

Highly efficient Lewis acid catalyzed, one step conversions of 16 α ,17 α -epoxy-3 β -hydroxypregn-5-en-20-one to D-homosteroid and Δ^{13} -steroids

Navdeep K. Girdhar, M. P. S. Ishar,* Rajiv Kumar, Rajinder Singh and Gurmit Singh

Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar 143 005, Punjab, India

Received 21 March 2001; revised 30 May 2001; accepted 20 June 2001

Abstract—Conversion of 16 α ,17 α -epoxy-3 β -hydroxypregn-5-en-20-one (**1a**) to 16 β -chloro-3 β ,17 α -dihydroxy-17 β -methyl-17 α -homoandrost-5-en-17 α -one (**3**) in very high yields (95%), in one step by treatment with 3 equiv. of anhyd. AlCl₃, has been achieved; use of two equiv. of AlCl₃ affords mixture of D-homosteroid **3** (70%) and chlorohydrin **4** (27%). On the other hand, treatment of **1a** with excess of acetic anhydride and anhydrous ZnCl₂ at room temperature leads to reversal of the direction of epoxide ring opening with concomitant methyl migration, leading to 3 β ,16 α -diacetoxy-17-methyl-17 α -pregna-5,13-diene-20-one (**6**) in high yield (92 %). The conversions are a remarkable improvement over related routes in terms of both yield and selectivity. © 2001 Elsevier Science Ltd. All rights reserved.

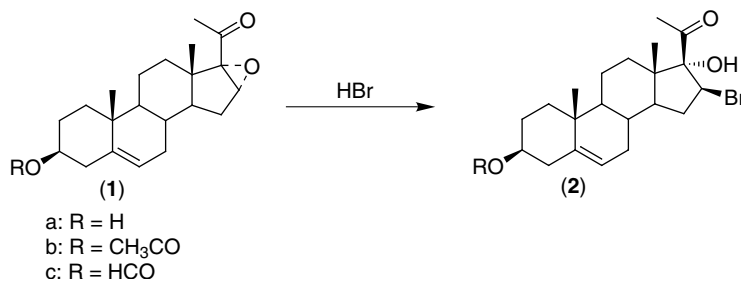
1. Introduction

17-Hydroxy-20-keto steroids have been extensively exploited¹ to obtain D-homosteroids, which continue to attract attention on account of their significant medicinal values.² 17-Hydroxy-steroids have also been converted to mixtures of 12-/13-dehydro steroids,³ the latter are useful intermediates for a number of biologically active steroids.^{3a,4} Though, facile one step epoxide ring opening—steroidal skeletal rearrangements, under milder conditions, are well known in the case of a number of steroidal ring A,B and C-epoxides,⁵ the 16 α ,17 α -epoxy-20-one system (**1**) has proven to be quite resistant to nucleophilic/Lewis acid catalyzed ring opening.⁶ The only reported opening of the latter epoxide ring is the conversion by HBr–AcOH, of **1b** to bromohydrin **2b** (Scheme 1).⁷ It was, therefore, desired to investigate possible one step transformations of 16 α ,17 α -epoxy-3 β -hydroxy/acetoxy-

pregn-5-en-20-one (**1**) to both ring D-homosteroids and Δ^{13} -steroids.

2. Results and discussion

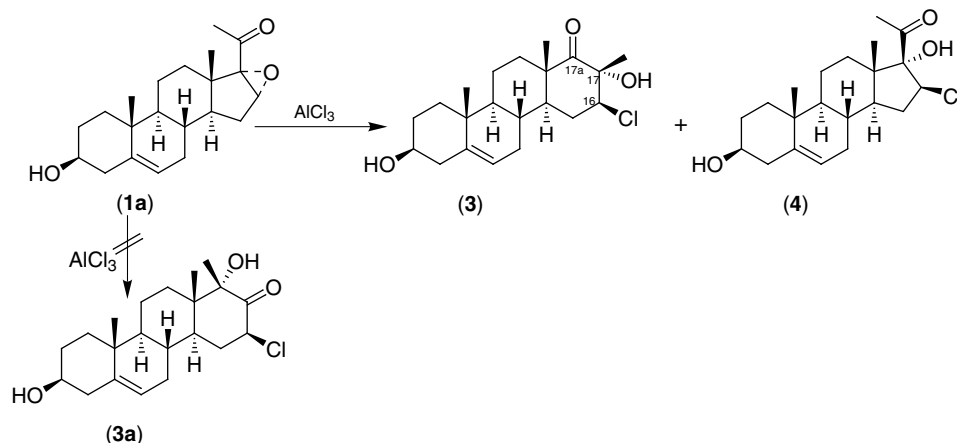
Treatment of 16 α ,17 α -epoxy-3 β -acetoxy-20-one (**1b**) with 1 equiv. of boron-trifluoride etherate in THF/Et₂O for 20 h failed to open the epoxide ring. Increasing the amount of BF₃OEt₂ (>4 equiv.) was also of no consequence; except for the hydrolysis of 3-acetate, no other transformation occurred. Refluxing **1a** in formic acid (96%, bp 101–102°C) for 7 h resulted only in formylation of C3–OH leading to **1c**; this only demonstrated the high stability of 16 α ,17 α -epoxy-20-one system, because, refluxing in formic acid is reported to bring about skeletal rearrangements of ring-A steroidal epoxides.^{5j} Subsequently, it was observed that treatment of epoxide **1a** with



Scheme 1.

Keywords: epoxides; epoxy-steroids; Lewis acids; rearrangements; D-homosteroids; Δ^{13} -steroids.

* Corresponding author. Tel.: +91-183-258808-09 ext. 3321; fax: +91-183-258819-20; e-mail: mpsishar@angelfire.com



Scheme 2.

2 equiv. of anhyd. AlCl_3 in CH_3CN at ambient temperature affords a mixture of products characterized as 16 β -chloro-3 β ,17 α -dihydroxy-17 β -methyl-17 α -homoandrost-5-en-17 α -one (**3**, 65%) and 16 β -chloro-3 β ,17 α -dihydroxypregn-5-en-20-one (**4**, 35%, Scheme 2). Reacting **1a** with 3 equiv. of anhyd. AlCl_3 in dry CH_3CN at 10 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 6 h resulted in the formation of single product (**3**, 95%). Complete conversion of **1a** to **3** was also achieved in other solvents (Table 1). Interestingly, when the temperature is raised to 40 $^\circ\text{C}$ (CH_3CN as solvent, 3 equiv. of AlCl_3) for 7 h, both products **3** (70%) and **4** (27%) are obtained, however, if after 7 h the reaction mixture is treated with one more equiv. of AlCl_3 or the contents are refluxed, only D-homosteroid **3** is obtained.

Compound (**3**) was isolated as white flakes ($\text{MeOH}-\text{CHCl}_3$) and was recrystallized from the same solvent mixture to obtain colorless flakes (mp 157 $^\circ\text{C}$). It has been characterized on the basis of spectroscopic data and microanalysis. The m/z peak at 368 (0.4%, $\text{M}^+ + 2$) and 366 (0.9%, M^+) revealed the presence of Cl atom in the system, which was also supported by microanalytical data. A band in the IR spectrum at 1720 cm^{-1} was characteristic of saturated ketones. However, the presence of three methyl singlets in ^1H NMR at δ 1.25 (C17-Me), 1.15 (C19) and 1.01 (C18), indicated rearrangement to a D-homosteroid; otherwise the resonance for protons of the methyl group of C17-acetyl moiety was anticipated at $\geq \delta$ 2.0. In the ^{13}C NMR the carbonyl resonance (C17a) was located at δ 214.6 and its downfield shifted position as compared to the ^{13}C chemical shift of C20 in **1a** (δ 204.6) was corroboration of the assigned structure.⁸ The resonances of the oxygen linked carbons were observed at δ 79.1 (quat. C17) and δ 71.3

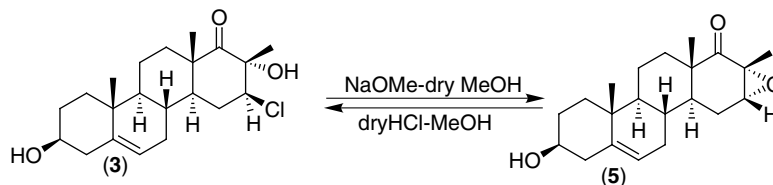
(CH, C3); the resonances of Cl linked carbon (C16) was located at δ 67.7 (CH). The assigned stereochemistry at C16 is based on the coupling constant values for C16-H which appeared as a dd at δ 3.94 ($J=12.6$ and 4.4 Hz); the presence of 12.6 Hz coupling (axial-axial) corresponded to its axial orientations, thereby, confirming the β (equatorial) position of Cl. The structure of compound **4**, a colorless solid (mp 187 $^\circ\text{C}$), is also based on rigorous spectroscopic analysis and comparison of the spectral data with related systems.⁹

In order to exclude the alternative D-homosteroid structure **3a** for the obtained product, it was treated with NaOMe in MeOH when it was converted to epoxy-ketone **5**. Treatment of **5** with dry HCl–MeOH regenerated the compound **3**; the structure of epoxy ketone **5** has been established by rigorous spectroscopic analysis and it could not have been obtained from **3a** (Scheme 3).

Mechanistically, the ring opening of epoxide in **1a** and rearrangement to D-homosteroid can be thought of as following two distinct routes. For instance at low temperature and in presence of 3 equiv. of AlCl_3 , in a polar solvent like CH_3CN , the reaction can be postulated to follow the path-a (involving intermediate **A**). This is corroborated by the absence of any other intermediate product (e.g. **4**) by TLC at any stage of the reaction. On the other hand, if the reactants are mixed at room temperature and the temperature is raised and maintained at $\sim 40^\circ\text{C}$ (everything else remaining the same) the reaction mixture develops a reddish color (in contrast to the colorless solution obtained at low temperature), and beside **3** (70%), chlorohydrin **4** ($\sim 27\%$) is also isolated; the amount of **4** increases to 35% if 2 equiv.

Table 1. Transformations of epoxy-steroid (**1a**) in presence of AlCl_3 under various conditions

| S. No. | Solvent | Equiv. of AlCl_3 | Reaction temp. ($^\circ\text{C}$) | Reaction time (h) | Yield (%) of various products | |
|--------|------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|----------|
| | | | | | 3 | 4 |
| 1 | CH_3CN | 2 | 30 | 9 | 65 | 35 |
| | | 3 | 10 | 6 | 95 | – |
| | | 3 | ~ 40 | 7 | 70 | 27 |
| | | 3 | Reflux | 2 | 92 | – |
| 2 | THF | 3 | Reflux | 10 | 88 | – |
| | | 3 | Reflux | 8 | 90 | – |



Scheme 3.

of AlCl_3 are employed. In the latter case, probably, the intermediate **B** is formed, which leads to **4** or on further addition of AlCl_3 yields **3** (through **A**); on refluxing **B** can lead directly to **3** (through **C**).^{14,15} In the case of non-polar solvents, the reaction follows path a or both path a and b, however, no other product is detected on TLC at any stage. Formation of **B** in CH_3CN (employing 3 equiv. of AlCl_3) at 40°C is, probably, a consequence of consumption of AlCl_3 by reaction with CH_3CN (Scheme 4).

A further perusal of the literature revealed that refluxing of **1a** with excess of acetic anhydride in presence of *p*-toluenesulphonic acid has been reported to afford Δ^{13} -steroid (**6**) in 54% yield^{3e} (Scheme 5).

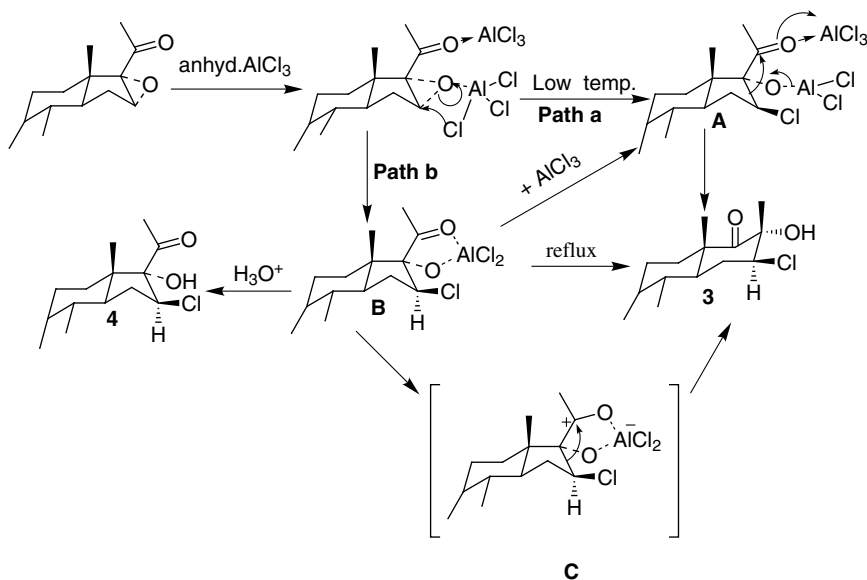
At the same time fusion of estradiol methyl ether (**9**) with ZnCl_2 at 170 – 180°C has been reported to yield a mixture of products **10**, **11** and **12**.^{3f} Also, it is reported that treatment of 11-deoxycorticosterone with sulphuric acid (97%) at room temperature resulted in a mixture of products including a Δ^{13} -steroid (32%).¹⁰ Use has also been made of BF_3 –

Ac_2O for 16,17-epoxide ring opening (69% yield) in the synthesis of ring-C aromatic steroids¹¹ (Scheme 6).

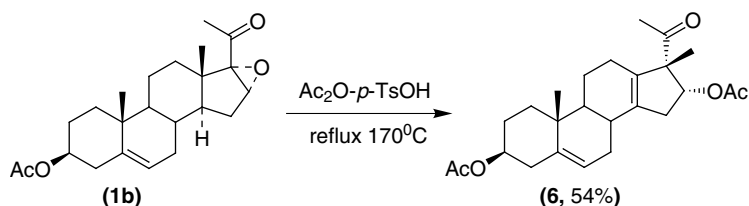
We have now carried out the reaction of $16\alpha,17\alpha$ -epoxy- 3β -hydroxy-pregn-5-en-20-one (**1a**) with acetic anhydride in presence of anhyd. ZnCl_2 by stirring at room temperature and report the formation of 13,14-dehydrosteroids (**6**) as single product in 92% yield (Scheme 7).

Though the formation of compound **6** has been reported earlier, due to non-availability of its spectral data the same has been included under Section 3 and is in agreement with the assigned structure. Mechanistically, the reversed direction of epoxide ring opening requires it to be concerted with methyl migration and ZnCl_2 only activates the acetic anhydride.

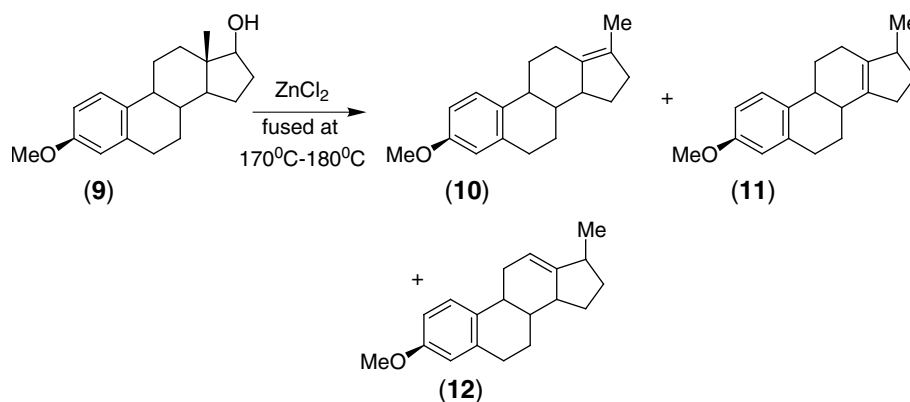
The present investigations have, thus, elaborated a simple low temperature conversion of $16\alpha,17\alpha$ -epoxy- 3β -hydroxypregn-5-en-20-one (**1b**) system to D-homosteroids in high yield by reacting with anhyd. AlCl_3 . Alternatively,



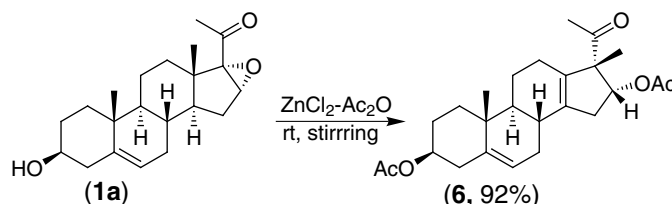
Scheme 4.



Scheme 5.



Scheme 6.



Scheme 7.

on treatment of **1b** with acetic anhydride in presence of anhyd. ZnCl_2 at room temperature, the direction of epoxide ring opening is reversed with concomitant methyl migration, leading to Δ^{13} -steroid (**6**) in very high yield.

3. Experimental

3.1. General

NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker AC-200FT NMR spectrometer, using TMS as internal standard and CDCl_3 as solvent. IR spectra were recorded on Shimadzu DR 2001 FT-IR spectrometer in CHCl_3 , unless otherwise mentioned and mass spectra were recorded on Shimadzu GCMS-QP-2000A spectrometer. Column chromatography was conducted using Silica Gel 60–120 mesh. The micro-analytical data was collected on a Perkin–Elmer 240C elemental analyser. All solvents were purified and dried. $16\alpha,17\alpha$ -Epoxy-3 β -hydroxy/acetoxypregn-5-en-20-ones (**1a,b**) were prepared by the literature method.⁷ Optical rotation were taken with a JASCO DIP-360. All melting points are uncorrected and have been measured in open glass capillaries.

3.1.1. Reaction of $16\alpha,17\alpha$ -epoxy-3 β -acetoxypregn-5-en-20-one (1b**) with $\text{BF}_3\cdot\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ in dry THF/diethyl ether.** Epoxide **1a** (110 mg, ~ 0.3 mmol) was taken up in dry THF or dry diethyl ether (25 ml) under nitrogen atmosphere and $\text{BF}_3\cdot\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ (1.2 ml of 32% ethereal solution, 1 equiv.). The contents were stirred at room temperature; regular monitoring by TLC for 20 h did not indicate any reaction. Subsequent increasing of the $\text{BF}_3\cdot\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ up to 4 equiv. also failed to bring about epoxide ring opening. Work up of the reaction afforded starting material (**1b**) besides some acetate

hydrolysis product (**1a**, mp, ^1H NMR), which were separated by column chromatography over silica gel.

3.1.2. Reaction of $16\alpha,17\alpha$ -epoxy-3 β -hydroxypregn-5-en-20-one (1a**) with formic acid.** Epoxide **1b** (100 mg, 0.3 mol) was taken in 96% formic acid (15 ml) and was refluxed for 7 h. The reaction was worked up by adding diethyl ether (50 ml) and washing the solution with water, NaHCO_3 solution, brine and again with water. The ethereal layer was dried over anhyd. Na_2SO_4 , filtered and solvent was distilled off. Removal of traces of solvent under vacuum afforded a solid, which was crystallized from MeOH-CHCl_3 (3:1), to obtain $16\alpha,17\alpha$ -epoxy-3 β -formyloxy-pregn-5-en-20-one (**1c**) as colorless needles, mp 187°C ; $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{32} = -30.22$ (c 0.23; CHCl_3); [found C, 73.88; H, 8.56, $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{30}\text{O}_4$ requires C, 73.71; H, 8.44%]; ν_{max} (CHCl_3): 1724 (formate C=O), 1695 (C=O) cm^{-1} ; δ_{H} (200 MHz, CDCl_3): 7.99 (s, 1H, HCO-), 5.37 (br d, 1H, $J=4.8$ Hz, C6–H), 4.72 (m, 1H, C3–H), 3.64 (s, 1H, C16–H), 2.36 (d, 1H, $J=7.7$ Hz, C7–H), 2.07–0.98 (br m, 24H, having singlets at δ 2.01 and 1.04, $2\times\text{CH}_3$); δ_{C} (50 MHz, CDCl_3): 204.5 (q, C20), 160.3 (q, HCO-), 139.6 (q, C5), 122.1 (CH, C6), 73.6 (C3), 70.8 (C17), 60.2 (CH, C16), 50.3, 50.3, 45.4, 41.4, 37.9, 36.7, 31.3, 31.2, 29.6, 27.6, 27.4, 25.8, 20.3, 19.1, 15.1; m/z : 330 (4%, $\text{M}^+ - 39$), 313 (17%), 312 (67%).

3.1.3. Reaction of $16\alpha,17\alpha$ -epoxy-3 β -hydroxypregn-5-en-20-one (1a**) with anhyd. AlCl_3 in CH_3CN .** Epoxide **1a** (100 mg, 0.3 mmol) was taken up in dry CH_3CN (25 ml) and powdered anhyd. AlCl_3 (80.8 mg, 0.60 mmol, 2 equiv.) was added in one portion. The contents were stirred at ambient temperature (25 – 30°C) for 9 h, when TLC monitoring indicated the consumption of starting material. The solvent was removed under vacuum and treating the residue with water followed by extraction with diethyl ether (3×25 ml). The ethereal extract was washed with

aqueous NaHCO₃, brine solution and again with water. It was dried over anhyd. Na₂SO₄, filtered and the solvent was evaporated. The residue was separated on a silica gel (60–120 mesh, 20 g) column using hexane–chloroform (4:1) as eluent to afford: 16β-chloro-3β,17α-dihydroxy-17β-methyl-17a-homoandrost-5-en-17a-one (**3**, 72 mg, 65%), colorless flakes, mp 157°C (CHCl₃–MeOH, 1:2); [found C, 68.73; H, 8.55. C₂₁H₃₁O₃Cl requires C, 68.85; H, 8.46%]; [α]_D²⁵ = –68.99 (c 0.70; EtOH); ν_{max} (CHCl₃): 1720 (C=O), 1379.3 cm⁻¹; δ_H (200 MHz; CDCl₃): 5.34 (bd, 1H J=4.4 Hz, C6–H), 4.18 (bs, 1H, suppressed on shaking with D₂O, –OH), 3.94 (dd, J=4.4 and 12.6 Hz, C16–H), 3.54 (m, 1H, C3–H), 2.40–0.99 (br m, 27H, having singlets at δ 1.25, 1.15 and 1.01, 3×CH₃); δ_C (50 MHz, CDCl₃): 214.6 (C17a), 140.64 (C5), 120.4 (C6), 79.1 (C17), 71.3 (C3), 67.7 (C16), 49.4, 48.9, 48.3, 46.5, 41.8, 36.7, 32.7, 32.1, 31.5, 31.4, 30.8, 30.7, 23.6, 19.2, 15.76; m/z 368 (0.4%, M⁺+2), 367 (2.1%, M⁺+1), 366 (0.9, M⁺), 363 (1.1), 362 (1.3), 335 (1.6), 334 (0.8), 333 (3.5), 332 (2.5), 331 (10.3). 16β-chloro-3β,17α-dihydroxy-pregn-5-en-20-one (**4**, 39 mg, 35%), colorless flakes, mp 187°C (CHCl₃–MeOH, 1:2); [found: C, 68.79; H, 8.51. C₂₁H₃₁O₃Cl requires C, 68.85; H, 8.46%]; [α]_D³² = –19.50 (c 0.4, CHCl₃); ν_{max} (CHCl₃): 1709 (C=O) cm⁻¹; δ_H (200 MHz, CDCl₃): 5.33 (br d, 1H, J=4.8 Hz, C6–H), 4.09 (dd, 1H, J=4.2 and 5.5 Hz, C16–H), 3.49 (m, 1H, C3–H), 3.31 (s, 1H, suppressed by shaking with D₂O, –OH), 2.52–1.00 (br m, 27H, having singlets at δ 2.31, 1.21 and 1.00, 3×CH₃); δ_C (50 MHz; CDCl₃): 205.00 (C=O), 140.47 (C5), 120.63 (C6), 95.75 (C17), 71.16 (C3), 62.71 (C16), 49.17, 46.21, 41.79, 37.77, 36.62, 36.17, 31.36, 31.16, 30.83, 30.56, 29.31, 29.04, 19.54, 18.99, 15.36; m/z: 366 (1.1%, M⁺), 348 (1.2%).

3.1.4. Reaction of 16α,17α-epoxy-3β-hydroxypregn-5-en-20-one (1a) with anhyd. AlCl₃ (3 equiv.) in CH₃CN at 10°C. Epoxide **1a** (110 mg) was taken in dry CH₃CN (25 ml) and 3 equiv. of powdered anhyd. AlCl₃ was added in one portion; the contents were stirred at 10°C for 6 h and then worked up as described earlier. The residue obtained on evaporation of solvent was recrystallized from CHCl₃–MeOH (1:2) to obtain **3** (116 mg, ~95%).

3.1.5. Reaction of 16α,17α-epoxy-3β-hydroxypregn-5-en-20-one (1a) with anhyd. AlCl₃ (3 equiv.) in CH₃CN at 35–40°C. Epoxide **1a** (110 mg) was taken in dry CH₃CN (25 ml) and 3 equiv. of powdered anhyd. AlCl₃ was added in one portion; the reaction mixture was stirred at ~40°C for 7 h and then worked up accordingly. The obtained mixture of products when resolved column chromatographically, as described earlier, afforded **3** (70%) and **4** (27%); Alternatively, if after 7 h 1 equiv. of AlCl₃ was added to the reaction mixture or the mixture was refluxed for 1 h, in both cases it led to the formation of **3** as the only product (>90%).

3.1.6. Reaction of 16α,17α-epoxy-3β-hydroxy-pregn-5-en-20-one (1a) with anhyd. AlCl₃ (3 equiv.) in CH₃CN under refluxing. To epoxide **1a** (100 mg) in dry CH₃CN (25 ml), 3 equiv. of powdered anhyd. AlCl₃ was added in single lot and the reaction mixture was refluxed with stirring for 2 h and then worked up accordingly. The residue obtained on removal of solvent was dried and

crystallized, as described earlier, to give product **3** (~102 mg, 92%).

3.1.7. Reaction of 16α,17α-epoxy-3β-hydroxypregn-5-en-20-one (1a) with anhyd. AlCl₃ in dry THF. Epoxide **1a** (110 mg) was taken in dry THF (25 ml) and powdered anhyd. AlCl₃ (3 equiv.) was added in one portion. The contents were refluxed, with stirring, for 10 h and the reaction worked up in a manner as described earlier by evaporating the solvent and extracting with ether. The solvent from the dried ethereal extract was removed under vacuum to obtain a solid residue which was recrystallized from CHCl₃–MeOH to obtain **3** (107 mg, 88%).

3.1.8. Reaction of 16α,17α-epoxy-3β-hydroxypregn-5-en-20-one (1a) with anhyd. AlCl₃ in dry CCl₄. Epoxide **1a** (110 mg) was taken in dry CCl₄ (35 ml) and 3 equiv. of anhyd. AlCl₃ was added in one portion. The contents were refluxed, with stirring for 8 h and the reaction was worked up by removal of solvent under vacuum and treating the residue with water followed by extraction with chloroform (3×25 ml). The chloroform layer was washed with aqueous NaHCO₃, brine solution and again with water. It was dried over anhyd. Na₂SO₄, filtered and the solvent was evaporated. The residue was crystallized to obtain compound **3** (109 mg, 90%).

3.1.9. Reaction of D-homosteroid (3) with NaOMe in dry MeOH. D-Homosteroid (**3**, 100 mg) was dissolved in dry MeOH (25 ml) and NaOMe (32.7 mg, 2 equiv.) was added to it in one portion. The contents were refluxed for 4 h with stirring and the reaction was quenched with 5% HCl (15 ml), diluted with ice cold water (100 ml) and cooled. The separated solid was filtered, dried and crystallized from ether–ethanol (1:3) to obtain: epoxy-D-homosteroid (5 mg), colorless needles, mp 214°C; [α]_D³⁰ = –82.70 (c 0.27; CHCl₃); [found: C, 75.84; H, 9.68. C₂₁H₃₀O₃ requires C, 76.13; H, 9.36]; ν_{max} (CHCl₃): 1713.6 (C=O), 1448.6, 1277.6, 1247.7, 1051.10 cm⁻¹; δ_H (200 MHz, CDCl₃): 5.31 (br d, 1H, J=4.6 Hz, C6–H), 3.53 (m, 1H, C3–H), 3.29 (s, 1H, C16–H), 2.36–0.98 (br m, 27H, having singlets at δ 1.41, 1.05 and 0.98, 3×CH₃); δ_C (50 MHz, CDCl₃): 207.5 (C=O), 140.5 (C5), 120.9 (C6), 71.6 (C3), 59.5 (C16), 56.1 (C17), 48.9, 45.0, 42.0, 38.6, 36.9, 36.7, 31.8, 31.6, 31.2, 29.7, 24.9, 19.9, 19.4, 16.6, 15.6; m/z: 331 (20%, M⁺+1), 330 (66%, M⁺), 329, 328, 316, 315.

3.1.10. Conversion of 5 to 3 by treatment with dry HCl in dry MeOH. The epoxy-D-homosteroid (**5**, 100 mg) was dissolved in dry MeOH (50 ml), cooled in ice bath and dry HCl was bubbled for 15 min. The reaction was quenched by neutralizing with aqueous NaHCO₃, further diluted with ice cold water (50 ml) and chilled. The separated solid was filtered crystallized from MeOH–CHCl₃ and recrystallized from MeOH–CHCl₃ to obtain **3** (102 mg, mp 157°C, undepressed mixed mp and spectral data).

3.1.11. Conversion of 16α,17α-epoxy-3β-hydroxypregn-5-en-20-one (1a) to β,16α-diacetoxy-17-methyl-17α-pregna-5,13-dien-20-one (6). The epoxide (**1a**, 100 mg, 0.3 mmol) was dissolved in Ac₂O (20 ml) and anhydrous ZnCl₂ (124 mg, 3 equiv.) was added. The contents were stirred for 6 h at room temperature until TLC monitoring

indicated the completion of the reaction. The reaction was quenched with 40% NaHCO₃ solution when a solid separated out. The contents were extracted with ether (2×25 ml), washed with brine, water and dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and filtered. Evaporation of solvent followed by drying under vacuum afforded 3β,16α-diacetoxy-17-methyl-17α-pregna-5,13-dien-20-one(6), hexagonal colorless crystals, mp 201–202°C (EtOH–CHCl₃, 1:1), Lit.^{3e} mp 213–214.5°C; [found: C, 72.42; H, 8.26. C₂₅H₃₄O₅ requires C, 72.46; H, 8.21]; [α]_D²⁵ = –11.99 (c 0.6; CHCl₃); ν_{max}(CHCl₃): 1733.7, 1731.6, 1705.0, 1474.2, 1457.1, 1440.0, 1375.9, 1367.4, 1363.1, 1256.2, 1200.7, 1042.50 cm⁻¹; δ_H (200 MHz, CDCl₃): 5.44 (br d, 1H, C6–H), 5.17 (dd, J=6.9 and 8.1 Hz, 1H, C16–H), 4.62 (m, 1H, C3–H), 2.87–0.99 (brm, 31H, having sharp singlet at δ 2.09, 2.01, 1.99, 1.18 and 0.99; 5×CH₃); δ_C (50 MHz, CDCl₃): 207.3 (C=O), 169.6 (ester C=O), 140.5 (C5), 138.8 and 137.0 (C13 and C14), 121.9 (C6), 81.4 (C16), 73.5 (C3), 64.9 (C17), 48.6, 38.4, 37.9, 36.9, 36.6, 32.8, 30.5, 27.4, 27.2, 23.0, 22.4, 21.1, 20.8, 19.9, 18.5; m/z: 373 (4%, M⁺+1–43), 372 (61%, M⁺–43), 371 (60%), 355, 354, 353, 311, 252, 251.

Acknowledgements

Navdeep K. Gridhar thanks Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar for Project Fellowship.

References

- (a) Wendler, N. L. In *Molecular Rearrangements Part 2*, de Mayo, P., Ed.; Interscience: New York, 1964; pp. 1094–1097. (b) Turner, R. B.; Perelam, M.; Park, Jr., K. T. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1957**, *79*, 1108. (c) Wendler, N. L.; Taub, D.; Dobriner, S.; Fukushima, D. K. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1956**, *78*, 5027. (d) Heusler, W. *Helv. Chim. Acta* **1955**, *38*, 1301. (e) Turner, R. B. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1953**, *75*, 3848. (f) Stavely, H. E. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1941**, *63*, 3127 and references there in. (g) Turner, A. B. In *The Chemistry of Natural Products*, Thomson, R. H., Ed.; Chapman and Hall: London, 1993; pp. 140–147. (h) Boswell, Jr., G. A. In *Organic Reactions in Steroid Chemistry*, Fried, J., Edward, J. A., Eds.; Van Nostrand Reinhold: New York, 1972; pp. 374–407. (i) Kirk, D. N.; Mudd, A. *J. Chem. Soc., Perkin Trans. I* **1975**, 1450 and references therein.
- (a) Alig, L.; Furest, A.; Muller, M. Swiss Patent, *Chem. Abstr.*, **1979**, 90, 87745b. (b) Alig, L.; Furest, A.; Muller, M. Swiss Patent, *Chem. Abstr.*, **1979**, 90, 87746c. (c) Wilson, M. A. *J. Chem. Soc. C* **1971**, 414 and references cited therein. (d) Hirschmann, H.; Hirschmann, F. B.; Frieda, B.; Gopichand, Y. *J. Org. Chem.* **1979**, *44* (2), 180–184. (e) Gopichand, Y.; Hirschmann, H. *J. Org. Chem.* **1979**, *44* (2), 1085. (f) Tietze, L. F.; Petersen, S. *Eur. J. Org. Chem.* **2000**, 1827 and references therein.
- (a) Johns, W. F. *J. Org. Chem.* **1961**, *26*, 4583. (b) Herzog, H. L.; Gentles, M. J.; Mitchell, A.; Hershberg, E. B.; Mandell, L. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1959**, *81*, 6478. (c) Shapiro, E. L.; Steinberg, M.; Gould, D.; Gentles, M. J.; Herzog, H. L.; Giltmore, M.; Charney, W.; Hershberg, E. B.; Mandell, L. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1959**, *81*, 6483. (d) Herzog, H. L.; Joyner, C. C.; Gentles, M. J.; Hughes, M. T.; Oliveto, E. P.; Hershberg, E. B.; Barton, D. H. R. *J. Org. Chem.* **1957**, *22*, 1413. (e) Heusler, K.; Wettstein, A. *Chem. Ber.* **1954**, *87*, 1301. (f) Cohen, A.; Cook, J. W.; Hewett, C. L. *J. Chem. Soc.* **1935**, 445.
- (a) Johns, W. F. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1958**, *80*, 6456. (b) Stork, G.; Khashtgir, H. N.; Solo, A. J. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1958**, *80*, 6457.
- (a) Shoppee, C. W.; Sly, J. C. P. *J. Chem. Soc.* **1958**, 3458. (b) Hara, S. *Pharm. Bull. (Japan)* **1958**, *3*, 217. (c) Johnson, W. S.; Neeman, M.; Birkeland, S. P. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1960**, 1. (d) Wechter, W. J.; Slomp, G. *J. Org. Chem.* **1962**, *27*, 5249. (e) Blunt, J. W.; Hartshorn, M. P.; Kirk, D. N. *Tetrahedron* **1966**, *22*, 1421. (f) Mazur, Y.; Nursim, M. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1961**, *83*, 3911. (g) Lehmann, C.; Schaffner, K.; Jeger, O. *Helv. Chim. Acta* **1962**, *45*, 1031. (h) Kohout, L.; Strand, M. *Collect. Czech. Chem. Commun.* **1989**, *54*, 1019. (i) Shibata, T.; Yamagoshi, N.; Koizumi, N.; Takegawa, Y.; Takahashi, H.; Saegusa, M. Jpn Patent; *Chem. Abstr.*, **1990**, *112*, 36260e. (j) Maione, A. M.; Torrini, I.; Romeo, A. *J. Chem. Soc., Perkin Trans. I* **1979**, 775. (k) Baddeley, G. V.; Samaan, H. J.; Simes, J. J. H.; Ai, T. H. *J. Chem. Soc., Perkin Trans. I* **1979**, *1*, 7. (l) Shafullah; Anasari, M. R.; Hussain, S.; Ogura, H. *Indian J. Chem.* **1985**, *24B*, 1072.
- (a) Taruta, A. M.; Kamernitzkii, A. V.; Huy, L. D.; Bogdanov, V. S. *Izv. Akad. Nauk, Ser. Khim.* **1992**, 2661. (b) Kamernitzkii, A. V.; Kaparov, A. K.; Koshoev, K. K.; Skorova, A. V. *Izv. Akad. Nauk, Ser. Khim.* **1978**, 2605. (c) Kamernitzkii, A. V.; Taruta, A. M. *Izv. Akad. Nauk, Ser. Khim.* **1987**, 911. (d) Kamernitzkii, A. V.; Taruta, A. M. A.; Istomniya, Z. I. *Izv. Akad. Nauk, Ser. Khim.* **1986**, 1887. (e) Protiva, J.; Nguyen, T. T. H.; Urban, J.; Klinotova, E. *Collect. Czech. Chem. Commun.* **1997**, *62*, 1095.
- (a) Julian, P. L.; Meyer, E. W.; Karpel, W. J.; Waller, I. R. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1950**, *72*, 5145. (b) Loken, B.; Kaufmann, S.; Rosenkranz, C.; Sondheimer, F. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1956**, *78*, 1738.
- Breitmaer, E.; Voelter, W. *Carbon-13 NMR Spectroscopy*; VCH: New York, 1987; pp 215–223 and 337–360.
- Shafullah; Ansari, M. R.; Husain, S.; Ogura, H.; Takayanagi, H. *Indian J. Chem. Sec. B* **1985**, *24B*, 1072.
- Takagi, H.; Soneda, T.; Miura, T.; Kimura, M. *Chem. Pharm. Bull.* **1986**, *34*, 1561.
- Bridgewater, A. J.; Cheung, H. T. A.; Vadasz, A.; Watson, T. R. *J. Chem. Soc., Perkin Trans. I* **1980**, 556.