

acetate¹ and of lupanol relative to epi-lupanol². It also accounts for the easy elimination of water accompanied by molecular rearrangement, which is induced in these compounds or their derivatives by treatment with phosphorus pentachloride³. Such a reaction then becomes comparable to the very easy dehydration of isoborneol to give camphene, in that all the four atomic centers of importance in the reaction lie in one plane. The marked hindrance of the 7-hydroxyl group in sumaresinolic acid and its easy elimination under acid dehydrating conditions⁴ are best explained if it has the polar conformation as in the part expression (XIX; R=OH).

In connection with the nomenclature of triterpenoids it would appear desirable to extend FIESER's α -, β -convention for steroids to cover triterpenoid stereochemistry also. A convenient reference point is the C₆ methyl group. Substituents on the same side of the main-ring plane as this methyl group should be regarded as having the β -configuration, those on the opposite side as having the α -configuration. Thus sumaresinolic acid would be designated 2 β :7 β -di-hydroxyolean-12-ene-17-carboxylic acid.

Zusammenfassung

Beim Cyclohexan und seinen Abkömmlingen kann man die nicht an der Ringbildung beteiligten Valenzen der Kohlenstoffatome in «äquatoriale» und «polare» einteilen. Jedes Ringkohlenstoffatom hat eine polare und eine äquatoriale Bindung.

An einem gegebenen Kohlenstoffatom ist ein äquatorial gebundener Ligand thermodynamisch stabiler als ein polar gebundener. Zwei benachbarte Substituenten werden, wenn es sich um Ionenreaktion handelt, leichter abgespalten, wenn sie beide «polar» gebunden sind, als wenn einer von ihnen oder beide «äquatoriale» Bindungen besetzen. Ein Ligand in der polaren Stellung an einem gegebenen Kohlenstoffatom unterliegt stärkerer sterischer Hinderung als in der äquatorialen Anordnung.

Die Anwendung dieser allgemeinen Regeln auf die Steroidchemie wird kurz beschrieben. Dabei wird die Abhängigkeit dieser Anwendung von der für den Sterinkern angenommenen Konfiguration betont.

Die Ausdehnung dieser Ideen auf das Gebiet der Di- und Triterpenoide wird angedeutet.

¹ L. RUZICKA and H. GUBSER, *Helv. chim. acta* 28, 1054 (1945); these authors assigned the opposite configuration at C₉.

² R. NOWAK, O. JEGER, and L. RUZICKA, *Helv. chim. acta*, 32, 323 (1949). The equatorial conformation for the hydroxyl group in these compounds is also indicated by the fact that β -amyirin is more stable thermodynamically than epi- β -amyirin (L. RUZICKA and W. WIRZ, *ib.*, 24, 248 (1941)).

³ L. RUZICKA, M. MONTAVON, and O. JEGER, *Helv. chim. acta* 31, 819 (1948); and earlier papers from the same laboratory.

⁴ L. RUZICKA, O. JEGER, A. GROB, and H. HÖSLI, *Helv. chim. acta*, 26, 2283 (1943).

Congress

ENGLAND

International Congress on Analytical Chemistry in 1952

Considerable progress has been made in connection with the arrangements for the International Congress on Analytical Chemistry which is to be held in Britain in 1952.

It has been decided that the meetings shall be held in Oxford, commencing on 4th September. Accommodation will normally be provided in Colleges but some Hotel accommodation will also be available. The technical sessions will take place in one of the main University buildings.

The period of the Congress will include a week-end and excursions and visits will be planned to take place during this period.

The arrangements for the Congress are in the hands of a General Committee representing a wide variety of interests and under the Chairmanship of the President of the Royal Society, Sir ROBERT ROBINSON, O.M.

The scope of the Congress is under active consideration by an Executive Committee, under the Chairmanship of the President of the Society of Public Analysts and Other Analytical Chemists, Mr. G. TAYLOR, M.B.E., F.R.I.C., and further details of this and other matters will be published in due course.

It is expected that a meeting of the Board of Section V., Analytical Chemistry, of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry, will be held in Oxford during the same week. Sir IAN HEILBRON, F.R.S., is Honorary President and Professor C. J. VAN NIEUWENBURG President, of this Section of the International Union.

Sir WALLACE AKERS, C.B.E., is Honorary Treasurer of the Congress and the Honorary Secretary is Mr. R. C. CHIRNSIDE, F.R.I.C., Research Laboratories, The General Electric Co. Ltd. Wembley, England.

Corrigendum

J. R. BILLETER und K. MIESCHER, *Darstellung von 4-Ring-Ketonen aus dem trizyklischen Keton von Köster und Logemann*, *Exper.* 6, 261 (1950):

Die Autoren machen uns darauf aufmerksam, daß die Fußnote 1 in der linken Kolonne heißen muß: 97. Mitteilung der Reihe «Über Steroide» (96. Mitt. siehe *Helv. chim. acta* 33, 388 [1950]) anstatt 96. und 95. Mitteilung.