ORGANIC LETTERS

2004
Vol. 6, No. 12
1903−1905

Copper(I)-Catalyzed Intramolecular Asymmetric [2 + 2] Photocycloaddition. Synthesis of Both Enantiomers of Cyclobutane Derivatives

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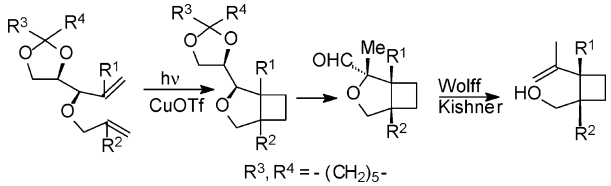
Received February 20, 2004

ABSTRACT



A simple approach for asymmetric induction in Cu(I)-catalyzed [2 + 2] photocycloaddition, where asymmetric catalysts or chiral auxiliaries were inefficient, has been developed using the concept of chirality transfer from the readily available 2, 3-di-*O*-cyclohexylidine-(*R*)-(+)-glyceraldehyde. An anion-induced cleavage of the tetrahydrofuran ring of the resulting oxa-bicyclo[3.2.0]heptanes led to a convenient access to the synthetically useful cis-1,2-disubstituted cyclobutanes in enantiomerically pure form.

The [2 + 2] photocycloaddition reaction, giving rise to cyclobutanes, is an extremely useful synthetic tool[1,2] in organic synthesis. Its asymmetric version using a removable chiral auxiliary works efficiently in the case of photocycloaddition[3] between an alkene and an enone. However, copper(I) catalysis[2] required for photocycloaddition between two nonconjugated alkenes proceeds with low des with a variety of chiral auxiliaries.[4] More strikingly, asymmetric catalysis, which is highly successful in inducing high enantioselectivity in a variety of reactions,[5] including many cycloaddition processes, fails to induce significant asymmetry in copper(I)-catalyzed photocycloaddition.[4] The multifaceted application of copper(I)-catalyzed [2 + 2] photocycloaddition in organic synthesis[6] thus necessitates the development of its asymmetric version. We herein report a simple general solution to the problem of asymmetric induction in intramolecular copper(I)-catalyzed [2 + 2] photocycloaddition reaction.

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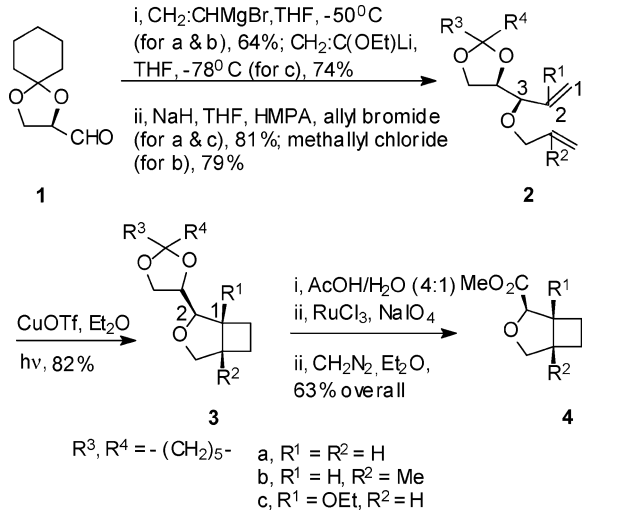
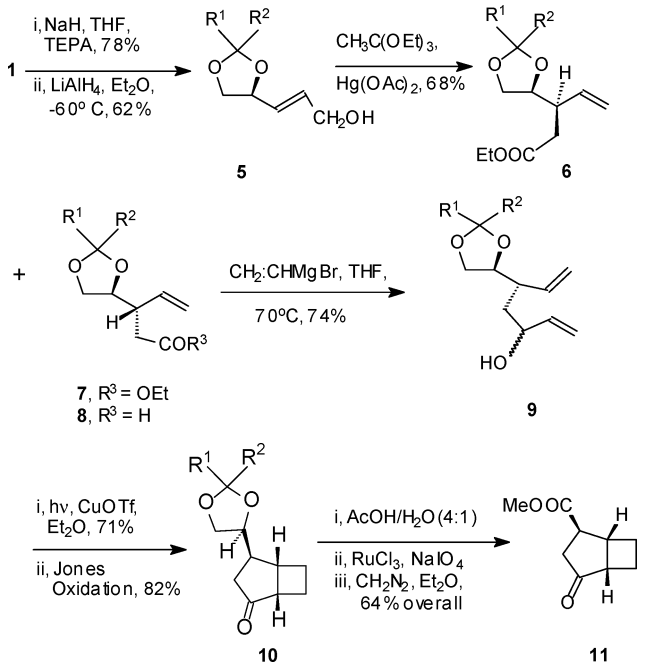
10.1021/ol049696h CCC: $27.50
Published on Web 05/15/2004

Scheme 1



Scheme 2



The present approach relies on the transfer of the chirality at C-2 of 2,3-di-*O*-cyclohexylidine-(*R*)-(+)-glyceraldehyde **1**[7] to cis-1,2-disubstituted cyclobutanes through a "relay" process as new chiral centers are generated sequentially. Of the two chirality transfer steps, the first one is illustrated by the synthesis of both enantiomers of the oxa-bicyclo[3.2.0]-heptane derivative **4a** (Scheme 1). Reaction of the aldehyde **1** with vinylmagnesium bromide followed by allylation of the resulting carbinols afforded an inseparable mixture of the diene **2a**[8] and its C-3 epimer in a ca. 3:2 ratio in overall excellent yield. Smooth cycloaddition took place when an ether solution of this diene mixture was irradiated with a Hanovia 450W mercury vapor lamp through a quartz immersion well in the presence of copper(I)trifluoromethane sulfonate (CuOTf) (20−25 mol %) to lead to the photoadduct **3a** and its C-2 epimer. The exo stereochemical assignment of the substituents at C-1, C-2, and C-5 is based on analogy[9] to the formation of the exo adducts from photocycloaddition of 3-alkyl-1,6-dienes. The chiral center present in the chiral auxiliary of the adduct **3a** was then destroyed by a three-step sequence involving acid-induced deketalization (80% aqueous acetic acid)−oxidative cleavage of the resulting diol ($RuCl_3-NaIO_4-CH_3CN-CCl_4-H_2O$) and esterification ($CH_2N_2$) to afford the ester **4a**, $[\alpha]^{25}_D$ + 16.9 (*c* 1.38, $CHCl_3$). Similarly, the C-2 epimer of the adduct **3a** gave the other enantiomer of **4a**, $[\alpha]^{25}_D$ −17.6 (*c* 1.39, $CHCl_3$). In a similar fashion, the dienes **2b** and **2c** and their C-3 epimeric diastereoisomers afforded in each case a pair of the cyclobutanes **4b** and **4c**.

This sequence can also be extended for the synthesis of both enantiomers of the bicyclo[3.2.0]heptane **11**. The required 1,6-diene unit can be crafted conveniently on the glyceraldehyde derivative **1** (Scheme 2). Wittig−Horner reaction of the aldehyde **1** with triethyl phosphonoacetate (TEPA) followed by $LiAlH_4$ reduction of the resulting unsaturated ester afforded the allyl alcohol **5**. Ortho ester Claisen rearrangement of the allyl alcohol **5** on heating with triethyl orthoacetate afforded a 1:1 chromatographically separable mixture of the unsaturated esters **6** (R_t = 2.67 min) and **7** (R_t = 2.87 min). The pure ester **7** was then converted to the aldehyde **8** by $LiAlH_4$ reduction followed by Swern oxidation of the resulting alcohol. Addition of vinylmagnesium bromide to the aldehyde **8** resulted in a diastereoisomeric mixture of the dienols **9**. Irradiation of this diene mixture in the presence of CuOTf followed by Swern oxidation of the photoadducts gave the ketone **10**. The stereochemical assignment of the adduct **10** was based on analogy to earlier works[9] on photocycloaddition of 3-alkyl-substituted dienes. As before, the chirality in the chiral pendant was removed to provide the cyclobutane derivative **11,** $[\alpha]^{25}_D$ +248.1 (*c* 0.8, $CHCl_3$). Similarly, the unsaturated ester **6** gave the other enantiomer of the cyclobutane derivative **11**, $[\alpha]^{25}_D$ −250.2 (*c* 2.4, $CHCl_3$). The CD spectra of each pair of the cyclobutane derivatives of the structures **4c** and **11** confirmed their enantiomeric relationship. The synthesis of both enantiomers of cyclobutane derivatives from 2,3-di-*O*-cyclohexylidine-(*R*)-(+)-glyceraldehyde **1** is noteworthy, as the enantiomer (*S*)-(−)-**1** is not readily available. This concept of asymmetric induction has not been employed earlier[4] in intramolecular Cu(I)-catalyzed [2 + 2] photocycloaddition reactions.

The synthetic potential of this protocol could be enhanced if fragmentation of the relatively inert tetrahydrofuran ring in the oxa-bicyclo[3.2.0]heptanes could be achieved. We anticipated that generation of a radical **12** or an anion **13**

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(8) Stereochemical assignment of the dienes **2** and **9** will be described in a full account of this work.

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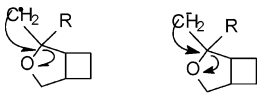
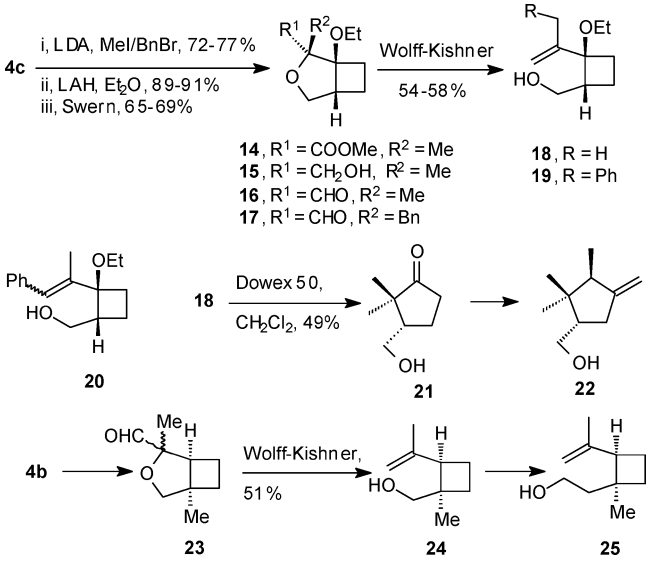


12 **13**

might trigger fragmentation of the tetrahydrofuran ring. Toward this end, the lithium enolate generated from the ester **4c** was methylated to produce exclusively the exo methylated product **14** (Scheme 3).

Scheme 3



The ester **14** was then reduced to the alcohol **15**. Transformation of the alcohol **15** to the corresponding bromide or xanthate, probable precursors for the radical **12**, could not be achieved. Wolff−Kishner reduction of aldehyde group to methyl is known to proceed through a carbanionic intermediate. Thus, we anticipated that the aldehyde **16** could be a precursor for the anion equivalent to **13**. Swern oxidation of the alcohol **15** afforded the aldehyde **16**. The aldehyde **16**, when subjected to Wolff−Kishner condition, underwent smooth fragmentation to deliver the disubstituted cyclobutane **18** in 54% yield. The fragmentation process is general. The aldehydes **17** and **23** prepared from the esters **4c** and **4b** gave the disubstituted cyclobutanes **20** and **24** in 51 and 58% yields, respectively. The product **20** appears to arise from isomerization of the initially formed olefin **19**. To the best of our knowledge, the present protocol for the fragmentation[10] of tetrahydrofuran rings is unprecedented. Cis-1,2-disubstituted cyclobutanes obtained in this way are of considerable synthetic use. For example, the cyclobutane dervative **18**, when treated with Dowex-50, smoothly rearranged to the known cyclopentanone **21**[6f] $[\alpha]^{25}_{D}$ −63 (*c* 0.8, $CHCl_3$), an intermediate in our synthesis[6i] of the monoterpene *β*-necrodol **22**. The cyclobutane derivative **24** $[\alpha]^{25}_{D}$ −4.1 (*c* 0.9, $CHCl_3$) has already been transformed to (−)-grandisol **25**[11a] by one-carbon homologation.

In conclusion, we developed a simple approach for asymmetric induction in intramolecular Cu(I)-catalyzed [2 + 2] photocycloaddition where asymmetric catalysts or chiral auxiliaries were inefficient. This, in combination with the new protocol developed for the cleavage of tetrahydrofuran rings present in oxa-bicyclo[3.2.0]heptanes, resulted in the synthesis of useful cis-1,2-disubstituted cyclobutanes in enantiomerically pure form.

Acknowledgment. This work was supported by Department of Science and Technology, Government of India. N.S. and A.N. wish to thank CSIR, New Delhi, for research Fellowships.

Supporting Information Available: Copies of ^{1}H and ^{13}C NMR spectra of compounds **2**−**4**, **9**, and **10** along with their diastereoisomers, **11**, **14**, **16**−**18**, **20**, and **23**, ^{1}H NMR spectrum of the compound **24**, CD spectra of compounds **4c** and **11**, and a representative experimental procedure. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

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