

activity, as observed. Under basic conditions the hydrolysed C(11) carboxyl group would readily form a lactol with the C(1) ketone group, C(1)-O(8), 3.24 (2) Å, and thus render the ketone non-enolizable for the Zimmerman reaction etc., as postulated previously (Narayanan, Pachapurkar, Pradhan, Shah & Narasimhan, 1964*a,b*).

It has been observed previously that 1 $\alpha$ ,3 $\alpha$ -dihydroxykhivorin, which has its C ring intact, is selectively oxidized at C(1) to a ketone leaving the 3 $\alpha$ -OH free (Akisanya, Arene, Bevan, Ekong, Nwaji, Okogun, Powell & Taylor, 1966). However, in salanin, which has a broken C ring and the same environment at C(1) as in dihydronimbin, the 1 $\alpha$ ,3 $\alpha$ -dihydroxy derivative is selectively oxidized at C(3) to a ketone, leaving the 1 $\alpha$ -OH free. The 1 $\alpha$ ,3 $\alpha$ -diester of salanin is also selectively hydrolysed at C(3) (Henderson, McCrindle, Malera & Overton, 1968). This peculiar behaviour of salanin is readily explicable from the above-noticed steric hindrance at C(1).

We thank Mr A. B. Landge for preparing the crystals of dihydronimbin.

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### 7-Hydroxy-3-methoxy-6-oxaestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-17-one

BY PETER S. WHITE AND D. C. NEIL SWINDELLS

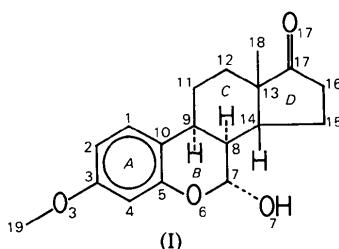
Department of Chemistry, University of New Brunswick, PO Box 4400, Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada E3B 5A3

(Received 3 August 1979; accepted 22 October 1979)

**Abstract.**  $C_{18}H_{22}O_4$ ,  $M_r = 302.4$ , monoclinic,  $P2_1/c$ ,  $a = 6.678$  (3),  $b = 17.901$  (13),  $c = 14.433$  (8) Å,  $\beta = 118.82$  (3)°,  $V = 1512$  (3) Å<sup>3</sup>,  $Z = 4$ ,  $\rho_x = 1.33$  Mg m<sup>-3</sup>,  $F(000) = 648$ ,  $\lambda(Mo K\alpha) = 0.71069$  Å. Intensities for 1978 (1396 observed) unique reflections were collected on a diffractometer. A full-matrix least-squares refinement gave a final  $R$  of 0.055. There is intermolecular hydrogen bonding involving the H atom of the hydroxy group.

**Introduction.** The title compound (**I**) was synthesized in the course of studies successfully directed at the total synthesis of steroid analogues of miroestrol (Taylor, Hodgkin & Rollett, 1960), a naturally occur-

ring compound with exceptionally high estrogenic activity. Revelation *via* this X-ray structural study that compound (**I**) possesses the *cis* C/D ring-junction stereochemistry dictated a synthetic strategy to reverse the configuration at C(14). This has been accomplished allowing for the preparation of a series of miro-



estrol analogues (Mebe, 1978) featuring the novel steroidal 6-oxa-7-ene system and possessing the *trans* C/D ring junction. These compounds exhibit interesting estrogenic activity and will be reported elsewhere (Findlay & Mebe, 1979).

Crystallographic data were measured on a specimen crystal of approximate dimensions  $0.5 \times 0.2 \times 0.2$  mm using a Picker FACS-I diffractometer with graphite-monochromatized Mo  $K\alpha$  radiation. Preliminary photographic work had shown the crystal to be monoclinic, and the systematic absences  $h0l$ :  $l$  odd, and  $0k0$ :  $k$  odd indicated space group  $P2_1/c$ . The lattice parameters were refined by a least-squares fit of cell dimensions and an orientation matrix to the diffractometer settings for 12 well centered reflections in the interval  $25^\circ < 2\theta < 45^\circ$ . Of the 1978 independent reflections measured in the range  $2\theta < 45^\circ$ , 582 (29.4%) were considered unobserved [ $I < 3\sigma(I)$ ] and were not included in subsequent calculations.

Data reduction and structure refinement utilized the XRAY 76 program package (Stewart, 1976). Initial positional parameters for non-hydrogen atoms were determined using the MULTAN system of direct-methods programs (Germain, Main & Woolfson, 1971). The H atoms were located on a difference electron density map prepared at an intermediate stage of least-squares refinement of structural parameters. In the final cycles of full-matrix least-squares refinement, positional parameters for all atoms, anisotropic thermal vibration parameters for the non-hydrogen atoms and isotropic thermal vibration parameters for the H atoms were varied. Using a weighting scheme of  $w = 1/\sigma^2(F)$  where  $\sigma(F)$  is directly derived from  $\sigma(I)$  (Corfield, Doedens & Ibers, 1967), refinement converged to  $R = 0.055$ ,  $R_w = 0.061$ , where  $R = \sum ||F_o| - |F_c|| / \sum |F_o|$ , for the 1396 reflections. The function minimized by the procedure was  $\sum w(|F_o| - |F_c|)^2$ . The average shift/error for the final cycle was 0.144 with a maximum value of 0.848 associated with the z coordinate of atom H(11B). The atomic parameters are listed in Table 1.\* A  $\Delta F$  synthesis showed a maximum electron density of  $0.2$  e  $\text{\AA}^{-3}$  and a minimum electron density of  $-0.2$  e  $\text{\AA}^{-3}$ , indicating no misplaced or uncounted atoms.

**Discussion.** The crystallographically observed structure of the molecule is shown in Fig. 1. Intramolecular bond lengths and angles, together with estimated standard deviations, are given in Tables 2 and 3 respectively. None of the observed bond distances or angles are significantly different from expected values

Table 1. *Fractional atomic coordinates ( $\times 10^4$  for the non-hydrogen atoms,  $\times 10^3$  for H; e.s.d.'s in parentheses) and isotropic thermal parameter values ( $U_{eq} \times 10^3$  for non-hydrogen atoms,  $U \times 10^2$  for H; e.s.d.'s for U in parentheses)*

$$U_{eq} = \frac{1}{3}(U_{11} + U_{22} + U_{33} + 2U_{23}\cos\alpha + 2U_{13}\cos\beta + 2U_{12}\cos\gamma).$$

	$x$	$y$	$z$	$U_{eq}/U$ ( $\text{\AA}^2$ )
C(1)	-1112 (8)	3633 (3)	8265 (4)	37
C(2)	-1609 (9)	3937 (3)	7287 (4)	40
C(3)	-35 (8)	3846 (2)	6936 (3)	34
C(4)	1922 (8)	3447 (2)	7521 (3)	29
C(5)	2402 (7)	3166 (2)	8500 (3)	24
C(7)	4823 (8)	2377 (2)	9970 (3)	29
C(8)	4036 (7)	2806 (2)	10639 (3)	23
C(9)	1458 (7)	2944 (2)	9973 (3)	29
C(10)	886 (7)	3251 (2)	8895 (3)	27
C(11)	627 (8)	3440 (3)	10583 (4)	35
C(12)	1797 (8)	4185 (3)	10846 (4)	32
C(13)	4373 (7)	4107 (2)	11494 (3)	24
C(14)	5475 (7)	3518 (2)	11102 (3)	23
C(15)	7736 (7)	3326 (3)	12104 (4)	31
C(16)	7184 (8)	3367 (3)	13005 (4)	36
C(17)	5143 (7)	3853 (2)	12625 (3)	28
C(18)	5567 (12)	4875 (3)	11629 (5)	40
C(19)	-1981 (12)	4726 (4)	5526 (5)	59
O(3)	-332 (6)	4146 (2)	5997 (2)	53
O(6)	4464 (5)	2811 (1)	9050 (2)	29
O(7)	3587 (6)	1716 (2)	9641 (3)	38
O(17)	4176 (5)	4034 (2)	13122 (2)	41
H(1)	-232 (7)	373 (2)	852 (3)	5 (1)
H(2)	-291 (8)	421 (3)	691 (3)	6 (2)
H(4)	309 (7)	341 (2)	729 (3)	4 (1)
H(7)	663 (7)	230 (2)	1036 (3)	4 (1)
H(8)	422 (5)	245 (2)	1122 (2)	1 (1)
H(9)	68 (5)	249 (2)	989 (2)	3 (1)
H(11A)	-100 (7)	355 (2)	1021 (3)	5 (1)
H(11B)	86 (8)	313 (3)	1122 (4)	8 (2)
H(12A)	164 (6)	448 (2)	1021 (3)	4 (1)
H(12B)	146 (7)	458 (2)	1130 (3)	6 (1)
H(14)	576 (5)	374 (2)	1056 (2)	2 (1)
H(15A)	889 (7)	373 (2)	1220 (3)	5 (1)
H(15B)	837 (6)	288 (2)	1205 (3)	3 (1)
H(16A)	668 (7)	288 (3)	1317 (3)	6 (1)
H(16B)	853 (9)	357 (3)	1375 (4)	9 (2)
H(18A)	483 (9)	522 (3)	1184 (4)	10 (2)
H(18B)	507 (8)	504 (3)	1094 (4)	7 (2)
H(18C)	729 (10)	485 (3)	1211 (4)	10 (2)
H(19A)	-342 (9)	451 (3)	535 (4)	8 (2)
H(19B)	-156 (10)	524 (4)	618 (5)	14 (3)
H(19C)	-179 (9)	495 (3)	490 (5)	12 (2)
H(O7)	429 (10)	149 (3)	923 (4)	12 (2)

for (I). No anomalous value was observed amongst the final thermal parameters, whose principal values were in the range  $22 - 77 \times 10^{-3} \text{\AA}^2$ . The presence of ring A requires formally that atoms C(1), C(2), C(3), C(4), C(5), C(9), C(10), O(3), and O(6) be coplanar; this is found to be so, the maximum deviation from the plane being  $0.05$  (1)  $\text{\AA}$  at O(3).

After refinement the 21 C–H bond distances all lay in the range  $0.91 - 1.25 \text{\AA}$  with an average distance of  $1.01 \text{\AA}$ .

\* Lists of structure factors, thermal parameters and least-squares-plane data have been deposited with the British Library Lending Division as Supplementary Publication No. SUP 34862 (15 pp.). Copies may be obtained through The Executive Secretary, International Union of Crystallography, 5 Abbey Square, Chester CH1 2HU, England.

Table 2. Bond lengths (Å) for non-hydrogen atoms with estimated standard deviations in parentheses

C(1)—C(2)	1.394 (8)	C(9)—C(10)	1.515 (6)
C(1)—C(10)	1.381 (6)	C(9)—C(11)	1.529 (8)
C(2)—C(3)	1.379 (9)	C(11)—C(12)	1.499 (7)
C(3)—C(4)	1.366 (6)	C(12)—C(13)	1.517 (6)
C(3)—O(3)	1.380 (6)	C(13)—C(14)	1.539 (7)
C(4)—C(5)	1.383 (7)	C(13)—C(17)	1.524 (6)
C(5)—O(6)	1.370 (5)	C(13)—C(18)	1.551 (7)
C(5)—C(10)	1.388 (8)	C(14)—C(15)	1.544 (5)
O(6)—C(7)	1.455 (6)	C(15)—C(16)	1.516 (9)
C(7)—C(8)	1.512 (8)	C(16)—C(17)	1.481 (7)
C(7)—O(7)	1.389 (5)	C(17)—O(17)	1.217 (7)
C(8)—C(9)	1.534 (6)	O(3)—C(19)	1.425 (7)
C(8)—C(14)	1.540 (5)		

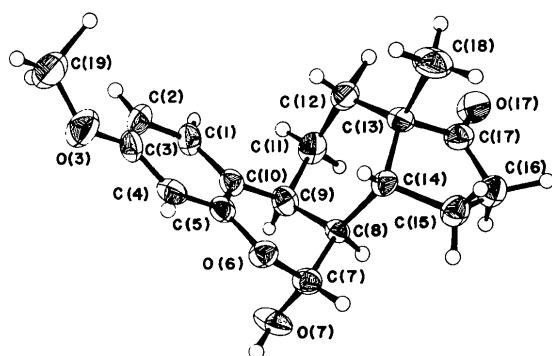


Fig. 1. ORTEP (Johnson, 1965) drawing of the molecule. Thermal ellipsoids for non-hydrogen atoms are scaled to 50% probability, and H atoms are represented as spheres of radius 0.1 Å.

The 7-hydroxy group exhibits an O—H distance of 1.00 (8) Å and, in addition, the H atom forms a contact at 1.82 (7) Å with O(17) of a neighboring ( $x, \frac{1}{2} - y, -\frac{1}{2} + z$ ) molecule, producing a chain of hydrogen-bonded molecules. The O(7)—H(O7)…O(17) angle is

Table 3. Bond angles (°) for the non-hydrogen atoms with estimated standard deviations in parentheses

C(2)—C(1)—C(10)	122.9 (6)	C(1)—C(10)—C(9)	122.7 (5)
C(1)—C(2)—C(3)	118.3 (4)	C(5)—C(10)—C(9)	120.6 (3)
C(2)—C(3)—C(4)	120.4 (5)	C(9)—C(11)—C(12)	111.8 (5)
C(2)—C(3)—O(3)	122.7 (4)	C(11)—C(12)—C(13)	111.8 (4)
C(4)—C(3)—O(3)	116.9 (5)	C(12)—C(13)—C(14)	115.9 (3)
C(3)—C(4)—C(5)	120.1 (6)	C(12)—C(13)—C(17)	112.7 (4)
C(4)—C(5)—O(6)	115.7 (5)	C(12)—C(13)—C(18)	110.9 (4)
C(4)—C(5)—C(10)	121.6 (4)	C(14)—C(13)—C(17)	102.5 (3)
O(6)—C(5)—C(10)	122.7 (4)	C(14)—C(13)—C(18)	110.0 (5)
C(5)—O(6)—C(7)	117.0 (4)	C(17)—C(13)—C(18)	104.0 (3)
O(6)—C(7)—C(8)	110.9 (3)	C(8)—C(14)—C(13)	114.5 (4)
O(6)—C(7)—O(7)	109.4 (3)	C(8)—C(14)—C(15)	110.3 (3)
C(8)—C(7)—O(7)	108.6 (5)	C(13)—C(14)—C(15)	103.4 (3)
C(7)—C(8)—C(9)	108.2 (3)	C(14)—C(15)—C(16)	105.1 (4)
C(7)—C(8)—C(14)	111.1 (4)	C(15)—C(16)—C(17)	105.7 (3)
C(9)—C(8)—C(14)	114.6 (3)	C(13)—C(17)—C(16)	110.3 (4)
C(8)—C(9)—C(10)	110.6 (4)	C(13)—C(17)—O(17)	123.4 (4)
C(8)—C(9)—C(11)	110.0 (3)	C(16)—C(17)—O(17)	126.3 (4)
C(10)—C(9)—C(11)	113.6 (4)	C(3)—O(3)—C(19)	117.6 (5)
C(1)—C(10)—C(5)	116.6 (4)		

153 (5)°. No other short intermolecular contacts were observed.

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## 3-Methoxy-6-oxaestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-7,17-dione 17-(Ethylene Acetal)

BY PETER S. WHITE AND D. C. NEIL SWINDELLS

Department of Chemistry, University of New Brunswick, PO Box 4400, Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada E3B 5A3

(Received 3 August 1979; accepted 22 October 1979)

**Abstract.**  $C_{20}H_{24}O_5$ ,  $M_r = 344.4$ , triclinic,  $P\bar{1}$ ,  $a = 14.540 (6)$ ,  $b = 6.393 (3)$ ,  $c = 9.820 (5)$  Å,  $\alpha = 107.19 (3)$ ,  $\beta = 97.89 (3)$ ,  $\gamma = 95.26 (3)$ °,  $V = 855 (1)$  Å<sup>3</sup>,  $Z = 2$ ,  $\rho_x = 1.34$  Mg m<sup>-3</sup>,  $F(000) = 368$ ,  $\lambda(Mo$

$K\alpha) = 0.71069$  Å. Intensities for 1593 (1264 observed) unique reflections were collected on a diffractometer. A full-matrix least-squares refinement gave a final  $R$  of 0.055. There are no short intermolecular contacts.