

Tetrahedron Letters

The International Journal for the Rapid Publication of Preliminary
Communications in Organic Chemistry

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Contents

	6973	Contributors to this Issue
	6975	Graphical Abstracts
M. Adamczyk, J. C. Gebler and J. Grote	6987	Chemo-enzymatic transformations of sensitive systems. Preparation of digoxigenin haptens via regioselective lipase mediated hydrolysis
G.-X. He and N. Bischofberger	6991	A convenient preparation of protected 3'-deoxyguanosine from guanosine
D. W. Phife, R. W. Patton, R. L. Berrie, R. Yarborough, M. S. Puar, M. Patel, W. R. Bishop and S. J. Coval	6995	SCH 58450, a novel farnesyl protein transferase inhibitor possessing a 6a,12a:7,12-diepoxybenz[a]anthracene ring system
P. Zhang and J. M. Cook	6999	A successful acid promoted asymmetric Pictet-Spengler reaction of <i>N</i> _a -BOC protected tryptophans. Effect of the BOC group on reactivity and stereoselectivity
T. A. Engler, W. Chai and K. O. Lynch, Jr	7003	Switchable regioselectivity in Lewis acid-promoted reactions of 1,4-benzoquinone monoimides with styrenyl systems: selective syntheses of either 2-aryl-2,3-dihydrobenzofurans or 2-aryl-2,3-dihydroindoles
D. H. R. Barton, B. M. Chabot, N. C. Delanghe, B. Hu, V. N. Le Gloahec and R. U. Rojas Wahl	7007	Further evidence for the Fe ^{II} -Fe ^{IV} and Fe ^{III} -Fe ^V manifolds in the substitution of saturated hydrocarbons
D. Choi and H. Kohn	7011	Trimethylsilyl halides: effective reagents for the synthesis of β-halo amino acid derivatives
C. T. Baker, M. N. Mattson and P. Helquist	7015	Mechanistic test for carbocationic alkene cyclization initiated by cationic iron carbene complex formation
J. E. Macor	7019	An unusual by-product in a concise synthesis of a rotationally restricted phenolic analog of serotonin
S. D. Burke, G. Zhang and J. L. Buchanan	7023	Enantioselective synthesis of a halichondrin B C(20)→C(36) precursor

[Continued on outside back cover]

0040-4039(95)01451-9

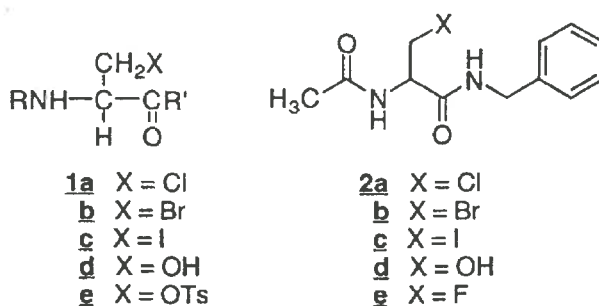
Trimethylsilyl Halides: Effective Reagents for the Synthesis of β -Halo Amino Acid Derivatives

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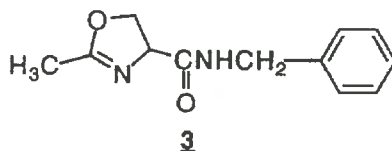
Abstract: β -Halogen alanine derivatives are prepared in moderate yields in one step from the corresponding serine compound and trimethylsilyl halide.

β -Halogen-substituted amino acid derivatives 1a-c have been used as irreversible inactivators of enzymatic processes^{1,2} and are reagents for the construction of functionalized unnatural amino acids.³⁻⁵ Most current methods for the synthesis of 1a-c proceed through the corresponding serine analogue 1d, thereby generating optically pure derivatives.³ Established routes for the synthesis of β -chloro adduct 1a include treatment of 1d with either phosphorous pentachloride^{3,6} or triphenylphosphine and carbon tetrachloride,^{1,7,8} whereas the reaction of 1d with triphenylphosphine and carbon tetrabromide produces 1b.^{1,8} The most common synthesis for β -iodo adduct 1c requires initial conversion of the serine hydroxy group to the tosylate (mesylate) 1e, then displacement with NaI.^{3,9,10} In this letter we report a one-step, versatile method for the synthesis of β -halogen amino acid derivatives. The method has been shown to proceed without racemization and effectively introduces a β -halogen substituent into peptides.

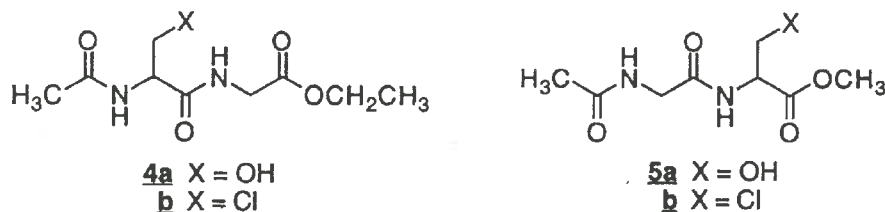


For an ongoing project to prepare bioactive amino acid derivatives,¹¹ we needed the β -halogen compounds 2a-2c. Jung and coworkers^{12,13} have advanced trimethylsilyl bromide and iodide¹⁴ as effective reagents for the conversion of primary alcohols to bromides and iodides, respectively. Use of trimethylsilyl chloride in their procedure did not afford the alkyl chloride. Recently, Snyder reported that dimethyl sulfoxide catalyzed the trimethylsilyl chloride conversion of 1° and 3° alcohols to the corresponding

chlorides.¹⁵ Employing the Jung protocol and commercially available trimethylsilyl halides, (*R,S*)-*N*-acetylserine-*N*-benzylamide¹⁶ (**2d**) was converted to **2a-2c** in acetonitrile.^{17,18} Attempts to convert **2d** to β -fluoro **2e** with trimethylsilyl fluoride were unsuccessful (room temperature, 24 h) and gave dihydrooxazole **3** in a 46% yield.¹⁹



The trimethylsilyl halide reactions were accomplished within 8 h at reflux temperatures. The isolated yields were from 74% for **2a** to 20% for **2c**. These decreased yields have been attributed in part to the sensitivity of the β -halogen product to the reflux conditions. Significantly, the hydroxy to chloride interchange within the serine derivative **2d** proceeded without apparent racemization. Treatment of (*R*)-**2d** with trimethylsilyl chloride in acetonitrile gave only (*R*)-**2a** (NMR analysis).²⁰ The utility of this procedure for the introduction of β -halogen substituents within peptides was demonstrated by the conversion of dipeptides **4a** and **5a** to β -chloro aducts **4b**²¹ and **5b**,²² respectively, in 40-52% yields.



In conclusion, trimethylsilyl halides are effective reagents for the installation of β -halo substituents within *N*-acyl serine containing peptides. The reaction proceeds in one step and in moderate yields. The respective conversion of serine derivatives **2d**, **4a**, and **5a** to β -chloro derivatives **2a**, **4b**, and **5b** with trimethylsilyl chloride in the absence of dimethyl sulfoxide was unexpected.^{12,13,15} The mechanism for this transformation is under investigation.

Acknowledgments. This work was funded, in part, by the Robert A. Welch Foundation and the State of Texas Advanced Technology Program.

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17. Satisfactory spectral data (^1H and ^{13}C NMR, IR, low and high resolution MS) were obtained for all new compounds.
18. General Procedures for the Preparation of **2a-2c**:

To a CH_3CN suspension of **2d** (1 mmol) (20 mL/mmol of **2d**) was added trimethylsilyl halide (2.5 mmol) under N_2 . The reaction mixture was heated at reflux (2-8 h) and then the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was dissolved in a 1:1 mixture of CHCl_3 and H_2O , and the organic layer was separated. The aqueous layer was extracted with CHCl_3 , and the combined organic layers were dried (Na_2SO_4) and evaporated *in vacuo*. The residue was triturated with Et_2O to give the desired product.

2a: mp 143-144 °C; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) δ 2.06 (s, $\text{C}(\text{O})\text{CH}_3$), 3.72 (dd, $J = 6.3, 11.1$ Hz, $\text{CHH}'\text{Cl}$), 3.94 (dd, $J = 6.3, 11.1$ Hz, $\text{CHH}'\text{Cl}$), 4.48 (d, $J = 5.7$ Hz, NHCH_2), 4.72-4.81 (m, CH), 6.36 (br d, $J = 6.3$ Hz, NH), 6.49 (br s, NH), 7.22-7.35 (m, 5 PhH); ^{13}C NMR ($\text{DMSO}-d_6$) 22.45 ($\text{C}(\text{O})\text{CH}_3$), 42.16 (CH_2N or CH_2Cl), 44.62 (CH_2N or CH_2Cl), 53.89 (CH), 126.70 (C_4'), 127.03 ($2\text{C}_2'$ or $2\text{C}_3'$), 128.16 ($2\text{C}_2'$ or $2\text{C}_3'$), 138.39 (C_1'), 168.38 ($\text{C}(\text{O})\text{CH}_3$ or $\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NH}$), 169.52 ($\text{C}(\text{O})\text{CH}_3$ or $\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NH}$) ppm; MS (+Cl) 257 (M^++1 , 28), 255 (M^++1 , 81) 222 (100); M_r (+Cl) 255.090 85 [M^++1] (calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{16}\text{ClN}_2\text{O}_2$ 255.090 03).

2b: mp 123-125 °C; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) δ 2.04 (s, $\text{C}(\text{O})\text{CH}_3$), 3.59 (dd, $J = 4.8, 10.5$ Hz, $\text{CHH}'\text{Br}$), 3.74 (dd, $J = 4.8, 10.5$ Hz, $\text{CHH}'\text{Br}$), 4.47 (d, $J = 5.7$ Hz, NHCH_2), 4.79-4.83 (m, CH), 6.42 (br d, $J = 6.6$ Hz, NH), 6.47 (br s, NH), 7.29-7.37 (m, 5 PhH); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3) 23.07 ($\text{C}(\text{O})\text{CH}_3$), 32.19 (CH_2Br), 43.79 (CH_2N), 53.57 (CH), 127.62 (C_4'), 127.71 ($2\text{C}_2'$ or $2\text{C}_3'$), 128.70 ($2\text{C}_2'$ or $2\text{C}_3'$), 137.37 (C_1'), 168.58 ($\text{C}(\text{O})\text{CH}_3$ or $\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NH}$), 170.37 ($\text{C}(\text{O})\text{CH}_3$ or $\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NH}$) ppm; MS (+Cl) 301 [M^++1 , 5], 299 [M^++1 , 5], 220 (72), 219 (100); M_r (+Cl) 299.039 22 [M^++1] (calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{16}\text{BrN}_2\text{O}_2$ 299.039 51).

- 2c**: mp 169-170 °C (dec); ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) δ 2.05 (s, C(O)CH_3), 4.38-4.51 (m, CH_2I), 4.48 (d, $J = 5.7$ Hz, NHCH_2), 4.63-4.70 (m, CH), 6.52 (br d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, NH), 6.87 (br s, NH), 7.30-7.35 (m, 5 PhH); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3) 4.83 (CH_2I), 22.75 (C(O)CH_3), 43.44 (CH_2N), 53.31 (CH), 127.29 (C_4'), 127.42 ($2\text{C}_2'$ or $2\text{C}_3'$), 128.33 ($2\text{C}_2'$ or $2\text{C}_3'$), 136.87 (C_1'), 168.39 (C(O)CH_3 or C(O)NH), 169.80 (C(O)CH_3 or C(O)NH) ppm; MS (+CI) m/e (rel intensity) 220 (20), 219 (100); M_r (+CI) 347.025 81 [M^{+1}] (calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{16}\text{IN}_2\text{O}_2$ 347.025 65).
19. Compound **3**: mp 129-130 °C; ^1H NMR ($\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ 1.93 (s, CH_3), 4.21-4.38 (m, NHCH_2 , OCH_2CH), 4.55-4.61 (m, CH), 7.22-7.33 (m, 5 PhH), 8.43 (t, $J = 5.7$ Hz, NH); ^{13}C NMR (CD_3OD) 13.64 (CH_3), 44.12 (NHCH_2), 69.67 (CH), 71.87 (OCH_2CH), 128.32 (C_4'), 128.60 ($2\text{C}_2'$ or $2\text{C}_3'$), 129.56 ($2\text{C}_2'$ or $2\text{C}_3'$), 139.60 (C_1'), 170.65 (C(N)O or C(O)), 173.66 (C(N)O or CO) ppm; MS CI(+) (rel intensity) 219 (M^{+1} , 100), 141 (41); M_r (+CI) 219.112 64 [M^{+1}] (calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$ 219.113 35).
20. Addition of a saturated CDCl_3 solution containing (*R*)-(-)- mandelic acid to (*R*)-**2a** gave only one signal in the ^1H NMR spectrum for the acetyl methyl protons, while the corresponding racemate gave two peaks of equal height. For the previous use of this method for the assessment of enantiomeric purity, see reference 11.
21. Compound **4b**: mp 107-108 °C; ^1H NMR ($\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ 1.17 (t, $J = 6.9$ Hz, OCH_2CH_3), 1.88 (s, C(O)CH_3), 3.67 (dd, $J = 7.1, 11.1$ Hz, $\text{CHH}'\text{Cl}$), 3.77 (dd, $J = 5.1, 11.1$ Hz, $\text{CHH}'\text{Cl}$), 3.83 (d, $J = 6.0$ Hz, NHCH_2), 4.07 (q, $J = 6.9$ Hz, OCH_2CH_3), 4.61-4.68 (m, CH), 8.31 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, NH), 8.58 (t, $J = 6.0$ Hz, NH); ^{13}C NMR ($\text{DMSO}-d_6$) 14.02 (OCH_2CH_3), 22.45 (C(O)CH_3), 40.82 (NHCH_2 or CH_2Cl), 44.55 (NHCH_2 or CH_2Cl), 53.57 (CH), 60.43 (OCH_2CH_3), 169.01, 169.33, 169.53 (C(O)CH_3 , C(O)NH , $\text{C(O)OCH}_2\text{CH}_3$) ppm; MS CI(+) (rel intensity) 253 (M^{+1} , 57), 251 (M^{+1} , 100), 215 (41); M_r (+CI) 251.080 55 [M^{+1}] (calcd for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_{16}\text{ClN}_2\text{O}_4$ 251.079 86).
22. Compound **5b**: mp 133-134 °C; ^1H NMR ($\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ 1.84 (s, C(O)CH_3), 3.67 (s, OCH_3), 3.75 (d, $J = 5.9$ Hz, NHCH_2), 3.81-3.91 (m, CH_2Cl), 4.71-4.77 (m, CH), 8.12 (t, $J = 5.9$ Hz, NH), 8.50 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, NH); ^{13}C NMR (CD_3OD) 22.38 (C(O)CH_3), 43.26 (NHCH_2 or CH_2Cl), 44.97 (NHCH_2 or CH_2Cl), 53.21 (CH), 55.02 (OCH_3), 170.58, 171.65, 173.80 (C(O)CH_3 , C(O)NH , C(O)OCH_3) ppm; MS CI(+) (rel intensity) 239 (M^{+1} , 41), 237 (M^{+1} , 100); M_r (+CI) 237.064 37 [M^{+1}] (calcd for $\text{C}_8\text{H}_{14}\text{ClN}_2\text{O}_4$ 237.064 21).

(Received in USA 30 June 1995; accepted 28 July 1995)