

234. The Tricyclooctanone Approach to the Total Synthesis of Steroids. The Cyclization of the A-CD Unit¹⁾

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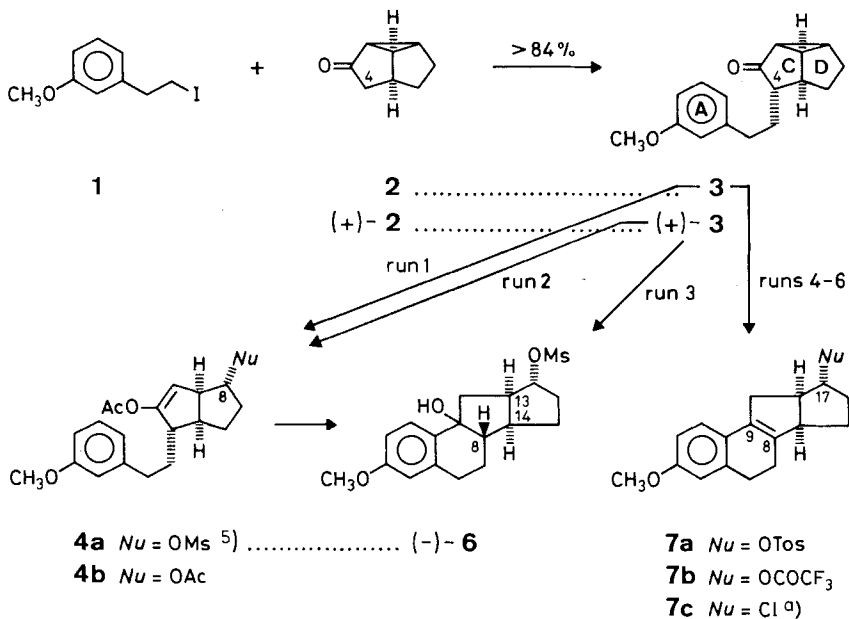
Summary

The first steps of a novel approach to the total synthesis of 9,11-dehydroestrone *via* tricyclo[3.3.0.0^{2,8}]octan-3-one (**2**) are described. One route involves a tandem-type transformation of the key intermediate **3** (A-CD unit) consisting of cyclopropane cleavage and ring B closure to afford C, 18-bisnor-13 α , 17 α -estradiol derivatives. *E.g.* the 3-methoxy-9 ξ -hydroxy-17 α -methanesulfonyloxy derivative (–)-**6** has been synthesized in 8 steps and 10% overall yield from 1,3-cyclohexadiene. As an alternative, the A-CD type intermediate **4b** has been prepared and could be used for a ring C enlargement prior to cyclization.

In a recent review we have presented a new polyvalent concept for the synthesis of cyclopentanoid natural products based on tricyclo[3.3.0.0^{2,8}]octan-3-one (**2**, *Scheme 1*) as a versatile building block [2]. The enantiomers of **2** are accessible in high chemical yields and in optical purities of > 98% [2] [3].

The basic requirements to be met for a competitive synthesis directed towards 9,11-dehydroestrone, estrone and functionalized derivatives, have been discussed in the context of recent literature [2]. Our tricyclooctanone route can also be adapted to the synthesis of potential precursors of ring C-functionalized steroids (*e.g.* 8- and 9,11-dehydroestrone) following the A-CD \rightarrow ABCD build-up principle [2]: (–)-**6** (enantiomeric excess > 98%) is thus accessible in only 8 synthetic manipulations and in 10% yield starting from 1,3-cyclohexadiene. We now present experimental details of this and on a number of related transformations demonstrating further the versatility of the tricyclooctanone approach. The feature common to these transformations is that all involve a single operational step which includes the cleavage of the three-membered ring and the formation of ring B in a tandem-type process.

¹⁾ Presented in part at the 29th IUPAC Congress, Köln 1983 [1]; see also the recent review [2].

Scheme 1. Alkylation of **2** and One-Step Transformations of the A-CD Unit **3**²⁾


^{a)} Stereochemistry at C(17) not ascertained; cf. text.

Compounds (\pm)-**3** and (+)-**3** were prepared from the lithium enolate of (\pm)-**2** and (+)-**2**, respectively, by alkylation at -20° with *m*-methoxyphenylethyl iodide (**1**). A single product (**3**) was formed to which the 4-*exo*-configuration can be attributed in view of unequivocally established precedent [4].

Substituting bromide and tosyloxy derivatives for the iodide **1**, and sodium for lithium in the enolate drastically reduced the yields of **3**. *m*-Methoxystyrene was formed instead as the result of a competing elimination process in accordance with earlier experience [5], possibly owing to a combination of the following factors. Elimination to form styrene may be preferred unless the bulky iodide bars the base from deprotonation. On the other hand, C(4), the reactive center of the lithium enolate of **2**, if acting as a base should be a sterically more hindered site, than the freely accessible negatively charged O-atom in the sodium enolate. Elimination is therefore favoured in the latter case.

(\pm)-**3** and (+)-**3** were treated with several reagents combining electrophilic (*El*) and nucleophilic (*Nu*) potential of various strength³⁾. With acetyl methanesulfonate, (+)-**3** cyclized to form, after spontaneous partial hydrolysis, in $>70\%$ yield the tetracyclic hydroxy-methanesulfonate (-)-**6** (Scheme 1 and Table). The two asymmetric centers of importance with respect to the target 9,11-dehydroestrone, C(8) and C(14), were already present after the alkylation step (+)-**2** \rightarrow (+)-**3**. The mechanism of ring closure

²⁾ All compounds in the Schemes and the Table are racemic, except for the transformations (+)-**3** \rightarrow (-)-**6**.

³⁾ For an account of the use and reactivity of such reagents on a more general level, see [6].

Table. Products from the Reaction of (\pm)-3 or (+)-3 with *ElNu*-Type Reagents²⁾

Run	Reagent	Product ^{a)}	Yield ^{b)} [%]	Reaction time [h]/ Reaction conditions
1	AcOMs	4a <i>El</i> = Ac, <i>Nu</i> = OMs ⁵⁾	75	1/CHCl ₃ , r.t.
2	Ac ₂ O	4b <i>El</i> = Ac, <i>Nu</i> = OAc	84	2/benzene, r.t. + Cu(OAc) ₂ ; BF ₃ -etherate
3	AcOMs	(-)- 6 <i>El</i> = H, <i>Nu</i> = OMs	> 70 ^{c)}	10/CHCl ₃ , r.t.; H ₂ O workup
4	TsOH	7a <i>Nu</i> = OTos	67	3/benzene, r.t.
5	(CF ₃ CO) ₂ O	7b <i>Nu</i> = OCOCF ₃	62	2/CHCl ₃ , r.t. + BF ₃ -etherate
6	(CH ₃) ₃ SiCl + CF ₃ CO ₂ Na	7c <i>Nu</i> = Cl ^{d)}	85	1/CHCl ₃ , r.t.

^{a)} The reactions have been carried out with (\pm)-3, except for the preparation of (-)-6 (run 3), where (+)-3 was used as a starting material (see *Scheme 1*).

^{b)} The yields refer to purified materials and can be regarded as not yet fully optimized.

^{c)} Yield refers to crystallized material only and does not account for residual product in the mother liquor.

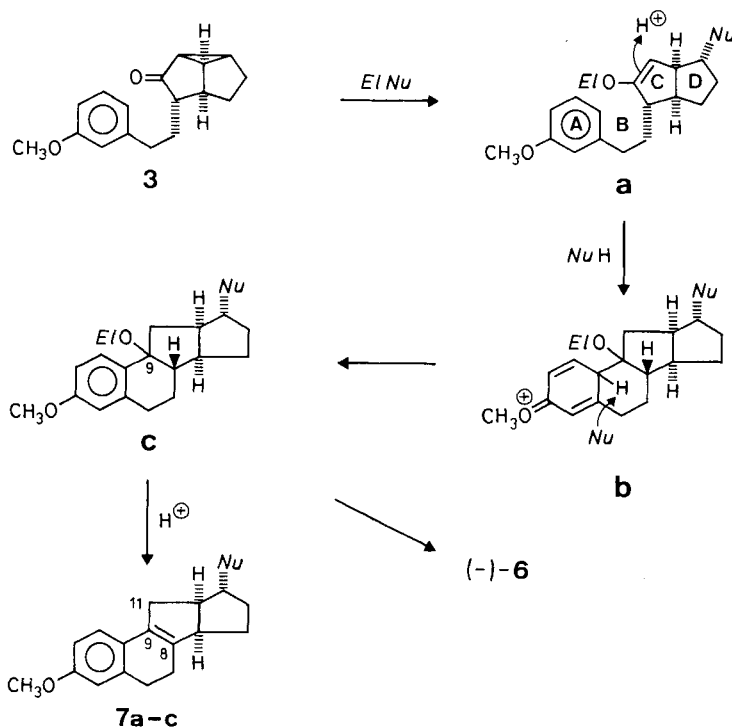
^{d)} Stereochemistry at C(17) not ascertained; *cf.* text.

must involve a two-step process (*Scheme 2*). The nucleophilic mesyloxy group should be incorporated in the primary step of the cyclopropane cleavage in an overall S_N2 mechanism accompanied by enolacetate formation (\rightarrow **a**, *El* = COCH₃, *Nu* = CH₃SO₃) [6]. The subsequent closure of ring B (\rightarrow **b**) and rearomatization of ring A (\rightarrow **c**) is probably catalyzed by traces of acid⁴⁾ which are very difficult to remove during the

⁴⁾ Strong acids are known to catalyze ring-B-closure with the parent 6-membered ring-C-ketone; for a survey see [7].

preparation of the reagent. Thus, when the reaction was run for 1 h only, the enol acetate **4a**⁵⁾ was isolated as the major product. Further treatment of **4a** with either acetyl methanesulfonate or methanesulfonic acid afforded cleanly (–)-**6** after workup with water. The cyclization was suppressed, however, when the acid traces in acetyl methanesulfonate were neutralized by the addition of excess Et₃N. Furthermore, we found the acid strength to be an important factor in the cyclization process: **4a** in the presence of AcOH remained unchanged. Guided by this result, low-acidity conditions were found to cleanly stop the transformation of **3** at the intermediate enol acetate stage and offer the option to expand ring C prior to closure of ring B. Thus racemic **3** in Ac₂O, with BF₃-etherate and Cu(OAc)₂ as catalysts, afforded **4b** in good yield (Table: run 2). The stereochemistry at C(8) of **4b** can safely be assigned on the basis of close precedent [2] [6].

In a further set of reactions, three elimination products **7a–c** (Scheme 1 and Table, runs 4–6) were obtained directly. They have in common the C(8), C(9)-double bond but possess various substituents at C(17). We may assume that the three reactions (runs 4–6) proceed similarly in mechanistic terms, and that they are initiated as indi-

Scheme 2. Mechanism of Ring-B-Closure²⁾

⁵⁾ The contamination of product **4a** (80% purity by ¹H-NMR) with starting material, (+)-**3**, and with the cyclized product (–)-**6** did not allow to determine the optical rotation.

(+)-4-exo-[2-(*m*-Methoxyphenyl)ethyl]tricyclo[3.3.0.0^{2,8}]octan-3-one (**3**). BuLi (16 mmol) in hexane was concentrated under a stream of Ar, then a solution of diisopropyl amine (1.19 g, 19 mmol) in DME (5 ml) was added dropwise during 30 min at -78° and under vigorous stirring. A crystal of 2,2-bipyridine was added as indicator (red color of the solution [9]) followed by the dropwise addition of a solution of ketone (+)-**2** (1.1 g, 9.02 mmol) in DME (3 ml) within 15 min. The mixture was warmed to r.t. with stirring and finally heated to 40° for another hour. The mixture was subsequently cooled to -78° and a solution of the iodide **1** (2.5 g, 9.54 mmol) in DME (3 ml) was added dropwise. The reddish color of the mixture still remained. The temp. was then raised to -20° and kept constant for 16 h. Workup afforded 2.5 g of an oily residue (77% **3** by GLC, 7% unreacted (+)-**2**, 8% iodide **1** and 8% *m*-methoxystyrene). The mixture was chromatographed on a silica ready-made column (*Lobar C*, Merck) using toluene and toluene 2% Et₂O; 2.1 g of (+)-**3** were obtained (> 90% purity by GLC, > 84% yield); $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25} = +56.5^{\circ}$ (0.75). IR: 3020w, 2920s, 3940w, 1710s, 1600m, 1580m, 1485m, 1450m, 1435w, 1310m, 1260s, 1190w, 1155m, 1045m, 945w, 870w, 785w. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz): 7.11 (*dd*, $J = 2.5$ and 8.5, 1 H); 7.09 (*d*, $J = 8.5$, 1 H); 6.7 (*m*, 2 H); 3.7 (*s*, 3 H); 2.6 (*m*, 4 H); 2.1–1.9 (*m*, 3 H); 1.9 (*m*, 1 H); 1.8 (*m*, 1 H); 1.8–1.6 (*m*, 2 H); 1.6 (*m*, 1 H); 1.5 (*m*, 1 H). ¹³C-NMR: 218.33 (*s*); 159.69 (*s*); 143.17 (*s*); 129.28 (*d*); 120.87 (*d*); 114.22 (*d*); 111.29 (*d*); 56.88 (*d*); 55.07 (*q*); 44.10 (*d*); 40.22 (*t*); 38.32 (*d*); 35.32 (*d*); 34.74 (*d*); 32.98 (*t*); 31.67 (*t*); 25.16 (*t*). MS: 256 (M^+), 176, 135, 122 (100), 107, 94, 79.

C₁₇H₂₀O₂ (256.34) Calc. C 79.69 H 7.81% Found C 80.00 H 7.56%

(-)-9- ξ -Hydroxy-17 α -mesyloxy-3-methoxy-18, C-dinor-13 α -estra-1,3,5(10)triene (**6**) via **4a**. A solution of (+)-**3** (1.28 g, 5 mmol) in CHCl₃ (20 ml, passed over *Alox*) was treated with acetyl methanesulfonate (0.5 ml, 0.76 g, 5.5 mmol), which had been carefully distilled prior to use (for the preparation and purification of this reagent see [10]). The color of the mixture turned brown while stirring at r.t. After 1 h, one tenth of the mixture was worked up by dilution with CHCl₃ and shaking with H₂O. Drying of the org. layer over MgSO₄ and evaporation of the solvent afforded a brownish oil (190 mg, 80% purity by ¹H-NMR), of which the analytical data indicated **4a** to be the major component²). IR: 2940m, 1750s, 1665w, 1645w, 1600m, 1580m, 1460w, 1360s, 1335s, 1170s, 1015m, 905s. ¹H-NMR (60 MHz): 7.35 (*m*, 1 H); 6.8 (*m*, 3 H); 5.5 (*m*, 1 H); 4.9 (*m*, 1 H); 3.8 (*s*, 3 H); 3.4 (*m*, 1 H); 3.0 (*s*, 3 H); 2.9–1.3 (*m*, 10 H); 2.1 (*s*, 3 H). MS: 394 (M^+), 352, 334, 298, 273, 256, 134, 122 (100), 91, 43.

The remaining portion of the reaction mixture was stirred for a total of 10 h and then worked up in the same way. A solid brown residue (1.24 g) was isolated and crystallized by dissolving in a minimum quantity of CHCl₃, followed by the addition of a 1:1 benzene/pentane mixture (20 ml) and keeping the solution at -30° for 24 h. 1.112 g of (-)-**6** (> 95% purity by GLC, > 70% yield) were obtained. $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25} = -29^{\circ}$ (0.8), m.p. 117°. IR: 3000m, 2900w, 1600m, 1570w, 1500w, 1350s, 1320s, 1130m, 880w. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz): 6.89 (*d*, $J = 8.5$, 1 H); 6.72 (*d*, $J = 2.7$, 1 H); 6.68 (*dd*, $J = 8.5$ and 2.7, 1 H); 4.92 (*m*, fine coupling, 1 H); 3.79 (*s*, 3 H); 3.37 (*t*, $J = 8$, 1 H); 3.1–2.95 (*m*, 3 H); 3.03 (*s*, 3 H); 2.95–2.75 (*m*, 3 H); 2.39 (*dt*, J_{H} = 14.9, J_{H} = 1.6, 1 H); 2.3 (*m*, 2 H); 2.0 (*m*, 2 H); 1.7 (*m*, 2 H); 1.6 (1 H, exchangeable with D₂O). MS: 352 (M^+), 334 (100), 255, 239, 223, 210, 198, 165, 153, 115, 79.

3,8-exo-Diacetoxy-4-exo-(*m*-methoxyphenylethyl)bicyclo[3.3.0]oct-2-ene (**4b**). Ac₂O (2.55 g, 25 mmol), Cu(OAc)₂ (1.82 g, 10 mmol) and two drops of BF₃-etherate were added to a solution of (\pm)-**3** (2.56 g, 10 mmol) in dry benzene (20 ml). The mixture was stirred at r.t. for 8 h. The reaction mixture was worked up by extracting twice with aq. NaHCO₃. The org. layer was then shaken with brine and dried over MgSO₄. The crude material, which was obtained after evaporation of the solvent, was purified on a *Florisil* column (60–100 mesh, 25-fold) with toluene and toluene/1% Et₂O affording (\pm)-**4b** as a nearly colorless oil (3.2 g, 94% purity on GLC, 84% yield). IR: 2975w, 2820w, 2830w, 1750m, 1725s, 1600m, 1580w, 1490w, 1455w, 1370m, 1260s, 1220m, 1160m, 1020m, 915s, 870w. ¹H-NMR: 7.16 (*dd*, $J = 7.5$, 1 H); 6.74 (*dd*, $J = 7.5$ and 1, 1 H); 6.7 (*m*, 2 H); 5.4 (*m*, 1 H); 4.87 (*m*, 1 H); 3.75 (*s*, 3 H); 3.1 (*m*, 1 H); 2.75–2.42 (*t*, $J = 2$, 4 H); 2.08 (*s*, 3 H); 1.99 (*s*, 3 H); 2.13–1.75 (*m*, 3 H); 1.7 (*m*, 1 H); 1.6–1.45 (*m*, 2 H). ¹³C-NMR: 170.66 (*s*); 168.21 (*s*); 159.63 (*s*); 152.72 (*s*); 143.77 (*s*); 129.31 (*d*); 120.73 (*d*); 114.19 (*d*); 113.13 (*d*); 110.69 (*d*); 79.86 (*d*); 55.10 (*q*); 52.81 (*d*); 51.13 (*d*); 43.82 (*d*); 35.03 (*t*); 33.11 (*t*); 31.68 (*t*); 30.54 (*t*); 21.26 (*q*); 21.06 (*q*). MS: 298 (M^+ – HOAc), 256, 238, 135, 122, 91, 57, 43 (100).

C₂₁H₂₆O₅ (358.43) Calc. C 70.39 H 7.26% Found C 70.06 H 7.02%

(\pm)-3-Methoxy-17 α -tosyloxy-18, C-dinor-13 α -8-estra-1,3,5(10),8(9)-tetraene (**7a**). TsOH (1.29 g, 7.5 mmol) and methyl orthoformate (0.5 ml) were added to a solution of (\pm)-**3** (1.58 g, 6.2 mmol) in benzene (20 ml). The mixture was stirred at r.t. for 5 h and then worked up by shaking twice with H₂O. The crude material (1.85 g), which was obtained after drying the org. layer (MgSO₄) and evaporation of the solvent, was

passed over a short silica gel column (10-fold, toluene) to afford 1.68 g of (\pm)-**7a** (67% yield). IR: 3000m, 1600m, 1565w, 1495m, 1430w, 1350s, 1245s, 1175s. $^1\text{H-NMR}$: 7.8 (*d*, $J = 8$, 2 H); 7.32 (*d*, $J = 8$, 2 H); 6.83 (*d*, $J = 8$, 1 H); 6.7 (*d*, $J = 2$, 1 H); 6.65 (*dd*, $J = 8$ and 2, 1 H); 4.71 (*s*, 1 H); 3.76 (*s*, 3 H); 3.3 (*t*, $J = 5.3$, 1 H); 4.0–3.7 (*m*, 4 H); 2.45 (*s*, 3 H); 2.3–2.1 (*m*, 3 H); 2.0–1.7 (*m*, 2 H); 1.7–1.5 (*m*, 2 H). MS: 410 (100, M^+), 255, 238, 223, 210, 198, 165, 155, 91.

$\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{26}\text{O}_4\text{S}$ (410.51) Calc. C 70.24 H 6.34 S 7.80% Found C 70.05 H 6.30 S 8.14

(\pm)-3-Methoxy-17 α -trifluoroacetoxy-18, C-dinor-13 α -estra-1,3,5(10),8(9)-tetraene (**7b**). Trifluoroacetic anhydride (0.5 ml) and two drops of BF_3 -etherate were added to a stirred CHCl_3 -solution (3 ml) of (\pm)-**3** (100 mg, 0.4 mmol). The reaction was run for 36 h at r.t., then cooled to 0° and Et_3N (1 ml) added dropwise. Shaking the mixture with H_2O , drying the org. layer (MgSO_4) and evaporation of the solvent afforded a crude oil (80% purity by GLC). Chromatography on a silica gel column (10-fold, benzene) gave 85 mg of oily (\pm)-**7b** (62% yield). IR: 2970m, 2840w, 1775s, 1605m, 1570w, 1500m, 1465s, 1430w, 1380s, 1345m, 1320w, 1300w, 1280m, 1250s, 1225s, 1170s, 1130m, 1100w, 1075w, 1035w, 1005w, 990w. $^1\text{H-NMR}$: 6.92 (*d*, $J = 8.5$, 1 H); 6.74 (*d*, $J = 2.5$, 1 H); 6.7 (*dd*, $J = 8.5$ and 2.5, 1 H); 5.17 (*s*, 1 H); 3.8 (*s*, 3 H); 3.4 (*t*, $J = 8$, 1 H); 3.1–2.7 (*m*, 4 H); 2.46 (*dt*, $J_d = 16$ and $J_t = 2.5$, 1 H); 2.3 (*m*, 2 H); 2.1–1.8 (*m*, 2 H); 1.8–1.6 (*m*, 2 H). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$: 158.53 (*s*); 157.20 (*q*, $^2J_{\text{CF}} = 41.6$); 137.85 (*s*); 137.07 (*s*); 131.96 (*s*); 126.41 (*s*); 123.59 (*d*); 114.58 (*q*, $^1J_{\text{CF}} = 285.8$); 114.07 (*d*); 110.71 (*d*); 88.32 (*d*); 55.26 (*q*); 52.07 (*d*); 46.80 (*d*); 36.01 (*t*); 30.33 (*t*); 29.19 (*t*); 27.19 (*t*); 22.85 (*t*). MS: 352 (100, M^+), 239, 223, 197, 173, 165, 153, 128, 115, 69, 28.

(\pm)-17 ξ -Chloro-3-methoxy-18, C-dinor-13 α -estra-1,3,5(10),8(9)-tetraene (**7c**). Trimethylchlorosilane (10 ml) and sodium trifluoroacetate (2 g, 14.7 mmol) were mixed and stirred at r.t. for 0.5 h. Ketone (\pm)-**3** (2.56 g, 10 mmol) was then added. After 0.5 h at r.t. the mixture was worked up. The solid residue obtained after evaporation of the solvent was crystallized from CHCl_3 /pentane at -30° , to give 2.33 g of (\pm)-**7c** (98% purity by GLC, 85% yield); m.p. 115°. IR: 3055s, 3040s, 2990m, 2830s, 1605s, 1570s, 1500s, 1460m, 1425s, 1370w, 1330m, 1310m, 1300s, 1275s, 1245s, 1190w, 1150m, 1125s, 1070m, 1055s, 815m, 805m. $^1\text{H-NMR}$: 6.89 (*d*, $J = 8.5$, 1 H); 6.72 (*d*, $J = 2.6$, 1 H); 6.68 (*dd*, $J = 8.5$ and 2.6, 1 H); 4.1 (*m*, 1 H); 3.79 (*s*, 3 H); 3.37 (*t*, $J = 8$, 1 H); 3.1–2.7 (*m*, 4 H); 2.39 (*dt*, $J_d = 16$ and $J_t = 2.1$, 1 H); 2.3–2.1 (*m*, 3 H); 2.0–1.8 (*m*, 2 H); 1.6 (*m*, 1 H). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$: 158.37 (*s*); 138.46 (*s*); 137.0 (*s*); 131.36 (*s*); 126.58 (*s*); 123.41 (*d*); 113.93 (*d*); 110.59 (*d*); 68.11 (*d*); 55.20 (*q*); 51.7 (*d*); 51.44 (*d*); 36.91 (*t*); 35.03 (*t*); 29.14 (*t*); 27.51 (*t*); 22.81 (*t*). MS: 274 (M^+), 239 (100), 222, 210, 198, 165, 152, 127, 115, 28.

$\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{19}\text{OCl}$ (274.78) Calc. C 74.45 H 6.93 Cl 12.77% Found C 74.74 H 6.84 Cl 13.16%

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