SYNTHESIS AND STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS OF NINE-MEMBERED ENYNE NITROGEN HETEROCYCLES

Kazunobu Igawa, Takeshi Kawabata, Kazuhiro Uehara, and Katsuhiko Tomooka*

Institute for Materials Chemistry and Engineering, Kyushu University, Kasuga, Fukuoka 816-8580, Japan  ktomooka@cm.kyushu-u.ac.jp

Abstract – An efficient approach to the nine-membered enyne nitrogen heterocycle 3 is presented. $^1$H NMR analysis reveals that both 3a (R = H, X = Ts) and 3b (R = Me, X = Ts) exhibit significant labile planar chirality in solution at ambient temperature. The X-ray analysis of 3b shows that the enantiotopic faces of the alkene are differentiated by the alkyne moiety in the solid state.

Medium-sized heterocycles containing unsaturated carbon-carbon bonds have attracted significant interest among both synthetic and structural organic chemists because of their unique conformational and chemical properties, made possible by the deformation and strain in their unsaturated carbon-carbon bonds.$^1$ Recently, we reported the novel 3-aza-5-[7]orthocyclophene 1, containing a deformed (E)-alkene in the ansa chain, that showed stable planar chirality along with unique alkene reactivity owing to its strained cyclic structure.$^2$ We later reported the synthesis and stereochemical analysis of the cyclophyne analogue 2, containing an alkyne instead of the (E)-alkene of 1.$^3$ Cyclophyne 2 was found to possess significant labile planar chirality at ambient temperature.

Dedicated with respect to Dr. Isao Kuwajima on the occasion of his 77th birthday
In connection with our research on the chemistry of medium-sized nitrogen heterocycles, we became interested in the novel nine-membered enyne cyclic sulfonamide 3 (X = Ts), a congener of containing a (Z)-alkene instead of a benzene ring. Herein, we report the synthesis and stereochemical analysis of 3. Scheme 1 depicts the retrosynthetic strategy. We planned to construct the strained nine-membered skeleton of 3 by C–N bond formation via the intramolecular Mitsunobu reaction of i, which can be prepared by the Seyferth-Gilbert alkynylation of aldehyde iii or its equivalent using the Ohira-Bestmann reagent, followed by hydroxymethylation.

The synthesis of 3a (R = H) began from our previously reported ε-lactam 4a (Scheme 2). DIBAL reduction of 4a gave hemiaminal 5a, a tautomer of aldehyde iii (R = H, X = Ts). The reaction of 5a with the Ohira-Bestmann reagent afforded enyne 6a in 90% yield (two steps from 4a). Hydroxymethylation of the terminal alkyne in 6a was performed by an acylation and reduction sequence in 74% yield over two steps. The resulting 7a was subjected to an intramolecular Mitsunobu reaction; treating 7a with DEAD and PPh3 in THF at 0 °C to rt under high-dilution conditions (0.01 M) successfully provided the desired cyclic enyne amide 3a in good yield (80%).

The intramolecular Mitsunobu reaction approach was also applicable to the synthesis of methyl-substituted analogue 3b (R = Me) (Scheme 3). The requisite key intermediate aldehyde 5b [≡ iii (R = Me, X = Ts)] was prepared from nerol in three steps: (i) Mitsunobu reaction with methyl
N-(p-toluenesulfonyl)carbamate (93%), (ii) group-selective epoxidation of the trisubstituted alkene moiety with mCPBA (96%), and (iii) oxidative cleavage of the epoxide with orthoperiodic acid (97%). Similarly to the synthesis of 7a from 5a, alkynylation of 5b followed by hydroxymethylation provided 7b, albeit in moderate chemical yield. The intramolecular Mitsunobu reaction of 7b proceeded smoothly and provided cyclic enyne sulfonamide 3b in excellent yield (91%). These results clearly show the efficiency of C–N bond formation by the Mitsunobu reaction in the construction of the strained cyclic skeletons of these nitrogen heterocycles.

Scheme 3. Reagents and conditions: (a) MeOCONHTs, DEAD, PPh₃, THF, 0 °C, 93%; (b) mCPBA, CH₂Cl₂, −78 → 0 °C, 96%; (c) H₃IO₆, Et₂O, 0 °C, 97%; (d) MeCOC(N₂)PO(OMe)₂, K₂CO₃, MeOH, rt, 44%; (e) n-BuLi, THF, −78 °C, then ClCO₂Me, −78 °C, 64%; (f) DIBAL, CH₂Cl₂, −78 °C, 84%; (g) DEAD, PPh₃, THF, 0 °C, 91%.

Sulfonamide 3b afforded a crystal suitable for X-ray analysis, which revealed that the alkyne moiety is located on the outside of the plane of the alkene.¹⁰ Hence, the enantiotopic faces of the alkene are differentiated (Figure 1), and 3b possesses planar chirality in the solid state.

Figure 1. ORTEP drawing of 3b (ellipsoid set at 40% of probability level)
Moreover, the alkyne moiety is significantly bent, with C2–C3–C4 and C3–C4–C5 bond angles of 166° and 163°, respectively.

The 1H NMR spectrum of 3a in CDCl₃ at ambient temperature showed a single set of geminal methylene protons alpha to the nitrogen atom. In contrast, a similar analysis of 3b showed two sets of nonequivalent geminal methylene protons alpha to the nitrogen atom, suggesting that the aforementioned chiral conformations are maintained to some extent, even in solution and on the NMR time scale. The activation free energy for the racemization of 3a and 3b were estimated by DFT calculations as ΔG‡ = 9.9 kcal mol⁻¹, and ΔG‡ = 12.3 kcal mol⁻¹ at 25 °C, respectively (Figure 2). From these data, the half-lives of the optical activity (t₁/₂) of 3a and 3b at 25 °C were calculated as 2 × 10⁻⁶ s and 5 × 10⁻⁵ s, respectively. These results show that i) 3a and 3b do not have isolable enantiomers in a practical sense, ii) the planar chirality of 3a and 3b is significantly less stable than that of cyclophyne analogue 2a (X = Ts) (ΔG‡ = 15.1 kcal mol⁻¹, t₁/₂ = 6 × 10⁻³ s at 25 °C), and iii) the substituent R on the alkene moiety has a certain level of influence on the stereochemical stability of 3.

![Figure 2. Dynamic chirality of 3](image)

In summary, we have described an efficient approach to the nine-membered enyne nitrogen heterocycles 3a and 3b. The newly synthesized compounds showed fairly labile planar chirality in solution at ambient temperature; their enantiomers are unisolable in a practical sense. Further detailed studies on the relationship between the structures and stereochemical stability of these enyne heterocycles and their synthetic applications are in progress.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
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REFERENCES AND NOTES
1. General reviews for medium-sized cyclic compounds containing unsaturated carbon-carbon bonds, see: (a) M. Nakagawa, 'The Chemistry of the Carbon-Carbon Triple Bond,' part 2, ed. by S. Patai,


8. **3a**: a colorless crystal; IR (crystal using a diffuse reflector) cm⁻¹: 2939, 2227, 1597, 1157, 1098, 657; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ: 7.69 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 5.82-5.73 (m, 1H), 5.62-5.53 (m, 1H), 3.90 (s, 2H), 3.81 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 2.34-2.28 (m, 2H), 2.17-2.10 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) δ: 143.6, 135.8, 131.7, 129.9, 128.0, 127.3, 94.6, 83.4, 44.2, 39.7, 27.0, 21.6, 19.1.

9. **3b**: a colorless crystal; IR (crystal using a diffuse reflector) cm⁻¹: 2923, 2234, 1597, 1447, 1348, 1160, 1092, 657; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ: 7.68 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 5.54 (dt, J = 1.2, 8.1 Hz, 1H), 4.20-3.40 (br, 4H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 2.40-2.15 (br, 4H), 1.75 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) δ: 143.4, 135.5, 135.2, 129.8, 127.1, 125.9, 95.1, 83.4, 45.4, 39.7, 32.1, 24.5, 21.7, 18.2.

10. Deposition number CCDC-1020694 for compound **3b**. Selected crystallographic data: triclinic, P–1 (No. 2), a = 6.8112(11) Å, b = 8.1570(13) Å, c = 13.487(3) Å, α = 79.760(11), β = 79.401(10), γ = 82.719(11), V = 721.4(2) Å³, Z = 2, R₁ = 0.0682, wR₂ = 0.1998. Free copies of the data can be
DFT calculations were performed at B3LYP/6-311G(2d,2p) level of theory with Gaussian 09 package. Frisch, M. J. et al. *Gaussian 09, Revision C.01*; Gaussian, Inc.: Wallingford CT, 2010.

The DFT calculations show that the transition state for the racemization of 2 and 3 involves the flipping of the benzene ring or Z-alkene moiety, respectively (TS-2 and TS-3). The energy barrier for racemization of 2 is higher than that of 3, due to the substantial 1,3-steric repulsion between the C6 and C9 methylene protons and the H_a or H_b protons of benzene ring. On the other hand, the flipping of alkene of 3a (R = H) can proceed without such steric repulsion. Racemization of 3b (R = Me) needs a slightly higher energy than that of 3a, to overcome the 1,2-steric repulsion between the C6 proton and the methyl group.