121. Diastereoface Selectivity During Phthalimidonitrene Additions to (E) - and (Z) -Configurated α , β -Unsaturated Esters, Induced by a **Chiral Center in the y-Position**

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In-situ-generated phthalimidonitrene was added to five α, β -unsaturated esters containing a chiral secondary O-function at $C(y)$. The additions were fully suprafacial, inasmuch as the (E) -isomers 1 afforded only the *trans*-aziridines **2** and **3** $(J(\beta, y) = 4.8-5.1$ Hz) and the (Z)-isomers **4** only the cis-aziridines **5** and **6** (8.2-8.5 Hz). The products **2,3,5,** and **6** where shown to **possess** the arabino-, *xylo-, ribo-,* and lyxo-configuration, respectively, by X-ray structure analysis of **2b, 2d,** and **6a.** The diastereoface selectivity of the nitrene additions, induced by the chiral substructure around $C(\gamma)$, resulted in more 2 than 3 from 1, but more 6 than 5 from 4, which means that the preference of attack at the double bond switches from one side to the other depending on the C=C configuration. The preferences were higher at lower temperature. The aziridines **2a, 2d,** and **3d** exhibit 'H-NMR-visible isomerism at the ring N-atom; the major (78-95%) invertomer **A** is always the one with the phthalimido group in **trans-posi**tion to the (larger) substructure around $C(\gamma)$. The other aziridines only show ¹H-NMR signals of one invertomer, which – by steric reasoning – ought to be A; this is confirmed by a ¹H-NMR argument for **3a, 5a, 6a, 5c**, and 6c.

1. Introduction. - With the aim of developing model concepts for asymmetric induction [I], much work has been done concerning the preferred side (diastereoface selectivity) from which a C=O bond in an acyclic system (see **I)** is attacked under the influence of an adjacent chiral center [2]. Less information is available concerning the diastereoface selectivity of attacks on a C=O bond in an acyclic system (see **I1** or **111)** under the influence of such a chiral center [3]. An interesting aspect of the latter situation is the effect on the selectivity by the configuration of the double bond [4] *[5].* The two situations are more comparable when the C=C bond is conjugated to a C=O group $(A = C=O \text{ in } \Pi)$ and **III),** *i.e.* when the chiral center is in vinylogous position to the carbonyl C-atom *[5] [6].* The chiral center most frequently present in such cases is a C-atom with a secondary 0-function [4-8]. We describe here some other examples of this type, namely nitrene additions to α, β -unsaturated esters containing secondary ether functions at $C(\gamma)$. We met this problem during exploratory efforts to obtain arabino-L-pentonic-acid derivative **IV** *(cf.* [9] [lo]) as an intermediate for a synthesis of streptolidine **V,** which is an essential component of the streptothrycin antibiotics [11].

^{&#}x27;) On leave of absence from Pharmaceutical Institute, Warszawa-Poland.

^{&#}x27;) Partially from the diploma thesis of *C. B.*, University of Zürich, 1986.

2. Nitrene Additions. - In eight experiments, run in CH,Cl,, phthalimidonitrene (PhtNN), generated *in situ* from N-aminophthalimide (PhtNNH,) with Pb(OAc), [121 [13], was added to the double bond of five α, β -unsaturated esters **1a, b, d** ((E)-configuration) and **4a,c** ((Z)-configuration), all carrying an H- and 0-atom, as well as a CH,O group at the chirality center $C(y)$. In all cases, N-phthalimidoaziridines were formed, namely 2a, b, d, 3a, b, d, 5a, c, and 6a, c, in 72-97% yield for the (E)- and 47-64% yield for the (Z)-series (see *Schemes* and *Table I).* Evidence for their configurations are given in *Chapt.3.* When 1.1 mol-equiv. each of $PhtNNH_2$ and $Pb(OAc)_4$ were used, the nitrene addition was incomplete³), but usually most of the unreacted unsaturated ester was recovered. The (E)-isomers **1** led only to the *arabino-* and xylo-products **2** and **3,**

³) This is probably due to the competing side reaction of PhtNN with PhtNNH₂ [13]. With 2.2 mol-equiv. each of PhtNNH₂ and Pb(OAc)₄, the isolated yield of **1a/2a** was 79% [14].

Starting material (E)	Temp. [°C]ª)	1 (recovered) [%]	2 (arabino) ^b) [%]	$3 (xylo)^{\circ}$ [%] 14	Ratio 2/3 3.1:1
1a(S)	0	39	45		
1a(S)	-40	31	57	$\overline{2}$	30:1
1b $(RS)^d$)	Ω	39	46 ^e	14	3.3:1
$1\mathbf{b} (RS)^d$	-38	38	58	0.2)	290:1
1d $(RS)^d$)	θ	25	36 ^e	18	2:1
Starting material (Z)	Temp. $[^{\circ}C]^a$)	4 (recovered) [%]	5 (ribo) ^g) $\lceil \% \rceil$	6 $(lyxo)^{h}$ [%]	
4a(S)	Ω	67	9	12	1:1.3
4a(S)	-40	81		8	1:2
4c(S)	0	53	11	11	1:1

Table 1. Reactions of α , β -Unsaturated Esters 1 and 4 with Phtalimidonitrene

 $a₁$ Temperature of the nitrene generation and addition.

 b_1 Result of $(\alpha s i, \beta s i)$ -attack (major).

 $c_{\mathbf{r}}$ Result of (are, βre)-attack.

 $\frac{d}{dx}$ For comparison, these racemic samples are represented as (yS) -enantiomers.

e₎ Structures of **2b, 2d,** and **6a** from an X-ray analysis.

6 Detected in the mother liquor material after crystallization of **26.**

 g Result of $(\alpha re, \beta si)$ -attack.

 \mathbf{h} Result of $(\alpha s i, \beta r e)$ -attack.

respectively, and the (Z)-isomers **4** furnished only the ribo- and Iyxo-products *5* and **6,** respectively.

Thus, all the nitrene additions were – as expected $[15]$ – fully stereoselective at $C(\alpha)$ relative to $C(\beta)$, namely suprafacial. The diastereoface selectivity (in the following short: selectivity) at $C(\beta)$ relative to $C(\gamma)$, which is the subject of this paper, favored the *arabino*- $((\alpha s_i, \beta s_i)$ -attack) over the xylo-products $((\alpha r, \beta r e)$ -attack) in the (E) -series 1 by a factor from > 2.1 at 0° up to *ca.* $300:1$ at -40° (see 2/3, *Table 1*). In the (Z)-series 4, there was a smaller selectivity, which preferred the $lyxo-$ (($\alpha si, \beta re$)-attack) over the *ribo*-isomers ((are, β si)-attack) by ≤ 1.2 :1 at 0° and by 2:1 at -40° (see 5/6, Table 1).

Our optically active starting materials **la, 4a,** and **4c** as well as the derived products have the (γS) -configuration. For the sake of visual comparison, we represent the racemic compounds **1b** and **1d** also by the (yS) -enantiomers; the same is true for the products obtained from them').

In the experiments with $1a, b$ ((E) -configuration) and $4a, c$ ((Z) -configuration), the chiral induction is due to the 1,3-dioxolan-4-y1 unit; the structures (aside from the configurations) of the starting materials differ only in the ester group (Me *us.* Et *vs.* t-Bu). In the (E) -series 1, the (γS) -configuration causes the nitrene to attack the $(\alpha si, \beta si)$ -side of the C=C bond in preference over the (are, βre)-side by a factor of *ca*. 3:1 at 0° and *ca*. 300:1 at -40° . In the (Z)-series 4, the same unit causes the ($\alpha s i$, $\beta r e$)-attack to exceed the (are, β si)-attack *ca*. twofold at -40° . We note that the preferred attack at $C(\beta)$, the prochiral center adjacent to the inducing chiral substructure around $C(\gamma)$, switches to the

^{4,} Care was taken to avoid purification procedures which might discriminate between the diastereoisomers.

^{&#}x27;) Our experiments were not designed to critically evaluate an enantiomeric excess effect (EE-effect) [16] involving the racemic samples $(\mathbf{1b}, \mathbf{1d})$ as compared to the enantiomerically pure ones $(\mathbf{1a}, \mathbf{4a}, \mathbf{4c})$, *cf. Chapt.6.*

other side when the configuration of the C=C bond is changed. In the starting material **1d**, the inducing chiral substructure around $C(y)$ is the oxiran-2-yl unit. The selectivity is nevertheless in the same direction, inasmuch as the (γS) -configuration also induces the nitrene to attack the $(\alpha s i, \beta s i)$ -side of this (E) -configurated C=C bond in preference over the (are, βre)-side, in this case by a factor of ca. 2:1 at 0°.

3. Configurations. -3.1 . Starting Materials. Most of the α, β -unsaturated esters 1 and **2** have been prepared and configurationally assigned previously in racemic or optically active form, or as another ester (see Exper. Part, for hitherto unknown samples). The configurations at the C=C bond follow from the 'H-NMR spectra $(J(\alpha, \beta) = 15{\text -}16 \text{ Hz}$, for (E) -isomers 1 and $J(\alpha, \beta) = 10$ -11 Hz for (Z) -isomers 4°) and the absolute configurations of the (S)-enantiomers **la, 4a,** and **4c** from their preparation from *(R)-2,3-0-iso*propylideneglyceraldehyde. The enantiomeric excesses (ee values) of **la** and **4a** were determined to be $> 98\%$ by capillary GC using an optically active stationary phase (calibrated in the case of **la).** Since **4c** was made by the same reaction from the same starting material as **1a** and **4a**, its ee value was also taken to be $> 98\%$. The racemic samples **lb** and **Id** stemmed from rac- 2,3-0 -isopropylideneglyceraldehyde and from (achiral) methyl $(2E)$ -penta-2,4-dienoate, respectively.

3.2. Products. The spectral properties of the nitrene-addition products of this work, the aziridines **2, 3, 5,** and **6,** are highly characteristic; all the relevant signals in the ¹H-NMR spectra can be identified unequivocally (see *Table 2*). They show the α, β -transconfiguration at the aziridine ring in the arabino- and the xylo-isomers **2** and **3** $(J(\alpha, \beta) = 4.5-5.0 \text{ Hz})$ as well as the α, β -cis-configuration in the *ribo*- and the *lyxo*isomers **5** and **6** $(J(\alpha, \beta) = 8.0 - 8.3 \text{ Hz})$; *cf.* [17]. This, together with the known configuration at the $C=C$ bond in the starting materials, independantly confirms the suprafaciality of the nitrene additions.

Concerning the β , y-configurations of our products (the feature of major interest of this paper) our arguments are based on the arabino-configuration of **2b** and **2d** and on the lyxo-configuration of **6a,** all of which were established by X-ray structure analysis (see *Chapt. 5*). This, together with the above conclusions on the α , β -configurations, also fixes the xylo-configuration of **3b** and **3d** as well as the ribo-configuration of **5a.** We then note that each of our other aziridines shows a remarkable 'H-NMR similarity with one of the already assigned samples, namely **2a** with **2b, 3a** with **3b, 5c** with **5a,** and **6c** with **6a** (see Table 2). Thus, there can be no doubt about the *arabino-, xylo- ribo-*, and $lyxo$ -configuration of **2a**, **3a**, **5c**, and **6c**, respectively. Of diagnostic value for the β , γ -configuration in compounds of this type may be the size of $J(\beta, \gamma)$, inasmuch as it is larger (by $\Delta J = 1.3$ to 3.5 Hz, see Table 2) in the arabino- or ribo-isomers **(2** or **5)** than in the xylo- or l *yxo*-isomers **(3** or **6**).

4. X-Ray Structure Analyses. ~ The results of the X-ray structure analyses of **2b, 2d,** and **6a** are shown in the Figure')')). Each of these three compounds was the major isomer

 6) We note that $J(\beta, \gamma)$ in the two stereoisomeric series 1 and 4 do not differ greatly (5.5–7.3 Hz). This suggests that the preferred conformation around the $C(\beta) - C(\gamma)$ bond is either not strongly affected, or then rotated roughly around 180", by the difference in interactions due to the *cis-* as compared to the trans-position of the **ROOC** group with respect to $C(\gamma)$, even when $R = t$ -Bu.

 γ These results were obtained in our X-ray structure laboratory by Dr. *R. Prewo,* who expects to publish the details separately.

 8 The optically active **6a** is known to have the (yS) -configuration from its synthesis.

Table 2. Some Characteristic ¹H-NMR Data of the arabino-, xylo-, ribo-, and lyxo-Isomers 2, 3, 5, and 6, Respectively³)^b) Table 2. Some Characterrstrc *'H-NMR* Dutu *of* the arabino-, xylo-, nbo-, and lyxo-Isomers **2,** *3, 5, and 6,*

A and **Prepresent the IT-NMR**. detected in the 'H-NMR.

Structure confirmed by X-ray analysis. Structure confirmed by X-ray analysis.
 $A/B = 95.5$.
 $A/B = 78.22$.
 $A/B = 93.7$.

ດ-ລິດ: **d,** A/B=95:5.

') **AIB** = 93:7.

Figure. *Stereopictures of the X-ray structures of the aziridines* **Zb, Zd,** *and* **6a.** Only one enantiomer, namely the (yS) -form of racemic 2b and 2d, is shown.

(of two) obtained from an (E) -configurated dioxolanyl- $(1b)$, from an (E) -configurated oxiranyl- **(Id),** and from a (2)-configurated dioxolanyl derivative **(4a),** respectively. The X-ray analyses establish not only the constitution of these aziridines but also the *arabino*configuration of **2b** and **2d** and the lyxo-configuration of **6a.** The Figure also shows the preferred conformations around the $C(\beta) - C(\gamma)$ bond in the crystals of 2b, 2d, and 6a, but correlations with the conformations in solutions, as expressed by the 'H-NMR $J(\beta, \gamma)$ values, and of the latter with the β , y-configurations is not immediately obvious⁹). In *Chapt. 5,* we shall show that the conformation at the $C(\beta)-C(\gamma)$ bond may depend on the configuration at the stereogenic (pyramidal) aziridine N-atom.

The pyramidality and configuration at the aziridine ring N-atom is also revealed by the X-ray analyses: the PhtN substituent in the crystals of **2b, 2d,** and **6a** is always *trans*-configurated with respect to the substructure around $C(\gamma)$. Evidence for the generality of this effect in our samples will be presented in Chapt. *5.*

5. Invertomers. $-$ In CDCl₁ solution, the aziridine 2d exists as two N-invertomers¹⁰), **2dA** and **2dB**, in the ratio of ca. 3:1; almost all ¹H-NMR signals of both invertomers can be seen separately (see Table *3).* Freshly dissolved crystalline **2d** contained **2dA** and **2dB** in a *ca.* 10:1 ratio, which turned to *ca.* 3:1, the equilibrium, after a few minutes at r.t. Thus, the configuration at the aziridine N-atom of **2dA** corresponds to the one found in the crystal of **2d** (see the *Fig.,* b), where the PhtN group is trans-configurated to the oxiranyl residue. Evidently, the PhtN residue is repulsed somewhat more by the oxiranyl group in **2d** than by the COOMe group. As noted by Atkinson and coworkers [181, a PhtN group on an aziridine magnetically shields the MeO protons of a cis-located vicinal COOMe group (3.68-3.70 ppm) more than those of a trans-located one (3.84-3.85 ppm), but it deshields vicinal protons in cis- more than in *trans*-position ($\Delta\delta = 0.4{\text{-}}0.6$ ppm). Accordingly, we find in the 'H-NMR spectrum of **2d** the Me0 signal at 3.71 ppm for **2dA** *us.* at 3.84 ppm for **2dB**, the H $-C(\alpha)$ signal at 3.31 ppm for **2dA** *us.* at 3.54 ppm for **2dB**, and the $H - C(\beta)$ signal at 3.52 ppm for **2dA** *vs.* at 3.37 ppm for **2dB**.

For **3d** and **2a,** a minor invertomer **B** (7% and *5%)* could also be detected in the 'H-NMR, besides the major **A** (see Table *3).* Both **A's** exhibit Me0 signals at 3.73 and 3.71 ppm (COOMe/PhtN *cis* or $C(y)/\text{PhtN}$ *trans*), while both **B**'s absorb at 3.86 (7%) and 3.85 ppm *(5* %).

The methyl esters **3a, 5a,** and **6a** appear to exist as only one invertomer, since only one Me0 signal is visible (see Table *3).* In the *a,* P-trans-aziridine **3a,** the Me0 signal at 3.69 ppm indicates the COOMe/PhtN cis-relationship and thus identifies **3a** as the **A** invertomer. In the α , β -cis-aziridines 5a and 6a, on the other hand, the MeO signal is at 3.86 and 3.84 ppm, respectively, corresponding to a COOMe/PhtN trans -configuration and thus identifies **5a** and **6a** also as the **A** invertomers.

⁹) Of the two X-rayed *arabino*-aziridines with the larger $J(\beta, \gamma)$ values (2b 7.0, 2d 4.9 Hz) as compared to their ribo-isomers **(3b** 3.5, 3d 2.9 Hz), we find the H-atoms at $C(\beta)$ and $C(\gamma)$ in crystalline **2b** to be antiperiplanar *(Fig., a),* in crystalline **Zd,** however, synclinal *(Fig.,* b). The lyxo-aziridine **6a** with its synclinal H-atoms at $C(\beta)$ and $C(\gamma)$ in the crystal *(Fig., c)*, on the other hand, exhibits a $J(\beta, \gamma)$ value (6.9 Hz) not so much smaller than its ribo-isomer **5a** (8.5 **Hz).**

¹⁰) The invertomers mentioned here are due to different pyramidal arrangements around the N-atom of the aziridine ring (see Table *3).* The prefixes *cis* and trans refer to the relative positions of the PhtN group and the $C(y)$ substructure. The *trans*-invertomer, always the more abundant one, is called **A**, the *cis*-invertomer **B**.

$\frac{1}{2}$ A (major)	NPht.	N-inversion B (minor)	E, Ė ² N Pht	
			A	B
α, β -trans-Series (E ¹ = COOMe, E ² = H)	2a	$(X = -OCMe_{2})$	3.71(95%)	3.85 (5%)
	3а	$(X = -OCMe2)$	3.69 (100%)	none
	2d	$(X = -)$	3.71(78%)	$3.84(12\%)$
	3d	$(X = -)$	$3.73(93\%)$	3.86 (7%)
α, β -cis-Series (E ¹ = H, E ² = COOMe)	5а	$(X = -OCMe2)$	$3.86(100\%)$	none
	6а	$(X = -OCMe2)$	$3.84(100\%)$	none

Table 3. *'H-NMR Signal* **[pprn]** *oj'the Me0 Group in the N-Inoertomers oj'the Methyl Aziridinecarhoxylates* **2a, 3a, Zd, 3d,** *and* **5a**

The greater repulsion exerted on the PhtN group by the substructure around $C(\gamma)$ than by the COOMe group should also apply to the Et and t-Bu esters **2b, 3b, 5c,** and **6c.** Since they produce just one set of $H-MMR$ signals each, they should also exist as invertomer **A** only. This is supported for **5c** and **6c** by the chemical shifts of the t-Bu groups (1.54 and 1.56 ppm), which agree with the values given in [18] for the $COO(t-Bu)$ PhtN trans-invertomers of N-phthalimdoaziridines (1.53-1.56 ppm) but not with the corresponding *cis*-invertomers (1.33–1.38 ppm). The Atkinson effect is not visible with $H - C(\beta)$ of our aziridines, possibly because it is obscured by conformational variances at the C(β)-C(γ) bond, as is suggested by the $J(\beta, \gamma)$ values shown in *Table 2*. Of interest in this connection is the difference in the $J(\beta, \gamma)$ values of the two invertomers of 2d (4.5 for **A** and 1.8 Hz for **B**). Unfortunately, the $J(\beta, \gamma)$ values are not available for the invertomers **B** of our other aziridines.

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Experimental Part

General. See [lo]. Reagent-grade solvents *(Fluka, Merck)* were dried **over** molecular sieves **(3 A,** *Fluka).* Pb(OAc)₄ was freed from AcOH *in vacuo* at r.t. Anal. TLC: Al foil coated with silica gel 60 F (Merck); detection by UV (254 nm) or by spraying with 50% H,S04 soh. followed by heating. GC: *Hewlett Packard 58804* with capillary column $BP-5$, 25 m. M.p.: *Mettler FP* 5. $[\alpha]_0^T$: *Perkin Elmer 241* polarimeter, *c* in $g/100$ ml. ¹H-NMR spectra of enantiomerically pure compounds are described even though these data have already been reported for the racemic mixture, and *vice versa,* because it is known [19], that pure enantiomers and racemic mixtures do not need to exhibit exactly the same chemical shifts.

1. Methyl (2E)- and (2Z)-3-[(4S)-2,2-Dimethyl-1,3-dioxolan-4-yl]prop-2-enoate (1a and 4a, resp.). 1.1. *In CH2C12.* **As** described in **[20] (211** for the racemic mixture, **la/4a** were prepared from (R)-2,3-0-isopropylideneglyceraldehyde and **[(methoxycarbonyl)methylidene]triphenylphosphorane** in CH,CI, as a crude 4 : 1 mixture (GC). *Lobar* chromatography (AcOEt/hexane 15:85) afforded **la** (65%) and **4a (17%),** both as colorless oils, each > 98 *'A* pure by GC.

Data of **la**: $[a]_D^{25} = +45$ (c = 1.125, CHCl₃; [6j]: +33.6° (c = 10, CDCl₃)). ¹H-NMR (J(H-C(2), H-C(3)) $= 16.5$ Hz) and IR: identical with those of the $(2E)$ -isomer **la** reported in [6j].

Data of 4a: α [a]²⁵ = +122 (c = 1.25, CHCl₃). IR: identical with that of the racemic mixture [21]. ¹H-NMR (200 H-C(4)); 4.39 *(dd, J* = **8.3,** 6.9, H-C(5')); 3.72 **(s,** MeO): 3.62 *(dd. J* = 8.3, 6.7. H-C(5')); 1.46, 1.40 (2 s, $Me₂C(2')$). ([21]: ¹H-NMR of the racemic mixture). MHz, CDCl₃): 6.38 (dd, J = *11.6, 6.6, H*-C(3)); 5.86 (dd, J = 11.6, 1.7, H-C(2)); 5.50 (dddd, J = 6.9, 6.7, 6.6, 1.7,

To determine the optical purity of **la** and **4a,** a sample of the crude 4 :1 mixture **la/4a** was analyzed on a **Carlo Erba Fractouap** G *I* (cap. column *WCOT,* **XE-60-(S)-valine-[(S)-a-phenylethyl]amide).** Only one peak was found for each of the two olefins. A calibration of the column using different mixtures of **la** and the corresponding racemic material showed **la** to have ee > 98%. Since it is highly improbable that **4a,** formed in the same reaction pot, has racemized to a larger extent, it is assumed to have the same optical purity.

1.2. *In* MeOH. The same Wittig reaction with **(R)-2,3-O-isopropylideneglyceraldehyde** was also run in MeOH, as described in **[21].** It afforded a crude 1 :4 mixture **la/4a.** After chromatography on **Lobar** (AcOEt/hexane 15: *85)* **la** (14%) and **4a** (61 %), each > 98% pure by **GC,** were obtained, with the same properties as described in **Exprr.** *1.1.*

2. Ethyl (2E)-3-(**(4** *RS)-2,2-Dimethyl-l,3-dioxolan-4-yl]prop-2-enoate* **(lb).** Using the procedure described in [22] for the methyl ester, ethyl $(4RS,2E)$ -4,5-dihydroxypent-2-enoate was prepared from rac-glyceraldehyde and **[(ethoxycarbonyl)methylidene]triphenylphosphorane** in *80%* yield as a colorless oil. B.p. 130"/0.1 Torr. IR (film): 3400s, *2985m,* 2940m, *2880m,* 1785 (sh), 1745 **(sh),** 1722 (sh), 17083, 1660~ 1395rn, 13713, 130% 1280s, 1180s, 1125~1, 1075m, 10353, 980m, 885m. 865m. 'H-NMR (200 MHz, CDC1,): 6.91 *(dd, J* = 15.8,4.5, H-C(3)): 6.15 *(dd,* $J = 11.0, 7.0, H - C(5)$; 2.95 (s, 2 OH); 1.30 (t, $J = 7.0, CH_3CH_2O$). Anal. calc. for $C_7H_{12}O_4$ (160.17): C 52.49, H 7.55; found: C 52.77, H 7.76. $J= 15.8, 1.8, H-C(2)$; 4.42 (m, H-C(4)); 4.22 (q, $J=7.0$, CH₃CH₂O); 3.78 (dd, $J=11.0, 3.5, H-C(5)$; 3.54 (dd,

A soln. of ethyl **(4RS,2E)-4,5-dihydroxypent-2-enoate** (1600 mg, 10 mmol), acetone (7.35 ml, 100 mmol) and TsOH (5 mg, 0.025 mmol) in benzene (40 ml) was heated to reflux for 12 h under azeotropic removal of H_2O . Powdered K_2CO_3 was added, the suspension stirred for few min and filtered. Distillation of the residue after evaporation of the solvent yielded 1600 mg *(80%)* **Ib** as a colorless oil, > *99"h* pure by GC. B.p. 145"/15 Torr. IR: identical with the spectrum of the optically active compound described in [23]. ¹H-NMR (200 MHz, CDC1₃): 6.88 *^J*= 7.1, CH,CH,O); 4.19 *(dd, J* = *8.2,* 6.5, H-C(5')); *3.68 (dd, J* = 8.2, 7.1, H-C(5')); 1.45, 1.41 (2 s, Me2C(2')); 1.30 (t, $J = 7.1$, CH₃CH₂O); no signals of the (2Z)-isomer $(J(H-C(2),H-C(3)) = 12$ Hz) as described for the (R) -enantiomer in [24]. *(dd, J* = 15.6, 5.6, H-C(3)); 6.08 *(dd, J* = 15.6, 1.4, H-C(2)); 4.66 *(dddd, J* = 7.1, 6.5, 5.6, 1.4, H-C(4)); 4.21 *(v,*

3. tert-Butyl **(2E)-** *and* (2 *2)-3-[(4 S)-2.2-Dimrthyl-I,3-dioxolan-4-yl]prop-2-enoate* **(lc** and **4c,** resp.). In analogy to the method described in Exper. *1.2,* **lc** and **4c** were prepared from *(R)-2,3-0* -isopropylideneglyceraldehyde and **{[(tert-butoxy)carbonyl]methylidene}triphenylphosphorane** [25] in MeOH in I1 % and 82% yield, respectively, after chromatography, as colorless oils, each > *98%* pure by 'H-NMR and GC. The optical purities of **lc** and **4c** are assumed to be > *98* % as in **la** and **4a** (see Exper. *1. I*), since the same starting material was used in the same type of reaction.

Data of 1c: IR (film): 2985s, 2935m, 2875m, 1715s, 1660m, 1455m, 1393m, 1382m, 1370s, 1311s, 1260s, 1155s, 1065s, 980~1, *850m.* 'H-NMR (200 MHz, CDCl,): 6.78 *(dd, J* = 15.6, 5.9, IIGC(3)); 6.01 *(dd, J* = 15.6, 1.4, H-C(2)); 4.64 *(dddd, J* = 7.2, 6.5, 5.9, 1.4, H-C(4')); 4.17 *(dd, J* = 8.3, 6.5, H-C(5')); 3.66 *(dd, J* = 8.3, 7.2, H-C(5')); 1.48 (s, t-Bu); 1.45, 1.40 (2 s, Me₂C(2')).

Data of4c: [a]:: = +97 **(c** = 1.047, CHCI,). 1R (film): **29853,** 2935m, 2875m, 17133, *1644m,* 1455m, 1408m, 1381m, 1370s, 1235s, 1216s, 1158s, 1061s, 855m, 822m. ¹H-NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃): 6.25 *(dd, J* = 11.7, 6.7, $H-C(5')$; 3.62 *(dd, J* = 8.3, 6.8, H-C(5')); 1.48 *(s, t*-Bu); 1.45, 1.39 *(2s, Me₂C(2')*). Anal. calc. for C₁₂H₂₀O₄ *(228.23):* C 63.14, H 8.83; found: C 63.39, H 8.70. H-C(3)); 5.77 *(dd, J* = 11.7, 1.7, H-C(2)); 5.50 *(dddd, J* = 6.9, 6.8, 6.7, 1.7, H-C(4')); 4.37 *(dd, J* = 8.3, 6.9,

4. Methyl *(2* **E/-3-[** *(2RS)-oxiran-2-yl]prop-2-enoate* **(Id)** was prepared by epoxidation of methyl (2E)-penta-2,4-dienoate (commercial material, 77% pure by GC, containing 8% of the (2Z)-isomer, 10% of an unknown compound and some other impurities) as described in [21]. Separation on **Lobar** (AcOEt/hexane 15:85) and distillation at 100"/20Torr, with some loss for the sake of purity, afforded **Id** (18%) as a colorless oil, > 99% pure by GC. ¹H-NMR $(J(H-C(2), H-C(3)) = 16$ Hz) and IR: identical with those described in [21], the ¹H-NMR showed none of the (2Z)-isomer (see below).

One *Lobar* fraction, after repeated chromatography *(Lobor,* AcOEt/hexane 15 *:85)* and distillation, yielded a small amount $(1%)$ of methyl $(2Z)$ -3- $f(2RS)$ -oxiran-2-yllprop-2-enoate (4d) as a colorless oil, $>90\%$ pure by GC. ¹H-NMR ($J(H-C(2), H-C(3)) = 10$ Hz) and IR: identical with those of the (2Z)-isomer described in [21].

5. Methyl (2S,3S)- and (2R,3R)-3-[(4S)-2,2-Dimethyl-1,3-dioxolan-4-yl]-1-phthalimidoaziridine-2-carbo*xylate* (2a and 3a, resp.). 5.1. *At 0^o*. To a stirred mixture of 1a (640 mg, 3.5 mmol; > 98% pure), N-aminophthalimide (680 mg, 4.2 mmol), and Na_2CO_3 (740 mg, 7 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (8 ml) at 0°, Pb(OAc)₄ (1860 mg, 4.2) mmol) was added within 0.5 h. After removing the cooling bath and further stirring for 0.5 h, the solid was filtered off and washed with CH_2Cl_2 . The combined washings and filtrate were evaporated to dryness and the residue chromatographed on *Lobar B* (AcOEt/hexane 3:7), yielding 250 mg (39%) of **la** and 700 mg (59%) of a 3.1:1 mixture (by 'H-NMR) **2a/3a.** Crystallization from hexane/acetone **3** :I afforded 145 mg (12%) **2a.** M.p. 150-152' after recrystallization from the same solvent, as light green needles. M.p. 153.2–153.6°. $\left[\alpha\right]_{0}^{25} = -99$ (c = 0.995, CHCI,). In soh, the two invertomers **A** (major) and **B** (minor) were present. IR (CHCI,): *307Ow,* 2990w, 1770w, 1720s, 1610m,, 1450m, 1380s, *1200m* (br.), 1070s, 890m, 840m, 700m. 'H-NMR (400 MHz, CDC1,): 7.78-7.72, 7.68-7.63 *(2 m,* 4 arom. H); 4.42 *(dd, J* = 8.8, 5.9, H-C(5')); 4.28 *(dd, ^J*= 8.8, 6.2, H-C(5')); 4.06 (br. y, *^J*= 5.9-6.9, H-C(4')); *3.85* (s, 0.15 H, Me0 of invertomer **B);** 3.71 (s, 2.85 H, Me0 of invertomer **A);** 3.50 *(dd, J* = 6.9, 4.8, H-C(3)); 3.36 *(d, J* = 4.8, H-C(2)); 1.48, 1.40 (2 s, Me₂C(2')). MS (70eV): 346 (1, *M*⁺⁺), 331 (23), 287 (12), 239 (ll), 229 (37), 221 (17), 213 **(15),** 201 (24), 148 (12), 130 (22), 104 (76), 101 (80), 76 (46), 43 (100). Anal. calc. for C₁₇H₁₈N₂O₆ (346.34): C 58.96, H 5.24, N 8.09; found: C 59.11, H 5.39, N 8.24.

The 'H-NMR of **3a** was obtained by subtracting the spectrum of **2a** from that of the mother-liquor material *(ca.* I :I mixture **2a/3a).** 'H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCI,) of **3a:** 7.78-7.71 *(m,* **2** arom. H); 7.69-7.63 *(m,* 2 arom. H); MeO); 3.56 *(dd, J* = 4.9, 3.4, H-C(3)); 3.43 *(d, J* = 4.9, H-C(2)); 1.41, 1.35 *(2s, Me₂C(2')*). 4.53 *(ddd, J* = 6.6, 5.5, 3.4, *H-C(4));* 4.29 *(dd, J* = 8.8, *5.5,* H-C(5')); 4.22 *(dd, J* = 8.8, 6.6, H-C(5')); 3.69 **(s,**

5.2. $At -40^\circ$. The same reaction at -40° (instead of 0°) yielded 59% of 2a/3a in a ratio of 30:1, in addition to 31 % of **la.** The amount of **3a** was determined by 'H-NMR of the mother-liquor material after chromatographic removal of **la** and crystallization of the bulk of the major product **2a.**

6. *Ethyl* 12RS,3RS/- *and* (2SR,3SR)-3-(*(4RS)-2,2-Dimethyl-I.3-dioxolun-4-ylj-l-phthulimidoaziridine-2 carboxylate* (2b and 3b, resp.). 6.1. *At* 0° . The reaction of 1b (700 mg, 3.5 mmol; > 99% pure), N-aminophthalimide (680 mg, 4.2 mmol), Na₂CO₃ (740 mg), and Pb(OAc)₄ (1860 mg, 4.2 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (8 ml) at 0[°], following the procedure described in *Exper. 5,* yielded 270 mg (39 %) of **lb** and 760 mg (60%) of a **3.3:** 1 mixture (by 'H-NMR) **2b/3b.** Crystallization from hexane/aeetone 3:1 afforded 175 mg (14%) of **2b.** M.p. 130-131". After recrystallization from the same solvent as light-green needles. M.p. 130.5-131.5". A sample of these crystals was used for X-ray analysis. IR (CHCl₃): $2990w$, $1770w$, $1720s$, $1380s$, $1220m$, $1070m$, $890m$. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz: CDCI,): 7.79-7.66 *(m,* 4 arom. H); 4.44 *(dd, J* = 8.7, 5.9, H-C(5')); 4.29 *(dd, J* = 8.7, 6.2, H-C(5')); 4.14 *(m,* CH3CH20); 4.06 (br. y, *J* = 5.9-7.0, H-C(4')); *3.53 (dd, J* = 7.0, 4.8, H-C(3)); 3.35 *(d, J* = 4.8, H-C(2)); 1.49, 1.40 (2 s, Me₂C(2')); 1.28 (t, J = 7.1, CH₃CH₂O). MS (70 eV): 345 (6, M⁺ - 15), 229 (20), 213 (26), 201 (19), 104 (60), 101 (52), 76 (41), 43 (100). Anal. calc. for C₁₈H₂₀N₂O₆ (360.37): C 59.99, H 5.59, N 7.77; found: C 60.00, H 5.65, N 7.85.

The 'H-NMR of **3b** was obtained by subtracting the spectrum of **2b** from that of the mother-liquor material *(cu.* 1: I mixture **2b/3b).** 'H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCI,) of **3b:** 7.77-7.65 *(m,* 4 arom. H); 4.54 *(ddd, J* = 6.5, 5.7, *3.5, J* = 5.0, 3.5, H-C(3)); 3.43 *(d, J* = 5.0, H-C(2)); 1.43, 1.37 (2 *s*, Me₂C(2')); 1.25 *(t, J* = 7.1, CH₃CH₂O). *H*-C(4')); 4.30(dd, *J* = 8.7, 5.7, *H*-C(5')); 4.24(dd, *J* = 8.7, 6.5, *H*-C(5')); 4.13(q, *J* = 7.1, CH₃CH₂O); 3.57(dd,

6.2. $At -38^\circ$. The same reaction at -38° (instead of 0°) yielded 59% **2b/3b** in a ratio 290:1, in addition to 38% of **lb.** The amount of **3b** was determined by 'H-NMR of the mother-liquor material after chromatographic removal of **lb** and crystallization of the bulk of the major product **2b.**

7. *Methyl* (2RS,3RS)-3-/(2RS)- *and (2SR)-Oxiran-2-yl]-I-phthulimidoaziridine-2-carboxylate* **(2d** and **3d,** resp.). The reaction of **ld** (365 mg, 2.8 mmol; > 99% pure), N-aminophthalimide (505 mg, 3.1 mmol), Na2C0, (740 mg, 7 mmol), and Pb(OAc)₄ (1382 mg, 3.1 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (8 ml) at 0° , following the procedure described in *Exper.5.* yielded, after *Lobar B* (AcOEt/hexane l:l), 92 mg (25%) of **Id** and 490 mg (54%) of a **2:l** mixture **2d/3d** as a highly viscous yellow oil containing *cu.* 9% of AcOEt (by 'H-NMR). Repeated recrystallization from AcOEt/hexane **2:3** afforded **2d** as yellow prisms. M.p. 120'-121". A sample of these crystals was used for X-ray analysis. The crystalline material **2d** contained only the invertomer *A* (see *Figure,* c); in soln. both **A** (major) and **B** (minor) were present. IR (CHCI,): *3000m,* 2960w~, 1785w, 1770w, 1725s. 1610w, 1380m. 'H-NMR (400 MHz, CDC1,) of **2dA/2dB:** 7.82-7.66 *(m,* 4 arom. H); 3.84 (s, 0.65 H, Me0 of **2dB);** 3.71 (x, **2.35** H, Me0 of **2dA);** 3.54 *(d, J* = 5.1, 0.25 H, H-C(2) of **2dB);** 3.52 *(dd, J* =4.5, 4.9, 0.75 H, H-C(3) **0f2dA);** 3.47-3.46 $(m, 0.25 \text{ H}, \text{H} - \text{C}(2) \text{ of } 2d\text{B})$; 3.37 (dd, $J = 5.1, 1.8, 0.25 \text{ H}, \text{H} - \text{C}(3) \text{ of } 2d\text{B}$); 3.31 (d, $J = 4.9, 0.75 \text{ H}, \text{H} - \text{C}(2) \text{ of } 2d\text{ B}$); 2dA); 3.27 (ddd, *J* = 4.5, 4.0, 2.5, 0.75 H, H-C(2') of 2dA); 2.98 (dd, *J* = 5.1, 4.0, 0.75 H, H-C(3') of 2dA); 2.90 (dd, $J = 5.1, 2.5, 0.75$ H, H-C(3') of 2dA); 2.81 (dd, $J = 5.1, 4.1, 0.25$ H, H-C(3') of 2dB); 2.55 (dd, $J = 5.1, 2.5$, 0.25 H, H-C(3') of 2dB). MS (70 eV): 288 (1, M^+), 229 (9, M^+ - CO₂Me), 201 (7), 173 (6), 130 (11), 105 (21), 104 (100). Anal. calc. for C₁₄H₁₂N₂O₅ (288.26): C 58.33, H 4.20, N 9.72; found: C 58.34, H 4.12, N 9.94. ¹H-NMR (80 MHz, CDCl₃): immediately after dissolving a few crystals of 2d: 3.84 (s, 0.30 H); 3.71 (s, 2.70 H); after 2 min: 3.84 (s. 0.65 H); 3.71 (s, 2.35 H).

The ¹H-NMR of 3d was obtained by subtracting the spectrum of 2d from that of the mother-liquor material (ca. 1 :5 mixture 2d13d). In this soh. the invertomers **A** (major) and **B** (minor) were present. 'H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCI,) of3d: 7.78-7.64 *(m,* 4 arom. H); 3.86 (3.0.2 H, Me0 ofinvertomer **3dB):** 3.73 (s, 2.8 H, Me0 of inverlomer 3dA); 3.64 (dd, *J* = 5.0, 2.9, H-C(3)); 3.39 *(ddd, J* = 4.0, 2.9, 2.6, H-C(2')); 3.34 (d, *J* = 5.0, H-C(2)); 2.98 (dd, *J* = 5.2, 2.6, H-C(3')); 2.92 (dd, *J* = 5.2, 4.0, H-C(3')).

8. Methyl (2R,3 **S)-** and *(2* S,3 R)-3-[(4S)-2,2-DimethyI-I *,3-dioxolan-4-yl]-I-phthalimidoaziridine-2-carbo*xylate **(5a** and **6a,** resp.). 8.1. At *O'.* The reaction of **4a** (3500 mg, 18.8 mmol; > 98% pure), N-aminophthalimide $(3.35 \text{ g}, 20.7 \text{ mmol})$, Na₂CO₃ (4000 mg, 38 mmol), and Pb(OAc)₄ (9200 mg, 20.7 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (40 ml) at 0^o, following the procedure described in Exper. *5,* yielded, after *Lobar B* (AcOEt/hexane 7: **13),** 2350 mg (67%) of **4a,** 610 mg (9%) of **5a,** and 750 mg (12%) of **6a,** all pure by 'H-NMR. A sample of **5a** and **6a** each was further purified by crystallization.

Data of **5a**: colorless needles from acetone/hexane. M.p. 131-134°. $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +3$ $(c = 1.085, \text{CHCl}_3)$. IR (CHCI₃): 3000m, 1780m, 1750s, 1720s, 1470m, 1440m, 1370s, 1200m, 1150m, 1070s, 910m, 840m, 710m. ¹H-NMR (200 MHz, CDCI,): 7.79-7.74, 7.73-7.66 (2 m, 4 arom. H); 4.694.63 (m, H-C(5')); 4.32-4.24 *(m,* H-C(5'), H-C(4)); 3.86 (s, MeO); 3.34 (d, *J* = 8.2, H-C(2)); 3.01 (t[4.28 + d], *J* = 8.2, H-C(3)); 1.48, 1.36 (2s, MqC(2')). MS(70 eV): 331 (20, $M^+ - 15$), 270 (11), 239 (13), 229 (53), 201 (32), 130 (27), 104 (65), 101 (24), 76 (52), 43 (100). Anal. calc. for C₁₇H₁₈N₂O₆ (346.34): C 58.96, H 5.24, N 8.09; found: C 59.24, H 5.24, N 8.05.

Data of 6a: colorless needles from (i-Pr)₂O. M.p. 88.2–89.2°. [α] $_{12}^{25} = -40$ (c = 1.005, CHCl₃). A sample of these crystals was used for X-ray analysis. IR (CHCl₃): 3000m, 2950w, 1780m, 1730s, 1610w, 1470m, 1440m, 1370s, 1200m, 1150m, 1070s, 950m,840m, 700m. 'H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCI,): 7.80-7.70 *(m,* 4 arom. H); 4.44 *(q, J* = 6.6, H-C(4')); 4.10 (dd, *J* = 8.6, 6.6, H-C(5')); 4.00 (dd, *J* = 8.6, 6.1, H-C(5')); 3.84 **(s,** MeO); 3.42 (d, *J* = 8.5, H-C(2)); 3.29 (dd, $J = 8.5, 6.9, H - C(3)$; 1.53, 1.38 (2 s, Me₂C(2')). MS (70 eV): 331 (17, $M^+ - 15$), 239 (18), 229 (40), 201 (20), 130 (23), 111 (21), 104 (68), 101 (66), 76 (53), 43 (100). Anal. calc. for $C_{17}H_{18}N_2O_6$ (346.34): C 58.96, H5.24,N8.09;found:C58.88,H5.30,N8.33.

8.2. $At -40^\circ$. The same reaction at -40° (instead of 0°) yielded only 4% of 5a and 8% of 6a, in addition to 81% of **4a.**

9. tert-Bury1 (2R.3S)- and (2S.3 *R)-3-[(4S)-2,2-Dimethyl-1.3-dioxolan-4-yl]-l-phthalimidoaziridine-2-car* $boxylate$ (5c and 6c, resp.). The reaction of 4c (890 mg, 3.9 mmol; $>$ 98% pure), N-aminophthalimide (820 mg, 5 mmol), Na₂CO₃ (830 mg, 7.8 mmol), and Pb(OAc)₄ (2250 mg, 5.1 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (9 ml) at 0°, following the procedure described in E,xper. *5,* yielded, after *Lobar B* (AcOEt/hexane **1** : 3), 470 mg (53 %) of **4c,** 160 mg (1 1 %) of **5c**, and 160 mg (11%) of 6c, all pure by ¹H-NMR. A sample of 5c and 6c each was further purified by crystallization.

Data of 5c: colorless needles from hexane/acetone. M.p. 180.5–182.0°. [a] $^{15}_{12}$ = +11 (c = 1.005, CHCl₃). IR (KBr): 2990m, 2940w, 1770m, 1720s,1610w, 1470w, 1400m, 1380s, 1230s, 1160s, 1100m, 1050s, 910m, 840m, 710s. 'H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCI,): 7.80-7.70 (m. 4 arom. H); 4.59 (dd, *J* = 8.6, 5.4 [4.27], H-C(5')); 4.34 (dd, *J* = 8.6, 6.1 [4.27], H-C(5')); 4.27 (m [2.95 \rightarrow *t*, $J = 6.0$], H-C(4')); 3.27 (d, $J = 8.3$ [2.95], H-C(2)); 2.95 (t [4.27 \rightarrow d], *J* = 8.4, H-C(3)); 1.56 (s, t-Bu); 1.48, 1.35 (2 s, Me₂C(2)). MS (70 eV): 373 (1, M^+ - 15), 317 (12), 229 (21), 213 (24), 201 (10), 162 (12), 148 (17), 130 (15), 104 (42), 101 (17), 76 (30), 57 (100). Anal. calc. for $C_{20}H_{24}N_2O_6$ (388.42): C 61.85, H 6.28, N 7.21; found: C 61.58, H 6.03, N 7.47.

Data of 6c: colorless fine needles from hexane/acetone. M.p. 143-145°. $[\alpha]_D^{25} = -28$ (c = 1.025, CHCl₃). IR (KBr): 2990m, 2930w, 1780m, 1730s, 1470w, 1380s, 1230s, 1160s, 1070s, 920m, 850m, 700s. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCI₃): 7.80–7.70 *(m, 4 arom. H)*; 4.44 *(q [3.28* \rightarrow *t]*, $J = 6.5$, H–C(4')); 4.08 *(dd, J =* 8.4, 6.8 [4.44], H–C(5')); 3.91 (dd, $J=8.4, 6.1$ [4.44], H-C(5')); 3.31-3.24 (m, 2 H [4.44 \rightarrow 3.30 (d, $J=8.5$, H-C(2)) and 3.26 (dd, $J=8.5$, 6.5, H-C(3))l); 1.54 **(s,** t-Bu); 1.56, 1.41 (2s, Me2C(2')). MS (70 eV): 373 (I, *M+'* - 15), 317 (31), 257 (12), 229 (26), 213 (20), 201 (lY), 162 (15), 148 (23), 147 (26), 130 (20), 104 (70), 101 (60), 76 (59), 57 (loo), 43 (90). Anal. calc. for $C_{20}H_{24}N_2O_6$ (388.42): C 61.85, H 6.28, N 7.21; found: C 61.72, H 6.01, N 7.15.

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