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Formal Synthesis of ent-Cephalotaxine Using a One-pot Parham–aldol Sequence

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ABSTRACT. A short formal synthesis of ent-Cephalotaxine is achieved. The approach features a new Lewis acid mediated [2,3]-Stevens rearrangement of N-allylated prolineamide to generate a key quaternary stereogenic center. Additionally, a one-pot Parham–aldol sequence was developed to rapidly assemble two of the four rings in the cephalotaxine core.

Cephalotaxus alkaloids are a wide family of secondary metabolites isolated from Cephalotaxus genus trees and shrubs native to southern Asia (For representative members, see Figure 1).† Because of their intricate structure as well as the antileukemial activity of some members of the alkaloid family, especially the FDA...
approved drug homoharringtonine (2), they have been of wide interest to the synthetic community.\textsuperscript{1,2,3,4} Especially strategies relying on domino reactions forming several rings of the pentacyclic core in a single operation have proved highly successful. These strategies include an efficient radical domino reaction by the Ishibashi group, a stereospecific hydride reduction–iso-Nazarov domino reaction by the Li group as well as an amide acylation–cycloaddition domino reaction by the Gin group.\textsuperscript{5a–c}

\begin{figure}[h]
\centering
\includegraphics[width=\textwidth]{fig1.png}
\caption{Examples of cephalotaxine-type alkaloids: Cephalotaxine (1), Homoharringtonine (2), Drupacine (3) and Cephalezomine H (4) all have a common ABCD ring system with a quaternary stereogenic center at the C5 spiro junction.}
\end{figure}

A retrosynthetic analysis of enone 5, the racemate of which has previously been converted into (±)-cephalotaxine (rac-1), reveals an opportunity for an attractive domino sequence not yet explored (Figure 2, a).\textsuperscript{6} Ring D of enone 5 is known to form in an intramolecular aldol condensation of an enolate intermediate 6.\textsuperscript{7} Instead of forming this enolate 6 from the parent diketone, we considered expelling the enolate from exo-butenolide 7 following a Parham cyclization to initially form the ring B.\textsuperscript{8} Such a protocol would allow for forging both rings B and D in a single operation by lithiation of intermediate 7. To construct the needed precursor 7 we considered iodolactonizing amide 8, which can be derived from α-allylated prolineamide derivative 9.
a) Cascade strategy to construct enone 5 from an exo-butenolide 7

![Chemical structure](image)

ent-Cephalotaxine (ent-1)

b) Lewis acid templated Stevens rearrangements

1) BBr₃, −78 °C, DCM
2) Et₃N, rt

>98:2 er
62–85%

Figure 2: a) Proposed formal synthesis of ent-Cephalotaxine (ent-1) based on a Parham-aldol cascade of butanolide 7. b) Prior and current approaches to Lewis acid mediated rearrangements of N-substituted prolineamide derivatives.⁹

We recently disclosed an asymmetric Lewis acid mediated [1,2]-Stevens rearrangement of proline-derived benzyl derivatives of the type 10, which afforded corresponding quaternary α-benzyl proline derivatives 11 in good to excellent yields (62–85%) and high enantiomeric purity (er >98:2) (Figure 2, b).⁹ We speculated that N-allyl prolineamide 12 might also be a competent substrate for this reaction, and result in α-allyl prolineamide 9 (Figure 2, b).¹⁰ This would be a powerful method for the installation of the challenging spirocyclic C5 stereogenic center in cephalotaxine (1) at an early stage in the synthesis. This choice of strategy was also backed up by a very informative formal synthesis of rac-cephalotaxine (rac-1) by the Liu group, applying a related [2,3]-Stevens rearrangement.¹¹
The campaign was started by optimizing the proposed [2,3]-Stevens rearrangement of N-allyl L-prolineamide 12, readily available by allylating commercially available prolineamide 13 (Scheme 1). Conditions optimized for the N-benzyl rearrangement (BBr₃, then Et₃N) gave only traces of α-allylated product 9 in both dichloromethane and toluene as solvents. Gratifyingly, replacing triethylamine with DBU improved the yield to 73% of α-allylated prolineamide 9 (er 94:6). In contrast to the [1,2]-Stevens rearrangement, thought to proceed via a diradical intermediate, we presume the allyl transfer to be a formal [2,3]-rearrangement. Upon addition of DBU, oxazaborolidine 14 deprotonates to form the ammonium ylide 15. Ylide 15 is primed for a [2,3]-rearrangement, transposing the allyl group with retention of configuration. It is worth noting that this example is the first asymmetric Lewis acid mediated [2,3]-sigmatropic rearrangement of N-allyl proline derivatives and constitutes an attractive method for the synthesis of enantioenriched quaternary prolines.

Scheme 1: Synthesis of enantioenriched α-allyl proline dimethylamide 9 from commercially available L-prolineamide 13. Postulated mechanism proceeds via a [2,3]-Stevens rearrangement of ammonium ylide 15.

Subsequent N-alkylation of 9 with iodonosylate 16 afforded 8 in 83% yield (Scheme 2). The high stability of the amide group in α-quaternary dimethylamides such as 9 and 8 can pose problems due to the relatively forcing conditions required for their hydrolysis. We were therefore pleased to find that the
unsaturated amide 8 can be directly iodolactonized under mild conditions (I₂, THF/H₂O, rt) to yield the iodolactone 17 (dr 92:8). The relative stereochemistry is, however, inconsequential as the subsequent dehydrohalogenation of 17 with DBU under microwave conditions affords 7. These transformations set the stage for the Parham–aldol domino reaction.

**Scheme 2:** Accessing the enantioenriched cyclization precursor exo-but enolide 7.

Treatment of iodide 7 with variety of metalating agents (t-BuLi, n-BuLi, mesitylLi, i-PrMgCl·LiCl) at –100 °C in THF and allowing the reaction mixture to warm to room temperature resulted in near full consumption of 7 forming complex mixtures with varying amounts of diketone 20, but only traces of desired enone 5 (Scheme 3). Attempts at chancing the solvent to heptane/THF led to no improvement, nor did additives such as TMEDA, t-BuOH or MeOH. At best, the desired enone 5 was obtained in 9% isolated yield (n-BuLi, THF, –78 °C, 2 h, warmed to room temperature and heated to 50 °C for 20 min). Furthermore, screening addition rates, reverse addition and reaction temperatures led to no significant improvement.

These setbacks led us to analyze our proposed reaction mechanism in closer detail. The first step, lithium–halogen exchange to give 18 was clearly taking place as 7 was consumed. Also, indicative of the Parham cyclization, we could isolate varying amounts of the diketone 20 where the B-ring had been formed. Yet conversion to enone 5 was only very low. The difficulty at forming ring D led us to speculate that the lithium alkoxide formed after the Parham cyclization does not collapse into enolate 6, but rather chelates with the tertiary nitrogen to form the tentative intermediate 19, which is too stable under the reaction
conditions to react further.$^{20}$ With this insight at hand, we repeated the most successful reaction sequence ($n$-BuLi, –78 °C, 2 h, warmed to room temperature) and then added sodium methoxide (1.0 equiv., 0.5 M in methanol) before heating to 50 °C to break the postulated chelate 19, and to produce the more reactive sodium enolate 6. Thankfully, with this modification enone 5 was isolated in a 58% yield (er 91:9).$^{21}$ The slight loss in enantiopurity in 5 (94:6 of 9 to 91:9 of 5) can be assigned to partial scrambling at the C5 stereogenic center via a retro-Mannich-Mannich sequence.$^{22}$ Under the one-pot conditions, sodium enolate 6 can form via two pathways: 1) methanol quenching 19 into a transient ketone 20 which re-enolizes to 6 with NaOMe or 2) direct transmetallation of 19 to 6. As a control experiment, adding solid anhydrous NaOMe instead of a methanolic solution, the yield of 5 remained the same (52%). In this case no protic solvent is available to quench enolate 19, showing that direct metal exchange from 19 to 6 is also taking place. The pathway from 20 to 5 is also known in the literature, and with methanolic sodium methoxide the cascade from 19 to 5 likely proceeds via both pathways.$^{7,23}$

Scheme 3: One-pot Parham–aldol reaction sequence forming both rings B and D of the cephalotaxine alkaloid core 5 proceeds via a postulated stable lithium chelate 19.

In summary, we have achieved an enantioselective 6-step synthesis of 5, the pentacyclic core of cephalotaxus alkaloids, starting from commercially available L-prolineamide 13. In conjunction with a novel
Parham–aldol strategy to construct both rings B and D of 5 in a one-pot operation, we have disclosed the first example of an asymmetric Lewis acid mediated [2,3]-Stevens rearrangement of N-allyl proline amides to yield α-allyl proline amides with high enantiopurity (er 94:6). The two new reactions described herein are a testimony to the usefulness of total synthesis efforts in reaction discovery.

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION.

General experimental procedures. All reactions were carried out under an argon atmosphere in oven-dried glassware, unless otherwise noted. When needed, nonaqueous reagents were transferred under argon via syringe or cannula and dried prior to use. Dry solvents were obtained by passing deoxygenated solvents through activated alumina columns (M Braun SPS-800 Series solvent purification system). Other solvents and reagents were used as obtained from supplier, unless otherwise noted. Analytical TLC was performed using Merck silica gel F254 (230–400 mesh) plates and analyzed by UV light or by staining upon heating with KMnO₄ solution (1 g KMnO₄, 6.7 g K₂CO₃, 1.7 mL 1 M NaOH, 100 mL H₂O). For silica gel chromatography, the flash chromatography technique was used, with silica gel 60 (230–400 mesh) and p.a. grade solvents unless otherwise noted. The ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded in CDCl₃ on Bruker Avance 400 spectrometer. The chemical shifts are reported in ppm relative to residual CHCl₃ (δ 7.26) for ¹H NMR. For the ¹³C NMR spectra, CDCl₃ (δ 77.16) was used as the internal standards. The enantiomeric ratio of 5 was determined by HPLC in comparison to the corresponding racemic samples using Agilent 1260 Infinity HPLC. Melting points (mp) were determined in open capillaries using Stuart SMP3 melting point apparatus and are uncorrected. IR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Alpha Platinum FT-IR spectrometer with an ATR accessory. Optical rotations were obtained with a Perkin-Elmer 341 polarimeter. High resolution mass spectrometric data were measured using Waters QTOF XEVO-G2 spectrometer. Microwave reactions were carried out using Biotage Initiator EXP EU microwave reactor rated at maximum power output of 400 W with the magnetron running at 2450 MHz using an external surface sensor. Kugelrohr distillations were carried out using Büchi GKR-51 bulb-to-bulb distillation unit cooled with dry-ice.
(S)-1-Allyl-N,N-dimethylpyrrolidine-2-carboxamide (12). To a solution of N,N-dimethylprolineamide (13) (500 mg, 4.38 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in acetonitrile (2 ml) allyl bromide (640 mg, 450 µL, 5.3 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) was added at 0 °C. The resulting solution was heated using a microwave reactor (100 W, 120 °C) for 5 min, allowed to cool to rt, and quenched with aqueous 2 M NaOH (10 ml). The resulting biphasic mixture was extracted with EtOAc (3 × 5 ml) and the combined organic layers washed with brine (10 ml), dried with Na₂SO₄, and concentrated in vacuo. The thus obtained crude 12 is NMR pure (540 mg, 84%). When scaling up, combined batches of 12 were further purified with Kugelrohr distillation (120 °C, 0.1 mbar) to yield the allyl amine as a colorless oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 5.94 (dddd, J = 17.2, 10.1, 7.3, 6.1 Hz, 1H), 5.14 (ddd, J = 10.1, 2.1, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 3.40–3.28 (m, 2H), 3.19 (td, J = 8.0 Hz, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 3.06 (s, 3H), 3.00 (dd, J = 13.1, 7.3 Hz, 1H), 2.94 (s, 3H), 2.33 (dd, J = 16.5, 8.7 Hz, 1H), 2.15–2.04 (m, 1H), 2.01–1.89 (m, 1H), 1.87–1.74 (m, 2H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 173.3, 136.1, 116.8, 63.9, 57.6, 53.3, 37.0, 36.1, 28.9, 23.0. IR (ATR, cm⁻¹) νmax: 2945, 2799, 1638, 1418, 1261, 1115, 919. [α]D²⁰ = −104.6° (c 1.0, DCM). HRMS (ESI⁺) m/z: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₁₀H₁₉N₂O 183.1497; Found 182.1495; Δ = −1.1 mDa.

(R)-2-Allyl-N,N-dimethylpyrrolidine-2-carboxamide (9). To a solution of N-allylproline amide 12 (1.0 g, 5.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in DCM (60 ml) at −78 °C BBr₃ (12.0 ml, 2.89 g, 11.5 mmol, 2.10 equiv., 1.0 M solution in DCM) was added dropwise. The resulting solution was allowed to warm to rt and stirred for 1 h, then cooled to 0 °C followed by dropwise addition of DBU (4.1 ml, 4.2 g, 27 mmol, 5.0 equiv.). The mixture was allowed to warm to rt and stirred for 1 h. The resulting deep orange reaction mixture was quenched with 1 M HCl (10 ml), biphasic mixture separated, and the organic layer washed with 1 M NaOH (20 ml). The basified aqueous layer was further extracted with DCM (3 × 30 ml), and the combined organic layers washed with brine (50 ml), dried with Na₂SO₄ and concentrated in vacuo. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (50% acetone/pentane, 1% i-PrNH₂) to afford amine 9 as a pale-yellow oil (729 mg, 73%, er = 94:6, Mosher derivative, see SI). Rf = 0.13 (50% Acetone/heptane, KMnO₄). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 5.79 (ddd, J = 17.4, 10.4, 7.1 Hz, 1H), 5.05–5.03 (m, 1H), 5.02–4.99 (m, 1H), 3.09–2.88 (m, 7H), 2.78 (td, J = 9.2, 6.4 Hz), 2.50 (dd, J = 13.9, 7.1 Hz), 2.38 (dd, J = 13.9, 7.1 Hz, 1H), 2.07 (d, J = 12.4, 8.3 Hz, 1H), 1.91–1.84 (m, 1H), 1.82–1.69 (m, 2H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 175.5, 134.3, 117.5, 68.5,
46.6, 44.7, 35.3, 26.5. IR (ATR, cm⁻¹) νmax: 3074, 2942, 2869, 1624, 1434, 1254, 1162, 992, 731. [α]D20 – 104.6° (c 1.0, DCM). HRMS (ESI⁺) m/z: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₆οH₁₉N₂O 183.1497; Found 183.1499; Δ = 0.2 mDa.

Mosher derivatization: To a stirred solution of amine 9 (30 mg, 0.21 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in dichloromethane (1 ml), DIPEA (25 µL, 18.3 mg, 181 µmol, 2.2 equiv.) followed by (R)-(−)-MTPA-Cl (11 µL, 12.7 mg, 1.1 equiv.) was added at 0 °C. The resulting solution was warmed to 40 °C for 16 h and after full consumption of starting material allowed to cool to room temperature. The reaction was quenched with aqueous saturated NaHCO₃ (1 ml) and extracted with dichloromethane (3 × 1 ml). The combined organic layers were dried with anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated in vacuo. The crude was analyzed using ¹H NMR for a dr of 94(RR):6(RS).

(R)-2-allyl-1-(2-(6-iodobenzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)ethyl)-N,N-dimethylpyrrolidine-2-carboxamide (8). A beige suspension of amine 9 (294 mg, 1.90 mmol, 1.00 equiv.), nosylate 16 (1.0 g, 2.1 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) and K₂CO₃ (790 mg, 5.70 mmol, 3.00 equiv.) in acetonitrile (10 ml) was refluxed for 13 h. The resulting mixture was cooled to rt, filtered through a fritted funnel and the filter cake washed with thoroughly with EtOAc (3 × 3 ml). The combined filtrates were concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (35% EtOAc/heptane) to afford iodide 8 as a yellow oil (724 mg, 83%). Rf = 0.31 (30% EtOAc/heptane, UV, KMnO₄). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 7.20 (s, 1H), 6.69 (s, 1H), 6.02–5.90 (m, 3H), 5.93 (s, 2H), 5.02 (app. d, J = 12.6 Hz, 2H), 3.31 (td, J = 8.6, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 3.00 (br. s, 6H, NCH₃), 2.89–2.68 (m, 5H), 2.65 (dd, J = 16.8, 8.9 Hz, 1H), 2.61–2.53 (m, 1H), 2.08 (dd, J = 16.1, 11.2 Hz, 1H), 2.06–1.99 (m, 2H), 1.97–1.80 (m, 2H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 174.3, 148.5, 147.0, 137.4, 136.6, 118.6, 117.1, 109.6, 101.6, 88.0, 71.9, 50.2, 49.6, 40.3, 38.1, 36.6, 31.4, 22.1. IR (ATR, cm⁻¹) νmax: 2904, 2811, 1624, 1474, 1384, 1225, 1110, 1006, 931. [α]D20 – 21.4° (c 0.5, CH₂Cl₂). HRMS (ESI⁺) m/z: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₁₉H₂₆N₃O₃ 457.0988; Found: 457.0989; Δ = 0.1 mDa.

(5S,8R)-1-(2-(6-iodobenzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)ethyl)-8-(iodomethyl)-7-oxa-1-azaspiro[4.4]nonan-6-one (17). To a solution of amide 8 (1.70 g, 3.73 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in THF (38 ml) and DI H₂O (12 ml) at 0 °C and protected from light was added iodine (2.36 g, 9.31 mmol, 2.5 equiv.). The reaction mixture was allowed to
warm to rt and after 16 h quenched with aq. sat. Na$_2$SO$_3$ (7 ml) and basified with 2 M NaOH (5 ml). The resulting biphasic solution was extracted with EtOAc (4 × 20 ml). The combined organic layers were washed with brine (50 ml), dried with Na$_2$SO$_4$ and concentrated in vacuo (bath temperature 30 °C). The resulting black residue (dr 92:8 based on $^1$H NMR of reaction mixture) was purified using flash column chromatography (20% EtOAc/heptane to 30% EtOAc/heptane) to give cis-butyrolactone 17 as a clear oil (1.17 g, 57%).

13$\text{C}$\text{(}$^1\text{H}$) NMR (100 MHz, CDCl$_3$) δ: 177.8, 148.6, 147.1, 136.1, 118.7, 110.0, 101.7, 88.0, 75.1, 70.8, 51.7, 50.2, 40.8, 39.5, 36.8, 22.3, 7.1. IR (ATR, cm$^{-1}$) $\nu_{\text{max}}$: 2937 (br), 1768, 1475, 1248, 1153, 1039. $[\alpha]_{20}$D $^{+}16.1°$ (c 1.0, DCM). HRMS (ESI$^+$) m/z: [M+H]$^+$ Calcd for C$_{17}$H$_{20}$I$_2$NO$_5$ 555.9482; Found: 555.9485; Δ = 0.3 mDa.

(S)-1-(2-(6-iodobenzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)ethyl)-8-methylene-7-oxa-1-azaspiro[4.4]nonan-6-one (7). A solution of iodide 17 (100 mg, 0.180 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) and DBU (81 µL, 82 mg, 0.54 mmol, 3.0 equiv.) in toluene (3 ml) was heated in a microwave reactor (100 W, 120 °C) for 45 min. The resulting dark tar was taken up in DCM (4 × 2 ml), concentrated in vacuo and purified using flash column chromatography (50% Et$_2$O/pentane) to give the product 7 as a white solid (65 mg, 84%). mp: 81.2 – 83.3 °C. R$_f$ = 0.66 (50% EtOAc/heptane, UV, KMnO$_4$). $^1$H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$) δ: 7.21 (s, 1H), 6.72 (s, 1H), 5.95 (app. d, $J = 1.4$ Hz, 1H), 5.94 (d, $J = 1.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.70 (dd, $J = 4.3$, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 4.30 (dd, $J = 4.3$, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 3.23 (td, $J = 8.6$, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 3.04–2.96 (m, 1H), 2.91–2.71 (m, 3H), 2.58 (ddd, $J = 11.3$, 10.0, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 2.28–2.19 (m, 1H), 2.03–2.13 (m, 1H), 1.69–2.01 (m, 2H). $^{13}$C$\text{(}$^1\text{H}$) NMR (100 MHz, CDCl$_3$) δ: 176.4, 153.3, 148.6, 147.1, 135.9, 118.7, 109.8, 101.7, 89.4, 88.0, 69.2, 51.6, 50.1, 40.6, 36.5, 36.4, 21.8. IR (ATR, cm$^{-1}$) $\nu_{\text{max}}$: 2940 (br), 1790, 1672, 1502, 1251, 1227, 1084, 999, 844. $[\alpha]_{20}$D $^{+}34.2°$ (c 0.5, DCM). HRMS (ESI$^+$) m/z: [M+H]$^+$ Calcd for C$_{17}$H$_{20}$I$_2$NO$_5$ 428.0359; Found: 428.0360; Δ = 0.1 mDa.
To a solution of 7 (20 mg, 0.05 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in THF (1 ml) at –78 °C n-BuLi (2.5 M in hexanes, 21 μL, 0.05 mmol, 1.1 equiv.) was added dropwise. The reaction mixture was stirred at –78 °C for 2 h and then allowed to slowly warm to room temperature. After stirring at room temperature for 30 minutes, NaOMe (0.5 M in MeOH, 94 μL, 1.0 equiv.) was added and the reaction was stirred for an additional 2 h at room temperature and then heated to 50 °C for 20 minutes and then cooled to rt. The mixture was diluted with EtOAc (20 ml) and brine (10 ml). The layers were separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (3 × 10 ml). The combined organic layers were dried with anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated. The residue was purified using flash chromatography (EtOAc) to afford 5 as an off-white amorphous solid (7.7 mg, 58%).

Rₛ = 0.31 (EtOAc, UV, KMnO₄). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 6.70 (1H, app. s), 6.67 (1H, app. s), 6.08 (s, 1H), 6.00 (2H, dd, |Jₐₜₐₜ| = 1.4 Hz, Δν = 23.8 Hz.), 3.43 (1H, ddd, J = 4.8 Hz, 12.1 Hz, 16.4 Hz), 3.32 (1H, ddd, J = 2.9, 12.1, 15.0 Hz), 3.10 (app. dt, J = 3.6, 15.0 Hz), 2.97–2.92 (m, 3H), 2.64 (2H, distorted dd, |Jₐₜₐₜ| = 18.0 Hz, Δν = 6.0 Hz), 1.95–1.81 (3H, m), 1.79–1.74 (1H, m). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 205.9, 149.2, 146.4, 132.1, 131.7, 126.7, 110.1, 109.5, 101.6, 74.9, 54.2, 49.4, 44.4, 39.5, 32.8, 24.7. [α]₂₀° –72.8° (c 0.006, DCM). HRMS (ESI⁺) m/z: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₁₇H₁₈NO₃ 283.1287; Found: 283.1286; Δ = 0.1 mDa. HPLC: Chiralcel IA, 15% 2-propanol/hexane, 0.5 mL·min⁻¹, rt, λ=254 nm, tₑ(R) = 10.9 min, tₑ(S) = 12.7 min.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Chromatograms for 5 and ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra for all new compounds.

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REFERENCES


12. The absolute configuration of 9 was assigned in analogy to our previous results from the rearrangement of a benzyl group. See reference 9 for details. The er of 9 was determined by converting it into the corresponding Mosher amide and integrating the peaks from the two diastereomers in the crude $^1$H NMR spectrum. See Supporting Information.

13. This is in line with our previous observations of the [2,3]-Stevens rearrangements in acyclic systems. See reference 9.


17. Using an oil-bath instead of microwave reactor took several days to fully consume all 17 and gave lower yields (14–20%).


21. The er was determined by HPLC analysis, comparing with racemic material that was prepared by an identical route starting from rac-13. See Supporting Information.


24. Prepared according to ref 15.

25. Minor diastereomer of 17 co-elutes with impurities and was not characterized further.