

PII: S0040-4039(96)01887-4

Total Chiral Synthesis of Azole Antifungals via α-Hydroxylation of Ketones:

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Abstract: The use of camphorsulfonyl oxaziridines for the preparation of 2',4'-difluoro-(R)-2hydroxypropiophenone, (2), a key intermediate for the synthesis of azole antifungals Sch 42427 and ER-30346 (1) in excellent enantiomeric excess and high chemical yield is described. Copyright © 1996 Elsevier Science Ltd

The emergence of drug resistant forms of fungi resulting from AIDS has intensified the search for novel antifungal agents that could combat these forms. Research in this area has led to a new class of potent azole antifungals, e. g. Sch 42427/SM 9164 and ER-30346 (1). 1,2



Methods that allow for their total chiral syntheses on a mole scale without chromatographic or chemical resolutions are needed. This article describes one such new synthesis.

Publications towards the syntheses of these compounds indicate that chiral hydroxyketone 2 is a key intermediate that has been used to prepare antifungals such as $1.^{1-3}$ In our pursuit of a synthesis which would lead to a yield and *ee* of ~ 95 of 2, recently published⁴ chiral hydroxylations of ketones with camphorsulfonyl oxaziridines 3(a, b) were examined. Table 1 summarizes the best results⁵ obtained when the literature procedures were applied to the hydroxylation of 2,4-difluoropropiophenone 4. Although the synthesis⁶ of 4 as well as its hydroxylation were accomplished in good chemical yields, the *ees* of 2 were moderate. In the control

0	i) THF78°	O H	Table 1: Comparison of hydroxylation of ketones 4 and 5.					
X	ii) NaHMDS/THF	× ×	Ketone	Oxaziridine	Yield ¹	R:S (ee) ¹	Literature yield, (ee)	
T X		X	4	3a	80%	72:28(44)		
4: X = F	N B 3	2: X = F	4	3b	85%	90:10(80)		
5: X = H	S B	6: X = H	5	3a	88%	78:12(66)	77 (68) ^{4a}	
	0 - 2 3a • A=H B=H		5	3b	80%	96:04(92)	61 (95) ^{4b}	
	3b : A=Cl, B=H		Notes: (1) These are isolated yields. (2) The % enantiomeric excesses were					
			determined by HPLC. ⁷					

study the hydroxylation of commercially available propiophenone 5 to 6 resulted in expected ees^7 with higher than reported yields. ⁸ Thus the moderate *ees* of 2 were neither due to inferior quality of oxaziridines⁹ nor due to variation in the experimental techniques.

To improve the ees of 2 while maintaining yields, a two prong approach, one involving a mechanistic

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study, and the other involving evaluation of new oxaziridines was undertaken. Mechanistically, the reported¹⁰ work using TMS trapped enolates suggests that upon treatment of 5 with the base, essentially only the Z enolate is formed which reacts with the oxaziridines to produce the hydroxyketone of the dominant chirality. Independently synthesized TMS trapped *E* enolate leads to the product of the opposite chirality. As was seen with 5, the treatment of 4 with NaHMDS followed by the addition of either TMS-triflate or TBDMS-triflate resulted in the isolation of essentially only the Z-silylated enolate. To complement the above experiments we undertook an NMR study¹¹ to monitor the 'in solution' dynamics of this reactions. This study revealed that i) both the Z and the *E* enolates are formed for 4, and 5; ii) the Z enolates are formed in larger amount than *E* enolates for both 4, and 5; iii) the ratio of Z vs. *E* enolates for 4 (and 5) are temperature dependent, iv) between the temperature of -40° to -90° the lower the temperature, the better the Z/E ratio of 5 (2. 6:1), and vi) for practical purposes, the reaction of these enolates with the oxaziridines is completed within minutes as judged by LC (the addition of oxaziridines to the above reactions creates suspensions which can not be monitored by NMR).

Based on this observation it was hypothesized (Scheme I) that although *both* enolates are formed at a given temperature (which are in equilibration when hexamethyldisilazine bases are used), it is the faster rate of complexation of the Z enolates with the oxaziridines and/or the subsequent faster rate of oxidation of the complexs thus formed in case of Z enolates compared to the E enolates that determine the final *ee*. Thus, consistent with the observed results⁵, the solvent, the base (i. e. the metal ion), the substitution pattern on the oxaziridines (e. g. **3a** vs. **3b**), as well as the substrate influence the Z/E ratio, the rates at which they eventually react with oxaziridines, and the resultant *ees*. This study suggested that a further optimization in *ees* for **2** may





be achieved by a change in the substitution pattern on the oxaziridines and/or maintaining the reaction temperature < -78 °C (to ensure a more favorable Z/E ratio), provided the chemicals do not precipitate out, and an appreciable reaction rate can be maintained under these conditions.

The results obtained under these new conditions for the hydroxylation of 2 are shown in Table 2. The lowering of the reaction temperature to -90° did allow for improved *ees* while maintaining the chemical yields.

Interestingly enough, although a further change in the substitution pattern on oxaziridines lowered the *ees*, it clearly showed that the tetrachloro oxaziridine (3d), (formed as a byproduct when the published¹² synthesis of 3b was used for its preparation) must be completely removed from 3b for its optimum utilization of 3b. ¹³ Since toluene was shown⁵ to adversely affect *ees*, the preparation of toluene (often a contaminant in the commercial NaHMDS) free THF solution of NaHMDS also led to a improved, more reproducible *ees* of 2. Table 2: Study Towards Improvements in *ees* of 2:

Oxaziridine 3a		3b	3 c ²	3d	3 b ³
	A=H, B=H	A=Cl, B=H	A=Br, B=H	A=Cl, B=Cl	A=Cl, B=H
Yield ¹	90%	90%	80%	80%	93%
R:S (% ee)	85:15 (70)	94:6 (88)	81:19 (62)	33:66 (33)	96:4 (92)

Notes: Unless noted otherwise, all reactions were conducted at -90° C to -95° C using the procedure outlined in Scheme II. (1) These are isolated yields. (2) Due to stirring difficulties with this insoluble oxaziridine, this reaction was conducted at -75C to -78° C. (3) Toluene free NaHMDS in THF (NaNH₂ + NH(SiMe₃)₂, heated in THF to eliminate NH₃) was used.

The above work establishes an efficient synthesis of the key antifungal intermediate 2 with the use of **3b**. However for a multikilo application of this synthesis it was important to recycle the chiral species. This was accomplished by developing a workup procedure for the isolation of 2 that facilitated a recovery of camphorsulfonylimine (10) as detailed in the scheme below. ¹⁴ An oxidation of 10 with peracetic acid ¹³ to



i) N₂/ THF, -90°, 1.2 eq. NaHMDS/THF; ii) 1.2 eq. 3b; iii) aq. NH₄Cl, warm to r.t.; iv) extract w. EtOAc; v) replace EtOAc w. hexane, cool 0°C, filter to isolate 5 (85-90% recovery); vi) Conc. hexane under vac., add toluene, 4.0 eq. DHP, PPTS, r.t., 3-4hr (90% of 6 from 3).

the oxaziridine allowed for the reuse of this advanced intermediate. This synthesis has been scaled up in our laboratories to prepare multikilo batches of 2. In fact, 3b obtained after three recycles improved ees (> 94%) of 2. This is presumably due to the removal of traces of an as yet unidentified impurity from 3b.



a) (i) Me₃SOI/DMSO/60% NaH heated to 55°; add 6 in THF; b) DMF/Na -Triazole, 70°C; c) aq. HCl or pTSA/MeOH/H₂O, 60% for three steps (from 6): d) 0-5°C, iPrOAc, Et₃N, MsCl; e) iPrOAc, aq. K_2CO_3 , r.t., (Bu)₄NHSO₄, 90% from 7.

Finally, moderately stable 2 was trapped as the more stable THP protected intermediate 6 under inert, neutral conditions. Conversion of 2 to the antifungals 1 via the R,S epoxide 9 is described in the Scheme III.

Thus an efficient synthesis of the key chiral intermediate 2 in good yield and excellent enantiomeric excess has been achieved. The experimental conditions for this synthesis are reported. This synthesis has been scaled up on multimole scale.

Acknowledgments: We thank Dr. T. M. Chan for performing the low temperature NMR study.

References and Notes

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 F. A.; Weismiller, M. C. J. Org. Chem. 1990, 55, 3715.
- 5) Of the bases evaluated (Na, K, or Li HMDS) Na ion led to the best outcome. NaHMDS was better than NaH, or NaOtBu. Among a variety of solvents evaluated (tBuOMe, Toluene, DME, Ether, THF, diglyme, mixtures there of, with or without trace of DMSO) THF followed by DME were found most suitable.
- 6) Ketone 4 was synthesized in 85% yield by Friedel-Craft acylation of m-difluorobenzene (AlCl₃, 1. 4 eq. propionyl chloride, r.t. to 65°C; product extraction in tBuOMe followed by distillation of 4 at 50°C, 2mm).
- 7) The ees reported in the literature were determined by NMR. The ees reported in this article were determined by chiral HPLC (Chiracel OB; 4-7% iPrOH/Hexane, 0.7 to 1.1 ml/min, UV 220nm).
- 8) For instability of 2 and 5 see: Gala, D.; Puar, M. S.; Kugelman, M.; DiBenedetto, D. J. J. Pharm. Sci., 1992, 81, 1199. The higher yields were obtained by maintaining cooler (0-10°C0 temperature, inert atmosphere and neutral pH during the workup and storage of the products as indicated in ref. 3a, and 3b.
- 9) All oxaziridines used for this research were prepared according to references 4a and 4b.
- 10) Davis, F. A.; Shepard, A. C.; Chen, B.-C.; Haque, M. S. J. Am Chem. Soc. 1990, 112, 6679.
- 11) For this study, commercial solid NaHMDS was dissolved in anhydrous dg-THF which was added to the solution of 4 or 5 in dg-THF at -78°C and analyzed by 400MHz ¹H NMR between -40° to -90°C.
- 12) In the reported work (ref. 4b), the trichloro byproducts were isolated. In our hand, only the tetrachloro impurity was formed.
- For a 3b synthesis free of 3d, see: Gala, D.; DiBenedetto, D. J.; Mergelsberg, I. Tetrahedron. Lett. 1992, 33, 161.
- 14) A recovery of **3a** was also demonstrated using this procedure.

(Received in USA 26 July 1996; revised 3 September 1996; accepted 10 September 1996)