A Novel Approach for the Solid-Phase Organic Synthesis of 1,3-Disubstituted Uracils

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A novel procedure for solid-phase organic synthesis of 1,3-disubstituted uracils using a cyclizationcleavage strategy from Wang-acrylate resin, amines and isocyanates. An acrylate ester resin is reacted in turn with PhSeBr and primary amines in one-pot to afford *N*-substituted α -phenylseleno- β -aminoesters followed by treatment with isocyanates to form α -phenylseleno- β -ureidoester resin. Following oxidation-elimination with excess of 30% hydrogen peroxide and intramolecular cyclization cleavage of the Wang resin using potassium ethoxide as a base to furnish 1,3-disubstituted uracils in good yields (80-86%) and high purities (92-96%).

Keywords: Uracil; Solid-phase organic synthesis; Wang-acrylate resin; Intramolecular cyclization; Cleavage.

INTRODUCTION

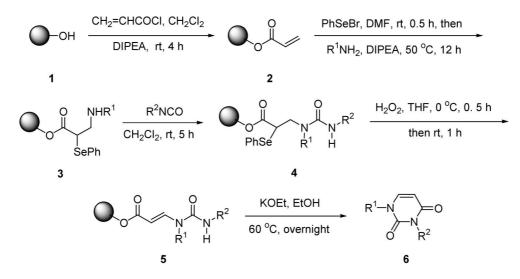
Combinatorial chemistry is now being increasingly applied in the facile preparation of chemical libraries for the discovery of novel biologically active compounds.¹ Heterocycles are important elements in many pharmacologically active compounds. Solid-phase organic synthesis (SPOS) is a powerful technique for the high-speed synthesis of heterocycles.² The pyrimidinedione ring system is particularly attractive since it is known to be a core structural element of some discovered fungicides³ and herbicides.⁴ Among the heterocycles containing pyrimidinedione moiety, uracils have been widely used as bioactive compounds such as 5-iodouridine,^{5a} (S)-willardiine,^{5b} zidovudine,^{5c} and tifluridine.⁶ It is therefore out of question that these compounds have been both widely studied and used, specially have received attention in combinatorial synthesis and several SPOS methods for their preparations have been reported.⁷ Although SPOS of uracils and their derivatives are well documented, efforts are continuing for the development of more efficient methods with experimental simplicity. In connection with our interest in SPOS of heterocyclic compounds based on polymeric reagents,⁸ we wish here to report another convenient and efficient SPOS method for 1,3-disubstituted uracils (Scheme I).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

As outlined in Scheme I, treatment of Wang resin 1 loaded with 0.96 mmol/g with 5 equiv of acryloyl chloride in the presence of N,N-diisopropylethylamine (DIPEA) afforded acrylate resin 2 almost in quantitative yield. The Wang-acrylate resin 2 was characterized by single-bead microscopy FT-IR,⁹ which showed complete disappearance of the hydroxyl OH stretch and the appearance of a C=O stretch at 1724 cm⁻¹ and a C=C stretch at 1651 cm⁻¹. The resin-bound acrylate 2 was then smoothly reacted with 2.0 equivalents of benzeneselenenyl bromide in DMF at room temperature to afford resin-bound 3-bromo-2-selenoester intermediate, which was further treated with primary amine at 50 °C in the presence of in the presence of N,Ndiisopropylethylamine (DIPEA) in one-pot to furnish the corresponding yellow N-substituted a-phenylseleno-\betaaminoester resins 3, which were monitored by their FT-IR spectra featuring the ester carbonyl absorptions at 1728-1733 cm⁻¹ and a moderate strong N-H stretch between $3280-3350 \text{ cm}^{-1}$, with the complete disappearance the band at 1651 cm⁻¹, corresponding to the C=C olefin absorption of the resin 2. Additionally, no bromine was found by microanalysis of resin 3, indicating the conversion of the resin 2 to the resin 3 was complete. It should be noted that, in the

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Scheme I Solid-phase synthetic route to 1,3-disubstituted uracils



case of α -branched amine (Entries 9 and 10, Table 1) required longer reaction time or higher temperature to drive the reaction to completion than those unhindered alkyl amines.

Progress of the reaction of resin **3** with an isocyanate was monitored by the isatin test.¹⁰ The reactions were generally complete in 4 h using a two-fold excess of isocyanate in CH₂Cl₂. FT-IR spectra of the α -phenylseleno- β -ureidoester resin **4** revealed the presence of the carbonyl stretch at 1728-1733 cm⁻¹ for the ester group and a new strong carbonyl absorption at 1655-1672 cm⁻¹, corresponding to the amide carbonyl group, as well as a broad N-H stretch between 3300-3400 cm⁻¹.

It is well known that phenylseleno group is readily converted to a leaving group giving access to carbon-carbon double bond *via* oxidation followed by β -elimination under extremely mild conditions.¹¹ As expected, treatment of the resin 4 with 30% hydrogen peroxide at 0 °C and then at room temperature afforded the corresponding β-ureido acrylate ester of Wang's resin 5, which was found to have lost all its selenium by elemental analysis indicating the oxidation-elimination was complete. After accomplishment of the oxidation-elimination reaction, the intramolecular cyclization and cleavage of resin-bound 5, the key for the success of this protocol was investigated. When NaH was used in DMF as the previously described method at 0 °C for 30 min,^{7b} and at room temperature in our experiments, or at reaction temperature of 60-70 °C for 1 h or even for longer time, the reaction was not complete as monitored by FT-IR study of the residual resin, which still exhibited carbonyl

Table 1. The yields and purities of 1,3-disubstituted uracils (6a-6k)

Entry	\mathbf{R}^1	R^2	Product	Yield (%) ^a	Purity (%) ^b
1	C ₆ H ₅ CH ₂	C ₆ H ₅	6a	82	93
2	C ₆ H ₅ CH ₂	4-MeOC ₆ H ₄	6b	85	94
3	C ₆ H ₅ CH ₂	$4-ClC_6H_4$	6c	83	93
4	C ₆ H ₅ CH ₂	n-C ₄ H ₉	6d	82	95
5	n-C ₄ H ₉	C_6H_5	6e	86	93
6	n-C ₄ H ₉	n-C ₄ H ₉	6f	83	92
7	n-C ₃ H ₇	C_6H_5	6g	81	92
8	n-C ₃ H ₇	n-C ₄ H ₉	6h	85	96
9	i-C ₃ H ₇	C ₆ H ₅	6i	82	93
10	i-C ₃ H ₇	n-C ₄ H ₉	6j	83	95
11	CH ₂ =CHCH ₂	n-C ₄ H ₉	6k	80	90

^a Overall yields based on the loading of Wang's resin.

^b Determined by HPLC of crude cleavage product.

absorptions. Treatment with K_2CO_3 in DMF gave a better yield of product **6**. However, successful intramolecular cyclization and cleavage of resin **5** was accomplished by treatment with KOEt (0.1 M) in EtOH overnight at 60 °C to afford 1,3-disubstituted uracils **6a-6k** containing a variety of R¹ (alkyl, allyl or benzyl) and R² (alkyl or aryl) substituent groups in good yields (80-86%) and high purities (92-96%), as shown in Table 1.

In summary, we have developed a novel, convenient and effective approach for the SPOS of 1,3-disubstituted uracils based on Wang resin-bound acrylate, primary amines and isocyanates. These uracil derivatives were prepared in five steps providing good overall yields and excellent purities. The simple work-up procedure is suitable for application to the automated synthesis of diverse uracilbased compounds.

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

General Procedure

Melting points were determined on X4 melting point apparatus and are uncorrected. ¹H NMR (400 MHz) and ¹³C NMR (100 MHz) spectra were recorded on a Bruker Avance (400 MHz) spectrometer using CDCl₃ as the solvent and TMS as an internal standard. FT-IR spectra were taken on a Perkin-Elmer SP One FT-IR spectrophotometer. Microanalyses were performed with a Carlo Erba 1106 elemental analyzer. HPLC analysis was performed on Agilent 1100 automated system having a PDA detector using a gradient with CH₃CN/H₂O (1 mL/min) on a RP-18e column $(150 \times 4.6 \text{ mm})$. Wang resin (0.96 mmol/g) and other starting materials were purchased from commercial suppliers and used without further purification. 1,2-Dichloroethane was refluxed with phosphorus pentoxide and distilled. N,N-Dimethylformamide (DMF) was refluxed with calcium hydride and distilled under reduced pressure, then dried over molecular sieves 4 Å prior to use.

Preparation of Wang-acrylate resin 2

Wang resin (1.0 g, 0.96 mmol/g) was swollen in CH_2Cl_2 (10 mL), DIPEA (0.65 g, 5.0 mmol) and acryloyl chloride (0.45 g, 5.0 mmol) were added and the reaction mixture was shaken at room temperature for 4 h. After which, the mixture was filtered and the resin washed sequentially with DMF, H₂O, MeOH, CH₂Cl₂, and Et₂O (2 × 10 mL of each) and dried overnight in a vacuum oven at 40 °C to afford resin **2**. IR (KBr): v = 3060, 3025, 2922, 1724, 1651, 1585, 1569, 1495, 1454, 1351, 1250, 1144, 1106, 950, 840 cm⁻¹.

General preparation of 1,3-disubstituted uracils 6a-6k

To a suspension of the swollen resin 2 (1.0 g) in anhydrous DMF (10 mL) was added PhSeBr (2.0 mmol) added. After 30 min with shaking at room temperature, primary amines (5.0 mmol) and DIPEA (5.0 mmol) were added, and the mixture was allowed to shake at 50 °C for 12 h. After which, the mixture was filtered and the resin washed sequentially with DMF, H₂O, THF, MeOH and CH₂Cl₂ (2 × 10 mL of each), and dried overnight in a vacuum oven at 40 °C to afford the yellow *N*-substituted α -phenylseleno- β aminoester resin 3, which was swelled in anhydrous CH₂Cl₂ (10 mL) at room temperature for 30 min followed by addition of isocyanate (2.0 mmol). After 4 h with shaking at room temperature, washing thoroughly successively with CH_2Cl_2 , MeOH, CH_2Cl_2 and Et_2O (2 × 5 mL of each) to afford the α -phenylseleno- β -ureidoester resin 4. The washed resin 4 was then suspended in THF (10 mL), and 30% hydrogen peroxide (0.5 mL, 5.8 mmol) was added; the mixture was stirred for 30 min at 0 °C, followed by 1 h at room temperature. After completion of the reaction, the resin 5 was then filtered and washed successively with THF/H₂O (1:1), THF, MeOH and Et_2O (2 × 5 mL of each). Then the resin 5 was cleaved in a solution of KOEt (0.1 mol/L) in EtOH (30 mL) at 60 °C overnight. After cooling, the resin was filtered and washed with THF/H₂O (1/1) (3 × 10 mL), EtOH (3×5 mL) and Et₂O (3×5 mL). Evaporation of the solvent from the filtrate afforded crude products 6a-6k with 92-96% purity determined by HPLC, which were further purified by passing the crude product through silica gel chromatographic column (ethyl acetate-hexane as the eluent, 1:3) affording the pure products for their structure analyses.

1-Benzyl-3-phenylpyrimidine-2,4-dione (6a)

White solid, mp 152-154 °C (lit.¹² 153-155); ¹H NMR: δ = 7.50-7.33 (m, 8 H), 7.26-7.22 (m, 3 H), 5.85 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1 H), 4.94 (s, 2 H); ¹³C NMR: δ = 163.0, 151.7, 142.3, 135.0, 134.8, 129.2, 129.0, 128.8, 128.5, 128.3, 128.1, 102.3, 52.5; IR (KBr): v = 3060, 2925, 1715, 1660, 1445, 1385, 1226, 698 cm⁻¹; Anal. Calcd for C₁₇H₁₄N₂O₂: C, 73.37; H, 5.07; N, 10.07. Found: C, 73.43; H, 5.16; N, 10.11.

1-Benzyl-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)pyrimidine-2,4-dione (6b)

White solid, mp 158-160 °C (lit.^{7c} 158-160 °C); ¹H NMR: $\delta = 7.38-7.25$ (m, 6 H), 7.16 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2 H), 7.01 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2 H), 5.81 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1 H), 4.91 (s, 2 H), 2.84 (s, 3 H); ¹³C NMR: $\delta = 163.0, 159.3, 151.8, 142.3,$ 135.2, 129.2, 129.0, 128.6, 128.2, 127.5, 114.5, 102.2, 55.1, 52.1; IR (KBr): v = 3062, 1712, 1661, 1510, 1390,1445, 1248, 825 cm⁻¹; Anal. Calcd for C₁₈H₁₆N₂O₃: C, 70.12; H, 5.23; N, 9.09. Found: C, 70.19; H, 5.30; N, 9.17. **1-Benzyl-3-(4-chlorophenyl)pyrimidine-2,4-dione (6c)**

White solid, mp 155-157 °C; ¹H NMR: δ = 7.53 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 7.40-7.28 (m, 6 H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 5.82 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1 H), 4.88 (s, 2 H); ¹³C NMR: δ = 163.8, 151.5, 143.0, 136.2, 132.5, 130.6, 129.2, 129.0, 128.8, 128.3, 102.4, 120.9, 52.6; IR (KBr): v = 3063, 1717, 1665, 1445, 1388, 1350, 1225, 834, 700 cm⁻¹; Anal. Calcd for C₁₇H₁₃ClN₂O₂: C, 65.29; H, 4.19; N, 8.96. Found: C, 65.37; H, 4.25; N, 8.99.

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1-Benzyl-3-butylpyrimidine-2,4-dione (6d)

Colorless oil (lit.^{7c} oil); ¹H NMR: δ = 7.40-7.27 (m, 5 H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1 H), 5.70 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1 H), 4.91 (s, 2 H), 3.95 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2 H), 1.62-1.60 (m, 2 H), 1.37-1.34 (m, 2 H), 0.95 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3 H); ¹³C NMR: δ = 162.5, 151.3, 141.5, 135.3, 128.8, 128.2, 127.7, 102.0, 52.1, 41.2, 29.5, 20.2, 13.5; IR (neat): v = 3055, 2966, 1712, 1655, 1455, 1357, 1238, 804 cm⁻¹; Anal. Calcd for C₁₅H₁₈N₂O₂: C, 69.74; H, 7.02; N, 10.84. Found: C, 69.82; H, 7.13; N, 10.72.

1-Butyl-3-phenylpyrimidine-2,4-dione (6e)

White solid, mp 99-101 °C (lit.^{7c} 98-100 °C); ¹H NMR: δ = 7.50-7.46 (m, 2 H), 7.40 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.24-7.20 (m, 3 H), 5.81 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 3.75 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2 H), 1.69-1.67 (m, 2 H), 1.37-1.35 (m, 2 H), 0.98 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3 H); ¹³C NMR: δ = 163.0, 151.5, 143.1, 134.9, 129.3, 128.5, 128.1, 101.7, 50.1, 31.2, 19.5, 13.5; IR (KBr): v = 3056, 2962, 1710, 1660, 1445, 1116, 696 cm⁻¹; Anal. Calcd for C₁₄H₁₆N₂O₂: C, 68.83; H, 6.60; N, 11.47. Found: C, 68.91; H, 6.69; N, 11.50.

1,3-Dibutylpyrimidine-2,4-dione (6f)

Colorless oil (lit.¹² oil); ¹H NMR: δ = 7.10 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1 H), 5.69 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1 H), 3.95 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2 H), 3.73 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2 H), 1.68-1.59 (m, 4 H), 1.41-1.34 (m, 4 H), 0.97-0.91 (m, 6 H); ¹³C NMR: δ = 163.2, 151.3, 142.0, 101.4, 49.6, 41.0, 30.9, 29.5, 20.3, 19.8, 13.6, 13.5; IR (neat): v = 3050, 2960, 2872, 1705, 1655, 1456, 1356, 1225, 805 cm⁻¹; Anal. Calcd for C₁₂H₂₀N₂O₂: C, 64.26; H, 8.99; N, 12.49. Found: C, 64.33; H, 9.08; N, 12.54.

1-Phenyl-3-propylpyrimidine-2,4-dione (6g)

White solid, mp 135-136 °C (lit.^{7c} 134-136 °C); ¹H NMR: δ = 7.51-7.46 (m, 2 H), 7.40 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1 H), 7.24-7.20 (m, 3 H), 5.81 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1 H), 3.71 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2 H), 1.76-1.74 (m, 2 H), 0.95 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3 H); ¹³C NMR: δ = 163.2, 151.5, 142.9, 135.1, 129.2, 128.6, 128.2, 101.8, 51.4, 22.0, 10.7; IR (KBr): v = 3052, 2967, 1709, 1662, 1445, 1336, 1245, 698 cm⁻¹; Anal. Calcd for C₁₃H₁₄N₂O₂: C, 67.81; H, 6.13; N, 12.17. Found: C, 67.90; H, 6.21; N, 12.12.

1-Butyl-3-propylpyrimidine-2,4-dione (6h)

Colorless oil (lit.^{7c} oil); ¹H NMR: δ = 7.08 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1 H), 5.66 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1 H), 3.89 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2 H), 3.66 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2 H), 1.69-1.66 (m, 2 H), 1.58-1.54 (m, 2 H), 1.33-1.30 (m, 2 H), 0.96-0.90 (m, 6 H); ¹³C NMR: δ = 163.2, 151.3, 142.0, 101.5, 51.5, 40.9, 30.1, 22.3, 20.0, 13.8, 10.7; IR (neat): v = 3052, 2964, 1707, 1660, 1455, 1354, 1239, 802 cm⁻¹; Anal. Calcd for C₁₁H₁₈N₂O₂: C,

62.83; H, 8.63; N, 13.32. Found: C, 62.94; H, 8.75; N, 13.39.

1-Phenyl-3-(*i*-propyl)pyrimidine-2,4-dione (6i)

White solid, mp 130-132 °C; ¹H NMR: δ = 7.50-7.46 (m, 2 H), 7.38 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1 H), 7.24-7.18 (m, 3 H), 5.80 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1 H), 3.78-3.76 (m, 1 H), 1.20 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 6 H); ¹³C NMR: δ = 163.6, 151.6, 142.7, 135.3, 129.42, 128.7, 128.1, 101.2, 44.5, 22.5; IR (KBr): v = 3050, 2965, 1710, 1663, 1446, 1387, 1370, 1245, 695 cm⁻¹; Anal. Calcd for C₁₃H₁₄N₂O₂: C, 67.81; H, 6.13; N, 12.17. Found: C, 67.92; H, 6.20; N, 12.14.

1-Butyl-3-(*i*-propyl)pyrimidine-2,4-dione (6j)

Colorless oil; ¹H NMR: δ = 7.05 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1 H), 5.64 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1 H), 3.80-3.78 (m, 1 H), 3.73 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2 H), 1.71-1.69 (m, 2 H), 1.38-1.35 (m, 2 H), 1.21 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 6 H), 0.96 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 3 H); ¹³C NMR: δ = 163.0, 151.5, 142.3, 101.3, 50.5, 43.9, 30.9, 22.2, 20.0, 13.6; IR (neat): v = 3052, 2964, 1707, 1660, 1455, 1354, 1385, 1370, 1240, 810 cm⁻¹; Anal. Calcd for C₁₁H₁₈N₂O₂: C, 62.83; H, 8.63; N, 13.32. Found: C, 62.90; H, 8.73; N, 13.40.

1-Allyl-3-butylpyrimidine-2,4-dione (6k)

Colorless oil (lit.^{7c} oil); ¹H NMR: δ = 7.08 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1 H), 5.89-5.87 (m, 1 H), 5.74 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1 H), 5.34-5.25 (m, 2 H), 4.36 (d, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 2 H), 3.94 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2 H), 1.61-1.59 (m, 2 H), 1.37 (m, 2 H), 0.94 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3 H); ¹³C NMR: δ = 163.0, 151.5, 141.5, 131.6, 119.1, 101.9, 51.1, 41.0, 29.5, 20.3, 13.9; IR (neat): v = 3045, 2928, 2856, 1708, 1664, 1455, 1230, 805 cm⁻¹; Anal. Calcd for C₁₁H₁₆N₂O₂: C, 63.44; H, 7.74; N, 13.45. Found: C, 63.53; H, 7.85; N, 13.57.

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