202. Synthesis of New Unnatural Macrocyclic Trichothecenes: 4-Epiverrucarin A

47th Communication on Verrucarins and Roridins¹)

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The 4-epiverrucarin A (24), a new unnatural macrocyclic trichothecene, was synthesized starting from 4-epiverrucarol (20). The latter was obtained by metal-hydride reduction of the 4-oxo derivative 19. Subsequent conversion of 20 into the monoester 30 and then the diester 32 followed by macrolactonization of the latter yielded 4-epiverrucarin A (24). Attempts to invert the configuration of the naturally occuring 3α -OH group of a trichothecene were unsuccessful. The cytostatic (P-815) and immunosuppressive (MLR) activity of several natural and unnatural trichothecenes was determined *in vitro*.

Introduction. – In the preceeding communication [1], first results of our programme directed to the synthesis of new unnatural macrocyclic trichothecenes were described, namely the synthesis of 3-isoverrucarin $((1^{"}-O)(4\rightarrow 3)abeo$ -verrucarin A; 1) and the two novel macrocyclic by-products verrucinol and verrucene (2). In continuation of these efforts, the next goal was the preparation of 3- and 4-hydroxytrichothecenes possessing unnatural configurations and to use them for the synthesis of additional macrocyclic analogues of verrucarin A (3). Such compounds will give more detailed information on the relationship between chemical structure and biological activity.

Results. – Initially, the epimerization of the 3α -OH group of anguidine (4) or of the calonectrin (5) derivative 6 was attempted using the *Mitsunobu*'s procedure (Ph₃P, diethyl azodicarboxylate, AcOH [2]). No reaction of the secondary 3α -OH group was observed, neither at room temperature nor upon heating. Recently, the lack of reactivity of the OH groups at C(3) or C(4) of the trichothecene skeleton during *Mitsunobu*'s procedure was also observed by *Wani et al.* [3]. These OH groups are probably not attached by Ph₃P because of steric hindrance. When anguidine (4) was submitted to a modified *Mitsunobu* procedure [4], it was also inert at room temperature. However, upon heating, two products were isolated which were identified as the triacetate 7 and the carbonate 8. Both compounds were formed with retention of configuration. This unexpected behaviour suggests a nucleophilic attack of the OH group at C(3) was assigned by 'H-NMR on the basis of the value of 5 Hz for J(H-C(2), H-C(3)) which is due to the dihedral angle of $25-30^{\circ}$ between these protons. The inverse configuration would lead to a dihedral angle of ca. $90-100^{\circ}$, hence to a J of ca. 0-2 Hz. Moreover, the 3α -configuration of 7 and 8 was

¹) 46th Commun.: [1].



confirmed by acetylation (Ac_2O , pyridine) of anguidine (4) which yielded a product identical with 7.

Next, we attempted substitution at C(3) by activating the 3α -OH group as the mesylate 9, tosylate 10, or triflate 11. Standard procedures yielded the sulfonates without any difficulties. Several methods to introduce O-nucleophiles at C(3) by the $S_N 2$ mechanism were applied but did not yield the desired products (see *Table 1*) [5–9]. The mesylate 9 and tosylate 10, in most cases, did not react, while the triflate 11 often yielded the elimination product 12 or 13, or products in which epoxide opening had occurred or which still contained the sulfonate group. Compound 14 was obtained in quantitative

Starting material	Method	Product	Lit.
9	CsAc (4 equiv.), DMF (90%), 17 h	-	[5]
	CsAc (3 equiv.), [18]crown-6 (0.75 equiv.), benzene, 80°, 19 h	-	[6]
10	CsAc (3 equiv.), [18]crown-6 (0.75 equiv.), benzene, 80°, 16 h	-	[5]
	Cs(CH ₃ CH ₂ COO) (2.2 equiv.), 1,3-dimethyl-2-imidazolidinone, 150°, 6 h	_	[10]
	Et_4NAc (2–4 equiv.), acetone, 56°	^a)	[7]
	NaOH (6 equiv.), H ₂ O, MeOH, 23°, 20 h	14 (98%)	
11	Et_4NAc (2 equiv.), acetone, 20°, 6 d	$12(18\%)+^{a}$	[7]
	Et ₄ NAc (2 equiv.), DMF, 85°, 17 h	^a)	[7]
	LiAc (4 equiv.), DMF, 80°, 24 h	12 (19%)	[7]
	Bu ₄ NNO ₃ (1.5 equiv.), toluene, 80°, 16 h	12 (13%)	[8]
	KO ₂ , DMSO, 20°, 16 h	13 (97%)	[9]
4	diethyl azodicarboxylate, Ph ₃ P, ZnAc ₂ , toluene, 95%, 23 h	7(41%) + 8(11%)	[4]

Table 1. Experiments for the Inversion of the 3a-OH Group of Trichothecenes

^a) The products which were formed (<10%) were not determined. According to ¹H-NMR, epoxide opening occurred, or the sulfonate groups were still present.

yield after hydrolysis of **10** by NaOH. The method to epimerize the 4α -OH group of a 12,13-deoxytrichothecene derivative which was used in a vertucarin synthesis [10] also failed in our hands. The product, in which the 12,13-epoxy group was lacking according to ¹H-NMR, decomposed on storage and, therefore, its constitution could not be determined. We did not attempt an epimerization of a 12,13-deoxygenated derivative.

Our attention was then directed towards the epimerization of the 4β -OH group. It is reported that trichothecen-3-ones are attacked by NaBH₄ exclusively from the 'exo'-side leading to the 3α -hydroxy derivatives [11]. Thus, the 15-OH group of the diol **15**²) was selectively acetylated (Ac₂O, pyridine) to the 15-monoacetate **16** (yield 58%) and the latter oxidized to the ketone **17** (88%) using *Swern*'s procedure [12]. Unfortunately, when **17** or the deprotected 3α -hydroxy ketone **18** were submitted to the reduction procedure using either NaBH₄ or lithium tri(*tert*-butoxy)aluminium hydride, a rapid decomposition of the starting material was observed. On the other hand, the 4-keto compound **19** was readily reduced by metal hydrides.



The preparation of 4-epiverrucarol (20) started with the protection of the 15-OH group of verrucarol (21). Acetylation (Ac₂O, pyridine, CH₂Cl₂) gave the monoacetate 22 in 63% yield. The subsequent oxidation of the 4-OH group afforded 19 in almost quantitative yield. Reduction of 19 using NaBH₄ yielded a mixture of 31% of the monoacetate 23 and of 40% of 4-epiverrucarol (20), while lithium tri(*tert*-butoxy)aluminium hydride yielded 79% of 23 as the only product which was hydrolyzed to 20.

Having obtained 4-epiverrucarol (20), we decided to synthesize 4-epiverrucarin A (24) by the same route as that used in the synthesis of verrucarin A [13]. We planned to begin with the selective esterification of the 15-OH group with the verrucarinic-acid derivative 25 and accordingly to attach the muconic halfester 26 to the remaining 4-OH group. However, when 4-epiverrucarol (20) and 25 were submitted to the condensation procedure according to *Neises* and *Steglich* (dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (DCC), 4-(dimeth-

²) For the preparation of **15**, see [1].



ylamino)pyridine ((Me₂N)Py), Et₃N) [14], the reverse reactivity of the OH groups at C(4) and C(15) as compared to verrucarol (21) was observed. According to the ¹H-NMR, the 4α -monoacylated product 27 was formed as main product. It was not possible to cleanly separate the products by column chromatography. Therefore, the selectivity of the acylation was determined using AcOH and 20. After careful column chromatography, 71% of the 4 α -monoacetate 28, 9.6% of the 15-monoacetate 23, and 8.4% of the diacetate 29 were obtained. Similar differences of the reactivity of the OH groups were observed during other acetylation procedures. Using Ac₂O or AcCl in pyridine and CH₂Cl₂, the 4-OH group of 20 was slightly favoured. The 15-OH group of verrucarol (21) was predominately acetylated using Ac₂O in pyridine, while AcCl in pyridine favoured the 4 β -OH group [15]. This procedure using Et₃N instead of pyridine was also selective for the 15-OH group of 4-epiverrucarol (20). The results of the acetylation procedures are summarized in *Table 2*.

Method	Ratio [%] 23/28 ^a)
Ac ₂ O (2 equiv.), pyridine (6 equiv.), CH ₂ Cl ₂ , 20°	31:45
AcCl (1 equiv.), pyridine (3 equiv.), CH ₂ Cl ₂ , 0°	33:54
AcCl (1 equiv.), Et ₃ N (3 equiv.), CH ₂ Cl ₂ , 0°	60:25
AcCl (1 equiv.), (i-Pr) ₂ EtN (3 equiv.), CH ₂ Cl ₂ , 0°	60:34

Table 2. Acetylation of 4-Epiverrucarol (20)

To complete the synthesis of 4-epiverrucarin A (24), the muconic halfester 26 was selectively attached (DCC, $(Me_2N)Py$, Et₃N) to the 4 α -OH group (*Scheme*). The muconates 30 and 31 were obtained with a yield of 61 and 29%, respectively, without isomerization of the (Z)-double bond (*cf.* [13]). However, the condensation of the primary OH group in 30 with the acid 25 turned out to be more difficult: 2.5 equiv. of 25 were necessary in order to achieve a quantitative conversion using the same acylation procedure (DCC, $(Me_2N)Py$, Et₃N). Moreover, the desired ester 32 could not be completely separated from by-products. The limited amounts of starting materials prevented us from investigating other acylation procedures. After the removal of the silyl protecting groups by Bu₄NF, the seco-acid 33 was submitted to the mixed-anhydride lactonization procedure using pivalic acid, Et₃N, and $(Me_2N)Py$ [17]. The subsequent removal of the tetrahydro-2*H*-pyranyl (Thp) group of the cyclized product 34 with pyridinium *p*-tolue-nesulfonate in EtOH afforded 4-epiverrucarin A (24) in 29% yield (from 30).



Biological Activity. – Biological evaluation of several new trichothecenes, especially of macrocyclic derivatives, was carried out using the P-815 mastocytoma cell line [18] (cytostatic activity) and the murine mixed lymphocyte reaction [19] (MLR; immunosuppressive activity) by determining the inhibitory concentration (IC_{so}) for cell growth. The

Table	3.	Biol	logical	Activity
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	<i>IC</i> ₅₀ [μg/ml]		
	P-815	MLR	
Verrucarol (21)	> 1	0.183	
15-O-Acetylverrucarol (22)	0.03	0.42	
4-O-Acetylverrucarol	> 10	> 1	
4,15-Di-O-acetylverrucarol	0.26	0.147	
4-Epiverrucarol (20)	> 1	> 1	
15-O-Acetyl-4-epiverrucarol (23)	> 1	> 1	
4-O-Acetyl-4-epiverrucarol (28)	> 1	> 1	
4,15-O-Diacetyl-4-epiverrucarol (29)	> 1	> 1	
Anguidine (4)	0.0016	< 0.008	
Triacetoxyscirpenol (7)	0.0081	< 0.008	
Calonectrin (5)	> 1	0.074	
Verrucarin A (3)	< 0.0008	< 0.0008	
3α-Hydroxyverrucarin A (35)	< 0.0008	< 0.008	
Verrucarin J (36)	0.0003	< 0.0008	
2",3",4",5"-Tetrahydroverrucarin J	0.0018	0.014	
Verrucarin K (12,13-deoxyverrucarin A)	< 0.008	0.019	
4-Epiverrucarin A (24)	0.0076	0.017	
3-Isoverrucarin A $((1''-O)(4\rightarrow 3)abeo$ -Verrucarin A; 1)	> 1	0.099	
Verrucene (2)	> 1	0.159	

results are summarized in *Table 3*³). A comparison of the acetyl derivatives of vertucarol (21) and 4-epiverrucarol (20) demonstrates the necessity of the β -configuration at the 4-position of simple trichothecene esters. On the other hand, a change of the configuration at C(4) of the macrocyclic vertucarin A (3) decreases the activity but does not effect a complete loss of activity (see 24). The change of the attachment of the macrolidic bridge from $C(4\beta)$ to $C(3\alpha)$ leads to a complete loss of the activity as demonstrated by 3-Isoverrucarin A $((1''-O)(4\rightarrow 3)abeo$ -verrucarin A; 1) and verrucene (2) [1]. In contrast to the simple trichothecene esters, an additional OH group in 3α -position does not change the *in vitro* activity of verrucarin A (3), as demonstrated by the comparison of 4β ,15-di-O-acetylverrucarol with anguidine (4) and 3α -hydroxyverrucarin A (35) with vertucarin A (3), respectively. The loss of the (Z, E)-diene system also results in a decreased activity as shown by 2",3",4",5"-tetrahydroverrucarin J in comparison with verrucarin J (36). All tested compounds also show immunosuppressive activity which points to a general cytotoxicity and not to a selective cytostatic or immunosuppressive activity. The presence of the 12,13-epoxy group has been shown to be essential for the biological activity of simple trichothecene esters [20] [21]. Verrucarin K (= 12,13-deoxyverrucarin A), the first natural trichothecene lacking the 12,13-epoxy group, has been isolated some years ago [22]. Interestingly, a high cytotoxic activity was found for this compound. This result suggests that the macrolidic part possesses a cytotoxic activity independent of the epoxybearing trichothecene moiety. The cytotoxic activities of macrocyclic trichothecene model compounds which do not possess the trichothecene moiety support this hypothesis [23]. However, with the data available at present, it is too early to draw final conclusions for the structural requirements for the biological activity of trichothecene mycotoxins.

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Experimental Part

General. H₂O-sensitive reactions were carried out under Ar or N₂. CH₂Cl₂ and toluene were dried by filtering through an Al₂O₃ column and stored over molecular sieves (4 Å). THF and DMSO were dried by distilling over LiAlH₄ or CaH₂, respectively. All org. extracts were dried (Na₂SO₄) and evaporated under reduced pressure bellow 50°. TLC: silica gel 60 F_{254} (*Merck*); detection with 10% H₂SO₄ in MeOH or KMnO₄ soln. Prep. TLC: silica gel 60 F_{254} (*Merck*); detection with 10% H₂SO₄ in MeOH or KMnO₄ soln. Prep. TLC: silica gel 60 (60–200 µm or 35–70 µm; *Merck*); Al₂O₃ (Typ 507C neutral, *Fluka*). M.p.: *Kofler* block; corrected. [α]_D^{L1}: *Perkin-Elmer-141* polarimeter. IR: *Perkin-Elmer-177* grating spectrometer. NMR: *Varian-EM-360* spectrometer (¹H, 60 MHz), *Bruker-WH-90* spectrometer with *Fourier* transform (¹H, 90 MHz; ¹³C, 2.63 MHz), *Varian-VXR-400* spectrometer with *Fourier* transform (¹H, 400 MHz; ¹³C, 101 MHz); 300-MHz ¹H-NMR were recorded by *Ciba-Geigy*, Basel; CDCl₃ was used as solvent, and the chemical shifts are reported in ppm downfield from internal TMS. MS: *VG-70-250* spectrometer (Cl by NH₃). DCC = dicylohexylcarbodiimide.

Mitsunobu *Procedure*. Method A: To a soln. of 30 mg (0.082 mmol) of anguidine (4) and 19.4 mg (0.074 mmol) of Ph₃P in 5 ml of benzene, 0.0116 ml (0.074 mmol) of diethyl azodicarboxylate and 0.0045 ml (0.079 mmol) of AcOH in 2 ml of benzene were added within 5 min under stirring. The mixture was stirred for 22 h and then heated to reflux for an additional 7 h. No product formation could be detected (TLC) during this procedure: **2** was recovered (*ca.* 90%) by CC.

Method B: To a soln. of 50 mg (0.137 mmol) of 4 in 2 ml of CH_2Cl_2 /toluene 1:3, 72 mg (0.275 mmol) of Ph_3P and 19 mg (0.104 mmol) of dried (100°/0.05 Torr, 15 h) Zn(OAc)₂ were added. After 5 min, 0.0408 ml (0.260 mmol)

³) The biological tests were carried out by P. Hiestand, Sandoz AG, Basel. We are very grateful for his help.

of diethyl azodicarboxylate were added within 3 min to the stirred soln. Stirring was continued for 15 h at r.t. During this period, no product formation could be detected (TLC). The mixture was then heated at 90–100°. After 23 h, the Zn(OAc)₂ was filtered off and the filtrate evaporated. CC (CH₂Cl₂/acetone 98:2) afforded 23 mg (41%) of 7 and 7 mg (11%) of 8.

12,13-Epoxytrichothec-9-ene-3α,4β,15-triyl Triacetate (7). Crystallization from CH₂Cl₂, Et₂O, and petroleum ether. M.p. 123.3–124.3°. ¹H-NMR (300 MHz): 0.78 (s, CH₃(14)); 1.74 (s, CH₃(16)); 2.08 (s, Ac); 2.13 (s, Ac); 2.16 (s, Ac); 2.79, 3.09 (*AB*, *J* = 4, CH₂(13)); 3.88 (*d*, *J* = 5, H–C(2)); 4.00 (br. *d*, *J* = 5.5, H–C(11)); 4.11, 4.28 (*AB*, *J* = 12, CH₂(15)); 5.21 (*dd*, *J* = 3.5, 5, H–C(3)); 5.49 (br. *d*, *J* = 5.5, H–C(10)); 5.75 (*d*, *J* = 3.5, H–C(4)). CI-MS: 426 (100, $[M + NH_4]^+$), 409 ($[M + H]^+$), 349.

 4β ,15-Diacetoxy-12,13-epoxytrichothec-9-en- 3α -yl Ethyl Carbonate (8). ¹H-NMR (300 MHz): 0.74 (s, CH₃(14)); 1.33 (t, J = 7, CH₃CH₂O); 1.71 (s, CH₃(16)); 2.05 (s, Ac); 2.10 (s, Ac); 2.78, 3.07 (*AB*, J = 4, CH₂(13)); 3.89 (d, J = 5, H–C(2)); 4.01 (br. d, J = 5, H–C(11)); 4.04, 4.54 (*AB*, J = 12, CH₂(15)); 4.53 (q, J = 7, CH₃CH₂O); 5.08 (dd, J = 3.5, 5, H–C(3)); 5.50 (br. d, J = 5.5, H–C(10)); 5.80 (d, J = 3.5, H–C(4)). ¹³C-NMR (101 MHz): 6.5; 14.2; 20.8; 21.1; 21.3; 23.2; 27.9; 44.0; 47.2; 48.9; 63.5; 64.1; 64.6; 67.9; 77.5; 79.1; 81.2; 118.3; 140.6; 154.2 (OCOO); 170.4; 170.6. CI-MS: 456 (100, [*M* + NH₄]⁺), 440, 439 ([*M* + H]⁺), 379, 349, 229.

12,13-Epoxy-3a-[(methanesulfonyl)oxy]trichothec-9-en-15-yl 4-Oxopentanoate (9). To a soln. of 50 mg (0.137 mmol) of 6 in 0.5 ml of pyridine at 0°, 0.0213 ml (0.276 mmol) of MsCl were added. Then, the icebath was removed and the soln. stirred at r.t. for an additional 22 h. It was diluted with Et₂O and washed with 1N HCl and H₂O. After evaporation CC (CH₂Cl₂/acetone 9:1) afforded 58 mg (96%) of 9. ¹H-NMR (90 MHz): 0.87 (s, CH₃(14)); 1.78 (s, CH₃(16)); 2.17 (s, CH₃CO); 2.80, 3.05 (AB, J = 4, CH₂(13)); 3.05 (s, CH₃SO₃); 3.65 (d, J = 5, H–C(2)); 3.85, 4.05 (AB, J = 12, CH₂(15)); 4.03 (d, J = 5, H–C(11)); 5.00 (m, H–C(3)); 5.42 (br. d, J = 5, H–C(10)). CI-MS: 460 (100, [M + NH₄]⁺), 444, 364, 344, 327, 231.

12,13-Epoxy-3α-[(toluenesulfonyl)oxy]trichothec-9-en-15-yl 4-Oxopentanoate (10). As for 9, 50 mg (0.137 mmol) of 6 were treated with 52 mg (0.274 mmol) of TsCl, and 0.5 ml of pyridine. CC (Et₂O, petroleum ether 8:2) yielded 69 mg (97%) of 10 as a colourless oil. ¹H-NMR (90 MHz): 0.78 (*s*, CH₃(14)); 1.75 (*s*, CH₃(16)); 2.15 (*s*, CH₃CO); 2.48 (*s*, CH₃C₆H₄); 2.78, 2.98 (*AB*, J = 4, CH₂(13)); 3.38 (d, J = 5, H–C(2)); 3.81, 4.01 (*AB*, J = 12, CH₂(15)); 3.93 (H–C(11)); 4.88 (*m*, H–C(3)); 5.40 (br. d, J = 5, H–C(10)); 7.36 (d, J = 8, 2 arom. H); 7.83 (d, J = 8, 2 arom. H). CI-MS: 536 (100, [M + NH₄]⁺), 518 ([M + H]⁺), 438, 428, 231.

12,13-Epoxy-3α-[(trifluoromethylsulfonyl) oxy]trichothec-9-en-15-yl 4-Oxopentanoate (11). A soln. of 83 mg (0.22 mmol) of 6 and 0.037 ml (0.456 mmol) of pyridine in 1.5 ml of CH₂Cl₂ was cooled to 0°. After 5 min, a soln. of 0.057 ml (0.347 mmol) of trifluoromethanesulfonic anhydride in 1.5 ml of CH₂Cl₂ was added within 9 min to the stirred soln. After 1 h, the icebath was removed and Et₂O added. It was washed with H₂O. The Et₂O was evaporated and the residue filtered over SiO₂ (Et₂O) to yield 111 mg (98%) of 11. ¹H-NMR (90 MHz): 0.90 (s, CH₃(14)); 1.77 (s, CH₃(16)); 2.03 (s, CH₃CO); 2.93, 3.12 (AB, J = 4, CH₂(13)); 3.82 (d, J = 5, H-C(2)); 3.95, 4.12 (AB, J = 12, CH₂(15)); 4.05 H-C(11)); 5.40 (m, H-C(3)); 5.53 (br. d, J = 5, H-C(10)). CI-MS: 514 (100, [M + NH₄]⁺), 364, 134.

12,13-Epoxytrichotheca-3,9-dien-15-yl 4-Oxopentanoate (12). ¹H-NMR (300 MHz): 0.98 (s, CH₃(14)); 1.73 (s, CH₃(16)); 2.21 (s, CH₃CO); 2.58 (m, CH₂CO); 2.77 (m, CH₂COO); 2.98, 3.23 (*AB*, *J* = 4, CH₂(13)); 3.83, 3.93 (*AB*, *J* = 12, CH₂(15)); 3.87 (H-C(11)); 4.08 (d, *J* = 3, H-C(2)); 5.42 (d, *J* = 5, H-C(10)); 6.13 (dd, *J* = 3, 5, H-C(3)); 6.42 (d, *J* = 5, H-C(4)). CI-MS: 364 ($[M + NH_4]^+$), 347 ($[M + H]^+$), 249 (100).

12,13-Epoxytrichotheca-3,9-dien-15-ol (13). ¹H-NMR (300 MHz): 1.03 (s, CH₃(14)); 1.72 (s, CH₃(16)); 2.97, 3.23 (AB, J = 4, CH₂(13)); 3.43, 3.55 (AB, J = 12, CH₂(15)); 3.85 (br. d, J = 5, H–C(11)); 4.05 (d, J = 3, H–C(2)); 5.42 (br. d, J = 5, H–C(10)); 6.08 (dd, J = 6, 3, H–C(3)); 6.47 (d, J = 6, H–C(4)). CI-MS: 266 ([M + NH₄]⁺), 249 ([M + H]⁺), 231, 201.

12,13-Epoxy-15-hydroxytrichothec-9-en- 3α -yl p-Toluenesulfonate (14). ¹H-NMR (90 MHz, CCl₄): 0.88 (s, CH₃(14)); 1.75 (s, CH₃(16)); 2.52 (s, CH₃C₆H₄); 2.77, 2.97 (AB, J = 4, CH₂(13)); 3.21-3.93 (H-C(2), H-C(11), CH₂(15)); 4.82 (m, H-C(3)); 5.33 (br. d, J = 6, H-C(10)); 7.30 (d, J = 7.5, 2 arom. H); 7.78 (d, J = 7.5, 2 arom. H).

12,13-Epoxy-4β-hydroxy-3α-[(tetrahydro-2H-pyranyl)oxy]trichothec-9-en-15-yl Acetate (16). To a soln. of 2.0 g (5.46 mmol) of 15 in 40 ml of CH₂Cl₂, 2.64 ml (32.8 mmol) of pyridine and 1.03 ml (10.9 mmol) of Ac₂O were added and stirred for 15 h. The solvent was evaporated, the residue dissolved in Et₂O and washed with cold 1N HCl, sat. NaHCO₃ soln., and H₂O. Then, the Et₂O was evaporated and the residue purified by CC (Et₂O) to yield 1.296 g (58%) of 16 as a foam. IR (CHCl₃): 3580 (OH), 2950, 1735 (ester), 1240. ¹H-NMR (90 MHz): 0.82, 0.84 (s, CH₃(14)); 1.71 (s, CH₃(16)); 2.05 (s, Ac); 2.76, 3.03 (AB, J = 4, CH₂(13)); 4.71, 4.97 (br., acetal); 5.50 (br. d, J = 5, H-C(10)).

12,13-Epoxy-4-oxo- 3α -[(tetrahydro-2 H-pyranyl) oxy]trichothec-9-en-15-yl Acetate (17). To a soln. of 0.0354 ml (0.499 mmol) of DMSO in 1 ml of CH₂Cl₂ at -70° , a soln. of 0.0654 ml (0.469 mmol) of (CF₃CO)₂O in 1 ml of CH₂Cl₂ was added within 5 min under stirring. After 10 min, 63.8 mg (0.156 mmol) of 16 in 1 ml of CH₂Cl₂ were added within 10 min. Stirring at -70° was continued for an additional 30 min. Then, 0.0691 ml (0.499 mmol) of Et₃N were added, and 5 min later, the ice-bath was removed. During 50 min, the soln. was allowed to warm up to r.t. The mixture was diluted with CH₂Cl₂ and washed with H₂O (two times). After removal of the solvent, the residue was purified by CC (CH₂Cl₂/acetone 95:5) to afford 56 mg (88%) of 17. M.p. 170–189° (diastereoisomers). CI-MS: 424 ([M + NH₄]⁺), 340, 85 (100).

12,13-Epoxy-3 α -hydroxy-4-oxotrichothec-9-en-15-yl Acetate (18). To a soln. of 250 mg (0.615 mmol) of 17 in 25 ml of MeOH, 16 mg (0.062 mmol) of pyridinium *p*-toluenesulfonate were added and stirred for 15 h at 50°. The solvent was evaporated, the residue dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ and washed with H₂O. After removal of the CH₂Cl₂, the crude product was purified by CC (CH₂Cl₂/acetone 8:2) to yield 188 mg (95%) of 18. M.p. 163–168° (crystallized from CH₂Cl₂/Et₂O). ¹H-NMR (90 MHz): 0.94 (*s*, CH₃(14)); 1.72 (br. *s*, CH₃(16)); 2.06 (*s*, Ac); 2.88 (*d*, *J* = 3.5, OH, exchangeable with D₂O); 2.95, 3.24 (*AB*, *J* = 4, CH₂(13)); 3.78 (br. *d*, *J* = 5, H–C(11)); 3.84, 4.02 (*AB*, *J* = 12, CH₂(15)); 4.07 (*d*, *J* = 5, H–C(2)); 4.30 (*dd*, *J* = 3.5, 5, H–C(3); after exchange with D₂O, *d*, *J* = 5); 5.44 (br. *d*, *J* = 5, H–C(10)). CI-MS: 340 (100, [*M* + NH₄]⁺), 323 ([*M* + H]⁺), 305, 263, 245. Anal. calc. for C₁₇H₂₂O₆ (322.35): calc. C 63.34, H 6.88; found: C 62.78, H 7.06.

12,13-Epoxy-4β-hydroxytrichothec-9-en-15-yl Acetate (22). As for 16, with 100 mg (0.376 mmol) of verrucarol (21), 0.182 ml (2.253 mmol) of pyridine, 0.071 ml (0.751 mmol) of Ac₂O, and 2.8 ml of CH₂Cl₂. CC (Et₂O) yielded 73 mg (63%) of 22. M.p. 149–150° (crystallized from CH₂Cl₂/Et₂O). IR (KBr): 3450, 1720, 1675, 1385, 1255, 1070. ¹H-NMR (90 MHz): 0.87 (*s*, CH₃(14)); 1.71 (*s*, CH₃(16)); 2.06 (*s*, Ac); 2.80, 3.11 (*AB*, J = 4, CH₂(13)); 3.60 (*d*, J = 5.5, H–C(2)); 3.82 (br. *d*, J = 5, H–C(11)); 3.92, 4.13 (*AB*, J = 12, CH₂(15)); 4.48 (*m*, H–C(4)); 5.41 (br. *d*, J = 5, H–C(10)).

12,13-Epoxy-4-oxotrichothec-9-en-15-yl Acetate (19). As for 17, with 0.837 ml (11.81 mmol) of DMSO, 1.55 ml (11.07 mmol) of $(CF_3CO)_2O$, 1.138 g (3.69 mmol) of 22, 1.64 ml (11.81 mmol) of Et_3N , and 45 ml of CH_2Cl_2 . CC (Et₂O) yielded 1.077 g (95%) of 19. ¹H-NMR (90 MHz): 0.93 (s, CH₃(14)); 1.73 (br. s, CH₃(16)); 2.03 (s, Ac); 2.63 (m, CH₂(3)); 2.95, 3.23 (AB, J = 4, CH₂(13)); 3.83 (d, J = 5, H-C(11)); 3.87, 4.02 (AB, J = 12, CH₂(15)); 4.11 (m, H-C(2)); 5.47 (br. d, J = 5, H-C(10)).

Reduction of 19 by $NaBH_4$. To 36 mg (0.118 mmol) of 19 in 1.5 ml of EtOH, 4.9 mg (0.129 mmol) of $NaBH_4$ were added and stirred for 2 h. To achieve a complete conversion, further 4.9 mg of $NaBH_4$ were added. After 6 h, *ca*. 0.3 ml of 1 \aleph HCl were slowly added (pH 2–3), and the pH was adjusted to 6–7 with sat. NaHCO₃ soln. The aq. soln. was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 times). After evaporation of the solvent, CC (CH₂Cl₂/acetone 9:5 to 1:1) afforded 13 mg (31%) of 23 and 14.5 mg (40%) of 20.

Reduction of 19 by $LiAlH(t-OBu)_3$. To a soln. of 115 mg (0.375 mmol) of 19 in 5 ml of THF, 187 mg (0.735 mmol) of LiAlH(t-OBu)₃ were added and stirred for 17 h. An additional 187 mg of LiAlH(t-OBu)₃ were added to complete the reduction. After 6 h, *ca.* 4.5 ml of 1N HCl were carefully added dropwise to the stirred soln. The pH was adjusted to 3–4 with sat. NaHCO₃ soln. After 30 min, the mixture was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 times). Removal of the solvent and subsequent CC (CH₂Cl₂/acetone 9:1) of the residue afforded 91 mg (79%) of 23.

12,13-Epoxy-4 α -hydroxytrichothec-9-en-15-yl Acetate (23). M.p. 213-215° (subl.). $[\alpha]_{21}^{21} = -22.9$ (c = 0.450, CHCl₃). ¹H-NMR (90 MHz): 0.92 (s, CH₃(14)); 1.72 (br. s, CH₃(16)); 2.05 (s, Ac); 2.47 (d, J = 5, OH, exchangeable with D₂O); 2.54 (m, CH₂(3)); 2.78, 3.05 (AB, J = 4, CH₂(13)); 3.66 (d, J = 5.5, H-C(2)); 3.79, 5.24 (AB, J = 12, CH₂(15)); 4.20 (br. d, J = 5, H-C(11)); 4.31 (ddd, J = 5, 5, 11, H-C(4)); 5.46 (br. d, J = 5, H-C(10)). CI-MS: 326 ([M + NH₄]⁺), 309 ([M + H]⁺), 291, 249 (100). Anal. calc. for C₁₇H₂₄O₅ (308.37): C 66.21, H 7.84; found: C 66.23, H 8.10.

12,13-Epoxytrichothec-9-ene-4 α ,15-diol (= 4-Epiverrucarol; 20). To a soln. of 411 mg (1.33 mmol) of 23 in 15 ml of MeOH, 8 ml (8.00 mmol) of 1n NaOH were added and stirred for 40 min. The pH was adjusted to 7-8 by addition of 1n HCl. The aq. soln. was extracted with CH₂Cl₂, the org. layer washed with H₂O, and the solvent evaporated. Crystallization from CH₂Cl₂/hexane yielded 335 mg (94%) of 20. M.p. 169–172°. [α]₂₁²¹ = +38.8 (c = 0.250, CHCl₃). IR (KBr): 3305, 3210, 2960, 1675. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz): 0.89 (s, CH₃(14)); 1.73 (s, CH₃(16)); 2.03 (m, CH₂(7), CH₂(8)); 2.49 (m, H–C(3)); 2.81, 3.10 (AB, J = 4, CH₂(13)); 3.57, 3.62 (AB, J = 12, CH₂(15)); 3.60 (OH, exchangeable with D₂O); 3.68 (d, J = 5.5, H–C(2)); 4.15 (dd, J = 6, 11, H–C(4)); 4.53 (br. d, J = 5.5, H–C(11)); 4.85 (br., OH; exchangeable with D₂O); 5.58 (br. d, J = 5.5, H–C(10)). CI-MS: 248 ([M + NH₄]⁺), 267 ([M + H]⁺), 249 (100). Anal. calc. for C₁₅H₂₂O₄ (266.33): C 67.65, H 8.33; found: C 67.43, H 8.42.

Condensation of **20** with 5 - [((tert-Butyl) dimethylsilyl) oxy] - 3-methyl-2-[(tetrahydro-2H-pyranyl) oxy]-pentanoic Acid (**25**). A soln. of 97 mg (0.365 mmol) of**20**, 139 mg (0.401 mmol) of**25**, and 10 mg (0.082 mmol) of (Me₂N)Py in 3 ml of CH₂Cl₂ was cooled to 0°. After 10 min, 98 mg (0.475 mmol) of DCC were added. The soln. was

stirred for 1 h, then the ice-bath was removed. After an additional stirring at r.t. for 18 h, the precipitated urea was filtered off. The CH₂Cl₂ was evaporated and the residue purified by flash chromatography (SiO₂, 0.035–0.070 mm; CH₂Cl₂/acetone 95:5) 99 mg (46%) of 12,13-epoxy-15-hydroxytrichothec-9-en- 4α -yl 5-[((tert-butyl)dimethyl-silyl)oxy]-3-methyl-2-[(tertahydro-2H-pyranyl)oxy]pentanoate (27) as a mixture of THP diastereoisomers (ratio 2:1). ¹H-NMR (400 MHz): 0.06 (s, (CH₃)₂Si); 0.90 (s, (t-Bu)Si); 0.95 (s, CH₃(14)); 0.99, 1.02 (d, J = 7, CH₃(3')); 1.73 (br. s, CH₃(16)); 2.67, 2.75 (2m, CH₂(3)); 2.84, 3.11 (AB, J = 4, CH₂(13)); 5.07, 5.18 (2dd, J = 6, 10.5, H-C(4)); 5.50 (m, H-C(10)). CI-MS: 595 ([M + H]⁺), 511, 481, 263, 249, 217, 85 (100).

Condensation of **20** with AcOH. As for **27** (see above), with 90 mg (0.338 mmol) of **20**, 213 μ l (0.372 mmol) of AcOH, 9 mg (0.074 mmol) of (Me₂N)Py, 91 mg (0.439 mmol) of DCC, and 3 ml of CH₂Cl₂. CC (SiO₂, 0.030–0.075 mm; Et₂O/hexane/MeOH 49:49:2) yielded 74 mg (71%) of **28**, 10 mg (9.6%) of **23**, and 7.5 mg (8.4%) of **29**.

12,13-Epoxy-15-hydroxytrichothec-9-en- 4α -yl Acetate (28). M.p. 172–174° (from CH₂Cl₂/Et₂O/MeOH). [α]_D²⁰ = +37.7 (c = 0.310, CHCl₃). ¹H-NMR (400 MHz): 0.99 (s, CH₃(14)); 1.75 (br. s, CH₃(16)); 1.83 (dd, J = 5, 16, H–C(3)); 2.16 (s, Ac); 2.68 (ddd, J = 5, 11, 16, H–C(3)); 2.85, 3.11 (AB, J = 4, CH₂(13)); 3.56, 4.18 (br. AB, J = 12, CH₂(15)); 3.71 (d, J = 5.5, H–C(2)); 4.09 (br. d, J = 5, H–C(11)); 5.13 (dd, J = 5, 11, H–C(4)); 5.49 (br. d, J = 5, H–C(10)). CI-MS: 326 ($[M + NH_4]^+$), 309 ($[M + H]^+$), 249, 169 (100).

12,13-Epoxytrichothec-9-ene-4 α ,15-diyl Diacetate (**29**). M.p. 157–159° (from CH₂Cl₂/hexane). [α]_D²⁰ = +6.7 (c = 0.360, CHCl₃). ¹H-NMR (400 MHz): 0.92 (s, CH₃(14)); 1.73 (s, CH₃(16)); 2.04 (s, Ac); 2.17 (s, Ac); 2.67 (ddd, J = 5, 11, 16, H–C(3)); 2.84, 3.10 (AB, J = 4, CH₂(13)); 3.72 (d, J = 5, H–C(2)); 3.79, 4.99 (AB, J = 12, CH₂(15)); 4.07 (br. d, J = 5.5, H–C(11)); 5.17 (dd, J = 5, 11, H–C(4)); 5.45 (br. d, J = 5.5, H–C(10)). CI-MS: 368 ([M + NH₄]⁺), 351 ([M + H]⁺), 291, 169 (100). Anal. calc. for C₁₉H₂₆O₆ (350.41): C 65.13, H 7.48; found: C 64.87, H 7.73.

12,13-Epoxy-15-hydroxytrichothec-9-en-4 α -yl 2-(Trimethylsilyl)ethyl (2'Z,4'E)-Hexa-2,4-diendioate (30). As above, with 83 mg (0.312 mmol) of 20, 83 mg (0.343 mmol) of 26, 3.8 mg (0.031 mmol) of (Me₂N)Py, 77 mg (0.374 mmol) of DCC, and 2.5 ml of CH₂Cl₂. CC (SiO₂, 0.030-0.075 µm; CH₂Cl₂/acetone 95:5) yielded 94 mg (61%) of 30 and 44 mg (29%) of 31. 30: M.p. 110-112° (from Et₂O/hexane). [α]₂₀^{2D} = +25.7, [α]₄₃₆^{3G} = +43.3 (c = 0.505, CHCl₃). IR (KBr): 3500 (OH), 2950, 2900, 1725, 1715 (ester), 1600. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz): 0.05 (s, (CH₃)₃Si); 1.05 (m, CH₂Si); 1.07 (s, CH₃(14)); 1.73 (br. s, CH₃(16)); 1.89 (dd, J = 5, 15.5, H–C(3)); 1.98 (br. s, OH, exchangeable with D₂O); 2.77 (ddd, J = 5.5, 11, 15.5, H–C(3)); 2.87, 3.12 (AB, J = 4, CH₂(13)); 3.52 (dd, J = 5, 12, H–C(15); after D₂O exchangeable, d, J = 12); 3.73 (d, J = 5.5, H–C(2)); 4.03 (d, J = 5.5, H–C(11)); 4.25 (dd, J = 5, 12, H–C(15); after D₂O exchange, d, J = 12); 4.28 (m, OCH₂CH₂Si); 5.18 (dd, J = 5, 11, H–C(4)); 5.45 (br. d, J = 5.5, H–C(10)); 6.02 (d, J = 11.5, H–C(2)); 6.14 (d, J = 15.5, H–C(5')); 6.70 (dd, J = 11.5, 11.5, H–C(3')); 8.31 (dd, J = 11.5, 15.5, H–C(4')). CI-MS: 508 ([M + NH₄]⁺), 491 ([M + H]⁺), 463, 249, 90 (100).

12,13-Epoxy-4 α -hydroxytrichothec-9-en-15-yl 2-(Trimethylsilyl)ethyl (2'Z,4'E)-Hexa-2,4-diendioate (31). ¹H-NMR (400 MHz): 0.05 (s, (CH₃)₃Si); 0.91 (s, CH₃(14)); 0.99 (m, CH₂Si); 1.72 (s, CH₃(16)); 1.96 (dd, J = 5, 15, H-C(3)); 2.53 (ddd, J = 5, 10.5, 15, H-C(3)); 2.67 (br. d, J = 4.5, OH); 2.79, 3.05 (AB, J = 4, CH₂(13)); 3.67 (d, J = 5.5, H-C(2)); 3.93, 5.36 (AB, J = 12, CH₂(15)); 4.23 (br. d, J = 5.5, H-C(11)); 4.27 (m, H-C(4), OCH₂CH₂Si); 5.45 (br. d, J = 5.5, H-C(10)); 5.94 (d, J = 11.5, H-C(2')); 6.10 (d, J = 15.5, H-C(5')); 6.64 (dd, J = 11.5, H-C(3')); 8.31 (dd, J = 11.5, 15.5, H-C(4')).

 $15 - \{[5'-[((\text{tert} - Butyl) dimethylsilyl) oxy] - 3' - methyl - 2' - [(tetrahydro - 2H - pyranyl) oxy] pentyl] oxy] + 12, 13 - epoxytrichothec-9-en-4\alpha-yl 2-(Trimethylsilyl) ethyl (2" E, 4" Z) - Hexa-2, 4-diendioate (32). As above, with 131 mg (0.267 mmol) of$ **30**, 184 mg (0.534 mmol) of**25**, 122 mg (0.587 mmol) of DCC, 6.5 mg (0.053 mmol) of (Me₂N)Py, and 4 ml of CH₂Cl₂. The mixture was stirred for 21 h. Then, 46 mg (0.136 mmol) of**25**were added and stirred for an additional 20 h. After filtration of the precipitated urea, the solvent was evaporated and the residue purified by CC (petroleum ether/Et₂O 1:1) yielding 253 mg of a mixture which consisted predominantly of**32**. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz; diastereoisomers): 0.04, 0.06, 0.08 (CH₃)₃Si, (CH₃)₂Si; 0.89, 0.90 (2s, CH₃(14), (*t*-BuSi); 2.75 (*m*, H–C(3)); 2.84 or 2.86 and 3.13 (*AB*,*J*= 4, CH₂(13)); 3.93 and 4.82, 4.01 and 4.94 (2*AB*,*J*= 12, CH₂(15)); 4.57, 4.65 (br., 1 H, acetal); 5.21 (*m*, H–C(4)); 5.46 (br. d, H–C(10)); 6.03 (*d*,*J*= 11.5, 15.5, H–C(4")). CI-MS: 837 (3.9, [M + NH₄]⁺), 820 (0.4, [M + H]⁺), 708, 493, 249, 217, 85 (100).

4-Epiverrucarin A (24). To a soln. of 83 mg of 32 (exact amount not determined, see above) in 2 ml of THF, 158 mg (0.505 mmol) of Bu_4NF were added and stirred for 2 h. The soln. was diluted with Et_2O (35 ml) and washed with H_2O (5 ml). The Et_2O was evaporated and the residue dried for 2 h ($20^{\circ}/0.02-0.04$ Torr, P_2O_3): 55 mg of 33 which were immediately redissolved in 46 ml of CH_2Cl_2 . Then, 64 µl (0.455 mmol) of Et_3N , and after 10 min, 44 µl (0.364 nnmol) of pivaloyl chloride were added. The soln. was stirred for 10 min, and 11 mg (0.091 mmol) of (Me_2N)Py were added. Stirring was continued for 2 h (discolouration to yellow). The solvent was removed and the product purified by CC (Et_2O /petroleum ether 7:3), yielding 24 mg of an oil which was dissolved in 2 ml of EtOH. Then, 8.9 mg

(0.036 mmol) of pyridinium *p*-toluenesulfonate were added, and the soln. was heated at 50° for 20 h. The solvent was evaporated and the residue purified by prep. TLC (Et₂O): 13 mg (29% from **30**) of **24** as an oil. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz): 1.09 (d, J = 7, CH₃(6')); 1.20 (s, CH₃(14)); 1.66 (m, H–C(8)); 1.71 (s, CH₃(16)); 1.81 (m, H–C(7)); 1.88 (m, 2 H–C(4')); 1.96 (m, H–C(3')); 2.93 (m, H–C(3')); 2.33 (m, H–C(7)); 2.40 (m, H–C(8)); 2.69 (br. d, J = 5.5, OH); 2.89 (ddd, J = 5, 10.5, 16, H–C(3)); 2.90, 3.15 (AB, J = 4, CH₂(13)); 3.76 (d, J = 5.5, H–C(2)); 3.86 (m, H–C(2')); 3.89 (m, H–C(5')); 4.05 (br. d, J = 5.5, H–C(11)); 4.23, 4.66 (AB, J = 12.5, CH₂(15)); 4.81 (m, H–C(5')); 5.05 (dd, J = 10.5, 5, H–C(4)); 5.43 (br. d, J = 5.5, H–C(10)); 6.07 (d, J = 15.5, H–C(5'')); 6.09 (d, J = 11, H–C(2'')); 6.05 (dd, J = 11, H–C(3'')); 7.60 (dd, J = 11, 15.5, H–C(4')). ¹³C-NMR (101 MHz): 12.2 (C(14)); 17.1 (C(6')); 21.9 (C(7)); 23.2 (C(16)); 28.1 (C(4')); 32.3 (C(8)); 34.8 (C(3)); 35.0 (C(3')); 44.0 (C(6)); 47.5 (C(5)); 49.1 (C(13)); 62.3 (C(5')); 64.9 (C(12)); 66.0 (C(15)); 66.7 (C(11)); 74.5 (C(2')); 77.4 (C(2)); 83.3 (C(4)); 118.2 (C(10)); 126.1 (C(2')); 128.1 (C(5'')); 136.4 (C(3''')); 137.9 (C(4'')); 114.4 (C(9)); 165.4, 165.7 (C(1''), C(6''')); 175.3 (C(1')). CI-MS: 520 ([$M + NH_4$]⁺), 503 ([M + H]⁺), 485, 249 (100).

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