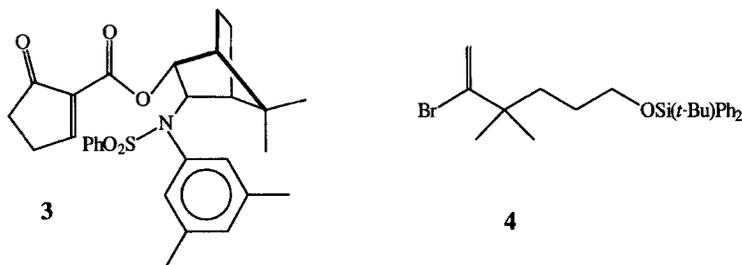
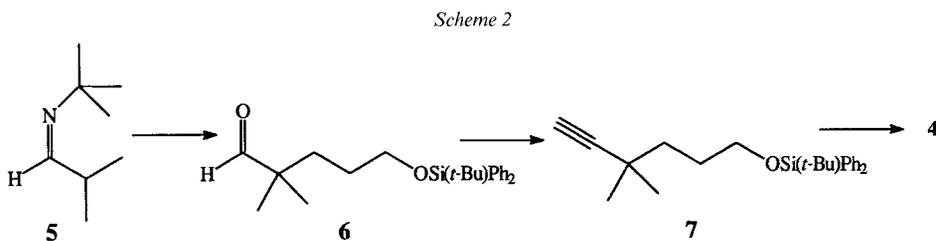




**Results and Discussion.** – Based on retrosynthetic considerations, we used as starting materials bromo compound **4** and the chiral olefinic oxo ester **3** [4–7].



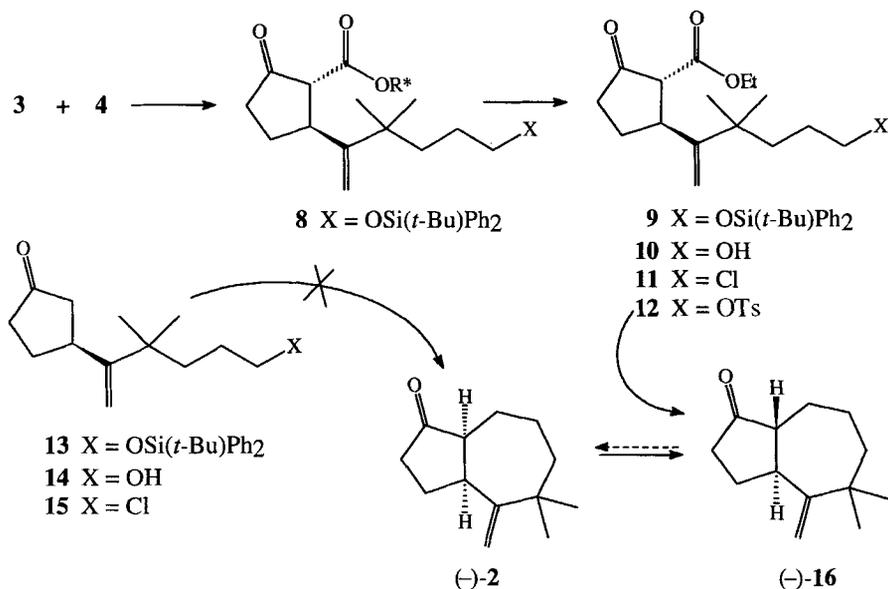
Employing the already successful methodology [4], the synthesis of **4** started from the *N*-(*tert*-butyl)-imine derivative **5** of isobutyraldehyde (*Scheme 2*). After alkylation and hydrolysis of **5**, the resulting aldehyde **6** was converted to the alkyne **7**. Successive treatment with *B*-bromo-9-BBN (*B*-bromo-9-borabicyclo[3.3.1]nonane) yielded **4**.



The stereochemical key step was realized by converting **4** into the organolithium compound by reaction with 2 equiv. *t*-BuLi, followed by  $\text{MgBr}_2 \cdot \text{Et}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{CuBr} \cdot \text{Me}_2\text{S}$ , and  $\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{Et}_2\text{O}$ , and subsequent conjugate addition to the chiral ester **3** (*Scheme 3*). This method, which consumes only 1 equiv. of **4** led, in high yields (*ca.* 80%), to **8** (*Gilman's* reagent led to only very low yields of **8**; *ca.* 5%), and, in accordance to [4–7], no diastereoisomeric impurities could be detected *via*  $^1\text{H}$ - and  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR. Transesterification ( $\rightarrow$  **9**) and decarboxylation led to the chiral ketone **13**. In the following, chloride **15** should be submitted to cyclization. Unexpectedly, this led only in traces to (–)-**16**, moreover, (–)-**2** could not be detected at all. The use of toluene-4-sulfonates as much better leaving group failed completely. Only the apparently more reactive  $\beta$ -oxo ester **12** allowed intramolecular cyclization by treatment with *t*-BuOK (KH,  $\text{LiN}(\text{SiMe}_3)_2$  failed as did the use of the appropriate chloride **11** as starting material). Subsequent decarboxylation of the resulting bicyclic  $\beta$ -oxo ester again afforded only (–)-**16**. It is obvious that equilibrium *via* keto-enol tautomerism favors (–)-**16** to such a great extent that (–)-**2** could not be isolated. Accordingly, stirring of (–)-**16** for 24 h with NaOMe in MeOH did not change the ratio in favor of the epimer (–)-**2**.

Confirmation of the structure of (–)-**16** as well as assignment of resonances was achieved by a combination of different NMR techniques, such as NOE-difference spec-

Scheme 3



troscopy [8], APT [9], HMQC [10], COSY-45 [11], and long-range INEPT [12] experiments with selective excitation. Comparison of the  $^1\text{H}$ - and  $^{13}\text{C}$ -chemical shifts of **(-)-16** with those found for its two demethylidene congeners (replacement of the seven-membered ring of **(-)-16** by a six-membered ring) described in [4] reveals excellent correspondence with the *trans*-fused isomer. This is an additional strong hint for *trans*-configuration of H–C(3a) and H–C(8a) in **(-)-16**.

Compound **(-)-16** exhibits an intense woody and camphoraceous odor. In summary, the odorous impression is a pleasant one but lacks the typical vetiver odor descriptors.

We are indebted to Mr. *W. Höppner* and *V. Hausmann*, perfumers of *Dragoco-Vienna*, for the organoleptic analysis.

### Experimental Part

*General*: See [4]. For experimental details for the synthesis of the new compounds **4–15**, see cognate preparations; yields were similar to those obtained for congeners described in [4].

*5-[(tert-Butyl)diphenylsilyloxy]-2,2-dimethylpentanal (6)*. IR (NaCl, liquid film): 1730.  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (80 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 0.96 (s, 2 Me); 0.97 (s, 3 Me); 1.08–2.24 (m, 4 H); 3.59 (m,  $\text{CH}_2\text{O}$ ); 7.28 (m, 6 H, H–C(3), H–C(4), H–C(5) of Ph); 7.59 (m, 4 H, H–C(2), H–C(6) of Ph); 9.36 (s, CHO).  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 206.0 (C=O); 135.5 (arom. C(2), C(6)); 133.8 (arom. C(1)); 129.5 (arom. C(4)); 127.5 (arom. C(3), C(5)); 63.9 (C(5)); 45.4, 33.3, 27.3 (C(2), C(3), C(4)); 26.8 ( $\text{Me}_3\text{C}$ ); 21.2 ( $\text{Me}_2\text{C}$ ); 19.1 ( $\text{Me}_3\text{C}$ ).  $M^+$ : 312 (23), 311 (92), 233 (21), 200 (22), 199 (100), 197 (10), 183 (13), 181 (10), 139 (26).

*6-[(tert-Butyl)diphenylsilyloxy]-3,3-dimethylhex-1-yne (7)*. IR (NaCl, liquid film): 3305.  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 0.98 (s, 3 Me); 1.12 (s, 2 Me); 1.30–1.79 (m, 4 H); 1.98 (s,  $\text{HC}\equiv\text{C}$ ); 3.61 (t,  $J = 6.3$ ,  $\text{CH}_2\text{O}$ ); 7.32 (m, 6 H, H–C(3), H–C(4), H–C(5) of Ph); 7.60 (m, 4 H, H–C(2), H–C(6) of Ph).  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 135.6 (arom. C(2), C(6)); 134.1 (arom. C(1)); 129.5 (arom. C(4)); 127.6 (arom. C(3), C(5)); 91.8 (C(2));

67.7 (C(1)); 64.2 (C(6)); 39.3, 30.7, 28.5 (C(3), C(4), C(5)); 29.1 ( $Me_2C$ ); 26.8 ( $Me_3C$ ); 19.2 ( $Me_3C$ ). MS: 308 (13), 307 (47), 229 (37), 200 (18), 199 (100), 183 (15), 181 (15), 163 (17), 137 (10).

**2-Bromo-6-[(tert-butyl)diphenylsilyloxy]-3,3-dimethylhex-1-ene (4).** IR (NaCl, liquid film): 1620, 1590.  $^1H$ -NMR (300 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ): 1.05 (s, 3 Me); 1.15 (s, 2 Me); 1.47 (m, 4 H); 3.65 (m,  $CH_2O$ ); 5.45 (d,  $J = 2.1$ , 1 H,  $CH_2=C$ ); 5.55 (d,  $J = 2.1$ , 1 H,  $CH_2=C$ ); 7.38 (m, 6 H, H-C(3), H-C(4), H-C(5) of Ph); 7.68 (m, 4 H, H-C(2), H-C(6) of Ph).  $^{13}C$ -NMR (75 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ): 145.6 (C(2)); 135.6 (arom. C(2), C(6)); 134.1 (arom. C(1)); 129.5 (arom. C(4)); 127.6 (arom. C(3), C(5)); 115.7 (C(1)); 64.2 (C(6)); 42.4, 37.2, 27.7 (C(3), C(4), C(5)); 27.1 ( $Me_2C$ ); 26.9 ( $Me_3C$ ); 19.2 ( $Me_3C$ ). MS: 389 (12), 387 (12), 263 (19), 261 (20), 199 (14), 181 (16), 109 (100), 81 (16), 67 (49).

**(1R,2S,3R,4S)-3-[N-(3,5-Dimethylphenyl)-N-(phenylsulfonyl)amino]-1,7,7-trimethylbicyclo[2.2.1]hept-2-yl (1R,2S)-2-{5-[(tert-butyl)diphenylsilyloxy]-2,2-dimethyl-1-methylidenepentyl}-5-oxocyclopentanecarboxylate (8).** Yield after CC (petroleum ether/AcOEt 8:2): 3.95 g (78%). Colorless crystals. M.p. 63–64°. IR (KBr): 1760, 1730, 1640, 1610, 1600, 1170, 1090.  $^1H$ -NMR (300 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ): 0.58 (s, Me); 0.91 (s, Me); 0.98 (s, Me); 1.03 (s, *t*-Bu); 1.08 (s, Me); 1.14 (s, Me); 1.20–1.88 (m, 11 H); 1.98 (br. s,  $Me_6H_3$ ); 2.16–2.64 (m,  $Me_6H_3$ , 2 aliph. H); 3.36–3.80 (m,  $CH_2O$ , H-C(1), H-C(2)); 3.85 (d,  $J = 7.0$ , H-C(3')); 5.03 (s, 1 H, C= $CH_2$ ); 5.10 (s, 1 H, C= $CH_2$ ); 5.24 (d,  $J = 7.0$ , H-C(2)); 5.58 (s, H-C(2) of  $Me_2C_6H_3$ ); 6.83 (s, H-C(4) of  $Me_2C_6H_3$ ); 7.15 (s, H-C(6) of  $Me_2C_6H_3$ ); 7.18–7.59 (m, 11 arom. H); 7.60–7.78 (m, 4 H, H-C(2), H-C(6) of  $Ph_2Si$ ).  $^{13}C$ -NMR (75 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ): 211.7 (C(5)); 167.6 (COO); 156.3 (=CCMe<sub>2</sub>); 138.5 (C(1) of  $PhSO_2$ ); 137.3 (C(1) of  $Me_2C_6H_3$ ); 135.5 (C(2), C(6) of  $Ph_2Si$ ); 134.1 (C(1) of  $Ph_2Si$ ); 132.2 (C(4) of  $PhSO_2$ ); 129.4, 129.3, 128.2, 127.9, 127.5 (arom. C); 109.5 ( $CH_2=$ ); 82.5 (C(2')); 67.3 (C(3')); 64.6 ( $CH_2O$ ); 62.5 (C(1)); 50.7 (C(1')); 48.4 (C(4')); 47.4 (C(7')); 40.6 (C(2)); 39.2, 38.7 (=CCMe<sub>2</sub> or C(4)); 37.0 ( $CH_2$ ); 32.2, 31.3, 27.8, 27.78 (C(3), C(5'), C(6'),  $CH_2$ ); 27.6, 27.0 ( $Me_2C$ ); 26.9 ( $Me_3C$ ); 21.4, 21.1, 20.7 (arom. Me, 2 Me); 19.2 ( $Me_3C$ ); 11.3 (Me). MS: 751 (6), 750 (27), 748 (59), 747 (100), 746 (6), 745 (7), 415 (6), 414 (6), 413 (21), 142 (3). Anal. calc. for  $C_{54}H_{69}NO_6Si$  (888.29): C 73.02, H 7.83, N 1.58; found: C 72.76, H 8.04, N 1.53.

**Ethyl (1R,2S)-2-{5-[(tert-butyl)diphenylsilyloxy]-2,2-dimethyl-1-methylidenepentyl}-5-oxocyclopentanecarboxylate (9).** IR (NaCl, liquid film): 1760, 1730, 1660, 1635, 1595, 1115.  $^1H$ -NMR (300 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ): 1.02 (s, Me); 1.046 (s, *t*-Bu); 1.051 (s, Me); 1.23 (t,  $J = 6.9$ , Me); 1.30–1.74 (m, 5 H,  $CH_2CH_2C=O$ ,  $CH_2CH_2CH_2O$ ,  $CH_2CH_2O$ ); 2.12–2.38 (m, 2 H,  $CH_2C=O$ ,  $CH_2CH_2C=O$ ); 2.39–2.58 (m, 1 H,  $CH_2C=O$ ); 3.10–3.34 (m, H-C(1), H-C(2)); 3.48–3.76 (m,  $CH_2OSi$ ); 4.13 (dq,  $J = 0.9$ , 6.9,  $CH_2OC=O$ ); 5.0 (s, 1 H,  $CH_2=C$ ); 5.05 (s, 1 H,  $CH_2=C$ ); 7.23–7.49 (m, 6 H, H-C(3), H-C(4), H-C(5) of Ph); 7.55–7.80 (m, 4 H, H-C(2), H-C(6) of Ph).  $^{13}C$ -NMR (75 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ): 211.6 (C(5)); 169.2 (COO); 157.4 (C(1')); 135.6 (arom. C(2), C(6)); 134.0 (arom. C(1)); 129.5 (arom. C(4)); 127.6 (arom. C(3), C(5)); 109.0 ( $CH_2=$ ); 64.4 (C(5')); 63.2 (C(1)); 61.3 ( $CH_2O$ ); 42.0 (C(2)); 39.2 (C(2')); 39.0 (C(4)); 36.6 ( $CH_2$ ); 32.1 (C(3)); 27.9 ( $CH_2$ ); 27.3, 26.8 ( $Me_2C$ ); 26.9 ( $Me_3C$ ); 19.2 ( $Me_3C$ ); 14.2 (Me). MS: 394 (1), 392 (30), 391 (86), 281 (26), 199 (100), 183 (18), 181 (17), 175 (9), 105 (6), 55 (7). Anal. calc. for  $C_{53}H_{64}O_4Si$  (520.78): C 73.80, H 8.52; found: C 73.67, H 8.57.

**Ethyl (1R,2S)-2-(5-Hydroxy-2,2-dimethyl-1-methylidenepentyl)-5-oxocyclopentanecarboxylate (10).** IR (NaCl, liquid film): 3440, 1755, 1720, 1640.  $^1H$ -NMR (300 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ): 1.06 (s, Me); 1.10 (s, Me); 1.26 (dt,  $J = 3.0$ , 7.1, Me); 1.31–1.65 (m, H-C(3),  $CH_2CH_2CH_2O$ ,  $CH_2CH_2O$ ); 2.05 (m, 1 H); 2.32–2.51 (m, 3 H, H-C(3), H-C(4)); 3.26 (m, H-C(1), H-C(2)); 3.59 (m,  $CH_2O$ ); 4.15 (m,  $CH_2OC=O$ ); 5.03 (d,  $J = 2.3$ , 1 H,  $CH_2=C$ ); 5.06 (d,  $J = 2.3$ , 1 H,  $CH_2=C$ ).  $^{13}C$ -NMR (75 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ): 211.4 (C(5)); 169.4 (COO); 157.0 (C(1')); 109.1 ( $CH_2=$ ); 62.9 (C(1)); 63.0, 61.4 (C(5'),  $CH_2O$ ); 41.7 (C(2)); 39.1, 38.8 (C(4), C(2')); 36.3 ( $CH_2$ ); 32.1 (C(3)); 27.8 ( $CH_2$ ); 27.4, 26.6 ( $Me_2C$ ); 14.0 (Me). MS: 282 (1,  $M^+$ ), 236 (4), 177 (22), 155 (36), 121 (27), 109 (62), 79 (36), 69 (36), 67 (37), 55 (100). HR-MS: calc. for  $C_{16}H_{26}O_4$ : 282.1831; found: 282.183 ± 0.0014.

**Ethyl (1R,2S)-2-[2,2-Dimethyl-1-methylidene-5-(p-tolylsulfonyl)pentyl]-5-oxocyclopentanecarboxylate (12).** IR (NaCl, liquid film): 1760, 1725, 1655, 1635, 1600, 1360, 1175.  $^1H$ -NMR (300 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ): 1.01 (s, Me); 1.05 (s, Me); 1.24 (t,  $J = 7.2$ , Me); 1.36–1.64 (m, H-C(3),  $CH_2CH_2CH_2O$ ,  $CH_2CH_2O$ ); 2.23–2.55 (m, 3 H, H-C(3), H-C(4)); 2.45 (s,  $MeC_6H_4$ ); 3.16–3.26 (m, H-C(1), H-C(2)); 4.00 (m,  $CH_2OSO_2$ ); 4.11 (m,  $CH_2O$ ); 5.02 (s,  $CH_2=$ ); 7.35 (d,  $J = 8.1$ , H-C(3), H-C(5) of Ph); 7.78 (d,  $J = 8.1$ , H-C(2), H-C(6) of Ph).  $^{13}C$ -NMR (75 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ): 211.2 (C(5)); 169.1 (COO); 156.6 (C(1')); 144.6 (C(1) of Ph); 133.2 (C(4) of Ph); 129.7 (C(3), C(5) of Ph); 127.8 (C(2), C(6) of Ph); 109.5 ( $CH_2=$ ); 70.9 ( $CH_2OSO_2$ ); 63.0 (C(1)); 61.3 ( $CH_2O$ ); 41.6 (C(2)); 39.1, 38.8 (C(4), C(2')); 35.8 ( $CH_2$ ); 32.1 (C(3)); 27.0, 26.6 ( $Me_2C$ ); 24.4 ( $CH_2$ ); 21.6 ( $MeC_6H_4$ ); 14.1 (Me). MS: 436 (2,  $M^+$ ), 390 (11), 363 (23), 177 (93), 155 (76), 109 (91), 107 (44), 91 (100), 67 (41), 55 (77).

**(3S)-3-{5-[(tert-butyl)diphenylsilyloxy]-2,2-dimethyl-1-methylidenepentyl}cyclopentanone (13).** IR (NaCl, liquid film): 1750, 1640, 1595, 1110.  $^1H$ -NMR (300 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ): 1.04 (s, Me, *t*-Bu); 1.06 (s, Me); 1.28–1.60 (m,  $CH_2CH_2CH_2O$ ,  $CH_2CH_2O$ ); 1.76 (m, 1 H); 1.96–2.24 (m, 3 H); 2.30–2.50 (m, 2 H); 2.77 (m, 1 H); 3.52–3.76 (m,  $CH_2O$ ); 4.95 (s, 1 H,  $CH_2=C$ ); 4.98 (s, 1 H,  $CH_2=C$ ); 7.28–7.47 (m, 6 H, H-C(3), H-C(4), H-C(5) of Ph);

7.56–7.79 (*m*, 4 H, H–C(2), H–C(6) of Ph).  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 219.0 (C(1)); 158.8 (C(1')); 135.5 (arom. C(2), C(6)); 133.9 (arom. C(1)); 129.5 (arom. C(4)); 127.6 (arom. C(3), C(5)); 108.0 ( $\text{CH}_2=$ ); 64.3 (C(5')); 48.2 (C(2)); 39.4, 39.1 (C(5), C(2')); 37.6 (C(3)); 36.7 ( $\text{CH}_3$ ); 32.2 (C(4)); 28.0 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ); 27.3, 27.0 ( $\text{Me}_2\text{C}$ ); 26.8 ( $\text{Me}_3\text{C}$ ); 19.2 ( $\text{Me}_3\text{C}$ ). MS: 394 (1), 392 (29), 391 (88), 281 (27), 199 (100), 183 (18), 181 (18), 175 (18), 105 (14), 55 (18). Anal. calc. for  $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{40}\text{O}_2\text{Si}$  (448.72): C 77.63, H 8.98; found: C 77.38, H 9.17.

(3*S*)-3-(5-Hydroxy-2,2-dimethyl-1-methylidenepentyl)cyclopentanone (14). IR (NaCl, liquid film): 3440, 1750, 1670, 1640.  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 1.08 (*s*, Me); 1.09 (*s*, Me); 1.32–1.55 (*m*,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}$ ); 1.67–2.29 (*m*, 5 H); 2.32–2.55 (*m*, 2 H); 2.83 (*m*, 1 H); 3.49–3.71 (*m*,  $\text{CH}_2\text{O}$ ); 4.99 (*s*, 1 H,  $\text{CH}_2=\text{C}$ ); 5.01 (*s*, 1 H,  $\text{CH}_2=\text{C}$ ).  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 219.4 (C(1)); 158.6 (C(1')); 108.1 ( $\text{CH}_2=$ ); 63.2 (C(5')); 48.1 (C(2)); 39.4, 39.0 (C(5) or C(2')); 37.5 (C(3)); 36.6 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ); 32.2 (C(4)); 28.0 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ); 27.1, 26.9 ( $\text{Me}_2\text{C}$ ). MS: 210 (16,  $M^+$ ), 152 (20), 151 (31), 109 (50), 93 (33), 83 (100), 81 (39), 79 (39), 67 (56), 55 (78). HR-MS: calc. for  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_2^+$ : 210.1620; found: 210.1617  $\pm$  0.0021.

(3*S*)-3-(5-Chloro-2,2-dimethyl-1-methylidenepentyl)cyclopentanone (15). IR (NaCl, liquid film): 1750, 1640, 1155, 900.  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 1.08 (*s*, Me); 1.10 (*s*, Me); 1.42–2.32 (*m*, 8 H); 2.34–2.62 (*m*, 2 H); 2.82 (*m*, 1 H); 3.51 (*t*,  $J = 6.0$ ,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}$ ); 5.01 (*s*,  $\text{CH}_2=\text{C}$ ).  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 218.8 (C(1)); 158.3 (C(1')); 108.5 ( $\text{CH}_2=$ ); 48.1 (C(2)); 45.6, 39.4, 39.0, 37.8 (C(5), C(2'), C(5'),  $\text{CH}_2$ ); 37.5 (C(3)); 32.3 (C(4)); 28.1 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ); 27.1, 27.0 ( $\text{Me}_2\text{C}$ ). MS: 228 (1,  $M^+$ ), 152 (77), 110 (32), 109 (40), 107 (32), 95 (32), 83 (100), 81 (30), 67 (42), 55 (70).

(3*aS*,8*aR*)-5,5-Dimethyl-4-methylidenedecahydroazulene-1-one ((-)-16). 1. (3*aS*)-8*a*-(Ethoxycarbonyl)-5,5-dimethyl-4-methylidenedecahydroazulene-1-one. To a cooled (0°) soln. of 118 mg (0.27 mmol) of **11** in 12 ml of abs. THF was slowly added a soln. of 91 mg (0.81 mmol) of *t*-BuOK in 2 ml of abs. THF, and the mixture was stirred at 0° for 50 min. Afterwards, the mixture was heated up slowly to 70–75°, and the temp. was maintained for additional 30 h. After cooling to 0°, aq.  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$  soln. and AcOEt were added, and the org. layer was washed with brine, dried, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by TLC (pentane/acetone 85:15): 16 mg (25%; recovered starting material: 12 mg). IR (NaCl, liquid film): 1745, 1710, 1630, 1195.  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 1.01 (*s*, Me); 1.14 (*s*, Me); 1.20 (*m*, H–C(6)); 1.26 (*t*,  $J = 7.1$ , Me); 1.45 (*m*, H–C(8)); 1.58–1.75 (*m*, 3 H, H–C(6), H–C(7)); 2.13–2.50 (*m*, 5 H, H–C(2), H–C(3), H–C(8)); 3.77 (*m*, H–C(3*a*)); 4.20 (*m*,  $\text{CH}_2\text{O}$ ); 4.73 (*s*, 1 H,  $\text{CH}_2=\text{C}(E)$ ); 5.03 (*s*, 1 H,  $\text{CH}_2=\text{C}(Z)$ ).  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 214.6 (C(1)); 170.2 (COO); 158.3 (C(4)); 106.8 ( $\text{CH}_2=$ ); 63.9 (C(8*a*)); 61.5 ( $\text{CH}_2\text{O}$ ); 44.6 (C(3*a*)); 38.9 (C(5)); 37.5 (C(6)); 36.6 (C(2)); 32.8 (Me); 28.8 (C(8)); 26.3 (Me); 24.6 (C(3)); 20.5 (C(7)); 14.1 (Me). MS: 264 (4,  $M^+$ ), 192 (15), 191 (100), 147 (12), 133 (11), 105 (14), 91 (22), 77 (14), 67 (11), 55 (20). HR-MS: calc. for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{24}\text{O}_3^+$ : 264.1725; found: 264.172  $\pm$  0.0015.

2. A mixture of 31 mg (0.12 mmol) of (3*aS*)-8*a*-(ethoxycarbonyl)-5,5-dimethyl-4-methylidenedecahydroazulene-1-one and 30 mg (0.72 mmol) of LiCl (dried for 18 h over  $\text{P}_2\text{O}_5$  at 100° at 7 Torr) in 2 ml of abs. DMPU was stirred at 130° for 74 h. After cooling to r.t., the mixture was poured into 7 ml of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , extracted with  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ , the org. layer washed with  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , dried, and concentrated *in vacuo*: 35 mg of crude product. TLC ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{AcOEt}$  98:2; plate pretreated with aq. 10%  $\text{AgNO}_3$  soln.): 3 mg (13%).  $R_f$  (0.46).  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = -142.22$  ( $c = 0.3$  in EtOH). IR (NaCl, liquid film): 1745, 1635, 895.  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 1.04 (*s*,  $\text{Me}_{\text{ax}}$ ); 1.05–1.17 (*m*, H–C(8)); 1.16 (*s*,  $\text{Me}_{\text{eq}}$ ); 1.15–1.29 (*m*, H–C(7)); 1.54 (*m*, H–C(6)); 1.57 (*m*, H–C(6)); 1.64–1.74 (*m*, H–C(7), H–C(8*a*)); 1.93 (*m*, H–C(3)); 2.10–2.20 (*m*, H–C(8)); 2.17 (*m*, H–C(2)); 2.44 (*m*, H–C(2)); 2.57 (*m*, H–C(3*a*)); 4.98 (*s*, 1 H,  $\text{CH}_2=\text{C}(E)$ ); 5.01 (*s*, 1 H,  $\text{CH}_2=\text{C}(Z)$ ).  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 219.9 (C(1)); 159.4 (C(4)); 106.5 ( $=\text{CH}_2$ ); 59.3 (C(8*a*)); 44.5 (C(3*a*)); 41.7 (C(6)); 39.6 (C(5)); 38.2 (C(2)); 32.5 ( $\text{Me}_{\text{ax}}$ ); 30.5 (C(8)); 28.1 ( $\text{Me}_{\text{eq}}$ ); 25.7 (C(3)); 22.3 (C(7)). MS: 192 (30,  $M^+$ ), 136 (100), 109 (44), 107 (51), 93 (83), 91 (58), 79 (78), 67 (58), 55 (57), 53 (45). HR-MS: calc. for  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}^+$ : 192.1514; found: 192.151  $\pm$  0.001.

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