

Novel Deprotection of SEM Ethers: A Very Mild and Selective Method Using Magnesium Bromide

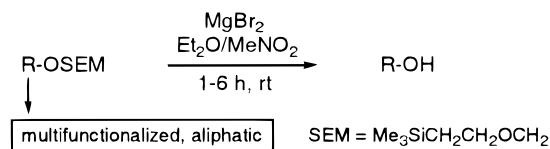
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ABSTRACT



New lability and stability sequences have been established for multifunctional substrates containing SEM ether group(s) by a MgBr₂/Et₂O/MeNO₂ deprotection protocol.

Since its introduction by Lipshutz¹ in 1980, the trimethylsilylethoxymethyl (Me₃SiCH₂CH₂OCH₂) or SEM group has joined the ranks of silyl protecting groups in organic synthesis.² A Beilstein on-line search (February 2000) suggests there are more than 2000 SEM-protected ethers in the literature.

There have been reports on the difficulty of removing the SEM group which has in fact been characterized as “rugged”.^{2b} Typical deprotection conditions are TBAF in HMPA³ (or nontoxic equivalents),⁴ and activated fluoride ion (CsF) at elevated temperature.⁵ Other deprotection protocols have been suggested.⁶ However, for the synthesis multifunctionalized substrates, these conditions may be too vigorous and destructive.⁷

In the context of synthetic efforts in the polyketide field, we had occasion to investigate the deprotection of a variety

of SEM ethers. Using MgBr₂ instead of the standard conditions was not promising in donor solvents (Table 1).

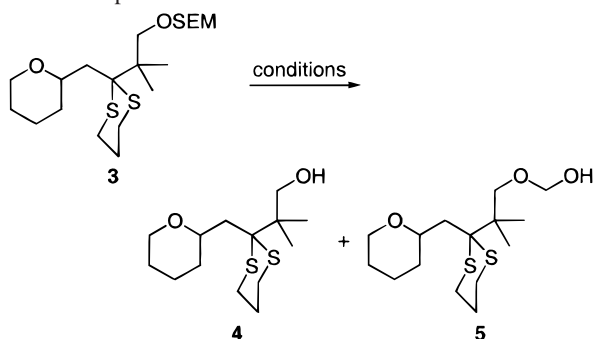
Table 1. Monofunctionalized SEM Ether

equiv of MgBr ₂	solvent mixture	time [h], temp	yield [%]
6	Et ₂ O/DME (6 equiv)	4, rt	<5 insoluble precipitate
6	Et ₂ O/TMEDA (6 equiv)	4, rt	<5 insoluble precipitate

In the presence of DME and TMEDA, magnesium salts were precipitated.

A variation of solvent is shown in Table 2. MgBr₂ in anhydrous ether gave not only the fully deprotected aldol **4** but to our surprise also small amounts of hemiacetal **5** (entry 4), which survived under the mild experimental conditions. Addition of nitromethane gave a clear improvement: The

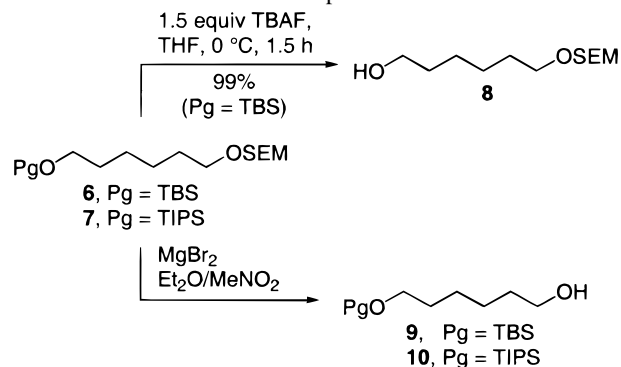
(1) Lipshutz, B. H.; Pegram, J. J. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1980**, *21*, 3343.
 (2) (a) Greene, T. W.; Wuts, P. G. M. *Protective Groups in Organic Chemistry*, 2nd ed.; Wiley: New York, 1991. (b) Kocienski, P. J. *Protecting Groups*, 1st ed.; Thieme: Stuttgart, 1994. (c) Schelhaas, M.; Waldmann, H. *Angew. Chem.* **1996**, *108*, 2192; *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. Engl.* **1996**, *35*, 2056.
 (3) Kan, T.; Hashimoto, M.; Yanagiya, M. Shirahama, H. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1988**, *29*, 5417.
 (4) Lipshutz, B. H.; Miller, T. A. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1989**, *30*, 7149.
 (5) (a) Ireland, R. E.; Norbeck, D. W. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1985**, *107*, 3279. (b) Suzuki, K.; Matsumoto, T.; Tomooka, K.; Matsumoto, K.; Tsuchihashi, G.-I. *Chem. Lett.* **1987**, 113.

Table 2. Deprotection of Masked Aldol

entry	Lewis acid	solvent mixture	time [h], temp [°C]	yield of 4 + 5 [%]
1	2 equiv of MgBr ₂ ·Et ₂ O/2 equiv of TBAF	THF/DMPU (1:1) ^a	2, rt	0
2	2 equiv of MgBr ₂ ·Et ₂ O/2 equiv of TBAF	DMF/MeOH (2:1) ^a	2, rt	0
3	4 equiv of MgBr ₂ ·Et ₂ O	Et ₂ O/MeOH (8 equiv)	2, rt	0
4	5 equiv of MgBr ₂ ·Et ₂ O	Et ₂ O	6, rt	28 + 9
5	6 equiv of MgBr ₂ ·Et ₂ O	Et ₂ O/MeNO ₂ (12 equiv)	6, rt	82 + 0

^a Molecular sieves (4 Å) present.

two-phase reaction mixture turned into a homogeneous solution (entry 5). Encouraged by this finding, a variety of differentially substituted alcohols were prepared and subjected to the deprotection conditions (Table 3). Entry 4 shows that it was possible to remove the SEM group even without

Table 4. Traditional vs New Deprotection Method

Pg	conditions	time [h]	yield [%]
TBS	6 equiv of MgBr ₂ /Et ₂ O/MeNO ₂	16	40
TBS	10 equiv of MgBr ₂ /Et ₂ O/MeNO ₂	10	74
TBS	14 equiv of MgBr ₂ /Et ₂ O/MeNO ₂	5	87 ^a
TIPS	14 equiv of MgBr ₂ /Et ₂ O/MeNO ₂	5	96
TIPS	14 equiv of ZnBr ₂ /CH ₂ Cl ₂ /MeOH	5	53

^a ZnBr₂ (14 equiv) in CH₂Cl₂/MeOH gives after 10 h the TBS-deprotected product (72%).

MeNO₂ as a cosolvent. Presumably, deprotection is facilitated by interaction of magnesium cation with the additional benzyloxy heteroatom. The benzyloxy group also survived in a sterically hindered oxabicyclic system (entry 5). Methoxy acetals are tolerated, which is of interest in carbohydrate chemistry (entry 6). A free hydroxy group in a 1,3-functionality distance slows deprotection (entry 7), although a 1,6-distance is tolerated (entry 2). An excess of nitromethane is not helpful (entry 7b), but changing to ZnBr₂ as Lewis acid is effective in this case (entry 7c). Furthermore, double SEM deprotection was accomplished smoothly (entry 8).

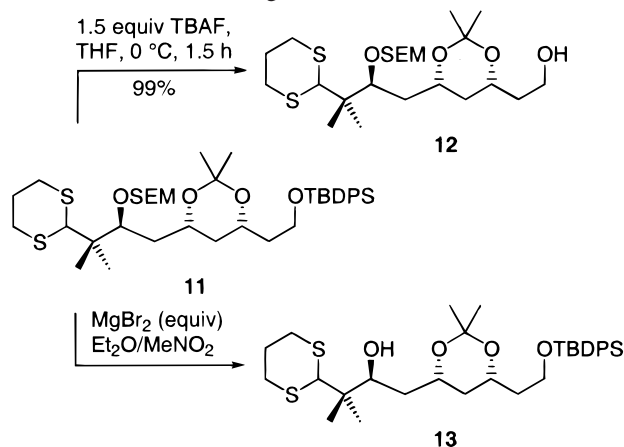
Table 3. Tolerance to Additional Functionality

entry	SEM-ether	product	conditions	time [h]	yield [%]
1	C ₁₀ H ₂₁ OSEM	C ₁₀ H ₂₁ OH	10 equiv MgBr ₂ /Et ₂ O/MeNO ₂	5	99
2	HO-CH ₂ (CH ₂) ₆ -OSEM	HO-CH ₂ (CH ₂) ₆ -OH	10 equiv MgBr ₂ /Et ₂ O/MeNO ₂	5	95
3	BnO-C(CH ₃) ₂ -OSEM	BnO-C(CH ₃) ₂ -OH	6 equiv MgBr ₂ /Et ₂ O/MeNO ₂	5	99
4a	BnO-CH ₂ -OSEM	BnO-CH ₂ -OH	a: 6 equiv MgBr ₂ /Et ₂ O/MeNO ₂	5	95
4b	BnO-CH ₂ -OSEM	BnO-CH ₂ -OH	b: 6 equiv MgBr ₂ /Et ₂ O	5	74
5	OSEM-oxabicyclic-OBn	OH-oxabicyclic-OBn	8 equiv MgBr ₂ /Et ₂ O/MeNO ₂	4	92
6	OSEM-methoxy acetal-CO ₂ Me	OH-methoxy acetal-CO ₂ Me	8 equiv MgBr ₂ /Et ₂ O/MeNO ₂	3	94
7a	OBn-OSEM-1,3-diol	OH-OBn-1,3-diol	a: 40 equiv MgBr ₂ /Et ₂ O/MeNO ₂	24	90
7b	OBn-OSEM-1,3-diol	OH-OBn-1,3-diol	b: 40 equiv MgBr ₂ /85 equiv Et ₂ O/MeNO ₂	24	64
7c	OBn-OSEM-1,3-diol	OH-OBn-1,3-diol	c: 40 equiv ZnBr ₂ /CH ₂ Cl ₂ /MeOH	24	99
8	OBn-OSEM-OSEM	OH-OBn-OH	30 equiv MgBr ₂ /Et ₂ O/MeNO ₂	24	90

Conventional desilylating conditions (TBAF, 0 °C) removed the TBS group, leaving SEM intact as expected (Table 4). The new method allows preferential SEM deprotection under kinetic control to give the desired alcohol **9**. TIPS survived on deprotection with MgBr₂, but not with ZnBr₂.

Under conventional conditions (TBAF, THF) the terminal *O*-silyl group in **11** is removed and the SEM group remains intact (Table 5). Kinetically controlled reaction with MgBr₂

Table 5. Acetonide Tuning



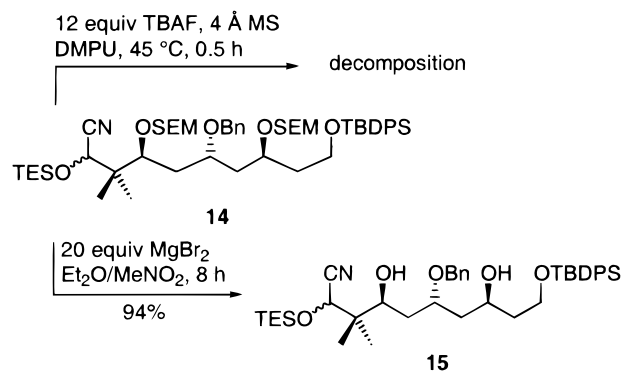
equiv of MgBr ₂	time [h]	yield [%]
6	3	60
12	6	52 ^a
14	1	81

^a The use of ZnBr₂ (12 equiv) in CH₂Cl₂/MeOH gives after 6 h a complex product mixture.

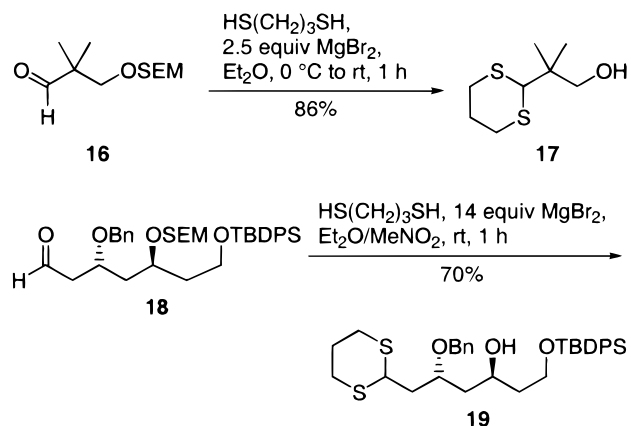
offers a turnaround of deprotection to afford **13**,⁸ while the acetonide survives. A selective double SEM deprotection without compromising stereochemical integrity (see also Table 3, entry 8) is illustrated in Scheme 1. Even sensitive silylated cyanohydrin remained intact to give **15**, while traditional conditions (TBAF, DMPU) led to decomposition.

Treatment of SEM-protected aldols **16** and **18** with MgBr₂ and 1,3-propanedithiol allowed us to combine deprotection with protection of the sensitive aldehyde group (Scheme 2).

Scheme 1. Double Deprotection of *O*-Silylated Cyanohydrin

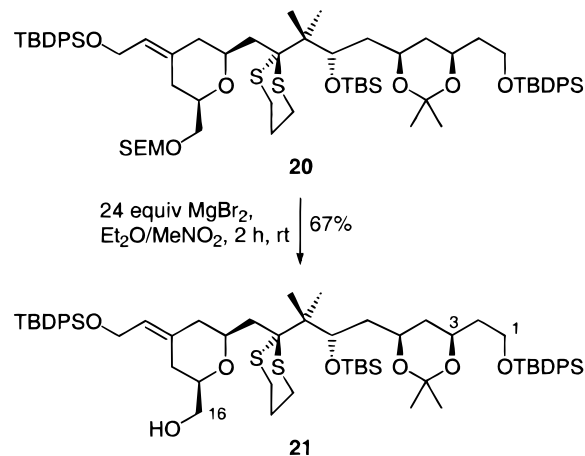


Scheme 2. One-Pot Thioketalization—SEM Deprotection



We have applied the deprotecting protocol in the synthesis of the northern C1–C16 segment **20** of 3-*epi*-bryostatins (Scheme 3). The desired C16-OH group was liberated,

Scheme 3. Orthogonal Deprotection in Polyketide Total Synthesis



leaving the three remaining *O*-silylated functions intact to give masked polyketide **21**.

In conclusion, a variety of functionalities are tolerated by the MgBr₂ deprotecting protocol including alcohols, esters, benzyl groups, dithians, and methoxy acetals (Table 1). In the presence of sensitive functionality such as acetonides, TBS and TIPS ethers, and especially *O*-silylated cyanohy-

(6) (a) HF/MeCN: White, J. D.; Kawasaki, M. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1990**, *112*, 4991. (b) LiBF₄/MeCN (*T* > 70 °C): Dittrich, K. *Liebigs Ann. Chem.* **1990**, 789. (c) BF₃·Et₂O, deprotection of the related β-trimethylsilyl ethyl ether group: Burke, S. D.; Pacofsky, G. J. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1986**, *27*, 445. Jansson, K.; Frejd, T.; Kihlberg, J.; Magnusson, G. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1986**, *27*, 753. (d) TFA: Schlessinger, R. H.; Poss, M. A.; Richardson, S. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1986**, *108*, 3112. (e) I₂, *hν*: Karim, S.; Parmee, E. R.; Thomas, E. J. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1991**, *32*, 2269.

(7) In the synthesis of bicyclic systems related to taxol, the SEM ether could not be removed and the [(*p*-methoxybenzyl)oxy]methyl (PMBM) group was used instead: Zeng, Q.; Bailey S.; Wang, T.-Z.; Paquette, L. A. *J. Org. Chem.* **1998**, *63*, 137.

drins, kinetically controlled deprotection is important and feasible. Since the experimental conditions are very mild and orthogonal to other deprotection strategies, modified SEM

(8) **Representative Experimental Procedure. Synthesis of 13.** MgBr₂ (140 mg, 0.76 mmol) was treated with 0.5 mL of anhydrous Et₂O. After dissolution of the solid, the resulting two phases were treated with MeNO₂ (85 μL, 1.52 mmol, ACROS, p.a., water < 0.5%). The resulting solution (one phase) was added to a stirred mixture of SEM ether **11** (40 mg, 0.054 mmol) in 0.5 mL of Et₂O. The mixture was stirred for 1 h at room temperature and then diluted with MTB ether and washed with water (20 mL). The aqueous layer was extracted with MTB ether (2 × 10 mL), the combined organic layers were washed with brine (20 mL) and dried (Na₂SO₄), and the solvent was removed. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (SiO₂; MTB/PE, 1:10 → 1:3) to afford **13** (26 mg, 81%), colorless oil: IR (CHCl₃) ν 3672, 3482, 3072, 2996, 2932, 2900, 1472, 1428, 1380, 1164, 1112, 956, 820 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.75–7.62 (m, 4 H, o-Ar-H), 7.44–7.31 (m, 6 H, Ar-H), 4.28 (s, 1 H, SCHS), 4.24–3.99 (m, 3 H, CHOH, CH₂CHO(C(CH₃)₂)CH₂, CHOC-(CH₃)₂CH₂CH₂OTPS), 3.91–3.76 (m, 1 H, CH₂OTPS), 3.75–3.61 (m, 1 H, CH₂OTPS), 3.05–2.91 (bs, 1 H, OH), 2.90–2.82 (m, 4 H, SCH₂-CH₂CH₂S), 2.17–2.02 (m, 1 H, SCH₂CH₂CH₂S), 1.95–1.51 (m, 7 H, SCH₂CH₂CH₂S, CH(OH)CH₂, CHCH₂CH, CH₂CH₂OTPS), 1.43/1.37 (s, 3 H, OC(CH₃)₂O), 1.05 (s, 9 H, SiPh₂C(CH₃)₃), 1.08/1.02 (s, 6 H, C(CH₃)₂); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 135.52/134.80 (3°, o-Ar-C), 135.36/133.90 (4°, Ar-C), 129.54 (3°, p-Ar-C), 127.64 (3°, m-Ar-C), 98.73 (4°, CO₂-

linkers⁹ should also be useful in solid phase reactions and combinatorial chemistry.

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(CH₃)₂, 71.40 (3°, CHOH), 67.42 (3°, CH₂CHOC(CH₃)₂CH₂), 65.72 (3°, CHOC(CH₃)₂CH₂CH₂OTPS), 59.62 (2°, CH₂OTPS), 59.21 (3°, SCHS), 42.35 (4°, C(CH₃)₂), 39.26 (2°, CH₂CH₂OTPS), 36.66 (2°, CH(OH)CH₂), 36.49 (2°, CHCH₂CH), 31.50/31.39 (2°, SCH₂CH₂CH₂S), 30.22 (1°, OC(CH₃)₂O), 26.57 (1°, SiPh₂C(CH₃)₃), 26.38 (2°, SCH₂CH₂CH₂S), 21.05 (1°, OC(CH₃)₂O), 19.95/19.68 (1°, C(CH₃)₂), 19.18 (4°, SiPh₂C(CH₃)₃); MS *m/z* 603 (M⁺ + 1, 1.0), 602 (2.0, M⁺), 588 (2.7), 526 (2.4), 487 (12.4), 469 (3.5), 437 (2.6), 379 (1.4), 350 (4.9), 326 (7.0), 256 (21.4), 225 (12.0), 199 (30.7), 183 (10.2), 161 (10.8), 134 (11.3), 119 (100), 107 (8.7), 91 (13.0), 81 (5.9), 75 (5.0); HRMS calcd for C₂₇H₄₅O₄S₂Si₁ (M⁺ - C₆H₅) 525.2317, found 525.2308.

(9) β -Silylethyl group as an anomeric linker in saccharide chemistry: Weigelt, D.; Magnusson, G. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1998**, *39*, 2839. For a general review on linkers in solid phase organic synthesis, see: James, I. W. *Tetrahedron* **1999**, *55*, 4855.