



Fig. 4. Hemi-synthetic derivatives of the *neo*-clerodane diterpenes montanine C (7), teucin P₁ (12) and teupolin III (17).

The chemical reactions leading to the opening of the 4 α ,18-oxirane ring result in an antifeedant index with a negative value. Diterpenoids that are bridged by an oxygen atom between C-19 and C-20 either stimulate feeding or are inactive. Activity of all 13,14,15,16-tetranor-*neo*-clerodanes was drastically decreased.

Consequently, in order to optimize the antifeedant activity of natural *neo*-clerodanes from *Teucrium* by chemical transformations, the 4 α ,18-oxirane needs to be maintained and the furan ring should be oxidized.

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