

reduced with LiAlH_4 in dioxan at room temperature to yield the pentaol (4), which upon acetylation and Jones' oxidation gave the 6-oxo-triacetate (5), c.d. (MeOH) $\Delta\epsilon$ (298 nm) -3.41 . The corresponding 6-ketone having an identical ring A-B unit (but different saturated side-chain) has been prepared by Hosozawa, *et al.*,⁵ from clerodin¹ the absolute configuration of which has been established by X-ray crystallography;² the clerodin-derived 6-ketone has a positive c.d. (EtOH), $\Delta\epsilon$ (302 nm) $+3.51$,⁵ and hence the ajugarin configuration is antipodal to that of clerodin.

¶ The negative c.d.'s of (5), (6), and (7) show that changes in the 4-substituents do not affect the sign of the Cotton effect for the 6-oxo group.

Jones' oxidation of (2) gave the 6-oxo-diol (6), c.d. (MeOH) $\Delta\epsilon$ (298.5) -2.98 , which was acetylated to yield the 6-oxo-diacetate (7), c.d. (MeOH) $\Delta\epsilon$ (295 nm) -3.21 .¶

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