

New Analogs of the Pyripyropene Family of ACAT Inhibitors via α -Pyrone Fragmentation and γ -Acylation/Cyclization

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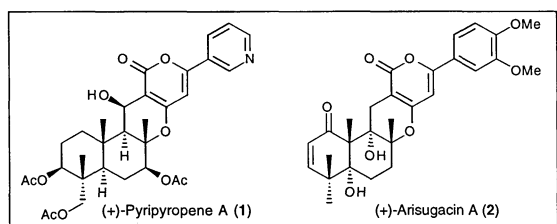
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(Received May 23, 1997; CL-970394)

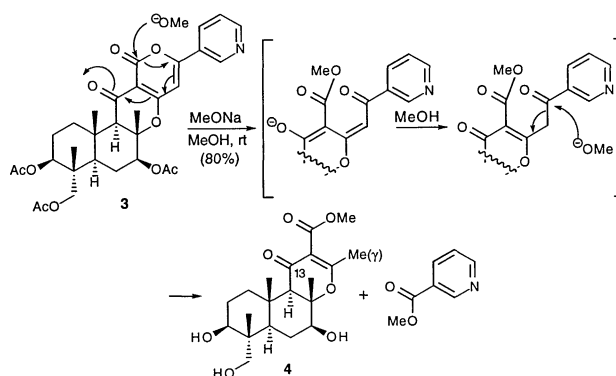
The pyridine moiety of pyripyropene A was replaced with other aromatic and heteroaromatic substituents via α -pyrone degradation followed by dienolate γ -acylation and in situ cyclization.

Inhibition of acyl-CoA:cholesterol acyltransferase (ACAT), the enzyme responsible for intracellular esterification of cholesterol, offers a promising new approach to the prevention and treatment of atherosclerosis and hypercholesterolemia.¹ Since 1993 we have reported the isolation, characterization, and initial biological evaluation of pyripyropenes A-L.² These novel polyketide-terpenoid metabolites rank as the most potent naturally occurring ACAT inhibitors in vitro,³ with IC₅₀ values as low as 58 nM,^{2a} and also display oral bioavailability in hamsters.^{2a} In addition to a total synthesis of (+)-pyripyropene A (**1**)^{4a} and a biomimetic construction of (+)-pyripyropene E,^{4b,c} we have prepared a number of analogs for analysis of structure-activity relationships.⁵ Herein we describe the introduction of alternative aryl and heteroaryl substituents via degradative cleavage of the α -pyrone moiety followed by dienolate γ -acylation with aryl chlorides and in situ cyclization. The acylation/cyclization protocol may also prove applicable to total synthesis of related structures such as (+)-arisugacin A (**2**),⁶ an effective inhibitor of acetylcholinesterase.



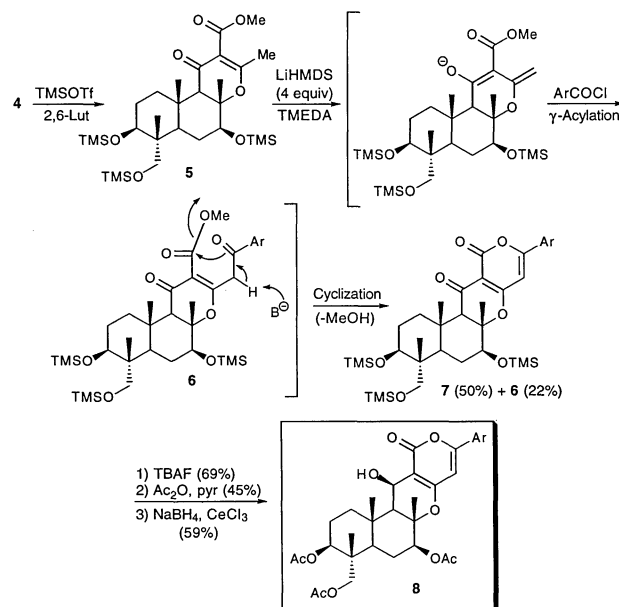
We recently discovered⁷ that the α -pyrone moiety in the 13-oxo pyripyropene derivative **3**^{5b,c} readily fragments upon exposure to MeONa in 70% aqueous MeOH, furnishing **4**⁸ in 80% yield and the by-product methyl nicotinate (Scheme 1). Methanolysis of **1** under the same conditions gave only the corresponding tetraol^{5a} (100% yield), indicating that the conjugated C(13) carbonyl group is required for cleavage.⁹

We envisioned reconstruction of the 6-substituted α -pyrone moiety via γ -acylation of **4** with an aroyl chloride and in situ cyclization, a tactic introduced by Parker and Resnick in their synthesis of racemic pyripyropene E.^{4c} To this end, the hydroxyl groups of **4** were silylated to give **5**¹⁰ [trimethylsilyl] triflate (4.5 equiv), 2,6-lutidine (6 equiv), CH₂Cl₂, rt, 20 min, 90%]. We next devised an improved protocol for the requisite γ -acylation.¹¹ The dienolate of **5** was generated with LiHMDS (4 equiv) and TMEDA (1.2 equiv) in THF (0 °C, 0.5 h; rt, 1.5 h) and treated



Scheme I.

with isonicotinoyl chloride (2.5 equiv, 0 °C); LDA and ethyl nicotinate were employed previously.^{4c} Intermediate **6** was immediately detected by TLC. Continued stirring at 0 °C for 1.5 h furnished the desired α -pyrone **7**¹² (50% yield) and uncyclized **6** (22%); longer reaction times did not improve the yield of **7**. Desilylation (TBAF, THF),¹³ acetylation (Ac₂O, pyridine),¹³ and stereocontrolled ketone reduction (NaBH₄, CeCl₃, MeOH)¹³ afforded **8**, the 4-pyridyl analog of pyripyropene A.



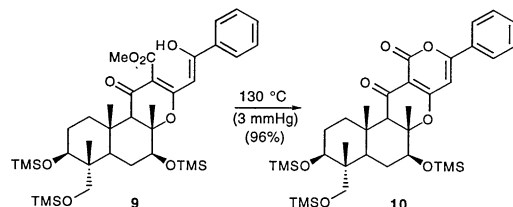
Scheme II.

As illustrated in Table 1, other aroyl chlorides¹⁴ were utilized to prepare precursors of additional analogs. Pyridine-substituted analogs (entries 1-3) were routinely obtained in 50-

Table 1. γ -Acylation/cyclization reactions of pyripyropene analog 4

Entry	Substrate (ArCOCl)	(equiv)	LiHMDS (equiv)	TMEDA (equiv)	Conditions	Yield (%)	
						7	6
1		2.5	4.0	1.2	0 °C, 1.5 h	50	22
2		3.0	5.0	1.2	0 °C, 3 h	65	
3		3.0	6.0	1.2	0 °C, 0.5 h; rt, 3 h	52	
4		3.0	2.5	1.2	0 °C, 0.5 h; rt, 1.5 h		80
5		2.0	5.0	1.2	0 °C, 0.5 h; rt, 1.5 h	26	

65% yields. Interestingly, reaction with benzoyl chloride (entry 4) gave the uncyclized γ -acyl enolic species **9** in 80% yield, but neither five equivalents of base nor longer reaction times led to more than 6% of the corresponding α -pyrone **10**. However, **9** did cyclize cleanly to **10** (96%) upon heating at 130 °C under reduced pressure (3 mmHg) (Scheme III).

**Scheme III.**

In summary, we have utilized our α -pyrone degradation and an improved γ -acylation/cyclization protocol to prepare five new analogs of the potent ACAT inhibitor pyripyropene A. All of the analogs proved to be ca. 100-fold less active than **1** suggesting that the pyridine moiety plays a significant role in binding to the enzyme.¹⁵ We are currently investigating extensions of this methodology for the synthesis of arisugacin A.

This work was supported in part by a Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research and for Encouragement of Young Scientists from the Ministry of Education, Science, Sports, and Culture of Japan, the Japan Keirin Association, and the National Institutes of Health (Institute of General Medical Sciences) through grant GM-29028.

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- Preparation of **4**: A solution of **3** (547 mg, 0.94 mmol) in 70% aq. MeOH (55 mL) was treated with MeONa (291 mg, 5.7 equiv) and stirred at room temperature for 17 h. Concentration under reduced pressure and ODS reverse phase column chromatography (50% MeOH/H₂O eluant, employing ODS-7515-12 available from Senshu Scientific Co. Ltd.) gave **4** (289 mg, 80%) as a colorless powder: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 0.79 (3 H, s), 1.05 (1 H, m), 1.10 (3 H, s), 1.28 (1 H, m), 1.39 (3 H, s), 1.44 (1 H, m), 1.67 (2 H, m), 1.78 (1 H, m), 2.15 (3 H, s), 2.34 (1 H, s), 2.66 (1 H, m), 3.34 (1 H, d, J = 10.6 Hz), 3.63 (1 H, m), 3.64 (1 H, d, J = 10.6 Hz), 3.78 (3 H, s), 3.97 (1 H, dd, J = 4.8, 11.4 Hz); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 188.75, 173.75, 166.18, 111.43, 87.60, 76.73, 73.86, 68.32, 60.61, 52.01, 45.30, 42.14, 37.11, 26.99, 26.51, 20.65, 16.07, 14.11, 11.75; HRMS (FAB, *m*-NBA) m/z 383.2073 [(*M*+H)⁺; calcd for C₂₀H₃₀O₇: 383.2069].
- This fragmentation process appears to be unique, see: T. L. Ho, "Heterolytic Fragmentation of Organic Molecules," Wiley, New York (1993), p 73.
- 5**: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 0.24 (9 H, s), 0.28 (9 H, s), 0.34 (9 H, s), 0.75 (3 H, s), 1.07 (3 H, s), 1.33 (3 H, s), 2.17 (3 H, s), 2.36 (3 H, s), 2.36 (1 H, s), 2.58 (1 H, d, J = 13.5 Hz), 3.08 (1 H, d, J = 9.9 Hz), 3.33 (1 H, d, J = 9.9 Hz), 3.63 (1 H, dd, J = 4.8, 11.4 Hz), 3.78 (3 H, s), 3.87 (1 H, m); HRMS (FAB, *m*-NBA/PEG 600/NaI) m/z 621.3095 [(*M*+Na)⁺; calcd for C₂₉H₅₄O₇Si₃Na: 621.3075].
- We previously observed regioselective γ -alkylation of related substrates: A. B. Smith, III and R. M. Scarborough, Jr., *Tetrahedron Lett.*, **44**, 4193 (1978).
- ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 0.09 (9 H, s), 0.12 (9 H, s), 0.23 (9 H, s), 0.60 (3 H, s), 1.14 (3 H, s), 1.44 (3 H, s), 2.51 (1 H, s), 2.65 (1 H, d, J = 13.5 Hz), 3.09 (1 H, d, J = 9.9 Hz), 3.37 (1 H, d, J = 9.9 Hz), 3.63 (1 H, dd, J = 5.0, 11.6 Hz), 3.97 (1 H, m), 6.47 (1 H, s), 7.69 (2 H, dd, J = 1.7, 4.6 Hz), 8.79 (2 H, dd, J = 1.7, 4.6 Hz); HRMS (FAB, *m*-NBA) m/z [672.3201(*M*+H)⁺; calcd for C₃₄H₅₄NO₇Si₃: 672.3208].
- A solution of **7** (10 mg, 0.02 mmol) in dry THF (1 mL) was treated with tetrabutylammoniumfluoride (TBAF, 1.0 M in THF, 10 μ L) and stirred at room temperature for 17 h to give the corresponding triol (5 mg, 69%) as a colorless solid: IR (KBr) 3400, 1750, 1540 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CD₃OD) δ 0.70 (3 H, s), 1.17 (3 H, s), 1.47 (3 H, s), 2.61 (1 H, d, J = 13.5 Hz), 2.77 (1 H, s), 3.26 (1 H, d, J = 11.0 Hz), 3.55 (1 H, d, J = 11.0 Hz), 3.63 (1 H, dd, J = 5.0, 11.5 Hz), 4.06 (1 H, m), 7.07 (1 H, s), 7.89 (2 H, dd, J = 1.7, 4.6 Hz), 8.72 (2 H, d, J = 6.3 Hz); HRMS (FAB, *m*-NBA) m/z 456.1997 [(*M*+H)⁺; calcd for C₂₅H₃₀O₇N: 456.2022]. A solution of the triol (5 mg, 0.01 mmol) in dry pyridine (0.4 mL) was treated with acetic anhydride (0.2 mL) and DMAP (1 mg) and stirred at room temperature for 3 days to furnish the triacetate (2.7 mg, 45%) as a colorless solid: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 0.87 (3 H, s), 1.24 (3 H, s), 1.56 (3 H, s), 2.04 (3 H, s), 2.12 (3 H, s), 2.18 (3 H, s), 2.63 (1 H, s), 2.78 (1 H, d, J = 13.9 Hz), 3.71 (1 H, d, J = 11.9 Hz), 3.77 (1 H, d, J = 11.9 Hz), 4.79 (1 H, dd, J = 5.3, 11.2 Hz), 5.25 (1 H, m), 6.57 (1 H, s), 7.69 (2 H, dd, J = 1.8, 4.5 Hz), 8.79 (2 H, d, J = 5.9 Hz); HRMS (FAB, *m*-NBA) m/z 584.2341 [(*M*+H)⁺; calcd for C₃₁H₃₆NO₁₀: 584.2339]. A solution of the triacetate (2.7 mg, 0.005 mmol) in methanol (1 mL) was treated with NaBH₄ (2 mg) and CeCl₃·7H₂O (2 mg) and stirred at 0 °C for 1 h to afford **8** (1.6 mg, 59%) as a colorless oil: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 0.89 (3 H, s), 1.44 (3 H, s), 1.69 (3 H, s), 2.05 (3 H, s), 2.09 (3 H, s), 2.17 (3 H, s), 3.71 (1 H, d, J = 11.9 Hz), 3.79 (1 H, d, J = 11.9 Hz), 4.79 (1 H, dd, J = 5.1, 11.1 Hz), 5.00 (1 H, d, J = 3.6 Hz), 5.01 (1 H, m), 6.55 (1 H, s), 7.64 (2 H, d, J = 5.9 Hz), 8.74 (2 H, d, J = 5.6 Hz); HRMS (FAB, *m*-NBA) m/z 584.2488 [(*M*+H)⁺; calcd for C₃₁H₃₈NO₁₀: 584.2496].
- 2-Pyridinecarbonyl chloride was prepared from picolinic acid by treatment with (COCl)₂. The other aroyl chlorides were commercially available.
- The evaluations of biological activity will be described in detail elsewhere.