Stereoselective Synthesis of Polysubstituted Pyrrolizidine-3-ones

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We have investigated regio- and stereoselective synthetic method directed to unnatural polysubstituted pyrrolizidines. It is based on lactamization of pyrrolidilpropionic acids **2** planned to be synthesized by 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition of metallodipole **3**, generated from 2-(arylidene)pentadioic acid esters.

$$R2 \xrightarrow{R3} R4 \xrightarrow{R} R4 \xrightarrow{R} R3 \xrightarrow{R} R4 \xrightarrow{R} R4$$

Pyrrolidine polycarboxylic acids esters **5** were obtained with good to excellent yields as single stereoisomers from imines **4**. The lactamization of **5** (R=H) did not proceed under basic conditions. If R=COOMe the epimerization at 4-carbon and subsequent lactamization took place upon basic treatment. Pyrrolidylpropionic acids esters **5** were transformed quantitatively to pyrrolizidinones **6** under acidic conditions.

Ar=Ph; 3,4-di(MeO)Ph; 3-Pyr; R=H; COOMe