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Synthetic studies directed toward streptenol D: enantioselective preparation of the 3,5-diacetoxy-6*E*,8*E*-decadiene segment

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Abstract

The enantioselective preparation of 2-(3'R,5'R-diacetoxy-6E,8E-decadienyl)-1,3-dioxane, (+)-13, is described. This synthesis of the skeleton of streptenol D utilizes the ability of a diene-complexed (tricarbonyl)iron unit to serve as a protecting and stereodirecting functionality. © 1998 Elsevier Science Ltd. All rights reserved.

1. Introduction

The 4*E*,6*E*-dien-1,3-diol functionality appears in a number of natural products, including macrolactin A, amphotericin B, and streptenol D (1). Recently, two groups independently reported the (diene)iron mediated, stereoselective preparation of this type of functionality. Grée et al. reported that the aldol condensation of a substituted benzophenone with (dienal)Fe(CO)₃ proceeded with 43–77% de (Scheme 1, Path A). Alternatively, the aldol condensation of (3,5-heptadien-2-one)Fe(CO)₃ with 3-hydroxypropanal was reported by Franck–Neumann to proceed with 82% de (Scheme 1, Path B). These accounts prompt us to disclose our own efforts utilizing nitrile oxide–olefin cycloaddition methodology for the preparation of this functionality. In particular, we report on the enantioselective synthesis of the carbon skeleton of streptenol D, a secondary dientriol metabolite isolated from *Streptomyces luteogriseus*.³

2. Results and discussion

Our strategy for the preparation of the 4E,6E-dien-1,3-diol fragment of 1 focused on the ability of the (tricarbonyl)iron group to both direct cyclocondensation reactions in a highly diastereoselective fashion and to act as a protecting group for the complexed diene.⁴ For the enantioselective synthesis of 1 this requires the optically active (sorbaldehyde)Fe(CO)₃ (2) as precursor. Kinetic resolution of rac-2 using

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Scheme 1.

baker's yeast (Red Star, Milwaukee, WI) in a fashion similar to the literature procedure,⁵ afford (-)-2. Complex (-)-2 prepared in this fashion was determined to be >92% ee by both ¹H NMR spectroscopy in the presence of a chiral shift reagent [Eu(hfc)₃, CDCl₃] and by optical rotation. Peterson olefination of (-)-2 gave the known⁶ triene (+)-3 (90%, Scheme 2). Comparison of the rotation of our (+)-3 ([α]_D +149) with the literature value^{6b} ([α]_D +241) indicates our product to be ca. 62% ee. The reason for the loss of ee in (+)-3, compared to that of the precursor (-)-2, is not clear.⁷⁻⁹

Scheme 2.

Condensation of 2-(2-nitroethyl)-1,3-dioxane with rac-3 (PhNCO/NEt₃)¹⁰ gave a mixture of diastereomeric isoxazolines 4 and 5 (7.5:1, 76% de, Scheme 2) from which the major diastereomer could be cleanly separated by column chromatography (36–77% yield of isolated 4). The major product was assigned the indicated stereochemistry by analogy to literature precedent.^{6,11} This diastereoselectivity results from the approach of the nitrile oxide to the complexed triene in the *S-trans* conformer on the face opposite to the bulky (tricarbonyl)iron group. Similar cyclocondensation of (+)-3 gave (-)-4 (39%). Notably, *intermolecular* cyclocondensations of nitrile oxides with 3-substituted-1-alkenes are generally less diastereoselective (ca. 0–54% de).¹² Reductive hydrolysis¹³ of rac-4 gave the hydroxyketone rac-6 (53–88%). In a similar fashion, (-)-4 gave (+)-6 (72%, based on consumed starting material). The relative configuration of 6 was tentatively assigned on the basis of the stereochemical assignment for the precursor 4. Thus, over these two steps (cyclocondensation/reductive hydrolysis), the (tricarbonyl)iron adjunct serves as a stereodirecting and protecting group.

Hydride reduction of rac-6 with NaBH(OAc)₃ in acetic acid (23°C) proceeded with low diastereoselectivity to give a mixture of 7 and 8 (2:3, Eq. 1). Lowering the reaction temperature in a mixture of acetic acid-acetonitrile (-25°C) increased the diastereoselectivity (1:10). Vapor diffusion recrystallization (pentane into ethyl acetate) gave pure 8 (55-83%). In contrast, reduction of rac-6 with NaBH₃CN gave a mixture of 7 and 8 predominating in the syn diastereomer (10:1). The relative stereochemistries of 7 and 8 were assigned by comparison of the ¹³C NMR chemical shifts of the diol methine carbons with those of the known and and syn isomers of (5,7-nonadien-2,4-diol)Fe(CO)₃, 9 and 10, for which the structure

of 10 was determined by X-ray diffraction analysis. ^{11b} In particular, the signals for 7 (δ 72.1 and 66.5 ppm) more closely match those of 9 (δ 72.4 and 65.8 ppm), while the signals for 8 (δ 74.7 and 69.3 ppm) more closely match those of 10 (δ 75.5 and 69.1 ppm). This correlation corroborates the initial ψ -exo stereochemical assignment for 4. Reduction of (+)-6 with NaBH(OAc)₃ (-23°C) afforded (+)-8 (60%).

With the relative stereochemistries of the diol in place, removal of the Fe(CO)₃ group was attempted. Oxidative complexation of (diene)Fe(CO)₃ complexes with amine oxides has been documented. ¹⁶ However, in our hands, attempted decomplexation of rac-7 with NMO instead gave an inseparable mixture of hydroxyketones 6 and 11 (1:2.5, Scheme 3). Complex 6 was identified by comparison of its ¹H NMR spectral data with that of an authentic sample, while the structure of 11 was assigned by comparison of its ¹H NMR spectral data with that of a similar hydroxyketone reported by Franck-Neumann et al.^{2a} We have recently reported on this unusual NMO oxidation of (dienol)iron complexes.¹⁷ Attempted decomplexation of rac-7 with CAN gave a complex mixture of unidentified products in low yield. For this reason, acylation of the diol was performed prior to decomplexation. Reaction of rac-7 with acetic anhydride/pyridine gave rac-12 (97%) while (+)-7 gave (-)-12 (82%). Treatment of rac-12 with CAN (CH₃CN/H₂O, 0°C) gave rac-13 (72%) as a colorless oil which solidified in the freezer. The ¹H NMR spectral data for the diendiol fragment of rac-13 match well with those of streptenol D triacetate.^{3a} In a similar fashion, decomplexation of (-)-12 gave (+)-13. Examination of rac-13 by ¹H NMR spectroscopy in the presence of Eu(hfc)₃ (CDCl₃) indicated a clean separation of the acetal methine signals. By this method, (+)-13 was determined to be 58% ee. Unfortunately, due to the high stability of the 1,3-dioxane ring, attempts at hydrolysis resulted in complex product mixtures. Nonetheless, the stereodirecting and diene protecting abilities of the Fe(CO)₃ group have been demonstrated in this synthesis of the 3,5diacetoxy-6E,8E-decadiene segment of streptenol D.

Scheme 3.

3. Experimental section

3.1. General data

Spectrograde solvents were used without purification with the exception of dry ether (which was distilled from sodium benzophenone ketyl) and dichloromethane (which was distilled from P₂O₅ and then stored over molecular seives). Column chromatography was performed on silica gel 60 (60–200 mesh, Aldrich). Thin layer chromatography was performed on Kodak Chromagram (silica gel without fluorescent indicator) and visualization was effected by I₂ vapor. Melting points were obtained on a MelTemp melting point apparatus and are uncorrected. Specific rotations were recorded on a Perkin–Elmer 341 optical polarimeter. Infrared spectra were recorded on a Mattson 4020 FT-IR instrument. All ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on a GE Omega GN-300 instrument at 300 and 75 MHz, respectively. Elemental analyses were obtained from Midwest Microlabs, Indianapolis, IN and high resolution mass spectra (EI) were obtained from the Washington University Resource for Biomedical and Bioorganic Mass Spectrometry. Tricarbonyl(sorbaldehyde)iron (2) was prepared by literature methods. ¹⁸ 2-(2-Nitroethyl)-1,3-dioxane was prepared by the reaction of 2-(2-bromoethyl)-1,3-dioxane with NaNO₂ (DMF) in a fashion similar to the literature preparation of 2-(2-nitroethyl)-1,3-dioxolane. ¹⁹

3.2. Kinetic resolution of tricarbonyl[η^4 -2,4-hexadienal]iron 2

To degassed water (280 ml) was added Red Star yeast (28.0 g) and glucose (7.00 g). After stirring at rt for 30 min, a solution of rac-2 (0.800 g, 3.39 mmol) in ethanol (5 ml) was added and the mixture was stirred for 1.5 h. The mixture was extracted with ether (5×100 ml), dried (MgSO₄) and concentrated. Purification by column chromatography (hexane:ethyl acetate (17:3)) gave (-)-2 as a red oil (0.152 g, 19%; $[\alpha]_D$ -106 (c=1.00, CHCl₃); lit.⁵ $[\alpha]_D$ -112 (c=1.00, CHCl₃); lit.^{6b} $[\alpha]_D$ -79 (c=0.8, MeOH)) followed by (2,4-hexadien-1-ol)Fe(CO)₃ as a red oil (0.420, 52%). The spectral data for (-)-2 and the alcohol were identical with their racemic counterparts. Analysis of (-)-2 by ¹H NMR spectroscopy in the presence of a chiral shift reagent (Eu[hfc]₃, CDCl₃) indicated it to be >92% ee.

3.3. (+)-Tricarbonyl[3-6 η^4 -1,3,5-heptatriene]iron (+)-3

The preparation of (+)-3 from (-)-2 (1.50 g, 6.35 mmol) was accomplished by the literature procedure^{6,11} for the preparation of *rac*-3 (1.36 g, 90%); $[\alpha]_D$ +149 (c=1.00, CHCl₃); lit.^{6b} $[\alpha]_D$ +241 (c=1.0, MeOH). All spectral data were identical with those of *rac*-3.

3.4. Preparation of isoxazoline rac-4

To a solution of 2-(2-nitroethyl)-1,3-dioxane (1.00 g, 6.00 mmol) in benzene (10 ml) was added phenyl isocyanate (0.700 g, 6.00 mmol), rac-3 (0.720 g, 3.00 mmol) and triethylamine (0.600 g, 6.00 mmol). The mixture was stirred for 24 h at rt, after which water (15 ml) was added and the mixture was extracted with ether. The organic layer was washed with water followed by brine, then dried (MgSO₄) and concentrated. The white crystalline by-product formed was washed with hexanes to extract the product. Purification by column chromatography (hexane:ethyl acetate (7:3)) gave 5 (0.090 g, 8%) followed by 4 (0.680 g, 60%), both as yellow oils. 5: 1 H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 5.28 (ddd, J=1.2, 5.1, 8.7 Hz, 1H), 5.03 (dd, J=5.1, 8.7 Hz, 1H), 4.77 (t, J=4.8 Hz, 1H), 4.18–4.08 (m, 3H), 3.82–3.71 (m, 2H), 2.81 (dd, J=4.5, 14.4 Hz, 1H), 2.62 (d, J=2.1 Hz, 1H), 2.44 (dd, J=5.4, 14.4 Hz, 1H), 2.07 (m, 1H), 1.41 (d, J=6.3 Hz, 3H), 1.40 (m, 1H),

1.25–1.16 (m, 2H), 1.06 (dt, J=1.2, 8.7 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 157.5, 100.0, 86.5, 85.5, 82.2, 66.8, 63.1, 58.5, 48.0, 33.8, 25.5, 19.0. 4: IR (CDCl₃) 2976, 2860, 2046, 1977 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 5.21 (ddd, J=0.9, 4.8, 8.1 Hz, 1H), 5.08 (dd, J=5.1, 8.7 Hz, 1H), 4.74 (t, J=4.8 Hz, 1H), 4.24 (q, J=9.9 Hz, 1H), 4.10 (m, 2H), 3.76 (td, J=2.4, 9.9 Hz, 2H), 3.18 (dd, J=9.9, 17.4 Hz, 1H), 2.85 (dd, J=8.7, 17.1 Hz, 1H), 2.63 (m, 2H), 2.14–1.93 (broad m, 1H), 1.42 (d, J=6.0 Hz, 3H), 1.34 (m, 2H), 1.01 (dt, J=0.9, 9.3 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 155.1, 99.4, 87.4, 83.6, 83.0, 66.8, 59.4, 59.1, 45.0, 33.6, 25.4, 19.1; EI-HRMS m/z 378.0630 (calcd for C₁₆H₁₉NO₆Fe (M+H)⁺ 378.0640).

3.5. Preparation of isoxazoline (-)-4

The preparation of (-)-4 from (+)-3 (1.53 g, 6.50 mmol) was carried out in the same fashion as for the preparation of rac-4. The bulk sample was isolated as a yellow oil (0.96 g, 39%); $[\alpha]_{546}$ -6.0 (c=1.00, CHCl₃); diffusion controlled recrystallization (ethyl acetate:pentane) gave (-)-4 as golden yellow crystals; $[\alpha]_{546}$ -11.1 (c=1.00, CHCl₃); mp 71-74°C. Anal. calcd for C₁₆H₁₉NO₆Fe: C, 50.95; H, 5.08. Found C, 51.27; H, 5.08. All spectral data were identical to those of rac-4.

3.6. Tricarbonyl[η^4 -2-(5'-hydroxy-3'-oxo-6,8-decadienyl)-1,3-dioxane]iron rac-6

To a solution of 4 (0.200 g; 0.530 mmol) in MeOH:H₂O (15:1, 40 ml) in a three-necked flask was added Raney nickel (1 ml slurry in H₂O) and B(OH)₃ (0.20 g). The flask was fitted with a balloon, the flask purged twice with H₂, and then inflated with H₂ gas. The reaction mixture was stirred for 24 h at rt and then the mixture was filtered through filter-aid and extracted with ether. The combined ether extracts were concentrated and the residue was purified by column chromatography (hexanes:ethyl acetate (7:3)) to give rac-6 as a light yellow solid (0.180 g, 88%); mp 108–110°C; IR (CDCl₃) 3381, 2976, 2040, 1955, 1724 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 5.26 (dd, J=4.8, 8.1 Hz, 1H), 5.06 (dd, J=5.1, 8.7 Hz, 1H), 4.92 (t, J=5.1 Hz, 1H), 4.12 (m, 2H), 3.77 (m, 3H), 3.51 (OH), 2.88 (dd, J=2.4, 17.7 Hz, 1H), 2.73 (m, 3H), 2.17–1.98 (broad m, 1H), 1.40 (d, J=6.3 Hz, 3H), 1.36–1.20 (m, 2H), 0.91 (t, J=8.4 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 208.2, 98.5, 86.6, 82.6, 70.2, 66.9, 62.0, 58.6, 51.3, 48.8, 25.4, 19.1. Anal. calcd for C₁₆H₂₀O₇Fe: C, 50.55; H, 5.30. Found C, 50.60; H, 5.39.

3.7. Preparation of (+)-6

The preparation of (+)-6 from (-)-4 (0.940 g, 2.49 mmol) was carried out in the same fashion as for the preparation of rac-6. Purification by column chromatography gave recovered starting material (0.310 g, 41%) followed by (+)-6 (0.410 g, 43%; $[\alpha]_D$ +31.9 (c=1.00, CHCl₃)). All spectral data were identical with those of rac-6.

3.8. Tricarbonyl[η^4 -2-(3',5'-dihydroxy-6,8-decadienyl)-1,3-dioxane]iron (rac-8)

To a solution of rac-6 (0.100 g, 0.260 mmol) in glacial acetic acid (10 ml) was added sodium triacetoxyborohydride (0.070 g, 0.31 mmol). The mixture was stirred at rt for 15 min and then extracted with ether. The ether layer was washed with water (3×), followed by saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ (2×), dried (MgSO₄) and concentrated. Purification by column chromatography (hexane:ethyl acetate (7:3)) gave a mixture (1:1.5) of diastereomeric diols 7 and 8 as a yellowish oil (0.070 g, 69%). It was not possible to separate this mixture by column chromatography. When the reaction was carried out at -25°C in a mixture of acetic acid:acetonitrile (2:1, 5 ml) as solvent, the diastereomeric diols 7 and 8

were formed as a 1:10 mixture, respectively. The *anti*-diol **8** was isolated as a yellow crystalline solid by vapor diffusion recrystallization¹⁵ (ethyl acetate:pentane) (0.240 g, 75%). **8**: mp 123–125°C; IR (CDCl₃) 3595, 2042, 1973, 1645 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 5.24 (dd, J=4.8, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 5.05 (dd, J=4.8, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.79 (dd, J=3.3, 5.1 Hz, 1H), 4.33 (br m, 1H), 4.11 (m, 2H), 3.99 (br m, 1H), 3.84–3.55 (br m, 4H), 2.19–2.06 (br m, 1H), 1.96–1.65 (br m, 4H), 1.40 (d, J=6.0 Hz, 3H), 1.34 (m, 1H), 1.26 (m, 1H), 1.03 (t, J=8.4 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 101.5, 86.5, 82.7, 72.1, 66.8, 66.5, 64.0, 58.3, 42.7, 40.7, 25.5, 19.1. Anal. calcd for C₁₆H₂₂O₇Fe: C, 50.28; H, 5.80. Found C, 50.35; H, 5.92.

3.9. Preparation of (+)-8

The preparation of (+)-8 from (+)-6 (0.350 g, 0.921 mmol) was carried out in the same fashion as for the preparation of rac-8 (0.210 g, 60%); [α]_D +46.2 (c=1.00, CHCl₃); mp 59-61°C. All spectral data were identical with those of rac-8.

3.10. Reduction of rac-6 with NaBH3CN

To a sample of rac-6 (0.280 g, 0.737 mmol) in glacial acetic acid (5 ml) at 23°C was added NaBH₃CN (20 mg, 0.322 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred for 1 h, and then quenched with water and extracted with ether (2×10 ml). The combined ethereal extracts were washed with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃, followed by water, dried (MgSO₄) and concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography (hexanes:ethyl acetate (7:3)) to give a mixture of syn-7 and anti-8 (10:1) as a yellow oil (0.100 g, 36%). 7: IR (CDCl₃) 3437, 2862, 2042, 1973 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 5.26 (dd, J=5.2, 8.2 Hz, 1H), 5.05 (dd, J=5.1, 8.8 Hz, 1H), 4.78 (m, 1H), 4.19 (OH), 4.11 (m, 3H), 3.77 (m, 3H), 3.63 (OH), 2.19–2.04 (broad m, 1H), 1.78 (m, 1H), 1.69 (m, 3H), 1.40 (d, J=6.0 Hz, 3H), 1.35 (d, J=5.4 Hz, 1H), 1.22 (m, 1H), 0.96 (t, J=7.8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 101.3, 86.3, 82.4, 74.7, 69.3, 66.9, 64.8, 58.2, 44.2, 41.8, 25.6, 19.1; EI-HRMS m/z 326.0822 (calcd for C₁₆H₂₂O₇Fe (M-2CO)⁺ m/z 326.0817).

3.11. Attempted decomplexation of rac-8 with NMO

To a solution of rac-8 (0.500 g, 1.31 mmol) in C₆H₆ (8 ml) at 23°C was added N-methylmorpholine-N-oxide (0.23 g, 1.96 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred for 3 h, concentrated and the residue was purified by column chromatography (hexanes:ethyl acetate (7:3)) to give a mixture of rac-6 and rac-11 (1:2.5) as a yellow oil (0.260 g, 52%). 11: ¹H NMR (partial, CDCl₃) δ 5.77 (ddd, J=0.9, 5.1, 8.1 Hz, 1H), 5.22 (dd, J=5.1, 8.1 Hz, 1H), 4.75 (t, J=5.1 Hz, 1H), 4.26 (br m, 1H), 1.54 (m, 1H), 1.45 (d, J=6.0 Hz, 3H), 1.21 (dd, J=0.9, 8.1 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 205.0, 100.5, 88.8, 80.9, 66.8, 64.3, 59.4, 53.6, 48.8, 41.2, 25.6, 19.1.

3.12. Tricarbonyl[η^4 -2-(3',5'-diacetoxy-6,8-decadienyl)-1,3-dioxane]iron rac-12

To a cooled solution of rac-8 (1.28 g, 3.31 mmol) in dichloromethane (30 ml) at 0°C was added pyridine (1.36 g, 16.5 mmol) and acetic anhydride (1.35 g, 13.2 mmol). The reaction mixture was allowed to warm to rt and stirred overnight. The mixture was extracted with ether (3×25 ml) and the combined organic layers were washed twice with water, saturated aqueous NaHCO₃, dried (MgSO₄) and concentrated. Purification by column chromatography (hexanes:ethyl acetate (7:3)) gave rac-12 as a yellow solid (1.48 g, 97%): mp 75–78°C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 5.43 (ddd, J=1.1, 5.1, 8.3 Hz, 1H), 5.09 (m, 1H), 5.00 (dd, J=5.0, 8.8 Hz, 1H), 4.48 (m, 2H), 4.08 (br m, 2H), 3.72 (dt, J=2.4, 12.1 Hz, 2H), 2.02

(s, 3H), 1.95 (s, 3H), 2.0–1.75 (broad m, 5H), 1.40 (d, J=6.0 Hz, 3H), 1.36–1.20 (m, 2H), 0.76 (dt, J=0.9, 9.3 Hz, 1H); 13 C NMR (CDCl₃): δ 170.8, 170.5, 99.6, 86.8, 83.3, 72.3, 66.9, 66.8, 66.2, 59.3, 58.7, 40.7, 40.4, 25.6, 21.2, 20.8, 19.1. Anal. calcd for $C_{20}H_{26}O_{9}Fe$: C, 51.52; H, 5.62. Found C, 51.72; H, 5.70.

3.13. Preparation of (+)-12

The preparation of (+)-12 from (+)-8 (0.200 g, 0.520 mmol) was carried out in the same fashion as for the preparation of rac-12 (0.199 g, 82%); [α]_D +1.90 (c=1.37, CHCl₃). All spectral data were identical with those of rac-12.

3.14. (3',5'-Diacetoxy-6,8-decadienyl)-1,3-dioxane rac-13

To a solution of rac-12 (1.43 g, 3.05 mmol) in a mixture of acetonitrile (16 ml) and water (4 ml) at 0°C was added ceric ammonium nitrate (8.22 g, 15.0 mmol). After stirring for 1 h, the reaction mixture was quenched with water (8 ml) and extracted with ether (3×20 ml). The combined organic layers were washed with water (3×), followed by brine, then dried (MgSO₄) and concentrated. Purification by column chromatography (hexanes:ethyl acetate (3:2)) gave rac-13 as a colorless oil (0.709 g, 72%): IR (CDCl₃) 2974, 2858, 1734, 1248 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 6.20 (dd, J=10.3, 15.1 Hz, 1H), 5.96 (ddd, J=1.5, 10.5, 15.0 Hz, 1H), 5.73 (dq, J=14.9, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 5.44 (dd, J=7.3, 15.2 Hz, 1H), 5.31 (m, 1H), 5.15 (m, 1H), 4.56 (t, J=4.8 Hz, 1H), 4.09 (m, 2H), 3.70 (dt, J=2.4, 11.7 Hz, 2H), 2.05 (m, 1H), 2.02 (s, 3H), 2.00 (s, 3H), 1.92–1.75 (broad m, 4H), 1.74 (br d, J=6.0 Hz, 3H), 1.31 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 170.4, 170.3, 133.1, 131.3, 130.4, 127.8, 99.7, 70.4, 66.8, 66.5, 40.5, 39.3, 25.6, 21.2, 21.1, 18.1; EI-HRMS m/z 266.1515 (calcd for C₁₅H₂₂O₄ (M-AcOH) m/z 266.1518).

3.15. Preparation of (+)-13

The preparation of (+)-13 from (+)-12 (0.199 g, 0.426 mmol) was carried out in the same fashion as for the preparation of rac-12 (45.1 mg, 32%); [α]_D +15.3 (c=0.71, CHCl₃). All spectral data were identical with those of rac-13. Analysis of (+)-13 by ¹H NMR spectroscopy in the presence of a chiral shift reagent (Eu[hfc]₃, CDCl₃) indicated it to be 58% ee.

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- 7. One possibility for the loss of ee in (+)-3 might be thermal racemization. Whitlock and Markezich⁸ have previously shown that racemization of (triene)Fe(CO)₃ complexes occurs at a rate of ca. 3×10^{-4} min⁻¹ (119°C). Alternatively, partial racemization of (+)-3 may be the result of extended exposure to the acidic conditions used for complete elimination of the β -hydroxy silane. Under these conditions, protonation of triene (+)-3 would give the *achiral* (1,5-dimethylpentadienyl)Fe(CO)₃⁺ cation, which upon deprotonation⁹ would give racemic triene 3. We did not probe either of these possibilities.
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