

the experimental data,  $\Delta H_f(2) = 71.5 \pm 2.3$  kcal/mol is significantly greater than the thermochemical estimate.<sup>25</sup> The discrepancy between the experimental value and the thermochemical estimate of  $\Delta H_f(2)$  adds further impetus for the upward revision in the heats of formation of simple free radicals on which these estimates are based.<sup>1b,26</sup>

The experimental heat of formation of the transition state for the ring closure of **2** is  $\sim 74$  kcal/mol, which is within experimental error of that of thermal isomerization of **3**. The heat of formation of the singlet biradical **2** is between 71.5 and 73.8 kcal/mol.<sup>23</sup> This suggests that it is either a transition state or a local minimum with a barrier for ring closure significantly smaller than that predicted from thermochemical estimates.

Although much experimental work on the 2-alkylidene-cyclopentane-1,3-diyl system has been done,<sup>6</sup> the heats of formation of the singlet and triplet **5**, are not known so no experimental value for the singlet–triplet energy gap,  $\Delta E_{ST}$ , is available. With use of eq 1 for the analogous reactions of **4**, the experimental data, and  $\Delta H_f(6) = 48.5$  kcal/mol,<sup>27</sup> the experimental heat of formation of triplet biradical **5** is  $48.7 \pm 3.5$  kcal/mol.<sup>28</sup> The ring closure of singlet biradical **5** to the strained bicyclic **6** is exothermic by  $\sim 12.9$  kcal/mol.<sup>29</sup> Consequently, the heat of formation of singlet **5** is 61.4 kcal/mol and so  $\Delta E_{ST} \approx 12.7$  kcal/mol.<sup>30</sup> This is in reasonable agreement with both the most recent calculations on 2-methylenecyclopentane-1,3-diyl which show a triplet–singlet gap of 15.5 kcal/mol<sup>31</sup> and experimental estimations.<sup>6,29</sup>

The lifetimes of spectroscopically “invisible” biradicals, such as **2** and **5**, can be obtained directly by using PAC. The observed lifetime of **2** is 316 ns in argon purged benzene, which is significantly shorter than the reported value of 720 ns, measured indirectly by using oxygen trapping.<sup>7,32</sup> This decay is primarily due to the ring closure to bicyclic **3**. Without purging, the lifetime of **2** decreases and the heat of reaction increases owing to the increased contribution from the highly exothermic reaction of **2** with dioxygen. To our knowledge, this is the first direct measurement of the lifetime of a nonconjugated biradical in solution. The observed lifetime of biradical **5**,  $\sim 900$  ns, is significantly longer than **2**.<sup>33</sup> The bimolecular rate constants for the reaction

of biradicals **2** and **5** with dioxygen can be estimated to be about  $5.3 \times 10^9$  and  $4.3 \times 10^9$  M<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>,<sup>34</sup> respectively.

In conclusion, we have demonstrated the use of PAC to measure the heats of formation of reactive, nonspectroscopic biradical intermediates. This information details the role of such species in thermal rearrangements. In addition, their kinetics and reactivity can be examined. Further studies will examine the effect of temperature, solvent, and substitution on the dynamics and energetics of these intermediates.

**Acknowledgment.** This work was supported by the National Science Foundation (Grant CHE-8713720), the Research Corporation, and the Petroleum Research Fund, as administered by the American Chemical Society.

(34) The rate constant can be evaluated by using the equation  $k_{\text{obsd}} = k_0 + k_q[\text{O}_2]$ , where  $k_{\text{obsd}}$  is the observed rate of decay of the biradical,  $k_0$  is the observed rate under degassed conditions, and  $k_q$  is the bimolecular quenching of the triplet by O<sub>2</sub>. The [O<sub>2</sub>] in air saturated benzene is  $\sim 1.91 \times 10^{-3}$  mol/l.<sup>36</sup> The assumption that  $k_0$  is the rate of decay under degassed conditions may not be valid for **5**, however, given its long lifetime in degassed benzene relative to air saturated benzene,  $k_0$  will be small in evaluating  $k_q$ .

(35) Engel, P. S.; Melaugh, R. A.; Mansson, M.; Timberlake, J. W.; Garner, A. W.; Rossini, F. D. *J. Chem. Thermodyn.* 1976, 8, 607.

(36) Murov, S. L. *Handbook of Photochemistry*; Marcel Dekker: New York, 1973; p 89.

## Structure of the Light Emitter in Krill (*Euphausia pacifica*) Bioluminescence

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Received November 20, 1987

(24) The equation does not include the differential heat of solvation between the reactants and products,  $\Delta H_{\text{sol}}$ . Given the nonpolar nature of the reaction and the solvent employed, it is assumed  $\Delta H_{\text{sol}} \sim 0$ .

(25) The value for  $\Delta H_f(2)$  may be obtained directly from the experimental  $\Delta H_f(1 \rightarrow 2)$  value and the known  $\Delta H_f(1)$ .<sup>35</sup> However, we feel the  $\Delta H_f(1 \rightarrow 2)$  value may be high due to a contribution from the volume change of the chemical reaction. By using the difference between the direct and sensitized heats of reaction of **1**, this contribution is removed.

(26) Tsang, W. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 1985, 107, 2872.

(27) The  $\Delta H_f(6)$  value can be obtained in several ways. MM2 calculations give  $\Delta H_f(6) = 48.8$  kcal/mol. Alternatively, MM2 gives the heat of formation difference between **1** and **4**,  $\Delta\Delta H_f$ , to be 10.7 kcal/mol. Given the heats of reaction to produce **3** or **6** are about equal, then  $\Delta H_f(6) = \Delta H_f(3) + \Delta\Delta H_f$ , i.e., 47.7 kcal/mol. With use of bond additivities,  $\Delta H_f(6) = 53.8$  kcal/mol.

(28) The  $\Delta H_f(5)$  is directly related to  $\Delta H_f(6)$  or  $\Delta H_f(4)$ . Unfortunately, no experimental value for either is presently available. Consequently, the PAC results can only give the difference in the heats of formation between biradical **5** and bicyclic **6**,  $\Delta\Delta H_f$ . This difference is small,  $\sim 1$  kcal/mol.

(29) (a) Mazur, M. R.; Berson, J. A. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 1982, 104, 2217. (b) Sabatelli, A. D.; Salinaro, R. F.; Mondo, J. A.; Berson, J. A. *Tetrahedron Lett.* 1985, 26, 5851.

(30) The  $\Delta E_{ST} = \Delta H_f(4 \rightarrow 6) - \Delta H_f(4 \rightarrow 5) + 12.9$ . The error in our experimental value for  $\Delta E_{ST}$ ,  $\sim 4$  kcal/mol, is from the uncertainties of the enthalpic weighting factors of the direct and sensitized irradiations of **4**.

(31) Dixon, D. A.; Dunning, T. H.; Eades, R. H.; Kleier, D. A. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 1981, 103, 2878.

(32) (a) The oxygen-trapping technique requires the knowledge of the rate of oxygen trapping of the biradical. A value of  $3.1 \times 10^9$  M<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> was used for the trapping rate with **2**. Recent experiments on other biradicals have indicated the rate may be substantially faster. Consequently, the lifetime of **2** may be significantly less than 720 ns. See: Adam, W.; Grabowski, S.; Wilson, R. M.; Hannemann, K.; Wirz, J. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 1987, 109, 7572. (b) Under argon purged conditions, the biradical **2** does undergo some reaction with oxygen in competition with ring closure to **3**. The  $\alpha_1 + \alpha_2$  value for the sensitized irradiation of **1** is slightly greater than the  $\alpha_1$  value for the direct irradiation. The values should be equal if no reaction of biradical **2** with O<sub>2</sub> occurred. This, in part, could explain the shorter lifetime of **2**.

(33) The decay of **5**, even under degassed conditions, is probably due to bimolecular reactions and not the unimolecular ring closure to form **6**, which should be slow based on  $\Delta E_{ST} \approx 12.7$  kcal/mol.

Euphausiid krill comprise a significant proportion of the biomass in the oceans. They form swarms and migrate in response to light, food, temperature, and many other factors of environment. Almost all euphausiid species emit light from well-developed photophores.<sup>1</sup> Shimomura and Johnson have suggested the bioluminescence of the krill *Meganyctiphanes norvegica* involves a new type of light-emitting system wherein a protein P (MW ca. 360 000 dalton) is catalytically oxidized by molecular oxygen in the presence of a highly fluorescent compound F (MW ca. 600).<sup>2</sup> Compound F is the light emitter, as the bioluminescence spectrum ( $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  476 nm) is identical with the fluorescence spectrum of F. It is interesting to note the fact that cross-reaction is observed between euphausiid protein P and dinoflagellate luciferin as well as between euphausiid fluorescent compound F and dinoflagellate luciferase.<sup>3</sup> Preliminary studies have shown that euphausiid fluorescent compound F and dinoflagellate luciferin are structurally related to each other and to bile pigments.<sup>4,5</sup> In this communication we wish to report the structure of fluorescent compound F isolated from the krill *Euphausia pacifica*.

Since compound F is unstable toward both oxygen and acids, isolation and purification were performed in an argon atmosphere

(1) (a) Bassot, J.-M. *Bull. Soc. Zool. Fr.* 1966, 91, 445. (b) Herring, P. J.; Locket, N. A. *J. Zool. Lond.* 1978, 186, 431.

(2) (a) Shimomura, O.; Johnson, F. H. *Biochemistry* 1967, 2293. (b) Shimomura, O.; Johnson, F. H. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 1968, 59, 475.

(3) Dunlap, J. C.; Hastings, J. W.; Shimomura, O. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 1980, 77, 1394.

(4) Early structural studies of compound F were primarily based on degradation reactions and functional group tests. For the structure proposed through these studies, see: Shimomura, O. *FEBS Lett.* 1980, 116, 203.

(5) Dunlap, J. C.; Hastings, J. W.; Shimomura, O. *FEBS Lett.* 1981, 135, 273.

Table I.  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR Data for F (1) and oxy-F (2)<sup>a</sup>

	1		2	
	$^1\text{H}$ NMR <sup>b</sup>	$^{13}\text{C}$ NMR <sup>c</sup>	$^1\text{H}$ NMR <sup>b</sup>	$^{13}\text{C}$ NMR <sup>c,d</sup>
1		174.2 (s)		174.3 (s)
2		<i>e</i>		130.8 (s) <sup>f</sup>
2 <sup>1</sup>	1.72 (s)	8.4 (q)	1.72 (s)	8.5 (q)
3		152.1 (s)		152.2 (s) <sup>g</sup>
3 <sup>1</sup>	6.58 (dd, <i>J</i> = 17, 11 Hz)	128.0 (d)	6.61 (dd, <i>J</i> = 18, 11 Hz)	128.1 (d)
3 <sup>2</sup>	5.59 (d, <i>J</i> = 11 Hz)	122.6 (t)	5.56 (dd, <i>J</i> = 11, 1 Hz)	122.7 (t)
	5.98 (d, <i>J</i> = 17 Hz)		5.96 (dd, <i>J</i> = 18, 1 Hz)	
4		90.0 (s)		90.1 (s)
5	3.18 (d, <i>J</i> = 15 Hz)	35.6 (t)	3.17 (d, <i>J</i> = 15 Hz)	35.8 (t)
	3.28 (d, <i>J</i> = 15 Hz)		3.21 (d, <i>J</i> = 15 Hz)	
6		<i>e</i>		125.0 (s) <sup>h</sup>
7		<i>e</i>		119.8 (s) <sup>h</sup>
7 <sup>1</sup>	4.21 (d, <i>J</i> = 11 Hz)	55.6 (t)	4.20 (d, <i>J</i> = 12 Hz)	55.8 (t)
	4.40 (d, <i>J</i> = 11 Hz)		4.39 (d, <i>J</i> = 12 Hz)	
8		<i>e</i>		120.7 (s) <sup>h</sup>
8 <sup>1</sup>	2.47	18.5 (t)	2.48 (q, <i>J</i> = 7.5 Hz)	18.5 (t)
8 <sup>2</sup>	1.02 (t, <i>J</i> = 7 Hz)	17.4 (q)	1.04 (t, <i>J</i> = 7.5 Hz)	17.5 (q)
9		<i>e</i>		123.6 (s) <sup>h</sup>
10	3.64 (d, <i>J</i> = 16 Hz)	22.2 (t)	3.75 (d, <i>J</i> = 16 Hz)	22.5 (t)
	3.76 (d, <i>J</i> = 16 Hz)		3.85 (d, <i>J</i> = 16 Hz)	
11		<i>e</i>		139.1 (s)
12		<i>e</i>		128.1 (s) <sup>f</sup>
12 <sup>1</sup>	2.12 (s)	9.7 (q)	2.14 (s)	9.6 (q)
13		108 (s)		109.6 (s)
13 <sup>1</sup>		193.4 (s)		197.8 (s)
13 <sup>2</sup>	3.11 (d, <i>J</i> = 19 Hz)	45.3 (t)	2.83 (d, <i>J</i> = 18 Hz)	57.4 (t)
	3.28 (d, <i>J</i> = 19 Hz)		3.79 (d, <i>J</i> = 18 Hz)	
14		149 (s)		156.3 (s) <sup>g</sup>
15		88 (s)		74.2 (s)
16		162 (s)		181.0 (s) <sup>i</sup>
17	2.49	52.1 (d)	2.73 (dt, <i>J</i> = 13, 3 Hz)	58.1 (d)
17 <sup>1</sup>	1.56 (br t, <i>J</i> = 14 Hz)	29.9 (t)	1.48 (tt, <i>J</i> = 13, 3 Hz)	30.9 (t)
	2.49		2.81 (br t, <i>J</i> = 13 Hz)	
17 <sup>2</sup>	2.08 (m)	34.9 (t)	2.32 (ddd, <i>J</i> = 16, 13, 3 Hz)	35.4 (t)
	2.39 (br t, <i>J</i> = 14 Hz)		2.50 (m)	
17 <sup>3</sup>		<i>e</i>		181.5 (s) <sup>i</sup>
18	2.49	42.2 (d)	2.21 (m)	44.1 (d)
18 <sup>1</sup>	1.18 (d, <i>J</i> = 7 Hz)	23.5 (q)	1.14 (d, <i>J</i> = 7.0 Hz)	23.5 (q)
19	3.59 (d, <i>J</i> = 1 Hz)	69.5 (d)	4.10 (d, <i>J</i> = 4 Hz)	83.8 (d)
20		<i>e</i>		181.2 (s) <sup>i</sup>

<sup>a</sup>The spectra were recorded in degassed MeOH-*d*<sub>4</sub> at -5 °C on a Bruker AM 500 instrument at 500 MHz for  $^1\text{H}$  and 125 MHz for  $^{13}\text{C}$ . The signals of the solvent were used as an internal reference ( $\delta_{\text{H}} = 3.3$  ppm,  $\delta_{\text{C}} = 49.0$  ppm). <sup>b</sup>The assignment of signals was made on the basis of homo spin decoupling and 2D-COSY experiments. <sup>c</sup>The multiplicity of signals was determined by DEPT experiments. <sup>d</sup>The assignment of signals was made on the basis of proton selective decoupling experiments. <sup>e</sup>The assignment of this signal was not conclusive because of the poor S/N ratio. <sup>f-i</sup>This resonance could be assigned to the carbon or any one of the carbons indicated.

at low temperature under slightly basic conditions. Sixty percent aqueous ethanol extracts of the frozen specimens collected at Victoria, British Columbia,<sup>6</sup> were purified by alumina column chromatography (Woelm basic alumina, grade I; eluted with 50% ethanol containing 0.6% ammonium hydroxide), followed by DEAE cellulose column chromatography (eluted with a 1:1 mixture of ethanol and 0.02 M Tris buffer containing 0.2 M NaCl, pH 7.5). Compound F was further purified by HPLC (TSK DEAE-5 PW, 85 mM NaCl and 3 mM NaHCO<sub>3</sub> in 40% aqueous acetonitrile) equipped with a degasser (Erma ERC-3000). The eluate showed a clean UV absorption at 388 nm and displayed a single symmetrical peak on analytical HPLC. However, during the procedure of desalting and concentration,<sup>7</sup> compound F partially decomposed into a complex mixture of degradation products. The purity of compound F thus obtained (ca. 2 mg out of 450 g of the frozen specimens) was usually 60–70%.

Mild chromic acid oxidation of compound F (CrO<sub>3</sub>/KHSO<sub>4</sub>/H<sub>2</sub>O/room temperature) yielded 3-methyl-4-vinylmaleimide (3) and the aldehyde 4, whereas vigorous chromic acid oxidation (CrO<sub>3</sub>/2N H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>/90 °C) gave hematinic acid (5).<sup>4</sup> Under basic conditions (NaOH/MeOH/65 °C),<sup>8</sup> compound F

yielded the pyrromethenone 6, the structure of which was unambiguously established by synthesis.<sup>9</sup>

Spectroscopic studies on compound F were hampered by the unavailability of a pure sample. However, we noticed that compound F was slowly converted at -20 °C to a new, relatively stable substance, oxy-F.<sup>10</sup> Fortunately, oxy-F could be isolated in pure form,<sup>11</sup> and spectroscopic studies were first carried out on this substance. Oxy-F showed UV absorptions at 237 and 275 nm (shoulder) and no fluorescence, suggesting that some chemical change had taken place on the chromophore of compound F during the transformation. The high-resolution FAB mass spectrum<sup>12</sup>

(8) The major pyrromethenone isolated under these conditions was the corresponding methyl ether, i.e., X = Me in 6. However, we could show that the ether methyl group originated from the solvent.

(9) The complete characterization and unambiguous structure elucidation of 4 and 6 are described in the dissertation of B. Musicki, Harvard University, 1987.

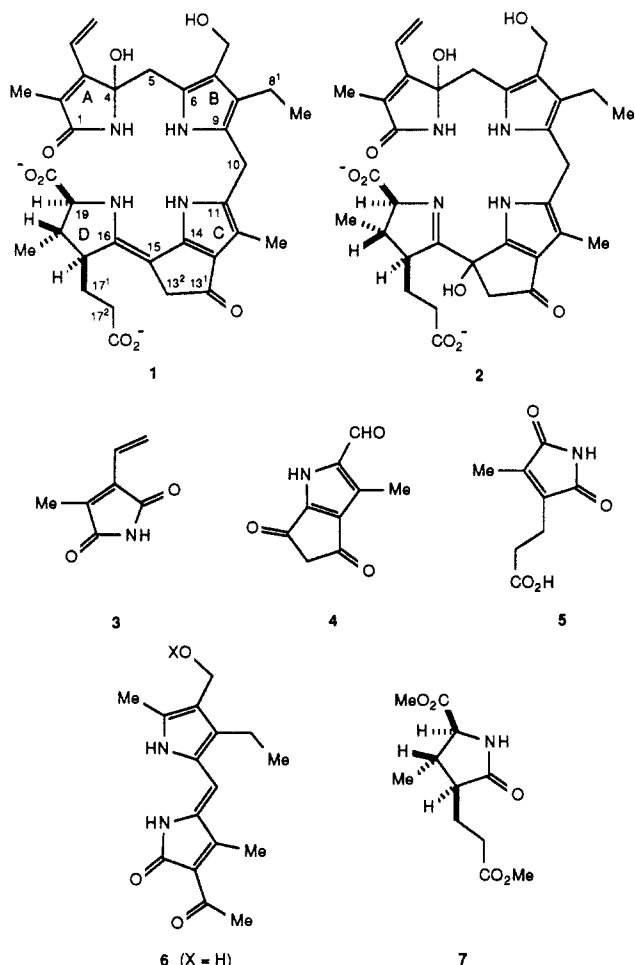
(10) This transformation was best achieved in methanol at -20 °C under an argon atmosphere containing a small amount of oxygen. The reaction was faster in the presence of a large excess of oxygen, but it produced more unidentified byproducts.

(11) HPLC (TSK DEAE-5 PW) equipped with a degasser (Erma ERC-3000) was used for purification. Approximately 3 mg of pure oxy-F was isolated from 2.5 kg of frozen krill.

(12) High-resolution FAB mass measurements were performed on a JEOL JMS-HX110 mass spectrometer by using a dual target sample inlet probe (Xe ionizing gas; glycerol matrix). We thank T. Higuchi, Mass Spectrometer Application Lab., JEOL USA, Inc., for the arrangement of measurements.

(6) *Euphausia pacifica* was collected by towing in Saanich Inlet, and the live specimens were frozen with dry ice. We acknowledge Dr. W. A. Heath, BioOcean Surveys, Ltd., Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, for his help in collecting specimens.

(7) Salts were removed by precipitation with ethanol.



proved the molecular formula of oxy-F to be  $C_{33}H_{38}O_9N_4Na_2$  [ $m/z$  703.2363 ( $M + Na$ )<sup>+</sup>,  $\Delta 3.1$  mmu and 681.2483 ( $M + H$ )<sup>+</sup>,  $\Delta 3.0$  mmu], which corresponds to the monooxygenated form of compound F (vide infra). The <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR data of oxy-F are summarized in Table I. The <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum clarified the nature of all the carbon atoms and suggested, in connection with the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum, the presence of the following groups in oxy-F: two carboxylates ( $\delta_C$  181.2 and 181.5),<sup>13</sup> an amide ( $\delta_C$  174.3), a conjugated ketone ( $\delta_C$  197.8), a hydroxymethyl [ $\delta_C$  55.8,  $\delta_H$  4.20 and 4.39 (d,  $J = 12$  Hz)], a carbinol amine ( $\delta_C$  90.1), and a tertiary alcohol ( $\delta_C$  74.2).

On the basis of the chemical shift of a methyl carbon ( $\delta_C$  8.5),<sup>14</sup> which was assigned from the long-range coupling ( $J < 1$  Hz) observed<sup>15</sup> between the C.2<sup>1</sup> Me and the vinyl protons, and the isolation of 3 on chromic acid oxidation (vide supra), the partial structure from C.1 through C.5 in oxy-F was established.<sup>16</sup> The presence of the C.4 carbinol amine moiety ( $\delta_C$  90.1) was consistent with two experimental observations: (1) no <sup>18</sup>O was incorporated into 3-methyl-4-vinylmaleimide (3) in chromic acid oxidation by using H<sub>2</sub><sup>18</sup>O and <sup>18</sup>O<sub>2</sub>,<sup>4</sup> and (2) 3 was readily formed when 2 was exposed to silica gel.

The long-range coupling ( $J < 1$  Hz) observed<sup>15</sup> between the C.12<sup>1</sup> Me and the C.10 methylene protons, coupled with the formation of the degradation products 4 and 6, clearly established the partial structure from C.5 to C.15. The ring D moiety was concluded on the basis of two experimental facts: (1) 5 was formed on chromic acid oxidation (vide supra) and (2) homonuclear

(13) The high-resolution FAB mass spectrum showed that compound F as isolated was a disodium salt. In addition, its chromatographic behavior is consistent with this conclusion.

(14) Wray, V.; Gossauer, A.; Gruning, B.; Reifensahl, G.; Zilch, H. *J. Chem. Soc., Perkin Trans. 2* **1979**, 1558.

(15) This long-range coupling was confirmed by 2D-COSY experiments.

(16) On the basis of these spectroscopic data only, the C.4-C.5 connectivity could not be concluded. However, the isolation of degradation products 4, 6, and 7 established this connectivity unambiguously.

spin-decoupling as well as 2D-COSY experiments revealed the proton connectivity from C.17<sup>2</sup> to C-19. These results allowed the assignment of the structure 2 for oxy-F.

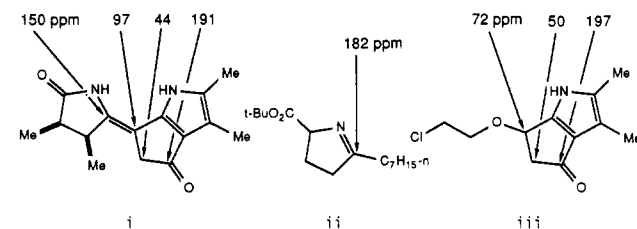
Although compound F has never been isolated in pure form, a comparison of the <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of F (Table I) with those of oxy-F provided meaningful structural information for compound F [FAB-MS,  $m/z$  687 ( $M + Na$ )<sup>+</sup> and 665 ( $M + H$ )<sup>+</sup>]. It became clear that the structural difference between F and oxy-F was only in the C.15-C.16-N moiety. The <sup>13</sup>C chemical shifts observed for the C.15-C.16 carbons of F and oxy-F provided the crucial evidence for assignment of the structure 1 to compound F.<sup>17</sup> In order to confirm the proposed structure, compound F was subjected to ozonolysis, followed by diazomethane treatment. The expected diester 7 was successfully isolated. The relative stereochemistry of 7 was established by a comparison with an authentic sample.<sup>18</sup>

On the basis of the experimental evidence described above, euphausiid fluorescent compounds F and oxy-F are represented by the structures 1 and 2, respectively. All the degradation reactions,<sup>4</sup> the <sup>18</sup>O-incorporation patterns on the chromic acid oxidations,<sup>19</sup> and the spectroscopic data are rationally explained by these structures. However, the stereochemistry of the C.15-C.16 olefinic bond in 1 is not known at this time. Fluorescent compound F (1) is apparently a member of the bile pigments. To the best of our knowledge, however, it is the first naturally occurring bile pigment which is structurally related to chlorophylls rather than to hemes. An additional intriguing structural feature of 1 is the carboxylic acid present at the C.20 position, which may suggest a possibility that an oxidative cleavage of the C.1-C.20 bond might be involved in its biosynthesis.<sup>20,21</sup> As dinoflagellate luciferin has a close relationship to fluorescent compound F, the structural information gained here should be valuable for understanding the dinoflagellate bioluminescent system as well. We are currently engaged in structural studies on dinoflagellate luciferin.

**Acknowledgment.** Financial assistance from the National Science Foundation to Harvard University (CHE 86-105050) and to Marine Biological Laboratory (DMB 87-03463) is gratefully acknowledged.

**Supplementary Material Available:** <sup>1</sup>H NMR, <sup>13</sup>C NMR, FAB MS, and UV spectra of 1 and 2 and <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of 4, 6, and 7 (11 pages). Ordering information is given on any current masthead page.

(17) Compounds i-iii provide examples for the <sup>13</sup>C chemical shifts relevant to the system present in F and oxy-F. Compound ii is known in the literature (Shiosaki, K.; Rapoport, H. *J. Org. Chem.* **1985**, *50*, 1229), and compounds i and iii are reported in the dissertation of B. Musicki, Harvard University, 1987.



(18) The authentic sample was synthesized from the lactam obtained on  $Tl(OCOCF_3)_3$  oxidation of benzyl 4-(2-methoxycarboxylethyl)-3-methylpyrrole-2-carboxylate. We thank Professor K. M. Smith, University of California, Davis, for the detailed procedure of oxidation and the starting material for the synthesis. The stereochemistry of the side-chains was determined on the basis of NOE experiments. The details of these experiments are described in the dissertation of B. Musicki, Harvard University, 1987.

(19) In order to determine the sequence of the four rings, fluorescent compound F was subjected to  $CrO_3$  oxidation at pH 1.2 in the H<sub>2</sub><sup>18</sup>O medium under an <sup>18</sup>O<sub>2</sub> atmosphere to yield 4 with two <sup>18</sup>O atoms incorporated and 3 with no <sup>18</sup>O atoms.<sup>4</sup>

(20) For a recent review on the biosynthesis of hemes, chlorophylls, vitamin B<sub>12</sub>, and related compounds, see: Leeper, F. *J. Nat. Prod. Rep.* **1985**, *2*, 19.

(21) If this is the case, then the C.15-C.16 stereochemistry is likely to be that shown in 1.