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3 :4-DIHYDRO-1-2′-NITROBENZYL*ISO*QUINOLINE

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In a recent publication, Hey and Lobo[1] have reported that contrary to the claim of Späth and Hromatka,[2] the cyclization of 3 : 4-dimethoxy-2-nitrophenyl-*N*-phenethylacetamide could not be achieved. In agreement with earlier reports[3, 4] their attempts at cyclization of 2-nitrophenyl-*N*-phenethylacetamide were also unsuccessful. We have found that the cyclization of 2-nitrophenyl-*N*-phenethylacetamide to 3 : 4-dihydro-1-2′-nitrobenzyl *iso*quinoline can be achieved in *ca.* 25% yield by following the procedure of Späth and Hromatka. The dihydro*iso*quinoline, m.p. 115—116° (Found: C, 72·0; H, 5·3; N, 10·8. $C_{16}H_{14}O_2N_2$ requires C, 72·2; H, 5·3; N, 10·5%), yielded a methiodide, m.p. 209° (decomp.) (Found: C, 50·5; H, 4·4; N, 6·8. $C_{17}H_{17}O_2N_2I$ requires C, 50·0; H, 4·2; N, 6·9%). Reduction of the latter in alcoholic solution in presence of Adams's catalyst yielded 1-2′-aminobenzyl-1 : 2 : 3 : 4 -tetrahydro-2-methyl*iso*quinoline characterized as the dihydrochloride, m.p. 248—250° (Found: C, 63.0; H, 6·5; N, 8·6. $C_{17}H_{22}N_2Cl_2$ requires C, 62·8; H, 6·8; N, 8·6%). Gadamer *et al.*[3] have prepared the last compound by an entirely different procedure and report the melting point of the dihydrochloride to be 247—250°.

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