A Synthesis of L-Vancosamine Derivatives from Non-Carbohydrate Precursors by a Short Sequence Based on the Marshall, McDonald, and Du Bois Reactions

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Received August 5, 2003

ABSTRACT



The carbamate-protected L-vancosamine glycal, viewed as a universal precursor for vancosamine derivatives, was prepared by a short scheme based on diastereoselective addition of an allenyl stannane to a lactaldehyde ether, the tungsten-catalyzed alkynol cycloisomerization, and the rhodium-catalyzed C–H insertion of a carbamate nitrogen. This sequence is a prototype for a new and efficient strategy for the synthesis of 3-amino sugar derivatives. The key intermediate was elaborated to the silyl ether of *N*,*N*-dimethyl vancosamine glycal.

L-Vancosamine (1) and *N*,*N*-dimethylvancosamine (2) are constituents of complex antibiotics of diverse structural types. L-Vancosamine is a functional component of vancomycin,¹ the glycopeptide that has attained the status of antibiotic of last resort against resistant Gram-positive bacteria.^{2,3} *N*,*N*-Dimethylvancosamine appears as an O-glycoside in the nor-cardicyclin (anthracycline) antibiotics⁴ and as a C-glycoside in the pluramycin (kidamycin) antibiotics.⁵

For the synthesis of aryl C-glycoside antibiotics, we wish to establish the key aryl C-glycoside connections by a "reverse polarity strategy" based on the addition of lithiated glycals to quinonoid substrates.⁶ If we are to implement this approach for members of the pluramycin group of antitumor antibiotics, we need access to a protected *N*,*N*-dimethyl-L-vancosamine glycal, particularly the silyl ether **3**. Although it would be reasonable to prepare this type of intermediate from L-vancosamine (which is available from synthesis⁷ and from degradation⁸ of vancomycin), we have been interested in devising a direct preparation of this and related reagents.

ORGANIC LETTERS

2003 Vol. 5, No. 21

3891-3893

In fact, the racemic vancosamine glycal derivative **4** has been prepared by McDonald in an 8-step sequence^{7s} based on a Staudinger cycloaddition and the author's own alkynol

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Figure 1. L-Vancosamine (1), *N*,*N*-dimethyl-L-vancosamine (2), silyl-protected *N*,*N*-dimethyl-L-vancosamine glycal **3**, and protected L-vancosamine glycal **4**.

cycloisomerization reaction.⁹ Although both efficient and stereoselective, this synthesis did not appear to us to be readily adaptable to the preparation of chiral glycal derivatives.

In this letter we present a novel strategy for the synthesis of oxazolidinone 5, which we view as a universal precursor to vancosamine derivatives. Furthermore, we describe the conversion of this key compound to the protected *N*,*N*-dimethyl-L-vancosamine glycal 3, intended for use in our approach to the synthesis of pluramycin antibiotics.

In our retrosynthetic analysis (Scheme 1), we envisaged oxazolidinone $\mathbf{5}$ to be available from the stereospecific C–H



bond insertion reaction (Du Bois reaction)¹⁰ of the 3-methyl 3-deoxy glycal 6, which would be accessed through the

cycloisomerization (McDonald reaction) of alkynol 7. The preparation of the selectively functionalized 7 would be based on the diastereoselective addition (Marshall reaction)^{11,12} of a (*P*)-allenyl stannane to an (*S*)-lactic aldehyde.

The resulting scheme involves the sequential application of three recently developed reactions, each of which accomplishes a previously difficult or impossible transformation. Implementation of the plan was remarkably facile.



Alkynol **10** was obtained by the addition of (*P*)-allenyl stannane 8^{13} to (S)-lactic aldehyde benzyl ether 9^{14} according to the method of Marshall.¹¹ Purification by filtration through KF-loaded Celite, a procedure described by Roush et al.,¹⁵ followed by flash column chromatography provided the major product, alkynol 10, and a small amount of the diastereomeric alkynol **11**.¹⁶ Protecting group modification was required prior to the cycloisomerization reaction. Therefore, alkynol 10 was functionalized as the carbamate 12 by treatment with trichloroacetyl isocyanate followed by methanolysis.¹⁷ Then the benzyl group was removed with DDO to afford alkynol 7, the substrate for the McDonald reaction. Irradiation of a solution of alkynol 7 at 350 nm was carried out in the presence of 10 mol % of W(CO)₆ and excess triethylamine. After low-temperature workup (see Supporting Information), crystalline glycal 6 was obtained in 87% yield.

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^{*a*} Reagents and conditions: (a) $CCl_3C(O)NCO$, CH_2Cl_2 ; $K_2CO_3/MeOH$. (b) DDQ, CH_2Cl_2 , pH 7 buffer. (c) 10 mol % of W(CO)_6, Et_3N, THF, $h\nu$, 57 °C. (d) 10 mol % of Rh₂(OAc)₄, PhI(OAc)₂, MgO, CH_2Cl_2 , 40 °C.

The synthesis of the potentially versatile intermediate, protected L-vancosamine glycal **5**, was completed by the regio- and stereoselective C–H insertion of the urethane nitrogen, presumably via the rhodium nitrene¹⁸ derived from urethane **6**. A modification of the optimal conditions of Du Bois et al.¹⁰ (10 mol % of Rh₂(OAc)₄) afforded crystalline oxazolidinone **5** in high yield. As shown in Figure 2, an



Figure 2. The X-ray crystal structure of oxazolidinone 5.

X-ray crystal structure confirmed the relative stereochemistry of the three chiral centers in **5** and corroborated the structure of alkynol **10** as well. Thus, the useful L-vancosamine glycal equivalent **5** is available in 44% overall yield based on ethyl (S)-(-)-lactate in seven steps.

Our interests directed us to pursue the preparation of protected N,N-dimethyl-L-vancosamine glycal **3** as our next

target. Reaction of protected glycal **5** with NaH and Me_2SO_4 provided *N*-methyl oxazolidinone **13** in quantitative yield. Reduction with lithium aluminum hydride provided crude *N*,*N*-dimethyl vancosamine glycal, which was directly subjected to silylation. Thus, the desired **3** was obtained in 83% yield from the key vancosamine synthon **5**. Short



 a Reagents and conditions: (a) NaH, Me_2SO_4, CH_2Cl_2. (b) LAH, ether. (c) TBSOTf, 2,6-lutidine, CH_2Cl_2.

sequences based on the principle demonstrated in this letter should provide improved and practical preparations of 3-amino glycals, branched and unbranched, in both chiral series.^{19,20} As glycals are generally useful precursors to both O^{-21} and C-glycosides,^{6,22} our strategy should find broad application in the synthesis of a variety of antibiotics that contain amino sugars. The use of aminoglycal reagents, including the protected *N*,*N*-dimethylvancosamine glycal **3**, in further synthetic transformations will be reported in due course.

Acknowledgment. This work was supported by the National Cancer Institute (grant no. CA-87503). K.A.P. and W.C. are grateful to Professor Joseph W. Lauher of the Chemistry Department at Stony Brook for the X-ray crystallographic study of oxazolidinone **5**. They also thank Dr. Tun-Li Shen (Brown University) for mass spectroscopic data.

Supporting Information Available: Experimental details and full characterization for all new compounds; X-ray crystallographic data of **5** in CIF format. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

OL035479P

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