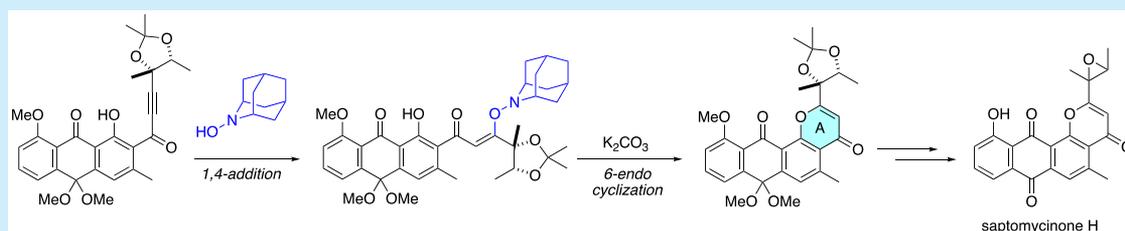


# Hydroxylamine-Mediated Anthrapyranone Formation, Solving 5-exo/6-endo Issue toward Synthesis of Pluramycin-Class Antibiotics

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**S** Supporting Information



**ABSTRACT:** In our synthetic study on pluramycin-class antibiotics, an unexpected issue arose, i.e., unfavorable regioselectivity of 5-*exo* rather than 6-*endo* cyclization to form the pyranone ring. The issue was solved by an addition–elimination process of a phenol–ynone substrate. AZADOL was specifically effective, enabling the first synthesis of saptomycinone H.

The pluramycins constitute a class of antitumor antibiotics, as represented by pluramycin A (1; Figure 1).<sup>1</sup> By

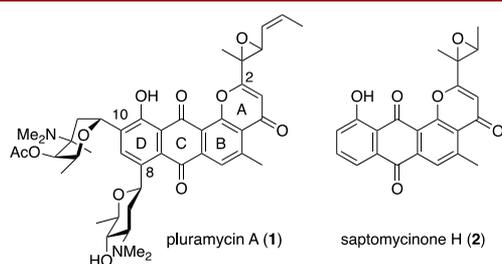


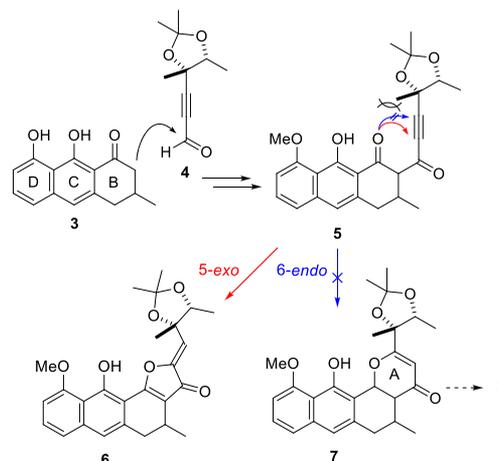
Figure 1. Pluramycins.

Nature's ingenuity, they share a composite structure of several well-aligned motifs for targeting/cleaving DNA: amino sugar(s) for the sequence specificity, a tetracyclic core for the major-groove binding, and a side chain epoxide for the strand scission via *N*-alkylation.<sup>2,3</sup>

Potent bioactivities of these compounds have attracted sizable interest in their synthesis,<sup>4</sup> which is not easy due to the structure complexity and chemical sensitivity. Only two total syntheses of *C*-glycosylated structures have been achieved to date,<sup>5,6</sup> which, however, dealt with the targets without an epoxide function at the side chain. Note the synthesis of the epoxide-bearing congeners would suffer from complication by potential issues for installing this sensitive functionality.<sup>7</sup>

We set out to address this issue by setting saptomycinone H (2) as a model target.<sup>8,9</sup> Scheme 1 shows our original synthetic plan. Anthrone 3 was set as the starting material, to be envisioned for future application to the *C*-glycosylated structures.<sup>10</sup> Ynal 4 has a protected 1,2-diol as a latent epoxide, assuming the late-stage formation of the stereodefined oxirane ring.

## Scheme 1. Synthetic Plan of 2 and 5-*exo*/6-*endo* Issue



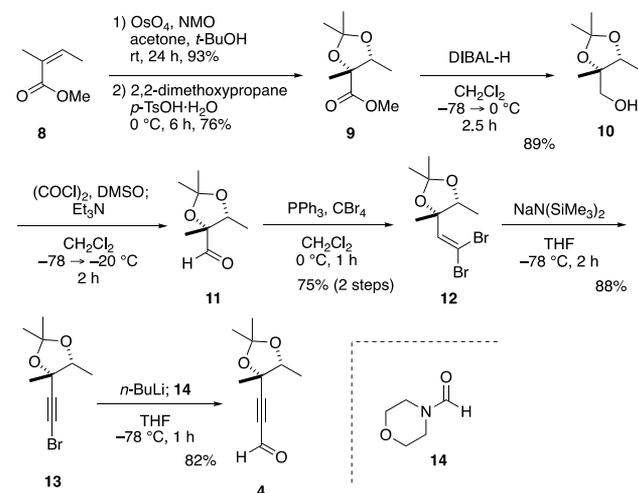
Along these lines, we began the synthetic study of 2, which encountered an unexpected difficulty in the A-ring cyclization of 1,3-diketone 5 (Scheme 1): the 5-*exo* cyclization prevailed over the electronically favored 6-*endo* cyclization to give furanone 6.

In this letter, we wish to describe a unique solution to this issue via the discovery of a hydroxylamine-mediated addition–elimination process, achieving the synthesis of 2 (see abstract graphic).

Scheme 2 shows the preparation of ynal 4. Dihydroxylation of methyl angelate (8) and acetalization of the resulting diol gave acetone 9. Reduction of 9 with DIBAL-H gave alcohol 10, which was converted to aldehyde 11 by Swern oxidation,<sup>11</sup>

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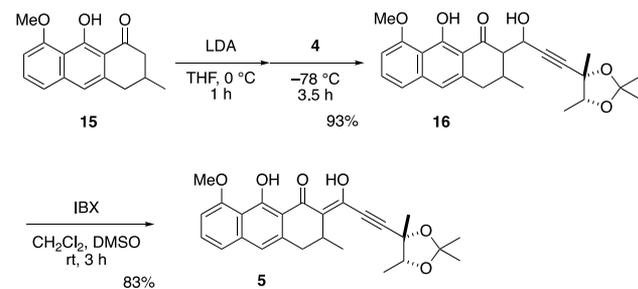
## Scheme 2. Synthesis of Side Chain 4



and further to dibromoolefin **12**. Treatment of **12** with  $\text{NaN}(\text{SiMe}_3)_2$  at  $-78\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  gave bromoacetylene **13**, which was converted into ynal **4** by treatment with  $n\text{-BuLi}$  followed by the reaction with 4-formylmorpholine (**14**).<sup>12</sup> We noted that the direct conversion of **12** into the corresponding lithium acetylide ( $n\text{-BuLi}$ , THF,  $-78\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ ) followed by addition of **14** was low-yielding.

For the assembly of the entire carbon skeleton, anthrone **15**<sup>6b,13</sup> was enolized with LDA (2.8 equiv,  $0\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ , THF) and treated with ynal **4** at  $-78\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ , giving aldol **16** as a mixture of four diastereomers in 93% yield (Scheme 3). Oxidation of **16** with IBX<sup>14</sup> gave 1,3-diketone **5** in 83% yield.<sup>15</sup>

## Scheme 3. Conversion to Diketone 5



With ynone **5** in hand, the projected A-ring cyclization was examined. As the first attempt, ynone **5** was treated with  $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$  (entry 1, Table 1). The starting material **5** was slowly consumed (MeOH,  $0\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$   $\rightarrow$  room temperature, 52 h). Surprisingly, the single product, thus obtained, was not the expected pyranone **7**, but furanone **6** in quantitative yield.<sup>16</sup> Further efforts using various other bases or nucleophilic catalysts failed to give the desired pyranone **7**, resulting invariably in the exclusive 5-*exo* cyclizations (entries 2–6).<sup>17</sup>

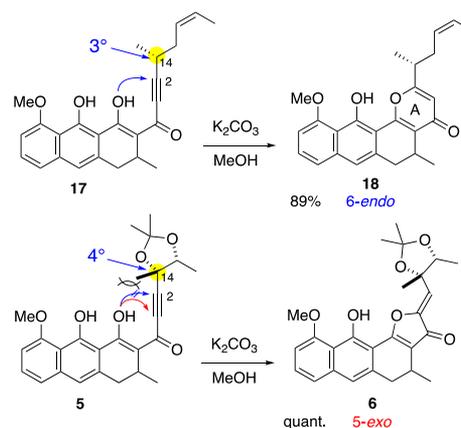
The result was totally unexpected, since the electronic consideration naturally pointed to the conjugate addition to the ynone, producing pyranone **7** as the expected product. In contrast, our previous total synthesis of saptomycin B exploited diketone **17** as a viable substrate for the key A-ring cyclization (Scheme 4),<sup>18</sup> giving only the six-membered product **18**. The structural difference of **17** and **5** is the steric bulk around the C2 reaction site: the C14 center in **5** is quaternary, while it is tertiary in **17**. Since Baldwin's rule predicts that the dig

## Table 1. Cyclization of 5

entry	base	solvent	temp.	time/h	7/%	6/%
1	$\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$ <sup>a</sup>	MeOH <sup>b</sup>	$0\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ $\rightarrow$ rt	52	—	quant.
2	DMAP <sup>c</sup>	MeOH <sup>d</sup>	rt	55	—	71
3	NaOH <sup>e</sup>	MeOH <sup>d</sup>	rt	20	—	quant.
4 <sup>f</sup>	$\text{Et}_2\text{NH}$	EtOH	$0\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ $\rightarrow$ rt	9	—	76
5	$\text{Et}_3\text{N}$ <sup>a</sup>	$\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ <sup>b</sup>	$0\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$	48	—	quant.
6	$\text{PMe}_3$ <sup>c</sup>	DMSO <sup>d</sup>	rt	15	—	74

<sup>a</sup>3.0 equiv. <sup>b</sup>0.01 M. <sup>c</sup>1.0 equiv. <sup>d</sup>0.02 M. <sup>e</sup>2.0 equiv. <sup>f</sup> $\text{Et}_2\text{NH}$ , EtOH = 1/1vol (0.01 M).

## Scheme 4. 6-endo vs 5-exo Cyclizations

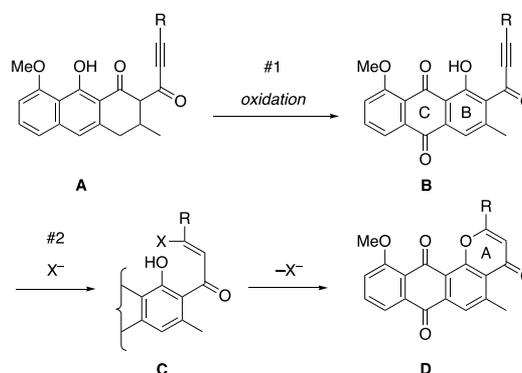


processes are durable for the 6-*endo* and 5-*exo* cyclizations,<sup>19</sup> we ascribed the prevalence of the 5-*exo* cyclization to the steric factor that overrides the electronic factor.

Hoping to enable the desired 6-*endo* cyclization, we decided to make two substrate structure modifications (Scheme 5).

- (1) Conversion of 1,3-diketone **A** into the corresponding phenol **B**: The basis was that all successful precedents of the 6-*endo* cyclizations of ynone exploited phenols, rather than a 1,3-diketone, as the internal nucleophile. A

## Scheme 5. Two Substrate Modifications

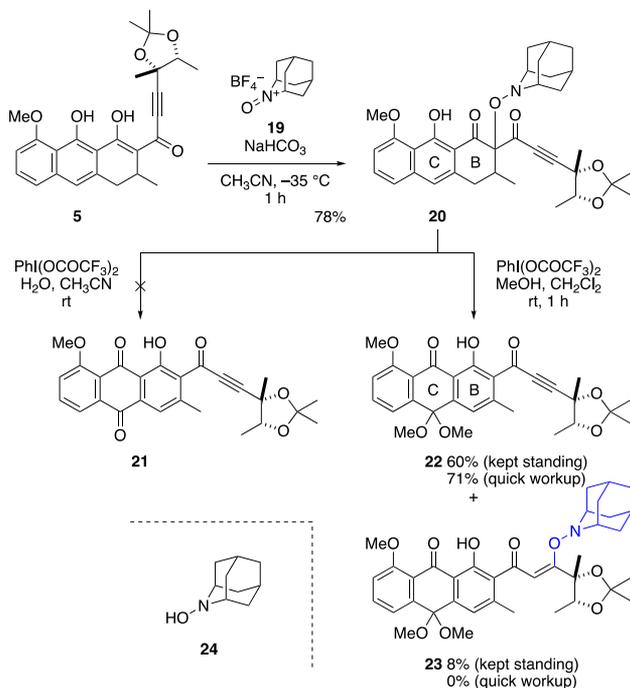


promising aspect was that some examples included substrates with a C14-quaternary center.<sup>20</sup>

- (2) Conversion of ynone **B** to  $\beta$ -substituted enone **C**: Inspired by our previous experience,<sup>20a,21</sup> we envisioned that the intermediacy of **C** may enable the 6-*endo* cyclization via an addition–elimination process.

With these scenarios in mind, we examined the conversion of 1,3-diketone **5** into phenol–quinone **21** (Scheme 6).

### Scheme 6. Oxidation of **5**



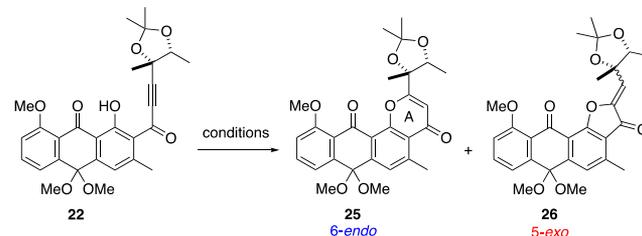
Treatment of 1,3-diketone **5** with oxoammonium salt **19**<sup>22</sup> ( $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ ,  $-35^\circ\text{C}$ ) gave  $\alpha$ -oxy-adduct **20** in 78% yield.<sup>23,24</sup> For further conversion into quinone **21**,  $\alpha$ -oxy-adduct **20** was treated with  $\text{PhI}(\text{OAc})_2$ <sup>25</sup> in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ . However, none of the desired product **21** was obtained, only giving an intractable mixture of unidentified products. By contrast, the same reaction in  $\text{MeOH}$  and  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  ( $v/v = 1/2$ ) gave the corresponding acetal **22** in 60% yield, and thus, we decided to use **22** as a substrate to address the viability of the cyclization,  $\text{B} \rightarrow \text{C} \rightarrow \text{D}$ .

It would be appropriate to note here that the reaction of **20**  $\rightarrow$  **22** gave small, varying amounts of enone **23** as a side product, which was not seen during the reaction, but formed if the crude products were kept standing. Indeed, the formation of **23** was suppressed by quick workup, where the yield of **22** was improved to 71%. We ascribed it to the 1,4-addition of 2-hydroxy-2-azaadamantane, AZADOL (**24**) to ynone **22**, which later guided us to a breakthrough.

Having ynone **22** in hand, we tested its conversion to the planned intermediate,  $\beta$ -X-substituted enone **C**, which would hopefully cyclize in a 6-*endo* fashion. To this end, ynone **22** was treated with various nucleophiles, and the results are summarized in Table 2.

When  $\text{Et}_2\text{NH}$  was used as a nucleophile, the major product was furanone **26**<sup>26</sup> via the 5-*exo* cyclization, and pyranone **25** was obtained only in low yield (entry 1).<sup>20a,21</sup> Treatment of **22** with  $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$  in  $\text{MeOH}$ <sup>18</sup> also led to a preferential 5-*exo*

Table 2. A-Ring Formation from **22**



entry	reagent	solvent <sup>a</sup>	temp.	time/h	<b>25</b> /%	<b>26</b> /%
1 <sup>b</sup>	$\text{Et}_2\text{NH}$	$\text{EtOH}$	rt	0.5	8	21
2	$\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$ <sup>c</sup>	$\text{MeOH}$	$0^\circ\text{C}$	3	12	47
3		$\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$	rt	24	—	68
4	$\text{PMe}_3$ <sup>d</sup>	$\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$	rt	4	—	32
5	$\text{PhSH}$ , <sup>e</sup> $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$ <sup>c</sup>	$\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$	rt	42	—	— <sup>e</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Solvent (0.02 M). <sup>b</sup> $\text{Et}_2\text{NH}$ ,  $\text{EtOH} = 1/2$  vol. <sup>c</sup>3.0 equiv. <sup>d</sup>2.0 equiv. <sup>e</sup>No reaction.

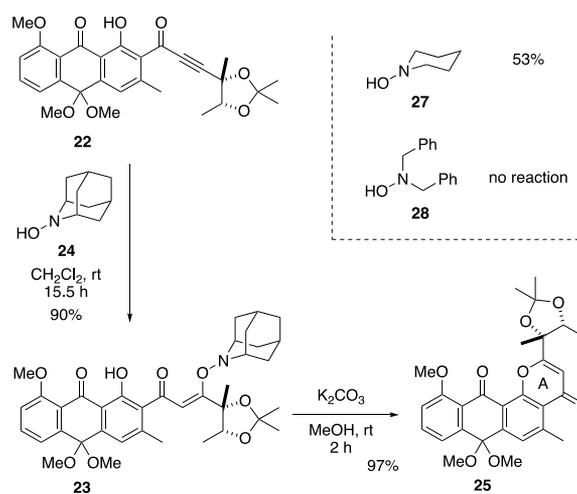
cyclization (entry 2). The expectation was a minute amount of methoxide in equilibrium acting as a nucleophile. With the idea of using nucleophilic catalysis,  $\text{DABCO}$ <sup>27</sup> and  $\text{Me}_3\text{P}$ <sup>28</sup> were used, which, contrary to our expectation, resulted in the exclusive 5-*exo* cyclization (entries 3 and 4). Use of a thiolate anion was not effective, resulting in no reaction (entry 5).

Implications from these experiments include the following: (1) the planned 1,4-addition of  $\text{X}^-$  (or  $\text{X}$ ): to alkyne **22** is not easy, and (2) it seems that a direct cyclization of phenol **22** to the internal triple bond is competing even under slightly basic conditions, where the 5-*exo* cyclization is favored.

At this juncture, we noticed that the side product **23** obtained in the previous experiment has the required  $\beta$ -X-substituted enone structure ( $\text{X} = \text{aminoxy}$ ) and may serve as a viable cyclization precursor. Despite uncertainty, a perfect solution to the problem was provided (Scheme 7).

$\beta$ -Aminoxyenone **23** underwent clean A-ring formation, upon treatment with  $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$  in  $\text{MeOH}$ , giving pyranone **25** in

Scheme 7. A-Ring Formation from AZADOL-Adduct **23**



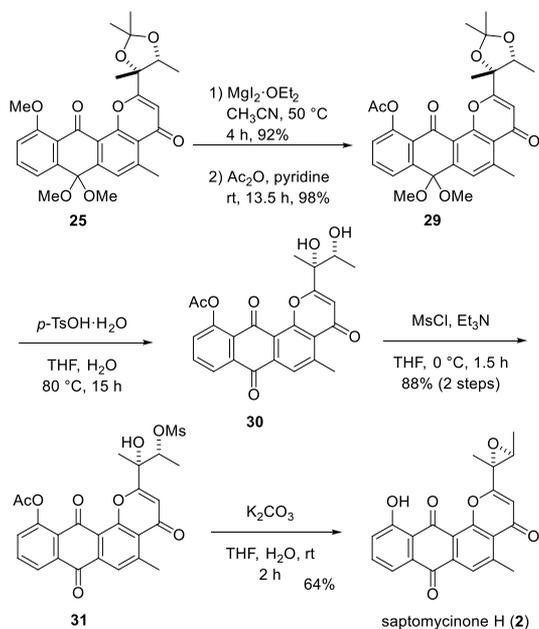
virtually quantitative yield. Importantly, an exclusive 6-*endo* cyclization occurred.

Pleasingly, we further learned that enone **23** is available in excellent yield from ynone **22** by the reaction with AZADOL (**24**). The efficacy of this hydroxylamine in this context is ascribable to high nucleophilicity by the  $\alpha$ -effect,<sup>29</sup> enabling the 1,4-addition under neutral conditions. An additional feature in **24** is a conformationally locked adamantane-like structure. In contrast, two other hydroxylamines **27** and **28** proved less effective.<sup>30</sup> Furthermore, the  $-\text{ONR}_2$  moiety is significantly less donating than an OR or an  $\text{NR}_2$  moiety (the inverse  $\alpha$ -effect),<sup>29b</sup> thereby not deactivating the  $\beta$ -carbon in enone **23** toward the nucleophilic attack.

After a long quest, the 6-*endo* cyclization became realized via an addition–elimination process by using AZADOL (**24**) as a nucleophile and a nucleofuge.

Scheme 8 shows the synthesis of **2**. To remove the methyl ether, tetracycle **25** was treated with  $\text{MgI}_2 \cdot \text{OEt}_2$  ( $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ , 50

Scheme 8. Synthesis of Saptomycinone H (**2**)



$^\circ\text{C}$ ),<sup>31</sup> and acetylation of the resulting phenol gave acetate **29**.<sup>32</sup> Acid hydrolysis of two acetals in **29** gave the corresponding quinone diol **30**, in which the secondary alcohol was selectively mesylated,<sup>33</sup> giving *mono*-mesylate **31**. Treatment of **31** with  $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$  in THF and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  enabled the oxirane ring formation and removal of the acetyl group, giving **2** in 64% yield.<sup>34</sup>

In summary, the synthesis of saptomycinone H (**2**) has been achieved by exploiting the unique reactivity of AZADOL (**24**), opening a general path to the pluramycins. Further studies are in progress. The synthetic utility of hydroxylamine-mediated reactions will also be studied.

## ■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

### Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge at <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.orglett.9b04127>.

Full experimental procedure, characterization data, and NMR spectra for all new compounds (PDF)

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### Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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## ■ DEDICATION

Dedicated to Prof. Takenori Kusumi on the occasion of his 77th birthday (*Kiju*).

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(15) Extensive NMR analyses showed that the major tautomer of 1,3-diketone **5** is an enol form shown in [Scheme 3](#) (see the [Supporting Information](#)). Other schemes and a table depict a conventional structure of **5**.

(16) Extensive spectroscopic analyses showed that furanone **6** was solely composed of the (*Z*) isomer. See [Supporting Information](#).

(17) In entry **6**, the geometry of the olefin was a mixture (*Z/E* = 1.7:1).

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(30) Although the molecular weight of *N*-hydroxypiperidine (**27**) is smaller than that of AZADOL (**24**), the flexible nature of the

piperidine ring in **27** makes its effective steric bulk larger, rendering **27** less reactive than **24**.

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(32) Without acetylation, further transformations were more difficult.

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(34) The structure of **2** was unambiguously determined by the spectroscopic analyses. See [Supporting Information](#).