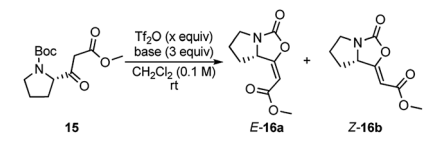


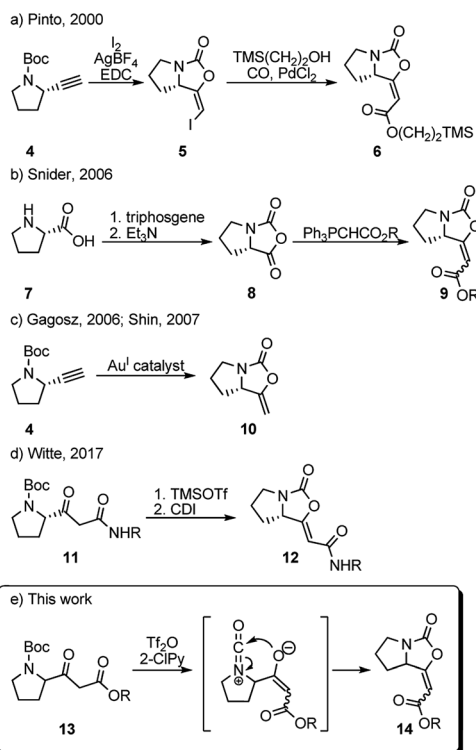
At the start of our investigation, model β -ketoester **15**, prepared from *N*-Boc-L-proline,⁷ was chosen as the model substrate to identify optimal reaction conditions (Table 1). According to Kokotos' protocol,^{12c} the initial using of 1.5 equivalents of TiF_2O and 3 equivalents of 2-ClPy led to a full conversion of the substrate **15** in 15 minutes (monitored by TLC) (Table 1, entry 7). The inspection of ^1H NMR spectrum of the crude reaction mixture confirmed the presence of only desired product **16** almost exclusively as *E* isomer (*E/Z* ratio 93 : 7) which was isolated in 53% combined yield. Gratifyingly, lowering the amount TiF_2O (1.1 equiv.) resulted in a significant increase of the yield up to 80% with the slight decrease of *E* isomer **16a** (Table 1, entry 8).¹³ Any variation of the amount of 2-ClPy did not have any positive impact on the reaction (Table 1, entries 9 and 10). The use of other 2-halopyridines reduced yield of **16** and prolonged reaction times were observed (Table 1, entries 11–13). For comparison, when we applied Witte's reaction conditions, yield dropped remarkably and *E/Z* selectivity disappeared completely (Table 1, entry 14). At last, we tested other bases commonly used in the combination with TiF_2O . Triethylamine, 4-dimethylaminopyridine, pyridine, and 2,6-lutidine resulted only in traces of product **16** (Table 1, entries 2–5), as well as when no base was used (Table 1, entry 1). Using DBU, enol-carbamate **16** was formed in slightly improved *E/Z* ratio (Table 1, entry 6). Nevertheless, ^1H NMR spectrum of the crude reaction mixture showed the formation of a large amount of unidentified by-products and desired product was isolated only in 41% yield.

Table 1 Optimization of the reaction conditions for cyclization of β -ketoester **15**



Entry	TiF_2O	Base	Time (min)	16a : 16b ^a	Yield ^b (%)
1	1.5	—	60	—	— ^c
2	1.5	Et_3N	60	—	— ^c
3	1.5	DMAP	60	—	— ^c
4	1.5	Pyridine	60	—	— ^c
5	1.5 ^d	2,6-Lutidine	60	—	— ^c
6	1.5 ^d	DBU	60	90 : 10	41 ^{e,f}
7	1.5	2-ClPy	15	93 : 7	53 ^e
8	1.1	2-ClPy	15	85 : 15	80 ^e
9	1.1	2-ClPy (1.5 equiv.)	40	85 : 15	75 ^e
10	1.1	2-ClPy (5 equiv.)	15	87 : 13	64 ^e
11	1.1	2-FPy	15	89 : 11	71 ^e
12	1.1	2-BrPy	70	86 : 14	73 ^e
13	1.1	2-IPy	90	86 : 14	68 ^e
14	Witte's protocol ^g		Overnight	50 : 50	36 ^e

^a Ratio determined by ^1H NMR of the crude reaction mixture. ^b Isolated combined yield. ^c Traces of products. ^d Reactions performed with 1.1 equiv. of TiF_2O did not lead to full conversion of ester **15**. ^e Reactions were performed on 1 mmol of ester **15**. ^f Reaction mixture contained a large amount of unidentified by-products. ^g Reaction conditions: (1) TMSOTf (2 equiv.), CH_2Cl_2 , 0 °C, 1 h. (2) CDI (1.5 equiv.), CH_2Cl_2 , 0 °C – rt, overnight.⁷



Scheme 1 Literature syntheses of bicyclic enol-carbamates and method proposed herein.

It is noteworthy that the reaction can be performed on a gram scale without affecting the yield and both isomers are easily separable by FCC (see the ESI[†]).

The ^1H and ^{13}C NMR data of the major *E* isomer **16a** were consistent with those published previously.⁸ Possible racemization in the course of the reaction was dismissed based on the comparing specific optical rotation with the published data for **16a** ($[\alpha]_D^{22} = -261.1$ (*c* 1.01, MeOH); ref. 8: $[\alpha]_D^{22} = -207$ (*c* 1.0, MeOH)). Most importantly, X-ray crystallographic analysis of **16a** (Fig. 2; see the ESI[†] for further details)¹⁴ confirmed its absolute configuration on the C-7a carbon atom.

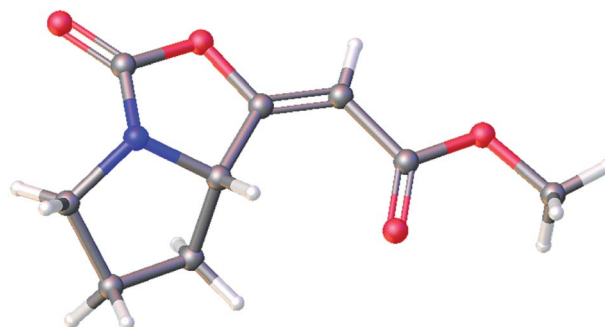
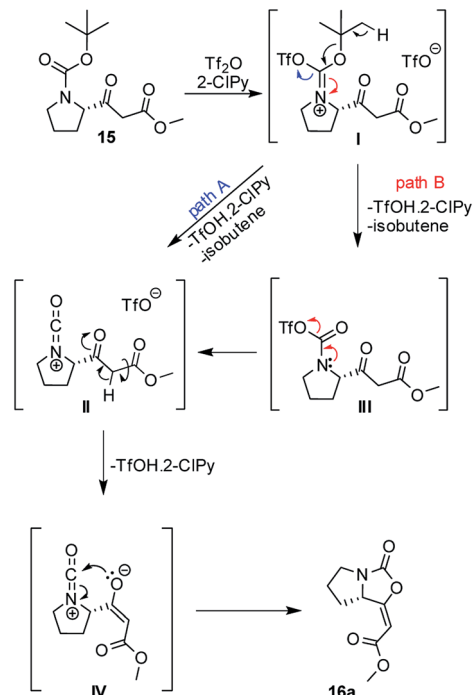


Fig. 2 Molecular structure of the enol-carbamate *E*-**16a** confirmed by X-ray crystallographic analysis.

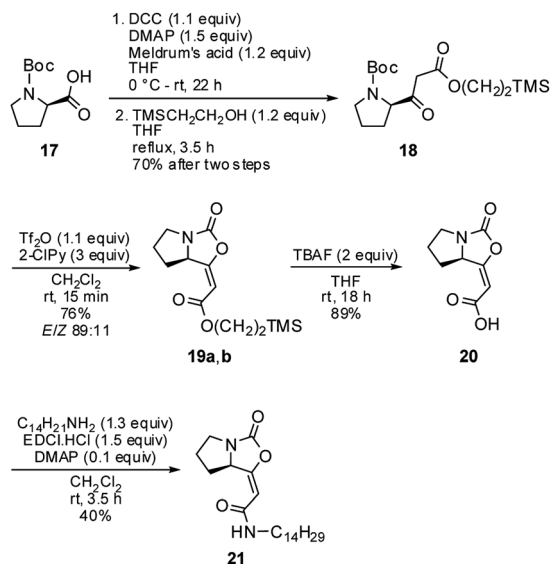




Scheme 2 Plausible mechanism of the cyclization β -ketoester **15**.

The minor *Z* isomer **16b** was isolated for the first time as the pure compound and was fully characterized. Its structure was assigned on the basis of its ^1H , ^{13}C , COSY, HSQC, and HMBC NMR spectra.

A plausible mechanism of the cyclization of β -ketoester **15** was based upon previous works^{12a-c} and it is depicted in Scheme 2. Isocyanate cation **II**, as a key intermediate, can be formed directly from iminium triflate **I** (path A) or through the formation of carbamoyl triflate **III** with subsequent elimination of triflate ion spontaneously (path B). Ester enolate moiety **IV** then reacts as *O*-



Scheme 3 Synthesis of the brabantamide A analogue **21**.

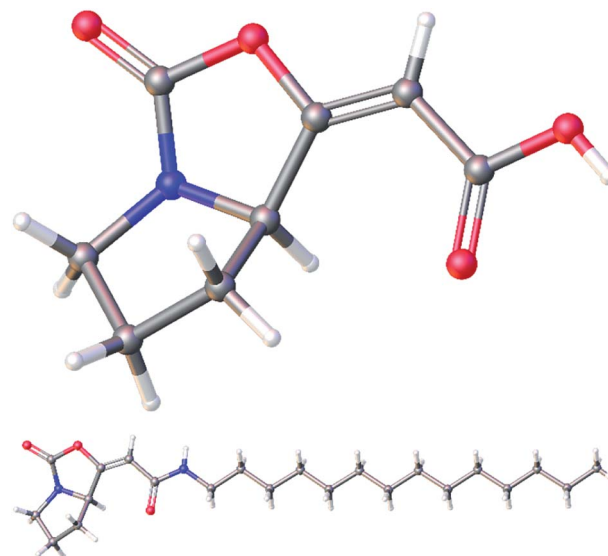


Fig. 3 Molecular structures of acid **20** (top) and amide **21** (bottom) confirmed by X-ray crystallographic analysis.

nucleophile *via* 5-*endo-dig* cyclization and leads predominantly to the formation of the enol-carbamate **16a**.

Next, the optimized conditions were briefly applied in the synthesis of the brabantamide A analogue **21** (Scheme 3). Starting β -ketoester **18** was synthesized in two steps in a 70% yield using both commercially available *N*-Boc-D-proline **17** and 2-(trimethylsilyl)ethanol. It ought to be mentioned that previously examined hydrolysis of the corresponding methyl ester **16a** under acidic as well as basic conditions failed due to the instability of the bicyclic enol-carbamate.^{3,8}

Subsequent cyclization of ester **18** using optimized reaction conditions afforded enol-carbamate **19** in 76% yield as a mixture of *E* and *Z* isomers in a ratio of 89 : 11. After isolation of the major isomer *E*-**19a**, it was treated with TBAF, providing free acid **20** in 89% yield. Finally, an amidation of **20** with tetradecylamine in the presence of EDCI gave amide **21** in moderate 40% yield. Both free acid **20** and amide **21** were fully characterized for the first time and their structures were assigned on the basis of its ^1H , ^{13}C , COSY, HSQC, and HMBC NMR spectra. Moreover, their structures were unambiguously confirmed by X-ray crystallographic analysis (Fig. 3; see ESI† for further details).¹⁴

Conclusions

In conclusion, a new method of preparing bicyclic enol-carbamates with exocyclic double bond has been developed. Bicyclic oxazolidinone framework was obtained in one step from readily available β -ketoesters in very good yields and with high *E/Z* selectivity under mild reaction conditions using Tf_2O and 2-chloropyridine tandem. The simplicity of this method was exemplified by a short and effective synthesis of the analogue of brabantamide A from commercially available *N*-Boc-D-proline in five steps with an overall 17% yield.



Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts to declare.

Acknowledgements

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