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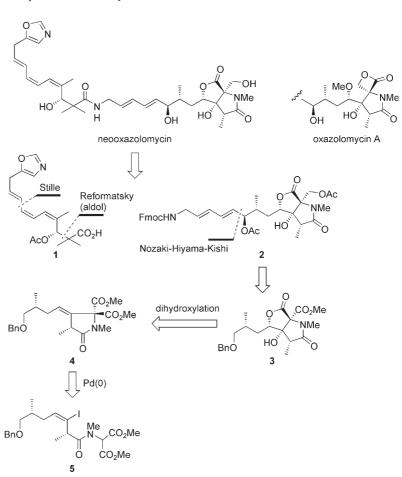
Total Synthesis of Neooxazolomycin**

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Dedicated to Professor Yoshito Kishi on the occasion of his 70th birthday

Neooxazolomycin and oxazolomycin A, originally isolated from a strain of Streptomyces by Uemura and co-workers in 1985,[1] together with the seven other congeners identified to date constitute a family of structurally unique oxazole polyene lactam-lactone antibiotics. These oxazolomycins were found to exhibit wide-ranging and potent antibacterial and antiviral activities as well as in vivo antitumor activity. Their intriguing molecular architectures and biological activities make these compounds attractive targets for synthesis. [2,3] In 1990, Kende et al. disclosed the synthesis of neooxazolomycin,[4] and this superb achievement is the first and only total synthesis of any member of this family; however the stereocontrolled construction of the right-hand core has remained an unanswered challenge.

Our synthetic plan for neooxazolomycin makes a disconnection at the amide linkage to give the left-hand segment **1** and right-hand segment **2** (Scheme 1). Since Kende et al. had already demonstrated an effective method for the synthesis of **1**^[4] by a Reformatsky-type aldol reaction^[5] and Stille coupling, ^[6] the major challenge in the synthesis resided in the stereoselective construction of **2**. From the retrosynthetic perspective, we envisioned pyrrolidinone **4** as a precursor of **2** with considerably less structural complexity which would lead to **2** through a Nozaki–Hiyama–Kishi reaction^[7] and stereoselective dihydroxylation with concomitant lactonization. We postulated



 $\label{eq:Scheme 1.} \textbf{Scheme 1.} \ \ \text{Retrosynthetic analysis of neooxazolomycin. Bn} = \text{benzyl, Fmoc} = 9 \text{-fluorenyl-methyloxycarbonyl.}$

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that this precursor could be accessed by a palladium-catalyzed cyclization of amide **5**. This approach is particularly appealing since the three contiguous stereogenic centers including two quaternary centers could be created by one dihydroxylation process.

The required amide **5** was synthesized in a completely stereoselective manner by taking advantage of the intramolecular hydrosilylation^[8] developed by Tamao et al.^[9] (Scheme 2). Thus, alkynol **8** was first prepared by the coupling of alkyne **6**^[10] and triflate **7**,^[11] both readily available from (*S*)-hydroxy-2-methylpropanoate, followed by desilylation. Reaction of **8** with tetramethyldisilazane provided hydrodimethylsilyl ether **9**, which upon hydrosilylation with [Pt(dvds)]^[12] as a catalyst in THF at room temperature followed by exposure of the resulting siloxane **10** to iodine in the presence of CsF in

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Scheme 2. Synthesis of right-hand segment **2**: a) nBuLi, DMPU/THF, -78 °C; b) TBAF, THF, 81% (2 steps); c) (HMe₂Si)₂NH (1.1 equiv), neat; d) [Pt(dvds)] (0.3 mol%), THF; e) I₂ (1 equiv), CsF (1.5 equiv), DMF/MeOH (5:1), 82% (3 steps); f) H₂CrO₄, aq acetone, -10 °C; g) SOCl₂, CH_2Cl_2 ; h) 2-(methylamino) malonate, toluene, 0 °C, 62% (3 steps); i) Pd(OAc)₂ (5 mol%), Ph_3P (20 mol%), nBu_4NBr (1 equiv), K_2CO_3 (4 equiv), DMF/H₂O (9:1), 70 °C, 84%; j) OsO₄ (0.4 equiv), NMO (4 equiv), THF/H₂O (3:1), 88%; k) 4 M LiOH, THF, then 1 M HCl; l) [Me₂N=CHCl] +Cl⁻, MeCN/THF (1:4), 0 °C, then NaBH₄, DMF, -78 °C to RT, 57% (3 steps); m) $iPr_2Si(OTf)_2$, 2,6-lutidine, ClCH₂CH₂Cl, reflux; n) H₂, Pd/C, MeOH; o) Dess-Martin periodinane, CH₂Cl₂, 83% (3 steps); p) 14 (1.7 equiv), CrCl₂ (4 equiv), NiCl₂ (0.2 equiv), THF/DMSO (3:1), 73%; q) Dess-Martin periodinane, CH₂Cl₂, 87%; r) L-selectride, THF, -78 °C, 96%; s) 46% HF/pyridine/H₂O/MeCN (1:4:2:20), 0 °C; t) Ac₂O, pyridine, 92% (2 steps). TBDPS = tert-butyldiphenylsilyl, DMPU = 1,3-dimethyl-3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2(1H)-pyrimidinone, TBAF = tetra-n-butylammonium fluoride, dvds = 1,3-divinyl-1,1,3,3-tetramethyldisiloxane, NMO = 4-methylmorpholine N-oxide, Tf= trifluoromethanesulfonyl.

DMF/MeOH furnished (*E*)-iodoalkenol **11** with perfect stereoselectivity in good yield. In the iodination step, the above-mentioned combination of solvent and additive was

found to be crucial for the predominant production of the E isomer. [13] After Jones oxidation of **11**, the resulting carboxylic acid was condensed with dimethyl 2-(methylamino)malonate [14] via the corresponding acid chloride to give amide **5**.

Treatment of amide 5 with Pd(OAc)₂/Ph₃P in the presence of K₂CO₃ and nBu₄NBr in aqueous DMF at 70°C^[15] resulted in a clean stereoselective cyclization to produce pyrrolidinone 4 in good yield. In the subsequent crucial dihydroxylation of 4, we gratifyingly found that OsO₄/ NMO conditions promoted a highly α-faceselective dihydroxylation accompanied by concomitant lactonization to yield lactone 3 as the sole product; the other stereoisomer was not detected in this transformation. The observed high diastereoselectivity can be explained by assuming that 17 is the preferred conformer, where the approach of OsO₄ is restricted to the α face. Support for this proposal came from NOE experiments^[16] and molecular mechanics calculations.[17] After hydrolysis of 3, the resulting carboxylic acid was chemoselectively converted into 12 by a Fujisawa reduction.[18] The configuration of 12 was unambiguously confirmed by X-ray analysis of the corresponding mono-tert-butyldimethylsilyl ether.^[19] After protection of **12** as its dioxasilinane, debenzylation and Dess-Martin oxidation afforded aldehyde 13. After considerable experimentation with various conditions, a Nozaki-Hiyama-Kishi reaction of 13 with 14[20] was found to be best achieved^[21] using 4 equivalents of CrCl2 and 0.2 equivalents of NiCl2 in THF/ DMSO at room temperature to give 15 in satisfying yield. Although no diastereoselectivity was observed in this reaction, Dess-Martin oxidation followed by reduction with L-selectride allowed the highly stereoselective production of 16 with the desired R configuration. Exposure of 16 to HF/pyridine followed by acetylation of the resulting triol furnished the right-hand segment 2, almost quantitatively.

The left-hand segment **1** was constructed by the method outlined in Scheme 3, which gave a remarkable improvement in the overall yield compared with the procedure used by Kende et al.^[4] Thus, reaction^[22] of 2,2-diethoxyethanol (**18**) with KSCN under acidic conditions followed by butylation of the resulting oxazole-2-thiol afforded **19** in good yield. Copper-catalyzed propargylation^[23] of **19** cleanly produced **20** which, upon desulfurization, desilylation, and hydrostannylation, gave stannane **22** as a 6:1 mixture of *E* and *Z* isomers. It should be noted that although Stille coupling of **22** with **23**^[24]

afforded **24** as an inseparable mixture of E and Z isomers, the left-hand segment **1** could be obtained in geometrically pure form through recrystallization of **25**. Finally, following the

Scheme 3. Completion of the total synthesis of neooxazolomycin: a) KSCN, conc. HCl, MeCN, reflux; b) KH, nBul, THF, 79% (2 steps); c) tBuLi, CuCN-2 LiCl, THF, -78 °C, then BrCH₂CCSiMe₃, -78 °C to RT, 94%; d) Raney Ni, acetone/EtOH (1:1), reflux, 92%; e) AgOTf, CH₂Cl₂/MeOH/H₂O (7:4:1), 73%; f) nBu₃SnH, AlBN, 70 °C, 88%; g) [PdCl₂-(MeCN)₂] (3 mol%), DMF, 79%; h) 47% HF/MeCN, then recrystallization; i) LiOH, THF/MeOH/H₂O (3:1:1); j) Ac₂O, pyridine, then sat. NaHCO₃, aq MeOH, 80% (3 steps); k) **2**, DBU, CH₂Cl₂, add to the mixed anhydride (1, BOPCl, Et₃N, CH₂Cl₂), 60%; l) LiOH (10 equiv), THF/H₂O (3:1), then 1 M HCl, 59%. AlBN = 2,2'-azobisisobutyronitrile, DBU = 1,8-diazabicyclo[5.4.0]undec-7-ene, BOPCl = bis (2-oxo-3-oxazolidinyl)-phosphinic chloride.

previous synthetic route, [4] condensation of 1 with the free amine generated in situ from 2 followed by deacetylation of 26 furnished neooxazolomycin, which was identical with a natural specimen by spectroscopic (¹H and ¹³C NMR) and chromatographic (TLC and HPLC) comparisons.

In conclusion, neooxazolomycin has been synthesized by a convergent strategy that features a highly stereoselective approach involving Tamao hydrosilylation, palladium-catalyzed enolate alkenylation, dihydroxylation accompanied by lactonization, and a Nozaki–Hiyama–Kishi reaction to construct the right-hand segment 2 and an improved assembly of the left-hand segment 1. Application of this methodology to the synthesis of other oxazolomycins is currently under investigation.

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