

been absolutely ruled out. In fact, on the basis of molecular dynamic simulations, plus structural and stereoelectronic considerations, Karplus has recently suggested mechanism (b) to be a more favorable pathway for lysozyme action.⁵

Since either path (a) or (b) eventually yields the same solvolysis product **4** when alcohol or water is the trapping nucleophile, product studies have not been useful in distinguishing between (a) and (b).¹⁰ An unambiguous way to differentiate between routes (a) and (b) would be to trap the intermediate oxocarbenium ion(s) so as to obtain distinguishable product(s). We report herein the results of trapping experiments which clearly demonstrate that both pathways (a) and (b) are operative in the proton-catalyzed cleavage of alkyl β -THP acetals.

Our trapping method is a C-C bond-forming reaction via intramolecular attack of an enamine on an oxocarbenium ion generated in situ from acid-catalyzed cleavage of an acetal.¹¹ When our starting acetal **5**, which has two trans diequatorial groups on the THP ring, was stirred with Dowex-50 X 8-H⁺ and anhydrous methanol for about 3 days at room temperature, a mixture of three compounds **6**, **7**, and **8** was obtained (Table I; entry 1).

The formation of major products **6** and **7** is easily rationalized by assuming the intermediacy of oxocarbenium ions **9** and **10** formed as a result of exocyclic C-O bond and endocyclic C-O bond cleavages, respectively (Scheme II). Transformations¹¹ subsequent to the ring closure step in each case then lead to structures **6** and **7**. The formation of minor product **8**, however, cannot be straightforward. The precursor to **8** must be the oxocarbenium ion **11** which could result either from the rotation of oxocarbenium ion **10** around the C-C bond or, alternatively, from the cleavage of acetals **12** and **13a** formed as a result of competitive solvent (methanol) trapping of the oxocarbenium ions **9** and **10**, respectively.^{12,13} To test these possibilities compound **14**, the ethyl acetal analogue of **5**, was stirred with Dowex-H⁺ and methanol, and four products **6**, **7**, **8**, and **15** were isolated (Table I; entry 2).¹⁴ The absence of product **16** (which could only arise via rotation of the initially formed intermediate oxocarbenium ion **17** followed by ring closure) and the presence of **7** and **8** provide support for the solvent attack mechanism for formation of the minor products.

We also treated THP acetals **18** and **19**, which have all equatorial substituents, with Dowex-H⁺ and methanol. The results are summarized in Table I (entries 3 and 4) and are consistent with those obtained in the cases of **5** and **14**.

In summary, we have provided concrete experimental evidence which demonstrates that in proton-catalyzed solvolysis there is the possibility for both exo- and endocyclic C-O bond cleavages of THP acetals.¹⁵ We believe that our findings require a fresh look at the early conclusions favoring exclusive exocyclic C-O bond cleavage of THP acetals^{8c,d,h} and at subsequent interpreta-

tions based on the early precedent.^{7a,f,16} In addition, our method will be important for the examination of the role of stereoelectronic effects in acetal hydrolysis.^{1b-d,3c,h,l,m}

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1,3-Asymmetric Induction in Intramolecular Reformatsky-Type Reactions Promoted by Samarium Diiodide[†]

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Extraordinary strides have been made in recent years in development of synthetic methods which permit stereochemical control in construction of acyclic organic molecules.³ Perhaps most dramatic have been those conceptual advances which permit 1,3-relative asymmetric induction by carbon-carbon bond-forming reactions utilizing β -heterosubstituted carbonyl substrates.⁴ Still, truly general methods for such processes have yet to emerge. For example, few reported methods of 1,3-asymmetric induction provide more than 10:1 diastereoselectivity for representative substrates.^{4d-f,j} Many such processes appear to be useful for β -alkoxy aldehydes but not corresponding ketones or vice versa.⁴ Finally, no studies of which we are aware have addressed the important problem of 1,3-asymmetric induction in substrates where substituents α to the carbonyl may affect the stereochemical outcome in reactions of interest.

Inherent geometrical constraints imposed by intramolecular carbonyl addition reactions provide an attractive means by which to achieve 1,3-relative asymmetric induction, and this approach has been effectively employed by several research groups.^{4d,g-i} Intramolecular Reformatsky reactions of bromoacetates derived from β -hydroxy carbonyl substrates provide a very promising variant of the intramolecular carbonyl addition approach to 1,3-asymmetric induction. However, only limited success has been realized along these lines with zinc-promoted reactions, as low yields and/or poor diastereoselectivities have been observed in studies reported to date.⁵ Our success in utilizing samarium diiodide

[†] Dedicated to Professor Herbert C. Brown on the occasion of his 75th birthday.

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(2) Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellow, 1987-1989.

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(10) A similar question regarding exo- versus endocyclic carbon-heteroatom bond cleavage arises in the hydrolysis of cyclic ortho esters and related systems. However, due to the formation of different products, the identification of the position of bond cleavage is not ambiguous. (a) For a review see: ref 1d, Chapter 3. (b) For a recent article, see: Khouri, F. F.; Kaloustian, M. K. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 1986, 108, 6683 and references therein.

(11) Gupta, R. B.; Franck, R. W. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 1987, 109, 5393.

(12) Intramolecular trapping of the oxocarbenium ion **10** by the hydroxyl group may also generate **12**.

(13) We have already observed that the rotation of oxocarbenium ions around the C-C bond in these systems is slow compared to solvent trapping and is almost nonexistent.¹¹ Also, the formation of acetals **12** and **13** as a result of competing solvent trapping of the oxocarbenium ions is reminiscent of the initial formation of **5**.

(14) The increase in the formation of products resulting from the ring-opening mechanism of acetal in the case of **14** as compared to **5** (Table I; entries 1 and 2) is consistent with our earlier observation in these systems that ethanol is a poorer leaving group than methanol.¹¹

(15) As a referee states, the observed percentage of endocyclic cleavage is only the minimum since there is no measure for the fraction of reclosure of intermediate, e.g., **10** to starting THP acetal **5**.

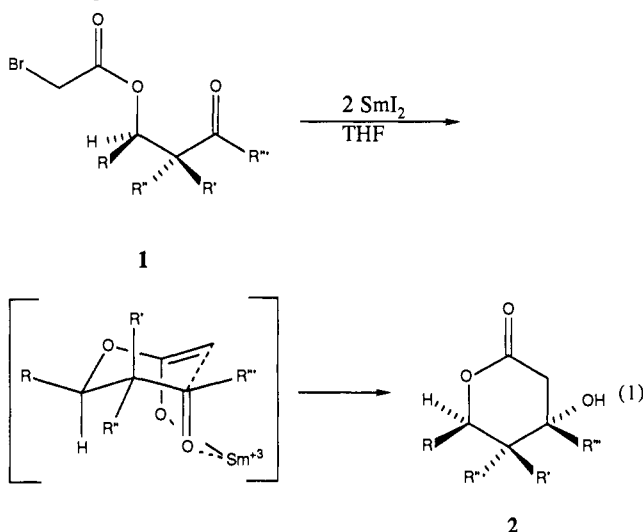
Table I. 1,3-Asymmetric Induction via Samarium Diiodide Promoted Intramolecular Reformatsky Reactions^a

entry	substrate	R	R'	R''	R'''	% isold yield 2
1	1a	Ph	H	H	Me	95 ^b
2	1b	Ph	H	H	<i>t</i> -Bu	98 ^b
3	1c	<i>n</i> -Pr	H	H	H	69 ^b
4	1d	H	H	Me	<i>t</i> -Bu	85 ^c
5	1e	Ph	H	Me	<i>t</i> -Bu	71 ^c
6	1f	<i>n</i> -Pr	H	Me	Et	86 ^b
7	1g	<i>n</i> -Pr	Me	H	Et	97 ^d (65 ^{b,e})
8	1h	Ph	H	Me	H	65 ^f
9	1i	Ph	Me	H	H	62 ^f

^aSubstrates were added to 2 equiv of SmI₂ in THF at the indicated temperatures. All reactions were complete in less than 15 min. ^bReaction performed at -78 °C. ^cReaction performed at 0 °C. ^dReaction performed at -20 °C. An 8:1 mixture of diastereomers was generated. ^eA 13:1 mixture of diastereomers was generated. ^fReaction performed at ambient temperature.

(SmI₂) as a soluble reagent for stereocontrolled intramolecular Barbier-type syntheses⁶ prompted us to explore use of this reagent for generation of acyclic syn 1,3-diol equivalents via an intramolecular Reformatsky-type reaction.⁷

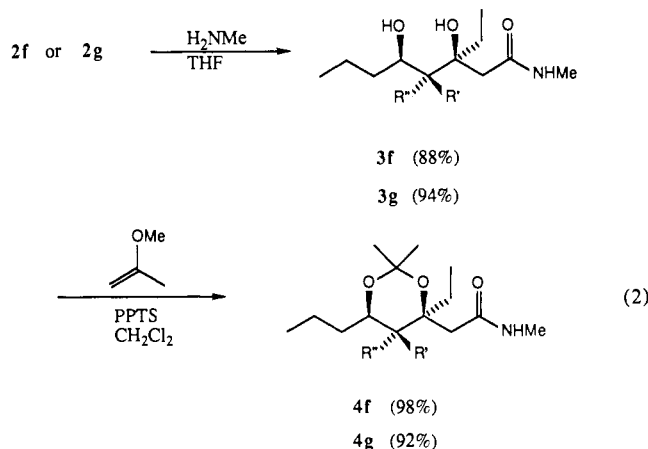
We envisioned that treatment of β-bromoacetoxy carbonyl substrates **1** with SmI₂ would initially generate Sm³⁺ ester enolates. Cyclization was expected to ensue through a rigid cyclic transition state enforced by chelation, providing the desired β-hydroxy δ-valerolactones **2** (eq 1) of defined stereochemistry. Indeed, this process works extraordinarily well, and we are pleased to report our results outlining what we believe is a most general and effective method for 1,3-asymmetric induction by a carbon-carbon bond-forming process.



As depicted in Table I, the reaction is amazingly broad in scope. Crude reaction mixtures were analyzed by capillary gas chromatography on a fused silica capillary column, and, with one exception (entry 7, *vide infra*), a single diastereomer is generated in all cases. The sense of 1,3-asymmetric induction is consistent with that predicted by the empirical model for all of these examples. Stereochemistry was assigned on the basis of spectral data for known compounds (entry 3), X-ray crystal structure determinations of the products (entries 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9), or X-ray crystal structure determinations of acetonide derivatives generated from the products (eq 2 for entries 6 and 7).

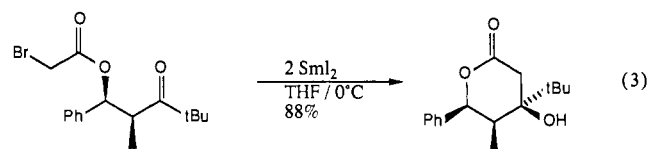
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In contrast to previously reported methods of 1,3-asymmetric induction, aldehydes (entries 3, 8, and 9) as well as ketones are suitable substrates for the reaction. Perhaps most importantly, strict 1,3-relative asymmetric induction was observed in these examples, *even in diastereomeric pairs of substrates bearing α substituents*. Thus, although the diastereoselectivity is somewhat attenuated for the syn diastereomer where the α substituent would be axially disposed in the proposed transition structure leading to product (substrate **1g**, entry 7), 1,3-asymmetric induction is still predominant and overpowers any other factors to an impressive extent.

We have found a single exception thus far to this general reactivity pattern (eq 3). In this system, a single diastereomer is detected and can be isolated in excellent yield. An X-ray crystal



structure determination of the product, however, indicates that the sense of relative 1,3-asymmetric induction is opposite to that observed in all other examples. Steric factors may preclude access to the chelated chair transition structure depicted in eq 1 for this substrate. Thus, Ph-Me and *t*-Bu-Me butane gauche interactions as well as unfavorable steric interactions between the axial methyl group and the *t*-Bu methyl groups that would be encountered in the chelated chair may provide an overwhelming impediment to accessing such a conformation, thereby forcing another transition structure to predominate in this instance. Studies designed to further elucidate the precise factors involved in this dramatic switch in the sense of 1,3-asymmetric induction and to more extensively outline the scope of the reaction with perhaps more demanding substrates are currently underway.

In conclusion, it should be noted that no protecting groups are required in this process since the alcohol "protecting group" becomes the reacting nucleophile for the reaction. As a consequence, for most substrates of interest the SmI₂-promoted intramolecular Reformatsky reaction provides the most efficient method yet developed for generation of acyclic syn 1,3-diol equivalents via carbon-carbon bond-forming reactions. Furthermore, the method provides perhaps the most effective entry into stereodefined β-hydroxy δ-valerolactones **2**.^{5e,f} Molecules possessing this functional array, structurally analogous to compactin lactone, are potent inhibitors of HMG-CoA reductase, the key enzyme involved in biosynthesis of cholesterol.^{5e,f,8} The successful development of this methodology thus provides facile entry into a variety of im-

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portant stereodefined acyclic molecules as well as an improved route to biologically active β -hydroxy δ -valerolactones heretofore difficult to access by more traditional means.

Acknowledgment. We thank the National Institutes of Health and the Petroleum Research Fund, sponsored by the American Chemical Society, for their generous support of our program, and Curt Haltiwanger for performing the X-ray crystal structure determinations.

Supplementary Material Available: General synthetic procedure and complete spectral data for all compounds synthesized as well as X-ray crystal structure data (25 pages). Ordering information is given on any current masthead page.

Atom Transfer Cycloaddition. A Facile Preparation of Functionalized (Methylene)cyclopentanes

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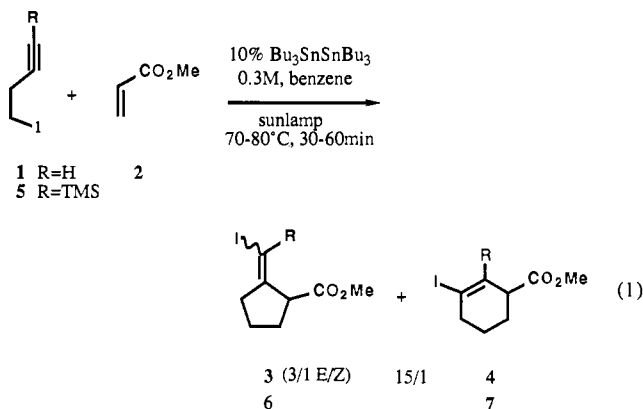
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The ability to sequence radical reactions to accomplish multiple transformations in a single step is an asset of free radical reactions in organic synthesis.^{2,3} In designing such sequences, it is advantageous to permit long lifetimes for intermediate radicals so that desired reactions can occur. On the other hand, the chain-transfer step should be as rapid as possible to prevent diversion of the final radical along undesired pathways. While a variety of useful radical sequences have recently been developed, the methods available to conduct these free radical reactions are actually quite few. The most commonly employed method uses a tin hydride reagent to mediate the radical sequence.^{4,5} In the tin hydride method, radical substituents have little effect on the rate of hydrogen atom abstraction, and, to a first approximation,

most radicals have similar lifetimes with respect to H-atom abstraction.⁶ This can be a serious problem, particularly in the design of sequences containing a relatively slow intermediate step. While free-radical reactions based on halogen atom transfer have long been known,^{7,8} the unique capability of such "atom transfer based"^{9,10} methods to control the course of sequential free radical reactions has not been recognized. We now report the sequencing of a free radical addition and cyclization reaction which is uniquely controlled by iodine atom transfer. This simple method for the preparation of (iodomethylene)cyclopentanes is termed "atom transfer cycloaddition".⁹

Sunlamp irradiation for 30 min of a solution of butynyl iodide (**1**) (0.3 M) and methyl acrylate (0.3 M) in benzene (~80 °C) containing 10 mol % hexabutyliditin produced a mixture of (iodomethylene)cyclopentane **3** and cyclohexenyl iodide **4**.¹¹ The



ratio of **3/4** was 15:1, and (iodomethylene)cyclopentane **3** was a 3:1 mixture of stereoisomers with the *E*-isomer predominating.¹²

(1) Sloan Foundation Fellow, 1985-87; Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar, 1985-89; Eli Lilly Grantee, 1985-87; Merck Faculty Development Awardee, 1986-87; Recipient of a National Institutes of Health Career Development Award, 1987-92.

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