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ABSTRACT

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L-ascorbic acid first report The synthesis of phomopsolide B has been achieved using an olefin cross-metathesis (CM) reaction as a key step. Two metathesis partners, ene diol and 5-hydroxy vinyl lactone were prepared from L-ascorbic acid. This is the first report of using 5-hydroxy vinyl lactone in an olefin cross-metathesis reaction.

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In 1985, Grove et al reported the isolation of phomopsolides A and B (Figure 1, 1 & 2) from the fungus Phomopsis oblonga. Both 1 and 2 have been found to show antiboring/antifeeding activity against the elm bark beetle. 1,2 Later in 1997, phomopsolides A and B were isolated by Stierle³ along with three new phomopsolides C, D and E (Figure 1, 1-5) from Penicillium sp., which was isolated from the inner bark of the Pacific yew, Taxus brevifolia. They have shown potent antimicrobial activity against S. aureus. Phomopsolide B (2) was also isolated from the submerged cultures of the endophytic fungal strain Diaporthe sp. XZ-07 of Camptotheca acuminate. It significantly inhibited the growth of human-tumor HeLa cells with an IC_{50} of 5.7 μ g/ml by the MTT assay (MTT=3-(4,5dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide).⁴ Phomopsolides A, B, C, D, E (**1-5**) and related compounds⁵ have been isolated recently from the alga-associated fungus, Penicillium clavigerum, which was isolated from the green alga Chlorella vulgaris Beyerinck [Beijerinck]. Phomopsolide A and phomopsolide C were reported as potent inhibitors ($IC_{50} < 10$ microM) of specific and established human cancer cell lines. Phomopsolides possess 6-substituted 5, 6-dihydro-5hydroxypyran-2-one core. To date, only two syntheses^{6, 7} of (+)phompsolide B have been reported. In continuation of our interest on the synthesis of biologically active δ -lactone containing natural products⁸ using olefin cross-metathesis reaction as a key step, we herein describe the total synthesis of

(+)- Phompsolide B based on an olefin cross-metathesis approach starting from L-ascorbic acid.

Figure 1. Phomopsolides A-E (1-5)

The retrosynthetic analysis of (+)-2 is shown in Scheme 1. This strategy derives C5, C6, C3' and C4' stereocenters of 2 from L-ascorbic acid. The target molecule 2 could be obtained from 7 by esterification followed by deprotection of acetonide group. Compound 7 in turn could be obtained from olefin cross-metathesis reaction between dihydroxy olefin 8 and 5-hydroxy vinyl δ -lactone 9. The two metathesis partners 8 and 9 could be synthesized from L-ascorbic acid via an intermediate 10.

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Scheme 1. Retrosynthetic analysis

Thus, the synthesis of 2 began starting from L-ascorbic acid. Initially, the 5-hydroxy vinyl δ -lactone 9 was prepared as shown in Scheme 2. The known hydroxy ester 11 obtained from Lascorbic acid, was protected as its TBS ether 12 in 90% yield. The subsequent ester reduction of 12 and Wittig olefination were conducted in one pot due to the instability of the intermediate aldehyde to get the olefinic compound 13. Deprotection of the isopropylidene group with 50% TFA¹⁰ in CH₂Cl₂ provided the diol 10 in 95% yield. The primary hydroxyl group of diol 10 was selectively protected as its TBS ether by using TBSCl and imidazole in CH₂Cl₂ to obtain 14 in 90% yield. Protection of the secondary hydroxyl group as its benzyl ether resulted in a mixture of two inseparable isomers 15a and 15b.11 Interestingly, after removal of the primary silyl group with PPTS in EtOH, the two resulting primary alcohols could be separated on silica gel giving 16a and 16b in 7:3 ratio (by ¹H NMR). These results revealed that the silyl protecting group in the present case was labile to migration.

Oxidation of the primary hydroxyl group in **16a** with IBX in CH₃CN furnished the corresponding aldehyde which on further treatment with Still-Gennari phosphonate afforded Z- α , β -unsaturated ester **17** in 82% yield over two steps. Treatment of ester **17** with PTSA/ CH₂Cl₂ at room temperature resulted in the deprotection of TBS group with the simultaneous lactone ring formation to afford **18** in 88% yield. Deprotection of benzyl group in compound **18** was achieved with TiCl₄ in CH₂Cl₂ at 0 °C to complete the synthesis of 5-hydroxy vinyl lactone **9**¹² in 90% yield.

The other coupling partner, dihydroxy olefin **8** was synthesized from an intermediate **10** (see Scheme 2), which was accessed from L-ascorbic acid. Accordingly, regioselective tosylation on the primary alcohol **10** using TsCl, Et₃N and a catalytic amount of *n*-Bu₂SnO in CH₂Cl₂ at 0 °C afforded mono-tosyl compound **19**, which on subsequent treatment with LAH furnished methyl compound **8**⁸g in 85% yield (Scheme 3).

With the two desired precursors **8** and **9** in hand, we were now ready to study the key cross-metathesis reaction. Thus olefin cross-metathesis (CM) reaction between the dihydroxy olefin **8** and the 5-hydroxy vinyl lactone **9** using 2nd generation Grubbs catalyst¹³ in CH₂Cl₂ at refux resulted in an unisolable mixture of three products, i.e., two self dimers (15%) and the required coupled product (80%). Since we were unable to isolate pure product at this stage, it was protected as an acetonide by reaction with 2,2-dimethoxypropane to give a pure product **7** after flash

column chromatography. The spectral data of compound **7** matched with the data of the compound reported.

Abbreviations: TBSCl = *tert*-Butyldimethylsilyl chloride, THF= Tetrahydrofuran, DIBAL= Diisobutylaluminum hydride, TFA= Trifluoroacetic acid, PPTS = Pyridinium *p*-toluenesulfonate, IBX = 2-Iodoxybenzoic acid, PTSA= *p*-Toluenesulfonic acid

Scheme 2. Synthesis of 5-hydroxy vinyl lactone 9

HO OH Scheme 2 OTBS
$$H\bar{O}$$
 OH $H\bar{O}$ OTBS $H\bar{O}$ OTS $H\bar{O}$ OC, 85 % $H\bar{O}$ OH $H\bar$

Abbreviations: TsCl = p-Toluenesulfonyl chloride, LAH = Lithium aluminium hydride

Scheme 3. Synthesis of ene diol 8

Esterification of the free hydroxy group in **7** with tiglic acid afforded **20** in 90% yield. Finally, deprotection of the acetonide group with a catalytic amount of PTSA in $CH_2Cl_2/MeOH$ (2:1) furnished the target lactone, (+)-phomopsolide B in 89% yield. The spectroscopic and physical data (1 H and 13 C NMR, & [α]_D)

of (+)-phomopsolide B $(2)^{14}$ was identical with the reported data in the literature. 1,6b,7

In conclusion, we have performed a convergent, stereoselective synthesis of (+)-phomopsolide B in 15 steps and in 9% overall yield. Olefin cross-metathesis was the key step involved to accomplish the synthesis of (+)-phomopsolide B.

Abbreviations: 2,2-DMP = 2,2-Dimethoxypropane, DCC = N,N'-dicyclohexylcarbodiimide, DMAP = 4-Dimethylamino pyridine.

Scheme 4. Synthesis of (+)-phomopsolide B.

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- 14. Phomopsolide B (2): $[a]_D^{20}$: +235.30 (c = 0.4, MeOH); [Lit.³ $[a]_D^{20}$: +250 (c = 0.03, MeOH); Lit. $^{1.66,7}$ $[a]_D^{20}$: +255, +250, 224 (EtOH)]; **mp** 94–96 °C; [Lit.¹ 97 °C]; **IR** (neat): 3445, 2924, 2854, 1743, 1632, 1543, 1465, 1379, 1110 cm⁻¹; 1 **H NMR** (CDCl₃, 300 MHz): δ 7.01 (dd, J = 9.8, 5.5 Hz, 1H), 6.93–6.87 (m, 1H), 6.24 (d, J = 9.8 Hz, 1H), 6.01 (ddd, J = 15.7, 5.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 5.90 (ddd, J = 15.7, 6.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 5.38 (dd, J = 5.6, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 5.12–5.09 (m, 1H), 3.93 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 3.62 (dq, 12.7, 6.3 Hz, 1H), 2.42 (br.s, OH), 1.83-1.79 (m, 6H), 1.68 (br.s, OH), 1.17 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 3H); 13 C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz): δ 166.7, 162.4, 140.9, 139.9, 134.8, 127.5, 124.9, 124.6, 78.5, 76.1, 70.5, 63.3, 18.8, 14.5, 12.0; ESI-MS (m/z): 319 [M +Na]*; HRMS-ESI: m/z calcd for C₁₅ H₂₀ O₆ Na: 319.11521, found: 319.11474.

Supplementary Material: Experimental procedures, spectral data, copies of ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR spectra available.