

Benzyloxy(diisopropylamino)methylphosphine: A Powerful Reagent for the Synthesis of Methylphosphonopeptides

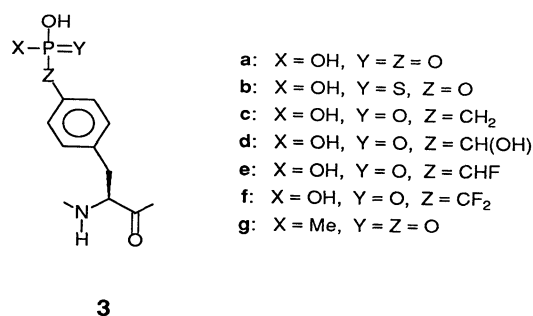
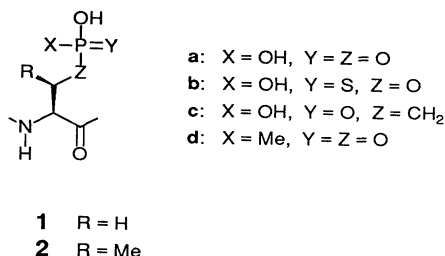
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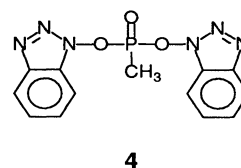
The preparation of methylphosphonylated amino acids and peptides using *O,O*-bis(benzotriazol-1-yl) methylphosphonate and the favourable novel reagent benzyloxy(diisopropylamino)methylphosphine [benzyl (*N,N*-diisopropyl)methylphosphonamidite] is described.

Protein phosphorylation mediated by protein kinases and phosphatases is now generally recognized as one of the major mechanisms by which eukaryotic cells regulate various cellular processes.¹ The biological relevance of these intriguing processes has urged many groups to synthesize modified phosphoamino acids and peptides. As a consequence, several modifications of the natural monophosphate function in serine, threonine and tyrosine (compounds **1a–3a**) have been published, i.e. phosphorothioate **1b–3b**,^{2,3} phosphonate **1c–3c**,⁴ hydroxyphosphonate **3d**,⁵ fluorophosphonate **3e**⁵ and difluorophosphonate **3f**.^{5,6} As part of an ongoing program directed toward the preparation of phosphoamino acids, phosphopeptides and analogs thereof,^{2,7} we now report the first synthesis of methylphosphonylated derivatives **1d** and **3g** using the established reagent *O,O*-bis(benzotriazol-1-yl) methylphosphonate (**4**) and the new methylphosphinylating reagent benzyloxy(diisopropylamino)-methylphosphine [benzyl (*N,N*-diisopropyl)methylphosphonamidite, **10**].



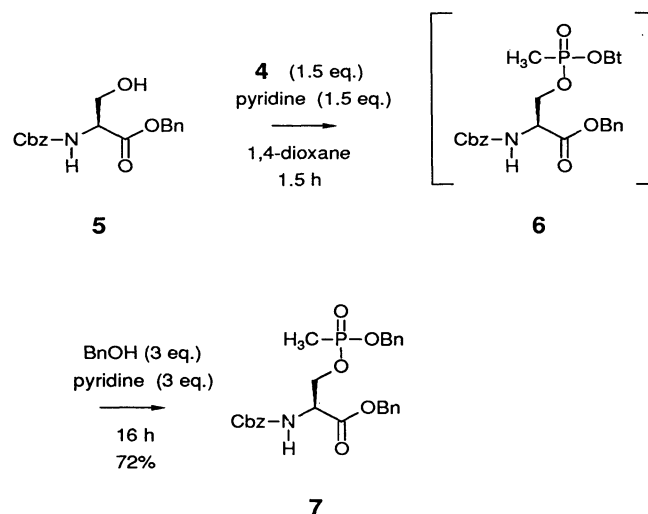
Originally, the methylphosphonate moiety was introduced to mimic the 3' → 5'-internucleotide phosphate diester linkage in DNA.⁸ In an earlier paper from this laboratory, it was disclosed that readily available *O,O*-bis(benzotriazol-1-yl) methylphosphonate⁹ (**4**) is a con-

venient reagent for the synthesis of methylphosphonate-modified DNA fragments. In addition, the hydroxybenzotriazole approach also proved to be satisfactory in the synthesis of D-*myo*-inositol methylphosphonolipids and methylphosphonates.¹⁰ On the basis of this information, the bifunctional reagent **4** should give access to methylphosphonylated amino acids and peptides.

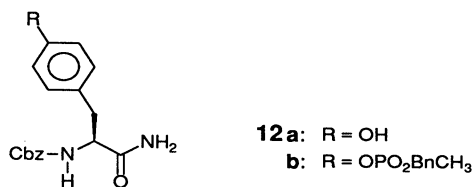
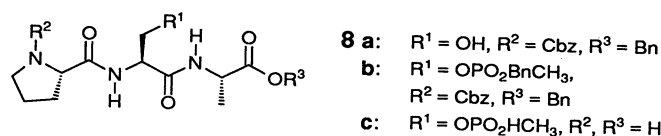


Indeed, reaction of the properly protected serine derivative **5** (Scheme 1) with a slight excess of phosphonylating reagent **4** showed complete disappearance of starting material in under 2 hours, as gauged by TLC analysis. The in situ formed benzotriazolyl ester **6** reacted slowly (16 hours) with benzyl alcohol to yield, after purification, the diastereomeric methylphosphonate diester **7** (see Table). The versatility of the two-step hydroxybenzotriazole approach was further demonstrated by the phosphonylation of the serinyl moiety in tripeptide **8a**. Thus, reaction of the primary hydroxy group of the tripeptide with **4** and subsequent addition of benzyl alcohol gave methylphosphonopeptide **8b** in a good yield.

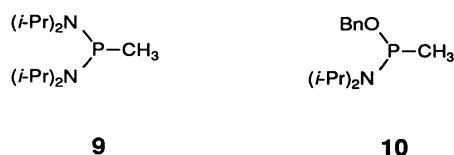
Despite the successful synthesis of tripeptide **8b** via post-assembly phosphorylation of **8a** in solution, the use of **4** is not completely satisfactory for the solid-phase assembly of phosphopeptides due to its high susceptibility to hydrolysis and prolonged reaction times. A pos-



Scheme 1 Bt = benzotriazol-1-yl

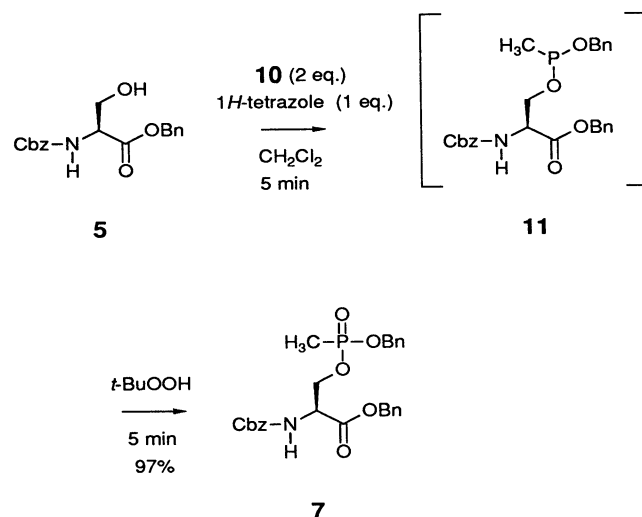


sible alternative reagent for the methylphosphonylation of peptides on a solid support is bis(diisopropylamino)methylphosphine (**9**), which has been previously used for the introduction of 3' → 5'-internucleotide methylphosphonate diester linkages in DNA.¹¹ However, the general applicability of methylphosphine **9** is limited due to the occurrence of side reactions, e.g. transesterification.¹² In order to circumvent this problem, **9** was converted into the monofunctional reagent benzyloxy(diisopropylamino)methylphosphine [benzyl (*N,N*-diisopropyl)methylphosphonamidite, **10**] by treatment with an excess of benzyl alcohol under the agency of catalytic 2,4,6-trimethylpyridine hydrochloride. Purification of the crude product by silica gel chromatography gave homogeneous **10** which could be stored for months without degradation.



The favourable properties of the new monofunctional reagent **10** were demonstrated by the preparation of serine methylphosphonate **7**. To this end, serine derivative **5** was allowed to react with excess methylphosphonamidite **10** in the presence of an equimolar amount of 1*H*-tetrazole (Scheme 2). Monitoring of the reaction by ³¹P NMR revealed rapid conversion (i.e. 5 min) of **5** into the intermediate phosphonite **11** (δ_p 186.7 and 185.1). The in situ oxidation of **11** with *tert*-butyl hydroperoxide went to completion within 5 min to give, after workup and column chromatography, methylphosphonate **7** as a mixture of two diastereoisomers in an excellent yield. The spectroscopic data of **7** were in every aspect identical with those of the same derivative obtained via the hydroxybenzotriazole method. In a similar fashion, phosphorylation of the phenolic hydroxy function of tyrosine derivative **12a** with **10** occurred smoothly to give, after oxidation, methylphosphonotyrosine derivative **12b**.

The efficacy of reagent **10** was illustrated further in the post-assembly or global phosphonylation of tripeptide **8a**. Thus, treatment of the tripeptide with excess **10** in the presence of 1*H*-tetrazole gave, after oxidation, the



Scheme 2

fully protected methylphosphonylated tripeptide **8b** in a high yield. Ensuing hydrogenolysis of the benzyloxycarbonyl and benzyl protective groups from **8b** was easily effected over 10% palladium on activated charcoal to furnish the completely deblocked methylphosphonate monoester **8c** in a quantitative yield.

In conclusion, the results presented in this paper demonstrate that the new trivalent reagent benzyl (*N,N*-diisopropyl)methylphosphonamidite (**10**) is a highly efficient tool for the preparation of a new class of phosphopeptide analogs. Solid-phase synthesis of methylphosphonopeptides using amidite **10** is at present under investigation.

CH_2Cl_2 was distilled from CaH_2 and stored over molecular sieves (4Å). 1,4-Dioxane was freshly distilled prior to use from LiAlH_4 . CH_3CN (Rathburn HPLC-grade) was stored over molecular sieves (4Å). Triethylammonium bicarbonate (TEAB, 2 M) buffer was prepared by passing a stream of CO_2 gas through a mixture of triethylamine (825 mL) and H_2O (2175 mL) at 0°C until at pH 7. TEA and 1*H*-tetrazole were purchased from Janssen. *tert*-Butyl hydroperoxide (80% solution in di-*tert*-butyl peroxide) was purchased from Merck-Schuchardt. $\text{PhCH}_2\text{OCO-Ser-OCH}_2\text{Ph}$ and $\text{PhCH}_2\text{OCO-Tyr-NH}_2$ were obtained from NovaBiochem. Tripeptide **8a** was synthesized by classical methods.¹³ All amino acids have the L-configuration. Reactions were carried out at ambient temperature unless noted otherwise. TLC analysis was performed on Schleicher and Schüll DC Fertigfolien F1500 LS254. Compounds were visualized by UV (254 nm) and TDM (*N,N,N,N'*-tetramethyl-4,4'-diaminodiphenylmethane) reagent.¹⁴ Column chromatography was performed on Kieselgel 60, 230–400 mesh (Merck). Mass spectra were obtained with a Finnigan MAT SSQ 710 (Finnigan MAT, San José) spectrometer equipped with an electrospray interface. ¹H, ¹³C and ³¹P NMR spectra were recorded on a Jeol JNM-FX 200 spectrometer, operating at 200, 50.1 and 80.7 MHz, respectively. The ¹³C spectra were monitored using the Attached Proton Test (APT) technique. 2D (¹H–¹H COSY, ¹H–¹³C COSY, ¹H–³¹P COSY) NMR spectra were recorded at 300 MHz on a Bruker WM-300 spectrometer interfaced with an ASPECT 2000 computer. Chemical shifts (δ) are given in ppm relative to the signal for internal Me_4Si for ¹H, and to the signal for internal CHCl_3 (δ 77.0) or MeOH (δ 49.0) for ¹³C. Sodium 4,4-dimethyl-4-silapentanesulfonate was used as internal reference for samples in D_2O . ³¹P chemical shifts are given to 85% H_3PO_4 as external standard.

Table. Relevant Data of Methylphosphonylated Compounds **7**, **8b** and **12b**

Prod- uct	Yield ^{a, b} (%)	MS (<i>m/z</i>) [M + H] ⁺	³¹ P NMR ^c δ	¹ H NMR ^d δ , <i>J</i> (Hz)	¹³ C NMR ^e δ , <i>J</i> (Hz)
7	72, A 97, B	498	33.0, 32.9	7.4–7.2 (m, 15H, H _{arom}), 5.2–4.9 (m, 6H, PhCH ₂), 4.6 (m, 1H, H α), 4.4–4.3 (m, 2H, H β), 1.39, 1.37 (2d, 3H, PCH ₃ , ² J _{H,P} = 17.6)	168.9 (C=O Ser), 155.8 (C=O Cbz), 136.0, 135.9, 135.8, 134.9 (C _q of Ph), 128.5–127.8 (CH _{arom}), 67.4, 67.3, 67.2, 67.0 (PhCH ₂), 65.1 (d, C β Ser, ² J _{Cβ,P} = 5.9), 54.5 (d, C α Ser, ³ J _{Cα,P} = 5.9), 10.9 (d, PCH ₃ , ¹ J _{C,P} = 143.5)
8b	75, A 86, B	666	34.8, 34.4	7.4–7.2 (m, 15H, H _{arom}), 5.1–5.0 (m, 6H, PhCH ₂), 4.7–4.6 (m, 1H, H α Ser), 4.5–4.4 (m, 1H, H α Ala), 4.3–4.2 (m, 2H, H β Ser), 4.1–4.0 (m, 1H, H α Pro), 3.6–3.5, 3.5–3.4 (2m, each 1H, H δ Pro), 2.2–2.1, 2.0–1.8 (2m, 1H and 3H, resp., H β Pro, H γ Pro), 1.6–1.3 (m, 6H, H β Ala, PCH ₃)	172.2, 172.1, 171.9, 168.2 (C=O Ala, Pro, Ser), 156.0 (C=O Cbz), 136.3–135.5 (C _q of Ph), 128.6–127.5 (CH _{arom}), 68.0, 67.9, 67.1, 66.8, 65.5, 65.4, 64.9 (C β Ser, PhCH ₂), 61.3 (C α Pro), 53.5 (C α Ser), 48.3 (C α Ala), 47.0 (C δ Pro), 29.9 (C γ Pro), 24.4 (C β Pro), 17.5 (C β Ala), 10.8, 10.7 (2d, PCH ₃ , ¹ J _{C,P} = 143.5 and 142.0, resp.)
12b	94, B	483	28.8	7.4–7.0 (m, 14H, H _{arom}), 6.54, 6.13 (2bs, each 1H, NH ₂), 5.98 (d, 1H, NH, ¹ J _{H,NH} = 5.7, 5.2–5.0 (m, 4H, PhCH ₂), 4.5–4.4 (m, 1H, H α), 3.1–2.9 (m, 2H, H β), 1.58, 1.57 (2d, 3H, PCH ₃ , ² J _{H,P} = 17.6)	173.5 (C=O Tyr), 155.9 (C=O Cbz), 149.1 (d, C ζ , ² J _{Cζ,P} = 7.3), 136.0 (C _q of Z), 135.7 (d, C _q of OBn, ³ J _{C,P} = 7.3), 133.4 (C γ), 130.6–127.8 (C δ , CH _{arom}), 120.5 (d, C ϵ , ³ J _{Cϵ,P} = 4.4, 67.7 (d, CH ₂ of OBn, ² J _{C,P} = 5.9), 66.9 (CH ₂ of Cbz), 55.6 (C α), 37.6 (C β), 11.5 (d, PCH ₃ , ¹ J _{C,P} = 145.0)

^a Isolated yields.^b A: hydroxybenzotriazole method; B: methylphosphonamidite method.^c Spectra recorded in CDCl₃ for **7** and **12b**, and in CD₃OD for **8b**.^d Spectra recorded in CD₃OD for **7** and **8b**, and in CDCl₃ for **12b**.^e Spectra recorded in CDCl₃.**Benzyloxy(diisopropylamino)methylphosphine [Benzyl (*N,N*-Diisopropyl)-methylphosphonamidite, **10**]:**

Benzyl alcohol (0.72 mL, 7.0 mmol) and 2,4,6-trimethylpyridine hydrochloride¹² (80 mg, 0.5 mmol) were dried by coevaporation with CH₃CN (3 × 5 mL) and dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (5 mL). **9** (1.23 g, 5.0 mmol) was then added. After 24 h, triethylamine (TEA) (0.5 mL) was added and the mixture was concentrated. Purification of the resulting residue by column chromatography [light petroleum (bp 40–60°C)/TEA, 19:1 v/v; *R_f* 1.00] yielded **10** (1.20 g, 95%) as a colourless liquid.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ = 7.3–7.2 (H_{arom}), 4.7–4.6 (m, 2H, CH₂ of OBn), 3.6–3.5 (m, 2H, CH of *i*-Pr), 1.27 (d, 3H, PCH₃, ²J_{H,P} 8.2), 1.21, 1.12 (2 d, each 6H, CH₃ of *i*-Pr, ³J 6.9 and 6.7, resp.).

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ = 140.0 (d, C_q of OBn, ³J_{C,P} 7.3), 128.1, 127.0, 126.9 (CH_{arom}), 68.4 (d, CH₂ of OBn, ²J_{C,P} 19.1), 44.1 (d, CH *i*-Pr, ²J_{C,P} 8.8), 24.7, 24.0 (2 d, CH₃ of *i*-Pr, ³J_{C,P} 8.8 and 7.3, resp.), 17.9 (d, PCH₃, ¹J_{C,P} 11.7).

³¹P NMR (CDCl₃): δ = 122.9.

Synthesis of Methylphosphonylated Amino Acids and Peptides; General Procedure:*Method A (Hydroxybenzotriazole Procedure):*

To a stirred solution of **5** (165 mg, 0.50 mmol) or **8a** (250 mg, 0.50 mmol), dried by repeated coevaporation with dioxane (3 × 5 mL), in dioxane (2 mL) were added pyridine (60 μ L, 0.75 mmol) and a solution of *O,O*-bis(benzotriazol-1-yl) methylphosphonate (**4**) in dioxane (0.2 M, 3.75 mL, 0.75 mmol). After 1.5–2 h, TLC analysis showed the absence of starting compound. Benzyl alcohol (155 μ L, 1.5 mmol) and pyridine (120 μ L, 1.5 mmol) were added, and the reaction mixture was stirred for 16 h. The mixture was then diluted with CH₂Cl₂ (100 mL), washed with TEAB (1 M, 3 × 30 mL), dried (MgSO₄) and concentrated. Purification of the residue by column chromatography furnished the corresponding methylphosphonylated compounds **7** and **8b**.

Method B (Methylphosphonamidite Procedure):

A mixture of the appropriate compound (0.50 mmol) and phosphinylating reagent **10** (1.5–2 eq.) was dried by evaporation with CH₃CN (3 × 10 mL) and dissolved in CH₃CN (5 mL) or CH₂Cl₂ (5 mL). 1*H*-Tetrazole (35 mg, 0.50 mmol), dried by evaporation with CH₃CN (3 × 5 mL), in dry CH₃CN (1 mL) was added. When ³¹P NMR and TLC analysis¹⁵ showed complete conversion of the starting compound into the respective phosphonite, the mixture was treated with *t*-BuOOH (0.5 mL) for 5 min. Extractive workup as described above followed by column chromatography gave **7**, **8b**, and **12b** as an oil.

Deprotection of Methylphosphonate **8b:**

A solution of compound **8b** (207 mg, 0.31 mmol) in H₂O/MeOH (5% v/v, 5 mL) was hydrogenated in the presence of 10% palladium on charcoal (100 mg) for 24 h. The catalyst was removed by filtration, and the filtrate concentrated and lyophilized from H₂O to obtain homogeneous **8c** (109 mg, 100%) as a white solid.

MS (*m/z*): 352 [M + H]⁺

¹H NMR (D₂O): δ = 4.60 (t, 1H, H α Ser, *J* _{α,β} 4.8), 4.45 (dd, 1H, H α Pro *J* _{α,β} 6.6 and 8.6), 4.28 (q, 1H, H α Ala, *J* _{α,β} 7.1), 4.1 (m, 2H, H β Ser), 3.5–3.3 (m, 2H, H δ Pro), 2.5–2.4 (m, 1H, H β^a Pro), 2.2–2.0 (m, 3H, H β^b Pro, H γ Pro), 1.38 (d, 3H, H β Ala, *J* _{α,β} 7.2), 1.27 (d, 3H, PCH₃, ²J_{H,P} 16.5).

¹³C NMR (D₂O): δ = 177.0, 170.7, 170.4 (C=O Ala, Pro, Ser), 63.5 (C β Ser), 60.3 (C α Pro), 55.2 (d, C α Ser, ³J_{C,P} 5.9), 49.7 (C α Ala), 47.1 (C δ Pro), 30.3 (C γ Pro), 24.3 (C β Pro), 17.1 (C β Ala), 11.6 (d, PCH₃, ¹J_{C,P} 136.3).

³¹P NMR (D₂O): δ = 28.3.

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