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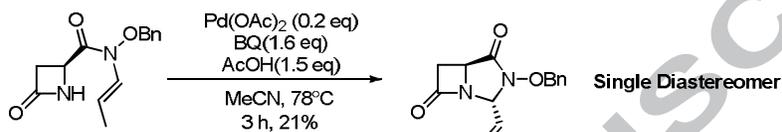


Graphical Abstract

Diastereoselective synthesis of a hydroxamate containing bicyclo-[3.2.0] β -lactam aminal via ruthenium alkene isomerization and Pd(II)-catalyzed oxidative amidation

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Diastereoselective synthesis of a hydroxamate containing bicyclo-[3.2.0] β -lactam aминаl via ruthenium alkene isomerization and Pd(II)-catalyzed oxidative amidation

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ABSTRACT

With antibiotic resistance on the rise, the need for new medicinal scaffolds is needed. The synthesis of an aминаl bicyclic β -lactam core is described. The key synthetic step is Pd(II)-catalyzed oxidative amidation. The product is a single diastereomer, confirmed by x-ray crystallography.

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1. Introduction

The β -lactam family continues to be a mainstay in the never ending microbial war. Despite being discovered over 80 years ago, this class of antibiotics has almost single-handedly substantially increased life expectancy. First starting out with the classic penam (penicillin) core, this family has undergone significant evolution in response to bacterial resistance. Bacteria have a multitude of mechanisms which render β -lactams inactive, such as porin depletion and β -lactamases which inactivate β -lactams via hydrolysis.¹ Thus there is dire need to both innovate and improve upon the current β -lactam medicinal arsenal. Herein we report the synthesis of a bicyclic aминаl β -lactam core featuring hydroxamate functionality.

We have become interested in the incorporation of hydroxamates and hydroxamic acids into bicyclic β -lactam scaffolds. Recently, we reported on the syntheses of hydroxamate and hydroxamic acid containing bicyclic β -lactams via palladium-catalyzed oxidative amidation of alkenes.² With this work in mind, we were interested to see if the methodology could be extended to other bicyclic hydroxamate containing β -lactam cores. Of particular interest was the aминаl core, one in which the hydroxamate functionality has been moved around the ring (Figure 1).

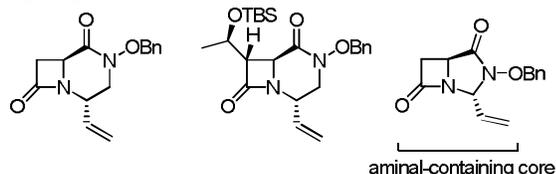
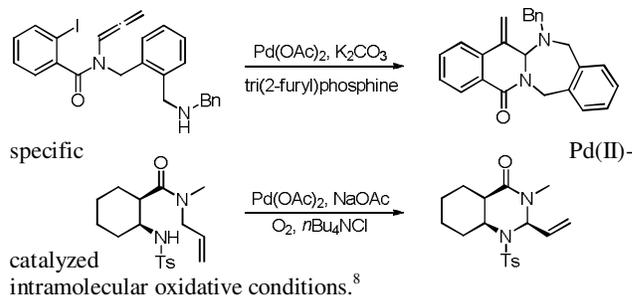


Figure 1. Previously Reported Cores and Proposed Core.

The aминаl, or *N,N*-acetal³ functional group has been previously incorporated into bicyclic β -lactams.^{4,5} As a ready example, Branch and Pearson utilized a 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition which underwent thermolysis to access amide-containing bicyclic-[3.2.0] and [4.2.0] β -lactams. Additionally, there have been reports of transition metal catalyzed amidations to give aминаl cores of varying sizes. Grigg synthesized aминаls through Pd(0)-catalyzed cyclization of allenes with aryl iodides, followed by attack of an amine on the resulting π -allyl complex. (Scheme 1).⁶⁻⁷ Balazs demonstrated that aминаl heterocycles of varying size could be obtained when tosyl protected cis and trans *N*-allyl-2-aminocyclohexanecarboxamides were subjected to

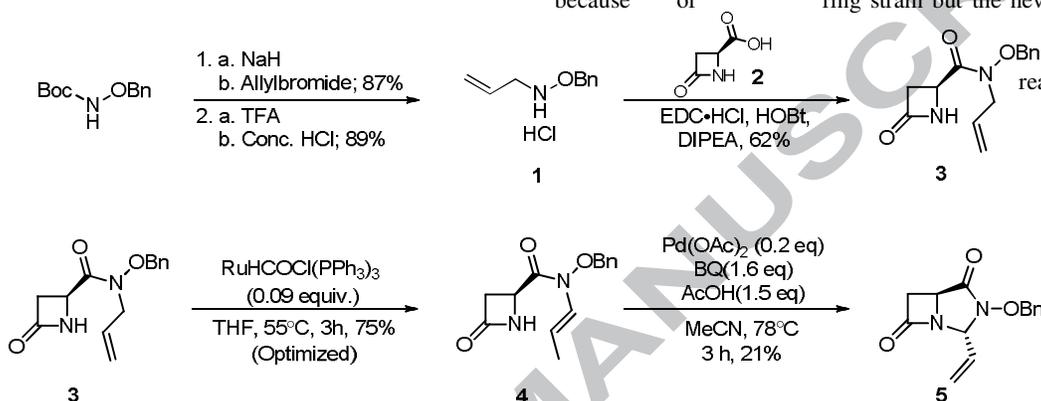


Scheme 1. Sample Precedented Cyclizations to Afford Aминаls.

2. Synthesis and Discussion

While our earlier studies² provided methodology for direct incorporation of a hydroxamate into a bicyclic β -lactam and the precedents noted above indicated that cyclic amins can be

formed using Pd-mediated chemistry, generation of a highly strained bicyclic amina with one nitrogen as part of a β -lactam and the other a hydroxamate was anticipated to be a significant test of the methodology and inherent stability of the potential product. With these concerns in mind, we decided to first test the ability to form the novel bicyclic β -lactam amina core. Our successful synthesis of the amina bicyclic core is shown in Scheme 2. First *N*-Boc-*O*-benzylhydroxylamine was alkylated with allylbromide followed by treatment with TFA and concentrated HCl to give *N*-allyl-*O*-benzylhydroxylamine



Scheme 2. Synthesis of Bicyclo-[3.2.0] β -lactam Amina.

hydrochloride⁹ **1** in good yield. This hydroxylamine was then coupled to 4-carboxy β -lactam **2**¹⁰ with EDC·HCl and HOBT to give β -lactam hydroxamate **3**. Alkene isomerization¹¹⁻¹² conditions were then screened (Table 1). Among the catalysts screened, RuHCOCl(PPh₃)₃¹³⁻¹⁴ (0.09 equiv.) in refluxing THF with careful NMR monitoring resulted in an optimized 75% yield of **4**. With **4** in hand, we then tested conditions for cyclization to amina **5**. Aza-Wacker cyclization conditions (Pd(OAc)₂, pyridine, and O₂) resulted in the decomposition of **4**. However Pd(II)-catalyzed oxidative amidation conditions (Pd(OAc)₂, 1,4-benzoquinone, and AcOH) in freshly distilled MeCN at 50°C for 22 h gave **5** with an initial yield of 18%. The yield was slightly enhanced by changing both the Pd loading and reaction time (Scheme 2).

Table 1. Conditions Employed for Alkene Isomerization .

Catalyst, Additive(s)	Solvent	Conditions	Results
RhCl(PPh ₃) ₃ DBU, Sieves	EtOH	40°C, 23 h	No Rxn
Grubbs 2nd Generation	MeOH	60°C, 20 h	No Rxn
RuHCOCl(PPh ₃) ₃ (0.03 eq)	THF	60°C, 4 h	Mixture of 3 & 4
RuHCOCl(PPh ₃) ₃ (0.03 eq)	THF	60°C, 28 h	Decomposition
RuHCOCl(PPh ₃) ₃ (0.09 eq)	THF	50-60°C, 3 h	4 , 71 %

While we were pleased that the β -lactam-containing amina core could be made, low yields during the cyclization process reinforced our initial concerns about the inherent stability of this unique system. Indeed, while studying this reaction, we noticed a persistent by-product. Based on our preliminary data, we hypothesized that **5** may engage in a competitive elimination to give benzaldehyde. To further substantiate this notion we performed a benzaldehyde trapping experiment. During the reaction for conversion of **4** to **5**, an aliquot was removed and added to a stirring solution of phenylhydrazine. LC/MS analysis of this reaction mixture confirmed the formation of the phenylhydrazone from reaction with released benzaldehyde. With this data, a plausible mechanism is proposed in Figure 2. Thus, as expected, the bicyclo-[3.2.0] β -lactam amina is inherently more reactive than our previously reported hydroxamate-containing bicycle-[4.2.0] β -lactam, not only because of ring strain but the new product also incorporates the more reactive amina.

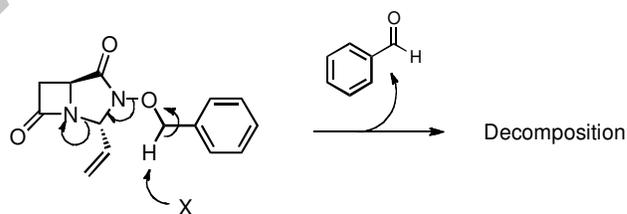


Figure 2. Proposed Mechanism for the Formation of Benzaldehyde.

Lastly, the stereochemistry of **5** was confirmed with X-ray crystallography. We were delighted to see that only the *trans* diastereomer was formed, corresponding to the configuration normally associated with classic β -lactam scaffolds that are active antibiotics.¹⁵

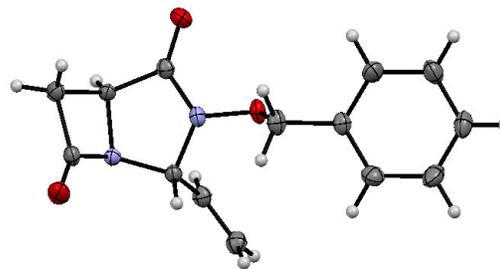


Figure 3. X-ray Structure for Bicyclo-[3.2.0] β -Lactam Amina **4**.

To close, we have developed diastereoselective methodology for the synthesis of a hydroxamate containing bicyclo-[3.2.0] β -lactam animal. Future work includes both the extension of our methodology to synthesize other hydroxamate-containing β -lactam cores and the incorporation of peripheral functionalization.

Acknowledgments

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Highlights:

- Emerging resistance to antibiotics requires development of new antibiotic scaffolds
- Methodology is described for synthesis of a new bicyclic beta-lactam core structure
- Oxidative amidation of a monocyclic beta-lactam produces a new bicyclic core

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