

Figure 1. Dependence of the observed cesium ion pair acidity of PhIBP on the concentration of Cs-PhIBP. The slope of the plot is equal to $1/\bar{n}$ - 1, where \bar{n} is the average equilibrium aggregation number⁸ of Cs-PhIBP. A: T = 25 °C, slope = -0.54 ± 0.03 . B: T = -20 °C, slope = -0.69 ± 0.02 .

Table I. Initial Rate Kinetics for the Reaction of Cs-PhIBP with MeOTs in THF^a

T (°C)	log k	x ^b	y ^c	\bar{n}_k^d	
25.0 ^e	-2.3 ± 0.3	0.23 ± 0.05	1.02 ± 0.07	0.50 ± 0.11	
−20.0⁄	-40 ± 01	0.22 ± 0.02	1.16 ± 0.04	0.70 ± 0.07	

^aErrors are 1 standard deviation. ^bKinetic order in Cs-PhIBP. ^cKinetic order in MeOTs. ^dKinetic aggregation number. See text. ^cTwelve points. ^fEighteen points.

number and \bar{n}_k , the average "kinetic aggregation number", is the average aggregation number over those aggregates that react directly with the electrophile. The results are summarized in Table I. The fractional orders in Cs-PhIBP indicate that aggregates lower than those predominating at equilibrium are the actual reactive intermediates. A value of $\bar{n}_k = 0.5$ means that a dissociated species is the reactive entity; that is, at 25 °C we find that the reactive species is the free enolate ion, even though Cs-PhIBP is substantially aggregated!¹² Since these ion pairs are more tightly bound than the monomeric indicator cesium salts, conductivity studies of the indicators¹³ then indicate that the free enolate ion is present at no higher than about 5×10^{-6} M when the total enolate concentration is 2.5×10^{-3} M; therefore, the free enolate ion must be at least about 1000 times as reactive toward MeOTs as the predominating aggregate(s). At -20 °C the identity of the reactive intermediate(s) is somewhat ambiguous ($\bar{n}_{\mu} = 0.70$). but it is clear that the free enolate ion still plays an important role in the reaction.

Products of the reaction were analyzed by gas chromatography. The ratio of products resulting from alkylation at carbon to those resulting from alkylation at oxygen (the C/O ratio) is about 1.2, independent of the temperature and the extent of reaction. The insensitivity of the product distribution to the extent of conversion is evidence that the CsOTs does not affect \bar{n}_k ; that is, the free enolate ion is the reactive intermediate throughout the reaction. That the C/O ratio is insensitive to the temperature is surprising, given that $\bar{n}_k = 0.70$ at -20 °C; that is, at this temperature, species other than the free enolate ion (monomeric ion pair or higher aggregates) apparently contribute significantly to the reactivity. However, it is possible to show that any mechanism that changes the free ion concentration ratio [PhIBP⁻]/[Cs⁺] to a value greater than unity will cause an increase in the value of \bar{n}_k , even if the free enolate ion is the only reactive intermediate. For example, this effect would occur if CsOTs or Cs-PhIBP aggregates complexed a fraction of the free Cs⁺.

Finally, in a preliminary experiment, the lithium enolate of PhIBP was treated with MeOTs in THF at 25 °C. The reaction

was slow compared to the Cs-PhIBP reactions, and after about 10% reaction, the C/O ratio was about 0.4. This result establishes that the free enolate ion is not the dominant reactive intermediate in this case (compared to the C/O ratio obtained in the Cs-PhIBP reactions). Moreover, the lithium cation apparently diminishes the nucleophilicity of the carbon atom relative to the oxygen.

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β -Sialyl Phosphite and Phosphoramidite: Synthesis and Application to the Chemoenzymatic Synthesis of CMP-Sialic Acid and Sialyl Oligosaccharides

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A major problem in oligosaccharide synthesis¹ is sialylation.² The tertially hindered anomeric center and the lack of an electron-demanding group adjacent to the anomeric center of sialic acid (NeuAc) make the sialylation reaction particularly difficult to execute in an elimination-free and stereocontrolled manner. The same problems are also encountered in the chemical synthesis of CMP-NeuAc. Here we report the synthesis of β -sialyl dibenzyl phosphite using dibenzyl N,N-diethylphosphoramidite³ (DDP) and the application of the glycosyl phosphite⁴ to the synthesis of $\alpha 2$,6and $\alpha 2$,3-linked sialyl saccharides. We also report the chemical synthesis of a protected CMP-sialic acid for use in the study of enzymatic transfer of unnatural NeuAc.⁵

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Scheme I^a



^aReagents and conditions: (a) Dowex 50W × 8 (H⁺), MeOH, then HClO₄, Ac₂O (78%); for **2b** see ref 8; (b) from **2a**, dibenzyl *N*,*N*-diethylphosphoramidite (2.3 equiv), 1*H*-tetrazole (4 equiv), THF, room temperature (70%); (c) from **2b**, dibenzyl phosphate (1.2 equiv), 1,1,3,3-tetramethylurea (2.2 equiv), AgOTf (1.2 equiv), 3⁻Å molecular sieves, CH₂Cl₂/CH₃CN, room temperature (24%); (d) 'BuOOH/THF, -10 °C to room temperature (95%); (e) 5% Pd/C-EtOH, room temperature (99%); (f) 2-cyanoethyl *N*,*N*-diisopropylphosphoramidochloridite (1.5 equiv), iPr₂NEt (5 equiv), CH₂Cl₂, 0 °C to room temperature (89%); (g) 7 (0.1 equiv), tetrazole (10 equiv), CH₃CN, then 'BuOOH (10 equiv), -40 °C to room temperature (12%); (h) **9** (1.5 equiv), CH₃CN, 3⁻Å molecular sieves, TMSOTf (0.2 equiv), -42 °C, 30 min (80%, $\alpha:\beta = 5:1$) (i) **11** (1.5 equiv), same conditions as h (78%, $\alpha;\beta = 6:1$); (j) **13** (1.5 equiv), same as h (80%, $\alpha:\beta = 6:1$); (k) (1) Bu₄NF, (2) 1 N NaOH, (3) GDP-Fuc (1.2 equiv), MnCl₂ (20 mM), ATP (5 mM), pH 7.5, α_1 ,3-fucosyltransferase (85%).

As shown in Scheme I, treatment of acetylated NeuAc $2a^6$ with DDP and tetrazole in THF gave β -sialyl dibenzyl phosphite 3^7 (70% yield), which was subsequently converted to phosphates 4aand 5 via oxidation and hydrogenolysis. Alternatively, 5 was prepared from $2b^8$ via reaction with dibenzyl phosphate to give 4b, which was then converted to 5 via a radical-mediated reduction. Phosphoramidite 6 synthesized from 2a via reaction with 2cyanoethyl N,N-diisopropylphosphoramidochloridite⁹ was reacted with 7 followed by oxidation to give CMP-sialic acid 8.

For sialylation, compound 3 was reacted with 9 in the presence of 0.2 equiv of TMSOTf in CH₃CN at -42 °C for 30-40 min to give a 5:1 (α : β) mixture of the 2,6-linked sialoside 10 in 80% yield based on 3 (85% based on consumed 9) and the elimination product 2,3-dehydrosialic acid in 5%. No sialylation was observed under such conditions using phosphate 4a as a glycosylation reagent, though glycosylation (\sim 35%, α : β = 3:1) and elimination (\sim 12%) occurred in the presence of stoichiometric amounts of TMSOTf. Compound 3 was then used in the sialylation of 11¹⁰

(7) Data for 3: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.79, ¹.96, 2.01, 2.06, 2.07 (3 H each, s, OAc and NAc), 2.39 (1 H, dd, J = 4.9, 13.0 Hz, H-3eq), 3.73 (3 H, s, COOMe), 3.74 (1 H, dd, J = 2.0, 10.6 Hz, H-6), 3.99 (1 H, ddd, J = 10.04, 10.6 Hz, H-5), 4.10 (1 H, dd, J = 7.4, 12.4 Hz, H-9), 4.32 (1 H, d, J = 10.4 Hz, NH), 4.57 (1 H, dd, J = 2.0, 12.4 Hz, H-9'), 4.83-4.91 (2 H, m, H-4, H-8), 4.93-4.98 (2 H, m, benzylic protons), 5.14 (1 H, dd, J = 2.0, 2.4 Hz, H-7), 5.19 (2 H, dd, J = 9.7, 9.8 Hz, benzylic protons), 7.25-7.50 (10 H, m, phenyl protons); HRMS calcd for C₃₄H₄₂NO₁₅ PCs (M + Cs⁺) 868.1346, found 868.1346.

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(10) Prepared (46% isolated yield) from the β -galactosyltransferase reaction product *N*-acetyllactosamine- β -*O*-allyl (Wong, C.-H.; Ichikawa, Y.; Krach, T.; Gautheron, C.; Dumas, D. P.; Look, G. C. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 1991, 113, 8137) by reaction with 2 equiv of 'Bu(Ph)₂SiCl and imidazole in DMF at room temperature.

under the same conditions to give a 6:1 ($\alpha:\beta$) mixture of the 2,3-linked product 12 in 78% yield based on consumed 11 (33% based on 3). Interestingly, sialylation of 13 occurred regioselectively at the 3-OH group of GlcNAc to give a 6:1 ($\alpha:\beta$) mixture of the α 2,3-linked sialoside 14 in 80% yield (44% based on 3). Deprotection of 12 followed by enzymatic fucosylation using α 1,3-fucosyltransferase gave SLe^x in 85% yield.^{11,12}

In summary, we have developed a new chemoenzymatic strategy for the synthesis of CMP-sialic acid and sialosides based on sialyl phosphoramidite and sialyl phosphite/glycosyltransferases. The phosphite is easy to prepare and stable to handle, and the yields of sialylation with 3 are higher than or comparable to those with other sialylation reagents.² To further improve the stereoselectivity in the sialylation reaction, one may use the benzyl ester of the NeuAc derivative^{11c} or lower the temperature and change the solvent. Other acetylated glycosyl phosphites have been prepared from their peracetates via selective deprotection at C-1 with benzylamine¹³ or lipases,^{1p,4a} and their application to glycosylation will be published in due course. The strategy described here combined with the readily available sialic acid analogs prepared from the sialic acid aldolase reactions^{1p-r} should enable us to

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incorporate unnatural sialic acids into oligosaccharides.

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Supplementary Material Available: A listing of complete experimental details and analytical and spectral data for all new compounds (3-8, 11-14) (9 pages). Ordering information is given on any current masthead page.

Stereocontrolled Hydride Reductions of β -Hydroxy Oximino Ethers

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In recent years, the development of "internally-directed" reagents through participation of a proximate hydroxyl function has afforded fundamental advances for directed epoxidations, hydrogenations, hydride reductions, and conjugate additions. Naraska1 and Evans2 have reported complementary reagent-based strategies for preparation of 1,3-syn- and 1,3-anti-diols via reductions of acyclic β -hydroxy ketones. Additional developments have been reported which continue to expand the scope of stereoselective reductions to provide 1,3-diols and related derivatives.³ In connection with our interest in alkaloid synthesis, we have examined opportunities for preparation of 1,3-amino alcohols wherein the diastereofacial selectivity of hydride delivery to an imino (C=N) bond is affected by a neighboring hydroxyl group.⁴ Herein, we illustrate our findings for 1,3-asymmetric induction in reductions of β -hydroxy oximino ethers. Our initial observations resulted from individual reductions of pure (Z)- and (E)-oximino benzyl ethers 1 and 2 with tetramethylammonium triacetoxyborohydride (TABH) in anhydrous acetic acid-acetonitrile (1:1



by volume) at -35 °C. (Z)-Oxime 1 afforded smooth conversion to the 1,3-anti product 3, while the corresponding (E)-oxime 2 gave mostly the 1,3-syn arrangement 4.⁵ Diastereoselectivity was achieved based upon geometry of the starting oximino ethers.

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Table I. Diastereofacial Hydride Reduction of β -Hydroxy Oximino Ethers



^aAll ratios were determined by chromatographic separation and product isolations. In some cases ratios of diastereomeric products were also confirmed by ¹H NMR of crude mixtures. ^bAnti/syn products were identified by ¹H NMR and conversion to their cyclic carbamates (carbonyldiimidazole, benzene, heat) for proton decoupling studies. ^cLargely starting oxime (70%) was recovered.

This behavior is typical for a variety of substrates as summarized in Table I. Yields generally range from 80–95%. In cases of lower yields, considerable amounts of starting oxime ethers were recovered. Such examples (entry 8) exhibited significant steric interactions and very slow reaction times. In all cases of incomplete reactions, reisolated oximes showed no evidence of E/Zisomerization under the reaction conditions. The significance of

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