demonstrated by conversion of 9b, obtained from 8 and azobenzene, to the dihydropyrazoline 15 in 22% yield and by the formation of 16, in 72% yield, when a THF solution of 7 and 0.55 equiv of sec-butyllithium-tetramethylethylenediamine is allowed to warm to ambient temperature prior to quenching.⁷ If the latter reaction is quenched at -78 °C, the acyclic amide 17, the anion of which presumably is the precursor to 16, is obtained in 40% yield.⁷



Of greater interest is the addition of the anion 8 to 18 at -60 °C followed by warming to ambient temperature to give the cyclopentane derivative 19 in 59% yield along with a 16% yield of $20.^7$ If this reaction is quenched at -65 °C 21 is obtained in 60% yield.⁷ This result, which establishes that the β' -lithio- α,β -unsaturated amides can be used in an addition-cyclization sequence, has important synthetic potential and its generalization is under further investigation.

This facile preparation of the novel β' -lithiomethacrylate synthon 1, along with the classic enolate and addition chemistry well-known for this system under other basic conditions,⁸ appears to substantially expand the possibilities for controlled syntheses with α,β -unsaturated carboxylic acid derivatives. For the β' metalations of secondary amides it was suggested^{1,2} that additions and enolate formation were suppressed by initial proton removal from the nitrogen. The present results indicate that such deactivation at both the carbonyl and β positions can be accomplished through steric inhibition.⁹ The implication of these results, that the tertiary amide is effective in directing metalation due to strong complexation with lithium, is consistent with the paramount position of this group as a director of aromatic lithiation¹⁰ and with metalations similarly directed in allyl systems by the ionized secondary amide,¹ alkoxide,^{2c,11} and the neutral dimethylamino¹² groups.

Conversion of 3 to 5. A stirred solution of sec-butyllithium (1.0 mL, 1.3 mmol) and N,NN',N'-tetramethylethylenediamine (0.2 mL, 1.3 mmol) in 5 mL of tetrahydrofuran was cooled in a dry ice/acetone bath and treated dropwise with 269 mg (1.29 mmol) of 3 in 5 mL of tetrahydrofuran. The resulting red-orange solution was stirred under N_2 for 5 min, treated with 0.2 mL (1.7 mmol)

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of benzyl chloride, and allowed to warm to ambient temperature. Extractive workup followed by separation by medium-pressure liquid chromatography and bulb-to-bulb distillation yielded 225 mg (58%) of pure 5 ($E = CH_2C_2H_5$); ¹H NMR (360 MHz) δ (CDCl₃) 1.1–1.6 (m, br d, 15 H), 1.63–1.71 (m, 1 H), 2.07–2.10 (m, 2 H), 2.29 (t, J = 12.4Hz, 1 H), 2.76 (m, 1 H), 2.96 (d of d, J = 13.1, 3.3 Hz, 1 H), 3.3-3.5 (br d, 1 H), 4.2-4.4 (br d, 1 H), 5.73 (m, 1 H), 7.17-7.19 (m, 3 H), 7.25-7.28 (m, 2 H); IR (NaCl, film) 2940 (m), 1620 (s), 1435 (s), 1372 (s), 1325 (s) cm^{-1} ; mass spectrum (70 eV). m/e (relative intensity) 299 (20.6), 256 (9.4), 208 (100) 199 (48.5), 198 (25.0), 91 (46.7), 43 (28.6), 41 (21.1). anal. Calcd for C₂₀H₂₉NO: C, 80.22; H, 9.76; N, 4.68. Found: C, 79.91; H, 9.75; N, 4.79.

Acknowledgment. We are grateful to the National Institute of Health-Institute of General Medicine for support of this work. We also acknowledge use of the Regional NMR facility at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana supported in part by NSF CHE 79-16.100.

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Macrolide Synthesis: Narbonolide

Summary: Narbonolide, a 14-membered polyoxomacrolide, has been synthesized through two major steps: (i) condensation of the C_1-C_{10} and $C_{11}-C_{15}$ fragments and (ii) macrolactonization using a phosphoric acid mixed anhydride intermediate.

Sir: Narbonolide (1), isolated from fermentation broths of Streptococcus venezuelae MCRL 0376, is a metabolic intermediate leading to narbomycin $(2)^2$ and pikromycin (3),³ both of which belong to the well-known family of 14-membered polyoxomacrolides.⁴ The full stereostructures of narbonolide and narbomycin, which apparently

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⁽⁷⁾ The compounds 16, 17, 19, and 21 are obtained as mixtures of diastereomers which are separated by medium-pressure liquid chromatography.

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have not been formulated in the literature, can be deduced as shown in 1 and 2, respectively, from two lines of evidence: (a) enzymatic, oxidative conversion of 2 to 3, and that of 1 to pikronolide $(4)^5$ and (b) the now established stereochemistry of 3.⁶ While the stereochemistry of 1 and 2 conforms to Celmer's model⁷ and thus is similar to that of many polyoxomacrolides such as 6-deoxyerythronolide B,⁸ it is the presence of the C₃-keto functionality (β to the C_5 -hydroxy group and also β to the lactone group) that chemically distinguishes 2 as well as 3 from other members of the family. Thus, even under mild acidic and basic conditions, the elimination of desosamine from 2 and 3 readily takes place with the introduction of the C_4 - C_5 double bond into the macroring.^{2b,9} Also, the stereoselective construction and preservation of the chiral C2 center presents another unique problem associated with this lactone framework as experienced in our earlier approach to the synthesis of 4.10 We present herein the efficient synthesis of 1 that eliminates theses earlier drawbacks¹⁰ and further incorporates newer, improved methodologies for macrolactonization and C_{10} - C_{11} double bond formation as applied in macrolide synthesis.

Two important intermediates (5 and 6) prepared in the recent synthesis of 6-deoxyerythronolide B¹¹ serve as major fragments of 1. Both intermediates, readily available through enantioselective aldol condensations,¹¹ comprise all the chiral centers necessary for the construction of 1. Thus, treatment of (-)-acid chloride 5 with the cuprate reagent prepared from [(trimethylsilyl)methyl]lithium¹² and CuI in ether provides quantitatively the α -(trimethylsilyl)methyl ketone 7, the lithium anion of which is then reacted (in tetrahydrofuran) at -78 °C with (+)aldehyde 6 to afford an α,β -unsaturated ketone (8) in 95% yield (Scheme I). This result is remarkable in view of the base sensitivity of both reactants 6 and 7, as well as the product 8, and indeed the Peterson reaction is far superior in terms of both reaction time and yield to the Wittig reaction, using the corresponding α -ketomethylenephosphorane.¹⁰ Removal of the triethylsilyl group with aqueous acetic acid at room temperature generates the C_{13} -hydroxy thiol ester 9 (100% yield).

Macrolactonization did not seem to be a fully solved problem. Compound 9 defied, in this particular instance, all attempts at direct cyclization through the activation

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(10) Masamune, S. Aldrichimica 1978, 11, 23. The synthetic scheme previously reported for 4 involved the incorporation of a sensitive β -keto ester group in an early synthetic intermediate.



of the thiol ester with a thiophilic metal cation,¹³ and, therefore, a search was made for an alternative general method. Of the numerous methods for carboxyl activation examined thus far,¹⁴ the phosphoric acid mixed anhydride has apparently escaped attention, despite the availability of the method for selectively converting a hydroxy carboxylic acid into the corresponding mixed anhydride (in the presence of the free hydroxyl group).¹⁵ This activation technique has now been found to be simple and efficient as exemplified below by cyclization of the seco acid (10) derived from dimethylzearalenone ethylene glycol ketal (11).

Treatment of 10 (0.1 mM) in 1 mL of tetrahydrofuran with triethylamine (0.1 mM) followed by diphenyl phosphochloridate (0.1 mM) at 0 °C immediately produces a white precipitate, which after 30 min of stirring is filtered. The filtrate, after dilution with 40 mL of benzene, is maintained at 5 °C and this cold diluent is added over a period of 8 h to 60 mL of stirred, warm (80 °C) benzene containing 4-(dimethylamino)pyridine (0.3 mM). After the addition has been completed, the resulting solution is kept at reflux for 13 h and is worked up in the usual manner. The yield of 11 is 90–95%. In applying this procedure to the present narbonolide synthesis, we first converted the thiol ester 9, with $Hg(CF_3CO_2)_2$ followed by aqueous NaHCO₃,¹⁰ into the corresponding carboxylic acid 12 (97% yield). Treatment of acid 12 in the same manner as that described above¹⁵ afforded the 14-membered lactone 13 and a dimeric product (14) in 32% and 25% yields, respectively. Although the ratio of 13 to 14, in principle, can be enhanced with a higher dilution, 12 particularly resists exclusive monocyclization with any of the currently available techniques, and a significant increase in the yield of cyclization may be achieved only at the expense of extensive structural modification of the seco acid 11.¹⁶

Brief treatment of 13 with trifluoroacetic acid (H_2O) acetonitrile, 1:1) generates the diol 15 (100%) and the regioselective oxidation of 15 presents a crucial problem

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⁽¹³⁾ This method has been used successfully in a number of macrolide syntheses: (a) Masamune, S.; Yamamoto, H.; Kamata, S.; Fukuzawa, A. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1975, 97, 3513. (b) Masamune, S.; Kamata, S.; Schilling, W. Ibid. 1975, 97, 3515. (c) Masamune, S.; Hayase, Y.; Chan, W. K.; Sobczak, R. L. Ibid. 1976, 98, 7874. (d) Masamune, S. Hayase, Y.; Schilling, W.; Chan, W. K.; Bates, G. S. Ibid. 1977, 99, 6756. (e) Huang, J.; Meinwald, J. Ibid. 1981, 103, 861. (f) Tatsuta, K.; Amemiya, Y.; Maniwa, S.; Kinoshita, M. Tetrahedron Lett. 1980, 20, 2837. Also see ref 11a.

⁽¹⁵⁾ Masamune, S.; Kamata, S.; Diakur, J.; Sugihara, Y.; Bates, G. S. Can. J. Chem. 1975, 53, 3693. The phosphoric acid anhydride intermediate is rather labile to heat and prone to disproportionate: $2\text{RCO}_2\text{PO}$ - $(\text{OR}')_2 \rightleftharpoons (\text{RCO})_2\text{O} + (\text{CR}'\text{O})_2\text{O}$ [Sheehan, J. C.; Frank, V. S. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1950, 72, 1312. Cramer, F.; Gärtner, K. G. Chem. Ber. 1958, 91, 704.] Therefore, the lactonization should not be performed at a temperature higher than 80 °C.



^a (A) $5 \rightarrow 7$, LiCu[CH₂Si(CH₃)₃]₂ (ether), -78 °C, 25 min; $7 \rightarrow 8$, LiN[Si(CH₃)₃]₂ (THF), -78 °C, 45 min, and then 6. (B) $8 \rightarrow 9$, CH₃CO₂H (H₂O/THF, 1:3), room temperature, 16 h; $9 \rightarrow 12$, Hg(CF₃CO₂)₂ (CH₂Cl₂), room temperature, 20 min, and then aqueous NaHCO₃; $12 \rightarrow 13$, (PhO)₂POCl, Et₃N (THF), 0 °C, 30 min, and then DMAP (C₆H₆), 80 °C, 23 h. (C) $13 \rightarrow 15$, CF₃CO₂H (H₂O/ CH₃CN, 1:1), room temperature, 3 h; $15 \rightarrow 1$, RuCl₂-(PPh₃)₃ (C₆H₆), room temperature. (D) Same as that for $12 \rightarrow 13$.

in the final stage of the synthesis. Of the many known oxidants examined, many tend to favor the attack at the C_5 -hydroxy group and in some cases the undesired C_5 -keto compound (16) is the exclusive product.¹⁷ Only two reagents provide reasonable quantities of the C_3 ketone

(1): $\text{RuCl}_2(\text{PPh}_3)_3^{18}$ (1:1 mixture of 1 and 16, total yield 92%) and $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{SO/DCC/H}_3\text{PO}_4/\text{benzene}^{19}$ (55:45, 90%). Fortunately, however, recovery of 15 from 16 with the use of NaBH₄ and then DDQ proceeds in 70% yield, and with this recycling the transformation of 15 to 1 is achieved at minimum 65% yield. Direct comparison of 1, mp 125-126 °C, with natural narbonolide generously supplied by Professor Suzuki confirms the identity of these two specimens as well as the correctness of the stereochemistry deduced above for 1. Two features of the synthesis that is outlined above may be worth emphasizing: (a) the generation of the C_3 -keto group in the very final stage of the sequence has resolved the complications that were encountered in the earlier synthesis¹⁰ and (b) a useful and simple lactonization technique has been developed. The application of this technique to tylonolide seco acid derivatives and related compounds has already been made and will be documented in due course.²⁰

Acknowledgment. We thank Professor M. Suzuki, Meijo University, Japan, for a gift of narbonolide and the National Institute of Health (Grant AI 15403) and Hoffmann-LaRoche for financial support. T.K. is on leave from Mitsui Toatsu Chemicals Inc. Japan. High-resolution mass spectra were provided by the facility, supported by the National Institutes of Health (Grant RR 00317; the principal investigator, Professor K. Biemann), from the Biotechnology Resources Branch, Division of Research Resources.

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(20) All new compounds prepared in this work have been fully characterized by means of high-resolution mass spectra, 250-MHz ¹H NMR, and IR spectra. NMR signals (CDCl₃) of these compounds are expressed in δ (multiplicity, coupling constant (hertz), numbers of protons). 1: 0.93 (t, J = 7.4, 3 H), 0.93 (d, J = 7.0, 3 H), 1.10 (d, J = 7.0, 3 H), 1.14 (d, J = 7.0, 3 H), 1.15 (d, J = 7.0, 3 H), 3.02 (sext, J = 7.0, 1 H), 3.71 (q, J = 7.0, 1 H, H-2), 3.86 (br q, J = 4.8, 1 H, H-3), 5.16 (m, 1 H, H-13), 6.11 (dd, J = 16.5, 1.8, 1 H, H-10), 6.91 (dd, J = 16.5, 4.8, 1 H, H-11). 7: 0.10 (s, 9 H), 0.76 (d, J = 7.0, 3 H), 0.88 (d, J = 7.0, 3 H), 1.03 (d, J = 6.6, 3 H), 1.19 (d, J = 7.0, 3 H), 1.35 (s, 3 H), 1.37 (s, 3 H), 1.44 (s, 9 H), 1.89 (m, 1 H), 2.20 (s, 2 H), 2.62 (q, 7.0 1 H), 2.73 (dq, J = 9.9, 6.6, 1 H), 3.35 (d, J = 9.6, 1 H), 3.83 (d, J = 9.9, 1 H). 8: 0.60 (~q, J = 7.7, 9 H), 1.04 (d, J = 7.0, 3 H), 1.09 (d, J = 6.6, 3 H), 1.19 (d, J = 6.6, 3 H), 1.36 (s, 3 H), 1.38 (s, 3 H), 1.45 (s, 9 H), 2.06 (m, 1 H), 2.46 (sext, J = 6.6, 1 H), 2.73 (dq, J = 9.9, 6.6, 1 H), 2.73 (dq, J = 9.9, 6.6, 1 H), 2.73 (dq, J = 9.9, 6.6, 1 H), 2.86 (sext, J = 7.0, 1 H), 3.35 (dd, J = 9.6, 1.8, 1 H), 3.57 (dt, J = 6.3, 5.2, 1 H), 3.83 (dd, J = 9.1, 8, 1 H), 6.17 (dd, J = 15.8, 1.1, 1 H), 6.91 (dd, J = 15.8, 7.4, 1 H). 9: 0.74 (d, J = 6.6, 3 H), 0.87 (d, J = 7.0, 3 H), 1.09 (t, J = 7.3, 3 H), 0.99 (d, J = 6.3, 3 H), 1.145 (s, 9 H), 2.06 (m, 1 H), 2.43 (sext, J = 6.6, 1 H), 2.73 (dq, J = 9.9, 7.0, 1 H), 2.43 (sext, J = 6.6, 1 H), 2.73 (dq, J = 9.9, 7.0, 1 H), 3.84 (dd, J = 9.9, 1.8, 1 H), 6.24 (dd, J = 15.8, 1.1, 1 H), 6.86 (dd, J = 15.8, 7.8, 1 H), 112 (d, J = 7.0, 3 H), 1.11 (d, J = 7.0, 3 H), 0.97 (t, J = 7.4, 3 H), 0.97 (t, J = 7.4, 3 H), 1.09 (d, J = 6.6, 3 H), 1.38 (dd, J = 9.6, 1.8, 1 H), 3.50 (m, 1 H), 3.84 (dd, J = 9.2, 7.0, 1 H), 3.36 (dd, J = 9.6, 1.8, 1 H), 3.51 (m, 1 H), 3.88 (dd, J = 9.2, 7.0, 1 H), 2.45 (sext, J =

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Received January 14, 1982

⁽¹⁶⁾ As documented earlier (ref 4), the success of seco acid lactonization depends largely upon two factors: proper activation of the carboxyl group and the conformation of the seco acid. The significance of the latter effect, although obvious in hindsight, was first emphasized by the present author: Masamune, S.; Kim, C. U.; Wilson, K. E.; Spessard, G. O.; Georghiou, P. E.; Bates, G. S. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1975, 97, 3512, and ref 4, p 591. The recent work on erythromycin A represents an excellent illustration: R. B. Woodward et al. J Am. Chem. Soc. 1981, 103, 3213.

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