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Total synthesis of (\pm) -phomactin G, a platelet activating factor antagonist from the marine fungus *Phoma* sp.

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A total synthesis of phomactin G (3), which is a central intermediate in the biosynthesis of phomactin A (5) in *Phoma* sp. is described. The synthesis is based on a Cr(II)/Ni(II) macrocyclisation from the aldehyde vinyl iodide 9, leading to 16, followed by sequential conversion of 16 into the β -epoxide 21 and the ketone 25 which, on deprotection, led to (±)-phomactin G. Phomactin G (3) shares an interesting structural homology with phomactin D (2), the most potent PAF-antagonist metabolite in *Phoma* sp. It is most likely converted into phomactin A (5), by initial allylic oxidation to the transient α -alcohol 'phomactin' structure 4, known as Sch 49028, followed by spontaneous pyran ring formation.

Introduction

Phomactin G (3) is a co-metabolite, and probable biosynthetic precursor, of the novel platelet activating factor (PAF) antagonist phomactin A (5) isolated from the marine fungus *Phoma* sp.^{1,2} It is also likely that phomactin G originates from the phomactatriene 1 *via* a sequence of enzymatic oxidations, and that it is converted into phomactin A following allylic oxidation, to 4,³ and spontaneous pyran ring formation. In recent work⁴ we have developed a concise total synthesis of phomactin A (5) whereby the pyran-hemiacetal ring system in the natural product was produced in a single, and final, step on deprotection of the precursor 6. Interestingly, we found no evidence for the formation of the epoxy cyclic hemiacetal structure 4 during studies of the conversion $6 \rightarrow 5$, thereby suggesting that involvement of this intermediate is fleeting.⁵



Phomactin G (3), the presumed precursor to 4, shares an interesting structural homology with phomactin D (2), which is the most active PAF antagonist metabolite isolated from *Phoma* sp.⁶ For example, tautomerisation of phomactin D (2) to its enol 7, followed by isomerisation of 7 to 8, and spontaneous cyclic hemiacetal formation leads to phomactin G (3). In view of the interesting biogenetic interrelationships between the oxygenated phomactins 2-5, and the central role that phomactin G plays in the biosynthetic sequence between 1 and 5, we have developed a total synthesis of this metabolite, which is now presented in this paper.



Results and discussion

Our synthetic strategy towards phomactin G was based on a Cr(II)/Ni(II) mediated macrocyclisation⁷ of the aldehyde vinyl iodide 9, leading to the bicyclo[9.3.1]pentadecane ring system 10, as a key step. We next planned to convert the allylic alcohol unit in 10 into the epoxy ketone 12 *via* the corresponding β -epoxide intermediate 11. Finally, we expected that deprotection of the PMB ether group in 12 would lead to the keto alcohol intermediate 8 which would cyclise spontaneously to the cyclic hemiacetal structure, and phomactin G (3).

In our total synthesis of phomactin A (5) we described a concise route to the substituted cyclohexenol 14a using five steps starting from the diiodo-diene 13 and commercially available 5-methylcyclohexan-1,3-dione.4,7 The cyclohexenol 14a therefore became an ideal precursor for the aldehyde vinyl iodide 9. Thus, mesylation of 14a, followed by treatment of the resulting mesylate 14b with three equivalents of LiBH₄ resulted in simultaneous reduction of the PNB ester and mesylate groups in 14b, producing the cyclohexene methanol 15 in 85% overall yield (Scheme 1). Oxidation of 15 using buffered Dess-Martin periodinane⁸ next gave the corresponding aldehyde 9 in essentially quantitative yield. When the aldehyde vinyl iodide 9 was treated with CrCl₂ and NiCl₂ in a mixture of DMSO and THF, it underwent smooth macrocyclisation to a single diastereoisomer of the doubly allylic alcohol 16 in 47% yield. Smaller amounts (~20%) of the product 17 resulting from reductive cleavage of the carbon-to-iodine bond in 9 were produced concurrently. Inspection and comparison of NMR spectroscopic data measured for the alcohol 16 and similar systems prepared in our earlier studies,^{4,5} suggested that the alcohol had the β -stereochemistry shown. This assignment was corroborated following NOE enhancement studies with the alcohol 16.⁹ which correlated with its lowest energy conformation as determined by molecular mechanics calculations.¹⁰

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Scheme 1 Reagents and conditions: i, MsCl, DIPEA, CH_2Cl_2 , 0 °C to rt, 99%; ii, LiBH₄, THF, 86%; iii, Dess–Martin periodinane, NaHCO₃, CH_2Cl_2 , 0 °C to rt, 99%; iv, $CrCl_2$ (6 eq.), NiCl₂ (1 eq.), DMSO, THF, rt, 47% (16) and 20% (17).

Not too surprisingly, when the β -orientated allylic alcohol **16** was treated with VO(acac)₂ and *t*-BuOOH,¹¹ the isomeric α -epoxide **18**, instead of the required β -epoxide **11**, was produced, and in excellent yield (Scheme 2). Earlier detailed studies in our laboratory had established that, in order to achieve selective β -epoxidation of the trisubstituted double bond associated with the allylic alcohol in **10/16**, we required the corresponding α -orientated hydroxyl group, *i.e.* **20**.⁴ Thus,



Scheme 2 Reagents and conditions: i, VO(acac)₂, t-BuOOH, PhH, rt, 90%; ii, Dess-Martin periodinane, NaHCO₃, CH₂Cl₂, 0 °C to rt, 99%; iii, CeCl₃·7H₂O, NaBH₄, MeOH, CH₂Cl₂, -78 °C to 0 °C, 81%; iv, dimethyldioxirane (0.5 eq.), acetone-H₂O (1 : 1), 0 °C, 31% (21) (quantitative based on recovered 20).

the β -alcohol centre in 16 was next inverted to the corresponding α -alcohol 20 by oxidation using Dess-Martin periodinane, followed by selective reduction of the resulting ketone 19 under Luche conditions (NaBH₄-CeCl₃).

To our surprise and consternation, the selective epoxidation of the α -orientated alcohol **20** to the corresponding β -epoxide **21**, which had been straightforward in some of our related studies with the phomactins,⁴ proved to be problematic, yet interesting. Thus, treatment of **20** with VO(acac)₂ and *t*-BuOOH led only to the isomeric mono-epoxide **22** and its *bis*epoxide **23**, in a 1 : 1 ratio and in essentially quantitative yield (Scheme 2). The use of *m*-CPBA also gave the mono-epoxide **22** largely, but also **23** and the interesting isomeric *bis*-epoxide **24**. Treatment of the allylic alcohol **20** with 1 equivalent of dimethyldioxirane¹² gave only the *bis*-epoxides **23** and **24**, along with recovered starting material. To our satisfaction, however when **20** was treated with only 0.5 equivalents of dimethyldioxirane the correct β -epoxide **21** was produced exclusively in 31% yield (quantitative based on recovered **20**).

When the β -epoxy alcohol **21** was oxidised with Dess–Martin periodinane, the corresponding epoxy ketone **25** was secured in 99% yield (Scheme 3). Furthermore, when the PMB ether group in the epoxy ketone **25** was deprotected, using DDQ in CH₂Cl₂–H₂O, the resulting alcohol underwent spontaneous cyclic hemiacetal ring formation producing (±)-phomactin G (3) in 73% overall yield. The synthetic phomactin G displayed proton and carbon NMR spectroscopic data which were closely similar with those reported for the natural product isolated from *Phoma* sp.¹



Scheme 3 Reagents and conditions: i, Dess-Martin periodinane, NaHCO₃, CH₂Cl₂, 0 °C to rt, 99%; ii, DDQ, CH₂Cl₂-H₂O (18 : 1), 0 °C to rt, 73%.

As a corollary to synthesising the isomeric structures 18 and 22, relating to the key intermediate 21 in our total synthesis of phomactin G (3), we also converted these structures into other phomactoids for future SAR studies. Thus, oxidation of the epoxide 18 to 26, followed by deprotection produced the epoxide 27 which is isomeric with phomactin G (Scheme 4). Furthermore, oxidation of the epoxy alcohol 22, followed by deprotection of the PMB ether group in the resulting epoxy ketone 28 provided a synthesis of the interesting positional isomer 29 of phomactin G (Scheme 5). The biological properties of these phomactin G isomers, and related phomactins prepared in our studies, will be reported elsewhere at a later date.



Scheme 4 Reagents and conditions: i, Dess-Martin periodinane, NaHCO₃, CH₂Cl₂, 0 °C to rt, 74%; ii, DDQ, CH₂Cl₂-H₂O (18:1), 0 °C to rt, 95%.



Scheme 5 *Reagents and conditions*: i, Dess–Martin periodinane, NaHCO₃, CH₂Cl₂, 0 °C to rt, 99%; ii, DDQ, CH₂Cl₂–H₂O (18 : 1), 0 °C to rt, 79%.

Experimental

General details

For general experimental details see reference 4*b*. All of the compounds prepared in this paper are racemic.

[(3*S*,4*R*)-3-((3*E*,7*E*)-8-Iodo-3,7-dimethylocta-3,7-dienyl)-2-(4-methoxybenzyloxymethyl)-3,4-dimethylcyclohex-1-enyl]-

methanol 15. Methanesulfonyl chloride (24 μ L, 0.30 mmol) was added dropwise over 1 minute to a stirred solution of the alcohol 14a⁷ (0.22 g, 0.30 mmol) in dichloromethane (5.0 mL) containing diisopropylethylamine (0.12 mL, 0.66 mmol) at 0 °C. The mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature over 5 hours, then quenched with 1 M K₂CO₃ (4 mL) and stirred for 10 minutes. The separated aqueous phase was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 × 20 mL), and the combined organic extracts were then dried over Na2SO4 and concentrated in vacuo to leave the crude methanesulfonate 14b (0.24 g, 99%) as a viscous oil. A solution of lithium borohydride (2.0 M) in THF (0.52 mL, 1.04 mmol) was added dropwise over 1 minute to a stirred solution of 14b (0.24 g, 0.30 mmol) in methanol (42 µL, 1.04 mmol) and THF (6.0 mL) at 0 °C. The mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature over 4 hours, then cooled to 0 °C and quenched with 1 M NaOH (4 mL). The mixture was stirred for 10 minutes, and then the separated aqueous phase was extracted with ethyl acetate $(3 \times 20 \text{ mL})$. The combined organic extracts were dried over Na2SO4 and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica using 20-30% diethyl ether in pentane as eluent to give the alcohol (0.14 g, 86%) as a colourless oil; v_{max} (film)/cm⁻¹ 3439, 2926, 1613 and 1249; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (360 MHz, CDCl₃) 7.27 (2H, d, J 8.6, $2 \times ArH$), 6.88 (2H, d, J 8.6, $2 \times ArH$), 5.86–5.85 (1H, m, C=CHI), 4.99 (1H, t, J 6.8, C=CHCH₂), 4.50 (1H, d, J 11.3, ArCHH), 4.46 (1H, d, J 11.3, ArCHH), 4.08 (1H, d, J 10.3, OCHHC=C), 4.07 (1H, d, J 11.6, CHHOH), 3.89 (1H, d, J 10.3, OCHHC=C), 3.81 (1H, obs., CHHOH), 3.81 (3H, s, OCH₃), 2.69 (1H, br s, OH), 2.23-2.15 (4H, m, CH₂(CH₃)C=CHI and C=CCH₂), 2.10 (2H, dt, J 14.5 and 6.8, C=CHCH₂), 1.85-1.78 (1H, m, CHH(CH₃)C=CH), 1.84 (3H, s, CH₃C=CHI), 1.74-1.65 (1H, m, CH₃CH), 1.60 (1H, dd, J 16.9 and 4.5, CHH(CH₃)C=CH), 1.55 (3H, s, CH₃C=CH), 1.55-1.47 (2H, m, CHCHH and C(4°)-CHH), 1.45-1.35 (2H, m, CHCHH and C(4°)-CHH), 0.87 (3H, d, J 7.1, CH₃CH), 0.86 (3H, s, CH_3 -C(4°)); δ_C (90 MHz, CDCl₃) 159.3 (Ar-C(4°)OCH₃), 147.7 (C=CHI), 140.5 (C=CCH2OH), 138.2 (Ar-C(4°)), 136.8 (C=CCH₂OH), 129.7 (C=CH), 129.7 (Ar-CH), 122.4 (C=CH), 113. 8 (Ar-CH), 74.7 (C=CHI), 72.8 (ArCH₂O), 66.3 (OCH₂-C=C), 64.1 (CH₂OH), 55.2 (OCH₃), 40.8 (C(4°)-C=C), 39.4 (CH₂C=CHI), 35.8 (C(4°)-CH₂), 34.4 (CH₂C=CH), 33.1 (CH₃CH), 29.3 (C=CCH₂), 26.8 (CHCH₂), 26.2 (C=CHCH₂), 23.9 (CH₃C=CHI), 21.3 (CH₃-C(4°)), 16.2 (CH₃C=CH), 16.1 $(CH_{3}CH); m/z$ (ES) 575.1998 (M⁺ + Na, 100%, C₂₈H₄₁IO₃Na requires 575.1946).

(3S,4R)-3-((3E,7E)-8-Iodo-3,7-dimethylocta-3,7-dienyl)-2-(4-methoxybenzyloxymethyl)-3,4-dimethylcyclohex-1-enecarbaldehyde 9. Dess-Martin periodinane⁸ (164 mg, 0.39 mmol) was added to a mixture of the alcohol 15 (57 mg, 0.10 mmol) and NaHCO₃ (220 mg, 2.6 mmol) in dichloromethane (5.0 mL) at 0 °C. The mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 30 minutes and then allowed to warm to room temperature over 2.5 hours. The mixture was quenched with saturated aqueous solutions of NaHCO₃ (5 mL) and Na₂S₂O₃ (5 mL), and then diluted with diethyl ether (12 mL). The separated aqueous phase was extracted with diethyl ether $(3 \times 12 \text{ mL})$ and the combined organic extracts were then dried over MgSO4 and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica using 30% diethyl ether in pentane as eluent to give the *aldehyde* (57 mg, 99%) as a colourless oil; v_{max} (film)/ cm⁻¹ 2936, 2861, 1670, 1613 and 1249; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (360 MHz, CDCl₃) 10.4 (1H, s, CHO), 7.26 (2H, d, J 8.7, 2 × ArH), 6.88 (2H, d, J 8.7, 2 × ArH), 5.85 (1H, br s, C=CHI), 5.01 (1H, app. t, J 6.8, C=CHCH₂), 4.50 (2H, s, ArCH₂), 4.32 (1H, d, J 10.8, OCHHC= C), 4.14 (1H, d, J 10.8, OCHHC=C), 3.81 (3H, s, OCH₃), 2.42 (1H, ddd, J 18.0, 5.4 and 2.9, C=CCHH), 2.22-2.18 (2H, m, CH₂(CH₃)C=CHI), 2.11 (2H, app. t, J 7.1, C=CHCH₂), 2.01 (1H, ddd, J 18.0, 10.5 and 6.3, C=CCHH), 1.91-1.86 (1H, m, CHH(CH₃)C=CH), 1.84 (3H, s, CH₃C=CHI), 1.79-1.72 (1H, m, CH₃CH), 1.71-1.47 (4H, m, CHH(CH₃)C=CH, CHCHH and C(4°)-CH₂), 1.56 (3H, s, CH₃C=CH), 1.36 (1H, app. dq, J 13.2 and 5.4, CHCHH), 0.96 (3H, s, CH₃-C(4°)), 0.91 (3H, d, J 7.0, CH₃CH); $\delta_{\rm C}$ (90 MHz, CDCl₃) 193.3 (CHO), 159.3 (C=CCHO), 158.2 (Ar-C(4°)OCH₃), 147.6 (C=CHI), 138.2 (Ar-C(4°)), 136.2 (C=CH), 129.6 (Ar-CH), 129.4 (C=CCHO), 122.8 (C=CH), 113.9 (Ar-CH), 74.7 (C=CHI), 72.9 (ArCH₂O), 63.6 (OCH₂C=C), 55.2 (OCH₃), 42.5 (C(4°)–C=C), 39.3 (CH₂-

C=CHI), 35.5 (C(4°)–CH₂), 34.4 (CH₂C=CH), 33.1 (CH₃CH), 26.1 (C=CHCH₂), 25.6 (CHCH₂), 23.8 (CH₃C=CHI), 22.4 (C=CCH₂), 20.7 (CH₃–C(4°)), 16.1 (CH₃C=CH), 15.9 (CH₃CH); m/z (ES) 573.1879 (M⁺ + Na, 100%, C₂₈H₃₉IO₃Na requires 573.1842).

(3E,7E)-(2S,11S,12R)-15-(4-Methoxybenzyloxymethyl)-

4,8,11,12-tetramethylbicyclo[9.3.1]pentadeca-1(15),3,7-trien-2-ol 16. Nickel chloride (38 mg, 0.29 mmol) and chromium chloride (179 mg, 1.46 mmol) were added sequentially to a stirred solution of the aldehyde vinyl iodide 9 (94 mg, 0.17 mmol) in DMSO (37.0 mL) at room temperature in a glove bag under an atmosphere of argon. The mixture was diluted with THF (12.0 mL), then removed from the glove bag, and stirred under a positive pressure of argon for 46 hours. The mixture was cooled to 0 °C and then quenched cautiously with serine (1.0 M in a saturated aqueous solution of NaHCO₃, 130 mL). The mixture was stirred vigorously and allowed to warm to room temperature over 1 hour and then diluted with pentane (130 mL). The separated aqueous phase was extracted with diethyl ether (4 \times 150 mL) and the combined organic extracts were then dried over MgSO4 and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica using 10-20-40% diethyl ether in pentane as eluent to give: (i) the bicyclic alcohol (34.0 mg, 47%) (eluted second) as a colourless oil, v_{max} (CDCl₃)/cm⁻¹ 3605, 2936, 2858, 2839, 1612, 1248 and 1036; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (360 MHz, CDCl₃) 7.29 (2H, d, J 8.3, $2 \times ArH$), 6.89 (2H, d, J 8.3, $2 \times ArH$), 5.45 (1H, d, J 10.7, CH₂(CH₃)C=CHCHOH), 5.18 (1H, d, J 10.7, CH₂(CH₃)C= CHCHOH), 4.79 (1H, d, J 11.0, C=CHCH₂), 4.46 (1H, d, J 11.6, ArCHH), 4.41 (1H, d, J 11.6, ArCHH), 3.82 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.58 (1H, d, J 10.8, OCHHC=C), 3.42 (1H, d, J 10.8, OCHHC=C), 2.48 (1H, dd, J 18.2 and 3.9, C=CCHH), 2.43-2.32 (1H, m, C=CHCHH), 2.15 (1H, dd, J 14.5 and 12.1, CHH(CH₃)C=CHCH₂), 2.09-1.97 (4H, m, CH₂(CH₃)C=CH-CHOH, C=CCHH, and C=CHCHH), 1.84-1.73 (2H, m, CH₃-CH and CHH(CH₃)C=CHCH₂), 1.60 (3H, s, CH₃C=CHCH-OH), 1.56–1.48 (2H, m, C(4°)–CHH and CHCHH), 1.46 (3H, s, CH₃C=CHCH₂), 1.44-1.34 (2H, m, C(4°)-CHH and CH-CHH), 0.84 (3H, d, J 6.9, CH₃CH), 0.79 (3H, s, CH₃-C(4°)); $\delta_{\rm C}$ (90 MHz, CDCl₃) 159.3 (Ar–C(4°)OCH₃), 141.8 (C=CCH-OH), 135.6 (Ar-C(4°)), 134.1 (C=CH), 132.7 (C=CHCHOH), 130.4 (C=CCHOH), 129.9 (Ar-CH), 127.2 (C=CH), 127.2 (C=CHCHOH), 113.8 (Ar-CH), 72.8 (ArCH₂O), 67.9 (CHOH), 65.5 (OCH₂C=C), 55.3 (OCH₃), 40.6 (C(4°)-C=C), 38.3 (CH₂C= CHCHOH), 34.8 (CH₂C=CH), 33.2 (CH₃CH), 31.5 (C(4°)-CH₂), 26.9 (C=CHCH₂), 26.8 (CHCH₂), 23.2 (C=CCH₂), 21.4 (CH₃-C(4°)), 16.3 (CH₃C=CHCHOH), 16.2 $(CH_{3}CH)$, 14.9 $(CH_{3}C=CH)$; m/z (ES) 447.2885 $(M^{+} + Na)$, 100%, C₂₈H₄₀O₃Na requires 447.2875); and (ii) (3S,4R)-3-((E)-3,7-dimethylocta-3,7-dienyl)-2-(4-methoxybenzyloxymethyl)-3,4-dimethylcyclohex-1-enecarbaldehyde 17 (20.2 mg, 20%) (eluted first) as a colourless oil, v_{max} (film)/cm⁻¹ 2936, 2878, 1668, 1613 and 1249; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (360 MHz, CDCl₃) 10.0 (1H, s, CHO), 7.26 (2H, d, J 8.7, 2 × ArH), 6.89 (2H, d, J 8.7, 2 × ArH), 5.08 (1H, app. t, J 6.8, C=CHCH₂), 4.70 (2H, br d, J 12.9, C=CH₂), 4.50 (2H, s, ArCH₂), 4.32 (1H, d, J 10.8, OCHHC=C), 4.14 (1H, d, J 10.8, OCHHC=C), 3.82 (3H, s, OCH₃), 2.42 (1H, ddd, J 18.1, 5.4 and 3.0, C=CCHH), 2.14-2.09 (2H, m, C=CHCH₂), 2.05-2.00 (3H, m, CH₂(CH₃)C=CH₂ and C=CCHH), 1.98-1.83 (1H, m, CHH(CH₃)C=CH), 1.82-1.76 (1H, m, CH₃CH), 1.73 (3H, s, CH₃C=CH₂), 1.68-1.60 (3H, m, CHH(CH₃)C=CH, C(4°)-CHH and CHCHH), 1.58 (3H, s, CH₃C=CH), 1.55–1.49 (1H, m, C(4°)–CHH), 1.36 (1H, app. dq, J 13.2 and 5.4, CHCHH), 0.96 (3H, s, CH₃-C(4°)), 0.91 (3H, d, J 6.8, CH₃CH); δ_C (90 MHz, CDCl₃) 193.4 (CHO), 159.4 (C=CCHO), 158.4 (Ar-C(4°)OCH₃), 145.7 (C=CH₂), 138.2 (Ar-C(4°)), 135.3 (C=CH), 129.6 (Ar-CH), 129.5 (C=CCHO), 123.9 (C=CH), 113.8 (Ar-CH), 109.8 (C=CH₂), 73.0 (ArCH₂O), 63.7 (OCH₂C=C), 55.2 (OCH₃), 42.6 (C(4°)-

C=C), 37.7 ($CH_2C=CH_2$), 35.5 (C(4°)– CH_2), 34.4 ($CH_2C=CH$), 33.2 (CH_3CH), 26.2 (C=CH CH_2), 25.6 (CH CH_2), 22.5 ($CH_3C=CHI$), 22.5 (C=C CH_2), 20.7 ($CH_3-C(4^\circ)$), 16.2 ($CH_3C=CH$), 16.0 (CH_3CH); m/z (ES) 447.2892 (M⁺ + Na, 100%, C₂₈H₄₀O₃Na requires 447.2875).

(E)-(2R,3S,5S,12S,13R)-16-(4-Methoxybenzyloxymethyl)-5,9,12,13-tetramethyl-4-oxatricyclo[10.3.1.0^{3,5}]hexadeca-

1(16),8-dien-2-ol 18. A solution of tert-butyl hydroperoxide (0.18 M) in benzene (148 µL, 0.03 mmol) was added dropwise over 1 minute to a stirred solution of vanadyl acetylacetonate (a few crystals) and the allylic alcohol 16 (11.2 mg, 0.03 mmol) in benzene (2.6 mL) at room temperature. The clear orange mixture was stirred at room temperature for 70 minutes. The mixture was quenched with 3-4 drops of dimethyl sulfide, then stirred for 30 minutes and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica using 1% triethylamine and 45% diethyl ether in pentane as eluent to give the *a-epoxy alcohol* (10.3 mg, 90%) as a colourless oil; v_{max} $(CDCl_3)/cm^{-1}$ 3596, 2939, 2883, 1611 and 1249; δ_H (360 MHz, CDCl₃) 7.25 (2H, d, J 8.4, 2 × ArH), 6.87 (2H, d, J 8.4, 2 × ArH), 4.80 (1H, d, J 10.7, C=CHCH₂), 4.53 (1H, d, J 9.8, CH₂(CH₃)C-CHCHOH), 4.45 (1H, d, J 11.8, ArCHH), 4.34 (1H, d, J 11.8, ArCHH), 3.81 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.58 (1H, d, J 10.8, OCHHC=C), 3.47 (1H, d, J 10.8, OCHHC=C), 2.65 (1H, d, J 9.8, CH₂(CH₃)C-CHCHOH), 2.62 (1H, dd, J 17.3 and 3.7, C=CCHH), 2.26-2.15 (1H, m, C=CHCHH), 2.24 (1H, app. t, J 13.1, CHH(CH₃)C=CHCH₂), 2.07-1.96 (3H, m, CHH(CH₃)C-CHCHOH, C=CHCHH and C=CCHH), 1.93-1.82 (2H, m, CH₃CH and CHH(CH₃)C=CHCH₂), 1.65 (1H, dd, J 15.4 and 13.1, C(4°)-CHH), 1.57-1.53 (1H, m, CHCHH), 1.54 (3H, s, CH₃C=CH), 1.51-1.49 (1H, m, C(4°)-CHH), 1.47-1.37 (1H, m, CHCHH), 1.13 (1H, td, J 12.9 and 4.2, CHH-(CH₃)C-CHCHOH), 1.06 (3H, s, CH₃C-CHCHOH), 0.88 (3H, d, J 6.8, CH₃CH), 0.86 (3H, s, CH₃-C(4°)); δ_C (90 MHz, CDCl₃) 159.3 (Ar-C(4°)OCH₃), 137.0 (C=CCHOH), 136.9 (Ar-C(4°)), 134.4 (C=CH), 130.1 (C=CCHOH), 129.9 (Ar-CH), 125.4 (C=CH), 113.8 (Ar-CH), 72.4 (ArCH₂O), 68.1 (CHOH), 65.8 (C-CHCHOH), 65.1 (OCH₂C=C), 62.9 (C-CHCHOH), 55.3 (OCH₃), 40.9 (C(4°)–C=C), 37.8 (CH₂C–CHCHOH), 35.0 (CH₂C=CH), 33.5 (CH₃CH), 32.4 (C(4°)-CH₂), 26.8 (CHCH₂), 24.7 (C=CHCH₂), 23.1 (C=CCH₂), 21.2 (CH₃-C(4°)), 16.9 (CH₃C–CHCHOH), 16.3 (CH₃CH), 15.3 (CH₃C= CH); m/z (ES) 463.2843 (M⁺ + Na, 100%, C₂₈H₄₀O₄Na requires 463.2824).

(3E,7E)-(2R,11S,12R)-15-(4-Methoxybenzyloxymethyl)-

4,8,11,12-tetramethylbicyclo[9.3.1]pentadeca-1(15),3,7-trien-2-ol 20. Dess-Martin periodinane⁸ (9.8 mg, 0.023 mmol) was added to a mixture of the β -alcohol 16 (6.4 mg, 0.015 mmol) and NaHCO₃ (12.6 mg, 0.15 mmol) in dichloromethane (1.0 mL) at 0 °C. The mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 30 minutes and then allowed to warm to room temperature over 90 minutes. The mixture was quenched with saturated aqueous solutions of NaHCO₃ (1.0 mL) and Na₂S₂O₃ (1.0 mL), and then diluted with diethyl ether (4 mL). The separated aqueous phase was extracted with diethyl ether $(3 \times 10 \text{ mL})$ and the combined organic extracts were then dried over MgSO4 and concentrated in vacuo to leave the dienone 19 (6.3 mg, 99%) as a colourless oil. Cerium trichloride heptahydrate (8.6 mg, 0.023 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of the dienone 19 (6.2 mg, 0.015 mmol) in dichloromethane (0.5 mL) and methanol (0.5 mL) at -78 °C. The mixture was stirred at -78 °C for 15 minutes, then sodium borohydride (5.4 mg, 0.14 mmol) was added and the resulting mixture was allowed to warm to 0 °C over 5 hours. The mixture was quenched with a saturated aqueous solution of NH₄Cl (0.5 mL), then allowed to warm to room temperature and diluted with water (1.0 mL). The separated aqueous phase was extracted with dichloromethane $(3 \times 2.0 \text{ mL})$ and the combined organic extracts were

then dried over MgSO4 and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica using 20% diethyl ether in pentane as eluent to give the a-alcohol (5.2 mg, 81%) as a colourless oil; v_{max} (CDCl₃)/cm⁻¹ 3402, 2930 and 1612; δ_{H} (360 MHz, CDCl₃) 7.29 (2H, d, J 8.6, 2 × ArH), 6.89 (2H, d, J 8.6, 2 × ArH), 5.17 (1H, d, J 8.5, CH₂(CH₃)C=CHCHOH), 5.00 (1H, d, J 5.8, OH), 4.72 (1H, br d, J 7.7, C=CHCH₂), 4.56 (1H, dd, J 8.5 and 5.8, CH₂(CH₃)-C=CHCHOH), 4.54 (1H, d, J 11.2, ArCHH), 4.40 (1H, d, J 11.2, ArCHH), 4.20 (1H, d, J 10.5, OCHHC=C), 3.81 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.74 (1H, d, J 10.5, OCHHC=C), 2.41-2.29 (1H, m, C=CHCHH), 2.23-2.20 (1H, m, CHH(CH₃)C=CHCHOH), 2.18-2.16 (1H, m, CHH(CH₃)C=CHCH₂), 2.10-2.00 (3H, m, C=CCH₂ and C=CHCHH), 1.97-1.88 (1H, m, CHH(CH₃)-C=CHCHOH), 1.85-1.76 (1H, m, CHH(CH₃)C=CHCH₂), 1.74–1.68 (1H, m, CH₃CH), 1.71 (3H, s, CH₃C=CHCHOH), 1.65-1.57 (1H, m, C(4°)-CHH), 1.51 (3H, s, CH₃C=CH), 1.49-1.40 (3H, m, C(4°)-CHH and CHCH₂), 0.83 (3H, d, J 6.8, CH₃CH), 0.81 (3H, s, CH₃–C(4°)); $\delta_{\rm C}$ (90 MHz, CDCl₃) 159.4 $(Ar-C(4^{\circ})OCH_3), 142.4 \quad (C=CCHOH), 135.5 \quad (Ar-C(4^{\circ})),$ 133.1 (C=CH), 132.4 (C=CHCHOH), 130.3 (Ar-CH), 129.2 (C=CCHOH), 127.8 (C=CHCHOH), 127.2 (C=CH), 113.8 (Ar-CH), 75.0 (CHOH), 72.7 (ArCH₂O), 67.4 (OCH₂C=C), 55.3 (OCH₃), 41.2 (C(4°)–C=C), 36.2 (CH₂C=CHCHOH), 34.8 (CH₂C=CH), 33.4 (C(4°)-CH₂), 33.1 (CH₃CH), 32.4 (C=CCH₂), 27.0 (CHCH₂), 25.8 (C=CHCH₂), 21.7 (CH₃-C(4°)), 18.3 (CH₃C=CHCHOH), 16.0 (CH₃CH), 15.4 (CH₃C= CH); m/z (ES) 447.2832 (M⁺ + Na, 100%, C₂₈H₄₀O₃Na requires 447.2875).

(*E*)-(2*S*,3*R*,5*R*,12*S*,13*R*)-16-(4-Methoxybenzyloxymethyl)-5,9,12,13-tetramethyl-4-oxatricyclo[10.3.1.0^{3,5}]hexadeca-

1(16),8-dien-2-ol 21. A solution of dimethyldioxirane¹² (0.1 M) in acetone (56 µL, 5.6 µmol) was added dropwise over 2 minutes to a stirred solution of the α -allylic alcohol 20 (4.7 mg, 11 μ mol) in acetone (0.5 mL) and water (0.5 mL) at 0 °C. The mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 20 minutes and then concentrated in vacuo. A saturated aqueous solution of NaHCO₃ (1.0 mL) was added to the residue and the aqueous phase was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 \times 5.0 mL). The combined organic extracts were dried over MgSO4 and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica using 1% triethylamine and 20-30% diethyl ether in pentane as eluent to give the β -epoxy alcohol (1.5 mg, 31%) as a colourless film, v_{max} (CDCl₃)/cm⁻¹ 3692, 2929, 1602, 1250 and 1038; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (360 MHz, CDCl₃) 7.29 (2H, d, J 9.2, 2 × ArH), 6.89 (2H, d, J 9.2, 2 × ArH), 4.99 (1H, br t, J 6.9, C=CHCH₂), 4.92 (1H, d, J 6.8, OH), 4.55 (1H, d, J 11.5, ArCHH), 4.44 (1H, d, J 11.5, ArCHH), 4.24 (1H, d, J 10.8, OCHHC=C), 3.87 (1H, d, J 10.8, OCHHC=C), 3.81 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.57 (1H, dd, J 9.2 and 6.8, CH₂(CH₃)C-CHCHOH), 3.02 (1H, d, J 9.2, CH₂(CH₃)C-CHCHOH), 2.27 (1H, ddd, J 15.2, 11.4 and 1.5, CHH(CH₃)C=CHCH₂), 2.11-2.03 (3H, m, C=CHCHH and C=CCH₂), 1.95-1.90 (1H, m, C=CHCHH), 1.89-1.78 (3H, m, CHH(CH₃)C=CHCH₂, CHH(CH₃)C-CHCHOH and CH₃CH), 1.66–1.51 (4H, m, C(4°)–CH₂, CHH(CH₃)C-CHCHOH and CHCHH), 1.51 (3H, s, CH₃-C=CH), 1.48-1.41 (1H, m, CHCHH), 1.32 (3H, s, CH₃-C-CHCHOH), 0.87 (3H, d, J 7.0, CH₃CH), 0.86 (3H, s, CH₃-C(4°)); δ_C (90 MHz, CDCl₃) 159.6 (Ar-C(4°)OCH₃), 138.8 (C=CCHOH), 137.8 (Ar-C(4°)), 135.4 (C=CH), 130.2 (Ar-CH), 128.8 (C=CCHOH), 125.2 (C=CH), 113.9 (Ar-CH), 76.3 (CHOH), 72.8 (ArCH₂O), 67.4 (OCH₂C=C), 65.6 (C-CHCHOH), 60.1 (C-CHCHOH), 55.3 (OCH₃), 41.4 (C(4°)-C=C), 36.1 (CH₂C-CHCHOH), 35.0 (CH₂C=CH), 33.5 (CH₃CH), 33.1 (C(4°)-CH₂), 32.6 (C=CCH₂), 26.8 (CHCH₂), 23.5 (C=CHCH₂), 21.8 (CH₃-C(4°)), 20.1 (CH₃C-CHCHOH), 15.9 (CH₃C=CH), 15.8 (CH₃CH); m/z (ES) 423.2894 (M⁺ -OH, 100%, C₂₈H₃₉O₃ requires 423.2899); and recovered alcohol (3.3 mg).

(3E,7E)-(1R,2R,11S,12R,16S)-16-(4-Methoxybenzyloxymethyl)-4,8,11,12-tetramethyl-15-oxatricyclo[9.3.2.0^{1,16}]hexadeca-3,7-dien-2-ol 22 and 23. A solution of tert-butyl hydroperoxide (0.18 M) in benzene (36 µL, 0.007 mmol) was added dropwise over 1 minute to a stirred solution of vanadyl acetylacetonate (a few crystals) and the α -allylic alcohol 20 (2.7 mg, 0.006 mmol) in benzene (1 mL) at room temperature. The clear orange mixture was stirred at room temperature for 90 minutes. The mixture was guenched with 3-4 drops of dimethyl sulfide, then stirred for 30 minutes and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica using 1% triethylamine and 20-50% diethyl ether in pentane as eluent to give: (i) the epoxy alcohol (1.5 mg, 53%) (eluted first) as a colourless film, v_{max} (CDCl₃)/cm⁻¹ 3690, 2935, 1612, 1247 and 1035; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (360 MHz, CDCl₃) 7.32 (2H, d, J 8.7, 2 × ArH), 6.89 (2H, d, J 8.7, 2 × ArH), 4.83 (1H, br d, J 5.6, C=CHCH₂), 4.65 (1H, d, J 10.3, CH₂(CH₃)C=CHCHOH), 4.60 (1H, d, J 11.6, ArCHH), 4.50 (1H, d, J 9.7, CH₂(CH₃)C=CHCHOH), 4.43 (1H, d, J 11.6, ArCHH), 3.99 (1H, d, J 11.3, OCHHC-C), 3.81 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.74 (1H, d, J 11.3, OCHHC-C), 3.37 (1H, br s, OH), 2.39–2.31 (1H, m, CHH(CH₃)C=CHCHOH), 2.28 (1H, app. t, J 15.7, CHH(CH₃)C=CHCH₂), 2.14-2.04 (1H, m, C=CHCHH), 1.96 (1H, ddd, J 17.0, 11.8 and 4.0, CHH-(CH₃)C=CHCHOH), 1.86-1.77 (2H, m, CHH(CH₃)C=CHCH₂ and C-CCHH), 1.72 (3H, s, CH₃C=CHCHOH), 1.69-1.58 (3H, m, CH₃CH, C(4°)-CHH and C-CCHH), 1.51 (3H, s, CH₃C= CH), 1.51-1.33 (3H, m, C(4°)-CHH, C=CHCHH and CHCHH), 1.14–1.09 (1H, m, CHCHH), 1.08 (3H, s, CH₃– C(4°)), 0.73 (3H, d, J 6.8, CH₃CH); δ_C (90 MHz, CDCl₃) 159.1 (Ar-C(4°)OCH₃), 136.1 (Ar-C(4°)), 134.1 (C=CHCHOH), 130.7 (C=CH), 129.3 (Ar-CH), 127.8 (C=CHCHOH), 124.5 (C=CH), 113.7 (Ar-CH), 73.1 (ArCH₂O), 70.5 (OCH₂C-C), 70.1 (CHOH), 69.5 (C-C), 69.2 (C-C), 55.3 (OCH₃), 39.8 (C(4°)-C-C), 35.7 (CH₂C=CHCHOH), 34.6 (CH₂C=CH), 33.5 (CH₃CH), 33.0 (C(4°)-CH₂), 30.9 (C-CCH₂), 24.5 (CHCH₂), 24.3 (C=CHCH₂), 19.4 (CH₃-C(4°)), 18.9 (CH₃C=CHCHOH), 17.2 (CH₃C=CH), 15.2 (CH₃CH); m/z (ES) 463.2793 (M⁺ + Na, 100%, $C_{28}H_{40}O_4$ Na requires 463.2824); and (ii) the *bis*epoxide 23 (1.3 mg, 45%) as a colourless film, v_{max} (CDCl₃)/cm⁻¹ 3534, 2930, 2856, 1612 and 1248; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (500 MHz, CDCl₃) 7.31 (2H, d, J 8.5, 2 × ArH), 6.89 (2H, d, J 8.5, 2 × ArH), 5.10 (1H, br s, C=CHCH₂), 4.61 (1H, d, J 11.4, ArCHH), 4.42 (1H, d, J 11.4, ArCHH), 3.99 (1H, d, J 11.1, OCHHC-C), 3.81 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.75 (1H, d, J 11.1, OCHHC-C), 3.64 (1H, d, J 9.5, CH₂(CH₃)C-CHCHOH), 3.40 (1H, br s, OH), 2.55 (1H, d, J 9.5, CH₂(CH₃)C-CHCHOH), 2.46-2.36 (2H, m, HH(CH₃)C-CHCHOH and CHH(CH₃)C=CHCH₂), 2.21 (1H, dd, J 14.5 and 11.5, C-CCHH), 1.92-1.68 (7H, m, C=CHCH2, C(4°)- CH_2 , $HH(CH_3)C$ -CHCHOH, $CHH(CH_3)C$ =CHCH₂ and CH₃CH), 1.54–1.48 (2H, m, C–CCHH and CHCHH), 1.42 (3H, s, CH₃C-CHCHOH), 1.41 (3H, s, CH₃C=CH), 1.20-1.15 (1H, m, CHCHH), 1.11 (3H, s, CH₃-C(4°)), 0.76 (3H, d, J 6.8, CH₃CH); δ_c (125 MHz, CDCl₃) 159.3 (Ar-C(4°)OCH₃), 136.5 (Ar-C(4°)), 130.2 (C=CH), 129.5 (Ar-CH), 127.4 (C=CH), 113.8 (Ar-CH), 73.2 (ArCH₂O), 72.0 (CHOH), 69.7 (OCH₂C-C), 68.9 (C-C), 66.0 (C-C), 63.1 (C-CH), 60.1 (C-CH), 55.3 (OCH₃), 39.8 (C(4°)-C-C), 34.7 (CH₂C-CHCHOH), 34.6 (CH₂C=CH), 33.4 (CH₃CH), 32.9 (C-CCH₂), 31.6 (C(4°)-CH₂), 24.4 (CHCH₂), 22.6 (C=CHCH₂), 21.0 (CH₃C=CH), 19.4 (CH₃-C(4°)), 17.5 (CH₃C-CHCHOH), 15.2 (CH₃CH);

Bis-epoxide 24. *meta*-Chloroperoxybenzoic acid (9.4 mg, 0.038 mmol, 70–75% in water) was added in portions to a solution of the α -allylic alcohol **20** (14.0 mg, 0.033 mmol) in dichloromethane (0.8 mL) and aqueous phosphate buffer (0.8 mL, pH 7) at 0 °C and stirred for 30 minutes. The mixture was quenched with a saturated aqueous solution of NaHCO₃ (1.0 mL) and the separated aqueous phase was extracted with

m/z (ES) 479.2776 (M⁺ + Na, 100%, C₂₈H₄₀O₅Na requires

479.2773).

dichloromethane $(3 \times 10 \text{ mL})$. The combined organic extracts were dried over MgSO4 and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica using 1% triethylamine and 20-50% diethyl ether in pentane as eluent to give: (i) the bis-epoxide (4.0 mg, 26%) (eluted second) as a colourless film, v_{max} (CDCl₃)/cm⁻¹ 3543, 2931, 1612, 1248 and 1036; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (360 MHz, CDCl₃) 7.32 (2H, d, J 8.8, 2 × ArH), 6.89 $(2H, d, J 8.8, 2 \times ArH), 4.88$ (1H, br d, J 9.2, CH₂(CH₃)C= CHCHOH), 4.66 (1H, d, J 11.8, ArCHH), 4.53 (1H, d, J 9.2, CH₂(CH₃)C=CHCHOH), 4.48 (1H, d, J 11.8, ArCHH), 4.03 (1H, d, J 11.3, OCHHC-C), 3.83 (1H, obs. d, OCHHC-C), 3.81 (3H, s, OCH₃), 2.56 (1H, br s, OH), 2.52 (1H, app. t, J 2.9, C-CHCH₂), 2.46-2.43 (1H, m, C-CHCHH), 2.42-2.38 (1H, m, CHH(CH₃)C-CHCH₂), 2.22 (1H, dd, J 16.8 and 12.4, CHH(CH₃)C=CHCHOH), 2.17-1.96 (3H, m, C-CHCHH, CHH(CH₃)C-CHCH₂ and C(4°)-CHH), 1.91-1.85 (1H, m, C-CCHH), 1.79 (3H, s, CH₃C=CHCHOH), 1.72-1.51 (3H, m, CHH(CH₃)C=CHCHOH, C-CCHH and C(4°)-CHH), 1.47-1.32 (2H, m, CHCHH and CH₃CH), 1.17-1.14 (1H, m, CHCHH), 1.14 (3H, s, CH₃C-CH), 1.10 (3H, s, CH₃-C(4°)), 0.66 (3H, d, J 6.3, CH₃CH); δ_C (90 MHz, CDCl₃) 159.3 (Ar-C(4°)OCH₃), 136.9 (Ar-C(4°)), 130.2 (C=CHCHOH), 129.4 (Ar-CH), 123.8 (C=CHCHOH), 113.8 (Ar-CH), 73.3 (ArCH₂O), 70.8 (OCH₂C-C), 69.7 (CHOH), 69.6 (C-C), 68.8 (C-C), 64.2 (C-CHCH₂), 60.2 (C-CHCH₂), 55.3 (OCH₃), 39.6 (C(4°)-C-C), 34.7 (C-CHCH₂), 34.4 (CH₂C-CH), 34.2 (CH₃CH), 31.4 (CH₂C=CHCHOH), 31.0 (C-CCH₂), 26.2 (C(4°)-CH₂), 24.3 (CHCH₂), 19.8 (CH₃-C(4°)), 19.4 (CH₃C= CHCHOH), 17.1 (CH₃C–CH), 15.1 (CH₃CH); m/z (ES) 479.2796 (M⁺ + Na, 100%, $C_{28}H_{40}O_5Na$ requires 479.2773); (ii) the epoxy alcohol 22 (6.8 mg, 47%) (eluted first); and (iii) the bis-epoxide 23 (4.1 mg, 27%) (eluted third).

(*E*)-(3*S*,5*R*,12*S*,13*R*)-16-(4-Methoxybenzyloxymethyl)-5,9,12,13-tetramethyl-4-oxatricyclo[10.3.1.0^{3,5}]hexadeca-

1(16),8-dien-2-one 25. Dess-Martin periodinane⁸ (8.5 mg, 0.02 mmol) was added to a mixture of the β -epoxy alcohol 21 (3.0 mg, 7 µmol) and NaHCO₃ (5.7 mg, 0.07 mmol) in dichloromethane (0.5 mL) at 0 °C. The mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 30 minutes and then allowed to warm to room temperature over 3 hours. Dess-Martin periodinane (4.2 mg, 0.01 mmol) was added to the reaction mixture and stirred for an additional hour. The mixture was quenched with saturated aqueous solutions of NaHCO₃ (0.5 mL) and Na₂S₂O₃ (0.5 mL), and then diluted with diethyl ether (2 mL). The separated aqueous phase was extracted with diethyl ether $(3 \times 5 \text{ mL})$ and the combined organic extracts were then dried over MgSO4 and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica using 1% triethylamine and 20-30% diethyl ether in pentane as eluent to give the ketone (3.0 mg, 99%) as a colourless film; v_{max} (CDCl₃)/cm⁻¹ 2927, 1698, 1602 and 1250; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (500 MHz, CDCl₃) 7.24 (2H, d, J 8.6, 2 × ArH), 6.88 (2H, d, J 8.6, 2 × ArH), 5.06 (1H, br t, J 5.5, C=CHCH₂), 4.51 (1H, d, J 11.6, ArCHH), 4.20 (1H, d, J 11.6, ArCHH), 4.05 (1H, ddd, J 14.7, 3.3 and 2.6, OCHHC=C), 3.95 (1H, br d, J 14.7, OCHHC=C), 3.80 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.77 (1H, s, CH₂(CH₃)C-CHC=O), 2.44 (1H, ddd, J 17.9, 5.1 and 1.9, C=CCHH), 2.36 (1H, ddd, J 15.1, 10.5 and 3.9, CHH(CH₃)C=CHCH₂), 1.99-1.94 (4H, m, CH₃CH, C=CHCH₂ and CHH(CH₃)C=CHCH₂), 1.92-1.83 (3H, m, C=CCHH and CH2(CH3)C-CHC=O), 1.60-1.49 (4H, m, C(4°)-CH₂ and CHCH₂), 1.48 (3H, s, CH₃C=CH), 1.22 (3H, s, CH₃C-CHC=O), 0.96 (3H, s, CH₃-C(4°)), 0.88 (3H, d, J 6.6, CH₃CH); $\delta_{\rm C}$ (90 MHz, CDCl₃) 202.4 (C=O), 159.4 (Ar-C(4°)OCH₃), 144.5 (C=CC=O), 135.5 (Ar-C(4°)), 133.2 (C=CC=O), 130.0 (Ar-CH), 129.1 (C=CH), 126.7 (C=CH), 113.8 (Ar-CH), 72.0 (ArCH₂O), 67.2 (OCH₂C=C), 64.7 (C-CHC=O), 62.4 (C-CHC=O), 55.3 (OCH₃), 39.9 (C(4°)-C=C), 34.9 (CH₂C-CHC=O), 34.1 (CH₂C=CH), 33.5 (CH₃-CH), 31.8 (CHCH₂), 27.2 (C=CCH₂), 26.0 (C(4°)-CH₂), 23.5 (C=CHCH₂), 21.5 (CH₃-C(4°)), 19.2 (CH₃C-CHC=O), 16.7 (CH₃C=CH), 15.1 (CH₃CH); m/z (ES) 461.2691 (M⁺ + Na, 100%, C₂₈H₃₈O₄Na requires 461.2668).

(±)-Phomactin G (3). 2,3-Dichloro-5,6-dicyano-1,4benzoquinone (3.1 mg, 14 µmol) was added to a stirred solution of the epoxy ketone 25 (3.0 mg, 7 µmol) in dichloromethane (0.33 mL) and water (0.02 mL) at 0 °C. The mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature over 3 hours. The organic layer was separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with dichloromethane (2×0.5 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with a saturated aqueous solution of NaHCO₃ (1.0 mL) and the separated aqueous phase was extracted with dichloromethane $(3 \times 1.0 \text{ mL})$. The combined organic extracts were dried over Na2SO4 and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica using 1% triethylamine and 10% acetone in dichloromethane as eluent. The pure fractions were concentrated in vacuo and the residue was diluted with dichloromethane (2.0 mL) and washed with a saturated aqueous solution of NaHCO₃ (2×1.0 mL), then dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated in vacuo to give (\pm) -phomactin G (1.5 mg, 71%) as a colourless oil; v_{max} (CDCl₃)/cm⁻¹ 3692, 2928, 1602, 1433, 1236 and 1021; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (500 MHz, CD₃OD) 5.07 (1H, br d, J 10.0, C=CHCH₂), 4.51 (1H, app. dt, J 12.5 and 2.6, OCHHC=C), 4.37 (1H, ddd, J 12.5, 3.8 and 1.4, OCHHC=C), 2.84 (1H, s, CH₂(CH₃)C-CH), 2.48-2.42 (1H, m, CHH(CH₃)C=CHCH₂), 2.13 (1H, ddg, J 12.0, 2.5 and 7.0, CH₃CH), 2.04-1.98 (1H, m, C=CCHH), 1.95-1.93 (1H, m, CHH(CH₃)C=CHCH₂), 1.92-1.89 (1H, m, CHH(CH₃)C-CH), 1.89-1.87 (1H, m, C=CHCHH), 1.86-1.84 (1H, m, C=CCHH), 1.80-1.77 (1H, m, C=CHCHH), 1.76-1.70 (1H, m, CHH(CH₃)C-CH), 1.68-1.66 (1H, m, C(4°)-CHH), 1.66-1.62 (1H, m, CHCHH), 1.64 (3H, s, CH₃C=CH), 1.52 (1H, ddd, J 15.1, 6.2 and 2.5, C(4°)-CHH), 1.44 (1H, dq, J 12.6 and 4.5, CHCHH), 1.39 (3H, s, CH₃C-CH), 0.93 (3H, s, CH₃-C(4°)), 0.92 (3H, d, J 7.3, CH₃CH); $\delta_{\rm C}$ (125 MHz, CD₃OD) 144.7 (C=CC(OH)OCH₂), 135.2 (C=CH),134.5(C=CC(OH)OCH₂),129.5(C=CH),109.7(C(OH)-OCH₂), 70.5 (OCH₂C=C), 64.8 (CH₂C-CH), 61.3 (CH₂C-CH), 38.6 C(4°)-C=C), 36.1 (CH₂C=CH), 35.1 (CH₂C-CH), 34.5 (CH₃CH), 33.6 (C(4°)-CH₂), 29.1 (CHCH₂), 24.4 (C=CHCH₂), 24.1 (C=CCH₂), 22.2 (CH₃-C(4°)), 21.0 (CH₃C-CH), 16.9 (CH₃C=CH), 14.9 (CH₃CH); m/z (EI) 318.2184 (M⁺, C₂₀H₃₀O₃ requires 318.2195).

(*E*)-(3*R*,5*S*,12*S*,13*R*)-16-(4-Methoxybenzyloxymethyl)-5,9,12,13-tetramethyl-4-oxatricyclo[10.3.1.0^{3,5}]hexadeca-

1(16),8-dien-2-one 26. Dess-Martin periodinane⁸ (10.2 mg, 0.024 mmol) was added to a mixture of the alcohol 18 (7.2 mg, 0.016 mmol) and NaHCO₃ (13.4 mg, 0.16 mmol) in dichloromethane (1.0 mL) at 0 °C. The mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 30 minutes and then allowed to warm to room temperature over 2.5 hours. The mixture was quenched with saturated aqueous solutions of NaHCO₃ (1.0 mL) and Na₂S₂O₃ (1.0 mL), and then diluted with diethyl ether (1 mL). The separated aqueous phase was extracted with diethyl ether $(3 \times 5 \text{ mL})$ and the combined organic extracts were then dried over MgSO4 and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica using 1% triethylamine and 30% diethyl ether in pentane as eluent to give the ketone (5.2 mg, 74%) as a colourless oil; v_{max} (CDCl₃)/cm⁻¹ 2936, 1709, 1610 and 1249; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (500 MHz, CDCl₃) 7.24 (2H, d, J 8.8, 2 × ArH), 6.87 (2H, d, J 8.8, 2 × ArH), 5.00 (1H, d, J 9.9, C=CHCH₂), 4.33 (2H, s, ArCH₂), 3.80 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.53 (1H, d, J 10.9, OCHHC=C), 3.53 (1H, s, CH₂(CH₃)C-CHC=O), 3.21 (1H, d, J 10.9, OCHHC=C), 2.38 (1H, ddd, J 17.4, 11.4 and 6.0, C=CCHH), 2.28 (1H, dd, J 14.3 and 12.6, CHH(CH₃)C= CHCH₂), 2.24–2.10 (4H, m, C=CHCH₂, C=CCHH and CHH(CH₃)C-CHC=O), 1.98-1.91 (2H, m, CH₃CH and CHH(CH₃)C=CHCH₂), 1.76 (1H, dd, J 15.1 and 12.6, C(4°)-CHH), 1.63-1.52 (3H, m, CHCH₂ and C(4°)-CHH), 1.54 (3H, s, $CH_3C=CH$), 1.29–1.22 (1H, m, $CHH(CH_3)C-CHC=O$), 1.07 (3H, s, $CH_3C-CHC=O$), 0.95 (3H, s, $CH_3-C(4^{\circ})$), 0.90 (3H, d, J 7.1, CH_3CH); δ_C (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$) 203.3 (C=O), 159.2 (Ar- $C(4^{\circ})OCH_3$), 140.4 (C=CC=O), 138.6 (Ar- $C(4^{\circ})$), 135.3 (C=CC=O), 130.2 (C=CH), 129.8 (Ar-CH), 125.5 (C=CH), 113.7 (Ar-CH), 72.0 (Ar CH_2O), 66.8 (O $CH_2C=C$), 64.5 (C-CHC=O), 64.4 (C-CHC=O), 55.3 (O CH_3), 40.6 (C(4°)-C=C), 38.2 (CH₂C-CHC=O), 34.8 (CH₂C=CH), 33.4 (CH₃-CH), 31.9 (C(4°)- CH_2), 28.5 (C= CCH_2), 26.3 (CH CH_2), 24.5 (C= $CHCH_2$), 21.3 (CH₃- $C(4^{\circ})$), 16.0 (CH₃CH), 15.6 (CH₃C= CH), 15.1 (CH₃C-CHC=O); m/z (ES) 439.2856 (M⁺ + H, 100%, C₂₈H₃₉O₄ requires 439.2848).

Epoxy cyclic hemiacetal 27. 2,3-Dichloro-5,6-dicyano-1,4benzoquinone (3.4 mg, 0.015 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of the epoxy ketone 26 (5.2 mg, 0.012 mmol) in dichloromethane (1.05 mL) and water (0.15 mL) at 0 °C. The mixture was allowed to warm to 10 °C over 4 hours. The organic layer was separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with dichloromethane (2×0.5 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with a saturated aqueous solution of NaHCO₃ (1.0 mL) and the separated aqueous phase was extracted with dichloromethane $(3 \times 1.0 \text{ mL})$. The combined organic extracts were dried over Na2SO4 and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica using 1% triethylamine and 20-30% diethyl ether in pentane as eluent to give the epoxy cyclic hemiacetal (3.6 mg, 95%) as a colourless oil; v_{max} (CDCl₃)/cm⁻¹ 3554, 2967, 2935, 2880, 1605 and 1027; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (500 MHz, CD₃OD) 5.04 (1H, br d, J 12.0, C=CHCH₂), 4.44 (1H, dt, J 12.3 and 2.5, OCHHC= C), 4.09 (1H, ddd, J 12.3, 4.0 and 1.5, OCHHC=C), 2.70 (1H, s, CH₂(CH₃)C-CH), 2.48-2.38 (2H, m, CHH(CH₃)C=CHCH₂ and C=CHCHH), 2.22-2.10 (3H, m, C=CCH₂ and CH₂CH), 2.05 (1H, br d, J 15.5, C=CHCHH), 2.00-1.96 (1H, obs. m, CHH(CH₃)C=CHCH₂), 1.98 (1H, dt, J 12.6 and 3.8, CHH-(CH₃)C-CH), 1.75 (3H, s, CH₃C=CH), 1.75-1.71 (1H, m, CHCHH), 1.65–1.62 (2H, m, C(4°)–CH₂), 1.57–1.49 (1H, m, CHCHH), 1.53 (3H, s, CH₃C-CH), 1.19 (1H, td, J 12.6 and 4.5, CHH(CH₃)C-CH), 0.96 (3H, s, CH₃-C(4°)), 0.95 (3H, d, J 7.0, CH₃CH); $\delta_{\rm C}$ (125 MHz, CD₃OD) 144.4 (C=CC(OH)-OCH₂), 135.5 (C=CC(OH)OCH₂), 135.1 (C=CH), 126.0 (C= CH), 109.7 (C(OH)OCH₂), 71.1 (OCH₂C=C), 67.3 (CH₂C-CH), 65.5 (CH₂C–CH), 39.4 (CH₂C–CH), 38.5 (C(4°)–C=C), 35.8 (CH₂C=CH), 34.7 (CH₃CH), 33.7 (C(4°)-CH₂), 29.2 (CHCH₂), 26.0 (C=CHCH₂), 22.7 (C=CCH₂), 22.4 (CH₃-C(4°)), 18.4 (CH₃C-CH), 16.0 (CH₃C=CH), 15.1 (CH₃CH); m/z (ES) 382.2392 (M⁺ + Na + CH₃CN, 100%, C₂₂H₃₃NO₃Na requires 382.2358).

(3*E*,7*E*)-(1*S*,11*S*,12*R*,16*S*)-16-(4-Methoxybenzyloxymethyl)-4,8,11,12-tetramethyl-15-oxatricyclo[9.3.2.0^{1,16}]hexadeca-3,7-

dien-2-one 28. Dess-Martin periodinane⁸ (4.3 mg, 0.01 mmol) was added to a mixture of the epoxy alcohol 22 (3.0 mg, 6.8 μ mol) and NaHCO₃ (5.7 mg, 0.07 mmol) in dichloro-methane (1.0 mL) at 0 °C. The mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 30 minutes and then allowed to warm to room temperature over 2 hours. The mixture was quenched with saturated aqueous solutions of NaHCO₃ (1.0 mL) and Na₂S₂O₃ (1.0 mL), and then diluted with diethyl ether (4 mL). The separated aqueous phase was extracted with diethyl ether $(3 \times 10 \text{ mL})$ and the combined organic extracts were then dried over MgSO4 and concentrated in vacuo to leave the ketone (3.0 mg, 99%) as a colourless film; v_{max} (CDCl₃)/cm⁻¹ 2960, 2931, 2856, 1696, 1610 and 1261; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (500 MHz, CDCl₃) 7.25 (2H, d, J 8.8, 2 × ArH), 6.87 (2H, d, J 8.8, 2 × ArH), 6.33 (1H, s, C=CHC=O), 5.10 (1H, br d, J 9.8, C=CHCH₂), 4.59 (1H, d, J 11.6, ArCHH), 4.34 (1H, d, J 11.6, ArCHH), 3.81 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.62 (1H, d, J 11.6, OCHHC-C), 2.59 (1H, d, J 11.6, OCHHC-C), 2.46 (1H, app. t, J 13.0, CHH(CH₃)C=CHCH₂), 2.34 (1H, dd, J 15.5 and 13.0, C(4°)-CHH), 2.30-2.05 (6H, m, C=CHCH₂, CH₂(CH₃)C= CHC=O and C–CC H_2), 2.00 (1H, br dd, J 15.5 and 8.4, CHH-(CH₃)C=CHCH₂), 1.80 (1H, ddq, J 12.3, 6.7 and 2.1, CH₃CH), 1.75 (3H, s, C H_3 C=CHC=O), 1.61–1.56 (1H, m, C(4°)–CHH), 1.54 (3H, s, C H_3 C=CH), 1.49 (1H, app. dt, J 12.3 and 5.6, CHCHH), 1.25–1.21 (1H, m, CHCHH), 1.05 (3H, s, C H_3 –C(4°)), 0.79 (3H, d, J 6.7, C H_3 CH); δ_c (125 MHz, CDCl₃) 198.8 (C=O), 159.0 (Ar–C(4°)OCH₃), 150.0 (C=CHC=O), 136.1 (Ar–C(4°)), 130.7 (C=CH), 129.1 (Ar–CH), 126.3 (C=CH), 125.1 (C=CHC=O), 113.6 (Ar–CH), 73.0 (ArCH₂O and OCH₂C–C), 71.2 (C–CCH₂), 69.2 (C–CCH₂), 55.3 (OCH₃), 39.4 (CH₂C=CHC=O), 38.7 (C(4°)–C–C), 34.6 (CH₂C=CH), 33.7 (CH₃CH), 32.0 (C(4°)–CH₂), 27.5 (C–CCH₂), 25.2 (C=CHCH₂), 23.6 (CHCH₂), 19.4 (CH₃–C(4°)), 17.6 (CH₃C=CHC=O), 16.1 (CH₃C=CH), 15.0 (CH₃CH); m/z (ES) 461.2693 (M⁺ + Na, 100%, C₂₈H₃₈O₄Na requires 461.2668).

Epoxy cyclic hemiacetal 29. 2,3-Dichloro-5,6-dicyano-1,4benzoquinone (1.8 mg, 8 µmol) was added to a stirred solution of the epoxy ketone 28 (2.5 mg, 6 µmol) in dichloromethane (1.0 mL) and water (0.1 mL) at 0 °C. The mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 1 hour, then allowed to warm to 10 °C and stirred for 7 hours. The organic layer was separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with dichloromethane (2×0.5 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with a saturated aqueous solution of NaHCO₃ (1.0 mL) and the separated aqueous phase was extracted with dichloromethane $(3 \times 1.0 \text{ mL})$. The combined organic extracts were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica using 1% triethylamine and 20-30% diethyl ether in pentane as eluent to give the epoxy cyclic hemiacetal (1.5 mg, 79%) as a colourless film; v_{max} (CDCl₃)/cm⁻¹ 3547, 2930, 2856, 1602, 1438, 1330, 1260 and 1033; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (500 MHz, CD₃OD) 5.19 (1H, s, CH₂(CH₃)C=CHC(OH)OCH₂), 5.03 (1H, br d, J11.4, C=CHCH₂), 3.74 (1H, d, J9.8, OCHHC-C), 3.29 (1H, d, J 9.8, OCHHC-C), 2.48-2.33 (2H, m, CHH-(CH₃)C=CHCH₂ and C=CHCHH), 2.31-2.22 (1H, m, CHH-(CH₃)C=CHC(OH)OCH₂), 2.14 (1H, dd, J 12.8 and 4.0, CHH(CH₃)C=CHC(OH)OCH₂), 2.05-1.93 (3H, m, C-CCH₂ and CHH(CH₃)C=CHCH₂), 1.85 (3H, s, CH₃C=CHC(OH)-OCH₂), 1.81–1.74 (1H, m, CH₃CH), 1.73–1.60 (2H, m, C(4°)– CH₂), 1.66 (3H, s, CH₃C=CH), 1.37-1.30 (3H, m, CHCH₂ and C=CHCHH), 0.96 (3H, s, CH₃-C(4°)), 0.82 (3H, d, J 7.1, CH₃CH); $\delta_{\rm C}$ (125 MHz, CD₃OD) 141.9 (C=CHC(OH)OCH₂), 135.2 (C=CH), 128.7 (C=CH), 121.8 (C=CHC(OH)OCH₂), 111.4 (C(OH)OCH₂), 71.1 (C-CCH₂), 71.0 (C-CCH₂), 65.5 (OCH₂C-C), 41.4 (CH₂C=CHC(OH)OCH₂), 36.9 (C(4°)-C-C), 35.8 (CH₂C=CH), 34.3 (CH₃CH), 33.5 (C(4°)-CH₂), 26.4 (C=CHCH₂), 26.2 (CHCH₂), 23.0 (C-CCH₂), 21.3 (CH₃-C(4°)), 17.6 (CH₃C=CHC(OH)OCH₂), 16.1 (CH₃C=CH), 14.6 $(CH_{3}CH); m/z$ (ES) 341.2119 (M⁺ + Na, 100%, C₂₀H₃₀O₃Na requires 341.2093).

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