

A Regioselective O-Demethylation of 10,11-Dimethoxyaporphine

Jack C. Kim[†], Min-Sook Kim and Ung Chan Yoon

Department of Chemistry, College of the Natural Sciences Pusan National University, Pusan 607, Korea

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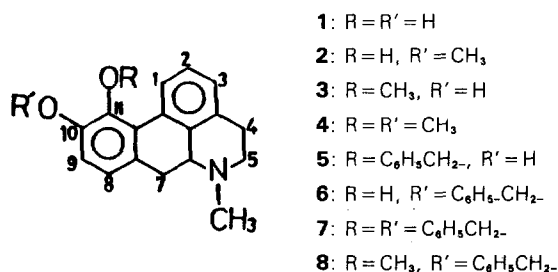
Considerable interest has been demonstrated in Apomorphine (1), due to its medicinal application of a powerful central acting emetic¹, and the treatment of parkinsonism², and because of suggested structural relationships of this compound to dopamine.^{3,4} The metabolic fate of apomorphine in mammalian systems has been studied that the methylation⁵ appears to be one of important pathways in this biodisposition⁶ of this compound. Metabolic reactions occur at the 10- and 11-phenolic hydroxyl positions of apomorphine to give 10-methoxy-11-hydroxyaporphine (2, apocodeine) and 10-hydroxy-11-methoxyaporphine (3, isoapocodeine), respectively.

As a result of these biological activities, coupled with the metabolic biotransformations of apomorphine, the regioselective O-demethylation of 10, 11-dimethoxyaporphine (4) prompted us to investigate a facile synthetic procedure to obtain a sufficient quantity of isoapocodeine (3) from the more readily available apomorphine.

Cannon and his associates⁷ had prepared 5% yields of isoapocodeine; treatment of apomorphine with 1 equiv of benzyl bromide afforded three spots on tlc, in addition to one spot for apomorphine itself; it was concluded that these three spots

represented the two isomeric monobenzyl ethers, (10-hydroxy-11-benzyloxyaporphine, 5 and 10-benzyloxy-11-hydroxyaporphine, 6) and the dibenzyl ether (10, 11-dibenzyloxyaporphine, 7). Treatment of 6 with NaH and methyl tosylate induced formation of 10-benzyloxy-11-methoxyaporphine (8) which was treated under catalytic reductive debenzoylation conditions to afford compound 3. And from the earlier reports, we obtained the complete O-demethylation product, apomorphine and incomplete isomeric products, apocodeine and isoapocodeine from the reactions of 4 with 48% HBr⁸ and with sodium thioethoxide anion⁹ respectively. Under the conclusion of X-ray analysis that the 11-hydroxyl group of the biphenyl portion in the apomorphine system is apparently strained due to the steric repulsion with the 1-peri hydrogen,¹⁰ we underwent the isolation and characterization of isoapocodeine by the regioselective O-demethylation of 4 using the sterically bulkier reagent, sodium *t*-thiobutoxide anion. Due to the sterically hindered nature of the 11-methoxy position of apomorphine, the bulky sodium *t*-thiobutoxide anion as a nucleophile resulted in greater inaccessibility to the sterically hindered 11-methoxy position and controlled the O-demethylation reaction such that nucleophilic attack by the bulky anionic base occurred regioselectively on the 10-methoxy position, forming the isoapocodeine in 74% yields.

A typical experimental procedure is as follows: To a stirred suspension of 0.9 g (0.0214 mole) of 57 % oil suspension of NaH in 40 ml of dry DMF was added 1.7 g (0.00301 mole) of *t*-butyl mercaptan in 15 ml of dry DMF under N₂ atmosphere, followed by the addition of 2.77 g (0.0086 mole) of 10, 11-dimethoxyaporphine.⁹ The resulting mixture was then heated with vigorous stirring under N₂ in an oil bath temperature of 100°C for 3.5 hours. The thin layer chromatogram of the reaction mixture showed an isoapocodeine as a sole product and no apomorphine was detected. After addition of 50 ml of 10 % aq. HCl to the chilled reaction mixture, it was extracted with three 50 ml portions of CHCl₃. The combined CHCl₃ extracts were washed with two 40 ml portions of H₂O and dried (MgSO₄). Filtration and evaporation of the filtrate under reduced pressure gave an oily residue which was subjected to ion-pair extraction.¹¹ To the oily residue were added 4 ml of conc. HCl and 5 ml of H₂O; this solution was extracted with three 20 ml portions of CHCl₃ and the combined extracts were dried (MgSO₄). Filtration and evaporation under reduced pressure afforded a semi-solid which was recrystallized from ethanol (charcoal treatment) to give 1.71 g (74%) of isoapocodeine hydrochloride which was identical with an authentic sample of isoapocodeine hydrochloride as determined by mixed tlc and mixed mp. mp, 244–248° dec. nmr (CDCl₃); δ 2.55 (s, 4, Ar), Me), 5.90 (s, 1, Ar-OH), 3.61 (s, 3, O-Me), 6.96 (m, 4, Ar-8.20 (q, 1, 1-H). ms, *m/e* (% relative abundance); 281 (99), 280 (100), 265 (33), 238 (25), 236 (16), 223 (26), 221 (12), 205 (12), 178 (23), 165 (38).



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Its nmr (CDCl_3) spectra of the regioselective O-demethylated isoapocodeine demonstrated 11-methoxy singlet at 3.61 and the quartet of 1-peri hydrogen at 8.20. The hydroxy proton broad singlet appeared at 5.90 which caused D_2O exchange to disappear. Four aromatic protons (2, 3, 8 and 9 H) appeared as a multiplet centered at 6.96 and the N-methyl singlet at 2.55. This assignment is corroborated in the work of Baarschers, *et al.*,¹² and with an authentic sample of the natural origin of isoapocodeine. The observed regioselectivity of the ether cleavage in the aporphine systems represent, to the best of our knowledge, the first demonstration of this action, although a number of enzyme systems have been noted.¹³

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Stereospecific Coordination of *trans*-1,2-Diaminocyclohexane in the Reaction with Dichloro Platinum (II) Complexes of Optically Active 2,2'-Diamino-1,1'-binaphthyl

Moo-Jin Jun

Department of Chemistry, Yonsei University, Seoul 120, Korea.

Chui Fan Liu

Department of Chemistry, University of Illinois, Chicago, Illinois 60680, U.S.A. (Received December 19, 1984)

Stereospecific coordination has been observed when the racemic mixture of bidentates coordinated to the dichloro platinum (II) complexes of optically active diamino skewed biaryls.¹⁻³ While the stereospecific coordination of racemic mixtures has long been known,⁴⁻⁶ such behavior by a diamino skewed biaryl is known only recently.^{1-3,6} In the present work the stereoselective behavior of another skewed biaryl, 2,2'-diamino-1,1'-binaphthyl (dabn), is studied. The racemic mixture of *trans*-1,2-diaminocyclohexane is chosen for this purpose.

Experimental

2,2'-Diamino-1,1'-binaphthyl (dabn) was prepared and resolved by known method.^{7,8} *Trans*-1,2-diaminocyclohexane was resolved by the method of Asperger and Liu.⁹

$[\text{Pt}(\text{R-dabn})\text{Cl}_2] \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$. 0.40 g of R-dabn was dissolved in 50 ml of warm aqueous ethanol, which was then added dropwise to a solution of 0.58 g of K_2PtCl_4 in 50 ml of water. The mixture was heated and stirred at a temperature of 60–70°C for

one hour. The mixture was cooled and the golden product was collected in a sintered glass filter. The product was washed with water and ethanol, and air dried. Anal. Calcd. for Pt Found : C, 43.30 ; H, 3.27 ; N, 2.59 ; Cl, 12.76.

$[\text{Pt}(\text{R-dabn})(\text{R,R-chxn})]\text{Cl}_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$. 0.23 g of unresolved chxn and 1.11 g of $[\text{Pt}(\text{R-dabn})\text{Cl}_2] \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ were dissolved in 350 ml of water. The mixture was stirred and heated at a temperature of 50–60°C for 9 hrs. The solution was cooled and filtered to remove any unreacted reactants. It was then concentrated on a rotary evaporator until crystallization. The mixture was stored in a refrigerator overnight. The product was collected, washed with ice-cold water and ethanol, and air dried. The product was recrystallized once from 0.02 M HCl. Yield : 0.36 g (27%). Anal. Calcd. for $\text{Pt C}_{26}\text{H}_{30}\text{N}_4\text{Cl}_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$: C, 46.71 ; H, 4.82 ; N, 8.38 ; Cl, 10.60 Found : C, 46.67 ; H, 4.84 ; N, 8.43 ; Cl, 10.54.

$[\text{Pt}(\text{S-dabn})(\text{S,S-chxn})]\text{Cl}_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$. This was made by a similar method described above using $[\text{Pt}(\text{S-dabn})\text{Cl}_2] \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ in place of $[\text{Pt}(\text{R-dabn})\text{Cl}_2] \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$. Yield : 0.28 g (26%). Anal. Calcd. for $\text{Pt C}_{26}\text{H}_{30}\text{N}_4\text{Cl}_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$: C, 46.71 ; H, 4.82 ; N, 8.38 ; Cl, 10.60