Amino-Sulfonation of Alkenes in a Three-Component Reaction [‡]

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2-Aminoalkanesulfonic acids have been synthesized by a three-component alkene/SO3.DMF/acetonitrile reaction, followed by hydrolysis. Trifluoromethanesulfonic acid was added to the amino-sulfonation mixture to accelerate the reaction and prevent the competitive formation of by-products. The reported two-step procedure provided a concise and versatile approach to new analogues of the natural amino acid

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Introduction

Taurine (2-aminoethanesulfonic acid) is a conditionally essential amino acid found in very high concentrations in excitable tissues, where it plays key roles in the regulation of several biological processes.^[1] The mechanism and site of taurine polyvalent functions are basically unknown. Taurine is a conformationally flexible molecule with only small steric demand, and its analogues are very useful for study of its biological activity and receptor-bound conformations.

The need for new 2-aminosulfonic acids as taurine surrogates prompted us to search for a rapid and general synthetic approach to these compounds.

The amino-sulfonation (AS) of alkenes was an appealing strategy because of the introduction of both the amino and the sulfonic acid moieties in the same step, and also because of the potential to obtain a large assortment of products starting from easily available substrates.

The three-component alkene/SO₃/nitrile reaction has to date been reported in very few papers, [2] its scope being limited because of the poor yields and chemoselectivity.

One practical problem in running the AS reaction, especially in a research laboratory, concerned the use of liquid SO₃ or oleum, because of their high reactivity and difficulty in handling. To the best of our knowledge, none of the more stable SO₃ complexes had yet been used in the AS of alkenes, despite their well-known effectiveness and convenience as sulfating and sulfonating reagents.[3]

We now report some examples of a practical two-step conversion of mono-, di-, and trisubstituted alkenes into 2aminoalkanesulfonic acids, based on the use of the commercially available, solid, and easily handled SO₃·DMF complex.

Results and Discussion

Cyclohexene (1a; Scheme 1) has been reported^[2d] to afford 41% of trans-2-aminocyclohexanesulfonic acid (3a) on treatment with 0.5 equiv. of liquid SO₃ and 1 equiv. of CH₃CN in 1,2-dichloroethane, followed by hydrolysis. When we applied the same procedure with the SO₃·DMF complex in place of liquid SO₃, only 7% of 3a was obtained, probably due to the low solubility of SO₃·DMF. When the reaction was carried out in CH₃CN as a solvent, 3a was afforded in 36% overall yield.

Other commercially available SO₃ complexes with stronger bases, such as SO₃·Py and SO₃·TMA, did not react at all under the same reaction conditions.

Scheme 1

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The progress of the AS reaction of an equimolecular (0.35 mmol) mixture of cyclohexene (1a) and SO₃·DMF in CD₃CN (0.7 mL) (method A) at room temp. was monitored by ¹H NMR. Analysis of the spectra showed that the degree of conversion of 1a after 5 d was only partial. When 1 molequiv. of CF₃SO₃H (0.35 mmol) was added to the original mixture (method B), however, it was complete after only 2 h.

The AS reactions of different alkenes (1a-1f) with SO₃·DMF (A) and with SO₃·DMF/CF₃SO₃H (B) in CD₃CN were similarly compared, and a considerable increase in the reaction rate upon addition of CF₃SO₃H was in general observed. In fact, analysis of the reaction mixtures B by ¹H NMR at regular intervals showed that the reaction times reported in Table 1 were largely sufficient for the complete disappearance of the olefinic signals, except in the case of 1f, which did not react at all (Entry 6, Table 1). Without addition of the acid (A) the olefinic signals never completely disappeared, even after reaction times twice (1b, 1c) or 100 times (1a, 1d, 1e) those reported.

Table 1. Synthesis of 2-aminosulfonic acids 3 by AS of alkenes 1, followed by hydrolysis

Entry	Alkene	AS reaction time ^[a]	Product	Yield ^[b] [%]
1	1a	1 h 40 min	3a	65
2	1b	23 h	3b	56
3	1c	6 d	3c	62
4	1d	1 h	3d	48
5	1e	1.5 h	3e	50
6	1f	30 d	_	_
7	1g	3 h	5	57
8	1h	16 h	3h ^[c]	43 ^[d]
9	1i	12 d ^[e]	3i	$40^{[f]}$

[a] Reaction conditions: i) AS: 10 mmol of 1, SO₃·DMF and CF₃SO₃H in 20 mL of CH₃CN, room temp. (Entry 5: 0 °C); ii) H₂O or H₂O/MeOH, room temp., overnight; iii) 10% HCl, reflux, 12–24 h. [b] Yield of analytically pure product. [c] Only the *erythro*-3h isomer was formed. [d] In this case 52% of starting material 1h was also recovered. [e] The AS was performed in autoclave with an excess of ethylene at a pressure of 50 atm. [f] Yield of analytically pure taurine (3i) relative to SO₃·DMF.

The presence of CF_3SO_3H also affected the chemoselectivity of the reaction, since it prevented the competitive formation of by-products. In particular, 1-hexene (1c) slowly reacted with SO_3 ·DMF in CD_3CN to give, after aqueous workup, an almost equimolecular mixture of 2c and 2-hydroxysulfonic acid 4c.^[4] In the presence of CF_3SO_3H , however, 1c exclusively afforded the 2-acetamido acid 2c (Scheme 2).

n = 0: **2c** and **4c** were formed in *ca.* 1:1 molar ratio n = 1 mole equiv.: **2c** was the sole product

Scheme 2

Styrene (1d) and 1-methylcyclohexene (1e) were transformed into the corresponding 2-amidosulfonic acids 2d and 2e, respectively, only in the presence of CF₃SO₃H. The reaction mixtures obtained in the absence of the acid were not resolved, but the amides 2 were absent, as clearly shown by the ¹H NMR spectrum analyses.

Cyclopentene (1b) and 1-hexene (1c) showed lower reactivities than cyclohexene (1a), and required 22 h and 6 d, respectively, to be completely consumed even in the presence of the CF₃SO₃H. In contrast, the reactions with styrene (1d) and 1-methylcyclohexene (1e) were very fast, as they completely reacted in 15 and 10 min, respectively. Finally, the electron-poor 1-nitrocyclohexene (1f) was unaffected under the reaction conditions after 1 month, in agreement with the electrophilic character of the addition.

The cyclic and acyclic alkenes 1 were subjected to AS under our optimized reaction conditions (Table 1). Upon completion of the AS reaction and aqueous workup, the 2-acetamidosulfonic acids 2 could be isolated by standard techniques. Alternatively, the crude compounds 2 could be directly hydrolyzed to the corresponding amino derivatives 3 in refluxing aqueous 10% HCl^[2d] or NH₂NH₂.^[5] The AS reaction of alkenes 1 directly followed by acid hydrolysis gave the 2-aminosulfonic acids 3 in moderate to good overall yields (36–73%) (Table 1). The aminosulfonic acid 3 was the only product detected in the reaction mixture in all the reported examples, except in the case of ethylene (1i), which afforded a 4:1 mixture of 3i and the corresponding 2-hydroxysulfonic acid.

The cyclic 2-aminosulfonic acids **3a** and **3b** were thus prepared in yields significantly higher than those previously obtained with liquid SO₃ and 2 equiv. of alkene^[2d] (**3a**: 65 vs. 41%; **3b**: 56 vs. 12%) (Entries 1 and 2, Table 1). The AS of 1-methylcyclohexene (**1e**) was completely regioselective and stereoselective, solely giving the aminosulfonic acid **3e** in 30% yield (30 min, room temp.). An improved yield (50%) of **3e** was obtained when the AS step was run at 0 °C for 1.5 h (Entry 5, Table 1).

The assignment of the structure of **3e** could be achieved indirectly by X-ray analysis^[6,7] of a single crystal of the corresponding amide **2e** (Scheme 3). The addition of the sulfonic group had occurred exclusively at the less substituted carbon atom and in a *cis* relationship to the methyl group.

Scheme 3

The study of the structure of the **2e** crystal established that it existed as an inner salt. The amide moiety was protonated at the oxygen atom, in agreement with what has been reported for amides in strongly acidic media and for amide hydrofluoroborates.^[8] The observed identical interatomic distances (1.29 Å) between the carbamidic carbon

atom and the vicinal nitrogen and oxygen atoms are consistent with a partial double bond character of the two bonds and a sharing of the positive charge between the two heteroatoms (Scheme 3).

Pent-4-enyl benzoate (1g) reacted much more rapidly than the analogous terminal alkene 1-hexene (1c), conversion being complete after only 3 h (Entry 7, Table 1). After acid hydrolysis the highly water-soluble 5-hydroxyamino-sulfonic acid 5 was recovered in 57% yield (Scheme 4).

Scheme 4

The two-step process of AS and hydrolysis on *trans*-stilbene (**1h**) exclusively afforded the known *erythro*-2-aminosulfonic acid^[9] **3h** (Scheme 5). The lower yield (43%) relative to that obtained with SO₃·DMF may possibly be attributable to the poorer reactivity of the 1,2-disubstituted alkene **1h**, which was recovered unchanged to the extent of 52% after the AS (thus the actual yield with respect to alkene converted was 90%, Entry 8, Table 1).

Scheme 5

The stereochemical outcome of the AS, namely the *anti* addition of the amino and sulfonic group both on cyclic and on acyclic olefins, was consistent with the mechanism previously proposed.^[2] In particular, the β-sultone **6** was considered to be the primary intermediate, followed by nucleophilic attack of CH₃CN to afford the oxathiazine **7**, which was converted into the 2-amidosulfonic acid on hydrolysis (Scheme 6). At present there is no evidence concerning the role played by CF₃SO₃H in the three-component reaction, but the experimental results suggested its involvement in promoting the addition of SO₃ to the double bond and enhancing the reactivity of **6** toward acetonitrile.

$$1h \xrightarrow{SO_3} \begin{bmatrix} Ph & Ph & Ph \\ O-SO_2 & N & SO_2 \\ \hline 6 & 7 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{Ph} AcHN \xrightarrow{Ph} AcHN \xrightarrow{SO_3H}$$

Scheme 6

The last alkene studied was ethylene (1i). The AS reaction was carried out in an autoclave under an ethylene pressure of 50 atm, and the resulting amino acid 3i was reco-

vered in 40% yield after hydrolysis and crystallization. Although this methodology is less convenient than the current production processes of taurine (3i), it represents a new synthetic approach to valuable isotopically labeled taurine. For example, [13 C]- and [2 H]taurine, useful tools in the investigation of biological processes such as taurine metabolism, [10] can directly be obtained by AS of commercially available [13 C₂]- and [2 H₄lethylene.

Conclusion

This study has demonstrated a broader synthetic utility of the multiple-component AS reaction. The method starts from inexpensive and readily available alkenes and gives access to a highly diverse range of natural and nonnatural 2-aminosulfonic acids in only two steps.

The new modified conditions allow the reaction to be run with greater simplicity and efficiency than previously reported, through the use of a commercially available complex of SO₃ and inclusion of a stoichiometric amount of CF₃SO₃H. This process appears to be quite general for electron-rich carbon—carbon double bonds, and the wide choice of starting olefin provides a useful opportunity for diversification of substituents on the basic 2-aminosulfonic system. A structure-activity relationship study on the nonnatural analogues of taurine by both in vitro and in vivo experiments is currently underway and will be published elsewhere.

Experimental Section

General Remarks: All reactions that required dry conditions were run under nitrogen with anhydrous solvents. Melting points (M.p.) are uncorrected. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra (in D₂O, unless otherwise stated) were recorded with a Varian Gemini (¹H 200 MHz) or a Bruker DRX 500 (¹H 500 MHz). Chemical shifts are given in ppm from TMS. The notation s, d, t, q, m and br indicates singlet, doublet, triplet, quadruplet, multiplet, and broad, respectively. IR spectra (in KBr, unless otherwise stated) were recorded with Perkin–Elmer 881 or BX II spectrophotometers. Mass spectra (MS) were recorded with QMD 1000 Carlo Erba (EI, 70 eV) or PE SCIEX API 365 (ESI) instruments. Microanalyses were measured with a Perkin–Elmer 2400 C instrument.

General Procedure: The appropriate alkene (10 mmol) was added dropwise at room temp. (unless otherwise specified in Table 1) to a solution of SO₃·DMF complex (1.532 g, 10 mmol) and CF₃SO₃H (875 mL, 10 mmol) in CH₃CN (20 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temp. for the time reported in Table 1; H₂O or H₂O/CH₃OH (10 mL) was then added, and stirring was continued overnight. Concentration in vacuo afforded the crude acetylaminosulfonic acid 2, which could be directly used for subsequent hydrolysis. Small amounts of the intermediate 2 were filtered through ion-exchange resins and characterized spectroscopically. The crude product 2 was dissolved in 10% aqueous HCl solution (10 mL) and then heated at a vigorous reflux overnight. The solution was then partially concentrated in vacuo and diluted with CH₃CN to precipitate the aminosulfonic acid, which was filtered, washed, and recrystallized when necessary (overall yields as reported in Table 1).

trans-2-Acetylaminocyclohexanesulfonic Acid (2a): M.p. > 330 °C ¹H NMR: δ = 3.88 (td, J = 11.0, 4.4 Hz, 1 H, 2-H), 2.82 (td, J = 11.0, 4.0 Hz, 1 H, 1-H), 2.31–2.15 (m, 1 H), 1.96 (s, 3 H, C H_3 CO), 1.99–1.68 (m, 3 H), 1.55–1.20 (m, 4 H). ¹³C NMR: δ = 173.2 (s), 62.0 (d), 50.4 (d), 33.2 (t), 28.2 (t), 24.8 (t), 24.7 (t), 22.8 (q). IR (CHCl₃): \tilde{v} = 3674, 3001, 1707, 1413, 1356 cm⁻¹. MS: mlz (%) = 221 (7) [M]⁺, 178 (7), 140 (22), 98 (21), 81 (40), 60 (100).

trans-2-Aminocyclohexanesulfonic Acid (3a): M.p. 408 °C (CH₃CN/H₂O) (ref. $^{[11]}$ 410 °C, dec.). ^{1}H NMR: $\delta=3.41$ (dt, J=4.0, 11.4 Hz, 1 H, 2-H), 2.96 (dt, J=4.0, 11.4 Hz, 1 H, 1-H), 2.36–2.10 (m, 2 H), 1.94–1.74 (m, 2 H), 1.64–1.24 (m, 4 H). ^{13}C NMR: $\delta=62.3$ (d), 52.9 (d), 32.7 (t), 28.9 (t), 26.0 (t), 25.9 (t). IR: $\tilde{\nu}=3400-2800,$ 1501, 1240–1105, 1029 cm $^{-1}$. MS (ESI): 202 [M + Na]+, 180 [M + H]+. C₆H₁₃NO₃S (179.20): calcd. C 40.21, H 7.31, N 7.81; found C 40.52, H 7.59, N 7.65.

trans-2-Acetylaminocyclopentanesulfonic Acid (2b): 1 H NMR: δ = 4.37 (q, J = 6.9 Hz, 1 H, 2-H), 3.23 (dt, J = 9.1, 6.9 Hz, 1 H, 1-H), 2.22-1.42 (m, 6 H), 1.96 (s, 3 H, CH_3CO). ^{13}C NMR: δ = 175.7 (s), 66.6 (d), 55.7 (d), 35.9 (t), 30.1 (t) 25.6 (t), 24.6 (q).

trans-2-Aminocyclopentanesulfonic Acid (3b): M.p. 324 °C ($\rm H_2O/ethanol$) (ref.^[11] 330 °C, dec.). ¹H NMR: δ = 3.84 (m, 1 H, 2-H), 3.40 (ddd, J = 9.2, 7.3, 7.0 Hz, 1 H, 1-H), 2.31–2.14 (m, 2 H), 2.07–1.72 (m, 4 H). ¹³C NMR: δ = 63.4 (d), 54.6 (d), 31.4 (t), 27.8 (t), 23.1 (t). IR: \tilde{v} = 3180–3050, 1220–1160, 1040 cm⁻¹. MS (ESI): 204 [M + K]⁺, 188 [M + Na]⁺, 166 [M + H]⁺. C₅H₁₁NO₃S (165.20): calcd. C 36.35, H 6.71, N 8.48; found C 36.49, H 7.09, N 8.71.

2-Acetylaminohexanesulfonic Acid (2c): ¹H NMR (CD₃OD): δ = 4.39 (m, 1 H, 2-H), 3.00 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 2 H, 1-H₂), 2.20 (s, 3 H, CH₃CO), 1.79–1.58 (m, 2 H, 3-H₂), 1.38–1.25 (m, 4 H, 4-H₂, 5-H₂), 0.96–0.89 (m, 3 H, CH₃). ¹³C NMR (CD₃OD): δ = 175.2 (s, C=O), 54.8 (t, C-1), 50.6 (d, C-2), 34.6 (t, C-3), 28.9 (t, C-4) 23.3 (t, C-5), 20.6 (q, CH₃CO), 14.2 (q, CH₃). MS: mlz (%) = 224 (3) [M]⁺, 208 (3), 194 (2), 166 (13), 142 (32), 124 (100), 86 (69), 60 (45). C₈H₁₇NO₄S (223.29): calcd. C 43.03, H 7.67, N 6.27; found C 43.24, H 8.07, N 6.11.

2-Aminohexanesulfonic Acid (3c): M.p. > 300 °C (CH₃CN/H₂O). ¹H NMR: δ = 3.69 (m, 1 H, 2-H), 3.30 (A part of an ABX system, $J_{AB} = 15.0$ Hz, $J_{AX} = 3.3$ Hz, 1 H, 1-H), 3.13 (B part of an ABX system, $J_{AB} = 15.0$ Hz, $J_{BX} = 9.5$ Hz, 1 H, 1-H), 1.84–1.72 (m, 2 H, 3-H₂), 1.47–1.27 (m, 4 H, 4-H₂, 5-H₂), 0.90 (m, 3 H, CH₃). ¹³C NMR: δ = 52.2 (t, C-1), 49.3 (d, C-2), 32.3 (t, C-3), 26.9 (t, C-4), 22.2 (t, C-5), 13.6 (q, CH₃). IR: $\tilde{v} = 1250-1190$, 1041 cm⁻¹. MS (ESI): 220 [M + K]⁺, 204 [M + Na]⁺, 182 [M + H]⁺. C₆H₁₅NO₃S (181.25): calcd. C 39.75, H 8.34, N 7.73; found C 40.05, H 8.11, N 7.63.

2-Hydroxyhexanesulfonic Acid (4c): M.p. 218–220 °C (ethyl acetate/CH₃OH). ¹H NMR: δ = 4.09 (m, 1 H, 2-H), 3.09 (A part of an ABX system, J_{AB} = 14.9 Hz, J_{AX} = 4.7 Hz, 1 H, 1-H), 3.00 (B part of an ABX system, J_{AB} = 14.9 Hz, J_{BX} = 7.4 Hz, 1 H, 1-H), 1.69–1.50 (m, 2 H, 3-H₂), 1.49–1.34 (m, 4 H, 4-H₂, 5-H₂), 0.91–0.81 (m, 3 H, CH₃). ¹³C NMR: δ = 68.2 (d, C-2), 57.6 (t, C-1), 36.1 (t, C-3), 27.2 (t, C-4) 22.4 (t, C-5), 13.8 (q, CH₃). IR: \tilde{v} = 3387, 2955, 2924, 2517, 1227, 1170, 1051 cm⁻¹. MS (ESI): 431 [2 M + 3 Na]⁺, 227 [M + 2 Na]⁺, 182 [M]⁺, 163 [M - H₂O]⁺, 95 (CH₂SO₃H), 80 (SO₃H). C₆H₁₄O₄S (182.20): calcd. C 39.55, H 7.74; found C 39.94, H 7.63.

2-Acetylamino-2-phenylethanesulfonic Acid (2d): ^{1}H NMR ([D₆]DMSO): $\delta = 8.60-8.45$ (m, 1 H, NHCO), 7.38-7.15 (m, 5

trans-2-Acetylaminocyclohexanesulfonic Acid (2a): M.p. > 330 °C. H, Ph), 5.19–5.02 (m, 1 H, 2-H), 3.13–2.96 (AB system, 2 H, 1-1 H NMR: $\delta = 3.88$ (td, J = 11.0, 4.4 Hz, 1 H, 2-H), 2.82 (td, $J = H_2$), 1.80 (s, 3 H, C H_3).

2-Amino-2-phenylethanesulfonic Acid (3d): M.p. 314–315 °C (ethanol/H₂O) (ref. $^{[12]}$ 306–308 °C). ^{1}H NMR ([D₆]DMSO): $\delta=7.63-7.29$ (m, 5 H, Ph), 4.66–4.41 (m, 1 H, H-2), 3.26–3.05 (m, 1 H, 1-H), 2.92–2.78 (m, 1 H, 1-H). ^{13}C NMR ([D₆]DMSO): $\delta=137.2$ (s, *ipso* C), 128.9 (d, 2 C_{Ar}), 128.8 (d, C_{Ar}), 127.4 (d, 2 C_{Ar}), 54.0 (t, C-1), 52.2 (d, C-2). IR: $^{[13]}$ $\tilde{\nu}=3206-2864$, 1246–1128, 1049 cm $^{-1}$. MS (ESI): 240 [M + K]+, 224 [M + Na]+, 202 [M + H]+. C₈H₁₁NO₃S (201.24): calcd. C 47.75, H 5.51, N 6.96; found C 47.66, H 5.30, N 6.76.

(1R*,2R*)-2-Acetylamino-2-methylcyclohexanesulfonic Acid (2e): M.p. 194–197 °C. ¹H NMR ([D₆]DMSO): δ = 10.60–9.90 (br. s, SO₃ H), 8.60–8.40 (br. s, NH), 2.76 (dd, J = 12.2, 3.0 Hz, 1 H, 1-H), 2.44 (d, J = 15.4 Hz, 1 H), 1.99 (dd, J = 13.3, 2.7 Hz, 1 H), 1.70 (s, 3 H, CH₃CO), 1.63 (d, J = 12.8 Hz, 1 H), 1.48–1.43 (m, 3 H), 1.34 (s, 3 H, CH₃), 1.32–1.05 (m, 3 H). ¹³C NMR: δ = 173.7 (s, C=O), 62.3 (d, C-1), 56.6 (s, C-2), 37.8 (t), 25.6 (t) 25.2 (t), 24.0 (q), 22.5 (t), 19.6 (q). IR: \tilde{v} = 3265, 3185, 3098, 2941, 2852, 2377, 1661, 1544, 1428, 1247, 1110, 993 cm⁻¹. MS: m/z (%) = 192 (3) [M – COMe]⁺, 178 (3), 154 (39), 112 (31), 95 (65), 81 (18), 70 (64), 60 (100). C₉H₁₇NO₄S (235.30): calcd. C 45.94, H 7.28, N 5.95; found C 46.29, H 7.16, N 5.99.

(1R*,2R*)-2-Amino-2-methylcyclohexanesulfonic Acid (3e): M.p. > 340 °C (CH₃CN/CH₃OH/H₂O). ¹H NMR: δ = 3.09 (dd, J = 12.1, 3.7 Hz, 1 H, 1-H), 2.19–2.14 (m, 1 H), 1.94–1.80 (m, 2 H), 1.80–1.59 (m, 3 H), 1.53 (s, 3 H, CH₃), 1.47–1.31 (m, 2 H). ¹³C NMR: δ = 63.7 (d, C-1), 56.2 (s, C-2), 38.7 (t), 25.1 (t), 24.9 (t), 21.9 (t), 18.0 (q, CH₃). IR: \tilde{v} = 3466, 2951, 2360, 1240–1147, 1032 cm⁻¹. MS (ESI): 232 [M + K]*,216 [M + Na]*, 194 [M + H]*. C₇H₁₅NO₃S (193.26): calcd. C 43.501, H 7.82, N 7.25; found C 43.28, H 7.87, N 7.03.

2-Amino-5-hydroxypentanesulfonic Acid (5): 1 H NMR: $\delta = 3.84 - 3.62$ (m, 3 H, 2-H and 5-H₂), 3.32 (A part of an ABX system, $J_{AB} = 14.7$ Hz, $J_{AX} = 3.5$ Hz, 1 H, 1-H), 3.17 (B part of an ABX system, $J_{AB} = 14.7$ Hz, $J_{BX} = 8.8$ Hz, 1 H, 1-H), 1.97 – 1.61 (m, 4 H, 3-H₂ and 4-H₂). 13 C NMR: $\delta = 51.0$ (t), 47.7 (d, C-2), 43.9 (t), 29.0 (t), 26.9 (t). MS (ESI): 222 [M + K]⁺, 206 [M + Na]⁺, 184 [M + H]⁺.

(1R*,2S*)-2-Amino-1,2-diphenylethanesulfonic Acid (3h): M.p. > 255 °C dec. (EtOH/H₂O) (ref.^[9] 306–308 °C). ¹H NMR ([D₆]DMSO): δ = 8.60–8.20 (br. s), 7.38–7.01 (m, 10 H, 2 Ph), 5.00 (m, 1 H, 2-H), 4.11 (d, J = 2.9 Hz, 1 H, 1-H). ¹³C NMR ([D₆]DMSO): δ = 135.2 (s, *ipso* C), 132.7 (s, *ipso* C), 130.3 (d, 2 C_{Ar}), 128.3 (d), 128.1 (d, 2 C_{Ar}), 127.8 (d, 2 C_{Ar}), 127.6 (d), 127.5 (d, 2 C_{Ar}), 67.1 (d, C-1), 56.1 (d, C-2).

Taurine (3i): The AS was performed in a autoclave with an excess of ethylene at a pressure of 50 atm. The spectroscopic data were identical with those of a commercial sample of taurine.

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- [6] Dr. Cristina Faggi is acknowledged for carrying out the X-ray analysis.
- The authors have deposited atomic coordinates for this structure with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre; depository number CCDC-167422. The data can be obtained free of charge on application to Cambridge Crystallographic Data
- Centre, 12 Union Road, Cambridge, CB2 1EZ, UK [Fax: (internat.) + 44-1223/336-033; E-mail: deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk].
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