



Fig. 1. Stereoscopic ORTEP (Johnson, 1976) diagram perpendicular to the 2_1 screw axis. The entire bundle resembles a three-stranded rope; each of the identical intercoiled strands is a helical catemer linked by $\text{COOH}\cdots\text{O}=\text{C}$ hydrogen bonds. For differentiation, the strands of the triple helix have been independently highlighted.

All relevant numerical information is contained in the *Abstract*, and has also been noted in the *Atlas of Steroid Structure* (Griffin, Duax & Weeks, 1984) and the Cambridge Structural Database (Allen *et al.*, 1979; Refcode: DXANBU 770722).

The original article (Precigoux, Busetta & Hospital, 1977) correctly described an intermolecular hydrogen bond from the butyryl carboxyl to the ring-A ketone with a 2.70 \AA O—O distance, and spoke of 'blocs helicoidaux'. However, the projection which was presented (along the b axis) is ambiguous in this regard and appears to show these intermolecular hydrogen bonds in a mutually dimeric arrangement. The projection shown in Fig. 1 makes clear

that the pattern is a helical catemer linked by $\text{COOH}\cdots\text{O}=\text{C}$ hydrogen bonds.

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