Absolute Structural Determination of Stevastelin B

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Stevastelin B, obtained from a culture of a *Penicillium* sp. NK374186, is a novel depsipeptide containing three amino acids and 3,5-dihydroxy-2,4-dimethylstearic acid. The stereochemistry of the three amino acids was determined by HPLC analysis, and the relative configuration of the 3,5-dihydroxy-2,4-dimethylstearic acid was elucidated by chemical conversion and NMR analysis. The absolute stereochemistry of stevastelin B was determined by synthetic methods.

Stevastelin B $(1)^{1}$ (Fig. 1) is a novel depsipeptide, obtained from a culture of a *Penicillium* sp. NK374186 as the most abundant compound among stevastelins. Stevastelin B contains four components, namely valine, threonine, *O*-acetylserine, and 3,5-dihydroxy-2,4-dimethylstearic acid.

The planar structure of stevastelin B was reported in the previous paper²). In this report, we describe the determination of absolute stereochemistry of the amino acid components by HPLC analysis, and the 3,5dihydroxy-2,4-dimethylstearic acid moiety by NMR analysis and synthetic methods.

Absolute Stereochemistry of Three Amino Acids

The amino acids obtained by the acid hydrolysis of stevastelin B were subjected to HPLC analysis in the usual way, by use of a MIC GEL CRS 10W column to determine the stereochemistry. The results showed that all three amino acids were L-form. That is, the three amino acids which constitute stevastelin B are L-valine, L-threonine, and L-O-acetylserine.

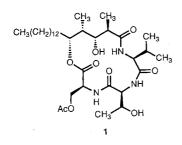
Elucidation of the Relative Configuration of the Fatty Acid Moiety

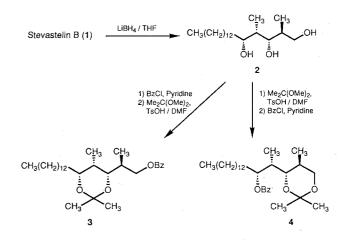
Complete reduction of stevastelin B (1) with $LiBH_4$ yielded triol 2. The optical rotation of 2 was + 14.2°. To elucidate the relative stereochemistry of the fatty acid moiety, triol 2 was converted into two derivatives 3 and 4 (Scheme 1). At first, the triol (2) was treated with benzoyl chloride in pyridine, then the resulting monobenzoate was treated with 2,2-dimethoxypropane to give 3. On the other hand, treatment of the triol 2 with 2,2-dimethoxypropane, followed by benzoyl chloride in pyridine gave 4.

NMR analysis was performed on **3** and **4** (Fig. 2). The signals of the three acetonide carbons of **3** appeared at δ 19.5, 30.0 and 98.9 ppm in the ¹³C NMR spectrum. The chemical shifts suggested that H-3 and H-5 had a *syn* relationship according to EVANS' report³⁾. Then, *cis* relationships between H-3 and H-4, H-4 and H-5 were elucidated from the observed NOE between H-3 and H-4,



Fig. 1. The structure of stevastelin B (1).





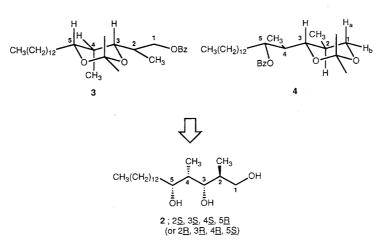
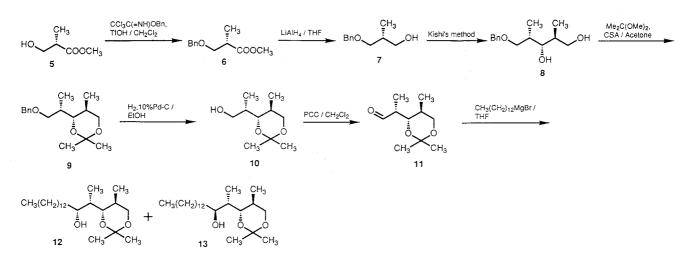


Fig. 2. Relative configurations of fatty acid moiety of stevastelin B.





H-4 and H-5, and small coupling constants between H-3 and H-4 (2.0 Hz), H-4 and H-5 (3.0 Hz).

The coupling constant between H-2 and H-3 of **4** was shown to be 10.0 Hz, indicating a *trans*-diaxial relationship of these two protons.

The results showed that two possible configurations of the fatty acid moiety are represented as (2S, 3S, 4S, 5R) (isomer 2) or (2R, 3R, 4R, 5S) (Fig. 2).

Synthesis of Triol 2

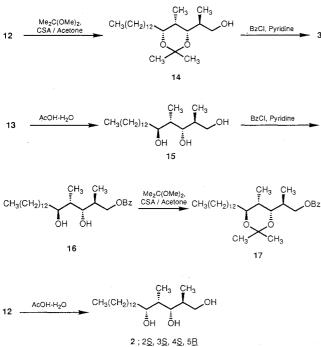
In order to determine the absolute structure of stevastelin B, the (2S, 3S, 4S, 5R) isomer (2) was synthesized (Scheme 2).

The hydroxyl group of methyl (2S)-3-hydroxy-2methylpropionate (5) was protected as a benzyl ether (6) in 97% yield by use of benzyl trichloroacetimidate. LiAlH₄ reduction of 6 gave alcohol 7 in 62% yield. Then 7 was converted into monoprotected triol 8 as an optically pure form by KISHI's method⁴⁾.

The diol moiety of **8** was protected as an acetonide (**9**) in 97% yield. Catalytic deprotection of **9** in the presence of Pd-C under atmospheric hydrogen gave alcohol **10** in 91% yield. Pyridinium chlorochromate (PCC) oxidation of **10** provided aldehyde **11** in 94% yield. The Grignard reaction of the aldehyde **11** with $CH_3(CH_2)_{12}MgBr$ in THF was executed and compounds **12** and **13** were isolated in 49% and 18% yields, respectively, after separation on silica gel.

The configurations of the newly introduced asymmetric center in the two products (12 and 13) were established as follows (Scheme 3). The major product (12) was treated with 2,2-dimethoxypropane and CSA in acetone to give isopropylidene-migrated product 14 in 53% yield along with the recovered starting material 12 (25%). The hydroxyl group of 14 was protected as a benzoyl ester in 99% yield. From comparison between





the NMR data, the configuration of the benzoyl ester was identical with 3.

On the other hand, the minor product (13) was treated with 70% aq. AcOH to give triol 15 in 82% yield. The primary hydroxyl group in 15 was selectively protected as a benzoyl ester 16 in 53% yield with the recovered starting material 15 (32%).

Compound 16 was treated with 2,2-dimethoxypropane and CSA in acetone to give 17 in 99% yield. The signals of three acetonide carbons of 17 appeared at δ 23.6, 25.0 and 100.8 ppm in the ¹³C NMR spectrum. The fact suggested that the six-membered ring of 17 made a twist boat form because of comparison with the ¹³C NMR data of Evans' report³⁾.

Absolute Structure of Stevastelin B

Compound 12 was treated with 70% aq. AcOH to give triol in 91% yield. From comparison between the NMR data, the triol was identical with 2. Optical rotation of 2 was $+14.1^{\circ}$ in this case.

Based upon these experiments, the absolute stereochemistry of 3,5-dihydroxy-2,4-dimethylstearic acid moiety was decided to be 2(2S, 3S, 4S, 5R) isomer, and the absolute stereochemistry of stevastelin B was determined (Fig. 1).

Table 1. Retention times and flow rate of amino acids.

Mobile phase	Flow rate (ml / min)	Amino acid	Retention time (min)
I	0.5	L-Serine D-Serine	10.3 8.2
I	0.5	L-Threonine	11.5
		D-Threonine	9.1
II	1.0	L-Valine D-Valine	12.1 6.4

Experimental

General Procedure

TLC was carried out with Silica gel 60 plates (Merck). Silica gel column chromatography was performed with Silica gel BW-200 (Fuji Silysia Kagaku). ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded with a JEOL JNM-GX400 NMR spectrometer and a Varian GEMINI-200 NMR spectrometer. Mass spectra were recorded with a VG MM-ZAB HF mass spectrometer. Optical rotation was determined with a Perkin-Elmer 241 polarimeter.

HPLC Examination Using Chiral Column

A chiral column MIC GEL CRS 10W $(4.6 \times 50 \text{ mm})$, Mitsubishi Chemical Industries Limited) was used. The mobile phase used was: I: 0.1 mm CuSO₄, II: 0.5 mm CuSO₄. HPLC was carried out under a flow rate of 0.5 ml/minute or 1.0 ml/minute, and monitored by optical density 254 nm.

The retention times and flow rate are listed in Table 1.

The configuration of these amino acids was determined to be L-threonine. L-serine and L-valine.

Triol 2 by Reduction of Stevastelin B (1)

To a solution of 1 (202 mg, 308 μ mol) in THF (6 ml) was added LiBH₄ (35 mg) and the mixture was stirred under reflux for 2 hours. The reaction mixture was treated with a small amount of water to remove excess reagent. After evaporation of the mixture, the residue was chromatographed on a silica gel column (CHCl3-MeOH) to give 2 (37.0 mg, 112 µmol, 36%). FAB-MS m/z 331 (M+H)⁺. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 0.75 (3H, d, J = 6.9 Hz, 0.88 (3H, t, J = 6.6 Hz), 0.92 (3H, d, J = 7.1 Hz, $1.16 \sim 1.68 \text{ (25H, m)}$, $1.82 \sim 1.98 \text{ (1H, m)}$, 2.77 (1H, br-d), 3.32 (1H, dd, J=3.7 and 5.9 Hz), $3.59 \sim 3.92$ (4H, m), 4.36 (1H, s). $[\alpha]_{D}^{20} + 14.2^{\circ}$ (c 1.00, CHCl₃).

Triol Acetonide Benzoyl Ester 3 from Triol 2

To a solution of triol 2 (5.1 mg, $15 \,\mu$ mol) in pyridine (1 ml) was added benzovl chloride $(4.2 \mu \text{l})$ and the mixture was stirred at 60°C for 5 hours. The reaction mixture was treated with a small amount of water to remove excess reagent. After evaporation of the mixture, the residue was chromatographed on a silica gel column (hexane-acetone) to give monobenzoate (4.9 mg, 11 μ mol). To a solution of this monobenzoate (4.9 mg, 11 µmol) in DMF (1 ml) was added 2,2-dimethoxypropane (20 μ l) and *p*-toluenesulfonic acid monohydrate (0.3 mg), and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 days. After quenching with saturated aq. NaHCO₃ at 0°C, H₂O was added and extracted with EtOAc. The organic layer was washed with brine and dried over Na₂SO₄. After evaporation, the residue was chromatographed on a silica gel column (hexane-acetone) to give 3 (4.2 mg, 8.8 µmol, 59% from 2). FAB-MS m/z 475 $(M+H)^+$. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 0.87 (3H, d, J=7.3 Hz), 0.88 (3H, t, J = 7.0 Hz), 0.98 (3H, d, J = 7.0 Hz), $1.17 \sim 1.60$ (28H, m), 1.37 (3H, s), $2.02 \sim 2.12$ (1H, m), 3.73 (1H, dd, J = 2.0 and 10.3 Hz), $3.80 \sim 3.87$ (1H, m), 4.33 (1H, dd, J=5.9 and 10.6 Hz), 4.42 (1H, dd, J=2.9 and 10.6 Hz), 7.41~7.59 (3H, m), 8.03~8.19 (2H, m). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 4.4, 12.5, 14.1, 19.5, 22.7, 25.4, 29.4, 29.5, 29.7, 30.0, 31.9, 32.4, 32.9, 34.5, 67.0, 73.6, 74.1, 98.9, 128.4, 129.5, 130.6, 132.8, 166.7.

Triol Acetonide Benzoyl Ester 4 from Triol 2

To a solution of triol 2 (4.5 mg, $14 \mu mol$) in DMF (1 ml) was added 2,2-dimethoxypropane (40 μ l) and p-toluenesulfonic acid monohydrate (0.5 mg), and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 15 minutes. After quenching with saturated aq. NaHCO₃ at 0°C, H_2O was added and extracted with ether. The organic layer was washed with brine, dried over Na₂SO₄, and evaporated to give the acetonide. To a solution of this acetonide in pyridine (1 ml) was added benzoyl chloride $(10 \,\mu l)$ and the mixture was stirred at $60^{\circ}C$ for 4 hours. The reaction mixture was treated with water to remove excess reagent. After evaporation of the mixture, the residue was chromatographed on a silica gel column (hexane-acetone) to give 4 (3.7 mg, $7.8 \mu \text{mol}$, 56% from **2**). FAB-MS m/z 475 (M+H)⁺. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 0.70 (3H, d, J = 6.7 Hz), 0.88 (3H, t, J = 7.0 Hz), 1.02 (3H, t, J =d, J = 7.0 Hz), 1.12 (3H, s), 1.20 ~ 1.45 (24H, m), 1.36 (3H, s), 1.82~1.92 (1H, m), 1.94~2.02 (1H, m), 3.50 (1H, t, J=11.2 Hz), 3.66 (1H, dd, J=11.2 and 3.1 Hz), 3.68 (1H, dd, J=10.2 and 2.0 Hz), 5.26 (1H, q, J=5.8 Hz), 7.37 ~ 7.56 (3H, m), 8.03 ~ 8.09 (2H, m).

Benzyl Ether 6 from Propionate 5

To a solution of propionate 5 (7.02 g, 59.5 mmol) and benzyl trichloroacetimidate (22.5 g) in CH_2Cl_2 was added TfOH (0.260 ml) at 0°C. After being stirred at room temperature for 2 hours, the reaction mixture was quenched with saturated aq. NaHCO₃. The mixture was extracted with EtOAc, and the organic layer was washed with H₂O, then brine, dried over Na₂SO₄, and evaporated. To the residue, hexane and CHCl₃ was added and the precipitated white crystal was removed by filtration. After evaporation of the filtrate, the residue was chromatographed on a silica gel column (hexaneacetone) to give 6 (12.0 g, 57.7 mmol, 97%). FAB-MS m/z 209 (M+H)⁺. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.18 (3H, d, J = 7.1 Hz), 2.71 ~ 2.88 (1H, m), 3.49 (1H, dd, J = 5.9 and 9.1 Hz), 3.66 (1H, dd, J = 7.3 and 9.1 Hz), 3.69 (3H, s), 4.52 (3H, s), 7.32 (5H, s).

Diol Monobenzyl Ether 7 from Benzyl Ether 6

To a stirred suspension of LiAlH₄ (3.46g) in THF (120 ml) was added a solution of **6** (12.0 g, 57.7 mmol) in THF (70 ml) dropwise at 0°C. After being stirred at room temperature for 1 hour, the reaction mixture was cooled to 0°C and quenched with H₂O (3.5 ml), 15% aq. NaOH (3.5 ml), then H₂O (11.5 ml). The resulting gels were removed by filtration and washed with THF. The combined filtrate and washings were dried over Na₂SO₄. After evaporation, the residue was chromatographed on a silica gel column (hexane-acetone) to give 7 (6.46 g, 35.8 mmol, 62%). FAB-MS m/z 181 (M + H)⁺. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 0.88 (3H, d, J=7.0 Hz), 1.97~2.19 (1H, m), 2.58 (1H, br), 3.42 (1H, dd, J=8.0 and 9.1 Hz), 3.55~ 3.66 (2H, br), 3.56 (1H, dd, J=4.7 and 9.1 Hz), 4.52 (2H, s), 7.33 (5H, s). [α]_D²⁰ + 16.6° (*c* 0.61, CHCl₃).

Triol Acetonide Benzyl Ether 9 from Triol Monobenzyl Ether 8

To a solution of 8^{4} (60.6 mg, 0.255 mmol) in acetone (3 ml) was added 2,2-dimethoxypropane (313 µl) and CSA (5.9 mg), and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 hours. After quenching with saturated aq. NaHCO₃ at 0°C, H₂O was added and extracted with EtOAc. The organic layer was washed with brine, dried over Na₂SO₄. After evaporation, the residue was chromatographed on a silica gel column (hexane-acetone) to give **9** (68.6 mg, 0.247 mmol, 97%). FAB-MS m/z 279 (M+H)⁺. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 0.72 (3H, d, J=7.0 Hz), 0.88 (3H, d, J=7.0 Hz), 1.34 (3H, s), 1.40 (3H, s), 1.76~1.96 (1H, m), 1.97~2.14 (1H, m), 3.30 (1H, dd, J=6.2 and 8.9 Hz), 3.44~3.57 (2H, m), 3.66~3.75 (2H, m), 4.50 (2H, s), 7.33 (5H, s).

9 Triol Acetonide 10 from Triol Acetonide Benzyl Ether

A solution of **9** (68.6 mg, 0.247 mmol) in EtOH (5 ml) was hydrogenated in the presence of 10% Pd-C catalyst under an atmosphere of hydrogen for 18 hours. The catalyst was removed through a Celite pad, and washed with EtOH. The combined filtrate and washings were evaporated and the residue was chromatographed on a silica gel column (hexane-acetone) to give **10** (42.4 mg, 0.226 mmol, 91%). FAB-MS m/z 189 (M+H)⁺. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 0.72 (3H, d J=6.7 Hz), 0.99 (3H, d, J=7.1 Hz), 1.37 (3H, s), 1.46 (3H, s), 1.77 ~ 2.02 (2H, m), 2.38 (1H, br), 3.54 (1H, t, J=11.2 Hz), 3.56~3.82 (4H, m).

Aldehyde 11 from Triol Acetonide 10

A mixture of **10** (40.6 mg, 0.216 mmol) and PCC (140 mg) in CH_2Cl_2 (2 ml) was stirred at room temperature for 2 hours. After addition of Et_2O (3 ml), the

Triol Acetonide 12 and 13 from Aldehyde 11

A mixture of Mg (16.7 mg) and $CH_3(CH_2)_{12}Br$ (160 mg) in THF (3 ml) was stirred at 60°C under Ar atmosphere. After 2 hours, a suspension of 11 (37.5 mg, 0.202 mmol) and molecular sieves (4A, powder) in THF (2 ml) was added dropwise at room temperature, and the mixture was stirred 45 minutes. After quenching with saturated aq. NH₄Cl at 0°C, the mixture was extracted with EtOAc. The organic layer was washed with brine and dried over Na_2SO_4 . After evaporation, the residue was chromatographed on a silica gel column (hexaneacetone) to give 12 (36.9 mg, 99.5 μ mol, 49%) and 13 (13.3 mg, 35.8 µmol, 18%). 12: FAB-MS m/z 371 $(M+H)^+$. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 0.71 (3H, d, J=6.6 Hz), 0.88 (3H, t, J = 6.8 Hz), 0.93 (3H, d, J = 7.0 Hz), 1.17 ~ 1.77 (25H, m), 1.37 (3H, s), 1.48 (3H, s), 1.78 ~ 2.04 (1H, m), 3.41 (1H, s), 3.53 (1H, t, J = 11.3 Hz), $3.66 \sim 3.82$ (3H, m). $[\alpha]_{D}^{20} + 36.8^{\circ}$ (c 1.00, CHCl₃). 13: FAB-MS m/z371 (M+H)⁺. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 0.70 (3H, d, J= 6.7 Hz), 0.88 (3H, t, J=6.8 Hz), 1.05 (3H, d, J=7.1 Hz), 1.18~1.60 (24H, m), 1.37 (3H, s), 1.48 (3H, s), 1.66~1.76 (1H, m), $1.82 \sim 2.06$ (1H, m), 2.82 (1H, d, J=8.1 Hz), $3.44 \sim 3.57$ (1H, m), 3.54 (1H, t, J = 11.5 Hz), 3.71 (1H, dd, J=5.1 and 11.5 Hz), 3.94 (1H, dd, J=2.4 and 10.3 Hz). $[\alpha]_{\rm D}^{20}$ + 30.6° (c 0.50, CHCl₃).

Triol 2 from Triol Acetonide 12

Compound 12 (15.0 mg, 40.4 μ mol) in 70% aq. AcOH (1 ml) was stirred at room temperature for 20 hours. After evaporation of the mixture, the residue was chromatographed on a silica gel column (hexane-acetone) to give 2 (12.1 mg, 36.6 μ mol, 91%). $[\alpha]_{D}^{20}$ + 14.1° (*c* 1.23, CHCl₃).

Triol Acetonide 14 from Triol Acetonide 12

To a solution of 12 (8.4 mg, 22.7 μ mol) in acetone (1 ml) was added 2,2-dimethoxypropane (27.9 μ l) and CSA (0.8 mg), and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 hours. After neutralization with Et₃N, the mixture was evaporated and the residue was chromatographed on a silica gel column (hexane-acetone) to give 14 (5.5 mg, 14.9 μ mol, 53%) and 12 (2.1 mg, 5.66 μ mol, 25%) as a starting material. 14: FAB-MS m/z 371 (M+H)⁺. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 0.76 (3H, d, J=7.0 Hz), 0.87 (3H, d, J=6.8 Hz), 0.88 (3H, t, J=6.1 Hz), 1.16~1.60 (25H, m), 1.39 (3H, s), 1.46 (3H, s), 1.82~2.05 (1H, m), 3.17 (1H, dd, J=2.1 and 9.7 Hz), 3.80~3.89 (1H, m).

Triol Acetonide Benzoyl Ester **3** from Triol Acetonide 14

To a solution of 14 (5.5 mg, 14.8 μ mol) in pyridine (1 ml) was added benzoyl chloride (13.2 μ l) and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 15 hours. The reaction mixture was treated with water to remove excess reagent, and the mixture was extracted with EtOAc. The organic layer was washed with brine and dried over Na₂SO₄. After evaporation, the residue was chromatographed on a silica gel column (hexane-acetone) to give 3 (7.0 mg, 14.7 μ mol, 99%).

Triol 15 from Triol Acetonide 13

Compound 13 (16.2 mg, 43.7 μ mol) in 70% aq. AcOH (1 ml) was stirred at room temperature for 15 hours. After evaporation of the mixture, the residue was chromatographed on a silica gel column (hexane-acetone) to give 15 (11.9 mg, 36.0 μ mol, 82%). FAB-MS m/z 331 (M+H)⁺. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 0.73 (3H, d, J=6.9 Hz), 0.88 (3H, t, J=6.5 Hz), 1.05 (3H, d, J=7.1 Hz), 1.14~ 1.70 (25H, m), 1.82~1.97 (1H, m), 2.59 (1H, br-d), 3.45 (1H, br), 3.60~3.74 (3H, m), 3.92~4.03 (2H, m).

Triol Monobenzoyl Ester 16 from Triol 15

To a solution of 15 (11.9 mg, $36.0 \,\mu$ mol) in pyridine (0.5 ml) was added benzoyl chloride (17.8 μ l) and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 24 hours. The reaction mixture was treated with water to remove excess reagent, and the mixture was extracted with EtOAc. The organic layer was washed with brine, dried over Na₂SO₄. After evaporation, the residue was chromatographed on a silica gel column (hexane-acetone) to give 16 (8.3 mg, 19.1 μ mol, 53%) and 15 (3.8 mg, 11.5 μ mol, 32%) as a starting material. 16: FAB-MS m/z435 $(M+H)^+$. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 0.88 (3H, t, J = 6.5 Hz), 0.97 (3H, d, J = 6.9 Hz), 1.04 (3H, d, J = 7.1 Hz, $1.15 \sim 1.74$ (27H, m), $1.90 \sim 2.15$ (1H, m), $3.62 \sim 3.70$ (1H, m), 3.86 (1H, dd, J = 1.8 and 10.0 Hz), 4.38 (1H, dd, J = 3.7 and 11.0 Hz), 4.60 (1H, dd, J = 5.1and 11.0 Hz), 7.40 ~ 7.62 (3H, m), 8.03 ~ 8.12 (2H, m).

Triol Acetonide Benzoyl Ester 17 from Triol Monobenzoyl Ester 16

To a solution of **16** (7.9 mg, 18.2μ mol) in acetone (1 ml) was added 2,2-dimethoxypropane (22.3 μ l) and CSA (0.5 mg), and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 15 minutes. After quenching with saturated aq. NaHCO₃ at 0°C, the mixture was extracted with EtOAc. The organic layer was washed with brine, dried over Na₂SO₄. After evaporation, the residue was chromatographed on a silica gel column (hexane-acetone) to give **17** (8.6 mg, 18.1 μ mol, 99%). FAB-MS m/z 475 (M+H)⁺. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 0.88 (3H, t, J=6.5 Hz), 0.90 (3H, d, J=6.9 Hz), 1.01 (3H, d, J=6.7 Hz), 1.16~1.56 (27H, m), 1.31 (3H, s), 1.66~1.78 (1H, m), 1.95~2.13 (1H, m), 3.17~3.28 (1H, m), 3.77 (1H, dd, J=4.4 and 10.9 Hz), 4.36~4.40 (2H, m), 7.39~7.61 (3H, m), 8.03~8.09 (2H, m). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 11.6, 13.2,

14.1, 22.7, 23.6, 25.0, 26.1, 29.4, 29.6, 29.7, 31.9, 33.0, 35.0, 38.4, 66.9, 69.6, 75.2, 100.8, 128.3, 129.5, 130.5, 132.8, 166.7. $[\alpha]_{\rm D}^{20} - 15.0^{\circ}$ (*c* 0.42, CHCl₃).

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