# Conversion of Cholic Acids into Aza Steroids 

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Cholic and chenodeoxycholic acids have been transformed into analogues of the anti-fungal aza steroid A25822A via the 8(14)-ene and 8,14-diene derivatives.

The A25822 group of fungal metabolites isolated and characterised by the Lilly group ${ }^{1}$ have been shown to exhibit antifungal activity under certain circumstances. ${ }^{2}$ This activity has been traced to their inhibition of the 14-ene hydrogenation step of sterol biosynthesis. ${ }^{3}$ At the inception of our work the only synthetic studies published were those of the Barton group ${ }^{4}$ who prepared the aza steroid 1 from ergosterol. Since then Dolle and Kruse have described a synthesis of the 4,4-dimethyl compound. ${ }^{5}$


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$2 X=O A c, R=O M e$
$3 X=H, R=P \mathbf{r}^{i}$
$4 X=H, R=O M e$
$5 X=H, R=O H$
$6 X=H, R=O A c$
We wished to investigate whether cholic $\dagger$ acid could be used as a source of aza steroids of this type. The Fetizon group ${ }^{6}$ has described the conversion of methyl $3 \alpha, 12 \alpha$-diacetoxychol-8(14)-en- 24 -oate into the 8,14 -diene 2 by reaction with $\mathrm{Bu}^{t} \mathrm{OOH}-$ $\mathrm{SeO}_{2}$ and its further transformation into the 14-hydroxy-15-oxo compound. Since the preparation of this ketone proved to be capricious $\ddagger$ and cleavage of ring $D$ difficult we turned to reaction of the diene 2 with $\mathrm{OsO}_{4}-\mathrm{Me}_{3} \mathrm{NO}$ which gave a 1:1 mixture of 14,15 -diols $(80 \%)$. Oxidation with $\mathrm{NaIO}_{4}$ gave the ketoaldehyde 7 ( $90 \%$ ).
Reaction of the aldehyde 7 with $\mathrm{NH}_{3}-\mathrm{MeOH}$ gave a variety of products from which the carbinolamine $8(30 \%)$ could be isolated. The presence of the unsaturated imine was confirmed by the shift of $\lambda_{\text {max }}$ from $242 \mathrm{~nm}(\varepsilon 10300)$ to $282 \mathrm{~nm}(\varepsilon 10100)$ on acidification. Attempts to reduce the carbinolamine 8 to the

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$8 \mathrm{X}=\mathrm{OH}$
$9 \mathrm{X}=\mathrm{H}$
azasteroid 9 with $\mathrm{NaBH}_{3} \mathrm{CN}$ were unsuccessful, the allylamine 10 being obtained $(92 \%)$. Direct oxidation of the amine 10 with $\mathrm{Hg}(\mathrm{OAc})_{2}$ or $\mathrm{Pb}(\mathrm{OAc})_{4}$ failed to form the azomethine, but the two step process ${ }^{7}$ of N -chlorination with $\mathrm{Bu}^{t} \mathrm{OCl}$ followed by dehydrochlorination with DBU § formed compound $9(84 \%){ }^{8}$


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Now that we had developed a method for the construction of the aza compound we endeavoured to apply it to a target more closely related to the natural products. The starting material was chenodeoxycholic acid 4 which was converted to the 8(14)ene apo compound using the conditions previously described; however in this case the 8(14)-ene isomer was contaminated with the 7 -ene compound. $\|$ After acetylation exposure of the mixture to $\mathrm{Pt}-\mathrm{H}_{2}$ converted it to pure 8(14)-ene material 11. Reaction of the acid with $(\mathrm{COCl})_{2}$ formed the acid chloride which was treated with $\mathrm{Pr}^{1} \mathrm{MgCl}-\mathrm{CuCN}$ to give ketone 12. Attempts to transform the enone into the 8,14-diene 3 using

[^1]
$11 \mathrm{R}=\mathrm{OH}$
$12 R=P r^{i}$

$13 X=0$
$14 X=H, O H$
$15 X=H, B r$
$16 X=H, N_{3}$

$17 X=O H, Z=0$
$18 \mathrm{X}=\mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Z}=\mathrm{O}$
$19 \mathrm{X}=\mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Z}=\mathrm{CH}_{2}$
$\mathrm{Bu}^{{ }^{\prime} \mathrm{OOH}-\mathrm{SeO}_{2}}$ gave intractable materials, presumably due to interference by the side-chain ketone. Thus it was decided to introduce the diene first and then complete the side-chain. The known diene ester 4 was hydrolysed to the acid and acetylated with $\mathrm{Ac}_{2} \mathrm{O}$-pyridine. On aqueous work-up the acid 5 was obtained, but the bulk of the material from the reaction was present as the mixed anhydride 6. It was possible to hydrolyse the anhydride selectively, but in poor yield; however the anhydride could be converted into the acid chloride using $(\mathbf{C O C l})_{2}$. Reaction of the acid chloride with $\operatorname{Pr}^{i} \mathbf{M g C l}-\mathrm{CuCN}$ gave the ketone 3.
The results of $\mathrm{OsO}_{4}-\mathrm{Me}_{3} \mathrm{NO}$ oxidation of the diene 3 were disappointing since the 14,15 -diol was obtained in poor yield, the major product being an unidentified ether. Stoichiometric $\mathrm{OsO}_{4}$ oxidation gave the 14,15 -diol $(28 \%)$ which proved to be unstable.* We next turned to selective ozonolysis which had been used by Dolle and Kruse ${ }^{5}$ in a similar situation. Reaction of the diene with $\mathrm{O}_{3}$ in $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ at $-78^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ followed by reduction of the reaction mixture with $\mathrm{Zn}-\mathrm{AcOH}$ gave the ketoaldehyde $13(23 \%)$ which was treated with $\mathrm{NH}_{3}$ to form the carbinolamine $17(25 \%)$. Reduction of the carbinolamine 17 as before gave the allylamine $(29 \%)$. This succession of poor yields caused us to examine other routes from the ketoaldehyde to the imine. Dolle and Kruse ${ }^{5}$ had converted their ketoaldehyde to primary alcohol and thence to the unsaturated imine using $(\mathrm{PhO})_{2} \mathrm{PON}_{3}-\left(\mathrm{Pr}^{\mathrm{i} O C O N}\right)_{2}-\mathrm{Ph}_{3} \mathrm{P}$ in

[^2]an aza-Wittig reaction. The ketoaldehyde was reduced with $\mathrm{Bu}^{t} \mathrm{NH}_{2}-\mathrm{BH}_{3}$ in $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ to the alcohol 14 ( $54 \%$ ) but all attempts to form the imine 18 in one step failed so a well established route was adopted. Reaction of the alcohol with $\mathrm{Ph}_{3} \mathrm{P}-\mathrm{N}$-bromosuccinimide gave the bromide $15(90 \%)$ which with $\mathrm{NaN}_{3}-\mathrm{Me}_{2} \mathrm{NCHO}$ formed the azide $16(100 \%)$; reduction of 16 with $\mathrm{H}_{2}$-Lindlar catalyst gave the imine $18(64 \%)$. The synthesis was completely by Wittig reaction of 18 with $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{PPh}_{3}$ to give the analogue 19.

## Experimental

NMR spectra were measured in $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ at 300 MHz ( $J$ values in Hz), IR spectra as thin films, and UV spectra in EtOH. 'Usual work-up' implies extractions with an organic solvent, washing the combined extracts with brine, drying the organic solvent over $\mathrm{Na}_{2} \mathrm{SO}_{4}$, and concentration of the extract under reduced pressure.

Oxidation of Methyl $3 \alpha, 12 \alpha$-Diacetoxy- $5 \beta$-chola-18,14-dien-24-oate 2. - $\mathrm{OsO}_{4}(50 \mathrm{mg})$ in $\mathrm{Bu}^{t} \mathrm{OH}\left(1 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}\right)$ was added dropwise to a solution of the diene $2(383 \mathrm{mg})$ and $\mathrm{Me}_{3} \mathrm{NO}(103 \mathrm{mg})$ in $\mathrm{Bu}{ }^{t} \mathrm{OH}\left(20 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}\right)$, water $\left(5 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}\right)$ and pyridine ( $1.2 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}$ ) at ambient temperature under $\mathrm{N}_{2}$. After 1 h aqueous $\mathrm{Na}_{2} \mathrm{~S}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{5}$ ( $20 \%$ ) was added to the dark red solution. Extraction with $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ ( $3 \times 50 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}$ ) followed by work-up in the usual way gave a green oil which was chromatographed on $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$; elution with light petroleum (b.p. $60-80^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ )-EtOAc (1:1) gave the $14,15-$ diols ( 340 mg ) as a glass.

The diols ( 310 mg ) and $\mathrm{NaIO}_{4}(400 \mathrm{mg}$ ) were dissolved in $\mathrm{MeOH}\left(20 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}\right)$ and water ( $10 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}$ ) and the solution left at ambient temperature for 3 h . A white precipitate formed which dissolved on the addition of water ( $50 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}$ ) and the resulting mixture was extracted with $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}\left(3 \times 40 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}\right)$. Work-up in the usual way gave an oil which solidified on trituration with light petroleum. Recrystallisation from $\mathrm{MeOH}-\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ gave the ketoaldehyde 7 ( $298 \mathrm{mg}, 90 \%$ ), m.p. $137-141^{\circ} \mathrm{C} ; \delta_{\mathrm{H}} 9.66(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s})$, $5.16(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{q}), 4.78(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}), 3.66(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}), 2.10(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}), 1.99(3 \mathrm{H}$, $\mathrm{s}), 1.14(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}), 1.08(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s})$ and $0.84(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}) ; v_{\text {max }} / \mathrm{cm}^{-1} 1735$, 1666 and 1624; $\lambda_{\text {max }} / \mathrm{nm} 248$ ( $\varepsilon 8500$ ) (Found: C, 66.9; H, 8.1. $\mathrm{C}_{29} \mathrm{H}_{42} \mathrm{O}_{8}$ requires C, $67.2 ; \mathrm{H}, 8.1 \%$ ).

Reaction of Methyl $3 \alpha, 12 \alpha$-Diacetoxy-14,15-dioxo-14,15-seco$5 \beta$-chola-8,14-dien-24-oate 7 with $\mathrm{NH}_{3}$.-Aqueous ammonia (d $0.880 ; 0.1 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}$ ) was added to the aldehyde $7(55 \mathrm{mg})$ in MeOH ( $1.5 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}$ ). After 8 h water $\left(20 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}\right)$ was added and the mixture extracted with $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}\left(3 \times 10 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}\right)$. Concentration of the dried extract gave an oil which was chromatographed on $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$; elution with light petroleum (b.p. $60-80^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ )-EtOAc (1:1) gave the carbinolamine $8(16 \mathrm{mg}, 30 \%)$; $\delta_{\mathrm{H}} 5.32(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}), 5.10(1 \mathrm{H}$, q), $4.80(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}), 2.02(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}), 2.00(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}), 1.14(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}), 1.10$ ( $3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}$ ) and $0.86\left(3 \mathrm{H}\right.$, d) (Found: $\mathrm{M}^{+}, 517.3041 . \mathrm{C}_{29} \mathrm{H}_{43} \mathrm{O}_{7}$ requires $M, 517.3036$ ).

Reduction of Methyl 3 $\alpha, 12 \alpha$-Diacetoxy-16-hydroxy-15-aza-17a-homo- $5 \beta$-chola-8,14-dien-24-oate 8.- $\mathrm{NaBH}_{3} \mathrm{CN}(10 \mathrm{mg})$ was added to the carbinolamine $8(16 \mathrm{mg})$ in $\mathrm{MeOH}\left(1 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}\right)$. After 1 h the mixture was diluted with water $\left(10 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}\right)$ and extracted with $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}\left(2 \times 10 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}\right)$. The extract was washed with aqueous $\mathrm{NaHCO}_{3}$, dried and concentrated to give the amine 10 as an oil ( 15 mg ); $\delta_{\mathrm{H}} 0.81(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}), 0.86(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}), 1.00$ ( $3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}$ ), $2.00(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}), 2.06(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}), 3.25(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}), 3.66(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s})$, $3.80(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}), 4.76(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m})$ and $5.22(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d})$ (Found: $\mathrm{M}^{+}$, 503.3245. $\mathrm{C}_{29} \mathrm{H}_{45} \mathrm{NO}_{6}$ requires $M, 503.3243$ ).

Methyl 3a,12 $\alpha$-Diacetoxy-5-aza-17a-homo-5 $\beta$-chola-8,14-di-en-24-oate 9.- $\mathrm{Bu}^{\prime} \mathrm{OCl}$ in $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}\left(10 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}, 1 \mathrm{~mol} \mathrm{dm}^{-3}\right)$ was added to the amine $\mathbf{1 0}(5 \mathrm{mg})$ in $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}\left(1 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}\right)$. After 1 h in $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}(10$
$\mathrm{cm}^{3}$ ) was added and after washing with aqueous $\mathrm{NaHCO}_{3}$ the dried solution was concentrated to give the N -chloro compound ( 5 mg ). This was dissolved in $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}\left(1 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}\right.$ ) and DBU ( 50 $\mathrm{cm}^{3}$ ) added. After $30 \mathrm{~min} \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}\left(10 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}\right)$ was added and the solution worked up in the usual way to give an oil which was chromatographed on $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$; elution with light petroleum (b.p. $60-80^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ )-EtOAc (1:1) gave the imine $9(4 \mathrm{mg})$ as an oil; $\lambda_{\text {max }} / \mathrm{nm} 242$ ( $\varepsilon 10300$ ); $\lambda_{\text {max }}+\mathrm{H}^{+} / \mathrm{nm} 282(\varepsilon 10100)$ (Found: $\mathrm{M}^{+}, 501.3091 . \mathrm{C}_{29} \mathrm{H}_{43} \mathrm{NO}_{6}$ requires $M, 501.3088$ ).
$3 \alpha$-Acetoxy- $5 \beta$-chol-8(14)-en-24-oic Acid 11.-Apochenodeoxycholic acid ( 9.36 g ) in $\mathrm{AcOH}\left(150 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}\right)$ containing $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{SO}_{4}$ ( $0.5 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}$, conc.) and $\mathrm{Ac}_{2} \mathrm{O}\left(5 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}\right.$ ) was stirred at room temp. for 4 h . The reaction mixture was then poured into EtOAc (200 $\mathrm{cm}^{3}$ ) and worked up in the usual way, to give an orange solid ( 11.03 g ). $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ column chromatography ( $35 \%$ EtOAc-hexane; 7:13) gave the acetates as pale yellow crystals. The acetates in $\mathrm{AcOH}\left(50 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}\right.$ ) containing $\mathrm{PtO}_{2}$ were shaken under an $\mathrm{H}_{2}$ atmosphere for 24 h . The Pt was filtered off and the filtrate evaporated to give the pure (14)-ene acid 11 ( 7.21 g ), m.p. 120$124{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\left(\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}\right) ;[\alpha]_{\mathrm{D}}+57$ ( $c 1.0$ ); $v_{\text {max }} / \mathrm{cm}^{-1} 2940,2870,1740$ and $1710 ; \delta_{\mathrm{H}} 4.75(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}), 2.0(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}), 1.0(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}), 0.85(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s})$, $0.8(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s})$ (Found: C, $75.3 ; \mathrm{H}, 10.0 \mathrm{C}_{26} \mathrm{H}_{40} \mathrm{O}_{4}$ requires C, 75.0 ; $\mathrm{H}, \mathbf{9 . 6 \%}$ ).
$3 x$-Acetoxy- $5 \beta$-cholest-8(14)-en-24-one 12.- $(\mathbf{C O C l})_{2} \quad(168$ $\mathrm{mm}^{3}$ ) was added to a stirred solution of the acid $11(410 \mathrm{mg})$ in $\mathrm{PhMe}\left(20 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}\right)$ at room temp. Once effervescence had stopped the orange solution was evaporated to give the acid chloride $(405 \mathrm{mg})$ as an orange solid, $v_{\text {max }} / \mathrm{cm}^{-1} 1740$.
$\mathrm{Pr}^{\mathrm{i}} \mathrm{MgCl}$ in $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}\left(2 \mathrm{~mol} \mathrm{dm}^{-3} ; 9.2 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}\right)$ was added to a stirred suspension of CuCN ( 817 mg ) in tetrahydrofuran (THF) ( 40 $\mathrm{cm}^{3}$ ) under $\mathrm{N}_{2}$ at $-78^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. The solution was then warmed to $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. When clear, the solution was recooled to $-78^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and the acid chloride ( 2.055 g ) in THF ( $10 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}$ ) was added. The mixture was stirred for 15 min and then $\mathrm{MeOH}\left(20 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}\right)$ added at $-78^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. After the mixture had warmed to room temp. $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}\left(150 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}\right)$ and water ( $100 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}$ ) were added and the resulting suspension was filtered through Celite. Work-up in the usual way followed by $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ column chromatography (hexaneEtOAc; 9:1) furnished the ketone 12 ( 1.449 g ); m.p. 95-97 ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ (hexane); $[\alpha]_{\mathrm{D}}+72(c 1.2) ; v_{\max } / \mathrm{cm}^{-1} 1740$ and $1715 ; \delta_{\mathrm{H}}$ $4.7(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}), 2.0(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}), 1.05(6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}), 0.9(3 \mathrm{H})$ and $0.8(3 \mathrm{H})$; $m / z 442$ (Found: $\mathrm{C}, 79.1 ; \mathrm{H}, 10.7 . \mathrm{C}_{29} \mathrm{H}_{46} \mathrm{O}_{3}$ requires $\mathrm{C}, 78.7 ; \mathrm{H}$, $10.4 \%$ ).
$3 \alpha$-Hydroxy-5 $\beta$-chola-8,14-dien-24-oic Acid.-LiOH (1 g) was added to a stirred solution of the diene $4(2.03 \mathrm{~g})$ in AnalaR $\mathrm{MeOH}\left(90 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}\right)$ and water $\left(30 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}\right)$ at room temp. After 48 h a white precipitate had formed and the suspension was acidified with $\mathrm{HCl}\left(3 \mathrm{~mol} \mathrm{dm}^{-3}\right)$ to pH 2 . The precipitate was then filtered off, washed with water $\left(4 \times 50 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}\right)$ amd dried to give the acid ( 1.625 g ); m.p. $149-151^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\left(\mathrm{Me}_{2} \mathrm{CO}-\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}\right)$; $[\alpha]_{\mathrm{D}}-20$ (c 2.0); $\lambda_{\text {max }} / \mathrm{nm} 247(\varepsilon 17125) ; v_{\text {max }} / \mathrm{cm}^{-1} 3600-2450$ and $1710 ; \delta_{\mathrm{H}} 5.3$ ( $1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{br} \mathrm{s}$ ), $3.65(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}), 1.05(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}), 0.95(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d})$ and 0.8 ( $3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}$ ); m/z 372.
$3 \alpha$-Acetoxy-5 $\beta$-chola-8,14-dien-24-oic Acid 5-- $\mathrm{Ac}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ ( 60 $\mathrm{cm}^{3}$ ) was added dropwise to a stirred solution of $3 \alpha$-hydroxy$5 \beta$-chol-8,14-dienoic acid ( 202 mg ), pyridine ( $0.5 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}$ ) and DMAP* ( 20 mg ) in $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}\left(10 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}\right)$. After 3 h the reaction mixture was diluted further with $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}\left(30 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}\right)$ and washed with water ( $3 \times 30 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}$ ). Work-up in the usual way gave a pale yellow oil, purified by $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ column chromatography (EtOAchexane $3: 7$ ) to give the acid $5(52 \mathrm{mg})$ as a colourless oil;

[^3]$\lambda_{\max } / \mathrm{nm} 246(\varepsilon 17100) ; v_{\max } / \mathrm{cm}^{-1} 3400-2600 ; \delta_{\mathrm{H}} 5.3(1 \mathrm{H}$, s), $4.7(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}), 2.0(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}), 1.1(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}), 1.0(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d})$ and 0.85 ( $3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}$ ); $m / z 414$.
$3 \alpha$-Acetoxy- $5 \beta$-cholesta-8,14-dien-24-one 3.-Pyridine (6 $\mathrm{cm}^{3}$ ) was added dropwise to a stirred suspension of $3 \alpha$-hydroxy$5 \beta$-chola-8,14-dienoic acid ( 1.6 g ) in $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}\left(50 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}\right)$ at room temp. $\mathrm{Ac}_{2} \mathrm{O}\left(5 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}\right)$ was then added once the suspension had dissolved. After 1.5 h the solution was washed with saturated aqueous $\mathrm{NaHCO}_{3}$ and worked up in the usual way to give a colourless oil. This material was then dissolved in PhMe (30 $\mathrm{cm}^{3}$ ) and $(\mathrm{COCl})_{2}\left(3 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}\right)$ was added. Once effervescence had stopped, evaporation yielded the crude acid chloride ( 1.792 g ) as orange crystals.
$\mathrm{Pr}^{\mathrm{i}} \mathrm{MgCl}\left(2 \mathrm{~mol} \mathrm{dm}^{-3}\right.$ in $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O} ; 8 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}$ ) was added to a stirred suspension of $\mathrm{CuCN}(716 \mathrm{mg})$ in THF $\left(40 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}\right)$ at $-78^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ under $\mathrm{N}_{2}$. The mixture was warmed to $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and upon dissolution of all the material was cooled to $-78^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$; a solution of the acid chloride ( 1.792 g ) in THF ( $10 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}$ ) was then added. After $15 \mathrm{~min} \mathrm{MeOH}\left(20 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}\right)$ was added at $-78^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and the mixture warmed to ambient temperature. $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}\left(150 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}\right)$ and water ( $100 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}$ ) were added and the mixture filtered through Celite. Work-up in the usual way gave an oil, purified by $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ chromatography (EtOAc-hexane 1:10) to give the ketone 3 ( 1.515 g ) m.p. $66-67^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ (hexane); $\lambda_{\text {max }} / \mathrm{nm} 247$ ( $\varepsilon 17300$ ); $v_{\text {max }} / \mathrm{cm}^{-1} 1735$ and $1715 ; \delta_{\mathrm{H}} 5.3(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}), 4.7(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}), 2.0$ $(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}), 1.1(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}), 1.05(6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}), 0.9(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d})$ and $0.8(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s})$ (Found: C, 79.5; H, 10.4. $\mathrm{C}_{29} \mathrm{H}_{44} \mathrm{O}_{3}$ requires $\mathrm{C}, 79.1 ; \mathrm{H}, 10.0 \%$ ).

Ozonolysis of the Diene 3.--The ketone 3 ( 1.4 g ) dissolved in $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ ( $350 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}$ ) containing Sudan III ( 5 mg ) was cooled to $-78{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and $\mathrm{O}_{3}$ passed until the solution was colourless. Zn dust ( 10 g ) and $\mathrm{AcOH}\left(30 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}\right.$ ) were then added and the mixture warmed to ambient temp. After 2 h the mixture was filtered and the filtrate concentrated to give an oil, which was chromatographed ( $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}, 1: 3 \mathrm{EtOAc}$-light petroleum) to give the ketoaldehyde 13 ( 368 mg ), $\lambda_{\text {max }} / \mathrm{nm} 250$ ( $\varepsilon 10200$ ); $v_{\text {max }} / \mathrm{cm}^{-1} 1730,1655$ and $1620 ; \delta_{\mathrm{H}} 9.6(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}), 4.75(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m})$, $2.00(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}), 1.10(6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}), 1.08(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s})$ and $0.90(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}) ; m / z$ 490 and 472.

Reduction of $3 \alpha$-Acetoxy-14,15-seco- $5 \beta$-cholest-8-ene-14,15,-24-trione 13.-To a stirred solution of trione $13(475 \mathrm{mg})$ in $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}\left(20 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}\right)$ at $0{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C} \mathrm{Bu}^{\prime} \mathrm{NH}_{2}-\mathrm{BH}_{3}$ was added. After 1 h $\mathrm{HCl}\left(1 \mathrm{~mol} \mathrm{dm}^{-3} ; 1 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}\right)$ was added followed by work-up in the usual way to give an oil which on $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ column chromatography (EtOAc-light petroleum, 1:1) furnished the alcohol 14 ( 275 mg ) as a colourless oil, $\lambda_{\text {max }} / \mathrm{nm} 250 ; v_{\text {max }} / \mathrm{cm}^{-1} 3480,1735$ and 1710; $\delta_{\mathrm{H}} 4.7(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m})$ and $3.35(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m})$.

3 $\alpha$-Acetoxy-16-hydroxy-15-aza-17a-homo-5 $\beta$-cholesta-8,14-diene-24-one 17.-To a stirred room temp. solution of the trione 13 ( 71 mg ) in AnalaR $\mathrm{MeOH}\left(10 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}\right) \mathrm{NH}_{3}(d 0.88)$ was added dropwise until no starting material remained. The solution was then poured into water ( $100 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}$ ) and worked up in the usual way to give a pale yellow brown oil ( 60 mg ), which on $\mathrm{SiO}_{3}$ column chromatography (EtOAc-hexane, 4:6) furnished the carbinolamine 17 ( 16 mg ) as a colourless oil, $\lambda_{\text {max }} / \mathrm{nm} 243(\varepsilon 14600), \lambda_{\text {max }}+\mathrm{H}^{+} / \mathrm{nm} 280(\varepsilon 14800) ; v_{\text {max }} / \mathrm{cm}^{-1}$ $1615 ; \delta_{\mathrm{H}} 5.1(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{q})$ and $4.75(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}) ; m / z 470$.

3 $\alpha$-Acetoxy-15-aza-17a-homo-5 3 -cholest-8-en-24-one.-Na$\mathrm{BH}_{2} \mathrm{CN}(3.8 \mathrm{mg})$ was added to a stirred room temp. solution of the carbinolimine $17(14 \mathrm{mg})$ in AnalaR $\mathrm{MeOH}\left(2 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}\right)$ with 2 drops of AcOH . After 30 min the solution was poured into $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}\left(50 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}\right)$ and worked-up in the usual way to give an oil which on $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ chromatography $\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}-\mathrm{MeOH} ; \mathbf{9 : 1}\right)$ produced the allylamine ( 4 mg ) as a colourless oil, $v_{\text {max }} / \mathrm{cm}^{-1} 3400$;
$\delta_{\mathrm{H}} 4.7(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}), 3.5(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}), 3.2(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m})$ and $2.8(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m})$ (Found; $\mathrm{M}^{+}, 457.3556 . \mathrm{C}_{29} \mathrm{H}_{47} \mathrm{NO}_{3}$ requires $M, 457.3553$ ).

Conversion of $3 \alpha$-Acetoxy-15-hydroxy-14,15-seco- $5 \beta$-cholest8 -ene-14,24-dione 14 to $3 \alpha$-Acetoxy-15-bromo-14,15-seco- $5 \beta$ -cholest-8-ene-14,24-dione 15.-A solution of $\mathrm{Ph}_{3} \mathrm{P}(284 \mathrm{mg})$ in THF ( $5 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}$ ) was added dropwise to a stirred solution of $N$ bromosuccinimide* ( 194 mg ) in THF ( $10 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}$ ) at room temp. After 10 min a white precipitate had formed and a solution of the alcohol $14(257 \mathrm{mg})$ in THF ( $5 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}$ ) was added. $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}\left(100 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}\right)$ was added after a further 2 h and the mixture washed (water, $3 \times 80 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}$ and brine $50 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}$ ). Work-up in the usual way followed by $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ column chromatography (EtOAclight petroleum; 1:5) gave the bromide 15 ( 263 mg ); m.p. 135$137^{\circ} \mathrm{C} ; \lambda_{\max } / \mathrm{nm} 249(\varepsilon 12400) ; \nu_{\max } / \mathrm{cm}^{-1} 1735,1710$ and $1660 ; \delta_{\mathrm{H}} 4.7(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m})$ and $3.25(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}) ; \mathrm{m} / \mathrm{z} 457\left(\mathrm{M}^{+}-\mathrm{Br}\right)$.

Conversion of Bromide 15 into $3 \alpha$-Acetoxy-15-azido-14,15-seco- $5 \beta$-cholest- 8 -ene-14,24-dione 16 . $-\mathrm{NaN}_{3}(1 \mathrm{~g})$ was added to a stirred solution of the bromide $15(263 \mathrm{mg})$ in $\mathrm{Me}_{2} \mathrm{NCHO}$ ( $10 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}$ ) and water ( $1 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}$ ) at room temp. The solution was stirred for 2 d and then poured into $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}\left(50 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}\right)$ and worked up in the usual way to give the azide $\mathbf{1 6}(247 \mathrm{mg})$ as a pale yellow oil, $\lambda_{\text {max }} / \mathrm{nm} 249$ ( $\varepsilon 10100$ ); $v_{\text {max }} / \mathrm{cm}^{-1} 2100,1735,1710$ and $1660 ; \delta_{\mathrm{H}} 4.7(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}), 3.20(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{q}, J 6.3)$ and $3.00(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}) ; m / z$ 500.
$3 \alpha$-Acetoxy-15-aza-17a-homo-5 $\beta$-cholesta-8,14-dien-24-one 18.-Lindlar catalyst ( 100 mg ) was added to a stirred solution of the azide 16 ( 247 mg ) in AnalaR $\mathrm{MeOH}\left(15 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}\right)$ at room temp. and the mixture agitated under $\mathrm{H}_{2}(1 \mathrm{~atm})$ for 3 h . The catalyst was then filtered off and the solution evaporated. $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ column chromatography ( $\mathrm{MeOH}-\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}$, 1:19) gave the imine 18 (145 mg ), m.p. 138-142 ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$; $\lambda_{\text {max }} / \mathrm{nm} 241$ and 276 ( $\varepsilon 4400$ and 1900); $\lambda_{\max }+\mathrm{H}^{+} / \mathrm{nm} 273$ ( $\varepsilon 5600$ ); $v_{\text {max }} / \mathrm{cm}^{-1} 1735,1715$ and 1620 ; $\delta_{\mathrm{H}} 4.75(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}), 4.0(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m})$ and $3.50(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{q})$ (Found: $\mathrm{M}^{+}$, 455.3399. $\mathrm{C}_{29} \mathrm{H}_{45} \mathrm{NO}_{3}$ requires $M, 455.3397$ ).
$3 \alpha$-Acetoxy-15-aza-17a-homo-5 3 -ergost- $8,14,24\left(24^{1}\right)$-triene 19.-BuLi ( $1.6 \mathrm{~mol} \mathrm{dm}^{-3} ; 0.5 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}$ ) was added dropwise to a
stirred suspension of methyl(triphenyl)phosphonium iodide $(286 \mathrm{mg})$ in THF $\left(10 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}\right)$ at $-78{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ under $\mathrm{N}_{2}$. The solution was left to warm to room temp. and after 1 h the solution had become clear yellow. This solution was then added dropwise to a stirred solution of the imine $18(91 \mathrm{mg})$ in THF $\left(10 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}\right)$ under $\mathrm{N}_{2}$ at room temp. After 1 h the reaction was quenched with water ( $10 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}$ ) and worked up in the usual way to give a colourless oil, which on $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ column chromatography $\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}-\mathrm{MeOH} ; 49: 1\right)$ yielded the imine $19(40 \mathrm{mg})$ as a white solid, $[\alpha]_{\mathrm{D}}-24$ (c 0.8); $\lambda_{\text {max }} / \mathrm{nm} 238$ ( $\varepsilon \quad 10650$ ); $\lambda_{\text {max }}+\mathrm{H}^{+} / \mathrm{nm} 277$ ( $\varepsilon 9000$ ); $v_{\text {max }} / \mathrm{cm}^{-1} 1715$ and 1620 ; $\delta_{\mathrm{H}} 4.75(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}), 4.65(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}), 4.00(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}), 3.5(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m})$, $2.00(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}), 1.10(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}), 1.00(6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d})$ and $0.95(6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d})$ (Found: $\mathrm{M}^{+}, 453.3607 . \mathrm{C}_{30} \mathrm{H}_{47} \mathrm{NO}_{2}$ requires $M, 453.3604$ ).

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[^4]
[^0]:    $\dagger 3 \alpha, 7 \alpha, 12 \alpha$-Trihydroxy-5 $\beta$-cholan-24-oic acid.
    $\ddagger$ The hydroxy ketone was accompanied by varying amounts of 8-en-
    15-one and 8(14)-en-15-one according to the base used.

[^1]:    § 1,8-Diazabicyclo[5.4.0]undec-7-ene.
    IT $3 \alpha, 7 \alpha$-Dihydroxy- $5 \beta$-cholan-24-oic acid.
    || MM2 calculations confirm that removal of the 12 -acetate reduces the energy differences between the 7-ene and $\Delta 8(14)$-ene isomers from 2.2 to $0.9 \mathrm{kcal}(1 \mathrm{cal}=4.18 \mathrm{~J}$ ).

[^2]:    * The diol dehydrated readily to a triene tentatively identified as the 8(14),9,15-compound.

[^3]:    * 4-Dimethylaminopyridine.

[^4]:    * 1-Bromopyrrolidine-2,5-dione.

