

Oxidation of Natural Targets by Dioxiranes. 4.¹ High Stereo- and Regioselective Conversion of Vitamin D₂ to Its (*all-R*) Tetraepoxide and C-25 Hydroxy Derivative

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Received July 29, 1996[⊗]

Abstract: Upon reaction with methyl(trifluoromethyl)dioxirane (**1b**) at $-40\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$, vitamin D₂ (**2a**) or its 3β -acetyl derivative (**2b**) give in high yield (78–80%) the corresponding tetraepoxide (**3a,b**) as a single diastereoisomer having the 5,6(β);7,8(β);10,19(α);22,23(pseudo- α) configuration. Transformation of tetraepoxide **3a** into its 3β -(*p*-bromobenzoyl) derivative **3c** allowed X-ray diffraction analysis; this permitted us to ascertain that the stereomeric tetraepoxide product has the *R* configuration at all of the seven newly generated stereocenters, i.e. 5*R*,6*R*;7*R*,8*R*;10*R*(19);22*R*,23*R*. The oxidation of 3β -acetyl vitamin D₂ (**2b**) with the less powerful dimethyldioxirane (**1a**) led to the corresponding 5,6(β);7,8(β);10,19(α)-triepoxide **4** as the major product (62%), accompanied by tetraepoxide **3b** (26%). Parallel to vitamin D₃ triepoxide, remarkable site selectivity was monitored in oxyfunctionalization of 3β -acetyl vitamin D₂ tetraepoxide (**3b**) at the side-chain tertiary C-25. Reaction of tetraepoxide **3b** with the powerful dioxirane **1b** at $0\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ left the epoxide groups and remaining C-H functionalities intact, affording the 25-hydroxy derivative **5** in good isolated yield (61%).

Introduction

We have shown that remarkable regio- and stereoselectivities can be attained in applying dioxiranes,² such as dimethyldioxirane (**1a**) or methyl(trifluoromethyl)dioxirane (**1b**), to the oxyfunctionalization of several steroids³ and of vitamin D₃ (cholecalciferol) derivatives.¹ For instance, reaction of 3β -acetyl vitamin D₃ with methyl(trifluoromethyl)dioxirane (**1b**) displayed high diastereoselectivity, affording—among the eight possible diastereoisomers resulting from the three epoxide functionalities introduced—just the corresponding (*all-R*) $\beta\beta\alpha$ -triepoxide in high yield.¹ This step, amounting to an effective “masking” of the vitamin D₃ triene system with dioxirane-resistant epoxide moieties, was a necessary preliminar to site-selective C-H functionalization at C-25 leading to the relevant 25-OH derivative.⁴

It is now established that the sequence of hydroxylations which vitamin D₃ (cholecalciferol) undergoes in biological system is triggered by its crucial transformation into its 25-hydroxy derivative in the liver.⁵ Similar to the natural vitamin D₃, the unnatural vitamin D₂ (ergocalciferol) must first experi-

ence hydroxylation at C-25, then at C-1 before expressing biological activity.⁵ With respect to their vitamin D₃ analogues, vitamin D₂ (**2a**) and derivatives present an additional C=C bond with *E* configuration at C-22 as well as a further chiral center at C-24, which renders the synthetic approach more arduous.⁶ Because of this additional complexity, it was challenging to explore whether and how the high regio- and stereoselectivities attainable in the dioxirane oxidation of vitamin D₂ (**2a**) change with respect to the vitamin D₃ case.

Results and Discussion

Multiple Epoxidation of Vitamin D₂. Standardized solutions of 0.5–1.0 M methyl(trifluoromethyl)dioxirane (**1b**)⁷ in 1,1,1-trifluoropropanone (hereafter, TFP) and of 0.06–0.10 M dimethyldioxirane (**1a**)⁸ in acetone could be obtained by following reported procedures.^{7,8} We found that careful addition of cold aliquots of **1b** solution during ca. 1.5 h to either vitamin D₂ (**2a**) or to its 3β -acetyl derivative (**2b**) at the conditions given in eq 1 resulted in the production of a *single* tetraepoxide diastereoisomer in high yield.

(5) For instance, see: (a) DeLuca, H. F. *Biochem. Soc. Trans.* **1981**, *10*, 147. (b) Norman, A. W. In *Vitamin D, Molecular Biology and Clinical Nutrition*; Marcel Dekker: New York, 1980. (c) Jones, G.; Schnoes, H. K.; DeLuca, H. F. *Biochemistry* **1975**, *14*, 1250. (d) Blunt, J. W.; DeLuca, H. F.; Schnoes, H. K. *Biochemistry* **1968**, *7*, 3317.

(6) For instance, see: (a) Granja, J.; Castedo, L.; Mouriño, A. *J. Org. Chem.* **1993**, *58*, 124. (b) Wilson, S. R.; Davey, A. E.; Guazzaroni, M. E. *J. Org. Chem.* **1992**, *57*, 2007 and references quoted therein.

(7) (a) Mello, R.; Fiorentino, M.; Sciacovelli, O.; Curci, R. *J. Org. Chem.* **1988**, *53*, 3890. (b) Mello, R.; Fiorentino, M.; Fusco, C.; Curci, R. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1989**, *111*, 6749.

(8) (a) Murray, R. W.; Jeyaraman, R. *J. Org. Chem.* **1985**, *50*, 2847. (b) Cassidei, L.; Fiorentino, M.; Mello, R.; Sciacovelli, O.; Curci, R. *J. Org. Chem.* **1987**, *52*, 699. (c) Adam, W.; Chan, Y.-Y.; Cremer, D.; Gauss, J.; Schetzow, D.; Schindler, M. *J. Org. Chem.* **1987**, *52*, 2800.

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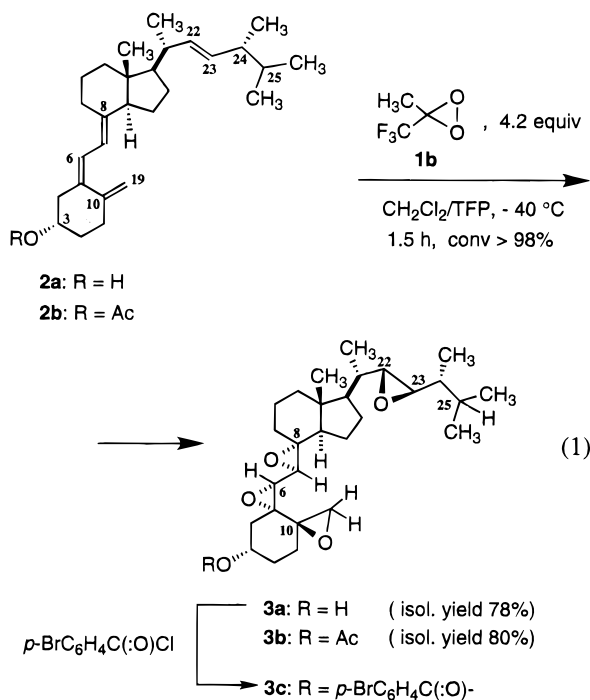
[⊗] Abstract published in *Advance ACS Abstracts*, November 1, 1996.

(1) Part 3: Curci, R.; Detomaso, A.; Prencipe, T.; Carpenter, G. B. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1994**, *116*, 8112.

(2) For recent reviews on this now popular class of powerful oxidants, see: (a) Curci, R.; Dinò, A.; Rubino, M. F. *Pure Appl. Chem.* **1995**, *67*, 811. (b) Adam, W.; Hadjirapoglou, L. P.; Curci, R.; Mello, R. In *Organic Peroxides*; Ando, W., Ed.; Wiley: New York, 1992; Chapter 4, pp 195–219. See also references quoted therein.

(3) (a) Bovicelli, P.; Lupattelli, P.; Mincione, E.; Prencipe, T.; Curci, R. *J. Org. Chem.* **1992**, *57*, 2182. (b) *Ibid.* **1992**, *57*, 5052.

(4) For a recent review on synthetic approaches to vitamin D and its derivatives, see: Zhu, G.-D.; Okamura, W. H. *Chem. Rev.* **1995**, *95*, 1877.



That the two tetraepoxides had identical stereochemistry was established by the conversion of **3a** into its β -acetyl derivative, having ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra identical with those of **3b**. Next, **3a** was transformed into its *p*-bromobenzoyl derivative **3c** (eq 1). That this derivative has the same stereochemistry as **3b** and **3a** is demonstrated by a comparison of their ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra, which present strict similarities of chemical shift and coupling constant values for analogous resonances. For instance, the ¹H NMR chemical shift and coupling constant for the exocyclic C¹⁹H_aH_b system are quite similar, i.e. δ 2.87, 2.57 (²J_{HH} = 5.7 Hz) for **3b**, and δ 2.90, 2.59 (²J_{HH} = 5.7 Hz) for **3c**; for both **3b** and **3c** (analogous to what was recorded for vitamin D₃ triepoxide¹), the coupling constant value of the C-6 and C-7 oxiranyl proton resonances (³J_{HH} = 7.7–7.8 Hz) is indicative of a quasi *syn* (i.e., $\beta\beta$) disposition of the vicinal 5,6- and 7,8-oxirane moieties.¹ The crystalline *p*-bromobenzoyl derivative **3c** was found suitable for X-ray analysis; its structural features are displayed in Figure 1.

The anomalous dispersion contribution of the bromine atoms allowed us to establish the absolute configuration at the *seven* newly generated stereocenters, which is seen to be 5*R*,6*R*;7*R*,8*R*;10*R*(19);22*R*,23*R*.

On the basis of our previous findings concerning dioxirane epoxidation of vitamin D₃ derivatives,¹ high diastereoselectivity (d.e. \geq 92%) might perhaps have been expected for the transformation of the analogous triene system of vitamin D₂, leading to a 5,6(β);7,8(β);10,19(α) triepoxide moiety. However, epoxidation at the side-chain $\Delta^{22,23}$ unsaturation in vitamin D₂ must also occur with surprisingly high diastereoselectivity; this is manifested by the production of a single tetraepoxide (**3a** or **3b**) in 78–80% isolated yield (eq 1), with average stereoselectivity of ca. 94%. It is likely that this derives from the well-known sensitivity of dioxirane epoxidation to steric and stereoelectronic alignment effects.^{2a,9} On this ground, a rationale for the highly stereoselective production of the mentioned vitamin D₃ $\beta\beta\alpha$ -triepoxide was proposed;¹ for the multiple

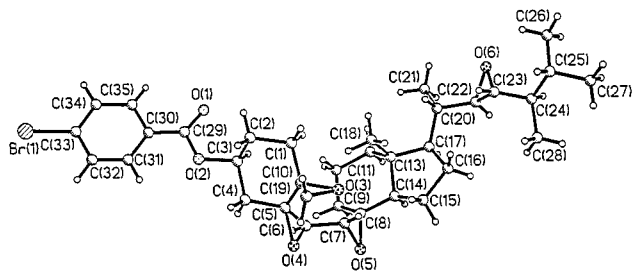
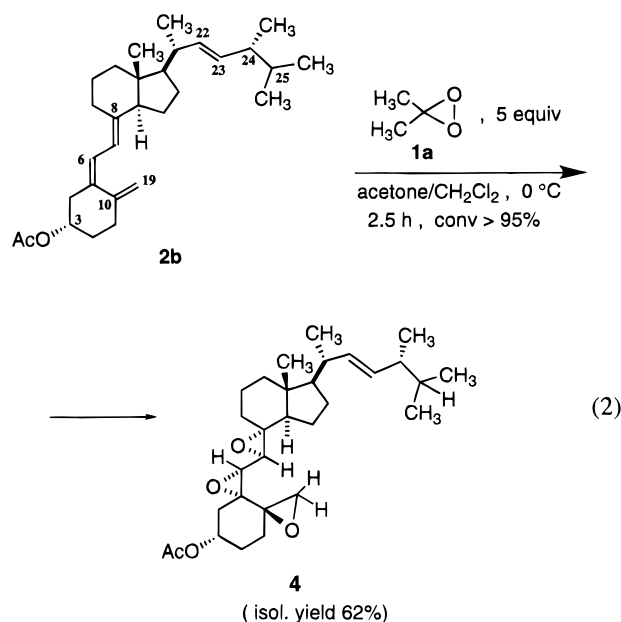


Figure 1. Computer-generated view of X-ray structure of tetraepoxide **3c**. Selected bond lengths (Å) are as follows: O(3)–C(10), 1.420(10); O(3)–C(19), 1.491(13); O(4)–C(5), 1.453(10); O(4)–C(6), 1.461(10); O(5)–C(7), 1.434(10); O(5)–C(8), 1.457(10); O(6)–C(22), 1.441(10); O(6)–C(23), 1.439(11); C(10)–C(19), 1.524(14); C(5)–C(6), 1.478(13); C(7)–C(8), 1.457(12); C(22)–C(23), 1.430(12). Mean C–O in epoxide groups: 1.45(2). Mean C–C [excluding C(10)–C(19)]: 1.46(2).

epoxidation of vitamin D₂, it can likewise be applied to a preliminary stereoselective generation of the vicinal 5,6(β);7,8(β);10,19(α) triepoxide moiety. In fact, ¹H- and ¹³C-monitoring of the reaction between **2a** or **2b** with dioxirane **1b** unexpectedly revealed that epoxidation at $\Delta^{22,23}$ occurs last. Actually, using the less powerful dimethyldioxirane (**1a**) the epoxidation of **2b** could be stopped short of epoxidation at the side-chain C=C at the conditions given in eq 2, affording triepoxide **4** in >60% yield alongside the above described tetraepoxide **3a** (yield 26%). The intermediate triepoxide could be isolated and fully characterized.



With the epoxidation in the side chain of vitamin D₂ taking place at the end of the sequence involving the introduction of four oxirane functionalities, a rationale for the high diastereoselectivity recorded at $\Delta^{22,23}$ might be advanced as represented in Figure 2.

Given that the unsaturation brings about a certain conformational rigidity of the side chain, it is seen that only one face of the residual C=C π system is relatively unencumbered to dioxirane attack in a *spiro* stereo arrangement.^{2a,9} Concurrent with this, the given stereoselective epoxidation could be explained in terms of allylic strain and “matched” induction by the C-20 and C-24 stereocenters.¹⁰

Selective Side-Chain Oxyfunctionalization at C-25. This crucial oxyfunctionalization at the side-chain was performed using β -acetyl vitamin D₂ tetraepoxide **3b** as starting material;

(9) (a) Baumstark, A. L.; McCloskey, C. J. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1987**, 28, 3311. (b) Baumstark, A. L.; Vasquez, P. C. *J. Org. Chem.* **1988**, 53, 3437. (c) Marples, B. A.; Muxworthy, J. P.; Baggaley, K. H. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1991**, 32, 533.

(10) We thank a reviewer for the suggestion of this rationale.

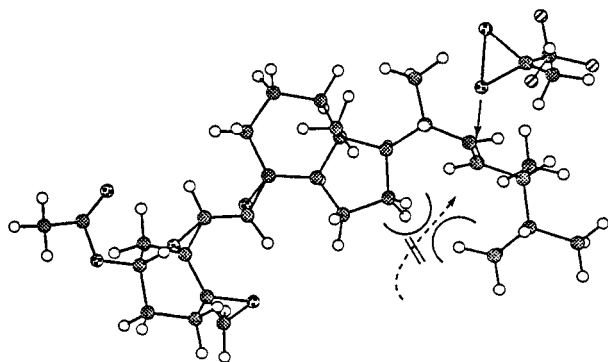
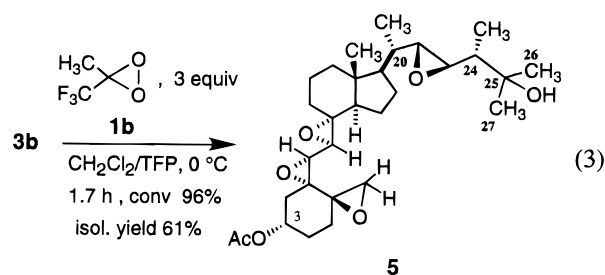


Figure 2. Likely transition state for face-selective dioxirane attack at the side-chain C=C of β -acetyl vitamin D₂ triepoxide (**4**); the stereoformula of the latter was minimized using implemented MM2 force field (CambridgeSoft Corp. software, Chem3D Pro. v.3.3 output).

protection of the secondary C-OH functionality at C-3 was deemed essential in order to avoid its facile oxidation to carbonyl by the dioxirane.¹¹ As it is seen by inspection of eq 3,



employing the powerful dioxirane **1b** we could achieve in satisfactory yield the site-selective conversion of **3b** into its key C-25(OH) derivative **5**. This transformation is easily monitored since the ¹H NMR multiplicity of the C-26 and C-27 methyl resonances (doublet) in **3b** is removed on going to **5**, and a distinct C-25(OH) signal (δ 73.46) becomes apparent in the ¹³C NMR of the latter.

This surprisingly high site selectivity for dioxirane O-insertion at the tertiary C25-H parallels that already recorded for the analogous triepoxide of vitamin D₃. In the case at hand this might seem even more amazing since, besides the tertiary C-20, the vitamin D₂ derivative **3b** presents an additional tertiary C-H at C-24. However, here oxidation at the C-24 and C-20 carbon-hydrogen bond might be discouraged because of inductive deactivation by the proximal 22,23-epoxide moiety.¹⁰

On the other hand, a precedent for the given site-selective C-25 hydroxylation can be found in the distinct preference usually displayed by dioxiranes in attacking tertiary C-H centers bearing geminal methyl groups as compared to the other tertiary C-H positions available in target molecules such as some cholestane derivatives.³ We have already described in detail a suitable FMO model¹² that provides a distinctive rationale for the stringent steric and stereoelectronic requirements which are likely to dictate the high stereoselectivity of dioxirane O-insertion at C-H bonds.^{2a,13}

In view of the versatility of the epoxide moiety as a precursor to diverse functionalities, the efficient access to the tetraepoxide of vitamin D₂ in high diastereomeric purity and to its C-25(OH) derivative reported herein show promise to pave the road to

(11) Mello, R.; Cassidei, L.; Fiorentino, M.; Fusco, C.; Hümmel, W.; Jäger, V.; Curci, R. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1991**, *113*, 2205.

(12) Bach, R. D.; Andrés, J. L.; Owensby, A. L.; Schlegel, H. B.; McDouall, J. J. W. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1992**, *114*, 7207.

(13) Kuck, D.; Schuster, A.; Fusco, C.; Fiorentino, M.; Curci, R. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1994**, *116*, 2375.

the synthesis of a number of interesting derivatives of this target molecule. Thus, further work in this promising area is warranted.

Experimental Section

General Methods. Purified methylene chloride, acetone, and 1,1,1-trifluoro-2-propanone (TFP) (bp 22 °C) solvents, were stored over 5 Å molecular sieves at 2–5 °C and routinely redistilled prior to use. Curox triple salt 2KHSO₅·KHSO₄·K₂SO₄ (a gift by Peroxid-Chemie GmbH, München, Germany) was our source of potassium peroxymonosulfate; it was used as received for the synthesis of dioxiranes **1a** and **1b**. Solutions of 0.06–0.10 M dimethyldioxirane (**1a**) in acetone⁸ and of 0.5–1.0 M methyl(trifluoromethyl)dioxirane (**1b**) in TFP⁷ were obtained by adopting procedures, equipment, and precautions which have been already described in detail.^{2b,7,8} Commercial (Fluka) (5*Z*,7*E*,22*E*)-3β-hydroxy-9,10-secoergosta-5,7,10(19),22-tetraene (**2a**, vitamin D₂) was employed as starting material after further purification by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/Et₂O 4:1). High-resolution mass spectra were run on a VG ZAB 2F instrument; accurate mass measurements (\pm 0.005) were performed by the peak matching technique at 10 000 resolving power, with 10% valley definition.

3β-Hydroxy-5,6;7,8;10,19;22,23-tetraepoxy-9,10-secoergostane (3a). A cold solution of dioxirane **1b** (0.51 M in TFP, 24.5 mL, 12.5 mmol) was added during 1 h in three equal portions to a solution of **2a** (1.18 g, 3.0 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (5 mL) kept at –40 °C; TLC monitoring revealed that the starting material was consumed after ca. 1.5 h. Removal of the solvent in vacuo, followed by flash column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/Et₂O (3:7)) afforded the tetraepoxide, as white laths (1.07 g, 2.3 mmol, yield 78%): mp 196–199 °C, colorless crystals (CH₂Cl₂); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.82 (m, 1 H), 3.44 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1 H), 2.84 (dd, J = 5.7 Hz, J = 1.6 Hz [long-range coupling], 1 H), 2.76 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1 H), 2.56–2.54 (m, 2 H), 2.41 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, J = 2.3 Hz (long-range coupling), 1 H), 0.95 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 3 H), 0.93 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 3 H), 0.90 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3 H), 0.88 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3 H), 0.72 (s, 3 H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 68.84, 65.38, 63.68, 63.49, 60.23, 60.09, 60.06, 56.25, 56.01, 53.44, 50.59, 45.78, 43.92, 42.18, 39.17, 38.24, 33.87, 31.05, 30.61, 29.60, 25.90, 22.80, 20.40, 20.16, 19.44, 15.97, 13.60, 13.10; IR (KBr) 3409, 1442, 1358 cm⁻¹; [α]_D +32.2° (c 0.43, acetone); HRMS (EI, 70 eV) calcd for C₂₈H₄₄O₅ m/z 460.3177, found m/z 460.3208 (M₁).

Treatment of **3a** with Ac₂O/pyridine, followed by flash column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/Et₂O (9:1)), afforded acetate **3b** indistinguishable with material produced as described below.

3β-Acetoxy-5,6;7,8;10,19;22,23-tetraepoxy-9,10-secoergostane (3b). By following the same procedure, reaction of dioxirane **1b** (0.734 M in TFP, 13.8 mL, 10.2 mmol) with **2b** (1.06 g, 2.42 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (4 mL) at –40 °C afforded, after column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/Et₂O (9:1)), the tetraepoxide as colorless crystals (0.973 g, 1.94 mmol, yield 80%): mp 62–65 °C; ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 4.81 (m, 1 H), 3.45 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1 H), 2.87 (dd, J = 5.7 Hz, J = 1.5 Hz (long-range coupling), 1 H), 2.80 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1 H), 2.57 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 1 H), 2.54 (m, 2 H), 2.03 (s, 3 H), 0.97 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 3 H), 0.92 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3 H), 0.90 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 6 H), 0.74 (s, 3 H); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.20, 70.18, 65.46, 63.74, 63.45, 60.20, 59.80, 56.31, 55.89, 55.84, 53.46, 50.48, 45.85, 42.25, 40.25, 39.20, 38.34, 31.10, 30.67, 30.28, 29.43, 25.99, 22.87, 21.18, 20.45, 20.22, 19.50, 16.05, 13.67, 13.14; FT-IR (KBr) 1741, 1463, 1379 cm⁻¹; [α]_D +40.9° (c 0.69, acetone); HRMS (EI, 70 eV) calcd for C₃₀H₄₆O₆ m/z 502.3282, found m/z 502.3304 (M₁).

(5*R*,6*R*,7*R*,8*R*,10*R*)-3β-(*p*-Bromobenzoyloxy)-5,6;7,8;10,19;22,23-tetraepoxy-9,10-secoergostane (3c) was obtained upon reaction of **3a** with *p*-BrC₆H₄COCl/pyridine (yield 71%); after column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/Et₂O (7:3)): mp 203–206 °C, colorless crystals (acetone/EtOH); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.85–7.54 (m, AA'XX' system, 4 H), 5.05 (m, 1 H), 3.46 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1 H), 2.90 (dd, J = 5.7 Hz, J = 1.4 Hz, 1 H), 2.84 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1 H), 2.59 (d, J = 5.7 Hz, 1 H), 2.55 (dd, J = 7.0 Hz, J = 2.3 Hz, 1 H), 2.41 (dd, J = 7.9 Hz, J = 2.3 Hz, 1 H), 0.97 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3 H), 0.93 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 3 H), 0.91 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3 H), 0.89 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3 H), 0.76 (s, 3 H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.23, 131.71, 131.69,

131.07, 131.00, 128.69, 128.33, 71.00, 65.38, 63.63, 63.39, 60.13, 59.69, 56.27, 55.81, 55.75, 53.40, 50.44, 45.78, 42.15, 40.24, 39.15, 38.26, 31.02, 30.62, 30.27, 29.36, 25.90, 22.82, 20.35, 20.15, 19.41, 15.98, 13.56, 13.10; IR (KBr) 1704, 1575, 1444, 1367 cm^{-1} ; $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25} +81.7^{\circ}$ (*c* 0.42, acetone); X-ray structure, see Figure 1.

(22E)-(5R,6R,7R,8R,10R)-3 β -Acetoxy-5,6;7,8;10(19)-tri epoxy-9,10-secoergosta-22-ene (4). A cold solution of dioxirane **1a** (0.07 M in acetone, 51 mL, 3.6 mmol) was added during 1.5 h in three portions to a solution of **2b** (318 mg, 0.72 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (2 mL) at 0 $^{\circ}\text{C}$; TLC and GC monitoring revealed that the starting material was completely consumed after ca. 2.5 h. Removal of the solvent in vacuo, followed by flash column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ Et_2O (9:1)) afforded tetraepoxide **3b** (95 mg, 0.19 mmol, yield 26%) and triepoxide **4** (273 mg, 0.56 mmol, yield 78%): mp 124–127 $^{\circ}\text{C}$, colorless crystals; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 5.15 (d, $J = 9.6$ Hz, 1 H), 5.14 (d, $J = 10.3$ Hz, 1 H), 4.82 (m, 1 H), 3.45 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1 H), 2.88 (dd, $J = 1.7$ Hz, $J = 5.7$ Hz, 1 H), 2.81 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1 H), 2.58 (d, $J = 5.7$ Hz, 1 H), 2.03 (s, 3 H), 0.99 (d, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 3 H), 0.87 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 3 H), 0.80 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 3 H), 0.78 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 3 H), 0.76 (s, 3 H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 170.21, 135.24, 132.25, 70.20, 65.56, 63.58, 59.81, 56.43, 55.96, 55.90, 53.96, 50.50, 45.47, 42.75, 40.32, 39.99, 39.26, 33.06, 30.64, 30.32, 29.45, 27.47, 22.91, 21.14, 21.01, 20.00, 19.91, 19.62, 17.52, 13.37; IR (KBr) 1744, 1461, 1378 cm^{-1} ; $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25} +105.3^{\circ}$ (*c* 0.43, acetone); HRMS (EI, 70 eV) calcd for $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{46}\text{O}_5$ m/z 486.3345, found m/z 486.3312 (M_x).

3 β -Acetoxy-5,6;7,8;10(19);22,23-tetraepoxy-9,10-secoergostan-25-ol (5). A cold solution of dioxirane **1b** (0.68 M in TFP, 5.1 mL, 3.5 mmol) was added during ca. 1.5 h in three equal portions to a solution of **3b** (585 mg, 1.2 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (5 mL) at 0 $^{\circ}\text{C}$; TLC monitoring revealed that the starting material was completely consumed after ca. 1.7 h. Removal of the solvent in vacuo, followed by flash column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ Et_2O (1:4)) afforded the 25-hydroxy derivative **5** (367 mg, 0.71 mmol, yield 61%): mp 92–95 $^{\circ}\text{C}$, white laths (acetone); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 4.79 (m, 1 H), 3.43 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1 H), 2.86 (dd, $J = 5.7$ Hz, $J = 1.6$ Hz [long-range coupling], 1 H), 2.79 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1 H), 2.70 (dd, $J = 8.9$ Hz, $J = 2.2$ Hz, 1 H), 2.56 (d, $J = 5.7$ Hz, 1 H), 2.39 (dd, $J = 8.2$ Hz, $J = 2.2$ Hz, 1 H), 2.01 (s, 3 H), 1.21 (s, 3 H), 1.15 (s, 3 H), 1.06 (d, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 3 H), 0.94 (d, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3 H), 0.72 (s, 3 H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 170.17, 73.46, 70.08, 65.40, 63.33, 63.11, 62.93, 59.78, 55.89, 55.84, 53.97, 53.44, 50.50, 46.50, 45.80, 40.19, 39.16, 39.15, 30.53, 30.21, 29.43, 27.57, 26.96, 25.71, 22.79, 21.08, 20.27, 16.95, 13.13, 12.74; IR (KBr) 3456, 1741, 1461, 1379 cm^{-1} ; $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25} +42.4^{\circ}$ (*c* 0.46, acetone); HRMS (EI, 70 eV) calcd for $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{46}\text{O}_7$ m/z 518.3244, found m/z 518.3242 (M_x).

X-ray Diffraction Structure Determination of Tetraepoxide 3c. X-ray data collection was carried out using a Siemens P4 single-crystal diffractometer (Mo $\text{K}\alpha$ radiation, at 298 K) controlled by XSCANS version 2.1 software.^{14a} ω scans were used for data collection, at variable speeds from 10 to 60 deg/min. Three standard reflections were

measured after every 97 reflections; a 6.8% decrease in standard intensities was observed and corresponding corrections were made. Data reduction included profile fitting and a semiempirical absorption correction, maximum and minimum transmissions 0.470 and 0.430. The crystal used for data collection gave reflection profiles with rather high backgrounds, and did not diffract strongly at higher scattering angles, so only about 4000 reflections were measured and only 1488 had structure factors greater than 4σ . The structure was determined by direct methods and refined initially by use of programs in the SHELXTL PC version 5.1 package,^{14b} which were also used for all figures. Hydrogen atoms were introduced in ideal positions, each riding on the atom to which it is bonded; each was refined with isotropic temperature factor 20% greater than that of the ridden atom. The bromine and oxygen atoms were refined with anisotropic displacement parameters, whereas the carbon atoms were treated as isotropic in order to limit the total number of parameters. Final refinement on F2 was carried out using SHELXL 93.¹⁵ No constraints or restraints were applied to atomic positions except for the hydrogen atoms. Although the data are of less than ideal accuracy, the molecular conformation is unequivocally determined and the structure of the given enantiomer **3c** is confirmed.

Acknowledgment. We thank the Ministry of University, Scientific and Technological Research of Italy (MURST 40), and the CNR - P.S. "Tecnologie Chimiche Innovative" for partial support. The X-ray equipment at Brown University was purchased with assistance from an instrument grant from the National Science Foundation (CHE-8206423) and a grant from the National Institutes of Health (RR-06462). We are grateful to professor P. Traldi (CNR Research Area, Laboratorio Spettrometria di Massa, Padova, Italy) for the HRMS accurate-mass measurements. R.C. is grateful to the Chemistry Department, Brown University, for generous hospitality during a sabbatical leave (November 1995–October 1996) from University of Bari.

Supporting Information Available: Thermal ellipsoid and unit cell diagrams, summary of X-rays diffraction data, tables of atomic coordinates, bond lengths and angles, anisotropic thermal parameters, H-atom coordinates, and isotropic displacement coefficients for tetraepoxide **3c** (8 pages). See any current masthead page for ordering and internet access instructions.

JA9626300

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