## Studies on Conformation and Reactivity. Part XII.<sup>1</sup> Acetolysis and Stereospecific Rearrangement of 4-Bromocholest-4-en-3-one

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Treatment of 4-bromocholest-4-en-3-one (I) with potassium acetate in boiling acetic acid affords a mixture containing the product of normal displacement at C(4) [4-acetoxycholest-4-en-3-one (IV)], products of  $S_{x2}^{2}$ displacement at C(6) and C(2) [6β-acetoxy- (VII) (major product) and 2α-acetoxy- (V) cholest-4-en-3-ones], and 4-hydroxycholest-4-en-3-one (II), cholesta-4.6-dien-3-one (III), and 5a-cholestane-3,6-dione (VI). Treatment of bromo-enone (I) with potassium acetate in absolute ethanol gives the 4-acetoxy-compound (IV) as the major product, two  $6\beta$ -substituted products [(VII) and  $6\beta$ -ethoxycholest-4-en-3-one (VIII)], the 4-hydroxy-compound (II), cholest-4-en-3-one (IX), 4-(3-oxocholest-4-en-4-yloxy)cholesta-4,6-dien-3-one (X), and an unidentified substance.

 $\alpha$ -Halogeno-ketones, e.g.,  $4\beta$ -bromo-3-oxo- $5\beta$ -,<sup>2</sup>  $2\alpha$ bromo-3-oxo- $5\alpha$ -, <sup>3,4</sup>  $9\alpha$ -bromo-11-oxo-, <sup>5</sup> and 17 $\alpha$ -bromo-16-oxo-6 steroids, frequently undergo nucleophilic displacement at an alternative or  $\alpha'$  position, with the enolic form of the ketone as intermediate. A similar reaction has been observed in a vinylogue of the *a*-bromoketone system;  $6\beta$ -bromo- $\Delta^4$ -3-ketones gave, under acetolytic conditions,  $2\alpha$ - and  $2\beta$ -acetoxy- $\Delta^4$ -3-ketones.<sup>3,7-10</sup> It was suggested <sup>3</sup> that the observed  $6 \rightarrow 2$  shift might proceed via a dienol, which underwent two 1,3 bromine shifts. A similar rearrangement but in the opposite direction, *i.e.*  $2 \rightarrow 6$ , was observed with the 2-acetoxy- $\Delta^4$ -3-ketone system, which, on acidic methanolysis, gave the corresponding 3.6-diketone.<sup>11</sup> Stork and White <sup>12</sup> found that in  $S_N 2'$  reactions, the entering group approaches the allylic system on the same side as the leaving anion recedes. With ketones, stereochemical inversion of an initially produced compound can occur.

We considered that the bromine atom of 4-bromocholest-4-en-3-one<sup>13</sup> (I) might be reactive to acetolysis in spite of its vinylic character since the system might first isomerise to the  $\beta_{\gamma}$ -unsaturated form (Ia) with the halogen atom at an allylic position. In fact the reaction resulted in a new stereospecific rearrangement of the substituent from C(4) to C(6) and C(2).

Acetolysis with Potassium Acetate in Acetic Acid or in Ethanol.-Acetolysis of the bromo-enone (I) with an excess of potassium acetate in boiling acetic acid gave six compounds (II)-(VII) lacking a bromine atom. The least polar product [(II);  $4 \cdot 1\%$ ] (C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>44</sub>O<sub>2</sub>) was

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663. <sup>2</sup> (a) Y. Satoh, M. Mukoh, Y. Ogaki, T. Takahashi, T. Kimura, <sup>2</sup> (a) Y. Satoh, M. Mukoh, Y. Ogaki, T. Takahashi, T. Kimura, <sup>3</sup> (a) Y. Satoh, M. Mukoh, Y. Ogaki, T. Takahashi, T. Kimura, <sup>4</sup> (a) Y. Satoh, M. Mukoh, Y. Ogaki, T. Takahashi, T. Kimura, <sup>5</sup> (a) Y. Satoh, M. Mukoh, Y. Ogaki, T. Takahashi, T. Kimura, <sup>6</sup> (b) Satoh, M. Mukoh, Y. Ogaki, T. Takahashi, T. Kimura, <sup>6</sup> (c) Satoh, M. Mukoh, Y. Ogaki, T. Takahashi, T. Kimura, <sup>6</sup> (c) Satoh, M. Mukoh, Y. Ogaki, T. Takahashi, T. Kimura, <sup>6</sup> (c) Satoh, M. Mukoh, Y. Ogaki, T. Takahashi, T. Kimura, <sup>6</sup> (c) Satoh, M. Mukoh, Y. Ogaki, T. Takahashi, T. Kimura, <sup>6</sup> (c) Satoh, M. Satoh, M. Satoh, Satoh H. Aoki, and A. Hagitani, Bull. Chem. Soc. Japan, 1966, 39, 855;

(b) T. Takahashi, Y. Satoh, and A. Hagitani, J. Chem. Soc. Japan, 1968, **89**, 974.

<sup>3</sup> L. F. Fieser and M. A. Romero, J. Amer. Chem. Soc., 1953,

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J. S. G. Cox, J. Chem. Soc., 1960, 4508.

 W. F. Johns, J. Org. Chem., 1963, 28, 1616.
D. H. R. Rivett and E. S. Wallis, J. Org. Chem., 1950, 15, 35.

<sup>8</sup> (a) F. Sondheimer, S. Kaufmann, J. Romo, H. Martinez and G. Rosenkranz, J. Amer. Chem. Soc., 1953, 75, 4712; (b) G. Rosenkranz, O. Mancera, and F. Sondheimer, *ibid.*, 1955, 77, 145.

9 R. L. Clarke, K. Dobriner, A. Mooradian, and C. M. Martini, J. Amer. Chem. Soc., 1955, 77, 661.

thought to contain a diosphenol system as indicated by u.v., i.r., and n.m.r. spectra, and was assigned as 4-hydroxycholest-4-en-3-one by comparison (mixed m.p.,  $[\alpha]_{\mathbf{p}}$ , u.v. and i.r. spectra) with an authentic specimen.<sup>136,14</sup> In a similar way, five other more polar compounds were identified as cholesta-4,6-dien-3-one<sup>15</sup> [(III); 8.5%], 4-acetoxycholest-4-en-3-one  $^{14b,16}$  [(IV);11.6%],  $2\alpha$ -acetoxycholest-4-en-3-one  $^{3,8a,14b}$ [(V);14.5%], 5 $\alpha$ -cholestane-3,6-dione <sup>17</sup> [(VI); 4.7%], and 6β-acetoxycholest-4-en-one <sup>17,18</sup> [(VII); 38.3%].

Acetolysis of the bromo-enone (I) in boiling anhydrous ethanol gave the 4-hydroxy- [(II); 7.8%]. 4-acetoxy- [(IV); 19.4%], and  $6\beta$ -acetoxy- [(VII);  $5\cdot3\%$  compounds, accompanied by four other products. One of these [(IX); 5.1%], was cholest-4-en-3-one.<sup>19</sup> Another (m.p.  $71-72\cdot5^{\circ}$ ; one spot on t.l.c.) showed u.v. and i.r. absorptions due to a keto-group, and the n.m.r. and mass spectra showed peaks assignable to an ethoxygroup. However, the mass spectrum suggested that the material was a mixture of two compounds, and it was not investigated further.

A third product (VIII) (6.7%) (C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>48</sub>O<sub>2</sub>) had u.v. (237 nm)  $^{20}$  and i.r. spectra characteristic of a  $\Delta^4$ -3ketone system with a substituent at C(6). The n.m.r. spectrum showed peaks due to a vinylic 4-proton and an ethoxy-group, and a peak ( $\tau$  8.73) due to the C-19 protons deshielded by an electronegative group at the 6β-position. A multiplet (τ 6.23) with  $W_{\frac{1}{2}}$  6 Hz was

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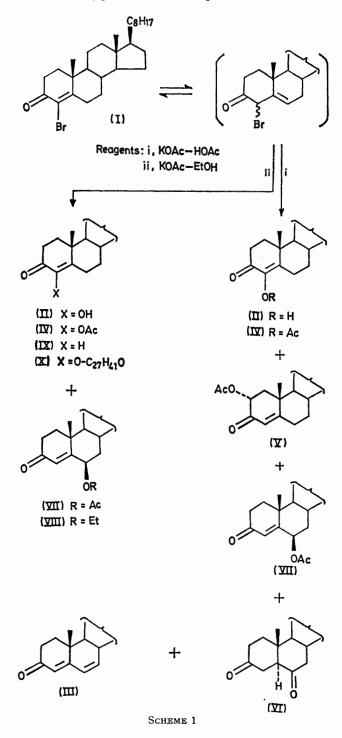
62; (b) P. N. Rao, J. Org. Chem., 1961, 26, 2149. <sup>16</sup> L. F. Fieser and R. Stevenson, J. Amer. Chem. Soc., 1954,

76, 1728.

 L. F. Fieser, J. Amer. Chem. Soc., 1953, 75, 4377.
C. Amendolla, G. Rosenkranz, and F. Sondheimer, J. Chem. Soc., 1954, 1226.

J. F. Eastham and R. Teranishi, Org. Synth., 1955, 35, 39. <sup>20</sup> (a) C. W. Bird, R. C. Cookson, and S. H. Dandegaonker, J. Chem. Soc., 1956, 3675; (b) K. Morita, J. Chem. Soc. Japan, 1957, 78. 1581.

assigned to an equatorial  $6\alpha$ -proton.<sup>21</sup> The presence of an ethoxy-group was further supported by the  $(M^+ - \text{EtOH})$  peak in the mass spectrum, and the data



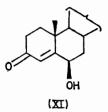
supported the identification of the compound (VIII) as  $6\beta$ -ethoxycholest-4-en-3-one.

<sup>21</sup> (a) L. M. Jackman, 'Applications of Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy in Organic Chemistry,' Pergamon, London, 1959, p. 84; (b) T. Koga and M. Tomoeda, *Tetrahedron*, 1970, 26, 1043.

The fourth product (X) (6.2%) (C<sub>54</sub>H<sub>84</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) had u.v. (313 nm), i.r. (five absorptions between 1690 and 1576 cm<sup>-1</sup>), and n.m.r. (AB quartet at  $\tau$  3.66) spectra which suggested the presence of both  $\Delta^4$ - and  $\Delta^{4,6}$ -3-ketone systems. The n.m.r. spectrum futher exhibited a characteristic doublet  $(\tau 6.96)$  with a large coupling constant assignable to a  $6\alpha$ -proton deshielded by an electronegative function at C(4).<sup>22</sup> The mass spectrum showed  $(M^+ - C_{27}H_{42}O)$  and  $(M^+ - C_{27}H_{41}O_2)$  peaks, suggesting a dimeric structure, and the compound was assigned as 4-(3-oxocholest-4-en-4-yloxy)cholesta-4,6-dien-3-one.

## DISCUSSION

The reactions can be envisaged as proceeding via the 4-brom  $0-\Delta^5$ -3-ketone (Ia), possibly with  $\beta$  or axial configuration  $^{23}$  at C(4). The normal displacement of bromine by acetate ion or water at C(4) [route a in Scheme 2] gave the 4-acetoxy- (IV) or 4-hydroxy-(II) compounds.

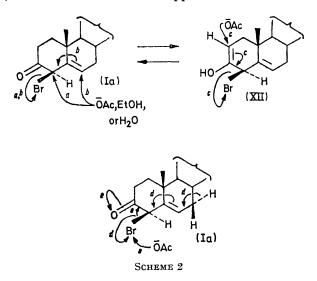


Formation of compounds (VII) and (VIII) and 6β-hydroxycholest-4-en-3-one (XI) with thermodynamically less stable axial 63-substituents might be governed by stereoelectronic requirements<sup>24</sup> around C(6) favouring maximum overlap of the p orbital of the oxygen atom of the attacking nucleophile (OAc<sup>-</sup>, EtOH, or H<sub>2</sub>O) with the vacant p orbital at C(6), from the  $\beta$  or axial side (route b). The reaction is an example of an  $S_N 2'$  displacement. In acetic acid, the 6<sup>β</sup>-hydroxy-compound (XI), once formed, might immediately isomerize to the  $5\alpha$ -3,6-dione (VI); in fact treatment of (XI)<sup>17</sup> with potassium acetate in boiling acetic acid gave (VI) in 95% yield. On the other hand, as expected, the  $6\beta$ -acetate (VII) did not isomerize to its 6a-isomer under such acidic conditions, but was recovered unchanged.

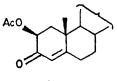
It is reasonable to assume that under acidic conditions, the keto-group of the intermediate (Ia) enolizes towards the 2-position, forming the enol (XII). Acetate ion could attack C(2) (route c) from the axial  $\beta$ -side to form

22 (a) M. Tomoeda, M. Inuzuka, T. Furuta, and T. Takahashi, Tetrahedron Letters, 1964, 1233; (b) M. Tomoeda, M. Inuzuka, T. Furuta, M. Shinozuka, and T. Takahashi, Tetrahedron, 1968, 24,

 <sup>23</sup> E. J. Corey, J. Amer. Chem. Soc., 1953, 75, 2301.
<sup>24</sup> (a) E. L. Eliel, 'Stereochemistry of Carbon Compounds,'
<sup>24</sup> Will New York 1962, pp. 139, 227, and 241; (b) E. L. <sup>24</sup> (a) E. L. Ehel, 'Stereochemistry of Carbon Compounds,' McGraw-Hill, New York, 1962, pp. 139, 227, and 241; (b) E. L. Eliel, N. L. Allinger, S. J. Angyal, and G. A. Morrison, 'Confor-mational Analysis,' Wiley-Interscience, New York, 1965, pp. 72, 92, 291, and 307; (c) N. L. Allinger and E. L. Eliel (eds.), 'Topics in Stereochemistry,' Wiley-Interscience, New York, 1967, vol. 2, p. 163; (d) D. N. Kirk and M. P. Hartshorn, 'Steroid Reaction Mechanisms,' Elsevier, Amsterdam, 1968, pp. 157, 231, and 382. the thermodynamically less stable  $2\beta$ -acetate (XIII), which might then isomerize to the more stable equatorial  $2\alpha$ -acetate (V). When acetolysis of 17-acetoxy- $6\beta$ -bromotestosterone was stopped after *ca.* 12 min,



the less stable  $2\beta$ -acetoxy-derivative could be isolated,<sup>9,10</sup> and this supports our proposed mechanism for the eventual formation of the  $2\alpha$ -acetoxy-compound (V).

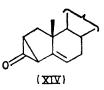


(XIII)

The 4,6-dien-3-one (III) might be derived from the 4-bromo- $\Delta^5$ -intermediate (Ia) by dehydrobromination (7-H and 4-Br) (route d).

Compound (IX) might be formed by abstraction of bromine by acetate ion (route e); a similar reaction has been reported for 3-endo-bromocamphor.<sup>25</sup> The mechanism of formation of the dimeric ether (X) is uncertain.

A cyclopropanone intermediate (XIV) might be involved in the reaction: this could give compounds (IV), (V), and (VII). However, the fact <sup>2b</sup> that an acetal derivative of a  $4\beta$ -bromo-3-oxo-5 $\beta$ -steroid did not react under acetolytic conditions favours the enolization of the 3-oxo-group as the first and requisite step for the reaction.



## EXPERIMENTAL

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CHCl<sub>3</sub>, u.v. spectra were measured for solutions in 95% EtOH, and i.r. spectra for Nujol mulls, unless otherwise stated. N.m.r. spectra were measured for solutions in [<sup>2</sup>H]chloroform on a Varian A-60 spectrometer or on a JEOL JNM C-60H instrument. Mass spectroscopic analysis was performed with a JEOL JMS-OISG double-focusing spectrometer. Silica gel (Kanto Chemical Co.) was used for chromatographic separations. Known compounds were identified by comparison (mixed m.p., i.r. and u.v. spectra, and  $[\alpha]_p$ ) with authentic samples.

4-Bromocholest-4-en-3-one (I).—This compound, synthesized by a slight modification of the literature <sup>13</sup> method, had m.p. 116·5—117·5° (from methanol),  $\lambda_{max}$  263 nm ( $\varepsilon$  11,800),  $\nu_{max}$  1690s (C=O), 1571s cm<sup>-1</sup> (C=C-Br),  $\tau$  6·72 (1H, d, J 14·5 Hz, 6 $\alpha$ -H), 8·76 (3H, s, 19-H), and 9·28 (3H, s, 18-H).

Acetolysis of (I) with Potassium Acetate in Acetic Acid.-To a solution of (I) (19.0 g, 0.022 mol) in glacial acetic acid (400 ml), anhydrous KOAc (70.0 g, 0.713 mol) was added and the mixture was heated under reflux for 3.5 h. The reaction was almost complete in 3 h (t.l.c. and  $\lambda_{max}$ , 263 nm). The yellow mixture was cooled and poured into ice-water to deposit crystals. These were dissolved in ether, and the solution was washed with H<sub>2</sub>O, saturated aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub>, and H<sub>2</sub>O, then dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>). Concentration of the filtrate in vacuo gave a yellow oil (9.5 g), which was chromatographed over silica gel (1200 g). Elution with petroleumbenzene (1:4) (3600 ml) gave 4-hydroxycholest-4-en-3-one (II) as needles (352 mg, 4.1%), m.p. and mixed m.p. <sup>13b,14</sup> 150-151° (from methanol), 7 3.91 (1H, s, 4-OH), 6.97 (1H, d, J 14.5 Hz, 6a-H), 8.81 (3H, s, 19-H), and 9.28 (3H, s, 18-H), m/e 400·337 (C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>44</sub>O<sub>2</sub>) ( $M^+$ ).

Elution with benzene-ether (199:1) (3600 ml) gave cholesta-4,6-dien-3-one (III) as needles (702 mg, 8.5%), m.p. and mixed m.p.<sup>15</sup> 79.5—81° (from methanol).

Further elution with benzene-ether (199:1) (3600 ml) gave 4-acetoxycholest-4-en-3-one (IV) as needles (1.108 g, 11.6%), m.p. and mixed m.p.  $^{14b,16}$  104:5—105° (from methanol),  $\tau$  7.28 (1H, d, J 14.5 Hz, 6 $\alpha$ -H), 7.76 (3H, s, 4-OAc), 8.76 (3H, s, 19-H), and 9.28 (3H, s, 18-H), m/e 442:341 ( $C_{29}H_{46}O_3$ ) ( $M^+$ ).

Further elution with benzene-ether (199:1) (7600 ml) gave  $2\alpha$ -acetoxycholest-4-en-3-one (V) as needles (1.387 g, 14.5%), m.p. and mixed m.p.<sup>3,9a,14b</sup> 140.5—141.5° (from methanol),  $\tau$  4.26 (1H, s, 4-H), 4.56 (1H, q,  $J_{2\beta,1\alpha}$  14 Hz,  $J_{2\beta,1\beta}$  6 Hz, 2β-H), 7.82 (3H, s, 2 $\alpha$ -OAc), 8.70 (3H, s, 19-H), and 9.29 (3H, s, 18-H), m/e 442.340 (C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>46</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) ( $M^+$ ).

Further elution with benzene–ether (199:1) (4400 ml) gave needles (608 mg), m.p. 158—171°, which were rechromatographed over silica gel (350 g). Elution with benzene–ether (49:1) (1620 ml) gave 5 $\alpha$ -cholestane-3,6dione (VI) as prisms (406 mg, 4·7%), m.p. and mixed m.p.<sup>17</sup> 175—176·5° (from ethyl acetate), u.v. end absorption at 210 ( $\varepsilon$  900),  $\lambda_{max}$ . 286 nm (55),  $\tau$  9·04 (3H, s, 19-H) and 9·31 (3H, s, 18-H), m/e 400·336 ( $C_{27}H_{44}O_2$ ) ( $M^+$ ).

Further elution with benzene-ether (199:1) (26,400 ml) gave 6β-acetoxycholest-4-en-3-one (VII) as needles (3.658 g, 38.3%), m.p. and mixed m.p.<sup>17,18</sup> 103.5—104.5° (from methanol),  $\tau$  4.08 (1H, s, 4-H), 4.59 (1H, m,  $W_{\frac{1}{4}}$  6 Hz, 6α-H), 7.98 (3H, s, 6β-OAc), 8.72 (3H, s, 19-H), and 9.24 (3H, s, 18-H), m/e 442.343 (C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>46</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) ( $M^+$ ).

Acetolysis of (I) with Potassium Acetate in Ethanol.-To

<sup>25</sup> E. W. Warnhoff and W. D. Chambers, Abstracts 151st Meeting of the American Chemical Society, Division of Organic Chemistry, Pittsburgh, Penn., March, 1966.

M.p.s were taken on a Kofler hot-stage apparatus. Optical rotation values were determined for solutions in

a solution of (I) (10.0 g, 0.022 mol) in anhydrous EtOH (400 ml), anhydrous KOAc (70.0 g, 0.713 mol) was added and the mixture was heated under reflux for 40 min. A solid began to precipitate. The reaction was complete in 3.5 h (t.l.c. and  $\lambda_{max}$  263 nm). The mixture was cooled, and was concentrated *in vacuo* to give a yellow residue. Work-up as before gave an orange oil (9.2 g). This was chromatographed over silica gel (1200 g). Elution with petroleum-benzene (1:3) (1600 ml) gave (II) as needles (672 mg, 7.8%), m.p. and mixed m.p.<sup>13b,14</sup> 150.5-151.5° (from methanol). Elution with benzene (2800 ml) gave needles (623 mg), m.p. 64-68°, which were rechromatographed over silica gel (190 g). Elution with benzeneether (499:1) (1800 ml) gave prisms of an unidentified material (one spot on t.l.c., 567 mg), m.p. 71-72.5° (from methanol) (Found: C, 78·1, 78·0; H, 11·35, 11·35%),  $\begin{array}{l} [\alpha]_{\rm D}{}^{17} - 18 \cdot 3^{\circ} \ (c \ 1 \cdot 04), \ \lambda_{\rm max} \ 305 \ \rm nm \ [O.D. \ (1\% \ soln., \ 1 \ cm \ cell) \ 1 \cdot 18], \ \nu_{\rm max} \ 1731 \ \rm s \ cm^{-1} \ (C=O), \ \tau \ 6 \cdot 20 - 7 \cdot 00 \ (4H, \ m, \ OCH_2 CH_3), \ 8 \cdot 78 \ (3H, \ t, \ J \ 7 \ Hz, \ OCH_2 CH_3), \ 8 \cdot 82 \ (3H, \ t, \ J \ Thz) \ Soln \ Soln \ Ch_2 CH_3) \ . \\ \end{array}$ 7 Hz, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 9.27 (3H, s, 18-H), and 9.35 (3H, s, 18-H), m/e 446·413 (C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>54</sub>O<sub>2</sub>) [( $M^1$ )<sup>+</sup>], 428·365 (C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>48</sub>O<sub>2</sub>),  $[(M^2)^+]$ , 400·369 (C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>48</sub>O)  $[(M^1)^+ - C_2H_5OH]$ , 384·340  $(C_{27}H_{44}O) [(M^2)^+ - C_2H_4O].$ 

Elution with benzene (3200 ml) gave 6β-ethoxycholest-4en-3-one (VIII) as needles (619 mg, 6·7%), m.p. 112·5— 113° (from methanol) (Found: C, 81·1; H, 11·2. C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>48</sub>O<sub>2</sub> requires C, 81·25; H, 11·3%),  $[\alpha]_{\rm D}^{16}$  +35·6° (c 1·04),  $\lambda_{\rm max}$  237 nm (ε 14,200),  $\nu_{\rm max}$  3030w (C=C-H), 1692s (C=O), 1620m cm<sup>-1</sup> (C=C),  $\tau$  4·23 (1H, s, 4-H), 6·23 (1H, m,  $W_{3}$ 6 Hz, 6α-H), 6·43—6·98 (2H, m, 6β-OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 8·73 (3H, s, 19-H), 8·86 (3H, t, J 7 Hz, 6β-OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 8·73 (3H, s, 18-H), m/e 428·367 (C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>45</sub>O<sub>2</sub>) (M<sup>+</sup>) and 382·322 (C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>42</sub>O) (M<sup>+</sup> - C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>OH).

Further elution with benzene (4000 ml) gave needles (625 mg), m.p. 57—78°, which were rechromatographed over silica gel (240 g). Elution with benzene-ether (49:1) (880 ml) gave cholest-4-en-3-one (IX) as needles (420 mg,  $5\cdot1\%$ ), m.p. and mixed m.p.<sup>19</sup> 85—85 $\cdot$ 5° (from methanol)  $\tau$  4·35 (1H, s, 4-H), 8·82 (3H, s, 19-H), and 9·29 (3H, s, 18-H).

Further elution with benzene (19,200 ml) gave (IV) as needles (1.857 g, 19.4%), m.p. and mixed m.p.<sup>14b,16</sup> 104—105° (from methanol). Elution with benzene-ether (399:1) (7200 ml) gave 4-(3-oxocholest-4-en-4-yloxy)cholesta-4,6-dien-

3-one (X) as plates (522 mg, 6·2%), m.p. 221–223° (from ethanol) (Found: C, 82·8; H, 10·6.  $C_{54}H_{84}O_3$  requires C, 83·0; H, 10·85%),  $\lambda_{max}$  313 nm ( $\varepsilon$  23,100),  $\nu_{max}$  3034w (C=C-H), 1690s (C=O), 1667s (C=O), 1626m, 1608m, and 1576s cm<sup>-1</sup> (C=C),  $\tau$  3·34 (1H, d,  $J_{AB}$  9 Hz, 6-H), 3·98 (1H, d,  $J_{AB}$  9 Hz, 7-H), 6·96 (1H, d, J 14·5 Hz, 6 $\alpha$ -H), 8·78 and 8·85 (3H each, s, 19-H), and 9·24 and 9·29 (3H each, s, 18-H), m/e 780·643 ( $C_{54}H_{84}O_3$ ) ( $M^+$ ), 398·316 ( $C_{27}H_{42}O_2$ ) ( $M^+ - C_{27}H_{42}O$ ), and 383·332 ( $C_{27}H_{43}O$ ) ( $M^+ - C_{27}H_{41}O_3$ ).

Elution with benzene-ether (99:1) (7600 ml) gave (VII) as needles (503 mg,  $5\cdot3\%$ ), m.p. and mixed m.p.<sup>17, 18</sup> 103-104° (from methanol).

Treatment of  $6\beta$ -Hydroxycholest-4-en-3-one (XI) with Potassium Acetate in Acetic Acid: Isomerization of (XI) to (VI).—To a solution of (XI)<sup>17</sup> (300 mg, 0.75 mmol) in glacial acetic acid (12 ml), anhydrous KOAc (2.38 g, 24.3 mmol) was added and the mixture was heated under reflux for 4 h. The reaction was complete in 2 h (t.l.c.). The mixture was cooled, and poured into ice-water to deposit crystals. These were worked up as before to give needles (298 mg), m.p. 151—167°, which were chromatographed over silica gel (45 g). Elution with benzeneether (99:1) (510 ml) gave (VI) as needles (285 mg, 95.0%), m.p. and mixed m.p.<sup>17</sup> 175—176.5° (from ethyl acetate), u.v. end absorption at 210 ( $\epsilon$  960),  $\lambda_{max}$  286 nm (55).

Treatment of (VII) with Potassium Acetate in Acetic Acid. —To a solution of (VII) <sup>17,18</sup> (500 mg, 1·13 mmol) in glacial acetic acid (20 ml), anhydrous KOAc (3·59 g, 36·6 mmol) was added. The mixture was refluxed for 4 h, cooled, and poured into ice-water, depositing crystals, which were worked up as usual. The product (493 mg), m.p. 83—97°, was chromatographed over silica gel (150 g). Elution with benzene-ether (49:1) (960 ml) gave unchanged starting material (VII) as needles (476 mg, 95·2%).

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