Notes

Synthesis of Cyclohex-1-ene-1,6-dicarbaldehydes via **Diels-Alder Reactions with Furans**

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Introduction

A considerable number of terpenoid natural products containing an unsaturated 1,4-dialdehyde functionality has been isolated from various natural sources such as fungi, plants, insects, and molluscs. Examples are isovelleral (1),¹ merulidial (2),² polygodial (3),³ and scalaradial (4).⁴ Many of these compounds have been shown to possess potent biological activities,^{5,6} which appear to be strongly connected to the unsaturated dialdehyde functionality,^{7,8} although large qualitative and quantitative activity differences have been observed. Small structural changes, like stereoisomerization, may affect the biological activity dramatically.9,10



Most of the natural unsaturated dialdehydes have been prepared synthetically,¹¹ but surprisingly few synthetic studies on simpler derivatives containing the cyclohex-1-ene-1,6-dicarbaldehyde part of compounds 1-4 have been reported. The only example is, to our knowledge, 4,4-dimethylcyclohex-1-ene-2,3-dicarbaldehyde, prepared by regioselective formylation of 4,4-dimethylcyclohex-2enone.¹² In an on-going study of the relationship between structure and activity for unsaturated dialdehydes, the

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lipophilicity of the compounds appears to influence some of their activities.^{10,13} In order to investigate this effect we required a set of similar unsaturated dialdehydes which mainly differ in their lipophilicity, e.g., a series of cyclohex-1-en-1,6-dicarbaldehydes substituted with an alkyl group of variable length. It was also desirable¹⁴ that the target compounds are functionalized in a way to facilitate their transformation to the corresponding cyclopropane derivatives (i.e., 6-alkylbicyclo[4.1.0]hept-2-ene-1,2-dicarbaldehydes).

The usefulness of 7-oxabicyclo[2.2.1]heptane or heptene derivatives as key intermediates in the syntheses of several natural products has recently been demonstrated,¹⁵ and the number of selective transformations of the 7-oxabicyclo[2.2.1]heptene system reported also reflects its benefits.^{15,16} Especially interesting to us was the base-induced opening of the oxygen bridge via the β -elimination shown below, previously used in stereospecific syntheses of a number of shikimic acid derivatives¹⁷ and other $cyclohexenes^{18}$ (eq 1).



E=CO2R, CN, SO2Ph, COR

The use of 4,4-diethoxybut-2-ynal (5) as a acetylenedicarbaldehyde synthon facilitates the simple introduc-

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(14) The presence of a cyclopropane ring in these systems, as in isovelleral (1) and merulidial (2), has been suggested to enhance the mutagenic activity of these compounds (see ref 7), and it is our intention to study this in the future.

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tion of a 1.4-dialdehyde functionality into different ring systems.¹⁹ Cycloaddition of 5 with furan or 2-alkylfurans, followed by the hydrogenation of the double bonds, baseinduced β -elimination (vide supra), and hydroxyl group protection (according to Scheme 1) would after final acetal hydrolysis give a suitable product.

Results and Discussion

The Diels-Alder reaction between furan and the acetylene 5 to produce the diene 6a has been reported previously.²⁰ The same reaction with various 2-alkylfurans to produce dienes 6b-g (eq 2) proceeded smoothly, in quantitative yields and with complete regioselectivity.



b: R =CH₃, c: R=C₂H₅, d: R=n-C₄H₉, e: R=n-C₅H₁₁, f: R=n-C7H15, g: R=n-C8H19

The addition of small amounts of Na₂CO₃ and of the antioxidant 2,6-di-tert-butyl-4-methylphenol (BHT) to the dienophile before adding the furan prevented the formation of polymers and side products.²¹ Increasing the chain length of the alkyl group increased the reaction time somewhat, while the use of a solvent (methylene chloride or toluene) made the reaction very slow (only traces of the product are formed after 24 h). The hydrogenation was accomplished in quantitative yield by using Pd-C as catalyst and ethyl acetate as solvent (eq 3). The solvent was of great importance; methanol or acetone gave no hydrogenation product while ethanol or 2-propanol resulted in the formation of side products.



a: R=H, b: R =CH_3, c: R=C_2H_5, d: R=n-C_4H_9, e: R=n-C_5H_{11}, f: R=n-C_7H_{15}, g: R=n-C_8H_{19}

Only the endo isomer was obtained, and the stereochemistry was confirmed by comparing the experimental



a: R=H, b: R =CH₃, c: R=C₂H₅, d: R=n-C₄H₉, e: R=n-C₅H₁₁, f: R=n-C7H15, g: R=n-C8H19

coupling constants with theoretical values.^{22,23} For compound 7a, $J_{1-2} = 5.2$ Hz (calculated value 5.04 Hz for the endo isomer and 0.32 Hz for the exo isomer) and J_{2-3} = 11.8 Hz. The ring opening of the 7-oxabicyclo[2.2.1]heptane derivatives 7a-g was performed by using KOt-Bu²⁴ (3-5 equiv) in neat TMEDA,²⁵ giving the corresponding alcohols 8a-g as the unique products in 80-90% yield (eq 4).



a: R=H, b: R =CH₃, c: R=C₂H₅, d: R=n-C₄H₉, e: R=n-C₅H₁₁, f: R=n-C₇H₁₅, g: R=n-C₈H₁₉

The alcohols 8 obtained from the ring opening were in a first attempt hydrolyzed directly to their corresponding dialdehydes 9 with wet silica gel²⁶ or Amberlyst 15.²⁷ However, the yields were poor (30-50% after chromatography), and the dialdehyde alcohols were somewhat unstable. The transformation of the alcohols to the corresponding silyl ethers 10a-g using TBDMSCI/imidazole prior to the hydrolysis of the acetals with SiO₂/ $H_2O/oxalic acid^{26}$ gave the more stable dialdehyde silyl ethers 11a-g.

The yields for the five steps described above were in most cases quantitiative (i.e., TLC and NMR analyses of the crude products indicated that all starting material was consumed and that only one product was formed). The intermediate products were therefore normally used directly for the next step, and only the final products

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⁽²¹⁾ If care is not taken to remove traces of acid from the acetylene 5, the 2-alkylfurans give Michael reaction products.

⁽²²⁾ MM calculations were performed with the MacMimic (v. 2.9)/ MM2(91) (v. 1.0) software package for Macintosh Quadra, obtained from InStar Software AB (Lund, Sweden).

⁽²³⁾ Vicinal proton-proton coupling constants were calculated ac-cording to the 3JHHM extended Karplus program: Imai, K.; Osawa, E. Magn. Reson. Chem. **1990**, 28, 668.

⁽²⁴⁾ The choice of base is crucial and the bases used previously for similar openings such as NaOMe, LDA, and LiHMDS (see refs 17 and (25) A number of different solvents (DMSO, t-BuOH, THF, toluene,

heptane) were investigated, and neat TMEDA gave the best results.

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(11a-g) were purified by chromatography, giving the cyclohexene-1,6-dialdehydes in overall isolated yields of over 70%.

In order to determine the relative stereochemistry of the products, the dialdehyde 11b was reduced to the corresponding diol 12 (which upon oxidation with TPAP/ NMO²⁸ reverted to 11b) and converted to the unsaturated lactone 13 by oxidation with MnO_2 .

¹H NOE experiments with the lactone 13 showed enhancements of 5-H when 7-Ha was irradiated and of 6-H when 7-H_b was irradiated, confirming the configuration shown in structure 11b. J_{5-6} is small in all the dialdehydes 11a-g (less than 1 Hz), and it is reasonable to assume that they all have the same configuration. The magnitude of J_{5-6} in the dialdehydes 11 suggests that the 5-TBDMSO and the 6-aldehyde substituents are in a transdiaxial position, and this was confirmed by MM2 calculations.²² The steric energy of the transdiaxial conformer was almost 3 kcal/mol lower compared to the trans-dieguatorial conformer, and the dihedral angles for 5-H/C-5/C-6/6-H was found to be 70° in the former and 25° in the latter.

Conclusions

Cyclohexene-1,6-dicarbaldehydes are readily available in good yields from simple starting materials with the method described here. In addition to a facile preparation of new derivatives for QSAR studies of unsaturated dialdehydes, these multifunctional cyclohexene derivatives may serve as useful building blocks in organic synthesis. Efforts are now made to employ this methodology for the synthetic preparation of natural unsaturated dialdehydes and their isomers.

Experimental Section

General ¹H NMR (300 MHz) and ¹³C NMR (75 MHz) were recorded at 23 °C in CDCl₃ solutions, the chemical shifts are given in δ (ppm) with the solvent peaks (7.26 and 77.0 ppm, respectively) as reference. Air- and/or moisture-sensitive reactions were carried out in oven-dried glassware under argon atmosphere with dry solvents. EIMS analyses were performed at 70 keV. Melting points are uncorrected.

General Procedure for the Diels-Alder Reaction. A total of 1.2 equiv of the respective furan, a few milligrams of Na₂CO₃, and 0.1 equiv of BHT was added to 1.0 equiv of 4,4diethoxy-2-butyn-1-al (prepared according to Gorgues²⁹) in a high-pressure glass tube. The tube was filled with argon and sealed. The mixture was heated in an oil bath at 70 °C for 5-20 h (depending on the chain length). After the mixture was cooled to rt and excess furan was evaporated, the product was obtained in quantitative yield as a yellow oil. (For preparation of 6a see ref 20.) Removal of BHT was accomplished by flash chromatography, although it was not necessary for the following steps.

2-Formyl-3-(diethoxymethyl)-1-methyl-7-oxabicyclo[2.2.1]hepta-2.5-diene (6b): ¹H NMR 1.90 (s, 1 H), 1.22 (dt, 6 H, J = 7.1 Hz), 3.45-3.65 (m, 4 H), 5.37 (d, 1 H, J = 2.1 Hz), 5.51 (s, 1 H), 6.90 (d, 1 H, J = 5.2 Hz), 7.02 (dd, 1 H, J = 2.1, 5.2 Hz), 10.16 (s, 1 H); ¹³C NMR 15.1, 15.1, 16.3, 61.7, 62.0, 82.6, 92.3, 97.7, 143.1, 146.6, 152.0, 171.4, 187.5; HREIMS m/z calcd for C₁₄H₁₈O₄ (M)⁺ 238.1205, obsd 238.1221

General Procedure for Hydrogenation. The substrate dissolved in ethyl acetate (80 mg/mL) and 10% by weight of 10% palladium on carbon was stirred vigorously for 15–30 min under hydrogen gas at atmospheric pressure. Filtering through Celite and removal of the solvent gave the product in quantitative yield as a pale yellow oil. Note: On a larger scale, cooling is necessary due to heat generated from the exothermic reaction.

2-endo-Formyl-3-endo-(diethoxymethyl)-1-methyl-7oxabicyclo[2.2.1]heptane (7b): ¹H NMR 1.13 (dt, 6 H, J = 7.0 Hz), 1.41-1.46 (m, 2 H), 1.44 (s, 3 H), 1.76-2.04 (m, 2 H), 2.80-2.93 (m, 2 H), 3.35-3.68 (m, 4 H), 4.40-4.46 (m, 1 H), 4.78 (d, 1 H, J = 9.3 Hz), 9.71 (d, 1 H, J = 3.9 Hz); ¹³C NMR 15.1, 15.4, 21.0, 26.7, 31.6, 49.0, 59.2, 61.0, 61.3, 78.6, 86.9, 100.3, 201.7; HREIMS m/z calcd for $C_{11}H_{17}O_3$ (M - EtO)⁺ 197.1178, obsd 197.1153.

General Procedure for Ring Opening. KOtBu (3-5 equiv) and 0.1 equiv of BHT were added to approximately 100 equiv of freshly destilled TMEDA, and the mixture was cooled to -75°C at which time TMEDA solidified, whereafter vacuum was applied to remove all traces of oxygen and the flask was filled with argon. The temperature was raised to -50 °C, and the substrate was added dropwise via syringe. After the addition was complete, the temperature of the solution was allowed to rise to rt and kept there for 1-3 h. The reddish solution was cooled to -20 °C, quenched with saturated NH₄Cl, and extracted with EtOAc. Washing, drying, and evaporation of the EtOAc solution afforded the alcohol as an oil which was directly subjected to silvlation. The alcohols were isolated by flash chromatography in 80-90% yield but for the purpose of preparing the dialdehydes it was more convenient to purify the corresponding TBDMS ether.

5-Hydroxy-1-methyl-6-(diethoxymethyl)-1-cyclohexenecarbaldehyde (8b): ¹H NMR 1.07 (t, 3 H, J = 7.0 Hz), 1.22 (t, 3 H, J = 7.0 Hz), 1.48–1.61 (m, 1 H), 1.95–2.07 (m, 1 H), 2.17 (s, 3 H), 2.24-2.31 (m, 2 H), 2.85-2.90 (m, 1 H), 3.25-3.37 (m, 1 H), 3.54, 3.80 (m, 3 H), 4.28–4.35 (m, 1 H), 4.86 (d, 1 H, J = 3.4 Hz), 10.06 (s, 1 H); ¹³C NMR 15.3, 15.4, 18.9, 27.3, 31.6, 46.0, 64.5, 64.7, 65.6, 103.9, 131.1, 158.8, 191.2; HREIMS m/z calcd for C13H22O4 (M)+ 242.1518, obsd 242.1522

2-Ethyl-5-hydroxycyclohex-1-ene-1,6-dicarbaldehyde (9c). Acetal hydrolysis according the general procedure (see below) and flash chromatography afforded the dialdehyde as a pale yellow oil in 50% yield: Rf 0.23 (heptane/EtOAc (1:3)); ¹H NMR 1.22 (t, 3H, J = 7.6 Hz), 1.68-1.90 (m, 2 H), 2.19-2.72 (m, 6H),3.42-3.52 (m, 1H), 4.18-4.24 (m, 1H), 9.40 (d, 1H, J = 1.6 Hz), 10.12 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR 14.6, 25.7, 27.3, 28.2, 54.1, 65.0, 128.2, 165.9, 189.8, 200.8; HREIMS m/z calcd for $C_{10}H_{12}O_2 (M - H_2O)^+$ 164.0837, obsd 164.0821.

General Procedure for Silvlation. To a mixture of tertbutyldimethylsilyl chloride (2 equiv) of imidazole (2.5 equiv) in CH2Cl2 (4 mL/g of alcohol) was added the alcohol in one portion. A suspension was quickly formed which was stirred at rt until TLC revealed that no starting material was left. Methanol was added, and the solution was stirred for 10 min, diluted with EtOAc, washed twice with 1 M NaHSO₄, dried with Na₂SO₄, and concentrated in vacuo. Purification of the product by flash chromatography on silica gel afforded the silyl ethers as colorless oils in over 80% yield from 5.

5-[(tert-Butyldimethylsilyl)oxy]-2-methyl-6-(diethoxymethyl)-1-cyclohexenecarbaldehyde (10b): Rf 0.30 (heptane/EtOAc (9:1)); ¹H NMR 0.029 (s, 3 H), 0.036 (s, 3 H), 0.82 (s, 9 H), 1.09 (t, 3 H, J = 7.0 Hz), 1.22 (t, 3 H, J = 7.0 Hz), 1.55-1.67 (m, 1 H), 1.95-2.11 (m, 2 H), 2.17 (s, 3 H), 2.35-2.51 (m, 1 H), 2.80–2.90 (m, 1 H), 3.22–3.34 (m, 1 H), 3.54–3.72 (m, 3 H), 4.38-4.43 (m, 1 H), 4.47 (d, 1 H, J = 4.0 Hz), 10.10 (s, 1 H); ¹³C NMR -4.9, -4.8, 15.1, 15.3, 18.0, 18.9, 25.8, 26.7, 29.7,

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General Procedure for Acetal Hydrolysis.²⁶ A 0.1-mL portion of 10% solution of oxalic acid in water was added to a suspension of 0.9 g of silica gel in 10 mL of CH₂Cl₂. After the mixture was stirred for 2-3 min, the acetal (0.1 g) was added and stirring was continued at rt for 1-2 h. The reaction was stopped by adding solid NaHCO₃ and further stirring for 10 min. The suspension was filtrated, the silica gel was washed with EtOAc, and the filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo* to give the pure dialdehyde as a pale yellow oil, which after chromatography gave crystalline compounds in 90-95% yield.

5-[(*tert*-Butyldimethylsilyl)oxy]-2-methyl-1-cyclohexene-1,6-dicarbaldehyde (11b): $R_f 0.14$ (heptane/EtOAc (9:1)); mp 44-45 °C; ¹H NMR 0.05 (s, 3 H), 0.07 (s, 3 H), 0.85 (s, 9 H), 1.54-1.80 (m, 2 H), 2.13-2.30 (m, 1 H), 2.25 (s, 3 H), 2.40-2.56 (m, 1 H), 3.54-3.62 (m, 1 H), 4.32-4.40 (m, 1 H), 9.69 (d, 1 H, J = 1.2 Hz), 10.14 (s, 1 H); ¹³C NMR -5.0, -4.7, 18.0, 18.7, 25.7, 27.4, 30.2, 54.4, 65.0, 129.1, 159.8, 190.0, 200.6; HREIMS m/zcalcd for C₁₁H₁₇O₃Si (M - t-Bu)⁺ 225.0947, obsd 225.0931.

5-[(tert-Butyldimethylsilyl)oxy]-1,6-bis(hydroxymethyl)-2-methyl-1-cyclohexene (12). To a suspension of LiAlH₄ (excess) in ether at 0 °C was added a solution of the dialdehyde (11b) (12.4 mg, 0.044 mmol) in either dropwise. After the addition was complete, the ice bath was removed and the reaction was allowed to reach rt. The reaction was complete in less than 5 min and was quenched with EtOAc and a few drops of 6 M NaOH. Filtration of the resulting precipitate through Na₂SO₄/Celite and concentration *in vacuo* gave the diol as a colorless oil in quantitative yield: ¹H NMR 0.076 (s, 3 H), 0.085 (s, 3 H), 0.88 (s, 9 H), 1.51-1.64 (m, 1 H), 1.68-1.83 (m, 1 H), 1.75 (s, 3 H), 2.02-2.12 (m, 2 H), 2.12-2.22 (m, 1 H), 2.7 (bs, 1 H), 2.9 (bs, 1 H), 3.75–3.92 (m, 3 H), 3.97 (d, 1 H, J = 11.4 Hz), 4.36 (d, 1 H, J = 11.4 Hz); ¹³C NMR –4.8, -4.3, 18.0, 19.0, 25.8, 30.2, 30.2, 50.2, 61.4, 62.0, 68.9, 127.6, 136.0; HREIMS *m/z* calcd for C₁₁H₁₉O₂Si (M – *t*-Bu - H₂O)⁺ 211.1154, obsd 211.1146.

5-[(*tert*-Butyldimethylsilyl)oxy]-2-methyl-9-oxo-8oxabicyclo[4.3.0]non-1-ene (13). The diol 12 (13.5 mg, 0.047 mmol) was stirred in a suspension of MnO₂ (excess) in CH₂Cl₂ at rt for 24 h. Filtration, concentration, and chromatography of the resulting residue (heptane/EtOAc (9:1-2:1)) afforded the lactone as a white crystalline solid (6.5 mg, 50% yield): R_f 0.57 (heptane/ethyl acetate (2:1)); mp 76-78 °C; ¹H NMR 0.051 (s, 3 H), 0.069 (s, 3 H), 0.88 (s, 9 H), 1.60-1.73 (m, 1 H), 1.85-1.95 (m, 1 H), 2.11 (d, 3 H, J = 2.7 Hz), 2.22-2.49 (m, 2 H), 2.93-3.07 (m, 1 H), 3.57-3.66 (m, 1 H), 3.83 (dd, 1 H, J = 8.5, 9.9 Hz), 4.54 (apparent t, 1 H, J = 8.5 Hz); ¹³C NMR -4.8, -4.2, 17.5, 17.9, 25.7, 31.6, 33.4, 45.4, 70.9, 72.1, 118.9, 148.9, 170.1; HREIMS m/z calcd for C₁₅H₂₆O₃Si (M)⁺ 282.1651, obsd 282.1654.

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Supplementary Material Available: ¹H NMR spectra for compounds 6b, 7b, 8b, 9c, 10b, 11b, 12, and 13, and NMR data and ¹H NMR spectra for compounds 6c-g, 7a,c-g, 8a,c-g 9a,c-g, 10a,c-g, and 11a,c-g (45 pages). This material is contained in libraries on microfiche, immediately follows this article in the microfilm version of the journal, and can be ordered from the ACS; see any current masthead page for ordering information.