

Efficient synthesis of enantiomerically pure dihydropyrans

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Abstract—*cis*- and *trans*-2-Substituted-3,6-dihydro-2*H*-pyran-3-ols have been prepared via an aldol condensation/ring-closing metathesis/enzymatic resolution sequence. The process can be scaled up to yield gram quantities of enantiomerically pure material. © 2005 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved.

Dihydropyrans are essential structural motifs that make up the backbone of synthetic and naturally occurring ionophores and polymer macrolides.² They are also key intermediates in the synthesis of many complex marine toxins; for example, dihydropyran (**1**) is one of the building blocks in the multistep synthesis of brevetoxins and ciguatoxin fragments (Fig. 1).^{3,4} Dihydropyrans are typically prepared by Claisen rearrangement,⁵ anionic,⁶ cationic,⁷ radical,⁸ transition metal catalyzed,⁹ allylation-Prins,¹⁰ and hetero Diels–Alder¹¹ cyclizations.

The Grubbs ruthenium and Schrock molybdenum based ring-closing metathesis (RCM) reactions have started a renaissance in the preparation of carbocycles of various sizes.¹² The popularity of these technologies has led to the development of a variety of industrial processes, as well as to the advent of a recyclable polymer-supported catalyst¹³ and efficient chiral catalytic systems.¹⁴ Crimmins et al. recently reported an elegant synthesis of chiral dihydropyrans via an auxiliary-based asymmetric aldol condensation followed by an RCM reaction.^{15,16} As part of our program directed at the development of pharmaceutically active carbohydrate analogs, we needed a synthetic route that could provide gram quantities of enantiomerically pure *cis*- or *trans*-2-

substituted-3,6-dihydro-2*H*-pyran-3-ols from readily available starting materials.¹⁷ As such, we envisioned that a tandem racemic aldol condensation/RCM followed by an enzymatic resolution could provide an economic alternative to the aforementioned methodologies (Scheme 1).

Treatment of **4**¹⁸ with LDA at –78 °C, followed by slow addition of acrolein afforded the *threo* and *erythro* hydroxy esters **5** as a 2:1 mixture of diastereomers, which reacted smoothly with Grubbs' catalyst in toluene to give racemic *cis*- and *trans*-dihydropyrans **6** and **7** (Scheme 2). A simple chromatographic separation of these diastereomers followed by incubation with a series of commercially available enzymes provided enantiomerically pure dihydropyrans (–)-**6**, (+)-**7**, (–)-**8**, and (–)-**9** (Tables 1 and 2).¹⁹ Excellent resolution was achieved in many cases and the Amano PS-C-1 lipase showed the highest turnover rate.²⁰ Using this process, all four dihydropyran isomers (–)-**6**, (+)-**7**, (–)-**8**, and (–)-**9** could be isolated in >99% ee. LiAlH₄ reduction of these dihydro-2*H*-pyran-2-carboxylic esters afforded the corresponding optically active dihydropyrandiols (+)-**10**, (+)-**11**, (–)-**10**, and (–)-**11** (Scheme 3).^{21,22}

Dihydroxylation of ester (–)-**8** (OsO₄, NMO, THF-*t*-BuOH, H₂O) afforded the diastereomeric triol isomers (+)-**12** and **13** in a 6:1 ratio (Scheme 4). The same selectivity was observed for the dihydroxylation of (–)-**6** to **14** and (–)-**15**. Alternatively, dihydroxylation of the esters (+)-**7** and (–)-**9** to the triols (+)-**16** and (+)-**17**

Keywords: Aldol; Metathesis; Synthesis; Enzyme; Dihydropyran.

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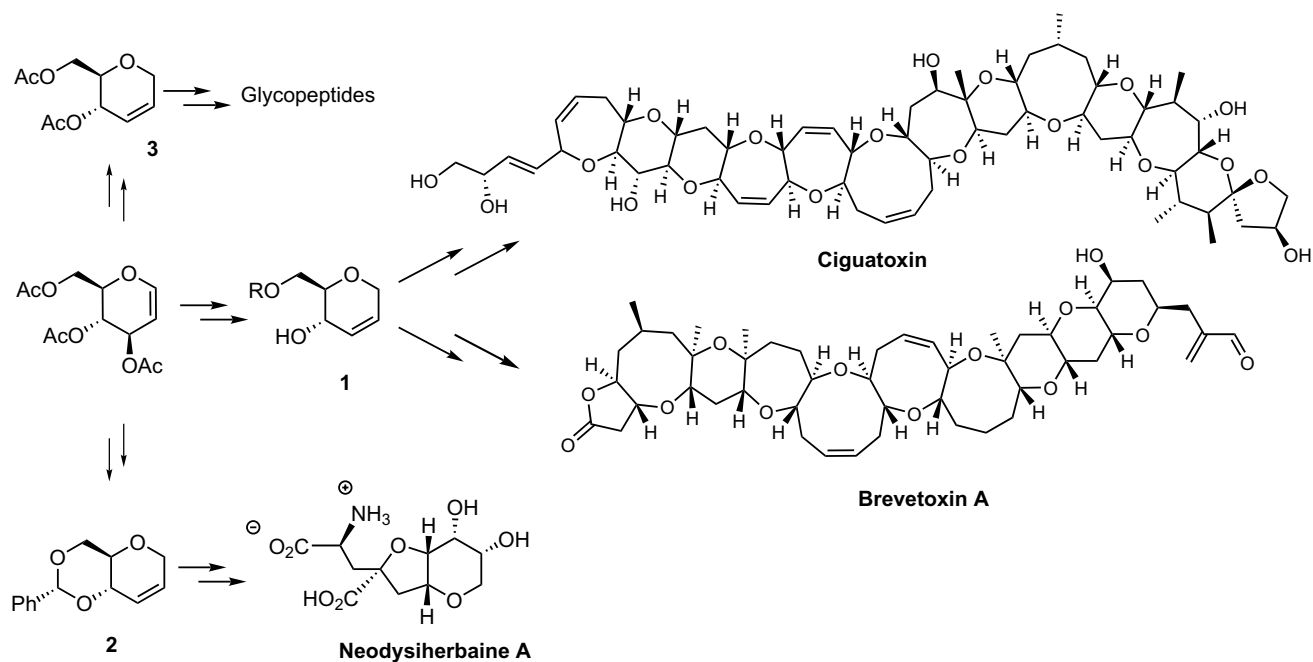
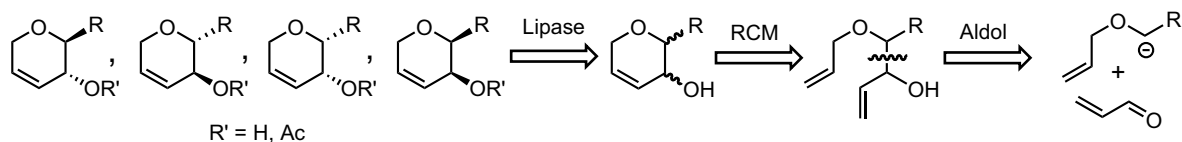
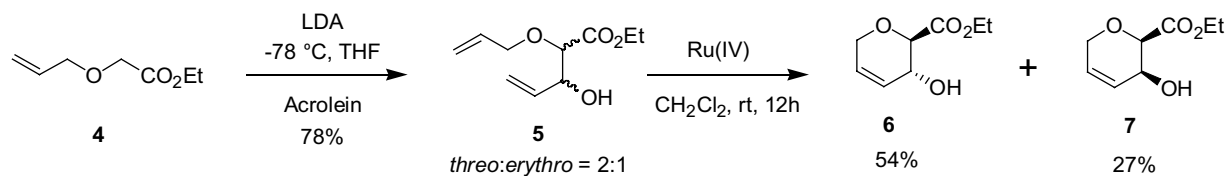


Figure 1. Selected synthetic applications of dihydropyrans.



Scheme 1.



Scheme 2.

Table 1. Enzymatic resolution of racemic-6^a

Racemic-6		Enzyme		Toluene, vinyl acetate		(-)-8		(-)-6	
Entry	Enzyme	Time (h)	% Ee _s ^b	Yield (-)-8 (%)	% Ee _p ^c	Yield (-)-6 (%)	E-Value		
1	Altus 27	14	>99.5	47	95.3	49	>247		
2	CHIRAZYME L-5	24	>99.5	47	88.5	48	>96		
3	CHIRAZYME L-10	24	>99.5	48	98.8	47	>992		
4	AMANO PS-C-1	4	>99.5	46	99.4	47	>1993		

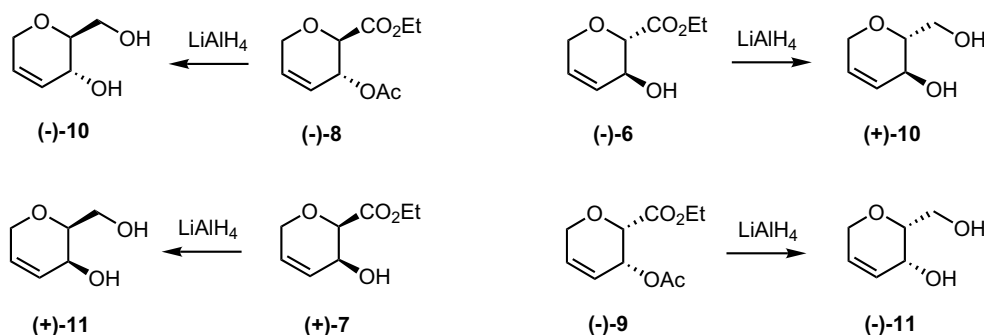
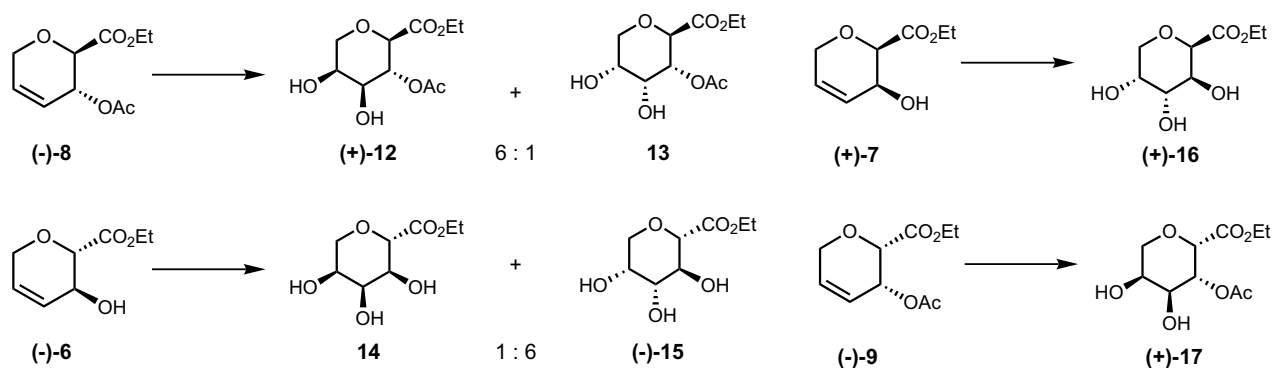
^a The reaction was monitored and stopped once 50% of the substrate was consumed.²⁴ Products were isolated by chromatography.

^b Ee_s: enantiomeric excess of alcohol (-)-6.

^c Ee_p: enantiomeric excess of acetate (-)-8.

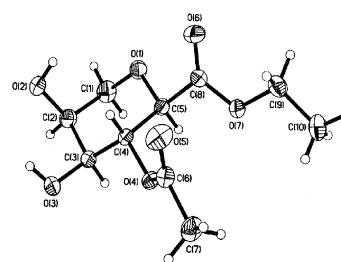
Table 2. Enzymatic resolution of racemic-7^a

Entry	Enzyme	Time (h)	% Ee _s ^b	Yield (–)-8 (%)	% Ee _p ^c	Yield (–)-6 (%)	<i>E</i> -Value
1	Altus 27	14	98.8	49	>99.5	48	>2049
2	CHIRAZYME L-3	34	>99.5	48	>99.5	48	>2393
3	CHIRAZYME L-5	20	>99.5	48	>99.5	49	>2393
4	CHIRAZYME L-10	8	>99.5	48	>99.5	47	>2393
5	AMANO PS-C-1	4	>99.5	47	>99.5	47	>2393
6	AMANO PS-C-2	4	>99.5	45	>99.5	48	>2393
7	AMANO PS-D-1	38	>99.5	48	>99.5	49	>2393
8	AMANO AK	38	>99.5	48	>99.5	48	>2393

^a The reaction was monitored and stopped once 50% of the substrate was consumed. Products were isolated by chromatography.^b Ee_s: enantiomeric excess for the remaining alcohol (+)-7.^c Ee_p: enantiomeric excess of acetate (–)-9.**Scheme 3.****Scheme 4.** Reagents and conditions: OsO₄, NMO, THF-*t*-BuOH–H₂O, rt, 96h.

was completely stereoselective.²³ This is presumably due to the high transition state energy for the formation of the all-*cis* triol esters. The structure of triol ester (+)-12 was assigned unambiguously by its single crystal X-ray analysis (Fig. 2).

In summary, enantiomerically pure *cis*- and *trans*-2-substituted-3,6-dihydro-2*H*-pyran-3-ols have been prepared via a sequence of aldol condensation/RCM/enzymatic resolution. These dihydropyrans can be readily transformed into their 6-deoxysugar counterparts using

**Figure 2.** ORTEP plots for X-ray crystal structure of (+)-12.

a traditional dihydroxylation protocol. Ultimately, the most desirable route for large-scale preparation of these dihydropyrans should not involve any chromatographic separation. Further application of this methodology is underway in our laboratories.²⁵

Supplementary data

Supplementary data associated with this article can be found, in the online version, at [doi:10.1016/j.tetlet.2004.12.128](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tetlet.2004.12.128).

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