**Short Note**

**1,2,3,4-Tetrahydroisoquinoline from Acid Catalysed Cyclisation of N,N'-Dibenzylethlenediamine**

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1,2,3,4-Tetrahydroisoquinolines have been traditionally prepared by the Bischler-Napieralski, Pictet-Gams, Pictet-Spengler, Pomeranz-Fritsch reactions and various Friedel-Crafts cyclization procedures of N-(haloalkyl)aryl derivatives [1]. These reactions have often been used in the total synthesis of isoquinoline alkaloids [2]. Since the starting compound was commercially available, the present reaction was carried out on a larger scale to afford clean product 1 in high yield.

The decomposition of dibenzylethlenediamine (24g, 0.1mole) was carried out in a Claisen distillation equipment at 240 deg.C and 20 mmHg. The catalyst was added as 48% hydrobromic acid (1.5mL). The heating was continued until 91% of distillate was obtained. The distillate on fractional distillation (45 deg.C at 2mmHg) gave 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (1) (9.6g, 72%), benzylamine (2.8g, 26%) and some residue which was mainly unchanged diamine.

The tetrahydroisoquinoline (1) prepared was further characterized by comparisons (ir and nmr) with authentic specimen.

B.p. 45 deg.C at 2mmHg.

**References and Notes**


*Sample Availability*: Commerially available.

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