



## Asymmetric synthesis of N-protected 3-methylpiperidin-2-one and its diastereoisomer\*

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Received Jan. 4, 2015; Revision accepted May 30, 2015; Crosschecked Jan. 25, 2016

**Abstract:** This paper reports the asymmetric synthesis of an important pharmaceutical intermediate (3S)-1-[(1R)-2-hydroxy-1-phenylethyl]-3-methylpiperidin-2-one (compound **1**) from commercially available D-phenylglycinol and delta-valerolactone. During the alkylation process, the hydroxyl group can be protected or unprotected, resulting in a different consumption of s-BuLi, and leading to a different diastereomeric excess (de) of compound **1**. When 1-[(1R)-2-hydroxy-1-phenylethyl]-piperidin-2-one (compound **2**) was alkylated with 2.5 eq. of s-BuLi, compound **1** was obtained as a single isomer detected by chiral high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) columns with an overall yield of 91%. With the hydroxyl group protected, (R)-1-(2-[(tert-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy]-1-phenylethyl) piperidine-2-one (compound **6**) could be alkylated with 1.5 eq. of s-BuLi, giving compound **1** and its diastereoisomer **8** in a ratio of 1:2.5 and a yield of methylation of 90%. Compounds **1** and **8** could be separated completely and easily by flash chromatography. The absolute configuration of compound **8** was determined by single-crystal X-ray analysis. The mechanism of the alkylation process is discussed based on experimental results.

**Key words:** Asymmetric synthesis, Diastereoisomer, Hydroxyl protection group, D-phenylglycinol  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1631/jzus.A1500008>

**CLC number:** TQ463

### 1 Introduction

Piperidin-2-one is a versatile building block for the synthesis of piperidine and piperidone derivatives (Bailey *et al.*, 1998; Baussanne *et al.*, 1998), a large variety of bioactive moieties (Kosugi *et al.*, 2012; Wang *et al.*, 2013; Jadav *et al.*, 2014; Zarate *et al.*, 2014) as well as medicines to treat diseases like inflammatory bowel disease (Old *et al.*, 2005) and neurodegenerative diseases (Cohen and Patel, 2014). 5-substituted 1-methyl-2-piperidones, which are one kind of piperidone derivative, have been evaluated as

active agents against benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH) and prostate cancer (Hartmann *et al.*, 1994). 3, 5-disubstituted-1-methyl-4-piperidones have selective toxicity towards malignant cells and neoplasms (Pati *et al.*, 2009). Another piperidin-2-one derivative, Sch206272, is a potent NK1/NK2 antagonist, enabling a new approach for treating asthma (Reichard *et al.* 2002). Because of their great potential in medical treatment, many drug companies and chemists spare no effort to develop new methods for the synthesis of piperidone derivatives. Moreover, the enantioselective synthesis of piperidone derivatives by the introduction of substituents has become an active research area (Amat *et al.*, 2005; Castro *et al.*, 2005). Examples include the asymmetric synthesis of 6-alkylated piperidone (Amat *et al.*, 2003; Semak *et al.*, 2010) and pyrrolidone (Burgess and Meyers, 1992; Meyers and Brengel, 1997).

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\* Project supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (No. 21176213), and the Zhejiang Key Innovation Team of Green Pharmaceutical Technology (No. 2010R50043), China

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Methods for the preparation of enantiomerically pure piperidin-2-one derivatives have been reported by many researchers. For example, Micouin *et al.* (1994) prepared piperidin-2-one by reduction of oxazololactam **9**. Castro *et al.* (2005) fabricated 3-substituted piperidin-2-one by oxidation and alkylation of compound **10**, and Bensa *et al.* (2008) synthesized piperidin-2-one by ring-opening of oxaxolidinone **11** with Grignard reagent (Scheme 1). All of these results are interesting, but the raw materials used are not easy to obtain and some of the reaction conditions are harsh. These factors make compound **2** difficult to manufacture on a large scale.

Here, we report an efficient and economical approach for the synthesis of (3S)-1-[(1R)-2-hydroxy-1-phenylethyl]-3-methylpiperidin-2-one (**1**) or its precursor 1-[(1R)-2-hydroxy-1-phenylethyl]-piperidin-2-one (**2**) from  $\delta$ -valerolactone and D-phenylglycinol. Piperidone derivatives formed by condensation of D-phenylglycinol and oxygen containing compounds attract great interest because D-phenylglycinol is a chiral reagent that induces asymmetry (Rai and Kumar, 2013). During our process, D-phenylglycinol is protected by tert-butyldimethylsilyl chloride (TBDMS-Cl), which leads to (R)-2-[(tert-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy]-1-phenyl-ethan-1-amine (**5**) in high enantiomeric excess. Condensation of **5** and 5-chlorovaleryl chloride gives rise to (R)-1-(2-[(tert-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy]-1-phenylethyl) piperidin-2-one (**6**). Compound **6** can be alkylated directly by 1.5 eq. of *s*-BuLi, and ultimately compound **1** and its diastereoisomer **8** is produced in a ratio of 1:2.5. Alternatively, compound **6** can be transformed into compound **2** by

deprotection and subsequent methylation with 2.5 eq. of *s*-BuLi, furnishing compound **1** as a single isomer.

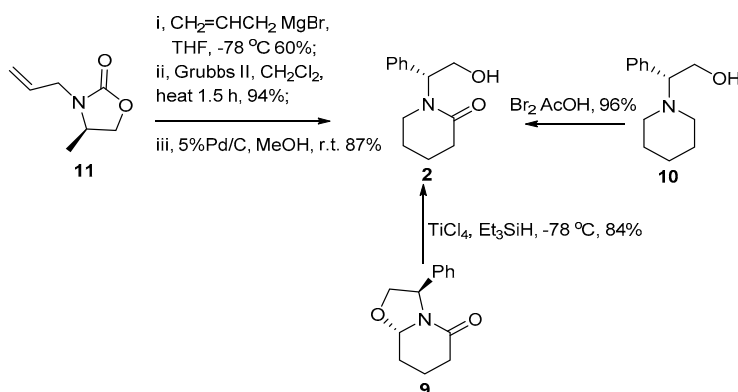
## 2 Methods

### 2.1 General

All reagents were purchased from commercial sources. Absolute anhydrous tetrahydrofuran (THF) used in the alkylation reactions was prepared by distillation over sodium.  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  was distilled over  $\text{P}_2\text{O}_5$ . Other reagents were used without further purification. Single-crystal structure was ascertained using a Gemini A Ultra X-ray Diffraction System from Agilent. Melting points were determined on a WRS-18 digital melting-point apparatus without correction.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Avance DMX-500 MHz instrument in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  at room temperature, and chemical shifts were given in ppm relative to tetramethylsilane (TMS) as an internal standard ( $\delta=0$ ). The high resolution mass spectrum (HRMS) was obtained on GCT Premier GC-TOFMA. Thin-layer chromatography (TLC) analyses were conducted on GF254 plates.

### 2.2 Ethyl 5-bromopentanoate (**3**)

Hydrogen bromide (HBr) was dissolved in cold ethanol to produce 10% (w/w) HBr/EtOH solution.  $\delta$ -valerolactone (1.5 g, 15 mmol) was placed into 20 ml 10% HBr/EtOH solution in a 50 ml reaction flask and stirred at room temperature. The reaction was monitored by TLC. After workup, 10 ml  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and 10 ml  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  were added to the mixture. The organic layer was separated, washed with brine,



Scheme 1 Synthesis of compound **2** by the conventional method

dried over anhydrous  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ , and purified with flash chromatography (ethyl acetate:petroleum ether, 1:3) to provide compound **3** as a colorless oil (2.7 g, 87%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR:  $\delta=1.26$  (t, 3H,  $J=7$ ,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.79 (m, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 1.91 (m, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 2.34 (t, 2H,  $J=7$ ,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 3.41 (t, 2H,  $J=6.5$ ,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), and 4.13 (q, 2H,  $J=7$ ,  $\text{CH}_2$ ).

### 2.3 3-phenyl-1,4-oxazinan-5-one (4)

The phase transfer catalyst tetrabutyl ammonium bromide (TBAB) (0.32 g, 1 mmol), anhydrous  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  (0.85 g, 6 mmol), and KOH powder (0.84 g, 15 mmol) were added to a stirring solution of D-phenylglycinol (0.69 g, 5 mmol) in dry  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (15 ml). The mixture was stirred at  $-10^\circ\text{C}$  for about 15 min followed by addition of 5-chloropentanoyl chloride (0.85 g, 5.5 mmol) over a period of 45 min. When D-phenylglycinol was fully consumed (monitored by TLC), the mixture was allowed to rise to room temperature and was then stirred overnight. The mixture was then filtered. The filtrate was washed with brine, dried over anhydrous  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ , and purified by flash chromatography (dichloromethane:methanol, 20:1) to afford compound **4** as a light yellow and viscous liquid (1.01 g, 93%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR:  $\delta=1.77$  (t,  $J=3.5$ , 4H,  $2\text{CH}_2$ ), 2.25 (dt,  $J_1=7.4$ ,  $J_2=3.2$ , 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 3.52 (m, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 3.81 (m, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 5.03 (td,  $J_1=6.5$ ,  $J_2=4.4$ ,  $J=5.5$ , 1H, CH), 6.58 (d,  $J=7$ , 1H, NH), and 7.3 (m, 5H,  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$ ). HRMS: 219.1254 (calculated value: 219.1259).

### 2.4 (R)-2-[(tert-butyldimethylsilyl) oxy]-1-phenylethan-1-amine (5)

$\text{Et}_3\text{N}$  (4.1 ml, 29.2 mmol) and 4-dimethylaminopyridine (DMAP) (0.35 g, 2.9 mmol) were added to a stirring solution of D-phenylglycinol (2 g, 14.6 mmol) in dry  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (15 ml). The mixture was stirred at  $0^\circ\text{C}$  for 10 min, then TBDMS-Cl (2.34 g, 15.3 mmol), dissolved in 15 ml  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , was added dropwise. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 18 h, quenched with  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (10 ml), washed with brine and extracted with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ . The combined organic layer was concentrated under vacuum and the residue was purified by flash chromatography (ethyl acetate:petroleum ether, 1:3) to provide compound **5** as a light yellow oil (3 g, 82%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR:  $\delta=0.02$  (s, 6H,  $2\text{CH}_3$ ), 0.90 (s, 9H,  $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$ ), 1.82 (s, 2H,  $\text{NH}_2$ ), 3.52 (dd,  $J_1=9.5$ ,  $J_2=8.5$ , 1H of  $\text{CH}_2$ , AB), 3.72 (dd,  $J_1=10$ ,  $J_2=4$ , 1H of  $\text{CH}_2$ , AB), 4.07 (dd,  $J_1=8.4$ ,  $J_2=4$ , 1H, CH), and 7.26–7.38 (m, 5H,  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$ ).

### 2.5 (R)-1-(2-[(tert-butyldimethylsilyl) oxy]-1-phenylethyl) piperidin-2-one (6)

Silyl ethers **5** (20 g, 80 mmol) and TBAB (5.15 g, 16 mmol) were dissolved in dry  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (60 ml). The mixture was stirred at  $-10^\circ\text{C}$  for 10 min. KOH powder (13.4 g, 240 mmol) and 5-chloropentanoyl chloride (12.4 g, 80 mmol) were added to the reaction mixture in three batches, consecutively. Then the mixture was stirred at  $-2^\circ\text{C}$  for about 1 h. After consumption of **5**, the mixture was warmed up to room temperature, stirred overnight and then filtered. The filtrate was adjusted to about pH7 using acetic acid. The organic liquid was dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ , concentrated under vacuum, and purified by recrystallization or flash chromatography (petroleum ether:acetic ether, 3:1) to provide 24 g (90%) of compound **6** as a white solid (Mp: 62.4–63.7  $^\circ\text{C}$ ).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR:  $\delta=0.09$  (s, 6H,  $2\text{CH}_3$ ), 0.88 (s, 9H,  $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$ ), 1.63–1.78 (m, 4H,  $2\text{CH}_2$ ), 2.45–2.51 (td,  $J_1=6.9$ ,  $J_2=2.0$ , 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 2.98–3.02 (ddd,  $J_1=12.0$ ,  $J_2=6.0$ ,  $J_3=4.1$ , 1H of  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 3.26–3.31 (ddd,  $J_1=12.0$ ,  $J_2=8.0$ ,  $J_3=4.1$ , 1H of  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 4.1 (d,  $J=6.5$ , 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 5.88 (t,  $J=6.5$ , 1H, CH), and 7.26–7.33 (m, 5H,  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$ ).

### 2.6 1-[(1R)-2-hydroxy-1-phenylethyl]-piperidin-2-one (2)

Compound **6** (3.3 g, 10 mmol) was added to 20 ml of 1%–2% (w/w) HCl/EtOH solution, stirred at room temperature for half an hour, and then quenched by addition of saturated  $\text{NaHCO}_3$ . The residue was extracted by  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  and purified by chromatography (acetic ether:dichloromethane, 15:1) or recrystallization, resulting in compound **2** as a white crystal (2 g, 91%).  $[\alpha]_D^{19} -75.2$  ( $c=0.5$ ,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ ), Mp: 109–110.5  $^\circ\text{C}$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR:  $\delta=1.66$ –1.80 (m, 4H,  $2\text{CH}_2$ ), 2.49–2.51 (dq,  $J_1=6.7$ ,  $J_2=3.7$ , 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 2.93–2.97 (m, 2H, 1H of  $\text{CH}_2$  and 1H of OH), 3.18–3.23 (ddd,  $J_1=12$ ,  $J_2=7.7$ ,  $J_3=3.8$ , 1H of  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 4.09–4.16 (qd,  $J_1=11.5$ ,  $J_2=7$ , 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 5.79–5.81 (dd,  $J_1=9$ ,  $J_2=5$ , 1H, CH), and 7.24–7.36 (m, 5H,  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$ ).

To determine the structure more precisely, we made compound **2** react with  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR showed that the hydrogen of the hydroxyl group disappeared.

### 2.7 (3S)-1-[(R)-2-hydroxy-1-phenylethyl]-3-methylpiperidin-2-one (1)

$s\text{-BuLi}$  (55 ml, 70.1 mmol, 2.5 eq.) was added to a solution of lactam **2** (6.2 g, 28.3 mmol) in THF

(75 ml) under nitrogen at  $-78\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ . The mixture was stirred for 30 min and MeI (5.5 ml, 85 mmol, 3.0 eq.) was added slowly. It was then stirred at  $-78\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 3 h. Afterwards, 60 ml saturated  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$  was added and the mixture was allowed to rise to room temperature. The organic layer was separated and the residue was extracted by  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (20 ml $\times$ 3). The organic phases were combined, washed with brine and concentrated. White solid was obtained after crystallization from acetic ether (6.1 g, 91%), Mp: 117.3–118.4  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR:  $\delta=1.26$  (d,  $J=7.5$ , 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.42–1.48 (m, 1H of  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 1.68–1.73 (p,  $J=6.3$ , 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 1.91–1.96 (m, 1H of  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 2.04 (s, 2H, 1H of OH and 1H of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ), 2.52–2.56 (m, 1H, CH), 2.88–2.93 (dt,  $J_1=12.5$ ,  $J_2=6$ , 1H of  $\text{CH}_2$ , AB), 3.20–3.25 (dt,  $J_1=12.0$ ,  $J_2=6$ , 1H of  $\text{CH}_2$ , AB), 4.06–4.16 (m, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), and 7.23–7.33 (m, 5H,  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$ ).

### 2.8 1-((R)-2-[(tert-butyl dimethylsilyl) oxy]-1-phenylethyl)-3-methylpiperidin-2-one (7)

s-BuLi 2.3 ml (3 mmol, 1.5 eq.) was added to a solution of lactam **6** (0.67 g, 2 mmol) in absolute THF (20 ml) under nitrogen at  $-78\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ . MeI 0.37 ml (6 mmol, 3.0 eq.) was added slowly. After stirring at  $-78\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 3 h, 10 ml saturated  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$  was added and the mixture was allowed to rise to room temperature. The organic layer was separated and the residue was extracted using  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ . The organic phases were combined, washed with brine and concentrated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography (ethyl acetate:petroleum ether, 1:3), giving light yellow crystals 0.62 g (90%), Mp: 77.3–78.4  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR:  $\delta=0.08$  (s, 6H,  $2\text{CH}_3$ ), 0.89 (s, 9H,  $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$ ), 1.28 (d,  $J=7.5$ , 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.44–1.97 (m, 4H,  $2\text{CH}_2$ ), 2.48 (m, 1H, CH), 3.0 (m, 1H of  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 3.29 (m, 1H of  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 4.08–4.11 (m, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 5.8–5.9 (dt,  $J_1=40.7$ ,  $J_2=6.5$ , 1H, CH), and 7.3 (m, 5H,  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$ ). HRMS: 347.2285 (calculated value: 347.2281).

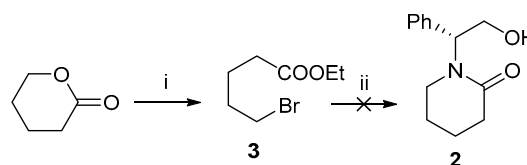
### 2.9 Crystal structure of compound 8

Compound **8** comprised colorless crystals, 0.39 mm $\times$ 0.36 mm $\times$ 0.28 mm,  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{21}\text{NO}_3$ , orthorhombic,  $a=6.457$  (19),  $b=9.92$  (3),  $c=21.99$  (8) ( $\times 0.1$  nm),  $V=1408.84(8)(\times 0.1\text{ nm})^3$ ,  $F(000)=544$ ,  $Z=4$ ,  $\rho=1.185\text{ g/cm}^3$ , space group  $\text{P}2_12_12_1$ . A set of 2497 reflections was collected at  $T=293\text{ K}$ . The transmission factor was in the range of 0.827–1.000. All measurements were made using an enhanced

ultra (Cu-K $\alpha$ ,  $\lambda=1.54184\times 0.1$  nm) X-ray generator.  $R_1=0.0495$  and  $wR_2=0.1424$ ,  $S=0.157$ . The structure was solved by SHELXS and refined with SHELXL. Structural factors and raw data files are available on request from the authors.

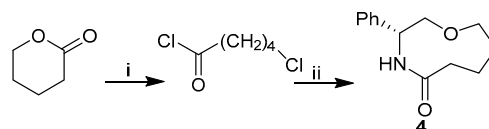
## 3 Results and discussion

We previously followed the procedure for a similar reaction as described by Philippe *et al.* (1996; 2000). Difficulties were encountered in the preparation of lactam **2**. Treatment of  $\delta$ -valerolactone with HBr/EtOH gave rise to ethyl 5-bromopentanoate (**3**), but attempts to condense compound **3** with D-phenylglycinol gave no six-membered ring lactam (Scheme 2). We attributed this phenomenon to the lower activity of compound **3**.



**Scheme 2** Synthesis of compound **2** via compound **3**  
i: HBr/EtOH; ii:  $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$ , EtOH, D-phenylglycinol, reflux

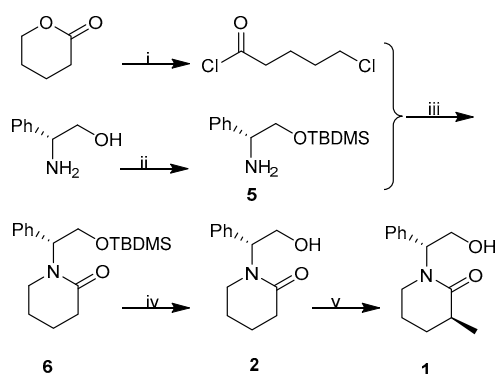
Thus, ethyl 5-bromopentanoate was replaced by 5-chlorovaleryl chloride which has better activity. Then, treatment of  $\delta$ -valerolactone with thionyl chloride gave rise to 5-chlorovaleryl chloride. 5-chloropentanoyl chloride was then condensed with D-phenylglycinol in the presence of TBAB. After workup, we obtained a compound as a light yellow and viscous liquid. According to the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR and HRMS spectra, we confirmed that the product was compound **4**, rather than compound **2** which we had expected to obtain (Scheme 3).



**Scheme 3** Attempts to synthesize hexatomic ring lactam  
i:  $\text{SOCl}_2$ , reflux; ii: TBAB, KOH,  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ , D-phenylglycinol,  $-10\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  to room temperature

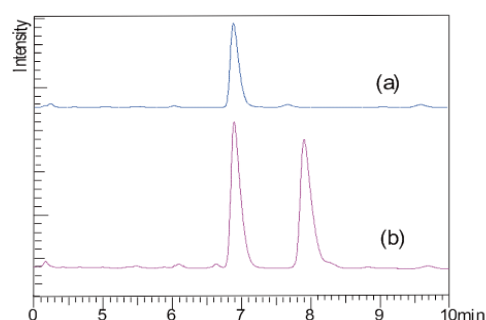
From Scheme 3 we concluded that the hydroxyl group was more reactive than amide. To avoid formation of compound **4**, the hydroxyl group should be protected. Here, TBDMS-Cl was introduced to

form steady silyl ether **5** (Isobe *et al.*, 2000). Condensation of compound **5** and 5-chloropentanoyl chloride led successfully to lactam **6** as a white powder. The hydroxyl group was then deprotected in a 1%–2% concentration of HCl/EtOH, affording **2** as a white powder (Scheme 4).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR showed that compound **2**'s structure was the same as reported in the literature (Castro *et al.*, 2005; Bensa *et al.*, 2008). Furthermore, to determine the configuration of **2**, we synthesized the racemate of **2** with D/L-phenylglycinol. The racemate of **2** was separated sharply by chiral HPLC columns (OJ-3) using *n*-hexane and isopropanol (90:10) as the mobile phase. With the same conditions, the enantiomeric excess value (ee) of compound **2** was confirmed to be greater than 98% (Fig. 1).



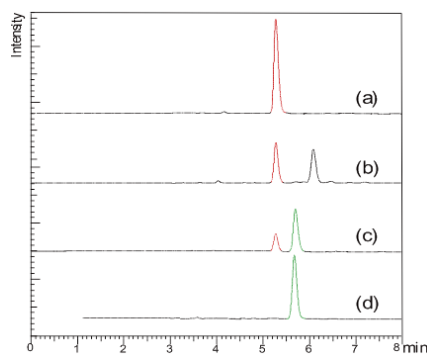
**Scheme 4** Synthesis of compound **1**

i:  $\text{SOCl}_2$ , reflux; ii: DMAP,  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$ , TBDMSCl; iii: TBAB, KOH,  $-10\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  to  $-2\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $-2\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  to room temperature; iv: HCl/EtOH; v:  $\text{CH}_3\text{I}$ , 2.5 eq. *s*-BuLi,  $-78\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$



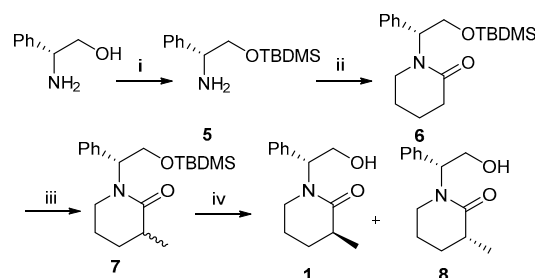
**Fig. 1** Comparison of compound **2** and its racemate: (a) compound **2**; (b) racemate of compound **2**

Compound **2** was then methylated, furnishing compound **1** with no less than 98% diastereoisomeric excess (de) value (Fig. 2a). The racemate of compound **1** (Fig. 2b) was also synthesized for comparison, to ascertain the de value of compound **1**.



**Fig. 2** HPLC of final products: (a) compound **1**; (b) racemate of compound **1**; (c) deprotection of compound **7**; (d) compound **8**

Considering that when compound **2** was alkylated, the hydroxyl group would consume 1 eq. of *s*-BuLi, and *s*-BuLi is both dangerous and expensive, we decided to use alkylate **6** with 1.5 eq. of *s*-BuLi. After methylation and deprotection (Scheme 5), the separated product was detected by HPLC. According to HPLC spectra, compound **1** was not the main product (Fig. 2c). The mixture was then separated by flash chromatography and the main product was characterized by  $^1\text{H}$  NMR. The results showed that it had the same structure as product **1**, while HPLC confirmed that it was not one of compound **1**'s racemates (Fig. 2d). Since the configuration of D-phenylglycinol would not change, we speculated that the main product was the diastereoisomer of compound **1**. This compound was crystallized from ethyl acetate, and single-crystal X-ray analysis was used to determine its absolute configuration (Fig. 3).



**Scheme 5** Synthesis of compound **1** and its racemate  
i: DMAP,  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$ , TBDMSCl; ii: TBAB, KOH, 5-chloropentanoyl chloride,  $-10\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  to  $-2\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $-2\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  to room temperature; iii:  $\text{CH}_3\text{I}$ , 1.5 eq. *s*-BuLi,  $-78\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ ; iv: HCl/EtOH

Accordingly, deprotection of compound **7** gave a mixture of compound **1** and its diastereoisomer **8** in a ratio of about 1:2.5. However, compounds **1** and **8** could be separated easily by column chromatography

or recrystallization with both de values greater than 99%.

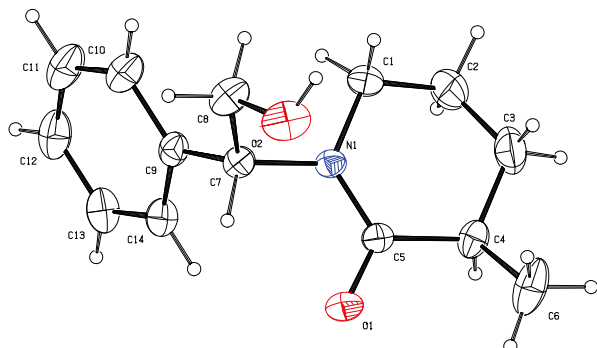


Fig. 3 Crystal structure of compound 8

The mechanism underlying the efficient diastereoselective alkylation of compound **2** can be explained by a chelation process described by Laube *et al.* (1985). Nitrogen hybridization in compound **2** is  $sp^3$  and nitrogen is known to be highly pyramidalized in amide enolates, which can be excellent electron donors allowing chelation with  $Li^+$ . This effect forms an  $\alpha$ -face blocking group that makes the alkylation progress in the less hindered face just like compound **I** (Fig. 4). This explanation is supported by Micouin (1994) and our experimental results.

When the hydroxyl group is protected by the silicon group, the five-numbered blocking group cannot generate successfully like compound **I** and the chelation effect between N and  $Li^+$  disappears. Furthermore, the molecular configuration of compound **8** adopts the lowest interatomic force through free rotation of the atoms, which satisfies the lowest energy principle in molecular structure. Because of this, the big t-butyl dimethylsilyl group turns away from nitrogen and becomes a  $\beta$ -face blocking group. Hence, the  $\alpha$ -face is much easier to attack like **II**. As a result, compound **8** becomes the main product. Our discovery can also be explained by Wuensch and Meyers (1990)'s experiment, in which the silicon group does not chelate with the nitrogen atom, but turns away from it completely because of dipole-dipole repulsion.

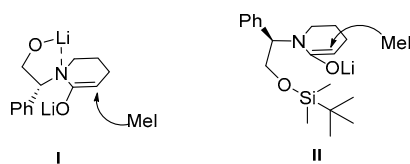


Fig. 4 Different steric configurations of methylation

## 4 Conclusions

In summary, we have developed an efficient method for the asymmetric synthesis of high purity (3S)-1-[(1R)-2-hydroxy-1-phenylethyl]-3-methylpiperidin-2-one (**1**) with D-phenylglycinol and delta-valerolactone as raw materials. Moreover, we have explored a method for the alkylation of (R)-1-[2-[(tert-butyl dimethylsilyl)oxy]-1-phenylethyl]piperidin-2-one (**6**) using less *s*-BuLi to produce enantiomerically pure compound **1** and its diastereoisomer (3R)-1-[(R)-2-hydroxy-1-phenylethyl]-3-methylpiperidin-2-one (**8**). As far as we know, this is the first time that compounds **4**, **7**, and **8** have been synthesized and analyzed.

As there are lots of hydroxyl protected groups, and different groups have different sizes and special configurations, we will continue to study how different hydroxyl protecting groups affect the stereoselectivity of the alkylation process.

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## 中文概要

**题目:** (3S)-1-[(R)-2-羟基-1-苯乙基]-3-甲基-2-哌啶酮的合成

**目的:** 探索合成(3S)-1-[(R)-2-羟基-1-苯乙基]-3-甲基-2-哌啶酮的新方法。

**创新点:** 以常规化工原料 D-苯昔氨醇为主要原料, 在比较温和的条件下合成重要的药物中间体(3S)-1-[(R)-2-羟基-1-苯乙基]-3-甲基-2-哌啶酮及其同系物。该方法中的甲基化步骤较常规甲基化步骤减少 1 当量 s-BuLi 的用量, 更环保和安全。

**方 法:** 利用 D-苯昔氨醇的空间位阻作用, 在六元环内酰胺中引入具有特定光学纯度的手性甲基。在甲基化过程中, 用叔丁基二甲基氯硅烷对羟基进行保护, 以减少仲丁基锂的用量。

**结 论:** 以工业易得的  $\delta$ -戊内酯及 D-苯昔氨醇为初始原料, 探索合成 3-甲基-2-哌啶酮类物质的新方法。新方法中对仲丁基锂的消耗量与常规方法有所不同。当羟基受保护时, 甲基化 1 当量六元环内酰胺 (化合物 **7**) 消耗 1.5 当量而非 2.5

当量仲丁基锂, 甲基化产物脱掉醇羟基保护基, 得到(3S)-1-[(R)-2-羟基-1-苯乙基]-3-甲基-2-哌啶酮 (化合物 **1**) 及其非对映异构体(3R)-1-[(R)-2-羟基-1-苯乙基]-3-甲基-2-哌啶酮 (化合物 **8**), 二者摩尔比为 1:2.5。通过重结晶或柱层析的方法可对二者进行完全分离。

**关键词:** 哌啶酮; 生物碱; 不对称合成; D-苯昔氨醇; 醇羟基保护基