## **Comparative Syntheses of Vancomycin**

lan Mangion MacMillan Group Meeting September 28, 2005



Dave Evans, Harvard 1998



K.C. Nicolaou, Scripps 1998, 1999



Dale Boger, Scripps 1999



#### Structural Features of Vancomycin Type Glycopeptide Antibiotics

Generally characterized by an aryl-rich polypeptide backbone with varying crosslinking and glycosidation patterns



X = Y = CI; Vancomycin X = H, Y = CI; Eremomycin X = Y = H; Orienticin C



#### Useful references

Hubbard, B. K.; Walsh, C. T. Angew. Chem. Int. Ed., 2003, 42, 730

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Evans, D.; Wood, M. R.; rotter, W.; Richardson, T. I.; Barrow, J. C.; Katz, J. L. Angew. Chem. Int. Ed., 1998, 37, 2700

Nicolaou, K. C.; Mitchell, H. J.; Jain, N. F.; Winsigger, N.; Hughes, R.; Bando, T. Angew. Chem. Int. Ed., 1999, 38, 240

Boger, D. L.; Miyazaki, S.; Kim, S. H.; Wu, J. H.; Castle, S. L.; Loiseleur, O.; Jin, Q. J. Am. Chem. Soc., 1999, 121, 10004

## Proposed Biosynthesis of Vancomycin-Type Glycopeptides

Remarkably, genes and proteins responsible for the biosynthesis of these molecules have been characterized
Biosynthesis can be reduced to peptide elongation and post-translational modification



The challenge to the synthetic chemist is immense: biosynthesis entails 35 total steps

# Biological Activity (Gram-Positive Bacteria)

Vancomycin inhibits cell wall cross-linking through tight binding, eventually leading to cell lysis



Alanine dimer - normally linked to glycan outer wall of cell



(resistance)

Disruption of just one of the five hydrogen bonds leads to a 1000-fold loss in activity

# The Evans Design

Chiral auxiliary technology will be used to create most amino acid stereocenters



This strategy relies on atropdiastereoselective macrocyclizations

## Oxazolidinone-Based Amino Acid Synthesis

Chiral auxiliary approach creates labile arylglycine stereocenters in controlled fashion



This strategy is applied to all arylglycines in the Evans synthesis

Evans, JACS, 4011, 1990

# Oxazolidinone-Based Amino Acid Synthesis



The auxiliary approach proves unsuccessful for the central resorcinol-type arylglycine

Oxazolidinone methodology is employed to stereoselectively access a protected amino alcohol



Functional group adjustment and amino acid coupling





82% yield

Oxidative coupling provides undesired atropisomer





65% yield, 19:1 dr

Vanadium serves as oxidant, BF<sub>3</sub> as trap for oxygen nucleophiles, silver as trap for chloride ion impurities, TFA as part of solvent mixture, NaBH(OAc)<sub>3</sub> as reductive quench

see: Evans, JACS, 6426 1993

Oxidative coupling proceeds via radical cation





Careful coupling introduces the central aryl fragment



Me

Mé





Macrocyclization occurs with good selectivity



62% yield 5:1 dr

(10:1 dr w/o Cl)



Thermal equilibration provides the desired atropisomer





44% yield 19:1 dr

see: Evans, *JACS*, 6426 **1993** 

Thermal equilibration provides the desired atropisomer





65% yield



# Synthesis of the Right Macrocycle



## Synthesis of the Right Macrocycle

Closure of the second macrocycle proceeds with the desired atropdiastereoselectivity



60% yield 5:1 dr



## Synthesis of the Right Macrocycle

Closure of the second macrocycle proceeds with the desired atropdiastereoselectivity







An unusual mild deprotection reveals a carboxylic acid





68% yield

Nitrosation in the presence of seven amide functionalities



62% yield

Completion of vancomycin aglycon in 40 linear steps

Evans, Wood, Trotter, Richardson, Barrow, Katz ACIEE, 1998, 2700

# The Nicolaou Design

Sharpless asymmetric catalysis will be used to create most amino acid stereocenters



Atropdiastereoselctivity left unaddressed in the design

## Dihydroxylation/Aminohydroxylation Based Approach

Sharpless methodology used to create aryl amino acid stereocenters



Enantioenrichment attained through amino acid coupling

#### Dihydroxylation/Aminohydroxylation Based Approach



As in the Evans synthesis, creating the central fragment is challenging

## Nicolaou's Triazene-Driven Ether Synthesis



Triazene serves to activate aryl ring for S<sub>N</sub>Ar and acts as functional handle for phenol

Nicolaou, JACS, 119, 1997, 3421



![](_page_25_Figure_0.jpeg)

# Approach to the Left Macrocycle

Peptide coupling sets up biaryl ether synthesis

![](_page_25_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_25_Figure_4.jpeg)

![](_page_25_Figure_5.jpeg)

![](_page_25_Figure_6.jpeg)

# Closure of the Left Macrocycle

Ether formation proceeds without atropdiastereoselectivity

![](_page_26_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_26_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_26_Figure_4.jpeg)

# Amide Formation and Deprotection

Completion of the left half achieved via lactamization

![](_page_27_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_27_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_28_Figure_0.jpeg)

For synthesis of tripeptide, see Nicolaou Classics II, p. 268

![](_page_29_Figure_0.jpeg)

Triazene-activated ether formation favors unnatural atropisomer; thermal equilibration is possible

![](_page_29_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_29_Figure_3.jpeg)

Heating unnatural isomer at 140 °C provides 2:3 mix in 80-85% yield

74% yield 1:3 dr

![](_page_30_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_31_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_32_Figure_0.jpeg)

32% yield

![](_page_33_Figure_0.jpeg)

Phenol protection and introduction of methyl ester

![](_page_33_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_33_Figure_3.jpeg)

74% yield

![](_page_34_Figure_0.jpeg)

#### Completion of the Natural Product

Desilylation is followed by global deprotection

![](_page_34_Figure_3.jpeg)

62% yield

Nicolaou, Takayanagi, Jain, Natarajan, Koumbis, Bando, Ramanjulu, ACIEE, 1998, 2717

## Conclusions

While synthesis is not an issue in the supply of Vancomycin, fascinating chemistry has been discovered in pursuit of an expedient synthesis

![](_page_35_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_35_Figure_3.jpeg)

Evans - 36 steps 0.2% overall yield 84% average

Nicolaou - 36 steps 0.13% overall yield 82% average

Control over the wide variety of stereocenters in the context of a complex synthesis is most notable