

TWO TRITERPENES FROM THE FLOWERS OF *CAMELLIA JAPONICA*

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Key Word Index—*Camellia japonica*; Theaceae; triterpene; 28-noroleanane-type; maragenin II; camellenodiol; camelliedionol; X-ray crystallography.

Abstract—Two new triterpenoids from the flowers of *Camellia japonica* have been identified as 3 β ,18 β -dihydroxy-28-norolean-12-en-16-one and 18 β -hydroxy-28-norolean-12-ene-3,16-dione. A large amount of 3 β -hydroxy-28-noroleana-12,17-dien-16-one was also obtained.

INTRODUCTION

The sapogenins camelliagenin A, B and C [1–4] have been isolated from the fruit of *Camellia japonica* L. In this paper, we report on the isolation and characterization from the flowers of this plant, which have been used in the treatment of haematemesis in Japanese folk medicine, of two new 28-noroleanane-type triterpenes.

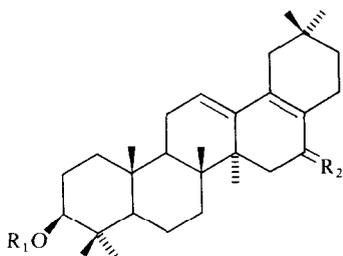
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Compound **1a**, C₂₉H₄₄O₂, was crystallized from MeOH as colourless needles, mp 228.0–228.5°. The presence in its ¹H NMR spectrum of seven sharp singlets (δ 0.80–1.12) for tertiary methyl groups suggested a nortriterpenoid skeleton. There was also a signal for a C-3 proton at δ 3.21 which was shifted to δ 4.48 by acetylation (**1b**). Its UV spectrum showed strong absorption at 299 nm and the IR spectrum contained a band at 1655 cm⁻¹ indicative of the presence of an α,β -unsaturated keto group with extended conjugation. Moreover, the ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR data showed the presence of one olefinic proton at C-12 (δ 6.08, *t*, *J* = 4 Hz) and four olefinic carbons [δ 126.8 (*s*), 128.9 (*d*), 139.1 (*s*) and 146.8 (*s*)]. Thus **1a** contained two double bonds, one of which was trisubstituted whilst the other was tetrasubstituted. The MS of **1a** contained ions at *m/z*

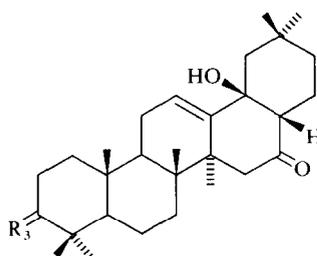
189 and 216 (Fig. 1) formed as a result of the retro-Diels–Alder cleavage of rings A/B and D/E. The former ion suggested the presence of the C-3 hydroxyl group and the latter was characteristic of a Δ^{12} -oleanane skeleton [5]. Wolff–Kishner reduction of **1a** gave a deoxy-compound (**2a**, C₂₉H₄₆O), the UV absorption (244 nm) of which suggested the presence of a heteroannular diene system (calc. value 244 nm). **2a** was identified as 28-noroleana-12,17-dien-3 β -ol by direct comparison of its acetate (**2b**) with an authentic sample of **2b** [6].

From the above facts, we decided that **1a** might be maragenin II, 3 β -hydroxy-28-noroleana-12,17-dien-16-one, a compound that had been isolated as its acetate from *Marah macrocarpus* [7]. However, the mp (215–217°, **1b** 187.0–187.5°) and the IR and NMR data (provided by Prof. P. J. Hylands) of maragenin II acetate differed from those of **1a**. To confirm the structure **1a**, its *p*-bromobenzoate (**1c**, C₃₆H₄₇O₃Br) was subjected to X-ray analysis. The perspective view of the molecule is shown in Fig. 2 and **1a** was confirmed as maragenin II, a compound that had not been isolated previously from natural sources except as its acetate.

Compound **3a**, C₂₉H₄₆O₃, was crystallized from MeOH as colourless needles, mp 215.0–216.5°. Its ¹H NMR spectrum contained seven sharp singlets (δ 0.81–1.19) for tertiary methyl groups, suggesting a



- 1a** R₁ = H, R₂ = O
1b R₁ = Ac, R₂ = O
1c R₁ = *p*-bromobenzoyl, R₂ = O
2a R₁ = H, R₂ = H₂
2b R₁ = Ac, R₂ = H₂



- 3a** R₃ =
3b R₃ =
4 R₃ = O

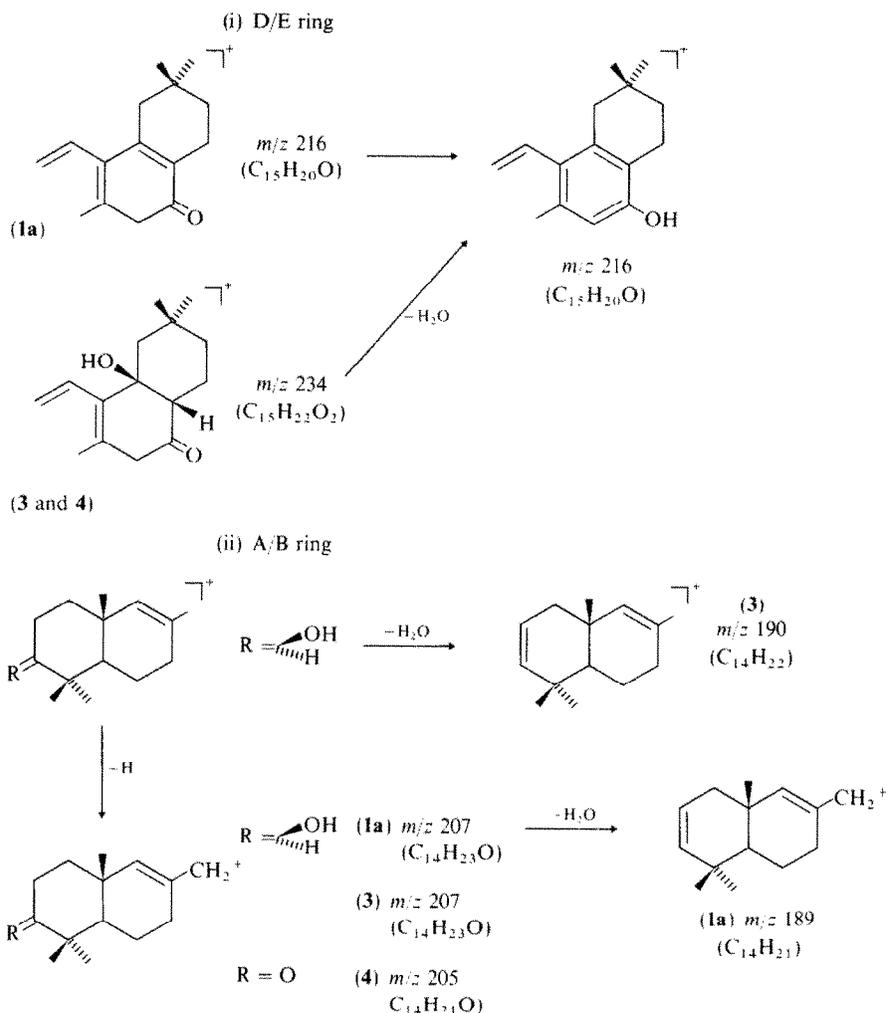


Fig. 1. Fragmentation of A/B and D/E rings of **1a**, **3** and **4**.
Elemental values determined by high-resolution MS.

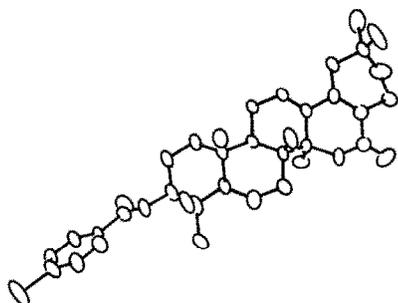


Fig. 2. The molecular structure of **1c**.

nortriterpenoid, and its IR spectrum had a band at 1710 cm^{-1} indicative of a non-conjugated ketone. It gave a monoacetate (**3b**), which still contained a hydroxyl group [IR, 3420 cm^{-1} ; ^{13}C NMR, δ 76.5 (s)]. This suggested that **3a** contained a tertiary hydroxyl group in addition to a 3β -hydroxyl group. The MS of **3a** like that of **1a** contained ions (m/z 234, 216 and 190) formed as a result of retro-Diels-Alder cleavage of rings D/E and A/B,

respectively (Fig. 1) [5]. Treatment of **3a** with *p*-toluenesulfonic acid and calcium chloride gave a dehydrated compound which was identified as **1b** by comparison with an authentic sample. Furthermore, the position of the hydroxyl group was determined on the basis of the lower field methine proton signal at δ 2.69 ppm, which could be assigned to the methine proton at C-17 adjacent to the carbonyl group and required the presence of a C-18 hydroxyl group. Thus, **3a** is $3\beta,18$ -dihydroxy-28-norolean-12-en-16-one.

Compound **4**, $C_{29}H_{44}O_3$, crystallized from MeOH as colourless crystals, mp 232 – 233° , and had a similar MS to **3a**, except that the molecular ion peak (m/z 440) was two mass units lower. Oxidation of **3a** with chromium trioxide-pyridine reagent gave **4**. Therefore **4** was the 3-one of **3a**, i.e. 18-hydroxy-28-norolean-12-ene-3,16-dione.

The last problem was the stereochemistry at C-18. If the C-18 hydroxyl group was in the α -configuration, it would be expected to cause an unmistakable downfield shift in the ^1H NMR spectrum of the C-27 methyl group [8,9]. However, both **3a** and **4** showed a sharp singlet at δ 1.19 which could be assigned to the C-27 methyl group and which seemed to have little influence on the hydroxyl

group in comparison with $\delta 1.15$ of 3β -hydroxy-28-norolean-12-en-16-one (maragenin I) [7], and this suggested that the C-18 hydroxyl group of **3a** and **4** was in the β -configuration (*cis* D/E). To confirm the *cis* D/E ring junction, we examined the pyridine-induced solvent shifts of **4** on the $^1\text{H NMR}$ spectrum. The Δ values ($\Delta = \delta_{\text{CDCl}_3} - \delta_{\text{C}_5\text{D}_5\text{N}}$) of the signal of the methine proton at C-17 was $\delta - 0.41$. This strong deshielding indicated a narrow dihedral angle between the proton and the hydroxyl group [10]. The CD curve of **3a** (Fig. 3) showed a negative Cotton effect which also favoured this configuration. **4** showed a more weakly negative Cotton effect which seemed to be due to the influence of the 3-keto group in addition to the 16-one. Inspection of Dreiding models showed that these were the expected Cotton effects. **3a** and **4** are thus $3\beta, 18\beta$ -dihydroxy-28-norolean-12-en-16-one and 18β -hydroxy-28-norolean-12-ene-3,16-dione, respectively, with the absolute structures shown in the structural formulae (**3a** and **4**).

3a and **4** are new compounds from natural sources. We propose that they should be called camellenodiol and camelledionol, respectively, after the genus of the plant from which they were isolated.

EXPERIMENTAL

Mps are uncorr. $^1\text{H NMR}$ and $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ spectra were measured at 100 MHz and 25 MHz, respectively, in 10 mm tubes with TMS as int. standard.

Isolation 1a, 3a, and 4. Dried flowers of *Camellia japonica* (3 kg) were extracted with MeOH. The MeOH extract was concd *in vacuo*, then dissolved in H_2O and partitioned with *n*-BuOH. The *n*-BuOH-soluble fraction was evapd, dissolved in a small amount of MeOH and poured into Et_2O . After removal of the ppt. (contains crude saponins) by filtration, the filtrate was evapd and chromatographed over Si gel with *n*-hexane-EtOAc-MeOH. To the fraction eluted with *n*-hexane-EtOAc (7:3), MeOH was added and the ppt. recrystallized (MeOH- CHCl_3) to give **1a**

(1.5 g), shining flakes. The filtrate was repeatedly sepd and purified by Si gel CC, prep. TLC (CHCl_3 -MeOH, 20:1) and HPLC (*n*-hexane-EtOAc, 7:3) to give **3a** (52 mg) and **4** (10 mg) as colourless needles (MeOH) and colourless crystals (MeOH), respectively.

3 β -Hydroxy-28-norolean-12,17-dien-16-one (1a). Mp 228.0–228.5°. $[\alpha]_D^{18} + 41^\circ$ (c 0.39, CHCl_3). (Found: C, 81.93; H, 10.62. Calc. for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{44}\text{O}_2$: C, 82.02, H, 10.44.) UV $\lambda_{\text{max}}^{\text{MeOH}}$ nm (ϵ): 299 (11 900); IR $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{KBr}}$ cm^{-1} : 3350, 2920, 1655, 1450, 1385, 1040; MS m/z (rel. int.): 424 $[\text{M}]^+$ (45), 216 (39), 207 (10), 204 (100), 203 (34), 189 (18); $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3): δ 0.80 (3 H, s), 0.91 (3 H, s), 0.95 (6 H, s), 0.97 (3 H, s), 1.01 (3 H, s), 1.12 (3 H, s), 3.21 (1 H, *t*-like), 3.46 (1 H, s, disappeared with D_2O), 6.08 (1 H, *t*, $J = 4$ Hz); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3) (OFR): δ 15.6, 17.9, 18.2, 20.6, 23.1, 24.1, 27.1, 28.1, 28.6, 29.2, 33.4, 36.8, 38.7, 40.4, 44.1, 44.9, 46.1, 55.3, 78.7 (*d*), 126.8 (*s*), 128.9 (*d*), 139.1 (*s*), 146.8 (*s*), 200.4 (*s*).

3 β ,18 β -Dihydroxy-28-norolean-12-en-16-one (3a). Mp 215.0–216.5°. $[\alpha]_D^{25} + 30^\circ$ (c 0.22, CHCl_3). M^+ 442.3447, calc. for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{44}\text{O}_3$, 442.3446; IR $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{KBr}}$ cm^{-1} : 3340, 2920, 1710, 1450, 1385, 1365, 1030; MS m/z (rel. int.): 442 $[\text{M}]^+$ (4), 424 (6), 409 (3), 234 (77), 216 (100), 207 (42), 190 (34), 175 (14), 149 (14); $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3): δ 0.81 (3 H, s), 0.90 (3 H, s), 0.98 (6 H, s), 1.01 (3 H, s), 1.05 (3 H, s), 1.19 (3 H, s), 2.69 (1 H, *dd*, $J = 12, 4$ Hz), 3.14 (1 H, *d*, $J = 14$ Hz), 3.20 (1 H, *t*, $J = 8$ Hz), 5.46 (1 H, *t*, $J = 3$ Hz); CD (c 0.0058, MeOH): $[\theta]_{340} 0^\circ$, $[\theta]_{325} - 3506^\circ$, $[\theta]_{310} - 7315^\circ$ (pk), $[\theta]_{290} - 3658^\circ$, $[\theta]_{266} - 304^\circ$.

18 β -Hydroxy-28-norolean-12-ene-3,16-dione (4). Mp 232.0–233.0°. $[\alpha]_D^{26} - 49^\circ$ (c 0.10, CHCl_3). M^+ 440.3276, calc. for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{44}\text{O}_3$, 440.3287; IR $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{KBr}}$ cm^{-1} : 3430, 2940, 1695, 1460, 1385, 1245; MS m/z (rel. int.): 440 $[\text{M}]^+$ (2), 411 (5), 234 (70), 216 (100), 206 (15), 205 (18), 201 (14), 191 (21), 149 (35); $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3): δ 0.89 (3 H, s), 0.96 (3 H, s), 1.06 (3 H, s), 1.07 (3 H, s), 1.09 (6 H, s), 1.19 (3 H, s), 2.73 (1 H, *dd*, $J = 13, 5$ Hz), 3.18 (1 H, *d*, $J = 14$ Hz), 5.52 (1 H, *t*, $J = 4$ Hz); $^1\text{H NMR}$ ($\text{C}_5\text{D}_5\text{N}$): 0.92 (3 H, s), 0.99 (6 H, s), 1.05 (3 H, s), 1.17 (3 H, s), 1.30 (3 H, s), 1.32 (3 H, s), 3.14 (1 H, *dd*, $J = 14, 5$ Hz), 3.73 (1 H, *d*, $J = 13$ Hz), 5.51 (1 H, *t*, $J = 4$ Hz); CD (c 0.0048, MeOH): $[\theta]_{336} 0^\circ$, $[\theta]_{325} - 2567^\circ$, $[\theta]_{312} - 4767^\circ$ (pk), $[\theta]_{295} - 2383^\circ$, $[\theta]_{282} 0^\circ$.

Acetylation of 1a. **1a** (300 mg) was acetylated with Ac_2O -pyridine (4 ml, 1:1) at room temp. overnight. The mixture was poured into ice- H_2O and the ppt. was recryst. (MeOH- CHCl_3) to give colourless plates (**1b**, 292 mg). Mp 187.0–187.5°. $[\alpha]_D^{26} + 29^\circ$ (c 0.56, CHCl_3); UV $\lambda_{\text{max}}^{\text{MeOH}}$ nm (ϵ) 299 (13 400); IR $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{KBr}}$ cm^{-1} : 2920, 1730, 1660, 1450, 1370, 1240, 1030; MS m/z (rel. int.): 466 $[\text{M}]^+$ (34), 406 (18), 216 (42), 204 (68), 203 (100), 189 (24); $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3): δ 0.90 (6 H, s), 0.95 (3 H, s), 0.96 (3 H, s), 0.97 (3 H, s), 1.01 (3 H, s), 1.12 (3 H, s), 2.06 (3 H, s), 4.48 (1 H, *t*-like), 6.08 (1 H, *t*, $J = 4$ Hz); CD (c 0.0043, MeOH): $[\theta]_{385} 0^\circ$, $[\theta]_{370} - 1733^\circ$, $[\theta]_{350} - 9320^\circ$, $[\theta]_{333} - 16 256^\circ$ (pk), $[\theta]_{316} 0^\circ$, $[\theta]_{296} 21 024^\circ$ (pk), $[\theta]_{270} 8450^\circ$, $[\theta]_{250} 0^\circ$.

Wolff-Kishner reduction of 1a. **1a** (100 mg) was heated for 6 hr with diethylene glycol (6 ml), Na (0.4 g) and dry hydrazine (1.0 ml) in a sealed tube at 200–210°. After cooling, H_2O was added and the product was extrd with CHCl_3 and purified by prep. TLC (CHCl_3 -MeOH, 40:1). Recrystallization (MeOH-EtOAc) gave colourless needles of **2a** (67 mg). Mp 186.0–187.0°. $[\alpha]_D^{23} + 76^\circ$ (c 0.11, CHCl_3); M^+ 410.3525, calc. for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{46}\text{O}$, 410.3545; UV $\lambda_{\text{max}}^{\text{MeOH}}$ nm (ϵ): 237 (18 800), 244 (20 400), 252 (sh, 14 600); IR $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{KBr}}$ cm^{-1} : 3300, 2950, 1450, 1380, 1040; MS m/z (rel. int.): 410 $[\text{M}]^+$ (100), 395 (7), 202 (48), 190 (59), 189 (46); $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3): δ 0.80 (3 H, s), 0.89 (6 H, s), 0.92 (3 H, s), 0.99 (6 H, s), 1.01 (3 H, s), 3.21 (1 H, *t*-like), 5.48 (1 H, *t*, $J = 4$ Hz); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3) (OFR): δ 15.7, 16.0, 16.3, 16.8, 18.4, 21.0, 23.5, 27.3, 28.1, 28.3, 28.4, 28.9, 29.3, 29.4, 33.8, 35.2, 37.0, 38.6, 38.8, 39.6, 41.1, 47.3, 55.5, 78.9 (*d*), 116.5 (*d*), 125.2 (*s*), 129.0 (*s*), 140.2 (*s*).

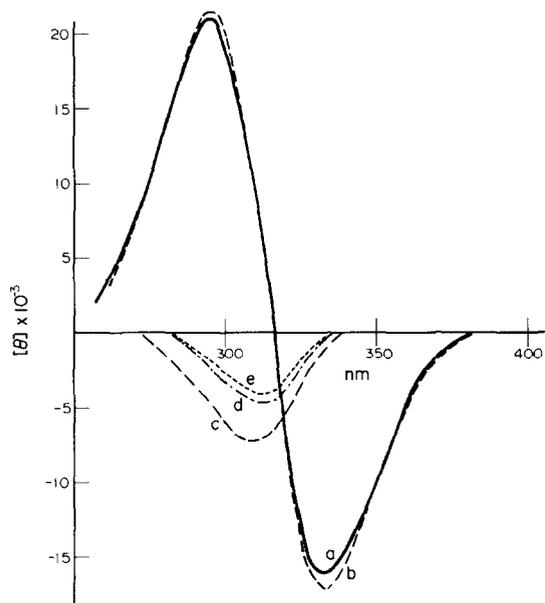


Fig. 3. CD curves of (a) **1b**, (b) the compound formed on dehydration of **3b**, (c) **3a**, (d) **4** and (e) the compound formed by chromic oxidation of **3a**.

Acetylation of 2a. **2a** (55 mg) was acetylated with Ac₂O–pyridine (4 ml, 1:1) at room temp. overnight. The mixture was poured into ice–H₂O and the ppt. was recrystallized (MeOH–CHCl₃) to give colourless needles of **2b** (52 mg). Mp 187.0–189.0°; $[\alpha]_D^{23} + 65^\circ$ (*c* 0.12, CHCl₃). UV $\lambda_{\max}^{\text{MeOH}}$ nm (ϵ): 237 (17 300), 244 (18 800), 252 (sh, 13 200); IR ν_{\max}^{KBr} cm⁻¹: 2920, 1730, 1240, 1030; MS *m/z* (rel. int.): 452 (100), 437 (11), 392 (4), 377 (6), 215 (11), 202 (36), 190 (41), 189 (47); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 0.88 (12 H, s), 0.90 (3 H, s), 0.95 (3 H, s), 0.96 (3 H, s), 2.04 (3 H, s), 4.49 (1 H, *t*-like), 5.48 (1 H, *t*, *J* = 4 Hz).

Synthesis and X-ray analysis of 1c. **1a** (50 mg) and *p*-bromobenzoyl chloride (50 mg) were suspended in pyridine and kept for 3 hr at room temp. The mixture was poured into ice–H₂O and the ppt. was chromatographed over Si gel (CHCl₃). Recrystallization (MeOH–EtOAc) gave colourless needles of **1c**. Mp 279.0–280.0°. (Found: C, 71.32; H, 7.79; Br, 13.32. Calc. for C₃₆H₄₇O₅Br: C, 71.16; H, 7.80; Br, 13.15). IR ν_{\max}^{KBr} cm⁻¹: 2920, 1705, 1660, 1585, 1390, 1270, 1115, 1010, 755; MS *m/z* (rel. int.): 608 [M + 2]⁺ (22), 606 [M]⁺ (22), 216 (31), 204 (41), 203 (100), 185 (29), 183 (31).

Crystal data. **1c**, C₃₆H₄₇O₅Br, MW = 606, monoclinic, space group P2₁, *Z* = 2, *D*_{calc} = 1.272 g/cm⁻³, *a* = 21.042 (10), *b* = 6.838 (3), *c* = 11.129 (6) Å, β = 99.04 (5)°, *U* = 1581.4 Å³. 1680 independent reflections were observed within 2 θ range of 6–155°, out of 2909 theoretically possible reflections. 325 Friedel reflections of the type *hkl* against *hkl* reflections were also observed. The structure was solved by the heavy-atom method and refined by the block-diagonal matrix least-squares method to an *R* value of 0.09 excluding H-atoms. Absolute configuration was determined by using the anomalous dispersion effect of the Br atom for CuK α radiation. Out of 70 *hkl* and *hkl* pairs, for which more than 6% intensity differences were expected, 62 pairs definitely indicated the absolute configuration shown in Fig. 2.

Acetylation of 3a. **3a** (25 mg) was acetylated with Ac₂O–pyridine (1 ml, 1:1) at room temp. overnight. H₂O was added and the product was extracted with CHCl₃ and chromatographed over Si gel (*n*-hexane–EtOAc, 9:1). Recrystallization (MeOH) gave colourless plates of **3b** (22 mg). Mp 260.5–261.5°. $[\alpha]_D^{25} + 24^\circ$ (*c* 0.20, CHCl₃). IR ν_{\max}^{KBr} cm⁻¹: 3420, 2930, 1720, 1710, 1440, 1365, 1240, 1030; MS *m/z* (rel. int.): 484 [M]⁺ (2), 466 (3), 424 (3), 406 (2), 249 (6), 234 (75), 216 (100), 190 (63), 175 (19), 149 (15); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 0.90 (9 H, s), 0.97 (6 H, s), 1.04 (3 H, s), 1.18 (3 H, s), 2.05 (3 H, s), 2.69 (1 H, *dd*, *J* = 12, 4 Hz), 3.13 (1 H, *d*, *J* = 14 Hz), 4.46 (1 H, *t*, *J* = 8 Hz), 5.47 (1 H, *t*, *J* = 3 Hz); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) (OFR): δ 15.4, 16.7, 17.3, 18.2, 21.2, 23.5, 23.7, 27.0, 28.1, 30.3, 30.8, 32.3, 32.6, 36.4, 37.0, 37.7, 38.1, 39.9, 43.0, 46.6, 47.2, 47.4, 52.5, 55.4, 76.5 (*s*), 80.8 (*d*), 125.4 (*d*), 140.4 (*s*), 170.8 (*s*), 213.3 (*s*).

Dehydration of 3b. **3b** (5.4 mg) in C₆H₆ was heated at 50° for

2 hr with *p*-toluenesulfonic acid (2.9 mg) and CaCl₂ (5.7 mg). After cooling, the soln was filtered and the filtrate was washed with NaHCO₃ soln and chromatographed over Si gel (*n*-hexane–EtOAc, 9:1). The product (1.9 mg) was identified as **1b** by TLC, MS, UV, CD and GLC. UV $\lambda_{\max}^{\text{MeOH}}$ nm (ϵ): 299 (13 060); MS *m/z* (rel. int.): 466 [M]⁺ (42), 451 (2), 406 (3), 216 (49), 204 (72), 203 (100), 189 (20); CD (*c* 0.0038, MeOH): $[\theta]_{385} 0^\circ$, $[\theta]_{370} -1962^\circ$, $[\theta]_{350} -9811^\circ$, $[\theta]_{333} -7046^\circ$ (pk), $[\theta]_{317} 0^\circ$, $[\theta]_{297} 21461^\circ$ (pk), $[\theta]_{270} 7358^\circ$, $[\theta]_{200} 0^\circ$.

CrO₃ oxidation of 3a. **3a** (5.0 mg) in pyridine was added to CrO₃–pyridine suspension (5.5 mg: 1 ml). The mixture was kept at room temp. overnight, Et₂O was added and the ppt was filtered off. The filtrate was washed with dil. HCl and chromatographed over Si gel (*n*-hexane–EtOAc 3:1). The product (1.8 mg) was identified as **4** by TLC, MS, CD and GLC. MS *m/z* (rel. int.): 440 [M]⁺ (3), 422 (9), 407 (5), 234 (58), 216 (100), 206 (23), 205 (18), 201 (16), 191 (22), 149 (41); CD (*c* 0.0090, MeOH): $[\theta]_{338} 0^\circ$, $[\theta]_{325} -2200$, $[\theta]_{312} -4106^\circ$ (pk), $[\theta]_{295} -1857^\circ$, $[\theta]_{282} 0^\circ$.

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