Diastereoselective iodoamidation of 3-acetyloxybut-1-enylamines: simple synthesis of a precursor of aza sugars involving a pyrrolidine ring

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3-Acetyloxybut-1-enylamines 3–9 were easily transformed using iodine to pyrrolidine derivatives 3a–9a, precursors for aza sugars, *via* a diastereoselective iodoamidation.

Since the discovery that polyhydroxylated pyrrolidines are potent glycosidase inhibitors with potential therapeutic utility in the treatment of various diseases such as diabetes,¹ cancer² and viral infections,³ much attention has been concentrated on the development of convenient and efficient routes to these compounds. In general, synthetic routes to aza sugars require azide displacement/reduction and intramolecular N-alkylative cyclisation with protecting group manipulation,⁴ starting from carbohydrates or non-carbohydrates. Here we report the highly diastereoselective iodoamidation of 3-acetlyoxybut-1-enylamines **1** for the preparation of pyrrolidine derivatives **2** (*e.g.* anisomycine,⁵ 3,4-dihydroxyprolinol,⁶ swainsonine⁷ and lentiginosine⁸) (Scheme 1).

The requisite substrates **3–9** were prepared easily by the usual method from commercially available L-tyrosin, L-phenylalanine and L-serine.^{9†} Fortunately, each diastereomeric allylic alcohol given by the Grignard reaction could be isolated in pure form by column chromatography. We chose the 9-phenyl-fluoren-9-yl (Pf) group for protection of the amine since this protecting group has been shown to inhibit deprotonation at the α -position of α -amino aldehydes.¹⁰ α -Amino aldehydes having the Pf group are very stable to Grignard reaction conditions.¹¹

Compound **3** was treated with I_2 under biphasic conditions (aq. NaHCO₃-THF-Et₂O = 2:1:1) at room temperature for 3 h to give the all *trans* pyrrolidine **3a** (*vide infra*) as the sole product in high yield *via* a diastereoselective iodoamidation. Although THF, MeOH, CH₂Cl₂ and MeCN have been found to be acceptable solvents for iodoamidation, these solvents required much longer reaction times and resuted in 35–50% recovery of the starting material. As shown in Table 1, the optimum reaction conditions involved biphasic conditions to improve reactivity and affording pyrrolidine **3a**.

Treatment of **4** under the same conditions afforded a 25:1 ratio of the *cis* and *trans* isomers of pyrrolidine **4a**. Compounds **5** and **6** were cyclized according to these standard conditions to give the expected the corresponding pyrrolidines *trans*-**5a** and *cis*-**6a** in high yield, respectively. Compound **7** was also exposed to the same reaction conditions to give *cis*-**7a** in a ratio of 20:1 in 66% yield. In the case of starting materials *trans*-**8** and *cis*-**9**,[‡] this solvent mixture was not suitable. Thus,



compounds 8 and 9 were treated with I_2 in THF to give the corresponding *trans*-8a and *cis*-9a in 92% (based on 65% conversion) and 88% (based on 80% conversion) yields, respectively (Table 2). The structures of all pyrrolidines 3a-9a were confirmed by their characteristic spectroscopic data.§

The relative stereochemistries of the products **3a** and **4a** were determined from their ¹H NMR spectra based on the coupling constant values and 2D NOE experiments. For *trans*-**3a**, proton H₃ (t like, $J_{2,3}, J_{3,4} = 5.1$ Hz) adjacent to the acetyloxy group gave weak correlation with protons (H₂ and H₄) adjacent to the *p*-tolylmethyl and iodine groups, but strong NOE cross peaks were observed between H₂-H₄ and H₂-H_{5b}, thereby allowing one to assign its relative stereochemistry. In pyrrolidine *cis*-**4a**, proton H₃ (t like, $J_{2,3}, J_{3,4} = 6.9$ Hz) adjacent to the acetyloxy group displayed strong mutual correlation with the protons (H₂ and H₄) adjacent to the *p*-tolylmethyl and iodine groups, thereby verifying the structure of *cis*-**4a** as shown in Fig. 1.

Based on the coupling constant values in the high-field ¹H NMR spectra of *trans*-**3a** and *cis*-**4a**, the stereochemistries of *trans*-**5a** (H₃, t like, $J_{2,3}$, $J_{3,4} = 5.1$ Hz) and *cis* **6a** (H3, t like, $J_{2,3}$, $J_{3,4} = 6.9$ Hz) could be determined from each coupling constant value. The stereochemistries of *trans*-**8a** (H3, dd, $J_{2,3} = 4.8$, $J_{3,4} = 3.4$ Hz) and *cis* **9a** (H3, dd, $J_{2,3} = 2.4$, $J_{3,4} = 4.2$ Hz) were also confirmed using coupling constant values.

Although numerous construction methods for the electrophilic cyclisation have been developed,¹² the closest literature precedent to this haloamidation has been independently studied by the groups of Takahata¹³ and Yoshida.¹⁴ Takahata has shown that iodine-induced lactamization of γ , δ -unsaturated thioimidates proceeds regioselectively to provide γ -lactams. Yoshida has reported that *N*-(*p*-tolylsulfonyl)pent-4-enylamines were subjected to stereoselective haloamidation to afford mainly *cis* substituted pyrrolidines. Although these methodologies have been proven to be useful protocols, they are of limited use for the direct synthesis of polyhydroxylated aza sugars because these reactions proceed *via* 5-*exo-trig* cyclisation. Thus, we are the first to observe chiral induction on the pyrrolidine ring through an diastereoselective iodoamidation and to succeed in

Table 1 Solvent effects in stereoselective iodoamidationa

MeO	OAc NH Pf 3	MeO I ₂ solvent	AcQ N Pf 3a
Solvent	I ₂ /equiv.	t/h	Yield (%) ^b
THF	3.0	15	48^c
MeOH	3.0	18	45^{d}
CH ₂ Cl ₂	3.0	6	50^e
MeCN	3.0	6	60 ^f
Biphase ^g	3.0	3	92

^a All reactions were carried out under room temperature. ^b Isolated yield.
 ^c 48% Recovery of starting material. ^d 40% Recovery of starting material.
 ^e 50% Recovery of starting material. ^f 35% Recovery of starting material.
 ^g NaHCO₃-THF-Et₂O = 2:1:1.

 Table 2 Diastereoselective iodoamidation of 3-acetoxybut-1-enylamines with iodine



^{*a*} All allylic alcohols are enantiomeric pure. ^{*b*} The stereochemistry was signed by ¹H NMR and 2D NOE experiments. ^{*c*} Isolated yields. ^{*d*} 3 equiv. of I₂, aq. NaHCO₃–THF–Et₂O = 2:1:1:e Based on 65% conversion of starting material and 35% cleavage of the isopropylidene group of **8**. ^{*f*} Based on 80% conversion of starting material and 20% cleavage of the isopropylidene group of **9**.



Fig. 1 NOE interactions derived from NOESY experiments.

using a strong electron-donating group, 9-phenylfluoren-9-yl (Pf), on an amine moiety.

In conclusion, we found that optically active starting materials **1** as chiral building blocks are converted easily to pyrrolidine derivatives **2** *via* a diastereoselective iodoamidation. These species should be valuable for the total synthesis of polyhydroxylated aza sugars having a pyrrolidine ring and may be suitable for substitution with various nucleophiles (NaN₃, amines, alcohols, thiols and Grignard compounds), giving novel aza sugar derivatives. Thus, we are currently investigating the preparation of all six diasteromers of anisomycin and other 3,4-dihydroxyprolinols.

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Notes and references

 \dagger Starting materials **3–9** were prepared by a sequential reaction, namely, free animo acids were treated with TMSCl in MeOH to give methyl esters, the amino groups of which were protected with PfBr in CH₂Cl₂. The methyl esters were then subjected to reduction and Swern oxidation to afford aldehydes, which were reacted with vinylmagnesium bromide to give separable allylic alcohols.

[‡] The relative stereochemistries of the corresponding acetonides *trans*-8 (J = 8.1 Hz for the proton on oxygen) and *cis*-9 (J = 1.0 Hz for the a proton on oxygen) were confirmed by coupling constant analysis.

§ *Selected data* for **3a**: colorless prisms, mp 67–68 °C; $[α]_{2}^{22}$ +33.0 (*c* 1.3, CHCl₃); $\delta_{\rm H}$ (500 MHz, CDCl₃) 1.61 (3H,s), 2.37 (1H, dd, *J* 4.0, 13.6), 2.44 (1H, dd, *J* 6.7, 10.1), 2.67 (1H, dd, *J* 9.7, 13.6), 2.73 (1H, m), 3.00 (1H, dd, *J* 2.7, 10.2), 3.28 (1H, dt, *J* 4.3, 5.1), 3.71 (3H, s), 4.56 (1H, t-like, *J*_{2.3}, *J*_{3.4} 5.1), 6.72 (2H, d, *J* 8.7), 6.89 (2H, d, *J* 8.7), 7.23–7.34 (13H, m). For **4a**: colorless prisms, mp 70–71 °C; $[α]_{2}^{2D}$ –22.9 (*c* 1.2, CHCl₃); $\delta_{\rm H}$ (500 MHz, CDCl₃): 2.08 (3H, s), 2.19 (1H, dd, *J* 3.4, 14.1), 2.65 (1H, dd, *J* 3.7, 9.2), 2.86 (1H, dd, *J* 10.9, 14.1), 3.17 (1H, dd, *J* 9.2, 11.2), 3.43 (1H, ddd, *J* 3.5, 7.2, 10.8), 3.55 (1H, ddd, *J* 3.7, 7.2, 8.1), 5.17 (1H, tlike, *J*_{2.3}, *J*_{3.4} 6.9), 6.65 (2H, d, *J* 8.7), 7.24–7.75 (13H, m).

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