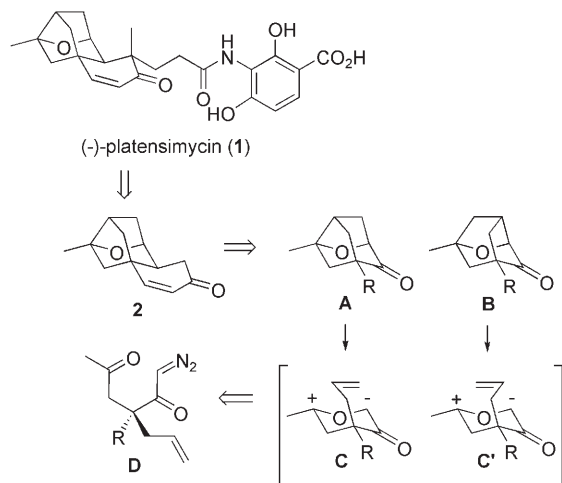


A Carbonyl Ylide Cycloaddition Approach to Platensimycin**

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Platensimycin (**1**) is a novel broad-spectrum antibiotic (against Gram-positive bacteria) which was isolated from *Streptomyces platensis* by scientists from Merck: it inhibits bacterial growth by selectively inhibiting the condensing enzyme FabF of the bacterial fatty acid synthesis pathway.^[1] Platensimycin (**1**) shows no cross-resistance to methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, vancomycin-intermediate *S. aureus*, and vancomycin-resistant enterococci. As a result of its remarkable biological profile and challenging structure, platensimycin (**1**) has been the focus of intense synthetic activity,^[2] and herein we describe the results of our recent efforts towards the synthesis of this intriguing compound.

At the outset, a synthesis of the pivotal tetracyclic intermediate **2** from the cagelike ketone **A** was envisioned (Scheme 1). Rhodium(II)-catalyzed decomposition of α -diazoketone **D** would lead to the formation of **A** and/or **B** through [3+2] cycloaddition^[3] of the corresponding carbonyl ylide with conformations **C** and/or **C'**. This type of cyclo-



Scheme 1. Retrosynthetic analysis of platensimycin (**1**).

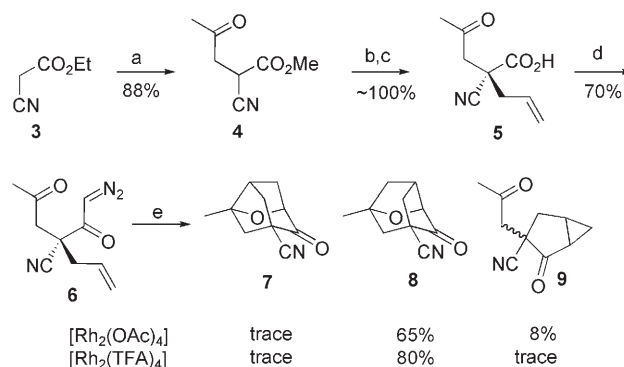
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addition in the presence of rhodium(II) acetate is known to favor the formation of **B** (R = H; **A/B**/cyclopropanes = 6:41:36),^[4] and a reversal of this product distribution seemed necessary to ensure the success of our synthetic approach.

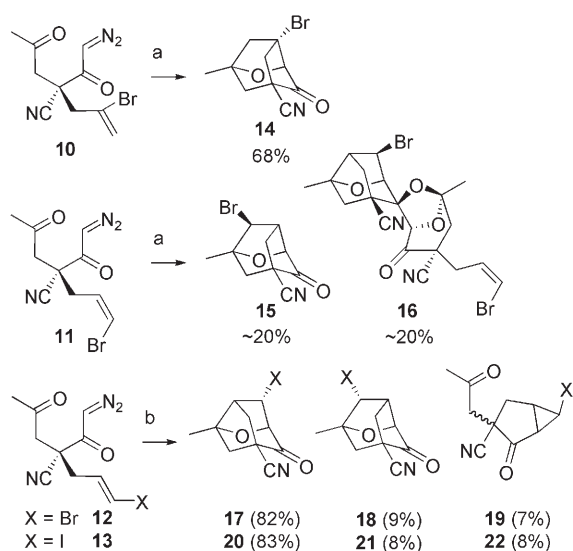
In practice, preparation of the quaternary-substituted diazoketone **D** was problematic.^[5] After considerable experimentation, we found that the reaction sequence was successful with R = CN. Thus, diazoketone **6** was prepared from ethyl cyanoacetate (**3**) in a straightforward manner by sequential alkylation (Scheme 2). In the presence of rhodium(II) acetate, decomposition of diazoketone **6** proceeded smoothly to yield the cagelike ketone **8**, accompanied by only a trace amount of the desired product **7**, and a small amount of cyclopropane products **9**. The use of rhodium(II) trifluoroacetate led to a clean conversion of **6** into **8**.



Scheme 2. Prototype carbonyl ylide [3+2] cycloaddition. a) NaOMe, MeCOCH₂Cl, MeOH; b) NaH, CH₂CHCH₂Br, THF; c) 1 N KOH, MeOH; d) ClCO₂iBu, TEA, diethyl ether, 0°C; then CH₂N₂, diethyl ether, 0°C → RT; e) 5 mol% catalyst, CH₂Cl₂. Ac = acetyl, TEA = triethylamine, TFA = trifluoroacetate.

At first glance these results were disappointing, but we recognized that the overall cyclization–cycloaddition process was more competitive than the cyclopropanation reaction, and that the LUMO-dipole/HOMO-dipolarophile (type III) interaction^[6] clearly dominated in the cycloaddition process because of the introduction of a nitrile group. The desired regioselectivity would be attained through the reversal of the olefin (dipolarophile) HOMO coefficient, for which halogen substitution emerged as an appropriate possibility. Accordingly, the halogenated substrates **10–13** were prepared from **4** for further regioselectivity studies.

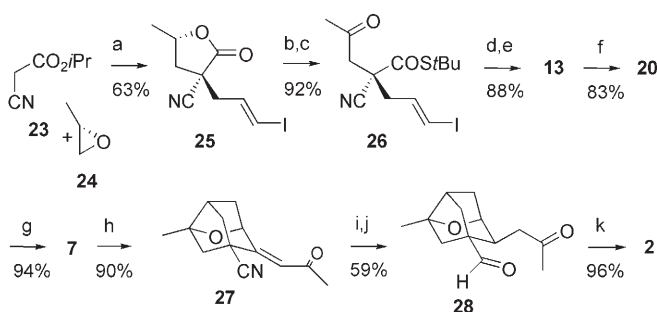
Rhodium(II)-catalyzed decomposition of **10** led to the relatively clean production of ketone **14** (Scheme 3). Under similar conditions, the (*Z*)-bromide **11** produced a relatively complex mixture from which **15** and **16**^[7] were isolated in low yields. Gratifyingly, the (*E*)-bromide **12** was converted into



Scheme 3. Carbonyl ylide [3+2] cycloaddition of the halogenated olefins. a) 5 mol% $[\text{Rh}_2(\text{OAc})_4]$, CH_2Cl_2 ; b) 3 mol% $[\text{Rh}_2(\text{OAc})_4]$, CH_2Cl_2 .

the desired ketone **17**, with only trace amounts of the alternative ketone **18** and a mixture of cyclopropanes **19**. Likewise, the (*E*)-iodide **13** gave **20** in high yield. These results affirmed the favorable reversal of the dipolarophile HOMO coefficient in the type III cycloaddition step. Steric effects may also favor the formation of **17** and **20**.

For completion of the asymmetric synthesis of platensimycin (**1**), diazoketones **12** or **13** needed to be prepared in high enantiomeric excess. An ideal choice would be the use of chiral phase-transfer catalysts^[8] in the cyanocarboxylate allylation step (provided efficient reaction conditions were found).^[9] However, an alternative and practical approach started with treatment of isopropyl cyanoacetate (**23**) with (*S*)-propylene oxide (**24**, 99% *ee*; Scheme 4). The resulting lactone^[10] was allowed to react with (*E*)-iodoallyl iodide to give the desired lactone nitrile **25** in 63% yield, after



Scheme 4. Asymmetric synthesis of tetracycle **2**. a) **24**, NaH, THF, reflux; then (*E*)-CHICHCH₂I; b) *t*BuSH, Me₃Al, CH₂Cl₂, 0 °C; c) DMP, CH₂Cl₂, 0 °C; d) 1 N KOH, MeOH; e) CICO₂*t*Bu, TEA, diethyl ether, 0 °C; then CH₂N₂, diethyl ether, 0 °C → RT; f) 3 mol% $[\text{Rh}_2(\text{OAc})_4]$, CH₂Cl₂; g) H₃PO₂, 1-ethylpiperidine, Et₃B, MeOH, 0 °C; h) MeCOCH₂PO(OMe)₂, DIPEA, LiCl, MeCN; i) Me₂PhSiH, 2 mol% $[\text{RhCl}(\text{Ph}_3\text{P})_3]$, toluene, 60 °C; then DIBAL, toluene, -40 °C; AcOH/H₂O (1:1), 0 °C; j) 2 N HCl, THF, 0 °C; k) TsOH, toluene, reflux. DIBAL = diisobutylaluminum hydride, DIPEA = diisopropylethylamine, DMP = Dess–Martin periodinane, Ts = *para*-toluenesulfonyl.

chromatographic separation from the epimeric product (13%). Lactone nitrile **25** was converted into the corresponding hydroxy *tert*-butyl thioester in the presence of trimethylaluminum,^[11] which in turn was transformed into ketone **26** in high yield. The carboxylic acid prepared from **26** was used for the enantioselective synthesis of diazoketone **13**, which was further converted into ketone **20**.

Reduction of **20** with hypophosphite^[12] afforded tricycle **7** in high yield. The subsequent conversion of **7** into tetracycle **2** was not trivial. The eventual successful sequence began with an efficient Horner–Emmons reaction^[13] to afford enone **27**. Rhodium(I)-catalyzed hydrosilylation^[14] of **27**, DIBAL reduction, and careful imine hydrolysis were carried out in one pot, and it was possible to obtain keto aldehyde **28** (59%) and the epimer (23%) separately after hydrolysis of the silyl enol ether. Further transformation of **28** into the key tetracyclic intermediate **2**^[15] was effected under acidic conditions, which constituted a formal synthesis of platensimycin (**1**).

The approach outlined herein represents a short and facile route to platensimycin (**1**); the enantioselective synthesis of tetracycle **2** required 11 steps (20% overall yield) from isopropyl cyanoacetate (**23**). More importantly, this approach may be easily adapted for the synthesis of platensimycin analogues, which will be the focus of our future studies.

Experimental Section

General procedure for the rhodium(II)-catalyzed cycloaddition: Rhodium acetate was added to a solution of a diazoketone in CH₂Cl₂. After stirring the mixture for 10 h, it was filtered through a pad of silica gel (hexanes/EtOAc, 1:1) to remove the catalyst, and the filtrate was then concentrated in vacuo. The products were separated by flash column chromatography.

Synthesis of iodoketonitrile **20**: In the presence of 3 mol% $[\text{Rh}_2(\text{OAc})_4]$, **13** (300 mg) was converted into **20** (228 mg, 83%) as a mixture of the keto and hydrate forms after chromatographic separation; *R_f* = 0.20 (hexanes/acetone/CH₂Cl₂, 4:1:1); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 4.43 (s, 1H), 4.22 (s, 1H), 3.05 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 2.75 (dd, *J* = 11.9, 3.1 Hz, 1H), 2.47 (dd, *J* = 13.0, 7.1 Hz, 1H), 2.32 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 2.22 (dd, *J* = 13.0, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 1.77 ppm (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 193.6, 115.9, 89.5, 87.5, 53.7, 53.5, 51.5, 46.8, 27.5, 23.1 ppm; IR (neat): $\tilde{\nu}_{\text{max}}$ = 3390, 2978, 2874, 2247, 1740, 1632, 1444, 1383, 1243, 1113, 1026, 825, 612 cm⁻¹; FABMS (relative intensity): *m/z* 304 ($[M^+ + 1]$); 6), 289 (7), 273 (4), 219 (18), 194 (13), 176 (15), 154 (95), 136 (100), 107 (32), 90 (30), 77 (37); HRMS (FAB) calcd for C₁₀H₁₁O₂NI [$M^+ + 1$]: 303.9834; found: 303.9824.

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