Synthesis of New Chiral Derivatives of N,N-Dimethylpropyleneurea (DMPU) and Examination of Their Influence on the Regio- and Enantioselectivity of Addition of 2-(1,3-Dithianyl)lithium to Cyclohex-2-en-1-one

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The preparation of three new chiral derivatives of DMPU (N,N-dimethylpropyleneurea) is described (Schemes $2 - 4$); one type of derivative carries 1-phenylethyl or 1-cyclohexylethyl groups at the N-atoms of the tetrahydropyrimidin-2(1H)-one ring $(2 \text{ and } 4)$, another type of derivative is substituted at $C(4)$ and $C(6)$ of the heterocyclic ring (7). The potential of these chiral Lewis bases as promoters in the regio- and/or enantioselective addition of 2-(1,3-dithianyl)lithium to cyclohex-2-en-1-one was explored; they are all unable to effect enantioselective addition; the derivatives with branched substituents at the N-atoms do not shift the addition mode from 1,2 to 1,4, while the 3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-1,3,4,6-tetramethylpyrimidin-2(1H)-one does (Scheme 5). The results provide useful information regarding the nature of the nucleophilic organolithium reagent: obviously, the steric hindrance to Li complexation on the C=O O-atom of the tetrahydropyrimidin-2(1H)-one by branched substituents at N-atoms (cf. X-ray crystal structure of 2 in the Fig.) prevents solvent-separated-ionpair (SSIP) formation; this was confirmed by PM3 and B3LYP/3-21-G(d)//PM3 calculations (Scheme 6).

Introduction. – Hexamethylphosphoric triamide (HMPA) is a highly polar, aprotic solvent that enhances the rates of numerous nucleophilic reactions [1]. Nevertheless, HMPA is a known carcinogen, potentially hazardous for use either in industry or the laboratory. N,N'-Dimethylpropyleneurea ($= 3,4,5,6$ -tetrahydro-1,3-dimethylpyrimidin- $2(1H)$ -one; DMPU) has been shown to be an excellent, nonmutagenic, and safe replacement for HMPA [2]. Tetraalkylsulfamides [3] and quinuclidine N-oxide [4] have also been proposed as substitutes for HMPA.

Recently, Denmark et al. [5] examined the effectiveness of chiral derivatives of $HMPA$ as Lewis base promoters²)³) in several enantioselective reactions, including the so-called desymmetrization of *meso-epoxides* and aldol additions (Scheme 1, *Eqns. 1* and 2).

¹) Part of the Ph. D. Thesis of *M.H.*, Dissertation No. 10352, ETH-Zurich, 1993.
²) For a review article on organic catalysts, see [6].

For a review article on organic catalysts, see [6].

³) Analogous phosphonamide catalysts were very recently reported by *Buono et al.*, but the results could not be reproduced [7].

Scheme 1. HMPA and DMPU, and Their Chiral Analogs in Enantioselective Reactions

Motivated by *Denmark*'s work, we deemed it of interest to explore the potential of *chiral derivatives of DMPU* as enantioselective promoters in the addition of $2-(1,3-1)$ dithianyl)lithium to cyclohex-2-en-1-one to give either the 1,2- or 1,4-adduct, which are both chiral.

Results and Discussion. - Synthesis of Chiral Analogs of DMPU. C_2 -Symmetrical diamines (R,R) -1 and (S,S) -1 were prepared from 1,3-dichloropropane and (R) - or (S) -1-phenylethylamine⁴)⁵), respectively, according to the procedure of *Feringa et al.* [10]. Subsequent reaction with triphosgene [11] produced the desired chiral DMPU analogs (R,R) -2 and (S,S) -2 $(Scheme 2)⁶$. Recrystallization of (R,R) -2 afforded single crystals suitable for X-ray analysis (see $Fig.$). Most interesting is the propeller-like orientation of the 1-phenylethyl groups, which should lead to high enantioselectivities in reactions taking place with suitable substrates coordinated to the $C=O O$ -atom [13]. The solid-state conformation adopted by (R,R) -2 $(Fig.)$ is readily explained as a consequence of allylic $A^{1,3}$ strain, which would be present in the other possible conformations around the N-CHMePh bond [14]. This qualitative conclusion is supported by theoretical calculations summarized in the Table.

Diamine (R,R) -3 was obtained in good yield from the reaction of commercial (R) -1-cyclohexylethylamine and acrolein, followed by reduction with N a BH ₄ [16]; cyclization with carbonyldiimidazole gave the DMPU analog (R,R) -4 (\dagger dodecahydro- 2 [']; Scheme 3).

⁴⁾ For recent reviews on applications of 1-phenylethylamine in the preparation of enantiomerically pure compounds, see [8].

⁵⁾ For N-monoalkylations of 1-phenylethylamine in DMPU solution, see [9].

The moderate yield encountered in the cyclization reaction is a consequence of oligomer formation [12].

Scheme 2. Preparation of the Chiral DMPU Analogs (S,S)-2 and (R,R)-2 from (S)- and (R)-1-Phenylethylamine

Figure. X-Ray crystal structure of the chiral DMPU analog (R,R)-2 (the crystallographic data have been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre, No. CCDC 177735)

Finally, the chiral DMPU derivatives (R,R) -7 and (S,S) -7, with stereogenic centers in the heterocyclic ring, rather than on the N-substituents, were prepared from acetylacetone as depicted in Scheme 4. 1,3-Dioxime 5 was obtained in good yield, and reduction with Raney-Ni provided a mixture of meso- and rac-diamines 6 [17]. The undesired meso-diastereoisomer was readily separated by flash-column chromatography, and rac-6 was resolved by fractional crystallization of the dibenzoyl tartrate salt [18]. Finally, cyclization with phosgene and N-methylation under Leuckart-Wallach conditions [19] afforded (R,R) -7 and (S,S) -7 (Scheme 4).

Addition of 2-(1,3-Dithianyl)lithium to Cyclohex-2-en-1-one in the Presence of 2, 4 and 7. We examined the regio- and enantioselectivity of addition of 2-(1,3-dithianyl)lithium Table. Calculated (Gas-Phase) Conformational Preference of the N-(1-Phenylethyl) N-Substituents in (R,R)-2 [15]

Scheme 3. Preparation of the Chiral DMPU Analog (R,R)-4 from (R)-1-Cyclohexylethylamine (Im = imidazol-1-yl)

to cyclohex-2-enone, both in the absence and presence of Lewis base promoters (Scheme 5). As expected [19], in the absence of HMPA or DMPU, the predominant mode of reaction is 1,2-addition (\rightarrow 8). When HMPA or DMPU is added (*Entries 2*) and β in Scheme 5) the 1,4-adduct 9 becomes the main product. Product 9 is also the major regioisomer in the presence of chiral urea (S, S) -7 (*Entry 6*) but, to our surprise, product 8 of 1,2-addition is highly predominant in the presence of (S, S) -2 or (R, R) -4 (*Entries* 4 and 5)⁷).

According to the models of Dolak and Bryson [20a], Cohen et al. [20b], and Sikorski and Reich [20c], the regioselectivity of nucleophile addition to enones is a function of the ion-pair structure of the Li reagent, where contact-ion pairs (CIP) with a

⁷⁾ It has been established that the addition of 2-(1,3-dithianyl)lithium to cyclohex-2-en-1-one is irreversible [19d].

Scheme 4. Preparation of the Chiral DMPU Analogs (S,S)-7 and (R,R)-7 from Acetylacetone

a) Raney-Ni, NaOH. b) Flash column chromatography. c) Resolution with dibenzoyl tartaric acid. d) Phosgene. e) Aq. H2CO/HCO2H

Scheme 5. Addition of 2-(1,3-Dithianyl)lithium to Cyclohex-2-en-1-one. Both adducts are racemic in all cases, as determined by HPLC analysis on a teicoplanin (ChirobioticT™) column and/or optical-rotation measurement. The diastereoisomer ratio was determined by integration of corresponding signals in the ¹H-NMR spectra.

 $rac{-9}{2}$

tight C-Li association give 1,2-addition, whereas solvent-separated ion pairs (SSIP) give predominantly 1,4-addition. In the system at hand, the contrasting effect of HMPA and DMPU (giving 1,4-addition), and chiral derivatives 2 and 4 (affording 1,2-addition) imply that the latter are unable to form complexes with the cation, probably due to steric hindrance by the $N-(1$ -phenylethyl) or $N-(1$ -cyclohexylethyl) groups. Thus, CIP 2-(1,3-dithianyl)lithium, with an intact C-Li association⁸), adds to the C=O moiety with negligible enantioselectivity (*Entries 4* and 5 in *Scheme 5*).

By contrast, chiral DMPU derivative $(S.S)$ -7 is obviously able to coordinate to the Li-atom, so that an SSIP is formed, and the dithianyl nucleophile adds mainly in the 1,4 fashion (*Entry 6* in *Scheme 5*).

Nevertheless, product 9 is racemic, indicating that the stereogenic centers in (S, S) -7 are too far remote from the coordinating site to induce significant enantioselectivity of the reaction. In an alternative interpretation, a $'naked'$ carbanionic 2-(1,3-dithianyl) species may be considered to add to cyclohex-2-en-1-one, with no effective participation of the chiral Li-solvate in the transition state.

Computational Studies. A computational investigation was undertaken to gain support for the speculative statements advanced in the previous section. The main question is whether 2-(1,3-dithianyl)lithium is present as SSIP in THF/HMPA and THF/DMPU solutions, but as CIP species in THF solution. To be able to keep the model system as authentic as possible, with the available amount of computational resources, we chose a combined semiempirical and density-functional approach. The semiempirical PM3 method [22] with Li parameters of Anders et al. [23] has been widely used in organolithium chemistry [24], and it has been shown to adequately reproduce geometries of organolithium compounds; however, the energies obtained by the PM3 method are usually not as accurate [25]. Recently, *Abbotto, Streitwieser*, and Schleyer have demonstrated that energies obtained by means of density-functional theory with the B3LYP hybrid function with standard basis sets $[6-31 + G(d), 6-311 +$ $G(d)$] on the PM3-optimized geometries $(B3LYP/6-31 + G(d)/PMS)$ produce highlevel results $(B3LYP/6-31 + G(d)/B3LYP/6-31G(d))$ of high accuracy [26]. Thus, we applied this B3LYP//PM3 method for our calculations.

Cryoscopic measurements in THF have demonstrated that (2-(1,3-dithianyl)lithium is monomeric in solution at low temperature [27], and it is well-established that the most stable and common coordination sphere of Li is tetrahedral [28]. Therefore, the energy associated with equilibria depicted in Scheme 6 was calculated at the B3LYP/3-21G(d) level of theory with PM3-optimized geometries for the involved species and ligand molecules. The most relevant result is that, in the presence of coordinating $(L =$ HMPA or DMPU), solvation of the $Li⁺$ cation to give an SSIP 2-(1,3-dithianyl) carbanion is a highly exothermic (favorable) process (Entries 2 and 3 in Scheme 6). By contrast, when L is THF or the chiral DMPU analog 2, formation of SSIP species is calculated to be an endothermic (unfavorable) process (*Entries 1* and 4). These computational results are in line with the experimentally observed results discussed in the previous section.

⁸⁾ For crystal structures of Li dithianes, see [21].

Scheme 6. Calculated Energies for Lithium Cation Solvation and Concomitant Formation of SSIP Species $(CIP = contact ion pair, SSIP = solvent-separated ion pair, L = coordinates of the H1F, HMPA, DMPU, or$ $(S.S) - 2)$

Conclusions. – The observations reported are best interpreted by assuming that the DMPU derivatives 2 and 4 are unable to associate with the cation of $2-(1,3-1)$ dithianyl)lithium, leading to nonenantioselective 1,2-addition products. In contrast, (R,R) -7 effectively solvates Li⁺ so that the organic anion adds to cyclohex-2-en-1-one in a 1,4-fashion. The fact that no enantioselectivity was detected in this reaction is an indication that the chiral promoter is not intimately involved in an enantiofacedifferentiating step.

Experimental Part

General. Flasks, stirring bars, and hypodermic needles used for the generation and reactions or organolithiums were dried for ca. 12 h at 120 $^{\circ}$ and allowed to cool in a desiccator over anh. CaSO₄. Anh. THF was obtained by distillation from benzophenone ketyl. DMPU and HMPA were dried over $CaH₂$ and then distilled at reduced pressure. 1,3-Dithiane was sublimed before use. The BuLi employed was titrated according to the method we developed [29]. TLC: Merck DC- F_{254} plates, detection by UV light. Flash column chromatography (FC): Merck silica gel (0.040 - 0.063 mm). HPLC: Waters 600 instrument fitted with UV/VIS detector, and a chiral stationary phase of teicoplanin (Chirobiotic T^{TM}) for the determination of enantiomeric ratios. M.p.: not corrected. ¹H-NMR Spectra: *Jeol Eclipse-400* (400 MHz), *Bruker Ultra Shield* (300 MHz), and Jeol GSX-270 (270 MHz) spectrometers. 13C-NMR Spectra: Jeol Eclipse-400 (100 MHz), Bruker Ultra Shield (75 MHz), and Jeol GSX-270 (67.5 MHz). Chemical shifts (δ) in ppm downfield from internal TMS reference; the coupling constants (J) are given in Hz. MS: Hewlett Packard HP-5986 spectrometer. Elemental analyses were obtained from Galbraith Laboratories, Inc., Knoxville, TN.

(R,R)- and (S,S)-N,N-Bis(1-phenylethyl)propane-1,3-diamine ((R,R)- and (S,S)-1). The procedure described by *Feringa et al.* [10] was followed, with 11.77 g (97.2 mmol) of (R) - or (S) -1-phenylethylamine and 3.07 ml (32.4 mmol) of 1,3-dichloropropane: (R,R) -1: 94% yield. $\left[\alpha \right]_D^{20} = +65.4$ $(c = 2.4, \text{CHCl}_3)$. $\left([10]$: $\left[\alpha \right]_D^{20} =$ -66.3 (c = 0.55, CHCl₃) for the (S,S) enantiomer). (S,S)-1: 93% yield. [α] $_{10}^{20}$ = -66.8 (c = 4.2, CHCl₃). ([10]: $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -66.3$ ($c = 0.55$, CHCl₃)).

(R,R)- and (S,S)-3,4,5,6-Tetrahydro-1,3-bis(1-phenylethyl)pyrimidin-2(1H)-one ((R,R)- and (S,S)-2). The starting diamine $((R,R)$ -1 or (S,S) -1; 7.12 g, 25.2 mmol), Et₃N (7.02 ml, 50.4 mmol), and 250 ml of dry CH₂Cl₂ were placed in a round-bottom flask, and the resulting mixture was cooled to 0° before the dropwise addition of a soln. of 2.65 g (8.9 mmol) of triphosgene in 150 ml of CH₂Cl₂ for 2 h. Stirring was continued at 0 $^{\circ}$ for 3 h and then at r.t. for 2 d. Then, 200 ml of 1_N HCl was added at 0° , the aq. phase was separated and extracted with two 100-ml portions of CH_2Cl_2 , the combined org. phases were washed with brine soln., dried (Na₂SO₄), and concentrated. The product was purified by FC (petroleum ether/AcOEt 9:1).

Data of (S,S)-2: 45% yield. M.p. 124 – 125°. $[a]_D^{20} = -125.5$ ($c = 1.0$, CHCl₃). ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz): 1.55 (d, $J = 7.1$, 6 H); $1.67 - 1.80$ (m, 2 H); $2.72 - 2.80$ (m, 2 H); $3.00 - 3.08$ (m, 2 H); 6.05 (q, $J = 7.1$, 2 H); 7.20 7.40 (m, 10 H). ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz): 16.3; 22.8; 39.9; 51.7; 127.3; 128.0; 128.7; 142.1; 156.4. MS (20 eV): 308 (M^+) , 293, 204, 203, 189, 162, 146, 120, 105, 91, 41. Anal. calc. for C₂₀H₂₄N₂O (308.43): C 77.89, H 7.84, N 9.08; found: C 77.84, H 7.88, N 9.11.

Data of (R,R)-2: 46% yield. M.p. 124 – 125°. $[\alpha]_D^{20} = +125.5$ ($c = 1$, CHCl₃).

 (R,R) -N,N'-Bis(1-cyclohexylethyl)propane-1,3-diamine $((R,R)$ -3). A mixture of 44 ml (0.3 mol) of (R) -1cyclohexylethylamine, 60 ml (0.44 mol) of Et₃N, and 8.0 g of K_2CO_3 was treated (dropwise addition) with 10.0 ml (0.15 mol) of acrolein at 4° . The mixture was stirred for 3 h in an ice-bath, filtered over *Celite*, and the collected solid material washed with 75 ml of MeOH. The filtrate was then treated with 8.36 g (0.23 mol) of NaBH₄ in 75 ml of MeOH at 4° , and stirring was continued at r.t. for 1 h. The mixture was heated to 50 $^{\circ}$ for 2 h, and then concentrated at r.t. The residue was rinsed with 100 ml of H₂O and extracted with three 50-ml portions of Et₂O. The combined org. extracts were dried (MgSO₄) and concentrated in the rotary evaporator to give 40.6 g (90% yield) of (R, R) -3 as a yellow oil. This product was characterized as the corresponding hydrochloride $(3 \cdot 2 \text{ HCl})$. $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +8.8 (c = 0.625, H_2O)$. IR (CHCl₃): 3420, 2930, 2860, 2740, 1590, 1450, 1390, 1050. ¹H-NMR $(CDCl₃/D₂O, 200 MHz)$: 3.31 – 3.07 $(m, 6 H)$; 2.12 $(dt, J = 7.5, 2 H)$; 1.9 – 1.6 (br, 12 H); 1.4 – 1.05 (br, 10 H); 1.3 $(d, J = 7.5, 6 \text{ H})$. Anal. calc. for C₁₉H₄₀Cl₂N₂ (367.45): C 62.11, H 10.97, N 7.62; found: C 61.83, H 10.82, N 7.52.

 (R, R) -1,3-Bis(1-cyclohexylethyl)-3,4,5,6-tetrahydropyrimidin-2(1H)-one $((R, R)$ -4). A soln. of 6.0 g (20 mmol) of (R,R) -3 in 50 ml of THF was treated with 4.0 g (24 mmol) of carbonyldiimidazole at 4 \degree (icebath). The mixture was stirred at r.t. for 12 h, cooled to 4° (ice bath), and treated with 100 ml of 1N HCl. The resulting mixture was extracted with three 100-ml portions of CH₂Cl₂, the combined org. extracts were dried $(MgSO₄)$, and concentrated in the rotary evaporator to afford 5.0 g (78% yield) of (R,R) -4 as yellowish crystals, which were recrystallized from t-BuOMe. M.p. 72 – 75°. $[\alpha]_D^{25} = -17.0$ ($c = 1.34$, CHCl₃). IR (CHCl₃): 3370, 2980, $2830, 1700, 1650, 1600, 1500, 1450, 1380, 1170, 850.$ 1 H-NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz): 4.27 (dt, ${}^{1}J = 7, {}^{2}J = 3, 2 H$); 3.1 $(dt, 'J=12, 'J=6, 2~H); 1.87 (quit. 2 H); 1.75-1.6 (m, 10 H); 1.3-0.9 (m, 12 H); 1.07 (d, J=7, 3 H). ¹³C-NMR$ (CDCl₃, 75 MHz): 156.0; 54.0; 40.6; 39.2; 30.4; 30.0; 26.4; 26.3; 26.2; 22.6; 16.0. Anal. calc. for C₂₀H₃₆N₂O (320.52): C 74.95, H 11.32, N 8.74; found: C 74.64, H 11.41, N 8.63.

(4S,6S)-3,4,5,6-Tetrahydro-1,3,4,6-tetramethylpyrimidin-2(1H)-one ((S,S)-7). (S,S)-Pentane-2,4-diamine dihydrochloride [18] (32.1 g, 1.83 mmol) in 300 ml of toluene was added to 95 ml of H₂O. The resulting suspension was vigorously stirred at 4° (ice bath) before the dropwise addition of 337 ml of 4.5N NaOH (1.5 mol) and 345 ml of a 20% soln. of phosgene in toluene (575 mmol). Stirring was continued for 4 h at r.t., and then solvents were removed in a rotary evaporator. The residue was treated with 56.5 ml of 36% aq. soln. of HCHO (732 mmol) and 188 ml of 98% HCOOH (5 mol). The mixture was heated under reflux for 12 h, and then concentrated in the rotary evaporator. Compound (S, S) -7 (21.1 g, 74%) was obtained by distillation (b.p. $102^{\circ}/1.5$ mbar) over CaH₂. Colorless oil. $\left[\alpha\right]_D^{25} = +11.0$ ($c = 1.18$, CHCl₃). IR (film): 3530, 2970, 1630, 1500, 1450, 1150. ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 200 MHz): 3.37 (ddq, ¹J = 6.4, ²J = ³J = 6.0, 2 H); 2.86 (s, 6 H); 1.76 (dd, 2 H); 1.15 $(d, 6 H)$. ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz): 156.3; 49.3; 36.8; 33.0; 10.6.

General Procedure for the Addition of 2-(1,3-Dithianyl)lithium to Cyclohex-2-en-1-one. A soln. of 0.12 g (1.0 mmol) of 1,3-dithiane in 10 ml of dry THF was cooled to -78° under N₂ before the dropwise addition of 0.4 ml of BuLi in hexane (2.4m, 1.0 mmol). The resulting mixture was stirred at -78° for 15 min and at 0° for 1 h, cooled again to -78° , and treated with chiral urea (1.0 mmol) in 15 ml of THF. Stirring was continued for 25 min at -78° , and then the soln. was transferred *via* cannula to a flask containing 0.1 ml (1.0 mmol) of cyclohex-2-en-1-one in 5 ml of THF, also at -78° . The mixture was stirred at this temp. for 4 h, before it was quenched with 3 ml of sat. aq. NH4Cl soln. The THF was removed at reduced pressure, and the residue was partitioned between H₂O and CH₂Cl₂. The org. phase was extracted with two portions of CH₂Cl₂, the combined org. extracts were washed with 40 ml of H₂O, dried, and concentrated. Final purification was accomplished by FC (hexane/AcOEt, 92:8). $1,2$ -Adduct: $1-(1,3-Dithian-2-yl)cyclohex-2-en-1-ol$ (8): $H\text{-NMR}$ (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): $1.60-2.10$ $(m, 8 \text{ H}); 2.30 - 2.38 \text{ (br., 1 H)}; 2.78 - 2.91 \text{ (m, 4 H)}; 4.20 \text{ (s, 1 H)}; 5.68 - 5.73 \text{ (m, 1 H)}; 5.89 - 5.93 \text{ (m, 1 H)}.$ 13 C-NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): 18.6; 25.1; 25.9; 30.6; 30.8; 33.0; 59.8; 71.8; 129.4; 132.4. MS (20 eV): 216 (M⁺), 199, 119, 97, 79, 55, 41.

1,4-Adduct: 3-(1,3-Dithian-2-yl)cyclohexan-1-one (9): ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): 1.41 – 1.60 (m, 2 H); 1.63 - 1.76 $(m, 1H)$; 1.90 - 2.44 $(m, 8H)$; 2.72 - 2.75 $(m, 4H)$; 3.95 $(d, J = 5.1, 1H)$. ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): 24.7; 26.1; 28.4; 30.6; 41.1; 43.4; 45.1; 53.3; 210.1. MS (20 eV): 216 (M^+), 142, 119, 110, 91, 79, 55, 41.

These spectroscopic data are similar to those reported previously by us [2a].

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