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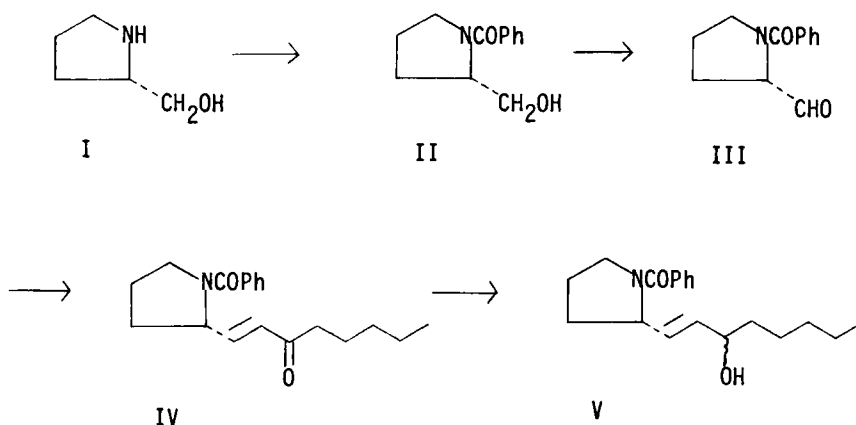
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SYNTHESIS OF AN AZAPROSTAGLANDIN ANALOG

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In our continuing efforts toward the synthesis of 8-aza-PGE type analogs, we were interested in synthesizing the pyrrolidines V. Reaction of L-2-hydroxymethylpyrrolidine I with benzoyl chloride in chloroform afforded a 97% yield of the optically active alcohol II, $[\alpha]_D -142.19^\circ$. Oxidation of the alcohol II with Collins reagent² in methylene chloride at -23° for 2.75 hrs. and subsequent treatment with powdered sodium bisulfate monohydrate at -23° followed by chromatography on silica gel G and elution with ether-hexane solutions gave the aldehyde III in 61% yield. Treatment of the aldehyde III with the lithium salt of dimethyl (2-oxoheptyl)-phosphonate in tetrahydrofuran at 0° for 3 hrs.



followed by chromatography on silica gel G and elution with ether-hexane solutions afforded a 68% yield of the enone IV, $[\alpha]_D -103.68^\circ$. Reduction of the enone IV with powdered sodium borohydride in methanol at 0° for 1.25 hrs. and subsequent chromatography afforded an 86% yield of a 1:1 mixture of the C-15 epimeric amide alcohols V, $[\alpha]_D -80.82^\circ$. Several attempts to separate the amide alcohols V by preparative thin layer chromatography failed. The alcohols appeared as one elongated spot in several different solvent systems.

The amide alcohols V displayed mild activity³ with respect to inhibiting platelet aggregation.

EXPERIMENTAL

1-Benzoyl-2-hydroxymethylpyrrolidine (II). - A solution of 1-2-hydroxymethylpyrrolidine I⁴ (7.0 g, 0.0693 mole) dissolved in 25 ml of chloroform was cooled to 0° . A solution of benzoyl chloride (4.9 g, 0.0349 mole) dissolved in 10 ml of chloroform was added dropwise over a 0.5 hr. period. The reaction mixture was stirred at 0° for 1 hr. and then allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred for an additional hr. The reaction was poured into 50 ml of chloroform and extracted with 30 ml of a 10% HCl solution, 50 ml of H₂O, 50 ml of a 10% NaHCO₃ solution and 50 ml of a saturated NaCl solution. The chloroform solution was dried over anhydrous MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated with a rotary evaporator and additional pumping at 0.1 mm with heat yielded 6.9 g (97%) of the amide alcohol II, bp.⁵ 170° (0.08 mm), $[\alpha]_D -142.19^\circ$, nmr (CCl₄) δ 6.85-7.75 (m 5H), 4.52 (s, OH) and 2.95-5.05 (m) [6H] and 1.35-2.40 (m, 4H), ir (neat): 3390 (broad) and 1625 (broad) cm⁻¹. A small amount of (II) was chromatographed on silica gel G and elution with ether afforded an analytical sample.

Anal. Calcd for $C_{12}N_1O_2$: C, 70.22; H, 7.37, N, 6.82. Found: C, 70.24; H, 7.40; N, 6.88.

1-Benzoyl-2-formylpyrrolidine (III). - A 1ℓ three-neck flask fitted with a mechanical stirrer, addition funnel and serum cap was flamed and deaerated with nitrogen. Purified celite 545 (75 g) was placed in the reaction vessel and a solution of Collins reagent (37.8 g, 0.0147 mole) dissolved in 380 ml of dry CH_2Cl_2 was added under nitrogen and the resulting mixture was cooled to -23° (dry ice - CCl_4). A solution of the amide alcohol II (2.5 g, 0.0122 mole) dissolved in 100 ml of dry CH_2Cl_2 was added all at once under nitrogen. The resulting reaction mixture was stirred at -23° for 2.75 hr. Powdered $NaHSO_4 \cdot H_2O$ (75 g) was added all at once at -23° and the reaction was stirred for an additional 0.75 hr. at -23° . The reaction mixture was filtered through a tightly packed cake of anhydrous $MgSO_4$ in a fritted funnel under suction. The reaction vessel was washed with four 500 ml portions of dry CH_2Cl_2 and filtered through the $MgSO_4$ cake. The methylene chloride solution was concentrated on a rotary evaporator to afford 2.0 g of crude (III). The crude aldehyde III was immediately chromatographed on silica gel G and elution with ether-hexane solutions yielded 1.5 g (61%) of the pure aldehyde III, NMR (CCl_4) δ 9.56 (s, 1H), 6.90-7.75 (m, 5H), 4.10-4.85 (m, 1H), 3.58 (t, 2H) and 1.50-2.35 (m, 4H), ir (neat): 1635 (broad) and 1740 cm^{-1} .

The aldehyde III was not characterized further, but committed directly to the Wadsworth-Emmons reaction.

1-Benzoyl-2-(trans-oct-1-en-3-one)-pyrrolidine (IV). - A three neck flask fitted with an addition funnel, nitrogen inlet tube, serum cap and magnetic stirring bar was flamed and deaerated with nitrogen. Dimethyl-(2-oxoheptyl)-phosphonate (1.42 g, 0.0064 mole) dissolved in 30 ml of dry THF

was placed in the reaction vessel and cooled to 0°. A 2.5 M n-Butyl lithium solution (2.56 ml, 0.0064 mole) was added with a syringe and the reaction mixture was stirred for 30 min at 0°. The aldehyde III (1.37 g, 0.00675 mole) was dissolved in 25 ml of dry THF and added all at once at 0°. The reaction mixture was stirred at 0° for 3 hrs. and then poured into 150 ml of cold H₂O. The resulting mixture was extracted with three 150 ml portions of CHCl₃. The combined chloroform extracts were washed with a saturated NaCl solution, dried over anhydrous MgSO₄, filtered and concentration with a rotary evaporator afforded 2.5 g of an oil. The oil was chromatographed on silica gel G and elution with ether-hexane solutions yielded 1.3 g (68%) of the pure enone IV, [α]_D -103.68°, nmr (CCl₄) δ 7.15-8.0 (m, 5H), 5.65-6.95 (m, 2H), 4.35-5.15 (m, 1H), 3.25-3.85 (m, 2H), and 1.08-2.80 (m) and 0.91 (t) [15H], ir (neat): 1625 (broad) and 1660 (shoulder) cm⁻¹. Mass spectrum m/e 299 (M); 270 (M-C₂H₅); 256 (M-C₃H₇); 243 (M-CH₂=CH-CH₃); 200 (M-C₅H₁₁C=O); 194 (M-C₆H₅C=O); 174 [M-C₅H₁₁-(C=O)-CH=CH₂]; 138 (M-CH₂=CH-C₂H₅ and C₆H₅C=O); 105 [M-C₄H₇N-CH=CH(C=O)C₅H₁₁].

Anal. Calcd for C₁₉H₂₅NO₂: C, 76.22; H, 8.42; N, 4.68. Found: C, 76.23; H, 8.35; N, 4.78.

1-Benzoyl-2-(trans-oct-1-en-3-ol)-pyrrolidines V. - The enone IV (0.68 g, 0.00227 mole) was dissolved in 5 ml of methanol and cooled to 0°. Sodium borohydride (50 mg, 0.00132 mole) was added in small portions over a 10 min period at 0° with stirring and the reaction mixture was allowed to stir for an additional 1.25 hr. at 0°. The reaction mixture was poured into a cold aqueous NaOH solution [H₂O(50 ml) and a 10% NaOH solution (10 ml)] and extracted with three 75 ml portions of CHCl₃. The chloroform extracts were combined, washed with two 50 ml portions of H₂O, dried

over anhydrous $MgSO_4$, filtered, and concentration with a rotary evaporator yielded 0.65 g of an oil. The oil was chromatographed on silica gel G and elution with ether-hexane solutions afforded 0.590 mg (86%) of a C-15 epimeric mixture of the pure amide alcohols V, $[\alpha]_D -80.82^\circ$, nmr (CCl_4) δ 7.17-8.10 (m, 5H), 5.15-6.18 (m, 2H) 3.09-4.90 (m, 5H), and 1.09-2.50 (m) and 0.92 (t, distorted) [15H], ir (neat): 3410 (broad) and 1615 cm^{-1} . Mass spectrum m/e 301 (M); 284 (M-OH), 283 (M-H₂O); 272 (M-C₂H₅); 230 (M-C₅H₁₁); 226 (M-C₄H₉ and H₂O); 200 (M-C₅H₁₁CHOH); 174 (M-C₅H₁₁CHOH); 105 (M-C₄H₇N-CH=CHCHOH-C₅H₁₁).
 Anal. Calcd for C₁₉H₂₇NO₂: C, 75.71; H, 9.03; N, 4.65. Found: C, 75.24; H, 9.03; N, 4.57.

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2. J. C. Collins, W. W. Hess and F. J. Frank, *Tetrahedron Lett.*, 3363 (1968).
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4. Obtained from the Aldrich Chemical Company.
5. Distillation of the amide alcohol produced a less polar top spot via tlc analysis. The amide alcohol obtained from column chromatography was therefore used directly in the Collins oxidation reaction.

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