Synthesis of the Key Intermediate, Diethyl 2-Acetylamino-2-(2-(4octanoylphenyl)ethyl)propane-1,3-dioate, of the Immunomodulatory Agent FTY720 (Fingolimod)

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The key intermediate, diethyl 2-acetylamino-2-(2-(4-octanoylphenyl)ethyl)propane-1,3-dioate (13), for the immunomodulatory agent FTY720 (2: fingolimod) was synthesized *via* Michael addition of diethyl(acetyl-amino)malonate (6) to 4-octanoylstyrene (12).

Key words FTY720; immunomodulatory agent; Michael addition; fingolimod

Members of our group previously isolated a potent immunosuppressant, ISP-I (1) (Chart 1), from the culture broth of Isaria sinclairii (ATCC24400), and showed that it could suppress both lymphocyte proliferation in the mouse allogeneic mixed lymphocyte reaction (MLR) system in vitro and generation of allo-reactive cytotoxic T lymphocytes in mice *in vivo*.⁵⁾ Compound **1** is identical with the antifungal antibiotics myriocin^{6,7)} and thermozymocidin,^{8,9)} which are produced by Myriococcum albomyces and Mycelia sterilia, respectively. The structure of 1 was subsequently modified in order to reduce its toxicity, to improve its physicochemical properties and to identify the essential structure for immunosuppressive activity,¹⁰⁾ and a candidate compound, FTY720 (2: 2-amino-2-(2-(4-octylphenyl)ethyl)propane-1,3-diol hydrochloride, fingolimod), was obtained.^{11–14)} Compound 2 does not impair the activation, proliferation or effector functions of T- and B-cells, in contrast with established immunosuppressants (cyclosporin, tacrolimus, etc.). It has been proposed that 2 is phosphorylated by sphingosine kinase, and the product, FTY720 monophosphate, acts as an agonist of sphingosine-1-phosphate (S1P) and modulates immune response by sequestering lymphocytes from peripheral blood to the secondary lymphoid tissues.¹⁵⁻¹⁸ Thus, **2** has a unique mechanism of action and is expected to be useful for immunosuppression following organ transplantation and for the treatment of various diseases, including multiple sclerosis,¹⁶ rheumatoid arthritis,¹⁹⁾ atopic dermatitis,²⁰⁾ and myasthenia gravis,²¹⁾ based on findings in animal models. Clinical trials of **2** in renal transplantation^{22–26)} and multiple sclerosis patients²⁷⁾ have been performed.

Adachi *et al.* first synthesized **2** via the route $3\rightarrow 4\rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow 5\rightarrow 7\rightarrow 2$, as shown Chart 2, in cooperation with our



group.^{11,12,28} We subsequently patented a more convenient synthesis of **2** *via* routes including Michael addition $(3\rightarrow 4\rightarrow 8\rightarrow 9\rightarrow [12]\rightarrow 13\rightarrow 7\rightarrow 2$, $10\rightarrow 11\rightarrow 13\rightarrow 7\rightarrow 2$).²⁹ Other synthetic routes to **2** were subsequently developed.³⁰⁻³³ Here, we describe the convenient synthesis of the key intermediate, diethyl 2-acetylamino-2-(2-(4-octanoylphenyl)ethyl)propane-1,3-dioate (13) in detail.

To improve Adachi's method, we focused on the condensation of 5 and 6. During this condensation, nucleophilic substitution occurs as the main reaction and elimination as a side reaction to afford 7 and the styrene derivative, respectively. Therefore, 5 was replaced with 4'-(2-haloethyl)octanophenone. Even if 4'-(2-haloethyl)octanophenone affords the styrene 12³⁴⁾ by elimination, it is expected that 12 will undergo Michael-type nucleophilic attack by the anion of the malonate 6 to give the intermediate 13. Further, the synthesis can be shortened, because 4'-(2-haloethyl)octanophenone can be derived from phenethyl halide, such as phenethyl bromide (10). First, the iodide 9 was synthesized from the acetate 4 by deprotection and iodination, and condensed with 6 to afford 13. At the same time, it was found that hydrogen iodide was eliminated from 9 to give the styrene 12 (equivalent to half the total amount of product), which was condensed with 6 to give 13 by Michael addition reaction. Next, the bromide 11^{34} derived from 10 was examined. It was found that the elimination and condensation reactions could be run in one pot (see Experimental) to afford the key intermediate 13, which was hydrogenated to Adachi's intermediate, 7.

In conclusion, we have developed a convenient synthesis of the key intermediate, diethyl 2-acetylamino-2-(2-(4-oc-tanoylphenyl)ethyl)propane-1,3-dioate (13), of FTY720 (2: fingolimod) from phenethyl bromide (10) in 55% overall yield. Adachi's method provided the common intermediate, 7, from 3 in 6 steps with 18% yield,^{11,12} while the new method afforded 7 from 10 (*via* 13) in only 3 steps with 41% yield.

Experimental

General Information Melting points were determined on a Yanagimoto micro melting point apparatus without correction. IR spectra were taken on a Shimadzu FTIR-8400 infrared spectrophotometer. Mass spectra (EI-MS, FAB-MS) were taken on a Shimadzu QP-2000 and JEOL JMS-700T spectrometers. ¹H-NMR spectra were taken on a JEOL EX-270, JEOL JNM-GX400, and Varian UNITY plus 500 spectrometers with TMS as an internal standard; chemical shifts are reported in parts per million. TLC was performed on aluminum-seated silica gel 60 F₂₅₄ (Merck). For column chro-



FTY720 (2)

Reagents and conditions: (a) C $_7H_{15}$ COCI,AICl₃, 1,2-dichloroethane, rt, 2.5h; (b) 28% NaOMe in MeOH, MeOH, rt, 1h; (c) (Ph)₃P, imidazole, EtOAc, rt, 1h; (d) 60% NaH, DMF, 60 °C, 2-6h; (e) C $_7H_{15}$ COCI,AICl₃, CH₂Cl₂, rt, overnight; (f) NaOEt, EtOH, 60 °C, 1h; (g) DMF, 60 °C, overnight; (h) Pd/C, H₂, EtOH, overnight

Chart 2

matography, silica gel (70–230 mesh, Merck) was used. Organic solvent extracts were dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, and evaporation of solvents was performed under reduced pressure.

4'-(2-Hvdroxvethvl)octanophenone (8) To a solution of octanovl chloride (216 g, 1.33 mol) and phenethyl acetate (3, 285 g, 1.74 mol) in 1,2dichloroethane (900 ml) was added AlCl₃ (372 g, 2.80 mol) under ice cooling. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2.5 h, then poured into water. The extracted organic solution was washed with water, dried, and evaporated. The residue was dried in vacuo to give a colorless oil (280 g) containing 2-(4-octanoylphenyl)ethyl acetate 4 as the major component. To this oil (280 g) in MeOH (200 ml) was added 28% sodium methoxide (5.3 g, 82.8 mmol) in MeOH (18.8 ml), and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h. A suspension of Amberlite IR-120B in MeOH (98 ml) was added to the reaction mixture, and removed by filtration, then the filtrate was evaporated. The residue was recrystallized from n-hexane-EtOAc (10:1) to give 8 (138 g, 43%) as colorless plates: mp 47.4 °C; IR v_{max} (KBr) cm⁻¹: 3260, 2910, 2850, 1680; ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 7.91 (2H, d, J=8.5 Hz, ArH), 7.32 (2H, d, J=8.5 Hz, ArH), 3.90 (2H, t, J=6.6 Hz, CH₂OH), 2.94 (2H, t, J=7.3 Hz, COCH₂), 2.93 (2H, t, J=6.6 Hz, PhCH₂), 1.72 (2H, quintet, J=7.3 Hz, COCH₂CH₂), 1.59 (1H, br s, OH), 1.40-1.26 $(8H, m, (CH_2)_4CH_3), 0.88 (3H, t, J=7.1 Hz, CH_3); EI-MS m/z: 248 ([M]^+).$

4'-(2-Iodoethyl)octanophenone (9) To a solution of **8** (137 g, 0.55 mol), imidazole (53 g, 0.78 mol), and triphenylphosphine (174 g, 0.66 mol) in EtOAc (550 ml) was added iodine (197 g, 0.78 mol) under ice cooling. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h, then diluted with EtOAc, washed with saturated NaHCO₃ aqueous solution and brine, dried and evaporated. The residue was suspended in *n*-hexane–EtOAc (10:1), and

filtered through silica gel, and the eluate was evaporated to give **9** (175 g, 88%) as a white solid: mp 36.5 °C; IR v_{max} (KBr) cm⁻¹: 2950, 2920, 2850, 1680, 1600, 1230; ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.90 (2H, d, *J*=8.3 Hz, Ar<u>H</u>), 7.26 (2H, d, *J*=8.3 Hz, Ar<u>H</u>), 3.35 (2H, t, *J*=7.3 Hz, C<u>H</u>₂I), 3.22 (2H, t, *J*=7.3 Hz, PhC<u>H</u>₂), 2.92 (2H, t, *J*=7.6 Hz, COC<u>H</u>₂), 1.71 (2H, quintet, *J*=7.1 Hz, COCH₂C<u>H</u>₂), 1.36—1.25 (8H, m, (C<u>H</u>₂)₄CH₃), 0.86 (3H, t, *J*=7.1 Hz, CH₃); EI-MS *m/z*: 274 ([I(CH₂)₂C₆H₄C(OH)=CH₂]⁺). HR-MS (EI) *m/z*: 358.0789 (Calcd for C₁₆H₂₃OI: 358.0794). HR-MS (FAB⁺) *m/z*: 359.0879 (Calcd for C₁₆H₂₄OI: 359.0872).

4-Octanoylstyrene (12) and Diethyl 2-Acetylamino-2-(2-(4-octanoylphenyl)ethyl)propane-1,3-dioate (13) To a solution of diethyl (acetylamino)malonate (6, 9.09 g, 41.9 mmol) in dried DMF (30 ml) was added 60% sodium hydride (1.23 g, 30.8 mmol) under ice cooling, and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h under a nitrogen atmosphere. To this mixture was added 9 (5.0 g, 14.0 mmol) in dried DMF (15 ml) under a nitrogen atmosphere, and the whole was stirred at 60 °C for 2 h, poured into ice water, and extracted with Et₂O. The extract was washed with brine, dried and evaporated. The residue was chromatographed on silica gel with *n*-hexane to give 12 (1.5 g, 47%) as a white powder.

13 from 12 To a solution of diethyl(acetylamino)malonate (6, 4.25 g, 19.6 mmol) in dried DMF (30 ml) was added 60% sodium hydride (0.57 g, 14.3 mmol) under ice cooling, and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 0.5 h under a nitrogen atmosphere. Then 12 (1.5 g, 6.5 mmol) in dried DMF (15 ml) was added under a nitrogen atmosphere. The mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 6 h, and at room temperature for 2 d, then poured into ice water, and extracted with Et_2O . The extract was washed with brine,

dried and evaporated. The residue was chromatographed on silica gel with *n*-hexane–EtOAc (3:1) to give **13** (2.3 g, 79%) as a white powder.

13 from 10 To a solution of phenethyl bromide (**10**, 5.00 g, 27.0 mmol) and octanoyl chloride (4.83 g, 29.1 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (40 ml) was added AlCl₃ (3.67 g, 27.6 mol) at -20 °C. The mixture was stirred at -20 °C for 1 h and at room temperature overnight, then poured into ice water, and extracted with Et₂O. The extract was washed successively with 1 N HCl, brine, saturated NaHCO₃ aqueous solution and brine. The extract was dried and evaporated. The residue was dissolved in *n*-hexane–EtOAc (20:1), and the solution was filtered through silica gel and evaporated to give a pale yellow oil (6.96 g) containing 4'-(2-bromoethyl)octanophenone (**11**) as the major component.

To this oil (0.50 g) in dried EtOH (2 m) was added sodium ethoxide (0.16 g, 2.35 mmol) under a nitrogen atmosphere, and the mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 1 h, and then DMF (10 ml), **6** (1.05 g, 4.84 mmol) and sodium ethoxide (0.25 g, 3.68 mmol) were added to the mixture under a nitrogen atmosphere. The mixture was stirred at 60 °C overnight, then poured into ice water, and extracted with Et₂O. The extract was washed with brine, dried, and evaporated. The residue was chromatographed on silica gel with *n*-hexane–EtOAc (3:1) to give **13** (0.48 g, 55%) as a white powder.

Compound **11**: IR v_{max} (KBr) cm⁻¹: 2960, 2930, 2860, 1690 (C=O), 1610, 1410, 1260, 1220, 1180; ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.92 (2H, d, J=8.3 Hz, Ar<u>H</u>), 7.30 (2H, d, J=8.3 Hz, Ar<u>H</u>), 3.59 (2H, t, J=7.4 Hz, BrCH₂), 3.22 (2H, t, J=7.4 Hz, BrCH₂CH₂), 2.90 (2H, t, J=7.4 Hz, COCH₂), 1.73 (2H, quintet, J=7.4 Hz, COCH₂CH₂), 1.38—1.27 (8H, m, (CH₃)₄CH₃), 0.88 (3H, t, J=7.1 Hz, CH₃); EI-MS *m/z*: 312 and 310 ([M]⁺).

Compound **12**: mp 60.5 °C (lit.³⁴⁾ mp 62—63 °C). IR v_{max} (KBr) cm⁻¹: 2920, 2850, 1670, 1470, 1410, 1320, 1280, 990, 910, 860; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.92 (2H, d, J=8.3 Hz, Ar<u>H</u>), 7.47 (2H, d, J=8.3 Hz, Ar<u>H</u>), 6.75 (1H, dd, J=17.6, 10.9 Hz, C<u>H</u>CH₂), 5.86 (1H, d, J=17.7 Hz, C<u>H</u>_a=), 5.38 (1H, d, J=10.9 Hz, C<u>H</u>_b=), 2.90 (2H, t, J=7.3 Hz, COC<u>H</u>₂), 1.73 (2H, quintet, J=7.3 Hz, COCH₂C<u>H</u>₂), 1.35—1.29 (8H, m, (C<u>H</u>₂)₄CH₃), 0.88 (3H, t, J=6.8 Hz, CH₃); EI-MS m/z: 230 ([M]⁺).

Compound **13**: mp 79.0 °C; IR v_{max} (KBr) cm⁻¹: 3250, 2930, 2850, 1750, 1680, 1650, 1520, 1260, 1220, 1200; ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.84 (2H, d, J=8.3 Hz, Ar<u>H</u>), 7.21 (2H, d, J=8.3 Hz, Ar<u>H</u>), 6.75 (1H, br s, N<u>H</u>), 4.20 (2H, q, J=6.8 Hz, OC<u>H</u>₂CH₃), 4.19 (2H, q, J=7.1 Hz, OC<u>H</u>₂CH₃), 2.90 (2H, t, J=7.3 Hz, COC<u>H</u>₂), 2.69 (2H, m, PhC<u>H</u>₂), 2.51 (2H, m, PhCH₂C<u>H</u>₂), 1.96 (3H, s, NHCOC<u>H</u>₃), 1.69 (2H, quintet, J=7.3 Hz, COCH₂C<u>H</u>₃), 1.69 (2H, quintet, J=7.3 Hz, COCH₂C<u>H</u>₂), 1.32 (2H, m, CO(CH₂)₂C<u>H</u>₂), 1.27 (6H, m, (C<u>H</u>₂)₃CH₃), 1.23 (6H, t, J=7.1 Hz, OC<u>H</u>₂CH₃×2), 0.86 (3H, t, J=6.8 Hz, CH₃); EI-MS m/z: 402 ([M-OCH₂CH₃]⁺). HR-MS (EI) m/z: 447.2614 (Calcd for C₂₅H₃₇NO₆: 447.2620).

2-Acetylamino-2-(2-(4-octylphenyl)ethyl)propane-1,3-dioate Diethyl (7) A solution of 13 (923 g, 2.06 mol) in EtOH (101) was stirred under a hydrogen atmosphere in the presence of 5% Pd/C (138 g) overnight. The catalyst was removed by filtration and the filtrate was evaporated to give a residue. This was recrystallized from *n*-hexane to give 7 (670 g, 75%), which was identical with an authentic sample of 7¹² (IR, ¹H-NMR, MS), as a white powder: mp 61.0 °C; IR v_{max} (KBr) cm⁻¹: 3300, 2920, 2850, 1750, 1650, 1520, 1220, 1200; ¹H-NMR (270 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ: 8.32 (1H, br s, N<u>H</u>), 7.08 (2H, d, J=7.9 Hz, ArH), 7.02 (2H, d, J=7.9 Hz, ArH), 4.13 (4H, q, J=7.3 Hz, OCH₂CH₃×2), 2.52 (4H, m, J=7.3 Hz, PhCH₂×2), 2.37 (2H, m, PhCH₂CH₂C), 1.94 (3H, s, NHCOCH₃), 1.52 (2H, m, PhCH₂CH₂), 1.24 $(10H, m, (CH_2)_5CH_2), 1.15$ (6H, t, J=7.3 Hz, OCH₂CH₂×2), 0.85 (3H, t, $J=6.6 \text{ Hz}, \text{ CH}_3$; EI-MS m/z: 433 ([M]⁺), 388 ([M-OCH₂CH₃]⁺); Anal. Calcd for C25H39NO5: C, 69.25; H, 9.06; N, 3.23; O, 18.45. Found: C, 69.48; H, 8.76; N, 3.21; O, 18.55.

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References and Notes

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