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Lipase-Catalyzed Aminolysis and Ammonolysis of β -ketoesters. Synthesis of Optically Active β -ketoamides.

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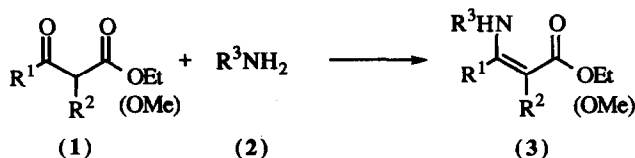
Abstract: Aminolysis and ammonolysis reactions of β -ketoesters catalyzed by *Candida antarctica* lipase are very efficient methods for the preparation of β -ketoamides. When racemic amines are used in these processes, the corresponding optically active β -ketoamides are obtained with moderate-high enantiomeric excesses.

INTRODUCTION

β -Ketoamides are highly versatile intermediates in organic synthesis,¹ and for this reason it is always of current interest to find new and simple procedures for the preparation of these compounds. Several methods to achieve 3-oxoamides have been put forth. In general these processes involve specific reactions and low yields are achieved² in many cases.

Chemoselective transformations of difunctional compounds is a critical problem in organic synthesis. Thus, when β -ketoesters (1), react with primary amines (2) at room temperature, enaminoesters (3) are mainly formed (Scheme I), and only in a few cases the selective preparation of the corresponding β -ketoamide is achieved. For instance, by using dimethylaminopyridine as catalyst it is possible to prepare 3-oxoamides if secondary amines are used as starting materials.³ In other cases, the aminolysis of β -ketoesters requires high temperatures and long reaction times and often low yields of β -ketoamides are obtained due to the competitive enaminoester formation.⁴ An interesting alternative is the room temperature aminolysis of the β -ketoester derivatives,⁵ but these substrates are not so readily available.⁶

Scheme I



When the aminolysis reaction was investigated in the absence of the enzyme, the corresponding enaminoester **3** was obtained. Nevertheless, in these reaction conditions, with ethyl 3-oxo-3-phenylpropionate a small amount of the corresponding β -ketoamide was isolated too: **4f**(5%), **4g**(9%) and **4h**(6%). It noteworthy that enaminoesters **3** were not adequate substrates for the enzymatic amidation reaction because, when **3** was treated with an excess of amine in the presence of the enzyme, no reaction took place.

In the earlier communication,⁹ we indicated that ammonium is an efficient nucleophile in the enzymatic reaction of β -ketoesters in organic media, this being the first reported example of an enzymatic ammonolysis reaction. Recently, this process has been applied for the resolution of some aryl esters.¹⁰ In our case the corresponding *N*-unsubstituted β -ketoamides were obtained with high yields.

We checked the enantioselectivity of the CAL in the aminolysis of β -ketoesters with racemic amines. We have investigated the aminolysis of ethyl 3-oxobutyrate and 3-oxo-3-phenylpropionate with different racemic amines. These reactions are carried out in the same conditions as for the former cases and the results are collected in Table II. As it is shown in this Table, CAL catalyzes the amidation with the (*R*)-enantiomer of the amine obtaining the corresponding β -ketoamide with high enantiomeric excess in most cases. The configuration and ee of these β -ketoamides were determined by comparison of the optical rotation with that obtained from the appropriate optically active amine and the corresponding ester in the presence of the enzyme.

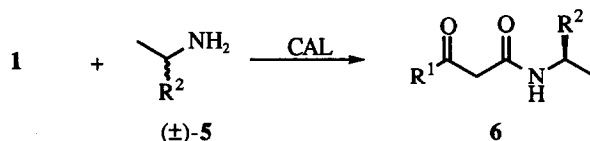


Table II. Amidation reaction of β -ketoesters (**1**) with racemic amines (**5**).

Entry	R ¹	R ²	t(h)	Conv.(%) ^a	$[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{22}(\text{c})^{\text{b}}$	e.e.(%)
6a	CH ₃	C ₂ H ₅	0.75	46	-13.8 (0.92)	56
6b	CH ₃	C ₅ H ₁₁	0.25	38	-2.1 (1.33)	>98
6c	CH ₃	Ph	9	43	+80.6 (0.64)	>98
6d	Ph	C ₂ H ₅	65	25	-8.9 (1.60)	54
6f	Ph	C ₅ H ₁₁	69	20	-4.4 (0.53)	93
6g	Ph	Ph	148	18	+46.4 (0.87)	>97

^a Calculated with respect to the β -ketoesters **1**.

^b In chloroform.

CONCLUSION

In the present work we have developed a very simple, practical and mild procedure for the preparation of β -ketoamides by the direct aminolysis and ammonolysis of β -ketoesters. The present method also allows the synthesis of optically active β -ketoamides with moderate to high enantiomeric excesses and yields.

EXPERIMENTAL

We used an immobilized lipase from *Candida antarctica* SP 435A (CAL) (gifted by Novo Nordisk). All reagents were of commercial quality and were purchased from Aldrich Chemie. Solvents were distilled over a suitable desiccant and stored under nitrogen. For column chromatography, Merck silica gel 60/230-400 mesh was used. Melting points were taken using a Gallenkamp apparatus and are uncorrected. Optical rotations were measured using a Perkin-Elmer 242 polarimeter. IR spectra were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer 170-X Infrared

Fourier transform spectrophotometer. ^1H - and ^{13}C -NMR were obtained with TMS (tetramethylsilane) as internal standard, using a Bruker AC-300 (^1H -300 MHz and ^{13}C -75.5 MHz) spectrometer. Mass spectra were recorded on a Hewlett-Packard 5897 A spectrometer. All the new compounds gave satisfactory elemental analysis and were performed by Microanalyses Perkin-Elmer 240.

General Procedure for the Enzymatic Aminolysis of β -ketoesters. 2.5 mmol of ester and 2.5 mmol of amine were added to a suspension of CA lipase (300 mg) in dioxane (20 ml) under nitrogen atmosphere. The mixture was shaken at 30°C and 250 rpm during the time indicated in the Tables. Then, the enzyme was filtered, washed with dichloromethane and the organic solvents were evaporated. If necessary, the residue was subjected to column chromatography using hexane-ethyl acetate 2:1 as eluent.

***N*-Butyl-3-oxobutyramide (4a):** mp 38-39°C; IR (nujol) 1722, 1645 cm^{-1} ; ^1H -NMR δ (ppm): 7.15 (bs, 1H, NH), 3.43 (s, 2H, CH_2), 3.21 (m, 2H, CH_2), 2.29 (s, 3H, CH_3), 1.71-1.22 (m, 4H, 2 CH_2), 0.85 (t, 3H, CH_3); ^{13}C NMR δ (ppm): 203.46 (C=O), 165.70 (C=O), 50.01 (CH_2), 38.69 (CH_2), 30.76 (CH_2), 29.82 (CH_3), 19.41 (CH_2), 13.10 (CH_3); MS (70 eV) m/z 157 (M^+ , 19), 43 (100).

***N*-Benzyl-3-oxobutyramide (4b):** mp 101-102°C; IR (nujol) 1714, 1643 cm^{-1} ; ^1H -NMR δ (ppm): 7.50-7.20 (m, 6H, Ph, NH), 4.43 (d, 2H, CH_2), 3.40 (s, 2H, CH_2), 2.23 (s, 3H, CH_3); ^{13}C NMR δ (ppm): 203.95 (C=O), 165.64 (C=O), 137.65 ($\text{C}_{\text{aromatic}}$), 128.28, 127.26, 127.05 ($\text{CH}_{\text{aromatic}}$) 49.51 (CH_2), 43.02 (CH_2), 30.39 (CH_3); MS (70 eV) m/z 191 (M^+ , 3), 106 (100).

***N*-Allyl-3-oxobutyramide (4c):** oil; IR (neat) 1721, 1645 cm^{-1} ; ^1H -NMR δ (ppm): 7.20 (bs, 1H, NH), 5.95-5.76 (m, 1H, $\text{CH}=\text{}$), 5.30-5.12 (m, 2H, $=\text{CH}_2$), 3.92 (m, 2H, CH_2), 3.46 (s, 2H, CH_2), 2.30 (s, 3H, CH_3); ^{13}C NMR δ (ppm): 203.60 (C=O), 165.74 (C=O), 133.34 (CH), 115.57 (CH_2), 49.85 (CH_2), 41.32 (CH_2), 30.13 (CH_3); MS (70 eV) m/z 141 (M^+ , 5), 56 (100).

***N*-Butyl-3-oxovaleramide (4e):** mp 58-59°C; IR (nujol) 1709, 1643 cm^{-1} ; ^1H -NMR δ (ppm): 7.10 (bs, 1H, NH), 3.41 (s, 2H, CH_2), 3.25 (m, 2H, CH_2), 2.59 (q, 2H, CH_2), 1.60-1.26 (m, 4H, 2 CH_2), 1.20 (t, 3H, CH_3), 0.92 (t, 3H, CH_3); ^{13}C NMR δ (ppm): 206.26 (C=O), 165.74 (C=O), 48.89 (CH_2), 38.76 (CH_2), 36.05 (CH_2), 30.86 (CH_2), 19.51 (CH_2), 13.17 (CH_3), 6.86 (CH_3); MS (70 eV) m/z 171 (M^+ , 15), 43 (100).

***N*-Dodecyl-3-oxovaleramide (4f):** mp 87-88°C; IR (nujol) 1715, 1640 cm^{-1} ; ^1H -NMR δ (ppm): 7.16 (bs, 1H, NH), 3.40 (s, 2H, CH_2), 3.25 (m, 2H, CH_2), 2.58 (q, 2H, CH_2), 1.70-1.19 (m, 18H, 9 CH_2), 1.09 (t, 3H, CH_3), 0.90 (t, 3H, CH_3); ^{13}C NMR δ (ppm): 207.47 (C=O), 165.23 (C=O), 48.30 (CH_2), 39.33 (CH_2), 36.93 (CH_2), 31.66 (CH_2), 29.38 (CH_2), 29.34 (CH_2), 29.28 (CH_2), 29.10 (CH_2), 29.02 (CH_2), 26.66 (CH_2), 22.44 (CH_2), 13.88 (CH_3), 7.15 (CH_3); MS (70 eV) m/z 283 (M^+ , 44), 129 (100).

***N*-Butyl-3-oxo-3-phenylpropionamide (4g):** oil; IR (neat) 1691, 1651 cm^{-1} ; ^1H -NMR δ (ppm): 8.05-7.11 (m, 6H, Ph, NH), 3.95 (s, 2H, CH_2), 3.29 (q, 2H, CH_2), 1.62-1.20 (m, 4H, 2 CH_2), 0.88 (t, 3H, CH_3); ^{13}C NMR δ (ppm): 195.64 (C=O), 165.63 (C=O), 135.76 ($\text{C}_{\text{aromatic}}$), 133.60, 128.43, 128.17, 125.24 ($\text{CH}_{\text{aromatics}}$), 45.18 (CH_2), 39.05 (CH_2), 31.33 (CH_2), 19.68 (CH_2), 13.37 (CH_3); MS (70 eV) m/z 219 (M^+ , 9), 105(100).

***N*-Allyl-3-oxo-3-phenylpropionamide (4h):** mp 59-60 °C; IR (nujol) 1686, 1624 cm^{-1} ; ^1H -NMR δ (ppm): 8.05-7.26 (m, 6H, Ph, NH), 5.95-5.77 (m, 1H, $\text{CH}=\text{}$), 5.30-5.10 (m, 2H, $=\text{CH}_2$), 3.96 (s, 2H, CH_2), 3.93 (m, 2H, CH_2); ^{13}C NMR δ (ppm): 195.23 (C=O), 165.75 (C=O), 135.69 ($\text{C}_{\text{aromatic}}$), 133.82, 133.53, 133.39, 128.37, 128.10, 127.96, 125.27 ($\text{CH}_{\text{aromatics}}$, CH), 115.79 (CH_2), 45.24 (CH_2), 41.53 (CH_2); MS (70 eV) m/z 203(M^+ , 17), 105 (100).

***N*-Benzyl-3-oxo-3-phenylpropionamide (4i):** mp 88-89°C; IR (nujol) 1693, 1645 cm^{-1} ; ^1H -NMR δ (ppm): 8.00 (d, 1H, NH), 7.80-7.17 (m, 10H, 2Ph), 4.49 (d, 2H, CH_2), 3.97 (s, 2H, CH_2); ^{13}C NMR δ (ppm): 195.14 (C=O), 165.96 (C=O), 137.61, 135.68 ($\text{C}_{\text{aromatics}}$), 133.50, 128.19, 128.11, 127.17, 126.94, 125.31 ($\text{CH}_{\text{aromatics}}$), 45.24 (CH_2), 43.09 (CH_2); MS (70 eV) m/z 253 (M^+ , 34), 106 (100).

***N*-Butyl-2-methyl-3-oxobutyramide (4k):** oil; IR (neat) 1724, 1651 cm^{-1} ; ^1H -NMR δ (ppm): 6.52 (bs, 1H, NH), 3.43 (q, 1H, CH), 3.27 (m, 2H, CH_2), 2.25 (s, 3H, CH_3), 1.67-1.18 (m, 7H, 2 CH_2 , CH_3),

0.94 (t, 3H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR δ (ppm): 206.16 (C=O), 169.74 (C=O), 54.79 (CH), 38.60 (CH₂), 30.57 (CH₂), 30.02 (CH₃), 21.07 (CH₂), 15.32 (CH₃), 13.30 (CH₃); MS (70 eV) m/z 171 (M⁺, 7), 99 (100).

***N*-Benzyl-2-methyl-3-oxobutyramide (4l)**: mp 85-86°C; IR (nujol) 1720, 1631 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR δ (ppm): 7.31-7.15 (m, 5H, Ph), 6.46 (bs, 1H, NH), 4.35 (d, 2H, CH₂), 3.37 (q, 1H, CH), 2.18 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.32 (d, 3H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR δ (ppm): 206.64 (C=O), 169.54 (C=O), 137.72 (C_{aromatic}), 128.37, 127.23, 127.16 (CH_{aromatics}) 54.40 (CH), 43.25 (CH₂), 28.17 (CH₃), 14.02 (CH₃); MS (70 eV) m/z 205 (M⁺, 10), 106 (100).

***N*-Butyl-2-oxocyclopentanecarboxamide (4m)**: oil; IR (neat) 1745, 1651 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR δ (ppm): 6.68 (bs, 1H, NH), 3.15 (m, 2H, CH₂), 2.88 (t, 1H, CH), 2.38-1.63 (m, 6H, 3CH₂), 1.48-1.16 (m, 4H, 2CH₂), 0.82 (t, 3H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR δ (ppm): 216.14 (C=O), 166.69 (C=O), 53.89 (CH), 38.86 (CH₂), 38.35 (CH₂), 31.03 (CH₂), 25.68 (CH₂), 20.06 (CH₂), 19.55 (CH₂), 13.28 (CH₃); MS (70 eV) m/z 183 (M⁺, 3), 111 (100).

***N*-Benzyl-2-oxocyclopentanecarboxamide (4n)**: mp 85-86°C; IR (nujol) 1737, 1656 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR δ (ppm): 7.35-7.16 (m, 5H, Ph), 7.05 (bs, 1H, NH), 4.45 (dd, 1H, CH₂PH), 4.31 (dd, 1H, CH₂Ph), 2.97 (t, 1H, CH), 2.34-1.73 (m, 6H, 3CH₂); ¹³C NMR δ (ppm): 216.17 (C=O), 166.59 (C=O), 137.80 (C_{aromatic}), 128.30, 127.27, 127.04 (CH_{aromatics}), 53.96 (CH), 43.20 (CH₂), 38.52 (CH₂), 25.65 (CH₂), 20.14 (CH₂); MS (70 eV) m/z 217 (M⁺, 25), 106 (100).

(*R*)-(-)-*N*-(1-Methylpropyl)-3-oxobutyramide (6a): oil; IR (neat) 1722, 1643 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR δ (ppm): 6.81 (bs, 1H, NH), 3.92 (m, 1H, CH), 3.41 (s, 2H, CH₂), 2.28 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.50 (m, 2H, CH₂), 1.13 (d, 3H, CH₃), 0.90 (t, 3H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR δ (ppm): 203.92 (C=O), 164.76 (C=O), 49.92 (CH₂), 46.24 (CH), 30.08 (CH₃), 28.82 (CH₂), 19.65 (CH₃), 9.80 (CH₃); MS (70 eV) m/z 157 (M⁺, 5), 44 (100).

(*R*)-(-)-*N*-(1-Methylhexyl)-3-oxobutyramide (6b): oil; IR (nujol) 1722, 1643 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR δ (ppm): 6.85 (bs, 1H, NH), 3.97 (m, 1H, CH), 3.39 (s, 2H, CH₂), 2.28 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.52-1.20 (m, 4H, 2CH₂), 1.12 (d, 3H, CH₃), 0.89 (t, 3H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR δ (ppm): 203.92 (C=O), 164.83 (C=O), 50.02 (CH₂), 44.98 (CH), 31.18 (CH₂), 30.09 (CH₂), 25.23 (CH₂), 20.71 (CH₂), 20.24 (CH₃), 13.54 (CH₃); MS (70 eV) m/z 199 (M⁺, 2), 128 (100).

(*R*)-(+)-*N*-(1-Phenylethyl)-3-oxobutyramide (6c): oil; IR (nujol) 1714, 1651 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR δ (ppm): 7.44 (bs, 1H, NH), 7.30-7.15 (m, 5H, Ph), 5.10 (m, 1H, CH), 3.37 (s, 2H, CH₂), 2.22 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.47 (d, 3H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR δ (ppm): 204.55 (C=O), 164.67 (C=O), 142.84 (C_{aromatic}), 128.38, 127.07, 125.80 (CH_{aromatics}) 49.39 (CH₂), 48.62 (CH), 30.66 (CH₃), 21.83 (CH₃); MS (70 eV) m/z 205 (M⁺, 17), 43 (100).

(*R*)-(-)-*N*-(1-Methylpropyl)-3-oxo-3-phenylpropionamide (6d): oil; IR (neat) 1695, 1645 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR δ (ppm): 8.10-7.43 (m, 5H, Ph), 6.85 (bs, 1H, NH), 4.16-3.85 (m, 3H, CH₂, CH), 1.55-1.43 (m, 2H, CH₂), 1.18 (d, 3H, CH₃), 0.89 (t, 3H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR δ (ppm): 195.92 (C=O), 164.88 (C=O), 135.88 (C_{aromatic}), 133.71, 128.54, 126.57, 125.34 (CH_{aromatics}), 46.59 (CH), 45.37 (CH₂), 29.44 (CH₂), 20.19 (CH₃), 10.02 (CH₃); MS (70 eV) m/z 219 (M⁺, 16), 77(100).

(*R*)-(-)-*N*-(1-Methylhexyl)-3-oxo-3-phenylpropionamide (6e): mp 84-85°C; IR (neat) 1693, 1645 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR δ (ppm): 8.10-7.32 (m, 5H, Ph), 6.85 (bs, 1H, NH), 4.26-3.93 (m, 3H, CH₂, CH), 1.73-1.55 (m, 11H, 4CH₂, CH₃), 0.92 (t, 3H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR δ (ppm): 196.17 (C=O), 164.66 (C=O), 135.98 (C_{aromatic}), 133.86, 128.66, 128.39, 128.21 (CH_{aromatics}), 45.46 (CH), 45.35 (CH₂), 36.51 (CH₂), 31.43 (CH₂), 25.42 (CH₂), 22.34 (CH₂), 20.65 (CH₃), 13.87 (CH₃); MS (70 eV) m/z 261 (M⁺, 6), 105 (100).

(*R*)-(+)-*N*-(1-Phenylethyl)-3-oxo-3-phenylpropionamide (6f): mp 90-91°C; IR (nujol) 1683, 1643 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR δ (ppm): 8.05-7.20 (m, 11H, 2Ph, NH), 5.16 (m, 1H, CH), 3.85 (s, 2H, CH₂), 1.53 (d, 3H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR δ (ppm): 196.15 (C=O), 164.71 (C=O), 142.92, 136.01 (C_{aromatics}), 133.97, 128.73, 128.54, 128.41, 128.28, 127.16, 125.92, 125.56 (CH_{aromatics}), 48.91 (CH), 45.03 (CH₂), 22.03 (CH₃); MS (70 eV) m/z 267 (M⁺, 3), 120 (100).

General Procedure for the Enzymatic Ammonolysis of β -ketoesters. 2.5 mmol of β -ketoester was added to a suspension of CA lipase (300 mg) in a 2% solution of ammonia in dioxane (20 ml). The mixture was shaken at 30°C and 250 rpm during the time indicated in Table I. Then, the enzyme was filtered, washed with dichloromethane and the organic solvents were evaporated. If necessary, the residue was subjected to column chromatography using hexane-ethyl acetate 2:1 as eluent.

3-Oxobutyramide (4d): oil; IR (nujol) 1722, 1656 cm^{-1} ; $^1\text{H-NMR}$ δ (ppm): 6.55 (bs, 2H, NH_2), 3.44 (s, 2H, CH_2), 2.27 (s, 3H, CH_3); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ δ (ppm): 204.05 (C=O), 168.71 (C=O), 49.51 (CH_2), 30.59 (CH_3); MS (70 eV) m/z 101 (M^+ , 33), 59 (100).

3-Oxo-3-phenylpropionamide (4j): mp 94-95 °C; IR (nujol) 1647, 1633 cm^{-1} ; $^1\text{H-NMR}$ δ (ppm): 8.02-7.43 (m, 5H, Ph, NH), 6.05 (bs, 2H, NH_2), 3.97 (s, 2H, CH_2); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ δ (ppm): 195.31 (C=O), 168.74 (C=O), 135.81 ($\text{C}_{\text{aromatic}}$), 135.85, 128.64, 128.36, 125.63 ($\text{CH}_{\text{aromatics}}$), 45.09 (CH_2); MS (70 eV) m/z 163 (M^+ , 17), 105 (100).

2-Oxocyclopentanecarboxamide (4p): mp 97-98 °C; IR (nujol) 1736, 1655 cm^{-1} ; $^1\text{H-NMR}$ δ (ppm): 6.85 (bs, 1H, NH_2), 6.15 (bs, 1H, NH_2), 3.16 (t, 1H, CH), 2.52-1.75 (m, 6H, 3 CH_2); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ δ (ppm): 215.90 (C=O), 165.41 (C=O), 53.92 (CH), 38.53 (CH_2), 25.50 (CH_2), 20.10 (CH_2); MS (70 eV) m/z 127 (M^+ , 43), 72 (100).

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