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Tetrahedron Letters

Tetrahedron Letters 49 (2008) 3484–3488

Dramatic effect of PSE clamping on the behaviour of D-glucal under Ferrier I conditions

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> Received 8 February 2008; revised 17 March 2008; accepted 19 March 2008 Available online 23 March 2008

Abstract

Clamped by the acid-resistant phenylsulfonylethylidene (PSE) acetal, D-glucal privileged the additive pathway over the Ferrier I rearrangement when confronted with protic nucleophiles.

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Keywords: Phenylsulfonylethylidene (PSE) acetals; Glycals; Ferrier I reaction; Glycosylation

Despite the advances of glycochemistry technologies for the synthesis of complex oligosaccharides and the consecutive development of specifically designed chemical tools, a current need remains for original protecting groups in carbohydrate chemistry, and more generally in multistep organic synthesis. Cyclic acetal protecting groups are among the most commonly used groups, for their stability under basic conditions and their standard remov-ability under acid-catalyzed hydrolysis.^{[1](#page-3-0)} Phenylsulfonylethylidene (PSE) acetals have recently been introduced as protecting groups with remarkable characteristics. 2 2 2 Indeed, those acetals show a strong reluctance to cleavage under standard acidic hydrolysis or alcoholysis conditions $(AcOH-H₂O, TFA-H₂O, BF₃-MeOH)$; in contrast, they can easily be deprotected under basic $(CsCO₃-EtOH)$ or strongly reductive (LiAlH₄) conditions.^{[2](#page-3-0)} In addition, they display a remarkable stability under oxidative conditions $(DDQ)^3$ $(DDQ)^3$ or in the presence of strong Lewis acids.^{[4](#page-3-0)}

Considering the stability of the PSE acetal moiety under various acidic conditions, we turned our attention onto one of the most classical carbohydrate transformations: the allylic rearrangement of acylated glycals known as the Ferrier I reaction.^{[5](#page-3-0)} This involves the introduction under Lewis acid conditions of a nucleophilic group at the C-1 of a glycal with simultaneous shifting of the double bond between C-2 and C-3. Numerous efforts have been made over decades to avoid or circumvent the Ferrier I reaction in order to selectively favour the regioselective addition process.[6](#page-3-0) Modifications of the protecting group array on the glycal substrate might also greatly influence the course of the Ferrier I reaction: because of their sensitiveness to acidic conditions, 4,6-acetal-protected glycals—especially benzylidene—have been scarcely studied, α so the influence on the reactivity of glycals of a stable PSE 4,6-O-clamping was worth investigating.

PSE D-glucal 2 was prepared in 75% yield from commercially available tri-O-acetyl-D-glucal 1 according to the published procedure [\(Scheme 1\)](#page-1-0).^{2b} Three different substrates were synthesized from 2. Standard O-acylations were performed in excellent yields to produce acetate 3a and the mixed carbonate 3b. Applying a routine O-benzylation protocol (NaH, BnBr, DMF, 0° C) to 2 led to a

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^{0040-4039/\$ -} see front matter © 2008 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved. doi:10.1016/j.tetlet.2008.03.093

Scheme 1. Preparation of starting material.

mixture of compounds from which the O-benzyl ether 3c could only be obtained in 30% yield.^{[8](#page-3-0)} However, carefully controlled alkylation conditions (-78 °C and a slow return to room temperature, 1 equiv Bu4NBr) allowed an increase of the yield to 75%.

In our first experiments, the acetylated glucal 3a was chosen as a model (Table 1, entries 1-8) using standard Lewis acid conditions and methanol as the nucleophile (Scheme 2). Unexpected results were obtained: no rearranged compound 4 was detected and a set of three compounds (5–7) was isolated instead (entry 1).

It can be hypothesized that glycoside 5 is first formed, resulting from an addition process on the enol ether 3a. The acetyl group is then further methanolyzed to form 6 or C-substituted to afford 7 as mixtures of stereoisomers. The addition process results in a 74% global yield. Replacing BF_3 Et₂O by other Lewis acids such as TMSOTf or

Table 1 Methanol as a nucleophile

 $Bi(OTf)$ ₃ only afforded 6 and 7 in improved overall yields. Weaker protic or Lewis acids (entries 4 and 5) proved inefficient in this reaction. In order to limit the side reactions, the amount of acid was reduced to a catalytic level and the nucleophile to a stoichiometric amount; under such conditions the transformations proved far less effective: $BF_3 \cdot Et_2O$ (entry 6) led to a complex mixture while the other acids (entries 7 and 8) gave a moderate yield of the expected 5, but still with some nucleophilic substitution. With a view to circumventing the acetate problem (3a), the study was pursued starting directly from PSE D-glucal 2. Applying with a panel of Lewis acids the conditions described above (5 equiv MeOH, 1.1 equiv acid), we observed a high yielding overall transformation of 2 with an 8:1 rough ratio of the addition over the Ferrier rearrangement (entries 9–12). Furthermore, no side formation of 7 was detected. When tested under catalytic conditions with a stoichiometric amount of methanol, the reaction was found still efficient, especially with TMSOTf (entries 13–15).

The above preliminary results converged towards the fact that, when placed in Ferrier I conditions, either protected or unprotected PSE D-glucal mainly followed an addition process of the alcohol. Some observations should be emphasized: (a) a stoichiometric amount of Lewis acid increases the reactivity, (b) the catalytic process is effective only with the allyl alcohol 2, (c) TMSOTf is the most selective reagent for the addition process. On those grounds, we

Scheme 2. Attempted Ferrier rearrangement under standard conditions.

first explored the scope of our reaction, getting simple (O, S, N, H) nucleophiles (Nu) opposed to PSE D-glucal 2 (Scheme 3). With protic reagents, the addition performed well with reasonable to good yields of 8a–c, whereas nonprotic reagents only led to degradations.

We then turned our attention back to protected substrates 3a, and 3c reacting with protic nucleophiles; yield optimization was ensured through combining a stoichiometric amount of nucleophile and TMSOTf, associated with 3 Å molecular sieves (Scheme 4).

Under such conditions indeed, an even more efficient addition process was observed. In all cases, side products 6 and 7 were either not detected or only found as traces. Aliphatic alcohols as well as p-methoxyphenol gave the desired compounds 5 and 9a–c in reasonable yields; on the other hand, the O-benzylated substrate 3c allowed yield improvement for adducts 10b–c (see Table 2).

The striking efficacy of the above process^{[9](#page-3-0)} with protic nucleophiles brought us to reconsider the case of aprotic nucleophiles when confronted with the protected glucal 3a and preliminary results were found quite contradictory (Scheme 5). Triethylsilane and allyltrimethylsilane unexpectedly underwent the Ferrier rearrangement to afford unsaturated compounds 12 (with a small amount of the adduct 11) and 13 . In contrast, TMSN₃ reacted preferentially in the addition mode, giving a 59% yield of 14 (3:7 α/β mixture) and an 18% yield of the rearranged product 15 (1:1 α/β mixture).^{[10](#page-3-0)} It may thus be hypothesized at this

stage that the hardness factor of the nucleophilic reagent remains a prominent parameter in the behaviour of PSE glucals under Ferrier I conditions. It is also plausible that a rigidification of the glucal through PSE acetal clamping exerts a dramatic effect on the reaction process; a radiocrystallographic analysis of glucal 2 was performed in order to detect a possible conformational anomaly. However, the X-ray picture obtained (Fig. 1)^{[11](#page-4-0)} revealed for 2 a standard half-chair conformation, thus indicating that the PSE-clip should have no distortional impact on the course of the Ferrier I transformation. In other respects, it can also be postulated that the rearrangement process might be hampered by conformational constraints of a 2,3-enopyranoside of type 4. Therefore diol 16 was reacted with BPSE under standard conditions^{2b} to afford the corresponding PSE acetal 17 in 86% yield (Scheme 6).

This is consistent with the results obtained notably with the formation of 12 and 13 (Scheme 5), which indicate that PSE acetal-clamping of a glucal does not create hindrance to the Ferrier I rearrangement. Our attention is rather attracted on the allyloxycarbenium transition state, in which the sulfonyl group is likely to exert a complexation effect on the Lewis acid, thus deviating the reaction towards an additive pathway. Further investigation of the atypical chemical behaviour of PSE-protected glycals is currently under way in our laboratory.

Scheme 4.

Fig. 1. ORTEP representation of PSE D-glucal 2.

Scheme 6.

Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank Professor D. Sinou and Dr. P. Lhoste for helpful discussions and a generous gift of compound 16, the CNRS and the Université d'Orléans for financial support.

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- 9. Representative procedure: PSE-glucal 2 or 3a (0.1 g) was dissolved in DCM (4 mL) under argon. Activated 3 Å molecular sieves (0.2 g) were added, followed by the nucleophile; the resulting slurry was then cooled to 0° C and stirred for 1 h. TMSOTf (1.2 equiv) was added and the reaction allowed to warm up slowly to room temperature. At the end of the reaction, the solution was quickly filtered over a MgSO₄ pad, then diluted with EtOAc (40 mL) and washed with water $(3 \times 20 \text{ mL})$ then brine (20 mL). The organic solution was dried over MgSO4, evaporated under reduced pressure and purified by silica gel chromatography (petroleum-ether–AcOEt elution).

Selected analytical data for n-heptyl 3-O-benzyl-2-deoxy-4,6-O-(2 phenylsulfonyl)ethylidene-a-D-arabino-hexopyranoside 10b: Syrup; $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20}$ +54 (c = 2.1, CHCl₃). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 0.80$ (3H, m, Me), 1.20 (br s, 8H, heptyl CH₂), 1.45 (m, 2H, heptyl CH₂), 1.62 (ddd, 1H, H-2ax), 2.13 (dd, 2H, $J_{2a-b} = 13.3$ Hz, H-2eq), 3.22 (dt, 1H, J_{gem} = 9.6 Hz, J_{vic} = 4.8 Hz, H-9b), 3.33–3.56 (m, 6H, H-4, H-5, H-6b, H-8a, H-8b, H-9a), 3.78 (ddd, 1H, $J_{3,4} = 9.1$ Hz, $J_{3,2eq} = 5.0$ Hz, $J_{3,2ax} = 11.1$ Hz, H-3), 3.92 (dd, 1H, $J_{6a,6b} = 10.2$ Hz, $J_{6a.5} = 4.7$ Hz, H-6a), 4.48 and 4.62 (2d, AB system, 2H, $J_{\text{gem}} = 11.9 \text{ Hz}$, PhCH₂O), 4.74 (d, 1H, $J_{1,2ax} = 3.2 \text{ Hz}$, H-1), 4.97 $(t, 1H, J_{7-8} = 5.1$ Hz, H-7), 7.17-7.25 (m, 5H, H-Ph), 7.40-7.42 (m, 2H, meta-H-PhSO₂), 7.50-7.54 (m, 1H, para-H-PhSO₂) 7.83-7.86 (d, 2H, ortho-H–PhSO₂). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 14.2$ (Me), 22.7, 26.2, 29.1, 29.5, 31.8 (heptyl CH₂), 36.4 (C-2), 61.2 (C-8), 62.4 (C-5), 67.7 (C-9), 68.8 (C-6), 72.5 (PhCH₂O), 72.8 (C-3), 83.7 (C-4), 96.9 (C-7), 97.9 (C-1), 127.6–129.2 (CH-Ar), 133.9 (CH-para-PhSO₂), 138.8 (C_{IV}-Ar), 139.9 (C_{IV}-PhSO₂). MS (IS) $m/z = 519.5$ [M+H]⁺, 542.5 $[M+Na]^{+}$.

10. 1,5-Anhydro-2,3-dideoxy-4,6-O-(2-phenylsulfonyl)ethylidene-D-erythro*hex-2-enitol* **12**: Syrup; $[\alpha]_D^{20} + 1$ ($c = 0.4$, CHCl₃). ¹H NMR (250 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 3.25$ (ddd, 1H, $J_{5-6b} = 10.3$ Hz, $J_{5-6a} = 4.8$ Hz, $J_{4-5} =$ 8.3 Hz, H-5), 3.48 (d, 2H, $J_{7-8} = 5.0$ Hz, H-8a, H-8b), 3.53 (t, 1H, $J_{5-6b} = J_{6a-6b} = 10.3$ Hz, H-6b), 3.92–3.95 (m, 1H, H-4), 4.06 (dd, 1H, $J_{5-6a} = 4.8$, H-6a), 4.18-4.21 (m, 2H, H-1a, H-1b), 5.11 (t, 1H, $J_{7-8} = 5.0$ Hz, H-7), 5.63 (d, 1H, $J_{2-3} = 10.5$ Hz, H-2), 5.70 (dt, 1H, $J_{3-1} = J_{3-4} = 1.8$ Hz, $J_{3-2} = 10.5$ Hz, H-3), 7.53–7.59 (m, 2H, meta-H-PhSO₂), 7.64-7.69 (m, 1H, para-H-PhSO₂), 7.91 (d, 2H, $J = 7.3$, ortho-H–PhSO₂). ¹³C NMR (62.5 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 60.1$ (C-8), 66.5 (C-1), 69.2 (C-6), 69.7 (C-5), 75.0 (C-4), 97.0 (C-7), 125.3 (C-2), 127.9 (C-3), 128.4 (CH-ortho-PhSO₂), 129.1 (CH-meta-PhSO₂), 133.9 (CH-para-PhSO₂), 139.9 (C_{IV}-PhSO₂). MS (IS) $m/z = 314$ $[M+NH_4]^+, 319 [M+Na]^+.$

3-O-Acetyl-1,5-anhydro-2-deoxy-4,6-O-(2-phenylsulfonyl)ethylidene p -*glucitol* 11: Syrup; $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ +3 ($c = 1.0$, CHCl₃). ¹H NMR (250 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 1.63 - 1.75$ (m, 2H, H-2), 2.08–2.17 (m, 4H, H-2, MeCO), 3.21 (dd, 1H, $J_{5-6b} = 9.5$ Hz, $J_{4-5} = 4.8$ Hz, H-5), 3.39-3.57 (m, 3H, H-1ax, H-4, H-6b), 3.47 (d, 2H, J7–8 = 4.8 Hz, H-8a, H-8b), 3.92 (dd, 1H, $J_{1a-b} = 12.0$ Hz, $J_{1-2} = 4.5$ Hz, H-1eq), 4.04 (dd, 1H, $J_{6a-b} =$ 10.5 Hz, $J_{5-6a} = 5.0$ Hz, H-6a), 4.88 (ddd, 1H, $J_{3-4} = 10.8$ Hz, $J_{2ax-3} = 9.5$ Hz, $J_{2eq-3} = 5.4$ Hz, H-3), 5.08 (t, 1H, $J_{7-8} = 4.8$ Hz, H-7), 7.52-7.58 (m, 2H, meta-H-PhSO₂), 7.63-7.68 (m, 1H, para-H-PhSO₂) 7.91 (d, 2H, $J = 7.3$ Hz, ortho-H–PhSO₂). ¹³C NMR $(62.5 \text{ MHz}, \text{CDCl}_3)$: $\delta = 21.3 \text{ (MeCO)}$, 31.5 (C-2), 60.1 (C-8), 66.1 (C-6), 68.5 (C-1), 70.6 (C-3), 71.4 (C-5), 80.4 (C-4), 96.9 (C-7), 128.3 $(CH-ortho-PhSO₂), 129.2 (CH-meta-PhSO₂), 134.0 (CH-para-PhSO₂),$ 140.1 (C_{IV}-PhSO₂), 170.5 (CO). MS (IS) $m/z = 357.5$ [M+H]⁺, 374.5 $[M+NH_4]^+$, 379.5 $[M+Na]^+$.

(1R)-1-C-Allyl-1,5-anhydro-2,3-dideoxy-4,6-O-(2-phenylsulfonyl) ethylidene-D-erythro-hex-2-enitol 13: Syrup; $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ +6 (c 1.1, CHCl₃).
¹H NMP (250 MHz, CDCl): $\delta = 2.17$, 2.45 (m, 2H, allyl CH), 3.33 ¹H NMR (250 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 2.17 - 2.45$ (m, 2H, allyl CH₂), 3.32 (ddd, 1H, $J_{5-6b} = 10.1$ Hz, $J_{4-5} = 8.3$ Hz, $J_{5-6a} = 4.8$ Hz, H-5), 3.47– 3.60 (m, 1H, H-6b), 3.48 (d, 2H, $J_{7-8} = 4.8$ Hz, H-8a, H-8b), 3.85 (dd, 1H, $J_{4-5} = 8.3$ Hz, $J_{1-4} = 2.0$ Hz, H-4), 4.02 (dd, 1H, $J_{6a-b} = 10.3$ Hz, $J_{5-6a} = 4.8 \text{ Hz}, H_{5a} = 4.8 \text{ Hz}, H_{5a} = 4.23 \text{ (td)}, J_{1 \text{ GHz}} = J_{1 \text{ GHz}} = 6.3 \text{ Hz}, J_{1-4} =$ 2.5 Hz, H-1), 5.04–5.11 (m, 3H, H-7, $=CH_2$), 5.63–5.87 (m, 3H, H-2, H-3, =CH), 7.53-7.59 (m, 2H, meta-H-PhSO₂), 7.63-7.69 (m, 1H, para-H–PhSO₂), 7.91 (1H, d, $J = 7.3$ Hz, ortho-H–PhSO₂). ¹³C NMR (62.5 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 38.3$ (allyl CH₂), 60.2 (C-8), 65.0 $(C-5)$, 69.5 $(C-6)$, 73.9 $(C-1)$, 75.0 $(C-4)$, 97.0 $(C-7)$, 117.8 $(=CH₂)$, 126.1 (C-2), 128.5 (CH-ortho-PhSO₂), 129.1 (CH-meta-PhSO₂), 130.6 (C-3), 133.9 (CH-para-PhSO₂), 134.2 (=CH), 139.9 (C_{IV}-PhSO₂). MS (IS) $m/z = 337.5$ [M+H]⁺, 354.5 [M+NH₄]⁺, 359.5 [M+Na]⁺.

3-O-Acetyl-2-deoxy-4,6-O-(2-phenylsulfonyl)ethylidene-a-D-arabinohexopyranosyl azide 14 α : Syrup; $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ +24 (c 1.0, CHCl₃). ¹H NMR (250 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 1.74$ (ddd, 1H, $J_{2ax-2eq} = 13.4$ Hz, $J_{2ax-3} =$ 11.3 Hz, $J_{1-2ax} = 4.5$ Hz, H-2ax), 2.10 (s, 3H, MeCO), 2.19 (dd, 1H, $J_{2eq-3} = 5.3$ Hz, $J_{1-2eq} = 1.0$ Hz, H-2eq), 3.43-3.57 (m, 2H, H-4, H-6b), 3.48 (d, 2H, $J_{7-8} = 4.8$ Hz, H-8a, H-8b), 3.78 (dd, 1H, $J_{4-5} =$ 10.0 Hz, $J_{5-6} = 5.0$ Hz, H-5), 4.06 (dd, 1H, $J_{6a-b} = 10.3$ Hz, $J_{5-6a} = 4.8$ Hz, H-6a), 5.03-5.15 (m, 2H, H-3, H-7), 5.42 (d, 1H, $J_{1-2ax} = 4.5$ Hz, H-1), 7.52–7.58 (m, 2H, *meta*-H–PhSO₂), 7.63–7.69 (m, 1H, *para*-H–PhSO₂), 7.91 (d, 1H, $J = 7.0$ Hz, *ortho*-H–PhSO₂). 13 C (62.5 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 21.2$ (MeCO), 34.8 (C-2), 60.0 (C-8), 64.6 (C-5), 66.8 (C-3), 68.3 (C-6), 79.9 (C-4), 87.2 (C-1), 97.0 (C-7), 128.2 (CH-ortho-PhSO₂), 129.2 (CH-meta-PhSO₂), 134.0 (CH-para-PhSO₂), 140.0 (C_{IV}-PhSO₂), 170.0 (CO). MS (IS) $m/z = 398.5$ [M+H]⁺, 415.5 $[M+NH_4]^+$, 420.5 $[M+Na]^+$.

3-O-Acetyl-2-deoxy-4,6-O-(2-phenylsulfonyl)ethylidene-a-D-arabino*hexopyranosyl azide* 14 β : Syrup; $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ –25 (c 1.1, CHCl₃). ¹H NMR (250 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 1.51 - 1.65$ (m, 1H, H-2ax), 2.09 (s, 3H, MeCO), 2.34 (ddd, 1H, $J_{2ax-2eq} = 13.0$ Hz, $J_{2eq-3} = 5.3$ Hz, $J_{1-2eq} =$

2.3 Hz, H-2eq), 3.34 (dd, 1H, $J_{5-6b} = 9.8$ Hz, $J_{5-6a} = 4.8$ Hz, H-5), 3.47 (d, 2H, $J_{7-8} = 4.8$ Hz, H-8a, H-8b), 3.43–3.50 (m, 1H, H-4), 3.58 $(t, 1H, J_{6a-6b} = J_{5-6b} = 10.0 \text{ Hz}, H_{5-6b}, 4.07 \text{ (dd, 1H, } J_{6a-6b} =$ 10.5 Hz, $J_{5-6a} = 4.8$ Hz, H-6a), 4.78 (dd, 1H, $J_{1-2} = 10.8$ Hz, $J_{1-2} = 2.3$ Hz, H-1), 4.90 (ddd, 1H, $J_{3-4} = 11.3$ Hz, $J_{2-3} = 9.5$ Hz, J_{2-3} = 5.3 Hz, H-3) 5.09 (t, 1H, J_{7-8} = 4.8 Hz, H-7), 7.52–7.58 (m, 2H, *meta*-H–PhSO₂) 7.63–7.69 (m, 1H, *para*-H–PhSO₂) 7.91 (d, 2H, $J = 7.3$, *ortho-*H–PhSO₂). ¹³C (62.5 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 21.2$ (MeCO),

36.1 (C-2), 60.0 (C-8), 68.1 (C-6), 68.4 (C-5), 68.9(C-3), 79.2 (C-4), 86.5 (C-1), 97.1 (C-7), 128.2 (CH-ortho-PhSO₂), 129.2 (CH-meta-PhSO₂), 134.0 (CH-para-PhSO₂), 140.0 (C_{IV}-PhSO₂), 170.2 (CO). MS (IS) $m/z = 398.5$ [M+H]⁺, 415.5 [M+NH₄]⁺, 420.5 [M+Na]⁺.

11. CCDC 656182 contains the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge from The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre via [www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/](http://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data_request/cif) [data_request/cif](http://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data_request/cif).