Identifying Functional Groups in a Complex Molecule

Identify the functional groups in two drugs, atenolol and donepezil. Atenolol is a β (beta) blocker, a drug used to treat hypertension (high blood pressure), and donepezil (trade name Aricept) is used to treat mild to moderate dementia associated with Alzheimer's disease.

Solution

Concentrate on the heteroatoms and π bonds. With carbonyl groups, pay attention to what is bonded to the carbonyl carbon—hydrogen, carbon, or a heteroatom.

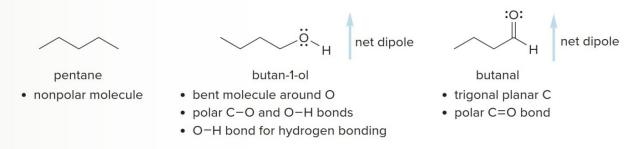
Problem 3.11 Identify the functional groups in leukotriene C_4 , a major contributor to the inflammation associated with asthma.

Sample Problem 3.3 Determining Intermolect

Determining Intermolecular Forces in Organic Compounds

Rank the following compounds in order of increasing strength of intermolecular forces: CH₃CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃ (pentane), CH₃CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂OH (butan-1-ol), and CH₃CH₂CH₂CHO (butanal).

Solution



- Pentane has only nonpolar C—C and C—H bonds, so its molecules are held together by only van der Waals forces.
- Butan-1-ol is a polar bent molecule, so it can have dipole—dipole interactions in addition to
 van der Waals forces. Because it has an O—H bond, butan-1-ol molecules are held together
 by intermolecular hydrogen bonds as well.
- Butanal has a trigonal planar carbon with a polar C=O bond, so it exhibits dipole-dipole
 interactions in addition to van der Waals forces. There is no H atom bonded to O, so two
 butanal molecules cannot hydrogen bond to each other.