## Jasmonoid Synthesis from cis-4-Heptenoic Acid

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Jasmonoids with cis-2-pentenyl side chain such as cis-jasmone, methyl jasmonate, and jasmolone were easily synthesized from cis-4-heptenoic acid obtained by the ring opening reaction of  $\beta$ -propiolactone with di-cis-butenyl-cuprate.

Recently there have been a large amount of researches developing synthetic routes to 2-(cis-2-alkenyl)-2-cyclopentenones. 1a) This has been due in large part to interest in several biologically active natural products which have this moiety as a major structural feature. In the synthesis of these compounds, stereoselective introduction of cis-2-alkenyl side chain has been one of the major subjects. For example, as for the synthesis of jasmonoids, 1b) the cis-2-pentenyl group has been formed by elaborate routes, e.g., the partial hydrogenation of carbon-carbon triple bond with the Lindlar catalyst, 2,3) the Wittig reaction of a formylmethyl group with propylidenetriphenylphosphorane under salt free conditions,4) and the reductive desulfurization of 5,6dihydro-2H-thiopyran derivative.5) Recently cis-4alkenoic acids were found to be synthesized in one-pot operation from dialkylcuprates, acetylene, and  $\beta$ propiolactone.6) Among them, cis-4-heptenoic acid would be a useful precursor of these jasmonoids, because it has a structure corresponding to a skeleton from the side chain to the carbonyl carbon of the cyclopentenone in the jasmonoids with cis-2-pentenyl moiety such as cis-jasmone, methyl jasmonate and jasmolone. Thus, the synthetic route to the jasmonoids from cis-4-heptenoic acid as a key intermediate was investigated via well documented cyclization of 1,4-diketones.

cis-4-Heptenoic acid (1) was easily synthesized in a high yield by utilizing two reactions, i.e., the syn addition of dialkylcuprates to acetylene for the formation of di-cis-1-alkenylcuprates? and the regioselective ring opening reaction of  $\beta$ -propiolactone with diorganocuprates. Thus, acetylene was introduced at -78 °C into bromomagnesium diethylcuprate, which was prepared from copper(I) iodide and ethylmagnesium bromide in THF-Me<sub>2</sub>S (9:1) at -30 °C. After the reaction mixture was allowed rapidly to warm to -30 °C and stirred for 30 min, the reaction of  $\beta$ -propiolactone with the cuprate was performed at -30 °C for 2 h. By quenching the reaction with 3 M (1 M=1 mol dm<sup>-3</sup>) HCl solution, the desired acid 1 was isolated by distillation in a yield of 81%.

The precursor of cis-jasmone, cis-8-undecene-2,5-dione (5) was easily derived from cis-4-heptenoic acid and 3-oxo-butyl equivalent. As a latter compound,

3,3-ethylenedioxybutyl group was chosen. Treatment of 1 with thionyl chloride and pyridine in ether gave cis-4-heptenoyl chloride (2) in a yield of 74%. Condensation of 2 with the Grignard reagent 3°) prepared from magnesium metal and 3,3-ethylenedioxybutyl bromide, which was derived from methyl vinyl ketone, ethylene glycol, and hydrogen bromide, in THF at -78 °C and then warming to room temperature, afforded cis-2,2-ethylenedioxy-8-undecen-5-one (4) quantitatively. Deacetalization of the keto acetal 4 with dilute hydrochloric acid solution afforded the dione 5, which was then cyclized with dilute aqueous base in the usual manner 10 to give cis-jasmone (6) in 68% yield from 3.

Methyl jasmonate (11) can also be synthesized from cis-4-heptenoic acid via 2-(cis-2-pentenyl)-2-cyclopentenone (10). In this case, 3,3-trimethylenedioxypropyl group was chosen for the stability of the Grignard reagent as functional group for the three carbon elongation. Condensation of 2 with the Grignard reagent 7<sup>11</sup> of 3,3-trimethylenedioxypropyl bromide, prepared from acrylaldehyde, hydrogen bromide, and 1,3-propanediol, furnished cis-1,1-trimethylenedioxy-7-decen-4-one (8). Deacetalization of 8 with aqueous oxalic acid gave cis-4-oxo-7-undecenal (9) in 68% yield from 2. Cyclization of aldehyde 9 with 1% sodium

hydroxide in water-dioxane (1:1) afforded the cyclopentenone 10 in 69% yield. According to the standard procedure<sup>2,12)</sup> 10 was converted into methyl jasmonate (11), *i.e.*, the Michael addition of dimethyl malonate to 10, followed by hydrolysis, decarboxylation, and esterification furnished 11 in a yield of 66%.

Jasmolone, an ester component of jasmoline, was also prepared from cis-4-heptenoic acid via cyclization of 1,4-diketone. The dianion 12<sup>13</sup>) of ethyl hydrogen malonate reacted with 2 in THF at -65 °C for 1 h to afford ethyl cis-3-oxo-6-nonenoate (13) in a yield of 76%. Then, according to the procedure by LaForge et al., 14) 13 was hydrolyzed with dilute potassium hydroxide solution, followed by condensation with methylglyoxal and successive decarboxylation to give cis-3-hydroxy-8-undecene-2,5-dione (14), which was cyclized by the treatment with 2% sodium hydroxide aqueous solution to give jasmolone (15) in 23% yield from 13.

2 • EtO OLi 
$$\longrightarrow$$
 13 13

1) OH OH OH OH OH Scheme 4.

As mentioned above, cis-4-heptenoic acid, easily prepared from  $\beta$ -propiolactone and di-cis-1-butenyl-cuprate, was proved to be a very useful precursor for the synthesis of the jasmonoids with cis-pentenyl moiety. Further, by the use of various cis-alkenylcuprates, the regioselective ring opening of  $\beta$ -propiolactone should provide a promising method for the synthesis of a wide variety of natural products possessing cis carbon-carbon double bond.

## Experimental

The IR spectra were recorded on a Hitachi EPI-G2 spectrometer. The NMR spectra were taken with a Varian A-60 spectrometer using TMS as an internal standard. Grignard reagents and butyllithium were titrated by Eastham's method. All boiling points are uncorrected.

cis-4-Heptenoic Acid (1). To a solution of copper(I) iodide (5.713 g, 30 mmol) in THF (90 ml) and dimethyl sulfide (10 ml) was added an ethereal solution of ethylmagnesium bromide (1.85 M, 32.5 ml, 60 mmol) at -30 °C. Then, acetylene (2160 ml, 90 mmol) was introduced using a gas buret through a drying tube (CaCl<sub>2</sub>) into a suspension of the cuprate at -78 °C at an approximate rate of 20 ml/min. After introduction of acetylene, the temperature was allowed to warm rapidly to -30 °C and the mixture was stirred for 30 min.  $\beta$ -Propiolactone (1.081 g, 15 mmol) in THF (2 ml) was added dropwise and stirring was continued at -30 °C for additional 2 h. The reaction was quenched with 3 M hydrochloric acid solution (20 ml) and extracted with ether. The separated organic layer was extracted with 3 M sodium hydroxide solution. The alkaline solution was washed with ether, acidified with 6 M hydrochloric acid solution, and then extracted with ether. The ether extracts were washed with brine (10 ml) and dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub>. Distillation gave 1 (1.56 g, 81%): bp 97—99 °C/5 mmHg (lit, <sup>16</sup>) bp 97—99 °C/4 mmHg); IR (neat) 1710 (C=O) and 720 cm<sup>-1</sup> (cis-CH=CH); NMR (CCl<sub>4</sub>)  $\delta$  0.95 (3H, t, J=7 Hz), 1.90—2.40 (6H, m), 5.10—5.60 (2H, m), and 11.90 (1H, s).

cis-4-Heptenoyl Chloride (2). A mixture of 1 (4.35 g, 34.0 mmol) and pyridine (3.06 g, 40.8 mmol) in ether (20 ml) was added to a solution of thionyl chloride (4.45 g, 37.4 mmol) in ether (50 ml) at -15 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 h. The precipitate formed was filtered off. Distillation of the filtrate gave 2 (3.66 g, 74%): bp 63—64 °C/13 mmHg (lit,17) bp 72—76 °C/35 mmHg); IR (neat) 1800 (C=O) and 720 cm<sup>-1</sup> (cis-CH=CH); NMR (CCl<sub>4</sub>)  $\delta$  0.98 (3H, t, J=7 Hz), 1.72—2.63 (4H, m), 2.63—3.07 (2H, m), 4.83—5.61 (2H, m).

3,3-Ethylenedioxybutyl Bromide. To a solution of hydrogen bromide (12.0 g, 133 mmol) in ethylene glycol (20.0 g, 327 mmol) was added dropwise methyl vinyl ketone (7.00 g, 100 mmol) at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h and extracted with hexane. The extracts were washed with 5% sodium hydrogencarbonate solution and dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub>. Distillation gave 3,3-ethylenedioxybutyl bromide (9.26 g, 48%): bp 88—94 °C/27 mmHg; (lit,18) bp 58—60 °C/12 mmHg); IR (neat) 1120 (C=O) and 540 cm<sup>-1</sup> (CBr); NMR (CCl<sub>4</sub>)  $\delta$  1.31 (3H, s), 2.20 (2H, t, J=9 Hz), 3.45 (2H, t, J=9 Hz), and 3.95 (4H, s).

cis-2,2-Ethylenedioxy-8-undecen-5-one (4). To a solution of 2 (0.784 g, 5.28 mmol) in THF (5 ml) was added the Grignard reagent 3 (0.61 M, 7.87 ml, 4.80 mmol), prepared from 3,3-ethylenedioxybutyl bromide and magnesium in THF at room temperature, 9 at -78 °C. The mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature for 1.5 h. It was poured into a saturated sodium hydrogencarbonate solution (10 ml), extracted with ether, and dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The crude product was purified by TLC on silica gel ( $R_f$  0.6, benzene) to afford 4 quantitatively (1.087 g): IR (neat) 1710 (C=O), 1150, 1050 (C-O), and 720 cm<sup>-1</sup> (cis-CH=CH); NMR (CCl<sub>4</sub>)  $\delta$  0.95 (3H, t, J=7 Hz), 1.30 (3H, s), 1.66—2.67 (10H, m), 4.01 (4H, s), and 5.23—5.67 (2H, m).

cis-8-Undecene-2,5-dione (5). A solution of 4 (0.279 g, 1.23 mmol) and two drops of 3 M hydrochloric acid solution in acetone (5 ml) and water (5 ml) was refluxed for 4 h. After evaporation of the acetone, the residue was extracted with ether. The ether extracts were washed with brine and dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub>. Removal of the solvent gave 5 (0.187 g, 84%): IR (neat) 1720 (C=O), and 720 cm<sup>-1</sup> (cis-CH=CH); NMR (CCl<sub>4</sub>)  $\delta$  0.97 (3H, t, J=7 Hz), 2.00—2.57 (9H, m), 2.67 (4H, s), and 5.20—5.59 (2H, m). The spectral data of 5 were in agreement with the literature.<sup>10</sup>)

cis-Jasmone (6). According to the procedure of Büchi et al.,  $^{10}$ ) a solution of the diketone 5 in 0.5 M sodium hydroxide solution and ethanol was refluxed for 6 h to give 6 (82%): IR (neat) 1720 (C=O) and 720 cm<sup>-1</sup> (cis-CH=CH); NMR (CCl<sub>4</sub>)  $\delta$  1.00 (3H, t, J=7 Hz), 2.00—3.00 (11H, m), and 5.20—5.70 (2H, m). The spectral data of 6 were in agreement with the literature.  $^{10}$ )

3,3-Trimethylenedioxypropyl Bromide. To a solution of hydrogen bromide (21.6 g, 0.27 mol) in 1,3-propanediol (43.6 g, 0.57 mol) was slowly added acrylaldehyde (11.0 g, 0.18 mol, 90% purity) at room temperature. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h and extracted with hexane. The extracts were washed with 5% sodium hydrogencarbonate solution and dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub>. Distillation gave 3,3-trimethylenedioxypropyl bromide (25.3 g,

<sup>† 1</sup> mmHg=133.322 Pa.

74%): bp 89—91 °C/10 mmHg† (lit,11) bp 67—70 °C/2.8 mmHg); NMR (CCl<sub>4</sub>)  $\delta$  1.00—1.50 (1H, m), 1.50—2.47 (3H, m), 3.36 (2H, t, J=8 Hz), 3.75—4.25 (4H, m), and 4.57 (1H, t, J=5 Hz).

cis-1,1-Trimethylenedioxy-7-decen-4-one (8). To a solution of cis-4-heptenoyl chloride (2) (3.64 g, 24.8 mmol) in THF (20 ml) was added dropwise the Grignard reagent 7 (0.72 M, 31.3 ml, 22.5 mmol), prepared from 3,3-trimethylenedioxypropyl bromide and magnesium in THF,11) at -78 °C. The mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature for 2 h and the THF was removed. The residue was extracted with ether and the organic layer was washed with water, and then dilute sodium carbonate solution, dried over anhydrous K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>. Removal of the solvent afforded 8 (5.77 g), which was used in the next reaction without purification. IR (neat) 1720 (C=O), 1150, 1050 (C-O), and 720 cm<sup>-1</sup> (cis-CH=CH); NMR (CCl<sub>4</sub>)  $\delta$  0.97 (3H, t, J=7 Hz), 1.25—2.67 (13H, m), 3.32-4.25 (4H, m), 4.40 (1H, t, J=5 Hz), and 5.10—5.43 (2H, m).

cis-4-Oxo-7-undecenal (9). A mixture of crude 8 (2.53 g), oxalic acid (1 g), and water (20 ml) was refluxed for 3 h, during which time the product was continuously steam-distilled into a Dean Stark trap. The distillate was extracted with ether. The ether extracts were dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. Distillation under reduced pressure gave 9 (1.26 g, 68% from 7): bp 104—105 °C/1.7 mmHg; IR (neat) 1725 (C=O), 1715 (CHO), and 730 cm<sup>-1</sup> (cis-CH=CH); NMR (CCl<sub>4</sub>)  $\delta$  0.95 (3H, t, J=7 Hz), 1.77—2.50 (6H, m), 2.62 (4H, s), 5.20-5.63 (2H, m), and 9.60 (1H, s). The spectral data of 9 were in agreement with the literature. 12) 2-(cis-2-Pentenyl)-2-cyclopentenone (10). To a refluxing solution of water (45 ml), dioxane (45 ml) and 10% sodium hydroxide solution (10 ml) was added dropwise a dioxane solution of 9 (0.922 g, 5.49 mmol) for 1.5 h. The mixture was refluxed for 10 min. After neutralization with 1 M hydrochloric acid solution, it was extracted with chloroform. The extracts were dried over anhydrous Na2SO4. Distillation afforded 10 (0.565 g, 69%): bp 90 °C (bath)/0.6 mmHg (lit,2) bp 70 °C/0.05 mmHg); IR (neat) 1700 (C=O), 1625 (CH=CH, ring), and 730 cm<sup>-1</sup> (cis-CH=CH); NMR (CCl<sub>4</sub>)  $\delta$  0.97 (3H, t, J=7 Hz), 1.60—3.08 (8H, m), 5.16—5.70 (2H, m), and 7.25 (1H, m). The spectral data of **10** were in agreement with the literature.2)

Methyl Jasmonate (11). Sodium hydride (0.02 g, 0.46 mmol, 55% in mineral oil) was washed with dry hexane, and dry methanol (0.7 ml) was added. To the mixture was added dropwise dimethyl malonate (0.258 g, 1.95 mmol) and then cyclopentenone (10) (0.187 g, 1.25 mmol) in dry methanol (1 ml) at -5 °C for 40 min. The resulting mixture was stirred at -10—-5 °C for 3 h. After the reaction was quenched with acetic acid (2 ml), the methanol was evaporated. The residue was dissolved in ether, washed with water and dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. Distillation gave 3-[bis(methoxycarbonyl)methyl]-2-(cis-2-pentenyl) cyclopentenone (0.325 g, 92%): bp 200 °C (bath)/2 mmHg; IR (neat) 1740 (COOCH<sub>3</sub>), 1700 (C=O), and 735 cm<sup>-1</sup> (cis-CH=CH); NMR (CCl<sub>4</sub>) δ 0.95 (3H, t, J=7 Hz), 1.75—2.50 (10H, m), 3.47 (1H, s), 3.70 (6H, s), and 5.00—5.50 (2H, m).

To 0.269 g (1.05 mmol) of the cyclopentenone was added dropwise 10% sodium hydroxide aqueous solution (0.9 ml) for 4 h and the mixture was allowed to stand overnight. Then 3% sulfuric acid solution (0.35 ml) was added and the resulting mixture was refluxed for 5 h. The cooled reaction mixture was extracted with ether and washed with water. The ether extract were then extracted with 3 M sodium hydroxide solution. The alkaline solution was washed with ether, acidified with 6 M hydrochloric acid solution, and then

extracted with ether. The extracts were dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and evaporated to afford jasmonic acid (0.172 g, 78%): IR (neat) 3150 (OH), 1740 (C=O), 1750 (COOH) and 720 cm<sup>-1</sup> (cis-CH=CH); NMR (CCl<sub>4</sub>)  $\delta$  0.97 (3H, t, J= 7 Hz), 1.65—3.08 (12H, m), 5.15—5.67 (2H, m), and 11.0 (1H, s).

A solution of jasmonic acid (0.142 g, 0.68 mmol) in methanol (5 ml) was stirred at 40 °C for 3 h with a catalytic amount of concd  $\rm H_2SO_4$ . The reaction mixture was cooled, and a small amount of NaHCO<sub>3</sub> and water (5 ml) was added. The mixture was extracted with ether and the extracts were dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. Removal of the solvent gave 11 (0.138 g, 92%): IR (neat) 1740 (C=O), 720 cm<sup>-1</sup> (cis-CH=CH); NMR (CCl<sub>4</sub>)  $\delta$  0.95 (3H, t, J=7 Hz), 1.55—3.05 (12H, m), 3.65 (3H, s), and 4.82—5.55 (2H, m). The spectral data of 11 were identical with the literature.<sup>2</sup>

Ethyl cis-3-Oxo-6-nonenoate (13). To a solution of ethyl hydrogen malonate (0.231 g, 1.75 mmol) and 2,2'bipyridyl (3 mg) in THF (4 ml) was added a hexane solution of butyllithium (1.52 M, 2.30 ml, 3.5 mmol) at -70 °C, during which time the temperature was raised from -70 to -5 °C.13) To a solution of the dianion 12 was added 2 (0.147 g, 1.00 mmol) in THF (1 ml) at  $-65 \,^{\circ}\text{C}$ . After 1 h ether (7 ml) and 1 M hydrochloric acid solution (3 ml) were added. The organic layer was washed with saturated sodium hydrogencarbonate solution and then water, and dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. Removal of the ether gave the crude product, which was purified by TLC on silica gel  $(R_t 0.5,$ hexane: ether=2:1) to give 13 (0.151 g, 76%): IR (neat) 1750 (COO), 1730 (C=O), and 730 cm<sup>-1</sup> (cis-CH=CH); NMR  $(CCl_4)$   $\delta$  0.95 (3H, t, J=7 Hz), 1.20 (3H, t, J=7 Hz), 1.70— 2.60 (6H, m), 3.22 (3H, s), 4.12 (2H, q, J=7 Hz), and 4.85— 5.55 (2H, m).

cis-3-Hydroxy-8-undecene-2,5-dione (14). To 13 (0.135 g, 0.70 mmol) was added dropwise 10% potassium hydroxide solution (0.46 ml) and the mixture was allowed to stand at -3—2 °C for 3 d. After washed with ether, the reaction mixture was acidified with 0.5 M hydrochloric acid solution to pH 3—4, extracted with ether, and dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. Evaporation of the solvent gave cis-3-oxo-6-nonenoic acid (0.086 g, 73%): IR (KBr) 3150 (OH), 1710 (C=O), and 720 cm<sup>-1</sup> (cis-CH=CH); NMR (CCl<sub>4</sub>)  $\delta$  1.00 (3H, t), 1.78—2.80 (6H, m), 4.80—5.50 (2H, m), and 10.88 (1H, s).

cis-3-Oxo-6-nonenoic acid (0.816 g, 1.86 mmol) in water (1 ml) was neutralized with 10% sodium hydroxide solution using phenolphthalein as an indicator at 0 °C. To the solution was added methylglyoxal (0.156 g, 2.20 mmol, 40% aqueous soln) and then 10% sodium hydroxide solution to make the mixture basic (pH 8). The resulting mixture was allowed to stand at room temperature for 2.5 d and extracted with ether. The extracts were dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and evaporated. Purification by TLC on silica gel ( $R_f$  0.4, ether: hexane=2:1) gave 14 (0.220 g, 60%): IR (neat) 3450 (OH), 1720 (C=O), and 720 cm<sup>-1</sup> (cis-CH=CH); NMR (CCl<sub>4</sub>)  $\delta$  0.95 (3H, t, J=7 Hz), 1.80—2.90 (11H, m), 4.00—4.40 (2H, m), and 4.80—5.50 (2H, m). The spectral data of 14 were in agreement with the literature.<sup>19</sup>)

Jasmolone (15). To 14 (0.148 g, 0.75 mmol) was added dropwise 2% potassium hydroxide solution (0.6 ml) and the mixture was allowed to stand at room temperature for overnight. The reaction mixture was extracted with ether, washed with brine, and dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. Purification by TLC on silica gel ( $R_t$  0.4, ether : hexane= 3:1, developed twice) gave 15 (0.069 g, 52%): IR (neat) 3400 (OH), 1710 (C=O), 710 cm<sup>-1</sup> (cis-CH=CH); NMR (CCl<sub>4</sub>)  $\delta$  0.95 (3H, t, J=7 Hz), 1.60—3.00 (9H, m), 4.10 (1H, broad), 4.45 (1H, m), and 4.80—5.50 (2H, m). The spectral

data were in agreement with the literature. 19)

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