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Author(s)
Nakamura, Hugh; Tsukano, Chihiro; Yasui, Motohiro; Yokouchi, Shinsuke; Igarashi, Masayuki; Takemoto, Yoshiji

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Total Synthesis of (−)-Caprazamycin A**

Hugh Nakamura, Chihiro Tsukano, Motohiro Yasui, Shinsuke Yokouchi, Masayuki Igarashi and Yoshiji Takemoto*

Abstract: Caprazamycin A has significant antibacterial activity against Mycobacterium tuberculosis (TB). The first total synthesis is herein reported featuring (i) the scalable preparation of the syn-β-hydroxy amino acid with a thiourea-catalyzed diastereoselective aldol reaction, (ii) construction of a diazepanone with an unstable fatty acid side chain, and (iii) global deprotection with hydrogenation. This report provides a route for the synthesis of related liponucleoside antibiotics with fatty acid side chains.

Caprazamycin A (1) was isolated from Streptomyces sp. MK730 62F2 and is a liponucleoside characterized by a seven-membered diazepanone core with an amino ribose, a uridine and a fatty acid side chain (Figure 1). Several analogs isolated by Igarashi et al. in 2003 share these features. Caprazamycins have antibacterial activity against Mycobacterium tuberculosis (TB), including multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB). Biological studies showed that it is an inhibitor of the peptidoglycan biosynthetic enzyme MraY. MraY is essential for bacterial cell growth and is biosynthetically located upstream of an enzyme targeted by β-lactam and glycopeptide antibiotics (e.g., vancomycin). New antimicrobial agents targeting MraY are expected to be active against vancomycin- and methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (VRSA and MRSA). Recently, CPZEN-45, which exhibits more potent activity against TB—including extensively multidrug-resistant TB (XDR-TB), has been developed based on caprazamycins.

The complex structure and significant biological activities of caprazamycins have drawn much attention from synthetic chemists. Matsuda and Ichikawa accomplished the first total synthesis of palmitoyl caprazol and caprazol (2), which does not possess a fatty acid side chain. Shibasaki and Watanabe recently reported the synthesis of 2 and the fatty acid side chain. However, a total synthesis of the caprazamycins has not yet been reported, because of the difficulty in introducing an unstable fatty acid side chain. This has also hampered the total synthesis of related liponucleoside antibiotics, such as liposidomycin C (3). Therefore, we initiated a caprazamycin A (1) synthetic project, which would also be applicable to related natural products.

It is challenging to introduce the side chain containing unstable structures. To access caprazamycin A (1), it was envisioned that unstable side chains 4 and 5 could be introduced to protected caprazol 6 as the final step. This would be followed by global deprotection without adversely affecting any functional groups (Scheme 1). Benzyl (Bn), carboxybenzyl (Cbz) and benzyloxymethyl (BOM) protecting groups were selected and are readily removed by Pd-catalyzed hydrogenation. Protected 6 was prepared using (i) the Mitsunobu reaction to construct the seven-membered diazepanone, and (ii) a diastereoselective aldol reaction of isocyanate 8 and aldehyde 9 with thiourea catalyst 10 to obtain syn-β-hydroxy amino acid derivative 7.

Supporting information for this article is given via a link at the end of the document.

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(*) H. Nakamura, Dr. C. Tsukano, M. Yasui, S. Yokouchi, Prof. Dr. Y. Takemoto
Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Kyoto University
Yoshida, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto 606-8501, Japan
E-mail: takemoto@pharm.kyoto-u.ac.jp
Dr. M. Igarashi
Institute of Microbial Chemistry (BIKAKEN)
Kamiotsu, Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo 141-0021 (Japan)

[^1] H. Nakamura, Dr. C. Tsukano, M. Yasui, S. Yokouchi, Prof. Dr. Y. Takemoto
Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Kyoto University
Yoshida, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto 606-8501, Japan
E-mail: takemoto@pharm.kyoto-u.ac.jp
Dr. M. Igarashi
Institute of Microbial Chemistry (BIKAKEN)
Kamiotsu, Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo 141-0021 (Japan)

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of β-ketoester 12^{12} (Scheme 2). Enantioselective
desymmetrization of 3-methyl glutaric anhydride 13 using
chincna alkaloid catalyst 14 with Song’s procedure^{13} gave
carboxylic acid 15 with high enantioselectivity (92% ee).
Condensation of 15 with L-rhamnose derivative 16^{14}
followed by removal of the benzyl group of ester 17 with
hydrogenolysis gave carboxylic acid 5.

Construction of the syn-β-hydroxy amino acid moiety
with S configuration at C5’ was then investigated. Several
strategies have been employed for this in the past,\textsuperscript{8a,8b,10a,14a}
two of which were for the total synthesis of caprozol. One is
Sharpless’ asymmetric aminohydroxylation of the
α,β-unsaturated ester\textsuperscript{8a} and the other is the diastereoselective
isocyanatoacetate aldol reaction.\textsuperscript{8b} We anticipated that the
stereochemistry at C5’ could be controlled with a novel
diastereoselective aldol reaction using isocyanate 8 in the
presence of an organocatalyst.\textsuperscript{10b}

Initially, aldehyde 9\textsuperscript{15} was treated with 8 and Et3N (10
mol%) in toluene to give a mixture of aldol adducts 18a and
18b\textsuperscript{16} in 50% yield with poor diastereoselectivity (1:1.8) (Table 1,
Entry 1). In contrast, treatment with (S,S)-thiourea
catalyst 10a (10 mol%) in toluene gave desired aldol adduct
18a as the major product in 64% yield (3:1:1), along with a
small amount of byproduct 19 (Entry 2). The selectivity was
improved to 6.5:1 by changing to (S,S)-thiourea catalyst
10b (10 mol%) (Entry 3). Formation of byproduct 19 was
suppressed by reducing the amount of catalyst (7 mol%)
(Entry 4). Use of (R,R)-thiourea catalyst 10b (10 mol%)
gave undesired diastereomer 18b in 80% yield with high
selectivity (>20:1) (Entry 5). This protocol was also applied
to the large scale synthesis of aldol adduct 18a.

Aldol adduct 18a was converted to syn-β-hydroxy
amino acid derivative 7 in good yield by regioselective
decarboxylation and transesterification of the resultant
thermodynamically stable trans-oxazolidinone in the
presence of zinc cluster Zn₄(OCOCF₃)₆O (Scheme 3).\textsuperscript{16b} The
minor isomer was removed during these transformations.
Following Matsuda and Ichikawa’s procedure,\textsuperscript{17} fluorode 21
underwent β-selective glycosylation, reduction of the azido
group, Cbz protection and hydrolysis under basic conditions
to give 22. Carboxylic acid 22 was treated with Ghosez
reagent\textsuperscript{17a} and coupled with anti-β-hydroxy amino acid
derivative 23.\textsuperscript{18a} The TBS group was selectively removed
and construction of the diazepanone core was extensively
investigated. The Mitsunobu reaction of 25 using PPh₃ and
di-tert-butyl azodicarboxylate (DBAD) proceeded to give the
seven-membered ring without epimerization or other
side reactions. Finally, protecting group manipulation of 26
gave protected caprazol 6 and the structure was confirmed
through conversion to caprazol (2).\textsuperscript{17a,18a}

With side chain fragments 4 and 5 and protected caprazol 6
in hand, we focused on the introduction of the fatty acid side chain. This side chain readily decomposes
through β-elimination of the β-acyloxy carbonyl under basic
conditions and cleavage of the O-acylglycoside under acidic
conditions. In fact, attempts to introduce the fatty acid side
chain 27\textsuperscript{19} to model diazepanone 28 using EDCI caused
β-elimination to give unsaturated carboxylic acid 30 instead
of desired 29 (Scheme 4). DCC and PyBOP were also ineffective. The β-hydroxy ester of diazepanone may also
decompose through β-elimination and a retro-aldol reaction.
Thus, fragments 4 and 5 were introduced in a stepwise
manner.

The final stage of this synthesis began with coupling
β-siloxy carboxylic acid 4 with protected caprazol 6 without
epimerization (Scheme 3). The Troc group was removed
under mild conditions without touching the unstable
β-acyloxy moiety. This was followed by reductive
amination. After removal of the TES group, carboxylic acid
5 was introduced to resultant alcohol 31 using Yamaguchi

\[\text{Scheme 2. Synthesis of fatty acid side chains 5 and 6. Reagents and conditions: a) BnOAc, LDA, THF, \ -78 \ ^\circ \text{C}, 51%; b) H₂, (S,S)-BINAP-RuBr₂ (4.0 mol%), MeOH, 50 \ ^\circ \text{C}, 48%, 94%ee for two steps; c) TESOTf, 2,6-lutidine, CH₂Cl₂, 60 \ ^\circ \text{C}, 94% d) H₂, 10% Pd/C, EtOAc, 25 \ ^\circ \text{C}, 92%; e) BnOH, catalyst}\]

\[\text{Scheme 4. Initial attempts to introduce fatty acid side chain (27).}\]
conditions to give protected caprazamycin A (32). 20 Finally, global deprotection with hydrogenation in the presence of Pd black was successful without side-chain decomposition. This completed the first total synthesis of caprazamycin A (1). The 1H and 13C NMR, IR and HRMS for this matched those of the natural product. 20

In summary, we have accomplished the first total synthesis of caprazamycin A in 23 steps (longest linear sequence from aldehyde 9). The key points are (i) scalable synthesis of the syn-β-hydroxy amino acid moiety with a thiourea-catalyzed diastereoselective aldol reaction, (ii) maintaining the structural integrity of the diazepanone core during introduction of the fatty acid side chain, and (iii) global deprotection with hydrogenation. This is the first report detailing the introduction of the unstable fatty acid side chain. This should allow the synthesis of related liponucleoside antibiotics.

Keywords: antibiotics · natural products · total synthesis · caprazamycin · liponucleoside


[15] Aldehyde 9 was prepared from commercially available uridine in three steps. See Supporting Information.


[18] Amine 23 was synthesized from L-(+)-diethyl tartrate in ten steps. See Supporting Information.

[19] Carboxylic acid 27 was prepared from the precursor of 4 and 5 as described by Shibasaki and Watanabe et al (ref 8b).

[20] The NMR spectrum of caprazamycin A was dependent on concentration and pH. Thus, the NMR was measured in DMSO-d6/D2O/DCO2D (20:1:1 for comparison. Also see Supporting Information.)