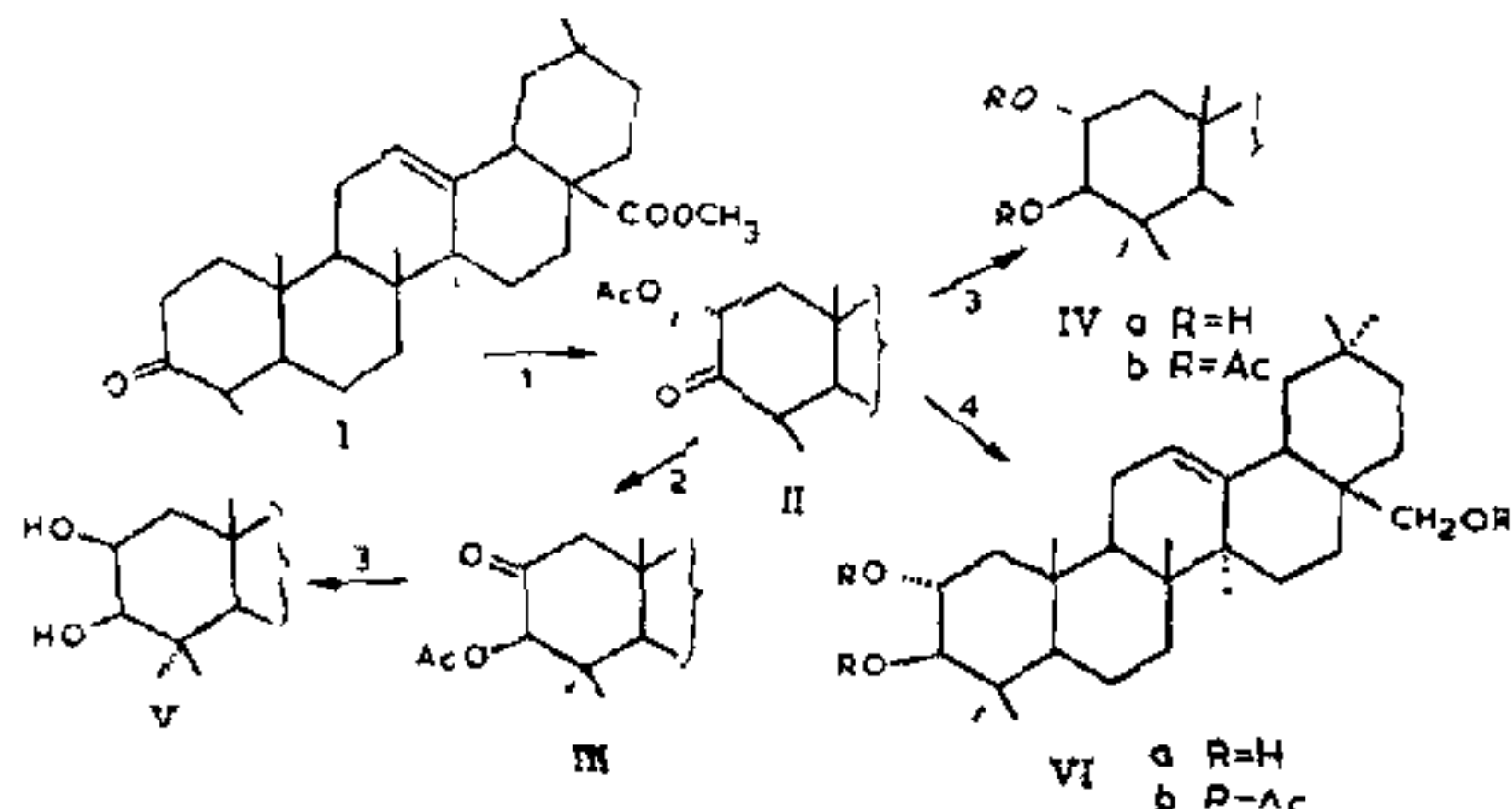


respectively<sup>8</sup>. There is so far no report in literature on the natural occurrence of these triols and it is likely that they may be found along with the corresponding C-17 carboxylic acids.



1.  $\text{Pb}(\text{OAc})_4\text{-HOAc}$  or  $\text{Pb}(\text{OAc})_4\text{-BF}_3 \cdot (\text{OC}_2\text{H}_5)_2$ .
2. Basic  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ .
3.  $\text{NaBH}_4\text{-CH}_3\text{OH}$ .
4.  $\text{LiAlH}_4\text{-dry ether}$ .

All compounds reported in this paper gave satisfactory C and H analyses. IR spectra were taken in KBr on Perkin Elmer Model 137 spectrophotometer and  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  ( $\text{MeS}_4\text{i}$  as internal standard) on Varian A-60 instrument. Optical rotations were measured in methanol solution at room temperature.

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#### PROF. G. N. RAMACHANDRAN, F.R.S.

Professor G. N. Ramachandran, who has been recently elected a Fellow of the Royal Society, was a student of Prof. Sir C. V. Raman, with whom he worked for his doctorate at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. After this, he went to the University of Cambridge, England, where he worked with Prof. Sir Lawrence Bragg from 1947 to 1949. He has been the Professor and Head of the Department of Physics at the University of Madras from 1952 to 1970 where he initiated work on the structure of biological macromolecules, studied essentially by methods of X-ray diffraction. This work initially was centred on the protein collagen, which forms the essential constituent of the connective tissue (skin, tendon, bone, etc.). Prof. Ramachandran has also been one of the earliest persons in the world to start studies on molecular bio-physics—in particular, on protein conformation and the structures of other biological macromolecules. In this, he and his colleagues introduced the method "dihedral angles" for working out the full three-dimensional structures of these biopolymers and related compounds.

In addition to being a Fellow of the Indian Academy of Sciences and Indian National Science

Academy, Prof. Ramachandran is an Honorary Member of the American Society of Biological Chemists, an Honorary Foreign Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, London. He has edited 8 volumes on different aspects of biopolymer structure, and has written two books on crystallography. He was the Editor of *Current Science* from 1951 to 1957, and has been, on the Editorial Board of several International Journals.

During the last six years at the Indian Institute of Science, he has set up a Department of Molecular Biophysics, which is working on the whole range of biopolymers, using a wide range of techniques. Among the achievements of this Laboratory are the finishing touches to the triple-helical structure of collagen—the role of hydroxyproline in this protein—and the development of a new method of solving crystal structures using packing considerations. They are also working on a new structure of DNA, which is rather different from the well-known Watson-Crick double helix. Among other important studies are those on protein-polysaccharide complexes, on membranes and on antibiotics.