Like its isomers 2 and 3, compound 5 could not be chromatographed on silica gel. Its dihydro derivative 15 has recently been isolated as an irradiation product of (E)- β -ionone-epoxide (14) [5]. Compound 15 is readily hydrated during chromatography on silica gel to the *triketone* 13, thus demonstrating that the latter is not a genuine photoproduct [4].

The mechanism of these novel photoreactions has not yet been investigated. However, it seems plausible that C-C-bond cleavage of the oxirane ring in the excited species of 1 is the key step in the observed isomerization processes. Irradiation of the separate isomers 2 and 3 has shown that the reaction sequence $2 \rightleftharpoons 3 \rightarrow 4 + 5$ is involved in the formation of the new products.

Financial support for this research by the Swiss National Fund for the Advancements of Scientific Research and by Ciba-Geigy AG, Basel, is gratefully acknowledged.

REFERENCES

- [1] 79th commun.: J. Becker, J. Ehrenfreund, O. Jeger, G. Ohloff & H. R. Wolf, Helv. 57, 2679 (1974).
- [2] J. A. Findley & W. D. Mac Kay, Canad. J. Chemistry 49, 2369 (1971).
- [3] A. J. Fataidi, Synthesis 1974, 229.
- [4] B. R. von Wartburg, H. R. Wolf & O. Jeger, Helv. 56, 1948 (1973).
- [5] B. R. von Wartburg, to be published.

Erratum

He v 57, 1974 (1974), mémoire N° 214 par F. Cocu & al.: p. 1981, 4e ligne à partir du haut, remplacer 3 par 5 (= 4'); p. 1981, 5e ligne à partir du haut, remplacer 145° par 150°.

i.b./c.c. Symposium

'Future developments for additives, chemicals, fillers and renforcements for resins, molding compounds, foamed plastics, film, sheeting, profiles laminates and synthetic resing coating'.

Strombeek (Belgium), March 19-20, 1975

Further informations: i.b./c.c. Administration, Nieuwelaan 65, B-1820 Strombeek (Belgium).

i.b./c.c. Symposium

'Technical and economic evaluation – markets and future trends for organic and inorganic intermediate chemicals, drugs, fine chemicals and active principles'.

Strombeek (Belgium), October 22-23, 1975

Further informations: i.b./c.c. Administration, Nieuwelaan 65, B-1820 Strombeek (Belgium).