



Total syntheses and absolute stereochemistry of decarestrictines C₁ and C₂

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ABSTRACT

The total syntheses of decarestrictines C₁ and C₂ have been described. The synthetic strategy involves a practical and flexible approach using esterification and ring-closing metathesis to unite the acid and alcohol fragments. The acid fragments are enantiomers of each other and have been prepared from L-(–)-malic acid via similar transformations; in Sharpless asymmetric epoxidation, (+)-DET has been used for decarestrictine C₁ and (–)-DET for decarestrictine C₂. The alcohol fragment is identical for both decarestrictines C₁ and C₂ and has been accessed from D-(+)-mannitol. Comparison of the ¹H and ¹³C NMR data combined with the computational studies predicts the presence of two conformations without and with hydrogen bonding (conformational isomers I and II for decarestrictine C₁), respectively. The ¹H and ¹³C NMR data for decarestrictine C₂ completely agreed with the analytical data reported by Kibayashi et al.

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Decarestrictines A–D, the first representatives of a new class of fungal metabolites,¹ isolated from *Penicillium simplicissimum* and *Penicillium corylophilum*, are structurally related 10-membered lactones, with similar physio-chemical properties.² The structures of these secondary metabolites were established by spectroscopic analysis and confirmed by X-ray analysis. The carbon skeleton, forming the 10-membered lactone ring, varies in the oxygenation patterns ranging from C3–C7 and carries one *E*-configured double bond either at C4 or at C5. Tested via sodium acetate incorporation into cholesterol, the decarestrictines have revealed potent inhibitory effects on cholesterol biosynthesis in cell line tests with HEP-G2 liver cells and hence hold the promise of favorable effects on in vivo lipid metabolism. These appear to be more selective in that they exhibit no significant *anti*-bacterial, *anti*-fungal, *anti*-protozoal, or *anti*-viral activity. The interesting biological activity of decarestrictines has elicited recent synthetic endeavors, including the total syntheses of decarestrictines C₂ (**4**), D (**5**), J, and L (Fig. 1).³

In continuation of our interest⁴ in exploring ring-closing metathesis for macrolides⁵ synthesis and generalizing its substrate and protecting group-based selectivity, we planned to synthesize decarestrictines C₁ (**3**) and C₂ (**4**). Since both molecules contain a double bond and a lactone functionality, cross-metathesis followed by lactonization or esterification followed by ring-closing metathesis seemed to be the method of choice for an efficient convergent synthesis. As shown in Scheme 1, the retrosynthetic analysis suggested

synthesis of an alcohol fragment **7** for both molecules and acid fragments **8** and *ent*-**8**. These fragments could be prepared from D-(+)-mannitol and L-(–)-malic acid, respectively.

Epoxy alcohol **13** was prepared following a known protocol taking commercially available L-(–)-malic acid as the starting material.⁶ One-pot conversion of the alcohol to the *trans*- α,β -unsaturated ester was achieved by IBX oxidation in DMSO followed by treatment of the reaction mixture with (carboethoxymethylene)triphenylphosphorane.⁷ The ester was selectively reduced to the allylic alcohol by DIBAL-H in CH₂Cl₂ at –78 °C. Incorporation of the required chirality was achieved by Sharpless asymmetric epoxidation.⁸ Accordingly, the allylic alcohol was treated with Ti(OiPr)₄, (+)-DET, and *t*BuOOH to obtain the (*S,S*)-epoxide. The primary hydroxyl group of the epoxide was transformed to its corresponding iodo derivative. The opening of the epoxide ring of the iodo compound with Zn in refluxing ethanol⁹ afforded secondary allylic alcohol **14** (Scheme 2), which was protected as its *p*-methoxybenzyl ether. The isopropylidene group was deprotected by treatment with catalytic amount of *p*-TSA in MeOH. The result-

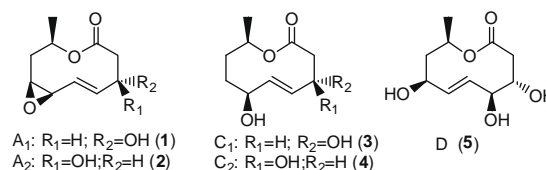
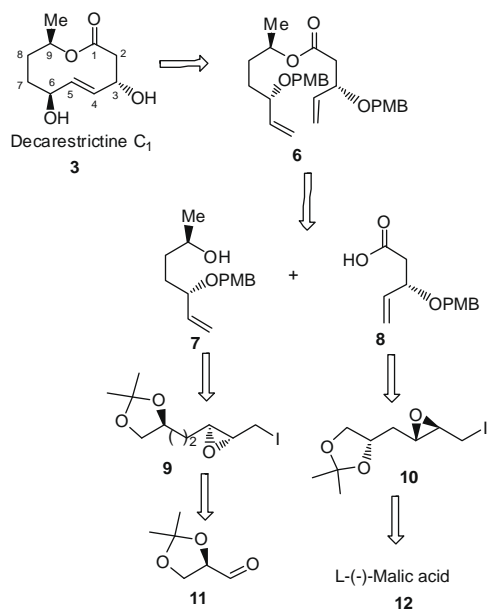
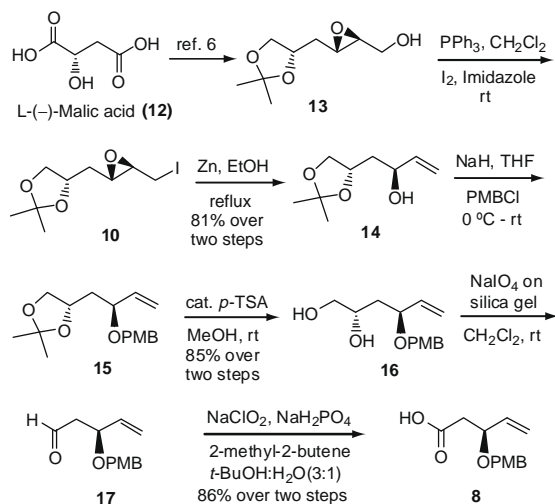


Figure 1. Representative members of decarestrictine family.

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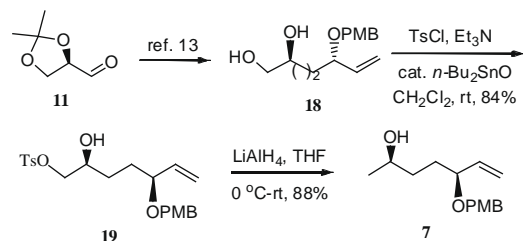
Scheme 1. Retrosynthetic analysis of decarestrictine C₁.

Scheme 2. Synthesis of fragment 8.

ing diol was oxidatively cleaved with NaIO₄ impregnated over silica gel¹⁰ followed by oxidation¹¹ with NaClO₂ to obtain the acid 8.¹² Similarly, starting from 12 and following the same sequence of reactions using (–)-DET in place of (+)-DET led to the acid fragment *ent*-8 for decarestrictine C₂.

The known aldehyde 11 synthesized from D-(+)-mannitol was converted to an intermediate 18¹³ followed by selective protection of the primary hydroxyl group with TsCl, Et₃N, and catalytic amount of *n*Bu₂SnO¹⁴ afforded compound 19 (Scheme 3). The resulting tosyl compound 19 was treated with LiAlH₄ to give the required alcohol fragment 7¹⁵ for both the decarestrictines C₁ and C₂.

The alcohol 7 and the (*S*)-acid fragment 8 were united under Yamaguchi conditions,¹⁶ using 2,4,6-trichlorobenzoyl chloride to furnish the ester 6.¹⁷ The ester 6 underwent ring-closing metathesis with Grubb's 2nd generation catalyst¹⁸ in CH₂Cl₂ at reflux to yield the single *trans* diastereomer 20¹⁹, which was characterized by the usual spectroscopic techniques. The coupling constant of 16.1 Hz between H4 and H5 clearly demonstrated the *trans* nature

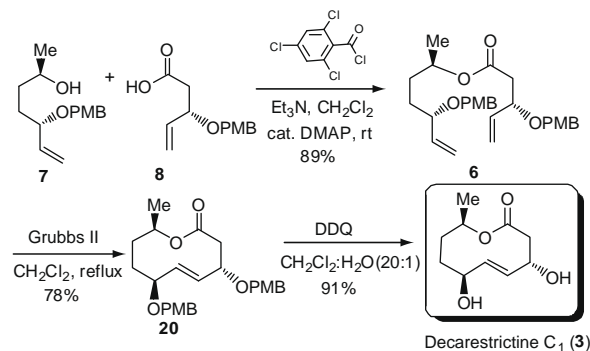
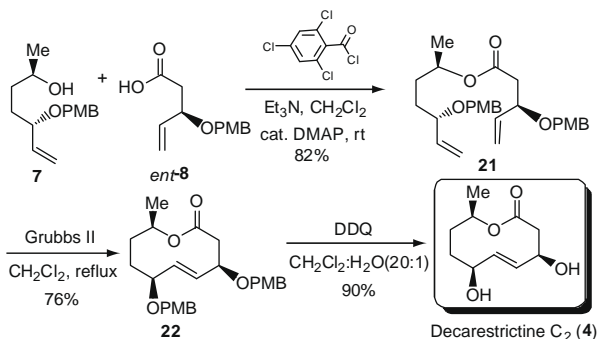
Scheme 3. Synthesis of alcohol fragment 7 for both decarestrictines C₁ and C₂.

of the double bond. Deprotection of the *p*-methoxybenzyl ethers was carried out with DDQ in aqueous methylene chloride to afford the natural product decarestrictine C₁ (3) (Scheme 4).²⁰ The spectral (¹H and ¹³C NMR) and analytical data were in good agreement with the natural product (decarestrictine C).¹

Similarly, the alcohol 7 was coupled with the (*R*)-acid fragment *ent*-8 and the same sequence of reactions was performed to obtain the decarestrictine C₂ (4) (Scheme 5).²¹ The ¹H, ¹³C NMR, and analytical data were in good agreement with the reported values.^{3b}

¹H NMR studies of decarestrictine C₁ revealed the presence of two distinct conformational isomers at room temperature and high temperature NMR spectroscopy at 110 °C, showed conversion of the isomeric mixture to a single compound (Fig. 2).

This prompted us to undertake a systematic computational conformational analysis of decarestrictine C₁. A careful analysis of the conformational geometries and their energetics reveals that the most stable conformation is the one which has intramolecular hydrogen bond between –OH and –C=O groups. Three other conformations are closer in energy (see Supplementary data for full details) but are so similar and difficult to be distinguished within NMR time scale.²² Further, the observed features of two conforma-

Scheme 4. Synthesis of decarestrictine C₁.Scheme 5. Synthesis of decarestrictine C₂.

- (CDCl₃, 200 MHz): δ 1.15–1.18 (d, 3H, J = 6.2 Hz), 1.47–1.74 (m, 4H), 2.17 (br s, 1H) 3.69–3.77 (m, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 4.28 (d, 1H, J = 11.4 Hz), 4.54 (d, 1H, J = 11.4 Hz), 5.17–5.26 (m, 2H), 5.75 (m, 1H), 6.85–6.89 (m, 2H), 7.23–7.27 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 50 MHz) δ 23.3, 31.8, 35.0, 55.0, 67.4, 69.6, 80.1, 113.6, 117.1, 129.3, 130.3, 138.7, 158.9; Anal. Calcd for C₁₅H₂₂O₃: C, 71.97; H, 8.86. Found: C, 71.94; H, 8.72.
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17. *Analytical and spectral data of 6*: [α]_D²⁵ –36.5 (c 1.0, CHCl₃); IR (CHCl₃, cm⁻¹): 3076, 3005, 2978, 2935, 2864, 1729, 1642, 1613, 1513, 1464, 1248, 1036, 994, 822, 756. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 200 MHz) δ 1.16–1.19 (d, 3H, J = 6.3 Hz), 1.49–1.75 (m, 4H), 2.44 (dd, 1H, J = 5.7, 14.9 Hz), 2.63 (dd, 1H, J = 8.0, 14.9 Hz), 3.69 (m, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 4.21 (m, 1H), 4.32 (d, 2H, J = 11.4 Hz), 4.52 (d, 2H, J = 11.4 Hz), 4.90 (m, 1H), 5.14–5.35 (m, 4H), 5.60–5.86 (m, 2H), 6.82–6.88 (m, 4H), 7.20–7.26 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 50 MHz) δ 19.9, 31.0, 31.4, 41.3, 55.0, 69.6, 70.0, 70.7, 76.7, 79.4, 113.6, 117.1, 117.8, 129.1, 130.2, 130.5, 137.3, 138.7, 159.0, 170.2; Anal. Calcd for C₂₈H₃₆O₆: C, 71.77; H, 7.74. Found: C, 71.68; H, 7.64.
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19. *Analytical and spectral data of 20*: [α]_D²⁵ –53.1 (c 1.0, CHCl₃); IR (CHCl₃, cm⁻¹): 2978, 2932, 2864, 1612, 1513, 1459, 1247, 1172, 1086, 1035, 821, 756. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 1.14 (d, 3H, J = 6.6 Hz), 1.63–1.70 (m, 3H), 1.84 (m, 1H), 2.44 (dd, 1H, J = 7.3, 14.2 Hz), 2.91 (dd, 1H, J = 8.3, 14.2 Hz), 3.71 (m, 1H), 3.75 (2s, 6H), 4.24–4.29 (m, 2H), 4.35 (d, 1H, J = 11.5 Hz), 4.45 (d, 1H, J = 11.7 Hz), 4.50 (d, 1H, J = 11.5 Hz), 5.00 (m, 1H), 5.44 (dd, 1H, J = 8.5, 16.1 Hz), 5.61 (dd, 1H, J = 9.3, 16.1 Hz), 6.83–6.85 (m, 4H), 7.22–7.25 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 18.6, 27.9, 29.9, 42.3, 55.2, 70.2, 71.0, 76.2, 79.2, 113.7, 128.9, 129.2, 129.4, 130.0, 130.4, 138.9, 159.2, 170.3; Anal. Calcd for C₂₆H₃₂O₆: C, 70.89; H, 7.32. Found: C, 70.72; H, 7.28.
20. *Analytical and spectral data of 3*: [α]_D²⁵ –9.5 (c 1.0, MeOH). ¹H NMR (CD₃OD, 500 MHz) (conformational isomers) δ 1.16 (d, 1.5H, J = 6.6 Hz), 1.21 (d, 1.5H, J = 6.9 Hz), 1.43 (dd, 0.5H, J = 6.8, 15.7 Hz), 1.62–1.74 (m, 2H), 1.76 (m, 0.5H), 1.90–2.01 (m, 1H), 2.29 (dd, 0.5H, J = 5.6, 13.4 Hz), 2.47–2.54 (m, 1H), 2.90 (dd, 0.5H, J = 7.5, 13.4 Hz), 4.39 (m, 1H), 4.54 (m, 1H), 4.69–4.75 (m, 2H), 5.00 (m, 1H), 5.39 (dd, 0.5H, J = 7.5, 16.2 Hz), 5.53 (dd, 0.5H, J = 8.2, 16.2 Hz), 5.78 (dd, 0.5H, J = 15.9 Hz), 5.88 (dd, 0.5H, J = 15.9 Hz); ¹³C NMR (CD₃OD, 125 MHz) (conformational isomers) δ 18.9, 22.1, 28.6, 29.2, 32.6, 45.4, 45.8, 68.7, 69.1, 70.4, 72.4, 74.2, 130.7, 131.9, 138.2, 172.0, 172.5. Anal. Calcd for C₁₀H₁₆O₄: C, 59.98; H, 8.05. Found: C, 60.15; H, 8.23.
21. *Analytical and spectral data of 4*: [α]_D²⁵ –38.0 (c 0.74, MeOH); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 1.16 (d, 3H, J = 6.5 Hz), 1.44 (dd, 1H, J = 7.0, 15.9 Hz), 1.67 (br t, 1H, J = 12.3 Hz), 1.83–1.95 (m, 2H), 2.32 (t, 1H, J = 10.4 Hz), 2.61 (dd, 1H, J = 5.2, 10.1 Hz), 4.32 (m, 1H), 4.35 (ddd, 1H, J = 5.2, 8.6, 10.6 Hz), 4.77 (m, 1H), 5.45 (br d, 1H, J = 15.9 Hz), 5.73 (ddd, 1H, J = 1.6, 8.6, 15.9 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 22.5, 29.5, 36.5, 47.6, 69.2, 74.3, 74.9, 131.9, 134.8, 173.0; MS (ESI) m/z: 223.22 (M⁺+Na).
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