SYNTHESIS OF THE PRINCIPAL COMPONENTS OF THE SEX ATTRACTANT FROM MALE *IPS CONFUSUS* FRASS: 2-METHYL-6-METHYLENE-7-OCTEN-4-OL, 2-METHYL-6-METHYLENE-2,7-OCTADIEN-4-OL, AND (+)-CIS-VERBENOL

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Abstract—We have synthesized the three terpene alcohols previously identified as the principal components of the sex attractant produced by the bark beetle, *Ips confusus*. The compounds are: 2-methyl-6-methylene-7-octan-4-ol (II), and (+)-*cis*-verbenol (XIII).

THE title compounds have been identified as the principal components of the sex attractant produced in the frass of the male bark beetle, *Ips confusus*, boring in ponderosa pine.¹ We carried out their synthesis to confirm identification and to furnish materials for laboratory and field bioassays, the successful results of which will be reported elsewhere.

We were unable to prepare the Grignard reagent or the lithium reagent from 2bromomethylbutadiene² and to react them with isovaleraldehyde and/or with β , β -dimethylacrolein to synthesize respectively 2-methyl-6-methylene-7-octen-4-ol (I), and 2-methyl-6-methylene-2,7-octadien-4-ol (II).



A procedure recently developed by Corey³ that utilizes the anion of a blocked aldehyde to form a blocked ketone was the initial step in the sequence leading to Compound I (III \rightarrow IV \rightarrow V \rightarrow I). The reaction of 2-isobutyl-1,3-dithiane (III) with 2-bromomethylbutadiene in the presence of butyl lithium gave 2-methyl-6-methylene-7-octen-4-one propanedithioketal (IV). Deblocking with the commonly used mixture



of mercuric chloride and cadmium carbonate gave 2-methyl-6-methylene-7-octen-4one (V), which on sodium borohydride reduction gave compound I.

A similar sequence was utilized to prepare compound II (VI \rightarrow VII \rightarrow VIII \rightarrow II)



The reaction of 2-isobutenyl-1,3-dithiane (VI) with 2-bromomethylbutadiene gave 2-methyl-6-methylene-2,7-octadien-4-one propanedithioketal (VII). Deblocking with mercuric chloride and cadmium carbonate resulted in non-distillable material and a minute amount of 2-methyl-6-methylene-2,7-octadien-4-one (VIII); no improvement

could be effected by using mercuric salts under various conditions. Acceptable yields were finally achieved by deblocking with silver nitrate.*

2-Isobutenyl-1,3-dithiane (VI) was prepared by treating the crude product from the hydrogenation of dimethylethoxyethynyl carbinol (IX) with propanedithiol and boron trifluoride-etherate. Compound IX was prepared from acetone and ethoxy-acetylene (Humphrey Chemical Co., North Haven, Conn.) by the procedure of Nazarov, et al.⁵

$$Me_{2}C = O + HC = COEt \rightarrow Me_{2}C - C = COEt \frac{H_{2}/Pd}{IX}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} OH \\ He_{2}C - CH = CHOEt \end{bmatrix} \frac{HS(CH_{2})_{3}SH}{BF_{3} - Et_{3}O} \begin{bmatrix} Me_{2}C = CHCH = O \\ H = O \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow VI$$

Two by-products were identified in the reaction mixture that contained 2-methyl-6methylene-2,7-octadien-4-one (VIII): 2-methyl-2-octen-4-one (X) probably resulted from the reaction of butyl lithium with the carbonyl group of ethyl β , β -dimethylacrylate (XI), whereas ethyl 3,3-dimethyl-5-methylene-6-heptenoate (XII) probably results from a Michael attack by the isoprenyl anion on ethyl β , β -dimethylacrylate (XI). The latter may have resulted from acid-catalyzed rearrangement of IX during the workup of the magnesium alkoxy intermediate, or from any unreduced IX that remained after hydrogenation.



cis-Verbenol has been reported several times in the literature. The conflicting reports are summarized⁶ by Banthorpe and Whittacker who conclude that "further studies, monitored by GLC, are urgently needed to elucidate these discrepancies concerning the cis isomer." We report the synthesis of (+)-cis-verbenol (XIII) by sodium borohydride reduction of (-)-verbenone (XIV), and the properties of a GLC cut of XIII.



* Silver nitrate has been used to prepare dithiols from dithianes.*

EXPERIMENTAL

2-Methyl-6-methylene-7-octen-4-one propanedithioketal (IV). To a stirred soln of 5.8 g (0-033 mole) 2-isobutyl-1,3-dithiane⁷ (b.p. 61°/0·17 mm) in 75 ml anhyd THF at -40° , was added under N₂, over a period of 5 min, 21 ml (0-033 mole) of n-BuLi (1·6M in hexane, Foote Mineral Co.). The soln was held at -20° for 5 hr, cooled to -40° , and treated with 3·6 ml (4·9 g, 0-033 mole) 2-bromomethylbutadiene² and 200 mg NaI. The mixture (stirred) was allowed to come to room temp over a period of 5 hr, and poured onto ice. 1N HCl was added to pH 6; the soln was extracted with pentane; the pentane soln was washed successively with 3% NaHSO₃ aq, 1N KOH, and water, dried over K₂CO₃, and concentrated to 8 g of yellow oil: The oil was distilled (short-path) at 110°/0·1 mm. The distillate (4·5 g), which was used in the next step, was 89% pure (51% yield) by GLC (Aerograph 204, 10% Carbowax 20M on 60/80 mesh Chromosorb W, 5 ft $\times \frac{1}{8}$ in aluminium tubing, 155°, 29 cm³ He/min, retention time 16 min). A GLC cut melted at 32-35°, and gave the following spectral data. Calc. M⁺ for C₁₃H₂₂S₂: 242. Mass spectrum (m/e): M⁺ not detected,

175
$$\left(\left\langle \begin{array}{c} S \\ S \\ \end{array} \right\rangle, 107 \left(\left\langle \begin{array}{c} S \\ S \\ \end{array} \right\rangle + H, base \right), 43 \left(\right\rangle^{+} \right)$$

IR ($\lambda_{\min}^{\text{Him}}$, μ) 3-28 (olefinic CH), 6-12 and 6-26 (conj. double bond), 10-1 and 11-0 vinyl), 11-1 sh (terminal methylene).

2-Methyl-6-methylene-7-octen-4-one (V). A mixture of 44 g (0.018 mole) of IV, 20-2 g moist CdCO₃, and 20-2g HgCl₂ in 120 ml acetone and 23 ml water was stirred at 50° under N₂ for 15 min. Another 10·1 g CdCO₃ was added and the mixture was stirred at 50° for an additional 30 min. KI (26·1 g) was added and the mixture was stirred at room temp for 15 min. The mixture was filtered and the solid material was washed with acetone. The filtrate and washings were concentrated under reduced press to 60 ml and extracted with pentane. The pentane soln was washed with KIaq, dried with Na₂SO₄, and concentrated to a yellow oil (1·6 g, 59% yield), which showed a strong C==O band in the IR spectrum at 5·84 μ . The ketone was distilled (short-path) at 110°/10 mm, and the distillate was used in the next step. The following spectral and combustion data were obtained on a GLC cut (8% Carbowax 20M on Chromosorb G, 60/80 mesh, 12 ft × $\frac{1}{4}$ in aluminium tubing, 115°, 44 cm³ He/min, retention time 30 min). Calc. M⁺ for C₁₀H₁₆O: 152. Mass spectrum (m/e): M⁺ 152 (11·2% of base), M⁺ + 1 (11·3% of P; calc.: M⁺ + 1 = 11·1%), 137 (M⁺ - CH₃),

6·26 (conj. double bond), 10·1 and 11·1 (vinyl). (Found: C, 78·74; H, 10·39. Calc. for $C_{10}H_{16}O$ (152·2): C, 78·89; H, 10·59 %).

2-Methyl-6-methylene-7-octen-4-ol (I). NaBH₄ (0-40 g, 0-0105 mole) was added to a soln of 0-54 g (0-0035 mole) of the distilled ketone V in 15 ml MeOH and 4 ml water in an ice bath, and the soln was held at 0° for 3 hr. Pentane extraction, removal of the pentane, and distillation (short-path) of the residue at 110°/10 mm gave 0.45 g of an oil whose IR spectrum showed an OH band but no CO absorption. The distillate was 80% compound I (66% yield) by GLC analysis (Aerograph 204, 10% Carbowax 20M on 60/80 mesh Chromosorb W, 5 ft $\times \frac{1}{8}$ in aluminium tubing, 115°, 30 cm³ He/min, retention time 7.25 min). Pure compound I was isolated by preparative GLC (Aerograph A90P3, 20% Carbowax 20M on 45/60 mesh Chromosorb W, 6 ft $\times \frac{3}{8}$ in aluminium tubing, 100 cm³ He/min slowed to 40 cm³ He/min during collection of the major peak, retention time 15 to 37 min). The spectral data on the GLC isolated compound I were congruent with those of the compound isolated from frass.⁸ Calc. M⁺ for C₁₀H₁₈O: 154. Mass septrum (m/e):

M⁺ 154 (1.1% of base), base 68
$$(H + H)$$
. IR (λ^{flim} , μ): 2.96 (OH), 3.23 (olefinic CH), 6.25 (conj.

double bond), 7.21 and 7.29 (gem-dimethyl), 10.1 and 11.1 (vinyl), 11.26 sh (terminal methylene). NMR (CDCl₃, τ): 3.60 (doublet of doublets, 1 proton, J_{trans} 18 c/s, J_{cls} 12 c/s, $-CH=CH_2$), 4.65–5.10 (multiplet,

4 protons, terminal methylenes), 6.20 (multiplet, 1 proton, --CHOH), 7.53 (doublet of doublets,

1 proton,
$$J_{gem}$$
 14 c/s, J_{vec} 4 c/s, $=C-C-CHOH$, 7.82 (doublet of doublets, 1 proton, J_{gem} 14 c/s, J_{vec} 9 c/s,
H H
 $=C-C-C-CHOH$), ~8.25 (multiplet, 1 proton, $-CH(CH_3)_2$), 8.40 (singlet, 1 proton, OH), ~8.65 (multiplet,
H
2 nonequivalent protons, $-CH-C-CHOH$), 9.08 (doublet, 3 protons, 7 c/s, $-C$
 H
 H
 CH_3 , 9.10 (doublet,
 CH_3)

3 protons, C). UV (mµ): λ_{max}^{hexene} 226 (ε_{max} 20,000). (Found: C, 77.60; H, 11.64. Calc. for C₁₀H₁₈O CH₃

(154·2): C, 77·86; H, 11·76 %.)

2-Isobutenyl-1,3-dithiane (VI). Compound $1X^5$ (38 g, 0:296 mole) in 60 ml ether was hydrogenated at atm press in the presence of 5 g of 10% Pd—CaCO₃.⁵ The reaction slowed after about two thirds of the calculated amount of H₂ was absorbed; therefore 3 g of additional catalyst was added, and the reaction was continued until 0:296 moles of H₂ was absorbed. The catalyst was filtered, and to the filtrate was added 26:5 ml (0:25 mole) propanedithiol. To this soln, cooled in an ice-salt slurry, was added, slowly with stirring, 64 ml (0:5 mole) BF₃-etherate. (Warning: rapid addition may cause a violent exothermic reaction). The soln was stirred for 15 min at 0°, poured into 10% NaOHaq, and extracted 3 times with equal volumes of CHCl₃. The CHCl₃ soln was washed with water and dried over Na₂SO₄; the CHCl₃ was removed under vacuum. Short-path distillation at 100°/0·1 mm gave 22·3 g (40% based on dimethylethoxyethynyl carbinol) of distillate, which was used in the next step; it was 90% pure by GLC analysis (Aerograph A90P3, 20% Carbowax M on 60/80 mesh Chromosorb W, 6 ft × $\frac{1}{4}$ in aluminium tubing, 150°, 50 cm³ He/min, retention time 13·4 min). The following structural data were obtained on a GLC cut: IR (λ^{film}, μ): 6·01 (C=C). NMR (CCl₄, τ): 4·99 (doublet with additional allylic splitting of ~1 c/s, 1 proton, J = 10 c/s,

$$\begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} H_{3} \\ H_{3} \\ C = C - C H \\ S - \end{array} \end{array} , 5.30 \text{ (doublet, 1 proton, } J = 10 \text{ c/s}, = C - C H \\ S - \end{array}), \sim 7.0 \text{ to } \sim 7.45 \text{ (multiplet)} \end{array}$$

4 protons,
$$\begin{pmatrix} H_2 \\ S-C \\ S-C \\ H_2 \end{pmatrix}$$
, ~7.85 to ~8.2 (multiplet, 2 protons, $\begin{pmatrix} H_2 \\ S-C \\ S-C \\ H_2 \end{pmatrix}$, 8.29 (singlet with allylic H_2)

splitting of ~1 c/s, 6 protons, H, 8·10%). H, 8·10%). H, 8·23. Calc. for $C_8H_{14}S_2: C, 55\cdot16;$

2-Methyl-6-methylene-2,7-octadien-4-one propanedithioketal (VII). To a stirred soln of 10-2 g (0-058 mole) of VI in 100 ml dry THF at -40° , was added under N₂ over a period of 5 min a soln of 39 ml (0-0586 mole) n-BuLi (1-5M in hexane). The soln was held at -20° for 6 hr, cooled to -40° , and treated with 8.8 g (0-060 mole) 2-bromomethylbutadiene and 200 mg NaI. The cooling bath was removed, and the stirred mixture was allowed to come to room temp. After overnight stirring, the mixture was poured on to ice and extracted with three 100 ml portions ether. The ether soln was washed successively with 100 ml 3% NaHSO₃ aq, 100 ml 10% NaOH aq and two 100 ml portions water. The ether soln was dried over NaSO₄, and, after removal of the ether, the oily residue was distilled (short-path) at 100-112°/0-15 mm to give 5.8 g of distillate, which was used in the next step; it was 57% pure (28% yield) by GLC analysis (Aerograph 204, 10% Carbowax 20M on 60/80 mesh Chromosorb G, 5ft $\times \frac{1}{8}$ in, 155°, 40 cm³ He/min, retention time 140 min). The following structural data were obtained on a GLC cut. IR $(\lambda_{max}^{rlim}, \mu)$ 3·29 (olefinic CH), 6·01 and 6·26 (conj. C=C), 10·1 and 11·1 (vinyl). NMR (CCl₄, τ): 3·72 (doublet of doublets, 1 proton, J_{trans} 17 c/s, J_{cls} 11 c/s, =C-CH=CH₂), 4·62 (singlet with allylic splitting of ~1 c/s, 1 proton, -CCH=C $\begin{pmatrix} CH_3 \\ CH_2 \end{pmatrix}$, ~4·7 to

~5.15 (multiplet, 4 olefinic protons), ~7.23 (multiplet, 4 protons, $\langle S = CH_2 \rangle$ S = CH_2 , ~8.1 (multiplet, S = CH_2)

4 protons, C=C-H₂C-CH $\begin{pmatrix} S-CH_2 \\ S-CH_2 \end{pmatrix}$ CH₂), ~8.10 and 8.30 (singlets, 3 protons each, allylic splitting

of
$$\sim 1 \text{ c/s}$$
, $\begin{array}{c} CH_3 \\ CH_3 \\ CH_3 \end{array}$

2-Methyl-6-methylene-2,7-octadien-4-one (VIII). To a stirred soln of 2.57 g (1.65 g pure material, 0-00687 mole) of VII in 100 ml 95% EtOH held at 50°, was added dropwise a soln of 2.4 g (0-0143 mole) AgNO₃ in 5 ml water. The soln was stirred at 50° for 20 min; the ppt was removed, and the filtrate was poured into 200 ml saturated NaClaq, which was extracted with three 20 ml portions pentane. The pentane soln was dried over Na₂SO₄, and the pentane was removed. The residue was distilled (short-path) at 100°/7 mm. The distillate weighed 0-387 g and was used in the next step; it contained 55% VIII, 26% X, and 19% XII which were separated by preparative GLC. (GLC of VIII: Aerograph 204, 10% Carbowax 20M on 60/80 mesh Chromosorb G, 5 ft $\times \frac{1}{8}$ in, 100°, 31 cm³ He/min, retention time 5.9 min. Preparative conditions: Aerograph A90P3, 8% Carbowax 20M on 60/80 mesh Chromosorb G, 5 ft $\times \frac{1}{8}$ in aluminium column, 105°, 50 cm³ He/min, retention time 40 min.) Calc. M⁺ for C₁₀H₁₄O: 150. Mass spectrum (m/e): M⁺ 150

(5.15% of base), base 83 ((CH₃)₂C=C-C=O). IR ($\lambda_{max}^{\text{tilm}}$, μ): 3.29 (olefinic CH), 5.91 (conj. C=O), 6.01 and

6.25(conj. C=C), 10-08 and 11-05(vinyl). NMR (CCl₄, τ): 3.70(doublet of doublets, 1 proton = $\overset{l}{C}$ – $\overset{l}{C}$ H=CH₂),

3-98 (singlet with allylic splitting of ~1 c/s, 1 proton, $O = C - C - CH_3$), ~4.75 to ~5.1 (multiplet,

4 olefinic protons), 6.85 (singlet, 2 protons, O=C-CH₂), 7.91 and 8.17 (singlets, each 3 protons, (CH₃)₂C=C). 2-Methyl-2-octen-4-one (X). This by-product was isolated by GLC from the distillate that contained VIII. The retention time under the preparative conditions described for VIII was 15 min. Calc. M⁺ for

C₉H₁₆O: 140. Mass spectrum (*m/e*): M⁺ 140, 83 base ((CH₃)₂C=C). IR (λ_{max}^{flim} , μ): 5.91 and 6.12 (C=C-C=O). NMR (CCl₄, τ): 4.1 (singlet with allylic splitting of ~1 c/s, 1 proton, (CH₃)₂C=CH-C=O), 7.73 (triplet, 2 protons, J = 7 c/s, $-CH_2-CH_2-C=O$), 7.92 and 8.20 (two singlets, each 3 protons, (CH₃)₂C=C), ~8.4 to 8.95 (multiplet, 4 protons, 2CH₂ groups), 9.12 (distorted triplet, 3 protons, CH₃CH₂).

Ethyl 3,3-dimethyl-5-methylene-6-heptenoate (XII). This by-product was isolated by preparative GLC from the distillate that contained VIII. The retention time under the preparative conditions described for VIII was 42 min. Calc. M⁺ for $C_{12}H_{20}O_2$: 196. Mass spectrum: M⁺ 196, M⁺ + 1 = 13.1% of M⁺, M⁺ + 2 = 1.37% of M⁺ (Calc. for $C_{12}H_{20}O_2$: M⁺ + 1 = 13.37, M⁺ + 2 = 1.22), 181 (M⁺ - CH₃), 167 (M⁺ - C₂H₃), 151 (M⁺ - OCH₂CH₃), 129 ((CH₃)₂CCH₂COOCH₂CH₃), CH₃ (CH₃ (CH₃ (CH₂=CH-C-CH₂-Q(CH₃)₂⁺), 87 (base, -CH₂COOCH₂CH₃), 67 (CH₂=CH-C⁺-CH₂⁺--

IR $(\lambda_{max}^{\text{Hum}}, \mu)$: 3·31 (olefinic CH), 5·77 (C=O, 6·10 and 6·25 (conj. C=C), ~8·7 (C=O-C), 10·08 and 11·1 (vinyl). NMR (CCl₄, τ): 3·70 (doublet of doublets, 1 proton, CH₂=CH=C=CH₂), ~4·67 to ~5·15 (multiplet, 4 olefinic protons), 5.96 (quartet, 2 protons, J = 7 c/s, --COCH₂CH₃), 7.72 and 7.87 (singlets,

2 protons each,
$$-C-CH_2-C-CH_2-CO-$$
, 8.75 (triplet, 3 protons, $J = 7$ c/s, $-OCH_2CH_3$), 001

(singlet, 6 protons, (CH₃)₂C--).

2-Methyl-6-methylene-2,7-octadien-4-ol (II). To a soln of the distillate (0-144 g) that contained 0-070 g (0-465 mmole) of VIII in 3 ml isopropyl alcohol and 1 ml water, was added 0-038 g (1-0 mmole) NaBH₄ at 25°. The soln was poured into sat NaClaq after it had been stirred at 25° for 4.5 hr. Extraction with three 10 ml portions of pentane followed by drying of the pentane soln over Na₂SO₄, filtration, pentane removal, and short-path distillation (110°/5 mm) gave 0-091 g of distillate from which 0-022 g (31 % yield) of the desired product was obtained by preparative GLC (Aerograph A90P3, 8% Carbowax 20M on 60/80 mesh Chromosorb G, 6 ft $\times \frac{1}{4}$ in aluminium tubing, 120°, 50 cm³ He/min, retention time 25.5 min). The IR and NMR spectra of this synthesized compound were congruent with those of the isolated compound¹ for which mass and UV spectra were also reported. IR (λ_{max}^{flim} , μ): 3-02 (OH, 6-26 (conj. C=C), 9-80 (C-OH), 10-08 and 11-10 (vinyl). NMR (CCl₄, τ): 3-72 (doublet of doublets, 1 proton,

$$CH_2 = CH_2$$
, J_{trans} 18 c/s₂ J_{cls} 11 c/s), ~4.7 to ~5.12 (multiplet, 5 olefinic protons), 5.68 (multiplet,

1 proton, $-CH_2$ -CHOH-CH=), 7.71 (apparent doublet, 2 protons, $-CH_2$ -CHOH), 8.31 and 8.39 (2 singlets, 3 protons each, $(CH_3)_2C=C$), 8.44 (singlet, 1 proton, OH). (Found: C, 79.27; H, 10.77. Calc. for $C_{10}H_{16}O(152\cdot2)$: C, 78.89; H, 10.59%)

(+)-cis-Verbenol (XIII). A mixture of 50 g (0-033 mole) of (-)-verbenone (90%, Glidden Co.), 1:25 g (0-033 mole) NaBH₄ in 75 ml isopropyl alcohol was stirred at 25° for 3.5 hr. Water (150 ml) was added, and the mixture was extracted with three 100 ml portions ether. The ether soln was dried over Na₂SO₄, the ether was removed, and the residue was distilled (short-path) at 80°/1 mm. The distillate (3.0 g) consisted of 70% (+)-cis-verbenol (47% yield) and 30% (-)-verbenone. A pure sample of (+)-cis-verbenol was obtained by preparative GLC (Aerograph A90P3, 8% Carbowax 20M on 60/80 mesh Chromosorb G, 12 ft $\times \frac{3}{3}$ in aluminum tubing, 130°, 120 cm³ He/min, retention time 43–58 min), m.p. 69°, $[\alpha]_{21^{\circ}}^{21^{\circ}} + 7.6 \pm 1\cdot3°$ (c = 2.5, acetone). The mass, IR, NMR and UV spectra were congruent with those of the compound isolated from frass.¹ Calc. M⁺ for C₁₀H₁₆O: 152. Mass spectrum (m/e): M⁺ 152, 137 (M⁺ - CH₃), 134 (M⁺ - H₂O), 119 (M⁺ - CH₃ and H₂O), base 43. IR (λ_{0004}^{con} , μ): 2.98 (OH), 6.04 (C=C), 7.27 (notched, C(CH₃)₂), 9.65 and 9.90 (C=OH). NMR (CCl₄, τ): 4.73 (broadened, =CH), 5.71 (broadened, CHOH), ~7.5 to ~8.2 (multiplet, 4 protons), 8.30 (singlet, =C-CH₃), 8.68 (singlet, CH₃), 8.77 (singlet, 1 proton, OH), 8.97 (singlet, 3 protons, CH₃). UV (λ_{max}^{herraw} , mµ): 215 ($\varepsilon = 4000$). (Found: C, 78.88; H, 10.39. Calc. for C₁₀H₁₆O (152.2): C, 78.89; H, 10.59%)

Instrumentation. The IR spectra were run on a Perkin-Elmer 221 and 137, the NMR on a Varian HA100, the UV spectra on a Perkin-Elmer 202, the mass spectra on a CEC 21-103C, and the optical rotation on a Perkin-Elmer 141.

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