

SAMARIUM DIODIDE PROMOTED SPIROLACTONIZATION OF CYCLOALKANONES

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Summary- Reaction of cycloalkanones with methyl 3-bromopropionate and SmI_2 afforded formation of spiroannellated γ -lactones, pinacols and unprecedented 3-(1-hydroxycycloalkyl)-1-oxaspiro[n,m]alkan-2-ones

Introduction.- During a project dealing with glycosidase inhibition we became interested in the synthesis of spiro-annellated γ -lactones. To obtain these compounds, many routes can be followed resting on quite different strategies such as acid catalyzed, 1-3 oxidative 4-8 or anion based 9-15 reactions as well as sequences involving the reactions of ylides 16-18 or of Grignard reagents 6,19 or by electrochemical transformations 20, 21, also oxazolines 22 α -chloralidonitrines 23 or 1-alkoxy-1-silyloxycyclopropanes 24 have been used as key intermediates

Although a zinc based approach 25 seems quite promising its scope, however, remains limited. Alternatively, the use of cerium metal was reported to overcome the difficulties and low yields usually encountered in the formation of γ -lactones in metal (0) catalyzed reactions of β -halogenated alkanooates with carbonyl compounds 26, 27

Results and discussion.- Reaction of alkyl 3-bromopropionates with $\text{Ce}^{(0)}$ 26, 27 with carbonyl compounds in the presence of catalytic amounts of iodine, however, resulted only in low yields of desired γ -lactones but high yields of the corresponding pinacols, this fact is in excellent accord with previous results 28-30. Neither alterations of the conditions such as temperature, solvent, nor changing the amount of iodine from catalytic to stoichiometric nor using alkyl 3-iodopropionates instead of the corresponding bromo compounds improved the yields in a substantial way. Using a cerium graphite surface compound which was easily obtained from anhydrous CeCl_3 by reduction with stoichiometric amounts of C_8K in tetrahydrofuran afforded excellent yields of the corresponding pinacols 31 but no improvements in the yields of the γ -lactones were observed. Using a zinc-silver couple highly dispersed on the surface of graphite 32 gave similar high yields of pinacols but only insignificant amounts of lactones 31

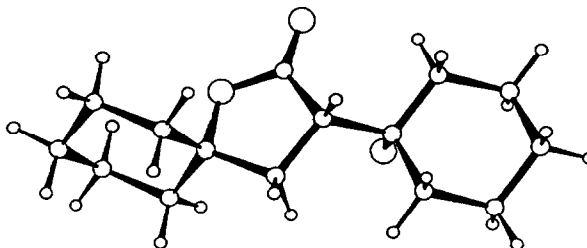
Among many other routes for the synthesis of such spirofused γ -lactones two $\text{Sm}^{(II)}$ -iodide based ways have recently been reported starting either from α,β -unsaturated esters 33-35 or from alkyl 3-bromopropionate, 36 hence further enlarging the scope of applicability of $\text{Sm}^{(II)}$ -mediated reactions

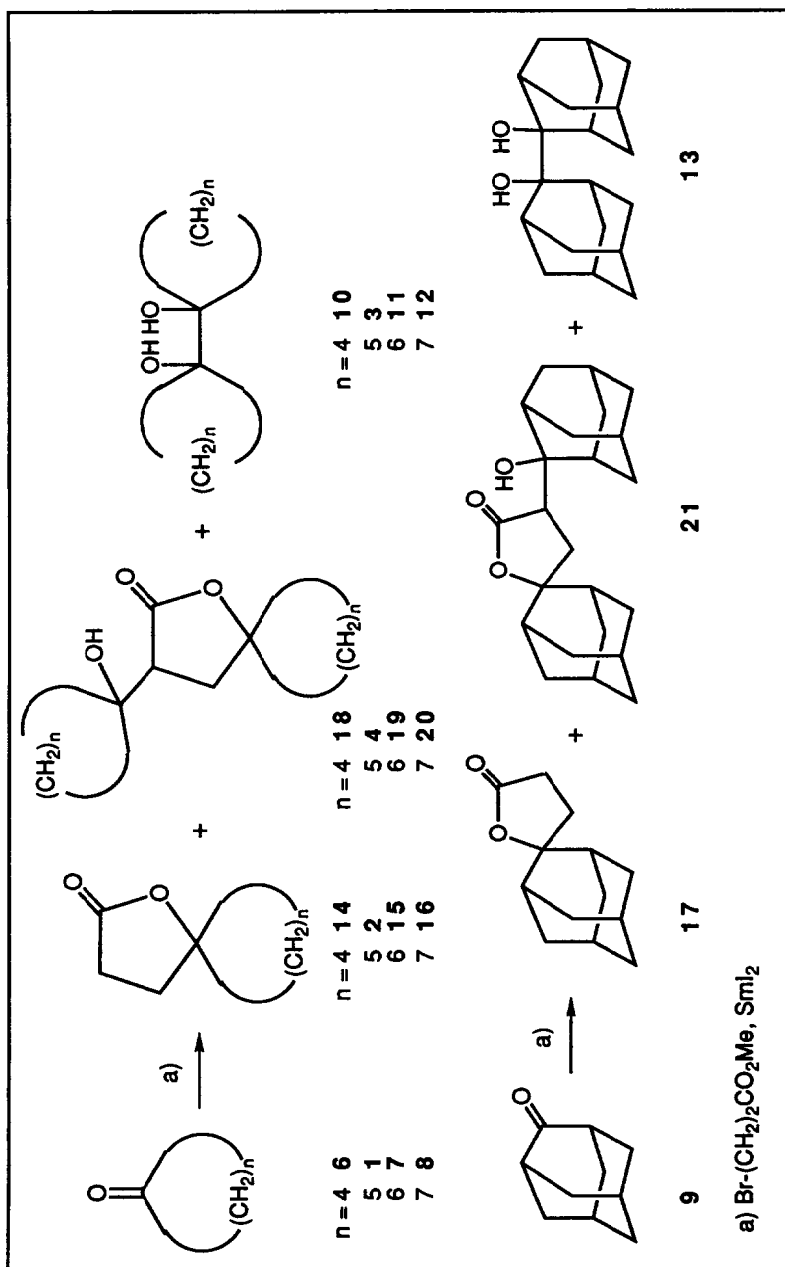
which have previously successfully been used in organic syntheses for intramolecular reductive coupling reactions generating functionalized carbocycles³⁷ or for intramolecular Barbier-³⁶⁻⁴⁰ as well as Reformatsky-type⁴¹⁻⁴³ reactions. Since the reported procedures for spiro-lactonization are quite controversial in as much as the addition of a proton source is concerned³³⁻³⁵ a re-investigation of this reaction under conditions without addition of alcohols³³ seemed appropriate. Reaction of cyclohexanone (1) with methyl acrylate according to literature^{33, 34} in the presence or absence of an additional proton source gave the expected complex mixture³⁴ which on exhaustive chromatographic separations among other products afforded the desired lactone 2, pinacol 3 and 4 as crystals of unknown constitution- albeit of low yield. On the other hand, reaction of 1 with methyl 3-bromopropionate (5)³⁶ under addition of HMPA to the reaction mixture increased the yields of the spiro-lactone 2 but invariably of the conditions substantial amounts of 4 were formed.

The 400 MHz ¹H-NMR spectrum of 4 showed an exchangeable one-proton doublet assigned to an hydroxy function at $\delta = 3.19$ ppm and two distinct signals at $\delta = 2.85$ and 3.19 ppm each appearing as a doublet of doublets. A broad and unseparated multiplet between 1.1 and 1.9 ppm showed an integral corresponding to 21 H. From the IR spectrum the presence of the hydroxy group was confirmed by a broad absorption at 3140 cm⁻¹. A strong signal at 1735 cm⁻¹ gave good evidence for the presence of a 5-membered lactone ring which was confirmed by taking a ¹³C-NMR spectrum of 4 exhibiting among its 15 signals one singlet at $\delta = 177.62$ ppm attributed to the carbonyl group of the lactone. Two singlets at $\delta = 83.83$ and 71.39 ppm, respectively, evidence the presence of two quaternary carbon atoms, one of them was attributed to the spiro-centre whereas the other one was assigned by its multiplicity and the value of its chemical shift to bear the hydroxy function and to serve as the connecting point to the spiro fused system. As far as this spiro system is concerned its connecting carbon atom to the second cyclohexane ring has to appear in the ¹³C-NMR spectrum as a doublet, which was actually detected at $\delta = 49.87$ ppm. From these data the structure of 4 seemed already clear, further confirmation was found in its MS spectra. Using chemical ionization with isobutane a peak with $m/z = 253$ was attributed to M+1, and another of $m/z = 235$ corresponded to M-H₂O+1. The break-down of the molecule (see Experimental) as found in its e⁻-MS-spectrum gave final proof for the structure of 4 which was assigned to be a 3-(1-hydroxycyclohexyl)-1-oxaspiro[4.5]decan-2-one.

For both final proof of this proposed constitution as well as for the determination of the conformation of 4 which is not deducible from the crowded NMR-spectra a X-ray crystal structure analysis was carried out. Its result is presented in the figure.

Molecular conformation of 4 as observed in the crystal. Only half the asymmetric unit (which contains two crystallographically non-equivalent molecules of opposite chirality) is shown.



Sml₂ mediated reaction of cycloalkanones with methyl 3-bromopropionate

The product was shown to be the *syn* isomer, this observation is in excellent agreement with the selectivity of Sm(II)-mediated allylations⁴⁵ and iodomethylations⁴⁶ but contrasts earlier findings for SmI₂ mediated reactions of 4-*tert* butylcyclohexanone with ethyl acrylate.³⁴

Similarly to the reaction of cyclohexanone, cyclopentanone (6), cycloheptanone (7), cyclo-octanone (8) and 2-adamantanone (9) each afforded separable mixtures of the corresponding pinacols 10-13, spirolactones 14-17 and tricyclic 18-21 respectively Benzophenone (22), however, afforded under these conditions only its pinacol 23 in almost quantitative yield (cf Table 1)

Table 1. Product distribution for the SmI₂ mediated reaction of cycloalkanones with methyl 3-bromopropionate

educt	lactone [%]		tricyclo [%]		pinacol [%]	
1	2	28.7	4	41.2	3	20.4
6	14	26.6	18	38.5	10	31.8
7	15	10.8	19	8.6	11	19.5
8	16	15.2	20	10.3	12	17.0
9	17	16.8	21	22.1	13	traces
22	--	--	--	--	23	97.5

Paralleling the proposed mechanism³⁴ for the SmI₂ mediated reductive coupling of α,β -unsaturated esters with carbonyl compounds it seems reasonable to assume that the reaction of β -bromo alkanoates in the system SmI₂-THF-HMPA^{34, 36} also proceeds mainly by a radical rather than by an ionic mechanism involving a samarium ester enolate. Thus, the reduction of the carbonyl compound to a ketyl is followed by a subsequent coupling to a radical resulting from a one electron transfer from Sm²⁺ to the halogenated compound, a second radical coupling completes the sequence. albeit at lower yield, 4 was obtained from the SmI₂ mediated reaction of 1 and 2.

¹³C-NMR data show general findings throughout both series of the spirolactones 2, 14-17 as well as of the novel compounds 4, 18-21. In these spectra (cf Table 2) the value of the chemical shifts for the spiranic carbon varies according to the ring size. For both series, in the five-membered ring the spiro-carbon is much more deshielded than in the six-membered ring ($\Delta\delta = 9.0$ and 8.6 ppm, respectively). The same dependency can be seen for the carbon bearing the hydroxyl group ($\Delta\delta = 9.9$ ppm), whereas the nuclear shielding of the carbonyl carbon is not affected by the size of the spiranic ring at all.

Table 2 Selected ^{13}C -NMR data for spiro-anellated compounds (δ in ppm from TMS)

product	C_S	$\text{C}=\text{O}$	C_O	C_α
4	83 83	177 62	71 39	49 87
18	92 80	177 91	81 25	50 06
19	87 75	178 04	74 78	51 29
20	87 38	177 64	74 28	50 46
21	87 49	176 82	74 88	44 71

2	86 00	176 60		
14	94 60	176 60		
15	90 19	176 77		
16	88 95	176 17		
17	90 61	176 60		

Experimental

Melting points are uncorrected (Reichert micro-hot-stage apparatus), NMR spectra for solutions in CDCl_3 (internal Me_4Si) were recorded using a Bruker AM250 instrument (δ given in ppm, J in Hz), IR spectra on a Perkin-Elmer 298 (KBr or film) TLC was performed on silica gel (Merck 5554) All reactions were performed under argon

Crystal structure analysis of 4.- Diffraction data were collected at a temperature of 97 (1) K on a modified STOE diffractometer equipped with an ENRAF-NONIUS cold-stream low temperature device using graphite monochromated MoK_α radiation ($\lambda = 0.71069 \text{ \AA}$) Unit cell parameters were obtained by least square refinement against the setting angles of 32 reflections with $15^\circ < 2\theta < 28^\circ$ Crystals are tetragonal, space group P4_12_12 with 16 formula units $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{24}\text{O}_3$ (formula weight 252.35) in the unit cell $a = 10.895(7) \text{ \AA}$, $c = 46.308(20) \text{ \AA}$, $V = 5497(1) \text{ \AA}^3$, $d_{\text{calc}} = 1.22 \text{ g/cm}^3$ (calculated with the 97 K unit cell constants)

Intensity data (ω -scan, $\Delta\omega = 0.8^\circ$) were collected for one octant of reciprocal space ($0 \leq h \leq 12$, $0 \leq k \leq 12$, $0 \leq l \leq 53$, $5.5^\circ \leq 2\theta \leq 48^\circ$), yielding 7396 observed, 3916 unique (assuming Friedel's law) and 2544 significant ($F_{\text{obs}} > 3\sigma(F)$) structure factors L_p correction and an empirical absorption correction were applied to the data

The structure was solved with direct methods and refined with least-squares, including isotropic atomic displacement parameters ($a d p$'s) for all non-hydrogen atoms H atoms attached to C were included at calculated positions The two alcoholic protons were neither observed nor calculated $R = 0.089$ (unit weights) for 145 parameters and 3810 (non-centrosymmetric) observations A final difference electron density map showed features up to $0.8(1) \text{ e/\AA}^3$ Atomic coordinates have been deposited at the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre ⁴⁴ Computer programs are listed in reference 47

The asymmetric unit of the crystal structure contains two crystallographically non-equivalent molecules of opposite chirality but otherwise (within experimental error) identical conformation

General procedure.- To a slurry of Sm-powder (1.5 g, 10 mmol, Aldrich) in dry THF (30 ml) a solution of 1,2-diiodoethane (2.82 g, 10 mmol) in THF (10 ml) was slowly added at room temperature The resultant olive-green slurry was stirred at ambient temperature for 30 min, then refluxed for additional 20 min after which time the resulting dark blue slurry of SmI_2 formed was cooled to room temperature After addition of HMPA (5 ml) methyl 3-bromopropionate (0.75 g, 4.5 mmol) and the respective cycloalkanone (4.5 mmol) as a solution in THF (5 ml) was added

dropwise After stirring at ambient temperature until completion of the reaction (as evidenced by TLC, hexane/ ethyl acetate 5:1 (v/v)) N HCl (10 ml) was added, stirred for 15 min and the resulting mixture was extracted with ether (5 times 20 ml each) The extract was washed with a saturated Na₂S₂O₃-solution and brine (10 ml each), dried over Na₂SO₄ and evaporated The resulting syrupy residue was subjected to repeated column chromatography (hexane/ ethyl acetate 10:1 and 3:1 (v/v))

1-Oxaspiro[4.4]nonan-2-one (14), 3-(1-hydroxycyclopentyl)-1-oxaspiro[4.4]nonan-2-one (18) and bicyclopentyl-1,1'-diol (10) - From 6 (0.84 g) 14 (0.37 g, 27%), 18 (0.43 g, 38.5%) and 10 (0.27 g, 32%) were obtained after chromatographic separation

Data for 14 obtained as an oil ^{8, 20} IR (film) 2940 (*bs*), 2865 (*s*), 1770 (*s*), 1465 (*m*), 1250 (*m*), 1190 (*m*), 1160 (*m*), 1050 (*m*), 1040 (*m*), Lit ^{8, 20} 1770 cm⁻¹ ¹H-NMR 2.50-2.75 (*m*, 2 H), 2.15-2.28 (*m*, 2 H), 1.55-2.05 (*m*, 8 H) MS (*c*₁ isobutane) 141 (M+1)

Data for 18 obtained as a solid mp 94-95° IR (KBr) 3500 (*bm*), 2960 (*s*), 2880 (*m*), 1770 (*s*), 1455 (*w*), 1435 (*w*), 1425 (*w*), 1350 (*m*), 1285 (*w*), 1240 (*m*), 1165 (*s*) ¹H-NMR 3.04 (*dd*, 1 H, *J* 9.4, 11.5 Hz), 2.99 (*bs*, 1 H, exchangeable with D₂O, OH), 2.23 (*virt bs*, 1 H), 2.19 (*virt d*, 1 H, *J* 2.9 Hz, on irradiation at δ = 3.04 these both signals form a complex multiplet), 1.55-2.1 (*m*, 16 H) MS (*e*₁) 224 (4), 206 (28), 195 (8), 182 (40), 177 (23), 160 (7), 149 (10), 140 (82), 122 (33), 111 (21) *Anal calcd for C₁₃H₂₀O₃* (224.30) C, 69.61, H, 8.99 *Found* C, 69.73, H, 9.11%

Data for 10 mp 110-112° (Lit ⁴⁸ 111.4-112.4°)

1-Oxaspiro[4.5]decan-2-one (2), 3-(1-hydroxycyclohexyl)-1-oxaspiro[4.5]decan-2-one (4), and bicyclohexyl-1,1'-diol (3) - Following the general procedure 1 (0.98 g) afforded after chromatographic separation 2 (0.44 g, 29%), 4 (0.52 g, 41%) and 3 (0.2 g, 20%)

Data for 2 obtained as an oil ^{8, 13} IR (film) 2940 (*bs*), 2880 (*m*), 1770 (*s*), 1465 (*m*), 1420 (*m*), 1250 (*m*), 1190 (*m*), 1160 (*m*), 1045 (*m*), 1030 (*m*) ¹H-NMR 2.51-2.69 (*m*, 2 H), 2.00-2.10 (*m*, 2 H), 1.25-1.98 (*m*, 10 H) MS (*e*₁) 154 (30), 125 (10), 112 (19), 111 (10), 99 (15), 98 (30), 97 (2)

Data for 4 obtained as a solid, mp 110-112°, IR (KBr) 3440 (*bs*), 2930 (*s*), 2860 (*s*), 1735 (*s*), 1450 (*m*), 1400 (*w*), 1375 (*w*), 1310 (*m*), 1280 (*m*), 1265 (*m*), 1235 (*m*), 1220 (*m*), 1135 (*m*), ¹H-NMR 3.19 (*d*, 1 H, *J* 1.5 Hz, exchangeable with D₂O, OH), 2.85 (*dd*, 1 H, *J* 9.6, 12.0 Hz), 2.16 (*dd*, 1 H, *J* 9.6, 12.8 Hz), 1.1-1.9 (*m*, 21 H) ¹³C-NMR 177.62 (*s*, CO), 83.83 (*s*), 71.39 (*s*), 49.87 (*d*), 37.99 (*t*), 35.99 (*t*), 35.60 (*t*), 35.32 (*t*), 32.34 (*t*), 25.39 (*t*), 24.76 (*t*), 21.17 (*t*), 21.10 (*t*) MS (*c*₁ isobutane) 253 (M+1), 235 (M-H₂O+1), (*e*₁) 252 (19), 234 (41), 196 (19), 178 (11), 154 (100) *Anal calcd for C₁₅H₂₄O₃* (252.36) C, 71.40, H, 9.59 *Found* C, 71.20, H, 9.61%

Data for 3 mp 126-128° (Lit ⁴⁹ 128.5°)

From 1 (0.49 g) and methyl acrylate following the general procedure (HMPA substituted by the addition of 0.37 g of *tert* butanol) 2 (0.25 g, 16.5%) and 4 (0.17 g, 13.3%) were isolated 3 was detected but not isolated

1-Oxaspiro[4.6]undecan-2-one (15), 3-(1-hydroxycycloheptyl)-1-oxaspiro[4.6]undecan-2-one (19), and bicycloheptyl-1,1'-diol (11) - From 7 (1.12 g) 15 (0.18 g, 10.8%), 19 (0.12 g, 9%), and 11 (0.22 g, 19.5%) were obtained

Data for 15 ^{6, 16, 17} obtained as an oil IR (film) 2930 (*s*), 2860 (*s*), 1770 (*s*), 1460 (*m*), 1245 (*m*), 1185 (*m*), 1160 (*m*), 1045 (*m*), 1040 (*m*) ¹H-NMR 2.52 (*t*, 2 H, *J* 7.8 Hz), 2.04 (*t*, 2 H, *J* 7.6 Hz), 1.3-1.95 (*m*, 12 H) MS (*c*₁) 168 (12), 139 (6), 125 (13), 113 (15), 111 (100) *Anal calcd for C₁₀H₁₆O₂* (168.24) C, 71.39, H, 9.59 *Found* C, 71.62, H, 9.47%

Data for 19 obtained as a solid, mp 62-65° IR (KBr) 3440 (*bs*), 2920 (*s*), 2860 (*s*), 1740 (*s*), 1455 (*m*), 1150 (*m*), 1070 (*m*), 1050 (*m*) ¹H-NMR 3.47 (*bs*, 1 H, exchangeable with D₂O, OH), 2.88 (*dd*, 1 H, *J* 9.1, 12.2 Hz), 2.21 (*dd*, 1 H, *J* 9.1, 12.6 Hz), 2.04 (*dd*, 1 H, *J* 8.1, 12.7 Hz), 1.3-2.0 (*m*, 24 H) ¹³C-NMR 178.04 (*s*, COO), 87.75 (*s*), 74.78 (*s*), 51.29 (*d*), 41.91 (*t*), 40.17 (*t*), 38.42 (*t*), 37.08 (*t*), 36.56 (*t*), 29.09 (*t*), 28.91 (*t*), 28.86 (*t*), 28.82 (*t*), 22.23 (*t*), 22.12 (*t*), 21.81 (*t*) MS (*e*₁) 280 (7), 263 (5), 235 (3), 223 (15), 210 (20), 205 (14), 192 (12), 168 (100), 153 (13), 150 (24) *Anal calcd for C₁₇H₂₈O₃* (280.41) C, 72.82, H, 10.06 *Found* C, 73.03, H, 9.89%

Data for 11 mp 76-78° (Lit ⁵⁰ 78°)

1-Oxaspiro[4.7]dodecan-2-one (16), 3-(1-hydroxycyclooctyl)-1-oxaspiro[4.7]dodecan-2-one (20), and bicyclooctyl-1,1'-diol (12) - From 8 (1.26 g) 16 (0.28 g, 15%), 20 (0.16 g, 10%) and 12 (0.22 g, 17%) were obtained after chromatographic separation

Data for **16**¹¹ IR (film): 2940 (s), 2870 (s), 1760 (s), 1460 (m), 1250 (m), 1185 (m), 1165 (m), 1050 (m), 1045 (m) ¹H-NMR: 2.45-2.55 (m, 2 H), 2.10-2.20 (m, 2 H), 1.40-2.10 (m, 14 H). MS (c.i., isobutane) 183 (M+1)

Data for **20** obtained as a solid, mp 85-88° IR (KBr): 3440 (bs), 2925 (s), 2860 (m), 1725 (s), 1475 (m), 1455 (m), 1260 (m), 1205 (m), 1060 (w) ¹H-NMR 2.93 (s, 1 H, exchangeable with D₂O, OH); 2.85 (dd, 1 H, J 9.3, 12.1 Hz), 2.21 (dd, 1 H, J 9.3, 12.6); 1.25-2.15 (m, 29 H) ¹³C-NMR 177.64 (s), 87.38 (s), 74.28 (s), 50.46 (d), 37.26 (t), 35.66 (t), 31.37 (t), 28.09 (t), 28.01 (t), 27.97 (t), 27.89 (t), 27.79 (t), 24.88 (t), 22.41 (t), 21.75 (t), 21.32 (t). MS (e.i.) 308 (3), 290 (18), 224 (10), 206 (9), 182 (58), 167 (17), 127 (98) *Anal calcd* for C₁₉H₃₂O₃ (308.47) C, 73.98, H, 10.46 *Found* C, 73.81, H, 10.27%

Data for **12** mp 90-92° (Lit ⁵¹ 93-94°)

2-Hydroxyadamantanepropionic acid γ -lactone (17) and adamantane-2-spiro-4'-tetrahydro-3'-(2-hydroxyadamantanyl)-2'-furanone (21).- From **9** (1.5 g) **17** (0.35 g, 17%) and **21** (0.39 g, 22%) were isolated after chromatography. Traces of the corresponding adamantanone-pinacol **13** were detected by MS (c.i., isobutane, 311, M+1) ⁵² In addition, unchanged starting material **9** (0.73 g, 49%) was recovered

Data for **17** obtained as a solid, mp 127-129° (Lit ⁹ 124-128°), IR (KBr) 2910 (s), 2860 (s), 1770 (s), 1465 (m), 1450 (m), 1420 (w), 1390 (w), 1370 (m), 1365 (m), 1315 (m), 1290 (m), 1245 (s), 1225 (m), 1205 (m), 1070 (w), 1040 (w), 1020 (w), 1000 (w) ¹H-NMR 2.58 (dt, 2 H, J 0.6, 8.3 Hz), 2.05-2.24 (m, 4 H), 1.50-1.86 (m, 12 H) ¹³C-NMR 176.60 (s), 90.61 (s), 37.38 (t), 37.18 (d), 34.46 (t), 33.18 (t), 31.21 (t), 28.83 (t), 26.67 (d), 26.56 (d) MS (c.i., isobutane) 207 (M+1), MS (e.i.) 206 (71), 162 (99), 151 (100), 147 (10), 134 (13), 133 (21), 121 (11), 120 (7), 119 (16) *Anal calcd* for C₁₃H₁₈O₂ (206.29) C, 75.69, H, 8.79 *Found* C, 75.81, H, 8.50%

Data for **21** obtained as a solid, mp 210-212° IR (KBr) 3430 (bs), 2970 (m), 2940 (s), 2920 (s), 2860 (s), 1735 (s), 1450 (m), 1385 (w), 1365 (m), 1290 (m), 1245 (s), 1125 (w), 1105 (m), 1055 (m), 1040 (w), 1020 (w), 1000 (s) ¹H-NMR 2.59 (virt t, J 8.7 Hz, 2 H), 2.03-2.29 (m, 7 H, after D₂O exchange 6 H), 1.49-1.96 (m, 23 H) ¹³C-NMR 176.82 (s), 87.49 (s), 74.88 (s), 44.71 (d), 38.93 (d), 38.01 (t), 37.45 (t), 35.67 (d), 35.53 (t), 34.91 (t), 34.85 (d), 34.03 (d), 33.67 (t), 33.59 (t), 32.72 (t), 32.58 (t), 32.47 (t), 32.41 (t), 26.76 (d), 26.71 (d), 26.65 (d) MS (e.i.) 356 (3), 338 (5), 310 (4), 294 (5), 206 (100), 191 (26), 188 (13), 151 (39), 148 (66) *Anal calcd* for C₂₃H₃₂O₃ (356.51) C, 77.49; H, 9.05 *Found* C, 77.30, H, 9.14%

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