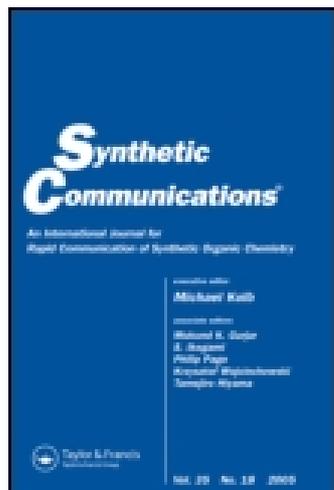


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Synthesis and Characterization of Some α,β -Didehydroamino Acid Derivatives

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ABSTRACT

A mild Horner–Wadsworth–Emmons reaction is described. Treatment of 4-substituted cyclohexanones with trimethyl 1-(*N*-benzyloxycarbonyl)phosphonoacetate afforded the corresponding α,β -didehydroamino acid derivatives.

Key Words: HWE olefination; Substituted cyclohexanones; Trimethyl 1-(*N*-benzyloxycarbonyl)phosphonoacetate; DBU; α,β -Didehydroamino acid.

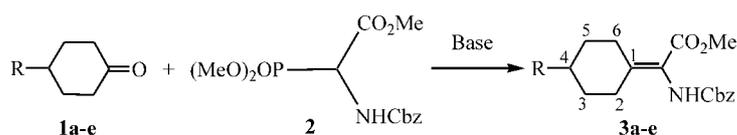
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The introduction of an α,β -didehydroamino acid (DDAA) residue into a peptide sequence causes a significant limitation of possible side chain orientations and strongly induces folded conformations. α,β -Didehydroamino acid have been used as structural modifications in the design of model peptides with well-defined structures.^[1–6]

A straightforward synthesis of DDAA derivatives is the Horner–Wadsworth–Emmons olefination of aldehydes with *N*-acyl-2-dialkoxyphosphorylglycine esters in aprotic solvents and in the presence of strong bases. The typical method is condensation in CH_2Cl_2 at -70°C with addition of potassium *tert*-butoxide, but ketones do not react.^[7,8]

From 1984, some researchers used tertiary amine bases such as diisopropylethylamine (DIPEA),^[9] 1,8-diazabicyclo[5.4.0]undec-7-ene (DBU),^[9,10] tetramethylguanidine (TMG),^[10] and triethylamine,^[11] to generate the phosphinate carbanion, which then was treated with carbonyl compounds, typically aldehydes (1 : 1 ratio methyl ketones were unreactive under these conditions^[11]). The mild reaction conditions permit the substrates that racemize easily or are base-sensitive to remain unaffected. Schmidt and coworkers used excess ketone as solvent, DBU as base and realized the condensation of 2-butanone, cyclohexanone and acetone with trimethyl 1-(*N*-alkoxycarbonyl)phosphonoacetate.^[10]

Here we wish to report the Horner–Wadsworth–Emmons olefinations of several 4-substituted cyclohexanones **1** with trimethyl 1-(*N*-benzyloxycarbonyl)phosphonoacetate **2** in the presence of a tertiary amine such as DBU or TMG (Sch. 1 and Table 1). All α,β -didehydroamino acid derivatives **3** are new compounds.



Scheme 1. R = **a**: Me; **b**: Ph; **c**: ^tBu; **d**: $-\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$; **e**: EtOOC.

From Table 1 we could conclude:

1. Reactivity of 4-substituted cyclohexanone: **1e** – **1d** > **1a** > **1b** > **1c**, the reactivity is a function of the steric hindrances of the substituent.
2. The molar ratio between substituted cyclohexanone and trimethyl 1-(*N*-benzyloxy-carbonyl)phosphonoacetate affected the formation of DDAA. Excess ketone facilitates the olefination and increases the yield (Entry 1–2, 5–7).



Table 1. Synthesis of **3a–3e**.

Entry	R	Base	1/2	Solvent	Temperature	Time (h)	Yield (%)
1	Me	DBU	1/1	CH ₂ Cl ₂	r.t.	87	25
2	Me	DBU	1.4/1	CH ₂ Cl ₂	r.t.	46	52
3	Me	DBU	1.4/1	THF	r.t.	46	50
4	Me	TMG	1.4/1	THF	r.t.	93	44
5	Me	DBU	2/1	CH ₂ Cl ₂	r.t.	72	56
6	Me	DBU	3/1	CH ₂ Cl ₂	r.t.	72	64
7	Me	DBU	4/1	CH ₂ Cl ₂	r.t.	31	75
8	Me	DBU	4/1	CH ₃ CN	r.t.	71	67
9	Ph	DBU	4/1	CH ₂ Cl ₂	r.t.	77	68
10	OCH ₂ CH ₂ O	DBU	4/1	CH ₂ Cl ₂	r.t.	85	83
11	EtOOC	DBU	4/1	CH ₂ Cl ₂	r.t.	85	86
12	^t Bu	DBU	4/1	CH ₂ Cl ₂	r.t.	77	42
13	^t Bu	DBU	4/1	CH ₂ Cl ₂	r.t.	134	60

3. DBU was a better base than TMG and CH₂Cl₂ was a better solvent than THF (Entry 2–4).

So, the optimal reaction conditions are: solvent CH₂Cl₂; base DBU; molar ratio **1/2** = 4/1; reaction temperature room temperature; reaction time about 3 days.

In conclusion, the presented mild olefination procedure provides a convenient alternative to traditional Horner–Wadsworth–Emmons techniques,^[7,8] especially with base-sensitive substrates.

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

General Considerations

All reactions with air- or moisture-sensitive reactions were carried out in oven- or flamed-dried glassware under a positive pressure of dry Ar. Liquid reagents and solvents were purified by distillation shortly before use according to literature. Thin layer chromatography (TLC) was carried out using Merck Kieselgel 60 F₂₅₄ precoated, glass backed plates. The plates were visualized using ultraviolet light (254 nm), anisaldehyde solution or iodine as appropriate. Flash column chromatography was carried out using Merck 60



silica gel (70–240 μm). IR spectra were recorded in Mattson Genesis FT IR Spectrophotometer, NMR spectra were recorded in Bruker-ARX300 or Varian Unity-300 apparatus (^{13}C : 75 MHz). M.p. were determined in Gallenkamp apparatus (uncorrected).

Synthesis of 3: General Procedure

To a solution of trimethyl 1-(*N*-benzyloxycarbonyl)phosphonoacetate **2** (332 mg, 1 mmol) in the appropriate solvent was added base dropwise. 10 min later, the respective carbonyl compound **1** was added. The reaction times are listed in Table 1. The reaction solution was then diluted with AcOEt (20 mL), washed with 1N of H_2SO_4 (5 mL), dried over MgSO_4 , filtered and concentrated in vacuo. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (**3a**, **3b**: eluent: hexane/AcOEt = 7/1, then 6/1. **3c**: eluent: hexane/AcOEt = 4/1. **3d**: eluent: hexane/AcOEt = 3/1. **3e**: eluent: hexane/AcOEt = 4/1, then 2/1).

3a: White solid, M.p. 90–91°C, R_f 0.25 (hexane/ethyl acetate 4/1, v/v), IR (nujol, ν , cm^{-1}): 3303 (N–H), 1717 (C=O), 1693 (amide), 1645 (C=C), 1516, 751, 698 (Ar). ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , δ , ppm): 7.4–7.2 (m, 5H, C_6H_5), 5.84 (s, 1H, NH), 5.14 (s, 2H, OCH_2), 3.70 (s, 3H, OCH_3), 3.39 (br d, $J = 14.1$ Hz, 1H, eqatorial 2- or 6-H), 2.68 (br d, $J = 14.1$ Hz, 1H, eqatorial 2- or 6-H), 2.2–1.7 (m, 4H, eqatorial 3,5-H and axial 2,6-H), 1.7–1.5 (m, 1H, 4-H), 1.2–1.1 (m, 2H, axial 3,5-H), 0.91 (d, $J = 6.6$ Hz, CH_3). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , δ , ppm): 165.55 ($-\text{CO}_2\text{Me}$), 155.02 ($-\text{NH}-\text{CO}_2-$), 151.33 (cyclohexyl C1), 136.51 (Cbz C1), 128.49, 128.49, 128.11, 128.07, 128.07 (phenyl, C2–C6), 118.72 ($=\text{C}-\text{CO}_2\text{Me}$), 67.19 ($-\text{OCH}_2\text{Ph}$), 51.57 ($-\text{OCH}_3$), 35.75, 35.35 (cyclohexyl C2, C6), 32.08 (cyclohexyl C4), 30.63, 29.72 (cyclohexyl C3, C5), 21.35 (CH_3). Anal. calcd. for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{23}\text{NO}_4$ (317.38): C, 68.12; H, 7.30; N, 4.41. Found: C, 68.26; H, 7.21; N, 4.38.

3b: White solid, M.p. 145–148°C, R_f 0.18 (hexane/ethyl acetate 4/1, v/v), IR (nujol, ν , cm^{-1}): 3321 (N–H), 1706 (C=O), 1634 (C=C), 1510, 746, 694 (Ar). ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , δ , ppm): 7.4–7.1 (m, 10H, 2 C_6H_5), 5.89 (s, 1H, NH), 5.14 (s, 2H, OCH_2), 3.71 (s, 3H, OCH_3), 3.7–3.5 (m, 1H, Ph-CH), 2.9–2.7 (m, 2H, eqatorial 2,6-H), 2.2–2.0 (m, 4H, eqatorial 3,5-H and axial 2,6-H), 1.7–1.5 (m, 2H, axial 3,5-H). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , δ , ppm): 165.51 ($-\text{CO}_2\text{Me}$), 155.03 ($-\text{NH}-\text{CO}_2-$), 150.27 (cyclohexyl C1), 145.95 ($-\text{Ph}$, C1), 136.45 (Cbz, C1), 128.54, 128.54, 128.45, 128.45, 128.20, 128.13, 128.13, 126.82, 126.82, 126.24 (10C, C2–C6 in phenyl and Cbz), 119.17 ($=\text{C}-\text{CO}_2\text{Me}$), 67.32 ($-\text{OCH}_2\text{Ph}$), 51.71 ($-\text{OCH}_3$), 44.05 (Ph-CH, cyclohexyl C4), 34.81, 34.45 (cyclohexyl C2, C6), 31.20, 30.28 (cyclohexyl C3,



α,β -Didehydroamino Acid Derivatives

669

C5). Anal. calcd. for $C_{23}H_{25}NO_4$ (379.45): C, 72.80; H, 6.64; N, 3.69. Found: C, 72.89; H, 6.58; N, 3.63.

3c: White solid, M.p. 122–123°C, R_f 0.26 (hexane/ethyl acetate 4/1, v/v), IR (nujol, ν , cm^{-1}): 3309 (N–H), 1725, 1710 (C=O), 1648 (C=C), 1515, 750, 700 (Ar). 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$, δ , ppm): 7.4–7.3 (m, 5H, C_6H_5), 5.79 (s, 1H, NH), 5.13 (s, 2H, OCH_2), 3.69 (s, 3H, OCH_3), 3.50 (br d, $J = 13.5$ Hz, 1H, equatorial 2- or 6-H), 2.75 (br d, $J = 13.5$ Hz, 1H, equatorial 2- or 6-H), 2.0–1.8 (m, 4H, equatorial 3,5-H and axial 2,6-H), 1.3–1.0 (m, 3H, tBu -CH and axial 3,5-H), 0.84 (s, 9H, $C(CH_3)_3$). ^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$, δ , ppm): 165.57 ($-CO_2Me$), 155.04 ($-NH-CO_2-$), 150.93 (cyclohexyl C1), 136.47 (phenyl C1), 128.52, 128.52, 128.12, 128.08, 128.08 (5C, phenyl C2–C6), 118.90 ($=C-CO_2Me$), 67.23 ($-OCH_2Ph$), 51.65 ($-OCH_3$), 47.90 (cyclohexyl C4), 32.93, 31.81 (cyclohexyl C2, C6), 30.72 ($C(CH_3)_3$), 28.72, 28.39 (cyclohexyl C3, C5), 27.53 ($C(CH_3)_3$). Anal. calcd. for $C_{21}H_{29}NO_4$ (359.46): C, 70.17; H, 8.13; N, 3.90. Found: C, 70.02; H, 8.19; N, 3.93.

3d: Orange solid, M.p. 88–90°C, R_f 0.25 (hexane/ethyl acetate 2/1, v/v), IR (nujol, ν , cm^{-1}): 3336 (N–H), 1720 (C=O), 1692 (amide), 1502, 756, 700 (Ar). 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$, δ , ppm): 7.34 (s, 5H, C_6H_5), 5.88 (s, 1H, NH), 5.14 (s, 2H, OCH_2Ph), 3.96 (s, 4H, OCH_2CH_2O), 3.70 (s, 3H, OCH_3), 2.9 (m, 2H, equatorial 2,6-H), 2.5 (m, 2H, equatorial 3,5-H), 1.8 (m, 4H, axial 2,6-H and axial 3,5-H). ^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$, δ , ppm): 165.32 ($-CO_2Me$), 154.93 ($-NH-CO_2-$), 148.78 (cyclohexyl C1), 136.43 (phenyl C1), 128.53, 128.53, 128.19, 128.12, 128.12 (phenyl 5C, C2–C6), 119.62 ($=C-CO_2Me$), 108.08 (cyclohexyl C4), 67.31 ($-OCH_2Ph$), 64.45, 64.45 ($-OCH_2CH_2O$), 51.72 ($-OCH_3$), 35.10, 34.75 (cyclohexyl C2, C6), 28.16, 26.99 (cyclohexyl C3, C5). Anal. calcd. for $C_{19}H_{23}NO_6$ (361.39): C, 63.15; H, 6.41; N, 3.88. Found: C, 63.04; H, 6.48; N, 3.91.

3e: Pale yellow solid, M.p. 77–79°C, R_f 0.16 (hexane/ethyl acetate 4/1, v/v), IR (nujol, ν , cm^{-1}): 3291 (N–H), 1725 (C=O), 1693 (amide), 1511, 743, 693 (Ar). 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$, δ , ppm): 7.4–7.2 (m, 5H, C_6H_5), 5.84 (s, 1H, NH), 5.12 (s, 2H, OCH_2Ph), 4.12 (q, 2H, $J = 7.2$ Hz, OCH_2Me), 3.67 (s, 3H, OCH_3), 3.4–3.2 (m, 1H, equatorial 2- or 6-H), 2.7–2.2 (m, 3H, equatorial 2- or 6-H, equatorial 3,5-H), 2.1–1.9 (m, 3H, axial 2,6-H and EtO_2C-CH), 1.8–1.6 (m, 2H, axial 3,5-H), 1.23 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H, OCH_2CH_3). ^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$, δ , ppm): 174.65 ($-CO_2Et$), 165.31 ($-CO_2Me$), 154.92 ($-NHCO_2-$), 149.36 (cyclohexyl C1), 136.40 (phenyl C1), 128.52, 128.52, 128.18, 128.10, 128.10 (phenyl 5C, C2–C6), 119.51 ($=C-CO_2Me$), 67.30 ($-OCH_2Ph$), 60.29 ($-CO_2CH_2Me$), 51.70 ($-OCH_3$), 42.10 (cyclohexyl C4), 29.50, 29.33 (cyclohexyl C2, C6), 28.85, 28.59 (cyclohexyl C3, C5), 14.18 (CH_3CH_2O-). Anal. calcd. for $C_{20}H_{25}NO_6$ (375.42): C, 63.99; H, 6.71; N, 3.73. Found: C, 64.07; H, 6.65; N, 3.77.



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α,β -Didehydroamino Acid Derivatives

671

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