Lactam, Iminium Salt, Aminoketone, N,O-Acetal, Neighbour Group

Piperidine and perhydroazepine bearing a 1-(4-nitrophenyl) substituent were inert to mercury-
edta, while the $\alpha$-pipecoline derivative gave an aminoketone with cleavage of the heterocycle. However the corresponding (2-nitrophenyl) compounds reacted to give respectively a piperidin-2-one, an aminopentanal and an aminohexanone. By an additional substituent in 2'-position the $p$-nitro compounds underwent dehydrogenation too. With a methyl group resulted a pattern analogous to $o$-nitro products. A neighbouring hydroxymethyl function enhanced the reaction with formation of benzoxazines and if possible their further oxidized derivatives, the hydroxylactams.

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