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Tetrahedron Letters 49 (2008) 672–674
Tetrahedron Letters

A proline-catalyzed aldol approach to the synthesis of 1-*N*-iminosugars of the D-glucuronic acid type

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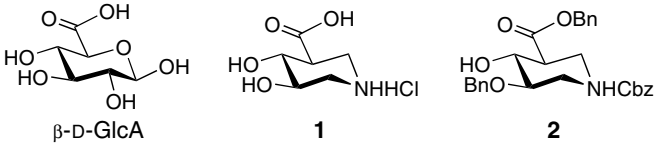
Received 20 October 2007; revised 19 November 2007; accepted 21 November 2007

Abstract

A new synthetic route to 1-*N*-iminosugars of glucuronic acid type (e.g., **1**) has been developed employing proline-catalyzed aldol reaction as a key step.

Keywords: 1-*N*-Iminosugar; Aldol reaction; Proline-catalyzed; Glucuronidase inhibitor; Synthesis

1-*N*-Iminosugars, saccharide analogs with a nitrogen in place of the anomeric carbon, have been disclosed as potent inhibitors of β-glycosidases, due to their good mimicry of the transition state involving in equatorial glycoside cleavage.[1–4] Thus, the D-glucuronic acid (GlcA)-type 1-*N*-iminosugar (**1**) is found to be a potent and specific inhibitor of β-D-glucuronidase from bovine liver ($K_i = 79$ nM).[2] Incorporation of this GlcA mimic into the reducing end of a heparan sulfate (HS) oligosaccharide could provide a potent and specific inhibitor of heparanase,[5] the unique mammalian endo-β-D-glucuronidase, which has become a promising target of anticancer therapy.[6] To this end, we first required a properly protected derivative of the 1-*N*-iminosugar **1** (e.g., **2**, with only the 4-OH free). Concise approaches to the synthesis of compound **1** have been reported by Ichikawa and co-workers[2c] and Ganem and co-workers;[3] and a number of synthetic approaches toward the analogous 1-*N*-iminosugars are available in the literatures;[4] however, modification of these methods to the synthesis of compound **2** requires lengthy transformations. Herein, we report a new and concise approach to the synthesis of 1-*N*-iminosugars, as exemplified by the synthesis of compounds **1** and **2**, using proline-catalyzed aldol reaction as a key step.



Organocatalyzed enantioselective aldol reaction has recently been an intensive research topic, which provides a biomimetic approach to the synthesis of saccharides.[7] Applying this new technology to the preparation of 1-*N*-iminosugars (e.g., **1** and **2**) would require the aldol coupling of a β-amino-aldehyde and a glyceric aldehyde (e.g., **3** and **4**, for the preparation of the GlcA-type **1** and **2**). Thus, direct cross aldol condensation of aldehydes **3**[8] and **4**[9] was examined in the presence of proline (Scheme 1). The use of 0.1 equiv of proline in DMF at room temperature gave the best results (Table 1, entry 2): the mechanistically expected *anti*-product **5** was predominately formed in a 6:1 ratio to a stereoisomer (**6**) in a total yield of 48%. Oxidation of the unstable aldols **5** and **6** with sodium chlorite followed by benzyl ester formation provided esters **7** and **8**, which were separated by careful chromatography on silica gel. However, the exact stereochemistry in these products was not determined at this stage.

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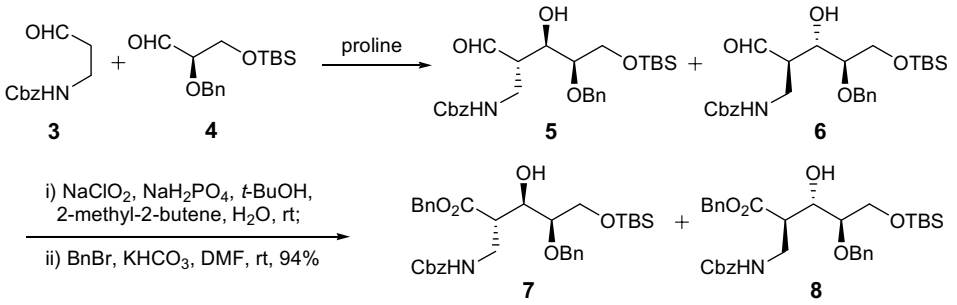
doi:10.1016/j.tetlet.2007.11.153



Scheme 1.

Table 1
Proline-catalyzed aldol reaction of aldehydes **3** and **4**[a]

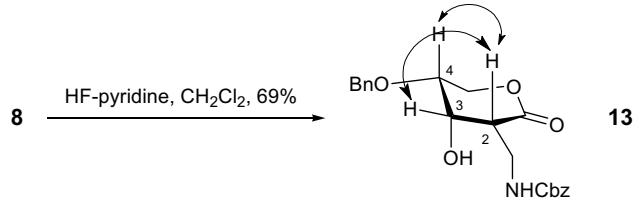
Entry	Solvent	Catalyst loading (equiv)	Temperature	Yield (%)	**5/6**
1	DMF	0.05	rt	<20	—
2	DMF	0.1	rt	48	6/1
3	DMF	0.3	rt	31	1/1
4	DMF	0.1	0 °C	<20	3/1
5	DMSO	0.1	rt	45	5/1

[a] For a typical operation: A solution of 3-benzyloxycarbonylaminopropanal **3** (145 mg, 0.700 mmol) in DMF (1.5 mL) was added slowly over a course of 24 h to a stirring suspension of 2-*O*-benzyl-3-*O*-*tert*-butyldimethylsilyl-D-glyceraldehyde **4** (296 mg, 1.00 mmol) and L-proline (9 mg, 0.08 mmol) in DMF (1.5 mL) at room temperature. The mixture was stirred for an additional 2 h at room temperature, and then was concentrated in vacuo. Flash chromatography (4:1 hexanes–ethyl acetate) afforded a 6:1 mixture of diastereoisomers **5** and **6** as a colorless oil (167 mg, 48%).

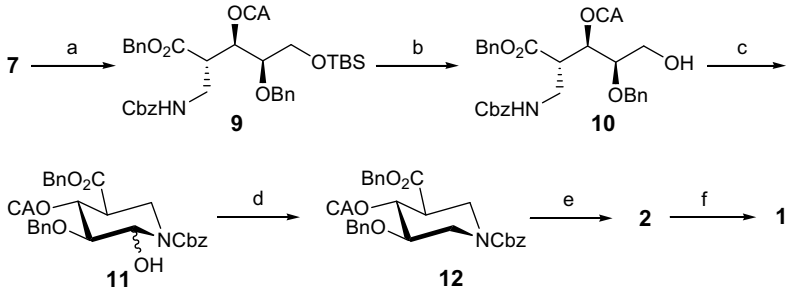
Conversion of compound **7** into the desired 1-*N*-iminosugars **1** and **2** was achieved concisely as shown in Scheme 2. Thus, the free hydroxyl group in **7** was protected with an easily removable chloroacetyl (CA) group, providing **9** in high yield. Attempts to remove the primary TBS ether in **9** with tetrabutyl ammonium fluoride (TBAF)/acetic acid or hydrogen fluoride–pyridine complex led to the formation of the 1,5-lactone and migration of the CA group. Hydrofluoric acid was found effective to cleave the TBS group cleanly. The resulting alcohol **10** was then subjected to Swern oxidation; automatic intramolecular aminal formation afforded the piperidine derivative **11**. This epimeric mixture was then subjected to reduction with triethylsilane/boron trifluoride diethyl etherate to provide the fully protected 1-*N*-iminosugar derivative **12** in good yield (71% for three steps). Finally, the CA group in **12** was selectively deprotected with thiourea/2,6-lutidine, providing the desired **2** in an excellent 95% yield. It should be noted that the removal of an acetyl group at this stage was found problematic under either acidic or basic conditions, leading to the corresponding 4,5-elimination product. Further removal of the benzyl and Cbz protection with Pd/C catalyzed hydrogenation afforded the known 1-*N*-iminosugar **1**. The analytical data of **1** are identical to those reported,[2c] thus confirming the proposed stereochemistry in the major aldol product **5**.

The stereochemistry of the minor aldol product **6** was implied by NOE analysis of its lactone derivative **13** (Scheme 3).[10]

In summary, the GlcA-type 1-*N*-iminosugar derivatives (e.g., **1** and **2**) were concisely synthesized from the aldol adduct (e.g., **5**) in high yields, demonstrating a new route



Scheme 3.



Scheme 2. Reagents and conditions: (a) Chloroacetic anhydride, pyridine, DMAP, CH_2Cl_2, 91%; (b) HF (40%), CH_3CN; (c) $(COCl)_2$, DMSO, −65 °C, CH_2Cl_2; (d) triethylsilane, $BF_3{\cdot}Et_2O$, CH_2Cl_2, 71% (3 steps); (e) thiourea, 2,6-lutidine, MeOH, 95%; (f) H_2, Pd/C (10%), MeOH; then HCl (1 N), 90%.

to the synthesis of 1-*N*-iminosugars of biological significance. There is certainly room for improvement in the proline-catalyzed aldol coupling with aldehydes **3** and **4** and the likes as partners, that has not been examined before. Incorporation of the present GlcA-type 1-*N*-iminosugar into the reducing end of heparan sulfate (HS) oligosaccharides and the test of their heparanase inhibitions are our current projects and will be reported in due course.

Acknowledgements

Financial support from the National Natural Science Foundation of China (20572122 and 20621062) and the Committee of Science and Technology of Shanghai (06XD14026 and 04DZ19213) is gratefully acknowledged.

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10. Selected data for the key compounds. Compound **1**: ^{1}H NMR (D_2O, 300 MHz): δ 2.79 (ddd, $J = 4.2$, 7.4, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 2.96 (dd, $J = 7.5$, 12.9 Hz, 1H), 3.26 (dd, $J = 7.8$, 13.2 Hz, 1H), 3.36 (dd, $J = 3.9$, 12.9 Hz, 1H), 3.40 (dd, $J = 5.1$, 13.2 Hz, 1H), 3.78 (dt, $J = 3.3$, 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.96 (t, $J =$ 6.9 Hz, 1H). Compound **2**: $[\alpha]_D^{23}$ −18.8 (*c* 1.0, $CHCl_3$); ^{1}H NMR ($CDCl_3$, 300 MHz): δ 2.55–2.67 (m, 1H), 2.64 (t, $J = 11.7$ Hz, 1H), 2.76–3.03 (br m, 2H), 3.21–3.39 (br m, 1H), 3.91 (t, $J = 9.3$ Hz, 1H), 4.21–4.55 (br m, 2H), 4.56–4.77 (m, 2H), 5.11 (s, 2H), 5.16 (s, 2H), 7.20–7.43 (m, 15H); ^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$, 75 MHz): δ 44.07, 45.39 (br), 47.99 (br), 66.71, 67.47, 72.27 (br), 73.57 (br), 77.69, 127.70, 127.84, 127.85, 127.94, 128.08, 128.19, 128.41, 128.44, 128.45, 135.27, 136.14, 137.69, 154.72, 170.85; ESIMS *m/z* 476.1 $[M+H]^+$, 498.0 $[M+Na]^+$; Anal. Calcd for $C_{28}H_{29}NO_6$: C, 70.72; H, 6.15; N, 2.95. Found: C, 70.79; H, 6.12; N, 2.77. Compound **7**: $[\alpha]_D^{23}$ −19.2 (*c* 0.98, $CHCl_3$); ^{1}H NMR ($CDCl_3$, 300 MHz): δ 0.045 (s, 3H), 0.048 (s, 3H), 0.88 (s, 9H), 2.92–2.98 (m, 1H), 2.97 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.48 (t, $J = 6.1$ Hz, 2H), 3.52–3.58 (m, 1H), 3.73–3.86 (m, 2H), 3.90–3.97 (m, 1H), 4.50 (d, $J = 11.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.73 (d, $J = 11.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.93 (d, $J = 12.0$ Hz, 1H), 5.02 (d, $J = 12.0$ Hz, 1H), 5.06 (s, 2H), 5.07 (br s, 1H), 7.20–7.39 (m, 15H); ^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$, 75 MHz): δ −5.57, −5.55, 18.13, 25.80, 40.66, 48.38, 62.10, 66.50, 66.65, 70.48, 72.74, 79.77, 127.73, 127.95, 128.03, 128.06, 128.14, 128.18, 128.30, 128.33, 128.42, 128.44, 128.54, 128.57, 135.51, 136.34, 137.98, 156.21, 172.90; ESIMS *m/z* 608.3 $[M+H]^+$, 630.3 $[M+Na]^+$; Anal. Calcd for $C_{34}H_{45}NO_7Si$: C, 67.19; H, 7.46; N, 2.30. Found: C, 67.46; H, 7.31; N, 2.42. Compound **8**: $[\alpha]_D^{23}$ −20.2 (*c* 0.96, $CHCl_3$); ^{1}H NMR ($CDCl_3$, 300 MHz): δ 0.05 (s, 6H), 0.88 (s, 9H), 2.92–2.98 (m, 1H), 3.32 (d, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 1H), 3.44–3.49 (m, 1H), 3.56–3.72 (m, 2H), 3.76–3.87 (m, 2H), 4.03–4.09 (m, 1H), 4.42 (d, $J = 11.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.62 (d, $J = 11.4$ Hz, 1H), 5.01 (s, 2H), 5.07 (s, 2H), 5.28 (br t, $J = 6.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.22–7.33 (m, 15H); ^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$, 75 MHz): δ −5.60, −5.57, 18.09, 25.78, 39.85, 48.25, 62.65, 66.61, 66.77, 70.33, 72.85, 78.89, 127.72, 128.01, 128.05, 128.29, 128.33, 128.44, 128.52, 135.45, 136.34, 137.94, 156.68, 172.42; ESIMS *m/z* 608.4 $[M+H]^+$, 630.3 $[M+Na]^+$; Anal. Calcd for $C_{34}H_{45}NO_7Si$: C, 67.19; H, 7.46; N, 2.30. Found: C, 67.27; H, 7.43; N, 2.29. Compound **13**: $[\alpha]_D^{23}$ −43.0 (*c* 1.07, $CHCl_3$); ^{1}H NMR ($CDCl_3$, 300 MHz): δ 2.56 (dt, $J = 11.1$, 3.0 Hz, 1H); 3.56 (ddd, $J = 15.0$, 4.8, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 3.78–3.89 (m, 2H), 3.92 (dd, $J = 8.1$, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 4.33 (d, $J = 3.6$ Hz, 2H), 4.63 (d, $J = 11.7$ Hz, 1H), 4.73 (d, $J = 11.7$ Hz, 1H), 4.72 (d, $J = 4.5$ Hz, 1H), 5.11 (AB, 2H), 5.48 (m, 1H), 7.26–7.38 (m, 10H); ^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$, 75 MHz): δ 36.55, 47.66, 67.40, 68.40, 69.96, 71.46, 77.71, 127.79, 127.86, 128.00, 128.29, 128.44, 128.53, 135.83, 137.38, 158.43, 172.13; ESIMS *m/z* 408.2 $[M+Na]^+$; ESIHRMS *m/z* calcd for $C_{21}H_{23}NO_6$ $[M+Na]^+$: 408.1418; found, 408.1431.