

SYNTHESIS AND CRYSTAL STRUCTURE OF DECAHYDRO-DISPIRO[OXIRANE-2,3'-
(2'H)BENZOFURAN-2',2"-[2H]PYRAN]

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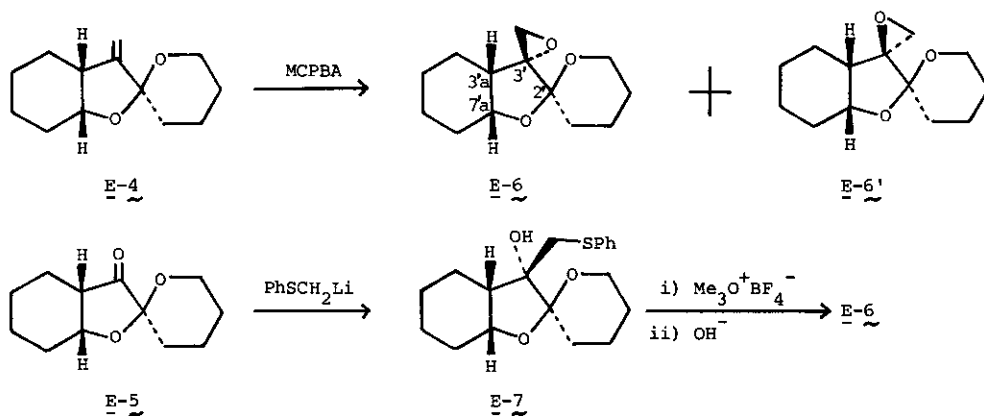
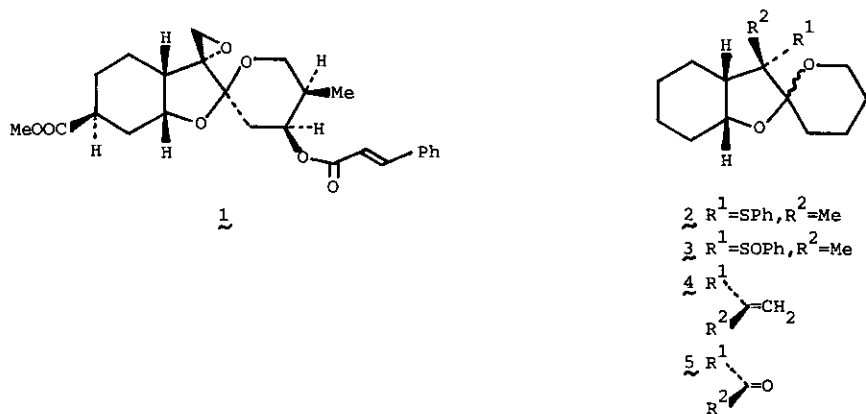
Abstract — (2'S*,3'R*,3'aS*,7'aR*)-Decahydro-dispiro[oxirane-2,
3'(2'H)benzofuran-2',2"-[2H]pyran] (E-6) and its isomer E-6' with
epimeric stereochemistry of the epoxide ring were prepared stereo-
selectively and an X-ray analysis of E-6' is reported.

In the preceding paper,¹ we described an efficient route of E- and Z-1,6-dioxaspiro-
[4.5]decane ring systems, important moieties of many natural products including
insect pheromones and polyether antibiotics.

In this paper, we report the synthesis of dispiro compounds, E-6 and its isomer E-6',
the essential framework of phyllanthocin 1², and an X-ray analysis of E-6' which
confirms the correctness of our previous proposal about the stereochemistry of a
series of compounds 2, 3, 4 and 5.

Though various attempts³ to introduce the epoxy function into the E-olefin 4 were
unsuccessful, resulting in recovery of the starting material or decomposition,
epoxidation in conventional way (MCPBA, CH₂Cl₂, 0°C, 48 h) afforded the two diastereo-
meric isomers, E-6 [the minor isomer (5.6%); bp 100°C/0.01 mmHg; δ_H(CCl₄): 2.68 and
2.76 (each 1H, d, J=5 Hz), 3.30-3.58 (1H, m), 3.62-3.89 (1H, m), 4.15 (1H, m); δ_C(CDCl₃):
38.8(d), 61.8(t), 70.2(s), 73.5(d), 103.2(s)] and E-6' [the major isomer (84%); mp
57.5-58°C; δ_H(CCl₄): 2.58 and 2.62 (each 1H, d, J=5 Hz), 3.40-3.98 (2H, m), 4.23 (1H,
m); δ_C(CDCl₃): 40.5(d), 61.9(t), 70.5(s), 73.0(d), 100.7(s)].

On the other hand, this minor isomer E-6 was derived from E-ketone 5 with high
selectivity in a two-step sequence (46% overall yield): the formation of β-hydroxy-
sulfide E-7 [PhSCH₂Li⁴ (5 equiv.), THF, r.t., 15 h] and methylation at the sulfur with



trimethyloxonium tetrafluoroborate (CH_2Cl_2 , r.t., 1 h) followed by treatment of aq. base (5% NaOH, r.t., 15 h).⁵

An attempt to determine the stereochemistry of these isomers by the NMR spectra was uninformative. Thus, in order to establish these structures and ensure our previous stereochemical assignments of a series of the synthetic intermediates 2, 3, 4 and 5 based on the ^{13}C NMR spectral data, the nicely crystalline compound E-6' was subjected to an X-ray analysis. The crystal data and intensity data were derived from the measurements on a Syntex R3 four-circle diffractometer with graphite-monochromated MoK α radiation. Crystal data: $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_3$, monoclinic, space group $\text{P2}_1/\text{c}$, $a=11.770(4)$, $b=9.573(4)$, $c=10.769(7)\text{\AA}$, $\beta=92.01(4)^\circ$, $D_x=1.23\text{ g.cm}^{-3}$, $z=4$ and $\mu(\text{MoK}\alpha)=0.9\text{ cm}^{-1}$. Intensity data for 1293 reflections ($I > 1.96\sigma(I)$) were collected using an ω -scan mode within 2θ less than 45° . Lorentz and polarization corrections were applied, but no absorption corrections were made. The structure was solved by the direct method using MULTAN on a Syntex XTL program. All the hydrogen atoms were found on a difference Fourier map. The refinement of atomic parameters was carried

out by block-diagonal least-squares calculations. The final R-value was 0.041 assuming anisotropic thermal motions for non-hydrogen atoms and isotropic ones for hydrogen atoms. The molecular structure is illustrated in Figure. Once the structure of E-6' was established, the structures of the synthetic intermediates 2, 3, 4 and 5 then logically followed.

In conclusion, we have achieved a stereoselective synthesis of dispiro compound E-6 which possesses the requisite stereochemistry among the tetracyclic rings contained in phyllanthocin 1. Further synthetic approach toward phyllanthocin and related compounds is in progress.

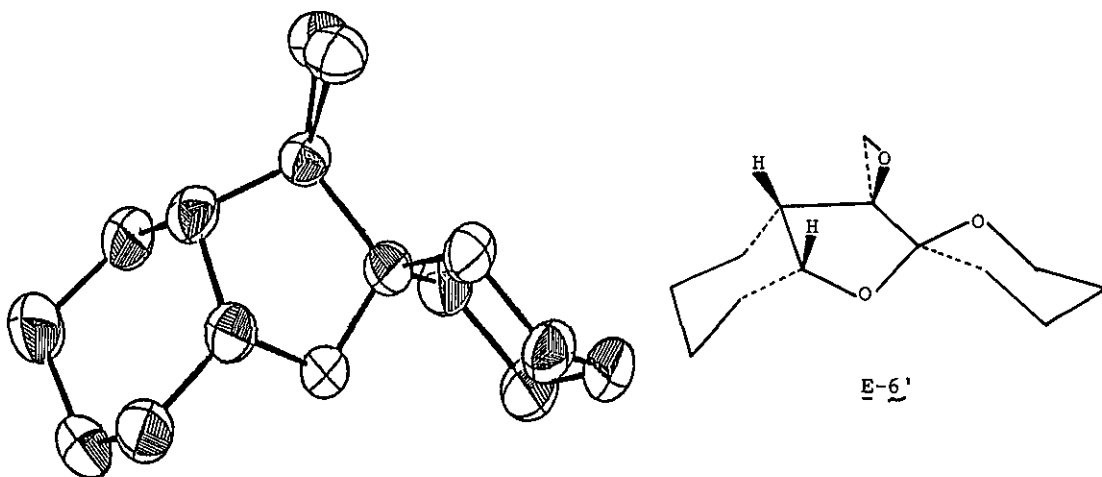


Figure. The molecular structure of E-6'

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Received, 28th May, 1984