

RuCl₂(PPh₃)₃-Catalyzed Facile One-Pot Synthesis of 1,2-Dihydro-1-arylnaphtho[1,2-*e*][1,3]oxazine-3-ones and 1,2-Dihydro-1-arylnaphtho[1,2-*e*][1,3]oxazine-3-thiones

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Benzoxazinones and benzthioxazinones have received considerable attention because of the attractive pharmacological properties associated with their heterocyclic scaffold.¹ Molecules bearing these skeletons have been reported to exhibit a variety of biological properties, including anti-inflammatory, antiulcer, antipyretic, antihypertensive, and antifungal activities.² Some of these compounds also exhibit several important biological activities such as DP receptor antagonism,³ integrin antagonism,⁴ platelet fibrinogen receptor antagonism,⁵ calmodulin antagonism,⁶ and inhibition of the transforming growth factor β (TGF- β) signaling pathway,⁷ soybean lipoxygenase,⁸ and other protein kinase.⁹ Because of the importance of these compounds, several synthetic methods for 1,2-dihydro-1-arylnaphtho[1,2-*e*][1,3]oxazine-3-ones and 1,2-dihydro-1-arylnaphtho[1,2-*e*][1,3]oxazine-3-thiones have been developed.¹⁰⁻¹⁴ The reported methods mainly include one-pot three-component reactions of 2-naphthol, aromatic aldehydes, and urea or thiourea (Scheme 1). These reactions for the synthesis of 2-dihydro-1-arylnaphtho[1,2-*e*][1,3]oxazine-3-ones have been studied with the use of several catalysts and reagents such as Cu-nano-particles/PEG-400,¹⁰ TMSCl,¹¹ HClO₄/SiO₂,¹² H₃Mo₁₂O₄₀P,¹³ montmorillonite K10 clay,¹⁴ and iodine.¹⁵ Interestingly, several synthetic approaches for the synthesis of 2-dihydro-1-arylnaphtho[1,2-*e*][1,3]oxazine-3-ones have been described, but only one example for the synthesis of 1,2-dihydro-1-arylnaphtho[1,2-*e*][1,3]oxazine-3-thiones has been reported through multi-component reaction.¹⁴ The method also involves montmorillonite K10 clay-catalyzed reaction of 2-naphthol, aryl aldehydes, and thiourea.¹⁴

Although several methods for the synthesis of 1,2-dihydro-1-arylnaphtho[1,2-*e*][1,3]oxazine-3-ones and 1,2-dihydro-1-arylnaphtho[1,2-*e*][1,3]oxazine-3-thiones have been reported, there is still demand for simpler, less toxic, more effective, and milder catalysts. Our interest in developing mild and

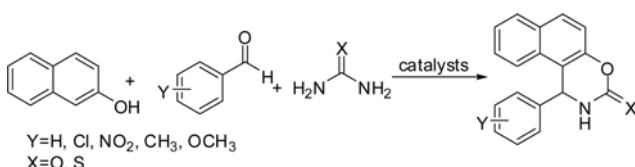
efficient synthetic methods that provide a variety of 1,2-dihydro-1-arylnaphtho[1,2-*e*][1,3]oxazine-3-ones and 1,2-dihydro-1-arylnaphtho[1,2-*e*][1,3]oxazine-3-thiones has led us to looking into more convenient and safely usable catalysts. Among these, we think tris(triphenylphosphine)-ruthenium(II) dichloride is a viable alternative, and may be a promising catalyst for the synthesis of 1,2-dihydro-1-arylnaphtho[1,2-*e*][1,3]oxazine-3-ones and 1,2-dihydro-1-arylnaphtho[1,2-*e*][1,3]oxazine-3-thiones, due to its easy availability, sustainability, and non-toxicity.¹⁶ Recently, we have reported RuCl₂(PPh₃)₃-catalyzed one-pot three-component reactions for the synthesis of biologically interesting 1-amidoalkyl-2-naphthols.¹⁷ As part of an ongoing study of the efficacy of RuCl₂(PPh₃)₃-catalyzed three-component reactions, we report herein an efficient and facile synthesis of biologically interesting 1,2-dihydro-1-arylnaphtho[1,2-*e*][1,3]oxazine-3-ones and 1,2-dihydro-1-arylnaphtho[1,2-*e*][1,3]oxazine-3-thiones.

Results and Discussion

Recently, it has been reported that multi-component reactions of 2-naphthol (**1**) with benzaldehyde (**2a**) and urea (**3a**) in the presence of a number of catalysts and reagents such as H₂NSO₃H,¹⁸ HClO₄/SiO₂,¹⁹ 2,4,6-trichloro-1,3,5-triazine,²⁰ InCl₃,²¹ and CH₃SO₃H²² afforded uncyclized product **4a** in good yields, without any formation of cyclo-adduct **5a** (Scheme 2).

To give cycloadduct **5a**, reactions of 2-naphthol (**1**, 1.0 mmol) with benzaldehyde (**2a**, 1.2 mmol) and urea (**3a**, 1.2 mmol) were first examined in the presence of 5 mol % of RuCl₂(PPh₃)₃ in several solvents (Table 1). With methylene chloride and acetone in reflux for 12 h, uncyclized product **4a** was produced in 54 and 43% yields, respectively. With acetonitrile in reflux for 20 h, both **4a** (10%) and **5a** (20%) were obtained. However, when toluene was used in reflux for 15 h, cyclized product **5a** was only isolated in 93% yield. With DMF as a polar aprotic solvent, the desired product **5a** was produced in 72% yield. Compound **5a** was determined by analysis of its spectral data and by direct comparison with the reported data.¹¹

In order to extend the utility of this methodology for the synthesis of a variety of 1,2-dihydro-1-arylnaphtho[1,2-



Scheme 1

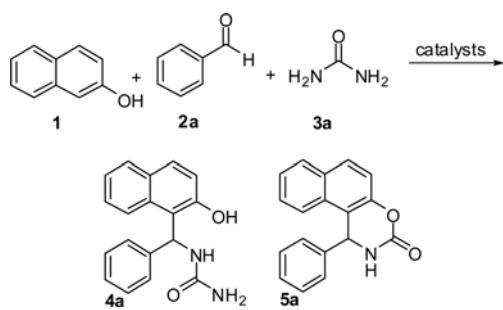


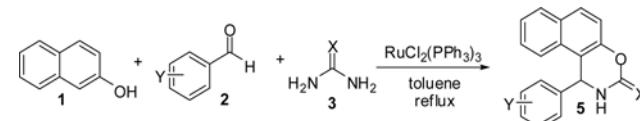
Table 1. Reaction of 2-naphthol (**1**) with benzaldehyde (**2a**) and urea (**3a**) in the presence of 5 mol % of $\text{RuCl}_2(\text{PPh}_3)_3$ in several solvents

Entry	Solvent	Condition	Yield (%)	
			4a	5a
1	CH_2Cl_2	reflux, 12 h	54	0
2	acetone	reflux, 12 h	43	0
3	CH_3CN	reflux, 20 h	10	20
4	toluene	reflux, 15 h	0	93
5	DMF	150 °C, 12 h	0	72

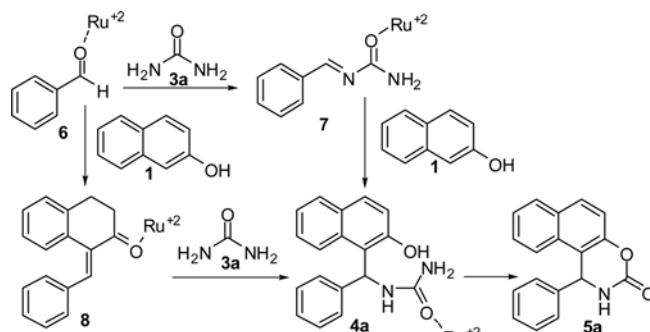
e][1,3]oxazine-3-ones and **1,2-dihydro-1-arylnaphtho[1,2-e][1,3]oxazine-3-thiones**, further reactions of 2-naphthol with several aryl aldehydes and urea or thiourea were examined. These reactions were carried out in the presence of 5 mol % of $\text{RuCl}_2(\text{PPh}_3)_3$ in refluxing toluene for 10-20 h using the optimized conditions described above. The results are summarized in Table 2. The aromatic aldehydes bearing electron-donating as well as electron-withdrawing groups underwent reactions successfully. Treatment of 2-naphthol with 4-methylbenzaldehyde and urea in the presence of 5 mol % of $\text{RuCl}_2(\text{PPh}_3)_3$ in refluxing toluene for 15 h provided **5b** in 90% yield (entry 1, Table 2). Reactions of 3-methylbenzaldehyde, 4-methoxybenzaldehyde, and 3-methoxybenzaldehyde with urea afforded products **5c-5e** in 74-84% yield (entries 2-4), whereas those of 4-chlorobenzaldehyde, 4-nitrobenzaldehyde, and 2-nitrobenzaldehyde provided **5f-5h** in 74-85% yield (entries 5-7). When thiourea was used instead of urea, the desired products were also produced. Reaction of 2-naphthol with benzaldehyde and thiourea in refluxing toluene for 18 h gave **5i** in 74% yield (entry 8). Other aromatic aldehydes with electron-donating or withdrawing groups gave products **5j-5l** in 70-82% yield (entries 9-11). These reactions provided rapid synthetic approaches to various **1,2-dihydro-1-arylnaphtho[1,2-e][1,3]oxazine-3-ones** **5b-5h** and **1,2-dihydro-1-arylnaphtho[1,2-e][1,3]oxazine-3-thiones** **5i-5l** in good yields.

The formation of **5a** can be explained by the proposed mechanism through the acylimine intermediate or *ortho*-quinone methide intermediate as shown in Scheme 3. Benz-

Table 2. $\text{RuCl}_2(\text{PPh}_3)_3$ -catalyzed synthesis of a variety of 1,2-dihydro-1-arylnaphtho[1,2-e][1,3]oxazine-3-ones **5b-5h** and 1,2-dihydro-1-arylnaphtho[1,2-e][1,3]oxazine-3-thiones **5i-5l**



Entry	Aldehyde	Amide	Time (h)	Product	Yield (%)
1	2b Y=4-CH ₃	3a X=O	15	5b X=O, Y=4-CH ₃	90
2	2c Y=3-CH ₃	3a X=O	15	5c X=O, Y=3-CH ₃	77
3	2d Y=4-OCH ₃	3a X=O	15	5d X=O, Y=4-OCH ₃	84
4	2e Y=3-OCH ₃	3a X=O	14	5e X=O, Y=3-OCH ₃	74
5	2f Y=4-Cl	3a X=O	10	5f X=O, Y=4-Cl	75
6	2g Y=4-NO ₂	3a X=O	12	5g X=O, Y=4-NO ₂	85
7	2h Y=2-NO ₂	3a X=O	12	5h X=O, Y=2-NO ₂	74
8	2a Y=H	3b X=S	18	5i X=S, Y=H	74
9	2d Y=4-OCH ₃	3b X=S	20	5j X=S, Y=4-OCH ₃	70
10	2e Y=3-OCH ₃	3b X=S	20	5k X=S, Y=3-OCH ₃	71
11	2g Y=4-NO ₂	3b X=S	18	5l X=S, Y=4-NO ₂	82



Scheme 3

aldehyde (**2a**) forms an oxygen-bonded complex in the presence of $\text{RuCl}_2(\text{PPh}_3)_3$ catalyst to give **6**, which is attacked by urea (**3a**) or by 2-naphthol (**1**) to produce the acylimine intermediate **7** or *ortho*-quinone intermediate **8**. The subsequent addition of 2-naphthol (**1**) to **7** or addition of urea (**3a**) to **8** gives another intermediate **4a**, which undergoes cyclization reaction to yield the final product **5a**.

In summary, we have developed an efficient and general synthesis of **1,2-dihydro-1-arylnaphtho[1,2-e][1,3]oxazine-3-ones** and **1,2-dihydro-1-arylnaphtho[1,2-e][1,3]oxazine-3-thiones** by $\text{RuCl}_2(\text{PPh}_3)_3$ -catalyzed one-pot multi-component reactions of 2-naphthol with aromatic aldehydes and urea or thiourea. The advantages of these methodologies are easy handling, mild reaction conditions, and use of an effective and non-toxic catalyst. In particular, these methodologies provided a useful and attractive process for the synthesis of **1,2-dihydro-1-arylnaphtho[1,2-e][1,3]oxazine-3-thiones**.

Experimental

[α-(2-Hydroxynaphth-1-yl)benzyl]urea (4a).¹⁶ To a

