

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 (2S,5S,7R,8S,11R)- and (5S,7R,8S,11R)-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 Hz) to that observed for analogous polyketides (communiols A-D)² of the same microbial origin 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 revision 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 the lactone group.

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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 silvlated iodoalkene 87 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 BF₃•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-epi-11 = 6.4:1), as determined by observation of NOE correlations between 2-H and 7-H, and

SCHEME 3. Preferential Formation of 11



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 $1a ([\alpha]^{22}_D - 8.3 (c \ 0.12, CH_2Cl_2))$ was far different from that reported for natural communiol E $([\alpha]_D + 129 (c 0.075, CH_2Cl_2))$ 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 -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 [TMSCH₂CH=CH(CH₂)₂OTf] 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, CH₂Cl₂)) disagreed with that of natural communiol F ($[\alpha]_{D}$ +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

(2S,4R,5S)-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 μ L, 0.16 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 C₃₁H₄₇O₃Si₂ ([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 BF₃·OEt₂ (12 µL, 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 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). $^{13}\mathrm{C}$ 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-[(2R,3aS,6S,6aR)-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.

(2R,3aS,6aR)-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 mg, 23.4 μ 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 µL, 94 µmol) 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) v_{max}: 3070 (w), 3050 (w), 1690 (s), 1110 (m), 740 (m). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 0.75 (3H, t, J = 7.5Hz), 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 C₂₇H₃₄O₃SiNa ([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). ^{13}C 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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