Carbohydrate-Derived Chiral Furanosidic α,β -Unsaturated Aldehydes in Conjugate and Diels-Alder Addition Reactions. Steric Hindrance by the **Anomeric Substituent**

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The title aldehydes (1r, 1s, 2, and 3) underwent virtually diastereospecific conjugate addition by lithium methylcyanocuprate. The bulkiness of the anomeric benzyloxy or methoxy groups direct the attacking nucleophile to the less hindered side of the furanosidic ring. The stereochemical outcome of the Diels-Alder additions of cyclopentadiene to 1r and 1s was governed almost completely by the bulkiness of the anomeric benzyloxy group, which directed cyclopentadiene to the less hindered side of the furanosidic ring. When an additional substituent was positioned trans to the anomeric substituent (2), a mixture of all four possible diastereomers was obtained. With both substituents on the same side of the ring (3), complete π -facial selectivity was obtained. In both the conjugate and Diels-Alder addition products, NMR data could be used to determine the stereostructures of all diastereomers. Both product types showed oxygen atom induced proton deshielding and carbon shielding effects in NMR.

In the preceding paper¹ we reported on the synthesis of the chiral isoprenoid aldehydes² 1r and 1s as well as the preparation of the new chiral aldehydes 2 and 3 (Chart I) in 36 and 8% yields, respectively, over three steps starting from methyl α - and β -D-glucopyranoside. Hydrogenation of 1-3 gave the corresponding saturated aldehydes. Compounds 1r and 1s were used as starting materials in our syntheses of enantiomerically pure norbornenes,³ botryodiplodin,⁴ and lignans.⁵ The key reactions in these syntheses were based on Diels-Alder reactions with cyclopentadiene⁶ and virtually diastereospecific conjugate additions of lithium methylcyanocuprate (LiMeCuCN) and benzylic dithioacetal anions, respectively to aldehydes 1r and 1s.

Synthesis of enantiomerically pure tetrahydrofuran derivatives is currently being investigated by several research groups. Conjugate and Diels-Alder additions to chiral butenolides has furnished optically pure compounds of general utility.⁷

We now report investigations of conjugate and Diels-Alder addition reactions with the new aldehydes 2 and 3.

Conjugate Additions. Conjugate addition of LiMe-CuCN to the aldehydes 1r and 1s proceeded with high diastereoselectivity, thus furnishing the methyl derivatives 4 and 5 (Scheme I) by addition from the less hindered side of 1. According to ¹H NMR, the crude product contained a small amount (approximately 3%) of a compound with a doublet a 5.00 ppm $(J = 5.6 \text{ Hz}).^4$ However, chromatography of the crude mixture removed the isomer and gave pure 4 and 5 (de >99.4%). It seems improbable that

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Chart I

Thx = 1----

the closely related cis isomer would have been removed so readily in this chromatographic process and, therefore,

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Table I. ¹H NMR Chemical Shifts (δ), Coupling Constants^o (hertz), and NOE Data^b (percent) for the Michael Adducts 6-9



		proton no.											
cmpd		H-2	H-4	H- 5	H-6a	H-6b	H- 7	H-8	H-9	H- 10	Me ₂ CH, MeC	MeSi	
6	δJ	4.75 dt 7.0, 2.0 10 (H-6a)	2.58 q ^c 7.2 6 (H-7)	4.69 s	4.04 dd 11.0, 2.1	3.69 dd 11.0, 7.0 31 (H-6a)	6.23 dd 2.4, 1.2	1.06 d 7.2	3.35 s	1.65 h 6.8	0.91-0.86 m	0.12 s	
7	δ J NOE	4.51 t 5.9 5 (H-7)	2.95 q° 7.2	4.66 s	3.73 dd 10.2, 5.5	3.50 dd 10.2, 6.0	6.34 t 1.8	1.10 d 7.2	3.34 s	1.64 h 6.8	0.92–0.86 m	0.12, 0.11 s	
8	δJ NOE	4.83 dq 8.7, 2.1	2.62 qq 7.1, 1.6 5 (H-7)	4.64 d 1.7 5 (H-4)	4.02 ddd 10.6, 2.4, 0.5	3.52 dd 10.6, 8.8	6.17 dd 2.3, 1.6 3 (H-4)	1.08 d 7.2	3.40 s	1.64 h 6.8	0.91–0.86 m	0.13, 0.12, 0.10 s	
9	δ J NOE	4.58 dd 7.1, 5.9, 2.0 6 (H-7)	3.00 tq 7.3, 1.7	4.62 s	3.68 dd 9.6, 6.0 3 (H-7)	3.45 dd 9.6, 7.0	6.39 t 1.6	1.12 d 7.2	3.31 s	1.64 h 6.9	0.92–0.86 m	0.11, 0.10 s	

 $^{a}s = singlet$, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, h = heptet. $^{b}The NOE$ is given in percent, followed by the irradiated proton in parentheses. $^{c}Additional small coupling(s)$ was observed.



Figure 1. ¹³C NMR chemical shifts (δ relative to Me₄Si) for compounds 6-9.

we beleive that the doublet at 5.00 ppm emanates from some other (unidentified) compound. Furthermore, conjugate addition of dithioacetal anions to 1 proceeded with virtually complete diastereoselectivity.⁵ Therefore, it is probable that the conjugate addition in reality proceeded with a very high diastereomeric excess, similar to the reactions with 2 and 3 (see below).

In the conjugate addition of LiMeCuCN to 1, tert-butyldimethylsilyl chloride (tBuMe₂SiCl) was used for trapping of the intermediate enolate, which resulted in 87% yield of the corresponding silyl enol ether.⁴ In the absence of tBuMe₂SiCl, the corresponding aldehyde was formed but the yield was only 12%. Therefore, the experiments with 2 and 3 were performed in the presence of tBuMe₂SiCl.

The 2,5-trans (for numbering, see Chart I) substituted aldehyde 2 carries a (silyloxy)methyl group that might hinder the approaching nucleophile and thereby lower the diastereoselectivity of the reaction. However, only the E/Zpair (ratio 7.5:1) 6 and 7 was formed in 61% yield and the possible 4,5-cis isomer could not be detected. As expected, the 2,5-cis substituted aldehyde 3 also reacted with complete diastereoselectivity and the E/Z pair (ratio 4.5:1) 8 and 9 was obtained in 77% yield. The very high diastereoselectivity of these reactions clearly shows that in furanosidic (and probably cyclopentenoid) systems, a γ alkoxy substituent in an α,β -unsaturated aldehyde effectively directs the nucleophile to the less-hindered side of the ring. These results are important for the further utilization of 2 and 3 as chiral synthons.

The structure determination of 6-9 was based on NMR spectroscopic evidence (Table I and Figure 1). In all cases the H-5 (anomeric) signal was a singlet or a weakly coupled (J < 2 Hz) doublet, showing that H-4 and H-5 are trans situated.⁸ The ¹³C NMR spectra (Figure 1) were similar for 6-9, indicating that they are stereoisomers. The E and Z configurations were determined by NOE measurements. Irradiation of the vinyl proton (H-7) gave a signal enhancement of approximately 5% on H-4 in 6 and 8 and on H-2 in 7 and 9. Furthermore, a signal enhancement of 3% was obtained for one of the (silyloxy)methyl group protons (H-6) of 9. In addition, the H-2 signals of 6 and 8 and the H-4 signals of 7 and 9 were deshielded by the neighboring oxygen atom by approximately 0.25 and 0.4 ppm, respectively (H-2-O-7 distance: 6, 3.15 Å; 8, 3.09 Å, H-4–O-7 distance: 7, 2.90 Å; 9, 3.22 Å; calculated by energy minimization using the MM2 program⁹). Such deshielding was also observed with some of the norbornanes below and with various oligosaccharides.¹⁰ With the latter, the deshielding was used to corroborate the conformational analysis of a series of disaccharide analogues. As postulated,¹⁰ the deshielding effect requires that the proton and

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the oxygen atom are in repulsive van der Waals contact (i.e., <2.7 Å) with each other. However, according to the energy-minimized conformations of 6-9, the hydrogen-oxygen distances were somewhat longer (see above).

Diels-Alder Reactions. Treatment of 1r and 1s with cyclopentadiene⁶ below room temperature gave the norbornene derivatives 10/11 and 13/14, respectively (Scheme II) via addition to the less hindered side of the aldehydes. At 50 °C, or with tris(6,6,7,7,8,8,8-heptafluoro-2,2-dimethyl-3,5-octanedione)europium(III) [Eu(fod)₃] catalysis, a small amount (<5%) of 12 and 15 was also obtained via addition to the more hindered side of 1r and 1s. In the 2,5-trans-substituted aldehyde 2, both sides of the furanosidic ring are hindered by the methoxy or (silyloxy)methyl group and all four possible diastereomers (16-19) were formed. The 2,5-cis substituents of aldehyde 3 seem to direct the addition completely to the less hindered side of the furanosidic ring and the norbornenes 20 and 21 were the only products formed, even with $Eu(fod)_3$ catalysis. The bulky (silyloxy)methyl group of 2 is more hindering than the methoxy group in Diels-Alder additions as revealed by the (16 + 18):(17 + 19) ratio of approximately 3.3. Exo addition is favored over endo addition with all the aldehydes 1-3. This is in contrast to the outcome of



most Diels–Alder additions with α,β -unsaturated dienophiles,¹¹ although other such exceptions are known.¹² In exo addition to 2, the (silyloxy)methyl group excerts the greatest steric hindrance, which is reflected by the 16/19 ratio (18:1). In endo addition, the two groups excert similar hindrance as shown by the 17/18 ratio (approximately 1:1). In the presumed transition state of exo addition, two sp²

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carbons of cyclopentadiene are required to reside over the furanosidic ring, whereas in endo addition, only one sp³ carbon occupies such a position.

Structure determination of the norbornene derivatives 10-21 was based on chemical transformations (Scheme III) and NMR spectroscopic evidence in comparison with literature data.¹³ The alcohols 22 and 24 obtained by sodium borohydride reduction of 13 and 14, on treatment with m-chloroperbenzoic acid, gave the epoxide 23 and the cyclic ether 25, clearly showing that the formyl groups of 13 and 14 were placed in the exo and endo position, respectively (Scheme III). NMR data for 23 and 25 were substantially similar to literature data of other norbornane epoxides and cyclic ethers.^{13c,d} The ¹H NMR spectrum of 23 showed a pair of doublets (J = 3.0 Hz) at 3.37 and 3.19 ppm and the 13 C NMR spectrum showed signals at 49.8 and 49.3 ppm, typical for epoxides. The H-10f proton (Table II) is shielded by the epoxide ring^{13c} and appears as a doublet (J = 8.4 Hz) at 1.00 ppm. The HO signal was a triplet as expected for a primary alcohol. The cyclic ether 25 showed a singlet for H-9, which means that it is situated trans to H-8. Both H-10 protons are deshielded almost to the same extent, indicating that they both are in close contact with an oxygen atom (see above). The distance between H-10g and the hydroxyl group and between H-10f and the ring oxvgen atom was calculated⁹ to be 2.63 Å and 2.62 Å, respectively. The HO signal was a doublet as required for a secondary alcohol. The structural proof for 23 and 25 clearly defines the exo and endo position of the formyl groups (and thereby the corresponding endo and exo configuration of the tetrahydrofuran ring) in 13 and 14. respectively.

With the structures of 13 and 14 in hand, detailed analysis of the NMR data for 10-25 allowed the formulation of general rules for the structural analysis of these compounds: (i) compounds having the furanosidic ring in the endo position (as in 10) have similar chemical shifts for the H-10 protons (1.3–1.7 ppm); (ii) when the furanosidic ring is in the exo position (as in 11), H-10f is deshielded and appears at 1.85–2.08 ppm; (iii) with the formyl group in the exo or endo position (as in 10 or 11), the H-11 (formyl) proton appears at approximately 9.8 or 9.5 ppm, respectively; (iv) the ¹³C NMR chemical shift for C-10 is approximately 51 or 44 ppm for the compounds with the furanosidic ring endo or exo, respectively; (v) for compounds with H-5 and H-6 trans situated, H-5 appears as a singlet; (vi) for compounds with H-5 and H-6 cis situated, H-5 appears as a doublet (approximately 6 Hz). In addition, the configuration at positions 3 and 5 in compounds 16-21 are mutually dependent. These rules can be used as the basis for determining the stereostructures of 10-21 and the NMR data (Table II and Figure 2) were found to be in perfect accord with the structures.

NOE measurements were performed with compounds 16-21 in order to corroborate the structural analyses. The experiments were performed with the pure compounds except for 16 and 17, which we could only isolate as a mixture. The NOE enhancements are shown in Table II.

Irradiation of H-9 and H-11 in 16 enhanced the H-3 and H-13 signals, respectively, showing that the furanosidic ring is endo situated with the (silyloxy)methyl group cis to the formyl group. The H-5 signal is a singlet and therefore



Figure 2. ¹³C NMR chemical shifts (δ relative to Me₄Si) for compounds 10-12, 18-23, and 25.

the methoxy group is situated on the α side of the ring system. Irradiation of H-5 in 17 enhanced the H-13, H-7, and H-10f signals, which shows that H-5 is situated on the β side of the ring system and confirms the exo configuration of the furanosidic ring. Further corroboration was obtained from irradiation of the formyl proton H-11, which enhanced the H-9 and H-3 (but not H-13) signals. Irradiation of H-10f in 18 gave a strong enhancement of the H-3 signal, which as a matter of fact settles the complete stereostructure. In addition, irradiation of H-11 gave a weak enhancement of the H-9 signal. Irradiation of H-5 in 19 enhanced the H-8 signal, which shows that the furanosidic ring is endo situated and that the methoxy group is on the β side of the ring system. Furthermore, irradiation of H-11 gave a strong enhancement of the H-3 signal, showing that the (silyloxy)methyl group is situated on the α side of the ring system. Irradiation of H-5 and H-8,9 in 20 enhanced the H-8 and H-3,5 signals, respectively. In addition, irradiation of H-11 enhanced the H-12 and H-13 signals. This shows that the furanosidic ring is endo situated and that all the substituents are positioned on the

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d, e = H or



 β side of the ring system. Irradiation of H-5 in 21 gave a weak enhancement of the H-10f signal. Irradiation of H-6 and H-8 gave weak enhancements of the H-8 and H-6,11 signals, respectively. Finally, irradiation of H-11 gave enhancements of the H-8 and H-13 signals. These experiments clearly show that the furanosidic ring is exo situated in 21 and that all substituents are positioned on the α side of the ring system.

Conclusions. The stereochemical outcome of conjugate additions to the aldehydes 1–3 is governed by the bulkiness of the anomeric benzyloxy and methoxy groups, which direct the attacking nucleophile to the less hindered side of the furanosidic ring. The addition proceeded with virtually complete diastereospecificity. The coupling constant of the anomeric (H-2 or H-5; Chart I) proton is a reliable diagnostic of the stereostructure (trans protons <2 Hz; cis protons⁴ approximately 4.6 Hz).

The Diels-Alder additions to 1r and 1s were governed almost completely by the bulkiness of the anomeric benzyloxy group of the aldehyde, thus directing cyclopentadiene to the less hindered side of the furanosidic ring. When an additional substituent was positioned trans to the anomeric substituent, a mixture of all four possible diastereomers was obtained. With both substituents on the same side of the ring (as in 3) complete π -facial selectivity was obtained.

In both the conjugate and the Diels-Alder addition products, ¹H and ¹³C NMR data could be used to determine the complete stereostructures of all diastereomers. Both product types showed examples of proton deshielding and carbon shielding effects in NMR, emanating from close contacts between hydrogen and ether or alcohol oxygen atoms.

Experimental Section

Liquid chromatography purifications were performed in the gravity mode. Optical rotations were measured with a Perkin-Elmer 141 polarimeter. Melting points are uncorrected. NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian XL-300 spectrometer. Chemical shifts are given in ppm downfield from Me₄Si with reference to internal CHCl₃ (7.26 ppm). The heptane used is a mixture of isomers with a boiling range of 94–100 °C. The syntheses of the following compounds have been described: $1r^2$, $1s^2$, 4^4 and 5.4

(+)-(2S,4S,5S)-2-[[[Dimethyl(1,1,2-trimethylpropyl)si-[y]oxy]methy]-3-[[(Z)-(tert-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy]methylene]-5-methoxy-4-methyltetrahydrofuran (6) and (+)-(2S,4S,5S)-2-[[[Dimethyl(1,1,2-trimethylpropyl)silyl]oxy]methyl]-3-[[(E)-(tert-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy]methylene]-5-methoxy-4-methyltetrahydrofuran (7). Methyl lithium in diethyl ether (0.54 mL, 1.6 M) was added to an icecooled slurry of cuprous cyanide (77.6 mg, 0.87 mmol) in tetrahydrofuran (2.7 mL). After 5 min the mixture was cooled with a dry ice/acetone bath and a solution of *tert*-butyldimethylsilyl chloride (131 mg, 0.87 mmol) in tetrahydrofuran (0.64 mL) was added. Compound 2 (200 mg, 0.67 mmol) was dissolved in tetrahydrofuran (2.0 mL) and added dropwise to the cooled lithium methylcyanocuprate mixture. After 5 min the mixture was allowed to reach room temperature and diethyl ether (10 mL) and aqueous ammonium sulfate (10%, 5 mL) were added. The aqueous phase was extracted with diethyl ether (5 mL) and the combined extracts were washed with saturated aqueous sodium hydrogen carbonate (5 mL) and dried (Na_2SO_4) . The solvent was removed and the residue was chromatographed (SiO₂, heptane/EtOAc 30:1) to give (in order of elution) 7 [24 mg, 8%; $[\alpha]^{25}_{D}$ +64.5° (c 1.3, CHCl₃)] and 6 [151 mg, 53%; $[\alpha]^{25}_{D}$ +104.9° (c 0.9, CHCl₃)]. For ¹H and ¹³C NMR data, see Table I and Figure 1, respectively. Anal. (6) Calcd for C₂₂H₄₆O₄Si₂: C, 61.3; H, 10.8. Found: C, 61.2; H, 10.9.

(+)-(2S,4R,5R)-2-[[[Dimethyl(1,1,2-trimethylpropyl)silyl]oxy]methyl]-3-[[(Z)-(tert-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy]methylene]-5-methoxy-4-methyltetrahydrofuran (8) and<math>(-)-(2S,4R,5R)-2-[[[Dimethyl(1,1,2-trimethylpropyl)silyl]oxy]methyl]-3-[[(E)-(tert-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy]- methylene]-5-methoxy-4-methyltetrahydrofuran (9). Compound 3 (200 mg, 0.67 mmol) was added as above to lithium methylcyanocuprate and worked up to give (in order of elution) 9 [41 mg, 14%; $[\alpha]^{25}_{D}-48.2^{\circ}$ (c 0.7, CHCl₃)] and 8 [182 mg, 63%; $[\alpha]^{25}_{D}+13^{\circ}$ (c 1.1, CHCl₃)]. For ¹H and ¹³C NMR data, see Table I and Figure 1, respectively. Anal. (8) Calcd for C₂₂H₄₆O₄Si₂: C, 61.3; H, 10.8. Found: C, 61.2; H, 11.0.

(-)-(1*R*,2*R*,5*R*,6*R*,7*S*)-2-Formyl-5-(benzyloxy)-4-oxatricyclo[5.2.1.0^{2.6}]dec-8-ene (10), (-)-(1*S*,2*R*,5*R*,6*R*,7*R*)-2-Formyl-5-(benzyloxy)-4-oxatricyclo[5.2.1.0^{2.6}]dec-8-ene (11), and (-)-(1*S*,2*S*,5*R*,6*S*,7*R*)-2-Formyl-5-(benzyloxy)-4-oxatricyclo[5.2.1.0^{2.6}]dec-8-ene (12). (a) The aldehyde 1r² (1.1 g, 5.4 mmol) and cyclopentadiene⁶ (1.1 g, 16 mmol) were dissolved in toluene (8 mL), and the mixture was heated at 50 °C in a closed ampule for 24 h. Toluene and residual cyclopentadiene were removed and the residue was chromatographed (SiO₂, heptane-/EtOAc 10:1) to give 10 [912 mg, 63%; [α]²⁸_D -113° (c 0.6, CDCl₃]], 11 [266 mg, 18%; [α]²³_D -119° (c, 0.8, CDCl₃)], and 12 [23 mg, 2%; [α]²³_D -19° (c 1.8, CDCl₃)]. For ¹H and ¹³C NMR data, see Table II and Figure 2, respectively.

(b) Aliquots of the reaction mixture [prepared as in (a) above] were kept at various temperatures and reaction times. The products were analyzed by GLC and the relative amounts of 10, 11, and 12 are reported in the table of ref 3.

(+)-(1*S*,2*S*,5*S*,6*S*,7*R*)-2-Formyl-5-(benzyloxy)-4-oxatricyclo[5.2.1.0^{2,6}]dec-8-ene (13) and (+)-(1*R*,2*S*,5*S*,6*S*,7*S*)-2-Formyl-5-(benzyloxy)-4-oxatricyclo[5.2.1.0^{2,6}]dec-8-ene (14). (a) The aldehyde 1s² (3.2 g, 15.7 mmol) and cyclopentadiene⁶ (3.5 g, 51 mmol) were dissolved in toluene (10 mL), and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 36 h. Workup as above (a) gave 13 [2.72 g, 64%; $[\alpha]^{25}_D$ +114° (c 0.7, CDCl₃)], 14 [0.64 g, 15%; $[\alpha]^{23}_D$ +118° (c 0.4, CDCl₃)], and a 13/14 mixture (0.34 g, 8%). For ¹H and ¹³C NMR data, see Table II and Figure 2, respectively. When the reaction was run at 50 °C (cf. the preparation of 10–12), a small amount of 15 was also isolated.

(1R, 2R, 3S, 5S, 6R, 7S)-3-[[[Dimethyl(1,1,2-trimethylpropyl)silyl]oxy]methyl]-2-formyl-5-methoxy-4-oxatricyclo[5.2.1.0^{2,6}]dec-8-ene (16), (1*R*,2*S*,3*S*,5*S*,6*S*,7*S*)-3-[[[Dimethyl(1,1,2-trimethylpropyl)silyl]oxy]methyl]-2-formyl-5-methoxy-4-oxatricyclo[5.2.1.0^{2,6}]dec-8-ene (17), (+)-(1S,2R,3S,5S,6R,7R)-3-[[[Dimethyl(1,1,2-trimethylpropyl)silyl]oxy]methyl]-2-formyl-5-methoxy-4-oxatricy $clo[5.2.1.0^{2,6}]dec-8-ene (18), and (+)-(1S,2S,3S,5S,6S,7R)-$ 3-[[[Dimethyl(1,1,2-trimethylpropyl)silyl]oxy]methyl]-2formyl-5-methoxy-4-oxatricyclo[5.2.1.0^{2,6}]dec-8-ene (19). The aldehyde 2¹ (200 mg, 0.66 mmol), cyclopentadiene⁶ (220 mg, 3.34 mmol), and tris(6,6,7,7,8,8,8-heptafluoro-2,2-dimethyl-3,5-octanedione)europium(III) [Eu(fod)₃, 30 mg, 0.029 mmol] were dissolved in toluene (1 mL), and the mixture was left at room temperature for 24 h. Toluene and residual cyclopentadiene were removed and the residue was chromatographed (SiO₂, heptane-/EtOAc 30:1) to give (in order of elution) 18 [43 mg, 15%; $[\alpha]^{25}$ _D +53.4° (c 2.1, CHCl₃)], 16 and 17 (143 mg, 50%; inseparable mixture 3:1), and 19 [15 mg, 5%; $[\alpha]^{26}_{D}$ +34.4° (c 1.5, CHCl₃)]. For ¹H and ¹³C NMR data, see Table II and Figure 2, respectively. Anal. (19) Calcd for C₂₀H₃₄O₄Si: C, 65.5; H, 9.4. Found: C, 65.2; H. 9.3

(-)-(1*R*,2*R*,3*S*,5*R*,6*R*,7*S*)-3-[[[Dimethyl(1,1,2-trimethylpropyl)silyl]oxy]methyl]-2-formyl-5-methoxy-4-oxatricyclo[5.2.1.0^{2,6}]dec-8-ene (20) and (-)-(1*S*,2*R*,3*S*,5*R*,6*R*,7*R*)-3-[[[Dimethyl(1,1,2-trimethylpropyl)silyl]oxy]methyl]-2-formyl-5-methoxy-4-oxatricyclo[5.2.1.0^{2,6}]dec-8-ene (21). The aldehyde 3¹ (100 mg, 0.33 mmol) was treated for 2.5 h as in the preparation of 16–19 to give (in order of elution) 21 [32 mg, 26%; $[\alpha]^{25}_{D}$ -71.5° (c 2.1, CHCl₃)] and 20 [41 mg, 34%; $[\alpha]^{25}_{D}$ -2.5° (c 2.7, CHCl₃)]. For ¹H and ¹³C NMR data, see Table II and Figure 2, respectively.

(+)-(1S,2S,5S,6S,7R)-2-(Hydroxymethyl)-5-(benzyloxy)-4-oxatricyclo[5.2.1.0^{2,6}]dec-8-ene (22). The aldehyde 13 (123 mg, 0.45 mmol) was dissolved in ethanol (8 mL) and sodium borohydride (7 mg, 0.185 mmol) was added. The mixture was sonicated for 30 s and then left at room temperature for 30 min. Acetone (3 drops) was added, and after 30 min, the solvent was removed and the residue was dissolved in dichloromethane and washed with water. The solvent was removed and the residue was filtered through silica (CH₂Cl₂) to give 22 [81 mg, 65%); $[\alpha]^{23}_{\rm D}$ +110° (c 3.1, CDCl₃)]. For ¹H and ¹³C NMR data, see Table II and Figure 2, respectively.

Epoxide 23. Compound **22** (150 mg, 0.55 mmol) was dissolved in dichloromethane (5 mL) and cooled (ice bath). *m*-Chloroperbenzoic acid (150 mg, 0.65 mmol, 70%) was added and the mixture was left (ice bath) for 12 h and then chromatographed (Al₂O₃, CH₂Cl₂/EtOAc 1:1) to give **23** [oil, 68 mg, 43%; [α]²⁸_D+64° (c 1.35, CDCl₃)]. For ¹H and ¹³C NMR data, see Table II and Figure 2, respectively.

(+)-(1*R*,2*S*,5*S*,6*S*,7*S*)-2-(Hydroxymethyl)-5-(benzyloxy)-4-oxatricyclo[5.2.1.0^{2,6}]dec-8-ene (24). The aldehyde 14 (123 mg, 0.45 mmol) was treated as in the preparation of 22 to give 24 [120 mg, 93%; $[\alpha]^{23}_{D}$ +92.5° (c 1.9, CDCl₃)]. For ¹H and ¹³C NMR data, see Table II and Figure 2, respectively.

Alcohol 25. Compound 24 (100 mg, 0.37 mmol) was treated as in the preparation of 23 to give 25 [65 mg, 61%; mp 104–105 °C; $[\alpha]^{23}_D$ +96° (c 0.6, CDCl₃)]. For ¹H and ¹³C NMR data, see

Table II and Figure 2, respectively.

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Supplementary Material Available: ¹H and/or ¹³C NMR spectra for compounds 10, 11, 15, 18, 20, 21, 22, and 24 (15 pages). Ordering information is given on any current masthead page.

Total Synthesis of Indole Alkaloids. A New Strategy for (\pm) -19-Oxoaspidospermidine and (\pm) -19-Oxoaspidofractinine

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A synthesis for the preparation of 19-oxoaspidospermidine (1) and 19-oxoaspidofractinine (2) has been developed beginning with tetracyclic amido alcohol 9. Dehydration of 9 gave enamide 10. Reduction to the corresponding enamine followed by reaction with acetyl chloride afforded the tetracyclic enamino ketone 12. Studies on the selective reduction of the olefinic bond of the enamino ketone moiety of 12 were carried out. Removal of N-4 protecting group and further alkylation with a three carbon atoms appendage gave compounds 17. Cyclization to pentacyclic product 18 was achieved using NaH in a benzene/THF solution. After deprotection of the N-1 atom and oxidation to the unstable indolenine 22, a biomimetic Mannich type cyclization led to 19-oxoaspidofractinine (2), a direct precursor of aspidofractinine 6.

The Aspidosperma alkaloids belong to a series of natural products useful for the hemisynthesis of biologically active compounds (e.g. vincamine and antitumor dimeric alkaloids).¹ For these reasons increasing attention has been paid to their total synthesis.² In continuation of our program³ aimed at the synthesis of the pentacyclic framework of these compounds, we report herein the synthesis of 19-oxoaspidospermidine (1) and 19-oxoaspidofractinine (2) (Chart I).

Our scheme is based on the fundamentally new approach we have described before for N-1-benzyldeethylaspidospermidine $(3)^4$ from *cis*-hexahydrocarbazol-4-ones.⁵

For the generality of this methodology it is necessary to be able to introduce a functionalized C-20⁶ side chain often present in alkaloids of this group. The use of the previously described pentacyclic enamine 4^4 failed due to its poor reactivity (no reaction occurred even with acetyl chloride). Starting from tetracyclic imine 5^4 (Chart I), double alkylation at C-20 presented problems of reactivity and stereochemistry.

In order to circumvent these problems we thought that a tetracyclic enamine such as 11 (Scheme I) would be considerably more reactive than 4 and could be a useful synthetic intermediate.

In our strategy the last stage of the synthesis is the formation of ring D. A C-20 acetyl chain would allow the

(1) The Monoterpenoid Indole Alkaloids. In *Heterocyclic Compounds*; Saxton, J. E., Ed.; Wiley: New York, 1983; Vol. 25.

Chart I $\begin{array}{c}
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 & F \\
 & H \\$

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