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MODELS FOR THE SYNTHESES OF THE NAPHTHOQUINONOID ANTIBIOTICS, THE JUGLOMYCINS A AND B.

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The juglomycins A and B have recently been assigned the structures (1) and (2), the positions of the phenolic substituents being proposed on the basis of a comparison with the known structure of kalafungin. We report here syntheses of the model compounds (3) and (4), as their racemates.

1. R = OH

3. R = H

2. R = OH

4. R = H

Alkylation of 2-bromonaphthoquinone (5) with monomethyl glutarate in the presence of ammonium peroxodisulphonate and silver nitrate afforded the quinone (6) (70%), m.p. 104-105°. Reductive methylation gave the naphthalene dimethyl ether (7) (96%), m.p. 80-81°, which was catalytically hydrogenolysed to the oily debrominated material (8) (100%). N-Bromosuccinimide bromination followed by dehydrobromination with lutidine provided only the trans olefin (9) (90%), m.p. 61.5-62°, which, with aqueous potassium hydroxide underwent smooth hydrolysis to the acid (10) (92%), m.p. 139-140°. Epoxidation of the olefinic acid (10) with m-chlorperbenzoic acid in the presence of sodium bicarbonate afforded a single oily lactone (11) (50%), presumably by ring opening of the intermediate epoxide (12).

Treatment of the olefinic ester (9) with osmium tetroxide gave the oily diol (13) (73%), which was cyclised (THF/HCl) to the pure lactone (14) 3 (85%), m.p. 145.5-146.5°, diastereomeric

with lactone (11).

Oxidative demethylation of lactone (11) with silver (II) oxide 4 afforded the required quinone (4) 3 (80%), m.p. 166-168° (dec.), while similar treatment of the lactone (14) gave rise to the isomeric quinone (3) 3 (72%), m.p. 201-203° (dec.).

The syntheses of the natural products from 3-bromo-5-hydroxy-1,4-naphthoquinone ⁵ are underway.

References

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