

*N* HCl. The mixture was refluxed for 1 hr., then diluted with 100 ml. of water, cooled in an ice bath, and made slightly alkaline with 0.1 *N* NaOH solution. Filter aid (3 g.) was stirred into the mixture and left for 0.5 hr. The precipitate was collected and washed well with water. The filter cake was then extracted with five 40-ml. portions of boiling ethanol. The alcohol was removed *in vacuo* and the yellow residue was recrystallized from aqueous ethanol; yield, 0.62 g. (93%); m.p. above 300° (dec.);  $\lambda_{\max}$  2.95–3.60 (broad OH, NH, CH), 12.30 (*p*-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 12.80  $\mu$  (C–Cl). See Table III for other data.

**2-[N-[1-(2-Amino-4-hydroxy-6-methyl-5-pyrimidyl)-3-propyl]-4-aminophenyl]ethyl Chloromethyl Ketone (VIIIb).**—A solution of 350 mg. (0.86 mmole) of XVIb in 25 ml. of 0.1 *N* aqueous HCl was heated on a steam bath for 1 hr. The pH of the solution was then adjusted to 9 with 0.1 *N* aqueous NaOH. The product was collected on a filter, washed with 10 ml. of water, recrystallized from ethanol-water, and gave light yellow crystals; yield, 200 mg. (64%); m.p. >300°;  $\lambda_{\max}$  2.90–3.40 (broad OH, NH, CH), 5.79 (C=O), no C–O–C band near 9.6  $\mu$ ;  $\lambda_{\max}^{\text{pH } 13}$  240 m $\mu$  ( $\epsilon$  12,700), 279 m $\mu$  ( $\epsilon$  6800);  $\lambda_{\max}^{\text{pH } 1}$  217 m $\mu$  ( $\epsilon$  12,800), 265 m $\mu$  ( $\epsilon$  7100).

Other compounds prepared by a similar hydrolysis are listed in Table III under method F.

**2-Amino-5-(*p*-*n*-butylanilino)propyl-6-methyl-4-pyrimidinol (XVIII).**—A solution of 1.49 g. (10 mmoles) of *p*-*n*-butylaniline<sup>16</sup> and 2.23 g. (10 mmoles) of I in 100 ml. of methanol was allowed to react for 30 min. With magnetic stirring 2 g. of sodium borohydride was added in portions over a period of 30 min. After being stirred overnight, 20 ml. of 5% aqueous NaOH was added and the methanol was removed *in vacuo*. The solution was diluted with 100 ml. of water and the pH was adjusted to 9 with 5% HCl. The precipitated product was collected and recrystallized from methanol-water; yield, 2.3 g. (73%); m.p. 223–225°;  $\lambda_{\max}$  2.90–3.60 (broad OH, NH, CH), 6.17, 6.58 (NH, C=N, C=C), 12.38  $\mu$  (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>-);  $\lambda_{\max}^{\text{pH } 1}$  265 m $\mu$  ( $\epsilon$  9300);  $\lambda_{\max}^{\text{pH } 7}$  240 m $\mu$  ( $\epsilon$  15,600), 291 m $\mu$  ( $\epsilon$  6300);  $\lambda_{\max}^{\text{pH } 13}$  240 m $\mu$  ( $\epsilon$  17,200), 280 m $\mu$  ( $\epsilon$  7900).

*Anal.* Calcd. for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>26</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O: C, 68.8; H, 8.33; N, 17.8. Found: C, 68.5; H, 8.50; N, 17.7.

(16) R. R. Read and D. B. Mullin, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **50**, 1763 (1928).

## Synthesis of Fatty Acids with Smooth Muscle Stimulant Activity

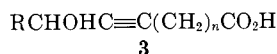
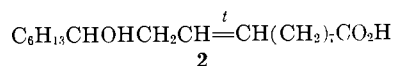
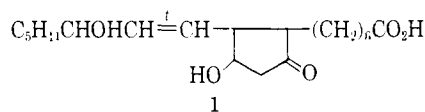
E. CRUNDWELL,<sup>1</sup> M. A. PINNEGAR, AND W. TEMPLETON

*Miles-Ames Research Laboratories, Stoke Poges, Buckinghamshire, England*

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12-Hydroxyheptadec-*trans*-10-enoic acid has been synthesized by reduction of the corresponding acetylenic derivative with lithium in liquid ammonia at room temperature after pretreatment with lithium hydride to avoid hydrogenolysis. This acid, which represents a fragment of a prostaglandin, has been found to be three times as active as ricinelaic acid in stimulating the isolated hamster colon. Homologs and other derivatives, including some containing an additional 6-oxo or 6-hydroxy group, have been synthesized and their activity has been determined. The hydroxyacetylenic acids were synthesized *via* chloroalkynols from alk-1-yn-3-ols and were converted into hydroxyoxoacetylenic acids *via* reaction of the acid chlorides with cycloalkenamines.

Interest has recently been renewed in the pharmacological potentialities of fatty acids largely because of the elucidation of the nature of the prostaglandins.<sup>2</sup> Consideration of the structure of prostaglandin E<sub>1</sub> (1) and of the pharmacologically active acids, notably ricinelaic acid (2), among those examined for smooth muscle stimulant activity,<sup>3,4</sup> suggests that common features may include a hydroxyl group at position 12 and unsaturation or structural rigidity between positions 8 and 11 in an unbranched aliphatic acid.



Synthesis of acetylenic acids of type 3 was therefore investigated. One previous example (3, R = C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>13</sub>; *n* = 6) has been reported,<sup>5</sup> synthesized in

(1) School of Pharmacy, College of Technology, Park Road, Portsmouth, Hampshire, England.

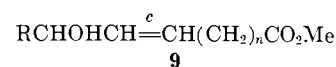
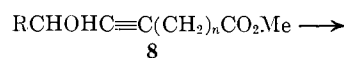
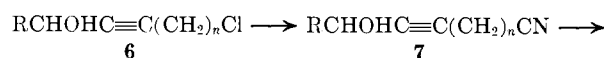
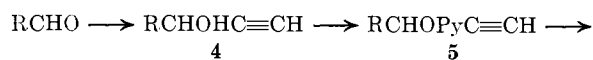
(2) S. Bergström, R. Rybåge, B. Samuelsson, and J. Sjövall, *Acta Chem. Scand.*, **16**, 501 (1962).

(3) N. Ambache, *J. Physiol.* (London), **146**, 255 (1959); N. Ambache, M. Reynolds, and J. M. C. Whiting, *ibid.*, **166**, 251 (1963).

(4) M. S. Masri, L. A. Goldblatt, F. DeEds, and G. O. Kohler, *J. Pharm. Sci.*, **51**, 999 (1962).

(5) A. S. Bailey, V. G. Kendall, P. B. Lumb, J. C. Smith, and C. H. Walker, *J. Chem. Soc.*, 3027 (1957).

unstated yield by a route involving the reaction of heptanal with lithium 8-chlorooctyne. From work with dimethylundecynamide (described below) there was reason to believe that higher alkynes might be unreactive so the following route was examined. This was



Py = 2-tetrahydropyrynyl

tested using the readily available hexynol (4, R = C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>7</sub>) to give the ester (8, R = C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>7</sub>; *n* = 6). Difficulties arose when the route was extended to use oct-1-yn-3-ol (4, R = C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>11</sub>). This had been previously prepared<sup>6</sup> by selenium dioxide oxidation of 1-octyne. This method is unsuitable for large-scale preparation so the familiar reaction of sodium acetylide with an aldehyde was used. However, it was found that with hexanal, particularly commercial samples, the yield and purity of octynol was very variable and frequently only higher boiling unsaturated hydroxy ketones were obtained. Similar difficulties were found with heptanal,<sup>7</sup> or when ethynylmagnesium bromide was used.

(6) R. Truchet, *Compt. rend.*, **196**, 708 (1933).

(7) L. Crombie, personal communication, 1963.



TABLE I  
 HYDROXY UNSATURATED ESTERS AND PRECURSORS

R	X	n	Y	B.p., °C.	mm.	Formula	% calcd.			% found		
							C	H	Cl	C	H	Cl
C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>7</sub>	C≡C	3	Cl	80	0.25	C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>15</sub> ClO	62.1	8.4	20.3	62.5	8.6	20.3
C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>7</sub>	C≡C	6	Cl	120-121	0.8	C <sub>12</sub> H <sub>17</sub> ClO	66.6	9.7	16.3	66.2	9.7	16.4
C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>9</sub>	C≡C	10	Cl	155-156	0.45	C <sub>17</sub> H <sub>31</sub> ClO	71.4	10.9	12.4	70.2	10.8	13.5
C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>11</sub>	C≡C	3	Cl	111	0.5	C <sub>11</sub> H <sub>19</sub> ClO	65.2	9.5	17.5	65.1	9.3	17.6
C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>11</sub>	C≡C	8	Cl	135-137	0.2	C <sub>16</sub> H <sub>29</sub> ClO	70.5	10.7	13.0	69.7	11.1	13.3
C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>7</sub>	C≡C	3	CO <sub>2</sub> Me	94-95	0.2	C <sub>11</sub> H <sub>18</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	66.6	9.2		66.9	9.4	
C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>7</sub>	C≡C	6	CO <sub>2</sub> Me	121-122	0.3	C <sub>14</sub> H <sub>24</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	70.0	10.0		70.1	10.1	
C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>9</sub>	C≡C	10	CO <sub>2</sub> Me	158	0.1	C <sub>19</sub> H <sub>34</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	73.5	11.0		73.7	11.0	
C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>11</sub>	C≡C	3	CO <sub>2</sub> Me	130	0.8	C <sub>13</sub> H <sub>22</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	69.0	9.8		69.4	9.9	
C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>11</sub>	C≡C	8	CO <sub>2</sub> Me	151	0.35	C <sub>18</sub> H <sub>32</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	72.9	10.9		73.1	11.0	
C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>11</sub>	C≡C	9	CO <sub>2</sub> Me	164-166	0.35	C <sub>19</sub> H <sub>34</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	73.5	11.0		73.8	11.3	
C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>7</sub>	CH <sup>c</sup> =CH	3	CO <sub>2</sub> Me	80-82	0.1	C <sub>11</sub> H <sub>20</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	66.0	10.0		65.8	10.1	
C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>11</sub>	CH <sup>c</sup> =CH	8	CO <sub>2</sub> Me	158	0.5	C <sub>18</sub> H <sub>34</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	72.4	11.5		72.3	11.6	
C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>11</sub>	CH <sup>c</sup> =CH	9	CO <sub>2</sub> Me	152	0.2	C <sub>19</sub> H <sub>36</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	73.0	11.6		73.6	11.5	
C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>7</sub>	CH <sup>t</sup> =CH	3	CO <sub>2</sub> Me	83-84	0.1	C <sub>11</sub> H <sub>20</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	66.0	10.0		65.6	10.2	
C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>11</sub>	CH <sup>t</sup> =CH	3	CO <sub>2</sub> Me	124-126	0.6	C <sub>13</sub> H <sub>24</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	68.4	10.6		68.8	10.7	
C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>11</sub>	CH <sup>t</sup> =CH	8	CO <sub>2</sub> Me	142-144	0.15	C <sub>18</sub> H <sub>34</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	72.4	11.5		73.0	12.0	

Increase of the polymethylene chain from 8 to 9 reduced the activity to below one-hundredth.

### Experimental<sup>18</sup>

**Oct-1-yn-3-ol. A.**—Sodium (about 0.5 g.) was dissolved in liquid ammonia (1 l.) and a few crystals of ferric nitrate were added. The blue solution turned to a gray suspension of sodamide. Sodium (20 g.) was added in pieces over 2 hr. Acetylene was passed through the suspension at 1 l. min.<sup>-1</sup> for 3 hr., the flow rate was then halved, and dry redistilled hexanal (50 g., 0.5 mole) in dry ether (100 ml.) was added over 1.5 hr. The mixture was left for 16 hr. Ammonium chloride (50 g.) was added, the ammonia was allowed to evaporate, and the residue was treated with saturated NH<sub>4</sub>Cl and ether. The organic layer was dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), concentrated, and distilled to give 26.5 g. (42%) of an oil, b.p. 44-47° (1 mm.).

**B.**—A similar procedure using sodium (46 g.) and hexanal-bisulfite<sup>19</sup> (258 g.) gave on distillation 104 g. (66%) of an oil, b.p. 87-89° (21 mm.); *n*<sub>D</sub><sup>20</sup> 1.4398; *ν*<sub>max</sub> 3400, 3300, 2120 cm.<sup>-1</sup>.

*Anal.* Calcd. for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>14</sub>O: C, 76.1; H, 11.2. Found: C, 75.8; H, 11.1.

**C.**—Ethylnmagnesium bromide was prepared<sup>20</sup> from bromoethane (176 g.) in dry tetrahydrofuran (1680 ml.), cooled in ice, and dry redistilled hexanal (154 g.) was added dropwise. The mixture was left at room temperature for 18 hr., decomposed with saturated NH<sub>4</sub>Cl, and extracted with ether. This was dried and concentrated to give an oil (180 g.) which was distilled to give 79 g. (40%) of an oil, b.p. 75-85° (10 mm.).

**2-(Hex-1-yn-3-yloxy)tetrahydropyran (4, R = C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>7</sub>).**—Hex-1-yn-3-ol (22 ml., 0.2 mole) and dihydropyran (18 ml., 0.2 mole) were mixed and concentrated HCl (4 drops) was added. The mixture was allowed to become warm and was then kept for 16 hr. It was then rapidly diluted with ether, washed with saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub>, dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), concentrated, and distilled to give 30.3 g. (84%) of an oil, b.p. 88-92° (8 mm.), redistilled b.p. 95° (10 mm.); *ν*<sub>max</sub> 3300, 2120, 970 cm.<sup>-1</sup>.

*Anal.* Calcd. for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>18</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: C, 72.5; H, 10.0. Found: C, 72.7; H, 9.9.

Similarly prepared was 2-(hept-1-yn-3-yloxy)tetrahydropyran (4, R = C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>9</sub>), b.p. 110-112° (10 mm.).

*Anal.* Calcd. for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>20</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: C, 73.4; H, 10.3. Found: C, 73.4; H, 10.2.

2-(Oct-1-yn-3-yloxy)tetrahydropyran (4, R = C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>11</sub>), b.p. 74° (0.5 mm.), was also prepared.

(18) All distillations were carried out under nitrogen. Infrared absorption was determined for thin films unless otherwise stated, using Model 137 Infracord.

(19) G. B. Bachman, "Organic Syntheses," Coll. Vol. II, John Wiley and Sons, Inc., New York, N. Y., 1943, p. 323.

(20) E. R. H. Jones, L. Skattebøl, and M. C. Whiting, *J. Chem. Soc.*, 4765 (1956).

*Anal.* Calcd. for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>22</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: C, 74.2; H, 10.5. Found: C, 74.3; H, 10.5.

**Chloroalkynols (6).**—In dry distilled liquid ammonia (500 ml.), lithium (1.55 g., 0.22 g.-atom) was converted to lithium amide, and the alkynylxytetrahydropyran (0.2 mole) added over 45 min. The black suspension was stirred for 45 min. and  $\alpha$ -chloro- $\omega$ -iodoalkane or  $\alpha$ -chloro- $\omega$ -bromoalkane (0.21 mole) added over 15 min. The mixture was stirred for 3 hr., the ammonia was allowed to evaporate overnight, and the residue was treated with water and extracted with ether. This was dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) and concentrated to give an oil which was dissolved in methanol (500 ml.), water (50 ml.), and concentrated HCl (50 ml.). The solution was kept at reflux for 3 hr., cooled, diluted, and extracted with ether. This was washed with saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub>, dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), concentrated, and distilled; yield 70-80%; *ν*<sub>max</sub> 3400, 2230 cm.<sup>-1</sup>. In this way the chlorides in Table I were prepared.

**Hydroxyalkynonitriles (7).**—A solution of the chloroalkynol (0.19 mole) and dry sodium iodide (30 g., 0.2 mole) in dry acetone (250 ml.) was kept at reflux for 5 hr. and then concentrated, treated with water, and extracted with ether. This was washed with water, dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), and concentrated to give an oil which was dissolved in ethanol (150 ml.) and water (30 ml.), and potassium cyanide (26 g., 0.4 mole) was added. The mixture was stirred at reflux for 42 hr. under nitrogen and then cooled, diluted with water, and extracted with ether which was dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), concentrated, and distilled; yield 70-80%; *ν*<sub>max</sub> 3450, 2150 cm.<sup>-1</sup>. Most of the nitriles thus prepared were not distilled and were used without further purification, but 10-hydroxytridec-8-ynonitrile (7, R = C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>7</sub>; n = 6), b.p. 134-138° (0.5 mm.), was isolated.

*Anal.* Calcd. for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>21</sub>NO: C, 75.4; H, 10.1; N, 6.8. Found: C, 75.5; H, 10.3; N, 7.0.

7-Hydroxydec-5-ynonitrile (7, R = C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>7</sub>; n = 6), b.p. 110-114° (0.35 mm.), was also isolated.

*Anal.* Calcd. for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NO: C, 72.7; H, 9.1; N, 8.5. Found: C, 72.6; H, 9.1; N, 8.7.

**Methyl Hydroxyalkynoates (8).**—A solution of the nitrile (0.2 mole) and KOH (17 g.) in ethanol (100 ml.) and water (30 ml.) was kept at reflux for 64 hr. under nitrogen and then cooled, diluted with water, extracted with ether, made acidic with 2 N HCl (250 ml.), and extracted with ether. This was dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) and concentrated to give an oil which was dissolved in methanol (60 ml.), and boron trifluoride (60% in methanol) (15 ml.) was added. The solution was kept at reflux under nitrogen for 1 hr. and then cooled, diluted with water, and extracted with ether. This was washed with saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub>, dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), concentrated, and distilled; yield 70-80%; *ν*<sub>max</sub> 3450, 2230, 1740 cm.<sup>-1</sup>. In this way the acetylenic esters in Table I were prepared. Sometimes diazomethane was used for esterification.

**Methyl Hydroxyalk-cis-enoates (9).**—The acetylenic ester was dissolved in hexane (distilled from Raney nickel), Lindlar<sup>21</sup>

(21) H. Lindlar, *Helv. Chim. Acta*, **35**, 446 (1952).

catalyst was added, and the mixture was hydrogenated to 4 mole-uptake. The solution was filtered, concentrated, and distilled; yield 85–90%;  $\nu_{\max}$  3450, 1740, no band at 970  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . In this way the *cis* esters in Table I were prepared.

**Methyl Hydroxyalk-*trans*-enoates (10).**—The acetylenic acid (0.05 mole) dissolved in dry tetrahydrofuran (100 ml.) in a cooled glass-lined autoclave was treated with lithium hydride (0.11 mole). After 1 hr. a solution of lithium (0.11 g.-atom) in liquid ammonia (200 ml.) was added. The mixture was kept at room temperature in the autoclave for 24 hr. The ammonia was then allowed to evaporate, and the residue was dissolved in water, acidified with 2 *N* HCl, and extracted with ether. This was dried ( $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ ) and concentrated to give an oil which was esterified with diazomethane and distilled; yield 70–80%;  $\nu_{\max}$  3450, 1740, 970  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . In this way the *trans* esters in Table I were prepared. Use of boron trifluoride in methanol for esterification caused loss of hydroxyl and addition of methanol.<sup>22</sup>

**12-Hydroxyheptadec-*trans*-10-enoic Acid (10, R = C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>11</sub>; n = 8).**—The ester (0.5 g.), KOH (0.6 g.), ethanol (5 ml.), and water (2 ml.) were kept at reflux under nitrogen for 2 hr., cooled, acidified with 2 *N* HCl (10 ml.), and extracted with ether (500 ml.) which was dried and concentrated to give a solid which crystallized from petroleum ether (b.p. 40–60°) as rosettes, m.p. 42–43°;  $\nu_{\max}$  3400, 1720, 965  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

*Anal.* Calcd. for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>32</sub>O<sub>3</sub>: C, 71.8; H, 11.3. Found: C, 72.1; H, 11.0.

**7-Acetoxydec-5-ynoic Acid (13, R = C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>7</sub>).**—The hydroxy acid (0.05 mole) was mixed with pyridine (6 ml.) and acetic anhydride (6 ml., 0.06 mole). The solution was kept for 18 hr. and then poured into water and extracted with ether which was washed with water, dried ( $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ ), concentrated, and distilled to give 6.7 g. (60%) of an oil, b.p. 135° (0.35 mm.);  $\nu_{\max}$  2240, 1745, 1720, 1340  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

*Anal.* Calcd. for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>18</sub>O<sub>4</sub>: C, 63.7; H, 8.0. Found: C, 63.8; H, 7.9.

Similarly prepared was 7-acetoxydec-*trans*-5-ynoic acid, b.p. 110° (0.04 mm.);  $\nu_{\max}$  1745, 1720, 1340, 965  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

*Anal.* Calcd. for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>20</sub>O<sub>4</sub>: C, 63.1; H, 8.8. Found: C, 63.3; H, 9.0.

Use of a greater excess of acetic anhydride caused mixed hydride formation. Other acetoxy acids were similarly prepared without distillation and used without further purification.

**7-Acetoxydec-5-ynoyl Chloride (14, R = C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>7</sub>).**—The acetoxy acid (9 g., 0.04 mole) and oxalyl chloride (8.5 ml., 0.1 mole) were kept at reflux for 90 min. and then concentrated and distilled to give 8.1 g. (83%) of an oil, b.p. 104–105° (0.35 mm.);  $\nu_{\max}$  2240, 1800, 1740, 1340  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

*Anal.* Calcd. for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>17</sub>ClO<sub>2</sub>: C, 58.9; H, 7.0; Cl, 14.5. Found: C, 58.6; H, 7.2; Cl, 14.2.

Similarly prepared was 7-acetoxydodec-5-ynoyl chloride (14, R = C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>11</sub>), b.p. 126–132° (0.4–0.6 mm.).

*Anal.* Calcd. for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>21</sub>ClO<sub>2</sub>: C, 62.2; H, 7.8; Cl, 13.1. Found: C, 61.6; H, 7.8; Cl, 13.0.

**11,12,13-Trihydroxyoctadecanoic Acid.**—13-Hydroxyoctadec-11-*cis*-enoic acid (0.21 g.) was added to osmium tetroxide (0.2 g.) and pyridine (0.15 ml.) in dry ether (15 ml.). After 2 hr. the ether was removed by evaporation and the residue was dissolved in dioxane. Hydrogen sulfide was passed through the solution for 10 min., the solution was filtered, concentrated, and the residue was dissolved in ethyl acetate. This was extracted with aqueous sodium carbonate which was acidified and extracted with ethyl acetate to give, on concentration, a solid (0.18 g.) which crystallized from ethyl acetate-ether; m.p. 100–104°;  $\nu_{\max}^{\text{solid}}$  3400, 1715  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

*Anal.* Calcd. for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>36</sub>O<sub>5</sub>: C, 65.0; H, 10.9. Found: C, 65.0; H, 10.7.

**1-Chloro-10,11-epoxyundecane.**—1-Chloroundec-10-ene (34 g., 0.18 mole) was dissolved in dry ether (20 ml.) and 0.5 *M* ethereal monopero-phthalic acid (380 ml., 0.19 mole) was added. When the concentration of peracid had fallen to 0.06 *N*, the solution was filtered, washed with saturated  $\text{NaHCO}_3$ , dried ( $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ ), concentrated, and distilled to give 10 g. (27%) of an oil, b.p. 150–154° (12 mm.), showing no bands due to hydroxyl or terminal methylene in infrared absorption.

*Anal.* Calcd. for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>21</sub>ClO: C, 64.6; H, 10.3. Found: C, 64.7; H, 10.3.

**2-(7-Acetoxydec-5-ynoyl)cyclohexanone (15, R = C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>7</sub>; n = 5).**—Morpholinocyclohexene (6.7 ml., 0.04 mole) and tri-

ethylamine (5.5 ml., 0.04 mole) in dry chloroform (25 ml.) was added over 20 min. to a solution of 7-acetoxydec-5-ynoyl chloride (7.8 g., 0.032 mole) in dry chloroform (25 ml.) at 50°. Stirring was continued at this temperature for 17 hr. then 20'; sulfuric acid (20 ml.) was added, and stirring was continued at 70° for 6 hr. The aqueous layer was neutralized to pH 6 with 2 *N* NaOH and extracted with chloroform which was dried ( $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ ), concentrated, and distilled to give 5.0 g. (51%) of an oil, b.p. 161–165° (0.3 mm.);  $\nu_{\max}$  2230, 1740, *vs.* 1600, 1340  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; purple color with ferric chloride.

*Anal.* Calcd. for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>20</sub>O<sub>4</sub>: C, 70.6; H, 8.5. Found: C, 69.8; H, 8.5.

Other diketones were similarly prepared without distillation and used without further purification. In similar conditions acetoxy was lost from the analogous *trans* derivative.

**Hydroxyoxoalkynoates (16).**—The diketone (0.01 mole), KOH (0.03 mole), and water (20 ml.) were kept at reflux for 3 hr., cooled, acidified with 2 *N* HCl, and extracted with ether which was dried ( $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ ) and concentrated to give an oil which was esterified with diazomethane and distilled; yield ca. 50%;  $\nu_{\max}$  3500, 2220, 1740, 1720  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . In this way methyl 13-hydroxy-7-oxo-hexadec-11-ynoate (16, R = C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>7</sub>; n = 5), b.p. 164–168° (0.2 mm.), was prepared.

*Anal.* Calcd. for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>30</sub>O<sub>4</sub>: C, 68.9; H, 9.5. Found: C, 68.7; H, 9.3.

Methyl 12-hydroxy-6-oxoheptadec-10-ynoate (16, R = C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>11</sub>; n = 4), b.p. 157° (0.15 mm.), was also prepared.

*Anal.* Calcd. for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>30</sub>O<sub>4</sub>: C, 69.6; H, 9.7. Found: C, 69.4; H, 9.4.

**Methyl 12-Hydroxy-6-oxoheptadec-10-*cis*-enoate** was prepared similarly, or by reduction of acetylenic ester; b.p. 148–150° (0.1 mm.);  $\nu_{\max}$  3500, 1740, 1720  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

*Anal.* Calcd. for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>32</sub>O<sub>4</sub>: C, 69.2; H, 10.3. Found: C, 69.4; H, 10.4.

**Methyl 6,12-Dihydroxyheptadec-10-ynoate (17, R = C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>7</sub>; n = 4).**—Methyl 12-hydroxy-6-oxoheptadec-10-ynoate (0.93 g.) was dissolved in ethanol (12 ml.) and sodium borohydride (0.40 g.) in water (10 ml.) was added slowly with shaking. The mixture was kept for 24 hr., diluted, and extracted with ether. This was dried ( $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ ), concentrated, and distilled to give 0.49 g. (53%) of an oil, b.p. 148–152° (0.04 mm.);  $\nu_{\max}$  3400, 2240, 1750 (shoulder 1740)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

*Anal.* Calcd. for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>32</sub>O<sub>4</sub>: C, 69.2; H, 10.3; active H, 0.64; bound Grignard, 1.0 equiv. Found: C, 69.4; H, 10.2; active H, 0.72; bound Grignard, 1.2 equiv.

This compound resisted hydrogenation, probably because of its insolubility in suitable solvents.

**Non-1-en-4-yn-6-ol.**—Hex-1-yn-3-ol (11.2 ml., 0.1 mole) was added over 30 min. to a solution of ethylmagnesium bromide (from 25 ml. of bromoethane) in dry tetrahydrofuran (100 ml.). The mixture was stirred at 50° for 1 hr. and then cooled, and cuprous bromide (0.43 g.) was added. After 20 min. 4-bromo-prop-2-ene (14 ml., 0.16 mole) was added over 1 hr. The mixture was kept at 80° for 8 hr., then decomposed with ice and 2 *N* H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> (150 ml.), and extracted with ether which was washed with saturated  $\text{NaHCO}_3$ , dried ( $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ ), concentrated, and distilled to give 8.3 g. (60%) of an oil, b.p. 102–103° (16 mm.);  $\nu_{\max}$  3350, 2220 (weak), 1640, 990, 915  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

*Anal.* Calcd. for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>14</sub>O: C, 78.2; H, 10.2. Found: C, 78.1; H, 10.2.

**1,1-Diethoxyoct-3-yn-5-ol.**—Ethylmagnesium bromide (from 11 ml. of bromoethane) in dry ether (100 ml.) was added over 1 hr. to 1,1-diethoxybut-3-yne<sup>23</sup> (16 ml., 0.1 mole) in dry ether (100 ml.). After 3 hr., butanal (9 ml., 0.1 mole) in dry ether (100 ml.) was added over 1 hr. The mixture was stirred for 16 hr. and then decomposed with 10%  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$  (100 ml.) and extracted with ether which was dried ( $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ ), concentrated, and distilled to give 14 g. (65%) of an oil, b.p. 82–86° (0.2 mm.);  $\nu_{\max}$  3450, 2240, 1120, 1055, 1025  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

*Anal.* Calcd. for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>22</sub>O<sub>3</sub>: C, 67.3; H, 10.3. Found: C, 67.1; H, 10.1.

**Non-*trans*-2-en-4-ol.**—Crotonaldehyde (25 ml., 0.3 mole) in dry ether (100 ml.) was added over 1 hr. at 0° to the Grignard reagent from 4-bromopentane (45 ml., 0.3 mole) and magnesium (7.2 g.) in dry ether (250 ml.). Stirring was continued for 1 hr. and then the mixture was decomposed with saturated  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$  and 2 *N* H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, extracted with ether which was dried ( $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ ),

(22) Cf. A. K. Lough, *Biochem. J.*, **90**, 47 (1964).

(23) L. Melinec-Givardano, *Ann. Chim. (Paris)*, **6**, 1071 (1961).

concentrated, and distilled to give 28.6 g. (68%) of an oil, b.p. 87–89° (12 mm.);  $\nu_{\max}$  3400, 965  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

*Anal.* Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{19}\text{O}$ : C, 76.0; H, 12.8. Found: C, 76.4; H, 12.6.

The acetate of this alcohol, prepared using acetic anhydride in pyridine, had b.p. 92–94° (13 mm.);  $\nu_{\max}$  1740, 1675, 1240, 965  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

*Anal.* Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{19}\text{O}_2$ : C, 71.7; H, 10.9. Found: C, 71.9; H, 11.1.

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## Hypocholesterolemic Agents. V.<sup>1a</sup> Isomeric Azacholesterols<sup>1b</sup>

R. E. COUNSELL,<sup>1c</sup> P. D. KLIMSTRA, L. N. NYSTED, AND R. E. RANNEY

*Divisions of Chemical and Biological Research, G. D. Searle and Company, Chicago, Illinois 60680*

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The potent hypocholesterolemic activity of certain diaza analogs of cholesterol prompted the synthesis of a series of cholesterol isosteres having only one nitrogen atom in the side chain. The hypocholesterolemic activity of these isomers was examined and certain rationalizations regarding structure and activity were presented.

One approach to the development of hypocholesterolemic agents has been the synthesis of compounds which will inhibit the endogenous synthesis of cholesterol. In this connection, investigations by several groups<sup>2</sup> have demonstrated that feeding cholesterol to laboratory animals promptly suppresses hepatic cholesterol synthesis. More recently, this negative feedback control of cholesterol synthesis was found to be operative in man as well.<sup>3</sup>

Previous publications<sup>4,5</sup> from these laboratories described various diaza analogs of cholesterol which were synthesized as part of a program aimed at finding substances which would simulate cholesterol in the feedback mechanism. In these studies 20,25-diazacholesterol (X) was noted to be an extremely potent inhibitor of cholesterol synthesis in laboratory animals.<sup>5</sup> Subsequent clinical studies with this agent confirmed the high order of hypocholesterolemic activity in humans.<sup>6</sup>

Additional structure-activity relationship studies with the diazacholesterols tended to support the contention that these compounds were suppressing cholesterol synthesis in a "cholesteromimetic" fashion.<sup>4,5</sup> For example, replacing the isosteric dimethylamino end group with bulkier substituted amines markedly reduced the hypocholesterolemic activity. Lengthening the side chain by inserting one methylene group between the nitrogen atoms produced a similar effect. Shortening the side chain by one methylene group, however, produced little change in activity. These results implied that a receptor site with dimensions specific for cholesterol was involved and one must have an accurate fit of the substrate in order to get maximum activity.

Accordingly, any structural change which tended to impede adsorption of the substrate molecule at the receptor site, produced a corresponding decrease in the hypocholesterolemic activity.

In an effort to obtain further insight as to the mode of action of these compounds, a series of cholesterol isosteres having only one nitrogen atom in the side chain was synthesized and biologically evaluated. Because of the disposition of the nitrogen atoms in the diazacholesterols described above, it was possible that these substances were exerting their hypocholesterolemic action *via* an intramolecular metal-chelating process which would tie up certain trace metals essential for cholesterol biosynthesis. Such a mechanism was proposed by Curran<sup>7</sup> to explain the inhibitory action of 8-quinolinol. The azacholesterols, on the other hand, would be incapable of acting in this manner. In addition, it was hoped that the study of the isomeric azacholesterols would provide further information regarding the electrical and topographical features of the receptor site.

20-Azacholesterol (IIIb, N-isohexyl-N-methyl-17 $\beta$ -aminoandrost-5-en-3 $\beta$ -ol) was readily obtained in several steps from 3 $\beta$ -acetoxyandrost-5-en-17-one (I). Condensation of I with isohexylamine in the presence of a catalytic amount of *p*-toluenesulfonic acid gave the expected 17-imine (II) as an oil. Reduction of II with lithium aluminum hydride afforded the corresponding amine (IIIa) which was methylated under Eschwiler-Clarke conditions<sup>8</sup> to give IIIb. Infrared and n.m.r.<sup>9</sup> analysis of the product clearly showed the characteristic absorption band for the N-methyl group at 3.6  $\mu$ <sup>10</sup> and 128 c.p.s.,<sup>11</sup> respectively.

Surprisingly, several attempts to carry out a Leuckart reductive amination of I with isohexylamine were unsuccessful. This was in marked contrast with the ease

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