

Calodendrolide is apparently derived biosynthetically from a limonoid by loss of rings A and B, and is the logical precursor of fraxinellone (V) a C₁₄ degraded limonoid isolated from *Dictamnus albus* L.^{5c,8} It has been suggested that fraxinellone arises from a limonoid by loss of rings A and B and of C-16. We suggest that fraxinellone could be formed by loss of C-16 of calodendrolide which would involve base-catalysed decarboxylation to give a lactol which on oxidation and double-bond isomerization would give (V) as shown in the Scheme. This sequence has been accomplished in the

laboratory in the conversion of gedunin into the corresponding γ -lactone.⁹

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