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NOVEL SYNTHETIC ROUTES TO PROSTAGLANDIN ANALOGUES

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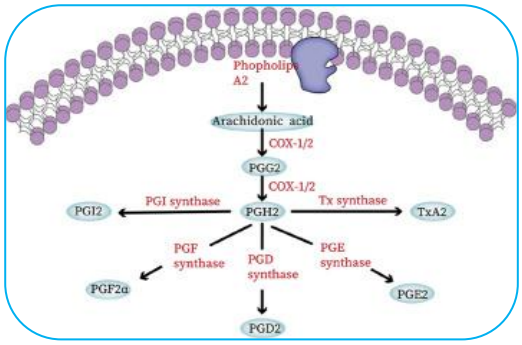
ABSTRACT:



Prostaglandins and their analogues play a crucial role in various physiological processes, including inflammation, reproduction, and vascular regulation. Given their biological significance, the development of novel synthetic routes to prostaglandin analogues is of paramount importance for advancing therapeutic applications in areas such as pain management, cardiovascular disease, and cancer. This review focuses on the latest strategies in the synthesis of prostaglandin analogues, with an emphasis on innovative methodologies that enhance stereocontrol, functional group compatibility, and synthetic efficiency. Key approaches, including asymmetric catalysis, organocatalysis, biomimetic strategies, and modern coupling reactions, are explored for their ability to create prostaglandin analogues with specific functional and stereochemical properties. Additionally, the review highlights recent advances in modular and convergent synthetic designs that improve scalability and reduce waste, offering more sustainable pathways for the large-scale production of prostaglandin derivatives. The incorporation of green chemistry principles, such as catalytic reactions and mild reaction conditions, is also discussed as a key factor in the development of environmentally friendly prostaglandin synthesis. These advances pave the way for the efficient, cost-effective production of prostaglandin analogues for pharmaceutical use, addressing the challenges of stereochemical complexity and structural diversity inherent in these bioactive molecules.

KEYWORDS:*Prostaglandin analogues, Total synthesis, Asymmetric catalysis, Organocatalysis, Biomimetic synthesis, Stereoselective synthesis, Modular synthesis, Convergent synthesis.*

INTRODUCTION

Prostaglandins are biologically active lipid molecules that regulate a wide range of physiological processes, including inflammation, vascular tone, platelet aggregation, and reproductive functions. Due to their diverse biological roles, prostaglandin analogues have become important targets for pharmaceutical development, serving as therapeutics in areas such as glaucoma, cardiovascular disease, and labor induction. The structural complexity of prostaglandins—featuring a cyclopentane core, multiple stereocenters, and various functional groups—presents significant challenges for chemical synthesis, making the development of efficient, stereoselective, and scalable synthetic routes a central focus in medicinal and synthetic organic chemistry. Over the past decades, advancements in asymmetric catalysis, organocatalysis, chiral auxiliaries, and biomimetic strategies have enabled more precise stereochemical control and improved step economy in prostaglandin synthesis. Modern

approaches also emphasize convergent and modular strategies, allowing the assembly of prostaglandin analogues from preformed stereochemically defined fragments. The integration of green chemistry principles, such as catalytic reactions and mild conditions, further enhances sustainability and scalability. This review focuses on recent innovations in synthetic methodologies for prostaglandin analogues, highlighting strategies that overcome stereochemical challenges, improve efficiency, and facilitate the production of structurally diverse analogues with potential therapeutic applications.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Aim:

The primary aim of this study is to review and analyze recent advances in synthetic methodologies for prostaglandin analogues, focusing on strategies that improve stereochemical control, functional group compatibility, efficiency, and scalability.

Objectives:

1. To provide a comprehensive overview of modern synthetic approaches to prostaglandin analogues, including asymmetric catalysis, organocatalysis, chiral auxiliaries, and biomimetic strategies.
2. To evaluate convergent and modular synthetic strategies that facilitate the construction of prostaglandin analogues from preformed stereochemically defined fragments.
3. To examine the role of green chemistry principles and catalytic methods in improving sustainability and efficiency in prostaglandin synthesis.
4. To identify challenges in controlling stereochemistry, functional group placement, and scalability in current synthetic routes.
5. To highlight emerging trends and innovative strategies that may guide future developments in the synthesis of prostaglandin analogues for therapeutic applications.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Prostaglandins are structurally complex lipid molecules characterized by a cyclopentane core, multiple stereocenters, and diverse functional groups, making their chemical synthesis a challenging task. Early synthetic routes, developed in the 1960s and 1970s by pioneers such as Corey and Danishefsky, relied on lengthy linear sequences and classical resolution techniques to achieve stereocontrol. While these methods established foundational strategies, they often suffered from low overall yields, poor stereoselectivity, and limited scalability. Over the last two decades, significant progress has been made through the introduction of asymmetric catalysis, organocatalysis, chiral auxiliaries, and biomimetic strategies. Asymmetric catalysis, including transition-metal-mediated and organocatalytic methods, allows for precise stereochemical control at multiple centers, enhancing both efficiency and selectivity. Chiral auxiliaries have been employed to guide stereochemistry during the formation of the cyclopentane ring and functional group installation, while biomimetic approaches replicate nature's enzymatic transformations to streamline the synthesis.

Convergent and modular synthetic strategies have also gained prominence, enabling the assembly of prostaglandin analogues from stereochemically defined fragments. These approaches reduce the number of steps, improve yields, and facilitate the rapid generation of structurally diverse analogues. Furthermore, the adoption of green chemistry principles—such as catalytic reactions, milder reaction conditions, and reduced waste—has improved the sustainability and practicality of these synthetic routes. Collectively, recent literature demonstrates that integrating stereoselective catalysis, biomimetic pathways, and modular designs provides highly efficient and versatile strategies for the synthesis of prostaglandin analogues, addressing long-standing challenges of stereochemistry, functional group compatibility, and scalability.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study employs a comprehensive literature review and comparative analysis to examine recent advances in synthetic methodologies for prostaglandin analogues. Scientific databases, including Scopus, Web of Science, PubMed, and Google Scholar, were systematically searched using keywords such as "prostaglandin analogue synthesis," "asymmetric catalysis," "organocatalysis," "chiral auxiliaries," and "biomimetic synthesis." Articles, reviews, and patents published over the past two decades were considered to capture contemporary synthetic strategies and emerging trends. The

methodology involves categorizing synthetic routes based on the strategies employed, including asymmetric catalysis, organocatalysis, chiral auxiliary-based methods, biomimetic approaches, and convergent/modular designs. Each method is analyzed in terms of stereochemical control, functional group compatibility, overall yield, step economy, and potential for scalability. Comparative evaluation highlights the strengths, limitations, and practical applicability of each synthetic approach. Special attention is given to green chemistry principles and sustainable synthetic practices, including catalytic reactions, one-pot procedures, and milder reaction conditions, as these factors are increasingly important in pharmaceutical development. Insights gained from this analysis aim to identify the most efficient, selective, and sustainable strategies for the synthesis of prostaglandin analogues, providing guidance for future research and therapeutic applications.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Prostaglandin analogues are crucial in therapeutic applications, including the treatment of glaucoma, cardiovascular disorders, inflammation, and reproductive health. However, their complex structures—which feature a cyclopentane core, multiple stereocenters, and various functional groups—pose significant challenges for chemical synthesis. Traditional synthetic methods often involve long linear sequences, low overall yields, and limited stereoselectivity, making the production of prostaglandin analogues inefficient and resource-intensive. Despite recent advances in asymmetric catalysis, organocatalysis, chiral auxiliaries, biomimetic pathways, and modular strategies, achieving an optimal balance between stereocontrol, functional group compatibility, efficiency, and scalability remains a major challenge. Additionally, the need for sustainable and environmentally friendly synthetic approaches has become increasingly important in pharmaceutical manufacturing. This study addresses the critical need to evaluate and consolidate novel synthetic routes to prostaglandin analogues. By systematically analyzing current strategies, the research aims to identify innovative approaches that overcome stereochemical and functional challenges, improve efficiency and yield, and provide scalable, sustainable solutions for the production of prostaglandin analogues with therapeutic potential.

DISCUSSION

The synthesis of prostaglandin analogues remains a complex and challenging area in organic chemistry due to their stereochemical richness and functional group diversity. Early methods relied on linear synthetic strategies and classical resolution techniques to control stereochemistry, but these approaches were limited by low overall yields, long reaction sequences, and scalability issues. Recent advances have revolutionized prostaglandin analogue synthesis. Asymmetric catalysis, including transition-metal catalyzed and organocatalytic methods, allows for precise stereocontrol at multiple centers, enhancing both efficiency and selectivity. Chiral auxiliaries and templates provide additional stereochemical guidance, particularly in the formation of the cyclopentane core and installation of functional groups. Biomimetic strategies further streamline synthesis by mimicking nature's enzymatic processes, reducing the number of steps and improving overall efficiency.

Convergent and modular strategies have enabled the assembly of prostaglandin analogues from stereochemically defined fragments, facilitating the production of diverse derivatives while improving yields and step economy. The integration of green chemistry principles, including one-pot reactions, catalytic processes, and milder reaction conditions, has further enhanced the sustainability and practicality of these synthetic approaches. Overall, current literature demonstrates that combining stereoselective catalysis, biomimetic strategies, modular design, and sustainable methodologies provides highly versatile, efficient, and scalable synthetic routes to prostaglandin analogues. These approaches effectively address the longstanding challenges of stereochemical complexity, functional group compatibility, and pharmaceutical applicability.

CONCLUSION

The development of novel synthetic routes to prostaglandin analogues has advanced significantly, addressing longstanding challenges posed by their complex stereochemistry, functional group diversity, and cyclopentane core. Early linear approaches provided foundational strategies but were limited by low yields, poor stereocontrol, and long reaction sequences. Modern methodologies,

including asymmetric catalysis, organocatalysis, chiral auxiliaries, and biomimetic strategies, have enabled precise stereochemical control and improved overall efficiency. Convergent and modular synthetic approaches allow the assembly of prostaglandin analogues from preformed stereochemically defined fragments, facilitating the generation of diverse derivatives with reduced step counts and enhanced scalability.

The incorporation of green chemistry principles, such as catalytic reactions, one-pot procedures, and mild reaction conditions, has further improved the sustainability and practicality of prostaglandin synthesis. Collectively, these advances demonstrate that combining stereoselective catalysis, biomimetic strategies, and modular design provides highly efficient, versatile, and scalable routes for producing prostaglandin analogues. These innovations not only enable the efficient production of biologically active prostaglandin derivatives but also offer a framework for designing future synthetic strategies that balance stereochemical complexity, functional group compatibility, and pharmaceutical applicability, ultimately supporting the development of therapeutically relevant molecules.

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