

## Rearrangements of the C/D Ring System of the Tetracyclic Diterpenoid, Aphidicolin

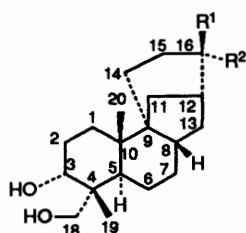
James R. Hanson,<sup>a,\*</sup> Peter B. Hitchcock,<sup>a</sup> Andrew G. Jarvis<sup>a</sup> and Arnold H. Ratcliffe<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> School of Molecular Sciences, University of Sussex, Brighton, Sussex, BN1 9QJ, UK

<sup>b</sup> ICI Pharmaceuticals, Mereside, Alderley Park, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK10 4TG, UK

The generation of a C-16 carbocation in the aphidicolane series by the hydrolysis of a 15 $\beta$ ,16 $\beta$ - or a 16 $\beta$ ,17-epoxide is shown to lead, *inter alia*, to skeletal rearrangement products arising from the migration of the C(12)–C(13) bond to C-16.

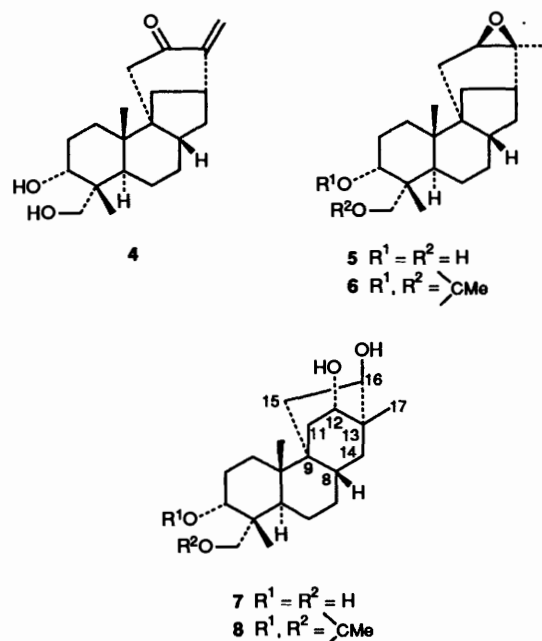
The bridged C/D ring systems of the tetracyclic diterpenoids undergo a number of skeletal rearrangements. Those linking the kaurene, beyerene and the atiserene skeleta have been examined on a number of occasions particularly in the context of their biogenesis.<sup>1</sup> A comparable series of diterpenoid skeleta are now known in which one terminus of the bridge is at C-9 rather than C-8. These are exemplified by aphidicolin 1.<sup>2</sup> Rings C and D of



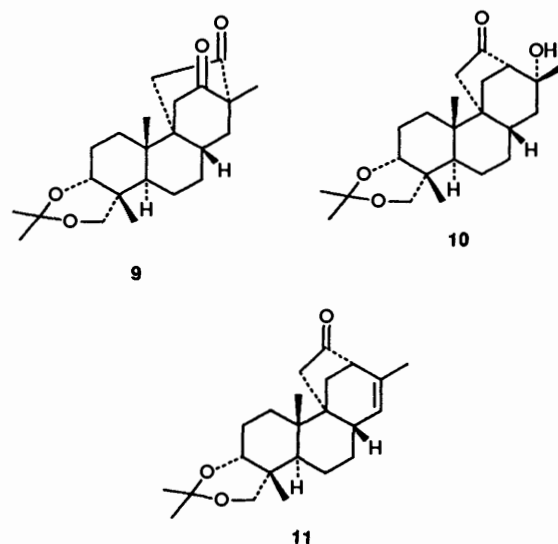
- 1 R<sup>1</sup> = OH, R<sup>2</sup> = CH<sub>2</sub>OH  
 2 R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> = CH<sub>2</sub>  
 3 R<sup>1</sup> = CH<sub>2</sub>OH, R<sup>2</sup> = OH

aphidicolin 1 form a bicyclo[3.2.1]octane. This type of ring system is known to undergo a variety of skeletal rearrangements.<sup>3–5</sup> Some rearrangements of related tetracyclic ring systems have already been examined in the course of the total syntheses of aphidicolin and diterpenoids of the stemodin-maritimidol series.<sup>6</sup> In this paper we report some skeletal rearrangements arising from the formation of a C-16 carbocation. These may have some implications as far as the relationships between the naturally occurring compounds of this series are concerned.

Whilst preparing some derivatives of aphidicolin 1 for biological investigation, we attempted a partial synthesis of the unsaturated ketone 4 by oxidation of the 15 $\beta$ ,16 $\beta$ -epoxide 6 with chromium trioxide<sup>7</sup> to a 15,16-ketone to be followed by dehydration. Instead of the desired product, the oxidation led to skeletal rearrangements. Thus, oxidation of the acetonide 6 of 15 $\beta$ ,16-epoxyaphidicolane-3 $\alpha$ ,18-diol<sup>8</sup> with chromium trioxide at –10 °C, gave two products, the first product 9 of which retained the acetonide and contained two carbonyl groups ( $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$  1710 and 1740;  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  208.3 and 209.4). This product could also be obtained by separate acid hydrolysis and oxidation. Thus, hydrolysis of the epoxide 5 with acid gave a tetraol 7 which only formed a monoacetonide 8. Oxidation of the remaining free hydroxy groups then gave the diketone 9. The second product from the oxidation of the epoxide 6 was a ketol 10 ( $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$  3440 and 1730;  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  70.2 and 217.9). However dehydration of this ketol with methanesulfonyl chloride gave a trisubstituted alkene 11 [ $\delta_{\text{H}}$  5.11 (W<sub>z</sub> 6 Hz)] with a methyl group on the double bond ( $\delta_{\text{H}}$  1.65). The alkene



was not conjugated with the ketone. Neither sets of functional groups could be readily accommodated on the unrearranged aphidicolane skeleton. There were, however, plausible rearrangement products based on the formation of a C-16 carbocation. Although many of the compounds in this series were gums, the diketone 9 and the unsaturated ketone 11 were



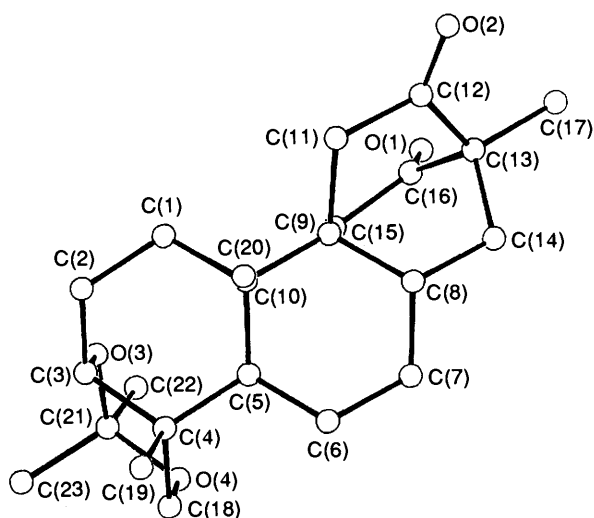


Fig. 1 X-ray molecular structure of compound 9

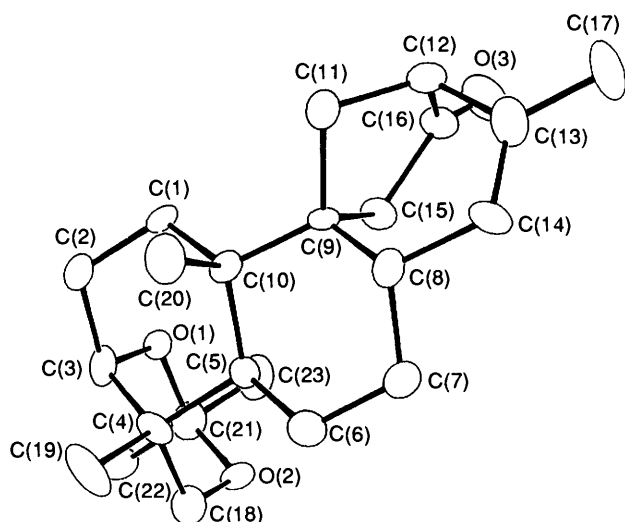
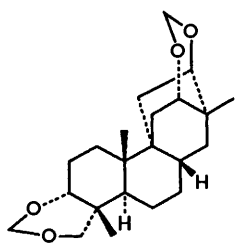


Fig. 2 X-ray molecular structure of compound 11

both crystalline and hence their structures were confirmed by X-ray crystallography (see Figs. 1 and 2).\*

This left the stereochemistry of the hydroxy groups in compound 7 to be determined. Although the tetraol 7 did not form a bisacetone, on treatment with methoxyethoxymethyl chloride (MEMCl) followed by reaction with zinc bromide, it formed a bismethylene ether 12 thus linking the ring D hydroxy



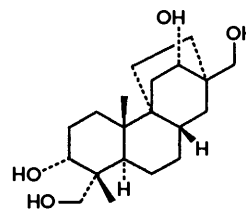
12

groups and defining their stereochemistry as 12 $\alpha$ ,16 $\beta$ . Inspection of molecular models shows that there would be

\* Following literature precedents<sup>9</sup> for related compounds, the rearrangement products are numbered as substituted podocarpanes.

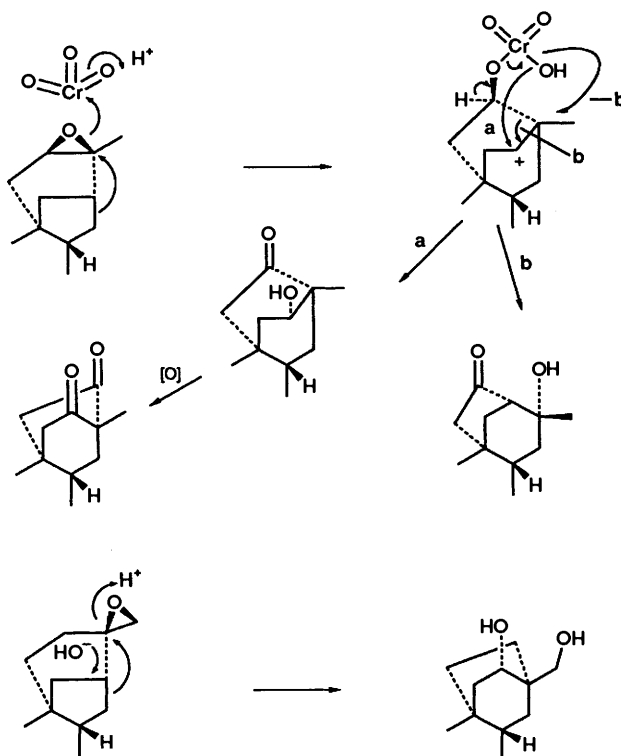
severe steric crowding between the methyl groups of an acetone and the remainder of the C/D ring system (e.g. 15-H) accounting for the difficulty in the formation of this derivative. The stereochemistry of the hydroxy group in compound 10 was tentatively assigned on the basis of the probable participation of the chromate ester in its formation (see Scheme 1).

The formation of a carbocation at C-16 plays a central role in these rearrangement reactions. Such a carbocation may also be generated by the fission of a 16 $\beta$ ,17-epoxide 2. This reaction has been described previously<sup>2</sup> but only the isolation of the 16-epimers of aphidicolin, 1 and 3, was reported. Further examination of the reaction revealed the presence of a tetraol 13. The NMR spectra of this product contained signals  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  3.61 and 3.78;  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  71.4 and  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  3.87 and  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  75.8, (C-18 and C-3 respectively) assigned by comparison with aphidicolin 1. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum contained a second set of AB-doublets ( $\delta_{\text{H}}$  3.72 and 3.81, 17-H<sub>2</sub>) and a broad doublet at  $\delta$  4.28 (*J* 9 Hz, 12-H). Irradiation of the signal at  $\delta$  4.28 gave nuclear Overhauser enhancements of two multiplets ( $\delta$  1.71 and 1.91). Irradiation of the 10-methyl signal ( $\delta$  0.95) also gave NOE enhancements of these signals. Hence these sets of protons must lie on the same face of the molecule. This confirmed the location and the stereochemistry of the 12 $\alpha$ -hydroxy group.



13

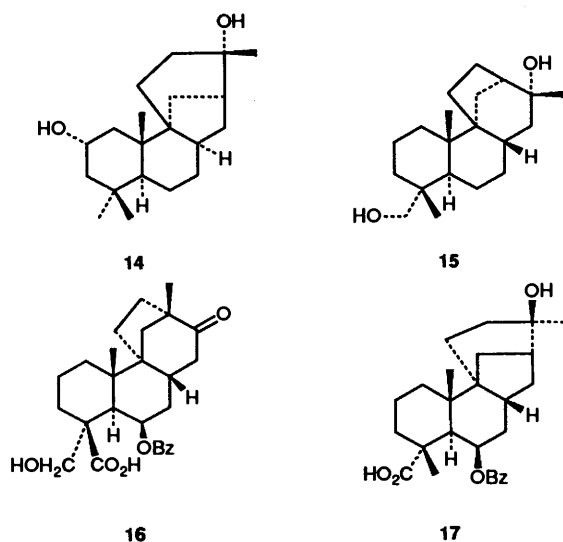
The origin of these rearrangement products may be rationalised in the terms of the initial formation of a C-16 carbocation which is then discharged by the migration of the C(13)-C(12) bond to C-16 and the attack of a nucleophile at C-12 (see Scheme 1). Alternatively, the migration of the



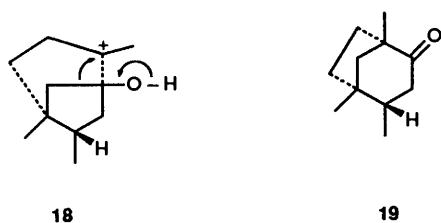
Scheme 1

C(15)–C(16) bond to C-12 then returns the carbocation to C-16 where it is again discharged by the attack of a nucleophile.

These rearrangements are of interest in view of the isolation of a number of related diterpenoids from higher plants. The formation of compound **10** mirrors the stemodin **14**–stemarin **15**<sup>10</sup> pair although the overall ring C/D stereochemistry is different from that of aphidicolin (*cf.* kaurene and phyllocladene). A similar situation involves the helifulvane and villanovane diterpenoids<sup>11</sup> (*cf.* the trachylobane and atiserenes).



The formation of scopadulcic acid **16**<sup>12</sup> must also involve a C-16 carbocation and a rearrangement. However, the stereochemistry of the hydroxy group in the recently isolated scopadulin **17**<sup>13</sup> would not favour a concerted rearrangement to generate the skeleton of **16**. The relationship **18**–**19** may have a closer analogy to that of steviol and isosteviol.



## Experimental

**General Experimental Details.**—<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were determined at 360 and 90.55 MHz respectively on a Bruker WM360 spectrometer for solutions in deuteriochloroform except where otherwise stated (*J*-values in Hz). <sup>12</sup>C NMR data are shown in Table 1. IR spectra were determined as Nujol mulls. Solutions were dried over sodium sulfate. Light petroleum refers to the fraction, b.p. 60–80 °C. Silica for chromatography was Merck 9385.

**Oxidation of 3 $\alpha$ ,18-Isopropylidenedioxy-15 $\beta$ ,16 $\beta$ -epoxyaphidicolane **6**.**—A solution of chromium trioxide (3 mol dm<sup>-3</sup> in sulfuric acid; 1 cm<sup>3</sup>) was added dropwise to a stirred solution of the epoxide **6**<sup>8</sup> (345 mg) in acetone (7 cm<sup>3</sup>) at –10 °C. After 10 min aqueous sodium hydrogen carbonate (50 cm<sup>3</sup>) was cautiously added and the products were extracted with ethyl

**Table 1** <sup>13</sup>C NMR data for the rearrangement products

	$\delta$				
	8 <sup>a</sup>	9 <sup>a</sup>	10 <sup>a</sup>	12 <sup>a</sup>	13 <sup>b</sup>
1	32.6	31.8	30.1	31.1	33.4
2	25.6	25.9	25.0	24.5	25.7
3	72.8	72.5	73.0	80.2	75.8
4	34.8	34.7	34.6	31.5	40.7
5	33.7	33.5	34.0	33.9	34.0
6	23.7	23.5	23.5	23.8	23.6
7	21.3	20.9	20.8	21.1	21.7
8	32.7	33.0	35.9	33.5	33.3
9	36.0	44.0	49.7	35.5	37.1
10	38.1	38.0	37.9	38.1	39.9
11	39.6	44.6	30.3	31.8	38.9
12	75.1	208.3	59.3	73.7	71.7
13	40.4	62.0	70.2	39.0	38.8
14	38.7	39.0	38.5	37.9	36.3
15	34.3	40.5	42.4	26.0	22.3
16	75.2	209.4	217.9	73.9	26.8
17	20.5	11.8	28.2	21.8	69.7
18	68.5	68.2	67.9	75.1	71.4
19	17.9	17.8	17.5	17.9	18.5
20	16.5	16.5	16.5	16.5	16.3
acetone/methylenedioxy	98.0	98.2	97.9	79.3	
	19.1	19.0	18.9	94.0	
	29.5	29.7	29.7		

<sup>a</sup> Determined in CDCl<sub>3</sub>. <sup>b</sup> Determined in C<sub>3</sub>D<sub>5</sub>N.

acetate. The extract was washed with aqueous sodium hydrogen carbonate and brine, dried and evaporated to give a gum which was chromatographed on silica. Elution with ethyl acetate–light petroleum (3:7) gave the 3 $\alpha$ ,18-acetonide **9** (92 mg) of 3 $\alpha$ ,18-dihydroxy-13-methyl-9 $\alpha$ ,13 $\alpha$ -ethanopodocarpene-12,16-dione which crystallised from methanol–chloroform as needles, m.p. 157–159 °C (Found: C, 73.85; H, 9.15. C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>34</sub>O<sub>4</sub> requires C, 73.75; H, 9.15%);  $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$  1710 and 1740;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  0.77 (3 H, s, 19-H), 1.09 and 1.11 (each 3 H, s, 17-H and 20-H), 1.43 and 1.44 (each 3 H, s, O<sub>2</sub>CMe<sub>2</sub>), 3.29 and 3.63 (each 1 H, d, *J* 12, 18-H) and 3.68 (1 H, t, *J* 3, 3-H). Further elution gave the 3 $\alpha$ ,18-acetonide **10** (55 mg) of 3 $\alpha$ ,13 $\alpha$ ,18-trihydroxy-13 $\beta$ -methyl-9 $\alpha$ ,12 $\alpha$ -ethanopodocarpene-16-one as a gum;  $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$  1730 and 3440;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  0.70 (3 H, s, 19-H), 1.12 (3 H, s, 20-H), 1.23 (3 H, s, 17-H), 1.37 and 1.38 (each 3 H, s, O<sub>2</sub>CMe<sub>2</sub>), 3.22 and 3.55 (each 1 H, d, *J* 12, 18-H) and 3.63 (1 H, t, *J* 2, 3-H).

**Reaction of the Ketol **10** with Methanesulfonyl Chloride.**—Methanesulfonyl chloride (0.3 cm<sup>3</sup>) was added to the ketol **10** (40 mg) in pyridine (0.5 cm<sup>3</sup>) and the sealed mixture was left at room temperature for 24 h. The mixture was poured into water (30 cm<sup>3</sup>), acidified with dil. hydrochloric acid and extracted with ethyl acetate. The extract was washed with aqueous sodium hydrogen carbonate and brine, dried and evaporated. The residue was then chromatographed on silica. Elution with ethyl acetate–light petroleum (1:9) gave the 3 $\alpha$ ,18-acetonide **11** (28 mg) of 3 $\alpha$ ,18-dihydroxy-13-methyl-9 $\alpha$ ,12 $\alpha$ -ethanopodocarp-13-en-16-one which crystallised from ethyl acetate as prisms, m.p. 180–185 °C (Found: C, 76.7; H, 9.5. C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>34</sub>O<sub>3</sub> requires C, 77.05; H, 9.55%);  $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$  1730 and 1190;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  0.67 (3 H, s, 19-H), 1.04 (3 H, s, 20-H), 1.37 and 1.38 (each 3 H, s, O<sub>2</sub>CMe<sub>2</sub>), 1.65 (3 H, br s, W<sub>1/2</sub> 4 Hz, 17-H), 3.30 and 3.66 (each 1 H, d, *J* 12, 18-H), 3.63 (1 H, br t, W<sub>1/2</sub> 7 Hz, 3-H) and 5.11 (1 H, m, W<sub>1/2</sub> 6 Hz, 14-H).

**Hydrolysis of 15 $\beta$ ,16-Epoxyaphidicolane-3 $\alpha$ ,18-diol **5**.**—A solution of the epoxide **5** (180 mg) in dioxane (20 cm<sup>3</sup>) was stirred with water (10 cm<sup>3</sup>) containing toluene-*p*-sulfonic acid (10 mg) at room temperature for 1 h. The solution was

**Table 2** Crystal data and structure refinement details

	9	11
Formula	C <sub>23</sub> H <sub>34</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	C <sub>23</sub> H <sub>34</sub> O <sub>3</sub>
<i>M</i>	374.5	358.5
Crystal size (mm)	0.3 × 0.3 × 0.3	0.3 × 0.3 × 0.3
Crystal system	Triclinic	Orthorhombic
Space group	<i>P</i> <sub>1</sub>	<i>P</i> 2 <sub>1</sub> 2 <sub>1</sub> 2 <sub>1</sub>
<i>a</i> , <i>b</i> , <i>c</i> , (Å)	9.460(2), 10.685(3), 10.915(4)	10.450(3), 13.800(2), 13.906(4)
$\alpha$ , $\beta$ , $\gamma$ (°)	75.37(3), 75.17(2), 88.25(2)	
<i>V</i> /Å <sup>3</sup>	1031.2	2005.4
<i>Z</i> , <i>D</i> <sub>c</sub> /g cm <sup>-3</sup> , <i>F</i> (000)	2, 1.21, 408	4, 1.19, 784
$\mu$ (Mo – K $\alpha$ )/cm <sup>-1</sup>	0.8	0.7
Total unique reflections	3617	2043
Significant reflections	2524	1150
Abs. corr.	No. corr.	No. corr.
Hydrogen atoms	Fixed	Fixed
<i>R</i>	0.050	0.100
<i>R</i> '	0.055	0.130

**Table 3** Fractional atomic coordinates (× 10<sup>4</sup>) for compound 9 (estimated standard deviations)

	Molecule 1			Molecule 2		
	<i>x</i>	<i>y</i>	<i>z</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>y</i>	<i>z</i>
O(1)	1 826	6 974	6 835	8 196(5)	3 002(5)	3 190(5)
O(2)	3 537(6)	4 568(6)	9 737(5)	6 726(6)	2 470(6)	44(5)
O(3)	7 348(5)	7 601(4)	2 408(4)	2 648(5)	1 132(4)	7 444(4)
O(4)	7 246(5)	9 818(4)	2 299(4)	2 548(5)	3 232(4)	7 740(4)
C(1)	7 226(7)	5 910(6)	4 864(6)	2 912(7)	925(6)	4 862(6)
C(2)	8 558(7)	6 116(6)	3 691(7)	1 578(7)	447(6)	5 997(6)
C(3)	8 669(7)	7 452(6)	2 828(7)	1 346(7)	1 266(6)	6 970(6)
C(4)	8 789(7)	8 501(6)	3 587(6)	1 126(7)	2 690(6)	6 340(6)
C(5)	7 556(6)	8 268(6)	4 862(6)	2 390(6)	3 204(6)	5 115(6)
C(6)	7 657(7)	9 182(6)	5 725(7)	2 252(7)	4 614(6)	4 383(6)
C(7)	6 249(8)	9 139(6)	6 769(7)	3 709(8)	5 153(6)	3 468(7)
C(8)	5 712(7)	7 791(6)	7 589(6)	4 309(7)	4 342(6)	2 487(6)
C(9)	5 724(7)	6 795(6)	6 747(6)	4 342(6)	2 881(6)	3 152(6)
C(10)	7 242(6)	6 845(6)	5 732(6)	2 817(6)	2 348(6)	4 110(5)
C(11)	5 334(8)	5 456(7)	7 706(7)	4 790(7)	2 217(6)	2 015(6)
C(12)	3 956(8)	5 448(7)	8 768(7)	6 232(7)	2 767(7)	1 059(6)
C(13)	3 108(8)	6 706(7)	8 505(7)	6 968(7)	3 768(7)	1 492(7)
C(14)	4 169(8)	7 805(7)	8 497(7)	5 864(8)	4 853(7)	1 618(7)
C(15)	4 426(7)	7 122(7)	6 098(6)	5 616(7)	2 666(7)	3 827(6)
C(16)	2 968(7)	6 932(6)	7 107(7)	7 059(7)	3 134(6)	2 868(6)
C(17)	1 626(10)	6 655(10)	9 513(10)	8 447(9)	4 285(9)	555(8)
C(18)	8 583(8)	9 801(6)	2 659(7)	1 199(8)	3 425(7)	7 388(7)
C(19)	10 387(8)	8 553(8)	3 732(8)	–442(7)	2 849(7)	6 154(7)
C(20)	8 435(7)	6 390(7)	6 483(7)	1 681(7)	2 376(7)	3 302(6)
C(21)	7 131(9)	8 848(7)	1 625(7)	2 767(8)	1 932(7)	8 301(6)
C(22)	5 525(9)	8 815(8)	1 566(8)	4 376(9)	1 856(7)	8 334(7)
C(23)	8 196(13)	9 138(9)	213(8)	1 754(11)	1 426(9)	9 673(8)

concentrated under reduced pressure and the products were recovered in ethyl acetate. The extract was washed with aqueous sodium hydrogen carbonate and brine, dried and evaporated. The residue was chromatographed on silica. Elution with ethyl acetate gave 13-methyl-9 $\alpha$ ,13 $\alpha$ -ethanopodocarpane-3 $\alpha$ ,12 $\alpha$ ,16 $\beta$ ,18-tetraol 7 (120 mg) as a gum (*M*<sup>+</sup> – H<sub>2</sub>O, 320.234. *M* – H<sub>2</sub>O, 320.235),  $\nu_{\max}$ /cm<sup>-1</sup> 3330 and 1030;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  0.66 (3 H, s, 19-H), 0.94 and 1.05 (each 3 H, s, 20- and 17-H), 3.32 (1 H, d, *J* 11, 18-H), 3.46 (1 H, d, *J* 11, 18-H) and 3.63 (3 H, br m, 3-H, 12-H and 16-H).

**Acetonide 8.**—The above tetraol 7 (80 mg) in acetone (10 cm<sup>3</sup>) and toluene-*p*-sulfonic acid (20 mg) were heated under reflux for 10 h. The reaction was followed by TLC which indicated complete conversion into the mono-acetonide after 10 min. No less polar compounds were formed over the remaining time. The solvent was evaporated and the product recovered in ethyl acetate. The extract was washed with aqueous sodium hydrogen

carbonate and brine, dried and evaporated. The residue was chromatographed on silica. Elution with ethyl acetate–light petroleum (1:1) gave the 3 $\alpha$ ,18-monoacetonide of 13-methyl-9 $\alpha$ ,13 $\alpha$ -ethanopodocarpane-3 $\alpha$ ,12 $\alpha$ ,16 $\beta$ ,18-tetraol 8 (60 mg) as a gum; *m/z* (CI, NH<sub>3</sub>), 396 (*M* + NH<sub>4</sub>), 379 (*M* + H) and 378 (*M*);  $\nu_{\max}$ /cm<sup>-1</sup> 3525, 3400 and 1093;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  0.72 (3 H, s, 19-H), 0.97 and 1.06 (each 3 H, s, 17- and 20-H), 1.41 (6 H, s, O<sub>2</sub>CMe<sub>2</sub>), 3.24 and 3.60 (each 1 H, d, *J* 12, 18-H), 3.63 (3 H, br m, 3-H, 12-H and 16-H).

**Diketone 9.**—A solution of the tetraol 7 (39 mg) in acetone (10 cm<sup>3</sup>) containing toluene-*p*-sulfonic acid (5 mg) was heated gently for 10 min. The solution was cooled to 0 °C and a solution of chromium trioxide (3 mol dm<sup>-3</sup> in sulfuric acid; 5 drops) was added. After 5 min, aqueous sodium hydrogen carbonate (30 cm<sup>3</sup>) was added and the product was recovered with ethyl acetate. The extract was washed with aqueous sodium hydrogen carbonate and brine, dried and evaporated to

**Table 4** Intramolecular distances (Å) and Angles (°) for compound **9** (estimated standard deviations)

	Molecule		Molecule		
	1	2	1	2	
<b>Bonds</b>					
O(1)–C(16)	1.188(8)	1.208(9)	O(2)–C(12)	1.210(8)	1.205(9)
O(3)–C(3)	1.428(9)	1.443(9)	O(3)–C(21)	1.430(8)	1.442(9)
O(4)–C(18)	1.416(10)	1.418(9)	O(4)–C(21)	1.435(10)	1.401(8)
C(1)–C(2)	1.524(8)	1.520(8)	C(1)–C(10)	1.543(10)	1.547(8)
C(2)–C(3)	1.488(9)	1.510(11)	C(3)–C(4)	1.575(11)	1.535(9)
C(4)–C(5)	1.540(8)	1.539(7)	C(4)–C(18)	1.538(9)	1.559(11)
C(4)–C(19)	1.563(11)	1.546(10)	C(5)–C(6)	1.538(11)	1.536(8)
C(5)–C(10)	1.567(8)	1.569(9)	C(6)–C(7)	1.508(9)	1.511(9)
C(7)–C(8)	1.515(9)	1.533(10)	C(8)–C(9)	1.569(10)	1.550(8)
C(8)–C(14)	1.543(9)	1.561(9)	C(9)–C(10)	1.566(8)	1.573(7)
C(9)–C(11)	1.536(8)	1.542(10)	C(9)–C(15)	1.557(10)	1.549(10)
C(10)–C(20)	1.556(10)	1.550(10)	C(11)–C(12)	1.505(9)	1.519(8)
C(12)–C(13)	1.546(10)	1.524(12)	C(13)–C(14)	1.565(12)	1.545(10)
C(13)–C(16)	1.522(12)	1.506(10)	C(13)–C(17)	1.537(11)	1.529(10)
C(15)–C(16)	1.511(8)	1.502(8)	C(21)–C(22)	1.539(12)	1.531(12)
C(21)–C(23)	1.572(11)	1.531(9)			
<b>Angles</b>					
C(3)–O(3)–C(21)	116.7(5)	116.2(5)	C(18)–(4)–C(21)	113.0(6)	113.3(5)
C(2)–C(1)–C(10)	112.6(5)	113.0(5)	C(1)–C(2)–C(3)	112.2(5)	111.4(6)
O(3)–C(3)–C(2)	105.3(5)	105.2(5)	O(3)–C(3)–C(4)	109.7(5)	111.0(5)
C(2)–C(3)–C(4)	111.7(6)	112.0(5)	C(3)–C(4)–C(5)	110.2(5)	110.0(5)
C(3)–C(4)–C(18)	105.0(6)	105.1(5)	C(3)–C(4)–C(19)	108.9(6)	109.8(5)
C(5)–C(4)–C(18)	109.5(5)	108.6(5)	C(5)–C(4)–C(19)	116.4(6)	116.6(5)
C(18)–C(4)–C(19)	106.2(5)	106.0(6)	C(4)–C(5)–C(6)	113.8(5)	114.3(5)
C(4)–C(5)–C(10)	117.6(5)	117.2(5)	C(6)–C(5)–C(10)	109.6(5)	109.7(5)
C(5)–C(6)–C(7)	111.2(6)	110.2(5)	C(6)–C(7)–C(8)	114.4(6)	111.9(6)
C(7)–C(8)–C(9)	113.2(5)	113.0(5)	C(7)–C(8)–C(14)	111.3(6)	111.2(6)
C(9)–C(8)–C(14)	109.8(6)	109.9(5)	C(8)–C(9)–C(10)	110.9(5)	111.5(5)
C(8)–C(9)–C(11)	107.1(5)	105.2(5)	C(8)–C(9)–C(15)	106.7(5)	108.7(5)
C(10)–C(9)–C(11)	112.6(5)	112.2(5)	C(10)–C(9)–C(15)	113.4(5)	113.3(5)
C(11)–C(9)–C(15)	105.8(5)	105.4(5)	C(1)–C(10)–C(5)	110.0(5)	109.1(5)
C(1)–C(10)–C(9)	110.7(5)	110.7(5)	C(1)–C(10)–C(20)	107.2(5)	107.4(5)
C(5)–C(10)–C(9)	107.9(5)	107.7(5)	C(5)–C(10)–C(20)	112.0(5)	112.8(5)
C(9)–C(10)–C(20)	109.0(5)	109.2(5)	C(9)–C(11)–C(12)	112.5(6)	112.3(6)
O(2)–C(12)–C(11)	124.8(7)	123.5(7)	O(2)–C(12)–C(13)	122.5(6)	123.3(6)
C(11)–C(12)–C(13)	112.7(5)	113.2(6)	C(12)–C(13)–C(14)	105.0(6)	105.8(6)
C(12)–C(13)–C(16)	105.9(6)	106.1(5)	C(12)–C(13)–C(17)	113.1(6)	113.1(7)
C(14)–C(13)–C(16)	106.5(5)	105.6(6)	C(14)–C(13)–C(17)	112.5(7)	112.1(6)
C(16)–C(13)–C(17)	113.1(7)	113.5(6)	C(8)–C(14)–C(13)	113.3(7)	113.3(5)
C(9)–C(15)–C(16)	111.8(5)	111.6(5)	O(1)–C(16)–C(13)	123.4(5)	123.4(5)
O(1)–C(16)–C(15)	123.3(6)	121.8(6)	C(13)–C(16)–C(15)	113.3(6)	114.8(6)
O(4)–C(18)–C(4)	112.2(5)	111.0(5)	O(3)–C(21)–O(4)	109.6(6)	110.8(5)
O(3)–C(21)–C(22)	105.3(6)	103.8(6)	O(3)–C(21)–C(23)	111.9(6)	111.6(6)
O(4)–C(21)–C(22)	106.0(6)	106.3(6)	O(4)–C(21)–C(23)	112.6(6)	112.7(6)
C(22)–C(21)–C(23)	111.0(7)	111.1(7)			

give the diketone **9** (25 mg) which was identical (TLC, m.p., IR) with the material described above.

**Bismethylenedioxy Ether 12.**—The tetraol **7** (125 mg) was dissolved in a mixture of dichloromethane (3 cm<sup>3</sup>) and *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine (2 cm<sup>3</sup>). Methoxyethoxymethyl chloride (1 cm<sup>3</sup>) was added in portions over 1 h at room temperature. The mixture was left overnight and then poured into dil. hydrochloric acid. The products were recovered in ethyl acetate. The extract was washed with aqueous sodium hydrogen carbonate and brine, dried and evaporated to give an oil which was taken up in ethyl acetate (10 cm<sup>3</sup>) and treated with zinc bromide (100 mg) for 20 min at room temperature. The solution was then washed with aqueous sodium hydrogen carbonate, brine, dried and evaporated. The residue was chromatographed on silica. Elution with ethyl acetate–light petroleum (1:9) gave the 3 $\alpha$ ,18;12 $\alpha$ ,16 $\beta$ -bismethylenedioxy ether **12** (55 mg) of 13-methyl-9 $\alpha$ ,13 $\alpha$ -ethanopodocarpane-3 $\alpha$ ,12 $\alpha$ ,16 $\beta$ ,18-tetraol as a gum; *m/z* (CI, NH<sub>3</sub>) 380 (M + NH<sub>4</sub>) and 350 (380 – CH<sub>2</sub>O);  $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$  1015 and 1050;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  0.70 (3 H, s, 19-H), 1.02 and 1.14

(each, 3 H, s, 17- and 20-H), 2.91 and 3.92 (both 1 H, d, *J* 12, 18-H), 3.40 (1 H, t, *J* 3, 3-H), 3.65 and 3.74 (each 1 H, dt, *J* 10.2, 12- and 16-H), 4.65 and 5.07 (each 1 H, d, *J* 5.8, O<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.67 and 5.11 (each 1 H, d, *J* 6.7, O<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>).

**Hydrolysis of 16 $\beta$ ,17-Epoxyaphidicolane-3 $\alpha$ ,18-diol 2.**—A solution of the epoxide **2** (530 mg) in dioxane (50 cm<sup>3</sup>) was treated with water (25 cm<sup>3</sup>) containing toluene-*p*-sulfonic acid (20 mg) at room temperature for 30 min. The solution was concentrated under reduced pressure and the products were recovered in ethyl acetate. The extract was washed with aqueous sodium hydrogen carbonate and brine, dried and evaporated. The residue was chromatographed on silica. Elution with ethyl acetate gave 13-hydroxymethyl-9 $\alpha$ ,13 $\alpha$ -ethanopodocarpane-3 $\alpha$ ,12 $\alpha$ ,18-triol **13** (42 mg) which crystallised from ethyl acetate as needles, m.p. 183–184 °C (Found: C, 69.1; H, 10.2. C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>34</sub>O<sub>4</sub>·0.5H<sub>2</sub>O requires C, 69.1; H, 10.15%);  $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$  3350 and 1035;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$ (C<sub>5</sub>D<sub>5</sub>N), 0.74 (3 H, s, 19-H), 0.95 (3 H, s, 20-H), 3.61 and 3.78 (each 1 H, d, *J* 11, 18-H), 3.72 and 3.81 (each, 1 H, d, *J* 10, 17-H), 3.87 (1 H, br s, W<sub>4</sub> 6 Hz, 3-H) and 4.28 (1 H,

**Table 5** Fractional atomic coordinates ( $\times 10^4$ ) for compound 11

Atom	x	y	z
O(1)	698(7)	3854(5)	1530(5)
O(2)	2023(7)	4860(5)	2452(5)
O(3)	-3943(10)	6602(7)	1696(6)
C(1)	-1742(10)	3386(7)	2261(8)
C(2)	-683(12)	2683(7)	2128(8)
C(3)	602(12)	3138(7)	2307(8)
C(4)	783(11)	3609(8)	3269(7)
C(5)	-407(11)	4321(8)	3481(7)
C(6)	-384(12)	4800(9)	4453(8)
C(7)	-1353(13)	5562(9)	4563(8)
C(8)	-2730(12)	5198(8)	4279(8)
C(9)	-2696(9)	4747(7)	3290(8)
C(10)	-1784(10)	3905(8)	3254(7)
C(11)	-4108(12)	4504(9)	3062(9)
C(12)	-4691(11)	5500(9)	2905(8)
C(13)	-4720(14)	6118(9)	3817(9)
C(14)	-3709(11)	5986(9)	4434(9)
C(15)	-2437(10)	5548(8)	2525(8)
C(16)	-3774(12)	5984(8)	2285(8)
C(17)	-5659(16)	6871(10)	3930(10)
C(18)	1978(12)	4190(9)	3232(9)
C(19)	948(15)	2850(11)	4052(11)
C(20)	-2228(14)	3103(8)	3972(10)
C(21)	1869(12)	4418(9)	1566(9)
C(22)	2982(13)	3841(10)	1267(10)
C(23)	1500(16)	5249(9)	859(10)

d, J 9, 12-H). Further elution gave a mixture of aphidicolin and its 16-epimer (260 mg). A portion of this (120 mg) was heated gently with acetone (20 cm<sup>3</sup>) containing toluene-*p*-sulfonic acid (5 mg) for 10 min. Examination of the integrals of the 17-H<sub>2</sub> <sup>1</sup>H NMR signals (aphidicolin bisacetone,  $\delta$  3.54 and 3.75; 16-*epi*-aphidicolin bisacetone,  $\delta$  3.73 and 3.85) indicated that this was a 3.5:1 mixture.

**Crystal Structure Determinations.**—A summary of the crystal data and structure refinement details are given in Table 2. In each case data were collected from a crystal mounted on an Enraf-Nonius CAD 4 diffractometer operating in the  $\theta - 2\theta$  mode with  $\Delta\theta = (0.8 + 0.35\tan\theta)^\circ$  and a maximum scan time of 1 min and with monochromated Mo-K $\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda = 0.71069$  Å). Unique reflections were measured for  $2 < \theta < 25^\circ$  and those reflections with  $|F^2| > 3\sigma(F^2)$  were used in the refinement where  $\sigma(F^2) = \{\sigma^2(I) + (0.04 I)^2\}^{1/2}/L_p$ . Structures were solved by direct methods using SHELXS-86.<sup>14</sup> Refinement was by full matrix least squares with non-hydrogen atoms anisotropic and weights of  $w = 1/\sigma^2(F)$ . Hydrogen atoms were included at calculated positions and held fixed with  $U_{iso} = 1.3 U_{eq}$  for the atom to which they are bonded. All calculations were done on a PDP 11/34 using the Enraf-Nonius SDP-Plus program package. Tables of fractional atomic coordinates and bond lengths and angles are given in Tables 3 and 4 (compound 9) and Tables 5 and 6 (compound 11). In compound 9 the two independent molecules show no significant differences. They are related by a non-crystallographic 2<sub>1</sub> screw axis parallel to *b* which does not extend to the rest of the structure. In compound 11 the diffraction was weak and only 1150 out of the 2043 reflections were used in the refinement. The high final residuals reflect the poor quality of the data.

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**Table 6** Intramolecular distances (Å) and angles (°) for compound 11

Bonds			
O(1)-C(3)	1.467(13)	O(1)-C(21)	1.451(14)
O(2)-C(18)	1.427(14)	O(2)-C(21)	1.384(14)
O(3)-C(16)	1.196(14)	C(1)-C(2)	1.48(2)
C(1)-C(10)	1.56(2)	C(2)-C(3)	1.50(2)
C(3)-C(4)	1.50(2)	C(4)-C(5)	1.61(2)
C(4)-C(18)	1.48(2)	C(4)-C(19)	1.52(2)
C(5)-C(6)	1.50(2)	C(5)-C(10)	1.58(2)
C(6)-C(7)	1.47(2)	C(7)-C(8)	1.57(2)
C(8)-C(9)	1.51(2)	C(8)-C(14)	1.51(2)
C(9)-C(10)	1.504(14)	C(9)-C(11)	1.55(2)
C(9)-C(15)	1.56(2)	C(10)-C(20)	1.56(2)
C(11)-C(12)	1.52(2)	C(12)-C(13)	1.53(2)
C(12)-C(16)	1.45(2)	C(13)-C(14)	1.37(2)
C(13)-C(17)	1.44(2)	C(15)-C(16)	1.56(2)
C(21)-C(22)	1.47(2)	C(21)-C(23)	1.56(2)
Angles			
C(3)-O(1)-C(21)	113.2(8)	C(18)-O(2)-C(21)	112.8(9)
C(2)-C(1)-C(10)	115.6(9)	C(1)-C(2)-C(3)	111.9(9)
O(1)-C(3)-C(2)	102.8(9)	O(1)-C(3)-C(4)	110.9(8)
C(2)-C(3)-C(4)	116(1)	C(3)-C(4)-C(5)	109.3(9)
C(3)-C(4)-C(18)	108.0(9)	C(3)-C(4)-C(19)	111(1)
C(5)-C(4)-C(18)	109.0(9)	C(5)-C(4)-C(19)	112.2(9)
C(18)-C(4)-C(19)	107(1)	C(4)-C(5)-C(6)	114.8(9)
C(4)-C(5)-C(10)	116.3(8)	C(6)-C(5)-C(10)	110.7(9)
C(5)-C(6)-C(7)	113(1)	C(6)-C(7)-C(8)	112(1)
C(7)-C(8)-C(9)	109.8(9)	C(7)-C(8)-C(14)	110.8(9)
C(9)-C(8)-C(14)	116(1)	C(8)-C(9)-C(10)	111.3(9)
C(8)-C(9)-C(11)	104.7(9)	C(8)-C(9)-C(15)	109.5(8)
C(10)-C(9)-C(11)	115.5(9)	C(10)-C(9)-C(15)	114.6(9)
C(11)-C(9)-C(15)	100.4(8)	C(1)-C(10)-C(5)	108.6(8)
C(1)-C(10)-C(9)	113.7(9)	C(1)-C(10)-C(20)	104.5(9)
C(5)-C(10)-C(9)	106.8(8)	C(5)-C(10)-C(20)	113.7(9)
C(9)-C(10)-C(20)	109.8(9)	C(9)-C(11)-C(12)	102.5(9)
C(11)-C(12)-C(13)	113(1)	C(11)-C(12)-C(16)	104(1)
C(13)-C(12)-C(16)	104(1)	C(12)-C(13)-C(14)	115(1)
C(12)-C(13)-C(17)	120(1)	C(14)-C(13)-C(17)	124(1)
C(8)-C(14)-C(13)	122(1)	C(9)-C(15)-C(16)	105.3(8)
O(3)-C(16)-C(12)	130(1)	O(3)-C(16)-C(15)	124(1)
C(12)-C(16)-C(15)	106.7(9)	O(2)-C(18)-C(4)	114(1)
O(1)-C(21)-O(2)	111.4(9)	O(1)-C(21)-C(22)	112(1)
O(1)-C(21)-C(23)	99(1)	O(2)-C(21)-C(22)	113(1)
O(2)-C(21)-C(23)	105.4(9)	C(22)-C(21)-C(23)	115(1)

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