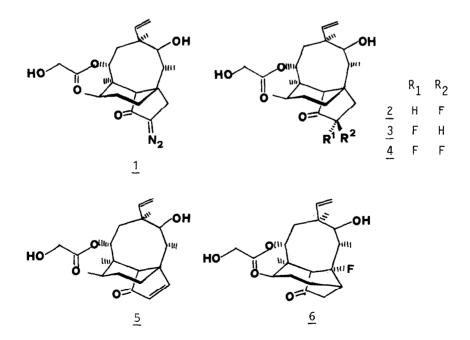
## FLUORINATION WITH ELEMENTAL FLUORINE: SYNTHESIS OF 2,2-DIFLUORO-PLEUROMUTILIN

H. Vyplel\*, H. Berner and G. Schulz

Sandoz Forschungsinstitut, Vienna (Austria)

Reaction of the Diazoketone 1 derived from the tricyclic diterpene Pleuromutilin with elemental Fluorine in CFCl<sub>3</sub>/CHCl<sub>3</sub> at -60° C led to the formation of several fluorinated products (2-4). Using pure CFCl<sub>3</sub> as solvent did not result in any isolable product, while the addition of solid KF to the reaction solution increased the yield markedly. Reacting 1 with liquid HF in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> at -70° C gave mainly the 2-Fluoropleuromutilin 3 together with the corresponding  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated ketone 5 which reacts further to yield the rearrangement product 6.



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