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**STEREOSELECTIVE PREPARATION OF ALLYLIC ALCOHOL  
INTERMEDIATES IN THE SYNTHESIS OF DEOXY SugARS**

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**ABSTRACT**

4*S*-*cis*-2,2,5-Trimethyl-1,3-dioxolane-4-carboxaldehyde (1) undergoes stereoselective nucleophilic addition with different vinyl metals. Allylic alcohols thus obtained are possible intermediates in the synthesis of deoxysugars. By a reiterative 1 C extension cycle, 6-deoxyhexoses can be obtained.

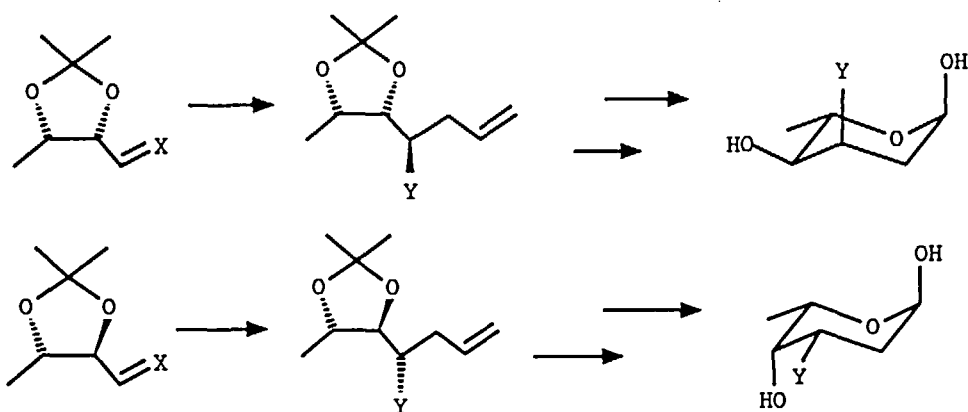
**INTRODUCTION**

The enantiomeric forms of 4- and 5-deoxytetroses and pentoses have raised much interest due to the opportunity of converting them into biologically important hexoses by means of stereoselective transformations.<sup>1</sup> In this context, the total synthesis of 2,6-dideoxy and 2,3,6-trideoxy-3-amino-hexoses of the L series represents a major task in synthetic carbohydrate chemistry.<sup>2</sup>

To this end we have been using extensively the C4 aldehydes 1 and 2<sup>3</sup> as starting materials. The key step in our



approach to the above hexoses involved the addition of a suitable allyl metal onto the carbonyl carbon of 1 and 2 or their phenylsulphenimino derivatives<sup>4,5</sup> (Scheme 1).



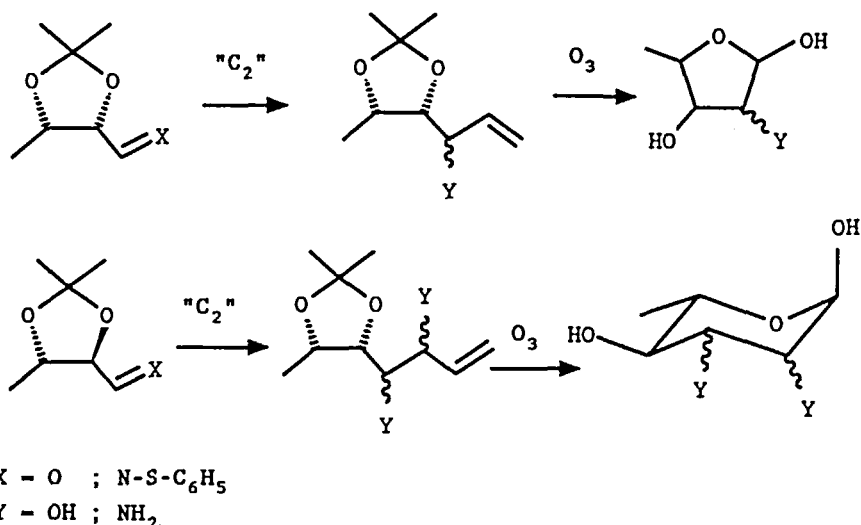
X - O; N-S-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>

Y - OH; NH<sub>2</sub>

Scheme 1

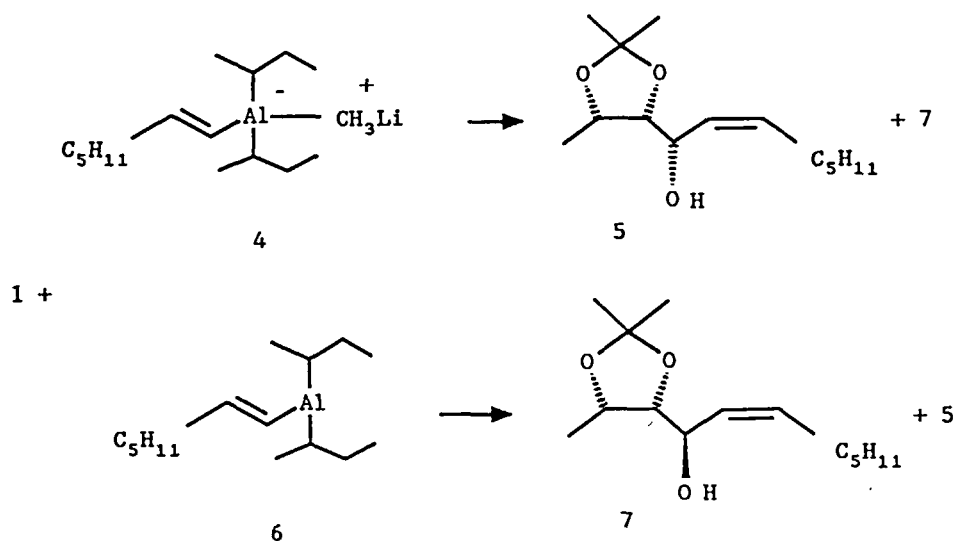
In particular, with diallylzinc as the nucleophile, steric control by the two chiral centers embedded in the dioxolane system was remarkably high, homoallylic amines with *anti* stereochemistry between the  $\alpha$ -oxygen and the newly formed chiral center being obtained as almost exclusive reaction products. The latter materials were straightforwardly converted into *ribo* and *lyxo* 2,6-dideoxy or 2,3,6-trideoxy-3-amino-L-hexoses.

In a program directed to obtaining modified anthracycline glycosides of potential antitumor activity, we needed deoxy-, deoxyamino- and deoxydiaminopentoses and hexoses of

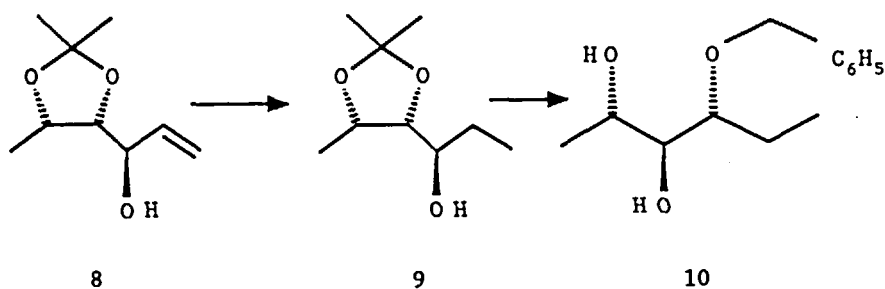


Scheme 2

the 1 series accessible from diastereoisomerically pure C6 and C7 allylic alcohols and amines. These latter compounds are potentially available from 1 and 2 by addition of vinyl metals to their phenylsulphenimino derivatives (Scheme 2). We now report on the results obtained from reacting 1 with a variety of vinyl metals. We turned our attention first to the oxygenated compounds. It has already been shown<sup>6</sup> that addition of ethynyl- and vinylmagnesium halides onto protected glyceraldehyde proceeds with poor diastereoselectivity. Recently we noticed<sup>1,6</sup> that vinylalane and lithiummethylvinyl-diisobutylalane add to chiral hydroxy aldehydes with opposite stereochemistry, namely with prevalent *anti* relative stereochemistry for the former, and *syn* for the latter (Scheme 3). Moreover, it has recently been shown<sup>7</sup> that addition of vinylcoppermagnesium bromide on  $\alpha$ -benzyloxy aldehydes<sup>2</sup> in Et<sub>2</sub>O/SMe<sub>2</sub> occurs with almost exclusive *syn* stereochemistry whereas the *anti* product is obtained when vinyltitaniumtris(isopropoxide) in THF is used as the nucleophile. These observations suggest that the stereocontrolled preparation of C6 and C7 allylic alcohols from amino sugars should be possible. Addition of the lithium alanate 4,



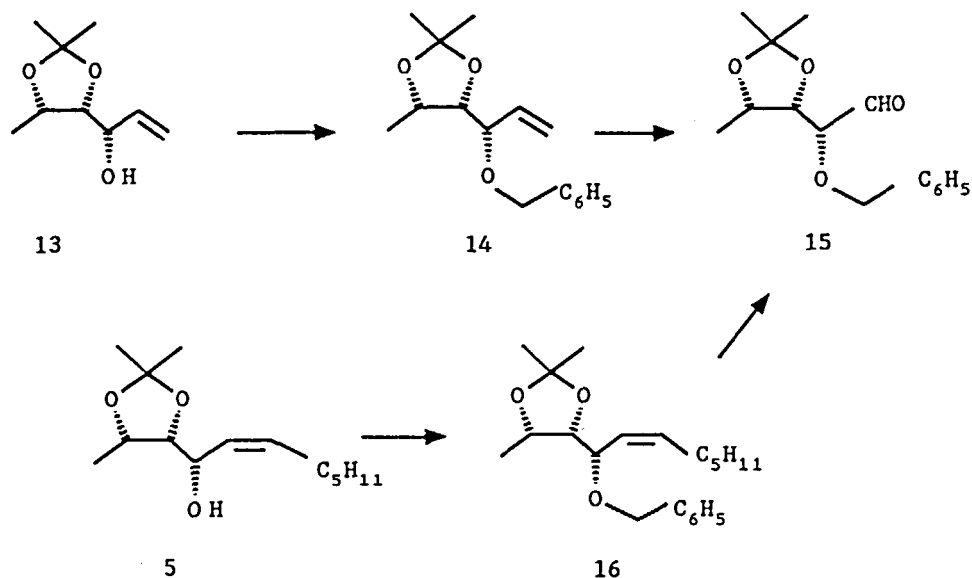
Scheme 3



Scheme 4

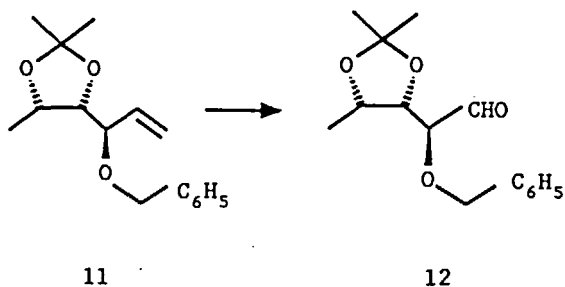
prepared according to Zweifel<sup>8</sup>, to the aldehyde 1 gave the syn adduct 5 accompanied by ca. 10% of the anti isomer. Addition of the vinylalane 6 gave predominantly the anti stereoisomer 7. Addition of vinylmagnesium bromide in THF gave an anti-syn mixture in a ratio of 7:3. Separation by flash chromatography of the major isomer 8 allowed the correlation of this compound with the known diol<sup>12</sup> 10 as outlined in Scheme 4.

Ozonolysis of the benzyl ether of 13, compound 14, and treatment with Me<sub>2</sub>S gave the corresponding aldehyde 15 which was identical with the one obtained from compound 5 by the same treatment, thus proving the configuration of the newly

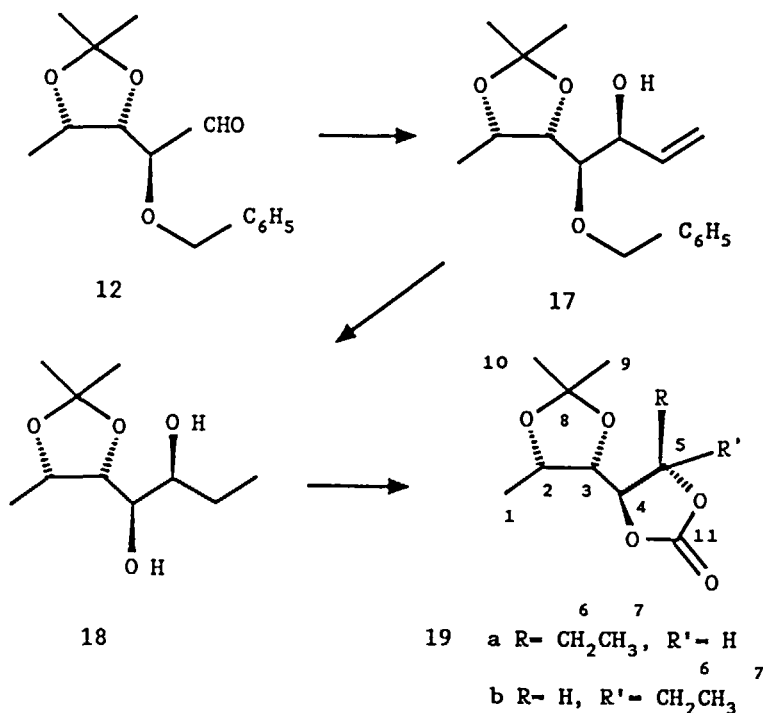


Scheme 5

formed chiral center (Scheme 5). The opposite configuration at carbon 4 was assigned to the isomeric alcohol 7. In this way the two epimeric forms of a masked 5-deoxypentose can be obtained. In order to confirm the stereochemical course of the reaction, aldehyde 12 obtained from 11 after ozonolysis and reductive work up, was treated with vinylcoppermagnesium bromide which should add with *syn* stereochemistry.



Mainly one compound was obtained from the reaction and its stereochemistry was proved as indicated in Scheme 6. Aldehyde 12, treated with vinylcoppermagnesium bromide in ethyl ether at  $-80^{\circ}\text{C}$ , gave a mixture of isomeric diols from which, after flash chromatography, allylic alcohol 17 was



Scheme 6

isolated as the main compound. The diol **18** obtained as the main component of a mixture arising from catalytic hydrogenation of crude **17**, was transformed into the cyclic carbonates **19** by a standard procedure. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR studies showed that the protons H-4 and H-5 in the carbonate ring of the major isomer **19a** are in a *trans* arrangement to each other. It is known<sup>13,14</sup> that in pentacyclic rings both protons and carbons in a 1,2-*cis* relationship with an alkyl substituent are shifted upfield with respect to protons and carbons in a 1,2-*trans* relationship. Accordingly, the comparison of the chemical shifts of **19b** vs. **19a** (Table 1) shows that proton H-4 is shifted upfield by 0.41 ppm and carbon C-3 is shifted downfield by 3.5 ppm, allowing establishment of the relative configuration of C-4 and C-5.

The dibenzyl ether **20** obtained from **17**, was subsequently transformed into the corresponding aldehyde **21** by ozonolysis and Me<sub>2</sub>S treatment. This compound was converted into a

Table 1.  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR Data of the 2,3-Isopropylidenedioxy-4,5-dihydroxycarbonylheptanes 19a and 19b.<sup>a, b</sup>

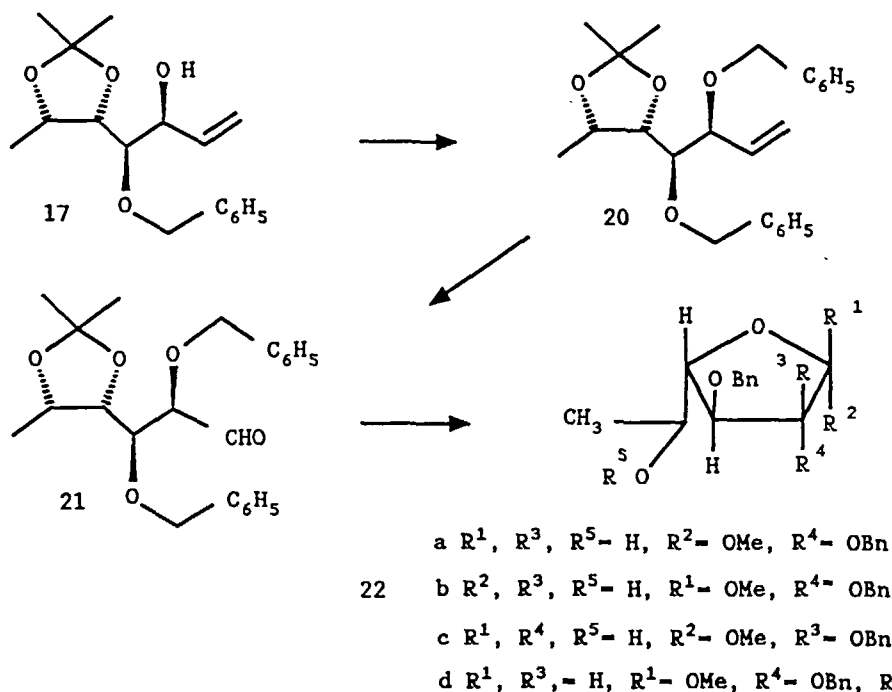
	19a	19b	19a	19b
H-1	1.28	( $J_{1,2} = 6.0$ Hz) C	( $J_{1,2} = 6.2$ )	C-1 14.8 15.2
H-2	4.50	( $J_{2,3} = 9.0$ Hz)	4.46 ( $J_{2,3} = 10.0$ Hz)	C-2 73.6 74.4
H-3	4.20	( $J_{3,4} = 8.7$ Hz)	4.30 ( $J_{3,4} = 5.5$ Hz)	C-3 78.4 74.9
H-4	4.36	( $J_{4,5} = 5.5$ Hz)	4.77 ( $J_{4,5} = 7.0$ Hz)	C-4 78.1 76.0
H-5	4.60		4.70	C-5 81.9 82.2
H-6	1.7-1.9		1.8 -2.0	C-6 27.9 23.1
H-7	1.02		1.03	C-7 9.3 10.4
H-9	1.38	C	C	C-8 109.3 C
H-10	1.32	C	C	C-9 28.2 28.6
				C-10 25.4 25.8
				C-11 154.9 C

a. Chemical shifts are in ppm from internal TMS; coupling constants in Hz; solvent  $(\text{CD}_3)_2\text{CO}$ . The proton and carbon numbering is as shown in the structural formulas. The analysis refers to products in mixture.

b. 19a and 19b were obtained as an inseparable mixture in the ratio of 85:15

c. Not detected





Scheme 7

mixture of anomeric methyl hexosides (Scheme 7):  $^1H$  and  $^{13}C$  NMR spectroscopy data for the mixture of the two methyl furanosides 22a and 22b is given in Table 2; when the same reaction sequence was carried out on crude 17, a mixture of the three compounds 22a, b and c was obtained. The isomeric hexoses were identified by high resolution NMR spectroscopy without purification. Acetylation of the mixture derived from 17 gave an  $^1H$  NMR spectrum that was easier to analyze, allowing identification of compound 22d as the acetate of 22b. The anomeric carbons of 22b and 22c resonate at 107.8 and 107.4 ppm respectively, indicating a *trans* relationship of C-1 and C-2 substituents.<sup>15</sup> A 1,2-*cis* relationship causes anomeric carbon to resonate upfield to about 103 ppm.

Moreover the small value of 2.0 Hz for the vicinal coupling constant  $J(2,3)$  of 22d, indicates a *trans* orientation of H-2 and H-3 for this compound. Thus the  $\alpha$ -L-*altro* configuration can be assigned to 22b and 22d. As a conse-

Table 2.  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR Data From Mixtures of Methyl Hexosides 22.<sup>a</sup>

	22a	22c	22d	
H-1	4.68 ( $J_{1,2} = 4.5$ Hz)	4.87 ( $J_{1,2} = 1.0$ Hz)	4.93 ( $J_{1,2} = 1.0$ Hz)	
H-2	4.08 ( $J_{2,3} = 6.7$ Hz)	3.86 ( $J_{2,3} = 4.7$ Hz)	3.97 ( $J_{2,3} = 2.0$ Hz)	
H-3	4.36 ( $J_{3,4} = 5.5$ Hz)	4.19 ( $J_{3,4} = 6.6$ Hz)	3.92 ( $J_{3,4} = 5.7$ Hz)	
H-4	3.84 ( $J_{4,5} = 3.5$ Hz)	4.11 ( $J_{4,5} = 3.4$ Hz)	4.03 ( $J_{4,5} = 4.1$ Hz)	
H-5	3.91 ( $J_{5,6} = 6.5$ Hz)	3.96 ( $J_{5,6} = 6.5$ Hz)	5.12 ( $J_{5,6} = 6.1$ Hz)	
Me-5	1.17	1.18	1.24	
OMe	3,41	3.37	3.38	
COMe	-	-	1.97	
	22a	22b	22c	
C-1	102.6	107.8	107.4	
C-2	85.6	87.6	80.8	
C-3	80.9	82.2	77.3	
C-4	86.0	86.7	86.2	
C-5	68.6	67.4	68.1	
C-6	18.9	18.7	18.3	
OMe	56.6	55.4	56.4	

a. Chemical shifts in ppm from internal TMS; coupling constants in Hz; solvent  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .

quence it follows that 22c is the  $\beta$ -L-allo isomer. Finally, compound 22a was assigned the  $\beta$ -L-alto structure from comparison with the  $^{13}\text{C}$  chemical shifts of 22b. Changing from the  $\alpha$ -L- to the  $\beta$ -L-alto configuration, an upfield shift of about 3.2 and 1 ppm is predicted  $^{15}$  for carbons C-2, C-3 and C-4 respectively, as can be observed going from 22b to 22a (Table 2).

In conclusion, allylic alcohols of different stereochemistry can be obtained from  $\alpha$ -hydroxy aldehydes by stereoselective addition of the proper vinyl metal. This method can be considered an iterative extension of alkoxy aldehyde to higher aldoses.

## EXPERIMENTAL

**General Procedures.** Specific rotations were recorded on a Jasco DIP-181 digital polarimeter. The values refer to  $c = 2$  in  $\text{CHCl}_3$ , unless otherwise stated. NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian EM-390 (90 MHz) and on a Bruker CXP (300 MHz) instrument. Purification of products was performed by flash chromatography on silica gel (Merck 60, 0.040-0.063 mm) with mixtures of *n*-hexane and ethyl acetate. Analytical samples were prepared by bulb-to-bulb distillation under reduced pressure. Aldehyde 1 was prepared as previously described.<sup>9</sup> Vinylmagnesium bromide was prepared according to ref. 10. Vinylalane and methyllithium vinyl alanate were prepared following the procedure described in ref. 8 and 11 respectively. Benzyl ethers were prepared by the following standard procedure: a 10% DMF solution of the alcohols was treated with 1.2 equivalents of a 50% suspension of NaH in paraffin oil at room temperature, under nitrogen with stirring. The mixture was heated at 50 °C for 1 h, cooled to 0-5 °C, 1.1 equivalent of benzyl bromide was then added and the mixture heated at 50 °C for 1 h. The reaction mixture was then poured into 4-5 times the volume of water and the

aqueous mixture extracted with ethyl ether. The crude benzyl ethers were purified by flash chromatography.

**(2S,3S,4S,5E)-2,3-Isopropylidenedioxy-4-hydroxyundec-5-ene (5).** To a solution of 0.057 mol of the lithium methyl diisobutyl-1-heptenylalanate (**4**) prepared from 1-heptyne, DIBAL in hexane and  $\text{CH}_3\text{Li}$  in hexane at  $-30^\circ\text{C}$  and in an inert atmosphere, according to the literature<sup>8</sup>, 8.2 g of **1** (0.057 mol) in 20 mL of ethyl ether were added. The mixture was stirred at  $-30^\circ\text{C}$  during 1 h, cooled to  $-50^\circ\text{C}$  and quenched with water (50 mL). The mixture was allowed to come to room temperature, the salts filtered and the residue extracted with ethyl ether to give 9.2 g of a residue which was chromatographed to give 6.2 g (45%) of compound **5** as a colorless oil:  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} +8^\circ$ ;  $^1\text{H NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  0.83 (t, 3H), 1.25 (d, 3H), 1.33 (s, 3H), 1.47 (s, 3H), 1.1-1.4 (m, 8H), 2 (m, 2H), 3.95 (5 lines, 1H), 4.12 (m, 1H), 4.25 (5 lines, 1H), 5.1-6 (m, 2H), 5.58 (dd, 1H), 5.55 (dd, 1H). The slightly more polar compound (800 mg, 5%) was identified as **7** (see below).

Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{26}\text{O}_3$ : C, 69.38; H, 10.81. Found: C, 69.11; H, 10.70.

**(2S,3S,4R,5E)-2,3-Isopropylidenedioxy-4-hydroxy-undec-5-ene (7).** To a solution of 0.09 mol of 1-heptenyldiisobutylalane (**6**) in hexane prepared as described,<sup>11</sup> 13 g of **1** in anhydrous ethyl ether were added at  $0^\circ\text{C}$  and the mixture stirred under nitrogen for 1 h. The reaction was then quenched with dilute HCl and the organic phase dried and concentrated. The residue (19 g) was purified by chromatography to give 2.2 g (10%) of a compound identified as **5** and 8.2 g (38%) of **7**:  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} +14.3^\circ$ ;  $^1\text{H NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  0.80 (t, 3H), 1.21 (d, 3H), 1.36 (s, 3H), 1.45 (s, 3H), 1.2-1.8 (m, 6H), 2.08 (m, 2H), 3.8-4.5 (m, 4H), 5.6-5.9 (m, 2H).

Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{26}\text{O}_3$ : C, 69.38; H, 10.81. Found: C, 69.23; H, 10.72.

**(2S,3S,4R)-2,3-Isopropylidenedioxy-4-hydroxyhex-5-ene (8) and (2S,3S,4S) stereoisomer (13).** To a THF solution of vinylmagnesium bromide (0.08 mol) prepared according to a

known procedure,<sup>10</sup> 11.2 g (0.08 moles) of 1 in THF (40 mL) were added at -5 °C while stirring and under nitrogen. The mixture was allowed to come to room temperature, treated with a solution of NH<sub>4</sub>Cl and extracted with ether. The organic layer was dried and concentrated to give a crude oil which after chromatography gave 8 (4.3 g, 31%) as a yellowish oil:  $[\alpha]_D^{20} +41.2^\circ$ ; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 1.24 (d, 3H), 1.35 (s, 3H), 1.41 (s, 3H), 3.9 (m, 1H), 4.1 (m, 2H), 4.3 (dd, 1H), 5.2-5.5 (m, 2H), 5.85-6.3 (m, 1H).

Anal. Calcd for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>10</sub>O<sub>3</sub>: C, 62.76; H, 9.36. Found: C, 62.72; H, 9.38. The minor isomer was then isolated (1.8 g, 13%) to which structure 13 was attributed:  $[\alpha]_D^{20} +12.8^\circ$ ; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 1.24 (d, 3H), 1.32 (d, 3H), 1.48 (s, 3H), 4.0 (dd, 1H), 4.15 (m, 2H), 4.32 (dd, 1H), 5.3 (m, 2H), 5.8 (m, 1H).

Anal. Calcd for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>16</sub>O<sub>3</sub>: C, 62.76; H, 9.36. Found: C, 62.62; H, 9.39.

**(2S,3S,4R)-2,3-Isopropylidenedioxy-4-hydroxyhexane (9).** Compound 8 (520 mg, 0.03 mol) in 20 mL of ethyl acetate, was catalytically reduced at atmospheric pressure in the presence of 70 mg of 10% Pd/charcoal. The catalyst was then removed by filtration and the residue distilled *in vacuo* to give 9 (410 mg, 80%):  $[\alpha]_D^{20} -9.2^\circ$ ; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 0.95 (t, 3H), 1.3 (d, 3H), 1.4 (s, 3H), 1.8 (m, 2H), 3.4-3.9 (m, 2H), 4.3 (dd, 1H).

Anal. Calcd for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>18</sub>O<sub>3</sub>: C, 62.04, H, 10.41. Found: C, 61.91; H, 10.32.

**(2S,3S,4R)-2,3-Dihydroxy-4-benzyloxyhexane (10).** Compound 9 (780 mg, 0.045 mol) was benzylated following a standard methodology, and the intermediate benzyl ether directly hydrolyzed in 20 mL of a 1:1 mixture of 50% acetic acid and acetonitrile at 60 °C for 1 h. The solution was then extracted with ether to give crude 10 (650 mg, 60%) whose spectral data were identical with those described in the literature for the compound:<sup>13</sup>  $[\alpha]_D^{20} -18.4^\circ$ ; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 1.0 (t, 3H), 1.2 (d, 3H), 1.7 (m, 2H), 2.2 (m, 2H), 3.6 (m, 2H), 3.95 (m, 1H), 4.6 (d, 2H), 7.37 (s, 5H).

Anal. Calcd for  $C_{13}H_{20}O_3$ : C, 69.61; H, 8.99. Found : C, 69.43; H, 9.08.

**(2S,3S,4R)-2,3-Isopropylidenedioxy-4-benzyloxyhex-5-ene (11).** Compound 8 (1.1 g, 0.06 mol) was benzylated following the standard procedure, to give 1.28 g of purified 11 (82%):  $[\alpha]_D^{20} +7.8^\circ$ ;  $^1H$  NMR ( $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  1.25 (d, 3H), 1.30 (s, 3H), 1.43 (s, 3H), 3.35-4.1 (m, 2H), 4.2-4.6 (q, 2H), 5.2-5.35 (dd, 2H), 5.45 (d, 1H), 5.65-6 (m, 1H), 7.35 (s, 5H).

Anal. Calcd for  $C_{16}H_{22}O_3$ : C, 73.25; H, 8.45. Found: C, 73.16; H, 8.27.

**(2R,3S,4S)-3,4-Isopropylidenedioxy-2-benzyloxy-pentanal (12).** Compound 11 (995 mg, 0.038 mol) in 20 mL of methylene chloride, was treated at  $-70^\circ C$  with excess ozone. The unreacted ozone was removed from the solution with nitrogen and the mixture treated with excess  $Me_2S$  (3 mL). The solution was allowed to come to room temperature and then heated at  $60^\circ C$  for 1 h. The solvent was then evaporated and the residue distilled in vacuo to give the aldehyde 12 (645 mg, 65%) which was directly used for further reaction:  $^1H$  NMR ( $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  1.2 (s, 3H), 1.3 (s, 3H), 1.4 (s, 3H), 2.15 (s, 1H), 3.8 (dd, 2H), 4.2-4.7 (m, 2H), 7.4 (s, 5H), 9.75 (d, 1H).

**(2S,3S,4S)-2,3-Isopropylidenedioxy-4-benzyloxyhex-5-ene (14).** This compound was prepared as described above for the epimeric 11:  $[\alpha]_D^{20} +13.5^\circ$ ;  $^1H$  NMR ( $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  1.25 (d, 3H), 1.38 (s, 3H), 1.5 (s, 3H), 3.7-4.35 (m, 2H), 4.58 (q, 2H), 5.2-5.35 (dd, 2H), 5.4 (s, 1H), 5.6-6.0 (m, 1H), 7.2-7.45 (m, 5H).

Anal. Calcd for  $C_{16}H_{22}O_3$ : C, 73.25; H, 8.45. Found: C, 73.29; H, 8.19.

**(2R,3S,4R)-3,4-Isopropylidenedioxy-2-benzyloxy-pentanal (15).** This aldehyde was prepared as described above for the epimeric compound 12 in 60% yield.  $[\alpha]_D^{20} +42.5^\circ$ ;  $^1H$  NMR ( $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  1.23 (d, 3H), 1.3 (s, 3H), 1.50 (s, 3H), 3.8 (m, 1H), 4.2-4.6 (m, 2H), 4.7 (d, 2H), 7.3 (m, 5H), 9.8 (d, 1H).

**(2S,3S,4S,5E)-2,3-Isopropylidenedioxy-4-benzyloxyundec-5-ene (16).** Compound 5 (1.33 g, 0.055 mol) was benzylated following the standard procedure to give oily 16 (1.3 g,

75%):  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  0.96 (t, 3H), 1.2 (d, 3H), 1.36 (s, 3H), 1.5 (s, 3H), 2.1 (m, 2H), 3.8 (m, 2H), 4.16 (m, 1H), 4.51 (q, 2H), 5.5 (dd, 1H), 5.68 (dd, 1H), 7.35 (s, 5H).

Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{32}\text{O}_3$ : C, 75.86; H, 9.70. Found: C, 75.83; H, 9.82. Ozonolysis of compound 16 in methylene chloride at  $-70^\circ\text{C}$  and reductive work up with  $\text{Me}_2\text{S}$  as described in the preparation of the epimeric aldehyde (12), gave a product (58%) which was identical with 15 obtained from the olefin 14.

(2S,3S,4R,5S)-2,3-Isopropylidenedioxy-4-benzyloxy-5-hydroxyhept-6-ene (17). Aldehyde 12 (1.2 g, 0.0045 mol) was treated at  $-80^\circ\text{C}$  with vinylcoppermagnesium bromide in anhydrous ethyl ether according to the literature<sup>7</sup> to give a mixture of epimeric allylic alcohols from which compound 17 (854 mg, 65%) was isolated as the main component by chromatography:  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20}$   $-44.1^\circ$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  1.25 (s, 3H), 1.3 (d, 3H), 1.5 (s, 3H), 2.9 (s, broad, 1H), 3.6 (d, 1H), 3.7 (d, 1H), 4.1-4.4 (m, 2H), 4.8 (q, 2H), 5.2-5.5 (dd, 2H), 6.0-6.3 (m, 1H), 7.38 (s, 5H).

Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{24}\text{O}_4$ : C, 69.83; H, 8.27. Found: C, 70.04; H, 8.24. Standard benzylation of compound 17 gave after column chromatography compound 20 in 55% yield:  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20}$   $-4.5^\circ$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR, ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  1.25 (d, 3H), 1.35 (s, 3H), 1.45 (s, 3H), 3.55-3.75 (dd, 2H), 4.1-4.9 (m, 2H), 4.6 (q, 4H), 5.2-5.5 (dd, 2H), 5.85-6.2 (m, 1H), 7.35 (s, 10H).

Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{30}\text{O}_4$ : C, 75.36; H, 7.91. Found: C, 75.39; H, 7.96. The ratio of the two epimeric alcohols and the relative configuration of the newly formed chiral carbon, were assessed in the following way: 850 mg of the crude material obtained prior to purification, was catalytically hydrogenated in a Parr bottle under 2 atm of  $\text{H}_2$ , in ethyl acetate, and 10% Pd/charcoal as catalyst. The saturated diol 18 and its epimer were transformed into cyclic carbonates through treatment with carbonyldiimidazole in benzene at reflux. Partial purification of the reaction products gave the mixture of the two cyclic carbonates. High resolution NMR analysis allowed assignment of the R absolute configuration

to C5 in the major isomer **19a** (*anti* relative to C4) and established an 85:15 ratio between the two epimeric alcohols in the reaction mixture.

**Mixture of Methyl Furanosides (22a) and (22b).** Compound **20** (1.6 g, 0.004 mol) in 80 mL of CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> at -70 °C was saturated with ozone. The resulting solution was flushed with nitrogen for 10 min and then treated with excess Me<sub>2</sub>S (3 mL). The solution was heated at 60 °C for 1 h, then taken to dryness and the intermediate aldehyde dissolved in a 1% dry MeOH solution of HCl. The products **22a** and **22b** from this reaction were analysed by high resolution NMR spectroscopy in order to confirm the relative arrangement of the hydrogen atoms as discussed in the text and described in Table 2.

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