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The bile acids of man. From left to right, cholic acid, deoxycholic acid, and
chenodeoxycholic acid. These acids do not exist as such in bile, but are combined in peptide
linkage with glycine or taurine. The resulting conjugated acids are excellent detergents
and have an important role in fat absorption. [Alan F. Hofmann, Department of Physi-
ological Chemistry, University of Lund, Lund, Sweden]