Structure Elucidation of (22E, 24R, 25R)-24-Methyl-5 α -cholest-22-ene-3 β ,4 β ,5,6 α ,8,14,15 α ,25,26-nonaol and (22E, 24S)-24-Methyl-5 α -cholest-22-ene-3 β ,4 β ,5,6 α ,8,14,15 α ,25,28-nonaol, Minor Marine Polyhydroxysteroids Isolated from the Starfish Archaster typicus

Raffaele Riccio,^{*} Mosé Santaniello, Olinda Squillace Greco, and Luigi Minale^{*} Dipartimento di Chimica delle Sostanze Naturali, Università di Napoli, Via D. Montesno 49, 80131 Napoli, Italy

The structures of two minor polyhydroxysteroids isolated from the starfish Archaster typicus were determined as (22E,24R,25R)-24-methyl-5 α -cholest-22-ene-3 β ,4 β ,5,6 α ,8,14,15 α ,25,26-nonaol (4) and (22E,24S)-24-methyl-5 α -cholest-22-ene-3 β ,4 β ,5,6 α ,8,14,15 α ,25,28-nonaol (5).

The stereochemistry at the C-24 and C-25 positions in compound (4) was determined by asymmetric synthesis of 2,3-dimethylpentane-1,2-diols as models and comparison of the spectral data of their 1-(+)-MTPA esters with those of the 26-(+)-MTPA ester of the 22,23-dihydro derivative of the natural material. Similarly the stereochemistry at the C-24 position in compound (5) was proposed by comparison of the spectral data with those of a model compound.

The starfish *Archaster typicus*, collected off Nouméa, New Caledonia, contains large amounts of highly hydroxylated steroids. We have hitherto identified seven compounds having cholestane [*e.g.* (1)] and 27-norcholestane skeletons [*e.g.* (2) and (3)]. A common functionality of these compounds is the $3\beta,6\alpha,8,14,15\alpha$ -pentahydroxy moiety, other hydroxylation positions in the nucleus being 4β , 5α , and 7β . Some of these steroids have a sulphate group located at C-6 or C-15. Their structures were deduced from spectral data¹ and very recently the structure of (24*R*)-27-nor-5 α -cholestane- $3\beta,4\beta,5,6\alpha,7\beta,8,14,15-\alpha,24$ -nonaol (2) was confirmed by a single-crystal *X*-ray study.²

In the present paper we report the structures of two new polyhydroxysteroids (4) and (5) having a Δ^{22} 24-methyl-cholestane skeleton.

Reverse-phase high-performance liquid chromatography (h.p.l.c.) of a polyhydroxysteroids fraction obtained from the aqueous extracts of A. typicus (7.5 kg, fresh weight) by chromatography on Amberlite XAD-2, followed by chromatography on Sephadex LH-60 and LH-20 and droplet countercurrent chromatography (DCCC), gave compound (4) (22 mg), m.p. 288–290 °C; $[\alpha]_{\rm D}$ + 33.3°; and compound (5) (3 mg), $[\alpha]_{\rm D}$ +18.4°. An examination of their spectral data (¹H and ¹³C n.m.r., Tables 1 and 2) indicated that the two minor compounds contained the same $3\beta.4\beta.5.6\alpha.8.14.15\alpha$ -heptahydroxytetracyclic nucleus as compound (3). Electron-impact mass spectrometry showed no molecular ions, but only very small fragments at m/z492, 474, 456, and 438 corresponding to loss of two, three, four, and five molecules of water from M^+ . The ¹³C n.m.r. spectrum (Table 2) indicated that both compounds contained a total of 28 carbon atoms, and DEPT measurements revealed the presence in both compounds of a C_9 side-chain containing three methyl groups, two methines, together with one CH2OH, one

-COH, and two =CH groups.

Continuing now with the analysis of ¹H n.m.r. data for compound (4) in CD₃OD (Table 1), an AB quartet (J_{AB} 11 Hz) at δ_{H} 3.40 and 3.49 indicated a CH₂OH group linked to a quaternary carbon. The spectrum also showed the signals of two secondary methyls at δ_{H} 0.95 (d, J 6 Hz) and 1.01 (d, J 7 Hz), one tertiary methyl (which is geminal to oxygen) at δ_{H} 1.12, and two well separated olefinic double doublets at δ_{H} 5.27 (dd, J 15, 7.5 Hz) and 5.44 (dd, J 15, 8 Hz) indicative of a Δ^{22E} -double bond.

Thus the structure of compound (4) was determined as (*E*)-24-methyl- 5α -cholest-22-ene- 3β , 4β , $5,6\alpha$,8,14, 15α ,25,26-nonaol.



The remaining features needed to establish the structure fully are the stereochemistries at C-24 and C-25. This required the synthesis of model compounds and we decided to synthesize the 2,3-dimethylpentane-1,2-diols and compare their spectral data

| | (4) | (5) | Ref. compound (6) | Ref. compound (3^1) |
|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 3-H | 4.07 m | 4.06 m | 3.52 m | 4.06 m |
| 4-H | 3.96 d (4) | 3.96 d (4) | | 3.96 d (6) |
| 6-H | 4.37 dd (5, 12) | 4.37 dd (5, 12) | 5.35 br d | 4.37 dd (5, 12) |
| 15-H | 4.45 dd (4.2, 9.5) | 4.44 dd (4.2, 9.5) | | 4.46 dd (4.2, 9.5) |
| 18-H ₃ | 1.16 s | 1.17 s | 0.77 s | 1.14 s |
| 19-H ₃ | 1.33 s | 1.33 s | 1.05 s | 1.33 s |
| 21-H ₃ | 0.95 d (6) | 0.98 d (6.5) | 1.08 d (6.5) | 0.88 d (7) |
| 22-H | 5.44 dd (15, 8) | 5.42 dd (15, 8) | 5.42 dd (15, 8) | |
| 23-H | 5.27 dd (15, 8.5) | 5.25 dd (15, 9) | 5.24 dd (15, 9) | |
| $26 - H_{2(3)}$ | 3.403.94 d (11) | 1.18 s | 1.18 s | |
| 27-H ₃ | 1.12 s | 1.20 s | 1.20 s | |
| $28 - H_{3(2)}$ | 1.01 d (7) | 3.62 dd (11, 7), | 3.60 dd (11, 7), | |
| , | | 3.86 dd (11, 6.5) | 3.86 dd (11, 6.5) | |

Table 1. Selected 250 MHz ¹H n.m.r. signals for steroids (4) and (5) in CD₃OD (*J* in Hz)

Table 2. ¹³C N.m.r. shifts (δ_c) of steroids (4) and (5)^{*a*}

| | | | Ref. | Ref. |
|--------|-------|---------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Carbon | (4) | (5) | compound $(6)^{b}$ | compound $(3)^1$ |
| 1 | 32.8 | 32.9 | 37.5 | 32.8 |
| 2 | 26.7 | 26.8 | 32.0 | 26.8 |
| 3 | 68.5 | 68.5 | 72.7 | 68.5 |
| 4 | 72.5 | 72.6 | 43.0 | 72.6 |
| 5 | 78.1 | 78.2 | 141.7 | 78.1 |
| 6 | 65.8 | 65.8 | 121.0 | 65.8 |
| 7 | 40.4 | 40.4 | 32.2 | 40.0 |
| 8 | 78.8 | 78.8 | 32.1 | 78.8 |
| 9 | 41.1 | 41.1 | 50.5 | 41.1 |
| 10 | 39.7 | 39.8 | 36.7 | 39.8 |
| 11 | 18.0 | 18.0 | 21.2 | 18.0 |
| 12 | 39.7 | 39.8 | 39.9 | 39.8 |
| 13 | 47.8 | 47.9 | 42.5 | 48.0 |
| 14 | 84.6 | 84.6 | 57.0 | 84.4 |
| 15 | 69.1 | 62.1 | 24.4 | 69.1 |
| 16 | 34.8 | 34.9 | 28.6 | 35.0 |
| 17 | 50.9 | 50.7 | 55.8 | 51.1 |
| 18 | 17.3 | 17.4 | 12.2 | 17.2 |
| 19 | 17.3 | 17.4 | 19.4 | 17.4 |
| 20 | 39.7 | 40.0 (40.2) | 40.3 | |
| 21 | 20.8 | 20.5 (20.6) | 20.7 | |
| 22 | 137.7 | 140.0 (142.0) | 142.2 | |
| 23 | 130.3 | 126.3 (126.8) | 124.7 | |
| 24 | 44.2 | 55.5 (56.3) | 55.4 | |
| 25 | 74.3 | 72.7 (72.7) | 73.0 | |
| 26 | 68.7 | 26.1 (25.9) | 26.3 | |
| 27 | 22.2 | 30.1 (29.7) | 29.4 | |
| 28 | 15.5 | 64.2 (64.5) | 64.0 | |

^{*a*} Measured at 62.9 MHz in $[{}^{2}H_{5}]$ pyridine; values in parentheses are shifts measured in CD₃OD; assignments were aided by the DEPT technique. ^{*b*} From CD₃OD solution.

with those of the 22,23-dihydro derivative of the natural material (4) *i.e.* compound (4a). The syntheses are outlined in the Scheme. Epoxidation of (*E*)-2-methylpent-2-en-1-ol followed by reaction with lithium dimethylcuprate gave the (2R,3R)/(2S,3S)-2,3-dimethylpentane-1,2-diol enantiomeric pair, which was converted into the (2S,3R)/(2R,3S)-enantiomeric pair by tosylation, alkaline treatment, and opening of the resulting 1,2-epoxide with 0.05M-aq. sulphuric acid at room temperature for 3 h. In the ¹H n.m.r. spectrum of the dihydro derivative (4a), the 26-, 27-, and 28-protons resonated at δ 3.42—3.44 (2 × 1 H, each d, *J* 11 Hz), 1.04 (s, 27-H₃), and 0.88 (d, *J* 7 Hz, 28-H₃) in close accord with the values at δ 3.42—3.49 (2 × 1 H, each d, *J* 11 Hz,1-H₂), 1.04 (s), and 0.89 (d, *J* 7 Hz) measured for the enantiomeric pair (2R,3R)/(2S,3S)-2,3-

dimethylpentane-1,2-diol as compared with the values at δ 3.45 (ABq, J 11 Hz), 1.07 (s), and 0.96 (d, J 7 Hz) measured for the other, (2S,3R)/(2R,3S)-enantiomeric pair.

In order to distinguish between the configuration 2R, 3R and 2S,3S we synthesized, from (E)-2-methylpent-2-en-1-ol, the optically active (2R,3R)-2,3-dimethylpentane-1,2-diol by using the titanium tartrate-catalysed asymmetric epoxidation of allylic alcohols discovered by Katsuki and Sharpless,³ followed by opening of the oxirane ring with lithium dimethylcuprate (Scheme). A (+)-(R)-MTPA (α -methoxy- α -trifluoromethylphenylacetate)(β , β , β -trifluoro- α -methoxy- α -phenyl(propionate) ester was then prepared from both the enantiomer (2R, 3R)-2,3-dimethylpentane-1,2-diol and the (2R,3R)/(2S,3S)-enantiomeric pair. In the ¹H n.m.r. spectrum of the (+)-MTPA ester of the (2R,3R)-enantiomer the C-1 methylene protons appeared as an AB quartet at δ 4.16 (J 11 Hz) with the two central lines separated by 3.8 Hz, closely resembling the signal for the 26protons of the (+)-MTPA ester of (4a) (AB quartet with the central lines separated by 3.8 Hz). In the spectrum of the (+)-MTPA ester of the (2R,3R)/(2S.3S)-enantiomeric pair the signals of the C-1 protons of the (2S,3S)-isomer appeared as two well separated doublets (J 11 Hz) at δ 4.05 and 4.27. On this basis the configurations of C-24 and C-25 of compound (4a) and accordingly of (4) are suggested to be 24R, 25R.

Coming back now to the ¹H n.m.r. analysis of compound (5) (Table 1), the signals at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 5.25 (1 H, dd, J 15, 9 Hz) and 5.42 (1 H, dd, J 15, 8 Hz) indicated the presence of a Δ^{22E} -double bond. The spectrum also contained two one-proton double doublets at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 3.62 (J 11, 7 Hz) and 3.86 (J 11, 6.5 Hz) associated with a 24-hydroxymethyl group, a signal for a secondary methyl group at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 0.98 (d, J 6 Hz), and two three-protons singlets at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 1.18 and 1.20 associated with tertiary methyls which are geminal to oxygen. Sequential decoupling, which also allowed the assignment of the signals for 20-H (m, δ 2.08) and 24-H (m, δ 2.18), established the sequence -(Me)CH-CH=CH-CH-(CH₂OH)-. The structural assignment of the side-chain of compound (5) received support from the direct comparison with 25,28-dihydroxy-7,8-dihydroergosterol [*i.e.*] (22E, 24R)-24methylcholesta-5,22-diene-3\beta,25,28-triol(6)] obtained by stereospecific synthesis by Midland and Kwon⁴ (a sample was generously given to us by Professor Midland). The ¹H n.m.r. signals for the side-chain protons of the synthetic material (6) were virtually superposable with those of the natural steroid (5) (Table 1), except that the signal for the 21-methyl protons in the natural product (4) was observed shifted upfield to δ 0.98 (δ 1.08 in the synthetic material, CD₃OD). A 0.05-0.1 p.p.m. upfield deviation of the chemical shift values for C-21 methyl protons has been observed in the spectra of all steroids of A. typicus¹ and is ascribed to the presence of the 14α , 15α -glycol structure, after a single-crystal X-ray study on the steroid (2), which confirmed



Scheme. Synthesis of model 2,3-dimethylpentane-1,2-diols. Reagents and conditions: i, m-ClC₆H₄CO₃H; ii, LiMe₂Cu; iii, TsCl-pyridine; iv, Na₂CO₃; v, H₃⁺O; vi, L-(+)-diethyl tartrate, Me₃CO-OH Ti(OPrⁱ)₄, CH₂Cl₂, -20 °C



the common 20*R* configuration.^{2,†} The lack of the synthetic (24*S*)-epimer of (6) did not allow us to assign the stereochemistry at C-24 of the natural product (5) with confidence. Even so, an accurate analysis of the ¹³C n.m.r. data of the model compound (6) and the natural product (5) in CD₃OD (Table 2) showed small but significative differences especially at carbons near to the chiral centre (C-24). We assign these differences to the different configuration at C-24 and on this basis we suggest the 24*S*-configuration for the steroid (5).

Experimental

General Methods.—For general methods see ref. 1. Light petroleum refers to the fraction boiling in the range 40—70 °C.

Isolation of Steroids (4) and (5).-Extraction of Archaster typicus (7.5 kg, fresh) and chromatography, on a column of Amberlite XAD-2, of the aqueous extracts followed by two successive chromatographic purifications of the methanol eluate on columns of Sephadex LH-60 and Sephadex LH-20 to separate the sulphated 'asterosaponins' from the polyhydroxysteroids fraction was reported in ref. 1. The polyhydroxysteroid fraction was then submitted to DCCC with chloroformmethanol-water (7:13:8) in the ascending mode and 6-ml fractions were collected. Fractions 80-100 contained a mixture of mainly compounds (4) and (5) (35 mg), which were separated by h.p.l.c. on a μ -Bondapak C₁₈ column with 70% aq. MeOH as eluant to give compound (5) (3 mg, elution time 16.5 min) as a glassy material, $[\alpha]_D + 18.4^\circ$ (c 0.4 in MeOH), and compound (4) (22 mg, elution time 22 min), m.p. 288-290 °C (from MeOH); $[\alpha]_D 33.3^\circ$ (c 1.0 in MeOH). Spectral data are in Tables 1 and 2.

(2R,3R)/(2S,3S)-2,3-Dimethylpentane-1,2-diol Enantiomeric Pair.—A solution of (E)-2-methylpent-2-en-1-ol (2 g) in

CH₂Cl₂ (30 ml) was treated with *m*-chloroperbenzoic acid (4 g) at 0 °C and the mixture was left at room temperature overnight. The solution was washed successively with saturated aq. NaHCO₃ and water, and the solvent was evaporated off to give a crude oil (1.5 g). The ¹H n.m.r. spectrum was consistent with the expected product, the *trans*-epoxide, $\delta_{\rm H}$ (CDCl₃) 1.02 (3 H, t, *J* 7 Hz, *Me*CH₂), 1.29 (3 H, s, 2-Me), 1.59 (2 H, m, MeCH₂), 3.04 (1 H, t, *J* 6 Hz, 3-H), and 3.58—3.72 (2 × 1 H, each d, *J* 13 Hz, CH₂OH).

The crude product (0.7 g) was dissolved in dry ethyl ether (4 ml) and the solution was slowly added to a solution of lithium dimethylcuprate at 0 °C, prepared by adding, under nitrogen, 1.6M-methyl-lithium in hexane (36 ml) to a stirred suspension of copper(1) iodide (5.3 g) in diethyl ether (30 ml), and the mixture was allowed to react for 5 h at 0 °C. After warming at room temperature, the mixture was poured into a 2:1 mixture (200 ml) of saturated aq. ammonium chloride solution and 28% aq. ammonium hydroxide and extracted with diethyl ether $(3 \times 100 \text{ ml})$. The combined ethereal layers were washed with water, dried with sodium sulphate, and evaporated to yield a crude product (0.8 g). The product was purified by column chromatography [silica gel (30 g)] with chloroform and increasing amounts of methanol as eluant to afford, in the 10%methanol fractions, the (2R,3R)/(2S,3S)-2,3-dimethylpentane-1,2-diol enantiomeric pair (0.40 g); ¹H n.m.r. data are in the text; δ_c (CD₃OD) 13.1 (C-5), 14.1 (3-Me), 19.6 (2-Me), 24.2 (C-4), 42.6 (C-3), 69.3 (C-1), and 76.2 (C-2).

The diol (20 mg) was treated with a solution of freshly distilled (+)- α -methoxy- α -(trifluoromethyl)phenylacetyl chloride (β , β , β -trifluoro- α -methoxy- α -phenylpropionyl chloride) (50 µl) in dry pyridine (1 ml) for 2 h. Removal of solvent gave the diastereoisomeric (+)-MTPA esters mixture, $\delta_{\rm H}$ (CDCl₃) 0.75 (d, J 7 Hz, 3-Me of the 2*R*,3*R*-isomer), 0.78 (d, J 7 Hz, 3-Me of the 2*R*,3*R*-isomer), 0.78 (d, J 7 Hz, 3-Me of the 2*R*,3*R*-isomer), 0.78 (d, J 7 Hz, 3-Me of the 2*R*,3*R*-isomer), 0.78 (d, J 7 Hz, 3-Me of the 2*R*,3*R*-isomer), 0.78 (d, J 7 Hz, 3-Me of the 2*R*,3*R*-isomer), 0.78 (d, J 7 Hz, 3-Me of the 2*R*,3*R*-isomer), 0.78 (d, J 7 Hz, 3-Me of the 2*R*,3*R*-isomer), 0.82 (t, *Me*CH₂), 1.00 (s, 2-Me), 1.30 and 1.63 (each br m, 3-H and 4-H₂), 3.47 (s, OMe), 4.05–4.27 (each d, AB system, J 11 Hz, CH₂OMTPA of the 2*R*,3*R*-isomer), and 7.37, 7.43, and 7.57 (Ph).

(2S,3R)/(2R,3S)-2,3-Dimethylpentane-1,2-diol Enantiomeric Pair.--(2R,3R)/(2S,3S)-2,3-Dimethylpentane-1,2-diol enantiomeric pair (180 mg) was treated with a solution of p-TsCl (350 mg) in dry pyridine (4 ml) at 0 °C. After being kept overnight at room temperature, the mixture was poured into 1M-HCl (50 ml) and extracted with diethyl ether (3 × 50 ml). The combined ethereal layers were washed successively with water, saturated aq. NaHCO₃, and water, and evaporated to yield the crude tosylester which, without further purification, was dissolved in dry ethanol and treated with Na₂CO₃ (50 mg). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 h. Light petroleum was added and the mixture was washed with water. The organic layer was

[†] A 20*S*-configuration could be suspected because the proton shifts for the C-21 methyl group are reported as being shifted *ca*. 0.1 p.p.m. upfield in 20*S*-cholesterol relative to 'natural' 20*R*-cholesterol (W. R. Nes, T. E. Vorkey, and K. Krevitz, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 1977, **99**, 250).

dried over anhydrous MgSO₄, and evaporated to give the (2R,3R)/(2S,3S)-2,3-dimethylpentane 1,2-epoxide enantiomeric pair (140 mg). The ¹H n.m.r. spectrum was consistent with the expected product, $\delta_{\rm H}$ (CDCl₃) 0.89 (3 H, t, *J* 7 Hz, *Me*CH₂), 0.91 (3 H, d, *J* 7 Hz, 3-Me), 1.18 (3 H, s, 2-Me), 1.20 (2 H, m, MeCH₂), 1.58 (1 H, m, 3-H) and 2.49 (2 H, s, epoxide methylene protons).

The epoxide (50 mg) was then opened by treatment with 0.05M-aq. H_2SO_4 (5 ml) at room temperature for 3 h. The reaction mixture was then extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (× 3). The combined extracts were washed successively with water, saturated aq. NaHCO₃, and water, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, and evaporated to give the (2S,3R)/2R,3S)-2,3-dimethylpentane-1,2-diol enantiomeric pair (43 mg), which was purified as described before; ¹H n.m.r. spectral data are in the text; δ_C (CD₃OD) 13.0 (C-5), 13.2 (3-Me), 20.4 (2-Me), 25.2 (C-4), 42.8 (C-3), 69.0 (C-1), and 76.0 (C-2).

(2R,3R)-2,3-Dimethylpentane-1,2-diol.-To dry dichloromethane (15 ml) cooled at -20 °C were added sequentially the following liquids: titanium tetraisopropoxide (Aldrich) (600 µl), L-(+)-diethyl tartrate (Aldrich) (400 µl), t-butyl hydroperoxide (freshly distilled (500 µl) in dry dichloromethane (15 ml), and finally a solution of (E)-2-methylpent-2-en-1-ol (980 mg) in dry dichloromethane (10 ml). The resulting homogenous solution was then stored overnight (ca. 18 h) in the freezer at ca. -20 °C. Then 10% aqueous tartaric acid (6 ml) was added at -20 °C while the mixture was stirred. After 30 min the cooling bath was removed and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 h, according to the method of Katsuki and Sharpless.³ The organic layer was washed with water, dried (Na₂SO₄), and evaporated to give a pale yellow oil, which was purified by column chromatography [silica gel (60 g)] with hexane and increasing amounts of diethyl ether to give 0.47 g of (2 R, 3R)-2,3epoxy-2-methylpentan-1-ol, $[\alpha]_D$ +11.1°, which was treated with lithium dimethylcuprate as described above to afford (2R,3R)-2,3-dimethylpentane-1,2-diol, $[\alpha]_D$ + 6.7°. Analysis of this material as the (+)-MTPA ester gave an enantiomeric excess of 95%. The (+)-MTPA ester was prepared as described above; $\delta_{\rm H}$ 0.75 (3 H, d, J 7 Hz, 3-Me), 0.82 (3 H, t, MeCH₂), 1.00 (3 H, s, 2-Me), 1.30 and 1.63 (each br m, 3-H and 4-H₂), 3.47 (3 H, s, OMe), 4.13–4.18 (2 \times 1 H, d, J 11 Hz, CH₂O).

Hydrogenation of the Alkene (4) to give Compound (4a).— Hydrogenation of compound (4) (12 mg) was carried out at room temperature and atmospheric pressure in MeOH with 10% Pd/C for 24 h. Usual work-up afforded the saturated analogue (4a); m/z (e.i.m.s.) 494 ($M^+ - 2H_2O$), 476, and 458; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (CD₃OD) data are in the text; $\delta_{\rm C}$ (CD₃OD) C-1, 33.1; C-2, 26.4; C-3, 69.3; C-4, 72.7; C-5, 78.6; C-6, 66.6; C-7, 40.2; C-8, 79.2; C-9, 40.9; C-10, 40.1, C-11, 18.3; C-12, 39.4; C-13, 49.8; C-14, 85.2; C-15, 70.0; C-16, 35.7; C-17; 51.8; C-18, 17.3; C-19, 17.3; C-20, 36.2; C-21, 18.8; C-22, 35.5; C-23; 28.1; C-24, 41.7; C-25, 76.2; C-26, 19.8; C-27, 69.3; C-28, 14.7.

Nonaol (4a) (5 mg) was treated with a solution of freshly distilled (+)- α -methoxy- α -(trifluoromethyl)phenylacetyl chloride (10 μ l) in dry pyridine (0.5 ml) for 2 h. Removal of solvent gave a glassy residue, which was purified by passage through a Pasteur pipette filled with a slurry of silica gel in chloroform-methanol (95:5) to give the 3,6,26-tri-MTPA ester (6 mg), $\delta_{\rm H}$ (CDCl₃) 0.79 (3 H, d, *J* 6.5 Hz, 28-H₃), 0.83 (3 H, d, *J* 7 Hz, 21-H₃), 1.05 (3 H, s, 27-H₃), 1.07 (3 H, s, 18-H₃), 1.28 (3 H, s, 19-H₃), 3.52, 3.53, and 3.59 (each 3 H, s, OMe), 4.19 (1 H, d, *J* 3 Hz, 4-H), and 5.50 (2 H, m, 3- and 6-H).

Model Compound: (22E,24R)-24-Methylcholesta-5,22-diene-3 β ,25,28-triol (**6**).—A sample of 3,25-bis(dimethyl-t-butylsilyl)protected (**6**) (20 mg) given to us by Professor M. M. Midland ⁴ (Department of Chemistry, University of California, Riverside), was desilylated using tetrabutylammonium fluoride [100 µl of a 1M solution in tetrahydrofuran (THF)] in THF (2 ml) at room temperature for 2 h.⁵ Usual work-up and purification by passage through a Pasteur pipette filled with a slurry of silica gel in light petroleum–EtOAc (8:2) gave compound (**6**) (6 mg); *m/z* (e.i.m.s.) 430 (M^+); spectral data are in Tables 1 and 2.

Acknowledgements

Financial support was provided by M.P.I. (Italian Ministry of Education) and C.N.R. (Rome) (Contributo No. 86.01624.03). We are most grateful to Professor M. Mark Midland (University of California, Riverside) for a generous gift of a sample of 3,25-bis(dimethyl-t-butylsilyl)-protected 25,28-dihydroxy-7,8-dihydroergosterol. We also thank the ORSTOM Centre de Nouméa for the collection and extraction of animals.

References

- 1 R. Riccio, O. Squillace Greco, L. Minale, D. Laurent, and D. Duhet, J. Chem. Soc., Perkin Trans. 1, 1986, 665.
- 2 L. Mazzarella, C. A. Mattia, R. Puliti, R. Riccio, and L. Minale, *Acta Crystallogr.*, in the press.
- 3 T. Katsuki and K. B. Sharpless, J. Am. Chem. Soc., 1980, 102, 5970.
- 4 M. M. Midland and Y. C. Kwon, Tetrahedron Lett., 1985, 26, 5017.
- 5 E. J. Corey and A. Venkateswarlu, J. Am. Chem. Soc., 1972, 94, 6190.

Received 25th April 1988; Paper 8/01609G