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# Stereoselective synthesis of $\alpha$ -substituted serines from protected erythrulose oximes

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#### Abstract

The additions of organolithium reagents to the C=N bond of several chiral oxime ethers derived from erythrulose afforded protected amino polyols with high diastereoselectivity. Four of the latter compounds have been converted into the  $\alpha, \alpha$ -disubstituted  $\alpha$ -amino acids (*R*)-2-(-)-methylserine, (*S*)-2-(+)-methylserine, (*R*)-(+)-2-phenylserine and (*R*)-(-)-2-*n*-butylserine. © 1998 Elsevier Science Ltd. All rights reserved.

# 1. Introduction

Amino polyols<sup>1</sup> and non-proteinaceous amino acids<sup>2</sup> are two types of nitrogen-containing compounds of particular biological relevance. The latter are secondary metabolites occurring in many living organisms<sup>3</sup> and also constitute part of the structure of many peptidic antibiotics.<sup>4</sup> Furthermore, they are used for the synthesis of modified peptides, which display useful properties as enzyme inhibitors and peptidomimetics.<sup>5</sup> Among the non-proteinaceous amino acids,  $\alpha$ , $\alpha$ -disubstituted  $\alpha$ -amino carboxylic acids, which contain a nitrogen bound to a quaternary carbon atom, have attracted particular interest.<sup>6</sup> Peptides which incorporate this type of amino acid are characterized by a higher conformational rigidity and by an enhanced stability towards hydrolysis.<sup>6–8</sup> There are not many methods of preparing such compounds in enantiopure form. Most of them rely on the alkylation of chiral amino acid enolate equivalents.<sup>9</sup> This fact places some limits on their applicability, as certain  $\alpha$ -amino acids, such as those with  $\alpha$ -*tert*-alkyl or  $\alpha$ -aryl substituents, cannot be easily prepared in this way. Other methods include aldol reactions with amino ester enolates,<sup>10</sup> stereoselective rearrangements,<sup>11</sup> ring-opening of suitably substituted  $\beta$ -lactams,<sup>7g,12</sup> enzymatic resolutions,<sup>13</sup> etc. Very few procedures, aside from the Strecker reaction and its variants,<sup>14</sup> rely on stereoselective additions of carbon nucleophiles to C=N bonds.<sup>15</sup> We have shown that the additions of organolithium reagents to chiral ketoxime ethers (*E*)/(*Z*)-**2** 

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 $(R^1-R^3=$ protecting groups) prepared from L-erythrulose derivatives of general formula **1** (Eq. 1), often take place with high stereocontrol to yield the diastereoisomeric, differentially protected amino polyols **3** and/or **4** (Eq. 2).<sup>16</sup> These amino alcohols can then be converted through standard synthetic manipulations into enantiopure amino polyols and  $\alpha, \alpha$ -disubstituted  $\alpha$ -amino acids, including those not easily available by previous methodologies. In the present paper, we describe in full the preparation of the  $\alpha, \alpha$ -disubstituted  $\alpha$ -amino acids (*R*)-2-(-)-methylserine, (*S*)-2-(+)-methylserine, (*R*)-(+)-2-phenylserine and (*R*)-(-)-2-*n*-butylserine by means of this methodology.

#### 2. Results and discussion

The starting materials were protected amino polyols 3 (R=Me, *n*Bu, Ph) obtained with a high diastereoisomeric ratio (d.r. >95:5) by addition of the corresponding organolithium reagents to oximes (*E*)-2.<sup>16</sup>



Various protecting groups  $R^1-R^3$  have been used for this purpose. Amino polyol acetonides **3** ( $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ =acetonide and  $R^3$ =*tert*-butyldiphenylsilyl, TPS, or trityl, Tr) with R=Me, *n*Bu and Ph, obtained with a high d.r. from the appropriate oximes (*E*)-**2**,<sup>16</sup> were selected for transformation into  $\alpha$ -substituted serines.<sup>17</sup> In the case of (*R*)-2-(-)-methylserine, for instance, compounds (-)-**5a**/(-)-**5b** were the starting materials.



**Reaction conditions.** a) TBAF, THF, RT. b) TFA/TFAA,  $CH_2Cl_2$ , RT. c) CDI,  $C_6H_6$ ,  $\Delta$ . d) PPTS, aq MeOH,  $\Delta$ . e) NaIO<sub>4</sub>, aq THF, RT. f) NaClO<sub>2</sub>, NaH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>, aq *t*BuOH. g) CH<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub>. h) 2M NaOH, aq EtOH. i) H<sub>2</sub>, Pd/C, MeOH.

Desilylation of (–)-**5a**, as well as detritylation of (–)-**5b**, provided the protected amino polyol (–)-6,<sup>16b</sup> which still contained a small amount of the minor stereoisomer. Treatment of the latter with carbonyldiimidazole (CDI) afforded oxazolidinone (–)-**7** and its minor stereoisomer, which could now be separated by chromatography on silica gel. Acetonide cleavage catalyzed by pyridinium *p*-

toluenesulphonate (PPTS) gave diol (+)-8, which was then oxidized via a two-step procedure<sup>18</sup> to acid **9a**, isolated and purified as the methyl ester (-)-9b. Basic hydrolysis removed both the oxazolidinone and methyl ester groups and furnished N-benzyloxy amino acid (-)-10. Reductive cleavage of the N–O bond was best achieved via hydrogenolysis with a Pd/C catalyst to yield (*R*)-2-methylserine (-)-11. Physical and spectral data of the obtained product (see Experimental) were essentially coincident with those reported in the literature.<sup>9a,b,12a,14a</sup>

The amino acids (*R*)-2-*n*-butylserine (–)-18 and (*R*)-2-phenylserine (+)-25 were prepared along the same lines as for the synthesis of (–)-11. The only difference was the means of cleavage of the acetonide moiety, which was performed by transacetalization with ethanedithiol and *p*-toluenesulphonic acid.<sup>19</sup> The preparation of (*R*)-2-*n*-butylserine has not been previously described in the literature. The amino acid 2-phenylserine has previously been described only in racemic form,<sup>20</sup> although a derivative with unknown configuration was obtained with 67% enantiomeric excess via a metal-catalyzed process.<sup>21</sup>



**Reaction conditions.** a) TBAF, THF, RT. b) TFA/TFAA,  $CH_2Cl_2$ , RT. c) CDI,  $C_6H_6$ ,  $\Delta$  (85% overall). d) (CH<sub>2</sub>SH)<sub>2</sub>, TsOH, CHCl<sub>3</sub>,  $\Delta$ . e) NaIO<sub>4</sub>, aq THF. f) NaClO<sub>2</sub>, aq *t*BuOH. g) CH<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub> (40% overall). h) aq NaOH/EtOH, RT. i) H<sub>2</sub>, Pd/C, MeOH (50% overall).



**Reaction conditions.** a) TBAF, THF, RT. b) TFA/TFAA,  $CH_2Cl_2$ , RT. c) CDI,  $C_6H_6$ ,  $\Delta$  (85% overall). d) (CH<sub>2</sub>SH)<sub>2</sub>, TsOH, CHCl<sub>3</sub>,  $\Delta$ . e) NaIO<sub>4</sub>, aq THF. f) NaClO<sub>2</sub>, aq *t*BuOH. g) CH<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub> (40% overall). h) aq NaOH/EtOH, RT. i) H<sub>2</sub>, Pd/C, MeOH (50% overall).

The methodology described in this paper does not only allow the synthesis of serine derivatives with the (*R*)-configuration. Their antipodes with the opposite (*S*)-configuration may also be obtained by using D-erythrulose precursors as the starting materials.<sup>22</sup> Therefore, we also synthesized (*S*)-2-methylserine

(+)-11 from compound (+)-5a by the same series of reactions described above for (-)-11. Compound (+)-5a was in turn prepared in two steps<sup>16b</sup> from the D-erythrulose derivative (+)-26.<sup>22</sup>



**Reaction conditions.** a) TBAF, THF, RT. b) CDI,  $C_6H_6$ ,  $\Delta$  (85% overall). c) PPTS, aq MeOH,  $\Delta$ . d) NaIO<sub>4</sub>, aq THF. e) NaClO<sub>2</sub>, aq *t*BuOH. f) CH<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub> (40% overall). g) aq NaOH/EtOH, RT. h) H<sub>2</sub>, Pd/C, MeOH (50% overall).

The methodology we have described above is therefore very useful for the preparation of many types of  $\alpha, \alpha$ -disubstituted  $\alpha$ -amino acids in enantiopure form, including those not easily available by alternative procedures. Furthermore, the protected amino polyols obtained with this procedure possess several hydroxyl groups, a fact which opens the way to the synthesis of other biologically relevant, polyfunctionalized compounds, such as polyhydroxylated amino acids,<sup>23</sup> diamino acids,<sup>24</sup> N-hydroxy amino acids,<sup>25</sup> and branched aminosugars.<sup>26</sup> Finally, since D-erythrulose derivatives are also easily available,<sup>22</sup> all these compounds can be prepared in either antipodal form. Further research in these directions is in progress.

# 3. Experimental

For general experimental details, see the preceeding article.<sup>16b</sup> All obtained products gave satisfactory microanalytical data (C, H,  $\pm 0.5\%$ ).

# 3.1. (4R)-3-Benzyloxy-4-methyl-4-[(4R)-2,2-dimethyl-1,3-dioxolan-4-yl]-1,3-oxazolidin-2-one, (-)-7

Amino alcohol (-)- $6^{16b}$  (1.406 g, 5 mmol) was dissolved in dry benzene (40 ml) and treated with CDI (973 mg, 6 mmol). The reaction mixture was heated at reflux under Ar for 4 h. Work-up (Et<sub>2</sub>O) and column chromatography (hexane:EtOAc=4:1) afforded (-)-7 (1.25 g, 81%) together with its minor diastereomer (100 mg, ca. 6%). Oxazolidinone (-)-7 was isolated as a white solid, mp 99–100°C, [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub> -7.2 (CHCl<sub>3</sub>, *c* 1); IR  $\nu_{max}$  cm<sup>-1</sup>: 1782 (C=O); EIMS, *m/z* 307.1411 (M<sup>+</sup>). Calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>21</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>, M=307.1420; <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta$  7.45–7.30 (5H, *m*, arom.), 5.01, 4.95 (2H, AB system, J=11 Hz, NOCH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 4.31 (1H, *d*, J=8.5 Hz, H-5<sub>a</sub>), 4.21 (1H, *dd*, J=7.2, 5.5 Hz, H-4'), 3.96 (1H, *dd*, J=9, 7.2 Hz, H-5'<sub>a</sub>), 3.86 (1H, *d*, J=8.5 Hz, H-5<sub>b</sub>), 3.67 (1H, *dd*, J=9, 5.5 Hz, H-5'<sub>b</sub>), 1.41, 1.29 (2×3H, 2×*s*, acetonide Me), 0.98 (3H, *s*, MeC<sub>4</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR:  $\delta$  158.5 (C-2), 135.3 (arom. C), 129.9, 128.9, 128.5 (arom. CH), 109.8 (acetonide C), 78.6 (NOCH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 76.0 (C-4'), 68.8 (C-5), 68.4 (C-5'), 63.4 (C-4), 25.9, 24.3 (2×acetonide Me), 17.1 (*Me*C<sub>4</sub>). Primed numbers in NMR data correspond to atoms of the dioxolane ring. Anal. calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>21</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>: C, 62.53; H, 6.89; N, 4.56. Found: C, 62.63; H, 7.00; N, 4.31.

# *3.2.* (4S)-*3-Benzyloxy-4-methyl-4-[(*4S)-*2,2-dimethyl-1,3-dioxolan-4-yl]-1,3-oxazolidin-2-one,* (+)-*7*

Obtained from amino alcohol (+)- $6^{16b}$  under the same conditions as for (-)-7: [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub> +7 (CHCl<sub>3</sub>, *c* 1.8). The other physical properties are identical to those of (-)-7. Anal. calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>21</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>: C, 62.53; H, 6.89; N, 4.56. Found: C, 62.75; H, 6.96; N, 4.44.

#### 3.3. (4R)-3-Benzyloxy-4-methyl-4-[(1R)-1,2-dihydroxyethyl]-1,3-oxazolidin-2-one, (+)-8

Oxazolidinone (-)-7 (1.23 g, 4 mmol) and PPTS (50 mg, 0.2 mmol) were dissolved in a 9:1 MeOH:H<sub>2</sub>O mixture (20 ml) and heated at reflux for 12 h. Work-up<sup>16b</sup> and column chromatography (hexane:EtOAc=1:1) afforded (+)-8 (987 mg, 92%) as a white solid, mp 118–120°C,  $[\alpha]_D$  +17.4 (MeOH, *c* 2.7); IR  $\nu_{max}$  cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3400 (br, OH), 1764 (C=O); FABMS, *m/z* 268.1183 (M+H<sup>+</sup>). Calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>, M=268.1185; <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta$  7.45–7.30 (5H, *m*, arom.), 5.04, 4.95 (2H, AB system, J=11 Hz, NOCH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 4.43 (1H, *d*, J=8.8 Hz, H-5), 3.86 (1H, *d*, J=8.8 Hz, H-5'), 3.65–3.40 (3H, *m*, CH<sub>2</sub>OHCHOH), 2.50 (2H, *br s*, 2 OH), 1.15 (3H, *s*, MeC<sub>4</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR:  $\delta$  159.4 (C-2), 135.3 (arom. C), 130.0, 129.3, 128.8 (arom. CH), 77.9 (NOCH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 71.6 (CHOH), 68.5 (C-5), 65.7 (C-4), 62.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>OH), 18.2 (*Me*C<sub>4</sub>). Anal. calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>: C, 58.42; H, 6.41; N, 5.24. Found: C, 58.63; H, 6.60; N, 5.31.

#### 3.4. (4S)-3-Benzyloxy-4-methyl-4-[(1S)-1,2-dihydroxyethyl]-1,3-oxazolidin-2-one, (-)-8

Obtained from oxazolidonone (+)-7 under the same conditions as for (+)-8:  $[\alpha]_D$  –16.8 (MeOH, *c* 2.2). The other physical properties are identical to those of (+)-8. Anal. calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>: C, 58.42; H, 6.41; N, 5.24. Found: C, 58.55; H, 6.30; N, 5.11.

#### 3.5. (4R)-3-Benzyloxy-4-methyl-4-methoxycarbonyl-1,3-oxazolidin-2-one, (-)-9b

Diol (+)-8 (962 mg, 3.6 mmol) was dissolved in THF (10 ml) and treated with a solution of NaIO<sub>4</sub> (1.54 g, 7.2 mmol) in water (2 ml). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 h. Work-up (EtOAc) afforded an oily material which was dissolved in *t*BuOH (70 ml) and treated successively with 2-methyl-2-butene (20 ml), 25% aqueous NaClO<sub>2</sub> (13 ml, ca. 36 mmol) and NaH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (3.8 g). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 12 h. Work-up (EtOAc) afforded an oily material which was discolved in *t*BuOH (70 ml) and treated successively with 2-methyl-2-butene (20 ml), 25% aqueous NaClO<sub>2</sub> (13 ml, ca. 36 mmol) and NaH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (3.8 g). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 12 h. Work-up (EtOAc) afforded an oily material which was directly esterified with ethereal diazomethane. Solvent removal *in vacuo* and column chromatography (hexane:EtOAc=4:1) provided (-)-9b (716 mg, 75% overall) as an oil,  $[\alpha]_D$  –9.4 (CHCl<sub>3</sub>, *c* 1.7); IR  $\nu_{max}$  cm<sup>-1</sup>: 1793, 1747 (C=O); EIMS, *m/z* 266.1027 (M+H<sup>+</sup>, 1), 206 (M<sup>+</sup>-COOMe, 30), 100 (45), 91 (100). Calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>, M=266.1028; <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta$  7.45–7.30 (5H, *m*, arom.), 5.06, 4.99 (2H, AB system, J=10.7 Hz, NOCH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 4.31 (1H, *d*, J=9 Hz, H-5), 4.00 (1H, *d*, J=9 Hz, H-5'), 3.77 (3H, *s*, OMe), 1.36 (3H, *s*, MeC<sub>4</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR:  $\delta$  170.4 (ester C=O), 157.9 (C-2), 135.1 (arom. C), 129.8, 128.9, 128.4 (arom. CH), 78.8 (NOCH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 69.5 (C-5), 65.4 (C-4), 53.2 (OMe), 18.3 (*Me*C<sub>4</sub>). Anal. calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>: C, 58.86; H, 5.70; N, 5.28. Found: C, 58.59; H, 5.55; N, 5.15.

#### 3.6. (4S)-3-Benzyloxy-4-methyl-4-methoxycarbonyl-1,3-oxazolidin-2-one, (+)-9b

Obtained from diol (-)-8 under the same conditions as for (-)-9b:  $[\alpha]_D$  +9.0 (CHCl<sub>3</sub>, *c* 1.8). The other physical properties are identical to those of (-)-9b. Anal. calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>: C, 58.86; H, 5.70; N, 5.28. Found: C, 58.67; H, 5.81; N, 5.35.

# 3.7. (2R)-3-Hydroxy-2-(N-benzyloxyamino)-2-methylpropionic acid, (-)-10

Methyl ester (–)-**9b** (663 mg, 2.5 mmol) was dissolved in EtOH (10 ml) and treated with a 2 M aqueous solution of sodium hydroxide (10 ml). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 12 h. After this time, most of the EtOH was removed *in vacuo* and the pH of the solution was adjusted to 1 with 5 M aq HCl. Work-up (EtOAc) and column chromatography (EtOAc:MeOH=1:1) provided (–)-**10** (366 mg, 65%) as an oil,  $[\alpha]_D$  –5.4 (MeOH, *c* 0.2); IR  $\nu_{max}$  cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3300 (br, OH), 1591, 1414 (COO<sup>-</sup>); CIMS, *m/z* 194.0815 (M<sup>+</sup>–CH<sub>2</sub>OH). Calcd for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>12</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>, M=194.0817; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD):  $\delta$  7.40–7.20 (5H, *m*, arom.), 4.70 (2H, *s*, NOCH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 3.75 (1H, *d*, J=10.7 Hz, H-3), 3.63 (1H, *d*, J=10.7 Hz, H-3'), 1.20 (3H, *s*, MeC<sub>2</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD):  $\delta$  181.0 (C-1), 139.3 (arom. C), 129.3, 129.2, 128.6 (arom. CH), 77.5 (NOCH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 67.4 (C-2), 65.9 (C-3), 19.0 (*Me*C<sub>2</sub>). Anal. calcd for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>: C, 58.66; H, 6.71; N, 6.22. Found: C, 58.38; H, 6.56; N, 6.05.

#### 3.8. (2S)-3-Hydroxy-2-(N-benzyloxyamino)-2-methylpropionic acid, (+)-10

Obtained from methyl ester (+)-**9b** under the same conditions as for (-)-**10**:  $[\alpha]_D$  +5.0 (MeOH, *c* 0.3). The other physical properties are identical to those of (-)-**10**. Anal. calcd for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>: C, 58.66; H, 6.71; N, 6.22. Found: C, 58.87; H, 6.76; N, 6.30.

#### 3.9. (R)-(-)-2-Methyl serine, (-)-11

Pd/C catalyst (50 mg) was suspended in MeOH (3 ml) and stirred under an H<sub>2</sub> atmosphere for 10 min. Acid (–)-**10** (225 mg, 1 mmol) dissolved in MeOH (15 ml) was then injected via syringe. The mixture was stirred under the H<sub>2</sub> atmosphere at room temperature for 48 h. After this time, the catalyst was removed by filtration and the solvent was removed *in vacuo*. Aqueous 1 M HCl was added to the residue until pH 1. The solution was then evaporated to dryness and the residue was purified through a Dowex 50WX8-400 column according to the described procedure.<sup>9b</sup> This yielded (*R*)-(–)-2-methyl serine, (–)-**11** (65 mg, 55%) as a white solid, mp 225–230°C (dec.), lit.<sup>9a</sup> mp 240–245°C (dec.), lit.<sup>12a</sup> mp 235–245°C (dec.);  $[\alpha]_D$  –6.3 (H<sub>2</sub>O, *c* 1.1), lit.<sup>9a</sup>  $[\alpha]_D$  –5.8 (H<sub>2</sub>O, *c* 0.289), lit.<sup>12a</sup>  $[\alpha]_D$  –6.1 (H<sub>2</sub>O, *c* 0.9); IR v<sub>max</sub> cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3400 (br, OH), 1650, 1450, 1410, 1380, 1275, 1088, 1050, 880; CIMS, *m/z* 120.0692 (M+H<sup>+</sup>). Calcd for C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>10</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>, M=120.0660; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (D<sub>2</sub>O):  $\delta$  3.95 (1H, *d*, J=12 Hz, H-3), 3.70 (1H, *d*, J=12 Hz, H-3'), 1.45 (3H, *s*, Me-C<sub>2</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (D<sub>2</sub>O):  $\delta$  177.2 (C-1), 66.3 (C-3), 63.1 (C-2), 19.9 (*Me*-C<sub>2</sub>).

#### 3.10. (S)-(+)-2-Methyl serine, (+)-11

Obtained from acid (+)-10 under the same conditions as for (-)-11:  $[\alpha]_D$  +6.1 (H<sub>2</sub>O, *c* 0.9). The other physical properties are identical to those of (-)-11.

# *3.11.* (4R)-*3-Benzyloxy-4*-n-*butyl-4-[(4R)-2,2-dimethyl-1,3-dioxolan-4-yl]-1,3-oxazolidin-2-one,* (-)-*14*

Obtained in 75% yield from amino alcohol (-)- $13^{16b}$  under the same conditions as for (-)-7: white solid, mp 85–87°C, [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub> –8.5 (CHCl<sub>3</sub>, *c* 1.2); IR  $\nu_{max}$  cm<sup>-1</sup>: 1782 (C=O); CIMS, *m/z* 350.1971 (M+H<sup>+</sup>). Calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>28</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>, M=350.1967; <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta$  7.40–7.30 (5H, *m*, arom.), 5.00 (2H, *s*, NOCH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 4.27 (1H, *d*, J=8.8 Hz, H-5<sub>a</sub>), 4.24 (1H, *dd*, J=7, 6 Hz, H-4'), 4.03 (1H, *d*, J=8.8 Hz,

H-5<sub>b</sub>), 3.95 (1H, *dd*, J=9, 7 Hz, H-5'<sub>a</sub>), 3.62 (1H, *dd*, J=9, 6 Hz, H-5'<sub>b</sub>), 1.60 and 1.30–1.15 (6H, *m*, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.43, 1.30 (2×3H, 2×*s*, acetonide Me), 0.85 (3H, *t*, J=7 Hz, MeCH<sub>2</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR: δ 158.4 (C-2), 135.3 (arom. C), 129.3, 128.7, 128.4 (arom. CH), 109.7 (acetonide C), 78.4 (NOCH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 76.4 (C-4'), 65.9, 64.7 (C-5, C-5'), 65.7 (C-4), 30.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>7</sub>), 25.9, 24.4 (2×acetonide *Me*), 24.9, 22.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 13.8 (*Me*CH<sub>2</sub>). Primed numbers in NMR data correspond to atoms of the dioxolane ring. Anal. calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>27</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>: C, 65.31; H, 7.79; N, 4.01. Found: C, 65.40; H, 7.66; N, 4.14.

#### 3.12. (4R)-3-Benzyloxy-4-n-butyl-4-[(1R)-1,2-dihydroxyethyl]-1,3-oxazolidin-2-one, (+)-15

Oxazolidinone (-)-14 (1.048 g, 3 mmol), 1,2-ethane dithiol (2.5 ml, ca. 30 mmol) and *p*-toluenesulphonic acid monohydrate (19 mg, 0.1 mmol) were dissolved in dry CHCl<sub>3</sub> (25 ml) and heated at reflux for 2 h. Work-up (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) and column chromatography (hexane:EtOAc=1:1) furnished (+)-15 (753 mg, 81%) as a white solid, mp 74–76°C,  $[\alpha]_D$  +54.4 (CHCl<sub>3</sub>, *c* 1.7); IR  $\nu_{max}$  cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3400 (br, OH), 1765 (C=O); FABMS, *m*/*z* 310.1642 (M+H<sup>+</sup>). Calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>24</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>, M=310.1655; <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta$  7.45–7.35 (5H, *m*, arom.), 5.10, 5.00 (2H, AB system, J=11.3 Hz, NOCH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 4.41 (1H, *d*, J=9 Hz, H-5), 3.96 (1H, *d*, J=9 Hz, H-5'), 3.60 (1H, *m*, CH<sub>2</sub>OH), 3.40 (2H, *m*, CH<sub>2</sub>OH, CH<sub>2</sub>OH), 2.30, 2.10 (2H, 2×*br s*, 2×OH), 1.60–1.20 (6H, *m*, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 0.89 (3H, *t*, J=7.2 Hz, Me); <sup>13</sup>C NMR:  $\delta$  159.6 (C-2), 135.4 (arom. C), 129.8, 129.4, 128.9 (arom. CH), 77.3 (NOCH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 71.8 (CHOH), 67.9 (C-4), 66.7 (C-5), 62.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>OH), 32.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>7</sub>), 24.9, 23.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 13.9 (Me). Anal. calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>23</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>: C, 62.12; H, 7.49; N, 4.53. Found: C, 62.33; H, 7.46; N, 4.34.

#### 3.13. (4R)-3-Benzyloxy-4-n-butyl-4-methoxycarbonyl-1,3-oxazolidin-2-one, (-)-16b

Obtained in 90% yield from diol (+)-**15** under the same conditions as for (-)-**9**b: oil,  $[\alpha]_D$  -6.5 (CHCl<sub>3</sub>, *c* 1.3); IR  $\nu_{max}$  cm<sup>-1</sup>: 1790, 1746 (C=O); EIMS, *m/z* 308.1494 (M+H<sup>+</sup>, 1), 248 (M<sup>+</sup>-COOMe, 8), 142 (15), 91 (100). Calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>22</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>, M=308.1498; <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta$  7.45–7.35 (5H, *m*, arom.), 5.10, 5.06 (2H, AB system, J=10.3 Hz, NOCH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 4.38 (1H, *d*, J=9 Hz, H-5), 4.16 (1H, *d*, J=9 Hz, H-5'), 3.78 (3H, *s*, OMe), 1.85 (2H, *m*, CH<sub>2</sub>C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>7</sub>), 1.30–1.20 (4H, *m*, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 0.86 (3H, *t*, J=7 Hz, *Me*CH<sub>2</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR:  $\delta$  170.4 (ester C=O), 158.0 (C-2), 135.1 (arom. C), 129.5, 128.7, 128.4 (arom. CH), 78.7 (NOCH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 67.9 (C-4), 67.3 (C-5), 53.0 (OMe), 32.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>7</sub>), 24.9, 22.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 13.7 (Me). Anal. calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>21</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>: C, 62.53; H, 6.89; N, 4.56. Found: C, 62.43; H, 7.01; N, 4.54.

# 3.14. (2R)-2-(N-Benzyloxyamino)-2-(hydroxymethyl)hexanoic acid, (+)-17

Obtained in 73% yield from methyl ester (-)-**16b** under the same conditions as for (-)-**10**: white solid, mp 120–125°C (dec.),  $[\alpha]_D$  +1.7 (CHCl<sub>3</sub>, *c* 0.3); IR  $\nu_{max}$  cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3300 (br, OH), 1586, 1426, 1264, 1091, 874; FABMS, *m/z* 268.1538 (M+H<sup>+</sup>). Calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>22</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>, M=268.1549; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD):  $\delta$  7.40–7.20 (5H, *m*, arom.), 4.75, 4.71 (2H, AB system, J=11.5 Hz, NOCH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 3.79 (1H, *d*, J=10.7 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>OH), 3.67 (1H, *d*, J=10.7 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>OH), 1.55 (2H, *m*, H-3), 1.40–1.20 (4H, *m*, H-4, H-5), 0.87 (3H, *t*, J=7 Hz, H-6); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD):  $\delta$  180.5 (C-1), 139.0 (arom. C), 129.4, 129.3, 128.8 (arom. CH), 77.5 (NOCH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 70.9 (C-2), 64.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>OH), 31.6 (C-3), 26.9, 24.3 (C-4, C-5), 14.5 (C-6). Anal. calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>21</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>: C, 62.90; H, 7.92; N, 5.24. Found: C, 62.83; H, 7.61; N, 5.46.

# 3.15. (R)-(-)-2-n-Butyl serine, (-)-18

Obtained in 50% yield from acid (+)-**17** under the same conditions as for (-)-**11**: white solid, mp 225–232°C (dec.);  $[\alpha]_D$  –11.8 (H<sub>2</sub>O, *c* 0.3); IR  $\nu_{max}$  cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3300 (br, OH), 1625, 1449, 1092; FABMS, *m*/*z* 162.1133 (M+H<sup>+</sup>). Calcd for C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>, M=162.1130; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (D<sub>2</sub>O:CD<sub>3</sub>OD=4:1):  $\delta$  3.90 (1H, *d*, J=11.5 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>OH), 3.66 (1H, *d*, J=11.5 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>OH), 1.80–1.60 (2H, *m*, CH<sub>2</sub>C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>7</sub>), 1.50–1.15 (4H, *m*, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 0.87 (3H, *t*, J=7 Hz, Me); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (D<sub>2</sub>O:CD<sub>3</sub>OD=4:1):  $\delta$  175.6 (C-1), 67.3 (C-2), 65.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>OH), 32.9 (C-3), 25.9, 23.0 (C-4, C-5), 13.9 (C-6). Anal. calcd for C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>: C, 52.16; H, 9.38; N, 8.69. Found: C, 52.33; H, 9.60; N, 8.56.

# *3.16.* (4R)-*3-Benzyloxy-4-phenyl-4-[(4R)-2,2-dimethyl-1,3-dioxolan-4-yl]-1,3-oxazolidin-2-one,* (-)-*21*

Obtained in 93% yield from amino alcohol (–)-**20**<sup>16b</sup> under the same conditions as for (–)-**7**: white solid, mp 90–92°C,  $[\alpha]_D$  –36.2 (CHCl<sub>3</sub>, *c* 1.4); IR  $\nu_{max}$  cm<sup>-1</sup>: 1788 (C=O); FABMS, *m/z* 370.1651 (M+H<sup>+</sup>). Calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>24</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>, M=370.1655; <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta$  7.40–7.20 (10H, *m*, arom.), 5.07, 4.72 (2H, AB system, J=10.2 Hz, NOCH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 4.94 (1H, *dd*, J=7.5, 4.8 Hz, H-4'), 4.67 (1H, *d*, J=9 Hz, H-5<sub>a</sub>), 4.44 (1H, *d*, J=9 Hz, H-5<sub>b</sub>), 4.12 (1H, *dd*, J=9.3, 7.4 Hz, H-5'<sub>a</sub>), 3.65 (1H, *dd*, J=9.3, 4.8 Hz, H-5'<sub>b</sub>), 1.49, 1.35 (2×3H, 2×s, acetonide Me); <sup>13</sup>C NMR:  $\delta$  158.3 (C-2), 136.8, 134.8 (arom. C), 129.3, 128.9, 128.6, 128.3, 126.9 (arom. CH), 110.4 (acetonide C), 78.6 (NOCH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 74.8 (C-4'), 68.5 (C-5), 68.3 (C-4), 65.4 (C-5'), 25.7, 24.0 (2×acetonide Me). Primed numbers in NMR data correspond to atoms of the dioxolane ring. Anal. calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>23</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>: C, 68.28; H, 6.28; N, 3.79. Found: C, 68.39; H, 6.44; N, 3.56.

#### 3.17. (4R)-3-Benzyloxy-4-phenyl-4-[(1R)-1,2-dihydroxyethyl]-1,3-oxazolidin-2-one, (+)-22

Obtained in 66% yield from oxazolidinone (–)-**21** under the same conditions as for (+)-**15**: white solid, mp 68–70°C,  $[\alpha]_D$  +24.0 (CHCl<sub>3</sub>, *c* 0.7); IR  $\nu_{max}$  cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3400 (br, OH), 1778 (C=O); CIMS, *m/z* 330.1345 (M+H<sup>+</sup>). Calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>20</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>, M=330.1341; <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta$  7.50–7.20 (10H, *m*, arom.), 5.15, 4.87 (2H, AB system, J=10.2 Hz, NOCH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 4.44 (1H, *t*, J=4 Hz, CHOH), 4.38 (1H, *br* d, J=12 Hz, H-5<sub>a</sub>), 4.26 (1H, *br* d, J=12 Hz, H-5<sub>b</sub>), 4.00 (2H, *br* d, J=4 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>OH), 3.30 (2H, *br* s, 2 OH); <sup>13</sup>C NMR:  $\delta$  159.6 (C-2), 137.2, 134.8 (arom. C), 129.2, 129.0, 128.7, 128.6, 128.3, 126.1 (arom. CH), 82.7 (CHOH), 78.4 (NOCH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 71.3 (C-4), 60.6 (C-5), 58.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>OH). Anal. calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>19</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>: C, 65.64; H, 5.81; N, 4.25. Found: C, 65.42; H, 5.70; N, 4.44.

#### 3.18. (4R)-3-Benzyloxy-4-phenyl-4-methoxycarbonyl-1,3-oxazolidin-2-one, (-)-23b

Obtained in 61% overall yield from diol (+)-**22** under the same conditions as for (-)-**9b**: oil,  $[\alpha]_D$  -17.7 (CHCl<sub>3</sub>, *c* 1.3); IR  $\nu_{max}$  cm<sup>-1</sup>: 1794, 1753 (C=O); EIMS, *m/z* 328.1175 (M+H<sup>+</sup>, 1), 312 (M<sup>+</sup>-Me, 1), 268 (M<sup>+</sup>-COOMe, 38), 162 (20), 91 (100). Calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>, M=328.1185; <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta$  7.40–7.30 (10H, *m*, arom.), 5.19, 5.05 (2H, AB system, J=10 Hz, NOCH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 4.71 (1H, *d*, J=9 Hz, H-5), 4.54 (1H, *d*, J=9 Hz, H-5'), 3.86 (3H, *s*, OMe); <sup>13</sup>C NMR:  $\delta$  169.5 (ester C=O), 157.1 (C-2), 134.8, 134.3 (arom. C), 129.3, 129.0, 128.6, 128.3, 126.5 (arom. CH), 78.9 (NOCH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 71.1 (C-4), 69.9 (C-5), 53.3 (OMe). Anal. calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>: C, 66.05; H, 5.23; N, 4.28. Found: C, 66.22; H, 5.40; N, 4.49.

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# 3.19. (2R)-3-Hydroxy-2-(N-benzyloxyamino)-2-phenylpropionic acid, (+)-24

Obtained in 70% yield from methyl ester (-)-**23b** under the same conditions as for (-)-**10**: white solid, mp 144–146°C,  $[\alpha]_D$  –12.5 (MeOH, *c* 1.7); IR  $\nu_{max}$  cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3300 (br, OH), 1589, 1412, 1091, 913, 874; FABMS, *m/z* 288.1227 (M+H<sup>+</sup>). Calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>, M=288.1236; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD):  $\delta$  7.45 (2H, *m*, arom.), 7.30–7.15 (8H, *m*, arom.), 4.61, 4.53 (2H, AB system, J=10.5 Hz, NOCH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 4.25 (1H, *d*, J=10.5 Hz, H-3), 4.07 (1H, *d*, J=10.5 Hz, H-3); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD):  $\delta$  180.5 (C-1), 140.6, 138.8 (arom. C), 129.6, 129.5, 129.3, 129.0, 128.8, 128.7, 128.4 (arom. CH), 77.7 (NOCH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 73.8 (C-2), 65.1 (C-3). Anal. calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>: C, 66.89; H, 5.96; N, 4.88. Found: C, 66.72; H, 5.70; N, 4.69.

#### 3.20. (R)-(+)-2-Phenyl serine, (+)-25

Obtained in 60% yield from acid (+)-**24** under the same conditions as for (-)-**11**: white solid, mp 248–250°C (dec.);  $[\alpha]_D$  +19.5 (H<sub>2</sub>O, *c* 0.3); IR  $\nu_{max}$  cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3400 (br, OH), 1624, 1407, 1087, 875; FABMS, *m*/*z* 182.0822 (M+H<sup>+</sup>). Calcd for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>12</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>, M=182.0817; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (D<sub>2</sub>O:CD<sub>3</sub>OD=4:1):  $\delta$  7.55–7.40 (5H, *m*, arom.), 4.35 (1H, *d*, J=12 Hz, H-3), 4.24 (1H, *d*, J=12 Hz, H-3); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (D<sub>2</sub>O:CD<sub>3</sub>OD=4:1):  $\delta$  174.3 (C-1), 135.6 (arom. C), 130.3, 130.2, 126.8 (arom. CH), 68.5 (C-2), 64.5 (C-3). Anal. calcd for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>11</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>: C, 59.66; H, 6.12; N, 7.73. Found: C, 59.45; H, 6.38; N, 7.58.

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