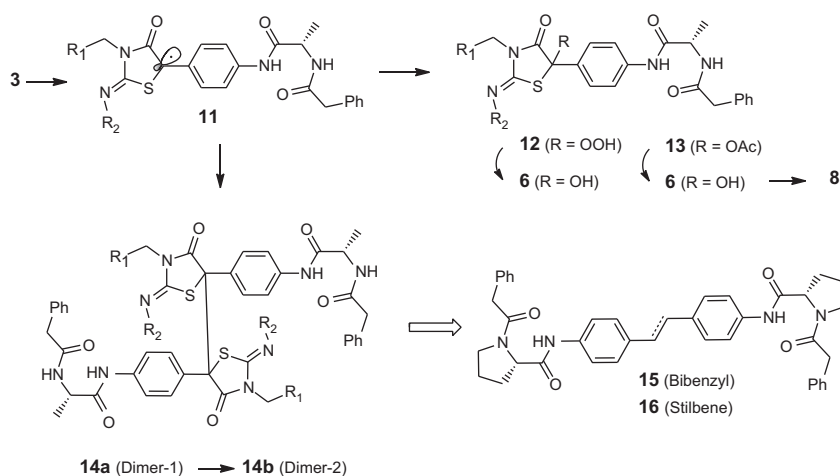


Scheme 1.1 Thiazolidinone oxidative degradation pathway.



Scheme 1.2 The central role of captodative radical **11** in chemotype degradation and the discovery of stilbene lead **16**.

assay medium initially afforded thiohydantoin **8**, which degraded to thiourea **9**, which also lacked replicon inhibitory activity. A critical and enlightening experiment in which **3** was pre-incubated in the assay medium until complete degradation had occurred, followed by assessment in the replicon, revealed that the HCV inhibitory activity was maintained, clearly indicating that some chemical entity other than the parental analog was likely responsible for the observed effect. A careful HPLC biofractionation study conducted on **3** after incubation in assay medium coupled with detailed spectroscopic analyses of the degradation products revealed the presence of two dimeric derivatives (see **14** in Scheme 1.2), both of which demonstrated inhibitory activity in the G-1b