

Secure route to the epoxybicyclo[7.3.0]dodecadienediynes core of the kedarcidin chromophore†

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Formation of an epoxide before 9-membered ring cyclization and SmI₂ mediated reductive olefination in the presence of the epoxide successfully produced the epoxybicyclo[7.3.0]dodecadienediynes core of the kedarcidin chromophore.

The labile chromophore (**1**) of antiproliferative kedarcidin^{1,2} has a highly functionalized epoxybicyclo[7.3.0]dodecadienediynes structure (Fig. 1).^{3–5} In the course of our synthetic studies on the chromophore,^{6,7} we found that the C8,9-epoxide was difficult to introduce at the later stages of the synthesis.^{6a} Therefore, we envisaged that the formation of the epoxide functionality should be conducted before construction of the 9-membered ring framework. We recently developed the facile reductive elimination of vicinal bis-*p*-trifluoromethylbenzoates or 1,2-mesyloxy-*p*-trifluoromethylbenzoate using samarium iodide to introduce the olefins.⁸ Kagan's pioneering work in the field of SmI₂ mediated reduction indicated that the epoxide functionality would serve as a good electron acceptor.^{9,10} Indeed, reductive ring opening and deoxygenation reactions of epoxides in the presence or absence of proton sources proceeded under mild conditions.^{9,11} In this communication we report a successful approach towards the epoxybicyclo[7.3.0]dodecadienediynes core of the kedarcidin chromophore *via* the highly chemoselective reductive olefination of diol derivatives in the presence of an epoxide. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first example of a SmI₂ mediated reductive olefination of vicinal diol derivatives with the co-existence of an epoxide in the molecule.

Synthesis of the 9-membered epoxydiyne precursors for the crucial SmI₂ mediated reduction was initiated by the transformation of an enantioselectively prepared cyclopentene moiety **2**^{6b} to an alkynyl epoxide structure (Scheme 1). Oxidation of diol **2** by SO₃-pyridine gave an α -hydroxyaldehyde. Addition of ethynyl Grignard reagent to the aldehyde in CH₂Cl₂-THF (10 : 1) proceeded diastereoselectively and the alkynyl alcohol **3** was obtained as a single diastereomer.¹² Selective mesylation of the newly formed secondary alcohol and subsequent treatment with DBU provided the desired *cis*-epoxide **4** after C-silylation of the alkyne terminus. The geometry of the C8,9-epoxide was unambiguously determined by the NOE correlation between H8 and H10. Hagihara–Sonogashira

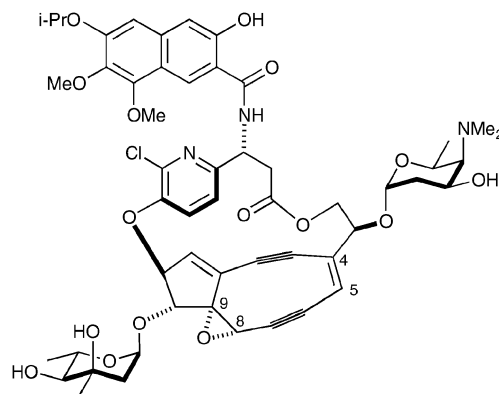


Fig. 1 The structure of the kedarcidin chromophore, **1**, proposed in 1997^{3c} (recent stereochemical revision, see ref. 4).

coupling of **4** with the C2–C5 moiety **5**¹³ and removal of the trimethylsilyl group afforded the terminal alkyne **6**. Oxidative cleavage of the 2-naphthylmethyl (NAP) ether and Dess–Martin oxidation gave the aldehyde **7**. Cyclization to the 9-membered diyne ring at the C5–C6 position utilizing CeCl₃–lithium disilazide at –25 °C¹⁴ resulted in the formation of **8** and **9** (4 : 1). Selective cleavage of the triethylsilyl ethers using tetrabutylammonium fluoride at –78 °C and mesylation of the C5 alcohol allowed the separation of diastereomers **10** and **12**. The configuration at C5 was determined by comparison of the attempted epoxidation of diastereomers **10** and **12**. Only isomer **10** with the α -mesylate gave the corresponding C4,5-epoxide upon treatment with DBU. The C4 hydroxyl group in both isomers was acylated to give *p*-trifluoromethylbenzoates **11** and **13**. Diastereomers **11** and **13** were subjected to reductive elimination. The C5-acetoxy derivative **14**, instead of the mesylate, and *p*-trifluoromethyl benzoate **15** shown in Table 1 were also prepared from **8** and **9**, respectively.

Results of the reductive olefination^{8,10,15} at the C4–C5 position are listed in Table 1. When α -mesylate **11** was treated with 2.5 molar equivalents of SmI₂ in THF at –15 °C, **11** disappeared within 6 min. Work up and rapid purification afforded enediyne **16** and its cycloaromatized product **17** in 60% combined yield (entry 1). Once the labile 9-membered enediyne **16** was formed, **16** underwent cycloaromatization and deterioration as in natural products.² The ratio of **16** and **17** after chromatographic purification was estimated to be *ca.* 3 : 2 by ¹H NMR spectroscopic analysis. It was less dependent on the reaction conditions than the period spent on work up and purification. The decomposition rate of **16** was also estimated (*t*_{1/2} = 46 min at 24 °C in CDCl₃).¹⁶ Excess use of SmI₂ (10 mol eq.) caused decomposition of substrate **11** even if the reaction was conducted at –78 °C. On the other hand,

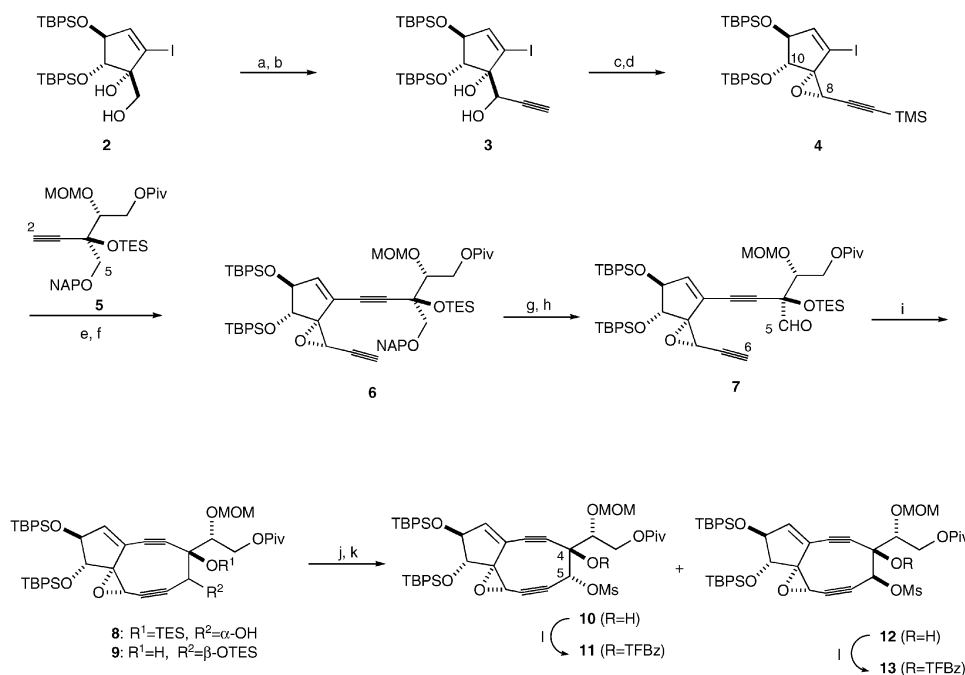
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Scheme 1 Reagents and conditions. (a) SO_3 -pyridine, Et_3N , DMSO, CH_2Cl_2 ; (b) ethynyl Grignard reagent, CH_2Cl_2 , THF, 0°C ; (c) MsCl , Et_3N , CH_2Cl_2 , -45°C then DBU, 0°C ; (d) TMSCl , $\text{LiN}(\text{TMS})_2$, THF, -30°C , 44% (4 steps); (e) $\text{Pd}_2(\text{dba})_3\cdot\text{CHCl}_3$, CuI , $i\text{-Pr}_2\text{NEt}$, DMF; (f) K_2CO_3 , MeOH, 72% (2 steps); (g) DDQ, H_2O , CH_2Cl_2 ; (h) Dess–Martin periodinane, NaHCO_3 , CH_2Cl_2 , 85% (2 steps); (i) CeCl_3 , $\text{LiN}(\text{TMS})_2$, THF, -20°C , 58% (4 : 1); (j) Bu_4NF , THF, -78°C ; (k) Ms_2O , pyridine, CH_2Cl_2 , 0°C then separation; (l) $p\text{-CF}_3\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{COCl}$, DMAP, CH_2Cl_2 , 59% (3 steps) for **11**, 19% (3 steps) for **13**. Abbreviations. TBPSO: *tert*-butyldiphenylsilyl; TMS: trimethylsilyl; MOM: methoxymethyl; TES: triethylsilyl; NAP: 2-naphthylmethyl; TFBz: *p*-trifluoromethylbenzoyl; DBU: 1,8-diazabicyclo[5.4.0]undec-7-ene; DDQ: 2,3-dichloro-5,6-dicyano-*p*-benzoquinone.

Table 1 Chemoselective reductive olefination mediated by SmI_2

Reaction scheme showing the conversion of a bicyclic substrate to products **16** and **17** using SmI_2 (2.5 eq.) in THF.

11 $\text{R}^1 = \text{OMs}$, $\text{R}^2 = \text{H}$
13 $\text{R}^1 = \text{H}$, $\text{R}^2 = \text{OMs}$
14 $\text{R}^1 = \text{OAc}$, $\text{R}^2 = \text{H}$
15 $\text{R}^1 = \text{H}$, $\text{R}^2 = \text{OTFBz}$

Chemical structures of products **16** and **17**.

Entry ^a	Substrate		Conditions	16 + 17 ^b Yield (%)	
	R^1	R^2			
1	11	OMs	H	-15°C , 6 min	60
2	13	H	OMs	-20°C , 10 min	72
3 ^c	13	H	OMs	-20°C , 10 min	59
4	14	OAc	H	0°C , 17 min	53
5	15	H	OTFBz	-15°C , 8 min	50

^a For detailed reaction conditions, see ref. 17. ^b For the ratio of **16** and **17**, see text. ^c After the completion of the reaction, products were treated with excess 1,4-cyclohexadiene in CH_2Cl_2 .

treatment of the β -mesylate **13** with 2.5 mol eq. of SmI_2 at -20°C afforded a mixture of enediyne **16** and its aromatized product **17** in 72% yield (entry 2).¹⁷ When the crude products

were treated with excess 1,4-cyclohexadiene in CH_2Cl_2 (entry 3), cycloaromatized **17** was isolated as the sole product. Observed yields in the reductive elimination of **11** and **13** indicated that the relative configuration of the leaving group at C5 did not affect the efficiency of the elimination. The C5-acetate **14** and the C5-*p*-trifluoromethyl benzoate **15** were also found to act as substrates for the SmI_2 mediated reductive elimination (entries 4 and 5), but the reaction rate of **14** was slower as anticipated.

Thus, it is apparent that the electron transfer to the C8,9-epoxide is slower than that to the *p*-trifluoromethylbenzoate, which generates a tertiary radical at C4. The second electron transfer affords an anionic intermediate leading to the conjugate enediyne *via* elimination of mesylate.⁸ The overall procedure corresponds to the highly chemoselective and facile reductive olefin formation from 1,2-diol derivatives under mild conditions.

In conclusion, we succeeded in the construction of the epoxybicyclo[7.3.0]dodecadienediyne framework of the kedarcidin chromophore *via* 9-membered ring cyclization at the C5–C6 position and subsequent SmI_2 mediated reductive olefination. The latter reduction shows unique chemoselectivity and the epoxide functionality survives under the reaction conditions. Further studies towards the total synthesis of the kedarcidin chromophore utilizing the present methodology are currently under investigation.

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- 17 Typical experimental procedure for SmI₂ mediated reductive olefination. A 0.1 M THF solution of SmI₂ was prepared from samarium and diiodomethane according to the procedure reported by Kagan (ref. 9b). To a solution of **13** (4.2 mg, 3.7 μmol) in freshly distilled THF (0.64 mL) was added a solution of SmI₂ (0.1 M, 90 μL, 9.1 μmol) at –20 °C. After stirring for 10 min, the mixture was exposed to open air and diluted with diethyl ether. The suspension was filtrated through pads of Celite and silica gel. Concentration under reduced pressure and silica gel flash chromatography (hexane–ethyl acetate) gave a mixture of enediyne **16** and aromatized product **17** in a ratio of 3 : 2 (2.3 mg, 72% as a combined yield).