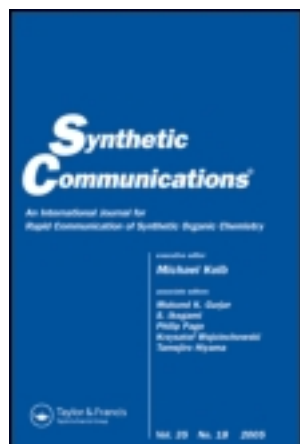


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Contiguous Generation of Quaternary and Tertiary Stereocenters: One-Pot Synthesis of Chroman-Fused S-Proline-Derived Chiral Oxazepinones

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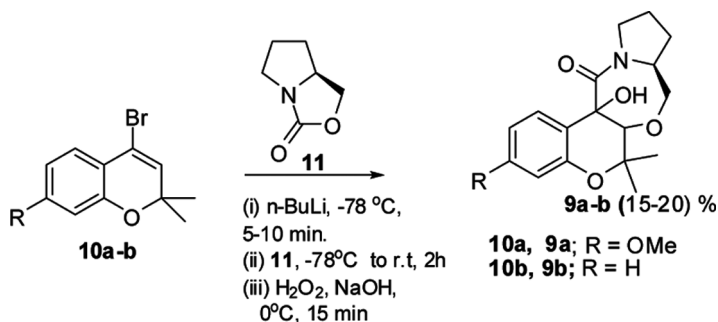
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CONTIGUOUS GENERATION OF QUATERNARY AND TERTIARY STEREOCENTERS: ONE-POT SYNTHESIS OF CHROMAN-FUSED S-PROLINE-DERIVED CHIRAL OXAZEPINONES

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GRAPHICAL ABSTRACT



Abstract A new class of chroman-fused S-proline-derived chiral oxazepinones has been synthesized in one pot through contiguous generation of quaternary and tertiary stereocenters.

Keywords Chromans; hydrogen peroxide; oxazepinone; α,β -unsaturated amide

INTRODUCTION

Synthesis of structurally modified heterocycles containing contiguous quaternary and tertiary stereocenters is a challenging task in synthetic organic chemistry.^[1–3] Such polycycles with heteroatoms embedded at variant positions display diverse bioactivities^[4] and have led to the discovery of many molecules that are now in clinical use as drugs.^[5] It is known that the chroman belongs to a privileged subunit because of its abundance in numerous natural products^[6] as well as in several pharmaceutically important molecules.^[7–9] Examples include selective estrogen

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receptor modulators (SERMs) (**1**),^[8,9] NF- κ B inhibitors^[10] deguelin (**2**) and tephrosin (**3**), and natural compound suksdorfins, ^[11] which has anti-HIV properties (Fig. 1). In addition, the prevalence of the oxazepinone skeleton in synthetic as well as natural products, which exhibit varied bioactivities like anti-HIV (**5**, **6**, **7**) and antimalarial (holstiine, **8**),^[12] encouraged us to design and synthesize a new scaffold **9** combining the chroman moiety with a chiral oxazepinone ring that has contiguous quaternary and tertiary stereocenters.

A rational design and synthesis of chroman- and thiochroman-fused tetracyclic skeletons through an acid-catalyzed intramolecular Nazarov reaction has been reported.^[13c] Further, synthesis and biology of *S*-amino acids-based chiral polycycles have been reported from our research group in the past.^[13] More importantly, to combine the two privileged substructures (chroman and chiral oxazepines) in a single scaffold, we use a short one-pot synthetic strategy to access the desired chroman-fused *S*-proline-derived chiral oxazepinones **9** having contiguous quaternary and tertiary stereocenters.

The retrosynthetic analysis of the target molecule in Scheme 1 depicts that **9** could be obtained from two starting materials, bromo compound **10** and tetrahydropyrrolo[1,2-*c*]oxazol-3(1H)-one derivative **11**. We hypothesized building the coveted tetracyclic architectures **9** through an intermediate epoxide **20** (Scheme 1).

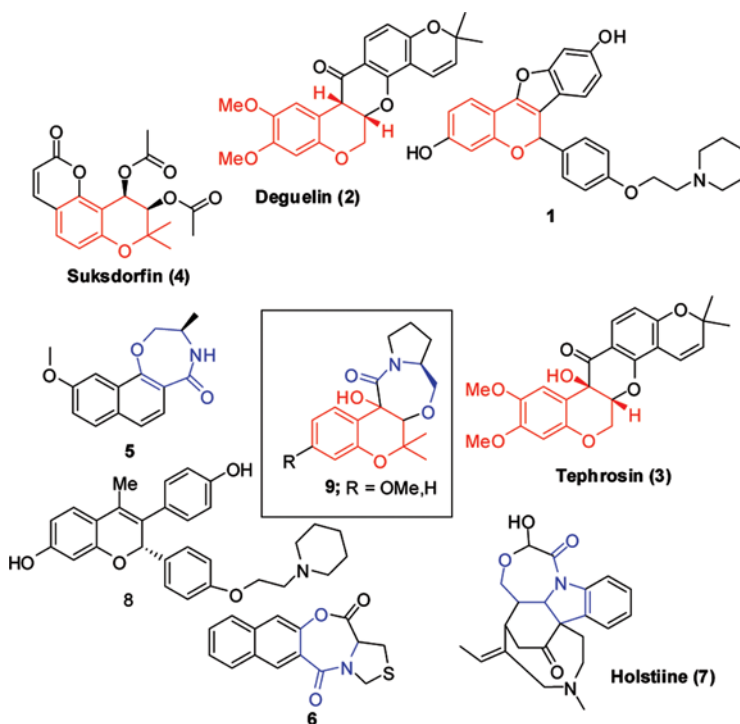
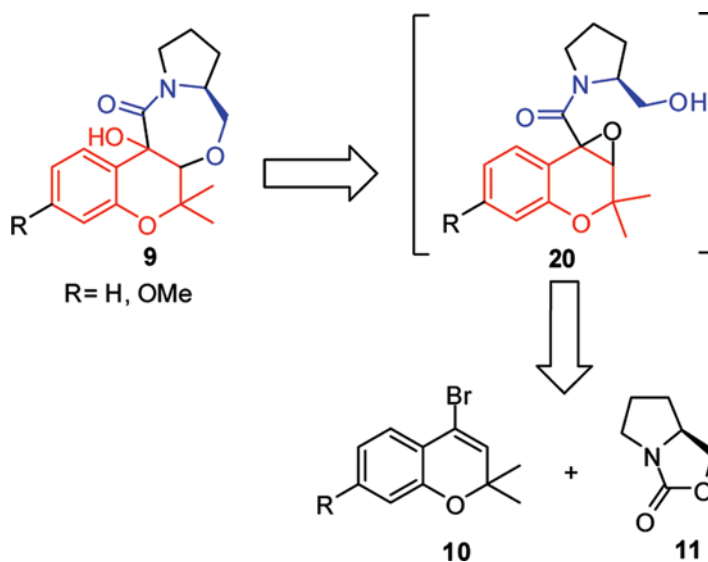


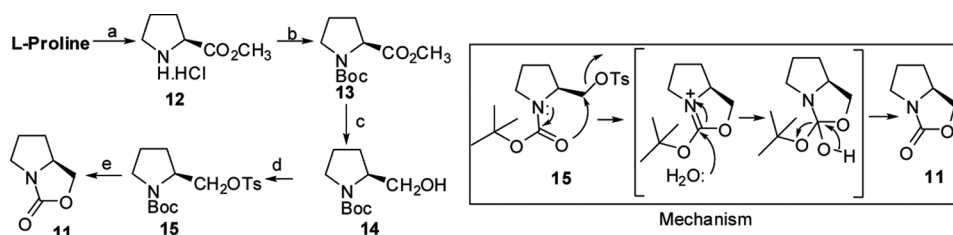
Figure 1. Representative natural (**2**, **3**, **4**, **7**) and synthetic polycycles (**1**, **5**, **6**, **8**) having chroman and oxazepinone rings and the designed molecule **9**. (Figure is provided in color online.)



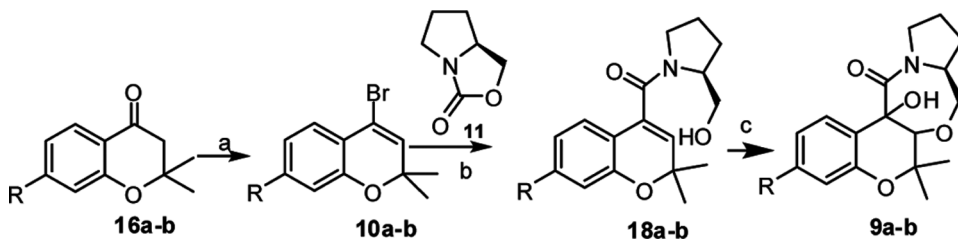
Scheme 1. Retrosynthetic analysis of **9**. (Figure is provided in color online.)

Compound **11** was synthesized from L-proline following the standard set of reaction conditions as shown in Scheme 2. L-Proline was esterified (**12**) by treating it with MeOH and thionyl chloride at 0 °C, followed by Boc protection of secondary amine in dry tetrahydrofuran (THF) using triethyl amine as base at rt, furnishing **13**, which on LAH reduction at 0 °C in dry THF provided alcohol **14**. Reaction of **14** with TsCl using pyridine as base in dry DCM furnished **15**. Compound **15** on heating at 60 °C in aqueous ethanolic solution gave tetrahydropyrrolo[1,2-c]oxazol-3(1H)-one **11** in 5–10 min with very good yield, as shown in Scheme 2. Another starting material, compound **10**, was obtained^[14,15] with 50–60% yield from corresponding ketone **16** after treatment with PBr₃ in dry benzene at 60 °C.

With both starting materials **10** and **11** in hand, we attempted the envisioned one-pot reaction to construct the desired scaffold **9** through cascade transformations including oxazolone ring opening and epoxide formation, followed by intramolecular nucleophilic substitution. In this quest, the anions generated through treatment



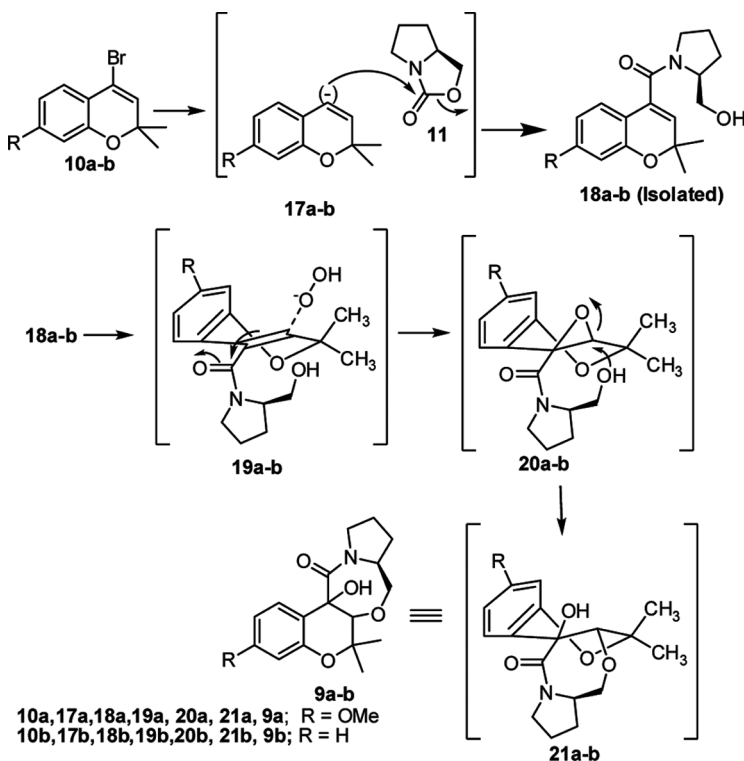
Scheme 2. Syntheses of **11**. Reagents and conditions: (a) MeOH/ SOCl₂, 0 °C–rt, 4 h, (b) Et₃N, (Boc)₂O, THF, 0 °C–rt, 5 h, 91%, (c) LAH, THF, 0 °C, 20–30 min, 97%, (d) Et₃N, TsCl, DCM, 0 °C, 3 h, 98%, (e) H₂O/EtOH, 60 °C, 5–10 min, 58%.



Scheme 3. Synthesis of target molecules **9**. Reagents and conditions: (a) PBr_3 , benzene, 60°C , 50–60%; (b) (i) $n\text{-BuLi}$, THF, -78°C , 5–10 min; (ii) **11**, -78°C to rt, 2 h; (c) H_2O_2 , NaOH, EtOH, 0°C , 15 min.

of $n\text{-BuLi}$ on bromo derivatives **10** were reacted with **11** at -78°C in dry THF for a period of 2 h. Further sequential addition of sodium hydroxide and hydrogen peroxide in ethanol medium at 0°C furnished the desired product **9a** and **b**, albeit in poor yields (Schemes 3 and 4).

It is believed that initially the oxazolone ring in **11** was opened by the lithiated bromo derivatives **17a** and **b**, generating intermediate alcohols **18a** and **b**. The alkene present in **18a** and **b** furnished epoxidized product via hydrogen peroxide/NaOH,^[16] at 0°C . Inspection of the six-membered half-chair-like transition state of **19a** and **b**



Scheme 4. Probable mechanism for the formation of **9a** and **b**.

revealed that attack of hydroperoxide anion on alkene was obstructed from the proline side by steric hindrance, giving rise to epoxide **20a** and **b**. Intermediate **20a** and **b** on attack of primary alcohol might have furnished chroman fused *S*-proline derived chiral oxazepinones with contiguous quaternary and tertiary stereocenters. Isolation of compound **18a** and **b** indicates this pathway of reaction mechanism (Scheme 4). However, we could not confirm the existence of any other diastereomer either from ^1H or ^{13}C of the crude reaction mixture.

The structure and stereochemistry of *S*-proline-derived chiral oxazepinones were determined through incisive analysis of ^1H NMR, ^1H - ^1H correlation spectroscopy (COSY), and ^{13}C spectra. Although the epoxidation of electron-deficient alkene using chiral catalyst followed by ring opening to install the chiral hydroxyl substituted quaternary stereocenter is well precedented,^[17–19] epoxidation via hydroperoxide followed by ring opening in one pot was hitherto unknown.

In conclusion, a new class of chroman-fused *S*-proline-derived chiral oxazepinones has been synthesized in one pot through efficient cascade reactions, installing contiguous chiral quaternary and tertiary stereocenters. In addition, the scope of the reaction sequence is much broader, allowing high atom economy and synthesis of this type of tetracycles having close resemblance with natural product motifs.

EXPERIMENTAL

General Procedure for One-Pot Cyclization

n-BuLi (2.99 mmol) was added to a solution of bromo derivative **10a** and **b** (2.85 mmol) in THF (15 ml) at -78°C and stirred for 5–10 min. Tetrahydropyrrolo[1,2-*c*]oxazol-3-one **11** (254 mg, 2.0 mmol) in THF (10 ml) was added and stirred at -78°C for another 30 min and was brought to room temperature for a period of 2 h. Subsequently the compound was dissolved in ethanol, and sodium hydroxide solution (0.5 ml, 1 M) was added at 0°C . Then the mixture was charged with 50% hydrogen peroxide solution (0.06 ml). After the completion of reaction (as observed on thin-layer chromatography; TLC) saturated solution of sodium sulfite was added and the resulting solution was evaporated. Then ethyl acetate was added, and the organic mixture was extracted by performing the usual workup. Column chromatography over silica gel and elution with ethylacetate in hexane furnished the desired compounds **9a** and **b** along with intermediate **18a** and **b**.

(8a*S*)-13a-Hydroxy-3-methoxy-6,6-dimethyl-8,8a,9,10,11,13a-hexahydro-6H-chromeno[4,3-*f*]pyrrolo[2,1-*c*][1,4]oxazepin-13(6aH)-one (9a)

IR (neat): 2933, 1687, 1348, 1216 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.33 (dd, 1H, $J=2$, 8.1), 6.58 (dd, 1H, $J=2$, 8.1), 6.34 (s, 1H), 4.56–4.53 (m, 1H), 3.96–3.90 (m, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.72–3.71 (m, 2H), 3.67–3.49 (m, 2H), 2.16–2.10 (m, 1H), 1.88–1.67 (m, 3H), 1.44 (s, 3H), 1.22 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 169.2, 161.1, 154.0, 131.5, 118.4, 109.1, 101.9, 86.3, 78.3, 70.8, 55.6, 55.6, 48.2, 32.5, 30.1, 27.4, 22.5, 20.4; MS (ESI): m/z 334 $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$. Anal. calcd. for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{23}\text{NO}_5$: C, 64.85; H, 6.95; N, 4.20; O, 24.00. Found: C, 67.76; H, 6.91; N, 4.34.

(2-Hydroxymethyl-pyrrolidin-1-yl)-(7-methoxy-2,2-dimethyl-2H-chromen-4-yl)-methanone (18a)

IR (neat): 2918, 1612, 1442, 1145, 756 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 6.93 (dd, 1H, $J=2$, 8.1), 6.42 (dd, 1H, $J=2$, 8.1), 6.40 (s, 1H), 5.56 (s, 1H), 4.99 (bs, 1H), 4.32–4.29 (m, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.71–3.67 (m, 1H), 3.46–3.40 (m, 1H), 3.29–3.26 (m, 1H), 2.12–2.08 (m, 1H), 1.83–1.61 (m, 3H), 1.44 (s, 3H), 1.42 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 169.9, 161.7, 154.4, 131.4, 126.1, 125.4, 111.5, 107.6, 103.0, 76.2, 67.2, 64.0, 61.4, 60.2, 55.7, 50.0, 46.3, 28.8, 27.9, 24.8, 22.5; MS (ESI): m/z 318 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$. Anal. calcd. for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{23}\text{NO}_4$: C, 68.12; H, 7.30; N, 4.41; O, 20.16. Found: C, 68.71; H, 7.90; N, 4.39.

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