New Terpenic Synthons: Methyl α - and γ -Dithiocyclogeranates

Pascal Gosselin

UA CNRS 482, Laboratoire de Synthèse Organique, Faculté des Sciences, BP 535, F-72017 Le Mans Cédex, France

Methyl γ -dithiocyclogeranate, a new terpenic dithioester, was easily synthesized by the [2,3]-sigmatropic rearrangement of tosylhydrazone derivative **6a**. Treatment with acid gives methyl α -dithiocyclogeranate. Three methoxylated analogues are obtained in the same way.

Owing to their interesting ambident reactivity towards alkyland allyl-magnesium halides, dithioesters were previously used with success in the total synthesis of various natural products.¹

We describe herein the synthesis of five new terpenic dithioesters, namely methyl α - and γ -dithiocyclogeranates ($1a\alpha$ and $1a\gamma$) and methyl 5-methoxy- α -, β - and γ -dithiocyclogeranates ($1b\alpha$, $1b\beta$ and $1b\gamma$).

We first applied (Scheme A) the reported reaction of carbon disulfide with Grignard reagents^{2,3} in the case of the known bromide 2b.⁴ As previously noted with other allylic bromides^{5,6} one could expect the addition of this Grignard reagent to carbon disulfide to occur with inversion of the allylic chain, affording, after methylation, the desired dithioester 1bp. However, we found that this reaction led exclusively to the unrearranged dithioester 3b, irrespective of the reaction temperature (-78 °C or 0 °C) and of the order of addition of the reagents.⁶

An alternative access to dithioester 1 by might consist of the reaction of phenylisothiocyanate with the same Grignard reagent. We found however that dithioester 3b was obtained again after sulfhydrogenolysis of the intermediate thiocarboximidate 4b (Scheme B). Overall allylic inversion has not occured, in contrast with previous results in the acyclic series.

SYNTHESIS

TFA = triflucroacetic acid

Scheme B

We next examined the method of Baldwin and Walker8 who have shown that allylic carbazates, upon treatment with sodium hydride, undergo [2,3]-sigmatropic rearrangement to dithioesters (Scheme C).

Scheme C

Table 1. ¹H-NMR Spectra of Dithioesters 1: (CDCl₃/TMS), δ (ppm)³

					71.0	H-9	H10/11	OCH ₃
Compound No.	H-1	H-3 H	H-4	H-5	H-8	H-9 	H10/11	OC113
1 a α 1 a γ	3.62 (s) 3.93 (s)	1.07–1.87 (m	, 3H); 2.03-2	2.15 (3H) (2 × m) 2.49 (m, 2H);	2.65 (s) 2.55 (s)	1.63 (br s) 4.93 (br s)	0.92, 1.01 (2 × s) 0.99 (s)	
1 bα-trans 1 bβ	3.72 (s)	2.72–3.17 (m 5.61 (br s) 1.75–2.43 (m	2.01 (m)	4.01 dd, $J = 6$, 10 Hz 3.11 dd, $J = 4$, 9 Hz	2.67 (s) 2.66 (s)	1.62 (s) 1.63 (s)	1.01 (s) 1.17 (s)	3.39 (s) 3.45 (s)
1 bγ-cis 1 bγ-trans	3.88 (s) 4.08 (s)	1.3-2.4 (m) 1.33-2.48 (m) 2.73-3.17 (m)	, 3H);	2.95 dd, $J = 3$, 9 Hz 4.04 dd ^b , $J = 3$, 9 Hz	2.60 (s) 2.56 (s)	5.03 (br s) 4.95 (br s)	1.05, 1.14 (2 × s) 0.96, 1.06 (2 × s)	

Measured at 90 MHz on a Varian EM 390 spectrometer.

Table 2. ¹³C-NMR Spectra of Dithioesters 1^b: (CDCl₃/TMS), δ (ppm)

Compound	C-1	C-2	C-3	C-4	C-5	C-5	C-7	C-8	C-9	C-10	C-11	OCH ₃
1 a α	71.87 (d)	132.17 (s)	123.72 (d)	22.71 (t)	29.85 (t)	33.00 (s)	241.33 (s)	20.33 (q)	22.71 (q)	$(2 \times q)$		
laγ	73.98 (d)	146.12 (s)	31.49 (t)	22.64 (t) 28.40 (t)	34.89 (t) 78.49 (d) 84.66 (d) 81.63 (d)	35.77 (s) 37.65 (s) 38.51 (s) 40.11 (s)	237.82 (s) 240.52 (s) 236.58 (s) 237.69 (s)	19.79 (q) 20.56 (q) 17.24 (q) 20.06 (q)	111.97 (t)	(2	$28.32, 26.62$ $(2 \times q)$ $9, 22.28, 23.39$	
1 bα-trans	74.15 (d)	132.50 (s)	122.39 (d)						$ \begin{array}{c} (3 \times q) \\ 22.90, 20.73, 20.52 \\ (3 \times q) \\ \end{array} $			57.65 (q) 57.45 (q) 57.43
1b β	146.46 (s)	128.85 (s)	29.63 (t)	29.60 (t)								
1 b γ-trans	74.15 (d)	15 145.08	30.50 (t)						112.66 (t)		$(2 \times q)$	(q)

Measured at 20 MHz on a Varian FT-80A Spectrometer.

Methyl 3-p-toluenesulfonyldithiocarbazate 5 (obtained in two steps from p-toluenesulfonylhydrazide⁹) was alkylated with bromides 2 in the presence of potassium hydroxide to the ptoluenesulfonylhydrazone derivatives 6. On refluxing in tetrahydrofuran, the sodium salts of 6 induced the [2,3]sigmatropic rearrangement to the desired dithioesters 1y (Scheme C).

Stereoselectivity of [2,3]-sigmatropic rearrangements¹⁰ is confirmed here: dithioester 1 by is obtained as a 9:1 mixture 11 of trans/cis 1by isomers, easily separated by gas-chromatography.12

The trans stereochemistry was assigned for the most abundant isomer on the basis of ¹H-NMR spectra analysis (Table 1). For both isomers, the ¹H-NMR spectra exhibit a doublet of doublet $(J_1 = \sim 9 \text{ Hz}, J_2 = \sim 3 \text{ Hz})$ for the C-5 methine hydrogens coupled with the C-4 methylene. These values are consistent with an axial position for these hydrogens and equatorial methoxy groups. Chemical shifts of these methine hydrogens are very different; located at $\delta = 2.95$ ppm with the minor isomer, the doublet of doublet is found at $\delta = 4.04$ ppm with the major one. Such a deshielding effect can be interpreted¹³ as resulting from the influence of an axial thiocarbonyl at C-1 in the major isomer which thus has a trans-stereochemistry.

According to the described procedure, isomerization of these dithioesters to the conjugated β -isomers was attempted using 5 mol % of triethylamine. This was however unsuccessfull with dithioester 1 ay which was recovered after 5 h refluxing in ether.

Partially masked.

The numbering is the same as given in Table 1.

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Under acidic conditions (p-toluenesulfonic acid), dithioester 1 ay was converted into the α isomer 1 a α in 92% yield after 2 h refluxing in benzene (Scheme D).

Ts=p-CH3C6H4SO2

Scheme D

This isomerization was selective, no β -isomer being detected by GC or by ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR (Table 2). However, this selectivity was not observed in the reaction of the methoxy-dithioester **1**by-trans with *p*-toluenesulfonic acid: dithioesters **1**b α -trans and **1**b β were obtained in 90% crude yield as a 71:29 mixture¹¹ (Scheme **E**).

1by-trans

$$CH_3O$$
 SCH_3
 CH_3O
 SCH_3
 SCH_3
 SCH_3
 SCH_3

Scheme E

In summary, we believe these new terpenic synthons will prove to be of value for the synthesis of sesquiterpenes possessing the 1,3,3-trimethyl-2-cyclohexenyl (cyclocitral) system 7, which is also common to the retinoids and carotenoids.¹⁴

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A magnesium-free stock-solution of the Grignard derived from the known bromide $2b^4$ was prepared according to the described procedure. The free the reaction was completed, the warm solution was decanted from excess magnesium by passing through a glasswool pad under an argon atmosphere. Yields ranging from 80 to 90% were determined through backtitration with acid according to Gilman. The

Methyl 2-(4-Methoxy-3,3-dimethyl-1-cyclohexenyl)dithioacetate (3b): A: "Normal" Addition: 2.3

A solution of carbon disulfide (1 ml, 16.6 mmol) in tetrahydrofuran (4 ml) is slowly added (~ 1 h) to a stirred solution of 0.47 molar Grignard reagent in tetrahydrofuran (20 ml, 9.4 mmol) under a slight positive pressure of argon, at $-78\,^{\circ}$ C. After stirring for 3 h at $-78\,^{\circ}$ C, a solution of methyl iodide (1 ml, 16.1 mmol) in hexamethylphosphoric triamide (3 ml) is added over a 15 min period. Stirring is continued for 5 h during which time temperature is allowed to reach $-20\,^{\circ}$ C. The mixture is then hydrolysed with saturated ammonium chloride solution (20 ml) and extracted with ether (3 × 20 ml). The combined ether extract is washed with saturated ammonium chloride solution (3×15 ml) and saturated brine (2×15 ml). The organic layer is dried with magnesium sulfate and concentrated in vacuo to give 3b as an orange liquid; yield: 2.22 g (97%).

IR (Film): v = 2815, 1368, 1355, 1180, 1099, 1015 cm^{-1} .

¹H-NMR (CDCl₃/TMS): δ = 1.00, 1.07 (2 s, 6 H, 2 × CH₃): 1.53–2.33 (m, 4 H, CH₂); 2.63 (s, 3 H, SCH₃); 3.07 (dd, J = 9, 3 Hz, 1 H, CHOCH₃); 3.41 (s, 3 H, OCH₃); 3.73 [s, 2 H, CH₂C(S)SCH₃]; 5.43 ppm (br s, 1 H, CH =).

B: Reverse Addition:6

A 0.47 molar solution of the Grignard reagent in tetrahydrofuran (14 ml, 6.58 mmol) is added over 45 min to a stirred solution of carbon disulfide (1.5 ml, 25 mmol) in tetrahydrofuran (15 ml) under a slight positive pressure of argon at $-78\,^{\circ}$ C. After 1.2 h stirring at $-78\,^{\circ}$ C, a solution of methyl iodide (1.58 g, 11 mmol) in tetrahydrofuran (3.5 ml) is added and stirring continued overnight while the temperature is allowed to rise slowly to $0\,^{\circ}$ C. Hydrolysis and extraction as in A affords dithioester 3b; yield: 1.3 g (81 %).

Methyl N-Phenyl-2-(4-methoxy-3,3-dimethyl-1-cyclohexenyl)-thioacetimidate (4b): 7

A solution of phenylisothiocyanate (0.945 g, 7 mmol) in tetrahydrofuran (5 ml) is added over 1 h to a stirred 0.44 molar solution of the Grignard of the bromide 2b in tetrahydrofuran (18 ml, 7.92 mmol, 1.13 equiv) under a slight positive pressure of argon, at -100° C (pentane/liquid nitrogen). Stirring is continued for 1.5 h, then methyl iodide (1 ml, 16.1 mmol, 2.3 equiv) is added. While stirring overnight, the temperature is allowed to slowly rise to 10° C. The mixture is then hydrolysed with saturated ammonium chloride solution (15 ml) and extracted with ether (3 × 20 ml). The combined ether extract is washed with saturated ammonium chloride solution (4 × 20 ml) and dried with magnesium sulfate. Concentration in vacuo gives 4b as a greenish oil; yield: 1.3 g (61 %).

IR (Film): v = 2070, 1620, 1590, 1180, 1090 cm⁻¹.

¹H-NMR (CDCl₃/TMS): δ = 0.93 (s, 3 H); 1.00 (s, 3 H); 1.5–2.2 (m. 4 H, 2CH₂); 2.38 (s, 3 H, SCH₃); 2.87–3.23 (m. 3 H, CHOCH₃ + CH₂C(NC₆H₅)SCH₃); 3.40 (s, 3 H, OCH₃); 5.17 (m, 1 H, CH =): 6.70–7.57 ppm (m, 5 H_{arom}).

Sulfhydrogenolysis of 4b to Dithioester 3b:17

A solution of trifluoroacetic acid (0.25 g, 2.2 nmol) in dry dimethylformamide (2 ml) is added dropwise to a stirred solution of thioacetimidate $\bf 4b$ (0.6 g, 2 mmol) in dry dimethylformamide (3 ml) at 20°C. After stirring for 15 min, gaseous hydrogen sulfide (*Caution: highly toxic, use only in a well-ventilated hood*) is blowed in just above the stirred solution. After 1.5 h, the introduction of hydrogen sulfide is stopped and the solution is poured onto ice-water (15 ml), extracted with ether (3 × 10 ml), washed with saturated brine (3 × 10 ml) and dried with magnesium sulfate. The solvent is removed *in vacuo* to give the dithioester $\bf 3b$; yield: 0.35 g (72%).

p-Toluenesulfonylhydrazone-S-methylcarbazate (6 a):

Under nitrogen, a solution of methyl 3-p-toluene sulfonyldithio-carbazate 5^9 (8.2 g, 29.7 mmol) in anhydrous ethanol (60 ml) is added to a stirred solution of potassium hydroxide (1.67 g, 29.7 mmol) in anhydrous ethanol (60 ml). After stirring for 10 min, a solution of distilled bromide $2a^{18}$ (6.03 g, 29.7 mmol) in anhydrous ethanol (15 ml) is added and stirring continued for 3 h at 20 °C. The solvent is removed *in vacuo*, leaving a residue which is extracted with ether (120 ml) and washed with saturated brine (3 × 100 ml). The organic layer is dried with magnesium sulfate and concentrated *in vacuo* to give an oil which crystallises on standing. Recrystallization from acetone pentane affords 6a as colourless crystals; yield: 10.2 g (86%). m. p. 81-82 °C.

 $C_{18}H_{26}N_2O_2S_3$ calc. C 54.23 H 6.59 N 7.03 O 8.03 S 24.13 (398.6) found 54.45 6.30 7.12 7.92 24.06 IR (Film): $v=3210,\,1168,\,814\,\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$.

MS (EI): $m/e = 398 (4.9\%, M^+)$; 351 (5.9); 243 (11.4); 213 (13.7); 123 (100); 91 (44); 81 (46).

MS (CI, NH₃): $m/e = 399 (100 \%, MH^+)$; 215 (30.6); 174 (25.1); 139 (15.2); 123 (26.6).

¹H-NMR (CDCl₃/TMS): δ = 0.89 (s, 6 H, 2 × CH₃); 1.23 – 2.08 (m, 6 H, 3 × CH₂); 2.32 (s, 3 H, SCH₃); 2.45 (s, 3 H, CH₃Ar); 3.47 (s, 2 H, CH₂S); 5.41 (s, 1 H, CH =); 7.45 – 7.97 (2 d, 4 H_{arom}); 8.22 ppm (s, 1 H, NH).

p-Toluenesulfonylhydrazone-S-methylcarbazate (6b):

Using the same procedure, bromide 2b⁴ is converted to 6b; yield: 95%. m.p. 74.5-78°C (acetone/pentane).

MS (EI): m/e = 428 (5.6%, M⁺); 381 (13.0); 258 (13.1); 243.1 (36.5); 153 (100); 144 (61.4); 123 (34.4); 121 (100); 107 (43); 91 (100); 81 (30); 79 (77.8); 59 (100).

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MS (CI, NH₃): m/e = 431 [(MH + 2)⁺; 16.5%]; 430 [(MH + 1)⁺; 23.6]; 429 (MH⁺, 100); 245 (94.1); 189 (84); 174 (39.6); 139 (40.1); 121 (35.7); 108 (23.1); 91 (17.6).

¹H-NMR (CDCl₃/TMS): δ = 0.89 (s, 3 H, CH₃); 0.97 (s, 3 H, CH₃); 1.47–2.25 (m, 4 H, 2 CH₂); 2.37 (s, 3 H, SCH₃); 2.42 (s, 3 H, CH₃Ar); 3.02 (dd, J = 3 and 9 Hz, 1 H, CHOCH₃); 3.40 (s, 3 H, OCH₃); 3.44 (s, 2 H, CH₂S); 5.30 (s, 1 H, CH=); 7.47–7.93 (2d, 4 H_{arcm}); 8.20 ppm (s, 1 H, NH).

Methyl 2-Methylene-6,6-dimethylcyclohexane Dithiocarboxylate (1aγ; Methyl γ-dithiocyclogeranate):

A solution of hydrazone **6a** (11.7 g, 29.4 mmol) in anhydrous tetrahydrofuran (30 ml) is added dropwise, under argon, to a stirred suspension of sodium hydride (1.412 g, 60% dispersion in mineral oil, 35.3 mmol, 1.2 equiv) in anhydrous tetrahydrofuran (350 ml). After stirring for 45 min at 20°C, the brown mixture is filtered under argon, diluted with tetrahydrofuran (500 ml) and refluxed for 6 h under a slight positive pressure of argon. After solvent removal *in vacuo*, the residue is taken up in ether (250 ml), washed with water $(2 \times 100 \text{ ml})$ and saturated brine $(2 \times 100 \text{ ml})$. The organic layer is dried with magnesium sulfate and concentrated *in vacuo* to leave on oil which is chromatographed on silica gel (230 g) with cyclohexane (300 ml) as eluent. Removal of the solvent on a rotary evaporator affords 1 ay as an orange oil, homogeneous by TLC and GC; yield: 4.9 g (78%)

C₁₁H₁₈S₂ calc. C 61.63 H 8.46 S 29.91 (214.4) found 61.85 8.47 29.61

IR (Film): v = 3071, 1639, 1386, 1364, 1170, 895 cm⁻¹.

MS (EI): $m/e = 216 [5.0\%, (M + 2)^{+}]; 215 [8.0, (M + 1)^{+}]; 214 (64.6, M^{+}); 199 (14.2); 157 (70.5); 144 (100); 143 (34.1); 91 (26.2); 81 (30.4); 69 (36.3).$

MS (CI, NH₃): m/e = 215 (100.0, MH⁺); 201 (13.0); 148 (33.7); 144 (11.5); 59 (10.1); 58 (16.5).

Methyl 5-Methoxy-2-methylene-6,6-dimethylcyclohexane boxylate (1 bγ; Methyl 5-Methoxy-γ-dithiocyclogeranate):

By the same procedure, dithioester 1 by-trans and -cis are obtained from hydrazone 6 b¹², yield: 83 %. The following microanalyses, infra-red and mass spectra were recorded with the trans-isomer of 1 by.

C₁₂H₂₀OS₂ calc. C 58.97 H 8.25 O 6.55 S 26.23 (244.4) found 58.60 8.18 7.01 26.37

IR (Film): v = 3070, 2818, 1644, 1385, 1362, 1177, 1100, 898 cm⁻¹.

MS (EI): m/e = 244 (7.6%, M⁺); 229 (6.6); 212 (10.6): 197 (14.3): 157 (16.7); 146 (10.6); 145 (15.1); 144 (100); 143 (23.3); 131 (35.1); 129 (23.4); 121 (10.4); 67 (22.6).

MS (C1, NH₃): m/e = 245 (100%, MH⁺); 231 (5.3); 229 (3.5); 213 (16.9); 197 (16.0); 144 (15.8).

Attempted Isomerisation of 1 aγ to 1 aβ:

Triethylamine (15 µl, 0.05 equiv) is added *via* syringe to a stirred solution of dithioester 1ay (0.454 g, 2.12 mmol) in ether (3 ml). After refluxing for 1.25 h, GC monitoring does not show any isomerization and hence a second portion of triethylamine (15 µl) is added. After refluxing for 5 h, the solution is cooled, diluted with ether (10 ml), washed first with 5% hydrochloric acid (2×10 ml), then with saturated brine (2×10 ml) and dried with magnesium sulfate. Solvent removal *in vacuo* gives an orange liquid which is shown (GC, 1 H-NMR) to be identical with the starting material 1ay.

Methyl 2,6,6-Trimethyl-2-cyclohexane Dithiocarboxylate (1 aα; Methyl α-Dithiocyclogeranate):

p-Toluenesulfonic acid (40 mg, 0.21 mmol, 0.1 equiv) is added to a stirred solution of dithioester \mathbf{I} ay (0.45 g, 2.1 mmol) in benzene (50 ml). After refluxing for 24 h, the solution is cooled, washed first with saturated aqueous sodium hydrogen carbonate (2×25 ml) and then with saturated brine (2×25 ml). The organic layer is dried with magnesium sulfate and concentrated in vacuo to give dithioester \mathbf{I} ax as an orange liquid, homogeneous by TLC and GC; yield: 0.416 g (92%).

HRMS: $m/e = \text{calc. for } C_{11}H_{18}S_2$: 214.0849; found: 214.08446.

IR (Film): v = 3029, 1385, 1363, 1187, 826 cm⁻¹.

MS (EI): $m/e = 216 [6.4\%, (M + 2)^+]; 215 [7.0\%, (M + 1)^+]; 214 [61.3, M^+]; 157 (72.2); 124 (29.4); 123 (47.4); 91 (63.7); 81 (34.6); 58 (100); 55 (30.0).$

Using toluene as solvent, the same procedure as above is applied to dithioester 1 by-trans. Analytical samples of the resulting dithioesters $1 \text{ b}\alpha$ -trans and $1 \text{ b}\beta$ were obtained through preparative GC on the

following column: 10 % Carbowax 20M on Chromosorb WAW 80/100, $2 \text{ m} \times 1/4 \text{ in}$, helium as carrier gas (80 ml/min), 185 °C, thermal conductivity detection.

Methyl trans-5-Methoxy-2,6,6-trimethyl-2-cyclohexene Dithiocarboxy-late (1 bα-trans):

HRMS: $m/e = \text{calc. for } C_{12}H_{20}OS_2$: 244.0955; found: 244.09543.

IR (Film): v = 3030, 2817, 1384, 1363, 1181, 1102, 825 cm⁻¹.

MS (EI): m/e = 244 (22.9 %, M⁺); 229 (12.9); 212 (13.7); 211 (15.1); 197 (24.3); 145 (20.5); 144 (61.2); 131 (29.4); 121 (100); 111 (27.5); 99 (52.8); 91 (39.1); 67 (40.2); 59 (45.0); 58 (93.8).

Methyl 5-Methoxy-2,6,6-trimethyl-1-cyclohexene Dithiocarboxylate (1bB):

HRMS: $m/e = \text{calc. for } C_{12}H_{20}OS_2$: 244.0955; found: 244.09543.

IR (Film): $v = 3026, 2821, 1360, 1181, 1103 \text{ cm}^{-1}$.

MS (EI): $m/e = 246 [1.5\%, (M + 2)^{+}]; 245 [2.0, (M + 1)^{+}]; 244 (13.4, M^{+}); 229 (19.4); 212 (39.2); 197 (24.4); 171 (54.4); 165 (40.9); 153 (42.8); 121 (100); 91 (20.4).$

Received: 30 April 1986 (Revised form: 13 June 1986)

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- (11) Ratios were determined by integration (Minigrator, Intersmat Instruments) of the GC chromatograms obtained from the following columns (Thermal Conductivity Detection):
 - -10% Carbowax 20M on Chromosorb WAW 80/100, $2 \text{ m} \times 1/8$ inch, helium as carrier gas (30 ml/min), $150 \,^{\circ}\text{C}$;
 - -5% SE 30 on Chromosorb WAW 80/100, 2 m × 1/8 inch, helium as carrier gas (30 ml/min), 150 °C.
- (12) Although pure analytical samples of these isomers could be obtained through preparative GC (10% Carbowax 20M, 185°C), dithioester 1bγ-trans, first eluted, was the sole isomer to be obtained in a pure form through preparative liquid chromatography (silica gel, cyclohexane/ethyl acetate (95:5)). The more polar isomer 1bγ-cis was obtained as a mixture with the trans-isomer.
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