## **HETEROCYCLES, Vol. 53, No. 6, 2000, pp. 1259 - 1262, Received, 3rd March, 2000 A FACILE METHOD FOR REGIOSELECTIVE 6,7-DISUBSTITUTION OF PTERIDINE**

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**Abstract**—Substitution of 1,3-dimethyl-2,4(1H,3H)-pteridinedione 6 triflate by copper acetylide proceeds regioselectively on the 7-position to give corresponding 7-alkynylpteridine 6-triflate whose triflate group can be subsequently replaced by various nucleophiles.

There are many biologically important pteridines which operate as cofactors of enzymatic redox and C<sub>1</sub> transfer process in almost living organisms.<sup>1</sup> These compounds such as biopterin and folic acid have side chains on the 6-position, and 6,7-disubstituted pteridines like methanopterin are sometimes found in naturally occurring pteridines.<sup>2,3</sup> Therefore, regioselective methodologies introducing substituents onto the 6- and 7-positions have been investigated as one of major targets in chemistry of pteridine.  $4\,$  Among many known procedures for 6-substituted pteridine, alkynylation of 6-bromopteridine with acetylene derivatives using palladium catalyzed coupling reaction has been recommended, because acetylenic substituents can be flexibly converted into side chains with various functional groups.<sup>5—9</sup> Recently, we have reported that pteridine 6-triflate was more reactive toward nucleophilic attack than 6-chloro- and 6 bromopteridines,  $10,11$  and, therefore, substitution by metal acetylides might be valuable as the complemental method. In this communication we would like to describe the reaction of the pteridine 6-triflate with organocopper compounds which yielded unexpected 7-substituted pteridines.



5:  $R = C_6H_5$  and H

1,3-Dimethyl-2,4(1H,3H)-pteridinedione 6-triflate (**1**) 10 reacted with copper acetylide (**<sup>2</sup>**) prepared by an equimolar reaction of 1-hexynyllithium with copper(I) iodide in THF at  $-70$  °C to give 7hexynylpteridine (**3a**) in 72% yield as an exclusive product. In the same conditions, reactions of **1** with **2** derived from other 1-alkynes (1-heptyne, 1-octyne, 5-methyl-1-hexyne, phenylacetylene, and trimethylsilylacetylene) gave regioselectively **3b** — **3f** in 20 – 65% yields. Formation of 6 alkynyl- and 6,7-dialkynylpteridines was not detected in the crude reaction mixtures. The reaction did not proceed, when **2** derived from protected acetylenic alcohols (THP and trimethylsilyl ethers of 1-propyne-3-ol and 1-butyn-4-ol) was employed. The structure of the organocopper reagent is important, and among several well known organocopper reagents only **<sup>2</sup>** which is copper acetylide coordinated by lithium iodide12 can react with **<sup>1</sup>** to afford **3**. Indeed, reactions of **1** with strongly nucleophilic organocopper reagents, such as mixed cuprate and so on, 13 and lithium and magnesium acetylides did not afford either 7-substituted nor 6-substituted pteridines, and **1** reacts with Grignard reagent in the presence of Ni(II) catalyst to give 6 substituted pteridine.<sup>14</sup>

It is known that reaction of unsubstituted pteridine with radical intermediates, such as RCO, RCH(OH), and Ph, occurs in mild conditions to give 6- and 7-monosubstituted pteridines.<sup>4,14</sup> Since the substitution proceeds through pteridine radical like **4** caused by hydrogen extraction from the 6- and 7-position, triflate of **1** is considered to be a protective group which obstructs radical formation rather than a leaving group in the reaction. Triflate of **3**, however, is similarly reactive as 1 in nucleophilic substitution. For example, reaction of **3e**  $(R = C_6H_5)$  and **3f**  $(R = C_6H_5)$ Si(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>) with sodium methoxide was carried out in methanol at 20 °C to afford 7-alkynyl-6methoxypteridines (5) ( $R = C_6H_5$  and H) in quantitative yields, respectively. Here, trimethylsilyl group which is a protective group of acetylenic hydrogen was cleaved during the reaction. Thus, conceptually new utility of triflate, although it is the most powerful leaving group in pteridine chemistry, is found, and **1** is confirmed to be a versatile starting material for not only 6- and 7 substituted pteridines but also 6,7-disubstituted pteridines.

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## **EXPERIMENTAL**

**Preparation of 3a, a Typical Example:** To a solution of 1-hexyne (0.32 g, 4.0 mmol) in THF (15 mL) was added a 1.6 M solution of *n*-butyllithium in hexane (1.5 mL, 2.4 mmol) at  $-70$  °C. After 0.5 h, dry copper(I) iodide (0.40 g, 2.0 mmol) was added, and the mixture was stirred for additional 1 h. To the resulting yellowish brown suspension was added **1** (0.34 g, 1.0 mmol), and allowed to react for 3 h. The mixture was powered into a saturated solution of  $NH<sub>4</sub>Cl$ , and organic components were extracted with  $CH_2Cl_2$  (30 mL x 3). Solvents were removed in vacuo, and the residue was subjected to column chromatography on silica gel eluting with 5:1 ( $v/v$ ) mixture of toluene and ethyl acetate. Recrystallization of the crude product from hexane gave pure **3a** (0.3 g, 72%) as colorless needles which satisfied spectroscopic analyses and elemental analysis. Characteristic physical and analytical properties of **3a** – **3f** are shown in Table 1.

product		$TLC^{a)}$	UV $\overline{b}$		C) $13$ C NMR ( $\delta$ /ppm)		
No.	mp/C	$R_f$	$\lambda_{\rm max}/\text{nm}$ (log $\varepsilon$ )		sp carbons		
3a	93	0.53	361 (4.27)	260 (4.45)		74.6	107.7
3 <sub>b</sub>	$50 - 51$	0.56	360(4.25)	258 (4.44)		74.6	107.8
3 <sub>c</sub>	$45 - 46$	0.53	361(4.25)	261 (4.45)		74.6	107.8
3d	$92 - 93$	0.56	362 (4.26)	260 (4.43)		74.5	107.8
3 <sub>e</sub>	191	0.50	376 (3.99)	322(3.63)	245 (4.05)	82.5	103.8
3f	$144 - 145$	0.58	363 (4.27)	61 (4.47) LТ	$\sim$ 1	96.8	113.6

**Table 1. Physical and Analytical Properties of 3.** 

 $a_j$ Plate: SiO<sub>2</sub>; Eluant: 5:1 toluene/ethyl acetate (v/v).  $b_j$  In methanol. <sup>c)</sup>In CDCl<sub>3</sub>.

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