

Design and Synthesis of 1-Thia-3,8-diyn-5-ene Systems with DNA-cleaving Properties related to the Neocarzinostatin Chromophore

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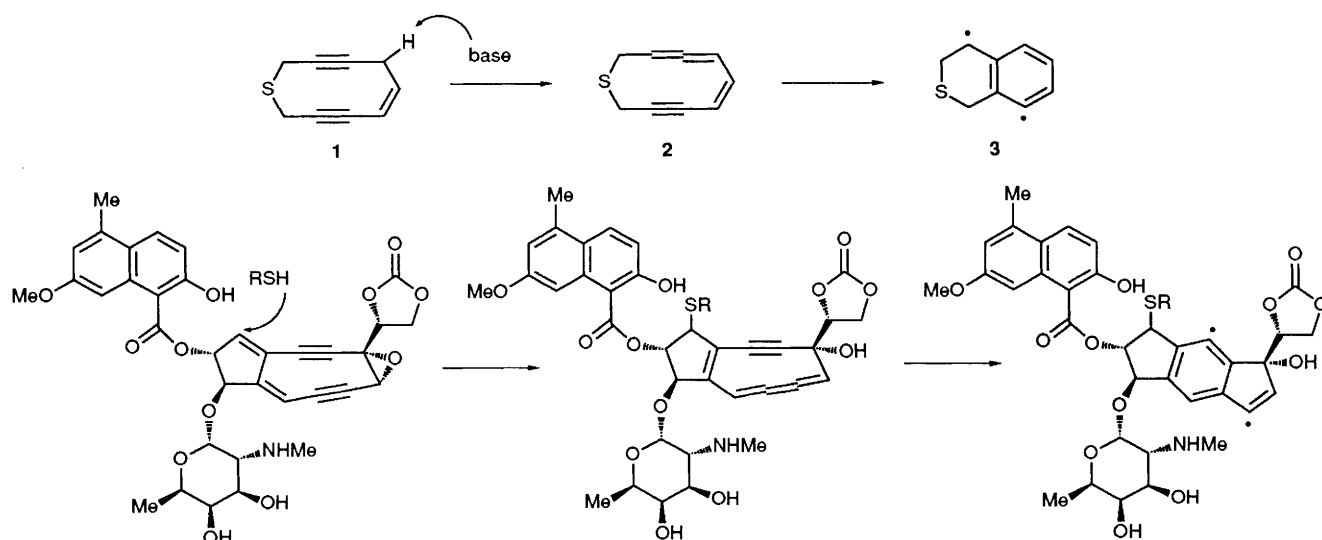
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1-Thia-3,8-diyn-5-ene compounds **5–10**, which are derivatives of the parent compound **1** are synthesized in a short step with high stability; these compounds show DNA-cleaving activity under basic conditions in the absence of any additives.

In recent years considerable attention has been directed towards the design and synthesis of DNA-cleaving molecules¹ in relation to the various enediyne anticancer antibiotics such as neocarzinostatin,² calicheamicins,³ esperamicins⁴ and dynemicins.⁵ We recently reported that the new 1-thia-3,8-diyn-5-ene compound **1** was easily prepared with high stability at ambient temperature; **1** was smoothly cyclized under specific basic conditions to produce the diradical **3** through an enyne-allene intermediate **2**,^{6,7} reminiscent of the chemistry of the neocarzinostatin chromophore **4**⁸ (Scheme 1). Also, we have demonstrated another diradical formation by a selenium-

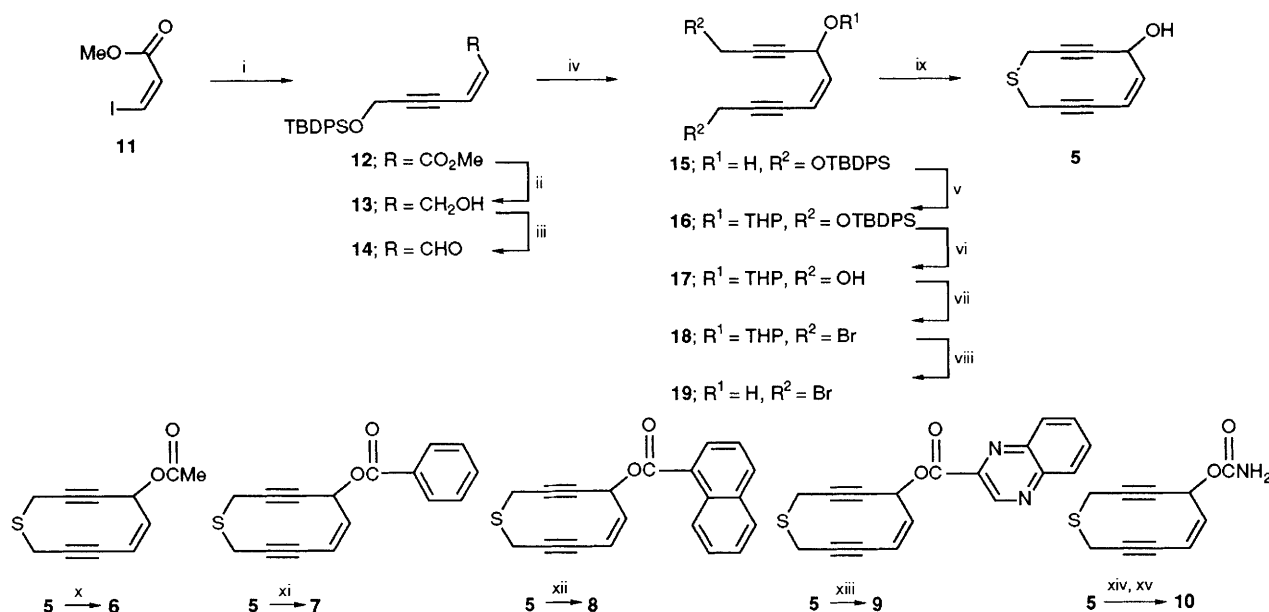
mediated aromatization of **1**.⁹ Since the diradical generated by Myers type cyclization has been proposed to play a crucial role in the DNA-cleaving process of the antitumour antibiotic neocarzinostatin,⁸ we could expect that **1** would cleave DNA under basic conditions without any additives. In this communication, we report that **1** and its designed derivatives **5–10** possessing the 1-thia-3,8-diyn-5-ene structure show such DNA-cleaving activity.

The DNA-cleaving activity of the key compound **1** was assayed with supercoiled Φ X174 DNA in various pH buffers. As expected, **1** was found to cleave DNA in a striking



Neocarzinostatin chromophore 4

Scheme 1



Scheme 2 Reagents and conditions: i, 1.1 equiv. $\text{HCCCH}_2\text{OTBDPS}$, 0.04 equiv. $(\text{Ph}_3\text{P})_2\text{PdCl}_2$, 0.16 equiv. CuI , 1.5 equiv. Et_3N , THF, $0^\circ\text{C} \rightarrow$ room temp., 2 h, 82%; ii, 2.5 equiv. DIBAL-H , toluene, -78°C , 30 min, 99%; iii, 30 equiv. MnO_2 , CH_2Cl_2 , room temp., 1 h, 100%; iv, 1.5 equiv. $\text{HCCCH}_2\text{OTBDPS}$, 1.4 equiv. $\text{Bu}^\text{n}\text{Li}$, THF, -91°C , 1 h, 87% v, 1.1 equiv. DHP , 0.01 equiv. CSA , CH_2Cl_2 , $0^\circ\text{C} \rightarrow$ room temp., 1 h, 100% vi, 2.0 equiv. TBAF , THF, room temp., 1 h, 84%; vii, 2.0 equiv. CBr_4 , 3.5 equiv. $[\text{Me}(\text{CH}_2)_7]_3\text{P}$, Et_2O , $0^\circ\text{C} \rightarrow$ room temp., 1.5 h, 67%; viii, 0.2 equiv. CSA , MeOH , $0^\circ\text{C} \rightarrow$ room temp., 1.5 h, 97%; ix, 1.5 equiv. $\text{Na}_2\text{S} \cdot 9\text{H}_2\text{O}$, 95% EtOH (0.01 mol dm^{-3}), room temp., 4 h, 67% x, 1.5 equiv. Ac_2O , 1.0 equiv. 4- DMAP , pyridine, room temp., 16 h, 94%; xi, 1.2 equiv. BzCl , 3.0 equiv. Et_3N , 0.4 equiv. 4- DMAP , CH_2Cl_2 , room temp., 2.5 h, 88%; xii, 2.4 equiv. 1-naphthoyl chloride, 3.0 equiv. Et_3N , CH_2Cl_2 , 0°C , 10 min, 85%; xiii, 1.2 equiv. 2-quinolaloyl chloride, 1.5 equiv. Et_3N , CH_2Cl_2 , 0°C , 2 h, 71% xiv, 1.5 equiv. $\text{ClCH}_2\text{CONCO}$, CH_2Cl_2 , 0°C , 2 h, 84%; xv, 2.0 equiv. Zn , MeOH , room temp., 2 h, 67%

pH-dependent fashion and in only alkaline buffers solutions. Thus, incubation of **1** ($1000 \mu\text{mol dm}^{-3}$) with the covalently closed circular DNA (form I) aerobically at pH 8.0–9.0 and 42°C caused single strand break as well as the action of the neocarzinostatin chromophore,¹⁰ leading to the nicked open circular DNA (form II) as shown in Fig. 1.[†] However, its efficiency was not very high. So, the expectation that high solubility of the compound in a buffer, high acidity of the hydrogen at C-7 position, DNA intercalators and other DNA binding moieties would enhance the potency of this compound

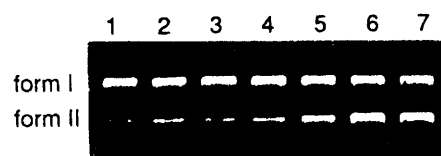


Fig. 1 DNA cleavage by **1** at various pH s. ΦX174 form I DNA ($50 \mu\text{mol dm}^{-3}$ per base pair) was incubated for 24 h at 42°C with **1** ($1000 \mu\text{mol dm}^{-3}$) in 20% DMSO (dimethyl sulfoxide) in various pH buffers and analysed by electrophoresis (1% agarose gel, ethidium bromide stain). Lane 1, DNA alone at pH 8.5; lanes 2–7 correspond to pH 6.0, 7.0, 7.5, 8.0, 8.5 and 9.0, respectively. Control experiments at the above pH values in the absence of agent demonstrated no DNA cleavage.

[†] DNA cleavage experiments were repeated more than two times and a similar trend for DNA-cleaving pattern was observed.

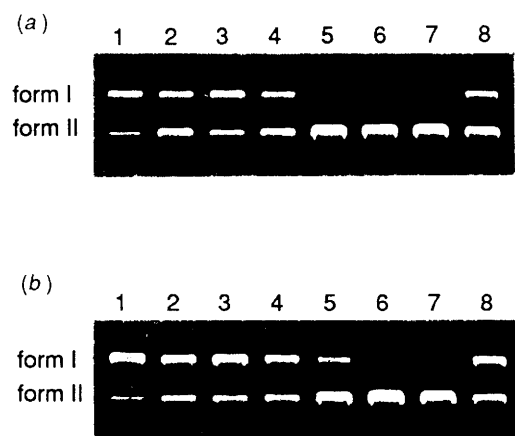


Fig. 2 Φ X174 form I DNA ($50 \mu\text{mol dm}^{-3}$ per base pair) was incubated for 24 h at (a) $T = 42^\circ\text{C}$ and (b) $T = 37^\circ\text{C}$ with various compounds ($1000 \mu\text{mol dm}^{-3}$) in 20% DMSO in Tris-acetate buffer (pH 8.5, 50 mmol dm^{-3}) and analysed by electrophoresis (1% agarose gel, ethidium bromide stain). Lane 1, DNA alone; lanes 2–8 correspond to compounds **1**, **5**–**10**, respectively.

as a DNA cleaver was born out on this stage. Thus, several derivatives of **1**, **5**–**10**† were synthesized from **11**¹¹ via vinyl iodine–acetylene coupling by using a Pd^0 – Cu^1 catalyst¹² and the cyclization reaction¹³ of the dibromo product **19** as key operations (Scheme 2). The new compounds **5**–**10** and **1** were quite stable at ambient temperature. Further, it was found that the mode of aromatization of the representative compound **7**‡ under basic conditions (DBU-CCl_4)¶ was similar to that of **1**.⁶ The results of assay of DNA-cleaving activity of these compounds under similar conditions are shown in Fig. 2.† The compounds **7**, **8** and **9**, each of which has an intercalative aromatic moiety, benzene, naphthalene and quinoxaline, obviously exhibited much higher potency as DNA-cleaving agents than other molecules. Although two alternative modes of action of **1** and **5**–**10** on DNA have been considered, the alkylation mechanism, which involved the nucleophilic addition of DNA bases on the conjugated allene

moiety¹⁴ could not be ruled out; DNA cleavage by the radical mechanism is more probable considering our results.

In summary, our present work showed that even a highly simple and stable model has DNA-cleaving property and its activity could be much improved by the introduction of a DNA intercalative moiety.

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† All new compounds were purified by silica gel column chromatography and were fully characterized by spectroscopic analysis.

§ The results of aromatizations of **7** will be published elsewhere in detail.

¶ Abbreviations used: DBU (1,8-diazabicyclo[5.4.0]undec-7-ene; TBDPS (*tert*-butyldiphenylsilyl); THF (tetrahydrofuran); DIBAL-H (diisobutylaluminium hydride); DHP (dihydropyran); CSA (camphorsulfonic acid); TBAF (tetrabutylammonium fluoride); DMAP (dimethylaminopyridine); Bz (benzoyl).