Methods for the Asymmetric Synthesis of α -Fluoro and α,α -Difluoro- β^3 -Amino Acids

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SUMMARY

Fluorinated β^3 -amino acids are becoming increasingly important due to their potential therapeutic applications, particularly with regard to enzyme inhibition, however research in this area is somewhat limited by a lack of adequate methods for their preparation. Strategies to prepare β -amino acids that feature complex side chains e.g., lysine and arginine, receive even less attention, and are thus the focus of this work, which details the development of two complementary methodologies for the asymmetric synthesis of α -fluoro- and α, α -difluoro- β^3 -amino acids.

Chapter 1 discusses the tandem conjugate addition of a chiral lithium amide to an α,β -unsaturated ester, whereby the intermediate enolate is quenched with an electrophilic source of fluorine. A series of α -fluoro- β^3 -amino esters were subsequently prepared using this method, with silyl-protected substrates proving the most suitable (*Figure 1*). A stepwise method involving separate deprotonation and fluorination reactions was also investigated, however this failed to match the diastereoselectivity of the tandem reaction.

 $\mathsf{R} = \mathsf{Me}, \, \mathsf{TBSO}(\mathsf{CH}_2)_2, \, \mathsf{TBSO}(\mathsf{CH}_2)_3, \, \mathsf{Boc}_2\mathsf{N}(\mathsf{CH}_2)_3, \, \mathsf{4\text{-}Si}(\mathsf{Ph}_2)\text{-piperidine}(\mathsf{CH}_2)_3$

Figure 1 Tandem conjugate addition-fluorination method for the preparation of α -fluoro- β^3 -amino esters.

Demonstrating the applicability of this tandem conjugate addition-fluorination reaction to the preparation of α -fluoro- β^3 -amino acids, two silyl-protected conjugate adducts were then transformed into orthogonally protected α -fluoro- β^3 -lysine and α -fluoro- β^3 -arginine derivatives (*Figure 2*), as described in Chapter 2.

Figure 2 Fluorinated derivatives of β-lysine and β-arginine prepared from silyl-protected conjugate adducts

Access to the corresponding α,α -difluoro- β^3 -amino esters was achieved via the development of a Reformatsky reaction employing chiral aliphatic imines derived from phenylglycine (*Figure 3*), which is discussed in Chapter 3. This method improves upon the Reformatsky methodologies currently available for the preparation of α,α -difluoro- β^3 -amino esters bearing aliphatic β -substituents, which have historically given unsatisfactory yields and diastereoselectivities.

 $R = {}^{i}Pr, {}^{i}Bu, {}^{n}C_{7}H_{15}, {}^{c}C_{6}H_{11}, Ph(CH_{2})_{2}, CH_{2} = CH(CH_{2})_{2}, TBSO(CH_{2})_{2}, TBSO(CH_{2})_{3}, Phth(CH_{2})_{3}$

Figure 3 Preparation of $\alpha,\!\alpha\text{-difluoro-}\beta^3\text{-amino}$ esters via the Reformatsky reaction.

The versatility of these conjugate addition and Reformatsky methodologies was further demonstrated in Chapter 4, in which the preparation of three β^3 -arginine analogues is detailed. An unfluorinated and α -fluoro analogue were both prepared from substrates synthesised via the conjugate addition methodology, while the corresponding α,α -difluoro analogue was prepared using the Reformatsky reaction.

The complementarity of the two techniques is demonstrated by the fact that each of the analogues was derived from the same achiral aldehyde (*Figure 4*). Given the successful synthesis of these compounds, each of the two methodologies discussed in this thesis should find greater use amongst the synthetic community for the preparation of α -fluoro and α,α -difluoro- β^3 -amino acids.

$$\begin{array}{c} & & & \\ & &$$

Figure 4 Preparation of unfluorinated, monofluoro and difluoro analogues of β^3 -arginine.

DECLARATION

I certify that this thesis does not incorporate without acknowledgement any

| material previously submitted for a degree or diploma in any university; and that to |
|--|
| the best of my knowledge and belief it does not contain any material previously |
| published or written by another person except where due reference is made in the |
| text. |
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| Taryn March |
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| Dated: |

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

2,4-DNP 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazine

9-BBN 9-borabicyclo[3.3.1]nonane

Ac20 acetic anhydride AcCl acetyl chloride

AcOH acetic acid

AIBN 2,2-azo-bis-isobutyronitrile

Alloc allyloxycarbonyl atm atmospheres

Bn benzyl

BnBr benzyl bromide

Boc tert-butyloxycarbonyl
Boc₂O tert-butyl dicarbonate

BOP Benzotriazole-1-yl-oxy-tris-(dimethylamino)phosphonium

hexafluorophosphate

bs broad singlet

CAN ceric ammonium nitrate

Cbz benzyloxycarbonyl

Cl-Cbz 2-chlorobenzyloxycarbonyl

COSY correlation spectroscopy

d doublet

DAST diethylaminosulfur trifluoride

DCC N,N-dicyclohexylcarbodiimide

DCM dichloromethane dd doublet of doublets

ddd doublet of doublets of doublets

de diastereomeric excess

DEAD diethyl azodicarboxylate

DIAD diisopropyl azodicarboxylate

DIBAL-H diisobutylaluminium hydride
DIEA N,N-diisopropylethylamine

DMAP 4-dimethylaminopyridine

DME dimethyl ether

DMF dimethylformamide
DMSO dimethyl sulfoxide

DPSide diphenylsilyldiethylene

dq doublet of quartets
 dr diastereomeric ratio
 dt doublet of triplets
 ee enantiomeric excess

ESI electrospray ionisation

Et ethyl

 $\begin{array}{ll} Et_2Zn & diethylzinc \\ Et_3N & triethylamine \\ EtOAc & ethyl \, acetate \end{array}$

EtOH ethanol

Fmoc 9-fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl

Fmoc-OSu 9-fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl succinimide

HIU high intensity ultrasound

HMBC heteronuclear multiple bond correlation

HMQC heteronuclear multiple quantum correlation

HOBt 1-hydroxybenzotriazole

HRMS high resolution mass spectrometry

HWE Horner-Wadsworth-Emmons

Hz Hertz

J coupling constant (Hz)

KHMDS potassium hexamethyldisilazide

LDA lithium diisopropylamine

LiHMDS lithium hexamethyldisilazide

m multiplet
Me methyl

 $\begin{array}{ll} \text{MeCN} & \text{acetonitrile} \\ \text{MeI} & \text{methyl iodide} \\ \text{MeNH}_2 & \text{methylamine} \\ \text{MeO} & \text{methoxy} \end{array}$

MeOH methanol

MIS 1,2-dimethoxyindole-3-sulfonyl

ⁿBuLi n-butyllithium

NFOBS *N*-fluoro-*o*-benzenedisulfonimide

NFSI N-fluorobenzenesulfonimide
NMR nuclear magnetic resonance

NOESY nuclear Overhauser effect spectroscopy

Pbf 2,2,4,6,7-pentamethyl-2,3-dihydrobenzofuran-5-sulfonyl

PG protecting group

Ph phenyl

PMB *p*-methoxybenzyl

Pmc 2,2,5,7,8-pentamethylchroman-6-sulfonyl

PMP *p*-methoxyphenyl ppm parts per million

PPTS pyridinium *p*-toluenesulfonate

q quartet

 $R_{\rm f}$ retention factor

RT room temperature

s singlet

SAR structure activity relationship
SPPS solid phase peptide synthesis

t triplet

TBAF tetrabutylammonium fluoride

TBS *tert*-butyldimethylsilyl

TBSCl tert-butyldimethylsilyl chloride

TBSO *tert*-butyldimethylsilyloxy

^tBuOH tert-butanol

TFA trifluoroacetic acid

TFMK trifluoromethyl ketone

THF tetrahydrofuran

TLC thin layer chromatography

TMS trimethylsilyl
TolSH thiotoluene

TsCl *p*-toluenesulfonyl chloride