

Synthesis of 3,3'-[methylenebis(3,1-phenylenenitrilo)]bis[1,3-dihydro]-2H-indol-2-one as a novel bis-Schiff base

A. A. Jarrahpour*, D. Khalili

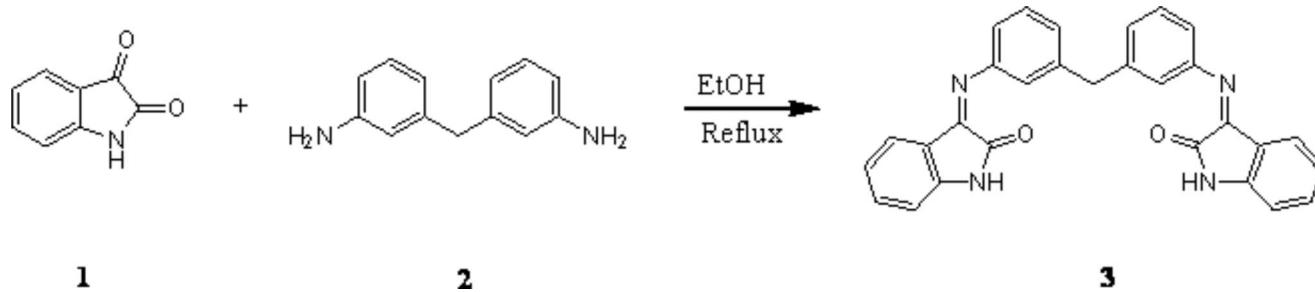
Department of Chemistry, College of Science, Shiraz University,
Shiraz 71454, Iran

Tel. +98 711 2284822, Fax: +98 711 2280926. e-mail: jarrahpour@chem.susc.ac.ir and aliasghar6683@yahoo.com

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Isatin (1H-indole-2,3-dione) was first obtained by Erdman and Laurent in 1841 as a product from the oxidation of indigo by nitric and chromic acids [1]. The synthetic versatility of isatin has led to the extensive use of this compound in organic synthesis. In nature, isatin is found in plants of the genus *Isatis* [2], in *Calanthe discolor* LINDL [3]. Isatin is the biologically active chemical produced by an *Altermones* sp. Strain inhabiting the surface of embryos of the cardiean shrimp *Palaemon macrodactylus*, which protect them from the pathogenic fungus *Lagenidium callinectes* [4]. Schiff bases of isatin were reported to possess anti-HIV [5-7], anticonvulsant [8], antibacterial [9-11], antiprotozoal [12,13], antifungal [14-16], antiviral [17-19] and antihelminthic [20,21] activities. The Schiff bases of isatin have also been used as a ligand for complexation of metals such as copper (II) [22]. Based on these facts, we decided to synthesize a new isatin bis-Schiff base as potential biological and complexometric agents. Its biological activities and analytical works are under study.



Isatin **1** (2.00 g, 13.6 mmol) and 3,3'-diaminodiphenylmethane **2** (1.35 g, 6.8 mmol) were dissolved in 35 mL of warm ethanol containing 0.45 mL of acetic acid. The reaction mixture was refluxed for 17h and set aside. The resultant solid was filtered and washed with ethanol. Pure Schiff base **3** was obtained upon recrystallization from ethanol (2.40 g, 77.3%).

Melting point: >260°C

IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 1652 (C=N); 1726.2 (C=O); 3168.8 (N-H).

¹H-NMR (250MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ= 10.96 (1H, s, N-H); 7.43-6.29 (16H, m, ArH); 4.07 (2H, s, CH₂).

¹³C-NMR (62.9 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ= 72.54; 115.63; 116.39; 119.11; 120.04; 121.65; 122.25; 124.28; 126.41; 127.20; 130.18; 130.35; 134.66; 139.19; 147.51; 151.73; 155.53; 159.76; 168.29.

MS (m/z, %): 457 (17.40); 456 (34.40); 327 (12.40); 312 (31.40); 299 (14.20); 284 (23.40); 44 (100.00).

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