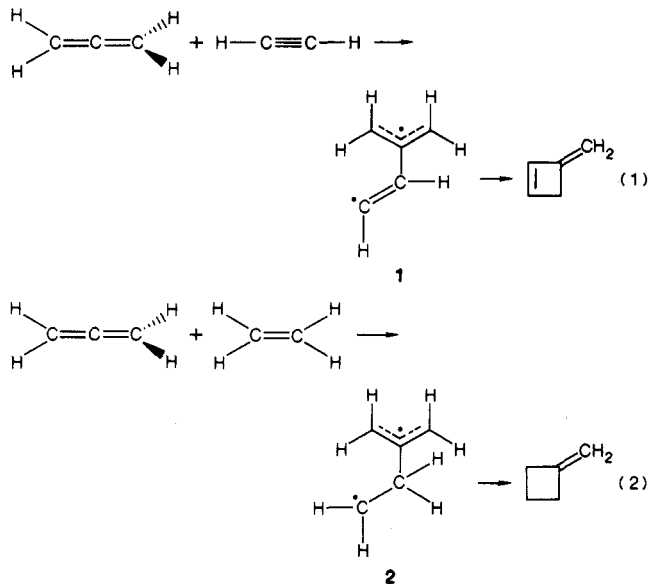


greater reactivity of the alkynes in the [2 + 2] cycloaddition reactions with DMA can be gained by consideration of the relative changes in the heats of formation on going from the reactants to the intermediate diradicals and on to the products, which are shown in Figure 1 for the hypothetical reactions shown in eq 1 and 2. The formation of 2 is



accompanied by a positive increase in the heat of formation as expected. The formation of 1, however, is accompanied by a decrease (in a positive sense) in heat of formation, giving a heat of formation of 1 lower than that of the reactants! This is due to the considerably larger positive heat of formation of acetylene (54.2 kcal mol⁻¹) compared to that of ethene (12.5 kcal mol⁻¹).⁹ The much lower heat of formation of 1 versus 2 relative to the heats of formation of the reactants would suggest that the energy barrier for the formation of 1 should be considerably lower than that for the formation of 2, which is consistent with the presently observed relative reactivity data.

Experimental Section

Relative Rate Measurements. The competitive cycloaddition reactions were carried out by placing 0.5 mmol each of the substituted alkene and alkyne and DMA in 0.4 mL of toluene-*d*₈ in an NMR tube. Dioxane (20 μL) was added as an internal standard for NMR integration purposes, and 1 mg of hydroquinone was added as a polymerization inhibitor. The contents of the tubes were triply freeze degassed, and the tubes were sealed under reduced pressure. The NMR spectra of the reactant solutions were recorded and the tubes were then heated in a sand bath at 160 °C for 5 days. The NMR spectra of the reaction solutions were recorded, the integrals were measured and compared with those of the reactant solutions, and the extent of reaction of the substituted alkene and alkyne was calculated. The resonances in the reactions mixtures were identified by the comparison of chemical shifts with those recorded previously.^{5,6}

Acknowledgment. This research was supported by National Science Foundation Grant CHE87-09725.

Registry No. DMA, 598-25-4; H₂C=CHCO₂Et, 140-88-5; HC≡CCO₂Et, 623-47-2; H₂C=CHC₆H₅, 100-42-5; HC≡CC₆H₅, 536-74-3.

(9) The heats of formation of the reactants, diradical intermediates, and the products have been calculated by the Benson group additivity approach (Benson, S. W. *Thermochemical Kinetics*; John Wiley & Sons: New York, 1976) using the group additivities in Table 2.14 (pg 73) and Appendix A.1. The group additivities for C-(C₄)(C)(H) and C₄(H) were assumed to be -5 and +25, respectively, based on comparisons with other group values.

(±)-Aspidofractinine Derivatives

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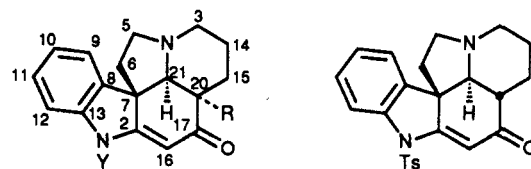
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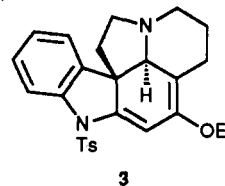
Received January 5, 1989

In connection with studies in the field of Aspidosperma alkaloid synthesis the pentacyclic intermediate 1a has been prepared recently² and now has been used for the construction of some aspidofractinine derivatives.

Exposure of pentacycle 1a to *p*-tolylsulfonyl chloride and sodium hydroxide under phase-transfer conditions yielded a mixture of the *N*-tosyl derivatives 1b and 2. Treatment of either product with ethyl iodide and potassium hydride gave ketone 1c (in 13% yield) and diene 3 (61%).³



- 1a: R = Y = H
 b: R = H; Y = SO₂C₆H₄Me(-*p*)
 c: R = Et; Y = SO₂C₆H₄Me(-*p*)
 d: R = Et; Y = H



The acquisition of a fair amount of diene 3 permitted its use in Diels–Alder reactions en route to the kopsane skeleton (e.g. aspidofractinine, 5a).⁴ Interaction of the diene with methyl acrylate afforded hexacycle 4a (82%). Acid-induced, partial hydrolysis of the latter yielded keto ester 5b (87%), whose stereostructure was confirmed by single-crystal, X-ray crystallographic analysis.⁶ Similarly, cycloaddition of diene 3 and phenyl vinyl sulfone produced a ca. 4:1 mixture (66%) of adducts 4b and 6. Hydrolysis of each enol ether furnished ketones 5c (81%) and 7 (84%), respectively. Exposure of either product to sodium amalgam reduction led to 17-oxoaspidofractinine (5d) (70

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(2) Wenkert, E.; Orito, K.; Simmons, D. P.; Kunesch, N.; Ardisson, J.; Poisson, J. *Tetrahedron* 1983, 39, 3719.

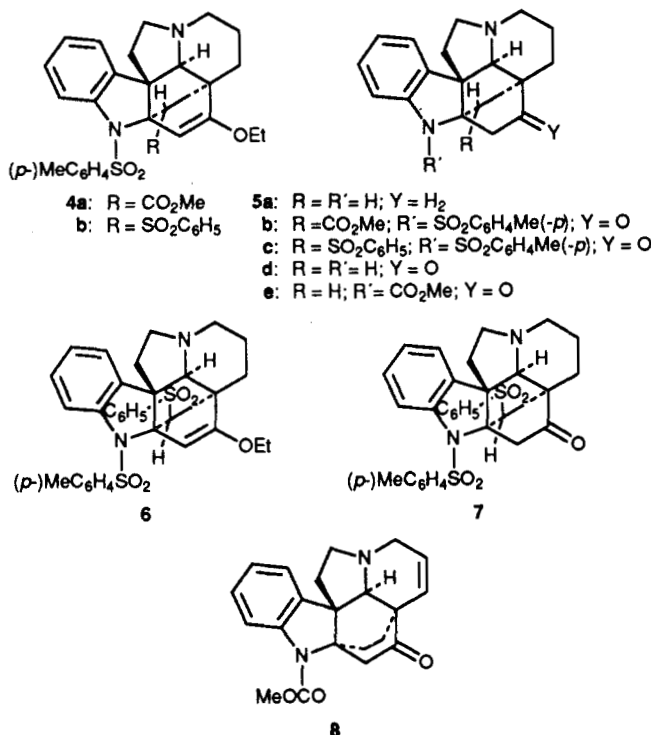
(3) Hydrolysis of ketone 1c with 2 N potassium hydroxide in methanol has led to colorless, amorphous 2,16-dihydro-17-oxoaspidospermidine (1d) (76%): UV λ_{max} 241 nm (log ε 4.08), 300 (3.85), 348 (4.10); IR NH 3140 (br m), NCH 2760 (m), 2700 (w), C=O 1680 (s), C=O, C=C 1625 (s), 1603 (s) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR δ 0.25 (t, 3, J = 7 Hz, Me), 3.47 (s, 1, H-21), 5.46 (s, 1, H-16), 6.8–7.7 (m, 4, Ar Hs), 10.03 (s, 1, NH); m/e 294 (M⁺, 6), 140 (9), 126 (37), 124 (base), 110 (7).

(4) For previous Diels–Alder reactions on 3-like substances, see: (a) Ohnuma, T.; Oishi, T.; Ban, Y., *J. Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun.* 1973, 301. (b) Ban, Y.; Honma, Y.; Oishi, T. *Tetrahedron Lett.* 1976, 1111. (c) Magnus, P.; Gallagher, T.; Brown, P.; Pappalardo, P. *Acc. Chem. Res.* 1984, 17, 35. (d) Kuehne, M. E.; Seaton, P. J. *J. Org. Chem.* 1985, 50, 4790. (e) Ogawa, M.; Kitagawa, Y.; Natsume, M. *Tetrahedron Lett.* 1987, 3985.

(5) Wenkert, E.; Pestchanker, M. J. *J. Org. Chem.* 1988, 53, 4875.

(6) Toffoli, P.; Rodier, N.; Le Ménez, P.; Kunesch, N., unpublished observation.

and 55%, respectively). N-Acylation of the latter with methyl chlorocarbonate and sodium hydride afforded ketourethane **5e**, spectrally identical with the product⁷ of hydrogenation of the alkaloid kopsinone (**8**).⁸



Experimental Section

Melting points were determined on a Kofler micro hotstage and are uncorrected. Infrared spectra of films and ultraviolet spectra of 95% ethanol solutions were recorded on Perkin-Elmer 257 and Unicam SP 1800 spectrophotometers, respectively. ¹H NMR spectra of deuteriochloroform solutions (internal standard: Me₄Si) were measured on a Bruker AM 200 spectrometer, and ¹³C NMR spectra of deuteriochloroform solutions were obtained at 50.3 MHz on the same instrument.⁹ The carbon shifts are in parts per million downfield from Me₄Si; δ(Me₄Si) = δ(CDCl₃) + 76.9 ppm. Mass spectra were recorded on AE1 MS 902 and Nermag/Sidar V 2.3 spectrometers and exact mass measurements on a Varian MAT 311 spectrometer. Chromatographic separations were carried out on Merck silica gel 60 (70–230 mesh ASTM). All crude products were extracted with methylene chloride, and the extracts were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄.

20-Deethyl-2,16-dihydro-17-oxo-1-(p-tolylsulfonyl)aspido-permidine (1b) and Its C-20 Isomer (2). A mixture of 310 mg (1.1 mmol) of ketone **1a**, 60 mg of tetrabutylammonium hydrogen sulfate, and 15 mL of a 15% aqueous sodium hydroxide solution in 18 mL of methylene chloride was stirred at room temperature for 10 min. *p*-Tolylsulfonyl chloride (250 mg, 1.3 mmol) was added, and the mixture was stirred for 0.5 h. It then was poured into water, and the organic layer was separated, washed with water, dried, and evaporated. Chromatography of the residue (420 mg) and elution with 1:1 cyclohexane–ethyl acetate gave 46 mg (9%) of colorless, crystalline ketone **2**: mp 197–199 °C; IR (KBr) C=O 1660 (s), C=C 1625 (m), 1595 (s), SO₂ 1370 (s), 1175 (s) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR δ 2.33 (s, 3, Me), 3.30 (d, 1, *J* = 10 Hz, H-21), 6.23 (s, 1, H-16), 6.96 (td, 1, *J* = 8, 1 Hz Ar H), 7.3–7.4 (m, 3, Ar Hs), 7.70 (dd, 1, *J* = 8, 1 Hz Ar H), 7.80 (d, 2, *J* = 9 Hz, Ts *o*-Hs), 7.85 (d, 1, *J* = 8 Hz, H-12); *m/e* 420 (M⁺, 21), 265 (34), 96 (base); exact mass *m/e* 420.1515 (calcd for C₂₄H₂₄O₃N₂S *m/e* 420.1507).

Further elution yielded 180 mg (37%) of colorless, crystalline ketone **1a**: mp 206–208 °C; UV λ_{max} 228 nm (log ε 4.43), 274 (4.11), 308 (3.87); IR (KBr) NCH 2780 (m), 2720 (w), C=O 1675 (s), C=C 1630 (s), 1595 (s), SO₂ 1368 (m) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR δ 2.30 (s, 3, Me), 3.00 (d, 1, *J* = 5 Hz, H-21), 6.28 (s, 1, H-16), 6.9–7.3 (m, 5, Ar Hs), 7.5–7.8 (m, 3, Ar Hs); *m/e* 420 (M⁺, 4), 265 (43), 96 (base). Anal. Calcd for C₂₄H₂₄O₃N₂S: C, 68.56; H, 5.75; N, 6.66. Found: C, 68.73; H, 5.69; N, 6.70.

2,16-Didehydro-17-oxo-1-(p-tolylsulfonyl)aspido-permidine (1c) and 20-Deethyl-17-ethoxy-1-(p-tolylsulfonyl)-2,16,17,20-tetrahydroaspido-permidine (3). A mixture of 100 mg (0.24 mmol) of ketone **1b** and 100 mg (0.60 mmol) of potassium hydride (25% mineral oil dispersion, washed three times with dry tetrahydrofuran) in 5 mL of anhydrous tetrahydrofuran was stirred at 0 °C under nitrogen for 0.5 h. Ethyl iodide (1 mL, 12.5 mmol) was added dropwise to the suspension, and the stirring was continued for another 0.5 h. Water (0.1 mL) was added cautiously, and the mixture was concentrated under vacuum. It then was diluted with water and extracted. Evaporation of the extract, chromatography of the residue (117 mg), and elution with 3:2 cyclohexane–ethyl acetate yielded 65 mg (61%) of colorless, crystalline ether **3**: mp 157–159 °C (MeOH); IR (KBr) C=O 1670 (s), C=C 1610 (w), 1595 (m), SO₂ 1355 (s), 1165 (s) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR δ 1.29 (t, 3, *J* = 7.5 Hz, Me), 2.35 (s, 3, Ts Me), 3.7–4.0 (m, 2, OCH₂), 3.81 (s, 1, H-21), 6.27 (s, 1, H-16), 7.03 (t, 1, *J* = 8 Hz, Ar H), 7.15 (d, 2, *J* = 8 Hz, Ts *m*-Hs), 7.22 (t, 1, *J* = 8 Hz, Ar H), 7.48 (d, 1, *J* = 8 Hz, H-9), 7.62 (d, 2, *J* = 8 Hz, Ts *o*-Hs), 7.77 (d, 1, *J* = 8 Hz, H-12); ¹³C NMR δ 15.1 (Me), 18.8 (C-14), 21.5 (Ts Me), 23.3 (C-15), 41.7 (C-6), 46.5 (C-3 or C-5), 47.2 (C-5 or C-3), 52.6 (C-7), 65.4 (OCH₂), 66.7 (C-21), 103.9 (C-16), 112.6 (C-20), 115.3 (C-12), 123.1 (C-10), 125.0 (Ts *o*-C), 127.0 (C-9 or C-11), 127.7 (C-11 or C-9), 129.3 (Ts *m*-C), 134.4 (C-2), 137.9 (C-8), 140.4 (Ts *ipso*-C), 143.1 (C-17), 144.3 (Ts *p*-C), 145.1 (C-13); *m/e* 448 (M⁺, 9), 293 (base), 91 (8). Anal. Calcd for C₂₆H₂₈O₃N₂S: C, 69.61; H, 6.29; N, 6.24. Found: C, 68.98; H, 6.46; N, 6.44.

Further elution yielded 14 mg (13%) of colorless, crystalline ketone **1c**: mp 188–192 °C (MeOH); IR (KBr) NCH 2770 (m), 2710 (w), C=O 1698 (s), 1628 (s), C=C 1592 (s), SO₂ 1368 (s) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR δ 0.32 (t, 3, *J* = 7.5 Hz, Me), 0.5–0.7 (m, 2, Hs-18), 2.35 (s, 3, Ts Me), 6.21 (s, 1, H-16), 7.1–7.4 (m, 5, Ar Hs), 7.77 (d, 2, *J* = 8 Hz, Ts *o*-Hs), 7.95 (d, 1, *J* = 8 Hz, H-12); ¹³C NMR δ 7.5 (C-18), 21.5 (Ts Me), 21.7 (C-14), 28.0 (C-19), 34.7 (C-15), 46.3 (C-6), 50.0 (C-20), 51.1 (C-5 or C-3), 51.9 (C-3 or C-5), 53.5 (C-7), 67.0 (C-21), 104.8 (C-16), 114.5 (C-12), 120.6 (C-10), 125.0 (Ts *o*-C), 127.3 (C-9), 128.1 (C-11), 129.6 (Ts *m*-C), 133.5 (C-13), 139.5 (Ts *ipso*-C), 145.2 (Ts *p*-C), 162.6 (C-2), 199.9 (C-17); *m/e* 448 (M⁺, 3), 293 (58), 124 (base), 110 (5); exact mass *m/e* 448.1829 (calcd for C₂₆H₂₈O₃N₂S, *m/e* 448.1820).

18(R)-Carbomethoxy-16,17-didehydro-17-ethoxy-1-(p-tolylsulfonyl)aspido-fractinine (4a). A solution of 500 mg (1.1 mmol) of diene **3** and 5 mL (55 mmol) of freshly distilled methyl acrylate in 5 mL of methylene chloride was stirred under nitrogen at room temperature for 48 h. More methyl acrylate (5 mL) was added, and the stirring was continued for 72 h. The mixture was evaporated, and the residue (660 mg) was chromatographed. Elution with 1:1 methylene chloride–ethyl acetate led to the recovery of 50 mg of diene and 490 mg (91%, based on consumed diene) of colorless, crystalline adduct **4a**: mp 237–239 °C (MeOH); IR (film) C=O 1730 (s), C=C 1605 (m), SO₂ 1345 (s), 1165 (s) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR δ 1.1–1.3 (m, 1, H-19), 1.39 (t, 3, *J* = 7 Hz, Me), 1.65 (dd, 1, *J* = 12, 6 Hz, H-19), 2.38 (s, 3, Ts Me), 2.80 (dd, 1, *J* = 8, 6 Hz, H-18), 3.07 (s, 1, H-21), 3.5–3.8 (m, 1, OCH₂ H), 3.76 (s, 3, OMe), 3.8–4.0 (m, 1, OCH₂ H), 5.52 (s, 1, H-16), 7.05 (t, 1, *J* = 8 Hz, Ar H), 7.1–7.3 (m, 4, Ar Hs), 7.62 (d, 2, *J* = 8 Hz, Ts *o*-Hs), 7.87 (d, 1, *J* = 8 Hz, H-12); ¹³C NMR δ 14.1 (Me), 16.4 (C-14), 21.5 (Ts Me), 30.0 (C-19), 37.5 (C-15), 39.1 (C-6), 44.5 (C-18), 46.9 (C-3), 48.7 (C-5), 52.1 (OMe), 63.6 (OCH₂), 67.4 (C-21), 77.3 (C-2), 90.3 (C-16), 117.0 (C-12), 122.2 (C-10), 124.7 (C-9), 125.9 (Ts *o*-C), 127.8 (C-11), 129.4 (Ts *m*-C), 138.5 (C-13), 139.7 (C-8 or Ts *ipso*-C), 141.0 (Ts *ipso*-C or C-8), 143.3 (Ts *p*-C), 159.7 (C-17), 173.3 (CO₂); *m/e* 534 (M⁺, 3), 448 (12), 379 (26), 293 (base), 91 (13); exact mass *m/e* 534.2160 (calcd for C₃₀H₃₄O₅N₂S *m/e* 534.2188).

18(R)-Carbomethoxy-17-oxo-1-(p-tolylsulfonyl)aspido-fractinine (5b). A mixture of 80 mg (0.15 mmol) of enol ether **4a** and 10 mL of a 1 N hydrochloric acid solution in 2 mL of

(7) The authors are indebted to Professor H.-P. Husson for a gift of a comparison sample.

(8) Do Carmo Carreiras, M.; Kan, C.; Deverre, J. R.; Hadi, A. H. A.; Quirion, J. C.; Husson, H.-P. *J. Nat. Prod.* 1988, 51, 806.

(9) The spectral determinations were performed in the Laboratoire de Chimie des Interactions Moléculaires (Collège de France, Paris).

methylene chloride and 4 mL of methanol was refluxed for 4 h. After vacuum removal of the volatile solvents the mixture was poured into water, neutralized with a saturated sodium bicarbonate solution, and extracted. Drying and evaporation of the latter, chromatography of the residue, and elution with 1:1 methylene chloride-ethyl acetate gave 65 mg (87%) of ketone **5b**: mp 285-290 °C dec (MeOH); IR (KBr) C=O 1730 (s), 1710 (s), C=C 1595 (m), SO₂ 1355 (s), 1170 (s) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR δ 2.30 (s, 3, Ts Me), 2.82 (d, 1, *J* = 19 Hz, H-16), 3.37 (s, 1, H-21), 3.62 (d, 1, *J* = 19 Hz, H-16), 3.78 (s, 3, OMe), 7.1-7.4 (m, 5, Ar Hs), 7.62 (d, 2, *J* = 8 Hz, Ts *o*-Hs), 7.90 (d, 1, *J* = 8 Hz, H-12); ¹³C NMR δ 15.9 (C-14), 21.5 (Ts Me), 29.3 (C-19), 32.5 (C-16), 36.3 (C-15), 39.0 (C-6), 42.5 (C-18), 43.6 (C-20), 47.0 (C-3), 48.3 (C-5), 52.6 (OMe), 58.7 (C-7), 68.8 (C-21), 71.8 (C-2), 116.7 (C-12), 122.0 (C-10), 125.1 (C-9), 125.8 (Ts *o*-C), 128.3 (C-11), 129.7 (Ts *m*-C), 138.4 (C-13), 139.9 (C-8 or Ts *ipso*-C), 140.1 (Ts *ipso*-C or C-8), 143.7 (Ts *p*-C), 172.6 (CO₂), 210.1 (C-17); *m/e* 506 (M⁺, 33), 420 (8), 351 (68), 293 (29), 265 (base), 91 (16); exact mass *m/e* 506.1854 (calcd for C₂₈H₃₀O₅N₂S *m/e* 506.1875).

16,17-Didehydro-17-ethoxy-18(R)-(phenylsulfonyl)-1-(*p*-tolylsulfonyl)aspidofractinine (4b) and Its 18S Isomer (6). A solution of 280 mg (0.63 mmol) of diene **3** and 600 mg (3.6 mmol) of phenyl vinyl sulfone in 5 mL of dry toluene was stirred and refluxed under nitrogen for 48 h. It then was concentrated, and the residue was chromatographed twice on Merck alumina 90 (activity II-III). Elution with 4:1 ethyl acetate-cyclohexane yielded 56 mg (14%) of the colorless, crystalline adduct **6**: mp 258-260 °C (MeOH); IR C=C 1610 (s), SO₂ 1350 (s), 1145 (s) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR δ 1.29 (t, 3, *J* = 7.5 Hz, Me) 2.43 (s, 3, Ts Me), 3.4-3.6 (m, 1, OCH₂ H), 3.57 (s, 1, H-21), 3.6-3.9 (m, 1, OCH₂ H, H-18), 5.58 (s, 1, H-16), 7.1-7.6 (m, 8, Ar Hs), 7.71 (d, 2, *J* = 8 Hz, Ts *o*-Hs), 7.86 (d, 3, *J* = 8 Hz, Ar Hs); ¹³C NMR δ 13.9 (Me), 16.0 (C-14), 21.4 (Ts Me), 29.9 (C-19), 37.1 (C-15), 37.4 (C-20), 42.2 (C-6), 46.7 (C-3), 47.9 (C-5), 62.2 (C-18), 63.6 (OCH₂), 65.7 (C-7), 66.3 (C-21), 76.8 (C-2), 95.6 (C-16), 116.3 (C-12), 161.5 (C-17); *m/e* 616 (M⁺, 1), 475 (4), 461 (20), 448 (7), 320 (6), 293 (base), 125 (22), 91 (13). Anal. Calcd for C₃₄H₃₆O₅N₂S₂: C, 66.21; H, 5.88; N, 4.54. Found: C, 66.10; H, 5.96; N, 5.02.

Further elution led to 200 mg (52%) of colorless, crystalline adduct **4b**: mp 245-246 °C (MeOH); IR C=C 1612 (s), SO₂ 1355 (s), 1145 (s) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR δ 1.38 (t, 3, *J* = 7.5 Hz, Me), 1.64 (dd, 1, *J* = 13, 8 Hz, H-19), 1.87 (dd, 1, *J* = 13, 8 Hz, H-19), 2.31 (s, 3, Ts Me), 3.00 (s, 1, H-21), 3.58 (t, 1, *J* = 8 Hz, H-18), 3.7-3.9 (m, 1, OCH₂ H), 3.9-4.1 (m, 1, OCH₂ H), 5.92 (s, 1, H-16), 6.87 (d, 1, *J* = 8 Hz, Ar H), 7.0-7.2 (m, 5, Ar Hs), 7.4-7.7 (m, 5, Ar Hs), 7.82 (d, 2, *J* = 8 Hz, Ar Hs); ¹³C NMR δ 14.0 (Me), 16.2 (C-14), 21.3 (Ts Me), 30.1 (C-19), 36.1 (C-15), 38.0 (C-20), 38.0 (C-6), 46.8 (C-3), 48.7 (C-5), 63.1 (C-18), 63.8 (OCH₂), 65.0 (C-7), 67.5 (C-21), 76.3 (C-2), 90.4 (C-16), 119.9 (C-12), 159.3 (C-17); *m/e* 616 (M⁺, 3), 475 (5), 461 (base), 448 (26), 125 (13). Anal. Calcd for C₃₄H₃₆O₅N₂S₂: C, 66.21; H, 5.88; N, 4.54. Found: C, 65.98; H, 6.00; N, 5.08.

17-Oxo-18(R)-(phenylsulfonyl)-1-(*p*-tolylsulfonyl)aspidofractinine (5c). A solution of 220 mg (0.36 mmol) of enol ether **4b** and 10 mL of a 1 N hydrochloric acid solution in 30 mL of methanol was refluxed for 16 h. After vacuum removal of methanol, the mixture was poured into water, neutralized with a saturated sodium bicarbonate solution, and extracted. Drying of the extract, flash chromatography¹⁰ of the residue, and elution with 49:1 methylene chloride-methanol gave 170 mg (81%) of the ketone **5c**: mp 257-259 °C (MeOH); IR C=O 1710 (s), C=C 1595 (m), SO₂ 1360 (s), 1145 (s) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR δ 2.31 (s, 3, Ts Me), 3.04 (dd, 1, *J* = 19, 2.5 Hz, H-16), 3.31 (s, 1, H-21), 4.20 (d, 1, *J* = 19 Hz, H-16), 6.74 (d, 1, *J* = 8 Hz, Ar H), 7.0-7.7 (m, 10, Ar Hs), 7.80 (d, 2, *J* = 8 Hz, Ts *o*-Hs); ¹³C NMR δ 15.7 (C-14), 21.3 (Ts Me), 29.5 (C-19), 30.5 (C-16), 34.9 (C-15), 38.8 (C-6), 44.7 (C-20), 46.8 (C-3), 48.2 (C-5), 59.3 (C-18), 60.3 (C-7), 68.9 (C-21), 71.7 (C-2), 119.5 (C-12), 208.6 (C-17); *m/e* 588 (M⁺, 12), 447 (7), 433 (46), 420 (12), 265 (base), 123 (35), 91 (38); exact mass *m/e* 588.1755 (calcd for C₃₂H₃₂O₅N₂S₂ *m/e* 588.1752).

17-Oxoaspidofractinine (5d). Hydrolysis of 50 mg of enol ether **6** under the above conditions and workup (5:1 ethyl acetate-cyclohexane elution) afforded 40 mg (84%) of colorless,

amorphous ketone **7**: IR C=O 1715 (s), C=C 1600 (m), SO₂ 1355 (s), 1150 (s) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR δ 2.40 (s, 3, Ts Me), 2.05 (s, 1, H-21), 2.94 (d, 1, *J* = 19 Hz, H-16), 3.15 (d, 1, *J* = 19 Hz, H-16), 7.1-7.8 (m, 13, Ar Hs); *m/e* 588 (M⁺, 17), 433 (32), 420 (31), 405 (11), 265 (base), 156 (15), 123 (12), 91 (18).

A mixture of 40 mg (0.067 mmol) of ketone **7**, 0.58 g of sodium monohydrogenphosphate, and 0.40 g of freshly prepared 6% sodium amalgam in 20 mL of methanol was stirred under nitrogen at room temperature for 12 h. It then was poured into water and filtered. Upon evaporation of the methanol of the filtrate the latter was extracted. The organic solution was washed with water, dried, and evaporated. Flash chromatography of the residue and elution with 19:1 methylene chloride-methanol gave 11 mg (55%) of colorless, amorphous ketone **5d**: IR NH 3330 (m), C=O 1705 (s), C=C 1605 (m) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR δ 2.39 (d, 1, *J* = 19 Hz, H-16), 2.88 (dd, 1, *J* = 19, 3.5 Hz, H-16), 3.48 (s, 1, H-21), 6.72 (d, 1, *J* = 8 Hz, H-9), 7.08 (t, 1, *J* = 8 Hz, H-11), 6.85 (t, 1, *J* = 8 Hz, H-10), 7.30 (d, 1, *J* = 8 Hz, H-12); ¹³C NMR δ 16.6 (C-14), 29.5 (C-15), 29.8 (C-19 or C-18), 30.0 (C-18 or C-19), 35.5 (C-16), 44.3 (C-20), 44.7 (C-6), 47.5 (C-3), 48.7 (C-5), 56.9 (C-7), 64.6 (C-21), 70.0 (C-2), 110.8 (C-12), 120.2 (C-10), 122.0 (C-9), 127.1 (C-11), 138.3 (C-8), 149.1 (C-13), 213.2 (C-17); *m/e* 294 (M⁺, base), 266 (33), 251 (50), 238 (75), 144 (31), 143 (27), 130 (17), 123 (67), 109 (28), 95 (43); exact mass *m/e* 294.1734 (calcd for C₁₉H₂₂ON₂ *m/e* 294.1732).

Reduction of sulfone **5c** under the identical conditions led to a 70% yield of ketone **5d**.

1-Carbomethoxy-17-oxoaspidofractinine (5e). A solution of 0.25 mL of methyl chloroformate in 1 mL of anhydrous dioxane was added to a mixture of 19 mg (0.07 mmol) of ketone **5d** and 14 mg of sodium hydride (80% mineral oil dispersion) in 1 mL of dry dioxane. The mixture was stirred at 60 °C under nitrogen for 2 h. It then was poured into water and extracted. Evaporation of the extract, chromatography of the residue, and elution with 2:1 methylene chloride-ethyl acetate yielded 16 mg (70%) of colorless, amorphous ketone **5e**: UV λ_{max} 244 nm (log ε 4.19), 282 (3.56), 289 (3.54); IR C=O 1705 (s), C=C 1600 (w) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR δ 3.0-3.3 (m, 3, H-3, H-16, H-5), 3.57 (s, 1, H-21), 3.87 (s, 3, OMe), 7.08 (t, 1, *J* = 7.5 Hz, H-10), 7.23 (t, 1, *J* = 7.5 Hz, H-11), 7.47 (d, 1, *J* = 7.5 Hz, H-9), 7.6-7.9 (m, 1, H-12); *m/e* 352 (M⁺, base), 324 (4), 309 (30), 296 (2), 123 (8); exact mass *m/e* 352.1782 (calcd for C₂₁H₂₄O₃N₂ *m/e* 352.1787).

Acknowledgment. The authors acknowledge the interest shown in the above research by Professor J. Poisson. E.C.A. and E.W. are indebted to the U.S. Public Health Service for support of the work in La Jolla.

Registry No. (±)-**1a**, 89240-74-4; (±)-**1b**, 120385-49-1; (±)-**1c**, 120385-50-4; (±)-**1d**, 120385-54-8; (±)-**2**, 120444-79-3; (±)-**3**, 120385-45-7; (±)-**4a**, 120385-46-8; (±)-**4b**, 120411-03-2; (±)-**5b**, 120385-47-9; (±)-**5c**, 120411-04-3; (±)-**5d**, 120385-51-5; (±)-**5e**, 120385-53-7; (±)-**6**, 120385-48-0; (±)-**7**, 120385-52-6; CH₂=CHCO₂Me, 96-33-3; CH₂=CHSO₂C₆H₅, 5535-48-8.

Reverse Micelles, an Alternative to Aqueous Medium for Microbial Reactions: Yeast-Mediated Resolution of α-Amino Acids in Reverse Micelles[†]

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Received October 27, 1988

The use of enzymes and microbial cells in organic synthesis although fast increasing¹⁻³ is limited by the reactant solubility in aqueous medium. The problem of using organic solvents for these reactions can be occasionally solved by using a two-phase enzyme in aqueous substrate in water-immiscible organic solvent system^{4,5} or more gen-

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[†] RRL(H) Communication No. 2281.