## **Supporting Information**

## Efficient One-Step Conversion of Primary Aliphatic Amines into Primary Alcohols: Application to a Successful Model Study for the Total Synthesis of (±)-Scopadulin

S. M. Abdur Rahman, Hiroaki Ohno, Naoyoshi Maezaki, Chuzo Iwata, and Tetsuaki Tanaka\*

Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Osaka University, 1-6 Yamadaoka, Suita, Osaka 565-0871, Japan

**General Methods**. Melting points are uncorrected. Nominal (LRMS) and exact mass (HRMS) spectra were recorded on a JEOL JMS-01SG-2 or JMS-HX/HX 110A mass spectrometer. <sup>1</sup>H- and <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectra were recorded in CDCl<sub>3</sub>. Chemical shifts are reported in parts per million downfield from internal Me<sub>4</sub>Si (s = singlet, d = doublet, dd = doublet doublet, dd = doublet of double doublet, t = triplet, m = multiplet).



6-Methylbicyclo[4.4.0]dec-1(10)-en-2-one (6): Aqueous HCl (10%; 2.7 ml) was added to a solution of the ketone 5 (392 mg, 1.73 mmol) in MeOH (5 ml) and the resulting mixture was heated at 65 °C for 4 h. The reaction was neutralized by saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub>, and MeOH was evaporated out. The aqueous layer was then extracted with EtOAc, washed with water and brine, dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography (3:7  $\rightarrow$  3:2 EtOAc/hexane) to give 230 mg (73%) of bicyclic alcohol (6-methylbicyclo[4.4.0]dec-2-one-10-ol) along with 54 mg (19%) of the title compound **6** as an oil. <sup>1</sup> To a stirred solution of the bicyclic alcohol (250 mg, 1.37 mmol) in benzene (25 ml) was added *p*-toluenesulphonic acid monohydrate (38 mg, 0.2 mmol). The resulting mixture was refluxed (dean-stark device) at 110 °C for 1.5 h. The mixture was then washed with saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub> and water, dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and concentrated. Purification of the concentrate by column chromatography (2:1 hexane/EtOAc) yielded the enone 6 (181 mg, 81%, combined yield 78% in two steps) as an oil. IR (KBr) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 1682, 1620. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz) δ: 1.02 (s, 3H), 1.40 (td, J = 12.5, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 1.51-1.61 (m, 2H), 1.64-1.70 (m, 3H), 1.83-1.88 (m, 1H), 1.93-2.02 (m, 1H), 2.08-2.20 (m, 2H), 2.26 (ddd, J = 16.5, 12.5, 7.5 Hz, 1H), 2.50-2.55 (m, 1H), 6.36 (dd, J = 4.5, 3.0 Hz, 1H). 13C-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz): 17.8, 19.3, 25.5, 25.9, 35.6, 37.8, 38.9, 40.4, 133.2, 144.6, 202.9. MS (EI) *m/z* (%): 164 (M+, 100). HRMS (EI) Calcd for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>16</sub>O: 164.1201. Found: 164.1211.

(1) One-step conversion using an acid produced a comlex mixture of unidentified products with low yield of the desired enone **6**. For one-step conversion, see ref 2b and 4.



(6R\*,10S\*)-6-Methyl-2-oxobicyclo[4.4.0]decane-10-carbonitrile (7): A solution of the enone 6 (315 mg, 1.92 mmol) in benzene (5 ml) was added dropwise to a stirred solution of diethylaluminum cyanide (1.0 M in toluene, 5.7 ml) at 0 °C. After being stirred for 2 h at 0 °C, a viscous solution of Et<sub>3</sub>N (2.60 ml, 18.7 mmol) and TMSCl (1.20 ml, 9.53 mmol) in benzene (1.5 ml) was added using a canula. The resulting mixture was warmed to rt, and Et<sub>2</sub>O (80 ml) and saturated aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (35 ml) were added carefully. The phases were separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with  $CH_2Cl_2$ . The combined organic layers were washed with saturated aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub>, dried (K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>), filtered and concentrated to give the crude silvl enol ether. The concentrate was then dissolved in 10:1 THF-H<sub>2</sub>O (17 ml) and 1 M HCl (0.17 ml) was added and the mixture was stirred at rt for 15 min. The resulting mixture was diluted with ether (40 ml), and K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (533 mg) was added. The mixture was stirred for 10 min, dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), filtered, and concentrated. Purification of the residue by flash chromatography (3:1 hexane/EtOAc) gave 330 mg (90%) of the title compound 7 as a colorless solid. Recrystallization (hexane/Et<sub>2</sub>O) provided analytically pure coarse powder: mp 95-96 °C. IR (KBr) cm-<sup>1</sup>: 2235, 1712. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz): 1.10 (s, 3H), 1.31 (td, J = 14.0, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 1.50 (tt, J = 14.0, 4.514.0, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 1.56-1.64 (m, 4H), 1.80-1.90 (m, 1H), 1.92-2.01 (m, 2H), 2.10 (d, J = 14.6 Hz, 1H), 2.23-2.30 (m, 2H), 2.45 (dt, J = 14.6, 3.3 Hz, 1H), 2.97 (br s, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz): 18.1, 18.7, 21.4, 23.4, 29.4, 39.4, 39.8, 40.5, 41.9, 57.3, 121.6, 208.0. MS (EI) m/z (%): 191 (M+, 32), 111 (100). HRMS (EI) Calcd for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO: 191.1310. Found: 191.1334.



## (2R\*,6R\*,10R\*)-2-(Benzyloxymethyl)-6-methyl-10-trimethylsiloxybicyclo[4.4.0]decane-2-

**carbonitrile (9):** To a stirred solution of diisopropylamine (0.105 ml, 0.749 mmol) in THF (0.85 ml), *n*-butyllithium (1.6 M in hexane, 0.46 ml, 0.736 mmol) was added dropwise at -78 °C, and the mixture was warmed to 0 °C for 30 min. Then a solution of the nitrile **8** (85 mg, 0.32 mmol) in THF (0.85 ml) was added dropwise and the resulting solution was stirred for 20 min. The yellow solution obtained was cooled to -78 °C and freshly distilled benzyloxymethyl chloride (0.085 ml, 0.61 mmol) was added rapidly. The reaction mixture was warmed to 0 °C. After stirring for 1.5 h at 0 °C, the reaction mixture was quenched with saturated aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (excess). The mixture was then extracted with EtOAc,

washed with brine, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated. Purification of the concentrate by flash chromatography (60:1 hexane/EtOAc) yielded 112 mg (91%) of the title compound **9** as a colorless oil. IR (KBr) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 2231. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz): 0.07 (s, 9H), 1.07 (t, J = 12.8 Hz, 2H), 1.40 (s, 3H), 1.32-1.42 (m, 4H), 1.58 (m, 1H), 1.72-2.02 (m, 6H) 3.42 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 3.57 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 4.00 (m, 1H), 4.46 (d, J = 12.3 Hz, 1H), 4.60 (d, J = 12.3 Hz, 1H), 7.30-7.38 (m, 5H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz): 0.34, 16.5, 19.1, 20.5, 34.6, 34.7, 36.1, 38.2, 43.1, 44.2, 49.2, 66.4, 72.7, 73.5, 123.3, 127.9, 128.0, 128.5, 137.5. MS (FAB) m/z (%): 386 (MH+, 37), 91 (100). HRMS (FAB) Calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>35</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>Si (MH+): 386.2515. Found: 386.2502.



General procedure for one-step conversion of primary aliphatic amines into alcohols: (2*R*\*,6*R*\*,10*R*\*)-10-(Benzyloxymethyl)-10-(hydroxymethyl)-6-methylbicyclo[4.4.0]decan-2-ol (11): The amine 16 (10 mg, 0.0315 mmol), KOH (100 mg, 1.75 mmol, excess) and diethylene glycol (0.6 ml) were placed in a round bottom flask equipped with a refluxing condenser and the mixture was heated at 210 °C for 3 h. The black solution was then cooled to rt, Et<sub>2</sub>O (2 ml) and H<sub>2</sub>O (1.5 ml) were added. The organic phase was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic layers were then washed with brine, dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and concentrated. Purification of the residue by column chromatography (5:1 hexane/EtOAc) gave 6.5 mg (65%) of the title compound 11. Recrystallization from hexane/Et<sub>2</sub>O provided analytically pure white solid: mp 139 °C. IR (KBr) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3236 (br). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz): 1.33 (s, 3H), 1.06-1.59 (m, 11H), 1.84-1.87 (m, 1H), 1.90-1.99 (m, 1H), 3.39 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 3.47 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 3.48 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 4.14 (br s, 2H), 4.20 (s, 1H), 4.21 (d, J = 12.5 Hz, 1H), 4.47 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 4.52 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 7.27-7.37 (m, 5H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz): 16.9, 18.4, 22.3, 34.6, 35.4, 35.6, 42.7, 44.5, 46.2, 52.2, 66.2, 66.3, 73.5, 78.2, 127.5, 127.6, 128.4, 138.3. MS (FAB) m/z (%): 319 (MH+, 25), 91 (100). HRMS (FAB) Calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>31</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (MH+): 319.2273. Found: 319.2269.



 $(2R^*, 6R^*, 10S^*)$ -10-(Benzyloxymethy)-2-hydroxy-6-methylbicyclo[4.4.0]decane-2-carbaldehyde (20): RuCl<sub>2</sub>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> (30 mg, 0.031 mmol) was added to a solution of the diol 11 (12 mg, 0.0377 mmol) in benzene (0.9 ml), and the resulting mixture was stirred at rt for 24 h. The black solution obtained, was concentrated and the residue was chromatographed on silica gel (3:1 hexane/EtOAc) to afford the

title compound **20** (7.5 mg, 63%) as a thick oil, together with 3.9 mg (33%) of the recovered diol **11**: IR (KBr) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3477, 1764. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz): 1.03 (s, 3H), 1.10-1.15 (m, 2H), 1.32-1.48 (m, 6H), 1.59-1.70 (m, 2H), 1.87-1.94 (m, 2H), 2.38 (d, J = 14.5 Hz, 1H), 3.32 (s, 1H), 3.43 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 3.59 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 4.26 (m, 1H), 4.42 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 4.48 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 7.26-7.36 (m, 5H), 10.10 (s, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz): 16.5, 18.7, 22.4, 32.9, 34.5, 35.1, 43.5, 44.1, 52.7, 53.7, 66.4, 73.7, 75.6, 127.5, 127.8, 128.4, 137.7, 211.4. MS (FAB) *m/z* (%): 339 (MNa<sup>+</sup>, 48), 91 (100). HRMS (FAB) Calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>28</sub>NaO<sub>3</sub> (MNa<sup>+</sup>): 339.1936. Found: 339.1958.



(2*R*\*,6*R*\*,10*R*\*)-2-(Benzyloxycarbonyl)-6,10-dimethylbicyclo[4.4.0]decane-2-carboxylic acid (2): A solution of the alcohol 23 (4 mg, 0.0126 mmol) in acetone (0.5 ml) was treated with Jones reagent dropwise until TLC indicated that no starting material was present. The reaction mixture was diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, washed with water and brine sequentially, dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and concentrated. Purification of the concentrate by column chromatography (3:1 hexane/EtOAc) gave 3.5 mg (84%) of the title compound 2 as a white solid. Recrystallization (hexane) afforded analytically pure colorless solid: mp 182-183 °C. IR (KBr) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 2931 (br), 1716. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz): 1.28 (m, 4H), 1.34 (s, 3H), 1.48 (s, 3H), 1.56-1.88 (m, 8H), 2.05 (m, 1H), 2.09 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 5.37 (m, 1H), 7.46 (m, 2H), 7.56 (m, 1H), 8.05 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz): 17.5, 18.1, 22.3, 29.7, 32.3, 34.5, 39.8, 43.6, 45.3, 47.1, 49.6, 73.1, 128.2, 128.5, 130.9, 132.8, 166.1, 182.0. MS (FAB) *m/z* (%): 353 (MNa+, 100). HRMS (FAB) Calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>26</sub>NaO<sub>4</sub> (MNa+): 353.1729. Found: 353.1727.

















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