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Mitsunobu Reactions of Glycals with Phenoxide Nucleophiles are S_N2'- Selective

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Abstract: The C³-hydroxyl group of L-rhamnal (4) and D-glucal 7 underwent S_N 2'-selective Mitsunobu displacements with substituted phenoxide nucleophiles. These reactions provide access to the corresponding α -arylglycoside.

We required a method for the preparation of α -O-aryl glycoside of 2,3,6-trideoxy sugars in connection with planned syntheses of angucycline antibiotics.¹ A direct preparation starts with a substituted glycal and requires an allylic displacement of the C³-hydroxyl in preference to direct nucleophilic attack. This transformation would serve to eliminate the C³ substituent and simultaneously introduce an oxidatively removable group at C¹ (i.e. p-methoxyphenyl).



The first approach attempted in this work involved a Ferrier reaction of 3,4-di-O-acetylrhamnal 1.² Unfortunately, the only observable product from this reaction was C-arylglycosides 3; none of the desired Oarylglycoside 2 was detected. Apparently, the desired product 2 suffered O-to-C glycoside rearrangement under the acid conditions of the Ferrier transformation. Similar rearrangements have been reported by other groups.³ Later, we found that the Ferrier rearrangement was viable using 15 equivalents of 4-methoxyphenol at elevated temperatures in the absence of a Lewis acid.⁴ However, a mixture of stereoisomers was formed and isolation of the product was experimentally difficult.



Mitsunobu displacements of allylic hydroxyl groups are generally considered to proceed with high $S_N 2$ regioselectivity.⁵ This has been elegantly demonstrated by using an optically active allylic alcohol for which $S_N 2$ and $S_N 2$ '-allylic displacements would yield enantiomeric products.⁶ Nevertheless, we felt that the natural bias of glycals to undergo allylic substitution in nucleophilic displacements reactions could override the intrinsic preference for direct displacement in Mitsunobu reactions.⁷ As illustrated by the results shown in the Table below this reasoning proved to be well founded.

entry	substrate	reaction conditions	product	yield % (α:β)
1		a b	"",, O OR HO 5 R=p-CH3OC6H4 6 R=p-NO2C6H4	80% (α only) 78% (α only)
2	TBSO HO ^N OH	a b	TBSO OR HO 8 R=p-CH3OC6H4 9 R=p-NO2C6H4	55% (α only) 68% (α only)
3		a	HO ^W OR	50% (1:2)

Table 1. Mitsunobu reaction of glycals with substituted phenols.

a) *p*-CH₃OC₆H₄OH (1.2 equiv); DEAD (1.6 equiv); Ph₃P (1.1 equiv); CH₂Cl₂, 0 °C b) *p*-NO₂C₆H₄OH (1.2 equiv); DEAD (1.6 equiv); Ph₃P (1.1 equiv); CH₂Cl₂, 0 °C

The Mitsunobu reaction has found considerable application in the synthesis of aryl- and acylglycosides.^{3,8} Two significant observations have been made while employing the Mitsunobu reaction in glycosidic bond formation. First, the displacement of the anomeric hydroxyl group proceeds with inversion of configuration.^{8d,f} Secondly, selective displacement of the anomeric hydroxyl group over other hydroxyl groups is possible, thus eliminating the need for protecting group manipulation.^{8d} Based upon the second observation we examined the condensation between p-methoxyphenol and L-rhamnal (4) without protection of the C⁴ hydroxyl group. Dropwise addition of diethyl azodicarboxylate (DEAD) to a solution of p-methoxyphenol and L-rhamnal (4) in dichloromethane at 0 °C resulted in full consumption of the starting glycal within 1 h. Following concentration and purification by flash chromatography arylglycoside 5 α was

obtained in 80% yield, no other isomers were isolated.^{9,10} In a similar fashion p-nitrophenol was coupled with L-rhamnal (4) to provide 9α .⁹ The displacement reaction was then extended to 6-O-t-butyldimethysilyl ether of D-glucal (7). While the chemical yield of the displacement eroded in this case, the stereochemical integrity of the reaction remained high providing exclusively the corresponding α -aryl glycosides 8α and 9α .⁹ In contrast to L-rhamnal (4) and silyl protected D-glucal 7, the condensation of p-methoxyphenol with L-fucal (10) produced a 1:2 mixture of 11 α and 11 β .

The stereochemical assignment of the products were determined in the following manner. Tetrapropylperruthenate oxidation of allylic alcohol 5 α provided ketone 12 (61%).¹¹ Oxidation of the minor isomer from the Mitsunobu coupling of L-fucal (10) with p-methoxyphenol also provided 12 (45%).^{9,10} On the other hand, oxidation of 11 β provided isomeric ketone 13 (55%).^{10,11} The structures of 12 and 13 were assigned based on NMR analysis. In particular, irradiation of the H¹ proton of ketone 12 resulted in a 4.0% nuclear Overhauser enhancement of H². While similar irradiation of the H¹ proton in 13 produced a 5.5% nuclear Overhauser enhancement of H⁵. Ketones 12 and 13 were therefore assigned α - and β -configurations respectively.



Preparation of methoxy-substituted phenyl glycosides is of particular value since this facilitates subsequent oxidative removal of the aryl substituent if necessary.¹² On the other hand, nitrophenyl glycosides are useful since they are frequently used as synthetic substrates for certain glycosidases and glycosyl transferases.¹³ Of particular concern to us, these studies provide a paradigm for synthesis of the trisaccharide fragment of the angucycline antiobiotic PI-080.¹

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- The structure assigned to each new compound was in accord with its ¹H and ¹³C NMR (200 and 50 MHz respectively) spectra, as well as elemental composition data [HRMS (parent ion identification) and/or combustion analysis (± 0.4%)].
- 10. 5α : $[\alpha]^{D}_{20}$ -132.12° (*c* 1.18, CHCl₃); IR (CHCl₃) 3500, 1598 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (200 MHz,CDCl₃) 8 7.02 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz ,2H), 6.87 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 2H), 6.04 (d, *J* = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 5.93 (m,1H), 5.51 (d, *J* = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 3.90 (m, 2H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 2.06 (s, OH, 1H), 1.35 (d, *J* = 5.9 Hz, 3H). ¹³C-NMR (50 MHz,CDCl₃) 8 155.3, 151.8, 134.7, 126.4, 118.8, 114.9, 94.4, 69.8, 69.2, 56.1, 32.0, 18.4, 14.5. 12: $[\alpha]^{D}_{20}$ -105.74° (*c* 0.46, CHCl₃); IR (CHCl₃) 1714 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (200 MHz,CDCl₃) 8 7.06 (d, *J* = 9.02 Hz, 2H) 6.97 (dd *J* = 3.7, 10.2 Hz, 1H), 6.89 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz, 2H), 6.23 (d, *J* = 10.1 Hz, 1H), 5.78 (d, *J* = 3.5 Hz, 1H), 4.74 (q, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 1.43 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H). ¹³C-NMR (50 MHz,CDCl₃) 8 196.5, 155.2, 150.9, 142.3, 127.6, 118.0, 114.5, 92.6, 70.9, 55.5, 15.1. 13: $[\alpha]^{D}_{20}$ +84.13° (*c* 23, CHCl₃); IR (CHCl₃) 1702 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (200 MHz,CDCl₃) 8 7.02 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.97 (m, 1H), 6.85 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 6.22 (d, *J* = 10.3 Hz, 1H), 5.85 (s, 1H), 4.34 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 1.50 (d, *J* = 6.96 Hz, 3H). ¹³C-NMR (50 MHz,CDCl₃) 8 196.3, 155.1, 150.5, 144.7, 127.8, 117.9, 114.3, 93.9, 75.3, 55.4, 17.8.
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