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Communications

A Facile Synthetic Route to an A-Ring Trihydroxylated Vitamin D Analog from D-Arabinose

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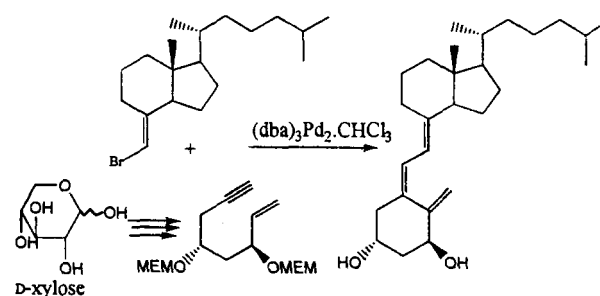
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1 α ,25-Dihydroxyvitamin D₃, the hormonally active metabolite of Vitamin D₃, is associated with calcium homeostasis.¹ Its effect upon cellular differentiation and proliferation has been established.² Furthermore, members of this class of compounds show the possible connection between Vitamin D analogs and treatment of diseases, such as psoriasis³ or cancer⁴ and also the efficacy as immunomodulators.⁵ Its therapeutic use is limited by toxicity such as hypercalcemia.⁷ Thus a basis exists for synthetic modification aimed at a favorable balance between efficacy and toxicity. Several convergent methods were applied to synthesize CD-ring Analogs⁸ possessing an appropriately substituted C₁₇ side chain and A ring analogs⁹ which have different stereochemistry in C₁ and C₃ position in A ring. Among the many A ring synthon routes a brilliant coupling method was achieved by Trost, *et al.*¹⁰ via palladium catalyzed cyclization and simultaneous attachment of an acyclic 1,7-enyne to a Grundman ketone derivative. We have previously shown that a singularly facile route to 1,7-enyne from D-xylose is suitable for coupling to a CD ring fragment *via* the Trost-Dumas carbopalladation method to yield 1 α -hydroxyvitamin D₃ (Scheme 1).¹¹ Much recent attention to trifunctionalized A ring analogs^{12a-c} spurs the synthesis of 1,7-enyne-triol and its coupling to CD ring fragment. Recently the synthesis of 1,7-enyne-triol starting from D-arabinose and its attachment to CD-ring part to give 1 α ,2 β -dihydroxyvitamin D₃ was reported by our group.¹³

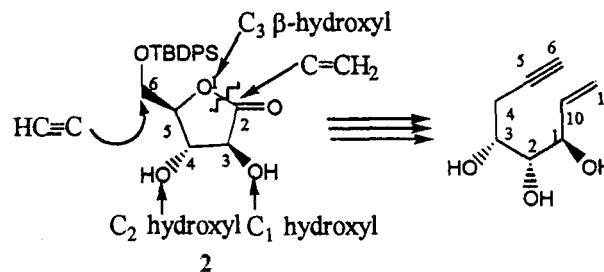
In this paper, we present more efficient route to a 1 α ,2 β ,3 β -trihydroxy-1,7-enyne from D-arabinose. Furthermore the complete series of 1,2,3-epi-trihydroxy 1,7-enynes can potentially be made from the appropriate D-pentose and L-pen-

tose. The synthetic scheme is expressed in the mapping of the stereogenic centers of a generalized D-aldolactone (using the tetrahydrofuranone numbering system) to those of a generalized steroidal A-ring segment (using the steroid numbering system) (Scheme 2).

Starting with a D-pentose the stereochemistry at C₃ of the derived enyne is constant and β as in the natural vitamin D



Scheme 1.



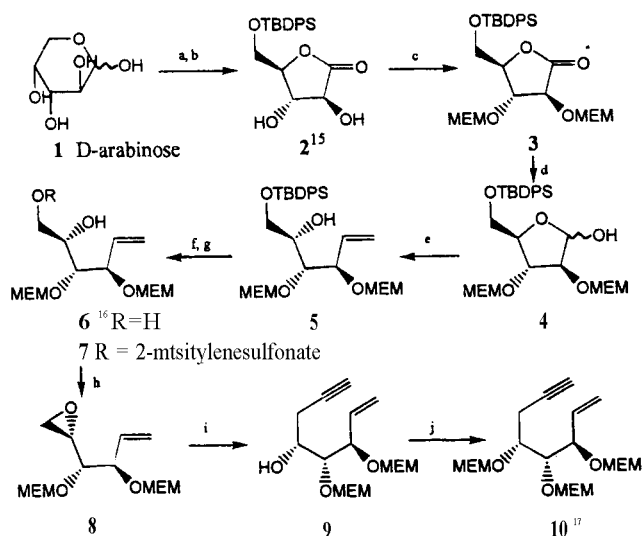
Scheme 2.

series. The stereochemistry at C₁ and C₂ of the enyne A-ring synthon in Scheme 3 is variable depending upon the choice of the starting D-pentose. The point of attachment of the acetylene unit is at C₆ of the tetrahydrofuranone and the C₂ atom of the carbonyl group is ultimately the site of methylenation.

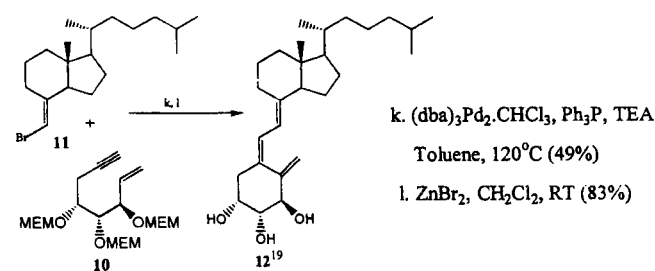
Synthesis of the 1,2,3-trihydroxy-1,7-enyne needed for 1 α ,2 β -dihydroxyvitamin D₃ proceeded from D-arabinose (**1**) which was converted by known bromine oxidation¹⁴ followed by selective protection of primary hydroxy group to (3*S*,4*R*,5*S*)-3,4-dihydroxy-5-[(*t*-butyldiphenylsiloxy)methyl]-2-tetrahydrofuranone (**2**).¹⁵ Subsequent steps were summarized in Scheme 3.

Diol protection of **2** with MEMCl, DIBAL, reduction, methylenation,¹⁶ and deprotection of the C₆ hydroxy group gave compound **6**.¹⁷ Selective mesitylenesulfonylation of the C₂ hydroxy group with sterically hindered mesitylenesulfonyl chloride, intramolecular epoxide formation, regioselective addition of acetylide anion, and protection of hydroxy group completed the synthesis of 1,7-enyne (**10**).¹⁷

Coupling of **10** with 7-(2)-bromo-des-AB-cholest-7-ene (**11**)^{10,11} according to the Trost procedure followed by deprotection with ZnBr₂ yielded 1 α ,2 β -dihydroxyvitamin D₃ (**12**),



Scheme 3. ^aBr₂, K₂CO₃, H₂O, RT; ^b*t*-BuPh₂SiCl₂, imidazole, DMF, RT (a+b, 65%); MEMCl, *i*-Pr₃NEt, CH₂Cl₂, Reflux (92%); ^cDIBAL, CH₂Cl₂, -65 °C (98%); ^dPh₂PCH₂Br, *t*-BuOK, THF, 0 °C (65%); ^e*n*-Bu₃NF, THF, RT (96%); ^f2-mesitylenesulfonyl chloride, pyridine, -5 °C (98%); ^gK₂CO₃, ab EtOH, RT (98%); ^hHC≡CLi, ethylenediamine complex, DMSO, RT (92%); MEMCl, *i*-Pr₃NEt, CH₂Cl₂, Reflux (92%).



Scheme 4.

whose spectroscopic data were in accordance with those reported previously (Scheme 4).^{10,19}

In conclusion, the presented synthesis of the A-ring synthon is indeed a facile method for production of various analogs of vitamin D, differing in the stereochemistry at 1,2,3 positions of the A-ring. This methodology is valuable from the standpoint that many A-ring diastereomers can be connected with any number of CD fragment analogs to produce a range of compounds with perhaps interesting pharmacological properties.

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15. **2**: mp 107-109 °C. IR (neat, cm⁻¹) 3425 (OH), 1780 (CO); ¹H NMR δ (400 MHz, CDCl₃) 7.38-7.66 (m, 10H, 2 \times C₆H₅), 4.46 (m, 2H, 3-H and 5-H), 4.22 (m, 1H, 4-H), 3.75 and 3.91 (m, 2H, 6-H₂), 1.05 (s, 9H, C(CH₃)₃); ¹³C NMR δ (100 MHz, CDCl₃) 174.0 (CO), 135.6, 135.4, 129.9, 127.8, 80.5, 74.8, 73.8, 61.6, 26.7, 19.2.
16. **6**: ¹H NMR δ (400 MHz, CDCl₃) 5.80 (ddd, 1H, J₁=6.9 Hz, J₂=10.5 Hz, J₃=17.4 Hz, 2-H), 5.30 (m, 2H, 1-H₂), 4.70 (m, 4H, 2 \times (OCH₂)₂(MEM)), 4.60 (m, 1H, 4-H), 3.45-3.95 (m, 12H, 2 \times (OCH₂CH₂)₂(MEM) and 3-H and 5-H and 6-H₂), 3.37 (s, 3H, OCH₃(MEM)), 3.36 (s, 3H, OCH₃(MEM)); ¹³C NMR δ (100 MHz, CDCl₃) 134.8, 118.7, 97.4, 92.8, 81.4, 71.6, 71.5, 69.9, 69.8,

- 68.0, 67.3, 67.2, 63.2, 59.0.
17. **10**: IR (neat, cm^{-1}) 3300 (alkyne), $^1\text{H NMR } \delta$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) 5.80 (ddd, 1H, $J_1=6.9$ Hz, $J_2=10.5$ Hz, $J_3=17.4$ Hz, 2-H), 5.30 (m, 2H, 1-H,2), 4.80 (m, 6H, 2x (OCH_2O) (MEM)), 4.23 (m, 1H, 4-H), 3.4-4.0 (m, 14H, 3x $(\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})$ (MEM) and 3-11 and 5-11), 3.36 (s, 9H, 3x OCH_3 (MEM)), 2.60 (m, 2H, 6-H), 1.95 (t, 1H, $J=2.6$ Hz, 8-H); MS (FAB) 315 (M^{-1} , 100%).
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19. **12**: $[\alpha]_D^{25} = -92.5^\circ$ ($c=0.62$, CHCl_3); UV λ_{max} (EtOH) 265 nm; $^1\text{H NMR } \delta$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) 6.36 (d, 1H, $J=11.2$ Hz, 6-11), 6.02 (d, 1H, $J=11.2$ Hz, 7-11), 5.42 (m, 1H, 19-11), 5.08 (m, 1H, 19-11), 4.22 (m, 1H, 1-11), 4.15 (m, 1H, 3-H), 3.50 (m, 1H, 2-H), 3.04 (s, 1H, OH), 2.80 (dd, $J_1=12.0$ Hz, $J_2=3.8$ Hz, 1H, 9-11), 2.58 (s, 1H, OH), 2.48 (m, 2H, 4-11), 2.24 (s, 1H, OH), 0.91 (d, 3H, $J=6.3$ Hz, 21- CH_3), 0.87 (d, $J=1.7$ Hz, 3H, 26- CH_3), 0.85 (d, $J=1.7$ Hz, 3H, 27- CH_3), 0.54 (s, 3H, 18- CH_3).

Efficient Synthesis of Hydroxyethylidene and (*E*)-Alkene Dipeptide Isosteres

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The development of novel dipeptide isosteres possesses a great value and importance in peptidomimetics. Among more than dozen peptide isosteres,¹ (*E*)-alkene dipeptide isostere² is a suitable amide bond surrogate in terms of mimicking the rigidity, bond angles, and bond length of the amide bond. We wish to report here general and efficient synthesis of hydroxyethylidene³ and (*E*)-alkene dipeptide isosteres, which would considerably increase their application to drug and development.

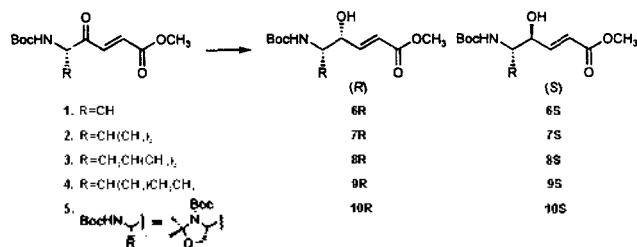
Hydroxyethylidene dipeptide isostere first reported by Hanson *et al.*^{3a} is an interesting dipeptide analog which combines conformational restriction, function as statine mimics, and the ability to undergo conjugate addition to enzyme nucleophiles such as cysteine thiol. Previous syntheses^{3b,c,d} of hydroxyethylidene dipeptide isosteres mainly resorted to the Hansons method,^{3a} which was hampered by the lack of stereoselectivity in the vinylmagnesium halide addition to amino aldehydes, long reaction steps, and low overall yields. As a solution to the synthetic problem in preparing hydroxyethylidene dipeptide isosteres, we have developed an efficient route from ketovinyl dipeptide isostere.⁴ Reduction of ketovinyl dipeptide isostere gives the corresponding hydroxyethylidene dipeptide isostere in one step (Scheme 1).

Various reducing agents including NaBH_4 , $\text{Zn}(\text{BH}_4)_2$, LiBF_4H , *L*-selectride, *L,S*-selectride, $\text{LiAl}(i\text{-Bu})(n\text{-Bu})_3$, and NaBH_4CN were used and additives such as Et_3BOMe ,

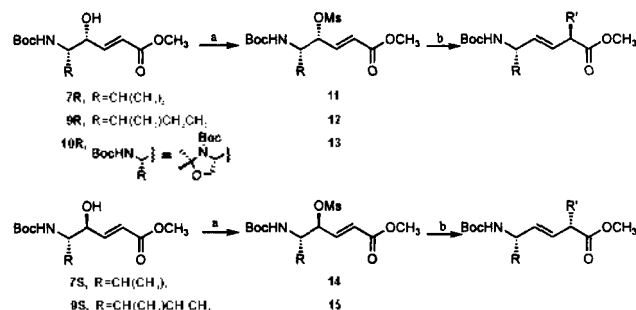
ZnCl_2 , CuCl_2 , and SmCl_3 were employed. Even though the stereoselectivity of reduction was moderate (product ratio, (*R*):(*S*)=88:12-18:82),⁵ combined isolated yields of (*R*)- and (*S*)-alcohols were good to excellent (55-99%). Furthermore, by employing some additives (CuCl_2 , SmCl_3) diastereoselectivity could be reversed and both diastereomers of hydroxyethylidene dipeptide isosteres could be prepared. Due to ease access of ketovinyl dipeptide isosteres from amino acids,⁴ this synthetic route constitutes an efficient and general pathway for hydroxyethylidene dipeptide isosteres. Conversion of hydroxyethylidene to (*E*)-alkene dipeptide isosteres through γ -mesyloxy (*E*)- α,β -enoate intermediates was completed by using Iyuka's method.^{3b}

Anti-S_N2' displacement of γ -mesyloxy leaving group with organocopper. BF_3 complex provided (*E*)-alkene dipeptide isostere in a stereoselective manner (Scheme 2). Experimental results are summarized in Table 1.

The salient features of this synthetic route for (*E*)-alkene dipeptide isosteres include: (1) the relatively few number of steps required, (2) excellent chemical yields and stereoselectivity. Due to the simplicity and efficiency in preparation of scalemic γ -hydroxy α,β -enoates (hydroxyethylidene) and a



Scheme 1.



Scheme 2. Reagents and conditions: (a) MsCl , pyridine, CH_2Cl_2 , 0°C . (b) CuCN , $\text{R}'\text{MgCl}$, $\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{Et}_2\text{O}$, THF , -78°C .