REACTIVITY PARAMETWS OF THE mgTAL ASSISTED 1.2-CLEAVAGE OF PWiCILLINS

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Abstract - A straightforward and smooth conversion of penicillins into l,2-secopenicillanates is described. The thiazolidine ring opening is brought about by the co-operative effect of strong non-nucleophilic bases and thiophilic heavy metal salts. The nature of the latter and the polarity of the solvent profoundly affect the reaction rate. Best general conditions can be drawn for che conversion of numerous 6-substituted penicillanates with various protecting groups on the carboxy function.

Recently we' reported the shortest synthesis of penems from a natural substrate. The route exploited an innovative 1.2-cleavage of penicillins I to secopeniciilanates II, which were in situ acylated to azetidinones III. Ozonolysis of the latter and C=O/C=O reductive coupling afforded penems IV.²

The key step, $i.e.$ the transformation of I into secopenicillanates III, was realized in a short, practical and efficient way in comparison with previous methods.^{34-h} Being a formal ß elimination, the thiazolidine ring opening smoothly occurred in the presence of a strong non-nucleophilic base (DBN) and thiophilic heavy metal salt $(AgNO₃)$.

The apparent major drawback was the poor reactivity of many penam substrates. To overcome this limitation we started a deeper investigation on the reactivity parameters. The whole matter was tackled by examining one variable at a time. Hereafter influences exerted by the heavy metal salt, solvent, base, penicillin carboxy protecting group and C-6 substituent are detailed.

Methyl **6,6-dibromopenicillanate'** ia, was chosen as a model substrate, because of its easy availability and the challenging poor reactivity under the conditions of the previous work (AgNO₃-DBN, CH₃CN). In order to assess how the reaction rate of la would be affected by the kind of the heavy metal reagent and reaction solvent, experiments were carried out monitoring the starting material depletion, while the preparative value of the reaction was appreciated by the isolated yields of thioester 3a^s obtained after in situ acetylation of the thiolate 2a (Table 1). This methodology avoided the bias caused by the isolation of different metal 1,2-secopenicillanates; e.g. mercury derivatives (2a, M=Hg or HgPh) can be easily purified by SiO₂ chromatography, while losses are associated with the isolation of the more polar silver thiolate (2a, M=Ag) either by chromatographic methods or solvent extraction $(C_2H_5OAC/water)$.

A dramatic influence of the heavy metal salt (CH_3CN) as solvent) and of the reaction solvent (MX=AgOAc) on the reaction rate is evident from Table I, where results are ranked in order of decreasing reactivity. As far as the heavy metal thiophile is concerned, the performance of the first entries when compared to the previously used' silver nitrate is noteworthy, with obvious impiications from a preparative poinc of view. Siiver saics were studied in detail compared with $Hg(I)$ or $Hg(II)$ counterparts owing to the minor environmental problems connected, in prospect, to iarge scale appiications. The apparent drawback of their cost is minimized by the almost quantitative recovery of the precious metal after work-up. In particular, silver chloride is quite remarkable, since it acts overall as a catalyst, being recovered unchanged (and succesfully recycled, if desired)⁶ after acylation.

CulIj and PblIIl salts, that were scrutinized as alternative thiophilic reagents, resulced in poor reaccivicy and overwhelming side-reactions. Although the better ability of silver and mercury to coordinate thioethers⁷ can be invoked to explain the effects observed on varying the metal, any attempt to racionaiize the mecal councerion effecc has been fruitless so far.

A survey of Table **1** also reveals the important role played by the solvent on the reaction rate. Extremely fast reactions were generally observed when polar aprotic solvents were used, nevertheless no linear relationship could be drawn Table 1 - Influence¹ of the heavy metal salt and solvent on the rate of formation of 2a

Heavy Metal Salt Effect $(Solvent = CH₃CN)$

Solvent Effect (Heavy metal salt = AgOAc)

MX	Time ²		Yield (名)	Solvent	Time ²		Yield $\left(\frac{6}{6} \right)$
Ag ₂ O	2	min	72	Pyridine	2	min	86
Ag_2CO_3	4	min	61	DMSO	6	min	$\qquad \qquad \blacksquare$
AgCl	8	min	78	DMA	8	min	85
PhHqCl	$12 \,$	min	85	HMPA	8	min	82
AgSCN	20	min	78	DMF	10	min	61
HgO	4Ū	min	Ž1	Acetone	45	min	55
AqF	50	min	81	CH ₂ CN	\mathfrak{D}	'n	77
Hg_zCl_z	1.8 _h		94	EtOAc	4	h	18
AgOAc	\overline{c}	h	77	Dioxane	6.5 _h		47
Ag hexanoate	$\overline{2}$	ħ	73	Benzene	8	'n	70
Ag salicylate	24	h	55	CH ₂ Cl ₂	24	$\mathbf h$	88
AgNO ₂	40	ħ	83	Ethyl formate	30	ħ	59
AgClO ₄	>2	days	45	ClCH ₂ CH ₂ Cl	48	'n	66

1) Experiments were performed as follows:

A mixture of the selected heavy metal salt (1.3 mmol) and 1,5-diazabicyclo-[4.3.0]non-5-ene (DBN) (1.2 mmol) in the organic solvent (sieve-dried, 5 ml) was stirred 2 min under nitrogen before addition of methyl 6,6-dibromopenicillanate 1a (1.0 mmol). Stirring was continued at room temperature until depletion (295%) of penicillanate. Acetyl chloride (2 mmol) was then injected, while keeping the temperature at 15-20°C. After 15 sec. the reaction mixture was filtered and poured into ethyl ether-H₂O. The organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄ and evaporated to afford the crude thioester 3a which was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (cyclohexane - ethyl acetate mixtures as eluants).

2) Time corresponding to ≥95% depletion of la

between reactivity and polarity descriptors.

In many cases, even for very fast reactions, clean production of the intermediate siiver thioiate **ia** iM=Agi was assessed by the isolation of thioescer **3a** in good to excellent yield. Prevalent formation of tars occurred when operating with ethyl acetate as well as with ethyl ether, carbon tetrachloride and xylene. Performing the reaction in DMSO apparentiy (tic) gave the expected intermediate salt 2a (M=Ag), but after quenching with CH₃COC1, the symmetrical disulphide 4² was isolated in 75% yieid.

Use of AgOAc/DBN in nitromethane caused predominant monodebromination of la, methyl 6-a-bromopenicillanate **5=** being produced in more than 50% yield after 3 h at room temperature. Organic bases alternacive to **DBN** have been screened on substrate la with siiver acetate as chiophile and acetonitriie as solvenc. Practically no reaction occurred with triethylamine, pyridine and dimethyiaminopyridine (DMAP) after 8 h at room temperature, thus suggesting the inefficiency or che limited vaiue of tertiary aliphatic and aromatic mines. On the contrary **1,8-diazabicyclo[5,4,Olundec-7-ene (DBU)** and **i,1,3,3-tetramethylguanidineS** approximately doubled the reaction rate relative to DBN; in addition, by-products were minimized and chioesrer **3a** couid be isolated in somewhat higher yieid. Tnese findings corroborate our original hypothesis' that strong non-nucieophilic bases, as ad hoc substituted amidines and guanidines, are needed to accomplish the **^B**elimination srep.

At this point, backed by the knowledge of the main reactivity parameters, we were eased to face problems connected with structural variation of the substrate, namely ester typology and C-6 substitution.

Starting from 6,6-dibromopenicillanic acid¹⁰ the most common carboxy protecting groups in 0-lactam chemistry were introduced on the carboxy function uneventfully affording penicillanic esters **lb-i.'** These were subjected to the action of AgOAc/DBN complex (or, for less reactive esters, to PhHgCl/DBN) in CH₃CN and, following quenching with CH,COCl, thioesters **3b-i** were isolated in good to excellent yields (75-95%) (Table 2).

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Table 2 - Influence^{1,3} of the ester moiety on the 1,2-cleavage of penicillanates

1) See Footnote 1, Table 1 for general reaction conditions.

21 Time required for 295% depletion of starting ia-i

31 For aii subsrrates isolated yields of thioesrer ? were in excess of 75%.

As expected, electron withdrawing carboxylates induced faster ring-opening reactions, the observed reactivity order on varying R being CH₂CCl₃ > CH₂OCOCH₃ > $CH_2CH=CH_2 \geq CH_2 \sqrt{}$ NO_2 > $CH_2 \sqrt{}$ OCH_3 > $CH_2CH_2Si(CH_3)_3$ > $CH(\sqrt{})_{2}$ > $C(CH_3)_3$, but all of the esters, independently of the reactivity evidenced, smoothly underwent the thiazolidine ring cleavage with high material balance.

Having refined the experimental conditions of the cleavage reaction by operating on **6,6-dibromopenicillanates** we turned our attention to the influence of the c, sidechain. The range of substituents examined in our preliminary work has been broadly extended, as it can be appreciated by a survey of Table 3. Reported yields refer to unoptimized experimental conditions, which should be tailored for each individual substrate; nevertheless the potentiality and broadness in scope of the method is testified by its successfull application to 6.6-disubstituted and 6a- **or** 6D-aikyl, 6a-halo-, 6a-alkoxy-, 6a-acyloxy-, 60-alkylamino- and 68-acylamino-substituted penam derivatives.¹¹ The opening reaction is favoured by electron withdrawing substituents; free -OH or)NH functions do

Table $3 -$ Influence of the C_6 -sidechain on the 1.2-cleavage/ocylotion of penicillanates

1) Abbrevistions are as follows: TRIMS = tert-butyldimethylatily]; TRDFS = tert-butyldiphenylatily]; TRS = trimethylatily]; TCE = trichloroethyl; ACM = acetosymethyl; PNB = p-nitrobenzyl; PMB = p-methoxyphenzyl; BM = benzyl; EZGH = benzhydryl; Me = methyl; Pnth = phtalimido.
2) Resetion time before quenching with R'OOCl
3) General resetion conditions are as detailed in Footnote 1, Tabl

not interfere. Performing the reaction in DMA, as predictable from the study on the solvent influence, accelerates the reaction rate. Operating at lower temperature, though it requires longer reaction time, often had a beneficial effect on the final yield.

A final mention should be made of the stereoselectivity of the ring opening process. No epimerization at C_3 or C_4 (azetidinone numbering) was ever observed, apart from the case of 6,6-dibromo (1a-i) and 68-phtalimido (13) substrates. The latter, under the conditions stated in Table 3, afforded a 1:4 mixture of "cis" (3R) thioester 21 and its C₃ epimer (3S). The increased acidity of the proton adjacent to the phatalimido group (and α to the β -lactam carbonyl) facilitates its removal by DBN and thus accounts for the preferential formation of the less sterically congested trans arrangement on the ß-lactam ring. Substituting an acylamino or, even better, a tritylamino for the phtalimido group, avoided the C₃ epimerization to take place (Table 3; entries 12a-c). Various degrees of epimerization at C4 [leading in some cases to completely racemic thioester products) were uncovered¹² in the ring-opening reaction of 6,6-dibromopenicillanates (1a-1) by using (R)- and (S) -Mosher's acid chlorides⁻⁵ as the acylating agents. This fact was undetected at the time of our preliminary communication¹ and spurred a series of experiments aimed at elucidating the reaction mechanism and by-products which will be reported in due time. Further work confirmed the C_4 -epimerization to be restricted to the dibromo substrate and the enantiomeric purity of the products reported in Table 3 was confirmed.

In conclusion, the reactivity parameters of the heavy metal assisted 1,2-cleavage of penicillins were explored, and the best general conditions for their conversion into synthetically useful 1,2-secopenicillanates were found. This reaction favourably compares with any other ring-opening reaction leading to azetidinonyl thioesters^{34-h} for scope, stereoselectivity, yields and straightforwardness.

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75%), mp 90-91°C; ir (KBr) \sqrt{max} 1795, 1745 cm⁻²; ¹H nmr (CDCl₃) δ 1.53(3H,s), $1.60(3H,s)$, $3.80(3H,s)$ $4.51(1H,s)$, $5.13(2H,s)$, $5.77(1H,s)$, $6.86(2H,d,J=8.5 Hz)$, 7.32(2H,d,J=8.5 Hz). Anal. Calcd for $C_{1.6}H_{1.7}Br_2NO_4S$: C, 40.10; H, 3.58; N, 2.92; S, 6,69. Found: C, 39.98; H, 3.70; N, 2.97; S, 6.62. 1g : From DBPA with pyridine (2 eq.), phenyl dichlorophosphate (1.5 eq.) and trimethylsilylethanol (1 eq.) in dioxane (5 h, 10° C to room temperature, 87%), mp 94-95 $^{\circ}$ C: ir (KBr) \sqrt{m} ax 1800, 1730 cm⁻¹; ¹H nmr (CDCl₃) δ 0.08(9H,s), 0.9-1.1(2H,m), 1.47(3H,s), 1.61(3H,s), 4.2-4.4(2H,m), 4.48(1H,s), 5.80(1H,s); $[a]_D + 168^{\circ}$ (c 1.5, CHCl₃). Anal. Calcd for $C_{1,3}H_{2,1}Br_2NO_3SSi$: C, 34.00; H, 4.61; N, 3.05; S, 6.98. Found: C. 34.10; H. 4.67; N. 3.08; S. 7.14. Ih : See G. Sacripante and G. Just. J. Org. Chem., 1987, 52, 3659. 11 : By treating the crude solution of 6,6dibromopenicillanyl chloride (from DBPA, NEt₃, PCl₅, 1 eq. each, CH₂Cl₂ 1 h at 0°C) with excess t-butyl alcohol and CaCO₃ (2 h, 55%), mp 133-134°C; ir (film) \sqrt{max} , 1798, 1735 cm $^{-1}$; ¹H nmr (CDCl₃) 6 1.48(12H,s), 1.57(3H,s), 4.38(1H,s), 5.71(1H,s). Anal. Calcd for $C_{1,2}H_{1,7}Br_2NO_3S$: C, 34.72; H, 4.13; N, 3.37; S, 7,72. Found: C, 34.89; H, 4.27; N, 3.52; S, 7.75.

5. Selected physical data for secopenicillanates 3a-i, 4 (isolated as white powders, unless otherwise stated) are as follows; 3a: Ir (CHCl₃) Jmax 1792, 1720 cm⁻¹; ¹H nmr (CDCl₃) δ 1.97(3H,s), 2.30(3H,s), 2.44(3H,s), 3.81 (3H, s), 6.23(1H, s); oil. Anal. Calcd for $C_{11}H_{13}Br_2NO_4S$: C, 31.83; H, 3.16; N, 3.37; S, 7.72. Found: C, 32.21; H, 3.11; N, 3.46; S, 7.61. 3b : Ir (CHCl₃) \sqrt{max} 1797, 1745, 1720 cm^{- \pm}; ^{\pm}H nmr (CDCl₃) δ 2.07(3H,s), 2.36(3H,s), 2.45(3H,s), 4.87(2H,s), 6.33(1H,s); mp 90-94°C. Anal. Calcd for $C_{12}H_{12}Br_2Cl_3NO_4S$: C, 27.07; H, 2.27; N, 2,63; S, 6.02. Found : C, 27.15; H, 2.28; N, 2.62; S, 6.11. $3c$: Ir (CHCl₃) \sqrt{max} 1780-1750, 1735-1700 cm⁻¹; ¹H nmr (CDCl₃) δ 1.91(3H,s), 2.07(3H,s), 2.23 (3H,s), 2.33(3H,s), 5.78(2H, ABq, J= 6Hz), 6.13(1H,s); mp 96-99°C; fdms (EHC= 0 mA), m/z 471, 473, 475 (44, 100, 50, M⁺). Anal. Calcd for $C_{1,2}H_{1,5}Br_2NO_6S$: C, 33.00; H, 3.20; N, 2.96; S, 6.78. Found: C, 33.05; H, 3.31; N, 2.88; S, 6.74. 3d : Ir (CHCl₃) \sqrt{max} 1778, 1705 cm⁻¹; ¹H nmr (CDCl₃) 8 1.95 $(3H, s)$, $2.30(3H, s)$, $2.43(3H, s)$, $4.72(2H, m)$, $5.2-5.6(2H, m)$, $5.8-6.2(1H, m)$, 6.28 $(1R, s);$ mp 69-71°C; fdms $(EHC = 0 \text{ mA}), m/z$ 439, 441, 443 (59, 100, 59, M⁺). Anal. Calcd. for C₁₃H₁₅Br₂NO₄S : C, 35.40; H, 3.43; N, 3.18; S, 7.27. Found: C, 35.61; H, 3.49; N, 3.20; S, 7.22. 3e : Ir (CHCl₃) \sqrt{max} 1790, 1720, 1708 cm⁻¹; ³H nmr (CDCl₃) δ 2.01(3H,s), 2.33(3H,s), 2.43(3H,s), 5.31(2H,s), 6.15(1H,s), 7.55(2H,d,J= 8.5Hz), 8.25(2H,d,J= 8.5Hz); mp 83-86°C; fdms (EHC= 0 mA), m/z

534, 536, 538 (55, 100, 52, M⁺). Anal. Calcd for C₁₇H₁₆Br₂N₂O₆S : C, 30.08; H, 3.01; N, 5.22; S, 5.98. Found : C, 29.98; H, 3.03; N, 5.22; S, 5.89. 3f : Ir (CHCl₃) \sqrt{max} 1778, 1700 cm⁻²; ²H nmr (CDCl₃) δ 1.90(3H,s), 2.24(3H,s), 2.34 $(3H, s)$, $3.74(3H, s)$, $5.13(2H, s)$, $6.13(1H, s)$, $6.38(2H, d, J = 8.6Hz)$, $7.33(2H, d, J = 1)$ 8.6Hz); oil; fdms (EHC= 0 mA), m/z 519, 521, 523 (47, 100, 49, M⁺). 3g : Ir (CHCl_3) $\sqrt{\text{max}}$ 1770, 1700 cm⁻²; ²H nmr (CDCl₃) δ 0.04(9H,s), 0.8-1.3 (2H,m), $1.91(3H,s)$, $2.19(3H,s)$, $2.37(3H,s)$, $3.9-4.4(2H,m)$, $6.23(1H,s)$; oil; fdms (EHC= 0 mA), m/z 499, 501, 503 (56, 100, 66, M⁺). 3h : Ir (CHCl₃) /max 1790, 1717 cm⁻¹; ¹H nmr (CDCl₃) δ 1.97(3H,s), 2.27(3H,s), 2.35(3H,s), 6.10(1H,s), 6.88(1H,s), 7.33(10H,s); oil; fdms (EHC= 0 mA), m/z 455, 457, 459 (48, 100, 51, M⁺). 31 : Ir (KBr) \sqrt{max} 1792, 1780, 1710, 1660 cm⁻¹; ¹H nmr (CDCl₃) δ $1.60(9H,s)$, $1.92(3H,s)$, $2.27(3H,s)$, $2.45(3H,s)$, $6.25(1H,s)$; mp $105-108°C$. Anal. Calcd for $C_{14}H_{19}Br_2NO_4S$: C, 36.78; H, 4.19; N, 3.06; S, 7.01. Found: C, 37.12; H, 4.28; N, 2.97; S, 6.88. 4 : Ir (CHCl₃) \sqrt{max} 1780, 1730 cm⁻²; ²H nmr(CDCl₃) 6 2.01(3H,s), 2.33(3H,s), 3.80(3H,s), 5.63(1H,s); foam. Anal. Calcd for $C_{1.8}H_{2.0}Br_4N_2O_6S_2$: C, 29.05; H, 2.71; N, 3.76; S, 8.62. Found: C, 29.36; H, 2.83; N, 3.93; S, 8.40.

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