Synthesis of some substituted adamantane-2,4-diones from 4, 4-disubstituted cyclohexanone enamines and methacryloyl chloride M. Giasuddin Ahmed^a*, Syeda Asghari Ahmed^a, Kawsari Akhter^a, Syed M. Iqbal Moeiz^a, Yoshisuke Tsuda^b, Fumiyuki Kiuchi^c, M. Mahmun Hossain^d and F. Holger Forsterling^d

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The reaction of methacryloyl chloride with the morpholine enamine **4a** derived from 4-acetyl-4-isopropenylcyclohexanone **3a** gave 4,6-anti-6-hydroxy-5,6-dimethyl-7-isopropenyladamantane-2,4-dione **6a** and 4,6-syn-6-hydroxy-5,6-dimethyl-7-isopropenyladamantane-2, 4-dione **7a** as racemates epimeric at 6-C. Comparable results were found for the corresponding phenyl and benzyl substituted cyclohexanones **3b** and **3c**. In the case of the methyl-substituted cyclohexanone **3d** 4,6- anti-alcohol **7d** was isolated in pure form.

Keywords: adamantane-2,4-diones 4,4-disubstituted cyclohexanone enamines, methacryloyl chloride

A literature review shows that besides the interesting chemistry of adamantane derivatives from both the mechanistic and synthetic points of view, suitably substituted adamantanes also show considerable biological activity.¹⁻⁵ With this background, we have been extending our work on the synthesis of substituted adamantane-2,4-diones.

In continuation of our previous reports⁶⁻⁸ on the synthesis of substituted adamantane-2,4-diones, we now report the synthesis of seven new substituted adamantane-2,4-diones. The synthesis is based on a general reaction of 4,4-disubstituted cyclohexanone enamines with methacryloyl chloride.

For this synthesis, we first prepared 4,4-disubstituted cyclohexanones **3a–d** following literature methods⁸⁻¹⁰ in which one of the substituents is an acetyl group (Scheme 1). The corresponding enamines **4a–d** were prepared in accordance with the general procedure reported earlier^{6,7} without using any catalyst.

The morpholine enamine **4a**, reacted with methacryloyl chloride yielding a mixture of isomeric 6-hydroxy-5,6-dimethyl-7-isopropenyladamantane-2,4-diones **6a** and **7a** which are epimeric at position 6. For reference alcohols in the series 6 are named as the 4,6-anti alcohols and those with



Scheme 1

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Scheme 2

7 series as the 4,6-syn alcohols depicting the orientation of the 6-hydroxy group with respect to the 4-ketone. The reaction of **4b** with methacryloyl chloride also yielded a mixture of the epimeric adamantanediones, 6-hydroxy-5,6-dimethyl-7-phenyladamantane-2,4-diones **6b** and **7b**. The same acid chloride reacted with **4c** to give two epimeric adamantanediones, 6-hydroxy-5,6-dimethyl-7-benzyladamantane-2,4diones **6c** and **7c**. Methacryloyl chloride reacted with **4d** to give 4,6-syn-6-hydroxy-5,6,7-trimethyladamantane-2, 4-dione **7d** in pure form.

All the aforementioned adamantane -2,4-diones are racemic but only one enantiomer is shown (Scheme 1). The adamantanediones were obtained as pure racemates with the 4,6-anti configuration in **6a**, **6b** and **6c** and the 4,6-syn configuration in the compounds **7a**, **7b**, **7c** and **7d**.

The formation of adamantanediones **6a**, **7a**, **6b**, **7b**, **6c**, **7c** and **7d** may be explained, by analogy with the reported mechanism,¹¹⁻¹³ by the axial attack of the acid chloride syn to the acetyl group shown in the conformation of the enamine **4** (Scheme 2). The structures of compounds **6a**, **7a**, **6b**, **7b**, **6c**, **7c** and **7d** were determined by their elemental analysis, IR spectra ¹H and ¹³C NMR, ¹H—¹H NMR COSY, ¹H—¹³C NMR

COSY, HMBC and DEPT. The stereochemistry at position 6-C of **6a** was further clarified with the help of NOESY. X-ray crystallography afforded additional proof for the structures **6b** and **7c**.

The ¹H NMR spectral data and the corresponding coupling constants of the compounds **6a**, **7a**, **6b**, **7b**, **6c**, **7c** and **7d** are presented in Tables 1 and 2 respectively. By running two-dimensional (¹H–¹H, COSY and ¹H–¹³C, COSY) NMR spectra it was possible to assign all the protons in these compounds and the corresponding coupling constants were determined from one-dimensional ¹H NMR spectral data.

Of the alicyclic part 3-H resonated downfield considerably (δ 3.00-3.54) in all compounds. This is because the protons at 3-C are adjacent to two carbonyl groups. The 9-H protons in compounds assigned in the Table 1 are shifted downfield^{11,14,15} due to 1,3-diaxial interaction with the axial OH at position 6 in **6a**, **6b** and **6c**. Similar 1,3-interaction with the axial 6-CH₃ provides smaller deshielding effect^{11,16} in **7a,7b**, **7c** and **7d**.

The stereochemistry of the 6- and 5- positions of compound **7a** also became clear from its NOESY. In NOESY the intensity of the peak 5-CH₃ was affected significantly upon the irradiation of 6-CH₃ protons in **7a**. This clearly shows that

Table 1 1 H NMR spectral data of the adamantanediones 6a, 7a, 6b, 7b, 6c, 7c and 7d (chemical shifts in δ)

Protons	6a	7a	6b	7b	6c	7c	7d
1-H	2.69	2.75	2.80	2.92	2.61	2.67	2.68
3-H	3.38	3.39	3.54	3.53	3.33	3.00	3.37
8-H ^e	2.89	2.43	3.28	2.86	2.39	2.92	2.10
8-H ^a	1.78	2.20	1.94	2.43	1.54	2.62	2.00
9-H ^e	2.49	1.95	2.63	2.11	2.42	1.96	1.96
9-H ^a	1.25	1.49	1.37	1.57	1.26	1.49	1.50
10-H ^e	2.40	3.07	2.82	3.48	2.95	2.65	2.72
10-H ^a	2.19	1.98	2.38	2.16	2.64	1.67	1.89
6-OH	1.30	1.58	1.56	1.63	1.67	1.76	1.66
5-CH ₃	1.12	1.14	1.17	1.21	1.14	1.15	1.14
6-CH ₃	1.13	1.31	0.92	1.09	1.31	1.49	136
$7-C_6H_5$	-	-	7.25–7.41(m)	7.26–7.43(m)	7.06–7.28 (m)	7.04–7.28(m)	-
7-CH ₂ C ₆ H ₅	-	-	-	-	2.06	2.07	-
7-C–H°	8.84	8.84	-	-	-	-	-
7-C–H ^t	5.09	5.09	-	-	-	-	-
7-C–CH₃	1.87	1.86	-	-	-	-	-
7-CH ₃	-	-	_	-	-	-	0.99

Table 2 Coupling constants (*J* in Hz) of the adamantanediones 6a, 7a, 6b, 7b, 6c, 7c and 7d

Protons	6a	7a	6b	7b	6c	7c	7d
8Hª, 1H	2.0	2.8	2.5	2.8	2.3	2.6	2.75
8H ^e , 1H	3.0	3.5	3.65	3.4	2.7	2.9	3.05
8Hª, 8H ^e	13.5	13.6	13.2	13.0	13.2	13.1	13.75
9H ^a , 1H	-	2.7	2.5	2.8	2.3	2.7	2.75
9H ^e , 1H	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.75	2.8	3.05
9H ^a , 9H ^e	13.75	14.3	13.7	14.1	13.6	14.2	14.35
10H ^a , 3H	3.0	2.3	2.8	2.5	2.9	2.9	2.75
10H ^e , 3H	4.0	3.9	3.1	3.8	2.9	2.6	3.65
10H ^a , 10H ^e	13.75	12.9	13.3	12.6	13.15	12.9	12.9
8H ^e , 10H ^e	4.0	4.2	3.7	4.2	-	-	4.3

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Table 3	3 ¹³ C NMR spectral data of the adamantanedior	nes 6a, 7a, 6b, 7b, 6c, 7c and 7d (chemical sh	ifts in δ)
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Carbons	6a	7a	6b	7b	6c	7c	7d
1-C	44.76	44.59	44.83	44.60	44.64	44.62	44.80
2-C	208.45	208.22	208.14	207.84	207.84	207.71	
208.40							
3-C	65.81	66.35	65.91	66.31	66.04	66.33	66.73
4-C	206.33	206.67	206.16	206.46	206.75	207.33	
207.17							
5-C	54.74	53.87	54.85	53.90	54.99	53.93	53.53
6-C	77.35	80.32	76.50	80.40	78.35	80.08	80.32
7-C	44.92	45.05	44.30	44.33	40.80	40.97	37.84
8-C	38.15	39.37	38.80	39.58	36.02	39.44	42.26
9-C	33.00	34.47	33.08	34.71	33.06	34.57	34.90
10-C	40.57	42.50	40.49	42.88	39.61	41.37	44.89
5-CH ₂	15.16	15.33	15.40	15.42	15.25	15.32	15.10
6-CH ₂	21.09	19.74	21.16	19.80	19.64	18.08	18.51
7-CH ₂	_	_	_	_	_	_	20.74
7-C ₆ H ₅	_	-	141.27(C) 128.24(C) 127.63(C) 127.19(C)	141.07(C ₁) 128.24(C ₂) 127.40 (C ₂) 127.12(C ₁)	-	-	_
7-CH ₂ C ₆ H ₅	-	-	_	-	40.24	38.66	_
7-CH ₂ C ₆ H ₅	-	-	-	-	136.65(C ₁) 130.69(C ₂) 128.20 (C ₂) 126.66(C ₁)	136.67(C ₁) 130.64(C ₂) 128.22 (C ₂) 126.67(C ₁)	
7-C-CH ₃	23.39	23.38	-	-	-	-	_
7-C-CH₂ 7-C-CH₂	146.91 115.42	146.71 115.39	-	-	-	-	-

the CH₃ groups at the 5-and 6-positions in the ring (567819) are in close proximity indicating their relative equatorial-axial conformation. The irradiation of the axial 6-CH₃ in **7a** (567819) affected the intensities of the peaks of 8-H axial and 9-H axial remarkably. This is confirming further the axial conformation of 6-CH₃ with respect to the ring (567819). Likewise in the 6-series compounds the conformational relationship of the CH₃-groups should be equatorial-equatorial.

In ¹³C NMR spectral data, the chemical shift values for 6-C and 6-CH₃ carbons (Table 3) of the compounds **6a**, **6b**, and **6c**, compare well with the reported¹⁷ values of δ 73.80 and 27.50 for 2-C and 2-CH₃ of 2-methyl-2-adamantanol where OH is axial and CH₃ is equatorial. 6-C of **6a**, **6b** and **6c** resonated δ 2.97, δ 3.9 and δ 1.73 ppm up-field than that of the corresponding epimers **7a**, **7b** and **7c** respectively, probably due to shielding operating in **6a**, **6b** and **6c** resulting from steric compression¹⁸ between the axial OH at 6-C and equatorial isopropenyl, phenyl and benzyl groups respectively at the adjacent bridgehead position (7-C).

The evidence in support to the axial orientation of the OH group at position 6 in the relevant compounds is also provided by downfield shift (1.69–3.67ppm) of 10-C in comparison to 8-C in these compounds by the γ -anti effect.¹⁹ This downfield γ -anti SCS (Substitution chemical shift) due to the OH substituent at 6-C increased by 3.13 ppm in the case of **7a** and by 3.30 ppm in the case of **7b** indicating their OH equatorial orientation where the hetero atom O, C_a, C_β, C_γ and H_δ were compressed in the same plane.¹⁹ The CH₃ group either axial or equatorial would have very little SCS due to γ -anti effect. Downfield shift due to the γ -anti effect by 1.47 ppm, 1.63 ppm and 1.51 ppm of 9-C has been observed in the cases of **7a**, **7b** and **7c** as compared to those in **6a**, **6b** and **6c** respectively. It may be mentioned that in the parent hydrocarbon the bridgehead and methylene carbons resonate²⁰ at δ 28.50 and 37.80 respectively. The downfield shift

Table 4 Crystallographic data for structure (6b)

Crystal data

Empirical formula	C ₁₈ H ₂₀ O ₃
Formula weight	284.35
Crystal colour, habit	Colourless, needle
Crystal dimensions (mm)	0.50 x 0.25 x 0.25
Crystal system	Monoclinic
Lattice type	Primitive
Indexing images	6 oscillations @ 5.0 s
Detector position	54.42 mm
Pixel size	0.068 mm
Lattice parameters	<i>a</i> = 6.6495 (8)Å
	<i>b</i> =29.963 (3) Å
	<i>c</i> =15.426 (2) Å
	β = 108.633 (4)°
	V=2912.3 (6) Å ³
Space group	P2 ₁ (#4)
Zvalue	8
D _{calc}	1.297 g/cm ³
Fooo	1216.00
μ (ΜοΚα)	0.87 cm ⁻¹

of the 1, 5 and 7 carbons in all these compounds were observed due to SCS effect. The NMR spectral data compare well with those of structures reported earlier.

X-ray analysis

The crystal of the compound **6b** is monoclinic (Table 4) with four molecules per unit-cell. All atoms are in general positions. The ORTEP diagram of this compound is shown in Fig. 1.

The numbering of carbons in the structures of the adamantane derivatives mentioned in the present paper is different from those in ORTEP diagram. The numbering of the equivalent carbons is shown below

Numbering in the paper	Numbering in ORTEP diagram	Numbering in the paper	Numbering in ORTEP diagram	Numbering in the paper	Numbering in ORTEP diagram
C ₁ = C ₂ = C ₃ = C ₄ =	■ C ₇ ■ C ₈ ■ C ₁ ■ C ₂	C ₅ = C ₆ = C ₇ = C ₈ =	= C ₃ = C ₄ = C ₅ = C ₈	C ₉ C ₁₀	$\begin{array}{l} \equiv & C_{10} \\ \equiv & C_9 \end{array}$





The general details of the structure **7c** determination are summarised in Table 5. Figure 2 shows the ORTEP stereoscopic view of the compound **7c**.

The numbering of carbons in the structures of the adamantine derivatives mentioned in the present paper is different from those in ORTEP diagram. The numbering of the equivalent carbons is shown below.

Numbering in the paper	Numbering in diagram	Numbering in the paper	Numbering in diagram	Numbering in the paper	Numbering in diagram
C ₁ = C ₂ = C ₃ = C ₄ =	$= C_3$ $= C_2$ $= C_1$ $= C_7$	C ₅ = C ₆ = C ₇ = C ₈ =	= C ₁₀ = C ₉ = C ₅ = C₄	C ₉ C ₁₀	$= C_8$ $= C_6$



Fig. 2 Structure of 7c.

Experimental

¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker 500 MHz and 300 MHz instruments at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Department of Chemistry, USA. A number of NMR spectra were also recorded on JEOL 500 MHz and 400 MHz instruments at the Kyoto, Kanazawa and Showa Pharmaceutical Universities in Japan. Some of NMR and mass spectra were also recorded at the H.E.J Research Institute of Chemistry, Karachi University, Pakistan and a number of mass spectra were also recorded in the Department of Chemistry, University of George Mason University, USA. All ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were run as KBr pellets in the case of solids and solution in the case of liquids; sequences of absorptions are expressed in cm⁻¹ For column chromatography silica gel 100 (supplied by E Mark) and light petroleum (60–80°): chloroform = 10: 1 were used.

X-ray experiments were performed at the University of Kanazawa in Japan. In each case a suitable size of crystal was chosen for the X-ray diffraction studies. The crystal was mounted on a glass fibre. Intensity data were measured in a RIGAKU AFCSR four circle diffractometer with graphic monochromated cuK α radiation ($\lambda = 0,71069$ Å) and a 12 kW rotating anode generator using ω -2 θ scan technique at a temperature of $23 \pm 1^{\circ}$ C to a maximum of 2 θ value of 120.0°. The intensities were reduced and corrected for Lorentz and polaristion effects by routine procedures. No decay and absorption corrections were applied. The structure was solved by the direct method.²¹ The non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically. The final cycle of full-matrix least-squares refinement was based on 700 observed reflections (*I*>3.00 σ (*I*)) and 199 variable parameters and converged (largest parameter shift was 0.11 times its ESD) with unweighted and weighted agreement factors of: Table 5 Crystallographic data and refinement details for structure (7c)

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A. Crystal uata		
Empirical form	nula	$C_{19}H_{22}O_3$
Formula weigl	ht	298.38
Crystal colour,	habit	Colourless, needle
Crystal dimens	sions (mm)	$0.100 \times 0.100 \times 0.300$
Crystal system	1	Orthorhombic
No. Reflection	s used for unit cell determination (2) range)	5(29.8–38.0°)
Omega scan p	eak width at half-height	0.36
Lattice parame	eters	a = 8.0932 (8)A
		b=23.559 (6) A
		c = 7.6044 (9) A
		v = 1593.2 (4) A ³
Space group		$P_{2_{1}2_{1}2_{1}}^{2}$ (#19)
∠ value		4
D _{calc}		1.244 g/cm ³
		640 6 26 amrt
μ (Cuka)		6.26 CIII -
B. Intensity meas	surements	
Diffractometer		Rigaku AFC5R
Radiation		CuΚα (λ =1.54178Å)
Temperature		23°C
Attenuators		Ni foil (factors=3.0,8.1,23.4)
Take –off angle	e	6.0°
Detector apert	ure	6.0 mm (horizontal), 6.0 mm (vertical)
Crystal to dete	ector distance	40 cm
Scan type		ω-2θ
Scan rate		6.0°/ min (in omega) (2 rescans)
Scan width		(0.84+0.30 tanθ)°
2θ _{max}		120.0
No. of reflection	ons measured	lotal : 1416
Corrections		Lorentz-polarisation
C. Structure solu	tion and refinement	
Structure solu	tion	Direct methods
Refinement		Full-matrix least-squares
Function mini	mised	$\Sigma w (Fo - Fo)^2$
Least-square v	veight	4Fo²/σ² (Fo)²
<i>P</i> -factor		0.03
Anomalous di	spersion	All non-hydrogen atoms
No. observatio	on	700
No. variables		199
Reflection/para	ameter ratio	3.52
Residuals: R; I	R _w	0.117, 0.129
Goodness of f	it indicator	4.09
Max. shift/erro	or in final cycle	0.11
Maximum pea	ik in tinal diff. map	-U.42e ⁻¹ /A ³
ivlinimum pea	k in final diff.map	–U.4be ⁻ '/A ³

$$R = \sum ||Fo| - |Fc|| / \sum |Fo| = 0.117$$

$$R_{w} = [(\Sigma w (|Fo|) - (|Fc^{2}|)^{2} / \Sigma w Fo^{2})]^{1/2} = 0.129$$

The standard deviation of an observation of unit weight was 4.09. The weighting scheme was based on counting statistics and included a factor (P = 0.03) to down weight the intense reflections. Plots of $\sum w (|F_o|) - (|F^2|)^2 / |Fo|$, reflection order in data collection, $\sin\theta / \lambda$, and various classes of indices showed no unusual trends. The maximum and minimum peaks on the final difference Fourier map corresponded to 0.42 and -0.46e⁻¹/Å¹ respectively. Neutral atom scattering factors were taken from Cromer and Waber.²² Anomalous dispersion effects were included in $Fcalc^{23}$; the values for $\Delta f'$ and $\Delta f''$ were those of Cromer.²⁴ All calculations were performed using the TEXSAN²⁵ crystallographic software package of the Molecular Structure Corporation.

Preparation of 4,4-disubstituted cyclohexanones: 4-Acetyl-4isopropenylcyclohexanone (3a),9 4-acetyl-4-phenylcyclohexanone (**3b**),¹⁰ 4-acetyl-4 benzylcylohexanone (**3c**),⁶ 4-acetyl-4-methylcy-clohexanone (**3d**)⁹ and their precursors (**1a**),²⁶ (**2a**),²⁶ (**1b**),²⁷ (**2b**),²⁷ (**1c**),⁶ (**2c**),⁶ (**1d**)²⁷ and (**2d**)²⁷ were prepared essentially by following the literature methods.

Preparation of enamines: general method: A mixture of the 4, 4-disubstituted cyclohexanone (17.47-32.2 mmol) and a slight excess of morpholine (17.47-32.2 mmol) in toluene (75-80 ml) was heated to reflux under a Dean and Stark head for 12 h. On cooling,

the solvent and the excess of morpholine were removed under reduced pressure and the crude enamine was used without further purification since extensive decomposition occurred on distillation. In this way the following enamines were obtained.

4-Acetyl-4-isopropeniyl-1-morpholinocychohexene (4a), γ_{max} in cm¹: 1700 (C=O) 1655, 1638 (C=C)

4-Acetyl-4-phenyl-1-morpholinocyclohexene (4b), γ_{max} in cm⁻¹: 1700 (C=O), 1638 (C=C)

4-Acetyl-4-benzyl-1-morpholinocyclohexene (4c), γ_{max} in cm⁻¹: 1700 (C=O), 1638 (C=C).

4-Acetyl-4-methyl-1-morpholinocyclohexene (4d), γ_{max} in cm⁻¹: 1700 (C=O), 1638 (C=C).

Synthesis of 4,6-anti-6-hydroxy-5,6-dimethyl-7-isopropenyladamantane-4,6-syn-6-hydroxy-5,6-dimethyl-7-isopropenyl-2.4-dione (6a), adamantane-2, 4-dione (7a), 4,6-anti-6-hydroxy-5, 6-dimethyl-7-phenyladamantane-2,4-dione (6b), 4,6-syn-6-hydroxy-5,6-dimethyl-7-phenyladamantane-2,4-dione (7b),4,6-anti-6-hydroxy-5,6-dimethyl-7benzyladamantane-2,4-dione (6c), 4,6-syn-6-hydroxy-5,6-dimethyl-7benzyladamantane-2,4-dione (7c) and 4,6-syn-6-hydroxy-5,6,7trimethyladamantane-2,4-dione (7d).

General method: The methacryloyl chloride (21.72-35.40 mmol) in dry toluene (40-45 ml) was added dropwise to a boiling solution of the enamine (21.5-35.45 mmol) in dry toluene (130-160 ml) over 2 h. During the addition a solid was slowly precipitated from the reaction mixture. The mixture was then heated under reflux with stirring for 5h, cooled and the precipitated iminium salt was filtered off, washed with dry toluene and hydrolysed by stirring with ice cold water (50 ml) for 10 h. The crude adamantane derivatives were isolated by extraction with ether (5×25 ml) and purified with the help of column chromatography (silica gel column) and were eluted initially with light petroleum (60–80 °C) followed by gradual addition of chloroform. The following results were obtained:

Methacryloyl chloride reacting with (4a) gave a 15% yield of one isomer (6a) and a 10% yield of another isomer (7a) which were separated in pure forms with the help of column chromatography. The compound (6a), m.p. 120–121 °C, R_f in TLC 0.56 (chloroform and ethyl acetate, 6: 1); IR γ_{max} : 3500(OH), 1725, 1700(C=O). Ms m/z 248 (M⁺), 205, 173, 163, 121, 93, 55, 43, 15.

Anal. Calcd for C_{15} $H_{20}O_3$: C,72.5; H,8.1 Found: C, 72.8; H, 8.15%

The compound (**7a**) m.p. 139–140 °C, R_f in TLC 0.47 (chloroform and ethyl acetate, 6:1); IR γ_{max} 3400(OH), 1725, 1695 (C=O). MS m/z 248 (M⁺), 233, 205, 191, 163, 124, 93, 55, 43, 15.

Anal. Calcd for $C_{15}H_{20}O_3$: C, 72.6; H, 8.1%. Found: C, 72.3; H, 8.1%.

Methacryloyl chloride reacting with (**4b**) gave a 14% yield of one isomer (**6b**) and a 10% yield of another isomer (**7b**), which were separated in pure forms with the help of column chromatography. The compound (**6b**), m.p. 173–174 °C, R_f in TLC 0.52 (chloroform and ethyl acelate 5:1); IR γ_{max} : 3492 (OH), 1725, 1700 (C=O), MS m/z 284 (M⁺), 241, 223, 171, 144, 129, 91, 55, 43, 15.

Anal. Calcd for $C_{18}H_{20}O_3{:}$ C, 76.0; H, 7.0%. Found: C, 75.6; H, 7.0%.

The compound (**7b**), m.p. 182–183 °C, R_f in TLC 0.42 (chloroform and ethyl acetate 5:1); IR γ_{max} 3450 (OH), 1725, 1700 (C=O). MS m/z 284 (M⁺), 269, 241, 195, 171, 144, 129, 91, 55, 43, 18.

Anal. Calcd for $C_{18}H_{20}O_3{:}$ C, 76.0; H, 7.0%. Found: C, 74.70; H, 7.0%.

Methacryloyl chloride reacting with (**4c**) gave a 14% yield of one isomer (**6c**) and a 12% yield of another isomer (**7c**), which were separated in pure form with the help of column chromatography. The compound (**6c**), m.p. 140–141 °C, R_f in TLC 0.51 (chloroform and ethyl acetate 5:1); IR_{ymax}: 3505 (OH), 1730, 1695(C=O). MS *m/z* 298 (M⁺+1), 255, 207, 189, 179, 165, 149, 137, 131, 115, 107.

The compound (**7c**), m.p. 192–193 °C, R_f in TLC 0.47 (chloroform and ethyl acetate 5:1), IR_{ymax}: 3400 (OH), 1720, 1692 (C=O). MS *m/z* 298 (M⁺+1), 255, 207, 189, 184, 165, 149, 137, 131, 115, 105.

As there are no elemental analyses for **6c** and **7c** these structural assignments must be regarded formally as tentative.

Methacryloyl chloride reacting with (**4d**) gave a 10% yield of (**7d**), which was isolated in pure form with the help of column chromatography, m.p. 192–193 °C, R_f in TLC 0.42 chloroform and ethyl acetate 5:1); IR_{ymax}: 3400(OH), 1722, 1698(C=O). MS *m*/*z* 22 (M⁺), 179, 141, 121, 109, 55, 15.

Anal. Calcd for C_{13} $H_{18}O_{3}\!\!:$ C, 70.3; H, 8.1%. Found: C, 70.1; H, 8.2%.

CCDC contains the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. They can be obtained free of charge from the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre via www.ccdc.cam. ac.uk/data_request.cif Dr. Kudrat-e-Khoda Doctoral Fellowship (October 1999 – March 2003) to Dr Kawsari Akhter by BCSIR Laboratories, Dhaka is acknowledged.

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