

times with methylene chloride and with ether. The combined organic layers were dried (MgSO_4), concentrated, chromatographed on silica gel, and evaporatively distilled (135–140 °C), giving 88 mg (70% from 29) of α -methylenelactone 25 as a colorless liquid. The IR, NMR, and mass spectra were essentially identical with those of lactone 25 prepared by rearrangement of iodo ester 20. VPC analysis^{19e} (155 °C, $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{38}$ = 9.8 min) showed a single peak at 10.5 min.

Acknowledgment. We are grateful to Professor Carlyle B. Storm for 220-MHz NMR spectra of compounds 16 and 25, to Professors Peter A. Jacobi and Frederick E. Zeigler for comparison spectra, to Professor Ronald A. Ruden for suggesting the preparation of compound 6, and to Dr. Anne

M. Hudrlik for assistance with the manuscript. We thank the NIH (Grant No. 2-S06-RR-08016-10 from the MBS Program, DRR/NIH, and Grant No. CA-23037 from the NCI) for financial support.

Registry No. 6, 81856-97-5; 6 2,4-DNP deriv., 81856-98-6; 7, 81856-99-7; 8, 81857-00-3; 9, 81857-01-4; 10, 81857-02-5; 11, 81857-03-6; 12, 81857-04-7; 13, 81857-05-8; 14, 81857-06-9; 15, 81857-07-0; 16, 81857-08-1; 17, 81857-09-2; 18, 81857-10-5; 19, 81857-11-6; 20, 81857-12-7; 23, 68961-90-0; 24, 81857-13-8; 25, 81857-14-9; 26, 81857-15-0; 27, 54911-63-6; 28, 81857-16-1; 29, 81857-17-2; 29 mesylate, 81857-18-3; dimethyl malonate, 108-59-8; 2-bromo-2-cyclohexen-1-one, 50870-61-6; ethylene glycol, 107-21-1; methanesulfonyl chloride, 124-63-0.

Notes

Synthesis of the Corticoid Side Chain

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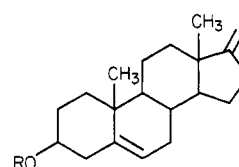
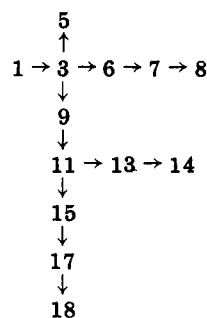
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Received November 19, 1981

The transformation of androstan-17-one derivatives into corticoids and other compounds like cardenolides or bufadienolides become very important when microbial degradation of the side chain of easily accessible from soya bean sitosterol and campesterol was developed.¹ Recently, efficient methods for syntheses of two-carbon-atom side chains were published,²⁻⁴ but all of them suffer from inconveniences. We present a method of synthesis of pregnane derivatives starting from protected 3 β -hydroxy-5-androsten-17-one as a tetrahydropyranyl ether (1, Scheme I) or as the 6 β -methoxy i-steroid (2, Scheme II).

Compounds 1 and 2 were transformed into chloro esters 3 and 4, respectively, by the Reformatsky-type reaction⁵ using ethyl trichloroacetate, zinc, and diethylchloroaluminum. Transformation of chloro ester 3 to compound 6 was accomplished by DIBAL-H reduction, and deprotection of 3 β -OH group and acetylation afforded diacetate 8. Attempts to hydrolyze the vinylic chlorine in compound 8, in order to obtain compound 14, by using HClO_4 , H_2SO_4 , $\text{BF}_3\cdot\text{OEt}_2$, and $\text{Hg}(\text{OAc})_2$ in acetic acid or in CF_3COOH failed. Refluxing chloro esters 3 and 4 in anhydrous methanol with sodium methoxide gave the methoxy esters 9 and 10, respectively. The NMR spectra of chloro esters 3 and 4 and methoxy esters 9 and 10 showed that the compounds were pure either *E* or *Z* isomers. The DIBAL-H reduction of methoxy esters 9 and 10 in toluene gave alcohols 11 and 12, respectively, which on acid hydrolysis gave 3 β ,21-dihydroxy-5-pregnen-20-one (13) in excellent yield. The methoxy alcohols 11 and 12 when

Scheme I



1, X = O; R = THP

3, X = $\text{C}(\text{Cl})_2\text{COOEt}$; R = THP

5, X = $\text{C}(\text{Cl})_2\text{COOEt}$; R = H

6, X = $\text{C}(\text{Cl})_2\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$; R = THP

7, X = $\text{C}(\text{Cl})_2\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$; R = H

8, X = $\text{C}(\text{Cl})_2\text{CH}_2\text{OAc}$; R = Ac

9, X = $\text{C}(\text{OCH}_3)_2\text{COOCH}_3$; R = THP

11, X = $\text{C}(\text{OCH}_3)_2\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$; R = THP

13, X = COCH_2OH ; 17 α -H; R = H

14, X = COCH_2OAc ; 17 α -H; R = Ac

15, X = COCH_2OH ; 17 α -OH; R = THP

17, X = COCH_2OH ; 17 α -OH; R = H

18, X = COCH_2OAc ; 17 α -OH; R = Ac

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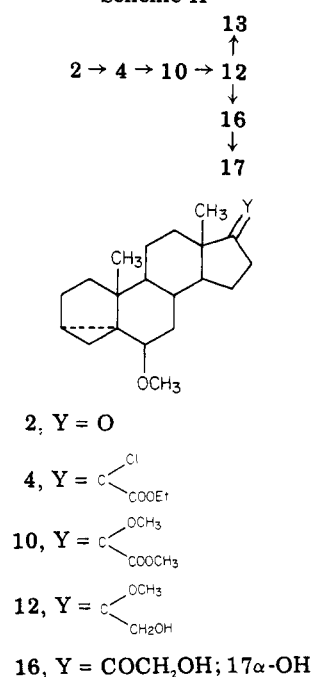
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treated with MCPBA in methanol at room temperature gave compounds 15 and 16, respectively, in 95% yield.

Scheme II



Removal of protecting groups in compounds 15 and 16 gave 3 β ,17 α ,21-trihydroxy-5-pregnen-20-one (17): 98% yield; mp 211–212 °C (lit.⁶ mp 208.5–211 °C). The diacetyl derivative 18 was compared with an authentic sample.

In conclusion we point out that the overall yield was relatively high (about 70%), and no chromatographic separation was required.

Experimental Section

Melting points were measured on a micro hot plate and are not corrected. IR spectra were recorded in Nujol unless stated otherwise with a Unicam SP 200 spectrometer. NMR spectra were determined in CDCl₃ solutions (unless otherwise noted) with a JEOL 100-MHz instrument with Me₄Si as an internal standard, mass spectra were determined with LKB 9000S, and UV spectra were determined with Unicam SP-700 apparatus. Microanalyses were performed by our Microanalytical Laboratory (Head, K. Branicka, M.Sc.).

Ethyl 20 β -Chloro-3 β -(tetrahydropyranyloxy)-5,17(20)-pregnadien-21-oate (3). To a stirred suspension of zinc dust (8.1 g, 0.124 mol) and diethylaluminum chloride (18.1 mL of a 25% hexane solution) in THF (50 mL) was added a solution of ethyl trichloroacetate (5.9 mL, 0.043 mol) and compound 1 (10.0 g, 0.027 mol) in THF (50 mL) at –10 °C over period of 1 h. The reaction mixture was maintained at 0 °C for additional 2 h and then left overnight at room temperature. The mixture of water and pyridine (20 mL, 4:1) was added at 0 °C, and the reaction mixture was filtered. The inorganic salts were washed with chloroform (250 mL) and the collected filtrate after drying was evaporated on a rotary evaporator. To the residue was added methanol (200 mL), and the precipitated crude compound 3 was filtered off and washed with cold methanol (50 mL). The precipitate of 3 was purified by addition of charcoal (2.0 g) in ether solution (200 mL), filtration, addition of methanol (100 mL) and evaporation of ether, which gave 3 (10.1 g, 85%) pure enough for the next step of the synthesis. The HPLC analysis of crude 3 (RI detector) showed it to be 94.3% pure. An analytical sample of 3 was obtained by using chromatography on silica gel and recrystallization from methanol: mp 134–140 °C; UV max 239 nm (ϵ 4700); IR 1710 cm^{–1}; NMR δ 1.07 (s, 6 H, C-18, C-19), 1.37 (t, 3 H, OEt, J = 7.5 Hz), 3.6 (m, 2 H, THP), 3.9 (m, 1 H, C-3), 4.3 (q, 2 H, OEt, J = 7.5 Hz), 4.75 (br s, 1 H, THP), 5.4 (br s, 1 H, C-6); MS m/e (relative intensity) 374 (M^+ – 102; THPOH, 100).

Anal. Calcd for C₂₈H₄₁O₄Cl: C, 70.58; H, 8.61; Cl, 7.35. Found: C, 70.44; H, 8.67; Cl, 7.26.

Ethyl 20 β -Chloro-3 β -hydroxy-5,17(20)-pregnadien-21-oate (5). A solution of 3 (476 mg, 1.0 mmol) in 20 mL of ethanol and pyridinium *p*-toluenesulfonate (50 mg) was refluxed for 1 h, after evaporation of the solution to half its volume water was added, and the precipitated crude 5 was collected by filtration and dried. Recrystallization of 5 from ether gave 370 mg (94.4%) of 5: mp 190–191 °C; IR 3400, 1720 cm^{–1}; NMR δ 1.1 (s, 6 H, C-18, C-19), 1.4 (t, 3 H, OEt, J = 7.5 Hz), 3.6 (m, 1 H, C-3), 4.32 (q, 2 H, OEt, J = 7.5 Hz), 5.4 (br s, 1 H, C-6); MS m/e 392. Anal. Calcd for C₂₈H₃₉O₅Cl: C, 70.40; H, 8.41; Cl, 8.92. Found: C, 70.59; H, 8.39; Cl, 8.98.

3 β ,21-Dihydroxy-20 β -chloro-5,17(20)-pregnadiene (7). To the cooled (–20 °C) and stirred solution of 3 (476 mg, 1.0 mmol) in dry toluene (20 mL) under argon was added DIBAL-H (0.50 mL). After 5 min water (5 mL) was added, and stirring was continued for additional 2 h. The precipitated aluminum salts were filtered off, the solvent was evaporated, and intermediate 3 β -(tetrahydropyranyloxy)-21-hydroxy-20 β -chloro-5,17(20)-pregnadiene (6) was deprotected in an ethanol–pyridinium *p*-toluenesulfonate system. After the workup and crystallization from ether this gave 7: 280 mg (80%); mp 196–201 °C; IR 3400 cm^{–1}; NMR δ 1.0 (s, 3 H, C-18), 1.10 (s, 3 H, C-19), 3.65 (m, 1 H, C-3), 4.45 (AB q, 2 H, J = 12.5 Hz), 5.45 (br s, 1 H, C-6); MS m/e 350. Anal. Calcd for C₂₇H₃₇O₂Cl: C, 72.00; H, 8.80; Cl, 10.0. Found: C, 71.55; H, 8.98; Cl, 10.11.

3 β ,21-Diacetoxy-20 β -chloro-5,17(20)-pregnadiene (8). Acetylation of 7 in a pyridine–acetic anhydride system gave its diacetyl derivative 8 as an oil: IR 1750 cm^{–1}; NMR δ 0.95 (s, 3 H, C-18), 1.05 (s, 3 H, C-19), 2.05 (s, 3 H, CH₃CO), 2.15 (s, 3 H, CH₃CO), 4.65 (m, 1 H, C-3), 4.9 (s, 2 H, C-21), 5.45 (br s, 1 H, C-6); MS m/e 374 (M^+ – 60).

Methyl 20 β -Methoxy-3 β -(tetrahydropyranyloxy)-5,17(20)-pregnadien-21-oate (9). To a solution of sodium (2.3 g) in anhydrous methanol (150 mL) was added compound 3 (5.0 g, 10.5 mmol), and the reaction mixture was refluxed under argon for 24 h. After cooling, the reaction mixture was neutralized with acetic acid (6.0 g). The precipitated compound 9 was filtered and washed with water and then with cold methanol (50 mL). This gave 9 (4.1 g, 85%) pure (96.1% by HPLC) enough for the next step. The analytical sample was obtained by chromatography: mp 129–131 °C (from ether–methanol); IR 1715 cm^{–1}; NMR δ 1.0 (s, 3 H, C-18), 1.1 (s, 3 H, C-19), 3.6 (s, 3 H, OMe), 3.82 (s, 3 H, COOMe), 4.8 (br s, 1 H, THP), 5.4 (br s, 1 H, C-6); MS m/e 458. Anal. Calcd for C₂₈H₄₂O₅: C, 73.32; H, 9.23. Found: C, 73.46; H, 9.55.

20 β -Methoxy-21-hydroxy-3 β -(tetrahydropyranyloxy)-5,17(20)-pregnadiene (11). The DIBAL-H reduction of methoxy ester 9 was performed in the same manner as the reduction of chloro ester 3: yield 95%; mp (crude 11) 98–103 °C; IR 3340 cm^{–1}; NMR δ 0.9 (s, 3 H, C-18), 1.05 (s, 3 H, C-19), 3.4–3.8 (m, 2 H, THP), 3.6 (s, 3 H, OCH₃), 4.0 (m, 1 H, C-3), 4.2 (s, 2 H, C-21), 4.8 (br s, 1 H, THP), 5.4 (br s, 1 H, C-6); MS m/e 430.

3 β ,21-Dihydroxy-5-pregnen-20-one (13). A mixture of 11 (430 mg, 0.1 mmol), methanol–water (95:5, 20 mL), and 5 drops of perchloric acid (70%) was left at room temperature for 1 h. Neutralization with aqueous sodium bicarbonate followed by a standard workup gave known 3 β ,21-dihydroxy-5-pregnen-20-one (13): 325 mg (98%); mp 154–160 °C (lit.⁶ mp 155–160 °C); IR 3400, 1710 cm^{–1}; NMR δ 0.7 (s, 3 H, C-18), 1.05 (s, 3 H, C-19), 3.55 (m, 1 H, C-3), 4.22 (s, 2 H, C-21), 5.4 (br s, 1 H, C-6); MS m/e 332.

3 β ,21-Diacetoxy-5-pregnen-20-one (14). The acetylation of 13 in pyridine with acetic anhydride gave known diacetoxy derivative 14: 95% yield; mp 168–169 °C (lit.⁷ mp 166–168 °C); IR no OH band; NMR δ 0.7 (s, 3 H, C-18), 1.05 (s, 3 H, C-19), 2.07 (s, 3 H, COCH₃), 2.2 (s, 3 H, COCH₃), 4.68 (AB q, 2 H, C-21, J = 16.5 Hz), 5.45 (br s, 1 H, C-6).

17 α ,21-Dihydroxy-3 β -(tetrahydropyranyloxy)-5-pregnen-20-one (15). The methanolic solution (20 mL) of 11 (430 mg, 1.0 mmol) and MCPBA (182.2 mg, 1.1 mmol) was allowed to stand for 15 min at room temperature. Then the saturated solution of sodium bisulfite (1 drop) was added, and the reaction mixture

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(7) A. Marquet and J. Jacques, *Bull. Soc. Chim. Fr.*, 90 (1962).

was worked up, giving compound 15: 423 mg (98%); mp 180–190 °C (crude product); IR 3400, 1710 cm^{-1} ; NMR δ 0.7 (s, 3 H, C-18), 1.02 (s, 3 H, C-19), 3.5 (m, 2 H, THP), 3.9 (m, 1 H, C-3), 4.52 (AB q, 2 H, C-21, $J = 20$ Hz), 4.8 (br s, 1 H, THP), 5.4 (br s, 1 H, C-6); MS m/e 432.

3 β ,17 α ,21-Trihydroxy-5-pregnen-20-one (17). The deprotection of 3 β -OH group in compound 15 was carried out in methanol–water solution (95:5) with few drops of perchloric acid to yield known compound 17 (98%); mp 211–212 °C (lit.⁸ mp 208.5–211 °C); IR 3400, 1710 cm^{-1} ; NMR δ ($\text{C}_6\text{D}_6\text{N}$) 0.7 (s, 3 H, C-18), 0.95 (s, 3 H, C-19), 3.85 (m, 1 H, C-3), 5.0 (AB q, 2 H, C-21, $J = 17.5$ Hz), 5.4 (br s, 1 H, C-6); MS m/e 348.

17 α -Hydroxy-3 β ,21-diacetoxy-5-pregnen-20-one (18). The acetylation of 17 was carried out in pyridine with acetic anhydride at room temperature. The standard workup gave known compound 18 which was checked by comparison with authentic sample:⁴ mp 193–195 °C (lit.⁹ mp 192, 190–193 °C); IR 3650, 1740, 1730, 1720 cm^{-1} ; NMR δ 0.7 (s, 3 H, C-18), 1.05 (s, 3 H, C-19), 2.05 (s, 3 H, CH_3COO), 2.2 (s, 3 H, CH_3COO), 4.65 (m, 1 H, C-3), 4.98 (AB q, 2 H, C-21, $J = 17.5$ Hz), 5.4 (br s, 1 H, C-6); MS m/e 432. Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{38}\text{O}_6$: C, 69.42; H, 8.39. Found: C, 68.95; H, 8.57.

Ethyl 6 β -Methoxy-20 β -chloro-17(20)-i-pregnen-21-oate (4). The chloro ester 4 was obtained by starting from 6 β -methoxy-i-androstan-17-one (2) in the same manner as was described previously for chloro ester 3: yield 87%; mp 114.5–116 °C; UV max (EtOH) 240 nm (ϵ 4800); IR 1720 cm^{-1} ; NMR δ 1.05 (s, 3 H, C-18), 1.1 (s, 3 H, C-19), 1.35 (t, 3 H, OEt, $J = 7.5$ Hz), 3.4 (s, 3 H, OCH_3), 4.3 (q, 2 H, OEt, $J = 7.5$ Hz); MS m/e 406. Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{36}\text{O}_5\text{Cl}$: C, 70.93; H, 8.60; Cl, 8.6. Found: C, 70.66; H, 8.74; Cl, 8.94.

Methyl 6 β ,20 β -Dimethoxy-17(20)-i-pregnen-21-oate (10). To the solution of sodium (2.3 g, 0.1 mol) in anhydrous methanol (150 mL) was added the compound 4 (4.06 g, 0.01 mol), and the mixture was refluxed under argon for 24 h. After cooling, the reaction mixture was neutralized with acetic acid (5.4 g), and half of the solvent was evaporated on a rotary evaporator. To the residue was added water (200 mL), and the mixture was extracted with chloroform (3 \times 100 mL). The extracts after drying and evaporation were purified by short column chromatography with hexane–ethyl acetate (9:1) mixture as an eluent. The compound 10 was obtained as an oil: yield 3.29 g (85%); IR (film) 1720 cm^{-1} ; NMR δ 1.05 (s, 3 H, C-18), 1.12 (s, 3 H, C-19), 2.82 (m, 1 H, C-6), 3.43 (s, 3 H, OCH_3), 3.65 (s, 3 H, OCH_3), 3.87 (s, 3 H, OCH_3); MS m/e 388.

6 β ,20 β -Dimethoxy-17(20)-i-pregnen-21-ol (12). The reduction of compound 10 with DIBAL-H was carried out in toluene solution at –20 °C for 5 min. A standard workup gave compound 12 (95%) as an oil which was chromatographically pure (TLC, hexane–ethyl acetate, 3:2): IR 3250 cm^{-1} ; NMR δ 1.0 (s, 3 H, C-18), 1.10 (s, 3 H, C-19), 2.84 (br s, 1 H, C-6), 3.4 (s, 3 H, OCH_3), 3.6 (s, 3 H, CH_3O), 4.2 (s, 2 H, C-21); MS m/e 360.

3 β ,21-Dihydroxy-5-pregnen-20-one (13) and Its Diacetyl Derivative (14). Compound 12, dissolved in a dioxane–water (95:5) mixture with a few drops of perchloric acid, was left at room temperature for 1 h. Neutralization with aqueous sodium bicarbonate followed by a standard workup gave known compound 13 which after acetalization gave compound 14 which was characterized before.

17 α ,21-Dihydroxy-6 β -methoxy-i-pregnan-20-one (16). The oxidation of compound 12 with 10% excess of MCPBA in methanol solution at room temperature gave compound 16: 95% yield; mp (from ether) 194–199 °C; IR 3450, 1700 cm^{-1} ; NMR δ 0.8 (s, 3 H, C-18), 1.12 (s, 3 H, C-19), 2.87 (br s, 1 H, C-6), 3.42 (s, 3 H, OCH_3), 4.52 (AB q, 2 H, C-21, $J = 20$ Hz); MS m/e 362. Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{34}\text{O}_4$: C, 72.89; H, 9.45. Found: C, 72.77; H, 9.62.

3 β ,17 α ,21-Trihydroxy-5-pregnen-20-one (17) and Its Diacetyl Derivative 18. Acidic hydrolysis of 16 in dioxane–water solution with perchloric acid gave quantitatively compound 17, which upon acetalization afforded compound 18.

Registry No. 1, 19637-35-5; 2, 14425-92-4; 3, 81477-79-4; 4, 81477-80-7; 5, 81477-81-8; 6, 81477-82-9; 7, 81477-83-0; 8, 81477-84-1; 9, 81477-85-2; 10, 81477-86-3; 11, 81477-87-4; 12, 81477-88-5; 13, 1164-98-3; 14, 1693-63-6; 15, 81477-89-6; 16, 81477-90-9; 17, 1167-48-2; 18, 3517-42-8; ethyl trichloroacetate, 515-84-4.

Palladium-Catalyzed Conjugate Addition Type Reaction of (2-Hydroxyaryl)mercury Chlorides with α,β -Unsaturated Ketones in a Two-Phase System. A New Synthesis of 2-Chromanols and 2-Chromenes

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Received November 19, 1981

In previous papers,^{1,2} we have reported that arylmercury compounds containing a wide variety of substituents in the aromatic moiety (for example Me, Cl, CHO, COMe, COOMe, OH, OMe, NHCOMe, and NO_2) react at room temperature with unhindered α,β -unsaturated ketones in an acidic two-phase system, in the presence of catalytic amounts of Pd(II), to give products that can be regarded as derived from a conjugate addition reaction (Scheme I).

The reaction proceeds smoothly with good yields and allows an efficient and specific synthesis of β -aryl ketones.

As part of an overall program directed toward the search of these palladium-catalyzed conjugate addition type reactions, we report here that the reaction of α,β -enones with arylmercury compounds containing a 2-hydroxy group gives rise to the formation of 2-chromanols (4) and 2-chromenes (5) through a one-pot addition–cyclization–dehydration reaction according to Scheme II.

The general reaction conditions are as follows. The starting α,β -enone (3.4–8.0 mmol) and the (2-hydroxy-aryl)mercury chloride (50 mol % excess) were added to a dichloromethane aqueous 3 N HCl (ca. 1.6:1 v/v) two-phase system containing PdCl_2 (5 mol %) and TBA^+Cl^- (10 mol %). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for an appropriate period (4–8 h) and worked up. Pure products were obtained through open-column chromatography.

As expected, the reaction mixture composition is controlled by the nature of R_1 and R_2 in the α,β -enonic system and by the substituents in the aromatic moiety of the arylmercury compound.

The results are summarized in the Table I.

Generalization from the limited number of examples available is probably of doubtful value, but nevertheless by examination of the Table I, and according to the literature,^{3,4} it appears that formation of 2-chromanols (4) is favored when R_1 is other than hydrogen, when R_2 is bonded to the carbonyl group through an sp^3 carbon atom, and when no strongly electron-withdrawing groups are present on the aromatic ring of the mercurials (cf. entries a–e, Table I).

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