazoles. The chemistry of benzimidazole *N*-oxides has been covered in the texts of Ochiai<sup>11</sup> and Katritzky and Lagowski<sup>12</sup> and also in a short review by Lettau.<sup>13</sup> Specific synthetic procedures leading to benzimidazoles and benzimidazole *N*-oxides based on

the use of *ortho*-substituted nitrobenzene derivatives have been described,<sup>14</sup> and methods employing *ortho*-substituted *tert*-alkylanilines have been reviewed.<sup>15</sup>

The magnitude of the literature on benzimidazoles presents a difficult problem for a reviewer. In the twenty-five-year period since publication of Hofmann's book<sup>1</sup> there have been approximately 25,000 *Chemical Abstracts* compound citations on benzimidazoles; by comparison it is interesting to note that Lister's text<sup>2</sup> in this series refers to 3000 citations on purines from the origin of such studies through 1970. Accordingly no attempt has been made in this chapter to provide comprehensive physicochemical data (e.g., mp, bp) on all cited benzimidazole derivatives. Nevertheless, the chapter is comprehensive in the sense that relevant publications appearing in *Chemical Abstracts* subsections on imidazoles are included (Volumes 48 through 78); material has also been selectively abstracted from the subject index, but the chemistry of benzimidazole nucleosides<sup>16</sup> and transition metal organometallic complexes of benzimidazoles is excluded.

The subject matter in Part 1 (Chapters 1 to 5) and Part 2 (Chapters 6 to 10) is organized in terms of synthesis, physicochemical properties, and reactions; synthetic methods are described in terms of the types of starting materials employed, and the sections on reactions are categorized on a mechanistic basis rather than on product type. The appended tables of data at the end of this chapter contain comprehensive lists of benzimidazole derivatives categorized according to functional group type.

Benzimidazole *N*-oxides (Chapter 2) and dihydrobenzimidazoles (Chapter 3) are treated separately, and condensed benzimidazoles are organized according to the size and position of fusion of the condensed ring. Using a 6-5 notation for benzimidazole, chapters on condensed compounds are included in which fusion is on the benzo ring [5-6-5 and 6-6-5 systems (Chapters 4 and 5)] or on the imidazole ring [6-5-5, 6-5-6, 6-5-7, and higher (Chapters 6 to 8)]; the chemistry of compounds that are annulated from positions 1 to 7 of a benzimidazole ring is discussed in Chapter 9.

An attempt has been made in Chapter 10 to present data on benzimidazoles (including dihydro derivatives) that have been marketed commercially in the last decade.

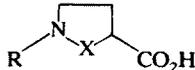
## 1.2. SYNTHESIS OF BENZIMIDAZOLES

### 1.2.1. From Reactions of *o*-Arylenediamines with:

#### *Carboxylic Acids*

Synthetic methods leading to benzimidazoles (Table 1.1)<sup>17-110</sup> and bisbenzimidazoles<sup>28,111-129</sup> (Table 1.2) from the reaction of *o*-arylenediamines and mono- or dicarboxylic acids are widely applicable. In

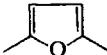
TABLE 1.1. SYNTHESIS OF BENZIMIDAZOLES BY THE REACTION OF *o*-ARYLENEDIAMINES WITH CARBOXYLIC ACIDS

Carboxylic acid	Ref.
H—CO <sub>2</sub> H	17-35
H— <sup>14</sup> C—CO <sub>2</sub> H	36
CH <sub>3</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> H	18, 22, 23, 25, 27 32-35, 37, 38, 39
R—CO <sub>2</sub> H (R = alkyl, adamantyl)	40 <sup>b</sup>
ClCH <sub>2</sub> —CO <sub>2</sub> H	41, 42
Cl <sub>2</sub> CH—CO <sub>2</sub> H	43-45
Cl <sub>3</sub> C—CO <sub>2</sub> H	44, 46
F <sub>3</sub> C—CO <sub>2</sub> H	47-53, 55
F(CF <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>n</sub> —CO <sub>2</sub> H (n = 1, 2)	51, 53, 54
HSCH <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> H	56
HS(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> H	57
HO(CR <sup>1</sup> R <sup>2</sup> )CO <sub>2</sub> H (R <sup>1</sup> , R <sup>2</sup> = H, alkyl, aryl)	58, 59
<i>α</i> -Amino acids	60-65
cyclohexyl-(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>n</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> H (n = 2, 3)	66
HO <sub>2</sub> C(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> H <sup>a</sup>	67
PhSO <sub>2</sub> NHCH(R)(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>n</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> H (R = CO <sub>2</sub> H, etc.)	68
RSCH <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> H (R = alkyl)	69
ArOCH <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> H (Ar = aryl)	70, 71
RCH <sub>2</sub> CH(NH <sub>2</sub> )CO <sub>2</sub> H (R = aryl, hetaryl, etc.)	72
(ferrocenyl)(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>n</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> H (n = 1-5)	73
PhCH <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> H	18, 22, 27, 74-76
<i>p</i> -IC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> H	77a
<i>p</i> -H <sub>2</sub> NO <sub>2</sub> SC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> (CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>n</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> H (n = 1, 2)	77b
ArCH(OH)CO <sub>2</sub> H	78
(2-benzimidazolyl)(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> H	79
(1- and 2-benzotriazolyl)CH <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> H	80
(3-indolyl)CH <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> H	81
(2-oxo-3-benzoxazolyl)(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>n</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> H (n = 1-3)	82
(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> C=CHCO <sub>2</sub> H	83
CH <sub>3</sub> C(Cl)=CHCH <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> H	84
CH <sub>3</sub> C(Cl)=CHCH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> H	85-87
ArCO <sub>2</sub> H (Ar = aryl)	22, 23, 25, 27, 88-100
3-Fluoronaphthyl-2-CO <sub>2</sub> H	101
3-(ArSO <sub>2</sub> NH)naphthyl-2-CO <sub>2</sub> H	100
R-CO <sub>2</sub> H (R = 5-membered ring containing N and S)	102, 103
 [X = CH <sub>2</sub> , (CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> ; R = H, alk, etc.]	104
R—CO <sub>2</sub> H (R = 2-furyl, 2-pyridyl, etc.)	105
(2-pyridyl)-CO <sub>2</sub> H	106
(4-pyridyl)-CO <sub>2</sub> H	107
(2-quinoliny)-CO <sub>2</sub> H	108
(5-benzimidazolyl)carboxylic acid derivatives	109, 110

<sup>a</sup> The product is a carboxylalkylbenzimidazole.

<sup>b</sup> See text.

TABLE 1.2. SYNTHESIS OF BISBENZIMIDAZOLES BY THE REACTION OF *o*-ARYLENEDIAMINES\* WITH DICARBOXYLIC ACIDS

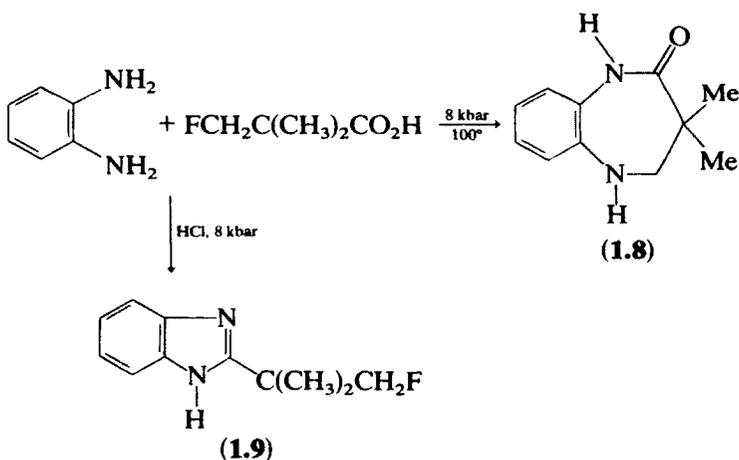
X in HO <sub>2</sub> CXCO <sub>2</sub> H	Ref.
(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	28, 111, 112
(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>4</sub>	113
CH=CH	114
CH <sub>2</sub> CH(OH)	114
[CH(OH)] <sub>2</sub>	115
(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>8</sub>	116
(CF <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>n</sub> (n = 1, 2)	117
(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>n</sub> (n = 2, 4, 6, 8)	
[CH(OH)] <sub>2</sub>	118
(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> S(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	
[CH(OH)] <sub>4</sub>	119
	120
CH(OH)CH <sub>2</sub>	121
(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>n</sub> (n = 2-4, 6)	
[CH(OH)] <sub>n</sub> (n = 2, 4)	
CH(CH <sub>3</sub> )CH <sub>2</sub>	122
(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> S(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	
CH(OH)CH <sub>2</sub>	
CH(OH)CH(R) (R = H, OH)	123
(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>n</sub> (n = 1-8, 10)	124
[(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>n</sub> CR <sub>2</sub> (CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>m</sub> ] <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>2</sub>	125
(n = 0, 1; m = 0-4; R = H, alk)	
	126
	(in reactions with tetra amino derivatives)
	127 (cf. 128, 129)

\* The nature of substituents in these aryl rings is not indicated.

general the Phillips synthesis, in which the carboxylic acid is heated with the diamine in aqueous hydrochloric acid,<sup>6</sup> is used. This conventional procedure works satisfactorily for the preparation of most 2-alkyl derivatives but frequently fails or gives poor yields when applied to 2-aryl analogs. For example, the Phillips synthesis of 2-phenylbenzimidazole gives only a trace amount of the desired product,<sup>130</sup> and it is necessary to effect this transformation in a sealed tube at 180°. <sup>131</sup> Nevertheless, incorporation of either electron-withdrawing or -attracting groups into the aryl ring of the diamine results in only fair to poor yields of benzimidazole derivatives.<sup>132</sup> The discovery that polyphosphoric acid is an effective, convenient, and general catalyst for effecting such reactions is thus an important one.<sup>94</sup> Using this procedure, 2-arylbenzimidazoles are obtained in moderate to good yields (generally 50–85%) and high working pressures are not required. Alterna-

tive procedures for 2-aryl derivatives include the use of phosphorous pentoxide as a dehydrating agent<sup>99</sup> or azeotropic dehydration from kerosine<sup>97</sup> or xylene<sup>99</sup> solvent.

As mentioned earlier, most aliphatic carboxylic acids react normally in the Phillips process, but acids containing bulky substituents, such as adamantane 1-carboxylic acid<sup>133</sup> and 2,2-dimethylpropionic acid,<sup>134,135</sup> either do not react or give low yields of benzimidazoles. This poor reactivity has been attributed<sup>134</sup> to a combined effect of steric hindrance and a diminished electrophilic reactivity of the carboxyl group. Reactions in which ionic intermediates are formed from neutral reactants are normally accelerated in polar solvents at very high pressures,<sup>136</sup> and with this in mind Holan and coworkers<sup>40</sup> have been successful in converting hindered aliphatic acids into benzimidazoles at pressures of up to 8 kbar (1 kbar =  $10^5 \text{ N m}^{-2} \equiv 986.1 \text{ atm}$ ); yields of 2-R-substituted derivatives are, for example, R = *t*-Bu (66%),  $\text{CMe}_2\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}$  (83%), and 1-adamantyl (48%). Reactions of the Phillips type probably<sup>137</sup> occur via intermediate *o*-aminoanilides, and while these were not isolated in the high-pressure reactions<sup>40</sup> it is interesting to note the formation of 1,3,4,5-tetrahydro-3,3-dimethyl-1,5-benzodiazepin-2-one (**1.8**) from the reaction of *o*-phenylenediamine with 3-fluoro-2,2-dimethylpropionic acid. When the reaction is carried out in the presence of an equivalent amount of hydrochloric acid, the appropriate benzimidazole derivative (**1.9**) is formed, but this is not converted into the benzodiazepinone (**1.8**) under the original conditions. Evidently the strong acid suppresses nucleophilic displacement of fluoride and favors benzimidazole formation.



An additional modification to the original procedure is the use of formic acid in the presence of a mixture of hydrochloric acid and an acid resin [Dowex-50W-X8 (strong sulfonic acid)];<sup>138</sup> the reactions are carried out at room temperature, hence operating conditions are somewhat milder than in

the normal Phillips method (4 M HCl under reflux). An example of the utility of this method is the high-yield (96%) synthesis of the 5-R derivative ( $R = \text{CH}=\text{CHCO}_2\text{H}$ ), which cannot be synthesized by the Phillips method.<sup>138</sup> The technique has been used to synthesize other benzimidazole-5-R derivatives ( $R = \text{CO}_2\text{H}$ , 62%; Cl, 30%; Me, 30%)<sup>139</sup> and 5,5'-bisbenzimidazole (75%), but the scope of the reaction in the context of synthesis of a variety of 2-substituted benzimidazoles has not been evaluated.

*Carboxylic Acid Derivatives (Esters, Amides,  
Anhydrides, and Chlorides)*

Routine procedures involving the condensation of *o*-arylenediamines and carboxylic acid derivatives are listed in Table 1.3.<sup>140-170</sup> A recent variant of the conventional procedure using esters is the method using thioesters.<sup>154</sup> In a typical reaction the diamine is treated with the thioester in aqueous ethanol at room temperature with the pH adjusted to  $\sim 8$ ; hydrogen sulfide is aspirated, and the reaction is monitored by disappearance of the red color of the thioester. Yields are  $\sim 90\%$ , and the method has been used for the synthesis of 2-carbamic acid ester derivatives.<sup>155</sup>

The reaction of *o*-phenylenediamine with fluoren-9-ylidenecyanoacetic ester (see Table 1.3) proceeds normally to give the desired benzimidazole (**1.10**), but 1-naphthylidene analogs give rise to 1-naphthylbenzimidazole (**1.11**) in good yield.<sup>149</sup> The 1-naphthyl analog of (**1.10**) is easily accessible, however, by allowing 1-cyanomethylbenzimidazole to react with 1-naphthaldehyde.<sup>149</sup>

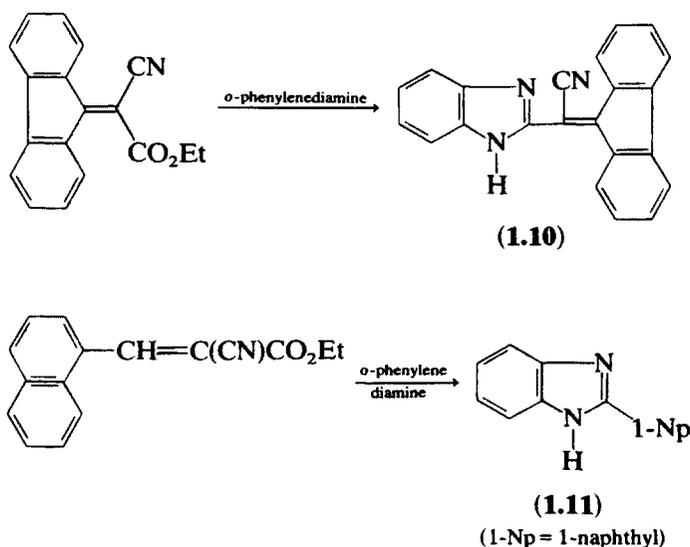


TABLE 1.3. SYNTHESIS OF BENZIMIDAZOLES BY THE REACTION OF *o*-ARYLENEDIAMINES WITH CARBOXYLIC ACID ESTERS, AMIDES, ANHYDRIDES, AND CHLORIDES

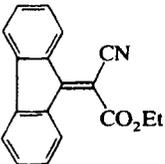
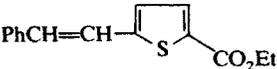
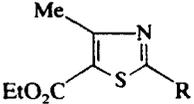
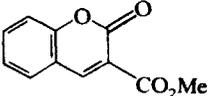
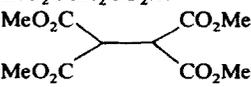
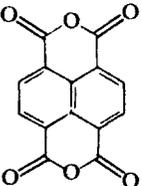
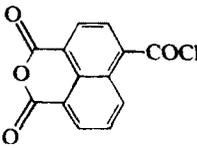
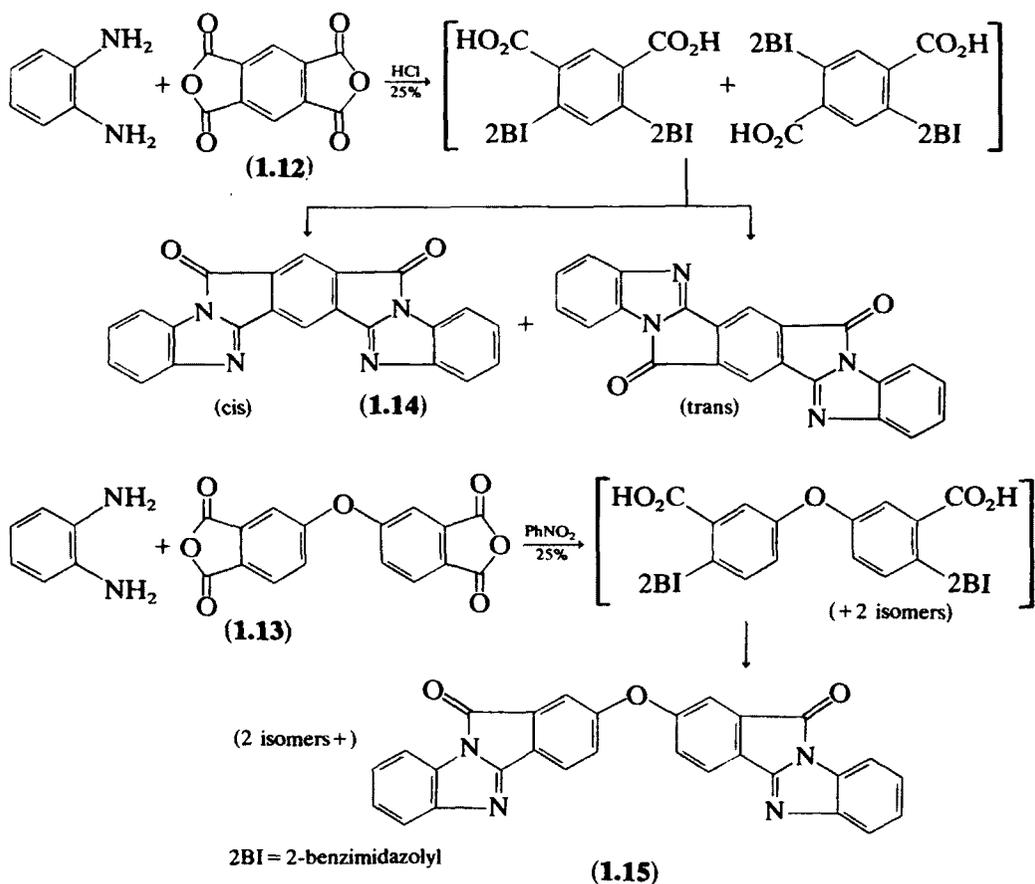
Carboxylic acid derivative	Ref.
H <sub>2</sub> NCH <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> Et	140
NCCH <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> Et	141-143
NCCH(R)CO <sub>2</sub> Et (R = alkyl)	144
CF <sub>3</sub> (CF <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> Ph	145
BrCH <sub>2</sub> COCO <sub>2</sub> Et	146, 147
PhCO <sub>2</sub> Ph	148
	149 <sup>a</sup>
ArCH(CN)CO <sub>2</sub> Et (Ar = aryl)	150
	151
 (R = halogen, NH-alkyl)	152
	153
R-CS <sub>2</sub> R <sup>1</sup> (R = Ph, Me; R <sup>1</sup> = Et, CH <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> H)	154 <sup>a</sup>
RO <sub>2</sub> CNHCS <sub>2</sub> R (R = alkyl)	155 <sup>a</sup>
EtO <sub>2</sub> CCH <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> Et	
	156
RCONHCH(R)CONH <sub>2</sub> (R = alkyl or aryl)	157
H <sub>2</sub> NCO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>n</sub> CONH <sub>2</sub> (n = 0, 2)	158
RNHCO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>n</sub> CONHR (n = 0, 4, 8, R = HOCH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> )	
NCCH <sub>2</sub> CONH <sub>2</sub>	159
PhCONH <sub>2</sub>	160
(CH <sub>3</sub> CO) <sub>2</sub> O	161-163
pyromellitic anhydride	164, 165 <sup>a</sup>
	166

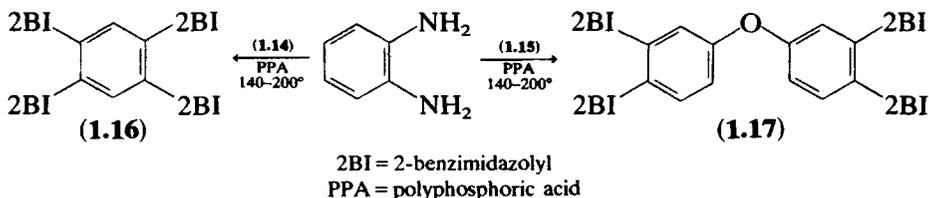
TABLE 1.3. (Continued)

Carboxylic acid derivative	Ref.
$\text{CH}_3\text{COCl}$	167, 168
$o\text{-ClC}_6\text{H}_4\text{COCl}$	169
	170

<sup>a</sup> See text.

Reactions<sup>164,165</sup> of pyromellitic anhydride (**1.12**) and the analogous ether (**1.13**) with *o*-phenylenediamine are of interest as model studies of the synthesis and properties of polybenzimidazoles.<sup>171</sup> In this manner substrates (**1.14**, **1.15**) for the synthesis of complex model compounds (**1.16**, **1.17**) have been prepared, although it may be noted that the isomer distributions in mixtures of (**1.14**) and (**1.15**) have not been determined.





### *Imino Ethers (Imidates)*

Examples of the synthesis of benzimidazoles from reactions of *o*-arylenediamines with imino ethers (imidates) are summarized in Table 1.4.<sup>172-199</sup> The scope of the imidate<sup>200</sup> procedure was assessed in early work by Acheson and King.<sup>201</sup> One problem concerning the Phillips reaction is that the diamine often competes successfully for the proton of the acid catalyst, hence inhibiting nucleophilic addition to the carbonyl group; this difficulty is surmounted by replacing the carbonyl group by the more basic imino group, and very often the imidate method is superior to the conventional Phillips approach. For example, Phillips reaction of *o*-phenylenediamine with 2,4-dinitrophenylacetic acid takes place only under drastic conditions, and considerable resinification occurs;<sup>188</sup> conversely, reaction of the diamine with the hydrochloride of ethyl 2,4-dinitrophenylacetimidate under reflux gives the desired 2-(2,4-dinitrobenzyl)-benzimidazole in 84% yield.<sup>188</sup>

The synthesis of 2-(trichloromethyl)benzimidazole presents similar difficulties by the Phillips approach: a complex mixture is obtained from the reaction of *o*-phenylenediamine and trichloroacetic acid, from which 2,2'-bibenzimidazolyl (1.18) and the anilide (1.19) are isolated.<sup>202</sup> Since these

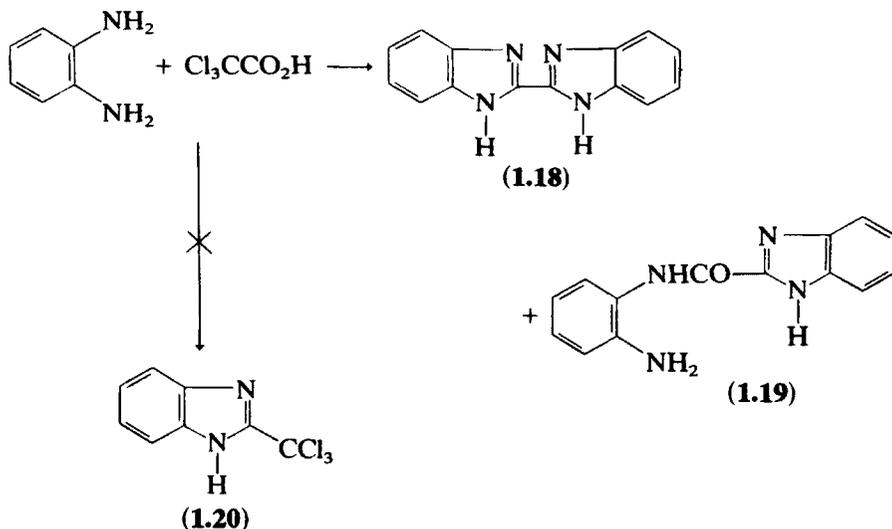
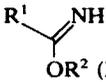
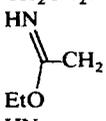
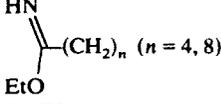
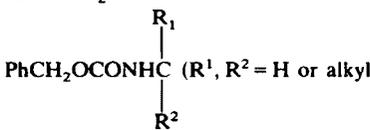
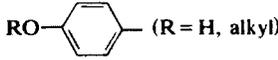
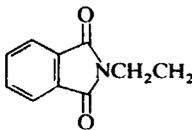
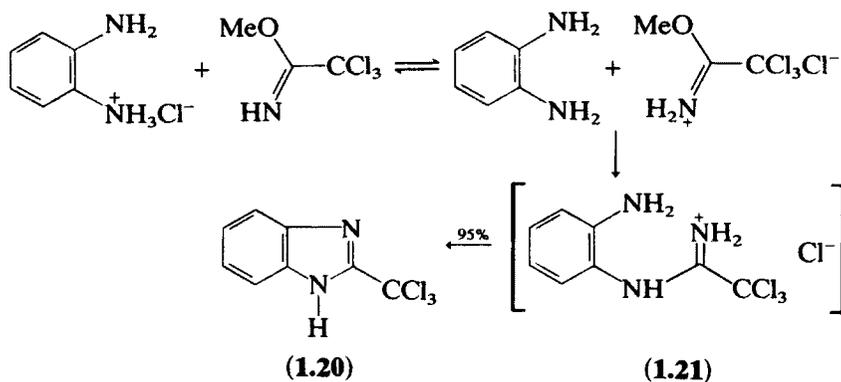


TABLE 1.4. SYNTHESIS OF BENZIMIDAZOLES BY THE REACTION OF *o*-ARYLENE-DIAMINES WITH IMINO ETHERS (IMIDATES)

Substituent ( $R^1$ ) in the imino ether: 	Ref.
$CCl_3$	172-175
H, alkyl, hydroxylalkyl, etc.	176
H, alkyl, aralkyl, etc.	177
Polyhaloalkyl, alkenyl, alkyl-S-	178
$CH_2CH_2CMe_2$ 	179
$(CH_2)_2C(NO_2)_2R$ ( $R = NO_2, CH_2CH_2CO_2Me$ )	180
$CH_2CO_2Et$	181, 182
$CH_2CN$	182
$(CH_2)_nBr$ ( $n = 3-5$ )	183
$CH_2CH_2NR^1R^2$ ( $NR^1R^2 = \text{piperidino, etc.}$ )	184
	185
	186
$ArCH_2$ ( $Ar = \text{aryl}$ )	187-189
$ArNHCH_2$	190
	191
	192
$ArNHCH_2CH_2$	193
	194
2-Furyl	195
$CH_2CH_2$ -2-benzimidazolyl	196
$(CH_2)_2PO(OR)_2$ ( $R = \text{alkyl}$ )	197
$(CH_2)_2OP(OR)Me$ ( $R = \text{alkyl}$ )	198
$(CH_2)_2C(NO_2)_2(CH_2)_2C(OEt)=NH$	199

two products (**1.18** and **1.19**) are also formed by the reaction of 2-trichloromethylbenzimidazole (**1.20**) with *o*-phenylenediamine, the former is evidently an intermediate. Reaction of the appropriate imidate ester with *o*-phenylenediamine or its disalt gives the bibenzimidazolyl (**1.18**) in 90% yield, and indeed this is the synthetic method of choice for this compound and substituted analogs. However, by using *o*-phenylenediamine monosalt as such, or by generating it *in situ*, the reaction with methyl trichloroacetimidate gives 95% of the 2-trichloro derivative (**1.20**) even at room temperature.<sup>202</sup> Suppression of the reaction giving rise to 2,2'-bibenzimidazolyl (**1.18**) requires a rapid and complete initial reaction of the diamine with the imidate to give an intermediate (**1.21**), and this can be achieved at intermediate acidities (pH ~ 4).



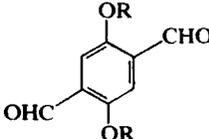
### Aldehydes

A summary of procedures leading to 2-substituted benzimidazoles by the reaction of *o*-arylenediamines with aldehydes is presented in Table 1.5.<sup>203-225</sup> In this method, the reactants are condensed in the presence of an oxidant<sup>1,6</sup> such as cupric acetate (Weidenhagen procedure),<sup>226</sup> mercuric oxide (for 2-NHCO<sub>2</sub>Me)<sup>204</sup> or chloranil (for 2-furyl).<sup>219b</sup>

An improvement on the conventional method is the use of the sodium bisulfite addition adduct of the aldehyde.<sup>227</sup> The reactions are carried out in boiling ethanol, yields are good [e.g., 2-Ph (90%); 2(3-pyridyl) (97%)], and there is little risk of decomposition of labile substituents. Evidently, the aldehyde route is suitable for the preparation of 2-hetaryl derivatives, and improved yields are also obtained by using the bisulfite addition complex of the aldehyde (for 2-furyl derivatives).<sup>219c</sup>

The superficially simple reaction of *o*-phenylenediamine and its derivatives with benzaldehyde has been studied in detail.<sup>210</sup> Benzaldehyde and *o*-phenylenediamine react rapidly at -20° to produce the imine (**1.21A**), and when the mixture is warmed to room temperature, 2-phenylbenzimidazole

TABLE 1.5. SYNTHESIS OF BENZIMIDAZOLES BY THE REACTION OF *o*-ARYL-ENEDIAMINES WITH ALDEHYDES

Aldehyde <sup>a</sup>	Ref.
RCHO (R = alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, hetaryl)	203
MeO <sub>2</sub> CNHCHO	204
CH <sub>2</sub> O <sup>b</sup>	205
ArCHO (Ar = aryl)	206-214
2-Furyl-CHO	215-219
(2-Furyl)CH=CHCHO	220
(3-thienyl)CHO	221
(2-pyridyl)CHO	222
(1-isoquinoliny)CHO	223
(2-quinoliny)CHO	223
(3-pyridyl)CHO	219a
(3-quinoliny)CHO	219a
(3-phthalimido)CHCHO (R = H, alkyl)	224
	225

<sup>a</sup> Substituents in the aldehyde and diamine are not shown.

<sup>b</sup> The products are 1-methylbenzimidazoles.

(**1.22**) is formed in 19% yield together with a molecular complex of (**1.23**) and (**1.24**). 2-Phenylbenzimidazole (**1.22**) must arise by oxidation of precursors (**1.21** or **1.25**), and it is suggested that the compensating reduction is that of the imine (**1.21**) to the diamine (**1.26**).<sup>210</sup> In support of this it has been shown that (**1.26**) reacts rapidly with benzaldehyde to give the dihydro compound (**1.24**), as the molecular complex with (**1.23**), together with 1,3-dibenzyl-2-phenylbenzimidazoline (**1.27**); NMR evidence has been adduced for the intermediacy of an imine in this reaction, and an oxidation-reduction step similar to (**1.21** → **1.26**) presumably occurs. A brief study of substituent effects has been carried out.<sup>214</sup> 3-Methyl-*o*-phenylenediamine reacts with benzaldehyde in acetic acid to give 2-phenyl-4-methylbenzimidazole (**1.28**) and the 1-benzyl derivative (**1.29**) but not the isomer (**1.30**).

The reaction of *o*-arylenediamines with formaldehyde gives rise to 1-methylbenzimidazoles,<sup>228,229</sup> and this type of process has been studied in detail.<sup>205</sup> It is possible to use the more easily accessible *N*-monoacetyl *o*-phenylenediamine derivatives, and in this manner a variety of 1-methyl derivatives can be prepared in yields of 42 to 59%.<sup>205</sup>