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Kinetic Resolution of Cyclic Sulfoxides by Enzyme Promoted Hydrolysis of 2-Alkoxy carbonyl-3,6-Dihydro-2H-Thiapyran-1-Oxides

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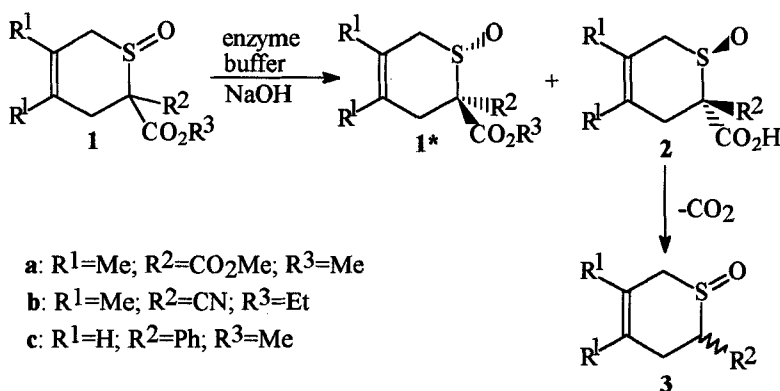
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KINETIC RESOLUTION OF CYCLIC SULFOXIDES BY ENZYME PROMOTED HYDROLYSIS OF 2-ALKOXYCARBONYL-3,6-DIHYDRO-2H-THIAPYRAN-1-OXIDES.

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Among many methods of preparation of optically active sulfoxides, those applying enzymes are becoming more and more popular¹. In continuation of our recent investigations on the enzyme promoted hydrolysis of sulfinyldicarboxylates² we turned our attention to cyclic six-membered sulfoxides **1**. These compounds are easily available by the cycloaddition reaction of butadienes with appropriate sulfines obtained *in situ* from the corresponding esters (or their O-silyl enolethers) with thionyl chloride in the presence of a base³. Three compounds shown in the scheme were chosen for our investigations. It should be noted that compounds **1b** and **1c** are obtained as single diastereoisomers.



Hydrolysis was performed in buffer solutions employing several readily available enzymes (see Table). The reactions proceeded smoothly in the case of the substrates **1a** and **1b** and optically active unreacted esters **1*** were isolated, using a standard work-

up procedure. However, the acidic products **2** underwent spontaneous decarboxylation to **3** isolated as epimeric mixtures. It is interesting to note that the use of different enzymes enabled us to obtain both enantiomerically enriched forms of **1b**. In contrast to **1a** and **1b**, **1c** appeared to be completely unreactive under similar conditions although several enzymes and different co-solvents were applied.

Enzyme	pH	Recovered ester			
			Yield [%]	$[\alpha]_D$	ee [%]
PLE	7.2	1a	47	-2.05	8.0
PLE	7.2	1b	35	+33.6	12.1
PLE	6.45	1b	34	+21.2	7.6
Cand.Cyl.	7.2	1b	27	-1.1	
α -CT	7.3	1b	65.8	-55.5	20.0
α -CT	7.3	1b	30	-132.5	48.4
PPL	7.3	1b	10	-180.0	65.0

Since it was suspected that a different configuration of **1b** and **1c** might be responsible for the observed differences in reactivity, an X-ray analysis of both substrates was performed. It was found that both compounds have the *trans* configuration, but in the solid state they adopt different conformations: in **1b** the ester group and the sulfinyl oxygen occupy equatorial positions while in **1c** - apical positions. Further studies are in progress to shed more light on the conformational effect on enzymatic hydrolysis of sulfinyl carboxylates.

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