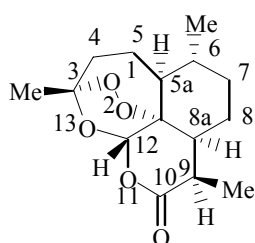


An important role of intramolecular free radical reactions in antimalarial activity of artemisinin and its analogs

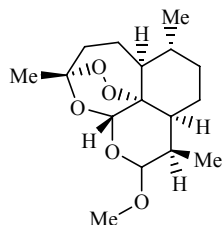
Evgeny Denisov

Institute of Problems of Chemical Physics RAS, Chernogolovka, Moscow Region, 142432, Russia, e-mail: det@icp.ac.ru

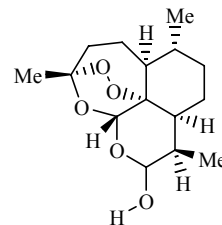
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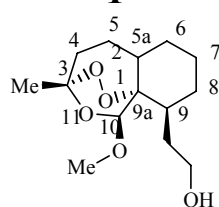
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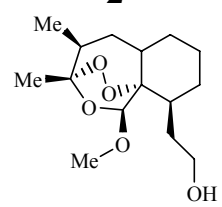
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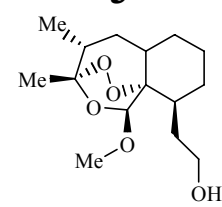
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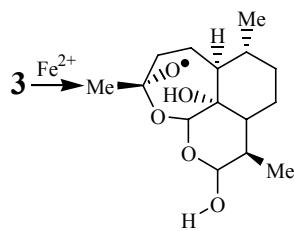
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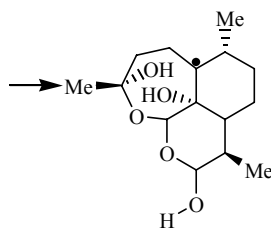
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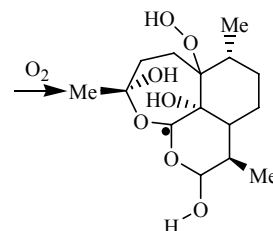
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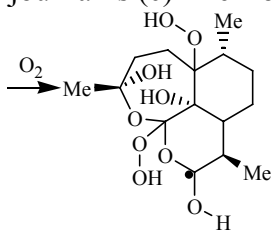
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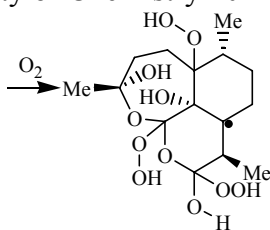
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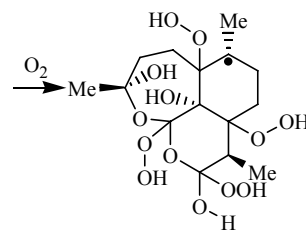
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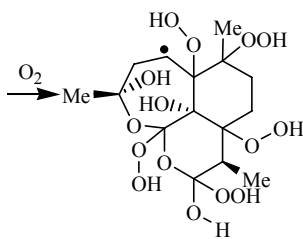
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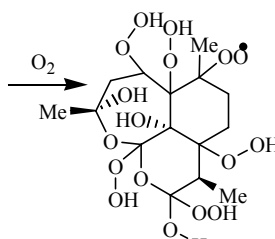
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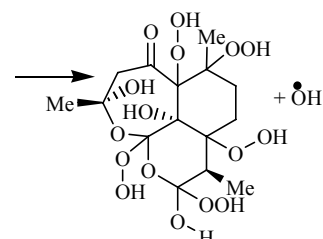
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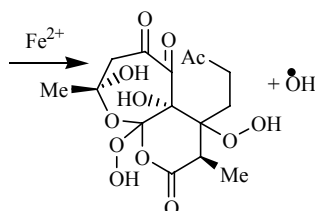
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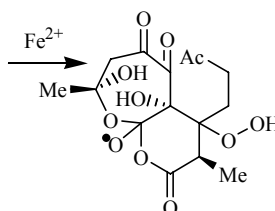
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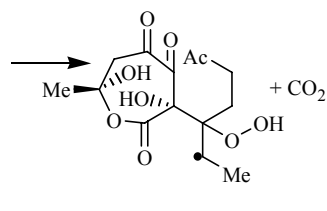
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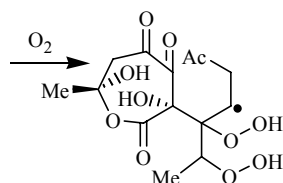
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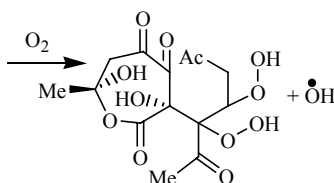
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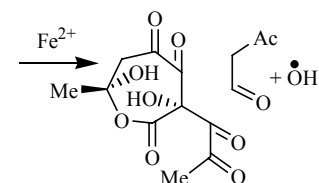
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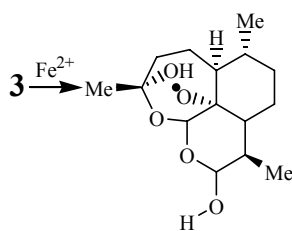
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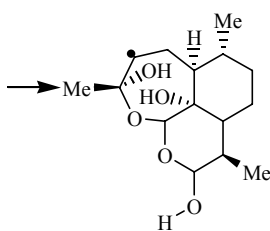
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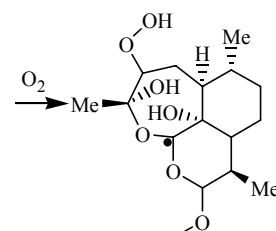
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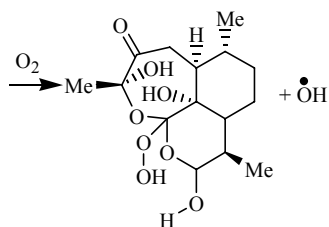
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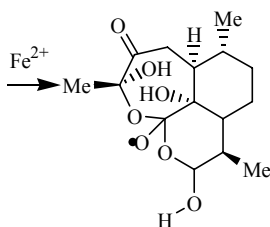
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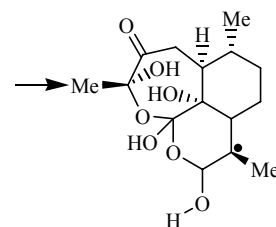
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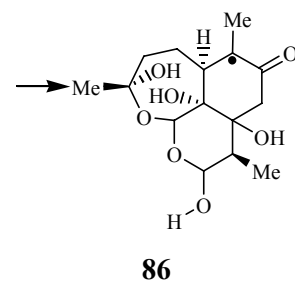
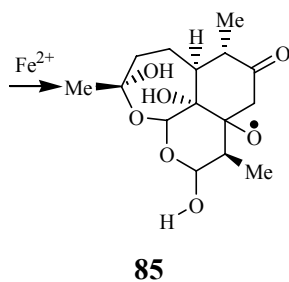
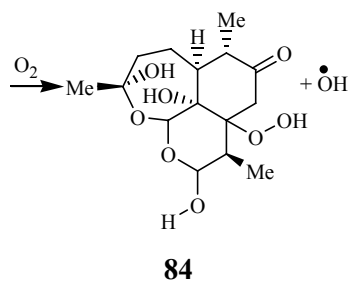
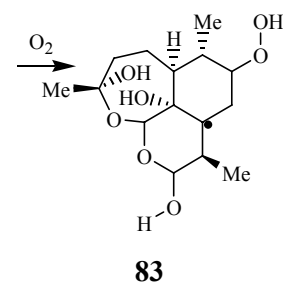
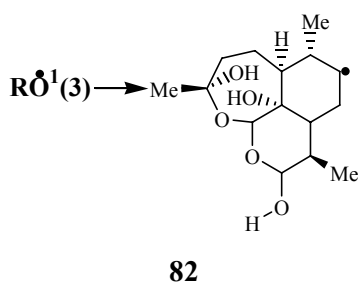
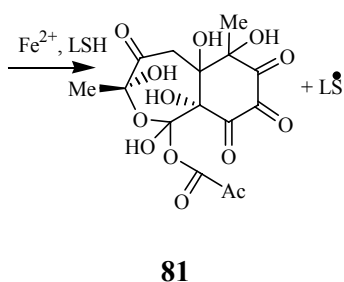
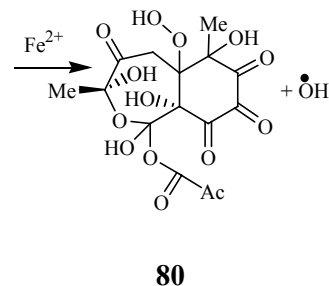
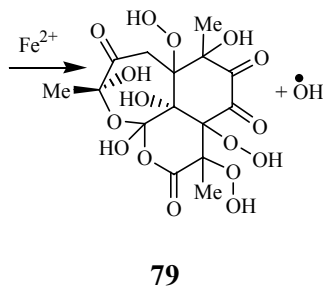
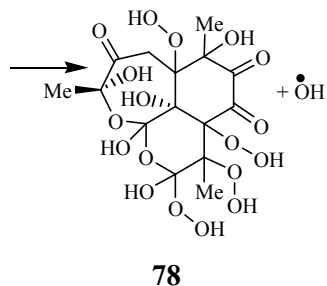
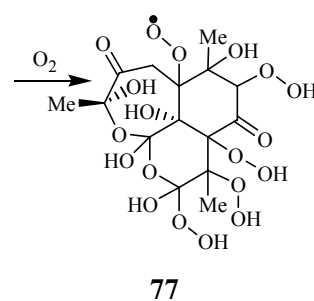
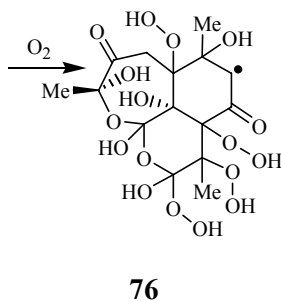
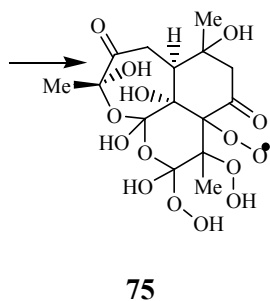
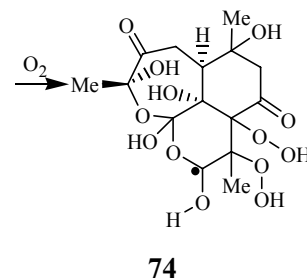
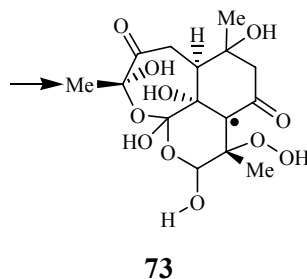
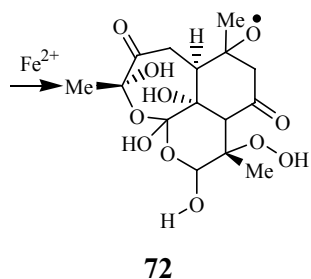
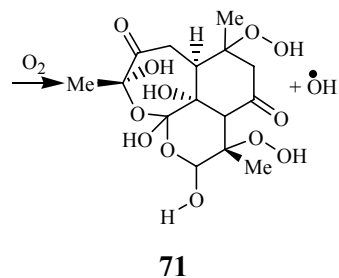
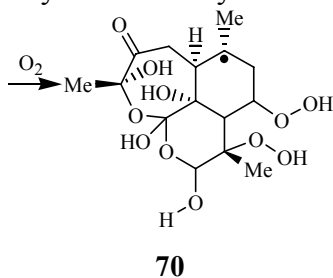
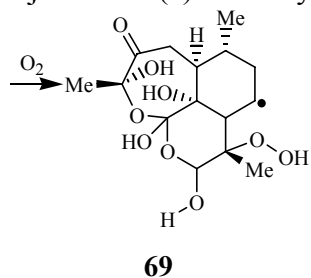
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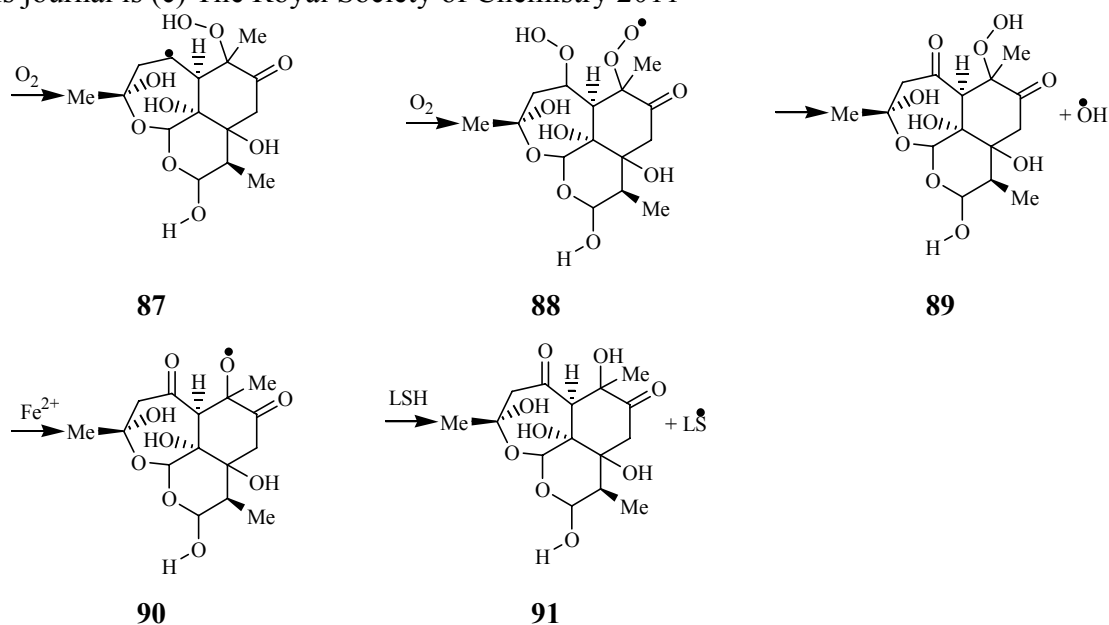


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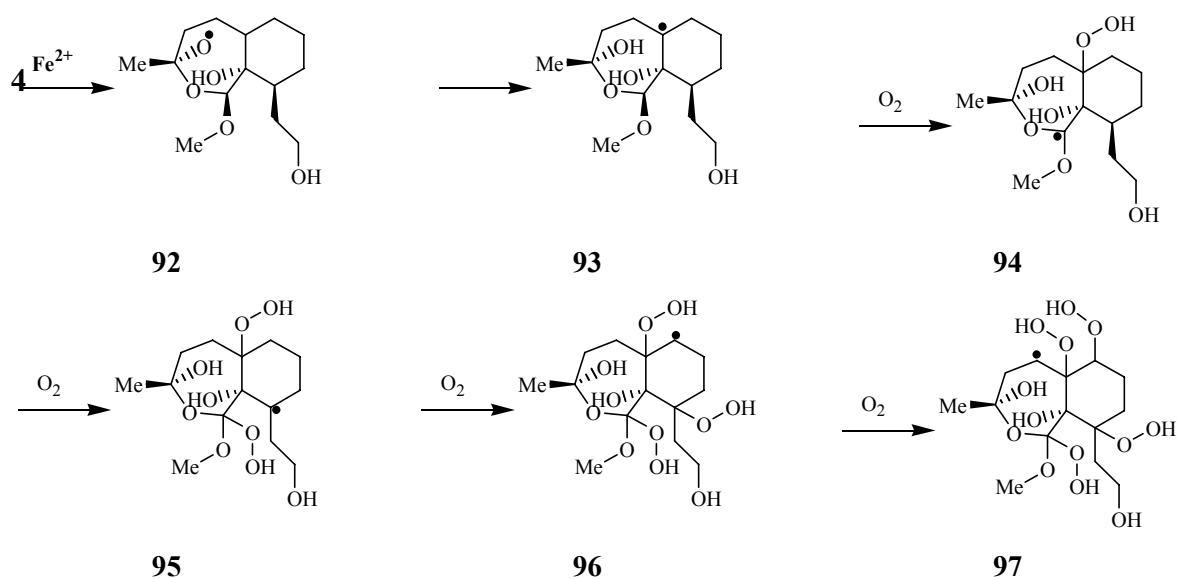
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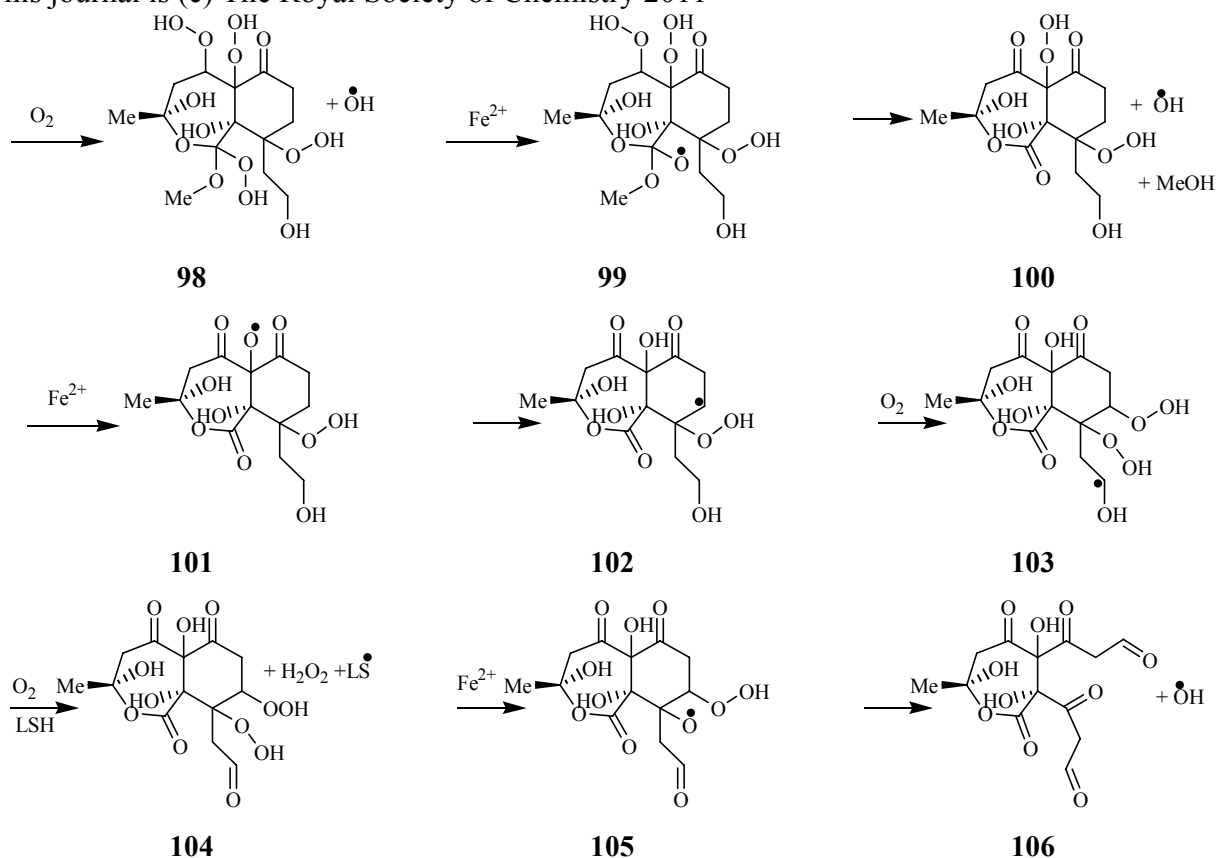




Scheme 2. Stages of the intramolecular oxidation of compound **3**. Kinetic characteristics (ΔH , E , k) of elementary steps of intramolecular oxidation of compound **3** are given in Table 6.

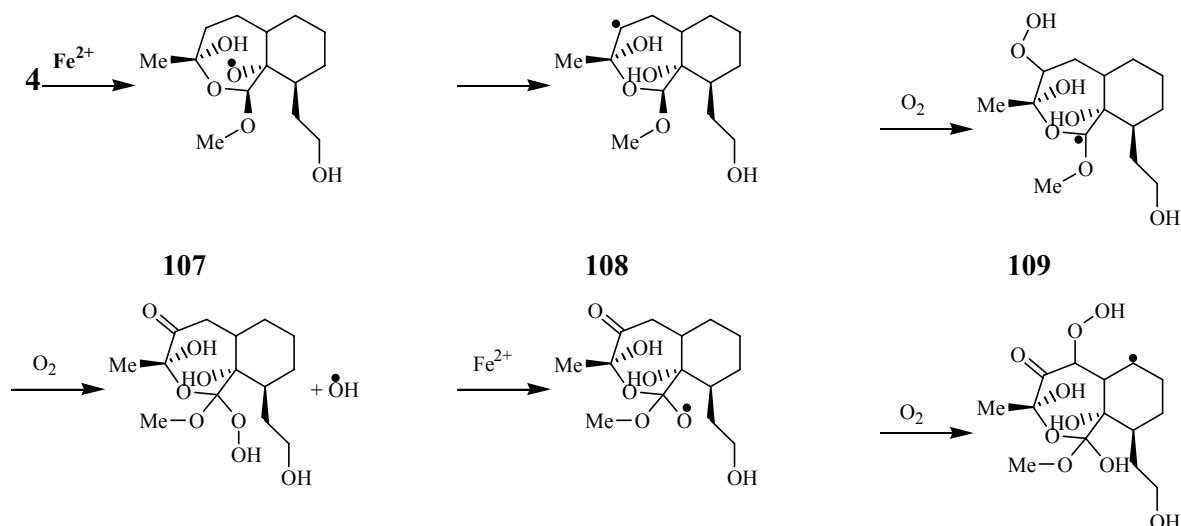
As in the case of compound **2**, free radical $\text{RO}^{\bullet 1}(\mathbf{3})$ is isomerized in parallel to alkyl radicals $\text{R}^{\bullet 4}(\mathbf{3})$ and $\text{R}^{\bullet 7}(\mathbf{3})$ with the ratio of rate constants 2:1. The oxidation and destruction of $\text{R}^{\bullet 4}(\mathbf{3})$ produces three hydroxy radicals and one thiyl radical, and the oxidation of $\text{R}^{\bullet 7}(\mathbf{3})$ produces two hydroxy radicals and one LS^{\bullet} radical. Radical $\text{RO}^{\bullet 2}$ is generated due to the oxidation of six hydroxy radicals. The total yield of radicals per molecule of **3** is equal to 4.33 hydroxy radicals (that is more than **1** !) and 0.5 LS^{\bullet} radical.

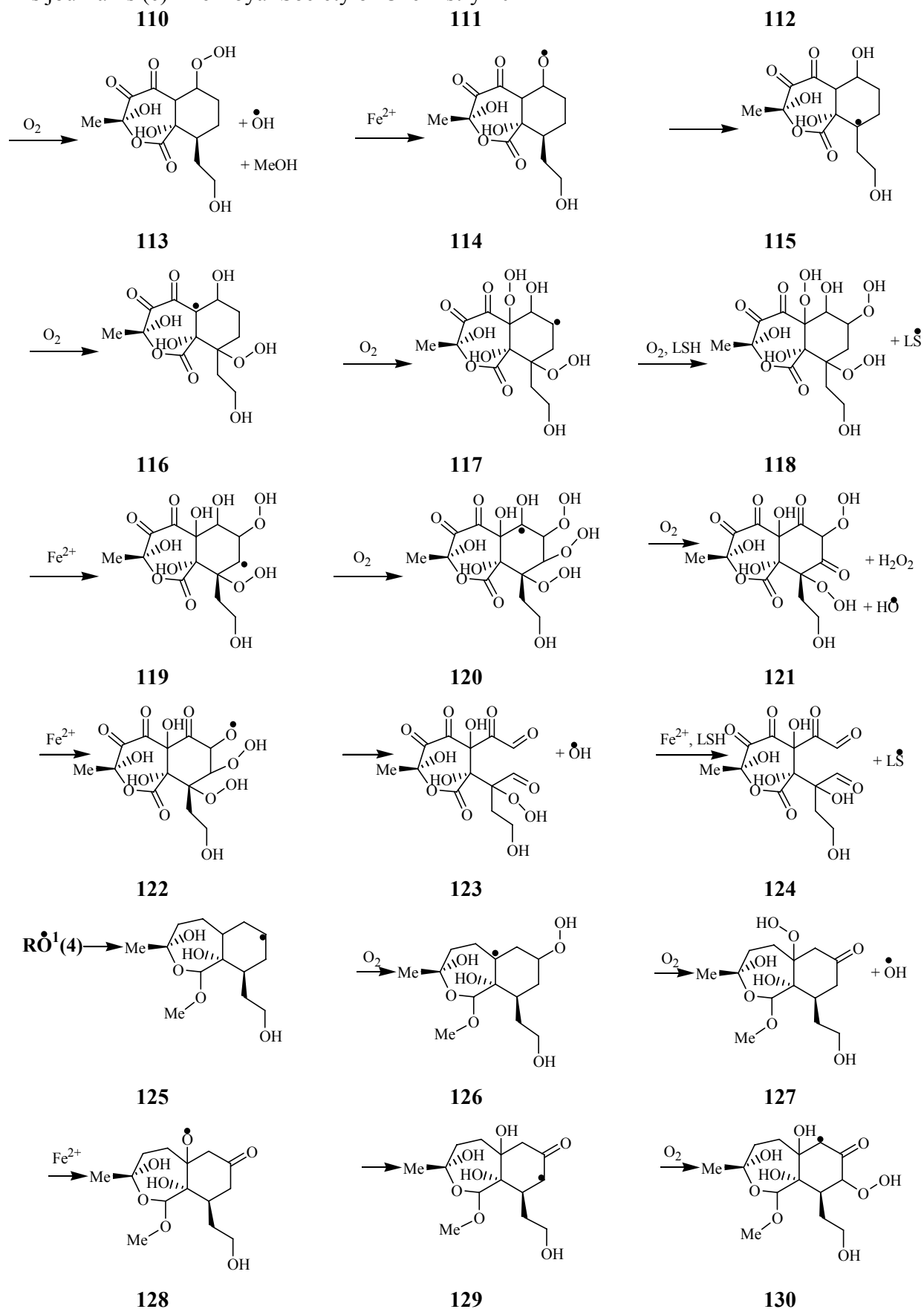


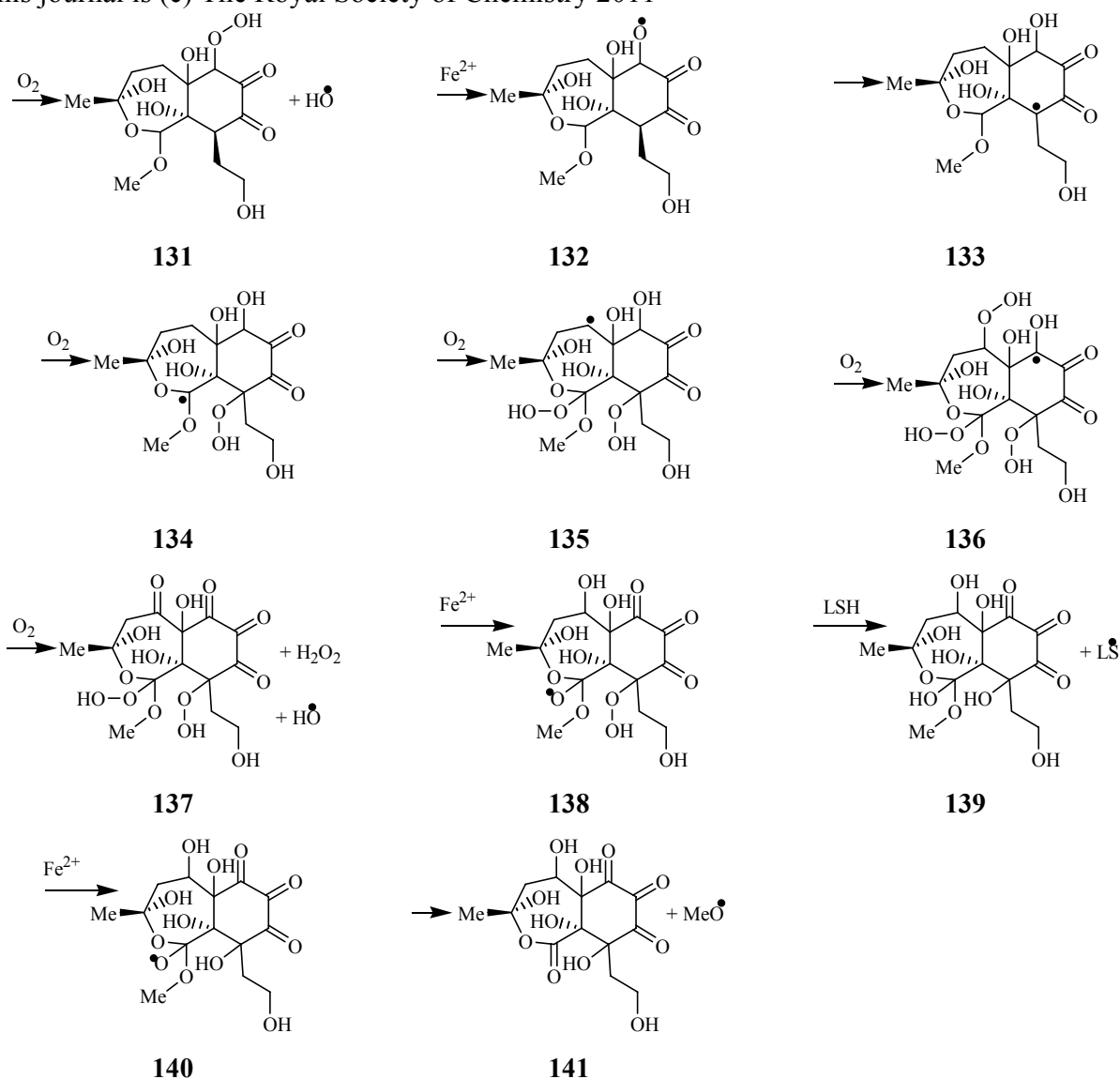


Scheme 3. Stages of the intramolecular oxidation of radical RO_2^\bullet of compound **4**. Kinetic characteristics (ΔH , E , k) of elementary steps of the intramolecular oxidation of compound **4** are given in Table 6.

It is seen that the intramolecular oxidation of radical RO_2^\bullet (**4**) proceeds *via* a line of consecutive reactions and generates, as a result, three HO^\bullet radicals and one LS^\bullet radical. The same cascade of free radical reactions proceeds in the case of intramolecular transformations of radicals RO_2^\bullet (**5**) and RO_2^\bullet (**6**).



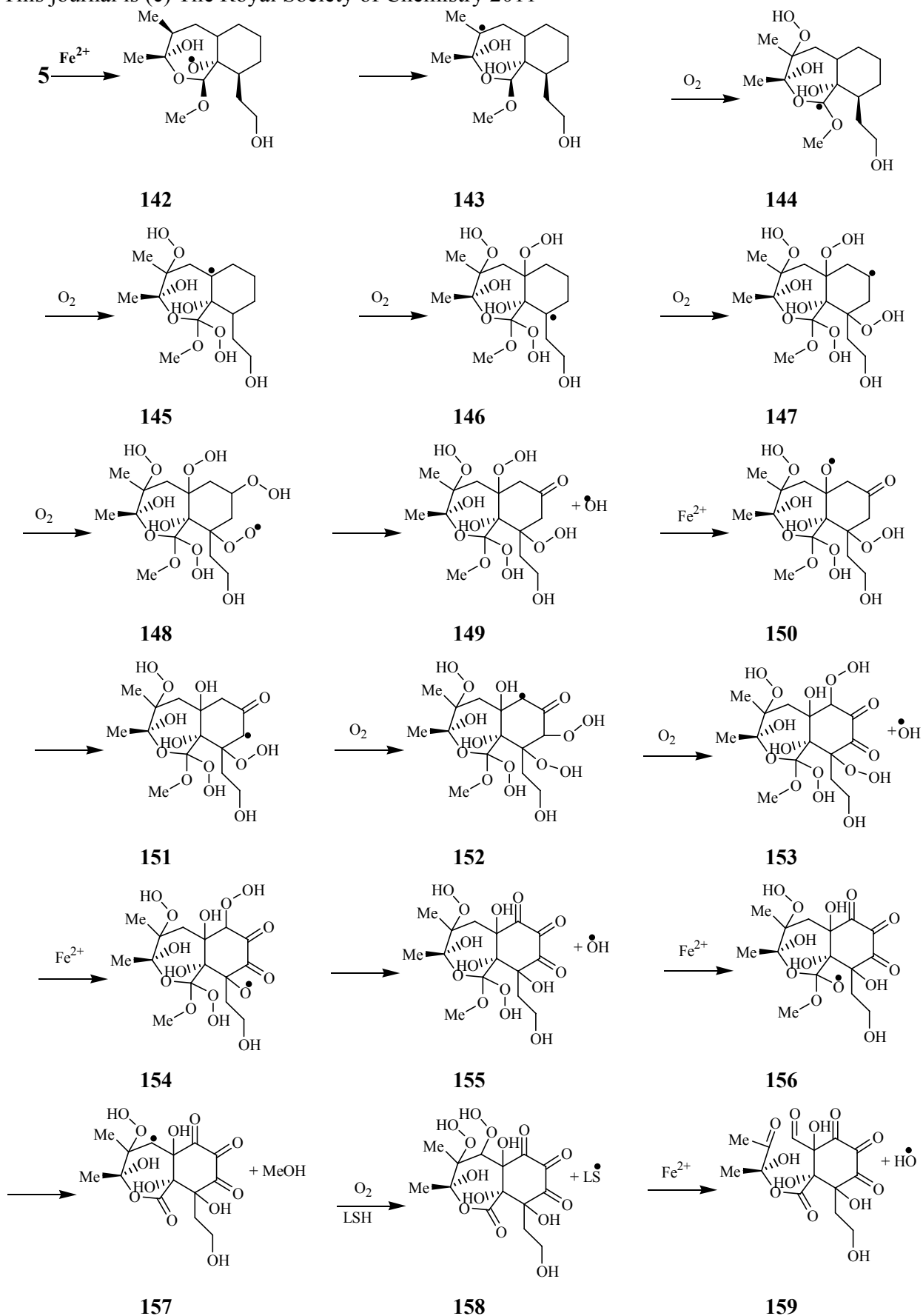




Scheme 4 Stages of the intramolecular oxidation of radical $RO^{1\bullet}(4)$. Kinetic characteristics (ΔH , E , k) of elementary steps of the intramolecular oxidation of compound **5** are given in Table 6.

The formed methoxy radical reacts preferentially with LSH forming LS^{\bullet} radical. So, the final yield of free radicals per radical $RO^{1\bullet}(4)$ is as follows: 3 HO^{\bullet} and 2 LS^{\bullet} . The total yield of free radicals *via* oxidation of compound **4** is 3 HO^{\bullet} + 1.5 LS^{\bullet} .

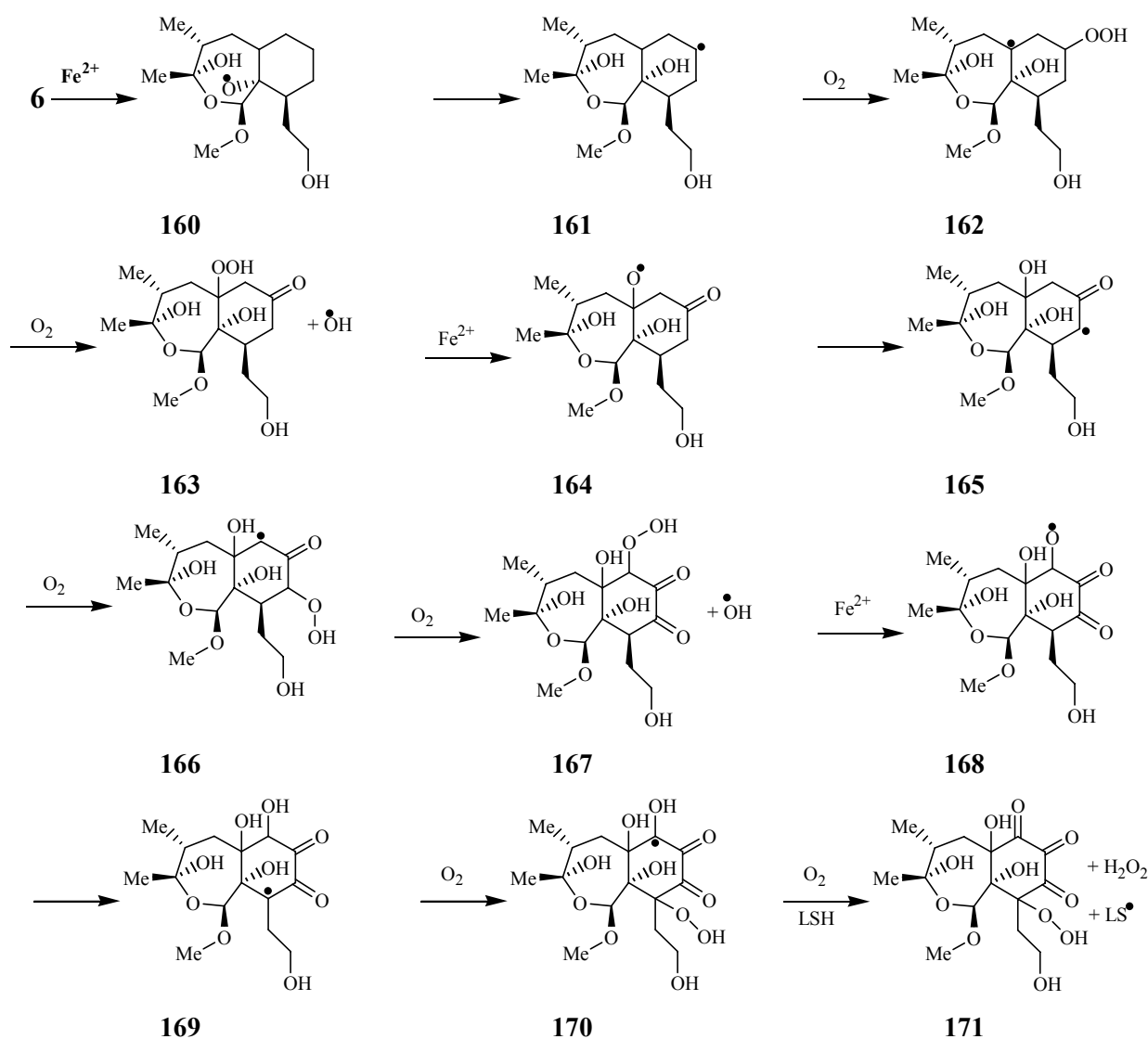
The introduction of the methyl group in position 4 in such a way that the C^4-H bond is available for $RO^{1\bullet}$ intramolecular attack of compound **3** changes the situation dramatically (see Scheme 5).

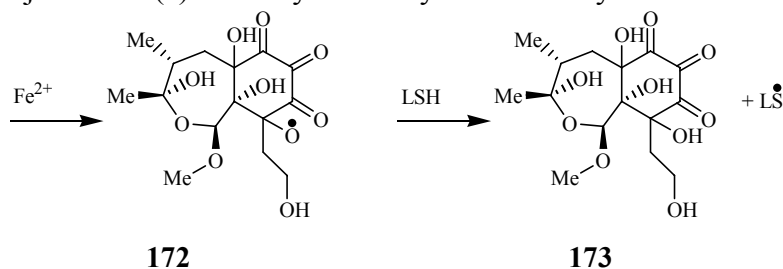


Scheme 5 Stages of the intramolecular oxidation of radical RO^\bullet (**5**). Kinetic characteristics (ΔH , E , k) of elementary steps of the intramolecular oxidation of compound **5** are given in Table 6.

The methyl group decreases the bond dissociation energy of the adjacent C⁴-H bond, and practically all RO^{1•}(**5**) radicals are transformed into radical R^{4•}(**5**). The latter is oxidized with the generation of four hydroxyls and one thiyl radical. The total yield of HO[•] radicals is as much as 3.75 HO[•] + 1.5 LS[•], which is higher than that for **1**! This is in agreement with the antimalarial activity of **5**, which is twice as large as that of **1**.²⁴

The change in methyl group orientation at the C⁴ atom affects very strongly the antimalarial activity of compound **6**.²⁴ In this compound, the C⁴-H bond cannot be attacked by RO^{1•} radical, and the oxidation proceeds in another way (see Scheme 6). As a result, the oxidation of RO^{1•} radical generates only two hydroxy and two LS[•] radicals. The total yield of HO[•] radicals is equal to 2.5 HO[•] and that of thiyl radicals is 1.5.





Scheme 6 Stages of the intramolecular oxidation of radical $\text{RO}^1\bullet$ (**6**). Kinetic characteristics (ΔH , E , k) of elementary steps of the intramolecular oxidation of compound **6** are given in Table 6.

Table 6. Kinetic characteristics (ΔH , E , k) of elementary steps of the intramolecular oxidation of compounds 3-6

Reaction	ΔH (kJ mol ⁻¹)	E (kJ mol ⁻¹)	k (310 K) (s ⁻¹)
48 → 49 , 92 → 93 , 142 → 143	-48.5	17.0	5.46×10^9
49 → 50 , 50 → 51 , 73 → 74	19.7	44.5	1.74×10^5
51 → 52	29.2	49.5	2.51×10^4
52 → 53 , 145 → 146	36.9	54.6	3.47×10^3
53 → 54 , 86 → 87	45.3	57.4	1.22×10^3
54 → 55 , 74 → 75 , 76 → 77 , 87 → 88 , 147 → 148	-6.9	19.8	4.15×10^6
55 → 56 , 64 → 65 , 65 → 66 , 88 → 89 , 108 → 109	12.5	42.7	3.51×10^5
59 → 60 , 165 → 166	43.3	56.3	1.80×10^3
60 → 61 , 120 → 121	13.5	41.5	2.03×10^2
63 → 64 , 107 → 108 , 156 → 157 ,	-34.6	21.8	8.51×10^8
67 → 68 , 85 → 86 , 114 → 115 ,	-43.0	18.4	3.17×10^9
128 → 129 , 132 → 133			
68 → 69 , 95 → 96 , 146 → 147	50.2	60.0	4.27×10^2
69 → 70	30.0	49.4	2.61×10^4
70 → 71 , 77 → 78 , 83 → 84 , 113 → 114 ,	17.2	43.2	2.88×10^5
126 → 127 , 148 → 149 , 162 → 163			
72 → 73 , 168 → 169	-53.2	14.9	1.23×10^{10}
75 → 76	49.5	57.7	1.04×10^3
80 → 81 , 80 → 81 , 90 → 91 , 138 → 139 ,	-78.5	5.8	2.06×10^6

170 → 171, 172 → 173

4 → 125, 3 → 82, 101 → 102, 111 → 112, 124 → 125, 128 → 129, 160 → 161	-29.7	23.6	4.26×10^8
82 → 83	22.1	45.7	1.10×10^5
93 → 94, 133 → 134, 143 → 144	19.5	44.3	1.79×10^5
94 → 95, 165 → 166	32.6	50.7	1.54×10^4
96 → 97	38.4	53.7	4.95×10^3
97 → 98	10.3	40.0	1.00×10^6
99 → 100	-67.6	10.3	7.35×10^{10}
102 → 103	34.0	53.0	4.00×10^2
103 → 104	-2.1	31.0	1.20×10^2
109 → 110	8.0	40.6	7.93×10^5
112 → 113	-9.3	31.5	2.48×10^7
115 → 116	26.7	47.8	4.85×10^4
116 → 117	39.0	54.0	4.37×10^3
117 → 118, 157 → 158	-5.5	29.5	5.35×10^2
119 → 120, 135 → 136	22.9	46.0	7.93×10^5
123 → 124	-71.9	1.5	1.12×10^7
129 → 130, 151 → 152	28.6	48.7	3.36×10^4
130 → 131	2.5	36.5	3.89×10^6
134 → 135	41.0	56.6	1.59×10^3
136 → 137	8.8	41.0	6.79×10^5
144 → 145	27.1	48.0	1.49×10^8
150 → 151, 164 → 165	-44.4	18.2	3.41×10^9
152 → 153	-8.2	32.0	2.23×10^7
154 → 155	-77.4	3.3	2.78×10^{12}
161 → 162, 125 → 126	24.5	46.7	7.32×10^4
166 → 167	-4.4	33.6	2.82×10^7
169 → 170	15.2	43.8	2.25×10^5
