

## Asymmetric Synthesis of Cyclopentylamine Derivatives, Intermediates for Carbocyclic Nucleoside Synthesis. Carbocyclization of 2-Amino-5-hexenyl Radicals

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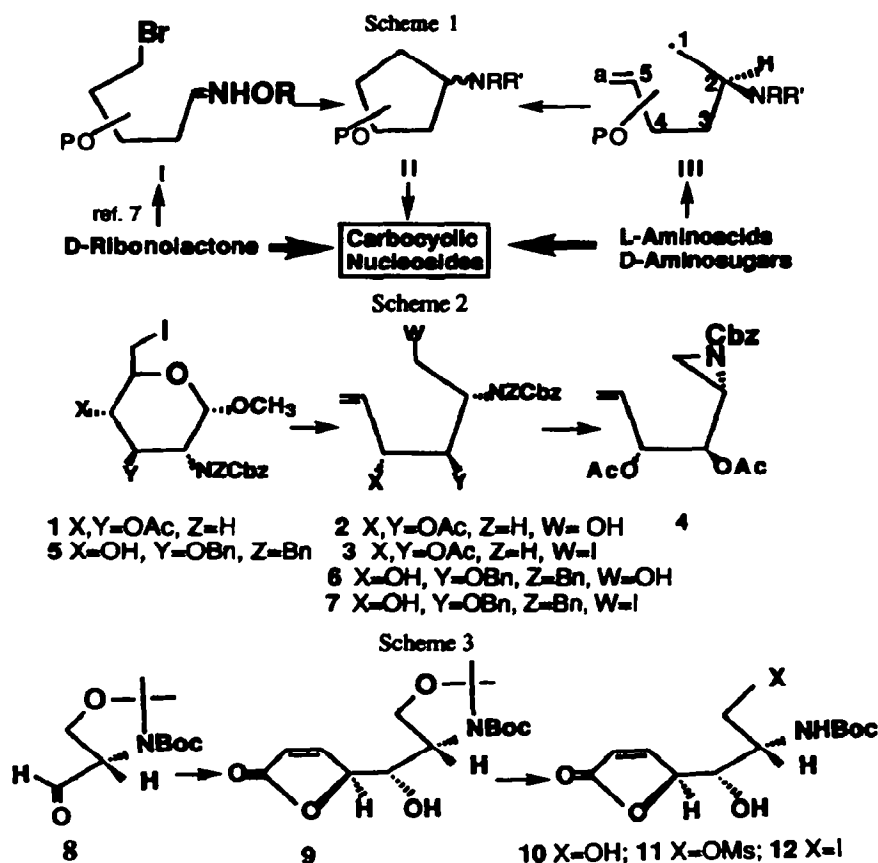
**Abstract:** The carbocyclization of 2-amino-5-hexenyl radicals leading to aminocyclopentane derivatives is described for the first time. The tributyltin hydride + AIBN mediated free radical cyclization of the chiral precursors 17-19 and 24 gives compounds 25, 27 and 28, respectively, in good yield.

Carbocyclic nucleosides display important antitumor<sup>1</sup> and antiviral<sup>2</sup> activities. Recently, a great effort has been devoted to the chiroselective synthesis of these compounds.<sup>3</sup> The most elegant method<sup>4</sup> involves the transformation of enantiomerically pure cyclopentylamine derivatives<sup>5</sup> into the corresponding nucleosides following the standard methodologies.<sup>6</sup> In this context, we have reported the efficient, diastereoselective and enantiospecific synthesis of some cyclopentylamine derivatives II by 5-*exo* free radical cyclization of precursors of type I (PO= *O*-protecting group) prepared from D-ribonolactone<sup>7</sup> (Scheme 1). Now, in an alternative approach we describe for the first time the preparation of chiral aminocyclopentane derivatives II by free radical cyclization of 2-amino-5-hexenyl radicals III, that in turn can be obtained from precursors derived from L-aminoacids or D-aminoacids (Scheme 1). To our knowledge, although  $\beta$ -aminoalkyl radicals are known,<sup>8</sup> they have been prepared and exclusively transformed into nitracycles; their conversion into carbocycles remains until now unexplored.<sup>9</sup>

Preliminary experiments directed towards the synthesis of precursors 3 or 7 from compounds 1<sup>10a</sup> or 5<sup>11</sup> following standard protocols, gave product 4<sup>10b</sup> (Scheme 2) or were unsuccessful, respectively. Then, we turned our attention to a similar, highly functionalized, more conformationally restricted precursor as 12 (Scheme 3). This product could be prepared from Garner's aldehyde 8,<sup>12</sup> via lactone 9,<sup>13</sup> after straightforward manipulations. Unfortunately, in typical free radical cyclization conditions precursor 12 proved very unstable and only extensive decomposition was observed.

In view of these results we designed the more simple and readily available radical precursors 17-19 and 24.<sup>14</sup> These compounds were obtained, as shown in Scheme 4 and 5, starting from L-glutamic acid or L-serine, respectively. The carbocyclization of radical precursor 17<sup>16</sup> (*E* isomer) gave the desired carbocycle 25<sup>17a</sup> in 90% yield, as a mixture of isomers at C3, in 57/43 ratio, that we were unable to separate. Starting from compound 18 (*Z* isomer) we could isolate compound 25 in a similar high yield (92%), but in an improved diastereoselectivity (85:15). In both cases, the major isomer was always the same. The absolute configuration at the new stereocenter (C3) in the major cyclized isomer has been established as *S* by detailed <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis of compound 26 (d.e.: 70%)<sup>17b</sup> (Scheme 4); this product has been obtained by Barbier-Wieland degradation<sup>18</sup> of the mixture of isomers 25. In effect, a NOESY spectrum of compound 26 showed cross-peaks H-1/H-2b and H-3/H-2a, indicative of carboxy- and *tert*-butoxycarboxamido- groups being in a

*trans* orientation. The relationship between the ratios of the cyclized isomers and the double bond stereochemistry in the radical precursor is already known, the best acyclic stereoselection being observed for *Z* isomers.<sup>19</sup> Our results are also in accordance with this report and with the stereodirecting rules recorded for 5-*exo* free radical cyclizations.<sup>20</sup>

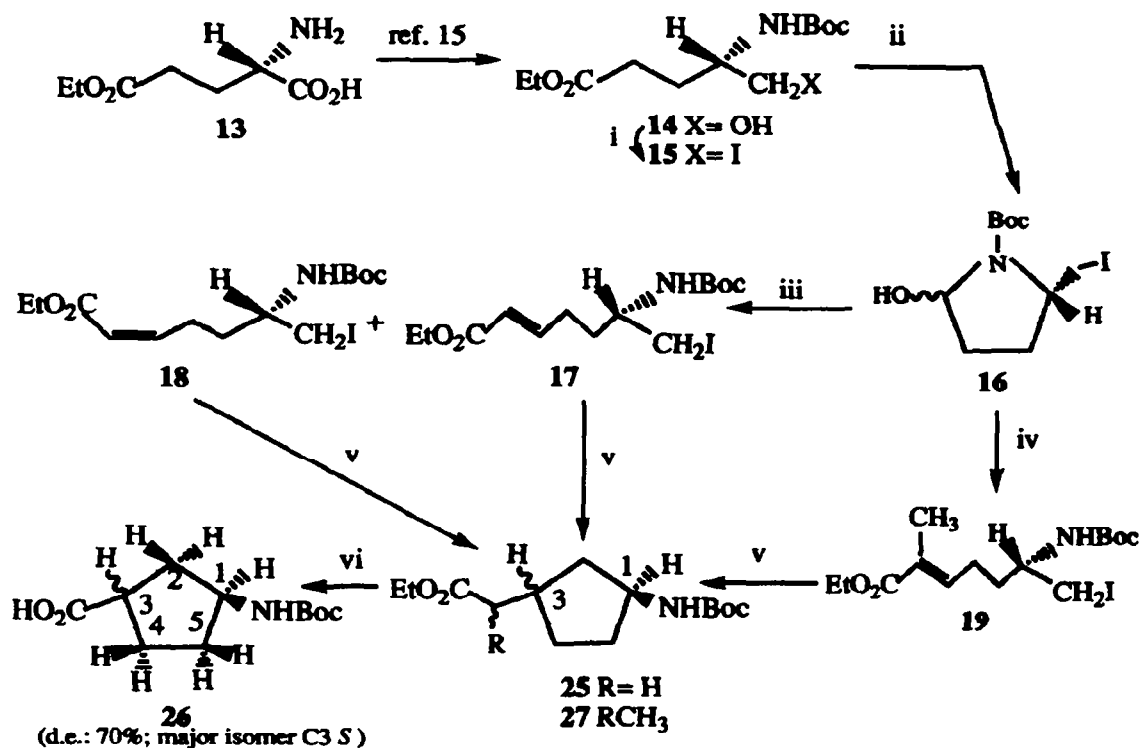


The ring closure of precursor 19 (Scheme 4), obtained as the exclusive *E* isomer, as determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis and in accordance with the literature<sup>21</sup> gave an unseparable mixture of the four possible isomers 27 (83% yield), in 1:1:1:1 ratio, that was not further investigated.

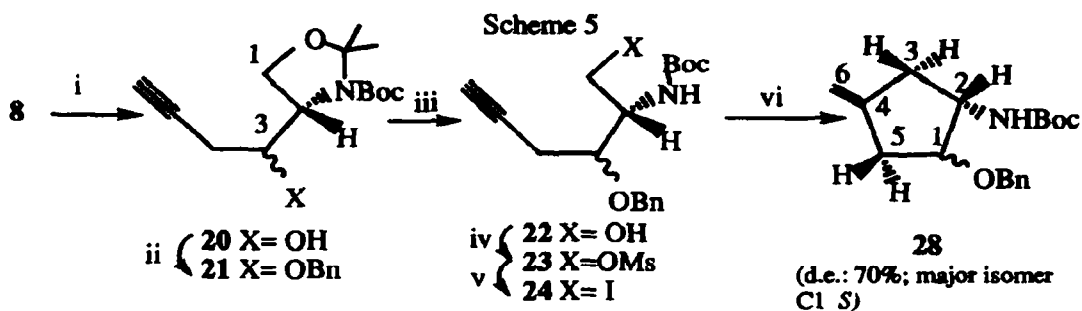
In the radical precursor 24 (Scheme 5) cyclization was attempted on a triple bond as radical trap.<sup>22</sup> Although compound 20 was obtained as a mixture of isomers at C3 (57:43),<sup>23</sup> during the purification by chromatography, precursor 24 was isolated in aliquots showing an improved diastereomeric ratio (70%). This same material, after cyclization,<sup>16</sup> gave carbocycle 28 (d.e.: 70%; the absolute configuration at C1 has been established as *S* by <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis; in effect, in a NOESY spectrum, cross-peaks H-1/H-5b, H-2/H-3a, H-3a/H-5a and H-3b/H-5b were observed, hence a *trans*-arrangement of the benzyloxy- and *tert*-butoxycarboxamido- groups was deduced) in 89% yield, showing again the power of the present approach.

In summary, the cyclization of chiral 2-amino-5-hexenyl radicals gives the corresponding cyclopentylamines in good yield. The radical precursors can be prepared in few steps from commercial L-amino acids. This is a new

Scheme 4



**Reagents.** i: Ph<sub>3</sub>P, I<sub>2</sub>, imidazole, toluene (66%). ii: DIBALH, -78°C, toluene (81%).  
 iii: Ph<sub>3</sub>PCHCO<sub>2</sub>Et, EtOH, rt (E/Z: 2/1; 56%). iv: Ph<sub>3</sub>PCCH<sub>3</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>Et, EtOH, rt (90%).  
 v: HSnBu<sub>3</sub>, AIBN, toluene, reflux (90%). vi: a. C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>MgBr; b. Ac<sub>2</sub>O, AcOH; c. CrO<sub>3</sub>, AcOH.



**Reagents.** i: HCCMgBr, -78°C  $\rightarrow$  0°C, 52%. ii: NaH, BnBr, rt (60%). iii: AcOH:H<sub>2</sub>O, 70% (70%). iv: MsCl, Et<sub>3</sub>N, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, -10°C (85%). v: LiI, THF, ))) (74%). vi: HSnBu<sub>3</sub>, AIBN, toluene, reflux (89%).

strategy<sup>5</sup> for the preparation of enantiomerically pure carbocyclic nucleosides. The scope and applications of the present methodology is being analyzed in our laboratory and will be reported in due course

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