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Asymmetric Total Synthesis of Bacillariolide III, a Marine Oxylipin

Seung-Yong Seo,[†] Jae-Kyung Jung,[‡] Seung-Mann Paek,[†] Yong-Sil Lee,[†] Seok-Ho Kim,[†] Kwang-Ok Lee,[†] and Young-Ger Suh^{*,†,§}

College of Pharmacy, Seoul National University, Seoul 151-742, Korea, Center for Bioactive Molecular Hybrids, Yonsei University, Seoul 120-749, Korea, and College of Pharmacy, Chungbuk National University, Cheongju 361-763, Korea

ygsuh@snu.ac.kr

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ABSTRAC1

The asymmetric total synthesis of bacillariolide III has been achieved via 15 linear steps in 14.6% overall yield. The key feature of this synthetic route involves the highly stereoselective construction of the vinyl-substituted bicyclic lactone by an intramolecular Pd(0)-catalyzed allylic alkylation and its facile conversion to the hydroxy bicyclic lactone skeleton of bacillariolide III, induced by stereoselective vinylcerium addition to the aldehyde. In addition, the (Z)-pentenoic acid was efficiently introduced by the internal hydroxy group tethered ring-closing metathesis (RCM).

Bacillariolides I and II, which are new carbocyclic oxylipins, were isolated from the marine diatom *Pseudonitzschia multiseries*, a causative organism of amnesic shellfish poisoning, by Shimizu and Wang.² The detailed structure and absolute configurations of bacillariolide I, possessing significant inhibitory activity against phospholipase A₂ (PLA₂), have been established based on extensive spectroscopic analyses in conjunction with the X-ray crystallographic analysis of the (—)-camphanic acid derivative. On the other hand, bacillariolide III, which was isolated from the culture medium of the same marine diatom, was proposed to be an extracellular metabolite derived from bacillariolide I by oxidative cleavage of the polyene side chain, especially at C-12 and C-13.³

bacillariolide II

Although the biological function of this extracellular metabolite is still under investigation, the novel structural features of bacillariolide III (1), involving the highly functionalized cyclopentanol framework with four contiguous stereocenters and the potential biological activity derived from its structural resemblance to the well-known biologically important prostaglandins and jasmonates,⁴ led us to undertake the total synthesis of bacillariolide III. We herein report the asymmetric total synthesis of bacillariolide III, which previously was reported only by Yamada and coworkers.⁵

[†] College of Pharmacy, Seoul National University.

[§] Center for Bioactive Hybrids.

[‡] Chungbuk National University.

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Our retrosynthetic analysis for bacillariolide III (1) is illustrated in Scheme 1. In contemplating the synthesis of

bacillariolide III, it was envisioned that the (Z)-pentenoic acid side chain could be installed by the C5 hydroxy group tethered ring-closing metathesis (RCM)⁶ from 3 and the subsequent hydrolysis of the nine-membered lactone 2. The crucial C7 stereochemistry of the hydroxy bicyclic lactone 3 would be established with stereoselective addition of a vinyl organometallic reagent to the aldehyde, prepared by oxidative cleavage of the vinyl substituent of the bicyclic lactone 4. The initial vinyl addition product was expected to spontaneously isomerize to the hydroxy bicyclic lactone 3. On the basis of the stereoselective Pd(0)-catalyzed cyclization of allylic carbonate recently developed in our laboratory, the requisite bicyclic lactone 4, corresponding to the hydroxy-cyclopentane skeleton of the bacillariolide series, would be efficiently prepared from the allylic carbonate 5. The cyclization precursor 5 can be conveniently derived from the known (R)-(-)- α -hydroxy- γ -butyrolactone. This transformation involves a two-carbon homologation and the introduction of benzenesulfonyl acetate, followed by δ -lactone formation.

Our synthesis commenced with the preparation of the requisite allylic carbonate **5** for the key Pd(0)-catalyzed cyclization, as shown in Scheme 2. Thus, the α , β -unsaturated

ester **7** was prepared from the known TBS-protected (R)-(-)- α -hydroxy- γ -butyrolactone **6**⁸ in 85% yield by a convenient one-pot procedure, involving a DIBAL reduction followed by a Horner–Wadsworth–Emmons reaction. Tosylation of the primary alcohol **7** and then DIBAL reduction of the ester furnished the allylic alcohol **8** in 95% overall yield. THP protection of the allylic alcohol **8** and subsequent alkylation of the tosylate with benzenesulfonyl acetate **10** provided the alkylation product **9**. Concurrent removal of both the TBS and THP protecting groups with CSA and lactonization of the resulting hydroxy ester in the presence of DBU afforded the δ -valerolactone, which was subjected to ethoxycarbonylation to provide the allylic carbonate **5**.

With the requisite cyclization precursor 5 in hand, we carried out a survey of diastereoselective Pd(0)-catalyzed cyclizations under a variety of reaction conditions, including different ligands and solvents as summarized in Table 1. Initial treatment of 5 with 10 mol % of Pd(dppe)₂ in THF afforded the cyclization product as a mixture of 4 and 4' in 78% yield, with a disappointingly low stereoselectivity (entry 1). Fortunately, the poor diastereoselectivity was solved by the use of Pd(PPh₃)₄. The cyclization of 5 in the presence of 5 mol % of Pd(PPh₃)₄ in CH₂Cl₂ (entry 4) resulted in the exclusive formation of the desired isomer 4, along with a trace amount of the minor isomer 4' (30:1), in 88% yield. Interestingly, the cyclization in the presence of Pd(dba)₂ (entry 7) showed the opposite diastereoselectivity, although

430 Org. Lett., Vol. 6, No. 3, 2004

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Table 1. Pd(0)-Catalyzed Cyclization of Allylic Carbonate **5**^a

entry	catalyst	solvent	yield (%) b	ratio ^c (4:4 ')
1	Pd(dppe) ₂	THF	78	2:1
2	Pd(dppe) ₂	DMSO	33	1:1
3	Pd(PPh ₃) ₄	THF	65	5:1
4	Pd(PPh ₃) ₄	CH_2Cl_2	88	30:1
5	Pd(PPh ₃) ₄	DMSO	57	10:1
6	Pd(PPh ₃) ₄	CH_3CN	59	1.1:1
7	Pd(dba)2	DMSO	27	1:2.4
8	Pd(dba)2	THF	d	

^a Reactions were conducted with 10 mol % of Pd catalyst at 80 °C for 2 h except for the reaction of entry 4 performed with 5 mol % of Pd catalyst under reflux for 1 h. b Isolated yields. c Determined by 300-MHz 1H NMR spectra of the crude diastereomeric mixtures. ^d Not determined.

the yield was quite low. Notably, our methodology provides the bicyclic lactone 4 as an excellent equivalent of the thermodynamically less favorable cis-2,3-disubstituted-cyclopentanol system, which is not easily accessible by the conventional cyclization methods.¹⁰

Having successfully addressed the synthesis of the bicyclic lactone 4, we turned our attention to the facile transformation of 4 into the bicyclic lactone 3, as well as to the stereoselective introduction of the C7 vinyl substituent, which is essential for the projected RCM (Scheme 3). We initially attempted to add the vinyl group to the aldehyde 11 possessing the benzenesulfonyl group. Thus, ozonolysis $(O_3,$ CH₂Cl₂, then Me₂S) of the cyclization adduct 4 and the immediate subjection of the unstable aldehyde 11 to the vinylation conditions (CH₂CHMgBr, THF, -78 °C) gave the transposed lactone 12 as a single diastereomer in low yield $(\sim 25\%)$. This low yield seems to be due to the inherent lability of the strained β -alkoxyaldehyde, which induces the formation of the elimination and/or epimerization product. Furthermore, the structural assignment of 12 by extensive NOE studies revealed that the C7 stereochemistry is opposite to the desired one. Other methods for stereoselective vinylation were also investigated, with little success.11 In light of the fact that the cerium reagents react with the readily enolizable carbonyl group,12 we considered the use of an organocerium reagent for the pivotal vinylation of the desulfonylated aldehyde. Thus, desulfonylation (6% Na-Hg, B(OH)₃, MeOH) of 4 without ring opening of the bicyclic lactone^{7d} and then direct vinylcerium addition to the

Scheme 3

crude aldehyde 14, which was prepared by ozonolysis of 13, afforded the desired bicyclic intermediate 3 (65%) along with a small amount of the undesired isomer (10%). The stereoselectivity of vinylcerium addition to the aldehyde is not readily explainable. However, this selectivity is likely due to the preferred anti relationship of the polar groups, as shown in conformation B, which minimizes the electronic repulsion.¹³ The structure of 3, as well as the stereochemistries of its stereogenic centers, was confirmed by an intensive analysis of the spectral data, including NOE studies.

To complete the synthesis of bacillariolide III, the C-5 hydroxy group of the vinylated bicyclic lactone 3 was acylated with pentenoyl chloride to give the ester 15 as an internal hydroxy group tethered RCM precursor.14 To our delight, the ring-closing metathesis of diene 15 with the second-generation Grubbs' catalyst 16 proceeded smoothly, to give the nine-membered lactone 2 with the desired (Z)geometry of the pentenoic side chain. 15 It is noteworthy that the ring-closing metathesis of the diene 15 under highly diluted conditions (0.2 mM) was completed in 10 min, and afforded the nine-membered lactone 2 along with little dimerization product.

Finally, hydrolysis of the nine-membered lactone 2, followed by trifluoroacetic acid treatment, provided bacil-

Org. Lett., Vol. 6, No. 3, 2004 431

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lariolide III (1) in 71% yield. The synthetic bacillariolide III was identical with the natural product in all aspects, including optical rotation.^{3,5b}

In summary, we have achieved the asymmetric total synthesis of bacillariolide III in 15 linear steps, with a 14.6% overall yield. The key feature of this synthetic route involves (1) the highly stereoselective construction of the *cis*-2,3-disubstituted hydroxy-cyclopentane intermediate **4** via Pd(0)-catalyzed allylic cyclization, (2) the stereoselective

vinylcerium addition, which induces its facile transformation into the bicyclic lactone skeleton of bacillariolide III, and (3) the efficient introduction of the (*Z*)-pentenoic acid side chain by RCM. Our synthetic procedure is quite versatile and expected to be widely utilized for the synthesis of oxylipins and their structural analogues.

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

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432 Org. Lett., Vol. 6, No. 3, 2004

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