Total Synthesis of a Natural Compound (BCC 2019 Problem 3)





Hints and Information:

- A has formula $C_8H_{14}O_4$ and is acyclic.
- The ¹³C NMR spectrum of **A** has 4 peaks, at 172, 61, 30, and 15 ppm. The ¹H NMR spectrum of **A** has 3 peaks, at 4.12 ppm (quadruplet), 2.74 ppm (triplet), and 1.15 ppm (triplet). The ratio of integrals for these peaks are 1:1:1.5.
- C is bicyclic and has chiral centers with configurations S, S.
- **D** has formula C₁₇H₂₄O₇
- Reagent **B** is synthesized from the reaction of TBDPS-protected allyl alcohol with 9-BBN.
- I contains three protecting groups.
- The reactions forming K, M, and S are stereoselective.
- In the formation of **S**, the organozinc reagent is used as a nucleophile, resulting in the conversion of a non-chiral secondary carbon into a chiral tertiary carbon with R configuration.
- Ozonolysis in the formation of **U** is complete, and is followed by the conversion of the resulting primary alcohol into a good leaving group, and then to a halide via a Finkelstein reaction.
- The cobalt complex is able to catalyze a coupling reaction which results in the formation of a 7-membered ring.
- The reaction forming **V** is also selective.
- The reaction forming **X** is regioselective.

- W contains 8 chiral centers, while X and Y contain only 6.
- Y is pentacyclic, with one cyclic protecting group.
- From Y to II, two cyclization reactions occur. The first cycle is produced via an addol condensation and the second is formed after the deprotection of a functional group. Both cyclizations give 5-membered rings.
- After treating Γ with the indicated reagents, the ester \mathcal{I} is formed.
- Compound \mathbf{M} is the desired natural product with formula $C_{25}H_{31}NO_5$ and is hexacyclic.
- The following changes have been made from the original problem:
 - Some intermediates have had their letterings changed.
 - The problem originally stated that C was tricyclic, Y was hexacyclic, and **U** was heptacyclic, but this is wrong and is fixed in this version.
 - Some other questions that were multiple choice have been converted to free response form.
 - The reagent/abbreviations box was not provided in the original problem.

Problems:

- 1. Decipher the scheme. Draw the structures of all unknown intermediates and that of reagent **B**.
- 2. Is the reaction forming **B** intermolecular or intramolecular?
- 3. The reactions forming **D** are carried out in two steps. What is the importance of the second step?
- 4. In the formation of **C**, only the S,S isomers and R,R isomers are formed. True or False?
- 5. Why is $AsPh_3$ added to the mixture in the formation of \mathbf{F} ?
- 6. In the reaction forming \mathbf{F} , an organopalladium complex is used. The mass percent of Pd in the complex is 23.244% and the ligand can be synthesized from two different organic molecules via a double aldol condensation. Further, a single [2+2] photodimerization reaction of two ligand molecules can give up to 4 different cyclobutane derivatives. The ligand contains three elements, but no sp^3 hybridized atoms, and the mass percent of the element with the greatest coefficient in the ligand is 87.31%. Give the formula and structure of the ligand.
- 7. How many distinct peaks will be visible in the ${}^{13}C$ NMR spectrum of the ligand?
- 8. Name the reaction forming \mathbf{K} .
- 9. How many protecting groups does \mathbf{N} contain?
- 10. In the formation of \mathbf{P} , a three-step sequence was performed, with the first step being selective. Give a brief description of what happens in every step of the synthesis.
- 11. Name the reaction forming \mathbf{R} .
- 12. Out of the following list of reagents, which ones do not remove any protecting groups from Q? HCl; K₂CO₃; Zn; F⁻; NH₃; I₂; H₂, Pd/C; LiOH
- 13. Which type of selectivity is exhibited in the reaction forming \mathbf{V} (regio, stereo, or chemoselective)? Is this a reduction or an oxidation?
- 14. Name the mechanism involved in the formation of \mathbf{X} from \mathbf{W} .