

TOTAL SYNTHESIS OF 1-CARBACEPHEM DERIVATIVES

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1-Carbacephem derivatives, in which sulfur atom of cephalosporins is replaced by carbon (methylene), have been demonstrated to retain antibacterial activity of the corresponding cephems (R. N. Guthikonda et al., *J. Amer. Chem. Soc.*, **96**, 7584 (1974); R. A. Firestone et al., *J. Med. Chem.*, **20**, 551 (1977)). In connection with studies on β -lactam antibiotics carried out extensively in our laboratories, we have independently prepared various kinds of 1-carbacephems 2-13 shown below using an azetidinone (racemic) 1 as a common intermediate and sequence of reactions which were developed for 1-oxacephem syntheses involving intramolecular Wittig reaction (M. Narisada et al., *J. Med. Chem.*, **22**, 757 (1979)). Preliminary biological evaluation suggested that none of these 1-carbacephems exceeded both 1-oxa and 1-thia congeners in antibacterial activity.

