

(-)-Sandramycin: Total Synthesis and Preliminary DNA Binding Properties

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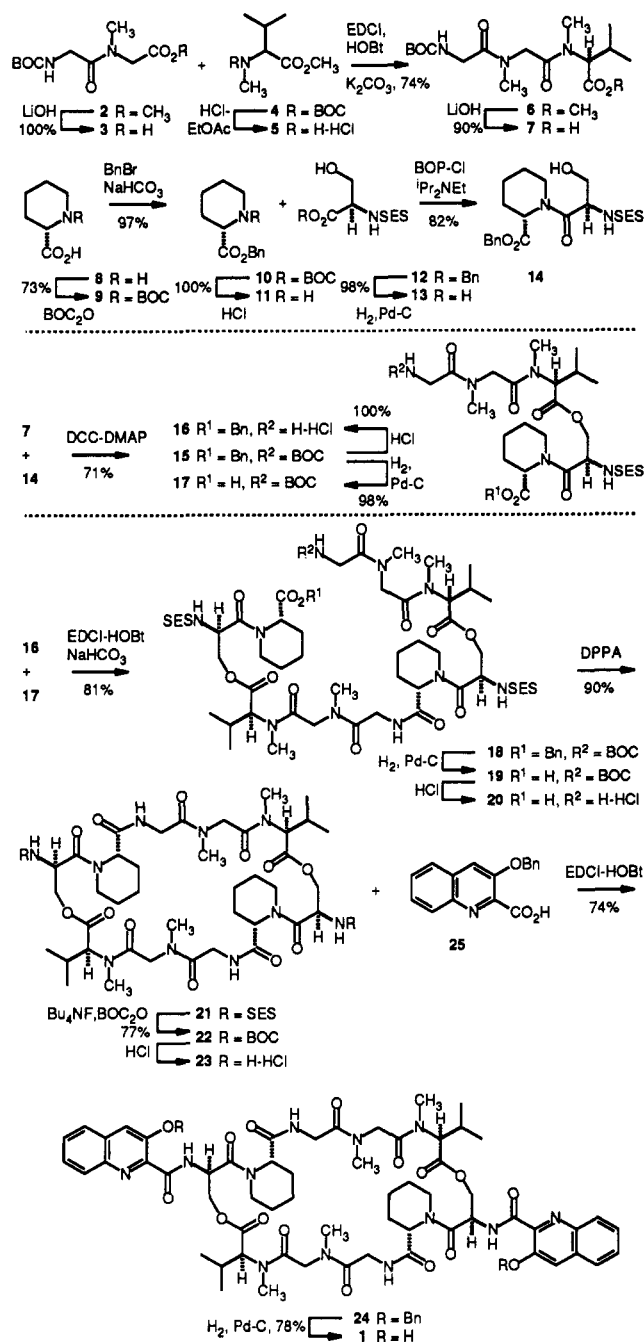
Received September 3, 1993

Sandramycin (**1**), a potent antitumor antibiotic¹ isolated from a *Nocardioide* sp. (ATCC 39419) and characterized in spectroscopic and chemical degradation studies,² constitutes one member of a growing class of cyclic decadepsipeptides including luzopeptins A-E³ and quinaldopeptin⁴ which possess potent antitumor, antiviral, and antimicrobial activity.³⁻⁵ Like the additional members of this class of agents, sandramycin possesses a two-fold axis of symmetry and two pendant heteroaromatic chromophores that could be expected to provide sequence-selective DNA bifunctional intercalation similar to that described for the luzopeptins.⁶⁻⁸ In this respect, the agents are functionally related to the bicyclic octadepsipeptide quinoxaline antitumor antibiotics⁹ including echinomycin and triostin A.^{10,11} Herein, we detail the total synthesis of (-)-sandramycin (**1**), which constitutes the first total synthesis¹² of a member of this class of naturally occurring agents, confirming the structural and absolute stereochemical assignment, and describe the first report of its high-affinity, bifunctional intercalation.

Key elements of the approach include the late stage introduction of the chromophore, providing simple access to analogs possessing modified intercalation capabilities, symmetrical pentadepsipeptide coupling, and macrocyclization of the 32-membered decadepsipeptide conducted at the single secondary amide site and a convergent assemblage of the pentadepsipeptide with introduction of the labile ester linkage in the final coupling reaction.

Coupling of BOC-Gly-Sar-OH (**3**)¹³ with L-N-Me-Val-OCH₃¹⁴ (**5**; 1 equiv of DCC, Et₃N, catalytic DMAP, CH₂Cl₂, 25 °C, 24

Scheme I



h, 74%) followed by methyl ester hydrolysis of **6** (3 equiv of LiOH, 3:1:1 THF-MeOH-H₂O, 25 °C, 3 h, 90%) provided **7**. Coupling of L-pipecolinic acid benzyl ester (**11**, Scheme I, derived from L-pipecolinic acid¹⁵) with D-N-SES-Ser-OH¹⁶ (**13**, 1.3 equiv of BOP-Cl,¹⁷ Et₃N, CH₂Cl₂, 0 °C, 10 h, 82%) provided the dipeptide **14**. This coupling to provide a tertiary amide could be conducted without deliberate protection of the D-serine hydroxyl group, competitive racemization,¹⁷ or β -elimination and provided **14** suitably protected for incorporation into **15**. Esterification of **7** with **14** provided **15** and was accomplished with use of DCC-DMAP¹⁸ (1 equiv of DCC, 1.0 equiv of DMAP, CH₂Cl₂, 0 °C, 24 h, 71%). Competitive racemization of the L-valine center proved problematic when this reaction was conducted under

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conventional conditions, and the use of increasing amounts of DMAP was found to suppress epimerization (8, 11, 24, and 32% with 1.0, 0.5, 0.2, and 0.1 equiv of DMAP). Linear decadepsipeptide formation was accomplished by deprotection of the amine (3 M HCl-EtOAc, 25 °C, 30 min, 100%) and carboxylic acid (H₂, 10% Pd-C, CH₃OH, 25 °C, 12 h, 98%) of **15** to provide **16** and **17**, respectively, which were coupled with formation of the secondary amide (1 equiv of EDCI, 1 equiv of HOBt, 2.2 equiv of NaHCO₃, CH₂Cl₂, 25 °C, 24 h, 81%) to provide **18**. Cyclization of **18** to provide the 32-membered cyclic decadepsipeptide **21**, [α]²³_D -88 (*c* 0.85, CHCl₃), with ring closure conducted at the single secondary amide site was accomplished by sequential benzyl ester (H₂, 10% Pd-C, CH₃OH, 25 °C, 12 h) and BOC deprotection (3 M HCl-EtOAc, 25 °C, 30 min) followed by treatment of **20** with diphenyl phosphorazidate (4 equiv of DPPA, 10 equiv of NaHCO₃, 0.003 M DMF, 0 °C, 48 h, 90% overall).¹⁹ Upon cyclization, the cyclic decadepsipeptide adopts the rigid solution conformation of **1**. Removal of the SES protecting group was accomplished under mild conditions (10 equiv of Bu₄NF, 29 equiv of (BOC)₂O, THF, 25 °C, 48 h, 77%) but required in situ trap of the liberated amine as its BOC derivative since the linking ester proved to be unstable to the free amine under the reaction conditions. An X-ray structure determination of **22**²⁰ confirmed the structural and stereochemical assignments and revealed a cyclic decadepsipeptide conformation essentially identical to that found in the X-ray structure of luzopeptin A.^{3c} BOC deprotection of **22** (3 M HCl-EtOAc, 25 °C, 30 min), coupling of the resulting amine **23** with 3-benzyl-oxoquinoline-2-carboxylic acid²¹ (**25**; 4.2 equiv of EDCI, 5.5 equiv of HOBt, Et₃N, DMF, 25 °C, 48 h, 74%) and a final deprotection of **24** ([α]²³_D -107 (*c* 0.3, CHCl₃); H₂, 10% Pd-C,

Table I. Comparative Biological and DNA Binding Properties

property	sandramycin (1)	luzopeptin A
K_B^a (M ⁻¹)	9.2×10^6 (1:10)	2.9×10^7 (1:5.5)
(-)-unwinding [c] ^b	0.022	0.044
(+)-winding [c] ^c	0.033	0.11
IC ₅₀ , Molt-4 (nM)	0.7	0.8
IC ₅₀ , L1210 (nM)	0.8	0.2
IC ₅₀ , B16 (nM)	0.4	0.07

^a Calf thymus DNA, K_B = absolute binding constant determined by fluorescence quenching. The value in parentheses is the agent:base pair ratio at saturating high-affinity binding. ^b Agent/base pair ratio required to unwind negatively supercoiled ϕ X174 DNA. ^c Agent/base pair ratio required to induce complete rewinding or positive supercoiling of ϕ X174 DNA.

EtOAc, 25 °C, 12 h, 78%) provided (-)-**1**, [α]²³_D -153 (*c* 0.17, CHCl₃), identical with a sample of authentic material.

Preliminary studies of the DNA binding properties of **1** revealed that it possesses a binding constant comparable to that of luzopeptin A, binds with a higher selectivity than luzopeptin A (saturated binding at a 1:10 vs 1:5 agent:base pair ratio), and induces the unwinding of negatively supercoiled ϕ X174 DNA and its rewinding or positive supercoiling characteristic of bisintercalation at lower agent concentrations than luzopeptin A, Table I. Full details of these and related studies and their extension to structural analogs will be detailed in due course.

Acknowledgment. We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the National Institutes of Health (CA 41101), and we wish to thank Dr. J. A. Matson (Bristol-Myers Squibb) for a sample of authentic sandramycin, for copies of its ¹H and ¹³C NMR, and for information regarding its absolute stereochemistry in advance of publication (ref 2).

Supplementary Material Available: Full physical and spectroscopic characterization of **1** and **6**, **7**, **14**, **15**, **18**, **21**, **22**, **24**, and **25**; crystallographic data for **22** (20 pages); listing of observed and calculated structure factors (6 pages). This material is contained in many libraries on microfiche, immediately follows this article in the microfilm version of the journal, and can be ordered from the ACS; see any current masthead page for ordering information.

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(20) The author has deposited the atomic coordinates for this structure with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre. The coordinates may be obtained upon request from the Director, Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre, 12 Union Road, Cambridge CB2 1EZ, UK.

(21) Full details of the synthesis of **25** are provided in the supplementary material.