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## Diels—Alder Reaction of 2-Ethenyl-1,3,3-trimethylcyclohexene with 4H-Chromen-4-ones: A Convergent Approach to ABCD Tetracyclic Core of Marine Diterpenoids Related to Puupehenone and Kampanols

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A rapid assembly of the tetracyclic core of marine diterpenoids related to puupehenone and kampanols by *Diels–Alder* reaction of 2-ethenyl-1,3,3-trimethylcyclohexene with 4*H*-chromen-4-one (=4*H*-1-benzopyran-4-one) dienophiles is described.

**Introduction.** – The *Diels—Alder* reactions of 2-ethenyl-1,3,3-trimethylcyclohexene with dienophiles like dimethyl acetylenedicarboxylate [1], unsymmetrical 1,4-benzoquinones [2], 1,4-benzoquinone [3], substituted 1,4-benzoquinones [4], 2-(methoxycarbonyl)-4,4-dimethylcyclohex-2-enone [5], 3-[(E)-(methoxycarbonyl)prop-2-enoyl)-1,3-oxazolidin-2-one [6], acetylenedicarbaldehyde [7], (S)-5-(*tert*-Butyl)-3-hydroxy-2-isopropyl-1,4-benzoquinone [8], and conjugated ketones [9] have been reported. There are very few reports on [4+2] cycloaddition reactions using 4*H*-chromen-4-ones (=4*H*-1-benzopyran-4-ones) as dienophiles, and in all these cases an activating functionality like –CHO, –COR, –COOR, –CN, –Ar, *etc.* at C(3) have been utilized [10]. Only one *Diels—Alder* reaction of 2-ethenyl-1,3,3-trimethylcyclohexene with 6-bromo-3-cyano-4*H*-chromen-4-one has been reported [10a].

(+)-Puupehenone (1) [11a-11f], (+)-puupehedione (2) [11d], (-)-15-oxopuupehenol (3) [11e], (+)-15-cyanopuupehenone (4) [11d][11e], (-)-8-epichromazonarol (5) [12], (-)-15-cyanopuupehenol (6) [11e][13], chloropuupehenone (7) [11a], and cyclospongiaquinone-1 (8) [14] (Fig. 1) are an important group of biologically active marine terpenoids [15]. They are based on a mixed biogenetic origin involving a sesquiterpene unit with a quinol or quinone, and consist of a multiplicity of prenyl units uncommon in terrestrial organisms. They were isolated from sponges and possess a wide range of potent biological properties such as cytotoxic [11d][11e], antiviral [11d][11e], antimicrobial [11a], antifungal [11d], immunomodulatory [11d][11e], antitumor [11c][11h], antimalarial [11e], antibiotic [11i], antituberculosis [11j], antioxidant [11k], and insecticidal activities [11g]. The characteristic structural features, namely, a tetracyclic framework, four quaternary Me groups, a benzopyran ring, a trimethylcyclohexane moiety, four stereogenic centers at AB and BC ring junctions with trans- and cis-configuration, respectively, and an additional stereogenic center, i.e., C(15) of ring C. These tetracyclic diterpenes and their biological activities attracted interest of chemists to develop strategies for their synthesis. Kampanols A - C (9-11, resp.; Fig. 1) are polycyclic natural products having structural features similar to

that of puupehenone. They were isolated from the fungal culture broth of *Stachybotrys kampalensis*, and they are novel and specific inhibitors of farnesyl-protein transferase [16].

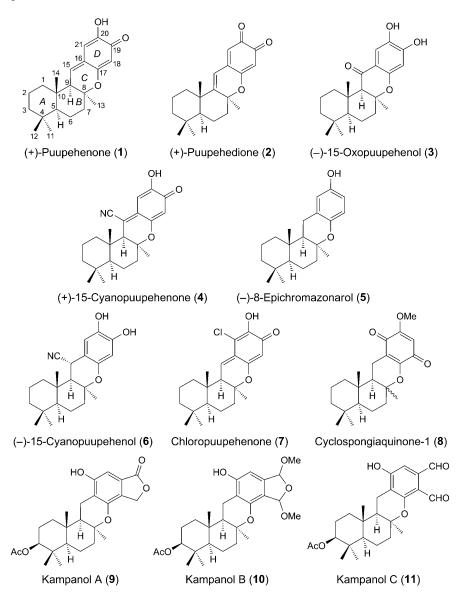


Fig. 1. Puupehenone group of marine diterpenoids 1-8 and kampanols 9-11

Our interest in the synthesis of natural products [17] and absence of reports on Diels-Alder reaction of 2-ethenyl-1,3,3-trimethylcyclohexene with 4H-chromen-4-ones without an activating group at C(2)=C(3) led us to explore the synthetic potential

of 4H-chromen-4-ones such as 6,7-dimethoxy-2-methyl-4H-chromen-4-one (12) [18], 6-methoxy-2-methyl-4H-chromen-4-one (13) [19], 2-methyl-6,7-(methylenedioxy)-4H-chromen-4-one (14) [20], 2-methyl-6-nitro-4H-chromen-4-one (15) [21], 2-methyl-4H-chromen-4-one (16) [22], flavone (17) [23], and 4H-chromen-4-one (18) [24] as dienophiles in [4+2] cycloaddition reactions. We envisaged that, when the diene 2-ethenyl-1,3,3-trimethylcyclohexene (19) [1b] could be used, then such a cycloaddition would lead to a convergent approach for the construction of the tetracyclic core of puupehenone and kampanol analogues.

**Results and Discussion.** – Here are the results (*Scheme*). The reaction of **12** with **19** proceeded at  $120^{\circ}$  in a sealed tube for 40 h to give the cycloadduct **20** in a moderate yield. The reaction was found to be regioselective as indicated by <sup>1</sup>H-NMR data, which exhibited a *singlet* at  $\delta(H)$  2.71 for H–C(12a) whereas the H–C(6a) signal was absent. The signals of the diastereotopic H-atoms at C(1) appeared at  $\delta(H)$  2.18 and 1.65. These data indicate the formation of the regioisomer **20**<sup>1</sup>) (*Fig.* 2).

Scheme. Synthesis of Tetracyclic Compounds 20-26

The reaction was also stereoselective as indicated by a *singlet* for Me–C(6a) at  $\delta$ (H) 1.39 and at  $\delta$ (H) 1.21 for Me–C(12b). The corresponding C-signals appeared at  $\delta$ (C) 34.2 (Me–C(6a)) and  $\delta$ (C) 23.8 (Me–C(12b)).

These high  $\delta$  values suggest the formation of the endo-configured product (Fig. 2). Recently, Wallace and co-workers [25] reported the synthesis of the  $(\pm)$ -exo-1,2, 3,4,6,6a,12a,12b-octahydro-9,10-dimethoxy-4,4,6a,12b-tetramethylbenzo[a]xanthen-12-one, which exhibited lower  $\delta$  values in the <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum for the H-atoms at C(12a), and of Me–C(6a) and Me–C(12b). Furthermore this compound has a melting point of 165°, whereas **20** melts at 102°. Moreover,  $(\pm)$ -exo-1,2,3,4,6,6a,12a,12b-octahydro-4,4,6a,12b-tetramethylbenzo[a]xanthen-12-one is an oil [25], but our **24** is a solid with a melting point of 60°. The corresponding spectrum of **24** also displayed higher  $\delta$  values for H–C(12a), and Me–C(6a) and Me–C(12b). All these evidences suggest the formation of the endo-product. This represents the first example of a highly stereoselective [4+2] cycloaddition reaction involving easily available 4H-chromen-4-one dienophiles.

The ball-and-stick models were generated by using Materials Studio v4.4.0.0030, Accelrys Software Inc.

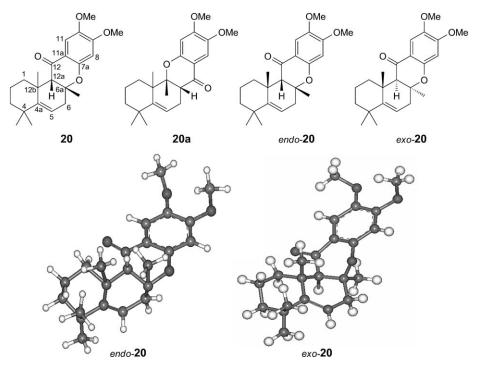


Fig. 2. Regioisomers 20 and 20a, endo- and exo-conformations, and ball-and-stick models of 20

Similar results were obtained with the other 4H-chromen-4-ones 13-18 (Table). In all these cases, the formation of the tetracyclic core as in puupehenone (1) and related marine terpenoids and kampanols was observed. Further, the catalytic hydrogenation of the C(4a)=C(5) bond could lead to a *trans*-fused AB ring [3][4], which is present in these natural products.

Entry	4 <i>H</i> -Chromen-4-one	$\mathbb{R}^1$	$\mathbb{R}^2$	$\mathbb{R}^3$	Product	Temp [°]	Time [h]	Yield <sup>a</sup> ) [%]
1	12	Me	MeO	MeO	20	120	40	37
2	13	Me	MeO	Н	21	120	40	37
3	14	Me	-OCH	$_{2}O-$	22	120	42	36
4	15	Me	$NO_2$	Н	23	120	40	32
5	16	Me	Н	Н	24	110	34	35
6	17	Ph	Н	Н	25	110	38	34
7	18	Н	Н	Н	26	110	38	38

a) Yield of isolated product.

In conclusion, we have accomplished the first highly stereoselective [4+2] cycloaddition reaction using 4H-chromen-4-ones as dienophiles and thereby demonstrated the potential of this reaction in constructing the tetracyclic core of the marine

diterpenoids related to puupehenone analogues 1-8 and kampanols 9-11 in a convergent manner.

## **Experimental Part**

General. The b.p. of petroleum ether (PE) used was in the range of  $60-80^{\circ}$ . Column chromatography (CC): silica gel (SiO<sub>2</sub>, 60-120 mesh; S.D. Fine Chemicals Ltd.). M.p.: EXPO HITECH Melting-point apparatus; uncorrected. UV Spectra: Shimadzu UV/VIS Spectrophotometer UV-2401PC using MeOH as solvent,  $\lambda_{\rm max}$  in nm ( $\varepsilon$ ). IR Spectra: Perkin-Elmer Spectrum One FT-IR Spectrophotometer in KBr.  $^{1}$ H- and  $^{13}$ C-NMR spectra: Bruker AVANCE ( $^{1}$ H: 300;  $^{13}$ C: 75 MHz) spectrometer in CDCl<sub>3</sub> and with TMS as an internal standard,  $\delta$  in ppm and coupling constants J in Hz. EI-MS: 3200 Q TRAP LC-MS-MS System MDS SCI EX SHIMADZU PROMINANCE LC and Varian 500-MS (Model 210) LC-MS IT Mass spectrometer (at 70 eV, m/z (rel-%)). Elemental analyses: Euro-Vector EA 3000 elemental analyzer.

General Procedure (GP) for Preparation of 20-26. A mixture of 2-ethenyl-1,3,3-trimethylcyclohex-ene (19; 900 mg, 6 mmol) and 12-18 (0.6 mmol) in a sealed glass tube was heated in an oil bath (Table). The thus obtained light brown semisolid product was purified by CC to yield 20-26.

rel-(6aR, 12aS, 12bR)-1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 6a, 12a, 12b-Octahydro-9, 10-dimethoxy-4, 4, 6a, 12b-tetramethyl-12H-benzo[a]xanthen-12-one (**20**). CC (PE/CHCl<sub>3</sub> 3:7) gave **20** (49 mg, 37%). Colorless solid. M.p.  $102^{\circ}$ . UV/VIS: 339 (2822), 275 (4235), 236 (5757), 211 (5486). IR: 2924, 1678 (C=O), 1474, 1266, 1063.  $^{1}$ H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 7.14 (s, H-C(11)); 7.01 (s, H-C(8)); 5.58 (t, J = 3.9, H-C(5)); 3.90 (s, MeO); 3.86 (s, MeO); 2.71 (s, H-C(12a)); 2.61 (dd, J = 9.0, 18.0, H-C(6)); 2.53 (dd, J = 9.0, 18.0, H-C(6)); 2.18-1.65 (m, CH<sub>2</sub>(1)); 1.72-1.61 (m, CH<sub>2</sub>(2)); 1.43-1.18 (m, CH<sub>2</sub>(3)); 1.39 (s, Me-C(6a)); 1.21 (s, Me-C(12b)); 1.13 (s, Me<sub>eq</sub>-C(4)); 1.11 (s, Me<sub>ax</sub>-C(4)).  $^{13}$ C-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 199.5 (C=O); 155.2 (C(9)); 154.4 (C(7a)); 154.2 (C(10)); 140.8 (C(4a)); 137.3 (C(11a)); 132.1 (C(11)); 130.5 (C(8)); 121.2 (C(5)); 78.6 (C(6a)); 64.2 (C(12a)); 56.6 (MeO); 56.2 (MeO); 37.5 (C(1)); 37.1 (C(12b)); 34.2 (Me(6a)); 33.5 (Me<sub>eq</sub>(4)); 32.6 (C(4)); 32.0 (C(6)); 23.8 (Me(12b)); 22.7 (Me<sub>ax</sub>(4)); 20.6 (C(3)); 17.5 (C(2)). MS: 370 (11, M<sup>+</sup>). Anal. calc. for  $C_{23}$ H<sub>30</sub>O<sub>4</sub>: C 74.59, H 8.10; found: C 74.83, H 8.03.

rel-(6aR, 12aS, 12bR)-1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 6a, 12a, 12b-Octahydro-10-methoxy-4, 4, 6a, 12b-tetramethyl-12H-benzo[a]xanthen-12-one (**21**). CC (CHCl<sub>3</sub>) gave **21** (42 mg, 37%). Colorless solid. M.p.  $111^{\circ}$ . UV/VIS: 321 (3856), 229 (11487). IR: 3061, 2924, 1676 (C=O), 1483, 1239, 1028.  $^{1}H$ -NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 7.19 (s, H–C(11)); 7.09 (d, J = 8.9, H–C(9)); 6.99 (d, J = 8.9, H–C(8)); 5.59 (t, J = 3.8, H–C(5)); 3.88 (s, MeO); 2.80 (s, H–C(12a)); 2.59 (dd, J = 9.0, 18.1, H–C(6)); 2.51 (dd, J = 9.0, 18.1, H–C(6)); 2.16 – 1.64 (m, CH<sub>2</sub>(1)); 1.71 – 1.60 (m, CH<sub>2</sub>(2)); 1.42 – 1.19 (m, CH<sub>2</sub>(3)); 1.38 (s, Me–C(6a)); 1.22 (s, Me–C(12b)); 1.14 (s, Me<sub>eq</sub>—C(4)); 1.12 (s, Me<sub>ax</sub>—C(4)).  $^{13}$ C-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 199.1 (C=O); 154.1 (C(7a)); 153.2 (C(10)); 141.2 (C(4a)); 137.5 (C(11a)); 131.7 (C(11)); 130.9 (C(9)); 126.2 (C(8)); 121.0 (C(5)); 78.3 (C(6a)); 64.1 (C(12a)); 55.9 (MeO); 37.2 (C(12b)); 36.9 (C(1)); 33.9 (Me(6a)); 32.8 (Me<sub>eq</sub>(4)); 32.2 (C(4)); 31.8 (C(6)); 23.2 (Me(12b)); 22.4 (Me<sub>ax</sub>(4)); 20.4 (C(3)); 18.0 (C(2)). MS: 340 (5, M<sup>+</sup>), 191 (100), 149 (17), 135 (18). Anal. calc. for  $C_{22}H_{28}O_3$ : C 77.64, H 8.23; found: C 77.43, H 8.33.

*6-Methyl-8H-[1,3]dioxolo[4,5-g]chromen-8-one* **(14)**. This compound was prepared by utilizing the general procedure reported for synthesis of chromone in [20]. CC (PE/CHCl<sub>3</sub> 5:5) gave **14** (615 mg, 98%). Faint yellow crystals. M.p.  $101-102^{\circ}$ . UV/VIS: 347 (3881), 276 (3303), 238 (6472), 212 (5653). IR: 2922, 1632 (C=O), 1484, 1035, 922.  $^{1}$ H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 7.27 (s, 1 H); 7.05 (s, 1 H); 6.44 (s, 2 H); 5.98 (s, 1 H); 2.52 (s, 3 H).  $^{13}$ C-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 201.9 (C=O); 155.2; 154.9; 154.4; 140.4; 138.1; 132.3; 129.8; 128.4; 101.7; 26.4. MS: 204 (21,  $M^{+}$ ), 148 (54), 118 (83), 116 (100). Anal. calc. for  $C_{11}H_8O_4$ : C 64.70, H 3.92; found: C 64.50, H 3.99.

rel-(6aR, 13aS, 13bR)-1,2,3,4,6,6a,13a,13b-Octahydro-4,4,6a,13b-tetramethyl-13H-benzo[a][1,3]dioxolo[4,5-i]xanthen-13-one (**22**). CC (PE/CHCl<sub>3</sub> 7:3) gave **22** (44 mg, 36%). Colorless solid. M.p. 98°. UV/VIS: 347 (3945), 276 (3386), 239 (7085), 210 (6929). IR: 2924, 1680 (C=O), 1484, 1035, 923. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 7.10 (s, H-C(11)); 7.03 (s, H-C(8)); 5.97 (s, OCH<sub>2</sub>O); 5.60 (t, J = 3.9, H-C(5)); 2.69 (s, H-C(12a)); 2.64 (dd, J = 9.2, 18.2, H-C(6)); 2.55 (dd, J = 9.2, 18.2, H-C(6)); 2.19 – 1.67 (m, CH<sub>2</sub>(1)); 1.69 – 1.62 (m, CH<sub>2</sub>(2)); 1.42 – 1.18 (m, CH<sub>2</sub>(3)); 1.39 (s, Me-C(6a)); 1.20 (s, Me-C(12b)); 1.15 (s,

 $\begin{array}{l} Me_{eq}-C(4)); \ 1.13 \ (s,\ Me_{ax}-C(4)). \ ^{13}C\text{-NMR} \ (CDCl_3): \ 199.4 \ (C=O); \ 154.8 \ (C(9)); \ 154.5 \ (C(7a)); \ 154.1 \ (C(10)); \ 140.5 \ (C(4a)); \ 137.5 \ (C(11a)); \ 132.5 \ (C(11)); \ 130.2 \ (C(8)); \ 121.4 \ (C(5)); \ 101.1 \ (OCH_2O); \ 78.7 \ (C(6a)); \ 63.8 \ (C(12a)); \ 37.5 \ (C(12b)); \ 37.2 \ (C(1)); \ 34.1 \ (Me(6a)); \ 32.9 \ (Me_{eq}(4)); \ 32.5 \ (C(4)); \ 32.2 \ (C(6)); \ 23.5 \ (Me(12b)); \ 22.8 \ (Me_{ax}(4)); \ 20.5 \ (C(3)); \ 17.8 \ (C(2)). \ MS: \ 354 \ (4,\ M^+), \ 352 \ (100), \ 236 \ (10), \ 220 \ (40), \ 205 \ (21). \ Anal. \ calc. \ for \ C_{22}H_{26}O_4: \ C\ 74.57, \ H\ 7.34; \ found: \ C\ 74.83, \ H\ 7.46. \end{array}$ 

rel-(6aR, 12aS, 12bR)-1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 6a, 12a, 12b-Octahydro-4, 4, 6a, 12b-tetramethyl-12H-benzo[a]xanthen-12-one (**24**). CC (CHCl<sub>3</sub>) gave **24** (56 mg, 35%). Colorless solid. M.p.  $60^{\circ}$ . UV/VIS: 295 (2551), 222 (7003). IR: 1676 (C=O), 1478.  $^{1}H$ -NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 7.04 (d, J = 8.5, H-C(11)); 6.97 (d, J = 8.5, H-C(8)); 6.93 (t, J = 8.6, H-C(9)); 6.90 (t, J = 8.5, H-C(10)); 5.58 (t, J = 3.7, H-C(5)); 2.75 (t, H-C(12a)); 2.60 (t, t = 9.1, 18.1, t H-C(6)); 2.52 (t, t = 9.1, 18.1, t H-C(6)); 2.19-1.66 (t, t CH<sub>2</sub>(1)); 1.69-1.60 (t CH<sub>2</sub>(2)); 1.44-1.17 (t CH<sub>2</sub>(3)); 1.39 (t Me-C(6a)); 1.23 (t Me-C(12b)); 1.13 (t Me<sub>eq</sub>-C(4)); 1.10 (t Me<sub>ax</sub>-C(4)). 13C-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 199.2 (C=O); 155.1 (C(7a)); 140.1 (C(4a)); 137.7 (C(11a)); 128.2 (C(11)); 126.5 (C(8)); 121.4 (C(9)); 121.2 (C(10)); 120.8 (C(5)); 78.2 (C(6a)); 64.5 (C(12a)); 37.2 (C(12b)); 37.4 (C(1)); 34.0 (Me(6a)); 33.4 (Me<sub>eq</sub>(4)); 32.4 (C(6)); 32.2 (C(4)); 23.5 (Me(12b)); 21.9 (Me<sub>ax</sub>(4)); 21.0 (C(3)); 17.4 (C(2)). MS: 310 (t, t, t) (100), t), t1 (96). Anal. calc. for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>26</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: C 81.29, H 8.38; found: C 81.03, H 8.50.

rel-(6aR, 12aS, 12bR)-1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 6a, 12a, 12b-Octahydro-4, 4, 12b-trimethyl-12H-benzo [a] xanthen-12-one (**26**). CC (CHCl<sub>3</sub>) gave **26** (45 mg, 38%). Colorless solid. M.p. 55°. UV/VIS: 296 (3267), 238 (4609), 219 (7800). IR: 3085, 2925, 1677 (C=O), 1474.  $^{1}$ H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 703 (d, J = 5.0, H–C(11)); 6.99 (d, J = 5.0, H–C(8)); 6.92 (t, J = 5.2, H–C(9)); 6.89 (t, J = 5.1, H–C(10)); 5.56 (t, J = 3.9, H–C(5)); 3.43 (ddd, J = 5.2, 8.9, H–C(6a)); 2.79 (d, J = 4.8, H–C(12a)); 2.41 (ddd, J = 5.2, 8.9, H–C(6)); 2.20 (ddd, J = 5.2, 8.9, H–C(6)); 2.16-1.68 (m, CH<sub>2</sub>(1)); 1.71-1.63 (m, CH<sub>2</sub>(2)); 1.42-1.18 (m, CH<sub>2</sub>(3)); 1.22 (s, Me–C(12b)); 1.15 (s, Me<sub>eq</sub>–C(4)); 1.12 (s, Me<sub>ax</sub>–C(4)).  $^{13}$ C-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 199.4 (C=O); 155.2 (C(7a)); 140.2 (C(4a)); 137.2 (C(11a)); 128.3 (C(11)); 126.2 (C(8)); 121.5 (C(5)); 121.2 (C(9)); 120.9 (C(10)); 79.2 (C(6a)); 63.8 (C(12a)); 37.2 (C(12b)); 36.8 (C(1)); 33.8 (Me<sub>eq</sub>(4)); 32.7 (C(4)); 31.5 (C(6)); 23.9 (Me(12b)); 22.1 (Me<sub>ax</sub>(4)); 21.1 (C(3)); 17.2 (C(2)). MS: 296 (12, M+), 147 (100), 105 (12), 91 (58), 77 (72). Anal. calc. for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>24</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: C 81.08, H 8.10; found: C 81.34, H 8.22.

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