

The Stereoselective Palladium-catalyzed Cyclization and Its Application to the Syntheses of the Bioactive Natural Products

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Palladium catalyzed cyclization has proven to be one of the most powerful synthetic tools for carbocycle construction in terms of high chemo-, regio- and diastereoselectivities.¹ The recent interests of organic chemists have also included palladium-catalyzed asymmetric cyclization of allylic precursors. However, stereocontrol of the nucleophilic carbon possessing two anion stabilizing groups has been less explored² due to the difficult stereocontrol at this center as well as the ultimate loss of the stereochemistry upon removal of the anion stabilizing auxiliary. Accordingly, 1,2-diastereocontrol of the new two stereogenic centers in palladium-catalyzed cyclizations of allylic precursors and retention of the established stereochemistries remain as formidable tasks in spite of their significant synthetic utilities especially for the preparation of thermodynamically less favorable *cis*-disubstituted carbocyclic products.

Recently, we have developed new variants of the palladium-catalyzed diastereoselective cyclization involving 1,3-asymmetric induction as well as 1,2-diastereocontrol of two new stereogenic centers.^{3,4} Furthermore, an excellent desulfonylation of the cyclization product with retention of stereochemistry of the initial cyclization product provides the additional 1,3'-asymmetric induction (scheme 1).

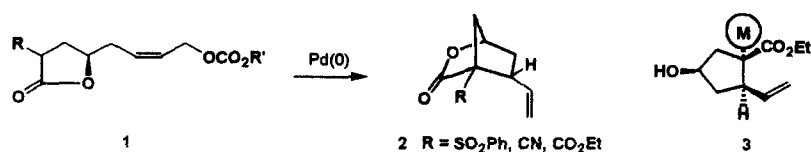
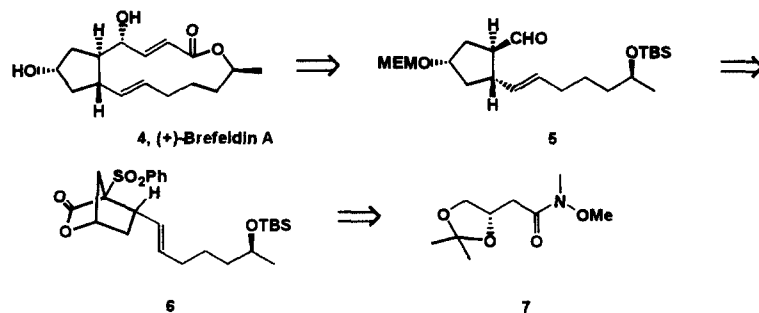


Figure 1

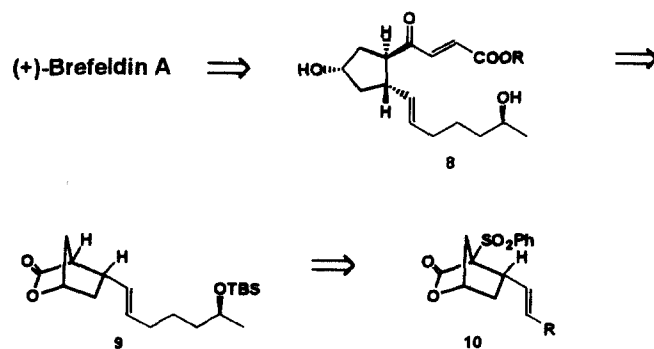
The bicyclic lactone **2** (R = SO₂Ph) serves as an excellent equivalent of the optically active anion **3** by virtue of geometric advantage for the preparation of thermodynamically disfavorable *cis*-trisubstituted carbocyclic products. The synthetic utility of the optically active *cis*-trisubstituted hydroxycyclopentane **3** (M = H) has been demonstrated by the efficient conversion to the key intermediates for a variety of bioactive carbocycles including carbaprostacyclin and its analogues.



Scheme 1

Particularly, the advanced synthetic intermediate **5** for (+)-brefeldin A has been efficiently synthesized from the known Weinreb amide **7** by an application of this sequence⁵ as outlined in scheme 1. The key feature of this versatile synthetic route involves a highly stereoselective construction of hydroxycyclopentane skeleton of (+)-brefeldin A. The requisite hydroxyheptenyl side chain possessing correct stereochemistries and olefin geometry are also established during this process.

Very recently, we have completed a concise total synthesis of brefeldin A by an advanced synthetic route employing direct introduction of acrylate moiety to the key bicyclic lactone intermediate **9** (scheme 2). Moreover, a versatile method for the efficient introduction of an acrylate moiety to the lactone systems utilizing *trans*-vinylogous acyl anion equivalent has also been developed.



Scheme 2

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