



An Efficient Stereoselective Synthesis of 1 α ,24(*R*)-Dihydroxyvitamin D₃ by the Dienyne Route.#

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Abstract: 1 α ,24(*R*)-Dihydroxyvitamin D₃ (**5e**) was synthesized. The key step in the preparation of the side-chain was opening of the chiral epoxide **10** by the α -anion of the nitrile **9**. The triene system was synthesized by the dienyne route.

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INTRODUCTION

Since the discovery that the hormone 1 α ,25-dihydroxyvitamin D₃ (**1a**) - the physiologically active form of vitamin D₃ (**1b**) - can induce cell differentiation and inhibit the proliferation of malignant cells, there has been great interest in the synthesis of vitamin D analogues as potential drugs for the treatment of malignant tumours and hyperproliferative skin disorders such as psoriasis.¹ Compounds **2-5** (Fig. 1) are examples of synthetic analogues of **1a** that exhibit a high cell-differentiation activity/low calcemic action ratio,² which has been suggested to be a precondition of the therapeutic utility of a vitamin D analogue.¹ Among these compounds, the analogues 1 α ,24(*S*)-dihydroxy-26,27-cyclo-22(*E*)-ene-vitamin D₃ (**5d**, Calcipotriol)^{2h,2i} and 1 α ,24(*R*)-dihydroxyvitamin D₃ (**5e**)^{2j} are already used clinically for the treatment of psoriasis.

1 α ,24(*R*)-Dihydroxyvitamin D₃ (**5e**) has previously been synthesized by the classical photochemical ring opening of steroidal $\Delta^{5,7}$ -dienes bearing a suitably functionalized side chain,³ and by the convergent, palladium-catalysed cyclization approach, recently developed by Trost.^{2j,4} Here we report an efficient synthesis of 1 α ,24(*R*)-dihydroxyvitamin D₃ that uses the convergent dienyne approach originally developed by Lythgoe and coworkers⁵ and later improved in our laboratory.^{6,7} (Scheme 1).

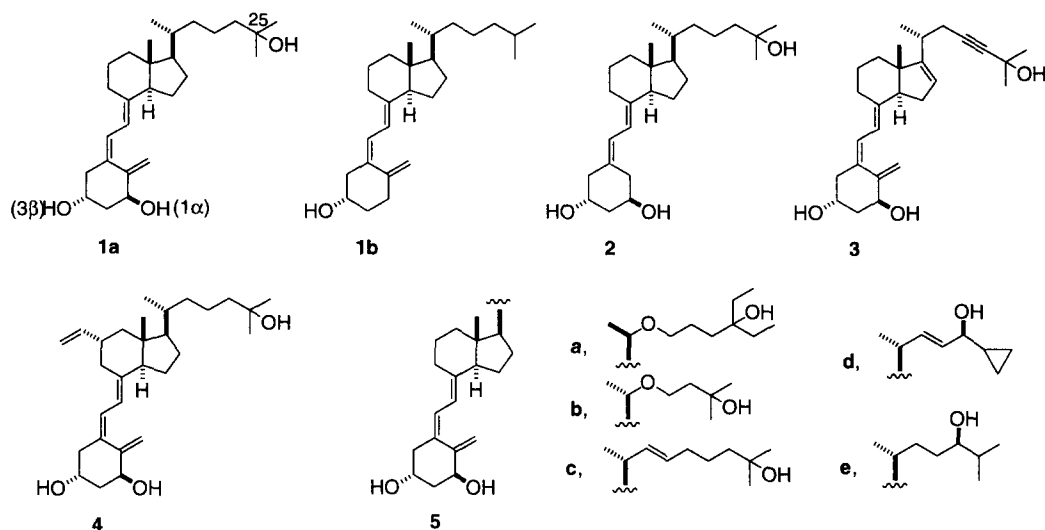
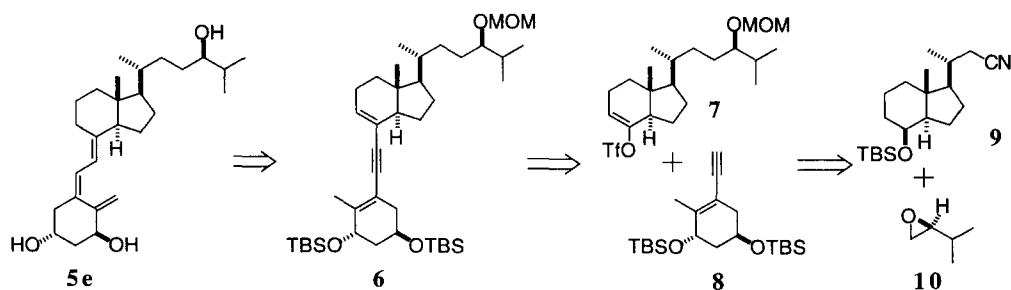


Figure 1. Structures of the hormone $1\alpha,25-(\text{OH})_2\text{-D}_3$, vitamin D_3 and some representative analogues.



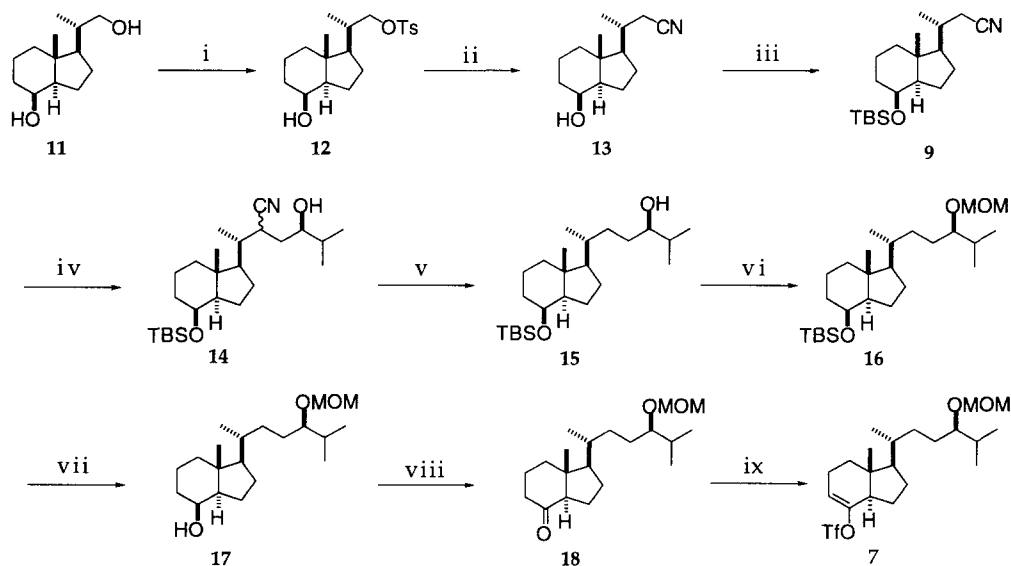
Scheme 1. Retrosynthetic analysis of $1\alpha,24(R)$ -dihydroxyvitamin D_3 .

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Synthesis of triflate **7** (Scheme 2).

The synthesis starts with the Inhoffen-Lythgoe diol (**11**),⁸ which was converted selectively to monotosylate **12**^{8,9} in 93% yield by treatment with *p*-toluensulfonyl chloride in the presence of pyridine. Reaction of **12** with sodium cyanide in dimethyl sulfoxide,¹⁰ followed by protection with *tert*-butyldimethylsilyl chloride,¹¹ afforded nitrile **9**¹² in 89% yield. In the key step, nitrile **9** was deprotonated with lithium diisopropylamide (LDA) in THF at -78°C and a solution of epoxide **10** (prepared from *L*-valine)^{3b} was added to the resulting anion, cleanly affording the hydroxynitrile **14** in 91% yield. Reductive removal of the cyano group of **14** by treatment with potassium in the presence of hexamethylphosphoramide (HMPA) and *tert*-butanol (as

proton source)¹³ provided alcohol **15**¹² in 94% yield. Protection of the hydroxyl group of **15** by treatment with chloromethyl methyl ether¹⁴ gave **16** (93%), which was desilylated with tetrabutylammonium fluoride (TBAF) in refluxing THF to afford the alcohol **17** (97%). Oxidation of **17** with pyridinium dichromate (PDC) in the presence of a catalytic amount of pyridinium *p*-toluenesulfonate (PPTS) in dichloromethane, followed by treatment of the resulting ketone **18** with LDA in THF at -78 °C and trapping of the kinetic enolate with *N*-phenyltrifluoromethanesulfonimide (PhNTf₂),¹⁵ gave the target vinyl triflate **7** (73%).

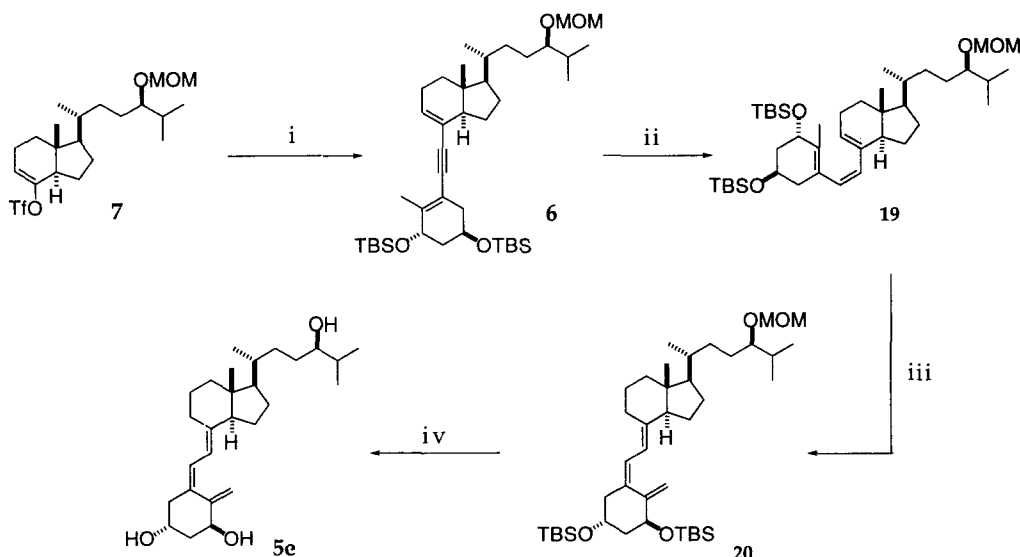


Scheme 2. Reagents: (i) *p*-TsCl (1.1 equiv), py, 0 °C, 12 h (93%); (ii) NaCN, DMSO, 90 °C, 2 h (91%); (iii) *t*-BuMe₂SiCl (TBSCl), imidazole, DMF, 80 °C, 12 h (98%); (iv) LDA, THF, -78 °C, HMPA, epoxide **10**, (91%); (v) *t*-BuOH (2 equiv), HMPA (5 equiv), Et₂O (30 equiv), 0 °C, K in portions (7 equiv), 12 h (94%); (vi) *i*-Pr₂NEt, MOMCl, CH₂Cl₂, 0 °C (93%); (vii) *n*-Bu₄NF, THF, reflux, 18 h (97%); (viii) PDC, CH₂Cl₂, PPTS, rt, 40 h (96%); (ix) LDA, THF, -78 °C, PhNTf₂ (76%).

Synthesis of 1 α ,24(*R*)-dihydroxyvitamin D₃ (Scheme 3).

With triflate **7** in hand, the stage was set for the coupling reaction. Palladium-catalysed cross-coupling between vinyl triflate **7** and enyne **8**¹⁶ afforded dienyne **6** (92%). Partial hydrogenation of **6** under a low (balloon) pressure of H₂ and in the presence of Lindlar palladium catalyst poisoned with quinoline in hexanes, with careful monitoring of the reaction by TLC to avoid overreduction, gave previtamin D **19** (83%). Thermal isomerization of **19** to the protected vitamin **20**, followed by deprotection by successive treatment with TBAF and a cation exchange resin in methanol, and purification by flash chromatography, afforded the desired

1 α ,24(*R*)-dihydroxyvitamin D₃ (**5e**) (80%).



Scheme 3. Reagents: (i) Enyne **8**, (Ph₃P)₂PdCl₂, Et₃N, DMF, 70 °C, 2 h (92%); (ii) H₂, Lindlar catalyst, quinoline, 30 min (83%); (iii) isooctane, 80 °C, 4 h, (94%); (iv) *n*-Bu₄NF, THF, rt, 20 h; then AG 50W-X4, MeOH, rt (80%).

CONCLUSION

1 α ,24(*R*)-dihydroxyvitamin D₃ (**5e**) was prepared in 13 steps and 27% yield from the Inhoffen-Lythgoe diol (**11**) in an efficient stereoselective synthesis that compares very favourably with other syntheses.^{2j} The nitrile approach¹⁷ to the side chain proved an efficient and general method for the synthesis of key intermediates for coupling with enynes containing vitamin D A-ring moieties.

EXPERIMENTAL

General. All dry solvents were distilled under argon. Diethyl ether (Et₂O) and tetrahydrofuran (THF) were distilled from sodium/benzophenone. Dichloromethane was distilled from phosphorus pentoxide, and pyridine from KOH. Triethylamine (Merck), *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine (Aldrich), diisopropylamine (Merck) and *tert*-butanol (Merck) were distilled from CaH₂. Dry dimethylformamide (DMF, Merck), hexamethylphosphoramide (HMPA, Aldrich) and dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO, Aldrich) were stored over type 4 Å molecular sieves. All reactions were conducted under an argon atmosphere unless otherwise stated. Dry solvents were used for all reactions. Melting points were determined in a capillary tube and are uncorrected. ¹H and ¹³C

NMR spectra were recorded in CDCl₃ in a Bruker WM-250 or AMX 300; chemical shifts are given in δ units with respect to tetramethylsilane as internal standard. In the ¹³C NMR spectra, carbon types were determined by means of DEPT experiments. IR spectra were recorded in a Perkin Elmer 1420 spectrometer. Mass spectra were measured in a Kratos MS-50 apparatus, using electron impact ionization at 70 eV, unless otherwise stated. Flash chromatography was performed on silica gel by Still's method.¹⁸ Solutions were dried over Na₂SO₄ anhydrous, and concentrated in a rotavapor. TLC was performed on silica gel plates; components were located by illuminating the plates with UV light and/or by treating the plates with phosphomolybdic acid reagent followed by heating.

De-A,B-8 β -Hydroxy-23,24-dinorcholane-22-carbonitrile (13). Sodium cyanide (268 mg, 5.46 mmol) was added to a solution of tosylate **12** (1g, 2.7 mmol) in DMSO (35 mL) and heated at 90 °C for 2 h. The mixture was allowed to cool to rt, diluted with water (100 mL) and then extracted with Et₂O (4x50 mL). The ethereal phase was dried and concentrated. Recrystallization of the residue (Et₂O/hexanes) afforded **13** [551 mg, 91%. R_f (40% EtOAc/hexanes): 0.57. White crystals (mp 80-85 °C)]. ¹H NMR: 4.04 (1H, brs, H-8), 2.32 (1H, dd, *J*₁= 12.7 Hz, *J*₂=4.0 Hz, CHCN), 2.22 (1H, dd, *J*₁= 12.7 Hz, *J*₂=6.7 Hz, CHCN), 1.10 (3H, d, *J*= 6.6 Hz, CH₃-21), 0.92 (3H, s, CH₃-18). ¹³C NMR: 118.83 (CN), 68.75 (CH-8), 55.09, 52.28, 41.78 (C-13), 39.91 (CH₂), 33.38 (CH₂), 32.88, 26.88 (CH₂), 24.46 (CH₂), 22.24 (CH₂), 19.00, 17.15 (CH₂), 13.45. IR (KBr) 3554, 2238 cm.⁻¹ LRMS *m/z* (I,%): 221 (M⁺, 4), 206 (56), 188 (14), 162 (12), 150 (13), 135 (15), 111 (100). HRMS: calcd. for C₁₄H₂₃NO, 221.1779; found 221,1781. Anal: calcd. for C₁₄H₂₃NO, C 75.97, H 10.47, N 6.33%; found, C 76.13, H 10.67, N 6.46%.

De-A,B-8 β -[(*tert*-Butyldimethylsilyl)oxy]-23,24-dinorcholane-22-carbonitrile (9). Imidazole (433 mg, 6.3 mmol) and TBSCl (542 mg, 3.59 mmol) were successively added to a solution of alcohol **13** (429 mg, 1.9 mmol) in DMF (3.8 mL). The mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 12 h and then cooled to rt and transferred to a separatory funnel containing water (50 mL). The mixture was extracted with hexanes (3x50 mL), and the combined extracts were washed with brine (3x50 mL), then water (3x50 mL), and then dried, filtered and concentrated to a residue, which was flash chromatographed (0-5% hexanes/EtOAc) to give **9** [627 mg, 98%. R_f (40% EtOAc/hexanes): 0.80. Colorless oil]. ¹H NMR: 3.99 (1H, bs, H-8), 2.33 (1H, dd, *J*₁= 12.6 Hz, *J*₂= 3.9 Hz, CHCN), 2.21 (1H, dd, *J*₁= 12.8 Hz, *J*₂= 6.6 Hz, CHCN), 1.10 (3H, d, *J*= 6.6 Hz, CH₃-21), 0.91 (3H, s, CH₃-18), 0.86 [9H, s, SiC(CH₃)₃], 0.01 [6H, s, Si(CH₃)₂]. ¹³C NMR: 118.61 (CN), 69.03 (CH-8), 55.18, 52.63, 41.94 (C-13), 40.11 (CH₂), 33.99 (CH₂), 32.85, 26.90 (CH₂), 25.54 [SiC(CH₃)₃], 24.36 (CH₂), 22.65 (CH₂), 18.94, 17.71(SiC), 17.28 (CH₂), 13.57, -5.09 (SiCH₃), -5.46 (SiCH₃). IR (film): 2246 cm.⁻¹ HRMS (FAB): calcd. for C₂₀H₃₇NOSiN, 358.2542; found, 358.2555.

De-A,B-(24R,22 ξ)-8 β -[(*tert*-Butyldimethylsilyl)oxy]-24-hydroxy-cholestane-22-carbonitrile

(14). A solution of *n*-butyllithium in hexanes (2.4 M, 0.441 mL, 1.06 mmol) was added under argon to a stirred solution of diisopropylamine (0.184 mL, 1.30 mmol) in THF (4 mL) at -78 °C. The mixture was stirred at -78 °C for 10 min, then at 0 °C for 30 min, whereupon a solution of nitrile **9** (308 mg, 0.917 mmol) in THF (3 mL) was added. The mixture was cooled to -78 °C and stirred for 1 h. Epoxide **5** [prepared *in situ* from the corresponding tosylate (946 mg, 3.67 mmol) and LDA (3.44 mL) at -78 °C]^{3b} and HMPA (0.353 mL) were successively added, and the resulting mixture was stirred at -60 °C for 3 h, then at rt for 4 h. Saturated NH₄Cl solution (10 mL) was added. The mixture was extracted with Et₂O (3x20 mL), and the combined organic extracts were dried, filtered and concentrated. The residue was flash chromatographed (5% EtOAc/hexanes) to afford alcohol **14** [52 mg, 91%. R_f (10% EtOAc/hexanes): 0.52. Colorless oil; mixture of diastereoisomers]. **¹H NMR:** 3.99 (1H, brs, H-8), 3.43 (1H, m, H-24), 2.97 (1H, m, H-22), 1.02 (3H, d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, CH₃-21), 0.94 (9H, m, CH₃-18, CH₃-26, CH₃-27), 0.88 [9H, s, SiC(CH₃)₃], 0.01 (3H, s, SiCH₃), -0.01 (3H, s, SiCH₃). **¹³C NMR:** 121.85 (CN), 73.58 (CH-24), 69.29 (CH-8), 54.65, 52.83, 42.18 (C-13), 40.43 (CH₂), 36.04, 34.40 (CH₂), 34.21 (CH₂), 33.81, 32.32, 27.06 (CH₂), 25.74 [SiC(CH₃)₃], 22.82 (CH₂), 18.54, 17.94, 17.51 (CH₂), 17.14, 14.12, 13.90, -4.86 (SiCH₃), -5.26 (SiCH₃). **IR** (film): 3446, 2236 cm⁻¹. **LRMS** *m/z* (I,%): 406 (M⁺-CH₃, 2), 364 (100), 272 (14), 161 (22).

De-A,B-(24R)-8 β [(*tert*-Butyldimethylsilyl)oxy]-cholestan-24-ol (15). A solution of nitrile **14** (839 mg, 1.99 mmol) in *tert*-butanol (0.400 mL) and Et₂O (2.5 mL) was added to a stirred suspension of potassium (370 mg, excess) in HMPA (2 mL) and Et₂O (2 mL) at 0 °C. The mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 12 h, then at rt until the end of the reaction (monitoring by TLC, ca. 1 h). The excess potassium was removed from the flask, and the mixture was cooled to -78 °C and quenched with cold water (20 mL) under argon. The mixture was allowed to warm to rt, and then extracted with Et₂O (3x20 mL). The organic layers were combined, dried and concentrated. The residue was flash chromatographed (4% EtOAc/hexanes) to give alcohol **15** [740 mg, 94%. R_f (10% EtOAc/hexanes): 0.32. Colorless oil]. **¹H NMR:** 4.01 (1H, bs, H-8), 3.30 (1H, m, H-24), 0.93-0.89 (12H, m, CH₃-18, CH₃-21, CH₃-26, CH₃-27), 0.88 [9H, s, SiC(CH₃)₃], 0.01 (3H, s, SiCH₃), -0.01 (3H, s, SiCH₃). **¹³C NMR:** 77.00 (CH-24), 69.46 (CH-8), 56.72, 53.04, 42.08 (C-13), 40.69 (CH₂), 35.14, 34.40 (CH₂), 33.46, 31.85 (CH₂), 30.57 (CH₂), 27.27 (CH₂), 25.72 [SiC(CH₃)₃], 22.99 (CH₂), 18.80, 18.50, 17.92 (SiC), 17.59 (CH₂), 17.10, 13.64, -4.92 (SiCH₃), -5.27 (SiCH₃). **IR** (film): 3300 cm⁻¹. **LRMS** *m/z* (I,%): 396 (M⁺, 0.6), 339 (8), 247 (52), 135 (100). **HRMS:** calcd. for C₂₄H₄₈O₂Si, 396.3423; found, 396.3435.

De-A,B-(24*R*)-8 β [(*tert*-Butyldimethylsilyl)oxy]-cholestan-24-ol Methoxymethyl ether (16).

N,N-diisopropylethylamine (0.227 mL, 1.3 mmol) and chloromethyl methyl ether¹⁶ (0.102 mL, 1.24) were successively added to a cooled (0 °C) solution of alcohol **15** (112 mg, 0.282 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (1.5 mL). The mixture was allowed to warm to rt while stirring overnight, then poured into ice-water and extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3x10 mL). The organic extracts were combined and washed successively with HCl (5%, 20 mL), saturated Na₂CO₃ solution (20 mL), and brine (20 mL). The organic phase was dried, filtered and concentrated to a residue, which was flash chromatographed (1% EtOAc/hexanes) to afford the ether **16** [115 mg, 93%. R_f (10% EtOAc/hexanes): 0.68. Colorless oil]. ¹H NMR: 4.65 (2H, s, OCH₂O), 3.99 (1H, brs, H-8), 3.39 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.25 (1H, m, H-24), 0.91-0.88 [21H, m, CH₃-18, CH₃-21, CH₃-26, CH₃-27, SiC(CH₃)₃], 0.01 (3H, s, SiCH₃), -0.01 (3H, s, SiCH₃). ¹³C NMR: 96.16 (OCH₂O), 83.42 (CH-24), 69.52 (CH-8), 56.80, 55.52, 53.09, 42.11 (C-13), 40.73 (CH₂), 35.41, 34.44 (CH₂), 31.36 (CH₂), 31.00, 27.27 (CH₂), 27.06 (CH₂), 25.76 [SiC(CH₃)₃], 23.03 (CH₂), 18.54, 18.17, 17.96, 17.61 (CH₂), 13.65, -4.90 (SiCH₃), -5.25 (SiCH₃). HRMS: calcd. for C₂₆H₅₂O₃Si, 440.3686; found, 440.3687.

De-A,B-(24*R*)-8 β -Hydroxy-cholestan-24-ol Methoxymethyl ether (17).

A mixture of **16** (590 mg, 1.34 mmol), TBAF (3.7 g, 14.2 mmol) and THF (12 mL) was refluxed for 18 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to rt and poured into brine (50 mL). The mixture was extracted with Et₂O (3x50 mL). The combined organic extracts were dried and filtered, and then concentrated to a residue, which was purified by flash chromatography (4-15% EtOAc/hexanes) to give the deprotected alcohol **17** [423 mg, 97%. R_f (15% EtOAc/hexanes): 0.28. Colorless oil]. ¹H NMR: 4.61 (2H, s, OCH₂O), 4.04 (1H, brs, H-8), 3.36 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.25 (1H, m, H-24), 0.91 (3H, s, CH₃-18), 0.88 (3H, d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, CH₃-21), 0.874 (3H, d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, CH₃-26), 0.870 (3H, d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, CH₃-27). ¹³C NMR: 96.10, 83.34, 69.28, 56.59, 55.50, 52.58, 41.79, 40.36, 35.31, 33.56, 31.29, 30.93, 27.07, 26.93, 22.43, 18.42, 18.15, 17.88, 17.34, 13.40. IR (film): 3675 cm⁻¹. HRMS: calcd. for C₂₀H₃₈O₃, 326.2821; found, 326.2819.

De-A,B-(24*R*)-24-[(Methoxymethyl)oxy]-cholestan-8-one (18).

PDC (1.13 g, 3.01 mmol) and PPTS (10 mg) were added to a solution of alcohol **17** (356 mg, 1.09 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (8 mL) at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at this temperature for 16 h. More PDC (0.52 g, 1.38 mmol) and PPTS (10 mg) were added and stirring was continued for 24 h at 0 °C. Then Et₂O (20 mL) was added and the resulting suspension was filtered through a short pad of Celite and silica gel. The filtrate was concentrated to a residue, which was purified by flash chromatography (12% EtOAc/hexanes) to give the desired ketone **18** [339 mg, 96%. R_f (15% EtOAc/hexanes): 0.43. Colorless oil]. ¹H NMR (300 MHz): 4.64 (2H, s, OCH₂O), 3.38 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.25 (1H, m, H-24), 0.95 (3H, d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, CH₃-21), 0.891 (3H, d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, CH₃-26),

0.888 (3H, d, $J=6.8$ Hz, CH₃-27), 0.63 (3H, s, CH₃-18). **¹³C NMR**: 211.94 (C-8), 96.14 (OCH₂O), 83.26 (CH-24), 61.91, 56.59, 55.55, 49.82 (C-13), 40.86 (CH₂), 38.92 (CH₂), 35.57, 31.34 (CH₂), 30.92, 27.42 (CH₂), 26.89 (CH₂), 23.94 (CH₂), 18.98 (CH₂), 18.59, 18.18, 17.82, 12.37. **HRMS** (FAB): calcd. for C₂₀H₃₆O₃Na, 347.2562; found, 347.2553.

De-A,B-(24R)-24-[(Methoxymethyl)oxy]-cholest-8-en-8-yl Trifluoromethanesulfonate (7).

Lithium diisopropylamide (LDA) was prepared by adding diisopropylamine (0.133 mL, 0.95 mmol) to a solution of *n*-BuLi in hexane (2.25 M, 0.40 mL, 0.90 mmol) and THF (1.5 mL) at -78 °C. After stirring the solution for 10 min at -78 °C, then 20 min at rt, it was again cooled to -78 °C and a solution of ketone **18** (192 mg, 0.592 mmol) in THF (3 mL) was added dropwise *via* cannula. After stirring for 1 h, the enolate solution was warmed to room temperature over a further 1 h and then re-cooled to -78 °C. A solution of *N*-phenyltriflimide (340 mg, 0.95 mmol) in THF (1 mL) was added and the reaction mixture was allowed to warm to rt overnight. The reaction was then quenched by adding a few drops of MeOH. Concentration of the mixture, followed by purification of the resulting residue by flash chromatography gave triflate **7** [204 mg, 76%. R_f (6% EtOAc /hexanes): 0.37. Colorless oil]. **¹H NMR**: 5.56 (1H, q, $J=3.4$ Hz, H-9), 4.64 (2H, s, OCH₂O), 3.38 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.26 (1H, m, H-24), 0.94 (3H, d, $J=6.3$ Hz, CH₃-21), 0.90 (3H, d, $J=6.8$ Hz, CH₃-26), 0.89 (3H, d, $J=6.8$ Hz, CH₃-27), 0.76 (3H, s, CH₃-18). **¹³C NMR**: 149.92 (C-8), 118.57 (q, $J_{C-F}=320.4$ Hz, CF₃), 115.99 (CH-9), 96.11 (OCH₂O), 83.21 (CH-24), 55.50, 54.17, 50.04, 45.15 (C-13), 36.01, 34.76 (CH₂), 31.29 (CH₂), 30.89, 28.19 (CH₂), 26.85 (CH₂), 23.71 (CH₂), 21.34 (CH₂), 18.45, 18.16, 17.76, 11.15. **LRMS** *m/z* (I, %): 413 [M⁺-CH(CH₃)₂, 2], 394 (M⁺-HOCH₂OCH₃, 10), 381 (14), 327 (11), 295 (23), 263 (43).

(24R)-1α-[(*tert*-Butyldimethylsilyl)oxy]-6,7-didehydro-24-[(methoxymethyl)oxy]-previtamin

D₃ *tert*-Butyldimethylsilyl ether (6). A mixture of enyne **8** (55 mg, 0.14 mmol), triflate **7** (57 mg, 0.125 mmol), Et₃N (0.05 mL, 0.36 mmol), *bis*-triphenylphosphine palladium dichloride (3 mg, 0.0045 mmol, 3.6%) and DMF (1 mL) was heated at 70 °C for 2 h and then cooled to rt. Et₂O (20 mL) was added and the resulting mixture was washed with water (2x20 mL). The aqueous washings were re-extracted with Et₂O (20 mL). The combined organic extracts were dried, filtered and concentrated to a residue, which was purified by flash chromatography (2% EtOAc/hexanes) to afford **6** [79 mg, 92%. R_f (6% EtOAc /hexanes): 0.48. Viscous unstable liquid that must be kept as a cold solution in hexanes in order to avoid its decomposition]. **¹H NMR**: 5.96 (1H, m, H-9), 4.65 (2H, s, OCH₂O), 4.18 (1H, m, H-1), 4.08 (1H, m, H-3), 3.39 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.27 (1H, m, H-24), 1.89 (3H, b s, CH₃-19), 0.94 (3H, d, $J=6.3$ Hz, CH₃-21), 0.89 [24H, m, CH₃-26, CH₃-27, 2SiCH(CH₃)₃], 0.70 (3H, s, CH₃-18), 0.09 [6H, s, Si(CH₃)₂], 0.06 [6H, m, 2Si(CH₃)₂].

¹³C NMR (CD₂Cl₂): 149.05 (C), 141.74 (C), 135.62 (C), 123.62 (CH), 118.35 (CH), 111.55 (CH₂-19), 96.60 (OCH₂O), 83.70 (CH-24), 72.46 (CH), 68.05 (CH), 56.98, 56.79, 55.77, 46.44 (CH₂), 46.21 (C-13), 45.33 (CH₂), 41.05 (CH₂), 36.71, 31.94 (CH₂), 31.44, 29.30 (CH₂), 28.06 (CH₂), 27.43 (CH₂), 26.04 [2SiC(CH₃)₃], 23.96 (CH₂), 22.60 (CH₂), 19.05, 18.52 (2SiC), 18.40, 18.22, 12.15, -4.57 (SiCH₃), -4.60 (SiCH₃), -4.70 (SiCH₃), -4.92 (SiCH₃). **LRMS**, m/z (I,%): 689 (M⁺+1, 5), 688 (M⁺, 8), 558 (10), 557 (24), 556 (47). **HRMS**: calcd. for C₄₁H₇₆O₄Si₂, 688.5282; found, 688.5236.

1 α ,24(R)-Dihydroxyvitamin D₃ (5e). A mixture of protected vitamin **20** (68 mg, 0.099 mmol), TBAF (740 mg, 3 mmol) and THF (3 mL) was stirred in the dark for 20 h. The mixture was poured into a saturated solution of NH₄Cl (**¹³C NMR**: 140.44 (C), 133.31 (CH-9), 122.65 (C), 115.57 (C), 96.16 (OCH₂O), 92.45 (C), 88.17 (C), 83.35 (CH-24), 70.04 (CH), 64.22 (CH), 55.61, 54.68, 50.13, 41.84 (C-13), 41.28 (CH₂), 39.81 (CH₂), 36.30, 35.90 (CH₂), 31.43 (CH₂), 30.96, 27.98 (CH₂), 27.00 (CH₂), 25.86 [SiC(CH₃)₃], 25.76 [SiC(CH₃)₃], 25.13 (CH₂), 24.14 (CH₂), 19.10, 18.64, 18.26, 18.07 (SiC), 17.96, 11.01, -4.38 (SiCH₃), -4.70 (SiCH₃), -4.76 (SiCH₃), -4.87 (SiCH₃). **LRMS** m/z (I,%): 686 (M⁺, 1), 672 (2), 671 (3), 643 (2), 611 (3), 555 (76), 554 (100). **HRMS**: calcd. for C₄₁H₇₄O₄Si₂, 686.5126; found, 686.5070.

1 α -[(*tert*-Butyldimethylsilyl)oxy]-24R-[(methoxymethyl)oxy]-previtamin D₃ *tert*-Butyldimethylsilyl ether (19). To a solution of dienyne **6** (53 mg, 0.077 mmol) in hexane (20 mL) was added 0.15 mL of a solution of quinoline in hexane (0.1 mL of quinoline in 20 mL of hexane), followed by Lindlar catalyst (53 mg, Aldrich). After purging the suspension with H₂, the solution was stirred under a slightly positive pressure of H₂ until TLC (6% EtOAc/hexanes) indicated that all the starting material had reacted (monitoring by TLC is a convenient way of avoiding overhydrogenation). After 30 min, all of **6** had been converted to a product with a slightly higher R_f, and the reaction mixture was filtered and concentrated to a residue, which was purified by flash chromatography (2% EtOAc/hexanes) to afford previtamin **19** [44 mg, 83%. R_f (6% EtOAc/hexanes): 0.53. Colorless oil]. This compound slowly converts to the vitamin D form **20** at rt (small peaks corresponding to **20** can be appreciated in the NMR spectra). **¹H NMR** (CD₂Cl₂): 5.87 and 5.72 (2H, AB pattern, d, J = 12.0 Hz, H-6, H-7), 5.52 (1H, m, H-9), 4.59 (2H, s, OCH₂O), 4.11 (1H, bt, H-1), 4.05 (1H, m, H-3), 3.33 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.22 (1H, m, H-24), 1.63 (3H, b s, CH₃-19), 0.94 (3H, d, J = 6.3 Hz, CH₃-21), 0.86 [21H, m, CH₃-26, CH₃-27, 2SiCH(CH₃)₃], 0.68 (3H, s, CH₃-18), 0.08 [6H, s, Si(CH₃)₂], 0.03 [6H, m, Si(CH₃)₂]. **¹³C NMR** (CD₂Cl₂): 136.76 (C), 130.98 (C), 130.32 (C), 130.20 (CH), 129.00 (CH), 125.55 (CH), 96.58 (OCH₂O), 83.68 (CH-24), 71.70 (CH), 65.43 (CH), 55.75, 54.85, 51.13, 42.53 (C-13), 42.31 (CH₂), 39.53 (CH₂), 36.71, 36.55 (CH₂), 31.94 (CH₂), 31.41, 28.69 (CH₂), 27.46 (CH₂), 26.09 [SiC(CH₃)₃], 26.02 [SiC(CH₃)₃], 25.30 (CH₂), 23.88 (CH₂), 18.93, 18.37, 18.17,

17.69, 11.44, -4.19 (SiCH₃), -4.51 (SiCH₃), -4.60 (SiCH₃), -4.75 (SiCH₃).

1 α -(*tert*-Butyldimethylsilyl)oxy]-24*R*-(methoxymethyl)oxy]-vitamin D₃ *tert*-Butyldimethylsilyl ether (20). A solution of previtamin **19** (80 mg, 0.116 mmol) in isooctane (10 mL) was refluxed in the dark for 4 h, and then concentrated to a residue, which was purified by flash chromatography (2% EtOAc/hexanes) to afford **20** [75 mg, 94%. R_f (6% EtOAc/hexanes): 0.53. Colorless oil]. A small amount of the previtamin **19** is observed in the NMR spectra. **¹H NMR** (CD₂Cl₂): 6.25 and 6.01 (2H, AB pattern, d, *J*= 11.3 Hz, H-6, H-7), 5.17 (1H, m, H-19*E*), 4.83 (1H, d, *J*= 2.6 Hz, H-19*Z*), 4.59 (2H, s, OCH₂O), 4.37 (1H, dd, *J*₁=4.0, *J*₂=6.6 Hz, H-1), 4.18 (1H, m, H-3), 3.33 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.22 (1H, m, H-24), 0.92 (3H, d, *J*= 5.8 Hz, CH₃-21), 0.86 [24H, m, CH₃-26, CH₃-27, 2SiCH(CH₃)₃], 0.52 (3H, s, CH₃-18), 0.05 (15 mL) and extracted with Et₂O (3x10 mL). The combined organic extracts were dried, filtered and concentrated and the residue was dried under vacuum. To the residue dissolved in MeOH (7 mL) was added AG 50W-X4 resin (2 g, prewashed with MeOH). The mixture was stirred overnight at rt in the dark. The resin was filtered out, and the filtrate was concentrated to a residue, which was purified by flash chromatography (50% EtOAc/hexanes) to give **5e^{2j}** [33 mg, 80%. Amorphous solid]. **¹H NMR** (CD₂Cl₂): 6.34 and 6.00 (2H, AB pattern, d, *J*= 11.3 Hz, H-6, H-7), 5.27 (1H, b s, H-19*E*), 4.94 (1H, b s, H-19*Z*), 4.35 (1H, m, H-1), 4.14 (1H, m, H-3), 3.26 (1H, m, H-24), 0.91 (3H, d, *J*= 6.2 Hz, CH₃-21), 0.88 (3H, d, *J*= 6.8 Hz, CH₃-26), 0.87 (3H, d, *J*= 6.7 Hz, CH₃-27), 0.53 (3H, s, CH₃-18). **¹³C NMR** (CD₂Cl₂): 148.56 (C), 143.39 (C), 133.97 (C), 125.00 (CH), 117.58 (CH), 111.88 (CH₂-19), 77.30 (CH-24), 71.14 (CH), 67.14 (CH), 56.93, 56.74, 46.26 (C-13), 45.71 (CH₂), 43.35 (CH₂), 40.90 (CH₂), 36.41, 34.01, 32.43 (CH₂), 31.00 (CH₂), 29.40 (CH₂), 28.00 (CH₂), 23.98 (CH₂), 22.62 (CH₂), 19.05, 18.95, 17.35, 12.08. **LRMS**, *m/z* (I,%): 417 (M⁺+1, 3), 416 (M⁺, 9), 399 (3), 398 (12), 380 (6), 357 (4).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank the Spanish Ministry of Education and Science for financial support through grant SAF 95-0978, and Prof. S. Fustero (Universidad de Valencia) for some HRMS. Y.F. thanks Solvay Duphar B.V. (Weesp, The Netherlands) for a fellowship.

#Dedicated to the memory of Prof. Ignacio Ribas.

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(Received in UK 10 December 1996; revised 27 January 1997; accepted 6 February 1997)