# Making rings from amino acids. Shining light on possible (chemo)evolution of proline

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### Current chemical description of AA formation

- Neutral, mildly reducing, or slightly oxidising atmosphere
- Quite different from Miller's highly reducing prebiotic atmosphere
- Atmosphere 4 billion year ago volcanic outgassing:
  - Hydrogen and helium leave the atmosphere
  - Ammonia and methane are unstable under UV-light
  - Predominant: H<sub>2</sub>O, CO<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>
  - Trace: CO, CH<sub>4</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>2</sub> (decomposition of water, CO<sub>2</sub>)
- Electrical discharge, temperature 60°C-90°C

Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2004, 43, 1886





The Simplest "Enzyme"						
MOHAN	<u>IMAD MOVASSAGHI</u> AND <u>ERIC N. JACOBSEN</u>					
SCIENC	E • 6 Dec 2002 • Vol 298. Issue 5600 • pp. 1904-1905 • DOI: 10.1126/science.1076547					

- Only secondary proteinogenic amino acid
- Pyrrolidine ring is part of the backbone
- Exceptional conformational rigidity
- Hydrogen bond acceptor in peptides
- Good AA for tight turns
- Polyproline helix with hydroxyproline



# How to make a pyrrolidine ring?

A possible mechanism





#### 503. Karl Löffler und Samy Kober: Über die Bildung des *i*-Nicotins aus *N*-Methyl-β-pyridyl-butylamin (Dihydrometanicotin).

[Aus dem Chemischen Institut der Universität Breslau.]

(Eingegangen am 12. August 1909.)

In vorliegender Arbeit sollte die in der vorangehenden Arbeit mit Erfolg durchgeführte Reaktion zur Bildung von Pyrrolidinderivaten auf das Dihydrometanicotin angewendet werden, wobei man dann im Sinne folgender Gleichung Nicotin erwarten konnte:





#### Enantioselective Synthesis of Nicotine via an Iodine-Mediated Hofmann–Löffler Reaction

Estefanía Del Castillo<sup>†</sup> and Kilian Muñiz<sup>\*,†,‡</sup>®

# Organic & Construction Image: Construction of the constructi

versity of Zagreb on 1/18/2021 12:43:55 PM.





Nicotine

Proline



# Activating amine



Light Molecules Action













#### Salt induced peptide formation (SIPF)



## **Relevance today**

Oxidative damage leads to rings in backbone					
	<b></b>		Leu Isol Nor Nor Lysi		
N N O N O O N O O O O N O O O O O O O O	$\rightarrow$		$H_2N$		

	kJ/mol	kJ/mol
Leucine	31.3	-38.3
Isoleucine	23.4	-41.6
Norleucine	21.5	-54.1
Norvaline	36.1	-37.2
Lysine	22.3	-79.7

 $\Delta H^{\ddagger}$ 

 $\Delta H_{\text{rx}}$ 















\_\_\_\_\_\_Gly ●

SH





![](_page_20_Figure_5.jpeg)

![](_page_20_Figure_6.jpeg)

![](_page_21_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_22_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_22_Picture_1.jpeg)

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International Congress of the Croatian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology HDBMB22

![](_page_23_Picture_1.jpeg)

September 28 to October 1, 2022 Brela Croatia

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