

PHOTOCHEMICAL REARRANGEMENTS OF 18-HYDROXYLATED LANOSTEROL DERIVATIVES

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DEDICATED TO PROF. DR. KYOSUKE TSUDA ON HIS 75TH BIRTHDAY

Several lanosterol derivatives with 18-hydroxyl group were subjected to the hypiodite reaction. A new C-secosteroid was obtained as well as the desired 5-membered 18,20-epoxy compound.

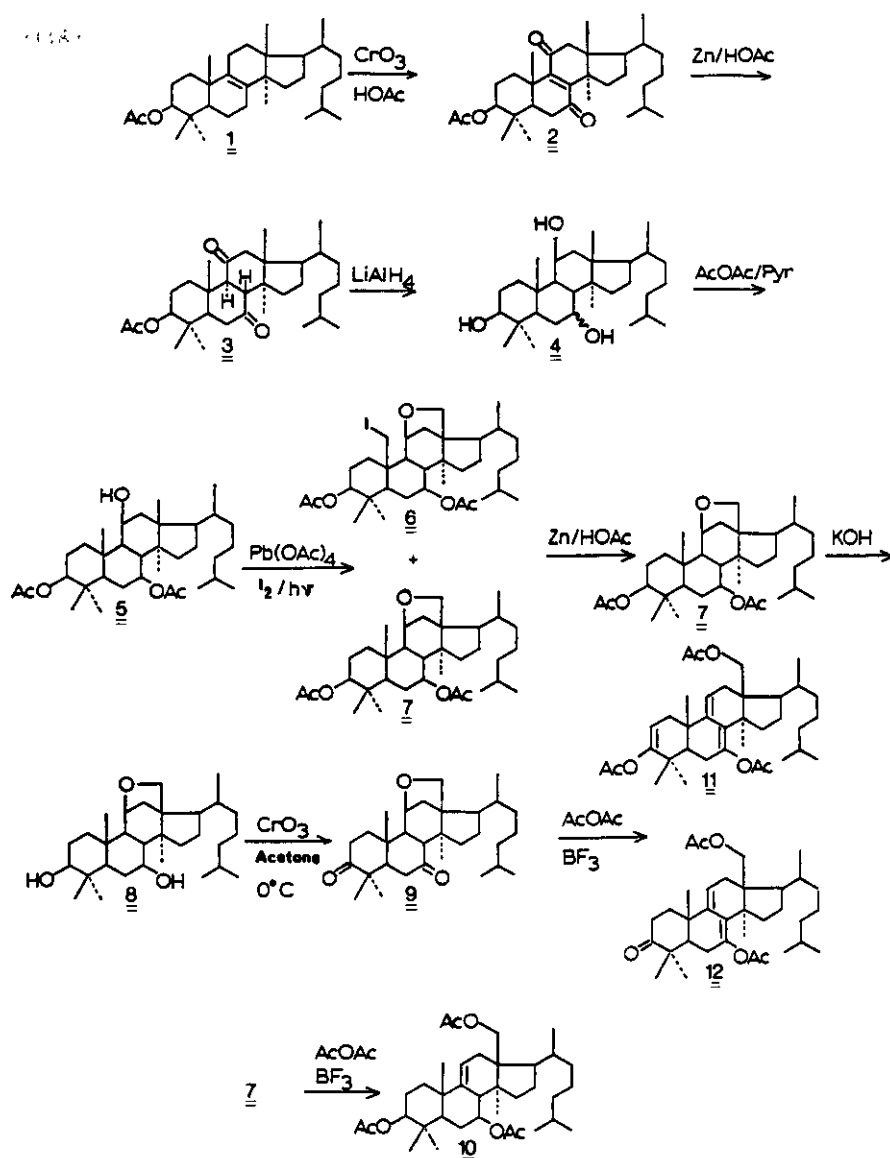
During work on the synthesis of seychellogenin^{1,2} and other holothurinogenins, we studied intensely the photochemistry of lanosterol derivatives with the aim of synthesizing 18,20-epoxy compounds.

Therefore the first problem was the synthesis of a 18-hydroxy lanostane derivative to be used as a key compound. We achieved this aim by a multiple step synthesis starting from dihydrolanosterol acetate (1), which was oxidized with chromous oxide in acetic acid³ to yield 3 β -acetoxy-lanost-8-en-7,11-dione (2).

The central double bond could now be reduced with zinc in acetic acid, to achieve the trans B/C connected ring system in compound 3⁴. Reduction of the two keto groups in positions 7 and 11 with lithiumaluminumhydride in tetrahydrofuran led to the expected 3 β ,7 β ,11 β -trihydroxy lanostane (4) and the corresponding 7 α -hydroxyl compound. Under mild conditions the sterically hindered 11 β -hydroxyl group does not react during acetylation. After this step, the resulting mixture of the 7 α - and 7 β -acetates had been separated by fractional recrystallization from methanol/methylenechloride.

The pure 3 β ,7 β -diacetoxy lanostan-11 β -ol (5) yielded in the hypiodite reaction⁵ a mixture of two 11 β ,18-ethers 6 and 7. Separation of this mixture is not necessary as 3 β ,7 β -diacetoxy-19-iodo-11 β ,18-epoxy lanostane (6) could easily be converted into 3 β ,7 β -diacetoxy-11 β ,18-epoxy lanostane (7) by treatment with zinc and acetic acid.

SCHEME I

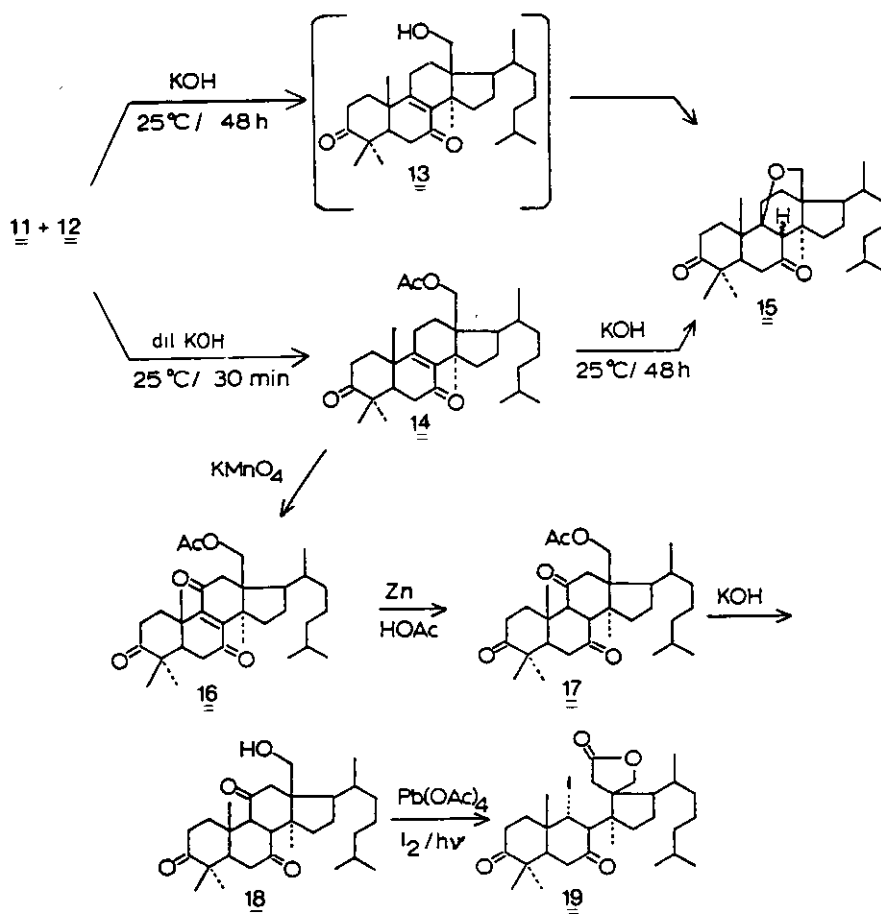


After saponification in methanolic potassium hydroxide solution, we obtained the 3 β ,7 β -dihydroxyl compound **8**, and by Jones-reaction, the corresponding diketone **9** resulted. Cleavage of the cyclic ether was easily achieved by

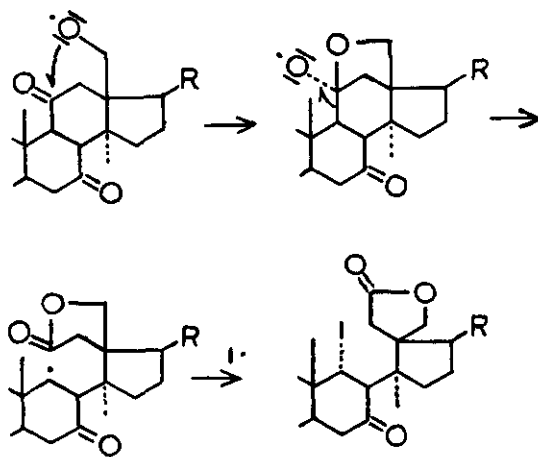
treatment with borontrifluoride in acetic acid anhydride⁶. By this 7 yielded 3 β ,7 β ,18-triacetoxylanost-9(11)-ene (10); under the same conditions 9 gave a mixture of the enol acetates 11 and 12⁷.

The further procedure required hydrolysis of compounds 11 and 12, respectively. Rather surprisingly, treatment with methanolic potassium hydroxide did not yield the 18-hydroxyl compound expected, but the 9,18-epoxylanostane-3,7-dione (15). Under the applied alkaline conditions compound 13 underwent self-cyclization and could not be isolated. By reducing the reaction time, 18-acetoxylanost-8-ene-3,7-dione 14 could be isolated, which again formed 15 under prolonged reaction time.

SCHEME II



A further attempt was made starting with compound 14. Oxidation with potassium permanganate in acetone yielded 18-acetoxylanost-8-ene-3,7,11-trione (16), the double bond of which was again reduced with zinc and acetic acid to give 18-acetoxylanostane-3,7,11-trione (17). 17 then could be hydrolyzed to 18-hydroxylanostane-3,7,11-trione (18). Hypiodite reaction of 18 now did not yield the expected 18,20-ether, but a C-seco-steroid (19). The explanation could be a sequence of radical reactions as described as follows:



The third approach started again from 3 β ,7 β ,18-triacetoxylanost-9(11)-ene (10). Considering that neither an oxygen function nor a double bond should exist at C-11, compound 10 was hydrogenated. Attempts to hydrogenate with platinum in acetic acid and several other hydrogenating reagents did not lead to reasonable results. Hydrogenation, however, was achieved with palladium on activated charcoal as catalyst in methanol and using the 3 β ,7 β ,18-trihydroxy compound instead of the triacetate. Reacetylation yielded 3 β ,7 β ,18-triacetoxylanostane (20), m.p. 131-132°C.

Another problem at this stage was the stereochemistry at C-9 of 20. The answer could be given by ORD and CD spectra. For this comparison 18-acetoxylanostane-3 β -ol-7-one (25) was prepared from 20 by hydrolysis of the acetoxyl groups at C-3 and C-7, oxidation to the 3,7-diketo compound and partial reduction of the 3-keto group to yield 25.

Comparison of the obtained compound 25 with 5 α -cholestan-7-one⁸ (31) with respect to their ORD- and CD-curves showed that both of them possess the same Cotton effect; the ring connection B/C must therefore be the natural one.

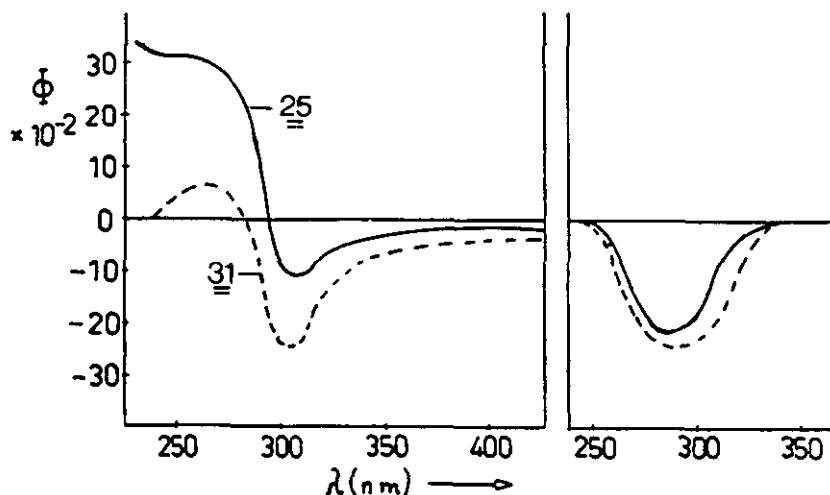
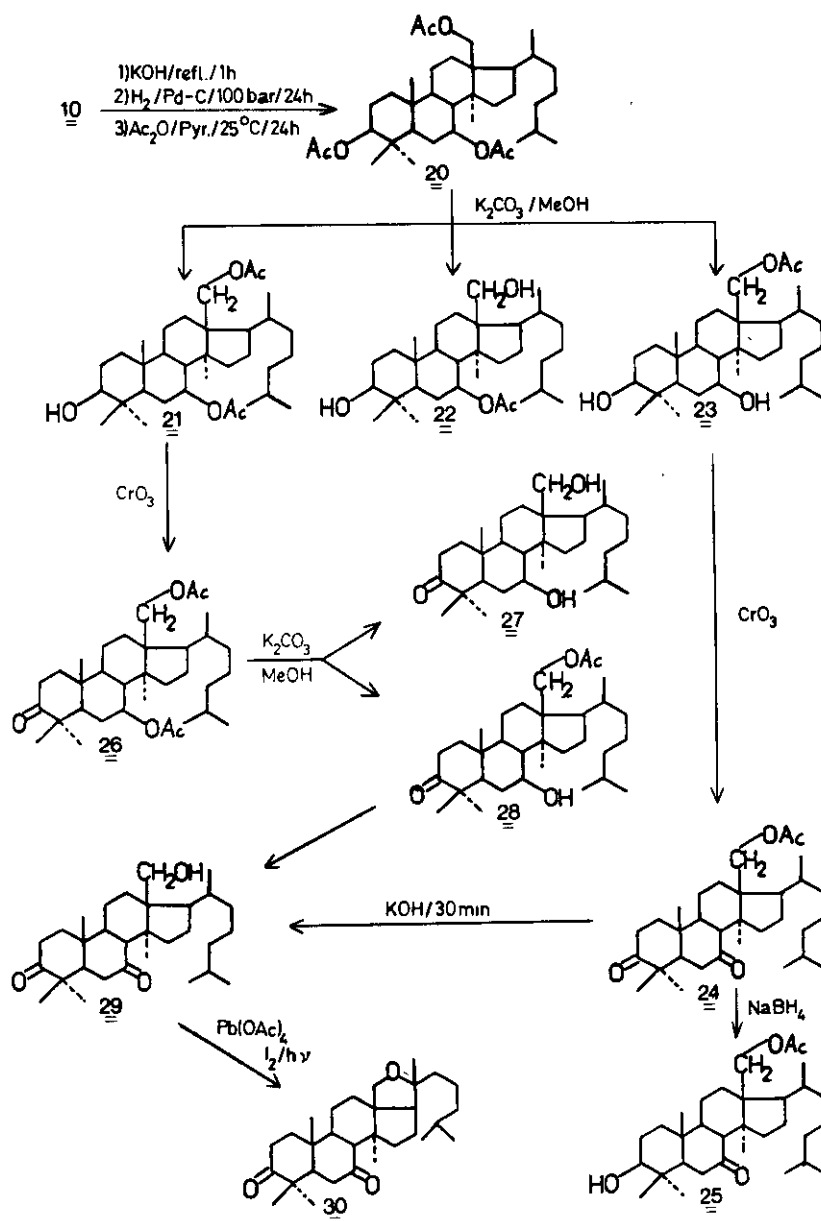


Fig.: CD- and ORD-curves of compounds 25 and 31.

Compound 20 now was converted into 18-hydroxyl-3,7-dione (29) in a four step synthesis.

In this reaction procedure, we made use of the different hydrolysis rates of the 3 β ,7 β and 18-acetoxyl groups. The most reactive one is the 3 β -acetoxyl group followed by position 7. The 18-acetate is by far the most stable one. Irradiation of compound (29) was made under the conditions of a hypiodite reaction. The course of this reaction could be seen by thin layer chromatography. As to be expected, a number of by-products appeared besides the main product, 18,20-epoxylanostane-3,7-dione (30). It could be isolated by chromatography on silica gel. After recrystallization the melting point was 189-191°C, yield: 44%.

SCHEME III



All structures unambiguously resulted from IR, ^{13}C -NMR, 1H -NMR and mass spectra.

Thanks are due to the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft and to the Fonds der Chemischen Industrie for financial support.

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Received, 22nd August, 1981