THE HIGH-PRESSURE REACTION OF 2,5-DIMETHYLFURAN WITH 2,3-Q-ISOPROPYLIDENE-D-GLYCERALDEHYDE¹

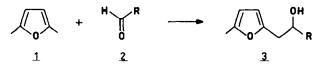
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<u>Abstract</u> - The asymmetric high-pressure reaction of 2,5-dimethylfuran (1) with 2,3-Q-isopropylidene-D-glyceraldehyde (4) and chemical transformation of the resulting product 5 to 2-deoxy-D-pentitol derivatives (13, 14, and 15) are described.

Recently, we have described² a high-pressure reaction between 2,5-dimethylfuran (<u>1</u>) and activated compounds of type <u>2</u> (e.g. $R=CO_2Et$), which leads to products of general structure <u>3</u> corresponding to formal electrophilic substitution at the methyl group of the heteroaromatic system (Scheme 1). Likewise, 2,5-disubstituted thiophenes and pyrroles undergo a similar reaction.³ In case of sterically hindered or non-activated carbonyl substrates, higher pressures and elevated temperatures are necessary to force the reaction to occur.²,³



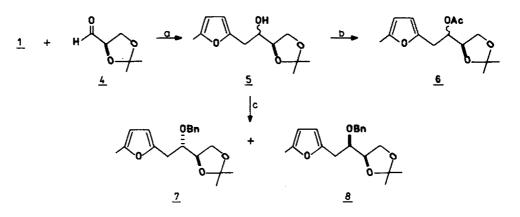
Scheme 1

The products of the type <u>3</u> can constitute versatile synthesis for the synthesis of carbohydrates and other polyhydroxylated natural products. This prompted us to study the course of asymmetric induction using $2,3-\underline{0}$ -isopropylidene- \underline{D} -glyceraldehyde (<u>4</u>)⁴ as the chiral carbonyl substrate.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

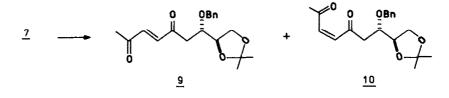
When aldehyde <u>4</u> was subjected to the reaction with <u>1</u>, carried out under 20 kbar pressure and at 55°C, compound <u>5</u> is formed as the sole, chromatographically pure product (Scheme 2). Since aldehyde <u>4</u> has only one chiral centre, the product <u>5</u> consists of two diastereoisomers in a ratio corresponding to the efficiency of the 1,2-induction process. This ratio was determined from the $Eu(fod)_3^{-1}H$ NMR spectra of compounds <u>5</u> and <u>6</u> (cf. Experimental). In both cases the ratio was found to be 4:1.

As shown in Scheme 2, the protection of the hydroxyl group of 5 with benzyl bromide afforded benzyl ethers 7 and 8, readily separable by column or thin-layer chromatography. This provided not only a further proof of diastereoselection in the high-pressure reaction, being fully consistent with ¹H NMR measurements, but also gives an access to optically pure compounds 7 and 8, which could serve as useful starting materials for further transformations. First, however, it was necessary to establish the absolute configuration of the newly created centre. For this purpose we used an approach which could equally serve as a method for the synthesis of 2-deoxypentitols.



Scheme 2. Reagents and reaction conditions: (a) 20 kbar, 55°C, CH₂Cl₂; (b) Ac₂O, Et₃N, DMAP, CH₂Cl₂, RT; (c) BnBr, NaH, THF-DMF, RT.

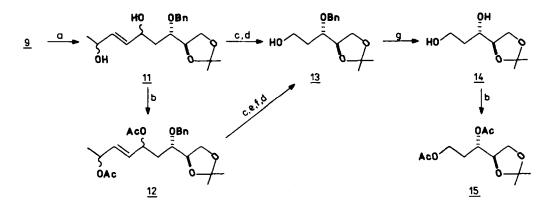
In the first step of chemical correlation, oxidative opening of the furan ring of the major diastereoisomer $\underline{7}$ was attempted. The treatment of $\underline{7}$ with pyridinium chlorochromate (PCC)⁵ led to the desired product - trans-enedione 9 (Scheme 3). However, the reaction was very slow and stopped at a certain moment even though the substrate was still present in the reaction mixture, as evidenced by TLC. The inconvenience of the procedure prompted us to look for other solutions of the problem. Oxidative opening of the furan ring can also be effected using meta-chloroperbenzoic acid.⁶ In this case, a mixture of geometrical isomers is usually obtained. When, however, the reaction of $\underline{7}$ with mCPBA was carried out at -10°C, pure *cis* compound (<u>10</u>) was obtained in 80% yield. Isomerization of *cis* compound (<u>10</u>) to the thermodynamically stable trans isomer (9) could be achived in 95% yield using iodine in hexane. Thus, a more convenient sequence, alternative to PCC oxidation, was established.





In the meantime, a new method for oxidative opening of 2,5-disubstituted furan derivatives was developed at this laboratory.⁷ It involves the use of bromine as oxidant which cleanly transforms 2,5-disubstituted furans to enediones when the reaction is carried out in an acetone-water mixture as solvent. This new procedure proved to be very useful also in case of 7. The reaction carried out in the presence of pyridine afforded - after flash chromatography - enedione trans-9 in 82% yield. Diisobutylaluminium hydride (DIBAL) reduction of 9, performed in a methylene chloride - hexane mixture at -78°C, led to diol 11 which was then acetylated to give diacetate 12 in 75% yield (Scheme 4). The crude diol 11 was transformed in two steps to 3-Q-benzyl-4,5-Q-isopropylide-ne-2-deoxypentitol 13. Osmium tetroxide - sodium periodate oxidation⁸ of the double bond, carried out in aqueous dioxane at room temperature, gave an intermediate aldehyde which upon treatment with sodium borohydride in methanol afforded 13 in 35% overall yield. Alternatively, the transformation could be brought about starting from diacetate 12, through a four-step sequence of reactions. Osmium tetroxide - sodium periodate to lithium aliminium hydride reduction, carried out in ethyl ether, giving the respective vic-diol which was splitted by sodium periodate in aqueous me-

thanol. The product of this reaction was reduced with sodium borohydride, and after chromatographic purification it provided compound $\underline{13}$ in 45% overall yield. Thus, the latter sequence, even though by three steps longer, was found to give 2-deoxypentitol derivative $\underline{13}$ with a slightly higher yield as compared to the former one.



Scheme 4. Reagents and reaction conditions: (a) DIBAL, CH_2Cl_2 - hexane, -78°C; (b) Ac_2O , Et_3N , DMAP, CH_2Cl_2 , RT; (c) OsO_4 , $NaIO_4$, H_2O - dioxane, RT; (d) $NaBH_4$, MeOH, $O^{\circ}C \rightarrow RT$; (e) LiAlH₄, Et_2O , $O^{\circ}C \rightarrow RT$; (f) $NaIO_4$, H_2O - MeOH, RT; (g) H_2 , Pd/C, MeOH, RT.

The route from <u>13</u> to the known compound <u>15</u> was straightforward: hydrogenolysis of <u>13</u>, carried out in a Parr apparatus with palladium-on-charcoal as catalyst and methanol as solvent, afforded diol <u>14</u> which after acetylation (performed under standard conditions) gave 1,3-di-<u>O</u>-acetyl-4,5-<u>O</u>--isopropylidene-2-deoxypentitol <u>15</u> in 48% overall yield. Specific rotation of <u>15</u> was $(\alpha)_D$ -21.0° (c 0.66, chloroform), whereas identically protected 2-deoxy-<u>D</u>-ribitol and 2-deoxy-<u>D</u>-xylitol have been reported⁹ to have specific rotations $(\alpha)_D$ -23.2°(c 0.63, chloroform) and $(\alpha)_D$ +36.7° (c 0.29, chloroform), respectively. This established unequivocally the absolute configuration at the newly created centre of chirality, shown in Schemes 2, 3, and 4.

The high-pressure reaction between 2,5-dimethylfuran (<u>1</u>) and 2,3-<u>O</u>-isopropylidene-<u>D</u>-glyceraldehyde (<u>4</u>) offers an access to optically pure synthons potentially applicable in the synthesis of natural products. High versatility of the furan ring as a precursor of open-chain systems has recently been proved by us¹⁰ for other chiral furan derivatives obtained from aldehyde <u>4</u>.

EXPERIMENTAL

The ¹H NMR spectra were recorded with a Jeol JNM-4H-100 (100 MHz) or a Varian EM-360 (60 MHz) spectrometer for CDCl₃ solutions (& scale, TMS=0). The IR spectra were taken with a Beckman IR-4240 spectrophotometer. Optical rotations were measured with a Perkin-Elmer PE-141 spectropolarimeter.

Unless otherwise indicated, all reaction work-ups involved washing the organic layer with brine, drying over MgSO₄, and evaporation under reduced pressure. Preparative flash chromatography was performed on Merck Kieselgel 60 (239-400 mesh), according to Still's procedure.¹¹ All chromatographic separations were monitored by TLC and/or ¹H NMR. TLC was performed on Merck DC Alufolien Kieselgel 60 F-254. The reported yields refer to chromatographically pure compounds.

All high-pressure reactions were carried out in a piston-cylinder type apparatus with working volume of about 90 mL. Construction details have been reported previously.¹² The pressure inside the working volume was measured with a calibrated coil exact to \pm 0.1 kbar. The accuracy of temperature measurements using a calibrated thermocouple was \pm 1°C.

2,3-<u>O</u>-Isopropylidene-<u>D</u>-glyceraldehyde ($\underline{4}$) was prepared from <u>D</u>-mannitol according to Kierstead's modification¹³ of the known procedure.¹⁴

 $(2R,3\xi)-1,2-O-Isopropylidene-4-(2-(5-methylfuryl))-1,2,3-butanetriol (5). A solution of 1$ (706 µL, 6.6 mmol) and freshly prepared 4 (285 mg, 2.2 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (4 mL) was charged into aTeflon ampoule¹⁸ placed in a high-pressure vessel filled with pentane as a transmission medium andcompressed (20 kbar) at 50°C for 24 h. After cooling and decompression, the reaction mixture wasconcentrated to dryness and the residue was subjected to flash chromatography (ligroin - ethyl acetate 7:3) to give 110.1 mg (22% yield) of 5 as a colourless oil: (a)_D +35.0° (c 0.92, chloroform); $IR (film), v, 3300, 1565, 1250, 1140, 1040 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR, <math>\delta$, 6.09 (d, J = 2 Hz, 1 H), 5.97 (d, J = 2 Hz, 1 H), 4.20-3.80 (m, 4 H), 2.95-2.77 (m, 3 H), 2.32 (s, 3 H), 1.49 (s, 3 H), 1.42 (s, 3 H). Calcd. for C₁₂H₁₀O₄: C, 63.70; H, 8.02. Found: C, 63.80; H, 7.95. The ¹H NMR spectrum of 5 (25.9 mg) with Eu(fod)₅ (11.0 mg) showed the presence of two singlets corresponding to CH₃-furan at δ : 2.23 (0.6 H) and 2.36 (2.4 H).

 $(2R,3\xi)-3-0-Acetyl-1,2-0-isopropylidene-4-(2-(5-methylfuryl))-1,2,3-butanetriol (6). To 249 mg (1.1 mmol) of 5 in CH₂Cl₂ (1.5 mL), 274 µL (2.0 mmol) of triethylamine, 156 µL (1.65 mmol) of acetic anhydride and a crystal of DMAP were added. After 3-h stirring at room temperature, the reaction mixture was diluted with Et₂O and worked up. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (ligroin - ethyl acetate 3:1) to give 265.3 mg (90% yield) of 6 as a colourless oil: (<math>\alpha$)_D +7.3° (c 1.72, chloroform); IR (film), ν , 1750, 1550, 1270, 1100, 1030 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR, δ , 5.93 (bs, 2 H), 5.30-5.00 (m, 1 H), 4.30-3.70 (m, 3 H), 2.88 (d, J = 7 Hz, 2 H), 2.22 (s, 3 H), 2.03 (s, 3 H), 1.42 (s, 3 H), 1.33 (s, 3 H). Calcd. for C₁4H₂GO₅: C, 62.67; H, 7.51. Found: C, 62.78; H, 7.64. The ¹H NMR spectrum of <u>6</u> (16.7 mg) with Eu(fod)₃ (16.0 mg) showed the presence of two singlets corresponding to CH₃-furan at δ : 2.33 (0.6 H) and 2.43 (2.4 H).

 $\frac{(2R,3S)-(7) \text{ and } (2R,3R)-3-0-Benzyl-1,2-0-isopropylidene-4-(2-(5-methylfuryl))-1,2,3-butane$ triol (8). To a cold (0°C) suspension of sodium hydride (prepared from 320 mg of 50% NaH in mineraloil) in a mixture of 8 mL of THF and 2 mL of DMF, a solution of 1.31 g (5.8 mmol) of 5 in 2 mL ofTHF was added. The mixture was stirred for 0.5 h at room temperature, whereupon 0.8 mL (6.7 mmol)of benzyl bromide was added. After further 12 h of stirring, wet Et₂0 was added and the mixture wasworked up. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (ligroin - ethyl acetate 98:2)to give 1.32 g (72% yield) of 7 and 0.33 g (18% yield) of 8, both as colourless oils: $7: (a) 576 -2.0° (c 1.61, chloroform); IR (film), v, 1570, 1220, 1070 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR, <math>\delta$, 7.27 (m, 5 H), 5.95 (d, J = 3 Hz, 1 H), 5.83 (m, 1 H), 4.50 (s, 2 H), 4.10-3.60 (m, 4 H), 3.00-2.70 (m, 2 H), 2.25 (s, 3 H), 1.37 (s, 3 H), 1.29 (s, 3 H). Calcd. for Cl₁H₂u₀u₁: C, 72.12; H, 7.65. Found: C, 71.92; H, 7.78. 8: (a) 576 (c 1.18, chloroform); IR (film), v, 1575, 1220, 1070 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR, δ , 7.30 (m,

 $\frac{E-(2R,3S)-3-O-Benzyl-1,2-O-isopropylidene-6-nonen-5,8-dione-1,2,3-triol (9). A. Compound 7$ (316 mg, 1.0 mmol) and pyridine (322 µL, 4.0 mmol) were dissolved in 10 mL of an acetone - watermixture (85:15). The reaction mixture was vigorously stirred and cooled to -20°C, whereupon 54 µL(1.0 mmol) of bromine in 1.5 mL of precooled acetone - water (4:1) mixture was added. Subsequentlythe cooling bath was removed and the reaction mixture was stirred for 2 h at room temperature.Ethyl ether was then added and the mixture was worked up. The crude product was purified by flashchromatography (ligroin - ethyl acetate 4:1) to give 272.2 mg (82% yield) of 9 as a pale-yellow $oil: IR (film), v, 1690, 1625, 1260, 1075 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR, <math>\delta$, 7.37 (m, 5 H), 6.88 (s, 2 H), 4.63 (s, 2 H), 4.16-3.73 (m, 4 H), 3.00-2.80 (m, 2 H), 2.33 (s, 3 H), 1.38 (s, 3 H), 1.33 (s, 3 H). Calcd. for C₁₉H₂₄O₅: C, 68.65; H, 7.28. Found: C, 68.33; H, 7.39. B. To 1.0 g (3.16 mmol) of 7 and 1.0 g (12.0 mmol) of sodium acetate in 70 mL of CH₂Cl₂, 4.0 g (18 6 mmol) of nyridium chlorophromate were added. The reaction mixture was stirred for 10 h at

<u>B</u>. To 1.0 g (3.16 mmol) of <u>7</u> and 1.0 g (12.0 mmol) of sodium acetate in 70 mL of CH_2Cl_2 , 4.0 g (18.6 mmol) of pyridinium chlorochromate were added. The reaction mixture was stirred for 10 h at room temperature and then refluxed for 9 h. After cooling, 50 mL of anhydrous Et_20 were added and the solution was filtered through Celite. The solvents were evaporated and the whole procedure was repeated two more times. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (ligroin - ethyl acetate 4:1) to give 757.0 mg (75% yield) of compound 9.

The reaction mixture was worked up. After solvent evaporation, 158.0 mg (95% yield) of compound $\underline{9}$ were obtained.

 $\frac{Z-(2R,3S)-3-O-Benzyl-1,2-O-isopropylidene-6-nonen-5,8-dione-1,2,3-triol (10). To 189.6 mg}{(0.6 mmol) of <u>7</u> in 5 mL of CH₂Cl₂ cooled to -15°C, 114.0 mg (0.66 mmol) of <u>m</u>-chloroperbenzoic acid were added. The reaction mixture was kept for 36 h at -10°C, then washed with 5% NaOH aq and worked up. After drying (Na₂SO₄) and solvent evaporation at room temperature, the crude product was purified by flash chromatography (hexane - ethyl ether 3:1) to give 159.3 mg (80% yield) of <u>10</u> as a pale-yellow oil: IR (film), v, 1700, 1610, 1210, 1070 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR, 6, 7.39 (m, 5 H), 6.30 (s, 2 H), 4.63 (s, 2 H), 4.10-3.70 (m, 4 H), 2.85-2.70 (m, 2 H), 2.25 (s, 3 H), 1.34 (s, 3 H), 1.28 (s, 3 H).$

<u>E-(2R,35,55,85)-3-O-Benzyl-1,2-O-isopropylidene-6-nonen-1,2,3,5,8-pentaol (11)</u>. To 283.5 mg (0.85 mmol) of <u>9</u> in 16 mL of a CH_2CI_2 - hexane (1:1) mixture cooled to -78°C, 3.6 mL of a 1 M solution of DIBAL in hexane were added. The reaction mixture was stirred for 45 min, whereupon 3 mL of methanol were added, and the cooling bath was removed. At 0°C 0.5 mL of brine, 50 mL of ethyl ether and 5 g of anhydrous MgSO₄ were added, and the mixture was stirred for 1.5 h at room temperature. Filtration and evaporation of solvents gave 196.0 mg of crude <u>11</u> as a colourless oil which had to be immediately used for further reactions (compound <u>11</u> was analysed as its diacetate <u>12</u>).

<u>E-(2R,3S,5\xi,8\xi)-5,8-Di-O-acetyl-3-O-benzyl-1,2-O-isopropylidene-6-nonen-1,2,3,5,8-pentaol (12)</u>. To 273.6 mg (0.81 mmol) of crude <u>11</u> in 2 mL of CH₂Cl₂, 248 µL (1.82 mmol) of Et₃N, 159 µL (1.68 mmol) of Ac₂O and a crystal of DMAP were added. After 5-h stirring at room temperature, the reaction mixture was diluted with ethyl ether and worked up. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (ligroin - ethyl acetate 95:S) to give 245.9 mg (75% yield calculated against <u>9</u>) of <u>12</u> as a colourless oil: IR (film), v, 1740, 1240, 1070 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR, δ , 7.47 (m, 5 H), 5.83-5.35 (m, 4 H), 4.74 (AB system, J = 10 Hz, 2 H), 4.30-3.95 (m, 4 H), 2.08 (s, 6 H), 2.00-1.75 (m, 2 H), 1.50-1.20 (m, 12 H). Calcd. for C₂₃H₃₂O₇: C, 65.69; H, 7.76. Found: C, 65.68; H, 7.87.

<u>3-O-Benzy1-4,5-O-isopropylidene-2-deoxy-D-ribitol (13)</u>. <u>A</u>. To 208.9 mg (0.62 mmol) of crude <u>11</u> in 5 mL of a dioxane - water (3:1) mixture, at room temperature 5.0 mg (0.02 mmol) of osmium tetroxide, followed - after 15 min - by 1.0 g (4.67 mmol) of sodium periodate, were added. The reaction mixture was stirred for 4 h; then 2 mL of 30% NaHSO₃ aq were added, followed by 20 mL of CH_2CI_2 . The residue obtained after work-up was dissolved in 4 mL of MeOH; the solution was cooled to O^oC and treated with 60.0 mg (1.8 mmol) of NaBH.. The reaction mixture was stirred for 12 h at room temperature, diluted with Et_2O and worked up. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (ligroin - acetone 5:3) to give 55.9 mg (35% yield calculated against 9) of <u>13</u> as a colourless oil: (a)_D +2.0° (c 3.65, chloroform); 'H NMR, δ , 7.46 (m, 5 H), 4.75 (s, 2 H), 4.30-3.70 (m, 6 H), 1.86 (m, 2 H), 1.45 (s, 3 H), 1.38 (s, 3 H). Calcd. for $C_{15}H_{22}O_{*}$: C, 67.64; H, 8.33.

<u>B</u>. To 192.0 mg (0.46 mmol) of <u>10</u> in 3 mL of a dioxane - water (3:1) mixture, at room temperature 5.0 mg (0.02 mmol) of osmium tetroxide, followed - after 15 min - by 148.0 mg (0.69 mmol) of sodium periodate, were added. The reaction mixture was stirred for 3 h and worked up as in variant <u>A</u>. The crude product was dissolved in 20 mL of Et₂0, cooled to 0°C, and 90.0 mg (2.37 mmol) of LiAlH, were added. After 1-h stirring at room temperature, 90 µL of 15% KOH aq, and 270 µL of water were added, whereupon the mixture was filtered through Celite. The crude product obtained after evaporation of solvent was dissolved in 2 mL of MeOH, and treated with a solution of 200.0 mg (0.94 mmol) of sodium periodate in 3 mL of water. The reaction mixture was stirred for 1 h at room temperature, diluted with CH₂Cl₂ and worked up. The residue was subjected to NaBH, reduction, as described in variant <u>A</u>, and the crude product was purified by flash chromatography to give 67.3 mg (55% yield calculated against <u>10</u>) of <u>13</u>.

<u>4,5-O-Isopropylidene-2-deoxy-D-ribitol (14)</u>. To 40.0 mg (0.15 mmol) of <u>13</u> in 10 mL of MeOH, a catalytic amount of palladium-on-charcoal was added, and the reaction mixture was shaken in a Parr apparatus for 7 h at room temperature under 3-atm hydrogen pressure. Filtration of catalyst and solvent evaporation, followed by flash chromatography (ligroin - acetone 1:1) afforded 17.0 mg (64% yield) of <u>14</u> as a colourless oil with specific rotation (a)_D +15.0° (c 0.67, chloroform).

1.3-Di-O-accty1-4,5-O-1sopropylidene-2-deoxy-D-ribito1 (15). To 10.0 mg (0.057 mmol) of 14 in 0.5 mL of CH₂Cl₂, 16.4 μ L (0.13 mmol) of Et₃N, 11.3 μ L (0.12 mmol) of Ac₂O, and a crystal of DMAP were added. The reaction mixture was stirred for 4 h at room temperature, diluted with Et₂O and worked up. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (ligroin - ethyl acetate 7:3) to give 11.0 mg (75% yield) of 15 as a colourless oil: (a)_D -21.0° (c 0.65, chloroform); ¹H NMR, δ , 5.10 (m, 1 H), 4.30-3.70 (m, 5 H), 2.08 (s, 3 H), 2.05 (s, 3 H), 1.95 (m, 2 H), 1.42 (s, 3 H), 1.35 (s, 3 H).

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