# OXIDATIVE COUPLING OF PHENOLS AND PHENOLIC ETHERS—III'

## SYNTHESIS OF ERYSODIENONE LACTAM FROM AN N-PHENACYLINDOLINE

EDWARD McDonald and Robert D. Wylie
University Chemical Laboratory, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1EW, England

(Received in UK 27 November 1978)

Abstract—The indoline (9) was prepared in high yield and converted into the diphenolic N-phenacylindoline (8). Ferricyanide oxidation of 8 gave erysodienone lactam (22) in 14% yield. This result is compared with earlier oxidations of 4 and 5.

Erysodienone (1), a key intermediate in the biosynthesis of the *Erythrina* alkaloids, has been prepared has been prepared in >30% yield by ferricyanide oxidation of the bisphenethylamine (2). To define the course of this reaction Barton and Widdowson prepared the two possible stable intermediates (3 and 4) and subjected each one to the conditions of the oxidation reaction. The dibenzazonine (3) gave erysodienone (1) in 80% yield, whereas the N-phenethylindoline (4) gave no identifiable monomeric product. The oxidation of the bisphenethylamine therefore follows the course  $2\rightarrow 3\rightarrow 1$ .

We have recently reported <sup>16</sup> an efficient synthesis of the homoerysodienones via ferricyanide oxidation of the N-phenacyltetrahydroquinoline (5). Whereas 5 gave the lactam dienone (6) in 67% yield, the corresponding free base (7) gave on oxidation an intractable complex mixture. <sup>16</sup> Clearly the design of the substrate molecule can be crucial in such oxidations and we therefore decided to

investigate the amide (8), an analogue of indoline (4), as a potential synthetic precursor of the *Erythrina* and dibenz [d, f] azonine alkaloids.

For the synthesis of 8 we required the indoline (9) and this was prepared from 6-nitrohomoveratric acid<sup>6</sup> (10) in two ways. The first route  $10 \rightarrow 11 \rightarrow 12 \rightarrow 13 \rightarrow 9$ , was

analogous to that followed in our earlier preparation the tetrahydroquinoline (5).

In the O-benzylation of 12 many by-products were formed including the yellow acetone condensation-product (14) but after careful optimisation of conditions a 67% yield of 13 could be realised. The reduction of oxindole (13) to indoline (9) was achieved in 40% yield using diborane/THF but the required product had to be separated from the indole (15) which is probably formed by deprotonation of the intermediate (16). (The yield of 15 was unaltered when the reaction was run under N<sub>2</sub>.)

The second route avoided these two problems by effecting the corresponding steps at a different oxidation level of the side chain. Diborane reduction of the acid 11 gave alcohol 17. Benzylation of 17 to give 18 proceeded without difficulty and reductive cyclisation of the mesylate (19) by Zn/HOAC then gave the required indoline (9) in 69% yield. This efficient indoline synthesis was modelled in the dimethoxy series and the intermediates are fully described in the Experimental.

18: R = CH₂φ

Indoline (9) was condensed with 3-benzyloxy-4-methoxy phenylacetic acid using DCC/CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> to afford the N-acyl indole (20), an unstable compound easily

autoxidised to the corresponding indole (21). Hydrogenolysis of 29 gave diphenol 8 and ferricyanide oxidation under carefully controlled conditions afforded erysodienone lactam 22 in 14% yield.

The yield in the oxidation step here is ca one-fourth that found<sup>1a</sup> for the homologous diphenol (5). At least some of the difference may be attributed to side reactions in which the indoline system is readily oxidised to the indole, but also molecular models suggest that there is considerably more strain in intermediate 23 than in 24

so that intermolecular coupling (leading to polymer) may be relatively more favourable for 8 than for 5. However, compared with the negative result reported for the oxidation of 4 under the same conditions, the 14% yield of erysodienone lactam (23) from 22 is encouraging and reinforces the view that substrate design is an important factor in oxidative phenolic coupling.

### EXPERIMENTAL

For general instructions see Part I.1a

3,4-Dimethoxy-6-nitrobenzyl chloride. Freshly distilled SOCl<sub>2</sub> (1.9 ml) was added to a stirred soln of 3,4-dimethoxy-6-nitrobenzyl alcohol<sup>7</sup> (4.26 g) in dry CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (150 ml). After 1.5 hr, the mixture was evaporated in vacuo at 0° giving the title chloride as a pale yellow solid (2.4 g; 78%), m.p. 89-90° from cyclohexane.

(Found: C, 46.56; H, 4.41; N, 6.4; Cl, 15.13. C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>10</sub>CINO<sub>4</sub> requires: C, 46.6; H, 4.3; N, 6.0; Cl, 15.3%);  $\nu_{max}$  (Nujol) 1613, 1578, 1515, 1320 cm<sup>-1</sup>;  $\lambda_{max}$  223, 244, 296, 342 nm.  $\delta$  4.0 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.02 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 5.05 (s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 7.14 (s, 1H, H-2), 7.72 (s, 1H, H-5); m/e 233 (M<sup>+</sup>, Cl = 37), 231 (M<sup>+</sup>, Cl = 35), 216 (Cl = 37), 214 (Cl = 35), 188 (Cl = 37), 186 (Cl = 35).

20

21: 2,3-dehydro

This chloride was treated with KCN/DMF with a view to the preparation of 10 but the reaction was not a clean one.

3,4-Dimethoxy-6-nitrophenylacetic acid (10). Conc. HNO<sub>3</sub> was slowly added to a stirred soln of homoveratric acid (30 g) in glacial AcOH (200 ml) in a 3-necked flask immersed in an ice bath to prevent the temp. from rising about 65°. The mixture was allowed to stand at room temp. for 15 min. and was then poured into ice cold water. The ppt was collected, washed with water and dried giving 10 as pale yellow crystals (53 g, 86%) m.p. 206-207° from MeOH (lit. m.p. 206-208°).

(Found:  $\nu_{max}$  (Nujol) 3200–2600 (b), 1700, 1584, 1525, 1503, 1323 cm<sup>-1</sup>;  $\lambda_{max}$  215, 249, 298, 336 nm;  $\delta$  (DMSO-d<sub>4</sub>), 3.64 (s, 1H, OH), 3.90 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.92 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.97 (s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 7.03 (s, 1H, H-2), 7.68 (s, 1H, H-5); m/e 241 (M<sup>+</sup>).

3 - Hydroxy - 4 - methoxy - 6 - nitrophenylacetic acid (11). The foregoing acid 10; (40 g) was heated under reflux in 20% KOH aq (800 ml) for 45 hr. The red soln was allowed to cool and then poured into ice-water. The soln was acidified to pH1, the product collected, washed with  $H_2O$  and dried giving 11 as yellow needles (32.3 g, 86%) m.p. 193-194° from MeOH (lit. 192°).

 $P_{\text{max}}$  (Nujol) 3380, 3200–2600 (b), 1710, 1575, 1520, 1503, 1325 cm<sup>-1</sup>;  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  205, 220, 247, 310, 345 changing with OH to 273, 413 nm;  $\delta$  (DMSO-d<sub>a</sub>) 3.5 (b, 2H, exchanged with D<sub>2</sub>O, OH), 3.85 (s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.89 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 6.84 (S, 1H, H-2), 7.68 (s, 1H, H-5); m/e 227 (M<sup>+</sup>), 210 (M<sup>+</sup>-OH).

5-Hydroxy-6-methoxyoxindole (12). A mixture of the foregoing phenol (9 g), 10% Pd/C (900 mg) and glacial AcOH (150 ml) was shaken under H<sub>2</sub> at 40 psi at 80° for 4 hr. Filtration and evaporation gave 5-hydroxy-6-methoxyoxindole (12) as an off-white solid (6.5 g, 92%) m.p. 219-221° from MeOH.

(Found: C, 59.93; H, 5.16; N, 8.08. C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>3</sub> requires: C, 60.3; H, 5.0; N, 7.8%); ν<sub>max</sub> (Nujol) 3340, 3180, 1685, 1600, 1500 cm<sup>-1</sup>; λ<sub>max</sub> 218, 268, 295 nm. δ (DMSO-d<sub>4</sub>) 3.32 (s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.79 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.2-4.0 (b, 2H, exchanged with D<sub>2</sub>O, NH, OH), 6.48 (s, 1H, ArH), 6.72 (s, 1H, ArH); m/e 179 (M<sup>\*</sup>), 164 (M<sup>\*</sup>-CH<sub>3</sub>).

5-Benzyloxy-6-methoxyoxindole (13). Benzyl chloride (1.9 g; 15 mmole) was added to a mixture of 12 (0.9 g), anhyd.  $K_2CO_3$  (1.04 g) and NaI (2.25 g) in dry acetone and the mixture was refluxed under  $N_2$  for 27 hr. Filtration and evaporation gave a dark red gum, which was dissolved in CHCl<sub>3</sub> and washed with  $Na_2CO_3$  aq,  $H_2O_4$  brine, then dried over  $Na_2SO_4$  and thoroughly evaporated in vacuo (water pump then oil pump, 60°) giving a slurry (1.45 g) containing benzyl iodide and other impurities. These were removed by washing with ice-cold  $Et_2O$  (×3) leaving 5-benzyloxy-6-methoxyoxindole (13) after recrystallization as colourless needles (0.91 g, 67%) m.p. 169-171° from EtOH.

(Found: C, 71.39; H, 5.91; N, 4.89.  $C_{16}H_{15}NO_3$  requires: C, 71.4; H, 5.6; N, 5.2%);  $\nu_{max}$  (Nujol) 3400 (b), 1695, 1625, 1500 cm<sup>-1</sup>;  $\lambda_{max}$  208, 250 nm;  $\delta$  3.44 (s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.87 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 5.08 (s, 2H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 6.55 (s, 1H, ArH), 6.84 (s, 1H, ArH), 7.38 (m, 5H, PhH), 8.83 (b, 1H, exchanged with D<sub>2</sub>O, NH); m/e 269 (M<sup>+</sup>), 178 (M<sup>+</sup>-C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>3</sub>).

The yield quoted above was not easily reproduced, and was frequently only 30-40%. From the ether washings a yellow solid was obtained by trituration with MeOH and identified by the following analytical and spectral data as  $5 - benzyloxy - 3 - isopropylidene - 6 - methoxyoxindole (14) (yield ca. 6%), m.p. 203-205° from acetone. Found: C, 73.60; H, 6.32; N, 4.5. C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>19</sub>NO<sub>3</sub> requires: C, 73.7; H, 6.1; N, 4.6%); <math>\nu_{max}$  (Nujol) 3160, 1683, 1625, 1613, 1500 cm<sup>-1</sup>;  $\lambda_{max}$  270, 300 nm;  $\delta$  2.20 (s, 3H, vinyl OCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.55 (s, 3H, vinyl CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.90 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 5.10 (s, 2H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>, 6.50 (s, 1H, ArH), 7.10 (s, 1H, ArH), 7.40 (m, 5H, PhH); mle 309 (M<sup>+</sup>), 218 (M<sup>+</sup>-91).

3,4 - Dimethoxy - 6 - nitrophenethyl alcohol. Conc. HNO<sub>3</sub> (4.83 ml) was added dropwise at 0° to a stirred soln of homoveratryl alcohol (3.02 g) in glacial AcOH (30 ml). The mixture was stirred for 1 hr at 20° and then added to ice-water. The solid which separated was collected, washed with H<sub>2</sub>O, and dried giving 6-nitrohomoveratryl alcohol as yellow crystals (3.32 g, 88.1%) m.p. 106-107° from benzene-hexane (lit.°, m.p. 107°). \(\nu\_{max}\) (Nujot) 3520, 3200-3400 (b), 1610, 1580, 1520, 1330 cm<sup>-1</sup>; \(\delta\) 1.84 (s, 1H, OH), 3.18 (t, 2H, J = 6Hz, ArCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.92 (t, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 3.90 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.94 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 6.78 (s, 1H, H-2), 7.57 (s, 1H, H-5); m/e 227 (M<sup>+</sup>) 196 (M<sup>+</sup>-OCH<sub>3</sub>). This method is a considerable improvement on the literature procedure.

- 3 Hydroxy 4 methoxy 6 nitrophenethyl alcohol (17). BF<sub>3</sub>·Et<sub>2</sub>O (2.2 ml, 12.5 mmole) was added dropwise to a mixture of 11 (1.13 g) and NaBH<sub>4</sub> (0.47 g) in dry THF (25 ml) at 0° under N<sub>2</sub>. The mixture was then stirred at 20° for 3 hr, cooled to 0°, and quenched with 10% NaOH aq. The soln was neutralised to ca. pH = 6 and the THF removed in vacuo. The solid which separated was collected, washed with H2O and dried giving 3-hydroxy-4-methoxy-6-nitrophenethylalcohol (17) as a pale yellow solid (0.96 g. 92%), m.p. 145-146° from CHCl<sub>3</sub>. (Found: C, 50.51; H, 5.24; N, 6.65. C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>11</sub>NO<sub>5</sub> requires: C, 50.7; H, 5.2; N, 6.6%);  $\nu_{max}$ (Nujol) 3560-3100 (b), 1580, 1525, 1330 cm<sup>-1</sup>;  $\lambda_{max}$  215, 246, 305, 347 nm;  $\delta$  (DMSO-d<sub>4</sub>), 2.97 (t, 2H, J = 7Hz, ArCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.62 (t, 2H, CH2OH), 3.84 (a, 3H, OCH3), 3.89 (b, 1H, exchanged with D2O, ROH), 6.82 (s, 1H, H-2), 7.56 (s, 1H, H-5), 10.31 (b, 1H, exchanged with D<sub>2</sub>O, Ph-OH); m/e 213 (M<sup>+</sup>), 197 (M<sup>+</sup>-CH<sub>3</sub>), 182 (M<sup>+</sup>-OCH<sub>3</sub>), 178, 166, 151.
- 3 Benzyloxy 4 methoxy 6 nitrophenethanol (18). A mixture of 17 (1.12 g) anhyd  $K_2CO_3$  (0.406 g), benzyl chloride (0.789 g) in dry DMF (7 ml) was stirred under  $N_2$  at 110° for 6 hr, cooled to 20° and then added to an ice-water mixture. The solid which separated out was collected, washed with  $H_2O$ , dried and recrystallized giving 3 benzyloxy 4 methoxy 6 nitrophenethyl alcohol (18) as pale yellow needles (1.42 g, 89%) m.p. 99-100° from benzene-hexane. (Found: C, 63.16; H, 5.66; N, 4.36.  $C_{16}H_{17}NO_3$  requires: C, 63.4; H, 5.6; N, 4.6%);  $\nu_{max}$  (Nujol) 3200-3650 (b), 1610, 1575, 1520, 1340 cm<sup>-1</sup>;  $\lambda_{max}$  215, 245, 300, 345 nm.  $\delta$  1.68 (s, 1H, OH), 3.12 (t, 2H, J = 6Hz,  $\Delta$ rCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.86 (t, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>OH), 3.90 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 5.21 (s, 2H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 6.83 (s, 1H, H-2), 7.39 (s, 1H, H-5), 7.38 (m, 5H, PhH); m/e 303 (M°), 253, 162, 135.
- 3 Benzyloxy 4 methoxy 6 nitrophenethyl mesylate (19). Mesyl chloride (0.458 g) was added to a soln of 18 (1.01 g) and Et<sub>3</sub>N (0.505 g) in dry CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (15 ml) at 0° under N<sub>2</sub>. The mixture was stirred at 0° for 15 min and then at room temp. for a further 15 min. Work up, which included washing with H<sub>2</sub>O, dil. HCl, NaHCO<sub>3</sub> aq, brine, drying over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, evaporation and recrystallization gave mesylate (19) as yellow crystals (1.15 g, 90.5%) m.p. 125-126° from benzene-hexane. (Found: C, 53.5; H, 5.09; N, 3.64; S, 8.29. C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>19</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>S requires: C, 53.5; H, 5.0; N, 3.7; 8.4%);  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  (Nujoł) 1620, 1580, 1525, 1325 cm<sup>-1</sup>;  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  217, 244, 298, 340 nm;  $\delta$  2.88 (s, 3H, SO<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.30 (t, 2H, J = 6Hz, ArCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.91 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.48 (t, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>OS), 5.22 (s, 2H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 6.87 (s, 1H, H-2), 7.64 (s, 1H, H-5), 7.39 (m, 5H, PhH); m/e 318 (M<sup>+</sup>), 285 (M<sup>+</sup>-MeSO<sub>3</sub>H).
- 3,4 Dimethoxy 6 nitrophenethyl mesylate. 6-Nitrohomoveratryl alcohol (0.45 g), mesyl chloride (0.18 ml) and Et<sub>3</sub>N (0.30 g) in dry CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 ml) were reacted as above to give 6-nitrohomoveratryl mesylate (0.52 g, 85%) m.p. 106-107° from benzene-hexane. (Found: C, 43.38; H, 4.92; N, 4.50; S, 10.26. C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>13</sub>NO<sub>7</sub>S requires: C, 43.2; H, 4.9; N, 4.6; S, 10.5%); IR (Nujol) 1615, 1575, 1525, 1500 cm<sup>-1</sup>; UV 220, 244, 295, 340 nm; NMR 2.96 (s, 3H, SO<sub>2</sub>Me), 3.39 (t, 2H, J = 6Hz, ArCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.94 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.48 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.55 (t, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>OMes), 6.82 (s, 1H, H-2), 7.64 (s, 1H, H-5); m/e 305 (M\*) 210 (M\*-OSO<sub>2</sub>Me).

#### 5 - Benzyloxy - 6 - methoxy - 2,3 - dihydroindole (9)

(a) From oxindole (13). BF<sub>3</sub>·Et<sub>2</sub>O (2.56 g) was added dropwise to a stirred mixture of NaBH<sub>4</sub> (0.732 g) and 13 (0.807 g) in dry THF (180 ml) at 0° under N2. The mixture was then stirred at 20° for 7 days. Work up by careful addition of 10% NaOH aq, extraction with CHCl<sub>3</sub>, washing the combined CHCl<sub>3</sub> extracts with H<sub>2</sub>O, brine, drying over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and evaporating in pacuo gave an oil to which oxalic acid (0.375 g) in MeOH was added. The oxalate salt of 9 was collected after addition of Et<sub>2</sub>O to the methanolic soln and recrystallized to give the pure oxalate salt of 9 as needles (0.409 g, 39%), m.p. 169-170° from MeOH-Et<sub>2</sub>O. (Found: C, 62.57; H, 5.61; N, 4.03. C18H19NO6 requires: C, 62.6; H, 5.5; N, 4.0%); ν<sub>max</sub> (Nujol) 2700-3500 (b), 1700, 1600, 1580, 1505 cm<sup>-1</sup>;  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  213, 237, 300. 8 (DMSO-d<sub>4</sub>), 2.9 (t, 2H, J<sub>23</sub> = 8Hz, H<sub>3</sub>), 3.49 (t, 2H, H-2), 3.76 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.95 (s, 2H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 6.45 (s, 1H, ArH), 6.81 (s, 1H, ArH), 7.37 (m, 5H, PhH), 7.7 (b, 3H, exchanged with D<sub>2</sub>O, NH, OH); m/e 255 (M<sup>+</sup>), 254 (M<sup>+</sup>-H),

The mother liquors were combined and evaporated. The residue purified by preparative tlc (SiO<sub>2</sub>, Et<sub>2</sub>O) gave starting material

13 (24 mg,  $R_f$  0.4) and 15 (48 mg,  $R_f$  0.9);  $\nu_{\rm max}$  (CHCl<sub>3</sub>) 3490, 1630, 1510 cm<sup>-1</sup>;  $\lambda_{\rm max}$  209, 260, 297 nm. 8 3.83 (a, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 5.24 (a, 3H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 6.37 (m, 1H, collapses to a doublet on D<sub>2</sub>O shake,  $J_{22}$  = 3Hz, H-3), 6.98 (dd, 1H,  $J_{12}$  = 2Hz,  $J_{23}$  = 3Hz, H-2); m/e 253 (M<sup>+</sup>), 252 (M<sup>+</sup>-H) 162.

(b) From altromesylate (19). Compound 19 (190 mg) was added slowly to a vigorously stirred slurry of Zn (0.65 g) in glacial AcOH (10 ml) under N<sub>2</sub>. After the addition was complete the mixture was stirred at 20° for a further 30 min. Filtration and evaporation in acuso gave a yellow oil which was dissolved in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and washed with dil HCl (×3). The acidic washings were neutralized and back extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The combined organic extracts were washed with H<sub>2</sub>O, brine, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and evaporated leaving 9 (63 mg, 50%).

5,6 - Dimethoxy - 2,3 - dihydroIndole 6 - Nitrohomoveratryl mesylate (150 mg) and Zn (0.65 g) in glacial AcOH (10 ml) were reacted as above to give the indoline (46 mg, 52%) characterised as the oxalate m.p. 172-174° from MeOH-Et<sub>2</sub>O. (Found: C, 53.48; H, 5.25; N, 5.43. C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NO<sub>6</sub> requires: C, 53.5; H, 5.5; N, 5.2%).

1 - (3' - Benzylozy - 4' - methoxy) phenylacetyl - 5 - benzyloxy - 6 - methoxy - 2,3 - dihydroindole (20). A soin of DCC (229 mg) in dry CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 ml) was added to a stirred soin of 9 (254 mg) and 3-benzyloxy-4-methoxy phenyl acetic acid (328 mg) in dry CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (7.5 ml) under N<sub>2</sub> at 0°. After 30 min the mixture was allowed to warm to 20° and it was then stirred at this temp. for 18 hr. The mixture was filtered through celite, diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, washed with sat Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> aq, H<sub>2</sub>O, brine, dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) and evaporated to give phenacylindoline (20) as an air sensitive solid (0.42 g, 83%) m.p. 131-134° from MeOH. (Found: C, 74.9; H, 6.55; N, 2.65. C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>31</sub>NO<sub>5</sub> requires: C, 75.4; H, 6.1; N, 2.75%);  $\nu$ <sub>max</sub> (Nujol) 1660, 1610, 1590, 1495 cm<sup>-1</sup>;  $\lambda$ <sub>max</sub> (MeOH) 263, 304 nm;  $\delta$  2.90 (t, 2H, J = 9Hz, H-3), 3.75 (t, 2H, H-2), 3.70 (s, 2H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 5.20 (s, 2H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 6.70-7.0 (m, 4H, ArH), 7.2-7.7 (m, 10H, PhH), 8.11 (s, 1H, H<sub>7</sub>); m/e 509 (M\*), 418 (M\*-C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>7</sub>).

1 · (3' - Hydroxy - 4' - methoxy) phenylacetyl · 5 · hydroxy · 6 · methoxy · 2,3 · dihydroindole (8). A mixture of the amide (200 mg) and 10% Pd/C (40 mg) in CHCl<sub>3</sub> (0.6 ml), MeOH (3.2 ml) and MeOH/HCl (5 drops) was hydrogenated at 20° for i.5 hr. The mixture was filtered through Celite and evaporated giving 8 as a unstable oil (10% mg, 83%), 1 spot on the (SiO<sub>2</sub>, EtOAc-5% MeOH);  $\nu_{max}$  (CHCl<sub>3</sub>) 3540, 3100-3400 (b), 1645, 1615, 1590, 1490 cm<sup>-1</sup>,  $\lambda_{max}$  (MeOH) 265, 305 changing in OH to 283,

317 nm; 8 3.00 (t, 2H, J<sub>23</sub> = 9Hz, H-3) 3.65 (s, 2H, ArCH<sub>2</sub>CO), 3.81 (s, 6H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.01 (t, 2H, H-2), 5.7 (b, 2H, exchanged with D<sub>2</sub>O, OH), 6.65-6.90 (m, 4H, ArH), 7.98 (s, 1H, ArH); m/e 329 (M<sup>+</sup>).

10-Oxo-erysodienone (22). A degassed soln of \$ (50 mg) in CHCl<sub>3</sub> (5 ml) was added to a degassed two phase system consisting of CHCl<sub>3</sub> (70 ml) and 5% NaHCO<sub>3</sub> aq (17 ml) containing K<sub>3</sub>Fe(CN)<sub>4</sub> (500 mg, 4 eq.) and the mixture was stirred for 19 hr at such a rate that the vortex of the aqueous layer just touched the bottom of the flask and there was still a clean separation between the two phases. The aqueous layer was acidified to ca. pH6 and the CHCl<sub>3</sub> layer removed. The aqueous layer was extracted with CHCl3 and the combined organic extracts were washed with H2O, brine, dried (Na2SO4), filtered through Celite and evaporated leaving 33 mg, which was eluted through a silica column with CHCl<sub>3</sub> to give 24 mg and then purified by preparative tic (SiO2, EtOAc/5% MeOH) to give 10-axoerysodienone (22) as a gum (7 mg, 14.1%). (Found: M<sup>+</sup>, 327.1093. C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO<sub>5</sub> requires: 327.1106); Pmax (CHCl3) 3540 (b), 1680, 1655, 1620 cm Ame, (MeOH) 211, 233, 280 nm; 8 2.77-2.53 (m, 2H, H-7), 3.58 (s. 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.79 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.51-3.88 (m, 3H, H-11(2H), H-8(1H), hidden under MeO signals), 4.31-4.62 (m, 1H, H-8), 5.98 (s, 1H, H-4), 6.53 (s, 2H, ArH), 6.78 (s, 1H, H-1), 5.61-5.79 (b, 1H, exchanged with D<sub>2</sub>O, OH); m/e 327 (M<sup>+</sup>).

Acknowledgement—We thank S.R.C. for financial support.

#### REFERENCES

<sup>1</sup>Parts I and II are considered to be: <sup>a</sup>E. McDonald and A. Suksamrarn, J. Chem. Soc. Perkin I, 434 (1978) (Part I); <sup>b</sup>Ibid. 440 (Part II).

<sup>2</sup>D. H. R. Barton, R. D. Bracho, C. J. Potter and D. A. Widdowson, *Ibid.* Perkin I 2278; (1974) and refs cited.

<sup>3</sup>J. E. Jervay, F. McCapra, T. Money, G. M. Sharma and A. I. Scott, *Ibid*. Chem. Comm., 142 (1966).

Mondon and M. Ehrhardt, Tetrahedron Letters 2557 (1966).
 H. R. Barton, R. B. Boar and D. A. Widdowson, J. Chem. Soc. (C), 1208 (1970).

G. A. Walker, J. Am. Chem. Soc. 77, 3844 (1955).

<sup>7</sup>U. Zehavi, B. Amit and A. Patchornik, J. Org. Chem. 2281 (1972).

<sup>6</sup>C. Schopf and L. Winterhalder, Liebigs Ann. 844, 73 (1940).

<sup>9</sup>J. N. Srivastava and D. N. Chaudhury, J. Indian Chem. Soc. 38, 998 (1961).