

Diastereoselective Additions of Allylmetal Reagents to Free and Protected *syn*- α,β -Dihydroxyketones Enable Efficient Synthetic Routes to Methyl Trioxacarcinoside A

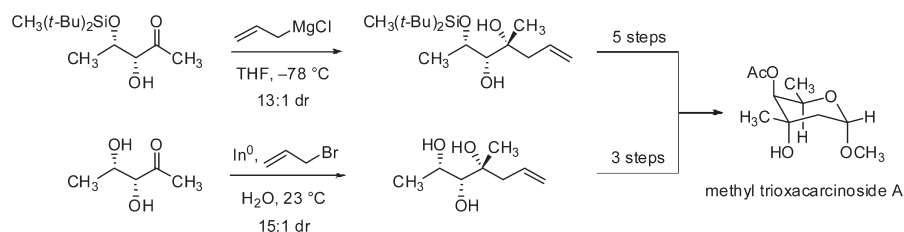
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Received February 20, 2012

ABSTRACT



Two routes to the 2,6-dideoxysugar methyl trioxacarcinoside A are described. Each was enabled by an apparent α -chelation-controlled addition of an allylmetal reagent to a ketone substrate containing a free α -hydroxyl group and a β -hydroxyl substituent, either free or protected as the corresponding di-*tert*-butylmethyl silyl ether. Both routes provide practical access to gram quantities of trioxacarcinoside A in a form suitable for glycosidic coupling reactions.

Trioxacarcinoside A (**1**) is a rare deoxysugar found within many trioxacarcins, densely oxygenated bacterial metabolites with antiproliferative effects in cultured human cancer cells.¹ Trioxacarcin A (**2**), the most potent member of the trioxacarcin natural product class (Figure 1), contains both trioxacarcinoside A and B residues, each with an α -linkage. The desacetyl form of trioxacarcinoside A, axenose (**3**), is also naturally occurring and was earlier known, appearing within the natural products axenomycin, polyketomycin, and dutomycin.² Two prior synthetic routes to

axenose have been published.^{3,4} The first proceeded in 13 steps (1.6% yield) from L-fucose as starting material,^{3a} and the second proceeded in 12 steps (~4% yield) from 2-deoxy-D-ribose as starting material.^{3b} Here we describe two different synthetic routes to the axenose–trioxacarcinoside A carbohydrate class. Both routes rely upon diastereoselective addition reactions of allylmetal reagents to α,β -dideoxyketones and employ the crystalline substance 4-phenylbenzyl (2*R*,3*S*)-dihydroxybutyrate as starting material.⁵ The routes we present have allowed us to prepare gram quantities of optically pure trioxacarcinoside A in a form suitable for glycosidic coupling reactions.

Considering the open-chain or aldehydic form of trioxacarcinoside A (Scheme 1), we focused on retrosynthetic

(1) (a) Tomita, F.; Tamaoki, T.; Morimoto, M.; Fujimoto, K. *J. Antibiot.* **1981**, *34*, 1519–1524. (b) Tamaoki, T.; Shirahata, K.; Iida, T.; Tomita, F. *J. Antibiot.* **1981**, *34*, 1525–1530.

(2) Axenomycin: (a) Arcamone, F.; Barbieri, W.; Franceschi, G.; Penco, S.; Vigevari, A. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1973**, *95*, 2008–2009. Polyketomycin: (b) Momosa, I.; Chen, W.; Kinoshita, N.; Iinuma, H.; Hamada, M.; Takeuchi, T. *J. Antibiot.* **1998**, *51*, 21–25. (c) Momosa, I.; Chen, W.; Nakamura, H.; Naganawa, H.; Iinuma, H.; Takeuchi, T. *J. Antibiot.* **1998**, *51*, 26–32. Dutomycin: (d) Xuan, L.-J.; Xu, S.-H.; Zhang, H.-L. *J. Antibiot.* **1992**, *45*, 1974–1976.

(3) (a) Garegg, P. J.; Norberg, T. *Acta Chem. Scand.* **1975**, *29*, 506–513. (b) Giuliano, R. M.; Villani, F. J., Jr. *J. Org. Chem.* **1995**, *60*, 202–211.

(4) For a synthetic route to 3-*epi*-axenose, see: Roush, W.; Hagadorn, S. *Carbohydr. Res.* **1985**, *136*, 187–193.

(5) Smaltz, D. J.; Myers, A. G. *J. Org. Chem.* **2011**, *76*, 8554–8559. The Sharpless asymmetric dihydroxylation reaction was central to this preparation of 4-phenylbenzyl (2*R*,3*S*)-dihydroxybutyrate; for a review, see: Kolb, H. C.; VanNieuwenhze, M. S.; Sharpless, K. B. *Chem. Rev.* **1994**, *94*, 2483–2547.

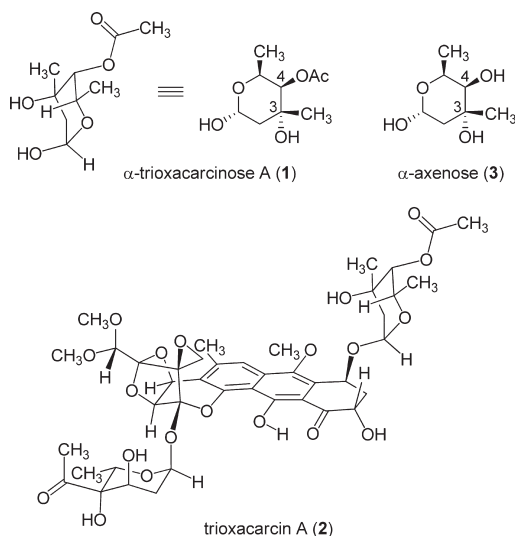
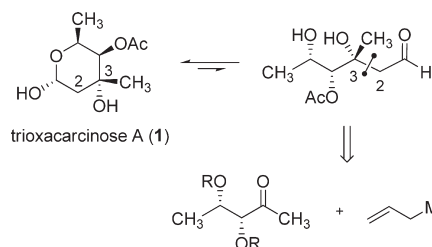


Figure 1. Structures of α -trioxacarcinose A (1), trioxacarcin A (2), and α -axenose (3).

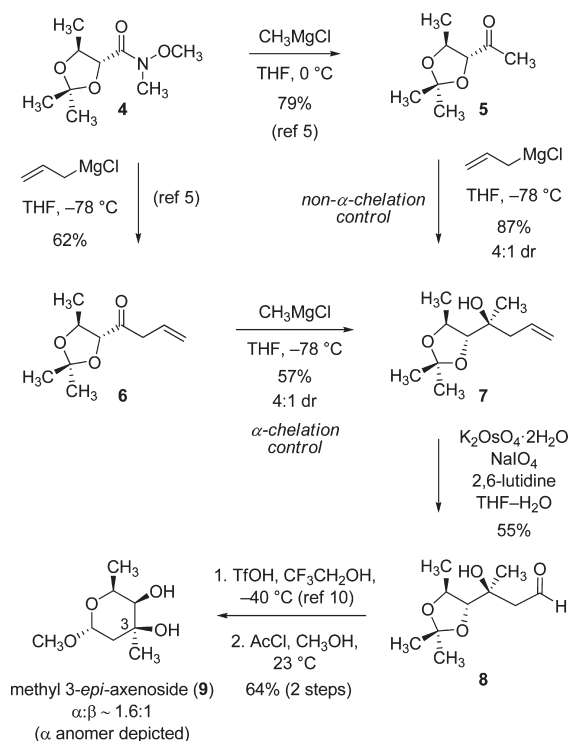
operations that would disconnect carbons 2 and 3. This led us to envision, in the synthetic direction, stereocontrolled addition of an allyl Grignard reagent to (3*R*,4*S*)-dihydroxy-2-pentanone with the expectation that our selection of diol protective group(s) might influence the addition; however, the literature did not offer clear guidance on what diol-protecting scheme might ensure the desired stereochemical outcome. While α -chelation-controlled⁶ additions of Grignard reagents to 2-tetrahydrofuranyl and α -benzyloxy ketones have been featured in landmark syntheses of stereochemically complex natural products,⁷ additions of Grignard reagents to ketones with acyclic side chains bearing both α - and β -oxygenated substituents are of a less certain stereochemical outcome.⁸

We briefly explored additions of Grignard reagents to acetonide-protected *syn*-2,3-dihydroxyketones **5** (methyl ketone) and **6** (allyl ketone)⁹ as summarized in Scheme 2; however, in neither case was the stereochemical outcome favorable for the purpose of synthesizing **1**. Thus, addition of allylmagnesium chloride to methyl ketone **5** afforded predominantly the stereoisomer **7**, which is not congruent

Scheme 1. Retrosynthetic Analysis of Trioxacarcinose A (1)



Scheme 2. Additions to Acetonide-Protected *syn*-2,3-Dihydroxyketones



with trioxacarcinose A at position C3, established by conversion of the adduct **7** to methyl 3-*epi*-axenoside (**9**) in a 3-step sequence (Scheme 2).^{4,10} The observed stereochemical course is consistent with either “polar Felkin–Anh”¹¹ or β -chelation-controlled transition structures, but not an α -chelation-controlled addition. Interestingly, addition of methylmagnesium chloride to the allyl ketone **6** also afforded the tertiary alcohol **7** as the major product, which in this case corresponds to an α -chelation-controlled process. This is not the first instance where the stereochemical outcomes of addition reactions of allyl and methyl Grignard reagents to a common ketone substrate have been different.¹²

(6) (a) Cram, D. J.; Kopecky, K. R. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1959**, *81*, 2748–2755. (b) Still, W. C.; McDonald, J. H. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1980**, *11*, 1031–1034. Reviews: (c) Reetz, M. T. *Acc. Chem. Res.* **1993**, *26*, 462–468. (d) Mengel, A.; Reiser, O. *Chem. Rev.* **1999**, *99*, 1191–1223. (e) Reetz, M. T. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **2003**, *23*, 556–569.

(7) (a) Nakata, T.; Kishi, Y. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1978**, *19*, 2745–2748. (b) Collum, D. B.; McDonald, J. H., III; Still, W. C. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1979**, *102*, 2117–2120.

(8) (a) Mulzer, J.; Angermann, A. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1983**, *24*, 2843–2846. (b) Mead, K.; Macdonald, T. L. *J. Org. Chem.* **1985**, *50*, 422–424.

(9) Both substrates **5** and **6** were derived from 4-phenylbenzyl (2*R*,3*S*)-dihydroxybutyrate via the Weinreb amide acetonide **4**, as summarized in Scheme 2.⁵

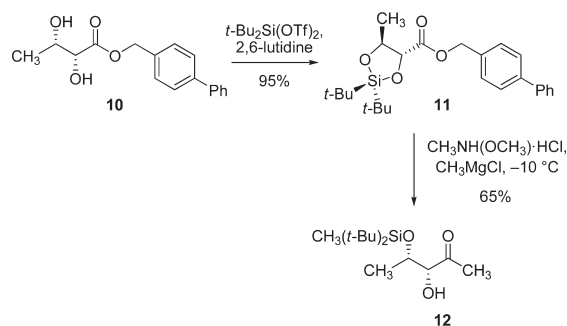
(10) Cleavage of the acetonide protective group required the use of triflic acid in trifluoroethanol, conditions first described by the Hiraama group in the context of their synthesis of N1999A2; see: Kobayashi, S.; Reddy, R. S.; Sugiura, Y.; Sasaki, D.; Miyagawa, N.; Hiraama, M. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2001**, *123*, 2887–2888.

(11) Anh, N. T. *Top. Curr. Chem.* **1980**, *88*, 145–162.

(12) Carda, M.; González, F.; Rodríguez, S.; Marco, J. A. *Tetrahedron: Asymmetry* **1993**, *4*, 1799–1802.

In light of the unfavorable stereochemical outcomes of addition reactions to the acetonide-protected ketone substrates **5** and **6**, we were led to prepare the di-*tert*-butylsiloxane ester derivative **11** as a substrate (95% yield, 12.7 g, Scheme 3),¹³ which was easily achieved using the readily available, optically pure diol ester **10** as starting material.⁵ Fortuitously, we observed that upon attempted transformation of the di-*tert*-butylsiloxane ester **11** into the corresponding methyl ketone using the Merck single-step process (via the Weinreb amide derivative)^{14,15} concomitant, regioselective cleavage of the cyclic siloxane group occurred, giving rise to the di-*tert*-butylmethyl silyl ether **12** (5.3 g, 65% yield). Although regioselective openings of di-*tert*-butylsiloxane derivatives with *n*-butyllithium have been described,¹⁶ we are unaware of corresponding transformations with Grignard reagents.

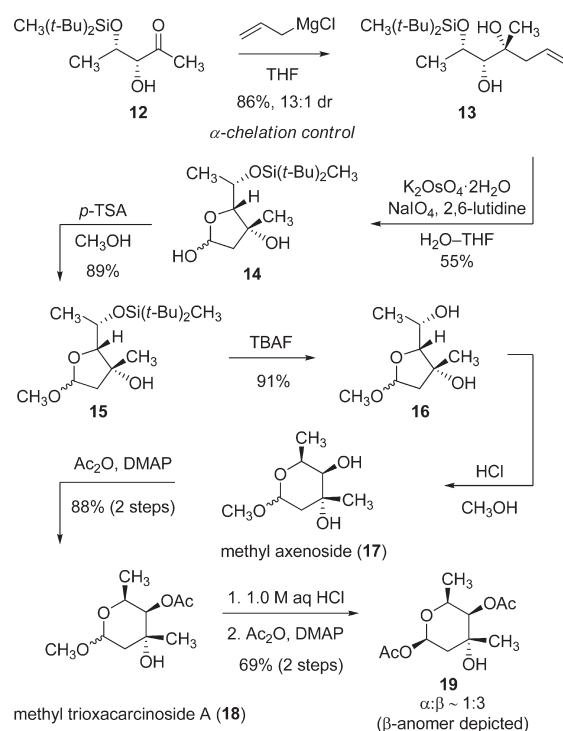
Scheme 3. Synthesis of Methyl Ketone **12**



The selective transformation of the cyclic siloxane **11** to the monosilyl ether **12** proved to be quite useful, as it enabled our first synthetic route to trioxacarcinose A (Scheme 4). Addition of excess allylmagnesium chloride to α -hydroxyketone **12** in THF at -78 °C proceeded with 13:1 diastereoselectivity favoring the tertiary alcohol product **13**, consistent with an α -chelation-controlled addition mechanism (3.59 g, 86% yield).¹⁷ The product (**13**) is stereochemically congruent with trioxacarcinose A (**1**), as established by its conversion to methyl axenoside (**17**), en route to **1**, as detailed below.

Oxidative cleavage of the alkenyl side chain of **13** occurred in the presence of potassium osmate and sodium metaperiodate,¹⁸ providing the furanose derivative **14** as a mixture of anomers (1.97 g, 55% yield, α : β $\approx$ 1:5).

Scheme 4. Syntheses of Methyl Axenoside (**17**) and Methyl Trioxacarcinose A (**18**)



Deprotection of the di-*tert*-butylmethylsilyl ether, a sterically hindered and robust protective group,¹⁹ was accomplished in two steps. The cyclic hemiacetal **14** was first transformed into the more stable methyl glycoside derivative **15** with *p*-toluenesulfonic acid in methanol (89% yield). The methyl glycoside then underwent smooth desilylation with TBAF at 23 °C to provide methyl furanosides **16** in 91% yield (890 mg). The latter product was isomerized to the more stable methyl pyranosides **17** (methyl α - and β -axenoside) with methanolic HCl at 23 °C, a known transformation.^{3b,20} Analytical data were in accord with those previously reported for methyl axenoside.³ Selective *O*-acetylation of **17** provided methyl trioxacarcinose A **18** (970 mg, 88% over two steps). Analytical data were in agreement with values reported for the same substance derived from natural sources.²¹ Hydrolysis of **18** in 1.0 M aqueous hydrochloric acid provided trioxacarcinose A itself (**1**), which was acetylated at the anomeric position to give 1-*O*-acetyl glycoside **19** in 69% yield over two steps (α : β $\approx$ 1:3). 1-*O*-Acetyl glycosides are known to be effective glycosyl donors, do not require activation for

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(15) Nahm, S.; Weinreb, S. M. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1981**, 22, 3815–3818.

(16) (a) Mukaiyama, T.; Shiina, I.; Kimura, K.; Akiyama, Y.; Iwadare, H. *Chem. Lett.* **1995**, 24, 229–230. (b) Tanino, K.; Shimizu, T.; Kuwahara, M.; Kuwajima, I. *J. Org. Chem.* **1998**, 63, 2422–2423.

(17) Chelation-controlled Grignard additions of α -hydroxyketones, while relatively uncommon, are known. For an example, see: (a) Matsunaga, N.; Kaku, T.; Ojida, A.; Tasaka, A. *Tetrahedron: Asymmetry* **2004**, 15, 2021–2028.

(18) Yu, W.; Mei, Y.; Kang, Y.; Hua, Z.; Jin, Z. *Org. Lett.* **2004**, 6, 3217–3219.

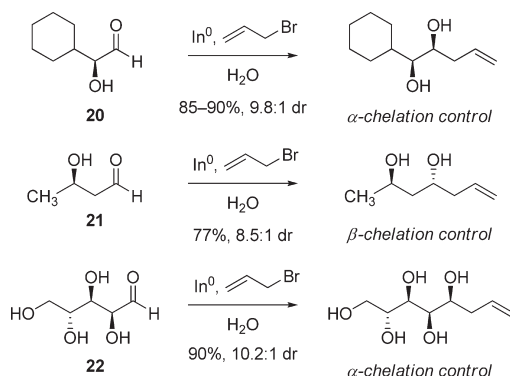
(19) Nicolaou, K. C.; Yue, E. W.; la Greca, S.; Nadin, A.; Yang, Z.; Leresche, J. E.; Tsuru, T.; Naniwa, Y.; de Riccardis, F. *Chem.—Eur. J.* **1995**, 1, 467–494.

(20) The product is a (presumably, thermodynamic) mixture of methyl pyranoside and furanoside isomers: β -pyranoside, 62%; α -pyranoside, 34%; β -furanoside, 4%; α -furanoside, < 1%.

(21) Shirahata, K.; Iida, T.; Hirayama, N. *Symposium on the Chemistry of Natural Products* **1981**, 24, 199–206.

coupling,²² and can also be transformed into a number of other different types of glycosyl donors.²³

Scheme 5. Indium-Mediated Allylations of Hydroxyaldehydes as Described by Paquette and Mitzel^{24a}



While the route outlined in Scheme 4 provided an effective and scalable means of synthesizing trioxacarcinose A and derivatives, an even shorter sequence was considered for investigation based upon a remarkable series of publications from Paquette et al. describing diastereoselective, indium-mediated allylation reactions of aldehyde and ketone substrates containing free hydroxyl groups, in water as solvent.²⁴ For example (summarized in Scheme 5), Paquette and Mitzel showed that In-mediated allylation of the α -hydroxyaldehyde **20** proceeded with high diastereoselectivity to afford mainly the syn product, consistent with an α -chelation-controlled addition mechanism, while allylation of the β -hydroxyaldehyde **21** provided primarily the anti product, consistent with a β -chelation-controlled mechanism. They also reported the very interesting case of In-mediated allylation of the polyol D-arabinose **22**, where in principle the directing effects of the α - and β -hydroxyl groups were nonreinforcing (and the effects of γ - and δ -hydroxyl groups were unknown); the product of apparent α -chelation control was formed with high diastereoselectivity.^{24a} The latter result was particularly germane, for it suggested that allylation of the specific dihydroxy ketone substrate (3*R*,4*S*)-dihydroxy-2-pentanone (**23**), with nonreinforcing α - and β -directing effects, might proceed in the desired sense (with α -chelation control) to provide a practicable and extraordinarily short sequence to trioxacarcinose A.

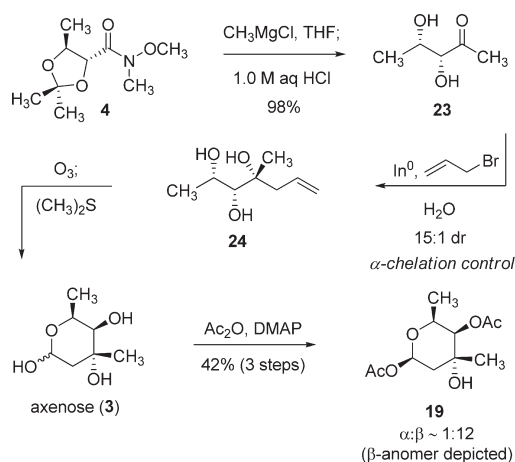
(22) Toshima, K.; Tatsuta, K. *Chem. Rev.* **1993**, 93, 1503–1531.

(23) (a) Ogawa, T.; Kitajima, T.; Nukada, T. *Carbohydr. Res.* **1983**, 123, C8–C11. (b) Hayashi, M.; Hashimoto, S.; Noyori, R. *Chem. Lett.* **1984**, 13, 1747–1750. (c) Kihlberg, J. O.; Leigh, D. A.; Bundle, D. R. *J. Org. Chem.* **1990**, 55, 2860–2863. (d) Sarkar, S.; Lombardo, S. A.; Herner, D. N.; Talan, R. S.; Wall, K. A.; Sucheck, S. J. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2010**, 132, 17236–17246.

(24) (a) Paquette, L. A.; Mitzel, T. M. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1995**, 36, 6863–6866. (b) Paquette, L. A.; Mitzel, T. M. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1996**, 118, 1931–1937. (c) Paquette, L. A.; Lobben, P. C. *J. Org. Chem.* **1998**, 63, 5604–5616.

(25) The highly polar intermediates **24** and **3** were difficult to purify chromatographically and so were carried through subsequent transformations without purification. We believe that this contributed to the moderate yield of **19** over the three-step sequence.

Scheme 6. Second-Generation Synthesis of 1-*O*-Acetyl Trioxacarcinose A (**19**)



To investigate the feasibility of the shorter sequence we envisioned, we first transformed the Weinreb amide substrate **4**^{5,9} into ketone **23** (9.89 g, 98% yield), in a single operation (Scheme 6). Allylation of the latter product (**23**, 3.43 g) under conditions typical of those employed by Paquette and Mitzel,^{24b} using In powder (1.6 equiv) and allyl bromide (1.6 equiv) in water at 23 °C, did indeed proceed with predominant α -chelation control to provide the water-soluble triol **24** as a 15:1 mixture of diastereomers. Direct ozonolysis followed by reductive quenching with dimethylsulfide led to cleavage of the terminal alkene(s) to afford axenose (**3**), predominantly in its pyranose form. The crude product was then acetylated to afford 1-*O*-acetyl trioxacarcinose A (**19**, 42% yield over three steps from **23**, 2.97 g, α : β $\approx$ 1:12) in >95% purity after chromatographic purification.²⁵

Methanolysis of 1-*O*-acetyl trioxacarcinose A (**19**) synthesized by this second route (using acetyl chloride in methanol) produced methyl trioxacarcinoside A (**18**, 74% yield, see Supporting Information), which provided analytical data indistinguishable from those of **18** from our first route, described above. By virtue of its greater brevity and convenience, the second synthetic route provides an especially useful means of access to trioxacarcinose A in an anomerically activated form.

Acknowledgment. Financial support from the National Institutes of Health (Grant CA047148) and the Department of Defense (National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowship to D.J.S.) is gratefully acknowledged.

Supporting Information Available. Experimental procedures and characterization data (¹H and ¹³C NMR, FT-IR, and HRMS) for all new compounds. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

The authors declare no competing financial interest.