1,3-Dipolar Cycloaddition Reaction in the Synthesis of Imidazo[1,2b]isoxazole Derivatives

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One of the most powerful approaches to the construction of five-membered heterocyclic systems is based on the 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition reactions. Thus, the reaction of alkynes 2 and nitrones 1 is applied successfully for the design of bicyclic structures 3 containing fused isoxazoline ring.

The derivatives of 2-imidazoline-3-oxides 4 as potential 1,3-dipoles are of particular interest in this sense, but are insufficiently explored. Reaction of dipoles 4 with alkynes was shown to proceed with high regiospecificity giving rise subsequent bicyclic structures 5 along with enaminoketones 6 (in the case of $R_1 = H$) - the products of spontaneous cleavage of isoxazoline ring.

Imidazolines **4** (R=H) was shown to exist in two tautomeric forms - aminonitrone (**4a**) and N-hydroxyaminoimino (**4b**) and of these two forms, only **4a** can act as a 1,3-dipole; form **4b** can only act as a nucleophile. Correspondingly, the formation of two types of products – addition **7** and cycloaddition **5** was observed in the reactions of these substrates.

The influence of different factors on the state of **4a** \iff **4b** equilibrium as well as on the rate of the competitive reaction products **5** and **7** also was studied.