

## DITERPENE CHEMISTRY

### TRANSFORMATIONS OF 8(17), 14-LABDADIEN-13-OL—PART 2<sup>1</sup>

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**Abstract**—Aqueous permanganate oxidation of 8(17)-labden-13-ol gave two novel oxidation products by functionalisation of an unactivated carbon atom. The structures have been confirmed by degradative studies and a mechanism to account for their formation is proposed.

Aqueous permanganate treatment of 8(17),14-labdadien-13-ol **1** gave the odiferous ketal, 8,13:13,17-diepoxy-14,15-dinorlabdane **2** as the sole product from the neutral fraction.<sup>2</sup> A similar oxidation of 8(17)-labden-13-ol **3** gave labdane-8,13,17-triol **4** as the major product (39%) identical with a sample prepared from the osmylation of 8(17)-labden-13-ol **3**, together with 13-hydroxy-17-norlabdan-8-one **5** (2%), identical with the product of lead tetraacetate cleavage of triol **4**, and characterised as its hemi-ketal dehydration product, 8,13-epoxy-17-norlabd-8-ene **6**. In addition two novel oxidation products were isolated and characterised as 8,12s-epoxylabdane-13,17-triol **7** (25%) and 8,12r-epoxylabdane-13,17-triol **8** (2%).

The major oxidation product **7** analysed for  $C_{20}H_{36}O_3$  and showed  $M-H_2O = 306$  as the highest mass peak with loss of  $CH_2OH$ , characteristic of a primary alcohol. IR showed hydroxyl absorption ( $3430, 3310\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) and extensive C—O absorption ( $1180-1000\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ); PMR data for **7** and its derivatives are collected in the Table. The three ring-A methyls and the C-14 methyl triplet were consistent with the normal labdane derivatives prepared in these laboratories but the C-13 methyl signal appeared at unusually high field ( $\delta 1.04$ ). A two-proton singlet at  $\delta 3.53$  was consistent with a primary alcohol at C-17 and a one proton multiplet at  $\delta 3.87$  (W/2 16 Hz) indicated a secondary alcohol or ether function. Resistance to LAH reduction and the absence of reaction with lead tetra-acetate eliminated epoxide and vicinal diol functions respectively. Acetylation with pyridine/acetic anhydride gave the monoacetate **9**,  $C_{22}H_{38}O_4$  [ $3645\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (OH);  $1720, 1260\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ;  $\delta 2.08$  (acetate)] while treatment with isopropenyl acetate/toluene p-sulphonic acid gave the diacetate **10**,  $C_{24}H_{40}O_5$  [ $1720, 1249\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $\delta 1.96, 2.06$  (acetate)]. These reactions established that **7** was a diol containing a primary and tertiary hydroxyl group at C-17 and C-13 respectively. Thus the remaining oxygen was in an oxide ring (not an epoxide) joining one tertiary

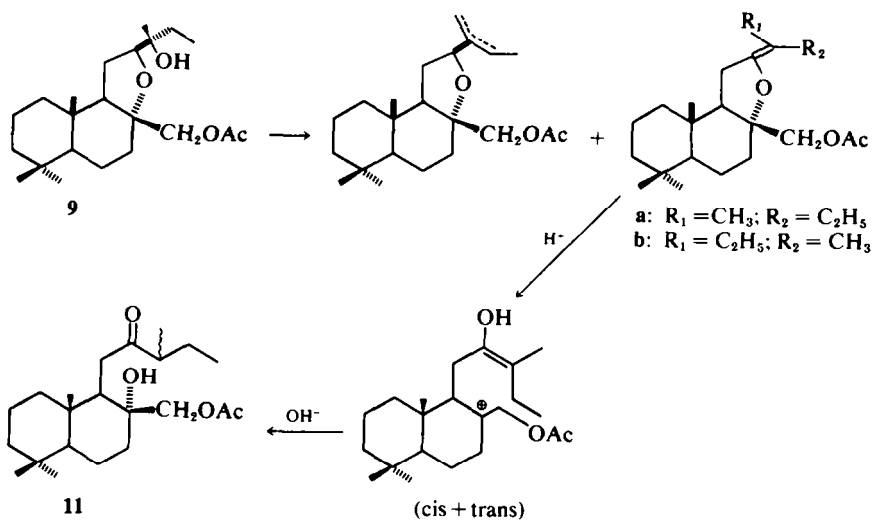
and one secondary centre. Lack of evidence for a double bond to C-8 and the absence of a proton attached to C-8, together with mechanistic considerations, indicated that C-8 was the tertiary centre. The AB system of the monoacetate **9** was consistent with the acetylation of an axial hydroxymethyl group<sup>3</sup> and the absence of any ring A methyl signals in the  $\delta 0.95-1.15$  range confirmed the normal<sup>4</sup> labdane C-8 stereochemistry.

The secondary centre of the oxide ring was determined to be at C-12 as the low field multiplet was affected markedly by acetylation of the C-13 hydroxyl group in the diacetate **10** and C-14 was not functionalised as evidenced by the presence of the usual triplet for the C-14 methyl signal. Oxide ring opening attempts with acetyl tosylate<sup>5</sup> on the diacetate **10** and with boron trifluoride/acetic anhydride<sup>6</sup> on the diol **7** produced complex mixtures. Cleavage was finally achieved by dehydration of the hydroxy acetate **9** with toluene p-sulphonic acid/triethylorthoformate (a reagent which was found to dehydrate 13-hydroxy labdanes very efficiently) followed by hydrolysis of the enol ethers (a and b) formed (Scheme 1).

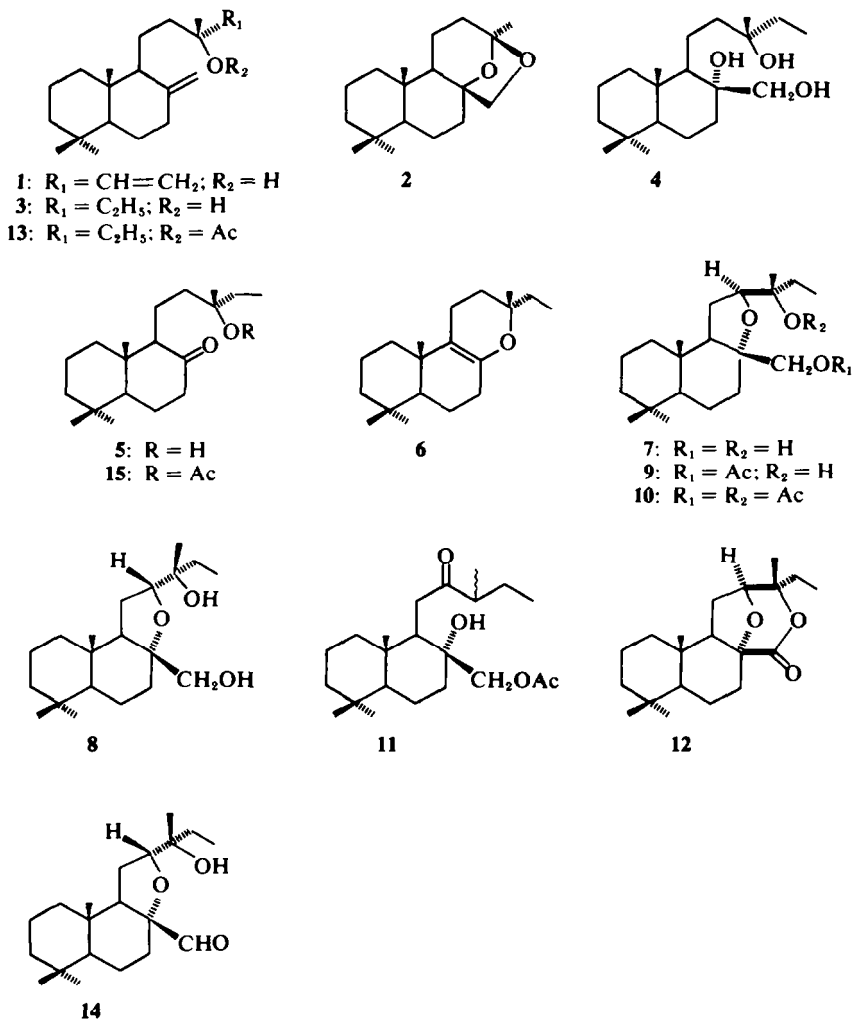
The product, 17-acetoxy-8-hydroxy-13 $\alpha$ BH-labdan-12-one **11**,  $C_{22}H_{38}O_4$ , showed hydroxyl ( $3460\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ), acetate ( $1730, 1230\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $\delta 2.08$ ) and ketone ( $1700\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) absorptions. PMR showed ring A methyls at  $\delta 0.79, 0.82, 0.87$  and the C-14 methyl triplet at  $\delta 0.88$ . The C-13 methyl signal now appeared as a doublet ( $\delta 0.98, J 7\text{ Hz}$ ) consistent with a methyl adjacent to a ketone. Because of the mode of formation both C-13 epimers would be produced. This sequence confirms that the secondary ether linkage is attached to C-12.

Jones oxidation of the diol **7** at  $0^\circ$  slowly formed a lactone, 8,12s-epoxylabdano-13,17-lactone **12**,  $C_{20}H_{32}O_3$  [ $1747\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (C=O)]. The absence of carboxylic acid and aldehyde peaks in the IR and PMR and the absence of the C-17 proton signal in the PMR further supported a lactone structure.

Thus the major oxidation product is formulated



SCHEME 1



as 8,12s-epoxyabldane-13,17-diol 7. Models show that the two hydroxyl groups are in close proximity and strong intramolecular hydrogen bonding was confirmed by a dilute  $\text{CCl}_4$  solution study<sup>7</sup> (3535, 3455  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  bonded OH). This accounts for the unusually high-field position of the C-13 methyl resonance in both the diol 7 and the hydroxy acetate 9, whereas in the diacetate 10 this signal had moved markedly downfield and was close to its position in 13-acetoxy-8(17)-labdene 13 ( $\delta$  1.41). Strong hydrogen bonding explains the resistance of the primary hydroxyl to oxidation and the ease of cyclisation in the lactonisation *via* the hemiacetal route.

The minor oxidation product 8,  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{36}\text{O}_3$ , showed hydroxyl absorption (3530, 3420  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) and extensive C—O stretching in the IR. Mass spectrum showed  $\text{M}-\text{H}_2\text{O}$  as the highest mass peak and loss of  $\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$ , consistent with a primary hydroxyl grouping. PMR (Table) showed the three ring A methyls and the C-14 methyl triplet. The C-13 methyl signal at  $\delta$  1.13 was in the normal position for C-13 hydroxylated labdanes. A two proton singlet at  $\delta$  3.45 was consistent with a primary hydroxyl attached to C-17 and a one proton multiplet was present at  $\delta$  3.89 (W/2 12 Hz). From the overall similarity to 8,12s-epoxyabldane-13,17-diol 7 this compound was assigned as its C-12 epimer, 8,12r-epoxyabldane-13,17-diol 8. The fact that the band width of the C-12 proton signal in this case is smaller than is observed in the more abundant oxidation product 7 is consistent with the changes in dihedral angles measured from Dreiding models. This structure was confirmed by Jones oxidation which gave an aldehyde rather than a lactone. An unstable aldehyde, 13-hydroxy-8,12-epoxyabldan-17-al 14 which showed hydroxyl absorption (3500  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) and aldehyde peaks (2750, 1704  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $\delta$  9.78) was isolated. Models of 8,12r-epoxyabldane-13,17-diol 8 show that intramolecular hydrogen bonding is not possible, dilute  $\text{CCl}_4$  solution IR studies showing only non-bonded hydroxyl group absorption<sup>7</sup> (3695  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ). This accounts for the normal position of the C-13 methyl resonance and the observed rapid rate of oxidation.

### C-13 Stereochemistry

In order to formulate a mechanism for the formation of the 8,12-epoxy compounds it was necessary to establish whether their formation had occurred with retention or epimerisation at C-13. The asymmetric shape of the C-12 proton signal in the oxidation products and their derivatives in all the solvents used ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_6$ ,  $\text{C}_5\text{H}_5\text{N}$ ) initially suggested the possibility of two different proton signals of very similar environments.

Several factors indicated that the shape of the multiplet was not produced by isomeric impurity. In the strongly hydrogen bonded diol 7 and the

hydroxy acetate 9 and in the rigid lactone 12 the C-13 methyl would possess a very different environment if it were  $\alpha$  than that experienced if it were  $\beta$ . Thus it would be highly unlikely that a mixture of 13 $\alpha$  and 13 $\beta$ -epimers could not be detected by a difference in the C-13 methyl resonance in these compounds. PMR spectra in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_6$ , and  $\text{C}_5\text{H}_5\text{N}$  showed no multiplicity of the C-13 signal in any of the derivatives prepared. Nor was any multiplicity of this signal observed when the derivatives were examined in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  with varying amounts of europium shift reagent  $[\text{Eu}(\text{dpm})_3]$ .<sup>8</sup> High temperature PMR studies on 8,12s-epoxyabldane-13,17-diol 7 showed no observable change in the shape of the multiplet up to 90° and ruled out the possibility of two different conformers contributing to the asymmetry of the C-12 proton signal.

That the C-12 proton multiplet did in fact result from only one proton environment was supported by the lack of evidence for epimerisation at any centre, the retention of asymmetry of the signal throughout several chemical transformations and the observation that the band width of the multiplet in any one compound was independent of the solvent used, despite the fact that the overall shape of the peak was altered markedly in some cases.

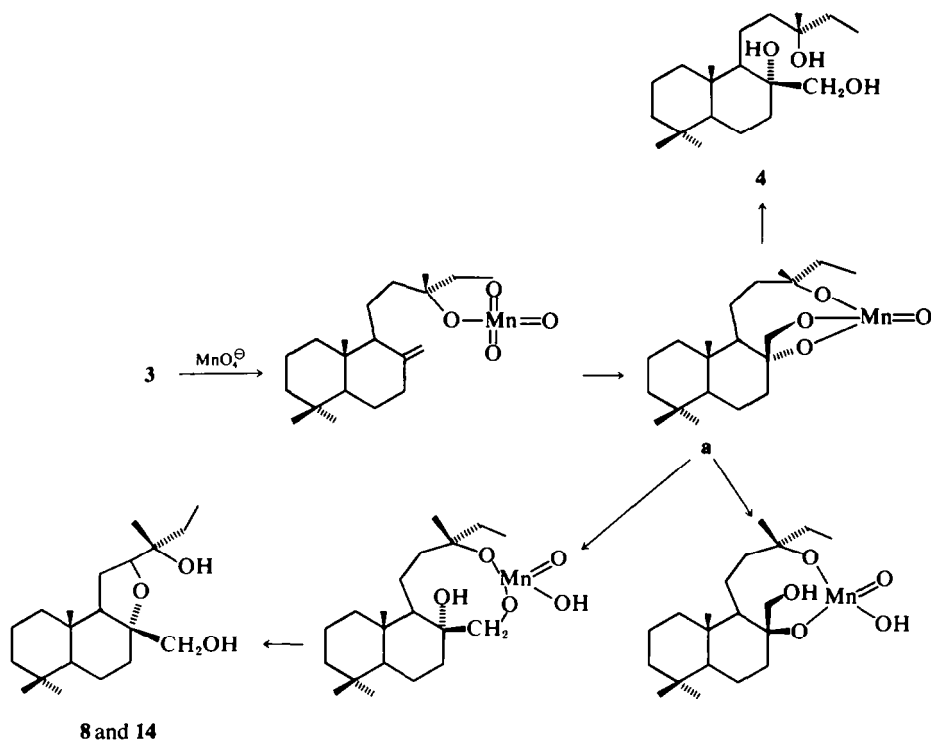
Alteration in peak shape without alteration in band width of the C-12 proton signal is attributed to virtual coupling<sup>9</sup> with the C-9 proton involving either or both of the C-11 protons. Change of solvent produces small changes in the relative positions of the C-11 protons, altering their interaction and thus the shape of the multiplet. The real coupling constants are unaltered and the band width remains constant.

### Mechanism of aqueous permanganate oxidations

Reaction of neutral aqueous permanganate with an acetone solution of 13-acetoxy-8(17)-labdene 13 proceeded very slowly, the only product isolated being a small quantity of 13-acetoxy-17-norlabdan-8-one 15. However with 8(17)-labden-13-ol 3 the reaction proceeded rapidly, thus indicating some participation by the side chain hydroxyl group, probably involving the formation of a manganate ester. Similar assistance by an hydroxyl group has been observed by Eastman and Quinn.<sup>10</sup>

A mechanism to account for the oxidation products of 8(17)-labden-13-ol 3 is proposed in Scheme 2. Initial formation of the C-13 manganate ester leads to an internal manganate ester a, as proposed for the *cis* hydroxylation of alkenes, which gives the triol 4 on hydrolysis. Cleavage of the vicinal diol grouping of the triol, a common side reaction in the *cis* hydroxylation<sup>11</sup> of alkenes, gives 13-hydroxy-17-norlabdan-8-one 5.

The fact that one of the C-12 epimers predominates suggests that formation of the 8,12-oxide



SCHEME 2. Formation of Oxidation Products.

Table: PMR data ( $\delta$  values;  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )

Compound	Methyl signals					Low field signals		Band width of C-12H (Hz)
	4 $\alpha$	4 $\beta$	10 $\beta$	13	14	C-17	C-12	
8,12S-Epoxyabldane-13, 17-diol 7	0.88	0.83	0.81	1.04	0.93	3.53	3.87	16
17-Acetoxy-8,12S-epoxyabldan-13-ol 9	0.87	0.84	0.85	1.00	0.91	4.39	3.87	15
13, 17-Diacetoxy-8, 12S-epoxyabldane 10	0.88	0.84	0.88	1.38	0.92	4.34	4.12	16
8,12S-Epoxyabldano-13,17-lactone 12	0.88	0.83	0.83	1.24	0.93		4.18	10
17-Acetoxy-8-hydroxy-13 $\alpha\beta$ H-abldan-12-one 11	0.87	0.82	0.79	0.98 (d)	0.88	4.35	3.95	
8,12R-Epoxyabldane-13,17-diol 8	0.88	0.82	0.74	1.14	0.93	3.48	3.89	12
13-Hydroxy-8,12R-epoxyabldan-17-al 14	0.89	0.80	0.73	1.15	0.93	9.78	4.34	11

bridge is formed at some stage when the side chain is held in a fixed position. Functionalisation of C-12 is regarded as proceeding through the internal manganate ester *a* proposed for the formation of the triol 4. Permanganate has been shown to abstract hydride from tertiary centres, replacing these with hydroxyl groups with retention of configuration.<sup>10</sup> Models show that a manganate ester attached to carbons 8,13 and 17 would be moderately rigid but an ester attached to carbons 8 and 13 or 13 and 17 would be reasonably mobile and also very close to the C-12 hydrogens. Abstraction of a

hydride from a secondary rather than from a less accessible tertiary centre gives a carbonium ion which undergoes nucleophilic attack by the C-8 oxygen. Hydrolysis of the manganate ester gives an 8,12-epoxy diol.

An alternative pathway to the 8,12-epoxy compounds, via dehydration of the C-13 hydroxyl to the  $\Delta^{12}$ -olefin and subsequent hydroxylation by permanganate can be discarded as 8(17)-ablden-13-ol 3 is dehydrated to mainly  $\Delta^{13}$  isomers<sup>12</sup> and furthermore it would produce epimers at C-13 for which there is no evidence.

## EXPERIMENTAL

For general experimental details see Part 1.<sup>1</sup>

8(17)-*Labden-13-ol* 3— $\nu_{\max}$  3345 (OH); 3075, 1640, 885 (C=CH<sub>2</sub>); 1140, 1129 (CO) cm<sup>-1</sup>. PMR: methyls at  $\delta$  0.69, 0.80, 0.87, 0.88 (triplet, *J* 7 Hz), 1.14; C=CH<sub>2</sub> 4.53, 4.81; 7  $\beta$ H 2.35 (multiplet).

*Aqueous permanganate on 8(17)-Labden-13-ol* 3—To a stirred soln of 3 (12 g) in acetone (490 ml) was added (with cooling to maintain T < 30°) over a period of 2 h, KMnO<sub>4</sub> (24 g) in water (960 ml). A further portion of acetone (250 ml) was then added and stirring continued for 3 h. MnO<sub>2</sub> was removed by filtration and washed with ether. Ether extraction of the filtrate gave an oil (10.8 g). MnO<sub>2</sub> was dissolved in acidic Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>3</sub> and the resulting mixture ether extracted to give more oil (1.6 g). The two portions were combined and chromatographed (1000 g alumina, deactivated with 100 ml water) to give (i) with 25% ether/hexane, 8(17)-*labden-13-ol* 3 (0.27 g) identical to an authentic sample; (ii) with 35% ether/hexane, 13-*hydroxy-17-norlabdan-8-one* 5 (0.34 g).  $\nu_{\max}$  3430 (OH); 1694 (C=O); 1426 (perturbed methylene); 1183, 1147, 1135, 1104, 1065, 1045, 968 (CO) cm<sup>-1</sup>. PMR: methyls at  $\delta$  0.72, 0.86, 0.89 (triplet, *J* 7 Hz) 0.96, 1.13; perturbed methylene 1.80–2.50. This sample, on attempted distillation (70°/0.01 mm) on standing, or on contact with dilute acid, lost water to form 8,13-*epoxy-17-norlabd-8-ene* 6, distilled 68°/0.01 mm  $\nu_{\max}$  1664 (C—O—); 1190, 1181, 1149, 1103, 1067, 1033 (C—O) cm<sup>-1</sup>. PMR: methyls at  $\delta$  0.85, 0.86 (triplet, *J* 7 Hz), 0.89, 0.97, 1.15. (Found: C, 82.7; H, 11.9. C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>32</sub>O requires: C, 82.5; H, 11.7%). (iii) with 65% ether/hexane, 8,12s-*epoxylabdane-13,17-diol* 7 (3.39 g), sublimed 110°/0.01 mm, m.p. 166–167°  $\nu_{\max}$  3430, 3310 (OH); 1414 (perturbed methylene); 1179, 1164, 1116, 1094, 1063, 1046, 1018, 1000, 979 (CO) cm<sup>-1</sup>  $\nu_{\max}^{Cl_4}$  3535, 3455 (bonded OH). PMR: methyls at  $\delta$  0.81, 0.83, 0.88, 0.93 (triplet, *J* 7 Hz), 1.04; C-17 protons 3.53 (W/2 4 Hz); C-12 $\alpha$  proton as a multiplet 3.87 (W/2 16 Hz); *m/e* 324 (M<sup>+</sup>). (Found: C, 74.0; H, 11.1. C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>36</sub>O<sub>3</sub> requires: C, 74.0; H, 11.2%). (iv) with 70% ether/hexane, 8,12R-*epoxylabdane-13,17-diol* 8 (0.32 g), sublimed 115°/0.02 mm, m.p. 120–121°.  $\nu_{\max}$  3530, 3420 (OH); 1174, 1141, 1099, 1080, 1009, 988, 972 (C—O) cm<sup>-1</sup>  $\nu_{\max}^{Cl_4}$  3695 (non-bonded OH). PMR: methyls at  $\delta$  0.74, 0.82, 0.88, 0.93 (triplet, *J* 7 Hz), 1.14; C-17 protons 3.48 (W/2 4 Hz); C-12 $\beta$  proton as a multiplet 3.89 (W/2 12 Hz). *m/e* 324 (M<sup>+</sup>). (Found: C, 74.3; H, 11.3; C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>36</sub>O<sub>3</sub> requires: C, 74.0; H, 11.2%). (v) with 5% MeOH/ether, *labdane-8,13,17-triol* 4 (5.07 g), identical (mmp, IR, PMR) with an authentic sample.

17-*Acetoxy-8,12s-epoxylabdan-13-ol* 9—8,12s-*epoxylabdane-13,17-diol* 7 (50 mg) was acetylated with pyridine-acetic anhydride (2 ml, 1:1) at room temp. for 24 hr. Work up, followed by PLC (60% ether/hexane) gave 17-*acetoxy-8,12s-epoxylabdan-13-ol* 9 (45 mg), distilled 106°/0.04 mm  $\nu_{\max}$  3465 (OH); 1720, 1260 (acetate); 1110, 1068, 1036, 1019, 1003, 982 (CO) cm<sup>-1</sup>. PMR: methyls at  $\delta$  0.84, 0.85, 0.87, 0.91 (triplet, *J* 7 Hz), 1.00; acetate methyl 2.08; C-17 protons as an AB system H<sub>A</sub> 4.39, H<sub>B</sub> 4.14 (long range coupled, *J*<sub>LR</sub> = 1 Hz) (*J*<sub>AB</sub> 11 Hz); C-12 $\alpha$  proton as multiplet 3.87 (W/2 14 Hz). (Found: C, 71.8; H, 10.3; C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>38</sub>O<sub>4</sub> requires: C, 72.1; H, 10.5%).

13,17-*Diacetoxy-8,12s-epoxylabdane* (10)—8,12s-*epoxylabdane-13,17-diol* 7 (50 mg) was treated at room temp for 24 hr with isopropenyl acetate (2 ml) and toluene *p*-sulphonic acid (5 mg). Dilution with ether, washing with dil NaOH and water, drying and removal of solvent gave

a crystalline product (50 mg), which was purified by PLC (50% ether/hexane) to give 13,17-*diacetoxy-8,12s-epoxylabdane* 10 (45 mg), distilled 120°/0.02 mm, m.p. 101–102°.  $\nu_{\max}$  1720, 1249 (acetate); 1143, 1113, 1074, 1040, 1025, 1010 (C—O) cm<sup>-1</sup>. PMR: methyls at  $\delta$  0.84, 0.88, 0.88, 0.92 (triplet, *J* 7 Hz), 1.38; acetate methyls at 1.96, 2.05; C-17 protons as an AB system H<sub>A</sub> 4.34, H<sub>B</sub> 3.96 (long-range coupled, *J*<sub>LR</sub> 1 Hz) (*J*<sub>AB</sub> 11 Hz); C-12 $\alpha$  proton as a multiplet 4.12 (W/2 14 Hz). (Found: C, 70.3; H, 10.2; C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>40</sub>O<sub>5</sub> requires: C, 70.6; H, 9.9%).

17-*Acetoxy-8-hydroxy-13 $\alpha$  $\beta$ H-labdane-12-one* 11—17-*acetoxy-8,12s-epoxylabdan-13-ol* 7 (0.56 g) was refluxed for 15 min with triethylorthoformate (0.4 ml), toluene *p*-sulphonic acid (100 mg) and anhyd NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (1.25 g) in dry benzene (100 ml). The reaction mixture was filtered and the solvent removed. The remaining material was dissolved in methanol (50 ml) and treated at room temp with HCl (10 ml, 1%) for 12 hr. Work up by dilution with water, ether extraction, drying and removal of solvent gave an oil (0.5 g). PLC (45% ether/hexane) gave 17-*acetoxy-8-hydroxy-13 $\alpha$  $\beta$ H-labdane-12-one* 11 (0.13 g), distilled 92°/0.02 mm  $\nu_{\max}$  3460 (OH); 1730, 1230 (acetate); 1700 (C=O); 1412 (perturbed methylene); 1180, 1074, 1033 (CO) cm<sup>-1</sup>. PMR: methyls at  $\delta$  0.79, 0.82, 0.87, 0.88 (triplet, *J* 7 Hz), 0.98 (doublet, *J* 7 Hz); remained the same magnitude when recorded at 60 MHz; acetate methyl 2.08; perturbed methylene 2.00–2.70; C-17 protons as an AB system H<sub>A</sub> 4.32, H<sub>B</sub> 3.95 (*J*<sub>AB</sub> 11 Hz). (Found: C, 71.9; H, 10.5; C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>38</sub>O<sub>4</sub> requires: C, 72.1; H, 10.5%).

8,12s-*Epoxylabdano-13,17-lactone* 12—8,12s-*epoxylabdane-13,17-diol* 7 (50 mg) in acetone (5 ml) was treated overnight at 0° with Jones reagent (0.2 ml). Work up by pouring into sat NaHCO<sub>3</sub> and ether extraction, drying, removal of solvent and PLC (30% ether/hexane) gave 12 (45 mg), sublimed 100°/0.04 mm, m.p. 125–127°.  $\nu_{\max}$  1720 (lactone), 1155, 1086, 1028, 1000, 954 (C—O) cm<sup>-1</sup>;  $\nu_{\max}^{Cl_4}$  1747 cm<sup>-1</sup> (lactone). PMR: methyls at  $\delta$  0.83, 0.83, 0.88, 0.93 (triplet, *J* 7 Hz), 1.24; C-12 $\alpha$  proton as a multiplet 4.18 (W/2 12 Hz). CD (c, 0.362; MeOH) [ $\theta$ ]<sub>217</sub> 0; [ $\theta$ ]<sub>243</sub> -2914 ( $\Gamma$  24 nm); [ $\theta$ ]<sub>271</sub> 0. (Found: C, 74.8; H, 10.0; C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>32</sub>O<sub>3</sub> requires: C, 75.0; H, 10.1%).

8,12R-*Epoxy-13-hydroxylabdan-17-ol* 14—8,12R-*epoxylabdane-13,17-diol* 8 (50 mg) in acetone (10 ml) was treated with Jones reagent (0.2 ml) at 0° for 5 min. Work up as for oxidation of 7 followed by PLC (65% ether/hexane) gave the unstable aldehyde 14 (35 mg)  $\nu_{\max}$  3500 (OH); 2750, 1704 (aldehyde); 1138, 1123, 1102, 1073, 1050, 1014, 990 (CO) cm<sup>-1</sup>. PMR: methyls at  $\delta$  0.73, 0.80, 0.89, 0.93 (triplet, *J* 7 Hz), 1.15; C-12 $\beta$  proton as a multiplet 4.34 (W/2 12 Hz); —CHO 9.78.

*Lead tetra-acetate oxidation of labdane-8,13,17-triol* 4—4 (50 mg) was dissolved in dry benzene (20 ml) and a soln of Pb(OAc)<sub>4</sub> (150 mg) in dry benzene (20 ml) added, with stirring, at room temp over a period of 15 min. Stirring was continued for a further 15 min, excess Pb(OAc)<sub>4</sub> destroyed by addition of ethanediol (0.5 ml). Work up by filtration and evaporation of the solvent gave 13-*hydroxy-17-norlabdan-8-one* 5 (45 mg), identical (IR, PMR) with an authentic sample.

13-*Acetoxy-8(17)-labdene* 13—8(17)-*labden-13-ol* 3 (1 g) was treated at room temp for 20 hr with isopropenyl acetate (1 ml) and toluene *p*-sulphonic acid (10 mg). Dilution with ether, washing with 0.5 M NaOH and water, drying and removal of solvent gave 13 (0.98 g), identical (IR, PMR) with an authentic sample.<sup>13</sup>

*Aqueous permanganate oxidation of 13-acetoxy-8(17)-*

labdene 13-13 (500 mg) in acetone (20 ml) was stirred with  $\text{KMnO}_4$  (1 g) in water (60 ml) for 24 hr at room temp. Work up as for aqueous permanganate treatment of 3 gave an oil (450 mg) which on PLC (20% ether/hexane) gave: (i) as upper band, 13-acetoxy-8(17)-labdene 13 (300 mg), identical with an authentic sample, (ii) as lower band, 13-acetoxy-17-norlabdan-8-one 15 (27 mg)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  1720, 1255 (acetate); 1702 ( $\text{C}=\text{O}$ ); 1414 (perturbed methylene); 1170, 1124, 1011 ( $\text{CO}$ )  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . PMR: methyls at  $\delta$  0.71, 0.85, 0.88 (triplet,  $J$  7 Hz), 0.96, 1.40; acetate methyl 1.97; perturbed methylene 2.00-2.50. CD (c, 0.035; MeOH)  $[\theta]_{232}^{\text{D}}$  0;  $[\theta]_{292}^{\text{D}}$  -5490 ( $\Gamma$  33 nm);  $[\theta]_{320}^{\text{D}}$  0; (Found: C, 75.0; H, 10.5;  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{36}\text{O}_3$  requires: C, 74.95; H, 10.8%).

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