165. Regio-, Diastereo-, and Enantioselective Synthesis of Vicinal Diols *via* α-Silyl Ketones

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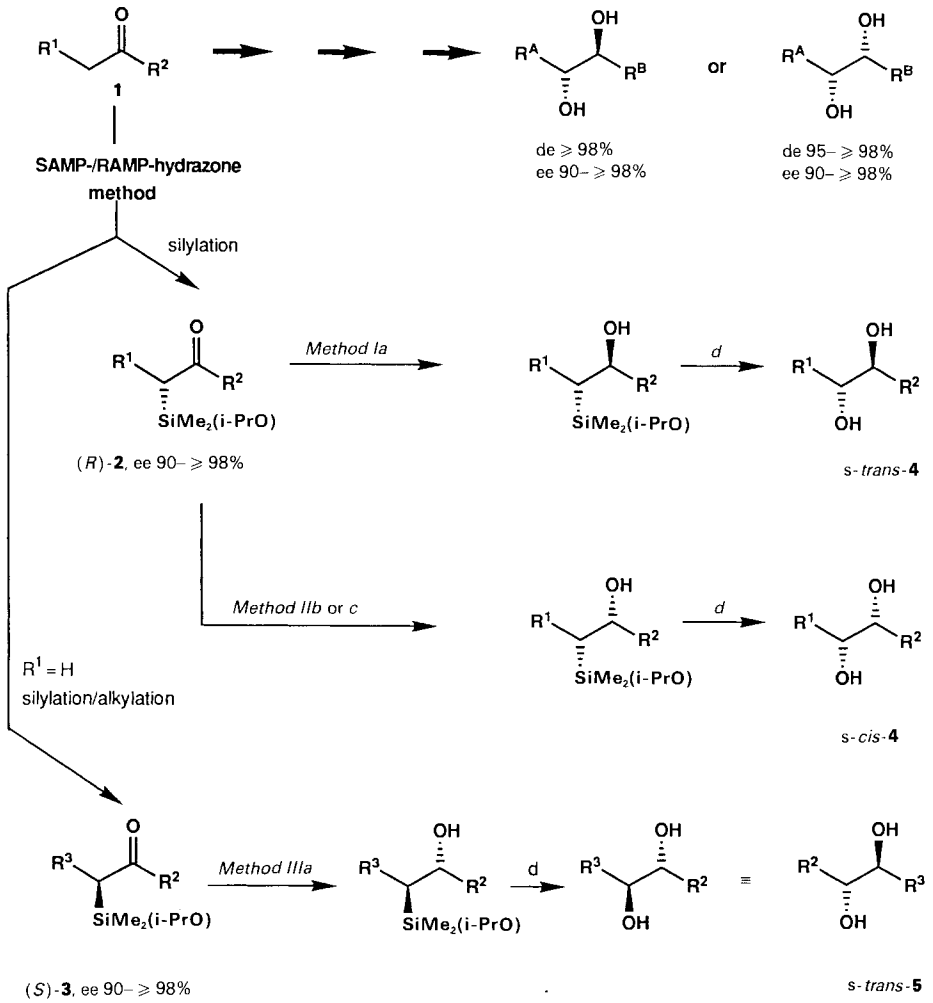
A new versatile and efficient regio-, diastereo-, and enantioselective synthesis of vicinal diols s-*trans*-**4**, s-*trans*-**5**, and s-*cis*-**4** is described. Symmetrical ketones are converted into their SAMP- or RAMP-hydrazones which are then silylated with (isopropyloxy)dimethylsilyl chloride, followed by ozonolysis to afford the α-silyl ketones (*R*)-**2** of high enantiomeric purity (ee 90– ≥ 98%). On the other hand, methyl ketones, after conversion into the corresponding (–)-(*S*)-1-amino-2-(methoxymethyl)pyrrolidine (SAMP) hydrazones, are silylated and then alkylated with RI to afford unsymmetrical α-silyl ketones (*S*)-**3** of high enantiomeric purity (ee 90– ≥ 98%). The reduction of the above obtained α-silyl ketones with L-*Selectride*, followed by oxidative cleavage of the C–Si bond gives rise to s-*trans*-**4**, s-*trans*-**5**, and s-*cis*-**4** with high diastereoselectivity (de 95– ≥ 98%) and without racemization (ee ≥ 90– ≥ 98%).

The diastereo- and enantioselective synthesis of vicinal diols has received considerable interest in recent years, because 1,2-diol structures are not only crucial structural features of many biologically active compounds [1] [2], but also important synthons in synthetic chemistry [1] [3]. Approaches have been carried out by enantioselective ring opening using epoxide hydrase [4], ring opening *via* epoxidation of chiral allylic alcohols [1], selective transformations from natural products [5], coupling of chiral boronic esters with chiral lithio esters [6], homologation of alkyl boronates [7], and enantioselective dihydroxylation of olefins [8]. In addition, diastereoselective reductions of α-hydroxy ketones to form vicinal diols have also been reported [9], but little attention has been paid to enantioselective versions, although previously difficult but now very efficient enantioselective reductions of aliphatic ketones are at hand [10]. Therefore, the development of further flexible techniques for the stereoselective construction of 1,2-diol structures is of considerable interest.

We now report on an efficient, highly regio-, diastereo-, and enantioselective synthesis of vicinal diols based on our (–)-(*S*)-1-amino-2-(methoxymethyl)pyrrolidine (SAMP)-/(+)-(*R*)-1-amino-2-(methoxymethyl)pyrrolidine (RAMP)-hydrazone methodology [11–13]. As is shown in the *Scheme*, dialkyl ketones **1** are transformed into their corresponding SAMP-hydrazones, metalated (LDA, Et_2O), and α-C-silylated with (i-PrO)Me_2SiCl at –78°, followed by ozonolysis (O_3, CH_2Cl_2, –78°) to afford the α-silylated ketones (*R*)-**2** of high enantiomeric purity (ee 90– > 98%) [12]. Alternatively, alkyl methyl ketones (R^1 = H) can be converted into the α-silylated ketones (*S*)-**3** (ee 90– > 98%) through silylation/alkylation (*1.* SAMP, *2.* LDA, Et_2O; (i-PrO)Me_2SiCl, *3.* LDA, Et_2O; R^3I) according to the SAMP-/RAMP-hydrazone method [13]. The sign of the optical rotations of the ketones **2** and **3** are coincident with those of related α-silyl

Scheme 1[a])



[a]) *a*: L-*Selectride*, toluene, −78° (R^1 = Me, R^2 = Me, Et); *b*: L-*Selectride*, Et_2O, $SnCl_4$, −78° (R^1 = Me, R^2 = Me, Et); *c*: L-*Selectride*, toluene, −78° ($R^1 \neq$ Me, $R^2 \neq$ Me, Et); *d*: KF, $KHCO_3$, 30% H_2O_2, MeOH, THF.

ketones [12] [13], and the opposite absolute configurations given are in full agreement with the postulated mechanism for electrophilic substitutions *via* SAMP-/RAMP-hydrazones [11–13]. The ee values were determined by ^{1}H-NMR shift experiments using Eu(hfc)$_3$ or can be deduced from the enantiomeric excesses of the final vicinal diols **4** and **5**, as subsequent transformations are free of racemization (good ee correlation between silyl-ketone educts and 1,2-diol products (*Scheme* and *Table*).

A study of the reduction of (*R*)-2-[(isopropyloxy)methylsilyl]pentan-3-one ((*R*)-**2**; R^1 = Me, R^2 = Et) with various types of metal-hydride reducing agents revealed that L-*Selectride* in toluene at −78° gives the highest diastereoselectivity, affording good yields and s-*trans*-configuration (*Method Ia* or *IIIa*). s-*cis*-Diastereoisomers can also be

Table. *Vicinal Diols Prepared by Reduction/C–Si Oxidation from α-Silyl Ketones (R)-2 or (S)-3*

Entry	R^A	R^B	*Method*	Yield [%][a])	$[\alpha]_D^{22}$ (*c*, $CHCl_3$)	ee [%][b])	de [%][c])
1	R^1 = Me	R^2 = Et	*Ia*	56	−14.0 (0.6)	⩾ 90	⩾ 98
2	R^2 = Me	R^3 = Et	*IIIa*	52	−14.2 (2.1)	⩾ 95	⩾ 98
3	R^1 = Et	R^2 = Me	*Ia*[d])	58	+13.9 (0.7)	⩾ 98	98
4	R^2 = Et	R^3 = Me	*IIIa*	52	+13.2 (1.7)	⩾ 90	⩾ 98
5	R^2 = Et	R^3 = Hexyl	*IIIa*	24	−5.0 (0.3)		⩾ 98[e])
6	R^2 = Hexyl	R^3 = Me	*IIIa*	53	+6.0 (0.5)	⩾ 98	⩾ 98
7	R^1 = Me	R^2 = Et	*IIb*	14	+4.5 (1.0)	⩾ 90	⩾ 98
8	R^1 = Et	R^2 = Pr	*IIc*	47	+19.2 (0.6)		⩾ 95[e])
f	R^1 = Et	R^2 = Et			+22.7 (2.5, H_2O)		

[a]) Yields of pure vicinal diols based on α-silyl ketones **2** and **3**.
[b]) Enantiomeric excesses of *Entries 1, 2, 3,* and *4* were determined by GLC of the bis-*Mosher* esters of vicinal diols on a 25-m *XE-60* (*S*)-Val-S-α-PEA capillary column. Enantiomeric excesses of *Entries 1, 3, 4, 6,* and *7* were also determined by ^{1}H-NMR shift experiments of their α-siliyl-ketone precursors.
[c]) Diastereoisomeric excesses of vicinal diols were determined by ^{13}C-NMR spectroscopy.
[d]) RAMP was used instead of SAMP as the chiral auxiliary.
[e]) After separation of the minor diastereoisomer by column chromatography (twice, silica gel, Et_2O/pentane 1:3–1:1); the first isolated product in *Entry 5* showed de ⩾ 70 and that in *Entry 8* showed de ⩾ 75.
[f]) Data from [5a].

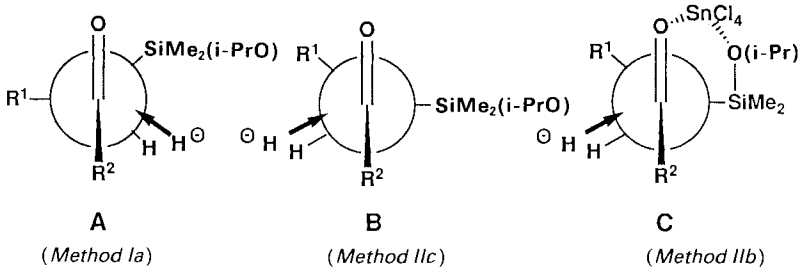
obtained by L-*Selectride* reduction in the presence of $SnCl_4$, although in poor yield (*Method IIb*). The C–Si bond of the intermediate silyl alcohols, thus obtained, was directly oxidized with retention of configuration according to *Tamao* [14]. Non-aqueous workup [15] and purification by column chromatography (silica gel, pentane/Et_2O) gave the vicinal diols in acceptable yields and of excellent stereochemical purity (de 95– ⩾ 98%, ee 90– > 98%, see the *Table*). The de values and s-*trans*/s-*cis*-configurations of the 1,2-diols were determined by ^{13}C-NMR spectroscopy and comparison with authentic samples prepared from (*E*/*Z*)-alkenes by the *cis*-hydroxylation method of *Brutcher* and coworkers [16]. The ee values given are based on GLC measurements (see *Footnote* of the *Table*) or can be deduced from the ee values of the starting silyl ketones. The absolute configurations for the final diols were also established by chemical correlation with authentic samples[1]).

To explain the observed stereochemical results, we use the following models. The s-*trans*-selectivity obtained through *Methods Ia* and *IIIa* may be due to considerable steric repulsion between R^2 and the sterically very demanding (i-PrO)Me_2Si group leading to a favourite conformation depicted in transition state **A**. However, when longer C chains are present, repulsion between R^1 and R^2 is increased and the addition of hydride can be explained using the *Felkin-Anh* model [17] (transition state **B**). In the *Lewis*-acid-mediated reduction a six-membered chelate including Sn directs the attack by hydride towards the side away from the (i-PrO)Me_2Si group (transition state **C**).

It is well known that the reduction of α-substituted ketones with L-*Selectride* affords s-*cis*-alcohols, whilst reduction with $Zn(BH_4)_2$ gives rise to s-*trans*-products [18]. The improvement of the s-*trans*-selectivity by the modification of the substrate is an alternative [19], which, when combined with the SAMP-/RAMP-hydrazone methodology, should allow the enantioselective synthesis of a wide variety of vicinal diols with relative and absolute configurations of choice.

[1]) From propan-2-one and MeI, *meso*-butane-2,3-diol (s-*trans*: ⩾ 98%) was isolated along with a small amount of the s-*cis*-diastereoisomer (2*S*,3*S*), whose optical rotation was coincident with that of an authentic sample (*Method IIIa*).

Scheme 2. *Transition States*



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