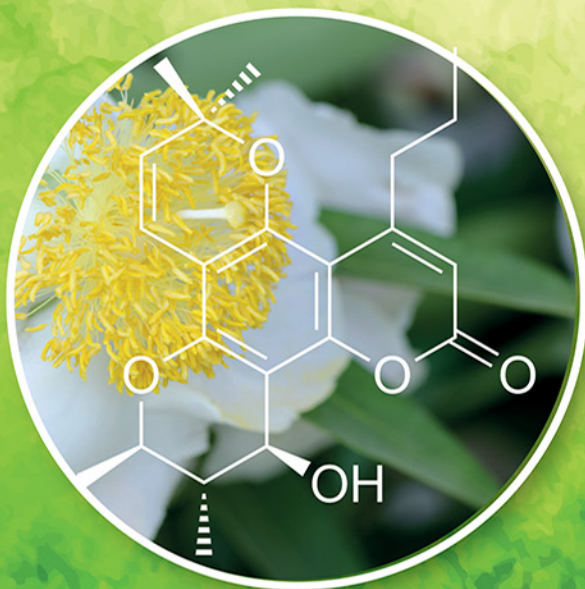


Advances in **Green and Sustainable Chemistry**

Second Edition



Green Synthetic Approaches for Biologically Relevant Heterocycles

Volume 2: Green Catalytic Systems and Solvents



Edited by
Goutam Brahmachari

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Goutam Brahmachari

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Contents

List of Contributors	xvii
Biography	xix
Foreword	xxi
Preface	xxiii

1. Green synthetic approaches for biologically relevant heterocycles: green catalytic systems and solvents— an overview	1
<i>Goutam Brahmachari</i>	
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 An overview of the book	2
1.2.1 Chapter 2 , Recent Advances in the Synthesis of Bioactive Five- and Six-Membered Heterocycles Catalyzed by Heterogeneous Metal Catalysts	2
1.2.2 Chapter 3 , Metal-Catalyzed Routes for the Synthesis of Furocoumarins and Coumestans	3
1.2.3 Chapter 4 , Porous Catalytic Systems in the Synthesis of Bioactive Heterocycles and Related Compound	3
1.2.4 Chapter 5 , Solid Acids for the Synthesis of Biologically Active Heterocycles	3
1.2.5 Chapter 6 , Proline and Proline-Derived Organocatalysts in the Synthesis of Heterocycles	4
1.2.6 Chapter 7 , An Update on a Greener Organocatalytic Chemical Approach for the Synthesis of Biginelli Adducts	4
1.2.7 Chapter 8 , Recent Developments on Ionic Liquids—Mediated Synthetic Protocols for Biologically Relevant Five- and Six-Membered Heterocyclic Skeletons	5
1.2.8 Chapter 9 , Heterocycles-Based Ionic Liquid—Supported Synthesis of Small Organic Molecules	6
1.2.9 Chapter 10 , Green Solvents for Eco-Friendly Synthesis of Bioactive Heterocycles	6
1.2.10 Chapter 11 , Green Synthetic Approaches for Biologically Relevant 2-Amino-4 <i>H</i> -Pyrans and 2-Amino-4 <i>H</i> -Pyran-Annulated Heterocycles in Aqueous Media	6
1.2.11 Chapter 12 , An Update on Synthetic Methods for Small and Medium Aza-Heterocycles in Aqueous Media	7

1.2.12	Chapter 13 , Green and Catalytic Methods for γ -Lactone Synthesis	8
1.2.13	Chapter 14 , Green Synthetic Approaches for Medium Ring-Sized Heterocycles of Biological and Pharmaceutical Interest	8
1.2.14	Chapter 15 , Green Chemistry of Evergreen Imines in the Synthesis of Nitrogen-Containing Heterocycles	8
1.2.15	Chapter 16 , Green Synthetic Approaches Towards Benzimidazole and Quinoxaline Scaffolds	9
1.3	Concluding remarks	9
2.	Recent advances in the synthesis of bioactive five- and six-membered heterocycles catalyzed by heterogeneous metal catalysts	11
	<i>Brindaban C. Ranu, Tubai Ghosh and Laksmikanta Adak</i>	
2.1	Introduction	11
2.2	Synthesis of nitrogen-containing heterocycles	12
2.2.1	Five-membered N-containing heterocycles	12
2.2.2	Six-membered N-containing heterocycles	29
2.3	Synthesis of oxygen-containing heterocycles	35
2.3.1	Five-membered O-containing heterocycles	35
2.3.2	Six-membered O-containing heterocycles	36
2.4	Synthesis of sulfur- and selenium-containing heterocycles	39
2.5	Synthesis of heterocycles containing more than one type of heteroatom	39
2.6	Synthesis of fused heterocycles	40
2.7	Synthesis of other heterocycles	43
2.7.1	Synthesis of purines	43
2.7.2	Synthesis of pyrrolo[1,2-a]quinolones	44
2.7.3	Synthesis of imidazo[1,2-a] pyridines	44
2.8	Concluding remarks	45
	Acknowledgment	45
	References	45
3.	Metal-catalyzed routes for the synthesis of furocoumarins and coumestans	53
	<i>Victorio Cadierno</i>	
3.1	Introduction	53
3.2	Synthetic routes to furocoumarin derivatives	55
3.2.1	Furan ring construction	55
3.2.2	Pyrone ring construction	71
3.3	Synthetic routes to coumestan derivatives	75

3.3.1	Benzofuran ring construction	75
3.3.2	Pyrone ring construction	83
3.4	Concluding remarks	86
	Acknowledgments	86
	References	86
4.	Porous catalytic systems in the synthesis of bioactive heterocycles and related compounds	97
	<i>Elena Pérez-Mayoral and Antonio J. López-Peinado</i>	
4.1	Introduction	97
4.2	Porous catalytic systems	98
4.3	Synthesis of bioactive heterocycles catalyzed by porous materials	102
4.3.1	O-Containing heterocyclic compounds	102
4.3.2	N-containing heterocycles compounds	116
4.4	Concluding remarks	149
	Acknowledgment	150
	References	150
5.	Solid acids for the synthesis of biologically active heterocycles	165
	<i>Manisha Mishra and Béla Török</i>	
5.1	Introduction	165
5.2	Solid acids	165
5.3	Silica based solid acids	168
5.3.1	Silica-supported boron trifluoride	168
5.3.2	Silica supported zinc salts	170
5.3.3	Silica supported protic acids	170
5.3.4	Silica supported ionic liquids	174
5.3.5	Silica supported heteropolyacids	177
5.4	Clays as solid acid catalysts	179
5.5	Zeolite based solid acids	188
5.6	Polymer based solid acids	190
5.7	Zirconia (ZrO ₂) based solid acids	194
5.8	Carbon based solid acids	197
5.9	Concluding remarks	203
	References	203
6.	Proline and proline-derived organocatalysts in the synthesis of heterocycles	215
	<i>Pradeep Kumar and Shruti Satbhaya</i>	
6.1	Introduction	215
6.2	Synthesis of nitrogen-containing heterocycles	216

6.2.1	Synthesis of quinoline, pyridine, and pyrimidine framework	217
6.2.2	Synthesis of imidazole, phthalimide, pyrrole, indole, and triazole derivatives	222
6.2.3	Synthesis of chiral 4-hydroxypyrazolidine derivatives	224
6.2.4	Synthesis of indolizidine, pyrrolizidine, and quinolizidine framework	226
6.2.5	Total synthesis and formal synthesis of natural products	227
6.3	Synthesis of oxygen-containing heterocycles	230
6.3.1	Synthesis of 4 <i>H</i> -pyran and 2 <i>H</i> -pyran derivatives	231
6.3.2	Synthesis of furan ring	233
6.3.3	Synthesis of hexose derivatives	234
6.3.4	Synthesis of lactone derivatives	234
6.3.5	Synthesis of flavones	236
6.3.6	Synthesis of natural products	237
6.4	Synthesis of sulphur-containing heterocycles	238
6.4.1	Synthesis of thiochromene	238
6.5	Miscellaneous reactions	239
6.6	Concluding remarks	243
	References	244
7.	An update on a greener organocatalytic chemical approach for the synthesis of Biginelli adducts	253
	<i>Ângelo de Fátima, Taniris Cafiero Braga, Bruna Silva Terra and Leonardo da Silva Neto</i>	
7.1	Introduction	253
7.1.1	The Biginelli reaction	253
7.1.2	Mechanism of the Biginelli reaction: an overview	255
7.2	Classes of organocatalysts used in the Biginelli reaction	258
7.2.1	Organic acids: catalysts for Biginelli reactions	258
7.2.2	Amino acids: useful and stereoselective catalysts for the Biginelli reaction	266
7.2.3	Polymers and macrocycles	274
7.2.4	Enzymes and biocatalysts for the Biginelli reaction	278
7.2.5	Other organocatalysts used in Biginelli reactions	280
7.3	Biological significance of 3,4-dihydropyrimidin-2(1<i>H</i>)-ones/-thiones	284
7.4	Concluding remarks	291
	Acknowledgments	292
	References	292

8. Recent developments on ionic liquids-mediated synthetic protocols for biologically relevant five- and six-membered heterocyclic skeletons	301
<i>Priyanka Bose, Anand K. Agrahari, Sumit K. Singh, Anoop S. Singh, Mangal S. Yadav, Sanchayita Rajkhowa and Vinod K. Tiwari</i>	
8.1 Introduction	301
8.2 Ionic liquids: impact and general consideration	303
8.2.1 Synthesis of five-membered heterocycles	305
8.2.2 Synthesis of six-membered heterocycles	321
8.3 Synthesis of some other spiro heterocycles	345
8.4 Concluding remarks	349
Acknowledgments	350
References	350
9. Heterocycles-based ionic liquid–supported synthesis of small organic molecules	365
<i>Indrajeet J. Barve, Kanchan Badrinath More and Chung-Ming Sun</i>	
9.1 Introduction	365
9.2 Ionic liquid–supported synthesis of small molecules	367
9.3 Ionic liquid–supported carbohydrate synthesis	375
9.4 Ionic liquid–supported reagents	376
9.4.1 Ionic liquid–supported hypervalent iodine reagent	377
9.4.2 Ionic liquid–supported organotin reagents	379
9.5 Ionic liquid–supported catalysts	381
9.6 Concluding remarks	389
References	390
10. Green solvents for eco-friendly synthesis of bioactive heterocycles	393
<i>Anton V. Dolzhenko</i>	
10.1 Introduction	393
10.2 Heterocyclic synthesis in supercritical carbon dioxide	394
10.2.1 Five-membered heterocycles with one heteroatom	395
10.2.2 Five-membered heterocycles with more than one heteroatom	396
10.2.3 Six-membered heterocycles with one heteroatom	400
10.2.4 Six-membered heterocycles with more than one heteroatom	401
10.3 Heterocyclic synthesis in polyethylene glycol	402
10.3.1 Small-ring synthesis	402
10.3.2 Five-membered heterocycles with one heteroatom	402

10.3.3	Five-membered heterocycles with more than one heteroatom	410
10.3.4	Six-membered heterocycles with one heteroatom	424
10.3.5	Six-membered heterocycles with more than one heteroatom	435
10.3.6	Seven-membered heterocycles	443
10.4	Heterocyclic synthesis in glycerol	444
10.4.1	Five-membered heterocycles with one heteroatom	445
10.4.2	Five-membered heterocycles with more than one heteroatom	446
10.4.3	Six-membered heterocycles with one heteroatom	448
10.4.4	Six-membered heterocycles with more than one heteroatom	450
10.4.5	Seven-membered heterocycles	453
10.5	Heterocyclic synthesis in gluconic acid aqueous solution	453
10.6	Heterocyclic synthesis in ethyl lactate	454
10.7	Concluding remarks	456
	References	457
11.	Green synthetic approaches for biologically relevant 2-amino-4<i>H</i>-pyrans and 2-amino-4<i>H</i>-pyran-annulated heterocycles in aqueous media	471
	<i>Goutam Brahmachari</i>	
11.1	Introduction	471
11.2	Synthetic approaches for 2-amino-4 <i>H</i> -pyrans and 2-amino-4 <i>H</i> -pyran-annulated heterocycles in water and ethanol–water media	473
11.2.1	“On-water” synthesis	473
11.2.2	Synthesis in ethanol–water media	486
11.3	Concluding remarks	495
	Acknowledgments	495
	References	495
12.	An update on synthetic methods for small and medium aza-heterocycles in aqueous media	505
	<i>Girija S. Singh</i>	
12.1	Introduction	505
12.2	Three-membered heterocycles—aziridines	506
12.3	Four-membered heterocycles: azetidines and 2-azetidinones	508
12.4	Five-membered heterocycles	509
12.4.1	Formation of pyrrole, pyrrolidine, and pyrrolidinone rings	509
12.4.2	Formation of pyrazole ring	512

12.4.3	Formation of imidazole, thiazole, and thiazolidine rings	514
12.4.4	Formation of isoxazolidine ring	517
12.4.5	Formation of triazole ring	518
12.4.6	Formation of 1,2,4-oxadiazole and 1,4,2-dioxazole rings	518
12.5	Six-membered heterocycles	519
12.5.1	Formation of pyridine, dihydropyridine, tetrahydropyridine, and quinoline rings	519
12.5.2	Formation of pyrimidine ring	522
12.5.3	Formation of phenazine ring	523
12.5.4	Formation of quinazoline ring	524
12.5.5	Formation of 1,2,4-oxadiazino[4,5-a]quinolone ring	525
12.5.6	Formation of 1,2,4-oxadiazinane and 1,4,2-dioxazinane rings	526
12.6	Seven-membered heterocycles	527
12.6.1	Formation of benzodiazepine ring	527
12.6.2	Formation of thiazepine, benzoxazepin, and benzothiazepine rings	530
12.7	Concluding remarks	530
	References	531
13.	Green and catalytic methods for γ-lactone synthesis	537
	<i>Hikaru Yanai</i>	
13.1	Introduction	537
13.2	γ-Lactone synthesis through addition to C–C multiple bonds	538
13.2.1	Halolactonization and related reactions	538
13.2.2	Transition metal-catalyzed reactions	543
13.2.3	Radical addition reactions	553
13.3	γ-Lactone synthesis through addition to C–O double bond	556
13.3.1	Aldol and related reactions	556
13.3.2	Allylation reactions using 2-(alkoxycarbonyl)allyl metal species	558
13.3.3	Transition metal-catalyzed reactions	562
13.3.4	Miscellaneous reactions	565
13.4	Catalytic cycloaddition and metathesis reactions of ester-tethered substrates	568
13.5	Functionalization of γ-lactones	572
13.5.1	Vinylogous aldol and related reactions	572
13.5.2	Arylation, alkenylation, and allylation of γ -lactones	591
13.5.3	Cycloaddition reactions of γ -butenolides	596
13.6	Concluding remarks	597
	Abbreviations	598
	References	599

14. Green synthetic approaches for medium ring—sized heterocycles of biological and pharmaceutical interest	617
<i>Saikat Chaudhuri, Amrita Ghosh and Shital K Chattopadhyay</i>	
14.1 Introduction	617
14.2 Use of greener solvents	618
14.3 Use of ionic liquids in organic synthesis	624
14.4 Microwave-assisted synthesis	626
14.5 Ultrasound as an enabling technique	633
14.6 Photochemical transformations	634
14.7 Use of ball milling	640
14.8 Use of fluorous techniques	640
14.9 Use of heterogeneous catalysis	641
14.10 Concluding remarks	643
References	643
 15. Green chemistry of evergreen imines in the synthesis of nitrogen-containing heterocycles	 655
<i>Girija S. Singh</i>	
15.1 Introduction	655
15.2 Synthesis of imines	657
15.2.1 Condensation of aldehydes and ketones with amines	657
15.2.2 Other methods	659
15.3 Applications of imines in heterocyclic synthesis	660
15.3.1 Synthesis of three-membered heterocycles	661
15.3.2 Synthesis of four-membered heterocycles	662
15.3.3 Synthesis of five-membered heterocycles	665
15.3.4 Synthesis of six-membered heterocycles	671
15.3.5 Synthesis of seven-membered heterocycles	678
15.4 Concluding remarks	680
References	681
 16. Green synthetic approaches towards benzimidazole and quinoxaline scaffolds	 689
<i>Prasun Choudhury and Basudeb Basu</i>	
16.1 Introduction	689
16.2 Methods of synthesis of benzimidazoles/quinoxalines using greener strategies	691
16.2.1 Polymer supported synthesis	692
16.2.2 Solid acid promoted synthesis	702
16.2.3 Solid base promoted synthesis	706
16.2.4 Metal-catalyzed synthesis	706

16.2.5	Microwave-assisted synthesis	727
16.2.6	On-water synthesis	731
16.2.7	Graphene based materials in catalysis	736
16.2.8	Synthesis by photocatalysis	740
16.2.9	Synthesis using organocatalysts	742
16.2.10	Synthesis by using ionic liquids/N-heterocyclic carbene	748
16.2.11	Miscellaneous synthetic protocols	751
16.3	Concluding remarks	755
	References	756
	Index	769

Green synthetic approaches for medium ring—sized heterocycles of biological and pharmaceutical interest

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14.1 Introduction

Heterocyclic compounds constitute an important class of compounds because of their prevalence in natural products of marine and terrestrial origin [1] and pharmaceutical compounds [1,2]. Many of the approved drugs contain heterocyclic ring system as active pharmacophoric part. The wide variety of heterocyclic ring systems offers a unique advantage in the arena of pharmaceuticals as small lead compounds in drug design. Among different kinds of heterocyclic ring systems, nitrogen heterocyclic compounds are more abundant in nature as part structural unit of important bioactive compounds such as antibiotics, vitamins, and hormones. They are also prevalent among herbicides, fungicides, and other application-oriented molecules. It is gratifying to note that heterocyclic compounds constitute nearly 50% of known organic compounds and nearly 90% of active pharmaceuticals. Majority of these heterocyclic drugs contain small ring structures ranging from 3 to 6. However, medium ring—sized heterocyclic compounds (7–9 members) are gaining quick recognition as important heterocyclic motifs of biological relevance in drug design over the last few decades. In particular, ring systems such as oxepine, oxocin, azepine, azocine, diazepin, dioxepine, oxazepine, thiazepine, and their benzo-fused analogs are found in compounds associated with a wide range of physiological activities. It is recorded that >2000 oxepine structures and more than 350 azepine structures are associated with pharmacological activities. Similarly, medium ring—sized systems containing more than two hetero atoms of one or more kinds have also appeared as compounds of considerable

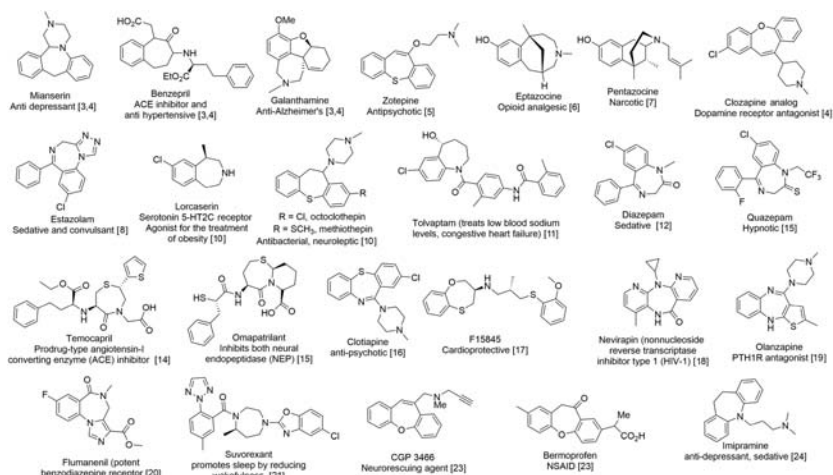


FIGURE 14.1 Pharmaceutically important benz-annulated medium ring-sized heterocyclic compounds.

pharmacological significance. Fig. 14.1 offers few examples of this class of molecules [3–24].

Synthesis of medium ring-sized heterocyclic compounds has, therefore, attracted the attention of synthetic and medicinal chemists [25]. It is known that synthesis of medium-ring structures is plagued by enthalpic and entropic difficulties. Moreover, unfavorable conformational features provide additional problems. This, in turn, has provided scope for the development of newer methodologies to access such ring systems. The majority of the newer developments in this field have embraced the use of several recently developed metal-mediated transformations to overcome some of these difficulties [26]. Applications of green synthetic approaches are, thus, welcome in this domain as well. In the following sections, some of these developments are highlighted and arranged according to the type of the enabling techniques.

In the greener approach to medium ring-sized compounds, various enabling techniques such as microwave (MW), ultrasound, ball milling, and greener reaction mediums such as ionic liquids (ILs), and aqueous media have seen many applications. The advancements made will be briefly reviewed.

14.2 Use of greener solvents

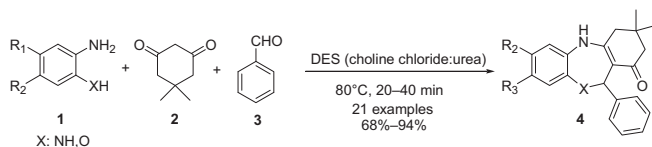
This section deals with the use of a variety of green solvents in the synthesis of title compounds. In the last decade, deep eutectic solvents (DESs) have gained extensive attention. DESs are prepared by mixing high melting components having the ability to form strong hydrogen-bonding interactions in the liquid phase that reduce the ability of the precursors to crystallize [27,28].

DESs are simple to prepare and require inexpensive materials, require little purification, generate little waste, and possess high atom-economical aspects embracing many of the principles of *green chemistry* [29].

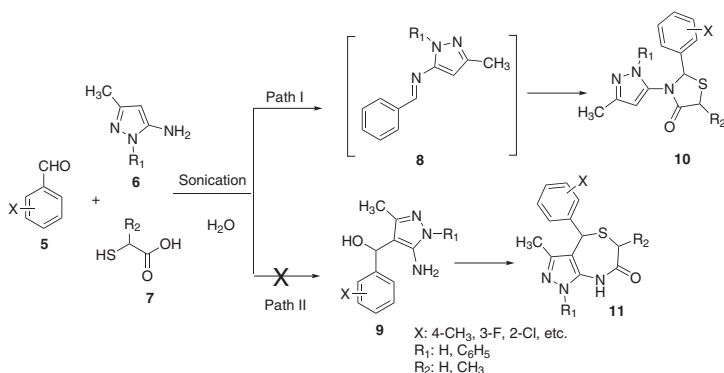
Shaabani et al. reported a combination of choline chloride and urea as a DES for the synthesis of benzo-fused seven-membered heterocycles, including tricyclic 1,4-benzodiazepines and 1,4-benzoxazepines (Scheme 14.1), via a three-component, one-pot reaction [30]. The reaction conditions are relatively mild and do not require acid catalysts, additional metals, or organic solvents. The method has the advantages of short reaction time, excellent yield, an easy workup procedure, and being environment-friendly.

Dandia et al. [31] reported an efficient ultrasound-promoted green method for the synthesis of pyrazolo[3,4-*e*][1,4]thiazepine derivatives **11** in water. The reaction proceeds well without using any catalyst or additive in aqueous medium. A notable feature of the reaction is the formation of a heptacyclic ring system instead of the expected pentacyclic one **10**. The protocol is easy to operate, involves shorter reaction time, and the yield is also very good (Scheme 14.2).

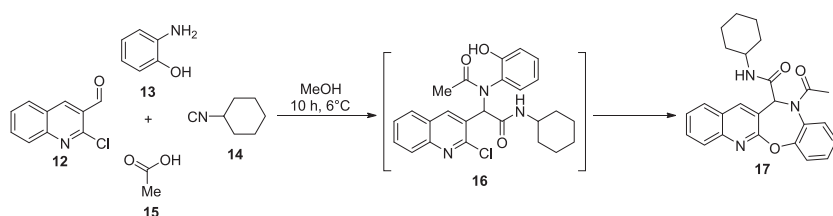
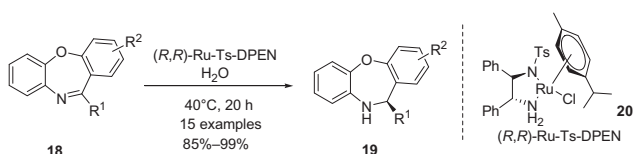
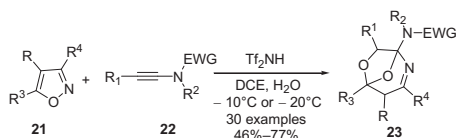
A convenient and facile method was reported by Ghandi et al. for the synthesis of functionalized quino[2,3-*b*][1,5]benzoxazepines **17** (Scheme 14.3) [32]. The compounds were synthesized through a one-pot sequential Ugi-4CR/base-free intramolecular aromatic nucleophilic substitution (S_NAr) reaction in



SCHEME 14.1 Synthesis of benzo-fused seven-membered heterocycles via a three-component reaction in DES. DES, Deep eutectic solvent.



SCHEME 14.2 Synthesis of pyrazolo[3,4-*e*][1,4]thiazepine.

SCHEME 14.3 Synthesis of quino[2,3-*b*][1,5]benzoxazepines.SCHEME 14.4 ATH of benzo[*b,f*][1,4]oxazepine in water. ATH, Asymmetric transfer hydrogen.

SCHEME 14.5 The reaction of ynamides with 3,5-dimethylisoxazole.

moderate-to-good yields. Thus, when a mixture of 2-chloroquinoline-3-carbaldehyde **12**, 2-aminophenol **13**, acetic acid **15**, and cyclohexyl isocyanide **14** was refluxed in methanol, compound **17** was directly obtained as the sole product in 83% yield within 10 h.

Asymmetric hydrogenation of imines is one of the most prominent methods for directly accessing enantiopure amines. Water-mediated asymmetric transfer hydrogen (ATH) reaction is a green, cost-effective, and operationally simpler approach than molecular hydrogenation. More and Bhanage reported a phosphine-free catalytic ATH protocol for diverse dibenzo[*b,f*][1,4]oxazepines **19** (Scheme 14.4) with an unmodified (*R,R*)-Ru-TsDPEN complex **20** in aqueous medium [33]. The desired cyclic amine was obtained in high yield (>95%) with excellent enantioselectivity (up to 93% ee) at 40°C in 12 h. Additional advantages of aqueous-mediated ATH methods are nonrequirement of inert atmosphere, use of HCOOH–HCOONa as a green hydrogen source, atom-economy, and the use of water as an environmentally benign solvent.

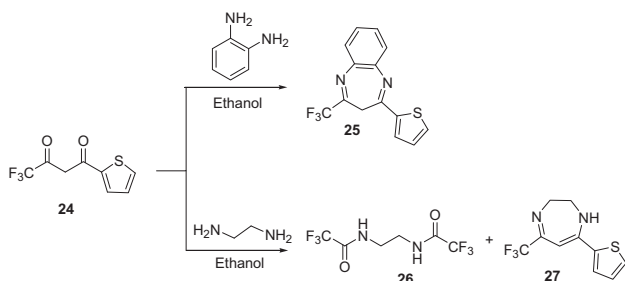
Very recently, a formal [5 + 2 + 1] cycloaddition of ynamides and isoxazoles under Brønsted acid-catalysis in water was reported by Wan and coworkers [34], which provided an atom-economical access to oxygen-bridged tetrahydro-1,4-oxazepines **23** (Scheme 14.5). This methodology not only

enriches the chemistry of ynamides but also provides important insights into the cycloaddition manifold with distinct selectivity.

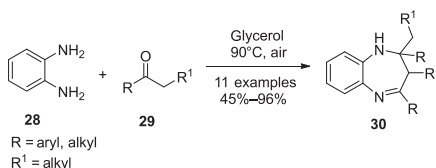
Manzur et al. described a facile synthesis of new diazepine derivatives in ethanol containing the 2-thienyl unit. Thus one-pot double condensation reaction of 2-thienyltrifluoroacetone (2-TTA) **24** (Scheme 14.6) with ethylenediamine or *o*-phenylenediamine, in a 2:1 stoichiometric ratio, leads to the formation of 7-(thiophene-2-yl)-5-(trifluoromethyl)-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-1,4-diazepine **25** and 2-thiophene-4-trifluoromethyl-1,5-benzodiazepine **27** in 56% and 53% yields, respectively. The bis(trifluoroacetamide) ethylene derivative **26** was also isolated in 32% yield as a side-product in the reaction of 2-TTA and ethylenediamine.

A simple, efficient, and catalyst-free synthesis of benzodiazepines and benzimidazoles by the condensation of *o*-phenylenediamine with carbonyl compounds in glycerol solvent was reported. The product 1*H*-1,5-benzodiazepines **30** (Scheme 14.7) was obtained in good yield. In addition, glycerol can be reused without purification for further condensation reactions [35].

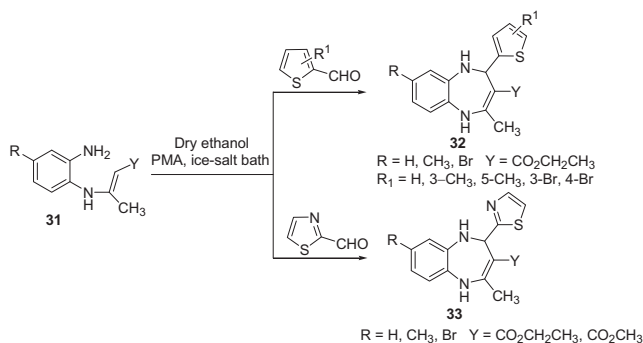
Wang and coworkers [36] reported synthesis of a novel class of benzodiazepines by condensation of enamines of the type **31** (Scheme 14.8) with thiophene aldehyde or thiazole aldehyde in ethanol at 0°C in the presence of a catalytic amount of phosphomolybdic acid. The products **32** and/or **33** were obtained in 80%–90% yield. In vitro antimicrobial activity against *Candida neoformans*, *Candida albicans*, *Escherichia coli*, and *Staphylococcus aureus* were evaluated for all the synthesized 1,5-benzodiazepine derivatives. The most active derivative of the 1,5-benzodiazepine series exhibited biological



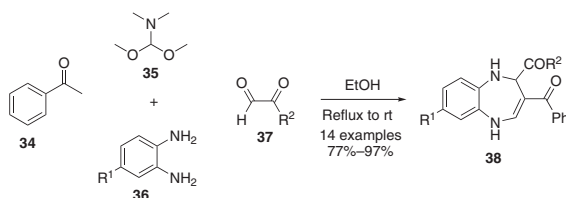
SCHEME 14.6 Synthesis of diazepine.



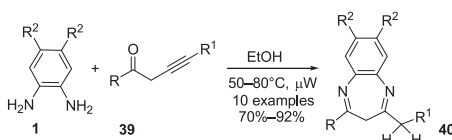
SCHEME 14.7 Synthesis of 1*H*-1,5-benzodiazepines.



SCHEME 14.8 Synthesis of benzodiazepines.



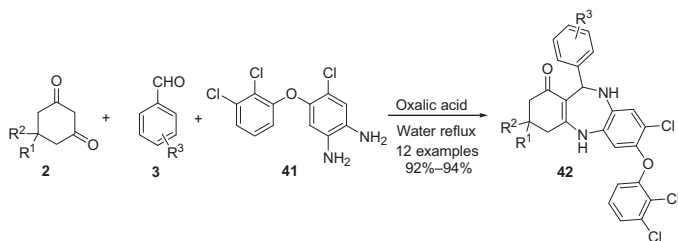
SCHEME 14.9 Synthesis route to 3-acyl-1,5-benzodiazepine.

SCHEME 14.10 The synthesis of 1,5-diazepine from alk-3-ynone and *o*-phenylenediamine.

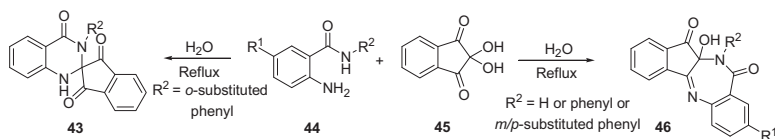
activity and shows considerable potency against all of the tested strains [36]. In particular, compound **33** (when $\text{R}=\text{H}$) exhibited excellent antifungal activity and was found to be 32–64 and 9–12.8 times more potent than the reference drugs against *C. neoformans*, respectively.

Very recently, Wang and coworkers developed a novel, catalyst-free one-pot synthesis of diverse 3-acyl-1,5-benzodiazepines **38** (Scheme 14.9) through a domino reaction of *N,N*-dimethylformamide dimethyl acetal **35**, aromatic ketones **34**, 1,2-phenylenediamine **36**, and aldehyde derivatives **37** using ethanol as solvent [37]. The main features of this protocol include the use of inexpensive and easily available starting materials, convenient one-pot operation, ease of product purification, good yields, and a broad substrate scope.

Dembinski and coworkers reported a condensation reaction of derivative of *o*-phenylenediamines **1** and alk-3-yn-1-ones **39** subsequently provided a diverse 2,4-disubstituted 1,5-benzodiazepines **40** (Scheme 14.10) with



SCHEME 14.11 Synthesis of dibenz[1,4]-diazepine-1-ones catalyzed by oxalic acid in water.



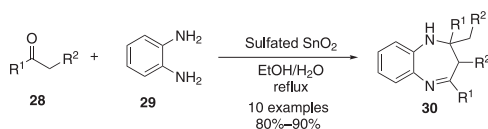
SCHEME 14.12 Reaction of ninhydrin with 2-aminobenzamide derivative.

moderate-to-good yields (70%–92%) using commercial grade ethanol as solvent under MW irradiation [38]. This catalyst-free method includes formation of two C=N bonds and does not require the isolation of the enaminone. The anti-Markovnikov regio-chemistry was observed for the overall formal amination reaction.

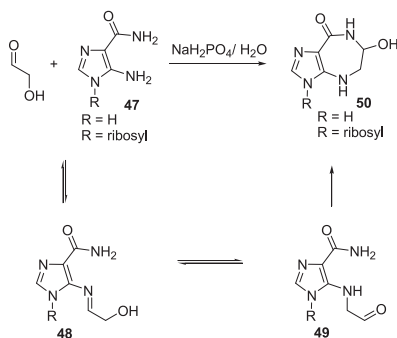
Sangshetti and coworkers also demonstrated a green catalytic process for the synthesis of some new dibenz[1,4]-diazepine-1-one derivatives of the type **42** (Scheme 14.11) [39]; the greener components are the use of oxalic acid as catalyst and water as solvent. The methodology involved a one-pot three-component condensation of aromatic aldehydes, 1,3-diketones, and 1,2-diamines. Other advantages of this method are good yield (92%–94%), short reaction time, easy workup, simplicity in operation, and mild reaction conditions.

An efficient synthesis of 11a-hydroxy-11,11a-dihydrobenzo[*e*]indeno[2,1-*b*][1,4]diazepine-10,12-dione derivatives **46** (Scheme 14.12) through an unprecedented condensation of ninhydrin **45** [40] with amino-*N*-phenylbenzamide **44** in aqueous environment was reported. The reaction proceeds through double-nucleophilic attack on C-2 of ninhydrin when a 2-amino-*N*-phenylbenzamide derivative **44** bears an *ortho*-substituent in the *N*-phenyl group. Since the 1,4-benzodiazepine scaffold is encountered in several biologically and pharmacologically active products, this protocol may serve as a platform for the synthesis of a diverse array of potentially active molecules from simple starting materials.

Munde and coworkers reported a mild protocol for the synthesis of 1,5-benzodiazepines derivative **30** (Scheme 14.13) at ethanol/water (1:1) reflux condition [41]. The methodology involved condensation of phenylenediamine



SCHEME 14.13 Synthesis of 1,5-benzodiazepines.

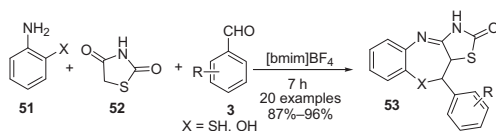
SCHEME 14.14 The synthesis of azepinomycin ($\text{R} = \text{H}$) azepinomycin riboside ($\text{R} = \text{ribofuranosyl}$) in water.

28 with various ketones **29** using sulfated tin oxide (25 mol%) as a heterogeneous catalyst. The offered method revealed 80%–90% yield of 1,5-benzodiazepines **30**. The sulfated tin oxide catalyst was salvaged by a simple filtration.

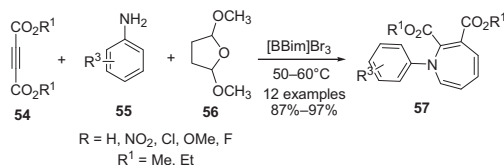
Pownier et al. described an atom-economic, high-yielding, chromatography-free, and protecting-group-free strategy for the synthesis of azepinomycins **50** (Scheme 14.14) by condensation of glycolaldehyde with 5-aminoimidazole-4-carboxamide **47** using water as solvent and sodium dihydrogenphosphate as catalyst [42]. The protocol demonstrated the pH dependence of an aminoimidazole tethering strategy that uses an Amadori rearrangement.

14.3 Use of ionic liquids in organic synthesis

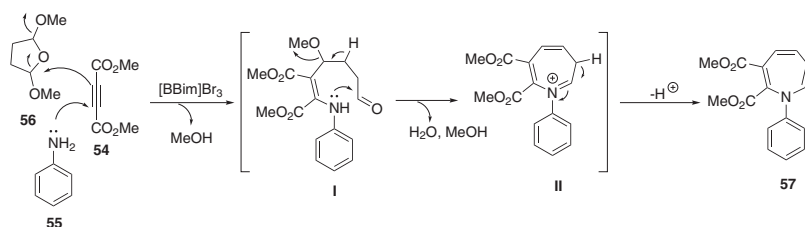
The use of ILs as alternative reaction media to traditional molecular solvents is a rapidly growing field. ILs have many advantages such as negligible vapor pressure, tunable miscibility, ease of product isolation, thermal robustness, recyclability, and reusability. They have also been referred to as *designer solvents* as their chemical and physical properties could be adjusted by a careful choice of cation/anion. Room temperature ILs based on 1-alkyl-3-imidazolium cation has shown great promise in a variety of organic transformations. Moreover, outcomes of many of these reactions such as regioselectivity and chemo-selectivity may differ on changing to an IL as solvent. In addition, occasional catalytic activity has also been recorded which has been attributed to the inherent Brønsted and Lewis acidities of the ring hydrogens H-2, H-4,



SCHEME 14.15 Synthesis of thiazepines and oxazepines in ionic liquid.



SCHEME 14.16 Synthesis of *N*-substituted azepine derivatives.



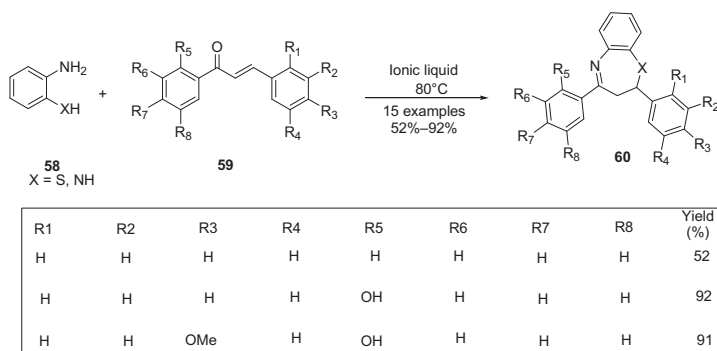
SCHEME 14.17 A plausible mechanism for the formation of *N*-substituted azepine derivatives.

and H-5 of the imidazolium cation in [bbim]Br. All these factors have prompted the use of ILs in the synthesis of heterocycles. Some of the applications in the medium ring-sized heterocycles are briefly reviewed herein.

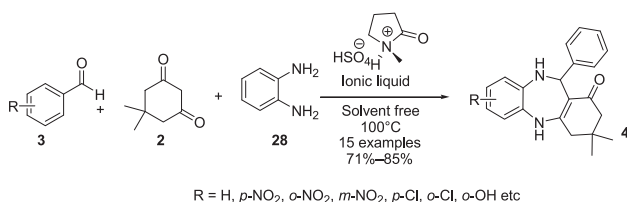
Kommidi and coworkers reported an eco-friendly method for the synthesis of thiazepines and oxazepines **53** (Scheme 14.15) of thiazolidine 2,4-dione **52** in high yields through a one-pot, three-component reaction between cyclic ketone, substituted aromatic aldehyde, and 2-amino phenol or 2-amino thiophenol using [bmim]BF₄ as the IL at room temperature [43]. The IL, [bmib]BF₄, not only improved the yields but also drastically reduced the reaction time.

An environmentally benign, IL endorsed multicomponent method to *N*-substituted azepines has been reported involving coupling of aromatic amines **55**, dimethyl acetylene dicarboxylate **54**, and 2,5-dimethoxytetrahydrofuran **56** in the presence 1,3-di-*n*-butylimidazolium tribromide [BBim]Br₃ as reaction medium and catalyst (Scheme 14.16) [44]. The products **57** were obtained in very good yields. The key benefit is the recyclability of the IL used. A possible mechanism for the transformation is shown in Scheme 14.17.

Very recently, Sakirolla and coworkers have developed an elegant, new, and environment-friendly method for the synthesis of 1,5-benzothiazepines



SCHEME 14.18 Synthesis of 1,5-benzodiazepines and 1,5-benzothiazepines.



SCHEME 14.19 Synthesis of 4-substituted-1,5-benzodiazepines.

and 1,5-benzodiazepine using di-cationic liquid as a solvent cum catalyst by the reaction of *o*-aminothiophenol **58** with a variety of chalcones **59** (Scheme 14.18) under mild reaction conditions [45]. The reaction was proposed to proceed through a 1,4-conjugate Michael addition of chalcone with *o*-phenylenediamine or *o*-aminothiophenol followed by a cyclo-condensation reaction to give desired 1,5-benzodiazepines and 1,5-benzothiazepines **60**.

Naeimi and Foroughi reported an efficient, nontoxic, inexpensive and environmentally benign method for the one-pot synthesis of 4-substituted-1,5-benzodiazepines **4** via the three-component reaction of a series of aldehydes **3** with dimedone **2** and *o*-phenylenediamine **28** using [H-NMP][HSO₄] as a Brønsted acidic IL catalyst under solvent-free conditions (Scheme 14.19) [46]. Initially, Michael addition reaction of dimedone with activated *o*-phenylenediamine provides an enamine intermediate (not isolated), which then reacts with the aromatic aldehyde to give the corresponding imine that in turn undergoes an intramolecular cyclodehydration reaction to furnish 4-substituted-1,5-benzodiazepines.

14.4 Microwave-assisted synthesis

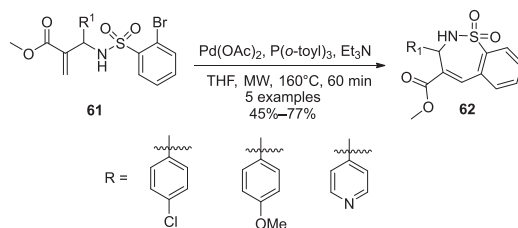
MW-assisted synthesis is a good technique in the field of green chemistry and manages a flexible platform for heterocycle ring formation. MW-assisted

reactions have quickly become a robust and efficient tool in synthetic organic chemistry. In recent years a large number of reports appeared through MW-assisted synthesis of *S*-containing heterocycles. The importance of *S*-containing heterocyclic compounds for biomedical [47] and material science applications [48] has led to an increase in the number of synthetic methods available for the preparation of this type of heterocyclic compounds [49,50].

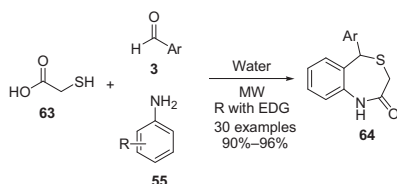
Vasudevan and coworkers described bromo-substituted *aza*-Baylis–Hillman adducts **61** (Scheme 14.20) as a useful scaffold for the synthesis of benzo-fused thiazepine-1,1-dioxides **62** via facile intramolecular Heck cyclization under MW irradiation in the presence of Pd(OAc)₂, P(*o*-tolyl)₃, and triethylamine in tetrahydrofuran (THF) at a ceiling temperature of 160°C for 60 min [51].

The supreme advantage of MW-assisted synthesis resides in the extraordinary acceleration of reaction rate conducted in unconventional reaction media. The use of water as a nonflammable and economical alternative to conventional organic solvents has attracted a great deal of attention as the high dielectric constant of the former allows efficient absorption of MW irradiation [52]. Tu and coworkers described a highly efficient synthesis of benzothiazepinones in a chemoselective fashion via an MW-assisted three-component reaction of an aromatic aldehyde with aniline and mercaptoacetic acid **63** (Scheme 14.21) [53]. The reaction furnished the best results in water at 110°C, and benzothiazepinones **64** were synthesized in 90%–96% yield under the optimum reaction conditions.

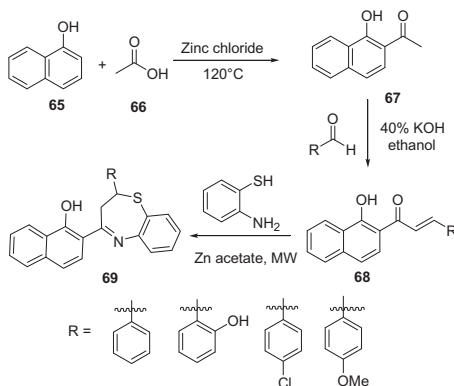
Nikalje and coworkers described a synthesis of 1,5-benzothiazepines **69** (Scheme 14.22) in a solvent-free condition involving cyclo-condensation of 1,3-substituted prop-2-en-1-one **68** with 2-aminothiophenol in the presence



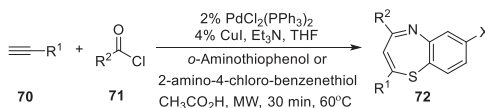
SCHEME 14.20 Microwave-assisted synthesis of benzothiazepine-1,1-dioxide.



SCHEME 14.21 Microwave-assisted synthesis of benzothiazepinones.



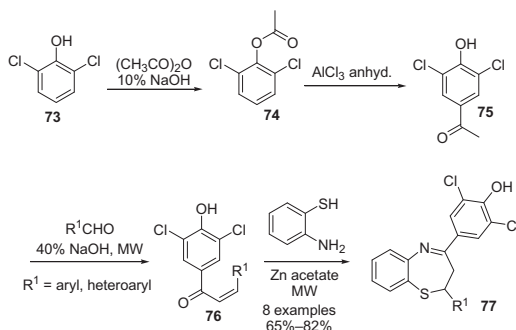
SCHEME 14.22 Synthesis of 1,5-benzothiazepines.

SCHEME 14.23 Synthesis of 2,4-disubstituted benzo[*b*][1,5]thiazepines.

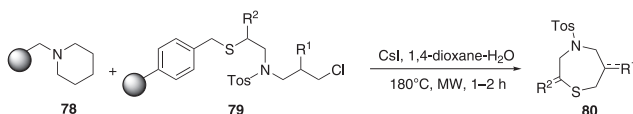
of eco-friendly catalyst zinc acetate under MW irradiation [54]. The starting prop-2-en-1-one **68** was prepared by the acetylation of α -naphthol with acetic acid and subsequent treatment of acetylated α -naphthol with an aromatic aldehyde.

A series of 2,4-disubstituted benzo[*b*][1,5]thiazepines **72** (Scheme 14.23) were synthesized by a condensation of an in situ prepared ynone with 2-amino-4-chlorothiophenol under MW irradiation using acetic acid as solvent. Substituted acid chloride **71** and acetylene derivative **70** were first reacted under Sonogashira conditions at room temperature to deliver the expected alkynone; subsequent addition of *o*-aminothiophenol or 2-amino-4-chlorobenzenethiol in a Michael fashion [55,56]. This optimization of cyclization clearly showed that dielectric heating is superior to conductive heating.

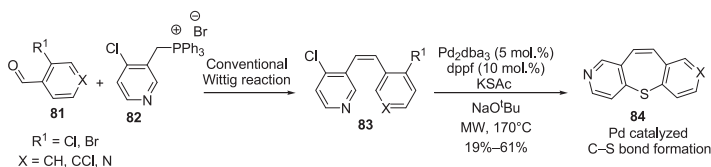
Nikalje and Vyawahare reported an efficient, one-pot, solvent-free, MW-assisted green synthesis of a range of 1,5-benzothiazepine derivatives **77** (Scheme 14.24) [57] using a cyclo-condensation of 1,3-substituted prop-2-en-1-one **76** with 2-aminothiophenol in the presence of zinc acetate as eco-friendly catalyst. The 1,5-benzothiazepine derivatives were synthesized from 2,6-dichloroacetophenone **75** which, in turn, was obtained by *para*-selective Fries rearrangement of 2,6-dichloro phenyl acetate **74**. The preparation of chalcones in a conventional protocol required Claisen–Schmidt condensation for 48 h for completion of reaction, whereas MW-assisted synthesis required only 5–10 min and gave better yields.



SCHEME 14.24 Synthesis of 2,4-substituted-1,5-benzothiazepines.



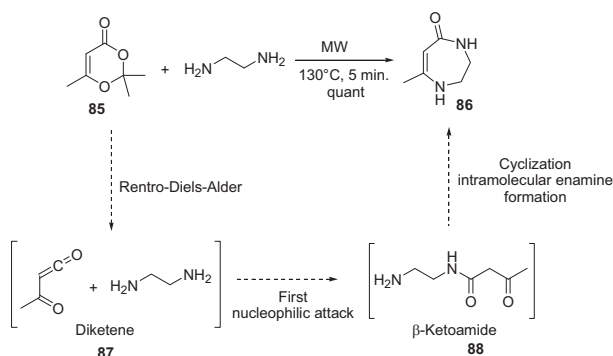
SCHEME 14.25 Synthesis of thiazepines.



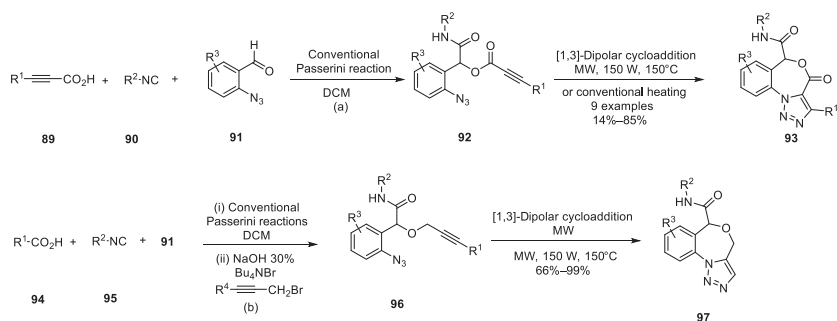
SCHEME 14.26 Synthesis of dibenzo[*b,f*]thielines through Pd-catalyzed double C–S formation.

A clever approach for the synthesis of 1,4-thiazine derivatives which involved ring closure of **79** (Scheme 14.25) followed by iodide-mediated traceless cleavage of the resin in the presence of a polymer-supported base **78** as an HCl scavenger was reported [58,59]. The MW-assisted cyclization was undertaken in a dioxane–water mixture using CsI at 180°C. The desired seven-, eight-, and nine-membered sulfides were isolated in excellent yields. The ring closure under MW-irradiated conditions yielded an excellent 88% yield in comparison with a meager 24% yield under conventional heating.

Božinović and coworkers disclosed a strategy for the synthesis of dibenzo[*b,f*]thielines **84** (Scheme 14.26) using potassium thioacetate as a source for sulfur in a double palladium-catalyzed C–S bond formation [60]. MW-activation for this double C–S bond formation reduces the reaction times (from 14 h to 90 min) and enhances the yield as well (from 30% to 50%). However, crucial to the success of the reaction was the choice of a suitable phosphine ligand, and 1,11-bis(diphenylphosphino)ferrocene was found to be better for this double C–S bond formation.



SCHEME 14.27 Solvent-free synthesis of 1,4-diazepines through retro-Diels–Alder and intermolecular enamine formation.



SCHEME 14.28 Synthetic route to triazolo-fused benzoxazepinones and benzoxazepines via successive Passerini and [1,3]-dipolar cycloaddition.

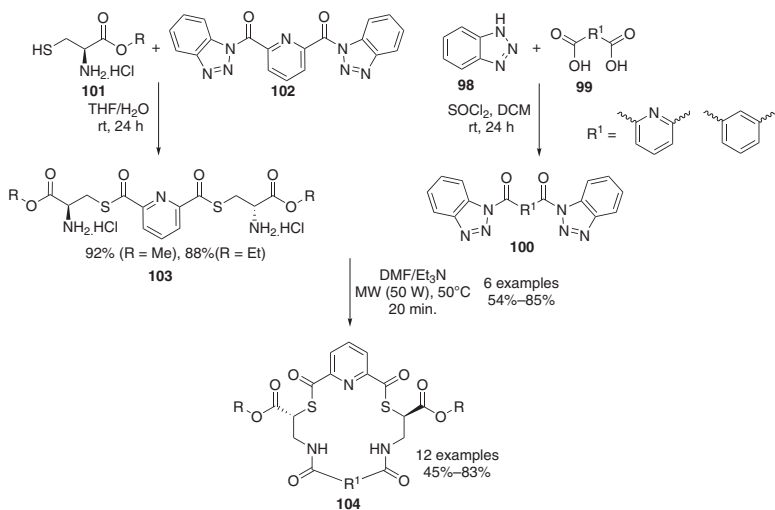
Petros and coworkers described a solvent-free synthesis of 1,4-diazepines of the type **86** (Scheme 14.27). In this preparation, 2,2,6-trimethyl-4H-1,3-dioxin-4-one **85** and linear bis-amines were condensed at 130°C under MW-irradiation condition [61]. The diazepines formed as the sole product within only 5 min. Mechanistically, it begins with a retro-Diels–Alder reaction leading to the diketene, which undergoes a nucleophilic attack by a linear bis-amine to generate the intermediate β -keto amide **87** which then undergoes an intermolecular cyclization through enamine formation.

Basso and coworkers reported an elegant synthesis of unprecedented triazole fused benzoxazepinone **93** and benzoxazepines **97** involving a conventional 3-component Passerini reaction with an MW-assisted azide-alkyne [1,3]-dipolar cycloaddition [62]. The [1,3]-dipolar cycloaddition leading to the benzoxazepinones **93** (Scheme 14.28) could be performed either under conventional heating or under MW irradiation. Under the conventional heating the reaction proceeded rather sluggishly but generally led to cleaner products. In marked contrast, the cycloaddition leading to the benzoxepine **93** is easily achieved under MW irradiation.

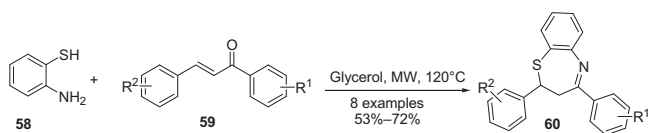
An interesting example of peptidomimetic cyclization has been recently reported by Ibrahim et al. through an MW-assisted thioether bond formation between an *N*-acylbisbenzotriazole **100** (Scheme 14.29) and a dicysteine ester hydrochloride **103** [63]. The *N*-acylbisbenzotriazole was obtained by mixing appropriate dicarboxylic acids **99** and 1*H*-benzotriazole **98** in the presence of thionyl chloride. The second scaffold **104** was synthesized by regioselective *S*-acylation of cysteine esters. The resulting pyridine dicysteine ester hydrochlorides were subsequently treated with *N*-acylbisbenzotriazoles in the presence of triethylamine under MW irradiation for 20 min to afford the cyclic and enantiopure peptidomimetics via double *N*-acylation in moderate-to-good yields.

Very recently, Jagrut and coworkers reported an efficient and eco-friendly synthesis of 1,5-benzothiazepines **60** by the reaction of various derivatives of 2-propen-1-ones **59** with 2-aminothiophenol **58** using MW irradiation in greener reaction medium, glycerol with a ceiling temperature 120°C [64] (Scheme 14.30).

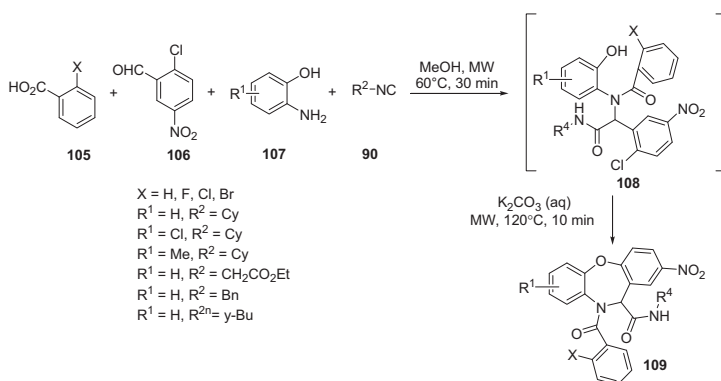
A series of dibenz[*b,f*][1,4]oxazepine of the type **109** (Scheme 14.31) were synthesized in an efficient manner by a Ugi four-component reaction and MW-assisted intramolecular Ullmann etherification [65] involving 2-aminophenols and 2-bromobenzoic acids or 2-bromobenzaldehydes. The



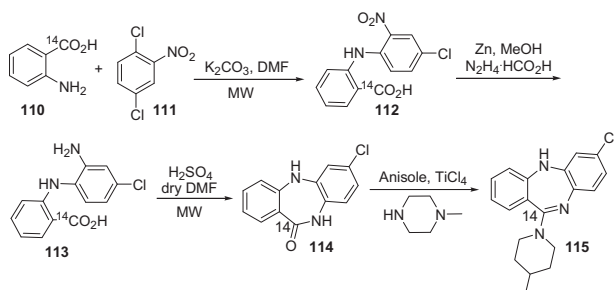
SCHEME 14.29 Example of peptidomimetic cyclization through an MW-assisted thioether bond formation.



SCHEME 14.30 Synthesis route for 1,5-benzothiazepine from chalcones and *o*-aminothiols.



SCHEME 14.31 One-pot synthesis of dibenz[*b,f*][1,4] oxazepines via U-4CR-S_NAr.



SCHEME 14.32 Microwave-assisted synthesis of clozapine.

synthesis was carried out at 50°C–60°C in MeOH for 2–3 days to form a series of 22 linear products in 46%–90% yields. An intramolecular Ullmann etherification was then carried out on **108** (not isolated) in the presence of MW irradiation to obtain the cleft shaped 6/7/6-fused tricyclic heterocycles. The intramolecular Ullmann diaryl ether formation was catalyzed by 10 mol% of CuI and 30 mol% of *N,N*-dimethylglycine hydrochloride in the presence of Cs₂CO₃ with MW irradiation heating at 150°C for 30 min to furnish dibenz[*b,f*][1,4]oxazepin-11(10*H*)-ones and dibenz[*b,f*][1,4]oxazepin-11(10*H*)-carboxamides in 64%–100% yields.

Clozapine **115** (Scheme 14.32), the most effective antipsychotic drug for treatment-resistant schizophrenia [66], was prepared by an MW-assisted four-step synthesis from anthranilic acid (C14-carboxylic) with good overall radiochemical yield. The key intermediate, [carboxyl-¹⁴C]-2-[(4-chloro-2-nitrophenyl)amino]benzoic acid **112**, was furnished by the Ullmann condensation reaction between [carboxyl-¹⁴C] anthranilic acid **110** and 1,4-dichloro-2-nitrobenzene **111** under MW irradiation [67]. Subsequent reduction of the nitro group with hydrazinium monoformate at room temperature led to the

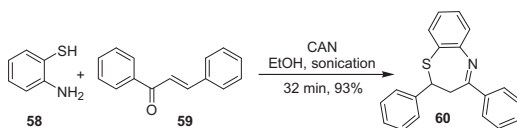
[carboxyl- ^{14}C]-2-[(4-chloro-2-aminophenyl)amino]benzoic acid **113**. Cyclization of amino benzoic acid was carried out in DMF in the presence of catalytic amounts of H_2SO_4 under MW irradiation. Finally, condensation of the cyclic amide **114** with 1-methylpiperazine in the presence of TiCl_4 provided the desired [11- ^{14}C]-8-chloro-11-(4-methyl-1-piperazinyl)-5*H*-dibenzo[*b,e*][1,4]diazepine **115**.

14.5 Ultrasound as an enabling technique

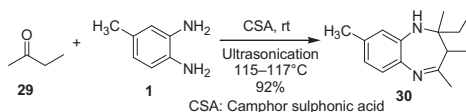
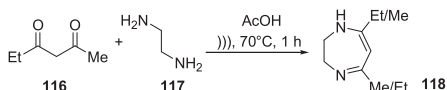
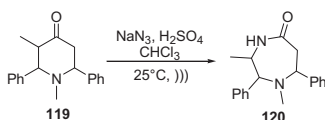
Ultrasound irradiation has been extensively used in organic synthesis in the last three decades [68–71]. It is a relatively new approach for the interaction of matter and energy which promotes chemical and physical changes. The conventional reactions that use strongly acidic conditions, reagents, high temperatures, lingering reaction times, inconsistency with other functional groups, and unsatisfactory yields have been improved by ultrasound irradiation [72–75]. Mechanistically, the molecules of the liquid will form cavitation bubbles under a strong ultrasonic irradiation. It is the collapse of the bubbles in succeeding compression cycles which generates the energy for chemical and mechanical effects. Under ultrasonic irradiation, organic transformations occur in high yield, short reaction times, or milder conditions [76–82]. Ultrasonic-assisted technique is increasingly used for the acceleration of organic reactions and it is an environment-friendly synthetic protocol [83–89].

An efficient, eco-friendly, ultrasound-mediated synthesis of 1,5-benzothiazepine **60** (Scheme 14.33) involving a condensation between chalcones and *o*-aminothiophenol using 10 mol% ceric ammonium nitrate as catalyst in ethanol was reported. The generality of the reaction was tested with many substituted heterocyclic and homocyclic chalcones with *o*-aminothiophenol and the yields were generally very good. The protocol was compatible with many substituents such as NO_2 , F, CH_3 , Cl, and OCH_3 , and for the substrates having CH_3 , aryl, or OCH_3 groups, no competitive nucleophilic cleavage was observed. In the case of hetero-aryl aldehydes, no significant substituent influence was noted [90,91].

Shingare and coworkers described a synthesis of 1,5-benzodiazepine derivatives **30** (Scheme 14.34) under ultrasonication using camphorsulfonic acid as catalyst but without using any solvent. The mechanism of camphorsulphonic acid-catalyzed cyclo-condensation for the synthesis of 1,5-benzodiazepines was also proposed [92].



SCHEME 14.33 Synthesis of 1,5-benzothiazepine.

**SCHEME 14.34** Synthesis of 1,5-benzodiazepine.**SCHEME 14.35** Synthesis of 2,3-dihydro-1*H*-1,4-diazepine.**SCHEME 14.36** Synthesis of diazepine.

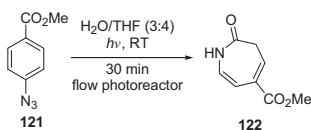
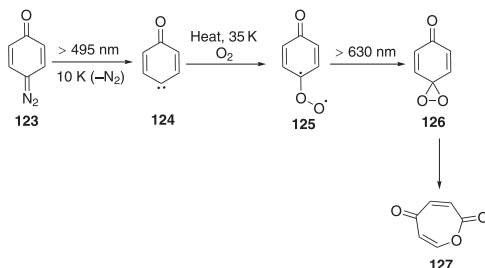
Diazepine derivative **118** (Scheme 14.35) was synthesized by the reaction of 1,2-diaminoethane **117** and hexane-2,4-dione **116** under reflux (thermal) in glacial acetic acid for 1 h with high yield. Use of ultrasound (at 60°C–70°C) significantly enhanced the reaction rate [93–99].

Reddy and coworkers reported an interesting heterocycle synthesis using ultrasound irradiation. The diazepine **120** (Scheme 14.36) was synthesized from 1,3-dimethyl-2,6-diphenyl-4-piperidone **119** by using sodium azide in chloroform under ultrasound irradiation. A Schmidt reaction [100] followed by Beckmann rearrangement [101] was utilized for ring expansion reaction of 1,3-dimethyl-2,6-diphenyl-4-piperidone **120** [102].

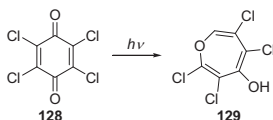
14.6 Photochemical transformations

The discovery of organic photochemistry in the late 19th century has later emerged as a remarkable field in modern organic synthesis [103–106]. The chemical nature of a molecule has been modified by photochemical excitation as an electronic configuration of the molecule is changing. The redox potentials alter in such a way that electron transfer becomes possible. It has been applied to the generation of reactive intermediates of radical reactions [107,108]. Compared to ground-state reactions, these photochemical transformations do not need any chemical activation of the substrates for C–C bond formation, which could lead to side products. These reactions should, therefore, be considered in the context of sustainable process [109,110].

Smalley and coworkers described a synthesis of 3*H*-azepinone ring system by photolysis of aryl azides in water [111,112]. The photolysis

SCHEME 14.37 Synthesis of 3*H*-azepinone.

SCHEME 14.38 Synthesis of oxepine-2,5-dione.



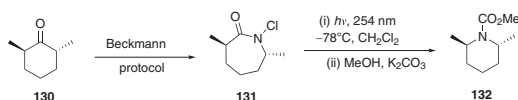
SCHEME 14.39 Synthesis of oxepine.

of methyl 4-azidobenzoate **121** (Scheme 14.37) in water and THF afforded 45% yield of **122** in 20 h. Later, the yield was improved when a 4:3 mixture of THF–water was used. The best balance between productivity and conversion was noted at 0.030 M optimum concentration.

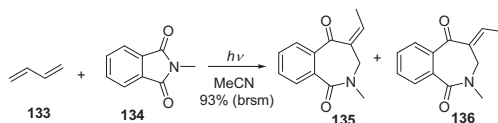
Nuss accomplished a synthesis of oxepine-2,5-dione **127** (Scheme 14.38), a seven-membered oxygen heterocycle, from six-membered carbocycles. The intermediate was formed by the reaction of triplet oxygen and cyclohexadienone carbene **125** [113]. The furnished dioxirane **126** was isomerized to seven-membered oxepine-2,5-dione **127**.

In the similar line, Nuss described a synthesis of oxepin derivative **129** (Scheme 14.39) in 70%–95% yield on the photochemical rearrangement of chloroanil **128** [113].

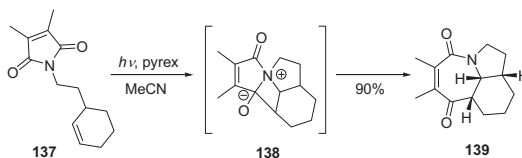
Spino et al. described synthesis of azepane derivative **131** from the ketone **130** following Beckmann protocol (Scheme 14.40). A novel photochemical ring-contraction of the seven-membered *N*-chloro lactum **131** to the six membered lactum **132** [114].



SCHEME 14.40 Synthesis and photochemical rearrangement of azepine amides.



SCHEME 14.41 Synthesis of benzazepines.

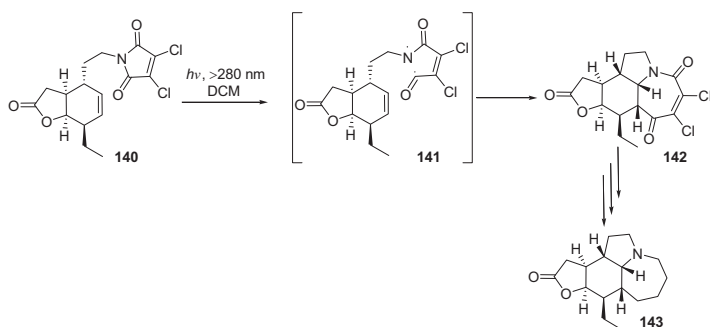


SCHEME 14.42 Synthesis of 5,6-dimethyl-hexahydroazepinoindol.

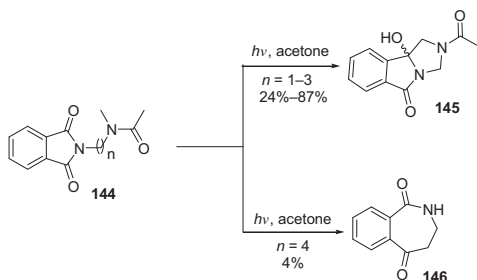
A photochemical irradiation of *N*-methylphthalimide **134** (Scheme 14.41) with butadiene **133** in acetonitrile furnished benzazepinediones **135** and **136** [115,116] with high yield (93%) as an isomeric mixture through $[\pi 2 + \sigma 2]$ photocycloaddition. In the presence of 1,3-pentadiene and isoprene, reaction also occurred and the products were obtained in 50% and 49% yields, respectively. When the authors used 2,5-dimethyl-2,4-hexadiene and cyclopentadiene, or when *N*-phenylphthalimide or phthalimide instead of *N*-methylphthalimide, no reaction was observed.

Booker-Milburn et al. manifested an extremely inspiring use of the Paternò–Büchi reaction for the synthesis of azepinoindole. Thus the tricycle hexahydroazepinoindole **139** (Scheme 14.42) was obtained in high yield by the rearrangement of the intermediate **138**. The hexahydroazepinoindole **139** is an essential scaffold in many alkaloids, such as tuberostemonine, neotuberostemonine, and stenine. These alkaloids have long been used in China and Japan as human cough remedies and antihelminthics in domestic animals [117,118].

Booker-Milburn et al. later synthesized the stemona alkaloid (–)-neostemone **143** (Scheme 14.43) by utilizing the unusual intramolecular $[5 + 2]$ photocycloaddition of maleimides [119]. The starting compound was irradiated in a continuous flow reactor for 1 h at room temperature which furnished the tetracyclic product with 63% yield [120]. The authors explained the product formation by invoking 1,5-singlet diradical **141** formation as an intermediate, which underwent the cycloaddition [121].



SCHEME 14.43 Synthesis of (-)-neostenine.

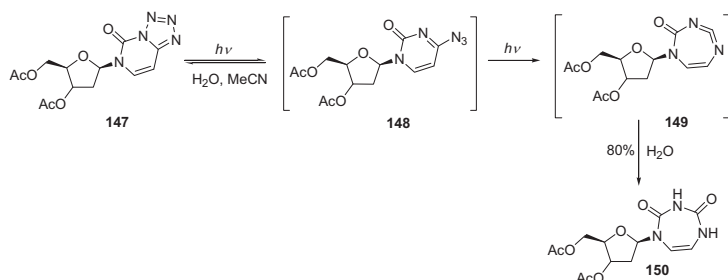


SCHEME 14.44 Synthesis of benzazepinedione.

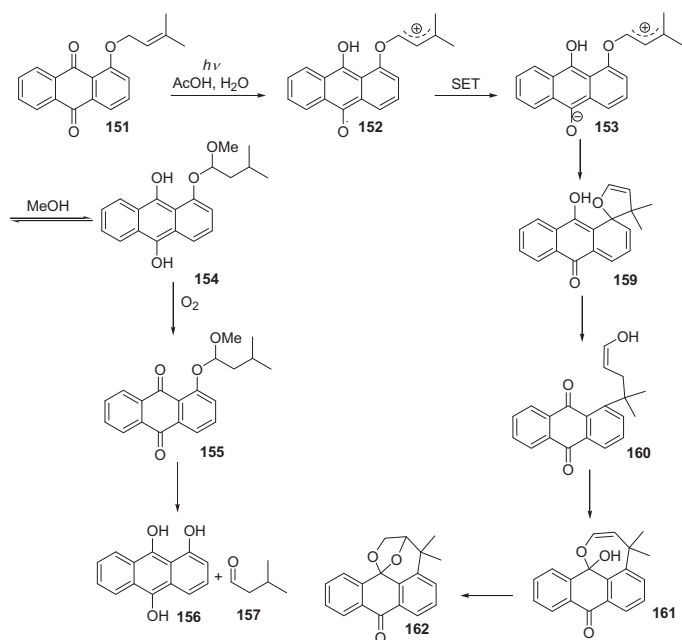
A cyclization reaction of *N*-acyl containing phthalimide **144** (Scheme 14.44) was also observed in an intramolecular fashion [122]. When propylene, ethylene, and methylene bridges were used in place of the *N*-methyl group, irradiation in acetone furnished tricyclic amide **145**. A prolonged irradiation provided only poor amount of unsubstituted benzazepinedione **146** instead. A γ -hydrogen abstraction followed by ring expansion and then Norrish-II cleavage was invoked for the formation of **146**. The photocyclization of succinimide derivatives also furnished similar results [123].

The triazepindione nucleoside analog **150** was prepared by employing an extrusion of nitrogen from tetrazolo[1,5-*a*]pyridines (2-azidopyridines) **147** (Scheme 14.45) [124–126]. The open azido **148** form and tetrazolo[1,5-*a*]pyrimidin-5(6*H*)-one (4-azidouracil) **149** derivative is in photochemical equilibrium. The elimination of N_2 from azido form provided a nitrene species which immediately underwent ring expansion. The final product was obtained by the addition of water to the carbodiimide moiety [121].

Jones and coworkers described synthesis of benzoxepine **162** derivative by a photochemical irradiation of substituted anthraquinone **151**. The authors have found that the loss of water under anaerobic conditions from dihydroquinone intermediate formed a zwitterionic structure **153** (Scheme 14.46) [127].



SCHEME 14.45 Synthesis of triazepinone.

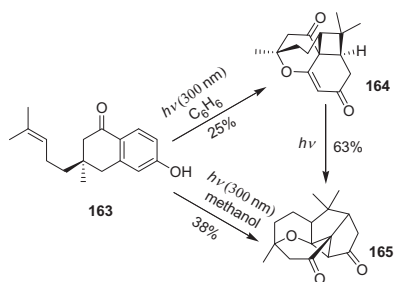


SCHEME 14.46 Synthesis of 4,4-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-anthra[9,1-bc]oxepin-8(12bH)-one.

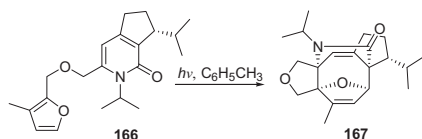
This zwitterionic intermediate then forms a spiro compound **159** through a capture of an allylic carbocation via an aromatic electrophilic substitution. The enol was formed by rearomatization and lactolization. Finally, cyclization provided benzoxepine [128].

It is well known that *ortho*-photocyclo-adducts are very much unstable. Kalena and coworkers reported an excellent example in which 2-alkenyl-7-hydroxy-4-chromanone **163** (Scheme 14.47) formed a tetracyclic compound via *ortho*-photocycloaddition [129].

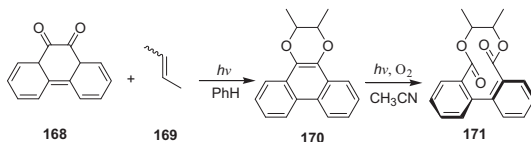
McNSieburth and coworkers reported an interesting intramolecular [4 + 4] photocycloaddition of 2-pyridone with a furan ring which furnished a



SCHEME 14.47 Synthesis of tetracyclic compounds.



SCHEME 14.48 Synthesis of 1,5-cyclooctadiene.

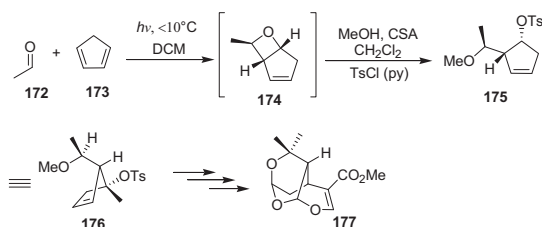


SCHEME 14.49 Synthesis of dioxinophenanthroline or dioxinophenanthrene.

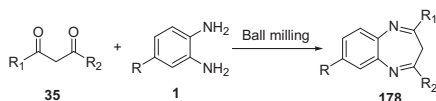
bridged oxepine **167** (Scheme 14.48) [130]. The necessity of the isopropyl group on the nitrogen of pyridone was demonstrated. The *N*-unsubstituted pyridine afforded the desired *cis*, *syn*-product in 25% yield and the *trans*, *syn*-isomer in major amounts.

A [4 + 2]-photocycloaddition of cyclic diketone like 9,10-phenanthrenequinone **168** with olefins produced relatively stable 1,4-dioxins **171** (Scheme 14.49). The authors also investigated the photochemical conversion of 1,4-dioxins. A biaryl possessing medium-ring bis-lactone was formed through a photocycloaddition–photooxidation reaction sequence through the formation of 1,4-dioxin intermediate **170** [131] with yields up to 90% [132].

A Paternò–Büchi product was isolated by the reaction of the cyclopentadiene **173** (Scheme 14.50) and acetaldehyde. Hoyer and Richardson described a ring opening of the Paternò–Büchi product **175** at C₅ by methanolysis which resulted in inversion of configuration at this center, for the synthesis of (–)-sarracenin **177** [133]. The tosylated secondary alcohol underwent a nucleophilic substitution with an appropriate enolate along the synthesis of the natural product (–)-sarracenin **177**.



SCHEME 14.50 Synthesis of (–)-sarracenin.



SCHEME 14.51 Synthesis of benzodiazepine derivative.

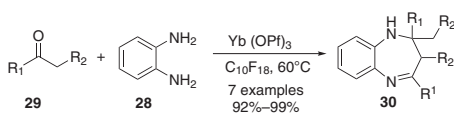
14.7 Use of ball milling

Ball milling is a mechanical technique that is broadly used to grind powders into fine particles [134–141]. The reactants are generally broken apart using solvent molecules in the traditional method; but in ball milling, reactants are broken by using mechanical forces. The term mechanochemistry has been introduced very recently [142]. The use of ball milling in the synthesis and reactions of organic compounds have been published in many review articles [142–146]. The application of solvent-free ball milling in organic synthesis is relatively rare. However, in the last decade, this technique has attracted growing interest because of its simplicity, low cost, and environment friendliness, as well as its capability to achieve very high yields. On the basis of these aspects, research will definitely increase in future in basic and applied science fields (Scheme 14.51).

Carlier and coworkers described that reaction between diamines **1** and 1,2- or 1,3-dicarbonyls by ball milling provided benzodiazepine **178** derivatives without any catalyst or solvent [147]. These products were also obtained in high yields.

14.8 Use of fluorous techniques

Horváth and Rábai commenced a new approach to the heterogenization of homogeneous catalysts called fluorous biphasic catalysis in 1994 [148]. The approach is very similar to that in the aqueous biphasic system, the replacement of aqueous phase with perfluorocarbon solvents that are immiscible with the most common organic solvents at ambient temperature. Fluorous ponytail is simply a long perfluoroalkyl groups used as a catalyst that can be anchored in the fluorous solvent while the substrates and products are



SCHEME 14.52 Synthesis of 1,5-benzodiazepine derivative.

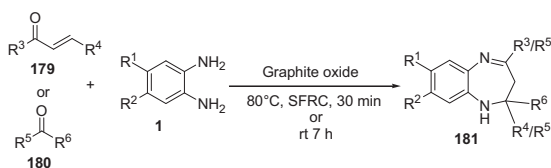
preferentially soluble in the upper organic phase. The fluorous biphasic system becomes monophasic upon heating or under pressure which allows genuine homogeneous catalysis to occur. In recent years, this technique employs a perfluoroalkyl chain (Rf) as a “phase tag” which also provides a homogeneous reaction environment compatible with the employment of other enabling techniques such as MW and ultrasound [149].

Cai and coworkers described a synthesis of 1,5-benzodiazepines **30** (Scheme 14.52) by using Yb(OPf)₃ as fluorous catalyst. The authors observed that the condensation also proceeded smoothly to give the desired product when using perfluorotoluene (C₇F₈) and perfluoromethylcyclohexane (C₇F₁₄) as fluorous solvents. However, it is impossible to recover the fluorous phase by phase separation as perfluorotoluene is in fact miscible with reaction substrates such as acetone at room temperature. In addition, the loss of fluorous solvent is very serious issue when using perfluoromethylcyclohexane (C₇F₁₄) as a fluorous solvent because it is very volatile (bp 76°C) during repeated condensation reactions [150].

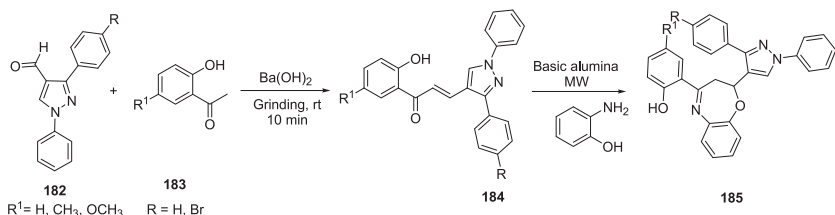
14.9 Use of heterogeneous catalysis

In recent years, heterogeneous catalysis is one of the fastest developing branches in chemistry and has received useful applications in various organic transformations due to several advantages over conventional homogeneous catalysis. Specially, it is strongly connected to popular environment-related applications. Several solid acid catalysts [151–153] such as Amberlyst [154], solid-supported fluoroboric acid [155], polyaniline sulfate [156], polystyrene-supported sulfonic acids [157], sulfated zirconia [158], and silica [159] synchronize with other greener techniques such as MW, ultrasound, environmentally benign solvents, and solvent-free conditions. Many of these efforts have found applications in the medium ring—sized heterocycles such as oxepines, azepines, diazepines, oxazepines, and thiazepines and screened, evaluated with respect to yields, reaction time, reaction temperature, and ease of purification, reusability, toxicity, and other hazards for sustained applications.

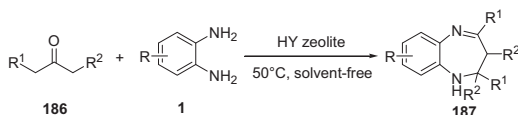
Pal and coworkers reported an efficient, metal-free, carbo-catalyzed (graphite oxide catalyzed) protocol for the synthesis of medicinally important benzodiazepines **181** (Scheme 14.53) at room temperature as well as under solvent-free heating condition [160]. Graphite oxide (GO) is an attractive candidate for environmentally benign heterogeneous catalysis because of flat monolayer carbon nonmaterial has captivated the organic chemist as graphine oxide contains



SCHEME 14.53 Synthesis of 1,5-benzodiazepines.



SCHEME 14.54 Synthesis of benzoxazepine.

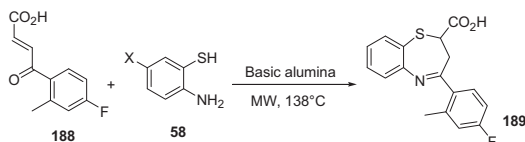


SCHEME 14.55 Synthesis of benzodiazepine derivative catalyzed by HY zeolite.

several functional groups including carbonyl ($-\text{C}=\text{O}$), hydroxyl ($-\text{OH}$), carboxyl ($-\text{COOH}$), and epoxy ($-\text{O}-$) groups [161]. A condensation reaction was proposed between aromatic diamine derivatives and α,β -unsaturated compound or ketone. The main role of catalyst GO increases the electrophilicity of the carbonyl through H-bonding which facilitates the attack of diammine to either the α,β -unsaturated compounds or ketones.

Very recently Ashok et al. described synthesis of benzoxazepine **185** (Scheme 14.54) derivative from pyrazole-chalcone **184** via a convenient protocol using basic alumina as solid support [162]. The synthesis was conducted at room temperature by grinding equimolar quantities of 2-hydroxy acetophenone derivative **183** and substituted pyrazole aldehyde **182** in the presence of $\text{Ba}(\text{OH})_2$ for 10 min. Further, these pyrazole-chalcones **184** on thermal cyclization with 2-aminophenol in the presence of basic alumina under MW irradiation resulted benzoxazepines **185** in good yields within 20 min. The uniqueness of the methodology lies in its eco-friendly operation, with excellent yield.

Jeganathan and Pitchumani reported a solvent-free and HY zeolite-catalyzed synthesis of 1,5-benzodiazepines **187** (Scheme 14.55) from 1,2-diamines **1** and ketones [163] in high yields. The condensation reaction involves activation of ketone by HY zeolite via its Brønsted acidic sites,



SCHEME 14.56 Synthesis of benzothiazepine catalyzed by basic alumina.

followed by nucleophilic attack of the aromatic group of *o*-phenylenediamine to yield mono-imine. Subsequent proton removal and intramolecular cyclization promoted by HY zeolite give benzodiazepine **187**. The catalyst is recovered by filtration and reused six times without significant loss in its catalytic activity

A solvent-free, basic alumina-catalyzed synthesis of a variety of 8-substituted 2-carboxy-2,3-dihydro-1,5-benzothiazepines **189** (Scheme 14.56) was described under MW irradiation [164]. This one-step protocol delivered a good-to-excellent yield with a shorter reaction time compared to traditional method. Mechanistically, reaction proceeds in two steps involving first the formation of a Michael adduct as intermediate which then easily undergoes dehydrative cyclization to afford 1,5-benzothiazepines. The formation of the intermediate and the cyclized product was influenced by the basic aluminum catalyst.

14.10 Concluding remarks

From the foregoing discussions, it can be seen that medium ring-sized heterocyclic compounds find a wide range of applications in the arena of pharmaceuticals and medicinally important chemical entities. Synthetic activities addressing such scaffolds should continue toward the development of better ways. In particular, metal-mediated transformations have widened the scope of such compounds. Various multicomponent reactions have also shown new directions. All these developments have necessitated the use of greener technologies keeping in view the industrial regulations. Although many great advances have been made in the development of greener techniques which can efficiently compete with the conventional means, further advancements are necessary as many of such technologies are yet to complement many of the synthetic arsenals used to prepare such ring systems. This present overview is anticipated to boost future works in these directions.

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