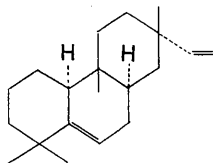


The Crystal Structure of Rimuene

BY B. F. ANDERSON, D. HALL AND T. N. WATERS
 Chemistry Department, University of Auckland, New Zealand

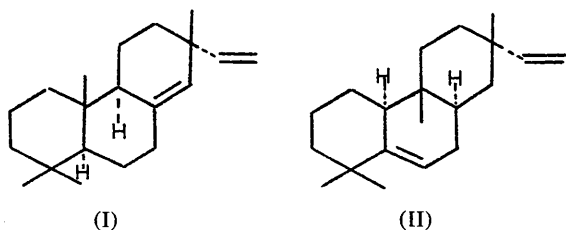
(Received 2 December 1968 and in revised form 21 July 1969)

The crystal structure of the diterpene rimuene, $C_{20}H_{32}$, has been determined using three-dimensional photographic data. The crystals are orthorhombic, $a=7.48$, $b=9.49$, $c=24.31$ Å, and the space group is $P2_12_12_1$. The structure was solved using the vector verification procedure for deconvolution of the Patterson function, and was refined by block-diagonal least squares to an R index of 0.132, with the mean standard deviation in position for a carbon atom 0.006 Å. The molecular structure is confirmed as



in agreement with other studies.

Rimuene is a diterpene hydrocarbon, $C_{20}H_{32}$, which is present in the essential oil of the New Zealand rimu tree (*Dacrydium cupressinum*), as well as in several other species (Aplin, Cambie & Rutledge, 1963). Chemical and infrared spectral studies (Briggs, Cain & Wilmshurst, 1958; Briggs, Cain & Cambie, 1959; Briggs, Cain, Davis & Wilmshurst, 1959) indicated the structure (I), but the four possible isomers of this (Church & Ireland, 1963) were synthesized and none of them was in fact, rimuene. At this stage the presently reported X-ray study was begun. Investigation by other techniques continued, until Fetizon (1964) proposed structure (II) on the basis of nuclear magnetic resonance and mass spectra. The same structure was demonstrated more or less simultaneously by other methods (Corbett & Wylie, 1964; Connolly, McCrindle, Murray & Overton, 1964) and a successful synthesis quickly followed (Ireland & Mander, 1964). The present investigation has confirmed structure (II).



Experimental

Rimuene, $C_{20}H_{32}$, m.p. 55.5°C , was supplied by Professor L. H. Briggs as large clear crystals, from which small fragments suitable for X-ray photography were cut.

The crystals are orthorhombic, $a=7.48 \pm 0.03$, $b=9.49 \pm 0.02$, $c=24.31 \pm 0.03$ Å, D_m (by flotation in aqueous potassium nitrate), 1.055 g.cm^{-3} , D_c for 4 molecu-

les per unit cell, 1.047 g.cm^{-3} ; space group, $P2_12_12_1$ ($h00$, $0k0$ and $00l$ absent for h , k or l odd).

Weissenberg photographs were taken of the layers $0kl-6kl$ and $h0l-h1l$, using the multiple-film pack technique and $\text{Cu K}\alpha$ radiation. Intensity data were measured visually. Crystals of square cross-section with dimensions of 0.5 mm were used. The absorption coefficient is 4.4 cm^{-1} , and no absorption corrections were made. In all, 1914 independent reflexions were defined after the data were placed on a common scale.

Structure solution

Although the molecular structure was not at this stage known, it was clear that it contained three fused rings with three methyl groups, at least one of which was axial. It was known that there was one endocyclic double bond, and although the distortion that might be consequent upon this was a complication, it was hoped that the vector patterns characteristic of at least the cyclohexane rings and quaternary carbon atoms would be discernible in the Patterson function. Considerable effort was then made to find such expected vectors and, by vector superposition and/or molecular packing techniques, to obtain the correct structure. Although these studies suggested, correctly, that rimuene must be a fairly planar molecule, more or less perpendicular to \mathbf{a} , with many bonds parallel to \mathbf{c} , no one of the many models that were tried led to successful refinement.

The approach which finally did succeed was the 'vector verification' technique of Mighell & Jacobson (1967). The first stage of this is effectively a systematic correlation of the three Harker sections, leading to a three-dimensional plot of those points in real space for which all three corresponding Harker values exceed a certain minimum value. This plot has much higher symmetry than the structure itself but must contain it. Attempts to recognize the molecule as such were unsuccessful, but a grouping of four peaks which

formed a rectangle of sides 1.5 and 2.5 Å was correctly identified as being part of a cyclohexane ring [in fact atoms C(6), C(7), C(9) and C(10)]. Two of these atom sites were used in the second stage of vector verification, a systematic search in Patterson space for vectors from all points in real space to specified atoms. This is a variant on vector superposition which is particularly convenient to program. Seventeen atom positions were thus derived, although a subsequent difference Fourier synthesis calculated from reflexions corresponding to the 600 largest $|F_o|$ values showed that two of these were wrong. The largest peaks on this difference synthesis could not be related to the proposed structure, but five further atoms were obtained from the smaller maxima, and R then stood at 0.46 for the 1000 largest data terms. A further difference synthesis showed that three atoms were still not satisfactorily placed; two were repositioned and one, C(16), was removed. The R index was then 0.36 and was reduced to 0.25 by two further cycles and the subsequent replacing of C(16).

Refinement was continued by block-diagonal least squares, using all of the 1914 observed data. Isotropic temperature factors were assumed. The weights were calculated by the expression $w = 1/(1 + (|F_o| - b)^2/a^2)$, and a and b were adjusted between cycles such that $\langle w(\Delta F)^2 \rangle$ was constant for various ranges of F . The refinement converged with R at 0.21, with all atoms apparently well behaved except C(16) for which B was greater than 8 Å². Removal of this atom, followed by a difference synthesis, did not suggest that it was incorrectly placed, however. Assumption of anisotropic thermal parameters for all atoms, and further least-squares cycles, reduced R to 0.166. Again the thermal parameters for C(16) were very high, and again removal and calculation of a difference synthesis failed to reveal an alternative site for it. Six data which appear to have been affected by extinction were then removed, and a further difference synthesis was searched for hydrogen

atoms. Peaks ranging in height from 0.77 to 0.41 e.Å⁻³ were successfully correlated with the 32 expected atoms, and following their inclusion and further least-squares cycles, R was 0.132. Hydrogen atom parameters were not refined; their isotropic temperature factors were taken as 1.5 times the mean temperature factor of the carbon to which they are attached.

At the conclusion, atom C(16) still appeared to be unsatisfactory, with an equivalent isotropic B along the major vibration axis of 23 Å². It was concluded that the atom may be disordered, and it was replaced by two half-atoms, separated along the above major vibration axis by the root-mean-square amplitude, *viz.* 0.54 Å. These half-atoms were given initial isotropic temperature factors corresponding to that of the smaller vibration axis, but were allowed to refine anisotropically. These adjustments to C(16) did not improve the agreement, the final R index being again 0.132.

Final atom parameters are listed in Tables 1 and 2, bond lengths and angles in Table 3, and observed and calculated structure factors in Table 4. The atom numbering system is shown in Fig. 1, the packing of the molecules in Fig. 2, and the pattern of thermal vibration in Fig. 3.

Table 2. Hydrogen atom coordinates ($\times 10^3$) and thermal parameters ($\times 10$)

	x/a	y/b	z/c	B
H(11)	379	338	227	88
H(12)	535	255	211	88
H(21)	502	141	295	101
H(22)	523	302	307	101
H(31)	221	267	344	89
H(32)	186	325	310	89
H(61)	-113	124	208	67
H(71)	-072	020	112	83
H(72)	030	162	106	83
H(81)	214	045	133	67
H(101)	372	054	197	60

Table 1. Carbon atom coordinates and temperature factors ($\times 10^4$)

	x/a	y/b	z/c	b_{11}	b_{12}	b_{13}	b_{22}	b_{23}	b_{33}
C(1)	4437 (11)	2438 (7)	2317 (2)	0333 (17)	-0104 (22)	-0002 (7)	0154 (7)	-0012 (5)	0019 (9)
C(2)	4361 (12)	2262 (9)	2933 (3)	0339 (18)	-0128 (25)	0009 (8)	0191 (9)	-0033 (5)	0020 (1)
C(3)	2465 (11)	2422 (7)	3119 (3)	0346 (17)	-0029 (21)	0032 (7)	0132 (6)	-0032 (5)	0022 (1)
C(4)	1228 (8)	1355 (6)	2868 (2)	0180 (10)	0037 (15)	0008 (5)	0129 (6)	-0005 (4)	0016 (7)
C(5)	1399 (7)	1321 (5)	2242 (2)	0146 (9)	0047 (12)	0024 (4)	0094 (4)	0008 (3)	0017 (7)
C(6)	0006 (7)	1161 (6)	1916 (2)	0155 (9)	0016 (15)	0009 (5)	0145 (6)	0007 (4)	0018 (8)
C(7)	0103 (8)	0905 (9)	1311 (2)	0180 (11)	-0020 (20)	0004 (5)	0211 (9)	0022 (5)	0017 (8)
C(8)	2011 (8)	0498 (7)	1137 (2)	0205 (11)	-0050 (17)	0000 (5)	0158 (7)	0008 (4)	0014 (7)
C(9)	3339 (8)	1543 (6)	1375 (2)	0188 (10)	0011 (15)	0024 (5)	0123 (5)	0016 (4)	0016 (7)
C(10)	3272 (7)	1373 (5)	2012 (2)	0196 (10)	0007 (13)	0008 (5)	0099 (4)	-0002 (3)	0017 (7)
C(11)	5212 (8)	1129 (8)	1167 (2)	0177 (10)	-0027 (19)	0011 (5)	0205 (9)	0012 (5)	0015 (7)
C(12)	5324 (9)	1019 (10)	0537 (2)	0238 (13)	-0017 (24)	0052 (6)	0255 (12)	0018 (6)	0016 (8)
C(13)	3985 (10)	-0039 (8)	0301 (2)	0269 (14)	-0017 (23)	0014 (6)	0213 (10)	0015 (5)	0014 (7)
C(14)	2119 (9)	0345 (9)	0507 (2)	0239 (13)	-0074 (22)	-0015 (5)	0224 (10)	0018 (5)	0013 (7)
C(15)	4603 (14)	-1530 (10)	0458 (3)	0466 (24)	-0012 (32)	0031 (9)	0199 (10)	-0018 (6)	0019 (1)
C(16)	3681 (28)	-2590 (12)	0597 (4)	1016 (65)	-0050 (59)	0068 (19)	0205 (12)	-0012 (8)	0027 (2)
C(17)	3989 (13)	0072 (12)	-0331 (2)	0389 (20)	0060 (37)	0029 (8)	0323 (17)	0022 (7)	0015 (9)
C(18)	2944 (11)	3064 (7)	1211 (3)	0301 (17)	-0012 (20)	0021 (8)	0134 (7)	0040 (5)	0028 (1)
C(19)	-0689 (9)	1695 (10)	3058 (3)	0204 (12)	0069 (23)	0053 (6)	0229 (11)	0012 (6)	0024 (1)
C(20)	1663 (10)	-0132 (7)	3088 (2)	0325 (16)	0023 (19)	0013 (6)	0135 (6)	0010 (4)	0016 (7)

Table 2 (*cont.*)

	<i>x/a</i>	<i>y/b</i>	<i>z/c</i>	<i>B</i>
H(111)	530	027	134	77
H(112)	639	163	137	77
H(121)	676	110	038	93
H(122)	554	195	030	93
H(141)	187	135	028	81
H(142)	130	-005	023	81
H(151)	639	-159	035	113
H(161)	424	-383	063	179
H(162)	276	-243	085	180
H(171)	387	099	-050	127
H(172)	524	-010	-039	127
H(173)	268	-067	-048	127
H(181)	436	301	117	95
H(182)	270	295	080	95
H(183)	206	334	144	95
H(191)	-088	188	341	94
H(192)	-164	124	288	94
H(193)	-117	244	300	94
H(201)	076	-082	287	80
H(202)	282	-042	293	80
H(203)	220	-014	347	80

Discussion

The molecule of rimuene, as deduced in this study, is shown in Figs. 1–3. It has a perhydrophenanthrene nucleus, with a double bond between C(5) and C(6), a

gem-dimethyl grouping at C(4), a methyl group at C(9), and methyl and vinyl groups at C(13). Rings *A* and *C* are in chair conformation, with the former slightly distorted by the trigonal hybridization of atom C(5). The cyclohexene ring *B* is so folded that the perhydrophenanthrene nucleus is more or less planar overall. Methyl groups C(17) and C(19) are equatorial; methyl groups C(18) and C(20) and the vinyl group are axial. As deduced and depicted this is the mirror image of structure (II), but as the absolute configuration is not determined structure (II) is confirmed by this study.

No attempt has been made to correct bond lengths for the effects of thermal motion, as the pattern of motion is far from obvious. It is clear, however, that if the single atom description of C(16) is correct, and this atom is indeed undergoing the extreme vibration implied, the bond C(15)–C(16) will appear to be shortened, and thus the observed length of 1.27 Å is probably in tolerable agreement with the standard double-bond value of 1.337 Å. By contrast, the lengths of the same bond to the half-atoms used in the alternative description are both clearly impossible, at 1.15 and 1.42 Å respectively, and thus the former description is to be preferred in spite of the very high thermal parameters.

The other double bond, C(5)–C(6), is normal within

Table 3. Bond lengths and bond angles

Bond	<i>D</i>	σ	Angle	θ	σ
C(1)–C(2)	1.508 Å	0.008 Å	C(2)–C(1)–C(10)	112.7°	0.5°
C(1)–C(10)	1.526	0.008	C(1)–C(2)–C(3)	108.9	0.6
C(2)–C(3)	1.495	0.011	C(2)–C(3)–C(4)	113.1	0.5
C(3)–C(4)	1.500	0.009	C(3)–C(4)–C(5)	111.5	0.4
C(4)–C(5)	1.526	0.006	C(3)–C(4)–C(19)	108.1	0.5
C(4)–C(19)	1.540	0.008	C(3)–C(4)–C(20)	110.2	0.4
C(4)–C(20)	1.543	0.008	C(5)–C(4)–C(19)	112.3	0.4
C(5)–C(6)	1.318	0.007	C(5)–C(4)–C(20)	107.9	0.4
C(5)–C(10)	1.509	0.007	C(19)–C(4)–C(20)	106.5	0.5
C(6)–C(7)	1.493	0.007	C(4)–C(5)–C(6)	122.4	0.4
C(7)–C(8)	1.537	0.008	C(4)–C(5)–C(10)	116.5	0.4
C(8)–C(9)	1.518	0.008	C(6)–C(5)–C(10)	120.9	0.4
C(8)–C(14)	1.538	0.007	C(5)–C(6)–C(7)	124.9	0.5
C(9)–C(10)	1.558	0.006	C(6)–C(7)–C(8)	110.9	0.4
C(9)–C(11)	1.540	0.008	C(7)–C(8)–C(9)	109.7	0.5
C(9)–C(18)	1.526	0.008	C(7)–C(8)–C(14)	110.2	0.4
C(11)–C(12)	1.535	0.007	C(9)–C(8)–C(14)	113.9	0.4
C(12)–C(13)	1.529	0.010	C(8)–C(9)–C(10)	106.8	0.4
C(13)–C(14)	1.527	0.009	C(8)–C(9)–C(11)	107.6	0.4
C(13)–C(15)	1.536	0.012	C(8)–C(9)–C(18)	113.0	0.5
C(13)–C(17)	1.540	0.008	C(10)–C(9)–C(11)	109.2	0.4
C(15)–C(16)	1.265	0.017	C(10)–C(9)–C(18)	110.5	0.4
			C(11)–C(9)–C(18)	109.3	0.5
			C(1)–C(10)–C(5)	111.8	0.4
			C(1)–C(10)–C(9)	113.2	0.4
			C(5)–C(10)–C(9)	113.7	0.4
			C(9)–C(11)–C(12)	113.2	0.4
			C(12)–C(13)–C(14)	108.6	0.5
			C(12)–C(13)–C(15)	108.2	0.6
			C(12)–C(13)–C(17)	109.1	0.6
			C(14)–C(13)–C(15)	114.3	0.6
			C(14)–C(13)–C(17)	108.2	0.5
			C(15)–C(13)–C(17)	108.1	0.6
			C(8)–C(14)–C(13)	113.3	0.4
			C(13)–C(15)–C(16)	129.3	1.1

error at 1.318 Å. The sixteen silicon bonds between sp3-hybridized carbon atoms have a mean length of 1.530 Å and show a standard deviation of 0.016 Å. This is somewhat higher than the standard deviations

derived from the inverse least-squares matrix, and the errors listed in Table 2 may not be considered to be underestimates. The four single bonds involving one sp2- and one sp3-hybridized atom range in length from 1.494 to

Table 4. Observed and calculated structure factors

The four columns for each datum represent I, F_obs (x 10), F_calc (x 10), and the phase angle (x 100). Terms denoted * were assumed to be affected by extinction.

Table with multiple columns containing numerical data for structure factors and phase angles, organized by datum. Includes headers for I, F_obs, F_calc, and phase angle, and various sub-headers for different data points.

of the vinyl group, in that in spite of the freedom of rotation about bond C(13)–C(15), atom C(16) adopts a position directly above ring C, such that the approach C(16) . . . C(14) is 3.03 Å. It is obvious from a model that this is by no means the optimum position, in so far as the minimization of internal repulsion is concerned. This may be no more than a result of the balance

of crystal packing forces, as the vinyl group is the largest axial substituent on this approximately planar molecule, and the conformation adopted does make the molecule as compact as is possible. Nevertheless, it is notable that the vinyl group is ideally placed to undergo the ring closure which occurs during isomerization to isophyllocladene (III), a characteristic reac-

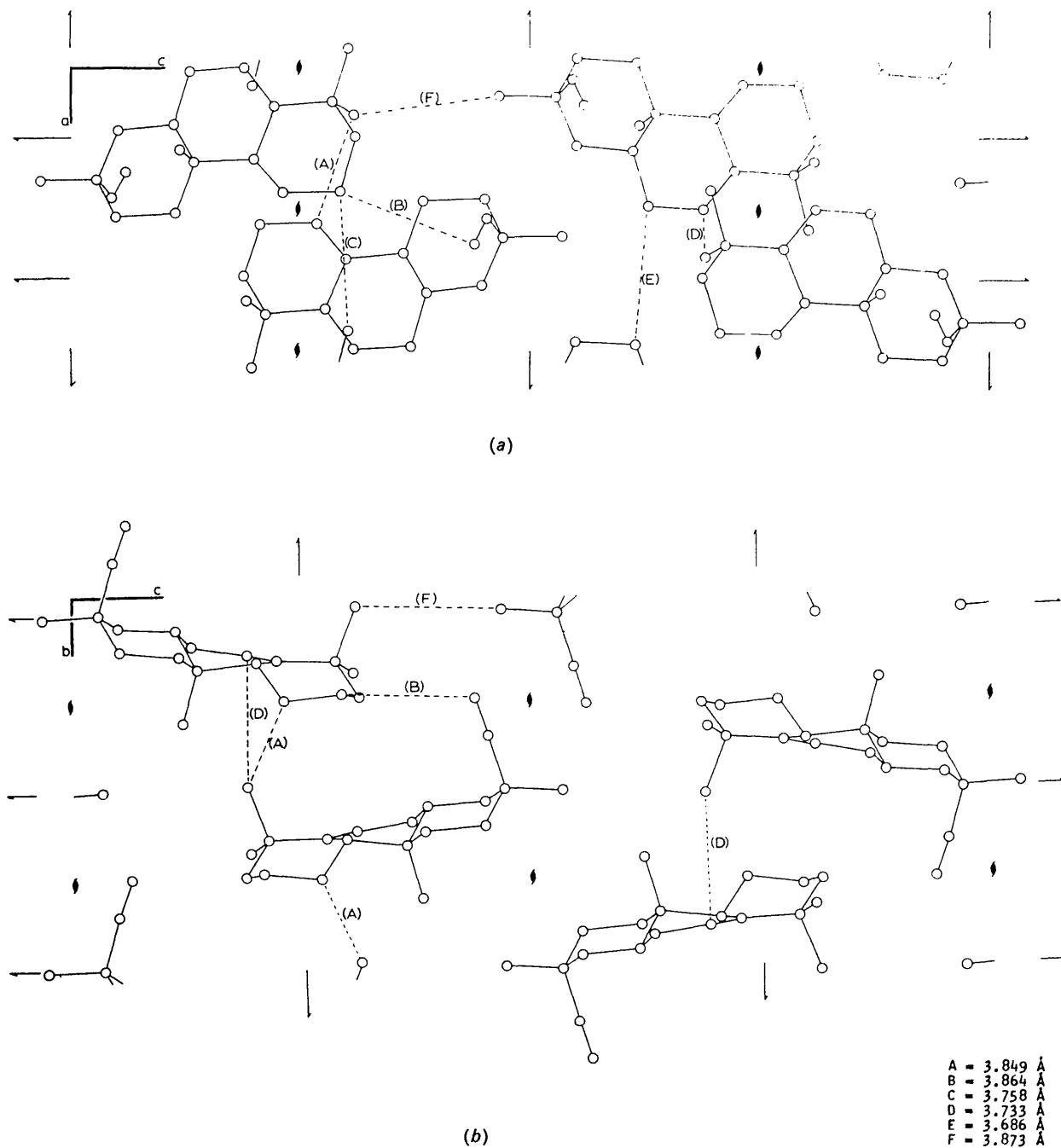


Fig. 2. The structure projected on (a) (010), (b) (100).

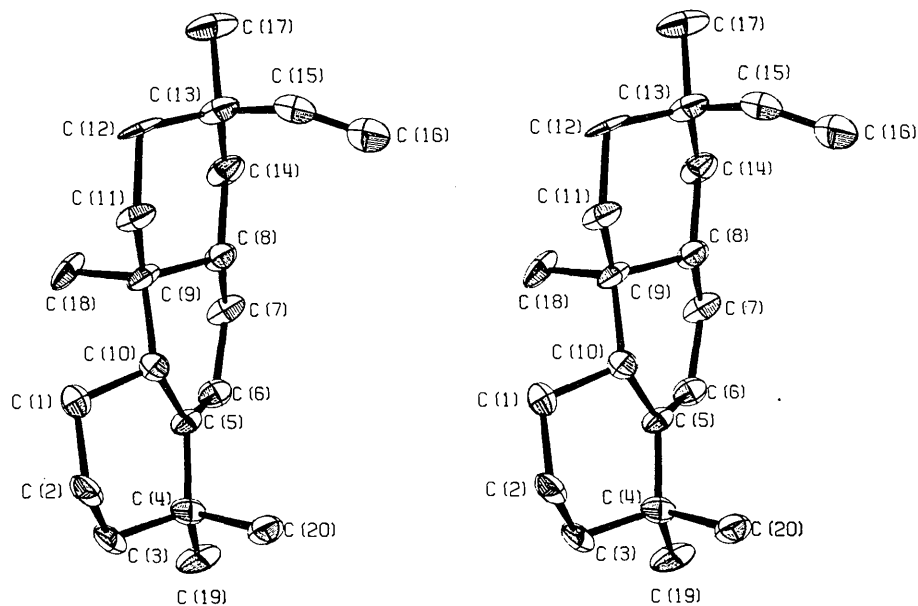
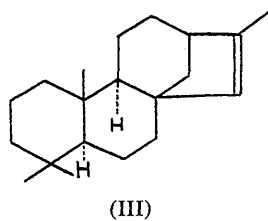


Fig. 3. A stereoscopic view of the rimuene molecule. The atoms are represented by ellipsoids whose principal axes were derived from the final anisotropic temperature factors.

tion of rimuene (Briggs, Cain & Wilmshurst, 1958). It is usually assumed that protonation of the endocyclic double bond and formation of a carbonium ion causes polarization of the vinylic double bond and thus attracts it into the correct position. It is interesting, if perhaps coincidental, that this required conformation is in fact that adopted in the crystalline state.



We are indebted to Professor L.H. Briggs for his interest and enthusiasm, and to Dr P.S. Rutledge for growing the crystals from their intractable mother

liquors. One of us (BFA) was supported during part of the project by a Post-Graduate Fellowship awarded by the New Zealand University Grants Committee.

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