

Acid-Catalyzed Reactions of Epoxides Derived from Citronellene

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Abstract—Transformations of epoxy derivatives of citronellene in the presence of acid catalysts ($\text{ZrO}_2/\text{SO}_4^{2-}$, SnCl_4 , H_2SO_4) in methylene chloride, acetone, and acetonitrile give rise to various oxygen- and nitrogen-containing compounds.

Acid-catalyzed reactions of epoxy terpenoids attract attention from the synthetic viewpoint. Variation of the reaction conditions makes it possible to obtain a number of oxygen-containing compounds belonging to different classes from a single accessible precursor. We previously studied rearrangements of epoxides derived from linalool over solid acid catalysts and synthesized various oxygen-containing compounds. It was shown that the key stage in these transformations is heterocyclization involving oxygen atom of the hydroxy group [1]. In the present work we examined acid-catalyzed reactions of epoxides derived from citronellene (**Ia**, **Ib**), which are structurally related to 6,7-epoxy derivatives of linalool but contain only a double bond in addition to the epoxy ring. Initial epoxy derivatives **Ia** and **Ib** were synthesized by oxidation of (–)- β -citronellene (**II**) with peroxyacetic acid in methylene chloride (Scheme 1); according to the ^1H NMR data, the ratio of diastereoisomers **Ia** and **Ib** was ~1:1.

Unlike epoxides derived from linalool, compounds **Ia** and **Ib** in the presence of $\text{ZrO}_2/\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ at room temperature were converted into (6*R*)-2,6-dimethyloct-7-en-3-one (**III**) and (5*R*)-2,2,5-trimethyl-6-heptenal (**IV**) at a ratio of ~3:1 (GLC). The formation of the 5*S*

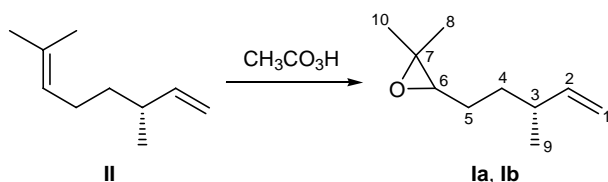
isomer of **IV** as by-product (which was identified by the IR spectrum of the reaction mixture) in the reaction of epoxy derivatives of (+)- β -citronellene with LiClO_4 was noted in [2]. We isolated compound **IV** as individual substance.

It is known that epoxy derivatives of geraniolene and geranyl acetate undergo various cyclizations by the action of Lewis acids, e.g., SnCl_4 [3, 4]. Citronellene epoxides **Ia** and **Ib** turned out to behave differently. Isomerization of epoxy derivatives **Ia** and **Ib** in the presence of SnCl_4 at 0°C afforded a mixture of acyclic compounds **III** and **IV** at a ratio of ~1:2 (GLC–MS). The following scheme of formation of compounds **III** and **IV** can be proposed (Scheme 2). Opening of the oxirane ring in **Ia** or **Ib** gives tertiary carbocation **A**; the subsequent hydride shift or C–C shift to the positively charged center C^7 , followed by deprotonation, yields ketone **III** or aldehyde **IV**, respectively.

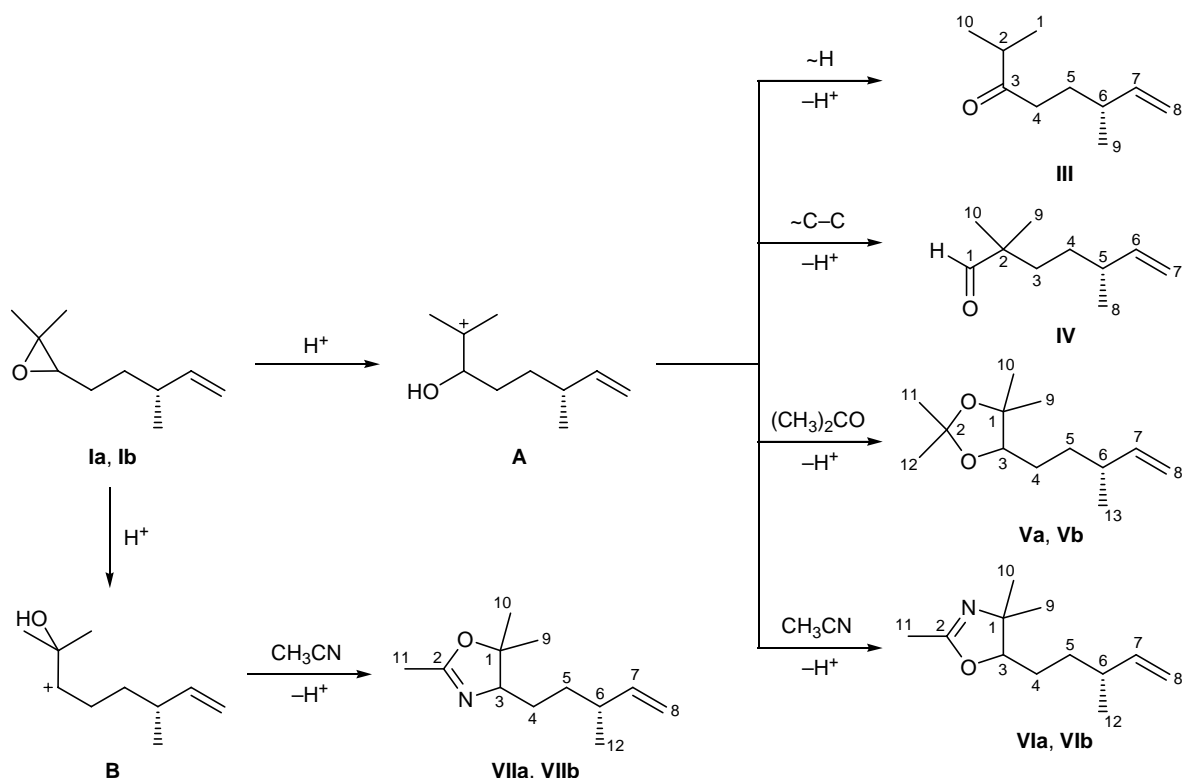
Compounds **Ia** and **Ib** are readily involved in intermolecular transformations catalyzed by sulfuric acid. In the system acetone–water–sulfuric acid (40:6:1, by volume), (5*R,S*)-2,2,4,4-tetramethyl-5-[(3*R*)-methyl-4-pentenyl]-1,3-dioxolanes **Va** and **Vb** were obtained. The (3*S*)-isomers of compounds **Va** and **Vb** were previously synthesized from (+)- β -citronellene epoxides in two steps [5].

The use of the Ritter reaction for the synthesis of substituted dihydrooxazoles from 6,7-epoxy derivatives of citral is quite promising [6]. Under analogous conditions (CH_3CN , H_2SO_4), compounds **Ia** and **Ib** were converted into mixtures of (5*R,S*)-2,4,4-tri-

Scheme 1.



Scheme 2.



methyl-5-[(3*R*)-methyl-4-pentenyl]-4,5-dihydrooxazoles **VIa** and **VIb**, (4*R,S*)-2,5,5-trimethyl-4-[(3*R*)-methyl-4-pentenyl]-4,5-dihydrooxazoles **VIIa** and **VIIb**, and ketone **III** at a ratio of $\sim 3.5:1$ (**VI+VIIb:III**; GLC). Compounds **VIa**, **VIb**, **VIIa**, and **VIIb** were not reported previously. Thus the transformation of epoxides **Ia** and **Ib** via reaction of intermediate cations **A** and **B** with acetonitrile, which leads to structures **VIa**, **VIb**, **VIIa**, and **VIIb**, is accompanied by intramolecular rearrangement of cation **A**, resulting in formation of ketone **III**. Analogous opening of the oxirane ring at the $\text{C}^6\text{--O}$ and $\text{C}^7\text{--O}$ bonds was observed in the isomerization of linalool 6,7-epoxides over $\text{ZrO}_2/\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ [1].

According to the ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra of compounds **VIa**, **VIb**, **VIIa**, and **VIIb**, the strongest changes in the chemical shifts are observed for the 3-H proton and C^1 and C^3 atoms; these variations are consistent with those expected for formation of oxazole ring via cleavage of either $\text{C}^6\text{--O}$ or $\text{C}^7\text{--O}$ bond in the initial epoxides. In going from compounds **VI** to **VII**, the 3-H signal in the ^1H NMR spectra shifts upfield ($\Delta\delta \sim 0.65$ ppm), the C^1 signal in the ^{13}C NMR spectrum shifts downfield ($\Delta\delta \sim 4.7$ ppm), and the C^3 signal shifts upfield ($\Delta\delta \sim 10$ ppm) due to different effects of the oxygen and nitrogen atoms.

EXPERIMENTAL

The ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AM-400 spectrometer operating at 400.13 and 100.61 MHz, respectively, from solutions in $\text{CDCl}_3\text{--CCl}_4$ ($\sim 1:1$) using the solvent signals (CHCl_3 , δ 7.24, δ_{C} 76.90 ppm) as internal reference. The structure of the products was determined by analysis of spin–spin coupling constants in the $^1\text{H}\text{--}^1\text{H}$ double resonance spectra, as well as of the ^{13}C NMR spectra recorded with selective decoupling from protons, off-resonance spectra, differential spectra modulated by long-range $^{13}\text{C}\text{--}^1\text{H}$ coupling (LRJMD, $^nJ_{\text{CH}} = 10$ Hz, $n = 2, 3$), and two-dimensional $^{13}\text{C}\text{--}^1\text{H}$ heteronuclear correlation spectra (COSY, $^1J_{\text{CH}} = 135$ Hz).

The purity of the initial compounds and products was checked by GLC on a Biokhrom-1 chromatograph equipped with a flame ionization detector and an SE-54 quartz capillary column (13000×0.22 mm); carrier gas helium, oven temperature $70\text{--}180^\circ\text{C}$. The elemental compositions were determined from the high-resolution mass spectra which were recorded on a Finnigan MAT-8200 spectrometer. Gas chromatographic–mass spectrometric analysis was performed on a Hewlett–Packard 618100A instrument. The optical rotations were measured on a Polamat A spectro-

polarimeter from solutions in CHCl_3 . The procedure for the preparation of $\text{ZrO}_2/\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ was described in [7]; the solvent was passed through a column charged with calcined aluminum oxide. (–)- β -Citronellene (**II**) from Fluka, $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} = -9.0 \pm 1^\circ$, containing no less than 90% of the main substance was used.

Epoxy derivatives Ia and Ib. A solution of 1.82 g (0.024 mol) of peroxyacetic acid in 25 ml of methylene chloride (prepared by extraction from a mixture of 200 ml of acetic acid, 200 ml of 30% hydrogen peroxide, and 10 ml of concentrated sulfuric acid and titrated with sodium thiosulfate) was added over a period of 20 min under vigorous stirring to a mixture of 2.76 g (0.020 mol) of (–)- β -citronellene (**II**) and 5.4 g of Na_2CO_3 . The mixture was stirred for 1 h at room temperature and extracted with diethyl ether, the extract was washed with a 17% aqueous solution of Na_2CO_3 and water, and dried over Na_2SO_4 , and the residue (2.67 g) was subjected to chromatography on silica gel (100–160 μm) using a solution of diethyl ether in hexane (0 to 5%) as eluent. We isolated 1.56 g (51%) of compounds **Ia** and **Ib** (a mixture of diastereoisomers at a ratio of ~1:1) $[\alpha]_{580}^{25} = -14.0^\circ$ ($c = 3.64$, CHCl_3). ^1H NMR spectrum of **Ia**, δ , ppm: 0.90 d (C^9H_3 , $J_{9,3} = 7$ Hz), 1.118 s and 1.163 s (C^8H_3 , C^{10}H_3), 1.34–1.45 m (4H, 4-H, 5-H), 2.06 m (3-H), 2.51 m (6-H), 4.80 d.d.d (1-H_{cis}, $J_{1\text{-cis},2\text{-cis}} = 10$, $^2J = 2$, $J_{1\text{-cis},3} = 1$ Hz), 4.84 d.d.d (1-H_{trans}, $J_{1\text{-trans},2\text{-cis}} = 17$, $J = 2$, $J_{1\text{-trans},3} = 1$ Hz), 5.52 d.d.d (2-H, $J = 17$, 10, $J_{2,3} = 7.5$ Hz) (cf. [2]). ^{13}C NMR spectrum of **Ia**, δ_{C} , ppm: 113.01 t (C^1), 143.75 d (C^2), 37.57 d (C^3), 33.22 t (C^4), 26.52 t (C^5), 63.79 d (C^6), 57.44 s (C^7), 24.65 q and 18.55 q (C^8 , C^{10}), 19.95 q (C^9). ^1H NMR spectrum of **Ib**, δ , ppm: 0.90 d (C^9H_3 , $J_{9,3} = 7$ Hz), 1.116 s and 1.160 s (C^8H_3 , C^{10}H_3), 1.34–1.45 m (4H, 4-H, 5-H), 2.04 m (3-H), 2.51 m (6-H), 4.80 d.d.d (1-H_{cis}, $J_{1\text{-cis},2\text{-cis}} = 10$, $J_{1\text{-cis},1\text{-trans}} = 2$, $J_{1\text{-cis},3} = 1$ Hz), 4.85 d.d.d (1-H_{trans}, $J_{1\text{-trans},2\text{-cis}} = 17$, $J = 2$, $J_{1\text{-trans},3} = 1$ Hz), 5.54 d.d.d (2-H, $J = 17$, 10, $J_{2,3} = 7.5$ Hz). ^{13}C NMR spectrum of **Ib**, δ , ppm: 112.85 t (C^1), 143.63 d (C^2), 37.34 d (C^3), 33.01 t (C^4), 26.32 t (C^5), 63.61 d (C^6), 57.35 s (C^7), 24.67 q and 18.52 q (C^8 , C^{10}), 20.15 q (C^9).

Isomerization of compounds Ia and Ib in the presence of $\text{ZrO}_2/\text{SO}_4^{2-}$. A solution of 0.275 g of stereoisomer mixture **Ia/Ib** in 2 ml of CH_2Cl_2 was added to a suspension of 0.550 g of $\text{ZrO}_2/\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ (preliminarily calcined for 2 h at 500°C) in 23 ml of methylene chloride, and the mixture was stirred for 0.5 h at 20°C . After appropriate treatment, the crude product was subjected to column chromatography on

aluminum oxide (activity grade IV) to isolate 0.255 g of a mixture of compounds **III** and **IV** at a ratio of ~3:1 (GLC). This mixture was separated by double column chromatography on silica gel (40–100 μm , Czechia) using 0 to 35% of diethyl ether in hexane as eluent. We isolated 0.097 g (35%) of ketone **III** and 0.019 g (7%) of aldehyde **IV**.

Compound **III**, $[\alpha]_{580}^{25} = -9.0^\circ$ ($c = 1.11$, CHCl_3). ^1H NMR spectrum, δ , ppm: 0.93 d (C^9H_3 , $J_{9,6} = 6.5$ Hz), 1.00 d (C^1H_3 , C^{10}H_3 , $J = 7$ Hz), 1.42 d.d.t. (5-H, $J_{5,5'} = 14$, $J_{5,6} = 8$, $J_{5,4} = 7$ Hz), 1.54 d.t.d (5'-H, $J = 14$, $J_{5',4} = 8$, $J_{5',6} = 5$), 2.02 m (6-H), 2.34 d.d (2H, 4-H, $J = 8$, 7 Hz), 2.49 sept (2-H, $J = 7$ Hz), 4.85 d.d.d (8-H_{cis}, $J_{8\text{-cis},7\text{-cis}} = 10$, $J_{8\text{-cis},8\text{-trans}} = 2$, $J_{8\text{-cis},6} = 1$ Hz), 4.87 d.d.d (8-H_{trans}, $J_{8\text{-trans},7\text{-cis}} = 17$, $J = 2$, $J_{8\text{-trans},6} = 1$ Hz), 5.53 d.d.d (7-H, $J = 17$, 10, $J_{7,6} = 7.5$ Hz) (cf. [2]). ^{13}C NMR spectrum, δ_{C} , ppm: 18.20 q and 18.15 q (C^1 , C^{10}), 40.68 d (C^2), 213.72 s (C^3), 37.85 t (C^4), 29.96 t (C^5), 37.50 d (C^6), 143.67 d (C^7), 113.29 t (C^8), 20.30 q (C^9). Found: M^+ 154.13594. $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}$. Calculated: M 154.13576.

Isomerization of compounds Ia and Ib in the presence of SnCl_4 . A mixture of 0.1 ml of SnCl_4 and 1 ml of dry methylene chloride was added under stirring and cooling (0°C) to a solution of 0.410 g of stereoisomer mixture **Ia/Ib** in 25 ml of dry methylene chloride, and the mixture was stirred for 2 h at 0°C . The mixture was diluted with chloroform, washed in succession with a 17% aqueous solution of sodium carbonate, 10% hydrochloric acid, a saturated solution of sodium chloride, and water, and dried over sodium sulfate. The solvent was distilled off, and the residue (0.329 g) was passed through a column charged with aluminum oxide (activity grade IV). The column was eluted with diethyl ether to obtain 0.222 g of a mixture containing 22% of compound **III** and 48% of **IV** (GC–MS data). The mixture was subjected to column chromatography on silica gel (40–100 μm , Czechia) using 0 to 5% of diethyl ether in hexane as eluent to isolate 0.020 g (5%) of ketone **III** and 0.025 g (6%) of aldehyde **IV**.

Compound **IV**, $[\alpha]_{580}^{25} = -9.9^\circ$ ($c = 0.81$, CHCl_3). ^1H NMR spectrum, δ , ppm: 0.96 d (C^8H_3 , $J_{8,5} = 7$ Hz), 1.00 s (C^{10}H_3 , C^9H_3), 1.11–1.24 m (2H, 4-H), 1.32–1.48 m (2H, 3-H), 2.02 d.q.t (5-H, $J_{5,6} = 8$, $J_{5,8} = 7$, $J_{5,4} = 7$ Hz), 4.89 d.d.d (7-H_{cis}, $J_{7\text{-cis},6\text{-cis}} = 10$, $J_{7\text{-cis},7\text{-trans}} = 2$, $J_{7\text{-cis},5} = 1$ Hz), 4.91 d.d.d (7-H_{trans}, $J_{7\text{-trans},6\text{-cis}} = 17$, $J = 2$, $J_{7\text{-trans},5} = 1$ Hz), 5.58 d.d.d (6-H, $J = 17$, 10, 8 Hz), 9.37 s (1-H). ^{13}C NMR spectrum, δ_{C} , ppm: 205.12 d (C^1), 45.53 s (C^2), 34.89 t (C^3), 30.97 t

(C⁴), 38.34 d (C⁵), 143.86 d (C⁶), 113.30 t (C⁷), 20.33 q (C⁸), 21.42 q and 21.35 q (C⁹, C¹⁰). Found: M^+ 154.13594. C₁₀H₁₈O. Calculated: M 154.13576.

Reaction of compounds Ia and Ib with acetone in the presence of sulfuric acid. Stereoisomer mixture **Ia/Ib**, 0.200 g, was added to 15 ml of an acetone–water–sulfuric acid mixture (40:6:1, by volume), and the mixture was stirred for 15 min at 20°C. After appropriate treatment, we isolated 0.162 g of a crude product containing ~80% of compounds **Va** and **Vb** (GLC). It was subjected to column chromatography on silica gel (40–100 μ m, Czechia) using 0 to 5% of diethyl ether in hexane as eluent to isolate 0.138 g (50%) of diastereoisomer mixture **Va/Vb** with one isomer slightly prevailing (¹H NMR), [α]₅₈₀²⁵ = –2.70° (*c* 3.33, CHCl₃).

Isomer **Va**. ¹H NMR spectrum, δ , ppm: 0.91 d (C¹³H₃, $J_{13,6}$ = 7 Hz), 0.95 s and 1.11 s (C⁹H₃, C¹⁰H₃), 1.194 s and 1.277 s (C¹¹H₃, C¹²H₃), 1.12–1.51 m (4H, 4-H, 5-H), 2.05 m (6-H), 3.50 d.d (3-H, $J_{3,4}$ = 9, $J_{3,4'}$ = 4 Hz), 4.81 d.d.d (8-H_{cis}, $J_{8-cis,7-cis}$ = 10, $J_{8-cis,8-trans}$ = 2, $J_{8-cis,6}$ = 1 Hz), 4.85 d.d.d (8-H_{trans}, $J_{8-trans,7-cis}$ = 17, J = 2, $J_{8-trans,6}$ = 1.2 Hz), 5.55 d.d.d (7-H, J = 17, 10, $J_{7,6}$ = 7.5 Hz). ¹³C NMR spectrum, δ_c , ppm: 79.77 s (C¹), 106.11 s (C²), 83.43 d (C³), 27.04 t (C⁴), 33.73 t (C⁵), 37.63 d (C⁶), 143.87 d (C⁷), 112.90 t (C⁸), 25.92 q and 22.68 q (C⁹, C¹⁰), 28.39 q and 26.68 q (C¹¹, C¹²), 20.05 q (C¹³).

Isomer **Vb**. ¹H NMR spectrum, δ , ppm: 0.91 d (C¹³H₃, $J_{13,6}$ = 7 Hz), 0.95 s and 1.11 s (C⁹H₃, C¹⁰H₃), 1.192 s and 1.279 s (C¹¹H₃, C¹²H₃), 1.12–1.51 m (4H, 4-H, 5-H), 2.03 m (6-H), 3.52 d.d (3-H, $J_{3,4}$ = 9, $J_{3,4'}$ = 3.5 Hz), 4.81 d.d.d (8-H_{cis}, $J_{8-cis,7-cis}$ = 10, $J_{8-cis,8-trans}$ = 2, $J_{8-cis,6}$ = 1 Hz), 4.86 d.d.d (8-H_{trans}, $J_{8-trans,7-cis}$ = 17, J = 2, $J_{8-trans,6}$ = 1.2 Hz), 5.56 d.d.d (7-H, J = 17, 10, $J_{7,6}$ = 7.5 Hz) (cf. [5]). ¹³C NMR spectrum, δ_c , ppm: 79.77 s (C¹), 106.11 s (C²), 83.04 d (C³), 26.75 t (C⁴), 33.41 t (C⁵), 37.97 d (C⁶), 143.87 d (C⁷), 112.82 t (C⁸), 25.92 q and 22.65 q (C⁹, C¹⁰), 28.39 q and 26.68 q (C¹¹, C¹²), 20.17 q (C¹³). Found: [$M - CH_3$]⁺ 197.15409. C₁₂H₂₁O₂ (fragment ion [$M - CH_3$]⁺). Calculated: M 197.15414.

Reaction of compounds Ia and Ib with acetonitrile in the presence of sulfuric acid. Concentrated sulfuric acid, 0.1 ml, was added to a solution of 0.150 g of stereoisomer mixture **Ia/Ib** in 5 ml of acetonitrile, and the mixture was stirred for 1 h at 25°C, neutralized with a 17% aqueous solution of sodium carbonate, and extracted with diethyl ether. The extract was washed with a 17% aqueous solution

of sodium carbonate and water and dried over sodium sulfate. The solvent was distilled off, and the residue, 0.146 g, contained compounds **Vla/Vlb**+**VIIa/VIIb** and **III** at a ratio of ~3.5:1 (GLC). The crude product was twice distilled under reduced pressure (6 mm), a fraction boiling in the range from 80 to 110°C being collected. We thus isolated 0.064 g (33%) of a mixture of compounds **Vla**, **Vlb**, **VIIa**, and **VIIb** at a ratio of ~5:5:2:2 (¹H NMR). Chromatographic separation of a 0.145-g portion of the same crude product on silica gel gave 0.027 g (18%) of ketone **III**; compounds **Vla**, **Vlb**, **VIIa**, and **VIIb** decomposed during chromatographic separation.

Compounds **Vla/Vlb**. ¹H NMR spectrum, δ , ppm: 0.846 d (6H, C¹²H₃, $J_{12,6}$ = 6.5 Hz); 0.845 s, 0.848 s, 1.028 s, and 1.031 s (3H each, C⁹H₃, C¹⁰H₃); 1.70 s (6H, C¹¹H₃); 1.05–1.48 m (8H, 4-H, 5-H); 1.97–2.04 m (2H, 6-H); 3.68 m (2H, 3-H); 4.74 d.m (2H, 8-H_{cis}, $J_{8-cis,7-cis}$ = 10 Hz); 4.77 d.m (2H, 8-H_{trans}, $J_{8-trans,7-cis}$ = 17 Hz); 5.45 d.d.d (2H, 7-H, J = 17, 10, $J_{7,6}$ = 7.5 Hz). ¹³C NMR spectrum, δ_c , ppm: isomer **Vla**: 67.63 s (C¹), 161.73 s (C²), 88.60 d (C³), 27.40 t (C⁴), 33.41 t (C⁵), 37.76 d (C⁶), 143.50 d (C⁷), 113.09 t (C⁸), 28.99 q and 22.60 q (C⁹, C¹⁰), 13.82 q (C¹¹), 20.14 q (C¹²); isomer **Vlb**: 67.63 s (C¹), 161.73 s (C²), 88.15 d (C³), 27.67 t (C⁴), 33.41 t (C⁵), 37.43 d (C⁶), 143.54 d (C⁷), 113.09 t (C⁸), 29.03 q and 22.58 q (C⁹, C¹⁰), 13.82 q (C¹¹), 20.19 q (C¹²).

Compound **VIIa/VIIb**. ¹H NMR spectrum, δ , ppm: 0.824 d and 0.826 d (3H each, C¹²H₃, $J_{12,6}$ = 6.5 Hz); 0.887 s, 0.894 s, 0.939 s, and 0.943 s (3H each, C⁹H₃, C¹⁰H₃); 1.70 s (6H, C¹¹H₃); 1.05–1.48 m (8H, 4-H, 5-H); 1.87–2.02 m (2H, 6-H); 3.015 d.d and 3.020 d.d (1H each, 3-H, $J_{3,4}$ = 10.5, $J_{3,4'}$ = 8 Hz); 4.66–4.78 m (4H, 8-H_{cis}, 8-H_{trans}); 5.47 d.d.d and 5.45 d.d.d (2H, 7-H_{cis}, $J_{7-cis,8-trans}$ = 17, $J_{7-cis,8-cis}$ = 10, $J_{7,6}$ = 7.5 Hz). ¹³C NMR spectrum, δ_c , ppm: isomer **VIIa**: 72.29 s (C¹), 161.73 s (C²), 77.51 d (C³), 28.92 t (C⁴), 33.41 t (C⁵), 37.76 d (C⁶), 144.11 d (C⁷), 112.39 t (C⁸), 26.36 q and 23.07 q (C⁹, C¹⁰), 13.82 q (C¹¹), 19.99 q (C¹²); isomer **VIIb**: δ_c , ppm: 72.29 s (C¹), 161.73 s (C²), 77.98 d (C³), 29.19 t (C⁴), 33.73 t (C⁵), 37.50 d (C⁶), 144.32 d (C⁷), 112.60 t (C⁸), 26.36 q and 23.09 q (C⁹, C¹⁰), 13.82 q (C¹¹), 20.41 q (C¹²). Found for mixture **Vla/Vlb**+**VIIa/VIIb**: M^+ 195.16283. C₁₂H₂₁NO. Calculated: M 195.16230.

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