

A Highly Diastereoselective Synthesis of α -Substituted- β -hydroxy Compounds from Corresponding β -Stannyl Compounds

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Anti- β -stannyl- α -substituted carbonyl compounds were completely converted to its syn-analogues, and each diastereomer was oxidized to its β -hydroxylated analogues with retention of the stereochemistry.

Enantio- and diastereoselective introductions of functional groups in the molecule are quite important for the synthesis of natural products. Many attempts for the enantio- and diastereoselective synthesis of α -substituted β -hydroxy compounds also have been appeared in the literature.¹ Among this field stereoselective aldol addition and Michael addition reactions are well studied since 1970's.²

On the other hand, it has been known that α, β -unsaturated carbonyl compounds gave α -substituted- β -stannyl compounds with high diastereoselectivity.³

In the course of our continuous studies of organostannyl compounds,⁴ we have investigated a complete synthesis of *syn*- and *anti*- α -substituted- β -hydroxy carbonyl compounds from corresponding α, β -unsaturated carbonyl ones.

Ethyl cinnamate **1** was treated with tri-*n*-butyltin lithium,⁵ which was prepared from hexa-*n*-butylditin with *n*-butyl lithium,

followed by methylation to give the product which was purified by silica gel column chromatography to afford pure *anti*-isomer, ethyl 3-tri(*n*-butyl)stannyl-2-methyl-3-phenylpropanoate **3**. By the same procedure, various *anti*-tin compounds **4-6** were synthesized (Table 2).⁶ In the stannylation reaction of **2** both *cis* and *trans* starting materials were used respectively, each main product was *anti*-one.

Although Lewis acid mediated conversion of the stereochemistry of the compounds is well known in the literature,⁷ it is not so easy that tin compounds are usually unstable for a Lewis acid.

Table 1. Lewis acid promoted conversion of **3** to **7**

entry	Lewis acid	Conversion ratio ^a (<i>Syn</i> : <i>Anti</i>)	Yield of 7 (%) ^b
a	SnCl ₄	100 : 0	78
b	TiCl ₄	100 : 0	75
c	AlCl ₃	12 : 88	10
d	ZrCl ₄	9 : 91	7
e	ZnCl ₂	0 : 100	0

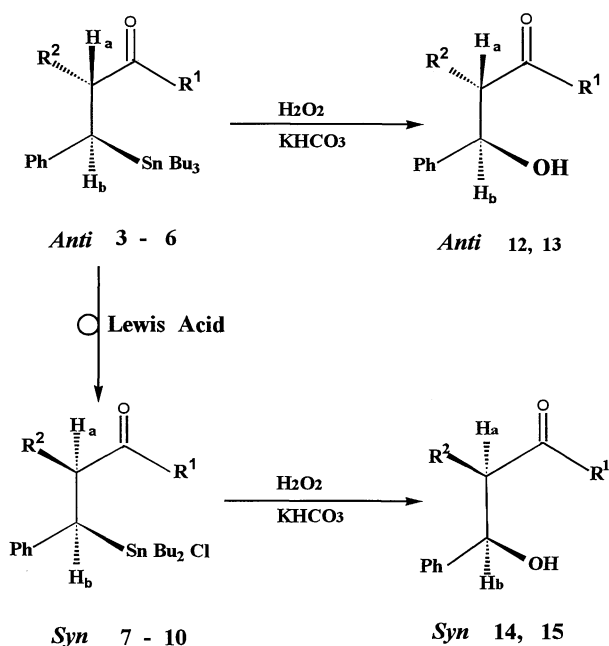
^a Determined by NMR. BF₃·Et₂O was also used for the conversion. Corresponding ratio was 16 : 84 (12%).

^b Isolated yield.

Table 2. Coupling constants of *anti* and *syn* tin-compounds

R ¹	R ²	Comp. No	Yield(%) *	Jab(Hz)
<i>Anti</i>				
OEt	Me	3	68	9.5
OEt	Allyl	4	56	11.1
Ph	Me	5	51	9.8
Ph	Allyl	6	72	9.1
<i>Syn</i>				
OEt	Me	7	78	2.2
OEt	Allyl	8	99	1.8
Ph	Me	9	80	1.6
Ph	Allyl	10	68	1.9

* Isolated yield.



Scheme 1.

In order to avoid the elimination of tin group from **3**, we have selected the conditions carefully: stannylated *anti* compound **3** was treated with various Lewis acids in dichloromethane at -20°C for 45 min. The reaction mixture was quenched with water, extracted with benzene and concentrated to give the product which was checked its *syn/anti* ratio by NMR spectra. Although tin group in **3** was changed to chloro-di-n-butyltin,⁸ the conversion using SnCl₄ and TiCl₄ proceeded excellently. In the cases of entry c and d large amount of starting **3** has still remained in the reaction mixture. Using ZnCl₂ none of the *syn*-compound was detected (Table 1).

Syn-compounds **8-10** were also synthesized in good yields from corresponding *anti* compounds **4-6** by using SnCl₄ or TiCl₄ (Table 2). Tri-n-alkylstannyl group can be easily eliminated by oxidative treatment. We have chosen following two oxidative substitution method: with lead tetraacetate (LTA)⁴ and hydrogen peroxide/ KHCO₃.⁹ LTA oxidative substitution of **3** gave low yield (18%) of corresponding β -acetoxylated product **11** with retention of the stereochemistry. The hydrogen peroxide method gave good yield of **12** with retention of the stereochemistry. *Anti*-stereochemistry in **12** was proved in this stage by comparison of the data of coupling constant $J_{ab} = 8.2$ Hz with those of the authentic sample (Me ester) $J_{ab} = 8.6$ Hz.¹⁰

By treating with hydrogen peroxide/KHCO₃ *anti*-compounds **4**, *syn* compounds **8** and **9** also gave hydroxylated products **13**, **14** and **15** with retention of the stereochemistry, respectively (Table 3).¹¹

We have successfully investigated diastereoselective

Table 3. Synthesis of diastereoselective hydroxy compounds

Comp. No	R ¹	R ²	Yield(%)	Diastereomer	J _{ab} (Hz)
12	OEt	Me	61	<i>Anti</i>	8.2
13	OEt	Allyl	57	<i>Anti</i>	9.7
14	OEt	Allyl	69	<i>Syn</i>	6.4
15 *	Ph	Me	63	<i>Syn</i>	2.4

* Cf. Reference 12.

synthesis of β -hydroxy- α -substituted carbonyl compounds. This must be applicable for the diastereoselective organic synthesis.

References and Notes

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