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Palladium-Catalyzed Reductive Ring Opening with Formic Acid of Aziridines Bearing an α,β -Unsaturated Ester Group

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Abstract: The palladium-catalyzed reduction of various N-arenesulfonylaziridines bearing α, β -unsaturated ester groups with formic acid and the stereochemistry of the reaction products have been investigated in detail. In all cases examined, $(Z)-\alpha,\beta$ -enoates, $(E)-\alpha,\beta$ -enoates, and $(E)-\beta,\gamma$ -enoates bearing amino functionality at the δ -position were obtained. The formation of these three reduction products was taken as an indication that palladium-catalyzed isomerization occurs prior to the reduction step. © 1997 Elsevier Science Ltd.

Peptide isosteres are important replacements in many biologically active natural peptides, and are currently of considerable interest. Among the isosteres, α,β -unsaturated esters of type 1 (Scheme 1) involving amino functionality are indispensable constituents or building blocks in an increasing number of natural and synthetic compounds. The use of such analogues and β,γ -unsaturated esters of type 2^3 for the synthesis of conformationally restricted peptidomimetics is one important use which can lead to improve a selectivity and potency, as well as enhanced metabolic stability of bioactive peptides.

Among functionalized aziridines, aziridines bearing various α,β -unsaturated ester groups at one of the aziridine carbon atoms have been successfully used by Hudlicky, Pearson, and others, in the synthesis of natural products such as pyrrolizidine alkaloids and antibiotics. Additionally, such aziridines have emerged as valuable starting materials for the synthesis of (E)-alkene isosteres 2 via an organocopper-mediated $S_N 2'$ reaction. More recently, two of the current authors (Satake and Shimizu) have communicated palladium-catalyzed reductions of γ,δ -epimino- α,β -enoates using formic acid. With a few exceptions, this latter study was concentrated on reductive ring-openings of γ,δ -trans-(E)-enaotes of type 3, bearing phenyl groups at the δ -position. We became interested in the question of how the stereochemistry of the reactants influenced stereochemistry of palladium-catalyzed reduction products. Such reactions may provide a good testing ground to examine subtle effects of reactant stereochemistries as well as the nature of substituent(s) on the aziridine ring

since the product mixture will be a finger print of the structure of the reaction intermediates. Accordingly, we detail here the palladium-catalyzed reduction of N-sulfonyl- γ , δ -epimino- α , β -enaotes, 4 and 5, with formic acid.

Results and Discussion

It is well documented that the reactivity of NH-aziridines toward nucleophiles is relatively low; hence, "activation" ⁹ by the introduction of an electron-withdrawing protecting group on the nitrogen atom of the aziridine is required. Arenesulfonyl groups such as *p*-toluenesulfonyl (tosyl; Ts) or 2-mesitylenesulfonyl (Mts) group serve as the most effective activating protecting groups. In addition, these *N*-arenesulfonyl groups can withstand a wide range of chemical manipulations and yet be removed by using Baldwin's protocol. ¹⁰

The palladium-catalyzed regio- and stereoselective reduction of various types of vinyl oxiranes and γ , δ -epoxy- α , β -enoates with formic acid has recently been developed. ¹¹ This method has been used in the synthesis of various natural and synthetic compounds. ^{12,13} Although the regio- and stereoselectivity of the palladium-catalyzed reduction of γ , δ -epimino- α , β -enoates with formic acid is expected to be controlled by a delicate balance of steric as well as electronic factors of substrates and reaction intermediates, it was our expectation to be able to synthesize isosteres by employing palladium-catalyzed reductions.

1. Synthesis of requisite substrates for palladium-catalyzed reduction with formic acid

We prepared requisite N-tosyl- γ , δ -epimino- α , β -enoates (6-9) according to a previous procedure. As shown in Scheme 2, The (E)- and (Z)-enoates (11 and 12) and the (E)-enoate 14 were prepared from the known vinyl aziridines 10^{14} and 13, 14^{14} respectively, by successive treatment with ozone and (α -carbomethoxyethylidene)triphenylphosphorane. The (E)- and (Z)-enoates (16 and 17) and the (E)-enoate 19 were readily prepared from the known methyl (2R,3S)-3-methyl-1-tosylaziridine-2-carboxylate 15, 15^{15} and its (2S,3S)-isomer 18, 16^{16} respectively. Typically, the aziridine 15 was treated successively with diisobutylaluminum hydride and (α -carbomethoxyethylidene)triphenylphosphorane in a one-pot reaction to give a separable 95:5 mixture of (E)- and (Z)- α , β -enoates 16 and 17 in 79% combined yield. The (E)-enoate 21 possessing a phenyl group on the aziridine-ring was prepared from the known aziridinemethanol 20 15^{15} by Swern oxidation followed by treatment with (α -carbomethoxyethylidene)triphenylphosphorane. Finally, the isomeric (E)-enoate 23 was prepared from the known α , β - enoate 22 by tosylation. 8 (see Experimental section).

Me
$$R^2$$
 R^2 R

The *E*-configuration of the substrates 11, 14, 16, 19, 21, and 23 could easily be determined by NOE measurements. For example, the *E*-configuration of 11 was established unequivocally from the NOE (ca. 12% enhancement) of the hydrogen at the γ -position at δ 3.37 on irradiation of the methyl hydrogens at the α -position at δ 1.92. In a similar manner, *Z*-configuration of the substrate 12 was established by NOE enhancement of the vinylic hydrogen at the β -position upon irradiation of the methyl hydrogens at the α -position. The same *Z*-

configuration was assumed for the enoate 17 from NOE spectral analysis. In addition, the γ , δ -trans-aziridines 11, 12, 16, 17, and 23 showed $JH\gamma\delta$ values (J=4.1-4.7 Hz) smaller than the $JH\gamma\delta$ values (J=7.2-7.5 Hz) of the γ , δ -cis-isomers 14, 19, and 21. The data are in agreement with 1H NMR data for related compounds. 15a , 16a

2. Palladium-catalyzed reduction of γ , δ -epimino- α , β -enoates with formic acid.

Using four stereoisomeric γ , δ -epimino- α , β -enoates 6, 7, 8, and 9 as representative reactants, reactions with formic acid in the presence of palladium-catalyst were examined. Initially we attempted the reduction with formic acid-Et₃N in the presence of maleic anhydride (20 mol%) and a catalytic amount η^3 -allylpalladium chloride dimer (5 mol%) in THF or MeCN. The reduction was very slow and did not proceed to completion at 25 °C. When treated in DMSO under the same reaction conditions, the enoate 6 was converted to reduction products 24, 25, and 26 (24:25:26 = 6:81:13) in 96% combined yield. Similar results were obtained by palladium-catalyzed reduction of 7, 8, or 9 with formic acid. It was found that the (E)- α , β -unsaturated ester 25 was obtained as a major product (Scheme 3).

24:25:26 = 4~6:78~81:10~13

Reaction conditions: η^3 -allylpalladium chloride dimer (5 mol%); maleic anhydride (20 mol%); formic acid (5 equiv.); Et₃N (2 equiv.), DMSO (0.9 mL)

Scheme 3

Palladium-catalyzed reductions of γ ,8-epimino- α , β -enaotes 11, 12, 14, 16, 19, 21, 23, and 45 bearing methyl groups at the α -position were also examined using η^3 -allylpalladium chloride dimer, tetrakis(triphenylphosphine)palladium (0), or tris(dibenzylideneacetone)dipalladium(0) in various solvents under similar conditions described above. In all cases, (E)- β , γ -enoate(s) and (E)-and (Z)- α , β -enoates were obtained. In

each of the reductions, it was necessary to monitor reaction progress carefully by TLC and/or HPLC, in order to verify when complete consumption of the substrate was being approached, so as to minimize double bond reduction of the product(s). Results were summarized in Scheme 4 and Table 1.

The stereochemical assignments for (E)- β , γ -enoates 27 and 28 were based on comparison of their specific rotations as well as NMR data with those of authentic samples independently synthesized. The structures and the stereochemistries of other (E)- β , γ -enoates 31, 32, 35, and 36 were confirmed by comparison of their spectral data with those of authentic samples. Ta,c Likewise, the structures of all (E)- and (Z)- α , β -enoates (29, 33, 37) and (30, 34, 38) were ascertained by their NMR spectral data.

Table 1. Palladium-catalyzed Reduction of α-Alkyl- γ ,δ-epimino- α ,β-enoates with Formic Acid^a

entry	substrate	solvent	$catalvst^b$	react.	combined	reduction products	
•			(additive ^C)	time	yield (%)	$(E-\beta,\gamma-\text{enoate}): E-\alpha,\beta-\text{enoate}: Z-\alpha,\beta-\text{enoate}$	
1	11	THF	A(M, 4)	3.5 h		7:28):29:30=(0:0):<1:0	
2	11	THF	A (-)	3.5 h	< 1 (2	7:28):29:30=(0:0):<1:0	
3	11	MeCN	A (M, 4)	3.5 h	,	7:28):29:30=(0:0):<1:0	-
4	11	MeCN	A (-)	3.5 h	< 2 (2	7:28):29:30=(0:0):<1:<1	
5	11	DMF	A (M, 4)	0.3 h	,	7:28):29:30=(8:0):80:12	
6	11	DMF	C (-)	0.5 h	,	7:28):29:30=(10:0):75:15	
7	11	DMF	C (T, 1)	0.5 h	(-	7:28:29:30=(7:0):72:21	
8	12	DMF	A (M, 4)	0.5 h		7:28:29:30=(0:13):48:39	
9	16	DMF	C (-)	0.5 h	•	(1:32):33:34=(9:0):79:12	
10	23	DMF	C (-)	1.0 h		(5:36):37:38=(20:0):64:16	
11	14	DMF	A (M, 4)	1.0 h	- '	(7:28):29:30=(<1:7) : 86 : 6	
12	14	DMF	C (-)	1.5 h	,	(7:28):29:30=(<1:4):90:60	
13	19	DMF	A (M, 4)	0.5 h	`	(1:32):33:34=(2:5):86:7	
14	21	DMF	C (-)	1.0 h	`	(5:36):37:38=(2:25):64:9	
15	11	DMSC		1.5 h		(7:28):29:30=(5:0):78:17	
16	11	DMSC		0.5 h	•	(7:28):29:30=(7:0):78:15	
17	14	DMSC	,	2.5 h	,	(7:28):29:30=(<1:5):80:15	
18	14		C (T, 1)	1.0 h		(7:28):29:30=(2:9):75:14	
19	11	DMSC			,	(7:28):29:30=(56:0):33:11	
20	11	DMSC	. , ,	1.0 h	((7:28):29:30=(52:0):35:13	
21	11) C (-)	0.5 h	,	(7:28):29:30=(54:0):33:13	
22	16	DMSC	. , ,	0.5 h		31:32):33:34=(45:0):43:12	
23	12	DMSC	. , ,	0.5 h		(7:28):29:30=(0:37):51:12	
24	14	DMSC		2.0 h		(7:28):29:30=(4:41):48:7	
25	14	DMSC	(, ,	2.5 h	`	(27:28):29:30=(5:48):40:7	
26	14	DMSC		1.0 h	(-	(7:28):29:30=(5:49):37:9	
27	19		A (M, 4)			31:32:33:34=(11:34):44:11	
28	21		A (M, 4)		,		7
29	21) C (-)		,	(10 1 11)	7
30	23	DMSC	` ' '			/ /	7
31	23	DMSC				(32 , 37 , 37 , 37 , 37 , 37 , 37 , 37 ,	6
32	45	DMSC	A (M, 4)	2.0 h	75 (2	(27:28):29:30=(35:4):41:20	J

a). All reactions were carried out at 20-25 °C as a ca. 0.05 molar solution using palladium catalyst (5 mol%), Et₃N (2 equiv.), formic acid (5 equiv.), b). A = η^3 -allylpalladium chloride dimer; B = tetrakis(triphenylphosphine)palladium(0); C = tris(dibenzylideneacetone)dipalladium(0)-chloroform adduct. c). M = maleic anhydride (equiv./Pd); T = triphenylphosphine (equiv./Pd); D = dimethyl acetylenedicarboxylate (equiv./Pd).

Although the proportion of product ratios from the palladium-catalyzed reduction of N-arenesulfonyl- γ , δ -epimino- α , β -enoates with formic acid would be expected to be controlled by many factors, the following trends could be seen from Table 1:

- 1) THF or MeCN was not a solvent of choice, as only low conversion of the substrate 11 into reduction product(s) was realized at around 25 °C (entries 1-4; Table 1). It is clear from Table 1 that the combined isolated yields of the reduction products were satisfactory when DMSO or DMF was used as solvent (entries 5-32).
- 2) In DMF, the major reduction products were (E)- α , β -enoates (29, 33, and 37) regardless of the types of the palladium catalysts used (entries 5-14).
- 3) In DMSO, the selection of palladium catalyst is an important factor.
 - a) Reduction with Pd₂(dba)₃·CHCl₃ in the presence of catalytic Ph₃P or with Pd(PPh₃)₄ yielded the α , β -enoates as the major products (entries 15-18).
 - b) Reductions using of η^3 -allylpalladium chloride dimer in the presence of maleic anhydride or dimethyl acetylenedicarboxylate as an additive gave an approximately equal amount of a mixture of α,β -enoates and β,γ -enoates (entries 19, 20, 22-25, and 27). This trend could also be seen by employing Pd₂(dba)₃·CHCl₃ as a catalyst (entries 21 and 26).
 - c) In DMSO, whereas reduction of α -unsubstituted reactants such as **6-9** afforded preferentially α,β -enoate **25**, reduction of α -methyl substituted reactants such as **16** or **19** gave a considerable amount of the α -methyl- β,γ -enoate **31** or **32**. (Scheme 3 and entries 22 and 27, Table 1).
- 4) The stereochemistry at the α-position of the (E)-β,γ-enoates obtained by reduction was found to be sensitive to the γ,δ-cis or γ,δ-trans stereochemistry of reactants. Whereas α-methyl-β,γ-enoates 27, 28, 31, and 35 were obtained from corresponding γ,δ-trans-substrates 11, 12, 16 and 23 [entries (5-7, 15, 16, 19-21), (8, 23), (9, 22), and (10, 30, 31)], a mixture of α-methyl-β,γ-enoates (27, 28), (31, 32), and (35, 36) were obtained from γ,δ-cis-reactants 14, 19, 21, and 45 [entries (11, 12, 17, 18, 24-26), (13, 27), (14, 28, 29), and 32].
- 5) In DMSO, reduction of the substrates 21 and 23 bearing a phenyl group at the δ -position yielded the (E)-alkene isostere(s) 35 and/or 36 as the major products (entries 28-31).¹²

Table 2. Reductive Ring-opening Reaction with Some Reducing Agents

entry	substrate	reducing agent	products	combined yield	β , γ -enoate : α , β -enoate
1	39	HCO ₂ H-Et ₃ N	40 + 41	81%	65 : 35
2	39	HCO ₂ H	40 + 41	86%	43 : 57
3	39	HCO_2K	40 + 41	71%	<1:99
4	42	HCO ₂ K	43 + 44	82%	71 : 29

The regioselectivity of the reduction may be also dependent on the nature of the substituents at the C-2 and C-3 positions, the N-protecting or activating group, and reducing agents. In the case of the N-Ts aziridine 39, reduction with formic acid in the absence of Et₃N increased the relative ratio of the α,β -enoate 41 (compare entries 1 and 2, Table 2). It should be clearly noted that the reduction of the aziridine 39 bearing a Ts group on the nitrogen atom with potassium formate yields only the α,β -enoate 41. On the other hand, the reduction of the enoate 42 bearing a Boc group on the nitrogen atom under the same reaction condition gave the β,γ -enoate 43 as the major product along with the α,β -enoate 44 (entries 3 and 4, Table 2). Thus, the N-activating group plays an important role for the reduction reaction. After all, the regioselectivity of the reduction would be controlled by many factors such as added reagent systems and the structure of substrates.

Recently, we reported that palladium(0)-catalyzed isomerization reactions of various 4,5-epimino-2-enoates afforded mixtures of four possible stereoisomers via η^3 -allyl intermediates.¹⁷ The formation of a mixture of

products in the present study suggests that palladium-catalyzed isomerization ¹⁸ is occurring prior to reduction in all the reactions examined. In actuality, the aziridine 11 afford four isomerization products 11, 12, 14 and 45 in 84% combined yield upon exposure to Pd(PPh₃)₄ (5 mol%) in DMSO at 25 °C for 1 h (Scheme 6).

Isomerization reaction of aziridine enoate 11 with Pd(PPh₃)₄ (5 mol%) in DMSO at 25 °C for 1 h.

Scheme 6

A plausible mechanistic pathway for the regioselectivity of the hydrogen transfer to the α - or γ -position as well as stereoselectivity (stereochemistry at the α -position and E- or Z-configuration) of the palladium(0)-catalyzed reduction could be drawn as shown in Schemes 7 and 8.

As can be seen from Scheme 7, whereas a η^3 -allyl intermediate **A-1** and a η^1 -allyl intermediate **A-3**, originated from the substrate **16**, would produce α,β -enoate **33** via palladium hydride intermediates **A-2** and/or **A-4** by a hydrogen transfer to the γ -position, a η^3 -allyl intermediate **B-1** and/or a η^1 -allyl intermediate **B-2** would provide the β,γ -enoate **31** via intermediates **B-3** and/or **B-4** in the same manner as described above.

Space restriction does not permit detailed discussion on a plausible mechanistic pathway for the palladium(0)-catalyzed reduction of **16** and **19** in terms of stereoselectivity (stereochemistry at the α -position and E- or Z-configuration). However, it is apparent that all the reduction products would be originated from various interconvertible η^3 -allyl and η^1 -allyl intermediates ¹⁸ as shown in Scheme 8.

In summary, although selectivities are not quantitative, we have shown that palladium-catalyzed reductions of γ -epimino- α - β -enoates with formic acid yield (E)- β - γ -enoates, (E)- α - β -enoates, and (Z)- α - β -enoates. The ratios of reduction products depend upon many factors such as reaction solvents, catalysts employed, nature of substituent(s) at the δ -position, and the γ - δ -cis- or trans-stereochemistries of the substrates.

Experimental Section

General Methods. All reactions were carried out under a positive pressure of argon, and glassware and syringes were dried in an electric oven at 100 °C prior to use. Melting points are uncorrected. Nominal (LR-MS) and exact mass (HR-MS) spectra were recorded on a JEOL JMS-01SG-2 or JMS-HX/HX 110A mass spectrometer. ¹H NMR spectra (270 or 300 MHz) were recorded in CDCl3 unless otherwise specified. Chemical shifts are reported in parts per million downfield from internal Me₄Si (s = singlet, d = doublet, dd = doublet, ddd = doublet of double doublet, t = triplet, m = multiplet). Optical rotations were measured in CHCl3 with a JASCO DIP-360 digital polarimeter. For flash chromatography, silica gel 60 H (silica gel for thin-layer chromatography, Merck) or silica gel 60 (finer than 230 mesh, Merck) was employed. For HPLC, Cosmosil-5SL (10 x 250 mm, Nacalai Tesque) or μ-bondasphere-C18 (3.9 x 150mm, Merck) was employed.

Methyl (4S,5S,2E)-4,5-Imino-N-(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl-2-hexenoate 6. Colorless crystals from Et₂O. mp 84 °C; [a]²⁰D + 28.4 (c = 1.07, CHCl₃); ν_{max} /cm⁻¹ 1720 (CO), 1655 and 1603 (C=C); ¹H NMR (200 MHz; CDCl₃) δ 1.54 (d, J = 5.9 Hz, 3 H), 2.44 (s, 3 H), 3.01 (ddd, J = 11.5, 5.6, 4.1 Hz, 1 H), 3.21 (dd, J = 8.8, 4.1, 1 H), 3.73 (s, 3 H), 6.08 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1 H), 6.87 (dd, J = 15.6, 8.8 Hz, 1 H), 7.30-7.34 (m, 2 H), 7.79-7.84 (m, 2 H). Anal. Calcd. for C₁₄H₁₇NO₄S: C, 56.93; H, 5.80; N, 4.74. Found: C, 56.76; H, 5.78; N, 4.74.

Methyl (4S,5S,2Z)-4,5-Imino-N-(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl-2-hexenoate 7. Colorless crystals from hexane:Et₂O (1:2). mp 51 °C; [α]²⁰D - 181 (c = 1.13, CHCl₃); $v_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ 1720 (CO), 1645 and 1601 (C=C); ¹H NMR (200 MHz; CDCl₃) δ 1.50 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 3 H), 2.44 (s, 3 H), 3.01 (ddd, J = 11.5, 5.9, 4.2 Hz, 1 H), 3.75 (s, 3 H), 4.42 (dd, J = 9.3, 4.2 Hz, 1 H), 6.01 (d, J = 11.5 Hz, 1 H), 6.23 (dd, J = 11.5, 9.3 Hz, 1 H), 7.30-7.34 (m, 2 H), 7.80-7.84 (m, 2 H); LRMS (EI) m/z, 295 (M⁺), 280, 264, 198, 155, 140 (base peak), 112, 108, 99 and 91; HRMS (EI), m/z, calcd. for C₁4H₁₇O₄NS (M⁺) 295.0878. Found: 295.0887).

Methyl (4*R*,5*S*,2*E*)-4,5-Imino-*N*-(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl-2-hexenoate 8. Colorless crystals from hexane:Et₂O (1:3); mp 92-93 °C [α]³²_D - 89 (c = 0.73, CHCl₃); ν _{max}/cm⁻¹ 1710 (CO) and 1653 (C=C); ¹H NMR (200 MHz; CDCl₃) δ 1.21 (d, J = 5.9 Hz, 3 H), 2.45 (s, 3 H), 3.14 (m, 1 H), 3.40 (ddd, J = 7.6, 6.6, 1.0 Hz, 1 H), 3.72 (s, 3 H), 6.07 (dd, J = 15.6 Hz, 1.0 Hz, 1 H), 6.66 (dd, J = 15.6, 6.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.31-7.37 (m, 2 H), 7.78-7.84 (m, 2 H). Anal. Calcd. for C₁₄H₁₇NO₄S: C, 56.93; H, 5.80; N, 4.74. Found: C, 56.83; H, 5.84; N, 4.55.

Methyl (4*R*,5*S*,2*Z*)-4,5-Imino-*N*-(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl-2-hexenoate 9. Colorless crystals from hexane: Et₂O:CH₂Cl₂ (4:4:1); mp 75-77 °C; $[\alpha]^{27}_D$ + 10.1 (c = 0.92, CHCl₃); v_{max}/cm^{-1} 1720 (CO) and

1644 (C=C); ¹H NMR (200 MHz; CDCl₃) δ 1.22 (d, J = 5.9 Hz, 3 H), 2.44 (s, 3 H), 3.15 (m, 1 H), 3.76 (s, 3 H), 4.36 (d, J = 7.6, 0.7 Hz, 1 H), 5.88 (dd, J = 11.7, 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 6.01 (dd, J = 11.7, 0.7 Hz, 1 H), 7.31-7.35 (m, 2 H), 7.80-7.84 (m, 2 H). Anal. Calcd. for C₁₄H₁₇NO₄S: C, 56.93; H, 5.80; N, 4.74. Found: C, 56.92; H, 5.81; N, 4.54.

Methyl (4S,5S,2E)-4,5-Epimino-2-methyl-N-[(2,4,6-trimethylphenyl)sulfonyl]-6-phenylhex-2-enoate (11) and Its (4S,5S,2Z)-Isomer (12). Ozone was bubbled through a solution of the vinylaziridine 10 (2.7 g, 7.9 mmol) in a mixed solvent of CHCl₃ (15 mL) and n-hexane (15 mL) until blue color persisted. Powdered zinc (1 g, 15.2 mmol) was added to the mixture and the mixture was allowed to warm to 0 °C with stirring. (Methoxycarbonylethylidene)triphenylphosphorane (7.16 g, 20.5 mmol) was added to the mixture at 0 °C and the mixture was stirred for 1 hr with warming to room temperature. The mixture was filtered, followed by concentration under reduced pressure to leave an oil, which was flash chromatographed on a silica gel column. Elution with n-hexane-EtOAc (10:1) gave 12 (135 mg, 4.1% yield), and further elution gave 11 (2.90 g, 88.7% yield). 11: colorless needles from *n*-hexane-CHCl₃ (6:1); mp 147-150 °C; $[\alpha]^{36}$ _D - 21.5 (c =0.91, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.92 (d, J = 1.4 Hz, 3 H), 2.30 (s, 3 H), 2.56 (s, 6 H), 2.84 (dd, J = 14.3, 6.6 Hz, 1 H), 3.03 (dd, J = 14.3, 5.6 Hz, 1 H), 3.24 (ddd, J = 6.6, 5.6, 4.1 Hz, 1 H), 3.37(dd, J = 9.6, 4.1 Hz, 1 H), 3.73 (s, 3 H), 6.79 (dq, J = 9.6, 1.4 Hz, 1 H), 6.87 (s, 2 H), 6.95-6.99 (m. 2 H),7.08-7.18 (m, 3 H). LRMS (FAB) m/z, 414 (MH+), 382, 230, 199, 183, 167, 119 (base peak), 104, 91. HRMS (FAB) m/z, calcd. for C23H28NO4S (MH⁺) 414.1739; found: 414.1736. 12: colorless oil; $[\alpha]^{27}D$ -35.2 (c = 0.84, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.95 (d, J = 1.5 Hz, 3 H), 2.30 (s, 3 H), 2.53 (s, 6) H), 2.69 (dd, J = 14.1, 7.1 Hz, 1 H), 3.04 (dd, J = 14.1, 5.1 Hz, 1 H), 3.14 (ddd, J = 7.1, 5.1, 4.1 Hz, 1 H), 3.76 (s, 3 H), 4.28 (dd, J = 9.4, 4.1 Hz, 1 H), 6.19 (dq, J = 9.4, 1.5 Hz, 1 H), 6.85 (broad s, 2 H), 6.92-6.95(m, 2 H), 7.03-7.14 (m, 3 H). LRMS (FAB) m/z, 414 (MH⁺), 302, 230, 183, 170, 119 (base peak), 91. HRMS (FAB) m/z, calcd. for C23H28NO4S (MH⁺) 414.1739; found: 414.1733.

Methyl (4R,5S,2E)-4,5-Epimino-2-methyl-N-[(2,4,6-trimethylphenyl)sulfonyl]-6-phenyl-hex-2-enoate (14). By a procedure identical with that described for the preparation of the enoates 11 and 12 from 10, 2.2 g (6.45 mmol) of the vinylaziridine 13 was converted into 2.38 g (89% yield) of the title compound 14 as colorless needles from n-hexane-EtOAc (3:1); mp 123-125 °C; $[\alpha]^{36}_D$ - 26.7 (c = 0.82, CHCl3); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3) δ 1.98 (d, J = 1.4 Hz, 3 H), 2.30 (s, 3 H), 2.56 (s, 6 H), 2.66 (dd, J = 14.5, 8.1 Hz, 1 H), 2.80 (dd, J = 14.5, 5.2 Hz, 1 H), 3.19 (ddd, J = 8.1, 7.5, 5.2 Hz, 1 H), 3.64 (dd, J = 8.2, 7.5 Hz, 1 H), 3.77 (s, 3 H), 6.57 (dq, J = 8.2, 1.4 Hz, 1 H), 6.85 (broad s, 2 H), 6.93-6.97 (m, 2 H), 7.04-7.14 (m, 3 H). LRMS (FAB) m/z, 414 (MH⁺), 382, 230, 199, 183, 170, 119 (base peak), 104, 91. HRMS (FAB) m/z, calcd. for C23H28NO4S (MH⁺) 414.1739; found: 414.1747.

Methyl (4S,5S,2E)-4,5-Epimino-2-methyl-N-[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]hex-2-enoate (16) and Its (4S,5S,2Z)-Isomer (17). To a stirred solution of the ester 15 (1.00 g, 3.71 mmol) in toluene (8 mL), DIBAL (1.5 M solution in toluene; 2.96 mL, 4.45 mmol) was added dropwise at -78 °C under argon. The mixture was stirred at this temperature for 1 h and a saturated NH4Cl (2 mL) was added dropwise with vigorous stirring. To the above stirred solution was added (methoxycarbonylethylidene)triphenylphosphorane (2.59 g, 7.42 mmol) at -78 °C, and stirring was continued for 1.5 h with warming to room temperature. To the above solution was added 5% citric acid (2 mL) and the mixture was extracted with Et2O. The extract was washed succesively with water, 5% NaHCO3, and water, and dried over MgSO4. Usual workup followed by flash chromatography over silica gel with n-hexane-EtOAc (3:1) gave 17 (25 mg, 2% yield). Further elution gave 16 (886 mg, 77% yield). 16: colorless crystals from *n*-hexane-Et₂O (2:1); mp 63-64 °C; $[\alpha]^{27}$ D - 72.1 (c = 1.35, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.53 (d, J = 5.8 Hz, 3 H), 1.94 (d, J = 1.5 Hz, 3 H), 2.43 (s, 3 H), 3.03 (qd, J = 5.8, 4.3 Hz, 1 H), 3.32 (dd, J = 9.4, 4.3 Hz, 1 H), 3.74 (s, 3 H), 6.58 (dq, J = 9.4, 1.5 Hz, 1 H), 7.31 (m, 2 H), 7.80 (m, 2 H). Anal. Calcd. for C15H19NO4S: C, 58.23; H, 6.19; N, 4.53. Found: C, 58.10; H, 6.17; N, 4.54. 17: colorless oil; $[\alpha]^{26}D$ - 97.9 (c = 0.57, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (270 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.51 (d, J = 5.7 Hz, 3 H), 1.90 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 3 H), 2.40 (s, 3 H), 2.92 (dq, J = 5.7, 4.6 Hz, 1 H), 4.10 (dd, J = 8.9, 4.6 Hz, 1 H), 5.91 (dd, J = 8.9, 1.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.23-7.32 (m, 2 H), 7.81 (m, 2 H). LRMS (FAB) m/z, 310 (MH⁺), 296, 199 (base peak), 155, 139, 91, 73. HRMS (FAB) m/z, calcd. for C20H24NO4S (MH⁺) 310.1113; found: 310.1129.

Methyl (4R,5S,2E)-4,5-Epimino-2-methyl-N-[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]hex-2-enoate (19). By use of a procedure identical with that described for the preparation of 16 and 17 from 15, the ester 18 (1.35 g, 5 mmol) was converted into 0.76 g (49% yield) of the title compound 19. 19: colorless needles from n-hexane-Et₂O (2:1); mp 96-97 °C; [α]²⁰D - 22.4 (c = 1.07, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.24 (d, J = 5.9 Hz, 3 H), 1.94 (dd, J = 1.5, 0.4 Hz, 3 H), 2.45 (s, 3 H), 3.13 (m, 1 H), 3.49 (dd, J = 8.2, 7.8 Hz. 1 H), 3.73 (s, 3 H), 6.38 (dq, J = 8.2, 1.5 Hz, 1 H), 7.32-7.35 (m, 2 H), 7.79-7.84 (m, 2 H). Anal. Calcd. for C₁₅H₁₉NO₄S: C, 58.23; H, 6.19; N, 4.53. Found: C, 58.06; H, 6.15; N, 4.24.

Methyl (4S,5R,2E)-4,5-Epimino-2-methyl-N-[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]-5-phenylpent-2-enoate (21). To a stirred solution of oxalyl chloride (0.72 mL, 7.5 mmol) in a mixed solvent of CHCl₃ (4 mL) and n-hexane (6 mL) at -78 °C under argon was added dropwise a solution of DMSO (1.77 mL, 25 mmol) in CHCl₃ (5 mL). After 30 min, a solution of the aziridine 20 (1.52 g, 5 mmol) in CHCl₃ (5 mL) was added to the above reagent at -78 °C, and the mixture was stirred for 30 min. Diisopropylethylamine (6.1 mL, 35 mmol) was added to the above solution at -78 °C and the mixture was stirred for 30 min. (Methoxycarbonylethylidene)triphenylphosphorane (3.83 g, 11 mmol) was added to the mixture at -78 °C, and the mixture was stirred for 1 h with warming to 0 °C. Water (5 mL) was added to the mixture and the whole was extracted with Et₂O-EtOAc (1:2). The extract was washed successively with 5% citric acid, water, 5% NaHCO₃, and water, and dried over MgSO₄. Usual workup followed by flash chromatography over silica gel with n-hexane-EtOAc (3:1) gave a crystalline mass. Recrystallization from n-hexane-CHCl₃ (4:1) gave 1.58 g (85% yield) of the title compound 21 as colorless crystals; mp 143-145 °C; [α]²²_D - 40.7 (c = 1.17, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.93 (d, J = 1.4 Hz, 3 H), 2.44 (s, 3 H), 3.61 (s, 3 H), 3.79 (dd, J = 8.4, 7.2 Hz, 1 H), 4.17 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1 H), 6.12 (dq, J = 8.4, 1.4 Hz, 1 H), 7.19-7.35 (m, 7 H), 7.86-7.91 (m, 2 H). Anal. Calcd. for C₂₀H₂1NO₄S: C, 64.67; H, 5.70; N, 3.77. Found: C, 64.40; H, 5.71; N, 3.98.

Synthetic intermediates methyl (4R,5S,2E)-4-Azido-5-hydroxy-2-methyl-5-phenylpent-2-enoate and methyl (4S,5R,2E)-5-Azido-4-hydroxy-2-methyl-5-phenylpent-2-enoate were synthesized starting from (2S,3S)-2,3-epoxy-3-phenylpropan-1-ol in a sequence of reactions described below.

- i). Methyl (4S,5S,2E)-4,5-Epoxy-2-methyl-5-phenylpent-2-enoate. By a procedure similar to that described for the preparation of the enoate 21 from 20, (2S,3S)-2,3-epoxy-3-phenylpropan-1-ol (5.0 g, 33 mmol) (Gao, Y.; Hanson, R. M.; Klunder, J. M.; Ko, S. Y.; Masamune, H.; Sharpless, K. B. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1987, 109, 5765) was converted into 4.8 g (66% yield) of methyl (4S,5S,2E)-4,5-epoxy-2-methyl-5-phenylpent-2-enoate as a colorless oil. $[\alpha]^{20}_D$ 198 (c = 1.29, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.99 (d, J = 1.4 Hz, 3 H), 3.59 (dd, J = 8.7, 1.9 Hz, 1 H), 3.77 (s, 3 H), 3.89 (d, J = 1.9 Hz, 1 H), 6.45 (dq, J = 8.7, 1.4 Hz, 1 H), 7.27-7.41 (m, 5 H). LRMS (FAB) m/z, 219 (MH⁺), 202, 187, 159, 112 (base peak), 105, 91. HRMS (FAB) m/z, calcd. for C₁₃H₁₅O₃ (MH⁺) 219.1021; found: 219.1019.
- ii). Methyl (4R,5S,2E)-4-Azido-5-hydroxy-2-methyl-5-phenylpent-2-enoate and Methyl (4S,5R,2E)-5-Azido-4-hydroxy-2-methyl-5-phenylpent-2-enoate. Sodium azide (6.5 g, 100 mmol) and ammonium chloride (2.12 g, 40 mmol) were added to a stirred solution of the above epoxy enoate (4.36 g, 20 mmol) in a mixed solvent of ethylene glycol monoethyl ether (25 mL) and H2O (4 mL), and the mixture was heated at 80 °C for 3 h under stirring. Concentration under reduced pressure gave a semisolid, which was extracted with Et2O-EtOAc (2:1). The extract was washed successively with 5% citric acid, water, 5% NaHCO3, and water, and dried over MgSO4. Concentration under reduced pressure gave an oily residue, which was flash chromatographed on silica gel with n-hexane-EtOAc (3:1) to give 3.49 g (67% yield) of methyl (4R,5S,2E)-4azido-5-hydroxy-2-methyl-5-phenylpent-2-enoate, and further elution gave methyl (4S,5R,2E)-5-azido-4hydroxy-2-methyl-5-phenylpent-2-enoate (1.05 g, 20% yield). Methyl (4R,5S,2E)-4-azido-5-hydroxy-2-methyl-5-phenylpent-2-enoate: colorless oil; $[\alpha]^{20}D + 133$ (c = 0.84, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (270 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.70 (d, J = 1.9 Hz, 3 H), 2.40 (d, J = 3.2, 1 H), 3.74 (s, 3 H), 4.41 (dd, J = 9.5, 4.9 Hz, 1 H), 4.85 (dd, J = 4.9, 3.2 Hz, 1 H), 6.74 (dq, J = 9.5, 1.9 Hz, 1 H), 7.27-7.40 (m, 5 H). LRMS (FAB) m/z, 262 (MH⁺), 250, 234, 219, 202, 187, 161, 137, 129 (base peak), 105, 91. HRMS (FAB) m/z, calcd. for C₁₃H₁₆O₃ (MH⁺) 262.1192; found: 262.1188. Methyl (4S,5R,2E)-5-azido-4-hydroxy-2-methyl-5-phenylpent-2-enoate: colorless crystals from *n*-hexane-Et₂O (3:2); mp 47-48 °C; $[\alpha]^{19}D$ - 62.0 (c = 0.70, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (270 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.65

(d, J = 1.4 Hz, 3 H), 2.07 (d, J = 5.4 Hz, 1 H), 3.75 (s, 3 H), 4.59 (ddd, J = 8.6, 5.4, 5.4 Hz, 1 H), 4.72 (d, J = 5.4 Hz, 1 H), 6.64 (dq, J = 8.6, 1.4 Hz, 1 H), 7.31-7.46 (m, 5 H). LRMS (CI) m/z, 262 (MH+), 230, 219 (base peak), 189, 187, 129, 106. HRMS (CI) m/z, calcd. for C₁₃H₁₆O₃ (MH+) 262.1192; found: 262.1200.

Methyl (4*R*,5*R*,2*E*)-4,5-Epimino-2-methyl-5-phenylpent-2-enoate (22). Triphenylphosphine (220 mg, 0.84 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of methyl (4*R*,5*S*,2*E*)-4-azido-5-hydroxy-2-methyl-5-phenylpent-2-enoate (200 mg, 0.77 mmol) in toluene (4 mL) and the mixture was heated at 60 °C for 1 h under stirring. Concentration under reduced pressure gave a semisolid, which was purified by flash chromatography over silica gel with *n*-hexane-EtOAc (3:2) to give a crystalline mass. Recrystallization from *n*-hexane-Et2O (2:1) gave 126 mg (75.8%) of the title compound 22 as colorless crystals. mp 61 °C; $[\alpha]^{20}_D$ + 299 (c = 0.77, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (270 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.25 (broad s, 1 H), 1.98 (d, J = 1.4 Hz, 1 H), 2.65 (broad s, 1 H), 3.16 (broad s, 1 H), 3.76 (s, 3 H), 6.25 (broad s, 1 H), 7.30-7.37 (m, 5 H). Anal. Calcd. for C₁₃H₁₅NO₂: C, 71.87; H, 6.96; N, 6.45. Found: C, 71.79; H, 6.99; N, 6.43. By a procedure identical with that described for the preparation of 22 from methyl (4*R*,5*S*,2*E*)-4-azido-5-hydroxy-2-methyl-5-phenylpent-2-enoate, methyl (4*S*,5*R*,2*E*)-5-azido-4-hydroxy-2-methyl-5-phenylpent-2-enoate (200 mg, 0.77 mmol) was converted into the title compound 22 (52 mg, 31% yield) as colorless crystals from *n*-hexane-Et₂O (2:1).

Methyl (4R,5R,2E)-4,5-Epimino-2-methyl-N-[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]-5-phenylpent-2-enoate (23). To a stirred solution of 22 (1.5 g, 6.9 mmol) in CHCl₃ (20 mL) were added Et₃N (4.77 mL, 34.5 mmol) and p-toluenesulfonyl chloride (2.63 g, 13.8 mmol) at 0 °C and the mixture was stirred for 9 hr with warming to room temperature. To the above mixture was added 5% NaHCO₃ (2 mL) with vigorous stirring, and the whole was extracted with Et₂O. The extract was washed successively with 5% citric acid, water, 5% NaHCO₃, and water, and dried over MgSO₄. Usual workup followed by flash chromatography over silica gel with n-hexane-EtOAc (4:1) gave a crystalline residue, which was recrystallized from n-hexane-Et₂O (2:3) to give the title compound 23 (2.54 g, 99% yield) as colorless crystals; mp 105 °C; [α]²⁰D + 58.8 (c = 1.44, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (270 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.94 (d, J = 1.4 Hz, 3 H), 2.41 (s, 3 H), 3,46 (dd, J = 10.0, 4.1 Hz, 1 H), 3.80 (s, 3 H), 4.13 (d, J = 4.1 Hz, 1 H), 7.11 (dq, J = 10.0, 1.4 Hz, 1 H), 7.18-7.32 (m, 7 H), 7.81-7.85 (m, 2 H). LRMS (FAB) m/z, 372 (MH⁺), 340, 216 (base peak), 185, 184, 156, 155, 139, 91. HRMS (FAB) m/z, calcd. for C₂0H₂2NO₄ (MH⁺) 372.1270; found: 372.1272.

General Procedure for Palladium-catalyzed Reduction of the Enoates (6), (7), (8), and (9).

To a stirred mixture of η^3 -allylpalladium chloride dimer (9.16 mg, 5 mol %) and maleic anhydride (10 mg, 20 mol %) in DMSO (0.5 mL) at 0 °C under argon was added a mixture of HCO2H (0.094 mL, 5 equiv.) and Et3N (0.139 mL, 2 equiv.) in DMSO (0.5 mL). To a stirred above mixture was added a solution of the enoate 6 (147 mg, 0.5 mmol) in DMSO (1 mL), and then the mixture was allowed to warm to 25 °C. After 1 h, water (5 mL) was added to the mixture with stirring. The mixture was extracted with Et2O-EtOAc (1:1) and the extract was washed successively with 5% citric acid, water, 5% NaHCO3, and water and then dried over MgSO4. Concentration under reduced pressure gave a mixture of products, which was separated by flash chromatography over silica gel eluting with n-hexane-EtOAc (4:1), yielding, in order of elution, the (Z)- α , β -enoate 24, the (E)- α,β -enoate 25, and the (E)- β,γ -enoate 26. 24: 8.5 mg (5.8% yield); colorless oil. [α]²⁰D - 53.9 (c 1.35, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (270 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.12 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 3 H), 2.42 (s, 3 H), 2.50-2.64 (m, 1 H), 2.79 (dddd, J = 14.8, 8.6, 8.6, 1.3 Hz, 1 H), 3.46 (m, 1 H), 3.72 (s, 3 H), 4.99 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 1 H), 5.76 (ddd, J = 11.6, 1.3, 1.3 Hz, 1 H), 6.06 (ddd, J = 11.6, 7.3, 7.3 Hz, 1 H), 7.20-7.30 (m, 2 H), 7.70-7.75 (m, 2 H). Anal. Calcd. for C14H19NO4S: C, 56.55; H, 6.44; N, 4.71. Found: C, 56.32; H, 6.51; N, 4.60. 25: 115 mg (77.8% yield). Colorless crystals from Et₂O, mp 106 °C, $[\alpha]^{20}$ D - 59.3 (c 0.677, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (270 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.08 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 3 H), 2.28 (m, 2 H), 2.43 (s, 3 H), 3.48 (m, 1 H), 3.72 (s, 3 H), 4.51 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 4 7.8 Hz, 1 H), 5.78 (d, J = 15.5 Hz, 1 H), 6.74 (ddd, J = 15.5, 7.6, 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.26-7.35 (m, 2 H), 7.72-7.80 (m, 2 H). Anal. Calcd. for C14H19NO4S: C, 56.55; H, 6.44; N, 4.71. Found: C, 56.41; H, 6.37; N, 4.76. **26**: 18.5 mg (12.5% yield). A colorless oil. $[\alpha]^{20}D$ - 36.3 (c 0.935, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (270 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.17 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 3 H), 2.42 (s, 3 H), 2.90-2.93 (m, 2 H), 3.66 (s, 3 H), 3.89 (m, 1 H), 4.77 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 5.36 (dddd, J = 15.5, 6.3, 1.3, 1.3 Hz, 1 H), 5.58 (dddd, J = 15.5, 6.6, 6.6, 1.3 Hz, 1 H), 7.27-7.30 (m, 2 H), 7.72-7.77 (m, 2 H). LR-MS (FAB) m/z, 298 (MH⁺), 266 (base peak), 198, 155, 127, 91. HR-MS (FAB) m/z, calcd. for C₁₄H₂₀NO₄S (MH⁺), 298.1113; found: 298.1109.

Methyl (2R,5S,3E)-2-Methyl-5-[(2,4,6-trimethylphenyl)sulfonylamino]-6-phenylhex-3enoate (27), Methyl (5R,2E)-2-Methyl-5-[(2,4,6-trimethylphenyl)sulfonylamino]-6-phenylhex-2-enoate (29) and Methyl (5R,2Z)-2-Methyl-5-[(2,4,6-trimethylphenyl)-sulfonylamino]-6-phenylhex-2-enoate (30) (entry 19, Table 1). To a stirred solution of (C3H5PdCl)2 (4.4 mg, 0.012 mmol, 5 mol%) and maleic anhydride (4.7 mg, 0.048 mmol, 20 mol%) in DMSO (1 mL) under argon was added a mixture of formic acid (0.046 mL, 1.2 mol, 5 equiv.) and Et₃N (0.067 mL, 0.48 mmol, 2 equiv.) in DMSO (2 mL) at room temperature. The α,β-enoate 11 (100 mg, 0.242 mmol) in DMSO (2 mL) was added to the above reagent at room temperature and the mixture was stirred for 1 hr followed by quenching with saturated NaHCO3 (4 mL). The whole was extracted with EtOAc-Et2O (3:2). The extract was washed successively with 5% citric acid, water, 5% NaHCO3, and water and dried over MgSO4. Usual workup gave a mixture of products. The mixture was separated by flash chromatography over silica gel with n-hexane-EtOAc (3:1), yielding, in order of elution, 30 (10 mg, 9.9% yield), 29 (30.2 mg, 30% yield), and 27 (50.8 mg, 51% yield). 27: colorless crystals from *n*-hexane-Et₂O (2:1); mp 70-71 °C; $[\alpha]^{27}$ D - 40.7 (c = 1.08, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (270 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.05 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 3 H), 2.28 (s, 3 H), 2.48 (s, 6 H), 2.79 (m, 2 H), 2.92 (dq, J = 7.3, 7.3 Hz, 1 H), 3.62 (s, 3 H), 3.91 (m, 1 H), 4.47 (d, J = 5.9 Hz, 1 H), 5.29 (dd, J = 15.7, 7.3 Hz, 1 H), 5.42 (dd, J = 15.7) 15.7, 7.3 Hz, 1 H), 6.87 (broad s, 2 H), 7.02-7.08 (m, 2 H), 7.17-7.27 (m, 3 H). Anal. Calcd. for C₂₃H₂₉NO₄S: C, 66.48; H, 7.03; N, 3.37. Found: C, 66.24; H, 6.93; N, 3.26. **29**: colorless crystals from *n*hexane-EtOAc (3:1); mp 141-142 °C; $[\alpha]^{27}_D$ - 41.8 (c = 0.68, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.72 (m, 3 H), 2.29 (s, 3 H), 2.36 (m, 2 H), 2.50 (s, 6 H), 2.74 (dd, J = 13.8, 6.9 Hz, 1 H), 2.79 (dd, J = 13.6.6 Hz, 1 H), 3.51 (m, 1 H), 3.72 (s, 3 H), 4.46 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1 H), 6.60 (m, 1 H), 6.86 (broad s, 2 H), 6.98-7.01 (m, 2 H), 7.17-7.22 (m, 3 H). LRMS (FAB) m/z, 416 (MH⁺), 384, 302 (base peak), 183, 119, 91. HRMS (FAB) m/z, calcd. for C23H30NO4S (MH⁺) 416.1895; found: 416.1888. 30: colorless crystals from nhexane-Et₂O (2:1); mp 107-108 °C; $[\alpha]^{23}D$ - 33.0 (c = 0.77, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.74 (m, 3 H), 2.28 (s, 3 H), 2.53-2.62 (m, 2 H), 2.58 (s, 6 H), 2.68 (dd, J = 13.5, 8.2 Hz, 1 H), 2.92 (dd, J = 13.5, 5.0 Hz, 1 H), 3.48 (m, 1 H), 3.69 (s, 3 H), 5.21 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 1 H), 5.54 (m, 1 H), 6.90 (broad s, 2 H), 7.05-7.08 (m, 2 H), 7.14-7.25 (m, 3 H). LRMS (FAB) m/z, 416 (MH⁺), 384, 302, 183, 147, 119 (base peak), 91, 73. HRMS (FAB) m/z, calcd. for C23H30NO4S (MH+) 416.1895; found: 416.1895.

Methyl (2S,5S,3E)-2-Methyl-5-[(2,4,6-trimethylphenyl)sulfonylamino]-6-phenylhex-3-enoate (28) (entry 24, Table 1). By a procedure identical with that described for the reduction of 11, the aziridine 14 was reduced to a chromatographically separable 4:41:48:7 mixture of four products 27, 28, 29, and 30 in 93% combined yield. The ratio of products was analyzed by reverse phase HPLC and 1 H-NMR (600 MHz). 28: colorless oil; [α] 23 D - 3.70 (c = 0.90, CHCl3); 1 H NMR (270 MHz, CDCl3) δ 1.02 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 3 H), 2.28 (s, 3 H), 2.49 (s, 6 H), 2.78 (m, 2 H), 2.91 (dq, J = 7.3, 7.3 Hz, 1 H), 3.64 (s, 3 H), 3.93 (m, 1 H), 4.48 (d, J = 5.9 Hz, 1 H), 5.27 (dd, J = 15.4, 7.3 Hz, 1 H), 5.46 (dd, J = 15.4, 7.3 Hz, 1 H), 6.87 (broad s, 2 H), 7.02-7.05 (m, 2 H), 7.17-7.26 (m, 3 H). LRMS (FAB) m/z, 416 (MH+), 414, 324, 217, 183, 157, 119 (base peak), 91. HRMS (FAB) m/z, calcd. for C23H30NO4S (MH+) 416.1895; found: 416.1893.

Methyl (2R,5S,3E)-2-Methyl-5-[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonylamino]hex-3-enoate (31), Methyl (5S,2E)-2-Methyl-5-[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonylamino]hex-2-enoate (33), and Methyl (5S,2Z)-2-Methyl-5-[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonylamino]hex-2-enoate (34) (entry 22, Table 1). By a procedure identical with that discribed for the reduction of 11, the aziridine 16 was reduced to a separable 45:43:12 mixture of 31, 33, and 34 in 82% combined yield. The mixture was separated by flash chromatography over silica gel with *n*-hexane-EtOAc (2:1), yielding, in order of elution, 34, 33, and 31. 31: 36.8% yield; colorless oil; $[\alpha]^{27}_D$ - 49.8 (c = 0.88, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (270 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.11 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3 H), 1.17 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 3 H), 2.42 (s, 3 H), 2.99 (m, 1 H), 3.65 (s, 3 H), 3.90 (m, 1 H), 4.54 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 5.32 (ddd, J = 15.4, 6.2, 1.1 Hz, 1 H), 5.53 (ddd, J = 15.4, 7.3, 1.1 Hz, 1 H), 7.28 (m, 2 H), 7.74 (m, 2 H). LRMS (FAB) m/z, 312 (MH⁺), 252, 156, 141 (base peak), 109, 91, 73. HRMS (FAB) m/z, calcd. for C₁5H₂2NO₄S (MH⁺) 312.1269; found: 312.1258. 33: 35.2% yield; colorless crystals from *n*-hexane-Et₂O (2:1); mp 56-58 °C;

[α]²⁷_D - 56.7 (c = 1.10, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (270 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.09 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3 H), 1.76 (d, J = 1.4 Hz, 3 H), 2.30 (m, 2 H), 2.43 (s, 3 H), 3.46 (m, 1 H), 3.72 (s, 3 H), 4.52 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1 H), 6.58 (m, 1 H), 7.30 (m, 2 H), 7.75 (m, 2 H). Anal. Calcd. for C₁5H₂1NO₄S: C, 57.86; H, 6.80; N, 4.50. Found: C, 57.75; H, 6.78; N, 4.43. **34**: 9.5% yield; colorless oil; [α]²⁶_D - 98.7 (c = 0.31, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (270 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.16 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 3 H), 1.75 (d, J = 1.4 Hz, 3 H), 2.26-2.37 (m, 1 H), 2.42 (s, 3 H), 2.50-2.62 (m, 1 H), 3.37 (m, 1 H), 3.74 (s, 3 H), 5.28 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 1 H), 5.61 (m, 1 H), 7.28 (m, 2 H), 7.72 (m, 2 H). LRMS (FAB) m/z, 312 (MH⁺), 281, 280 (base peak), 198, 155, 141, 91, 73. HRMS (FAB) m/z, calcd. for C₁5H₂2NO₄S (MH⁺) 312.1269; found: 312.1273.

Methyl (2S,5S,3E)-2-Methyl-5-[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonylamino]hex-3-enoate (32) (entry 27, Table 1). By a procedure identical with that described for the reduction of 16, the aziridine 19 was reduced to a chromatographically separable 11:34:44:11 mixture of four products 31, 32, 33 and 34 in 80% combined yield. The ratio of products was analyzed by reverse phase HPLC and 1 H-NMR (600 MHz). Compound 32 was colorless crystals; mp 66 ${}^{\circ}$ C [from hexane:Et₂O (5:1)]; [α]²⁰D - 22.2 (c 1.24, CHCl₃); 1 H NMR (270 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.11 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 3 H), 1.17 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 3 H), 2.42 (s, 3 H), 2.99 (dq, J = 7.0, 7.0 Hz, 1 H), 3.66 (s, 3 H), 3.92 (m, 1 H), 4.37 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1 H), 5.33 (ddd, J = 15.9, 6.2, 1.2 Hz, 1 H), 5.55 (ddd, J = 15.9, 7.0, 1.2 Hz, 1 H), 7.26-7.30 (m, 2 H), 7.72-7.76 (m, 2 H). Anal. Calcd. for C₁₅H₂₁NO₄S: C, 57.86; H, 6.80; N, 4.50. found: C, 57.76; H, 6.98; N, 4.28.

Methyl (25,55,3E)-2-Methyl-5-[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonylamino]-5-phenylpent-3-enoate (35), Methyl (5S,2E)-2-Methyl-5-[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonylamino]-5-phenylpent-2-enoate (37), and Methyl (5S,2Z)-2-Methyl-5-[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonylamino]-5-phenylpent-2enoate (38) (entry 30, Table 1). By a procedure identical with that described for the reduction of 11, the aziridine 23 was reduced to a chromatographically separable 71:22:7 mixture of three products 35, 37, and 38 in 81% combined yield. The mixture was separated by flash chromatography over silica gel with n-hexane-EtOAc (5:1), yielding, in order of elution, 38 (5% yield), 35 (58% yield), and 37 (18% yield). 35: colorless crystals from n-hexane-Et₂O (1:2); mp 82 °C; $[\alpha]^{17}$ D + 10.6 (c 1.10, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (270 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.13 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 3 H), 2.39 (s, 3 H), 3.04 (dq, J = 7.0, 7.0 Hz, 1 H), 3.64 (s, 3 H), 4.90 (m, 2 H), 5.55 (dd, J =15.4, 5.4 Hz, 1 H), 5.61 (dd, J = 15.4, 7.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.10-7.26 (m, 7 H), 7.61-7.64 (m, 2 H), Anal. Calcd. for C₂₀H₂₃NO₄S: C, 64.32; H, 6.21; N, 3.75. Found: C, 64.35; H, 6.31; N, 3.64. 37: colorless crystals from *n*-hexane-Et₂O (1:1); mp 94-95 °C; $[\alpha]^{20}$ D - 7.72 (c = 0.82, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (270 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.70 (d, J= 0.5 Hz, 3 H), 2.37 (s, 3 H), 2.61 (dd, J = 15.4, 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 2.68 (dd, J = 15.4, 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 3.68 (s, 3 H), 4.40 (dd, J = 14.3, 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 5.07 (m, 1 H), 6.52 (m, 1 H), 7.03-7.08 (m, 2 H), 7.14-7.20 (m, 5 H), 7.56-7.60 (m, 2 H). Anal. Calcd. for C₂₀H₂₃NO₄S: C, 64.32; H, 6.21; N, 3.75. Found: C, 64.24; H, 6.25; N, 3.64. 38: colorless oil; $[\alpha]^{20}D - 42.2$ (c = 0.25, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.81 (d, J = 0.7Hz, 3 H), 2.36 (s, 3 H), 2.51 (m, 1 H), 2.90 (m, 1 H), 3.77 (s, 3 H), 4.41 (m, 1 H), 5.70 (m, 1 H), 5.96 (d, J = 6.1 Hz, 1 H), 7.11-7.23 (m, 7 H), 7.52-7.55 (m, 2 H). LRMS (FAB) m/z, 374 (MH⁺), 342, 260, 203 (base peak), 171, 155, 143, 106, 91. HRMS (FAB) m/z, calcd. for C₂₀H₂4NO₄S (MH⁺) 374.1427; found: 374.1422.

Methyl (2R,5S,3E)-2-Methyl-5-[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonylamino]-5-phenylpent-3-enoate (36) (entry 28, Table 1). By a procedure identical with that described for the reduction of 23, the aziridine 21 was reduced to a chromatographically separable 2:71:20:7 mixture of four products 35, 36, 37, and 38 in 87% combined yield. The major reduction product 36 was readily isolated by silica gel flash chromatography with n-hexane-EtOAc (5:1). Data for 36: colorless crystals from n-hexane-Et₂O (1:3); mp 70 °C; $[\alpha]^{20}_D$ - 32.8 (c = 0.97, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (270 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.12 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 3 H), 2.39 (s, 3 H), 3.05 (dq, J = 7.0, 6.8 Hz, 1 H), 3.66 (s, 3 H), 4.89 (m, 2 H), 5.55 (dd, J = 15.7, 5.4 Hz, 1 H), 5.62 (dd, J = 15.7, 7.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.09-7.25 (m, 7 H), 7.61-7.64 (m, 2 H). LRMS (FAB) m/z, 374 (MH⁺), 372, 314, 286, 260, 203, 171, 143 (base), 91. HRMS (FAB) m/z, calcd. for C₂0H₂4NO₄S (MH⁺) 374.1427; found: 374.1421.

Methyl (2E)-4,5-Epimino-2-methyl-N-[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]-5-phenylpent-2-enoate (39). Colorless crystals; mp 105 °C; 1 H NMR (270 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.94 (d, J = 1.4 Hz, 3 H), 2.41 (s, 3 H), 3.46 (dd, J = 10.0, 4.1 Hz, 1 H), 3.80 (s, 3 H), 4.13 (d, J = 4.1 Hz, 1 H), 7.11 (dq, J = 10.0, 1.4 Hz, 1 H),

7.18-7.32 (m, 7 H), 7.81-7.85 (m, 2 H). 13 C NMR (67.9 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 12.7, 21.6, 49.1, 49.6, 52.2, 126.3, 127.6, 128.7, 129.6, 132.5, 134.5, 134.7, 136.5, 144.4, 167.3. LRMS (FAB) m/z, 372 (MH⁺), 340, 216 (base peak), 185, 184, 156, 155, 139, 91. HRMS (FAB) m/z, calcd. for C₂₀H₂₂NO₄ (MH⁺) 372.1270; found: 372.1272.

Methyl (3E)-2-Methyl-5-[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonylamino]-5-phenylpent-3-enoate (40). Colorless crystals from n-hexane-Et₂O (1:2); mp 82 °C; ¹H NMR (270 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.13 (d, J = 7.0, 3 H), 2.39 (s, 3 H), 3.04 (dq, J = 7.0, 7.0 Hz, 1 H), 3.64 (s, 3 H), 4.90 (m, 2 H), 5.55 (dd, J = 15.4, 5.4 Hz, 1 H), 5.61 (dd, J = 15.4, 7.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.10-7.26 (m, 7 H), 7.61-7.64 (m, 2 H). Anal. Calcd. for C₂OH₂3NO₄S: C, 64.32; H, 6.21; N, 3.75. Found: C, 64.35; H, 6.31; N, 3.64.

Methyl (2*E*)-2-Methyl-5-[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonylamino]-5-phenylpent-2-enoate (41). Colorless crystals from *n*-hexane-Et₂O (1:1); mp 94-95 °C; ¹H NMR (270 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.70 (d, J = 0.5 Hz, 3 H), 2.37 (s, 3 H), 2.61 (dd, J = 15.4, 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 2.68 (dd, J = 15.4, 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 3.68 (s, 3 H), 4.40 (dd, J = 14.3, 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 5.07 (m, 1 H), 6.52 (m, 1 H), 7.03-7.08 (m, 2 H), 7.14-7.20 (m, 5 H), 7.56-7.60 (m, 2 H). ¹³C NMR (67.9 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 12.6, 21.5, 36.5, 51.8, 57.2, 126.4, 127.1, 128.6, 128.7, 129.4, 136.0, 139.8, 143.3. Anal. Calcd. for C₂0H₂3NO₄S: C, 64.32; H, 6.21; N, 3.75. Found: C, 64.24; H, 6.25; N, 3.64.

Methyl (4S,5S,2E)-4,5-Epimino-2-methyl-N-[(tert-butyloxy)carbonyl]-5-phenylpent-2-enoate (42). 1 H NMR (270 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.43 (s, 9 H), 2.00 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 3 H), 3.26 (dd, J = 9.8, 2.7 Hz, 1 H), 3.58 (d, J = 2.7 Hz, 1 H), 3.76 (s, 3 H), 6.28 (dq, J = 9.8, 1.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.24-7.40 (m, 5 H). 13 C NMR (67.9 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 12.8, 27.7, 45.3, 46.5, 52.0, 82.0, 126.3, 128.0, 128.5, 132.5, 135.9, 159.6, 167.4. HRMS (FAB) m/z, calcd. for C₁₈H₂₄NO₄ (MH⁺) 318.1705; found: 318.1732.

Methyl (2R,5R,3E)-5-Amino-N-[(tert-butyloxy)carbonyl]-2-methyl-5-phenylpent-3-enoate (43). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.28 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 3 H), 1.43 (s, 9 H), 3.19 (dq, J = 7.0, 7.0 Hz, 1 H), 3.68 (s, 3 H), 5.72 (dd, J = 15.8, 4.5 Hz, 1 H), 5.75 (dd, J = 15.8, 7.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.24-7.37 (m, 5 H). ¹³C NMR (22.5 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 17.2, 28.4, 42.3, 51.8, 56.1, 79.7, 126.8, 127.4, 128.6, 130.3, 131.5, 141.3, 154.8, 174.6. HRMS (FAB) m/z, calcd. for C₁₈H₂₆NO₄ (MH⁺) 320.1862; found: 320.1894.

Methyl (2*E*)-5-Amino-*N*-[(*tert*-butyloxy)carbonyl]-2-methyl-5-phenylpent-2-enoate (44).
¹H NMR (270 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.41 (s, 9 H), 1.78 (d, J = 1.3 Hz, 3 H), 2.59-2.75 (m, 2 H), 3.70 (s, 3 H), 4.65-4.93 (broad, 2 H), 6.69 (tq, J = 7.2, 1.3 Hz, 1 H), 7.22-7.38 (m, 5 H). ¹³C NMR (67.9 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 12.6, 28.3, 35.9, 51.8, 54.1, 80.0, 126.2, 127.5, 128.7, 130.1, 137.1, 155.1, 168.2. HRMS (FAB) m/z, calcd. for C₁₈H₂₆NO₄ (MH⁺) 320.1862; found: 320.1886.

Methyl (4R,5S,2Z)-4,5-Epimino-2-methyl-N-[(2,4,6-trimethylphenyl)sulfonyl]-6-phenyl-hex-2-enoate (45) isolated from a mixture obtained by reaction of (11) with (Ph3P)4Pd. Colorless oil; $[\alpha]^{19}_D$ - 58.1 (c = 0.50, CHCl3); 1 H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3): δ 1.97 (dd, J = 1.4, 0.8 Hz. 3 H), 2.30 (s, 3 H), 2.56 (s, 6 H), 2.57 (dd, J = 14.6, 8.4 Hz, 1 H), 2.77 (dd, J = 14.6, 4.9 Hz, 1 H), 3.18 (ddd, J = 8.4, 7.5, 4.9 Hz, 1 H), 3.76 (s, 3 H), 4.26 (ddq, J = 7.5, 7.5, 0.8 Hz, 1 H), 5.84 (dq, J = 7.5, 1.4 Hz, 1 H), 6.84 (broad s, 2 H), 6.91-6.95 (m, 2 H), 7.02-7.14 (m, 3 H). LRMS (FAB) m/z, 414 (MH⁺), 302 (base), 230, 183, 149, 119, 91, 73. HRMS (FAB) m/z, calcd. for C23H28NO4S (MH⁺) 414.1739; found: 414.1744.

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