Pergamon

Tetrahedron Letters 40 (1999) 7493–7496

TETRAHEDRON LETTERS

Asymmetric synthesis of palitantin from the (5*R*)-*tert*-butyldimethylsiloxy-2-cyclohexenone

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Received 12 July 1999; revised 9 August 1999; accepted 12 August 1999

Abstract

(+)-Palitantin (**2**) has been synthesized in 25% overall yield from the (5*R*)-*tert*-butyldimethylsiloxy-2-cyclohexenone [(*R*)-**1**] where a remarkable diastereoselective cat. OsO_4 *cis*-dihydroxylation of (*R*)-**1** furnished the precursor of the optically pure (5*R*,6*R*)-*bis*-trimethylsiloxy 2-cyclohexenone (**7**) which underwent highly selectively the 1,4-addition reaction of the 1,3-heptadienyl cyanocuprate to give, after trapping of the corresponding copper enolate with formaldehyde, the target compound.

Keywords: asymmetric synthesis; copper; copper compounds; cyclohexenones; hydroxylation.

We have recently reported the preparation of both enantiomers of the 5-*tert*-butyldimethylsiloxy-2-cyclohexenone, (*R*)- and (*S*)-**1**, and their reactions with organocopper reagents which, interestingly, enable the preparation of both diastereoisomers of the 1,4-adducts highly selectively by proper use of either lower- or higher-order cyanocuprates.[1] We have synthesized several natural products such as carvone, penienone and penihydrone from **1** which had been used as a chiral 2,5-cyclohexadienone synthon.[1c] We then turned our attention to palitantin (**2**) which appeared to be an attractive target for the further utilization of **1** in organic synthesis.

(+)-Palitantin (**2**), isolated from the *Penicillium Palitans*,[2] is a precursor of frequentin (**3**) which has shown antifungal and antibiotic activities.[3] So far, one racemic[4] and two enantioselective syntheses of **2** have been reported.[5,6] Our synthesis of the naturally occurring (+)-**2** was planned as illustrated in Scheme 1 which involves a stereoselective *cis*-dihydroxylation of (*R*)-**1**, conversion of the resulting *cis*-1,2-diol into the 5,6-disiloxy-2-cyclohexenone by elimination of the TBSO group after protection of the 1,2-diol moiety as silylethers and a stereoselective 1,4-addition of the (*E*,*E*)-1,3-heptadienylcuprate to it, followed by a trapping of the resulting copper enolate with formaldehyde. This retrosynthetic approach proved to be fruitful as shown in Scheme 2.

The *cis*-dihydroxylation of (*R*)-**1**, to our satisfaction, proceeded highly stereoselectively by catalytic osmium dihydroxylation (cat. OsO_4–NMO) to furnish the single diastereomer **4** in 80% yield, the

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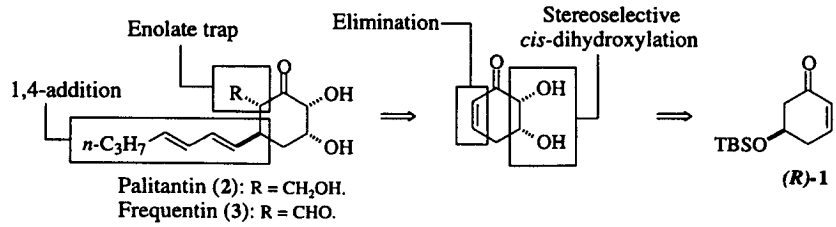
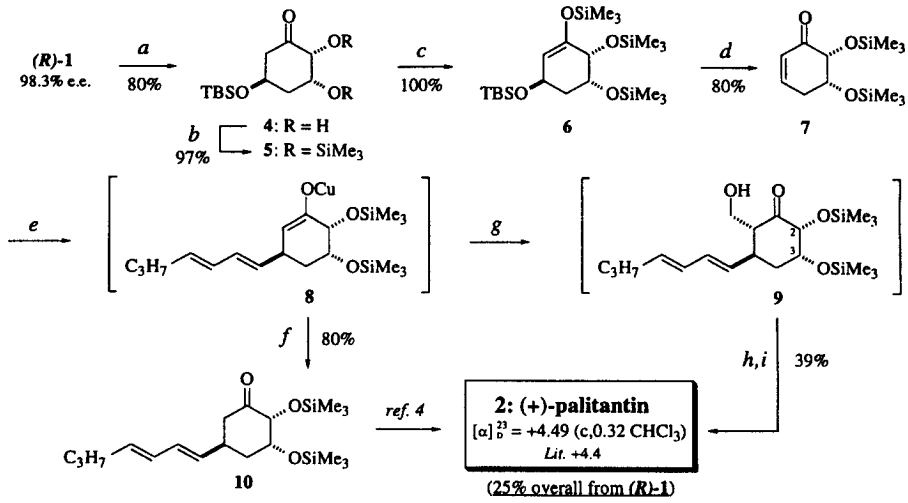
0040-4039/99/$ - see front matter
PII: S0040-4039(99)01549-X



Scheme 1. Retrosynthetic analysis of **2** from (*R*)-**1**



Scheme 2. *Reagents and conditions*: (a) OsO_4 (5 mol%)–NMO (2.5 equiv.), acetone–H_2O, rt, 24 h; (b) BSA (3 equiv.), CH_3CN, rt, 15 h; (c) LiHMDS (2 equiv.), TMEDA (2.5 equiv.), toluene–C_6H_{14}, −78°C→rt→−78°C then TMSCl (2 equiv.), and **5** in toluene were added over a period of 1 h, stirred for 2 h at −78°C, then addition of Et_3N and work-up; (d) dry-TBAF (5 mol%), 4 Å MS, THF, −30°C, 5 min; (e) hept-3-ene-1-yne/$Cp_2Zr(H)Cl$, THF, rt 15 min then MeLi (3 equiv.), −78°C, 10 min then CuCN·2LiCl, −78°C, then (*R*)-**1**, −78°C, 40 min; (f) sat. NH_4Cl. (g) CH_2O/Et_2O, −78°C, 1 h and sat. NH_4Cl. (h) 1N citric acid/MeOH, rt, 10 min; (i) DBU (3 equiv.), CH_2Cl_2, rt, 4 h. Abbreviations: BSA=bis-(trimethylsilyl)acetamide; DBU=1,8-diazabicyclo[5.4.0]undec-7-ene; LiHMDS=lithium bis(trimethylsilyl)amide; MS=molecular sieves; NMO=4-methylmorpholine *N*-oxide; TBAF=tetrabutylammonium fluoride; TMEDA=*N,N,N′,N′*-tetramethylethylenediamine

stereochemistry of which had been assigned after completion of the total synthesis.[7] Bearing in mind the detailed study of Hanessian et al. on the regioselective enolization of a 2,3-(trimethylsiloxy)-5-substituted cyclohexanone,[5] we protected the *cis*-1,2-diol **4** as the corresponding *bis*-trimethylsilyl ether **5**, which was obtained as a white crystalline product. Then, the desiloxylation of **5** into **7** was first carried out with LiHMDS/hexane in the presence of TMEDA at −78°C in toluene. The reaction, however, resulted in a steady recovery of **5** in 50% yield with production of **7** in about 35% yield (73% yield based on the consumed **5**) and our efforts aiming at improving this yield by changing the reaction conditions (base, solvent, temperature and/or reaction time) did not meet with much success. We, therefore, searched for other conditions and finally achieved a satisfactory result through the conversion of **5** into the trimethylsilylenol ether **6** quantitatively (TMSCl–internal quench)[8] and the following transformation into **7** in 80% yield upon treatment with catalytic dry-TBAF (5 mol%).[9] With **7** in hand, the synthesis of **2** was completed as follows: the 1,4-addition reaction of the higher-order (*E,E*)-1,3-heptadienyl cyanocuprate (prepared via hydrozirconation of the (*E*)-hept-3-ene-1-yne and transmetallation with $Me_2Cu(CN)Li_2$)[1c,10] onto **7** proceeded highly selectively in a *trans*-fashion to yield, after hydrolysis,

10 in 80% yield as a single diastereoisomer. The adduct **10** had been synthesized by Hanessian et al.[5] as the precursor of **2**: the proton NMR spectrum as well as the $[\alpha]_D$ value of the compound obtained here[11] are well coincident with the ones reported.[5] Nevertheless, we tried to trap the copper enolate (**8**) with formaldehyde in order to reach **2** directly: the reaction gave, after work-up, a rather complex mixture consisting of **9** and its partially desilylated products at C2 and C3 and possibly their epimers (judged by proton NMR of the crude product). The crude reaction mixture was then treated with 2N H_2SO_4/MeOH or 1N citric acid/MeOH to give, after column chromatography, the expected product **2** and a considerable amount of an epimer (from 10 to 20%); treatment of the corresponding mixture with DBU at rt cleanly afforded the desired **2**. Thus, **2** was obtained in a modest 39% overall yield from **7**.[11]

In conclusion, we have synthesized (+)-palitantin in a straightforward and efficient process from (*R*)-**1** (six steps, 25% overall yield). The discovery of the highly diastereoselective *cis*-dihydroxylation of a 5-siloxy-2-cyclohexenone which, to the best of our knowledge, has not been reported in the literature, prompted us to investigate the dihydroxylation of a variety of 5-substituted 2-cyclohexenones, the results of which will be reported in due course.

Acknowledgements

We are grateful to the Daiso Co., Ltd. for generous supply of the starting material enabling the preparation of the optically active (*R*)- and (*S*)-**1**. G.H. thanks the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science for financial support. Finally, Dr. S. Okamoto, for useful discussions, and Koki Fukuhara, for technical assistance, must be acknowledged.

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(dd, J=3.9, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 3.82 (br s, 1H), 2.80 (ddd, J=13.5, 5.1, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 2.60 (br s, 1H), 2.46 (ddd, J=13.5, 10.5, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 2.39 (dddd, J=14.1, 4.2, 4.2, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 1.85 (ddd, J=14.1, 10.8, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 0.87 (s, 9H), 0.07 (s, 3H), 0.05 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR: δ 207.6, 77.0, 69.3, 66.9, 48.8, 38.5, 25.5, 17.8, −5.1. Compound **5** (white solid): mp 39°C; $[\alpha]_D^{23}$=+19.66 (c 0.72 $CHCl_3$); ^{1}H NMR: δ 4.30 (dddd, J=4.2, 4.2, 4.2, 4.2 Hz, 1H), 4.14 (ddd, J=6.0, 3.0, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 4.08 (d, J=2.7 Hz, 1H), 2.74 (ddd, J=13.5, 4.8, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 2.29 (dd, J=12.9, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.20–2.09 (m, 1H), 1.79 (ddd, J=13.2, 8.4, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 0.86 (s, 9H), 0.11 (s, 9H), 0.08 (s, 9H), 0.05 (s, 3H), 0.04 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR: δ 206.1, 79.3, 71.3, 66.7, 48.1, 39.9, 25.6, 17.9, 0.1, 0.0, −5.0, −5.1. Compound **7** (low melting point solid): $[\alpha]_D^{23}$=−3.98 (c 0.71 $CHCl_3$); ^{1}H NMR: δ 6.75 (dddd, J=10.2, 3.9, 3.9, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 6.01 (ddd, J=10.2, 1.8, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 4.24–4.18 (m, 2H), 2.59 (dd, J=3.9, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 2.57 (dd, J=3.9, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 0.15 (s, 9H), 0.08 (s, 9H); ^{13}C NMR: δ 197.7, 145.4, 128.4, 77.7, 72.8, 34.3, 0.17, 0.14. Compound **10** (oil): $[\alpha]_D^{23}$=+40.4 (c 0.18 $CHCl_3$) [Lit. +41.2 (c 1.09 $CHCl_3$)]; ^{13}C NMR: δ 206.8, 134.1, 133.9, 130.0, 129.7, 79.0, 74.5, 45.8, 38.4, 35.6, 34.6, 22.3, 13.6, 0.2, 0.1.