Stereoselective Total Synthesis of (+)-Norrisolide**

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In memory of David J. Faulkner

Nudibranch molluscs are known to harvest a variety of chemical metabolites from sponges and use them for their own defense.^[1,2] In an effort to understand this behavior from a chemical perspective, Faulkner and co-workers isolated a novel diterpene named norrisolide (1) from the skin extracts of the dorid nudibranch *Chromodoris norrisi*.^[3] Further studies led to the isolation of 1 from different species of sponges that support the feeding patterns of these molluscs.^[4]

From a structural standpoint, norrisolide belongs to a family of marine diterpenes that also includes macfarlandin C (2) and dendrillolide A (3; Scheme 1).^[5] These natural



Scheme 1. Representative natural products with a fused tetrahydrofuran– γ -lactone ring system

products share a common structural motif characterized by a fused γ -lactone– γ -lactol ring system attached to a hydrophobic bicyclic core. The unusual pattern of functionalities encountered in this highly oxygenated system confers to these molecules a high degree of chemical reactivity, the biological significance of which remains largely unexplored.^[6] Herein we describe a stereoselective synthesis of (+)-norrisolide (1). Not only have our studies led to the first synthesis of any member of this family of diterpenes, but they have also established the absolute configuration of 1 to be that shown in Scheme 1.^[7,8]

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Supporting information for this article is available on the WWW under http://www.angewandte.org or from the author. Our retrosynthetic strategy towards norrisolide (1) is illustrated in Scheme 2. As we were concerned about the potential reactivity of the fused γ -lactone– γ -lactol motif



Scheme 2. Strategic bond disconnections of **1**. TBDPS = *tert*-butyldiphenylsilyl.

towards nucleophilic attack, we attempted the synthesis of 1 via the less-oxygenated and more-stable precursor 4.^[9] In the forward direction, we envisaged that 4 could be converted into the natural product through oxidation at C14 and subsequent insertion of an oxygen atom between the C19 and C21 centers. The latter manipulation would be possible, in principle, by a Baeyer-Villiger oxidation, which was expected to proceed in a regio- and stereoselective manner.^[10] Disconnection at the C9-C10 bond in 4 unveils components 5 and 6, which could be connected in the desired manner by a nucleophilic reaction at the aldehyde in 6. It was planned to construct the bicyclic framework of 6 from the lactone 8, which contains the desired cis stereochemistry at the C11 and C12 centers. The trans-fused hydrindane motif of 5 could be formed from the enantiomerically enriched enone (+)-7. Our efforts to bring this plan to fruition are highlighted in the schemes that follow.

Our synthetic approach began with the optically pure enone 7, which was available through an L-phenylalaninemediated asymmetric Robinson annulation (55-65% yield, >95% ee after a single recrystallization).^[11] Selective reduction at the more reactive C9 carbonyl group, followed by protection of the resulting alcohol, afforded the silvl ether 9 in 76% yield over the two steps (Scheme 3).^[12] Methylation of the extended enolate of 9 at the C5 center produced ketone 10 (66% yield), the reduction and radical deoxygenation of which led to the alkene 11 in 83% yield (from 10). Several methods were examined for the conversion of the alkene 11 into the trans-fused bicycle 12.[13] The best results were obtained by hydroxylation of the double bond (ratio at C6: trans/cis 2.5:1) and subsequent reduction of the resulting alcohol (52% yield from 11). The use of the bulky TBDPS group to protect the C9 hydroxy group was found to be crucial in terms of the diastereomeric outcome of the hydroxylation reaction.^[11d] Fluoride-induced desilvlation of **12** followed by

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Scheme 3. Reagents and conditions: a) NaBH₄ (0.33 equiv), EtOH, -25 °C, 0.5 h, 99%; b) imidazole (2.5 equiv), TBDPSCI (2.0 equiv), DMAP (0.1 equiv), DMF, 25 °C, 4 h, 77%; c) tBuOK, Mel, DMF, 25 °C, 1 h, 66%; d) NaBH₄ (1.2 equiv), MeOH, 0°C, 1 h, 100%; e) *n*BuLi (1.2 equiv), 0°C, 0.5 h, CS₂ (10 equiv), 2 h, then MeI (3.0 equiv), THF, 0.5 h, 95%; f) nBu₃SnH (2.5 equiv), AIBN (0.1 equiv), toluene, 120°C, 0.25 h, 87%; g) BH₃·THF (3.0 equiv), THF, 0°C, 12 h, then aqueous NaOH (3 м, 20 equiv), H₂O₂ (20 equiv), 25 °С, 12 h, 80% (56% trans, 24% cis); h) nBuLi (1.2 equiv), 0°C, 0.5 h, CS₂ (10 equiv), 2 h, then Mel (3.0 equiv), THF, 0°C, 0.5 h; i) nBu₃SnH (2.5 equiv), AIBN (0.1 equiv), toluene, 120°C, 0.25 h, 92% (over two steps); j) TBAF (3.0 equiv), THF, 60 °C, 8 h, 99%; k) PCC (4.5 equiv), celite, CH2Cl2, 25 °C, 1 h, 92 %; l) N₂H₄·H₂O (30 equiv), Et₃N (4.0 equiv), EtOH, reflux, 5 h, 88%; m) I₂ (until N₂ evolution has ceased), Et₃N (10 equiv), THF, 25 °C, 0.25 h, 62 %. AIBN = azobisisobutyronitrile, DMAP = 4-dimethylaminopyridine, DMF = N, N-dimethylformamide, PCC = pyridinium chlorochromate TBAF = tetrabutylammonium fluoride

PCC oxidation provided the ketone **13** in 91% yield.^[14] The treatment of **13** with hydrazine then produced the hydrazone **14**. Single-crystal X-ray diffraction analysis of **14** showed the *trans* junction of the bicycle unambiguously.^[15] Finally, treatment of **14** with I_2/Et_3N led to the formation of the desired vinyl iodide **5** (62% yield).^[16]

The construction of aldehyde 6 is highlighted in Scheme 4. The C11 and C12 centers were connected by a Diels-Alder reaction between the butenolide $15^{[17]}$ and butadiene (16). Under Lewis acid catalysis this cycloaddition proceeded exclusively from the opposite face to that with the bulky TBDPS group to afford 8 as a single isomer (85% yield).^[18] Reduction of the lactone unit at C20, followed by oxidative cleavage of the alkene in the other ring, produced the fused lactol 17 in 63% yield as a 1:1 mixture of isomers at C14. These compounds were separated^[19] after conversion into the corresponding methyl ether 18.^[20] The aldehyde 18 (β isomer with respect to C14) was then converted into the selenide 19, which underwent oxidation and elimination to give the alkene 20 (61 % from 18).^[21] Osmylation of 20, followed by oxidative cleavage of the resulting diol, furnished the aldehyde 6 (two steps, 94% vield). The aldehyde 6 was crystalline and its



Scheme 4. Reagents and conditions: a) AlCl₃ (0.33 equiv), CH₂Cl₂, 60 °C, 6 days, 85%; b) DIBAL-H (1.2 equiv), CH₂Cl₂, -78 °C, 0.5 h, 98%; c) OsO₄ (0.01 equiv), NMO (1.1 equiv), pyridine (3 drops), acetone/H₂O (10:1), 25 °C, 8 h; d) Pb(OAc)₄ (1.2 equiv), CH₂Cl₂, 0 °C, 0.5 h, 64% (over two steps); e) MeOH (1.2 equiv), amberlyst 15, molecular sieves (3 Å), Et₂O, 25 °C, 10 h, 77% (**18** α/**18** β 1:1); f) NaBH₄ (1.5 equiv), MeOH, 25 °C, 0.5 h; g) imidazole (2.2 equiv), PPh₃ (1.1 equiv), I₂ (1.2 equiv), THF, 25 °C, 0.5 h, 93% (over two steps); h) (PhSe)₂ (0.55 equiv), NaBH₄ (1.5 equiv), EtOH, 25 °C, 0.5 h, 92%; i) NaIO₄ (1.6 equiv), MeOH/H₂O (5:2), 25 °C, 1 h, then Et₃N/ PhH (1:1), reflux, 0.5 h, 90%; j) OsO₄ (0.05 equiv), NMO (1.1 equiv), pyridine (3 drops), acetone/H₂O (10:1), 25 °C, 10 h; k) Pb(OAc)₄ (1.2 equiv), CH₂Cl₂, 0 °C, 0.5 h, 94% (over two steps). DIBAL-H = diisobutylaluminum hydride, NMO = 4-methylmorpholine *N*-oxide.

structure was confirmed unambiguously by X-ray crystallographic analysis.^[15]

The remaining steps in the synthesis of **1** are illustrated in Scheme 5. Lithiation of the vinyl iodide **5**, followed by addition of the aldehyde **6** and oxidation of the resulting alcohol, afforded the enone **21** in 71% yield. Hydrogenation of the C8–C9 double bond proceeded exclusively from the more accessible α face of the bicyclic core to form the ketone **22** in 75% yield. Standard olefination procedures (Wittig, Peterson) failed to convert **22** into **4**, presumably as a result of the steric hindrance at the C10 carbonyl group. This obstacle was circumvented by implementing a two-step procedure that included methylation of the ketone **22** (MeLi, DME) and treatment of the resulting alcohol with SOCl₂ in the presence of pyridine.^[22] This manipulation produced the alkene **4** in 64% yield from **22**.

With substrate **4** in hand the stage was now set for the final functionalization of the oxygenated bicycle (Scheme 5). The silyl ether at C21 was cleaved (99% yield), and the resulting alcohol was then oxidized to the aldehyde **23**^[23] and subsequently converted into the ketone **24** (MeMgBr, then Dess-Martin oxidation, 68% yield). Treatment of **24** with CrO₃ in aqueous acetic acid produced the lactone **25** in 80% yield.^[24] Finally, Baeyer–Villiger oxidation of **25** (MCPBA, NaHCO₃, 60% yield) led to insertion of the oxygen atom as desired between the C19 and C21 centers with complete retention of



Scheme 5. Reagents and conditions: a) **5** (1.5 equiv), tBuLi (3.0 equiv), THF, $-78 \rightarrow -40^{\circ}$ C, 0.5 h, then **6**, THF, -78° C, 1 h, 75%; b) Dess-Martin periodinane (8.0 equiv), CH₂Cl₂, 25°C, 10 h, 95%; c) 10% Pd/ C, H₂, MeOH, 25°C, 10 h, 85%; d) MeLi (5.0 equiv), THF/DME (1:3), 0°C, 0.5 h, 75%; e) SOCl₂ (10.0 equiv), pyridine (20.0 equiv), CH₂Cl₂, 0°C, 0.5 h, 85%; f) TBAF (2.0 equiv), THF, 25°C, 8 h, 99%; g) IBX (3.0 equiv), MeCN, 80°C, 2 h, 96%; h) MeMgBr (10.0 equiv), THF, 0°C, 0.5 h, 72%; i) Dess-Martin periodinane (2.5 equiv), CH₂Cl₂, 25°C, 6 h, 94%; j) CrO₃ (10 equiv), AcOH/H₂O (2:1), 25°C, 6 h, 80%; k) MCPBA (2.5 equiv), NaHCO₃ (2.5 equiv), CH₂Cl₂, 0°C, 4 h, 60%. DME = dimethoxyethane, DM[O] = Dess-Martin oxidation, IBX = 1-hydroxy-1,2-benziodoxol-3(1*H*)-one 1-oxide, MCPBA = *m*-chloroperbenzoic acid.

configuration^[10] to produce norrisolide (1). Synthetic 1 was spectroscopically and analytically identical to natural norrisolide (1).

In conclusion, we have presented herein a synthesis of (+)-norrisolide (1) that also establishes its absolute stereochemistry. Our strategy is highlighted by the union of fragments 5 and 6 to produce the natural product after manipulations of the oxygenated bicyclic moiety. The synthetic approach paves the way for the preparation of analogues of 1 and will be helpful for the evaluation of the biological potential of norrisolide and related metabolites.

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