

(90% yield) of pure 13: mp 174–176 °C (lit.⁵ mp 173–176 °C); NMR identical to reported data.⁵

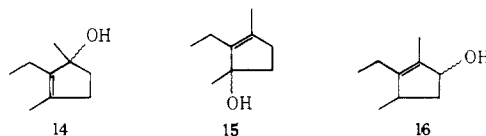
Acknowledgment. We thank Professor W. S. Johnson for stimulating discussions. He guided us on the way which led to the initiation of this study. We acknowledge the assistance of Mr. B. Hindriken.

Registry No.—1, 65452-45-1; 2, 65452-46-2; 3, 33548-59-3; 4, 65452-47-3; 5, 65452-48-4; 6, 65452-49-5; 7a, 65452-50-8; 7b, 65484-12-0; 8a, 65452-51-9; 8b, 65452-52-0; 9a, 65452-53-1; 9b, 65452-54-2; 10, 65452-55-3; 11, 65452-56-4; 12, 65452-57-5; 13, 5753-83-3; lithium dimethylcuprate, 15681-48-8; methyl *m*-methoxycinnamate, 15854-56-5.

References and Notes

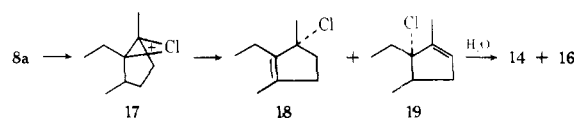
- (1) For recent reviews on this subject see: (a) W. S. Johnson, *Bioorg. Chem.*, **5**, 51 (1976); (b) W. S. Johnson, *Angew. Chem.*, **88**, 33 (1976); (c) E. E. van Tamelen, *Acc. Chem. Res.*, **8**, 152 (1975).
- (2) (a) P. A. Bartlett and W. S. Johnson, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **95**, 7501 (1973); (b) P. A. Bartlett, J. I. Brauman, W. S. Johnson, and R. A. Volkmann, *ibid.*, **95**, 7502 (1973).
- (3) Pro-C-6 refers to the carbon atom which is to become C-6 (steroid numbering) following Johnson's nomenclature: (a) W. S. Johnson and G. E. DuBois, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **98**, 1038 (1976); (b) W. S. Johnson, S. Escher, and B. W. Metcalf, *ibid.*, **98**, 1039 (1976).
- (4) A chiral center is present in the form of an allylic alcohol or its derivative, which is lost upon cyclization. It was suggested^{2a} that optical induction by this chiral center might take place, but investigations to that effect showed only minimal retention of optical activity: W. S. Johnson, J. A. M. Peters, N. P. van Vliet, and F. J. Zeelen, to be published.
- (5) G. H. Douglas, G. C. Buzby, Jr., C. R. Walk, and H. Smith, *Tetrahedron*, **22**, 1019 (1966).
- (6) C. C. Bolt, A. J. van den Broek, G. H. Visser, H. P. de Jongh, and C. M. Siegmann, *Recl. Trav. Chim. Pays-Bas*, **90**, 849 (1971).
- (7) Japanese Patent Publication 2282 (1963), Teikoku Horm. Manufacturing Comp., *Chem. Abstr.*, **59**, 11607 (1963).

- (8) (a) A. I. Meyers and C. E. Whitten, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **97**, 6266 (1975); (b) S. Hashimoto, S. Yamada, and K. Koga, *ibid.*, **98**, 7450 (1976).
- (9) W. S. Johnson, M. B. Gravestock, and B. E. McCarty, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **93**, 4332 (1971).
- (10) Reaction conditions for this and the following steps in the synthesis were taken with some modifications from Johnson's work.^{2,9}
- (11) The NMR spectrum of this sample showed inter alia singlets at δ 1.49 and 1.64 (ca. 4:1 ratio) which tentatively may be assigned to the 17-CH₃ group of 9a and 9b, respectively.
- (12) Authentic α -11, mp 89–90 °C, was prepared from 6 α -methyl-4-estrone-3,17-dione⁸ by microbiological aromatization (*Arthrobacter Simplex*) followed by methylation.
- (13) Authentic α -12, mp 106–107 °C, was prepared by methylation of 6 β -methylsterone: E. Velarde, J. Iriarte, H. J. Ringold, and C. Djerassi, *J. Org. Chem.*, **24**, 311 (1959).
- (14) By the same token steroids with the unnatural configuration may be obtained by starting with (*R*)-6.
- (15) NMR evidence suggest the following partial structures:



The NMR spectrum showed inter alia signals at δ 1.7 (br s, allylic methyl in 15 and 16), 1.34 (s, CH₃CO in 14), and 4.56 (br d, $J = 5$ Hz, HCOH in 16).

- (16) We propose the following mechanism:



- (17) A similar total synthesis of thiophene analogues of 6 α -alkyl-19-norsteroids was reported recently: A. A. Macco, R. J. de Brouwer, and H. M. Buck, *J. Org. Chem.*, **42**, 3196 (1977).

Total Synthesis of (\pm)-Cedrol and (\pm)-Cedrene via an Intramolecular Diels–Alder Reaction

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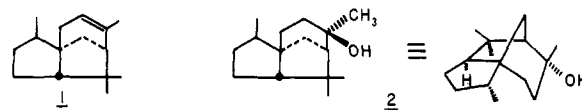
A total synthesis of racemic cedrol and cedrene is described in which a key step is the intramolecular Diels–Alder reaction of alkyl cyclopentadiene 3 to give the tricyclic olefin 4. Oxidation of this material followed by ring expansion gives cedrene (6), which is converted to the sesquiterpenes. Modification of the functionality of the starting materials will permit the application of this general route to diverse tricyclic systems.

Cedar-wood oil contains the interesting sesquiterpenes α -cedrene (1) (accompanied by ~15% of the β isomer) and its crystalline hydration product cedrol (2), both of which possess the relatively rare tricyclo[5.3.1.0^{1,5}]undecane skeleton.¹ In addition, several related more highly oxygenated members of this family such as shellolic acid² and other lac resin and vetiver oil components³ are known. Interest in these tricyclic sesquiterpenes is widespread and a number of diverse syntheses have been reported since the original total synthesis of Stork and Clarke.⁴ However, all of these recent synthetic studies⁵ have attempted to mimic, to some extent, the bio-



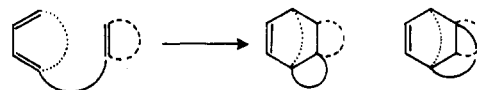
synthesis of cedrene and, thus, have utilized a series of carbonium ion intermediates of the general type illustrated.

We report herein a total synthesis of (\pm)-cedrol (2) and (\pm)-cedrene (1) via an intramolecular Diels–Alder reaction

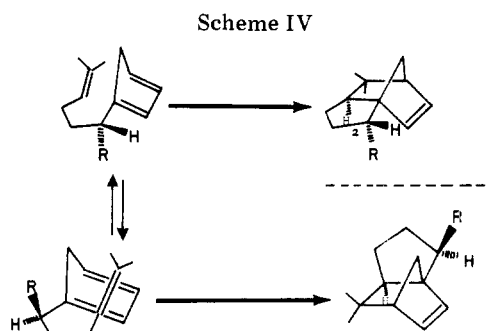
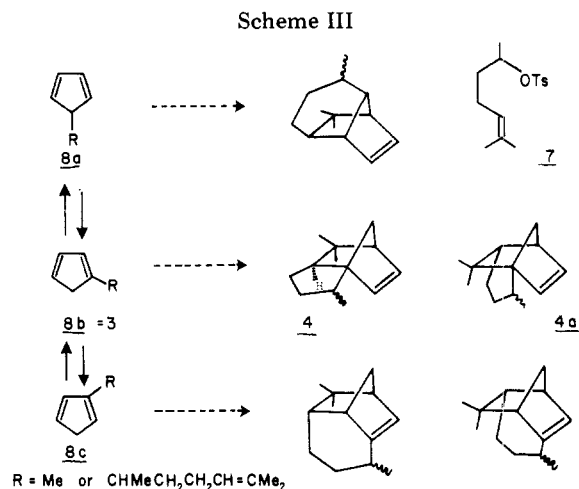
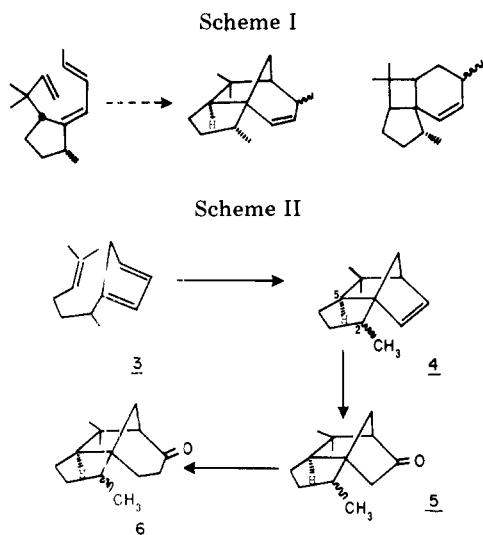


of an alkyl cyclopentadiene. The stereoselective route is direct and should be suitable for the construction of related compounds.⁶

The Diels–Alder reaction occupies a position of prominence in the arsenal of the synthetic organic chemist as a consequence of its good yields, mild reaction conditions, predictability, and high stereoselectivity. In view of both the steric and electronic requirements for this cycloaddition, intramolecular applications provide access to diverse systems which are otherwise difficult to prepare.⁷ Thus, complex multicyclic



arrays (as illustrated) can be envisaged, when both the diene and dienophile components are themselves cyclic, and with



appropriate ring systems the opportunity to prepare stereoselectively a variety of tricyclic sesquiterpenes is apparent.

Several possible approaches to the cedrene nucleus may be envisaged. Retrograde analysis of the cedrene skeleton reveals that a "paper" Diels–Alder route should be the sequence in Scheme I. The simplicity of this approach has certain appeal; however, our studies on other internal Diels–Alder systems, earlier work by House and Cronin⁸ with acyclic dienes, and a careful examination of molecular models indicate that the unsaturated compound is too rigid to permit the required alignment of the π systems for the reaction to be successful. Indeed, it appears that to the extent that any monomeric product is formed the undesired cyclobutane compound will be favored due to the preferred orientation of the dienophile.

Thus, the approach selected (Scheme II) is based on the generation of a suitable tricyclo[5.2.1.0^{1,5}]dec-8-ene system (i.e., 4) which by ring expansion and functional-group manipulation could be converted to cedrene. An attractive route to this intermediate is by internal cycloaddition of the alkyl cyclopentadiene 3. The sequence takes advantage of the rapid isomerization of 5-alkyl- to 1-alkylcyclopentadienes at room temperature⁹ and, although the double bond is trisubstituted, necessitating forcing conditions for the reaction, it was anticipated, due to the stereochemical constraints of the system, that the cyclopentane side chain would have the correct exo orientation¹⁰ and that hydroboration would give the desired ketone 5 for ring expansion to cedrene (6).

Results and Discussion

A commercial sample of 6-methyl-5-hepten-2-one was reduced with lithium aluminum hydride in diethyl ether and the resulting alcohol¹¹ treated with tosyl chloride in pyridine to afford the tosylate 7 in 93% overall yield. Separate treatment of the alcohol with triphenylphosphine dibromide gave the corresponding bromide (74%). It is well established, from previous studies with methyl cyclopentadiene,⁹ that the initial product from alkylation of sodium cyclopentadiene 8a isomerizes rapidly at room temperature to 8b and more slowly to 8c. Thus, alkylation of sodium cyclopentadiene¹² with tosylate 7 in tetrahydrofuran at 0 °C for 30 min followed by 4 h at room temperature afforded, after workup, the isomer 8b (85% yield).¹³ Detectible amounts of the isomers 8a and 8c were not present based on the ¹H NMR spectrum. This spectrum displayed a multiplet at δ 2.80 due to the two allylic cyclopentyl hydrogens and a complex signal from δ 5.8 to 6.5 representing the three vinyl ring hydrogens consistent with structure 8b.

Although the desired isomer 8b had been obtained, the thermal conditions required for the Diels–Alder reaction will

shift the equilibrium, and thus consideration of the possible intramolecular cycloaddition products which may result is warranted. These are depicted in Scheme III. It will be noted that monomeric tricyclic products from 8c are unlikely, since both possible structures violate Bredt's rule. The desired product 4 from 8b will clearly be favored, since the geometry of the system precludes the efficient overlap of the reacting centers required for the twistane structure 4a. However, if sufficient 8a is present it would cyclize to the undesired structure, although for this to occur the Diels–Alder reaction must be more rapid than isomerization to 8b which seems unlikely under the temperature conditions found to be required.

Cyclization of 8 was effected by heating a dilute solution in hexamethylphosphoramide or tri-*n*-butylamine at 205 ± 5 °C for 7 h to give the tricyclic olefin 4 in 36% yield after column chromatography. Alternatively the reaction was conducted in a sealed tube in xylene at 155 °C for 50 h. Based on unreacted starting material this was the most efficient process affording the desired product in 74% yield, but attempts to push the reaction to completion including the use of metal catalysts were unsuccessful. It appears that the equilibrium position between the open precursor and the Diels–Alder adduct cannot be easily shifted under the temperature and pressure conditions available.

The isomeric internal Diels–Alder structures are excluded by the ¹H NMR spectrum of the cyclization product which is consistent with 4. The olefinic signals appeared as an unsymmetrical multiplet at δ 6.01 representing the AB portion of an ABX system, while the single allylic bridgehead proton (X) gave rise to a broad resonance at δ 2.27 ($W_{1/2} = 6$ Hz). The methyl signals appeared as singlets at δ 0.80 and 1.05 due to the endo and exo geminal group and as a doublet at δ 0.91 ($J = 6.5$ Hz) representing the secondary methyl function. Although 4 was homogeneous by both GLC and TLC, the proton noise-decoupled ¹³C NMR spectrum indicated it was an epimeric mixture at C₂ (~1:1).¹⁴ This spectrum confirmed the

An analytical sample was obtained by preparative GLC (column A).

Anal. ($C_{13}H_{20}$) C, H.

(B) Similar reaction of sodium cyclopentadiene with the bromide required 104 h at room temperature in THF and after column chromatography afforded the triene 8 in 69% yield.

(C) Cyclopentadienylmagnesium bromide was prepared according to the method of Brieger²⁰ and reacted over 15 h at room temperature with tosylate in diethyl ether under nitrogen to give 8 in 65% yield after standard workup and chromatography.

(D) Lithium cyclopentadiene was generated from methylolithium and cyclopentadiene and reacted with the tosylate (4 h, 0–25 °C) to give a 57% yield of the alkyl cyclopentadiene after chromatography.

Preparation of 2,6,6-Trimethyltricyclo[5.2.1.0^{1,5}]dec-8-ene (4). (A) A solution of alkylcyclopentadiene 8 (18.41 g, 0.105 mol) in dry hexamethylphosphoramide (HMPA, 100 mL) was added over a 2-h period to a hot solution of HMPA (110 mL) maintained under N_2 in a silicone oil bath at 205 ± 5 °C in a 500-mL three-necked flask equipped with a condenser and pressure-equalizing dropping funnel. Heating was continued for a further 5 h, the reaction was cooled to room temperature, and the resulting black solution was diluted with brine (250 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (3 \times 90 mL). The combined extracts were washed with water (5 \times 100 mL), dried, and concentrated, and the oily residue was passed through a silica gel column (8:1) eluting with *n*-hexane. These fractions were combined and distilled [bp 53–56 (0.2 mm)] to give the tricyclic olefin 4: 6.5 g (36%); IR (neat) 3040 (CH=C), 1550 (w, C=C) cm^{-1} ; ¹H NMR δ 6.01 (2 H, m, CH=CH), 2.27 (1 H, br s, $w_{1/2} = 6$ Hz, CH), 0.81 (3 H, s, CH₃), 1.07 (3 H, s, CH₃), 0.91 (3 H, d, $J = 6.5$ Hz, CH₃CH) ppm; ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 139.56, 139.11, 136.03, 135.58 (C=C for each epimer); mass spectrum M^+ 176.

Anal. ($C_{13}H_{20}$) C, H.

(B) The triene 8 (0.161 g, 0.915 mmol) in dry xylene (4.5 mL) was sealed in a Carius tube and heated at 155 ± 3 °C for 51 h. The tube was opened, solvent was removed, and the product was isolated in 37% yield (74% based on unreacted starting material) by preparative GLC (column A).

(C) A solution of the triene 8 (0.271 g, 1.54 mmol) in dry tri-*n*-butylamine (15 mL) was added over a 0.5-h period to a hot solution of tri-*n*-butylamine (40 mL) maintained under N_2 in a silicone oil bath at 210 ± 5 °C in a 100-mL three-necked flask equipped with a condenser and pressure-equalizing dropping funnel. Heating was continued for a further 3.5 h, the cooled reaction mixture was poured into ice-cold 50% aqueous hydrochloric acid, and the product was extracted with ether (2 \times 50 mL). The combined extracts were washed with dilute hydrochloric acid, 10% aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution (25 mL), and brine, dried, and concentrated to give an oily residue. The tricyclic olefin 4 was purified by preparative GLC, 0.079 g (29%, ~55% based on unchanged starting material) (column A).

Preparation of 2,6,6-Trimethyltricyclo[5.2.1.0^{1,5}]dec-8-ene (5). To a cold (0 °C) solution of the alkene 4 (1.7 g, 9.7 mmol) in dry dimethoxyethane (12 mL) under nitrogen, in a 100-mL three-necked flask equipped with a reflux condenser and pressure-equalizing dropping funnel maintained in an ice bath, was added sodium borohydride (0.53 g, 14 mmol). Freshly distilled boron trifluoride etherate (1.97 mL, 16 mmol) in dimethoxyethane was added dropwise to the cold solution over a 10-min period. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature, and stirring was continued for a total of 20 h. The reaction was then cooled in an ice bath and the excess reagent destroyed by careful addition of water (~1.5 mL) and this was followed by aqueous sodium hydroxide solution (3 M, 5 mL) and aqueous hydrogen peroxide (30%, 5 mL) dropwise. The reaction was refluxed gently for 45 min, aqueous 10% sodium sulfite solution was added to destroy the excess peroxide (negative starch/KI test), diluted with water, and extracted with ethyl acetate (4 \times 50 mL). The combined extracts were washed with brine (50 mL), dried, and concentrated to give an oil (1.7 g). This alcohol was dissolved in dry acetone and cooled to 0 °C (ice bath), and Jones' reagent was introduced dropwise to the stirred solution until a faint-yellow color persisted. A few drops of isopropyl alcohol were added to utilize excess oxidant, and the mixture was poured into ether-brine. The aqueous layer was extracted with ether (3 \times 35 mL), and the combined extracts were washed with water and brine, dried, and concentrated to afford the ketone as an oil (1.59 g, 86%). This material was shown to be homogeneous by GLC analysis (column A) and was used without further purification: IR (neat) 1735, (CCl₄), 1745 cm^{-1} ; NMR δ 0.96 (9 H, br s with two sharp shoulders), 1.03, 0.98 (CH₃); 75 mg of ketone plus 40 mg of Eu(fod)₃ resolved the methyl signals and confirmed that the diastereomeric ratio was 1:1; mass spectrum M^+ 192.

The ketone was further characterized as its 2,4-DNP derivative, crystallized from aqueous methanol, mp 164–166 °C.

Anal. ($C_{19}H_{24}N_4O_4$) C, H, N.

Preparation of Silyl Cyanohydrin (9). Anhydrous zinc iodide (10 mg) and trimethylsilylcyanide (0.92 g, 9.2 mmol) were added to the tricyclic ketone 5 (1.70 g, 8.85 mmol) maintained under nitrogen. The resulting solution was stirred at room temperature for 5.5 h and then concentrated under reduced pressure to give the cyanohydrin ether: 2.51 g (97%); IR (neat) 2220 (w, C \equiv N) cm^{-1} ; ¹H NMR δ 0.30 [9 H, s, (CH₃)₃Si] ppm; mass spectrum M^+ 291.

Preparation of Amino Alcohol 10. Lithium aluminum hydride (10.4 g, 0.011 mol) was suspended in anhydrous ether (12 mL) under N_2 in a 50-mL three-necked flask equipped with a magnetic stirring bar, reflux condenser, and pressure-equalizing dropping funnel. An ether solution (10 mL) of the cyanohydrin ether 9 (2.66 g, 9.14 mmol) was added dropwise so that gentle reflux was maintained. Stirring was continued for 10 h at room temperature, excess hydride was destroyed by careful addition of water (~1 mL), 15% aqueous sodium hydroxide solution (1 mL), and water (1 mL), and the reaction was stirred until a granular white precipitate was formed. After filtration, the ether solution was washed with brine, dried, and concentrated to give the aminomethyl alcohol 10: 1.81 g (89%); IR (neat) 3330 (br OH), 3120–3280 (br NH₂) cm^{-1} .

The amine hydrochloride was prepared by bubbling hydrochloric acid through an ether solution of the amine and collecting the precipitate: mp 205 °C, sublimed 250–260 °C; ¹H NMR (Me₂SO-d₆) δ 8.10 (3 H, br s, NH₃⁺), 4.95 (1 H, br s, OH), 2.80 (2 H, s, CH₂N) ppm. An analytical sample was recrystallized from methanol-diethyl ether (1:8).

Anal. ($C_{14}H_{26}ONCl$) C, H, N.

Preparation of 2,6,6-Trimethyltricyclo[5.3.1.0^{1,5}]undecan-8-one (6). An aqueous solution (3 mL) of sodium nitrite (0.38 g, 5.5 mmol) was added dropwise to a cold (ice bath) solution of the amino alcohol 10 (0.91 g, 4.08 mmol) in water (7 mL) containing glacial acetic acid (0.35 mL, 6.0 mmol). The reaction was stirred for 2 h at 0 °C and 6 h at room temperature, water was added, and the reaction was then extracted with ether (3 \times 25 mL). The combined extracts were washed with aqueous 10% sodium bicarbonate solution and brine, dried, and concentrated to give the ketones as an oil (0.7 g, 83.3%). The analysis indicated that 15–25% (depending on run) of the positional isomer 11 was present. They were separated from the epimeric cedrones by TLC (six elutions with 20% chloroform-*n*-hexane). The upper band contained ketone 11: IR (neat) 1706 (C=O) cm^{-1} ; ¹H NMR δ 0.88 (3 H, d, $J = 6.5$ Hz, CH₃CH), 1.13 (3 H, s, CH₃), 1.02 (3 H, s, CH₃) ppm; mass spectrum M^+ 206.

The epimeric cedrones (6) were extracted from the lower band: IR (neat) 1705 (C=O) cm^{-1} ; ¹H NMR δ 0.97 (9 H, br s with shoulders, CH₃) ppm; mass spectrum M^+ 206.

The diastereomer could be separated by preparative GLC (column B, 187 °C), the cedrone possessing the longer retention time.

Preparation of (\pm)-*epi*-Cedrol and (\pm)-Cedrol (2). A dry ether solution (5 mL) of the epimeric cedrones (0.33 g, 1.6 mmol) was added slowly to a methylolithium solution (10 mL, 11 mmol). The resulting solution was refluxed under nitrogen for 2 h, cooled, quenched carefully with water, diluted with ether, and extracted, and the combined ether extracts were washed with brine, dried, and concentrated to give the cedrols as a semicrystalline residue, 0.284 g (80%). The alcohols were separated by preparative GLC (column B, 177 °C), the (\pm)-*epi*-cedrol being eluted first.

(\pm)-*epi*-cedrol recrystallized from aqueous methanol: mp 107–109 °C; IR (Nujol) 3450 (br, OH); ¹H NMR δ 0.83 (3 H, d, $J = 6$ Hz, CH₃CH), 0.92 (3 H, s, *endo*-CH₃), 1.19 (3 H, s, *exo*-CH₃), 1.23 (3 H, s, CH₃COH) ppm; mass spectrum M^+ 222.

Anal. ($C_{15}H_{26}O$) C, H, O.

(\pm)-Cedrol recrystallized from aqueous methanol; mp 94–96 (lit.⁴ (+)-cedrol mp 86–87 °C); IR (nujol) 3330 (br, OH) cm^{-1} ; ¹H NMR δ 0.82 (3 H, d, $J = 6$ Hz, CH₃CH), 0.97 (3 H, s, *endo*-CH₃), 1.18 (3 H, s, *exo*-CH₃), 1.26 (3 H, s, CH₃COH) ppm; mass spectrum M^+ 222. These spectral features were the same as an authentic sample of commercial cedrol.

The total ketone mixture from the ring expansion was also treated with methylolithium and the resulting alcohols were separated by GLC (column B), or alternatively the positional isomers were first separated from the cedrols by TLC eluting with 50% chloroform-*n*-hexane.

Preparation of (\pm)- α -Cedrene (1) and (\pm)- β -Cedrene.¹⁹ Thionyl chloride (0.1 mL) was added to a cold (0 °C) pyridine solution (1 mL) of (\pm)-cedrol (15 mg, 0.07 mmol), and the reaction was stirred under nitrogen for 1.5 h. Water was added and the mixture was extracted with ether (3 \times 15 mL); these extracts were washed with cold aqueous 10% hydrochloric acid and brine, dried, and concentrated

to afford a quantitative conversion to (\pm)- α - and (\pm)- β -cedrene (80:20). They could be separated by GLC (column B, 146 °C): ^1H NMR δ 0.82 (3 H, d, $J = 6.5$ Hz, CH_3CH), 0.92 (3 H, s, *endo*- CH_3), 0.98 (3 H, s, *exo*- CH_3), 5.15 (0.8 H, br s, $\text{HC}=\text{C}$, α), 4.49 (0.2 H, br s, $\text{CH}_2=\text{C}$, β) ppm; mass spectrum M^+ 204.

These results compared favorably with an authentic sample of cedrol, which under the conditions described above afforded the α - and β -cedrenes in an 83:17 ratio. The spectral features of the synthetic cedrene were in excellent agreement with an authentic sample of α -cedrene (Aldrich) shown by GLC and NMR analysis to contain 14% of the β isomer.

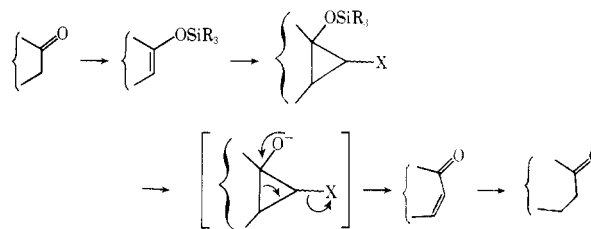
Acknowledgment. We are grateful to Memorial University of Newfoundland for financial support of this research.

Registry No.—1, 22567-43-7; 2, 22567-44-8; 4 epimer 1, 65391-62-0; 4 epimer 2, 65391-63-1; 5 epimer 1, 65391-64-2; 5 epimer 2, 65391-65-3; 5-DNP, 65442-01-5; 6 epimer 1, 50896-63-4; 6 epimer 2, 50896-62-3; 7, 4582-61-0; 8b, 65378-59-8; 9, 65378-60-1; 10, 65378-61-2; 10 HCl, 65378-62-3; 11, 65378-63-4; 6-methyl-5-hepten-2-one, 110-93-0; 6-methyl-5-hepten-2-ol, 1569-60-4; *p*-toluenesulfonyl chloride, 98-59-9; 2-bromo-6-methyl-5-heptene, 4434-77-9; cyclopentadiene, 542-92-7; sodium cyclopentadiene, 4984-82-1; cyclopentadienyl bromide, 41851-49-4; lithium cyclopentadiene, 16733-97-4; trimethylsilylcyanoide, 7677-24-9; (\pm)-*epi*-cedrol, 65391-66-4; (\pm)- β -cedrene, 65450-98-8.

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Synthesis of Garosamine and of Related Amino Sugars. An Efficient Tetrahydrooxazine Ring Opening

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Garosamine, a component of the antibiotic gentamicin, and a series of related amino sugars have been synthesized from glucose by a stereospecific route involving a versatile tricyclic intermediate. A new oxidative tetrahydrooxazine ring-opening reaction is also reported.

The synthesis of branched chain amino sugars has been the focus of attention of a number of research groups in recent years because of the common occurrence of these compounds in nature in association with antibiotics. Synthetic approaches to these compounds have usually employed the addition of organometallic reagents, diazoalkanes, and enolate salts to cyclic ketones with varying degrees of stereochemical control. Such an approach was used in a previous synthesis of the methyl glycoside of garosamine (1),¹ a component monosaccharide of the gentamicin antibiotics.² Because of our interest in synthetic approaches to aminoglycoside antibiotics,³ we required an efficient and stereospecific synthesis of garosa-

mine and of structurally related amino sugars. We wish to report such a synthesis and also the development in the course of this work of a novel tetrahydrooxazine ring-opening reaction.

We had observed in a related study that the aldehyde 2 is prone to undergo aldol condensations leading, for example, after borohydride reduction of the initially formed aldol condensation product, to the dimeric compound 3, of undetermined stereochemistry at position 4 of both furanosyl rings. Exploitation of the reactivity of a related aldehyde in the synthesis of apiose has been reported.⁴ Our planned synthesis is outlined in Scheme I.