

# Synthetic Transformation of Abietic Acid II<sup>a</sup>. Oxidation of Diene Adducts

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**Summary.** The diene adduct of 2-chloroacrylonitrile and abietic acid (**1**) can be converted to tetracyclic ketone **2**. Oxidation of **1** and **2** with ozone, KMnO<sub>4</sub>, OsO<sub>4</sub>, and *tert*-butylchromate are described. Three products have been further oxidized by *Baeyer-Villiger* reactions.

**Keywords.** Abietic acid; Diene adducts; Ozonization; *Baeyer-Villiger* reaction; Oxidation.

## Synthetische Umwandlung des Abietinsäuregerüsts, 2. Mitt. Oxidation von Dien-Addukten

**Zusammenfassung.** *Diels-Alder*-Addition von 2-Chloracrylnitril an Abietinsäure führt zum entsprechendem Chloronitril **1**, das in weiterer Folge in das tetracyclische Keton **2** umgewandelt werden kann. Es werden Oxidationen von **1** und **2** mit Ozon, KMnO<sub>4</sub>, OsO<sub>4</sub> und *tert*-Butylchromat sowie *Baeyer-Villiger*-Oxidationen von drei Reaktionsprodukten beschrieben.

## Introduction

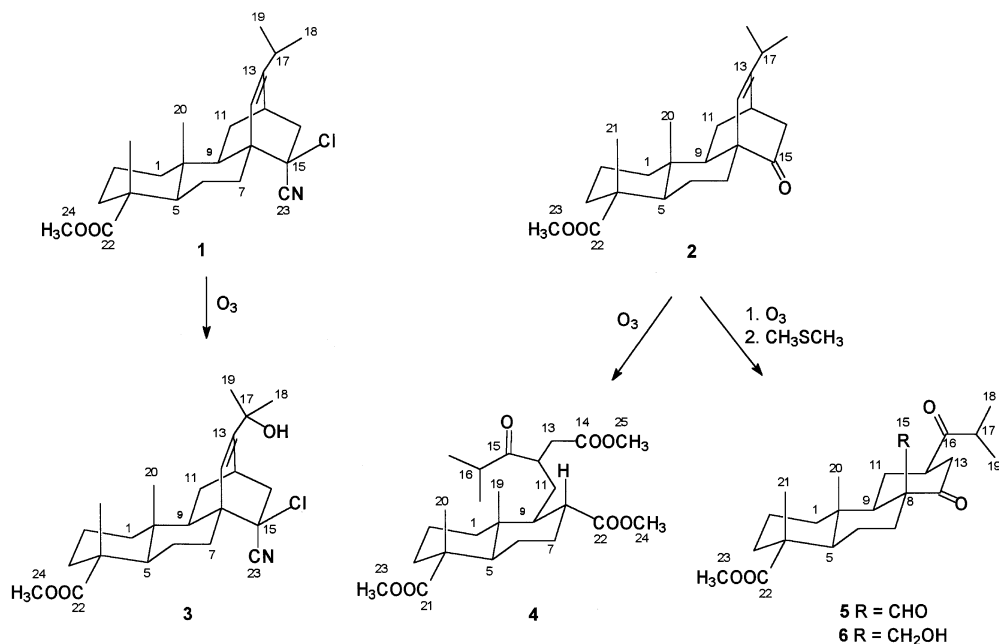
Abietic acid is a cheap and easily available enantiomerically pure starting material which can be used for stereoselective syntheses of terpene derivatives. We have studied synthetic transformations of its carbon skeleton. In a previous communication on *Diels-Alder* addition of 2-chloroacrylonitrile to abietic acid we have described the synthesis of **1** and **2** [1]. This paper reports the results of oxidative transformations of these compounds.

### *Oxidation with ozone*

**1** is inert against ozone at  $-70^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; however, at  $-30^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $+10^{\circ}\text{C}$  a slow conversion can be observed. At room temperature, adduct **1** is transformed completely and gives alcohol **3** in 56% yield. **3** shows a broad OH-absorption at  $2429\text{ cm}^{-1}$  in the IR spectrum. In the proton NMR spectrum, two singulets instead of dublets for the diastereotopic methyl groups of the isopropyl residue can be detected indicating

<sup>a</sup> For part I, see Ref. [1]

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Scheme 1

oxidation at C-17. The structure of **3** was further confirmed by its mass spectrum which showed the  $M^+$  peak at  $m/z=419$ . A prominent peak at  $m/z=332$  is the result of a *retro-Diels-Alder* fragmentation ( $M-\text{CH}_2=\text{C}(\text{Cl})\text{CN}^+$ ). It seems that the double bond is not accessible for ozone due to steric hindrance by the *endo* chlorine substituent. Instead, oxidation of the tertiary carbon of the isopropyl group takes place. Reactions of this type are well known [2–4]; as mechanism, an oxygen insertion into the tertiary CH-bond has been proposed [5, 6].

Reaction of ozone with compound **2** at  $-70^\circ\text{C}$  in ethyl acetate and subsequent oxidative workup of the crude ozonide and esterification with diazomethane afforded ketodiester **4** (55%). The proton NMR of **4** shows three methyl singlets at  $\delta=3.68$ , 3.61, and 3.60 ppm; their unambiguous assignment was established by a COLOC experiment. The configuration of C-8 was determined by NOE experiments: correlation signals between H-8 and H-6<sub>ax</sub> and H-8 and the methyl protons at C-19 can be observed. This proves that H-8 occupies the axial position. The signal of H-8 is a triplet of doublets, indicating two large axial-axial couplings ( $J=12.0$  Hz) which further proves axial arrangement and therefore *R* configuration of C-8. The base peak in the EI MS at  $m/z=158$  is the result of a *McLafferty* rearrangement during which the C-11–C-12 bond is cleaved. No experiments have been carried out to investigate the mechanism of this oxidation.

Reduction of the crude ozonide from ozonolysis of **2** in ethyl acetate with dimethylsulfide [7] in AcOEt gives aldehyde **5** in nearly quantitative yield. The aldehyde proton at C-15 is observed as singlet at  $\delta=9.99$  ppm in the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum and shows NOESY correlations with CH<sub>3</sub>-20, H-11<sub>ax</sub>, H-13<sub>ax</sub>, H-7<sub>eq</sub>, and H-6<sub>ax</sub>, proving axial position of the aldehyde group. Using lithium *tris*-((3-ethyl-3-pentyl)-oxo)-aluminum hydride (*LTEPA*), diketonaldehyde **5** was chemoselectively

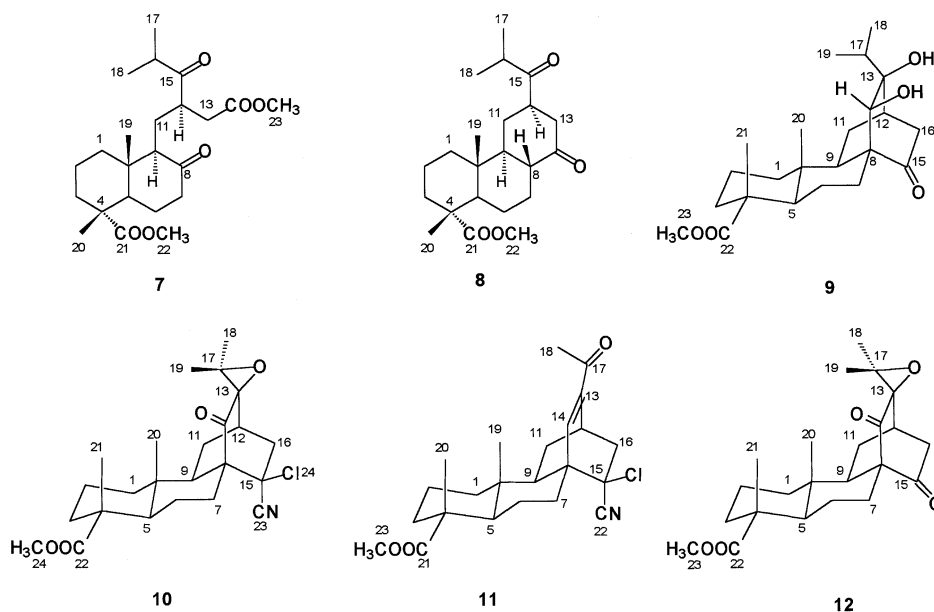
reduced, giving diketoalcohol **6** in 91% yield. In the IR spectrum, the broad OH-stretching vibration appears at  $3450\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum shows an AB system for the diastereotopic protons H-15 ( $^2J = 11.3\text{ Hz}$ ) at 4.10 and 3.86 ppm. Jones oxidation [8, 9] of **5** yields, after esterification with diazomethane, compound **7** and by-product **8**. The configuration of C-8 in **8** was derived by NMR experiments. The signal of H-9 has two large axial-axial couplings with H-11<sub>ax</sub> and H-8. H-8 also exhibits NOE correlations to methyl group 19. The intermediate during this oxidation is probably the corresponding  $\beta$ -oxo-carboxylic acid which decarboxylates to **8**. This diketone is further oxidized to **7**. Even the use of smoother oxidation reagents like  $\text{Ag}_2\text{O}$  in EtOH [10–12] or pyridinium chlorochromate in DMF [13, 14] gave the overoxidized product **7** as the main component.

#### Oxidation with $\text{OsO}_4$ and $\text{KMnO}_4$

**1** is inert against  $\text{OsO}_4$  and  $\text{KMnO}_4$  even if used together with dibenzo[18]-crown-6 in benzene [15] or coated silica [16]. **2**, however, can be oxidized in 89% yield by  $\text{OsO}_4$  in  $t\text{BuOH}$  to *cis*-diol **9**. The  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum shows two signals at  $\delta = 73.8$  and  $72.0\text{ ppm}$  for the oxygen bearing carbons and no residual resonances due to olefinic carbons. NOESY correlations between H-14 and H-6<sub>ax</sub>, H-7<sub>eq</sub>,  $\text{CH}_3$ -18,  $\text{CH}_3$ -19, and  $\text{CH}_3$ -20 prove that the hydroxy groups are in *endo* position relative to the carbonyl group and that the reagent has approached the molecule from the less hindered side.

#### Oxidation with *tert*-butylchromate

A well known reagent for the oxidation of allylic positions is *tert*-butylchromate [17–21]. Oxidation of **1** with this reagent gave epoxyketone **10** in 74% yield. The



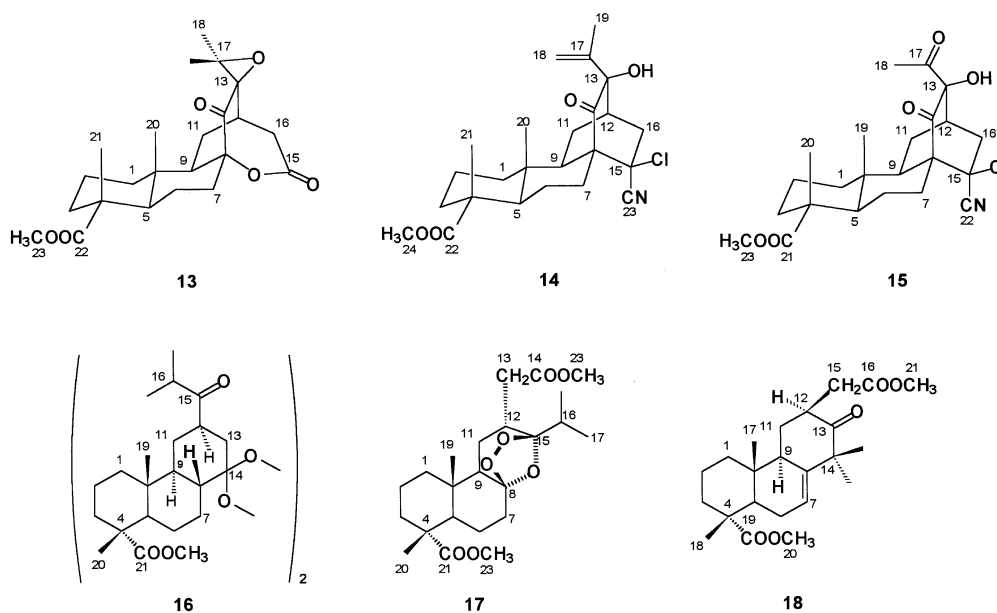
Scheme 2

$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum shows a carbonyl resonance at 205.8 ppm and two epoxy carbons at  $\delta = 67.7$  and 67.1 ppm. From an NOE experiment in which the resonance of  $\text{CH}_3\text{-20}$  was irradiated and the intensity of  $\text{CH}_3\text{-19}$  was enhanced we conclude the configuration of C-13 to be *R*. By-product **11** is obtained in 21% yield. An  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated carbonyl group is indicated in the IR spectrum by a peak at  $1674\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , and the proton NMR spectrum shows no isopropyl methyl resonances. The MS gives a molecular mass of 403 and shows a peak at  $m/z = 316$  which is the result of a *retro-Diels-Alder* fragmentation. The  $^{13}\text{C}$  carbonyl resonance has long range correlations to the olefinic proton and to  $\text{CH}_3\text{-18}$ .

Oxidation of **2** with *tert*-butylchromate leads to epoxydiketon **12** in 83% yield. The methyl groups attached to the oxiran ring appear at  $\delta = 1.49$  and 1.48 ppm in  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum. The resonance of  $\text{CH}_3\text{-18}$  shows NOE correlations to H-12, whereas  $\text{CH}_3\text{-19}$  is correlated to  $\text{CH}_3\text{-20}$ . From this we determined *R* configuration for C-13. An unambiguous assignment of the ketocarbonyl resonances was obtained from CH-long range correlations: the resonance of C-15 shows small couplings to the protons at C-16.

The keto functions in **10** and **12** can be used for ring opening reaction by *Baeyer-Villiger* oxidation. **10** did not undergo any reaction with *m*-chloroperbenzoic acid (*mCPBA*) [22] even in the presence of trifluoroacetic acid (*TFA*) [23]. Epoxydiketon **12**, however, was quantitative and regioselective oxidized to lactone **13**.

The position of the lactone bond was determined by a CH-correlation spectrum which was optimized for 7 Hz couplings. The ketocarbonyl C-14 ( $\delta = 199.9$  ppm) has correlations to the protons in positions 7 and to H-9; the lacton carbonyl ( $\delta = 169.8$  ppm) shows correlations to the protons at C-16. Alkoxy C-8 has cross peaks to the protons in position 9, 7, and 11. Cleavage of the oxiran ring in **10** with



Scheme 3

acid led to compound **14** in 77% yield. The  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of **14** shows two olefinic carbons ( $\delta = 141.4$  and  $118.3$  ppm). Additional information was obtained by a DEPT experiment which shows that the high field resonance has triplet multiplicity. In a COLOC spectrum, correlations between the hydroxyl bearing C-13 and H-16 $\alpha$  and H-19 were observed. The signals of both olefinic protons overlap in the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum generating a multiplet at  $\delta = 5.15$  ppm. Irradiation of this resonance in an NOE difference experiment gave signal enhancements at H-12, H-19, and CH<sub>3</sub>-20. This proves that C-18 and C-20 are close in space and therefore C-13 has *R* configuration.

Acidic treatment of **12** under the same conditions led to a complex mixture of products.

Ozonolysis of the double bond of **14** gave the hydroxydiketone **15** in moderate yield (45%). *R* configuration of C-13 in this compound is proven by a NOESY correlation between 13-OH and H-16 $\beta$ .

#### *Baeyer-Villiger oxidation of 7 and 8*

*Bis*-(trimethylsilyl)-peroxide oxidizes selectively carbonyl groups in the presence of olefinic double bonds [24–26]. Oxidation of **7** with this reagent in the presence of trimethylsilyltrifluoromethane sulfonate gave the tetracyclic peroxide **17** in 77% yield. The carbon resonances of C-8 and C-15 are in the characteristic region for acetals. From COLOC-correlations with H-11 $\beta$ , H-12, both H-13, and the isopropyl protons the resonance at  $\delta = 111.0$  ppm was assigned to C-15. The resonance at  $\delta = 109.4$  ppm gives correlations with H-9, H-11 $\beta$ , and both protons in position 7 and therefore corresponds to C-8. The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR resonances of H-11 $\beta$  and CH<sub>3</sub>-19 are both shifted to higher frequency indicating a  $\beta$ -peroxo bridge. From *Dreiding* models one can see that only in this case both groups can be influenced by the deshielding effect of a close C–O bond. Analogous peroxides have been obtained before in low yield from cyclohexanone derivatives and hydrogen peroxide [27–32]. In an attempt to optimize the conditions of the reaction of **7** with *bis*-(trimethylsilyl)-peroxide we have used twice the amount of trimethylsilyltrifluoromethane sulfonate. In this case, **18** was obtained in 61% yield. Its structure was derived from COSY, COLOC, and NOESY experiments: C,H-(7 Hz) correlations were observed between C-13 and H-11<sub>eq</sub>, H-12, H-15, and the protons of the methyl groups attached to C-14 and between C-14 and the olefinic H-7. The position of the double bond was derived from COSY cross peaks connecting H-7 to H-9 and the protons at position 6 as well as the homoallyl connectivity between H-9 and the protons at C-6. The  $^1\text{H}$  resonance of H-11<sub>ax</sub> is a *pseudo*-quartet showing three large couplings. This indicates that the proton at C-12 is in  $\alpha$ -position and the configuration of C-12 has been inverted during the reaction. In a NOESY experiment one can find a correlation between H-9 and H-12. This proves that both protons are on the same side of the ring system and therefore the configuration of C-12 is *S*.

Reaction of **8** with *bis*-(trimethylsilyl)-peroxide and a catalytic amount of trimethylsilyltrifluoromethane sulfonate gave dimer **16** in quantitative yield. From FD-MS, a molecular weight of 756 was derived; in the  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum, however, only 22 carbon resonances were observed, indicating that the molecule

has a C<sub>2</sub>-axis; consequently, no optical activity was observed. The signal of C-14 is shifted in the acetal region to  $\delta = 109.6$  ppm [33]. The proton resonance of H-13<sub>eq</sub> appears at unusual high frequency ( $\delta = 3.61$  ppm), showing that it is close to the 1,2,4,5-tetroxan ring system.

## Experimental

### General

Preparative thin layer chromatography: Chromatotron 8924 Harrison Research, 1 mm Kieselgel 60 PF<sub>254</sub> (Merck) with gypsum; column chromatography (CC): Kieselgel 60 (Merck) (70–230 mesh), pore-diameter 60 Å; thin-layer chromatography (TLC): TLC sheets, ALUGRAM<sup>®</sup>; SIL G/UV<sub>254</sub> (Machery-Nagel) and TLC sheets, POLYGRAM<sup>®</sup>, SIL G/UV<sub>254</sub> (Machery-Nagel); solvents frequently used: cyclohexane (CH) and AcOEt; the substances were detected in UV light at 254 nm and by spraying with molybdatophosphoric acid or methanol/sulfuric acid (9:1) and subsequent heating with a hot gun. Melting points: melting point apparatus SM-LUX (Leitz), uncorrected; optical rotation: polarimeter 241 MC (Perkin Elmer); IR spectra: Spectrometer 883 (PERKIN-ELMER); UV/Vis: Lambda 17 UV/Vis-spectrometer (Perkin Elmer); NMR spectra: Bruker AC 200 and AMX 500 (300 K), 5 mm tubes, solvent resonance as internal standard. Before NOE experiments were performed, dissolved oxygen was removed by bubbling Ar through the solutions. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C resonances were assigned using <sup>1</sup>H, <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>1</sup>H,<sup>13</sup>C correlation spectra (sometimes optimized for small CH-couplings) and are numbered as given in the formulas. MS: Varian MAT 711 spectrometer; 70 eV electron impact and field desorption. Elementary analyses: Laboratory for Microanalysis, Institute of Physical Chemistry of the University of Vienna and Sektion Analytik, University of Ulm. Ozone generator: GSG 010.2 SORBIOS (0.4 bar, 100 V, 30 l/h).

Methyl-(4 $\alpha$ , 15 $\beta$ )-15-chloro-15-cyano-13-(1-methylethyl)-17,19-dinoratis-13-en-4-carboxylate (**1**) and Methyl-(4 $\alpha$ )-13-(1-methylethyl)-15-oxo-17,19-dinoratis-13-en-4-carboxylate (**2**) were prepared according to Ref. [1].

### Methyl-(4 $\alpha$ , 15 $\beta$ )-15-chloro-15-cyano-13-(1-hydroxy-1-methylethyl)-17,19-dinoratis-13-en-4-carboxylate (**3**)

A solution of 400 mg (1 mmol) **1** in 40 ml abs. AcOEt was treated with ozone at room temperature. Excess of ozone was removed by bubbling oxygen through the mixture. After evaporation of the solvent, the residue was purified by CC over silica (CH/AcOEt = 2:1).

Yield: 235 mg **3** (56%); white crystals; m.p.: 77°C;  $R_f = 0.31$  (CH/AcOEt = 2:1);  $[\alpha]_D^{20} = +20.6$  ( $c = 0.1$ , CHCl<sub>3</sub>); IR (KBr):  $\nu = 3479$  (s), 2934 (s), 2237 (w), 1727 (vs), 1446 (m), 1259 (s), 732 (m) cm<sup>-1</sup>; UV (MeOH):  $\lambda_{max}$  (lg $\epsilon$ ) = 203 (3.854) nm; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 0.59$  (s, 3H, 20-H), 1.02 (m, 1H, 1-H<sub>ax</sub>), 1.10 (s, 3H, 21-H), 1.15 (m, 1H, 11-H $\beta$ ), 1.18 (m, 1H, 6-H<sub>eq</sub>), 1.30 (s<sub>br</sub>, 6H, 18-H and 19-H), 1.3–1.5 (m, 2H, 2-H), 1.37 (m, 1H, 1-H<sub>eq</sub>), 1.45 (m, 1H, 3-H<sub>eq</sub>), 1.47 (m, 1H, 6-H<sub>ax</sub>), 1.62 (m, 1H, 11-H $\alpha$ ), 1.72 (m, 1H, 3-H<sub>ax</sub>), 1.72 (m, 1H, 5-H), 1.74 (m, 1H, 7-H<sub>ax</sub>), 1.78 (m, 1H, 9-H), 2.01 (dt,  $J = 14.7$  Hz,  $J = 3.2$  Hz,  $J_{11\beta,16\beta} = 3.2$  Hz, 1H, 16-H $\beta$ ), 2.27 (m, 1H, 7-H<sub>eq</sub>), 2.60 (dd,  $J = 14.7$  Hz,  $J = 2.2$  Hz, 1H, 16-H $\alpha$ ), 2.82 (s<sub>br</sub>, 1H, 12-H), 3.65 (s, 3H, 24-H), 5.56 (s<sub>br</sub>, 1H, 14-H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 16.0$  (q, C-20), 16.8 (q, C-21), 17.0 (t, C-2), 21.4 (t, C-6), 27.2 (t, C-11), 27.7 (q, C-18/C-19), 27.9 (q, C-19/C-18), 30.7 (d, C-12), 32.5 (t, C-7), 36.3 (t, C-3), 37.1 (t, C-1), 37.9 (s, C-10), 46.2 (s, C-8), 47.0 (s, C-4), 47.5 (t, C-16), 48.7 (d, C-5), 49.6 (d, C-9), 52.0 (q, C-24), 64.9 (s, C-15), 71.9 (s, C-17), 120.2 (s, C-23), 121.9 (d, C-14), 149.6 (s, C-13), 178.8 (s, C-22) ppm; MS (70 eV):  $m/z$  (%) = 421 (7) [(M+2)<sup>+</sup>], 419 (18) [M<sup>+</sup>], 332 (91), 254 (100), 132 (41), 121 (52), 59 (48); C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>34</sub>ClNO<sub>3</sub> (420.0); calc.: C 68.64, H 8.16, N 3.33; found: C 68.56, H 8.23, N 3.29.

*Dimethyl-(1R-(1 $\alpha$ ,4 $\alpha$ ,5 $\beta$ (2R\*),6 $\alpha$ ,8 $\alpha$ ))-5-(3-methoxycarbonyl-2-(2-methyl-1-oxoethyl)-propyl)-1,4a-dimethyl-perhydro-1,6-naphthalene-dicarboxylate (4)*

Ozone was bubbled through a solution of 250 mg (0.7 mmol) **2** in 30 ml dry AcOEt at  $-70^{\circ}\text{C}$  until the blue colour became persistent. After removing the excess of ozone by blowing oxygen through the mixture at  $-70^{\circ}\text{C}$  it was allowed to reach room temperature, and the solvent was evaporated. The residue was dissolved in 1 ml MeOH, 2 ml HCOOH (98%), and 0.5 ml H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (30%) and heated under reflux for 2 h. After cooling, ice water was added, and the product was extracted three times with Et<sub>2</sub>O. The organic phases were washed twice with 1% aqueous KI, with 10% Na<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> solution, with 5% NaOH, and with H<sub>2</sub>O, and dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. After evaporation the residue was purified by CC over silica (CH/AcOEt = 5:1).

Yield: 174 mg **4** (55%); colourless oil;  $R_f = 0.32$  (CH/AcOEt = 5:1), 0.57 (CH/AcOEt = 1:1);  $[\alpha]_D^{20} = +44.6$  ( $c = 0.1$ , CHCl<sub>3</sub>); IR (neat):  $\nu = 2949$  (s), 1731 (vs), 1436 (m), 1250 (s), 1168 (m) cm<sup>-1</sup>; UV (MeOH):  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  ( $\lg \epsilon$ ) = 203 (3.326) nm; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 0.81$  (s, 3H, 19-H), 0.85 (ddd,  $J = 14.8$  Hz,  $J = 6.2$  Hz,  $J = 5.7$  Hz, 1H, 11-H), 0.94 (m, 1H, 1-H<sub>ax</sub>), 1.08 (d,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 3H, 17-H/18-H), 1.09 (d,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 3H, 18-H/17-H), 1.12 (s, 3H, 20-H), 1.25 (ddd,  $J = 11.4$  Hz,  $J = 5.2$  Hz,  $J = 3.4$  Hz; 1H, 9-H), 1.36 (qd,  $3 \times J = 12.8$ –13.3 Hz,  $J = 4.0$  Hz, 1H, 6-H<sub>ax</sub>), 1.52 (m, 1H, 3-H<sub>eq</sub>), 1.5–1.8 (m, 2H, 2-H), 1.57 (m, 1H, 7-H<sub>ax</sub>), 1.67 (m, 1H, 3-H<sub>ax</sub>), 1.74 (m, 1H, 1-H<sub>eq</sub>), 1.75 (m, 1H, 5-H), 1.78 (m, 1H, 11-H), 1.80 (m, 1H, 7-H<sub>eq</sub>), 2.29 (td,  $2 \times J = 12.0$  Hz,  $J = 4.1$  Hz, 1H, 8-H), 2.32 (dd,  $J = 16.1$  Hz,  $J = 5.4$  Hz, 1H, 13-H), 2.46 (dd,  $J = 16.1$  Hz,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H, 13-H), 2.74 (sept,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 1H, 16-H), 3.00 (m, 1H, 12-H), 3.60 (s, 3H, 25-H), 3.61 (s, 3H, 23-H), 3.68 (s, 3H, 24-H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 14.1$  (q, C-19), 16.7 (q, C-20), 17.78 (q, C-17/C-18), 17.82 (t, C-2), 18.5 (q, C-18/C-17), 23.3 (t, C-6), 30.3 (t, C-7), 31.4 (t, C-11), 36.5 (t, C-13), 36.8 (t, C-3), 37.8 (s, C-10), 37.9 (t, C-1), 41.0 (d, C-16), 45.5 (d, C-12), 47.2 (d, C-8), 47.5 (s, C-4), 48.9 (d, C-5), 50.0 (d, C-9), 51.5 (q, C-25), 51.6 (q, C-24), 51.9 (q, C-23), 172.5 (s, C-14), 176.4 (s, C-22), 178.8 (s, C-21), 216.2 (s, C-15) ppm; MS (70 eV):  $m/z$  (%) = 452 (16) [M<sup>+</sup>], 409 (28), 381 (13), 321 (36), 289 (31), 235 (31), 158 (100), 71 (24), 43 (76); C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>40</sub>O<sub>7</sub> (452.6); calc.: C 66.35, H 8.91; found: C 66.26, H 8.97.

*Methyl-(1R-(1 $\alpha$ ,4 $\alpha$ ,4 $\beta$ ,4 $\beta$ ,6 $\beta$ ,8 $\alpha$ ,10 $\alpha$ ))-8a-formyl-1,4a-dimethyl-6-(2-methyl-1-oxopropyl)-8-oxo-perhydro-1-phenanthrene-carboxylate (5)*

Ozone was bubbled through a solution of 2.9 g (8.1 mmol) **2** in 120 ml dry AcOEt at  $-70^{\circ}\text{C}$  until the blue colour became persistent. The excess of ozone was removed by oxygen at this temperature, and 10 ml dimethylsulfide were added. This mixture was allowed to reach room temperature and was stirred for 24 h. The residue obtained after evaporation was dissolved in 300 ml Et<sub>2</sub>O, washed with brine, and dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The crude product was obtained after evaporation of the solvent and purified by CC over silica CH/AcOEt (3:1).

Yield: 3.0 g **5** (95%); white crystals (from CH); m.p.: 170–172°C;  $R_f = 0.34$  (CH/AcOEt = 3:1), 0.20 (CH/AcOEt = 6:1);  $[\alpha]_D^{20} = +128.1$  ( $c = 0.1$ , CHCl<sub>3</sub>); IR (KBr):  $\nu = 2948$  (s), 1731 (vs), 1712 (vs), 1697 (vs), 1469 (m), 1446 (m), 1244 (s) cm<sup>-1</sup>; UV (MeOH)  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  ( $\lg \epsilon$ ) = 203 (3.128), 316 (1.968) nm; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 0.84$  (s, 3H, 20-H), 1.02 (m, 1H, 1-H<sub>ax</sub>), 1.08 (d,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 3H, 18-H/19-H), 1.09 (d,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 3H, 19-H/18-H), 1.11 (s, 3H, 21-H), 1.23 (m, 1H, 6-H<sub>eq</sub>), 1.46 (m,  $3 \times J = 12.4$ –13.7 Hz,  $J = 3.3$  Hz, 1H, 6-H<sub>ax</sub>), 1.5–1.7 (m, 2H, 2-H), 1.54 (m, 1H, 3-H<sub>eq</sub>), 1.60 (m, 1H, 9-H), 1.61 (m, 1H, 7-H<sub>ax</sub>), 1.68 (m, 1H, 3-H<sub>ax</sub>), 1.71 (m, 1H, 1-H<sub>eq</sub>), 1.72 (m, 1H, 5-H), 1.92 (m, 1H, 11-H<sub>eq</sub>), 2.15 (q,  $3 \times J = 13.2$  Hz, 1H, 11-H<sub>ax</sub>), 2.37 (dt,  $J = 14.2$  Hz,  $2 \times J = 3.2$  Hz, 1H, 7-H<sub>eq</sub>), 2.45 (ddd,  $J = 14.1$  Hz,  $J = 4.2$  Hz,  $J_{11\text{eq},13\text{eq}} = 1.8$  Hz, 1H, 13-H<sub>eq</sub>), 2.73 (sept,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 1H, 17-H), 2.82 (dd,  $J = 14.1$  Hz,  $J = 13.1$  Hz, 1H, 13-H<sub>ax</sub>), 2.95 (tt,  $2 \times J = 12.0$ –13.0 Hz,  $2 \times J = 4.0$ –4.2 Hz, 1H, 12-H), 3.63 (s, 3H, 23-H), 9.99 (s, 1H, 15-H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 16.3$  (q, C-21), 16.6 (q, C-20), 17.8 (t, C-2), 18.1 (q, C-18/C-19), 18.4 (q, C-19/C-18), 21.0 (t, C-6), 22.5 (t, C-11), 28.9 (t, C-7), 36.6 (t, C-3), 38.1 (t, C-1), 38.5 (s, C-10), 39.4 (d, C-17), 42.1 (t, C-13), 47.4 (s, C-4), 48.2

(d, C-12), 49.6 (d, C-5), 51.9 (q, C-23), 59.9 (d, C-9), 66.7 (s, C-8), 178.5 (s, C-22), 199.5 (d, C-15), 204.1 (s, C-14), 213.2 (s, C-16) ppm; MS (70 eV):  $m/z$  (%) = 390 (7) [ $M^+$ ], 362 (34), 251 (78), 191 (100), 123 (66), 71 (44), 43 (96);  $C_{23}H_{34}O_5$  (390.5); calc.: C 70.74, H 8.78; found: C 70.65, H 8.76.

*Methyl-(1R-(1 $\alpha$ ,4 $\alpha$  $\beta$ ,4 $b\alpha$ ,6 $\beta$ ,8 $\alpha$  $\beta$ ,10 $\alpha$ ))-8 $\alpha$ -hydroxymethyl-1,4 $\alpha$ -dimethyl-6-(2-methyl-1-oxopropyl)-8-oxo-perhydro-1-phenanthren-carboxylate (6)*

To a solution of 1.0 g (2.6 mmol) **5** in dry *THF* at  $-70^\circ\text{C}$  under Ar, 5.5 ml (2.7 mmol) of a 0.5 M solution of lithium-*tris*-((3-ethyl-3-pentyl)-oxo)-aluminum hydride in *THF* were added dropwise within 2 h. This mixture was stirred for 4 h at  $-70^\circ\text{C}$ ; then a saturated aqueous solution of K-Na-tartrate was added. After addition of water and  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  this mixture was continuously extracted for 12 h with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ . The organic phase was dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  and evaporation yielded the crude product which was recrystallised from  $\text{CH}/\text{AcOEt}$  (6:1).

Yield: 930 mg **6** (91%); white crystals; m.p.:  $198\text{--}199^\circ\text{C}$ ;  $R_f = 0.33$  ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{MeOH} = 98:2$ );  $[\alpha]_D^{20} = +80.8$  ( $c = 0.1$ ,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ ); IR (KBr)  $\nu = 3450$  (s), 2931 (m), 1726 (vs), 1710 (s), 1697 (vs), 1460 (m), 1251 (m)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; UV (MeOH):  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  ( $\lg \epsilon$ ) = 203 (3.276), 284 (2.426) nm;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 0.80$  (s, 3H, 20-H), 0.92 (m, 1H, 1- $\text{H}_{\text{ax}}$ ), 1.04 (d,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 3H, 18-H/19-H), 1.05 (d,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 3H, 19-H/18-H), 1.08 (m, 1H, 6- $\text{H}_{\text{eq}}$ ), 1.09 (s, 3H, 21-H), 1.30 (m, 1H, 9-H), 1.35–1.7 (m, 2H, 2-H), 1.42 (m, 1H, 3- $\text{H}_{\text{eq}}$ ), 1.48 (m, 1H, 6- $\text{H}_{\text{ax}}$ ), 1.55–1.9 (m, 2H, 11-H), 1.58 (m, 1H, 7- $\text{H}_{\text{ax}}$ ), 1.61 (m, 1H, 5-H), 1.64 (m, 1H, 1- $\text{H}_{\text{eq}}$ ), 1.71 (m, 1H, 3- $\text{H}_{\text{ax}}$ ), 1.89 (m, 1H, 7- $\text{H}_{\text{eq}}$ ), 2.26 (m, 1H, 13- $\text{H}_{\text{eq}}$ ), 2.68 (sept,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 1H, 17-H), 2.74 (m, 1H, 13- $\text{H}_{\text{ax}}$ ), 2.84 (m, 1H, 12-H), 3.59 (s, 3H, 23-H), 3.86 (d,  $J = 11.3$  Hz, 1H, 15-H), 4.10 (d,  $J = 11.3$  Hz, 1H, 15-H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 16.2$  (q, C-21), 16.4 (q, C-20), 17.8 (t, C-2), 18.0 (q, C-18/C-19), 18.2 (q, C-19/C-18), 20.6 (t, C-6), 22.6 (t, C-11), 28.5 (t, C-7), 36.2 (t, C-3), 37.8 (s, C-10), 38.7 (t, C-1), 39.7 (d, C-17), 40.4 (t, C-13), 47.5 (s, C-4), 48.4 (d, C-12), 50.3 (d, C-5), 51.9 (q, C-23), 55.5 (s, C-8), 57.2 (d, C-9), 61.8 (t, C-15), 178.8 (s, C-22), 211.9 (s, C-14), 214.5 (s, C-16) ppm; MS (70 eV):  $m/z$  (%) = 392 (7) [ $M^+$ ], 362 (30), 319 (14), 303 (22), 181 (51), 121 (82), 71 (61), 43 (100);  $C_{23}H_{36}O_5$  (392.5); calc.: C 70.38, H 9.24; found: C 70.40, H 9.22.

*Methyl-(1R-(1 $\alpha$ ,4 $\alpha$  $\beta$ ,5 $\beta$ (2 $R^*$ ),8 $\alpha$ ))-5-(3-methoxycarbonyl-2-(2-methyl-1-oxoethyl)-propyl)-1,4 $\alpha$ -dimethyl-6-oxo-perhydro-1-naphthalene-carboxylate (7) and  
Methyl-(1R-(1 $\alpha$ ,4 $\alpha$  $\beta$ ,4 $b\alpha$ ,6 $\beta$ ,8 $\alpha$  $\beta$ ,10 $\alpha$ ))-1,4 $\alpha$ -dimethyl-6-(2-methyl-1-oxopropyl)-8-oxo-perhydro-1-phenanthrene carboxylate (8)*

To a solution of 3.4 g (8.7 mmol) **5** in 180 ml acetone, 20 ml *Jones* reagent (7 g  $\text{CrO}_3$  dissolved in 50 ml  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , cooled with ice, 6 ml  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  added) were added dropwise during 48 h at RT. The excess of reagent was destroyed with *i*-propanol, the mixture was filtered, and the solvent removed *in vacuo*. To the residue 40 ml 5% NaOH were added, and the mixture was extracted three times with  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ . The combined organic phases were washed with brine and dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ . Evaporation of the solvent gave the crude product which was purified by CC (silica,  $\text{CH}/\text{AcOEt}$  (4:1)) to afford 690 mg (22%) **8** (white crystals).

The aqueous phase was acidified with 2 N  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  and then extracted three times with  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ . The combined organic phases were washed with brine, dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ , and evaporated. The crude product was purified by CC over silica with  $\text{CH}/\text{AcOEt}$  (3:1) to afford 2.6 g (74%) **7** (colourless oil).

**7**:  $R_f = 0.29$  ( $\text{CH}/\text{AcOEt} = 3:1$ );  $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -29.6$  ( $c = 0.2$ ,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ ); IR (neat):  $\nu = 2949$  (s), 1713 (vs), 1436 (m), 1248 (s), 1169 (m)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; UV (MeOH):  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  ( $\lg \epsilon$ ) = 202 (3.428), 274 (2.408) nm;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 0.64$  (s, 3H, 19-H), 0.97 (s, 3H, 17-H/18-H), 1.03 (s, 3H, 18-H/17-H), 1.22 (td,  $2 \times J = 12.7\text{--}13.0$ ,  $J = 4.0$  Hz, 1H, 1- $\text{H}_{\text{ax}}$ ), 1.4–1.6 (m, 2H, 2-H), 1.49 (m, 1H, 11-H), 1.52 (m, 1H, 6- $\text{H}_{\text{eq}}$ ), 1.58 (m, 1H, 3- $\text{H}_{\text{eq}}$ ), 1.63 (m, 1H, 6- $\text{H}_{\text{ax}}$ ), 1.71 (m, 1H, 3- $\text{H}_{\text{ax}}$ ), 1.72 (m, 1H, 1- $\text{H}_{\text{eq}}$ ), 1.85 (ddd,  $J = 13.6$  Hz,  $J = 10.0$  Hz,  $J = 4.3$  Hz, 1H, 11-H), 2.03 (d,  $J = 9.8$  Hz, 1H, 9-H), 2.2–2.3 (m, 2H, 7-H),



2.25 (m, 1H, 5-H), 2.25 (m, 1H, 13-H), 2.59 (dd,  $J = 16.0$  Hz,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 1H, 13-H), 2.67 (sept,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 1H, 16-H), 3.08 (m, 1H, 12-H), 3.59 (s, 3H, 23-H), 3.63 (s, 3H, 22-H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 14.7$  (q, C-19), 16.5 (q, C-20), 17.7 (t, C-2), 17.9 (q, C-17/C-18), 18.1 (q, C-18/C-17), 23.4 (t, C-11), 25.8 (t, C-6), 36.8 (t, C-13), 36.9 (t, C-3), 37.9 (t, C-1), 40.2 (d, C-16), 41.8 (s, C-10), 41.9 (t, C-7), 44.3 (d, C-12), 47.3 (s, C-4), 48.5 (d, C-5), 51.5 (q, C-23), 52.0 (q, C-22), 61.2 (d, C-9), 172.1 (s, C-14), 178.5 (s, C-21), 210.3 (s, C-8), 216.1 (s, C-15) ppm; MS (FD):  $m/z$  (%) = 408 (100) [ $\text{M}^+$ ]; MS (70 eV):  $m/z$  (%) = 408 (31) [ $\text{M}^+$ ], 365 (39), 337 (8), 317 (62), 305 (76), 223 (62), 158 (68), 121 (84), 71 (48), 43 (100);  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{36}\text{O}_6$  (408.5); calc.: C 67.62, H 8.88; found: C 67.59, H 8.87.

**8:** M.p.:  $113^\circ\text{C}$ ;  $R_f = 0.39$  (CH/AcOEt = 4:1),  $[\alpha]_D^{20} = +50.5$  ( $c = 0.1$ ,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ ); IR (KBr):  $\nu = 2937$  (s), 1731 (vs), 1707 (vs), 1444 (m), 1244 (s), 1172 (m)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; UV (MeOH):  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  ( $\lg \epsilon$ ) = 217 (2.477), 295 (1.380) nm;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ ):  $\delta = 0.58$  (s, 3H, 19-H), 0.65 (td,  $2 \times J = 13.3$  Hz,  $J = 4.0$  Hz, 1H, 1- $\text{H}_{\text{ax}}$ ), 0.80 (td,  $2 \times J = 12.2$  Hz,  $J = 2.9$  Hz, 1H, 9-H), 0.87 (d,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 3H, 17-H/18-H), 0.91 (d,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 3H, 18-H/17-H), 1.1–1.3 (m, 2H, 6-H), 1.19 (m, 1H, 11- $\text{H}_{\text{ax}}$ ), 1.20 (s, 3H, 20-H), 1.2–1.4 (m, 2H, 2-H), 1.32 (m, 1, 1- $\text{H}_{\text{eq}}$ ), 1.49 (m, 1H, 3- $\text{H}_{\text{eq}}$ ), 1.54 (m, 1H, 7- $\text{H}_{\text{ax}}$ ), 1.58 (m, 1H, 11- $\text{H}_{\text{eq}}$ ), 1.68 (m, 1H, 5-H), 1.70 (m, 1H, 8-H), 1.74 (td,  $2 \times J = 13.0$  Hz,  $J = 4.4$  Hz, 1H, 3- $\text{H}_{\text{ax}}$ ), 1.95 (m, 1H, 7- $\text{H}_{\text{eq}}$ ), 2.24 (m, 1H, 16-H), 2.26 (m, 1H, 13- $\text{H}_{\text{ax}}$ ), 2.34 (ddd,  $J = 13.4$  Hz,  $J = 3.7$  Hz,  $J_{11\text{eq},13\text{eq}} = 2.0$  Hz, 1H, 13- $\text{H}_{\text{ax}}$ ), 2.42 (tt,  $2 \times J = 12.5$ – $12.6$  Hz,  $2 \times J = 3.4$ – $3.6$  Hz, 1H, 12-H), 3.36 (s, 3H, 22-H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ ):  $\delta = 13.9$  (q, C-19), 17.0 (q, C-20), 18.1 (q, C-17/C-18), 18.29 (q, C-18/C-17), 18.34 (t, C-2), 23.4 (t, C-6), 26.5 (t, C-7), 27.2 (t, C-11), 36.9 (s, C-10), 37.2 (t, C-3), 38.2 (t, C-1), 39.5 (d, C-16), 43.2 (t, C-13), 47.6 (s, C-4), 47.7 (d, C-12), 48.7 (d, C-8), 49.0 (d, C-5), 51.5 (q, C-22), 55.1 (d, C-9), 178.3 (s, C-21), 209.2 (s, C-14), 212.6 (s, C-15) ppm; MS (70 eV):  $m/z$  (%) = 362 (50) [ $\text{M}^+$ ], 319 (41), 303 (48), 291 (22), 259 (46), 231 (36), 181 (54), 123 (70), 71 (60), 43 (100);  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{34}\text{O}_4$  (362.5); calc.: C 72.89, H 9.45; found: C 72.80, H 9.45.

*Methyl-(4 $\alpha$ ,13S,14R)-13,14-dihydroxy-13-(1-methylethyl)-15-oxo-17,19-dinoratisan-4-carboxylate (9)*

A mixture of 480 mg (4.3 mmol) trimethylamine-N-oxide dihydrate, 0.3 ml pyridine, 2 ml  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , 10 ml *tert*-butanol, and 1.0 g (2.8 mmol) **2** under Ar was heated to  $100^\circ\text{C}$ . During 4 days, 64 mg (0.25 mmol)  $\text{OsO}_4$  dissolved in 3 ml *tert*-butanol were added in small portions. After cooling to RT, 15 ml 20%  $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_5$  solution were added and the solvent was evaporated. The residue was mixed with  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  and extracted continuously with  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  during 12 h. The organic phase was dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ , the solvent evaporated, and the residue crystallized from CH/AcOEt (3:1).

Yield: 945 mg **9** (86%); colourless crystals ( $\text{CHCl}_3$ ); m.p.:  $219^\circ\text{C}$ ;  $R_f = 0.15$  (CH/AcOEt = 2:1);  $[\alpha]_D^{20} = +37.0$  ( $c = 0.1$ ,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ ); IR (KBr):  $\nu = 3515$  (m), 3403 (s), 2950 (s), 1729 (vs), 1712 (vs), 1469 (m), 1246 (s)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; UV (MeOH):  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  ( $\lg \epsilon$ ) = 201 (3.119), 265 (1.913) nm;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 0.94$  (m, 1H, 1- $\text{H}_{\text{ax}}$ ), 0.95 (d,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 6H, 18-H u. 19-H), 1.03 (s, 3H, 20-H), 1.09 (m, 1H, 6- $\text{H}_{\text{eq}}$ ), 1.16 (s, 3H, 21-H), 1.41 (m, 1H, 6- $\text{H}_{\text{ax}}$ ), 1.45–1.6 (m, 2H, 2-H), 1.49 (m, 1H, 9-H), 1.54 (m, 1H, 3- $\text{H}_{\text{eq}}$ ), 1.56 (m, 1H, 11- $\text{H}_\beta$ ), 1.58 (m, 1H, 1- $\text{H}_{\text{eq}}$ ), 1.63 (m, 1H, 5-H), 1.67 (m, 1H, 7- $\text{H}_{\text{ax}}$ ), 1.67 (m, 1H, 11- $\text{H}_\alpha$ ), 1.68 (m, 1H, 3- $\text{H}_{\text{ax}}$ ), 2.00 (m, 1H, 7- $\text{H}_{\text{eq}}$ ), 2.03 (m, 1H, 16- $\text{H}_\alpha$ ), 2.05 (m, 1H, 17-H), 2.42 ( $s_{\text{br}}$ , 1H, 12-H), 2.51 (d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 1H, 14-OH), 2.55 ( $s_{\text{br}}$ , 1H, 13-OH), 2.73 (ddd,  $J = 18.6$  Hz,  $J = 3.7$  Hz,  $J_{11\beta,16\beta} = 2.7$  Hz, 1H, 16- $\text{H}_\beta$ ), 3.62 (s, 3H, 23-H), 3.97 (d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 1H, 14-H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 16.0$  (q, C-18/C-19), 16.2 (q, C-20), 16.4 (q, C-19/C-18), 16.8 (q, C-21), 17.3 (t, C-2), 20.6 (t, C-6), 21.6 (t, C-11), 24.4 (t, C-7), 33.4 (d, C-17), 34.3 (d, C-12), 36.4 (t, C-3), 37.9 (s, C-10), 38.6 (t, C-16), 38.9 (t, C-1), 47.08 (d, C-9), 47.12 (s, C-4), 49.3 (d, C-5), 52.0 (t, C-23), 52.5 (s, C-8), 72.0 (d, C-14), 73.8 (s, C-13), 178.9 (s, C-22), 214.8 (s, C-15) ppm; MS (FD):  $m/z$  (%) = 393 (100) [ $(\text{M}+1)^+$ ], 374 (51), 331 (95); MS (70 eV):  $m/z$  (%) = 374 (1), 349 (4), 331 (100), 181 (21), 121 (42), 43 (22);  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{36}\text{O}_5$  (392.5); calc.: C 70.38, H 9.24; found: C 70.29, H 9.25.

*Methyl-(4 $\alpha$ ,8 $\alpha$ ,12 $\alpha$ ,14R,16 $\alpha$ )-14-chloro-14-cyano-16,17-epoxy-17,17-dimethyl-15-oxo-19-noratisan-4-carboxylate (10) and Methyl-(4 $\alpha$ ,15 $\beta$ )-13-acetyl-15-chloro-15-cyano-17,19-dinoratis-13-en-4-carboxylate (11)*

*tert*-Butylchromate solution: 6.8 g CrO<sub>3</sub> were dissolved in a mixture of 60 ml dry THF, 20 ml *tert*-butanol, 10 ml acetic acid, and 3 ml acetic anhydride. 65 ml of this solution and 2.0 g (5.0 mmol) **1** in 40 ml abs. CCl<sub>4</sub> were refluxed under Ar for 24 h. An additional portion of 20 ml *tert*-butylchromate solution was added, and refluxing was continued for 24 h. After cooling to RT, 100 ml ice water and 200 ml CHCl<sub>3</sub> were added, and the aqueous layer was extracted three times with CHCl<sub>3</sub>. The combined organic phases were washed with H<sub>2</sub>O, 5% NaOH, and H<sub>2</sub>O, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and evaporated. The components of the crude product were separated by CC over silica with CH/AcOEt (4:1). Yield: 1.6 g (74%) **10** (white crystals) and 420 mg **11** (21%).

**10**: M.p.: 172–173°C;  $R_f = 0.21$  (CH/AcOEt = 4:1), 0.28 (CH/AcOEt = 3:1);  $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -82.1$  ( $c = 0.1$ , CHCl<sub>3</sub>); IR (KBr):  $\nu = 2934$  (s), 2237 (w), 1732 (vs), 1447 (m), 1256 (s), 1179 (s) cm<sup>-1</sup>; UV (MeOH):  $\lambda_{max}$  ( $lg\epsilon$ ) = 204 (3.763), 316 (1.781) nm; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 0.60$  (s, 3H, 20-H), 1.05 (m, 1H, 1-H<sub>ax</sub>), 1.07 (s, 3H, 21-H), 1.15 (m, 1H, 6-H<sub>eq</sub>), 1.32 (m, 1H, 7-H<sub>ax</sub>), 1.33 (m, 1H, 6-H<sub>ax</sub>), 1.40 (s, 3H, 18-H), 1.4–1.6 (m, 2H, 2-H), 1.45 (s, 3H, 19-H), 1.49 (m, 1H, 3-H<sub>eq</sub>), 1.59 (m, 1H, 1-H<sub>eq</sub>), 1.73 (m, 1H, 5-H), 1.75 (m, 1H, 3-H<sub>ax</sub>), 1.75 (m, 1H, 11-H $\beta$ ), 1.95 (td,  $2 \times J = 11.0$ – $14.0$  Hz,  $J = 3.0$  Hz, 1H, 11-H $\alpha$ ), 2.08 (m, 1H, 12-H), 2.12 (m, 1H, 9-H), 2.61 (m, 1H, 7-H<sub>eq</sub>), 2.66 (dt,  $J = 16.0$  Hz,  $J = 2.5$  Hz,  $J_{11\beta,16\beta} = 2.5$  Hz, 1H, 16-H $\beta$ ), 2.87 (dd,  $J = 16.0$  Hz,  $J = 3.1$  Hz, 1H, 16-H $\alpha$ ), 3.64 (s, 3H, 24-H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 14.0$  (q, C-20), 16.6 (q, C-21), 17.3 (t, C-2), 18.7 (q, C-18/C-19), 20.9 (q, C-19/C-18), 21.0 (t, C-6), 23.6 (t, C-11), 27.1 (t, C-7), 32.5 (d, C-12), 36.2 (t, C-3), 37.1 (t, C-1), 37.9 (s, C-10), 42.9 (t, C-16), 46.9 (s, C-4), 48.5 (d, C-9), 48.7 (d, C-5), 52.0 (q, C-24), 55.6 (q, C-8), 62.7 (s, C-15), 67.1 (s, C-13), 67.7 (s, C-17), 118.5 (s, C-23), 178.3 (s, C-22), 205.8 (s, C-14) ppm; MS (70 eV):  $m/z$  (%) = 435 (8) [(M+2)<sup>+</sup>], 433 (25) [M<sup>+</sup>], 346 (100), 217 (35), 165 (81), 55 (28), 41 (42); C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>32</sub>ClNO<sub>4</sub> (434.0); calc.: C 66.42, H 7.43, N 3.23; found: C 66.50, H 7.42, N 3.31.

**11**: M.p.: 212°C;  $R_f = 0.28$  (CH/AcOEt = 9:1), 0.42 (CH/AcOEt = 3:1);  $[\alpha]_D^{20} = 8.4$  ( $c = 0.2$ , CHCl<sub>3</sub>); IR (KBr):  $\nu = 2942$  (s), 2236 (w), 1713 (vs), 1674 (vs), 1387 (m), 1263 (s), 1184 (m) cm<sup>-1</sup>; UV (MeOH):  $\lambda_{max}$  ( $lg\epsilon$ ) = 233 (4.103) nm; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 0.49$  (s, 3H, 19-H), 0.98 (m, 1H, 1-H<sub>ax</sub>), 1.11 (s, 3H, 20-H), 1.13 (m, 1H, 11-H $\beta$ ), 1.30 (m, 1H, 6-H<sub>eq</sub>), 1.3–1.5 (m, 2H, 2-H), 1.36 (m, 1H, 1-H<sub>eq</sub>), 1.48 (m, 1H, 3-H<sub>eq</sub>), 1.53 (m, 1H, 6-H<sub>ax</sub>), 1.62 (m, 1H, 11-H $\alpha$ ), 1.71 (m, 1H, 3-H<sub>ax</sub>), 1.78 (m, 1H, 5-H), 1.82 (m, 1H, 7-H<sub>ax</sub>), 1.90 (m, 1H, 9-H), 1.92 (dt,  $J = 14.9$  Hz,  $J = 3.2$  Hz,  $J_{11\beta,16\beta} = 3.2$  Hz, 1H, 16-H $\beta$ ), 2.30 (dt,  $J = 13.4$  Hz,  $2 \times J = 2.9$ – $3.5$  Hz, 1H, 7-H<sub>eq</sub>), 2.30 (s, 3H, 18-H), 2.50 (dd,  $J = 14.9$  Hz,  $J = 2.2$  Hz, 1H, 16-H $\alpha$ ), 3.40 (m, 1H, 12-H), 3.64 (s, 3H, 23-H), 6.68 (s<sub>br</sub>, 1H, 14-H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 16.1$  (q, C-19), 16.7 (q, C-20), 17.0 (t, C-2), 21.3 (t, C-6), 24.9 (q, C-18), 26.4 (t, C-11), 27.2 (d, C-12), 31.9 (t, C-7), 36.3 (t, C-3), 37.7 (t, C-1), 37.9 (s, C-10), 46.4 (t, C-16), 46.9 (s, C-4), 47.6 (s, C-8), 48.5 (d, C-5), 50.1 (d, C-9), 52.0 (q, C-23), 64.3 (s, C-15), 119.4 (s, C-22), 142.4 (d, C-14), 144.0 (s, C-13), 178.5 (s, C-21), 194.3 (s, C-17) ppm; MS (70 eV):  $m/z$  (%) = 405 (15) [(M+2)<sup>+</sup>], 403 (44) [M<sup>+</sup>], 388 (6), 344 (7), 316 (37), 256 (31), 181 (24), 123 (40), 43 (100); C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>30</sub>ClNO<sub>3</sub> (403.9); calc.: C 68.39, H 7.49, N 3.47; found: C 68.44, H 7.43, N 3.51.

*Methyl-(4 $\alpha$ ,8 $\alpha$ ,12 $\alpha$ ,16 $\alpha$ )-16,17-epoxy-17,17-dimethyl-14,15-dioxo-19-noratisan-4-carboxylate (12)*

The same procedure as described for **10** and **11** has been used. Typical quantities: 1.9 g (5.3 mmol) **2** in 40 ml abs. THF, 70 ml *tert*-butylchromate solution; CC: silica, CH/AcOEt (3:1).

Yield: 1.7 g **12** (83%); white crystals; m.p.: 142°C;  $R_f = 0.38$  (CH/AcOEt = 3:1);  $[\alpha]_D^{20} = +24.7$  ( $c = 0.5$ , CHCl<sub>3</sub>); IR (KBr):  $\nu = 2952$  (s), 1736 (vs), 1720 (vs), 1706 (vs), 1394 (m), 1235 (s), 1106 (m) cm<sup>-1</sup>; UV (MeOH):  $\lambda_{max}$  ( $lg\epsilon$ ) = 203 (3.861), 282 (2.520) nm; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 0.67$  (s,

3H, 20-H), 0.95 (m, 1H, 1-H<sub>ax</sub>), 1.08 (s, 3H, 21-H), 1.11 (m, 1H, 6-H<sub>eq</sub>), 1.36 (qd,  $3 \times J = 12.6$ – $13.6$  Hz,  $J = 3.9$  Hz, 1H, 6-H<sub>ax</sub>), 1.45–1.65 (m, 2H, 2-H), 1.48 (s, 3H, 9-H), 1.49 (s, 3H, 18-H), 1.52 (m, 1H, 3-H<sub>eq</sub>), 1.52 (ddd,  $J = 13.2$  Hz,  $J = 4.9$  Hz,  $J = 3.5$  Hz, 1H, 1-H<sub>eq</sub>), 1.65 (m, 1H, 3-H<sub>ax</sub>), 1.66 (m, 1H, 5-H), 1.68 (td,  $2 \times J = 13.9$ – $14.1$  Hz,  $J = 5.1$  Hz, 1H, 7-H<sub>ax</sub>), 1.79 (dd,  $J = 11.5$  Hz,  $J = 5.8$  Hz, 1H, 9-H), 1.88 (dddd,  $J = 14.4$  Hz,  $J = 5.8$  Hz,  $J = 3.0$  Hz,  $J_{11\beta,16\beta} = 2.5$  Hz, 1H, 11-H $\beta$ ), 1.98 (ddd,  $J = 14.4$  Hz,  $J = 11.5$  Hz,  $J = 3.0$  Hz, 1H, 11-H $\alpha$ ), 2.25 (ddd,  $J = 14.1$  Hz,  $J = 3.8$  Hz,  $J = 2.7$  Hz, 1H, 7-H<sub>eq</sub>), 2.34 (quint,  $J = 3.0$  Hz, 1H, 12-H), 2.50 (dd,  $J = 19.4$  Hz,  $J = 3.0$  Hz, 1H, 16-H $\alpha$ ), 2.55 (ddd,  $J = 19.4$  Hz,  $J = 3.0$  Hz,  $J_{11\beta,16\beta} = 2.5$  Hz, 1H, 16-H $\beta$ ), 3.61 (s, 3H, 23-H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 13.8$  (q, C-20), 16.5 (q, C-21), 17.4 (t, C-2), 18.7 (q, C-19), 20.5 (t, C-6), 20.6 (q, C-18), 22.2 (t, C-7), 24.1 (t, C-11), 31.5 (d, C-12), 36.5 (t, C-3), 37.2 (t, C-1), 38.5 (s, C-10), 40.3 (t, C-16), 47.0 (s, C-4), 48.8 (d, C-5), 49.1 (d, C-9), 52.0 (q, C-23), 67.4 (s, C-17), 68.4 (s, C-13), 69.0 (s, C-8), 178.5 (s, C-22), 204.9 (s, C-14), 205.9 (s, C-15) ppm; MS (70 eV):  $m/z$  (%) = 388 (37) [M<sup>+</sup>], 360 (42), 329 (56), 300 (48), 121 (100), 41 (81); C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>32</sub>O<sub>5</sub> (388.5); calc.: C 71.11, H 8.30; found: C 71.15, H 8.26.

*Methyl-(4 $\alpha$ ,8 $\alpha$ ,12 $\alpha$ ,16 $\alpha$ )-16,17-epoxy-17,17-dimethyl-14,15-dioxo-14 $\alpha$ -homo-14a-oxa-19-noratisan-4-carboxylate (13)*

A mixture of 240 mg (0.62 mmol) **12**, 600 mg *mCPBA* (93%, dried over P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>) in 7 ml abs. 1,2-dichloroethane, and 140 mg freshly distilled CF<sub>3</sub>COOH dissolved in 2 ml abs. 1,2-dichloroethane under Ar was stirred for 22 h at RT and in the absence of light. Then additional 400 mg *mCPBA* in 2 ml 1,2-dichloroethane were added and the mixture was stirred for further 4 days. 100 ml Et<sub>2</sub>O were added, and this mixture was washed twice with 1% KI, three times with 10% Na<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, twice with 5% NaOH, and once with brine, and dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. Evaporation and recrystallization from CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/AcOEt (1:1) yielded 235 mg (94%) **13** as white crystals.

M.p.: 171°C;  $R_f = 0.27$  (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH = 60:1);  $[\alpha]_D^{20} = +5.7$  ( $c = 0.1$ , CHCl<sub>3</sub>); IR (KBr):  $\nu = 2940$  (s), 1729 (vs), 1464 (m), 1241 (s), 1186 (m) cm<sup>-1</sup>; UV (MeOH):  $\lambda_{max}$  (lg $\epsilon$ ) = 204 (3.804), 321 (2.104) nm; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 0.65$  (s, 3H, 20-H), 1.04 (m, 1H, 1-H<sub>ax</sub>), 1.09 (s, 3H, 21-H), 1.12–1.25 (m, 2H, 6-H), 1.40 (s, 3H, 19-H), 1.47 (s, 3H, 18-H), 1.5–1.6 (m, 2H, 2-H), 1.55 (m, 1H, 3-H<sub>eq</sub>), 1.57 (m, 1H, 7-H<sub>ax</sub>), 1.65 (m, 1H, 1-H<sub>eq</sub>), 1.68 (m, 1H, 3-H<sub>ax</sub>), 1.88 (dd,  $J = 11.4$  Hz,  $J = 3.2$  Hz, 1H, 5-H), 2.04 (m, 2H, 11-H), 2.13 (sbr, 1H, 12-H), 2.37 (t,  $J = 2.37$  Hz, 1H, 9-H), 2.80 (dt,  $J = 13.5$  Hz,  $2 \times J = 3.3$  Hz, 1H, 7-H<sub>eq</sub>), 2.90 (dd,  $J = 19.0$  Hz,  $J = 5.2$  Hz, 1H, 16-H $\alpha$ ), 3.01 (dbr,  $J = 19.0$  Hz, 1H, 16-H $\beta$ ), 3.63 (s, 3H, 23-H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 14.0$  (q, C-20), 16.8 (q, C-21), 17.2 (t, C-2), 18.8 (q, C-19), 20.7 (q, C-18), 21.4 (t, C-6), 23.8 (t, C-11), 30.1 (d, C-12), 32.0 (t, C-7), 36.4 (t, C-3), 37.3 (t, C-1), 38.68 (t, C-16), 38.70 (s, C-4), 46.9 (s, C-10), 48.4 (d, C-5), 51.2 (d, C-9), 52.0 (q, C-23), 68.3 (s, C-13), 69.5 (s, C-17), 85.0 (s, C-8), 169.8 (s, C-15), 178.3 (s, C-22), 199.9 (s, C-14) ppm; MS (70 eV):  $m/z$  (%) = 404 (16) [M<sup>+</sup>], 376 (69), 360 (48), 251 (55), 223 (88), 121 (100), 41 (95); C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>32</sub>O<sub>6</sub> (404.5); calc.: C 68.29, H 7.97; found: C 68.11, H 7.92.

*Methyl-(4 $\alpha$ ,13R,15 $\alpha$ )-15-chloro-15-cyano-13-hydroxy-13-(1-methylvinyl)-14-oxo-17,19-dinoratisan-4-carboxylate (14)*

A solution of 860 mg (1.98 mmol) **10** in 20 ml 90% formic acid and 2 ml 85% H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> was heated to 100°C for 15 h. After cooling, 100 ml ice water were added and the mixture was extracted three times with Et<sub>2</sub>O. The combined organic phases were washed with 5% NaOH until the aqueous phase remained basic. After washing with brine, the ethereal solution was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and the solvent was evaporated; CC: silica (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/AcOEt = 3:1).

Yield: 660 mg **14** (77%); pale yellow crystals; m.p.: 84°C,  $R_f = 0.29$  (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/AcOEt = 3:1);  $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -108.6$  ( $c = 0.1$ , CHCl<sub>3</sub>); IR (KBr):  $\nu = 3454$  (s), 2928 (s), 1728 (vs), 1450 (m), 1255 (s), 1031 (m) cm<sup>-1</sup>; UV (MeOH):  $\lambda_{max}$  (lg $\epsilon$ ) = 204 (3.419), 291 (1.972) nm; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 0.57$

(s, 3H, 20-H), 1.02 (m, 1H, 1-H<sub>ax</sub>), 1.08 (s, 3H, 21-H), 1.20 (m, 2H, 6-H), 1.35–1.55 (m, 2H, 2-H), 1.42 (m, 1H, 7-H<sub>ax</sub>), 1.49 (m, 1H, 3-H<sub>eq</sub>), 1.52 (m, 1H, 1-H<sub>eq</sub>), 1.52 (m, 1H, 11-H<sub>β</sub>), 1.70 (m, 1H, 3-H<sub>ax</sub>), 1.71 (m, 1H, 5-H), 1.76 (m, 1H, 11-H<sub>α</sub>), 1.82 (s, 3H, 19-H), 2.03 (m, 1H, 9-H), 2.47 (s<sub>br</sub>, 1H, 12-H), 2.63 (dd,  $J = 15.5$  Hz,  $J = 2.4$  Hz, 1H, 16-H<sub>α</sub>), 3.03 (dt,  $J = 15.5$  Hz,  $J = 3.0$  Hz,  $J_{11\beta,16\beta} = 3.0$  Hz, 1H, 16-H<sub>β</sub>), 3.60 (s, 3H, 24-H), 5.15 (m, 2H, 18-H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 15.5$  (q, C-20), 16.8 (q, C-21), 17.3 (t, C-2), 18.9 (q, C-19), 21.1 (t, C-6), 22.3 (t, C-11), 27.0 (t, C-7), 33.7 (d, C-12), 36.2 (t, C-3), 37.4 (s, C-10), 37.7 (t, C-1), 39.4 (t, C-16), 46.7 (s, C-4), 47.9 (d, C-5), 49.1 (d, C-9), 52.0 (q, C-24), 54.0 (s, C-8), 64.1 (s, C-15), 76.6 (s, C-13), 118.2 (t, C-18), 119.0 (s, C-23), 141.4 (s, C-17), 178.4 (s, C-22), 209.3 (s, C-14) ppm; MS (FD):  $m/z = 433$  (100) [M<sup>+</sup>], 405 (11), 369 (12); MS (70 eV):  $m/z = 433$  (0.5) [M<sup>+</sup>], 405 (3), 369 (100), 121 (53), 69 (59), 41 (55); C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>32</sub>ClNO<sub>4</sub> (434.0); calc.: C 66.42, H 7.43, N 3.23; found: C 66.41, H 7.43, N 3.25.

*Methyl-(4 $\alpha$ ,13R,15 $\alpha$ )-13-acetyl-15-chloro-15-cyano-13-hydroxy-14-oxo-17,19-dinoratisan-4-carboxylate (15)*

A solution of 310 mg (0.71 mmol) **14** in 70 ml abs. MeOH was treated with ozone at  $-70^\circ\text{C}$  until it turned blue. The excess of ozone was removed by oxygen at this temperature, and 7 ml (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>S were added. This mixture was allowed to reach RT. Evaporation of the solvent and recrystallization from CH/acetone (7:1) gave 130 mg (42%) **15** as white crystals. M.p.: 169–170°C;  $R_f = 0.22$  (CH/AcOEt = 3:1),  $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -153.7$  ( $c = 0.1$ , CHCl<sub>3</sub>); IR (KBr):  $\nu = 3492$  (s), 2955 (s), 1726 (vs), 1435 (m), 1247 (s), 1181 (m) cm<sup>-1</sup>; UV (MeOH):  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  ( $\lg \epsilon$ ) = 203 (3.279), 331 (1.867) nm; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 0.50$  (s, 3H, 19-H), 0.99 (td,  $2 \times J = 12.8$  Hz,  $J = 3.7$  Hz, 1H, 1-H<sub>ax</sub>), 1.10 (s, 3H, 20-H), 1.22 (m, 1H, 6-H<sub>eq</sub>), 1.35–1.55 (m, 2H, 2-H), 1.40 (qd,  $3 \times J = 12.5$  Hz,  $J = 3.5$  Hz, 1H, 6-H<sub>ax</sub>), 1.44 (m, 1H, 7-H<sub>ax</sub>), 1.54 (m, 1H, 3-H<sub>eq</sub>), 1.55 (m, 1H, 1-H<sub>eq</sub>), 1.68 (td,  $2 \times J = 13.0$  Hz,  $J = 4.0$  Hz, 1H, 3-H<sub>ax</sub>), 1.72 (m, 1H, 5-H), 1.8–2.0 (m, 2H, 11-H), 2.07 (dd,  $J = 11.7$  Hz,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 1H, 9-H), 2.37 (s, 3H, 18-H), 2.58 (m, 1H, 7-H<sub>eq</sub>), 2.60 (s<sub>br</sub>, 1H, 12-H), 2.70 (dd,  $J = 15.7$  Hz,  $J = 2.3$  Hz, 1H, 16-H<sub>α</sub>), 3.00 (dt,  $J = 15.7$  Hz,  $J = 2.8$  Hz,  $J_{11\beta,16\beta} = 2.8$  Hz, 1H, 16-H<sub>β</sub>), 3.18 (s<sub>br</sub>, 1H, 13-OH), 3.64 (s, 3H, 23-H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 14.5$  (q, C-19), 16.8 (q, C-20), 17.3 (t, C-2), 21.0 (t, C-6), 22.0 (t, C-11), 24.9 (q, C-18), 27.2 (t, C-7), 32.9 (d, C-12), 36.3 (t, C-3), 37.6 (t, C-1), 37.8 (s, C-10), 40.6 (t, C-16), 46.8 (s, C-4), 48.1 (d, C-5), 49.4 (d, C-9), 52.1 (q, C-23), 54.6 (s, C-8), 63.7 (s, C-15), 80.2 (s, C-13), 118.4 (s, C-22), 178.4 (s, C-21), 201.3 (s, C-17), 209.4 (s, C-14) ppm; MS (70 eV):  $m/z$  (%) = 437 (10) [(M+2)]<sup>+</sup>, 435 (26) [M<sup>+</sup>], 393 (82), 306 (63), 43 (100); C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>30</sub>ClNO<sub>5</sub> (436.0); calc.: C 63.37, H 6.94, N 3.21; found: C 63.12, H 6.94, N 3.15.

*Dimethyl-(3R-(1-3''R\*,4''aS\*,4''bR\*,8''R\*,8''aR\*)-3 $\alpha$ ,4 $\alpha\beta$ ,4b $\alpha$ ,8 $\beta$ ,8 $\alpha\beta$ )-4b,4''b,8,8''-tetramethyl-3,3''-di-(2-methyl-1-oxopropyl)-perhydro-dispiro[phenanthreno-1(2H),3'-(1,2,4,5)]tetroxan-6',1''(2''H)-phenanthren)-8,8''-dicarboxylate (16)*

*Bis*-(trimethylsilyl)-peroxide was prepared according to the literature [26, 34]. 16 mg (0.07 mmol) trimethylsilyltrifluoromethan sulfonate were dissolved in 3 ml abs. CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> under extreme dry conditions and cooled to  $-50^\circ\text{C}$ . At this temperature, 500 mg *bis*-(trimethylsilyl)-peroxide and a cold ( $-50^\circ\text{C}$ ) solution of 200 mg **8** in 1 ml abs. CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> were added. This mixture was kept for two days at  $-22^\circ\text{C}$ , and after the first day another portion of 200 mg peroxide and 16 mg trimethylsilyltrifluoromethan sulfonate was added. After pouring onto 20 ml ice cold saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution, extraction with three portions of Et<sub>2</sub>O, washing with H<sub>2</sub>O, drying of the combined organic phases, evaporation and recrystallization from CH/AcOEt (2:1), 190 mg **16** (91%) were obtained.

M.p.: 223–225°C;  $R_f = 0.43$  (CH/AcOEt) = 3:1), 0.62 (CH/AcOEt = 2:1); IR (KBr):  $\nu = 2938$  (m), 1727 (vs), 1712 (vs), 1453 (m), 1250 (s), 1145 (m) cm<sup>-1</sup>; UV (MeOH):  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  ( $\lg \epsilon$ ) = 203 (3.896), 264 (2.724) nm; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta = 0.53$  (s, 3H, 19-H), 0.66 (m, 1H, 1-H<sub>ax</sub>), 1.07 (d,

$J = 6.9$  Hz, 3H, 17-H/18-H), 1.08 (d,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 3H, 18-H/17-H), 1.1–1.3 (m, 2H, 6-H), 1.14 (s, 3H, 20-H), 1.15–1.3 (m, 2H, 2-H), 1.21 (m, 1H, 11-H<sub>ax</sub>), 1.32 (m, 1H, 1-H<sub>eq</sub>), 1.33 (m, 1H, 9-H), 1.47 (d<sub>br</sub>,  $J = 12.7$  Hz, 1H, 3-H<sub>eq</sub>), 1.58 (m, 1H, 8-H), 1.64 (m, 1H, 7-H<sub>ax</sub>), 1.64 (m, 1H, 13-H<sub>ax</sub>), 1.69 (m, 1H, 3-H<sub>ax</sub>), 1.69 (m, 1H, 11-H<sub>eq</sub>), 1.78 (dd,  $J = 11.7$  Hz,  $J = 2.9$  Hz, 1H, 5-H), 2.13 (m, 1H, 7-H<sub>eq</sub>), 2.57 (sept,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 1H, 17-H), 2.96 (tt,  $2 \times J = 12.2$ – $12.5$  Hz,  $2 \times J = 3.0$  Hz, 1H, 12-H), 3.34 (s, 3H, 22-H), 3.61 (d<sub>br</sub>,  $J = 13.5$  Hz, 1H, 13-H<sub>eq</sub>) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta = 13.8$  (q, C-19), 17.0 (q, C-20), 18.2 (t, C-2), 18.3 (q, C-17/C-18), 18.4 (q, C-18/C-17), 23.8 (t, C-6), 25.0 (t, C-7), 27.3 (t, C-11), 33.2 (t, C-13), 36.8 (s, C-10), 37.1 (t, C-3), 38.1 (t, C-1), 40.1 (d, C-16), 43.3 (s, C-8), 43.7 (d, C-12), 47.5 (s, C-4), 49.1 (d, C-5), 49.9 (d, C-9), 51.4 (q, C-22), 109.6 (s, C-14), 178.3 (s, C-21), 214.1 (s, C-15) ppm; MS (FD):  $m/z$  (%) = 795 (5) [(M+K)<sup>+</sup>], 779 (30) [(M+Na)<sup>+</sup>], 394 (25), 378 (8), 362 (100); MS (70 eV);  $m/z$  (%) = 712 (0.3), 668 (1), 394 (1), 362 (31), 319 (30), 291 (22), 181 (38), 123 (58), 71 (71), 43 (100); C<sub>44</sub>H<sub>68</sub>O<sub>10</sub> (757.0); calc.: C 69.81, H 9.05, O 21.13; found: C 69.68, H 9.14, O 21.09.

*(4R-(4 $\alpha$ ,4a $\alpha$ ,6a $\alpha$ ,9 $\alpha$ ,10 $\alpha$ ,11a $\alpha$ ,11b $\beta$ ))-4-Methoxycarbonyl-10-(methoxycarbonyl-methyl)-4,11b-dimethyl-9-(1-methylethyl)-perhydro-6a,9-epoxy-2H-naphtho[2,1-c][1,2]dioxepin (17)*

The same procedure has been used as described for **16**. Typical quantities: 200 mg (0.49 mmol) **7** in 1 ml abs. CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 220 mg *bis*-(trimethylsilyl)-peroxide, 16 mg (0.07 mmol) trimethylsilyltrifluoromethan sulfonate in 3 ml abs. CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>; reaction time: 7 days ( $-22^\circ\text{C}$ ); CC: silica, CH/AcOEt = 4:1.

Yield: 160 mg **17** (77%); colourless oil;  $R_f = 0.45$  (CH/AcOEt = 4:1), 0.60 (CH/AcOEt = 2:1);  $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -4.4$  ( $c = 0.1$ , CHCl<sub>3</sub>); IR (neat):  $\nu = 2948$  (s), 1729 (vs), 1435 (m), 1244 (s), 1164 (m) cm<sup>-1</sup>; UV (MeOH):  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  (lg $\epsilon$ ) = 203 (3.059) nm;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 0.91$  (d,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 3H, 17-H/18-H), 0.95 (d,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 3H, 18-H/17-H), 0.95 (m, 1H, 1-H<sub>ax</sub>), 0.96 (s, 3H, 19-H), 1.12 (s, 3H, 20-H), 1.21 (m, 1H, 6-H<sub>eq</sub>), 1.37 (m, 1H, 11-H $\alpha$ ), 1.45 (m, 1H, 6-H<sub>ax</sub>), 1.45–1.6 (m, 2H, 2-H), 1.57 (m, 1H, 1-H<sub>eq</sub>), 1.57 (m, 1H, 3-H<sub>eq</sub>), 1.62 (m, 1H, 9-H), 1.68 (m, 1H, 3-H<sub>ax</sub>), 1.80 (dd,  $J = 12.2$  Hz,  $J = 1.9$  Hz, 1H, 5-H), 1.85 (ddd,  $J = 13.9$  Hz,  $J = 4.2$  Hz,  $J = 2.4$  Hz, 1H, 7-H<sub>eq</sub>), 1.92 (td,  $2 \times J = 13.8$ – $13.9$  Hz,  $J = 5.4$  Hz, 1H, 7-H<sub>ax</sub>), 2.06 (sept,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 1H, 16-H), 2.61 (td,  $2 \times J = 12.9$ – $13.0$  Hz,  $J = 5.7$  Hz, 1H, 11-H $\beta$ ), 2.38 (dd,  $J = 15.4$  Hz,  $J = 9.9$  Hz, 1H, 13-H), 2.44 (dd,  $J = 15.4$  Hz,  $J = 4.2$  Hz, 1H, 13-H), 2.58 (m, 1H, 12-H), 3.63 (s, 3H, 23-H), 3.66 (s, 3H, 22-H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 14.4$  (q, C-19), 14.9 (q, C-17/C-18), 16.8 (q, C-20), 16.9 (q, C-18/C-17), 17.3 (t, C-2), 21.6 (t, C-11), 22.0 (t, C-6), 29.6 (d, C-16), 32.1 (t, C-7), 34.8 (t, C-13), 35.1 (d, C-12), 36.3 (s, C-10), 36.9 (t, C-3), 37.8 (t, C-1), 47.2 (s, C-4), 49.08 (d, C-5), 49.14 (d, C-9), 51.6 (d, C-22), 51.9 (q, C-23), 109.4 (s, C-8), 111.0 (s, C-15), 172.9 (s, C-14), 178.9 (s, C-21), ppm; MS (FD):  $m/z$  (%) = 424 (100) [M<sup>+</sup>], 337 (11); MS (70 eV):  $m/z$  (%) = 392 (3), 377 (13), 337 (45), 121 (77), 71 (40), 43 (100); C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>36</sub>O<sub>7</sub> (424.5); calc.: C 65.07, H 8.55, O 26.38; found: C 65.24, H 8.56, O 26.33.

*Methyl-(3S-(3 $\alpha$ ,4a $\beta$ ,4b $\alpha$ ,8 $\beta$ ,8a $\beta$ ))-3-(methoxycarbonyl-methyl)-1,1,4b,8-tetramethyl-2-oxo-1,2,3,4,4a,4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9-dodecahydro-8-phenanthrenecarboxylate (18)*

The same oxidation procedure as described for **16** has been used. Typical quantities: 300 mg (0.73 mmol) **7** in 1.5 ml abs. CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 400 mg *bis*-(trimethylsilyl)-peroxide, 50 mg (0.21 mmol) trimethylsilyltrifluoromethan sulfonate in 8 ml abs. CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. Reaction conditions: warming up from  $-40^\circ\text{C}$  to  $0^\circ\text{C}$  within 7 h, stirring at  $5^\circ\text{C}$  for 2 h, no further addition of peroxide and trimethylsilyltrifluoromethan sulfonate; CC: silica, CH/AcOEt = 9:1.

Yield: 175 mg **18** (61%); white crystals; m.p.:  $108$ – $110^\circ\text{C}$ ;  $R_f = 0.31$  (CH/AcOEt = 5:1), 0.19 (CH/AcOEt = 9:1);  $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -75.9$  ( $c = 0.1$ , CHCl<sub>3</sub>); IR (KBr):  $\nu = 2950$  (s), 1741 (vs), 1727 (vs), 1713 (vs), 1434 (m), 1241 (s), 1150 (m) cm<sup>-1</sup>; UV (MeOH):  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  (lg $\epsilon$ ): 204 (3.761), 270 (2.275) nm;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta = 0.58$  (s, 3H, 17-H), 0.92 (m, 1H, 1-H<sub>ax</sub>), 0.98 (q,  $J = 13.2$  Hz, 1H, 11-H<sub>ax</sub>),

1.13 (s, 3H, 14-Me $\alpha$ ), 1.2–1.4 (m, 2H, 2-H), 1.25 (s, 3H, 18-H), 1.27 (s, 3H, 14-Me $\beta$ ), 1.53 (m, 1H, 1-H<sub>eq</sub>), 1.56 (m, 1H, 3-H<sub>eq</sub>), 1.65 (dt,  $J = 12.6$  Hz,  $2 \times J = 4.5$  Hz, 1H, 11-H<sub>eq</sub>), 1.74 (m, 1H, 6-H<sub>eq</sub>), 1.83 (m, 1H, 3-H<sub>ax</sub>), 1.88 (m, 1H, 6-H<sub>ax</sub>), 1.99 (dd,  $J = 16.7$  Hz,  $J = 5.7$  Hz, 1H, 15-H), 2.06 (dd,  $J = 12.2$  Hz,  $J = 4.6$  Hz, 1H, 5-H), 2.22 (m, 1H, 9-H), 2.81 (dd,  $J = 16.7$  Hz,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H, 15-H), 3.08 (m, 1H, 12-H), 3.32 (s, 3H, 20-H), 3.38 (s, 3H, 21-H), 5.46 (m, 1H, 7-H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta = 14.9$  (q, C-17), 17.5 (q, C-18), 18.3 (t, C-2), 22.8 (q, 14-Me $\beta$ ), 25.7 (t, C-6), 30.4 (q, 14-Me $\alpha$ ), 30.9 (t, C-11), 34.9 (t, C-15), 35.3 (s, C-10), 37.3 (t, C-3), 38.9 (t, C-1), 42.3 (d, C-12), 44.7 (d, C-5), 46.5 (s, C-4), 50.1 (d, C-9), 50.4 (s, C-14), 51.1 (q, C-21), 51.5 (q, C-20), 119.8 (d, C-7), 144.3 (s, C-8), 172.5 (s, C-16), 178.1 (s, C-19), 211.8 (s, C-13) ppm; MS (70 eV):  $m/z$  (%) = 390 (98) [M<sup>+</sup>], 330 (47), 204 (38), 181 (80), 121 (100), 55 (39), 41 (44); C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>34</sub>O<sub>5</sub> (390.5); calc.: 70.74, H 8.78, O 20.48; found: C 70.58, H 8.70, O 20.42.

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