

Figure 2. Surface pressure–area isotherms of compounds spread on water (full line) and on the supersaturated HBA solution, 8×10^{-2} M (broken line). Note that the isotherms for compounds 2 and 3 are similar to that for 1 and the isotherms for 5 and 6 are similar to that for 4.

specific to the nature of the solute molecules, as was demonstrated by a further experiment in which the subphase was changed from HBA to 4-hydroxyphenylacetic acid. SHG measurements showed that the orientation of **1** was identical ($\theta \sim 24^\circ$) with that found on water, indicating the absence of strong interactions between the molecules of the monolayer and the 4-hydroxyphenylacetic acid subphase.

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(10) Since **1** and **2** have very different nonlinear susceptibilities, the lack of SHG over HBA solutions cannot be attributed to dimers formed between a monolayer molecule and a HBA molecule.

Total Syntheses of (–)-Histrionicotoxin and (–)-Histrionicotoxin 235A

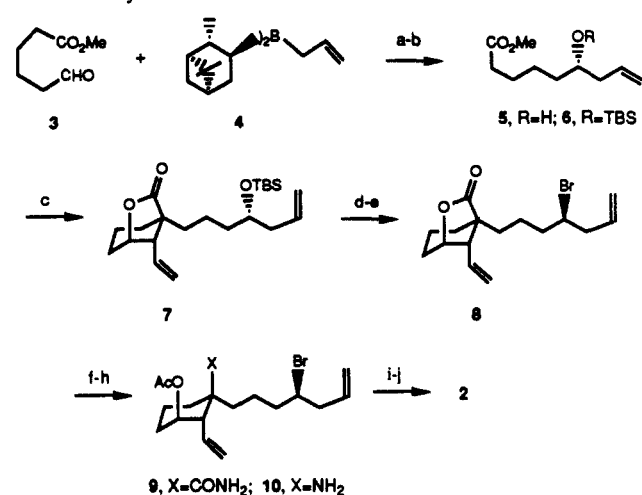
Gilbert Stork* and Kang Zhao

Department of Chemistry, Columbia University
New York, New York 10027

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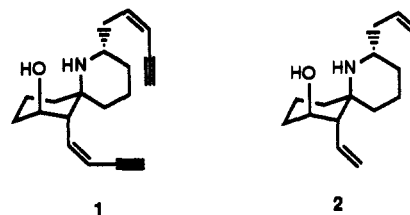
Histrionicotoxin (**1**), isolated from a family of brightly colored frogs, *Dendrobates histrionicus*,¹ found in Colombia, inhibits the function of several channels in electrogenic membranes.^{2,3} Histrionicotoxin is a member of a family that revealed the first examples of an unusual class of spiroperidine alkaloids bearing acetylenic, allenic, or olefinic side chains. Not surprisingly, this unique chemical constitution has been the target of considerable synthetic effort, but although much imaginative work has been directed toward the preparation of the relatively simple perhydro

Scheme 1. Synthesis of Histrionicotoxin 235A^a



^a(a) -78°C to room temperature, 2 h, 44%, 86% ee; (b) *t*-BuMe₂SiCl, imidazole, CH₂Cl₂, cat. DMAP, 2 days, 98%; (c) LDA, HMPA/THF (6:11 v/v), *trans*-(2*S*,3*S*)-3-(3-bromopropyl)-2-ethenyl-oxirane, -78°C to room temperature, 40 min, then LDA, -78°C to room temperature, 2 h, 43%; (d) 5% HCl, THF, 12 h, 91%; (e) Ph₃P, CBr₄, ether, 2 h, 61%; (f) NH₄Cl, AlMe₃, PhH, 50°C , 40 h; (g) Ac₂O, Py, DMAP, 56%; (h) (CF₃CO₂)₂IPh, CH₃CN, H₂O, 3 days; (i) Et₃N, ClCH₂CH₂Cl, $65-70^\circ\text{C}$, 2 h, 40%; (j) MeOH, aqueous Na₂CO₃, 24 h, 78%.

derivative of histrionicotoxin,² only one group has accomplished the synthesis of (±)-histrionicotoxin itself.⁴



We now report that the "allylic epoxide cyclization" method we recently disclosed⁵ allows an efficient stereocontrolled path to this group of alkaloids, whether natural histrionicotoxin itself or simpler relatives. We illustrate this by the synthesis of (–)-histrionicotoxin 235A (**2**), in addition to that of the archetype of the group, (–)-histrionicotoxin (**1**).

We describe first the synthesis of the simpler (–)-histrionicotoxin 235A (Scheme 1). This began with the optically active methyl (*S*)-6-hydroxy-8-nonenolate (**5**), readily accessible by the reaction of methyl 6-oxohexanoate (**3**)⁶ and *B*-allyldiisopinocampheylborane (**4**)⁷ (from (–)- α -pinene, 87% ee) in 86% ee and 44% yield. The *tert*-butyldimethylsilyl ether **6** of alcohol **5** was transformed, in a single operation (alkylation, using lithium diisopropylamide, with *trans*-(2*S*,3*S*)-3-(3-bromopropyl)-2-ethenyl-oxirane⁵ was followed by cyclization), to give lactone **7**, in which three chiral centers are correctly set for eventual transformation to (–)-histrionicotoxin. Removal of the silyl protecting group with dilute hydrochloric acid was followed by formation, with inversion, of the secondary bromide (triphenylphosphine–carbon tetrabromide) (**8**)⁸ of the proper configuration for subsequent formation of the required piperidine ring. The construction of that ring now required conversion of the lactone carbonyl to an amino group: This was initiated by treatment of **8** with trimethylaluminum–ammonium chloride,⁹ followed by acetic anhydride, to give the acetoxy amide

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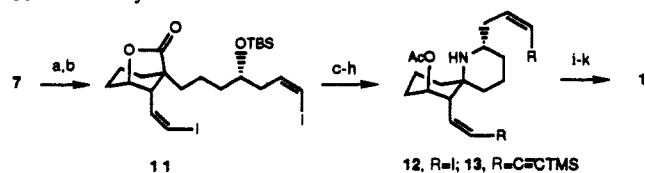
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Scheme II. Synthesis of Histrionicotoxin^a

^a(a) O₃, then Ph₃P; (b) (Ph₃P⁺CH₂I)⁻, NaN(TMS)₂, HMPA, THF, 52%; (c) 5% HCl, THF; (d) Ph₃P, CBr₄, ether, 2 h, 53%; NH₄Cl, AlMe₃, PhH, 40 °C, 18 h; (f) Ac₂O, Py, DMAP, 70%; (g) (CF₃CO₂)₂IPh, CH₃CN, H₂O, 3 days; (h) Et₃N, ClCH₂CH₂Cl, 65–70 °C, 2 h, 31% (A small quantity of the 2-epimer was undoubtedly formed in step d (cf. footnote 12) and was removed during the silica gel purification of 12); (i) Pd(PPh₃)₄, CuI, PhH, (trimethylsilyl)-acetylene; (j) Bu₄N⁺F⁻; (k) aqueous K₂CO₃, MeOH, 40%.

9. Protection of the alcohol functionality was essential to prevent carbamate formation during the Hoffman-like rearrangement of amide **9** to amine **10**. The latter reaction could be accomplished satisfactorily by treatment of **9** with phenyliodonium bis-trifluoroacetate in aqueous acetonitrile.¹⁰ Cyclization of the amine **10** thus obtained was carried out at 55 °C with triethylamine in 1,2-dichloroethane to give, after deprotection, histrionicotoxin 235A (**2**) ([α]_D²⁵ -102°, c = 1.82, EtOH)^{11,12} in 10 steps (1.8% overall yield) from the readily available ester **3**.

We considered first an approach to the synthesis of histrionicotoxin itself which simply involved elaboration of histrionicotoxin 235A. This approach was abandoned when it became clear that protection of the very hindered secondary amine was going to be very difficult: acylating agents, for instance, only acylated the secondary hydroxyl group. Another approach was abandoned when a known method for the introduction of a (Z)-enyne chain proved unsuitable.¹³

The successful route to histrionicotoxin involved the assumption that an effective assembly of the required (Z)-enyne system should result from the palladium-catalyzed coupling of a (Z)-vinyl iodide with a suitable derivative of acetylene. We further assumed that the vinyl iodide system would prove compatible with the chemical transformations that would have to follow its early introduction in a histrionicotoxin precursor. Both assumptions proved to be correct.

The most direct application of this strategy to the systems readily available to us required an effective method for the synthesis of (Z)-vinyl iodides from aldehydes. This problem, in fact, provided the motivation for designing the method we recently reported to achieve this transformation.¹⁴ Its application to the

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(11) Histrionicotoxin 235A has the following characteristics: IR (CHCl₃) 3681, 3601, 3350 (br), 3068, 3020, 2978, 2939, 2872, 1640, 1602, 1524, 1429, 1336, 1128, 1074, 995, 970, 923 cm⁻¹; MS (CI) 235 (M⁺), 220, 218, 194, 192, 176, 166, 150, 110, 108, 96, 93, 85, 83; ¹³C NMR (67.5 MHz; CDCl₃, 78.13) 137.3, 135.5, 119.0, 118.9, 73.97, 55.80, 50.92, 46.45, 42.34, 37.87, 37.49, 32.86, 29.41, 19.84, 16.28; ¹H NMR (400 MHz; CHCl₃, 7.27) δ 5.81 (dtq, J = 0.8, 10, 7.6 Hz), 5.68 (ddt, J = 0.8, 17, 10 Hz), 5.07–5.21 (m), 3.80 (m), 3.07 (m), 2.99 (d, J = 10 Hz), 2.18 (dt, J = 0.8, 6.8 Hz), 2.05 (qt, J = 14, 4 Hz).

(12) Some 2-epihistrionicotoxin 235A (11%) was also obtained (eluted first from silica gel). This arises mainly from the 7% (R)-**5** formed in the enantioselective synthesis of **5** and possibly from a small amount of racemization in the formation of bromide **8**.

(13) The reaction of aldehyde **14** with the titanium tetraisopropoxide complex of the anion of bis(trimethylsilyl)propyne led to a 1:1 mixture of the Z and E olefins **15**, even though these are the same conditions that convert



cyclohexanecarboxaldehyde almost entirely to (Z)-1-cyclohexyl-4-(trimethylsilyl)-1-buten-3-yne, the correct geometric isomer in the context of histrionicotoxin synthesis. Cf.: Furuta, K.; Ishiguro, M.; Haruta, R.; Ikeda, N.; Yamamoto, H. *Bull. Chem. Soc. Jpn.* **1984**, *57*, 2768.

dialdehyde obtained by ozonolysis of lactone **7**, itself an early intermediate on the route (vide supra) to histrionicotoxin 235A, successfully led to the bis((Z)-vinyl iodide) **11** (Scheme II). In a similar manner as described above for the synthesis of histrionicotoxin 235A, **11** was converted to the spiro-piperidine **12**, which was then coupled with (trimethylsilyl)acetylene¹⁵ to give the dienyne **13**. Deprotection of **13** proceeded smoothly to give (-)-histrionicotoxin ([α]_D²⁵ -114°, c = 1.06, EtOH) (11 steps, 2.4% overall yield, from **7**). The spectroscopic data (IR, MS (CI), NMR) for the synthetic (-)-histrionicotoxin coincided with those obtained with authentic natural (-)-histrionicotoxin.

The two total syntheses just described are the first recorded syntheses of naturally occurring members of the histrionicotoxin family in the proper absolute stereochemistry. They illustrate important features of the "allylic epoxide cyclization": brevity, as well as regio-, stereo-, and enantioselectivity.

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Highly Efficient Asymmetric Hydrogenation of Amino Ketone Derivatives Leading to Practical Syntheses of (S)-Propranolol and Related Compounds[†]

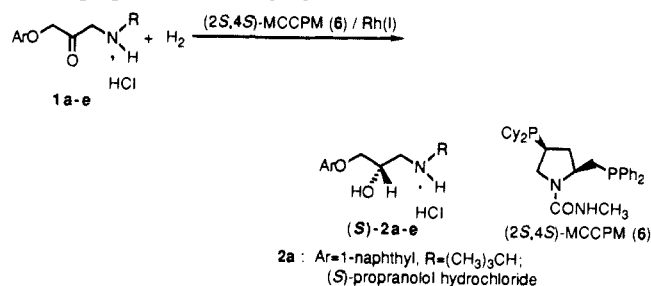
Hisashi Takahashi, Shunji Sakuraba, Hideo Takeda, and Kazuo Achiwa*

School of Pharmaceutical Sciences
University of Shizuoka, 395 Yada, Shizuoka 422, Japan

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We report here an unprecedented and highly efficient asymmetric hydrogenation of the 3-(aryloxy)-2-oxo-1-propylamine derivatives **1a–e** leading to the practical synthesis of the (S)-1-amino-3-(aryloxy)-2-propanol derivatives **2a–e**, chiral β-adrenergic blocking agents, e.g., (S)-propranolol hydrochloride (**2a**).^{1–3}



The demonstrated synthesis of (S)-propranolol hydrochloride (**2a**) is shown in Scheme I. After conversion of 1-naphthol (**3**)

[†] Asymmetric Reactions Catalyzed by Chiral Metal Complexes. 41.

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