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COMMUNICATION

Synthesis and Complexation of an Optically Active Aza-Crown Ether

Yukio Kawakami*, Yukio Yamamoto*, Jun'ichi Oda*, Yuzo Inouye*, and Seiji Sawada**

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A variety of macrocyclic polyethers have been synthesized and investigated since the discovery of the excellent chemical performances of crown ethers. Among them, chiral macrocyclic polyethers which have been the target of artificial enzymes are also of interest from the viewpoint of ionophore models; cyclic polypeptides like crown ethers exhibit the selectivity toward specific metal cations and associate with such biological activities as antibiotics. We wish to report here the synthesis and the cation-binding ability of an optically active aza-crown ether 5 from (1S, 2S)-(+)-2-amino-1-phenyl-1,3-propanediol (1).

The O-methyl amino-alcohol 2 was prepared from 1 via oxazoline derivatives according to Meyers. The DCC condensation of 2 and o-phenylenedioxydiacetic acid (3) gave the dihydroxy-diamide 4 in 34% yield; mp 111-112°C, [α]D +63.7° (c=1.01, CHCl3), IR νmax cm⁻¹: 3400(OH), 1670 (N—C=O), 740 and 705 (phenyl), 1H NMR(CDCl₃) δ: 3.27 (6H, singlet), 4.50 (4H, singlet), 4.90 (2H, doublet), 6.64-7.00 (4H, multiplet), 7.27 (10H, singlet). Alternatively, 4 was also prepared through the p-nitrophenyl ester of 3 in 47% yield. By the action of sodium hydride and α',α'-dibromo-o-xylene in DMSO, 4 was converted to the macrocyclic amide polyether, (8S, 9S, 16S, 17S)-8, 17-bis(methoxymethyl)-9, 16-diphenyl-2, 3, 12, 13-dibenzo-6, 19-dioxa-7, 18-diaza-1, 4, 10, 15-tetraoxy-2, 12-cyclocosadiene, (5) in 40% yield; glass, [α]D +103.3° (c=1.2, CHCl₃), MS m/z: 654 (M⁺), IR νmax cm⁻¹: 2940 (CH), 1690 (N—C=O), 1H NMR (CD₃CN) δ: 3.16-3.29 (2H, multiplet), 3.19 (6H, singlet, OCH₃), 4.12-4.61 (6H, multiplet), 4.43 (4H, singlet, H-11 and 14), 4.49 (4H, singlet, H-5 and 20), 7.00 (4H, singlet, H-α and β), 7.00-7.20 (2H, broad singlet, H-7 and 18), 7.23 (4H, singlet, phenylene with C-12 and 13), 7.36 (10H, singlet, phenyl at C-9 and 16), 13C NMR (CD₃CN) δ: 55.05 (C-8 and 17), 59.02 (OCH₃), 69.79 (C-11 and 14), 70.32 (methylene at C-8 and 17), 72.48 (C-9 and 16), 81.43 (C-5 and 20), 116.01, 123.73, 148.89 (phenylene with C-2 and 3), 128.41, 128.65, 129.46, 140.35 (phenyl at C-9 and 16), 129.15, 129.88, 137.36 (phenylene with C-12 and 13), 168.84 (C-6 and 19).

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Scheme 1. i, o-phenylenedioxydiacetic acid, DCC; ii, di-p-nitrophenyl o-phenylenedioxydiacetate; iii, NaH, α, α'-dibromo-o-xylene.

The cation-binding ability of the amide crown ether 5 with lithium, sodium, and magnesium perchlorates was assessed by CD and NMR spectroscopies in acetonitrile. In CD spectra, the ellipticity for the native 5 was $4.6 \times 10^4$ degree$\cdot$cm$^2$/dmol (217 nm) and complexation with magnesium and lithium ions increased the molar ellipticity up to 20%. The association constants, log $K_a$, were estimated to be 2.5 and 1.9 to magnesium and lithium ions, respectively, according to the literature which assumed a complex composed of one metal ion and one ligand. On the other hand, sodium ion formed no complex with 5. The induced shift by adding equimolar amounts of the metal perchlorates in $^{13}$C NMR and $^1$H NMR spectra also supported the above trend. Not only carbonyl oxygens (C-6 and 19) but also oxygens (O-1 and 4) of phenolic function participated with the complexation because the peaks of carbonyl oxygens (C-6 and 19), aromatic carbons and protons (C-α and C-β), and methylene protons (at C-5 and 20) adjacent to carbonyl groups shifted toward downfield. The oxygen atoms sticking out of the ring turned out to be irrelevant to the complexation.

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REFERENCES AND NOTES

6. The association constant, log $K_a$, of 5 and t-butylammonium thiocyanate in CDCl$_3$ measured according to Cram's procedure was shown to be less than 2.4.
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(9) With magnesium ion, downfield shifts of 1.87 ppm (C-6 and 19), 0.53 ppm, and 0.47 ppm (C-α and β) in $^{13}$C NMR and 0.083 ppm (protons at C-5 and 20) and 0.067 ppm (protons at C-α and β) in $^1$H NMR. With lithium ion, downfield shifts of 1.05 ppm (C-6 and 19) and 0.24 ppm (C-α and β) in $^{13}$C NMR and 0.017 ppm (C-5 and 20) and 0.033 ppm (protons at C-α and β) in $^1$H NMR.