

165. Regio-, Diastereo-, and Enantioselective Synthesis of Vicinal Diols via α -Silyl Ketones

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A new versatile and efficient regio-, diastereo-, and enantioselective synthesis of vicinal diols *s-trans*-4, *s-trans*-5, and *s-cis*-4 is described. Symmetrical ketones are converted into their SAMP- or RAMP-hydrazones which are then silylated with (isopropoxy)dimethylsilyl chloride, followed by ozonolysis to afford the α -silyl ketones (*R*)-2 of high enantiomeric purity (ee 90–98%). On the other hand, methyl ketones, after conversion into the corresponding (–)-(*S*)-1-amino-2-(methoxymethyl)pyrrolidine (SAMP) hydrazones, are silylated and then alkylated with RI to afford unsymmetrical α -silyl ketones (*S*)-3 of high enantiomeric purity (ee 90–98%). The reduction of the above obtained α -silyl ketones with L-Selectride, followed by oxidative cleavage of the C–Si bond gives rise to *s-trans*-4, *s-trans*-5, and *s-cis*-4 with high diastereoselectivity (de 95–98%) and without racemization (ee $\geq$ 90–98%).

The diastereo- and enantioselective synthesis of vicinal diols has received considerable interest in recent years, because 1,2-diol structures are not only crucial structural features of many biologically active compounds [1] [2], but also important synthons in synthetic chemistry [1] [3]. Approaches have been carried out by enantioselective ring opening using epoxide hydrazes [4], ring opening *via* epoxidation of chiral allylic alcohols [1], selective transformations from natural products [5], coupling of chiral boronic esters with chiral lithio esters [6], homologation of alkyl boronates [7], and enantioselective dihydroxylation of olefins [8]. In addition, diastereoselective reductions of α -hydroxy ketones to form vicinal diols have also been reported [9], but little attention has been paid to enantioselective versions, although previously difficult but now very efficient enantioselective reductions of aliphatic ketones are at hand [10]. Therefore, the development of further flexible techniques for the stereoselective construction of 1,2-diol structures is of considerable interest.

We now report on an efficient, highly regio-, diastereo-, and enantioselective synthesis of vicinal diols based on our (–)-(*S*)-1-amino-2-(methoxymethyl)pyrrolidine (SAMP)-/ (+)-(*R*)-1-amino-2-(methoxymethyl)pyrrolidine (RAMP)-hydrazone methodology [11–13]. As is shown in the *Scheme*, dialkyl ketones **1** are transformed into their corresponding SAMP-hydrazones, metalated (LDA, Et₂O), and α -C-silylated with (i-PrO)Me₂SiCl at –78°, followed by ozonolysis (O₃, CH₂Cl₂, –78°) to afford the α -silylated ketones (*R*)-2 of high enantiomeric purity (ee 90–98%) [12]. Alternatively, alkyl methyl ketones (R' = H) can be converted into the α -silylated ketones (*S*)-3 (ee 90–98%) through silylation/alkylation (1. SAMP, 2. LDA, Et₂O; (i-PrO)Me₂SiCl, 3. LDA, Et₂O; R'I) according to the SAMP-/RAMP-hydrazone method [13]. The sign of the optical rotations of the ketones **2** and **3** are coincident with those of related α -silyl

Table. Vicinal Diols Prepared by Reduction/C–Si Oxidation from α -Silyl Ketones (R)-**2** or (S)-**3**

Entry	R ^A	R ^B	Method	Yield [%] ^{a)}	$[\alpha]_D^{22}$ (c, CHCl ₃)	ee [%] ^{b)}	de [%] ^{c)}
1	R ¹ = Me	R ² = Et	Ia	56	– 14.0 (0.6)	≥ 90	≥ 98
2	R ² = Me	R ³ = Et	IIIa	52	– 14.2 (2.1)	≥ 95	≥ 98
3	R ¹ = Et	R ² = Me	Ia ^{d)}	58	+ 13.9 (0.7)	≥ 98	98
4	R ² = Et	R ³ = Me	IIIa	52	+ 13.2 (1.7)	≥ 90	≥ 98
5	R ² = Et	R ³ = Hexyl	IIIa	24	– 5.0 (0.3)		≥ 98 ^{e)}
6	R ² = Hexyl	R ³ = Me	IIIa	53	+ 6.0 (0.5)	≥ 98	≥ 98
7	R ¹ = Me	R ² = Et	IIb	14	+ 4.5 (1.0)	≥ 90	≥ 98
8	R ¹ = Et	R ² = Pr	IIc	47	+ 19.2 (0.6)		≥ 95 ^{e)}
f	R ¹ = Et	R ² = Et			+ 22.7 (2.5, H ₂ O)		

a) Yields of pure vicinal diols based on α -silyl ketones **2** and **3**.

b) Enantiomeric excesses of *Entries* 1, 2, 3, and 4 were determined by GLC of the bis-Mosher esters of vicinal diols on a 25-m XE-60 (S)-Val-S- α -PEA capillary column. Enantiomeric excesses of *Entries* 1, 3, 4, 6, and 7 were also determined by ¹H-NMR shift experiments of their α -silyl-ketone precursors.

c) Diastereoisomeric excesses of vicinal diols were determined by ¹³C-NMR spectroscopy.

d) RAMP was used instead of SAMP as the chiral auxiliary.

e) After separation of the minor diastereoisomer by column chromatography (twice, silica gel, Et₂O/pentane 1:3–1:1); the first isolated product in *Entry* 5 showed de ≥ 70 and that in *Entry* 8 showed de ≥ 75.

f) Data from [5a].

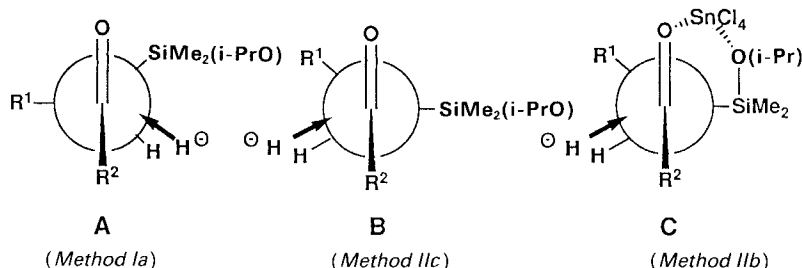
obtained by *L-Selectride* reduction in the presence of SnCl₄, although in poor yield (*Method IIb*). The C–Si bond of the intermediate silyl alcohols, thus obtained, was directly oxidized with retention of configuration according to *Tamao* [14]. Non-aqueous workup [15] and purification by column chromatography (silica gel, pentane/Et₂O) gave the vicinal diols in acceptable yields and of excellent stereochemical purity (de 95–≥ 98%, ee 90–> 98%, see the *Table*). The de values and *s-trans/s-cis*-configurations of the 1,2-diols were determined by ¹³C-NMR spectroscopy and comparison with authentic samples prepared from (*E/Z*)-alkenes by the *cis*-hydroxylation method of *Brutcher* and coworkers [16]. The ee values given are based on GLC measurements (see *Footnote* of the *Table*) or can be deduced from the ee values of the starting silyl ketones. The absolute configurations for the final diols were also established by chemical correlation with authentic samples¹⁾.

To explain the observed stereochemical results, we use the following models. The *s-trans*-selectivity obtained through *Methods Ia* and *IIIa* may be due to considerable steric repulsion between R² and the sterically very demanding (i-PrO)Me₂Si group leading to a favourite conformation depicted in transition state **A**. However, when longer C chains are present, repulsion between R¹ and R² is increased and the addition of hydride can be explained using the *Felkin-Anh* model [17] (transition state **B**). In the *Lewis*-acid-mediated reduction a six-membered chelate including Sn directs the attack by hydride towards the side away from the (i-PrO)Me₂Si group (transition state **C**).

It is well known that the reduction of α -substituted ketones with *L-Selectride* affords *s-cis*-alcohols, whilst reduction with Zn(BH₄)₂ gives rise to *s-trans*-products [18]. The improvement of the *s-trans*-selectivity by the modification of the substrate is an alternative [19], which, when combined with the SAMP-/RAMP-hydrazone methodology, should allow the enantioselective synthesis of a wide variety of vicinal diols with relative and absolute configurations of choice.

¹⁾ From propan-2-one and MeI, *meso*-butane-2,3-diol (*s-trans*: ≥ 98%) was isolated along with a small amount of the *s-cis*-diastereoisomer (2*S*,3*S*), whose optical rotation was coincident with that of an authentic sample (*Method IIIa*).

Scheme 2. Transition States



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