Published in final edited form as:

Org Lett. 2011 February 18; 13(4): 756–759. doi:10.1021/ol103003f.

¹⁸O Assisted Analysis of a γ,δ -Ketoepoxide Cyclization: Synthesis of the C16–C28 Fragment of Ammocidin D

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Abstract

The C16–C28 fragment common to the cytotoxic macrolide ammocidin D has been prepared by a stereospecific 5-exo opening of a γ,δ -epoxyketone followed by a rearrangement to a pyran acetal. The reaction pathway was traced by ¹⁸O labeling of the keto carbonyl and observation of ¹⁸O induced ¹³C shifts in the pyran acetal product. NMR data of the synthetic C16–C28 fragment compared favorably to the natural product providing support of the assigned stereochemistry.

During the course of screening extracts for apoptosis inducers in Ras-dependent Ba/F3-V12 cells, Hayakawa and co-workers identified the macrolide ammocidin A (Figure 1) from the culture broth of *Saccharothrix* sp. AJ9571.1 In 2009 the same research group reported on the isolation and antiproliferative properties of ammocidins B–D.² Structurally, ammocidins A–D share a common 20-membered macrolactone and differ primarily in glycosylation at C24. For example, ammocidin A incorporates a β -D-olivomycose- β -D-digitoxose disaccharide at C24 while ammocidin D is devoid of sugars at this position (Figure 1). Only the two-dimensional structure of the common aglycone (ammocidinone) was assigned by NMR analysis with degradation by acidic methanolysis providing full assignment of the deoxy sugars by isolation of the derived methyl acetals. Hayakawa has noted that the structure of ammocidin A bears a resemblance to apoptolidin A,³ a macrolide of fully assigned stereochemistry.^{1b} Among the common structural features shared by these polyketides are a central 20-membered macrolactone, a 28-carbon seco-acid incorporating a C21–C25 cyclic acetal (Figure 1) and 6-deoxy glucose at C9. Based on comparison to apoptolidin A and analysis of nOe data, the stereochemistry of ammocidin A/D was tentatively assigned as shown in Figure 1.⁴ Given the significant antiproliferative properties of ammocidins A–D, we initiated a program directed toward the total synthesis of ammocidin D in order to assign the full structure and subsequently advance biological studies. Herein we describe synthetic and mechanistic studies leading to a stereocontrolled assembly of the C16–C28 fragment of ammocidin D.

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Supporting Information Available Experimental procedures and full spectroscopic data for all new compounds. Comparison of NMR data for pyran acetal **14** to ammocidin D. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

When compared to the apoptolidins, a distinguishing structural feature of ammocidins A–D is incorporation of a tertiary alcohol at C24. The C24 hydroxyl group and substitution pattern of the pyran-acetal spanning the C21–C25 region suggested the synthetic strategy shown in Figure 2 beginning with a 5-exo opening of the neighboring methyl substituted epoxide by the C21 keto group (**I**).⁵ When accompanied by hydration, the 5-exo cyclization of **I** would afford furan acetal **II** that we anticipated would isomerize to the ammocidin pyran-acetal **III**.⁶

Our first evaluation of this proposal examined cyclization of the epoxy alcohol derived from aldol adduct **2**, the C20–C28 fragment of ammocidin D (Scheme 1). Oxazolidone **1** was obtained by an Evans asymmetric glycolate aldol starting from (*E*)-6-methoxy-2-methylhexenal, prepared in four steps from 4-methoxy methyl butanoate.⁷ Conversion of **1** to a Weinreb amide followed by ethylation and removal of the TES protecting group provided allylic alcohol **2**, which was poised for a hydroxyl directed epoxidation. Our synthetic plan as shown in Figure 2 required an anti-2,3-epoxy alcohol, therefore we conducted a vanadium catalyzed epoxidation of **2**.⁸

Epoxidation of allylic alcohol **2** did not provide epoxide **3** but instead furan acetal **4** (Scheme 1). The structure and stereochemistry of **4** was assigned based on combined analysis of **4** and the derived TES ether **5**. The acetal carbon (C21) of both **4** and **5** resonated at 112 ppm, approximately 12 ppm further downfield than expected for the ammocidin pyran acetal (**III**, Figure 2).^{1b} Secondly, the observed coupling constant between H₂₂ and H₂₃ for both **4** and **5** was 2 Hz while for the corresponding coupling constant for ammocidin D was 9.9 Hz. Further evidence for furan acetal **4** was provided by two-dimensional NMR data whereby an nOe cross-peak between H₂₂ and Me₂₄ was observed in the NOSTY spectrum and an HMBC cross-peak between C₂₁ and H₂₅ was absent. Thus, acetal **4** not only possessed the incorrect ring tautomer but also inverted stereochemistry at C24 and C25 relative to that required for the ammocidins (cf. **II**, Figure 2).

Two possible reaction pathways, outlined in Scheme 2, could account for the unexpected production of furan acetal **4** starting from vanadium catalyzed epoxidation of allylic alcohol **2**. In path A, epoxidation leads to a syn-2,3-epoxy alcohol (syn-**3**) followed by a 5-exo closure of the, γ,δ -epoxyketone leading to furan acetal **4**. Path B presents a second scenario starting from the anti-2,3-epoxy alcohol (anti-**3**) followed by a 6-endo to intermediate pyran acetal **6** and isomerization to the more stable furan acetal **4**.⁹ In support of path A (cyclization by way of syn-**3**), epoxidation of allylic alcohol **2** with *m*-CPBA did lead to an isolable epoxide that on treatment with borontrifluoride etherate provided acetal furan **4**. Based on literature precedent, we assumed the epoxide produced in the peracid epoxidation was syn-**3**.¹⁰ However, direct assignment of syn/anti relative stereochemistry of 2,3-epoxy alcohols by NMR analysis is historically difficult.¹¹ In order to provide evidence for syn-**3** we labeled the C21 carbonyl of **2** with ¹⁸O. *Epoxidation of ¹⁸O-2 followed by cyclization of the intermediate γ,δ -epoxyketone to furan ¹⁸O-4, would allow path A (syn-3) and path B (anti-3) to be distinguished by assignment of ¹⁸O position in furan ¹⁸O-4 based on the expected ¹⁸O-induced shift of the adjacent carbon signal in the ¹³C NMR spectrum (Scheme 2).*¹²

The ¹⁸O-labeled ketone (¹⁸O-**2**) was readily prepared by stirring ketone **2** in THF using ¹⁸O-labeled water and trace HCl. After 1 h, ¹⁸O-**2** was isolated and determined to be >99% ¹⁸O labeled.¹³ Exposure of ¹⁸O-**2** to VO(acac)₂/TBHP led to the isolation of ¹⁸O-**4**. Examination of the ¹³C NMR spectrum of ¹⁸O-**4** indicated resonances corresponding to C21 and C24 carbons were accompanied by ¹⁸O induced shifts (Scheme 3). The combination of assigned stereochemistry and isotope position in ¹⁸O-**4** (Scheme 3) indicates syn-2,3-epoxy alcohol **3** underwent a 5-exo closure to **4** (path A, Scheme 2). In contrast, ¹⁸O incorporation

was not observed at the C25 carbon as would be expected for a 6-endo closure (path B, Scheme 2).

A tentative model used to rationalize the observed proclivity for stereoselective epoxidation of aldol adduct **2** to afford γ,δ -ketoepoxide syn-**3** followed by a rapid cyclization starts with the pre-organization of aldol adduct **2** by an intramolecular hydrogen bond (Figure 3).¹⁴ We speculated incorporation of a second hydrogen bond by way of the C19 hydroxyl group may alter stereoselectivity to favor the anti epoxy alcohol or allow isolation of the syn-2,3-epoxy alcohol by slowing the rate of keto-epoxide cyclization (Figure 4). In the latter case we would examine a 6-endo closure of the syn epoxy alcohol promoted by aqueous solvent to afford the ammocidin acetal-pyran based on the work of Jamison.⁵

Preparation of the C16–C28 fragment of ammocidin (Figure 3) started with a double diastereoselective Mukaiyama aldol reaction between aldehyde **8** and silyl enol ether **9**. Aldehyde **8** was prepared in 5 steps from (–)-malic acid.¹⁵ The aldol reaction between **8** and **9** proceeded with >20:1 stereoselectivity to afford syn aldol **10** following removal of the C23 TES ether.¹⁶ Incorporation of ¹⁸O at the keto carbonyl proceeded with 50% incorporation using conditions described earlier to provide ¹⁸O-**10**.¹³ Epoxidation of ¹⁸O-**10** with VO(acac)₂-TBHP afforded a single 2,3-epoxy alcohol (¹⁸O-**11**) isolable by flash chromatography, implying hydrogen bonding of the C19 hydroxyl group retarded the rate of cyclization as anticipated (Figure 3). To our delight, heating a solution of ¹⁸O-**11** in ¹⁸O-water at 60 °C for three days afforded pyran acetal ¹⁸O-**12**. Following acetylation of ¹⁸O-**12** analysis of the ¹³C NMR spectrum of diacetate ¹⁸O-**13** indicated ¹⁸O-incorporation at C21 and C24. Examination of the HMBC and NOESY spectrum of the ¹⁸O-**13**, the chemical shift of the C21 carbon (99 ppm) and H₂₂-H₂₃ coupling constant (10 Hz) indicated pyran acetal **13** possessed the stereochemistry tentatively assigned to ammocidin D (Figure 2). Furthermore, the position of ¹⁸O labels in ¹⁸O-**13** and product stereochemistry supported epoxidation of ¹⁸O-**10** to afford *anti*-2,3-epoxy alcohol (**11**) that upon heating in water yielded **12** via a 5-exo epoxide opening. However, upon heating a solution (MeOH-CH₂Cl₂) of pyran acetal **13** in the presence of catalytic PPTS complete isomerization to the corresponding furan acetal (C21: ¹³C NMR 112 ppm) was observed indicating the latter to be thermodynamically favored.¹⁷ This finding does not support the pathway proposed in Figure 2 but that shown below in Figure 4. In this case, intermediate oxonium ion **IV** is intercepted by the C25 hydroxyl group leading to intermediate **V** and upon hydration provides pyran acetal **III**. A closely related cyclization of a γ,δ -epoxyketone has been proposed to account for the conversion of myriaporone 1 to myriaporone 2.¹⁸

In conclusion we have developed a synthetic route to access the C16–C28 fragment of ammocidins A–D. Comparison of the spectral data of ammocidin A–D and pyran acetal **13** (NOESY and ¹H-¹H coupling constants) support the stereochemical assignment of the C16–C28 fragment shown in Figure 1.

Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

Acknowledgments

We thank the National Institutes of Health (CA059515). We also acknowledge Professor Richard E. Taylor (University of Notre Dame) for helpful discussion and Donald F. Stec (Vanderbilt University) for assistance with NMR data collection and analysis.

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Figure 1.
Tentative stereochemical assignment of ammocidin A/D.

Figure 2.
Synthetic strategy for acetal pyran formation.

Figure 3.
Assumed hydrogen bonding of C20–C28 and C16–C28 fragments.

Figure 4.
Revised pathway leading to acetal pyran formation.

Scheme 2.
Possible routes leading to furan acetal **4**

Scheme 3.¹⁸O-Assisted analysis of epoxidation-cyclization pathway^aNMR analysis assisted by premixing of ¹⁶O- and ¹⁸O-labeled **4**.

Scheme 4.
Preparation of ketone ^{18}O -**11**, cyclization to pyran acetal **12** and analysis of ^{13}C NMR spectrum of ^{18}O -**13**