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## Note

# Enantioselective Synthesis of Ancepsenolide and its Analogs

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**Ancepsenolide (1a-s) and the enantiomer (1a-r) were respectively synthesized from (S)- and (R)-2-[(R)-O-MEM-mandeloyloxy]propanal (3a-s and 3a-r) and diisopropyl hexadecanedioate (5). The analogs (1b, 2a and 2b) were synthesized by a similar method.**

**Key words:** ancepsenolide; aldol reaction; optical resolution; butenolide

Novel lipids with one or two butenolide moieties have been isolated from gorgonians.<sup>1–6)</sup> Although they are considered to be defense substances of these organisms,<sup>1,6,7)</sup> their activity is not clear. Ancepsenolide (1a-s) is one component and has been isolated from *Pterogorgia anceps*,<sup>1–3)</sup> *P. citrina*<sup>5)</sup> and *P. guadalupensis*.<sup>6)</sup> Ancepsenolide (1a-r) has two (S)-4-methyl-2-buten-4-olide moieties at both terminal positions of dodecane (see the Scheme). The presence of a butenolide moiety with (S)-configuration relates it to Annonaceous acetogenins<sup>7–10)</sup> in structural classification. Many acetogenins are known for their potent biological activities as cytotoxic, antitumoral, antimalarial, microbicidal, immunosuppressive, antifeeding and pesticidal substances, and their (S)-4-methyl-2-buten-4-olide group has been reported to be important for these activities.<sup>7–11)</sup> Although many papers on the synthesis of ancepsenolide (1a-s) have been published,<sup>12,13)</sup> a simple synthesis was investigated in order to elucidate the biological activity of ancepsenolide (1a-s) and related compounds. We have already reported that the  $\gamma$ -acyloxy- $\beta$ -hydroxy carbonyl moiety obtained by aldol reaction could be transformed into a  $\gamma$ -hydroxy- $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated carbonyl moiety by treating with AcONa.<sup>14–16)</sup> A modification of this method was used to synthesize the (R,R)- and (S,S)-forms of ancepsenolide (1a) and its derivatives (1b, 2a and 2b).

The starting compound, (S)-(-)-2-[(R)-O-MEM-mandeloyloxy]propanal (3a-s), was prepared with sodium (R)-O-MEM-mandelate by the methods described previously.<sup>15,16)</sup> Aldehyde 3a-s was treated

with the dienolate of diisopropyl hexadecanedioate (5) to form the hydroxyester (7a-s). Hydroxyester 7a-s was transformed into 8a-s by treating with AcONa (44% yield), since 7a-s was unstable. 8a-s was transformed into (S,S)-ancepsenolide (1a-s) by treating with NaH,<sup>17)</sup> and then by successive purification by TLC and recrystallization (24% yield). Similarly, the (R,R)-form compound (1a-r) was synthesized from 3a-r and 5 in a 13% yield.

(R,R)- and (S,S)-bis-4-pentyl-2-buten-4-olide derivatives with a dodecamethylene (1b-r and 1b-s) were respectively prepared from the aldehydes (3b-r and 3b-s) and 5 via 7b-r and 7b-s, and respectively transformed to 8b-r and 8b-s in 36.9% and 49.7% yields.

(R,R)- and (S,S)-bis-4-methyl-2-buten-4-olide derivatives with an octamethylene (2a-r and 2a-s) were similarly synthesized from the respective aldehydes (3a-r and 3a-s) and diisopropyl dodecanedioate (6) via 9a-r and 9a-s and then transformed into 10a-r and 10a-s.

(R,R)- and (S,S)-4-pentyl-2-buten-4-olide derivatives with an octamethylene (2b-r and 2b-s) were also respectively synthesized from 3b-r and 3b-s, and 6 in a similar manner described above (see the Scheme).

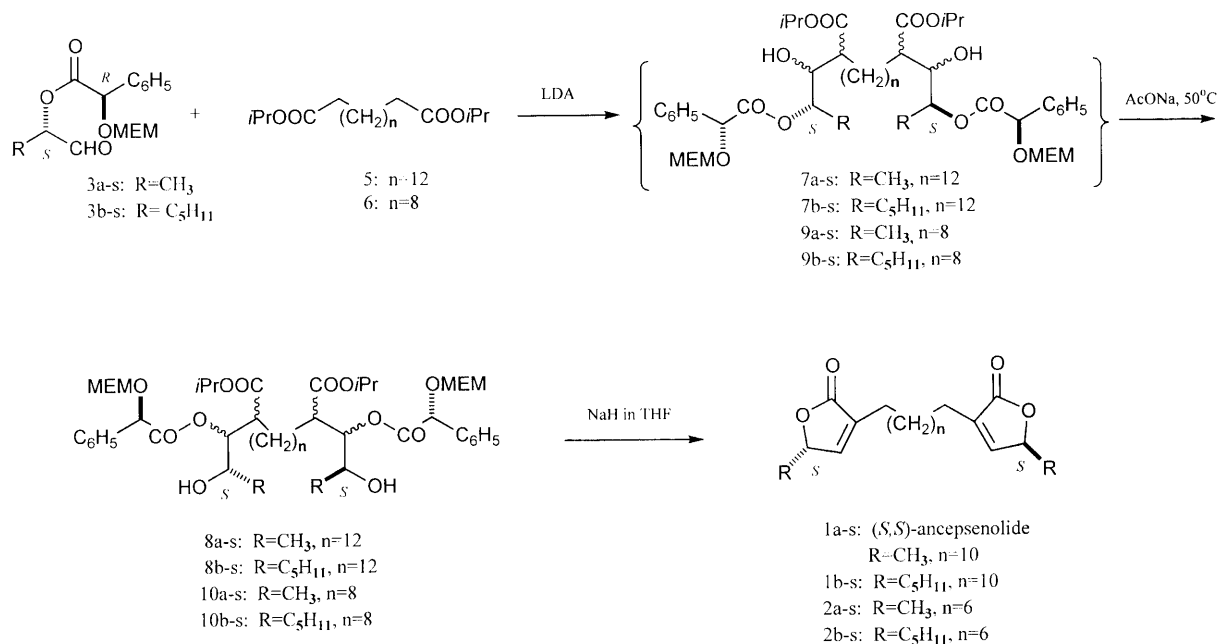
## Experimental

NMR spectra were measured with a Bruker DRX-500 spectrometer (<sup>1</sup>H at 500.13 MHz, <sup>13</sup>C at 125.77 MHz) with the Bruker pulse program and TMS as an internal standard. Mass spectra were taken with a JEOL JMS-700 spectrometer using the JEOL data processing system, and optical rotation was measured with a JASCO DIP-1000 polarimeter. NMR spectral data resulting from similar structures and protective groups are not repeatedly described.

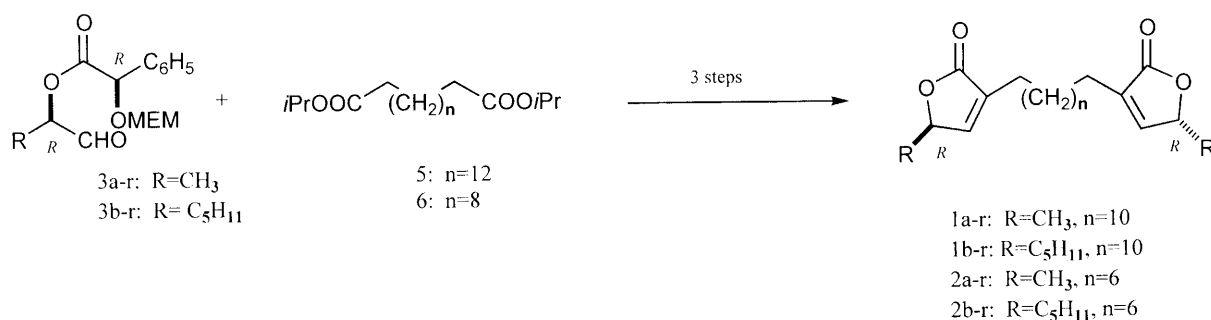
(R)-(-)- and (S)-(-)-2-[(R)-O-MEM-mandeloyloxy]alkanal (3a-r and 3a-s, and 3b-r and 3b-s). (R)-(-)- and (S)-(-)-2-[(R)-O-MEM-mandeloylox-

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Abbreviations: MEM, 2-methoxyethoxymethyl; AcONa, sodium acetate; DMF, N,N-dimethylformamide; HMPA, hexamethylphosphoric triamide



Scheme a



Scheme b

y]alkanal (**3a-r** and **3a-s**, and **3b-r** and **3b-s**) were prepared by the method described previously.<sup>15,16</sup> The mixture of **3a-r** and **3a-s** was prepared by adding an ether solution of an excess amount of 2-bromopropanal to a suspension of sodium (*R*)-*O*-MEM-mandelate in DMF and HMPA.

(*R*)-(-)-2-[(*R*)-*O*-MEM-mandeloyloxy]propanal (**3a-r**): 10.3% yield,  $[\alpha]_D = -52.5^\circ$ , *c* 0.10 (EtOH). **3a-s**: 9.1% yield,  $[\alpha]_D = -72.8^\circ$ , *c* 0.10 (EtOH). **3a-r** was separated with a flash column (silica gel, hexane:EtOAc=4:1), and **3a-s**, by preparative TLC (hexane:EtOAc=5:3, 5 developments) from the residual mixture. **3a-r**: NMR  $\delta_H$  (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 1.39 (3H, d, *J*=7.2 Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.37 (3H, s, MEM), 3.45–3.57 (2H, m, MEM), 3.69 (1H, ddd, *J*=3.7, 5.5, 11.2 Hz, MEM), 3.81 (1H, ddd, *J*=3.7, 5.5, 11.0 Hz, MEM), 4.81 (1H, d, *J*=7.1 Hz, MEM), 4.90 (1H, d, *J*=7.1 Hz, MEM), 5.09 (1H, q, *J*=7.1 Hz, CH), 5.32 (1H, s, CH), 7.28–7.43 (3H, m, Ph), 7.49 (2H, d, *J*=7.2 Hz, Ph), 9.33 (1H, s, CHO). NMR  $\delta_C$ :

14.20, 58.98, 67.63, 71.64, 75.21, 94.23, 127.49, 128.77, 128.99, 135.80, 170.39, 197.94. HR-MS *m/z*: calcd. for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>20</sub>O<sub>6</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>), 296.1260; found, 296.1243. **3a-s**: NMR  $\delta_H$  (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 1.31 (3H, d, *J*=7.1 Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.37 (3H, s, MEM), 3.45–3.58 (2H, m, MEM), 3.67 (1H, ddd, *J*=0.5, 5.6, 11.0 Hz, MEM), 3.80 (1H, ddd, *J*=3.8, 5.3, 11.3 Hz, MEM), 4.82 (1H, d, *J*=7.0 Hz, MEM), 4.89 (1H, d, *J*=7.0 Hz, MEM), 5.09 (1H, q, *J*=6.9 Hz, CH), 5.34 (1H, s, CH), 7.29–7.42 (3H, m, Ph), 7.48 (2H, d, *J*=6.0 Hz, Ph), 9.54 (1H, s, CHO). NMR  $\delta_C$ : 14.00, 58.98, 67.67, 71.62, 75.29, 94.32, 127.43, 128.74, 128.94, 135.72, 170.39, 197.99. HR-MS *m/z*: calcd. for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>20</sub>O<sub>6</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>), 296.1260; found, 296.1260.

(*R*)-(-)- and (*S*)-(-)-2-[(*R*)-*O*-MEM-mandeloyloxy]heptanal (**3b-r** and **3b-s**) were identified with (*R*)-(+)- and (*S*)-(+)-2-[(*S*)-*O*-MEM-mandeloyloxy]heptanal<sup>16</sup> on the NMR spectra. (*R*)-(-)-2-[(*R*)-*O*-MEM-mandeloyloxy]heptanal (**3b-r**):  $[\alpha]_D = -26.7^\circ$ , *c* 0.25 (EtOH); and the (*S*)-(-)-form (**3b-s**):

$[\alpha]_D = -53.0^\circ$ ,  $c$  0.17 (EtOH).

*Diisopropyl 2,15-bis{(2S)-2-hydroxy-1-[(R)-O-MEM-mandeloyloxy]propyl}hexadecanedioate(8a-s).* **3a-s** (183.9 mg, 0.62 mm) was added to a THF solution of the dienolate of diisopropyl hexadecanedioate [which had been prepared from diisopropyl hexadecanedioate (**5**), 100.0 mg, 0.27 mm and LDA (0.62 mm) at  $-78^\circ\text{C}$  for 1.5 hr in dry THF] at  $-78^\circ\text{C}$ , and the mixture was stirred for 40 min at  $-78^\circ\text{C}$  to give **7a-s** (139.1 mg, quantitative yield). NMR  $\delta_H$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 3.6–3.8 (CH–OH), 4.7–4.9 (CH–Omandeloyl). NMR  $\delta_C$ : 67.05, 70.00, 70.28, 71.05 (C–OH), 73.18, 74.40, 75.68 (CH–Omandeloyl). HR-MS  $m/z$ : calcd. for  $\text{C}_{52}\text{H}_{74}\text{O}_{14}$  ( $\text{M}^+ - 2\text{H}_2\text{O} - 2\text{H}_2$ ), 922.5079; found, 922.5058. Since **7a-s** was unstable, it was transformed to **8a-s**. **7a-s** (139.1 mg, 0.14 mm) was treated with an excess amount of AcONa (1.0 g) in a mixed solvent of DMF:HPMA = 3:1 at  $50^\circ\text{C}$  for 5 hr, and the crude products (100.2 mg) were separated by preparative TLC (hexane:EtOAc = 1:2) to give **8a-s** (61.6 mg, 44.4% yield). NMR  $\delta_H$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 1.09–1.36 (20H, m,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 1.25 (12H, d,  $J = 7.1$  Hz,  $-\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.43 (6H, d,  $J = 6.6$  Hz,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.49–1.70 (8H, m,  $\text{HO}-\text{C}-\text{CH}_2-\text{OCO}-\text{C}-\text{CH}_2$ ), 2.35–2.50 (2H, m,  $\text{CO}-\text{CH}_2$ ), 3.36 (3H, s, MEM), 3.43–3.54 (4H, m, MEM), 3.54–3.70 (2H, m, MEM), 3.70–3.83 (2H, m, MEM), 3.7–4.0 (2H, m, CH–OH), 4.72–4.82 (2H, m,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, CH–Omandeloyl), 4.78 (2H, d,  $J = 6.7$  Hz, MEM), 4.87 (2H, d,  $J = 6.6$  Hz, MEM), 4.91–5.10 (4H, m, CH of isopropyl), 5.21 (2H, d,  $J = 7.1$  Hz,  $\text{CO}-\text{CH}(\text{OMEM})\text{Ph}$ ), 7.30–7.43 (6H, m, Ph), 7.43–7.49 (4H, m, Ph). NMR  $\delta_C$ : 69.27, 69.53 (CH–OH), 77.17 (CH–Omandeloyl). HR-MS  $m/z$ : calcd. for  $\text{C}_{52}\text{H}_{74}\text{O}_{14}$  ( $\text{M}^+ - 2\text{H}_2\text{O} - 2\text{H}_2$ ), 922.5079; found, 922.5079.

*(S,S)-(+)-Ancepsenolide (1a-s).* **8a-s** (61.6 mg, 0.064 mm) in dry THF (2 ml) was added to a stirred suspension of NaH (a 60% dispersion in mineral oil, 11.5 mg (0.19 mm)) in THF (1 ml) at  $0^\circ\text{C}$ , and the mixture stirred for 1 hr at room temperature.<sup>17)</sup> The reaction mixture was poured into an aqueous  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$  solution (2 ml) and ether (10 ml). The organic materials were extracted with ether and EtOAc, and successively washed with 2 N HCl, sat.  $\text{NaHCO}_3$  and sat. NaCl. After drying over  $\text{MgSO}_4$ , the solvents were evaporated to give crude products (38.1 mg) which were purified with silica gel TLC (benzene) and successive crystallization (hexane) to give optically active (S,S)-(+)-ancepsenolide (**1a-s**, 5.5 mg, 23.8% yield,  $[\alpha]_D = +20.0^\circ$ ,  $c$  0.133 ( $\text{CHCl}_3$ )). The NMR spectra of **1a-s** agreed with those of ancepsenolide. **1a-s**. NMR  $\delta_H$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 1.07–1.38 (16H, m,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 1.43 (6H, d,  $J = 6.8$  Hz,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.49–1.69 (4H, m,  $=\text{C}-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2$ ), 2.26 (4H, t,  $J = 7.7$  Hz,  $=\text{C}-\text{CH}_2$ ), 4.99 (2H, dq,  $J = 1.6$  Hz, COOCH), 6.98 (2H, d,  $J = 1.3$  Hz,  $=\text{CH}$ ). NMR  $\delta_C$ : 19.24, 25.20, 27.43, 29.19,

29.30, 29.50, 29.57, 77.27, 134.37, 148.85, 173.89. HR-MS  $m/z$ : calcd. for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{34}\text{O}_4$  ( $\text{M}^+$ ), 362.2457; found, 362.2454.

The (R,R)-(–)-isomer (**1a-r**) was also synthesized from the aldehyde (**3a-r**) and **5** in a 14% yield by a procedure similar to that just described. The structure was identified with that of **1a-s** by their  $^1\text{H}$ - and  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR spectra.  $[\alpha]_D = -21.7^\circ$ ,  $c$  0.273 ( $\text{CHCl}_3$ ).

*(R,R)- and (S,S)-2,2'-dodecamethylene-bis(2-nonen-4-olide) (1b-r and 1b-s).* **3b-r** (173 mg, 0.50 mm) was stirred with the lithium enolate of diisopropyl hexadecanedioate [which had been prepared from **5** (80 mg, 0.022 mm) and LDA at  $-78^\circ\text{C}$  for 1.5 hr in dry THF] at  $-78^\circ\text{C}$  for 40 min in dry THF to give **7b-r** (237.5 mg, 0.22 mm, quantitative yield). **7b-r** (237.5 mg, 0.22 mm) was transformed into diisopropyl 2,15-bis{(2R)-2-hydroxy-1-[(R)-O-MEM-mandeloyloxy]heptyl}hexadecanedioate (**8b-r**, 85.9 mg, 0.08 mm, 36.1% yield). HR-MS  $m/z$ : calcd. for  $\text{C}_{57}\text{H}_{90}\text{O}_{13}$  ( $\text{M}^+ - \text{CH}_3\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}-\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ), 982.6381; found, 982.6390 by a method similar to that just described. **8b-r** (85.9 mg, 0.08 mm) was transformed into bis-butenolide (**1b-r**, 4.7 mg, 0.01 mm, 12.4% yield). **1b-r**:  $[\alpha]_D = -19.1^\circ$ ,  $c$  0.27 ( $\text{CHCl}_3$ ). NMR  $\delta_H$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 0.89 (6H, t,  $J = 6.6$  Hz,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.18–1.38 (24H, m,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 1.38–1.50 (4H, m,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 1.50–1.59 (4H, m,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 1.59–1.67 (2H, m,  $\text{C}_5-\text{H}$  &  $\text{C}_{24}-\text{H}$ ), 1.67–1.78 (2H, m,  $\text{C}_5-\text{H}$  &  $\text{C}_{24}-\text{H}$ ), 2.27 (4H, t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz,  $\text{C}_9$  &  $\text{C}_{20}$ ), 4.88 (2H, t,  $J = 5.6$  Hz, COOCH), 6.98 (2H, s,  $=\text{CH}$ ). NMR  $\delta_C$ : 13.94, 22.46, 24.69, 25.27, 27.48, 29.20, 29.32, 29.52, 29.58, 31.54, 33.57, 81.24, 134.57, 147.81, 174.00. HR-MS  $m/z$ : calcd. for  $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{48}\text{O}_4$  ( $\text{M}^+ - \text{H}_2$ ), 472.3553; found, 472.3569.

**1b-s** was also synthesized from **3b-s** (220.0 mg, 0.062 mm) and lithium enolate of diisopropyl hexadecanedioate (**5**) [which had been prepared from **5** (100.0 mg, 0.027 mm) and LDA at  $-78^\circ\text{C}$  for 1.5 hr in dry THF] at  $-78^\circ\text{C}$  for 40 min in dry THF to give **7b-s** (300.8 mg, 0.028 mm, quantitative yield). **7b-s** (300.8 mg, 0.028 mm) was transformed into diisopropyl 2,15-bis{(2S)-2-hydroxy-1-[(R)-O-MEM-mandeloyloxy]heptyl}hexadecanedioate (**8b-s**, 122.8 mg, 0.11 mm) by a method similar to that just described (40.3% yield), and **8b-s** (122.8 mg, 0.11 mm) was then transformed into (S,S)-bis-4-pentyl-2-butenolide (**1b-s**, 16.3 mg, 0.034 mm, 30.1% yield). **1b-s**:  $[\alpha]_D = +21.3^\circ$ ,  $c$  1.08 ( $\text{CHCl}_3$ ). The  $^1\text{H}$ - and  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR spectra of **1b-s** agreed with those of **1b-r**.

*(R,R)- and (S,S)-2,2'-octamethylene-bis(2-penten-4-olide) (2a-s and 2a-r).* **3a-s** (103.7 mg, 0.35 mm) and the lithium enolate of isopropyl dodecanedioate (**6**, 50.0 mg, 0.16 mm) were reacted to give **9a-s** (149.7 mg, 0.35 mm, quantitative yield). HR-MS  $m/z$ : calcd. for  $\text{C}_{48}\text{H}_{69}\text{O}_{14}$  ( $\text{M}^+ - 2\text{H}_2\text{O} + \text{H}$ ),

869.4687; found, 869.4648) which was transformed into **10a-s** (34.6 mg, 23.1% rough yield. HR-MS  $m/z$ : calcd. for  $C_{45}H_{65}O_{13}$  ( $M^+ - CH_3OCH_2CH_2O - H_2O$ ), 813.4425; found, 813.4457). **10a-s** (34.6 mg,  $3.8 \times 10^{-2}$  mm) similarly yielded optically active **2a-s** (5.0 mg, 42.8% yield,  $[\alpha]_D = +26.4^\circ$ ,  $c$  0.33 ( $CHCl_3$ )). **2a-s**: NMR  $\delta_H$  ( $CDCl_3$ ): 1.20–1.37 (8H, m,  $-CH_2$ ), 1.41 (6H, d,  $J=6.8$  Hz,  $CH_3$ ), 1.48–1.62 (4H, m,  $=C-CH_2-CH_2$ ), 2.26 (4H, dt,  $J=7.7$ , 1.5 Hz,  $=C-CH_2$ ), 5.00 (2H, qq,  $J=6.8$ , 1.6 Hz,  $CO-O-CH$ ), 6.99 (2H, d,  $J=1.5$  Hz,  $C=CH$ ). NMR  $\delta_C$ : 19.23, 25.17, 27.39, 29.10, 29.12, 77.42, 134.29, 148.93, 173.88. HR-MS  $m/z$ : calcd. for  $C_{18}H_{26}O_4$  ( $M^+$ ), 306.1831; found, 306.1862.

Bis-(4*R*)-4-methyl-2-butenolide (**2a-r**) was similarly synthesized from **3a-r** and **6** in a 5.5% yield.  $[\alpha]_D = -22.9^\circ$ ,  $c$  0.14 ( $CHCl_3$ ). **2a-r** was identified with **2a-s** by their NMR spectra.

(*R,R*)- and (*S,S*)-octamethylene-bis(2-nonen-4-olide) (**2b-s** and **2b-r**). **2b-s** was similarly prepared by the reaction of **3b-s** and **6** via **9b-s** in a 17.4% yield.  $[\alpha]_D = +10.4^\circ$ ,  $c$  0.40 ( $CHCl_3$ ). NMR  $\delta_H$  ( $CDCl_3$ ): 0.89 (6H, t,  $J=6.8$  Hz,  $CH_3$ ), 1.23–1.37 (16H, m,  $CH_2$ ), 1.37–1.49 (4H, m,  $O-CH-CH_2-CH_2$ ), 1.54 (4H, t,  $=C-CH_2-CH_2$ ), 1.58–1.67 (2H, m,  $O-CH-CH-H$ ), 1.67–1.77 (2H, m,  $O-CH-CH-H$ ), 2.26 (4H, t,  $J=7.6$  Hz,  $=C-CH_2$ ), 4.89 (2H, t,  $J=5.7$  Hz,  $CO-O-CH$ ), 6.99 (2H, d,  $J=1.4$  Hz,  $C=CH$ ). NMR  $\delta_C$ : 13.94, 22.46, 24.70, 25.24, 27.45, 29.13, 29.15, 31.54, 33.57, 81.26, 134.49, 147.89, 173.98. HR-MS  $m/z$ : calcd. for  $C_{26}H_{42}O_4$  ( $M^+$ ), 418.3083; found, 418.3056. The (*4R*)-isomer (**2b-r**) was similarly prepared (6.5% yield).  $[\alpha]_D = -9.5^\circ$ ,  $c$  0.40 ( $CHCl_3$ ). **2b-r** was identified with the authentic sample of **2b-s** by their NMR spectra.

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