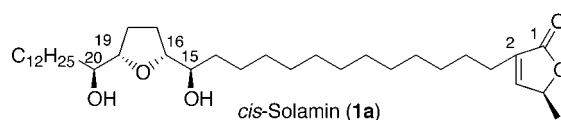


Total Synthesis of *cis*-SolaminHidefumi Makabe,* Yasunao Hattori, Akira Tanaka,[†] and Takayuki Oritani[‡]Graduate School of Agriculture, Sciences of Functional Foods, Integrated Department,
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ABSTRACT



A convergent total synthesis of *cis*-solamin and its diastereomer was accomplished using VO(acac)₂-catalyzed diastereoselective epoxidation followed by cyclization of bis-homoallylic alcohol as the key step. By comparison of the optical rotation of two possible diastereomers, it is suggested that the absolute configuration of natural *cis*-solamin is **1a**.

The Annonaceous acetogenins, which are isolated from a number of plants of *Annonaceae*, have attracted much attention in recent years due to a wide variety of biological activities, i.e., cytotoxic, antitumoral, antimalarial, immunosuppressive, pesticidal, and antifedant. So far, over 350 compounds have been isolated.¹ Their unique structures are characterized by one or more tetrahydrofuran rings, together with a terminal γ -lactone moiety on a C-35 or C-37 carbon chain.¹ *cis*-Solamin (**1**, Figure 1) is a mono-tetrahydrofuran acetogenin,² isolated from *Annona muricata* in 1998.³ A

similar compound corresponding to the well-known solamin (**2**)⁴ was synthesized by Keinan^{5a} and Trost^{5b} and by us.^{5c} The absolute configuration of natural **1** has not been reported. However, because the *cis*-*threo*-*cis* stereochemistry of the tetrahydrofuran ring of **1** has been determined by A. Laurens et al.,³ and the (*S*) configuration of the secondary methyl group of the γ -lactone moiety is well-known, it follows that the absolute stereochemistry of **1** is (15*R*,16*R*,19*S*,20*S*) or (15*S*,16*S*,19*R*,20*R*). Two possible structures, **1a** and **1b**, would be difficult to differentiate by ¹H NMR or ¹³C NMR spectroscopic data, since two stereogenic regions, that is, the THF ring core part and the γ -lactone moiety are separated

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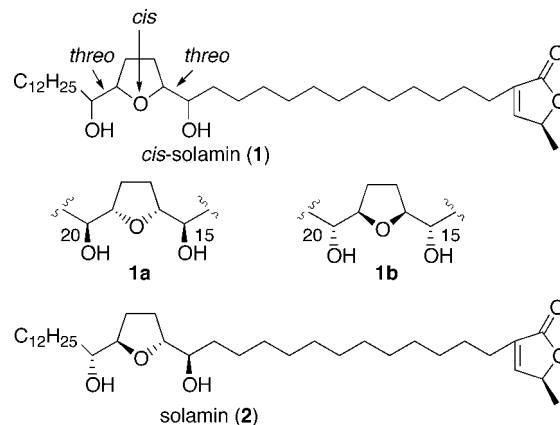
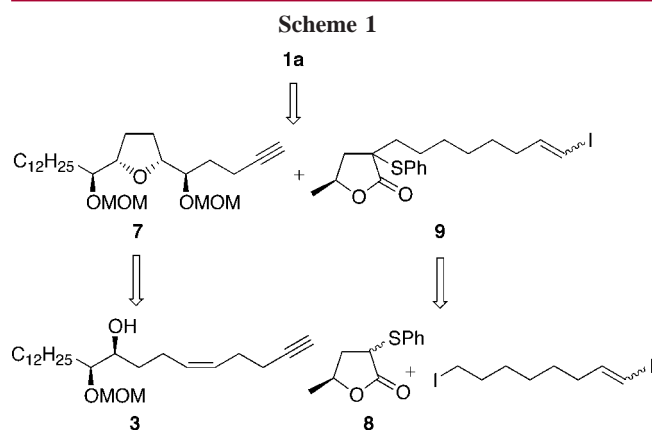


Figure 1.



by a long carbon chain. X-ray analysis is also very difficult due to the waxy nature of this compound. To establish the absolute configuration of *cis*-solamin, we planned to synthesize the two candidates **1a** and **1b**, employing a TBHP–VO(acac)₂ diastereoselective epoxidation⁶ followed by a cyclization strategy.

Scheme 1 outlines our synthetic strategy. One of the key steps is TBHP–VO(acac)₂ diastereoselective epoxidation⁶ followed by cyclization in the presence of 4A molecular sieves. The starting material is bis-homoallylic alcohol **3**, whose enantiomer had been reported earlier by us.^{5c}

The results of diastereoselective epoxidation of **3** and spontaneous cyclization are summarized in Table 1. The

Table 1. Epoxidation and Subsequent Cyclization of Bis-homoallylic Alcohol **3**^a

Reagent	Solvent	Additive	Yield (4a + 4b)%	4a : 4b
<i>m</i> CPBA	CH ₂ Cl ₂	–	83	37 : 63
TBHP-10 mol% Ti(O- <i>i</i> -Pr) ₄	CH ₂ Cl ₂	–	24	49 : 51
TBHP-10 mol% MoO ₂ (acac) ₄	CH ₂ Cl ₂	–	trace	–
TBHP-5 mol% VO(acac) ₂	C ₆ H ₅ Cl	–	trace	–
TBHP-5 mol% VO(acac) ₂	CH ₂ Cl ₂	–	43	78 : 22
TBHP-5 mol% VO(acac) ₂	(CH ₂ Cl) ₂	–	51	87 : 13
TBHP-5 mol% VO(acac) ₂	(CH ₂ Cl) ₂	MS 4A	75	89 : 11

^a The reactions were carried out at room temperature.

results shown in Table 1 indicate the following. VO(acac)₂ in the presence of 4A molecular sieves can serve as the most

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effective catalyst system in the diastereoselective epoxidation. On the other hand, Ti and Mo catalysts were ineffective. Halogenic solvents, especially 1,2-dichloroethane, gave a good stereoselectivity and yield. Determination of the relative stereochemistry of **4a** and **4b** was performed J. M. Cassidy's method as we have previously reported (Figure 2).^{5c,7}

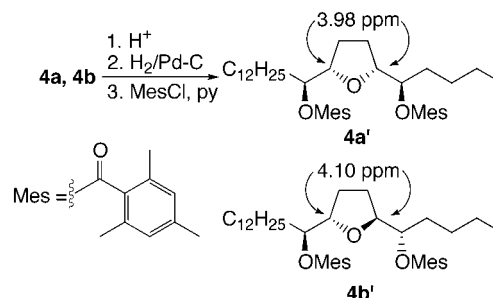
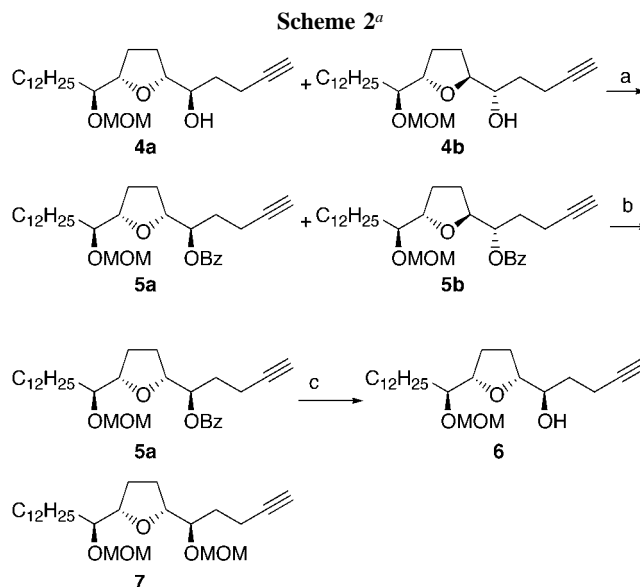


Figure 2.

Diastereoisomers **4a** and **4b** were separated by column chromatography (benzene–AcOEt = 20:1) after the hydroxy group of **4a** and **4b** had been protected as a benzoate ester (**5a** and **5b**). Hydrolysis of the benzoate ester gave **6** and protection of the hydroxyl group as MOM ether afforded tetrahydrofuran moiety **7** (Scheme 2).



^a Reagent and conditions: (a) BzCl, pyridine (94%); (b) separation (81%); (c) NaOH, MeOH (92%); (d) MOMCl, *i*-Pr₂NEt (94%).

As shown in Figure 3, the γ -lactone moiety **9** was constructed as we had reported earlier starting from γ -lactone **8**.^{5c,8}

Both segments were coupled by the Sonogashira cross coupling⁹ reaction mediated by Cl₂Pd(PPh₃)₂/CuI in the THF

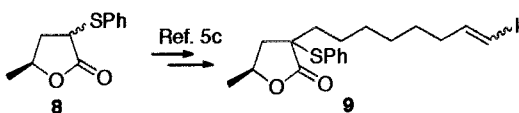
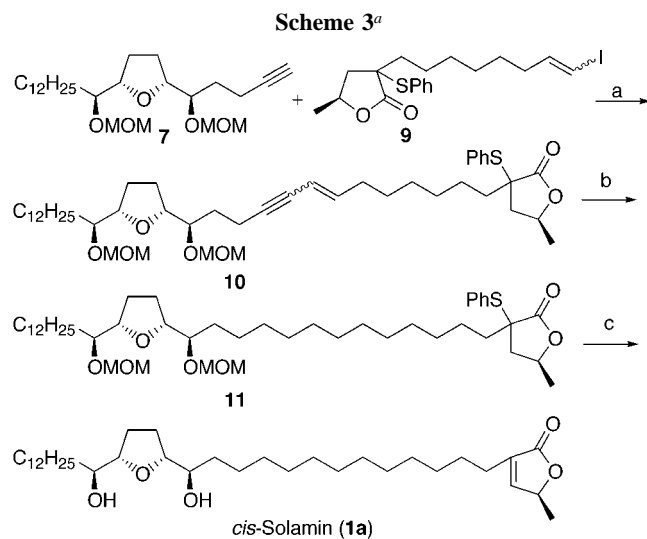


Figure 3.

solvent system to give compound **10** (Scheme 3). Catalytic hydrogenation of **10** using Wilkinson's catalyst afforded saturated product **11**. Oxidation of the sulfur with *m*CPBA followed by thermal elimination and deprotection of MOM ethers with $\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{Et}_2\text{O}$ in DMS¹⁰ afforded the candidate **1a**. On the other hand, the other candidate **1b** was synthesized from the enantiomer of compound **2** using the same procedure as that employed for **1a**.



^a Reagent and conditions: (a) 5% $\text{Cl}_2\text{Pd}(\text{PPh}_3)_2$, 10% CuI, Et_3N (74%); (b) $\text{H}_2/\text{CIRh}(\text{PPh}_3)_3$ (68%); (c) (i) *m*CPBA, toluene reflux; (ii) $\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{Et}_2\text{O}$ /dimethyl sulfide (60%).

The two synthetic samples (**1a**, **1b**) could not be differentiated by the spectral data (¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR). On the other hand, their specific rotations showed a sharp

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Table 2. ¹H NMR Chemical Shifts of the Bis (*R*)- and (*S*)-MTPA Esters of **1a** and **1b**^a

MTPA ester	15-H	16-H	19-H	20-H
(<i>R</i>)-MTPA- 1a	5.06	3.87	4.08	4.92
(<i>S</i>)-MTPA- 1a	5.06	3.86	4.09	4.93
δ (<i>S</i>)-(<i>R</i>)- 1a		0.01	−0.01	−0.01
abs config	<i>S</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>R</i>
(<i>R</i>)-MTPA- 1b	5.06	3.86	4.09	4.93
(<i>S</i>)-MTPA- 1b	5.06	3.87	4.08	4.92
δ (<i>S</i>)-(<i>R</i>)- 1b		−0.01	0.01	0.01
abs config	<i>R</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>S</i>

^a Proton chemical shifts are referenced to CHCl_3 (δ 7.25).

contrast. While the specific rotation of synthetic **1a** ($[\alpha]_D^{25} = +26$, *c* 0.45, MeOH) is similar to the reported value of the naturally occurring *cis*-solamin ($[\alpha]_D = +22$, *c* 0.55, MeOH), that of **1b** ($[\alpha]_D^{25} = +42$, *c* 0.50, MeOH) showed a much higher value.^{11,12} As shown in Table 2, the ¹H NMR spectra of the carbinol centers of the corresponding bis (*R*)- and (*S*)-MTPA esters of synthetic **1a** and **1b** showed a slight chemical shift difference. According to the sign of $\Delta\delta_{\text{H}}$ [= ($\delta_{\text{S}} - \delta_{\text{R}}$)] values of each carbinol center, the absolute configuration of **1a** is assigned as C-15*S*, C-16*S*, C-19*R*, and C-20*R*. Similarly, the absolute configuration of **1b** is assigned as C-15*R*, C-16*R*, C-19*S*, and C-20*S*. This indicates that if natural **1** is available, we can determine the absolute stereochemistry of *cis*-solamin by applying advanced Mosher methodology.¹³

In conclusion, the first total synthesis of *cis*-solamin (**1a**) and its diastereomer **1b** was accomplished using $\text{VO}(\text{acac})_2$ -catalyzed diastereoselective epoxidation followed by spontaneous cyclization. On the basis of the present data, it is strongly suggested that the natural *cis*-solamin is **1a**.

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Supporting Information Available: ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra for compounds **4a**, **5**, **6**, **8**, **1a**, and **1b** and ¹H NMR spectra for compounds **9** and **10**. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

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(11) Physical and spectroscopic data for **1a**: mp 66–68 °C, $[\alpha]_D^{25} +26$ (*c* 0.45, MeOH). ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were identical with those reported in ref 3. HREIMS: calcd for $\text{C}_{35}\text{H}_{64}\text{O}_5$ 564.4753, found 564.4720.

(12) Physical and spectroscopic data for **1b**: mp 61–63 °C, $[\alpha]_D^{25} +42$ (*c* 0.50, MeOH). ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were identical with those reported in ref 3. HRFABMS (*M* + *Na*): calcd for $\text{C}_{35}\text{H}_{64}\text{O}_5\text{Na}$ 587.4651, found 587.4650.

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