A Convergent Total Synthesis of the Telomerase Inhibitor (±)-γ-Rubromycin

报告人: 高翔

检查: 吴波

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Reissig, H. *et al. Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2014**, *53*, 4332-4336.



柏林自由大学

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Introduction

1953: Isolated from the mycelia of Streptomyces collinus (Brockmann and Renneberg) 2000: Revision of structure

(Zeeck et al)

Construction of the core structure of (\pm) - γ -Rubromycin

Kita, Y. et al. Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2007, 46, 7458-7461.

Aromatic Pummerer-Type Reaction

Retrosynthesis of (\pm) - γ -Rubromycin

Reissig, H. et al. Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2014, 53, 4332-4336.

Summary

The history of the rubromycins started with the isolation of β-rubromycin from the mycelia of the actinomycetes strain Streptomyces collinus by Brockmann and Renneberg in the 1950s. Shortly after, the structure of the isolated natural product was elucidated by chemical derivatizations, degradation experiments, and NMR spectroscopic studies; a first proposal suggested an ortho-quinoid structure. However, in 2000 Zeeck and coworkers could unequivocally confirm a para-quinoid structure of the naphthoguinone moiety with the aid of modern NMR methods and ¹³Clabeling experiments, thus correcting the originally proposed formula.

In addition to β -rubromycin, other representatives of this interesting class of natural products have been described over the years, including the structurally closely related γ -rubromycin, purpuromycin, and heliquinomycin. Biological studies reveal, that - in addition to their role as effective antibiotics and HIV-1-RT inhibitors - the rubromycins display potent activity against human telomerase, and their high biological activity significantly depends on the presence of the [5,6]-bisbenzannulated spiroketal moiety as a central structural motif.

With this route to (\pm) - γ -rubromycin we have described a new total synthesis of this natural product. The synthesis is convergent and very efficient in its single steps and makes γ -rubromycin accessible in 18 steps (longest linear sequence) with an overall yield of 3.8%. The key steps of this synthesis are: the chemoselective 1,4-addition of highly functionalized Grignard reagent 20, the efficient ketalization of intermediate 22 to spiroketal 23, and the subsequent acid-induced protodesilylation with concurrent isocoumarin formation to give γ rubromycin precursor 24. The developed protocols are very robust and also feasible on a larger scale and should be suitable for the synthesis of analogues of rubromycin. In addition, our strategy should allow an asymmetric synthesis of γ-rubromycin, since enantioselective 1,4-additions of functionalized aryl Grignard reagents β-silylated enone **15** are known.

Pummerer重排反应

$$R^{1} \stackrel{\text{S}}{\Rightarrow} R^{2} \stackrel{\text{Ac}_{2}O}{\Rightarrow} R^{2} \stackrel{\text{Ac}_{2}O}{\Rightarrow} R^{2} \stackrel{\text{R}^{1}}{\Rightarrow} R^{2} \stackrel{\text{O}}{\Rightarrow} R^{2} \stackrel{\Rightarrow} R^{2} \stackrel{\text{O}}{\Rightarrow} R^{2} \stackrel{\text{O}}{\Rightarrow} R^{2} \stackrel{\text{O}}{\Rightarrow} R^{2} \stackrel{\text{O$$

Kita, Y. et al. J. Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun. 1995, 1013-1014.