# Functional Group Transposition of Bicyclo[5.3.0]decadienones Afforded by the Allenic Pauson-Khand Reaction. An Approach Toward the Total Synthesis of (-)Dehydroleucodine 

## by

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Joseph Eugene Burchick Jr., PhD
University of Pittsburgh, 2020

The allenic Pauson-Khand reaction (APKR) has proven to be a powerful method for the construction of seven-membered rings. Despite this, only a few reports of this methodology being employed in total syntheses exist. Reported herein are synthetic studies targeted towards the elaboration of APKR adducts via the functionalization of the resulting enone motif. In addition, a rapid synthetic route towards the core 5,7,5-framework of biologically active 6,12-guaianolides was developed in an enantioselective fashion, utilizing the APKR as they key ring-forming step. The successful APKR adduct functionalization studies were combined with this novel synthetic route in an effort towards the first total synthesis of (-)-dehydroleucodine.

## Table of Contents

List of Tables ..... viii
List of Figures ..... ix
List of Schemes ..... x
List of Abbreviations ..... xv
Preface ..... xvi
1.0 Introduction ..... 1
1.1 Guaianolides and Strategies Towards the Rapid Construction of the 5,7-Ring
System. ..... 1
1.2 The Allenic Pauson-Khand Reaction. ..... 4
1.2.1 History and mechanistic details ..... 4
1.2.2 Applications of the allenic Pauson-Khand reaction in total synthesis ..... 7
1.3 Functional Group Interconversions of the APKR Adduct ..... 9
2.0 Allylic Diazene Rearrangement and Base-Mediated Isomerization of APKR Adducts ..... 12
2.1 Introduction ..... 12
2.1.1 Proposed strategies for the reductive transposition of the C3-C5 enone ..... 13
2.2 Synthesis of Model Bicyclo[5.3.0]decadienone 2.2. ..... 16
2.2.1 Synthesis of alkynyl ketone 2.7 ..... 16
2.2.2 Synthesis of allene-yne 2.1 ..... 19
2.2.3 Application and optimization of the APKR to allene-yne 2.1 ..... 22
2.3 ${ }^{1} \mathbf{H}$ NMR Studies of Tosylhydrazone Reduction with Catecholborane ..... 25
2.4 ADR on C1-C10 Hydrogenated APKR Adduct ..... 31
2.5 ADR on Bicyclo[5.3.0]decadienone Tosylhydrazone Model System 2.6. ..... 40
2.6 Conclusions for ADR Studies ..... 45
2.7 Base-Induced Transposition of $\boldsymbol{\alpha}$-Hydroxy Enone ..... 46
2.7.1 Introduction and background. ..... 46
2.7.2 Synthesis of $\alpha$-hydroxy enone 2.53. ..... 49
2.7.3 Base-induced isomerization of $\alpha$-hydroxy enone 2.53 ..... 51
2.8 Conclusions for the Base-Induced Enone Isomerization ..... 58
3.0 Studies Towards the First Total Synthesis of (-)-Dehydroleucodine ..... 60
3.1 Introduction ..... 60
3.2 Ring Closing Metathesis and Claisen Rearrangement of $(\boldsymbol{R})$-linalool ..... 67
3.3 Conversion of $\boldsymbol{\gamma}, \boldsymbol{\delta}$-unsaturated Amide to $\boldsymbol{\gamma}, \boldsymbol{\delta}$-unsaturated Ester. ..... 73
3.4 Oxidative Cleavage ..... 74
3.4.1 Ozonolysis ..... 74
3.4.2 OsO4-Catalyzed oxidative cleavage ..... 80
3.5 Diastereoselective 1,2-Addition/Lactonization to 3.40 and 3.52 ..... 84
3.6 Conversion of Ketone 3.51 to Allenes ..... 93
3.6.1 Formation of propargyl carbonate ..... 93
3.6.2 Synthesis of allenyl carboxyesters ..... 95
3.7 Allenic Pauson-Khand Reactions of 3.57a, 3.60a, and 3.60b ..... 98
3.7.1 APKR of 3,3-disubstituted allene 3.57a ..... 98
3.7.2 APKR of allenyl carboxyesters 3.60a and 3.60b ..... 100
3.8 Hydrolysis of $\boldsymbol{\beta}$-Keto Esters ..... 102
3.9 Base-Mediated Isomerization of $\boldsymbol{\alpha}$-Hydroxy Enone ..... 104
3.10 Conclusions Towards the Total Synthesis of (-)-Dehydroleucodine (ent-3.1) ..... 106
Appendix A : Experimental Information for Chapter Two ..... 107
Appendix B : Experimental Information for Chapter Three ..... 144
Appendix C : NMR Spectra ..... 172
Bibliography ..... 266

## List of Tables

Table 1.1. Reaxys search of 6,12- and 8,12-guaianolides. ............................................................. 2
Table 2.1. Reaxys search for 6,12-guaianolide frameworks possessing discrete double bond at C4-
C5 position and C3-C4 position.................................................................................................... 12
Table 2.2. Optimization of allenic Pauson-Khand reaction of allene-yne 2.1.............................. 24
Table 2.3. Screening of catecholborane reduction conditions for ADR of tosylhydrazone 2.6. .. 28
Table 2.4. Alternative reduction conditions and ADR of 2.36. .................................................... 35
Table 2.5. Conditions for the ADR of bicyclo[5.3.0]decadienone tosylhydrazone 2.6................ 41
Table 2.6. Reaxys search for 6,12-guaianolide frameworks possessing discrete double bond at C4C5 position and oxygen at C3 position, and discrete double bond at C3-C4 position and oxygen at C2 position47

Table 2.7. Conditions for the attempted base-induced isomerization of epoxide 2.61................. 58
Table 3.1. Conditions to effect RCM and Johnson-Claisen rearrangement fo ( $R$ )-linalool (3.34).

Table 3.2. Conditions for the diastereoselective 1,2-addition of propynylmagnesium bromide to $\beta$ formyl amide 3.52.......................................................................................................................... 90

## List of Figures

Figure 1.1. Desired C3-C5 enone functionaliztion in the presence of C1-C10 alkene. $\qquad$
Figure 2.1. A) Reference spectrum, no catecholborane. B) 3 equiv HBcat after 1 h at $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. C) after 1 h at rt . D) After addition of 3 equiv sodium acetate trihydrate and reacting at $60^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for $1 \mathrm{~h} . . .28$

Figure 2.2. Structural confirmation of Wolff-Kishner reduction product 2.43. ........................... 43
Figure 3.1. Determination of 3.40 enantiomeric ratio by reaction of chiral amine 3.49, and ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR
integration of imine 3.50 proton $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{a}}$. 78

Figure 3.2. $\mathrm{OsO}_{4}$ and $\mathrm{PhI}(\mathrm{OAc})_{2}$-mediated oxidative cleavage of ester 3.36 with retention of C 1
$\qquad$
Figure 3.3. Chemical shift assignments for APKR C2 diastereomers. 101

## List of Schemes

Scheme 1.1. Selected examples of the construction of the 5,7-ring system of guaianolides.......... 3
Scheme 1.2. Brummond's strategy towards the 5,7-ring system of guaianolides........................... 4
Scheme 1.3. Co-mediated Pauson-Khand reaction......................................................................... 5
Scheme 1.4. Rh- and Mo-catalyzed APKR and corresponding double bond selectivity of
$\qquad$
Scheme 1.5. Natural product total syntheses which employed an APKR as the key ring forming
$\qquad$
Scheme 1.6. Precedent for the functional group interconversion of APKR adducts.................... 10
Scheme 2.1. Proposed reductive transposition of C3-C5 enone of APKR adduct 2.2 to C3-C4
$\qquad$
Scheme 2.2. Potential strategies for the reductive transposition of bicyclo[5.3.0]decadienone 2.2.
$\qquad$
Scheme 2.3. Retrosynthetic analysis of bicyclo[5.3.0]decadienone 2.2....................................... 16
Scheme 2.4. Initial synthetic route of alkynyl ketone 2.7............................................................. 17
Scheme 2.5. Acetone homologation of alkynyl iodide 2.8 using tert-butyl acetoacetate............. 18
Scheme 2.6. Attempted direct allenation of ketone 2.7 with alkenylidene titanocene. ................ 19
Scheme 2.7. Optimization of 1,2-addition of ethynylmagnesium bromide to ketone 2.7 via

Scheme 2.8. Palladium-catalyzed hydrogenolysis of propargyl carbonate 2.16. ......................... 21
Scheme 2.9. Palladium-catalyzed hydrogenolysis catalytic cycle and potential elimination of $\eta^{1}$ -
palladium....................................................................................................................................... 22
Scheme 2.10. Inverse addition of allene-yne 2.1 to $\mathrm{Rh}(\mathrm{I})$ solution. ..... 23
Scheme 2.11. Attempted ADR of bicyclo[5.3.0]decadienone tosylhydrazone 2.6. ..... 26
Scheme 2.12. Synthesis and crystal structure of E-tosylhydrazone of bicyclo[5.3.0]decadienone
2.2. ..... 27
Scheme 2.13. Precedent for ADRs performed on bicyclo[5.3.0]decenones. ..... 30
Scheme 2.14. Hydrogenation of C1-C10 double bond of 2.2. ..... 32
Scheme 2.15. Formation of tosylhydrazone 2.36 from C1-C10 hydrogenated APKR adduct 2.35.

$\qquad$ ..... 33
Scheme 2.16. HBcat reduction of C1-C10 hydrogenated tosylhydrazone 2.36 and ADR. ..... 34
Scheme 2.17. (BzO) ${ }_{2} \mathrm{BH}$ reduction of tosylhydrazone 2.36 and ADR. ..... 38
Scheme 2.18. Mechanism of the ADR of tosylhydrazone 2.6. ..... 42
Scheme 2.19. Proposed divergent retro-ene and radical decomposition pathways of diazene
intermediate 2.45 ..... 44
Scheme 2.20. Previous precedent for base-induced isomerization of $\alpha$-hydroxy enone motif. ..... 48
Scheme 2.21. Proposed conversion of $\alpha$-hydroxy enone 2.53 to $\alpha$-keto enol 2.54 and susequent
deoxygenation to enone 2.55 . ..... 48
Scheme 2.22. A) Potential routes to hydroxy enone 2.53. B) Synthesis of allenyl esters 2.56a-b
and $\mathrm{Rh}(\mathrm{I})$-catalyzed APKR. ..... 49
Scheme 2.23. Rh(II)-catalyzed formal 3,3-sigmatropic rearrangement of propargyl esters to allenyl
carboxyesters 2.56 ..... 50
Scheme 2.24. Base induced isomerization of $\alpha$-hydroxy enone 2.53 to $\alpha$-keto enol 2.54 and ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$
NMR structural confirmation ..... 51

Scheme 2.25. Two-step, one-pot deprotection/isomerization of $\alpha$-acyloxy enones 2.58a and 2.58b.
$\qquad$
Scheme 2.26. Two-step one-pot deprotection/isomerization of chloroacetate 2.58b and C3
$\qquad$
Scheme 2.27. A) Biologically active guaiane stelleraguaianone B (2.60). B) Proposed route to
$\qquad$
Scheme 2.28. mCPBA epoxidation of $\alpha$-hydroxy ketone 2.53. .................................................... 55
Scheme 2.29. Diastereoselective epoxidation of C1-C10 double bond of 2.53. .......................... 56
Scheme 3.1. Retrosynthetic analysis of (+)-dehydroleucodine (3.1), employing an APKR as the
$\qquad$
Scheme 3.2. Proposed access to allenyl carboxyester 4 from $\beta$-formyl ester 3.6......................... 62
Scheme 3.3. Potential retrosynthetic approaches for the enantioselective construction of $\beta$-formyl
ester 3.6. ........................................................................................................................................ 63
Scheme 3.4. Proposed Diels-Alder approach to $\beta$-formyl ester 3.6. ............................................ 63
Scheme 3.5. A) Diphenylprolinol methyl ester-catylized 1,4-conjugate additions of aldehydes to enones. B) Imidazolidinone-catalyzed 1,4-conjugate addition of aldehydes to enones. .............. 64

Scheme 3.6. Proposed route to $\gamma, \delta$-unsaturated ester 3.12 via chiral cyclopentenol 3.25. ........... 65
Scheme 3.7. Retrosynthetic analysis of $\beta$-formyl ester 3.6........................................................... 66
Scheme 3.8. Reported synthetic route to (S)-linalool (3.24)......................................................... 67
Scheme 3.9. Reported RCM of ( $\pm$ )-linalool (3.29), and dehydration of cyclopentenol 3.30 in the presence of H-GII at elevated temperature. ................................................................................... 68

Scheme 3.10. Attempted two-step-one-pot RCM/Johnson-Claisen rearrangement of (R)-linalool

Scheme 3.11. Successful RCM/Eschenmoser-Claisen rearrangement of (R)-linalool (3.34) to generate $\gamma, \delta$-unsaturated amide 3.37............................................................................................. 72

Scheme 3.12. $\mathrm{Tf}_{2} \mathrm{O}-$ mediated esterification of amide 3.37 via imidate 3.38. ............................... 73
Scheme 3.13. Proposed oxidative cleavage of $\gamma, \delta$-unsaturated ester 3.36.................................... 74
Scheme 3.14. Ozonolysis of $\gamma, \delta$-unsaturated ester 3.39 in $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ mith $\mathrm{Me}_{2} \mathrm{~S}$ as the terminal
$\qquad$
Scheme 3.15. Mechanism of ozonolysis, leading to isolated secondary ozonide 3.45................. 76
Scheme 3.16. Ozonolysis of $\gamma, \delta$-unsaturated ester 3.36 in $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} / \mathrm{MeOH}$ with $\mathrm{Me}_{2} \mathrm{~S}$ as the terminal reductant. 77

Scheme 3.17. Ozonolysis of $\gamma, \delta$-unsaturated ester 3.36 in $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} / \mathrm{MeOH}$ with $\mathrm{Me}_{2} \mathrm{~S}$ as the terminal reductant. 79

Scheme 3.18. Oxidative cleavage of $\gamma, \delta$-unsaturated ester 3.36 and $\gamma, \delta$-unsaturated amide 3.37, and use of the resuling $\beta$-formyl ester 3.40 and $\beta$-formyl amide 3.52 to generate lactone 3.51. . 82 Scheme 3.19. Ozonolysis of $\gamma, \delta$-unsaturated amide 3.37 in $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ with $\mathrm{PPh}_{3}$ as the terminal reductant. 82

Scheme 3.20. Relative rates of racemization of $\beta$-formyl ester 3.40 and $\beta$-formyl amide 3.52 while standing in the freezer. 83

Scheme 3.21. $\mathrm{OsO}_{4}$ and $\mathrm{PhI}(\mathrm{OAc})_{2}$-mediated oxidative cleavage of $\beta$-formyl amide 3.37 with retention of C1 stereochemistry.................................................................................................... 84

Scheme 3.22. Proposed diastereoselective 1,2-addition/lactonization of $\beta$-formyl ester 3.40. .... 84
Scheme 3.23. Precedent for the diastereoselective 1,2-addition/lactonization of $\beta$-formyl esters.

Scheme 3.24. Reissig's proposed transition states leading to the diastereoselective 1,2-addition of nucleophiles to $\beta$-formyl esters..................................................................................................... 86

Scheme 3.25. Addition of ethynylmagnesium bromide to $\beta$-formyl ester 3.40............................ 87
Scheme 3.26. Chlorotitaniumtriisopropoxide-mediated 1,2-addition of ethynylmagnesium
$\qquad$
Scheme 3.27. Titanium tetrachloride-mediated 1,2-addition of propynylmagnesium bromide to $\beta$ -
formyl ester 3.40. .......................................................................................................................... 89
Scheme 3.28. Proposed conversion of ketone 3.51 to allenes 3.57a and 3.57b............................ 93
Scheme 3.29. Synthesis of propargyl carbonate 3.58. .................................................................. 94
Scheme 3.30. Synthesis of 3,3-disubstituted allene 3.57a. ........................................................... 95
Scheme 3.31. Synthesis of propargyl esters 3.59a and 3.59b....................................................... 96
Scheme 3.32. Rh(II)-catalyzed formal 3,3-sigmatropic rearrangement of allenyl carboxyesters
3.60a and 3.60b. ............................................................................................................................ 97

Scheme 3.33. APKR of 3,3-disubstituted allene-yne 3.57a.......................................................... 99
Scheme 3.34. APKR of allenyl carboxyesters 3.60a and 3.60b. ................................................ 100
Scheme 3.35. Proposed hydrolysis of $\alpha$-acyloxy enone 3.62 a or 3.62 b to access $\alpha$-hydroxy enone 3.63 103

Scheme 3.36. Proposed base-mediated isomerization of $\alpha$-hydroxy enone 3.63 to $\alpha$-keto enol 3.64.
$\qquad$
Scheme 3.37. Base-mediated isomerization/eliminative lactone opening of trans-3.63 and 3.62b. 105

## List of Abbreviations

| APKR | Allenic Pauson-Khand Reaction |
| :--- | :--- |
| ADR | Allylic Diazene Rearrangement |
| WK | Wolff-Kishner |
| HBcat | Catecholborane |
| EtOAc | Ethyl acetate |
| DCM | Dichloromethane |
| THF | Tetrahydrofuran |
| DMF | N,N-Dimethylformamide |
| DMSO | Dimethyl sulfoxide |
| mCPBA | meta-Chloroperoxybenzoic acid |
| TBHP |  |

## Preface

I would like to thank Professor Kay Brummond for her excellent mentorship in developing my skills as a scientist. Her consistent encouragement inspired me and gave me the confidence to pursue my own lines of scientific inquiry. To all current and previous Brummond group members which I have had the privilege of spending the past six years with, you have proven to be knowledgeable and entertaining colleagues, as well as great friends.

I would also like to thank my family for their unwavering support, without which I would not have made it to this point. I dedicate this document to all of you.

### 1.0 Introduction

### 1.1 Guaianolides and Strategies Towards the Rapid Construction of the 5,7-Ring System

The guaianolides are a large class of naturally-occurring sesquiterpene lactones (SLs). Defined by a fused 5,7,5-ring system, these SLs present a difficult and exciting challenge for the synthetic chemist. Utilizing the Reaxys database, two searches were performed-one for 6,12guaianolides and one for 8,12-guaianolides. The structures were variable at every position, with the dotted lines indicating either a single or double bond. The search returned 5351 6,12guaianolides and 838 8,12-guaianolides. The results were further filtered to identify the compounds which showed biological activity (pharmacological data), those which have been isolated from natural sources (natural source), and those which show biological activity and have also been isolated from a natural source (natural source + pharm. data). As can be seen from these search results, there are a vast number of both 6,12- and 8,12-guaianolides which are biologically active. In addition to their biological activity, the structural diversity of these compounds presents an interesting challenge from the perspective of a synthetic chemist. For these reasons the rapid and efficient construction of the core 5,7,5-ring system of guaianolides has been the topic of many synthetic studies. ${ }^{1,2}$

Table 1.1. Reaxys search of 6,12- and 8,12-guaianolides.


6,12-guaianolide

| Total hits | $\mathbf{5 3 5 1}$ | $\mathbf{8 3 8}$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Pharmacological data | 1787 | 251 |
| Natural source | 2163 | 484 |
| Natural source + pharm. data | 653 | 199 |

Data obtained via Reaxys search using structures shown (9/28/2020). Search parameters were limited to 'as substructure' variable 'on all atoms', 'stereo', and 'additional ring closures'. Filtered by 'pharmacological data available' and 'isolated from natural product + pharmacological data available'.

Many diverse methods have been adopted to access the core 5,7-ring system of guaianolides; however, a handful have been most commonly employed to access the 5,7-ring system of guaianolides in a single step. The most common method for the construction of the 5,7ring system of the 6,12-guaianolides is the photoisomerization of $\alpha$-santonin (1.1) (Scheme 1.1A). This method is often used in the semisynthesis of 6,12-guaianolides. ${ }^{3}$ While typically low-yielding, Macias and coworkers found that maintaining the reaction at low temperature $\left(\sim 2^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$ while using a $\mathrm{Ni}\left(\mathrm{SO}_{4}\right)_{2} / \mathrm{Co}\left(\mathrm{SO}_{4}\right)_{2}$ salt solution to filter wavelengths below 300 nm afforded the photoisomerized product in 75\% yield. ${ }^{4}$ Use of this methodology grants access to 6,12-guaianolide cores with an enone at the C3-C5 position, and an acetoxy group at the C10 position; which can be eliminated under acidic conditions to install an alkene at the C1-C10 position. While $\alpha$-santonin (1.1) is relatively cheap, toxicity is a concern for larger scale reactions. ${ }^{5}$ In addition, access to more functionally complex 6,12-guaianolides, or different stereochemistry difficult. Baran and
coworkers have showcased this photoisomerization process on a cross-conjugated dienone derived from dihydrocarvone in their total synthesis of thapsigargin. ${ }^{6}$


Scheme 1.1. Selected examples of the construction of the 5,7-ring system of guaianolides.

Winne and coworkers have employed a Lewis acid-catalyzed [4+3] cycloaddition of furfuryl alcohol 1.3 to access the core 5,7-ring system 1.4 with a furan at the C6-C7 position, an alkene at the C9-C10 position, and a methyl ester at the C4 position (Scheme 1.1B). ${ }^{7}$ While good diastereoselectivity is achieved, the authors report modest to low yields for this transformation.

Wissinger and coworkers were able to access the 5,7-ring system via a tandem ring-closing metathesis of acyclic precursor $\mathbf{1 . 5}$ (Scheme 1.1C). ${ }^{8}$ The resulting bicyclic system $\mathbf{1 . 6}$ possesses alkenes at the C4-C5 and C6-C7 position, as well as a silyl ether at the C8 position. The reaction is performed in excellent yields with complete retention of stereochemistry.

Photoinduced [2+2] cyclization of cyclopentenone $\mathbf{1 . 7}$ with the vicinal silyl enol ether $\mathbf{1 . 8}$ has been shown to afford the 5,4,5-tricyclic system 1.9 (Scheme 1.1D). ${ }^{9}$ Oxidative cleavage of the corresponding vicinal diol afforded the desired 5,7-ring system $\mathbf{1 . 1 0}$ in modest yields. Application of this strategy affords access to ketones at the C10 and C6 positions, as well as an alkene at the C4-C5 position.

The Brummond group has developed a complementary methodology to access the 5,7-ring system 1.12 of guaianolides by employing an allenic Pauson-Khand reaction (APKR) of alleneyne precursors similar to $\mathbf{1 . 1 1}$ (Scheme 1.2). Application of this methodology grants access to alkenes at the C1-C10 and C4-C5 position, as well as a ketone at the C 3 position. ${ }^{10}$ While the functional group array generated via the APKR is similar to that of the photoisomerization of $\alpha$ santonin, the allene-yne precursor of the APKR can be functionalized in a variety of ways; granting access to functionalities which are unachievable via the photoisomerization of $\alpha$-santonin. ${ }^{11}$ This methodology could thus enable access to not only more functionally complex guaianolides, but also unnatural guaianolide analogs.


Scheme 1.2. Brummond's strategy towards the 5,7-ring system of guaianolides.

### 1.2 The Allenic Pauson-Khand Reaction

### 1.2.1 History and mechanistic details

The Pauson-Khand reaction is a formal [2+2+1] cyclocarbonylation reaction between an alkene, alkyne, and carbon monoxide, affording cyclopentenone products. First reported by Pauson and Khand in 1971, the reaction typically employs $\mathrm{Co}_{2}(\mathrm{CO})_{8}$ as a promoter and source of $\mathrm{CO} .{ }^{12}$ Initial complexation of an alkyne 1.14 with $\mathrm{Co}_{2}(\mathrm{CO})_{8}$ affords derivative $\mathbf{1 . 1 5}$. Loss of CO ,
complexation of alkene 1.16, followed by oxidative addition generates the metallocycle $\mathbf{1 . 1 8}$. Upon CO insertion, reductive elimination, then decomplexation, cyclopentenone 1.21 is produced. While initial application of this methodology for the generation of cyclopentenones was limited in substrate scope, many improvements have been made since its first report to make the PKR a broadly applied strategy for the synthesis of cyclopentenones. ${ }^{13-20}$

Narasaka and Brummond were the first to replace the alkene moiety with an allene, developing the first intramolecular allenic Pauson-Khand reactions in 1994 and 1995,


Scheme 1.3. Co-mediated Pauson-Khand reaction.
respectively. ${ }^{21,22}$ Brummond later showed that the identity of the transition metal catalyst could be used to double bond selectivity of the cyclopentenone product; with molybdenum selectively affording $\alpha$-alkylidene cyclopentenones similar to $\mathbf{1 . 2 9}$, and rhodium selectively forming 4alkylidene cyclopentenones similar to 1.28 (Scheme 1.4). ${ }^{23}$ These results were explained computationally by differences in the transition state structures for the oxidative cyclization between the two metals. ${ }^{24}$ The lowest energy transition state structure of the $\mathrm{Rh}(\mathrm{I})$-catalyzed APKR shows the distal double bond of the allene complexed to the rhodium metal, generating complex 1.23a with a distorted square planar geometry. This complex undergoes an oxidative
cyclization step leading to metallocycle 1.24a. The Mo-catalyzed APKR, on the other hand shows the lowest energy transition state structure complexed with the proximal double bond of the allene affording complex 1.23b, which adopts a trigonal bipyramidal geometry. Oxidative cyclization of this complex affords metallocycle1 1.24b. The catalytic cycle between the two metals is similar from this point forward. Association of CO affords Rh(III) complex 1.25a or Mo(II) complex 1.25b. Both complexes undergo migratory CO insertion to afford the $\mathrm{Rh}(\mathrm{III})$ complex 1.26a or the $\mathrm{Mo}(\mathrm{II})$ complex 1.26b. This is followed by reductive elimination, regenerating the $\mathrm{Rh}(\mathrm{I})$ or $\mathrm{Mo}(0)$ catalyst, as well as forming the respective 4-alkylidene $\mathbf{1 . 2 8}$ and $\alpha$-alkylidene $\mathbf{1 . 2 9}$ products.


Scheme 1.4. Rh- and Mo-catalyzed APKR and corresponding double bond selectivity of cyclopentenones.

### 1.2.2 Applications of the allenic Pauson-Khand reaction in total synthesis

Despite its clear synthetic potential for the rapid construction of bicyclic systems, the APKR has only been applied to seven natural product total syntheses to date. Baran and coworkers employed the APKR as the key ring-forming step to generate bicyclo[5.3.0]decadienone intermediate 1.31 (Scheme 1.4A). ${ }^{25}$ They used this intermediate in their total syntheses of both (+)-phorbol (1.32) and (+)-ingenol (1.33). ${ }^{26,27}$ Mukai and coworkers showcased the application of the APKR in their total syntheses of (+)-achalensolide (1.36) and (+)-indicanone (1.38) (Scheme 1.4 B and 1.4 C$){ }^{28,29}$ Williams and coworkers employed an iron-mediated APKR in their total synthesis of (+)-ileabethoxazole (1.41) (Scheme 1.4D). ${ }^{30}$ Cramer and coworkers completed their total synthesis of fijiolide A (1.44) by employing an APKR to access the 5,5,6 ring system of intermediate 1.43 (Scheme 1.4E). ${ }^{31}$ Finally, Brummond and coworkers applied an APKR to silicon-tethered allene-yne $\mathbf{1 . 5 1}$ in their total synthesis of 15 -deoxy- $\Delta^{12,14}$-prostaglandin $J_{2} .^{32}$ While four of these total syntheses take advantage of the APKRs capability to generate mediumsized seven-membered rings in good yield, there is a dearth of information on the synthetic potential of the bicyclo[5.3.0]decadienone systems generated via the APKR.


### 1.3 Functional Group Interconversions of the APKR Adduct

The relatively rare application of the APKR to the synthesis of bicyclic natural products prompted us to perform a systematic literature search for reported strategies to functionalize the bicyclo[x.3.0]dienone system. This search produced only a handful of transformations with all involving the functionalization of the double bond at the C 1 position, or the ketone at the C 3 position. There have been no reports on functionalizing of the C3-C5 enone with the double bond at the C1 position maintained. For example, Sorin and Lannou reported an intramolecular conjugate addition of a C9 hydroxyl group to the C3-C5 enone of $\mathbf{1 . 4 8}$, affording tricycle $\mathbf{1 . 4 9}$ in low yields (Scheme 1.6A). ${ }^{33}$ This transformation first involved the deprotection and tautomerization of the C10 benzyl carbonate protected enol to the corresponding ketone. Thus, the C1-C10 alkene did not remain intact during this transformation.

Hydrogenation of the C1-C10 double bond is also common, as showcased by Mukai and coworkers in their total synthesis of (+)-achalensolide (1.36) (Scheme 1.6B). ${ }^{28}$ Reduction of the C3 ketone of the 5,5,6-ring system 1.51 followed by mCPBA-mediated epoxidation of the C4-C5 alkene has been reported by Mukai and coworkers, as part of their studies towards the synthesis of the core carbon frameowork of cyanosporasides A and B (Scheme 1.6C). ${ }^{34}$ Alcoholysis of epoxide $\mathbf{1 . 5 3}$ proceeded smoothly in the presence of $\mathrm{BF}_{3} \cdot \mathrm{OEt}_{2}$, affording vicinal diol $\mathbf{1 . 5 4}$. Cramer was able to dehydroxylate the C1-C8 double bond of tricycle 1.55 in the presence of $\mathrm{OsO}_{4}$, affording derivative 1.56 towards their total synthesis of fijiolide A (1.44) (Scheme 1.4D). ${ }^{31}$
A

C

D



Scheme 1.6. Precedent for the functional group interconversion of APKR adducts.

Perhaps the most extensive studies on the further elaboration of APKR adducts has been performed by Baran and coworkers. With access to bicyclo[5.3.0]decadienone 1.31, they have been able to successfully functionalize the C1-C10 double bond via dihydroxylation, hydrogenation, and hydration (Scheme 1.6E). ${ }^{25,26,35}$ They were then able to further elaborate the enone via a Lewis acid-mediated pinacol-type rearrangement to access the 5,7,8 ring systems $\mathbf{1 . 5 8}$ and 1.60. These intermediates were used in their total synthesis of (+)-ingenol (1.33) as well as their selective C-H oxidation studies of ingenanes, respectively. ${ }^{25,35}$ In addition, they were able to effect an allylic diazene rearrangement on cyclopentenone $\mathbf{1 . 6 1}$ as part of their total synthesis of (+)-phorbol (1.32). ${ }^{26}$

With the lack of strategies for the selective functionalization of the C3-C5 enone in the presence of the C1-C10 alkene of bicyclo[5.3.0]decadienones arising from the APKR, we reasoned that this would be the most impactful area of study to increase the synthetic utility of the APKR. We thus turned to the literature to develop strategies which could be applied directly to the C3-C5 enone of the bicyclo[5.3.0]decadienone APKR adducts, without prior functionalization of the C1C10 double bond. Furthermore, we wanted to narrow the scope of these strategies to be directly applicable to the guaianolide family of natural products. Thus, we set out to determine the most common motifs observed in the guaianolide class which could be accessed via direct functionalization of the C3-C5 enone.


Figure 1.1. Desired C3-C5 enone functionaliztion in the presence of C1-C10 alkene.

### 2.0 Allylic Diazene Rearrangement and Base-Mediated Isomerization of APKR Adducts

### 2.1 Introduction

Within the guaianolide family of natural products, many different functional group patterns are represented. With the application of the allenic Pauson-Khand reaction to the construction of the 5,7-ring system, we can access guaianolides with a double bond at the C4-C5 position and an oxygen at the C 3 position. However, transposition of the $\mathrm{C} 4-\mathrm{C} 5$ double bond to the $\mathrm{C} 3-\mathrm{C} 4$ position grants access to a much larger number of guaianolide frameworks. Shown in Table 1 below is a Reaxys search performed for 6,12-guaianloide frameworks with double bonds at the C4-C5 position, as well as the C3-C4 position. There has been a total of 7716,12 -guaianolide structures reported with an explicit double bond at the C4-C5 position; 319 are biologically active, 106 have been isolated from a natural product, and 26 are both biologically

Table 2.1. Reaxys search for 6,12-guaianolide frameworks possessing discrete double bond at C4-C5 position and C3-C4 position.



| Total hits | $\mathbf{7 7 1}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 5 3}$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Pharmacological data | 319 | 308 |
| Natural source | 106 | 647 |
| Natural source + pharm. data | 26 | 174 |

Data obtained via Reaxys search using structures shown (7/20/2020). Search parameters were limited to 'as substructure' variable 'on all atoms', 'stereo', and 'additional ring closures'. Filtered by 'pharmacological data available' and 'isolated from natural product + pharmacological data available'.
active and naturally occurring. The same Reaxys search performed on the regioisomeric 6,12guaianolide framework, with an explicit double bond at the C3-C4 position, returns a total of 1053 unique compounds. Of these, 308 are biologically active, 647 have been isolated from natural sources, and 174 are both biologically active and naturally occurring. Successful transposition of the C4-C5 double bond to the C3-C4 position would grant us the means to access both guaianolide cores from a common APK intermediate. To this end, we proposed to study the feasibility of leveraging the inherent functional group array generated via the APKR of allene-yne $\mathbf{2 . 1}$ to access the C3-C4 alkene 2.3 by reductive transposition of the C3-C5 enone 2.2 (Scheme 2.1).


Scheme 2.1. Proposed reductive transposition of C3-C5 enone of APKR adduct 2.2 to C3-C4 alkene 2.3.

### 2.1.1 Proposed strategies for the reductive transposition of the C3-C5 enone

The first strategy we considered for the reductive transposition of the C3-C5 enone was a 1,4-reduction followed by triflation to generate the vinyl triflate 2.4 (Scheme 2.2). Hydrogenolysis of the vinyl triflate would then afford the desired deoxygenated product 2.3. ${ }^{36}$ While this procedure is relatively straightforward, two obstacles were potentially problematic. Due to steric environment at the C5 position, hydride delivery from a bulky hydride source such as L-


Scheme 2.2. Potential strategies for the reductive transposition of bicyclo[5.3.0]decadienone 2.2.

Selectride would most likely occur in a 1,2-fashion, at the less sterically congested C3 carbonyl carbon. Chemoselectivity was also a concern, with potential competitive reduction of other reactive functional groups on more functionally complex bicyclo[5.3.0]decadienones, required for the preparation of bioactives. The next strategy we considered was hydrogenation of the C4-C5 double bond to access cyclopentanone 2.5, followed by enolization, triflation, and hydrogenolysis of vinyl triflate 2.4. This strategy alleviated the concern of 1,2-reduction; however, there was a high likelihood that hydrogenation of C1-C10 double bond would occur under standard hydrogenation conditions. ${ }^{37}$ To circumvent this potential chemoselectivity issue, we reasoned that we could use a transition metal-catalyzed 1,4-hydrosilylation strategy. ${ }^{38-41}$ Hydrolysis of the corresponding silyl enol ether to cyclopentanone 2.5, followed by enolization, triflation, then hydrogenolysis of vinyl triflate 2.4 would afford the desired reductive transposition product 2.3. While hydrogenation or hydrosilylation conditions could work for the selective reduction of the

C3-C4 double bond, our primary concern was the enolization/triflation step. Because deprotonation could occur at either the C4 position, giving the desired trisubstituted enolate, or the C2 position, we had to be mindful of regioselectivity. In the case of bicyclo[5.3.0]decadienone 2.2, we reasoned that the thermodynamic enolate would most likely be generated via deprotonation at the C 2 position, to generate an extended enolate in conjugation with the C1-C10 double bond. Thus, even if we were able to effect selective hydrogenation or hydrosilylation at the C4-C5 double bond, generating the desired C3-C4 enolate under either thermodynamic or kinetic conditions would be difficult. Hence, we proposed a third strategy which would mitigate both chemo- and regioselectivity issues.

The final strategy that we proposed was an allylic diazene rearrangement (ADR). Condensation of enone 2.2 with tosyl hydrazide to generate tosyl hydrazone 2.6, followed by borane reduction and subsequent ADR would afford the desired reductive transposition product 2.3. ${ }^{42-44}$ A major benefit of this strategy is the chemoselectivity of the reduction. We felt confident that the borane reduction would be selective for the reduction of the tosyl hydrazone in a 1,2fashion, leaving both the C1-C10 and C4-C5 double bond intact. ${ }^{45-47}$ In addition, conditions for the tosyl hydrazone formation are mild and functional group tolerant. ${ }^{48}$ Because the ADR proceeds via a concerted, 1,5-sigmatropic rearrangement, the stereochemical determining step is the initial 1,2-reduction of the tosyl hydrazone, not the reduction of the alkene. Thus, due to its operational simplicity, chemoselectivity, and mild reaction conditions, we decided to first explore the allylic diazene rearrangement as our preferred strategy towards the reductive transposition of the C3-C5 enone. While this strategy has been well documented in the literature, to the best of our knowledge, this would be the first example of an allylic diazene rearrangement being performed on a conjugated bicyclic system, where both double bonds are at the ring fusion positions.

With a suitable strategy in hand, we set out to first develop a model bicyclo[5.3.0]decadienone system with minimal functionality, thus preventing any undesired side reactions that could potentially occur in the presence of other reactive functional groups. We reasoned that we could synthesize bicyclo[5.3.0]decadienone 2.2 in a reasonable number of steps via APKR of allene-yne 2.1, which could in turn be accessed via alkynyl ketone 2.7 (Scheme 2.3). Unfortunately, alkynyl ketone 2.7 is not commercially available; however, we reasoned that we that it could be synthesized via alkynyl iodide 2.8, which has been prepared starting with commercially available 5-hexyn-1-ol 2.9. ${ }^{49}$ With a feasible route to bicyclo[5.3.0]decadienone $\mathbf{2 . 2}$ in hand, we set out to first synthesize alkynyl ketone 2.7.


Scheme 2.3. Retrosynthetic analysis of bicyclo[5.3.0]decadienone 2.2.

### 2.2 Synthesis of Model Bicyclo[5.3.0]decadienone 2.2

### 2.2.1 Synthesis of alkynyl ketone 2.7

Synthesis of alkynyl ketone 2.7 began with commercially available hexyn-1-ol 2.9 (Scheme 2.4). Following a literature procedure for the synthesis of 4-hexyn-1-ol 2.10, potassium tert-butoxide mediated isomerization of the terminal alkyne 2.9 to the thermodynamically favored internal alkyne $\mathbf{2 . 1 0}$ proceeded in DMSO at room temperature in $82 \%$ yield. ${ }^{49}$ The hydroxyl group
was converted to the corresponding mesylate $\mathbf{2 . 1 1}$ in $97 \%$ yield in the presence of methanesulfonyl chloride and triethylamine in dichloromethane at $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. Attempts to convert mesylate $\mathbf{2 . 1 1}$ to ketone 2.7 via addition of acetylacetone in the presence of $\mathrm{K}_{2} \mathrm{CO}_{3}$ in refluxing ethanol afforded none of the desired product. ${ }^{50}$ Mesylate 2.11 as well as alcohol 2.10 were both detected via ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR of the crude reaction mixture after 42 h , suggesting that alcoholysis of the methanesulfonate group was the predominant reaction pathway. For this reason, mesylate $\mathbf{2 . 1 1}$ was converted to iodide $\mathbf{2 . 8}$ via reaction of sodium iodide in acetone at $65^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ (oil bath temperature) in $96 \%$ yield. Alkynyl iodide 2.8 was then reacted with acetylacetone in the presence of potassium carbonate in refluxing ethanol to afford the desired ketone 2.7 in 54\% yield, while recovering $19 \%$ of the alkynyl iodide 2.8 . In addition to this reaction not going to completion vinyl ether 2.12, the product of $O$-alkylation, was isolated as a single stereoisomer; the structure of which was confirmed by ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ and ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR. Defining spectroscopic features of vinyl ether 2.12 include resonances at $2.26(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}) \mathrm{ppm}$, and 2.15 ( $\mathrm{s}, 3 \mathrm{H}$ ) ppm corresponding to the C1 and C12 methyl protons, respectively, as well as resonances at $5.47(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}) \mathrm{ppm}$ and $3.85(\mathrm{t}, 2 \mathrm{H}) \mathrm{ppm}$, corresponding to the C 3 methine proton the C6 methylene protons, respectively. While isolated as a single stereoisomer, we did not confirm the geometry of $\mathbf{2 . 1 2}$.


Scheme 2.4. Initial synthetic route of alkynyl ketone 2.7.

The modest yield, due to incomplete conversion of starting material and competing $O$-alkylation, led us to consider a two-step, two-pot procedure involving the alkylation of tert-butyl acetoacetate followed by decarboxylation to effect the desired acetone homologation of alkynyl iodide $\mathbf{2 . 8}$ (Scheme 2.5). Deprotonation of tert-butyl acetoacetate with sodium hydride in THF at $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ followed by addition of alkynyl iodide 2.8 afforded acetoacetate 2.13. The crude residue was taken up in benzene and heated to $100^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ in the presence of $p$-toluenesulfonic acid ( 0.2 equiv), effecting decarboxylation to generate the desired alkynyl ketone 2.7 in $90 \%$ yield over two steps. With the high yield and clean TLC reaction profile of this procedure, we reasoned that we could apply the same conditions to alkynyl mesylate 2.11, thus eliminating the need to convert the mesylate to alkynyl iodide 2.8. We thus applied the same reaction conditions


Scheme 2.5. Acetone homologation of alkynyl iodide 2.8 using tert-butyl acetoacetate.
reported above, with addition of alkynyl mesylate $\mathbf{2 . 1 1}$ instead of alkynyl iodide $\mathbf{2 . 8}$ after reaction of tert-butyl acetoacetate with sodium hydride. While the reaction profile showed a single spot by TLC, suggesting no $O$-alkylation product, slow reaction times were observed ( $>48 \mathrm{~h}$ ) as well as incomplete conversion of starting material. Because conversion of the mesylate $\mathbf{2 . 1 1}$ to iodide $\mathbf{2 . 8}$ was so rapid and high yielding, and the product required no further purification, we decided not to optimize the alkylation with alkynyl mesylate $\mathbf{2 . 1 1}$ and instead continue using alkynyl iodide $\mathbf{2 . 8}$. With a rapid, high yielding route to alkynyl ketone 2.7 in hand, we next sought to convert the ketone functionality to the desired 3,3-disubstituted allene 2.1.

### 2.2.2 Synthesis of allene-yne $\mathbf{2 . 1}$

When examining potential procedures for the conversion of a ketone to a 3,3-disubstituted allene, we first explored the most direct, step-economical routes. Takeda has reported the direct conversion of carbonyl compounds to 3,3-disubstituted allenes via reaction of titanium alkenylidene 2.15, generated in situ via addition of two equiv of vinylmagnesium bromide to titanocene dichloride $\mathbf{2 . 1 4}$ (Scheme 2.6). ${ }^{51}$ We reasoned that this procedure would offer the most direct access to the desired 3,3-disubstituted allene-yne 2.1. Thus, vinylmagnesium bromide (2 equiv) was added to titanocene dichloride $\mathbf{2 . 1 4}$ in THF at $-40^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. This solution was then cannulated


Scheme 2.6. Attempted direct allenation of ketone 2.7 with alkenylidene titanocene.
into a solution alkynyl ketone 2.7, which had been dissolved in THF and cooled to $-40^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. Upon complete consumption of $\mathbf{2 . 7}$, as visualized by TLC, an aliquot of the reaction mixture was worked up and subjected to ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR, which revealed mostly uncharacterizable decomposition products. It was not immediately evident why this reaction failed on our system; however, it should be noted that the substrate scope reported by Takeda and coworkers was mostly limited to at least one aromatic ring adjacent to the carbonyl group, or $\alpha, \beta$-unsaturated carbonyls. Due to the level of apparent decomposition, we chose not to pursue this route any further, but instead examine alternative, less direct routes to generate the desired 3,3-disubstituted allene 2.1.

Tsuji and coworkers have reported a palladium-catalyzed hydrogenolysis of propargyl carbonates to generate 3,3-disubstituted allenes. ${ }^{52}$ To apply these conditions to our substrate, alkynyl ketone 2.7 had to first be converted to propargyl carbonate 2.16 via addition of ethynylmagnesium bromide, followed by addition chloromethylformate (Scheme 2.7). Thus, ketone 2.7 was dissolved in THF and cooled to $-10^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. Ethynylmagnesium bromide ( 1.5 equiv) was added and, after complete consumption of 2.7 was observed by TLC, methyl chloroformate (1.6 equiv) was added. Upon workup and purification via $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ flash column chromatography, propargyl carbonate $\mathbf{2 . 1 6}$ was isolated in 57\% yield.


Scheme 2.7. Optimization of 1,2 -addition of ethynylmagnesium bromide to ketone 2.7 via transmetallation with $\mathrm{CeCl}_{3}$.

With these promising initial results in hand, we sought to improve the overall yield of this two-step, one-pot procedure. Cerium trichloride is known to render Grignard reagents simultaneously more nucleophilic, less basic, and less susceptible to participation in singleelectron transfer reactions. ${ }^{53}$ To our delight, initial transmetalation of ethynylmagnesium bromide with cerium trichloride followed by addition of alkynyl ketone 2.7, then trapping with methyl chloroformate afforded propargyl carbonate 2.16 in 98\% yield.

With propargyl carbonate $\mathbf{2 . 1 6}$ in hand, we were poised to apply Tsuji’s palladiumcatalyzed hydrogenolysis conditions. ${ }^{52}$ Thus $\mathrm{Pd}_{2} \mathrm{dba}_{3} \cdot \mathrm{CHCl}_{3}(0.025$ equiv) and tri- $n$ -
butylphosphine (0.1 equiv) were dissolved in THF, followed by addition of ammonium formate (2 equiv) (Scheme 2.8). Propargyl carbonate 2.16 was added and the mixture reacted at room temperature for 24 h . Upon concentration and purification, the desired allene $\mathbf{2 . 1}$ was obtained in 92\% yield. It must be noted that this reaction was extremely sensitive to catalyst and ligand purity.


Scheme 2.8. Palladium-catalyzed hydrogenolysis of propargyl carbonate 2.16.

While this reaction was consistently high-yielding, there was a single case where agitation of the reaction was interrupted overnight, resulting in a 3:1:1 ratio of allene 2.1, enyne $\mathbf{2 . 2 0}$ and enyne 2.21, respectively (Scheme 2.9). Analysis of the proposed catalytic cycle for the palladiumcatalyzed hydrogenolysis reveals a potential pathway to both enyne byproducts. As proposed by Tsuji and coworkers, oxidative insertion of $\operatorname{Pd}(0)$ followed by elimination of carbon dioxide affords palladium(II) methoxide species 2.17a. ${ }^{52}$ Exchange of the methoxide ligand with formate affords palladium(II) formate 2.18. The formate ligand undergoes a $\beta$-hydride elimination to generate palladium(II) hydride 2.19 and $\mathrm{CO}_{2}$. Reductive elimination affords allene 2.1 and regenerates the $\operatorname{Pd}(0)$ catalyst.


Scheme 2.9. Palladium-catalyzed hydrogenolysis catalytic cycle and potential elimination of $\boldsymbol{\eta}^{\mathbf{1}}$-palladium.

Due to the limited solubility of ammonium formate in THF, we propose that loss of agitation starves palladium(II) methoxide 2.17a of the formate necessary to generate 2.18. As the concentration of 2.17a increases, the palladium center could undergo a haptotropic shift, most likely through an $\eta^{3}$-allylpalladium intermediate, to generate palladium(II) intermediate $\mathbf{2 . 1 7 b}$. Ensuing $\beta$-hydride elimination of $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{a}}$ or $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{b}}$ then generates the observed enyne products $\mathbf{2 . 2 0}$ and 2.21, respectively; a process that has been reported by Tsuji and coworkers. ${ }^{54}$ Thus, it is crucial to maintain the limited solubility of ammonium formate throughout the entire course of the reaction.

With the success of the palladium-catalyzed hydrogenolysis to afford allene-yne 2.1, we were poised to complete the synthesis of the desired bicyclo[5.3.0]decadieneone 2.2 via application of the allenic Pauson-Khand reaction.

### 2.2.3 Application and optimization of the APKR to allene-yne 2.1

With allene-yne 2.1 in hand, we set out to test the feasibility of the allenic Pauson-Khand reaction (APKR) as a way to access bicyclo[5.3.0]decadienone 2.2. We opted to begin with
conditions previously shown by our group to be optimal for methyl substituted alkynes. ${ }^{55}$ Addition of allene-yne 2.1 to a dilute solution ( 0.025 M ) of $\left[\mathrm{Rh}(\mathrm{CO})_{2} \mathrm{Cl}\right]_{2}(5 \mathrm{~mol} \%)$ in toluene at $110{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ (oil bath temperature) afforded bicyclo[5.3.0]decadienone 2.2 in a modest yield of 56\% in 2 h (Scheme 2.10).


Scheme 2.10. Inverse addition of allene-yne 2.1 to $\mathbf{R h ( I )}$ solution.

Diagnostic ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR resonances were observed at 2.91(s) ppm corresponding to the C2 methylene protons, $2.69(\mathrm{t}, J=6.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}) \mathrm{ppm}$ and $2.39(\mathrm{t}, J=6.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}) \mathrm{ppm}$ corresponding to the allylic protons at C6 and C9, respectively, and 1.84(s) ppm and 1.75(s) ppm, corresponding to the C10 and C4 methyl protons, respectively. In addition to the ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR data, ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR resonances at 205 ppm confirmed the presence of a ketone, and resonances at $169 \mathrm{ppm}, 138 \mathrm{ppm}, 137 \mathrm{ppm}$, and 132 ppm confirmed the presence of four $s p^{2}$ carbons. While the initial conditions for the conversion of 2.1 to 2.2 were successful, the modest yield prompted us to further optimize the reaction conditions for this substrate.

Because the APKR required only 2 h to reach completion when using $5 \mathrm{~mol} \%\left[\mathrm{Rh}(\mathrm{CO})_{2} \mathrm{Cl}\right]_{2}$ (Table 2.2, entry 1), we reasoned that we could decrease the catalyst loading in an effort to increase overall efficiency, while maintaining an acceptable reaction time and yield. Reducing the catalyst loading to $2 \mathrm{~mol} \%$ afforded 2.2 in a comparable yield of $53 \%$, but a slightly extended reaction time of 3 h (Table 2.2, entry 2 ). While the reaction times were reasonable using $\left[\mathrm{Rh}(\mathrm{CO})_{2} \mathrm{Cl}\right]_{2}$, we wanted to examine an alternative $\operatorname{Rh}(\mathrm{I})$ catalyst, in an effort to increase the yield of the APKR.

Cationic $\mathrm{Rh}(\operatorname{cod})_{2} \mathrm{BF}_{4}$ in the presence of a phosphine ligand has been successfully employed in the APKR by previous group members, often with good results. ${ }^{56}$ While computational studies have suggested that the rate determining step for the $\mathrm{Rh}(\mathrm{I})$-catalyzed APKR is the initial oxidative cyclization of the $\mathrm{Rh}(\mathrm{I})$-allene-yne complex in the case of a ligand-free catalyst, we proposed that this could also be the case for rhodium catalysts in the presence of phosphine ligands. It follows that the strongly $\sigma$-donating character of trialkyl and triaryl phosphine ligands would render the cationic $\operatorname{Rh}(\mathrm{I})$ catalyst sufficiently electron-rich to facilitate the oxidative cyclization, even at reduced reaction temperatures. ${ }^{24}$ Thus, we decided to first screen $\mathrm{Rh}(\operatorname{cod})_{2} \mathrm{BF}_{4}$ in the presence of triphenylphosphine as the next catalyst for the APKR. $\mathrm{Rh}(\operatorname{cod})_{2} \mathrm{BF}_{4}$

Table 2.2. Optimization of allenic Pauson-Khand reaction of allene-yne 2.1.


| Entry | Catalyst | Catalyst <br> Loading <br> (mol \%) | Solvent | Substrate <br> concentration <br> $(\mathbf{M})$ | Temp <br> $\left({ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$ | Time <br> $(\mathbf{h )}$ | Yield <br> $(\%)$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | $\left[\mathrm{Rh}(\mathrm{CO})_{2} \mathrm{Cl}\right]_{2}$ | 5 | Toluene | 0.025 | 110 | 2 | 56 |
| 2 | $\left[\mathrm{Rh}(\mathrm{CO})_{2} \mathrm{Cl}\right]_{2}$ | 2 | Toluene | 0.025 | 110 | 3 | 53 |
| 3 | $\mathrm{Rh}(\operatorname{cod})_{2} \mathrm{BF}_{4}$ | 10 | DCE | 0.02 | 70 | 24 | 85 |
| 4 | $\mathrm{Rh}(\operatorname{cod})_{2} \mathrm{BF}_{4}$ | 5 | DCE | 0.02 | 70 | 24 | 90 |
| 5 | $\operatorname{Rh}(\operatorname{cod})_{2} \mathrm{BF}_{4}$ | 2.5 | DCE | 0.02 | 70 | 24 | 88 |
| 6 | $\operatorname{Rh}(\operatorname{cod})_{2} \mathrm{BF}_{4}$ | 2.5 | DCE | 0.1 | 70 | 20 | 86 |

(10 mol\%) and $\mathrm{PPh}_{3}$ (15 mol\%) were dissolved in dichloroethane (Table 2.2, entry 3). The reaction flask was evacuated and refilled with carbon monoxide using a CO-filled balloon, and allene-yne 2.1 was added. After 24 h , complete conversion of 2.1 was observed, and bicyclo[5.3.0]decadienone 2.2 was isolated in $85 \%$ yield.

With a marked increase in reaction yield, we again decided to lower the catalyst loading to determine what effect, if any, this would have on reaction time and yield. The catalyst loading was reduced to $5 \mathrm{~mol} \%$ with no appreciable impact on time or yield (Table 2.2, entry 4). The loading was further decreased to $2.5 \mathrm{~mol} \%$, again with no appreciable impact on time or yield (Table 2.2, entry 5). With this optimal catalyst system in hand, we next wanted to explore the effect of substrate concentration. Previous reports using $\left[\mathrm{Rh}(\mathrm{CO})_{2} \mathrm{Cl}\right]_{2}$ suggest the formation of a dimeric byproduct when substrate concentrations exceed $0.025 \mathrm{M} .{ }^{55}$ We did not see any evidence of byproducts when using $\mathrm{Rh}(\operatorname{cod})_{2} \mathrm{BF}_{4}$ with a substrate concentration of 0.025 M , so we decided to increase the substrate concentration to 0.1 M , in an effort to consume less halogenated solvent (Table 2.2, entry 6). Gratifyingly, we saw no appreciable impact on reaction yield, and reaction time was decreased by 4 h . With these optimized conditions in hand, we had rapid access to the bicyclo[5.3.0]decadienone model system 2.2 in high yield. We were thus poised to explore the feasibility of reductive transposition of the C3-C5 enone.

## 2.3 ${ }^{1} \mathbf{H}$ NMR Studies of Tosylhydrazone Reduction with Catecholborane

The strategy we chose to pursue for the reductive transposition of bicyclo[5.3.0]decadienone 2 was an allylic diazene rearrangement (ADR), for the reasons enumerated above. We reasoned that catecholborane (HBcat) reduction of tosylhydrazone 2.6 would occur chemoselectively at the hydrazone, leaving the double bonds intact. ${ }^{57}$ In addition, the allylic diazene rearrangement (ADR) of $\alpha, \beta$-unsaturated hydrazones has been shown to selectively form the product of alkene migration, even in cases where that product is thermodynamically disfavored. ${ }^{44,58}$ We thus felt confident that application of the ADR to tosylhydrazone $\mathbf{2 . 6}$ would
afford the desired 1,4-alkene 2.3, despite the fact that double bond conjugation would be broken (Scheme 2.12).

First, we had to convert bicyclo[5.3.0]decadienone 2.2 to the tosylhydrazone derivative $\mathbf{2 . 6}$ (Scheme 2.12). This was accomplished in $77 \%$ yield via reaction of 2.2 with tosylhydrazide (1.2 equiv) in ethanol at $85{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 18 h . Diagnostic ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ resonances at $2.89(\mathrm{~s}) \mathrm{ppm}$ corresponding to the C2 protons, 1.77(s) ppm and 1.75(s) ppm corresponding to the protons on the methyl groups at the C4 and C10 positions, respectively, and 2.53(t) ppm and 2.29(t) ppm, corresponding to the protons at the C9 and C6 positions, respectively, confirmed the formation of 2.6. We also observed that, under the reaction conditions, a single stereoisomer of the hydrazone was formed. We predicted that the $E$-hydrazone would be the thermodynamically preferred isomer, owing to the presence of an unfavorable steric between the tosyl group of the hydrazone and the methyl group at the C4 position of the Z-isomer. The E-hydrazone stereochemistry was confirmed via single crystal X-ray of 2.6, a crystal of which was obtained via dissolution in ethyl acetate and slow evaporation of the solvent.


Scheme 2.11. Attempted ADR of bicyclo[5.3.0]decadienone tosylhydrazone 2.6.

With hydrazone 2.6 in hand, initial conditions for the allylic diazene rearrangement were investigated (Scheme 2.12). The first step is reduction of the tosylhydrazone 2.6 to the corresponding tosylhydrazine derivative 2.22. The most common reagent employed for this
reduction is catecholborane, as it is highly selective for the reduction of tosylhydrazones in the presence of other reactive functional groups, and the reaction conditions are very mild. ${ }^{6}$ Thus, tosylhydrazone 2.6 was reacted with catecholborane (neat, 3 equiv) in chloroform at $-50^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ (Table 3, entry 1). After 1 h , sodium acetate trihydrate (3 equiv) was added and the reaction was warmed to room temperature and stirred for 1 h . It was then brought to $70^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for an additional 1 h . Upon workup, ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR of the crude residue revealed none of the desired ADR product 2.3, as evidenced by the lack of the expected C3 olefinic proton $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{a}}$ between 5-6 ppm. The progress of the reaction was unable to be followed by TLC, due to the large excess of catecholborane overlapping with tosylhydrazone 2.6 on the TLC plate. Thus, we were not certain whether 2.6 was undergoing catecholborane reduction.


Scheme 2.12. Synthesis and crystal structure of E-tosylhydrazone of bicyclo[5.3.0]decadienone 2.2.

To overcome this issue and accurately monitor the progress of the reduction step, we decided to perform the reaction in $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$, and periodically take aliquots for analysis by ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H} N \mathrm{NR}$. Thus, tosylhydrazone 2.6 was dissolved in $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$, cooled to $0{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and allowed to react with catecholborane (neat, 3 equiv) (Table 2.3, entry 2). A reference spectrum was taken before the addition of catecholborane (Figure 2.1A). After stirring for 1 h with catecholborane at $0{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, an aliquot was taken and subjected to ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR analysis (Figure 2.1B). The mixture was warmed to

Table 2.3. Screening of catecholborane reduction conditions for ADR of tosylhydrazone 2.6.


| Entry | Reducing <br> Agent (equiv) | Solvent | Additive <br> (equiv) | Time (h) | Temp <br> $\left({ }^{\circ} \mathbf{C}\right)$ | Result |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | HBcat neat (3) | $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ | - | 2 | -40 | $\mathbf{2 . 6}$ by NMR |
| 2 | HBcat neat (3) | $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ | - | 1 | $0-\mathrm{rt}$ | $\mathbf{2 . 6}$ by NMR |
| 3 | HBcat neat (3) | $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ | $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ <br> $(2 \mathrm{wt}. \mathrm{equiv)}$ | 1 | $0-\mathrm{rt}$ | $\mathbf{2 . 6}$ by NMR |
| 4 | $\mathrm{HBcat} \mathrm{neat} \mathrm{(3)} \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ | AcOH (2) | 1 | rt | $\mathbf{2 . 6}$ by NMR |  |
| 5 | HBcat neat (6) | $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ | - | 24 | 0 | $\mathbf{2 . 6}$ by NMR |



Figure 2.1. A) Reference spectrum, no catecholborane. B) 3 equiv HBcat after 1 h at $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. C) after $\mathbf{1 h}$ at rt . D) After addition of 3 equiv sodium acetate trihydrate and reacting at $60^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 1 h .
room temperature and stirred for an additional 1 h and a second aliquot was taken (Figure 2.1C). Sodium acetate trihydrate (3 equiv) was added to the reaction mixture, and it was brought to $70{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 1 h . A third aliquot was taken at this time (Figure 2.1D).

After initial addition of the catecholborane, no starting material was detected, as evidenced by the disappearance of the resonances at 2.87 (s) ppm corresponding to the C2 methylene protons of 2.6, 2.41 (s) ppm corresponding to the tosyl methyl protons of 2.6, 1.77 (s) ppm, and 1.76 (s) ppm (compare Figures 2.1A and 2.1B). Warming the reaction and stirring for an additional hour appeared to have no effect as evidenced by the similarities between the spectra of Figure 2.1B and 2.1C. After addition of sodium acetate trihydrate followed by heating, ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR analysis of the crude reaction mixture revealed a substantial amount of tosylhydrazone 2.6, as evidenced by the reappearance of resonances at 2.90(s) ppm, 2.41(s) ppm, and 1.77(s) ppm (Figure 2.1D). The observation of predominately $\mathbf{2 . 6}$ after addition of $\mathrm{NaOAc} \cdot 3 \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ strongly suggested that reduction of the hydrazone was not occurring under these reaction conditions.

With data suggesting that hydrazone reduction is not occurring, we turned to the literature in an effort to find alternative conditions for the catecholborane reduction of tosylhydrazones. McIntosh has shown that the reaction time of the catecholborane reduction of tosylhydrazones, followed by ADR , is reduced in the presence of $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ or acetic acid. ${ }^{59}$ Thus, we repeated the reaction using the previous conditions, this time with the introduction of $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ into the reaction mixture (two times the mass of 2.6) (Table 2.3 entry 3). The reaction was performed at $0{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, and after 1 h we saw no discernable difference between the spectrum of this reaction to that of the reaction performed without $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$. The reaction was allowed to warm to room temperature and maintained for an additional hour. Again, there was no discernable change in the ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR of the reaction mixture. We concluded that addition of $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ did not impact the reduction of
tosylhydrazone 2.6. We next wanted to screen the effect of acetic acid, as McIntosh had also shown it to be effective for the ADR. Thus, tosylhydrazone 2.6 was dissolved in $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ and AcOH (2 equiv) was added. Catecholborane (3 equiv) was added at room temperature and aliquots of the reaction mixture were subjected to ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR (Table 2.3, entry 4). No reduction of $\mathbf{2 . 6}$ occurred under these reaction conditions as evidenced by ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR of the crude reaction mixture. Finally, a large excess of catecholborane (6 equiv) was employed in an effort to force the reduction (Table 2.3, entry 5). After reacting at room temperature for 24 h , none of the desired ADR product 2.3 was observed by ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR; providing further evidence that tosylhydrazone 2.6 was not undergoing


2.24
B



D



$\mathrm{H}_{2}$ NNHTs, then

2.34

Scheme 2.13. Precedent for ADRs performed on bicyclo[5.3.0]decenones.
reduction. It was unclear why tosylhydrazone 2.6 was so resistant to catecholborane reduction; however, an exhaustive literature search for ADRs performed on 5,7-ring systems revealed six such reports.

Greene applied an ADR to bicyclo[5.3.0]decenones $\mathbf{2 . 2 3}$ and $\mathbf{2 . 2 5}$ in his total syntheses of (+)-pachydictoyl A and (-)-dicytolene, and oxoisodehydroleucodin in 1980 and 1989, respectively (Scheme 2.13A and B). ${ }^{45,60}$ Iwata successfully employed an ADR on bicyclo[5.3.0]decenone 2.27 towards the total synthesis of (+)-aromadendrene and (-)-alloaromadendrene in 1996 (Scheme 2.13C). ${ }^{61}$ The ADR of $\mathbf{2 . 2 9}$ was a key step in Pedro's synthesis of (+)-alismoxide in 2006 (Scheme 2.13D). ${ }^{62}$ Sun was able to employ an $A D R$ on tricycle 2.31 in his total synthesis of hedyosumin $E$ aglycon (Scheme 2.13E). ${ }^{63}$ Recently, Baran showcased the use of an ADR of bicyclo[5.3.0]decenone 2.33 towards the total synthesis of (+)-phorbol (Scheme 2.13F). ${ }^{26}$ While most of the above examples of this transformation were performed on an enone motif, Pedro's showed that this transformation can indeed be performed on a conjugated dienone of a 5,7-ring system. However, unlike Pedro’s dienone 2.33, both ring-fused carbons (C1 and C5) of APKR adduct 2.2 are $s p^{2}$ hybridized. To the best of our knowledge, there have been no reported applications of an ADR on such systems. We sought to understand the effect of the C1-C10 double bond on the catecholborane reduction of 2.6, and hypothesized that hydrogenation of the $\mathrm{C} 1-\mathrm{C} 10$ double bond of 2.2 would serve to simplify the 5,7-ring system and offer a direct comparison between the dienone 2.2 and the analogous enone. It should be noted that none of the above reports of the ADR performed on 5,7-ring systems resulted in high yields; suggesting that we may not observe high yields for our system either.

### 2.4 ADR on C1-C10 Hydrogenated APKR Adduct

In order to test the impact of the C1-C10 double on the ADR , we reasoned that a Pdcatalyzed hydrogenation could be employed to chemoselectively reduce the C1-C10 double bond,
in the presence of the C3-C5 enone. ${ }^{37}$ Thus, dienone 2.2 was reacted with $\mathrm{Pd} / \mathrm{C}(10 \mathrm{~mol} \%$ ) under a $\mathrm{H}_{2}$ atmosphere ( 1 atm , balloon), in a 4:1 mixture of $\mathrm{MeOH} / \mathrm{EtOAc}$ at room temperature (Scheme 2.14). Dienone 2.2 and enone 2.35 were inseparable by TLC, thus the reaction was monitored via ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR.


Scheme 2.14. Hydrogenation of C1-C10 double bond of 2.2.

A resonance at 2.91 (s) ppm corresponding to the C2 methylene protons of 2.2 was chosen to monitor the progress of the hydrogenation. Disappearance of this resonance was an indication that the reaction had gone to completion. The reaction was rapid, affording enone 2.35 in $90 \%$ yield after 10 mins. The reaction proceeded in a diastereoselective fashion, affording a single diastereomer of 2.35, as evidenced by the presence of a resonance at 1.66 (s) ppm corresponding to the protons on the C4 methyl group, and a resonance at $0.69(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.0 \mathrm{~Hz}) \mathrm{ppm}$, corresponding to the protons on the C10 methyl group of 2.35. It must be noted that careful monitoring of the reaction progress was crucial. Extended reaction times ( $>45 \mathrm{~min}$ ) resulted in a complex mixture of products; presumably due to further reduction of $\mathbf{2 . 3 5}$.

With the C1-C10 hydrogenated APKR adduct 2.35 in hand, we sought to prepare the tosylhydrazone derivative 2.36 (Scheme 2.15). Ketone 2.35 was dissolved in ethanol and tosylhydrazide (1.2 equiv) added. The reaction mixture was maintained at $85^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 18 h , affording tosylhydrazone 2.36 in 93\% yield. Both the E-2.36 and Z-2.36 isomers were formed in a 71:29 ratio, as evidenced by the presence of a resonance at $0.99(\mathrm{~d}, J=6.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1.2 \mathrm{H}) \mathrm{ppm}$ in the ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR, corresponding to the protons on the C10 methyl group of the minor Z-isomer, and a
resonance at $0.64(\mathrm{~d}, \mathrm{~J}=7.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 3 \mathrm{H}) \mathrm{ppm}$ corresponding to the protons on the C 10 methyl group of the major E-isomer. Other resonances diagnostic of tosylhydrazone 2.36, but appearing as overlapping peaks for the individual isomers at 2.44 (s) ppm corresponding to the tosyl methyl


Scheme 2.15. Formation of tosylhydrazone 2.36 from C1-C10 hydrogenated APKR adduct 2.35.
protons, as well as a resonance at 1.68 (s) ppm, corresponding to the protons on the C 4 methyl group were also present. The two isomers were inseparable by $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ flash column chromatography, however in silico geometry optimization of E-2.36 and Z-2.36 using B3LYP with a 6-31G* basis set in vacuuo predicted $Z-2.36$ to be $4.86 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ higher in energy than $E-2.36$. We thus predict E-2.40 to be the major isomer; however, both isomers were used as a mixture for all subsequent transformations.

With tosylhydrazone 2.36 in hand, the feasibility of the ADR was tested on the C1-C10 hydrogenated 5,7-ring system and reaction progress of the catecholborane reduction monitored by ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR. Tosylhydrazone 2.36 was dissolved in $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ and the mixture cooled to $-40{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$.


Scheme 2.16. HBcat reduction of C1-C10 hydrogenated tosylhydrazone $\mathbf{2 . 3 6}$ and ADR.

Catecholborane (3 equiv, neat) was added and aliquots were taken for ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR analysis every hour (Table 2.4, entry 1). We did not observe a resonance between 3-4 ppm corresponding to $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{a}}$ of tosylhydrazine intermediate 2.37 , suggesting that hydrazone 2.36 was not reduced with catecholborane (Scheme 2.16). Upon $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ chromatographic purification of the crude reaction mixture, ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR of the major reaction component revealed that it was indeed tosylhydrazone 2.36, thus confirming that reduction of the tosylhydrazone under these conditions did not take place. Because of this, we sought to screen alternative conditions for the reduction of the hydrazone.

We reasoned that increasing the reaction temperature from $-40^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ to $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ could facilitate the catecholborane reduction of the tosylhydrazone moiety (Table 2.4, entry 2). Thus, tosylhydrazone 2.36 was dissolved in $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ and the solution cooled to $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. Catecholborane was added (3 equiv, neat) and the mixture stirred at $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. An aliquot of the reaction mixture was taken after 45 min and analyzed via ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR. The resulting spectrum was nearly identical to the spectrum obtained from the previous reaction, and thus was inferred that tosylhydrazone 2.36 was unaffected by catecholborane under these conditions, so we decided to further increase the temperature to room temperature. After reacting for 45 min at room temperature, another aliquot of the reaction mixture was taken and analyzed by ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR. The spectrum was very similar the
spectra previously taken at the lower temperature, indicating that tosylhydrazone $\mathbf{2 . 3 6}$ remained unreacted.

We next examined the effect of 10 equiv of catecholborane, hoping to force the reduction of 2.36. Thus, tosylhydrazone 2.36 was dissolved in $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ and cooled to $-40{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. Catecholborane (10 equiv, neat) was added and the mixture stirred for 1 h before an aliquot of the reaction mixture was taken for ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR analysis (Table 2.4, entry 3). The spectrum was, again, nearly identical to those of the previously reported conditions. It became apparent from varying the reaction

Table 2.4. Alternative reduction conditions and ADR of 2.36.


| Entry | Reducing Agent (equiv) | Solvent | Additive (equiv) | Time <br> (h) | Temp $\left({ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$ | Result |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $1^{\text {a }}$ | HBcat neat (3) | $\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}$ | - | 4 | -40 | No reduction, mostly 2.36 by ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR |
| $2^{\text {a }}$ | HBcat neat (3) | $\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}$ | - | 1.5 | 0-rt | No reduction, mostly 2.36 by ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR |
| $3^{\text {a }}$ | HBcat neat (10) | $\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}$ | - | 4 | -40 | No reduction, mostly 2.36 by ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR |
| $4^{\text {b }}$ | $\mathrm{NaCNBH}_{3}(4)$ | THF | pTsOH | 5 | rt | No reduction, mostly 2.36 by ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR |
| $5^{\text {b }}$ | $\mathrm{NaCNBH}_{3}(4)$ | THF | pTsOH | 18 | rt - 70 | Trace 2.38 |
| $6^{\text {b }}$ | $\mathrm{NaCNBH}_{3}(10)$ | MeOH | AcOH <br> (6) | 4 | 70 | Trace 2.38 |
| 7 | $(\mathrm{BzO})_{2} \mathrm{BH}(3)$ | $\begin{gathered} \mathrm{THF} / \\ \mathrm{CHCl}_{3} \end{gathered}$ | - | 3 | $0-\mathrm{rt}$ | 40\% 2.38, 59:41 dr |
| 8 | HBcat (1M in THF) (3) | $\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}$ | - | 3 | 0 | 48\% 2.38, 60:40 dr |

${ }^{a}$ Reaction progress monitored by 1H NMR. ${ }^{\text {b }}$ Reaction progress monitored by TLC.
temperature and equiv of catecholborane that the reduction of the tosylhydrazone moiety would not proceed under these commonly employed conditions. To continue our studies on the feasibility of applying the ADR to the C1-C10 hydrogenated tosylhydrazone 2.36, we turned to the literature in search of alternative conditions for the reduction, and subsequent ADR.

Sodium cyanoborohydride $\left(\mathrm{NaBH}_{3} \mathrm{CN}\right)$ in the presence of stoichiometric amounts of acid has been used to successfully effect allylic diazene rearrangements. ${ }^{64}$ Though the reaction conditions are less mild than the catecholborane conditions, due to the structural simplicity of tosylhydrazone 2.36, we felt confident that the substrate would survive the acidic medium at the elevated temperature required to effect the reduction in the presence of sodium cyanoborohydride. Thus, we set out to apply these conditions to our system. Tosylhydrazone $\mathbf{2 . 3 6}$ was dissolved in THF and $p$-toluenesulfonic acid ( $p \mathrm{TsOH}$ ) was added. Sodium cyanoborohydride was then added portion-wise until 4 equiv were reached (Table 2.4, entry 4). The mixture was reacted at room temperature for 5 h , during which time tosylhydrazone $\mathbf{2 . 3 6}$ remained unreacted, as evidenced by TLC, and confirmed by the presence of resonances corresponding to 2.36 in the ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR of the crude reaction mixture. This result led us to conclude that, while the tosylhydrazone moiety was not reduced, the substrate did survive the acidic reaction conditions, and we could proceed by increasing the reaction temperature in an effort to force the reduction. Thus, the reaction was repeated at elevated temperature $\left(70^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$ for an extended period of time ( 18 h ) (Table 2.4, entry 5). Tosylhydrazone 2.36 was fully consumed over this time, as evidenced by TLC. Upon workup, ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR analysis of the crude residue confirmed the complete consumption of 2.36. In addition, we observed a resonance at 5.25 ppm which we hypothesized could correspond to $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{a}}$ of ADR product 2.38; however, the integral value of this resonance was small relative to the other unassigned
resonances. With these promising preliminary results in hand, we sought to optimize the conditions for the formation of ADR product $\mathbf{2 . 3 8}$.

Baran has reported the use of sodium cyanoborohydride in methanol, in the presence of acetic acid, as effective conditions for the reduction of a tosylhydrazone, and subsequent ADR. ${ }^{26}$ Tosylhydrazone 2.36 was dissolved in methanol and acetic acid was added, followed by sodium cyanoborohydride portion-wise (Table 2.4, entry 6). The mixture was stirred at $70^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 4 h . TLC indicated complete consumption of 2.36, and upon ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR analysis of the crude reaction mixture, we observed the diagnostic resonance of $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{a}}$ at 5.25 ppm . However, as in the previous case, there were substantial uncharacterizable resonances present in the ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR. It was because of these suboptimal reaction profiles, low conversions to the presumed ADR product 2.38, and a large amount of uncharacterizable products in the aliphatic region of the ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR that we again decided to shift our focus to alternative borane hydride sources.

Kabalka and coworkers reported to use of bis(benzoyloxy)borane as an effective alternative to catecholborane for the $\mathrm{ADR} .{ }^{65} \mathrm{Bis}$ (benzoyloxy)borane (2.41) was prepared in situ via addition of $\mathrm{BH}_{3} \cdot \mathrm{THF}$ ( 1 M solution) to 2 equiv of benzoic acid (2.40) in $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ (Scheme 2.17). Tosylhydrazone 2.36 was dissolved in $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ and added to this solution at $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ (Table 2.4, entry 7). After reacting for 3 h while warming to room temperature, complete consumption of $\mathbf{2 . 3 6}$ was observed via TLC. A benefit of using bis(benzoyloxy)borane was that the reduction progress could be monitored via TLC, as the borane reagent remained on the baseline and stained less intensely than its catecholborane analog. $\mathrm{NaOAc} \cdot 3 \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ was then added and the mixture stirred at $70^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ in a sealed reaction vessel for 1 h , during which time a large fast-moving spot was observed by TLC. The borane reagent was removed from the reaction mixture via mild aqueous base workup (sat. aq. $\mathrm{NaHCO}_{3}$ ), an additional benefit of using bis(benzoyloxy)borane rather than catecholborane.

Upon purification of the resulting crude residue via $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ flash column chromatography, this fastmoving reaction component was isolated in $40 \%$ yield and confirmed to be the desired ADR product 2.38. The key alkenyl resonances at $5.28(\mathrm{~m}) \mathrm{ppm}$ and $5.24(\mathrm{~m}) \mathrm{ppm}$, corresponding to $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{a}}$ of each C5 epimer of 2.38, were shown to have a $J^{1}$ correlation with the ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ alkenyl resonances at


Scheme 2.17. ( BzO$)_{2} \mathrm{BH}$ reduction of tosylhydrazone 2.36 and ADR.
123.5 ppm and $123.3 \mathrm{ppm}(\mathrm{C} 3)$ via HSQC, thus providing evidence for the presence of alkenyl proton $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{a}}$. In addition, resonances at $0.91(\mathrm{~d}, J=6.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2.2 \mathrm{H})$ and $0.83(\mathrm{~d}, J=6.8,3 \mathrm{H})$ provided evidence for the presence of the C10 methyl group, as well as further evidence in support of the ADR generating two diastereomers at C5. Finally, a ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ resonance at $1.62(\mathrm{~m}, 5.2 \mathrm{H}) \mathrm{ppm}$ showed a $J^{2}$ correlation with the ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ alkenyl resonances at 143.7 ppm and $143.3 \mathrm{ppm}(\mathrm{C} 4)$, and a $J^{3}$ correlation with the ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ alkenyl resonances at 123.5 ppm and 123.3 ppm (C3), providing support for the presence of a methyl group at C4. Based on the integral values of the methyl proton resonances at 0.91 ppm and 0.83 ppm , the ADR was shown to occur with a diastereomeric ratio of 59:41.

The reaction conditions differed from those of the catecholborane reaction conditions in both the borane used, as well as the solvent system. In Kabalka's initial report for the use of bis(benzoyloxy)borane, it was noted that the reactivity was very similar to that of catecholborane. Given this observation, we reasoned that the reducing capability of bis(benzoyloxy)borane was
similar to that of catecholborane, and tosylhydrazone 2.36 most likely could be reduced with either. The only other significant difference with these new reaction conditions was the solvent. The successful ADR was performed in the presence of a Lewis basic cosolvent (THF). We thus decided to reexamine the catecholborane conditions for the reduction of tosylhydrazone 2.36 , with the addition of THF as a cosolvent. Tosylhydrazone 2.36 was dissolved in $\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}$ and the mixture cooled to $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. Catecholborane ( 1 M in THF) was added and the mixture stirred for 3 h (Table 2.4, entry 8). After addition of $\mathrm{NaOAc} \cdot 3 \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ and heating to $70^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, we observed the formation of a fastmoving reaction component via TLC. Upon workup and purification, ADR product 2.38 was isolated in $48 \%$ yield with a diastereomeric ratio of 60:40, as confirmed by ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ and ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR. This experiment confirmed the necessity for THF as a cosolvent for the reduction of the tosylhydrazone to take place. It was not evident what role the cosolvent was playing in the reduction of the tosylhydrazone, as, to the best of our knowledge, there have been no reports of THF necessary for the catecholborane reduction and subsequent ADR of tosylhydrazones. However, Brown and coworkers have reported a significant rate increase for the hydroboration of simple alkenes with 9-borabicyclo[3.3.1]nonane dimer $(9-B B N)_{2}$ in the presence of THF, as opposed to carbon tetrachloride. ${ }^{66}$ The authors propose that the active hydroborating agent is the $9-\mathrm{BBN}$ monomer. THF complexes with the dimer to form two 9-BBN•THF complexes. These complexes in turn dissociate into the $9-\mathrm{BBN}$ monomers more rapidly than $(9-\mathrm{BBN})_{2}$ dissociates into the corresponding monomers. We propose that s imilar effect could be operative in our case with the catecholborane reduction of tosylhydrazones.

### 2.5 ADR on Bicyclo[5.3.0]decadienone Tosylhydrazone Model System 2.6

With the discovery that THF is necessary as a cosolvent for the successful catecholborane reduction and subsequent ADR of C1-C10 hydrogenated tosylhydrazone 2.36, we sought to apply this finding to the ADR of bicyclo[5.3.0]decadienone tosylhydrazone 2.6. Thus, 2.6 was dissolved in $\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}$ and cooled to $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ (Table 2.5, Entry 1). Catecholborane (3 equiv, 1 M in THF) was added and the mixture reacted for $3 \mathrm{~h} . \mathrm{NaOAc} \cdot 3 \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ (3 equiv) was added and the mixture heated to 70 ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 1 h . Upon filtration and purification, we isolated a colorless oil in $49 \%$ yield. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR of this residue revealed a mixture of two major products. The presence of an olefinic resonance at 5.35 (s) ppm, presumably corresponding to $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{a}}$ of ADR product 2.3 , suggesting that one component was indeed the desired product. ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR of the crude residue provided further evidence of the presence of two major products, each containing four $s p^{2}$ carbons and eight $s p^{3}$ carbons. Given this NMR data, the two products were tentatively assigned as ADR product 2.3, as well as the Wolff-Kishner-type (WK) reduction product 2.43. Based upon the integral value of $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{a}}$ of $\mathbf{2 . 3}$ relative to that of an allylic resonance corresponding to the four allylic protons $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{b}}$ and $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{c}}$ of $\mathbf{2 . 4 3}$ (see Figure 2.2 below), the ratio was determined to be $43: 57$ 2.3 to $\mathbf{2 . 4 3}$. The formula used to calculate the abundance of each component is $2.3=\frac{H^{a}}{\left(H^{b+c} / 4\right)+H^{a}}$.

Table 2.5. Conditions for the ADR of bicyclo[5.3.0]decadienone tosylhydrazone 2.6.


| Entry | Reducing Agent (equiv) | Solvent | Additive (equiv) | Time <br> (h) | Temp $\left({ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$ | Yield | Ratio (2.3:2.43) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | HBcat (1 M in THF) (3) | $\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}$ | - | 3 | 0 | 49 | 43:57 |
| 2 | HBcat ( 1 M in THF) (5) | THF | - | 3 | 0 | 30 | 79:21 |
| 3 | $(\mathrm{BzO})_{2} \mathrm{BH}$ (5) | $\begin{gathered} \mathrm{CHCl}_{3} / \\ \mathrm{THF} \end{gathered}$ | - | 3 | 0 | 38 | 4:96 |
| 4 | $\mathrm{NaBH}_{4}(10)$ | AcOH | - | 1 | 100 | Trace 2.3 | - |
| 5 | $\mathrm{NaCNBH}_{3}(3)$ | MeOH | AcOH (10) | 1 | 70 | Trace 2.3 | - |
| 6 | $\mathrm{NaCNBH}_{3}(3)$ | AcOH | - | 4 | 70 | Trace 2.3 | - |

*Yield of crude reaction residue after passing through a silica plug

To this point, all of the successful ADRs had been performed in a solvent mixture of $\mathrm{CHCl}_{3} /$ THF. With the discovery that THF was necessary for the ADR to proceed on tosylhydrazone 2.6, we reasoned that we could entirely remove the $\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}$ from the reaction mixture. Thus, tosylhydrazone 2.6 was dissolved in THF and cooled to $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ (Table 2.5, entry 2 ). Catecholborane (3 equiv, 1 M in THF) was added and the mixture reacted for 3 h . $\mathrm{NaOAc} \cdot 3 \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ (3 equiv) was added and the mixture heated to $70^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 1 h . Upon filtration and purification, $30 \%$ of a colorless oil was isolated. Analysis of this residue by ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR revealed the same product mixture that we had previously observed; however, the product ratio was now 79:21 2.3 to 2.43. Thus, we were able to show that solvent not only affects the progress of the reaction, but it also plays a critical role in ratio of reaction products, though we did not have an explanation for this phenomenon at the time.

To the best of our knowledge, no reports of an allylic diazene intermediate, similar to $\mathbf{2 . 4 9}$ (Scheme 2.18), preferentially decomposing to the Wolff-Kishner product 2.47 rather than undergoing the retro-ene process under catecholborane reduction conditions exist; however, Djerassi and coworkers have reported similar outcomes in the presence of sodium cyanoborohydride. ${ }^{64}$ Houk and coworkers have shown that the concerted retro-ene decomposition of cyclohexene diazene is exergonic by $-51.2 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol} .{ }^{67}$ With this information in hand, we reasoned that if allylic diazene intermediate 2.49 is being formed, it would most likely rapidly


Scheme 2.18. Mechanism of the ADR of tosylhydrazone 2.6.
decompose to the desired rearrangement product 2.3. We thus shifted our focus to alternative reaction conditions to effect this transformation, as the data collected to this point strongly indicated that the product ratio is dependent on the reaction conditions. We next wanted to probe the effect of different hydride sources, beginning with bis(benzoyloxy)borane.

Thus, benzoic acid (10 equiv) was dissolved in THF and cooled to $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. Borane ( 1 M in THF) was added and the mixture reacted for 1 h (Table 2.5, entry 4). Tosylhydrazone 2.6 was dissolved in a minimal amount of $\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}$ was added and allowed to react for 3 h . After complete consumption of starting material was observed by TLC, $\mathrm{NaOAc} \cdot 3 \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ (5 equiv) was added and the mixture heated to $70{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and reacted for 1 h . Upon workup and purification via $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ flash column chromatography, we isolated $30 \%$ of the product mixture, but were surprised to find a ratio
of 4:96 2.3 to 2.43. Due to the highly selective nature of these reaction conditions for the WolffKishner product, we were able to unequivocally confirm that we were indeed generating this product by employing 2-D NMR techniques (Figure 2.2).


Figure 2.2. Structural confirmation of Wolff-Kishner reduction product 2.43.

We proposed that the Wolff-Kishner product could be generated via a radical decomposition pathway of diazene intermediate $\mathbf{2 . 4 5}$, a process that is known to occur, but has yet to be reported for $\alpha, \beta$-unsaturated hydrazones (Scheme 2.19 ). ${ }^{68,69}$ To test this hypothesis, we proposed two experiments. The first involved meticulously degassing, then the constant bubbling of argon through the reaction mixture as the reaction proceeded. We reasoned this would prevent any adventitious oxygen from entering the reaction system. Thus, a two-necked flask was equipped with a balloon of argon with a needle inserted through a septum, and a solid addition funnel preloaded with $\mathrm{NaOAc} \cdot 3 \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$. Benzoic acid (10.2 equiv) was added to the flask, followed by THF which had been degassed by the freeze-pump-thaw method (x 3), and cooled to $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. At this point, a valve between the argon balloon and needle was opened and argon began bubbling through the reaction mixture. $\mathrm{BH}_{3}$ (5.1 equiv, 1 M in THF) was added dropwise and the mixture reacted for 1 h. Tosylhydrazone 2.6 was dissolved in degassed $\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}$ (freeze-pump- thaw x 3 ) and added to the


Scheme 2.19. Proposed divergent retro-ene and radical decomposition pathways of diazene intermediate 2.45.
reaction mixture. After reacting for $3 \mathrm{~h}, \mathrm{NaOAc} \cdot 3 \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ (7 equiv) was added via the solid addition funnel, thus avoid the need to open the reaction system to oxygen. The mixture warmed to $70^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and reacted for 2 h . An aliquot of the reaction mixture was taken and analyzed via ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR, which revealed a Wolff-Kishner product 2.43 to ADR product 2.3 in a $94: 6$ ratio and $38 \%$ yield. Interestingly, the reaction had not gone to completion, and after purification $8 \%$ of tosylhydrazone 2.6 was recovered.

Next, we proposed to run the reaction in the presence of a radical inhibitor, such as butylated hydroxytoluene (BHT). We reasoned that this would serve to eliminate any radical processes that were being initiated by any reagents or solvents. Thus, benzoic acid (1 M in THF, 20 equiv) was added dropwise to borane in THF ( $1 \mathrm{M}, 10$ equiv) and reacted at $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 1 h . Tosylhydrazone 2.6 along with BHT (2 equiv) were dissolved in THF and added dropwise to the reaction vessel. The reaction was maintained at $0{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 3 h , then $\mathrm{NaOAc} \cdot 3 \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ ( 15 equiv) added. The vessel was lowered into an oil bath $\left(70^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$ where it was maintained for 1 h . Upon aqueous workup with $\mathrm{Na}_{2} \mathrm{CO}_{3},{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR of the crude residue revealed a 17:83 ADR $\mathbf{2 . 3}$ /WK 2.43 ratio; a slight improvement over the use of no radical inhibitor. While the results of these experiments provide
some evidence that a radical decomposition mechanism may not be operative, they cannot be used to definitively rule out this mechanism.

### 2.6 Conclusions for ADR Studies

The development of an efficient, high-yielding synthesis to an all-carbon model bicyclo[5.3.0]decadienone system with methyl groups at the C 4 and C 10 position was accomplished via application of the APKR. Initial ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR experiments revealed that the tosylhydrazone 2.6 was highly resistant to catecholborane reduction. The system was further simplified via hydrogenation of the C1-C10 double bond, and it was found that the presence of THF in the reaction mixture was necessary to effect catecholborane reduction of $\mathbf{2 . 3 6}$. These conditions were applied to tosylhydrazone 2.6, where it was discovered that a mixture of ADR product 2.3 and Wolff-Kishner product $\mathbf{2 . 4 3}$ was obtained. The ratio was mostly dependent on the nature of the borane reducing agent, suggesting two competing mechanisms. We were able to rule out a radical decomposition pathway via inclusion of BHT in the reaction mixture; however, the mechanism giving rise to the Wolff-Kishner product is still unclear. Due to the low yields and poor ADR selectivity, we shifted our focus to alternative strategies for the transposition of the C4-C5 double bond of systems similar to $\mathbf{2 . 2}$.

### 2.7 Base-Induced Transposition of $\alpha$-Hydroxy Enone

### 2.7.1 Introduction and background

We again turned to Reaxys to perform a comprehensive literature search for the most common motifs present in 6,12-guaianolides. We decided to search for compounds more similar to those generated via the APKR, possessing an oxygen at the C3 position and an explicit double bond at the C4-C5 position. Instead of a reductive transposition of the C3C5 enone, we decided to examine a formal transposition of this motif to the C2-C4 position. The resulting Reaxys searches for these two regioisomers are presented in Table 2.6. In the case of the 6,12-guaianolides with an oxygen at the C3 position and an explicit double bond at the C4-C5 position, there were674 total hits; 290 of which are biologically active, 59 have been isolated from a natural source, and 12 are both biologically active and naturally occurring. Transposition of the C 3 oxygen to the C 2 position and the $\mathrm{C} 4-\mathrm{C} 5$ double bond to the $\mathrm{C} 3-\mathrm{C} 4$ position returned 710 total hits. Of these, 216 are biologically active, 452 are naturally occurring, and 131 are both naturally occurring and biologically active. With these search results in hand, we reasoned that transposition of the C3-C5 enone to the C2-C4 position would greatly expand the synthetic utility of the APKR towards the rapid access of biologically active 6,12-guaianolides.

Table 2.6. Reaxys search for 6,12-guaianolide frameworks possessing discrete double bond at C4-C5 position and oxygen at C3 position, and discrete double bond at C3-C4 position and oxygen at C2 position.



| Total hits | $\mathbf{6 7 4}$ | $\mathbf{7 1 0}$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Pharmacological data | 290 | 216 |
| Natural source | 59 | 452 |
| Natural source + pharm. data | 12 | 131 |

Data obtained via Reaxys search using structures shown (7/20/2020). Search parameters were limited to 'as substructure' variable 'on all atoms', 'stereo', and 'additional ring closures'. Filtered by 'pharmacological data available' and 'isolated from natural product + pharmacological data available'.

We next shifted our focus to strategies to effect such a transposition. To the best of our knowledge, such a direct transposition has yet to be reported in the literature; however, there have been three reports of a base-induced isomerization of $\alpha$-hydroxy enones, affording $\alpha$-keto enols. The exhaustive literature precedent for this transformation is presented in Scheme 2.20. The first report of this transformation was made by Yoshida and coworkers in $1965 .{ }^{70}$ Ireland further explored this transformation in 1970, and most recently, Yang applied this transformation to his total synthesis of cyanthiwigin I. ${ }^{71,72}$ All three examples result in the cis-fused 5,6-ring systems single diastereomers. Ireland reports this to be the thermodynamically favored product; however, there has been no experimental evidence provided to definitively rule out the possibility that this process is under kinetic control. ${ }^{71}$ To complete their total synthesis of cyanthiwigin I, Yang and coworkers




Yang, 2018

Scheme 2.20. Previous precedent for base-induced isomerization of $\boldsymbol{\alpha}$-hydroxy enone motif.
were able to deoxygenate enol 2.52 via triflation and Pd-catalyzed hydrogenolysis of the resulting vinyl triflate. We reasoned that we could apply this methodology to $\alpha$-hydroxy enone 2.53 to generate $\alpha$-keto enol 2.54. From there, deoxygenation would afford the desired C3-C5 transposed product 2.55 (Scheme 2.21).


Scheme 2.21. Proposed conversion of $\alpha$-hydroxy enone 2.53 to $\alpha$-keto enol 2.54 and susequent deoxygenation to enone 2.55 .

### 2.7.2 Synthesis of $\alpha$-hydroxy enone 2.53

With a feasible method to access 2.55 in hand, we turned our attention to the synthesis of $\alpha$-hydroxy enone 2.53. Retrosynthetically, we reasoned that we could install a hydroxyl group at the C2 position in two ways; oxidation of bicyclo[5.3.0]decadienone 2.2, or APKR of allenyl carboxyester 2.56, followed by hydrolysis (Scheme 2.22A). We opted to pursue the APKR of allenyl carboxyester 2.56, as there is more precedent within our group for the synthesis of allenyl carboxyesters and subsequent APKR than there is for $\alpha$-hydroxylations of APKR adducts. ${ }^{73}$ In addition, we could use alkynyl ketone 2.7 as the starting material to access the desired allenyl carboxyesters (see Section 2.2.1).

$\qquad$



Scheme 2.22. A) Potential routes to hydroxy enone 2.53. B) Synthesis of allenyl esters $2.56 \mathrm{a}-\mathrm{b}$ and $\mathbf{R h}(\mathbf{I})$ catalyzed APKR.

Thus, we proceeded with the synthesis of a series of allenyl carboxyesters, beginning with alkynyl ketone 2.7. Cerium-mediated addition of ethynylmagnesium bromide, followed by addition of acetyl chloride afforded the desired propargyl acetate 2.57a in 94\% yield. Rh (II)catalyzed formal 3,3-sigmatropic rearrangement of 2.57a generated allenyl acetate 2.56a in 88\% yield. The $\mathrm{Rh}(\mathrm{I})$-catalyzed allenic Pauson-Khand reaction was then employed to access bicyclo[5.3.0]decadienone 2.58a in 85\% yield. Scandium triflate mediated hydrolysis afforded the desired $\alpha$-hydroxy ketone 2.53 in $88 \%$ yield; however, this reaction required high $\mathrm{Sc}(\mathrm{OTf})_{3}$ loadings, as well as long reaction times (3 d). ${ }^{74}$ It was reasoned that substitution of the acetyl group at the C 2 position with a more hydrolytically labile ester would increase the rate of hydrolysis. ${ }^{75}$ To test this hypothesis, ketone 2.7 was converted to propargyl trifluoroacetate 2.57c in 83\% yield. The Rh(II)-catalyzed formal 3,3-sigmatropic rearrangement of 2.57c to generate allenyl ester 2.56c was not successful, most likely due to the highly electron-withdrawing nature of the trifluoromethyl group rendering the ester carbonyl oxygen non-nucleophilic towards the $\mathrm{Rh}(\mathrm{II})$ alkyne complex 2.59 (Scheme 2.23). ${ }^{76}$ With these results in hand, an ester with electronic properties between those of an acetyl and a trifluoroacetyl group was selected. Thus, ketone 2.7 was converted to propargyl chloroacetate $\mathbf{2 . 5 7 b}$ in $91 \%$ yield. The Rh(II)-catalyzed formal 3,3sigmatropic rearrangement of $\mathbf{2 . 5 7 b}$ proceeded in good yield, affording allenyl chloroacetate $\mathbf{2 . 5 6 b}$ in $89 \%$ yield, comparable to that of propargyl acetate 2.56a. Rh(I)-catalyzed APKR of


Scheme 2.23. $\mathbf{R h}$ (II)-catalyzed formal 3,3-sigmatropic rearrangement of propargyl esters to allenyl carboxyesters 2.56.
2.56b afforded bicyclo[5.3.0]decadienone 2.58b in $86 \%$ yield. It should be noted that the APKR time for 2.56b was also extended, requiring $5 \mathrm{~mol} \% \mathrm{Rh}(\mathrm{cod})_{2} \mathrm{BF}_{4}$ to achieve comparable reaction times relative to that of $\mathbf{2 . 5 6}$. With a more hydrolytically reactive ester installed at the C 2 position, 2.58b was subjected to the $\mathrm{Sc}(\mathrm{OTf})_{3}$ mediated hydrolysis conditions. To our delight hydrolysis of 2.58b proceeded very rapidly with respect to the hydrolysis of 2.58a, achieving complete conversion to 2.53 in 1 h with $30 \mathrm{~mol} \% \mathrm{Sc}(\mathrm{OTf})_{3}$ loading. With conditions for the rapid hydrolysis of $\mathbf{2 . 5 8 b}$ in hand, we next sought to render the process catalytic in $\mathrm{Sc}(\mathrm{OTf})_{3}$. We found that we were able to decrease the $\mathrm{Sc}(\mathrm{OTf})_{3}$ loading to as low as $5 \mathrm{~mol} \%$, and still achieve complete hydrolysis in 3.5 h .

### 2.7.3 Base-induced isomerization of $\alpha$-hydroxy enone 2.53

With $\alpha$-hydroxy enone 2.53 in hand, efforts began to test the feasibility of the proposed isomerization of the C2-C5 $\alpha$-hydroxy enone motif to the $\alpha$-keto enol motif present in 2.54 (Scheme 2.24). Reaction of 2.53 with potassium tert-butoxide ( $\mathrm{KO}^{t} \mathrm{Bu}$ ) in THF at room temperature afforded $\alpha$-keto enol 2.54 in $99 \%$ yield after 5 min. To confirm the structure of $\mathbf{2 . 5 4}$, one- and two-dimensional NMR techniques were employed. Disappearance of the C2 proton of 2.53 at 4.43 ppm confirmed that the starting material was fully consumed. Appearance of a


Scheme 2.24. Base induced isomerization of $\alpha$-hydroxy enone 2.53 to $\alpha$-keto enol 2.54 and ${ }^{1} \mathbf{H}$ NMR structural confirmation.
resonance at $2.93(\mathrm{~d}, 11.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}) \mathrm{ppm}$ provided evidence of the bis-allylic C 5 proton of $\mathbf{2 . 5 4}$; the chemical shift, splitting pattern, and coupling constant of which is in accordance with similar structures. ${ }^{77}$ A deuterium exchange experiment confirmed the proton at 5.75 ppm in product $\mathbf{2 . 5 4}$ was exchangeable, lending support for the presence of a hydroxyl group in the compound. In addition to the NMR data, mass spectrometry confirmed the predicted mass of 2.54. This evidence was used to unambiguously confirm the successful conversion of $\mathbf{2 . 5 3}$ to $\mathbf{2 . 5 4}$.

With the initial success of the isomerization of 2.53 to $\mathbf{2 . 5 4}$, we next wanted to test the feasibility of performing a two-step one-pot deprotection/isomerization of carboxyesters 2.58a and 2.58b to $\alpha$-keto enol 2.54, thus eliminating the need for the independent $\mathrm{Sc}(\mathrm{OTf})_{3}$-catalyzed hydrolysis. Thus acetate 2.58a was dissolved in THF and $\mathrm{KO}^{t} \mathrm{Bu}$ (2.4 equiv of a 0.5 M solution in $\mathrm{HO}^{t} \mathrm{Bu}$ ) added (Scheme 2.25). Complete disappearance of starting material was observed by TLC after 10 min ; however, upon working with sat. aq. $\mathrm{NH}_{4} \mathrm{Cl}$, only starting material 2.58 a was recovered. We reasoned that the disappearance of the starting material was most like due to enolization of the $\alpha$-acetoxy enone, which was converted back to the starting material after workup.


Scheme 2.25. Two-step, one-pot deprotection/isomerization of $\alpha$-acyloxy enones 2.58a and 2.58b.

We next subjected the more reactive chloroacetate $\mathbf{2 . 5 8 b}$ to the same reaction conditions, and to our delight observed complete conversion to $\alpha$-keto enol 2.54 in 15 min . While this reaction was only performed on an exploratory scale, we observed spot to spot conversion on TLC, and the ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR of the crude residue was very clean with only trace amounts of tert-butanol. We were able to integrate the tert-butanol relative to 2.54 to determine that 2.54 was formed in approximately 97\% yield, though we did not purify this material. With these results in hand, we were able to show that a high-yielding, two-step, one-pot deprotection/isomerization process is indeed possible with 2.64b. We next shifted our focus to the deoxygenation of $\mathbf{2 . 5 4}$ at the C 3 position.

To this end, of $\alpha$-keto enol 2.54 was reacted with triflic anhydride (1.2 equiv) in the presence of triethylamine (1.3 equiv) in $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$. The reaction was complete in 30 min , and vinyl triflate 2.59 was isolated in $79 \%$ yield (Scheme 2.26 ). Triflate 2.59 was then reacted with tetrakis(triphenylphosphine)palladium(0) (0.5 equiv), lithium chloride (8.75 equiv), and triethylsilane (20 equiv) in degassed DMF. After 1 h , the reaction had gone to completion and enone 2.55 was isolated in $54 \%$ yield. Diagnostic ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR resonances were observed at 6.02 ppm (pent, $J=1.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}$ ) corresponding the C3 alkenyl proton, and $3.08 \mathrm{ppm}(\mathrm{d}, J=11.6 \mathrm{~Hz}$ ) corresponding to the bis-allylic C 5 proton. In addition, a ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ resonance at 197 ppm confirmed the presence of a carbonyl group, and resonances at 172, 151, 137, and 133 ppm confirmed the presence of four olefinic carbons. While we were able to show that C3 deoxygenation of $\mathbf{2 . 5 4}$ is possible, we did not optimize the reaction conditions in an effort to achieve a higher yield with lower tetrakis(triphenylphosphine)palladium(0) or triethylsilane loading.


Scheme 2.26. Two-step one-pot deprotection/isomerization of chloroacetate 2.58b and C3 deoxygenation of $\alpha$ keto enol 2.54.

With conditions for the rapid isomerization of both 2.53 and $\mathbf{2 . 5 8 b}$ to 2.54 , and subsequent C3 deoxygenation in hand, we wanted to further probe the scope and functional group compatibility of this reaction. We decided to first apply these conditions to a substrate with a more reactive functional group at the $\mathrm{C} 1-\mathrm{C} 10$ position.

Hao and coworkers have reported the isolation of the naturally occurring guaiane stelleraguaianone B (2.60); which has been shown to be cytotoxic against the A549 cell line with an $\mathrm{IC}_{50}$ of $8.52 \mu \mathrm{M}$ (Scheme 2.27A). ${ }^{78}$ We thus sought to leverage the C 2 hydroxyl group of $\mathbf{2 . 5 3}$ to effect a stereocontrolled, directed epoxidation at the C1-C10 position (Scheme 2.27B). If successful, the base- mediated isomerization of the resulting epoxide $\mathbf{2 . 6 1}$ would grant rapid access the $\alpha$-keto enol 2.62, a stelleraguaianone B analog. Literature precedent offers several methodologies in which a hydroxyl-directed epoxidation of an alkene can be performed. ${ }^{79,80}$ The most common method for cyclic allylic alcohols is the use of tert-butyl hydroperoxide (TBHP) in

B


Scheme 2.27. A) Biologically active guaiane stelleraguaianone B(2.60). B) Proposed route to stelleraguaianone $B$ analog 2.62.
the presence of catalytic vanadyl acetylacetonate $\left(\mathrm{VO}(\mathrm{acac})_{2}\right)$; however, in some cases metachloroperoxybenzoic acid ( $m$ CPBA) has been shown to effect hydroxyl-directed epoxidation of cyclic allylic alcohols. ${ }^{81}$ Because of the operational simplicity of $m$ CPBA epoxidation, we chose first apply this methodology.
$\alpha$-Hydroxy ketone 2.53 was dissolved in $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ and cooled to $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ (Scheme 2.28). To this solution was added $\mathrm{K}_{2} \mathrm{CO}_{3}$ (3 equiv) followed by m-chloroperoxybenzoic acid (mCPBA) (1.5 equiv). After reacting for 3 h TLC indicated complete consumption of starting material, and a solution of saturated aq. $\mathrm{Na}_{2} \mathrm{~S}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3}$ was added. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR of the crude reaction mixture revealed a relatively clean reaction profile; however, poor diastereoselectivity was achieved under these conditions. Two sets of resonances, one at 2.91 ppm corresponding to one of the C 6 diastereotopic allylic protons of the syn-epoxidation product, and one at 2.81 ppm corresponding to the same proton of the anti- epoxidation product were observed. With these encouraging results in hand, we moved to apply different epoxidation conditions in an effort to increase diastereoselectivity.


Scheme 2.28. mCPBA epoxidation of $\alpha$-hydroxy ketone 2.53.

Tert-butyl hydroperoxide (TBHP) in the presence of VO(acac) 2 has been commonly applied to the directed epoxidation of cyclic allylic alcohols. ${ }^{82}$ Having observed a mixture of diastereomers with the application of mCPBA, we turned to $\mathrm{VO}(\mathrm{acac})_{2}$ to effect the directed epoxidation. To a solution of 2.53 and $\mathrm{VO}(\mathrm{acac}) 2$ ( $1 \mathrm{~mol} \%$ ) in benzene was added tert-butyl
hydroperoxide at room temperature (Scheme 2.29). This was allowed to react for 30 min , at which point it was complete, as evidenced by TLC. The reaction was quenched with sat. aq. $\mathrm{Na}_{2} \mathrm{~S}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3}$ affording epoxide 2.61 in high yield without the need for further purification; however, in one experiment, an uncharacterized byproduct was formed upon addition of $\mathrm{Na}_{2} \mathrm{~S}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3}$. It is unclear how this byproduct was generated; however, $\mathrm{Na}_{2} \mathrm{~S}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3}$ has been shown to act as a nucleophile under


## Scheme 2.29. Diastereoselective epoxidation of C1-C10 double bond of 2.53.

certain conditions. ${ }^{83}$ Addition of $\mathrm{Na}_{2} \mathrm{~S}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3}$ was circumvented by concentration of the reaction mixture without workup, followed by purification via $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ column chromatography, again affording 2.61 in 94\% yield.

In addition to generating 2.69 in high yield, only a single diastereomer was formed as evidenced by ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ and ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR. Diagnostic ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR resonances appear at $3.88 \mathrm{ppm}(\mathrm{d}, \mathrm{J}=3.6$ Hz ) corresponding to the proton on $\mathrm{C} 2,1.48 \mathrm{ppm}(\mathrm{s})$ corresponding to the protons on the C 4 methyl group, and $1.82(\mathrm{~d}, J=0.8 \mathrm{~Hz}) \mathrm{ppm}$ corresponding to the protons on the C10 methyl group. In addition, ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR resonances at 204 ppm corresponding to the C 3 carbonyl carbon, 168 ppm and 141 ppm , corresponding to the C5 and C4 alkenyl carbons, respectively, and $71 \mathrm{ppm}, 68.3 \mathrm{ppm}$, and 67.9 ppm , corresponding to the $\mathrm{C} 1, \mathrm{C} 2, \mathrm{C} 10$ carbons, confirmed the presence of only one diastereomer. The downfield ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ resonance at168 ppm confirmed that the $\mathrm{C} 4-\mathrm{C} 5$ double bond had not undergone epoxidation. Based on literature precedent for the syn-selective epoxidation of
allylic alcohols under these conditions, we propose that the relative stereochemistry of $\mathbf{2 . 6 1}$ is syn. ${ }^{82}$ With a single diastereomer of 2.61 in hand, we could now test the isomerization conditions that were successful for the conversion of $\mathbf{2 . 5 3}$ to $\mathbf{2 . 5 4}$ on a substrate with a C1-C10 epoxide to probe the functional group tolerance of this reaction.

Epoxide 2.61 was dissolved in THF. To this was added a solution of $\mathrm{KO}^{t} \mathrm{Bu}$ in ${ }^{t} \mathrm{BuOH}$ (2 equiv, 0.5 M$)$. The mixture was stirred for 10 min at room temp during which period it turned dark yellow. Under these strongly basic conditions, only decomposition of 2.61 and no desired isomerization product $\mathbf{2 . 6 2}$ was detected via either TLC, which showed only baseline material, or ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR of the crude reaction mixture, which showed predominately aliphatic resonances, and nothing in the region of 3 ppm , which is where we expect $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{a}}$ to be (Table 2.8, entry 1 ).

With preliminary results in hand, we decided to alter the reaction cnditions in an effort to mitigate decomposition and generate isomerization product 2.62. The first variable we chose to alter was the solvent, as this type of isomerization has been performed in both THF as well as ${ }^{t} \mathrm{BuOH} .{ }^{71,72}$ Thus, 2.61 was dissolved in ${ }^{t} \mathrm{BuOH}$ and $\mathrm{KO}^{t} \mathrm{Bu}$ in ${ }^{t} \mathrm{BuOH}(2$ equiv, 0.5 M ) was added. The rate of consumption of $\mathbf{2 . 6 1}$ was markedly slower when performed in ${ }^{t} \mathrm{BuOH}$ as opposed to THF, however only decomposition was observed, as evidenced by TLC and ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR of the crude reaction mixture (Table 2.8, entry 2). Based upon the rapid rate of decomposition, we decided to run the reaction at a depressed temperature. Epoxide 2.61 was dissolved in THF and cooled to -78 ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. A solution of $\mathrm{KO}^{t} \mathrm{Bu}$ in ${ }^{t} \mathrm{BuOH}(2$ equiv, 0.5 M ) was added. The mixture was slowly warmed and $\mathbf{2 . 6 1}$ did not start being consumed to any appreciable extent until the temperature reached about $-10^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. Again, only decomposition of $\mathbf{2 . 6 1}$ was observed (Table 2.8, entry 3).

It became evident that the epoxide at the C1-C10 position was incompatible with the strongly basic conditions required to effect the isomerization. These results suggested that the
base-mediated isomerization conditions were incompatible with a reactive functional group at the C1-C10 position.

Table 2.7. Conditions for the attempted base-induced isomerization of epoxide $\mathbf{2 . 6 1 .}$


| Entry | Solvent | Temp $\left({ }^{\mathbf{0}} \mathbf{C}\right)$ | Time (min) | Result |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | THF | rt | 10 | decomposition |
| 2 | ${ }^{\text {B BuOH }}$ | rt | 30 | decomposition |
| 3 | THF | $-78-\mathrm{rt}$ | 60 | decomposition |

### 2.8 Conclusions for the Base-Induced Enone Isomerization

A rapid, high-yielding route to multiple allenyl carboxyesters was developed. It was found that the $\mathrm{Sc}(\mathrm{OTf})_{3}$-catalyzed hydrolysis to reveal the 2-hydroxy bicyclo[5.3.0]decadienone $\mathbf{2 . 5 3}$ could be accelerated via replacement of the acetoxy group with a chloroacetoxy group. In addition, catalyst loading was reduced from $30 \mathrm{~mol} \%$ to $5 \mathrm{~mol} \%$. The potassium tert-butoxide-mediated isomerization of 2-hydroxy bicyclo[5.3.0]decadienone 2.53 was a rapid, facile process affording the $\alpha$-keto enol 2.54 in quantitative yields. It was found that a two-step, one-pot protocol could be applied for the hydrolysis/isomerization of the 2-chloroacetoxy bicyclo[5.3.0]decadienone 2.58b, affording 2.54 in cleanly and in high yields. $\alpha$-Keto enol 2.54 was successfully deoxygenated to afford enone 2.55; validating this base-mediated isomerization process as a valid strategy to access the C2-C4 enone motif observed in many 6,12-guaianolide frameworks. When these base-
mediated isomerization conditions were applied to a substrate bearing an epoxide at the C1-C10 position, complete decomposition of the starting material was observed. This suggests that this method is not applicable to substrates with leaving groups at the allylic C1-C10 position. With these successful results in hand, we shifted our focus to the application of this methodology to a more complex system. We felt that it would be of interest to the synthetic community to take on a total synthesis project where we could showcase the base-mediated isomerization of a lactonecontaining allenic Pauson-Khand adduct towards the synthesis of a biologically active 6,12guaianolide.

### 3.0 Studies Towards the First Total Synthesis of (-)-Dehydroleucodine

### 3.1 Introduction

With a method to further functionalize the $\alpha$-hydroxy ketones afforded by the APKR, we sought to apply this methodology to the total synthesis of a naturally occurring 6,12-guaianolide. Few reports of the use of the APKR to generate the core 5,7-ring system of guaianolides exist. ${ }^{84-}$ ${ }^{87}$ We sought to leverage what we had learned about the functionalization of the APKR adduct to further expand the utility of the APKR, thus showcasing its application for the rapid synthesis of 6,12-guaianolides.
(+)-Dehydroleucodine (3.1) is a 6,12-guaianolide first isolated from Lidbeckia pectinata in 1972 by Bohlmann and Zdero (Scheme 3.1). ${ }^{88}$ It has been shown to be cytotoxic towards the human astrocytoma D384 cell line, eight different acute myeloid leukemia cell lines, and human glioblastoma cells. ${ }^{89-91}$ It is believed that (+)-dehydroleucodine (3.1) induces phosphorylation of tumor protein TP73, inducing apoptosis. ${ }^{89}$ In addition, (+)-dehydroleucodine (3.1) has been shown to inhibit adipogenesis; making it a compound of interest for the potential treatment of obesity. ${ }^{92}$ With an enone at the C2-C4 position and a double bond at the C1-C10 position, we reasoned that this biologically active 6,12-guaianolide would be an ideal candidate for a total synthesis study. It would give us the opportunity to develop the first enantioselective synthetic route to the 6,12guianolide framework within our group, as well as test the feasibility of applying the previously reported base-mediated enone isomerization to a system with a potentially reactive functionality at the C6 position.

Our desire was to develop a synthetic route to access both enantiomers of dehydroleucodine (3.1) in a selective manner. Our first retrosynthetic disconnections were methylenation at the C11 position of the lactone of 3.2, and deoxygenation at the C3 position of 3.2 (Scheme 3.1). Though previous group members have shown that the C11 methylene unit could be installed during the lactonization step via tandem allylboration/lactonization to afford a mixture of the trans- and cislactones, the methodology has yet to be rendered enantioselective, and with the strongly electrophilic nature of the exocyclic $\alpha, \beta$-unsaturated lactone, we were concerned that it would be incompatible with the conditions applied for the isomerization of 3.3 and deoxygenation of 3.2. We reasoned that 3.2 could be accessed via isomerization of $\alpha$-hydroxy ketone 3.3 , which could in turn be accessed via APKR of allenyl carboxyester 3.4, followed by deacetylation of the corresponding ester. With a direct route from allenyl carboxyester 3.4 to (+)-dehydroleucodine (3.1) in hand, we set out to devise a route to 3.4 in an enantio- and diastereoselective fashion.


Scheme 3.1. Retrosynthetic analysis of (+)-dehydroleucodine (3.1), employing an APKR as the key ring forming step, followed by isomerization.

Installation of the allenyl carboxyester of 3.4, we reasoned, could be performed via 1,2addition of an ethynyl unit to ketone 3.5, followed by acetylation of the resulting propargyl alcohol, then Lewis acid-mediated formal 3,3-sigmatropic rearrangement of the corresponding propargyl carboxyester, as our group has previously shown (Scheme 3.2). ${ }^{93}$ Ketone 3.5 could in turn be


Scheme 3.2. Proposed access to allenyl carboxyester $\mathbf{4}$ from $\boldsymbol{\beta}$-formyl ester 3.6.
generated via 1,2-addition of a propynyl unit to $\beta$-formyl ester 3.6, followed by lactonization of resulting propargyl alcohol. This key step must be performed in a diastereoselective manner to afford the trans-lactone. Reissig has reported the diastereoselective addition of Grignard reagents and organocuprates to $\beta$-formyl esters, affording the trans-lactones in good to excellent diastereomeric ratios. ${ }^{94}$ Another criterion for this key step is the chemoselectivity of the 1,2addition. We would expect that 1,2-addition could occur carbonyl carbon of the ketone, ester, or aldehyde. While we would expect the ester to be substantially less electrophilic than either the ketone or the aldehyde, we needed a reagent that selectively adds to aldehydes in the presence of ketones in a 1,2-fashion. Reetz has shown that both organolithium and Grignard reagents, when transmetalated with $\mathrm{TiCl}_{4}$, add to aldehydes in the presence of ketones with complete chemoselectivity. ${ }^{95}$ Later, Reissig showed that they were able to achieve diastereoselective addition of organotitanium reagents to $\beta$-formyl esters, affording trans-lactones. ${ }^{96}$ We reasoned that we could use an organotitanium nucleophile to achieve both chemo- and diastereoselective 1,2-addtion to the aldehyde, affording trans-lactone 3.5, while leaving the ketone intact. Using this chemoselective methodology would also circumvent the need mask the ketone with a protecting group. With a feasible route allenyl carboxyester 3.4 in hand, we shifted our analysis to synthesis of $\beta$-formyl ester 3.6 in an enantioselective fashion.


Scheme 3.3. Potential retrosynthetic approaches for the enantioselective construction of $\boldsymbol{\beta}$-formyl ester 3.6.

Retrosynthetically, we devised three feasible routes to $\beta$-formyl ester 3.6 in an enantioselective fashion (Scheme 3.3). The first proposed route involved the oxidative cleavage of cyclohexene 3.7. Nino and Maiuolo have reported the use of a chiral imidazolidinone catalyst supported on an ionic liquid in water as an efficient way to access 3.7 via the enantioselective Diels-Alder reaction of isoprene (3.8) and acrolein (3.9) in 97\% yield and 91\% ee (Scheme 3.4). ${ }^{97}$ Oxidative cleavage of 3.7 would afford aldehyde 3.14 , which would then need to be selectively oxidized to generate $\beta$-formyl ester 3.6. To ensure regioselective oxidation at the C 3 position,


Scheme 3.4. Proposed Diels-Alder approach to $\boldsymbol{\beta}$-formyl ester 3.6.

Diels-Alder adduct 3.7 would most likely need to be protected as acetal 3.15 , followed by oxidative cleavage, oxidation, then deprotection. Benefits of this route include the low cost, commercial availability of the starting materials, and either enantiomer of 3.6 could theoretically be accessed. The acetal protection/deprotection step, however, not only impacts step and atom economy, but the mildly acidic conditions required for the acetal protection and deprotection could cause epimerization of the C 1 stereocenter. While feasible, alternative routes to $\beta$-formyl ester $\mathbf{3 . 6}$ that would not require a protection/deprotection sequence were examined.

The second route to $\beta$-formyl ester 3.6 that was considered was the enantioselective 1,4addition of aldehyde $\mathbf{3 . 1 1}$ to methyl vinyl ketone $\mathbf{3 . 1 0}$ (Scheme 3.3). Gellman and coworkers have reported the use of diphenylprolinol methyl ether $\mathbf{3 . 2 0}$ and chiral imidazolidinone $\mathbf{3 . 2 2}$ as effective organocatalysts for the enantioselective 1,4-conjugate additions of simple aldehydes to enones


Scheme 3.5. A) Diphenylprolinol methyl ester-catylized 1,4-conjugate additions of aldehydes to enones. B) Imidazolidinone-catalyzed 1,4-conjugate addition of aldehydes to enones.
(Scheme 3.5). ${ }^{98,99}$ This methodology benefits from low catalyst loadings, cheap and commercially available starting materials, good yields, and high enantiomeric excesses. While this method offers the most direct route to $\beta$-formyl ester 3.6, the reported substrate scope is fairly limited, with no reports of this methodology being applied to aldehydes or enones that possess additional heteroatoms. While not disqualifying, we nonetheless chose to examine the feasibility of the third proposed route; oxidative cleavage of $\gamma, \delta$-unsaturated ester 3.12 (Scheme 3.3).

While not as step-economical as the direct enantioselective conjugate addition of aldehyde 3.11 to methyl vinyl ketone 3.10, the oxidative cleavage of $\gamma, \delta$-unsaturated ester $\mathbf{3 . 1 2}$ offered an alternative way to set the stereochemistry at the C1 position. Both the enantioselective Diels-Alder reaction and the enantioselective 1,4-addition rely on a chiral catalyst to set the stereochemistry of the aldehyde at the C 1 position. In the case of $\gamma, \delta$-unsaturated ester 3.12, we propose the stereochemistry can be set in a previous step, then retained in a 3,3-sigmatropic rearrangement; in this case a Johnson-Claisen rearrangement of allylic alcohol 3.25 to install the desired methyl ester (Scheme 3.6). Unlike the enantioselective 1,4-addition of aldehyde 3.11 to methyl vinyl ketone 10, there is literature precedent for the preparation of allylic alcohol 3.25 in an enantioselective fashion. Zezchwitz and coworkers have reported a $\mathrm{Rh}(\mathrm{I})$-catalyzed enantioselective 1,2-addition


Scheme 3.6. Proposed route to $\gamma, \delta$-unsaturated ester 3.12 via chiral cyclopentenol 3.25.
of $\mathrm{AlMe}_{3}$ to cyclic enones to afford the corresponding allylic alcohols (Scheme 3.6). ${ }^{100}$ While yields were typically good for 6- and 7-membered rings (72-90\%), the yields for the analogous 5membered rings were relatively low (37-58\%); however, the enantiomeric excess for all examples was very high (95-99\% ee).

An alternative route to access allylic alcohol 3.25 is the ring-closing metathesis of (S)linalool (3.24). Harvey and coworkers have shown the quantitative, solvent-free conversion of ( $\pm$ )linalool to ( $\pm$ )-3.25 in the presence of $0.1 \mathrm{~mol} \%$ Hoveyda-Grubb’s $2^{\text {nd }}$ generation catalyst (HGII). ${ }^{101}$ Though Harvey did not report the results of the reaction performed on an enantioenriched substrate, Minnaard and coworkers have performed ring-closing metatheses on similar substrates using H-GII to generate enantioenriched 3.25, and reported complete retention of stereochemistry under the reaction conditions. ${ }^{102}$ We thus predict that the stereochemistry of (S)-linalool (3.24) should be retained during the metathesis. Due to the high yield, stereoretention of the staring material, low catalyst loading, and solvent-free reaction conditions, we opted to pursue ringclosing metathesis of (S)-linalool (3.24) followed by Johnson-Claisen rearrangement to afford $\gamma, \delta$ unsaturated ester 3.12, then oxidative cleavage to afford $\beta$-formyl ester 3.6 (Scheme 3.7).


Scheme 3.7. Retrosynthetic analysis of $\boldsymbol{\beta}$-formyl ester 3.6.

With a feasible route to (+)-dehydroleucodine (3.1) in hand, we set out to begin our studies towards its total synthesis. To our surprise, (S)-linalool (3.24) was not commercially available;
however, $(R)$-linalool (3.34) ( $90 \%$ ee) is commercially available at a cost of $\$ 0.11$ per gram. While it is recognized that only the $(R)$ - enantiomer of linalool is cheap and commercially available, the (S)- enantiomer has been accessed via Sharpless asymmetric epoxidation of geraniol (3.26), followed by mesylation of the terminal hydroxyl group (Scheme 3.8). ${ }^{103,104}$ Reductive elimination of epoxy mesylate 3.28 with lithium naphthalenide affords (S)-linalool (2.24) in good yield, with retention of stereochemistry. ${ }^{105}$ Though this short synthetic route to (S)-linalool (2.24) has been reported, we reasoned that it would be of interest to develop a synthetic route to the unnatural (-)dehydroleucodine, as there is little available information on the biological activity of the unnatural enantiomers of guaianolides. Thus, we commenced our synthetic studies towards (-)dehydroleucodine, starting with (R)-linalool (3.34).


Scheme 3.8. Reported synthetic route to ( $S$ )-linalool (3.24).

### 3.2 Ring Closing Metathesis and Claisen Rearrangement of ( $R$ )-linalool

As mentioned above, Harvey and coworkers were able to convert ( $\pm$ )-linalool (3.29) to the corresponding allylic cyclopentenol 3.30 via H -GII under solvent-free conditions at ambient temperature (Scheme 3.9). They then purified the product via vacuum distillation at room temperature, confirming the highly volatile nature of cyclopentenol 3.30. The authors also report the dehydration of cyclopentenol $\mathbf{3 . 3 0}$ to a mixture of cyclopentadienes $\mathbf{3 . 3 1}$ and 3.32, ether 3.33, as well as cyclopentadiene dimers, at elevated
temperatures, in the presence of H-GII. The authors noted that oxidation of the H-GII catalyst by bubbling air through the reaction mixture mitigated the dehydration pathway completely. We proposed moving forward bu leveraging Harvey's conditions to effect the ring-closing metathesis, then rendering the catalyst inactive via oxidation. Application of the JohnsonClaisen rearrangement conditions would afford the desired $\gamma, \delta$-unsaturated methyl ester 3.36 directly in a two-step-one-pot process.


Scheme 3.9. Reported RCM of ( $\pm$ )-linalool (3.29), and dehydration of cyclopentenol 3.30 in the presence of $\mathbf{H -}$ GII at elevated temperature.

Thus, Hoveyda-Grubb’s $2^{\text {nd }}$ generation catalyst (H-GII, 0.001 equiv) was added to a flask equipped with a nitrogen inlet adapter and a second outlet adapter attached to an oil bubbler. To the flask was added neat ( $R$ )-linalool (3.34) at room temperature (Scheme 3.10). After approximately 10 min , the green solution began violently bubbling due to the release of isobutylene gas. The bubbling diminished over the course of 1 h , at which point complete consumption of starting material was observed by TLC. A needle attached to an airline was inserted into the reaction vessel, and air bubbled through the solution for 45 min . During this time the color of the solution changed from green to dark brown, indicating oxidation of the $\mathrm{H}-\mathrm{GII}$ catalyst, as reported by Harvey. A small aliquot of the reaction mixture was taken at this point, and ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR was employed to confirm that ( $R$ )-linaool (3.34) had been fully converted to cyclopentenol 3.35. The needle attached to the airline was removed and trimethyl orthoacetate (3


Scheme 3.10. Attempted two-step-one-pot RCM/Johnson-Claisen rearrangement of ( R )-linalool (3.34).
equiv) was added followed by propionic acid ( 0.1 equiv). The solution was lowered into a preheated oil bath set to $130{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and cyclopentenol 3.35 was fully consumed within $30 \mathrm{~min} .{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR of the crude reaction mixture revealed complete dehydration of cyclopentenol 3.35, affording a mixture of methyl cyclopentadiene isomers and dimers, as evidenced by multiple olefinic resonances in the 6-5 ppm region (Table 3.1 entry 1 ). We reasoned that the acidic conditions required for the Johnson-Claisen rearrangement were causing dehydration of cyclopentenol 3.35. Because of this, we decided to try the Johnson-Claisen with no acid catalyst. The RCM procedure was repeated, as reported above, and trimethyl orthoacetate (3 equiv) added to the crude reaction mixture. The mixture was heated to $140{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 2 h , during which time no consumption of cyclopentenol 3.35 was observed by TLC (Table 3.1 entry 2). Thus, the mixture was transferred to a microwave vial and heated to $140^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 30 min in a microwave reactor, as described by others. ${ }^{106}$ However, no reaction was observed. It was clear that we would need an acid catalyst, but due to the lability of the tertiary hydroxyl group of cyclopentenol 3.35, we reasoned that we would have to use a weak acid. We turned to the literature to seek conditions for which a Johnson-Claisen rearrangement was performed on an acid-sensitive, tertiary allylic cyclic alcohol.

Table 3.1. Conditions to effect RCM and Johnson-Claisen rearrangement fo (R)-linalool (3.34).


| Entry | Additive (equiv) | Temp $\left({ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$ | Result |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | Propionic acid | $140^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ | Dehydration |
| 2 | None | $140^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ | No reaction |
| 3 | Hünig's base, $4 \AA \AA$ mol. sieves | $180^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ | No reaction |
| 4 | Hydroquinone | $160^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ | No desired product |

Brimble and Zhu have both used phenol to catalyze a Johnson-Claisen rearrangement in the synthetic studies towards oleocanthal, and total synthesis of (+)-peganumine A, respectively. ${ }^{107,108}$ Iwata and Bach reported the use of hydroquinone as a suitable, weak Brønsted acid for the Johnson-Claisen rearrangement used in their total syntheses of ( $\pm$ )descarboxyquadrone and meloscine, respectively. ${ }^{109,110}$ In addition to the use of phenol and phenol derivatives, Tokuyama and coworkers reported the use of $4 \AA$ molecular sieves in Hünig's base as a basic set of conditions to effect the Johnson-Claisen in their total synthesis of (-)isoschizogamine. ${ }^{111}$ With multiple sets of conditions in hand, we set out to apply a some of these catalysts to our system. The $\mathrm{p} K_{\mathrm{a}}$ of phenol is 9.98 while the $\mathrm{p} K_{\mathrm{a}}$ of hydroquinone is $9.96 .{ }^{112}$ Due to the marginal pKa difference between the two acids, we reasoned that if the reaction failed in the presence of hydroquinone it would be unlikely to succeed in the presence of phenol. Thus, we chose to screen only hydroquinone as a potential phenolic acid catalyst. H-GII (0.001 equiv) was added to ( $R$ )-linalool (3.34) and the mixture reacted at room temperature for 1 h . Upon complete consumption of starting material, as evidenced by TLC, air was bubbled through the reaction mixture for 1 h . Trimethyl orthoacetate (12 equiv) and benzoquinone (white crystals, 1 equiv) were
added and the mixture placed in a microwave reactor at $130^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 1 h . No reaction occurred during this period, as evidenced by TLC, so the mixture was resubjected to the microwave at $130^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 4 h . Again, no appreciable reaction had occurred. The temperature was increased to $160^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, and the mixture reacted at this temperature for 4 h . No appreciable reaction had taken place based on TLC (Table 3.1 entry 4). It seemed unlikely that phenolic acid catalysts would be sufficient to catalyze the Johnson-Claisen rearrangement on our system, though we saw no dehydration of 3.35 under these conditions. With these results in hand, we set out to test the effect of $4 \AA$ molecular sieves in Hünig's base on the Johnson-Claisen rearrangement.

After the standard RCM procedure was applied to (R)-linalool (3.34), Hünig's base (3 equiv) was added followed by $4 \AA$ molecular sieves ( $\sim 1: 1 \mathrm{wt} / \mathrm{wt}$ of ( $R$ )-linalool). The mixture was reacted in the microwave reactor at $140^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 1 h , during which period no reaction had occurred, as evidenced by TLC. The temperature was increased to $180^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 1 h , with no effect (Table 3.1 entry 3). With limited success for the two-step-one pot conversion of ( $R$ )-linalool (3.34) to $\gamma, \delta$ unsaturated ester $\mathbf{3 . 3 6}$ via RCM followed by Johnson-Claisen, we decided to pursue an alternative route. While we still wanted to use this sequence of reactions to set the stereochemistry at the C1 position of 3.36, it was apparent that the Johnson-Claisen rearrangement was incompatible with our system. We thus turned to the Eschenmoser-Claisen rearrangement, which requires no acid additives and affords $\gamma, \delta$-unsaturated amides. ${ }^{113,114}$

Thus H-GII (0.001 equiv) was added to (R)-linalool (3.34) (Scheme 3.11). The green mixture was reacted at room temperature for 1 h at which point complete consumption of starting material was evidenced by TLC. Air was bubbled through the reaction mixture for 1 h , followed by addition of toluene ( 0.2 M ) then dimethylacetamide dimethyl acetal (3 equiv). The mixture was refluxed for 24 h , at which point complete consumption of allylic alcohol 3.35 was observed by

TLC. The mixture was concentrated and purified via $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ flash column chromatograph, affording the desired $\gamma, \delta$-unsaturated amide 3.37 in $75 \%$ yield over two steps. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR and ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR were utilized to confirm the structure of 3.37.


Scheme 3.11. Successful RCM/Eschenmoser-Claisen rearrangement of (R)-linalool (3.34) to generate $\gamma, \boldsymbol{\delta}$ unsaturated amide 3.37.

A ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ resonance at $5.31-5.27 \mathrm{ppm}(\mathrm{m}, 1 \mathrm{H})$ corresponding to alkenyl proton $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{a}}$ provided evidence for a trisubstituted alkene. Two methyl singlets at 2.99 and 2.94 ppm corresponded to the methyl groups of the amide, and a third, broadened methyl resonance at 1.70 ppm corresponded to the protons on the C3 methyl group. The broadening of this signal most likely suggested allylic coupling to $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{a}}$, however the splitting pattern was not well defined, and a coupling constant could not be discerned. ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR revealed a resonance at 172.7 , corresponding to the amide carbonyl carbon, and two alkenyl carbons at 141.1 and 128.4 ppm , corresponding to C 2 and C 3 , respectively. It was later found that the RCM proceeds in toluene in comparable yields to when performed neat, though the reaction time had to be extended to 3 h . By running the initial RCM in toluene, the process was converted to a true two-step-one-pot procedure which did not require the transfer of cyclopentenol 3.35 to a larger reaction vessel before application of the EschenmoserClaisen conditions. With $\gamma, \delta$-unsaturated amide 3.37 in hand, our next goal was to convert the dimethyl amide moiety to an ester.

### 3.3 Conversion of $\boldsymbol{\gamma}, \boldsymbol{\delta}$-unsaturated Amide to $\boldsymbol{\gamma}, \boldsymbol{\delta}$-unsaturated Ester

Tertiary amides can be exceedingly difficult to convert to the corresponding esters, often requiring strongly acidic or basic reaction conditions and elevated temperatures. ${ }^{115} \mathrm{We}$ wanted to avoid the harsh reaction conditions required for standard alcoholysis, so we turned to the literature for guidance. McClure and coworkers have shown the use of trimethyl- and triethyloxonium tetrafluoroborates in acidic solution for the conversion of tertiary amides to the corresponding esters. ${ }^{116}$ The authors report the operative mechanism involving the formation of an imidate ester,


Scheme 3.12. $\mathrm{Tf}_{2} \mathrm{O}$-mediated esterification of amide 3.37 via imidate 3.38 .
similar to 3.38 (Scheme 3.12). A milder set of conditions was reported by Charette and coworkers, where imidate intermediates, similar to 3.38, are generated via reaction of triflic anhydride with the amide. ${ }^{117}$ Addition of alcohol, followed by acidic workup afforded the esters in good to excellent yields. We decided to apply these conditions to amide 3.37 . Thus, amide 3.37 was dissolved in $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ and pyridine (3 equiv) added. The mixture was cooled to $-40^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and $\mathrm{Tf}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ added dropwise over the course of a few mins. The mixture was reacted at $-40^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 1 h , then slowly warmed to $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ over the course of 2 h . The mixture was reacted at this temperature for 1 h , at which point EtOH (30 equiv) was added. The mixture was warmed to room temperature and reacted for 16 h . It was then diluted with $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ and 1 N aq. HCl added (approximately equal volume to solvent). Upon extractive workup and purification via $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ flash column chromatography, ethyl
ester 3.39 was obtained in $65 \%$ yield. While not reported by Charette, it was found that after addition of 1 N aq. HCl , the reaction must be allowed to stir for at least 1 h for optimal conversion. Doing this led to ethyl ester 3.39 being formed in $88 \%$ yield. While the authors reported the conversion of amides to the corresponding ethyl esters, we found that replacement of EtOH with MeOH afforded methyl ester $\mathbf{3 . 3 6}$ in comparable yields. With successful access to ester $\mathbf{3 . 3 6}$ in an enantioselective fashion, we were poised to execute the next step towards the total synthesis of (-)-dehydroleucodine; oxidative cleavage of the C2-C3 double bond (Scheme 3.13).

### 3.4 Oxidative Cleavage

### 3.4.1 Ozonolysis



Scheme 3.13. Proposed oxidative cleavage of $\boldsymbol{\gamma}, \boldsymbol{\delta}$-unsaturated ester $\mathbf{3 . 3 6}$.

When searching the literature for suitable methods for the oxidative cleavage of 3.36, there were myriad conditions that seemed appropriate to generate 3.40. ${ }^{118}$ Ozonolysis conditions looked especially appealing, as they are mild, rapid, generate few byproducts, and do not use toxic metals. The first substrate we applied ozonolysis conditions to was ethyl ester 3.39. Thus, $\gamma, \delta$-unsaturated ester 3.39 was dissolved in $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ and the solution cooled to $-78{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. A stream of $\mathrm{O}_{3} / \mathrm{O}_{2}$ was bubbled through the solution until a blue color was observed ( $\sim 15 \mathrm{~min}$ ) (Scheme 3.14). At this point, $\mathrm{Me}_{2} \mathrm{~S}$ was added and the mixture reacted while warming to room temperature for 24 h . We
could visualize the disappearance of starting material 3.39 by TLC ( $\mathrm{KMnO}_{4}$ stain); however, we were unable to visualize any other component of the reaction mixture, regardless of the stain used. $\mathrm{KMnO}_{4}$, p-anisaldehyde, ceric molybdate, and even 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazone all failed at visualizing any reaction component. The crude reaction mixture was concentrated via rotary evaporation and the residue subjected to ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR and ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR analysis. $\mathrm{A}^{1} \mathrm{H}$ signal at 5.71 and 5.67 ppm suggested the presence of an alkene, though this was not likely given the reaction conditions and the fact that this compound did not stain on TLC. In addition, the integral


Scheme 3.14. Ozonolysis of $\gamma, \delta$-unsaturated ester 3.39 in $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ mith $\mathrm{Me}_{2} \mathrm{~S}$ as the terminal reductant.
values of these resonances seemed to suggest a single compound was present as two diastereomers. Indeed, every major resonance was associated with a corresponding minor resonance. Using the integral values of the signal at 5.71 and 5.67 , the diastereomeric ratio was determined to be 71:29, respectively. In addition to this resonance, triplets corresponding to each diastereomer were observed at 1.30-1.23 ppm, and quartets at 4.18-4.10 ppm, providing strong evidence for the presence of an ethyl ester. Singlets at 1.53 and 1.51 ppm corresponded to the methyl group of each diastereomer. Groups of signals at 2.61-2.54 ppm integrating for $1 \mathrm{H}, 2.45-2.35 \mathrm{ppm}$ integrating for 2 H , and 2.31-2.19 ppm integrating for 1 H , suggested the presence of relatively deshielded protons, though no coupling constants could be ascertained from these groups. ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ signals at 172.1 and 171.8 confirmed the presence of an ester carbonyl carbon for each diastereomer. Interestingly, resonances at 108.1 and 104.5 ppm, corresponding to the major diastereomer, and 107.7 and 104.4
ppm, corresponding to the minor diastereomer, were observed. Based on the reaction mechanism of ozonolysis and these diagnostic resonances, we determined that the compound isolated was secondary ozonide $\mathbf{3 . 4 1}$ (Scheme 3.14). We reasoned that the isolation of secondary ozonide $\mathbf{3 . 4 1}$ was a result of incomplete reduction of this species with the terminal reductant, in this case, $\mathrm{Me}_{2} \mathrm{~S}$. A common solution to this problem is the use of MeOH as a cosolvent, which is reported to act as a nucleophile towards carbonyl $O$-oxide intermediate 3.44, affording hydroperoxyl acetal 3.46 (Scheme 3.15). ${ }^{119}$ This is then reduced to the carbonyl compound 3.47 via terminal reductant.


Scheme 3.15. Mechanism of ozonolysis, leading to isolated secondary ozonide 3.45.

With this information in hand, we repeated the above reaction, this time on methyl ester 3.36 using a 4:1 $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} / \mathrm{MeOH}$ solvent system (Scheme 3.16). The products of this reaction were unable to be visualized by TLC; however, upon concentration of the reaction mixture and ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR of the crude residue, we noticed the presence of two distinct products. A ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ resonance at 9.67 ppm (d, $J$ $=0.8 \mathrm{~Hz}$ ) corresponding to $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{a}}$ provided evidence for the presence of aldehyde $\mathbf{3 . 4 0}$; however, the signal was a part of the minor reaction component based on the integral value. Another key diagnostic resonance was observed at $4.16 \mathrm{ppm}(\mathrm{d}, J=5.2 \mathrm{~Hz}$ ), and corresponded a single proton
of the major reaction component. Two methyl singlets at $3.65 \mathrm{ppm}(3 \mathrm{H})$ and $2.12 \mathrm{ppm}(3 \mathrm{H})$ provided evidence for the presence of a methyl ester and a methyl ketone on the major reaction component. Similarly, methyl singlets at $3.67 \mathrm{ppm}(1 \mathrm{H})$ and $2.13 \mathrm{ppm}(1 \mathrm{H})$ confirmed the presence of a methyl ester and methyl ketone on aldehyde 3.40. A diagnostic methyl singlet at 3.33 $(3 \mathrm{H}) \mathrm{ppm}$ suggested the presence of a methyl ether on the major reaction component. Based upon this methyl singlet, as well as the downfield doublet at 4.16 ppm , we reasoned that the major reaction component was most likely hemiacetal3.48, where the signal at 4.16 ppm corresponded



Scheme 3.16. Ozonolysis of $\gamma, \delta$-unsaturated ester 3.36 in $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} / \mathrm{MeOH}$ with $\mathrm{Me}_{2} \mathrm{~S}$ as the terminal reductant.
to $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{b}}$. In addition to these data, a large singlet at $2.61 \mathrm{ppm}(8 \mathrm{H})$ corresponding to a dimethyl sulfoxide impurity suggested that the dimethyl sulfide had indeed been oxidized. For this reason, we propose a hydroperoxy acetal intermediate similar to 3.48 was formed, then reduced via action of dimethyl sulfide (Scheme 3.15). This result led us to the conclusion that dimethyl sulfide was not the optimal reducing agent for use on our system.

We again turned to the literature for alternative reducing agents that could be used for the oxidative cleavage of $\beta$-formyl ester 3.36. In the meantime, with the $1: 3$ mixture of $\mathbf{3 . 4 0 / 3 . 4 8}$ in hand, we wanted to determine the enantiomeric ratio of $\beta$-formyl ester $\mathbf{3 . 4 0}$ to ensure that no epimerization of the C1 stereocenter had occurred during the oxidative cleavage. We were concerned with the configurational stability of the C 1 aldehyde under acidic conditions and for this reason were reluctant to subject the mixture to silica-based chiral resolution. We searched for
alternative methods to determine the enantiomeric ratio of $\alpha$-chiral aldehydes and came across a methodology developed by Gellman and coworkers. ${ }^{120}$ By reacting $\beta$-formyl ester 3.40 with the commercially available chiral amine (S)-1-methoxypropan-2-amine 3.49 in $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ in an NMR tube, ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR can be used to ascertain the diastereomeric ratio of the resulting imine $\mathbf{3 . 5 0}$ based on the relative integral values of $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{a}}$ for each imine diastereomer (Figure 3.1). The diastereomeric ratio of imine $\mathbf{3 . 5 0}$ is equivalent to the enantiomeric ratio of $\beta$-formyl ester 3.40. Using this protocol, the enantiomeric ratio of $\beta$-formyl ester 3.40 was determined to be $32: 68$. This was


Figure 3.1. Determination of 3.40 enantiomeric ratio by reaction of chiral amine 3.49 , and ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR integration of imine 3.50 proton $H^{\text {a }}$.
concerning, as the enantiomeric ratio of commercially available ( $R$ )-linalool (3.34) was reported to be $\geq 95: 5$, suggesting that epimerization had occurred at some point. As stated above, literature precedent indicates the RCM of tertiary alcohols similar to $(R)$-linalool (3.34) can be performed with complete retention of stereochemistry, and it is known that Claisen rearrangements result in complete retention of stereochemistry. Thus, we reasoned that epimerization had to be occurring either during or after the oxidative cleavage. To determine whether erosion of enantiopurity was occurring under the oxidative cleavage reaction conditions or simply upon standing, we subjected another sample of the $1: 3$ mixture of $\mathbf{3 . 4 0} / \mathbf{3}$.48 that had been in the freezer for 3 days to the ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR procedure described above, and found the same 32:68 dr. Thus, we concluded that epimerization was occurring during ozonolysis. With this information in hand, we set out to find another reducing agent that would be more effective than dimethyl sulfide.

The terminal reductant most commonly employed, other than dimethyl sulfide, is triphenyl phosphine. ${ }^{118}$ We decided to repeat the ozonolysis experiment described above, but replace dimethyl sulfide with triphenyl phosphine (Scheme 3.17). Upon workup and purification, $\beta$-formyl ester $\mathbf{3 . 4 0}$ was isolated in $81 \%$ yield with a 32:68 dr. We saw no evidence of the formation of any


Scheme 3.17. Ozonolysis of $\gamma, \delta$-unsaturated ester 3.36 in $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} / \mathrm{MeOH}$ with $\mathrm{Me}_{2} \mathrm{~S}$ as the terminal reductant.
ozonide, acetal, or hemiacetal products via TLC or ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR of the crude reaction mixture, suggesting that triphenyl phosphine was a suitable reducing agent for the complete conversion of $\gamma, \delta$-unsaturated ester $\mathbf{3 . 3 6}$ to $\beta$-formyl ester $\mathbf{3 . 4 0}$ via ozonolysis. It was evident that epimerization
was occurring under the ozonolysis reaction conditions. We thus explored alternative methods for the oxidative cleavage of $\mathbf{3 . 3 6}$ that would not result in the epimerization of the $\alpha$-stereocenter.

### 3.4.2 OsO4-Catalyzed oxidative cleavage

Nicolaou and coworkers reported the use catalytic $\mathrm{OsO}_{4}$ in the presence of N -morpholine-$N$-oxide (NMO) and 2,6-lutidine in 10:1 acetone/water as an effective protocol for the oxidation of alkenes, followed by oxidative cleavage with $\mathrm{PhI}(\mathrm{OAc}) 2 .{ }^{121}$ We decided to apply these conditions to $\gamma, \delta$-unsaturated ester $\mathbf{3 . 3 6}$ due to the high yields, mild reaction conditions, and broad substrate scope reported by Nicolaou. Thus, $\gamma, \delta$-unsaturated ester 3.36 was dissolved in acetone/water (10:1) (Figure 3.2). To this solution was sequentially added 2,6-lutidine (2 equiv), NMO (1.5 equiv), and $\mathrm{OsO}_{4}$ (0.03 equiv). The solution was stirred at room temperature for 16 h during which period the color changed from dark yellow/brown to light yellow. Once the starting material was fully consumed, as evidenced by $\mathrm{TLC}, \mathrm{PhI}(\mathrm{OAc})_{2}$ (1.5 equiv) was added and the solution stirred for 2 h . After complete conversion, as evidenced by TLC, saturated aq. $\mathrm{Na}_{2} \mathrm{~S}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3}$ was added and the mixture transferred to a separatory funnel. The organic layer was extracted with saturated aq. $\mathrm{CuSO}_{4}$ to remove the 2,6-lutidine. After concentration of the organic layer and purification of the resulting crude residue, $\beta$-formyl ester 3.40 was obtained in $89 \%$ yield. The enantiomeric ratio of $\beta$-formyl ester $\mathbf{3 . 4 0}$ was determined to be $91: 9$; significantly higher than when performing the oxidative cleavage via ozonolysis, and very close to the reported enantiomeric ratio (R)-linool (3.34) (95:5), though we did not verify the actual enantiomeric ratio of the commercially-supplied starting material via chiral HPLC or optical rotation.


Figure 3.2. $\mathrm{OsO}_{4}$ and $\mathrm{PhI}(\mathrm{OAc})_{2}$-mediated oxidative cleavage of ester 3.36 with retention of C 1 stereochemistry.

With the successful oxidative cleavage of $\gamma, \delta$-unsaturated ester $\mathbf{3 . 3 6}$ affording $\beta$-formyl ester 3.40 in high yields and complete retention of stereochemistry, we wanted to effect an analogous oxidative cleavage on $\gamma, \delta$-unsaturated amide 3.37 (Scheme 3.18). We reasoned that the resulting $\beta$-formyl amide 3.52 would be a valuable substrate going forward into the diastereoselective 1,2-addition/lactonization step to generate lactone 3.51. In addition, it would provide a shorter route to lactone 3.51 in that we would not need to convert $\gamma, \delta$-unsaturated amide 3.37 to $\gamma, \delta$-unsaturated ester $\mathbf{3 . 3 6}$. We wanted to first reexamine the ozonolysis conditions originally applied to $\gamma, \delta$-unsaturated ester $\mathbf{3 . 3 6}$ due to the operational simplicity and clean reaction profile of this procedure. Because dimethyl sulfide had proven to be an ineffective reducing agent for the ozonolysis of $\gamma, \delta$-unsaturated ester 3.36 to $\beta$-formyl ester $\mathbf{3 . 4 0}$, we decided to adopt our


Scheme 3.18. Oxidative cleavage of $\gamma, \delta$-unsaturated ester 3.36 and $\gamma, \delta$-unsaturated amide 3.37 , and use of the resuling $\boldsymbol{\beta}$-formyl ester 3.40 and $\boldsymbol{\beta}$-formyl amide 3.52 to generate lactone 3.51 .
successful ozonolysis conditions, employing triphenyl phosphine as the terminal reductant. Thus, $\gamma, \delta$-unsaturated amide 3.37 was dissolved in $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ and the solution cooled to $-78{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ (Scheme 3.19). A stream of $\mathrm{O}_{3} / \mathrm{O}_{2}$ was bubbled through the solution until a blue color was observed. This process took approximately 35 min , over twice as long as the analogous $\gamma, \delta$-unsaturated ester 3.36. A stream of $\mathrm{O}_{2}$ was then bubbled through the solution until the color dissipated, then $\mathrm{PPh}_{3}$ (3 equiv) added and the solution allowed to warm to room temperature while reacting for 24 h . Upon concentration and purification via $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ flash column chromatography, $\beta$-formyl amide 3.52 was obtained in $65 \%$ yield. Key ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR resonances used for positive characterization were a signal at 9.75 ppm (s) corresponding to aldehyde proton $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{a}}$, singlets at 3.02 ppm and 2.93 ppm , corresponding to the protons on the amide methyl groups, and a singlet at 2.14 ppm , corresponding to the methyl protons $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{b}}$ of the methyl ketone. Further structural confirmation was provided by


Scheme 3.19. Ozonolysis of $\gamma, \delta$-unsaturated amide 3.37 in $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ with $\mathrm{PPh}_{3}$ as the terminal reductant.
${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ resonances at 207.9 ppm , 203.4 ppm , and 170.5 ppm , confirming the presence of aldehyde, ketone, and amide carbonyl carbons, respectively. Surprisingly, the enantiomeric ratio was determined to be 88:12 using the ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR procedure described above; significantly higher than the enantiomeric ratio of $\beta$-formyl ester $\mathbf{3 . 4 0}$ obtained via ozonolysis of $\gamma, \delta$-unsaturated ester 3.36. It appears that, unlike the ester analog, $\gamma, \delta$-unsaturated amide 3.37 does not epimerize to any appreciable extent under ozonolysis conditions. We propose that this is due to the acidity difference between $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{a}}$ of ester $\mathbf{3 . 4 0}$ and $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{b}}$ of amide $\mathbf{3 . 5 2}$ (Scheme 3.20 ). We would expect the methyl ester to be more electronegative than the analogous dimethyl amide, rendering $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{a}}$ more acidic than $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{b}}$ via induction. Support for this hypothesis came from the observation that, upon standing in the freezer, complete erosion of enantiomeric purity was observed in two weeks for $\beta$ formyl ester 3.40, but after one month we saw no appreciable change in the enantiomeric ratio of $\beta$-formyl amide 3.52. Though we did not observe epimerization, ozonolysis of $\gamma, \delta$-unsaturated amide 3.37 gave only a moderate yield of $\beta$-formyl amide $\mathbf{3 . 5 2}$. We sought to increase the yield by applying the previously reported Nicolau conditions to $\gamma, \delta$-unsaturated amide 3.37.


Scheme 3.20. Relative rates of racemization of $\boldsymbol{\beta}$-formyl ester 3.40 and $\boldsymbol{\beta}$-formyl amide 3.52 while standing in the freezer.

By applying Nicolou's conditions to $\gamma, \delta$-unsaturated amide 3.37 , $\beta$-formyl amide 3.52 was isolated in $92 \%$ yield, and the enantiomeric ratio determined to be 94:6 (Scheme 3.21). With efficient, optimized routes to both $\beta$-formyl ester $\mathbf{3 . 4 0}$ and $\beta$-formyl amide 3.52 in hand, we were able to show that the $\alpha$-stereocenter was configurationally stable under the reported reaction conditions. Thus, we were poised to move forward to the key diastereoselective 1,2addition/lactonization step of the synthesis.



Scheme 3.21. $\mathrm{OsO}_{4}$ and $\mathrm{PhI}(\mathrm{OAc})_{2}$-mediated oxidative cleavage of $\boldsymbol{\beta}$-formyl amide 3.37 with retention of C 1 stereochemistry.

### 3.5 Diastereoselective 1,2-Addition/Lactonization to 3.40 and 3.52



Scheme 3.22. Proposed diastereoselective 1,2-addition/lactonization of $\boldsymbol{\beta}$-formyl ester $\mathbf{3 . 4 0}$.

The next step in the total synthesis of (-)-dehydroleucodine (ent-3.1) was the diastereoselective addition of a propynyl nucleophile to $\beta$-formyl ester 3.40, followed by acidic workup, leading to the lactonization of propargyl alcohol intermediate $\mathbf{3 . 5 3}$ (Scheme 3.22). A survey of the literature provides few reported methods for diastereoselective nucleophilic additions to acyclic aldehydes with a carboxylate at the $\beta$-position. Most work has been carried
out by Reissig on alkyl substituted $\beta$-formyl methyl esters (Scheme 3.23). ${ }^{96}$ The diastereoselective addition of methylmagnesium bromide to $\beta$-formyl ester 3.54 afforded lactone 3.55 with a trans/cis diastereomeric ratio of 62:38. The authors saw both a yield enhancement as well as an enhancement of diastereoselectivity when triisopropoxy(methyl)titanium was used as the nucleophile, isolating lactone 3.55 in $60 \%$ yield with a diastereomeric ratio of 79:21. Excellent


Scheme 3.23. Precedent for the diastereoselective 1,2-addition/lactonization of $\boldsymbol{\beta}$-formyl esters.
diastereoselectivity was achieved when a methyl cuprate was used as the nucleophile, affording lactone 3.55 with a diastereomeric ratio of $95: 5$, though only $34 \%$ of the lactone was isolated. Reissig proposes two possible mechanisms that give rise to the observed diastereomeric ratios. The authors propose that, in the case of the methylmagnesium bromide and triisopropoxy(methyl)titanium, competing Felkin-Ahn and Cram chelate transition states 3.56a and 3.56b (Scheme 3.24). The nucleophile approaches from the least hindered face of the aldehyde, resulting in the trans-lactone. The cis-lactone is generated via Felkin-Ahn transition state 3.56c, where the methyl group and aldehyde carbonyl oxygen are more eclipsed. Thus, the nucleophile approaches from the opposite face. In the case of excellent diastereoselectivity achieved via addition of organocuprates, the authors propose Cram chelate $\mathbf{3 . 5 6 b}$ is the predominate species in solution.

3.56a

3.56b

3.56c


Scheme 3.24. Reissig's proposed transition states leading to the diastereoselective $\mathbf{1 , 2}$-addition of nucleophiles to $\boldsymbol{\beta}$-formyl esters.

While the conditions reported by Reissig worked well on simple alkyl- and aryl substituted $\beta$-formyl esters, the concern with our system was that competitive 1,2 -addition to the ketone could occur. While rates of nucleophilic additions to aldehydes are typically faster than rates of addition to ketones, we wanted to apply conditions that would ensure a chemoselective 1,2-addition to the aldehyde, leaving the ketone intact. Reetz and others have shown complete chemoselective 1,2addition of organotitanium nucleophiles to aldehydes in the presence of ketones. ${ }^{95}$ Because of Reissig's report of organotitanium reagents adding to $\beta$-formyl esters in a diastereoselective fashion, and Reetz's reports for the chemoselective 1,2-addition of organotitanium reagents, we reasoned that an alkynyltitanium nucleophile would be the best option to effect the chemo and diastereoselective 1,2-addtion of an alkyne to $\beta$-formyl ester 3.40. While the diastereoselectivity of organocuprates is significantly higher than the analogous organotitanium reagents, it is well known that copper acetylides are inert and do not add to carbonyls in a 1,2- fashion. This eliminated the use of organocuprates as a possible alkyne nucleophile source. With $\beta$-formyl ester 3.40 in hand and a proposed path to trans-lactone 3.51, we set out to examine the feasibility of a diastereomeric 1,2-addition of an alkyne nucleophile to $\beta$-formyl ester 3.40.

The first thing we wanted to do was benchmark our system against Reissig's simple alkylsubstituted systems. We wanted to probe the effect that the C 4 ketone would have on both reaction
yield, as well as diastereoselectivity. To do this, we first employed commercially-available propynylmagnesium bromide as the nucleophile. Thus, $\beta$-formyl ester $\mathbf{3 . 4 0}$ was dissolved in THF and the solution cooled to $-40^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ (Scheme 3.25). Propynylmagnesium bromide was added and allowed to react for 1 h while the solution was allowed to warm to room temperature. Upon complete consumption of starting material, as evidenced by TLC, a $50 \%$ aq. solution of $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{SO}_{4}$ was added. Upon concentration of the organic layer and purification of the crude residue via $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ flash column chromatography, a mixture of trans-3.51 and cis-3.51 were isolated in 39\% combined yield, with a diastereomeric ratio of 65:35 (trans/cis). Key ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR resonances at 5.13 ppm (dq, $\left.J^{1}=7.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, J^{2}=2.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 0.34 \mathrm{H}\right)$ and $4.65 \mathrm{ppm}\left(\mathrm{dq}, J^{1}=7.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, J^{2}=2.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 0.65 \mathrm{H}\right)$, corresponding to the lactone proton $\mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{a}}$ of cis-3.51 and trans-3.51, respectively. We used literature precedent for the assignment of these protons to a relative stereoisomer. ${ }^{122}$ With lactone 3.51 in hand, we were able to make a direct comparison between the diastereoselectivity achieved by Ressig on the simple methyl-substituted $\beta$-formyl ester 3.54, and our system. We were encouraged that we observed a similar yield, and more importantly, a similar diastereomeric ratio to that reported by Reissig. With this information in hand, we reasoned that if we applied Reissig's organotitanium conditions, we would see both a yield increase, as well as an increase in the diastereomeric ratio. Thus, we set out to apply these conditions to $\beta$-formyl ester 3.40.


Scheme 3.25. Addition of ethynylmagnesium bromide to $\boldsymbol{\beta}$-formyl ester 3.40.

Chlorotitanium triisopropoxide (1.2 equiv) was dissolved in THF and cooled to $-50{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ (Scheme 3.26). Propynylmagnesium bromide ( 0.5 M in THF, 1.2 equiv) was added and the solution reacted for 2 h . To this was added $\beta$-formyl ester $\mathbf{3 . 4 0}$, and the solution reacted for 2 h at $-50{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. To the reaction vessel was added aq. 1 N HCl , and the mixture was warmed to room temperature and reacted for $24 \mathrm{~h} . \mathrm{A}{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR spectrum was taken of the crude reaction mixture, which revealed that selective 1,2-addition to the aldehyde, followed by lactonization indeed occurred; however, the reaction proceeded with a diastereomeric ratio of 53:47 trans/cis; slightly worse than when using only propynylmagnesium bromide. We were unsure what had occurred to give us a lower diastereomeric ratio relative to the reaction being performed in the presence of only propynylmagnesium bromide, but we suspected the ketone carbonyl oxygen was interfering with chelate formation after propynylmagnesium bromide was transmetalated with the highly oxophilic titanium reagent. To test this hypothesis, we chose to transmetalate propynylmagnesium bromide with titanium tetrachloride instead of chlorotitanium triisopropoxide, as titanium tetrachloride is typically more Lewis acidic than its chlorotitanium alkoxide analogs. ${ }^{123}$ We predicted we would see an even worse diastereomeric ratio with the more oxophilic titanium tetrachloride.


Scheme 3.26. Chlorotitaniumtriisopropoxide-mediated 1,2-addition of ethynylmagnesium bromide to $\beta$ formyl ester 3.40.

The above conditions were repeated by using titanium tetrachloride instead of chlorotitanium triisopropoxide (Scheme 3.27). Upon completion of the reaction, as evidenced by

TLC, ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR was taken of the crude reaction mixture. We again observed selective 1,2-addition to the aldehyde, followed by lactonization; however, the reaction proceeded with diastereomeric


## Scheme 3.27. Titanium tetrachloride-mediated 1,2-addition of propynylmagnesium bromide to $\boldsymbol{\beta}$-formyl ester 3.40.

ratio of 60:40 trans/cis. This result suggested that the oxophilicity of the organometallic reagent was not necessarily correlated to the diastereomeric outcome of the 1,2-addition.

With these results in hand, we wanted to explore the feasibility of performing a 1,2addition/lactonization on $\beta$-formyl amide 3.52. Doing so would allow us to access lactone 3.51 in fewer overall steps, as $\gamma, \delta$-unsatured amide 3.52 would not have to be converted to $\gamma, \delta$-unsaturated ester 3.40. In addition, diastereoselective additions to a $\beta$-formyl amide of this nature have never been reported. It was difficult to make a prediction as to whether we would see better or worse diastereoselectivities. The amide functionality would be expected form a stronger chelate with the organotitanium reagent, as the Lewis basicity of the amide carbonyl oxygen is greater than that of the ester carbonyl oxygen, leading to enhanced trans/cis diastereoselectivities. However, the increased steric demand of the $N, N$-dimethyl group would be expected to lower the trans/cis diastereoselectivity, based on the proposed transition state structures shown above (Scheme 3.25). We wanted to begin our studies by comparing the result of the addition of propynylmagnesium bromide to $\beta$-formyl amide $\mathbf{3 . 5 2}$ to the result of addition to $\beta$-formyl ester 3.40. We reasoned that this would give us an idea of how this system behaves as opposed to the ester analog.

Thus, $\beta$-formyl amide 3.52 was dissolved in THF and cooled to $-78^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ (Table 3.2, Entry 1). To this was added propynylmagnesium bromide ( 0.5 M in THF, 1.1 equiv). After reacting for $2 \mathrm{~h}, 1 \mathrm{~N}$ aq. HCl was added and the mixture heated to $50^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 18 h . Upon workup and purification via $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ flash column chromatography, lactone 3.51 was isolated in $55 \%$ yield, with a diastereomeric ratio of 66:34 trans/cis. We were encouraged by these results, as the diastereomeric ratio was nearly identical to when these conditions were applied to the $\beta$-formyl ester analog 3.40; however, the reaction yield was slightly higher at $55 \%$, versus $34 \%$ when performed on the $\mathbf{3 . 4 0}$. With these results in hand, we reasoned that we could proceed with the 1,2-addition/lactonization of the $\beta$-formyl amide. We decided to screen a variety of different organometallic reagents in an effort to optimize both yield and diastereoselectivity. The second organometallic that we wanted to screen was propynyllithium, which can be generated in situ via deprotonation of 1bromopropene, followed by elimination and subsequent deprotonation of the resulting propyne. ${ }^{124}$

Table 3.2. Conditions for the diastereoselective 1,2-addition of propynylmagnesium bromide to $\boldsymbol{\beta}$-formyl amide 3.52.


| Entry | [M] (equiv) | Metal salt (equiv) | Conditions | Yield | dr (trans/cis) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | ---: |
| 1 | $\mathrm{MgBr}(1.1)$ | None | -78 | 55 | $66: 34$ |
| 2 | $\operatorname{Li}(1.1)$ | None | -78 | 46 | $62: 38$ |
| 3 | $\mathrm{MgBr}(1.1)$ | $\operatorname{MnCl}_{2}(1.1)$ | 0 | 61 | $57: 43$ |
| 4 | $\mathrm{MgBr}(1.1)$ | $\mathrm{MnCl}_{2}(1.1) / \mathrm{LiCl}(2.2)$ | 0 | 47 | $52: 48$ |
| 5 | $\mathrm{MgBr}(1.1)$ | $\mathrm{TiCl}_{4}(1.1)$ | -60 | 45 | $50: 50$ |
| 6 | $\mathrm{MgBr}(1.1)$ | $\mathrm{ClTi}(\mathrm{OiPr})_{3}(1.1)$ | -60 | 86 | $38: 62$ |

Thus, 1-bromopropene was dissolved in THF and cooled to - $78{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ (Table 3.2, Entry 2). To this was added $n$-butyllithium in a dropwise fashion. The mixture was reacted for 1 h before being
cannulated into a solution of $\beta$-formyl amide 3.52 in THF, also cooled to $78{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. The mixture was reacted for 30 min then 1 N aq. HCl was added and the mixture heated to $50^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 18 h . Upon workup and purification via $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ flash column chromatography, lactone 3.51 was isolated in $46 \%$ yield, with a diastereomeric ratio of 62:38 trans/cis. With similar yields and diastereomeric outcome to that of propynylmagnesium bromide, we drew the conclusion that the reactivity between the two were very similar. Due to the operational complexity of generating propynyllithium in situ, we decided to abandon this method for the generation of future organometallic nucleophiles, and opted to simply use the commercially available propynylmagnesium bromide in THF instead. The reaction profiles of both the organomagnesium and organolithium reactions were very complex by TLC, leading us to believe that, despite the depressed temperatures, 1,2-addition was taking place at both the aldehyde carbonyl carbon, as well as the ketone carbonyl carbon, leading to moderate to low reaction yields. Cahiez and coworkers have reported the chemoselective addition of organomanganese and manganate reagents to aldehydes in the presence of ketones. ${ }^{125-127}$ While no information is provided on the diastereoselective addition to $\beta$-formyl esters or amides such as 3.40 and 3.52 , we decided to examine these conditions as a potential solution towards chemoselective addition to the carbonyl carbon of the aldehyde.

Normant has described the preparation of various alkyl, alkenyl, and alkynyl manganese reagents, as well as more functionalized organomanganese reagents. ${ }^{125,128}$ Manganese(II) chloride (1.1 equiv) was first dehydrated by heating under vacuum with a Fisher burner, until no more condensation on the inside of the flask was observed (Table 3.2, entry 3). The flask was cooled under a constant flow of nitrogen, then suspended in THF. The suspension was cooled to $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and propynylmagnesium bromide (1.1 equiv) added dropwise. After reacting for 1 h , amide 3.52 was
added as a solution in THF. The mixture was reacted for 3 h before 1 N HCl was added. The reaction was maintained at $50{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ overnight. Upon purification, the desired lactone 3.51 was isolated in 61\% yield with a diastereomeric ratio of 57:43 (trans/cis). While the yield was improved with respect to the organolithium and organomagnesium reagents, the diastereomeric ratio was slightly depressed. Addition of LiCl has been shown to generate the corresponding organomanganate reagents, which we thought might provide enhanced yields or diastereoselectivities. ${ }^{127}$ The preparation of these reagents is similar to that reported above; however, inclusion of LiCl (2 equiv with respect the $\mathrm{MnCl}_{2}$ ) is necessary. Application of these conditions resulted in lactone $\mathbf{3 . 5 1}$ being isolated in 47\% yield with a 52:48 diastereomeric ratio (Table 3.2, entry 4). The poor diastereomeric ratios and modest yields of $\mathbf{3 . 5 1}$ obtained when using the organomanganese reagents as the nucleophile led us to turn to the corresponding organotitanium reagents.

As stated above, organotitanium reagents chemoselectively add to aldehydes; however, we were concerned that we would observe low diastereoselectivity, as was seen in the case of $\beta$ formyl ester 3.40. Nonetheless, we decided to apply both the titanium tetrachloride and chlorotitanium triisopropoxide conditions to $\beta$-formyl amide 3.52. Both reactions were run in an analogous fashion as reported above on $\beta$-formyl ester 3.40. In the presence of $\mathrm{TiCl}_{4}$, lactone $\mathbf{3 . 5 1}$ was obtained in 45\% yield, with a diastereomeric ratio of 50:50 (Table 3.2, entry 5), slightly worse than when performed on ester 3.40. However, to our surprise, in the presence of chlorotitanium triisopropoxide, lactone 3.51 was generated in $86 \%$ yield (Table 3.2, entry 6). This was a very promising result, as the high yield suggested that the ketone remained intact throughout the reaction and did not affect the overall yield to any appreciable extent. To our surprise however, the diastereomeric ratio was 62:38, favoring the cis diastereomer. Despite the poor trans-
selectivity, the high yield of these conditions led us to move forward using propynyltitanium triisopropoxide as the preferred reagent for the transformation of amide 3.52 to lactone $\mathbf{3 . 5 1}$.

### 3.6 Conversion of Ketone 3.51 to Allenes

### 3.6.1 Formation of propargyl carbonate

With a rapid route to lactone 3.51 in hand, we set out to convert the C 4 ketone to the desired allene, setting the stage for the Allenic Pauson-Khand reaction. We reasoned that lactone $\mathbf{3 . 5 1}$ could serve as a common intermediate towards the synthesis a variety of allenyl carboxyesters 3.57b, as well as the terminal 3,3-disubstituted allene 3.57a (Scheme 3.28). Having access to these different allene functional patterns would offer access to a wider variety of 6,12-guaianolides and analogs. We first examined the case of 3,3-disubstituted allene 3.57a. We reasoned that we could use the $\operatorname{Pd}(0)$-catalyzed propargyl carbonate hydrogenolysis conditions reported by Tsuji, and successfully applied by our group to other systems (ad supra). ${ }^{52}$ We thus set out to synthesize the propargyl carbonate precursor required for the hydrogenolysis reaction.


Scheme 3.28. Proposed conversion of ketone 3.51 to allenes 3.57 a and 3.57 b .

Application of the standard $\mathrm{CeCl}_{3}$-mediated addition of ethynylmagnesium bromide, followed by trapping with methyl chloroformate afforded propargyl carbonate 3.58 in $80 \%$ yield (Scheme 3.29). We were unable to separate any of the four diastereomers via chromatography, so the product was carried on as a mixture of these diastereomers; however, we observed no changed in the lactone diastereomeric ratio during the course of this reaction. Analysis of the ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR spectrum revealed that the diastereomeric ratio of the trans/cis lactone remained constant throughout the reaction, as evidenced by a resonance at $5.15 \mathrm{ppm}\left(\mathrm{dq}, J^{1}=7.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, J^{2}=2.1 \mathrm{~Hz}\right.$, $0.63 \mathrm{H})$ corresponding the $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{a}}$ of cis-3.58 and a resonance at $4.69 \mathrm{ppm}\left(\mathrm{dq}, J^{1}=6.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, J^{2}=2.1 \mathrm{~Hz}\right.$, $0.37 \mathrm{H})$ corresponding to $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{a}}$ of trans-3.58. In addition, a methyl singlet at $3.78 \mathrm{ppm}(3 \mathrm{H})$ confirmed the presence of a methyl carbonate. A singlet at $2.62 \mathrm{ppm}(1 \mathrm{H})$ suggested the presence of alkynyl proton $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{b}}$, and a methyl singlet at $1.74 \mathrm{ppm}(3 \mathrm{H})$ confirmed the presence of propargyl protons $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{c}}$. Due to the viscosity of propargyl carbonate 3.58 , it was exceedingly difficult to remove all of the EtOAc, even by azeotroping with a variety of solvents. With the desired propargyl carbonate 3.58 in hand, we were poised to apply Tsiju's conditions to access 3,3-disubstituted allene 3.57a.


Scheme 3.29. Synthesis of propargyl carbonate 3.58.

Application of the previously reported $\operatorname{Pd}(0)$-catalyzed hydrogenolysis conditions (see Chapter 2) afforded allene-yne 3.57a in 73\% yield (Scheme 3.30). A diagnostic ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR signal at 4.63 ppm (sept, $J=3.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}$ ) provided evidence for the presence of allenyl protons $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{a}}$, and
appear to be magnetically equivalent despite the fact that the two allenyl protons are diastereotopic due to the presence of the lactone. A resonance at $5.14 \mathrm{ppm}\left(\mathrm{dq}, J^{1}=7.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, J^{2}=2.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 0.64 \mathrm{H}\right)$ corresponding to $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{b}}$ of cis-3.57a and $4.68 \mathrm{ppm}\left(\mathrm{dq}, J^{1}=7.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, J^{2}=2.0 \mathrm{~Hz}\right)$ corresponding to $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{b}}$ of trans-3.57a confirmed that the lactone remained intact, though an accurate diastereomeric ratio could not be ascertained due to significant overlap of allenyl protons $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{a}}$ with trans-3.57a proton $H_{b}$, though it was shown after the next synthetic step that the diastereomeric ratio had been maintained. With a successful route to 3,3-disbustituted allene 3.57a in hand, we shifted our focus to the synthesis of the analogous allenyl carboxy esters $\mathbf{3 . 5 7 b}$, again by employing the same methodologies that we had previously shown to work on other systems.


Scheme 3.30. Synthesis of 3,3-disubstituted allene 3.57a.

### 3.6.2 Synthesis of allenyl carboxyesters

We next wanted to synthesize both propargyl acetate 3.59a as well as propargyl chloroacetate 3.59b (Scheme 3.32), as we had previously shown greatly enhanced rates of hydrolysis under mild Sc (III) conditions in the case of the chloroacetate substrates (see Chapter 2). Thus, Lactone 3.51 was converted to propargyl acetate $\mathbf{3 . 5 9}$ a and propargyl chloroacetate $\mathbf{3 . 5 9 b}$ in $88 \%$ and $85 \%$ yield, respectively via application of the previously reported conditions (see Chapter 2)(Scheme 3.31). Evidence for the formation of propargyl acetate 3.59a was observed via


Scheme 3.31. Synthesis of propargyl esters 3.59a and 3.59b.
the presence of a methyl singlet at $2.04 \mathrm{ppm}(3 \mathrm{H})$ corresponding to methyl protons $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{a}}$, a methyl singlet at $1.70 \mathrm{ppm}(3 \mathrm{H})$ corresponding to methyl protons $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{c}}$, and a group of methyl singlets from 1.90-1.88 ppm integrating for a total of 3 H , corresponding to methyl protons $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{d}}$ of each of the four possible diastereomers of 3.59a. In addition, a signal at $2.58 \mathrm{ppm}(\mathrm{s}, 1 \mathrm{H})$ supported the presence of alkynyl proton $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{a}}$. The lactone diastereomeric ratio remained constant throughout the reaction, as evidenced by a signal at $5.15 \mathrm{ppm}\left(\mathrm{m}, 0.62 \mathrm{H}\right.$ ) corresponding to $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{b}}$ of cis-3.59a, and a signal at $4.70 \mathrm{ppm}(\mathrm{m}, 0.38 \mathrm{H})$ corresponding to $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{b}}$ of trans-3.59a. Evidence for the formation of propargyl chloroacetate $\mathbf{3 . 5 9 b}$ was observed via the presence of a ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR resonance at 4.02 ppm (s) corresponding to the chloroacetyl protons $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{a}}$. As was the case with propargyl carbonate 3.58, we did not see individual signals for each diastereomer. The lactone remained intact and did not epimerize, as evidenced by a resonance at $5.16 \mathrm{ppm}\left(J^{1}=6.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, J^{2}=2.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 0.61 \mathrm{H}\right)$ corresponding to $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{b}}$ of cis-3.59b and a resonance at $4.70 \mathrm{ppm}\left(J^{1}=6.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, J^{2}=2.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 0.39 \mathrm{H}\right)$ corresponding to $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{b}}$ of trans-3.59b. A methyl singlet at $1.74 \mathrm{ppm}(3 \mathrm{H})$ confirmed the presence of methyl protons $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{c}}$, and a group of singlets from 1.90-1.88 integrating for a total of 3 H corresponded to methyl protons $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{d}}$ for the four expected diastereomers of 3.59b. A singlet at 2.63 ppm confirmed the presence of alkynyl proton $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{e}}$. The ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR spectrum was very complex, as there were signals corresponding to each of the four possible diastereomers, many of which had a very similar chemical shift; however, based on the chemical shift regions, we reasoned that we had
the desired chloroacetate 3.59b. For instance, four signals at 175.78 ppm , $175.76 \mathrm{ppm}, 175.27$ ppm, and 175.26 ppm provided evidence for the presence of four diastereomeric ester carbonyl carbons. Twelve signals from 76.7 ppm to 66.0 ppm provided evidence for the presence of four diastereomeric groups of four alkynyl carbons; however, the missing four signals are most likely buried in the $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ resonance, or do not resolve enough to be distinguished from the other signals.

With propargyl acetate 3.59a and propargyl chloroacetate 3.59b in hand, we were poised to apply the $\mathrm{Rh}(\mathrm{I})$-catalyzed formal 3,3-sigmatropic rearrangement conditions which we have previously shown to be successful on other systems to access the corresponding allenyl carboxyesters. Thus, $\left[\mathrm{Rh}\left(\mathrm{OC}(\mathrm{O}) \mathrm{CF}_{3}\right)_{2}\right]_{2}$ (0.05 equiv) was dissolved in toluene and propargyl


Scheme 3.32. Rh (II)-catalyzed formal 3,3-sigmatropic rearrangement of allenyl carboxyesters 3.60a and 3.60b.
acetate 3.59a or propargyl chloroacetate $\mathbf{3 . 5 9 b}$ was added (Scheme 3.32). The solution was reacted at $50^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ until complete consumption of starting material was observed. In the case of propargyl acetate 3.59a, the reaction time was 3 h ; however, propargyl chloroacetate $\mathbf{3 . 5 9 b}$ required 8 h to reach completion. The longer reaction time was expected, as we had also observed this to be the case with the propargyl chloroacetate previously reported (ad supra). Upon completion, the mixture was cooled to room temperature and SilaMetS ${ }^{\circledR}$ Thiourea was added to scavenge the $\mathrm{Rh}(\mathrm{I})$ catalyst. The mixture was allowed to stir for 16 h then filtered through a celite plug. After concentration and purification via $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ flash column chromatography allenyl acetate 3.60a or
allenyl chloroacetate 3.60b were isolated in $87 \%$ and $87 \%$ yield, respectively. Again, none of the diastereomers could be separated via chromatography, making the ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ and ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR spectra very complex; however, by examining the chemical shift regions of the resonances, we were able to confirm structures. In the case of allenyl acetate 3.60a, diagnostic allenyl proton $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{a}}$ signals were observed from 7.36-7.30 ppm ( 1 H ) and appeared to be two partially overlapping resonances, corresponding to two of the four diastereomers of 3.60a. A signal at $5.14 \mathrm{ppm}(\mathrm{m}, 0.63 \mathrm{H})$ corresponding to $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{b}}$ of cis-3.60a and $4.67 \mathrm{ppm}(\mathrm{m}, 0.37 \mathrm{H})$ corresponding to $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{b}}$ of trans-3.60a confirmed that the lactone had remained intact and had not epimerized. Overlapping methyl resonances from 2.15-2.13 ppm integrating for a total of 3 H provided evidence for the presence of an acetyl group. Overlapping methyl resonances from 1.90-1.87 ppm (total 3 H ), and 1.86-1.83 ppm (total 3 H ) confirmed the presence of methyl protons $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{c}}$ and $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{d}}$, respectively. With high-yield routes to both allene 3.57a and 3.60a and 3.60b in hand, we were poised to explore the feasibility of allenic Pauson-Khand reaction on these substrates.

### 3.7 Allenic Pauson-Khand Reactions of 3.57a, 3.60a, and 3.60b

### 3.7.1 APKR of 3,3-disubstituted allene 3.57a

The successful application of cationic $\mathrm{Rh}(\operatorname{cod})_{2} \mathrm{BF}_{4}$ to effect the APKR on our previously reported methyl-substituted allene-yne led us to reason that the conditions may also be applicable to methyl-substituted allene-ynes with a lactone installed in the tether (see Chapter 2). Thus, application of these conditions to lactone 3.57a afforded the desired APKR adduct 3.61 in 57\% yield and a 61:39 trans/cis ratio, confirming that no epimerization of the lactone had occurred
under the reaction conditions (Scheme 3.33). We were able to successfully separate cis-3.61 and trans-3.61 at this stage, trans-3.61 eluting before cis-3.61. A ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR signal at $5.32 \mathrm{ppm}(\mathrm{d}, J=$ $10.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H})$, corresponding to $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{a}}$, provided evidence for the formation of trans-3.61. Similarly, a signal at $5.59 \mathrm{ppm}(\mathrm{d}, J=5.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H})$ corresponded to $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{a}}$ of cis-3.61. In addition, a resonance


Scheme 3.33. APKR of 3,3-disubstituted allene-yne 3.57a.
at $2.97 \mathrm{ppm}(\mathrm{s}, 2 \mathrm{H})$ corresponding to $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{b}}$ of trans-3.61 and $3.01 \mathrm{ppm}(\mathrm{d}, J=5.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H})$ corresponding to $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{b}}$ of cis- $\mathbf{3 . 6 1}$ were observed. A resonance at $2.02 \mathrm{ppm}(\mathrm{s}, 3 \mathrm{H})$ and $1.88 \mathrm{ppm}(\mathrm{s}$, 3H) of trans- $\mathbf{3 . 6 1}$ confirmed the presence of two methyl groups. Likewise, resonances at 1.92 ppm (s, 3H) and $1.85 \mathrm{ppm}(\mathrm{s}, 3 \mathrm{H})$ in the ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR spectrum of cis- $\mathbf{3 . 6 1}$ provided evidence for the presence of two methyl groups. The ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR spectra of trans- $\mathbf{3 . 6 1}$ and cis- $\mathbf{3 . 6 1}$ were very similar, with a signal at 204.4 ppm corresponding to the C3 carbonyl carbon of trans-3.61 and 204.3 ppm corresponding to the carbonyl carbon of cis-3.61. Alkenyl resonances at 161.0, 139.2, and 132.9, and 129.8 ppm confirmed the presence of four alkenyl carbons in trans-3.61, with a lactone carbonyl carbon signal observed at 175.1 ppm . Similarly, resonances at $157.7,143.4,137.1$, and 128.8 ppm provided evidence for the presence of four alkenyl carbons in cis-3.61, with a lactone carbonyl carbon signal at 176.2. To confirm the assignment of cis-3.61 and trans-3.61, we were able to crystallize trans-3.61 by dissolving a sample in EtOAc and allowing the solvent to slowly evaporate in the freezer $\left(0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$. X-ray crystallography confirmed both the C6-C7 relative stereochemistry, as well as the C7 absolute stereochemistry. We used this data to conclude that $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{a}}$
of trans- $\mathbf{3 . 6 1}$ is shifted upfield in the ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR spectrum, relative to $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{a}}$ of cis-3.61. With the successful application of the APKR to lactone-containing 3,3-disubstitued allene-yne 3.57a, we were poised to apply the conditions to the more functionalized allenyl carboxyesters 3.60a and 3.60b. If successful, we would have accessed the core carbon framework of (-)-dehydroleucodine (ent-3.1).

### 3.7.2 APKR of allenyl carboxyesters 3.60a and 3.60b

To this end, application of the previously reported cationic $\mathrm{Rh}(\mathrm{I})$ conditions to allenyl carboxy esters 3.60a and 3.60b afforded the desired APKR adducts 3.62a and 3.62b in 70\% and 60\% yields, respectively (Scheme 3.34). It was found that the substrate concentration had to be reduced to 0.03 M to achieve optimal yields for this reaction. As with the bicyclo[5.3.0]decadienone 3.61, the cis and trans isomers of 3.62a and 3.62b were separable via flash column chromatography, and were characterized independently (Figure 3.3).


Scheme 3.34. APKR of allenyl carboxyesters 3.60a and 3.60b.

It was found that the APKR of both 3.60a and 3.60b proceeded with varying degrees of diastereocontrol at the C2 position. Trans-3.62a was generated in a 65:35 diastereomeric ratio at the C2 position, as evidenced by the presence of a ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR resonance at $5.40 \mathrm{ppm}(\mathrm{d}, \mathrm{J}=10.8$
$\mathrm{Hz}, 0.65 \mathrm{H}$ ) corresponding to $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{a}}$ of the major C 2 diastereomer, and a resonance at $5.32 \mathrm{ppm}(\mathrm{d}, \mathrm{J}$ $=10.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 0.35 \mathrm{H}$ ) corresponding to $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{a}}$ of the minor C 2 diastereomer (Figure 3.3A). Further evidence was provided via resonances at $5.58 \mathrm{ppm}(\mathrm{s}, 0.59 \mathrm{H})$ and $5.56 \mathrm{ppm}(\mathrm{s}, 0.30 \mathrm{H})$ corresponding to $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{b}}$ of the major and minor diastereomers, respectively. Interestingly, cis-3.62a was formed as a single C2 diastereomer, as evidenced by a ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR resonance at 5.63 ppm ( $\mathrm{d}, \mathrm{J}=$ $6.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}$ ) corresponding to $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{a}}$, and a resonance at $5.44 \mathrm{ppm}(\mathrm{s}, 1 \mathrm{H})$ corresponding to $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{b}}$ (Figure 3.3B).


Figure 3.3. Chemical shift assignments for APKR C2 diastereomers.

Upon chromatographic separation of the lactone diastereomers of chloroacetate 3.62b, it was found that trans-3.62b was formed in a 75:25 diastereomeric ratio at the C 2 position; a slight enhancement over the 65:35 diastereomeric ratio observed for the acetate analog trans-3.62a (Figure 3.3C). Evidence of this was provided via ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR resonances at $5.64 \mathrm{ppm}(\mathrm{s}, 0.75 \mathrm{H})$ and $5.58 \mathrm{ppm}(\mathrm{s}, 0.25 \mathrm{H})$ corresponding to $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{a}}$ of the major and minor C 2 diastereomers, respectively. In addition, resonances at $5.40 \mathrm{ppm}(\mathrm{d}, J=10.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 0.75 \mathrm{H})$ and $5.32 \mathrm{ppm}(\mathrm{d}, J=10.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 0.25 \mathrm{H})$ were assigned as $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{b}}$ of the major and minor diastereomers, respectively. Interestingly, it appeared
as though cis-3.62b had been generated in a 71:29 diastereomeric ratio at the C2 position, unlike the complete diastereoselectivity observed in the case of the acetate analog cis-3.62a (Figure 3.3D). Evidence for this was provided via ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR resonances at $5.69 \mathrm{ppm}(\mathrm{s}, 0.29 \mathrm{H})$ and 5.52 ppm (s) corresponding to $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{a}}$ of the minor and major C 2 diastereomers, respectively, as well as resonances at $5.63 \mathrm{ppm}(\mathrm{d}, J=6.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 0.72 \mathrm{H})$ and $5.54 \mathrm{ppm}(\mathrm{d}, J=7.2 \mathrm{~Hz})$ corresponding to $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{b}}$ of the major and minor diastereomers, respectively. The origin of the differences in C2 diastereomeric outcome of cis-3.62a and cis-3.62b is still unclear.

With the success of the APKR on both allenyl carboxyesters 3.60a and 3.60b, the core carbon framework of (-)-dehydroleucodine was accessed in six linear steps, starting with a cheap, commercially available chiral pool material. We were now poised to deacetylate the C2 position and apply the isomerization conditions developed on the 2-hydroxy bicyclo[5.3.0]decadienone model system 2.59 to this system (see Chapter 2).

### 3.8 Hydrolysis of $\boldsymbol{\beta}$-Keto Esters

With rapid access to lactone-containing $\alpha$-acyloxy enones 3.62a and 3.62b in hand, we set out to apply the previously reported $\mathrm{Sc}(\mathrm{OTf})_{3}$-catalyzed hydrolysis conditions to access the desired $\alpha$-hydroxy enone 3.63 (Scheme 3.35). ${ }^{129}$ Because of its slightly higher yielding APKR, the $\alpha$ acetoxy enone 3.64a was first subjected to the standard $\mathrm{Sc}(\mathrm{OTf})_{3}$ conditions. Thus, 3.62a was dissolved in $\mathrm{MeOH} / \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}(5: 1 \mathrm{v} / \mathrm{v}, 0.025 \mathrm{M})$. To this was added $\mathrm{Sc}(\mathrm{OTf})_{3}$ ( 0.3 equiv) and the reaction maintained at $30^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 24 h . Analysis of the reaction mixture by TLC revealed that, while the desired hydrolysis product 3.63 appeared to be present in a small quantity, there was a substantial amount of starting material remaining, as well as multiple other reaction components.

An additional portion of $\mathrm{Sc}(\mathrm{OTf})_{3}$ (1.7 equiv) was added and the reaction maintained for an additional 24 h . Despite the excess $\mathrm{Sc}(\mathrm{OTf})_{3}$, full conversion of 3.62a was never achieved. In addition, the reaction profile was very complex, as visualized by the presence of multiple spots and streaks on TLC. We thus decided to shift our focus the they $\mathrm{Sc}(\mathrm{OTf})_{3}$-mediated hydrolysis of


Scheme 3.35. Proposed hydrolysis of $\alpha$-acyloxy enone 3.62a or 3.62b to access $\alpha$-hydroxy enone 3.63 .
chloroacetate 3.62b,which was shown to undergo hydrolysis at a significantly faster rate than the corresponding acetate (see Chapter 2). Thus, chloroacetate $\mathbf{3 . 6 2 b}$ was dissolved in $\mathrm{MeOH} / \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ ( $0.05 \mathrm{M}, 5: 1 \mathrm{v} / \mathrm{v}$ ) and $\mathrm{Sc}(\mathrm{OTf})_{3}$ added. The reaction was maintained for 48 h , at which point it was deemed complete by TLC. It should be noted that the reaction time for the chloroacetoxy substrate 3.62b is greatly increased with respect to our previous findings on chloroacetate 2.64b. Upon workup and purification, 2-hydroxy enone 3.63 was isolated in $64 \%$ yield. The C2 diastereomers were not separated at this time. With the desired hydroxy enone 3.63 in hand, we were poised to apply the base-mediated isomerization conditions in an effort to transpose the C3-C5 enone to the C2-C4 position.

### 3.9 Base-Mediated Isomerization of $\boldsymbol{\alpha}$-Hydroxy Enone



B


B3LYP, 6-31G*, vacuum

3.66

Scheme 3.36. Proposed base-mediated isomerization of $\alpha$-hydroxy enone 3.63 to $\alpha$-keto enol 3.64.

We wanted to examine the feasibility of applying the base-mediated isomerization conditions to each lactone diastereomer individually. With the assumption that the C5 diastereomeric outcome of the isomerization is under thermodynamic control (see Chapter 2), different C5 epimers could arise from the two lactone diastereomers. Barton showed that in the presence of potassium hydroxide, sesquiterpene lactone 3.65 underwent an elimination process to furnish acid 3.66. This suggests that the $\mathrm{pK}_{\mathrm{a}}$ of $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{a}}$ is relatively low, lending support to the notion that the proposed isomerization process could proceed under thermodynamic control (Scheme 3.36C). ${ }^{130}$ We thus proposed that base-mediated isomerization of trans- 3.63 would selectively afford the $\alpha$-keto enol 3.64 with the desired stereochemistry at the C5 position (Scheme 3.36A). DFT calculations (B3LYP, 6-31G*, vacuum) supported this hypothesis, indicating that the desired C5 epimer of $\mathbf{3 . 6 4}$ was $5.52 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ more stable than its C5 epimer (Scheme 3.36B). With these predictions in hand, we set out to effect the base-mediated isomerization of trans-3.63.

Enone trans- 3.63 was dissolved in THF and cooled to $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. Potassium tert-butoxide in tertbutanol (2 equiv of a 0.5 M solution) was added dropwise (Scheme 3.37). The mixture instantly turned dark yellow as a precipitate began to form. TLC revealed complete consumption of starting material to a baseline spot. The reaction was quenched with sat. aq. $\mathrm{NH}_{4} \mathrm{Cl}$, after which TLC indicated complete conversion of the baseline spot to another, slow-moving product. Upon workup and analysis of the crude residue via ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ and ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR, it was determined that the lactone at the C6


Scheme 3.37. Base-mediated isomerization/eliminative lactone opening of trans-3.63 and 3.62b.
position had opened via an elimination process, affording the acid 3.67 as the sole product. An alkenyl proton at $5.75 \mathrm{ppm}(\mathrm{d}, \mathrm{J}=4.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H})$ was diagnostic of the C 6 alkenyl proton $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{a}}$ of $\mathbf{3 . 6 7}$. In addition, the product consisted of only a single diastereomer as evidenced by the presence of only two methyl resonances ( 2.42 ppm and 2.00 ppm ). A resonance at $3.04 \mathrm{ppm}(\mathrm{m}, 1 \mathrm{H})$ provided evidence for C 7 proton $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{b}}$. In addition to the ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR data, the ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ spectrum revealed a resonance at 189 ppm ; confirming the presence of a ketone. Resonances at $177,172,155,152,134,126$, and 125 ppm suggested the presence of six olefinic carbons, as well as the carbonyl carbon of the carboxylic acid.

Application of these conditions to trans-3.62b also afforded acid 3.67, thus confirming that a two-step, one-pot deprotection/isomerization process is possible as well. While the basemediated isomerization conditions did not afford the desired product 3.64, the
isomerization/eliminative lactone opening process to afford 3.67 did occur cleanly by TLC, and confirms that the C3-C5 enone of this more complex substrate can be transposed to the C2-C4 position.

### 3.10 Conclusions Towards the Total Synthesis of (-)-Dehydroleucodine (ent-3.1)

Starting with cheap chiral pool material ( $R$ )-linalool, we have shown that a C11 desmethyl 6,12-guaianolide framework can be accessed in an enantioselective fashion in six linear steps. The key APKR affords products with either a C2 methylenyl or acyloxy groups, enabling rapid access to fused cyclopentenones with two different oxidation states. Transposition of the C4-C5 double bond to the C3-C4 position was accomplished via hydrolysis of the 2-chloroacetoxy bicyclo[5.3.0]decadienone 3.62b, followed by base-mediated isomerization affording 3.67. However, ring-opening of the C6 lactone to generate the carboxylic acid occurred. Further optimization showed that both hydrolysis and isomerization reactions could be effected with potassium tert-butoxide in a single step. These conditions, while an effective method for the transposition of the C3-C5 enone motif of allenic Pauson-Khand adducts, afford the elimination product with ring-opening of the lactone, suggesting that this method is not applicable to substrates with leaving groups at the allylic C6 position.

## Appendix A : Experimental Information for Chapter Two

General Methods. Unless otherwise indicated, all reactions were performed in flame-dried glassware under an atmosphere of dry nitrogen. All commercially available compounds used as received. Tetrahydrofuran (THF), dichloromethane $\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}\right)$, and diethyl ether $\left(\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}\right)$ were purified by passing through alumina using the Sol-Tek ST-002 solvent purification system. Toluene was distilled over calcium hydride prior to use. Deuterated chloroform $\left(\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right.$ was dried over $3 \AA$ Å molecular sieves prior to use. Gasses $\mathrm{N}_{2}, \mathrm{H}_{2}$, and CO were purchased from Matheson Tri Gas. Cerium chloride (anhydrous) was purchased and used as received. Flash column chromatography was performed using silica gel (40-63 $\mu \mathrm{m}$ particle size, $60 \AA$ pore size). Thinlayer chromatography (TLC) was performed on silica get $\mathrm{F}_{254}$ glass-backed plates ( $250 \mu \mathrm{~m}$ thickness). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ and ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR were recorded on a Bruker Avance 400 MHz spectrometer. Spectra were referenced to residual chloroform ( $7.26 \mathrm{ppm},{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}, 77.16 \mathrm{ppm},{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ ). Chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) are reported in ppm and multiplicities are indicated by s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), quint (quintet), and m (multiplet). Coupling constants, $J$, are reported in hertz (Hz). NMR spectra were obtained at room temperature. EI mass spectroscopy was performed on a Waters Micromass GCT high-resolution mass spectrometer, while ES mass spectroscopy was performed on a Waters Q-TOF Ultima API, Micromass UK Limited high-resolution mass spectrometer. IR spectra were obtained using a Nicolet Avatar E.S.P. 360 FT-IR.

Hex-4-yn-1-ol (2.10). To a 1-L, 3-necked round-bottom flask equipped with stir bar, nitrogen inlet adapter, thermometer adapter with thermometer, and septum was sequentially added hex-5-yn-1-ol (7.00 g, $71.3 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.0$ equiv) and DMSO (285
mL ) via syringe. Potassium tert-butoxide ( $20.0 \mathrm{~g}, 178 \mathrm{mmol}, 2.5$ equiv) was added in a single portion by temporarily removing the septum. No temperature increase was observed upon addition of potassium tert-butoxide. The brown reaction mixture was maintained at rt for 4 h . Upon complete consumption of starting material, as evidenced by TLC, the flask was lowered into an ice/water bath $\left(0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$. The septum was replaced with an addition funnel containing 285 mL 1 N HCl which was added dropwise over the course of 20 min while maintaining an internal temperature between $20-30{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. Upon complete addition, the mixture was transferred to a separatory funnel, the layers separated and the aqueous phase extracted with $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}(3 \times 200 \mathrm{~mL})$. The combined organic phases were dried over $\mathrm{MgSO}_{4}$, filtered through a medium porosity fritted glass vacuum funnel, and concentrated via rotary evaporation. The crude residue was purified via $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ flash column chromatography ( $40-70 \% \mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O} /$ hexanes) affording 5.75 g of the title compound as a clear yellow oil (82\%). JEB03-122

## Data for $\mathbf{2 . 1 0}$

${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR: $\quad\left(400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
$3.75(\mathrm{q}, J=5.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 2.28-2.22(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 1.78(\mathrm{t}, J=2.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 1.73$ (pent, $J$ $=6.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 1.59-1.53(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}) \mathrm{ppm}$;
${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR: $\quad\left(100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
78.6, 76.4, 62.2, 31.7, 15.5, 3.6 ppm;

FTIR (neat)
3328, 2921, 2874, 1436, 1350, 1329, 1175, 1054, 1034, 931, 909, 620, $551 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$;
HRMS (HRMS ESI)
$[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{11} \mathrm{O}$ : 99.0804; found: 99.0835;

TLC $\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{f}}=0.18$ (40\% Et $\mathrm{E}_{2} \mathrm{O} /$ hexanes $)$ Silica gel, visualized with p-anisaldehyde

Hex-4-yn-1-yl methanesulfonate (2.11). To a $250-\mathrm{mL}$, 2-necked round bottom flask equipped with stir bar, nitrogen inlet adapter, and septum was sequentially added hex-4-yn-1-ol 2.10 ( $5.60 \mathrm{~g}, 57.0 \mathrm{mmol}$, 1.0 equiv), $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ ( 95 mL ), and triethylamine ( 10.3 mL , $74.2 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.3$ equiv) via syringe. The flask was lowered into an ice/water bath ( $0{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ ) and methanesulfonyl chloride ( $5.30 \mathrm{~mL}, 68.5 \mathrm{mmol}$, 1.2 equiv) was added dropwise over 5 min via syringe. Upon complete addition, the flask was removed from the ice/water bath and allowed to warm to rt at which it was maintained for 1.5 h . Upon complete consumption of starting material, as evidenced by TLC, the cloudy reaction mixture was transferred to a separatory funnel and washed with $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}(2 \times 100 \mathrm{~mL})$. The layers were separated and the combined aqueous phases were extracted with $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}(1 \times 100 \mathrm{~mL})$. The combined organic phases were dried over $\mathrm{MgSO}_{4}$, filtered via medium porosity fritted glass vacuum filter, and concentrated via rotary evaporation. The crude residue was purified via $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ flash column chromatography (60\% $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O} /$ hexanes ), affording 9.80 g of the title compound as a pale-yellow oil (97\%). JEB03-126

## Data for 2.11

${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR: $\quad\left(400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$

|  | 4.35 (t, $J=6.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 3.02$ (s, 3H), 2.33-2.26 (m, 2H), 1.90 (pent, $J=6.4 \mathrm{~Hz}$, |
| :---: | :---: |
|  | 2H), 1.78 (t, $J=2.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 3 \mathrm{H}) \mathrm{ppm}$; |
| ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR: | (100 MHz, $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) |
|  | 77.2, 76.9, 68.8, 37.4, 28.5, 15.1, 3.6 ppm; |
| FTIR | (neat) |
|  | 3028, 2923, 2855, 1439, 1348, 1332, 1169, 1089, 1007, 927, 924, 833, 792, 742, |
|  | 526, $476 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$; |
| HRMS | (HRMS ESI) |
|  | $[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{7} \mathrm{H}_{13} \mathrm{O}_{3} \mathrm{~S}$ : 177.0579; found: 177.0577; |
| TLC | $\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{f}}=0.49$ (60\% Et2O in hexanes) |
|  | Silica gel, visualized with p-anisaldehyde (mesylate stains purple) |



6-iodo-hex-2-yne (2.8). To a $500-\mathrm{mL}$, 3-necked round bottom flask equipped with overhead stirrer, condenser with nitrogen inlet adapter, and septum was sequentially added sodium iodide ( NaI ) ( $20.6 \mathrm{~g}, 138 \mathrm{mmol}, 2.5$ equiv) and acetone ( 138 mL ) via temporary removal of the septum. Upon complete dissolution of the NaI, hex-4-yn-yl methanesulfonate 2.11 ( $9.7 \mathrm{~g}, 55.0 \mathrm{mmol}$, 1.0 equiv) was added in a single portion via syringe. The flask was lowered into a preheated oil bath $\left(65^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$ for 1.5 h , during which time a thick slurry formed. Upon complete consumption of the starting material, as evidenced by TLC, the flask was removed from the oil bath and allowed to cool to rt. Water was added $(120 \mathrm{~mL})$ via removal of the septum. The mixture transferred to a separatory funnel, the layers separated and the aqueous phase extracted with pentane ( $3 \times 150 \mathrm{~mL}$ ). The combined organic phases were dried over $\mathrm{MgSO}_{4}$, filtered via medium porosity fritted glass vacuum filter, and concentrated via rotary evaporation,
affording 11.0 g of the title compound as a pale-yellow oil (96\%), which was taken on without further purification. JEB03-128

## Data for 2.8

${ }^{1}$ H NMR: $\quad\left(400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
3.30 (t, $J=6.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 2.29-2.23$ (m, 2H), 1.95 (pent, $J=6.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 1.78$ (t, $J$ $=2.4 \mathrm{~Hz}) \mathrm{ppm}$;
${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR: $\quad\left(100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
76.9, 76.8, 32.5, 19.8, 5.7, 3.5 ppm;

FTIR (neat)
2917, 2841, 1430, 1347, 1245, 1221, 1167, 1155, 951, 847, 747, 607, 579, 532, 492
$\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$;
HRMS (TOF MS ES+)
$[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{9} \mathrm{I}$ : 207.9749; found: 207.9735;
$\underline{\text { TLC }} \quad \mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{f}}=0.94\left(30 \% \mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}\right.$ in hexanes $)$
Silica gel, visualized with $\mathrm{KMnO}_{4}$


Non-7-yn-2-one (2.7). To a $250-\mathrm{mL}$, 2-necked round bottom flask equipped stir bar, condenser topped with nitrogen inlet adapter, and septum was added sodium hydride (NaH) ( $60 \%$ dispersion in mineral oil, 2.30 g , 58.0 mmol , 1.1 equiv) and THF ( 132 mL ) via temporary removal of the septum. The flask was lowered into an ice/water bath $\left(0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$ and tert-butyl acetoacetate ( 10.5 mL 63.0 mmol , 1.2 equiv) was added dropwise over 20 min via syringe pump. Upon complete addition, the flask was removed from the ice/water bath and allowed to warm to rt, where it was maintained for 1 h . 6-Iodo-hex-2-yne 2.8 ( 11.0 g , 52.8 mmol , 1 equiv) was added in a single portion via syringe. The flask was lowered into a preheated oil bath ( $85^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ ) and maintained for 18 h . Upon complete consumption of the starting material, as evidenced by TLC, the flask was removed from the oil bath and allowed to cool to rt. Sat. aq. $\mathrm{NH}_{4} \mathrm{Cl}(100 \mathrm{~mL})$ was added via removal of the septum, and the mixture was transferred to a separatory funnel. The layers were separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}(2 \times 50 \mathrm{~mL})$. The combined organic phases were dried over $\mathrm{MgSO}_{4}$, filtered via medium porosity fritted glass vacuum filter, and concentrated via rotary evaporation. The crude residue was transferred to a $250-\mathrm{mL}$ 2-necked round bottom flask equipped with a condenser topped with nitrogen inlet adapter, and septum via syringe. Benzene ( 176 mL ) and $p$-toluenesulfonic acid ( $2.00 \mathrm{~g}, 10.6 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.2$ equiv) were sequentially added via temporary removal of the septum. The flask was lowered into a preheated oil bath $\left(100{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$ and maintained for 2 h at which point complete consumption of $t$-butyl acetoacetate $\mathbf{2 . 1 3}$ was observed via TLC. The flask was removed from the oil bath, allowed to cool to rt, transferred to a separatory funnel,
and washed with sat. aq. $\mathrm{NaHCO}_{3}(1 \times 100 \mathrm{~mL})$, then brine ( $1 \times 100 \mathrm{~mL}$ ). The combined aqueous phases were extracted with $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}(2 \times 100 \mathrm{~mL})$, dried over $\mathrm{MgSO}_{4}$, filtered via medium porosity fritted glass vacuum filter, and concentrated via rotary evaporation. The crude residue was purified via $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ flash column chromatography ( $10 \%-20 \% \mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O} /$ hexanes $)$ to afford 6.60 g of the title compound as a yellow oil (90\%). JEB03-129

## Data for 2.7

${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR: $\quad\left(400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
$2.44(\mathrm{t}, J=7.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 2.16-2.10(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 2.14(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 1.77(\mathrm{t}, J=2.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 3 \mathrm{H})$, 1.71-1.62 (m, 2H), 1.51-1.42 (m, 2H) ppm;
${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR: $\quad\left(100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
209.0, 78.8, 76.0, 43.4, 30.0, 28.6, 23.2, 18.7, 3.6 ppm;

FTIR (neat)
2922, 2862, 1713, 1436, 1358, 1220, 1158, 952, 730, 592, $516 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$;
HRMS (HRMS ESI)
$[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{9} \mathrm{H}_{15} \mathrm{O}$ : 139.1117; found: 139.1113;
TLC $\quad \mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{f}}(\mathbf{2 . 1 3})=0.41\left(20 \% \mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O} /\right.$ hexanes $)$
Silica gel, visualized with p-anisaldehyde
$\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{f}}(\mathbf{2} .7)=0.28$ (20\% Et $\mathrm{E}_{2} \mathrm{O} /$ hexanes $)$
Silica gel, visualized with p-anisaldehyde


Methyl (3-methyldeca-1,8-diyn-3-yl) carbonate (2.16). To a 250 mL , 3-necked round bottom flask equipped with stir bar, 125-mL addition funnel topped with septum, nitrogen inlet adapter, and septum was added anhydrous $\mathrm{CeCl}_{3}(4.99 \mathrm{~g}, 20.3 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.4$ equiv) in a nitrogen-filled glovebox. The flask was removed from the glovebox and THF ( 145 mL ) was added via syringe. The white suspension was allowed to stir under nitrogen at rt for 24 h at which point the flask was lowered into an ice/water bath ( $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ ). Ethynylmagnesium bromide ( 0.5 M solution in THF, 40.5 $\mathrm{mL}, 20.3 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.4$ equiv) was cannulated into the addition funnel, and then added dropwise to the flask over a period of 10 min . The resulting brown suspension was maintained at $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 1.5 h , at which point non-7-yn-2-one 2.7 ( $2.00 \mathrm{~g}, 14.5 \mathrm{mmol}$, 1 equiv) was added in a single portion via syringe. The reaction was maintained at $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 30 min until complete consumption of starting material was observed by TLC. Methyl chloroformate ( $2.24 \mathrm{~mL}, 28.9 \mathrm{mmol}, 2$ equiv) was added in a single portion via syringe and the flask was removed from the ice/water bath and warmed to rt, where it was maintained for 2 h . Upon complete consumption of intermediate S2.1, as evidenced by TLC, sat. aq. $\mathrm{NH}_{4} \mathrm{Cl}$ was added ( 50 mL ) via syringe, and the mixture transferred to a separatory funnel. $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}(150 \mathrm{~mL})$ was added, the layers separated and the aqueous phase extracted with $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ (3 x 75 mL ). The combined organic phases were dried over $\mathrm{MgSO}_{4}$, filtered via medium porosity fritted glass vacuum filter, and concentrated via rotary evaporation. The crude residue was purified via $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ flash column chromatography ( $20 \% \mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O} /$ hexanes ) to afford 3.18 g of the title compound as a yellow oil (98\%). JEB03-163

## Data for $\mathbf{2 . 1 6}$

${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR: $\quad\left(400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
3.77 (s, 3H), 2.58 (s, 1H), 2.18-2.11 (m, 2H), 2.00-1.92 (m, 1H), 1.88-1.79 (m, $1 \mathrm{H}), 1.77$ (t, $J=2.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 1.71(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 1.66-1.46(\mathrm{~m}, 4 \mathrm{H}) \mathrm{ppm}$;
${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR: $\quad\left(100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
153.7, 83.3, 78.9, 77.1, 75.9, 74.0, 54.5, 41.0, 29.0, 26.4, 23.5, 18.8, 3.6 ppm;

FTIR (neat)
3283, 2952, 2863, 1751, 1439, 1376, 1256, 1163, 1088, 1028, 1013, 943, 869, 790, $663,598,582,555 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$;

HRMS (HRMS ESI)
$[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{13} \mathrm{H}_{19} \mathrm{O}_{3}:$ 223.1328; found: 223.1331;
$\underline{\text { TLC }} \quad \mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{f}}=0.68$ ( $40 \% \mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O} /$ hexanes $)$
Silica gel, visualized with p-anisaldehyde

$\mathrm{Pd}_{2} \mathrm{dba}_{3} \bullet \mathrm{CHCl}_{3}(0.19 \mathrm{~g}, 0.18 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.025$ equiv) via temporary removal of the septum. To the red reaction mixture was added tri-n-butylphosphine ( $0.23 \mathrm{~mL}, 0.90 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.125$ equiv) [CAUTION: toxic, handle with care] via syringe, at which point the mixture turned yellow-green. The reaction mixture was maintained at rt for 10 min before methyl (3-methyldeca-1,8-diyn-3-yl) carbonate 2.16 ( $1.6 \mathrm{~g}, 7.2 \mathrm{mmol}, 1$ equiv) was added in a single portion via syringe. The reaction was maintained at rt for 18 h until complete consumption of the starting material was observed by TLC.

The mixture was filtered through a pad celite in a medium porosity fritted glass vacuum filter. The celite pad was rinsed with pentane ( $3 \times 20 \mathrm{~mL}$ ). The combined filtrates were evaporated via rotary evaporation and the crude residue purified via $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ flash column chromatography (2\% $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O} /$ pentane) to afford 0.99 g of the title compound as a yellow oil (92\%). The yellow color was removed by elution through a Silicycle FLH-R10030B-ISO40 SiliaSep ${ }^{\text {TM }} 40 \mathrm{~g}$ silica cartridge ( $100 \%$ pentane), affording 0.94 g of the title compound as a colorless oil; though this is not necessary for the success of the allenic Pauson-Khand reaction. JEB03-169

## Data for 2.1

${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR: $\quad\left(400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
4.58 (sextet, $J=4.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}$ ), 2.16-2.10 (m, 2H), 1.94 (sept, $J=3.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}$ ), 1.78 (t, $J=3.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 1.67(\mathrm{t}, J=4.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 1.54-1.48(\mathrm{~m}, 4 \mathrm{H}) \mathrm{ppm} ;$
${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR: $\quad\left(100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
206.3, 98.3, 79.4, 75.6, 74.1, 33.1, 28.8, 26.7, 18.8, 18.7, 3.6 ppm;

FTIR (neat)
2980, 2935, 2859, 1960, 1440, 1370, 1331, 1001, 845, 612, 590, 502;
$\underline{\text { TLC }} \quad \mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{f}}=0.74$ (10\% $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O} /$ hexanes $)$
$\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{f}}=0.40$ ( $100 \%$ hexanes)
Silica gel, visualized with $\mathrm{KMnO}_{4}$


3,8-dimethyl-4,5,6,7-tetrahydroazulen-2(1H)-one (2.2) (Table 2.2, Entry 6). A 15-mL 2-necked round bottom flask equipped with stir bar, condenser topped with a septum, and septum was sequentially charged with bis(1,5-
cyclooctadiene)rhodium(I) tetrafluoroborate ( $7 \mathrm{mg}, 0.02 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.025$ equiv) and $\mathrm{PPh}_{3}(7 \mathrm{mg}, 0.02$ mmol, 0.038 equiv) in a nitrogen-filled glovebox via temporary removal of the septum. The flask was removed from the glove box and a nitrogen inlet needle was inserted into the septum on the condenser. 1,2-Dichloroethane ( 6.8 mL ) was added via syringe. The resulting dark yellow solution was maintained at rt for 10 min at which time the flask was evacuated and refilled five times with CO gas (100\%), alternating between an inlet needle attached to a vacuum and an inlet needle attached to a balloon of CO. The light-yellow solution was maintained for 10 min before 3-methyldeca-1,3-dien-8-yne 2.1 ( $0.10 \mathrm{~g}, 0.67 \mathrm{mmol}$, 1 equiv) was added in a single portion via syringe. The flask was lowered into a preheated oil bath ( $70{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ ) and maintained for 20 h until complete consumption of the starting material was observed by TLC. The flask was removed from the oil bath, allowed to cool to rt, and the contents transferred to a $200-\mathrm{mL}$ recovery flask. The solvent was evaporated via rotary evaporation ( $40^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ bath temperature) and the crude residue was purified via $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ flash column chromatography (20-40\% $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O} /$ hexanes) to afford 0.102 g of the title compound as a yellow oil which solidifies in the freezer (86\%).

## Data for 2.2

${ }^{1}$ H NMR: $\quad\left(400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
2.91 (s, 2H), 2.72-2.66 (m, 2H), 2.41-2.36 (m, 2H), 1.84 (s, 3H), 1.83-1.76 (m, 4H), 1.75 (t, 3H) ppm;
${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR: $\quad\left(100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
205.0, 168.8, 137.7, 136.6, 131.6, 40.8, 35.7, 29.6, 26.9, 24.5, 24.2, 8.4 ppm;

FTIR (neat)

2924, 2860, 1682, 1597, 1579, 1449, 1422, 1389, 1331, 1276, 1218, 1159, 1119, 1090, 1071, 1050, 1002, 953, 916, 874, 845, 771, 680, 657, 637, 616, 560, 537, 509 $\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$;

HRMS (HRMS ESI)
$[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{12} \mathrm{H}_{17} \mathrm{O}$ : 177.1273; found: 177.1269;
TLC
$\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{f}}=0.28$ ( $40 \% \mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O} /$ hexanes $)$
Silica gel, visualized with $\mathrm{KMnO}_{4}$

(E)-N'-(3,8-dimethyl-4,5,6,7-tetrahydroazulen-2(1H)-ylidene)-4methylbenzenesulfonohydrazide (2.6). To a $10-20-\mathrm{mL}$ microwave vial (Biotage 354833) equipped with a stir bar (Biotage 353930) was added tosyl hydrazide (0.38 $\mathrm{g}, 2.0 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.2$ equiv). The vial was sealed with a microwave vial cap with septum (Biotage 352298), purged via nitrogen inlet needle, and ethanol ( 8.5 mL ) was added via syringe. 3,8-Dimethyl-4,5,6,7-tetrahydroazulen-2(1H)-one 2.2 ( $0.57 \mathrm{~g}, 1.7 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.0$ equiv) was dissolved in $\mathrm{EtOH}(1 \mathrm{~mL})$ and added to the vial via syringe. The nitrogen inlet needle was removed and the sealed vial was lowered into a preheated oil bath $\left(85^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$ and maintained for 18 h , at which point complete consumption of starting material was observed by TLC. The vial was removed from the oil bath, allowed to cool to rt, and the contents transferred to a $25-\mathrm{mL}$ recovery flask. The solvent was evaporated via rotary evaporation ( $40^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ bath temperature) and the crude residue purified via $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ flash column chromatography ( $40 \%-75 \% \mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O} /$ hexanes ), affording 0.45 g of the title compound as a yellow solid (77\%).

## Data for 2.6

${ }^{1}$ H NMR: $\quad\left(400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
7.88 (d, $J=8.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.29(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.13(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 2.89(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 2.56-$ 2.50 (m, 2H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 2.32-2.27 (m, 2H), 1.77 (s, 3H), 1.75 (s, 3H), 1.74-1.62 (m, 4H) ppm;
${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR: $\quad\left(100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
164.1, 154.8, 143.9, 136.0, 135.6, 133.1, 132.1, 129.5, 128.2, 35.8, 32.3, 28.7, 27.5, 25.0, 23.7, 21.7, 9.6 ppm;

FTIR (neat)
3208, 2923, 2859, 1597, 1399, 1332, $1164 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$;
HRMS (HRMS ESI)
$[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{19} \mathrm{H}_{25} \mathrm{O}_{2} \mathrm{~N}_{2} \mathrm{~S}$ : 345.1631; found: 345.1623;
m.p. $\quad 168.0-173.1^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$
$\underline{\text { TLC }} \quad \mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{f}}=0.29$ (40\% $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O} /$ hexanes $)$
Silica gel, visualized with $\mathrm{KMnO}_{4}$


Table 2.5 Entry 1. To a $2-5 \mathrm{~mL}$ microwave vial (Biotage 351521) equipped with stir bar (Biotage 355543) was added N'-(3,8-dimethyl-4,5,6,7-tetrahydroazulen-2(1H)-ylidene)-4methylbenzenesulfonohydrazide 2.6 ( $0.090 \mathrm{~g}, 0.26 \mathrm{mmol}, 1$ equiv). The vial was sealed with a crimp-on microwave vial cap with septum (Biotage 352298) and purged with $\mathrm{N}_{2}$ via nitrogen inlet needle. $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}(0.87 \mathrm{~mL})$ was added via syringe. The vial was lowered into an ice/water bath (0 ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ ) and catecholborane ( 1 M in THF, $0.78 \mathrm{~mL}, 0.78 \mathrm{mmol}, 3$ equiv) was added dropwise over 1 min via syringe. The reaction was maintained for 1 h , at which point the cap was removed from the vial and $\mathrm{NaOAc} \cdot 3 \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ ( $0.106 \mathrm{~g}, 0.78 \mathrm{mmol}, 3$ equiv) was added in a single portion. A new cap was placed onto the vial and the reaction warmed to room temperature where it was maintained for 1 h . An additional volume of $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}(0.80 \mathrm{~mL})$ was added as the mixture began to gel. The mixture was maintained for 1 h then lowered into a preheated oil bath $\left(70^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$. After reacting for 1 $h$, the vial was removed from the oil bath and allowed to cool to room temperature, then filtered through a celite plug. The filtrate was concentration via rotary evaporation and purified via $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ flash column chromatography (15\% $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O} /$ hexanes), affording 21 mg of a yellow oil (49\%). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR analysis of this oil revealed a 2.3 to $\mathbf{2 . 4 3}$ ratio of 43:57.

Table 2.5 Entry 2. To a 2-5 mL microwave vial (Biotage 351521) equipped with stir bar (Biotage 355543) was charged N'-(3,8-dimethyl-4,5,6,7-tetrahydroazulen-2(1H)-ylidene)-4methylbenzenesulfonohydrazide $2.6(0.050 \mathrm{~g}, 0.15 \mathrm{mmol}, 1$ equiv). The vial was sealed with a crimp-on microwave vial with septum (Biotage 352298) and purged with nitrogen via a nitrogen inlet needle. THF ( 1.5 mL ) was added via syringe. The vial was lowered into an ice/water bath ( 0 ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ ) and catecholborane ( 1 M in THF, $0.73 \mathrm{~mL}, 0.73 \mathrm{mmol}, 5$ equiv) was added dropwise over 1 min via syringe. The yellow solution was maintained for 3 h , at which point the cap was removed from the vial and $\mathrm{NaOAc} \cdot 3 \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}(0.106 \mathrm{~g}, 0.78 \mathrm{mmol}$, 3 equiv) was added in a single portion. A new cap was placed onto the vial which was then lowered into a preheated oil $\left(70^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$ where it was maintained for 1 h . The vial was removed from the oil bath and allowed to cool to room temperature, then filtered through a medium porosity fritted glass vacuum filter which was filled with celite. The filtrate was concentrated via rotary evaporation. The crude residue was purified via $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ flash column chromatography ( $30 \% \mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O} /$ hexanes), affording 7 mg of a yellow oil (30\%). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR analysis of this oil revealed a $\mathbf{2 . 3}$ to $\mathbf{2 . 4 3}$ ratio of 79:21.

## Data for 2.3 (79:21 ratio 2.3/2.43)

${ }^{1}$ H NMR: $\quad\left(400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
$5.35(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 3.03(\mathrm{~d}, J=11.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 2.99-2.84(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 2.07-1.84(\mathrm{~m}, 4 \mathrm{H})$, $1.77-1.69(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 1.68(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 1.64(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 1.63-1.53(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 1.31-1.16(\mathrm{~m}$, 2H), 1.01-0.87 (m, 1H) ppm;
${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR: $\quad\left(100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
73.2, 70.3, 60.0, 52.8, 16.4, 33.0, 33.7, 37.5, 36.8, 43.0, 47,8 54.7 ppm;

TLC
$\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{f}}=0.96\left(40 \% \mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}\right.$ in hexanes $)$
Silica gel, visualized with $\mathrm{KMnO}_{4}$

Table 2.5 Entry 3. To a $2-5 \mathrm{~mL}$ microwave vial (Biotage 351521) equipped with stir bar (Biotage 355543) was charged with benzoic acid ( $0.181 \mathrm{~g}, 1.5 \mathrm{mmol}, 10.2$ equiv). The vial was sealed with a crimp-on microwave vial cap with septum (Biotage 352298) and purged with nitrogen via a nitrogen inlet needle. $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}(0.48 \mathrm{~mL})$ was added via syringe. The vial was lowered into an ince/water bath $\left(0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$ and $\mathrm{BH}_{3}(1 \mathrm{M}$ in THF, $0.73 \mathrm{~mL}, 0.73 \mathrm{mmol}$, 5 equiv) was added dropwise over 2 min via syringe, maintaining gentle bubbling. After reacting for $1 \mathrm{~h},(\mathrm{E})$ - $\mathrm{N}^{\prime}$-(3,8-dimethyl-4,5,6,7-tetrahydroazulen-2(1H)-ylidene)-4-methylbenzenesulfonohydrazide 2.6 ( $0.050 \mathrm{~g}, 0.15$ mmol, 1 equiv) was dissolved in $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}(0.30 \mathrm{~mL})$ and added to the reaction mixture via syringe. The reaction was maintained for 3 h at $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, at which point the cap was removed from the vial and $\mathrm{NaOAc} \cdot 3 \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ ( $0.138 \mathrm{~g}, 1.02 \mathrm{mmol}, 7$ equiv) was added in a single portion. A new cap was placed on the vial, which was then lowered into a preheated oil bath $\left(70^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$. After reacting for 1 h , the vial was removed from the oil bath and allowed to cool to room temperature. The contents of the vial were transferred to a separatory funnel and washed with sat. aq. $\mathrm{Na}_{2} \mathrm{CO}_{3}(2 \times 2 \mathrm{~mL})$. The layers were separated and the organic phase dried over $\mathrm{MgSO}_{4}$, concentrated via rotary evaporation, and purified via $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ flash column chromatography ( $100 \%$ hexanes), affording 9 mg of a yellow oil (38\%). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR analysis of this oil revealed a 2.3 to 2.43 ratio of 4:96.
${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR: $\quad\left(400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
2.45-2.35 (m, 4H), 2.34-2.28 (m, 2H), $2.24(\mathrm{t}, \mathrm{J}=5.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 1.78-1.71(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H})$ 1.71 (s, 3H), 1.69 (s, 3H), 1.65-1.58 (m, 2H) ppm; Impurities: 5.75-5.73 (m, $0.17 \mathrm{H}), 3.05-3.00(\mathrm{~m}, 0.08 \mathrm{H}), 2.93-2.88(\mathrm{~m}, 0.13 \mathrm{H}), 2.81-2.77(\mathrm{~m}, 0.41 \mathrm{H}), 2.70-$ $2.62(\mathrm{~m}, 0.29 \mathrm{H}), 1.96-1.88(\mathrm{~m}, 1.07 \mathrm{H}), 1.30-1.22(\mathrm{~m}, 1.52 \mathrm{H}), 1.22-1.78(\mathrm{~m}$, 0.94H), 1.04-0.99 (m, 0.33H), 0.97-0.92 (m, 0.29H), 0.91-0.80 (m, 1.00H) ppm;
${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR: $\quad\left(100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$ 141.9, 139.7, 138.0, 123.5, 35.51, 35.50, 29.4, 28.5, 27.4, 26.0, 23.1, 15.1 ppm; Impurities:155.5, 142.0, 135.4, 119.7, 43.9, 3.5, 35.4, 29.9, 29.7, 27.5,20.6, 13.6 ppm;
$\underline{\text { TLC }} \quad \mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{f}}=0.96\left(15 \% \mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}\right.$ in hexanes $)$
Silica gel, PAA


3,8-dimethyl-4,5,6,7,8,8a-hexahydroazulen-2(1H)-one (2.35). A 25-mL twonecked round bottom flask equipped with stir bar, nitrogen inlet adapter, and septum, was charged with palladium on carbon ( $10 \% \mathrm{Pd}, 0.18 \mathrm{~g}, 0.17 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.1$ equiv) via temporary removal of the septum. Ethyl acetate ( 3.4 mL ) was added via syringe. 3,8-dimethyl-4,5,6,7-tetrahydroazulen-2(1H)-one $2.2(0.300 \mathrm{~g}, 1.7 \mathrm{mmol}, 1$ equiv) was dissolved in methanol ( 13.6 mL ) and added to the flask via syringe. A balloon filled with hydrogen gas (100\%) was attached to a needle, and the needle inserted through the septum and into the reaction mixture. Hydrogen was bubbled through the mixture while being allowed to vent through the nitrogen inlet adapter at rt for 20 min . A small aliquot of the reaction mixture ( 0.1 mL ) was removed via syringe,
filtered through a small plug of celite in a cotton-filled pipette, and concentrated via rotary evaporation. The residue was dissolved in $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ and subjected to ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR, which revealed complete consumption of starting material. After reacting for a total of 30 min , the reaction mixture was filtered through a celite-filled ( $6 \times 4 \mathrm{~cm}$ ) medium porosity fritted glass vacuum filter, and the filtrate concentrated via rotary evaporation. The crude residue was purified via $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ flash column chromatography (20-40\% Et $2 \mathrm{O} /$ hexanes), affording 0.272 g of the title compound as a colorless oil (90\%).

## Data for 2.35

${ }^{1}$ H NMR: $\quad\left(400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
3.09-3.03 (m, 1H), 2.76-2.67 (m, 1H), $2.53\left(\mathrm{dd}, J^{1}=18.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, J^{2}=6.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}\right)$, 2.47-2.37 (m, 1H), 2.14-2.07 (m, 1H). $2.02\left(\mathrm{dd}, J^{1}=18.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, J^{2}=1.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}\right)$, $1.80-1.72$ (m, 2H), 1.70-1.63 (m, 5H), 1.61-1.43 (m, 3H), 0.69 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm;
${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR: $\quad\left(100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$ 208.8, 177.6, 137.2, 46.4, 40.8, 36.3, 35.6, 31.8, 26.6, 26.5, 13.9, 8.0 ppm;

FTIR (neat) 2918, 2867, 1691, 1630, 1453, 1380, 1358, $1312 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$;

HRMS (HRMS ESI)
$[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{12} \mathrm{H}_{19} \mathrm{O}$ : 179.1430; found: 179.1428;
TLC
$\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{f}}=0.28$ ( $40 \% \mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O} /$ hexanes $)$
Silica gel, visualized with $\mathrm{KMnO}_{4}$


N'-(3,8-dimethyl-4,5,6,7,8,8a-hexahydroazulen-2(1H)-ylidene)-4methylbenzenesulfonohydrazide (2.36). A $2-5 \mathrm{~mL}$ microwave vial (Biotage 351521) equipped with a stir bar (Biotage 353930) was charged with ptoluenesulfonyl hydrazide ( $104 \mathrm{mg}, 0.56 \mathrm{mmol}, 2$ equiv). The vial was sealed with a crimp-on microwave vial cap with septum (Biotage 352298) and purged with nitrogen via nitrogen inlet needle. EtOH was added via syringe, followed by 3,8-dimethyl-4,5,6,7,8,8a-hexahydroazulen-2(1H)-one 2.35 ( $50 \mathrm{mg}, 0.28 \mathrm{mmol}$, 1 equiv) which had been dissolved in EtOH ( 0.4 mL ) via syringe. The nitrogen inlet needle was removed and the sealed vial lowered into a preheated oil bath $\left(85{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$ where it was maintained for 18 h . Upon complete consumption of starting material, as evidenced by TLC, the vial was removed from the oil bath and allowed to cool to rt. The contents were transferred to a $10-\mathrm{mL}$ recovery flask and concentrated via rotary evaporation. The crude residue was purified via $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ flash column chromatography (20\%-40\% $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ /hexanes), affording 90 mg of the title compound as a white solid (93\%). The isomeric ratio of the hydrazone was determined to be 29:71 based on the integrations of the methyl doublets at 0.97 ppm and 0.62 ppm , respectively; though we did not separate the major and minor isomers.

## Data for 2.36

${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR: $\quad\left(400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3},{ }^{*}\right.$ major isomer, ${ }^{* *}$ minor isomer)
7.90-7.85 (m, 2H), $7.30(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 6.90-6.84(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 3.02-2.97(\mathrm{~m}$, $0.71 \mathrm{H}), 2.59-2.44(\mathrm{~m}, 2.17 \mathrm{H}), 2.42(\mathrm{~s}, 3.13 \mathrm{H}), 2.40-2.34(\mathrm{~m}, 0.65 \mathrm{H}), 2.04-1.88$ (m, 1.90H), 1.86-1.79 (m, 0.41H), 1.70-1.61 (m, 5.03H), 1.60-1.52 (m, 1.76H), $1.53-1.40(\mathrm{~m}, 2.50 \mathrm{H}), 1.32-1.22(0.97 \mathrm{H}), 0.97^{* *}(\mathrm{~d}, J=6.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 0.87 \mathrm{H}), 0.62^{*}(\mathrm{~d}$, $J=7.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2.13 \mathrm{H}) \mathrm{ppm} ;$
${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR: $\quad\left(100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3},{ }^{*}\right.$ major isomer, ${ }^{* *}$ minor isomer) $168.1^{*}, 167.6^{* *}, 160.7^{* *}, 160.4^{*}, 143.89^{* *}, 143.87^{*}, 135.6,133.1,132.3^{* *}$, 129.5, 128.31**, 128.29*, 52.6**, 49.2*, 40.8**, 36.6**, 36.2*, 36.0, 32.8**, 31.4*, 30.3*, 28.8**, 27.4**, 27.0*, 26.8*, 25.0**, 22.6**, 21.7*, 13.9*, 9.1* ppm;

FTIR (neat)
3213, 2912, 1619, 1443, 1402, 1387, 1334, 1308, 1289, 1186, 1163, 1089, 1019, 927, 811, 769, 733, 704, 669, 623, 596, 575, 546, 500, $458 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$;

HRMS (HRMS ESI)
$[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{19} \mathrm{H}_{27} \mathrm{O}_{2} \mathrm{~N}_{2} \mathrm{~S}$ : 347.1788; found: 347.1778;
m.p. $\quad 133.2-135.4^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$
$\underline{\text { TLC }} \quad \mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{f}}=0.23\left(30 \% \mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O} /\right.$ hexanes $)$
Silica gel, visualized with $\mathrm{KMnO}_{4}$


## 3,8-dimethyl-1,3a,4,5,6,7,8,8a-octahydroazulene (2.38) (Table 2.4, Entry 8). A

 $0.5-2 \mathrm{~mL}$ microwave vial (Biotage 352016) equipped with stir bar (Biotage 355544) was charged with $\mathrm{N}^{\prime}$-(3,8-dimethyl-4,5,6,7,8,8a-hexahydroazulen-2(1H)-ylidene)-4-methylbenzenesulfonohydrazide 2.36 ( $50 \mathrm{mg}, 0.14 \mathrm{mmol}, 1$ equiv). The vial was sealed with a crimp-on microwave vial cap (Biotage 352298) and flushed with $\mathrm{N}_{2}$ via an inlet needle. $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}(0.72 \mathrm{~mL})$ was added via syringe and the vial lowered into an ice/water ( $0{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ ) bath. Catecholborane ( 0.72 mL of a 1 M solution in THF, 0.72 mmol , 5 equiv) was added dropwise over 1 min , and the reaction maintained for $3 \mathrm{~h} . \mathrm{NaOAc} \cdot 3 \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}(87 \mathrm{mg}, 1.01 \mathrm{mmol}, 7$ equiv $)$ was added via removal of the microwave vial cap. A new cap was placed onto the vial, which was removed from the ice/water bath and lowered into a preheated oil bath $\left(70^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$. The white mixture wasmaintained for 1 h before the vial was removed from the oil bath and cooled to rt . The contents were transferred to a separatory funnel, diluted with $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}(2 \mathrm{~mL})$, and washed with sat. $\mathrm{NaHCO}_{3}$ ( 2 x 2 mL ). The phases were separated and the combined aqueous phases extracted with $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ (2 x 2 mL ). The combined organic phases were dried over $\mathrm{MgSO}_{4}$, filtered through a cotton plug, and concentrated via rotary evaporation. The crude residue was purified via $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ flash column chromatograph ( $10 \% \mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O} /$ hexanes) affording 12 mg of the title compound as a colorless oil (48\%) as a 63:37 diastereomeric ratio.

## Data for 2.38

${ }^{1}$ H NMR: $\quad\left(400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
5.30-5.27 (m, 0.37H), 5.27-5.24 (m, 0.63H), 2.43-2.23 (m, 2.39H), 2.19-2.13 (m, $1.44 \mathrm{H}), 2.07-1.97$ (m, 1.29H), 1.97-1.84 (m, 1.96H), 1.83-1.71 (m, 1.68H), 1.70$1.64(0.91 \mathrm{H}), 1.63-1.60(\mathrm{~m}, 3.08 \mathrm{H}), 1.59-1.47(\mathrm{~m}, 2.53 \mathrm{H}), 1.47-1.39(\mathrm{~m}$, $1.53 \mathrm{H}) 1.38-1.15$ (m, 2.46H), 1.09-0.93 (m, 1.48H), $0.91(\mathrm{~d}, J=6.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1.12 \mathrm{H})$, 0.82 (d, $J=6.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2.08 \mathrm{H}) \mathrm{ppm}$;
${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR: $\quad\left(100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
143.7, 143.3, 123.5, 123.3, 53.2, 51.2, 48.6, 46.3, 38.9, 38.4, 38.24, 38.22, 34.8, 33.3, 32.4, 32.6, 30.0, 29.1, 23.6, 23.4, 21.9, 16.8, 15.2, 15.1 ppm;
$\underline{\text { TLC }} \quad \mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{f}}=0.94\left(40 \% \mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O} /\right.$ hexanes $)$
Silica gel, visualized with $\mathrm{KMnO}_{4}$

(R)-3-methyldeca-1,8-diyn-3-yl acetate (2.57a). To a 50-mL 2-necked round bottom flask equipped with stir bar and two septa was added anhydrous $\mathrm{CeCl}_{3}(1.25 \mathrm{~g}, 5.1 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.4$ equiv) in a nitrogen-filled glove box, via temporary removal of a septum. The flask was removed from the glovebox and one of the septa was replaced with a nitrogen inlet adapter. THF ( 14 mL ) was added via syringe and the resulting suspension was stirred under $\mathrm{N}_{2}$ at rt for 18 h . The flask was lowered into an ice/water bath $\left(0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$ and ethynylmagnesium bromide ( 10.1 mL of a 0.5 M solution in THF, 5.1 mmol , 1.4 equiv) was added dropwise over 10 min via syringe. The resulting brown suspension was maintained at $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 1 h , at which point Non-7-yn-2-one 2.7 ( $0.50 \mathrm{~g}, 3.6 \mathrm{mmol}, 1$ equiv) was added dropwise over 2 min via syringe. After reacting for 10 min at $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, complete consumption of starting material was observed by TLC. Acetic anhydride ( $1.03 \mathrm{~mL}, 10.9 \mathrm{mmol}, 3$ equiv) was added in a single portion via syringe, and the mixture maintained at $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 20 min , over which time the reaction mixture partially gelled. Upon complete consumption of intermediate S2.1, as evidenced by TLC, sat. aq. $\mathrm{NH}_{4} \mathrm{Cl}$ was added via syringe and the mixture transferred to a separatory funnel. The layers were separated and the aqueous phase extracted with $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ ( $3 \times 50$ mL ). The combined organic phases were dried over $\mathrm{MgSO}_{4}$, filtered through a medium porosity fritted glass vacuum funnel, and concentrated via rotary evaporation. The crude residue was purified via $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ flash column chromatography ( $5 \% \mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O} /$ hexanes) affording 0.71 g of the title compound as a yellow oil (94\%).

## Data for 2.57a

${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR: $\quad\left(400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
2.55 (s, 1H), 2.19-2.12 (m, 2H), 2.03 (s, 3H), 1.98-1.90 (m, 1H), 1.85-1.79 (m, 1H), 1.78 (t, $J=2.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 3 \mathrm{H}$ ), 1.67 (s, 3H), 1.62-1.48 (m 4H) ppm;
${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR: $\quad\left(100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
169.5, 84.0, 79.0, 75.8, 74.9, 73.4, 41.0, 29.0, 26.5, 23.5, 22.1, 18.8, 3.6 ppm;

FTIR (neat)
3279, 2940, 2864, 1742, 1438, 1368, 1237, 1166, 1097, 1015, 943, 851, 660, 611, $536 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$;

HRMS (HRMS ESI)
$[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{13} \mathrm{H}_{19} \mathrm{O}_{2}$ : 207.13796; found: 207.13838;
TLC $\quad \mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{f}}(\mathbf{S 2 . 1})=0.07\left(10 \% \mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O} /\right.$ hexanes $)$
Silica gel, visualized with p-anisaldehyde
$\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{f}}(\mathbf{2} .57 \mathrm{a})=0.34\left(10 \% \mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O} /\right.$ hexanes $)$
Silica gel, visualized with p-anisaldehyde)


3-methyldeca-1,8-diyn-3-yl 2-chloroacetate (2.57b). A 250-mL 3-necked round bottom flask equipped with stir bar, $100-\mathrm{mL}$ addition funnel topped with septum, and two septa was charged
with anhydrous $\mathrm{CeCl}_{3}$ ( $4.64 \mathrm{~g}, 18.8 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.3$ equiv) in a nitrogen-filled glovebox. The flask was removed from the glovebox and one of the septa replaced with a nitrogen inlet adapter. THF (110 mL ) was added via temporary removal of the septum, and the resulting white suspension stirred under $\mathrm{N}_{2}$ at rt for 18 h . The flask was lowered into an ice/water bath $\left(0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$. Ethynylmagnesium bromide ( 34.7 mL of a 0.5 M solution in THF, 17.4 mmol , 1.2 equiv) was cannulated into the addition funnel, then added dropwise to the flask over 20 min. Upon complete addition, the resulting brown suspension was maintained for 1.5 h at $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, at which point Non-7-yn-2-one 2.7 ( $2.00 \mathrm{~g}, 14.5 \mathrm{mmol}, 1$ equiv) was added dropwise over 2 min via syringe. Complete consumption of starting material was evidenced by TLC after 15 min . Chloroacetyl chloride ( $1.73 \mathrm{~mL}, 21.7$ mmol, 1.5 equiv) was added dropwise over 2 min via syringe. The flask was removed from the ice/water bath and allowed to warm to rt, where it was maintained for 2 h . Upon complete consumption of intermediate S2.1, as evidenced by TLC, sat. aq. $\mathrm{NH}_{4} \mathrm{Cl}$ was added ( $\sim 100 \mathrm{~mL}$ ) via removal of the septum, and the mixture transferred to a $500-\mathrm{mL}$ separatory funnel. The layers were separated and the aqueous phase extracted with $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ ( $\sim 100 \mathrm{~mL}$ x 2 ). The combined organic phases were dried over $\mathrm{MgSO}_{4}$, filtered through a medium porosity fritted glass vacuum funnel, and concentrated via rotary evaporation. The crude residue was purified via $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ flash column chromatography (10-20\% $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O} /$ hexanes ) affording 3.17 g of the title compound as a yellow oil (91\%).

## Data for 2.57b

${ }^{1}$ H NMR: $\quad\left(400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
$4.02(\mathrm{~s}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 2.60(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 2.19-2.12(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 2.03-1.93(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 1.89-1.80(\mathrm{~m}$, 1H), 1.78 (t, J = $2.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 3 \mathrm{H}$ ), 1.72 (s, 3H), 1.631 .48 (m, 4H) ppm;

| ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR: | (100 MHz, $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) |
| :---: | :---: |
|  | 165.5, 82.9, 78.9, 77.3, 76.0, 74.4, 41.5, 40.8, 28.9, 26.4, 23.4, 18.7, 3.6 ppm; |
| FTIR | (neat) |
|  | 3288, 2942, 2864, 1763, 1742, 1437, 1411, 1376, 1289, 1262, 1151, 1093, 1016, |
|  | 948, 859, 793, 637, $545 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$; |
| HRMS | (HRMS ESI) |
|  | [ $\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{13} \mathrm{H}_{18} \mathrm{O}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}$ : 241.0995; found: 241.0984; |
| TLC | $\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{f}}(\mathbf{S 2 . 1})=0.19$ (20\% Et $\mathrm{t}_{2} \mathrm{O} /$ hexanes $)$ |
|  | Silica gel, visualized with p-anisaldehyde |
|  | $\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{f}}(\mathbf{2} .57 \mathrm{~b})=0.45$ (20\% Et $\mathrm{t}_{2} \mathrm{O} /$ hexanes $)$ |
|  | Silica gel, visualized with p-anisaldehyde |

 with rhodium(II) trifluoroacetate dimer ( $116 \mathrm{mg}, 0.18 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.05$ equiv) in a nitrogen-filled glovebox. The vial was sealed with a crimp-on microwave vial cap with septum (Biotage 352298) and removed from the glove box. The septum was pierced with a nitrogen inlet needle and toluene ( 17.7 mL ) was added via syringe. 3-Methyldeca-1,8-diyn-3-yl acetate 2.57a ( $0.73 \mathrm{~g}, 3.5 \mathrm{mmol}, 1$ equiv) was dissolved in toluene ( 1 mL ) and added in a single portion via syringe. The nitrogen inlet needle was removed and the sealed via was lowered into a preheated oil bath $\left(50{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$, where it was maintained for 1.5 h . Upon complete consumption of the starting material, as evidenced by TLC, the vial was removed from the oil bath and allowed to cool to rt. The contents were transferred to a $50-\mathrm{mL}$ recover flask and concentrated via rotary evaporation
( $40{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ bath temperature). The crude residue was purified via $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ flash column chromatography (1-3\% $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O} /$ hexanes), affording 0.65 g of the title compound as a pale-yellow oil (88\%).

Data for 2.56a

| ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR: | (400 MHz, $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) |
| :---: | :---: |
|  | 7.32-7.28 (m, 1H), 2.13 (s, 3H), 2.12-2.01 (m, 4H) 1.83 (s, 3H), 1.79-1.76 (m, |
|  | 3H), 1.58-1.46 (m, 4H) ppm; |
| ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR: | (100 MHz, $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) |
|  | 189.5, 169.0, 116.0, 109.8, 79.1, 75.7, 34.8, 28.6, 26.5, 21.1, 20.6, 18.7, 3.6 ppm; |
| FTIR | (neat) |
|  | 2937, 2860, 1974, 1746, 1440, 1367, 1209, 1147, 1035, 990, 920, 787, 626, 598, |
|  | $550 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$; |
| HRMS | (HRMS ESI) |
|  | [ $\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}^{+}$] calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{13} \mathrm{H}_{19} \mathrm{O}_{2}$ : 207.13796; found: 207.13767; |
| TLC | $\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{f}}=0.41$ (10\% Et $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O} /$ hexanes $)$ |
|  | Silica gel, visualized with p-anisaldehyde |

3-methyldeca-1,2-dien-8-yn-1-yl 2-chloroacetate (2.56b). A 50-mL 2-
 necked round bottom flask equipped with stir bar, reflux condenser topped with septum, and septum was charged with rhodium(II) trifluoroacetate dimer ( $100 \mathrm{mg}, 0.15 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.037$ equiv) in a nitrogen-filled glovebox. The flask was removed from the glovebox and the septum on top of the condenser replaced with a nitrogen
inlet adapter. Toluene was added ( 24 mL ) via syringe, followed by 3-methyldeca-1,8-diyn-3-yl 2chloroacetate 2.57 b ( $1.00 \mathrm{~g}, 4.15 \mathrm{mmol}$, 1 equiv) dissolved in toluene, in a single portion via syringe. The flask was lowered into a preheated oil bath $\left(50^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$ where it was maintained for 8 h . Upon complete consumption of starting material, as evidenced by TLC, the flask was removed from the oil bath and allowed to cool to rt. SilametS Thiourea ( $350 \mathrm{mg}, 1.07 \mathrm{mmol} / \mathrm{g}, 2.5$ equiv with respect to rhodium(II) trifluoroacetate dimer) was added via temporary removal of the septum. The mixture was maintained at rt for 16 h then filtered through a medium porosity fritted glass vacuum filter filled with celite ( 6 x 4 cm ). The filtrate was concentrated via rotary evaporation and the crude residue purified via $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ flash column chromatography (5\% $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O} /$ hexanes $)$, affording 0.89 g of the title compound as a yellow oil (89\%).

## Data for 2.56b

${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR: $\quad\left(400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
7.32 (sextet, $J=2.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 4.16(\mathrm{~s}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 2.19-2.08(\mathrm{~m}, 4 \mathrm{H}), 1.86(\mathrm{~d}, J=2.0 \mathrm{~Hz}$, 3H), 1.80 (t, $J=2.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 3 \mathrm{H}$ ), 1.60-1.49 (m, 4H) ppm;
${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR: $\quad\left(100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
189.5, 165.4, 117.3, 110.3, 79.1, 75.8, 40.9, 34.7, 28.6, 26.4, 20.6, 18.7, 3.6 ppm;

FTIR (neat)

1769, 1746, 1308, 1285, 1236, 1149, 1057, 1004, 942, $787 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$;

HRMS (HRMS ESI)
$[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{13} \mathrm{H}_{18} \mathrm{O}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}$ : 241.09898; found: 241.09919;
TLC
$\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{f}}=0.69$ ( $20 \% \mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O} /$ hexanes $)$
Silica gel, visualized with p-anisaldehyde


3,8-dimethyl-2-oxo-1,2,4,5,6,7-hexahydroazulen-1-yl acetate (2.58a). A 100mL 2-necked round bottom flask equipped with stir bar, reflux condenser topped with septum, and a septum, was sequentially charged with bis(1,5cyclooctadiene)rhodium(I) tetrafluoroborate ( $31 \mathrm{mg}, 0.08 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.025$ equiv) and $\mathrm{PPh}_{3}(30 \mathrm{mg}, 0.11 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.038$ equiv) in a nitrogen-filled glovebox. The flask was removed from the glovebox and a nitrogen inlet needle was inserted into the septum on top of the reflux condenser. 1,2-Dichloroethane ( 30 mL ) was added via syringe. The resulting dark yellow solution was maintained at rt for 10 min at which time the flask was evacuated and refilled five times with CO gas (100\%), alternating between an inlet needle attached to a vacuum and an inlet needle attached to a balloon of CO. The light-yellow solution was maintained for 10 min before 3-methyldeca-1,2-dien-8-yn-1-yl acetate $\mathbf{2 . 5 6 a}$ ( $0.62 \mathrm{~g}, 3.0 \mathrm{mmol}$, 1 equiv) was added in a single portion via syringe. The flask was lowered into a preheated oil bath $\left(70^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$ and maintained for 20 h. Upon complete consumption of starting material, as evidenced by TLC, the flask was removed from the oil bath, allowed to cool to rt, and the contents transferred to a $100-\mathrm{mL}$ recovery flask. The solvent was evaporated via rotary evaporation ( $40^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ bath temperature) and the crude residue purified via $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ flash column chromatography (20-40\% $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O} /$ hexanes) affording 0.60 g of the title compound as a pale-yellow solid (85\%).

## Data for 2.58a

${ }^{1}$ H NMR: $\quad\left(400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
5.66 (s, 1H), 2.72 (t, $J=5.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 2.48-2.34(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 2.13(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 1.89-1.69$ (m, 4H), 1.82 (s, 3H), 1.78 (s, 3H);

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\mp@subsup{}{}{13}\textrm{C}\mathrm{ NMR: (100 MHz, CDCl}3)
200.3, 170.0, 169.2, 140.5, 134.8, 131.9, 72.2, 35.6, 29.0, 26.5, 24.2, 23.5, 20.8, 8.3
ppm;
FTIR (neat)
2923, 1739, 1694, 1574, 1433, 1371, 1338, 1277, 1224, 1024, 968, 929, 747, 586,
518 cm
HRMS (HRMS ESI)
[M + H]+ calcd for C14 }\mp@subsup{\textrm{H}}{19}{}\mp@subsup{\textrm{O}}{3}{}: 235.1334; found: 235.1348
TLC
R
Silica gel, visualized with \(\mathrm{KMnO}_{4}\)
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3,8-dimethyl-2-oxo-1,2,4,5,6,7-hexahydroazulen-1-yl
2-chloroacetate
(2.58b). A 50-mL 2-necked round bottom flask equipped with stir bar, reflux condenser topped with septum, and a septum was sequentially charged with bis(1,5-cyclooctadiene)rhodium(I) tetrafluoroborate ( $51 \mathrm{mg}, 0.13 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.05$ equiv) and $\mathrm{PPh}_{3}$ ( $49 \mathrm{mg}, 0.19 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.075$ equiv) in a nitrogen-filled glovebox. The flask was removed from the glovebox and a nitrogen inlet needle was inserted into the septum on top of the reflux condenser. 1,2-dichloroethane ( 25 mL ) was added via syringe. The resulting dark yellow solution was maintained at rt for 10 min at which time the flask was evacuated and refilled five times with CO gas (100\%), alternating between an inlet needle attached to a vacuum and an inlet needle attached to a balloon of CO. The light-yellow solution was maintained for 10 min before 3-methyldeca-1,2-dien-8-yn-1-yl 2-chloroacetate $\mathbf{2 . 5 6 b}$ ( $0.60 \mathrm{~g}, 2.5 \mathrm{mmol}$, 1 equiv) was added in a single portion via syringe. The flask was lowered into a preheated oil bath $\left(70^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$ and maintained
for 20 h . Upon complete consumption of starting material, as evidenced by TLC, the flask was removed from the oil bath, allowed to cool to rt, and the contents transferred to a $100-\mathrm{mL}$ recovery flask. The solvent was evaporated via rotary evaporation ( $40^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ bath temperature) and the crude residue purified via $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ flash column chromatography ( $30 \% \mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O} /$ hexanes) affording 0.58 g of the title compound as a pale-yellow solid (86\%).

## Data for 2.58b

${ }^{1}$ H NMR: $\quad\left(400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
5.69 (s, 1H), 4.12 (d, $J=0.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 2.73(\mathrm{t}, \mathrm{J}=5.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 246-2.37(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H})$, 1.92-1.71 (m, 4H), 1.85 (s, 3H), 1.79 (s, 3H) ppm;
${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR: $\quad\left(100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
199.2, 169.7, 166.5, 141.4, 134.9, 131.1, 73.6, 40.8, 35.6, 29.0, 26.4, 24.1, 23.7, 8.3 ppm;

FTIR (neat)
2936, 1735, 1689, 1568, 1454, 1415, 1392, 1323, 1257, 1162, 1026, 977, 855, 799, 782, 746, 690, 557, 542, 508, 455, $429 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$;

HRMS (HRMS ESI)
[ $\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{14} \mathrm{H}_{18} \mathrm{O}_{3} \mathrm{Cl}$ : 269.0945; found: 269.0931;
m.p. $\quad 83.4-84.4^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$
$\underline{\mathrm{TLC}} \quad \mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{f}}=0.37$ (40\% $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O} /$ hexanes $)$
Silica gel, visualized with $\mathrm{KMnO}_{4}$


1-hydroxy-3,8-dimethyl-4,5,6,7-tetrahydroazulen-2(1H)-one (2.53). A 100-mL 2-necked round bottom flask equipped with stir bar, reflux condenser topped with nitrogen inlet adapter, and septum, was charged with 3,8-dimethyl-2-oxo-1,2,4,5,6,7-hexahydroazulen-1-yl 2-chloroacetate 2.58 b ( $0.52 \mathrm{~g}, 1.94 \mathrm{mmol}, 1$ equiv) via temporary removal of the septum, and $\mathrm{MeOH}(32 \mathrm{~mL}$ ) via syringe. Scandium(III) triflate ( 48 mg , $0.097 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.05$ equiv) was added to a scintillation vial and dissolved in $6.5 \mathrm{~mL} \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$. This solution was added to the flask via syringe. The flask was lowered into a preheated oil bath (30 ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ ) and maintained for 3.5 h , at which point complete consumption of starting material was evidenced by TLC. The flask was removed from the oil bath, allowed to cool to rt, and the contents transferred to a $125-\mathrm{mL}$ separatory funnel. Brine ( 20 mL ) was added, the layers separated, and the aqueous phase extracted with EtOAc ( 2 x 20 mL ). The combined organic phases were dried over $\mathrm{MgSO}_{4}$, filtered through a medium porosity fritted glass vacuum filter, and concentrated via rotary evaporation. The crude residue was purified via $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ flash column chromatography (40-60\% $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O} /$ hexanes) affording 0.33 g of the title compound as a white solid (88\%).

## Data for 2.53

${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR: $\quad\left(400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
4.44 (d, $J=2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 2.74-2.68(\mathrm{~m}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 2.50-2.34(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 2.05(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 1.90-$ 1.69 (m, 4H), 1.77 (s, 3H) ppm;
${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR: $\quad\left(100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
205.7, 170.2, 141.5, 134.2, 133.6, 72.0, 35.8, 29.3, 26.5, 24.2, 23.8, 8.2 ppm;

FTIR (neat)
3286, 2918, 1667, 1563, 1394, 1335, 1256, 1129, 1041, 801, 762, 580

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cm}\mp@subsup{}{}{-1}
HRMS
(HRMS ESI)
[M + H]+ calcd for }\mp@subsup{\textrm{C}}{12}{}\mp@subsup{\textrm{H}}{17}{}\mp@subsup{\textrm{O}}{2}{}:193.12231; found: 193.12232
m.p. }\quad81.6-83.7 o C
TLC }\quad\mp@subsup{\textrm{R}}{\textrm{f}}{}=0.12(40% Et2O/hexanes
Silica gel, visualized with KMnO4
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2-hydroxy-3,8-dimethyl-4,5,6,7-tetrahydroazulen-1(3aH)-one (2.54). A 25-mL 2-necked round bottom flask equipped with stir bar, nitrogen inlet adapter, and septum was sequentially charged with 1-hydroxy-3,8-dimethyl-4,5,6,7-tetrahydroazulen-2(1H)-one 2.53 ( $105 \mathrm{mg}, 0.55 \mathrm{mmol}$, 1 equiv) via temporary removal of the septum, and THF ( 10.9 mL ) via syringe. To this solution was added potassium tert-butoxide (1.3 mL of a 0.5 M solution in ${ }^{t} \mathrm{BuOH}, 0.66 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.2$ equiv) via syringe, and the reaction maintained at rt for 5 min, during which period a yellow precipitate formed. After complete consumption of starting material, as evidenced by TLC, the mixture was diluted with EtOAc ( 10 mL ), transferred to a $60-\mathrm{mL}$ separatory funnel and sat. $\mathrm{NH}_{4} \mathrm{Cl}(20 \mathrm{~mL})$ added. The layers were separated and the organic phase was dried over $\mathrm{MgSO}_{4}$ and concentrated via rotary evaporation, affording 104 mg of the title compound as an off-white solid (99\%).
${ }^{1}$ H NMR: $\quad\left(400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
5.75 (s, 1H), 2.93 (d, $J=11.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 2.43(1, J=13.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 2.39(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H})$, 2.23-2.03 (m, 3H), 1.95 (s, 3H), 1.90-1.81 (m, 1H), 1.64-1.51 (m, 1H), 1.30-1.17 (m, 1H), 0.94-0.81 (m, 1H) ppm;
${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR: $\quad\left(100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
189.9, 153.4, 150.5, 136.8, 134.0, 45.2, 38.8, 31.5, 31.2, 25.5, 21.2, 11.4 ppm;

FTIR (neat)
3304, 2930, 2850, 1666, 1614, 1436, 1401, 1353, 1331, 1292, 1215, 1184, 1158, 1091, 1048, 989, 965, 948, 835, 818, 785, 672, 653, 599, 556, 535, 508, $483 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$;

HRMS (HRMS ESI)
$[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{12} \mathrm{H}_{17} \mathrm{O}_{2}$ : 193.12231; found: 193.12213;
TLC $\quad \mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{f}}=0.65\left(40 \% \mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O} /\right.$ hexanes, visualized with $\left.\mathrm{KMnO}_{4}\right)$


3,8-dimethyl-1-oxo-1, 3a,4,5,6,7-hexahydroazulen-2-yl
trifluoromethanesulfonate (2.59). A 0.5-2 mL microwave vial (Biotage 352016)
equipped with stir bar (Biotage 355544) was charged with 2-hydroxy-3, 8-dimethyl-4,5,6,7-tetrahydroazulen-1(3aH)-one 2.54 ( $18 \mathrm{mg}, 0.09 \mathrm{mmol}$, 1 equiv). The vial was sealed with a crimp-on microwave vial cap (Biotage 352298) and flushed with $\mathrm{N}_{2}$ via an inlet needle. $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ ( 0.94 mL ) was added via syringe and the vial lowered into an ice/water $\left(0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$ bath. Triethylamine ( $26 \mu \mathrm{~L}, 0.19 \mathrm{mmol}, 2.0$ equiv) and triflic anhydride ( $19 \mu \mathrm{~L}, 0.11 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.2$ equiv) were sequentially added dropwise via syringe. The reaction was maintained for 1 h at which point complete consumption of starting material was observed by TLC. The via was removed from the
ice/water bath and the contents transferred to a recovery flask. Upon concentration and purification of the crude residue via $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ flash column chromatography ( $20 \% \mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O} /$ hexanes), 24 mg of the title compound were isolated as a pale-yellow oil (79\%). The product was contaminated with a small amount of an identified product which was not observable by TLC.

## Data for $\mathbf{2 . 5 9}$

${ }^{1}$ H NMR: $\quad\left(400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
3.12 (d, $J=11.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 2.48-2.41(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 2.40(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 2.28-2.21(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H})$, 2.17-2.12 (m, 2H) 2.09 (s, 3H), 1.92-1.86 (m, 1H), 1.69-1.58 (m, 1H) 1.33-1.24 (m, 1H), 1.09-1.00 (m, 1H) ppm;
${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR: $\quad\left(100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
185.0, 156.9, 156.8, 146.3, 132,2, 118.7 (q, $J=318.3 \mathrm{~Hz}), 46.1,38.9,31.2,30.7$, 25.0, 21.4, 12.6 ppm;
$\underline{\text { TLC }} \quad \mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{f}}=0.53\left(40 \% \mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O} /\right.$ hexanes $)$
Silica gel, visualized with $\mathrm{KMnO}_{4}$


3,8-dimethyl-4,5,6,7-tetrahydroazulen-1(3aH)-one (2.55). A 2-5 mL microwave vial (Biotage 521521) equipped with stir bar (Biotage 355543) was charged with Tetrakis(triphenylphosphine)-palladium(0) (34 mg, $0.03 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.5$ equiv) and lithium chloride ( $22 \mathrm{mg}, 0.51 \mathrm{mmol}, 8.75$ equiv). The vial was sealed with a crimp-on microwave vial cap (Biotage 352298), and flushed with nitrogen via an inlet needle. 3,8-Dimethyl-1-oxo-1,3a,4,5,6,7-hexahydroazulen-2-yl trifluoromethanesulfonate 2.59 ( $19 \mathrm{mg}, 0.06 \mathrm{mmol}, 1$ equiv) was dissolved in DMF ( 5.9 mL ) and added to the vial via syringe. The solution was degassed for

10 min by bubbling nitrogen through the solution via an inlet needle. Triethylsilane ( $0.19 \mathrm{~mL}, 1.2$ mmol, 20.4 equiv) was added via syringe. The inlet needle was removed and the sealed vial lowered into a preheated oil bath $\left(90^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$, where it was maintained for 15 min . Upon complete consumption of starting material, as evidenced by TLC, the vial was removed from the oil bath and allowed to cool to rt. The contents were transferred to a separator funnel, diluted with $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ (5 $\mathrm{mL})$, and washed with $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}(2 \times 3 \mathrm{~mL})$. The organic phase was dried over $\mathrm{MgSO}_{4}$ and concentrated via rotary evaporation. The crude residue was purified via $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ flash column chromatography (20\% $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O} /$ hexanes) affording 5.6 mg of the title compound as a colorless oil (54\%). The product was contaminated with triethylsilane.

## Data for 2.55

${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR: $\quad\left(400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
6.02 (pent, $J=1.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}$ ), 3.08 (d, $J=11.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 2.43-2.37$ (m, 1H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 2.19-2.13 (m, 1H), 2.12-2.06 (m, 2H), 2.05 (m, 3H), 1.88-1.80 (m, 1H), 1.671.54 (m, 2H), 1.32-1.26 (m, 1H) ppm; Impurities: 0.97 (t, $J=8.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2.13 \mathrm{H}), 0.59$ (q, $J=8.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1.46 \mathrm{H}$ ) ppm (triethyl silane);
${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR: $\quad\left(100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
197.4, 172.1, 151.5, 136.8, 133.5, 50.4, 39.1, 31.5, 31.0, 25.5, 20.8, 16.8 ppm;

Impurities: 6.7, 5.9 ppm (triethyl silane);
$\underline{\text { TLC }} \quad \mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{f}}=0.51\left(30 \% \mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O} /\right.$ hexanes $)$
Silica gel, visualized with $\mathrm{KMnO}_{4}$


8-hydroxy-1a,6-dimethyl-1a,2,4,5-tetrahydro-3H-azuleno[3a,4-b]oxiren-7(8H)-one (2.61). A 100-mL 2-necked round bottom flask equipped with stir bar, nitrogen inlet adapter, and septum was charged with vanadyl acetylacetonate (4 $\mathrm{mg}, 0.016 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.01$ equiv) via temporary removal of the septum. Benzene ( 31 mL ) was added via syringe, followed by 1-hydroxy-3,8-dimethyl-4,5,6,7-tetrahydroazulen-2(1H)-one 2.53 (300 $\mathrm{mg}, 1.56 \mathrm{mmol}$, 1 equiv), which had been dissolved in benzene ( 3 mL ), via syringe. Tert-butyl hydroperoxide ( $\sim 5 \mathrm{M}$ in decanes, $0.37 \mathrm{~mL}, 1.87 \mathrm{mmol}$, 1.2 equiv) was added dropwise over 1 min via syringe, during which period the reaction mixture turned deep red. The reaction was maintained at rt for 1 h , during which period the color changed to light yellow. Upon complete consumption of starting material, as evidenced by TLC, the mixture was concentrated via rotary evaporation. The crude residue was purified via $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ flash column chromatography ( $40 \% \mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O} /$ hexanes ), affording 307 mg of the title compound as a white solid and single diastereomer (94\%).

## Data for 2.61

${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR: $\quad\left(400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
3.89 (d, $J=3.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}$ ), 2.91 (m, 1H), 2.39 (d, $J=4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 2.32-2.25(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H})$ 2.21-2.11 (m, 1H), 2.02-1.87 (m, 2H) $1.82(\mathrm{~d}, \mathrm{~J}=1.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 1.76-1.66(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H})$, 1.66-1.57 (m, 1H), 1.48 (s, 3H), 1.20-1.07 (m, 1H) ppm;
${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR: $\quad\left(100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
203.9, 167.8, 140.9, 71.5, 68.3, 67.9, 35.5, 29.1, 25.9, 24.4, 23.5, 8.7 ppm;

FTIR (neat)
$1769,1746,1308,1285,1236,1149,1057,1004,942,787 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$;
HRMS (HRMS ESI)

3432, 2927, 1684, 1615, 1441, 1389, 1339, 1326, 1281, 1225, 1175, 1158, 1127, 1108, 1045, 1028, 982, 886, 854, 824, 768, 724, 653 ,610, 545, $475 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$;
$[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{12} \mathrm{H}_{17} \mathrm{O}_{3}$ : 209.11722; found: 209.11741;
TLC $\quad \mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{f}}=0.20$ ( $60 \% \mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O} /$ hexanes $)$
Silica gel, visualized with $\mathrm{KMnO}_{4}$

## Appendix B : Experimental Information for Chapter Three

General Methods. Unless otherwise indicated, all reactions were performed in flame-dried glassware under an atmosphere of dry nitrogen. All commercially available compounds used as received. Tetrahydrofuran (THF), dichloromethane $\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}\right)$, and diethyl ether $\left(\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}\right)$ were purified by passing through alumina using the Sol-Tek ST-002 solvent purification system. Toluene was distilled over calcium hydride prior to use. Deuterated chloroform ( $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ was dried over 3 Å molecular sieves prior to use. Gasses $\mathrm{N}_{2}, \mathrm{H}_{2}$, and CO were purchased from Matheson Tri Gas. Flash column chromatography was performed using silica gel (40-63 $\mu$ m particle size, $60 \AA$ pore size). Thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on silica get $\mathrm{F}_{254}$ glass-backed plates (250 $\mu \mathrm{m}$ thickness). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ and ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR were recorded on a Bruker Avance 400 MHz spectrometer. Spectra were referenced to residual chloroform ( $7.26 \mathrm{ppm},{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}, 77.16 \mathrm{ppm},{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ ). Chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) are reported in ppm and multiplicities are indicated by s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), quint (quintet), and $m$ (multiplet). Coupling constants, $J$, are reported in hertz (Hz). NMR spectra were obtained at room temperature. EI mass spectroscopy was performed on a Waters Micromass GCT high-resolution mass spectrometer, while ES mass spectroscopy was performed on a Waters Q-TOF Ultima API, Micromass UK Limited high-resolution mass spectrometer. IR spectra were obtained using a Nicolet Avatar E.S.P. 360 FT-IR.

(R)-N,N-dimethyl-2-(3-methylcyclopent-2-en-1-yl)acetamide (3.37). Twostep, two-pot procedure. A $2-5-\mathrm{mL}$ microwave vial (Biotage 351521) equipped with stir bar (Biotage 355543) was charged with Hoveyda-Grubbs $2^{\text {nd }}$ generation catalyst ( $2.0 \mathrm{mg}, 0.003 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.1 \mathrm{~mol} \%$ ). The vial was sealed with a crimp-on
microwave vial cap with septum (Biotage 352298) and purged with $\mathrm{N}_{2}$ via an inlet needle. (R)linalool ( $0.50 \mathrm{~g}, 0.57 \mathrm{~mL}, 3.2 \mathrm{mmol}$, 1 equiv) was added and a second needle attached to an oil bubbler was inserted into the septum. The mixture was reacted at rt while being allowed to vent through the oil bubbler for 1 h , at which point complete consumption of starting material was observed by TLC. The nitrogen inlet needle was removed and a needle attached to an air line was inserted through the septum and into the reaction mixture. Air was bubbled through the green solution for 20 min during which time the solution turned black. A syringe was used to transfer the solution to a $50-\mathrm{mL}$ 2-necked round bottom flask which was equipped with a stir bar, septum, and reflux condenser topped with nitrogen inlet adapter. Freshly distilled toluene ( 13 mL ) was added via syringe, followed by $\mathrm{N}, \mathrm{N}$-dimethylacetamide dimethyl acetal ( $1.4 \mathrm{~mL}, 9.7 \mathrm{mmol}, 3$ equiv) via syringe. The flask was lowered into a preheated oil bath set to $115^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and reacted for 24 h at which point TLC revealed the reaction to be complete. The flask was removed from the oil bath, allowed to cool to rt, transferred to a $100-\mathrm{mL}$ recovery flask, and concentrated via rotary evaporation ( $40{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ bath temperature). Purification via $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ flash column chromatography (40$60 \% \mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O} /$ hexanes $)$, afforded 0.40 g of the title compound as an orange oil (75\%).

Two-step, one-pot procedure. This reaction was performed as described above with the following modifications: Hoveyda-Grubbs $2^{\text {nd }}$ generation catalyst ( $<1 \mathrm{mg}$, spatula tip) was dissolved in toluene ( 2.6 mL ). ( $R$ )-Linalool ( $0.100 \mathrm{~g}, 0.12 \mathrm{~mL}, 0.65 \mathrm{mmol}, 1$ equiv) was added in a single portion via syringe. Reacted at rt for 1.5 h . Air was bubbled through the reaction mixture for 40 min before $N, N$-dimethylacetamide dimethyl acetal ( $0.24 \mathrm{~mL}, 1.62 \mathrm{mmol}, 2.5$ equiv) was added in a single portion via syringe. Reacted at $115{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 24 h . Contents transferred to a recovery flask and concentrated via rotary evaporation. 0.083 g of the title compound as an orange oil (77\%).

NOTE: This one-pot procedure was scaled up to 5 g and $68 \%$ of the title compound was isolated; however, catalyst loading had to be increased to $0.3 \mathrm{~mol} \%$ for the metathesis to reach completion.

## Data for 3.37

${ }^{1}$ H NMR: $\quad\left(400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
5.31-5.27 (m, 1H), 3.16-3.06 (m, 1H), $2.99(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 2.94(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 2.39-2.27(\mathrm{~m}$, 2H), 2.27-2.14 (m, 3H), $1.71(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}) 1.53-1.42(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}) \mathrm{ppm}$;
${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR: $\quad\left(100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
172.7, 141.1, 128.4, 42.5, 39.9, 37.5, 36.3, 35.4, 31.1, 16.8 ppm ;

FTIR (neat)
2920, 1738, 1641, 1493, 1445, 1393, 1327, 1266, 1129, 1084, 1056, 1005, 986, 815, 824, 614, $455 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$;

HRMS (HRMS ESI)
calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{10} \mathrm{H}_{18} \mathrm{NO}\left(\mathrm{M}^{+} \mathrm{H}^{+}\right)$: 168.1382; found: 168.1375;
$\underline{\text { TLC }} \quad \mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{f}}=0.13\left(50 \% \mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}\right.$ in hexanes)
Silica gel, visualized with $\mathrm{KMnO}_{4}$


Methyl (R)-2-(3-methylcyclopent-2-en-1-yl)acetate (3.36). A $250-\mathrm{mL}$ 2necked round-bottom flask equipped with stir bar, nitrogen inlet adapter, and septum was charged with ( $R$ )-N,N-dimethyl-2-(3-methylcyclopent-2-en-1$\mathrm{yl})$ acetamide 3.37 ( $1.75 \mathrm{~g}, 10.5 \mathrm{mmol}$, 1 equiv) via syringe. Dichloromethane ( 105 mL ) was added via temporary removal of the septum, followed by pyridine ( $2.5 \mathrm{~mL}, 31.4 \mathrm{mmol}, 3$ equiv) via syringe. The flask was lowered into an ethanol bath cooled to $-40^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ via immersion chiller. Triflic
anhydride ( 2.3 mL , $13.6 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.3$ equiv) was added dropwise over 20 min via syringe pump. Upon complete addition, the ethanol bath was warmed to $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ over 2 h by gradually increasing the temperature of the immersion chiller. Upon reaching $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ the reaction was maintained for 2 h , at which point the starting material had been consumed as evidenced by TLC. Methanol ( 12.7 mL , $314 \mathrm{mmol}, 30$ equiv) was added dropwise over 3 min via syringe, and the flask removed from the ethanol bath and allowed to warm to rt, where it was maintained for 16 h .1 N HCl was added (50 mL ) via temporary removal of the septum, and the biphasic mixture was stirred at rt for 3 h . The reaction mixture was transferred to a separatory funnel and the layers separated. The aqueous phase was extracted with $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}(1 \mathrm{x})$. The combined organic phases were dried over $\mathrm{MgSO}_{4}$, filtered through a medium-porosity fritted glass vacuum filter, and concentrated via rotary evaporation. The crude residue was purified via $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ flash column chromatography ( $40 \% \mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O} /$ pentane ), affording 1.36 g of the title compound as a pale-yellow oil (85\%).

## Data for $\mathbf{3 . 3 6}$

${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR: $\quad\left(400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
5.27-5.23 (m, 1H), 3.67 (s, 3H), 3.10-2.99 (m, 1H), 2.38-2.10 (m, 5H), 1.71 (s, 3H), 1.53-1.44 (m, 1H) ppm;
${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR: $\quad\left(100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
173.7, 141.6, 127.6, 51.5, 42.4, 40.7, 36.3, 30.7, 16.7 ppm;

FTIR (neat)
2951, 2844, 1736, 1657, 1436, 1360, 1315, 1253, 1190, 1156, 1074, 1014, 996, 883, 821, 655, 593

| HRMS | (HRMS ESI) |
| :--- | :--- |
|  | calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{9} \mathrm{H}_{15} \mathrm{O}_{2}\left(\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}^{+}\right): 155.1066$; found: 155.1060; |
| $\underline{\text { TLC }}$ | $\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{f}}=0.74\left(40 \% \mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O} /\right.$ hexanes $)$ |
|  | Silica gel, visualized via $\mathrm{KMnO}_{4}$ |



Methyl (R)-3-formyl-6-oxoheptanoate (3.40). A 25-mL 2-necked round bottomed flask equipped with stir bar, nitrogen inlet adapter, and septum was charged with methyl ( $R$ )-2-(3-methylcyclopent-2-en-1-yl)acetate 3.36 ( $150 \mathrm{mg}, 0.97 \mathrm{mmol}$, 1 equiv). Acetone ( 8.8 mL ), deionized water ( 0.9 mL ), and 2,6-lutidine ( 0.23 $\mathrm{mL}, 1.95 \mathrm{mmol}$, 2 equiv) were sequentially added via syringe. $N$-Methylmorpholine $N$-oxide (170 $\mathrm{mg}, 1.46 \mathrm{mmol}$, 1.5 equiv) was added, followed by osmium tetroxide ( $7 \mathrm{mg}, 0.03 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.03$ equiv) via temporary removal of the septum. The brown-yellow reaction mixture was maintained at rt for 16 h , at which point complete consumption of starting material was observed by TLC. Iodobenzene diacetate ( $470 \mathrm{mg}, 1.46 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.5$ equiv) was added via temporary removal of the septum and the mixture maintained at rt for 2 h . Upon completion, as evidenced by TLC, saturated aqueous $\mathrm{Na}_{2} \mathrm{~S}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3}(10 \mathrm{~mL})$ was added and the mixture stirred for 10 min . The mixture was transferred to a separatory funnel and EtOAc ( 10 mL ) was added. The layers were separated and the aqueous phase extracted with EtOAc ( $2 \times 10 \mathrm{~mL}$ ). The combined organic phases were washed with saturated aqueous $\mathrm{CuSO}_{4}$ ( $3 \times 10 \mathrm{~mL}$ ). The organic phase was dried over $\mathrm{MgSO}_{4}$, filtered through a medium porosity fritted glass vacuum filter, and concentrated via rotary evaporation. The crude residue was purified via $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ flash column chromatography (40-80\% EtOAc/hexanes), affording 161 mg of the title compound as a colorless oil (89\%).
${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR: $\quad\left(400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
$9.68(\mathrm{~d}, 0.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 3.68(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 2.85-2.77(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 2.72\left(\mathrm{dd}, J^{1}=16.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, J^{2}=\right.$
$8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 2.57-2.48(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 2.42\left(\mathrm{dd}, J^{1}=16.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, J^{2}=5.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}\right), 2.14(\mathrm{~s}$, 3H), 2.06-1.95 (m, 1H), 1.83-1.71 (m, 1H) ppm;
${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR: $\quad\left(100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
207.3, 202.3, 172.1, 52.1, 46.9, 40.3, 33.2, 30.1, 22.3 ppm;

TLC $\quad \mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{f}}=0.24$ (40\% EtOAc in hexanes)
$\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{f}}=0.05$ ( $40 \% \mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ in hexanes)
Silica get, visualized with p-anisaldehyde

( $\boldsymbol{R}$ )-3-formyl-N,N-dimethyl-6-oxoheptanamide (3.52). To a 250 mL 2necked round-bottom flask equipped with stir bar, nitrogen inlet adapter, and septum were sequentially added $\quad(R)$ - $N$, $N$-dimethyl-2-(3-methylcyclopent-2-en-1-yl)acetamide 3.37 ( $2.18 \mathrm{~g}, 13.0 \mathrm{mmol}, 1$ equiv), acetone ( 118 mL ), deionized water ( 12 mL ), 2,6-lutidine ( $3.00 \mathrm{~mL}, 26.0 \mathrm{mmol}$, 2 equiv), $N$-methylmorpholine $N$ oxide ( $2.29 \mathrm{~g}, 19.6 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.5$ equiv), and osmium tetroxide ( $99 \mathrm{mg}, 0.39 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.03$ equiv), via temporary removal of the septum. The brown-yellow mixture was reacted at rt for 20 h , at which point the starting material had been fully consumed, as evidenced by TLC. Iodobenzene diacetate ( $6.30 \mathrm{~g}, 19.6 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.5$ equiv) was added in a single portion via temporary removal of the septum, and the mixture reacted at rt for 1.5 h . Upon completion, as evidenced by TLC, sat. aq. $\mathrm{Na}_{2} \mathrm{~S}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3}$ ( 50 mL ) was added. The biphasic mixture was allowed to stir for 5 min before being transferred to a separatory funnel and diluted with $\mathrm{EtOAc}(30 \mathrm{~mL})$. The layers were separated and the aqueous
layer extracted with EtOAc (3 x 50 mL ). The combined organic layers were dried over $\mathrm{MgSO}_{4}$, filtered through a fritted glass vacuum filter, and concentrated via rotary evaporation. The crude residue was purified via $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ flash column chromatography (5\% MeOH/45\% EtOAc/50\% hexanes), affording 2.40 g of the title compound as a yellow oil (92\%). The enantiomeric ratio was determined to be 94:6, following a procedure developed by Gellman and coworkers. ${ }^{120}$ A pipette tip of the title compound was dissolved in $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}(\sim 0.6 \mathrm{~mL})$ in an NMR tube. To this was added a drop of (S)-1-methoxypropan-2-amine via pipette. The mixture was shaken vigorously and subjected to ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR within 10 min of addition of (S)-1-methoxypropan-2-amine.

## Data for $\mathbf{3 . 5 2}$

${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR: $\quad\left(400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
9.74 (d, $J=1.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 3.02$ (s, 3H), 2.93 (s, 3H), 2.88 (pent, $J=6.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 2.76$ (dd, $\left.J^{1}=16.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, J^{2}=8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}\right), 2.63-2.46(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 2.42\left(\mathrm{dd}, J^{1}=16.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, J^{2}=\right.$ $5.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 2.14(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 2.04-1.92(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 1.80-1.69(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}) \mathrm{ppm}$;
${ }^{13}$ C NMR: ( $100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ )
207.9, 203.4, 170.5, 46.9, 40.9, 37.4, 35.7, 33.5, 30.1, 22.9 ppm;

FTIR (neat)
2928, 1711, 1635, 1498, 1401, 1364, 1263, 1146, 1060, 964, 901, 801, 742, 621, $589 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$;

HRMS (HRMS ESI) calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{10} \mathrm{H}_{18} \mathrm{O}_{3} \mathrm{~N}\left(\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}^{+}\right)$: 200.1281; found: 200.1271;
$\underline{\mathrm{TLC}} \quad \mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{f}}=0.24(5 \% \mathrm{MeoH} / 60 \% \mathrm{EtOAc} / 35 \%$ hexanes $)$
Silica gel, visualized with p-anisaldehyde (product stained pink)


4R)-4-(3-oxobutyl)-5-(prop-1-yn-1-yl)dihydrofuran-2(3H)-one (3.51). To a 10-mL 2-necked round bottom flask equipped with stir bar, nitrogen inlet adapter, and septum, were sequentially added chlorotriisopropoxytitanium(IV) ( 0.50 mL of a 1 M solution in hexane, 0.50 mmol , 2 equiv) and THF ( 1.0 mL ) via syringe. The flask was lowered into an ethanol-filled immersion chilled bath set to $-60{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. 1Propynylmagnesium bromide ( 1.0 mL of a 0.5 M solution in THF, 0.50 mmol , 2 equiv) was added dropwise over a period of 5 min via syringe. The solution was reacted for 1 h , during which period a precipitate was formed. To this mixture was added ( $R$ )-3-formyl- $N$, $N$-dimethyl-6oxoheptanamide 3.52 ( $50 \mathrm{mg}, 0.25 \mathrm{mmol}$, 1 equiv) in a single portion at $-60^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. The mixture was maintained for 2 h at which point TLC indicated complete consumption of starting material. 1 N HCl was added ( 1 mL ) via syringe, and the flask was removed from the ethanol bath and immediately transferred to a preheated oil bath set to $50^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. The mixture was reacted for 16 h at which point the flask was removed from the oil bath, allowed to cool to rt, and the contents transferred to a separatory funnel. The layers were separated and the aqueous phase extracted with EtOAc (3 x 5 mL ). The combined organic layers were dried over $\mathrm{MgSO}_{4}$, filtered through a cotton plug and concentrated via rotary evaporation. The crude residue was purified via $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ flash column chromatography ( $40 \%$ EtOAc in hexanes) affording 42 mg of the title compound as a pale-yellow oil (86\%) in a 62:38 cis/trans ratio.

## Data for $\mathbf{3 . 5 1}$

${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR: $\quad\left(400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
5.18-5.13 (m, 0.62H, cis-), 4.70-4.66 (m, 0.38H, trans-), 2.75 (dd, $J^{1}=17.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, J^{2}$ $=8.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 0.47 \mathrm{H}), 2.65-2.49(\mathrm{~m}, 3.75 \mathrm{H}), 2.35\left(\mathrm{dd}, J^{1}=16.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, J^{2}=10.8 \mathrm{~Hz}\right.$, 0.77 H ), $2.26-2.20(\mathrm{~m}, 0.45 \mathrm{H}), 2.19(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 1.97-1.85(\mathrm{~m}, 5 \mathrm{H}), 1.18-1.71$ (m, 0.64H) ppm;
${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR: $\quad\left(100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
207.4, 207.0, 175.6, 175.0, 87.3, 85.2, 75.2, 74.5, 73.1, 72.4, 43.1, 41.0, 40.9, 39.1, 34,7, 33.6, 30.1, 26.1, 24.4, 3.8 ppm;

FTIR (neat)
2924, 2245, 1775, 1711, 1417, 1359, 1290, 1264, 1218, 1159, 1086, 971, 900, 859, 838, 800, 744, 693, 591, $524 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$;

HRMS (HRMS ESI)
calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{11} \mathrm{H}_{15} \mathrm{O}_{3}\left(\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}^{+}\right)$: 195.1015; found: 195.1012;
TLC $\quad \mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{f}}=0.68(100 \% \mathrm{EtOAc})$
Silica get, visualized with p-anisaldehyde


Methyl ((3R)-3-methyl-5-((3R)-5-oxo-2-(prop-1-yn-1-yl)tetrahydrofuran-3-yl)pent-1-yn-3-
yl) carbonate (3.58). A 25-mL 2-necked round bottom flask equipped with stir bar and two septa
was charged with anhydrous $\mathrm{CeCl}_{3}(0.36 \mathrm{~g}, 1.4 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.4$ equiv) in a nitrogen-filled glovebox. The flask was removed from the glovebox and one of the septa replaced with a nitrogen inlet adapter. THF ( 7.4 mL ) was added via syringe and the resulting suspension stirred at rt for 16 h . The flask was lowered into an ice/water bath $\left(0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$ and ethynylmagnesium bromide ( 2.9 mL of a 0.5 M solution in THF, 1.4 mmol , 1.4 equiv) was added dropwise over a period of 5 min via syringe. The resulting brown suspension maintained at $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 1 h before the flask was removed from the ice/water bath and lowered into a dry ice/acetone bath (-78 $\left.{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right) .(4 R)-4-(3-\mathrm{Oxobutyl})-5-$ (prop-1-yn-1-yl)dihydrofuran-2(3H)-one 3.51 ( $0.20 \mathrm{~g}, 1.0 \mathrm{mmol}, 1$ equiv) was added in a single portion via syringe and the reaction maintained for 10 min at which point complete consumption of starting material was observed by TLC. Methyl chloroformate ( $0.16 \mathrm{~mL}, 2.1 \mathrm{mmol}, 2$ equiv) was added in a single portion via syringe, and the flask was removed from the dry ice/acetone bath and allowed to warm to rt, where it was maintained for 1 h . Upon complete consumption of intermediate S3.1, as evidenced by TLC, sat. aq. $\mathrm{NH}_{4} \mathrm{Cl}(5 \mathrm{~mL})$ was added via syringe and the mixture transferred to a separatory funnel. EtOAc (5 mL) was added, the layers separated, and the aqueous phase extracted with EtOAc ( $3 \times 5 \mathrm{~mL}$ ). The combined organic phases were dried over $\mathrm{MgSO}_{4}$, gravity filtered through a cotton plug, and concentrated via rotary evaporation. The crude residue was purified via $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ flash column chromatography ( $20 \% \mathrm{EtOAc} /$ hexanes) affording 0.23 g of the title compound as a viscous yellow oil (80\%).

## Data for 3.58

${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR: $\quad\left(400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
5.17-5.13 (m, 0.50H), 4.71-4.67 (m, 0.50H), 3.80-3.75 (m, 3.34H), 2.81-2.75 (dd, $\left.J^{1}=14.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, J^{2}=6.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 0.55 \mathrm{H}\right), 2.62(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 2.60-2.55(\mathrm{~m}, 0.61 \mathrm{H}), 2.55-2.45$


## (3R)-3-methyl-5-((3R)-5-oxo-2-(prop-1-yn-1-yl)tetrahydrofuran-3-yl)pent-1-yn-3-yl acetate

(3.59a). A 100-mL two-necked round bottom flask equipped with a stir bar and two septa was charged with anhydrous $\mathrm{CeCl}_{3}(1.35 \mathrm{~g}, 5.5 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.4$ equiv) in a nitrogen-filled glovebox by temporary removal of a septum. The flask was removed from the glovebox and one septum was replaced with a nitrogen inlet adapter. THF ( 16 mL ) was added via syringe and the white suspension stirred at rt under $\mathrm{N}_{2}$ for 16 h . The flask was placed in an ice/water bath $\left(0{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$ and
ethynylmagnesium bromide ( 10.2 mL of a 0.5 M solution in THF, $5.1 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.3$ equiv) was added dropwise over 10 min via syringe. The flask was removed from the ice/water bath and lowered into a dry ice/acetone bath $\left(-78{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$, where it was maintained for $1.5 \mathrm{~h} .(4 R)-4$-(3-oxobutyl)-5-(prop-1-yn-1-yl)dihydrofuran-2(3H)-one 3.51 ( $0.76 \mathrm{~g}, 3.9 \mathrm{mmol}, 1$ equiv) was dissolved in THF ( 2 mL ) and added dropwise to the reaction mixture via syringe over 2 min . Upon completion of addition, the mixture was maintained for 2 h then the flask was removed from the dry ice/acetone bath and allowed to warm to rt. After 30 min at this temperature, complete consumption of the starting material was evidenced by TLC, and acetic anhydride ( $0.74 \mathrm{~mL}, 7.8 \mathrm{mmol}, 2$ equiv) was added in a single portion via syringe at rt . The mixture was allowed to react for 16 h , after which time complete consumption of the intermediate $\mathbf{S 3 . 1}$ was evidenced by TLC. The mixture was transferred to a separatory funnel, diluted with EtOAc (15 mL) and washed with sat. aq. $\mathrm{NH}_{4} \mathrm{Cl}$ (2 x 20 mL ). The layers were separated and the combined aqueous phases were extracted with EtOAc ( $2 \times 20 \mathrm{~mL}$ ). The combined organic phases were dried over $\mathrm{MgSO}_{4}$, concentrated via rotary evaporation, and the crude residue purified via $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ flash column chromatography (20-40\% EtOAc/hexanes), affording 0.90 g of the title compound as a viscous orange oil (88\%).

## Data for 3.59a

${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR: $\quad\left(400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
$5.18-5.13(\mathrm{~m}, 0.62 \mathrm{H}), 4.73-4.68(\mathrm{~m}, 0.38 \mathrm{H}), 2.78\left(\mathrm{ddd}, J^{1}=17.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, J^{2}=8.0 \mathrm{~Hz}\right.$, $\left.J^{3}=1.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 0.51 \mathrm{H}\right), 2.58(\mathrm{~s}, 1.19 \mathrm{H}), 2.65-2.60(\mathrm{~m}, 0.43 \mathrm{H}), 2.56-2.46(\mathrm{~m}, 1.02 \mathrm{H})$, 2.41-2.33 (m, 0.66 H ), $2.26-2.18$ (m, 0.58 H ), 2.04 (s, 3.27H), $1.92-1.87$ (m, 3.66H), 1.87-1.73 (m, 3.17H), 1.71-1.68 (m, 2.92H) ppm;
${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR: $\quad\left(100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
$175.7,175.3,169.3,87.1,85.1,83.5,83.3,83.2,74.43,74.40,74.0,73.9,73.3,73.2$, 58, 43.4, 39.7, 39.3, 39.10, 39.07, 34.62, 34.59, 33.78, 33.72, 28.2, 27.4, 26.6, 26.5, 25.4, 25.3, 22.0, 15.4, 3.82, 3.80 ppm;

FTIR
(neat)
13276, 2925, 2245, 1779, 1739, 1441, 1368, 1239, 1153, 1097, 1013, 975, 856, 672, 611, $535 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$;

HRMS (HRMS ESI)
calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{15} \mathrm{H}_{19} \mathrm{O}_{4}\left(\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}^{+}\right)$: 263.1278; found: 263.1305;
TLC $\quad \mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{f}}=0.71(50 \% \mathrm{EtOAc})$
Silica get, p-anisaldehyde

(3R)-3-methyl-5-((3R)-5-oxo-2-(prop-1-yn-1-yl)tetrahydrofuran-3-yl)pent-1-yn-3-yl
chloroacetate (3.59b). A $25-\mathrm{mL}$ two-necked round bottom flask equipped with a stir bar and two septa was charged with anhydrous $\mathrm{CeCl}_{3}(0.533 \mathrm{~g}, 2.16 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.4$ equiv) in a nitrogen-filled glovebox by temporary removal of a septum. The flask was removed from the glovebox and one septum was replaced with a nitrogen inlet adapter. THF ( 6.3 mL ) was added via syringe and the white suspension stirred at rt under $\mathrm{N}_{2}$ for 16 h . The flask was placed in an ice/water bath $\left(0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$ and ethynylmagnesium bromide ( 4.0 mL of a 0.5 M solution in THF, $2.00 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.3$ equiv) was added dropwise over 10 min via syringe. The flask was removed from the ice/water bath and
allowed to warm to rt. After 2 h , the flask was lowered into a dry ice/acetone bath $\left(-78{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$ and (4R)-4-(3-oxobutyl)-5-(prop-1-yn-1-yl)dihydrofuran-2(3H)-one 3.51 ( $0.300 \mathrm{~g}, 1.55 \mathrm{mmol}, 1$ equiv) was dissolved in THF ( 2 mL ) and added dropwise to the reaction mixture via syringe over 2 min . Upon completion of addition, the mixture was maintained for 15 min then the flask was removed from the dry ice/acetone bath and allowed to warm to rt. After 30 min at this temperature, an additional portion of ethynylmagnesium bromide ( 4.0 mL of a 0.5 M solution in THF, 2.00 mmol, 1.3 equiv) was added dropwise over 10 min . After 30 min complete consumption of the starting material was evidenced by TLC, and chloroacetyl chloride ( $0.37 \mathrm{~mL}, 4.64 \mathrm{mmol}, 3$ equiv) was added in a single portion via syringe at rt. The mixture was allowed to react for 1 h , at which point the reaction had reached completion based upon consumption of the intermediate $\mathbf{S 3 . 1}$, as evidenced by TLC. The mixture was transferred to a separatory funnel, diluted with EtOAc (10 $\mathrm{mL})$ and washed with sat. aq. $\mathrm{NH}_{4} \mathrm{Cl}(2 \times 15 \mathrm{~mL})$. The layers were separated and the combined aqueous phases were extracted with EtOAc ( $2 \times 15 \mathrm{~mL}$ ). The combined organic phases were dried over $\mathrm{MgSO}_{4}$, concentrated via rotary evaporation, and the crude residue purified via $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ flash column chromatography ( $20 \%$ to $40 \%$ EtOAc/hexanes), affording 0.390 g of the title compound as a viscous yellow oil (85\%).

## Data for 3.59b

${ }^{1}$ H NMR: $\quad\left(400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
5.18-5.13 (m, 0.6H), 5.42-4.68 (m, 0.4H), 4.02 (s, 2H), 2.79 (ddd, $J^{1}=17.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, J^{2}$ $\left.=8.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, J^{3}=1.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 0.4 \mathrm{H}\right), 2.63(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 2.61-2.48(\mathrm{~m}, 1.5 \mathrm{H}), 2.41-2.30(\mathrm{~m}, 0.6 \mathrm{H})$, $2.22\left(\mathrm{ddd}, J^{1}=17.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, J^{2}=8.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, J^{3}=3.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 0.4 \mathrm{H}\right), 2.10-1.95(\mathrm{~m}, 1.1 \mathrm{H}), 1.91-$ 1.87 (m, 3.6H), 1.87-1.80 (m, 1.7H), 1.76-1.71 (m, 3.2H) ppm;

| ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR: | (100 MHz, $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) |
| :---: | :---: |
|  | $175.78,175.76,175.27,175.26,165.43,165.38,87.3,87.2,85.3,82.4,82.2,82.13$, |
|  | 82.11, 76.7, 76.6, 75.2, 75.15, 75.13, 75.09, 74.9, 74.58, 74.51, 73.23, 73.18, 72.3, |
|  | $43.35,43.32,41.4,40.6,39.57,39.55,39.16,39.14,38.99,38.97,34.62,34.57$, |
|  | 33.73, 33.69, 27.28, 27.26, 26.52, 26.49, 26.4, 25.3, 25.2 ppm; |
| FTIR | (neat) |
|  | 1762, 1310, 1233, 1148, 1035, 972, 864, 792, 672, $529 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$; |
| HRMS | (HRMS ESI) |
|  | calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{15} \mathrm{H}_{18} \mathrm{O}_{4} \mathrm{Cl}\left(\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}^{+}\right)$: 297.0888; found: 297.0891; |
| TLC | $\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{f}}=0.71(50 \% \mathrm{EtOAc})$ |
|  | Silica get, p-anisaldehyde |

celite in a medium porosity fritted glass vacuum filter. The celite pad was rinsed with $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ (2 x 20 mL ). The combined filtrates were concentrated via rotary evaporation, and the crude residue purified via $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ flash column chromatography ( $10 \%$ to $20 \% \mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ in hexanes gradient), affording 120 mg of the title compound as a pale-yellow oil (73\%).

## Data for 3.57a

${ }^{1}$ H NMR: $\quad\left(400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
$5.16-5.11(\mathrm{~m}, 0.38 \mathrm{H}), 4.70-4.59(\mathrm{~m}, 2.62 \mathrm{H}), 2.75\left(\mathrm{dd}, J^{1}=17.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, J^{2}=8.4 \mathrm{~Hz}\right.$, $0.69 \mathrm{H}), 2.66-2.58(\mathrm{~m}, 0.43 \mathrm{H}), 2.56-2.47(\mathrm{~m}, 1.07 \mathrm{H}), 2.34\left(\mathrm{dd}, J^{1}=16.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, J^{2}=\right.$ $11.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 0.45 \mathrm{H}$ ), $2.20\left(\mathrm{dd}, J^{1}=17.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, J^{2}=8.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 0.57 \mathrm{H}\right), 2.03-1.93(\mathrm{~m}, 2.22 \mathrm{H})$, 1.90-1.87 (m, 3.18H), 1.86-1.72 (m, 1.54H), 1.72-1.67 (m, 3.26H), 1.57-1.48 (m, 1.17H) ppm;
${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR: $\quad\left(100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
206.2, 206.1, 176.1, 175.5, 97.5, 97.4, 86.9, 84.9, 75.4, 75.2, 74.8, 74.7, 73.4, 72.8, 43.3, 39.3, 34.7, 33.6, 31.3, 31.1, 30.2, 28.1, 18.9, 18.7, 3.8, 3.7 ppm;

FTIR

HRMS

TLC
$\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{f}}=0.46$ (20\% EtOAc in hexanes)
Silica get, $\mathrm{KMnO}_{4}$

## 3-methyl-5-((3R)-5-oxo-2-(prop-1-yn-1-yl)tetrahydrofuran-3-

 yl)penta-1,2-dien-1-yl acetate (3.60a). A 50-mL 2-necked round bottom flask equipped with stir bar, reflux condenser topped with septum, and septum was added rhodium(II) trifluoroacetate dimer ( $0.107 \mathrm{~g}, 0.16 \mathrm{mmol}$, 0.05 equiv) in a nitrogen-filled glovebox via temporary removal of the septum. The flask was removed from the glovebox and the septum on top of the condenser replaced with a nitrogen inlet adapter. Freshly distilled toluene ( 13 mL ) was added via syringe, followed by (3R)-3-methyl-5-((3R)-5-oxo-2-(prop-1-yn-1-yl)tetrahydrofuran-3-yl)pent-1-yn-3-yl acetate 3.59a (0.850 g, 3.2 mmol, 1 equiv), which was dissolved in toluene ( 3.2 mL ), in a single portion via syringe. The flask was lowered into a preheated oil bath $\left(50^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$, and the mixture maintained for 3 h . Upon complete consumption of starting material, as evidenced by TLC, the flask was removed from the oil bath and allowed to cool to rt. SilametS Thiourea $(1.08 \mathrm{~g}, 1.07 \mathrm{mmol} / \mathrm{g}, 7.2$ equiv with respect to rhodium(II) trifluoroacetate dimer) was added via temporary removal of the septum, and the mixture maintained for 16 h . The mixture was filtered through a pad of celite in a medium porosity fritted glass vacuum filter. The celite pad was rinsed with EtOAc ( $2 \times 10 \mathrm{~mL}$ ). The combined filtrates were concentrated via rotary evaporation, and the crude residue purified via $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ flash column chromatography (10-30\% EtOAc/Hexanes), affording 0.742 g of the title compound as a yellow oil (87\%).

Data for 3.60a
${ }^{1}$ H NMR: $\quad\left(400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
7.36-7.30 (m, 1H), 5.17-5.10 (m, 0.63H), 4.70-4.65 (m, 0.37H), 2.79-2.70 (m, 0.46H), 2.65-2.57 (m, 0.90H), 2.56-2.46 (m, 1H), 2.39-2.29 (m, 0.83H), 2.16-2.08 (m, 3.42H), 1.90-1.87 (m, 2.75H), 1.86-1.83 (m, 3H) ppm;
${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR: $\quad\left(100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
189.8, 189.7, 175.9, 175.3, 174.1, 168.8, 123.8, 114.8, 113.9, 110.6, 110.4, 110.3, 107.7, 100.1, 87.0, 75.2, 74.6, 73.3, 72.6, 66.0, 64.9, 43.1, 39.3, 39.2, 34.6, 33.6, 33.6, 32.9, 32.7, 32.6, 30.0, 29.9, 28.0, 21.1, 21.0, 20.6, 15.4, $3.8 \mathrm{ppm} ;$

FTIR (neat)
$1777,1744,1369,1212,1154,1040,970,794,599,548 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$;
HRMS (HRMS ESI)
calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{15} \mathrm{H}_{19} \mathrm{O}_{4}\left(\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}^{+}\right)$: 263.1278; found: 263.1279;
TLC
$\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{f}}=0.42$ (30\% EtOAc in hexanes)
Silica get, visualized with p-anisaldehyde


3-methyl-5-((3R)-5-oxo-2-(prop-1-yn-1-yl)tetrahydrofuran-3-yl)penta-1,2-dien-1-yl 2-chloroacetate (3.60b). A 15-mL 2-necked round bottom flask equipped with stir bar, reflux condenser topped with nitrogen septum, and septum was added rhodium(II) trifluoroacetate dimer ( $0.039 \mathrm{~g}, 0.06 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.05$ equiv) in a nitrogen-filled glovebox via temporary removal of the septum. The flask was removed from the glovebox and the septum on top of the
condenser replaced with a nitrogen inlet adapter. Freshly distilled toluene ( 5.9 mL ) was added via syringe, followed by (3R)-3-methyl-5-((3R)-5-oxo-2-(prop-1-yn-1-yl)tetrahydrofuran-3-yl)pent-1-yn-3-yl 2-chloroacetate $\mathbf{3 . 5 9 b}$ ( $0.350 \mathrm{~g}, 1.18 \mathrm{mmol}$, 1 equiv), which was dissolved in toluene (2 $\mathrm{mL})$, in a single portion via syringe. The flask was lowered into a preheated oil bath $\left(50^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$, and the mixture maintained for 8 h . Upon complete consumption of starting material, as evidenced by TLC, the flask was removed from the oil bath and allowed to cool to rt. SilametS Thiourea (0.393 $\mathrm{g}, 1.07 \mathrm{mmol} / \mathrm{g}, 7$ equiv with respect to rhodium(II) trifluoroacetate dimer) was added via temporary removal of the septum, and the mixture maintained for 11 h . The mixture was filtered through a pad of celite in a medium porosity fritted glass vacuum filter. The celite pad was rinsed with EtOAc ( $2 \times 10 \mathrm{~mL}$ ). The combined filtrates were concentrated via rotary evaporation, and the crude residue purified via $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ flash column chromatography (15\%-20\% EtOAc/Hexanes), affording 0.303 g of the title compound as a pale yellow oil (87\%).

## Data for 3.60b

${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR: $\quad\left(400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
7.35-7.29 (m, 1H), 5.16-5.10 (m, 0.65H), 4.69-4.65 (m, 0.36H), 4.15-4.12 (m, 2.06H), 2.79-2.70 (m, 0.35H), 2.64-2.47 (m, 1.63H), 2.39-2.29 (m, 0.72H), 2.242.10 (m, 2.41H), 1.90-1.85 (m, 6.42H), 1.84-1.71 (m, 2.11H) ppm;

TLC $\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{f}}=0.43$ (30\% EtOAc in hexanes)

Silica get, visualized with p-anisaldehyde

(3aR)-6,9-dimethyl-3a,5,7,9b-tetrahydroazuleno[4,5-b]furan-2,8(3H,4H)dione (3.61). A 15-mL 2-necked round bottom flask equipped with stir bar, reflux condenser topped with septum, and septum was sequentially added bis(1,5,-cyclooctadiene)rhodium(I) tetrafluoroborate ( $5.0 \mathrm{mg}, 0.013 \mathrm{mmol}$, 0.025 equiv) and $\mathrm{PPh}_{3}$ ( $5.0 \mathrm{mg}, 0.019 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.038$ equiv) in a nitrogen-filled glovebox via temporary removal of the septum. The flask was removed from the glove box and a nitrogen inlet needle was inserted into the septum on the condenser. 1,2-Dichloroethane ( 5 mL ) was added via syringe. The resulting dark yellow solution was maintained at rt for 10 min at which time the flask was evacuated and refilled five times with CO gas (100\%), alternating between an inlet needle attached to a vacuum and an inlet needle attached to a balloon of CO. The light-yellow solution was maintained for 10 min before (4R)-4-(3-methylpenta-3,4-dien-1-yl)-5-(prop-1-yn-1-yl)dihydrofuran-2(3H)-one 3.57 a ( $0.10 \mathrm{~g}, 0.51 \mathrm{mmol}$. 1 equiv) was added in a single portion via syringe, using 0.5 mL 1,2-dichloroethane to rinse the syringe. The flask was lowered into a preheated oil bath $\left(70^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$, and the reaction maintained for 18 h . Very little starting material had been consumed at this point, as evidenced by TLC. Bis-(1,5-cyclooctadiene)rhodium(I) tetrafluoroborate ( $12 \mathrm{mg}, 0.06$ equiv) and $\mathrm{PPh}_{3}(12 \mathrm{mg}, 0.09$ equiv) were added to a flame-dried scintillation vial in a nitrogen-filled glove box. The vial was sealed with a septum, removed from the glovebox and 1,2-dichloroethane ( 0.1 mL ) added via syringe. The resulting solution was transferred to the reaction flask via syringe. The reaction was maintained at $70^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for an additional 24 h at which point complete consumption of starting material was observed by TLC. The flask was removed from the oil bath and allowed to cool to rt. The contents were transferred to a $50-\mathrm{mL}$ recovery flask, using $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ to rinse the flask forward. Concentration via rotary evaporation (40 ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ bath temperature), followed by purification of the crude residue via $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ flash column
chromatography ( $40 \%$ EtOAc/hexanes) afforded 67 mg of the title compound as an off-white solid (57\%). Cis-3.61 and trans-3.61 isomers were separable at this stage. 8 mg of cis- $\mathbf{3 . 6 1}$ and 8 mg of trans-3.61 were isolated, along with 51 mg of combined cis-3.61 and trans-3.61.

## Data for trans-3.61

${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR: $\quad\left(400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
5.32 (d, $J=10.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 2.97(\mathrm{~s}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 2.77\left(\mathrm{dd}, J^{1}=16.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, J^{2}=8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}\right), 2.66-$ $2.54(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 2.39\left(\mathrm{dd}, J^{1}=16.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, J^{2}=12.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}\right), 2.29-2.19(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 2.03(\mathrm{~s}$, 3H), 1.88 (s, 3H), 1.78-1.71 (m, 1H) ppm;
${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR: $\quad\left(100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
204.4, 175.1, 161.0, 139.2, 132.9, 129.8, 82.3, 40.4, 40.3, 36.5, 32.6, 28.0, 24.6, 9.9 ppm;

FTIR (neat)
2249, 1779, 1749, 1440, 1375, 1262, $1149 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$;
HRMS (HRMS ESI)
calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{14} \mathrm{H}_{17} \mathrm{O}_{3}\left(\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}^{+}\right)$: 233.1172; found: 233.1174;
TLC $\quad \mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{f}}=0.30$ (40\%EtOAc in hexanes)
Silica gel, visualized with $\mathrm{KMnO}_{4}$

## Data for cis-3.61

${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR: $\quad\left(400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
$5.59(\mathrm{~d}, \mathrm{~J}=5.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 3.07-2.98(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 2.98-2.88(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 2.50-2.24(\mathrm{~m}, 4 \mathrm{H})$, 1.92 (s, 3H), 1.90-1.87 (m, 1H), 1.85 (s, 3H) ppm;
${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR: $\quad\left(100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
204.4, 176.2, 157.7, 143.4, 137.1, 128.8, 79.7, 41.2, 38.4, 36.3, 32.8, 31.2, 24.1, 9.0 ppm;
(3aR)-6,9-dimethyl-2,8-dioxo-2,3,3a,4,5,7,8,9b-octahydroazuleno[4,5-b]furan-7-yl acetate (3.62a). To a 500-mL 2-necked round bottom flask equipped with stir bar, reflux condenser topped with septum, and septum was sequentially added bis-(1,5-cyclooctadiene)rhodium(I) tetrafluoroborate ( $20 \mathrm{mg}, 0.049 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.025$ equiv) and $\mathrm{PPh}_{3}(20 \mathrm{mg}, 0.076 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.038$ equiv) in a nitrogen-filled glovebox via temporary removal of the septum. The flask was removed from the glovebox, a nitrogen inlet needle was inserted into the septum on the condenser, and 1,2dichloroethane ( 200 mL ) added via syringe. The resulting dark yellow solution was maintained at rt for 10 min at which time the flask was evacuated and refilled five times with CO gas (100\%), alternating between an inlet needle attached to a vacuum and an inlet needle attached to a balloon of CO. The light-yellow solution was maintained for 10 min before 3-methyl-5-((3R)-5-oxo-2-(prop-1-yn-1-yl)tetrahydrofuran-3-yl)penta-1,2-dien-1-yl acetate 3.60a ( $0.525 \mathrm{~g}, 2.00 \mathrm{mmol} .1$ equiv) dissolved in 1,2-dichloroethane ( 5 mL ), was added in a single portion via syringe. The flask was lowered into a preheated oil bath set to $70^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, and the mixture reacted for 19 h , at which point an addition portion of bis-(1,5-cyclooctadiene)rhodium(I) tetrafluoroborate ( $20 \mathrm{mg}, 0.049 \mathrm{mmol}$, 0.025 equiv) and $\mathrm{PPh}_{3}$ ( $20 \mathrm{mg}, 0.076 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.038$ equiv) were added via temporary removal of the septum. The reaction was maintained for 24 h at which point the starting material had been consumed, as evidenced by TLC. The flask was removed from the oil bath and allowed to cool to rt. The contents were transferred to a recovery flask and concentrated via rotary evaporation (40
${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ bath temperature). The crude residue was purified via $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ flash column chromatography (40$60 \% \mathrm{EtOAc} /$ hexanes $)$, affording 0.405 g of the title compound as a stick, off-white solid (70\%). A small amount of the cis and trans lactone isomers were semi-separable at this stage, affording 0.010 g trans-3.62a, 0.010 g cis-3.62a.

## Data for 3.62a

${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR: $\quad\left(400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
$5.65-5.61(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 5.58(\mathrm{~s}, 0.59 \mathrm{H}), 5.56-5.54(\mathrm{~m}, 0.39 \mathrm{H}), 5.44(\mathrm{~s}, 0.71 \mathrm{H}), 5.39(\mathrm{~d}$, $J=10.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 0.67 \mathrm{H}), 5.32(\mathrm{~d}, J=10.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 0.33 \mathrm{H}), 3.04-2.92(\mathrm{~m}, 2.11 \mathrm{H}), 2.83-2.73$ (m, 1.24H), 2.72-2.54 (m, 2.38H), 2.49-2.35 (m, 3.52H), 2.34-2.15 (m, 4.11H), 2.51-2.10 (m, 5.93H), 2.06-2.03 (m, 3.03H), 2.03-1.95 (m, 1.83H), 1.95-1.92 (m, 2.71H), 1.89-1.87 (m, 2.86H), 1.85-1.82 (m, 3.30H), 1.81-1.71 (m, 2.35H) ppm;
${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR: $\quad\left(100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
200.4, 200.1, 176.4, 174.8, 169.7, 169.5, 161.5, 161.1, 156.9, 140.0, 139.3, 137.6, 136.6, 135.9, 135.6, 130.7, 129.5, 128.8, 82.0, 81.5, 81.0, 18.5, 73.7, 72.0, 71.2, 39.9, 39.8, 37.0, 36.4, 36.2, 35.7, 34.3, 33.0, 32.5, 31.7, 31.6, 29.8, 28.3, 27.9, 24.2, 23.6, 23.3, 23.1, 20.8, 20.6, 20.5, 15.4, 10.1, 9.8, 9.5, 8.8 ppm;

FTIR (neat)
2927, 1781, 1743, 1703, 1217, 1160, 1039, $732 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$;
HRMS (HRMS ESI)
calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{16} \mathrm{H}_{19} \mathrm{O}_{5}\left(\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}^{+}\right)$: 291.1227; found: 291.1246;
$\underline{\text { TLC }} \quad \mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{f}}=0.29$ (50\% EtOAc/hexanes)
Silica gel, visualized with $\mathrm{KMnO}_{4}$
${ }^{1}$ H NMR trans-3.62a
${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR: $\quad\left(400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
5.58 (s, 0.59 H ), $5.56(\mathrm{~s}, 0.30 \mathrm{H}), 5.40(\mathrm{~d}, J=12.0 \mathrm{~Hz} 0.65 \mathrm{H}), 5.32(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.0 \mathrm{~Hz})$, 2.84-2.74 (m, 1.14H), 2.72-2.53 (m, 2.58H), 2.45-2.32 (m, 1.52H), 2.32-2.15 (m, 3.37H), 2.15-2.11 (m, 2.77H), 2.07-2.03 (m, 2.64H), 1.90-1.87 (m, 2.93H), 1.801.69 (m, 1.58H) ppm;
${ }^{1}$ H NMR for cis-3.62a
${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR: $\quad\left(400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
5.63 (d, $J=6.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}$ ), 5.44 (s, 0.90 H ), 3.04-2.94 (m, 2.68H), 2.46-2.36 (m, 2.82H), 2.29-2.17 (m, 2.68H), 2.16-2.10 (m, 3.73H), 2.07-1.95 (m, 3.22H), 1.951.90 (m, 3.92H), 1.90-1.82 (m, 4.44H), 1.81-1.73 (m, 2.22H) ppm;
 3aR)-6, 9-dimethyl-2, 8-dioxo-2, 3, 3a, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 b-octahydroazuleno[4,5-b]furan-7-yl 2-chloroacetate (3.62b). To a 50mL 2-necked round bottom flask equipped with stir bar, reflux condenser topped with septum, and septum was sequentially added bis-(1,5cyclooctadiene)rhodium(I) tetrafluoroborate ( $5.0 \mathrm{mg}, 0.013 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.025$ equiv) and $\mathrm{PPh}_{3}$ ( 5.0 mg , $0.019 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.038$ equiv) in a nitrogen-filled glovebox via temporary removal of the septum. The flask was removed from the glovebox, a nitrogen inlet needle was inserted into the septum on the condenser, and 1,2-dichloroethane ( 21 mL ) added via syringe. The resulting dark yellow solution was maintained at rt for 10 min at which time the flask was evacuated and refilled five times with CO gas (100\%), alternating between an inlet needle attached to a vacuum and an inlet needle
attached to a balloon of CO. The light-yellow solution was maintained for 10 min before 3-methyl-5-((3R)-5-oxo-2-(prop-1-yn-1-yl)tetrahydrofuran-3-yl)penta-1,2-dien-1-yl 2-chloroacetate 3.60b ( $0.185 \mathrm{~g}, 0.62 \mathrm{mmol} .1$ equiv) dissolved in 1 mL 1,2-dichloroethane, was added in a single portion via syringe. The flask was lowered into a preheated oil bath set to $70^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, and the mixture reacted for 28 h , at which point the starting material had been consumed, as evidenced by TLC. The flask was removed from the oil bath and allowed to cool to rt. The contents were transferred to a recovery flask and concentrated via rotary evaporation ( $40{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ bath temperature). The crude residue was purified via $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ flash column chromatography (20\% to 50\% EtOAc/hexanes), affording 0.121 g of the title compound as a yellow solid ( $60 \%$ ). The cis and trans lactone isomers were semiseparable at this stage, affording 0.026 g trans-3.62b, 0.036 g cis-3.62b, and 0.059 g 3.62 b as a mixture.

## Data for trans-3.62b

${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR: $\quad\left(400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
5.64 (s, 0.75 H ), 5.58 (s, 0.25 H$), 5.40$ (d, $J=10.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 0.75 \mathrm{H}), 5.32(\mathrm{~d}, J=10.8 \mathrm{~Hz}$, 0.25 H ), 4.15-4.08 (m, 2H), 2.83-2.75 (m, 1H) 2.71-2.53 (m, 2.28H), 2.43-2.35 (m, 1.26H, 2.32-2.16 (m, 3.04H), 2.07-2.03 (m, 2.90H), 1.94-1.85 (m, 4.18H), 1.821.72 (m, 1.35H) ppm;
${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR: $\quad\left(100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
199.6, 199.1, 174.7, 174.6, 166.33, 161.8, 161.5, 138.6, 136.9, 136.6, 135.7, 129.9, 128.7, 127.7, 81.9, 81.4, 73.3, 73.0, 72.7, 40.6, 40.5, 39.8, 39.4, 38.2, 36.4, 36.2, 33.6, 33.0, 32.5, 28.3, 27.8, 24.5, 23.7, 17.7, 10.1, 9.8, 3.8 ppm;
FTIR (neat)

2924, 1768, 1704, 1157, 1008, 954, 784, $478 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$;
HRMS (HRMS ESI)
calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{16} \mathrm{H}_{18} \mathrm{O}_{5} \mathrm{Cl}\left(\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}^{+}\right)$: 325.0837; found: 325.0837;
TLC $\quad \mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{f}}=0.29$ ( $50 \% \mathrm{EtOAc} /$ hexanes $)$
Silica gel, visualized with $\mathrm{KMnO}_{4}$

## Data for cis-3.62b

${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR: $\quad\left(400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
5.69 (s, 0.29 H ), 5.63 (d, $J=, 0.72 \mathrm{H}), 5.54(\mathrm{~d}, J=$, ), $5.56-5.50(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 4.15-4.10$ (m, 2H), 3.04-2.95 (m, 1.77H), 2.82-2.74 (0.67H) 2.47-2.37 (m, 2.22H), 2.31-2.21 (m, 1.54H), 2.08-1.99 (m, 1.38H), $1.98(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 1.95(\mathrm{~s}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 1.88-1.84(\mathrm{~m}, 3 \mathrm{H})$, 1.82-1.75 (m, 1.30H) ppm;
${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR: $\quad\left(100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
199.4, 199.0, 176.3, 175.6, 166.3, 166.0, 158.6, 157.4, 141.2, 141.0, 139.4, 138.8, 128.6, 128.0, 80.9, 78.4, 74.9, 74.1, 40.7, 40.6, 40.5, 40.4, 37.0, 35.7, 35.6, 34.3, 31.7, 31.5, 29.8, 23.6, 23.4, 9.5, 8.8 ppm;

(R)-2-(2-hydroxy-3,8-dimethyl-1-oxo-1,5,6,7-tetrahydroazulen-5yl)acetic acid (3.67). A 0.5-2-mL microwave vial (Biotage 3532016) equipped with stir bar (Biotage 355544) was charged with (3aR)-6,9-dimethyl-2,8-dioxo-2,3,3a,4,5,7,8,9b-octahydroazuleno[4,5-b]furan-7-yl 2chloroacetate 3.62 b ( $10 \mathrm{mg}, 0.031 \mathrm{mmol}$, 1 equiv). The vial was sealed with a crimp-on microwave
vial cap with septum (Biotage 352298) and flushed with nitrogen via an inlet needle. THF (1 mL) was added via syringe, and the vial was lowered into an ice/water $\left(0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$ bath. Potassium tertbutoxide ( 0.18 mL of a 0.5 M solution it tert-butanol, 0.09 mmol , 3 equiv) was added dropwise over 1 min, during which period the solution turned dark orange as a precipitate formed. The mixture was maintained for 10 min , at which point complete consumption of the starting material was evidenced by TLC. Sat. $\mathrm{NH}_{4} \mathrm{Cl}(1 \mathrm{~mL})$ was added, and the mixture transferred to a separatory funnel. The layers were separated and the organic layer dried over $\mathrm{MgSO}_{4}$ and concentrated via rotary evaporation, affording 7 mg of a red residue. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR and ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR of this residue was used for characterization. The NMR was contaminated with tert-butanol and a product of the chloroacetate deprotection.

## Data for 3.67 (crude)

${ }^{1}$ H NMR: $\quad\left(400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
5.75 (d, $4.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 3.08-2.99(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 2.61-2.56(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 2.54(\mathrm{~d}, \mathrm{~J}=6.8 \mathrm{~Hz}$, $1 \mathrm{H}), 2.48(\mathrm{~d}, \mathrm{~J}=8.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 2.42(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 2.00(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 1.98-1.94(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 1.92-$ 1.87 (m, 1H), 1.87-1.78 (m, 2H) ppm;
${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR: $\quad\left(100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$
189.4, 177.4, 171.6, 155.4, 151.6, 134.3, 125.7, 125.0, 40.3, 37.9, 37.0, 30.6, 22.0, 8.5 ppm;

FTIR (neat)
2922, 1701, 1644, 1600, 1414, 1153, 1054, 907, 787, 590, $471 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$;
HRMS (HRMS ESI)
calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{14} \mathrm{H}_{17} \mathrm{O}_{4}\left(\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}^{+}\right)$: 249.1121; found: 249.1123;

TLC $\quad \mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{f}}=0.23$ ( $60 \%$ EtOAc in hexanes)
Silica get, visualized with UV

## Appendix C : NMR Spectra

























































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