



Original article

An easy route to exotic 9-epimers of 9-amino-(9-deoxy) cinchona alkaloids with (8*S*, 9*R*) and (8*R*, 9*S*)-configurations through two inversions of configuration

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ABSTRACT

Four exotic chiral organocatalysts, 9-amino-(9-deoxy) cinchona alkaloids with (8*S*, 9*R*) and (8*R*, 9*S*)-configurations, were conveniently synthesized for the first time in 27–72% total yields through two conversions of configuration at the 9-stereogenic centers of commercially available cinchona alkaloids.

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1. Introduction

Recent years have witnessed an unthinkable upsurge in potential utility of asymmetric organocatalysis as a tool for the synthesis of enantiopure molecules under mild, environmentally benign conditions [1]. Readily, available cinchona alkaloids, namely cinchonidine (CD), cinchonine (CN), quinine (QN) and quinidine (QD), enjoyed much interest as privileged organocatalysts effective in numerous mechanistically diverse enantioselective transformations [2]. The resulting (8*S*, 9*S*) and (8*R*, 9*R*)-9-amino-(9-deoxy) cinchona alkaloids are employed as attractive and efficient organocatalysts with excellent catalytic properties in asymmetric Aldol addition [3], Diels–Alder reaction [4], Friedel–Crafts reaction [5], Henry reaction [6], Mannich reaction [7], Michael addition [8], hydrogenation [9], epoxidation [10], 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition [11], decarboxylation [12] and methanolytic desymmetrization [13]. In the aforementioned organocatalytic asymmetric reactions, the stereochemistry of catalytic products, to a great extent, generally depended on the configurations of the 8- and 9-stereogenic centers in 9-amino-(9-deoxy) cinchona alkaloids, although the experimental observations occasionally revealed the unexpected hint of enantioselectivity [14]. Considering the influence of stereochemical diversity of the organocatalyst on the stereochemistry of the products, (8*S*, 9*R*)

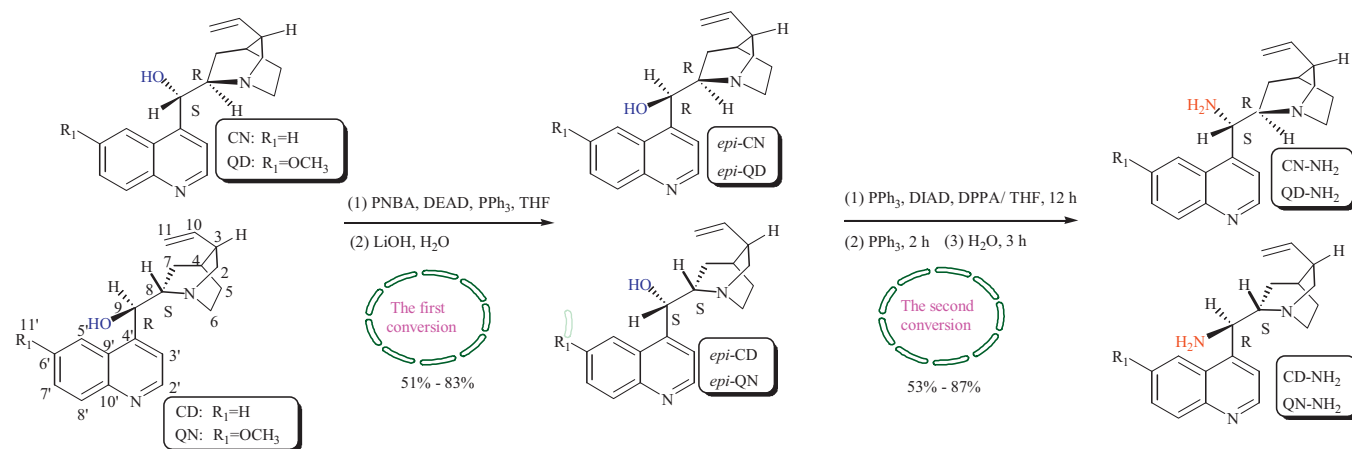
and (8*R*, 9*S*)-9-amino-(9-deoxy) cinchona alkaloids possibly play the different and unthinkable role in determining the spatial structures of catalytic products. However, until now, (8*S*, 9*R*) and (8*R*, 9*S*)-9-amino-(9-deoxy) cinchona alkaloids have not been developed or received considerable attention. Based on the Mitsunobu reaction, in this report, four exotic pseudoenantiomers of (8*S*, 9*R*) and (8*R*, 9*S*)-9-amino-(9-deoxy) cinchona alkaloids were conveniently synthesized for the first time through the two conversions of the configurations at the 9-stereogenic centers in commercially available cinchona alkaloids (Scheme 1).

2. Experimental

General procedure for 9-amino(9-deoxy) cinchona alkaloids: The *epi*-cinchona alkaloids (*epi*-CD, CN, QN and QD) (1.63 mmol) and triphenylphosphine (520 mg, 1.95 mmol) were dissolved in 6 mL of anhydrous THF under an argon atmosphere and added dropwise 2 mL of diisopropyl azidocarboxylate (DIAD) (0.38 mL, 1.95 mmol) and 1 mL THF solution of diphenylphosphoryl azide (DPPA) (0.42 mL, 1.95 mmol) at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 12 h and 50 °C for 2 h and then triphenylphosphine (563 mg, 2.12 mmol) added in one portion. After the gas evolution had ceased (about 2 h), the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, added 0.3 mL of water, stirred for another 3 h and evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was dissolved in 10 mL of CH₂Cl₂ and added 5 mL of diluted hydrochloric acid (10%). The aqueous phase was washed with CH₂Cl₂ (3 × 10 mL), alkalinized with an excess of concentrated

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Scheme 1. The synthetic route to 9-amino-(9-deoxy) cinchona alkaloids through the two inversions of configuration.

ammonia and extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (3×30 mL). The organic phase was dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 . The concentrated organic phase was purified by silica gel column chromatography using $CHCl_3$ –MeOH (40:1, v/v) as an eluent to afford the title compounds as yellowish viscous oils.

CN- NH_2 : Yellowish viscous oil, $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -56.0$ (c 0.30, EtOH). 1H NMR (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$, Me_4Si): δ 8.89 (d, 1 H, $^3J = 6.0$ Hz, H-2'), 8.21 (d, 1 H, $^3J = 6.0$ Hz, H-5'), 8.12 (d, 1 H, $^3J = 6.0$ Hz, H-8'), 7.70 (t, 1 H, $^3J = 6.0$ Hz, H-7'), 7.57 (t, 1 H, $^3J = 6.0$ Hz, H-6'), 7.41 (d, 1 H, $^3J = 3.0$ Hz, H-3'), 5.93–6.05 (m, 1 H, H-10), 5.12 (d, 1 H, $^3J = 6.0$ Hz, H-11 α), 5.08 (d, 1 H, $^3J = 6.0$ Hz, H-11 β), 4.81 (d, 1 H, $^3J = 9.0$ Hz, H-9), 3.18 (q, 1 H, $^3J = 9.0$ Hz, H-8), 2.66–2.88 (m, 4 H, H-6 α , H-2-exo, H-6 β , H-2-endo), 2.25 (q, 1 H, $^3J = 9.0$ Hz, H-3), 1.90–1.95 (m, 3 H, NH_2 , H-4), 1.80 (d, 2 H, $^3J = 9.0$ Hz, H-7 α , H-7 β), 1.62 (q, 2 H, $^3J = 9.0$ Hz, H-5). ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 150.0 (C-2'), 148.3 (C-10'), 139.3 (C-4'), 130.2 (C-10), 129.1 (C-7'), 128.8 (C-8'), 126.5 (C-9'), 126.3 (C-6'), 122.6 (C-5'), 117.6 (C-3'), 114.9 (C-11), 60.4 (C-8), 52.1 (C-9), 49.1 (C-2), 48.1 (C-6), 38.8 (C-3), 29.4 (C-7), 27.5 (C-4), 25.6 (C-5). Anal. Calcd. for $C_{19}H_{23}N_3$: C, 77.78; H, 7.90; N, 14.32. Found: C, 77.75; H, 9.93; N, 14.27. MS: m/z 293.8 $[M+H]^+$.

QD- NH_2 : Yellowish viscous oil, $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -106.7$ (c 0.79, EtOH). 1H NMR (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$, Me_4Si): δ 8.72 (d, 1 H, $^3J = 6.0$ Hz, H-2'), 8.01 (d, 1 H, $^3J = 9.0$ Hz, H-8'), 7.42 (s, 1 H, H-5'), 7.31–7.37 (m, 2 H, H-7', H-3'), 5.93–6.04 (m, 1 H, H-10), 5.04–5.12 (m, 2 H, H-11), 4.73 (d, 1 H, $^3J = 9.0$ Hz, H-9), 3.95 (s, 3 H, H-11'), 3.13 (q, 1 H, $^3J = 9.0$ Hz, H-8), 2.65–2.92 (m, 4 H, H-6 α , H-2-exo, H-6 β , H-2-endo), 2.24 (q, 1 H, $^3J = 9.0$ Hz, H-3), 2.13 (s, 2 H, NH_2), 1.86 (s, 1 H, H-4), 1.77 (q, 2 H, $^3J = 6.0$ Hz, H-7 α , H-7 β), 1.60 (q, 2 H, $^3J = 9.0$ Hz, H-5). ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 157.5 (C-6'), 149.3 (C-2'), 147.6 (C-10'), 144.4 (C-10), 140.2 (C-4'), 131.6 (C-8'), 127.6 (C-9'), 121.2 (C-3'), 118.0 (C-7'), 114.5 (C-11), 101.0 (C-5'), 60.6 (C-8), 55.4 (C-2), 52.8 (C-11'), 49.3 (C-9), 48.4 (C-6), 39.2 (C-3), 27.7 (C-7), 26.1 (C-5), 25.2 (C-4). Anal. Calcd. for $C_{20}H_{25}N_3O$: C, 74.27; H, 7.79; N, 12.99; O, 4.95. Found: C, 74.34; H, 7.81; N, 12.96; O, 4.96. MS: m/z 324.7 $[M+H]^+$.

CD- NH_2 : Yellowish viscous oil, $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -55.6$ (c 1.63, EtOH). 1H NMR (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$, Me_4Si): δ 8.89 (d, 1 H, $^3J = 6.0$ Hz, H-2'), 8.22 (d, 1 H, $^3J = 6.0$ Hz, H-5'), 8.13 (d, 1 H, $^3J = 9.0$ Hz, H-8'), 7.70 (t, 1 H, $^3J = 6.0$ Hz, H-7'), 7.57 (t, 1 H, $^3J = 6.0$ Hz, H-6'), 7.42 (1 d, H, $^3J = 6.0$ Hz, H-3'), 5.86–5.98 (m, 1 H, H-10), 5.03–5.09 (m, 2 H, H-11), 4.76 (d, 1 H, $^3J = 9.0$ Hz, H-9), 3.23 (q, 1 H, $^3J = 9.0$ Hz, H-8), 2.96–3.07 (m, 2 H, H-6 α , H-2-exo), 2.66 (d, 1 H, $^3J = 15.0$ Hz, H-6 β), 2.55 (td, 1 H, $^3J_1 = 12.0$ Hz, $^3J_2 = 6.0$ Hz, H-2-endo), 2.28 (s, 3 H, NH_2 , H-3), 2.16 (m, 1 H, H-4), 1.90 (d, 1 H, H-7 β), 1.68 (td, 1 H, $^3J_1 = 12.0$ Hz, $^3J_2 = 3.0$ Hz, H-7 α), 1.50–1.56 (q, 2 H, $^3J = 9.0$ Hz, H-5). ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 150.3 (C-2'), 148.6 (C-10'), 141.7 (C-4'), 130.5 (C-10), 129.3 (C-7'), 128.9 (C-8'), 126.6 (C-9'), 126.5 (C-6'), 122.6 (C-5'), 118.0 (C-3'), 114.5 (C-11), 60.6 (C-8), 56.1 (C-2),

53.4 (C-9), 41.8 (C-6), 39.6 (C-3), 27.7 (C-7), 27.6 (C-4), 26.4 (C-5). Anal. Calcd. for $C_{19}H_{23}N_3$: C, 77.78; H, 7.90; N, 14.32. Found: C, 77.72; H, 9.98; N, 14.29. MS: m/z 293.7 $[M+H]^+$.

QN- NH_2 : Yellowish viscous oil, $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -42.3$ (c 1.76, EtOH). 1H NMR (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$, Me_4Si): δ 8.74 (d, 1 H, $^3J = 6.0$ Hz, H-2'), 8.02 (d, 1 H, $^3J = 12.0$ Hz, H-8'), 7.44 (d, 1 H, $^3J = 3.0$ Hz, H-5'), 7.38 (1 H, d, $^3J = 3.0$ Hz, H-7'), 7.35 (d, 1 H, $^3J = 6.0$ Hz, H-3'), 5.87–5.99 (1 H, m, H-10), 5.03–5.09 (m, 2 H, H-11), 4.63 (d, 1 H, $^3J = 9.0$ Hz, H-9), 3.96 (s, 3 H, H-11'), 3.21 (q, 1 H, $^3J = 9.0$ Hz, H-8), 2.95–3.07 (m, 2 H, H-6 α , H-2-exo), 2.66 (d, 1 H, $^3J = 12.0$ Hz, H-6 β), 2.56 (1 H, td, $^3J_1 = 12.0$ Hz, $^3J_2 = 3.0$ Hz, H-2-endo), 2.28 (s, 1 H, H-3), 2.15 (td, 1 H, $^3J_1 = 9.0$ Hz, $^3J_2 = 3.0$ Hz, H-4), 1.90 (s, 3 H, NH_2 , H-7 β), 1.67 (td, 1 H, $^3J_1 = 15.0$ Hz, $^3J_2 = 3.0$ Hz, H-7 α), 1.52 (2 q, H, $^3J = 9.0$ Hz, H-5). ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 157.7 (C-6'), 149.2 (C-2'), 147.8 (C-10'), 144.7 (C-10), 141.8 (C-4'), 131.9 (C-8'), 127.6 (C-9'), 121.1 (C-3'), 118.3 (C-7'), 114.4 (C-11), 101.1 (C-5'), 60.5 (C-8), 56.1 (C-2), 55.6 (C-11'), 53.7 (C-9), 41.9 (C-6), 39.6 (C-3), 27.8 (C-7), 27.7 (C-4), 26.5 (C-5). Anal. Calcd. for $C_{20}H_{25}N_3O$: C, 74.27; H, 7.79; N, 12.99; O, 4.95. Found: C, 74.32; H, 7.80; N, 12.97; O, 4.98. MS: m/z 324.9 $[M+H]^+$.

3. Results and discussion

The first conversion of cinchona alkaloids to 9-epimers of cinchona alkaloids was achieved through one-pot inversion of Mitsunobu esterification–saponification [15]. Four cinchona alkaloids (CD, CN, QN and QD) were esterified with 4-nitrobenzoic acid (NBA) and subsequently treated *in situ* with aqueous lithium hydroxide solution. The corresponding 9-*epi*-cinchona alkaloids (*epi*-CD, CN, QN and QD) were easily purified by flash column chromatography using $CHCl_3$ /*t*-BuOMe (3:1, v/v) as an eluent to remove Ph_3PO and diethyl hydrazine-1,2-dicarboxylate, and then $CHCl_3$ /MeOH/ Et_3N (40:1:1, v/v/v) to obtain the target compounds of analytical purity in 51%–83% yield, which were identified by 1H -NMR, ^{13}C NMR, $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ and R_f (Table 1).

According to the reported synthetic procedure [16], four (8*S*, 9*R*) and (8*R*, 9*S*)-9-amino(9-deoxy) cinchona alkaloids (CD- NH_2 ,

Table 1
Inversion of cinchona alkaloids by Mitsunobu esterification/saponification.^a

Entry	<i>epi</i> -Alkaloid	(R_f) ^b	$[\alpha]_D^{20}$ (c, EtOH)	Yield (%)
1	<i>epi</i> -CD	0.611	+56.4 (0.86)	68
2	<i>epi</i> -QN	0.575	+38.8 (0.81)	83
3	<i>epi</i> -CN	0.602	+112.6 (1.47)	51
4	<i>epi</i> -QD	0.584	+94.2 (1.23)	78

^a Reaction conditions: NBA (1.1 equiv.), DEAD (1.2 equiv.), Ph_3P , (1.3 equiv.), then LiOH (5 equiv.).

^b Eluent: $CHCl_3$ –MeOH (10:1, v/v).

Table 2Inversion of *epi*-cinchona alkaloids to 9-amino(9-deoxy) cinchona alkaloids by Mitsunobu reaction.

Entry	Amino-alkaloid	(<i>R_f</i>) ^a	[α] _D ²⁰ (c, EtOH)	Yield (%) ^b
1	CD-NH ₂	0.16	−55.6 (1.63)	81
2	QN-NH ₂	0.20	−42.3 (1.76)	87
3	CN-NH ₂	0.17	−56.0 (0.30)	53
4	QD-NH ₂	0.19	−106.7 (0.79)	75

^a Eluent: CHCl₃–MeOH (10:1, v/v).^b Isolated yield.

CN-NH₂, QN-NH₂, QD-NH₂) were conveniently prepared in good yields (53%–87%) [17]. The key step was the Mitsunobu reaction that led to the C₉-azido compound by an S_N2 mechanism. The reduction is performed *in situ* by adding triphenylphosphane. Hydrolysis of the intermediate aminophosphorane yielded free amine. The pure 9-amino(9-deoxy) cinchona alkaloids (CD-NH₂, CN-NH₂, QN-NH₂ and QD-NH₂) were easily separated by silica gel flash column chromatography using CHCl₃/MeOH (40:1, v/v) as an eluent to afford yellowish viscous oils, whose structures were identified by ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR, ¹H COSY 2D NMR, ¹H NOESY 2D NMR, [α]_D²⁰ and *R_f* (Table 2). It is noteworthy that the [α]_D²⁰ values of CD-NH₂, CN-NH₂, QN-NH₂ and QD-NH₂ were converted from positive to negative due to the inversions of the configurations at the 9-hydroxyl groups of *epi*-CD, CN, QN and QD.

Herein, we provided the direct evidence for conformational preference of 9-amino(9-deoxy) cinchona alkaloids (CD-NH₂, CN-NH₂, QN-NH₂ and QD-NH₂) through a combination of ¹H NOESY 2D NMR and computational methods. Full geometric optimization calculations were performed in chloroform using the polarized continuum model (PCM) with B3LYP functional and 6-31G(d) basis set, and their minimum energy structures were shown in the Supporting information. For the identification of conformers, the interring NOEs between the quinoline and quinuclidine protons and NOEs involving H₈ and H₉ are most useful. Pointedly, four 9-amino(9-deoxy) cinchona alkaloids appeared to exhibit the hindered rotations around the C₄–C₉ and C₉–C₈ bonds and to favor only a narrow range of the available conformational space of the molecule. The ¹H NOESY 2D NMR of CN-NH₂ displayed only three cross-peaks related to aromatic hydrogen, indicating close interactions between the H₅–H₉, H₅–H₈, and H₃–H₆ pairs of atoms. These data mainly supported the minimum energy conformation of CN-NH₂, and elucidated that CN-NH₂ favored the open conformation (Fig. 1). Although the NOESY spectrum of CD-NH₂, QN-NH₂ and QD-NH₂ did not directly support their minimum energy conformations, but the favored conformations could be obtained through molecular rotations around the C₄–C₉

and C₉–C₈ bonds from their minimum energy structures, in which the H₅–H₉ and H₃–H₈ pairs of atoms showed close NOE interactions with the closed conformations [18]. Furthermore, ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra of (8*S*, 9*R*)-CD-NH₂ differed from that of (8*S*, 9*S*)-9-amino(9-deoxy) cinchona alkaloids (*epi*-CD-NH₂) because of their opposite configurations of carbon atoms at C₉-position. The mixture of 50 wt% (8*S*, 9*R*)-CD-NH₂ and 50 wt% (8*S*, 9*S*)-*epi*-CD-NH₂ showed the more sophisticated ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra than their own shown in the Supporting information, which provided the indirect evidence to elucidate the different configurations at the C₉-position between (8*S*, 9*R*)-CD-NH₂ and (8*S*, 9*S*)-*epi*-CD-NH₂.

4. Conclusion

In summary, four exotic (8*S*, 9*R*) and (8*R*, 9*S*)-9-amino(9-deoxy) cinchona alkaloids were conveniently synthesized for the first time through the two conversions of the configurations at the 9-stereogenic centers of commercially available cinchona alkaloids. Their catalytic performances in various asymmetric reactions are under investigation.

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Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplementary data associated with this article can be found, in the online version, at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.cclet.2013.12.008>.

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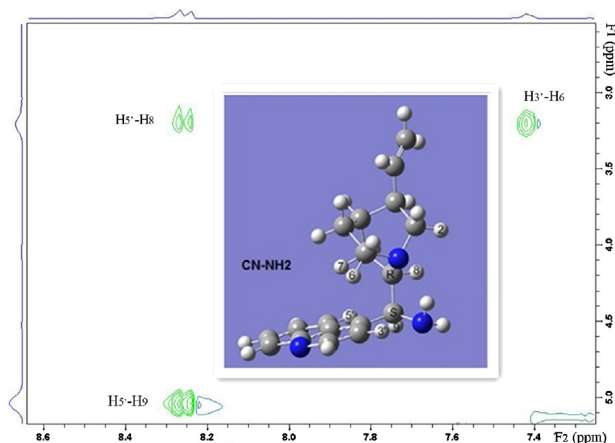


Fig. 1. ¹H NOESY 2D NMR and minimum energy conformation of CN-NH₂.

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