

Synthesis of new triazole substituted pyroaminoadipic and pipercolic acid derivatives

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Abstract—Racemic 5-(4,5-substituted-1*H*-1,2,3-triazol-1-yl)-pyroaminoadipic and pipercolic acid derivatives were synthesized from *meso* dimethyl- α,α' -dibromoadipate **1** in good yields using mild reaction conditions. The key step of this reaction sequence was the 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition of an acetylenic compound on α -azido- α' -bromoadipate **2**. A reactive α -(substituted-1*H*-1,2,3-triazol-1-yl)- α' - bromoadipate derivative **3a–d** was generated and reacted with sodium azide followed by Pd/C-catalyzed hydrogenation to provide lactams **5a–d**. The chemoselective reduction of the amide carbonyl group of **5a–d** with BH_3 followed by acid hydrolysis provided 5-(4,5-substituted-1*H*-1,2,3-triazol-1-yl) pipercolic acids in racemic form.
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1. Introduction

α -Amino acids with heterocyclic side chains have a particular importance in various fields, especially in biochemistry, enzymology and pharmacology.^{1–3} Among the heterocyclic substituents which are currently being studied, the 1*H*-1,2,3-triazole heterocyclic entity is an interesting moiety in terms of biological activity. It is found in bioactive compounds such as anti-HIV^{4,5} and anti-microbial⁶ agents as well as β_3 selective adrenergic receptor agonist.⁷ Indeed, the 1,2,3-triazole moiety is present in a number of drugs such as the β lactam antibiotic Tazobactam or the cephalosporine Cefatrizine. Furthermore, only tetrazole substituted pipercolic acids such as LY 233053 (Fig. 1), known for their selective and potent antagonist activity at the NMDA receptor have been prepared.⁸ To our knowledge, triazole substituted pipercolic acid derivatives have not been synthesized so far. Few examples in the literature describe 1*H*-1,2,3-triazole- α -amino acids. Also, since the selective discovery of D,L- α -aminoadipic acid as an antagonist of the NMDA receptor,⁸ several modified structures were

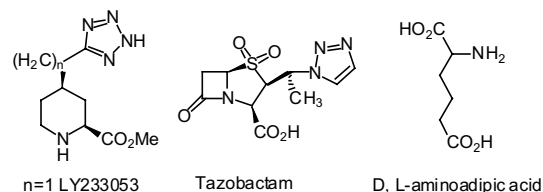
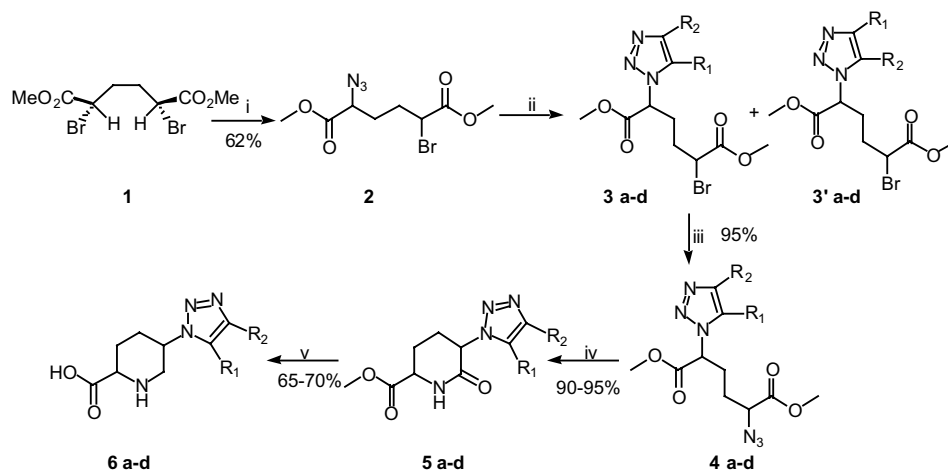


Figure 1.

prepared in order to study the structure–activity relationships.^{2,9–11}

In order to study the effects of the substituents on α -aminoadipic acid in the neuroexcitatory activity of the acid, we decided to prepare different pyroaminoadipates **5a–d**, precursors of δ -substituted aminoadipic acids and also the 5-substituted derivatives of pipercolic acid **6a–d**. The substituents we considered were 4,5-substituted-1*H*-1,2,3-triazoles. The synthetic strategy relied on the double substitution of *meso* dimethyl- α,α' -dibromoadipate **1** successively by sodium azide (followed by a 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition with an acetylenic compound) and again by sodium azide (Scheme 1).

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Scheme 1. Reagents: (i) NaN₃, acetone, RT; (ii) acetylene (see Table 1); (iii) NaN₃, acetone, RT; (iv) 5% Pd/C, MeOH, H₂ (1 atm), RT; (v) (a) BH₃·THF, THF, –10 °C, (b) 6N HCl, propylene oxide, CH₂Cl₂.

Table 1.

Products 3, 3'	R ₁	R ₂	Reaction time (h)/Temperature	Isolated yield of 3 + 3' (%)	Ratio of 3/3'
a	CO ₂ Me	CO ₂ Me	24/RT ^a	100	–
b	H	CO ₂ Et	48/RT ^a	90	90/10
c	H	Ph	48/80 °C ^b	80	70/30
d	H	(CH)OHCH ₃	48/80 °C ^b	90	85/15

^a The reaction was carried out in the absence of solvent.

^b Benzene used as solvent.

2. Results and discussion

According to the synthetic approach described in Scheme 1, we initially studied the reaction of an equimolar quantity of sodium azide with *meso* dimethyl- α,α' -dibromoadipate, easily obtained from adipic acid.¹²

This reaction, carried out in acetone in the presence of 1.1 equiv of sodium azide, led mainly to the product of monosubstitution. Formation of the products of disubstitution was also observed, and experimental results showed that the ratio between mono- and di-substituted products depended on the number of equivalents of sodium azide. While successive substitutions of **1** with one nucleophile to make cyclic compounds have been reported,^{13–20} we present herein the first examples, to our knowledge, of two successive intermolecular substitutions.

As it was reported by Huisgen et al.²¹ the 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition reaction is a well-established and general method for the construction of five-membered ring heterocycles.²² Particularly, addition of azides to acetylenes has been a method of choice for the synthesis of 1,2,3-triazoles.^{23–25} The triazole ring is a system of the aza-pyrrole type and two regioisomers can form at the cycloaddition step. In all cases, we obtained both N-regioisomers, as detected by ¹H NMR spectroscopy. The experimental results showed that the ratio between the 1,4-regioisomer and the 1,5-regioisomer depended upon the acetylene derivative. Table 1 summarizes these results.

The 1,4- and 1,5-regioisomers of α -(4,5-substituted-1*H*-1,2,3-triazol-1-yl)- α' -bromoadipate derivatives **3b–d** and **3'b–d** were separated by column chromatography and were isolated in good yields. When benzene was replaced by toluene as the reaction solvent, the acetylenic reactant was inert towards the α -azido- α' -bromoadipate derivative.

The triazole derivatives **3a–d** were then substituted by reaction of three equivalents of sodium azide in acetone.²⁶ **4a–d** were obtained in high yields (90–95%). Reduction of **4a–d** by catalytic hydrogenation over Pd/C in methanol,²⁶ led quantitatively to the corresponding substituted pyroaminoadipic acids **5a–d** via an intramolecular aminolysis. Lactams **5a–d** were selectively reduced with BH₃ in THF at –10 °C²⁷ and acid hydrolysis (6N HCl, 60 °C, 12 h) followed by neutralization with propylene oxide yielded the fully deprotected (\pm)-5(4,5-substituted-1*H*-1,2,3-triazol-1-yl) pipercolic acid derivatives. ¹H NMR showed that in all cases a 1/1 mixture of the two possible diastereoisomers was obtained.

3. Conclusion

The present study describes an efficient synthesis of racemic 5-(4,5-substituted-1*H*-1,2,3-triazol-1-yl) pipercolic acids starting from *meso* dimethyl- α,α' -dibromoadipate. The 4,5-substituted-1*H*-1,2,3-triazol-1-yl were selectively synthesized in position 5 of the piperidine ring by 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition of acetylenic compounds on dimethyl- α -azido- α' -bromoadipate followed by

hydride reduction. Further investigation on the successive substitutions of *meso* dimethyl- α,α' -dibromoadipate **1** to prepare biologically active compounds is currently under investigation in our laboratory.

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