

has an octahedral coordination geometry in contradistinction with the sulfur-donor analogues. Carbon-oxygen bond lengths of the ligands average to 1.353 (6) Å, a value associated with localized catecholate ligands.^{5a} Rhenium-oxygen bond lengths average to 1.932 (4) Å, a value shorter than other reported Re-O lengths to all but oxo ligands by more than 0.05 Å. For comparison, Herrmann has recently reported Re-O lengths of 1.99 (1) Å for the Re(V) complex $(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{Me}_5)\text{Re}(\text{Cl}_4\text{Cat})_2$.¹¹ As a d¹, Re(VI) complex, Re(DBCat)₃ has a solid-state magnetic moment of 1.18 (1) μ_B , showing the pronounced effect of spin-orbit coupling, and a uniquely simple solution EPR spectrum (Figure 2). The isotropic spectrum recorded at room temperature in dichloromethane solution consists of six lines due to the $I = 5/2$ ¹⁸⁵Re and ¹⁸⁷Re isotopes. Spacing between lines shows evidence of a strong second-order effect. Correction for this effect gave isotropic $\langle g \rangle$ and A values of 2.010 and 0.002 cm⁻¹. Other Re(VI) complexes show only a broad signal in solution at room temperature with no resolved hyperfine in cases where a signal can be observed.¹² Cyclic voltammetry on Re(DBCat)₃ shows a reversible, one-electron reduction to the Re(V) species, Re(DBCat)₃⁻, at -0.656 V (vs. Fc⁺/Fc), and a reversible oxidation at +0.594 V.¹³ Oxidation may occur either at one ligand to give the species Re-(DBSQ)(DBCat)₂⁺ with mixed-charge quinone ligands or at the metal to give the Re(VII) complex Re(DBCat)₃⁺.

Charge distribution within the metal catecholate or, more generally, the metal quinone chelate ring is determined by the relative energies of metal and quinone electronic levels. Effects which change this order result in transfer of charge between quinone and metal. One particular effect is related to the position of the metal in the group and valence d-orbital energy. Neutral bis- and tris(quinone) complexes of first-row metals contain semiquinone ligands, while related complexes prepared with metals of the second and third transition series contain catecholates with higher oxidation state metal ions. For example, complexes of chromium are of the form tris(semiquinone)chromium(III), while molybdenum analogues are tris(catecholate)molybdenum(VI) species.^{1a,14,15} Differences in form and charge distribution between [Mn(DBSQ)₂]₄ and Re(DBCat)₃ further illustrate this property.

The most striking property of Re(DBCat)₃ is its unreactivity. The molybdenum analogue reacts with trace quantities of oxygen to give oxomolybdenum species and benzoquinone.¹⁴ No such sensitivity to oxygen or to trace quantities of water contained in solvents has been noted for Re(DBCat)₃. In fact, Herrmann has prepared $(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{Me}_5)\text{Re}(\text{Cl}_4\text{Cat})_2$ by displacement of oxo ligands from $(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{Me}_5)\text{ReO}_2$ with tetrachloro-1,2-benzoquinone.¹¹ This behavior is unusual for a high oxidation state metal ion and appears facilitated by the strong π -donor bonding of the catecholate ligands.

Acknowledgment. This research was supported by the National Science Foundation under Grants CHE 85-03222 and CHE 84-07084 (X-ray instrumentation).

Supplementary Material Available: Tables of atomic positional and thermal parameters for tris(3,5-di-*tert*-butylcatecholato)rhenium(VI) (2 pages); observed and calculated structure factors for tris(3,5-di-*tert*-butylcatecholato)rhenium(VI) (34 pages). Ordering information is given on any current masthead page.

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Asymmetric Electrophilic Amination: Synthesis of α -Amino and α -Hydrazino Acids with High Optical Purity

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Received May 27, 1986

The *E* silyl ketene acetal derived from (1*R*,2*S*)-*N*-methyl-ephedrine propionate (**1**) (R = Me) was recently shown to be a very useful reagent for the TiCl₄-mediated asymmetric synthesis of anti α -methyl- β -hydroxy esters.^{1,2} Asymmetric electrophilic formylation (TiCl₄, HC(OMe)₃) proved also to be quite successful.³ Here we report that asymmetric electrophilic amination (TiCl₄, *t*-BuOOCN=NCOO-*t*-Bu (DTBAD)) can be achieved using this reagent and that this process fulfills the following requirements: (a) enantiomeric excesses in the range 78-91%; (b) reasonably good chemical yields; (c) both enantiomers of the chiral auxiliary are inexpensive, commercially available materials;⁴ (d) the chiral auxiliary can be recycled; (e) the absolute configuration of the reaction products is easily predictable. By this route natural, rare,⁵ and unnatural α -amino acids **4** can be easily prepared⁶ (Scheme I). α -Hydrazino acids **3**, which are intermediates in the synthetic sequence (Scheme I), are very interesting compounds because of their biological properties and as building blocks for modified peptides,⁷ cephalosporins, and penicillins.^{8,9}

N-Methylephedrine (1*R*,2*S*) was treated with RCOCl in CH₂Cl₂ to give the corresponding esters (100%). LDA enolization (THF, -78 °C) and Me₃SiCl trapping (-78 °C) gave the silyl ketene acetals **1** (95%; *E/Z* \geq 95:5), which were worked up by evaporation without water quenching. Slow addition of 1 mol equiv of the silyl ketene acetals in methylene chloride to 1 mol equiv of the TiCl₄-di-*tert*-butyl azadicarboxylate (DTBAD) complex¹⁰ at -80 °C in CH₂Cl₂ gave fair to good overall yields^{11,12}

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(2) Palazzi, C.; Colombo, L.; Gennari, C. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1986**, 1735.

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(4) Both enantiomers of *N*-methylephedrine are commercially available (Fluka).

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(9) The previously reported syntheses of optically active α -hydrazino acids used α -amino acids as starting materials and were quite laborious and inefficient. See: (a) Karady, S.; Ly, M. G.; Pines, S. H.; Slettinger, M. *J. Org. Chem.* **1971**, *36*, 1949. (b) LiBassi, G.; Ventura, P.; Monguzzi, R.; Pifferi, G. *Gazz. Chim. Ital.* **1977**, *107*, 253. (c) Achiwa, K.; Yamada, S. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1975**, 2701. (d) Niedrich, H.; Grupe, R. *J. Prakt. Chem.* **1965**, *27*, 108.

(10) Both DEAD and DTBAD can be used in the electrophilic amination reaction. By complexation with TiCl₄, DEAD showed a more pronounced downfield shift in the ¹H NMR spectrum (CD₂Cl₂, -50 °C) than did DTBAD and gave higher yields of the addition products. DTBAD was chosen because of the milder conditions in the hydrolysis step. No reaction occurred without TiCl₄.

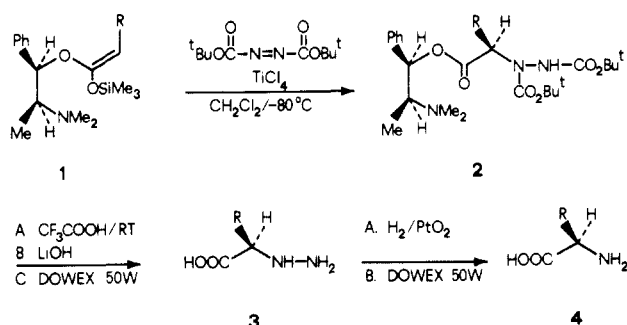
(11) The only by-products were the unreacted ephedrine ester and di-*tert*-butyl hydrazinodicarboxylate, which was probably generated by diimide reduction of DTBAD. Diimide was generated by acidic decomposition of DTBAD (-2 (2-methylpropene), -2CO₂).

Table I. α -Hydrazino and α -Amino Acid Synthesis Using (1*R*,2*S*)-*N*-Methylephedrine

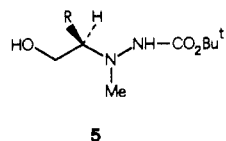
R	2, % yield	3, % yield	4, % yield	4		absolute config
				% ee (from crude 3)	% ee (from 3 after crystallization ^b)	
CH ₃	70 ^a	78 ^b	92	90.6 ^c	≥98 ^c	<i>R</i>
CH ₂ Ph	45 ^a	81 ^b	89 ^d	91.0 ^d	≥98 ^d	<i>R</i>
CH ₂ CH(CH ₃) ₂	70 ^a	81 ^b	91	81.5 ^c	≥98 ^c	<i>R</i>
CH ₂ CH ₃	65 ^a	80 ^b	93	84.0 ^c	≥98 ^c	<i>R</i>
(CH ₂) ₃ CH ₃	45 ^a	78 ^b	90	78.0 ^c	≥98 ^c	<i>R</i>

^a The major stereoisomer can be separated and isolated by flash chromatography. ^b By use of the isolated major stereoisomer 2, or by recrystallization of the α -hydrazino acid from EtOH-H₂O, ≥98% enantiomerically pure compound 3 was obtained. ^c The α -hydrazino acid hydrochloride was hydrogenolyzed (H₂-PtO₂) in water: by use of increasing amounts of HCl (from 0.1 to 6.0 N), increasing degrees of racemization were observed. ^d Hydrogenolysis of the α -hydrazino acid hydrochloride (H₂-PtO₂) in aqueous 0.05 N HCl gave *R*-cyclohexyl alanine with no racemization (see: Waser, E.; Brauchli, E. *Helv. Chim. Acta* 1924, 7, 740). Data reported in the table refer to (*R*)-cyclohexylalanine.

Scheme I



of the amination products with remarkable stereoselectivity (Table I).¹³ The crude adducts 2 can be reduced (LAH, Et₂O, room temperature) to give *N*-methylephedrine and β -hydrazino alcohols 5. Alcohol 5 (R = Me) was transformed into the stereoisomeric



Mosher esters ((-)-MTPA-Cl, Py, CCl₄),¹⁴ and the diastereoisomeric excess was checked by 200-MHz ¹H NMR (≥95:5). Alternatively the crude adducts 2 were hydrolyzed (CF₃COOH, room temperature, 1.5 h) to give α -hydrazino esters which were saponified (LiOH, MeOH-H₂O, room temperature).¹⁵ The mixture was then acidified, evaporated, and chromatographed on Dowex W50-X8 ion-exchange resin to give α -hydrazino acids 3 which were obtained ≥98% optically pure with a single recrystallization process. Reduction with H₂/PtO₂ gave the corresponding α -amino acids in high yield. The enantiomeric excess was checked by [α]_D comparison and by HPLC¹⁶ or, much more efficiently, capillary VPC¹⁷ using chiral columns.

In summary, a new practical method for the preparation of α -hydrazino acids and of natural and unnatural α -amino acids in both the *R* and *S* configuration has been developed.

Efforts to further expand the scope and utility of this methodology are presently under active investigation in this laboratory.

Registry No. (*E*)-1 (R = Me), 98171-04-1; (*E*)-1 (R = CH₂Ph), 103836-61-9; (*E*)-1 (R = CH₂Pr-*i*), 103836-62-0; (*E*)-1 (R = Et), 103836-63-1; (*E*)-1 (R = Bu), 103836-64-2; 2 (R = Me), 103836-65-3; 2 (R = CH₂Ph), 103836-66-4; 2 (R = CH₂Pr-*i*), 103836-67-5; 2 (R = Et), 103836-68-6; 2 (R = Bu), 103836-69-7; 3 (R = Me), 21028-13-7; 3 (R = CH₂Ph), 1202-30-8; 3 (R = CH₂Pr-*i*), 24292-07-7; 3 (R = Et), 103883-01-8; 3 (R = Bu), 103883-02-9; 4 (R = Me), 338-69-2; 4 (R = CH₂Ph), 673-06-3; 4 (R = CH₂Pr-*i*), 328-38-1; 4 (R = Et), 2623-91-8; 4 (R = Bu), 327-56-0; 5 (R = Me), 103836-70-0; DTBAD, 870-50-8; CH₃COCl, 75-36-5; PhCH₂COCl, 103-80-0; *i*-PrCH₂COCl, 108-12-3; CH₃CH₂COCl, 79-03-8; CH₃(CH₂)₃COCl, 638-29-9; (1*R*,2*S*)-*N*-methylephedrine, 552-79-4; (1*R*,2*S*)-*N*-methylephedrine acetate, 74111-77-6; (1*R*,2*S*)-*N*-methylphedrine 2-phenylethanoate, 103836-59-5; (1*R*,2*S*)-*N*-methylphedrine 3-methylbutanoate, 103836-60-8; (1*R*,2*S*)-*N*-methylphedrine propanoate, 53135-04-9; (1*R*,2*S*)-*N*-methylphedrine pentanoate, 74059-53-3.

Supplementary Material Available: Detailed experimental procedures for the reactions, analyses, optical rotations, and spectroscopic data (¹H NMR, IR) for the compounds (9 pages). Ordering information is given on any current masthead page.

Stereoselective Amination of Chiral Enolates. A New Approach to the Asymmetric Synthesis of α -Hydrazino and α -Amino Acid Derivatives

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Received June 17, 1986

Nonproteinogenic and rare enantiomerically pure amino acids¹ are important constituents in peptide-derived chemotherapeutics. As a consequence, the development of new reaction methodology which provides an expedient, general approach to the synthesis of this family of compounds continues as an active area of investigation.² Recent advances in this field have featured the development of several highly effective chiral glycine enolate synthons which may be employed in diastereoselective alkylation reactions (eq 1).^{2b} The purpose of this paper is to report a complementary approach to the synthesis of α -amino acids via the electrophilic amination of chiral enolates (eq 2). One positive attribute of this latter process is that its scope is not so strictly defined by the alkyl (aryl) substituent in the given amino acid target. Such constraints are quite apparent in the related alkylation reactions (eq 1).

(12) Steric hindrance has a negative effect on the condensation reaction. For example in the case of *N*-methylephedrine isovalerate (R = *i*-Pr) yields were poor (ca. 35%).

(13) Both DTBAD and the ephedrine NMe₂ group are expected to bind to TiCl₄, which usually ligates two-electron-donating molecules to form six-coordinate, six-coordinate complexes. Therefore the conformational freedom of the system is likely to be dramatically reduced, and the C-N bond formation occurs on the six-coordinate metal in a highly stereoselective way.

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(15) Optically pure *N*-methylephedrine was recovered here by CH₂Cl₂ extraction (≥95%).

(16) Supelcosil[®] LC-(*R*)-urea: the amino acids were injected as PTH derivatives (see: Edman, P. *Acta Chem. Scand.* 1950, 4, 277).

(17) Chirasil-Val III FSOT Column (AllTech Associates, Inc.): the amino acids were injected as TFA isopropyl ester derivatives (see: Parr, W.; Howard, R. Y. *Anal. Chem.* 1975, 47, 951).

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