Stereoselective Convergent Synthesis of a *trans*-Fused Polycyclic Ether Ring System Including a 4-Hydroxy-5-methyl-tetrahydropyran Ring

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ABSTRACT



Stereoselective convergent synthesis of a *trans*-fused 6-6-6-membered tetracyclic ether ring system including 4α - or 4β -hydroxy-5-methyltetrahydropyran was achieved. The key reactions involve the acetylide-aldehyde coupling of two tetrahydropyrans, intramolecular hetero-Michael cyclization of enone, stereoselective reduction of enone, hydroboration, intramolecular acetalization, and stereoselective reduction of the acetal with Et₃SiH–TMSOTf.

Marine polycyclic ethers, exemplified by brevetoxins, gambieric acids, yessotoxin, ciguatoxins, maitotoxin, etc., have attracted the attention of synthetic organic chemists as a result of their unique and complex structures and potent biological activities.¹ The characteristic structural feature of these natural products is a *trans*-fused polycyclic ether ring system. Among the polycyclic ether rings, several tetrahydropyran rings have a 4α - or 4β -hydroxyl-5-methyl group (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Partial structure of yessotoxin and gambieric acid

Although several convergent methods for the various ring systems have been developed,² convergent synthesis of a

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polycyclic ether ring system including 4-hydroxy-tetrahydropyran has not been reported yet. We now report an efficient strategy toward stereoselective convergent synthesis of the *trans*-fused polycyclic ether system including 4-hydroxy-5-methyl-tetrahydropyran.

Our synthetic strategy for the convergent synthesis is outlined in Scheme 1. Two tetrahydropyrans i and ii would



be coupled by addition of the acetylene to the aldehyde. After conversion to the ynone **iii**, intramolecular hetero-Michael cyclization could proceed to give the enone **iv**. Then, after conversion of **iv** into the acetal **v**, Lewis acid catalyzed silane reduction would afford the desired polycyclic ether **vi**.

With this prospect, our convergent synthesis began with coupling of acetylene $1a^3$ (R = Bn) and aldehyde 2^3 (Scheme 2). The reaction of the lithium acetylide, derived from 1a,



^{*a*} Reagents and conditions: (a) **1**, *t*-BuLi, HMPA, THF, $-78 \degree C$; **2** in THF (88% for **3a**, 76% for **3b**); (b) (COCl)₂, DMSO, CH₂Cl₂, $-78 \degree C$; Et₃N, $-78 \degree C \rightarrow rt$ (99% for **4a**, 100% for **4b**).

with 2 smoothly proceeded to give the secondary alcohol **3a** as a mixture of stereoisomers. The Swern oxidation of the alcohol **3a** quantitatively furnished the required ynone **4a**, corresponding to **iii**.

(3) See Supporting Information for the synthetic route of 1a, 1b, and 2.

First, we examined an intramolecular hetero-Michael addition of the ynone 4a for the construction of enone 6a, corresponding to the key intermediate **iv** (Scheme 3). After



 a Reagents and conditions: (a) aq HCl, MeOH, rt; (b) TBAF, THF, rt (43% from 4a).

deprotection of the TBS group in **4a** with aqueous HCl in MeOH, the cyclization of the ynone **5** was attempted by treatment with a base (NaH, Et₃N, *N*-methylmorpholine, etc.), but only the starting material **5** was recovered. On the other hand, treatment of **4a** with TBAF in THF effected deprotection of TBS and successive cyclization at room temperature for 1 h, but the yield of **6a** was 43%.

Next, we investigated hetero-Michael addition using an enone 7 having a β -methoxy group, expecting easier access of the hydroxyl group to the β -position (Scheme 4). The key intermediate **4b** (R = MPM) toward the enone **7a** was synthesized from **1b**³ and **2** by the same procedure as that for **4a** as shown in Scheme 2. The β -methoxy group was introduced by treatment of **4b** with MeONa in MeOH to give the enone **7a** in 92% yield (Scheme 4). After deprotecting the TBS group of **7a** with TBAF, cyclization of the resulting alcohol **7b** was investigated. As expected, upon treatment of **7b** with *p*-TsOH in toluene⁴ at 60 °C, the desired hetero-Michel reaction took place to give the enone **6b** in 63% yield from **7a**.

With the desired enone **6b** in hand, we next investigated the stereoselective conversion into **12** via the acetal **11**. Reduction of **6b** with DIBAH in toluene proceeded smoothly to give *equatorial* α -alcohol **8** (94%) as a single product. Subsequent hydroboration of **8** stereoselectively took place from the α -side to afford a diol (85%), which was protected as the di-TES ether **9** in 89% yield. Deprotection of the MPM group of **9** followed by Swern oxidadion gave ketone **10**. Treatment of **10** with *p*-TsOH in MeOH–CH₂Cl₂ at 55 °C effected the removal of the di-TES groups and cyclization to give the desired methyl acetal **11** in 74% yield (from **9**). Finally, reduction of the acetal **11** with Et₃SiH–TMSOTf proceeded smoothly to give the desired *trans*-fused 6-6-6-6-membered tetracyclic ether **12** as the sole product in 82% yield.

Having completed the construction of *trans*-fused 6-6-6-6-membered tetracyclic ether **12** having an *equatorial* α -hydroxyl group, we next turned to the synthesis of the

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^{*a*} Reagents and conditions: (a) MeONa, MeOH, rt (92%); (b) TBAF, THF, rt (83%); (c) *p*-TsOH·H₂O, toluene, 60 °C (76%); (d) DIBAH, toluene, -78 °C (94%); (e) BH₃·THF, THF, 0 °C; 3 N NaOH, 30% H₂O₂, 0 °C (85%); (f) TESOTf, 2,6-lutidine, CH₂Cl₂, 0 °C (89%); (g) DDQ, CH₂Cl₂-H₂O (10:1), 0 °C; (h) (COCl)₂, DMSO, CH₂Cl₂, -78 °C; Et₃N, -78 °C \rightarrow rt; (i) *p*-TsOH·H₂O, MeOH, CH₂Cl₂, 55 °C (74% from **9**); (j) Et₃SiH, TMSOTf, CH₂Cl₂, 0 °C (82%).

axial β -hydroxy isomer (Scheme 5). After the Swern oxidation of **12**, reduction of the ketone **13** with L-Selectride in THF at -78 °C proceeded smoothly to give only the desired β -alcohol **14** in 91% yield from **12**.⁵ The stereo-structure of both tetracyclic ethers, **12** and **14**, was confirmed by the ¹H and ¹³C NMR and NOE analysis of the corresponding acetates **15** and **16**, prepared from **12** and **14**, respectively, by acetylation (Figure 2).

Scheme 5^a



^{*a*} Reagents and conditions: (a) (COCl)₂, DMSO, CH₂Cl₂, -78 °C; Et₃N, -78 °C \rightarrow rt; (b) L-Selectride, THF, -78 °C (91% from **12**).

In conclusion, we have developed an efficient convergent synthesis of a *trans*-fused 6-6-6-membered tetracyclic ether ring system including 4α - or 4β -hydroxy-5-methyl-tetra-hydropyran in a stereoselective manner. This strategy would be widely applicable to efficient and stereoselective synthesis of natural polycyclic ethers. Further studies along these lines are currently in progress in our laboratory.



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Supporting Information Available: Synthetic scheme for compounds 1 and 2, experimental procedures and spectral data for **3b**-**14**, and ¹H NMR spectra of **4b**, **6b**, **7b**, **12**, and **14**. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

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