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Synthesis and structural revision of marine eicosanoid agardhilactone

Hiroaki Miyaoka,* Yoshinori Hara, Ikuo Shinohara, Takao Kurokawa and Yasuji Yamada

School of Pharmacy, Tokyo University of Pharmacy and Life Science, 1432-1 Horinouchi, Hachioji, Tokyo 192-0392, Japan

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Abstract—Synthesis of the marine eicosanoid agardhilactone has been achieved. The relative and absolute configuration of agardhilactone was successfully determined.

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Marine eicosanoids are of interest given their unique structures, peculiar biosynthetic pathways, and biological activities.¹ Agardhilactone, first isolated from the marine red algae Agardhiella subulata by Gerwick et al., is a novel tricyclic eicosanoid containing δ -lactone, cyclopentane, and epoxide rings (Fig. 1).² Initial structural reports were based on the NMR analysis of agardhilactone acetate, derived from agardhilactone. However, the complete structure of agardhilactone was not determined since agardhilactone is a particle constituent. The relative configuration (C-6, C-8, C-9, and C-10) of the cyclopentane ring system was determined to be 6S*, 8R*, 9S*, and 10R*, based on coupling constants and the NOESY analysis of agardhilactone acetate. To date, the relative configuration at C-5 remains unknown. The absolute configuration of the secondary hydroxy group at C-18 was determined as being in the S-configuration by converting agardhilactone to the known methoxycarbonyl derivative. Although the precise biological function of agardhilactone has not been reported, given its structural characteristics the eicosanoid might be an inhibitor of phospholipase A_2 .¹

Numerous attempts have been made to synthesize carbocyclic eicosanoids, prompted by their unique structural features and potential biological significance.¹ The authors previously reported on the synthesis of the carbocyclic eicosanoids, constanolactone³ and bacil-

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lariolide.⁴ To date, the total synthesis of agardhilactone has not been reported. The synthesis of agardhilactone was therefore conducted in the present study so as to clarify its structure.

The authors began by synthesizing the model compounds 1-4 of agardhilactone in an effort to determine the relative configuration at C-5 and to confirm the relative configuration at C-6, C-8, C-9, and C-10 (Fig. 1). The model compounds 1-4 correspond to four diastereomers of 16,17-dihydro-18-dehydroxyagardhilactone.

The model compounds 1-4 were, respectively, synthesized from 4-vinyldihydrofuran-2-one (5).⁵ The lactone 5 was treated with LDA and then 3-iodopropene to give *trans*-lactone 6 as a single compound (Scheme 1). The relative configuration of *trans*-lactone 6 was determined by NOESY. *trans*-Configuration of two side chains was



Figure 1. Proposed structure of agardhilactone and structure of model compounds.

^{*} Corresponding author. Tel.: +81 426 76 3080; fax: +81 426 76 3073; e-mail: miyaokah@ps.toyaku.ac.jp



Scheme 1. Reagents and conditions: (a) LDA, 3-iodopropene, THF, $-78 \,^{\circ}$ C to rt, 74%; (b) (i) DIBALH, CH₂Cl₂, $-78 \,^{\circ}$ C, 98%, (ii) TBDMSOCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂MgI, DME, 0 $^{\circ}$ C, 73% (7a), 25% (7b); (c) TsCl, DABCO, AcOEt, 0 $^{\circ}$ C, 71%.

indicated by the NOE correlation between H-6 and H-9 and between H-7 and H-10. Lactone 6 was reduced to hemiacetal with DIBALH and the hemiacetal was then treated with Grignard reagent (TBDMS-OCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂MgI)⁶ in DME to afford a mixture of α -alcohol 7a and β -alcohol 7b (7a/7b = 3:1), which were readily separated by silica gel chromatography. The relative configuration of the hydroxy group at C-5 was determined by the NOESY of tetrahydrofuran 8 derived from *a*-alcohol 7a. *a*-Alcohol 7a was treated with toluenesulfonyl chloride (TsCl) and 1,4-diazabicyclo[2.2.2]octane (DABCO) in AcOEt to give tetrahydrofuran 8. The NOE correlation between H-5 and H-10 in tetrahydrofuran 8 indicated the relative configuration at C-5 and C-10 to be that as shown in Scheme 1. An α -configuration of the hydroxy group at C-5 was found for 7a, while a β -configuration of the hydroxy group at C-5 was found for 7b, a diastereomer of 7a.

The ring-closing metathesis (RCM) reaction of α -alcohol 7a with 1st generation Grubbs' catalyst⁷ in CH_2Cl_2 afforded the cyclopentene derivative (Scheme 2). The primary hydroxy group of the cyclopentene derivative was protected as the pivalate, while the secondary hydroxy group was protected as the TBDMS ether to give cyclopentene 9. Epoxidation of cyclopentene 9 with m-chloroperbenzoic acid (mCPBA) afforded a mixture of α -epoxide 10a and β -epoxide 10b (10a/10b = 1:3). The diastereomeric mixture was separated by silica gel chromatography. The relative configuration of epoxides 10a and 10b was determined by NOESY. The epoxide of 10a was determined to be in the α -configuration from the NOE correlation between H-9 and H-11, while the epoxide of 10b was determined to be in the β -configuration from the NOE correlation between H-9 and H-10. α -Epoxide 10a was converted to allylic iodide 11 in four steps consisting of (1) reductive removal of the pivaloyl group with DIBALH, (2) oxidation of the hydroxy group with Dess-Martin periodinane⁸ to give the aldehyde followed by a Wittig reaction with Ph₃P=CHCO₂Me, (3) reduction of the α , β -unsaturated ester with DIBALH, and finally (4) tosylation of the hydroxy group followed by treatment with NaI. The coupling reaction of allylic iodide 11 with hept-1-yne was achieved by treatment with CuI, NaI, and K₂CO₃



Scheme 2. Reagents and conditions: (a) (i) Grubbs' catalyst 1st generation, CH2Cl2, rt, 99%, (ii) PivCl, pyridine, CH2ClCH2Cl, 0 °C to rt, 82%, (iii) TBDMSCl, imidazole, DMF, 45 °C, 99%; (b) mCPBA, Na₂HPO₄, CH₂Cl₂, 0 °C to rt, 23% (10a), 77% (10b); (c) (i) DIBALH, CH2Cl2, -78 °C, 87%, (ii) Dess-Martin periodinane, NaHCO3, CH₂Cl₂, rt, then Ph₃P=CHCO₂Me, reflux, 61%, (iii) DIBALH, CH2Cl2, -78 °C, 79%, (iv) Ts2O, pyridine, CH2Cl2, rt, then NaI, acetone, rt, 72%; (d) hept-1-yne, CuI, NaI, K2CO3, DMF, rt, 63%; (e) (i) TBAF, DMF, 40 °C, 73%, (ii) TPAP, NMO, MS 4 Å, CH₂ClCH₂Cl, rt, 60%, (iii) H₂, 5% Pd on BaSO₄, quinoline, MeOH, rt, 79%; (f) (i) DIBALH, CH2Cl2, -78 °C, 90%, (ii) Dess-Martin periodinane, NaHCO3, CH2Cl2, rt, then Ph3P=CHCO2Me, reflux, 86%, (iii) DIBALH, CH2Cl2, -78 °C, 77%, (iv) Ts2O, pyridine, CH₂Cl₂, rt, then NaI, acetone, rt, 64%, (v) hept-1-yne, CuI, NaI, K₂CO₃, DMF, rt, 79%, (vi) TBAF, DMF, 40 °C, 69%, (vii) TPAP, NMO, MS 4 Å, CH₂ClCH₂Cl, rt, 70%, (viii) H₂, 5% Pd on BaSO₄, quinoline, MeOH, rt, 71%.

and gave enyne 12.⁹ The protective groups of the two hydroxy groups were removed by treatment with tetrabutylammonium fluoride (TBAF) to give the diol. The diol was treated with tetrapropylammonium perruthenate (TPAP) and 4-methylmorpholine *N*-oxide (NMO) to give the δ -lactone.¹⁰ Finally, alkyne hydrogenation with 5% Pd on BaSO₄ in the presence of quinoline afforded model compound 1.¹¹ Model compound 2 was synthesized from β -epoxide 10b in a similar manner as described above.

Model compounds 3 and 4 were synthesized from β -alcohol 7b (Scheme 3). The RCM reaction of β -alcohol **7b** with 1st generation Grubbs' catalyst in CH₂Cl₂ afforded the cyclopentene derivative. The primary hydroxy group of the cyclopentene derivative was protected as the pivalate to give cyclopentene 13. Protection of the secondary hydroxy group in 13 as the TBDMS ether gave cyclopentene 14. Epoxidation of cyclopentene 14 using *m*CPBA afforded predominantly β -epoxide 15b (α -epoxide 15a/15b = 1:15). The mixture of the two diastereomers was separated by silica gel chromatography. The relative configuration of epoxides 15a and 15b was determined by NOESY. The epoxide of 15a was determined to be in the α -configuration from the NOE correlation between H-9 and H-11. The epoxide of 15b was determined to be in the β -configuration from the NOE



Scheme 3. Reagents and conditions: (a) (i) Grubbs' catalyst 1st generation, CH₂Cl₂, rt, 82%, (ii) PivCl, pyridine, CH₂ClCH₂Cl, 0 °C to rt, 86%; (b) TBDMSCl, imidazole, DMF, 45 °C, 94%; (c) mCPBA, Na₂HPO₄, CH₂Cl₂, 0 °C to rt, 6% (15a), 91% (15b); (d) (i) TBHP, VO(acac)₂, CH₂Cl₂, rt, 83%, (ii) TBDMSOTf, 2,6-lutidine, CH₂Cl₂, -78 °C, 88%; (e) (i) DIBALH, CH₂Cl₂, -78 °C, 84%, (ii) Dess-Martin periodinane, NaHCO3, CH2Cl2, rt, then Ph3P=CHCO2Me, reflux, 83%, (iii) DIBALH, CH₂Cl₂, -78 °C, 90%, (iv) Ts₂O, pyridine, CH₂Cl₂, rt, then NaI, acetone, rt, 73%, (v) hept-1-yne, CuI, NaI, K₂CO₃, DMF, rt, 84%, (vi) TBAF, DMF, 40 °C, 40%, (vii) TPAP, NMO, MS 4 Å, CH₂ClCH₂Cl, rt, 64%, (viii) H₂, 5% Pd on BaSO₄, quinoline, MeOH, rt, 88%; (f) (i) DIBALH, CH₂Cl₂, -78 °C, 96%, (ii) Dess-Martin periodinane, NaHCO3, CH2Cl2, rt, then Ph₃P=CHCO₂Me, reflux, 78%, (iii) DIBALH, CH₂Cl₂, -78 °C, 94%, (iv) Ts₂O, pyridine, CH₂Cl₂, rt, then NaI, acetone, rt, 62%, (v) hept-1-yne, CuI, NaI, K2CO3, DMF, rt, 60%, (vi) TBAF, DMF, 40 °C, 69%, (vii) TPAP, NMO, MS 4 Å, CH₂ClCH₂Cl, rt, 40%, (viii) H₂, 5% Pd on BaSO₄, quinoline, MeOH, rt, 80%.

correlation between H-9 and H-10. α -Epoxide **15a** was obtained stereoselectively by the epoxidation of β -alcohol **13** followed by protection of the secondary hydroxy group. β -Alcohol **13** was treated with TBHP in the presence of VO(acac)₂¹² to give the α -epoxide as the sole product. The hydroxy group in the α -epoxide was protected as the TBDMS ether to afford α -epoxide **15a**. α -Epoxide **15a** and β -epoxide **15b** were converted to model compounds **3** and **4**, respectively, according to the aforementioned established method.

The NMR spectra of synthesized model compounds $1-4^{13}$ were compared with those of agardhilactone acetate.² The NMR spectrum of 4 most closely resembled that of agardhilactone acetate.² Therefore, the relative configuration of agardhilactone was estimated to be 5*S**, 6*S**, 8*S**, 9*R**, and 10*R**. On the basis of this result, the authors examined the synthesis of natural agardhilactone.

The side-chain segment **19** (C14–C20) was synthesized from (S)-3-hydroxypent-1-yne (**16**)¹⁴ (Scheme 4). The hydroxy group in **16** was protected as the TBDPS ether and subsequently treated with catecholborane¹⁵ and then iodine¹⁶ to give *E*-iodoalkene **17**. The coupling reaction of *E*-iodoalkene **17** and (trimethylsilyl)acetylene was achieved by treatment with (Ph₃P)₄Pd, CuI, and PrNH₂ in benzene to give enyne **18**.¹⁷ Removal of the TMS and TBDPS groups in enyne **18** was carried out by treatment with TBAF to give the alcohol. The hydroxy group was acetylated to afford acetate **19**.

The coupling reaction of envne 19 and allylic iodide 20, which was a synthetic intermediate of model compound 4, was achieved by treatment with CuI, NaI, and K_2CO_3 and gave a mixture of dienynes 21 and 22 (Scheme 5). Without purifying the mixture, the two TBDMS groups in dienynes 21 and 22 were removed by treatment with TBAF to give the corresponding diols. The diols were treated with TPAP and NMO to give the δ -lactones. Partial hydrogenation of the alkynes with 5% Pd on BaSO₄ in the presence of quinoline afforded the diastereomeric mixture of E,Z,E-trienes 23 and 24. Separation of the diastereomeric mixture using a chiral HPLC column gave acetates 23 and 24.18 The spectral data of acetate 23 were identical to those of agardhilactone acetate.² The absolute configuration of acetate 23 was determined using a modified Mosher method¹⁹ for



Scheme 4. Reagents and conditions: (a) (i) TBDPSCl, imidazole, DMF, rt, 83%, (ii) catecholborane, 80 °C, (iii) I₂, NaOH aq, Et₂O, 0 °C, 75% (two steps); (b) (trimethylsilyl)acetylene, $(Ph_3P)_4Pd$, CuI, PrNH₂, benzene, rt, 63%; (c) (i) TBAF, THF, rt, 90%, (ii) AcCl, DMAP, CH₂Cl₂, 0 °C, 86%.



Scheme 5. Reagents and conditions: (a) 19, CuI, NaI, K_2CO_3 , DMF, rt, 90% (21 and 22); (b) (i) TBAF, DMF, 60 °C, 56%, (ii) TPAP, NMO, MS 4 Å, CH₂ClCH₂Cl, rt, 67%, (iii) H₂, 5% Pd on BaSO₄, quinoline, MeOH, rt, then separation by HPLC, 19% (23), 17% (24); (c) (i) NaOH aq, THF, rt, (ii) DCC, DMAP, CH₂Cl₂, rt, 90% (two steps).



Scheme 6. Reagents and conditions: (a) K_2CO_3 , MeOH, rt, 60%; (b) (i) (S)-MTPACl, DMAP, CH₂ClCH₂Cl, rt, (ii) H₂, 10% Pd on C, MeOH, rt, 25% (two steps); (c) (i) (*R*)-MTPACl, DMAP, CH₂ClCH₂Cl, rt, (ii) H₂, 10% Pd on C, MeOH, rt, 64% (two steps).

MTPA 27, which was derived from 23 via diol 26 (Scheme 6). Saponification of acetate 23 followed by lactonization of the resulting dihydroxycarboxylic acid yielded lactone 25^{20} The spectral data of 25 were identical to those of agardhilactone.² Therefore, the absolute configuration of agardhilactone was determined to be 5*S*, 6*S*, 8*S*, 9*R*, 10*R*, and 18*S*.

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- 13. Compound 1: A colorless oil; IR (neat) cm^{-1} : 2926, 1737; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 5.57 (1H, m), 5.43 (1H, m), 5.33 (2H, m), 4.18 (1H, m), 3.52 (1H, d, *J* = 2.2 Hz), 3.37 (1H, d, J = 2.6 Hz), 3.18 (1H, d, J = 7.8 Hz), 2.74 (2H, t, J = 6.7 Hz), 2.55 (1H, dt, J = 17.3, 6.9 Hz), 2.41(1H, dt, J = 17.3, 7.6 Hz), 2.06-1.78 (8H, m), 1.39-1.22(7H, m), 0.89 (3H, t, J = 6.8 Hz); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) *b*: 172.0, 131.2, 130.5, 128.7, 126.7, 83.6, 61.1, 57.7, 48.1, 43.3, 31.5, 30.4, 29.4, 29.3, 28.3, 27.1, 26.3, 22.5, 18.1, 14.0; ESIMS *m*/*z*: 341 (M⁺+Na, 100); HRESIMS m/z: 341.2088 (Calcd for C₂₀H₃₀O₃Na: M⁺+Na, 341.2093). Compound 2: A colorless oil; IR (neat) cm^{-1} : 2925, 1738; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 5.58 (2H, m), 5.39 (2H, m), 4.30 (1H, m), 3.45 (1H, d, J = 2.6 Hz), 3.37 (1H, m), 2.78 (2H, t, J = 6.3 Hz), 2.63 (1H, m), 2.57 (1H, m), 2.42 (1H, m), 2.14 (1H, m), 2.02 (2H, m), 1.91-1.66 (6H, m), 1.36–1.25 (6H, m), 0.88 (3H, t, J = 6.7 Hz); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 171.7, 131.1, 131.0, 130.1, 126.8, 81.1, 61.3, 55.8, 44.0, 42.7, 31.5, 30.6, 30.5, 29.5, 29.3, 27.1, 26.2, 22.5, 18.8, 14.0; ESIMS m/z: 341 (M⁺+Na, 78), 195 (100); HRESIMS m/z: 341.2110 (Calcd for C₂₀H₃₀O₃Na: M⁺+Na, 341.2093). Compound 3: A colorless oil; IR (neat) cm^{-1} : 2925, 1737;

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 5.54 (1H, ddt, J = 15.3, 0.5, 6.2 Hz), 5.46 (1H, m), 5.33 (2H, m), 4.14 (1H, dt, J = 3.0, 10.4 Hz), 3.56 (1H, br s), 3.32 (1H, d, J = 2.5 Hz), 2.76 (2H, t, J = 6.7 Hz), 2.66 (1H, d, J = 8.2 Hz), 2.55 (1H, ddd, J = 17.2, 7.0, 6.7 Hz), 2.42 (2H, m), 2.12–1.78 (7H, m), 1.41–1.25 (7H, m), 0.89 (3H, t, J = 6.7 Hz); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 172.0, 131.4, 130.7, 128.4,

126.4, 83.6, 61.1, 58.5, 48.6, 44.6, 31.5, 30.3, 29.4, 29.2, 28.4, 27.1, 26.5, 22.5, 18.1, 14.0; ESIMS m/z: 341 $(M^++Na, 100)$; HRESIMS m/z: 341.2068 (Calcd for $C_{20}H_{30}O_3Na: M^++Na, 341.2093).$ Compound 4: A colorless oil; IR (neat) cm⁻¹: 2925, 1739; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 5.61 (1H, dt, J = 15.4, 6.2 Hz), 5.44 (3H, m), 4.23 (1H, dt, J = 11.7, 2.6 Hz), 3.45 (1H, br s), 3.39 (1H, m), 2.78 (2H, t, *J* = 6.5 Hz), 2.70 (1H, t, J = 9.0 Hz), 2.60 (1H, m), 2.41 (1H, ddd, J = 17.7, 9.3, 7.4 Hz), 2.11 (1H, dd, J = 13.5, 7.5 Hz), 2.02 (2H, m), 1.95-1.70 (4H, m), 1.64-1.46 (2H, m), 1.36-1.25 (7H, m), 0.88 (3H, t, J = 6.6 Hz); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 171.8, 132.2, 131.1, 128.2, 126.8, 78.5, 60.2, 55.6, 44.7, 43.2, 31.5, 30.4, 29.5, 29.3, 27.5, 27.2, 27.1, 22.5, 18.8, 14.0; ESIMS *m*/*z*: 341 (M⁺+Na, 100); HRESIMS *m*/*z*: 341.2111 (Calcd for $C_{20}H_{30}O_3Na: M^++Na, 341.2093$).

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- 18. A mixture of triene **23** and **24** was separated by HPLC (CHIRALPAK AS-H, 0.46 cm×25 cm, hexane–isopropanol = 82:18, flow rate: 2.0 mL/min) to give triene **23** $(t_{\rm R} = 20.2 \text{ min})$ and triene **24** $(t_{\rm R} = 28.2 \text{ min})$. Compound **23**: $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ -179.6 (*c* 0.52, CHCl₃); IR (neat) cm⁻¹: 2924, 1734; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 6.49 (1H, dd, J = 15.2, 11.0 Hz), 6.01 (1H, t, J =11.0 Hz), 5.63 (1H, dt, J = 15.4, 6.2 Hz), 5.60 (1H, dd, J = 15.5, 7.0 Hz), 5.48 (2H, m), 5.22 (1H, q, J = 6.8 Hz), 4.24 (1H, dt, J = 11.7, 2.6 Hz), 3.46 (1H, br s), 3.40 (1H, dd, J = 2.6, 1.4 Hz), 2.94 (2H, dd, J = 6.9, 6.8 Hz), 2.71 (1H, t, J = 8.9 Hz), 2.61 (1H, m), 2.42 (1H, ddd, J = 17.7,

9.2, 7.4 Hz), 2.12 (1H, dd, J = 13.5, 7.5 Hz), 2.06 (3H, s), 1.95–1.49 (7H, m), 0.90 (3H, t, J = 7.4 Hz); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 171.8, 170.4, 131.6, 131.2, 130.3, 129.0, 128.4, 127.7, 78.5, 75.9, 60.1, 55.6, 44.7, 43.2, 30.9, 29.5, 27.5, 27.5, 27.2, 21.3, 18.8, 9.5; ESIMS *m/z*: 397 (M⁺+Na, 88), 315 (100); HRESIMS *m/z*: 397.1966 (Calcd for C₂₂H₂₀O₅Na: M⁺+Na, 397 1991)

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- 20. Agardhilactone (25): $[\alpha]_{D}^{31}$ –104.4 (*c* 0.09, CHCl₃); IR (neat) cm⁻¹: 3442, 2958, 1733; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 6.49 (1H, m), 6.05 (1H, t, *J* = 11.0 Hz), 5.70 (1H, dd, *J* = 15.1, 6.8 Hz), 5.64 (1H, m), 5.42 (2H, m), 4.24 (1H, dt, *J* = 11.7, 2.8 Hz), 4.10 (1H, m), 3.46 (1H, br s), 3.40 (1H, m), 2.94 (2H, dd, *J* = 7.4, 6.3 Hz), 2.72 (1H, t, *J* = 8.9 Hz), 2.61 (1H, m), 2.42 (1H, ddd, *J* = 17.7, 9.2, 7.3 Hz), 2.12 (1H, dd, *J* = 13.5, 7.5 Hz), 1.94–1.70 (4H, m), 1.65–1.49 (5H, m), 0.94 (3H, t, *J* = 7.4 Hz); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 171.8, 136.4, 131.3, 129.3, 129.0, 128.7, 125.5, 78.5, 74.0, 60.2, 55.7, 44.6, 43.2, 30.9, 30.2, 29.5, 27.5, 27.2, 18.8, 9.7; ESIMS *m/z*: 355 (M⁺+Na, 100); HRESIMS *m/z*: 355.1877 (Calcd for C₂₀H₂₈O₄Na: M⁺+Na, 355.1885).