

# Cross-Metathesis Approach for Stereocontrolled Synthesis of the C1–C15 Fragment of Rhizopodin

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**Abstract:** The C1–C15 fragment of rhizopodin was synthesized through either Suzuki coupling reaction of vinyl iodide and vinyl boronate or cross-metathesis of a terminal olefin and a diene adduct in the presence of Hoveyda–Grubbs II catalyst.

**Key words:** cross-metathesis, cross-coupling, stereocontrolled synthesis, conjugated diene, rhizopodin

Rhizopodin was isolated by Höfle and Reichenbach from the myxobacterium *Myxococcus stipitatus* and was assigned as a monomeric lactone in 1993.<sup>1</sup> Its structure and absolute stereochemistry were recently revised as shown in Scheme 1.<sup>2,3</sup> Rhizopodin exhibits significant biological properties including potent cytostatic activity in the low nanomolar range against a range of tumor cell lines.<sup>1–3</sup> The distinctive structural features and biological activities, together with our interest in macrocyclic marine natural products<sup>4</sup> prompted us to undertake studies on the synthesis of rhizopodin. Recently, various synthetic approaches toward the synthesis of rhizopodin have been reported.<sup>5</sup> The syntheses of monorhizopodin and 16-*epi*-monorhizopodin were achieved by Nicolaou and co-workers in 2011<sup>5c</sup> and, since then, two total syntheses of rhizopodin have been reported.<sup>5g,j</sup>

So far, total syntheses of the macrocycle of rhizopodin have employed either intramolecular Suzuki coupling reaction or macrolactonization.<sup>5g–j</sup> An alternative approach to the macrocyclizations was sought and we opted to close the macrocyclic core by ene–diene cross-metathesis<sup>6</sup> as shown in our retrosynthetic plan (Scheme 1). To test the feasibility of the key ene–diene cross-metathesis step of our designed strategy toward rhizopodin, a model study based on the construction of the C1–C15 fragment (**1**) of rhizopodin was undertaken. Herein we detail two synthetic approaches to fragment **1**.

Retrosynthetic analysis of **1** led us to disconnect between positions C8 and C9, which imposed the construction of the conjugated diene through cross-metathesis of frag-

ments **2** and **3**. Alternatively, a Suzuki cross-coupling of vinyl boronate **4** with vinyl iodide **5** was envisioned to deliver diene **1** (Scheme 1). Oxazole-containing fragments **2** and **4** were planned to originate from the common precursor **10**, which, in turn, would be prepared from the known methyl-2-(chloromethyl)oxazole-4-carboxylate (**7**; Scheme 2).

The synthesis of fragments **2** and **4** is outlined in Scheme 2. Oxazole **7** was obtained from commercially available 2,2-dichloronitrile (**6**) by using a known sequence.<sup>7</sup> Reaction of **7** with sodium acetate in the presence of acetic acid and acetic anhydride and treatment of the resultant acetate derivative with potassium carbonate and methanol afforded the corresponding alcohol **8** in 61% yield over two steps. After protection of the primary alcohol as its TBS ether, the methyl ester was reduced with DIBAL-H in THF to give alcohol **9** in 84% yield. This route is operationally convenient and proceeds well on large scale (>35 g of **9** was obtained). It should be mentioned that alcohol **9** could be obtained by a reported procedure;<sup>8</sup> however, in our hands, we were unable to reproduce the reaction on large scales. Swern oxidation<sup>9</sup> of the primary alcohol of **9**, followed by Keck allylation<sup>10</sup> of the resulting aldehyde, provided homoallylic alcohol **10** in 72% yield with >97% enantiomeric excess, as measured on its Mosher ester.<sup>11</sup> The absolute stereochemistry at the newly created stereogenic center was also assigned at this point by synthesis and comparison of the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of its Mosher derivatives.<sup>12</sup> Thus, homoallylic alcohol **10** was reacted with both (*S*)- and (*R*)- $\alpha$ -methoxy- $\alpha$ -(trifluoromethyl)phenylacetic acid to generate diastereomeric (*S*)- or (*R*)-Mosher esters **12** and **13**, respectively (Table 1). Subtraction of the chemical shifts of the protons of (*R*)-Mosher ester **13** from those of (*S*)-Mosher ester **12** in the vicinity of the ester-bearing stereocenter then provides differences ( $\Delta\delta$ ), the signs of which are used to assign the configuration of the stereocenter. The signs of the  $\Delta\delta$  are shown in Table 1, and the absolute stereochemistry at C11 was elucidated to be the (*S*)-configuration.

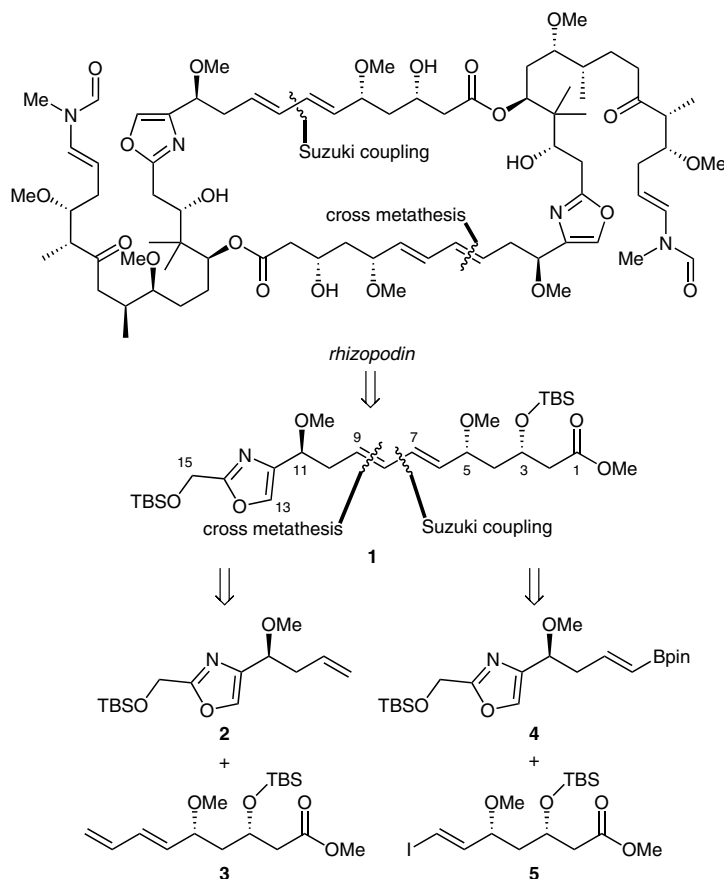
*O*-Methylation of the homoallylic alcohol **10** by using iodomethane and sodium hydride in THF provided **2** in 84% yield. Olefin cross-metathesis between **2** and vinyl pinacol boronate **11** under the influence of the Hoveyda–

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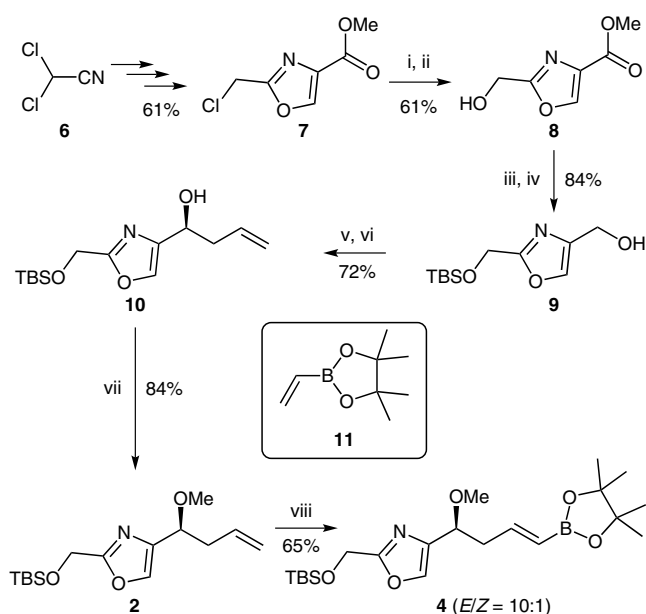
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Scheme 1 Retrosynthetic analysis



**Scheme 2** Preparation of intermediates **2** and **4**. *Reagents and conditions:* (i) NaOAc, HOAc–Ac<sub>2</sub>O; (ii) K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>, MeOH; (iii) TBSCl, imidazole, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>; (iv) DIBAL–H, THF; (v) (COCl)<sub>2</sub>, DMSO, Et<sub>3</sub>N, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, –78 °C; (vi) (*S*)-BINOL, Ti(*O*-i-Pr)<sub>4</sub>, allyltributylstannane, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, –20 °C, 72 h; (vii) NaH, MeI, THF; (viii) **11**, Hoveyda–Grubbs II catalyst, toluene, 80 °C.

Grubbs II catalyst furnished vinyl boronate **4** in 65% yield (*E/Z* = 10:1; Scheme 2).<sup>13</sup>

The preparation of coupling partners **3** and **5** commenced from methyl ester **14**, which was prepared according to conditions described by Paterson<sup>14</sup> (Scheme 3). Methyl ester **14** was reduced to aldehyde **15** in 94% yield by using DIBAL–H in dichloromethane. Subsequent treatment of **15** with  $\beta$ -(+)-allyldiisopinocampheylborane according to Brown et al.<sup>15</sup> provided a 10:1 mixture of *syn*- and *anti*-monomethylated diols, favoring the desired isomer, which was protected as its TBS ether **16** (55% yield over two steps). Oxidative cleavage of the terminal olefin by using the Sharpless protocol,<sup>16</sup> and esterification of the resultant acid with trimethylsilyldiazomethane<sup>17</sup> provided methyl ester **17** in 63% yield over two steps. Selective removal of the primary TBS group in the presence of the secondary TBS group under mild acidic conditions provided alcohol **18** in 88% yield. Oxidation of the primary alcohol in **18** by using the Dess–Martin periodinane reagent<sup>18</sup> buffered with sodium bicarbonate afforded the corresponding aldehyde, which served as the precursor leading to both **3** and **5**. Thus, a Horner–Wadsworth–Emmons olefination between the diethyl allylphosphonate and the aldehyde derived from **18** successfully led to the required diene **3** in 53% yield and good *E/Z* selectivity (15:1). In parallel, treatment of the aldehyde with iodo-

**Table 1** Stereochemical Assignment of **10**<sup>a</sup>

Hydrogen	$\delta_S$ ( <i>S</i> -MTPA ester)	$\delta_R$ ( <i>R</i> -MTPA ester)	$\delta_S - \delta_R$
TBS( <i>t</i> -Bu)	0.910	0.901	+0.009
TBS(Me)	0.104	0.088	+0.016
15	4.742	4.701	+0.042
13	7.574	7.409	+0.165
11	6.050	6.077	–
10	2.745	2.790	–0.045
9	5.634	5.759	–0.125
8	5.082 5.030	5.171 5.133	–0.089 –0.103

<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: (i) oxallyl chloride, DMF, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, (*S*)-MTPA; then Et<sub>3</sub>N, DMAP, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, **10**, 85%; (ii) oxallyl chloride, DMF, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, (*R*)-MTPA; then Et<sub>3</sub>N, DMAP, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, **10**, 91%.

form and chromous chloride in THF<sup>19</sup> gave vinyl iodide **5** in 63% overall yield with greater than 10:1 *E/Z* selectivity.

With the four requisite fragments **2–5** in hand, the stage was set to test the palladium-catalyzed cross-coupling reaction (Table 2) and ene-diene cross-metathesis (Table 3). First, we explored the Suzuki coupling reaction<sup>20</sup> of vinyl boronate **4** and vinyl iodide **5** under various conditions. Initially the widely used protocol was employed using [Pd(Ph<sub>3</sub>P)<sub>4</sub>]-Ph<sub>3</sub>As and Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> in THF. Unfortunately, the desired product **1** was obtained in only 35% isolated yield (Table 2, entry 1). When the catalyst was switched to [Pd(dppf)<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>], diene **1** was isolated in a much improved yield (52%; entry 2). Further optimization of the catalytic systems led to the identification of a remarkably simple protocol, in which vinyl boronate **4** and vinyl iodide **5** were exposed to [Pd(Ph<sub>3</sub>P)<sub>4</sub>] and TIOEt in THF–H<sub>2</sub>O (v/v 4:1) to furnish **1** in 73% isolated yield (entry 3).<sup>21</sup>

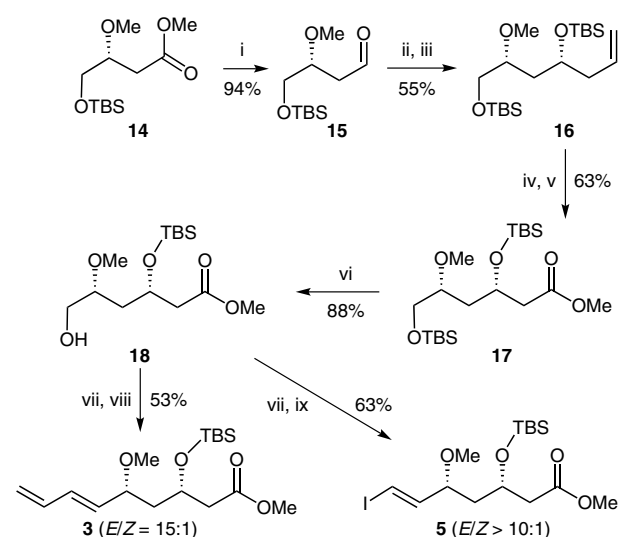
We then examined the key ene-diene cross-metathesis reaction under several conditions by varying the solvent, catalyst, and temperature. As shown in Table 3, initial cross-metathesis of alkene **2** and diene **3** at 80 °C in toluene with Grubbs I catalyst provided no conversion (entry 1). Furthermore, attempts to mediate the cross-metathesis

**Table 2** Suzuki Coupling for the Synthesis of Diene **1**<sup>a</sup>

Entry	Ratio 4/5	Catalyst/ligand	Solvent	Base	Yield (%)
1	1.3:1.0	[Pd(Ph <sub>3</sub> P) <sub>4</sub> ]/Ph <sub>3</sub> As	THF	Cs <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	35
2	1.3:1.0	[Pd(dppf) <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> ]/Ph <sub>3</sub> As	THF	Cs <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	52
3	1.3:1.0	[Pd(Ph <sub>3</sub> P) <sub>4</sub> ]	THF–H <sub>2</sub> O	TIOEt	73

<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: See table and text for details.

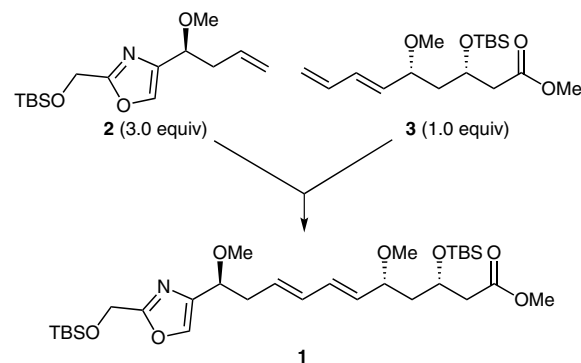
with 10 mol% of either Grubbs II catalyst or Hoveyda–Grubbs II catalyst in dichloromethane at reflux also failed to provide any detectable quantities of diene **1**. Fortunately, performing this reaction at 60 °C in toluene with Grubbs II catalyst or Hoveyda–Grubbs II catalyst, afforded **1** in 24% and 40% yield, respectively (entries 4 and 5).



**Scheme 3** Preparation of intermediates **3** and **5**. *Reagents and conditions*: (i) DIBAL-H, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, –78 °C; (ii) (+)-Ipc<sub>2</sub>BOMe, allylmagnesium bromide, Et<sub>2</sub>O, 0 to –78 °C; then **15**; (iii) TBSCl, Et<sub>3</sub>N, DMAP, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>; (iv) RuCl<sub>3</sub>, NaIO<sub>4</sub>, CCl<sub>4</sub>–MeCN–H<sub>2</sub>O; (v) TMSCHN<sub>2</sub>, MeOH; (vi) (–)-CSA, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>–MeOH; (vii) Dess–Martin periodinane, NaHCO<sub>3</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>; (viii) diethyl allylphosphonate, *n*BuLi, HMPA, THF, –78 °C, then aldehyde; (ix) CrCl<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>3</sub>, THF.

Furthermore, by increasing the reaction temperature to 80 °C in toluene in the presence of Hoveyda–Grubbs II catalyst, the yield improved considerably, and diene **1** could be isolated in 51% yield<sup>21</sup> as the (*E,E*)-alkene, the conformation of which was determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopic analysis. Considering the thermal stability of both starting material and catalyst, attempts to further improve the yield by the use of elevated temperatures were not conducted.

**Table 3** Cross-Metathesis of Alkene **2** and Diene **3**<sup>a</sup>



Entry	Catalyst (10 mol%)	Solvent	Temp (°C)	Yield (%) <sup>b</sup>
1	Grubbs I	toluene	80	–
2	Grubbs II	CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	40	–
3	Hoveyda–Grubbs II	CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	40	–
4	Grubbs II	toluene	60	24
5	Hoveyda–Grubbs II	toluene	60	40
6	Hoveyda–Grubbs II	toluene	80	51

<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: See table and text for details.

<sup>b</sup> Yield based on recovered **3**.

In summary, the C1–C15 fragment of rhizopodin was synthesized by either Suzuki coupling reaction of vinyl iodide and vinyl boronate or by cross-metathesis of a terminal olefin and a diene adduct in the presence of Hoveyda–Grubbs II catalyst. This study demonstrates the effectiveness of an ene-diene cross-metathesis approach to diene **1** and served as a model study for the total synthesis of rhizopodin based on ene-diene cross-metathesis strategy. Further efforts directed toward the asymmetric total synthesis of rhizopodin and its analogues are underway and will be reported in due course.

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**Supporting Information** for this article is available online at <http://www.thieme-connect.com/ejournals/toc/synlett>.

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- (21) Procedures for the synthesis of diene **1**:  
**Suzuki Cross-Coupling; General Procedure:** Vinyl iodide **5** (1.0 equiv), pinacol boronate **4** (1.2 equiv), base (2.0 equiv) and ligand (0.5 equiv) were dissolved in degassed THF (2.0 mL) and palladium catalyst (0.1 equiv) dissolved in degassed THF (1.0 mL) was added by using a cannula. The reaction mixture was stirred at ambient temperature and monitored by TLC. Upon completion of the reaction, it was quenched by addition of sat. aq. NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (10 mL) and filtered through a pad of Celite, eluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL). The filtrate was concentrated to remove volatiles and the aqueous residue was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 × 30 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated under vacuum. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography (EtOAc–hexane, 1:4; R<sub>f</sub> = 0.4) to give diene **1** as a colorless oil.  
**Cross-Metathesis; General Procedure:** To a solution of alkene **2** (3.0 equiv) and 1,3-diene **3** (1.0 equiv) in degassed solvent (1.5 mL), ruthenium catalyst (0.1 equiv; pre-dissolved in 1.0 mL degassed solvent) was added by using a cannula, and the reaction mixture was stirred at different temperatures and monitored by TLC. When the reaction reached completion, volatiles were removed under vacuum, and compound **1** was obtained after purification by flash column chromatography (EtOAc–hexane, 1:4; R<sub>f</sub> = 0.4) as a colorless oil. The analytical data of the product were identical those of the main product of the Suzuki coupling reaction.  
**Analytical Data of 1:** [α]<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup> +8.4 (c 1.1, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 7.54 (s, 1 H), 6.24–5.97 (m, 2 H), 5.77–5.56 (m, 1 H), 5.50–5.31 (m, 1 H), 4.75 (s, 2 H), 4.33–4.14 (m, 2 H), 3.70–3.67 (m, 1 H), 3.66 (s, 3 H), 3.32 (s, 3 H), 3.21 (s, 3 H), 2.72–2.59 (m, 2 H), 2.58–2.45 (m, 2 H), 1.85 (ddd, J = 13.3, 7.9, 5.2 Hz, 1 H), 1.66–1.57 (m, 1 H), 0.91 (s, 9 H), 0.87 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 9 H), 0.10 (s, 6 H), 0.05 (s, 3 H), 0.03 (s, 3 H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 172.19, 162.85, 140.52, 136.03, 132.70, 131.98, 131.81, 129.99, 78.71, 76.08, 66.78, 58.42, 56.86, 55.96, 51.40, 43.40, 42.42, 37.79, 25.76, 18.37, 17.93, –4.49, –4.80, –5.39. HRMS (ESI): m/z [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>55</sub>NO<sub>7</sub>Si<sub>2</sub>Na<sup>+</sup>: 620.3410; found: 620.3406.