

Formation of 1-Ethenylcyclopropanols Involving Kulinkovich Cyclopropanation and Peterson Olefination of α -Trimethylsilylesters

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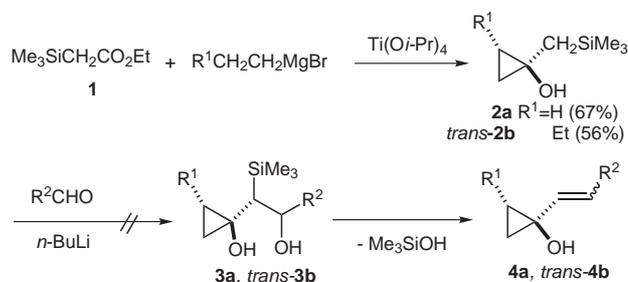
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Abstract: Mercuric iodide catalyzed condensation of bis-silylketene acetals with benzaldehyde provided a 1:1 *erythro* and *threo* mixture of α -trimethylsilylesters. Only the *threo* adducts underwent titanium(IV)-mediated cyclopropanation and acid induced Peterson olefination to provide (*Z*)-1-ethenylcyclopropanols of considerable synthetic potential.

Key words: condensation, elimination, ring closure, titanium, neighbouring group effect



Scheme 1

Functionalized cyclopropanes and particularly 1-vinylcyclopropanol derivatives provide building blocks of considerable synthetic potential. They not only undergo selective acid, base or thermally-induced $C_3 \rightarrow C_{4-8}$ ring expansions,¹ and fluoride ion-induced $C_3 \rightarrow C_{10,15,20}$ ring enlargements² but, their corresponding sulfonic esters (e.g., mesylates, tosylates) form significant π - or σ -1,1-ethylene allylmetal complexes, which then undergo regio- and diastereoselective nucleophilic³ or electrophilic substitutions.⁴ Syntheses of various frameworks and natural products have demonstrated the outstanding usefulness of these rearrangements and substitutions.¹⁻⁵ Consequently, ready accesses to these synthons are of crucial importance. Previously available from 1,3-dichloroacetone,⁶ α -enone silylenol ethers,⁷ cyclopropanone hemiacetals,⁸ or 1-hydroxycyclopropanecarboxylic acids,⁹ these compounds have been recently prepared from the titanium-mediated cyclopropanation¹⁰ of ethyl 3,3-diethoxypropionate followed by modified Knoevenagel condensation with malonic acid under microwave irradiation,¹¹ or of β -haloesters followed by base-induced dehydrohalogenation,¹² which provided diastereoselectively pure *trans*-1-alkenyl-2-alkylcyclopropanols. On the other hand, titanium-mediated cyclopropanation of homoallyl alk-2-enoates furnished diastereomerically pure *cis*-1-(1-alkenyl)-2-(2-hydroxyethyl)cyclopropanols.¹³

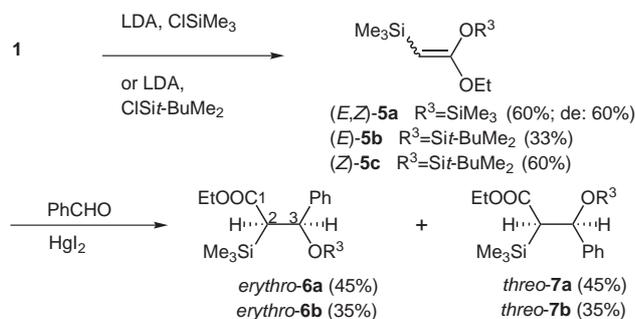
We report herein our investigations to form these attractive synthons, alternatively from the commercially available ethyl α -(trimethylsilyl)acetate **1**. Thus, reaction of acetate **1** with EtMgBr and *n*-BuMgBr (2.2 equiv) in the presence of Ti(*i*-PrO)₄ (0.1 equiv) following reported procedures,^{10d-12} gave the 1-(trimethylsilylmethyl)cyclopropanol **2a** ($R^1 = H$) and *trans*-**2b** ($R^1 = Et$) in 67% and 56%

yields, respectively. Then, condensation with an aldehyde were expected to furnish the adducts **3a** and *trans*-**3b**, and after Peterson olefination¹⁴ the required 1-ethenylcyclopropanols **4a** and *trans*-**4b** (Scheme 1).

However, upon treatment with *n*-butyllithium (1 equiv) and benzaldehyde (1 equiv), **2a,b** underwent elimination of hydroxysilane to give non-isolated volatile products, likely methylenecyclopropane derivatives,¹⁵ rather than the expected adducts **3a,b**.¹⁶ Moreover, attempts to perform previous O-protection of the cyclopropanols **2a,b** (e.g., DHP, PPTs) before condensation, led also to elimination products.

In order to overcome the problem of the instability of the 1-[(trimethylsilyl)methyl]cyclopropanols **2a,b** revealed by this investigation,¹⁷ we have first carried out tentatively the condensation of α -(trimethylsilyl)acetate **1** with benzaldehyde. A 8:2 diastereomeric mixture of (*E*)- and (*Z*)-bis(trimethylsilyl)ketene acetals **5a** ($R^3 = SiMe_3$) was obtained in 60% yield, upon treatment of **1** with 1 equivalent of lithium diisopropylamide (LDA, from 1.6 M *n*-BuLi in hexane and diisopropylamine) in the presence of TMSCl in THF at $-78^\circ C$. Then, HgI₂ (4.4%) induced condensation of the mixture of (*E,Z*)-**5a** with benzaldehyde in toluene provided in 90% yield, an unseparable 1:1 *erythro* and *threo* mixture of ethyl 3-phenyl-2-tri(methylsilyl)-3-(trimethylsilyloxy)propionate **6a** and **7a**.¹⁸

Otherwise, reaction of **1** with LDA and TBDMSCl led exclusively to the (*E*)-*t*-butyldimethylsilylketene acetal **5b** ($R^3 = Si^t-BuMe_2$) in 33% yield; while, in the presence of hexamethylphosphoramide (HMPT) as co-solvent, following a reported procedure,¹⁹ the ketene acetal (*Z*)-**5c** was formed exclusively, in 60% yield. HgI₂ catalyzed condensation of (*E*)-**5b** with benzaldehyde gave also in



Scheme 2

70% yield a 1:1 mixture of diastereomeric adducts *erythro*-**6b** and *threo*-**7b**, which were now readily separable by HPLC. Therefore, as reported for (*E,Z*)-**5a**,¹⁸ the geometry of the double bond of (*E*)-**5b** has also been lost during the condensation reaction; on the other hand, attempted condensation of (*Z*)-**5c** under the same conditions led neither to *erythro*-**6b** nor to *threo*-**7b** (Scheme 2).

Titanium(IV)-mediated cyclopropanation¹⁰ of the 1:1 diastereomeric mixture of *erythro*-**6a** and *threo*-**7a** by EtMgBr (2.2 equiv) in the presence of Ti(*i*-PrO)₄ (0.2 equiv) was expected to provide a mixture of cyclopropanols **8a** and **9a** ($\text{R}^1 = \text{H}$, $\text{R}^3 = \text{SiMe}_3$), which only differed in the configuration of their 1-substituents. However, the reaction performed in THF at room temperature for 4 h, gave in 52% yield (based on the reactant) the single cyclopropanol **9a**^{20a} displaying in the ¹H NMR spectrum of its 1-substituent [2-phenyl-1-(trimethylsilyl)-2-(trimethylsilyloxy)ethyl] two doublets at δ 0.71 ppm and 5.33 ppm [$J(\text{H}_1, \text{H}_2) = 4.95$ Hz], **9a** was always accompanied by various amounts of the corresponding diol **9a'** ($\text{R}^1, \text{R}^3 = \text{H}$)^{20b} arising from partial O-deprotection (oxygen-trimethylsilyl bond cleavage). The recovered unreacted bis-silylated adduct disclosed the persistent ¹H NMR signals of *erythro*-**6a**, in particular a methylene signal at 4.08–4.26 ppm and a coupling constant $J(\text{H}_2, \text{H}_3) = 10.7$ Hz.¹⁸

Likewise, titanium(IV)-mediated cyclopropanation of the pure silylated adduct *threo*-**7b** ($\text{R}^3 = \text{TBDMS}$), occurred to provide in 60% yield the single cyclopropanol **9b** [displaying in its ¹H NMR spectrum two doublets at δ 0.67 ppm and 5.38 ppm for which $J(\text{H}_1, \text{H}_2) = 3.40$ Hz]; while its isolated pure diastereomer *erythro*-**6b** appeared also unreactive towards this cyclopropanation reaction, irrespective of the experimental conditions [number of equivalents of Grignard reagents and of Ti(*i*-PrO)₄, temperature and time of reaction] (Scheme 3).

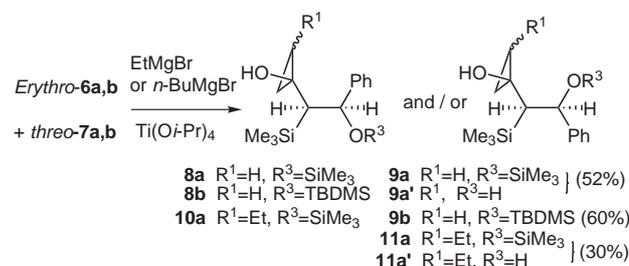
Otherwise, reaction of a 1:2 mixture of *erythro*-**6a** and *threo*-**7a** with *n*-BuMgBr (2.2 equiv) and Ti(*i*-PrO)₄ (0.2 equiv) in THF at room temperature, gave in 30% yield (based on the reactant) a 1:1 mixture of *cis*- and *trans*-2-ethyl-1-[2-phenyl-1-(trimethylsilyl)-2-(trimethylsilyloxy)ethyl] cyclopropanols **11a** ($\text{R}^1 = \text{Et}$, $\text{R}^3 = \text{SiMe}_3$), separable by liquid chromatography (eluent pentane/diethyl ether, 9:1), besides a 2:1 mixture of unreacted bis-silylated esters **6a** and **7a**. The formation of the corresponding diols

11a' ($\text{R}^1 = \text{Et}$, $\text{R}^3 = \text{H}$) was also observed. The configurations of these cyclopropanols were determined from their ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra, in particular *trans*-**11a** displayed one tertiary cyclopropanic proton at δ 0.17 ppm (t, $J = 5.37$ Hz, 1 H).¹³

Finally, O-desilylation and Peterson olefination were achieved upon treatment of these cyclopropanols under acidic conditions,²¹ e.g., with concentrated H₂SO₄ in THF at -78 °C or with chlorotrimethylsilane in MeOH at room temperature, to provide the 1-(*Z*)-styrylcyclopropanol **12** ($\text{R}^1 = \text{H}$)²² in 50% and 76% yield, respectively, from **9a**, while the *cis*- or *trans*-2-ethyl-1-[(*Z*)-styryl] cyclopropanol **13** ($\text{R}^1 = \text{Et}$) were obtained in 75% yield upon treatment of the corresponding *cis*- or *trans*-**11a** with TMSCl in MeOH. Indeed, comparison of the olefinic coupling constants of **12** and **13** ($J = 13$ Hz), with the reported coupling constants for the (*E*)-1-styrylcyclopropanol ($J = 16$ Hz),²³ and for the (*E*)- and (*Z*)-1-(2-*p*-tolylethenyl)cyclopropanols ($J = 16$ Hz and 12 Hz, respectively),²⁴ as well as their respective olefinic chemical shifts, [doublets at δ 5.70 ppm and 6.50 ppm for (*Z*)-**12** and at 5.92 and 6.62 ppm for (*E*)-**12**],²³ led to assign a (*Z*)-configuration for their styryl double bond.

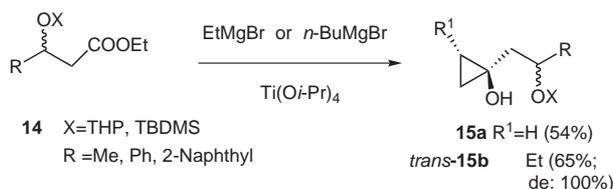
As the acid-induced Peterson olefination was known to entail *anti* elimination of hexamethyldisiloxane,²⁵ the exclusive formation of the cyclopropanols (*Z*)-**12** and *cis*- and *trans*-(*Z*)-**13** led to assign a *threo* configuration for the 1-substituents as shown for **9a** and **11a** (Scheme 3). From these results it must be concluded that the configurations of adducts **6a** and **7a** had been previously assigned erroneously.¹⁸ Moreover, X-ray crystallographic analyses of the solid diol **9a'** (recrystallized from hexane) have confirmed a *threo* configuration for its 1-substituent.²⁶ On the other hand, upon treatment with one equivalent of tetrabutylammonium fluoride (*n*-Bu₄NF) in THF at room temperature, **9b** underwent only O-desilylation to give exclusively the 1-[2-hydroxy-2-phenyl-1-(trimethylsilyl)ethyl]cyclopropanol **9a'**^{20b} while, its reaction with BF₃·Et₂O was ineffective (Scheme 4).

Titanium-mediated cyclopropanation of the β -hydroxyester derivatives **14** ($\text{X} = \text{THP}$, TBDMS; $\text{R} = \text{Me}$, Ph, 2-naphthyl) by EtMgBr and *n*-BuMgBr has been recently reported to provide in 54–65% yields, the cyclopropanols **15a** ($\text{R}^1 = \text{H}$) and diastereoselectively the cyclopropanols *trans*-**15b** ($\text{R}^1 = \text{Et}$; de:100%) (Scheme 5).^{13b} Therefore, the presence of the α -trimethylsilyl substituent appeared



Scheme 3

responsible for the surprising difference of reactivity observed between the diastereomeric silylated adducts *erythro-6a,b* and *threo-7a,b* and for the lack of stereoselectivity in these cyclopropanation reactions.

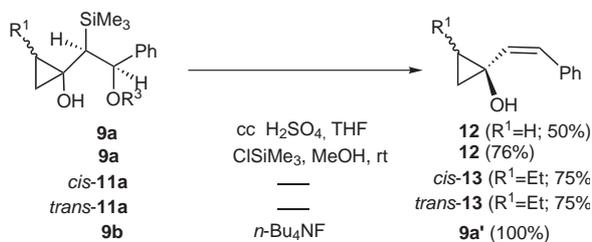


Scheme 5

This difference of reactivity towards the titanium-mediated cyclopropanation reaction which occurred between the stereoisomers *erythro-6a* and *threo-7a* was amazing. Apparently, it does not simply result from different steric hindrances around the carboxylate moiety of these α -silyl esters. In order to elucidate this unexpected stereoselectivity, we have assumed that the reactivity of the silylated esters **6a** and **7a** is controlled by the formation of the intermediate titanafurans **A** and **B**. Therefore, we have undertaken computational studies of the transition structures resulting from the approaches of these esters by the titanacyclopropane **16**.¹⁰ Taking into account the three chiral centers of **A** and **B**, calculations were carried out on the four possible approaches leading to the diastereomers *SRR-17* and *SSS-18* arising from *erythro-6a*, *SRS-19* and *SSR-20* arising from *threo-7a* (Schemes 6 and Figure 1). After determination of the chiral chain conformations of the esters by molecular dynamics simulations (MM2 force field type), all the structures were minimized by semi-empirical ZINDO method.²⁷ To confirm our model, Hessian calculations were carried out for each case and resulted in a transition structure, i.e., in a first-order saddle point with the Hessian having one negative eigenvalue.

The differences in energies between these four structures, $\Delta E = 3.1, 7.2, 0,$ and $9.0 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1}$, respectively, appeared consequently in full agreement with the difference of reactivity observed between the adducts *erythro-6a* and *threo-7a*, in this titanium(IV) induced cyclopropanation.

In conclusion, the titanium(IV)-mediated cyclopropanation by Grignard reagents of α -trimethylsilyl esters arising from mercuric iodide catalyzed condensation of bis-



Scheme 4

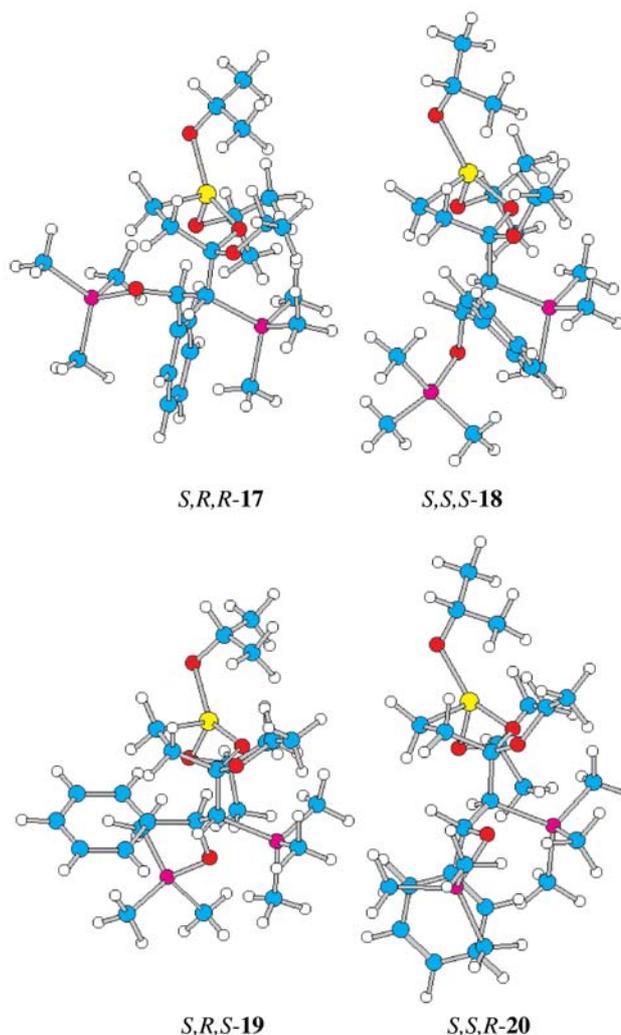
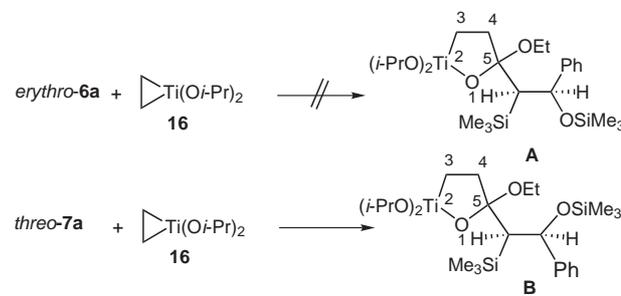


Figure 1

lylketene acetals **5a,b** with benzaldehyde, followed by acid induced Peterson olefination can provide 1-[1-(*Z*-alkenyl)cyclopropanols **12** and *cis*- or *trans-13*; however, this three-membered ring formation appeared highly dependant on the configurations of the intermediate α -trimethylsilyl ester adducts **6a,b** and **7a,b**.



Scheme 6

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- (20) To a solution of 4 g (11 mmol) of the 1:1 mixture of ethyl 3-phenyl-2-(trimethylsilyl)-3-(trimethylsilyloxy)propionate *erythro-6a* and *threo-7a* in 15 mL of THF containing 0.62 g (2.2 mmol; 0.2 equiv) of $Ti(i-PrO)_4$ was added dropwise a 2.54 M solution of ethylmagnesium bromide (11 mL, 27 mmol; 2.5 equiv) in diethyl ether within 4 h. The reacting mixture was cooled to 0 °C (iced-water bath), then diluted with diethyl ether and hydrolyzed with 10 mL of aq NH_4Cl . After filtration through celite, the separated organic layer was washed with brine, dried on Na_2SO_4 and concentrated in vacuo. Flash chromatography of the residue (eluant: pentane/diethyl ether 9:1) gave two products:
- (a) 1-[2-Phenyl-1-(trimethylsilyl)-2-(trimethylsilyloxy)ethyl]cyclopropanol **9a**: 1.94 g (52% yield); 1H NMR (250 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ -0.08 (s, 9 H), 0.71 (d, $J = 4.95$ Hz, 1 H), 0.25–0.88 (m, 4 H), 3.24 (s, 1 H), 5.33 (d, $J = 4.95$ Hz, 1 H), 7.19–7.33 (m, 5 H); ^{13}C NMR (66 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 0.21, 0.28, 13.27, 15.62, 46.13, 58.92, 78.75, 126, 126.9, 127.9, 144.4; IR 3463, 3379, 2974, 2949 cm^{-1} ; MS m/z (EI) 322 (2) [M^+], 231 (42), 179 (31), 147 (17), 75 (36), 73 (100), 45 (16); MS m/z (CI with NH_3) 340 (0.1), 252 (17), 251 (61), 250 (100), 233 (40), 232 (44), 231 (74) 217 (18), 179 (21), 160 (21), 155 (15), 144 (26), 1433 (100).
- (b) 1-(2-Hydroxy-2-phenyl-1-trimethylsilyloxy)cyclopropanol **9a'**: (various amounts 5–10%); white solid: mp 107 °C; 1H NMR (250 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ -0.07 (s, 9 H), 0.76 (s, 1 H), 0.07–0.97 (m, 4 H), 2.58 (s, 1 H), 3.29 (s, 1 H), 5.44 (s, 1 H), 7.24–7.35 (m, 5 H); ^{13}C NMR (66 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 0.32, 13.41, 16.02, 44.86, 59.97, 77.97, 125.17, 126.91, 128.09, 144.41; IR: 3468, 2955, 2898 cm^{-1} ; MS m/z (EI) 231 (33), 159 (33), 145 (16), 131 (33), 115 (12), 103 (16), 79 (27), 77 (44), 75 (93), 73 (100), 79 (27), 45 (26); MS m/z (CI with NH_3) 251 (19), 250 (81) [M^+], 231 (10), 161 (16), 160 (13), 144 (13), 143 (100) 131 (8); Exact mass M^+ 250.1377 (calcd for $C_{14}H_{22}SiO_2$ 250.1389).
- (21) Base-induced Peterson olefination of cyclopropanols **9a** and **11a** led to ring-opened derivatives (see ref. 1).
- (22) To a stirred solution of 340 mg (1 mmol) of cyclopropanol **9a** in 5 mL of methanol at r.t. was added two drops of chlorotrimethylsilane. The reaction was complete within 2 h, as monitored by TLC. Then the solvent was removed in vacuo; flash chromatography of the residue (eluant: pentane/diethyl ether 9:1) gave 128 mg (76% yield) of 1-(Z)-styryl cyclopropanol **12**. 1H NMR (250 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 0.71–1.32 (m, 4 H), 2.16 (s, 1 H), 5.26 (d, $J = 13$ Hz, 1 H), 6.53 (d, $J = 13$ Hz, 1 H), 7.32–7.55 (m, 5 H); MS m/z (EI) 160 (41) [M^+], 159 (74), 145 (54), 131 (68), 127 (36), 115 (43), 103 (63), 91 (33), 77 (100), 51 (52); MS m/z (CI with NH_3) 178 (100), 161 (22), 160 (17), 159 (14), 143 (18), 131 (13).

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