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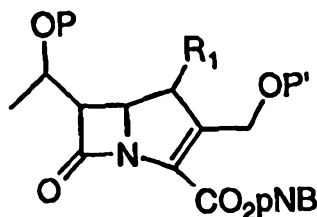
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(54) Title: OPTIONALLY PROTECTED 3-HYDROXYMETHYL CARBAPENEMS AND SYNTHESIS

(57) Abstract

Novel crystalline carbapenem intermediate compounds of formula (I) wherein R₁ represents CH₃ or H; and P and P' independently represent H or a protecting group; and efficient process for synthesis thereof.



(I)

TITLE OF THE INVENTION
OPTIONALLY PROTECTED 3-HYDROXYMETHYL CARBAPENEMS AND SYNTHESIS

5

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to intermediate compounds useful in the synthesis of carbapenem antibiotics. The carbapenems derived from the present invention are useful against gram positive microorganisms, especially methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus epidermidis* (MRSE), and methicillin resistant coagulase negative *Staphylococci* (MRCNS). There is an increasing need for carbapenems effective against such pathogens, as well as intermediates which facilitate their production. The intermediates of the present invention thus facilitate an important contribution to therapy for treating infections caused by these difficult to control pathogens.

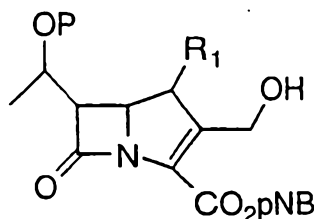
Prior syntheses of similar intermediate compounds have relied on time-consuming, multi-step reaction protocols, and have generated the intermediate as an unstable oil. See, e.g., United States Patent No. 4,960,879, Shionogi & Co. Ltd. The present invention responds to the need for a more facile synthesis yielding novel, more stable carbapenem intermediates.

25

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a process for preparation of a compound of formula I:

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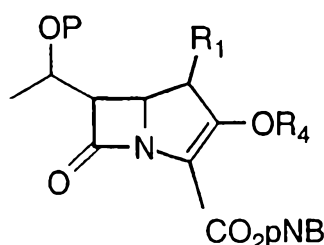
- 2 -

I

wherein:

R₁ represents CH₃ or H; and P represents a protecting group;

5 comprising reacting a compound of formula IV:



IV

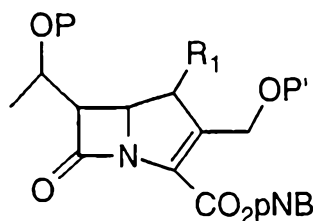
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wherein R₁ and P and are defined above and R₄ represents triflate or SO₂F;

15 in the presence of a catalyst and (R₃)₃SnCH₂OP'', wherein : each R₃ represents C₁₋₄ lower alkyl, and P'' represents H or a protecting group, to yield the compound of formula I.

20 This one-vessel process is a more efficient and facile pathway than the traditional multi-step synthesis for preparation of carbapenem intermediates.

The present invention also relates to the compound of formula I:



I

25

wherein:

R₁ represents CH₃ or H; and P and P' independently represent H or a protecting group with the proviso that P and P' cannot both represent Si(methyl)₂(t-butyl). This novel compound is a stable and storable crystalline solid.

5

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

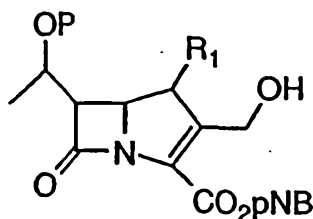
The invention is described in connection with the following drawings in which:

10 Fig. 1: X-ray crystallography pattern of compound Ia and

Fig. 2: Differential Scanning Calorimetric Cell (DSC) thermogram of compound Ia.

15 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

In one embodiment of the invention, a process for synthesizing a compound of formula I is described:



I

20

wherein:

wherein R₁ represents CH₃ and P represents TES, TMS or TBS;

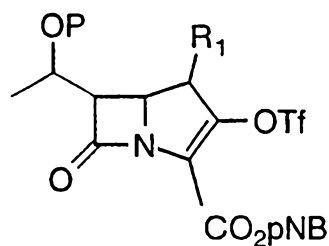
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comprising:

reacting a compound of formula IV:

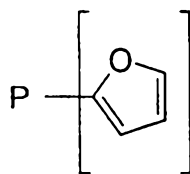


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IV

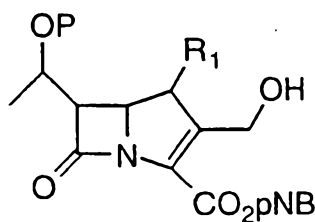
5 wherein P and R₁ are defined above;



in the presence of ZnCl₂, Pd(dba)₂, (R₃)₃SnCH₂OP'', wherein :

R₃ represents a C₁₋₄ lower alkyl, and P'' represents H, TES, TMS or TBS; to yield the compound of formula I.

10 In another embodiment of the invention, a process for synthesizing a compound of formula I is described:



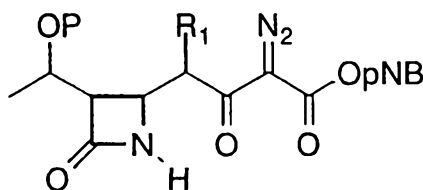
I

15 wherein R₁ represents CH₃ or H and P represents a protecting group, comprising:

20

step (1) heating a compound of formula II:

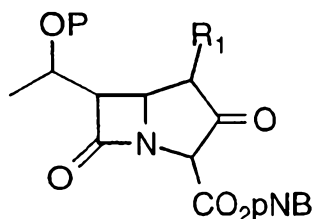
- 5 -



II

5 wherein R₁ and P are defined above;

in the presence of $\text{Rh}(\text{O}=\text{C}(\text{R}_2)_2)_2$, wherein R_2 is C_{1-15} alkyl, to yield a compound of formula III:



III

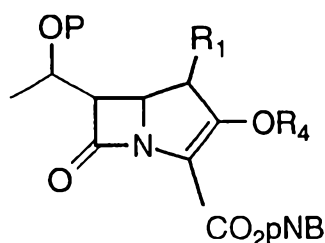
wherein R₁ and P are defined above;

15 Compound II is commercially available where P is H and R₁ is methyl or H. Compound II may also be synthesized according to the general methods disclosed in, for example, Nagao, et al., JOCEAH; J. Org. Chem., EN; 57; 15; 1992; 4243-4249; see also Schmitt, et al., J. Antibiotics 41(6):780-787 (1988).

20 A lewis acid may be added to the reaction mixture in this first step as an optional reagent. A preferred aspect of the invention is realized when a Lewis acid is employed. Suitable Lewis acids are described below.

25 step (2) reacting a compound of formula III with an amine, or combination of amines, and a trifluoromethanesulfonylation reagent or fluorosulfonylation reagent, to yield a compound of formula IV:

- 6 -



IV

5

wherein R_1 and P are defined above and R_4 is Tf or SO_2F ;

- step (3) reacting a compound of formula IV in the presence of a catalyst, $(R_3)_3SnCH_2OP''$, and optionally a phosphine ligand,
- 10 wherein : R_3 represents a C_{1-4} lower alkyl, and P'' represents H or a protecting group; to yield the compound of formula I. A preferred process is realized when a phosphine ligand is employed.

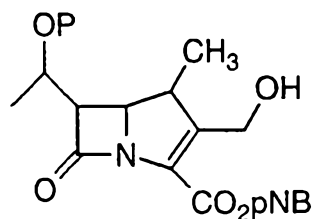
- A Lewis acid may also be added to the reaction mixture at
- 15 this third step as an optional reagent. A preferred process is realized when a Lewis acid is employed. Suitable Lewis acids for the first and third steps in the process include, independently, $ZnBr_2$, $ZnCl_2$, $MgCl_2$, $MgBr_2$, $CaCl_2$, and $CaBr_2$. Preferably, $ZnCl_2$ is used as the Lewis acid for both steps.

- 20 Some of the intermediates of the present invention occur as geometric isomers. The process of synthesizing all such isomers is encompassed by the present invention.

- In a preferred aspect of this invention, R_1 is methyl and R_2
- 25 is C_{1-12} alkyl.

In another preferred aspect of this invention a process for preparation of a compound of formula I:

- 7 -

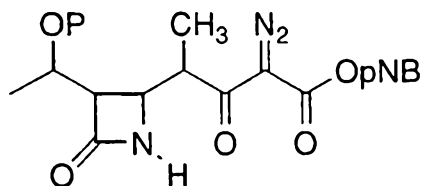


I

wherein P represents TMS, TES or TBS;

5

comprising refluxing a compound of formula II:



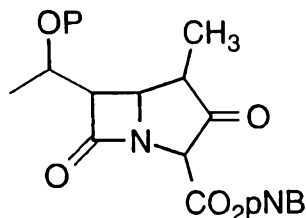
II

10

wherein P is defined above;

in the presence of ZnCl_2 and $\text{Rh}(\text{OC}(\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{25}))_3$, to yield a compound of formula III:

15

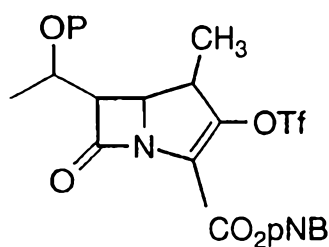


III

20 wherein P is defined above;

reacting a compound of formula III in the presence of DIEPA or 2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidine, or a combination thereof, and Tf_2O , to yield a compound of formula IV:

- 8 -

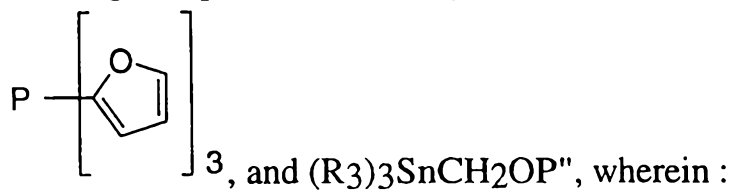


IV

5

wherein P and is defined above;

reacting compound IV in the presence of a ZnCl_2 , $\text{Pd}(\text{dba})_2$,



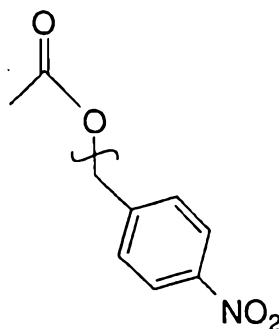
10 R_3 represents a C_{1-4} lower alkyl, and P'' represents H, TMS, TES, or TBS;

to yield the compound of formula I is described.

The instant invention is generally carried out under an inert atmosphere using nitrogen or argon, preferably argon.

15 The invention is described herein in detail, using the terms defined below unless otherwise specified.

pNB refers to the p-nitrobenzyl, represented by the following formula:



20

Tf refers to triflate (trifluoromethanesulfonyl).

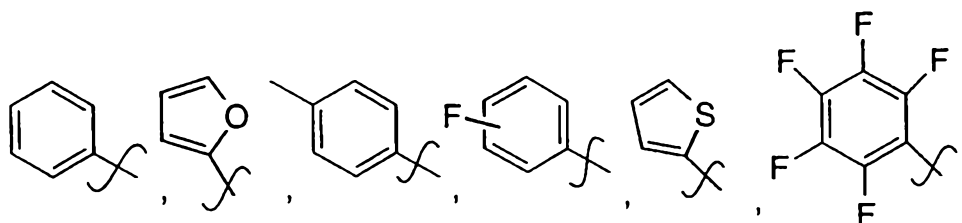
- 9 -

When a functional group is termed "protected", this means that the group is in modified form to preclude undesired side reactions at the protected site. Suitable protecting groups for the compounds of the present invention will be recognized from the present application taking into account the level of skill in the art, and with reference to standard textbooks, such as Greene, T. W. et al. Protective Groups in Organic Synthesis Wiley, New York (1991). Examples of suitable protecting groups are: t-butylmethylphenylsilyl, t-butyldiphenylsilyl, trimethylsilyl (TMS), triethylsilyl (TES), t-butyldimethylsilyl (TBS), o-nitrobenzyloxycarbonyl, p-nitrobenzyloxycarbonyl (pNZ), p-nitrobenzyl (pNB), benzyloxycarbonyl, t-butyloxycarbonyl, 2,2,2-trichloroethyloxycarbonyl and allyloxycarbonyl. Preferred protecting groups are TMS, TES and TBS.

Suitable solvents include: N,N-dimethyl formamide (DMF), toluene, tetrahydrofuran, and dichloromethane, hexamethylphosphoramide (HMPA), 1-methyl-2-pyrrolidinone (NMP), 1-ethyl-2-pyrrolidinone (NEP), 1,3-dimethyl-3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2(1H)-pyrimidinone (DMPU), 1,3-dimethyl-2-imidazolidinone. Preferable solvents are dichloromethane, HMPA, DMF, NMP, NEP, DMPU or a combination thereof.

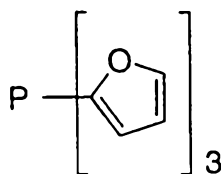
Suitable catalysts include rhodium and palladium catalysts such as Pd(0) and Pd(II) complexes, such as PdCl₂, Pd(OAc)₂, Pd(dba)₂, Pd₂(dba)₃-CHCl₃, Rh(II) complexes, Rh(OAc)₂, Rh(CO₂C₁₋₈ alkyl), wherein "dba" represents dibenzylideneacetone. Preferably, the catalyst are Pd(dba)₂ or Pd(OAc)₂.

Suitable phosphine ligands include: 1,3-bis(diphenylphosphino)propane (DPPP); 1,2-bis(diphenylphosphino)ethane (DPPE); 1,1'-bis(diphenylphosphino)ferrocene (DPPF); or PR^aR^bR^c, wherein R^a, R^b, and R^c represent, independently:



- 10 -

In a preferred aspect of the invention, the phosphine ligand employed is:



5

Suitable trifluoromethanesulfonylation reagents include: trifluoromethanesulfonic (triflic) anhydride (Tf₂O), trifluoromethanesulfonyl chloride (TfCl), and N-phenyltrifluoromethanesulfonimide. Suitable fluorosulfonylation reagents include S₂O₅F₂. Preferably, Tf₂O is the reagent employed.

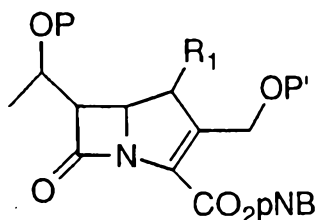
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Suitable amines include triethylamine (TEA), diisopropylethylamine (DIEPA), 2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidine, diethylamine, diisopropylamine and t-butylamine. Preferably, the amine chosen is DIEPA or 2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidine or a combination thereof.

15

In another preferred aspect of this invention a compound of formula I which is useful in the synthesis of a variety of carbapenem antibiotics is described:

20



25

I

wherein:

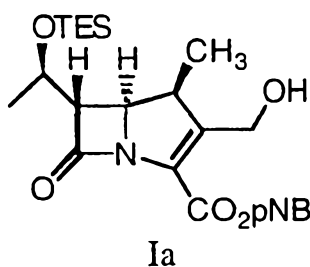
R₁ represents CH₃ or H; and P and P' independently represent H or a protecting group.

- 11 -

A preferred compound is realized when P represents TES, P' represents H, and R₁ represents CH₃.

5 Another preferred compound is realized when P represents TES, P' represents H, and R₁ represents H.

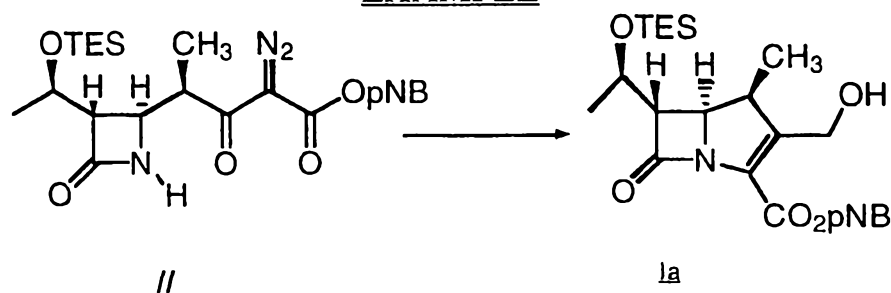
10 In another preferred aspect of this invention, the crystalline compound is:



15 The compounds of the present invention may be isolated in various crystal forms, such as that illustrated by Figs. 1 and 2. This encompasses compounds of stable crystal structure, and is not limited to the crystal form described in the example.

20 The present invention is illustrated by the following non-limiting example.

- 12 -

EXAMPLESynthesis of Compound Ia

5 To a 72 L round bottom flask equipped with a mechanical stirrer, an argon inlet, a reflux condenser and a thermocouple was added compound II (2.7 Kg) and methylene chloride (13.5 L). Rhodium Octanolate (21.4 g) and zinc chloride (10.7 g) were added to the solution. The solution was slowly heated to reflux (nitrogen is evolved during the course of reaction). The solution was refluxed for two hours and then cooled to room temperature. The HPLC assay indicated that the starting material had been consumed. The solution was stored overnight under argon.

15 The reaction mixture was cooled with a dry ice acetone bath to -50 °C. Tetramethylpiperidine (910 mL) and diisopropylethylamine (326 mL) were added over 15 minutes keeping temperature below -40 °C. Triflic anhydride (990 mL) was then added over 30 minutes keeping temperature below -40 °C. The resulting solution was aged at -50 °C for one hour. HMPA (5.35 L) was added. The solution was then warmed to 20 °C under vacuum for one hour to remove methylene chloride. Bu₃SnCH₂OH (88 wt % pure; 6 L) was added to this dark solution.

25 To a separate 72 L round bottom flask equipped with a mechanical stirrer, an argon inlet, and a thermocouple was added HMPA (16 L). Tri-2-furyl-phosphine (400 g), Pd(dba)₂ (400 g) and zinc chloride (730 g) was added to the HMPA and then heated to 70 °C. The enol triflate solution from above was transferred to the catalyst solution over 60 minutes at 70 °C. After the addition was completed the reaction was aged at 70 °C for one hour. All operations were carried out under argon.

- 13 -

The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature. The reaction mixture was pumped into a extractor containing cold MTBE (20 L) and the reaction flask was rinsed with a additional MTBE (15 L). Cold water (35 L) was pumped into the extractor and the two phase solution
5 was agitated for 10 minutes. The layers were allowed to separate and the organic layer was washed with cold water (35 L). The organic layer was separated and concentrated under vacuum. The concentrate was diluted with heptane and loaded on a silica gel column and eluted with EtOAc/Heptane. The fractions, containing the desired compound, were
10 collected and concentrated, and the product crystallized during concentration. The solids were collected and dried (1.53 Kg; 79.5 wt %; 46.5 isolated yield).

Analytically pure material was obtained by silica gel column chromatography (EtOAc/Heptane), and subsequent crystallization from
15 heptane. The melting point was measured using DSC thermography. The DSC instrument was a TA Instrument DSC 9210 and the DSC curve run at a heating rate of 10°C/min under a nitrogen flow of about 30 mL/min from room temperature to 250°C. A single endotherm (melting endotherm) was detected with a peak temperature of 98°C, an
20 extrapolated onset temperature of 95°C and a heat of melting of 58 Joules/gm. (See Fig. 2).

NMR spectroscopy yielded the following results: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 250 MHz) δ 8.22 (m, 2H), 7.64 (d, J=8.7 Hz, 2H), 5.47 (AB d, J=13.9 Hz, 1H), 5.27 (AB d, J=13.9 Hz, 1H), 4.54 (AB dd, J=14.9, 6.6
25 Hz, 1H), 4.38 (AB dd, J=14.9, 5.9 Hz, 1H), 4.25 (m, 1H), 4.22 (dd, J=7.0, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 3.27 (dd, J=5.7, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 3.24 (m, 1H), 3.09 (m, 1H), 1.26 (d, J=6.2 Hz, 3H), 1.21 (d, J=7.4 Hz, 3H), 0.94 (t, J=7.9 Hz, 9H), 0.59 (m, 6H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 63 MHz) δ 175.1, 161.8, 153.5, 147.6, 142.4, 128.0, 127.3, 123.7, 65.8, 65.6, 60.3, 57.6, 55.9, 41.6, 22.5, 15.3,
30 6.7, 4.9.

The X-ray crystallography was conducted using a Phillips APD3720 using CuKα radiation. The powder pattern was run at 0.075 2-θ/sec from about 2 to about 40 2-θ. The x-ray crystallography pattern yielded the results summarized in Fig.1 and Table 1, below.

- 14 -

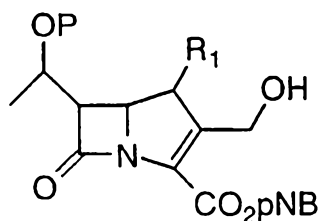
TABLE 1

Peak Angle (°)	d-spacing (Å)	Relative Intensity (%)
3.8	23.3	100
7.7	11.5	6
11.3	7.85	56
12.5	7.08	38
13.2	6.69	22
13.8	6.41	28
14.5	6.11	57
18.5	4.79	11
19.1	4.64	18
20.6	4.31	43
21.5	4.12	19
24.9	3.57	89
25.6	3.84	56
27.1	3.29	30
29.5	3.02	6
31.2	2.87	9
36.5	2.46	6
38.4	2.34	7

- 15 -

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

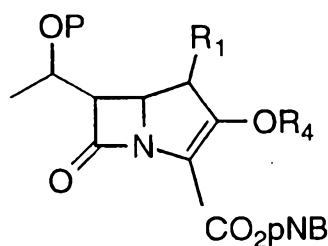
1. A process for preparation of a compound of formula
 5 I:



I

- 10 wherein:
 R₁ represents CH₃ or H; and P represents a protecting group;

comprising reacting a compound of formula IV:



IV

- 15 wherein R₁ and P and are defined above and R₄ represents triflate or
 20 SO₂F;

in the presence of a catalyst and (R₃)₃SnCH₂OP'', wherein : each
 R₃ represents C₁₋₄ lower alkyl, and P'' represents H or a protecting
 group, to yield the compound of formula I.

25

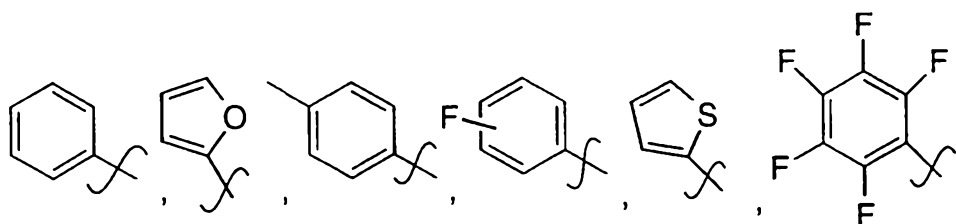
2. A process according to claim 1 further comprising
 optionally adding a Lewis acid selected from the group consisting of
 ZnBr₂, ZnCl₂, MgCl₂, MgBr₂, CaCl₂ and CaBr₂.

- 16 -

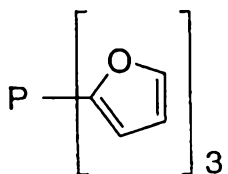
3. A process according to claim 2 wherein the Lewis acid is ZnCl_2 .

5 4. A process according to claim 1 further comprising adding a phosphine ligand selected from the group consisting of: 1,3-bis(diphenylphosphino)-propane (DPPP); 1,2-bis(diphenylphosphino)-ethane (DPPE); 1,1'-bis-(diphenylphosphino)ferrocene (DPPF); and $\text{PR}^a\text{R}^b\text{R}^c$, wherein R^a , R^b , and R^c represent, independently:

10



5. A process in accordance with claim 4 wherein the phosphine ligand is:



15

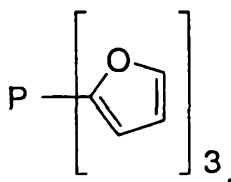
6. A process according to claim 1 wherein the catalyst is selected from the group consisting of Pd(II) complexes, PdCl_2 , $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$, $\text{Pd}(\text{dba})_2$, $\text{Pd}_2(\text{dba})_3\text{-CHCl}_3$, Rh(II) complexes, $\text{Rh}(\text{OAc})_2$, $\text{Rh}(\text{CO}_2\text{C}_{1-8}\text{ alkyl})$ and $\text{Rh}(\text{OCOC}_{1-8}\text{ alkyl})$.

20

7. A process in accordance with claim 5 wherein the Palladium catalyst are $\text{Pd}(\text{dba})_2$ or $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$.

25 and the phosphine ligand is:

- 17 -



8. A process in accordance with claim 1 wherein the protecting group P is selected from the group consisting of t-butylmethylphenylsilyl, t-butyldiphenylsilyl, trimethylsilyl (TMS), triethylsilyl (TES), t-butyldimethylsilyl (TBS), o-nitrobenzyloxycarbonyl, p-nitrobenzyloxycarbonyl (pNZ), p-nitrobenzyl (pNB), benzyloxycarbonyl, t-butyloxycarbonyl, 2,2,2-trichloroethyloxycarbonyl and allyloxycarbonyl.

10

9. A process in accordance with claim 8 wherein the protecting group is TMS, TES or TBS.

10. A process according to claim 1 wherein R₁ is methyl.

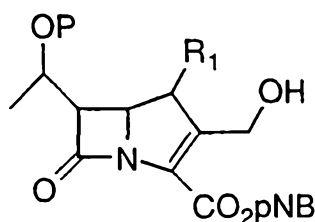
15

11. A process according to claim 1 which is carried out under inert conditions.

12. A process according to claim 11 wherein the inert condition comprises using nitrogen or argon.

20

13. A process for preparation of a compound of formula I:



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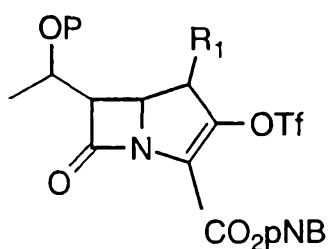
I

wherein:

- 18 -

wherein R₁ represents CH₃ and P represents TES, TMS or TBS;
comprising:

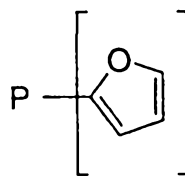
5 reacting a compound of formula IV:



10

IV

wherein P and R₁ are defined above;

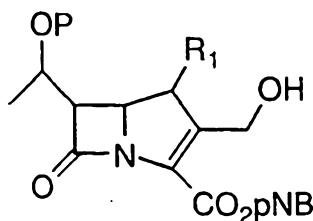


in the presence of ZnCl₂, Pd(dba)₂,
(R₃)₃SnCH₂OP'', wherein :

15 R₃ represents a C₁₋₄ lower alkyl, and P'' represents H, TES, TMS or
TBS; to yield the compound of formula I, said process conducted under
inert conditions using nitrogen or argon.

20

14. A process for preparation of a compound of formula
I:



25

I

- 19 -

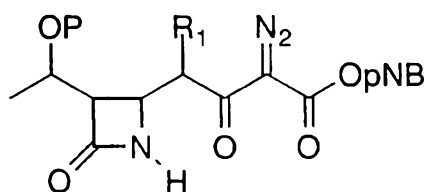
wherein:

R₁ represents CH₃ or H;

and P represents a protecting group; comprising:

5

step (1) heating a compound of formula II:



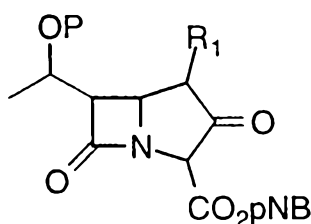
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II

wherein R₁ and P are defined above;

in the presence of $\text{Rh}(\text{O}=\text{C}-\text{R}_2)_2$, wherein R₂ is C₁-15 alkyl, to yield a compound of formula III:

15



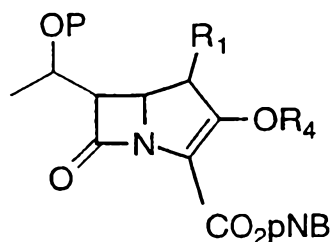
III

20 wherein R₁ and P are defined above;

step (2) reacting a compound of formula III in the presence of an amine, or combination of amines, and a trifluoromethanesulfonylation reagent or fluorosulfonylation reagent, to yield a compound of formula IV:

25

- 20 -



IV

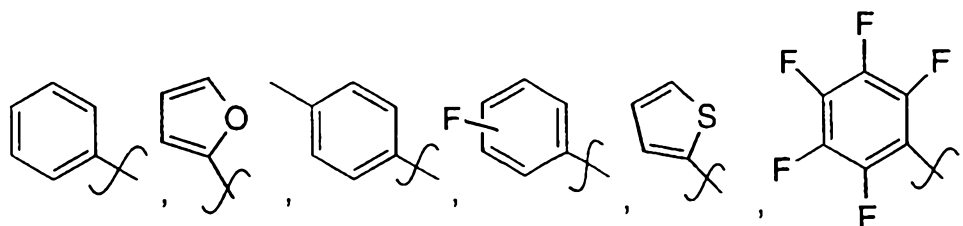
5 wherein R₁ and P and are defined above and R₄ represents triflate or SO₂F;

step (3) reacting compound IV in the presence of a catalyst, and
 10 (R₃)₃SnCH₂OP'', wherein R₃ represents a C₁₋₄ lower alkyl, and P'' represents H or a protecting group, to yield the compound of formula I.

15 15. A process according to claim 14 further comprising optionally adding a Lewis acid, selected from the group consisting of ZnBr₂, ZnCl₂, MgCl₂, MgBr₂, CaCl₂, and CaBr₂ to the first and/or third steps.

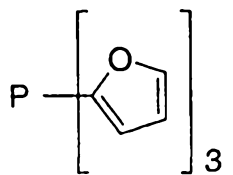
16. A process according to claim 15 wherein the Lewis acid added to both steps is ZnCl₂.

20 17. A process according to claim 14 comprising further adding a phosphine ligand, selected from the group consisting of 1,3-bis-(diphenylphosphino)propane (DPPP); 1,2-ethyl(diphenylphosphino)-ethane (DPPE); 1,1'-bis(diphenylphosphino)ferrocene (DPPF); and
 25 PR^aR^bR^c, wherein R^a, R^b, and R^c represent, independently:



- 21 -

18. A process in accordance with claim 17 wherein the phosphine ligand is:



5 19. A process according to claim 14 wherein catalyst is selected from the group consisting of of Pd(II) complexes, PdCl₂, Pd(OAc)₂, Pd(dba)₂, Pd₂(dba)₃-CHCl₃, Rh(II) complexes, Rh(OAc)₂, and Rh(CO₂C₁₋₈ alkyl).

10 20. A process in accordance with claim 19 wherein the Palladium catalyst is Pd(dba)₂.

 21. A process in accordance with claim 14 wherein the protecting group P is selected from the group consisting of t-
15 butylmethylphenylsilyl, t-butyl diphenylsilyl, trimethylsilyl (TMS), triethylsilyl (TES), t-butyl dimethylsilyl (TBS), o-nitrobenzyloxycarbonyl, p-nitrobenzyloxycarbonyl (PNZ), p-nitrobenzyl (PNB), benzyloxycarbonyl, t-butyloxycarbonyl, 2,2,2-trichloroethyloxycarbonyl and allyloxycarbonyl.

20 22. A process in accordance with claim 21 wherein the protecting group is TMS, TES or TBS.

 23. A process in accordance with claim 14 wherein R₁ is
25 methyl and R₂ is C₁₋₁₂ alkyl.

 24. A process in accordance with claim 14 wherein the trifluoromethanesulfonylation reagent is selected from the group consisting of Tf₂O, TfCl, and N-phenyltrifluoromethanesulfonimide and
30 the fluorosulfonylation agent is S₂O₅F₂.

- 22 -

25. A process in accordance with claim 24 wherein the trifluoromethanesulfonylation reagent used is $\text{ Tf}_2\text{O}$.

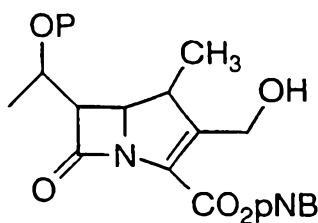
5 26. A process in accordance with claim 14 wherein the amine reagent is selected from the group consisting of triethylamine, diisopropylethylamine, 2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidine, diisopropylamine, t-butylamine and diethylamine.

10 27. A process in accordance with claim 26 wherein the amine employed is DIEPA or 2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidine, or a combination thereof.

15 28. A process according to claim 14 which is carried out under inert conditions.

29. A process according to claim 28 wherein the inert condition comprises using nitrogen or argon.

20 30. A process for preparation of a compound of formula I:



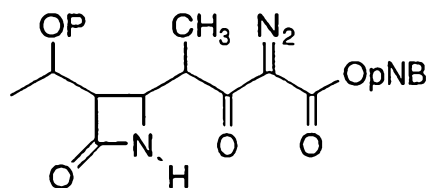
I

25

wherein P represents TES, TMS or TBS;

comprising refluxing a compound of formula II:

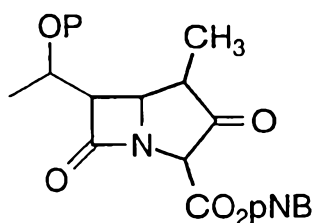
- 23 -



II

5 wherein P is defined above;

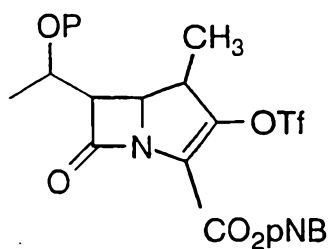
in the presence of ZnCl_2 and $\text{Rh}(\text{OC}(\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{25})_2)_2$, to yield a compound of formula III:



III

10 wherein P is defined above;

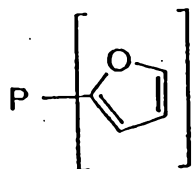
15 reacting a compound of formula III in the presence of DIEPA or 2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidine, or a combination thereof, and Tf_2O , to yield a compound of formula IV:



IV

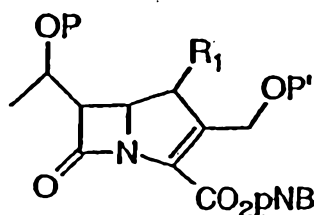
20 wherein P and is defined above;

reacting compound IV in the presence of a ZnCl_2 , $\text{Pd}(\text{dba})_2$,



3, and $(\text{R}_3)_3\text{SnCH}_2\text{OP}''$, wherein R_3 represents a C_{1-4} lower alkyl, and P'' represents H, TMS, TES, or TBS; to yield the compound of formula I, said process conducted under inert conditions using nitrogen or argon.

31. A compound of formula I:



I

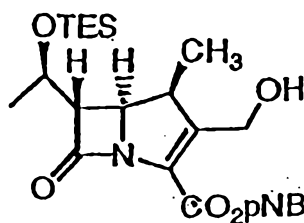
wherein:

R_1 represents CH_3 or H; and P and P' independently represent H or a protecting group with the proviso that P and P' cannot both represent $\text{Si}(\text{methyl})_2(\text{t-butyl})$.

32. The compound of claim 31 wherein P represents TES, P' represents H, and R_1 represents CH_3 .

33. The compound of claim 31 wherein P represents TES, P' represents H, and R_1 represents H.

34. A crystalline compound of formula Ia:



Ia.



35. A crystalline compound of formula Ia in accordance with claim 34 having an X-ray crystallography pattern as shown in Figure 1.

36. A crystalline compound of formula Ia in accordance with claim 34 having a
5 DSC thermogram as shown in Figure 2.

37. A compound prepared by the process of any one of claims 1 to 30.

38. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula Ia in accordance with claim 34, the process being substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the Example.

10

Dated 23 January, 2001
Merck & Co., Inc.

Patent Attorneys for the Applicant/Nominated Person
SPRUSON & FERGUSON

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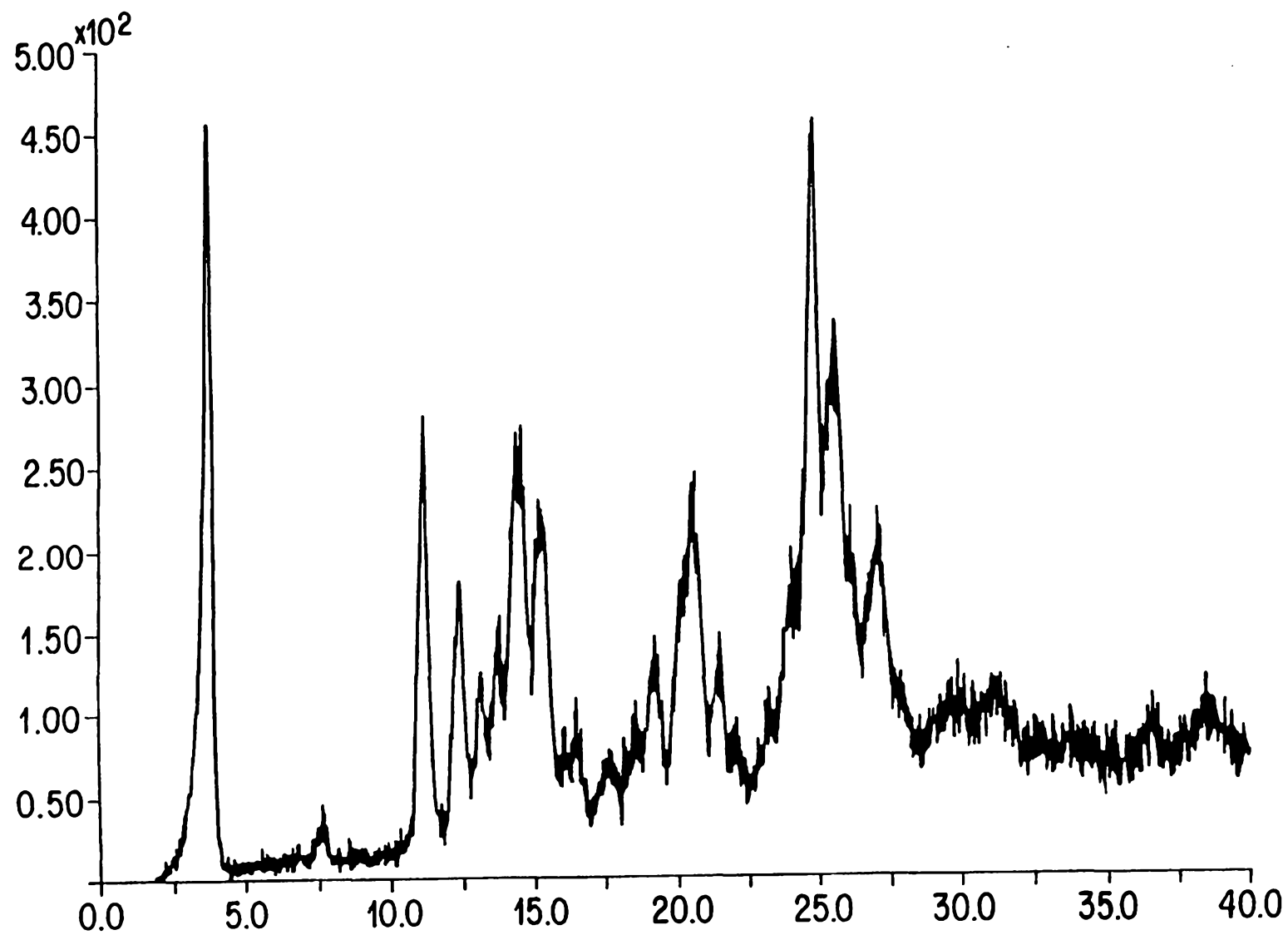


FIG. 1

1/2

2/2

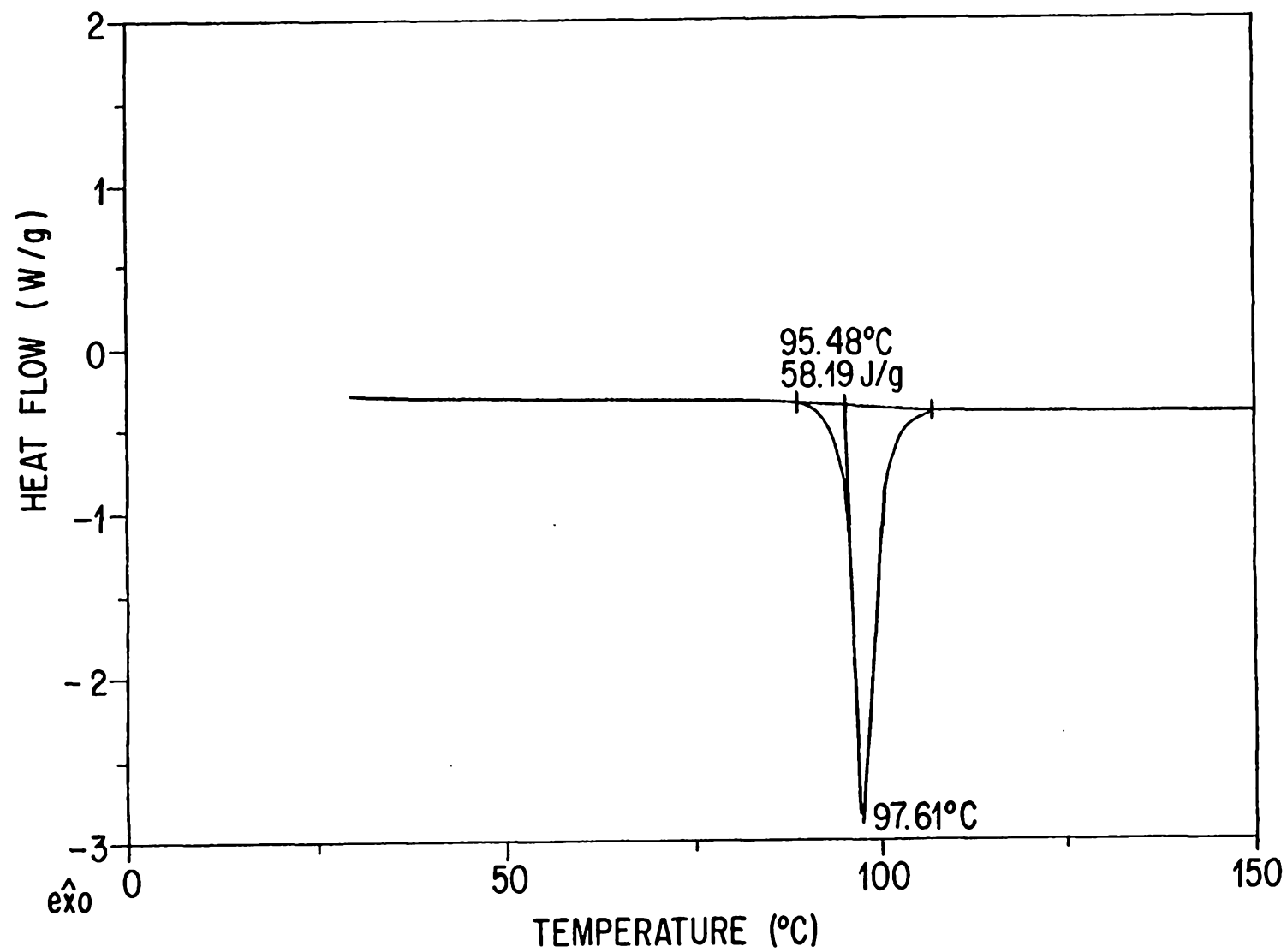


FIG. 2