Stereocontrolled Formation of Quaternary **Carbon Centers by Conjugate Addition of** Lithium Enolates of Dioxanones to β -Bromoacrylates and β -Bromovinyl Sulfones: Dependence of Stereoselectivity on Alkene Geometry

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The efficient, stereocontrolled synthesis of quaternary carbon centers is a perennial problem in organic synthesis.¹ In the context of an ongoing natural product total synthesis we required an efficient means of formation of the system 1 in which Z is an electron withdrawing group, preferably the phenylsulfonyl group, and the olefin is either *cis* or *trans*. In this paper we report that such a system may be prepared in high yield and excellent diastereoselectivity by a conjugate addition/elimination process involving treatment of lithium enolates of 1,3dioxan-4-ones with β -bromoacrylates and β -bromovinyl sulfones. We also report that the diastereoselectivity of the reaction is a function of the olefin geometry.



Seebach and co-workers have extensively studied alkylation reactions of 2, which is readily derived from β -hydroxybutanoic acid and pivalaldehyde. Deprotonation with LDA followed by addition of alkyl halides results in clean alkylation with good stereocontrol anti to the C-6 methyl group as in **3** and 4^2 Unfortunately, early attempts at further alkylation of 3, following deprotonation with LDA, with benzyl bromide were unsuccesful. However, it was found that 4 could be cleanly methylated by sequential treatment with LDA and methyl iodide giving a product that was initially assigned² structure 5 but which was later revised to $6.^3$ Subsequently, it was found that use of the Schwesinger PN base⁴ in place of LDA enabled benzylation of 3 with the formation of 6, opening the way to a potentially

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general route to quaternary carbon centers.^{3b} Intriguingly, opposite face selectivity was observed in the alkylations of 3 and 4. The possibility that this reversal of selectivity was due to the change in base from LDA to the PN base was ruled out when alkylation of 4 using the PN base and ethyl iodide or allyl bromide gave 7 and 8 with good diastereoselectivity. Eventually, it was concluded that the opposite face selectivity of enolates derived from 3 and 4 was a function of the benzyl group in the latter folding under and so shielding the bottom face.^{3b,5} Cuprate and free radical additions to 9 leading preferentially to 10 are similarly rationalized.^{4,6} Michael reactions of enolates of 3 have not been reported but it occured to us that if the enolates were sufficiently reactive then addition to β -bromoacrylates and to β -bromovinyl sulfones followed by elimination of bromide would provide an ideal entry to the targeted functionality (1).



The Z-bromovinyl sulfone 12 was prepared by the literature procedure, involving bromination and dehydrobromination of phenyl vinyl sulfide to give 11, followed by peracid oxidation to the sulfone.⁷ The E-bromovinyl



sulfone 14 had previously been prepared in low yield by separation of the *E*-sulfide 13 from 11, in which it is a minor contaminent, by distillation followed by peracid oxidation. 7 We found it much more expedient to subject 12 to white light photolysis in the presence of a catalytic quantity of bromine which resulted in the formation of 14 (eq 1) in high yield. The Z- and E-bromoacrylates 15 and 16 were prepared by literature procedures.⁸



Deprotonation of (\pm) -3 with LHMDS⁹ in THF at -78 °C followed by addition of 14 resulted in a clean reaction and isolation of the Michael adduct 17 in 65% yield with a greater than 20:1 ratio of diastereomers. Conversely, reaction of the Li enclate of **3** under identical conditions

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⁽⁹⁾ LDA is not compatible with this reaction sequence owing to the rapid competing addition of diisopropylamine to the bromovinyl sulfones and bromoacrylates.



with the Z-bromovinyl sulfone 12 was slow and the reaction was incomplete even after 24h at -78 °C. Moreover, this reaction was much less selective and resulted in the isolation of 18 and 19 in 52% combined yield and a ratio of 1.6:1. A similar phenomenon was observed for the bromoacrylates whereby quenching with 16 was clean and gave 20 in 71% isolated yield and excellent diasteroselectivity (>20:1) but that with 15 was much slower, lower yielding (51% isolated) and gave a mixture of diastereomers (21:22 = 6:1) together with recovered substrate.

It seems apparent that both E-bromovinyl sulfones and E-bromoacrylates react cleanly and rapidly with the lithium enolate of 3 and with the anticipated selectivity, anti to the 6-Me substituent. On the other hand, for the Z-isomers attack anti the to 6-Me group is apparently hindered, leading to longer reaction times and eventual competition from attack syn to the 6-Me group. It is noteworthy that regardless of the configuration, E- or Z-, of the electrophile in each of the above reactions it was cleanly retained in the addition/elimination process in accord with previous studies of nucleophilic attack on β -bromovinyl sulfoxides.¹⁰ In each of the derivatives 17, 18, 20-22 the relative configuration at the dioxanone C-5 was solved by means of NOE. difference spectroscopy as indicated in Figure 1. In the case of 22, for which a pure sample was not available, the NOE experiment was conducted on a mixture with 21.



Figure 1.

With an efficient synthesis of 17 in hand we turned to cleavage of the dioxane ring. Treatment of 17 with 3N HCl in THF for 24h followed by evaporation to dryness gave a sample of the acid 23 free from any major impurities. Unfortunately, attempted purification of 23, as described by Seebach for related compounds, by extraction into Na₂CO₃ and subsequent reacidification resulted in slow retroaldolization with increasing contamination of 23 by the α,β -unsaturated acid 25. Methanolysis of 17 with HCl in MeOH overnight enabled the isolation of the ester 24 in 96% yield. Attempted purification of 24 by chromatography on silica gel again resulted in retroaldolization and the isolation of 26 as the pure E-isomer.¹¹ Evidently, the extra conjugation afforded any enol or enolate on cleavage of 23 and 24, by the vinyl sulfone is sufficient to promote the retroaldol reaction under conditions in which the saturated derivatives studied by Seebach were stable. Eventually the problem of purification and stability was solved by silvlation of crude 24 under standard conditions giving **27** in excellent yield.



In conclusion we have provided useful methodology for the preparation of diastereomerically pure a-vinyl-aalkyl- β -hydroxy esters from the simple β -hydroxy esters which themselves are available with high enantiomeric purity by a number of methods, for instance by aldol condensation reactions,¹² and by microbial reduction¹³ and catalytic hydrogenation¹⁴ of β -keto esters. In addition we have demonstrated the dependence of stereoselectivity of the central Michael addition/elimination sequence on geometry of the electrophile with E-bromovinyl sulfones and E-bromoacrylates giving excellent selectivity and the Z-isomers much less so. Application of this chemistry in total synthesis is currently underway and will be reported in due course.

Experimental Section

All solvents were dried and distilled by standard procedures. Unless otherwise stated all reactions were run under a dry nitrogen or argon atmosphere. THF was distilled, under N2, immediately prior to use from sodium benzophenone ketyl. ¹H and $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ spectra were run in CDCl3 at 300 and 75 MHz respectively. IR spectra were recorded as CHCl₃ or CH₂Cl₂ solutions. Microanalyses were performed by Midwest Microlabs, Indianapolis, IN.

(Z)-(2-Bromovinyl) Phenyl Sulfone (12). (Z)-(2-Bromovinyl) phenyl sulfide (11)^{7a} (2.151 g, 0.01 mol) was dissolved in THF (20 mL) and magnesium monoperoxyphthalate (7.420 g, 0.015 mol) was added portionwise. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature 48 h. After completion (TLC), $CHCl_3\,(100\ mL)$ was added and the resulting precipitate filtered off and washed several times with CHCl₃. The organic layer was washed with sat. sodium bicarbonate (50 mL), water (2 \times 100 mL) and sat. sodium chloride (50 mL), dried (MgSO₄) and evaporated in vacuo. The oily product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluent, diethyl ether:pentane = 1:3) yielding 2.076 g (84%) of the white crystalline sulfone (12): mp 39-40 °C (lit.^{7a} mp 41-42 °C); $\delta_{\rm H}$ 7.12 (d, 1H, J = 8.2 Hz), 7.21 (d, 1H, J = 8.2 Hz), 7.55 (t, 2H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.66 (m, 1H), 7.96-8.02 (m, 2H); Sc 121.10, 128.00, 129.17, 134.01, 135.79, 139.95; IR 1575, 1326, 1152 cm⁻¹

(E)-(2-Bromovinyl) Phenyl Sulfone (14). (Z)-(2-Bromovinyl) phenyl sulfone (12) (0.365g, 1.48 mmol) was dissolved in CCl₄ (20 mL) and Br₂ (cat., 1 drop) was added. The reaction mixture was irradiated with a 250 W sunlamp for 5 min after which the orange color of the solution had dissipated. The solvent was evaporated in vacuo and residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluent, diethyl ether: pentane = 1:3) yielding the yellowish crystalline product (14)

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(0.345 g, 94%): mp 55–56 °C (lit.^{7a} mp 58–60 °C); $\delta_{\rm H}$ 6.99 (dd, 1H, J = 13.5, 2.8 Hz), 7.52–7.59 (m, 2H), 7.62–7.71 (m, 2H), 7.85–7.91 (m, 2H); $\delta_{\rm C}$ 124.46, 127.80, 129.52, 133.99, 136.94, 139.22; IR 1585, 1326, 1148 cm⁻¹.

General Procedure for Michael Addition/Elimination Reactions of Vinyl Bromides with 3. A solution of lithium bis(trimethylsilyl)amide9 was prepared by dropwise addition under Ar of a solution of butyllithium (0.46 mL, 0.93 mmol of 2 M solution in pentane) into a solution of bis(trimethylsilyl)amine (161 mg, 0.21 mL, 1 mmol) in dry THF (1.5 mL) chilled to 0-5 °C followed by stirring for 20 min. A solution of 3 (150 mg, 0.805 mmol) in dry THF (1.5 mL) was added dropwise into a solution of lithium bis(trimethylsilyl)amide (0.46 mL, 0.93 mmol) chilled to -78 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred 45 min at this temperature before a solution of the vinyl bromide (1.1 mmol) in dry THF (1mL) was added. The reaction mixture was then stirred at -70 to -78 °C 24 h and then warmed up to room temperature within 1 h followed by quenching with sat. ammonium chloride (5 mL), separation of the organic layer and ether extraction of the aqueous layer $(2 \times 5 \text{ mL})$. The combined organic layers were washed with brine (5 mL), dried (MgSO₄) and evaporated in vacuo. The oily residue was purified by chromatography on silica gel typically eluting with pentane: diethyl ether (4:1) to yield a colorless oil which solidified on standing.

(±)-(2R,5R,6R)-2-tert-Butyl-5,6-dimethyl-5-[2(E)-(phenylsulfonyl)vinyl]-1,3-dioxan-4-one (17). Reaction of 3 with 14 according to the standard protocol gave 17 as a single diastereomer in 65% isolated yield: mp 105-106 °C; $\delta_{\rm H}$ 0.97 (s, 9H), 1.20 (d, 3H, J = 6.4 Hz), 1.37 (s, 3H), 4.01 (q, 1H, J = 6.4 Hz), 4.99 (s, 1H), 6.58 (d, 1H, J = 15.3 Hz), 6.90 (d, 1H, J = 15.3Hz), 7.50-7.58 (m, 2H), 7.63 (tt, 1H, J = 1.4, 7.2 Hz), 7.84-7.90 (m, 2H); $\delta_{\rm C}$ 14.68, 17.02, 23.73, 35.33, 49.40, 75.69, 109.21, 127.71, 129.38, 133.57, 133.64, 139.66, 143.26, 170.59; IR 1738, 1324, 1151 cm⁻¹. Anal. Calcd for C₁₈H₂₄O₅S: C, 61.34; H, 6.86. Found: C, 61.36; H, 6.93.

(±)-(2R,5R,6R)-2-tert-Butyl-5,6-dimethyl-5-[2(Z)-(phenylsulfonyl)vinyl]-1,3-dioxan-4-one (18) and rel-5S Diastereoisomer (19). Reaction of 3 with 12 according to the standard protocol gave a 1.6:1 mixture of 18 and 19 in 52% combined isolated yield. Separation by preparative TLC gave a pure sample of the major diastereomeric sulfone 18, a white crystalline solid: mp 115–117 °C; $\delta_{\rm H}$ 1.02 (s, 9H), 1.21 (d, 3H, J = 6.4Hz), 1.50 (s, 3H), 4.67 (q, 1H, J = 6.4 Hz), 5.35 (s, 1H), 6.03 (d, 1H, J = 12 Hz), 6.28 (d, 1H, J = 12.9 Hz), 7.50-7.58 (m, 2H), 7.64 (tt, 1H, J = 1.4, 7.1 Hz), 7.95–8.02 (m, 2H); $\delta_{\rm C}$ 15.38, 22.22, 23.95, 34.99, 48.01, 77.43, 108.20, 128.23, 129.27, 131.32, 134.11, 139.09, 143.45, 172.62; IR: 1734, 1310, 1154 cm⁻¹. Anal. Calcd for C₁₈H₂₄O₅S: C, 61.34; H, 6.86. Found: C, 61.40; H, 6.93. The minor diastereomer (19) was not obtained pure and the spectral charateristics were taken from a mixture with 18: $\delta_{\rm H}$ 0.96 (s, 9H), 1.31 (d, 3H, J = 6.5 Hz), 1.77 (s, 3H), 3.88 (q, 1H, J = 6.5Hz), 4.99 (s, 1H), 6.07 (d, 1H, J = 12.9 Hz), 6.49 (d, 1H, J = 12Hz), 7.50-7.58 (m, 2H), 7.64 (tt, 1H, J = 1.4, 7.1 Hz), 7.91-7.98 (m, 2H); $\delta_{\rm C}$ 16.43, 20.78, 23.70, 34.93, 51.00, 79.68, 108.89, 127.58, 131.26, 133.51, 134.81, 139.19, 169.85.

(±)-(2R,5R,6R)-2-*tert*-Butyl-5,6-dimethyl-5-[2(*E*)-(methoxycarbonyl)vinyl]-1,3-dioxan-4-one (20). Reaction of 3 with 16 according to the standard protocol gave 20 as a single diastereomer in 71% isolated yield: mp 78-80 °C (ether/ pentane); $\delta_{\rm H}$ 0.97 (s, 9H), 1.16 (d, 3H, J = 6.4 Hz), 1.39 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.97 (q, 1H, J = 6.4 Hz), 4.98 (s, 1H), 6.03 (d, 1H, J = 16 Hz), 6.85 (d, 1H, J = 16 Hz); $\delta_{\rm C}$ 14.60, 16.67, 23.85, 35.32, 49.64, 51.72, 76.08, 109.05, 123.77, 145.46, 166.11, 171.48; IR: 1734, 1213, 985 cm⁻¹. Anal. Calcd for C₁₄H₂₂O₅: C, 62.20; H, 8.20. Found: C, 61.98; H, 8.10.

(±)-(2R,5R,6R)-2-tert-Butyl-5,6-dimethyl-5-[2(Z)-(ethoxycarbonyl)vinyl]-1,3-dioxan-4-one (21) and rel-5S Diastereoisomer (22). Reaction of 3 with 15 according to the standard protocol gave a 6:1 mixture of 21 and 22 in 51% combined isolated yield. Preparative TLC then crystallization from pentane gave a pure sample of the major diastereomeric ester 21, a white crystalline solid: mp 62-64 °C (pentane); $\delta_{\rm H}$ 100 (s, 9H), 1.14 (d, 3H, J = 6.4 Hz), 1.25 (t, 3H, J = 7.2 Hz), 1.45 (s, 3H), 4.10-4.24 (m, 2H) 4.35 (q, 1H, J = 6.4 Hz), 5.28 (s, 1H), 5.98 (s, 2H); $\delta_{\rm C}$ 14.10, 15.68, 21.42, 23.98, 34.99, 48.47, 60.60, 75.08, 107.72, 122.66, 148.37, 165.47, 172.40; IR 1734, 1712, 1372, 1213 cm⁻¹. Anal. Calcd for C₁₅H₂₄O₅: C, 63.36; H, 8.51. Found: C, 63.29; H, 8.60. The minor diastereomer (22) was not obtained pure and the spectral charateristics were taken from a mixture with 21: $\delta_{\rm H}$ 0.98 (s, 9H), 1.23 (d, 3H, J = 6.4 Hz), 1.28 (t, 3H, J = 7.2 Hz), 1.49 (s, 3H), 3.70 (q, 1H, J = 6.4 Hz), 4.10–4.24 (m, 2H) 4.98 (s, 1H), 5.91 (d, 1H, J = 13.0 Hz), 6.03 (d, 1H, J = 13.0 Hz); $\delta_{\rm C}$ 14.10, 15.76, 18.90, 23.68, 35.26, 50.65, 60.63, 79.37, 108.89, 124.51, 136.79.

(±)-(2R,1'R)-2-(1-Hydroxyethyl)-2-methyl-4-(phenylsulfonyl)-3(E)-butenoic Acid (23). To a solution of the dioxanone 17 (0.178 g, 0.51 mmol) in THF (10 mL) was added 3N HCl (6 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature 24 h until hydrolysis was complete (TLC). After extraction with diethyl ether $(3 \times 5 \text{ mL})$, the combined organic layers were dried (MgSO₄), filtered and concentrated in vacuo, yielding 0.140 g (98%) of the oily acid: $\delta_{\rm H}$ 1.06 (d, 3H, J = 6.4), 1.24 (s, 3H), 4.14 (q, 1H, J = 6.4 Hz), 5.81 (bs, 2H), 6.47 (d, 1H, J = 15.4 Hz), 7.09 (d, 1H, J = 15.4 Hz), 7.54 (t, 2H, J = 7.2 Hz), 7.60 (t, 1H, J = 7.2 Hz), 7.83 (d, 2H, J = 7.4 Hz); $\delta_{\rm C}$ 15.11, 17.71, 53.78, 71.57, 127.52, 129.39, 131.39, 133.71, 139.44, 146.03, 175.65; IR: 3480, 1756, 1711, 1323, 1239 cm⁻¹. Any attempt at further purification of this acid, for example by extraction into aqueous Na₂CO₃, resulted only in contamination with 2-methyl-4-(phenylsulfonyl)-2-butenoic acid (25): $\delta_{\rm H}$ 1.61 (s, 3H), 4.00 (d, 2H, J = 8.2 Hz), 6.78 (tq, 1H, J = 1.2, 8.2 Hz), 7.58 (t, 2H, J = 7.6Hz), 7.69 (t, 1H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.88 (d, 2H, J = 7.6 Hz); $\delta_{\rm C}$ 12.33, 56.32, 128.32, 128.5, 128.39, 134.18, 135.13, 138.33, 171.32.

(±)-Methyl (2R,1'R)-2-(1-Hydroxyethyl)-2-methyl-4-(phenylsulfonyl)-3(E)-butenoate (24). The dioxanone 17 (86.4 mg, 0.245 mmol) was dissolved in a saturated solution of HCl in MeOH (4 mL) and the reaction mixture stirred at room temperature 20 h until hydrolysis was complete (TLC). The solvent was then evaporated *in vacuo* to give 70.1 mg (96%) of the oily methyl ester 24: $\delta_{\rm H}$ 1.16 (d, 3H, J = 6.5), 1.32 (s, 3H), 2.85 (bs, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 4.14 (q, 1H, J = 6.5 Hz), 6.42 (d, 1H, J = 15.4Hz), 7.08 (d, 1H, J = 15.4 Hz), 7.51–7.59 (m, 2H), 7.64 (tt, 1H, J = 7.4, 1.4 Hz), 7.85–7.90 (m, 2H); $\delta_{\rm C}$ 15.64, 18.02, 52.69, 53.80, 71.46, 127.55, 129.30, 131.59, 133.52, 139.93, 145.68, 173.53; IR: 3689, 1719, 1606, 1258 cm⁻¹.

Methyl 2-Methyl-4-(phenylsulfonyl)-2(E)-butenoate (26). Attempted purification of **24** by chromatography on silica gel (eluent, diethyl ether:pentane = 1:2) resulted only in the isolation of the retroaldol product **26**, as a crystalline solid: mp 80-81 °C (lit.¹⁵ mp 73 °C); $\delta_{\rm H}$ 1.56-1.59 (broad s, 3H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.96 (dd, 2H, J = 8.2, 0.5 Hz), 6.66 (tq, 1H, J = 8.2, 1.6 Hz), 7.52-7.59 (m, 2H,), 7.68 (tt, 1H, J = 7.4, 1.4 Hz), 7.84-7.90 (m, 2H); $\delta_{\rm C}$ 12.54, 52.21, 56.21, 126.09, 128.28, 129.31, 134.06, 135.77, 138.39, 167.04; IR: 1718, 1294, 1146 cm⁻¹.

 (\pm) -Methyl (2R, 1'R)-2-(1-Triethylsiloxyethyl)-2-methyl-4-(phenylsulfonyl)-3(E)-butenoate (27). To a solution of crude hydroxy ester 24 (20.4 mg, 0.068 mmol) in anhydrous CH2-Cl₂ (1 mL) was added imidazole (18.5 mg, 0.272 mmol) then triethylsilyl chloride (22.8 μ L, 0.136 mmol) resulting in the immediate formation of a precipitate. After completion (TLC, 1.5 h) the reaction mixture was diluted with CH₂Cl₂ (5 mL) and washed with sat. solution of NH4Cl (2 mL), brine (2 mL), dried $(MgSO_4)$ and the solvent evaporated in vacuo. The silvl ether 27 was obtained as a colorless oil (23.1 mg, 82%) after preparative TLC on silica gel (eluent, pentane:ethyl acetate 2:1): $\delta_{\rm H} 0.52$ (q, 6H, J = 7.7 Hz), 0.89 (t, 9H, J = 7.7 Hz), 1.03 (d, 3H, J = 6.3Hz), 1.29 (s, 3H), 3.69 (s, 3H), 4.25 (q, 1H, J = 6.3 Hz), 6.40 (d, 1H, J = 15.4 Hz), 7.15 (d, 1H, J = 15.4 Hz), 7.50–7.57 (m, 2H), 7.62 (tt, 1H, J = 7.3, 1.4 Hz), 7.83–7.89 (m, 2H); $\delta_{\rm C}$ 4.95, 6.72, 15.55, 19.12, 52.38, 54.82, 72.46, 127.61, 129.27, 131.54, 133.39, 140.31, 146.01, 172.92; IR 1733, 1622, 1250, 1150 cm⁻¹. Anal. Calcd for C₂₀H₃₂O₅SSi: C, 58.22; H, 7.82. Found: C, 58.31; H, 7.77.

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Supplementary Material Available: 300 MHz ¹H NMR of 17, 18, 20, 21, 23, 24, 26, and 27, of 19 in admixture with 18, and of 22 in admixture with 21 (10 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.

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