

BIOMIMETIC SYNTHESIS OF 12-OXY-PIMARANES FROM 12,13-EPOXY-LABDADIENES

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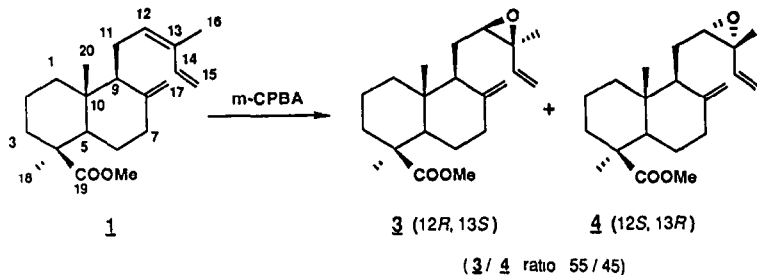
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Abstract: Reactions of methyl 12,13-epoxy-*cis*-communates (**3**, **4**) and methyl 12,13-epoxy-*trans*-communates (**5**, **6**) with BF₃ etherate at 0°C are reported. They occur in a stereoselective and stereospecific way yielding mainly C-12 oxygenated pimaranes. When the reaction was carried out from **5** and **6** two tetracyclic ketones (**17**, **18**) were also isolated. Reaction mechanisms and stereochemical implications are discussed.

Monoepoxides of polyenes are appropriate substrata in biomimetic syntheses of terpenoids and steroids.¹ The oxirane ring basically plays two roles in these reactions: (a) functionalization in a specific position of the molecule, and (b) provision of the required cation for achieving cyclization with a high stereochemical control,² by electrophilic opening. In this paper we report the results of the opening reactions of methyl 12,13-epoxy-*cis*-communate (**3**, **4**) and methyl 12,13-epoxy-*trans*-communate (**5**, **6**) with BF₃ etherate. Most products obtained in these processes are C-12 oxygenated pimaranes in addition to two tetracyclic ketones (**17**, **18**), when epoxides **5** and **6** were used.

METHODS AND RESULTS

Epoxidation of methyl *cis*-communate (**1**) was performed with *m*-CPBA in the selective conditions described by Pascual Teresa *et al*.³ yielding, after chromatographic separation, a mixture of methyl (12*R*,13*S*)-12,13-epoxy-labda-8(17),14-dien-19-oate (**3**) and methyl (12*S*,13*R*)-12,13-epoxy-labda-8(17),14-dien-19-oate (**4**) (45% of the reaction products). ¹H-NMR of the mixture



shows the same signals for H-C₁₂ (δ 2.90, br t, J=6 Hz) and Me-C₁₃ (δ 1.36, s) in both isomers in accordance with a 12,13-oxirane. The δ values of the exocyclic methylene (**3** δ 4.48, 4.86, **4** δ 4.75, 4.90) allowed to establish the stereochemistry of the lateral chain since conformational analysis around the C₁₁-C₁₂ bond justifies those differences observed in the chemical shifts (figure 1), the less hindered **3A** and **4A** conformers should be preferred in a similar way as occurs for C-12 oxygenated labdanes⁴ and as deduced from the 11,12 coupling constants. In this sense the proximity between H_{endo-17} and oxygen in compound **4** justifies its deshielded δ value (4.75 ppm) in opposition to that in compound **3** (δ 4.48)

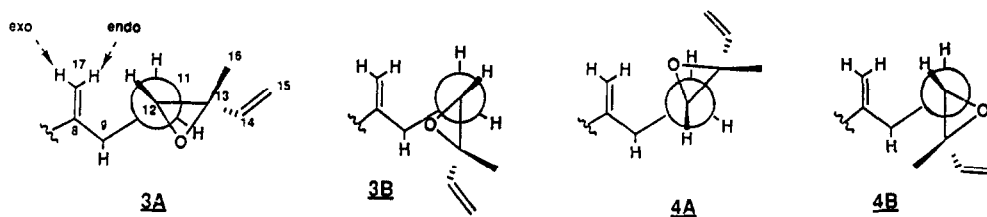
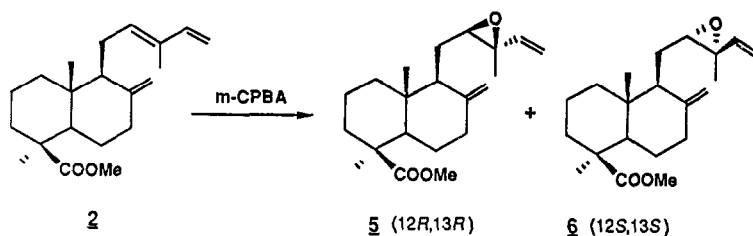


Figure 1

Epoxidation of methyl *trans*-commutate (**2**) yielded a mixture of methyl (12*R*,13*R*)-12,13-epoxy-labda-8(17),14-dien-19-oate (**5**) and methyl (12*S*,13*S*)-12,13-epoxy-labda-8(17),14-dien-19-oate (**6**). The stereochemistry of the lateral chain in **5** and **6** was



(**5** / **6** ratio 60 / 40)

determined in a similar fashion as for **3** and **4**, taking into account the multiplicity and coupling constant for H-12 (2d, $J=6.7$ Hz for **5** and $J=6.9$ Hz for **6**) as well as δ values for H-17 (**5** δ 4.44, 4.84, **6** δ 4.72, 4.89) in $^1\text{H-NMR}$. In accordance with these data, conformational analysis shows Δ conformers as those more probable for compound **5** and **6** (figure 2)

In both epoxidation reactions a certain stereoselectivity through the formation of 12*R*-isomers is observed. It should be related with the fact that the lateral chain of the starting products (**1**, **2**) adopts a preferred conformation around the $\text{C}_9\text{-C}_{11}$ ⁵ and $\text{C}_{11}\text{-C}_{12}$ ⁶ bonds in order to minimize the interaction exerted by the bicyclic system (figure 3), allowing more easily the attack on the less hindered α side that leads to 12*R*-epoxides. This stereoselectivity is consistent with that described for photooxygenation⁷ and oxymercuration-demercuration⁸ reactions on **1** and **2**.

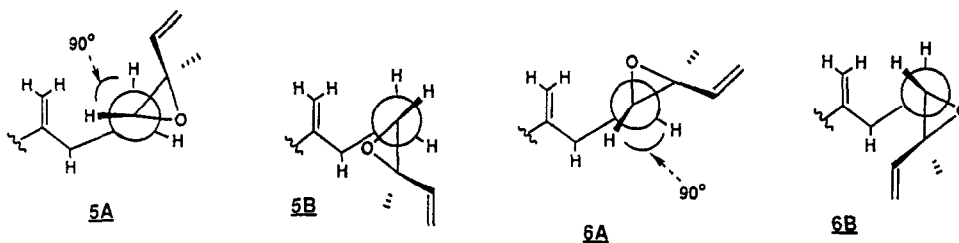


Figure 2

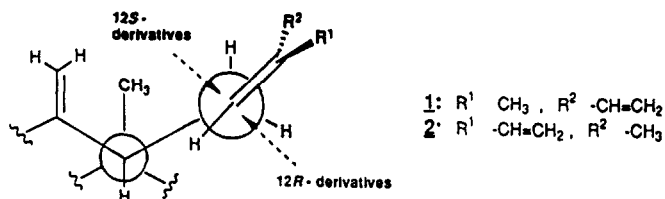
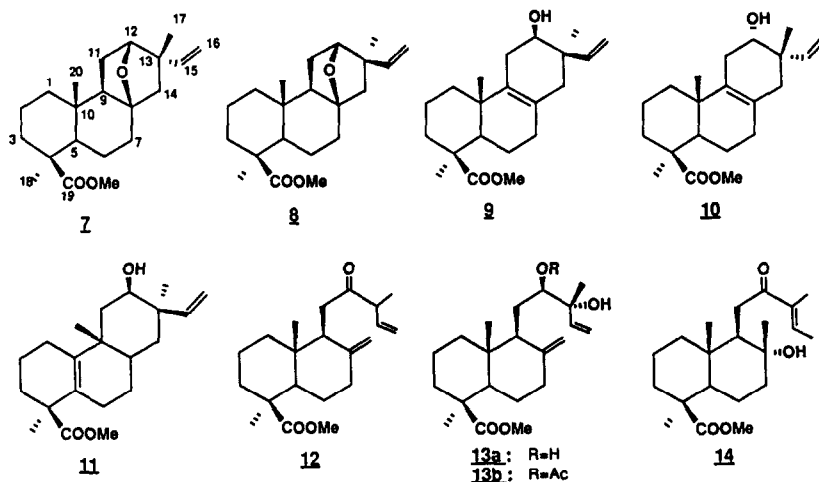


Figure 3

The oxirane ring opening reactions of methyl 12,13-epoxy-communates were carried out by treatments of mixtures of **3** and **4** with BF_3 etherate in benzene at 0°C . Results of these reactions are collected in table 1

Table 1. Reaction of **3**, **4** mixtures with BF_3 etherate

		7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
R-1	3 (60%) 4 (40%)	2.3%	4.3%	14.7%	11.7%	4.3%	27.9%	1.9%	1.0%
R-2	3 (70%) 4 (30%)	+	+	*	+				
R-3	3 (30%) 4 (70%)	1.0%	1.7%	5.8%	30.7%		20.9%	1.5%	0.8%
R-4	3 (5%) 4 (95%)				*		+		

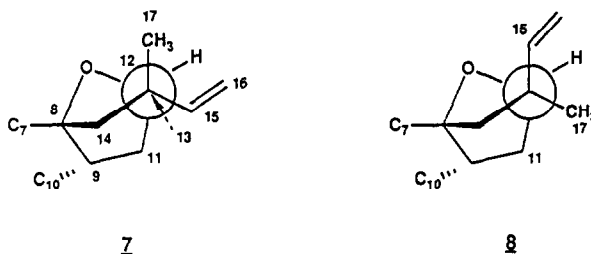
* main reaction product, + minor reaction product

The opening of the oxirane ring followed by a $\text{H}_{1,2}$ rearrangement leads to compound **12**, and further Δ^{14} isomerization

and stereoselective $\Delta^{(17)}$ hydration by the less hindered α side leads to **14**. Compounds **13** (formed by ring opening and direct hydration) and **14** are minor products originated by the presence of traces of water in the reaction mixture. The rest of the products are the result of the cyclization process of the 8(17) double bond through C-13 position of the allyl cation originated in the oxirane opening. **7** has been described as a radicalary cyclization product in the oxymercuration-demercuration of methyl *trans*-communate (**2**)⁴⁹. Its isomer (**8**), detected in a mixture together to **7** (65/35 ratio), shows similar ¹H-NMR spectrum to **7**, having the same stereochemistry on C₈ and C₁₂ as **7** since H-12 for both compounds has analogous splitting pattern (table 2). On the opposite, **8** possesses *R*-C₁₃ configuration deduced from the δ values in ¹³C-NMR for C₁₅ (deshielded) and C₁₇ (shielded) respect to those of **7**, as a consequence of different γ -effects exerted by C₁₁ and the bridge oxygen (table 3).

Table 2 ¹H-NMR data of compounds **7** and **8**

	7 ^a	8	$\delta_a - \delta_7$
Me-10	δ 0.67 (s)	δ 0.68 (s)	+0.01
Me-13	δ 1.08 (s)	δ 1.09 (s)	+0.01
Me-4	δ 1.17 (s)	δ 1.17 (s)	0
MeO-19	δ 3.59 (s)	δ 3.59 (s)	0
H-12	δ 3.83 (d, 5.5 Hz)	δ 3.92 (d, 5.8 Hz)	+0.09
H-15	δ 5.86 (dd, 18.7, 10.1 Hz)	δ 5.99 (dd, 17.8, 10.5 Hz)	+0.13
H-16	δ 5.00 (dd, 18.7, 1.2 Hz)	δ 4.88 (d, 10.5 Hz)	-0.12
H'-16	δ 5.01 (dd, 10.1, 1.2 Hz)	δ 4.89 (d, 17.8 Hz)	-0.12

^aSee reference 9Table 3 ¹³C-NMR data of C₁₅ and C₁₇ for compounds **7** and **8**

	7	8	7 (γ -effects)	8 (γ -effects)
C ₁₅	δ 144.05	δ 147.97	gauche (C ₁₁) trans (O)	gauche (O) trans (C ₁₁)
C ₁₇	δ 27.38	δ 21.08	gauche (O) trans (C ₁₁)	gauche (C ₁₁) trans (O)

Structural elucidation of alcohols **9** and **10** posed the problem of the stereochemistry on C-12 and C-13 together to the ring C conformation. The $^1\text{H-NMR}$ spectrum of **9** shows an H-12 signal at δ 3.57 (m, $w_{1/2\alpha} = 10.5$ Hz, pseudoequatorial proton) whereas that of **10** is at δ 3.47 (dd, $J_1 = 9.3$ Hz, $J_2 = 5.4$ Hz, pseudoaxial proton). Furthermore, absolute configuration in C-12 for **9** and **10** was determined by the Horeau method¹⁰ as *R* and *S*, which indicates that both compounds present $^{13}\text{H}_{13}$ half-chair conformations (figure 4). The C_{13} configurations for **9** and **10** were established by $^1\text{H-NMR}$ induced chemical shift studies with

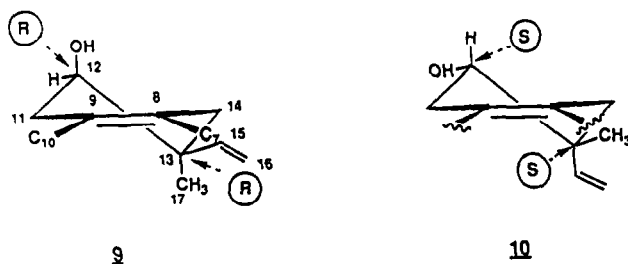


Figure 4

pyridine-*d*₅ (table 4) and Eu(dpm)₃ (table 5). In both experiments for compound **9** H-15 is approximately two times more deshielded than H-17 indicating that hydroxyl and vinyl groups are in *cis* relative position (*R-C*₁₃). The same *cis* relative position is deduced for compound **10** since the pyridine induced chemical shift on H-15 is also two times greater than that of H-17 (*S-C*₁₃). On the contrary, the *P* values of H-15 and H-17 for **10** (table 5) are similar, in agreement with an α -pseudoequatorial position of HO-C₁₂ equidistant respect to both H-15 and H-17.

Table 4. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ data in CDCl_3 and pyridine-*d*₅ for compounds **9** and **10**

H	9 (δ_1 , CDCl_3)	9 (δ_2 , Py- <i>d</i> ₅)	9 ($\delta_2 - \delta_1$)	10 (δ_1 , CDCl_3)	10 (δ_2 , Py- <i>d</i> ₅)	10 ($\delta_2 - \delta_1$)
12	3.57	3.87	+0.30	3.47	3.78	+0.30
15	5.88	6.38	+0.50	5.85	6.33	+0.48
16	5.08	5.13-5.24	+0.10	5.01	5.13	+0.12
16	5.10	5.13-5.24	+0.08	5.09	5.18	+0.09
17	0.93	1.15	+0.22	1.05	1.28	+0.23

Table 5. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ Eu(dpm)₃ induced chemical shifts for compounds **9** and **10**

H	M^* (9)						P^* (9)	M^* (10)					P^* (10)
	0	0.023	0.046	0.078	0.120	0.205		0	0.189	0.337	0.566	0.727	
12	3.57	3.60	3.94	4.00	4.44	5.69	10.34	3.47	3.95	4.20	5.08	5.90	3.34
15	5.88	5.93	5.99	6.13	6.39	7.10	5.95	5.85	6.09	6.22	6.58	6.99	1.57
16	5.08	5.08	5.10	5.18	5.35	5.72	3.12	5.01	5.16	5.22	5.50	5.60	1.09
16	5.10	5.10	5.12	5.15	5.25	5.45	1.70	5.09	5.20	5.27	5.48	5.60	0.70
17	0.93	0.95	0.98	1.06	1.21	1.62	3.37	1.05	1.25	1.38	1.73	2.11	1.46
18	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.25	1.33	0.63	1.16	1.19	1.20	1.25	1.31	0.21
20	0.80	0.80	0.80	0.80	0.89	1.00	0.98	0.75	0.77	0.80	0.83	0.88	0.18
MeO	3.62	3.63	3.63	3.63	3.66	3.70	0.39	3.59	3.63	3.63	3.68	3.73	0.19

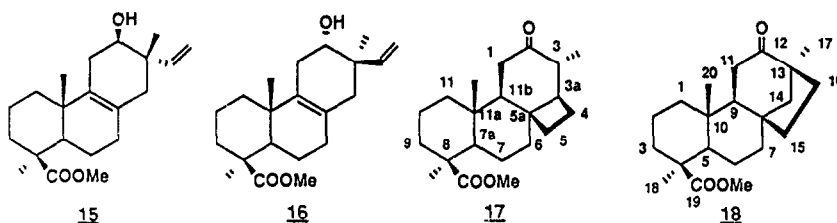
Eu(dpm)₃ compound molar ratio, ^{}Europium shift parameter (ref 17)

Compounds **11** shows important differences for angular methyles in $^1\text{H-NMR}$ and carbons of A and B rings in $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ spectra respect to **9** and **10** (table 6) **11** should have a rosadiene structure according to the molecular formula deduced from the mass spectrum and δ in $^1\text{H-NMR}$ and $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ spectra Since ring C adopts a chair conformation and H-12 an equatorial position (deduced from $^1\text{H-NMR}$ data), the configuration on C_{12} must be *R* On the other hand, the δ value of C_{17} (24.16 ppm) (characteristic of axial methyles on cyclohexane¹¹) allows to assign *R* configuration for C_{13}

Table 6. $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ data for compounds **9**, **10** and **11**

C	9	10	11
5	53.36	53.43	127.00
8	124.91	125.00	37.42
9	132.08	134.13	37.28
10	37.86	37.81	140.51
12	72.51	74.51	74.21
13	39.64	40.30	42.15
15	144.86	140.75	146.46
17	22.95	23.64	24.16

In order to complete the stereochemical study of the 12,13-oxirane ring opening of methyl 12,13-epoxy-communates, a reaction of a mixture of **5** (60%) and **6** (40%) with BF_3 etherate was carried out in the same conditions as for **3** and **4** This reaction yielded the following products **7** (4%), **9** (minor product), **15** (2.5%), **16** (6.3%), **12** (24%), **13a** (1.4%), **14** (0.8%), **17** (7.1%) and **18** (3.5%)



15 and **16** have been stereochemically characterized making reference to their stereoisomers **9** and **10** in basis to δ values for C_{17} in $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (table 7) and $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (table 9), located in pseudoequatorial and pseudoaxial positions, respectively

Table 7. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ data of H_{12} and $\text{H}_{15}\text{-H}_{17}$ for compounds **9**, **10**, **15** and **16**

H	9	10	15	16
12	3.57 (m, $w_{1/2H} = 10.5$ Hz)	3.47 (dd, 9.3, 5.4 Hz)	3.55 (m, $w_{1/2H} = 11$ Hz)	3.40-3.67 (m)
15	5.88 (dd, 18.0, 11.0 Hz)	5.85 (dd, 17.6, 10.9 Hz)	5.75 (dd, 18, 10 Hz)	5.77 (dd, 18, 10 Hz)
16	5.08 (dd, 18.0, 1.2 Hz)	5.01 (dd, 17.6, 1.6 Hz)	5.00 (dd, 18, 2 Hz)	5.09 (dd, 18, 1.8 Hz)
16	5.10 (dd, 11.0, 1.2 Hz)	5.09 (dd, 10.9, 1.6 Hz)	5.03 (dd, 10, 2 Hz)	5.12 (dd, 10, 1.8 Hz)
17	0.93 (s)	1.05 (s)	1.00 (s)	0.93 (s)

Biomimetic synthesis of 12-oxy-pimaranes

Compound **17** shows molecular peak at m/z 332 ($C_{21}H_{32}O_3$) in MS and just two unsaturated carbons in the ^{13}C -NMR spectrum corresponding to cyclohexanone (δ 216.67) and methylic ester (δ 177.68). The rest of spectroscopic data is consistent with the proposed structure, having performed 2D-NMR (1H - 1H and one-bond 1H - ^{13}C correlations) experiments to complete the 1H -NMR (table 8) and ^{13}C -NMR (table 9) assignments. Some signals in the 1H -NMR spectrum strongly support this structure. In particular, the δ values and multiplicities of H-1, H-3 and H-11b (table 8) may be only justified through the proposed tetracyclic ketone (figure 5). The mass spectrum also supports the existence of the cyclobutane ring since the base

Table 8 1H -NMR data for compound **17** and correlations between protons deduced from 2D-NMR experiments

H	δ (multiplicity, Hz)	correlated hydrogens
1	2.37 (d, 8.8)	11b
3	2.36 (q, 7.2)	Me-C ₃ (not 3a)
3a	1.04-1.12 (m)	4, 5 ₁
4	1.79-1.87 (m)	5 ₁ , 5 ₂ , 3a
5 ₁	1.18-1.27 (m)	3a, 4, 5 ₂
5 ₂	2.10-2.24 (m)	4, 5 ₁
6ax ^a	1.29-1.43 (m)	6eq, 7, 7a
6eq=7eq	2.19-2.30 (m)	6ax, 7ax, 7a
7ax ^a	1.58-1.70 (m)	6, 7eq, 7a
7a	1.80-1.86 (m)	6, 7
9ax	0.89-1.04 (m)	9eq, 3
9eq	2.10-2.19 (m)	9ax, 10, 11eq
10ax	1.33-1.49 (m)	10eq, 9, 11
10eq	1.68-1.82 (m)	9, 10ax, 11eq
11ax	0.80-0.92 (m)	10ax, 11eq
11eq	1.45-1.60 (m)	9eq, 10, 11ax
11b	1.52 (t, 8.8)	1
Me-C ₃	1.05 (d, 7.2)	3

^a These values may be reserved

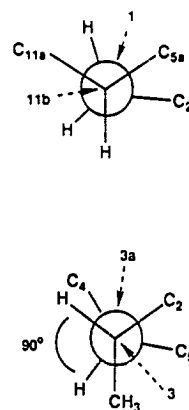


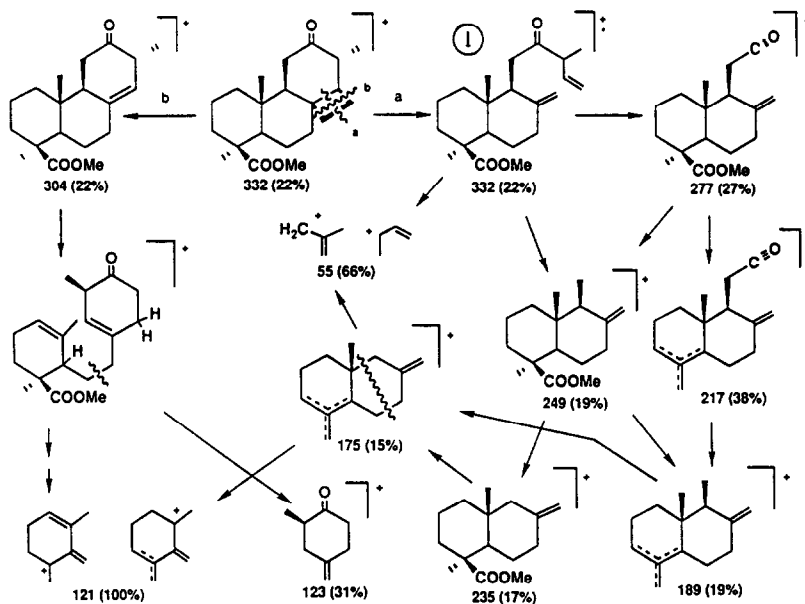
Figure 5 C_{11b} - C_1 and C_3 - C_{3a} bond angles for compound **17**

peak at m/z 121, typical of labdanes with alkoxy carbonyl group on C_4 and 8(17) double bond¹² as well as of alkoxy carbonyl pimaranes with $\Delta^{8(14)}$ unsaturation,¹³ indicates that the fragmentation pattern is directed by a double bond in those positions which can be only originated from the cyclobutane breakage in both directions (scheme 1). Furthermore, the main fragmentations are justified through the radical-ion **1** being the same as for **12**.

Compound **18** could not be resolved from **17**. However, the studies of 1H and ^{13}C -NMR spectra and 2D-NMR experiments (table 10) allowed to identify **18** as methyl 12-oxo-beveran-19-oate.

DISCUSSION

A different behaviour in the electrophilic oxirane opening reactions is observed depending on the stereochemistry of the 12,13-epoxides used, according to the skeleton types originated in these reactions. Although the product of $H_{1,2}$ rearrangement (**12**) represents about a 25% in reactions from either 12,13-epoxy-*cis*-communes or 12,13-epoxy-*trans*-communes, the relative ratio of cyclization products versus **12** is 25% higher in reaction from *cis*-isomers. In addition, 12,13-epoxy-*trans*-communes show a different cyclization pattern to tetracyclic ketones **17** and **18**, which represents a 10%

Scheme 1 Main fragmentations observed in the MS of compound **17**Table 9 ^{13}C -NMR data^a for compounds **3-12** and **14-18**

C	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	39 26	38 98	39 01	39 28	41 49	41 68	39 96	36 62
2	19 90	19 87	19 82	19 87	18 73	18 75	19 50	19 39
3	38 14	38 13	38 09	38 09	38 28	38 27	37 74	37 62
4	44 26	44 25	44 21	44 21	43 86	43 86	43 86	43 71
5	56 15	56 08	56 03	56 12	54 61	54 60	53 36	53 43
6	26 01	26 04	25 98	25 98	20 79	20 78	20 61	20 49
7	38 51	38 41	38 35	38 44	32 20	32 08	33 03	32 36
8	147 80	148 33	148 25	147 53	85 58	85 44	124 91	125 00
9	53 86	53 78	53 69	54 09	55 47	56 04	132 08	134 13
10	40 07	40 01	39 89	40 08	36 61	36 70	37 86	37 81
11	23 34	22 80	23 22	23 72	26 91	26 16	28 96	30 89
12	65 44	65 43	64 59	64 68	84 22	84 22	72 51	74 51
13	60 46	61 20	60 04	59 43	48 31	46 31	39 64	40 30
14	136 31	136 54	140 88	140 98	50 08	52 33	37 39	42 53
15	117 81	117 68	115 53	115 53	144 05	147 97	144 86	140 75
16	21 40	21 36	15 37	15 00	113 03	109 86	113 26	114 42
17	107 53	106 83	106 80	107 73	27 38	21 08	22 95	23 64
18	28 77	28 76	28 73	28 73	28 80	28 81	28 36	28 29
19	177 58	177 63	177 58	177 50	177 92	177 91	177 97	177 89
20	12 38	12 62	12 59	12 40	14 75	14 93	12 13	17 05
MeO	51 13	51 09	51 08	51 08	51 09	51 09	51 09	51 02

Biomimetic synthesis of 12-oxy-pimaranes

Table 9 (continuation)

C	11	12	14	15	16	17	18
1	25 26	39 14	39 43	36 82	36 64	38 58 (C-11)	38 35
2	19 98	19 78	18 95	19 48	19 43	18 80 (C-10)	19 49 ^f
3	36 48	37 92	37 79	37 67	37 66	37 91 (C-9)	37 91
4	46 88	44 19	43 84	43 84	43 75	43 77 (C-8)	44 32
5	127 00	55 92	55 19 ^c	53 27	53 20	49 62 (C-7a)	53 67
6	27 15	25 72	22 22	20 52	20 57	26 05 (C-7) ^d	19 98 ^f
7	24 59	38 07	44 70	32 85	32 48	24 61 (C-6) ^d	20 57
8	37 42	148 47	72 79	125 22	124 73	40 97 (C-5a)*	45 52
9	37 28	148 83 50 01 50 19	56 47 ^c	132 71	133 88	52 79 (C-11b)	48 88
10	140 51	39 37	38 99	37 85	37 92	38 58 (C-11a)*	40 09
11	36 89	37 08 37 26	32 79	29 39	28 62	36 54 (C-1)	33 03
12	74 21	210 28	202 73	72 50	72 16	216 67 (C-2)	222 50
13	42 15	50 97 51 76	138 29	40.20	40 86	49 37 (C-3)	49 02
14	32 96	137 83 137 97	136 61	39 31	43 28	56 61 (C-3a)	43 34
15	146 46	116 54 118 67	11 53	144 88	146 30	20 64 (C-4)	27 56
16	114 20	15 88 16 00	14 76	112 90	114 54	41 13 (C-5)	24 08
17	24 16 ^b	105 88 106 29	22 75	20 52	14 04	16 95 (Me-Cs)	21 11
18	24 40 ^b	28 64	28 66	28 36	28 35	28 67 (Me-Ca)	29 30
19	178 29	177 43	177 63	177 99	177 95	177 68 (MeOOC-Ca)	178 02
20	20 64	12 81	13 31	17 25	17 08	12 45 (Me-C11a)	13 46
MeO	51 75	51 11	51 18	51 12	51 10	51 15 (H ₃ C-OOC-Ca)	51 15

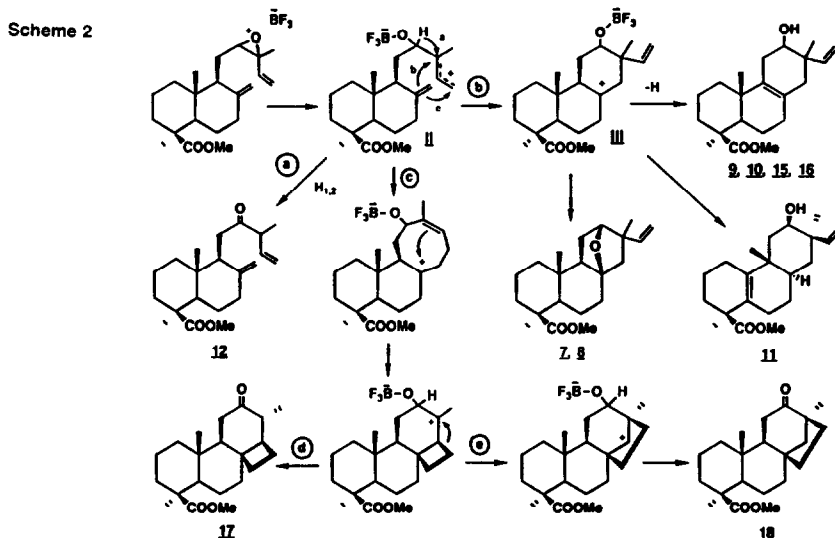
^a The spectra were run at 75 MHz (except **12**, at 20 MHz) in CDCl₃,
 δ values are given in ppm downfield from TMS

^{b,c} Values bearing the same superscript may be interchanged

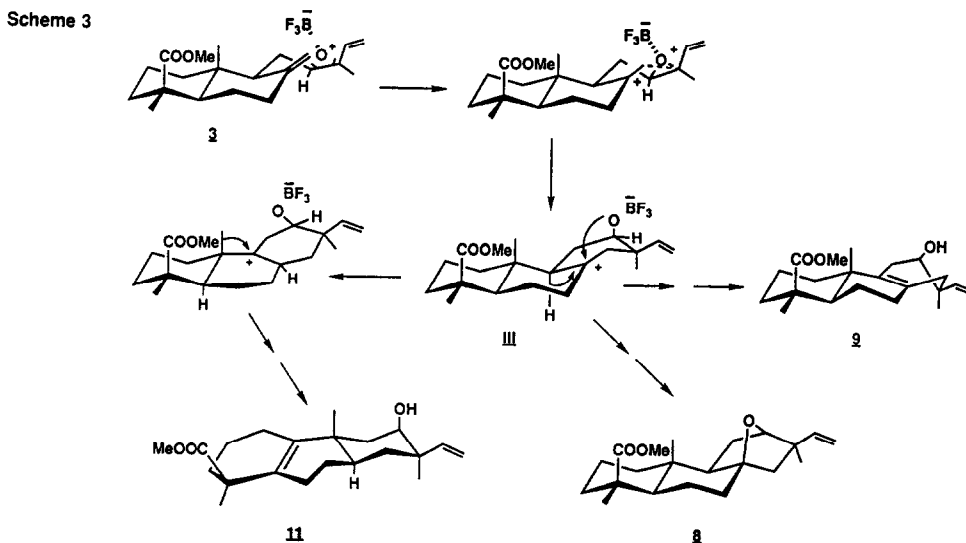
Table 10. ¹H-NMR data for compound **18** and correlations between protons deduced from 2D-NMR experiments

H	δ (multiplicity; Hz)	correlated hydrogens
1ax	0 95-1 06 (m)	1eq 2 3eq 20
1eq	1 65-1 77 (m)	1ax 2 3
2ax	1 40-1 51 (m)	2eq 1 3
2eq	1 72-1 81 (m)	2ax 1ax 3
3ax	0 92-1 02 (m)	3eq 2 1eq
3eq	2 11-2 22 (m)	3ax 2 1
5	1 29 (br d 10)	6
6 β	1 65-1 79 (m)	6a 5 7
6a	1 88-1 99 (m)	6 β , 5 7
7	1 81-1 92 (m)	6
11a	1 72-1 82 (m)	11 β
11 β	2 11-2 22 (m)	11a
14a β	1 83-1 97 (m)	-

The proposed formation mechanisms for the products of these reactions are summarized in scheme 2. Compounds **3** and **4** originate cyclizations through route b only, whereas their isomers **5** and **6** do it through route c as well. Since the opening of the oxirane ring is accomplished by breaking of the C₁₃-O bond, the tricyclic compounds formed ought to retain the C₁₂ configuration of the oxiranes of which they come from (**7** and **8** are necessarily originated from **3**). In this sense,



the stereochemical aspects of these processes have been clarified by the reactions performed with **4** (95% of purity), which yielded compound **10** (12-*S*) almost exclusively, and by that performed on a mixture of **3** (70%) and **4** (30%), which basically led to **2** (12-*R*). The chirality on C₁₃ for compounds **2** and **10** evidences that the original orientation of the substituents on C₁₃ (in compounds **3** and **4**, respectively) is quite kept. This has also been noted in large-scale reactions from a mixture of **3** (60%) and **4** (40%) (*R*-1 in experimental section) where compound **8** was predominantly formed as opposed to **7** (65% of **8** versus 35%



of **7**) This means that it is a stereoselective and stereospecific process in which the ring opening and cyclization of $\Delta^{8(17)}$ to the allyl cation **II** (scheme 2) must be quite synchronous, giving the tertiary cation **III** that evolves in three different ways (scheme 3), being well-known that leads to **11**.¹⁴

The reaction of **5** and **6** with BF_3 etherate shows similar cyclization to pimaranes, although a higher stereoselectivity is observed as deduced from the sole isolation of epoxide **7** (originated in this case from **5**) This fact may be justified by the larger stability of allyl cation **IVa** (intermediate from **5** that leads to **7**) than that of **IVb**, which yields its C_{13} epimer **8** (figure 6), because of the interaction between the π -8(17) orbitals and the empty orbital of the allyl cation (in **IVa**) Thus, the transition

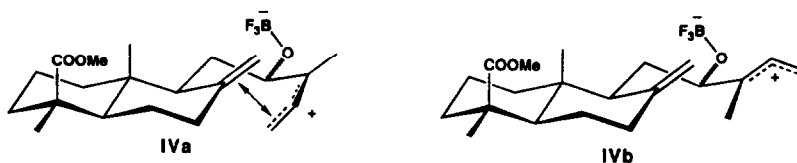


Figure 6

state geometry remains unchanged after the opening of the oxirane ring from **5** On the other hand, from the opening of epoxide **3**, the geometry of the resulting allyl cation is the less stable that may lead to a partial epimerization on C_{13}

In relation to the formation of the tetracyclic ketones **17** and **18** the mechanism leading to the eight-member ring is what establishes the difference of the reaction from **5** and **6** respect to that from **3** and **4** Assuming that the oxirane ring opening and the cyclization are synchronous processes, the generation of the eight-member ring from **3** and **4** is not possible as a consequence of the lateral chain inflexibility that keeps C_{15} away from the 8(17) double bond On the opposite, the

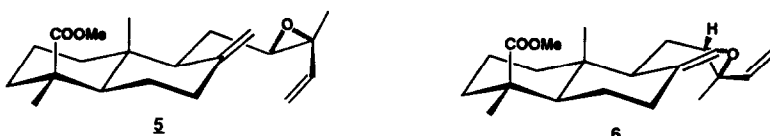
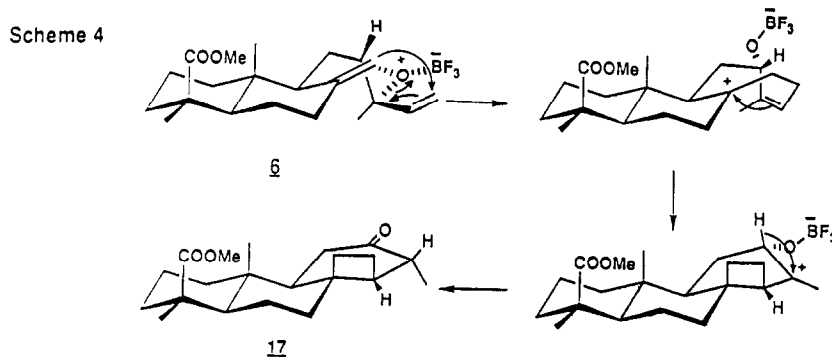
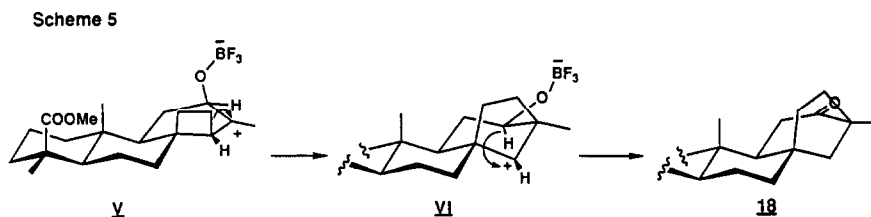


Figure 7

stereochemistry of the oxiranes from methyl *trans*-communate does allow this cyclization pattern (figure 7) Furthermore the evolution of cationic intermediates is different and it depends on the stereochemistry of starting epoxide, from **6** the formation of the cyclobutane takes place stereospecifically through the side α because of steric hindrances of Me-C_{10} (scheme 4) Finally, the 1,2-hydride rearrangement of $\text{H-12}\beta$ leads to **17**



When the starting epoxide is **5** the tetracyclic carbenium **V** suffers a four-member ring expansion to hybrid cation **VI** which is stabilized by a $H_{1,3}$ rearrangement of H-12 α , the only hydrogen with appropriate stereochemistry to migrate (scheme 5)¹⁵ From these considerations it can be finally deduced that ketones **17** and **18** are stereospecifically generated from each methyl 12,13-epoxy-*trans*-communate



EXPERIMENTAL

Melting points were determined using a Reichert type Kofler microscope and are uncorrected. Optical rotations have been determined on a Perkin-Elmer Model 141 polarimeter, using $CHCl_3$ as solvent (the concentration was of 10 mg/mL). UV spectra were recorded in MeOH on a UV-Vis Bausch-lamb model spectronic 2000 spectrometer and IR spectra on a Perkin-Elmer Model 983G spectrometer with samples between sodium chloride plates or as potassium bromide pellets. 1H -NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker WP 80 SY (80 MHz) and Bruker AM 300 (300 MHz) spectrometers using TMS or $CHCl_3$ as standard and $CDCl_3$ as solvent. ^{13}C -NMR spectra were run at 75 MHz and 20 MHz on Bruker AM 300 and Bruker WP 80 SY instruments. 2D-NMR (1H - 1H and one-bond 1H - ^{13}C correlations) experiments were performed on a Bruker AM 300 spectrometer. MS spectra were obtained on a Hewlett-Packard 5988A mass spectrometer using an ionizing voltage of 70 eV. Chromatographic separations were carried out by conventional column on Merck silica gel 60 (70-230 mesh) and by flash column on Merck silica gel 60 (230-400 mesh) using eluents of increasing polarity from hexane to diethyl ether. Analytical TLC was performed on 0.25 mm thick layers of Merck silica gel 60G using a 7% phosphomolybdic acid solution (in ethanol) to develop the spots. Preparative TLC was carried out on 1.00 mm thick layers of Merck silica gel 60 PF₂₅₄ gipshaltig visualizing the bands with a 254 nm ultraviolet light. Mixtures of compounds with a similar R_f in TLC were column chromatographed on 20% $AgNO_3$ /silica gel.

Isolation of methyl *cis*-(**1**) and *trans*-communate (**2**)

1 and **2** were obtained from the acidic fraction (previously sterified with diazomethane in Et_2O) of the hexane extract of berries of *Juniperus communis* L.¹⁶

Epoxidation of methyl *cis*-communate (**1**)

To a stirred solution of **1** (1.00 g, 3.16 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (100 mL), a solution of *m*-CPBA (0.59 g, 3.41 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (120 mL) was added dropwise in 2 h at room temperature. An aqueous solution of 10% Na_2SO_3 (12.5 mL) was added. After adding 35.5 mL of saturated $NaHCO_3$ solution, the reaction mixture was extracted with $CHCl_3$, washed with water and dried over Na_2SO_4 . After removal of the solvent, the residue (1.02 g) was column chromatographed on silica gel yielding the following fractions: (a) 20 mg (eluted with hexane- Et_2O 99/1) of a mixture of **4** (30%) and methyl (12*R*,13*S*)-12,13-epoxy-labda-8(17),14-dien-19-oate (**3**) (70%), $[\alpha]_D^{25} +61.0^\circ$, 1H -NMR (80 MHz) δ 0.50 (s, Me-10), 1.18 (s, Me-4), 1.36 (s, Me-13), 2.90 (br t, J=6

Hz, H-12), 3 60 (s, MeO-19), 4 48 (br s, H-17), 4 86 (br s, H'-17), 5 13-5 46 (m, H-15), 5 82 (dd, $J_1 = 18$ Hz, $J_2 = 10$ Hz, H-14), $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ in table 9, EIMS m/z (rel int): 332 (M^+ , 1), 317 (M^+-CH_3 , 1), 273 (M^+-COOMe , 2), 249 ($\text{M}^+-\text{C}_3\text{H}_7\text{O}$, 1), 189 (249 $^+$ -HCOOMe, 14), 161 (16), 133 (20), 121 (100), 93 (48), 83 ($\text{C}_3\text{H}_7\text{O}^+$, 21), 79 (60), 55 (76) (b) 250 mg (eluted with hexane-Et₂O 98 2) of a mixture of **3** (60%) and **4** (40%) (c) 160 mg (eluted with hexane-Et₂O 97 3) of a mixture of **3** (30%) and **4** (70%) (d) 43 mg (eluted with hexane-Et₂O 96 4) of methyl (12*S*,13*R*)-12,13-epoxy-labda-8(17),14-dien-19-oate (**4**) [α]_D + 36 0°, IR (KBr) ν 3085, 1646, 990, 927 (CH=CH₂), 3085, 1646, 890 (C=CH₂), 1728, 1230, 1155 (COOMe), $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (80 MHz) δ 0 50 (s, Me-10), 1 18 (s, Me-4), 1 36 (s, Me-13), 2 90 (br t, $J = 6$ Hz-12), 3 60 (s, MeO-19), 4 75 (br s, H-17), 4 90 (br s, H'-17), 5 13-5 46 (m, H-15), 5 80 (dd, $J_1 = 18$ Hz, $J_2 = 10$ Hz, H-14), $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ in table 9

Reaction of a mixture of **3** (60%) and **4** (40%) with BF₃·etherate. (R-1)

To a solution of a mixture of **3** and **4** (3 15 g, 9 47 mmol) in dry benzene (260 mL) under N₂ atmosphere, 2 60 mL (21 mmol) of BF₃ etherate was added at 0°C After stirring for 12 min the reaction mixture was poured onto a 5% NaHCO₃ solution (1300 mL) and extracted with Et₂O (3x100 mL) The organic layer was washed with water and dried over Na₂SO₄ After removal of the solvent the residue (2 77 g) was flash column chromatographed on silica gel (120 mg) yielding the following compounds

Methyl 12-oxo-labda-8(17),14-dien-19-oate (12) 613 mg eluted with hexane-Et₂O 96 4, oil [α]_D + 31 6°, IR (neat) ν 3079, 1642, 990, 920 (CH=CH₂), 3079, 1642, 884 (C=CH₂), 1721 (C=O), 1721, 1228, 1154 (COOMe), $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (80 MHz) δ 0 53 (s, Me-10), 1 16 (d, $J = 7$ Hz, Me-13), 1 20 (s, Me-4), 3 05-3 47 (m, H-13), 3 62 (s, MeO-19), 4 31 (br s, H-17), 4 74 (br s, H'-17), 5 14 (br d, $J = 10$ Hz, H-15), 5 17 (br d, $J = 17$ Hz, H'-15), 5 58-6 08 (m, H-14), $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (80 MHz, double resonance) irradiated hydrogen [affected hydrogens] H-13 [Me-13 and H-14 (dd, $J_1 = 17$ Hz, $J_2 = 10$ Hz)], $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ in table 9, EIMS m/z (rel int) 332 (M^+ , 25), 277 ($\text{M}^+-\text{C}_4\text{H}_7$, 59), 272 (13), 249 ($\text{M}^+-\text{C}_3\text{H}_7\text{O}$, 34), 235 (249 $^+$ -CH₂, 27), 234 (36), 217 ($\text{M}^+-\text{C}_4\text{H}_7\text{-HCOOMe}$, 100), 189 (43), 175 (28), 121 (82), 109 (51), 91 (30), 81 (32)

Methyl (8*R*,12*R*)-8,12-epoxy-pimar-15-en-19-oate (8) and **methyl (8*R*,12*R*)-8,12-epoxy-isopimar-15-en-19-oate (7)**. 144 mg of a mixture of **8** (65%) and **7** (35%) eluted with hexane-Et₂O 92 8, oil [α]_D + 60 3°, IR (neat) ν 3083, 1636, 996, 911 (CH=CH₂), 1729, 1232, 1191, 1156 (COOMe), 1094, 1041 (C-O-C), $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (300 MHz) for both compounds in table 2, $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ for both compounds in table 9, EIMS m/z (rel int) 332 (M^+ , 37), 317 (M^+-CH_3 , 100), 273 (M^+-COOMe , 7), 263 (10), 257 ($\text{M}^+-\text{CH}_3\text{-HCOOMe}$, 4), 223 (11), 163 (13), 121 (26), 109 (31), 81 (27), 79 (26), 55 (26)

Methyl (12*R*,13*S*)-12-hydroxy-rosa-5(10),15-dien-19-oate (11). 50 mg eluted with hexane-Et₂O 85 15, oil [α]_D + 73 5°, IR (neat) ν 3526, 1037 (OH), 3080, 1636, 911 (CH=CH₂), 1730, 1238, 1192, 1162 (COOMe), $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (300 MHz) δ 1 05 (s, Me-13), 1 14 (s, Me-4), 1 24 (s, Me-9), 3 60 (m, $w_{1/2b} = 9$ Hz, H-12), 3 62 (s, MeO-19), 5 15 (dd, $J_1 = 17 6$ Hz, $J_2 = 1 3$ Hz, H-16), 5 18 (dd, $J_1 = 10 9$ Hz, $J_2 = 1 3$ Hz, H'-16), 5 85 (dd, $J_1 = 17 6$ Hz, $J_2 = 10 9$ Hz, H-15), $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ in table 9, EIMS m/z (rel int) 332 (M^+ , 8), 273 (M^+-COOMe , 29), 255 ($\text{M}^+-\text{COOMe-H}_2\text{O}$, 18), 245 ($\text{M}^+-\text{COOMe-C}_2\text{H}_5$, 15), 161 ($\text{M}^+-\text{COOMe-C}_7\text{H}_{12}\text{O}$, 39), 131 (31), 121 (32), 105 (58), 85 (20), 91 (69), 79 (60), 67 (69), 59 (76), 55 (100), 41 (95)

Methyl (12*R*)-12-hydroxy-pimara-8,15-dien-19-oate (9). 229 mg eluted with hexane-Et₂O 75 25, oil [α]_D + 84 2°, IR (neat) ν 3472, 1058 (OH), 3082, 1640, 910 (CH=CH₂), 1730, 1231, 1195, 1163 (COOMe), $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (300 MHz) δ 0 80 (s, Me-10), 0 93 (s, Me-13), 1 20 (s, Me-4), 3 57 (m, $w_{1/2b} = 10 5$ Hz, H-12), 3 62 (s, MeO-19), 5 08 (dd, $J_1 = 18 0$ Hz, $J_2 = 1 2$ Hz, H-16), 5 10 (dd, $J_1 = 11 0$ Hz, $J_2 = 1 2$ Hz, H'-16), 5 88 (dd, $J_1 = 18 0$ Hz, $J_2 = 11 0$ Hz, H-15), $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (300 MHz, pyridine-d₅) δ 0 89 (s, Me-10), 1 15 (s, Me-13), 1 20 (s, Me-4), 3 58 (s, MeO-19), 3 87 (br d, $J = 6 0$ Hz, H-12), 5 13-5 24 (m, H-16), 5 76 (d, $J = 6$ Hz, HO-12),

6 38 (dd, $J_1 = 18.0$ Hz, $J_2 = 11.0$ Hz, H-15), $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (300 MHz, pyridine- d_5 , double resonance) irradiated hydrogens [affected hydrogens] HO-12 [H-12 (t, $J = 4.7$ Hz)] H-12 [HO-12 (s) and H-11 (located around 2.25 ppm)], H-11 [H-12 (d, $J = 6$ Hz)], $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (80 MHz, CDCl_3 , Eu(dpm) $_3$) in table 5, $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ in table 9, EIMS m/z (rel int) 332 (M^+ , 38), 317 ($\text{M}^+ - \text{CH}_3$, 31), 314 ($\text{M}^+ - \text{H}_2\text{O}$, 19), 299 ($\text{M}^+ - \text{H}_2\text{O} - \text{CH}_3$, 77), 287 ($\text{M}^+ - \text{H}_2\text{O} - \text{C}_2\text{H}_5$, 3), 273 ($\text{M}^+ - \text{COOMe}$, 19), 272 ($\text{M}^+ - \text{HCOOMe}$, 15), 255 ($\text{M}^+ - \text{COOMe} - \text{H}_2\text{O}$, 21), 254 ($\text{M}^+ - \text{HCOOMe} - \text{H}_2\text{O}$, 10), 240 ($255^+ - \text{CH}_3$, 24), 239 ($254^+ - \text{CH}_3$, 100), 213 ($240^+ - \text{C}_2\text{H}_5$, 8), 212 ($239^+ - \text{C}_2\text{H}_5$, 5), 199 (13), 183 (24), 173 (27), 167 (22), 164 ($\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}^+$, 3), 149 ($164^+ - \text{CH}_3$, 70), 146 ($164^+ - \text{H}_2\text{O}$, 12), 131 ($149^+ - \text{H}_2\text{O}$, 38), 117 (30), 109 (12), 105 (45), 93 (25), 91 (61), 84 (50), 59 (64), 55 (75), *R* configuration in C-12 was established by the "Horeau method"¹⁸ with an optical rotation of $+0.143^\circ$ and an optical yield of 12.3%

Methyl (12*R*)-12-acetoxy-13-hydroxy-labda-8(17),14-dien-19-oate (13b). 145 mg of a mixture of **13a** (50%) and **14** (50%), eluted with hexane-Et $_2$ O 1:1, were acetylated with Ac $_2$ O/pyridine and chromatographed on silica gel obtaining 42 mg of **13b** (hexane-Et $_2$ O 7:3), oil $[\alpha]_D +23.4^\circ$, IR (neat) ν 3498, 1034 (OH), 3080, 1660, 892 (C=CH $_2$), 3080, 1647, 926 (CH=CH $_2$), 1727, 1242, (AcO), 1727, 1242, 1154 (COOMe), $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (80 MHz) δ 0.47 (s, Me-10), 1.15 (s, Me-4), 1.23 (s, Me-13), 2.08 (s, AcO-12), 3.58 (s, MeO-19), 4.48 (br s, H-17), 4.86 (br s, H 1 -17), 4.93 (t, $J = 5$ Hz, H-12), 5.18 (dd, $J_1 = 10$ Hz, $J_2 = 2$ Hz, H-15), 5.31 (dd, $J_1 = 16$ Hz, $J_2 = 2$ Hz, H 1 -15), 5.92 (dd, $J_1 = 16$ Hz, $J_2 = 10$ Hz, H-14), EIMS m/z (rel int) 332 ($\text{M}^+ - \text{AcOH}$, 3), 314 ($\text{M}^+ - \text{AcOH} - \text{H}_2\text{O}$, 3), 272 ($\text{M}^+ - \text{AcOH} - \text{HCOOMe}$, 2), 255 ($314^+ - \text{COOMe}$, 4), 254 ($314^+ - \text{HCOOMe}$, 2), 201 (11), 161 (11), 121 (56), 93 (24), 81 (23), 71 (39), 55 (31), 43 (100)

Methyl 8 α -hydroxy-12-oxo-labd-13-*E*-en-19-oate (14). 23 mg of **14** were column purified (hexane-Et $_2$ O 65:35) from a mixture of **13b** and **14**, oil. $[\alpha]_D +40.1^\circ$, UV (MeOH) λ max. 222 nm (ϵ 1500), IR (neat) ν 3480 (OH), 3020, 1640 (C=CH), 1664 (α,β -unsaturated carbonyl), 1728, 1235, 1191, 1153 (COOMe), $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (80 MHz) δ 0.64 (s, Me-10), 1.10 (s, Me-8), 1.16 (s, Me-4), 1.78 (br s, Me-13), 1.84 (br d, $J = 7$ Hz, Me-14), 2.56 (dd, $J_1 = 19$ Hz, $J_2 = 4$ Hz, H-11), 2.85 (dd, $J_1 = 19$ Hz, $J_2 = 4$ Hz, H 1 -11), 3.60 (s, MeO-19), 6.79 (br q, $J = 5$ Hz, H-14), $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ in table 9, EIMS m/z (rel int) 350 (M^+ , 3), 335 ($\text{M}^+ - \text{CH}_3$, 1), 332 ($\text{M}^+ - \text{H}_2\text{O}$, 3), 317 ($\text{M}^+ - \text{H}_2\text{O} - \text{CH}_3$, 2), 289 (8), 373 (2), 235 (5), 205 (11), 179 (17), 175 (9), 121 (15), 83 ($\text{C}_7\text{H}_7\text{O}^+$, 79), 78 (81), 63 (100), 55 (55)

Reaction of a mixture of **3** (70%) and **4** (30%) with BF $_3$:etherate (R-2)

146 mg (0.44 mmol) of an oxrane mixture enriched in compound **3** (70%) were treated in identical conditions to those of R-1 reaction yielding 180 mg of a reaction crude which $^1\text{H-NMR}$ spectrum basically showed signals of compound **2** being also able to detect compounds **7**, **8** and **10**

Reaction of a mixture of **3** (30%) and **4** (70%) with BF $_3$:etherate. (R-3)

In identical conditions to those of R-1 reaction 2 g (6.33 mmol) of an oxrane mixture enriched in compound **4** were treated obtaining 1.94 g of reaction crude that by flash column chromatography over silica gel yielded **12** (398 mg, hexane-Et $_2$ O 96:4), 51 mg of a mixture of **7** (40%) and **8** (60%) eluted with hexane-Et $_2$ O 94:6, **10** (509 mg, hexane-Et $_2$ O 91:9), **2** (69 mg, hexane-Et $_2$ O 88:12), 73 mg of a mixture of **14** (40%) and the C-12 epimer of compound **13** (60%) eluted with hexane-Et $_2$ O 4:1

Methyl (12*S*)-12-hydroxy-isopimar-8,15-dien-19-oate (10). Oil $[\alpha]_D +62.7^\circ$, IR (neat) ν 3500, 1057 (OH), 3086, 1644, 922 (CH=CH $_2$), 1729, 1232, 1199, 1165 (COOMe); $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (300 MHz) δ 0.75 (s, Me-10), 1.05 (s, Me-13), 1.16 (s, Me-4), 3.47 (dd, $J_1 = 9.3$ Hz, $J_2 = 5.4$ Hz, H-12), 3.59 (s, MeO-19), 5.01 (dd, $J_1 = 17.6$ Hz, $J_2 = 1.6$ Hz, H-16), 5.09 (dd, $J_1 = 10.9$ Hz, $J_2 = 1.6$

Hz, H'-16), 5.85 (dd, $J_1=17.6$ Hz, $J_2=10.9$ Hz, H-15), $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (80 MHz, pyridine- d_5) δ 0.85 (s, Me-10), 1.16 (s, Me-4), 1.28 (s, Me-13), 3.59 (s, MeO-19), 3.78 (br dd, $J_1=9$ Hz, $J_2=5$ Hz, H-12), 5.13 (dd, $J_1=18$ Hz, $J_2=2$ Hz, H-16), 5.18 (dd, $J_1=11$ Hz, $J_2=2$ Hz, H'-16), 6.33 (dd, $J_1=18$ Hz, $J_2=11$ Hz, H-15), $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (80 MHz, CDCl_3 , Eu(dpm) $_3$) in table 5, $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ in table 9, 2D-NMR experiments in table 10, EIMS m/z (rel int) 332 (M^+ , 3), 317 (2), 314 (1), 299 (5), 273 (3), 272 (3), 255 (3), 240 (2), 239 (9), 213 (2), 199 (4), 183 (5), 173 (5), 159 (6), 149 (50), 86 (61), 84 (100), 47 (19), *S* configuration in C-12 was established by the "Horeau method"¹⁰ with an optical rotation of -0.093° and an optical yield of 24.7%

Reaction of **4** with BF_3 etherate. (R-4)

The reaction of **4** (87 mg, 0.26 mmol) with BF_3 etherate was carried out in the same conditions that above in R-1 reaction yielding 119 mg of crude which $^1\text{H-NMR}$ spectrum showed signals from compounds **10** (major) and **12** (minor)

Epoxidation of methyl *trans*-communate (**2**).

2.54 g (8.05 mmol) of **2** were epoxidized in identical conditions as for compound **1** (see above) obtaining 3 g of reaction crude that by column chromatography yielded (hexane-Et $_2$ O 98/2) 1.08 g of a mixture of methyl (12*R*,13*R*)-12,13-epoxy-labda-8(17),14-dien-19-oate (**5**) (60%) and methyl (12*S*,13*S*)-12,13-epoxy-labda-8(17),14-dien-19-oate (**6**) (40%) [α] $_D$ +40.3°, IR (neat) ν 3085, 1647, 990, 915 ($\text{CH}=\text{CH}_2$), 3085, 1647, 890 ($\text{C}=\text{CH}_2$), 1725, 1233, 1150 (COOMe), $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (300 MHz) (a) for compound **5** δ 0.48 (s, Me-10), 1.16 (s, Me-4), 1.37 (s, Me-13), 2.78 (d, $J=6.7$ Hz, H-12), 3.58 (s, MeO-19), 4.44 (br s, H-17), 4.84 (br s, H'-17), 5.11 (br d, $J=10.7$ Hz, H-15), 5.25 (br d, $J=17.4$ Hz, H'-15), 5.59 (dd, $J_1=10.7$ Hz, $J_2=17.4$ Hz, H-14), (b) for compound **6** δ 0.49 (s, Me-10), 1.16 (s, Me-4), 1.37 (s, Me-13), 2.77 (d, $J=6.9$ Hz, H-12), 3.58 (s, MeO-19), 4.72 (br s, H-17), 4.89 (br s, H'-17), 5.11 (br d, $J=10.7$ Hz, H-15), 5.25 (br d, $J=17.4$ Hz, H'-15), 5.58 (dd, $J_1=10.7$ Hz, $J_2=17.4$ Hz, H-14), $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ for compounds **5** and **6** in table 9, EIMS m/z (rel int) 332 (M^+ , 1), 273 (2), 189 (6), 181 (4), 133 (12), 121 (84), 79 (100), 55 (87)

Reaction of a mixture of **5** (60%) and **6** (40%) with BF_3 etherate. (R-5)

The reaction of **5** and **6** (1 g, 3.01 mmol) with BF_3 etherate was performed as above (reaction final time 30 min) obtaining 935 mg of crude that by flash column chromatography on silica gel yielded **12** (224 mg, hexane-Et $_2$ O 97/3), **7** (37 mg, hexane-Et $_2$ O 95/5), 100 mg of a mixture of **17** (70%) and **18** (30%) eluted with hexane-Et $_2$ O 93/7, **16** (59 mg, hexane-Et $_2$ O 85/15), 32 mg of a mixture of **2** (25%) and **15** (75%) eluted with hexane-Et $_2$ O 7/3, 35 mg of a mixture of **13a** (60%) and **14** (40%) eluted with Et $_2$ O

(3*R*,3*aR*,5*aS*,7*aR*,8*S*,11*aR*,11*bR*)-3,8,11*a*-trimethyl-8-methoxycarbonyl-2-oxo-perhydrocyclobutan[*J*]phenanthrene(**17**) and methyl 12-oxo-beyeran-19-oate (**18**). Mp 95-100°C (MeOH), [α] $_D$ +50.2°, IR (KBr) ν 1717 (CO), 1717, 1232, 1193, 1150 (COOMe), $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (300 MHz) (a) for compound **17** δ 0.55 (s, Me-11*a*), 1.05 (d, $J=7.2$ Hz, Me-3), 1.15 (s, Me-8), 3.62 (s, MeO-), (b) for compound **18** δ 0.78 (s, Me-10), 0.99 (s, Me-13), 1.15 (s, Me-4), 3.62 (s, MeO-19), $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ for compound **17** and **18** in table 9, 2D-NMR experiments in table 8, EIMS m/z (rel int) 332 (M^+ , 22), 304 (22), 289 (9), 278 (6), 277 (27), 273 (21), 272 (16), 249 (19), 245 (8), 235 (17), 234 (22), 217 (38), 189 (19), 181 (17), 175 (15), 123 (31), 121 (100), 109 (48), 81 (41), 55 (66) Methyl (12*S*)-12-hydroxy-pimara-8,15-dien-19-oate (**16**). Oil [α] $_D$ +52.3°, IR (neat) ν 3434, 1057 (OH), 3078, 1638, 1005, 913 ($\text{CH}=\text{CH}_2$), 1665 ($\text{C}=\text{C}$), 1721, 1232, 1194, 1160 (COOMe), $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (80 MHz) δ 0.81 (s, Me-10), 0.93 (s, Me-13), 1.20 (s, Me-4), 3.40-3.67 (m, H-12), 3.62 (s, MeO-19), 5.09 (dd, $J_1=18$ Hz, $J_2=1.8$ Hz, H-16), 5.12 (dd, $J_1=10$ Hz, $J_2=1.8$ Hz, H'-16),

5 77 (dd, $J_1=18$ Hz, $J_2=10$ Hz, H-15), $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ in table 9

Methyl (12R)-12-hydroxy-isopimara-8,15-dien-19-oate (15). Oil $[\alpha]_D^{+97.5}$, IR (neat) ν 3463, 1056 (OH), 3084, 1641, 911 (CH=CH₂), 1729, 1231, 1195, 1163 (COOMe), $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (80 MHz) δ 0.80 (s, Me-10), 1.00 (s, Me-13), 1.20 (s, Me-4), 3.55 (m, $w_{1/2h}=11$ Hz, H-12), 3.63 (s, Me-19), 5.00 (dd, $J_1=18$ Hz, $J_2=2$ Hz, H-16), 5.03 (dd, $J_1=10$ Hz, $J_2=2$ Hz, H'-16), 5.75 (dd, $J_1=18$ Hz, $J_2=10$ Hz, H-15), $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (80 MHz, pyridine-d₅) δ 0.92 (s, Me-10), 1.22 (s, Me-4), 1.30 (s, Me-13), 3.57 (s, MeO-19), 3.90 (m, $w_{1/2h}=11$ Hz, H-12), 5.00-5.32 (m, H-16), 6.05 (dd, $J_1=18$ Hz, $J_2=10$ Hz, H-15), $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ in table 9, EIMS m/z (rel int) 332 (M⁺, 21), 317 (10), 314 (14), 299 (52), 273 (19), 272 (17), 255 (14), 254 (6), 240 (19), 239 (95), 213 (5), 199 (11), 185 (17), 183 (27), 173 (24), 164 (3), 159 (25), 157 (24), 147 (33), 131 (45), 121 (35), 105 (64), 93 (40), 91 (84), 79 (58), 55 (100)

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