

THE NEOLIGNANS (–)-CARINATONE AND CARINATIN FROM *VIOLA CARINATA*

KAZUKO KAWANISHI, YUKIKO UHARA and YOHEI HASHIMOTO

Institute of Pharmacognosy, Kobe Women's College of Pharmacy, Motoyamakita-Machi, Higashinada-Ku, Kobe 658, Japan

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Abstract—From the bark of *Viola carinata* two neolignans have been isolated: (–)-carinatone, [(2*S*)-1-(3',4'-dimethoxyphenyl)-2-(3"-allyl-5"-methoxy-6"-hydroxyphenyl)propanone] and carinatin, [5-allyl-7-methoxy-3-methyl-2-(3',4'-dimethoxyphenyl)benzofuran].

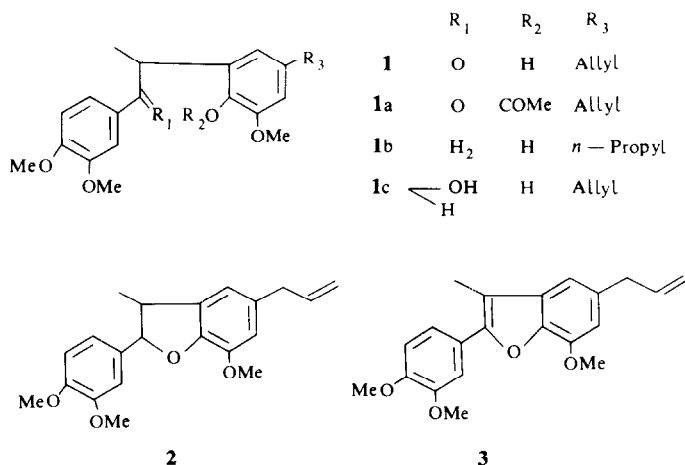
INTRODUCTION

Gottlieb *et al.* [1] have reported that the wood of *Viola carinata* (Benth.) Warburg contains (+)-guaiacin, (–)-galcatin and (–)-*iso*-otobaphenol, whereas we have recently found dehydrodieugenol and monomethyl dehydrodieugenol in the bark [2]. Two neolignans have now been isolated from bark and are the subject of the present paper.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

From high resolution mass spectrometry, compound **1** was estimated as C₂₁H₂₄O₅. Since it gave a bluish colour with FeCl₃/K₃Fe(CN)₆ and no colour with Gibbs reagent, it appeared to be a phenolic compound with a *para* substituent. The presence of the hydroxyl group was identified from IR $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{KBr}}$ 3350 cm^{–1} and ¹H NMR δ 5.92 ppm. By IR (ν_{max} 1665 cm^{–1}) and ¹³C NMR (δ 199.61 ppm) the presence of a carbonyl group was proved. ¹H NMR spectral measurements by decoupling technique supported the assignment of a secondary methyl adjacent to the carbonyl and an allyl group as follows: the former, methyl protons at δ 1.46(*d*, *J* = 6.8 Hz) and methine proton at δ 5.03(*q*, *J* = 6.8 Hz) and the latter, CH₂–CH=CH₂ at δ 3.22(*dt*, *J* = 6.7 and 1.6 Hz), CH₂–CH=CH₂ at δ 5.86(*ddt*, *J* = 17.0, 9.2 and 6.7 Hz), CH₂–CH=CH₂(*cis*) at δ 4.99(*ddt*, *J* = 9.2, 2.0 and 1.6) and CH₂–CH=CH₂

(*trans*) at δ 4.99(*ddt*, *J* = 17.0, 2.0 and 1.6 Hz). ¹H NMR [δ 3.85(3 H, *s*) and 3.88 (6 H, *s*)] and ¹³C NMR [δ 55.93(3 C, *q*)] showed the presence of three methoxyl groups on the aromatic rings. The orientation of protons on two aromatic rings was estimated by spin coupling constants. Two protons on the ring, δ 6.53 and 6.55 (*J* = 2.0, each) were related to a *meta* orientation for C-2" and C-4". Three protons on the other ring δ 6.80(*d*, *J* = 8.6 Hz), 7.61 (*d*, *J* = 1.9 Hz) and 7.72 (*dd*, *J* = 8.6 and 1.9 Hz) were an ABX system for C-5', C-2' and C-6' protons respectively. The above data could be accommodated by structure **1** which was based upon biogenetic considerations [3]. The base ion, C₉H₉O₃, is compatible with one of the proposed constitutions by the α -cleavage of the ketone of structure **1**. Acetylation of **1** yielded a monoacetate, **1a**, C₂₃H₂₆O₆, IR and ¹H NMR of which revealed an acetyl group at ν_{max} 1760 and 1185 cm^{–1} and acetyl protons at δ 2.35 ppm respectively. By Wolff-Kishner reduction [4], **1** gave a resinous compound, **1b**, C₂₁H₂₈O₄, which indicated that an allyl group was hydrogenated as well as the carbonyl ketone. Based on decoupling techniques from ¹H NMR, it was found that the carbonyl group was reduced to methylene, whose protons appeared at δ 2.67 (*dd*, *J* = 13.5 and 8.7 Hz) and 2.98(*dd*, *J* = 13.5 and 6.2 Hz). A methyl proton of the secondary methyl



group was observed at δ 1.20(*d*, $J = 7.0$ Hz) and a methine proton at δ 3.39(*m*, $J = 8.7, 7.0$ and 6.2 Hz) which was shown to be adjacent to the new methylene group by decoupling technique. ^1H NMR showed that the allyl group was hydrogenated to *n*-propyl, with δ 0.93(3 H, $J = 7.3$ Hz), 1.58(2 H, *m*) and 2.48(2 H, $J = 7.8$ Hz). The molecular ion, 344.196, $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{28}\text{O}_4$ (calc. 344.199) and base ion, 193.125, $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{17}\text{O}_2$ (calc. 193.125) were calculated to be of propyl grouping rather than allyl by mass spectrometry. It is assumed that a reacting hydrazine generates a di-imide to hydrogenate a carbon-carbon double bond. Compound **1** was reduced with sodium borohydride to give diastereoisomers of alcohols, **1c**, $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{26}\text{O}_5$, of which the major one showed the AMX₃ system on ^1H NMR, the methyl protons (X_3) at δ 1.05 (*d*, $J = 7.0$ Hz), the methine proton (*M*) on the carbon-bearing methyl group at δ 3.41 (*dq*, $J = 9.4$ and 7.0 Hz) and the other methine proton (*A*) on a carbon bearing a hydroxyl group at δ 4.75(*d*, $J = 9.4$ Hz). Two methine carbons, those bearing a methyl and a hydroxyl group appeared at δ 42.03 and 78.94 respectively on ^{13}C NMR. Compound **1c** was condensed with H_3PO_4 to produce a 2,3-dihydrobenzofuran (**2**) [5], $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{24}\text{O}_4$, which had no hydroxyl group detectable by IR. The AMX₃ system was analysed by ^1H NMR, (*A*): δ 5.10(*d*, $J = 9.7$ Hz), (*M*): 3.45(*dq*, $J = 9.7$ and 6.7 Hz), (X_3): 1.37(*d*, $J = 6.7$ Hz). An aromatic hydroxyl group must be at C-6'' in **1c**, since a dehydration from the 1,4-dihydroxy groups can be regarded as a part of structure **1c**. A *trans*-2,3-dihydrobenzofuran structure was suggested by coupling constants of the proton (*A*) at C-2 and the methyl protons (X_3) at C-3 by ^1H NMR [6]. The 2*S*,3*S* configuration of this compound was confirmed by the similarity of the ORD curve of (–)-melanoxin (2*S*,3*S*), as opposed to the antipodal curve of (+)-obtusafuran (2*R*,3*R*) [7]. The absolute stereochemistry of **1** ($[\alpha]_D^{25} - 108.7^\circ$) was established to be of the *S* configuration since **2** had an *S* configuration at C-3 and the ORD curve of **1** was similar to *S*-(+)-hydratropic acid [8]. Thus **1** must be (2*S*) - 1 - (3',4' - dimethoxyphenyl) - 2 - (3'' - allyl - 5'' - methoxy - 6'' - hydroxyphenyl)propanone; named (–)-carinatone.

Compound **3**, $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_4$, determined by high resolution mass spectrometry, contained a furan group from the IR (880 cm^{-1}). Compound **3** has three methoxyl groups and an allyl group, from NMR studies. The substitution of these groups on the rings was determined as being the same as in **1** from the coupling constants in ^1H NMR. The methyl group at δ 2.42 (3 H, *s*) on ^1H NMR could be located on the unsaturated carbon. From spectral data and biogenetic considerations, structure **3** is proposed for this neolignan. The dihydrobenzofuran (**2**) was dehydrogenated to a benzofuran with Pd–C in decalin [6]. The furan ring was also directly synthesized from **1** by dehydration with stannous chloride in acetic and hydrochloric acids [9]. Thus the 4-keto butyl alcohol, grouping of **1** might be enolated in acid solution to butadien-1,4-dialcohol from which the elimination of water would be facilitated. The synthetic products were identical with the natural one by mmp, IR and TLC respectively. Thus **3** is identified as 5 - allyl - 7 - methoxy - 3 - methyl - 2 - (3',4' - dimethoxyphenyl)benzofuran. It is named carinatin.

EXPERIMENTAL

Isolation of 1. Eluted fraction (2.64 g) with gradient solvents of C_6H_6 and CHCl_3 (0–100%), to which were added CHCl_3 and MeOH (0–100%) on a Si gel column, were re-chromatographed on Si gel (100 g) with gradient solvents of C_6H_6 and MeOH (0–100%). Elution of 10% MeOH in C_6H_6 gave a mixture (three spots on TLC), (2.5 g) which was chromatographed on another column with C_6H_6 and Me_2CO . Compound **1** (1.0 g) was eluted with 5% Me_2CO in C_6H_6 , mp 103° (recrystallized from C_6H_6 and petrol). $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{24}\text{O}_5$ (found 356.161 for 356.162 by MS); $[\alpha]_D^{25} = -108.7^\circ$ in CHCl_3 ; UV $\lambda_{\text{max}}^{\text{CHCl}_3}$ nm (log ϵ): 304(4.093), 277(4.021), 243(3.944); ^1H NMR (200 MHz)(CDCl_3) δ 1.46 (3 H, *d*, $J = 6.8$ Hz, H-3), 3.22 (2 H, *dt*, $J = 6.7$ and 1.6 Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{--CH=CH}_2$), 3.85(3 H, *s*, OMe), 3.88(6 H, *s*, OMe), 4.99[1 H, *ddt*, $J = 17.0, 2.0$ and 1.6 Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{--CH=CH}_2$ (*trans*)], 4.99[1 H, *ddt*, $J = 9.2, 2.0$ and 1.6 Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{--CH=CH}_2$ (*cis*)], 5.03 (1 H, *q*, $J = 6.8$ Hz, H-2), 5.86(1 H, *ddt*, $J = 17.0, 9.2$ and 6.7 Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{--CH=CH}_2$), 5.92(1 H, *s*, OH), 6.53(1 H, *d*, $J = 2.0$ Hz, H-2'' or H-4''), 6.55(1 H, *d*, $J = 2.0$ Hz, H-4'' or H-2''), 6.80 (1 H, *d*, $J = 8.6$ Hz, H-5'), 7.61(1 H, *d*, $J = 1.9$ Hz, H-2'), 7.72 (1 H, *dd*, $J = 8.6$ and 1.9 Hz, H-6'); ^{13}C NMR (50 MHz)(CDCl_3) δ 17.89 (*q*, C-3), 39.80(*d*, C-2), 39.98(*t*, $\text{CH}_2\text{--CH=CH}_2$), 55.93(*q*, OMe \times 3), 109.50 (*d*, C-2'), 110.21(*d*, C-4'), 111.22(*d*, C-2''), 115.62(*t*, $\text{CH}_2\text{--CH=CH}_2$), 120.04(*d*, C-5'), 123.25(*d*, C-6'), 127.58(*s*, C-1'), 129.69(*s*, C-3'), 131.91(*s*, C-1''), 137.64(*d*, $\text{CH}_2\text{--CH=CH}_2$), 140.44(*s*, C-5''), 146.61(*s*, C-4'), 148.82(*s*, C-3'), 153.03(*s*, C-6'), 199.61(*s*, C-1); MS *m/z*: 356[M]⁺ (22.3%), 191(2.2), 165(100); ORD [dioxane; *c* 0.00055 (600–230 nm)] $[\phi]_{600} - 65$, $[\phi]_{400} - 647$, $[\phi]_{350} - 1553$, $[\phi]_{320} - 2654$, $[\phi]_{310} - 3236$, $[\phi]_{304} - 2719$, $[\phi]_{285} - 129$, $[\phi]_{276} 0$, $[\phi]_{266} + 6214$, $[\phi]_{260} + 12\,233$, $[\phi]_{251} + 15\,534$, $[\phi]_{244} + 10\,227$, $[\phi]_{236} + 8673$.

Isolation of 3. Eluents of 1% Me_2CO in C_6H_6 from a Si gel column (80 mg) gave crystals, mp $88\text{--}91^\circ$ (ex. EtOH). $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_4$ (found 338.148 for 338.152 by MS); UV $\lambda_{\text{max}}^{\text{CHCl}_3}$ nm (log ϵ): 307(4.428), 244(4.100); ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) δ 2.42(3 H, *s*, Me \times 3), 3.48(2 H, *dt*, $J = 6.7$ and 1.6 Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{--CH=CH}_2$), 3.93(3 H, *s*, OMe), 3.97(3 H, *s*, OMe), 4.02(3 H, *s*, OMe), 5.09 [1 H, *ddt*, $J = 10.8, 2.0$ and 1.6 Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{--CH=CH}_2$ (*cis*)], 5.12 [1 H, *ddt*, $J = 17.0, 2.0$ and 1.6 Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{--CH=CH}_2$ (*trans*)], 6.05(1 H, *ddt*, $J = 17.0, 10.8$ and 6.7 Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{--CH=CH}_2$), 6.63(1 H, *d*, $J = 1.4$ Hz, H-6), 6.93(1 H, *d*, $J = 1.4$ Hz, H-4), 6.94(1 H, *d*, $J = 9.0$ Hz, H-5'), 7.33(1 H, *dd*, $J = 9.0$ and 2.2 , H-6') 7.33(1 H, *d*, $J = 2.2$ Hz, H-2'); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3) δ 9.64(*q*, Me \times 3), 40.64(*t*, $\text{CH}_2\text{--CH=CH}_2$), 55.93(*q*, OMe), 56.04(*q*, OMe), 56.10(*q*, OMe), 107.57(*d*, C-2'), 110.05(*d*, C-6), 110.25(*s*, C-3), 111.01(*d*, C-4), 111.10(*d*, C-5'), 115.58(*t*, $\text{CH}_2\text{--CH=CH}_2$), 119.89(*d*, C-6'), 124.29(*s*, C-3a), 133.03(*s*, C-1'), 135.16(*s*, C-5), 138.01(*d*, $\text{CH}_2\text{--CH=CH}_2$), 141.48(*s*, C-7), 144.71(*s*, C-4'), 148.94(*s*, C-2 and C-3'), 151.24(*s*, C-7a); MS *m/z*: 338[M]⁺ (100), 323(9.8), 254 (6.0).

Derivatives of 1. The acetate was a resin (**1a**), $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{26}\text{O}_6$ (found 398.170 for 398.173); ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) δ 1.43(3 H, *d*, $J = 6.9$ Hz, H-3), 2.35(3 H, *s*, OCOMe), 3.27(2 H, *dt*, $J = 6.7$ and 1.6 Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{--CH=CH}_2$), 3.79(3 H, *s*, OMe), 3.88(3 H, *s*, OMe), 3.89(3 H, *s*, OMe), 4.64 (1 H, *q*, $J = 6.6$ Hz, H-2), 5.01 [1 H, *ddt*, $J = 17.9, 2.0$ and 1.6 Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{--CH=CH}_2$ (*trans*)], 5.02[1 H, *ddt*, $J = 9.3, 2.0$ and 1.6 Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{--CH=CH}_2$ (*cis*)], 5.87 (1 H, *ddt*, $J = 17.9, 9.3$ and 6.7 Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{--CH=CH}_2$), 6.57(1 H, *d*, $J = 1.7$ Hz, H-2'' or H-4''), 6.63(1 H, *d*, $J = 1.7$ Hz, H-4'' or H-2''), 6.79(1 H, *d*, $J = 8.2$ Hz, H-5'), 7.52(1 H, *J = 2.0 Hz, H-2'), 7.55(1 H, *dd*, $J = 8.2$ and 2.0 Hz, H-6'); MS *m/z*: 398 [M]⁺ (9.6), 356(6.7), 338(4.5), 165(100). Wolff–Kishner reduction of **1** gave a resinous product, $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{28}\text{O}_4$ (found 344.196 for 344.199); UV $\lambda_{\text{max}}^{\text{CHCl}_3}$ nm (log ϵ): 282(3.663), 243(3.625); ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) δ 0.93(3 H, *t*, $J =$*

7.3 Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$), 1.20(3 H, *d*, $J = 7.0$ Hz, H-3), 1.58 (2 H, *m*, $\text{CH}_2\text{—CH}_2\text{—Me}$), 2.48(2 H, *t*, $J = 7.8$ Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{—CH}_2\text{—Me}$), 2.67(1 H, *dd*, $J = 13.5$ and 8.7 Hz, H-1), 2.98(1 H, *dd*, $J = 13.5$ and 6.2 Hz, H-1), 3.39(1 H, *m*, $J = 8.7$, 7.0 and 6.2 Hz, H-2), 3.80(3 H, *s*, OMe), 3.84(3 H, *s*, OMe), 3.86(1 H, *s*, OMe), 5.56(1 H, *s*, OH), 6.55(1 H, *d*, $J = 2.0$ Hz, H-2" or H-4"), 6.59(1 H, *d*, $J = 2.0$ Hz, H-4" or H-2"), 6.64(1 H, *d*, $J = 1.6$ Hz, H-2'), 6.70(1 H, *dd*, $J = 1.6$ and 8.0 Hz, H-6'), 7.28(1 H, *d*, $J = 8.0$ Hz, H-5'); MS m/z : 344 $[\text{M}]^+$ (27.6), 193(100). NaBH_4 reduction of **1** gave a mixture of major and minor alcohol products, **1b** inseparable by TLC, $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{26}\text{O}_5$ (found 358.177 for 358.178), ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) (major one) δ 1.05 (3 H, *d*, $J = 7.0$ Hz, H-3), 3.32 (2 H, *dt*, $J = 7.0$ and 1.6 Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{—CH=CH}_2$), 3.41(1 H, *dq*, $J = 9.4$ and 7.0 Hz, H-2), 3.87(3 H, *s*, OMe), 3.88 (3 H, *s*, OMe), 3.89 (3 H, *s*, OMe), 4.75(1 H, *d*, $J = 9.4$ Hz, H-1), 5.07[1 H, *ddt*, $J = 10.4$, 2.0 and 1.6 Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{—CH=CH}_2(\text{cis})$], 5.08 [1 H, *ddt*, $J = 17.0$, 2.0 and 1.6 Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{—CH=CH}_2(\text{trans})$], 5.95(1 H, *ddt*, $J = 17.0$, 10.4 and 7.0 Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{—CH=CH}_2$), 6.00(1 H, *s*, OH), 6.62(1 H, *d*, $J = 1.8$ Hz, H-2" or H-4"), 6.64(1 H, *d*, $J = 1.8$ Hz, H-4" or H-2"), 6.84(1 H, *d*, $J = 8.6$ Hz, H-5'), 6.93 (1 H, *dd*, $J = 8.6$ and 2.0 Hz, H-6'), 6.93(1 H, *d*, $J = 2.0$, H-2), ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3) (major one) δ 17.07 (*q*, C-3), 40.11 (*t*, $\text{CH}_2\text{—CH=CH}_2$), 42.03(*d*, C-2), 55.84(*q*, OMe \times 3), 78.94(*d*, C-1), 109.44(*d*, C-2'), 109.73(*d*, C-4"), 110.69(*d*, C-2"), 115.58(*t*, $\text{CH}_2\text{—CH=CH}_2$), 119.49(*d*, C-5'), 120.45(*d*, C-6'), 129.04(*s*, C-1'), 131.58 (*s*, C-3"), 135.68(*s*, C-1"), 137.78(*d*, $\text{CH}_2\text{—CH=CH}_2$), 142.12 (*s*, C-5"), 146.75 (*s*, C-4'), 148.50(*s*, C-3'), 148.91(*s*, C-6"); MS m/z : 358 $[\text{M}]^+$ (6.5), 340(46.2), 192(100), 167(90.7). Dehydration with H_3PO_4 of **1b** gave a resinous product **2** which was purified by CC with C_6H_6 and MeOH. $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{24}\text{O}_4$ (found 340.169 for 340.168), UV $\lambda_{\text{max}}^{\text{CHCl}_3}$ nm (log ϵ): 286(3.859), 282(3.866), 246(4.083); ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) δ 1.37(3 H, *d*, $J = 6.7$ Hz, Me \times 3), 3.35(2 H, *dt*, $J = 6.8$ and 1.9 Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{—CH=CH}_2$), 3.45(1 H, *dq*, $J = 9.7$ and 6.7 Hz, H-3), 3.87(3 H, *s*, OMe), 3.88(6 H, *s*, OMe), 5.05[1 H, *ddt*, $J = 17.0$, 2.0 and 1.6 Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{—CH=CH}_2(\text{trans})$], 5.10(1 H, *d*, $J = 9.7$ Hz, H-2), 5.10[1 H, *ddt*, $J = 10.2$, 2.0 and 1.6 Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{—CH=CH}_2(\text{cis})$], 5.98(1 H, *ddt*, $J = 17.0$, 10.2 and 6.8 Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{—CH=CH}_2$), 6.60(1 H, *d*, $J = 2.0$ Hz, H-2" or H-4"), 6.62(1 H, *d*, $J = 2.0$ Hz, H-4" or H-2"), 6.83(1 H, *d*, $J = 8.0$ Hz, H-5'), 6.96(1 H, *dd*, $J = 8.0$ and 2.0 Hz, H-6'), 6.99(1 H, *d*, $J = 2.0$ Hz, H-2'), ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3) δ 17.48 (*q*, Me \times 3), 40.20(*t*, $\text{CH}_2\text{—CH=CH}_2$), 45.75(*d*, C-3), 55.91(*q*, OMe \times 3), 93.58(*d*, C-2), 109.55(*d*, C-2'), 110.81(*d*, C-6),

111.90(*d*, C-4), 115.55(*t*, $\text{CH}_2\text{—CH=CH}_2$), 115.61 (*d*, C-5'), 119.23(*d*, C-6'), 132.76(*s*, C-1'), 133.16(*s*, C-5), 133.53(*s*, C-3a and C-7), 137.88(*d*, $\text{CH}_2\text{—CH=CH}_2$), 144.04(*s*, C-4'), 149.13(*s*, C-3' and C-7a); MS m/z : 340 $[\text{M}]^+$ (100); ORD [dioxane; c 0.0008 (600–241 nm) and 0.0004(241–222 nm)][ϕ] $_{600-43}$, [ϕ] $_{400-43}$, [ϕ] $_{250-595}$, [ϕ] $_{241-1063}$, [ϕ] $_{238.2\ 0}$, [ϕ] $_{233.6} + 1190$, [ϕ] $_{228} + 2465$, [ϕ] $_{225} + 1742$, [ϕ] $_{222} + 1318$.

Dehydrogenation of 2. Pd–C (10% 3 mg) was added to **2** (51 mg) in 5 ml decalin and the mixture refluxed for 24 hr. The product was chromatographed on Si gel in *n*-hexane and C_6H_6 , crystallized and confirmed to be identical with **3** by means of mmp, IR and TLC.

Condensation of 1. A mixture of 0.2 ml HOAc, and 0.2 ml. conc HCl was heated to boiling, into which SnCl_2 (110 mg) and **1** (30 mg) in HOAc (0.1 ml) were added. After cooling the solution was diluted with 0.4 ml H_2O , extracted with CHCl_3 , purified by TLC, crystallized from EtOH and identified as **3** by means of mmp, IR and TLC.

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