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Studies on β -Lactam Antibiotics. XIV.¹⁾ Synthesis and Biological Activity of the (*E*)-Isomer of FK027

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The (*E*)-isomer (**11**) of FK027 was synthesized by two methods. The effect of the configuration of the oxime in the 7-acyl side chain of FK027 (**1**) on the antimicrobial activity and oral absorbability in rats was investigated. Both FK027 (**1**) and its (*E*)-isomer (**11**) showed appreciable oral absorbability regardless of the configuration of the oxime.

Keywords—(*E*)-isomer; isomerization; (*E*)-2-alkoxyimino-4-chloro-3-oxobutyric acid; oral absorption; X-ray analysis; oral cephalosporin; FK027; antimicrobial activity

In our previous paper,²⁾ we reported the synthesis and biological activity of a new orally active cephalosporin, FK027 (**1**: cefixime) (Chart 1). FK027 showed a wide spectrum of antibacterial activity against Gram-negative bacteria, including β -lactamase-producing strains, and high stability to β -lactamases.³⁾ FK027 also had the unique pharmacological properties of oral absorbability and long-acting efficacy.²⁾

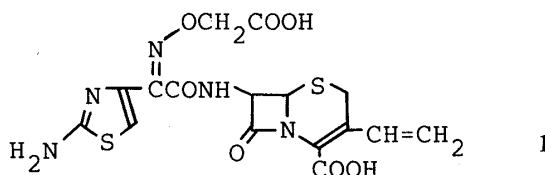


Chart 1

With regard to the structure, FK027 is entirely distinct from the commercially available oral cephalosporins in possessing the (*Z*)-2-(2-amino-4-thiazolyl)-2-carboxymethoxyiminoacetyl side chain. The aminothiazole ring was associated with both excellent activity and oral absorbability, the amino function on the thiazole ring being essential for potent antibacterial activity.¹⁾ Furthermore, the (*Z*)-carboxymethoxyimino group is important for oral absorbability in rats.⁴⁾ We directed our research efforts toward investigating the effect of the configuration of the oxime in the 7-acyl side chain on the antibacterial activity and oral absorbability in rats.

We here report the synthesis, antibacterial activity and oral absorbability in rats of the (*E*)-isomer (**11**) of FK027.

Chemistry

The (*E*)-isomer (**11**) of FK027 was prepared by two methods. According to method A outlined in Charts 2 and 3, *tert*-butyl (*Z*)-2-hydroxyimino-3-oxobutyrate (**2**)²⁾ was alkylated with *p*-nitrobenzyl chloroacetate to give the corresponding *tert*-butyl (*Z*)-2-*p*-nitrobenzyloxycarbonylmethoxyimino-3-oxobutyrate (**3**), which was converted to the desired (*Z*)-2-*p*-nitrobenzyloxycarbonylmethoxyimino-3-oxobutyric acid (**4**) by removal of the *tert*-

butyl group with trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) and anisole. The configurations of the oxime derivatives (**2**—**4**) were determined by X-ray analysis.⁵⁾

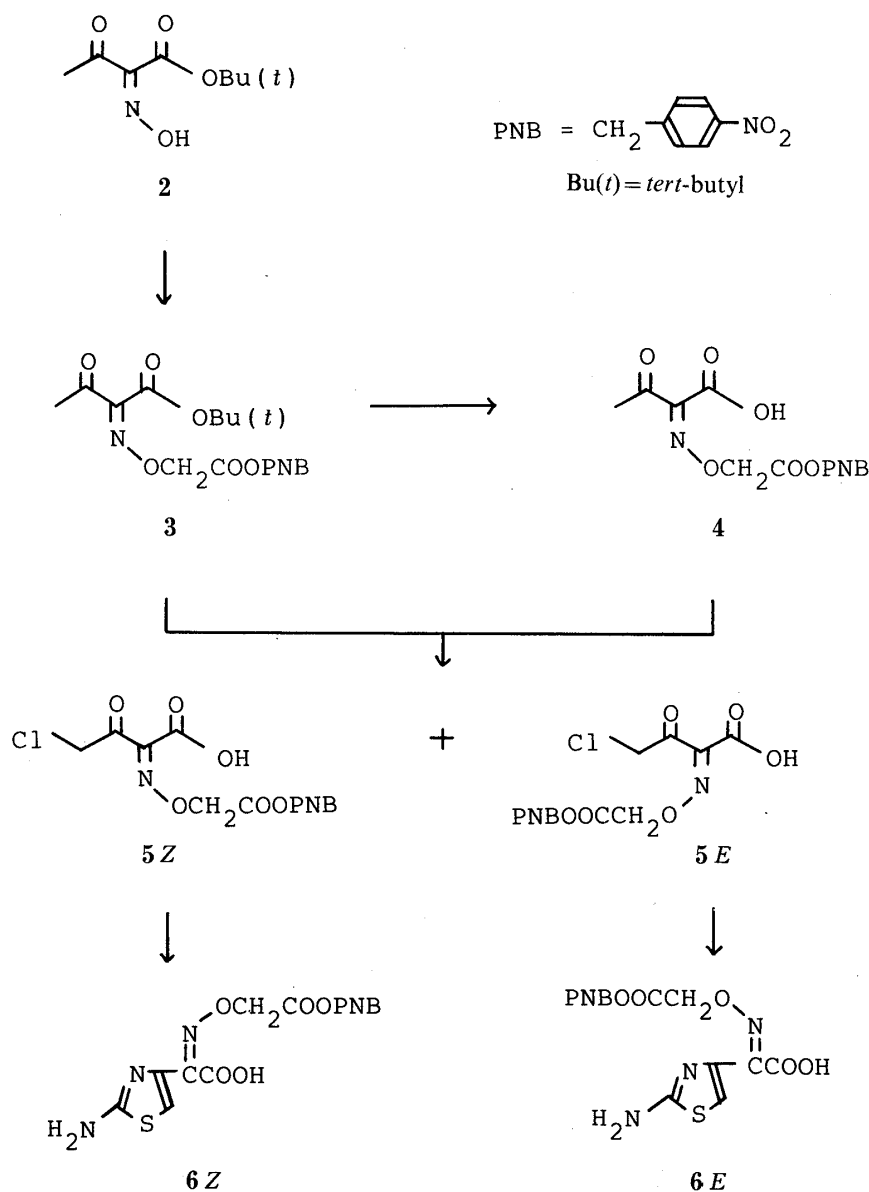


Chart 2

Chlorination of the acid (**4**) with sulfuryl chloride afforded a mixture of geometric isomers of 4-chloro-2-*p*-nitrobenzyloxycarbonylmethoxyimino-3-oxobutyric acid (**5Z** and **5E**) in yields of 28.2% and 12.7%, respectively. On treatment of the ester (**3**) with sulfuryl chloride, the *tert*-butyl ester of **3** was readily cleaved, in a similar way to yield a mixture of the geometric isomers (**5Z** and **5E**). Separation of the mixture provided the pure isomers, **5Z** and **5E**. Since the two isomers, **5Z** and **5E**, could not be characterized on the basis of their proton nuclear magnetic resonance (¹H-NMR) and infrared (IR) spectral data (Table I), they were separately converted to the corresponding 2-(2-amino-4-thiazolyl)-2-*p*-nitrobenzyloxycarbonylmethoxyiminoacetic acids. Reaction of **5Z** with thiourea readily gave the (*Z*)-aminothiazolylacetic acid (**6Z**) at room temperature. Cyclization of **5E** with thiourea smoothly afforded the corresponding (*E*)-aminothiazolylacetic acid (**6E**) at 40 °C in good yield, although this reaction proceeded slowly at room temperature. The configurations of the

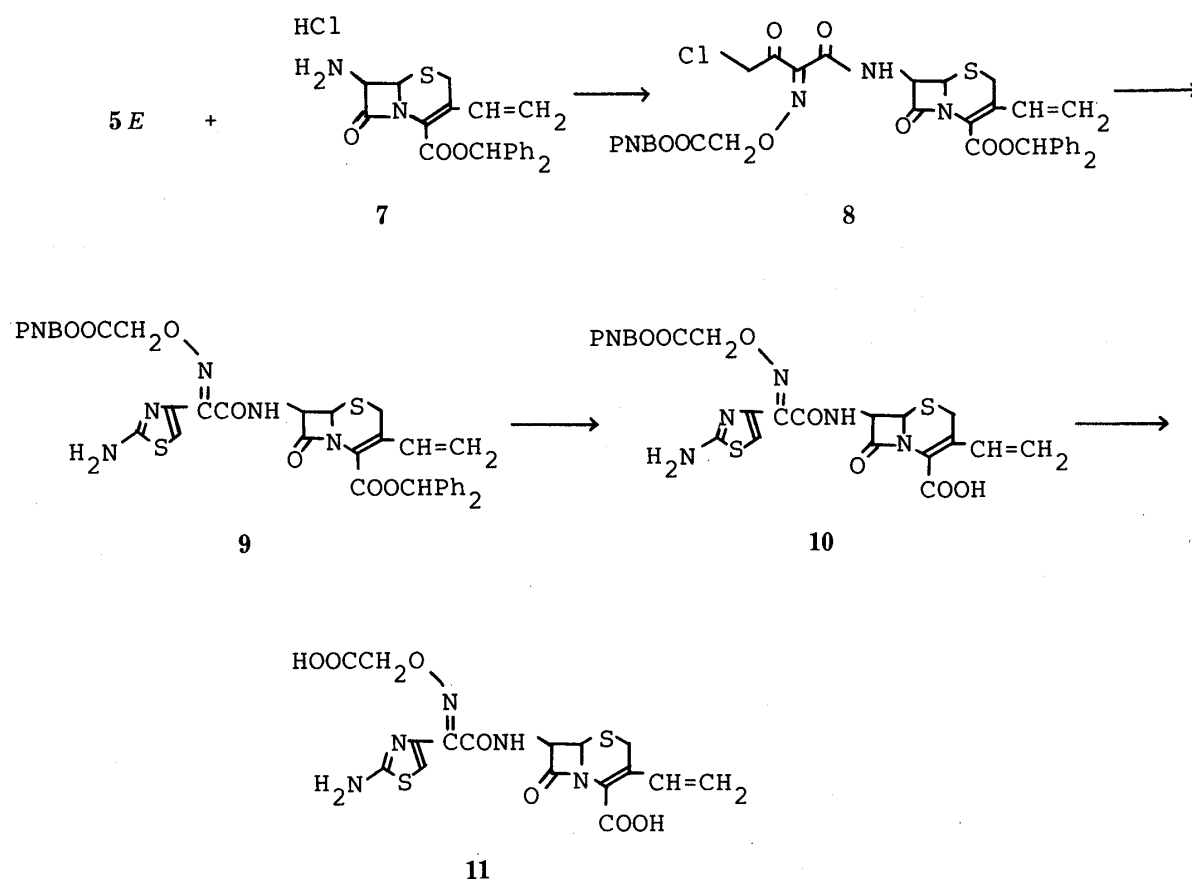
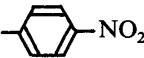


Chart 3

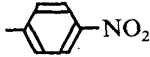
TABLE I. ¹H-NMR and IR Spectral Data for 3—5

Compound No.	¹ H-NMR (DMSO- <i>d</i> ₆) δ						IR ν _{max} ^{Nujol} (cm ⁻¹)
	 4H, A ₂ B ₂ q, <i>J</i> = 9 Hz	CO ₂ CH ₂ 2H, s	OCH ₂ CO ₂ 2H, s	ClCH ₂ 2H, s	CH ₃ 3H, s	C(CH ₃) ₃ 9H, s	
3	7.67 8.24	5.30	5.10	—	2.31	1.47	1745, 1725
4	7.68 8.25	5.40	5.10	—	2.33	—	1755, 1725
5Z	7.65 8.21	5.37	5.10	4.77	—	—	1760, 1735
5E	7.70 8.27	5.35	5.07	4.76	—	—	1755, 1730

products, **6Z** and **6E**, were determined by comparison of the ¹H-NMR chemical shifts of the annular protons at C-5 of the thiazole ring⁶⁾ (Table II). Thus, **5Z** and **5E** could be assigned as the (*Z*)- and (*E*)-forms, respectively. The formation of **5E** might be explained in terms of isomerization of the (*Z*)-alkoxyimino group to the (*E*)-alkoxyimino group under the acidic conditions (the reaction mixture contains hydrogen chloride).

The (*E*)-acid (**5E**) was activated with Vilsmeier reagent and coupled with diphenylmethyl 7β-amino-3-vinyl-3-cephem-4-carboxylate hydrochloride (**7**) to afford the acylated compound (**8**). Cyclization of **8** with thiourea gave the aminothiazole cephem (**9**), which was successfully converted to the (*E*)-isomer (**11**) of FK027 by removal of the diphenylmethyl group, followed

TABLE II. ^1H -NMR and IR Spectral Data for 6

Compound No.	^1H -NMR (DMSO- d_6) δ					IR $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{Nujol}}$ (cm^{-1})
	 4H, A_2B_2q , $J=9\text{ Hz}$	NH_2 2H, br s	Thiazole $\text{C}_5\text{-H}$ 1H, s	CO_2CH_2 2H, s	OCH_2CO_2 2H, s	
6Z	7.63 8.21	7.20	6.86	5.33	4.83	1740
6E	7.67 8.24	7.25	7.63	5.37	4.97	1755

by alkaline hydrolysis of the *p*-nitrobenzyl ester.

According to method B shown in Chart 4, (*Z*)-2-*tert*-butoxycarbonylmethoxyimino-2-(2-formamido-4-thiazolyl)acetic acid (**12Z**)⁷⁾ was successfully converted to the corresponding (*E*)-isomer (**12E**) by treatment with thionyl chloride. The activated acid of **12E** was coupled with **7** to yield the acylated compound (**13**), which was deformylated by treatment with concentrated hydrochloric acid, followed by removal of both the diphenylmethyl and *tert*-butyl groups with TFA to give **11**.

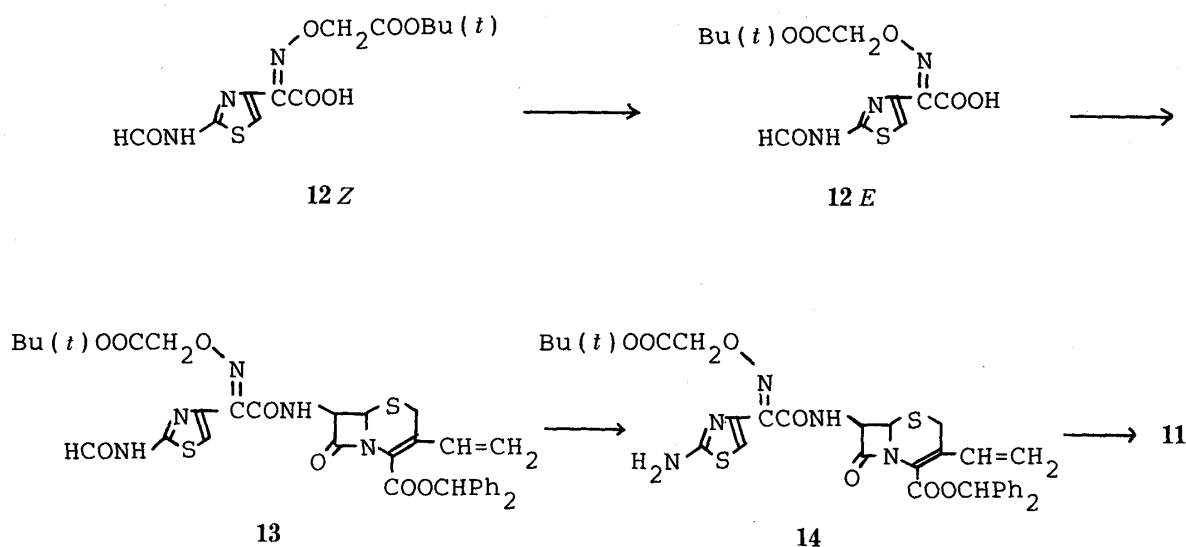


Chart 4

Biological Results and Discussion

The antimicrobial activity of the (*E*)-isomer (**11**) and its urinary and biliary excretions after oral administration (100 mg/kg) to rats are summarized in Table III. For comparison, the minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) values and excretion rates of FK027 are also listed in Table III.

The (*E*)-isomer (**11**) was 2–32 times less active than FK027 against Gram-negative bacteria. However, the urinary excretion of **11** was significantly higher than that of FK027, while **11** showed almost the same recovery as FK027 in the bile.

In conclusion, the (*Z*)-configuration of the carboxymethoxyimino group in the 7-acyl side chain seems to be essential for the potent antibacterial activity of FK027 against Gram-negative bacteria, though both compounds, **1** and **11**, show appreciable oral absorbability regardless of the configuration of the oxime.

The potassium salt of **5E** was suspended in EtOAc and H₂O, and the mixture was acidified to pH 1 with concentrated HCl. The separated EtOAc layer was washed with brine, dried (MgSO₄), and evaporated to give 12.63 g (12.7%) of **5E**. mp 114–117 °C. Anal. Calcd for C₁₃H₁₁ClN₂O₈: C, 43.53; H, 3.09; Cl, 9.88; N, 7.81. Found: C, 43.55; H, 3.13; Cl, 9.80; N, 7.89.

5Z and **5E** were also obtained from **3** in a manner similar to that described above for the synthesis of **5Z** and **5E** from **4** and sulfonyl chloride.

(Z)-2-(2-Amino-4-thiazolyl)-2-p-nitrobenzyloxycarbonylmethoxyiminoacetic Acid (6Z)—Thiourea (0.228 g, 3.0 mmol) was added to a solution of **5Z** (0.359 g, 1.0 mmol) in *N,N*-dimethylacetamide (4 ml) at room temperature, and the mixture was stirred at the same temperature for 1 h. Then H₂O was added, and the resulting precipitate was collected by filtration to give 0.35 g (92.1%) of **6Z**. mp 156–158 °C. Anal. Calcd for C₁₄H₁₂N₄O₇S·H₂O: C, 42.21; H, 3.54; N, 14.06; S, 8.05. Found: C, 42.23; H, 3.63; N, 14.00; S, 7.84.

(E)-2-(2-Amino-4-thiazolyl)-2-p-nitrobenzyloxycarbonylmethoxyiminoacetic Acid (6E)—Thiourea (0.228 g, 3.0 mmol) was added to a solution of **5E** (0.359 g, 1.0 mmol) in *N,N*-dimethylacetamide (4 ml) at room temperature. After being stirred at 40 °C for 3 h, the mixture was added to H₂O, and the resulting precipitate was collected by filtration to give 0.32 g (84.2%) of **6E** mp 162–164 °C. Anal. Calcd for C₁₄H₁₂N₄O₇S·H₂O: C, 42.21; H, 3.54; N, 14.06; S, 8.05. Found: C, 42.25; H, 3.83; N, 13.86; S, 8.24.

¹H-NMR and IR spectral data for **3**–**6** are listed in Tables I and II.

Diphenylmethyl 7β-[(E)-4-Chloro-2-p-nitrobenzyloxycarbonylmethoxyimino-3-oxobutylamido]-3-vinyl-3-cephem-4-carboxylate (8)—A mixture of DMF (0.78 ml, 10 mmol) and POCl₃ (0.92 ml, 10 mmol) in EtOAc (20 ml) was stirred under ice-cooling for 30 min to prepare Vilsmeier reagent. **5E** (3.0 g, 8.4 mmol) was added to the above mixture at 0–5 °C, and the mixture was stirred at the same temperature for 30 min to produce an activated acid solution. This activated acid solution was added to a solution of **7** (2.99 g, 7.0 mmol) and *N*-(trimethylsilyl)acetamide (3.66 g, 27.9 mmol) in tetrahydrofuran (THF) (30 ml) at –30 °C, and the reaction mixture was stirred at –20––30 °C for 30 min. The resultant mixture was poured into a mixture of EtOAc and H₂O, and adjusted to pH 7 with 5% NaHCO₃ solution. The separated EtOAc layer was washed with brine, dried (MgSO₄), and evaporated *in vacuo* to give 4.1 g (80.2%) of **8** as an amorphous powder. mp 63–64 °C (dec.). IR (Nujol): 1770, 1740, 1715, 1670 cm^{–1}. ¹H-NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) δ: 3.62 and 3.93 (2H, ABq, *J* = 18 Hz, C₂-H₂), 4.77 (2H, s, ClCH₂), 5.08 (2H, s, CH₂CO₂), 5.27 (1H, d, *J* = 5 Hz, C₆-H), 5.32 (1H, d, *J* = 11 Hz, $\text{H}^{\text{C}=\text{C}}_{\text{H}}$), 5.40 (2H, s, CO₂CH₂), 5.67 (1H, d, *J* = 16 Hz, $\text{H}^{\text{C}=\text{C}}_{\text{H}}$), 5.78 (1H, dd, *J* = 8, 5 Hz, C₇-H), 6.82 (1H, dd, *J* = 16, 11 Hz, –CH=CH₂), 6.98 (1H, s, CHPh₂), 7.22–7.62 (10H, m, Ph₂), 7.70 and 8.27 (4H, A₂B₂q, *J* = 9 Hz, aromatic H), 9.62 (1H, d, *J* = 8 Hz, CONH).

Diphenylmethyl 7β-[(E)-2-(2-Amino-4-thiazolyl)-2-p-nitrobenzyloxycarbonylmethoxyiminoacetamido]-3-vinyl-3-cephem-4-carboxylate (9)—Thiourea (1.09 g, 14.3 mmol) was added to a solution of **8** (3.5 g, 4.8 mmol) in *N,N*-dimethylacetamide (17.5 ml) at room temperature. After being stirred at the same temperature for 12 h, the mixture was poured into a mixture of EtOAc and H₂O, and adjusted to pH 7 with 5% NaHCO₃ solution. The separated EtOAc layer was washed with H₂O and brine, dried (MgSO₄), and evaporated *in vacuo* to give 2.72 g (75.4%) of **9** as an amorphous powder. mp 107–110 °C (dec.). IR (Nujol): 1760, 1750, 1715, 1670 cm^{–1}. ¹H-NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) δ: 3.57 and 3.90 (2H, ABq, *J* = 18 Hz, C₂-H₂), 4.96 (2H, s, OCH₂CO₂), 5.26 (1H, d, *J* = 5 Hz, C₆-H), 5.29 (1H, d, *J* = 11 Hz, $\text{H}^{\text{C}=\text{C}}_{\text{H}}$), 5.37 (2H, s, CO₂CH₂), 5.65 (1H, d, *J* = 16 Hz, $\text{H}^{\text{C}=\text{C}}_{\text{H}}$), 5.92 (1H, dd, *J* = 8, 5 Hz, C₇-H), 6.77 (1H, dd, *J* = 16, 11 Hz, –CH=CH₂), 6.97 (1H, s, CHPh₂), 7.13 (2H, brs, NH₂), 7.23–7.57 (10H, m, Ph₂), 7.60 (1H, s, thiazole C₅-H), 7.68 and 8.25 (4H, A₂B₂q, *J* = 9 Hz, aromatic H), 9.57 (1H, d, *J* = 8 Hz, CONH).

7β-[(E)-2-(2-Amino-4-thiazolyl)-2-p-nitrobenzyloxycarbonylmethoxyiminoacetamido]-3-vinyl-3-cephem-4-carboxylic Acid (10)—TFA (4.8 ml) was added dropwise to a suspension of **9** (2.4 g, 3.8 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (7.2 ml) and anisole (2.4 ml) under ice-cooling. After being stirred at the same temperature for 30 min, the mixture was added to diisopropyl ether (100 ml). The resulting precipitate was collected by filtration, and the precipitate was added to a mixture of EtOAc and H₂O. The mixture was adjusted to pH 7 with 5% NaHCO₃ solution, then the separated aqueous layer was acidified to pH 3 with 5% HCl, and extracted with THF–EtOAc (1:1). The organic layer was washed with brine, dried (MgSO₄), and evaporated *in vacuo* to give 1.82 g (97.2%) of **10** as an amorphous powder. mp 132–137 °C (dec.). IR (Nujol): 1770, 1755, 1675 cm^{–1}. ¹H-NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) δ: 3.57 and 3.87 (2H, ABq, *J* = 18 Hz, C₂-H₂), 4.99 (2H, s, OCH₂CO₂), 5.20 (1H, d, *J* = 5 Hz, C₆-H), 5.32 (1H, d, *J* = 11 Hz, $\text{H}^{\text{C}=\text{C}}_{\text{H}}$), 5.39 (2H, s, CO₂CH₂), 5.60 (1H, d, *J* = 16 Hz, $\text{H}^{\text{C}=\text{C}}_{\text{H}}$), 5.81 (1H, dd, *J* = 8, 5 Hz, C₇-H), 6.95 (1H, dd, *J* = 16, 11 Hz, –CH=CH₂), 7.63 (1H, s, thiazole C₅-H), 7.68 and 8.25 (4H, A₂B₂q, *J* = 9 Hz, aromatic H), 9.53 (1H, d, *J* = 8 Hz, CONH).

7β-[(E)-2-(2-Amino-4-thiazolyl)-2-carboxymethoxyiminoacetamido]-3-vinyl-3-cephem-4-carboxylic Acid (11)—A suspension of **10** (0.5 g, 0.85 mmol) in H₂O (5 ml) was adjusted to pH 12.5 with 1 *N* NaOH solution under ice-cooling. After being stirred at the same temperature for 5 min, the mixture was adjusted to pH 6.0 with 1 *N* HCl, and

washed with EtOAc. The aqueous layer was subjected to column chromatography on macroporous non-ionic adsorption resin, Dianion HP-20. The desired product was eluted with H₂O, and the eluate was acidified to pH 2.2 with 1 N HCl under ice-cooling. The precipitate was collected by filtration, and dried (P₂O₅) to afford 0.239 g (62.1%) of **11** as a pale yellow solid. mp 218–225 °C (dec.). IR (Nujol): 1770, 1660 cm⁻¹. ¹H-NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) δ: 3.54 and 3.86 (2H, ABq, *J* = 18 Hz, C₂-H₂), 4.74 (2H, s, OCH₂CO₂), 5.18 (1H, d, *J* = 5 Hz, C₆-H), 5.32 (1H, d, *J* = 11 Hz, $\text{H}-\text{C}=\text{C}-\text{H}$), 5.61 (1H, d, *J* = 16 Hz, $\text{H}-\text{C}=\text{C}-\text{H}$), 5.79 (1H, dd, *J* = 8, 5 Hz, C₇-H), 6.95 (1H, dd, *J* = 16, 11 Hz, $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}_2$), 7.11 (2H, brs, NH₂), 7.61 (1H, s, thiazole C₅-H), 9.52 (1H, d, *J* = 8 Hz, CONH). *Anal.* Calcd for C₁₆H₁₅N₃O₇S₂ · 3H₂O: C, 37.87; H, 4.17; N, 13.80; S, 12.63. Found: C, 38.02; H, 4.37; N, 13.97; S, 12.77.

Method B

(*E*)-2-*tert*-Butoxycarbonylmethoxyimino-2-(2-formamido-4-thiazolyl)acetic Acid (**12E**)—Thionyl chloride (49.1 g, 0.413 mol) was added to a mixture of **12Z** (34 g, 0.103 mol) in CHCl₃ (200 ml) at room temperature, and the resultant mixture was refluxed for 2.5 h. The reaction mixture was poured into H₂O. The mixture was adjusted to pH 7.5 with 5% NaHCO₃ solution, and washed with Et₂O. The separated aqueous layer was acidified to pH 2 with 10% HCl and extracted with Et₂O. The Et₂O layer was washed with brine, dried (MgSO₄), and evaporated *in vacuo* to give 8.1 g (23.8%) of **12E** as a colorless solid. mp 171–173 (dec.). IR (Nujol): 1740 cm⁻¹. ¹H-NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) δ: 1.50 (9H, s, Bu(*t*)), 4.79 (2H, s, OCH₂CO₂), 8.20 (1H, s, thiazole C₅-H), 8.60 (1H, s, HCO). *Anal.* Calcd for C₁₂H₁₅N₃O₆S: C, 43.77; H, 4.59; N, 12.76; S, 9.74. Found: C, 43.80; H, 4.99; N, 12.90; S, 9.90.

Diphenylmethyl 7β-[(*E*)-2-*tert*-Butoxycarbonylmethoxyimino-2-(2-formamido-4-thiazolyl)acetamido]-3-vinyl-3-cephem-4-carboxylate (**13**)—**13** was prepared (100.0%) from **7** and **12E** in a manner similar to that used for the synthesis of **8**. IR (Nujol): 1770, 1730, 1680 cm⁻¹. ¹H-NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) δ: 1.49 (9H, s, Bu(*t*)), 3.56 and 3.93 (2H, ABq, *J* = 18 Hz, C₂-H₂), 4.74 (2H, s, OCH₂CO₂), 5.24 (1H, d, *J* = 5 Hz, C₆-H), 5.25 (1H, d, *J* = 11 Hz, $\text{H}-\text{C}=\text{C}-\text{H}$), 5.61 (1H, d, *J* = 16 Hz, $\text{H}-\text{C}=\text{C}-\text{H}$), 5.90 (1H, dd, *J* = 8, 5 Hz, C₇-H), 6.74 (1H, dd, *J* = 16, 11 Hz, $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}_2$), 6.92 (1H, s, CHPh₂), 7.12–7.59 (10H, m, Ph₂), 8.10 (1H, s, thiazole C₅-H), 8.45 (1H, s, HCO), 9.50 (1H, d, *J* = 8 Hz, CONH).

Diphenylmethyl 7β-[(*E*)-2-(2-Amino-4-thiazolyl)-2-*tert*-butoxycarbonylmethoxyiminoacetamido]-3-vinyl-3-cephem-4-carboxylate (**14**)—Concentrated HCl (1.8 ml, 17 mmol) was added to a mixture of **13** (5.8 g, 8.53 mmol) in MeOH (35 ml) and THF (12 ml) at room temperature, and the mixture was stirred at the same temperature for 4 h. The reaction mixture was poured into a mixture of EtOAc and saturated NaHCO₃ solution, then the EtOAc layer was washed with brine, dried (MgSO₄), and evaporated *in vacuo* to give 5.1 g (91.7%) of **14**. IR (Nujol): 1760, 1730, 1670 cm⁻¹. ¹H-NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) δ: 1.50 (9H, s, Bu(*t*)), 3.59 and 3.97 (2H, ABq, *J* = 18 Hz, C₂-H₂), 4.70 (2H, s, OCH₂CO₂), 5.27 (1H, d, *J* = 5 Hz, C₆-H), 5.30 (1H, d, *J* = 11 Hz, $\text{H}-\text{C}=\text{C}-\text{H}$), 5.67 (1H, d, *J* = 16 Hz, $\text{H}-\text{C}=\text{C}-\text{H}$), 5.93 (1H, dd, *J* = 8, 5 Hz, C₇-H), 6.83 (1H, dd, *J* = 16, 11 Hz, $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}_2$), 6.99 (1H, s, CHPh₂), 7.01–7.70 (10H, m, Ph₂), 7.13 (2H, brs, NH₂), 7.63 (1H, s, thiazole C₅-H), 9.57 (1H, d, *J* = 8 Hz, CONH).

11 was obtained (66.2%) from **14** in a manner similar to that used for the synthesis of **10**. This compound was identical with the authentic sample obtained by method A.

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References and Notes

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