Synthesis of Sinomenine Derivatives

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The alkaloid sinomenine 1 (extracted from *Sinomenium acutum*) is being long used in traditional Chinese and Japanese medicine for curing such deceases as neuralgia, rheumatism, cough syndrome, etc. [1]. To date, this compound has been found to exhibit some new medicinal properties [2, 3, 5, 6].

An acid hydrolysis of sinomenine is known to result in formation of sinomenine hydrate and bisdemethylsinomenylidene (besides sinomenone 2) [4]. We have found the hydrolysis conditions that ensure preparation of sinomenone 2 as a sole product (without hydration and subsequent dimerization).

The condensation of 1,2-diketone (2) with o-phenylendiamine yielded quinoxaline derivative 3. The structure of synthesized compounds was confirmed by ${}^{1}H$ NMR and mass spectra.

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