



Stereoselective synthesis of 2,3,4-trisubstituted tetrahydrothiophenes

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ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 2 July 2009

Revised 15 September 2009

Accepted 18 September 2009

Available online 24 September 2009

Keywords:

Furan

Singlet oxygen

Tetrahydrothiophenes

Stereoselective synthesis

ABSTRACT

We describe an efficient new approach for the synthesis of highly substituted chiral tetrahydrothiophenes, based on the oxidation of a chiral furan substrate with singlet oxygen, followed by intramolecular hetero Michael addition.

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Substituted tetrahydrothiophenes, some of which are shown in [Figure 1](#), have received considerable attention because of their wide spectrum of biological activities. The natural products salacinol (**1**) and kotalanol (**2**), isolated from *Salacia reticulata*, *Salacia oblonga*, and *Salacia chinesis*, are potent α -glucosidase inhibitors.¹ Significant efforts to prepare these cyclic sulfonium salts and synthetic analogues, such as **3** and **4**, have been made in the past few years.² Recently, the related compounds salaprinol (**5**) and ponkoranol (**6**) were also isolated from the same plant species.³ Biotin (**7**) is involved in important biological functions.⁴ The adenosine analogues LJ-568 (**8**) and LJ-1251 (**9**) are potent and selective A₃ agonist and antagonist, respectively.⁵ The chiral dihydrothiophene **10** inhibits copper amine oxidases.⁶ Furthermore, tetrahydrothiophenes have been used as templates to facilitate and control various chemical transformations, as in asymmetric metal catalysis hydrogenation, catalytic asymmetric epoxidation, and catalytic intramolecular cyclopropanation.⁷ In nanochemistry, the study of adsorption and properties of thiophenes, tetrahydrothiophenes, and chiral sulfur compounds, as cysteine, on gold surfaces have acquired importance lately.⁸ The substituted thiophene **11** has also been used for size control synthesis of gold nanoparticles.⁹

For these reasons, the development of new synthetic approaches to tetrahydrothiophenes is of interest for organic chemists. Previously, we have described a new methodology for the synthesis of oxacyclic compounds from methoxyallene or furan.¹⁰ We have prepared chiral butenolides, natural oxacyclic products, polyoxepanes, and polytetrahydropyrans.¹¹ This methodology has also been extended to the synthesis of carbocyclic and azacyclic

compounds.¹² In order to enlarge the scope of our methodology, we have focused our attention on the synthesis of thiacyclic compounds. Recently, we have reported the preparation of six-membered thiacyclic compounds.¹³ The challenge to obtain the more constrained five-membered ring and the chemical and biological importance of tetrahydrothiophenes prompted us to extend our methodology to the synthesis of this class of compounds. Herein, we report the stereoselective synthesis of chiral 2,3,4-trisubstituted tetrahydrothiophenes **21**.

The chiral furan **16** is the key intermediate in our synthesis and it was prepared as shown in [Scheme 1](#). Diol **13** was obtained from the commercially available tri-*O*-acetyl-D-glucal as previously reported.^{11a} Selective protection of the primary alcohol of compound **13** by treatment with tosyl chloride in the presence of dibutyltin oxide¹⁴ followed by protection of the secondary hydroxyl group of the rather unstable tosylate **14** provided compounds **15**¹⁵ in good yield. We have used TBDPS and the less bulky TBS as protecting groups in order to study the influence of the steric hindrance in the process. Treatment of **15a** and **15b** with potassium thioacetate in DMF¹⁶ gave the chiral furans **16a** (94%) and **16b** (92%).¹⁵

Oxidation of **16a** with singlet oxygen in MeOH–CH₂Cl₂ 1:1 in the presence of diisopropylethylamine afforded the 4-hydroxybutenolide **17a**¹⁵ as a 1.6:1 diastereomeric mixture in 71% yield ([Scheme 2](#)). Reduction of compound **17a** with sodium borohydride under Luche's conditions followed by in situ acid-catalyzed lactonization gave enantiomerically pure butenolide **18a**¹⁵ in very good yield (84%). At this stage the stereochemistry at C4 was unknown; however, the influence of the vicinal *O*-silylprotected group observed previously for related compounds^{11a} allowed us to anticipate that the absolute configuration would be 4*S*. This result will be unambiguously confirmed later. Treatment of **18a** with

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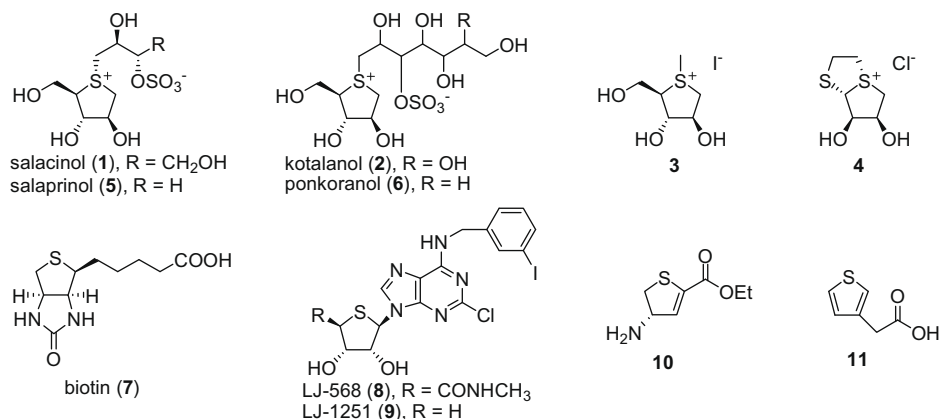
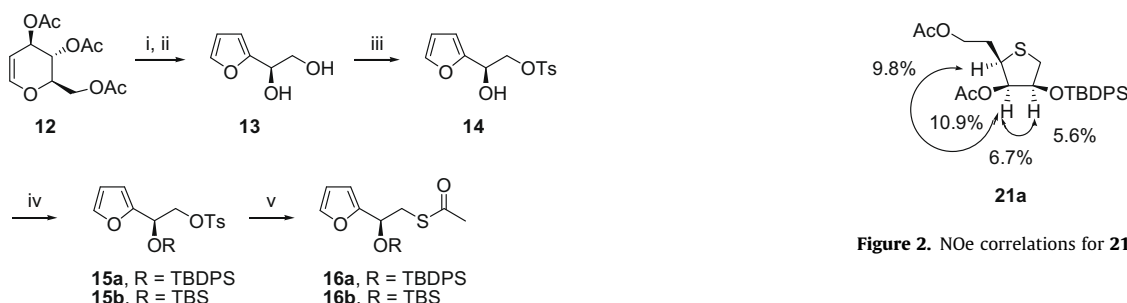
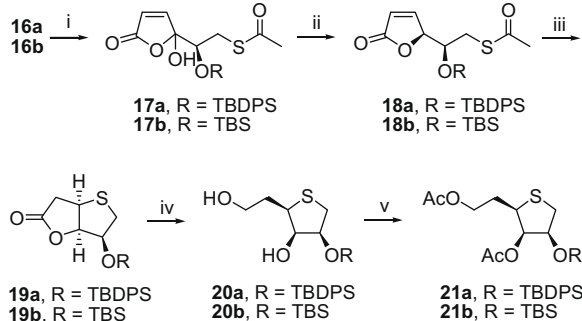


Figure 1. Substituted tetrahydrothiophenes with important biological and chemical applications.



Scheme 1. Reagents and conditions: (i) K₂CO₃, MeOH, rt; (ii) InCl₃·4H₂O, CH₃CN, rt, 77% from **12**; (iii) *p*-TsCl, Bu₂SnO, Et₃N, CH₂Cl₂, rt; (iv) TBDPSCl or TBSCl, Im, DMAP, DMF, rt, 69% (**15a** from **13**), 61% (**15b** from **13**); and (v) KSCoCH₃, DMF, 70 °C, 94% (**16a**), 92% (**16b**).



Scheme 2. Reagents and conditions: (i) (a) ¹O₂, *hν*, rose bengal, MeOH, CH₂Cl₂, DIPEA, −78 °C; (b) H₂C₂O₄ 0.12 M, CH₂Cl₂, rt, 71% (**17a**), 69% (**17b**); (ii) (a) CeCl₃·7H₂O, NaBH₄, MeOH, 0 °C; (b) MeOH, HCl, rt, 84% (**18a**), 73% (**18b**); (iii) K₂CO₃, MeOH, 0 °C, 53% (**19a**), 68% (**19b**); (iv) BF₃·OEt₂, LiAlH₄, Et₂O, rt; and (v) Ac₂O, DMAP, Py, rt, 84% (**21a** from **19a**), 88% (**21b** from **19b**).

potassium carbonate in methanol at 0 °C gave a 53% yield of the bicyclic lactone **19a**¹⁵ through an intramolecular Michael reaction. The lactone ring of **19a** was then opened with lithium aluminium hydride to afford diol **20a**¹⁵ which was acetylated without further purification to give tetrahydrothiophene **21a**^{17a} (84%, two steps).

The stereochemistry of compound **21a** was established unequivocally using nOe experiments (Fig. 2), these results also confirmed the stereochemistry for compound **18a** anticipated by us. Tetrahydrothiophene **21b**^{17b} was obtained from furan **16b** following the same sequence of reactions (Scheme 2). The intramolecular Michael reaction for the less bulky compound **18b**

Figure 2. NOe correlations for **21a**.

provided 68% yield of the bicyclic lactone **19b**, which was uneventfully converted into target compound **21b**.

In conclusion, a new and efficient method for the stereoselective synthesis of highly substituted chiral tetrahydrothiophenes from the commercially available tri-*O*-acetyl-*D*-glucal is described. The use of this methodology for the synthesis of natural products and synthetic analogues with pharmacological activity is now in progress in our laboratories.

Acknowledgments

This work was financially supported by the Spanish Ministry of Education and Science (CTQ2007-61788) and the Xunta de Galicia (INCITE08PXIB314253PR, INCITE08ENA314019ES, and INCITE08PXIB314255PR). The work of the NMR and MS divisions of the research support services of the University of Vigo (CACTI) is also gratefully acknowledged. Pedro Besada and Manuel Pérez thank the Xunta de Galicia for an Isidro Parga Pondal and an Angeles Alvario contract, respectively.

Supplementary data

Supplementary data associated with this article can be found, in the online version, at doi:10.1016/j.tetlet.2009.09.104.

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 17. *Selected data for compound 21a*: $[\alpha]_D -48.67$ (c 0.35, CHCl_3); ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) δ 7.69 (4H, m, H-Ph), 7.44 (6H, m, H-Ph), 5.26 (1H, m, H3), 4.44 (1H, m, H4), 4.14 (2H, m, H2'), 3.93 (1H, m, H2), 2.93 (1H, dd, $J = 11.3$ and 4.2 Hz, 1H5), 2.69 (1H, dd, $J = 11.3$ and 1.6 Hz, 1H5), 2.07 (3H, s, COCH_3), 2.06 (1H, m, 1H1'), 2.01 (3H, s, COCH_3), 1.82 (1H, m, 1H1'), 1.11 (9H, s, $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3) δ 170.9, 169.9, 135.7, 135.6, 133.3, 132.8, 130.0, 129.9, 127.8, 127.7, 80.3, 77.4, 63.2, 44.6, 36.3, 29.3, 26.8, 20.9, 20.8, 19.1; HRMS m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{34}\text{NaO}_5\text{SSi}$ 509.17884, found 509.17874 ($\text{M}+\text{Na}$) $^+$; (b) *Selected data for compound 21b*: $[\alpha]_D -63.51$ (c 0.36, CHCl_3); ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) δ 5.09 (1H, m, H3), 4.39 (1H, m, H4), 4.12 (2H, m, H2'), 3.78 (1H, m, H2), 3.14 (1H, m, 1H5), 2.73 (1H, m, 1H5), 2.10 (3H, s, COCH_3), 2.07 (1H, m, 1H1'), 2.05 (3H, s, COCH_3), 1.86 (1H, m, 1H1'), 0.90 (9H, s, $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$), 0.12 (3H, s, SiCH_3), 0.11 (3H, s, SiCH_3); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3) δ 170.9, 170.1, 80.7, 76.6, 63.3, 44.4, 36.7, 29.2, 25.6, 20.9, 17.9, -4.9, -5.0; HRMS m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{31}\text{O}_5\text{SSi}$ 363.16246, found 363.16594 ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$.