A General Method for the Preparation of Enantiomerically Pure 2-Substituted Glycerol Derivatives by Utilizing *I*-Menthone as a Chiral Template

Toshiro Harada.* Hirovuki Nakajima, Takavuki Ohnishi, Masahiro Takeuchi, and Akira Oku*

Department of Chemistry, Kyoto Institute of Technology, Matsugasaki, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto 606, Japan

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A general method for preparation of a variety of enantiomerically pure 2-substituted glycerol derivatives 1 was developed by utilizing *l*-menthone as a chiral template. Spiroacetals 6 derived formally from 2-substituted 2-(trimethylsiloxy)-1,3-propanediols and *l*-menthone were prepared with high stereoselectivity (>95% de) either by Grignard reactions of oxospiroacetal 4 or by epoxidation of methylenespiroacetal 5 followed by ring opening with higher order cuprates. Highly stereoselective ring-cleavage reaction of 6 with acetophenone enol trimethylsilyl ether and TiCl₄ followed by protection of the resulting diol 10 and subsequent removal of the chiral auxiliary gave 2-substituted glycerol derivatives of high enantiomeric purity.

Enantiomerically pure derivatives of glycerol and their 2-substituted homologues are versatile chiral building blocks which can be incorporated into target structures possessing secondary or tertiary asymmetric alcohol carbons.¹ The utility of these compounds has been demonstrated by the frequent use of 1,2-acetonide derivatives 1a $(R = H)^2$ and 1b $(R = Me)^3$ in natural product syntheses. Homologues of 1a.b with an arbitrary substituent R at the 2 position should be useful as tailor-made chiral building blocks for specific target molecules. We wish to report here a general method for the preparation of enantiomerically pure 2-substituted glycerol derivative 1 by utilizing lmenthone as a chiral template.

Results and Discussion

Based on our recent finding that titanium tetrachloride-promoted ring cleavage of a variety of spiroacetals derived from *l*-menthone proceeds in a highly stereoselective manner,⁴ we envisaged spiroacetal 3 as an ideal precursor of chiral acetonide 1. Thus, 1 might be obtained by selective ring cleavage of spiroacetal 3, followed by protection of the resulting diol 2 and subsequent removal of the chiral auxiliary (Scheme I). Two approaches for stereoselective preparation of key intermediate 3 were examined: (i) Grignard reactions of oxospiroacetal 4 and (ii) epoxidation of methylenespiroacetal 5 followed by ring opening.

Bis-silvlation of commercially available 2-methylene-1.3-propanediol followed by reaction with *l*-menthone in the presence of trimethylsilyl trifluoromethanesulfonate (TMSOTf)⁵ gave methylenespiroacetal 5 in high yield.^{4e}



Table I. Stereoselective Preparation of Trimethylsiloxy Spiroacetals 6a-d

	entry	P	trimethyl- silation					
		reagent	product	yield (%)	stereo- selectivity	product	yield (%)	
	1	LiAlH	3a	78	7.7:1	6a	83	•
	2	DIBALH	3a		16:1	6a	69ª	
	3	MeMgI	3b	72	>25:1	6b	94	
	4	BuMgCl	3c	73 ^ø	>25:1	6 c	84	
	5	PhMgBr	3d	78	>25:1	6d	92	

^a Overall yield from 4. ^bA small amount (8%) of the reduction product 3a was also obtained.

Oxospiroacetal 4 was prepared by ozonolysis of 5 in 94% yield.

Oxospiroacetal 4 underwent highly diastereofacial Grignard addition reactions to give exclusively equatorial alcohols 3b-d which were isolated as trimethylsilyl ethers 6b-d after treatment with hexamethyldisilazane (eq 1, entries 3-5 in Table I). While $LiAlH_4$ reduction of 4



proceeded with somewhat lower selectivity to give a mixture of 3a (R = H) and the alternate diastereomer *epi*-3a

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^{1357.}

Figure 1.

(entry 1), higher selectivity (16:1) was observed when DIBALH was employed in the reduction (entry 2).



epi-6a; R = TMS

Spiroacetals derived from *l*-menthone and 1,3-diols adopt a rigid double chair conformation.^{4c} The stereochemistry of **6a** and *epi*-**6a** obtained by hydride reduction of **4** and subsequent silylation was unambiguously determined by analysis of the vicinal coupling constants between the protons attached to the conformationally fixed 1,3-dioxane ring: The axial ring proton H_a in **6a** (see conformational formula **6A**) appears as a broad triplet $(J_{ar,ax} = 8.9 \text{ Hz})$ at δ 3.53 while the equatorial ring proton H_b in *epi*-**6a** (*epi*-**6A**) resonates as a broad triplet $(J_{eq,ax} = 2.0 \text{ Hz})$ at δ 3.00. The structures of **6b-d** are assigned tentatively by assuming similar diastereofacial selectivity in the Grignard reactions.



Epoxidation of methylene spiroacetal 5 with *m*-CPBA proceeded with moderate diastereofacial selectivity to give a 2:1 mixture of α -epoxide 7 (53%) and β -epoxide 8 (27%) (eq 2). In contrast, reaction of 5 with *N*-bromosuccinimide



(NBS) in aqueous t-BuOH afforded bromohydrin 9 without formation of the diastereomer and the successive treatment of 9 with t-BuOK in t-BuOH afforded β -epoxide 8 in 60% overall yield from 5 (eq 3). It should be noted that preferential axial attack on 5 was observed in reactions with both *m*-CPBA and NBS.

Reaction of epoxyspiroacetal 8 with higher order cuprate $(Ph)_2Cu(CN)Li_2^6$ proceeded cleanly to give equatorial alcohol 3e (R = PhCH₂) which was isolated as trimethylsilyl ether 6e in 68% overall yield (eq 4). Similarly, reaction

 Table II. Conversion of Spiroacetals 6 into Chiral Glycerol

 Derivatives 1

	ring-cleavage reaction		removal of chiral auxiliary			
entry	product	yield (%)	product	yield (%)	$\frac{[\alpha]^{25}}{(\text{solvent})}$	
1	10a	85				
2	10b	87	1b	63	+5.35° (CH ₂ Cl ₂) ^a	
3	10c	75	lc	81	+3.20° (CHCl ₃)	
4	10 d	84	1 d	76	+4.54° (CHCl ₃)	
5	10e	86	le	90	-6.54° (CHCl ₃)	
6 ^b	10f		1 f	58°	-1.04° (CHCl ₃)	

^aLit.^{3a} $[\alpha]^{25}_{\rm D}$ +5.25° (CH₂Cl₂). ^bCrude mixture of the ringcleavage product 10f was converted into 1f without purification. ^cOverall yield from 10f.

of 8 with $(CH_2=CH)_2Cu(CN)Li_2$ followed by trimethylsilation of the resulting alcohol gave 6f (R = $CH_2=CH$) in 70% yield.



In the ¹H NMR spectrum of epoxyspiroacetal 8, the signals from the axial protons H_a and $H_{a'}$ (see conformational formula 8A) appear at δ 3.77 (dd, J = 0.6 and 12.0 Hz) and 3.97 (dd, J = 0.9 and 11.4 Hz). The small coupling constants can be attributed to a long-range W-type coupling⁷ between H_a ($H_{a'}$) and the oxirane ring proton H_b ($H_{b'}$). Molecular models indicate that such W-type coupling is possible only if the epoxide possesses the stereochemistry shown in 8A.⁸ Indeed, in the ¹H NMR spectrum of diastereomer 7, the axial protons on the 1,3-dioxane ring give rise to simple doublets (J = 12.6 and 12.6 Hz) at δ 3.83 and 4.09. The stereochemical assignments were further confirmed by LiAlH₄ reduction of 8 to give **3b** (R = Me, 76% yield) which was identical with the compound obtained by the reaction of oxospiroacetal 4 with MeMgI.



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As we anticipated, ring-cleavage reaction of 6a-f with acetophenone enol trimethylsilyl ether and titanium tetrachloride proceeded in a highly stereoselective manner at the equatorial carbon-oxygen bond of the substrate to give exclusively 10a-f (eq 5). Protection of the vicinal diols of 10b-f as acetonides (Me₂C(OMe)₂, camphorsulfonic acid (CSA)) followed by treatment with t-BuOK in t-BuOH⁴ gave chiral derivatives 1b-f in high yields (Table II).

Since ring-cleavage products 10 were diastereomerically pure according to 200- or 300-MHz ¹H NMR analysis, chiral acetonides 1b-f obtained by the present method should be of high enantiomeric purity. Indeed, 1b prepared by the present method showed a reasonable specific rotation (entry 2). Moreover, the enantiomeric excess of 1c was determined to be >95% by converting it into the

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corresponding (-)-camphanyl ester.^{3c} The absolute configuration of (R)-1b was determined by optical rotation measurement.^{3a,c} The absolute configurations of 1c-f are tentatively assigned by assuming similar selectivities in the reaction sequences.

1f; R = CH2CH=CH2

The high levels of stereoselectivity observed in the reaction of oxospiroacetal 4 and methylenespiroacetal 5 are worthy of note. In this connection, we previously reported that hydroboration of 5 with 9-BBN also proceeded in a diastereofacial manner (14:1) from the axial direction.^{4e} Preferential attack from the axial direction on the conformationally fixed 1,3-dioxane rings was generally observed both in the nucleophilic addition to 4 and in the electrophilic addition to 5 (Figure 1).

Houk and Wu reported that 2-phenyl-1,3-diox-5-one is attacked by LiAlH₄ and MeMgI with high axial selectivity.⁹ The selectivity was rationalized by them in terms of unfavorable torsional strain in the transition state for the alternative equatorial attack.⁹ The explanation is equally adaptable to the present nucleophilic additions to spiroacetal 4. Moreover, the observed axial attack of the electrophilic reagents on methylenespiroacetal 5 may also be rationalized in terms of similar unfavorable torsional strain in the analogous staggered transition state¹⁰ for equatorial attack.

Experimental Section

GC analyses were performed by using PEG-20M (20 m) and OV-1 (30 m) capillary columns. Flash chromatography was performed by using silica gel (Wakogel C-300) as an adsorbent. All extracts were dried over Na₂SO₄ unless otherwise specified. *l*-Menthone was purchased from Norse Laboratories Inc. Ether and THF were distilled from sodium/benzophenone ketyl. CH₂Cl₂, DMF, and *t*-BuOH were distilled from CaH₂. Methylenespiroacetal 5 was prepared as described previously in 87% yield.^{4e} J values are given in Hz.

(7S,10R)-10-Methyl-7-(1-methylethyl)-1,5-dioxaspiro-[5.5]undecan-3-one (4). O₃ was introduced into a stirred solution of 5 (3.0 g, 13.4 mmol) in 270 mL of MeOH at -80 °C until the blue color persisted for more than 2 min. The excess O₃ was removed by allowing O₂ to bubble through the solution at -80 °C. Then, 5.0 g of dimethyl sulfide was added dropwise and the mixture was allowed to stir and to warm to 25 °C over 3 h. After concentration of the mixture in vacuo, the residue was purified by flash chromatography (2-10% ether in hexane) to give 2.84 g (94% yield) of 4. Attempted purification of 4 by distillation (124 °C (23 mmHg), Kugelrohr) caused slight decomposition to menthone. 4: $[\alpha]^{20}_{\rm D}$ -7.6 (c 1.05, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.88 (1 H, m), 0.91 (3 H, d, J = 7.0), 0.92 (3 H, d, J = 6.6), 0.93 (3 H, d, J = 7.0), 1.01 (1 H, t, J = 12.9), 1.36-1.48 (2 H, m), 1.50-1.65 (2 H, m), 1.76 (1 H, m), 2.22 (1 H, ddd, J = 2.0, 3.4, 13.7), 2.37 (1 H, d sept, J = 1.2, 7.1), 4.23 (1 H, d, J = 18.2), 4.283 (1 H, d, J = 18.2), 4.353 (2 H, s); ¹³C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 18.56, 22.02, 22.31, 23.67, 24.47, 29.57, 34.53, 40.12, 51.21, 67.81, 68.58, 101.38, 207.41; IR (liquid film) 1740 (s), 1120 (s) cm⁻¹; MS m/z (relative intensity) 226 (M⁺, 13), 211 (10), 169 (34), 141 (100); HRMS calcd for C₁₃H₂₂O₃ 226.1570, found 226.1578.

(3S,7S,10R)-3,10-Dimethyl-7-(1-methylethyl)-3-(trimethylsiloxy)-1,5-dioxaspiro[5.5]undecane (6b) (General Procedure). To a solution of MeMgI (8.85 mmol) in ether (34 mL) was added an ether solution (4 mL) of 4 (401 mg, 1.77 mmol) at -80 °C, and the mixture was stirred for 1 h at 0 °C before it was quenched by the addition of aq NH₄Cl. After extraction with AcOEt, the organic layers were washed with aq NaHCO₃, dried, and concentrated to give the crude product which was purified by flash chromatography (10-15% AcOEt in hexane) to give 308 mg (72% yield) of the hydroxyspiroacetal 3b; ¹H NMR (200 MHz, C₆D₆) δ 0.60 (1 H, t, J = 12.8), 0.80 (1 H, m), 0.82 (3 H, d, J = 64, 1.04 (3 H, d, J = 7.2), 1.15 (3 H, d, J = 7.2), 1.30 (3 H, s), 1.27-1.75 (6 H, m), 2.70 (1 H, br d, J = ca. 13), 2.79 (1 H, br sept, J = 7.2), 3.30 (1 H, dd, J = 2.4, 10.4), 3.36 (1 H, dd, J = 2.4, 10.4), 3.49 (1 H, d, J = 10.4), 3.72 (1 H, d, J = 10.4).

To a solution of 3b (308 mg, 1.27 mmol) and hexamethyldisilazane (0.27 mL, 1.3 mmol) in THF (1.3 mL) was added 0.025 mL (0.13 mmol) of TMSOTf at 25 °C, and the mixture was stirred for 5 h. After dilution with hexane, the reaction mixture was washed twice with ice-cooled water, dried, and concentrated in vacuo. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (1% ethyl acetate/hexane) to give 375 mg (94% yield) of 6b: ¹H NMR (200 MHz, C_6D_6) δ 0.10 (9 H, s), 0.64 (1 H, t, J = 12.8), 0.81 (3 H, d, J = 6.4), 0.82 (1 H, m), 1.08 (3 H, d, J = 7.2), 1.20 (3 H, d, J = 7.2)d, J = 7.2), 1.35–1.74 (8 H, m, including s (3 H) at 1.54), 2.76 (1 H, ddd, J = 1.6, 3.0, 13.0), 2.86 (1 H, d sept, J = 1.6, 7.2), 3.50 (1 H, dd, J = 2.4, 10.4), 3.56 (1 H, dd, J = 2.4, 10.4), 3.76 (1 H, 10.4), 3.76 (1 Hd, J = 10.4), 3.98 (1 H, d, J = 10.4); IR (liquid film) 1160 (s) 1110 (s) 840 (s) cm⁻¹; MS m/z (relative intensity) 314 (M⁺, 19), 299 (16), 229 (33), 143 (100); HRMS calcd for $C_{17}H_{34}SiO_3$ 314.2278, found 314.2270.

(3S,7S,10R)-3-Butyl-10-methyl-7-(1-methylethyl)-3-(trimethylsiloxy)-1,5-dioxaspiro[5.5]undecane (6c). By a similar procedure, 6c was prepared from 4 via 3c. 3c: ¹H NMR (200 MHz, C_6D_6) δ 0.64 (1 H, d, J = 11.2), 0.81 (1 H, m), 0.83 (3 H, d, J = 6.4), 0.93 (3 H, t, J = 6.4), 1.04 (3 H, d, J = 7.2), 1.16 (3 H, d, J = 7.2), 1.22–1.93 (12 H, m), 2.70 (1 H, ddd, J = 2.0, 4.4, 14.0), 2.81 (1 H, d sept, J = 1.6, 7.2), 3.43 (1 H, d, J = 10.8), 3.51 (1 H, dd, J = 2.4, 10.8), 3.53 (1 H, dd, 2.4, 10.8), 3.69 (1 H, d, J)= 10.8); IR (liquid film) 3400 (br), 1130 (s) cm^{-1} . 6c: ¹H NMR (200 MHz, $C_6 D_6$) δ 0.07 (9 H, s), 0.67 (1 H, t, J = 13.0), 0.80 (1 H, m), 0.84 (3 H, d, J = 7.2), 0.96 (3 H, t, J = 7.2), 1.05 (3 H, d, J = 7.2), 1.19 (3 H, d, J = 7.2), 1.35–1.71 (9 H, m), 1.83–1.95 (1 H, m), 1.98-2.09 (1 H, m), 2.75-2.91 (2 H, m), 3.69 (3 H, m), 3.95 (1 H, d, J = 10.2); IR (liquid film) 1155 (s), 1115 (s), 1100 (s), 875 (s) 840 (s) cm⁻¹; MS m/z (relative intensity) 356 (M⁺, 20), 341 (13), 299 (22), 130 (100); HRMS calcd for C₂₀H₄₀SiO₃ 356.2748, found 356.2730.

(3S,7S,10R)-10-Methyl-7-(1-methylethyl)-3-phenyl-3-(trimethylsiloxy)-1,5-dioxaspiro[5.5]undecane (6d). By a similar procedure, 6d was prepared from 4 via 3d. 3d: ¹H NMR $(200 \text{ MHz}, C_6 D_6) \delta 0.62 (1 \text{ H}, \text{t}, J = 12.8), 0.76 (1 \text{ H}, \text{m}), 0.80 (3 \text{ H})$ H, d, J = 6.8), 0.87 (3 H, d, J = 7.0), 0.89 (3 H, d, J = 7.2), 1.16–1.70 (6 H, m), 2.48 (1 H, d sept, J = 1.6, 7.2), 2.72 (1 H, ddd, J = 1.6, 3.1, 13.6), 3.80 (1 H, d, J = 11.2), 3.92 (1 H, dd, J = 1.6, 11.2), 4.00 (2 H, m), 7.01-7.30 (3 H, m), 7.60-7.74 (2 H, m). 6d: ¹H NMR (200 MHz, C_6D_6) δ -0.16 (9 H, s), 0.64 (1 H, dd, J = 12.8, 13.6), 0.65 (10 H, m, including d (3 H, J = 7.6) at 0.76, d (3 H, J = 6.4) at 0.78, and d (3 H, J = 6.4) at 0.84), 1.10–1.68 (5 H, m), 2.37 (1 H, d sept, J = 1.6, 7.2, 2.82 (1 H, ddd, J = 1.6, 3.2, 13.6), 3.97 (1 H, d, J = 11.2), 4.15 (1 H, dd, J = 2.4, 11.2), 4.19 (1 H, d, J = 1.12), 4.19 (1 H, d, J = 1.= 11.2), 4.27 (1 H, dd, J = 2.4, 11.2), 7.01–7.28 (3 H, m), 7.60–7.74 (2 H, m); IR (liquid film) 1110 (s), 880 (s) 840 (s) cm⁻¹; MS m/z(relative intensity 376 (M⁺, 12), 205 (44), 192 (100); HRMS calcd for C22H36SiO3 376.2435, found 376.2427.

 $(3\tilde{S},7\tilde{S},10\tilde{R})$ -10-Methyl-7-(1-methylethyl)-3-(trimethylsiloxy)-1,5-dioxaspiro[5.5]undecane (6a) and (3R,7S,10R)-10-Methyl-7-(1-methylethyl)-3-(trimethylsiloxy)-1,5-dioxaspiro[5.5]undecane (*epi*-6a). To a solution of 4 (104.1 mg, 0.460 mmol) in 2.8 mL of THF was added 35 mg (0.92 mmol) of LiAlH₄ at 0 °C, and the mixture was stirred for 0.5 h

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at 25 °C before it was quenched with aq NH₄Cl at 0 °C. The mixture was extracted twice with AcOEt. The organic layers were dried, concentrated in vacuo, and purified by flash chromatography (5–10% AcOEt in hexane) to give a 7.7:1 mixture of **3a** and epi-**3a** (82 mg, 78% yield). **3a**: ¹H NMR (200 MHz, C_6D_6) δ 0.65 (1 H, t, J = 12.8), 0.84 (1 H, m), 0.86 (3 H, d, J = 6.4), 1.09 (3 H, d, J = 7.2), 1.17 (3 H, d, J = 7.2), 1.30–1.74 (6 H, m), 2.58–2.88 (2 H, m), 3.52–3.83 (5 H, m); IR (liquid film) 3370 (br), 1090 (s) cm⁻¹.

The mixture of 3a and epi-3a (69 mg, 0.102 mmol) was converted into the trimethylsilyl ethers by a procedure similar to that described for the preparation of 6b. Flash chromatography (1% AcOEt in hexane) of the crude products gave in the order of elution 66.4 mg (83% yield) of 6a and 12.7 mg (13% yield) of epi-6a. 6a: ¹H NMR (300 MHz, C₆D₆) δ -0.10 (9 H, s), 0.59 (1 H, t, J = 12.6), 0.71 (1 H, m), 0.75 (3 H, d, J = 6.6), 1.02 (3 H, d, J = 7.1), 1.13 (3 H, d, J = 7.0), 1.32–1.64 (5 H, m), 2.67 (1 H, ddd, J = 1.8, 3.4, 13.4), 2.77 (1 H, d sept, J = 2.0, 7.0), 3.53 (1 H, br t, J = 8.9), 3.72–3.86 (4 H, m); IR (liquid film) 1110 (s), 880 (s), 840 (s) cm⁻¹; MS m/z (relative intensity) 300 (M⁺, 16), 285 (29), 243 (46), 215 (73), 129 (100); HRMS calcd for C₁₆H₃₂SiO₃ 300.2122, found 300.2124. epi-6a: ¹H NMR (300 MHz, C_6D_6) δ 0.036 (9 H, s), 0.64 (1 H, t, J = 13.2), 0.87 (1 H, m), 0.84 (3 H, d, J = 6.6), 1.21 (3 H, d, J = 7.1), 1.21 (3 H, d, J = 6.9), 1.33 (1H, ddd, J = 2.1, 3.6, 12.3, 1.42–1.68 (4 H, m), 2.42 (1 H, ddd, J = 1.8, 3.3, 13.4), 2.89 (1 H, d sept, J = 2.3, 7.1), 3.00 (1 H, br t, J = 2.0, 3.42–3.53 (2 H, m), 3.61 (1 H, t, d, J = 2.2, 12.1), 3.74 (1 H, d, J = 2.2, 12.1); MS m/z (relative intensity) 300 (M⁺, 16), 285 (28), 243 (42), 215 (82), 129 (100); HRMS calcd for C₁₆H₃₂SiO₃ 200.2122, found 300.2122.

To a solution of 101.3 mg (0.448 mmol) of 4 in THF (4.5 mL) was added at -80 °C 0.60 mL (0.90 mol) of DIBALH (1.5 M in toluene), and the mixture was stirred for 3 h while warming to rt. After addition of water (5 mL), the mixture was extracted twice with AcOEt. The organic layers were washed successively with aq NH₄Cl and aq NaHCO₃, dried, and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by flash chromatography (1% AcOEt in hexane) to give a mixture of **3a** and *epi-3a* (0.371 mg, 83% yield) whose ratio was determined to be 15.6:1 by capillary GC analysis of the trimethylsilyl ether derivatives prepared by the procedure described above.

Epoxyspiroacetals 7 and 8. To a solution of 5 (112 mg, 0.50 mmol) in CHCl₃ (14 mL) was added 216 mg (1.25 mmol) of m-CPBA at 0 °C and the mixture was stirred for 19 h at 25 °C. The mixture was poured into aq NaHCO₃ and extracted twice with AcOEt. The organic layers were washed with aq NaHSO₃, dried, and concentrated in vacuo. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (5-10% AcOEt in hexane) to give, in the order of elution, 32.0 mg (27% yield) of epoxide 8 and 63 mg (53% yield) of epoxide 7. 8: $[\alpha]_{D}^{20}$ -28.2 (c 1.10, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR $(300 \text{ MHz}, C_6D_6) \delta 0.64 (1 \text{ H}, \text{t}, J = 12.6), 0.74 (1 \text{ H}, \text{m}), 0.76 (3 \text{ H})$ H, d, J = 6.6), 1.01 (3 H, d, J = 7.1), 1.20 (3 H, d, J = 7.0), 1.30–1.62 (5 H, m), 2.16 (2 H, m), 2.52 (1 H, ddd, J = 1.9, 3.4, 13.6), 2.68(1 H, d sept, J = 2.1, 7.0), 3.20 (1 H, dd, J = 1.3, 11.8), 3.28 (1 H, dd, J = 1.3, 11.7), 3.77 (1 H, dd, J = 0.6, 12.0), 3.97 (1 H, dd, J = 0.9, 11.4; ¹³C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 18.84, 22.18, 22.38, 23.72, 24.57, 29.26, 34.76, 37.52, 50.96, 52.78, 55.11, 62.97, 63.39, 100.90; IR (KBr disk) 1115 (s), 1105 (s), 940 (s), 855 (s), 780 (s) cm⁻¹; MS m/z (relative intensity) 240 (M⁺, 10), 225 (24), 183 (42), 155 (100); HRMS calcd for $C_{14}H_{24}O_3$ 240.1726, found 240.1730. 7: $[\alpha]^{20}_{D}$ -31.2 (c 1.00, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, C₆D₆) δ 0.76 (1 H, dd, J = 12.7, 13.1), 0.87 (1 H, m), 0.95 (3 H, d, J = 7.4), 1.14 (3 H, d, J = 7.1), 1.27 (3 H, d, J = 6.9), 1.44-1.61 (5 H, m), 2.00(2 H, s), 2.52 (1 H, ddd, J = 1.8, 3.5, 13.5), 2.97 (1 H, d sept, J = 2.2, 7.2), 3.17 (1 H, dd, J = 2.4, 12.6), 3.25 (1 H, dd, J = 2.4, 12.6), 3.83 (1 H, d, J = 12.6), 4.09 (1 H, d, J = 12.6); ¹³C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 18.92, 22.22, 22.24, 23.68, 24.59, 29.12, 34.82, 36.59, 47.12, 51.08, 53.84, 63.74, 64.02, 100.45; IR (liquid film) 1110 (s), 925 (s), 845 (s), 750 (s) cm⁻¹; MS m/z (relative intensity) 240 (M⁺, 10), 225 (21), 183 (48), 155 (100); HRMS calcd for C₁₄H₂₄O₃ 240.1726, found 240.1714.

Stereoselective Preparation of Epoxyspiroacetal 8 via Bromohydrin 9. To a solution of 5 (324 mg, 1.0 mmol) in t-BuOH (3 mL) and pH 7.5 phosphate buffer (2.4 mL) was added 320 mg (1.8 mmol) of NBS at 25 °C, and the mixture was stirred for 5 h at the same temperature. The mixture was poured into aq NaHCO₃ and extracted twice with AcOEt. The organic layers were washed successively with aq NaHSO₃ and aq NaHCO₃, dried, and concentrated in vacuo. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (5–10% AcOEt in hexane) to give 210 mg (65% yield) of bromohydrin 9: $[\alpha]^{20}{}_{\rm D}$ –25.4 (c 0.95, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.73 (1 H, t, J = 14.2), 0.87 (1 H, m), 0.90 (3 H, d, J = 6.5), 0.92 (3 H, d, J = 7.0), 0.91 (3 H, d, J = 6.5) 1.27 (1 H, m), 1.38–1.59 (4 H, m), 1.73 (1 H, m), 2.54 (1 H, ddd, J = 1.6, 3.2, 13.6), 2.68 (1 H, d sept, J = 1.6, 7.0), 3.72 (2 H, s), 3.86–4.00 (3 H, m), 4.14 (1 H, d, J = 13.4); ¹³C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 18.42, 21.70, 22.15, 23.71, 23.98, 29.01, 34.71, 35.77, 50.75, 64.10, 64.41 (2C), 65.37, 101.22; IR (liquid film) 3450 (br), 1165 (s), 11145 (s), 1115 (s), 1090 (s) cm⁻¹; MS m/z (relative intensity) 322, 320 (M⁺, 8), 305, 307 (20), 265, 263 (35), 69 (100). HRMS calcd for C₁₄H₂₅O₃⁷⁹Br 320.0988, found 320.0985, calcd for C₁₄-H₂₅O₃⁸¹Br 322.0968, found 322.0978.

To a solution of t-BuOK (96 mg, 0.86 mmol) in t-BuOH (4.6 mL) was added 184 mg (0.573 mmol) of 9 at 25 °C, and the mixture was stirred for 0.5 h before it was quenched by the addition of water. After extraction twice with water, the organic layers were washed with brine, dried, and concentrated in vacuo. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (5–10% AcOEt in hexane) to give 127 mg (92% yield) of 8.

(3S,7S,10R)-10-Methyl-7-(1-methylethyl)-3-(phenylmethyl)-3-(trimethylsiloxy)-1,5-dioxaspiro[5.5]undecane (6e). To a suspension of CuCN (100 mg, 1.1 mmol) in THF (2 mL) was added phenyllithium (1.8 M in cyclohexane and ether) (1.1 mL) at -85 °C, and the mixture was allowed to warm to -25 °C in 2.5 h before it was recooled to -85 °C. To the resulting brown solution was added a THF (1 mL) solution of epoxide 8 (102 mg, 0.424 mmol). The mixture was gradually warmed to 25 °C and stirred further for 2 h before the reaction was quenched by the addition of brine and diluted with ether. After filtration through a pad of Celite, the filtrate was washed with brine, dried $(MgSO_4)$, and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by flash chro-matography (5–20% AcOEt in hexane) to give 109 mg (81% yield) of spiroacetal 3e: ¹H NMR (300 MHz, C_6D_6) δ 0.54 (1 H, dd, J = 12.6, 13.5), 0.73 (1 H, m), 0.75 (3 H, d, J = 6.6), 1.03 (3 H, d, d, d)J = 7.1), 1.19 (3 H, d, J = 7.0), 1.33–1.62 (6 H, m), 2.59 (1 H, ddd, J = 1.7, 3.3, 13.6), 2.88 (1 H, d sept, J = 1.3, 7.0), 3.05 (2 H, s), 3.37 (1 H, d, J = 10.8), 3.43 (1 H, dd, J = 2.3, 10.8), 3.47 (1 H, dd, J = 2.3, 10.8)dd, J = 2.3, 10.8), 3.62 (1 H, d, J = 10.8), 7.00–7.13 (3 H, m), 7.23-7.28 (2 H, m); IR (liquid film) 3325 (br), 1110 (s), 1075 (s), 725 (s), 695 (s) cm⁻¹; MS m/z (relative intensity) 318 (M⁺, 40); 303 (32), 261 (58), 233 (72), 129 (100); HRMS calcd for C₂₀H₃₀O₃ 318.2196, found 318.2192.

Trimethylsilylation of 3e by the procedure described above gave spiroacetal 6e in 84% yield. 6e: ¹H NMR (300 MHz, C_6D_6) δ 0.38 (9 H, s), 0.76 (1 H, t, J = 12.6), 0.87 (1 H, m), 0.90 (3 H, d, J = 6.6), 1.15 (3 H, d, J = 7.1), 1.32 (3 H, d, J = 7.0), 1.45–1.78 (5 H, m), 2.83 (1 H, br d, = 13.3), 3.03 (1 H, br sept, J = 7.0), 3.26 (1 H, d, J = 13.4), 3.31 (1 H, d, J = 13.4), 3.74 (3 H, m), 3.90 (1 H, d, J = 10.8), 7.00–7.14 (3 H, m), 7.23–7.28 (2 H, m); IR (liquid film) 1245 (s), 1105 (s), 835 (s) cm⁻¹; MS m/z (relative intensity) 390 (M⁺, 18), 375 (8), 299 (32), 129 (40), 73 (100); HRMS calcd for C₂₃H₃₈SiO₃ 390.2591, found 390.2595.

(38,78,10*R*)-10-Methyl-7-(1-methylethyl)-3-(2propenyl)-3-(trimethylsiloxy)-1,5-dioxaspiro[5.5]undecane (6f). By a similar procedure, reaction of epoxide 8 (985 mg, 4.10 mmol) with (CH₂—CH)₂Cu(CN)Li₂^{6,11} gave 1.05 g (96% yield) of spiroacetal 3f: ¹H NMR (300 MHz, C₆D₆) δ 0.65 (1 H, dd, J = 12.8, 13.5), 0.83 (1 H, m), 0.81 (3 H, d, J = 6.6), 1.07 (3 H, d, J = 7.1), 1.19 (3 H, d, J = 7.0), 1.38-1.64 (6 H, m), 2.51-2.67 (2 H, m), 2.70 (1 H, ddd, J = 1.8, 5.2, 13.5), 2.83 (1 H, d sept, J = 1.4, 7.0), 3.51-3.57 (3 H, m), 3.76 (1 H, d, J = 11.0), 5.08-5.20 (2 H, m), 5.84 (1 H, t, d, J = 7.6, 9.7, 17.3); IR (liquid film) 3420 (br), 1110 (s), 915 (s), 845 (s) cm⁻¹.

Trimethylsilation of **3f** by the procedure described above gave spiroacetal **6f** in 77% yield. **6f**: ¹H NNR (300 MHz, C_6D_6) δ 0.02 (9 H, s), 0.62 (1 H, t, J = 13.4), 0.77 (1 H, m), 0.78 (3 H, d, J = 6.6), 1.00 (3 H, d, J = 7.0), 1.13 (3 H, d, J = 7.0), 1.31–1.63 (5 H, m), 2.61 (1 H, dd, J = 6.7, 14.3), 2.71 (1 H, ddd, J = 1.8, 3.2, 13.6), 2.78 (2 H, m), 3.64 (2 H, s), 3.66 (1 H, d, J = 10.4), 3.89 (1 H, d,

⁽¹¹⁾ Vinyllithium was prepared by the reaction of tetravinyltin with BuLi. Seyferth, D.; Weiner, M. A. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1961, 83, 3583.

J = 10.4), 5.12–5.29 (2 H, m), 5.97 (1 H, tdd, J = 7.6, 9.9, 17.0); IR (liquid film) 3100 (s), 1100 (s), 850 (s), 770 (s) cm⁻¹; MS m/z(relative intensity) 340 (M⁺, 10), 325 (8), 299 (7), 283 (12), 255 (14) 73 (100); HRMS calcd for C₁₉H₃₈SiO₃ 340.2435, found 340.2432.

Reduction of Epoxide 8 with LiAlH₄. To a suspension of LiAlH₄ (14.8 mg, 0.391 mmol) in THF (1.3 mL) was added a THF (0.2 mL) solution of 8 (78.3 mg, 0.326 mmol) at 0 °C. After being stirred for 15 min at the same temperature, the reaction was quenched by the addition of AcOEt and 1 N HCl. The mixture was extracted twice with AcOEt. The organic layers were dried and concentrated, and the residue was purified by flash chromatography (5–10% AcOEt in hexane) to give 59.9 mg (76% yield) of **3b** whose ¹H NMR spectrum was identical with that of **3b** prepared by the reaction of **4** with MeMgI.

General Procedure for the Ring-Cleavage Reaction of Spiroacetals 6a-f. To a solution of the spiroacetal (1.00 mmol) and acetophenone enol trimethylsilyl ether (1.05 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (30 mL) was added TiCl₄ (1.05 mmol, 1 M solution in CH₂Cl₂) at -85 °C, and the resulting yellow solution was stirred at the same temperature for 1 h before it was quenched by the addition of pyridine (0.1 mL). The mixture was diluted with hexane, poured into an NH₄F, and extracted twice with AcOEt. The organic layers were washed with aq NaHCO₃, dried, and concentrated in vacuo. The resulting crude products were dissolved in MeOH (5 mL) containing 0.2 mL of saturated aq NaHCO₃, and the mixture was stirred 5-10 h at a room temperature. After removal of solvents in vacuo followed by the addition of water, the mixture was extracted twice with AcOEt. The organic layers were dried and concentrated in vacuo to give an oil from which ring-cleaved product 10 was isolated by flash chromatography (10-50% AcOEt in hexane). In the reaction of 6f, the crude ring-cleavage product 10f was used for the further transformation without purification by flash chromatography.

Ring-cleavage product 10a: ¹H NMR (200 MHz, C_6D_6) δ 0.78–0.99 (1 H, m), 0.83 (6 H, d, J = 6.8), 1.01 (3 H, d, J = 6.8), 1.22–2.08 (8 H, m), 2.50 (2 H, brs), 2.86 (1 H, d, J = 16.0), 3.22 (1 H, d, J = 16.0), 3.25 (2 H, m), 3.63 (2 H, br s), 3.72 (1 H, br), 7.02–7.18 (3 H, m), 7.86–7.92 (2 H, m).

Ring-cleavage product 10b: ¹H NMR (200 MHz, C_6D_6) δ 0.73 (3 H, d, J = 6.4), 0.77 (3 H, d, J = 5.6), 0.90 (3 H, d, J = 6.4), 1.11 (3 H, s), 1.28–1.96 (9 H, m), 2.15 (1 H, br t, J = 6.4), 2.49 (1 H, s), 2.82 (1 H, d, J = 16.0), 3.09 (1 H, d, J = 16.0), 3.13 (1 H, d, J = 8.0), 3.21 (1 H, d, J = 8.0), 3.36 (1 H, dd, J = 5.2, 11.2), 3.59 (1 H, dd, J = 5.2, 11.2), 6.94–7.10 (3 H, m), 7.78–7.86 (2 H, m); IR (liquid film) 3420 (br), 1680 (s), 1070 (s), 755 (s), 690 (s) cm⁻¹.

Ring-cleavage product 10c: $[\alpha]^{20}_{D}$ -5.4 (c 0.84, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (200 MHz, C₆D₆) δ 0.80 (3 H, d, J = 6.4), 0.87 (3 H, d, J = 5.6), 0.95 (3 H, t, J = 7.2), 0.99 (3 H, d, J = 6.4), 1.22-2.06 (13 H, m), 2.40 (1 H, br s), 2.59 (1 H, br s), 2.98 (1 H, d, J = 16.0), 3.22 (1 H, d, J = 16.0), 3.31 (1 H, d, J = 8.0), 3.38 (1 H, d, J = 8.0), 3.52 (1 H, br d, J = ca. 10), 3.75 (1 H, br d, J = ca. 10), 7.02-7.16 (3 H, m), 7.88-8.00 (2 H, m); ¹³C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.01, 18.42, 20.81, 22.19, 23.34, 25.12, 27.06, 28.04, 34.53, 34.83, 42.34, 43.17, 48.14, 64.00, 66.80, 73.75, 80.84, 127.98, 128.63, 133.08, 138.13, 198.93; IR (liquid film) 3420 (br), 1675 (s), 1070 (s), 750 (s) 690 (s) cm⁻¹.

Ring-cleavage product 10d: $[\alpha]^{20}{}_{D}$ -0.3 (c 1.00, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (200 MHz, C₆D₆) δ 0.68 (3 H, d, J = 6.6), 0.77 (3 H, d, J= 6.0), 0.82 (3 H, d, J = 6.8), 1.15–1.87 (8 H, m), 2.17 (1 H, t, J= 6.4), 2.64 (1 H, d, J = 16.0), 3.01 (1 H, d, J = 16.0), 3.39 (1 H, s), 3.45 (1 H, d, J = 8.8), 3.66 (1 H, d, J = 8.8), 3.70 (1 H, dd, J= 6.4, 11.2), 3.88 (1 H, dd, J = 6.4, 11.2), 6.94–7.24 (6 H, m), 7.48–7.58 (2 H, m), 7.68–7.70 (2 H, m); ¹³C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 18.29, 20.63, 22.22, 23.28, 26.92, 27.97, 34.79, 42.15, 42.94, 47.56, 66.10, 68.09, 76.16, 80.96, 125.35, 127.42, 127.88, 128.28, 128.57, 133.04, 137.95, 142.12, 198.45; IR (KBr) 3430 (br), 1680 (s), 1060 (s), 755 (s), 700 (s), 690 (s) cm⁻¹.

Ring-cleavage product 10e: ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.75 (3 H, d, J = 6.9), 0.82 (3 H, d, J = 6.2), 0.93 (3 H, d, J = 6.8), 1.36–1.98 (11 H, m), 2.88 (2 H, br s), 3.16 (1 H, d, J = 15.9), 3.28 (1 H, d, J = 8.7), 3.35 (1 H, d, J = 15.9), 3.39 (1 H, d, J = 8.7), 3.50 (1 H, d, J = 11.2), 3.69 (1 H, d, J = 11.2), 7.25–7.60 (5 H, m), 7.92 (2 H, m); IR (liquid film) 3460 (br), 1690 (s), 1060 (s) 760 (s), 710 (s) cm⁻¹.

General Procedure for Preparation of Glycerol Derivatives 1b-f. To a solution of 10b-f (1.00 mmol) in 2,2-dimethoxypropane (1 mL) was added 0.05-0.1 mmol of 10-camphorsulfonic acid at 25 °C, and the mixture was stirred at the same temperature for 0.5 h. After dilution with AcOEt, the mixture was washed with aq NaHCO₃, dried, and concentrated in vacuo. Flash chromatography (5-10% AcOEt in hexane) of the residue gave the corresponding acetonide, which was then treated with a 0.5 N solution of t-BuOK (3 equiv) in t-BuOH at 60 °C for 2 h. The mixture was poured into brine and extracted twice with AcOEt. The organic layers were dried, concentrated in vacuo, and purified by flash chromatography (10-20% AcOEt in hexane) to give 1b-f.

(R)-2,2,4-Trimethyl-1,3-dioxolane-4-methanol (1b): $[\alpha]^{25}_{D}$ +5.35° (c 0.28, CH₂Cl₂) (lit.^{3a} $[\alpha]^{25}_{D}$ +5.25° (c 0.30, CH₂Cl₂)); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, C₆D₆) δ 1.06 (3 H, s), 1.30 (3 H, s), 1.31 (3 H, s), 1.80 (1 H, br), 3.16–3.36 (2 H, m), 3.40 (1 H, d, J = 8.4), 3.80 (1 H, d, J = 8.4); IR (liquid film) 3420 (br), 1050 (s) cm⁻¹.

(*R*)-2-Butyl-2,2-dimethyl-1,3-dioxolane-4-methanol (1c): $[\alpha]^{25}_{D}$ +3.20° (*c* 2.03, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, C₆D₆) δ 0.83 (3 H, t, *J* = 6.9), 1.03–1.30 (5 H, m), 1.314 (3 H, s), 1.33 (3 H, s), 1.50 (2 H, m), 3.30 (1 H, dd, *J* = 0.9, 11.1), 3.48 (1 H, dd, *J* = 0.9, 11.1), 3.52 (1 H, d, *J* = 8.5), 3.76 (1 H, d, *J* = 8.5); IR (liquid film) 3450 (br), 1050 (s) cm⁻¹. Anal. Calcd for C₁₀H₂₀O₃: C, 63.79; H, 10.71. Found: C, 63,76; H, 10.94.

(*R*)-2,2-Dimethyl-4-phenyl-1,3-dioxolane-4-methanol (1d): bp 157 °C (17 mmHg); $[\alpha]^{25}_{D}$ +4.54° (c 2.51, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (200 MHz, C₆D₆) δ 1.17 (3 H, s), 1.49 (3 H, s), 3.64 (1 H, d, J = 8.8), 4.11 (1 H, d, J = 8.8), 4.14 (1 H, d, J = 11.6), 4.24 (1 H, d, J = 8.8), 6.94–7.14 (3 H, m), 7.16–7.28 (2 H, m); IR (liquid film) 3480 (br), 1060 (s), 765 (s) 705 (s) cm⁻¹; MS m/z (relative intensity) 177 (M⁺ – CH₂OH, 70), 119 (65), 91 (100). Anal. Calcd for C₁₂H₁₆O₃: C, 69.21; H, 7.74. Found: C, 69.08; H, 7.94.

(*R*)-2,2-Dimethyl-4-(phenylmethyl)-1,3-dioxolane-4methanol (1e): $[\alpha]^{25}_{D}$ -6.56° (c 1.34, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, C₆D₆) δ 1.15 (3 H, s), 1.23 (3 H, s), 2.72 (1 H, d, *J* = 13.7), 2.78 (1 H, d, *J* = 13.7), 3.17 (1 H, dd, *J* = 4.2, 10.7), 3.26 (1 H, dd, *J* = 5.7, 10.7), 3.60 (1 H, d, *J* = 8.7), 3.66 (1 H, d, *J* = 8.7), 7.00-7.14 (5 H, m); IR (liquid film) 3480 (br), 1070 (s), 765 (s), 710 (s) cm⁻¹. Anal. Calcd for C₁₃H₁₈O₃: C, 70.24; H, 8.16. Found: C, 70.29; H, 8.39.

(R)-2,2-Dimethyl-4-(2-propenyl)-1,3-dioxolane-4-methanol (1f): bp 127 °C (28 mmHg); $[\alpha]^{25}_{D}$ -1.04° (c 1.52, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, C₆D₆) δ 0.35 (3 H, s), 1.37 (3 H, s), 1.72 (1 H, br), 2.32 (2 H, m), 3.35 (1 H, dd, J = 5.5, 11.1), 3.44 (1 H, dd, J = 5.5, 11.1), 3.63 (1 H, d, J = 8.6) 3.80 (1 H, d, J = 8.6) 4.98-5.04 (2 H, m), 5.80 (1 H, tdd, J = 7.3, 10.5, 16.4); IR (liquid film) cm⁻¹; MS m/z (relative intensity) 157 (M⁺ – CH₃, 13), 141 (38), 131 (38), 78 (59), 43 (100); exact mass (Cl) calcd for $C_9H_{17}O_3$ (M⁺ + H) 173.1178, found 173.1172. Anal. Calcd for C₉H₁₆O₃: C, 62.77; H, 9.36. Found: C, 62.52; H, 9.63. The enantiomeric purity of 1c was estimated by ¹H NMR after conversion to the corresponding (S)-(-)-camphanyl ester by the procedure described in ref 3c. Racemic 1c was prepared by the reaction of 2-butylglycerol with 2,2-dimethoxypropane in the presence of CSA and converted into the corresponding diastereomeric mixture of camphanyl esters. (S)-Camphanyl ester of (R)-1c: ¹H NMR (300 MHz, D_6D_6), δ 0.69 (3 H, s), 0.82 (3 H, s), 0.83 (3 H, s), 0.81 (3 H, t, J = ca. 6), 1.07-1.36 (12 H, including s (3 H) at 1.28 and s (3 H) at 1.39), 1.52 (2 H, m), 1.70 (1 H, ddd, J = 5.1, 8.7, 14.0), 2.06 (1 H, ddd, J = 6.0, 9.0, 13.2, 3.51 (1 H, d, J = 9.0), 3.77 (1 H, d, J = 9.0, 4.01 (1 H, d, J = 11.1), 4.25 (1 H, d, J = 11.1). (S)-(-)-Camphanyl ester of racemic 1c: ¹H NMR (300 MHz, C₆D₆) δ 0.69 (3 H, s), 0.80–0.86 (9 H, m), 1.10–1.34 (9 H, m, including s at 1.28), 1.38 and 1.39 (3 H, s), 1.47 (2 H, m), 1.70 (1 H, m), 2.07 (1 H, m), 3.50 and 3.51 (1 H, d, J = 9.0), 3.78 (1 H, d, J = 9.0),3.96 and 4.01 (1 H, d, J = 11.1), 4.246 and 4.253 (1 H, d, J = 11.1).

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Supplementary Material Available: High-field ¹H NMR spectra for 6a-f, epi-6a, 7, 8, 10a-e, and (-)-campanyl ester of (**R**)-1c (16 pages). Ordering information is given on any current masthead page.