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Nitro-Substituted Hoveyda-Grubbs Ruthenium Carbenes: Enhancement of Catalysts Activity through Electronic Activation

Supplementary Information

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1. General

Unless otherwise noted, all reactions were carried out under Ar in pre-dried glassware using Schlenk techniques. The solvents were dried by distillation over the following drying agents and were transferred under argon: THF (K/benzophenone), toluene (Na), *n*-pentane, *n*-hexane, CH₂Cl₂ (CaH₂), Et₂O (LiAlH₄), MeOH (Mg). Flash column chromatography: Merck silica gel 60 (230-400 mesh). NMR: Spectra were recorded on Bruker AVANCE 500, Varian Gemini 200 and 400 spectrometers in CDCl₃; chemical shifts (δ) are given in ppm relative to TMS, coupling constants (1) in Hz. IR: Perkin-Elmer Spectrum 2000 FT-IR, wavenumbers in cm^{-1} . MS (EI, LSIMS): AMD 604 Intectra GmbH. MS (ESI): Mariner Perseptive Biosystems, Inc. GC: HP 6890 with HP 5 column. GC/MS: HP 5890 with HP 5 column. Micro-analyses were provided by Institute of Organic Chemistry, PAS, Warsaw. The following catalysts

and substrates were prepared according to the literature procedures: **4b**,¹ **22**,², **29**,³ substrates for **36** and **42–44**,⁴ **45**,⁵ **50**, **51** and **53**,⁶ **55**,⁷ **56–57**,⁸ **71**.⁹ All commercially available chemicals were used as received.

2. Synthesis of catalysts 6–10 and 70

Alkylation of nitrosalicylaldehydes 11–13. General Procedure: To a suspension of K_2CO_3 (1.11 g, 8.0 mmol) and Cs_2CO_3 (0.52 g, 40 mmol) in DMF (20 mL) a corresponding nitrosalicylaldehyde (4.0 mmol) was added. After stirring for 10 min at room temperature, 2-iodopropane (0.8 mL, 1.36 g, 8.0 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred for 1–2 days at 40 °C. Then the reaction mixture was poured into 20 mL water and extracted three times with EtOAc. The combined extracts were washed with brine, water

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² Henley, R. V.; Turner, E. E. J. Chem. Soc. **1930**, 928 – 940

³ Mąkosza, M.; Stalewski, J.; Wojciechowski, K.; Danikiewicz, W. Tetrahedron **1997**, 53, 193–214.

⁴ Moskalev, N.; Mąkosza, M. Tetrahedron Lett. **1999**, 40, 5935; (b) Moskalev, N.; Barbasiewicz, M.; Mąkosza, M. Tetrahedron **2004**, 60, 347–358.

⁵ (a) Pietrusiewicz, K. M.; Zablocka, M.; Monkiewicz, J. J. Org. Chem., **1984**, 49, 152; (b) Pietrusiewicz, K. M.; Zabłocka, M. Tetrahedron Lett., **1988**, 29, 199.

⁶ Mąkosza, M.; Nieczypor, P.; Grela, K. Tetrahedron 1998, 54, 10827–10836.

⁷ Prowotorow, I.; Wicha, J.; Mikami, K. Synthesis 2001, 145–149.

⁸ Furman, B.; Dziedzic, M. Tetrahedron Lett. 2003, 44, 8249-8252.

⁹ Grela, K.; Michrowska, A.; Bieniek, M.; Kim, M.; Klajn, R. Tetrahedron, 2003, 59, 4525–4531.

and dried. The solvent was evaporated. The products **11a–13a** were used without further purification.

2-isopropoxy-5-nitrobenzaldehyde (11a): Yellow low melting solid (86 %). IR (KBr): ν 3115, 2991, 2942, 1679, 1609, 1526, 1348, 1284, 1111, 950, 832, 748, 667 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.48 (d, 6H, J = 6.1 Hz), 4.85 (q, 1H, J = 6.1 Hz), 7.10 (d, 1H, J = 9.2 Hz), 8.39 (dd, 1H, J = 2.9, 9.2 Hz), 8.69 (d, 1H, J = 2.9 Hz), 10.41 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl) δ 21.8, 72.6, 113.6, 124.7, 125.1, 130.4, 141.1, 164.3, 187.8; MS (EI) *m/z* (rel intensity) 209 (10, [M]⁺⁺), 167 (100), 137 (18), 120 (11), 93 (7), 75 (3), 65 (10), 53 (4); HRMS (EI) calcd for [M]⁺⁺ (C₁₀H₁₁O₄N): 209.0688. found 209.0686.

2-isopropoxy-3-nitrobenzaldehyde (12a): Brown oil (56 %). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.88 (d, 6H, J = 6.3 Hz), 4.34 (heptet, 1H, J = 6.2 Hz), 7.31–7.36 (m, 1H), 8.07-8.12 (m, 2H), 10.42 (d, 1H, J = 0.9 Hz); MS (ESI) m/z (rel intensity) 264.1 ([M+H+2MeOH]⁺), 232.1 ([M+H+MeOH]⁺).

2-isopropoxy-3-methoxy-5-nitrobenz-

aldehyde (13a): yellow-brown crystals (71%). MS (LSIMS) m/z (rel intensity) 240 ([M+H]⁺); HRMS (LSIMS) calcd for [M+H]⁺ (C₁₁H₁₄O₅N): 240.08720; found: 240.08661.

General procedure for Wittig olefination: In a three-necked flame-dried flask solid methyltriphenylphosphonium bromide (0.384 g, 1.1 mmol, Aldrich) and THF (3.5 mL) were placed under argon. Then a solution of n-BuLi (1 mL, 1.5 mmol, 1.5M) was added dropwise at -78 °C. After stirring 15 min at -78 °C, a solution of corresponding 2-isopropoxybenzaldehyde 11a-13a (0.75 mmol) in THF (1 mL) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred at the same temperature for 30 min. After warming to RT the reaction mixture was stirred for 48 h. The reaction mixture was treated with saturated solution of NH₄Cl, extracted with EtOAc and dried. The solvent was evaporated and the product was purified by column chromatography (*c*-hexane-ethyl acetate 2:8).

2-isopropoxy-5-nitrostyrene (14): Pale yellow oil (57 %). IR (film): ν 3088, 2982, 2967, 1627, 1607, 1583, 1516, 1341, 1271, 1107, 950, 742 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl) δ 1.41 (d, 6H, J = 6.0 Hz), 4.71 (q, 1H, J = 6.0 Hz),

5.40 (dd, 1H, J = 0.5, 11.2 Hz), 5.87 (dd, 1H, J = 0.5, 17.7 Hz), 6.91 (d, 1H, J = 9.1 Hz), 7.00 (dd, 1H, J = 11.2, 17.7 Hz), 8.12 (dd, 1H, J = 2.8, 9.1 Hz), 8.36 (d, 1H, J = 2.8 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl) δ 21.9, 71.5, 112.2, 116.8, 122.4, 124.5, 128.1, 130.1, 141.0, 159.9; MS (EI) m/z (rel intensity) 207 (4, [M]⁺⁻), 165 (59), 148 (100), 135 (4), 118 (96), 104 (2), 90 (15), 65 (8), 63 (7), 51 (4); MS (ESI): m/z 230 ([M+Na]⁺); HRMS (ESI) calcd for [M+Na]⁺ (C₁₁H₁₃O₃NNa): 230.0788. found 230.0776.

2-isopropoxy-3-nitrostyrene (15): Brown oil (67%). ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.28 (d, 6H, J = 6.0 Hz), 4.23 (heptet, 1H, J = 6.2 Hz), 5.43 (dd, 1H, J = 11.0, 1.0 Hz), 5.80 (dd, 1H, J = 17.8, 1.0 Hz), 6.95–7.28 (m, 2H), 7.65–7.74 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 148.2, 134.8, 130.7, 130.4, 124.1, 123.4, 117.0, 78.9, 22.1; MS (EI) *m*/*z* (rel intensity) 207 (4, [M]⁺⁻), 165 (59), 149 (10), 148 (100), 90 (15), 89 (14); HRMS (EI) calcd for [M]⁺⁻ (C₁₁H₁₃O₃N): 207.08954; found: 207.09005

2-isopropoxy-3-methoxy-5-nitrostyrene (16): Brown oil (63%). IR (film): v 3095, 2978, 2937, 2872, 2664, 1694, 1612, 1580, 1524, 1465, 1430, 1373, 1340, 1300, 1282, 1226, 1185, 1141, 1099, 1073, 1048, 996, 928, 885, 852, 802, 776, 747, 576, 463 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, acetone- d_6) δ 1.30 (d, 6H, J = 6.1 Hz), 3.93 (s, 3H), 4.63 (heptet, 1H, I = 6.1 Hz), 5.41 (dd, 1H, J = 11.1, 1.0 Hz), 5.84 (dd, 1H, J = 17.7, 1.0 Hz) 7.03-7.09 (m, 1H) 7.67 (d, 1H, J = 2.6 Hz), 8.07 (d, 1H, J = 2.6 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, acetone- d_6) δ 153.2, 150.0, 143.5, 132.8, 130.5, 117.0, 113.8, 106.1, 76.4, 56.2, 22.5; MS (EI) *m*/*z* (rel intensity) 238 (2), 237 (11, M^{+.}), 196 (10), 195 (100), 134 (9), 43 (9); HRMS (EI) calcd for $[M]^{+}$ (C₁₂H₁₅O₄N): 237.10011; found: 237.09979.

3,5-dibromobiphenyl-2-ol (18): To a solution of 7 (4.25 g, 25 mmole) in AcOH (5 mL), Br₂ (3 mL, 9.33 g, 58 mmole) was added at RT in portions—the reaction is exothermic in initial stage and the flask was cooled in cold water when necessary. The mixture was stirred at RT for 2 h, then poured into water (80 mL) and solid K₂CO₃ was added in portions to pH 5. The mixture was extracted with MTBE (3 x 50 mL), the combined extracts were washed with aqueous Na₂SO₃, dried and evaporated. The product (7.56 g, 92 %) was used without further purification.

Yellowish solid, mp = 52–55 °C; lit.:¹⁰ 56–57 °C.

3-bromo-5-nitrobiphenyl-2-ol (19): To a suspension of **18** (0.64 g, 1.9 mmol) in AcOH (0.8 mL) concentrated HNO₃ (0.15 mL, 2.1 mmol) was added slowly (3 minutes) at 5 °C and the mixture was stirred for additional 5 min. Water (25 mL) was then added and the resulted mixture was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (3 x 25 mL). The combined extracts were washed with water (3 x 25 mL), dried and evaporated to dryness to give 0.216 g (39%) of the product as a orange-brown solid. mp = 111–113 °C, lit.:¹¹ 113.5–114 °C.

2-isopropoxy-3-bromo-5-nitrobiphenyl

(19a): The compound was obtained according to procedure used for alkylation of the nitrosalicylaldehydes **11–13**. Yellow oil (70%). IR (film): ν 3081, 2979, 2932, 2871, 1602, 1581, 1567, 1523, 1497, 1464, 1452, 1429, 1384, 1373, 1337, 1288, 1237, 1175, 1141, 1099, 1054, 924, 904, 850, 809, 782, 768, 743, 701, 634, 566, 510, 437 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.06 (d, 6H, *J* = 6.2 Hz), 4.06 (heptet, 1H, *J* = 6.1 Hz), 7.42–7.50 (m, 3H), 7.54–7.57 (m, 2H), 8.18 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.7 Hz) 8.44 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.9 Hz); MS (EI) *m*/*z* (rel intensity) 337 (4), 335 (4, [M]⁺⁻), 296 (13), 295 (99), 293 (100), 168 (31) 140 (9), 139 (24), 43 (10).

2-Isopropoxy-5-nitro-3-vinylbiphenyl

(20): In a Schlenk flask was placed solid $Pd[Ph_3P]_4$ (0.015 g, 5 mol%) and a solution of 19a (0.088 g, 0.26 mmol) in toluene (1.0 mL) was added under argon. Neat Bu₃SnCH=CH₂ (0.093 g, 0.29 mmol) was added via syringe and the resulting solution was heated at 115 °C for 6 h. After cooling to RT the mixture was evaporated and a solution of KF (0.58 g) in methanol (5 mL) were added to the residue. The mixture was stirred at RT for 2 h and evaporated again. To the resulting residue MTBE (15 mL) and water (10 mL) were added. Organic phase was removed, inorganic phase was extracted with MTBE (4x15 mL). The combined extracts were dried and evaporated. The product was purified by column chromatography (c-hexane-ethyl acetate 1.5:8) to give 0.059 g (78%) of **20** as a yellow oil. IR (film): ν 3085, 3030, 2976, 2929, 2871, 2854, 1734, 1628, 1603, 1584, 1525, 1497, 1464, 1453, 1430, 1408, 1384, 1341, 1302, 1282, 1229, 1219, 1176, 1140,

1102, 1083, 1029, 996, 939, 922, 858, 816, 775, 762, 747, 721, 699, 653, 622, 551, 511, 462, 435 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.00 (d, 6H, *J* = 6.2 Hz), 3.86 (heptet, 1H, *J* = 6.2 Hz), 5.47 (dd, 1H, *J* = 11.1, 0.8 Hz), 5.90 (dd, 1H, *J* = 17.7, 0.8 Hz) 7.12 (dd, 1H, *J* = 17.8, 11.1 Hz) 7.38–7.48 (m, 3H), 7.55–7.58 (m, 2H), 8.13 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.9 Hz) 8.39 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.8 Hz); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.0, 143.7, 137.3, 136.8, 134.0, 131.0, 128.9, 128.5, 128.1, 125.4, 120.4, 117.2, 76.8, 22.0; MS (EI) *m/z* (rel intensity) 284 (3), 283 (15, [M]⁺⁻), 242 (16), 241 (100), 224 (37), 195 (9), 194 (29), 165 (19), 152 (11), 43 (9); HRMS (EI) calcd for [M]⁺⁻ (C₁₇H₁₇O₃N): 283.12084; found: 283.12106.

1-Bromo-2-isopropoxy-4-nitrobenzene

(22a): The compound was obtained according to procedure used for alkylation of the nitrosalicylaldehydes 11-13. Yellowish solid, mp = 38-40 °C. IR (film): ν 3104, 2983, 2938, 1897, 1755, 1566, 1531, 1467, 1410, 1351, 1310, 1262, 1179, 1139, 1124, 1106, 1035, 979, 878, 848, 821, 799, 740, 701, 607, 502, 470, 441 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.44 (d, 6H, I = 6.0 Hz), 4.70 (heptet, 1H, I = 6.0 Hz)Hz), 7.69–7.70 (m, 2H), 7.72–7.73 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 155.0, 147.9, 133.6, 121.1, 116.2, 108.4, 72.8, 21.7; MS (EI) *m/z* (rel intensity) 261 (11), 259 (11, [M]^{+·}), 219 (97), 217 (100), 189 (13), 187 (14), 173 (16), 171 (16), 161 (19), 159 (20), 145 (13), 143 (14), 92 (18), 79 (13), 75 (12), 63 (54), 62 (13), 43 (77), 41 (39), 39 (15).

2-Isopropoxy-4-nitrostyrene (23) In a Schlenk flask was placed solid Pd[Ph3P]4 (0.069 g, 3 mol%) and a solution of 22a (0.517 g, 2.0 mmol) in toluene (8 mL) was added under argon. Neat Bu₃SnCH=CH₂ (0.692 g, 2.2 mmol) was added via syringe and the resulting solution was refluxed for 6 h. After cooling to RT the mixture was evaporated and to the residue a solution of KF (0.7 g) in methanol (10 mL) were added. The mixture was stirred at RT for 2 h and evaporated again. To the residue MTBE (30 mL) and water (15 mL) were added. Organic phase was removed, inorganic phase (containing insoluble material) was extracted with MTBE (3 x 25 mL) and combined extracts were dried and evaporated. The product was purified by column chromatography (c-hexane-ethyl acetate 2:18) to give 0.343 g (83%) of 23 as a yellow oil. IR (film): v 3091, 2980, 2933,

¹⁰ Auwers, V.; Wittig, G. J. Prakt. Chem. **1924**, 108, 103.

¹¹ Hartshorn, M. P.; Robinson, W. T.; Vaughan, J.; White, J. M. Austr. J. Chem. 1985, 38, 575.

1694, 1626, 1584, 1520, 1486, 1417, 1345, 1293, 1248, 1179, 1111, 981, 916, 870, 846, 831, 801, 737 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.41 (d, 6H, I = 6.1 Hz), 4.68 (heptet, 1H, I= 6.0 Hz), 5.46 (dd, 1H, J = 11.3, 1.2 Hz), 5.90 (dd, 1H, J = 17.8, 1.1 Hz) 7.02–7.10 (m, 1H), 7.58 (d, 1H, I = 8.6 Hz), 7.72 (d, 1H, J = 3.2 Hz), 7.77–7.80 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 155.1, 147.8, 134.1, 130.5, 126.6, 118.2, 115.6, 108.2, 71.4, 21.8; MS (EI) m/z (rel intensity) 208 (4), 207 (22, [M]^{+·}), 165 (100), 135 (20), 119 (10), 118 (13), 107 (16), 91 (38), 89 (18), 79 (14), 65 (19), 63 (10), 43 (32), 41 (19), 39 (13); HRMS (EI) calcd for [M]+. (C₁₁H₁₃O₃N): 207.08954; found: 207.08872; Anal. Calcd. for C₁₁H₁₃O₃N: C, 63.76; H, 6.32; N, 6.76. found: C, 63.54; H, 6.49; N, 6.61.

2-methoxy-5-nitrostyrene (70a): Solid Ph₃P=CH₂ (0.693 g, 2.5 mmol, Aldrich) and THF (20 mL) were placed under argon in a Schlenk tube. A solution of 2-methoxy-5-nitrobenzaldehyde (0.202 g, 1.1 mmol, Aldrich) in THF (5 mL) was added at -78 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at the same temperature for 1 h. Then the reaction mixture was warmed to RT and treated with saturated solution of NH₄Cl, extracted with MTBE (4 x 20 mL) and dried. The solvent was evaporated and the product was purified by column chromatography to give 0.115 g (58%) of the product as a yellow oil. IR (KBr): v 3115, 3090, 3023, 2962, 2924, 2851, 2655, 2513, 2247, 2018, 1902, 1847, 1805, 1779, 1731, 1624, 1610, 1583, 1515, 1467, 1458, 1445, 1421, 1339, 1257, 1186, 1141, 1085, 1018, 992, 918, 903, 827, 802, 759, 743, 637, 597, 520, 504, 433 cm $^{-1}$; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.96 (s, 3H), 5.41 (dd, 1H, J = 11.2, 0.9 Hz), 5.86 (dd, 1H, J = 17.7, 1.0 Hz), 6.91–7.02 (m, 2H), 8.14 (dd, 1H, J = 9.1, 2.8 Hz), 8.34 (d, 1H, I = 2.8 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 161.3, 141.5, 129.8, 127.6, 124.7, 122.1, 117.2, 110.4, 56.1; MS (EI) *m*/*z* (rel intensity) 180 (8), 179 (68, [M]^{+·}), 164 (46), 149 (9), 118 (100), 103 (14), 90 (33), 89 (35), 79 (11), 77 (30), 63 (17), 51 (11); HRMS (EI) calcd for [M]+ (C₁₉H₉O₃N): 179.05824; found: 179.05780.

2.1. General procedure for preparation of catalysts 6a and 7a

Catalyst 6a: Under an argon atmosphere Grubbs' catalyst **1a** (164.6 mg, 0.20 mmol) was placed in a Schlenk tube. Then CH_2Cl_2 (15 mL) was added followed by a solution

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of styrene 14 in CH_2Cl_2 (5 mL). The resulted suspension was stirred at 40 °Cfor 1 h. After this point forth all manipulations can be done without a protective atmosphere of argon. The resulting mixture was concentrated in vacuo, and purified by silica-gel column chromatography, using *c*-hexane-EtOAc (5:2) as eluent and collecting a product as a brown band. After removal of solvents and washing with small amount of dry *n*-pentane **6a** was obtained as brown, microcrystalline solid (95 mg, 83%). IR (solid film): v 2930, 2852, 1604, 1575, 1521, 1476, 1447, 1379, 1342, 1275, 1241, 1205, 1181, 1136, 1095, 1049, 1005, 951, 918, 851, 830, 789, 745, 656, 606, 518 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.26–2.35 (m, 39 H), 5.33-5.40 (m, 1H), 7.18 (d, 1H, J = 5 Hz), 8.54 (d, 1H, J = 5 Hz), 8.60 (s, 1H), 17.38 (d, 1H, I = 5.0 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 273.2, 157.0, 143.3, 124.2, 117.6, 113.2, 78.2, 35.8 (d, I = 10 Hz), 30.1, 27.7 (d, I = 24 Hz), 26.2, 22.1; MS (EI) m/z (rel intensity) 645 (9, $[M]^{+\cdot}$, 569 (4), 567 (6), 566 (4), 419 (4), 418 (3), 417 (8), 416 (10), 415 (10), 414 (14), 413 (10), 412 (10), 411 (7), 410 (6), 409 (4), 408 (5), 379 (7), 378 (5), 377 (13), 376 (11), 375 (11), 374 (10), 373 (6), 372 (4), 371 (4), 285 (14), 281 (13), 280 (10), 279 (10), 215 (15), 214 (69), 213 (10), 199 (24), 198 (43), 167 (12), 159 (10), 153 (18), 133 (69), 132 (57), 123 (10), 117 (100), 116 (27), 115 (23), 113 (11), 83 (50), 82 (18), 81 (37), 79 (18), 78 (16), 77 (15), 67 (18), 55 (74), 54 (11), 43 (70), 42 (16), 41 (77); HRMS (EI): calcd. for $[M]^+ (C_{28}H_{44}O_3N^{35}Cl_2P^{102}Ru):$ 645.14794. found: 645.14706.

Catalyst 7a: brown solid (70%) IR (solid film): v 2930, 2853, 1605, 1575, 1521, 1447, 1342, 1275, 1242, 1205, 1181, 1135, 1095, 1049, 1005, 951, 918, 851, 830, 789, 745, 656, 606, 518 cm $^{-1}$; $^1\mathrm{H}$ NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.27-2.34 (m, 39H), 5.35-5.40 (m, 1H), 7.84 (s, 1H), 7.92–7.99 (m, 2H), 17.42 (d, 1H, J = 4.2 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 271.1, 152.2, 146.7, 145.7, 121.9, 119.1, 108.6, 77.5, 35.9, 35.7 (d, J = 10 Hz), 30.1 27.7 (d, J = 24Hz), 26.9, 26.2, 22.1; MS (ESI) m/z (rel intensity) 675.4 ([M+MeOH]⁺). MS (EI) *m*/*z* (rel intensity) 645 (3, [M]^{+,}), 296 (10), 280 (10), 241 (12), 215 (24), 214 (100), 213 (17), 207 (24), 199 (29), 198 (39), 180 (13), 179 (29), 178 (11), 177 (12), 167 (23), 166 (15), 165 (82), 162 (15), 159 (16), 153 (20), 149 (11), 135 (18), 133 (88), 132 (63), 131 (13), 118 (10), 117 (67), 116 (16), 115 (18), 113 (11), 107 (11), 105 (11), 97 (10), 95 (11), 91 (29), 89 (10), 83 (44), 82 (18), 81 (36), 79 (21), 78 (18), 77 (20), 71 (13), 69 (17), 67 (17), 65 (14), 57 (19), 55 (57), 43 (65), 42 (11), 41 (63), 39 (21), 36 (10); HRMS (EI): calcd. for $[M]^{+.}(C_{28}H_{44}O_3{}^{35}Cl_2NP{}^{102}Ru)$: 645.14794. found 645.14957.

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2.2. General procedure for preparation of catalysts 6b, 7b, 10 and 70 from 1b

Catalyst 6b: Carbene complex 1b (153 mg, 0.18 mmol), CuCl (18 mg, 0.18 mmol) and CH₂Cl₂ (10 mL) were placed in a Schlenk flask. A solution of styrene 14 (38 mg, 0.18 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (4 mL) was then added and the resulted solution was stirred under argon at 30 °C for 1 h. From this point forth, all manipulations were carried out in air with reagent-grade solvents. The reaction mixture was concentrated in vacuo and the resulted material was purified by column chromatography on silica. Elution with *c*-hexane-EtOAc (5:2) removes 6b as a green band. Removal of solvent, washing with cold *n*-pentane and drying under vacuum afforded 6b as a green microcrystalline solid (100 mg, 83%). IR (KBr): v 2924, 2850, 1606, 1521, 1480, 1262, 1093, 918, 745 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 16.47 (s, 1H, H-1), 8.42 (dd, 1H, J = 9.1, 2.5 Hz), 7.80 (d, 1H, J = 2.5 Hz), 7.09 (s, 4H), 6.88 (d, 1H, I = 9.1 Hz), 4.97 (sept, 1H, J = 6.1 Hz), 4.20 (s, 4H, H-11, 11'), 2.44 (2s, 18H, H-12, 13), 1.30 (d, 6H, J = 6.1 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz MHz, CDCl₃) δ 291.1, 208.4, 156.4, 150.3, 144.7, 143.1, 139.3, 139.1, 129.5, 124.1, 117.4, 112.7, 77.6, 51.5, 21.1, 21.0, 19.4; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CD_2Cl_2) δ 16.42 (s, 1H, H-1), 8.46 (dd, 1H, J = 9.1, 2.5 Hz, H-5), 7.80 (d, 1H, J = 2.5 Hz, H-3), 7.10 (s, 4H, H-16),6.94 (d, 1H, J = 9.1 Hz, H-6), 5.01 (sept, 1H, J = 6.1 Hz, H-8), 4.22 (s, 4H, H-11, 11'), 2.47 (2s, 18H, H-12, 13), 1.30 (d, J = 6.1 Hz, 6H,H9, 9'); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ 289.1 (C-1), 208.2 (C-10), 156.8 (C-7), 150.3, 145.0 (C-2), 143.5 (C-4), 139.6 (C-15), 139.3, 129.8 (C-16), 124.5 (C-5), 117.2 (C-3), 113.3 (C-6), 78.2 (C-8), 52.0 (C-11, 11'), 21.3 (C-9, 9'), 21.2 (C-12), 19.4 (C-13) (where assignments of the NMR signals (based on 2D ¹H,¹³C-chemical shift correlated spectra: GHSQC, GHMBC) are given, they are unambiguous and refer to the arbitrary numbering shown on Scheme 1); MS (ESI) m/z (rel intensity) 636 $[M-C1]^+$; HRMS (IE): m/z calcd for $[M]^+$ $(C_{31}H_{37}N_3O_3^{35}Cl_2^{102}Ru)$: 671.1255. found 671.1229; Anal. Calcd. for C₃₁H₃₇Cl₂N₃O₃Ru: C, 55.44; H, 5.55; N, 6.26. found: C, 55.35; H,

Supplementary Information

5.70; N, 6.09.



Scheme 1

Catalyst 7b: green microcrystalline solid (83%). IR (KBr): v 2922, 2853, 1740, 1666, 1607, 1520, 1484, 1448, 1423, 1401, 1378, 1337, 1262, 1200, 1158, 1114, 1097, 1034, 968, 902, 853, 801, 736, 579, 453, 427 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR $(500 \text{ MHz}, \text{CDCl}_3) \delta 1.29 \text{ (d, 6H, } J = 6.1 \text{ Hz}),$ 2.40-2.47 (m, 18H), 4.18 (s, 4H), 4.94-5.02 (heptet, 1H, I = 6.1 Hz), 7.06 (s, 1H), 7.08 (bs, 4H), 7.65 (bs, 1H), 7.77 (dd, 1H, J = 8.4)1.9 Hz), 16.73 (s 1H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 21.0, 51.5, 76.7, 108.2, 119.2, 121.4, 129.4, 139.1, 145.3, 147.8, 151.5, 207.6, 288.7; MS (EI) m/z (rel intensity) 671 (5, $[M]^{+.}$), 670 (3), 442 (12), 406 (18), 405 (11), 404 (13), 403 (10), 338 (21), 337 (14), 323 (28), 305 (33), 304 (94), 303 (92), 301 (14), 289 (21), 167 (63), 166 (22), 165 (39), 161 (11), 159 (10), 158 (21), 155 (11), 153 (31), 152 (10), 148 (10), 146 (33), 145 (17), 144 (15), 139 (37), 137 (10), 136 (13), 135 (11), 131 (11), 130 (11), 123 (12), 122 (14), 121 (25), 120 (10), 119 (12), 107 (17), 93 (16), 91 (25), 79 (12), 78 (15), 77 (29), 65 (30), 63 (15), 44 (10), 43 (100), 42 (31), 41 (76), 40 (12), 39 (48), 38 (10), 36 (42); HRMS (EI): calcd. for $[M]^{+}(C_{31}H_{37}O_3N_3^{35}Cl_2^{102}Ru: 671.12555.$ found: 671.12151.

Catalyst 10: Second generation Grubbs' catalyst 1b (0.089 g, 0.10 mmol) and CuCl (0.013, 0.13 mmol) were placed in a Schlenk flask. Methylene chloride (3 mL) was added under argon and then a solution of 2-isopropoxy-3-methoxy-5-nitrostyrene 16 (0.031 g, 0.13 mmol) in methylene chloride (2 mL) was added. The solution was stirred at room temperature for 15 min. The solvent was evaporated and the product was purified by column chromatography (c-hexane-AcOEt 4:1). The product (0.034 g, 46%) was obtained as a green microcrystalline solid. IR (film): v 3531, 2974, 2927, 2855, 1937, 1694, 1631, 1607, 1572, 1523, 1481, 1464, 1446, 1400, 1381, 1338, 1267, 1235, 1217, 1183, 1163, 1147, 1097, 1037, 978, 909, 889, 853, 818, 776, 742, 695, 646, 621, 579, 404 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.35 (d, 6H, *J* = 6.1 Hz), 2.43 (bs, 18H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 4.19 (s, 4H), 5.84 (heptet, 1H, *J* = 6.1 Hz), 7.10 (s, 4H), 7.43 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.5 Hz), 7.94 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.5 Hz), 16.38 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 293.8, 208.6, 153.2, 150.5, 149.1, 146.4, 145.2, 143.6, 143.3, 139.2, 132.0, 129.4, 125.3, 124.0, 115.2, 114.0, 111.3, 107.9, 106.3, 83.1, 56.7, 56.5, 56.2, 38.2, 29.6, 26.9, 22.4, 21.9, 21.0; MS (LSIMS) *m*/*z* (rel intensity) 701.1 ([M]⁺) 666.2 ([M–Cl]⁺); HRMS (LSIMS) calcd for [M-Cl]⁺ (C₃₂H₃₉O₄N₃ClRu): 667.1679; found: 667.1664.

Catalyst 70: green solid (39 %). IR (KBr): ν 3461, 2924, 2853, 1934, 1678, 1608, 1576, 1523, 1483, 1447, 1380, 1343, 1267, 1133, 1085, 1010, 942, 905, 853, 826, 746, 636, 613, 579 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.45 (s, 18H), 3.95 (s, 3H), 4.17 (s, 4H), 6.93 (d, 1H, *J* = 9.3 Hz), 7.10 (s, 4H), 7.78 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.4 Hz), 8.43 (dd, 1H, *J* = 9.0, 2.5 Hz), 16.39 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 285.5, 207.5, 157.5, 143.9, 143.5, 139.2, 138.6, 135.8, 129.7, 129.6, 124.2, 124.0, 116.6, 111.5, 59.5, 51.7, 20.9, 19.1; MS (ESI) *m/z* (rel intensity) 675.4 ([M+MeOH]⁺).

2.3. A one-pot tree-step preparation of 6b from 1a

To a suspension of salt 24 (152 mg, 0.388 mmol, Strem) in *n*-hexane (7 mL) a solution potassium tert-amylate, CH₃CH₂C(CH₃)₂OK, (0.22 mL, 0.372 mmol, 1.7 M in toluene, Fluka) was added under argon and the resulted slightly turbid, yellow solution was stirred at room temperature for 30 min. Grubbs' catalyst 1a (255 mg, 0.310 mmol) was then added to the flask as a solid and the reaction mixture was heated to reflux for 30 min. To the resulted brown-pink suspension a solution of 14 (83.5 mg, 0.403 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (7 mL) and solid CuCl (33.8 mg, 0.341 mmol) were added at RT. After 1 h at 40 °C the resulted product was purified as described above to afford catalyst 6b as green crystals (149 mg, 72%). Analytical data were identical with these reported above.

3. General procedures for metathesis reactions

3.1. Cross-metathesis

To a mixture of an alkene (1.0 mmol) and a cross-metathesis partner (2.0–4.0 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (5 mL) was added a solution of a Ru-catalyst (0.01–0.05 mmol, 1–5 mol%) in CH_2Cl_2 (1 mL). The resulting mixture was stirred at 25–45 °C for 0.5–16 h. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (*c*-hexane-ethyl acetate).

3.2. RCM and enyne metathesis

To a mixture of an alkene (1.0 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (50 mL, *c*=0.02*M*) was added a solution of a Ru-catalyst (0.01–0.05 mmol, 1–5 mol%) in CH_2Cl_2 (1 mL). The resulting mixture was stirred at 0–45 °C for 0.5–16 h. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (*c*-hexane-ethyl acetate).

(Z)-5-Methoxy-1-(methoxymethyl)-3--[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]-1*H*-indol-4-yl--1-propenyl phenyl sulfone (30):9 Colourless crystals, mp = 140–141 °C (54%). IR (KBr): v 3532, 3119, 2926, 2852, 1627, 1514, 1286, 1143, 1085, 1027, 798, 676, 593 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.32 (s, 3H), 3.58 (s, 3H), 3.96 (dd, 2H, I = 5.8, 1.5 Hz), 5.46 (s, 2H), 5.74 (dt, 1H, I = 15.0, 1.5 Hz), 6.54 (dt, 1H, I = 15.0, 5.8 Hz), 6.92 (d, 1H, J = 9.0 Hz), 7.25–7.32 (m, 2H), 7.39–7.56 (m, 4H), 7.66–7.77 (AA'XX', 4H), 8.08 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 21.6, 29.7, 56.2, 56.4, 78.6, 109.6, 110.6, 115.4, 116.6, 124.4, 126.5, 127.2, 128.9, 129.1, 130.1, 132.7, 137.4, 139.5, 141.3, 144.3, 145.8, 154.2; MS (LSIMS) m/z (rel intensity) 548 [M+Na]⁺; MS (EI) m/z(rel intensity) 525 (5, [M]+·), 494 (6), 384 (52), 370 (37), 366 (10), 349 (12), 306 (16), 229 (47), 214 (20), 198 (31), 184 (16), 169 (17), 105 (38), 77 (19); Anal. Calcd. for C₁₇H₂₇NO₆S₂: C, 61.70; H, 5.18; N, 2.66. found: C, 61.46; H, 5.35; N, 2.76.

Methyl-7-[1-(*tert*-butyl)-1,1-dimethyl-

silyl]oxy-2-heptenoate (**31**):¹² Colorless oil, (*E*):(*Z*) = 95:5 (95%). IR (film): *ν* 2952, 2933, 2859, 1729, 1659, 1472, 1437, 1389, 1317, 1258,

¹² Nicolaou, K. C.; Hwang, C.-K.; Marron, B. E.; DeFrees, S. A.; Couladouros, E. A. J. Am. Chem. Soc. **1990**, 112, 3040 – 3054.

1201, 1165, 1102, 1040, 983, 838, 777 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.03 (s, 6H), 0.88 (s, 9H), 1.46–1.57 (m, 4H), 2.17–2.25 (m, 2H), 3.61 (t, 2H, *J* = 5.9 Hz), 3.71 (s, 3H), 5.81 (dt, 1H, *J* = 15.7, 1.6 Hz), 6.96 (dt, 1H, *J* = 15.7, 7.0 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.1, 149.4, 121.0, 62.7, 51.3, 32.2, 31.9, 25.9, 24.4, 18.3, -5.3; MS (EI) *m*/*z* (rel intensity) 257 (1, [M–15]⁺), 241 (3), 217 (4), 215 (23), 183 (15), 171 (0.5), 155 (1), 139 (3), 119 (3), 101 (3), 89 (100), 81 (53), 79 (13), 75 (32), 73 (25), 59 (24), 47 (11), 41 (21), 39 (10); HRMS (ESI) calcd for [M+Na]⁺ (C₁₄H₂₈O₃SiNa): 295.1700. found: 295.1691.

7-[1-(tert-butyl)-1,1-dimethylsilyl]oxy-2--heptenenitrile (32):¹³ Yellow oil, (Z):(E) =2.7:1 (90%). IR (film): ν 2953, 2931, 2858, 2222, 1633, 1523, 1472, 1388, 1344, 1255, 1179, 1101, 1006, 978, 836, 776 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.07 (s, 6H), 0.89 (s, 9H), 1.49-1.54 and 1.54-1.58 (2m, 4H), 2.42-2.48 (m, 2H), 3.60-3.64 (m, 2H), 5.29-5.35 (m, 1H), 6.45-6.51 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 155.0, 118.2, 99.6, 62.5, 32.0, 31.6, 25.9, 24.6, 21.9, -5.3; MS (EI) m/z (rel intensity) 238 (0.5), 224 (3), 183 (15), 182 (100), 166 (1), 152 (9), 138 (1), 126 (22), 108 (10), 101 (6), 81 (7), 75 (74), 73 (21), 59 (22), 57 (11), 49 (17), 47 (19), 41 (25), 39 (16) (GC/MS for (Z)-isomer); MS (EI) m/z (rel intensity) 238 (0.5), 224 (3), 183 (14), 182 (73), 166 (1), 155 (9), 140 (2), 126 (15), 115 (7), 108 (8), 101 (11), 81 (15), 75 (100), 73 (26), 59 (25), 57 (11), 56 (11), 47 (17), 45 (18), 41 (24), 39 (16) (GC/MS for (E)-isomer); HRMS (ESI) calcd for [M+Na]⁺ (C₁₃H₂₅NOSiNa): 262.1598. found: 262.1610.

Diethyl 2-[3-cyano-2-propenyl]malonate (33):¹⁴ Colorless oil, (E):(Z) = 1:2 (87%). IR (film): v 2986, 2941, 2223, 1749, 1732, 1467, 1447, 1371, 1339, 1228, 1177, 1097, 1032, 859 cm⁻¹; (E)-isomer: ¹H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 1.28 (t, 6H, J = 3.6 Hz), 2.77–2.81 (m, 2H), 3.46 (t, 1H, J = 3.6 Hz), 4.19–4.25 (m, 4H), 5.42–5.44 (m, 1H), 6.66–6.78 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.9, 150.7, 116.8, 102.6, 61.8, 50.2, 32.0, 14.0; (Z)-isomer: ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.28 (t, 6H, J = 3.6 Hz), 2.97–3.00 (m, 2H), 3.51 (t, 1H, J = 3.6 Hz), 4.19–4.25 (m, 4H), 5.42–5.44 (m, 1H), 6.51-6.60 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.8, 149.8, 115.2, 102.1, 61.8, 50.3, 30.4, 14.0; MS (EI) *m/z* (rel intensity) 225 (7),

197 (12), 180 (38), 179 (27), 169 (12), 152 (24), 151 (68), 134 (20), 124 (21), 123 (82), 107 (55), 106 (63), 93 (24), 80 (100), 79 (80), 78 (25), 69 (18), 55 (24), 53 (48), 52 (52), 39 (25).

Phenyl [(*E*)-3-phenyl-1-propenyl] sulfone (34):⁹ Colourless oil (84%). IR (film): ν 3057, 2921, 1630, 1496, 1384, 1315, 1127, 976, 792 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.59 (dd, 2H, *J* = 6.4, 1.7 Hz), 6.05 (d, 1H, *J* = 9.9 Hz), 6.16 (dt, 1H, *J* = 15.1, 1.7 Hz), 6.37 (d, 1H, *J* = 16.5 Hz), 6.56 (dd, 1H, *J* = 16.5, 9.9 Hz), 7.11 (dt, 1H, *J* = 15.1, 6.4 Hz), 7.14–7.18, 7.24–7.37 (2m, 5H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 37.7, 127.1, 128.7, 128.8, 128.8, 128.9, 129.7, 136.0, 137.4, 147.7; MS (EI) *m/z* (rel intensity) 208 (11, [M]⁺⁻), 163 (3), 142 (5), 128 (2), 117 (100), 103 (2), 91 (34), 89 (7), 77 (6), 65 (13); HRMS (EI) calcd for [M]⁺⁻ (C₁₁H₁₂O₂S): 208.0558. found 208.0556.

(E)-6-[1-(tert-butyl)-1,1-dimethylsilyl]oxy-1-hexenyl(diphenyl)phosphine oxide (35):¹⁵ Colourless oil (82 %). IR (KBr): ν 3059, 2948, 2959, 1617, 1438, 1252, 1189, 1097, 839, 701, 528 cm⁻¹; ³¹P NMR (CDCl₃, 202 MHz): δ 24.8; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz): δ 7.71–7.64 (m, 4H), 7.52-7.40 (m, 6H), 6.71 (ddt, 1H, J = 19.5, 17.0, 6.5 Hz), 6.22 (ddt, 1H, J = 24.5, 17.0, 1.5 Hz), 3.61-3.57 (m, 2H), 2.34-2.2.26 (m, 2H), 1.57-1.49 (m, 4H), 0.86 (s, 9H), 0.01 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 126 MHz): δ 152.5 (d, J = 1.9 Hz), 133.0 (d, J = 105.0 Hz), 131.5(d, J = 2.6 Hz), 131.2 (d, J = 9.8 Hz), 128.4 (d, J = 9.8 Hz)J = 12.1 Hz), 122.3 (d, J = 103.3), 62.7 (s), 34.1 (d, J = 16.9 Hz), 32.28 (s), 25.88 (s), 24.26 (s),18.25 (s), -5.37 (s); MS (EI) *m*/*z* (rel intensity) 414 (1, [M]^{+·}), 399 (3), 357 (100), 202 (10), 135 (5), 115 (3), 81 (4), 75 (8), 59 (4); HRMS (EI) calcd for $[M]^{+\cdot}$ (C₂₄H₃₅SiO₂P): 414.2144. found 414.2162; Anal. calcd for C₂₄H₃₅SiO₂P: C, 69.53; H, 8.51. found: C, 68.99; H, 8.79.

4-(2-Methyl-4-nitro-1H-indol-3-yl)-2-

-butenenitrile (36): Orange crystals, (*E*):(*Z*) = 1:2.4 (69%). IR (KBr): ν 3313, 3056, 2928, 2218, 1609, 1568, 1512, 1432, 1338, 1304, 1253, 1191, 1116, 993, 787, 724 cm⁻¹; (*Z*)-isomer: ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.47 (s, 3H), 3.88 (dd, 2H, *J* = 6.9, 1.6 Hz), 5.41 (dt, 1H, *J* = 10.9, 1.6 Hz), 6.61–6.68 (m, 1H), 7.13 (t, 1H, *J* = 7.9 Hz), 7.61 (dd, 1H, *J* = 7.9, 1.0 Hz), 7.77 (dd, 1H, *J* = 7.9, 1.0 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 156.1, 155.2, 153.2, 141.3,

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138.8, 138.0, 119.1, 117.5, 116.9, 104.4, 98.6, 29.4, 11.3; MS (EI) m/z (rel intensity) 241 (58), 225 (12), 224 (78), 207 (11), 194 (31), 193 (100), 192 (19), 181 (12), 180 (13), 179 (73), 169 (23), 168 (21), 167 (12), 152 (12), 127 (7), 115 (4), 77 (3); HRMS (EI) calcd for [M]⁺⁻ (C₁₃H₁₁N₃O₂): 241.0851. found: 241.0854.

8-[1-(*tert***-Butyl)-1,1-dimethylsilyl]oxy-3--octen-2-one (37)**:¹⁶ Yellow oil, (*E*):(*Z*) = 99:1 (95%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.04 (s, 6H), 0.88 (s, 9H), 1.50–1.56 (m, 4H), 2.22 (s, 3H), 2.21–2.27 (m, 2H), 3.58–2.63 (m, 2H), 6.07 (dt, 1H, *J* = 15.9, 1.4 Hz), 6.79 (dt, 1H, *J* = 15.9, 6.9 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 198.6, 148.2, 131.4, 62.7, 32.2, 32.1, 26.8, 25.9, 24.5, 18.3, -5.3; MS (EI) *m*/*z* (rel intensity) 256 (0.1), 241 (2), 200 (15), 199 (96), 157 (10), 156 (20), 155 (100), 131 (7), 115 (5), 101 (5), 75 (36), 73 (5), 59 (3), 43 (6), 39 (2); HRMS (ESI) [M+Na]⁺ (C₁₄H₂₈O₂SiNa): calcd. 279.1751. found: 279.1749.

7-[1-(tert-butyl)-1,1-dimethylsilyl]oxy-2--methyl-2-heptenenitrile (38):¹⁶ Colorless oil, (E):(Z) = 1:2 (58%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.08 (s, 6H), 0.93 (s, 9H), 1.25–1.46 (m, 2H), 1.48-1.64 (m, 2H), 1.87-2.08 (m, 3H), 2.18-2.42 (m, 2H), 3.60-3.69 (m, 2H), 6.16 (t, 1H, J = 7.6 Hz) ppm; ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 148.3, 118.1, 109.3, 62.6, 32.2, 31.3, 25.9, 24.9, 24.7, 21.9, -5.3; (Z)-isomer: MS (EI) *m*/*z* (rel intensity) 252 (0.5, [M–H]⁺) 238 (2), 197 (13), 196 (100), 166 (3), 140 (9), 128 (3), 122 (3), 101 (3), 75 (56), 73 (20), 59 (12), 51 (7), 45 (11), 41 (19), 39 (10); (E)-somer: MS (EI) *m*/*z* (rel intensity) 253 (1, [M]^{+·}), 238 (3), 197 (12), 196 (100), 169 (1), 140 (7), 115 (7), 101 (8), 75 (91), 73 (18), 59 (12), 51 (7), 45 (11), 41 (19), 39 (10); HRMS (ESI) calcd for [M+Na]⁺ (C₁₄H₂₇NOSiNa): 276.1754. found: 276.1773.

(*E*)-6-[1-(*tert*-butyl)-1,1-dimethylsilyl]oxy-1-hexenyl phenyl sulfone (39):⁹ Colourless oil (90%). IR (film): ν 2952, 2931, 2858, 1321, 1148, 1088, 836, 777, 753, 688, 596, 553 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.03 (s, 6H), 0.88 (s, 9H), 1.46–1.60 (m, 4H), 2.20–2.35 (m, 2H), 3.53–3.62 (m, 2H), 6.32 (dt, 1H, *J* = 15.1, 1.5 Hz), 7.00 (dt, 1H, *J* = 15.1, 6.8 Hz), 7.47–7.93 (m, 5H); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ –5.37, 18.26, 24.04, 25.90, 31.22, 32.00, 62.50, 127.50, 127.65, 129.18, 130.43, 133.16, 140.72, 147.00; MS (EI) *m*/*z* (rel intensity) 299 (16), 298 (22), 297 (100), 199 (10), 135 (50), 125 (5), 81 (5), 79 (5), 77 (4), 75 (13), 73 (8); HRMS (LSIMS): calcd for $[M+H]^+$ (C₁₈H₃₁O₃SSi): 355.1763. found 335.1768.

(*E*)-11-(Phenylsulfonyl)-10-undecen-1-ol (40):⁹ Colourless oil (81%). IR (film): ν 3370, 2928, 2855, 1447, 1318, 1306, 1289, 1147, 1086, 753, 688, 595 cm cm $^{-1}$; $^1{\rm H}$ NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.24–1.35, 1.41–1.49, 1.51–1.58 (3m, 15H), 2.23 (m, 2H), 3.62 (t, 2H, I = 6.6 Hz), 6.32 (dt, 1H, J = 15.1, 1.5 Hz), 6.98 (dt, 1H, J = 15.1, 6.9 Hz), 7.51–7.92 (m, 5H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 25.6, 27.4, 28.8, 29.0, 29.2, 29.2, 31.3, 32.6, 62.8, 127.4, 129.1, 130.2, 133.1, 140.7, 147.2; MS (ESI) *m/z* (rel intensity) 333 ([M+Na]⁺); HRMS (ESI) calcd for [M+Na]⁺ (C₁₇H₂₆O₃SNa): 333.1495. found 333.1515; Anal. Calcd for C₁₇H₂₂NO₃S: C, 65.77; H, 8.44; S, 10.33. found: C, 65.35; H, 8.20; S, 10.27.

(S_P)-(-)-[(1E)-6-bromohex-1-enyl](meth**yl)phenylphosphine oxide (41)**:¹⁵ Pale brown oil (86%). $[\alpha]_{D}^{20}$ –28.9 deg (c 1.32, CH₂Cl₂); IR (film): v 2936, 1629, 1437, 1294, 1181, 1115, 980, 896, 742, 696, 502 cm⁻¹; ³¹P NMR (202 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 27.4; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.81–7.69 (m, 2 H), 7.54–7.44 (m, 3 H), 6.66 (ddt, 1H, J = 19.4, 17.0, 6.5 Hz), 6.02 (ddt, 1H, J = 24.9, 17.0, 1.6 Hz), 3.39 (t, 2H, J = 6.7), 2.31–2.24 (m, 2H), 1.92–1.83 (m, 2H), 1.75 (d, 3H, I = 13.2 Hz), 1.65–1.58 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 149.8 (d, J =1.7 Hz), 134 (d, J = 90.6 Hz), 131.6 (d, J =2.7 Hz), 130.0 (d, 9.7 Hz), 128.6 (d, I = 11.8Hz), 124.0 (d, I = 99.6 Hz), 33.3 (d, I = 16.8Hz), 33.2 (s), 32.0 (s), 26.4 (d, J = 1.1 Hz), 17.0 (d, J = 74.5 Hz); MS (ESI) m/z (rel intensity) 301 (12) [M+H]⁺; 323 (100) [M+Na]⁺; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[M+Na]^+$ (C₁₃H₁₈BrOPNa): 323.0171. found 323.0168.

Methyl (*E*)-4-(2-methyl-6-nitro-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-2-butenoate (42): Yellow crystalline solid (91%). IR (KBr): ν 3364, 2953, 2904, 1707, 1655, 1504, 1324, 1215, 750 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 2.42 (s, 3H), 3.61 (dd, 2H, *J* = 1.7, 6.0 Hz), 3.70 (s, 3H), 5.74 (dt, 1H, *J* = 1.7, 15.7 Hz), 7.09 (dt, 1H, *J* = 6.0, 15.7 Hz), 7.42 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 7.98 (dd, 1H, *J* = 2.0, 8.8 Hz), 8.24 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.0 Hz), 8.51 (br. s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): 12.0, 26.7, 51.5, 107.2, 108.8, 115.4, 117.5, 121.4, 133.2, 133.6, 138.9, 142.6, 146.7, 167.0; MS (EI) *m*/*z* (rel intensity) 274 (100, [M]⁺⁻), 259 (75), 242 (63), 215 (38), 199 (11), 189 (15), 175 (15), 168 (53), 154 (18),

¹⁶ Grela, K.; Harutyunyan; S., Michrowska, A. Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2002, 41, 4038-4040.

143 (31), 127 (12), 115 (12), 84 (17); HRMS (EI) calcd for $[M]^{+\cdot}$ (C₁₄H₁₄O₄N₂): 247.0954. found 274.0959; Anal. calcd for C₁₄H₁₄O₄N₂: C, 61.31; H, 5.14; N, 10.21. found: C, 61.05; H, 5.22; N, 10.09.

4-(2-methyl-6-nitro-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-

-2-butenenitrile (43): Yellow crystals, (E):(Z) = 1:2.4 (76%). IR (KBr): ν 3306, 2229, 1609, 1592, 1556, 1505, 1471, 1391, 1324, 1114, 1067, 940, 871, 792 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 2.49 (s, 3H), 3.62 (dd, 2H, I =5.5, 1.6 Hz), 5.18 (dt, 1H, J = 16.2, 1.6 Hz), 6.50-6.58 (m, 1H), 7.15 (t, 1H, J = 7.9 Hz), 7.55 (d, 1H, I = 7.9 Hz), 7.86 (d, 1H, I = 7.9Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 153.1, 152.1, 142.7, 139.1, 133.6, 132.9, 117.2, 115.9, 115.6, 107.4, 99.5, 26.7, 12.1; MS (EI) m/z (rel intensity) 241 (100, [M]^{+·}), 226 (17), 224 (27), 211 (11), 194 (38), 193 (18), 192 (7), 189 (45), 180 (16), 179 (19), 169 (6), 168 (12), 167 (13), 155 (13), 154 (12), 143 (32), 142 (7), 127 (9), 115 (9), 77 (6); HRMS (EI) calcd for [M]^{+.} (C₁₃H₁₁N₃O₂): 241.0851. found: 241.0853.

(*E*)-3-(2-methyl-6-nitro-1*H*-indol-3-yl)--1-propenyl(diphenyl)phosphine oxide (44):¹⁵ Yellow crystals, mp = 193-194 °C (76%). IR (KBr): v 3368, 2961, 2854, 1587, 1505, 1468, 1261, 1104, 1065, 820, 732 cm⁻¹; ³¹P NMR (202 MHz, CD₃S(O)CD₃): δ 21.4 ppm; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, $CD_3S(O)CD_3$): δ 11.70 (s, 1H), 8.16 (d, 1H, J = 2.0 Hz), 7.80 (dd, 1H, I = 2.1, 8.8 Hz), 7.64-7.45 (m, 11H),6.74-6.51 (m, 2H), 3.77-3.70 (m, 2H), 3.29 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, $CD_3S(O)CD_3$): δ 149.3 (s), 140.9 (d, J = 18.3 Hz), 134.0 (d, J =112.1 Hz), 133.5 (s), 132.8 (s), 132.5 (s), 131.5 (s), 130.5 (d, J = 9.7 Hz), 128.5 (d, J = 11.7 Hz), 122.0 (d, J = 100.5 Hz), 117.3 (s), 113.8 (s), 108.1 (s), 107.1 (s), 28.2 (d, J = 18 Hz), 11.6 (s); MS (EI) m/z (rel intensity) 416 (14, [M]^{+·}), 386 (6), 215 (100), 201 (13), 198 (17), 185 (8), 168 (15), 154 (6), 127 (2), 77 (4); HRMS (EI) calcd for $[M]^{+}$ (C₂₄H₂₁O₃N₂P): 416.1289. found 416.1281; Anal. calcd for C₂₄H₂₁O₃N₂P: C, 69.23; H, 5.08; N, 6.73. found: C, 69.04; H, 5.09; N, 6.76.

($S_{\rm P}$, $S_{\rm P}$)-(–)-(E)-ethene-1,2-diylbis[methyl(phenyl)phosphine] dioxide (46):^{15,17} To a mixed solution of 45 (0.5 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (4 mL) was added solution 6b

(0.025 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (1 mL). The resulting solution was refluxed for 16 h. Solvent was evaporated and the crude residue was purified using flash chromatography (n-hexane-ethyl acetate-methanol 5:2:0.5 then CH₂Cl₂-methanol 10:1) to afford the title compound as a white crystalline powder, 95% yield. $[\alpha]_{D}^{20}$ –255.0 deg (c 1, CH₂Cl₂); mp = 238 - 239 °C; IR (KBr): ν 3054, 2989, 2904, 1838, 1590, 1482, 1437, 1301, 1177, 1113, 1025, 894, 882, 754, 740, 692, 484 cm⁻¹; ³¹P NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 26.4; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃), (second order spectrum): δ 7.68-7.62 (m, 4H), 7.53-742 (m, 6H), 7.33 (t, 2H, $J_{AX} + J_{BX} = 50$ Hz), 1.83 (filled-in doublet, 6H, *line separation* = 13.1 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃), (second order spectrum, only the central of multiplet signals are listed): δ 141.8 (6 lines), 132.2 (s), 132 (6 lines), 130.0 (3 lines), 128.9 (3 lines), 16.7 (6 lines); MS (ESI) m/z (rel intensity) 305 (25, $[M+H]^+$), 327 (100, [M+Na]+); HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[M+Na]^+$ (C₁₆H₁₈O₂P₂Na): 327.0674. found 327.0690.

2,2-Diphenyl-3-vinyl-2,5-dihydrofuran (47):¹⁸

Brown oil (98%). IR (film): v 3427, 3059, 3026, 2925, 1765, 1682, 1598, 1490, 1447, 1226, 1179, 1064, 758, 700 cm $^{-1}$; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 4.11 (q, 1H, J = 7.1 Hz), 5.10 (dd, 1H, J = 11.2, 0.8 Hz), 5.31 (dd, 1H, J)= 17.7, 0.8 Hz), 6.16-6.18 (m, 1H), 6.20-6.27 (m, 1H), 7.10-7.40 (m, 10H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.1, 143.6, 143.3, 129.7, 127.9, 127.8, 124.8, 117.5, 94.5, 60.3; MS (EI) *m*/*z* (rel intensity) 248 (15, [M]^{+·}), 229 (8), 215 (9), 205 (18), 204 (12), 203 (19), 191 (13), 189 (10), 183 (15), 182 (22), 172 (11), 171 (77), 165 (17), 157 (18), 143 (15), 141 (10), 129 (10), 128 (22), 115 (23), 105 (100), 97 (14), 95 (9), 91 (34), 83 (11), 77 (43), 71 (16), 69 (15), 57 (20), 55 (14), 51 (14), 43 (41), 41 (12), 39 (9); HRMS (() calcd for E (I):); found: calcd for $[M]^{+}$ (C₁₈H₁₆O): 248.1201. found: 248.1196.

1-[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]-2,3,6,7-

-tetrahydro-1*H*-azepine (48):¹⁹ Colorless solid (99%). IR (KBr): ν 3030, 2942, 2899, 2855, 1657, 1596, 1450, 1332, 1286, 1162, 910, 816, 712 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.28 (m, 4H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 3.25 (m, 4H), 5.72 (m, 2H), 7.25 (d, 2H, J = 8.2 Hz), 7.64

¹⁷ K. M. Pietrusiewicz, W. Wiśniewski, M. Zabłocka, *Tetrahedron* **1989**, 45, 337.

¹⁸ Fürstner, A.; Ackermann, L.; Gabor, B.; Goddard, R.; Lehmann, C. W.; Mynott, R.; Stelzer, F. Thiel, O. R. *Chem. Eur. J.* **2001**, *7*, 3236–3253.

¹⁹ Grela, K.; Kim, M. Eur. J. Org. Chem. **2003**, 963–966.

(d, 2H, J = 8.2 Hz); ¹³C NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 21.5, 29.948.2, 126.9, 129.5, 130.1, 136.2, 142.9; MS (EI) *m*/*z* (rel intensity) 251 (5, [M]⁺⁻), 223 (2), 184 (6), 155 (4), 105 (2), 91 (19), 96 (16), 77 (1), 65 (13),42 (100); HRMS (EI) calcd for [M]⁺⁻ (C₁₃H₁₇O₂NS): 251.0980. found 2251.0979.

6-Hexyl-3,6-dimethyl-5,6-dihydro-2*H*-

-pyran-2-one (50):²⁰ Colourless oil (99%). IR (film): ν 2932, 2858, 1721, 1454, 1436, 1380, 1360, 1177, 1116, 986 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.43–6.47 (m, 1H), 2.47 (ddd, 1H, *J* = 2.1, 14.2, 18.19 Hz), 2.27 (ddd, 1H, *J* = 1.7, 13.24, 19.19 Hz), 1.91 (d, 3H, *J* = 1.8 Hz), 1.60–1.75 (m, 2H), 1.38 (s, 3H), 1.25–1.32 (m, 8H), 0.88 (t, 3H, *J* = 6.8 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 13.9, 16.9, 22.5, 23.7, 25.1, 29.5, 31.6, 34.1, 40.8, 76.7, 77.0, 77.2, 82.3, 127.7 137.3, 165.3; MS (EI) *m/z* (rel intensity) 195 (2), 145 (1), 125 (100), 113 (3), 108 (2), 97 (9), 82 (29), 69 (7), 57 (15), 43 (22).

3-Methyl-5-propyl-2(5*H*)-furanone

(51):^{20,21} Colourless oil (76%). IR (film): ν 3080, 2962, 2933, 2876, 1755, 1660, 1455, 1341, 1093, 989 cm⁻¹; MS (EI) *m*/*z* (rel intensity) 140 (14, [M]⁺⁻), 127 (3), 111 (29), 98 (35), 97 (50), 83 (4), 69 (49) 55 (57), 53 (5), 43 (43), 41 (100); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.03 (s, 1H), 4.87–4.89 (m, 1H), 1.91 (s, 3H), 1.39–1.72 (m, 4H), 0.96 (t, 3H, *J* = 7.3 Hz). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 10.6, 13.8, 18.4, 35.5, 76.7, 77.0, 77.2, 80.8, 129.8, 148.7, 147.3; HRMS (ESI) calc for [M]⁺⁻(C₈H₁₂O₂): 140.08378. found 140.08373.

11-Methyldodec-10-en-1-ol (52): Colorless oil (99%). IR (film): v 3338, 2964, 2927, 2855, 1452, 1377, 1262, 1057, 801, 701 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.25–1.38 (m, 14H), 1.46 (s, 1H), 1.59 (s, 3H), 1.69 (s, 3H), 1.92–1.99 (m, 2H), 3.63 (t, 6.6, J = 2H Hz), 5.09-5.14 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 131.1, 124.9, 63.0, 32.8, 29.9, 29.8, 29.6, 29.5, 29.4, 29.3, 28.0, 25.7, 17.6; MS (EI) m/z (rel intensity) 198 (10, [M]⁺⁻), 180 (7), 124 (10), 123 (7), 109 (14), 96 (26), 95 (38), 83 (14), 82 (51), 81 (30), 70 (14), 69 (100), 68 (22), 67 (27), 57 (12), 56 (27), 55 (29), 41 (31), 39 (4); HRMS (EI) calcd for $[M]^{+}$ (C₁₃H₂₆O): 198.1984. found: 198.1986; Anal. calcd for C₁₃H₂₆O: C 78.72, H 13.21. found: C 78.76, H 13.34.

1-(6-Methylhept-5-enyl)cyclohexanol

(53): Colorless oil (99%): IR (film): ν 3392, 2932, 2857, 1449, 1378, 1262, 1169, 966, 835 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.23–1.58 (m, 17H), 1.60 (s, 3H), 1.68 (s, 3H), 1.99 (q, 2H, *J* = 6.5 Hz), 5.09–5.14 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 131.2, 124.7, 71.4, 42.4, 37.4, 30.5, 28.0, 25.8, 25.7, 22.5, 22.2, 17.6; MS (EI) *m*/*z* (rel intensity) 192 (26, [M-18]⁺) 149 (32), 136 (30), 135 (20), 122 (16), 121 (18), 111 (10), 110 (15), 109 (40), 108 (19), 107 (19), 99 (68), 97 (13), 96 (48), 95 (38), 93 ()17, 82 (91), 81 (100), 79 (21), 69 (40), 67 (40), 56 (7), 55 (41), 53 (7), 43 (8), 41 (25); HRMS (ESI) calcd for [M+Na]⁺ (C₁₄H₂₆ONa): 233.1876. found: 233.1887.

7-[1-(tert-Butyl)-1,1-dimethylsilyl]oxy-2--heptenyl acetate (54): Colorless oil, (E):(Z) =7.9:1 (67 %). IR (film): v 3474, 2931, 2858, 2256, 1743, 1673, 1520, 1472, 1463, 1384, 1362, 1255, 1102, 1025, 970, 911, 836, 776, 734 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.05 (s, 6H), 0.89 (s, 9H), 1.35-1.47 (m, 2H), 1.49-1.54 (m, 2H), 2.06 (s, 3H), 2.07-2.10 (m, 2H), 3.60 (t, 2H, J = 6.4 Hz), 4.51 (d, 2H, I = 6.5 Hz), 5.52–5.60 (m, 1H), 5.73–5.80 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.8, 136.3, 123.9, 65.2, 62.9, 32.2, 31.9, 25.9, 25.1, 21.0, 18.3, -5.3; MS (EI) *m*/*z* (rel intensity) 229 (1, [M-57]⁺) 207 (1), 170 (2), 169 (15), 159 (7), 141 (6), 118 (10), 117 (100), 101 (4), 95 (59), 93 (4), 89 (3), 75 (18), 67 (9), 43 (6), 41 (2); HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[M+Na]^+$ (C₁₅H₃₀O₃SiNa): 309.1856. found: 309.1859

Isopropyl 8-(acetyloxy)-6-methyl-6-oct**enoate (55)**: Colorless oil (E):(Z) = 2.3:1(37%). IR (film): v 3454, 2981, 2939, 2870, 1732, 1454, 1375, 1235, 1181, 1146, 1109, 1026, 959, 824 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.23 (d, 6H, I = 6.2 Hz), 1.37–1.51 (m, 2H), 1.57-1.65 (m, 2H), 1.69 (d, 3H, isomer (E), J = 0.3 Hz), 1.74 (d, 3H, isomer (Z), J = 0.9 Hz), 2.04 (s, 3H, isomer (E)), 2.10 (s, 3H, isomer (Z)), 2.27 (t, 2H, J = 7.4 Hz), 4.55 (d, 2H, isomer (Z), J = 7.3 Hz), 4.58 (d, 2H, isomer (E), J = 7.1 Hz), 5.01 (hept, 1H, J = 6.2 Hz), 5.30–5.37 (m, 1H), ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.1, 171.1, 141.9, 118.5, 67.4, 61.3, 39.1, 34.5, 26.9, 24.6, 21.8, 21.0, 16.2; MS (EI) *m*/*z* (rel intensity) 213 (1, [M–43]⁺), 197 (7), 196 (37), 179 (4), 171 (4), 155 (19), 154 (100), 153 (40), 139 (4), 137 (48), 136 (10), 135 (22), 127 (7), 125 (10), 111 (8), 110 (11),

²⁰ Grela, K.; Trynowski, M.; Bieniek, M. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2002**, *43*, 9055–9059.

²¹ Ma, S.; Yu, Z.; Wu, S. Tetrahedron **2001**, *57*, 1585 – 1588.

109 (33), 108 (13), 97 (10), 95 (39), 94 (80), 93 (41), 81 (28), 79 (31), 71 (9.5), 68 (18), 67 (18), 55 (13), 43 (43), 41 (13), 39 (4); HRMS (ESI) calcdf for $[M+Na]^+$ ($C_{14}H_{24}O_4Na$): 279.1567. found: 279.1580.

2-[1-[(4-Methylphenyl)sulfonyl]tetra-

hydro-4(1*H*)-pyridinyliden]ethyl acetate (56): Colorless oil (47%). IR (film): v 2910, 2846, 1737, 1598, 1466, 1338, 1234, 1166, 1096, 1025, 931, 817, 728 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.01 (s, 3H), 2.28–2.33 (m, 3H), 2.38-2.43 (m, 4H), 3.02-3.09 (m, 4H), 4.51 (d, 2H, J = 7.2 Hz), 5.35 (t, 1H, J = 7.2 Hz), 7.29-7.33 (m, 2H), 7.62-7.65 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.7, 143.5, 139.8, 133.4, 129.6, 127.6, 118.7, 59.9, 47.4, 46.9, 35.0, 27.9, 21.4, 20.9; MS (EI) *m/z* (rel intensity) 323 (0.2), 279 (0.5), 263 (13), 184 (6), 168 (6), 155 (18), 109 (11), 108 (100), 107 (12), 91 (49), 81 (41), 79 (9), 77 (7), 65 (13), 43 (26), 42 (25), 41 (11), 39 (8); HRMS (ESI) calcd for [M+Na]⁺ (C₁₆H₂₁NO₄SNa): 346.1084. found: 346.1097; Anal. calcd for C₁₆H₂₁NO₄S: C 59.42, H 6.54, N 4.33, S 9.91. found: C 59.40, H 6.57, N 4.17, S 9.98.

1-[(4-Methylphenyl)sulfonyl]-4-[2-(1,1,1--trimethylsilyl)ethylidene]piperidine (57):²² Colorless oil (5%). IR (film): v 3087, 2957, 2852, 1727, 1673, 1627, 1598, 1582, 1516, 1484, 1340, 1271, 1258, 1165, 1105, 1040, 995, 950, 847, 799, 728 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 0.10 (2, 9H), 1.45 (d, 2H, J = 6.0Hz), 1.56 (s, 3H), 2.30-2.43 (m, 4H), 3.05-3.12 (m, 4H), 5.18-5.26 (m, 1H), 7.31-7.37 (m, 2H), 7.64–7.69 (m, 2H); 13 C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 152.2, 143.4, 130.2, 129.6, 127.6, 112.2, 47.8, 47.5, 38.6, 32.9, 21.9, 0.2; MS (EI) m/z (rel intensity) 337 (17, [M]^{+·}), 323 (16), 308 (15), 257 (17), 256 (100), 228 (9), 180 (28), 168 (14), 155 (8), 149 (21), 109 (5), 91 (13), 73 (39), 59 (5), 45 (2). HRMS (EI) calcd for [M]⁺⁻ (C₁₇H₂₇NO₂SSi): 337.1532. found: 337.1536.

3,4-dimethyl-1-[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]-2,5-dihydro-1*H***-pyrrole (59**):²³ MS (EI) *m*/*z* (rel intensity) 251 (3), 250 (4), 236 (18), 186 (1), 170 (1), 155 (23), 139 (3), 96 (100), 94 (22), 91 (69), 81 (14), 80 (15), 67 (9), 65 (32), 63 (7), 55 (9), 53 (10), 41 (40), 39 (29). -dihydrofuran (62):¹⁸ MS (EI) *m/z* (rel intensity) 262 (6), 247 (4), 229 (9), 215 (6), 205 (14), 202 (7), 186 (12), 185 (100), 171 (11), 165 (11), 157 (6), 141 (10), 129 (18), 115 (21), 105 (55), 91 (38), 79 (29), 77 (68), 65 (6), 51 (34), 43 (39), 41 (5), 39 (21).

1,3,4-trimethyl-cyclohex-3-en-1-ol (63):²⁴ MS (EI) *m*/*z* (rel intensity) 140 (2), 125 (10), 122 (31), 106 (5), 107 (66), 105 (6), 97 (10), 91 (17), 83 (19), 82 (39), 79 (15), 69 (6), 67 (98), 65 (8), 58 (29), 55 (40), 53 (18), 51 (10), 43 (100), 41 (43), 39 (40), 38 (3).

2-Phenyl-3,6-dihydro-2*H***-pyran** (64):²⁵ Colourless oil (90 %). IR (thin film): ν 3339, 3034, 2926, 2895, 2830, 1723, 1452, 1388, 1179, 1090, 762, 699, 657 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.45–7.25 (m, 5H), 6.00–5.88 (m, 1H), 5.87–5.77 (m, 1H), 4.57 (dd, 1H, *J* = 12.2, 4 Hz), 4.43–4.33 (m, 2H), 2.41–2.18 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 142.5, 128.3, 127.4, 126.4, 125.8, 124.4, 75.6, 66.5, 32.8; HRMS (EI) calcd for [M]⁺⁻(C₁₁H₁₂O): 160.0888. found 160.0893.

1-[(4-Methylphenyl)sulphonyl]-3--(2-methyl-1-propenyl)-2,5-dihydro-1*H*-

-pyrrole (65):¹⁸ White solid (99%). ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.71 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.2 Hz), 7.31 (d, 2H, *J* = 7.9 Hz), 5.60 (bs, 1H), 5.37 (bs, 1H), 4.22 (d, 2H, *J* = 3.3 Hz), 4.12 (bs, 2H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 1.74 (d, 6H, *J* = 6.4 Hz); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 143.3, 137.8, 136.2, 129.7, 127.4, 120.8, 117.9, 56.3, 54.5, 27.3, 21.6, 19.9; HRMS (EI) calcd for [M]⁺ (C₁₅H₁₉O₂NS): 277.1136. found: 277.1132.

2,5,2',5'-tetrahydro-[3,3']bifuranyl (67): White solid (55%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.67 (bs, 2H), 4.80–4.73 (m, 8H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 131.8, 122.9, 76.3, 75.1; HRMS (EI) calcd for [M]⁺⁻ (C₈H₁₀O₂): 138.0681. found: 138.0683.

4-[(Allyloxy)methyl]-3-methylene-3,6-dihydro-2H-pyran (68): Yellow oil (24%). ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.05–5.85 (m, 2H), 5.36 (q, 1H, *J* = 1.7 Hz), 5.28–5.22 (m, 1H), 5.20 (q, 1H, *J* = 1.3 Hz), 5.08 (s, 1H), 4.88 (s, 1H), 4.34–4.28 (m, 2H), 4.26 (t, 2H, *J* = 1.2 Hz), 4.18 (q, 2H, *J* = 1.6 Hz), 4.03 (dt, 2H, *J* = 5.7, 1.4 Hz); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃)

⁴⁻Methyl-2,2-diphenyl-3-vinyl-2,5-

²² Ciufolini, M. A.; Rivera-Fortin, M. A.; Byrne, N. E. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1993**, *34*, 3505–3508.

²³ Krafft, M. E.; Bonaga, L. V. R.; Wright, J. A.; Hirosawa, C. J. Org. Chem. 2002, 67, 1233 – 1246.

²⁴ Singleton, D. A.; Leung, S.-W. J. Organomet. Chem. **1997**, 544, 157 – 162.

²⁵ Larock, R. C.; Gong, W. H.; Baker, B. E. Tetrahedron Lett. 1989, 30, 2603 – 2606.

δ 138.0, 134.7, 131.5, 126.9, 117.2, 107.7, 71.3, 69.6, 69.4, 66.0; IR (thin film): ν 3345, 3084, 2855, 1727, 1647, 1614, 1451, 1342, 1270, 1126, 1081, 931 cm⁻¹; HRMS (LSIMS) calcd for [M+Na]⁺ (C₁₀H₁₄O₂Na): 189.0886. found: 189.0900.

4. Procedures for recycling of the catalyst

RCM formation of 47: In a Schlenk flask the catalyst 6b (0.025 g, 0.037 mmol) was placed. The flask was filled with argon and methylene chloride (65 mL) was added. The solution was cold to 0°Cand then a solution of the substrate (0.374 g, 1.5 mmol) in methylene chloride (10 mL) was added. The resulting solution was stirred at 0°Cfor 55 minutes. The solvent was evaporated and the residue was dissolved in minimal amount of methylene chloride. The catalyst was precipitated with *n*-pentane. The crude **6b** was purified by column chromatography (0-20% ethyl acetate/cyclohexane). The catalyst (0.018 g, 72%) was obtained as a green solid. The product 47 was formed in quantitative yield (purity \geq 98% by GC).

RCM formation of 49: In a Schlenk flask the catalyst 6b (0.025 g, 0.037 mmol) was placed. The flask was filled with argon and methylene chloride (65 mL) was added. Then a solution of the substrate (0.362 g, 1.5 mmol) in methylene chloride (10 mL) was added and the resulting solution was stirred at room temperature for 45 minutes. The solvent was evaporated and the residue was dissolved in minimal amount of methylene chloride. The catalyst was precipitated with n-pentane. The crude 6b was purified by column chromatography (0–20% ethyl acetate/cyclohexane). The catalyst (0.010 g, 40%) was obtained as a green solid. The product 49 was formed in quantitative yield (purity \ge 98% by GC).

RCM formation of 28a: In a Schlenk flask the catalyst **6b** (0.025 g, 0.037 mmol) was placed. The flask was filled with argon and methylene chloride (65 mL) was added.

Then a solution of **27a** (0.208 g, 1.5 mmol) in methylene chloride (10 mL) was added under an argon atmosphere and the resulting solution was stirred at room temperatures for 1h. The solvent was evaporated and the residue was subject to column chromatography (50% ethyl acetate/cyclohexane). The crude catalyst was dissolved in minimal amount of methylene chloride and it was precipitated with *n*-pentane. The catalyst 0.013 g, (52%) was obtained as a green solid. The product **28a** was formed in quantitative yield (purity \geq 98% by GC).

5. Ab initio studies

All the calculations were performed using Gaussian 98 (Gaussian 98, Revision A.11.4, Gaussian, Inc., Pittsburgh PA, 2002)²⁶ on a IRIX64/Linux workstation. The structres of 2-isopropoxy styrenes were optimized using B3LYP with 6-31G** basis set. Only real values of the analytical harmonic vibrational frequencies confirmed that geometries under study correspond to the minimum-energy structures.

5.1. Electron density distribution surface maps



Figure 1a. 2-Isopropoxystyrene 72

²⁶ M. J. Frisch, G. W. Trucks, H. B. Schlegel, G. E. Scuseria, M. A. Robb, J. R. Cheeseman, V. G. Zakrzewski, J. A. Montgomery, Jr., R. E. Stratmann, J. C. Burant, S. Dapprich, J. M. Millam, A. D. Daniels, K. N. Kudin, M. C. Strain, O. Farkas, J. Tomasi, V. Barone, M. Cossi, R. Cammi, B. Mennucci, C. Pomelli, C. Adamo, S. Clifford, J. Ochterski, G. A. Petersson, P. Y. Ayala, Q. Cui, K. Morokuma, N. Rega, P. Salvador, J. J. Dannenberg, D. K. Malick, A. D. Rabuck, K. Raghavachari, J. B. Foresman, J. Cioslowski, J. V. Ortiz, A. G. Baboul, B. B. Stefanov, G. Liu, A. Liashenko, P. Piskorz, I. Komaromi, R. Gomperts, R. L. Martin, D. J. Fox, T. Keith, M. A. Al-Laham, C. Y. Peng, A. Nanayakkara, M. Challacombe, P. M. W. Gill, B. Johnson, W. Chen, M. W. Wong, J. L. Andres, C. Gonzalez, M. Head-Gordon, E. S. Replogle, and J. A. Pople, Gaussian, Inc.

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Figure 1b. 2-Isopropoxystyrene 72



Figure 2a. 2-Isopropoxy-5-nitrostyrene 14



Figure 2b. 2-Isopropoxy-5-nitrostyrene 14



Figure 3a. 2-Isopropoxy-4-nitrostyrene 15



Figure 3b. 2-Isopropoxy-4-nitrostyrene 15



Figure 4a. 2-Isopropoxy-5-bromostyrene

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Figure 4b. 2-Isopropoxy-5-bromostyrene



Figure 3. 2-Isopropoxy-4-nitrostyrene 15



Figure 7. 2-Isopropoxy-3-nitrostyrene

5.2. ESP charges



Figure 5. 2-Isopropoxystyrene 72



Figure 6. 2-Isopropoxy-5-nitrostyrene 14

5.3. Mulliken charges



Figure 8. 2-Isopropoxystyrene 72

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Figure 9. 2-Isopropoxy-5-bromostyrene

6. 1D and 2D NMR Spectra

7. Compound 6a





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8. Compound 6b







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9. Compound 7b









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10. Compound 14





11. Compound 15







12. Compound 16





13. Compound 19a



14. Compound 20





15. Compound 22a





16. Compound 23





17. Compound 70





18. Compound 70a



