

ASYMMETRIC DIALKYLATION OF CHIRAL 2-BENZAZEPINE FORMAMIDINES†

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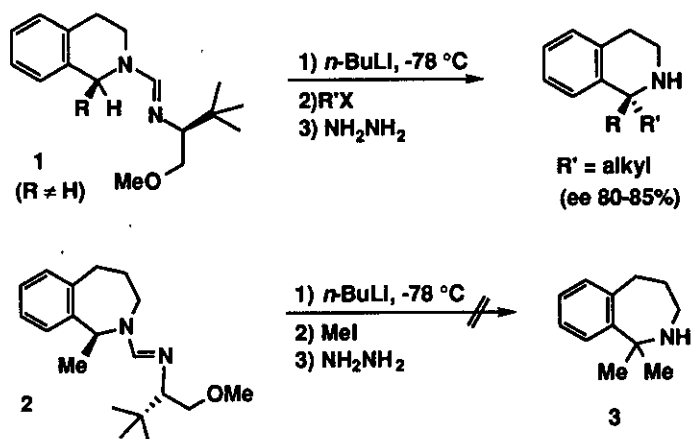
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Abstract - Repeated metallation and alkylation of an (*S*)-(+)-*tert*-leucinol derived 2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1*H*-2-benzazepine formamidine leads to the corresponding 1,1-dialkyl-2-benzazepines in good yields and with excellent enantioselectivities.

Previously, we reported that metallation and alkylation of chiral 2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-2-benzazepine formamidines (**5**) provided the corresponding monoalkylated 2-benzazepines (**6**) in good yield and with high enantioselectivities (84-96% ee).¹ At that time, the absolute stereochemistry of the major isomer resulting from these alkylations was tentatively assigned the *S*-configuration.² This assignment has subsequently been confirmed by anomalous dispersion single crystal X-ray analysis³ and was found to be in agreement with the predicted assignment (as shown for **6**). Our continued studies in this area have now been extended to a synthesis of the related quaternary substituted compounds (**7**).

It was earlier shown⁴ that treatment of the *tert*-leucine methyl ether isoquinoline formamidine (**1**) with *n*-butyllithium in THF at -78 °C provides a 3° α-amino anion which can be alkylated with a variety of simple electrophiles. Suprisingly, an attempt to alkylate the benzazepine formamidine (**2**) under similar conditions failed to provide the corresponding 1,1-dimethylbenzazepine (**3**). This suggested that, a) either **2** was not deprotonated under these conditions; or b) that approach of the electrophile (MeI) was severely hindered in this system.

† Dedicated to the memory of Professor Yoshio Ban whose important contributions to organic chemistry will not be forgotten.



It was subsequently confirmed by a deuterium quenching study, that **2** was, indeed, not deprotonated by *n*-butyllithium at -78 °C (Table 1). Additionally, it was found that both *t*-butyllithium and *sec*-butyllithium failed to deprotonate this compound at -78 °C, although the reaction with *sec*-butyllithium provided partial deuterium incorporation after 1 h (~10% by ¹H nmr). It was found after some experimentation, that treatment of **2** with *sec*-butyllithium (-78 °C) and then warming to -40 °C (1 h) provided **4** with > 95 % deuterium incorporation (¹H nmr analysis).

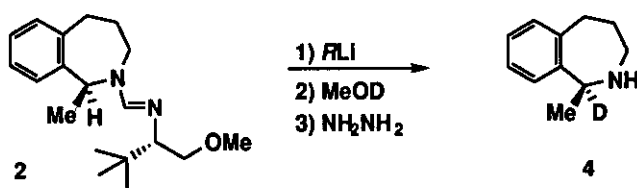


Table 1. Various conditions for deprotonation of **2**.

Entry	Base (RLi)	Temp (Time)	% Deuterium
1	<i>n</i> -BuLi	-78 °C (1.0 h)	0
2	<i>t</i> -BuLi	-78 °C (1.0 h)	0
3	<i>sec</i> -BuLi	-78 °C (1.0 h)	~10
4	<i>sec</i> -BuLi	-78 °C → -40 °C (1.0 h)	>95

Having now developed suitable conditions to effect a second deprotonation of the monoalkylated benzazepine formamidine (2), a series of enantiomerically enriched 1,1-dialkyl-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-2-benzazepines (7) were prepared from the chiral benzazepine formamidine (5) (Table 2). Thus, metallation (*n*-BuLi, THF, -78 °C) and alkylation (-90 °C, R¹X) of (5) provided the crude monoalkylated formamidines (6) which were filtered through a short column of silica gel (hexanes/ethyl acetate/Et₃N 50:45:5) and immediately subjected to a second metalation-alkylation sequence (*sec*-BuLi, THF, -40 °C, 1h; -90 °C, R²X).⁵ Thereafter, methanol quench (-90 °C) and removal of the chiral auxiliary (EtOH/NH₂NH₂·H₂O/HOAc (17:2:1), 60 °C, 6 h) provided the dialkylated amines (7) in good yields and with moderate to excellent enantioselectivities.

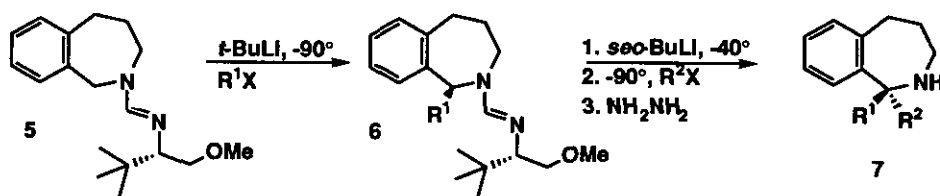


Table 2. Asymmetric dialkylation of *t*-leucinol benzazepine formamidine (5).

Entry	R ¹ X	R ² X	Yield 7 (%)	Ratio of 7 (S:R) ^a
1	MeI	MeI	53	-----
2	MeI	<i>n</i> -PrBr	84	25:75 ^b
3	<i>n</i> -PrBr	MeI	80	>99:1 ^b
4	MeI	BnBr	56	65:35 ^c
5	BnBr	MeI	60	>99:1 ^c
6	I(CH ₂) ₃ OTBS	MeI	76	>99:1 ^d
7	<i>n</i> -PrBr	MeOCH ₂ Cl	84	2:98 ^e
8 ^f	<i>n</i> -PrBr	MeOCH ₂ Cl	70	6:94 ^e

a) Unless otherwise indicated ratios were determined by Chiral hplc using a Diacel Industries Chiracel OD column. b) Analysis of *p*-methoxybenzamide (Chiracel OJ), Hexane/Isopropanol (96:4), Flow = 0.75 ml/min. c) Analysis of *p*-methoxybenzamide, Hexane/Isopropanol (95:5), Flow = 0.55 ml/min. d) Analysis of *p*-methoxybenzamide, Hexane/Isopropanol (98:2), Flow = 0.60 ml/min. e) Analysis of naphthamide, Hexane/Ethanol (98:2), Flow = 0.75 ml/min. f) alkylation of (S)-valine methyl ether benzazepine formamidine.

As indicated above, alkylation of the intermediate monoalkylated formamidines (**6**) occurred predominately from the α -face with net retention of configuration.^{6,7} This sense of addition is consistent with earlier studies involving the isoquinoline formamidines.² The enantiomeric excesses for the 2-benzazepine alkylations, however, were significantly higher (10-20%) than in the corresponding isoquinoline system (Entries 3, 5-8). Moreover, it was found that the extent of asymmetric induction in the 2-benzazepines was significantly attenuated by the nature of the R-group at C-1. Thus, when R¹X was iodomethane (Entries 2 and 4), the second alkylation occurred with greatly decreased levels of diastereoselection, indicating a previously unobserved steric effect. On the other hand, introduction of iodomethane in the second alkylation step gave excellent stereoselectivity (Entries 3, 5, 6). A change from the *tert*-leucinol derived formamidine to the valinol derived formamidine (Entries 7, 8) showed only a negligible effect on the overall level of diastereoselection and this represents a significant deviation from the previously studied isoquinoline system, which experienced an additional 10% drop in selectivity under these conditions.² Finally, these data appear to indicate that conformational "flexibility" in the 7-membered benzazepine ring plays an important role in determining the level of diastereoselection for the dialkylation process. Additional studies of this system are in progress.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The authors are grateful to the National Science Foundation for financial support of this work.

REFERENCES

1. A. I. Meyers and R. H. Hutchings, *Tetrahedron*, 1993, **49**, 1807.
2. For a recent review of formamidine chemistry including a mechanistic rationale for asymmetric induction see: A. I. Meyers, *Tetrahedron*, 1992, **48**, 2589.
3. Unpublished X-Ray data.
4. A. I. Meyers, M. A. Gonzalez, V. Struzka, A. Akahane, J. G. Guiles, and J. S. Warmus, *Tetrahedron Lett.*, 1991, **32**, 5501.
5. Attempts to carry out a "one pot" dialkylation of **5** gave predominantly monoalkylated products with low yields of dialkylated material.
6. The absolute sense of addition was confirmed by anomalous dispersion single crystal X-ray analysis of **7** (R¹ = Bn, R² = Me) (HBr salt).
7. Note the apparent reversal in selectivity for entries 7 and 8 reflects a change in priority due to the methoxymethyl group.