Synthesis of a Glycine Transporter 1 Inhibitor

Significance: The target glycine transporter 1 (GlyT1) inhibitor was of interest for the treatment of schizophrenia and acute manic disorders. Key steps in the synthesis were (1) a Noyori asymmetric transfer hydrogenation (**B** $\rightarrow$ **D**), and (2) an Overman rearrangement by which allylic alcohol **D** was converted into the allylic amide **F**. This is the first example of a multikilogram scale-up of an Overman rearrangement.

SYNFACTS Contributors: Philip Kocienski
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Comment: The eight-step synthesis depicted proceeded in 20% overall yield and delivered 24.2 kg of API. The initial isolated material was an undesired polymorph, but simply suspending the solid in water and heating to 55 °C for two hours resulted in smooth conversion into the desired polymorph.

Category

Synthesis of Natural Products and Potential Drugs

Key words

glycine transporter 1 inhibitors

Noyori asymmetric transfer hydrogenation

Overman rearrangement

[3,3]-sigmatropic rearrangement

trichloroacetimidate

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of the month