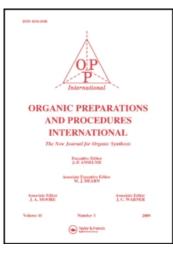
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REACTION OF *bis*PHENOL-A DIGLYCIDYL ETHER WITH SUBSTITUTED PHENOLS

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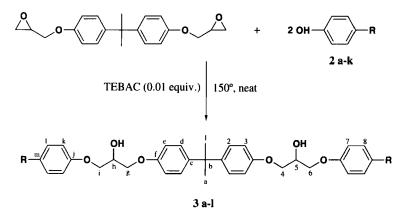
REACTION OF bisPHENOL-A DIGLYCIDYL ETHER WITH SUBSTITUTED PHENOLS

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The ring opening of epoxides¹⁻³ with nucleophiles is an important transformation in organic synthesis leading to various 1,2-difunctionalized molecules. Epoxides also play a crucial role in materials science.⁴⁻⁶ In the particular field of epoxy resins, we were interested in the development of synthetic routes allowing pure model compounds to be prepared, *i.e.* the bisphenol-A diglyceryl aryl ethers **3 a-l.** The chemo- and regioselectivity of the epoxide ring opening depends on intrinsic and



a) R = H; b) R = Me; c) R = CO₂Me; d) R = COMe; e) R = CHO; f) R = CN; g) R = NO₂ h) R = F; i) R = Cl; j) R = Br; k) R = I; l) R = CO₂H (from deprotection of 3c)

environmental factors.^{7,8} Recent search for mild and selective reactions involves the use of acidic or electrophilic catalysts, such as cerium ammonium nitrate,⁹ tin halide,¹⁰ lithium trifluoromethanesulfonate,¹¹ ferric chloride supported on silica,¹² titanium- and zinc chloride,¹³ samarium¹⁴ and lanthanide complexes.¹⁵ Although the reaction of epoxides with aliphatic alcohols appears well documented, the reaction with phenols is not described as extensively as expected.^{1-3,16} The subject is often discussed from the industrial point of view,¹⁷⁻¹⁸ without details about selectivity and potential oligomer formation.

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This paper reports a systematic study of epoxide ring opening with *para*-substituted phenols, using *bis* phenol-A diglycidyl ether¹⁹ (BADGE) **1**, a difunctional monomer of industrial interest, as substrate.

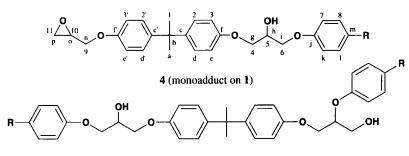
We first examined the reaction of 1 with three equivalents of phenol (2a) and *p*-cresol (2b) in basic medium (NaOH), under liquid-liquid phase-transfer conditions (Table 1, entries 1-2) as usually described for phenol alkylation with alkyl halides.²⁰ The reaction to give the *bis*-adducts 3 proceeded slowly, even at 60°; an unidentified gummy material formed at the interface and the yields of crude **3a-b**, after 70 h, were only 30-40%. Attempts to react the pre-formed phenolates (sodium salt; Table 1, entry 3 and potassium salt; Table 1, entry 4) in dry media, also gave very poor yields of 3. The reaction of phenol at 130° with cesium fluoride as catalyst,¹⁹ was inefficient (Table 1, entry 5). The use of BF₃ etherate as catalyst,⁴ led only to degradation products (Table 1, entry 6). Thus hard basic or acidic conditions proved to be inapplicable to our purpose; in the absence of the catalyst, the reaction was not efficient either (Table 1, entry 9).

It was found that the reaction of 1 with *p*-cresol was better conducted at 130° , in the presence of a phase-transfer catalyst such as tetramethylammonium chloride (TMAC) (Table 1, entry 7). However, although *p*-cresol (more reactive than phenol) was used, about 60 to 90 minutes were still

Entry	Ar-OH (n equiv.)	Conditions	Products (% Yield)
1	2a (3 equiv.)	50% aq. NaOH-toluene (1:1) nBu_4N HSO ₄ (0.1-0.2 equiv.) 20° to 60°; 30 to 70 h	bisadduct 3a (33) ²¹
2	2b (3 equiv.)	idem entry 1	bisadduct 3b (43)
3	2a (2 equiv.)	NaH(2-4 equiv.), ether or THF 20° to reflux; 24 to 65 h	monoadduct 4a (15-25) and traces of bisadduct 3a
4	2b (2 equiv.)	preformed ArOK, neat, 130° 1 h to 3 h	bisadduct 3b (<10%)
5	2a (2 equiv.)	CsF (0.02 equiv.), neat, 130° 1 h to 3 h	traces of bisadduct 3a ^(a)
6	2b (2 equiv.)	BF_{3} ether (2.2 equiv.), dioxane, 20°, 30 h	degradation ^(a)
7	2b (2-3 equiv.)	Me ₄ N Cl (0.1 equiv.), neat, 130°, 1 h to 1 h 30	bisadduct 3b (≥90%) ^(a)
8	2b (3 equiv.)	Ph ₃ PEt I (0.1 equiv.), neat, 130°, 1 h	bisadduct 3b (≥85%) ^(a)
9	2b (2 equiv.)	neat, 130°, 5 days	mixture of epoxide 1, mono- and <i>bis</i> -adducts, 4b and 3b ^(a)
10	2c (2 equiv.)	Me₄N Cl (0.1 equiv.), neat, 130°, 10h	bisadduct 3c (>80%)
11	2c (2 equiv.)	Et ₃ NBn Cl (0.01 equiv.), neat, 150°, 2 h	bisadduct 3c (>80%)

TABLE 1. Conditions for Epoxide Ring Opening with Phenols.

a) NMR analysis of the crude mixture.



5 (monoregioisomer of 3)

required to produce high yields (\geq 90%). The reaction time could not be significantly reduced without loss of yield using a soft phosphonium catalyst instead of an ammonium salt (Table 1, entry 8). As our interest was to apply the selected conditions for reacting 1 with *p*-cresol to other reactions of *para*functionalized phenols (activated as well as deactivated), we conducted the *bis*-epoxide ring opening of 1 with the deactivated methyl *p*-hydroxybenzoate 2c in neat conditions at 130° with 0.1 equivalent of TMAC (*i.e.*, similar to Table 1, entry 7). Compared with *p*-cresol, a tenfold increase of the reaction time was necessary to get similar yield (table 1, entry 10); this can be attributed to reduced nucleophilicity of 2c due to the presence of an electron-withdrawing substituent on the aromatic nucleus. However, complete reaction was achieved to give 3c, at 150° within 2 h, using a more lipophilic catalyst, *i.e.* triethylbenzylammonium chloride (TEBAC), in only 0.01 equivalent amount (Table 1, entry 11). Therefore, these conditions were used for the reaction of 1 with two equivalents of *p*-hydroxyacetophenone (2d), *p*-hydroxybenzaldehyde (2e), *p*-hydroxybenzonitrile (2f), *p*-nitrophenol (2g), *p*-fluorophenol (2h), *p*-chlorophenol (2I), *p*-bromo-phenol (2j) and *p*-iodophenol (2k) (Table 2).

Entry	R in 2	R in 2 Time (mmol 1) ^a		Yield (%) ^b	
1	CO ₂ Me	2 h (60 mmol)	3c	72	
2	COMe	4.5 h (29 mmol)	3d	84	
3	СНО	4.5 h (22 mmol)	3e	54	
4	CN	5.2 h (23 mmol)	5.2 h (23 mmol) 3f		
5	NO ₂ °	5.5 h (12 mmol)	3g	54	
6	F	6 h (22 mmol)	3h	66	
7	Cl	5 h (22 mmol)	3i	90	
8	Br	5 h (21 mmol)	Зј	88	
9	I	7 h (27 mmol)	3k	69	
10	CO ₂ H	deprotection of 3c (12 mmol)	31	81	

TABLE 2. Reaction of 1 with para-Substituted Phenols (2)

a) 2 Equiv. of phenol, 0.01 equiv. of TEBAC, neat, 135-150°. b) Pure fraction isolated by preparative MPLC (12-60 mmol scale). c) TMAC was used as catalyst

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From the ¹H NMR analysis of the crude mixtures, it was concluded that the *bis*-adducts **3a-k** were formed selectively in about 90-95% yields in all cases. The regioselectivity of the epoxide ring opening is thus mainly controlled by steric factors (nucleophilic attack on the less substituted carbon atom), as already mentioned for reactions involving soft²² or resonance-stabilized²³ nucleophiles under neutral or basic conditions. HPLC Analysis of the crude mixtures revealed the presence of two side-products (less than 5% each), namely the monoadducts **4** and the mono-regioisomers **5** of the *bis*-adducts. Pure fractions of **3a-k** (Tables 1 and 2) were obtained by preparative MPLC and fully characterized (Tables 3 and 4). Typically, in the ¹H NMR spectra of all compounds, we found H-5 at δ 4.33-4.41 (multiplet) and H-4 + H-6 at δ 4.02 to 4.24 (multiplets). In the ¹³C NMR spectra, the lines attributed to C-g, C-h and C-i appeared around 68-69 ppm. Samples of the side-products **4** and **5** were also recovered: in the ¹H NMR spectra, compounds **4** were characterized by signals at δ 2.70-2.90 (2H) and 3.30-3.40 (1H) due to the epoxide moiety; compounds **5** showed a typical signal at δ 4.5 due to the C<u>H</u>-O-Aryl group.

TABLE 3. ¹H NMR Data (δ) of Compounds **3** (200 MHz, CDCl₃ + 1% TMS).

Cmpd	H-1(a)	OH(b)	H-4(c)	H-6(c)	H-5(c)	H-3(b)	H-7(b)	H-2(b)	H-8(b)
3a	1.60	3.50(d)	4.04	to 4.15	4.35	6.80(8.7)	6.87(8.8)	7.11(8.8)	7.24(e)
3b	1.62	2.83(4.3)	4.05	to 4.16	4.33	6.81(8.8)	6.80(8.5)	7.12(8.8)	7.06(8.5)
3c	1.61	2.69(4.0)	4.10	to 4.18	4.37	6.81(8.9)	6.92(8.8)	7.12(8.9)	7.97(8.8)
3d	1.64	2.59(4.7)	4.13	4.21	4.40	6.83(8.7)	6.96(8.7)	7.14(8.7)	7.94(8.7)
3e	1.62	3.52(d)	4.11	4.21	4.38	6.82(8.6)	6.98(8.7)	7.12(8.6)	7.78(8.7)
3f	1.63	3.10(d)	4.11	4.19	4.39	6.82(8.8)	6.95(8.9)	7.13(8.8)	7.54(8.9)
3g	1.64	2.56(5.4)	4.14	4.24	4.41	6.83(8.9)	6.99(9.3)	7.14(8.9)	8.21(9.3)
3h	1.63	2.60(5.2)	4.08	to 4.13	4.36	6.83(8.9)	6.87(8.2)	7.13(8.9)	6.97(8.2)
3i	1.63	2.58(5.1)	4.02	to 4.18	4.36	6.82(8.9)	6.85(9.0)	7.14(8.9)	7.24(9.0)
3j	1.63	2.53(5.3)	4.06	to 4.19	4.35	6.81(8.9)	6.83(8.8)	7.14(8.9)	7.38(8.8)
3k	1.63	2.58(d)	4.08	to 4.13	4.37	6.76(8.9)	6.81(8.8)	7.12(8.9)	7.52(8.8)

a) singlet. b) doublet (J given in Hz). c) multiplet. d) broad singlet. e) doublet of doublet. For the atoms numbering, see Scheme.

Deprotection²⁴ of the methyl esters of **3c** was considered for preparing the *bis*-carboxyl derivative **3l**. Under classical saponification conditions (K_2CO_3 , LiOH or KOH (10 equiv.) in CH₃OH-H₂O, 20°), the reaction was very slow (7-18 days). Acidic hydrolysis (CF₃CO₂H-H₂O, 20°) also appeared to be slow (several days) and accompanied by some degradation of **3c**. The reaction with trimethylsilyl iodide (TMSCl excess, NaI excess, CH₃CN, 20°) required 16 days for completion. Nucleophilic displacement with sodium iodide (2 equiv.) in refluxing DMF (4 days) was accompanied by degradation of **3c**. Lastly, the reaction of lithium iodide (8 equiv.) in pyridine²⁵ gave the complete deprotection after 15 h of reflux. Acidification and MPLC purification furnished pure **3l** in 81% yield.

				A 1	·	1	x	,	3		.,		
Cmpd	l C-a	C-b	C-g	C-h	C-i	C-e	C-k	C-m	C-d	C-l	C-c	C-f	C-j
3 a	30.9	41.6	68.8	68.7	68.8	114.0	114.6	121.1	127.7	129.4	143.6	156.3	158.4
3b	30.8	41.4	68.5	68.6	68.8	113.8	114.3	130.1	127.5	129.7	143.4	156.1	156.2
3c	30.9	41.6	68.5	68.6	68.8	113.9	114.0	123.0	127.8	131.6	143.7	156.1	162.1
3d	30.8	41.5	68.4	68.5	68.9	113.9	114.1	130.5	127.6	130.4	143.5	156.1	162.3
3e	30.9	41.6	69.0	68.4	69.0	113.9	114.7	130.1	127.7	131.9	143.6	156.0	163.4
3f	31.0	41.9	68.6	68.7	69.3	114.2	115.4	118.8	127.9	134.1	144.0	156.3	161.8
3g	30.9	41.7	68.3	68.5	69.4	113.9	114.6	141.9	125.9	127.9	143.9	156.1	163.4
3h	31.0	41.7	68.6	68.8	69.4	113.9	115.7	155.9	127.8	116.0	143.7	156.2	154.5
3i	30.8	41.5	68.4	68.5	69.0	113.8	115.7	125.8	127.6	129.2	143.5	156.0	156.9
3j	31.0	41.7	68.6	68.7	69.1	114.0	116.4	113.4	127.8	132.3	143.7	156.2	157.5
3k	31.0	41.8	68.6	68.7	68.9	114.0	117.0	83.4	127.8	138.3	143.8	156.2	158.4

TABLE 4. ¹³C NMR Data (ppm) of Compounds 3 (50 MHz, CDCl₃ + 1% TMS)

For the atoms numbering, see Scheme.

In conclusion, the epoxide ring opening of bisphenol-A diglycidyl ether 1 was performed, in a chemo- and regioselective manner, using substituted phenols 2 (2 equiv.), neat at 130-150°, in the presence of triethylbenzylammonium chloride (0.01 equiv.) as catalyst, to yield the *bis*-adducts 3. The reactions were easily conducted at the 4g to 20g scale (\approx 12 to 60 mmol) of 1, including a preparative MPLC purification of the final products 3. The catalytic role of halide ions in epoxide ring opening has been previously pointed out.²⁶⁻²⁷

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

The melting points were determined with an Electrothermal microscope and are uncorrected. The IR spectra were taken with a Bio-Rad FTS 135 instrument and calibrated with polystyrene. The NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian Gemini 200 apparatus (at 200 MHz for the proton and 50 MHz for the carbon). The Mass spectra were obtained on a Finnigan-MAT TSQ-70 instrument (CI mode) and with a Xenon Ion Tech 8KV (FAB mode). The microanalyses were performed at the Christopher Ingold Laboratories of the University College, London, UK. EPON 825 is the Shell epoxy resin containing the highest percentage of single molecule BADGE; this starting material has been purified (>99%) into 1 by medium pressure liquid chromatography (MPLC) on silica gel (Machery-Nagel, 15-40 μ m, contains 8% of water) with hexane-EtOAc (8:2, then 7:3), in a Prochrom equipment (diameter of the column : 8 cm; pressure : 40 bars; flow rate : 120 ml/min; UV detection at 254 nm). For the HPLC analyses, we used a home-made column with MPLC grade silica gel (dimensions of the column = 250 X 46 mm; eluent = hexane-*i*PrOH (97.5:2.5); flow rate = 3 mL/min). The retention times are as follows : t ≈ 2.5 min for **2**; t = 4.5 min for **1**; t = 6 to 8 min for **4**; t = 12 to 14 min for **3**; t ≈ 23 min for **5**.

Typical Experiment for the Preparation of the *bis*-Adduct 3c.- A mixture of bisphenol- A diglycidyl ether 1 (20 g, 58.75 mmol, 1 equiv.), methyl *p*-hydroxybenzoate 2c (17.87 g, 117.5 mmol, 2 equiv.) and triethylbenzylammonium chloride (TEBAC) (0.136 g, 0.587 mmol, 0.01 equiv.) was heated at 150° for 2 h, with magnetic stirring in a flask closed with a security trap (for pressure equilibration). The crude oily mixture was dissolved in hot dichloromethane (50 ml), filtered over Celite 521 and chromatographed on silica gel (MPLC; eluent : hexane-ethyl acetate, 6:4 then 1:1) to give **3c** as a white crystalline solid. Yield: 27.3 g (72%); mp 123-128°; IR (film): 3446, 2951, 2874, 1715 (ester), 1606, 1581, 1510, 1458, 1436, 1384, 1362, 1314, 1285, 1249, 1170, 1106, 1039, 1011 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (see Table 3): δ 3.86 (s, CO₂Me); ¹³C NMR (see Table 4): δ 51.8 (OMe), 166.8 (CO ester); MS (FAB⁺) m/e 645.

Anal. Calcd for C₃₇H₄₀O₁₀.H₂O: C, 67.0; H, 6.33. Found: C, 67.22; H, 6.09

Compounds 3a-k.- Prepared as above, they are generally hygroscopic oils or foams:

3a (pale yellow viscous oil): MS (FAB⁺) m/e 528.3; ¹H NMR: δ 6.39 (dd, J = 8.8 Hz, R=H).

Anal. Calcd for C₃₃H₃₆O₆, 1/2H₂O: C,73.65; H, 6.88. Found: C,73.85; H, 7.00

3b (slighty white viscous oil): MS (FAB⁺) m/e 556.2; ¹H NMR δ 2.27 (s, R=Me); ¹³C NMR ppm 20.2 (Ar-Me).

Anal. Calcd for C35H400.01/3H20: C, 74.64; H, 7.23. Found: C, 74.86; H, 7.35

3d (pale yellow foam): MS (FAB⁺) m/e 613.3; IR (film) v 1674 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR δ 2.56 (s, R= CO-<u>Me</u>); ¹³C NMR ppm 26.1 (CO-<u>Me</u>), 196.8 (<u>CO</u>-Me).

Anal. Calcd for C₃₇H₄₀O₈•1/2H₂O: C, 71.42; H, 6.59. Found: C, 71.17; H, 6.33

3e (pale yellow oil): MS (FAB⁺) m/e 585 ($C_{35}H_{36}O_8 + 1$); IR (film) v 1686 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR δ 9.82 (s, R= C<u>H</u>O); ¹³C NMR ppm 190.8 (H-<u>CO</u>).

Anal. : unstable, partially oxidized into 31

3f (pale yellow foam): MS (FAB⁺) m/e 579.6; IR (film) v 2225 cm⁻¹; ¹³C NMR ppm 104.2 (R= CN). Anal. Calcd for $C_{35}H_{34}N_2O_6H_2O$: C, 70.89; H, 6.03; N, 4.69. Found: C, 70.91; H, 5.81; N, 4.60

3g (yellow foam): MS (FAB⁻) m/e 618; IR (film) v 1511, 1342 cm⁻¹.

Anal. Calcd for $C_{33}H_{34}N_2O_{10}$: C, 64.07; H, 5.54; N, 4.53. Found: C, 64.20; H, 5.40; N, 4.45 **3h** (colorless viscous oil): MS (FAB⁺) m/e 564.

Anal. Calcd for C₁₃H₃₄F₂O₆.H₂O: C, 67.96; H, 6.18. Found: C, 67.70; H, 6.09

3i (white foam): MS (CI, $CH_4 - N_2O$) m/e 597, 599.

Anal. Calcd for $C_{33}H_{34}Cl_2O_6$.1/3 H_2O : C, 65.61; H, 5.74; Cl, 11.60. Found: C, 65.87; H, 5.98; Cl, 11.36 **3j** (white amorphous solid): MS (Cl, CH₄ - N₂O) m/e 685.3, 687.1.

Anal. Calcd for $C_{33}H_{34}Br_2O_6$: C, 57.74; H, 4.99; Br, 23.28. Found: C, 57.64; H, 4.96; Br, 23.56 **3k** (white foam): MS (CI, $CH_4 - N_2O$) m/e 780.1.

Anal. Calcd for C₃₃H₃₄I₂O₆: C, 50.78; H, 4.39. Found: C, 50.29; H, 4.57

Description of a Typical Mono-adduct 4c.- Pale yellow oil; IR (film) v 3469, 3057, 2963, 2929, 2873, 2558, 2251, 2072, 1918, 1714, 1605, 1581, 1506, 1457, 1435, 1384, 1363, 1249, 1170, 1106, 1037, 1012 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.61 (s, 6H, H-1), 2.58 (d, J = 5.1 Hz, 1H, OH), 2.71-2.90 (m, 2H, H-11), 3.30-3.40 (m, 1H, H-10), 3.87 (s, 3H, OC<u>H₃</u>), 3.80-4.04 (m, 2H, H-9), 4.10-4.19 (m, 4H, H-4 + H-6), 4.30-4.45 (m, 1H, H-5), 6.79(d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H, H-3), 6.81 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H, H-3'), 6.92 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H, H-7), 7.11 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H, H-2), 7.13 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H, H-2'),

7.97 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H, H-8); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃) ppm 30.9 (C-a), 41.6 (C-b), 44.6 (C-p), 50.1 (C-o), 51.7 (OCH₃), 68.5 (C-h), 68.6 (C-g + C-n), 68.8 (C-i), 113.8 (C-e), 113.9 (C-e'), 114.1 (C-k), 122.9 (C-m), 127.6 (C-d), 127.7 (C-d'), 131.5 (C-l), 143.4 (C-c), 143.6 (C-c'), 156.1 (C-f), 156.2 (C-f'), 162.1 (C-j), 166.6 (C=O); MS (FAB⁺) m/e 493.

Anal. Calcd for C₂₉H₃₂O₇: C, 70.71; H, 6.54. Found: C, 70.40; H, 7.05

Preparation of the Di-acid 31.- A solution of di-ester **3c** (7.5 g, 11.63 mmol, 1 equiv.) and lithium iodide (12.45 g, 93.06 mmol, 8 equiv.) in dry pyridine (22 ml) was refluxed for 15 h under argon atmosphere. The crude mixture was dissolved in hot ethyl acetate and acidified with 2N HCl to reach pH1. The aqueous phase was extracted with ethyl acetate (6 x 100 ml). Drying over MgSO₄, concentration and chromatography on silica gel (MPLC, eluant : hexane-EtOAc-HOAc, 66.5 : 28.5 : 5; then 47.5 : 47.5 : 5) gave the di-acid **31** as an amorphous white solid (hygroscopic material). Yield: 7.17 g (81%); mp 174-9°; IR (KBr) v 3856, 3552, 3477, 3068, 2977, 2932, 2869, 2658, 2541, 1685, 1606, 1579, 1511, 1453, 1427, 1298, 1248, 1175, 1039 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 1.58 (s, 6H, H-1), 4.07-4.19 (m, 8H, H-4 + H-6), 4.20-4.35 (m, 2H, H-5), 6.82 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 4H, H-3), 6.99 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 4H, H-7), 7.09 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 4H, H-2), 7.95 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 4H, H-8); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CD₃OD) ppm 33.3 (C-a), 44.5 (C-b), 71.6 (C-g), 72.1 (C-h), 72.4 (C-i), 117.0 (C-e), 117.2 (C-k), 126.2 (C-m), 130.6 (C-d), 134.6 (C-1), 146.7 (C-c), 159.9 (C-f), 166.0 (C-j), 171.5 (<u>C</u>=O); MS (CI, CH₄ - N₂O) m/e 616.3.

Anal. Calcd for C₃₅H₃₆O₁₀•1/2H₂O: C, 67.13; H, 5.91. Found: C, 67.50; H, 5.65

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