

AN ALTERNATIVE TOTAL SYNTHESIS OF (±)-THIENAMYCIN

Tetsuji Kametani^{*}, Shyh-Pyng Huang, Takayasu Nagahara, and Masataka Ihara
 Pharmaceutical Institute, Tohoku University, Aobayama, Sendai 980,
 Japan

Abstract— (±)-4β-(2',2'-Dimethoxyethyl)-3α-(1'R^{*})-p-nitrobenzyloxycarbonyloxyethyl)-2-azetidinone (4) was converted into the thienamycin derivative (2) protected with p-nitobenzyl group, utilizing the carbene insertion reaction and subsequent introduction of the cysteamine moiety developed by the Merck group.

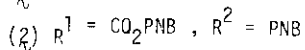
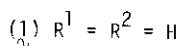
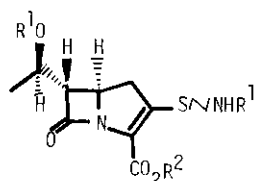
The highly desirable antibiotic activity of thienamycin (1)¹, possessing a novel 1-carbapen-2-em structure, has promoted considerable synthetic efforts which have resulted in its total synthesis.²⁻⁷ We developed an efficient synthesis of β-lactam derivatives, via isoxazolines (3), leading to a formal total synthesis of thienamycin.^{6,7} Recently, the Merck research group announced a chiral total synthesis of the antibiotic³ which involved a novel and useful formation of the [3.2.0]bicyclic ring system by carbene insertion reaction, followed by introduction of the cysteamine moiety.⁴ Since our synthetic intermediate (4) has the following advantages; a hydroxyethyl group at the C₃ position with the correct stereochemical arrangement, and a 2',2'-dimethoxyethyl group at the C₄ position which is readily convertible, via the aldehyde, to the carboxylic acid group, we undertook its conversion to the p-nitobenzyl-protected thienamycin derivative (2)² employing the Merck method. Thus we wish to report here an alternative total synthesis of thienamycin which was carried out along these lines.

Hydrolysis of 4⁶ with hot aqueous acetic acid, followed by Jones oxidation of the resulting aldehyde at 0°C quantitatively gave the acid (5). After treatment of 5 with N,N'-carbonyldiimidazole, the imidazolide formed was reacted with the magnesium salt⁸ of the mono-p-nitobenzyl ester of malonic acid³ to afford the β-keto ester (6), ν_{\max} (CHCl₃) 3420 (NH), 1765, 1750, 1720 cm⁻¹ (C=O); δ (CDCl₃) 1.42 (3H, d,

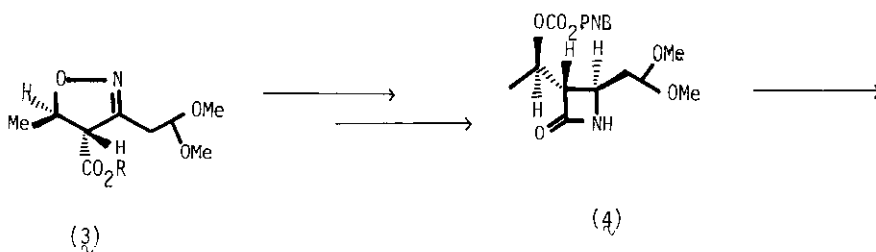
$J = 6.5$ Hz, $C_1, -Me$), 3.57 (2H, s, $COCH_2CO_2$). The carbene precursor (7), ν_{max} ($CHCl_3$) 2130 cm^{-1} was prepared from 6 in 96 % yield by diazo exchange with *p*-toluenesulfonyl azide in the presence of triethylamine in acetonitrile at $0^\circ C$ to room temperature. Decomposition of the diazo ketoester (7) was carried out by refluxing in benzene in the presence of a catalytic amount of rhodium acetate, leading to a quantitative formation of the carbapenam (8), ν_{max} ($CHCl_3$) 1770 and 1748 cm^{-1} (CO); δ ($CDCl_3$) 1.52 (3H, d, $J = 6.5$ Hz, $C_1, -Me$), 4.77 (1H, s, C_3-H). On treatment of 8 with diphenyl chlorophosphate in the presence of one mole equivalent of diisopropylethylamine and a catalytic amount of 4-dimethylaminopyridine in acetonitrile³ at $0^\circ C$, followed by addition of diisopropylethylamine and *N*-(*p*-nitrobenzyloxycarbonyl)-cysteamine² and stirring overnight at $-15^\circ C$, the protected thienamycin derivative (2)² was obtained in 70 % yield. The synthetic product (2) was identical to an authentic sample by comparison of the ir and nmr spectra and tlc behaviors.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

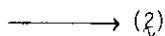
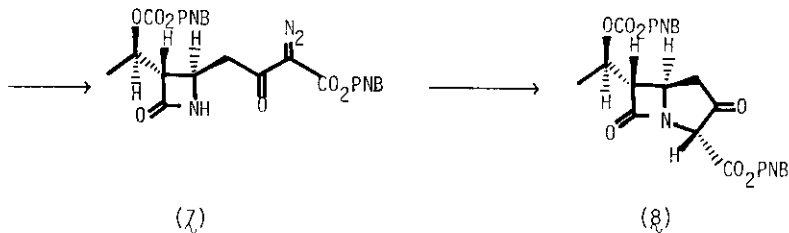
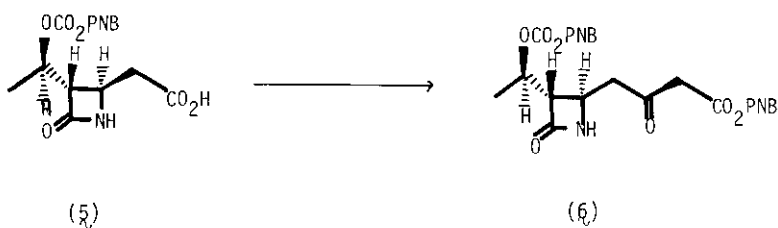
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PNB = *p*-Nitrobenzyl



$R = Me \text{ or } tBu$



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