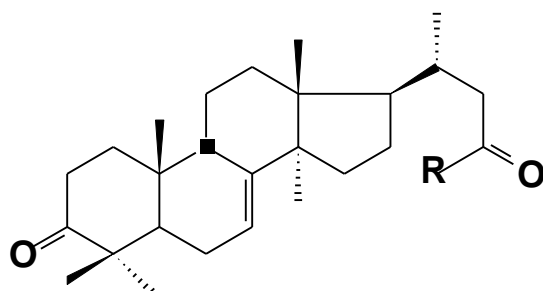


## Detection of Stereoselective Ethylidenation of Ring A on the Alkali Fragmentation of 3,23-Dioxo-7,24-lanostadien-26-oic Acids

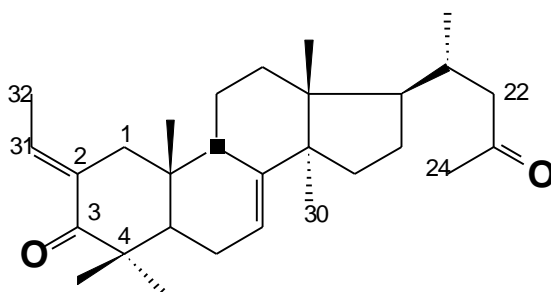
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3,23-Dioxo-7,24-lanostadien-26-oic acids (**1**), the components of a natural mixture of triterpenoids from needles of Siberian fir, may undergo a side-chain fragmentation with formation of piruvic acid and the diketone (**2**). This diketone undergoes to reaction with piruvic acid formed *in situ* on first stage of conversion and resulted in the reaction leading eventually to a 2-ethylidene derivative (**3**), whose structure was recognized from NMR spectra and supported by X-ray analysis of its product of photoisomerization (**4**).



**1:** R = CH=C(CH<sub>3</sub>)COOH (*Z* or *E*); **2:** R = CH<sub>3</sub>



**3:** (2(31)*E*); **4:** (2(31)*Z*)