

A Straightforward Synthesis of Six-Membered-Ring Heterocyclic α-Aminophosphonic Acids from N-Acyliminium Ions

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A convenient synthesis of phosphonic analogues of pipecolic acid and its heterocyclic analogues is reported. The major step of the elaborated procedure is the introduction of the phosphonate group into the skeleton of the appropriate cyclic amide through *N*-acyliminium ions. The former ones were obtained by preparation of the hemiaminals or their methyl ethers from the *N*-protected cyclic amides. Finally, the reaction with trimethyl phosphite in the presence of BF₃·OEt₂ afforded the desired phosphonates, which were converted into phosphonic acids by the hydrolysis of phosphonate moiety with simultaneous cleavage of the nitrogen protecting groups.

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INTRODUCTION

The development of new peptidomimetics is now receiving substantial interest because these compounds might be considered as mimics of therapeutic peptides in their preferable conformations. The introduction of such scaffolds usually results in their greater bioavailability and stability and limits undesirable physiologic effects. In this regard, the synthesis of conformationally restricted amino acids, where the nitrogen is introduced into aliphatic ring, has been the focus of extensive search as they may induce secondary structural and functional alterations in peptidomimetics, becoming synthetic tools for drug discovery [1–3]. It is well known that the presence of proline in peptide chain is crucial for protein structural and dynamic properties; thence, cyclic amino acids attract increasing attention in medicinal chemistry, and thus, structurally variable six-memberedring heterocyclic amino acids have been introduced as building blocks for the preparation of bioactive compounds [4-7]. Thus, intensive research efforts have been dedicated to their preparation, particularly pipecolic acid 1 [8-11], piperazine-2-carboxylic acid **2** [12–14], morpholine-3-carboxylic acid **3** [15,16], thiomorpholine-3-carboxylic acid 4 [17–19]. and Additionally, these cyclic amino acids have also been used

as precursors for the preparation of more complex scaffolds exhibiting pharmacological activities [20–24] or acting as organocatalysts [25–27]. The preparation of their phosphonic analogues **5–8** has not been explored sufficiently with scarce reports being published so far [28–34], despite the acknowledgement of the importance of α -aminophosphonic acids and their derivatives in organic and medicinal chemistry [35–38]. Hence, there is still strong need to develop new procedures for the preparation of this class of compounds [39–41].



Considering the possible importance of these nonproteinogenic amino acids analogues, which is in line with our current research interest in the synthesis of conformationally restricted α -aminophosphonic acids [42–45], we now report a straightforward synthesis of phosphopipecolic acid **5**, piperazine-2-phosphonic acid **6**, morpholine-3-phosphonic acid **7**, and thiomorpholine-3phosphonic acid **8**. *N*-Acyliminium ions were chosen as key substrates here.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Retrosynthetic analysis of possible procedures leading to acids **5–8** indicated the *N*-acyliminium ions as appropriate precursors. Preparation of *N*-acyliminium ions might be achieved on a synthetic pathway composed of (i) reduction of the carbonyl group of imides obtained from the corresponding cyclic amides leading to hemiaminals (Y = OH) and (ii) their conversion into appropriate methyl ethers (Y = OMe), (iii) followed by their transformation into *N*-acyliminium ions by means of elimination reaction. Action of phosphite allows the incorporation of the phosphonate functionality into the α position to a nitrogen atom [34]. The excellent results in our previous work [42–45] stimulated our interest in the use of *N*-acyliminium ions for the synthesis of the target compounds (Scheme 1).

In order to protect reactive nitrogen atom from substrate lactams tert-butoxycarbonyl (Boc) group was selected because its subsequent deprotection to generate the amino function can be accomplished under mild conditions. In order to avoid interference of the amino group at N-4 position in the piperazine derivative (X = NH), we decided to use the N-Cbz-2-ketopiperazine 10 as starting material, considering that orthogonal deprotection could be valuable in further potential applications of this compound for the preparation of peptidomimetics. In this context, and following the protocol described in the literature [46], the cyclic amides 9-12 were reacted with (Boc)₂O, Et₃N, and 4-(dimethylamino)pyridine (DMAP) in CH_2Cl_2 at room temperature, yielding *N*-Boc protected derivatives 13-16 in moderate to excellent yields (Scheme 2).

Once the *N*-Boc protected cyclic amides 13-16 were obtained, the incorporation of phosphonate group was carried out in the next step. Thus, the amide functionality in 13-16 was transformed into the desired cyclic α -aminophosphonates 17-20 by three consecutive steps

Scheme 1. Retrosynthetic analysis of phosphonic acids **5–8**. [Color figure can be viewed at wileyonlinelibrary.com]



Scheme 2. Synthesis of *N*-Boc protected cyclic amides 13–16.



without isolation of the intermediates. Thus, we carried out the reduction of carbonyl function of the *N*-Boc protected cyclic amides **13–16** with sodium borohydride in a MeOH:CH₂Cl₂ mixture at -15° C, obtaining the hemiaminals [47]. As hemiaminal derivatization to its methyl ether was used previously as *N*-acyliminium reagent in the synthesis of cyclic amino acids [34,48], we had treated unisolated hemiaminals with methanol in the presence of catalytic amounts of pyridinium *p*toluenesulfonate to obtain the corresponding hemiaminal methyl ethers. These ethers were reacted with trimethyl phosphite in the presence of boron trifluoride etherate (BF₃·OEt₂) in dichloromethane at -78° C and afforded the cyclic *N*-Boc α -aminophosphonates **17–20** in 23 to 86% yield (Scheme 3).

In order to reduce the number of synthetic steps of the procedure and taking into consideration reports that describe that Lewis acids can mediate the direct addition of nucleophiles to hemiaminals [49–51], we carried out the reduction of the carbonyl function in the *N*-Boc protected cyclic amides **13–16** with sodium borohydride in a MeOH:CH₂Cl₂ mixture at -15° C, which resulted in the corresponding hemiaminals [47], which without

Scheme 3. Synthesis of cyclic *N*-Boc α -aminophosphonates 17–20.



Scheme 4. Short synthesis of *N*-Boc protected α -aminophosphonates 17–20.



Scheme 5. Preparation of the target compounds 5-8.



purification were reacted with trimethyl phosphite using boron trifluoride diethyl ether (BF₃·OEt₂) as catalyst. Reaction carried out in dichloromethane at -78° C yielded cyclic *N*-Boc α -aminophosphonates **17–20** in 21 to 87% yield. The synthesis of compounds similar to **17** and **18** through radical fragmentation-phosphorylation reaction from heterocyclic α -amino acids [33] has already been described in the literature. The new procedure described in this article provides a proof of concept of a general alternative, which might be especially useful when the parent α -amino acids are unavailable (Scheme 4).

Total removal of the protecting groups in 17-20 (hydrolysis of phosphonic ester moiety and removal of Boc from nitrogen) was accomplished through acidolysis with a 33% solution of hydrogen bromide in glacial acetic acid. Treatment of ethanolic solutions of obtained hydrobromides with propylene oxide resulted in obtaining corresponding heterocyclic α -aminophosphonic acids **5–8** in good yields (Scheme 5).

CONCLUSIONS

A new general, practical, and efficient procedure for the synthesis of phosphopipecolic acid **5**, piperazine-2-phosphonic acid **6**, morpholine-3-phosphonic acid **7**, and thiomorpholine-3-phosphonic acid **8** was elaborated. It is

based on the reduction of *N*-Boc protected cyclic amides **13–16** and later use of hemiaminals or their corresponding methyl ethers as substrates for *in situ* generation of *N*-acyliminium ions. Direct reaction of these ions with trimethyl phosphite gave desired phosphonic analogues of heterocyclic amino acids. The use of hemiaminals as substrates resulted in a shorter route of reaction, however, on the cost of lower chemical yield. The total cleavage of the protecting groups (from both phosphonate and amino moieties) was accomplished by acidolysis by hydrogen bromide in glacial acetic acid. The obtained results show the utility of the *N*-acyliminium ions as valuable intermediates for the synthesis of novel scaffolds, which are of interest for medicinal and organic chemistry.

EXPERIMENTAL

All commercial materials were used as received unless otherwise noted. Flash chromatography was performed with 230-400 mesh Silica Flash 60. Thin-layer chromatography was performed with pre-coated TLC sheets of silica gel (60 F254, Merck, Kenilworth, NJ), and the plates were visualized with UV light and ninhydrin. Melting points were determined with a Fisher-Johns apparatus and are uncorrected. NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian instrument (400 MHz for ¹H; Varian, Inc., Palo Alto, CA) or a Mercury instrument (200 MHz for ¹H) and calibrated using tetramethylsilane, P(O)Ph₃, and the residual solvent signal as internal standards; chemical shifts (δ) are expressed in parts per million (ppm) and coupling constants (J) in Hertz, and an asterisk (*) indicates a duplicate signal corresponding to the minor rotamer. High-resolution FAB⁺ and CI⁺ mass spectra [high-resolution mass spectrometry (HRMS)] were obtained on a JEOL MStation MS-700. ¹H and ¹³C NMR data for the compounds 13-15 [46,52,53] and 5 [54] were identical to those described in the literature.

tert-Butyl 3-oxothiomorpholine-4-carboxylate (16). To a solution of 12 (0.3 g, 2.6 mmol), Et₃N (0.26 g, 0.4 mL, 2.6 mmol), and DMAP (0.31 g, 2.6 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (13 mL) was slowly added di-tert-butyl dicarbonate (0.84 g, 3.8 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 16 h, then diluted with CH₂Cl₂, and washed with a saturated solution of NaHCO₃. The organic layer was washed with water and brine, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered, and evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography to give 0.523 g (94%) of 16 as a white solid; m.p. 52–54°C. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃); $\delta = 1.54$ (s, 9H, C (CH₃)₃), 2.96–2.99 (m, 2H, H-6), 3.34 (s, 2H, H-2), 4.03–4.09 (m, 2H, H-5). ¹³C NMR $(126 \text{ MHz}, \text{CDCl}_3): \delta = 26.4 \text{ (C-6)}, 28.2 \text{ ((CH}_3)_3\text{C)}, 31.6$ (C-2), 44.2 (C-5), 84.1 (C (CH₃)₃), 151.9 (C=O), 168.0

(C=O). HRMS (FAB⁺): calcd. for $C_9H_{16}NO_3S [M + H]^+$, *m/z* 218.0851; found for $[M + H]^+$, *m/z* 218.0867.

General procedure for the preparation of cvclic N-Boc aaminophosphonates 17–20. To a stirred solution of the appropriate N-Boc protected cyclic amide (0.2 g, 1 eq) in MeOH:CH₂Cl₂ (3:1, 8 mL) at 0°C was slowly added NaBH₄ (3 eq). The reaction mixture was stirred at 0° C for 1.0 h and then quenched by the successive addition of a saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ (5 mL) and brine (5 mL). The aqueous layer was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ $(3 \times 20 \text{ mL})$. The combined organic extracts were washed with brine (10 mL), dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered, and evaporated under reduced pressure to obtain the corresponding hemiaminal as a colorless oil. It was dissolved in MeOH (7 mL), and catalytic amounts of pyridinium *p*-toluenesulfonate (0.1 eq) were added. The mixture was allowed to reach at room temperature and stirred for an additional 2 h. The reaction was quenched with Et_3N (0.1 eq), and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure, to give the hemiaminal methyl ether as a colorless oil, which was dissolved in anhydrous CH₂Cl₂ (5 mL) and kept under nitrogen. Trimethyl phosphite (2 eq) was added, and the resulting solution was cooled at -78° C. Boron trifluoride diethyl ether (2 eq) was added dropwise, and the reaction mixture was stirred for 1.0 h at -78° C, 1.0 h at 0° C, and 1 h at room temperature. The reaction was then quenched with water and extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (2 × 20 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered, and evaporated under reduced pressure. Finally, the crude product was purified by flash column chromatography.

Dimethyl 1-(tert-butoxycarbonyl)piperidine-2-phosphonate White solid (0.243 g, 83%); m.p. 50–52°C. ¹H (17). NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 1.24 - 1.30^*$ (m, 1H, H-4), 1.41 (s, 9H, C (CH₃)₃), 1.55–1.59* (m, 2H, H-3, H-4), 1.78-1.83 (m, 1H, H-5), 1.83-1.89 (m, 1H, H-5)* 1.93-2.03 (m, 1H, H-6), 2.03-2.13* (m, 1H, H-6), 2.90-3.09* (m, 1H, H-3), 3.10-3.22 (m, 1H, H-3), 3.71 (d, J = 10.6 Hz, 6H, (CH₃O)₂P), 3.86–4.00 (m, 1H, H-6), 4.00-4.12* (m, 1H, H-6), 4.43-4.60* (m, 1H, H-2), 4.60–4.78 (m, 1H, H-2). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 20.4$ (C-5), 24.7 (C-6), 25.4 (C-4), 28.5 ((CH₃)₃C), 40.7* (C-3), 42.0 (C-3), 46.9 (d, J = 148.5 Hz, C-2), 48.8^* (d, J = 149.4 Hz, C-2), 52.7 (d, J = 6.1 Hz, $(CH_3O)_2P$), 53.0 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, $(CH_3O)_2P$), 80.4 (C (CH₃)₃), 155.0 (C=O). ³¹P NMR (202 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 28.0. HRMS (FAB⁺): calcd. for C₁₂H₂₅NO₅P $[M + H]^+$, m/z 294.1470; found for $[M + H]^+$, m/z294.1437.

Dimethyl 4-(benzyloxycarbonyl)-1-(tert-butoxycarbonyl) piperazine-2-phosphonate (18). White solid (0.64 g, 85%); m.p. 88–90°C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 50°C): $\delta = 1.47$ (s, 9H, C (CH₃)₃), 2.79–2.92 (m, 1H, H- 3), 3.08–3.25 (m, 1H, H-5), 3.35 (bs, 1H, H-6), 3.66 (d, J = 10.9 Hz, 6H, (CH₃O)₂P), 3.90 (bs, 1H, H-6), 4.08–4.16 (m, 1H, H-3), 4.45–4.56 (m, 2H, H-2, H-5), 5.14 (d, J = 12.5 Hz, 1H, CH₂Ph), 5.18 (d, J = 12.5 Hz, 1H, CH₂Ph), 7.25–7.41 (m, 5H, H_{arom}). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 28.4$ ((CH₃)₃C), 41.1 (C-6), 42.6 (C-5), 43.3 (C-3), 46.8 (d, J = 158.2 Hz, C-2), 52.8 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, (CH₃O)₂P), 53.0 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, (CH₃O)₂P), 67.6 (CH₂Ph), 81.3 (*C* (CH₃)₃), 128.2, 128.6, 136.6, 155.1 (C=O). ³¹P NMR (81 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 21.9$, 22.8*. HRMS (FAB⁺): calcd. for C₁₉H₃₀N₂O₇P [M + H]⁺, *m/z* 429.1791; found for [M + H]⁺, *m/z* 429.1799.

Dimethyl 4-(tert-butoxycarbonyl)morpholine-3-phosphonate Colorless oil (0.254 g, 86%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, (19). $CDCl_3$): $\delta = 1.30$ (s, 9H, C (CH₃)₃), 3.28–3.59 (m, 2H, H-5, H-6), 3.63^* (dd, J = 12.16 Hz, 1H, H-2), 3.70 (dd, J = 12.18 Hz, 1H, H-2), 3.79 (d, J = 10.7 Hz, 6H, $(CH_3O)_2P$), 3.82* (d, J = 10.7 Hz, 6H, $(CH_3O)_2P$), 3.85– 3.98 (m, 1H, H-5), 4.21-4.36 (m, 1H, H-2), 4.37-4.54 (m, 1H, H-3). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 28.5$ $((CH_3)_3C)$, 40.2* (C-6), 41.7 (C-6), 47.8 (d, J = 148.8 Hz, C-3), 49.9* (d, J = 140.1 Hz, C-3), 53.0 ((CH₃O)₂P), 53.1 ((CH₃O)₂P), 65.7 (C-2), 66.8 (C-6), 81.1 (C (CH₃)₃), 154.4 (C=O). ³¹P NMR (202 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 30.5. HRMS (FAB⁺): calcd. for C₁₁H₂₃NO₆P $[M + H]^+$, m/z 296.1263; found for $[M + H]^+$, m/z296.1277.

4-(tert-butoxycarbonyl)thiomorpholine-3-Dimethyl Yellow oil (0.071 g, 23%). ¹H NMR phosphonate (20). $(500 \text{ MHz}, \text{CDCl}_3): \delta = 1.40 \text{ (s}, 9\text{H}, \text{C} (\text{CH}_3)_3), 2.43^* \text{ (s},$ 1H, H-6), 2.46 (s, 1H, H-6), 2.59-2.63 (m, 1H, H-6), 2.64–2.71* (m, 1H, H-6), 2.81–2.90* (m, 2H, H-2), 2.90-2.95 (m, 2H, H-2), 3.21-3.44* (m, 1H, H-5), 3.44-3.64 (m, 1H, H-5), 3.72 (d, J = 10.7 Hz, 6H, (CH₃O)₂P), 3.77^* (d, J = 10.6 Hz, 6H, (CH₃O)₂P), 4–06-4.25 (m, 1H, H-5), 4.25–4.50* (m, 1H, H-5), 4.66–4.87* (m, 1H, H-3), 4.87–5.19 (m, 1H, H-3). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 26.3$ (C-2), 27.2 (C-6), 28.4 ((CH₃)₃C), 40.7* (C-5), 42.1 (C-5),47.8 (d, J = 154.6 Hz, C-3), 49.9* (d, J = 156.3 Hz, C-3), 52.9 ((CH₃O)₂P), 53.2 ((CH₃O)₂P), 81.2 (C (CH₃)₃), 154.7 (C=O). ³¹P NMR (202 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 25.7. HRMS (FAB⁺): calcd. for $C_{11}H_{23}NO_5PS [M + H]^+$, m/z 312.1035; found for $[M + H]^+$, m/z 312.1035.

General procedure for the preparation of heterocyclic α aminophosphonic acids 5–8. The appropriate cyclic α aminophosphonate (0.2 g, 1 eq) was treated with a 33% solution of hydrogen bromide in acetic acid (10 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 4 h, and the volatiles were evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product was dissolved in the minimal amount of ethanol, and the resulting solution was treated with propylene oxide and stirred at room temperature for 12 h. The precipitate formed was filtered; washed successively with CH₂Cl₂, AcOEt, and MeOH; and dried under reduced pressure.

Piperazine-2-phosphonic acid (6). White solid (0.163 g, 99%); m.p. 270–272°C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, D₂O): δ = 3.05–3.23 (m, 4H, H-2, H-5, H-6), 3.31–3.44 (m, 2H, H-3, H-6), 3.45–3.55 (m, 1H, H-3). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, D₂O): δ = 40.5 (C-6), 41.1 (C-5), 43.0 (C-3), 51.0 (d, *J* = 127.9 Hz, C-2). ³¹P NMR (81 MHz, D₂O): δ = 5.7. HRMS (FAB⁺): calcd. for C₄H₁₂N₂O₃P [M + H]⁺, *m/z* 167.0586; found for [M + H]⁺, *m/z* 167.0827.

Morpholine-3-phosphonic acid (7). White solid (0.152 g, 95%); m.p. 261–265°C. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, D₂O): δ = 3.25–3.33 (m, 1H, H-3), 3.34–3.40 (m, 1H, H-5), 3.48–3.55 (m, 1H, H-5), 3.79–3.87 (m, 2H, H-6), 4.06–4.12 (m, 1H, H-2), 4.20–4.26 (m, 1H, H-2). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, D₂O): δ = 44.1 (C-5), 53.2 (d, *J* = 133.7 Hz, C-3), 63.4 (C-6), 65.2 (C-2). ³¹P NMR (202 MHz, D₂O): δ = 6.8. HRMS (FAB⁺): calcd. for C₄H₁₀NO₄PNa [M + Na]⁺, *m*/*z* 190.0245; found for [M + Na]⁺, *m*/*z* 190.0241.

Thiomorpholine-3-phosphonic acid (8). White solid (0.150 g, 76%); m.p. 255–258°C. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, D₂O): δ = 2.11–2.18 (m, 1H, H5), 2.32–2.40 (m, 1H, H5), 2.52–2.57 (m, 4H, H2, H3, H6), 2.96–3.03 (m, 1H, H2). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, D₂O): δ = 26.46 (C5), 28.27 (C6), 47.76 (d, *J* = 11.7 Hz, C2), 58.04 (d, *J* = 137.1 Hz, C3). ³¹P NMR (202 MHz, D₂O): δ = 15.20. HRMS (FAB⁺): calcd. for C₄H₁₀NO₃PSNa [M + Na]⁺, *m*/z 206.0017; found for [M + Na]⁺, *m*/z 206.0010.

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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Additional supporting information may be found online in the Supporting Information section at the end of the article.