

# Chemistry of Natural Compounds and Bioorganic Chemistry

## New approach to the synthesis of lactones of the iridane series

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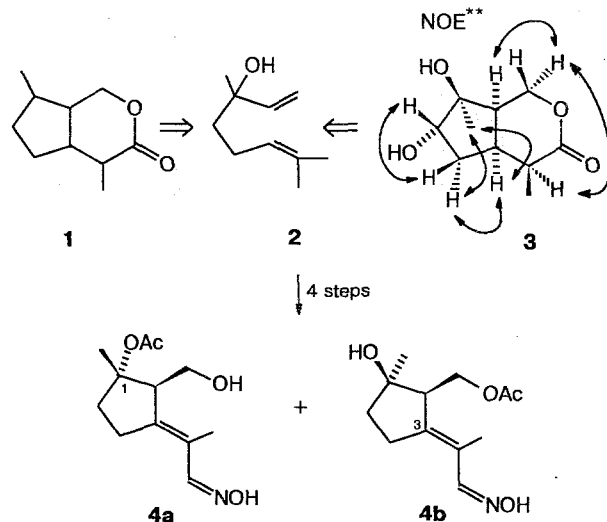
A new approach to the synthesis of lactones of the iridane series starting from (±)-linalool was developed. Synthesis of a bicyclic iridoid structurally related to the naturally occurring iridolactone villosol was performed.

**Key words:** (±)-linalool, iridolactone,  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated aldoxime, 6 $\alpha$ ,7 $\beta$ -dihydroxy-4 $\beta$ ,7 $\alpha$ -dimethyl-4 $\alpha$ ,4 $\alpha\alpha$ ,5,6 $\alpha$ ,7,7 $\alpha\alpha$ -hexahydrocyclopenta[*c*]pyran-3(1*H*)-one, <sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C, 2D-NOESY NMR spectra, molecular mechanics, conformational analysis.

Iridolactones with a carbon skeleton **1** have been found among metabolites of a number of insects and have also been isolated from some plants.<sup>1</sup> In the last few years synthesis of these compounds and related natural substances from simple linear precursors has become of interest.<sup>1,2</sup> Herein we deal with a strategy based on the transformation of linalool **2** to the mixture of oximes\* **4a/4b**  $\approx$  4:1 (Scheme 1\*\*), which was described previously.<sup>3</sup> Compound **4a** was converted to lactone **3**, structurally related to the natural iridolactone villosol.<sup>4</sup>

The selected synthetic route to **3** included the oxidative hydrolysis of the mixture **4** in the presence of  $\text{Ti}(\text{NO}_3)_3$  (cf. with Ref. 5). The routine workup of the

Scheme 1

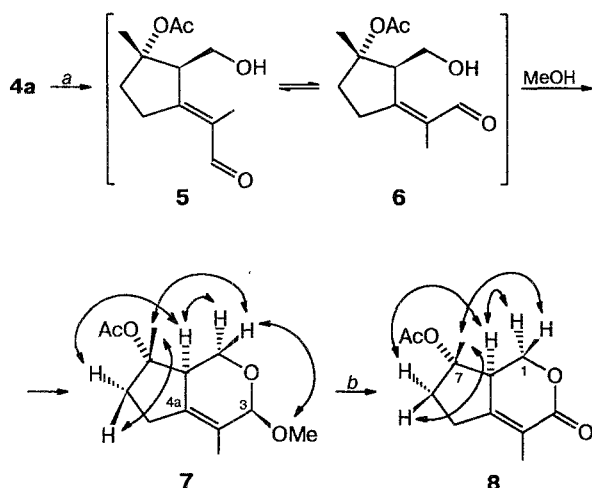


<sup>†</sup> Deceased.

\* In Ref. 3 the mixture of regio- and stereoisomeric acetoxy derivatives **4** is erroneously referred to as the mixture of epimeric primary acetates at C(1).

\*\* Here and below the arrows specify the nuclear Overhauser effects (NOE) observed in the experiments.

Scheme 2



**Reagents and conditions:** *a.*  $\text{Ti}(\text{NO}_3)_3/\text{HClO}_4/\text{MeOH}$ , 20 °C; *b.*  $\text{CrO}_3/\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4/\text{Me}_2\text{CO}$ , 20 °C.

reaction mixture including the chromatography on  $\text{SiO}_2$  gave bicyclic acetal **7** in 50 % yield (Scheme 2).

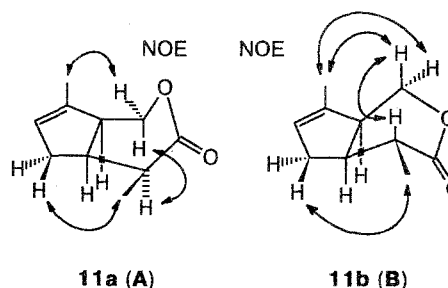
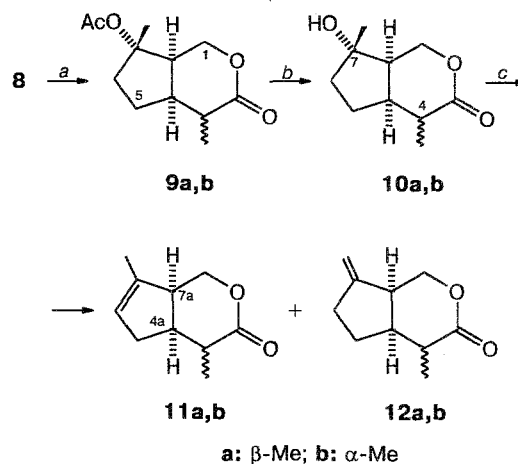
Obviously, the formation of **7** includes the isomerization of *E*-acroleine **5** yielded initially from the major component of **4** to *Z*-**6**. Acetal **7** was then treated with the Jones reagent to give the unsaturated lactone **8**.

The structures of **7** and **8**, unreported previously, were confirmed by spectroscopic and elemental analysis data. In particular, the relative configuration of the substituents in the molecule of acetal **7** was deduced by 2D-NOESY (see Scheme 2). NOEs correlating with the structure shown were also observed in the two-dimensional spectrum of lactone **8**.

Reduction of the double bond in **8** by nickel boride in methanol (Scheme 3) (*cf.* Ref. 6) was found to be nonselective and gave epimers **9** ( $\approx 1:1$  by GLC and  $^1\text{H}$  NMR) with the carbon skeleton **1**. The controlled hydrolysis of these acetates and the dehydration of the tertiary alcohols **10** according to the known procedure<sup>7</sup> yielded the mixture of stereoisomeric lactones **11a,b** and concomitant minor exomethylene components **12a,b** in a ratio of 4:4:1:1, respectively. We succeeded in isolating the pairs of regioisomers **11a/12a** and **11b/12b** with the same relative configuration of the C(4) center by flash chromatography on  $\text{SiO}_2$ . The composition of the mixture of **11/12** was deduced by GLC and  $^1\text{H}$  NMR. In particular, the peaks of the  $\text{H}_2\text{C}=\text{C}$  protons with  $\delta \approx 4.9$  and 5.1 in  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum belong to regioisomers **12**. Their relative integral intensity correlated with the content of the mixture minor components established by GLC.

The structures of bicyclic iridoids **9–12**, unreported previously, were established on the basis of NMR spectrometry data in view of the spectral characteristics of related compounds known from literature. The lactones

Scheme 3



**Reagents and conditions:** *a.*  $\text{NiCl}_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}/\text{NaBH}_4/\text{MeOH}$ , 20 °C; then  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4/\text{MeOH}$  to pH  $\approx 3$ , 20 °C; *b.* 27 %  $\text{HClO}_4/\text{MeOH}$ , 20 °C; *c.* DMSO, reflux.

**9a–12a** and **9b–12b** were assigned to irido and isoirido type, respectively (*cf.* Ref. 8). The stereochemistry of the olefins **11a** and **11b** (and also of the corresponding initial acetates **9** and alcohols **10**) was deduced using the registered NOEs (see Scheme 3), vicinal coupling constants  $\{H\}-\{H\}$  (Table 1) and the data of the conformational analysis of molecular models of these substances by molecular mechanics.<sup>9</sup> In particular, **11a** is characterized with small ( $< 4$  Hz) coupling constant values for heminal protons at C(1) with HC(7a), whereas in the case of **11b** one of these constants ( $\approx 11$  Hz) is significantly larger than the other one ( $\approx 6$  Hz). These are the characteristic features of the lactones of irido and isoirido type, respectively (*cf.* Ref. 8). The accordance of the experimental coupling constants to those calculated by Karplus' equation<sup>10</sup> (see Table 1) using the geometrical parameters obtained by molecular mechanics is an additional corroboration for the structure of **11**. The calculations were performed for **11a (A)** and **11b (B)** conformations, which are similar to those found for the natural crystalline irido- and isoiridolactones, respectively, and are also considered to be the most thermodynamically preferable for these substances in solutions (see Refs. 1, 8). It should also be

**Table 1.** Experimental and calculated {H}—{H} coupling constants ( $J/\text{Hz}$ ) for **11a,b**

{H}—{H}	$J_{\text{exp}}/J_{\text{calc}}$	
	11a	11b
$\alpha\text{-HC}(1)\text{—HC}(7a)$	3.9/4.14	11.4/11.65
$\beta\text{-HC}(1)\text{—HC}(7a)$	0.9/0.76	5.9/5.20
$\text{HC}(4)\text{—HC}(4a)$	5.6/3.19	11.33/11.66
$\text{HC}(4a)\text{—HC}(7a)$	10.20/10.78	9.90/10.00
$\text{HC}(4a)\text{—}\alpha\text{-HC}(5)$	9.60/9.85	5.4/7.49
$\text{HC}(4a)\text{—}\beta\text{-HC}(5)$	5.40/7.63	9.36/9.87
$\alpha\text{-HC}(5)\text{—HC}(6)$	2.40/4.04	1.90/3.23
$\beta\text{-HC}(5)\text{—HC}(6)$	2.22/3.24	2.37/4.03
$\text{HC}(6)\text{—HC}(7a)$	2.0/—	1.86/—
$\text{MeC}(4)\text{—HC}(4)$	6.5/—	6.4/—
$\alpha\text{-HC}(1)\text{—}\beta\text{-HC}(1)$	—11.9/—	—11.3/—
$\alpha\text{-HC}(5)\text{—}\beta\text{-HC}(5)$	—11.9/—	—11.3/—

noted that the boat geometry of the  $\delta$ -lactone cycle with the Me group in the equatorial position suggests the spatial proximity of axial protons at C(1) and C(4), which has really been revealed for **11** by 2D-NOESY (see Scheme 3).

The final stage of the synthesis of the target substance **3** included treatment of the mixture of the unsaturated lactones with excess of *m*-chloroperbenzoic acid (MCPBA). The subsequent chromatographic separation of the reaction mixture on  $\text{SiO}_2$  gave epoxide **13** in a moderate yield as a result of reagent attack of olefin **11a** from the less spatially hindered side (Scheme 4). Finally, **13** was stereospecifically converted to diol **3** by treating with KOH in aqueous DMSO. The stereochemical result of this procedure appears to be caused by the initial intramolecular attack of the oxirane cycle

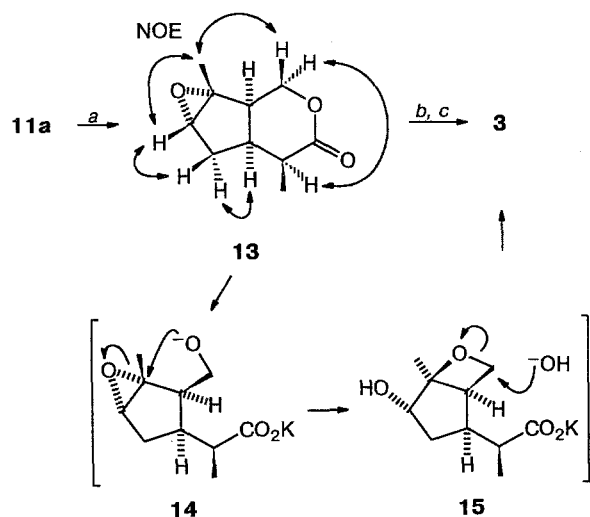
with alkoxide ion **14**. The intermediate oxetane **15** (cf. Ref. 11) formed was then cleaved by action of hydroxide ions.

Lactones **3** and **13**, obtained for the first time, were characterized by spectral data. In particular, the spatial proximity of  $\beta\text{-HC}(5)$  and  $\text{HC}(6)$  protons and also of the Me group at C(7) to  $\text{HC}(4a)$  and  $\alpha\text{-HC}(5)$  protons in the case of substance **3** and to  $\beta\text{-HC}(1)$  and  $\text{HC}(6)$  protons in the case of lactone **13** registered in the 2D-NOESY spectra is a reliable corroboration of the structure of these substances.

### Experimental

IR spectra ( $\nu/\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) of  $\text{CHCl}_3$  solutions were obtained on a Specord M-80 spectrometer. UV spectra were recorded on a Specord UV-VIS spectrophotometer.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra ( $\delta$ ,  $J/\text{Hz}$ ) of  $\text{CDCl}_3$  solutions were registered on Bruker WM-250 (250.13 MHz) and AMX-400 (400.13 MHz) instruments.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra (50.32 MHz) were obtained on a Bruker AC-200 instrument. Chemical shifts were determined relative to the solvent using the  $\delta$  scale (7.27 for  $^1\text{H}$  and 77.0 for  $^{13}\text{C}$ ).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of substances **3**, **7**, **8**, **11a,b**, and **13** are given in Table 2. Mass spectra (EI, 70 eV) were taken on Varian MAT CH-6 and Varian MAT 311A mass spectrometers.  $R_f$  values are given for the fixed  $\text{SiO}_2$  layer (Silufol) (hexane—ethyl acetate, 4:3). \* GLC analysis was performed on an LKhM 8MD instrument (2 m  $\times$  3 mm columns with 15 % Carbowax 20M and SE-30 on Chromaton N-AW-HMDS).

**7 $\alpha$ -Acetoxy-3 $\beta$ -methoxy-4,7 $\beta$ -dimethyl-1,3,5,6,7,7 $\alpha$ -hexahydrocyclopenta[c]pyran (7).** To a solution of 4.30 g (17.8 mmol) of a mixture of **4a/4b**, 4:1 (see Ref. 3), in 25 mL of MeOH a solution of 7.3 g (18.7 mmol) of  $\text{Ti}(\text{NO}_3)_3$  and 0.4 mL of 27 %  $\text{HClO}_4$  in 25 mL of MeOH was added over 5 min with vigorous stirring at 20 °C (Ar). After 2 h at 20 °C the reaction mixture was neutralized with  $\text{NEt}_3$  and evaporated *in vacuo*. The residue was treated with 50 mL of  $\text{CHCl}_3$ , and the resulting solution was filtered. The filtrate was washed with

**Scheme 4**

**Reagents and conditions:** a. MCPBA/ $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ , 20 °C;  
b. KOH/DMSO/ $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , reflux;  
c. Saturated  $\text{NaHSO}_4/\text{H}_2\text{O}$  to pH  $\approx$  3, 20 °C.

\* Unless otherwise specified.

**Table 2.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) for **3**, **7**, **8**, **11a,b**, and **13**

C atom	3	7	8	11a	11b	13
1	65.41	59.11	67.84	66.35	68.74	65.90
3	177.17	97.91	165.37	179.73	175.76	—
4	37.45	134.90 <sup>a</sup>	120.88	36.78	38.00 <sup>a</sup>	38.04
4a	36.74	135.59 <sup>a</sup>	156.83	38.86	38.91 <sup>a</sup>	36.85
5	33.11	25.00 <sup>b</sup>	26.50 <sup>a</sup>	34.39	40.92 <sup>a</sup>	31.34
6	77.89	37.22 <sup>b</sup>	38.10 <sup>a</sup>	126.42	126.17	64.52
7	80.97	87.02	85.92	136.90	136.72	66.31
7a	45.11	48.41	48.01	48.28	48.07	43.09
MeC(4)	12.40	14.17	12.52	12.80	14.02 <sup>b</sup>	12.68
MeC(7)	21.64	18.21	18.46	14.10	14.65 <sup>b</sup>	15.04
MeCO		21.84	21.69			
MeO		170.17	170.08			
MeO		55.43				

*Note.* Chemical shift values marked with the same symbols<sup>a,b</sup> in columns may be interchanged.

water, and the water layer was separated and extracted with  $\text{CHCl}_3$ . The combined organic extract was dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  and evaporated *in vacuo*. The residue (4.4 g) was chromatographed on 150 g of  $\text{SiO}_2$ . Gradient elution from hexane to  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  (up to 15 % of the latter) gave 2.27 g (53 %) of **7** as a colorless oil,  $R_f$  0.62. IR: 940, 1020, 1050, 1065, 1080, 1095, 1150, 1245, 1270, 1375, 1740, 2950, and 3020.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR: 1.23 (br.s, 3 H, MeC(7)); 1.58 (br.s, 3 H, MeC(4)); 1.88 (m, 1 H,  $\alpha$ -HC(6),  $J = -13.0, 11.0, 10.4$ , and 0.9); 1.96 (s, 3 H, MeCO); 2.21 (m, 1 H,  $\beta$ -HC(5),  $J = -17.9, 11.0, 8.7, 2.0$ , and 1.4); 2.27 (m, 1 H,  $\beta$ -HC(6),  $J = -13.0, 8.7$ , and 2.21); 2.36 (m, 1 H,  $\alpha$ -HC(5),  $J = -17.9, 10.4, 2.2, 2.2$ , and 1.9); 2.7 (m, 1 H, HC(7a)); 3.40 (s, 3 H, MeO); 3.62 (ddd, 1 H,  $\beta$ -HC(1),  $J = 11.1, -10.7$ , and 0.7); 3.88 (dd, 1 H,  $\alpha$ -HC(1),  $J = -10.7$  and 5.6); 4.55 (br.s, 1 H, HC(3)). MS,  $m/z$ : 210  $[\text{M}-30]^+$ , 209, 194, 181, and 180. Found (%): C, 64.62; H, 8.57.  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_4$ . Calculated (%): C, 64.98; H, 8.39.

**7 $\alpha$ -Acetoxy-4,7 $\beta$ -dimethyl-5,6,7,7 $\alpha$ -tetrahydrocyclopenta[c]pyran-3(1H)-one (8).** To a solution of 2.27 g (9.45 mmol) of **7** in 20 mL of acetone the Jones reagent prepared from 1.32 g (15.7 mmol) of  $\text{CrO}_3$ , 1.15 mL of conc.  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$ , 4 mL of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , and 44 mL of acetone was added during 15 min with vigorous stirring at 20 °C. After 15 min at 20 °C, the mixture was quenched with 1 mL of  $\text{Pr}^i\text{OH}$  during 5 min, treated with 100 mL of  $\text{CHCl}_3$ , evaporated *in vacuo* for 3/4, and filtered. The filtrate was evaporated *in vacuo*, and the residue (2 g) was chromatographed on 100 g of  $\text{SiO}_2$ . Gradient elution from hexane to  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  (up to 60 % of the latter) gave 1.88 g (89 %) of **8** as a colorless oil,  $R_f$  0.30. IR: 910, 1045, 1060, 1150, 1300, 1375, 1385, 1410, 1715, 3030. UV (EtOH,  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$ /nm): 232 ( $\epsilon$  8340).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR: 1.32 (s, 3 H, MeC(7)); 1.79 (br.s, 3 H, MeC(4)); 1.98 (m, 1 H,  $\alpha$ -HC(6),  $J = -13.0, 11.0, 10.0$ , and 0.8); 1.99 (s, 3 H, MeCO); 2.22 (m, 1 H,  $\beta$ -HC(6),  $J = -13.0, 8.6$ , and 2.3); 2.32 (m, 1 H,  $\beta$ -HC(5),  $J = -19.2, 11.0, 8.6$ , and 3.0); 2.47 (m, 1 H,  $\alpha$ -HC(5),  $J = -19.2, 10.0, 2.3$ , and 1.3); 2.98 (m, 1 H, HC(7a),  $J = 13.1, 5.9, 3.0$ , and 1.3); 4.11 (dd, 1 H,  $\beta$ -HC(1),  $J = 13.1$ , and  $-10.5$ ); 4.63 (dd, 1 H,  $\alpha$ -HC(1),  $J = -10.5$  and 5.9). MS,  $m/z$ : 224  $[\text{M}]^+$ . Found (%): C, 64.29; H, 7.34.  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_4$ . Calculated (%): C, 64.27; H, 7.19.

**7 $\alpha$ -Acetoxy-4 $\beta$ ,7 $\beta$ -dimethyl-4 $\alpha$ ,4 $\alpha$ ,5,6,7,7 $\alpha$ -hexahydrocyclopenta[c]pyran-3(1H)-one (9a) and 7 $\alpha$ -acetoxy-4 $\alpha$ ,7 $\beta$ -dimethyl-4 $\beta$ ,4 $\alpha$ ,5,6,7,7 $\alpha$ -hexahydrocyclopenta[c]pyran-3(1H)-one (9b).** To a solution of 0.5 g (2.23 mmol) of **8** and 0.26 g (1.14 mmol) of  $\text{NiCl}_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$  in 25 mL of MeOH 0.33 g (8.7 mmol) of  $\text{NaBH}_4$  was added in portions during 5 min with vigorous stirring at 0 °C (Ar). After 1 h at 0 °C and 1 h at 20 °C the mixture was acidified with 50 %  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  in MeOH to pH  $\approx$  3, kept for 30 min, and treated with the saturated  $\text{KHCO}_3$  solution to pH  $\approx$  7 and then extracted with  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ . The organic layer was washed with water, dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ , and evaporated *in vacuo*. The residue (0.6 g) was chromatographed on 40 g of  $\text{SiO}_2$ . Gradient elution from hexane to  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  (up to 60 % of the latter) gave 0.44 g (87 %) of the mixture of **9a/9b**, ~1:1 (GLC and  $^1\text{H}$  NMR data) as a colorless oil,  $R_f$  0.30. IR: 1020, 1040, 1125, 1175, 1255, 1370, 1380, 1450, 1460, 1730, 2940, 2980, and 3010. MS,  $m/z$ : 184  $[\text{M}-42]^+$ , 167  $[\text{M}-59]^+$ , and 166  $[\text{M}-60]^+$ . Found (%): C, 63.96; H, 7.92.  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_4$ . Calculated (%): C, 63.70; H, 8.02.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR for lactone **9a**: 1.15 (d, 3 H, MeC(4),  $J = 6.5$ ); 1.53 (s, 3 H, MeC(7)); 1.7–2.9 (m, 7 H, CH,  $\text{CH}_2$ ); 1.98 (s, 3 H, MeCO); 4.36 (dd, 1 H,  $\alpha$ -HC(1),  $J = 12.5$  and 3.5); 4.72 (d, 1 H,  $\beta$ -HC(1),  $J = 12.5$ ).

$^1\text{H}$  NMR for lactone **9b**: 1.18 (d, 3 H, MeC(4),  $J = 6.5$ ); 1.45 (s, 3 H, MeC(7)); 1.7–2.9 (m, 7 H, CH,  $\text{CH}_2$ ); 1.98 (s,

3 H, MeCO); 3.95 (dd, 1 H,  $\alpha$ -HC(1),  $J_1 = J_2 = 11.5$ ); 4.49 (dd, 1 H,  $\beta$ -HC(1),  $J = 11.5$  and 6.0).

**7 $\alpha$ -Hydroxy-4 $\beta$ ,7 $\beta$ -dimethyl-4 $\alpha$ ,4 $\alpha$ ,5,6,7,7 $\alpha$ -hexahydrocyclopenta[c]pyran-3(1H)-one (10a) and 7 $\alpha$ -hydroxy-4 $\alpha$ ,7 $\beta$ -dimethyl-4 $\beta$ ,4 $\alpha$ ,5,6,7,7 $\alpha$ -hexahydrocyclopenta[c]pyran-3(1H)-one (10b).** To a solution of 0.17 g (0.75 mmol) of the mixture of **9a,b** in 3.2 mL of MeOH was added 2.3 mL of 27 %  $\text{HClO}_4$  at 20 °C. After 72 h at 20 °C the reaction mixture was neutralized with saturated  $\text{KHCO}_3$  solution and treated with  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ . The water layer was separated and extracted with  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ . The routine treatment of the combined organic extract gave 0.2 g of residue, which was chromatographed on 10 g of  $\text{SiO}_2$ . The gradient elution from hexane to  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  and then to MeOH (up to 5 % of the latter) yielded 95 mg (75 %) of the mixture of **10a/10b**, ~1:1 (by  $^1\text{H}$  NMR) as a colorless amorphous mass without distinct melting point,  $R_f$  0.28 (ethyl acetate). IR: 1035, 1115, 1170, 1360, 1380, 1460, 1710, 1740, 2940, 2970, 3010, and 3610. MS,  $m/z$ : 166  $[\text{M}-18]^+$ . Found (%): C, 65.02; H, 8.79.  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_3$ . Calculated (%): C, 65.19; H, 8.75.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR for **10a**: 1.20 (d, 3 H, MeC(4),  $J = 6.5$ ); 1.42 (s, 3 H, MeC(7)); 1.5–2.1 (m, 4 H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ); 2.32 (dd, 1 H, HC(7a),  $J = 9.0$  and 4.0); 2.6 (m, 1 H, HC(4)); 2.75 (m, 1 H, HC(4)); 4.27 (dd, 1 H,  $\alpha$ -HC(1),  $J = 12.0$  and 4.0); 4.43 (d, 1 H,  $\beta$ -HC(1),  $J = 12.0$ ).

$^1\text{H}$  NMR for **10b**: 1.22 (d, 3 H, MeC(4),  $J = 6.5$ ); 1.29 (c, 3 H, MeC(7)); 1.5–2.5 (m, 7 H, CH,  $\text{CH}_2$ ); 3.86 (dd, 1 H,  $\alpha$ -HC(1),  $J_1 = J_2 = 12$ ); 4.27 (dd, 1 H,  $\beta$ -HC(1),  $J = 12.0$  and 6.0).

**4 $\beta$ ,7-Dimethyl-1,4 $\alpha$ ,5,7 $\alpha$ -tetrahydrocyclopenta[c]pyran-3(4 $\alpha$ H)-one (11a) and 4 $\alpha$ ,7-dimethyl-1,4 $\alpha$ ,5,7 $\alpha$ -tetrahydrocyclopenta[c]pyran-3(4 $\beta$ H)-one (11b).** A solution of 0.25 g (1.36 mmol) of the mixture **10** in 2.5 mL of DMSO was refluxed for 12 h (Ar), treated with  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  and the saturated NaCl solution. The water layer was separated and extracted with  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ . The routine treatment of the combined organic extract yielded 0.25 g of the residue, which was dissolved in  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  and filtered through the short  $\text{SiO}_2$  layer. The filtrate was evaporated, and the residue (0.2 g) was distilled to give 0.12 g (44 %) of the mixture of **11a/11b/12a/12b**, ~4:4:1:1 (by GLC and  $^1\text{H}$  NMR), m.p. 70 °C (1 Torr). MS,  $m/z$ : 166  $[\text{M}]^+$ . Found (%): C, 72.29; H, 8.72.  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{14}\text{O}_2$ . Calculated (%): C, 72.26; H, 8.49. The mixture was chromatographed on 10 g of  $\text{SiO}_2$ . The gradient elution from hexane to  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  (up to 50 % of the latter) yielded (in order of elution) 51 mg of the mixture of **11b/12b**, ~4:1 (GLC and  $^1\text{H}$  NMR data),  $R_f$  0.51, and 55 mg of the mixture of **11a/12a**, ~4:1 (by GLC and  $^1\text{H}$  NMR),  $R_f$  0.44.

**11a/12a**: colorless crystals, m.p. 40–45 °C (pentane). IR: 900, 930, 970, 1010, 1025, 1110, 1155, 1360, 1375, 1440, 1710, 1740, 2930, and 3010.

**11b/12b**: colorless crystals, m.p. 40–52 °C (pentane). IR: 900, 930, 970, 1040, 1070, 1120, 1170, 1325, 1350, 1375, 1450, 1740, 2930, 2980, and 3010.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR for **11a\***: 1.15 (d, 3 H, MeC(4)); 1.69 (s, 3 H, MeC(7)); 2.04 (m, 1 H,  $\beta$ -HC(5)); 2.41 (m, 1 H,  $\alpha$ -HC(5)); 2.79 (m, 1 H, HC(4)); 2.9–3.0 (m, 2 H, HC(4a), HC(7a)); 4.25 (m, 1 H,  $\alpha$ -HC(1)); 4.33 (m, 1 H,  $\beta$ -HC(1)); 5.35 (br.s, 1 H, HC(6)).

$^1\text{H}$  NMR for **11b\***: 1.20 (d, 3 H, MeC(4)); 1.63 (m, 3 H, MeC(7)); 2.17 (m, 1 H,  $\beta$ -HC(5)); 2.3–2.5 (m, 2 H, HC(4), HC(4a)); 2.74 (m, 1 H,  $\alpha$ -HC(5)); 3.02 (m, 1 H, HC(7a)); 3.93 (dd, 1 H,  $\beta$ -HC(1)); 4.41 (dd, 1 H,  $\alpha$ -HC(1)); 5.39 (m, 1 H, HC(6)).

\* Coupling constants are given in Table 1.

**4 $\beta$ ,7 $\beta$ -Dimethyl-6 $\alpha$ ,7 $\alpha$ -epoxy-4 $\alpha$ ,4 $\alpha$ ,5,6 $\beta$ ,7,7 $\alpha$ -hexahydrocyclopenta[c]pyran-3(1H)-one (13).** A solution of 40 mg (0.24 mmol) of the mixture of **11a/12a** and 95 mg (0.30 mmol) of MCPBA in 0.5 mL of Et<sub>2</sub>O was stirred for 2.5 h at 20 °C and evaporated *in vacuo*. The residue (140 mg) was chromatographed on 10 g of SiO<sub>2</sub>. Gradient elution from hexane to Et<sub>2</sub>O yielded 25 mg of **13** as colorless crystals, m.p. 115–120 °C (pentane). IR: 1010, 1045, 1070, 1090, 1110, 1135, 1150, 1240, 1250, 1380, 1450, 1750, 2930, 2980, and 3010. <sup>1</sup>H NMR: 0.82 (d, 3 H, MeC(4), *J* = 6.7); 1.05 (m, 1 H,  $\beta$ -HC(5)); 1.21 (s, 3 H, MeC(7)); 1.86 (m, 1 H,  $\alpha$ -HC(5)); 2.2–2.32 (m, 2 H, HC(4a), HC(7a)); 2.56 (m, 1 H, HC(4)); 3.09 (br.s, 1 H, HC(6), *J*<sub>HC(6), $\beta$ -HC(5)</sub> = 1.5); 4.05 (m, 1 H,  $\alpha$ -HC(1), *J* = 12.7, 4.5); 4.13 (br.d, 1 H,  $\beta$ -HC(1), *J* = 12.7). MS (high resolution), *m/z*: 182 [M]<sup>+</sup>. Found: molecular weight 182.09412; calculated for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>14</sub>O<sub>3</sub>: molecular weight 182.09421.

**6 $\alpha$ ,7 $\beta$ -Dihydroxy-4 $\beta$ ,7 $\alpha$ -dimethyl-4 $\alpha$ ,4 $\alpha$ ,5,6 $\beta$ ,7,7 $\alpha$ -hexahydrocyclopenta[c]pyran-3(1H)-one (3).** A solution of 23 mg (0.13 mmol) of **13** and 40 mg (0.71 mmol) of KOH in 2.1 mL of DMSO and 0.38 mL of water was refluxed for 6 h and treated with the saturated NaHSO<sub>4</sub> solution to pH  $\approx$  3. After 30 min at 20 °C, the reaction mixture was neutralized with the saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution and extracted repeatedly with ethyl acetate. The combined extract was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and evaporated *in vacuo*. The residue (30 mg) was chromatographed on 10 g of SiO<sub>2</sub>. Gradient elution from Et<sub>2</sub>O to MeOH (up to 25 % of the latter) gave 10 mg (40 %) of **3** as a colorless oil, *R*<sub>f</sub> 0.23 (ethyl acetate–MeOH, 9:1). IR: 880, 1030, 1050, 1080, 1115, 1385, 1450, 1740, 2940, 2980, 3020, 3460, and 3630. <sup>1</sup>H NMR: 1.03 (d, 3 H, MeC(4), *J* = 6.6); 1.17 (s, 3 H, MeC(7)); 1.51 (m, 1 H,  $\beta$ -HC(5), *J* <sub>$\beta$ -HC(5), $\alpha$ -HC(5)</sub> = -13.5, *J* <sub>$\beta$ -HC(5),HC(4a)</sub> = 8.0, and *J* <sub>$\beta$ -HC(5),HC(6)</sub> = 5.6); 1.59 (m, 1 H,  $\alpha$ -HC(5), *J* <sub>$\alpha$ -HC(5), $\beta$ -HC(5)</sub> = -13.5, *J* <sub>$\alpha$ -HC(5),HC(4a)</sub> = 8.8, and *J* <sub>$\alpha$ -HC(5),HC(6)</sub> = 4.9); 2.20 (dd, 1 H, HC(7a), *J* = 10.6 and 5.2); 2.68 (quint, 1 H, HC(4), *J* = 6.5); 2.75 (m, 1 H, HC(4a), *J* = 10.6, 8.8, 8.0, and 6.5); 3.68 (t, 1 H, HC(6), *J* = 5.2); 4.17 (dd, 1 H,  $\alpha$ -HC(1), *J* = 12.2 and 5.2); 4.51 (br.d, 1 H,  $\beta$ -HC(1), *J* = 12.2). MS (high resolution), *m/z*: 200 [M]<sup>+</sup>. Found: molecular weight 200.10402; calculated for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>16</sub>O<sub>4</sub>: molecular weight 200.10476.

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