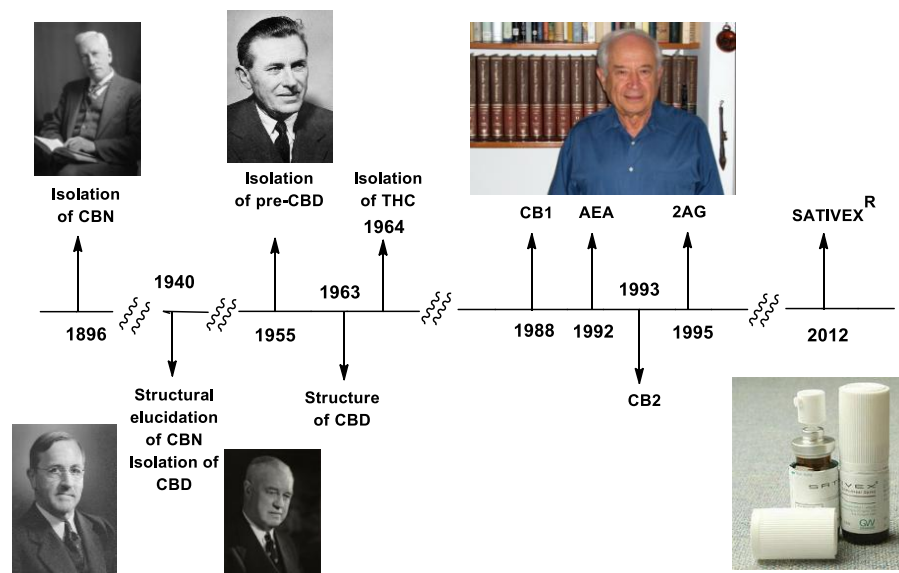


Greening the chemistry of cannabinoids: New reactions and new syntheses

Giovanni Appendino

Dipartimento di Scienze del Farmaco,, 28100 Novara, Italy

Timeline of cannabinoid research

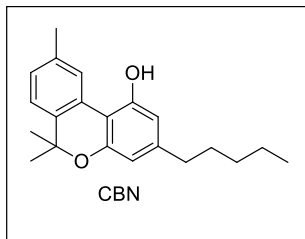


Phytocannabinoids: a confusing and tragic start in Cambridge

20 WOOD, SPIVEY, AND EASTERFIELD: CANNABINOL. PART I.

III.—Cannabinol. Part I.

By THOMAS BARLOW WOOD, M.A.; W. T. NEWTON SPIVEY, M.A.;
THOMAS HILL EASTERFIELD, M.A., Ph.D.



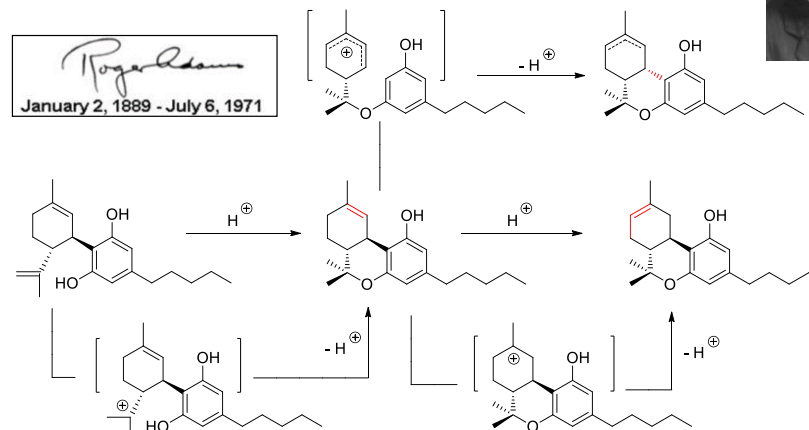
T. H. Easterfield
(1866-1949)

Trinitrocannabinol, $C_{21}H_{29}(NO_2)_3O_2$.—This compound is produced on adding fuming nitric acid (5 c.c.), drop by drop, to a well cooled solution of crude cannabinol (8 grams), dissolved in glacial acetic acid (18 c.c.), the temperature being kept down by immersing the flask in ice cold water. After standing for several days, the crystals are collected; the yield is 20 per cent. (1.6 grams) of the crude cannabinol used. The compound is easily soluble in benzene, phenol, alcohol, and ether; it is also readily soluble in hot, but only sparingly in cold, glacial acetic acid, which is the most convenient solvent for its recrystallisation. It crystallises in bright yellow plates, which, when quickly heated, melt at 160° (uncorr.) with some decomposition.

Adams' THC: an anticipated natural product



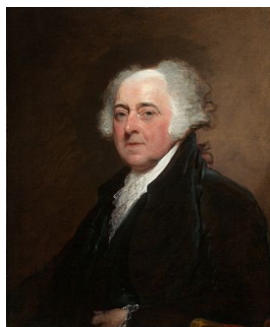
Roger Adams
January 2, 1889 - July 6, 1971



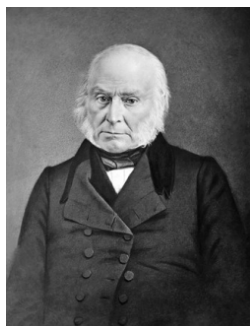
[CONTRIBUTION FROM THE NOYES CHEMICAL LABORATORY, UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS]
Structure of Cannabidiol. VII. A Method of Synthesis of a Tetrahydrocannabinol which Possesses Marihuana Activity¹

By ROGER ADAMS AND B. R. BAKER

1941: A descendent of two US Presidents becomes a «suspect American citizen» for FBI



John Adams
(1735-1826)



John Quincy Adams
(1767-1848)

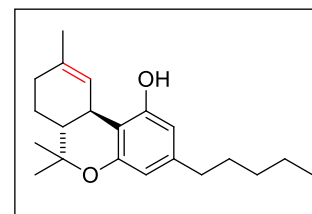


Roger Adams
(1889-1971)

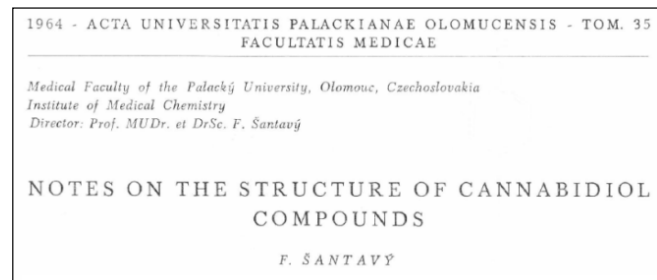
Lincoln's Birthday Committee for **Democracy and Intellectual Freedom** (anti-Nazi movement)

Lincoln's Birthday Committee for the **Advancement of Science**. (Communist organization)

1964: Šantavý established the structure of «Adams' THC» using CD data only

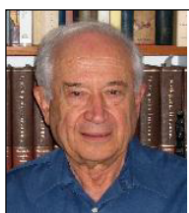
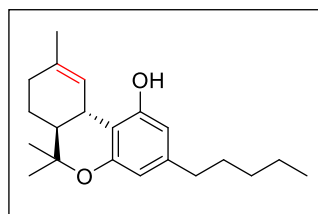


František Šantavý
(1915-1983)



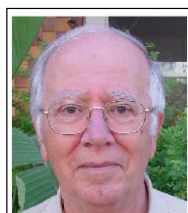
1964: actual isolation (but wrong absolute configuration) of Δ^9 -THC

Isolation, Structure, and Partial Synthesis of an Active Constituent of Hashish¹
Sir:
Hashish (marihuana), the psychotomimetically active resin of the female flowering tops of *Cannabis sativa* L.

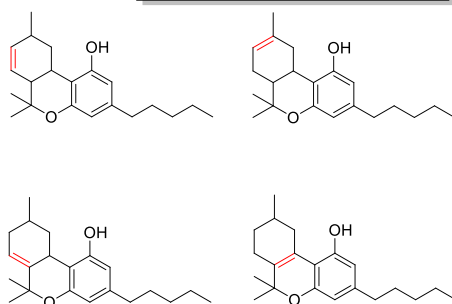


R. Jeechoulay

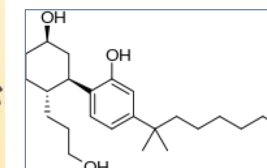
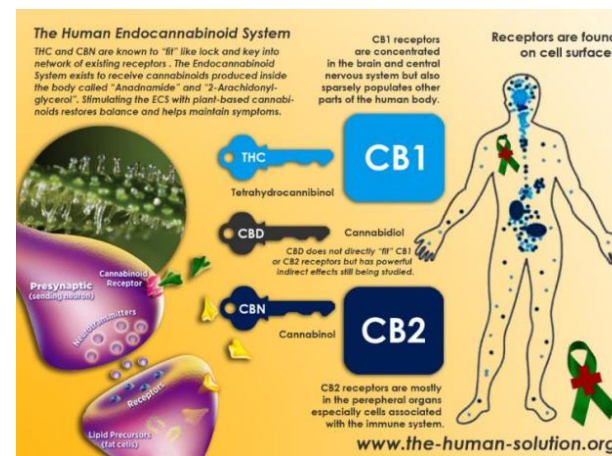
(Born 1930)



Y. Gaoni

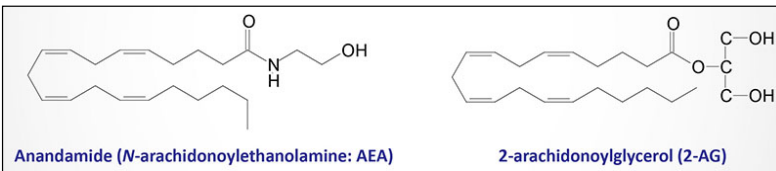
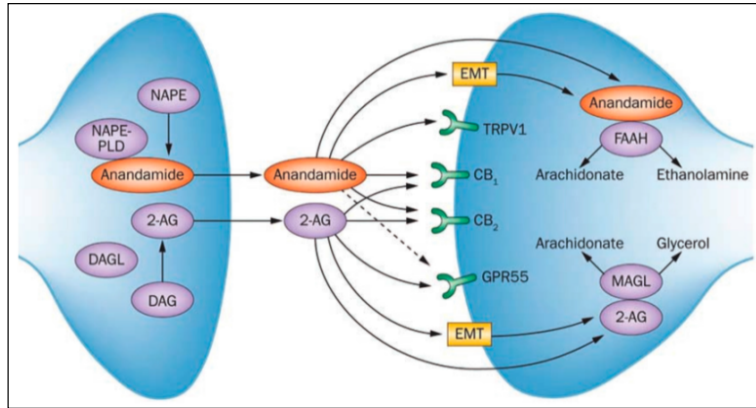


1988-1993: The cloning cannabinoid receptors (CB1, CB2)



CP-55940

1992-1995: The discovery of endogenous cannabinoids



2018: Cannabis sativa as a mainstream medicinal plant



Outline of the cannabinoid project (2005-2018)

Cannabinoid diversity from biodiversity:

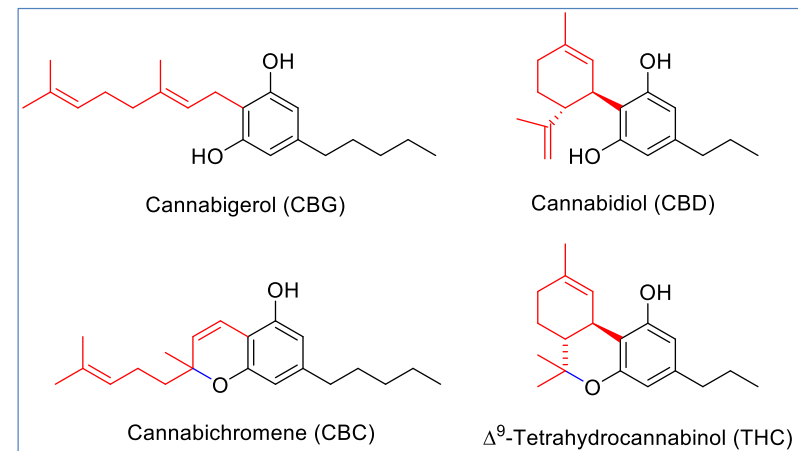
- ✓ Multi-gram isolation of cannabinoids
- ✓ Disposal of THC-containing side-cuts
- ✓ Novel cannabinoids
- ✓ Interconversion of cannabinoids

Cannabinoid diversity from ingenuity:

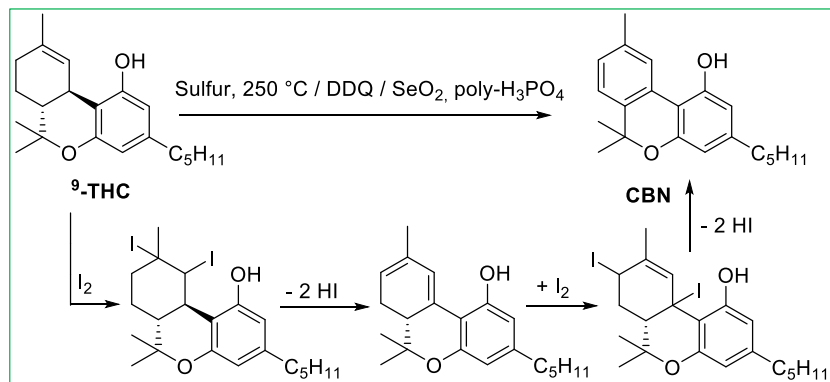
- ✓ Semi-synthesis
- ✓ Total synthesis
- ✓ Biological analogues of cannabinoids
- ✓ Development of VCE-004.8 (OD status by FDA and EMA for scleroderma)

Biological analogues of cannabinoids

The "big four"

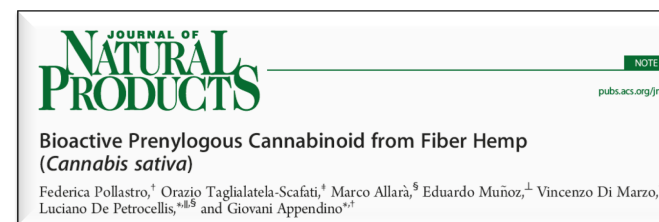
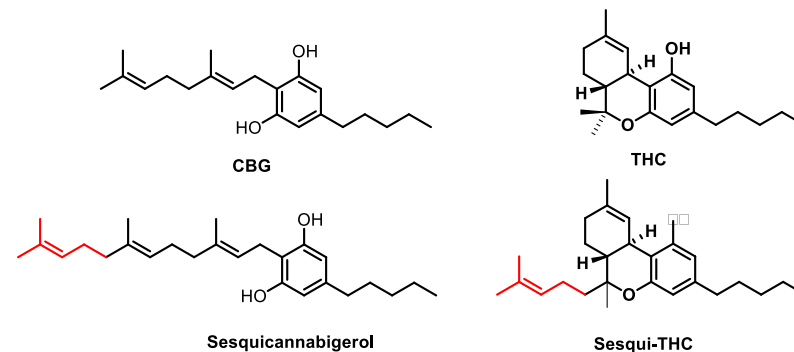


A smart disposal of THC

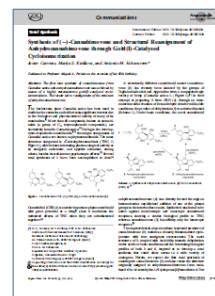
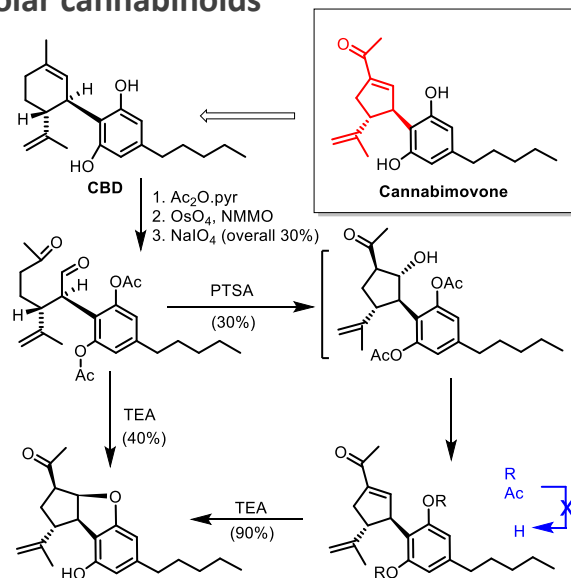


DOI: 10.1021/acs.jnatprod.7b00946
J. Nat. Prod. 2018, 81, 630–633

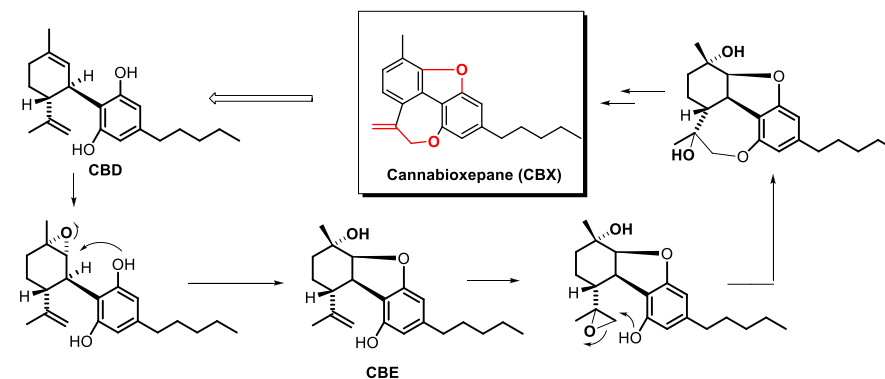
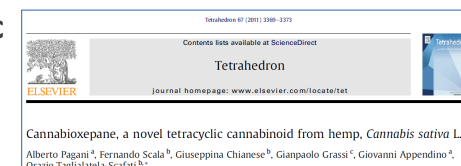
The discovery of prenylogous cannabinoids



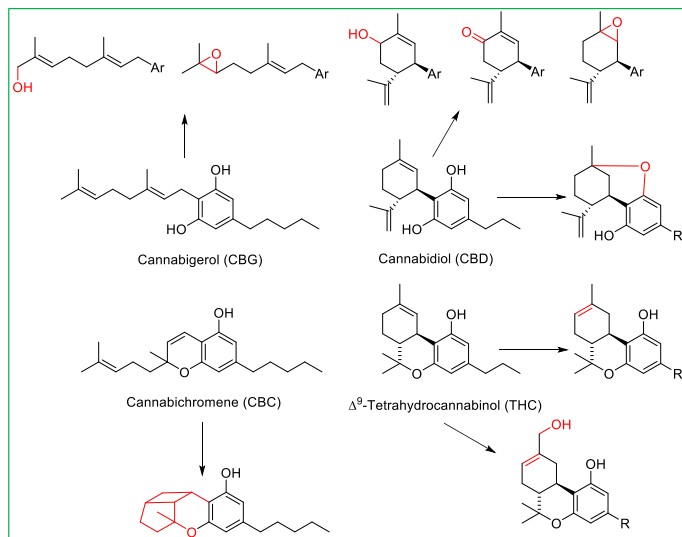
Polar cannabinoids



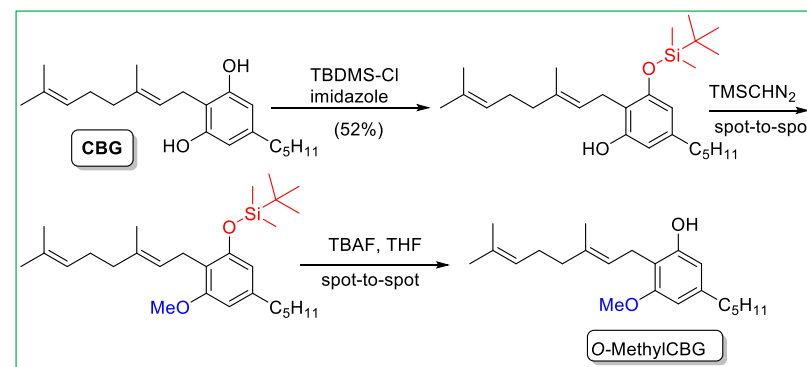
Discovery of a tetracyclic cannabinoid: Cannabioxepane (CBX)



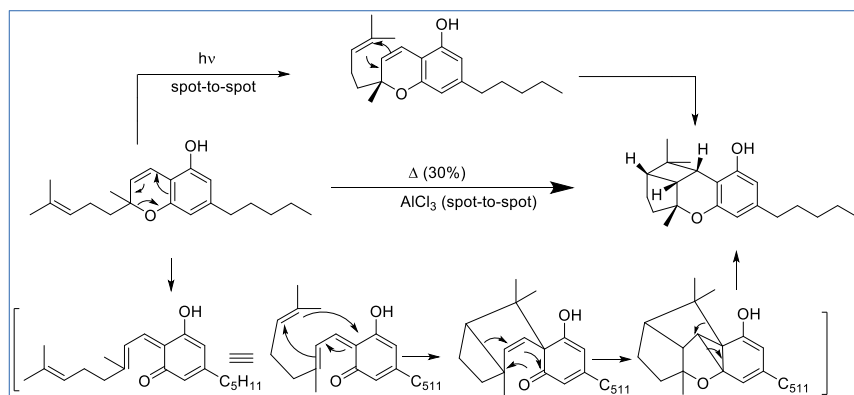
Minor cannabinoids can be obtained from the “big four”



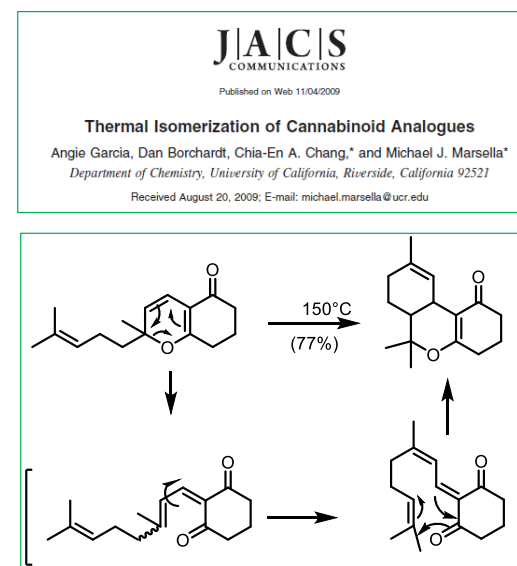
Some chemistry is simple....



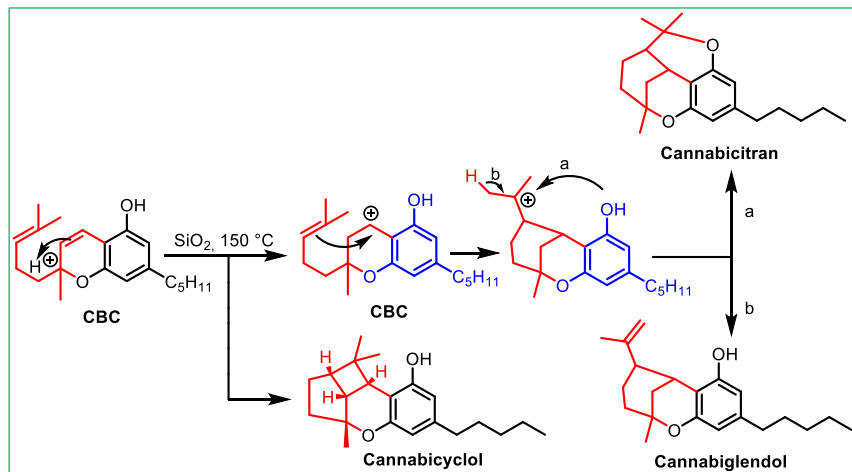
but other is not: is CBC violating W-H rules?



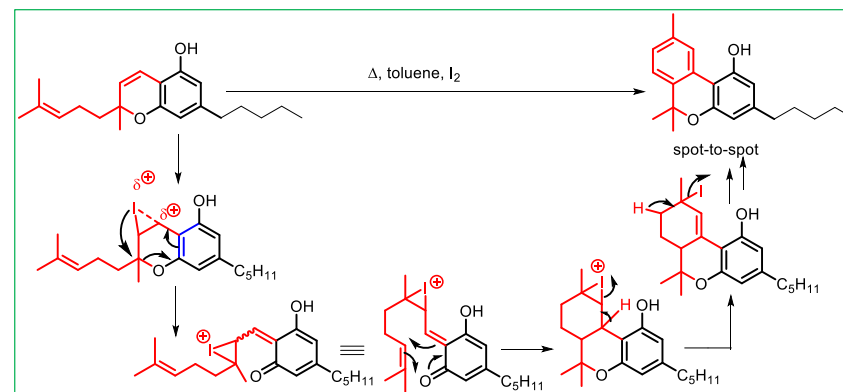
Can CBC be turned into THC?



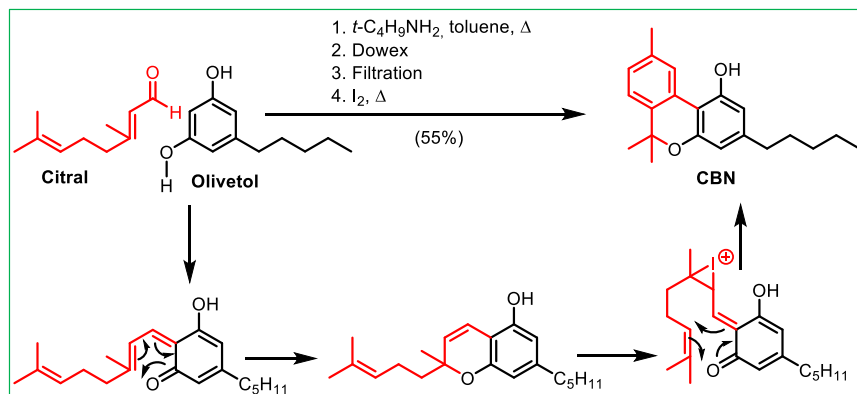
Definitely not..



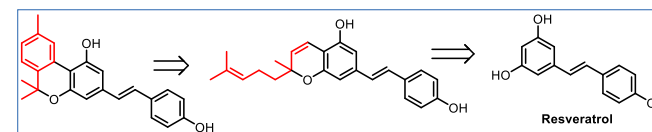
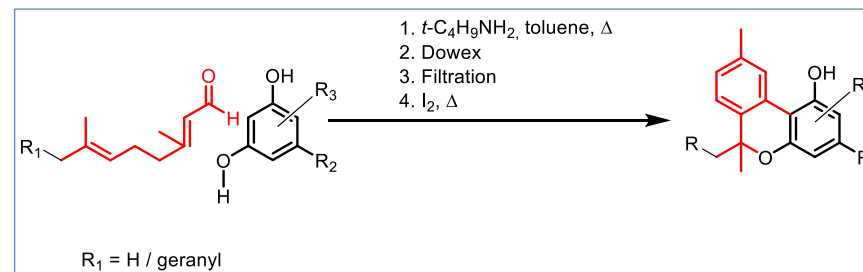
.. but iodine turns CBC into CBN



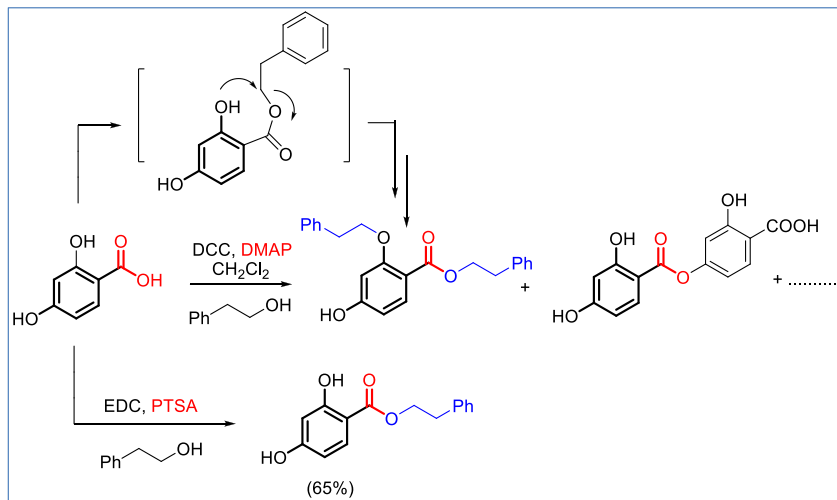
A one-pot outrageously simple total synthesis of CBN



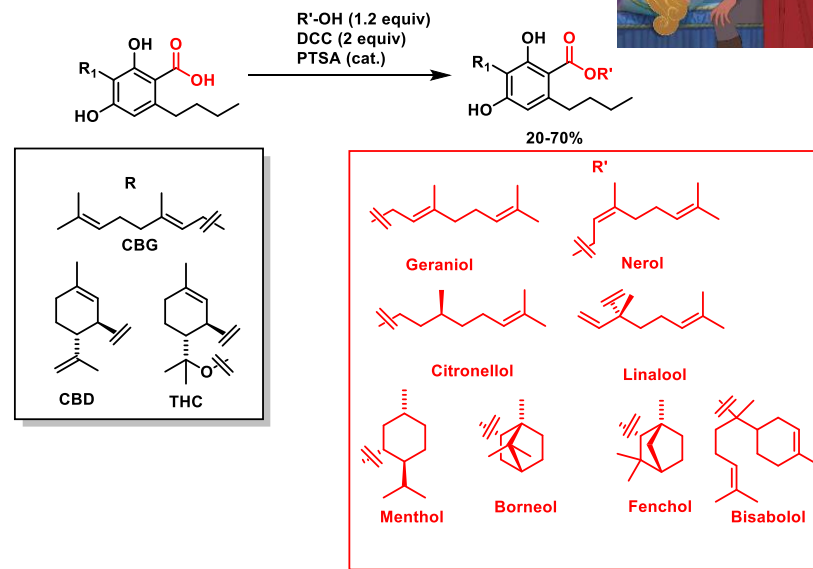
The prenylchromene-dibenzochromane rearrangement has general applicability



Development of a pyridine-free Holmberg esterification

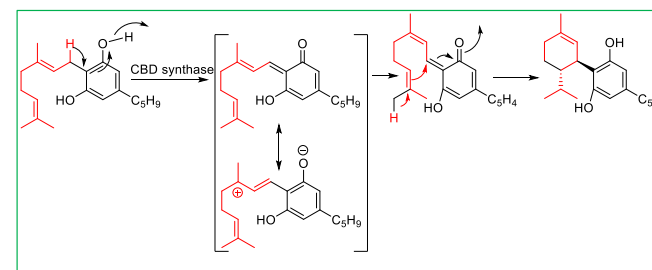
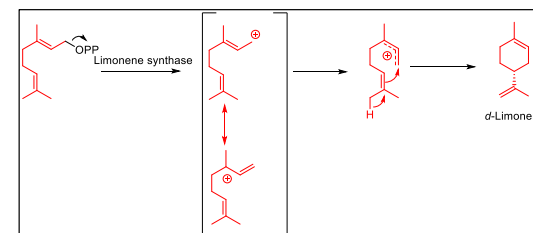


Synthesis of pre-cannabinoids esters

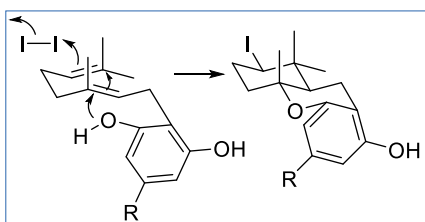
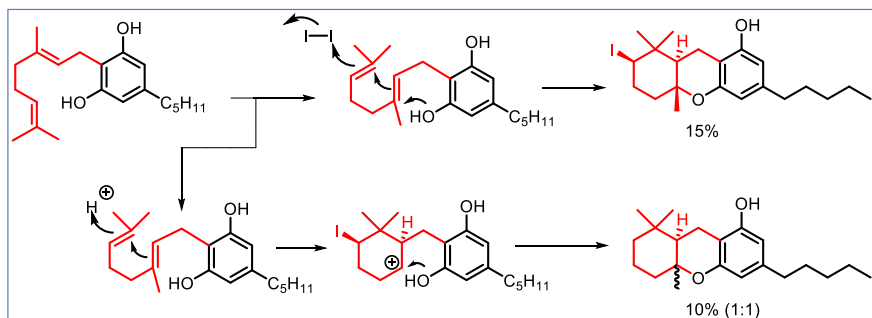


Cannabinoids diversity from
ingenuity: non-natural cannabinoids

The path untaken: ionic vs electrophilic prenyl cyclization

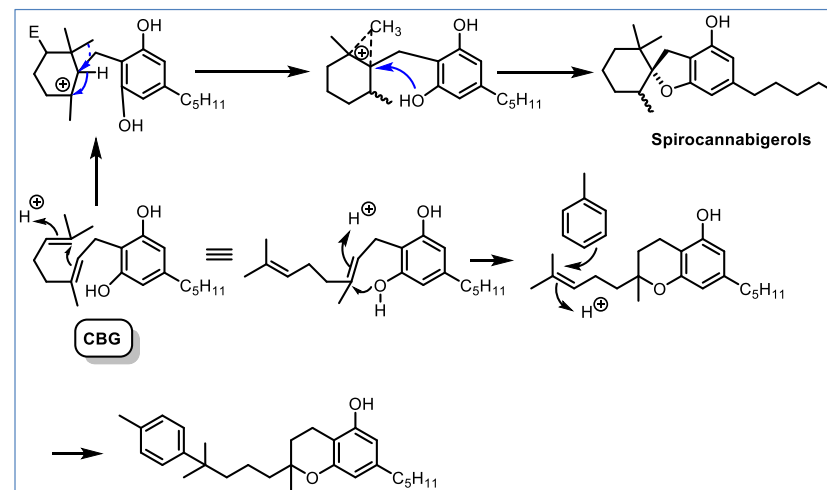


The cyclization of CBG: Iodine (concerted) vs proton (stepwise) trigger



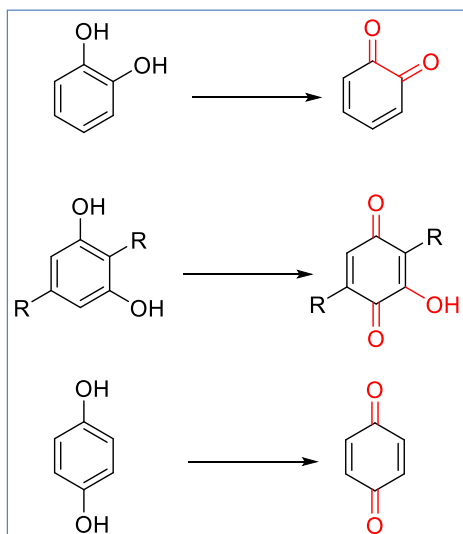
Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett. **2018**,

The ionic cyclization of CBG: novel reaction courses via a corner-protonate cyclopropane



Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett. **2018**,

The oxidation of benzenediols



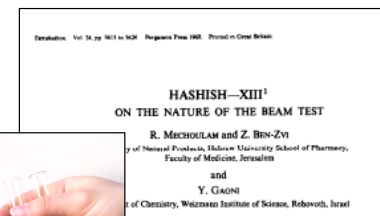
Cannabinoquinones: more than one reason to study them

Early discovery: first reported in 1968

Possible mammalian metabolites of cannabinoids

Forensic markers for recreational cannabis (Beam reaction)

Selective anti-cancer agents



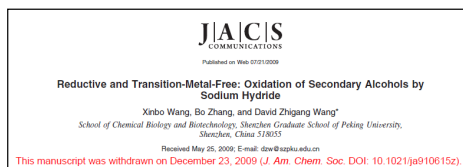
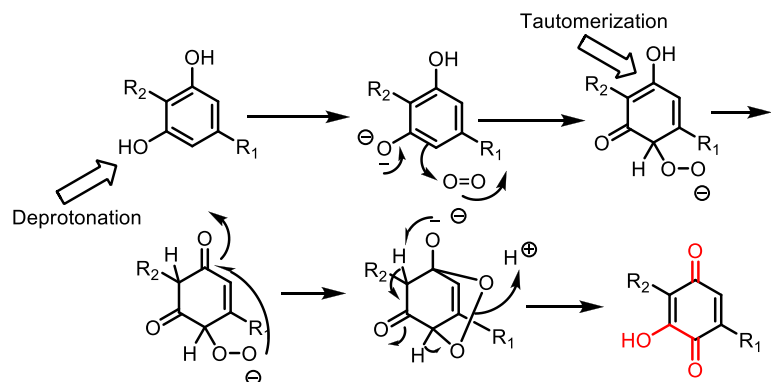
3800 *J. Med. Chem.* **2004**, *47*, 3800–3806

Synthesis and Antitumor Activity of Quinonoid Derivatives of Cannabinoids

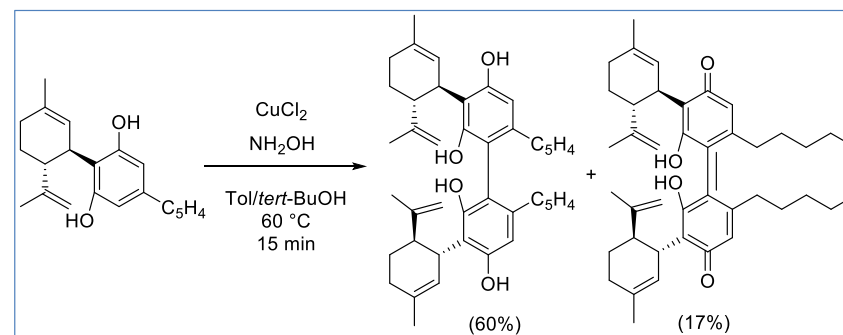
Natalya M. Kogan,^a Ruth Rabinowitz,^a Paloma Levi,^a Dan Gibson,^a Peter Sandler,^a Michael Schlesinger,^a and Raphael Mechoulam^{a,*}

Department of Medicinal Chemistry and Natural Products, School of Pharmacy, The Hebrew University, Jerusalem 91120, Israel; Department of Experimental Medicine and Cancer Research, School of Medicine, The Hebrew University, Jerusalem 91120, Israel and NMR Applications Laboratory, Varian Deutschland GmbH, D-64289 Darmstadt, Germany

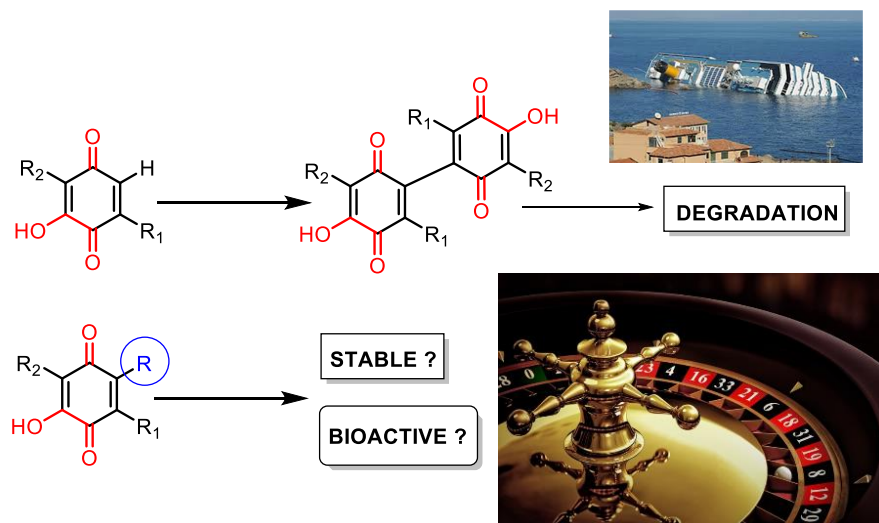
"NaH oxidation" gives excellent analytical yields



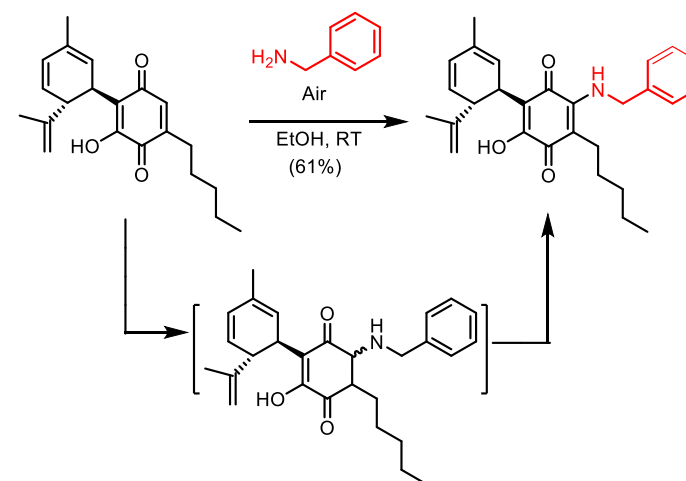
Most oxidants replicated the NaH-air reaction profile except CuCl₂-NH₂OH



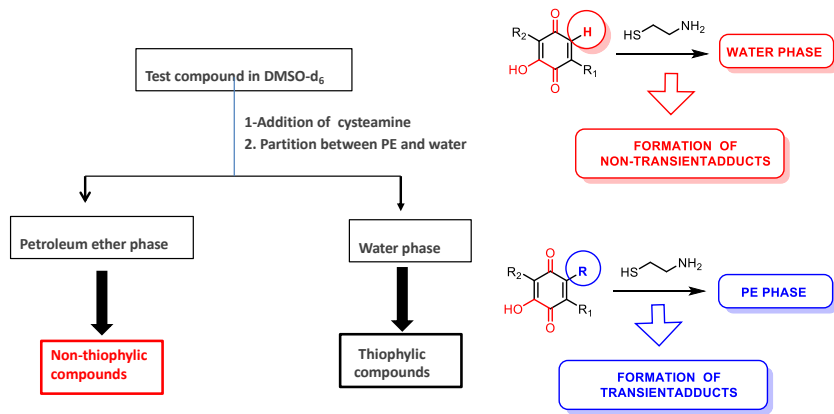
Cannabinoquinoids as a thermodynamic illusion. Possible strategies of chemical stabilization



The substituent at C-2: 3. The aza-Michael strategy



Substitution at C-2 changes the chemical profile



Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2011, 50, 467-471

*I am not saying that life should be without
amazement, but let's make that come from life
and sensations, not from chemicals*

(paraphrasis from Kathleen Desmaisons, author of *The Sugar*

Addict's Total Recovery Program)

Cannabinoids: A winning ticket in the bioactivity lottery

Molecular:

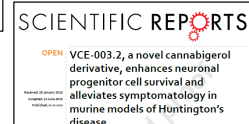
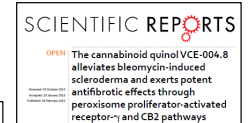
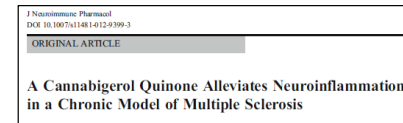
CB1 neutrals but CB2 active
Powerful activators of PPAR- γ

Cellular:

Non-cytotoxic
Neuroprotectants

Pre-clinical

Active in various animal models of neurodegenerative diseases



FP 6 – 512696

