

Fig. 1. Stereoscopic view of (1).

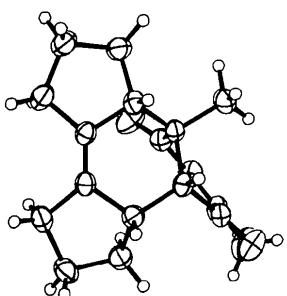


Fig. 2. Stereoscopic view of (2) (only one of the two independent molecules is shown).

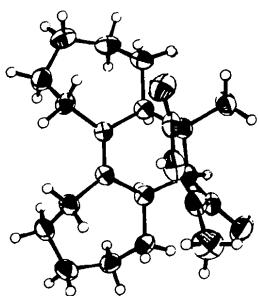


Fig. 3. Stereoscopic view of (3).

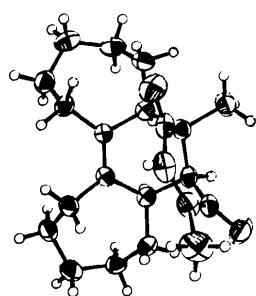


Fig. 5. Stereoscopic view of (7).

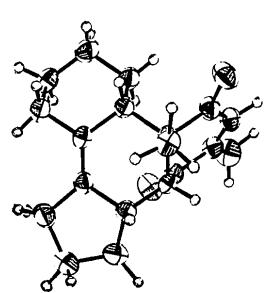
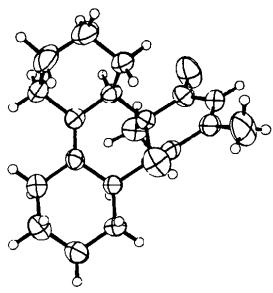
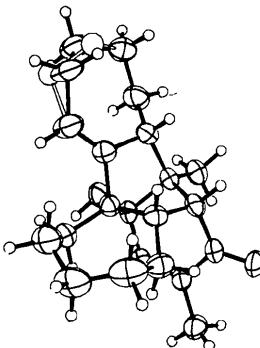
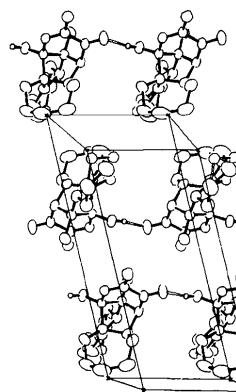


Fig. 4. Stereoscopic view of (5).



(a)



(b)

Fig. 6. (a) Stereoscopic view of (9). (b) Packing of molecules of the keto-alcohol (9) showing the hydrogen bonding.

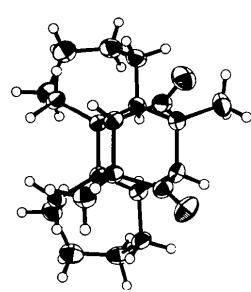
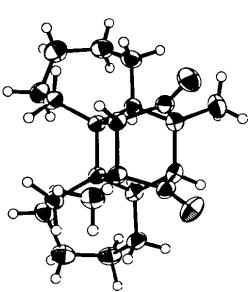


Fig. 7. Stereoscopic view of (10).

values in cycloalkanones (where these are available), otherwise the comparison is with the cycloalkane, (b) although compounds (9) and (10) contain only cycloalkanes, they are included in the tables with the appropriate title, (c) the order of assigning torsion angles is that $W1$ is defined as the torsion angle at the bond neighbouring the double bond (in the bicycloalkanones) and does not participate in the cyclohexene ring (C); the remaining ones are according to the notation in Tables 12–15. E.s.d.'s for torsion angles are 0.3–1.0°.

(a) *Five-membered rings* (Table 12). Cyclopentane is a puckered flexible ring characterized by 'pseudorotation'. The puckering rotates around the ring without an energy barrier, thus giving rise to an infinity of conformations which differ only in bond and torsion angles (Eliel, Allinger, Angyal & Morrison, 1965). However, Allinger, Tribble & Miller (1972) have calculated the difference in energy between the half-chair and envelope forms in cyclopentanone to be *ca* 13.4 kJ mol⁻¹. The most stable conformation is the half-chair (C_2) form and the less stable is the envelope (C_s) form. Altona, Geise & Romers (1968) have given torsion angles for the three main conformations found in fused cyclopentane in steroids (values for the envelope form are given in Table 12). Out of the six five-membered rings [four as rings *A* and *B* and two as cyclopentanone in compound (10)], only one was found to adopt the half-chair conformation with excellent agreement with the values obtained by electron diffraction for free cyclopentanone (Geise & Mijlhoff, 1971) with phase angle $P = -0.3^\circ$. Two other rings adopt the envelope conformation with phase angles within 0.5° of that of an envelope ($P = 18^\circ$). The remaining three five-membered rings deviate from that conformation. Their phase angles are 2.7–6.3° from the ideal envelope conformation. [See also Fuchs (1978) and references cited therein.]

(b) *Six-membered rings* (Table 13). The chair conformation in cyclohexane is known to be *ca* 25.2 kJ mol⁻¹ more stable than the boat form. In cyclohexanone the chair is in all likelihood not very different from that of cyclohexane but probably slightly flatter (Dillen & Geise, 1980). In the nine six-membered rings of *A* or *B* in compounds (2), (3), (4), (5) and (6) the chair conformation was found. Some flattening of this form was found in compound (2) where one of the cyclohexane rings was flattened at the neighbourhood of the double bond. The boat conformation was observed in the cage compound (10) where the rigidity of the molecule controls the conformations of these rings. In bicyclohexylidene (Sasvári & Low, 1965) the two cyclohexanes are related by a crystallographic inversion centre, both adopting the chair conformation. The *cis* fusion in compound (2) induces a pseudo mirror plane between the two cyclohexane rings without affecting the conformation of the individual rings.

(c) *Seven-membered rings* (Table 14). Cycloheptane has two types of conformation (boat and chair). Both of these conformations are flexible. Detailed calculations (Hendrickson, 1961) show that the chair form is more stable than the boat and a particular arrangement of the chair (twist chair) was considerably preferred over other alternatives. Allinger, Tribble & Miller (1972) have calculated the relative stability of cycloheptanone, using the most stable cycloheptane conformation (twist chair) with keto groups at various positions in the ring. They concluded that two out of four different positions of the keto groups have similar energy and might exist in a mixture at room temperature; the other two are less than 8 kJ mol⁻¹ higher in energy. The boat forms are consistently 8.4–16.8 kJ mol⁻¹ higher than the twist-chair conformations. Bocian & Strauss (1977) have found, from vibrational spectra, that cycloheptanone is a nonrigid pseudorotating molecule with a twist-chair average structure. The symmetric twist-chair and two other adjacent twist-chairs have practically the same energy.

For methylenecycloheptane four distinct twist-chair and four distinct chair conformers have to be considered. Bovill, Guy, Sim, White & Herz (1979) have calculated steric energies and equilibrium geometries for these eight forms and found that one of the twist-chair forms has the minimal energy (26.7 kJ mol⁻¹) while one of the chair conformations has the maximal energy (37.5 kJ mol⁻¹). The difference between the two is 10.8 kJ mol⁻¹. A comparison of the torsion angles in the various compounds containing seven-membered rings with the calculated values of the two equivalent conformations ($3a$ and $3e$ in Bovill *et al.*, 1979) is given in Table 14. Out of seven comparable seven-membered rings, three adopted one of the four twisted-chair conformations (30.4 kJ mol⁻¹) and four adopted the most stable conformation among the chair forms (29.3 kJ mol⁻¹). The three cycloheptane rings (in 9 and 10) adopted the twist-chair conformation. The cycloheptene ring in (9) is found to be disordered with the main conformation as a chair and the minor as a boat.

(d) *Cyclohexene* (Table 15). The monoplanar conformation, also known as half-chair form, has long been recognized as the more stable conformation of cyclohexene. The boat form is the less stable conformation and its energy is *ca* 29.0 kJ mol⁻¹ higher than that of the half-chair conformation. In six out of the eight compounds the cyclohexene was found to adopt a distorted half-chair conformation. The distortions are attributed to the transmitted strain due to the rings fused to the cyclohexene. A similar conformation was found in *cis*-4a,5,8,8a-tetrahydro-1,4-naphthoquinone and eight of its substituted derivatives (Scheffer & Dzakpasu, 1978, and references cited therein). This conformation is responsible for the photochemical rearrangement occurring in those compounds and involving also abstraction of an H atom in a β position

to one of the carbonyl groups. In the present work no such behaviour was detected due to the absence of such an H atom. However, in compound (7) where *A* and *B* are seven-membered rings a similar rearrangement was detected. The cyclohexene is in a twisted-boat conformation in (7) and (8). This change in conformation compared with (1)–(6) is somewhat surprising since such a conformation of the cyclohexene ring is less stable; it is also noted that this conformation together with the seven-membered-ring conformation bring the two H atoms at the δ positions to a close proximity [1.98 (6) in (7) and 1.99 (9) Å in (8)]. These distances have been calculated from refined H positions; calculated positions revealed distances of 1.80 and 1.83 Å in (7) and (8) respectively. Moreover, model inspection shows that the conformations of the seven-membered rings are not altered by changing the conformation of the cyclohexene ring to the more stable half-chair form.

It is not clear whether the nature of the molecular structure of (7) is a result of molecular stability or packing effects. However, it seems that the unexpected conformation of the cyclohexene is responsible for the behaviour of (7) under irradiation. As a result of this conformation the non-bonded distance between one of the H atoms in a δ position and an O atom of a carbonyl group is short (2.727 Å) and an H abstraction takes place. In solution an H abstraction or a $2\pi + 2\pi$ cycloaddition may occur which indicates that the conformation found in the crystal also exists in solution.

Bond lengths and angles

Most bond lengths and angles need no comment; however, some features should be noticed.

As a result of the variation in the conformation of the central cyclohexene moiety in (7) and (8) the angles at the double bond are smaller than in (1)–(6). Those angles in (7)–(8) lie in the range 114.6 to 116.9° while in (1)–(6) those angles lie in the range 121.2 to 125.2°.

There are severe non-bonded interactions between H atoms at the position δ to the carbonyl groups (see I). The distances lie in the range 1.901 to 2.026 Å in compounds (2), (5)–(8). However, the non-bonded interactions do not exert significant distortions at the double bond. The outer torsion angles (τ in I) are 5.1° in (1) although no close contacts between H atoms are observed, and 4.1 to 11.9° in (2), (5)–(8).

The 'cage' in compound (10) consist of a planar four-membered ring, two five-membered rings and two six-membered rings showing the same pattern of conformations, bond distances and angles as found in similar compounds (Mehta, Singh, Srikrishna & Cameron, 1979; Golić & Leban, 1980; Schwarzenbach, 1968).

Conclusion

It is shown that in six out of the eight bicycloalkenyl adducts the molecular structures are controlled by the

most stable conformations of the various ring systems. In two compounds, (7) and (8), the conformation of the central cyclohexene ring is the less stable one and is responsible for the photochemical rearrangement detected in (7).

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