

TITLESYNTHESIS OF A BENZOXAZINONE

5 This application claims a benefit of priority from
U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/606,702, filed
September 2, 2004, the entire disclosure of which is
herein incorporated by reference.

10 Field of the Invention

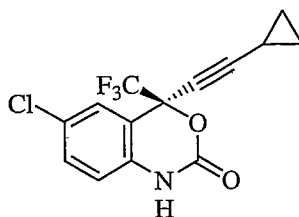
The present invention provides novel methods for the
synthesis of (S)-6-chloro-4-cyclopropylethynyl-4-
trifluoromethyl-1,4-dihydro-2H-3,1-benzoxazin-2-one which
is useful as human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) reverse
15 transcriptase inhibitor.

Background of the Invention

Reverse transcription is a characteristic of
retrovirus replication. Viral replication requires a
20 virally encoded reverse transcriptase to generate DNA
copies of viral sequences by reverse transcription of the
viral RNA genome. Reverse transcriptase, therefore, is a
clinically relevant target for the chemotherapy of
retroviral infections because the inhibition of virally
25 encoded reverse transcriptase would interrupt viral
replication.

A number of compounds are effective in the treatment
the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) which is the
retrovirus that causes progressive destruction of the
30 human immune system with the resultant onset of AIDS.
Effective treatment through inhibition of HIV reverse
transcriptase is known for both nucleoside based
inhibitors, such as azidothymidine, and non-nucleoside
based inhibitors. Benzoxazinones have been found to be
35 useful non-nucleoside based inhibitors of HIV reverse
transcriptase. The (S)-6-chloro-4-cyclopropylethynyl-4-

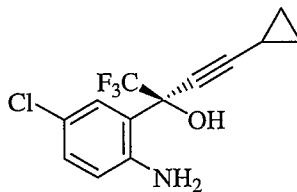
trifluoromethyl-1,4-dihydro-2H-3,1-benzoxazin-2-one of formula (III):



(III)

also known as efavirenz, is not only a highly potent reverse transcriptase inhibitor, it is also efficacious against HIV reverse transcriptase resistance. Due to the importance of the compound (III) as a reverse transcriptase inhibitor, economical and efficient synthetic processes for its production need to be developed.

The final step in preparing the compound (III) is the cyclization reaction from compound (I).



(I)

This is done commercially using phosgene to prepare efavirenz. Phosgene is a highly toxic gas and it would be advantageous to prepare the compound without the use of phosgene.

U.S. Patent 5,922,864 describes a method for preparing the compound (III) by a cyclization reaction involving alkyl and aryl chloroformates. However, the method using alkyl chloroformates involves isolating the carbamate intermediate.

It would be an advantage to have a cyclization procedure using less toxic ingredients and without having to isolate another intermediate in the cyclization step.

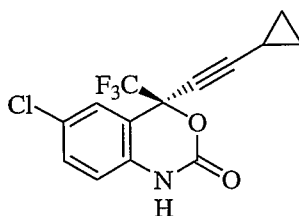
None of the above-cited references describe the methods of the present invention for the synthesis of

benzoxazinones useful as inhibitors of HIV reverse transcriptase.

Summary of the Invention

5 The present invention concerns novel processes for the preparation of benzoxazinone compounds which are useful as HIV reverse transcriptase inhibitors. The processes provide for a novel cyclization procedure to form the benzoxazinone core. The processes of the
10 present invention provide high yields, can be conducted on a kilogram scale, and yield stable intermediates.

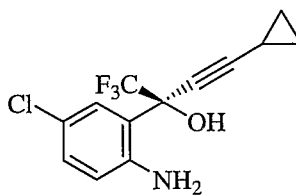
There is provided by this invention a process for the preparation of a compound of formula (III):



(III)

said process comprising:

(1) contacting a compound of formula (I):



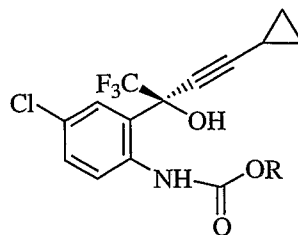
(I)

or a salt thereof;

(the compound of formula (I) may exist as the MSA salt,
25 Ia, wherein MSA is methanesulfonic acid)

with C₁₋₆ alkyl chloroformate in the presence of a first base, in a first solvent, at a temperature of about 20-56°C, alternatively at a temperature of about 50-56°C,

under ambient atmosphere, to give a compound of formula (II)



(II):

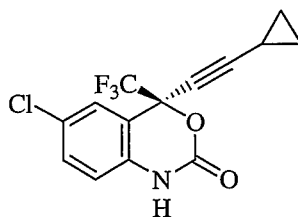
5 wherein R is C₁₋₆ alkyl;

(2) separating organic layer and concentrating to obtain the compound of formula (II) in solution;

10 (3) contacting the compound of formula (II) in solution with a second base at about 47-52°C to obtain the compound of formula III.

15 Detailed Description of the Invention

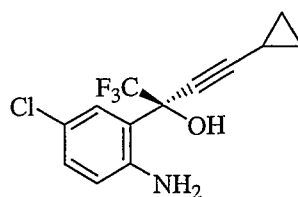
In a first embodiment, the present invention provides a novel process for the preparation of compounds of formula (III):



(III)

said process comprising:

(1) contacting a compound of formula (I):

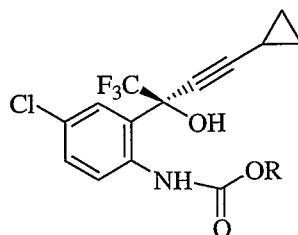


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(I)

or a salt thereof;

with C₁₋₆ alkyl chloroformate in the presence of a first
5 base, in a first solvent, at a temperature of about 20-
56°C (alternatively at 50-56°C), under ambient
atmosphere, to give a compound of formula (II)



(II):

10 wherein R is C₁₋₆ alkyl;

(2) separating organic layer and concentrating to
obtain the compound of formula (II) in solution;

15 (3) contacting the compound of formula (II) in
solution with a second base at about 47-52°C to obtain
the compound of formula III.

In another embodiment the present invention provides
20 a novel process for the preparation of compounds of
formula (III), wherein

the alkyl chloroformate is methyl chloroformate or ethyl
chloroformate; and

25 R is methyl or ethyl.

In another embodiment the present invention provides
a novel process for the preparation of compounds of
30 formula (III):

wherein the first base is alkali monohydrogenphosphate, alkali carbonate, alkali bicarbonate, alkali alkoxide (wherein the alkoxide is -OR and R is C₁₋₅ alkyl), alkali-HMDS, or alkali hydroxide, and wherein alkali is Na, K, or Li; and

the first solvent is tetrahydrofuran (THF), 2-methyltetrahydrofuran (MeTHF), ethyl acetate, n-butyl acetate, isopropyl acetate, methyl t-butyl ether (MTBE), toluene, xylenes, acetonitrile, acetone, methanol, ethanol, or isopropanol.

In another embodiment the present invention provides a novel process for the preparation of compounds of formula (III):

wherein the first base is K₂HPO₄ and the second base is NaOH; and

the first solvent is ethyl acetate.

In another embodiment the present invention provides a novel process for the preparation of compounds of formula (III):

wherein the solvent is ethyl acetate; and

step 3 further comprises

obtaining the compound of formula (III) as a solution of (III) in ethyl acetate;

washing the solution containing the compound of formula (III) with water, adding heptanes to the ethyl acetate solution and washing with aqueous HCl, water, aqueous KHCO₃, and water; solvent swapping the solvent and crystallizing the compound of formula (III) from heptanes-EtOAc.

In another embodiment the present invention provides a novel process for the preparation of compounds of formula (III):

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wherein the crystallization of the compound of formula (III) gives Form 1 of the compound of formula (III).

10 In another embodiment the present invention provides a novel process for the preparation of compounds of formula (III):

wherein step 3 further comprises

15 adding water, separating the ethyl acetate layer, concentrating the ethyl acetate layer, and adding heptanes, concentrating the solution and crystallizing the compound of formula (III).

20 The invention may be embodied in other specific forms without departing from the spirit or essential attributes thereof. This invention also encompasses all combinations of aspects and/or embodiments of the invention noted herein. It is understood that any and
25 all embodiments of the present invention may be taken in conjunction with any other embodiment to describe additional embodiments of the present invention. Furthermore, any elements of an embodiment are meant to be combined with any and all other elements from any of
30 the embodiments to describe additional embodiments.

The reactions of the synthetic methods claimed herein are carried out in suitable solvents which may be readily selected by one of skill in the art of organic
35 synthesis, said suitable solvents generally being any solvent which is substantially nonreactive with the starting materials (reactants), the intermediates, or

products at the temperatures at which the reactions are carried out, i.e., temperatures which may range from the solvent's freezing temperature to the solvent's boiling temperature. A given reaction may be carried out in one solvent or a mixture of more than one solvent. Depending on the particular reaction step, suitable solvents for a particular reaction step may be selected.

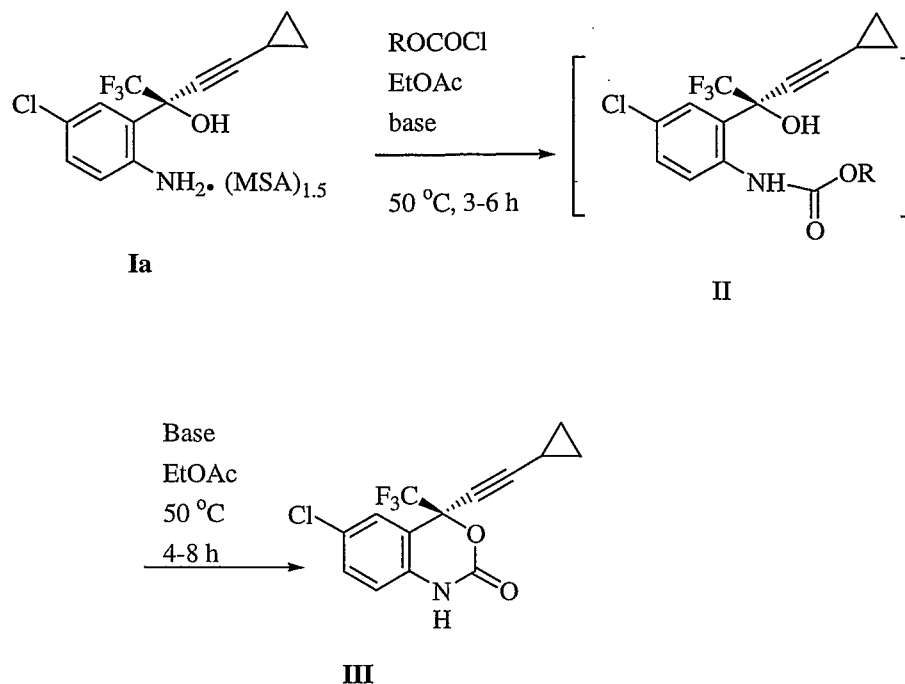
"Alkyl" as used herein is intended to include both branched and straight chain saturated aliphatic hydrocarbon groups having one to twelve carbon atoms. "Alkoxy" as used herein is intended to include an alkyl group of indicated number of carbon atoms attached through an oxygen bridge.

The compounds herein described may have asymmetric centers. All chiral, diastereomeric, and racemic forms are included in the present invention. It will be appreciated that certain compounds of the present invention contain an asymmetrically substituted carbon atom, and may be isolated in optically active or racemic forms. It is well known in the art how to prepare optically active forms, such as by resolution of racemic forms or by synthesis, from optically active starting materials. All chiral, diastereomeric, racemic forms and all geometric isomeric forms of a structure are intended, unless the specific stereochemistry or isomer form is specifically indicated.

As used herein, "solvent swapping" is exchanging one primary solvent for another. This is often done by concentrating or evaporating down the solution containing the first primary solvent and adding the second solvent.

The methods of the present invention, by way of example and without limitation, may be further understood by reference to Scheme 1.

Scheme 1



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It is the object of the present invention to provide an improved process for the synthesis of benzoxazinones in multi-kilograms which are useful as HIV reverse transcriptase inhibitors.

10 The compound of formula (Ia) in EtOAc (ethyl acetate) was treated with ethyl chloroformate (1.15-1.20 eq) in the presence of aq (aqueous) potassium hydrogenphosphate (2.70-2.75 eq) at 55 °C for 3-6 h to furnish the ethyl carbamate (**II**, **R=Et**) solution after

15 work up. The latter solution was treated with 50% sodium hydroxide (0.5 eq) at 50 °C for the cyclization reaction. After 4-8 h, >99% conversion to efavirenz is observed per HPLC analysis. After a series of washes and solvent exchange into heptanes having 2-5% EtOAc, crystallization

20 afforded Form 1 efavirenz in 78-85% yield. Form 1 efavirenz could also be isolated from the propylene glycol/water crystallization method.

The polymorphic Forms (Form 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5) of efavirenz, the compound of formula (III), are described in U.S. Patents No. 6,673,372 which is hereby incorporated by reference.

5 Exchanging methyl chloroformate for ethyl chloroformate in the above process gave higher yield, 89-92%, but storage of methyl chloroformate at a manufacturing site requires Process Safety Management (PSM) as per OSHA and Risk Management Process (RMP) as
10 per EPA. Other alkyl chloroformates, R= Pr, iPr, n-Bu, iBu, t-Bu, allyl, 2-methoxyethyl, trichloroethyl and Bn, were also evaluated for the synthesis of efavirenz.

 The carbamate (II) is formed using a base such as alkali monohydrogenphosphate (preferably K_2HPO_4), alkali
15 carbonate, alkali bicarbonate, alkali t-butoxide, alkali alkoxide (wherein the alkoxide is -O-R wherein R is C_{1-5} alkyl), alkali-HMDS (hexamethyldisilazide), or alkali hydroxide, and wherein alkali is Na, K, or Li.

 Examples of other solvents that may be used in the
20 preparation of the carbamate (II) are methyl t-butyl ether (MTBE), tetrahydrofuran (THF), 2-methylTHF (MeTHF), n-butyl acetate, isopropyl acetate, toluene, xylenes, acetonitrile, acetone, methanol, ethanol, and isopropanol.

25 Conversion of the carbamate (II) solution to efavirenz (III) can be accomplished equally well with anhydrous bases such as Li/K/NaHMDS, Li/K/Na-OR (R= C_{1-5} alkyl) and BuLi.

 It was discovered that crystallization from 2-5%
30 EtOAc in heptanes is a rugged process to give directly Form 1 efavirenz exclusive of other forms (Form 2, 3, 4 and 5). Seeding with different forms (2, 3, 4 and 5 in place of Form 1 in the reaction process affords Form 1 exclusively. The Form 1 polymorph is desired because it
35 is the polymorph used for formulation of drug product.

All previous commercial processes required a thermal process (at 85-95 °C) to convert from Form 4 to Form 1.

Experimental Procedures

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Procedure 1:

Preparation of efavirenz (the compound III) using aq NaOH as the second base

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To a 25 L glass reactor equipped with mechanical agitator, thermocouple and addition funnel, compound Ia (1 kg, 2.31 mol), EtOAc (5 L) and aq K₂HPO₄ (prepared from 1.084 Kg K₂HPO₄ in 5 L water) were added sequentially at 15 25 °C. Ethyl chloroformate (0.261 L, 2.65 mol) was added over 5 min at 25 °C, and the resulting biphasic mixture was heated to 50 °C. After 3-6 h of agitation, formation of II was complete as per HPLC. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and the water layer was 20 separated from the organic phase. The latter phase was washed with water and azeotropically distilled to give rich ethyl carbamate solution (**II**, R = Et) (10 L).

50% sodium hydroxide (0.092 Kg, 1.15 mol) was added to 25 rich ethyl carbamate solution (**II**, R = Et, 10 L) and stirred at 50°C for 4-8 h for the cyclization reaction. After the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, the organic phase was washed with water (5 L). The rich efavirenz solution was diluted with an 30 equal volume of heptanes (10 L) and washed with 9M HCl (5 L) at 0-5 °C followed by subsequent washes with water (5 L), aq 10% KHCO₃ (5 L) solution and water (5 L) at room temperature. Rich efavirenz solution was co-distilled under vacuum with heptanes to get the desired EtOAc range 35 (2.5-5.0%; 13-15 L/Kg). It was heated to 65 °C to form a clear solution, which was cooled to 45-50 °C, seeded with

Form 1 efavirenz (5 g) and held at 45-50 °C to form an opaque slurry in 1-2 h. The crystal slurry was cooled to 20-25 °C over 2-4 h and to -8 to -12 °C over 2 h. After 2 h of holding period at -8 to -12 °C, the slurry was
5 filtered. The cake was washed with cold heptanes (-8 to -12 °C, 4-6 L) and dried at <50 °C under vacuum to give efavirenz as Form 1, 78-85% yield, 0.56-0.62 Kg.

Procedure 2:

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Preparation of efavirenz using solid NaOH as the second base

Compound Ia (50.0 g, 115 mmol, 1.00 equiv) was slurried
15 in ethyl acetate (3-5 mL/g). Aqueous potassium phosphate dibasic (55.2 g, 317 mmol, 2.75 equiv in 5 mL/g water) was freshly prepared and charged to the slurry followed by ECF (ethyl chloroformate) (13.6 mL, 143 mmol, 1.15-1.20 equiv, corrected for potency). The biphasic
20 reaction mixture was warmed to 55 °C and was complete in 2 hours. After the phase split and water wash (5 mL/g), the %water in the carbamate solution was reduced by azeotropic distillation. The carbamate solution in ethyl acetate (5-10 mL/g) was cyclized using solid NaOH (2.32
25 g, 57.6 mmol, 0.500 equiv) at 50 °C giving 0.46 AP II (R=Et) after 4 hours with compound I levels at 0.49 AP. The batch was washed with water (5 mL/g) twice, distilled to ~2-3 mL/g, heptanes were added and the solvent swap was completed giving 3% ethyl acetate. After heating at
30 60-65 °C to obtain a homogeneous solution, the batch was cooled to 47 °C and seeded with Form 1 of compound III. The resulting slurry was held at 45 °C for 2.5 hours and cooled to 25 °C over two hours. The batch was cooled to -10 °C over one hour and held two hours. The slurry was
35 filtered and washed with cold heptanes (2x2 mL/g). The

wet cake was dried at 50 °C giving compound III (32.8 g, 90.1 M% yield).

Procedure 3:

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Preparation of efavirenz from (I) (using anhydrous base for cyclization)

Addition of 1.1 eq of anhydrous base (such as LiOtBu, NaOtBu, KOtBu, LiHMDS, KHMDS, NaHMDS, BuLi) in place of 50% sodium hydroxide in the above cyclization reaction of compound (II) solution, furnished a 100% conversion to Efavirenz in 4-6 h at 50-70 °C. The reaction mixture was quenched with 1.0 N AcOH to neutral pH and washed with water. The resulting rich efavirenz solution was exchanged into heptanes/2.5-5% EtOAc (13 L/Kg) and crystallized as described above to give efavirenz as Form 1 in 86-89% yield.

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Procedure 4:

Isolation of Form 1 efavirenz in the presence of other Form seeds from EtOAc/heptanes

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A solution of efavirenz at 15 ml/g (2.23% ethyl acetate in heptanes) and at 65 °C was transferred via cannula to four reaction flasks in 75 ml aliquots. The solutions were seeded near 50 °C and also near 25 °C (actual temperatures in parentheses) with Form 2 (59 °C, 28 °C), Form 3 (53 °C, 25 °C), and Form 4 (50 °C, 25 °C) Form 5 (45 °C, 25 °C), efavirenz, respectively. All seed amounts were 25 mg. The slurries were cooled to -5 °C, filtered, washed with cold heptanes, and dried at 50 °C. Samples were taken for Form at 32 °C, room temperature, -5 °C, and dry cake. The samples at all temperatures for

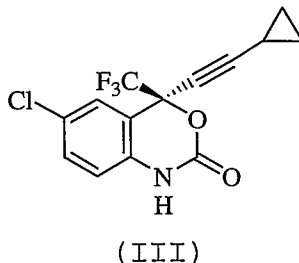
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Form 2, Form 3, and Form 4 seeding were Form 1 only by PXRD (XRPD), for a description of the XRPD, see US Patent No. 6,673,372.

Although the present invention has been described
5 with respect to specific embodiments, the details of these embodiments are not to be construed as limitations. Various equivalents, changes and modification may be made without departing from the spirit and the scope of this invention, and it is understood that such equivalent
10 embodiments are part of this invention. The present invention may be embodied in other specific forms without departing from the spirit or essential attributes thereof and, accordingly, reference should be made to the appended claims as further indicating the scope of the
15 invention.

What is claimed is:

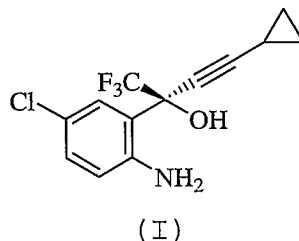
1. A process for the synthesis of a compound of formula (III):



said process comprising:

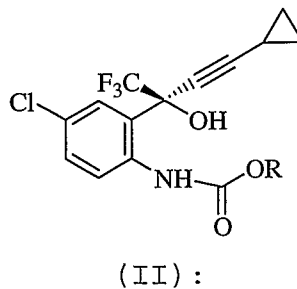
(1) contacting a compound of formula (I):

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or a salt thereof

15 with C₁₋₆ alkyl chloroformate in the presence of a first base, in a first solvent, at a temperature of about 20-56°C, under ambient atmosphere, to give a compound of formula (II)



20

wherein R is C₁₋₆ alkyl;

(2) separating organic layer and concentrating to obtain the compound of formula (II) in solution;

25

(3) contacting the compound of formula (II) in solution with a second base at about 47-52°C to obtain the compound of formula III.

5

2. A process according to Claim 1 for the preparation of a compound of formula (III), wherein:

the alkyl chloroformate is methyl chloroformate or ethyl chloroformate; and
10 R is methyl or ethyl.

3. A process according to Claim 2 for the preparation of a compound of formula (III):

15

wherein the first base is alkali monohydrogenphosphate, alkali carbonate, alkali bicarbonate, alkali alkoxide, alkali-HMDS, or alkali hydroxide, and wherein alkali is Na, K, or Li; and

20

the first solvent THF, MeTHF, ethyl acetate, n-butyl acetate, isopropyl acetate, methyl t-butyl ether (MTBE), toluene, xylenes, acetonitrile, acetone, methanol, ethanol, or isopropanol.

25

4. A process according to Claim 1 for the preparation of a compound of formula (III), wherein:

30

the first base is K_2HPO_4 and the second base is NaOH; and
the first solvent is ethyl acetate.

35

5. A process according to Claim 2 for the preparation of a compound of formula (III), wherein:
step (3) further comprises

obtaining the compound of formula (III) as a solution of (III) in ethyl acetate;

washing the solution containing the compound of formula (III) with water, adding heptanes to the ethyl acetate solution and washing with aqueous HCl, water, aqueous KHCO_3 , and water; distilling the solvent and crystallizing the compound of formula (III) from heptanes-EtOAc.

10 6. A process according to Claim 5 for the preparation of a compound of formula (III), wherein:

the crystallization of the compound of formula (III) gives Form 1 of the compound of formula (III).

15

7. A process according to claim 2 for the preparation of a compound of Formula (III), wherein:

20 step 3 further comprises
adding water, separating the ethyl acetate layer, concentrating the ethyl acetate, and adding heptanes, concentrating the solution and crystallizing the compound of formula (III).

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8. A process according to Claim 7 for the preparation of a compound of formula (III), wherein:

the crystallization of the compound of formula (III) gives Form 1 of the compound of formula (III).

30