Ring-Opening of Glycidyl Derivatives by Silanes Mediated by Ti(O-i-Pr), or Al(O-*i*-Pr)₃: Access to Versatile C₃ Building Blocks.

Kun I. Sutowardoyo and Denis Sinou*

Laboratoire de Synthèse Asymétrique, Unité Associée au CNRS, Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1, ESCIL 43, boulevard du 11 Novembre 1918, 69622 Villeurbanne Cédex, France.

(Received 22 *April* 1991)

Abstract: Ring-opening of chiral glycidol or glycidyl tosylate by MegSiNg or Me3SiCN catalyzed by Ti(O-i-Pr)4 or Al(O-i-Pr)₃ occured in a regiospecific manner and with very high stereoselectivity, leading to new trifunctionalized chiral building blocks. The enantiomeric excess of the ring-opened products was 90-95 %, as determined by ¹H NMR of the Mosher ester derivatives, indicating that there was not significant loss of optical purity during the ring-opening. This methodology was applied for the one-pot synthesis of (R) -1-azido-3-naphthyloxy-2hydroxypropane in 94 % ee, a precursor of analogs of propanolol.

Glycidol and related C3-synthons have found widespread synthetic utility as chiral building blocks for asymmetric synthesis.1 Noteworthy are the ease of preparation of these compounds and particularly the crystalline derivatives, and now their commercially avaibility in optically active form.² Stoechiometric amounts of Ti(O-i-Pr)4 mediated the regio- and stereoselective attack of a variety of nucleophiles at C-3 of 2,3-epoxy alcohols under mild conditions.3 However, this process failed to afford the desired opening of glycidyl derivatives without a free hydroxyl function like glycidyl tosylates. Recently, it was shown that ring-opening of glycidyl tosylates occured with high regio- and stereoselectivity with alcohols when BF3 etherate was used as the catalyst.⁴

Following our continuing interest in the ring-opening of epoxides with trimethylsilyl compounds in the presence of a catalytic amount of Ti(O-i-Pr)₄ or Al(O-i-Pr)₃,⁵ we report here the very high stereoselectivity observed in the ring-opening of the chiral glycidyl derivatives using these systems, leading to new nifunctional chiral building blocks.

Results and Discussion:

Ring-opening reactions of (R)- and (S)-1 and (R)-2 by Me₃SiN₃ with catalytic amounts of Ti(O-i-Pr)₄ or Al(O-i-Pr)₃ are outlined in Scheme 1 and the results are summarized in Table 1. As previously shown, ringopening proceeded with very high regioselectivity. only the products 3a, **3b** and 5, arising from attack at C-l, being obtained with quite good chemical yields after purification.

Table 1. Opening of Glycidyl Derivatives with Trimethylsilylderivatives in the Presence of Aluminium Isopropoxide and Titanium Isopropoxide.^a

a Ring-opening conditions are described in the Experimental Section.

^b The percent yield refers to the product obtained after work-up and flash-chromatography.

 c The % ee was determined by 300 MHz ¹H NMR analysis of the crude (R)-MTPA ester as described in the Experimental Section.

d The percent yield refers to the hydrolyzed product.

To determine the enantiomeric excess (ee) of the ring-opened products 3a and 3b. and so *the* stereoselectivity of the reaction, **3a and 3b were** desilylated and the (R)-a-methoxy-a-(trifluommetbyl)phenyl acetic acid $[(R)$ -MTPA] esters were prepared.⁶ The diastereoisomeric ratio of the resulting mixture was analyzed by ¹H NMR (300 MHz). Figure 1A shows the ¹H NMR spectrum (δ 7.6-7.9) of (R)-MTPA ester of rac-3; the aromatic protons ortho to the -SO₂- group appear as a doublet for each diastereoisomer and show base-line separation. The lower field doublet $(\delta 7.76)$ is assigned to enantiomer 3a and the higher-field doublet (6 7.70) to 3b. Integration of the two doublets in 1B and 1C gives a 955 ratio of the two diastereisomers, indicating that the optical purities of 3a and 3b are about 90-93 %, depending about the catalyst used. As we started from compound la and **lb** having respectively 93 and 95 % ee, the ring-opening proceeded with very high stereoselectivity whatever the catalyst used.

For the determination of the optical purity of 5, this compound was desilylated, and the bis-(R)-MTPA esters of 6 and rac-6 were prepared. Figure 2A shows that the two CH_2 -OMTPA signals exhibited by the bis-Mosher ester of rac-6 are separated in the region δ 4.3-4.8. As the A proton doublet of the AB quartet of each diastereoisomeric CH₂-OMTPA group is readily separated (δ 4.58 and 4.70) and not the B proton doublet, the determination of the diastereomeric purity. and so the enantiomeric purity, was based on the A part. The integration of the signals in Figure 2B indicated 90 % ee for 6. So, as we started from compound 2 with 90 % ee, the ring-opening of (R) -glycidol 6 proceeded without any significant loss of chiral purity.

Homologation by one carbon atom of chiral glycidyl tosylates would give ready access to important P-hydroxy butyric acids. To our knowledge, successful selective epoxide opening was only obtained using Nagata's⁷ reagent, Et₂AlCN.^{2b} However, epoxide ring-opening and homologation to (R) -7 by introduction of a nitrile function was accomplished by treatment of **la** with Me3SiCN and a catalytic amount of Ti(O+Pr)4 or Al(O-i-Pr)₃ (Scheme 2). The optical purity of (R)-7 was analyzed by ¹H NMR of the (R)-MTPA ester. Figure 3A shows the ¹H NMR spectrum (δ 2.7-2.9) of *rac*-7; the CH₂-CN protons appear as a doublet at δ 2.77 in one diastereisomer, and as two doublets at δ 2.82 and 2.83, due probably to the presence of two rotamers, in the other diastereoisomer. Figure 3B shows the ¹H NMR observed in the ring-opening of (R) -1a; the integration of the two signals indicated 85 % and 90 %, respectively for Ti(O-i-Pr)₄ and Al(O-i-Pr)₃. As we started from compound 1a with 93 % ee, the observed ring-opening using Me₃SiCN is again highly stereoselective, but a little lower than in the case of Me₃SiN₃.

Finally we used this ring-opening for the "one-pot" synthesis of (S)-1-azido-3-naphtyloxy-2-hydroxy propane 8, a precursor of propanolol derivatives (Scheme 3). Ring-opening of (S)-1b by Me₃SiN₃ in the presence of a catalytic amount of Ti(O-i-Pr)₄ followed by the treatment of the crude mixture with α -naphtoxysodium gives after hydrolysis compound 8 with 72 % overall yield. The optical purity of this compound was determined by ¹H NMR of its (R) -MTPA ester. Figure 4A shows the ¹H NMR spectrum (δ 4.2-4.4) of *rac*-8; the -CH₂Oprotons appear as a doublet for each diastereoisomer respectively at 4.28 and 4.40 ppm. Figure 4B shows the

Figure 1. ¹H NMR spectra (300 MHz) of the (R) -MTPA esters of tosylate 4 corresponding to the aromatic proton H_a: (A) 1:1 mixture of (R)-4a and (S)-4b; (B) (R)-4a; (C) (S)-4b.

Figure 2. ¹H NMR spectra (300 MHz) of the bis- (R) -MTPA esters of diol 6 corresponding to the H_a and H_a protons: (A) 1:1 mixture of (R) -6 and (S) -6; (B) (S) -6.

Figure 3. ¹H NMR spectra (300 MHz) of the (R)-MTPAesters of tosylate 7 corresponding to the CH₂CN protons: (A) 1:1 mixture of (R) -7 and (S) -7; (B) (R) -7. Figure 4. ¹H NMR spectra (300 MHz) of the (R)-MTPA esters of azido alcohol 8 corresponding to the CH₂O

protons: (A) 1:1 mixture of (R) -8 and (S) -8; (B) (S) -8.

¹H NMR observed in the ring-opening of **1b**; the integration of the two signals indicated 94 % ee for (S) -8, indicating that the two-steps reaction occurs without loss of optical purity.

Conclusion:

In summary, opening of (R)- and (S)-glycidol derivatives by Me₃SiN₃ or Me₃SiCN catalyzed by Ti(O-i-Pr)₄ or Al(O-i-Pr)₃ proceeds with regiospecificity and very high stereoselectivity. These derivatives are precursors of new functionalized optically active C_3 building blocks. The application of this methodology to the synthesis of biologically active compounds is in progress in our laboratory.

Experimental Section:

Column chromatography was carried out on silica gel $GF₂₅₄$ (230-400 mesh Merck). Infrared spectra were obtained using a Perkin-Elmer 681 instrument. Optical rotations were measured on a Perkin-Elmer 241 polarimeter. ¹H NMR spectra were recorded on either a Bruker AM 300 (300 MHz) or a Bruker W 80 (80 MHz) in CDCl₃ solution, the δ values calculated being based on δ 7.26 for CHCl₃ for the silylated products; $13C-NMR$ spectra were obtained at 74.45 MHz on a Bruker AM 300 spectrometer, the δ values calculated being based on δ 77.0 ppm for CDCl₃ (central resonance) for the silylated products. All solvents were distilled from an appropriate drying agent and stored under an atmosphere of nitrogen. All air-sensitive reactions were performed under an atmosphere of nitrogen. Trimethylsilyl azide, titanium isopropoxide, aluminium isopropoxide, (R)-(-)-glycidyl tosylate **la** $\left[\left[\alpha \right]^{19}$ - 17.3 (c 2.7, chloroform), corresponding to 93 % ee), (S)-(+)-glycidyl tosylate **1b** $\{[\alpha]\}_{p}^{19}$ +17.7 (c 2.7, chloroform), corresponding to 95 % ee], and (R) -(+)glycidol 2 ($[\alpha]$ ¹⁸_D +12 (neat), corresponding to 91 % ee} are commercially available (Aldrich).

(R)-X-Azido-2-trimethylsiiyloxy-3-tosyloxypropane 3a. To a mixture of Ti(G-i-Pr)q (11.4 mg, 0.04 mmol, 0.04 equiv) and MeSiN₃ (141 mg, 1.3 mmol, 1.3 equiv) in 3 mL of tetrahydrofuran was added the epoxide 1a (228 mg, 1 mmol, 1 equiv). After 4 days at 40 °C, the catalyst was removed by flashchromatography using a mixture of hexane and ethyle acetate (5:1) as the eluent to give 280 mg (83 %) of $3a$. $[\alpha]^{25}$ _D +10.4 (c 1.5, chloroform); IR (neat) v 2090 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.04 (s, 9H, SiMe₃), 2.36 (s, 3H, CH₃), 3.12 (dd, $J = 12.8$, 5.5 Hz, 1H, H-1), 3.19 (dd, $J = 12.8$, 3.8 Hz, 1H, H-1'), 3.86 (dd, I = 9.3, 6.3 Hz, lH, H-3), 3.88 (dd, J = 9.3, 4.7 Hz, lH, H-3), 3.93 (m, lH, H-2), 7.27 (d. 2H, Ar), 7.70 {d, ZH, Ar); 13C NMR (75.45 MHz, CDCl3) 8 - 0.4 (SiMes), 21.4 (CH3), 53.1 (C-l), 69.2 (C-2), 70.1 (C-3), 127.7, 129.7, 132.3, 144.9 (C₆H₄). Anal. Calcd for C₁₃H₂₁N₃O₄SSi: C, 45.46; H, 6.16. Found: C, 45.48; H, 6.23.

In the case of the ring-opening catalyzed by Al(O-i-Pr)₃, a mixture of Al(O-i-Pr)₃ (30 mg, 0.15 mmol, 0.15 equiv) and MeSiNg (220 mg, 1.9 mmol, 1.9 equiv) in 2 mL of dichloromethane was stirred at room temperature for 2 h. The epoxide **la** (228 mg, 1 mmol, 1 equiv) was added to the mixture and the solution was stirred at 40 °C for 3 days. The product 3a was obtained as described above in 77 % yield.

(S)-l-Azido-2-trimethylsilyloxy-3-tosyloxypropane 3b. This title compound was prepared from 1b in 58 % yield [Ti(O-i-Pr)₄] or 50 % [Al(O-i-Pr)₃] by the same procedure used to prepare 3a. $[\alpha]^{25}$ _D -10.4 (c 1.5. chloroform); IR, ¹H and ¹³C NMR were identical with those obtained for (R) -3a.

General **Procedure for Preparation of Mosher Esters.** A solution of **3a** (or **3b)** (1.7 mmol) in 10 mL of methanol containing a trace of HCl was stirred at room temperature for 4 h. After neutralisation using Amberlite IRA 68 (20-50 mesh), removal of the solvent gave the crude hydrolyzed product **4a** (or **4b)** in quantitative yield. To 20 mg (0.07 mmol) of the crude azido alcohol **[4a** or **4b]** in 1 mL of pyrydine was added 50 μ L of neat (R)-(+)-MTPA chloride. The mixture was stirred at 50 °C for 12 h. Ether was then added (10 mL), the ether layer was washed with water ($3x5$ mL) and dried (Na₂SO₄). Concentration afforded the crude

Mosher ester.

Mosher Ester of 4a. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ **2.45 (s, 3H, CH₃C₆H₄-), 3.52 (s, 3H, CH₃O-), 3.40-3.60 (m, 2H,** H-l), 4.17 (dd, J = 11.0, 5.8 Hz, lH, H-3), 4.23 (dd, J = 11.0, 3.8 Hz, lH, H-3') 5.29 $(m, 1H, H-2)$, 7.35 (d, J = 8.1Hz, 2H, Ar), 7.4-7.5 $(m, 5H, Ar)$, 7.76 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H, Ar).

Mosher Ester of 4b. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.45 (s, 3H, CH₃C₆H₄-), 3.50 (s, 3H, CH₃O-), **3.55 (dd, J = 13.3,** 6.1 Hz, lH, H-l), 3.62 (dd, J = 13.3, 4.6 Hz, IN, H-l'), 4.08 (dd, *J =* 11.0, **5.6 Hz, IH, H-3), 4.16** (dd, J = 11.0,4.3 Hz. IH, H-3'). 5.30 (m, lH, H-2), 7.32 (d,J = 8.1 Hz, ZH, Ar), 7.4-7.5 (m, SH, Ar), **7.70 (d,** *J =* **8.3 Hz, ZH, Ar).**

 (R) -1-Azido-2,3-dihydroxypropane 6. Ring-opening of (R) -glycidol 2 using the procedure described in the presence of 2.6 equiv of Me₃SiN₃ gave the (R) -1-azido-2,3-bis(trimethylsilyloxy)propane 5 which was immediatly hydrolyzed in methanol (5 mL) containing a trace of HCI. Removal of the solvent gave a residue that was purified by flash-chromatography (elution with 2:1 AcOEt/hexane) to yield compound 6 (70 %). $[\alpha]_{D}^{20}$ +0.69 (c 1, chloroform); IR (neat) v 3400, 2100 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (80 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.4 (m, 3H), 3.7 (m, 4H).

Bis-Mosher Ester of rac-6 and (R)-6. To a solution of the diol 6 (0.15 mmol) in 2 mL of pyridine was added 80 μ L of neat (R)-(+)-MTPA chloride. After stirring at 50 °C for 12 h., work-up was as described above. 1H NMR (300 MHz, CDC13) of bis-Mosher **ester of** (W-6: 6 3.41 (bs, 3H, cH30-), 3.49 (bs, 3H, CH30-), 3.49 (dd, f = 13.1, 6.5 Hz, lH, H-l), 3.55 (dd, J = 13.1, 5.0 **Hz,** IH, H-l'), 4.34 (dd, *J =* 12.4, 4.4 Hz, lH, H-3). 4.58 (dd, *J =* **12.4, 3.7 Hz,** IN, **H-3'), 5.35** (m, IH, H-2), 7.3-7.5 (m, IOH, **Ar).lH NMR (300 MHz, CDC13)** of **bis-Mosher ester of (9-6** (determined on **rut-6a): 6** 3.39 (bs, 3H, CH_3O -), 3.48 (bs, 3H, CH₃O-), 3.35-3.55 (m, 2H, H-1), 4.37 (dd, $J = 12.5$, 5.5 Hz, 1H, H-3), 4.70 (dd, $J = 12.5, 3.4$ Hz, 1H, H-3'), 5.35 (m, 1H, H-2), 7.3-7.5 (m, 10H, Ar).

 (R) -1-Cyano-2-hydroxy-3-tosyloxypropane 7. To a solution of 0.23 g (1 mmol) of (R) -1a in 3 mL of CH₃CN were added 5.7 mg (0.02 mmol) of Ti(O-i-Pr)₄ and 19.8 mg (2 mmol) of Me₃SiCN. After the mixture was stirred at 60 'C for 6 days, 2 mL of water containing a trace of HCl was added. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure, and the residue was extracted with 20 mL of ether; evaporation of the solvent followed by flash-chromatography (elution with 2:3 hexane/EtOAc) gave 178 mg (70 % overall yield) of compound 7 as an oil; $[\alpha]^{25}$ _D + 2.7 (c 1, chloroform).

In the case of ring-opening using A l(O-i-Pr)₃, the catalyst (20.4 mg, 0.1 mmol) and Me₃SiCN (19.8 mg, 2 mmol) were stirred in 3 mL CH3CN for 2h; after addition of the epoxide (0.23 g, 1 mmol), the mixture was allowed to stirr at 50 °C for 10 days. The same treatment gave 102 mg (40 % overall yield) of compound (R)-7 as an oil; $[\alpha]^{25}$ _D + 2.4 (c 0.5, chloroform).

IR (neat) v 3400, 2250 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.42 (s, 3H, CH₃), 2.54 (dd, $J = 16.9$, 6.5 Hz, lH, **H-l),** 2.61 (dd, J = 16.9.5.4 Hz, lH, H-l'), 4.00 (dd, 3 = 10.3,3.2 Hz, lH, H-3), 4.00 (bs, lH, OH), 4.03 (dd, $J = 10.3$, 5.1 Hz, 1H, H-3'), 4.18 (m, 1H, H-2), 7.30 (d, 2H, Ar), 7.70 (d, 2H, Ar) in agreement with the litterature⁸; ¹³C NMR (75.45 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 21.8 (CH₃), 22.3 (C-1), 65.2 (C-2), 69.5 (C-3), 116.8 (CN), 127.9, 130.1, 131.8, 145.6 (Ar).

Mosher Ester of (R)-7. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.48 (s, 3H, CH₃), 2.77 (d, J = 6.1 Hz, 2H, H-l), 3.46 and 3.53 (2xbs, 3H, CH30- corresponding to two rotamers), 4.05 4.26 **(m, 2H, H-3), 5.46 (m,** 1H, H-2), 7.2-7.8 (m, 9H, Ar). Mosher Ester of (S) -7 (determined on the racemic mixture of 7). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.48 (s, 3H, CH₃), 2.82 and 2.83 (2xd, *J* = 6.3, 6.3 Hz, 2H, H-1 corresponding to two rotamers), 3.53 (bs, 3H, **(X30-), 4.05 4.26** (m, **2H, H-3), 5.46** (m, **lH, H-2), 7.2-7.8** (m, **9H,** Ar).

CT)-1-Azido-3-naphtyloxy-Z-hydroxypropane 8. To a solution of lg (4mmol) of **@)-lb** in 5 tnL of tetrahydrofuran under argon were added 79.6 mg (0.28 mmol) of $Ti(O-i-Pr)_{4}$ and 0.92 g (8 mmol) of MegSiN3. After the mixture was stirred at 50 "C **for 4 days,** a solution of 1.2 g (8 mmol) of a-naphtoxysodium in 5 mL of tetrahydrofuran was added and the mixture was allowed to stirr at mom temperature for 2 days. After hydrolysis using 5 mL of water containing a trace of HCl, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure to give a residue which was extracted by 30 mL of ether. Evaporation of the solvent followed by flash-chromatography (elution with 3:1 hexane/EtOAc) gave 700 mg (72 % overall yield) of compound (S) -8 as an oil; $[\alpha]^{25}$ _D - 12.4 (c 1, chloroform): IR (neat) v 3400, 3060, 2100 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.50 (s, 1H, OH), 3.62 (dd, $J = 12.6$, 6.0 Hz, 1H, H-1), 3.68 (dd, $J = 12.6$, 4.6 Hz, 1H, H-1'), 4.20 (d, $J =$ 4.9 Hz, 2H, H-3), 4.33 (ddt, J = 6.0. 4.6, 4.9 Hz, 1H. H-2), 6.85 (d,lH, Ar), 7.40 (d, lH, Ar), 7.55 (m, 3H, Ar), 7.85 (d, 1H, Ar), 8.25 (d, 1H, Ar); ¹³C NMR (75.45 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 53.7 (C-1), 69.2 (C-3), 69.5 (C-2), 105.1, 121.1, 121.5, 125.4, 126.6, 127.6, 127.7, 134.5, 153.8 (Ar). Anal. Calcd for $C_{13}H_{13}N_3O_2$: C, 64.18; H, 5.39. Found: C, 64.44; H, 5.83.

Mosher Ester of (S)-8. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.55 (bs. 3H, CH₃O-), 3.79 (dd, J = 13.1, 6.1 Hz, 1H, H-1), 3.84 (dd, $J = 13.1$, 4.5 Hz, 1H, H-1'), 4.28 (d, $J = 5.0$ Hz, 2H, H-3), 5.65 (ddt, $J = 6.1$, 4.5, 5.0 Hz, lH, H-2), 6.70 (d, lH, Ar), 7.1-7.9 (m, 3H, Ar), 8.09 (d, lH, Ar), 8.35 (d, 1H. Ar).Mosher **Ester of** (R) **-8 (determined on the racemic mixture of 8). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ **3.55 (bs, 3H,** CH30-), 3.6-3.8 (m, 2H, H-l), 4.4 (d, J= 4.8 Hz, 2H, H-3), 5.65 (m, lH, H-2), 6.8 (d, lH, Ar), 7.1-7.9 (m. 3H, Ar), 8.19 (d, lH, Ar), 8.40 (d, lH, Ar).

References:

- 1. Jurczak, J.; Pikul, S.; Bauer, T. Tetrahedron 1986, 42, 447-488.
- 2. (a) Gao, Y.; Hanson, R. M.; Klunder, J. M.; Ko. S. Y.; Masamune, H.; Sharpless, K. B. J. Am. Chem. Sot. 1987,109, 5765-5780; (b) Klunder, J. M.; Onani, T.; Sharpless, K. B. J. *Org. Chem. 1989,54,* 1295-1304.
- 3. Caron, M.; Sharpless, K. B. J. Org. Chem. 1985,50, 1557-1560.
- 4. (a) Guivisdalsky, P. N.; Bittman, R. J. Am. *Chem. Sot.* 1989,111, 3077-3079; (b) Guivisdalsky, P. N.; Bittman, R. J. *Org. Gem.* **1989,54,4637-4642** and 4643-4648.
- 5. (a) Sinou, D.; Emziane, M. Tetrahedron Left. 1986,27,4423-4426; (b) Emziane, M.; Lhoste, P.; Sinou, D. Synthesis 1988, 541-544; (c) Emziane, M.; Lhoste, P.; Sinou, D. J. Mol. Catal. 1988, 49, L23-L25; (d) Sutowardoyo. K. I.; Emziane. M.; Lhoste, P.; Sinou, D. Tetrahedron 1991,47, 1435-1446.
- 6. Dale, D. A.; Dull, D. L.; Mosher, M. S. J. Org. Chem. 1969, 34, 2543-2549.
- 7. Nagata, W.; Yoshioka, M.; Okamura, T. J. Chem. Soc. C 1970, 2365-2377.
- 8. Jung, M. E.; Shaw, T. J. *J.* Am. *Chem. Sot.* 1980,102, 6304-6311.