

Enantioselective Total Synthesis and Stereochemical Revision of Communiols E and F

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The enantioselective total synthesis of candidate structures for communiols E and F, novel bicyclic polyketides of fungal origin, was accomplished using a Lewis acid-mediated ring closure reaction of an allylsilane intermediate as the key step. Comparison of the spectral data of the synthetic materials with those of natural communiols E and F, coupled with biosynthetic considerations, led to the conclusion that the stereochemistry of communiols E and F should be (2*S*,5*S*,7*R*, 8*S*,11*R*)- and (5*S*,7*R*,8*S*,11*R*)-forms, respectively.

In the course of screening for bioactive metabolites from coprophilous (dung-colonizing) fungi, Gloer and co-workers isolated novel bicyclic polyketides, communiols E and F, along with biosynthetically related monocyclic polyketides (communiols G and H) from the culture broth of the horse dung-inhabiting fungus *Podospora communis*, and proposed their structures as **1b** and **2b**, respectively (Figure 1). ¹ Their stereochemical assignment for communiols E and F was based mainly on the following three grounds: (1) strong NOESY correlations between 2-H and 7-H, and 5-H and 11-H to support the relative stereochemical assignment among the stereogenic centers on the bicyclic system, (2) the similarity of the 7-H-8-H vicinal coupling constant $(J = 3.6 \text{ Hz})$ to that observed for analogous coupling constant $(J = 3.6 \text{ Hz})$ to that observed for analogous
polyketides (communiols $A - D²$ of the same microbial origin polyketides (communiols $A-D^2$ of the same microbial origin
to rationalize the threo stereochemistry between the C7 and C8 to rationalize the threo stereochemistry between the C7 and C8 positions (the C7-C8 threo relative stereochemistry of communiols A-D had previously been deduced on the basis of Born's empirical rule), $2,3$ and (3) the biogenetically acceptable presumption that the absolute configuration at the C8-position

FIGURE 1. Newly proposed stereochemistry for communiols E and F (**1a** and **2a**, respectively) and their original stereochemistry (**1b** and **2b**, respectively).

FIGURE 2. Revised stereochemistry for communiols A-D and H.

of communiols E and F should be the same as that of communiol A, which in turn was unambiguously determined to be *S* by the modified Mosher method.4 Our previous synthetic studies on optically active forms of communiols A-D and H, however, enabled us to conclude that the relative stereochemical assignment between the C7 and C8 positions by Gloer et al. was incorrect, and that the stereochemistry of communiols A-D and H should all be altered as shown in Figure 2.5,6 This stereochemical revision led us to suppose that the genuine stereochemistry for communiols E and F should also be altered to structures **1a** (*ent*-8-*epi*-**1b**) and **2a** (*ent*-8-*epi*-**2b**), respectively. In this note, we describe the enantioselective total synthesis of **1a** and **2a**, which culminated in the stereochemical revison of communiols E and F.

Our retrosynthetic analysis of **1a** and **2a** is shown in Scheme 1. For the construction of the 2-oxabicyclo[3.3.0]octane framework incorporated in **1a** and **2a**, we planned to utilize a Lewis acid-mediated cyclization of **4** containing a lactol functionality as the electrophilic site and an allylsilane moiety as the nucleophilic site. The bicyclic product **3** would be convertible into either **1a** or **2a** via oxidative cleavage of the double bond. The lactol **4** would be readily obtainable from **5** through diastereoselective trans alkylation and subsequent reduction of

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SCHEME 2. Synthesis of Communiol E (1a)

As shown in Scheme 2, our synthesis of the newly proposed candidate structure for communiol E (**1a**) began with a fourstep inversion of the stereochemistry at the chiral center on the side chain of known lactone **6** to afford its epimer **7**. The starting lactone **6**, in turn, was prepared in enantiomerically pure form from ethyl (*E*)-4-heptenoate according to our previously reported three-step procedure consisting of the Sharpless asymmetric dihydroxylation, acid-catalyzed lactonization, and protection followed by recrystallization.^{5b} The trans-selective alkylation of **7** with known silylated iodoalkene **8**⁷ gave a 15.2:1 mixture of **9** and its C5-epimer in 44% yield along with recovered starting lactone **7** (16%).^{8,9} After isolation of **9** by repeated silica gel column chromatography (39% isolated yield), the lactone was reduced with DIBAL to lactol **10**, which was then exposed to BF_3 ⁻OEt₂ in CH₂Cl₂ to induce the formation of the bicyclic ring system in an intramolecular manner.10 Fortunately, the C2-vinyl substituent of the cyclization product **11** preferred the desired exo orientation $(11/2-\epsilon p i - 11) = 6.4:1$, as determined by observation of NOE correlations between 2-H and 7-H, and

5-H and 11-H. This desirable diastereoselectivity could be explained by considering the thermodynamic stability of two types of transition states, **TS-A** and **TS-B**, leading to **11** and 2-*epi*-**11**, respectively (Scheme 3). The reaction must have taken place mainly through the less sterically demanding transition state **TS-A** rather than **TS-B** wherein severe steric repulsion between the side-chain moiety and the ring portion was anticipated, giving the desired product **11** preferentially. The double bond of **11** was cleaved by the Lemieux-Johnson reaction, and the resulting aldehyde **12** was reduced to alcohol **13**. The C2-epimer of **13** originating from the incomplete stereoselectivity in the formation of **11** (6.4:1, as mentioned above) was readily removed at this stage by $SiO₂$ chromatography. Finally, removal of the silyl protecting group of **13** with aq HF furnished the target bicyclic diol **1a**. Direct comparison of the 1H and 13C NMR spectra of **1a** with those of natural communiol E indicated them to be identical, which enabled us to confirm that the relative stereochemistry of communiol E should be represented by structure **1a**. Quite curiously, however, the specific rotation value of **1a** ($[\alpha]^{22}$ _D -8.3 (*c* 0.12, CH₂Cl₂)) was far different from that reported for natural communiol E $([\alpha]_D$ +129 (*c* 0.075, CH₂Cl₂)).¹ Although this discrepancy prevented us from straightforwardly assigning the absolute stereochemistry of communiol E, the fact that structurally related metabolites of the same microbial origin (communiols A-^D and H, see Figure 2) all had (*S*)-absolute configuration in common at the side chain asymmetric center (C8-position in **1a**)1,2,5,6 strongly supported the stereochemical assignment of communiol E as **1a**, including its absolute configuration.

The candidate structure for communiol F (**2a**), which corresponds to 2,3-dehydrocommuniol E, was synthesized as shown in Scheme 4. The aldehydic intermediate **12** used for the synthesis of **1a** was subjected to α -selenylation with PhSeNEt₂,¹¹ and the resulting α -selenoaldebyde **14** was treated in situ with and the resulting α -selenoaldehyde 14 was treated in situ with aq NaIO₄ to give α , β -unsaturated aldehyde 15. Reduction of **15** to allylic alcohol **16** with DIBAL and subsequent deprotection of its TBDPS-protecting group afforded the target compound **2a**. The 1H and 13C NMR spectral data of **2a** were identical with those of natural communiol F. In this case also,

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⁽⁹⁾ The modest chemical yield of this conversion is ascribable, in part, to the formation of a conjugated diene through β -elimination of **8**, in which the lithium enolate generated from **7** functioned as a base. Attempts to improve the yield of this step by using a zinc enolate of **7** (to reduce the basicity of the nucleophile) or a more reactive alkylating agent $[TMSCH_2CH=CH(CH_2)_2$ OTf] were unsuccessful. For successful application of these methodologies, see the following: (a) Kuwahara, S.; Hamade, S.; Leal, W. S.; Ishikawa, J.; Kadama, O. *Tetrahedron* **²⁰⁰⁰**, *⁵⁶*, 8111- 8117. (b) Uenishi, J.; Tatsumi, Y.; Kobayashi, N.; Yonemitsu, O. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **¹⁹⁹⁵**, *³⁶*, 5909-5912.

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SCHEME 4. Synthesis of Commuiol F (2a)

however, the specific rotation of $2a$ ($[\alpha]^{22}$ _D +21 (*c* 0.21, CH_2Cl_2)) disagreed with that of natural communiol F ([α]_D $+137$ (*c* 0.058, CH₂Cl₂)).¹ Despite this disagreement, the same argument on biogenetic similarity as described for communiol E led us to the conclusion that the stereochemistry of communiol F should also be revised to **2a**.

In summary, on the basis of our previous synthetic studies on communiols A-D and H, which culminated in their stereochemical revision, we proposed the most probable stereochemistry for communiols E and F, and synthesized the candidate structures (**1a** and **2a**). The complete agreement of **1a** and **2a** with natural communiols E and F, respectively, in ¹H and ¹³C NMR, coupled with the fact that structurally related communiols A-D and H isolated from the same microbial origin have (*S*)-absolute configuration in common at the side chain asymmetric center, strongly suggested that the originally proposed structures for cummuniols E and F (**1b** and **2b**, respectively) should be revised to **1a** and **2a**, respectively.

Experimental Section

(2*S***,4***R***,5***S***)-5-(***tert***-Butyldiphenylsilyloxy)-2-[(***Z***)-5-trimethylsilyl-3-pentenyl]-4-heptanolide (9).** To a stirred solution of LDA [prepared by treating a solution of $iPr_2NH(22 \mu L, 0.16 \text{ mmol})$ and HMPA (50 *µ*L) in THF (0.50 mL) with *n*BuLi (1.6 M in hexane, 90 μ L, 0.14 mmol) at -10 °C] was added a solution of **7** (50.2) mg, 0.131 mmol) in THF (0.50 mL) at -65 °C. After 15 min, a solution of **8** (70.4 mg, 0.262 mmol) in THF (0.30 mL) was added, and the resulting mixture was stirred for 1 h at -78 °C. The reaction was quenched with saturated aq NH4Cl, and the mixture was extracted with $Et₂O$. The extract was successively washed with water and brine, dried $(MgSO₄)$, and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was chromatographed over $SiO₂$ (hexane/EtOAc, 50:1-4: 1) to give a 15.2:1 mixture of **9** and its cis isomer (31.8 mg, 44%) along with recovered starting lactone 7 (16%). Repeated $SiO₂$ column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc, 40:1) of the mixture afforded 26.5 mg (39%) of pure 9 as a colorless oil: $[\alpha]^{22}$ _D -19 (*c* 0.27, CHCl3). IR (film) *ν*max: 3020 (w), 1770 (s), 1110 (s), 700 (vs). 1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3): *δ* 0.01 (9H, s), 0.68 (3H, t, *J* $= 7.4$ Hz), 1.03 (9H, s), 1.36 - 1.52 (5H, m), 1.80 - 1.93 (2H, m), 2.02-2.13 (2H, m), 2.47 (1H, ddd, $J = 12.6, 9.3, 4.1$ Hz), 2.54-2.61 (1H, m), $3.81 - 3.89$ (1H, m), 4.45 (1H, dt, $J = 8.2$, 4.1 Hz), 5.21 (1H, dt, $J = 10.7, 7.4$ Hz), 5.45 (1H, dt, $J = 10.7, 8.8$ Hz), 7.35-7.47 (6H, m), 7.64-7.70 (4H, m). 13C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl3): *^δ* -1.8 (3C), 9.1, 18.6, 19.4, 24.7, 26.2, 27.0 (3C), 28.0, 31.4, 39.0, 74.9, 79.1, 125.6, 127.0, 127.5 (2C), 127.7 (2C), 129.7, 129.9, 132.8, 134.2, 135.8 (2C), 136.0 (2C), 179.6. HRMS (FAB): m/z calcd for $C_{31}H_{47}O_3Si_2$ ([M + H]⁺), 523.3064; found, 523.3068.

(2*R***,3a***S***,6***S***,6a***R***)-2-[(***S***)-1-(***tert***-Butyldiphenylsilyloxy)propyl]- 5-vinylhexahydrocyclopenta[***b***]furan (11).** To a stirred solution of 9 (42.3 mg, 81 μ mol) in CH₂Cl₂ (1 mL) was added dropwise a solution of DIBAL (0.94 M in hexane, 95 μ L, 89 μ mol) at -78

°C. After 10 min, the reaction was quenched with saturated aq Rochelle's salt, and the mixture was stirred for 1 h at room temperature before being extracted with EtOAc. The extract was washed with brine, dried $(Na₂SO₄)$, and concentrated in vacuo to give **10** (49.6 mg) as a colorless oil, which was then dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (1 mL). To the solution was added BF_3 ⁻OEt₂ (12 μ L, 97 μ mol) at -78 °C, and the resulting mixture was gradually warmed to -15 °C over a period of 45 min before being quenched with a suspension of $NaHCO₃$ in MeOH. The reaction mixture was filtered through a pad of Celite, and the filter cake was washed with EtOAc. The combined filtrate and washings were concentrated in vacuo, and the residue was chromatographed over $SiO₂$ (hexane/EtOAc, 10:1) to give 31.5 mg (90% from **9**) of a 6.4:1 mixture of **11** and its epimer as a colorless oil: $[\alpha]^{22}$ _D -35.4 (*c* 1.28, CHCl₃). IR (film) *ν*max: 3070 (m), 1640 (w), 1110 (s), 700 (s). 1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 0.78 (3H, t, $J = 7.5$ Hz), 1.05 (9H, s), 1.22-1.51 (4H, m), 1.56 (1H, ddd, $J = 12.1, 5.5, 2.2$ Hz), 1.74-1.91 $(2H, m)$, 1.93 (1H, dt, $J = 12.4$, 8.7 Hz), 2.42-2.63 (2H, m), 3.76 $(1H, dt, J = 5.4, 5.1 Hz), 3.94 (1H, ddd, J = 9.0, 5.1, 4.5 Hz),$ 4.11 (1H, dd, $J = 6.9$, 3.8 Hz), 4.96 (1H, d, $J = 10.4$ Hz), 5.01 $(1H, d, J = 18.3 \text{ Hz})$, 5.78 (1H, ddd, $J = 18.3$, 10.4, 6.9 Hz), 7.33-7.43 (6H, m), 7.67-7.73 (4H, m). 13C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl3) *^δ* 9.2, 19.4, 26.8, 27.0 (3C), 30.8, 31.6, 34.4, 42.2, 50.4, 75.5, 80.6, 89.5, 113.8, 127.40 (2C), 127.43 (2C), 129.46, 129.47, 134.4, 134.8, 136.1 (2C), 136.2 (2C), 140.4. HRMS (FAB): *m*/*z* calcd for $C_{28}H_{38}O_2SiNa$ ([M + Na]⁺), 457.2539; found, 457.2540.

(*S***)-1-[(2***R***,3a***S***,6***S***,6a***R***)-6-Hydroxymethylhexahydrocyclopenta- [***b***]furan-2-yl]-1-propanol (1a).** To a stirred solution of **13** (5.7 mg 13 *μ*mol) in CH₃CN (0.175 mL) was added 40% aq HF (75 μ L) at 0 °C. After 8.5 h, the reaction was quenched with saturated aq NaHCO3, and the mixture was extracted with EtOAc. The extract was dried (MgSO₄) and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was chromatographed over SiO_2 (EtOAc only) to give 2.4 mg (92%) of **1a** as a colorless oil: $[\alpha]^{22}$ _D -8.3 (*c* 0.12, CH₂Cl₂). IR (film) *ν*max: 3410 (s), 2940 (vs), 2875 (s), 1455 (m), 1045 (m). 1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 0.99 (3H, t, $J = 7.4$ Hz), 1.20-1.39 (2H, m), 1.42 (2H, qui, $J = 7.3$ Hz), 1.52 (1H, br dd, $J = 12.6$, 5.6 Hz), 1.58 (1H, br s, OH), 1.78-1.88 (1H, m), 1.89-2.00 (2H, m), 2.02- 2.11 (1H, m), 2.10 (1H, br s, OH), 2.69 (1H, qui, $J = 7.4$ Hz), $3.56 - 3.70$ (2H, m), $3.72 - 3.81$ (1H, m), 3.93 (1H, ddd, $J = 9.9$, 5.4, 3.4 Hz), 4.34 (1H, dd, $J = 7.2$, 4.2 Hz). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl3): *δ* 10.5, 25.8, 28.5, 31.2, 31.8, 43.0, 49.9, 65.2, 72.8, 80.9, 88.1. HRMS (FAB): m/z calcd for $C_{11}H_{21}O_3$ ([M + H]⁺), 201.1491; found, 201.1493.

(2*R***,3a***S***,6a***R***)-2-[(***S***)-1-(***tert***-Butyldiphenylsilyloxy)propyl]-3,- 3a,4,6a-tetrahydro-2***H*-**cyclopenta[***b***]furan-6-carbaldehyde (15).** To a stirred and ice-cooled solution of $12(10.2 \text{ mg}, 23.4 \mu \text{mol})$ in THF (0.25 mL) was added a solution of PhSeNEt₂ [prepared by treating a solution of PhSeCl (9.0 mg, 47 *µ*mol) in hexane (0.25 mL) with Et₂NH (10 *μ*L, 94 *μ*mol) at 0 °C for 15 min], and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 4 h until compound **12** was completely consumed (TLC analysis). Water (0.2 mL) and NaIO₄ (22.5 mg, 0.105 mmol) were then added, and the resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 7 h, during which time 10.4 mg (49 *µ*mol) and 20.0 mg (94 *µ*mol) of additional NaIO4 were added to bring the oxidative elimination to completion. The reaction was quenched with saturated aq $Na₂S₂O₃$ and extracted with EtOAc. The extract was dried $(Na₂SO₄)$ and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was chromatographed over $SiO₂$ (hexane/EtOAc, 7:1) to give 7.8 mg (76%) of **15** as a colorless oil: $[\alpha]^{22}$ _D -31 (*c* 0.17, CHCl3). IR (film) *ν*max: 3070 (w), 3050 (w), 1690 (s), 1110 (m), 740 (m). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 0.75 (3H, t, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 1.05 (9H, s), $1.35-1.62$ (3H, m), 2.00 (1H, dt, $J = 12.5$, 9.1 Hz), 2.31 (1H, dm, $J = 19.8$ Hz), 2.80 (1H, ddd, $J = 19.8$, 8.5, 2.6 Hz), 2.88-2.99 (1H, m), 3.73 (1H, dt, $J = 9.5$, 5.1 Hz), 3.79 (1H, q, $J = 5.1$ Hz), 5.18 (1H, dd, $J = 7.1$, 1.7 Hz), 6.89 (1H, t, $J = 2.6$ Hz), 7.32-7.44 (6H, m), 7.66-7.74 (4H, m), 9.78 (1H, s). ¹³C NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3): *δ* 9.3, 19.6, 27.1 (3C), 27.2, 35.4, 40.1, 40.3,

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75.2, 79.5, 84.1, 127.4 (4C), 129.4 (2C), 134.1, 134.6, 136.06 (2C), 136.14 (2C), 145.4, 153.2, 189.1. HRMS (FAB): *m*/*z* calcd for $C_{27}H_{34}O_3SiNa$ ([M + Na]⁺), 457.2175; found, 457.2181.

(*S***)-1-[(2***R***,3a***S***,6a***R***)-6-Hydroxymethyl-3,3a,4,6a-tetrahydro-2***H*-**cyclopenta[***b***]furan-2-yl]-1-propanol (2a).** To a stirred solution **16** (9.7 mg 0.022 mmol) in CH3CN (0.37 mL) was added 40% aq HF (0.17 mL) at 0 °C. After 10 h, the reaction was quenched with saturated aq $NaHCO₃$ and extracted with EtOAc. The extract was dried $(MgSO₄)$ and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was chromatographed over $SiO₂$ (EtOAc only) to give 4.1 mg (93%) of **2a** as a colorless oil: $[\alpha]^{22}$ _D +21 (*c* 0.21, CH₂Cl₂). IR (film) *ν*max: 3735 (s), 3400 (br s), 1700 (w), 1505 (m), 1035 (m). 1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 0.98 (3H, t, $J = 7.4$ Hz), 1.42 (2H, qui, $J = 7.1$ Hz), 1.51 (1H, ddd, $J = 12.6$, 5.0, 1.5 Hz), 2.04 (1H, dt, $J = 12.6$, 9.6 Hz), 2.15 (1H, br d, 17.7 Hz), 1.95-2.26 (2H, br, OH), 2.67 (1H, br dd, $J = 17.7$, 8.6 Hz), 2.94-3.06 (1H, m), 3.71-3.80 (2H, m), $4.21 - 4.34$ (2H, m), 5.16 (1H, br d, $J = 7.3$ Hz),

5.80 (1H, s). 13C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl3): *δ* 10.2, 26.0, 33.1, 39.3, 39.7, 60.9, 72.4, 79.4, 89.2, 130.5, 141.1; HRMS (FAB): *m*/*z* calcd for $C_{11}H_{19}O_3$ ([M + H]⁺), 199.1334; found, 199.1336.

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Supporting Information Available: Experimental procedures for compounds 7 , 12 , 13 , and 16 , and ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra for all new compounds. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

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