clear from the present series of experiments that the morphological form of silicon bodies in the wheat species examined is undeniably inherited by their descendants.

It is interesting that *T. aegilopoides* (wild type) and *T. monococcum* (cultivated type), homogenetic AA from genome analysis, have some item common to both and specific to samples having AA genome such as the shape, size, and arrangement of silicon bodies, and some items that are considerably different in the two species.

Further details along these experiment are still in progress. Similar experiments are also being carried out on other crystalline inorganic components and some interesting results are being obtained which will be reported at a later date.

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Kyoto College of Pharmacy
Yamashina Misasagi,
Higashiyama-ku, Kyoto, 607, Japan

Kouichiro Umemoto

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A Stereoselective Synthesis of 16β-Substituted-17-oxosteroids

During hormonal studies on synthetic steroids, 17β-hydroxy-16β-substituted-estr-4-en-3-ones (1) were found to have a strong antiandrogenic activity. This is to report a facile introduction of β-substituents at position 16 of steroids by a kinetically controlled reaction.

Treatment\(^2\) of 2a, b, c, prepared from 16-oxosteroid by Grignard reactions, with H\(_2\)SO\(_4\) in methanol for several minutes at 25° gave 3a\(^3\), mp 94° (81%), 3b, mp 137° (61%), and 3c, mp 161° (85%), each as a single product. The stereochemistry at position 16 was investigated mainly by examining 16, 17 proton-proton coupling constants of the following compounds. NaBH\(_4\) reduction of 3a, b, c gave 4a, mp 97°, 17H: δ 3.68 (*J* = 9 Hz), \(^4\) 4b, mp 140°, δ 3.74 (*J* = 9 Hz), and 4c, mp 176°, δ 3.92 (*J* = 11 Hz), respectively. Treatment of 4b with p-toluensulphonic acid gave a cyclic compound (5), mp 152°, δ 4.01 (*J* = 10 Hz). The formation of 5 and its coupling constant suggests that 17-OH takes cis position relative to 16-R in 4a, b, c.

On the other hand, reaction of the 17β-acetate (6) with POCl\(_3\) in dry pyridine yielded 7, mp 148°, which was hydrogenated (PtO\(_2\), EtOH) to give, after separation on silica gel, a 16-ethyl derivative (8), mp 134° and the isomer (9), mp 114° in a ratio of 1:1. Hydrolysis of them afforded 16-ethyl-17β-hydroxy compounds (4a) and (10), \(^5\) mp 74°, δ 3.23 (*J* = 6 Hz). Since 17-OH and 16-R of 4 are in cis-configuration, 16-ethyl of 4a and its isomer (10) should take β- and α-orientation, respectively. We have further data to support that the coupling constants of 16xH-17xH and 16βH-17xH are around 9 Hz and 6 Hz, respectively.

1) The details of the syntheses and biological activities of 1 will be reported elsewhere.
2) Reaction conditions are critical. Prolongation of the reaction gives rise to the 16-epimeric mixtures.
4) NMR spectra were measured at 100 MHz with Me\(_4\)Si as the internal standard using CDCl\(_3\) as a solvent.
For clarification of the dehydration mechanism, we performed the following experiments: 2c was oxidized (pyridine-SO₂, DMSO)⁶) and reduced (NaBD₄, MeOH) to give 2d, mass m/e 379 (M⁺). This was treated with H₂SO₄ in methanol, whereby no deuterio-compounds but 3c were obtained. On the other hand, when 3d, mass m/e 361 (M⁺), prepared by deuteration of 3c with D₂SO₄ in CD₂OD, was subjected to the same reaction condition, the loss of deuterium⁷) during the reaction was less than 20%. These results indicate that the reaction proceeds with vinyldehydration⁸) and kinetically controlled ketonization.⁹) On the ketonization step, proton favors to attack less hindered α-side¹⁰) of the postulated intermediate (11) to give 3a, b, c.

\[ \begin{align*}
1 : R = \text{alkyl} \\
2a : R = \text{Et} \\
2b : R = \text{CH₂CH=CH₂} \\
2c : R = \text{C₆H₅} \\
2d : R = \text{C₆H₆} \\
3a : R' = \text{H} \\
3b : R' = \text{H} \\
3c : R' = \text{D} \\
3d : R' = \text{H} \\
4a : R = \text{Et} \\
4b : R = \text{CH₂CH=CH₂} \\
4c : R = \text{C₆H₅} \\
5 \\
6 : R = \text{OH} \\
7 : R = \text{CHMe} \\
8 : R = \text{Et} \\
9 : R = \text{H} \\
10 \\
11
\end{align*} \]

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Central Research Division,  
Takeda Chemical Industries, Ltd.  
Juso-Nishino-cho, Higashiyodogawa-ku, Osaka  

GIICHI GOTO  
KOICHI YOSHIOKA  
KEITARO HIRAGA  
TAKICHI MIKI

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7) Estimated by NMR and mass spectra.