(+)-Trienomycins A, B, and C: Relative and Absolute Stereochemistry

Amos B. Smith, III,* John L. Wood, Weichyun Wong, Alexandra E. Gould, and Carmelo J. Rizzo

> Department of Chemistry, Monell Chemical Senses Center, and Laboratory for Research on the Structure of Matter, University of Pennsylvania Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104

Shinji Funayama and Satoshi Ōmura*

School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Kitasato University, and Kitasato Institute Minato-ku, Tokyo 108, Japan Received July 5, 1990

Umezawa and co-workers recently reported the isolation of five novel ansamycin antibiotics from the culture broth of Streptomyces sp. No. 83-16.¹ Termed trienomycins A-E (1-5), these compounds exhibited strong cytotoxicity in vitro against HeLa S₃ cells.²



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The most potent congener, (+)-trienomycin A [(+)-19-deoxymycotrienin II], along with (+)-mycotrienins I and II (6 and 7) and (+)-mycotrienols I and II (8 and 9) had previously been obtained from the fermentation broth of Streptomyces rishiriensis T-23.³ Unlike the trienomycins, the mycotrienins displayed potent antifungal activity. Importantly, 6, 7, and several minor components (i.e., 10-12) also were independently isolated from the culture broth of Streptomyces collinus⁴ and designated the ansatrienins. Subsequent studies established the identity of the latter with the mycotrienins.4c

Surprisingly, the issues⁵ of relative and absolute stereochemistry of the trienomycins and mycotrienins have not yet been addressed. As a prelude to total synthesis, we report here the complete relative and absolute configurations for (+)-trienomycins A, B, and C (1-3). These efforts should in turn facilitate biosynthetic studies underway elsewhere.5

As point of departure, deacylation of (+)-1 [lithium aluminum hydride (LAH), -23 °C] to trienomycinol [(+)-13]^{2b} followed by acetonide formation [2,2-dimethoxypropane, camphorsulfonic acid (CSA)] provided (+)-146 (80% yield, two steps). Ozonolysis



and dimethyl sulfide reduction then furnished keto aldehyde (+)-15⁶ as a colorless oil $\{[\alpha]^{25}_{D} + 45^{\circ} (c \ 0.92, \text{CHCl}_3)\}$. The C(11,12) and C(12,13) proton coupling constants for (+)-14 and (+)-15 were determined to be 8.5 and 5.9 Hz and 7.7 and 5.6 Hz, respectively. Comparison with J values derived computationally for the four possible diastereomers of 15 revealed the C-(11,12)-trans, C(12,13)-cis relative stereochemistry and indicated that the dioxane rings in both (+)-14 and (+)-15 adopted twist-boat conformations.7,8

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⁸¹⁰² and references cited therein.

⁽⁶⁾ The structure assigned to each new compound is in accord with its infrared and high-field 1 H (500 MHz) and 13 C (125 MHz) NMR spectra, as well as appropriate parent ion identification by high-resolution mass spectrometry.

To elucidate the absolute configuration of the C(11,13) fragment, we embarked on an enantioselective synthesis of 15 (Scheme I) beginning with lactone (+)-16.⁹ The resultant keto aldehyde [(-)-15]⁶ differed from the material obtained via degradation only in the sign of its optical rotation. This finding confirmed the relative configurations at C(11,13) and established the absolute stereochemistry of (+)-15 as 11S,12S,13R.¹⁰

For investigation of the C(3) stereocenter of (+)-1, we envisioned 2-methoxy-1,4-butanediol $(20)^{11}$ as an attractive degradation target. Toward this end, protection of (+)-1 as the tris-BOC derivative [(+)-21]⁶ followed by reductive ozonolysis (LAH) afforded diol 20 (40% yield),^{12,13} which in turn was derivatized as the bis-Mosher ester (22).⁶ Comparison with authentic samples of 22 and its C(3) diastereomer, prepared from (S)-(-)-, (R)-(+)-, and (\pm)-malic acid, permitted unambiguous assignment of the R absolute configuration at C(3).



We next elucidated the stereochemistry of trienomycins B and C via chemical correlation. Specifically, saponifications of (+)-2 and (+)-3 provided (+)-trienomycinol (13) and acids (+)-23¹⁴ and (+)-24,⁶ respectively. The latter furnished amides (+)-25⁶ and (+)-26⁶ [(S)-(-)-methylbenzylamine, diphenylphosphoryl azide (DPPA)], which in turn proved to be identical with authentic samples prepared from D-alanine.¹⁵ Thus, the side chains in both (+)-2 and (+)-3 incorporate D-alanine moieties, and the additional C(30) stereocenter in (+)-3 possesses the S configuration.

In summary, we have unambiguously assigned the complete relative and absolute configurations of trienomycins A, B, and C (1-3). The common absolute stereochemistry of 1-3 strongly suggests that similar features will prevail not only in trienomycins D and E but also in the closely related mycotrienins (6 and 7),



mycotrienols (8 and 9), and ansatrienins A_2-A_4 (10-12). Further stereochemical studies and progress toward the total synthesis of these potent antitumor/antifungal antibiotics will be reported in due course.

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Supplementary Material Available: Calculated coupling constant data for stereoisomers of compound 15 and spectroscopic data for compounds 14, 15, and 17-26 and stereoisomers of 22, 25, and 26 (12 pages). Ordering information is given on any current masthead page.

Rate of Intramolecular Reduction of Ferryl Iron in Compound I of Cytochrome c Peroxidase

Ted Fox,[†] James T. Hazzard,[‡] Steven L. Edwards,[§] Ann M. English,^{*,†} Thomas L. Poulos,^{*,§,⊥} and Gordon Tollin^{*,‡}

> Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry Concordia University 1455 de Maisonneuve Boulevard West Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3G 1M8 Department of Biochemistry, University of Arizona Tucson, Arizona 85721 Center for Advanced Research in Biotechnology of the Maryland Biotechnology Institute and Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry University of Maryland, College Park 9600 Gudelsky Drive, Rockville, Maryland 20850

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Ferryl iron, Fe^{4+} , is the oxidation state of Fe in the enzyme intermediates of heme peroxidases¹ and possibly also heme monooxygenases² and cytochrome c oxidase.³ However, the redox

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⁽⁷⁾ Each isomer was subjected to a Monte Carlo conformational search: Chang, G.; Guida, W. C.; Still, W. C. J. Am. Chem. Soc. **1989**, 111, 4379. The C(11,12) and C(12,13) ¹H coupling constants derived from the lowest energy conformations (i.e., those within 1.0 kcal/mol of the global minimum) were used for comparison.

⁽⁸⁾ Further support for the cis-trans assignment emerged from the vicinal coupling constants reported for the twist-boat structure of cis, trans-2,2,4,5,6-pentamethyl-1,3-dioxane: $J_{4,5} = 5.3$ Hz and $J_{5,6} = 7.9$ Hz. See: Pihlaja, K.; Kellie, G. M.; Riddell, F. G. J. Chem. Soc., Perkin Trans. 2 1972, 252.

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⁽¹⁵⁾ The diastereomers of 25 derived from (\pm) - and L-alanine and three diastereomers of 26 were also prepared for comparison; see supplementary material.

^{*} Authors to whom correspondence should be addressed.

Concordia University.

[‡]University of Arizona.

¹Center for Advanced Research in Biotechnology of the Maryland Biotechnology Institute. ¹Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, University of Maryland.

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