

Figure 1. Molecular structure of the $H_6Cu_6P_6$ core of the $H_6Cu_6[P(p\text{-tolyl})_3]_6$ cluster. Thermal ellipsoids are at the 50% probability level.¹¹ Average pertinent distances: Cu-Cu(long) = 2.68 (4) Å, Cu-Cu(short) = 2.52 (3) Å, Cu-H = 1.76 (3) Å. Primed atoms are related to unprimed ones by a crystallographic inversion. The drawing shows one of the two independent clusters in the unit cell.

during data collection and refinement limited us to a low resolution analysis: (i) Data were collected at room temperature due to a destructive phase transition occurring at approximately 265 K. (ii) Because of the crystal's lack of diffracting ability beyond $2\theta = 75^\circ$, $\lambda = 1.15930$ (12) (partially due to the relatively high data collection temperature), a comparatively small amount of data (2808 reflections) was obtained, given the size of the unit cell ($U = 6616(6) \text{ \AA}^3$). (iii) Due to the limited amount of data available and the large number of independent atoms (270), rigid body refinement was employed in which the *p*-tolyl groups were held rigid, and only the rotational angles about the P-C₁₀₀ bond lengths were refined.⁸ (iv) In order to further reduce the number of parameters and increase the data/parameter ratio, the isotropic temperature factors for groups of atoms also were constrained equal to one other.

A view of the structure of the core of $H_6Cu_6[P(p\text{-tolyl})_3]_6$ is illustrated in Figure 1. Consistent with previous studies,^{1,2,4} the geometry of the cluster is that of a distorted octahedron of copper atoms with six short [average 2.52 (3) Å] and six long [average 2.68 (4) Å] Cu-Cu edges, thus resulting in six small and two large faces. The average Cu-Cu distances compare well with those determined by X-ray diffraction:² Cu-Cu short = 2.54 (1) Å and Cu-Cu long = 2.66 (1) Å. Two independent clusters are present in the unit cell, and each cluster possesses crystallographic inversion symmetry. All six face-capping hydrides were located on the small faces from a single difference-Fourier map. The average Cu-H bond distance is 1.76 (3) Å, with an average out-of-plane distance of 1.0 (1) Å. These values compare well with Co-H = 1.734 (4) Å and H...Co₃ = 0.978 (3) Å in $(\mu_3\text{-H})FeCo_3(CO)_9[P(OCH_3)_3]_9$ and Ni-H = 1.691 (8) Å and H...Ni₃ = 0.907 (6) Å in $(\mu_3\text{-H})_3Ni_3(C_5H_5)_4$.¹⁰ Despite the somewhat low precision of the present analysis, the main conclusions are clear and unambiguous: All six hydrides are definitively found to be face-capping, consistent with the findings of Caulton, Huffman, and co-workers⁴ and speculations of Stucky and co-workers.³

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Supplementary Material Available: Tables consisting of crystal data and data collection parameters (Table S1), atomic coordinates and thermal parameters (tables S2), and bond distances and angles (Table S3) (8 pages); table of observed and calculated structure factors (Table S4) (8 pages). Ordering information is given on any current masthead page.

Chemoenzymatic Preparation of *trans*-2,6-Dialkylpiperidines and of Other Azacycle Building Blocks. Total Synthesis of (+)-Desoxoprosopinine

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The aza-Achmatowicz reaction ($1 \rightarrow 2$)⁴ has emerged as a practical route to indolizidines, quinolizidines, and piperidines, the latter in the form of oxazolones of the type **6**.⁵ Compound **6** may be prepared in either antipodal form (>95 % ee, 10–50 g scale) by the simple chemoenzymatic method summarized in Scheme II,⁶ whereas other materials of the type **2** were hitherto available solely in racemic form. Herein, we disclose extension of aza-Achmatowicz techniques to the enantioselective preparation of compounds **2**. In this connection, amidoalkylation reactions of certain derivatives of **6** were examined. Surprisingly, such reactions were found to follow a stereochemical course *opposite to that observed for monocyclic analogues of our substrates*. Consequences of our findings are presented below.⁷

The carbonyl group in **6** may be reduced with complete stereocontrol. Ethanolic NaBH₄ (–60 °C) produced an equatorial alcohol, conveniently characterized as the acetate. By contrast, L-selectride in THF (–78 °C) caused formation of the axial alcohol, again characterized as the acetate.⁸ Complete stereoselectivity in both cases was apparent within the limits of 300 MHz ¹H NMR spectrometry. No unusual effect⁹ interfered with the stereochemical course of these reductions. Hart-Kraus allylation of acetate (+)-**9** occurred rapidly upon treatment with allyltrimethylsilane/TiCl₄ (CH₂Cl₂, 25 °C),¹⁰ providing *axially allylated* (+)-**10** as the *exclusive product* (88% chromatographed yield, $[\alpha]_D = +17.3^\circ$; $c = 1.003$, EtOH). The structure of **10** is firmly established. In addition to extensive NMR studies,¹¹ an X-ray

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(5) The structure of **6** was ascertained by X-ray crystallography. Monoclinic crystals from THF, space group $P2_1/a$; $a = 8.582$ (6) Å; $b = 10.608$ (5) Å; $c = 10.160$ (7) Å; $\beta = 114.92$ (4)°; $Z = 4$; $V = 839$ (2) Å³. $R = 0.036$, $R_w = 0.052$ for 1515 observed reflections. An ORTEP plot of **3** is provided as Supplementary Material.

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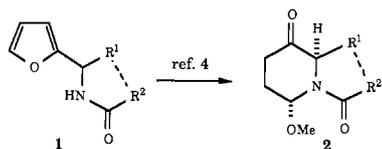
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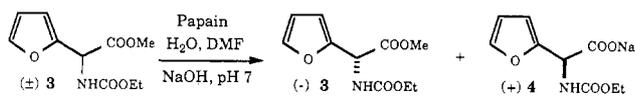
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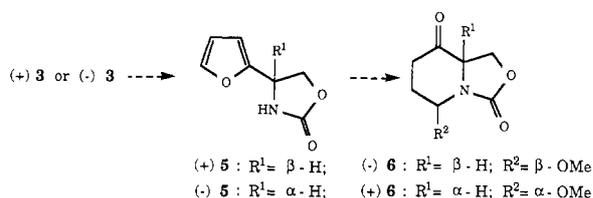
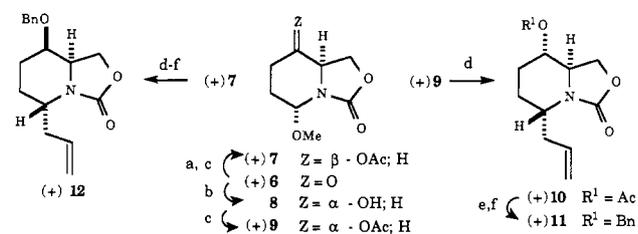
Scheme I



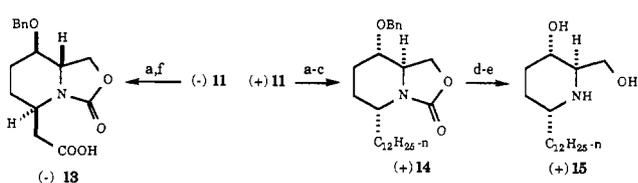
Scheme II



1. Extract (-)3
2. HCl to pH 2
3. CH₂N₂

Scheme III^a

^a a. L-Selectride, THF, -78 °C, 88%; b. NaBH₄, EtOH, -60 °C, 90%; c. Ac₂O, pyridine, 98%; d. Me₃SiCH₂CH=CH₂, TiCl₄, CH₂Cl₂, 25 °C, 88%; e. K₂CO₃, MeOH, 98%; f. NaH, BnBr, THF, 95%.

Scheme IV^a

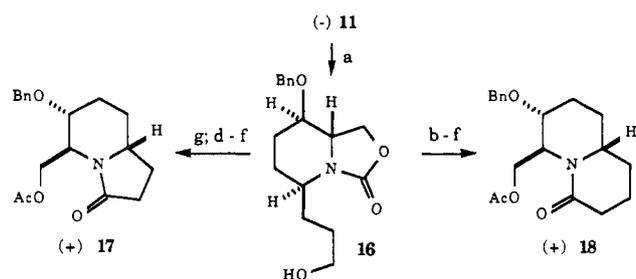
^a a. O₃, CH₂Cl₂, MeOH, then Me₂S, 90%; b. *n*-C₉H₁₉CH=PPH₃, THF, reflux, 35%; c. H₂, Pd(C), 1000 psi, 100%; d. aqueous NaOH, EtOH, reflux, 97%; e. Li, liquid NH₃, 77%; f. H₂CrO₄, acetone, 93%.

structural determination was carried out using acid (-)-13, mp 185–187 °C, [α]_D = -96.4° (*c* 0.525, EtOH),¹² easily prepared as shown below.

Identical allylation conditions induced conversion of (-)-9 into (-)-10, [α]_D = -16.8° (*c* 0.800, EtOH), and of (+)-7 into (+)-12. The latter transformation demonstrated that axial selectivity in the allylation reaction is independent of the stereochemistry of the acetoxy substituent in 7. Specific axial delivery of the allyl group is in agreement with transition state models for nucleophilic additions to immonium species,¹³ yet it is in stark contrast to the

(11) Crude 10 was homogeneous (¹H, ¹³C NMR). The coupling constants between the homoallylic methine and the neighboring ring methylene protons were nearly identical (2 Hz; 300 MHz ¹H NMR), consistent with the axial orientation of the allyl group.

(12) (a) Acid 13 is a valuable precursor to β lactams, and applications in this area will be presented in a future report. (b) Orthorhombic crystals were obtained from ethyl acetate, space group P2₁2₁2₁ (no. 19); *a* = 7.517 (1) Å; *b* = 32.382 (7) Å; *c* = 6.304 (2) Å; β = 114.92 (4)°; *Z* = 4; *V* = 1534.6 (6) Å³. *R* = 0.051, *R*_w = 0.066 for 1134 observed reflections. ORTEP plots are reported as Supplementary Material.

Scheme V^a

^a a. BH₃·SMe₂, THF, then H₂O₂, aqueous NaOH, 89%; b. MsCl, Et₃N, CH₂Cl₂, 94%; c. NaCN, DMSO, 90%; d. aqueous NaOH, reflux, then aqueous HCl (hydrochloride); e. toluene, reflux, Dean-Stark trap, 60–80%; f. Ac₂O, pyridine, 85%; g. H₂CrO₄, acetone, 98%.

reported behavior of monocyclic analogues of 9, which, under identical allylation conditions,¹⁴ furnish a 2,6-cis-disubstituted piperidine. In our case, the allylation reaction affords protected *trans*-2,6-dialkyl piperidines, subunits readily identifiable in a number of important alkaloid systems. Unlike their *cis* isomers, they are difficult to prepare, in spite of recent advances in the area.¹⁵ These findings enhance considerably the usefulness of this type of amidoalkylation reaction, now proven to be subject to stereochemical control in the piperidine series. An application is presented in the form of a concise total synthesis of (+)-deoxoprosopinine, 15,¹⁶ an alkaloid of *Prosopis africana* Taub. Compound (+)-11, subject to the sequence outlined below, furnished fully synthetic (+)-15, mp 87.0–88.5 °C, [α]_D = +13.2° (*c* 0.310, CHCl₃), lit.^{14a} mp 85.5 °C, [α]_D = +12°.

The preparation of other important azacyclic synthons was easily accomplished from the allylated compounds. For instance, (-)-11 served as a convenient point of entry into the izidine¹⁷ manifold, as shown by its smooth conversion into functionalized indolizidine (+)-17, [α]_D = +36.4° (*c* 1.106, EtOH) and quinolizidine (+)-18, [α]_D = +23.0° (*c* 0.934, EtOH).^{18,19} The preparation of these commonly encountered structures augurs well for future applications to alkaloid synthesis.

Chemoenzymatic aza-Achmatowicz methods have thus been extended to the enantiocontrolled preparation of piperidine, indolizidine, and quinolizidine building blocks, in high optical purity, through a key amidoalkylation reaction, which permits stereospecific generation of protected *trans*-2,6-disubstituted piperidines. Further implications of these findings are being investigated.

Acknowledgment. Generous support for this work was provided by the National Science Foundation (Grant CHE-8708130) and

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(17) The term "izidine" refers to any type of 1-azabicyclo [*m,n,0*] ring system.

(18) Izidines 17 and 18 were obtained as thick oils which could not be induced to crystallize. Their rotations, recorded using chromatographed materials, were somewhat variable.

(19) ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra (300 MHz) of the MTPA derivatives of optically active 17 and 18 indicated the latter to be optically pure (no diastereomers detected), upon comparison with the spectra of MTPA derivatives of racemic 17 and 18.

by the Robert A. Welch Foundation (Grant C-1007). We thank Professor Andrew Holmes, University of Cambridge, England, for kindly sharing with us the spectra of natural deoxoprosopinine and Dr. Terry D. Marriott, of this department, for performing all the high-resolution mass spectral measurements.

Supplementary Material Available: ORTEP plots of compounds **6** and **13** and HRMS and spectral data (mp, ^1H NMR, $[\alpha]_D$, and ^{13}C NMR) for compounds **7** and **9–18** (8 pages). Ordering information is given on any current masthead page.

Mechanistic and Stereochemical Divergence in the Allylsilane–Acetal Addition Reaction

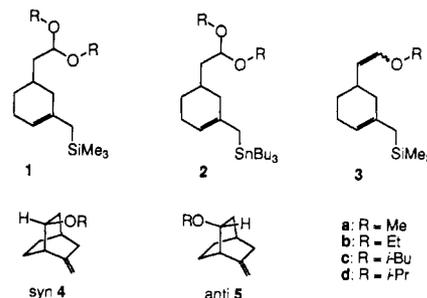
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The reaction between acetals and allylic silanes is a mild and general method for formation of homoallylic ethers, Scheme I.¹ Although as first described the reaction required stoichiometric amounts of a Lewis acid, subsequent studies have shown that the reaction can be run *catalytically* using TMSOTf,^{2a} TMSI,^{1c} or $\text{Ph}_3\text{C}^+\text{ClO}_4^-$.^{2b} The stereochemical aspects of the reaction have been slow to develop compared to the related condensations of aldehydes.³ In the only systematic study on internal asymmetric induction with (*E*)- and (*Z*)-crotylsilanes, Sakurai reported a divergence in behavior between aliphatic and aromatic dimethyl acetals.^{1d} Internal stereocontrol in additions of crotylsilanes to glycol acetates has also been studied.⁴ In view of the growing interest in selective addition of silicon nucleophiles to chiral acetals⁵ we have investigated the mechanism and stereochemical course of the reactions. The questions which have been the focus of our studies are as follows: (1) does the reaction proceed by an $\text{S}_{\text{N}}1$ - or $\text{S}_{\text{N}}2$ -like mechanism, (2) what factors (acetal structure, allylmetal, Lewis acid) affect the mechanism of the reaction, and (3) is there a mechanistically derived stereochemical preference?

We have addressed these questions by examination of the model systems **1a–d**,⁶ **2a–d**,⁶ and **3a,b**, and **d**.⁶ These systems are related to the analogous models for allylmetal–aldehyde reactions which have been reported previously.⁷ In this case, however, cyclization of **1–3** under various conditions will afford the bicyclic ethers **4**⁶ and **5**.⁶



The first series of experiments addressed the Lewis acid dependence of cyclization stereochemistry with allylsilane **1a**, Table I. The wide range of selectivities from highly syn selective (TMSOTf) to unselective (TiCl_4) strongly suggests the involvement of the Lewis acid in the stereochemistry-determining event and argues against a common oxocarbenium ion intermediate. This idea finds additional support in the comparison of SnCl_4 stoichiometries (entries 8 and 9). The divergent selectivities with 1.0 and 0.5 equiv are indicative of direct Lewis acid involvement during bond formation.⁸ A parallel series of experiments with the allylstannane **2a** showed similar behavior, Table II. Thus, the nature of the metal had little effect on the outcome of this reaction.⁹

We next examined the effect of acetal structure on the stereochemical course of reaction with the substrates **1a–d** and **2a,b** and **d**. To examine this feature we employed TMSOTf as the Lewis acid (Table III), and the results were surprising. For both **1** and **2** the methyl, ethyl, and isobutyl (1 only) series were generally syn selective. However, the isopropyl cases were strikingly different showing a slight anti preference. We interpret the dramatic difference in selectivity as representing a change in mechanism rather than a steric effect related to the branching of the isopropyl group.

There are two possible limiting mechanisms for reaction, $\text{S}_{\text{N}}2$ via a complex and $\text{S}_{\text{N}}1$ via an oxocarbenium ion. The results from variations in Lewis acid and acetal structure suggested that there may be a stereochemical manifestation of the changes in mechanism. We sought to test this hypothesis by establishing the stereochemical outcome of cyclizations with the putative oxocarbenium ion, **i**, formed by protonation of the enol ethers, **3**, Scheme II. If the reactions of **1a–d** with TMSOTf involve prior formation of **i**, then the same stereochemical outcome should obtain if **i** is generated by TfOH protonation of the enol ethers **3**. Contrariwise, if the enol ethers cyclize to give different results, then the TMSOTf reactions cannot proceed through **i**.¹⁰

Cyclization of the enol ethers was promoted with 0.95 equiv of TfOH, and the results are found in Table IV. Initially, we anticipated a difference between the *E* and *Z* isomers,¹⁰ but the results are nearly identical in each case. The dramatic difference of the results from the methyl enol ethers (**3a**) and corresponding acetal **1a** (Table III) strongly suggests the operation of two different mechanisms of cyclization. An analogous divergence can be seen for the ethyl enol ether (**3b**) and corresponding acetal (**1b**). On the other hand, the similarity in stereochemical outcome for the isopropyl cases (**3d** vs **1d**, Table III) may be taken as a reflection of reaction via a common intermediate.¹¹

We conclude that the stereochemistry of cyclization of models **1** and **2** was dependent on the mechanism of activation. Thus with

(8) Low-temperature, ^1H NMR spectroscopic examination of solutions containing **1a** with 1.0 and 0.5 equiv of SnCl_4 showed the exclusive existence 1:1 and 2:1 complexes, respectively.

(9) In the intermolecular additions to steroidal acetals, Yamamoto found a metal-dependent stereoselectivity and invoked a metal-based change in mechanism to explain this. Yamamoto, Y.; Nishii, S.; Yamada, J. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1986**, *108*, 7116.

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