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Sulfur-Functionalized Olefins for Titanacycle Formation: Tandem Asymmetric Cyclization and the Pummerer Reaction Based on Sulfoxides Promoted by Titanium(II)-to-Titanium(IV) Relay**

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Sulfur functional groups such as sulfides, sulfoxides, and sulfones have found numerous and pivotal applications in organic synthesis.^[1] When enynes having a sulfur functional group are subjected to cyclization mediated by (stoichiometric) group-four transition metals,^[2,3] the formation of new sulfur-functionalized metallacycles is expected and their behavior should be of considerable interest. Considering that study along this line is so far notably limited,^[4] we report here new aspects of the use of vinylic sulfur functional groups in the titanium alkoxide-mediated enyne cyclization.

First, the viability of the cyclization of enynes having a vinylic sulfide, sulfone, or sulfoxide moiety with a Ti^{II} alkoxide reagent, $[Ti(OiPr)_4]/2iPrMgCl$ (1),^[3] was briefly surveyed [Eq. (1)].

$$\begin{array}{c|c} & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ &$$

The *E*- and *Z*-vinyl sulfides **2** and **3** underwent clean and, more importantly, stereospecific and stereoselective cyclization to the most likely titanacycles **6**, which underwent deuteriolysis to give the isomeric deuterated products **7** and **8**, respectively [Eq. (1) and entries 1 and 2, Table 1].^[5,6] Analogously, the *E*-vinyl sulfone **4** afforded **9** (entry 3) upon deuteriolysis, which suggests the selective generation of the titanacycle **6**. Contrarily, the *Z*-vinyl sulfone **5** gave a mixture of **10** (minor constituent) and **9** (as a major component; entry **4**), which indicates that the stereochemical integrity of **5**

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Table 1. Stereospecificity in the cyclization of sulfides and sulfones according to Eq. (1).[a]

	Enyne				Product				
Entry	X	Y	E/Z		Yield [%][b]		$D [\%]^{[c,d]}$	Isomers	Ratio ^[d]
1	SMe	Н	2	pure E	7	73	97	7/8	>99:<1
2	H	SMe	3	8:92	8	76	99	8/7	93:7 (100:0 ^[e])
3	SO_2Ph	H	4	pure E	9	98	94	9/10	94:6
4	H	SO_2Ph	5	2:98	10	79	98	10/9	23:77

[a] The reaction temperatures were -50 °C for sulfides and -20 °C for sulfones; these were essential to complete the cyclization. [b] Combined yield of isomers. [c] Total deuterium incorporation at the carbon atom α to X and Y. (The olefinic position was also deuterated to a high degree.) [d] Determined by ¹H NMR spectroscopic analysis. [e] Corrected to pure Z-vinyl sulfide.

was lost, probably caused by the isomerization of **6** to the less sterically congested **6**′ under these reaction conditions.^[7] Stereodefined titanacyclopentenes such as those generated as shown in entries 1–3 of Table 1 should find use for the stereoselective construction of cyclic systems.^[7]

In contrast to the two above-mentioned sulfur compounds, the corresponding sulfoxide **11** did not afford the expected cyclization product **16** but, instead, the cyclic aldehyde **15** [Eq. (2); Tol = p-tolyl].

The formation of **15** could be rationalized by the **1**-mediated cyclization of **11** giving the titanacycle **12**, followed by the subsequent Pummerer-type rearrangement ($\mathbf{12} \rightarrow \mathbf{13} \rightarrow \mathbf{14}$)^[8] to furnish the aldehyde **15** after aqueous workup. In fact, the presence of the remaining carbon–titanium bond in **14** was confirmed by deuteriolysis experiments and may be used for further synthetic elaboration.^[9] Surprisingly, this Pummerer reaction proceeded at a very low temperature compared to other standard procedures.^[8] The presence of an anionic moiety α to the sulfoxide, and the Lewis acidity of the proximate titanium(IV) center,^[10] may account for this extremely facile rearrangement even at a low temperature.

We then proceeded to the next stage, an asymmetric cyclization, taking advantage of a chiral sulfoxide moiety.^[11] Equation (3) illustrates this transformation, showing a high chirality induction at the cyclization step.^[12]

The enantiomeric ratio (e.r.), as well as the absolute configuration of aldehyde 18, was unambiguously determined by derivatization to 19 and further correlation to a known compound. Additional results are summarized in Table 2. The stereochemistry of the exocyclic, trisubstituted double bond of the produced aldehydes was established as E by an NOE study in a representative case. When the terminal substituent

Me
$$\stackrel{\bullet}{\stackrel{\bullet}{\stackrel{\bullet}{\longrightarrow}}}$$
 Tol $\stackrel{\bullet}{\stackrel{\bullet}{\longrightarrow}}$ $\stackrel{\bullet}{\longrightarrow}$ $\stackrel{\bullet}{\longrightarrow}$

of acetylenes is more sterically demanding (20 and $21\rightarrow17\rightarrow22$), the enantiomeric ratio of the products is slightly lowered (24 and $25\rightarrow18\rightarrow26$). In contrast to the *E*-vinyl sulfoxides (entries 1–4), the less readily available *Z*-vinyl sulfoxide (23, entry 5) has no advantageous feature with respect to the chemical yield or enantiomeric ratio (with reversal of the absolute configuration as predicted from the following considerations). Scheme 1 shows a proposed mechanism for the production of *R*-aldehydes from *E*,*R*-vinyl sulfides. The sulfoxide oxygen atom coordinates to the titanium center to fix the structure as depicted, and the titanium—acetylene moiety approaches the carbon—carbon double bond on a reaction path that minimizes the steric repulsion (that is, the favored path, above in Scheme 1) to show the high degree of observed asymmetric induction.

In summary, by taking advantage of sulfur functional groups, we disclose herein the generation of new functionalized titanacycles and their subsequent reaction. Functional-group manipulation on a metal template, as illustrated by the Pummerer reaction on the titanacycle, may lead to new utility of metallacycles in organic synthesis.

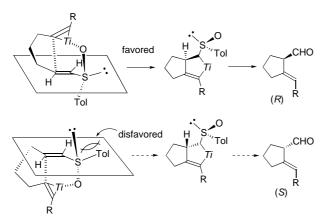
Experimental Section

Typical procedure for **18**: To a stirred solution of **17** (100 mg, 0.316 mmol) and $[\text{Ti}(\text{OiPr})_4]$ (0.117 mL, 0.395 mmol) in 5 mL of Et₂O was added *i*PrMgCl (1.34 m in Et₂O, 0.590 mL, 0.790 mmol) at $-78\,^{\circ}\text{C}$ under argon. After stirring for 30 min, the solution was allowed to warm to $-50\,^{\circ}\text{C}$ over 30 min and kept at this temperature for 5 h. Then, the reaction was quenched by the addition of aqueous 1N HCl at $-50\,^{\circ}\text{C}$. The organic layer was separated and washed with aqueous 1N HCl at $-50\,^{\circ}\text{C}$. The organic layer was separated and washed with aqueous 1N HNMR spectroscopic analysis of which revealed the crude yield of **18** to be 74 %. The crude product was chromatographed on silica gel to afford **18** (43 mg, 70 %) which was slightly contaminated by an unknown impurity (ca 10 %). Further purification on TLC plates (Merck article no. 1.05554, 1 % EtOAc in hexanes) afforded **18** (26.5 mg, 43 %) as a colorless oil, which was fully characterized by 1H NMR, 13C NMR and IR spectroscopic analysis, and elemental analysis.

Table 2. Tandem cyclization and the Pummerer reaction of vinyl sulfoxides.

Entry	Enyne		Aldehyde ^[a]		Yield [%] ^[b]	e.r. ^[c]
1	STol O Me	20	CHO	24	40 ^[d] (60)	95:5
2	OBn SurTol OBn Me	21	OBn CHO	25	56 (66)	95:5
3	STol O C ₆ H ₁₃	17	C ₆ H ₁₃	18	70, ^[e] 43 ^[f] (74)	93:7
4	SiMe ₃	22	CHO SiMe ₃	26	(62) ^[g]	92:8
5	S, Tol O C ₆ H ₁₃	23	С ₆ H ₁₃	27	(30)	79:21

[a] While the absolute configurations of 18 and 27 have been established, others were assigned by analogy, based on the sign of $[\alpha]_D$ [b] Yield isolated after purification. Values in parentheses were determined by ¹H NMR spectroscopic analysis of a crude sample with an internal standard. [c] Enantiomeric ratio was assessed after reduction to the alcohol [see Eq. (3)]. [d] The low yield may reflect the volatility of this compound. [e] This sample contains a small amount (ca. 10%) of unknown impurity. [f] Pure sample after repeated purification. [g] This aldehyde is very unstable and its attempted purification was not successful. Characterization was performed after reduction of crude 26 to the corresponding alcohol.



Scheme 1. Proposed reaction course from E,R-vinyl sulfoxides to R-aldehydes. $Ti = Ti(OiPr)_2$.

The enantiomeric ratio was determined after derivatization to the alcohol **19**. $[a]_{\rm D}^{27}=-94.0$ (c=0.2 in CHCl₃) for a sample of 93:7 enantiomeric ratio.

Typical procedure for **19** [Eq. (3)]: A crude sample of **18**, prepared from **17** (100 mg) as above, was reduced with sodium borohydride (10.4 mg, 0.174 mmol) in 6 mL of MeOH at 0 °C. After 10 min, the solution was allowed to warm to RT and was stirred for 1 h. After the addition of water and diethyl ether, the organic layer was separated, dried over Na₂SO₄, and concentrated to an oil. The crude product was chromatographed on silica gel to afford **19** (37.8 mg, 61 % overall from **17**) as a colorless oil, which was fully characterized by ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR, and IR spectroscopic analysis, and elemental analysis. The enantiomeric ratio was determined by the formation of the Mosher ester. $[\alpha]_D^{27} = -18.5$ (c = 0.4 in CHCl₃) for a sample of 93:7 enantiomeric ratio.

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Cyclotrehalins: Cyclooligosaccharide Receptors Featuring a Hydrophobic Cavity**

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Dedicated to Dr. Jacques Defaye

Interactions between carbohydrates and other biomolecules play a prominent role in many biological recognition processes.[1] The complexity of such phenomena has stimulated the use of model systems to gather information about their nature (hydrophobic, polar, hydrogen bonds) and to unravel the factors influencing the binding specificity and the stability of carbohydrate-containing supramolecular entities.[2] Among sugar-derived model hosts, the commercially available cyclodextrins (CDs) have been by far the most extensively investigated for this purpose, [3] as they feature a hydrophobic cavity that can accommodate a guest molecule of appropriate size. The study of the resulting inclusion complex, by techniques such as NMR spectroscopy, is facilitated by the high symmetry and the rigidity of the CD structure. Yet, this strait-jacketed host has an intrinsic limitation: Exclusively contacts involving the inner α face of the D-glucopyranose units (i.e., H-3 and H-5) are observable (Scheme 1a).

Scheme 1. Representation of a) cyclodextrins (CDs) and b) trehalose cyclooligosaccharides (cyclotrehalins, CTs) incorporating thiourea intersaccharide bridges. The CH protons directed toward the inside of the corresponding cavities are in boldface.

Although much effort has been directed towards the preparation of synthetic CD analogues bearing a cavity of designed shape, size, and electrostatic potential, [4,5] no cyclooligosaccharide hosts suitable for the analysis of specific interactions involving the β face of the monosaccharides have been reported so far.

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