

Table I. Frequencies of the Absorption Maxima for Selected Dipolarity-Polarizability Indicators in the Gas Phase

indicator ^a	$\bar{\nu}_0^b$	$\bar{\nu}_{\text{gas}}^{b,f}$	s^c	$\pi^*_{\text{gas}}^d$
1	34.12 ^c	36.90 ^e	2.410	-1.15
6	27.52 ^c	30.39 ^{h,e}	3.182	-0.902
9	33.31 ^c	34.84 ^e	1.407	-1.07
14	31.10 ^c	34.48 ^e	3.138	-1.08
20	36.85 ^c	38.14 ^e	1.297	-0.995
28	28.87 ^c	30.90 ^e	1.741	-1.17
1b	34.97 ^c	37.31 ^e	2.171	-1.08
28b	26.18 ^c	28.30 ^e	2.212 ^g	-0.958

^a Numbered as in ref 6. ^b In kK. ^c See eq 1 and ref 6.

^d Obtained through eq 1; see text. ^e This work. ^f Estimated uncertainty: 0.15 kK. ^g See ref 9. ^h See ref 10.

atures between 25 and 72 °C in order to establish the absence of thermal decomposition and abnormal thermochromism and in "FC 75" (a mixture of the positional isomers of perfluoro-*n*-propyloxane) in order to assess the influence of the medium on the vibrational structure of the spectra. The experimental results are given in Table I. These data can be analyzed in different ways, and in a future paper we shall develop our own approach. Here, we wish to stress the following points:

(1) The gas-phase values, taken together with those from previous works^{5,6} on the same PPI's, provide the widest set of medium effects on electronic transitions of polar molecules ever reported.

(2) The PPI's examined herein belong to the family of compounds used to construct the π^* scale. It has been shown⁶ that for these indicators, the expression

$$\bar{\nu}_A = \bar{\nu}_0 + s\pi^*_A \quad (1)$$

holds to a high degree of precision. $\bar{\nu}_A$ stands for the wavenumber (in kK) of the near-UV absorption maximum in solvent A; within experimental error, $\bar{\nu}_0$ is the corresponding wavenumber in cyclohexane, taken as a reference ($\pi^*_{\text{C}_6\text{H}_{12}} = 0$), and s measures the sensitivity of the electronic transition to polarity-polarizability effects. Equation 1 can be applied to the above gas-phase data to generate the values for π^*_{gas} given in Table I. Considering the enormous extrapolation involved, the agreement between the different results is quite good, and the average value, $\pi^*_{\text{gas}} = -1.06 \pm 0.10$, seems reliable.

(3) To our knowledge, the only scale covering the same range of medium effects hitherto available was Allerhand and Schleyer's G^{11a} based on IR frequency shifts. We find that the already reported excellent correlation between π^* and G can be extended to the gas phase. Thus, if hydrogen-bonding acids are excluded, the following expression is obtained:

$$G = 51.52 + 51.53\pi^* \text{ cm}^{-1}$$

with number of points $n = 13$ (including the gas phase),^{11b} a correlation coefficient, $r = 0.9941$, and a standard deviation $\sigma = 3 \text{ cm}^{-1}$. Obviously, the extension of the scale is not detrimental to its correlational power.

(4) Finally, it is important to consider that this method can be applied to a large number of polar compounds having relatively high boiling and melting points. This opens many interesting possibilities in different fields.

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Registry No. 1b, 100-02-7; 4, 100-17-4; 6, 2216-15-1; 9, 10287-53-3; 14, 100-01-6; 20, 94-09-7; 28, 99-09-2; 28b, 619-31-8.

(9) Estimated from the data for *N,N*-dimethyl-4-nitroaniline (13), 14, 6, 3, and *N,N*-diethyl-3-nitroaniline (2).

(10) The near-UV spectra of solutions of 6 show a broad, flat maximum. In the gas phase and in FC 75, this maximum is resolved into a doublet. For the sake of consistency with solution data, we have taken $\bar{\nu}_{\text{gas}}(6)$ at the center of the doublet.

(11) (a) Allerhand, A.; Schleyer, P. v. R. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1963**, *85*, 374. (b) All the available data points.

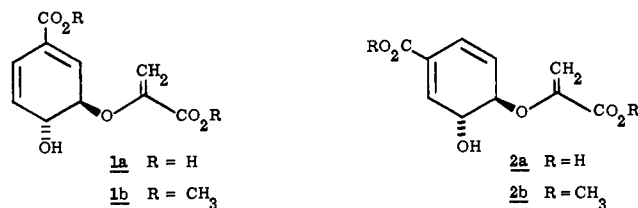
Total Synthesis of (\pm)-Chorismic Acid¹

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The metabolism of shikimic acid in microorganisms and plants produces an exquisite array of biochemically important natural products.² Among them chorismic acid (1a) occupies a strategic



position in the shikimate pathway as the key branch point intermediate governing the biosynthesis of aromatic amino acids, isoprenoid quinones, bacterial growth promoters, and other vital compounds.³ For some time we have been interested in the chemistry of chorismic acid⁴ and in processes that affect its metabolism⁵ because of the promising potential in this area for designing bacterial and plant growth regulators. We now report an efficient, stereoselective total synthesis⁶ of 1a that is suitable for preparing isotopically labeled material. Its unnatural isomer, pseudo-chorismic acid 2a, has also been synthesized to probe the specificity of the enzyme chorismate mutase, which promotes the facile *in vivo* Claisen rearrangement of 1a.^{2a}

Bicyclic allylic alcohol 3 (Chart I) was prepared in four steps and 35% yield from 1,4-dihydrobenzoic acid.^{4a} Protection of the hydroxyl as its MEM ether 4, saponification, and esterification produced hydroxy ester 8 as a stable oil in 64% yield from 3.^{4b} Attachment of the enol pyruvate side chain proved to be difficult but was eventually achieved in stepwise fashion as follows. Coupling of 8 with dimethyl diazomalonate (1.2 equiv) was smoothly catalyzed by rhodium acetate (C₆H₆, 65 °C, 2.5 h)⁷ and afforded alkoxy malonate 9 as a waxy solid (75%, mp 35–37 °C).⁸ Heating unpurified 9 in moist benzene with *p*-TsOH hydrolyzed the MEM group and cyclized the malonyl side chain in one operation to bicyclic lactone 10 (mixture of epimers, 35% after flash CC). Attempts to alkylate 10 using Eschenmoser's salt [CH₂=⁺N(CH₃)₂I]⁹ with or without triethylamine caused aromatization, probably initiated by iodide attack on the ring. The problem was circumvented by employing Potier's salt [CH₂=⁺N(CH₃)₂CF₃CO₂]¹⁰ which furnished a 4:1 mixture of Mannich base 11 and methyl *m*-enolpyruvylbenzoate. Quaternization of the amine (FSO₂OCH₃, CDCl₃, NMR monitoring) afforded 12, which could be purified by extraction into H₂O (37% from 10).

(1) Part 11 in the series "Shikimate-Derived Metabolites". For Part 10, see ref 5.

(2) For recent reviews, see: (a) Ganem, B. *Tetrahedron* **1978**, *34*, 3353–3383. (b) Weiss, U.; Edwards, J. M. "The Biosynthesis of Aromatic Compounds"; Wiley: New York, 1980. (c) Haslam, E. "The Shikimate Pathway"; Halstead Press, Wiley: New York, 1974.

(3) (a) Gibson, F. *Methods Enzymol.* **1970**, *17A*, 362–364 and references cited therein. (b) Edwards, J. M.; Jackman, L. M. *Aust. J. Chem.* **1965**, *18*, 1227–1239.

(4) (a) Ikota, N.; Ganem, B. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1978**, *100*, 351–352. (b) Ikota, N.; Ganem, B. *J. Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun.* **1978**, 869–870.

(5) Teng, C.-Y. P.; Ganem, B. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1982**, *23*, 313–316.

(6) The first total synthesis of 1 was recently reported: McGowan, D. A.; Berchtold, G. A. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1982**, *104*, 1153–1154.

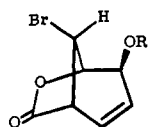
(7) Paulissen, R.; Reimlinger, H.; Hayez, E.; Hubert, A. J.; Teyssié, Ph. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1973**, 2233–2236.

(8) Satisfactory spectral and analytical data have been obtained for all new substances described.

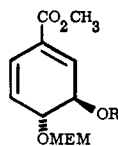
(9) Schreiber, J.; Maag, H.; Hashimoto, N.; Eschenmoser, A. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. Engl.* **1971**, *10*, 330–331.

(10) Ahond, J. A.; Cavé, A.; Kan-Fan, C.; Husson, H.-P.; deRostolan, J.; Potier, P. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1968**, *90*, 5622–5623.

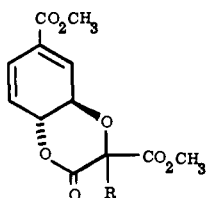
Chart I



- $\underline{3}$ R = H
 $\underline{4}$ R = MEM
 $\underline{5}$ R = CH(CO₂CH₃)₂
 $\underline{6}$ R = C(CO₂CH₃)₂CH₂N(CH₃)₂
 $\underline{7}$ R = C(CH₃)CO₂CH₃



- $\underline{8}$ R = H
 $\underline{9}$ R = CH(CO₂CH₃)₂



- $\underline{10}$ R = H
 $\underline{11}$ R = CH₂N(CH₃)₂
 $\underline{12}$ R = CH₂N(CH₃)₃⁺OSO₂F⁻

Next, a one-pot hydrolysis, decarboxylation, and β elimination in base was expected to create the enol pyruvate appendage. Indeed, when **12** was stirred with a measured quantity of base (1.5 equiv of NaOH-H₂O, 90 min, 0 °C) the initially clear solution became turbid, and CDCl₃ extraction gave a nearly pure sample of dimethyl chorismate **1b** in 37% yield from **12** (25% after preparative SiO₂ TLC at 5 °C). This material was spectroscopically indistinguishable from an authentic sample of the optically active diester **1b**,¹¹ which we and Berchtold et al.⁶ have independently reconverted to **1a** (NaOH, THF-H₂O, 0 °C); 10-30%). Under fully homogeneous conditions (NaOH, THF-H₂O, 0 °C), the hydrolysis of **12** produced chorismic acid directly to complete the synthesis in 12 steps from 1,4-dihydrobenzoic acid.

Pseudochorismic acid **2a** was also readily available from allylic alcohol **3** via malonate **5** and Mannich base **6** according to the above mentioned protocol [N₂C(CO₂CH₃)₂, Rh₂(OAc)₄, 70%; CH₂=⁺N(CH₃)₂I⁻, CH₂Cl₂, reflux, 84%]. Quaternization of **6** (CH₃I, CH₂Cl₂, reflux), then thermolysis in Me₂SO (95 °C, 8 h) gave the bicyclic enol pyruvate **7** (mp 121-122 °C) in 73% yield from **6**. Saponification of **7** (3 equiv of NaOH, 3:1 THF-H₂O, 0 °C, 2 h; room temperature, 12 h) with concomitant HBr elimination furnished **2a** as a solid (89% yield) contaminated with variable amounts of *m*-hydroxybenzoic acid. Recrystallization from EtOAc-hexane gave pure **2a** (72%; mp 125-127 °C). As might be expected, the NMR characteristics of **1** and **2a** were remarkably similar.

Further aspects of the chemistry and biochemistry of **1a** and **2a** will be reported in due course.

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Registry No. (\pm)-**1a**, 80657-95-0; (\pm)-**1b**, 80631-87-4; (\pm)-**2a**, 83573-29-9; (\pm)-**3a**, 65825-61-8; (\pm)-**4**, 83573-19-7; (\pm)-**5**, 83573-26-6; (\pm)-**6**, 83573-27-7; (\pm)-**7**, 83573-28-8; (\pm)-**8**, 83573-20-0; (\pm)-**9**, 83573-21-1; (\pm)-**10** (β -COOMe), 83573-22-2; (\pm)-**10** (α -COOMe), 83602-87-3; **11**, 83573-23-3; **12**, 83573-25-5; CH₂=N⁺(CH₃)₂CF₃CD₂⁻.

(11) Ife, R. J.; Ball, L. F.; Lowe, P.; Haslam, E. *J. Chem. Soc., Perkin Trans. 1*, in press.

25468-31-9; dimethyl diazomalonate, 6773-29-1; methyl *m*-enolpyruvylbenzoate, 16929-33-2.

Supplementary Material Available: Listing of physical and spectral data and experimental details for key intermediates (4 pages). Ordering information is given on any current masthead page.

Evidence for a Single-Electron-Transfer Mechanism in Aldol Condensation Reactions

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The condensation of an aldehyde or ketone in the presence of a base (Aldol condensation) is an important synthetic reaction, the mechanism of which is considered to be polar in nature.^{1,2} Nevertheless, the ability of enolate anions to transfer a single electron to various organic substrates is well documented.³⁻⁶ Recently, we reported the involvement of a single-electron-transfer (SET) mechanism in reactions of various nucleophiles with aromatic ketones.⁷⁻⁹ We now report evidence consistent with the involvement of a SET mechanism in aldol condensation reactions involving enolate nucleophiles with aromatic ketones.

When the lithium enolates of 2,2-dimethyl-3-butanone (pinacolone, A) and 2,2-dimethyl-3-pentanone (B) were allowed to react with benzophenone (C), 2,4-dimethylbenzophenone (D), and mesityl phenyl ketone (E), EPR active species were generated in all cases. For example, when enolate B was allowed to react with benzophenone in a 1.5:1 mole ratio, respectively, in THF at 25 °C, a blue color appeared within a few hours. This colored solution gave rise to a well-resolved EPR spectrum, as well as a visible spectrum (λ_{\max} 632 nm), both of which are similar to the EPR and visible spectra recorded for an authentic sample of lithium benzophenone ketyl (prepared by the rxn of lithium metal with benzophenone in THF). The concentration of the free ketyl (H) reached a maximum after 1 week and was calculated to be approximately 10% relative to benzophenone.¹⁰ After this period of time when the reaction was quenched, benzophenone was recovered in nearly quantitative yield.

In contrast, the reaction of enolate A with benzophenone under exactly the same conditions gave a high yield (90%) of the condensation product, 4,4-dimethyl-1,1-diphenyl-1-penten-3-one (F) in 3 days. EPR analysis of the reaction mixture showed the existence of a paramagnetic species formed in small (~0.1%) concentration. The signal was too weak to resolve. Figure 1 shows

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(2) Caine, D. S. In "Carbon-Carbon Bond Formation"; Augustine, R. L., Ed.; Marcel Dekker: New York, 1979; Vol. I.

(3) Russell, G. A.; Janzen, E. G.; Strom, E. T. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1964**, *86*, 1807.

(4) Russell, G. A.; Mudryk, B.; Jawdosiuik, M. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1981**, *103*, 4610.

(5) Kornblum, N. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. Engl.* **1975**, *14*, 734.

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(8) Ashby, E. C.; Goel, A. B.; Park, W. S. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1981**, *22*, 4209.

(9) Ashby, E. C.; Goel, A. B.; Argyropoulos, J. N. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1982**, *23*, 2273.

(10) The standard used was 2,2,5,5-tetramethylpyrrolidine-3-carboxamide 1-oxy in THF. The peak heights of the ketone radical and standard were compared.