

Asymmetric Synthesis of the Carbapenam Core from Serine

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Abstract: The stereospecific synthesis of the functionalized carbapenam core **16** from the serine-derived trisubstituted pyrrolidine **9** is reported. The synthetic strategy relies on synthesizing an appropriately functionalized pyrrolidine, followed by an intramolecular azetidione formation utilizing a modified Mukiyama reagent. The efficient one-pot conversion of the benzenesulfonamide-protected pyrrolidine **9** to the Cbz-protected pyrrolidine **10** is also reported.

Since the discovery of penicillin in 1928, β -lactam antibiotics have remained a class of drugs used for the treatment of bacterial infections.² The discovery of thienamycin,³ reported in 1976, by a Merck research group⁴ provided the impetus for an intensive derivitization program to identify carbapenams having potent, broad spectrum antibacterial properties. Because of the inaccessibility associated with obtaining carbapenams in large quantity from naturally occurring sources, there has been a great deal of interest to develop routes to this class of synthetically challenging compounds. It is remarkable that commercially utilized carbapenams are still most efficiently produced from multistep total synthesis, instead of processes such as fermentation or semisynthesis.⁵ In this note we wish to report an enantioselective approach to the carbapenam core **6** from the amino acid

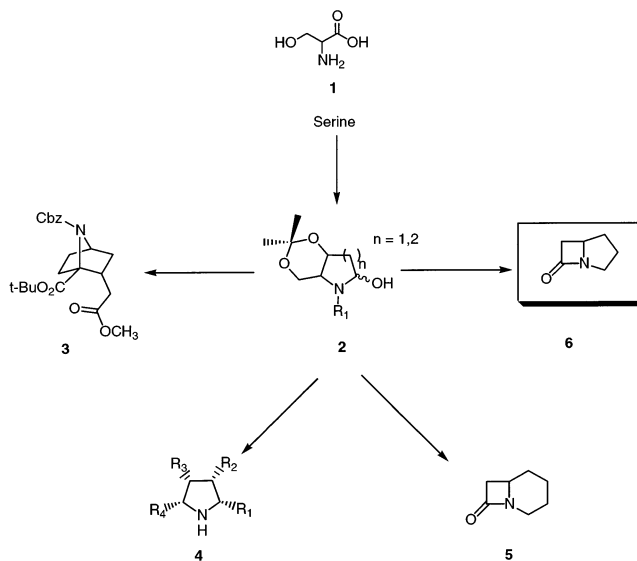


FIGURE 1. Serine-derived heterocycles.

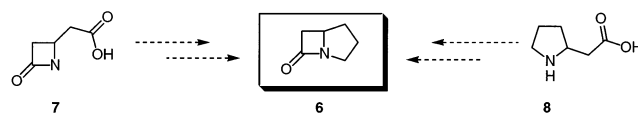


FIGURE 2. Approaches to the carbapenam core.

serine **1**. Variations of this approach have been described in previous reports from this laboratory for the enantioselective preparation of numerous chiral heterocycles, including conformationally constrained azabicyclo[2.2.1]-heptane amino acids **3**, tetrasubstituted pyrrolidines **4**, and carbacephems **5** (Figure 1).⁶

Unlike many approaches to carbapenams that entail five-membered ring closure of a substituted azetidione (such as **7**),⁷ the method reported herein involves closure of a four-membered ring from a five-membered ring intermediate,⁸ such as **8**. The primary advantage conferred by four-membered ring closure late in the synthesis is that it allows for reaction conditions that might otherwise be incompatible with the labile azetidione (Figure 2).

A functionalized pyrrolidine intermediate containing the γ -amino-carboxy terminus as in **8** was envisaged to be attainable from **9**, whose enantioselective preparation from D-serine has previously been reported from this laboratory.^{6a} Because of difficulties associated with benzenesulfonamide deprotection later in the synthesis, it was determined to exchange protecting groups at an

[†] Dedicated to the memory of Professor Henry Rapoport (1918–2002).

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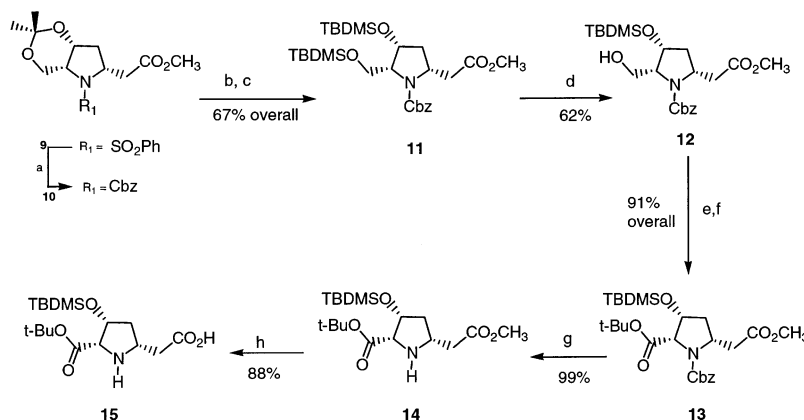
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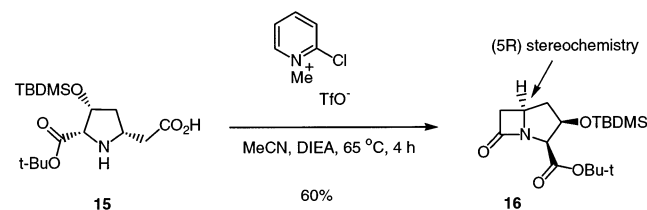
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SCHEME 1^a

^a Conditions: (a) (1) sodium naphthalenide, DME, -78°C , (2) 1 M AcOH, warm to rt, (3) EtOAc, K_2CO_3 , CbzCl; (b) HCl, MeOH, rt, 3 h; (c) TBDMSCl, DMF, imidazole, rt, 12 h; (d) AcOH/ H_2O /THF (13:7:3), rt, 24 h; (e) NaIO_4 , $\text{RuCl}_3 \cdot x\text{H}_2\text{O}$, $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}/\text{CCl}_4$ (1:1), rt, 3 h; (f) *N,N*-diisopropyl-*O-tert*-butylisourea, CH_2Cl_2 , *tert*-butanol, rt, 2 h; (g) H_2 , Pd/C, MeOH, rt, 2 h; (h) LiOH, 4:1 THF/ H_2O , rt, 3 h.

SCHEME 2



appropriate point earlier in the synthesis. The criteria for an alternative protecting group were that it provide robust enough protection through ensuing reaction conditions and its removal conditions be mild enough so as not to affect other functionality present in the molecule. The chlorobenzyloxycarbonyl (Cbz) group was found to be suitable for this purpose. Reductive cleavage of the sulfonamide bond in **9** via sodium naphthalenide reduction and reprotection as the Cbz derivative proceeded smoothly, giving **10** in 70% yield from **9** (Scheme 1).

Compound **10** was treated with HCl in MeOH to afford its corresponding diol, which was converted to the bisilyl ether **11** under standard conditions. Selective deprotection of the primary silyl group furnished **12**.¹⁰ The primary alcohol of **12** was oxidized to the corresponding carboxylic acid, and esterification afforded the functionalized pyrrolidine **13**. Deprotection of the Cbz group was carried out under mild conditions, by way of hydrogenation, affording **14** in excellent yield. Hydrolysis of the methyl ester in **14** was accomplished with LiOH, from which the pyrrolidine amino acid **15**, the envisaged carbapenam precursor, was isolated after pH adjustment and extraction.

The intramolecular cyclization of **15**, employing a modified Mukiyama reagent developed in the Rapoport laboratory,^{6c} afforded carbapenam **16** in 60% yield (Scheme 2). This carbapenam has the desired 5*R* absolute stereochemistry at the C-5 position, required for antibiotic

activity. Conversely, the synthesis of a carbapenam derived from *L*-serine would afford the diastereomer, having *S* absolute stereochemistry at C-5, and C-2 and C-3 substituents as a single enantiomer.

We have reported a method for the enantioselective synthesis of a functionalized carbapenam core from *D*-serine-derived pyrrolidines. The methods reported herein provide an efficient, stereocontrolled route to the carbapenam core, with substitution at C-2, and C-3. These methods complement previous efforts of the group in illustrating the synthetic utility of pyrrolidines derived from amino acids. This core can be further functionalized to provide a variety of novel synthetic carbapenems and their analogues aimed at increasing potency, metabolic stability, and activity against resistant bacteria.

Experimental Section

General. All reactions were conducted under an atmosphere of nitrogen, and solvents were distilled before use unless otherwise noted. THF and Et₂O were distilled from sodium/benzophenone; CH₃CN was distilled from P₂O₅ and then from CaH₂; DMF was dried over 4 Å molecular sieves; CH₂Cl₂ was distilled from CaH₂; EtOAc, hexane, 2-propanol, and chloroform were used as purchased. ¹H and ¹³C NMR were taken in CDCl₃ at room temperature, unless otherwise stated. Chemical shifts are reported in ppm (δ) in reference to tetramethylsilane (TMS). Coupling constants are reported in Hertz. Column chromatography was performed using EM Science silica gel (230–400 mesh). Melting points were taken in duplicate and are uncorrected. Elemental analyses were determined by the Microanalytical Laboratories, University of California, Berkeley.

(2*R*,4*R*,5*R*)-4-Hydroxy-5-hydroxymethyl-2-methoxycarbonylmethyl-1-(benzyloxycarbonyl)-isopropylidene Ketal-pyrrolidine (10). To a -78°C THF solution of **9**^{6a} (1.0 g, 2.7 mmol) was added 8 mL of a DME solution of sodium naphthalenide, dropwise via syringe, until the end point was reached (indicated by persistence of a dark olive green color).^{9a} The contents were quenched with a 50% solution of 1 M aqueous AcOH/THF (16 mL) at -78°C and were allowed to warm to room temperature with stirring. The homogeneous mixture was then diluted with EtOAc (24 mL), followed by the addition of K_2CO_3 (0.94 g, 6.7 mmol) and benzyl chloroformate (0.85 mL, 6.0 mmol). After stirring at room temperature for 2 h, the contents were diluted with 1 M KH_2PO_4 (50 mL). The aqueous layer was separated and extracted with EtOAc (3×100 mL), and the combined organic layers were dried over MgSO_4 , filtered, and concentrated. Chromatography (1:2 EtOAc/hexanes) afforded **9**

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mg (70%) of **10** as a pale oil: $[\alpha]_D^{25} -70.5$ ($c = 1.0$, CHCl_3); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, rotomers) δ 1.33–1.38 (m, 12H), 1.94 (dd, $J = 14.2, 3.1, 2\text{H}$), 2.10–2.19 (m, 2H), 2.79–2.97 (m, 4H), 3.60 (s, 3H), 3.64 (s, 3H), 3.66–3.69 (m, 1H), 3.79–3.82 (m, 1H), 3.86–3.90 (m, 1H), 3.97–4.07 (m, 2H), 4.12 (dd, $J = 12.5, 5.4, 1\text{H}$), 4.36–4.43 (m, 4H), 5.06–5.17 (m, 4H), 7.32–7.34 (m, 10H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, rotomers) δ 172.2, 172.1, 155.2, 154.6, 136.5, 136.3, 128.5, 128.2, 128.1, 127.8, 99.2, 98.6, 71.3, 70.3, 67.2, 67.0, 62.3, 61.0, 57.8, 57.6, 55.9, 55.2, 51.5 (2C), 40.0, 39.4, 36.3, 35.5, 26.8, 25.6, 21.9, 20.9. Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{25}\text{NO}_6$: C, 62.8; H, 6.9; N, 3.9. Found: C, 62.5; H, 6.9; N, 3.7.

(2R,4R,5R)-4-tert-Butyldimethylsilyloxy-5-tert-butyl-dimethylsilyloxymethyl-2-methoxycarbonylmethyl-1-(benzyloxycarbonyl)pyrrolidine (11). Compound **10** (1.1 g, 3.03 mmol) was dissolved in MeOH (27 mL), and concentrated HCl (0.8 mL) was added dropwise. After 90 min of stirring at room temperature, the mixture was concentrated to an oil. Chromatography (1:2 hexanes/EtOAc) afforded 781 mg (80%) of the diol as an oil. The diol (812 mg, 2.51 mmol) was dissolved in DMF (14 mL), followed by addition of imidazole (0.98 g, 14.4 mmol) and *tert*-butyldimethylsilyl chloride (1.07 g, 7.10 mmol) at room temperature. The reaction mixture was stirred for 12 h, after which time saturated aqueous Na_2CO_3 (1.5 mL) was added. The mixture was evaporated to dryness, and the residue was dissolved in CH_2Cl_2 (25 mL) and H_2O (25 mL). The aqueous phase was separated and extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (4 \times 25 mL), and the combined organic layers were dried over MgSO_4 , filtered, and evaporated. The resulting oil was chromatographed (1.5 EtOAc/hexanes) to give 1.16 g (84%) of **11** as a colorless oil (67% overall from **10**): $[\alpha]_D^{25} -18.7$ ($c = 3.4$, CHCl_3); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, C_6D_6 at 60 °C) δ -0.07 (s, 3H), -0.05 (s, 3H), 0.04 (s, 6H), 0.85 (s, 9H), 0.91 (s, 9H), 1.87–1.93 (m, 1H), 1.98–2.08 (m, 1H), 2.70–2.76 (dd, $J = 9.6, 5.6, 1\text{H}$), 3.27 (s, 3H), 3.70–3.80 (m, 1H), 3.86–3.88 (m, 1H), 3.92–4.03 (m, 3H), 4.28–4.38 (m, 1H), 5.00–5.03 (d, $J = 12.4, 1\text{H}$), 5.01–5.13 (d, $J = 12.4, 1\text{H}$), 6.99–7.01 (d, $J = 7.6, 1\text{H}$), 7.05–7.08 (dd, $J = 7.6, 2\text{H}$), 7.21–7.23 (d, $J = 8.0, 2\text{H}$); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CHCl_3 , rotomers) δ -5.3, -5.4, -4.9, -3.7, 18.0, 18.3, 25.7 (3C), 26.0 (3C), 38.5, 39.0, 40.0, 51.2, 53.4, 59.9, 60.4, 62.2, 63.2, 66.7, 70.9 (2C), 127.6, 127.9, 128.4, 136.5, 155.1, 172.2. Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{49}\text{NO}_6\text{Si}_2$: C, 60.9; H, 9.0; N, 2.5. Found: C, 60.9; H, 9.0; N, 2.7.

(2R,4R,5R)-4-tert-Butyldimethylsilyloxy-5-hydroxymethyl-2-methoxycarbonylmethyl-1-(benzyloxycarbonyl)pyrrolidine (12). To a stirring THF solution (7 mL) of **11** (1.16 g, 2.10 mmol) was added a mixture of AcOH/ H_2O (29 mL:16 mL) dropwise at room temperature. The initially milky white mixture was stirred at room temperature for 24 h, after which time it was clear and homogeneous. The mixture was concentrated to an oil, which was diluted with EtOAc (50 mL) and washed with H_2O (50 mL). The aqueous layer was separated and extracted with EtOAc (4 \times 50 mL), and the combined organic layers were dried over MgSO_4 , filtered, and concentrated. Chromatography (2:1 hexanes/EtOAc) furnished 570 mg (62%) of **12** as a colorless oil. (Other products observed in minor amounts include the diol, which results from deprotection of both silyl groups, and starting compound **11**.) $[\alpha]_D^{25} -10.4$ ($c = 5.2$, CHCl_3); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, C_6D_6 at 60 °C) δ 0.20 (s, 6H), 0.77 (s, 9H), 1.67 (m, 1H), 1.85–1.95 (bs, 1H), 2.61–2.68 (m, 1H), 3.00–3.10 (bs, 1H), 3.24 (s, 3H), 3.80–3.83 (m, 2H), 3.89–3.92 (m, 3H), 4.16–4.23 (m, 1H), 4.98 (q, $J = 11.4, 2\text{H}$), 6.98 (d, $J = 7.2, 1\text{H}$), 7.03–7.07 (m, 2H), 7.20 (d, $J = 7.2, 2\text{H}$); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CHCl_3 , rotomers) δ -5.3, -4.7, 17.9, 25.7 (3C), 38.7, 40.1, 51.5, 54.4, 64.0, 65.4, 67.5, 72.9, 128.0, 128.2 (2C), 128.6 (2C), 136.0 (weak), 158.5 (weak), 171.9. Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{35}\text{NO}_6\text{Si}$: C, 60.4; H, 8.1; N, 3.2. Found: C, 60.1; H, 8.1; N, 3.2.

(2S,4R,5R)-3-tert-Butyldimethylsilyloxy-5-methoxycarbonyl-1-benzyloxycarbonylproline tert-Butyl Ester (13). To a solution of alcohol **12** (1.06 g, 2.42 mmol) in CH_3CN (11 mL), CCl_4 (11 mL), and H_2O (8.5 mL) were added NaIO_4 (1.81 g, 8.5 mmol) and $\text{RuCl}_3 \cdot x\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (50 mg). The biphasic mixture was vigorously stirred (magnetically) for 3 h. The phases were separated, and the aqueous phase was extracted with CHCl_3 /IPA (4:1, 4 \times 50 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over MgSO_4 , filtered, and concentrated to a dark foam, in nearly

quantitative yield. To the crude carboxylic acid dissolved in CH_2Cl_2 (15 mL) were added *tert*-butyl alcohol (38 g, 0.51 mol) and *N,N*-diisopropyl-*O-tert*-butylisourea (3 g, 0.015 mol), and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 h. The mixture was evaporated, and to the residue was added H_2O (50 mL) followed by CHCl_3 /IPA (4:1, 50 mL). The aqueous phase was extracted with additional CHCl_3 /IPA (4:1, 4 \times 50 mL), and the combined organic layers were dried over MgSO_4 , filtered, and concentrated. The resulting solid was dissolved in hexanes/EtOAc (5:1, 10 mL) and filtered. The filtrate was concentrated and chromatographed (4:1 hexanes/EtOAc) to afford 1.12 g (91%) of **13** as a thick, colorless oil: $[\alpha]_D^{25} +8.65$ ($c = 11.7$, CHCl_3); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , major rotomer) δ 0.056 (s, 6H), 0.856 (s, 9H), 1.35 (s, 9H), 1.86–1.96 (m, 1H), 2.35–2.41 (m, 1H), 2.69 (dd, $J = 16.3, 10.1, 1\text{H}$), 3.36 (dd, $J = 16.3, 4.0, 1\text{H}$), 3.64 (s, 3H), 4.18–4.24 (m, 1H), 4.31 (d, $J = 7.5, 1\text{H}$), 4.49–4.51 (m, 1H), 5.02–5.17 (m, 2H), 7.27–7.37 (m, 5H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CHCl_3 , rotomers) δ -5.0 (6C), -4.9, -4.8, 18.2, 25.8 (3C), 28.1, 28.2, 38.4, 38.8, 39.5 (2C), 51.4, 53.5, 64.9, 65.7, 66.9, 67.1, 71.4, 71.7, 73.4, 74.9, 81.48, 81.53, 127.7, 127.9, 128.4, 128.5, 128.8, 128.9, 136.4, 136.5, 153.9, 154.4, 168.6, 168.9, 172.3 (2C). Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{41}\text{NO}_7\text{Si}$: C, 61.5; H, 8.1; N, 2.8. Found: C, 61.3; H, 8.2; N, 2.8.

(2S,4R,5R)-3-tert-Butyldimethylsilyloxy-5-methoxycarbonyl-proline tert-Butyl Ester (14). To a methanolic solution (20 mL) of **13** (565 mg, 1.11 mmol) was added 20% $\text{Pd}(\text{OH})_2/\text{C}$ (255 mg), followed by hydrogenation (1 atm) for 3 h. The heterogeneous mixture was filtered through Celite, and the filter pad was washed copiously with methanol. The combined filtrate was concentrated to an oil, which was diluted with methanol (2 mL) and passed through a cotton plug. Concentration followed by drying on high vacuum gave 410 mg (99%) of **14** as a white foam: $[\alpha]_D^{25} -10.0$ ($c = 1.0$, CHCl_3); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 0.054 (s, 3H), 0.063 (s, 3H), 0.867 (s, 9H), 1.46 (s, 9H), 1.51–1.58 (m, 1H), 2.13–2.23 (m, 1H), 2.30–2.40 (bs, 1H), 2.53 (dd, $J = 15.5, 6.9, 1\text{H}$), 2.67 (dd, $J = 15.5, 7.2, 1\text{H}$), 3.46–3.51 (m, 1H), 3.58 (d, $J = 5.0, 1\text{H}$), 3.67 (s, 3H), 4.44 (q, $J = 4.4, 1\text{H}$); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -4.8, -4.6, 18.0, 25.9, 28.2, 41.2, 41.3, 51.6, 53.3, 67.6, 74.3, 81.2, 169.8, 172.3. Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{35}\text{NO}_5\text{Si}$: C, 57.9; H, 9.5; N, 3.8. Found: C, 58.2; H, 9.2; N, 3.6.

(2S,4R,5R)-5-Acetic-3-tert-butyl-dimethylsilyloxy-proline tert-Butyl Ester (15). To a THF/ H_2O solution (4:1, 25 mL) of **14** (667 mg, 1.79 mmol) was added LiOH· H_2O (0.981 g, 23.4 mmol), and the contents were stirred at room temperature for 3 h. The basic mixture was adjusted to pH = 5 with 5% NaH_2PO_4 (65 mL) and extracted with CHCl_3 /IPA (3:1, 5 \times 75 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over MgSO_4 , filtered, and concentrated. After drying on high vacuum, 566 mg (88%) of **15** was collected as a colorless foam: $[\alpha]_D^{25} -53.0$ ($c = 1.0$, CHCl_3); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 0.067 (s, 3H), 0.076 (s, 3H), 0.855 (s, 9H), 1.48 (s, 9H), 1.71 (d, $J = 13.5, 2\text{H}$), 2.38 (d, $J = 13.5, 2\text{H}$), 2.80–2.86 (m, 1H), 3.85–3.92 (m, 1H), 4.32 (d, $J = 5.2, 1\text{H}$), 4.66–4.68 (m, 1H), 6.60–6.70 (bs, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -4.8, -4.7, 17.9, 25.8, 28.1, 40.1, 41.9, 55.3, 65.0, 73.5, 83.3, 166.3 (weak), 176.3 (weak). Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{33}\text{NO}_5\text{Si}$: C, 56.8; H, 9.3; N, 3.9. Found: C, 56.5; H, 8.9; N, 3.8.

(2R,3S,7R)-3-tert-Butyl Ester-2-tert-butyl-dimethylsilyloxy-5-oxo-azabicyclo[3.2.0]heptane (16). To a solution of 2-chloro-1-methylpyridinium triflate (2.17 g, 7.90 mmol) and *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine (5.20 mL, 29.8 mmol) in CH_3CN (475 mL) was added a $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}/\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ solution (160 mL:10 mL) of amino acid **15** (0.835 g, 2.32 mmol), dropwise over 4 h at 65 °C. After the addition was complete, the solution was heated at 65 °C for an additional 15 min, allowed to cool to room temperature, and stirred for 12 h. The solution was diluted with CH_2Cl_2 (150 mL) and concentrated to 50% of its original volume. An additional 200 mL of CH_2Cl_2 was added, and the solution was concentrated to 100 mL and then partitioned between CH_2Cl_2 (300 mL) and H_2O (300 mL). The aqueous phase was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (3 \times 100 mL), and the combined organic layers were dried over MgSO_4 , filtered, and concentrated to afford a dark red oil. Chromatography on silica (4:1 hexanes/EtOAc) gave 0.477 g (60%) of the β -lactam **16** as a white solid: Mp = 41–42 °C; $[\alpha]_D^{25}$

+135.0 ($c = 0.01$, CHCl_3); ^1H NMR 0.060 (6H), 0.86 (s, 9H), 1.46 (s, 9H), 2.03–2.15 (m, 2H), 2.89 (dd, $J = 15.6, 2.7$, 1H), 3.09 (dd, $J = 15.6, 2.7$, 1H), 3.52–3.58 (m, 1H), 3.77 (d, $J = 7.0$, 1H), 4.63–4.69 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR δ -5.1 (2C), 18.2, 25.7 (3C), 28.0 (3C), 36.7, 43.6, 49.0, 64.7, 79.1, 82.3, 166.3, 172.8. Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{31}\text{NO}_4\text{Si}$: C, 59.79; H, 9.15; N, 4.10. Found: C, 59.90; H, 9.01; N, 3.94.

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Supporting Information Available: ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra and elemental analysis for compounds **10–16**. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

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