ORGANIC LETTERS

2002
Vol. 4, No. 25
4511−4514

Stereodivergent Approach to β-Hydroxy α-Amino Acids from C_2-Symmetrical Alk-2-yne-1,4-diols

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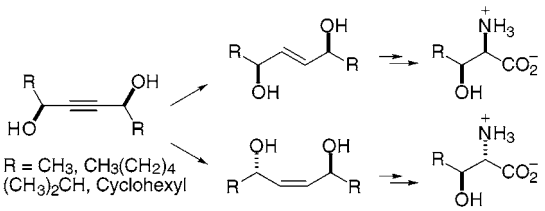
Received October 7, 2002

ABSTRACT



A new stereodivergent route to *erythro*- and *threo*-β-substituted serines from a common C_2-symmetrical alk-2-yne-1,4-diol is described. Stereocontrol in such an acyclic system is achieved by taking advantage of symmetry. Stereoselective alkyne reduction to either (*Z*)- or (*E*)-olefin allows selection of the stereochemistry of α-carbon in the final amino acid by using a Pd(0)-catalyzed process. This strategy has been applied to the synthesis of (2*S*,3*S*)-3-hydroxyleucine.

β-Hydroxy α-amino acids are structural components of many complex natural products with interesting pharmacological properties.[1] For example, some of them are found in peptides possessing antibiotic or immunosuppressant activities.[2] Furthermore, these functionalized amino acids have also been used as intermediates in asymmetric synthesis of numerous compounds,[3] including β-lactames.[4] As a result of their major significance in biological systems, a number of elegant stereoselective approaches have been described for their preparation.[5] These strategies include some catalytic processes (viz. Sharpless AD and AE,[6] aldol reactions,[7] catalytic hydrogenations,[8] or enzymatic methods[9]).

Although most of these catalytic methods afford *threo*-β-hydroxy α-amino acids in good yields and selectivity, reliable procedures that lead to either *erythro* or *threo* isomers proved to be elusive.[10] Herein, we report an efficient method for a selective preparation of both diastereoisomers from a common precursor, a C_2-symmetrical alk-2-yne-1,4-diol (**1**). As we have recently reported, such diols can be readily available by stereoselective reduction of the parent acetylenic diketones[11] or by stereoselective addition of alk-1-yn-3-ols to aldehydes.[12]

The key features of our synthesis (Scheme 1) are (i) a selective transformation to the corresponding (*E*)- or (*Z*)-allylic dicarbamates (**4** or **5**); (ii) desymmetrization and stereoselective conversion to either *trans*- or *cis*-oxazolidinones (**6** and **7**, respectively) by a Pd(0)-catalyzed allylic alkylation; and (iii) oxidative cleavage of the double bond and final deprotection to afford the selected β-substituted serines. As far as the stereoselectivity is concerned, the configuration of the starting diols would determine the β-carbon configuration of the final product. On the other

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(4) (a) Miller, M. J. *Acc. Chem. Res.* **1986**, *19*, 49−56. (b) Labia, R.; Morin, C. *J. Antibiot.* **1984**, *37*, 1103−1129. (c) Floyd, D. M.; Fritz, A. W.; Pluscec, J.; Weaver, E. R.; Cimarusti, C. M. *J. Org. Chem.* **1982**, *47*, 5160−5167.

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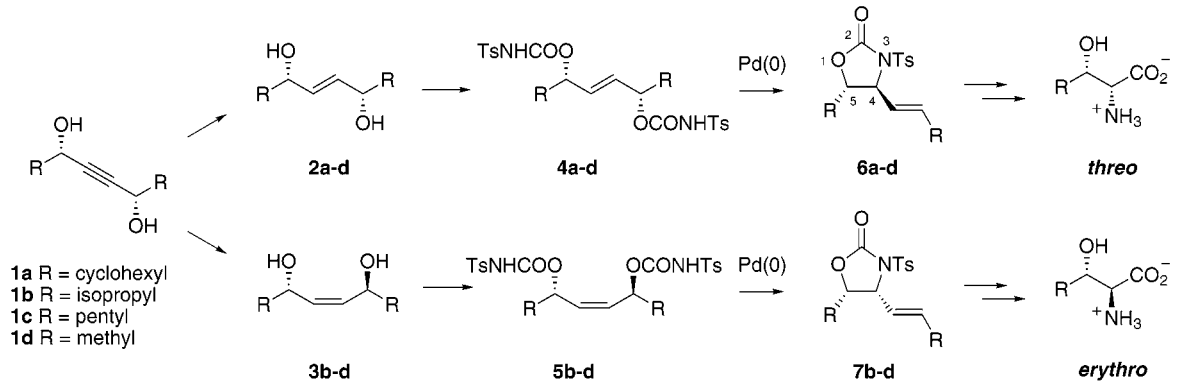
10.1021/ol0270428 CCC: $22.00
Published on Web 11/20/2002

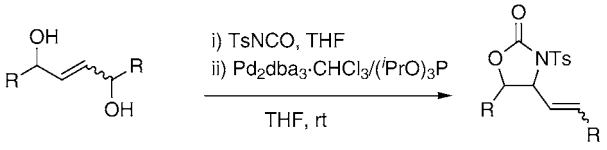
Scheme 1



hand, we expected that the configuration of the α-carbon could be selected by an appropriate stereoselective alkyne reduction.[13] Thus, (*E*)-unsaturated diols (**4**) would afford *trans*-oxazolidinones (**6**), whereas (*Z*)-olefins (**5**) would give access to *cis*-oxazolidinones (**7**), which are direct precursors of the *β*-substituted serines.

Our first efforts were directed to the cyclization of (*E*)-allylic alcohols. Thus, diol **2a** was treated with 2.5 equivalents of tosyl isocyanate in THF at room temperature to afford the transient dicarbamate **4a**, which was converted in situ to the oxazolidine **6a** in a Pd(0)-catalyzed process (Pd_2dba_3·$CHCl_3$/(^{i}PrO)$_3$P).[14] As expected, only the (*E*)-*trans*-oxazolidine **6a** isomer was detected.[15] The same behavior was observed for other diols, which also afforded a single diastereoisomer (**6**)[16] (Table 1, entries 1−3).

Table 1. Pd(0)-Catalyzed Cyclization of Diols **2** and **3**[a]

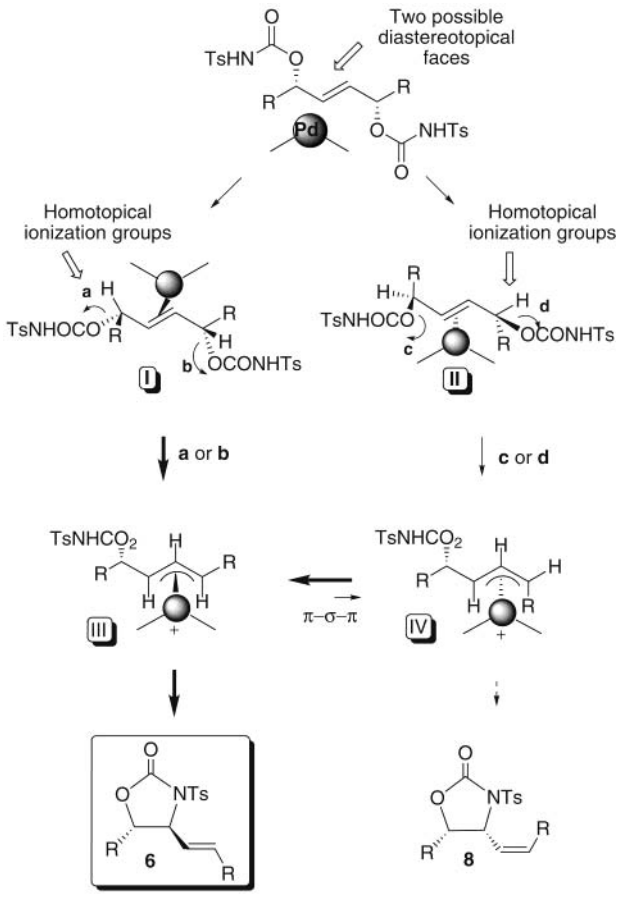


entry	diol	R	yield[b]	product	dr (%)[c]
1	**2a**	cyclohexyl	70%	**6a**	>95:5
2	**2b**	isopropyl	85%	**6b**	>95:5
3	**2c**	pentyl	75%	**6c**	>95:5
4	**2d**	methyl	93%	**6d**	58:42
5[d,e]	**3b**	isopropyl	70%	**7b**	>95.5
6[e,f]	**3c**	pentyl	75%	**7c**	>95:5
7[d]	**3d**	methyl	89%	**7d**	90:10

[a] Typical conditions: 2.5 equiv of TsNCO, 4 mol % Pd_2dba_3·$CHCl_3$, 24 mol % P(O^{i}Pr)$_3$. [b] Isolated yield. [c] Determined by ^{1}H NMR analysis. [d] Dicarbamates **5b** and **5d** were first isolated and then cyclized in CH_3CN.[17] [e] Catalyst load: 6−12 mol % Pd_2dba_3·$CHCl_3$ and 36−72 mol % P(O^{i}Pr)$_3$. [f] Performed in 1:1 THF/CH_3CN.

The origin of such a remarkable acyclic stereoselection is based on the symmetry properties of the substrate (Scheme 2). Pd can be complexed unequally to both diastereotopical faces of the olefin (complexes **I** or **II**), but when these complexes ionize, each one can form initially[18] a single *π*-allyl complex (**III** and **IV**, respectively). Then, the intramolecular cyclization would afford preferentially two diastereoisomers: the observed (*E*)-*trans*-oxazolidinone **6** and the isomeric (*Z*)-*cis*-oxazolidinone **8**. In general, the (*E*)-trans isomer seems to be favored by sterical interactions not only on the *π*-allyl complexes but also on the ionization or cyclization transition state. However, when R is a smaller group (i.e., methyl), such interactions are less important, and in fact, a mixture of **6d** and **8d** is obtained (Table 1, entry 4).

Scheme 2



A similar analysis for (*Z*)-allylic dicarbamates **5** (Scheme 3) can be performed. In contrast to the (*E*)-isomer, in this case only a single olefin complex (**V**) is possible since both alkene faces are homotopical. The ionization process could lead to two possible π-allyl intermediates (**VI** or **VII**) where again one could be favored over the other by sterical constraints. Interestingly, the expected preferred isomer would be the (*E*)-*cis*-oxazolidinone **7**. According to this prediction, when dicarbamate **5b** was submitted to our conditions, only the desired isomer (**7b**) was obtained (entry 5).[19] Similarly, dicarbamate **5c** afforded stereoselectively the expected (*E*)-*cis*-oxazolidinone (**7c**). Only when the sterically less hindered dicarbamate **5d** was used, was the minor isomer **9d** detected in a 90:10 ratio.

The methodology can also be applied to *meso*-diols **10** and **11** (Table 2) in good yields and with high diastereoselectivities. In the case of diols **10** (entries 1−3), both faces are enantiotopical and the diastereoselection occurs after the complexation step. As a result, oxazolidinones **7** were obtained as the major diastereoisomers. Obviously, as achiral palladium ligands are used, a racemic product is obtained. Alternatively, diols **11** afforded (*E*)-*trans*-oxazolidinones **6** (entries 4−6) through a mechanism where we assumed that the complexation is now the diastereoselective process, whereas ionization is an enantioselective one.

Transformation of oxazolidinones **6** and **7** into acids **12** and **13**, respectively, was successfully accomplished by ozonolysis followed by oxidation of the crude aldehyde with $NaClO_2$[20] without loss of stereochemical purity (Scheme 4). This two-step process gave better yields than direct olefin cleavage with $RuCl_3$.[21]

Scheme 3

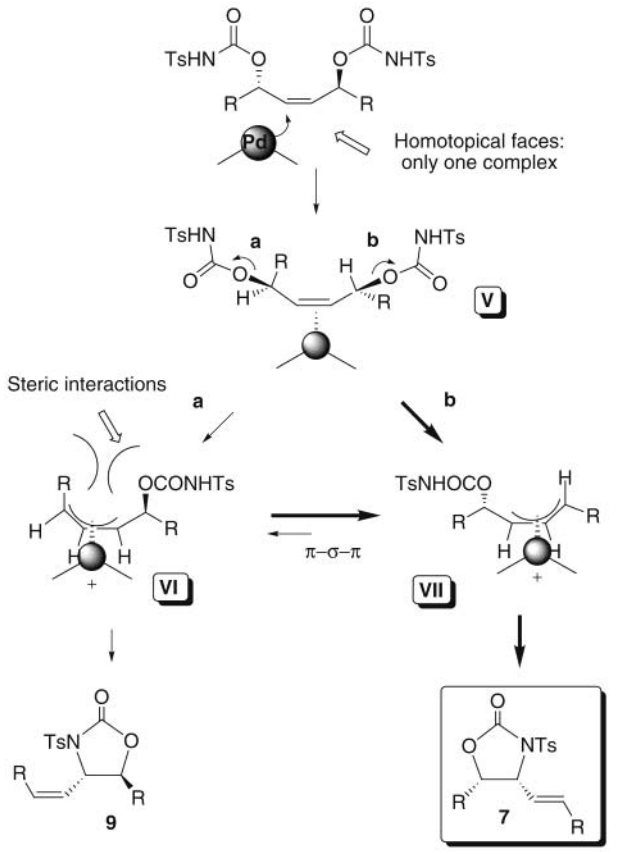
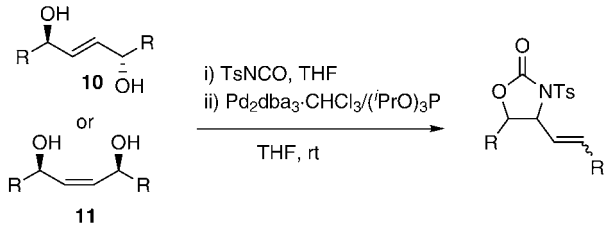


Table 2. Pd(0)-Catalyzed Cyclization of *meso*-Diols[a]



entry	diol	R	yield	product	dr (%)[b]
1[c]	**10a**	cyclohexyl	82%	**7a**	>95:5
2[c]	**10c**	pentyl	68%	**7c**	>95:5
3[c]	**10d**	methyl	86%	**7d**	90:10[d]
4	**11a**	cyclohexyl	96%	**6a**	>95.5
5	**11c**	pentyl	69%	**6c**	>95:5
6	**11d**	methyl	84%	**6d**	93:7[e]

[a] Typical conditions: 2.5 equiv of TsNCO, 4 mol % $Pd_2dba_3{\cdot}CHCl_3$, 24 mol % $P(O^iPr)_3$. [b] Determined by ^1H NMR analysis. [c] Dicarbamate was first isolated and then cyclized in CH_3CN. [d] Minor isomer **9d**. [e] Minor isomer **8d**.

(6) See, for example: (a) Shao, H.; Goodman, M. *J. Org. Chem.* **1996**, *61*, 2582−2583. (b) Jung, M. E.; Jung, Y. H. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1989**, *30*, 6637−6640. (c) Schmidt, U.; Respondek, M.; Lieberknecht, A.; Werner, J.; Fischer, P. *Synthesis* **1989**, 256−261.

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(12) Amador, M.; Ariza, X.; Garcia, J.; Ortiz, J. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2002**, *43*, 2691−2694.

(13) Allylic diols **2** and **3** were easily obtained from acetylenic diols **1** by $LiAlH_4$ reduction and partial hydrogenation (H_2, Lindlar catalyst, EtOAc), respectively.

(14) For related cyclizations, see: (a) Hayashi, T.; Yamamoto, A.; Ito, Y. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1987**, *28*, 4837−4840. (b) Trost, B. M.; Van Vranken, D. L. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1990**, *112*, 1261−1263.

(15) The stereochemistry was assigned by NOE experiments and spectral data comparison with similar oxazolidinones: Kimura, M.; Tanaka, S.; Tamaru, Y. *Bull. Chem. Soc. Jpn.* **1995**, *68*, 1689−1705.

(16) HPLC analysis of **6b** derived from **2b** (>99% ee) showed a single stereoisomer on a chiral column (Chiralcel OD-H, 9:1 hexane/2-propanol, 0.5 mL/min, $t(-) = 12.7$ min, $t(+) = 16.3$ min).

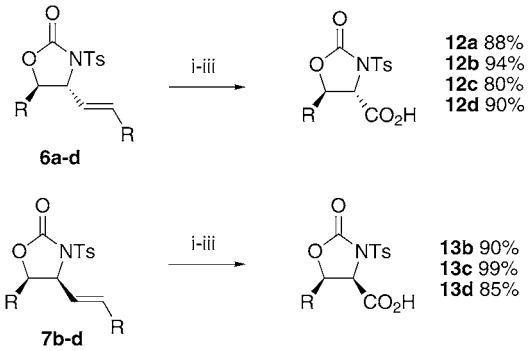
(17) Acetonitrile improved the reaction rates and stereoselectivity.

(18) Both π-allyl complexes are amenable to $\pi-\sigma-\pi$ isomerization.

(19) HPLC analysis of **7b** on a Chiralcel OD-H column showed a single enantiomer (9:1 hexane/2-propanol, 0.5 mL/min, $t(+) = 16.6$ min, $t(-) = 21.1$ min).

(20) Dalcanale, E.; Montanari, F. *J. Org. Chem.* **1986**, *51*, 567−569.

Scheme 4[a]



[a] Reaction conditions: (i) O_3/CH_2Cl_2; (ii) Me_2S; (iii) $NaClO_2$, H_2O_2, NaH_2PO_4, CH_3CN-H_2O.

Finally, compound **13b** was detosylated under reductive conditions (Na/naphthalene)[22] to afford a known compound **14b** that can be hydrolyzed to the free β-hydroxyleucine[23] (Scheme 5).

In summary, we have developed a new catalytic, stereodivergent approach to both *erythro*- and *threo*-protected

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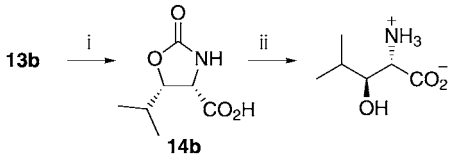
(22) Removal of tosyl group was successfully carried out in a number of oxazolidinones **12** or **13** in 65−94%: Ji, S.; Gortler, L. B.; Waring, A.; Battisti, A. J.; Bank, S.; Closson, W. D.; Wriede, P. A. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1967**, *89*, 5311−5312.

(23) Spectral data fully agree with those reported: (a) Hale, K. J.; Manaviazar, S.; Delliser, V. M. *Tetrahedron* **1994**, *50*, 9181−9188. (b) Laïb, T.; Chastanet, J.; Zhu, J. *J. Org. Chem.* **1998**, *63*, 1709−1713.

Scheme 5[a]



[a] Reaction conditions: (i) Na/Naphthalene (5 equiv); (ii) ref 23b.

β-hydroxy α-amino acids series that takes advantage of the C_2-symmetrical properties of our starting material. Furthermore, we have demonstrated that cyclization of dicarbamates derived from acyclic alk-2-ene-1,4-diols can be stereoselective. In this sense, it has been possible to force the cyclization toward the more sterically congested *cis*-4,5-disubstituted oxazolidinones.

Acknowledgment. This work has been supported by the Ministerio de Educación y Cultura (PB98-1272, DGESIC) and Dirección General de Recerca, Generalitat de Catalunya (2000SGR00021). We also thank the Universitat de Barcelona for doctorate studentships to M.A. and J.O. and Professor J. Vilarrasa for reading the draft.

Supporting Information Available: Experimental procedures and analytical data. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

OL0270428