



Synthetic studies toward natural products
by Timothy Ryall Schwartz

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY in Chemistry
Montana State University
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Abstract:

The importance of the supra-annular effect as a controlling factor in the determination of the exo/endo product ratio of substituted 6,8-dioxabicyclo[3.2.1]octanes was studied through the use of competitive kinetics and nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy. It was determined that the supra-annular effect does not exist in the compounds studied and therefore cannot be used to control product stereochemistry. The carbon NMR spectra of these bicyclic ketals were examined and the general chemical shift regions of the ring carbons noted. The role of metal ion complexation in determining exo/endo product ratios was also studied and shown to be of minor importance.

The double oxymercuration-demercuration of selected dienes was investigated for potential use in a concurrent synthesis of brevicomin and the sex aggregating pheromone of *Trypodendron lineatum*. Model compounds were synthesized and studied, and progress was made toward the proposed concurrent syntheses.

"A good teacher has been defined as one who makes himself progressively unnecessary."

Thomas J. Carruthers

"I am astonished, disappointed, pleased with myself. I am distressed, depressed, rapturous. I am all these things at once, and cannot add up the sum."

C. G. Jung

"Det henskit af Krig er ta overleve." ("The object of war is to survive it", which struck me as the object of graduate school.)

John Irving

ii

to my wife

Sandy

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by

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in

Chemistry

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
LIST OF TABLES	vii
LIST OF FIGURES.viii
ABSTRACT	xi
CHAPTER ONE. Introduction	1
CHAPTER TWO. Historical Background.	3
CHAPTER THREE. Results and Discussion	35
CHAPTER FOUR. Conclusion.	97
CHAPTER FIVE. Experimental.	99
REFERENCES140
APPENDICES146
APPENDIX A. Derivation of Equation 21.146
APPENDIX B. Prediction of (55) by Frontier Molecular Orbital Theory.148

LIST OF TABLES

<u>Table</u>	<u>Page</u>
1. Syntheses of Brevicommin	10
2. Relative Reaction Rates for Cyclohexene and 4-Methyl- cyclohexene for Simmons-Smith and Epoxidation Reactions	42
3. Normalized Relative Reaction Rates for Competitive Kinetic Experiments	49
4. Reactant Ratio versus Relative Rates.	49
5. ^{13}C Chemical Shift Data	50
6. Reduction and Cyclization of 2-Acetyl-6-methyl-3,4- dihydro-2H-pyran with Various Reducing Agents	55
7. Reduction of 2-Propionyl-6-methyl-3,4-dihydro-2H- pyran with Various Reducing Agents.	57
8. Reaction of 2-Acetyl-6-methyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyran with Several Grignard Reagents.	60
9. ^{13}C Chemical Shift Data for <u>Endo</u> and <u>Exo</u> Bicyclic Ketals.	61
10. Proton-Proton Coupling Constants for <u>Endo</u> and <u>Exo</u> 5,7-Dimethyl-6,8-dioxabicyclo[3.2.1]octanes	64
11. Measured Dihedral Angles for Chair and Boat Conformations of 6,8-dioxabicyclo[3.2.1]octanes	65
12. Calculated Dihedral Angles for <u>Endo</u> and <u>Exo</u> 5,7-Dimethyl-6,8-dioxabicyclo[3.2.1]octanes	66
13. Oxymercuration with Several Mercury Salts	89
14. Standard Curve Parameters for Competitive Kinetics Experiments.	101

LIST OF FIGURES

<u>Figure</u>	<u>Page</u>
1. Retrosynthetic Analysis of Brevicomín	9
2. Some Route "a" Syntheses of Brevicomín.	11
3. Cohen Synthesis of Brevicomín	18
4. Kossanji Synthesis.	19
5. Bornmann Synthesis of Brevicomín.	20
6. Alternate Mundy Synthesis of Brevicomín	21
7. Mundy Synthesis of Brevicomín	22
8. Mercurinium Ion	23
9. Isomerization of an Iminium Salt.	25
10. Synthesis of Vincadiformine and Coronaridine	26
11. Isomerization of Yohimbine.	27
12. Internal Cyclizations Utilizing a Hydroxyl Group.	30
13. Hoye's Cyclization Reactions.	31
14. Syntheses of Nitrogen Heterocycles.	33
15. Concurrent Pheromone Syntheses.	34
16. Ethynylation of Cyclohexene Aldehydes	36
17. Malonic Acid Condensation of Cyclohexene Aldehydes.	37
18. Proposed Supra-Annular Effect	38
19. Cyclization of Threo and Erythro Alcohols	40
20. Conformation of 4,5-Disubstituted Cyclohexenes.	42

LIST OF FIGURES (continued)

<u>Figure</u>	<u>Page</u>
21. Synthesis of 2-Acetyl-6-methyl-tetrahydropyran.	46
22. Chemical Shift Correlations for the Alpha Carbons	51
23. Sodium Ion Complexation of α -Alkoxy- β -keto Esters	53
24. Metal Ion Chelation of N-tert-Butyl-2-acetyl Aziridine.	54
25. Synthesis of 2-Propionyl-6-methyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyran.	56
26. Magnesium Ion Complexation with Acrolein Dimer.	58
27. Reaction of Acrolein Dimer with Various Grignard Reagents	58
28. General Chemical Shift Regions.	63
29. Dihedral Angle (ϕ)	62
30. Deformation of the Chair Conformation	67
31. Decrease in H_A-H_X Dihedral Angle.	67
32. Cyclization of Isomeric Alcohols.	68
33. Relative Rates of Cyclization	70
34. Double Oxymercuration-Demercuration Cyclization Mechanism	72
35. Synthesis of 5,7,7-Trimethyl-6,8- dioxabicyclo[3.2.1]octane	74
36. Possible Dehydration Mechanism.	74
37. Synthesis of 5,7-Dimethyl-6,8- dioxabicyclo[3.2.1]octane	75

LIST OF FIGURES (continued)

<u>Figure</u>	<u>Page</u>
38. Proposed Mechanism for the Formation of 3,7-Dihydroxy-2-methyl-1-octene	77
39. Proposed Cyclization of 3,7-Dihydroxy- 2-methyl-1-octene	77
40. Summary of Reactions.	78
41. Isomeric Mercurinium Ions	79
42. Synthesis of 2-Isopropenyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyran	83
43. Cyclization by Jones Reagent.	84
44. Claisen Rearrangement	85
45. Synthesis of 7,7-Dimethyl-6,8- dioxabicyclo[3.2.1]octane	85
46. Tertiary Mercurinium Ions	86
47. Nucleophilic Attack on Secondary Mercurinium Ions	87
48. Base Catalysed Ring Opening	89
49. Precursor to Desired Pheromones	90
50. Proposed Synthesis of 2-(1-Propenyl)-6- methyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyran	92
51. Alternate Synthesis of 2-(1-Propenyl)-6- methyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyran	94
52. LiAlH_4 Reduction of Mixture	95
53. NaBH_4 Reduction of Mixture.	96

LIST OF FIGURES (continued)

<u>Figure</u>	<u>Page</u>
54. ^{13}C NMR of 2-(1-Hydroxyethyl)- 6-methyltetrahydropyran (36)108
55. ^1H NMR of 2-(1-Hydroxyethyl)- 6-methyltetrahydropyran (36)109

ABSTRACT

The importance of the supra-annular effect as a controlling factor in the determination of the exo/endo product ratio of substituted 6,8-dioxabicyclo[3.2.1]octanes was studied through the use of competitive kinetics and nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy. It was determined that the supra-annular effect does not exist in the compounds studied and therefore cannot be used to control product stereochemistry. The carbon NMR spectra of these bicyclic ketals were examined and the general chemical shift regions of the ring carbons noted. The role of metal ion complexation in determining exo/endo product ratios was also studied and shown to be of minor importance.

The double oxymercuration-demercuration of selected dienes was investigated for potential use in a concurrent synthesis of brevicomin and the sex aggregating pheromone of Trypodendron lineatum. Model compounds were synthesized and studied, and progress was made toward the proposed concurrent syntheses.

CHAPTER ONE

Introduction

The Western pine bark beetle, Dendroctonus brevicornis, has done extensive damage to the coniferous forests of the western United States. Infested trees begin to turn brown and will eventually lose their needles and become dry, lifeless, standing snags. The large number of these dead trees resulting from bark beetle infestation poses a serious fire danger in western forests. This destruction of valuable timber resources has prompted research into methods of controlling bark beetle populations.

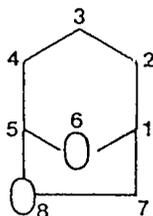
One such method of control involves the use of the beetle's own sex aggregating pheromone. The female produces a pheromone which attracts male beetles and thereby increases the likelihood of mating. Control of beetle populations in small areas is possible by using the aggregating pheromone to lure male beetles into insect traps. A small region can be protected by distributing these traps throughout the area and thus effectively removing most of the male beetles. It is not feasible, however, to protect large areas of forest by this method. Instead, it has been proposed that the pheromone be sprayed aerially over large areas. The ubiquitous presence of the pheromone would severely reduce the chance of a male beetle locating a female, and, again, no mating would occur. Large

quantities of pheromone are required for this type of operation. Seeing this need, synthetic chemists have studied the aggregating pheromone for D. brevicomis, named brevicomin, and many syntheses exist today. The synthesis of brevicomin is complicated by the fact that while brevicomin can exist in several isomeric forms, only one isomer is biologically active. A good synthesis will, therefore, allow the chemist to control the various synthetic reactions which determine the stereochemistry of the product pheromones. We have chosen to study two phenomena which might determine the extent of stereoselectivity possible in two brevicomin syntheses originating in our research group. These two phenomena are the supra-annular effect and metal ion complexation. In addition to evaluating control of stereoselectivity in existing syntheses, we have also explored a new and novel synthesis of two bark beetle pheromones. The proposed scheme will allow the concurrent synthesis of the sex aggregating pheromones for D. brevicomis and Trypodendron lineatum, the Norway spruce bark beetle. A concurrent synthesis would allow the chemist access to two different pheromones using the same reaction sequence and thereby facilitate the synthesis of the pheromones and control of the bark beetles.

CHAPTER TWO

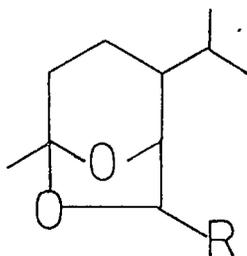
Historical Background

The 6,8-dioxabicyclo[3.2.1]octane ring system (1), a common structural component of sugars, is found in a wide variety of compounds and metabolites.

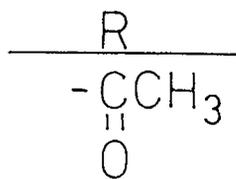


1

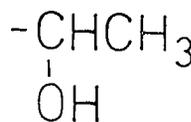
Several compounds, 2-4, containing this skeletal structure have been isolated from tobacco.¹



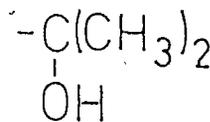
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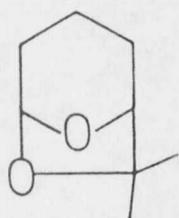
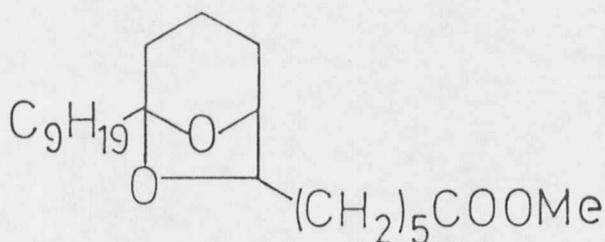
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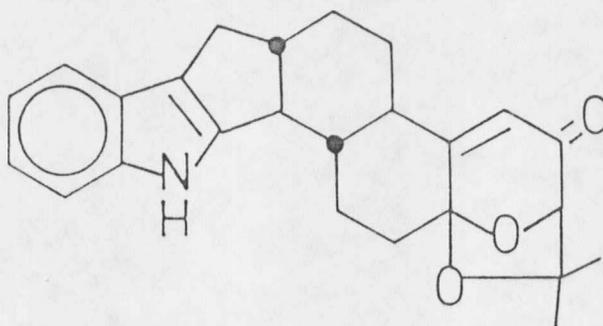
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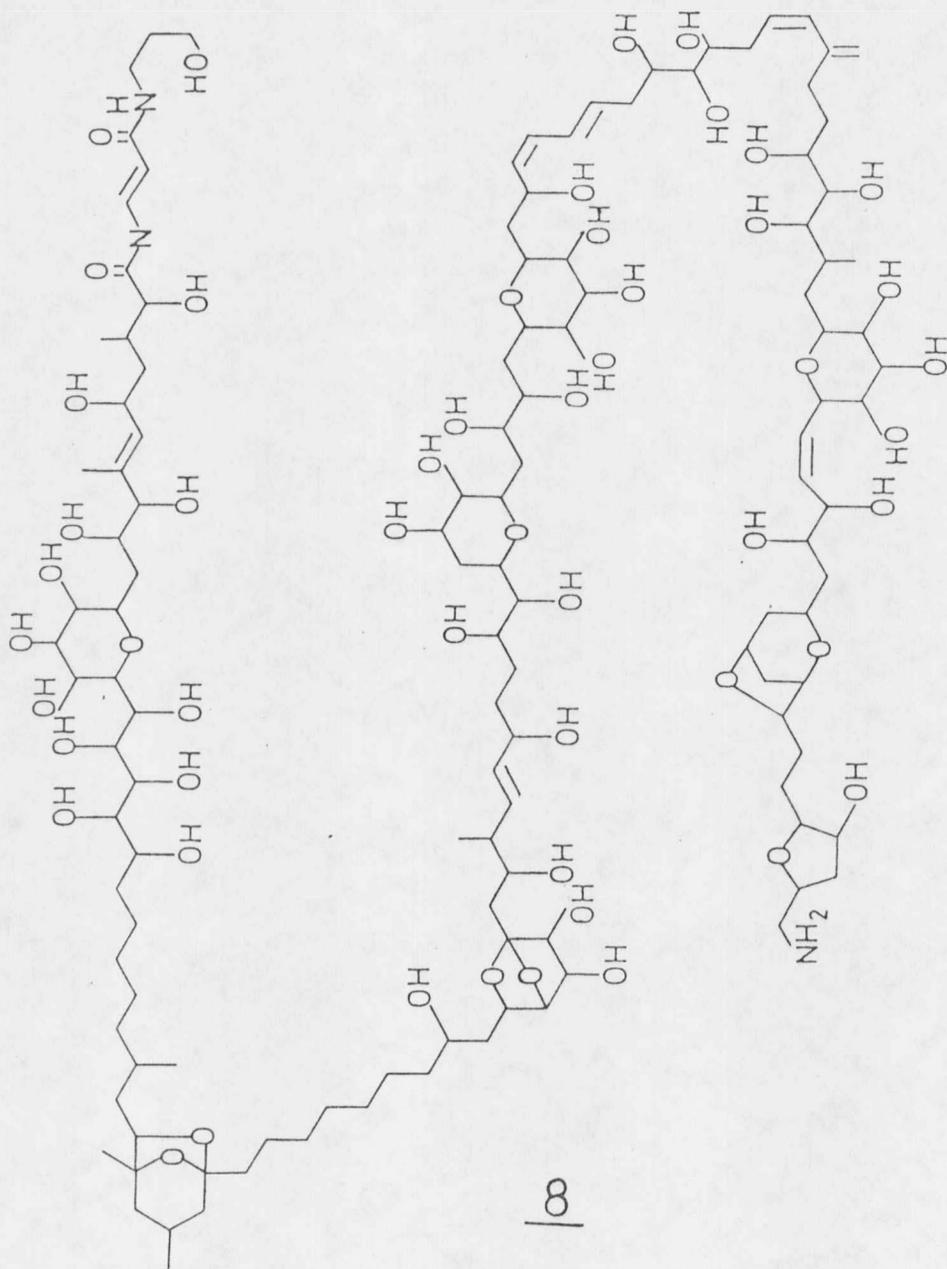
A similar compound, (5), has been identified as a constituent of Japanese hop oil isolated from *Humulus lupulus*², and 6 has been shown to occur during fatty acid metabolism in yeast.³

56

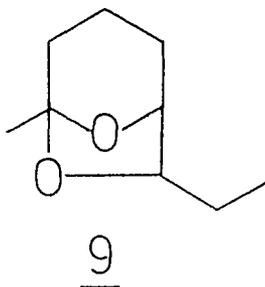
A variety of natural products containing this bicyclic ketal structure and exhibiting significant biological activity have been isolated as well. Compound 7, containing a modified bicyclic ketal moiety, has been isolated from *Claviceps paspali*⁴ and is responsible for a condition in cattle known as the "paspalum staggers". Cattle which have eaten *Paspalum dilatatum* infected with *C. paspali* show symptoms of anorexia, tremors, and hyperexcitability.

7

Palytoxin, (8), isolated from several *Palythoa* sp.⁵ is one of the most potent toxins known to man and contains several bicyclic ketal structural fragments.



A group of insect sex attractants also contain the 6,8-dioxabicyclo[3.2.1]octane skeleton. The pheromone for the Western pine bark beetle Dendroctonus brevicornis has been isolated, assigned structure (9), and named brevicomin.⁶ The aggregating pheromone for



the Eastern pine bark beetle, Dendroctonus frontalis named frontalin⁷ (10), and the pheromone for the European elm bark beetle, Scolytus multistriatus, named multistriatin⁸ (11), have been isolated and show considerable bioactivity while working in concert with endogenous tree constituents.

