

Synthesis of α,α -difluoro- γ -butyrolactones via ethyl iododifluoroacetate

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Abstract

A novel synthesis of α,α -difluoro- γ -butyrolactones was realized by the alkaline hydrolysis of the adducts of ethyl iododifluoroacetate and alkenes. Ethyl iododifluoroacetate reacted with alkenes in the presence of sodium dithionite to give the addition products in 62–78% yields. The products were hydrolyzed in 10% aqueous sodium carbonate solution to give α,α -difluoro- γ -butyrolactones in 93–98% yields.

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1. Introduction

Partially fluorinated analogues of biologically important compounds bring about dramatic changes and distinctive modifications in their biological activities; this makes it more necessary to establish the efficient methods for the synthesis of selectively fluorinated compounds [1]. We are interested in the synthesis of fluorinated γ -lactones, which are important synthons that display more unique biologically active properties in organic chemistry [2]. We have reported some polyfluoroalkyl- γ -butyrolactones synthesized by the reaction of 4-pentenoic acids and polyfluoroalkyl iodides [3]. In addition, since it is believed that difluoromethylene moiety acts similar to ether-oxygen in vivo and interesting biological activity is anticipated for analogues of α,α -difluorinated biomolecules [4], several works have been reported on the methods to introduce the CF_2 group into organic molecules [5–7]. In this paper, we wish to report the synthesis of

α,α -difluoro- γ -butyrolactones through the hydrolysis of the adduct **3** by the reaction of alkenes (**1**) with ethyl iododifluoroacetate (**2**) initiated by sodium dithionite.

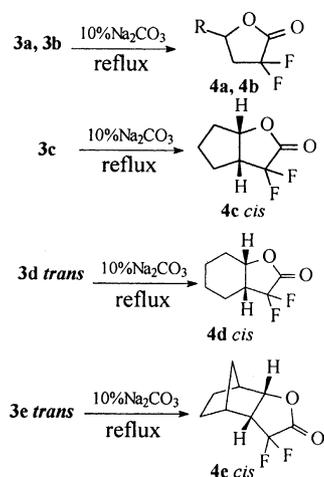
2. Results and discussion

2.1. The addition reaction between alkenes and ethyl iododifluoroacetate

The addition reaction between alkenes and ethyl iododifluoroacetate was first reported by copper powder (10–20 mol%) in 65–83% yield at 50–60 °C [8]. The reaction of iododifluoroacetates with alkenes and zinc in the presence of catalytic amounts of nickel dichloride hexahydrate produced α,α -difluoro functionalized esters in good yields [6,9]. A single electron transfer initiated radical mechanism was proposed and confirmed by direct evidence of free radical as transient intermediates by spin trapping [10].

Studies on the sulfinatodehalogenation reaction showed that sodium dithionite was able to initiate the addition of perfluoroalkyl iodides to olefins effectively [11].

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Scheme 3.

In summary, a novel and efficient synthesis method of α,α -difluoro- γ -butyrolactones was realized by the hydrolysis of the addition products of alkenes with ethyl iododifluoroacetate initiated by sodium dithionite in aqueous sodium carbonate solution under mild conditions in high yields (Tables 1 and 2).

3. Experimental

^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded with Bruker AC-500 (500 MHz) spectrometer with CDCl_3 as the solvent and TMS as the internal standard. ^{19}F NMR spectra were recorded with Bruker AC-500 (500 MHz) spectrometer with CDCl_3 as the solvent and TFA as the external standard. Infrared spectra were measured using a Nicolet Magna IR-550 instrument. High-resolution mass spectra were obtained on Finnigan GC-MS-4021 spectrometers. GC was measured by using Shimadzu GC-14B instrument. The configurations of **3c–e** and **4c–e** were confirmed by two-dimensional NMR (COSY, NOESY, HMQC and HMBC).

3.1. General method for the synthesis of adduct 3

In a typical experiment, alkene (10 mmol) and ethyl iododifluoroacetate (12 mmol) were dissolved in the solution of water (10 ml) and acetonitrile (10 ml). Sodium dithionite (3.7 g) and sodium bicarbonate (1.85 g) was

Table 1
The addition reaction between alkenes and ethyl iododifluoroacetate

Entry	Alkenes	Products	Isolated yield (%)	<i>Cis</i>	<i>Trans</i>
1	1a	3a	76	–	–
2	1b	3b	78	–	–
3	1c	3c	75	Trace	100
4	1d	3d	62	1	1.6
5	1e	3e	67	1	4

Table 2
Synthesis of α,α -difluoro- γ -butyrolactones

Entry	Adducts	Lactones	Isolated yield (%)	Configuration
1	3a	4a	93	–
2	3b	4b	96	–
3	3c	4c	93	<i>Cis</i>
4	3d	4d	98	<i>Cis</i>
5	3e	4e	96	<i>Cis</i>

added to the solution. The mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 6 h. When the reaction accomplished, the reactant was treated with water (ca. 50 ml). The mixture was extracted with ether of 3×20 ml. The combined organic layer was washed with saturated brine and dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. After the evaporation of ether, the crude product was purified by column chromatography or distillation under reduced pressure to give **3a–e**.

3.1.1. Ethyl-2,2-difluoro-4-iodooctanoate (**3a**)

The product was isolated in 76% yield by distillation at reduced pressure, bp 103–105 °C, 3–4 mmHg; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3), δ : 0.93 (3H, t, H-8), 1.38 (3H, t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{O}$), 1.38 (2H, m, H-7), 1.46 (2H, m, H-6), 1.80 (2H, m, H-5), 2.87 (2H, m, H-3), 4.22 (1H, m, H-4), 4.35 (2H, q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, CH_2O); ^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl_3), δ : 107.90 (dt, 1F, $J_{\text{F,F}} = 258.5$ Hz, $J_{\text{F,H}} = 18.8$ Hz), –103.18 (ddd, 1F, $J_{\text{F,F}} = 263.2$ Hz, $J_{\text{F,H}} = 18.8$ Hz, $J_{\text{F,H}} = 9.4$ Hz); in accordance with Ref. [6].

3.1.2. Ethyl-2,2-difluoro-4-iododecanoate (**3b**)

The product was isolated in 76% yield by distillation at reduced pressure; bp 108–110 °C, 2–3 mmHg; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3), δ : 0.89 (3H, t, H-10), 1.29 (6H, m, H-7, 8, 9), 1.38 (3H, t, $J = 7.1$, $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{O}$), 1.50 (2H, m, H-6), 1.81 (2H, m, H-5), 2.86 (2H, m, H-3), 4.22 (1H, m, H-4), 4.35 (2H, q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, CH_2O); ^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl_3), δ : 107.91 (dt, $J_{\text{F,F}} = 258.5$ Hz, $J_{\text{F,H}} = 18.8$ Hz, 1F), –103.16 (ddd, $J_{\text{F,F}} = 263.2$ Hz, $J_{\text{F,H}} = 18.8$ Hz, $J_{\text{F,H}} = 14.1$ Hz, 1F); in accordance with Ref. [6].

3.1.3. Ethyl- α,α -difluoro-(2-iodocyclopentanyl)acetate (*trans*-**3c**)

The product was isolated in 75% yield by column chromatography eluting with petroleum ether and ethyl acetate (10:1). IR (film), ν (cm^{-1}): 2980, 1780 (γ -lactone), 1300, 1220, 720; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3), δ : 1.39 (3H, t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{O}$, H-10), 1.73 (2H, m, H-4), 1.89 (2H, m, H-5), 2.17 (2H, m, H-3), 3.13 (1H, m, H-1), 4.31 (1H, m, H-2), 4.37 (2H, q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, CH_2O); ^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl_3), δ : 114.21 (dd, $J_{\text{F,F}} = 258.5$ Hz, $J_{\text{F,H}} = 14.1$ Hz, 1F), –111.95 (dd, $J_{\text{F,F}} = 258.5$ Hz, $J_{\text{F,H}} = 14.1$ Hz, 1F); ^{13}C NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl_3): 14.7 (s, CH_3), 20.2 (s, C-5), 26.2 (s, C-2), 26.0 (s, C-4), 41.9 (s, C-3), 55.9 (t, C-1), 63.8 (s, CH_2O), 116.7 (t, CF_2), 164.2 (s, C=O); HRMS calcd. for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_{13}\text{O}_2\text{F}_2\text{I}$ 318.1012, found 318.1015.

3.1.4. Ethyl- α,α -difluoro-(2-iodocyclohexanyl)acetate (*trans*-**3d**)

The pure *trans*-isomer was isolated from a mixture of *trans*- and *cis*-isomers by column chromatography eluting with petroleum ether and ethyl acetate (100:1). *Trans*-isomer: IR (film), ν (cm^{-1}): 2980, 1780 (γ -lactone), 1300, 1220, 720; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3), δ : 1.38 (3H, t, $J = 7.1$, $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{O}$), 1.45 (3H, m, H-4,5,6), 1.63 (1H, m, H-4), 1.80 (1H, m, H-5), 2.06 (2H, m, H-3 and H-6), 2.35 (1H, m, H-3), 2.73 (1H, m, H-1), 4.35 (1H, m, H-2), 4.36 (2H, q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, CH_2O); ^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl_3), δ : -112.37 (dd, $J_{\text{F,F}} = 258.5$ Hz, $J_{\text{F,H}} = 14.1$ Hz, 1F), -106.67 (dd, $J_{\text{F,F}} = 258.5$ Hz, $J_{\text{F,H}} = 14.1$ Hz, 1F); ^{13}C NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl_3), δ : 13.8 (s, CH_3), 24.0 (s, C-5), 25.0 (s, C-6), 26.0 (s, C-2), 27.0 (s, C-4), 39.7 (s, C-3), 48.8 (t, C-1), 63.8 (s, OCH_2), 164.5–163.9 (t, C=O), 117.0 (t, CF_2); HRMS calcd. for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{15}\text{O}_2\text{F}_2\text{I}$ 332.0085, found 332.0078.

3.1.5. Ethyl- α,α -difluoro-(3-iodobicyclo[2,2,1]hept-2-yl)acetate (**3e**)

The product was isolated in 67% yield by column chromatography eluting with petroleum ether and ethyl acetate (80:1). IR (film), ν (cm^{-1}): 2980, 2900, 1770 (γ -lactone), 1450, 1310, 1080, 850, 780; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3), δ : 1.27 (1H, m, H-7), 1.31 (1H, m, H-6), 1.38 (3H, t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, CH_3), 1.61 (1H, m, H-6), 1.64 (1H, m, H-5), 1.69 (1H, m, H-7), 1.83 (1H, m, H-5), 2.29 (1H, m, H-2), 2.35 (1H, s, H-1), 2.47 (1H, s, H-4), 4.22 (1H, m, H-3), 4.37 (2H, q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, OCH_2); ^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl_3), δ : 116.22 (dd, $J_{\text{F,F}} = 253.8$ Hz, $J_{\text{F,H}} = 18.8$ Hz, 1F), -110.14 (dd, $J_{\text{F,F}} = 253.8$ Hz, $J_{\text{F,H}} = 14.1$ Hz, 1F); ^{13}C NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl_3), δ : 14.6 (s, CH_3), 27.9 (s, C-5), 27.9 (s, C-3), 30.6 (s, C-6), 35.6 (s, C-7), 38.0 (s, C-1), 45.6 (s, C-4), 58.3 (t, C-2), 63.9 (s, OCH_2), 116.2 (t, CF_2), 164.3 (t, C=O); HRMS calcd. for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{15}\text{O}_2\text{F}_2\text{I}$ 344.0085, found 344.0080.

3.2. General method for the synthesis of α,α -difluoro- γ -lactones (**4**)

A mixture of the adduct **3a–e** (1 g) and 10% Na_2CO_3 aqueous solution (10 ml) was refluxed for 4 h. The mixture was acidified and extracted with ether, washed with saturated brine and dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. After concentrated, the crude product was purified by column chromatography to give lactones **4a–e**.

3.2.1. 3,3-Difluoro-5-butylidihydrofuran-2-one (**4a**)

The product was isolated in 93% yield by column chromatography eluting with petroleum ether and ethyl acetate (10:1). IR (film), ν (cm^{-1}): 2980, 1810 (γ -lactone), 1480, 1420, 1320, 1260, 1100, 1000, 740; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3), δ : 0.93 (3H, t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, H-9), 1.83–1.81 (m, 1H), 1.44 (m, 4H, m, H-7 and H-8), 1.76 (2H, m, C-6), 2.32 (1H, m, H-4), 2.83 (1H, m, H-4), 4.62 (1H, m, H-5); ^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl_3), δ : 108.75 (ddd, $J_{\text{F,F}} = 277.3$ Hz, $J_{\text{F,H}} = 14.1$ Hz, $J_{\text{F,H}} = 4.7$ Hz, 1F), -107.35

(ddd, $J_{\text{F,F}} = 277.3$ Hz, $J_{\text{F,H}} = 23.5$ Hz, $J_{\text{F,H}} = 18.8$ Hz, 1F); ^{13}C NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl_3), δ : 13.8 (s, C-9), 22.3 (s, C-8), 26.8 (s, C-7), 34.9 (s, C-6), 37.6 (t, C-4), 115.7 (t, C-3), 76.8 (s, C-5), 165.2 (t, C-2); HRMS calcd. for $\text{C}_8\text{H}_{11}\text{O}_2\text{F}_2$ ($M - 1$) 177.0727, found 177.0732.

3.2.2. 3,3-Difluoro-5-hexyldihydrofuran-2-one (**4b**)

The product was isolated in 96% yield by column chromatography eluting with petroleum ether and ethyl acetate (10:1). IR (film), ν (cm^{-1}): 2960, 2900, 1810 (γ -lactone), 1480, 1420, 1320, 1260, 1100, 760; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3), δ : 0.89 (3H, t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, H-11), 1.45 (8H, m, H-7,8,9,10), 1.71 (1H, m, H-6), 1.81 (1H, m, H-6), 2.33 (1H, m, H-4), 2.84 (1H, m, H-4), 4.62 (1H, m, H-5); ^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl_3), δ : 108.78 (ddd, $J_{\text{F,F}} = 277.3$ Hz, $J_{\text{F,H}} = 14.1$ Hz, $J_{\text{F,H}} = 4.7$ Hz, 1F), -107.44 (ddd, $J_{\text{F,F}} = 282$ Hz, $J_{\text{F,H}} = 21.2$ Hz, $J_{\text{F,H}} = 16.5$ Hz, 1F); ^{13}C NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl_3), δ : 13.9 (s, C-11), 22.4 (s, C-10), 24.5 (s, C-9), 28.6 (s, C-8), 31.4 (s, C-7), 35.1 (s, C-6), 37.4 (t, C-4), 76.8 (s, C-5), 115.6 (t, C-3), 165.2 (t, C-2); HRMS calcd. for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_2\text{F}_2$ 206.1118, found 206.1114.

3.2.3. 3,3-Difluorohexahydrocyclopenta[b]furan-2-one (**4c**)

The product was isolated in 93% yield by column chromatography eluting with petroleum ether and ethyl acetate (10:1). IR (film), ν (cm^{-1}): 2990, 1810 (γ -lactone), 1460, 1340, 1260, 1220, 1160, 760; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3), δ : 1.65 (1H, m, H-7), 1.86 (3H, m, H-7 and H-8), 2.00 (1H, m, H-6), 2.17 (1H, m, H-6), 3.09 (1H, m, H-5), 5.13 (1H, t, $J_{\text{F,H}} = 5.1$ Hz, H-1); ^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl_3), δ : -116.76 (d, $J_{\text{F,F}} = 282$ Hz, 1F), -99.73 (dd, $J_{\text{F,F}} = 282$ Hz, $J_{\text{F,H}} = 18.8$ Hz, 1F); ^{13}C NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl_3), δ : 23.5 (s, C-7), 24.9–24.8 (t, C-6), 33.4 (s, C-8), 45.9 (t, C-5), 83.9 (d, C-1), 116.5 (dd, C-4), 165.9 (dd, C-3), HRMS calcd. for $\text{C}_7\text{H}_8\text{O}_2\text{F}_2$ 162.0492, found 162.0500.

3.2.4. 3,3-Difluorohexahydrocyclohexyl[b]furan-2-one (**4d**)

The product was isolated in 98% yield by column chromatography eluting with petroleum ether and ethyl acetate (10:1). IR (film), ν (cm^{-1}): 2990, 1810 (γ -lactone), 1460, 1340, 1260, 1220, 1160, 760; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3), δ : 1.30 (1H, m, H-8), 1.35 (1H, m, H-6), 1.44 (1H, m, H-8), 1.56 (1H, m, H-7), 1.76 (2H, m, H-7 and H-9), 1.85 (1H, m, H-6), 2.15 (1H, m, H-9), 2.66 (1H, m, H-5), 4.73 (1H, q, $J = 4.1$ Hz, H-1); ^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl_3), δ : 125.26 (d, $J_{\text{F,F}} = 267.9$ Hz, 1F), -111.87 (dd, $J_{\text{F,F}} = 272.6$ Hz, $J_{\text{F,H}} = 14.1$ Hz, 1F); ^{13}C NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl_3), δ : 19.8 (s, C-7), 20.7 (s, C-8), 22.7 (s, C-6), 28.1 (s, C-9), 41.8 (t, C-5), 76.1 (d, C-1), 118.1 (dd, C-4), 166.7 (t, C-3); HRMS calcd. for $\text{C}_8\text{H}_{10}\text{O}_2\text{F}_2$ 176.1618, found 176.1621.

3.2.5. 5,5-Difluoro-3-oxatricyclo[5.2.1.0^{2,6}]decanone (**4e**)

The product was isolated in 96% yield by column chromatography eluting with petroleum ether and ethyl

acetate (10:1). IR (film), ν (cm^{-1}): 2980, 2900, 1810 (γ -lactone), 1470, 1300, 1250, 1100, 810, 780; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3), δ : 1.20 (1H, m, H-9), 1.26 (1H, m, H-8), 1.35 (2H, m, H-10), 1.65 (1H, m, H-8), 1.71 (1H, m, H-9), 2.57 (1H, dd, $J_{\text{F,H}} = 24.7$ Hz, $J_{\text{H,H}} = 6.3$ Hz, H-6), 2.62 (2H, s, H-1 and H-7), 4.65 (1H, dd, $J_{\text{F,H}} = 6.2$ Hz, $J_{\text{H,H}} = 1.2$ Hz, H-2); ^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl_3), δ : -117.37 (d, $J_{\text{F,F}} = 286.7$ Hz, 1F), -95.80 (dd, $J_{\text{F,F}} = 286.7$ Hz, $J_{\text{F,H}} = 23.5$ Hz, 1F); ^{13}C NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl_3), δ : 22.6 (s, C-9), 27.4 (s, C-8), 32.8 (s, C-10), 36.1 (t, C-7), 40.6 (s, C-1), 48.9 (t, C-6), 83.1 (s, C-2), 115.1 (dd, C-5), 166.4 (t, C-4); HRMS calcd. for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_{10}\text{O}_2\text{F}_2$ 188.0649, found 188.0627. HRMS calcd. for $\text{C}_8\text{H}_{10}\text{F}_2$ ($M - \text{CO}_2$) 144.0751, found 144.0747. Anal. calcd. for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_{10}\text{O}_2\text{F}_2$: C, 57.45; H, 5.36; F, 20.19. Found C, 57.03; H, 5.33; F, 20.26.

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