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Author	佐藤, 良博(Sato, Yoshihiro) 小田, 泰子(Oda, Taiko) 井上, 淳子(Inoue, Junko) 功刀, 正行(Kunugi, Masayuki) 鈴木, 和夫(Suzuki, Kazuo)
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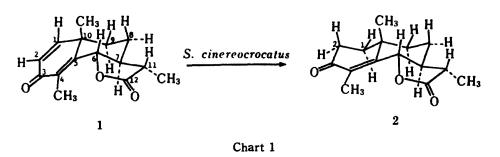
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Stereochemistry of Microbial Hydrogenation of (-)-a-Santonin to (+)-1,2-Dihydro-a-santonin by Streptomyces cinereocrocatus NRRL 3443*

Yoshihiro Sato, Taiko Oda, Junko Inoue, Masayuki Kunugi** and Kazuo T. Suzuki**

佐藤良博,小田泰子,井上淳子,功刀正行**, 鈴木和夫**

We reported the microbial transformation of (-)- and (+)-dehydrogriseofulvin and their analogs by Streptomyces cinereocrocatus NRRL 3443 and it was demonstrated that hydrogenations of the dienones proceed in trans-diaxial manner to give the corresponding In order to elucidate the microbial transformation activity of S. dihvdro derivatives. cinereocrocatus, (-)- α -santonin (1) was selected as a cross-conjugated dienone compound. The microbial transformation of (-)- α -santonin (1) by S. cinereocrocatus was performed under the same conditions as described in the previous paper. The mass spectrum (MS) and ¹H-NMR spectrum data indicated that the microbial transformation product might be the 1,2-dihydro derivative (2) of $(-)-\alpha$ -santonin (Chart 1). Therefore, $(-)-\alpha$ santonin was partially hydrogenated over 5% palladium-charcoal catalyst in ethyl acetate to give (+)-1,2-dihydro- α -santonin (2). The ¹H-NMR, MS and circular dichroism (CD) data of the microbial transformation product were identical with those of 2, demonstrating that the microbial hydrogenation of 1 by S. cinereocrocatus occurs at the 1 and 2 positions. Since Inayama *et al.* have shown that 2 is in a half-chair conformation with respect to the cyclohexenone ring on the basis of the CD spectrum, which exhibited a negative CD Cotton effect, 400 MHz ¹H-NMR spectroscopy with selective proton decoupling established the assignments of all of the proton chemical shifts of (+)-1,2-dihydro- α santonin (2).



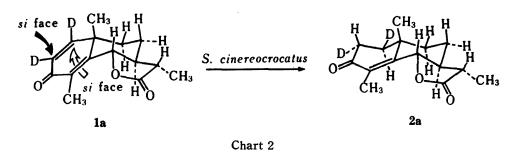
Consequently, to elucidate the stereochemistry of microbial hydrogenation of (-)- α -

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^{**} 国立公害研究所

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santonin (1) by S. cinereocrocatus, the deuterated substrate, $(-)-[1,2-^{2}H]-\alpha$ -santonin (1a), Thus, the microbial transformation of (-)-[1,2-²H]- α -santonin (1a) was synthesized. by S. cinereocrocatus was performed under the same conditions as described above. The transformation product (2a) was proved to be deuterated (+)-1,2-dihydro- α -santonin by MS and gas liquid chromatography comparisons with the standard compound (2). The 400 MHz ¹H-NMR spectrum of **2a** was almost identical with that of **2** except that decreases of the signal intensities at the 2α - and 1β -H regions and some differences in the 1α -, 1β -, 2α -, and 2β -H regions. Further, a coupling pattern was clearly observed at the 2β -H region, demonstrating the configurations of the deuterons of the microbial transformation product (2a) as 1β and 2α , respectively (Chart 2). Thus, the structure of 2a was concluded to be (+)-[1 β , 2 α -²H]-1, 2-dihydro- α -santonin.



Comparison of the above results with those for griseofulvin derivatives indicates that the microbial hydrogenations of dienone compounds by S. *cinereocrocatus* proceed with the same stereochemistry, *i.e.*, in a *trans* diaxial manner.