

INTRAMOLECULAR CYCLOADDITIONS WITH ISOBENZOFURANS -VIII<sup>1</sup>

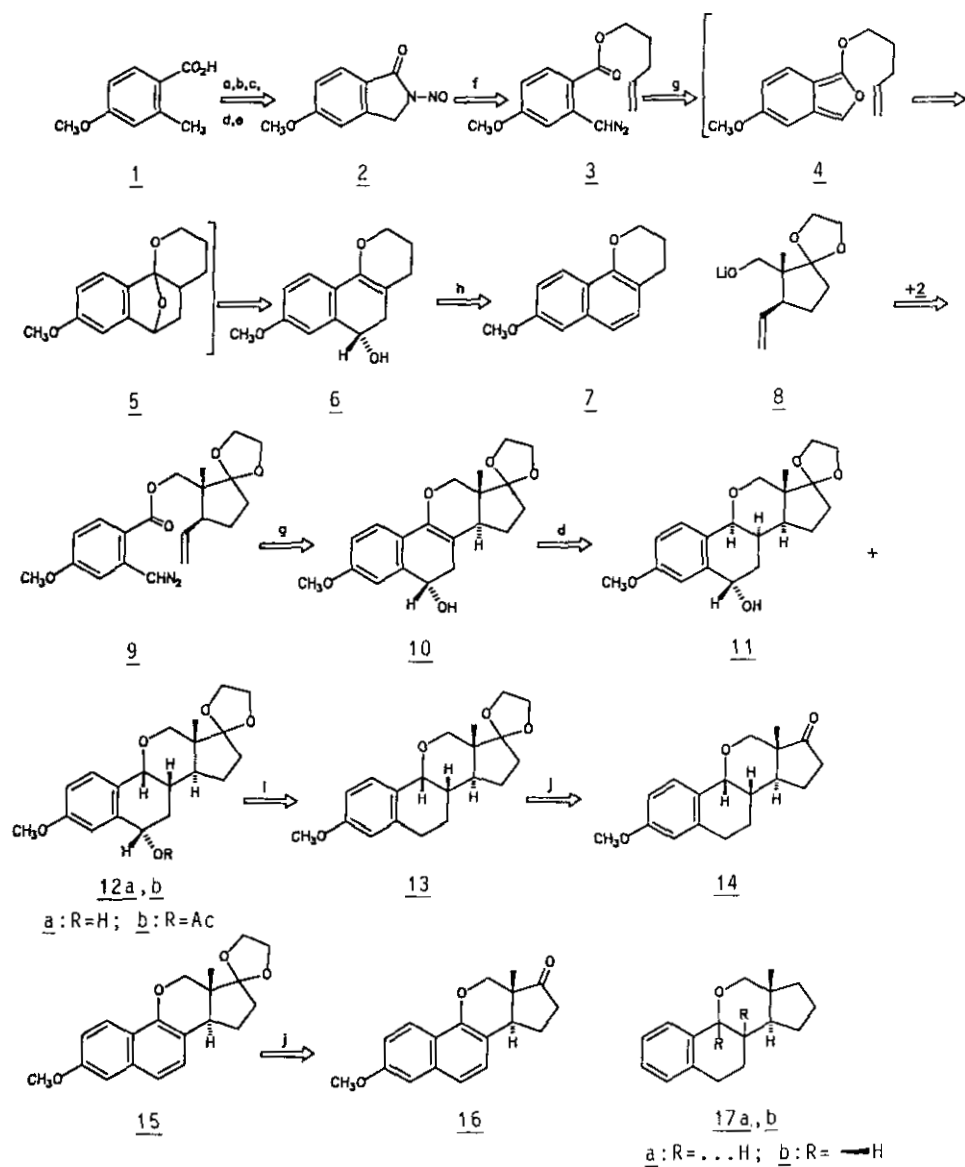
## SYNTHESIS OF PRECURSORS VIA AN OPPÉ REACTION

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**Abstract** - The diazoesters **3** and **9** were prepared via an Oppé reaction. Generation of isobenzofurans (e.g. **4**) and subsequent intramolecular Diels-Alder reaction yields polycyclic systems (**6**, **10**). Compound **10** can be transformed into an 11-oxasteroid **14**.

As has been described in previous papers<sup>1,2</sup> intramolecular cycloadditions<sup>3</sup> with isobenzofurans<sup>4</sup> offer an attractive route for the preparation of polycyclic systems. For the generation of isobenzofurans (e.g. **4**) several methods are available; inter alia diazoesters (e.g. **3**) may act as convenient precursors<sup>5</sup>. We have found that diazo compounds of this type can be prepared via an Oppé reaction<sup>6</sup>. The starting material **2** (mp 178-9°C; ir(KBr): 1755 cm<sup>-1</sup>, 1740; uv(MeCN):  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  (log $\epsilon$ )=242 nm (4.009), 280 (sh, 3.965), 285 (sh, 4.000), 300 (4.092), 414 (1.927), 434 (1.956); <sup>1</sup>H-nmr(CDCl<sub>3</sub>/DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$ =3.93 (s, 3H), 4.72 (s, 2H), 7.00-7.20 (m, 2H), 7.97 (d, J=8.1 Hz, 1H)) was prepared from 4-methoxy-2-methylbenzoic acid (**1**) in 5 steps in an overall yield of 50%. Treatment of nitrosamide **2** with lithium 4-penten-1-olate according to the Oppé conditions yields **3** (85%, oil; ir(film): 2070 cm<sup>-1</sup>, 1700; <sup>1</sup>H-nmr(CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$ =1.72-2.00 (m, 2H), 2.07-2.33 (m, 2H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 4.24 (t, J=6.0 Hz, 2H), 4.90-5.17 (m, 2H), 5.63-6.10 (m, 1H), 6.43-6.62 (m, 2H), 6.77 (s, 1H), 7.98 (d, J=8.7 Hz, 1H)). The generation of **4** and subsequent ring opening to **6** (42%, mp 106°C; ir(KBr): 3485 cm<sup>-1</sup>, 1660; uv(MeCN):  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  (log $\epsilon$ )=202 nm (4.570), 223 (4.097), 278 (4.214); <sup>1</sup>H-nmr(CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$ =1.77-2.30 (m, 5H), 2.37-2.57 (m, 2H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 4.03-4.23 (m, 2H), 4.55-4.82 (m, 1H), 6.80 (dd, J=2.7 Hz, J=8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.94 (d, J=2.7 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (d, J=8.4 Hz, 1H)) was accomplished<sup>2</sup> with copper(II) bis(hexafluoroacetyl)acetate<sup>8</sup>. The alcohol **6** showed to be sensitive against acids; in the presence of a catalytic amount of p-TsOH **7** was obtained (52% [from **3**], mp 80°C). In an extension of this study nitrosamide **2** was reacted with lithium alcoholate<sup>9</sup> giving diazo ester **9** (90%, oil; ir(film): 2065 cm<sup>-1</sup>, 1700; <sup>1</sup>H-nmr(CCl<sub>4</sub>):  $\delta$ =0.97 (s, 3H), 1.13-1.97 (m, 4H), 2.45-2.80 (m, 1H), 3.70-3.90 (m, 7H), 4.02, 4.10 (AB-q, J<sub>AB</sub>=11.3 Hz, 2H), 4.85-5.13 (m, 2H), 5.47-6.00 (m, 1H), 6.33-6.53 (m, 2H), 6.88 (s, 1H), 7.89 (d, J=8.7 Hz, 1H)). Under the same conditions as described for the genera-



a: CH<sub>3</sub>OH, H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>; b: NBS, AIBN; c: NaN<sub>3</sub>, toluene, H<sub>2</sub>O, Bu<sub>4</sub>N<sup>+</sup>HSO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>;  
 d: Pd/C-H<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>3</sub>OH; e: NaNO<sub>2</sub>, AcOH, H<sub>2</sub>O; f: 4-penten-1-ol/CH<sub>3</sub>Li,  
 CO<sub>2</sub>; g: Cu(CF<sub>3</sub>COCHCOCF<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, toluene; h: p-TsOH, toluene; i: Pd/C-  
 H<sub>2</sub>, EtOH/Et<sub>3</sub>N=9/1; j: p-TsOH, acetone, rt

tion of 6 diazo ester 9 gives 10 (40%, mp 132°C; ir(KBr): 3500 cm<sup>-1</sup>, 3480, 1648; uv(MeCN):  $\lambda_{\max}$  (log $\epsilon$ )=202 nm (4.434), 227 (3.959), 282 (4.108); <sup>1</sup>H-nmr(CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$ =0.95 (s, 3H), 1.17-2.25 (m, 5H), 2.40-2.58 (m, 2H), 2.73-3.07 (m, 1H), 3.63-4.03 (m, 4H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 4.02, 4.22 (AB-system, J<sub>AB</sub>=9.6 Hz, 2H, 12-H), 4.53-4.82 (m, 1H), 6.80 (dd, J<sub>1</sub>=2.7 Hz, J<sub>2</sub>=8.7 Hz, 1H), 6.96 (d, J=2.7 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (d, J=8.7 Hz, 1H)). Catalytic hydrogenation of 10 (Pd/C in methanol) yields 11 (18.4%, mp 146°C; ir(KBr): 3460 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H-nmr(CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$ =1.08 (s, 3H, 18-CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.53-2.63 (m, 9H), 3.62-4.05 (m, 6H, 12-H, O-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-O), 3.80 (s, 3H, ar-OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.19 (d, J=3.0 Hz, 1H, 9-H), 4.73-4.90 (m, 1H, 6-H), 6.80-7.00 (m, 2H, 2-H, 4-H), 7.35 (d, J=8.7 Hz, 1H, 1-H) and 12a (67.4%, mp 160°C; ir(KBr): 3510 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H-nmr(CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$ =1.07 (s, 3H, 18-CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.27-2.30 (m, 9H), 3.30-3.93 (m, 6H, 12-H, O-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-O), 3.78 (s, 3H, ar-OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.53-4.72 (m, 1H, 6-H), 4.79 (d, J=4.8 Hz, 1H, 9-H), 6.80-6.97 (m, 2H, 2-H, 4-H), 7.50 (d, J=8.4 Hz, 1H, 1-H)). Detailed <sup>1</sup>H-nmr investigations reveal J(8-H, 9-H)=3.2 Hz, J(8-H, 14-H)=5.0 Hz (for 11) and J(8-H, 9-H)=5.6 Hz, J(8-H, 14-H)=12.0 Hz (for 12a, steroid numbering). From computed geometries (AM1<sup>12</sup> with full geometry optimization) for the model systems 17a (fig.1) and 17b (fig.2) J(8-H, 9-H)=7.85 Hz, J(8-H, 14H)=7.43 Hz (for 17a) and J(8-H, 9-H)=8.60 Hz, J(8-H, 14H)=12.68 Hz (for 17b) are obtained<sup>13</sup>. The elimination of the hydroxy function was accomplished via the acetate 12b (from 12a with Ac<sub>2</sub>O, Et<sub>3</sub>N, and DMAP in dichloromethane, mp 192°C; ir(KBr): 1732 cm<sup>-1</sup>). Catalytic hydrogenation of 12b with Pd/C-H<sub>2</sub> in a mixture of ethanol/triethylamine=9/1 gives 13 (82%, mp 90°C). Deacetalisation of 13 yields 11-oxa-9 $\beta$ -estrone methyl ether (14) (90%, mp 107°C; ir(KBr): 1745 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H-nmr(CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$ =1.15 (s, 3H), 1.56-2.87 (m, 10H), 3.32, 3.59 (AB-system, J<sub>AB</sub>=11.1 Hz, 2H, 12-H), 3.77 (s, 3H, ar-OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.95 (d, J=5.4 Hz, 1H, 9 $\beta$ -H), 6.60 (d, J=2.7 Hz, 1H, 4-H), 6.78 (dd, J<sub>1</sub>=2.7 Hz, J<sub>2</sub>=8.7 Hz, 1H, 2-H), 7.46 (d, J=8.7 Hz, 1H, 1-H)). Final deprotection of the carbonyl group gives 11-oxaequilenin methyl ether (16; 94%, mp 152°C; ir(KBr): 1735 cm<sup>-1</sup>; uv(MeCN):  $\lambda_{\max}$  (log $\epsilon$ )=224 nm (4.797), 246 (4.607), 251 (sh, 4.575), 273 (3.672), 285 (3.697), 298 (3.596), 321 (3.464), 337 (3.529); <sup>1</sup>H-nmr(CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$ =0.93 (s, 3H), 1.73-2.93 (m, 4H), 3.23 (dd, J<sub>1</sub>=6.0 Hz, J<sub>2</sub>=12.0 Hz, 1H, 14-H), 3.87 (s, 3H, ar-OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.34, 4.47 (AB-system, J<sub>AB</sub>=10.4 Hz, 2H, 12-H), 7.00-7.35 (m, 4H), 8.06 (d, J=10.2 Hz, 1H, 1-H)). Overall the reactions described in this paper offer a convenient way for the preparation of 11-oxasteroids and derivatives thereof<sup>14</sup>.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Support of this work by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, the Fonds der Chemischen Industrie, and the Kultusministerin des Landes Schleswig-Holstein is gratefully acknowledged.

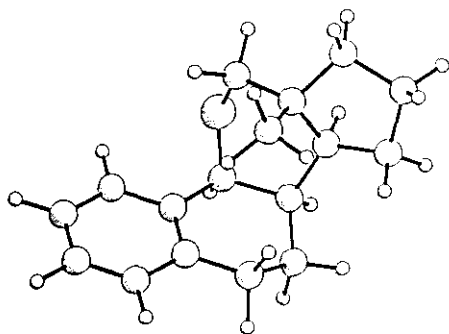


fig.1: 17a (AM1 calculation)

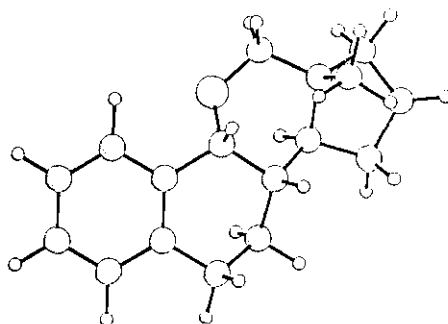


fig.2: 17b (AM1 calculation)

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Received, 17th April, 1989