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A Simplified Synthesis of 32-Oxygenated Lanosterol Derivatives*

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The biosynthesis of cholesterol from lanosterol requires the removal of the three methyl groups at carbons 4 and 14. The initial step in the removal of these methyl groups has been considered to be the 14-demethylation, which is a complex process, and many aspects of the overall mechanisms remain unclear. A probable intermediate is the lanosterol derivatives with a 14-hydroxymethyl, 14-aldehyde or 15-hydroxy group. With the intention of investigating the effects of the natural precursors on cholesterol biosynthesis from 24,25-dihydrolanosterol, we studied the synthesis of the 32-oxygenated derivatives of 24,25-dihydrolanosterol. This report describes a simplified synthesis of lanost-8-ene-3β,32-diol, lanost-7-ene-3β,32-diol, 3β-hydroxylanost-8-en-32-al, and 3β-hydroxylanost-7-en-32-al.

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