

Novel Asymmetric Approach to Proline-Derived Spiro- β -lactams

Alisher B. Khasanov,[†] Michele M. Ramirez-Weinhouse,[‡]
Thomas R. Webb,^{†,§} and Mohan Thiruvazhi^{*,†}

Department of Chemistry Research, ChemBridge Research
Laboratories and ChemBridge Corporation,
16981 Via Tazon, San Diego, California 92127

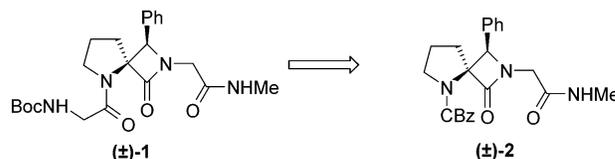
mohan.thiruvazhi@chembridgeresearch.com

Received April 6, 2004

Abstract: We describe a novel asymmetric approach using Staudinger chemistry to proline-derived spiro- β -lactams. A chiral group at C-4 of the acid chloride of proline directs the stereoselectivity of Staudinger chemistry and later is sacrificed to obtain optically active 5.4-spiro- β -lactams. The scope, limitations, and mechanistic rationale for the observed results of Staudinger Chemistry of the acid chloride of 4-alkyl(aryl)sulfonyloxy-L-proline with imines are also discussed.

The conceptual approach of peptidomimetics uses peptides and proteins as leads to discover novel classes of compounds of biological importance. One approach to the advancement of a peptide lead to a therapeutically desirable small molecule drug uses cyclic peptide derivatives and conformational constraints as logical steps in the process.¹ Conformational constraints induced on introduction of cyclic amino acids (such as proline) into peptides or proteins is enhanced by quaternization of the stereocenter. Efficient methods were developed to synthesize such unusual amino acids, and one such method was recently published by Kawabata et al.² Alonso et al. combined the features of a spiro system³ and α,α -disubstituted β -lactams⁴ to propose the introduction of a 5.4-spirolactam, which was validated using high-level ab initio calculations and thereby introduced (\pm)-**1** as a novel β -turn mimetic.^{5,6} The tripeptidic β -turn (\pm)-**1**

was obtained from the spiro-lactam (\pm)-**2** derived from a Staudinger reaction between the acid chloride of *N*-carbonyloxybenzyl-L-proline and *N*-methyl-2-[[*(1E)*-phenylmethylene]amino]acetamide. Our combined interest in the area of β -turn mimetics⁷ and the synthetic use of D- and L-proline led us to explore an optically active approach to proline-derived 5.4-spiro β -lactams.^{8,9}



While asymmetric Staudinger chemistry of optically active acid chloride of D- or L-proline with achiral imines is impossible due to the loss of stereochemistry at C-2,¹⁰ the use of chiral ketenes¹¹ or chiral imines¹² are viable options. We have developed a strategy that exploits the asymmetric center resident in C-4 of *trans*-4-hydroxy-L-proline to influence the diastereoselectivity in the Staudinger reaction and which may be sacrificed after the fact. Whereas, utilization of the asymmetry resident in C-4 of proline to influence the stereoselectivity in Staudinger was reported by Croce and Rosa,¹³ the concept of sacrificing the asymmetry to eventually deliver optically active "proline-derived" Staudinger products from achiral imines is novel. We herein present the details of the first direction to such a strategy highlighting the fact that our results are similar in regards to the configuration at the spiranic carbon of the predominant product (vide infra), but are in contrast with the overall outcome from those of Croce and Rosa's possibly due to differences in mechanistic pathways predetermined by the reaction conditions employed.^{14–16}

(7) Chianelli, D.; Kim, Y.-C.; Lvovskiy, D.; Webb, T. R. *Bioorg. Med. Chem.* **2003**, *11*, 5059–5068.

(8) This work was presented at 225th National Meeting of the American Chemical Society, New Orleans, LA, 2003; Abstract ORGN 452.

(9) The "R" and "S" configurations at the spiranic carbon of spiro-lactam induce different conformations when incorporated in a peptide: (a) Brown, J. R.; Clegg, S. P.; Ewan, G. B.; Hagan, R. M.; Ireland, S. J.; Jordan, C. C.; Porter, B.; Ross, B. C.; Ward, P. In *Molecular Recognition: Chemical and Biochemical Problems*; Roberts, S. M., Ed.; Royal Society of Chemistry Special Publication No. 78; Royal Society of Chemistry: Lechtworth, 1989; pp 94–111. (b) Ward, P.; Ewan, G. B. Eur. Patent 0 360 390 A1, 1989. (c) Reference 3a.

(10) Staudinger reaction proceeds via ketene mechanism when base is used in conjunction with an acid chloride. In the absence of a base, a direct attack of the imine on acid chloride is the first step in the mechanism.

(11) For the first efficient approach, see: (a) Evans, D. A.; Sjogren, E. B. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1985**, *26*, 3787–3790. (b) Evans, D. A.; Sjogren, E. B. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1985**, *26*, 3783–3786.

(12) For first report on this approach, see: Hubschwelen, C.; Scgmid, G. *Helv. Chim. Acta* **1983**, *66*, 2206–2209.

(13) Croce, P. D.; Rosa, C. L. *Tetrahedron: Asymmetry* **1999**, *10*, 1193–1199.

(14) For variety of mechanistic possibilities for Staudinger reaction, see: Georg, G. I.; Ravikumar, V. T. In *The Organic Chemistry of β -lactams*; Georg, G. I., Ed.; VCH: New York 1992; pp 295–368.

(15) For theoretical study on ketene mechanistic pathway, see: (a) Cossio, F. P.; Arrieta, A.; Lecea, B.; Ugalde, J. M. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1994**, *116*, 2085–2093. (b) Cossio, F. P.; Ugalde, J. M.; Lopez, X.; Lecea, B.; Palomo, C. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1993**, *115*, 995–1004. (c) Venturini, A.; González, J. *J. Org. Chem.* **2002**, *67*, 9089–9092.

* Corresponding author.

[†] ChemBridge Research Laboratories.

[‡] Current address: Pfizer Global Research & Development-La Jolla Laboratories, Discovery Technologies, 10614 Science Center Drive (CB6), San Diego, CA 92121.

[§] ChemBridge Corp.

(1) Olson, G. L.; Bolin, D. R.; Bonner, M. P.; Bös, M.; Cook, C. M.; Fry, D. C.; Graves, B. J.; Hatada, M.; Hill, D. E.; Kahn, M.; Madison, V. S.; Rusiecki, V. K.; Sarabu, R.; Sepinwall, J.; Vincent, G. P.; Voss, M. E. *J. Med. Chem.* **1993**, *36*, 3039–3049.

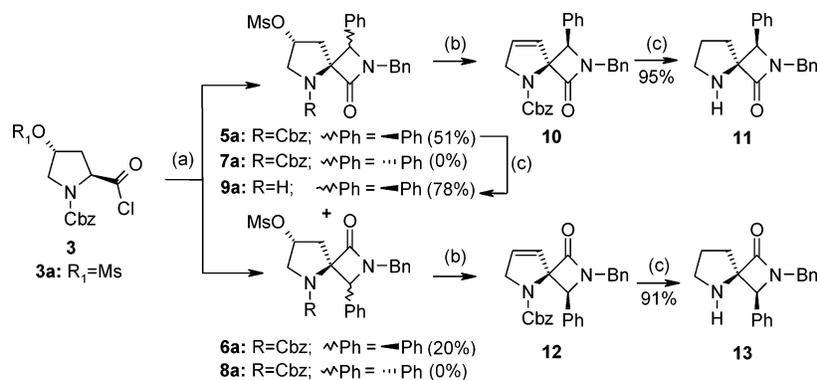
(2) Kawabata, T.; Kawakami, S.; Majumdar, S. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2003**, *125*, 13012–13013.

(3) (a) Ward, P.; Ewan, G. B.; Jordan, C. C.; Ireland, S. J.; Hagan, R. M.; Brown, J. R. *J. Med. Chem.* **1990**, *33*, 1848–1851. (b) Hinds, M. G.; Welsh, J. H.; Brennard, D. M.; Fisher, J.; Glennie, M. J.; Richards, N. G. J.; Turner, D. L.; Robinson, J. A. *J. Med. Chem.* **1991**, *34*, 1777–1789. (c) Müller, G.; Hessler, G.; Decornez, H. Y. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **2000**, *39*, 894–896.

(4) Palomo, C.; Aizpurua, J. M.; Benito, A.; Galarza, R.; Khamrai, U. K.; Vazquez, J.; Pascual-Teresa, B.; Nieto, P. M.; Linden, A. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **1999**, *38*, 3056–3058.

(5) Alonso, E.; Lopez-Ortiz, F.; Del Pozo, C.; Peralta, E.; Macías, A.; González, J. *J. Org. Chem.* **2001**, *66*, 6333–6338.

(6) For references on 5.*n*-spiro-lactams (where *n* ≠ 4), see: Fernández, M. M.; Diez, A.; Rubiralta, M.; Montenegro, E.; Casamitjana, N.; Kogan, M. J.; Giralt, E. *J. Org. Chem.* **2002**, *67*, 7587–7599 and references therein.

SCHEME 1^a

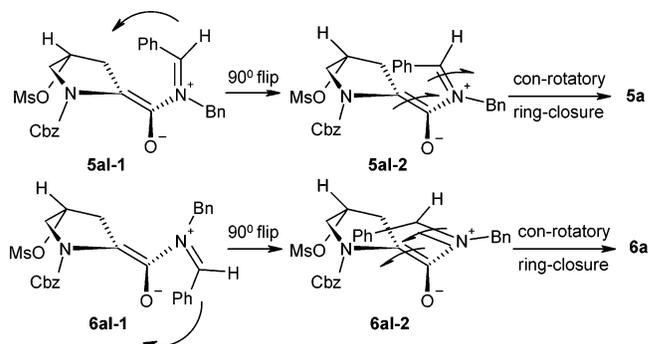
^a Reaction conditions: (a) *E*-PhCH=NBn (**4a**), Et₃N/DCM, rt, 14 h; (b) K₂CO₃/MeOH, rt (16 h), 70 °C (3 h); (c) H₂, 10% Pd/C, EtOH.

The Staudinger reaction between an in-situ generated ketene¹⁰ derived from optically active acid chloride **3a** and *N*-benzyl-*N*-(1*E*)-phenylmethylene]amine (**4a**) was conducted in dichloromethane using Et₃N as the base at ambient temperature (Scheme 1). While four diastereomers (**5a–8a**) are theoretically possible, analysis of the crude reaction mixture by TLC indicated two major products while HPLC showed a 99:1 ratio of two peaks. Flash chromatography purification of the crude afforded two diastereomerically pure β -lactams **5a** and **6a** (single enantiomers in each case) in 51% and 20% isolated yields, respectively, exhibiting identical retention times in HPLC. The structures of **5a** and **6a** could not be deciphered at this stage since the ¹H NMR was complicated by the existence of rotamers arising from the *N*-Cbz group. To demonstrate that this was in fact the case, the Cbz group of **5a** was removed to give pyrrolidine **9a** as a single diastereomer as evidenced by its simplified ¹H NMR. Furthermore, the structure of **5a** was shown beyond doubt by obtaining its X-ray crystal structure. We moved toward our goal by eliminating methanesulfonic acid in **5a** using K₂CO₃/MeOH to obtain a single dihydropyrrole isomer **10**.¹⁷ Olefin **10** was deprotected and hydrogenated in one-pot to afford the “proline-derived” Staudinger product **11**.

The structure of **6a** was shown to be as indicated by converting it to proline-derived Staudinger product **13** via the elimination of methanesulfonic acid, hydrogenation of the resultant double bond of **12**, and concomitant removal of the Cbz protecting group. The ¹H NMR of **13** was identical to **11**; and, being derived from two different compounds (or diastereomers) **5a** and **6a**, compounds **11** and **13** are enantiomeric to each other as evidenced by their optical rotations (see the Experimental Section). Since **11** and **13** are enantiomers, and since **13** was derived from **6a**, β -lactam **6a** should have the structure as displayed.

Scheme 2 shows the mechanism of Staudinger reaction involving the well-accepted attack of the imine lone pair

SCHEME 2. Proposed Mechanism of Staudinger Chemistry on Proline-Derived Ketenes

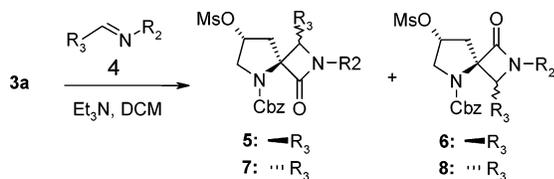


from the least hindered side of the ketene (opposite of the side housing the Cbz group). Additionally, the asymmetric carbon of the ketene differentiates the two faces of the pyrrolidine ring. As a result, the imine either attacks from the top (β) or from the bottom (α) face of the proline to give the corresponding zwitterionic intermediates **5aI-1** and **6aI-1**. It is conceivable that C–N⁺ bond in **5aI-1** could rotate by 270° to form intermediate **6aI-2** and C–N⁺ bond of intermediate **6aI-1** could also rotate the same angle to form **5aI-2**. As the rotation from **5aI-1** and **6aI-1** to **5aI-2** and **6aI-2**, respectively, is only 90 °C, the principle of least motion could be invoked to form the proposed intermediates.¹⁴ In either intermediate, a 90° flip is necessitated by the impending con-rotatory ring closure of **5aI-2** and **6aI-2** leading to β -lactams **5a** and **6a**, respectively. In essence, an attack on the less hindered side of the ketene carbonyl by the imine either via β -face or an α -face approach followed by con-rotatory ring-closure leads to **5a**, and **6a**, respectively.

The effect of substituents R₁ of **3**, and R₂ and R₃ of the imine **4** on diastereoselectivity of the Staudinger chemistry was probed. Keeping R₁ and R₂ unchanged as methanesulfonyl and benzyl, respectively, and changing R₃ from aliphatic to aromatic, improves the yield and diastereoselectivity to afford the (3,4)-*syn* products [such as **5** and **6**; Table 1]. For example, when R₂ = *p*-methoxybenzyl, and R₃ is changed from being alkyl (entries 2–4) to aromatic (entries 5–6), the evaporative light-scattering detector (ELSD) yield of (3,4)-*syn* products improved drastically from 0%–28% to 97%–99%. None of the other respective diastereomeric (3,4)-*anti* products

(16) Hegedus, L. S.; Montgomery, J.; Narukawa, Y.; Snustad, D. C. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1991**, *113*, 5784–5791.

(17) The alkene protons of **10** resonate at 6.07 and 5.83 ppm suggesting that the double bond is between C-7 and C-8; see: Donohoe, T. J.; House D. *J. Org. Chem.* **2002**, *67*, 5015–5018. Lack of signals at about 7.0 ppm precludes the possibility of a C-6, C-7 double bond in **10**; see: Oliveira, D. F.; Miranda, P. C. M. L.; Correia, C. R. D. *J. Org. Chem.* **1999**, *64*, 6646–6652. In any event, the position of the double bond was immaterial to the outcome of the project.

TABLE 1. Dependence of Diastereoselectivity on Nature of Imine

entry	5–8	imine (4)		(5,6)/(7,8) ^a	5/6 ^b
		R ₂	R ₃		
1	a	benzyl	phenyl	99/0	51/20
2	b	<i>p</i> -OMe-benzyl	methyl	28/20	<i>c</i>
3	c	<i>p</i> -OMe-benzyl	cyclopropyl	0/0 ^d	0/0 ^d
4	d	<i>p</i> -OMe-benzyl	cyclohexyl	19/5	<i>c</i>
5	e	<i>p</i> -OMe-benzyl	<i>p</i> -OMe-phenyl	97/0	50/6
6	f	<i>p</i> -OMe-benzyl	<i>p</i> -F-phenyl	99/0	54/9
7	g	cyclopropyl	methyl	0/0 ^d	0/0 ^d
8	h	cyclopropyl	cyclopropyl	4/4	<i>c</i>
9	i	cyclopropyl	cyclohexyl	20/17	<i>c</i>
10	j	cyclopropyl	<i>p</i> -OMe-phenyl	87/0	41/12
11	k	cyclopropyl	<i>p</i> -F-phenyl	97/0	58/d

^a Ratios are in percent from LCMS-ELSD of crude reaction mixtures. ^b The numbers in ratios are isolated yields of purified products. ^c Not isolated. ^d Could not be determined.

TABLE 2. Effect of Changing R₁ on Diastereoselectivity

entry	5–8	R ₁	yields ^a (%)				
			5	6	7	8	(5 + 6)/(7 + 8)
1	a	Ms	51	20	0	0	100
2	l	Ts	34	24	4	0	14.5
3	m	Ns	18	13	13	5	1.7

^a Yields are of pure products.

(such as **7/8**) are observed on such a change. Within the aromatic series, installing either an electron donating or withdrawing group such as *p*-methoxyphenyl (PMP, entry 5) or *p*-fluorophenyl (PFP, entry 6) provides β -lactam with a preference for the β -approach of the imine [PMP] _{β/α} (**5e/6e**) = 50/6 and [PFP] _{β/α} (**5f/6f**) = 54/9 vs phenyl] _{β/α} (**5a/6a**) = 51/20].

While keeping R₂ and R₃ unchanged, we anticipated that bulking R₁ would bias the outcome of Staudinger chemistry toward products of the type **5a**. When R₁ was methanesulfonyl (**3a**), only the 3,4-*syn* products such as **5** and **6** were formed in a 2.6:1 ratio (entry 1, Table 2). When R₁ was changed from a methanesulfonyl (**3a**) to *p*-toluenesulfonyl group (**3l**) (entry 2, Table 2), we observed both the (3,4)-*syn* and the (3,4)-*anti* products in a 14.5/1 ratio; this ratio further deteriorated to 1.7/1 when R₁ was changed to 2-naphthylsulfonyl (Ns) (**3m**).

In conclusion, we have presented the utility of asymmetric center (C-4) on L-proline to conduct Staudinger chemistry and take it further through simple chemistry manipulations to optically active "proline-derived" Staudinger products such as **11** and **13**. We have also demonstrated that within the realms of our substituent-probing on imines and proline R₁ should be aliphatic, R₂ of the imine could be either aliphatic or aromatic, and R₃ should be aromatic for the achievement of good stereoselectivity in Staudinger reactions. Further expansion of this chemistry and utility of these Staudinger products and their

analogues in synthesis of novel β -turns will be an area of future research.¹⁸

Experimental Section

General Procedure for Synthesis of Lactams **5** and **6**.

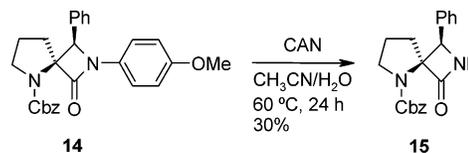
A 1.3 M solution of acid chloride **3** (1.0 equiv) in CH₂Cl₂ was added to a 0 °C solution of a 0.32 M solution of **4** (1.0 equiv) in CH₂Cl₂ containing triethylamine (1.5 equiv). After 14 h at room temperature, the reaction mixture was washed successively with 1 M HCl (2 × 5 mL), satd NaHCO₃ (2 × 5 mL), and brine (5 mL). The organic layer was separated, dried (Na₂SO₄), and filtered, and the filtrate was concentrated in vacuo to give crude products which were purified as indicated individually.

(-)-(3*R*,4*S*,7*R*)-2-Benzyl-5-benzoyloxycarbonyl-7-methanesulfonyloxy-3-phenyl-2,5-diazaspiro[3.4]octan-1-one (**5a**). The crude material was recrystallized from 5 mL of methanol to give (480 mg, 36%) of **5a** as a white solid. The mother liquor was evaporated and purified by flash chromatography to give additional **5a** (200 mg, 15%); mp 115–117 °C; *R_f* = 0.34 (50% EtOAc/hexanes); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃; major rotamer) δ 7.45 (s, 1H), 7.04–7.30 (m, 13 H), 6.79 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 4.71–5.26 (m, 4H), 4.31 (s, 1H), 4.06 (d, *J* = 14.8 Hz, 1H), 3.43–3.66 (m, 2H), 3.05 (s, 3H), 2.54–2.84 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃; major rotamer) δ 166.7, 153.5, 136.3, 135.3, 133.7, 129.2, 128.7, 128.63, 128.59, 128.5, 128.2, 128.0, 127.6, 126.9, 74.1, 69.7, 69.2, 67.4, 51.8, 45.4, 39.5, 38.9. IR (neat) ν 1749, 1712, 1434, 1396, 1363 cm⁻¹. MS (*m/z*) 521.5 (MH⁺); [α]_D²⁰ = -100.34 (*c* 0.87, CH₂Cl₂). FAB-HRMS calcd for (C₂₈H₂₈N₂O₆S + H⁺) 521.1741, found 521.1739. Anal. Calcd for C₂₈H₂₈N₂O₆S: C, 64.60; H, 5.42; N, 5.38. Found: C, 64.48; H, 5.51; N, 5.35.

(+)-(3*S*,4*R*,7*R*)-2-Benzyl-5-benzoyloxycarbonyl-7-methanesulfonyloxy-3-phenyl-2,5-diazaspiro[3.4]octan-1-one (**6a**): oil (20%); *R_f* = 0.12 (50% EtOAc/hexanes); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃; major rotamer) δ 6.99–7.12 (m, 15H), 4.75–5.30 (m, 4H), 4.55 (s, 1H), 3.44–4.09 (m, 3H), 3.01 (s, 3H), 2.50–2.78 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃; major rotamer) δ 166.9, 153.3, 136.1, 135.2, 133.3, 128.9, 128.5, 128.42, 128.37, 128.1, 128.04, 127.99, 127.88, 127.7, 78.5, 76.8, 69.8, 67.2, 54.4, 44.9, 41.9, 38.9; IR (neat) ν 1760, 1713, 1456, 1403, 1348 cm⁻¹; MS (*m/z*) 521.5 (MH⁺); [α]_D²⁰ = +93.46 (*c* 0.78, CH₂Cl₂); FAB-HRMS calcd for (C₂₈H₂₈N₂O₆S + Na⁺) 543.1560, found 543.1560.

(-)-(3*R*,4*S*)-5-Benzoyloxycarbonyl-2-benzyl-3-phenyl-2,5-diazaspiro[3.4]oct-7-en-1-one (**10**). Solid K₂CO₃ (109 mg, 0.79 mmol) was added to a solution of **5a** (157 mg, 0.30 mmol) in methanol (2 mL) and stirred for 16 h at room temperature and at 70 °C for another 3 h. The reaction mixture was concentrated in vacuo, and the resulting residue was partitioned between water (4 mL) and EtOAc (4 mL). The organic layer was separated and dried (Na₂SO₄), decanted, and concentrated in vacuo to afford **10** (125 mg, 98%) as colorless oil: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃; major rotamer) δ 6.7–7.5 (m, 15H), 6.07 (d, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 1H), 5.83 (d, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 1H), 5.18 (d, *J* = 14.8 Hz, 1H), 4.97 (d, *J* = 13.8 Hz, 1H), 4.79 (d, *J* = 13.8 Hz, 1H), 4.54 (d, *J* = 13.8 Hz, 1H), 4.41 (s, 1H), 4.2–4.4 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃; major rotamer) δ 168.3, 168.0, 153.8, 153.8, 136.7, 135.9, 135.6, 135.3, 134.5, 134.3, 129.1, 129.1, 129.0, 128.9, 128.8, 128.7, 128.6, 128.4, 128.2, 128.1, 128.0, 127.8, 127.5, 126.6, 85.6, 84.7, 68.0, 67.5, 67.0, 55.6, 55.0, 45.5, 45.5; MS (*m/z*) 425.3 (MH⁺); [α]_D²⁰ = -126.33 (*c* 0.47, CH₂Cl₂); FAB-HRMS calcd for (C₂₇H₂₄N₂O₃ + Na⁺) 447.167, found 447.1678.

(18) Lactam nitrogen of racemic **14** was deprotected using CAN in 30% unoptimized yield to afford the azetidinone **15**. Further application of azetidinones such as **15** in optically active form toward synthesis of novel β -turns will be reported in due course: Siegel, D.; Khasanov, A.; Thiruvazhi, M. Unpublished results.



(+)-(3*S*,4*R*)-5-Benzoyloxycarbonyl-2-benzyl-3-phenyl-2,5-diazaspiro[3.4]oct-7-en-1-one (12). Synthesized from **6a** in a similar manner as **10**: oil (69%); $R_f = 0.74$ (50% EtOAc/hexanes); $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 ; major rotamer) δ 6.70–7.50 (m, 15 H), 6.07 (d, $J = 6.3$ Hz, 1H), 5.83 (d, $J = 6.3$ Hz, 1H), 5.20 (d, $J = 15.09$ Hz, 1H), 4.98 (d, $J = 14.79$ Hz, 1H), 4.78 (d, $J = 12.57$ Hz, 1H), 4.54 (d, $J = 11.94$ Hz, 1H), 4.41 (s, 1H), 4.2–4.4 (m, 2H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 ; major rotamer) δ 168.1, 167.8, 153.6, 153.5, 136.4, 135.7, 135.4, 135.1, 134.3, 134.1, 129.0, 128.9, 128.7, 128.6, 128.5, 128.4, 128.3, 128.2, 127.97, 127.95, 127.8, 127.6, 127.2, 126.4, 85.4, 84.4, 67.7, 67.2, 66.7, 55.3, 54.8, 45.3, 45.2; MS (m/z) 425.2 (MH^+); $[\alpha]_D^{20} = +125.0$ (c 0.27, CH_2Cl_2); FAB-HRMS calcd for ($\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3 + \text{Na}^+$) 447.1679, found 447.1676.

(-)-(3*R*,4*S*)-2-Benzyl-3-phenyl-2,5-diazaspiro[3.4]octan-1-one (11). A solution of **10** (30.0 mg, 0.071 mmol) in ethanol (2 mL) containing 5 mg of 10% Pd/C catalyst was hydrogenated at atmospheric pressure for 1 h. The mixture was filtered through Celite, and Celite was washed with methanol. The filtrate was concentrated in vacuo to give 19.7 mg (95%) of (3*R*,4*S*)-2-benzyl-3-phenyl-2,5-diazaspiro[3.4]octan-1-one as colorless oil: $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ 7.08–7.47 (m, 10 H), 4.93 (d, $J = 14.8$ Hz, 1H), 4.37 (s, 1H), 3.85 (d, $J = 14.8$ Hz, 1H), 2.84–2.96 (m, 1H), 2.52–2.66 (m, 1H), 2.28–2.38 (m, 1H), 2.04–2.12 (m, 1H), 1.62–1.95 (m,

3H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ 173.2, 136.1, 135.8, 129.3, 129.0, 128.6, 128.6, 128.0, 127.2, 80.6, 69.9, 46.4, 44.3, 33.3, 24.7; MS (m/z) 293.4 (MH^+); $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -71.88$ (c 0.13, CH_2Cl_2); FAB-HRMS calcd for ($\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_2\text{O} + \text{H}^+$) 293.1648, found 293.1650.

(+)-(3*S*,4*R*)-2-Benzyl-3-phenyl-2,5-diazaspiro[3.4]octan-1-one (13). Compound **13** was obtained from **12** in a similar fashion as described for **11**: colorless oil (91%); $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ 7.08–7.47 (m, 10 H), 4.94 (d, $J = 14.8$ Hz, 1H), 4.37 (s, 1H), 3.85 (d, $J = 14.8$ Hz, 1H), 2.84–2.96 (m, 1H), 2.52–2.66 (m, 1H), 2.28–2.38 (m, 1H), 2.04–2.12 (m, 1H), 1.62–1.95 (m, 3H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ 173.4, 136.1, 135.8, 129.3, 129.0, 128.6, 128.6, 128.0, 127.2, 80.6, 69.9, 46.4, 44.3, 33.3, 24.7; MS (m/z) 293.2 (MH^+); $[\alpha]_D^{20} = +71.70$ (c 0.11, CH_2Cl_2); FAB-HRMS calcd for ($\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_2\text{O} + \text{H}^+$) 293.1648, found 293.1650.

Supporting Information Available: Experimental details for **3a**, **1–m**, **4a**, **5e**, **fj–m**, **6e**, **fj**, **m**, and **9a**, ^1H and ^{13}C NMR data for **5a**, **6a**, **9a** (only ^1H), and **10–13**, and X-ray crystallographic data for **5a**. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

JO0494300