

A NEW EFFICIENT SYNTHESIS OF BOTH ENANTIOMERS OF MACROSPHELIDE CORE: A POTENTIAL PRECURSOR FOR FUNCTIONALIZED MACROSPHELIDES[†]

Yuji Matsuya,^a Takanori Kawaguchi,^a Hideo Nemoto,^{a*} Hiroshi Nozaki,^b and Hiroki Hamada^b

^a Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Toyama Medical and Pharmaceutical University, Sugitani 2630, Toyama, 930-0194, Japan, ^b Department of Applied Science, Okayama University of Science, 1-1 Ridai-cho, Okayama, 700-0005, Japan

E-mail: nemotoh@ms.toyama-mpu.ac.jp

Abstract - The asymmetric synthesis of a macrospinelide core (**1**) and its enantiomer was achieved from (*S*)- or (*R*)-3-hydroxybutyrate in excellent yields. These compounds are potentially useful precursors for the preparation of biologically important macrospinelide analogues.

Recently macrospinelides A-L, isolated from *Microsphaeropsis* sp. FO-5050 and *Periconia byssoides*, have been well recognized as important potential lead compounds for a new drug against cancer due to their strong inhibitory activities on the adhesion of human cells.¹ These natural products possess characteristic 16-membered macrocyclic lactone structures and oxygen-functionalities at their 8 and/or 14 positions (Figure 1).

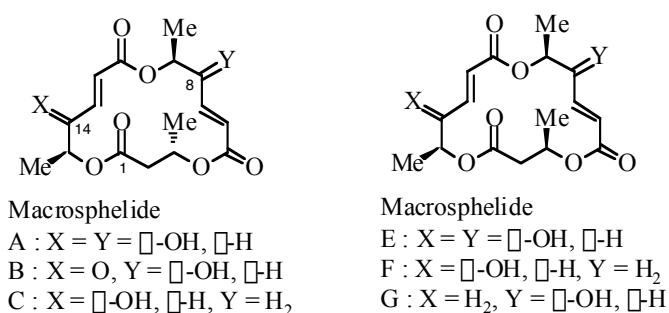


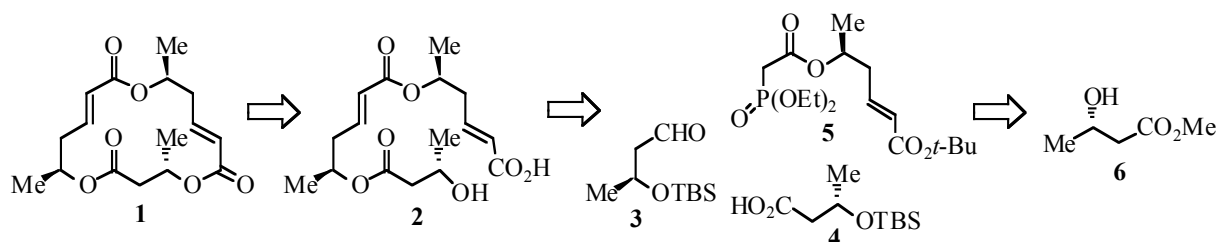
Figure 1. An example of some natural macrospinelides

Because of this remarkable and attractive bioactivity, many studies on the stereostructural elucidation and the asymmetric syntheses of the compounds have been reported by several groups.^{1,2} So far, the structures of macrospinelide A-C, E-I, and L have been fully determined, including their stereochemistry, by means of X-Ray crystallography and chemical transformations.^{1,2a} The asymmetric total syntheses of macrospinelides A-C and E-H including the pioneering synthesis by Smith III and Ômura have also been

[†] Dedicated to Professor Yuichi Kanaoka on the occasion of his 75th birthday.

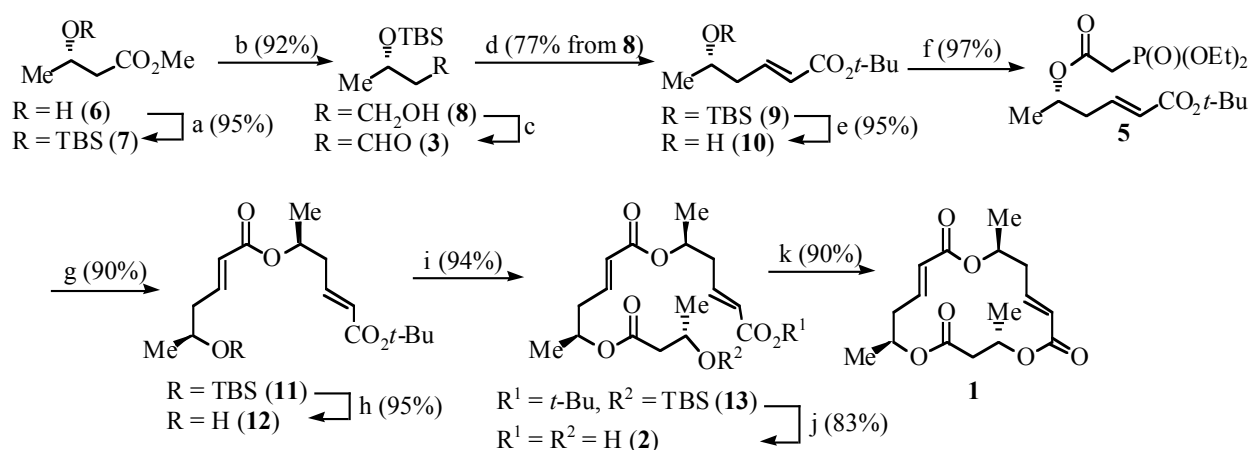
accomplished.² While these syntheses presented effective routes to specific macrospinelide derivatives, an approach aiming at more diversity has not yet been reported to our knowledge. For the purpose of medicinal chemistry, the development of a synthetic methodology for preparing various kinds of macrospinelide derivatives including natural and nonnatural ones would be required, so that a thorough research of detailed structure-activity relationships of these molecules can be carried out. In this context, we planned to develop a novel strategy for the divergent synthesis of the macrospinelide family and its analogues.

Thus, we set simple 16-membered trilactone (**1**) as a key precursor for a variety of macrospinelide derivatives. Since most natural macrospinelides have oxygen functions (hydroxyl or carbonyl) at their allylic positions, various oxidation reactions seem to be applicable to the compound, which would bring about the concise syntheses of various oxygenated derivatives including natural compounds. In addition, this macrospinelide core (**1**) appeared to be much more easily accessible compared to oxygen-bearing ones at their 8 and/or 14 positions, since the number of chiral centers could be reduced and the building blocks (**3**, **4**, and **5**) can be derived from inexpensive 3-hydroxybutyrate (**6**), both enantiomers of which are readily available (Scheme 1). Here, we wish to report an efficient synthesis of a simple macrospinelide core (**1**) and its enantiomer.



Scheme 1. Synthetic strategy for macrospinelide core (**1**)

Our synthetic study of the macrospinelide core (**1**) commenced with the protection of a hydroxyl group of commercially available methyl (*S*)-3-hydroxybutyrate (**6**) as a corresponding silyl ether. Ester function was converted to formyl group by successive treatment with DIBAL and Swern condition.³ Horner-Wadsworth-Emmons reaction using *t*-butyl diethylphosphonoacetate smoothly proceeded to give *trans*-isomer (**9**) exclusively.⁴ After desilylation, the resulting alcohol was subjected to dehydrative condensation with diethylphosphonoacetic acid in the presence of DCC and DMAP, to afford the desired intermediate (**5**) in satisfactory overall yields. Horner-Wadsworth-Emmons reaction of the phosphonate (**5**) with the aldehyde (**3**), removal of the TBS group, and esterification with (*S*)-3-silyloxybutyric acid (**4**) prepared by saponification of **7** were successfully performed under standard reaction conditions. Thus, a requisite 16-atom chain and three chiral centers were suitably arranged. Deprotection of the compound (**13**) was carried out using a thioanisole-TFA system⁵ to give the hydroxy acid (**2**), which was subjected to Yamaguchi's macrolactonization condition,⁶ namely 2,4,6-trichlorobenzoylation followed by slow addition to DMAP solution in toluene under high-dilution. This reaction smoothly proceeded in 90% yield and the structure of the product was confirmed by X-Ray analysis (Figure 2).⁷ In this way the synthesis of the target macrospinelide core (**1**) was accomplished in 11 steps with a 37.2% overall yield (Scheme 2).⁸



Reagents and conditions: (a) TBSCl, Et₃N, cat. DMAP, CH₂Cl₂, rt, 13 h; (b) DIBAL, CH₂Cl₂, rt, 2 h; (c) (COCl)₂, DMSO, Et₃N, CH₂Cl₂, -78°C then 0°C, 1 h; (d) *t*-butyl diethylphosphonoacetate, DBU, LiCl, MeCN, rt, 1 h; (e) TBAF, THF, rt, 6 h; (f) diethylphosphonoacetic acid, DCC, cat. DMAP, CH₂Cl₂, rt, 0.5 h; (g) **3**, DBU, LiCl, MeCN, rt, 0.5 h; (h) AcOH-THF-H₂O (3:1:1), rt, 3 d; (i) **4**, DCC, cat. DMAP, CH₂Cl₂, rt, 3 h; (j) thioanisole, TFA, CH₂Cl₂, rt, 1 h; (k) 2,4,6-trichlorobenzoyl chloride, Et₃N, toluene, rt, 1 h, then added to DMAP in toluene, 80°C, 2 h.

Scheme 2. Synthetic route to the macrophelide core (**1**) from methyl (*S*)-3-hydroxybutyrate (**6**)

Of course, the enantiomer of **1** must be synthesized by using (*R*)-3-hydroxybutyrate as a starting chiral source and this transformation was performed in practice. Thus, the construction of a naturally-occurring skeleton of macrophelide A-D series and its enantiomer were realized with high efficiency. In addition, the macrophelide E-G series (epimer of A-D series at 3-methyl group) would also come available if (*S*)-3-silyloxybutyric acid (**4**) is replaced with its (*R*)-isomer in the above scheme.

In this communication, we demonstrated a new synthesis of macrophelide core (**1**) and its enantiomer in high overall yield. We believe that this synthetic approach will present a new access to the macrophelide family by means of divergent derivatization of **1**. In addition, the enantiomers of natural products can be synthesized taking advantage of the availability of both enantiomers of the chiral block used in the synthesis. In preliminary biological evaluations, it was revealed that macrophelide core (**1**) itself exhibited an antiviral activity. Currently, oxidative derivatization of **1** and biological activities of new class of macrophelides including inhibition of cell-cell adhesion, antiviral, and immunosuppression are being examined, and will be reported elsewhere.

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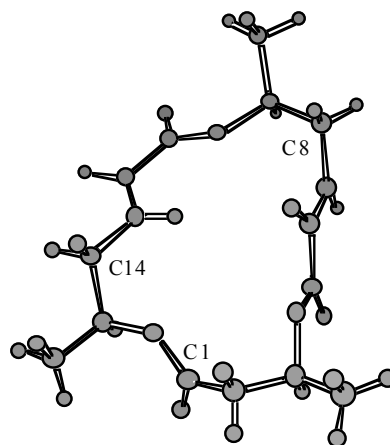


Figure 2. X-Ray structure of macrophelide core (**1**)

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7. Macrosphelide core (**1**) was recrystallized from hexane to form a colorless platelet crystal (C₁₆H₂₂O₆) which has approximate dimensions of 0.40 x 0.20 x 0.07 mm (a primitive orthorhombic space group P2₁2₁2₁ with unit cell parameters: $a = 7.7195(3)$, $b = 10.0492(4)$, $c = 20.8979(8)$ Å, $V = 1621.2(1)$ Å³, $Z = 4$, $D_{\text{calc}} = 1.27$ g/cm³). The data were collected on a Rigaku RAXIS-RAPID Imaging Plate diffractometer with graphite monochromated MoK α radiation ($\lambda = 0.71069$ Å). Of the 19297 reflections which were collected, 2687 were unique ($R_{\text{int}} = 0.038$). The structure was solved by direct methods (SIR97), and the full-matrix least-squares refinement was based on 2685 observed reflections ($I > -3.00\sigma(I)$) and 199 variable parameters ($R = 0.059$, $R_w = 0.093$, $RI = 0.040$ for 2135 $I > 2.0\sigma(I)$ data). The authors have deposited the crystallographic data with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre (deposition No. CCDC-188549). These data can be obtained free of charge on application to CCDC.
8. Satisfactory spectral data for macrosphelide core (**1**) and all intermediates were obtained.