# A Modular Approach to Polyketide Building Blocks: Cycloadditions of Nitrile Oxides and Homoallylic Alcohols

### Organic Letters, 2005, ASAP

Nina Lohse-Fraefel and Erick M. Carreira\*



Anthony Cuzzupe April 30, 2005 **Polyketides:** Natural compounds containing alternating carbonyl and methylene groups ("β-polyketones"), biogenetically derived from repeated condensations of acetyl coenzyme A

IUPAC Pure & Appl. Chem., 1995, 67, 1307

-Usually possess potent biological activity and are structurally (stereochemically) complex. -Some examples:



## **Some Common Methods for Polyketide Synthesis:**

Aldol:



Evans, J. Org. Chem, **1992**, 57, 1067 (Macbecin I)

#### Allylmetallation:



Keck, *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1996**, *37*, 3291 (**Rhizoxins**)

### **Crotylmetallation:**



## **Some Alternative Methods for Polyketide Synthesis:**

**Dithiane coupling:** 



### **Isoxazolines are Latent Aldol Products**

-Reduction of isoxazolines usually result in complete reduction to the amino alcohol:





## **Isoxazoline Synthesis by Nitrile Oxide Cycloaddition**

### **Problems:**

- > Difficult to control regio- and stereochemistry in the typical nitrile oxide cycloaddition reaction
- > Use of substituted olefins usually unsuccessful

Kanemasa's work on the first metal coordinated control of 1,3-dipolar cycloadditions:



- > Works best with allylic alcohols (terminal, di-substituted and tri-substituted alkenes) with yields up to and above 90%
- > High *syn* selectivity, up to 99:1 *syn:anti*
- > Grignard Reagents work best, but amines, alkyllithiums, alkylaluminums and alkylzincs also work with lower selectivity
- > Use of homoallylic alcohols led to diminished regio- and diastereoselectivity and lower yields

## Isoxazoline Synthesis by Nitrile Oxide Cycloadditions

Why such high syn selectivity?



Kanemasa, J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1994, 116, 2324

> Stereochemical outcome governed by TS-A being favoured due to less steric hindrance from allylic strain between R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>4</sub>

### **Reaction Scope:**

> Although a number of allylic alcohols were used successfully, this study was limited to the use of benzonitrile oxide

## Isoxazoline Synthesis by Nitrile Oxide Cycloadditions

### **Extension to Kanemasa's work:**

> Conditions developed by Carreira and co-workers for the use of functionalised, aliphatic nitrile oxides in the hydroxy-directed nitrile oxide cycloaddition:



- > Nitrile oxides prepared in situ by preparation of the corresponding hyroximinoyl chloride with *t*-BuOCl and reacted directly with the allylic magnesium alkoxide
- > Magnesium alkoxides also generated in situ
- > Use of *i*-PrOH as additive improved reaction time and yields
- > Procedure is tolerant of a wide range of functionality and olefin substitution
- > Desired cycloadducts obtained in good yields and high diastereoselectivities

### **Isoxazoline Synthesis by Nitrile Oxide Cycloadditions**

> Single-step preparation of all possible diastereomers of latent propionates:



> All adducts regio- and stereochemically pure by  ${}^{1}$ H and  ${}^{13}$ C NMR

> Structure of a derivative of adduct **6** confirmed by X-ray crystallography

Carreira, Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2001, 40, 2082

## A Modular Approach to Polyketide Building Blocks: Cycloadditions of Nitrile Oxides and Homoallylic Alcohols

### **Problems anticipated:**

- > Homoallylic alkoxides less reactive than allylic alkoxides
- > In absence of a highly reactive alkene, aliphatic nitrile oxides might undergo dimerization

### Aim:

> Devolop strategies to provide access to the stereochemical permutations of dipropionate subunits, allowing divergent asymmetric synthesis from a single diastereoselective cycloaddition reaction



### **Results:**

> A broad range of nitrile oxides react smoothly with (s)-2-methyl-3-butenol under the conditions previously optimised for allylic alcohols.



> Diastereomeric ratios generally determined by NMR spectroscopy



### Scope of cycloaddition extended to include monoprotected homoallylic diols:



- > Yield and diastereoselectivity increases as steric demand of protecting group increases
- > Immediate cycloadducts are *anti*, but the corresponding *syn* derivatives can be accessed by a simple orthogonal protection-deprotection protocol
- > Therefore access to both *syn* and *anti* diastereoisomers is possible using same set of starting materials

#### Example of use in Total Synthesis: Directed Nitrile Oxide Cycloaddition for the Synthesis of Epothilone A



## Conclusions

- > The Mg-mediated, hydroxyl-directed nitrile oxide cycloaddition is highly stereoselective
- > Procedure is operationally simple and versatile and is tolerable of a wide range of functionality and olefin substitution
- > The methodolgy considerably expands the range of protected polyketide subunits that can be accessed
- > Using isoxazolines as masked aldol adducts:
  - Enables convergent syntheses with the use of complex olefin and nitrile oxide coupling partners
  - Avoids the need for subsequent protection steps
- > The cycloaddition with and allylic alcohol has been used successfully in total synthesis
- > Use of the extended methodolgy involving homoallylic alcohols in total synthesis is pending