

Stereoselective Homologation—Amination of Aldehydes by Addition of Their Nitrones to C-2 Metalated Thiazoles—A General Entry to α -Amino Aldehydes and Amino Sugars

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Abstract: A general method for the homologation of aldehydes to α -amino aldehydes (aminohomologation) has been developed, which employs nitrones as iminium derivatives of the aldehydes. Key operations include a) the addition of a thiazole metalated at C-2 to the *N*-benzylnitron derived from the aldehyde, b) the reductive dehydroxylation of the resultant thiazolyl *N*-benzylhydroxylamine, and c) the unmasking of the formyl group from the thiazole ring. The homologation se-

quence was studied by employing nitrones derived from various chiral polyalkoxy aldehydes and dialdoses. The addition of 2-lithiothiazole to these nitrones was *syn*-selective, whereas the reaction with the

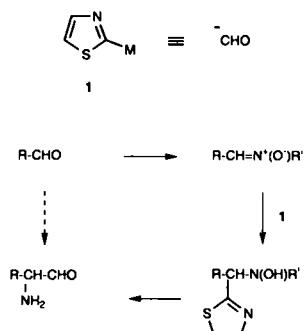
Keywords
 amino aldehydes · aminohomologation · amino sugars · nitrones · thiazoles

same nitrones precomplexed with Lewis acids was *anti*-selective. Hence, from each nitrone a pair of diastereoisomeric hydroxylamines was obtained. These compounds were then converted by the above sequence into α -epimeric α -amino aldehydes. Model elaborations of some of these products afforded the amino sugars D-glucosamine, D-mannosamine, D-nojirimycin, and advanced intermediates for the synthesis of destomic acid and lincosamine.

Introduction

The stereoselective introduction of an amino group at a saturated carbon center is a central transformation in synthetic methodologies toward various classes of bioactive molecules, mainly amino acids^[1] and amino sugars.^[2] Amination is also a crucial step in various approaches to polyhydroxylated piperidines and pyrrolidines, a class of nitrogen-containing sugar analogues (aza sugars)^[3] that are attracting increasing interest as glycosidase inhibitors of potential therapeutic utility against viral infections, including that from HIV-1, the virus responsible for the AIDS disease.^[4] Among the methods available, the most common are the nucleophilic amination by substitution or addition,^[5] the electrophilic amination of ester enolates,^[6] the alkylation of nucleophilic^[7] and electrophilic^[8] glycinate derivatives bearing a chiral template, the asymmetric hydrogenation of dehydroamino compounds,^[9] the addition of organometallic reagents to the same dehydroamino compounds followed by

removal of the substituent(s) on nitrogen,^[10] and the stereoselective alkylation of metalated amidines.^[11] Inspired by previous work on the use of 2-(trimethylsilyl)thiazole (**1a**) ($M = SiMe_3$) as a formyl anion equivalent^[12] to homologate aldehydes into α -hydroxy aldehydes,^[13] we sought an extension of the methodology to nitrones derived from aldehydes with the aim of achieving both homologation and amination (aminohomologation) and thus obtaining α -amino aldehydes (Scheme 1). After the addition of a suitable thiazole metalated at C-2 (**1**) to the nitron, the reaction sequence would then involve the reductive dehydroxylation of the resultant hydroxylamine and the conversion of the thiazole ring to the formyl group. We report in this account details of our studies^[14] on the syn-



Scheme 1. Synthetic strategy for aldehyde homologation to α -amino aldehydes by addition of a thiazole to a nitron.

thetic scope and stereochemical aspects of this aminohomologation route for aldehydes and illustrate the versatility of our approach for the synthesis of amino and aza sugars. This synthetic strategy could in principle be extended to other C=N derivatives of aldehydes, such as imines, iminium ions, hydrazone, and oximes, as well as to other interesting heterocycles serving as functional group equivalents, such as furyl derivatives as carboxyl group equivalents.^[15]

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Results and Discussion

Synthesis of *N*-Benzyl Nitrones: It is mainly within the area of 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition chemistry that nitrones (azomethine oxides) have served as reagents in recent years.^[16] Since the nitrone functionality incorporates a modified iminium moiety capable of undergoing facile nucleophilic attack, increasing attention is now being given to the reactions with carbon- and heteroatom-centered nucleophiles.^[17] Among the possible nitrogen derivatives of aldehydes, nitrones therefore appeared to be very promising substrates for the aminohomologation strategy. In the course of our study this proved to have been a good choice, since all chiral nitrones employed were readily available, stable compounds, which did not require particular care with regard to handling and storage and were nevertheless sufficiently reactive towards a range of metalated thiazoles 1.

We have recently described a fairly general synthesis of *N*-benzylnitrones by condensation of aldehydes with *N*-benzylhydroxylamine in the presence of a heterogeneous drying agent such as sodium or magnesium sulfate.^[18] *N*-Benzylnitrones 2–11 derived from chiral alkoxy aldehydes and dialdoses were prepared in fairly good yields and on a multigram scale by this method (Fig. 1). Compounds 2–11 were solid materials, which could readily be purified by crystallization. The (*Z*) isomer was obtained in all cases; the configuration was assigned based on the ¹H NMR spectra in non-aromatic (CDCl₃) and aromatic solvents^[19] (C₆D₆), and on the nuclear Overhauser effect^[20] between CH=N⁺ and CH₂Ph signals (8–10% enhancement) in the difference spectra.



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Professor Alessandro Dondoni has been a Professor of Organic Chemistry at the University of Ferrara since 1975. He was born in Mantova in 1934 and studied chemistry at the University of Bologna, where he received a doctorate in industrial chemistry (1960) under the guidance of Professor F. Montanari. He undertook postdoctoral research in the same department in the research group of Professor A. Mangini (1961) and then at the

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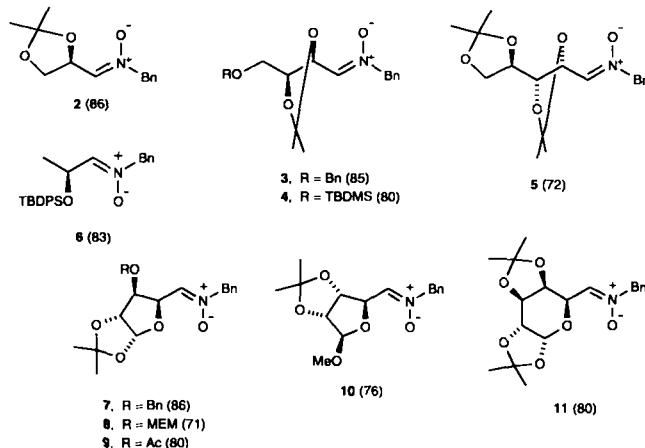
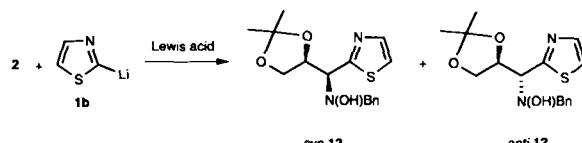


Fig. 1. Nitrones prepared by reaction of aldehydes with benzylhydroxylamine (yields are shown in parentheses). Bn = benzyl; Ac = acetyl; MEM = methoxyethoxymethyl; TBDMS = *tert*-butyldimethylsilyl; TBDSO = *tert*-butyldiphenylsilyl.

Addition Reaction:

Scope and Stereochemistry: Although very facile reactions of 2-(trimethylsilyl)thiazole (1a) with various carbon electrophiles (aldehydes, ketones, ketenes, carboxylic acid chlorides, and azaaryl cations) have been reported,^[13, 21] it turned out to be unreactive toward nitrones^[22] including compound 2 derived from D-glyceraldehyde acetonide. However, 2-lithiothiazole (1b) reacted rapidly with 2 at low temperature and in diethyl ether or tetrahydrofuran as solvent^[23] to give *N*-benzyl hydroxylamines 12 (Scheme 2) with good overall yield and *syn* selectiv-



Scheme 2. Addition of 2-lithiothiazole (1b) to the nitrone 2 (see Table 1 for reaction conditions).

ity^[24] (Table 1). The configurations at the newly formed stereocenters were unequivocally established by the X-ray structure determination of *anti*-12 (see below). It is worth mentioning that in our first report^[14a] we erroneously assigned the *anti* configuration to the major stereoisomer based on its conversion into an *erythro* oxazolidinone. A correction has been reported.^[14b]

Aiming at a reversal of diastereoselectivity, we studied the reaction of 1b with 2 under different conditions (Table 1). The presence of Me₃SiCl, which was expected to give a highly activated *N*-siloxyiminium intermediate by *O*-silylation of the nitrone,^[25] had very little effect on stereoselectivity. Lithium iodide was ineffective as well. In contrast, the Lewis acids MgBr₂, ZnCl₂, and ZnBr₂ induced the formation *anti*-12 in slight excess over *syn*-12. Fortunately, very high *anti* selectivity was obtained with Et₂AlCl and TiCl₄. The use of other metalated thiazoles 1c–f either in the absence or presence of nitrone-complexing agents proved to be unsatisfactory. These reagents were quite sluggish and consequently required long reaction times and high temperatures. In all cases the chemical yield and/or stereoselectivity were much lower than with 2-lithiothiazole (1b).

Guided by the above results, we next examined the addition of 1b to nitrones derived from other alkoxy aldehydes and from

Table 1. Product studies and diastereoselectivities for the addition of 2-metallated thiazoles 1 to the nitrone 2.

Thiazole [a]	M	Solvent	T/°C	t/h	Lewis acid [b]	syn-12:anti-12 [c]	Yield/% [d]
1a	SiMe ₃	CH ₂ Cl ₂	25	24	—	— [e]	— [e]
1b	Li	Et ₂ O	−80	0.25	—	92:8	82
1b	Li	THF	−80	0.25	—	93:7	70
1b	Li	Et ₂ O	−80	0.5	Me ₃ SiCl	73:27	71
1b	Li	Et ₂ O	−80	0.5	LiI	88:12	78
1b	Li	Et ₂ O	−80	0.5	MgBr ₂	46:54	81
1b	Li	Et ₂ O	−80	0.5	ZnCl ₂	35:65	75
1b	Li	Et ₂ O	−80	0.5	ZnBr ₂	44:56	78
1b	Li	Et ₂ O	−80	0.5	Et ₂ AlCl	3:97	84
1b	Li	Et ₂ O	−80	0.5	TiCl ₄	5:95	69
1c	CuLi _{1/2}	Et ₂ O	−80	1	—	75:25	66
1d	MgBr	Et ₂ O	−50	1	—	89:11	40 [f]
1d	MgBr	Et ₂ O	−50	1	MgBr ₂	45:55	56 [f]
1e	AlEt ₂	Et ₂ O	−20	1	—	83:17	73 [f]
1e	AlEt ₂	Et ₂ O	−20	1	Et ₂ AlCl	57:43	70 [f]
1f	ZnBr	Et ₂ O	−40	12	ZnBr ₂	55:45	35 [g]

[a] In all cases 3 equiv of 1 were used. [b] Precomplexation of the nitrone with 1.0 equiv of Lewis acid was carried out at ambient temperature for 15 min. [c] Ratio determined by ¹H NMR integration of the characteristic proton signals of the crude mixture. [d] Isolated yield of diastereomeric mixture. [e] Unchanged 2 was recovered totally. [f] No product was formed at lower temperatures. [g] No product was formed in THF as solvent or in the presence of ZnCl₂.

dialdoses. The hydroxylamines obtained are presented in Figure 2 and the corresponding diastereoselectivities^[26] and yields in Table 2. The reactions of nitrones 3 and 4, both derived from L-threose, had similar stereochemical outcomes to the reactions of 2, that is, the syn:anti selectivity depended on whether the reagents alone were employed or the nitrones were precomplexed with Lewis acids. In contrast, the reaction of the nitrone 5 derived from D-arabinose was anti-selective under both conditions, while the reaction of 6 derived from L-lactaldehyde lacked selectivity in both cases. The overall chemical yields ranged from good to excellent.

Conditions for high levels of diastereoselectivity were obtained in reactions of 1b with nitrones derived from protected D-dialdoses (C-glycosyl nitrones). Without added Lewis acids, the C-xylosyl derivatives 7–9, which differ in the protective groups at the C-3 hydroxyl, afforded the corresponding adducts

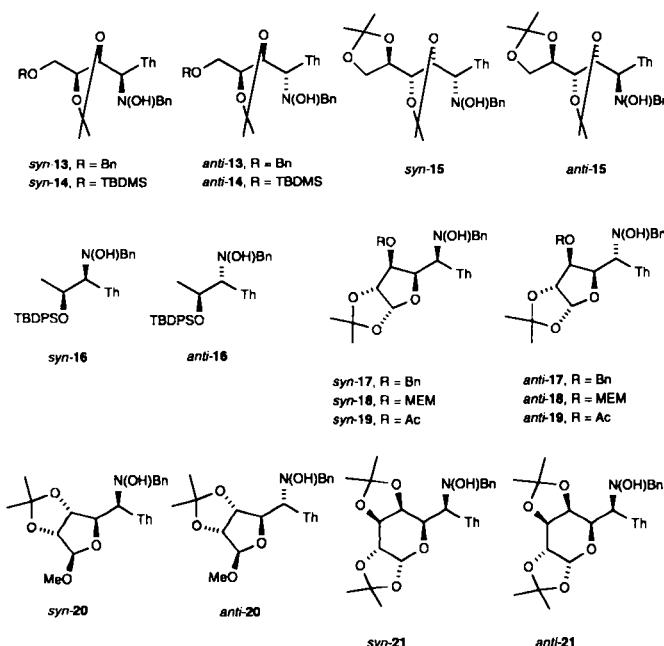


Fig. 2. Hydroxylamines prepared by addition of 1b to nitrones 3–11 (see Table 2). Th = 2-thiazolyl.

Table 2. Product studies and diastereomeric ratios (syn:anti) for the addition of 2-lithiothiazole (1b) to the nitrones 3–11 [a].

Nitron	Lewis acid [b]	Product	syn:anti [c]	Yield/% [d]
3	—	13	70:30	76
3	ZnCl ₂	13	55:45	75
3	Et ₂ AlCl	13	13:87	80
4	—	14	60:40	77
4	Et ₂ AlCl	14	33:67	72
5	—	15	28:72	80
5	ZnCl ₂	15	24:76	75
5	Me ₃ SiCl	15	30:70	64
5	Et ₂ AlCl	15	25:75	80
6	—	16	53:47	88
6	Et ₂ AlCl	16	51:49	86
7	—	17	90:10	90
7	ZnCl ₂	17	69:31	86
7	Et ₂ AlCl	17	4:96	90
8	—	18	88:12	81
8	ZnCl ₂	18	62:38	77
8	Et ₂ AlCl	18	10:90	83
9	—	19	88:12	23
10	—	20	84:16	77
10	ZnCl ₂	20	84:16	82
10	MgBr ₂	20	76:24	80
10	TiCl ₄	20	49:51	60
10	Et ₂ AlCl	20	35:65	90
11	—	21	58:42	86
11	Lil	21	63:37	85
11	MgBr ₂	21	68:32	82
11	ZnCl ₂	21	75:25	80
11	ZnBr ₂	21	79:21	88
11	TiCl ₄	21	11:89	68
11	Et ₂ AlCl	21	9:91	90

[a] All reactions in Et₂O as solvent at −80 °C for 15 min with 3.0 equiv of 2-lithiothiazole (1b). [b] Nitrone complexation with the Lewis acid (1.0 equiv) at ambient temperature. [c] Determined by integration of the ¹H NMR spectrum of the crude reaction mixture. [d] Isolated yield of the diastereomeric mixture.

syn-17, syn-18, and syn-19, respectively, as major isomers. While the overall yields for nitrones 7 and 8 were fairly good, the yield for compound 9 was less satisfactory, because of the competing reaction of 1b with the O-acetyl group of the nitrone to form 2-acetylthiazole as a by-product.^[27] The C-ribosyl and C-galactosyl nitrones 10 and 11 also afforded the hydroxylamines syn-20 and syn-21, respectively, as major products, although the latter formed with low selectivity. Reactions in the presence of

complexing agents led to variable *syn:anti* ratios. The above *syn* adducts were still the major products in the presence of zinc and magnesium halides, whereas the isomers *anti*-17, *anti*-18, *anti*-20, and *anti*-21 were favored in the presence of $TiCl_4$ or Et_2AlCl . Good to excellent overall yields of isolated products were registered in all cases.

Transition-State Models: From the few reports dealing with the 1,3-addition of organometallic reagents to chiral alkoxy nitrones,^[17a,c] it appears that transition-state models similar to those developed for alkenes (Houk model)^[28] and enolates (Fleming–McGarvey model)^[29] are more consistent with the observed diastereofacial selectivities than that developed for carbonyl addition (Felkin–Anh).^[30] A similar conclusion has been reached for addition reactions to chiral imines^[31] and iminium cations.^[32] Accordingly, models **A** and **B** (Fig. 3) were

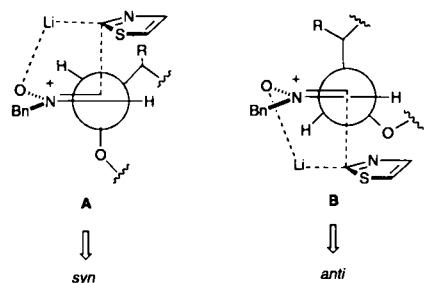


Fig. 3. Proposed transition states for the addition of 2-lithiothiazole (**1b**) to the nitrones **2–5** and **7–11**.

considered to account for the stereochemical outcome of the addition of **1b** to the above nitrones in the absence of complexing agents.^[33] In model **A** the nitrone conformation is such that the largest group is perpendicular to the C=N bond and the medium-size substituent occupies the outer rather than the inner position in order to avoid the steric interaction with the *N*-substituents.^[34] However, it has been already pointed out by Kita and co-workers^[17a,c] that this model predicts that severe steric interactions may occur between the incoming nucleophile and the substituent R. In this case, the reactive nitrone adopts the conformation shown in **B**. Thus, the level of *syn* selectivity (model **A**) is considerably higher for nitrone **2** (R = H, Fig. 3) derived from D-glyceraldehyde than for compounds **3** (R = CH_2OBn) and **4** (R = $CH_2OTBDMS$) derived from L-threose. The *anti* selectivity^[35] found with the nitrone **5** derived from D-arabinose (R = 1,3-dioxolane ring) suggests that in this case the organometallic reagent **1b** is forced to attack primarily the less reactive but less hindered nitrone conformer shown in model **B**.^[36] The high levels of *syn* selectivity observed with the C-glycosyl nitrones **7–10** are also consistent with model **A**, whereas the low selectivity with **11** indicates that model **B** is equally important here. Finally, the lack of selectivity observed with the nitrone **6** derived from L-lactaldehyde leads us to consider the transition-state models **C** and **D** (Fig. 4), both involving the *tert*-butyldiphenylsilyl group as the largest substituent while methyl or hydrogen occupy the inner position. In this case, the difference in size between methyl and hydrogen is not sufficient that one of these structures predominates.

Stereochemical models involving nitrone/Lewis acid associations were considered for reactions carried out in the presence of complexing agents. NMR spectra provide evidence for the mode of complexation of **2** by three different Lewis acids (Table 3).^[37] The substantial deshielding of H_a , H_e , and C_1 indicates a coor-

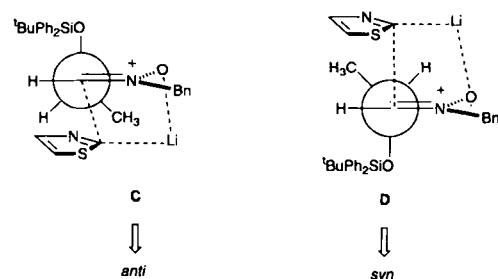


Fig. 4. Proposed transition states for the addition of 2-lithiothiazole (**1b**) to the nitrone **6**.

Table 3. Chemical shift differences ($\Delta\delta$ in ppm) induced by complexing agents in the NMR spectra ($CDCl_3$) of the nitrone **2**.

Lewis acid [b]	¹ H NMR [b]					¹³ C NMR				
	H_a	H_b	H_c	H_d	H_e	C_1	C_2	C_3	C_4	C_5
Et_2AlCl	0.28	0.13	0.05	0.24	0.26	14.89	0.00	0.16	1.46	-1.50
$ZnBr_2$	0.26	0.21	0.07	0.24	0.29	12.20	0.08	0.02	1.02	-0.25
Me_3SiCl	0.39	0.05	0.02	0.15	0.25	8.39	-0.20	0.36	0.37	-1.28

[a] 1.0 equiv. [b] H_a and H_d signals were assigned on the basis of NOE experiments; H_c protons appeared as a singlet in all cases.

dination of the metal to the nitrone oxygen in all cases, while deshielding of H_b and H_d induced by Et_2AlCl and $ZnBr_2$ indicates additional coordination of aluminum and zinc to the oxygen atoms of the dioxolane ring. Hence, transition-state structures **E** and **F** were postulated (Fig. 5), arising from coordi-

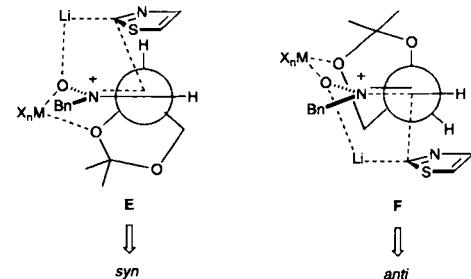
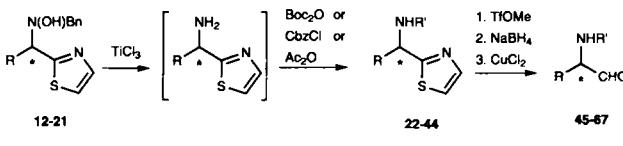


Fig. 5. Proposed transition states for the addition of 2-lithiothiazole (**1b**) to the nitrone **2** in the presence of Et_2AlCl and $ZnBr_2$.

nation of the Lewis acid to the nitrone oxygen and to the α -alkoxy (α -chelation) and β -alkoxy (β -chelation) groups, respectively.^[38] The observed *anti* selectivity (Table 1) is in agreement with the β -chelate model **F** featuring a less crowded arrangement than in the α -chelate structure **E**. Similar structures can be employed to explain the results with the other precomplexed nitrones **3–10**, although the presence of various oxygen atoms in these substrates leaves room for conjecture. Even for compound **2**, the postulated structures **E** and **F** may be an oversimplification since the ^{27}Al chemical shifts of the nitrone/ Et_2AlCl mixture show the presence of four- and five-coordinated species.

Synthesis of α-Amino Aldehydes: We next examined the reductive dehydroxylation of 2-thiazolyl *N*-benzylhydroxylamines to give the corresponding amines, as a further step toward the synthesis of α-aminoaldehydes (Scheme 3). Various methods have been reported for the reduction of *N,N*-dialkylhydroxylamines, including catalytic hydrogenation,^[39] reduction with



Scheme 3. Conversion of 2-thiazolyl *N*-benzyl hydroxylamines to amines and α-amino aldehydes (see Fig. 6 and Table 4 for products and yields).

SmI_2 ,^[39] Zn/HCl ,^[39] Raney Ni,^[39, 40] and aqueous TiCl_3 ,^[41, 42] and reduction of phosphate or carbonate esters with Li in liquid ammonia.^[17e] Problems with catalyst poisoning by thiazole precluded the use of catalytic hydrogenation with our compounds. Reduction under strongly acidic conditions was not an option, owing to the presence of acid-sensitive protective groups. A recent method for dehydroxylation with carbon disulfide under neutral conditions^[43] was also unsuccessful. Fortunately, the reaction proceeded smoothly with aqueous TiCl_3 at room temperature and rapidly went to completion. While the formation of secondary amines has been reported under these conditions,^[44] in our case, both dehydroxylation and debenzylation occurred readily to give primary amines (Scheme 3).^[44] These compounds were isolated and characterized through their *N*-protected *tert*-butoxycarbonyl (Boc), benzyloxycarbonyl (Cbz), and acetyl (Ac) derivatives. In this way, all diastereomeric pairs of *syn* and *anti* hydroxylamines 12–21 were converted into the corresponding pairs of *N*-monoprotected amines 22–44 (Fig. 6). Chemical yields of individual isolated products are collected in Table 4.

What remained to complete the homologation sequence was the liberation of the formyl group from the thiazole ring. This operation was based on a simple and amply documented one-pot protocol^[45] involving *N*-methylation, reduction, and metal-assisted hydrolysis. Previous work on the thiazole–aldehyde synthesis^[13] had demonstrated that the almost neutral conditions under which these reactions take place leave the various oxygen and nitrogen protective groups and the stereocenters of the substrate untouched.^[46] Hence, α-aminoalkylthiazoles 22–44 were transformed into the corresponding α-amino aldehydes 45–67 (Fig. 6) in good overall yields (Table 4). In some cases, the NMR spectra of isolated product revealed the presence of 5–6% of the α-epimer. Attempts at removing this by-product by column chromatography on silica gel led to complete epimerization. Therefore, crude compounds were immediately used for further transformations or stored at –30 °C under an argon atmosphere.

Stereochemical Assignments and Synthetic Applications: Characterization of the *syn* and *anti* isomers of hydroxylamines 12–21 or their derivatives was achieved by X-ray crystallography or chemical transformations. Single crystal X-ray analyses^[47] established unequivocally the structures of hydroxylamines *anti*-12, *syn*-20, *anti*-21, and *N*-acetyl amine 36. The oxidation of the α-amino aldehyde 49 with sodium chlorite and hydrogen peroxide produced the carboxylic acid 68 (Scheme 4), which was identical to the product derived from the 2-furyl derivative 69 employed as an advanced intermediate for the synthesis of polyoxamic acid.^[15] The reduction of *N*-acetyl α-amino aldehydes 52 (from *syn*-15) and 53 (from *anti*-15) with NaBH_4 and

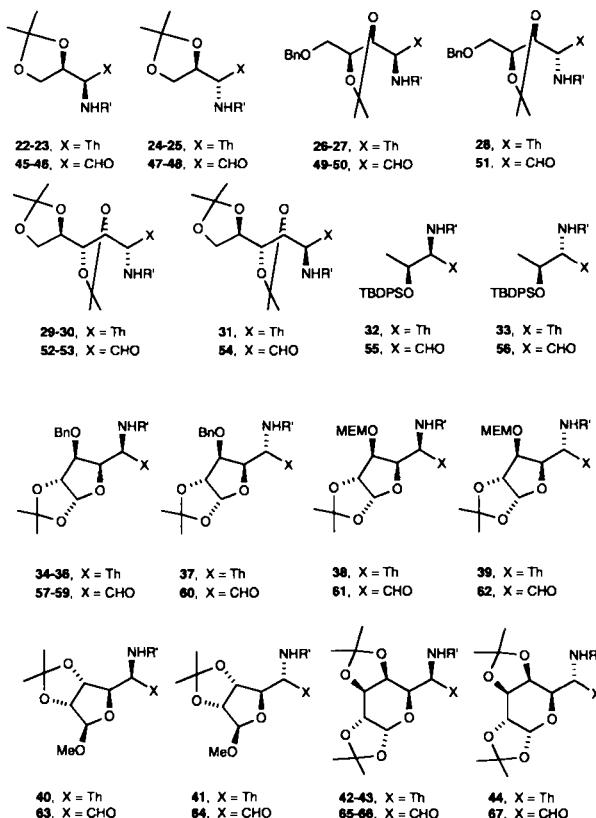


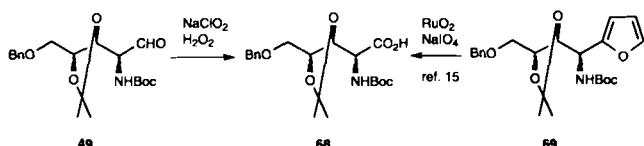
Fig. 6. α-Aminoalkylthiazoles and α-amino aldehydes obtained from hydroxylamines 12–21. R' = Ac, Boc, and Cbz (see Table 4).

Table 4. Products obtained from the elaboration of 2-thiazolyl *N*-benzyl hydroxylamines 12–21.

Hydroxyl-amine	R' [a]	α-Aminoalkylthiazole (yield % [b])	α-Aminoaldehyde (yield % [b])
<i>syn</i> -12	Boc	22 (74)	45 (64)
<i>syn</i> -12	Cbz	23 (86)	46 (70)
<i>anti</i> -12	Boc	24 (78)	47 (70)
<i>anti</i> -12	Cbz	25 (80)	48 (76)
<i>syn</i> -13	Boc	26 (78)	49 (75)
<i>syn</i> -13	Cbz	27 (72)	50 (80)
<i>anti</i> -13	Cbz	28 (76)	51 (73)
<i>syn</i> -15	Ac	29 (72)	52 (60)
<i>anti</i> -15	Ac	30 (76)	53 (64)
<i>anti</i> -15	Boc	31 (81)	54 (72)
<i>syn</i> -16	Boc	32 (85)	55 (73)
<i>anti</i> -16	Boc	33 (82)	56 (75)
<i>syn</i> -17	Boc	34 (72)	57 (81)
<i>syn</i> -17	Cbz	35 (84)	58 (89)
<i>syn</i> -17	Ac	36 (72)	59 [c]
<i>anti</i> -17	Cbz	37 (81)	60 (76)
<i>syn</i> -18	Cbz	38 (87)	61 (72)
<i>anti</i> -18	Cbz	39 (72)	62 (63)
<i>syn</i> -20	Cbz	40 (86)	63 (79)
<i>anti</i> -20	Cbz	41 (82)	64 (76)
<i>syn</i> -21	Cbz	42 (81)	65 (90)
<i>syn</i> -21	Ac	43 (86)	66 (83)
<i>anti</i> -21	Ac	44 (78)	67 (70)

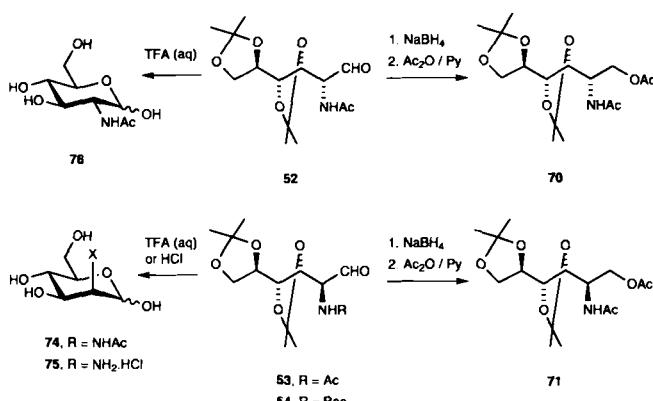
[a] Cbz = benzyloxycarbonyl; Boc = *tert*-butoxycarbonyl; Ac = acetyl. [b] Isolated yield of crude material. [c] Not formed.

ide produced the carboxylic acid 68 (Scheme 4), which was identical to the product derived from the 2-furyl derivative 69 employed as an advanced intermediate for the synthesis of polyoxamic acid.^[15] The reduction of *N*-acetyl α-amino aldehydes 52 (from *syn*-15) and 53 (from *anti*-15) with NaBH_4 and

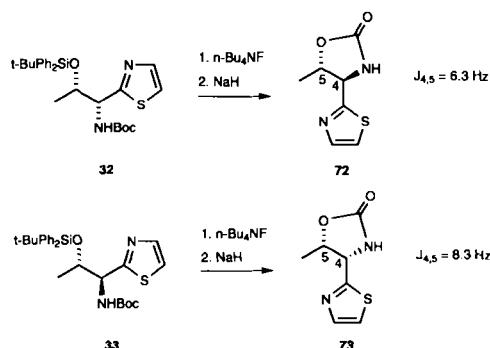


Scheme 4.

acetylation of the resultant alcohols with Ac_2O and pyridine gave the acetamides **70** and **71**, respectively (Scheme 5), whose properties were identical to those reported in the literature.^[48] The deprotection of the hydroxyl group in compounds **32** and

Scheme 5. Synthesis of **74**, **75**, and **76**.

33 (Scheme 6) with $n\text{Bu}_4\text{NF}$ and base-induced ring-closure in the resultant amino alcohols formed the diastereomeric oxazolidinones **72** and **73** whose ^1H NMR spectra showed $^3J_{4,5}$ values^[49] consistent with the assigned stereochemistry.^[50]



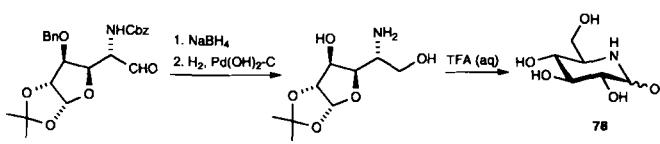
Scheme 6.

The stereochemical assignments were confirmed and the synthetic utility of the aminohomologation methodology illustrated by means of the synthesis of model natural products or their advanced intermediates as detailed below.

D-Mannosamine and D-Glucosamine: Derivatives of D-mannosamine are key intermediates in the chemical or enzymatic syntheses of *N*-acetyl neuraminic acid (Neu5Ac),^[51] the most widely encountered member of the sialic acid family.^[52] For instance, *N*-acetyl-D-mannosamine diacetone **53** (Scheme 5) has previously been prepared from D-gluconolactone (52%),^[53] while *N*-acetyl-D-mannosamine **74** has been obtained by enzymatic epimerization of the more readily available *gluco* isomer **76**.^[54]

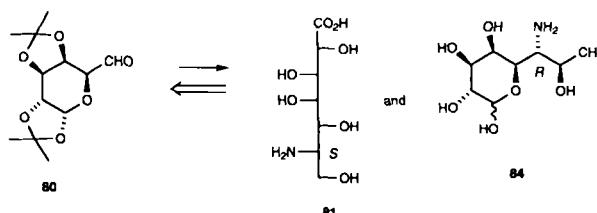
Both compounds **53** and **74** were then converted to Neu5Ac by coupling with pyruvic acid or synthetic equivalents.^[53, 54, 55] Hence, a sample of compound **53**, prepared as described above by the aminohomologation route from D-arabinose diacetone in 20% yield, was cleanly converted into **74** (76%) by treatment with aqueous trifluoroacetic acid, while the *N*-Boc analogue **54** was converted into D-mannosamine hydrochloride **75** (Scheme 5).^[56] In a similar way, deacetonization of **52** with aqueous trifluoroacetic acid afforded *N*-acetyl-D-glucosamine **76**. Physical and spectral properties of compounds **74**, **75**, and **76** were in accordance with the literature values.

D-Nojirimycin: A simple three-step manipulation (Scheme 7) of the α -amino aldehyde **60** (46% from D-xylo-dialdose) led to the naturally occurring aza sugar D-nojirimycin (**78**), which showed

Scheme 7. Synthesis of D-nojirimycin (**78**).

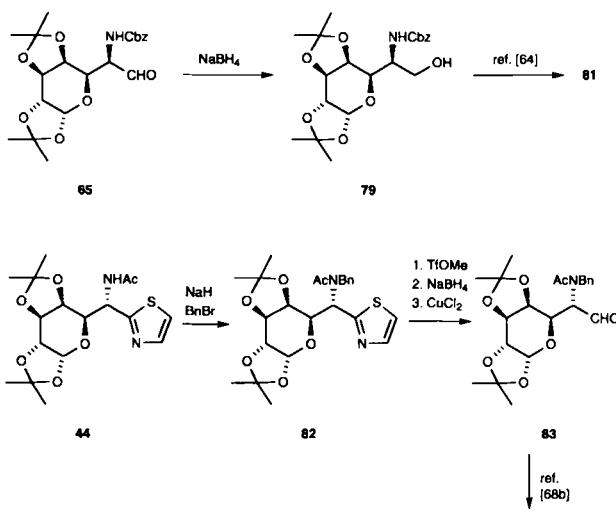
physical characteristics identical to literature values.^[57, 58] The reaction sequence involved the reduction of **60** with sodium borohydride followed by simultaneous deprotection of the C-3 hydroxyl and amino groups by $\text{Pd}(\text{OH})_2$ -catalyzed hydrogenolysis^[59] to give the amino alcohol **77**. This compound, upon deprotection of the C-1 and C-2 hydroxyl groups by deacetonization with aqueous trifluoroacetic acid, afforded **78** in 68% overall yield. In addition to providing proof for the structure of **60**, this model reaction sequence represents a new approach to aza sugars involving the aminohomologation of sugar-derived aldehydes.

Destomycin and Lincosamine: The polyhydroxylated ϵ -amino acid **81** (destomycin) (Scheme 8) is a component of the antibiotic natural products destomycin^[60] and hygromycin,^[61] while the amino sugar **84** (lincosamine) is a key structural unit of the anticancer antibiotic lincosycin.^[62] Both compounds have been the targets of various synthetic approaches. For instance, the first total synthesis of destomycin **81** was reported by Hashimoto and co-workers^[63] and involved the cyanomesylation of α -D-galacto-hexodialdo-1,5-pyranose diacetone **80**. The diastereoselectivity of the reaction was 63% and the overall yield of the isolated amino acid 21.4%. More recently, Jurczak and co-workers^[64] described the synthesis of **81** by the hetero-Diels–Alder reaction of a protected α -amino aldehyde derived from L-serine. The reported syntheses of lincosamine (**84**)^[65] include the construction of the pyranose ring by elaboration of

Scheme 8. Retrosynthesis of the amino sugars destomycin (**81**) and lincosamine (**84**).

a furan derivative^[66] or by hetero-Diels–Alder reaction,^[67] and the chain-elongation of D-galacto-dialdose derivatives.^[68]

Compounds **81** and **84** feature an aminomethylene group, but with opposite configuration at the carbon atom attached to the polyhydroxylated carbon chain with the galacto configuration. These features suggested that these amino sugars could be synthesized by stereoselective aminohomologation of the D-galacto-dialdose **80** (Scheme 8).^[69] Indeed, conditions have been described above under which 2-lithiothiazole (**1b**) and the nitrone **11**, derived from **80**, stereoselectively afforded either of the hydroxylamines *syn*-**21** or *anti*-**21** (Table 2). The transformation of these compounds into the corresponding amines and aldehydes was also described (Table 4). Hence, suitable elaborations of these intermediates were needed to complete the formal synthesis of **81** and **84**. To this end, the α-amino aldehyde **65** was reduced with NaBH₄ (Scheme 9) to give the amino alcohol **79** (39.7% from **80**), which had been previously converted into



Scheme 9. Synthesis of advanced intermediates for the preparation of destomic acid (**81**) and lincosamine (**84**).

destomic acid **81**.^[64] Benzylation of the N-acetyl amine **44** gave **82**, which was converted to the galactosyl amino aldehyde **83** (27.3% from **80**) by the conventional thiazolyl-to-formyl unmasking protocol. The use of **83** as an intermediate for the synthesis of lincosamine has been previously described.^[68b]

Conclusion

The aminohomologation of aldehydes through nitrone intermediates is an interesting synthetic methodology whose main operation involves the Lewis acid stereocontrolled reaction with a metalated thiazole to give hydroxylamine derivatives. Also in this synthetic route the thiazole ring plays a key role as a masked formyl group, since it tolerates the reaction conditions employed to transform the hydroxylamino group into an amino group^[46] and can readily be cleaved to give the aldehyde. The syntheses of D-mannosamine, D-glucosamine, D-nojirimycin, and the formal synthesis of lincosamine and destomic acid illustrate the potential of this methodology in the construction of various types of natural amino sugars and their unnatural analogues.

Experimental Procedure

General: The reaction flasks and other glass equipment were heated in an oven at 130 °C overnight and assembled in a stream of argon. Syringes were assembled and fitted with needles while hot and cooled in a stream of argon. Special techniques were used in handling moisture- and air-sensitive materials, as described in ref. [70]. All solvents were dried by the usual methods [71]. Preparative chromatography was performed on columns of silica gel (60–240 mesh) and with solvents that were distilled prior to use. Reactions were monitored by TLC on silica gel 60 F254; the positions of the spots were detected with 254 nm UV light and by charring with 50% methanolic sulfuric acid as staining system. Melting points were determined on a Büchi 510 melting-point apparatus and are uncorrected. Optical rotations were measured on a Perkin Elmer 241 polarimeter at 20 °C in the stated solvent. Elemental analyses were performed on a Perkin Elmer 240 B microanalyzer. IR spectra were recorded with a Perkin Elmer FT1600 infrared spectrophotometer. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian 300 Unity spectrometer operating at 300 and 75.5 MHz, respectively, at 20 °C in CDCl₃, unless otherwise specified. Chemical shifts are expressed in ppm positive values downfield from internal TMS.

Materials: N-Benzyl nitrones **2–11** were prepared as described in ref. [18]. 2-Bromothiazole was either obtained commercially (Aldrich or Acros) and distilled twice prior to use, or prepared from 2-aminothiazole as described in ref. [13c]. New compounds obtained as solid materials by column chromatography were not recrystallized.

2-Lithiothiazole (1b): A solution of freshly distilled 2-bromothiazole (2.46 g, 1.35 mL, 15 mmol) in diethyl ether (30 mL) was added slowly to a stirred solution of butyllithium (10 mL of a 1.6 M solution in hexanes, 16 mmol) in diethyl ether (30 mL), cooled to –78 °C. During this operation, the temperature of the solution was not allowed to rise above –70 °C. The mixture was stirred for 15 min at –78 °C and the resulting pale yellow solution of 2-lithiothiazole (**1b**) (ca. 0.2 M) was used immediately [72].

Addition of 2-Lithiothiazole (1b) to Nitrones 2–11:

Method A (without Lewis acid): A cooled (–90 °C) and stirred solution of 2-lithiothiazole (**1b**) in diethyl ether (from 15 mmol of 2-bromothiazole) was treated with a solution of the nitrone (5 mmol) in THF (60 mL) added dropwise. During the addition, the temperature of the reaction mixture was not allowed to rise above –80 °C. The mixture was stirred for 15 min at –80 °C, quenched with saturated aq NH₄Cl (15 mL), stirred again at ambient temperature for 10 min, and diluted with diethyl ether (25 mL). The organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer extracted with diethyl ether (3 × 50 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried (MgSO₄), and the solvent evaporated in vacuo. The diastereoselectivity (d.s./%) was determined on the residue by ¹H NMR analysis. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel.

Method B (with Lewis acid): To a stirred solution of the nitrone (5 mmol) in diethyl ether (100 mL) was added the Lewis acid (5 mmol) in one portion at room temperature, and stirring was continued for 15 min. The mixture was transferred under argon atmosphere into a dropping funnel and added dropwise to a cooled (–90 °C) and stirred solution of 2-lithiothiazole (**1b**) in diethyl ether (from 15 mmol of 2-bromothiazole). The mixture was stirred for 30 min at –80 °C and then treated with 1 N aq NaOH (100 mL). After additional stirring for 15 min at ambient temperature, the mixture was extracted with diethyl ether (3 × 50 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried (MgSO₄), and concentrated in vacuo. The d.s. was determined on the residue by ¹H NMR analysis. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel.

N-Benzyl-1-deoxy-1-(hydroxyamino)-2,3-O-isopropylidene-1-(2-thiazolyl)-D-threo-triitol (*syn*-12): Formed from the nitrone **2** (1.18 g, 5 mmol) by method A. Column chromatography (70:30, hexane:diethyl ether) of the residue afforded *syn*-**12** (1.18 g, 74%, d.s. = 93%) as an oil: $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -7.8$ (*c* = 0.74 in CHCl₃); ¹H NMR: δ = 1.25 (s, 3 H), 1.28 (s, 3 H), 3.70 (dd, ²J(H,H) = 8.2, ³J(H,H) = 5.3 Hz, 1 H), 3.84 (d, ²J(H,H) = 12.0 Hz, 1 H), 3.94 (dd, ²J(H,H) = 8.2, ³J(H,H) = 5.7 Hz, 1 H), 3.98 (d, ²J(H,H) = 12.0 Hz, 1 H), 4.38 (d, ³J(H,H) = 6.8 Hz, 1 H), 4.72 (ddd, ¹J(H,H) = 6.8, 5.7, 5.3 Hz, 1 H), 6.45 (bs, ex. D₂O), 7.20–7.35 (m, 5 H), 7.38 (d, ³J(H,H) = 3.2 Hz, 1 H), 7.82 (d, ³J(H,H) = 3.2 Hz, 1 H); ¹³C NMR: δ = 25.50, 26.49, 61.73, 66.97, 68.57, 76.25, 109.62, 120.31, 127.50, 128.39, 129.39, 136.81, 142.01, 164.71; C₁₆H₂₀N₂O₃S (320.41): calcd C 59.98; H 6.29; N 8.74; found C 60.05; H 6.17; N 8.65.

N-Benzyl-1-deoxy-1-(hydroxyamino)-2,3-O-isopropylidene-1-(2-thiazolyl)-D-erythro-triitol (*anti*-12): Formed from the nitrone **2** (1.18 g, 5 mmol) and Et₂AlCl (5 mL of a 1 M solution in hexanes, 5 mmol) by method B. Column chromatography (70:30, hexane:diethyl ether) of the residue afforded *anti*-**12** (1.30 g, 81%, d.s. = 97%) as a white solid; m.p. 157–159 °C; $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -9.0$ (*c* = 0.39 in CHCl₃); ¹H NMR: δ = 1.28 (s, 3 H), 1.32 (s, 3 H), 3.71 (d, ²J(H,H) = 13.2 Hz, 1 H), 3.79 (d, ²J(H,H) = 13.2 Hz, 1 H), 4.05 (dd, ²J(H,H) = 8.5, ³J(H,H) = 5.3 Hz, 1 H), 4.15 (dd, ²J(H,H) = 8.5, ³J(H,H) = 5.5 Hz, 1 H), 4.16 (d, ³J(H,H) = 7.7 Hz, 1 H), 4.72 (dt, ¹J(H,H) = 7.7, 5.4 Hz, 1 H), 6.43 (bs, 1 H, ex. D₂O), 7.26 (bs, 5 H), 7.39 (d, ³J(H,H) = 3.2 Hz, 1 H), 7.82 (d, ³J(H,H) = 3.2 Hz, 1 H); ¹³C NMR: δ = 25.21,

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