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Oxacycle Synthesis via Intramolecular Reaction of Carbanions and Peroxides

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Oxacycle Synthesis via Intramolecular Reaction of Carbanions and Peroxides

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Abstract

The intramolecular reaction of dialkyl peroxides with carbanions, generated via chemoselective metal-heteroatom exchange or deprotonation, provides a new approach to cyclic ethers. Applied in tandem with C–C bond formation, the strategy enables a one-step annelation to form oxaospirocycles.

Ethers, which comprise critical substructures in many bioactive molecules and natural products, $\frac{1}{x}$ are typically synthesized through attack of nucleophilic oxygen on an electrophilic carbon. $\frac{1}{2}$ The converse of this strategy, attack of a carbanion on electrophilic oxygen, has been investigated to only a limited extent for intermolecular reactions and is essentially unexplored for intramolecular reactions. We now demonstrate that chemoselective generation of carbanions in the presence of appropriately positioned O–O bonds of dialkyl peroxides allows the efficient introduction of cyclic ethers (Figure 1), including frameworks (for example, **15a** or **19b**, vide infra) challenging to approach via existing methodology.

Figure 1

Overview of oxacycle synthesis via reactions of peroxides and carbanions.

Previous reports have described the intermolecular reaction of simple organometallics with dialkyl peroxides, $\frac{3}{2}$ peresters, $\frac{4}{3}$ and endoperoxides. $\frac{5}{3}$ Bissilyl peroxides and lithiated hydroperoxides have been applied to oxygenation of lithiated arenes and alkenes.^{6,7} However, the only precedent for the corresponding *intra*molecular reactions of carbanions with peroxides is the 3-*exo* cyclization of short-lived enolate intermediates formed during nucleophilic epoxidation reactions.⁸

At the outset of these studies, we faced two major uncertainties: first, would it be possible to generate reactive carbanions in the presence of a peroxide; and, second, would the carbanion/peroxide pair undergo intramolecular C–O bond formation. The question of chemoselective generation of an organolithium nucleophile was initially investigated using a dialkyl peroxide (**1**) derived from reaction of *t*-butyl hydroperoxide with dihydrogeraniol methanesulfonate.² Consistent with previous observations, $\frac{3a}{3}$ reaction of 1 with *n*-BuLi proceeded readily to furnish butyl ether **2** (eq 1). Repeating this reaction in the presence of a slight excess of allyl tributylstannane resulted in predominant formation of the allyl ether (**3**), demonstrating that Li/heteroatom exchange proceeds much more rapidly than C–O bond formation.

Confident of our ability to selectively generate a carbanion in the presence of a peroxide, we prepared a family of substrates (6a–**c** and 9) incorporating a dialkyl peroxide and a precursor aryllithium precursor (Scheme 1). The peroxide was either installed via displacement of a sulfonate (base) or iodide (Ag_2O) .¹⁰ The lower yield for phenethyl peroxide 9 reflects a tendency for Kornblum elimination in this skeleton.¹¹

Scheme 1

Synthesis of Aryl Peroxide Substrates

Table 1 illustrates the results of metal-heteroatom exchange for peroxides **6a**–**c** and **9**. Addition of either *n*-BuLi or PhLi to a–78 °C solution of **6a** (iodide) or **6b** (bromide), followed by warming of the reaction mixture to 0 °C, afforded good yields of dihydrobenzopyran **10**. The corresponding reactions of the tributylstannyl arene (**6c**) proceeded in much lower yield (PhLi) or essentially not at all (BuLi). Lithiation of *o*-iodophenethyl peroxide **9** furnished dihydrobenzofuran in excellent yield.

Table 1

Lithiation/Cyclization

Repeating the lithiation of $6a$ and quenching the reaction with MeOH- d_4 prior to warming resulted in formation of a monodeuterated peroxide (eq 2), demonstrating that lithiation occurs more rapidly and at lower temperature than intramolecular C–O bond formation.

We next investigated corresponding cyclizations of enolate anions, prepared as illustrated in Scheme 2.

Scheme 2 **Synthesis of Peroxyketones**

Conditions for cyclization were initially investigated for the 5-*exo* closure of peroxide **14b** (Table 2). The reaction, which generates *tert*-butoxide anion as a byproduct, proceeded rapidly in THF in the presence of KOtBu or KH. Only traces of products were observed using LDA.

Table 2 **Investigation of Cyclization Conditions**

Application of the KO*t*-Bu conditions to the cyclization of **14a**–**c** furnished good yields of the oxetane, tetrahydrofuran, and tetrahydropyran (Table 3). Peroxide **14d** failed to undergo 7-*exo* closure to the oxepane, instead slowly undergoing decomposition. $\frac{11}{11}$

Table 3 **Intramolecular C–O Formation**

The transformation was not limited to aryl ketones, as evidenced by cyclization of peroxyhexanone **16** (eq 3); the volatile product was isolated after homologation with a Horner–Emmons reagent.

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Finally, we investigated the reaction of enolates with a series of *t*-butyl iodoalkyl peroxides **18a**–**d**, available in one step from the corresponding 1,*n*-dihalides (Table 4). The results demonstrate the ability to achieve, in one step, a high-yielding annelation of spirocyclic ethers onto ketone frameworks, opening the door to a class of spirocycles previously approachable mainly through cationic ring expansions.¹² The isolation of the homologated peroxide (**20**) during attempted formation of a 7-membered ring provides strong evidence that the formation of the 5- and 6-membered spirocycle proceeds via initial formation of a C–C bond.

Table 4 **Formation of Spirocyclic Ethers via Tandem C–C and C–O Bond Formation**

In conclusion, we have demonstrated the chemoselective generation of carbanions in the presence of dialkyl peroxides and the application of the resulting intermediates to establish new C–O bonds. This alternative to more traditional etherifications provides a new approach to synthesis of spirocyclic ethers, aryl ethers, and various oxacycles including oxetanes.

Acknowledgments

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Supporting Information (Section SI-1)

Oxacycle Synthesis via Intramolecular Reaction of Carbanions and Peroxides

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See SI-section 2 for ¹ H NMR and 13C NMR spectra

I. General Methods

Except where noted, all reactions were conducted under an atmosphere of N_2 in glassware that had been flame dried prior to use. All reagents and solvents were used as supplied commercially, except CH_2Cl_2 (distilled from CaH₂), THF (distilled from Na/benzophenone) and DMF (distilled from CaH₂ under reduced pressure). ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra were acquired in CDCl₃; the spectrometer frequency is described within individual experimental descriptions. Chemical shifts are reported relative to residual chloroform (7.26 ppm for 1 H NMR and 77.0 ppm for 13 C NMR). IR spectra were obtained on neat films (ZnSe, ATR mode) with selected absorbances reported in wavenumbers (cm⁻¹). GC/MS was performed using a 30 m DB-5MS column with a 1:200 injector split and 1 mL/min flow of He gas with analysis on an ion trap scanning in EI mode over 50**−**650 m/z range; the ion source was set at 200 **°**C. Flash column chromatography was performed on 230-400 uM silica gel. Thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on 0.25 mm hard-layer silica G plates containing a fluorescent indicator; developed TLC plates were visualized with a hand-held UV lamp or by heating after staining with 1% ceric sulfate/10% ammonium molybdate in 10% H₂SO₄ (general dip) or a peroxide-specific dip composed of a solution of 1.2g of *N, N*-dimethyl-p-phenylene diamine dihydrochloride in 1mL acetic acid, 20 mL H₂O, and 100 mL MeOH.¹ Abbreviations throughout: EA = ethyl acetate; Hex = hexane

*tert-***Butyl 3,7-dimethyloct-6-en-1-yl peroxide** (**1**).

Synthesis of the methanesulfonate precursor: A 0.12M solution of citronellol (467 mg, 3.0 mmol) in methylene chloride at 0° C was added Et₃N (1.25 mL, 9 mmol) followed by methanesulfonyl chloride (0.35 mL, 0.35 mmol) slowly. The reaction was allowed to warm slowly to room temperature and stirred for 16 h. The reaction was quenched with 25 mL of water and extracted with methylene chloride. The organic layer was dried over $Na₂SO₄$ and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was then purified by column chromatography (25% EA/Hex) to yield 662 mg (94%) of 3,7-dimethyloct-6-en-1-yl methanesulfonate (42602- 37-9) as a light yellow oil. R_f : 0.5 (25% EA/Hex). Spectral data matched those previously reported. 2

Introduction of the peroxide employed a variant of a known procedure.³ To a suspension of CsOH monohydrate $(6.76 \text{ g}, 40)$ mmol) in DMF (80 mL) at 0 °C was slowly added *t*-butyl hydroperoxide (8.8 mL, 48 mmol, from a nominally 5.5 M solution

in The mixture was allowed to stir for 30 min, then methanesulfonate 1 (6.3 g, 27 mmol) was added

dropwise in 5 mL of DMF. The reaction was allowed to slowly warm to room temperature. After 5 h, 50 mL of water was added and the resulting mixture was extracted with ether. The combined organic layers were washed with brine and dried with Na₂SO₄. The reside was concentrated under reduced pressure and purified by column chromatography (2.5% EA/Hex) to yield 3.9g (64%) of the peroxide as a colorless oil. R_f : 0.65 (10% EA/Hex). 1H NMR (400 MHz): δ 0.92 (d, 3H, J= 6.6), 1.18 (m, 1H), 1.26 (s, 9H), 1.30-1.47 (2H, unresolved overlapping signals), 1.50-1.68 (singlet overlapping unresolved signal, 5H), 1.70 (d, 3H, J= 0.9), 1.99 (m, 2H), 3.99 (m, 2H), 5.11 (app. triplet of quintets, 1H, J= 7.2, 1.4). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz): δ 17.6 (CH3), 19.6 (CH3), 25.4 (CH3), 25.7 (CH2), 26.3 (tBu CH3's), 29.7 (CH), 34.6 (CH2), 37.1 (CH2), 73.4 (CH2), 80.0 (C), 124.7 (CH), 131.2 (C). IR: 2975, 2927, 2873, 1456, 1377, 1361, 1241, 1197, 884. HRMS calculated for C14H28O2Na [M+Na]⁺: 251.1623; found 251.1624.

Butyl 3,7-dimethyloct-6-en-1-yl ether (2)

To a 0.2 M solution of peroxide 2 (234 mg, 1.0 mmol) in THF at -78 °C was added nBuLi (2.0 mmol, 0.80 mL of a nominally 2.5 solution in hex) drop wise. After stirring for 10 min, the reaction was allowed

to warm to room temperature and after 4 h quenched with water (5 mL) and extracted with ether. The organic layer was dried with Na_2SO_4 and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was then purified by column chromatography (2.5% EA/Hex) to yield 138 mg (63%) of the ether as a colorless oil. R_f : 0.5 (10% CH₂Cl₂/Hex). ¹H NMR (400 MHz): δ 0.89-0.97 (s and d overlapping, 6H), 1.18 (m, 1H), 1.30-1.47 (overlapping signals, 4H), 1.52-1.67 (singlet overlapping with 2 other signals, 7H), 1.70 (d, J= 1.0), 2.00 (m, 2H), 3.36-3.51 (overlapping signals, 4H), 5.12 (app. t of q, $J= 7.2, 1.3$). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz): δ 13.9 (CH3), 17.6 (CH2), 19.4 (CH3), 19.6 (CH3), 25.5 (CH2), 25.7 (CH3), 29.6 (CH), 31.9 (CH2), 36.7 (CH2), 37.2 (CH2), 69.2 (CH2), 70.7 (CH2), 124.9 (CH), 131.1 (C). IR: 2959, 2926, 2856, 1256, 1376, 1131, 830, 737. HRMS calculated for C₁₄H₂₈O: 213.2218; found 213.2215.

Allyl 3,7-dimethyloct-6-en-1-yl ether (3)

To a 0.2 M solution of peroxide **1** (229 mg, 1.0 mmol) in THF was added allyltributyltin (0.62 mL, 2.0 mmol). The solution was cooled to -78 °C, and *n*BuLi (2.5 mmol, 1.0 mL of a 2.5 M

solution in hexane) was added drop wise. After 30 min the reaction was quenched with 10 mL of water and extracted with ether. The combined organic layers were dried with $Na₂SO₄$, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was then purified by column chromatography (2.5% EA/Hex) to yield 137 mg (70%) of the allyl ether as a colorless oil. Rf: 0.25 (5% EA/Hex). Spectral details matched those previously reported. 4

3-(2-Iodophenyl)propanol (4a)

To a 0.42 M solution of commercially available 3-(2-iodophenyl)propionic acid (2.926 g, 10.6 mmol) in a 0 °C solution of THF was added NaBH₄ (825) mg, 21.8 mmol) in one portion. BF_3OEt_2 (2.74 mL, 21.8 mmol) was then added drop wise and the reaction stirred for 1 hour. The reaction was

quenched with 12 mL MeOH followed by 12 mL of 1M aq. HCl. The mixture was then diluted with EA and the organic layer separated and dried with $Na₂SO₄$. The resulting solution was concentrated under reduced pressure and the residue purified by flash chromatography (30% EA/Hex) to yield 2.63g (95%) of the title compound as a light yellow oil. Rf : 0.33 (30% EA/Hex) Spectral details matched those previously reported.⁵

3-(2-Bromophenyl)propanol (4b)

To a 0.5 M solution of commercially available 3-(2-bromophenyl)propionic acid (771 mg, 3.37 mmol) in THF at 0 $^{\circ}$ C was added NaBH₄ (255 mg, 6.7) mmol) in one portion. BF_3 • OEt_2 (0.842 mL, 6.7 mmol) was then added dropwise and the reaction stirred for 1 hour. The reaction was quenched

with methanol (4 mL) followed by 1M HCl (4 mL). The mixture was diluted with EA (15 mL) and the separated organic layer was dried with $Na₂SO₄$ and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash chromatography (30% EA/Hex) to yield 668 mg (92%) of the alcohol as a colorless oil: R_f : 0.33 (30% EA/Hex). Spectral details matched those previously reported. 6

3-(2-(tributylstannyl)phenyl)propan-1-ol (4c)

To a 0.1 M solution of 3-(2-bromophenyl)propan-1-ol **4b** (0.50 mmol, 104 mg) in THF at -78 °C was added nBuLi (nominaly 1.6 M in Hex, 1.1 mmol, 0.69 mL) slowly drop wise. The mixture was stirred for 10 minutes at -78 °C, then tributyltin chloride (1.1 mmol, 0.30 mL) was added. The reaction

was then allowed to warm slowly to room temperature. After 5 hours the reaction was quenched by sequential addition of small amounts of water and sat. aq. NH4Cl. The resulting mixture was extracted with ether and the extracts dried with $Na₂SO₄$. The mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure and purified via column chromatography (10% EA/Hex) to yield 126 mg (59%) of the title compound as a colorless oil. R_f : 0.40 (20% EA/Hex); ¹H NMR (400 MHz): δ 0.91 (t, 9H, J= 7.3), 1.10 (m, 6H), 1.35 (m, 6H), 1.53 (m, 6H), 1.90 (m, 2H), 2.70 (m, 2H), 3.76 (dd, 2H,

J=11.3, 6.2), 7.12-7.50 (m, 5H). 13C NMR (100 MHz): δ 10.4 (CH3), 13.7 (CH2), 27.4 (CH2), 29.2 (CH2), 35.2 (CH2), 35.4 (CH2), 62.7 (CH2), 125.4 (CH), 128.0 (CH), 128.4 (CH), 136.9 (C), 141.8 (CH), 148.6 (C). HRMS (ESI): calcd for $C_{21}H_{38}OSn (M+Na)^{+}$: 449.1742; found: 449.1845. IR: 3332, 3051, 2953, 2921, 2870, 2851, 1463, 1433, 1417, 1375, 1339, 1291, 1151, 1056, 959, 864, 749, 662, 589.

3-(2-Iodophenyl)propyl methanesulfonate (5a)

Alcohol **4a** (1.78 g, 5.23 mmol) was converted to the corresponding methanesulfonate $(2.14 \text{ g}, 92\%$, light yellow oil) by the same procedure employed for compound **5b** (below). R_f: 0.5 (30% EA/Hex). Spectral details matched those previously reported.⁷

3-(2-Bromophenyl)propyl methanesulfonate (5b)

To a 0.2 M solution of alcohol **4b** (1.83 g, 8.51 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ at 0 °C was added Et₃N (4.7 mL, 34 mmol) followed by methanesulfonyl chloride (0.99 mL, 12.8 mmol, drop wise). The resulting mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred overnight. The reaction was quenched with 20 mL of water and the separated aqueous layer was

extracted with additional methylene chloride (2 X 30 mL). The combined organic layers were dried with Na₂SO₄. The crude mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure and purified by flash chromatography (20% EA/Hex) to yield 2.24 g (90%) of the methanesulfonate as a light yellow oil: Rf: 0.45 (20% EA/Hex). Spectral details matched those previously reported.⁸

3-(2-(Tributylstannyl)phenyl)propyl methansulfonate (5c)

Alcohol **4c** (42.5 mg, 0.10 mmol) was converted to the corresponding methanesulfonate by the same procedure employed for compound **5b** to yield 31.7 mg (63%) of a colorless oil. R_f : 0.6 (30% EA/Hex). ¹H NMR δ 0.91 (t, 9H J= 7.3), 1.10 (m, 6H), 1.36 (quintet, 6H, J= 7.3), 1.53 (m, 6H), 2.07 (tdd, 2H, J= 7.3, 9.8, 6.4), 2.74 (m, 2H), 3.04

 $(s, 3H)$, 4.31 (t, 2H, J= 6.5), 7.15-7.35 (m, 4H), 7.35-7.50 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz): δ 10.4 (CH3), 13.7 (CH2), 27.4 (CH2), 29.1 (CH2), 31.5 (CH2), 34.9 (CH2), 37.4 (CH3), 69.2 (CH2), 125.7 (CH), 127.9 (CH), 128.5 (CH), 137.1 (CH), 141.9 (C), 147.2 (C). HRMS (ESI): calcd for $C_{22}H_{40}O_3$ SSn (M+Na)⁺: 527.1618; found: 527.1619. IR: 2954, 2921, 2870, 2851, 1463, 1355, 1173, 1072, 1000, 959, 921, 873, 833, 806, 751, 730, 667, 591.

3-(2-Iodophenyl)propyl tert-butyl peroxide (6a)

Methanesulfonate **5a** (2.14 g, 6.30 mmol) was converted to the t-butyl peroxide (1.61 g, 77%, light yellow oil) by the same procedure employed for compound $6b$ (below). R_f : 0.45 (5% EA/Hex). ¹H NMR (400 MHz): δ 1.23 (s, 9H), 1.94 (tdd, 2H, J= 6.4, 9.0, 6.5), 2.82 (m, 2H), 4.03 (t, 2H, J= 6.4), 6.90 (td, 1H, J=7.4, 1.9), 7.27 (m, 2H), 7.83

(dd, 1H, J = 7.8, 1.1). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz): δ 26.4 (CH3), 28.4 (CH2), 37.4 (CH2), 74.0 (CH2), 80.1 (C), 100.6 (C), 127.8 (CH), 128.3 (CH), 129.4 (CH), 139.5 (CH), 144.3 (C). HRMS (ESI): calcd for $C_{13}H_{19}IO_2 (M+Na)^+$: 357.0327; found: 357.0315. IR: 2975, 2867, 1562, 1465, 1434, 1361, 1240, 1195, 1079, 1048, 1008, 876, 746, 646.

3-(2-Bromophenyl)propyl tert-butyl peroxide (**6b**, 897 mg, 42%) was prepared from

methanesulfonate **5b** (2.29 g, 7.8 mmol) by a similar procedure as for peroxide **1**. R_f: 0.45 (5% EA/Hex)¹H NMR (400 MHz): δ 1.29 (s, 9H), 1.97 (tdd, 2H, J = 7.0, 9.7, 6.4), 2.84 (m, 2H), 4.02 (t, 2H, J = 6.5), 7.07 (m, 1H), 7.26 (m, 2H), 7.55 (d, 1H, J= 7.9). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz): δ

26.4 (CH3), 28.0 (CH2), 32.8 (CH2), 74.1 (CH2), 80.1 (C), 124.5 (C), 127.4 (CH), 127.6 (CH), 130.4 (CH), 132.8 (CH), 141.1 (C). HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₃H₁₉BrO₂ (M+Na)⁺: 309.0466; found: 309.0457. IR: 2975, 2869, 2358,1470, 1438, 1384, 1361, 1240, 1195, 1019, 877, 746, 657.

3-(2-(Tributylstannyl)phenyl)propyl tert-butyl peroxide (6c)

Methanesulfonate **5c** (418 mg, 0.83 mmol) was converted to the peroxide (246 mg, 60%) by the same procedure employed for peroxide 1. R_f: 0.5 (5% EA/Hex). ¹H NMR (400 MHz): δ 0.91 $(t, 9H, J= 7.3)$, 1.1 (m, 6H), 1.29 (s, 9H), 1.36 (quintet, 6H, J= 7.3), 1.54 (m, 6H), 1.93 (m, 2H), 2.70 (m, 2H), 4.05 (t, 2H, J=

6.5), 7.01-7.33 (m, 3H), 7.41 (m, 1H). 13C NMR (100 MHz): δ 10.4 (CH3), 13.7 (CH2), 26.4 (CH3), 27.4 (CH2), 29.2 (CH2), 30.5 (CH2), 35.9 (CH2), 74.6 (CH2), 80.1 (C), 125.3 (CH), 127.9 (CH), 128.4 (CH), 136.8 (CH), 141.8 (C), 148.6 (C). HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₂₅H₄₅O₂Sn (M+Na)⁺: 521.2417; found: 521.2430. IR: 3051, 2955, 2922, 2870, 2852, 2360, 1463, 1434, 1375, 1361, 1241, 1196, 1071, 1020, 959, 875, 750, 667, 592.

2-(2-Iodophenyl)ethanol (7)

2-(2-Iodophenyl)acetic acid (1.00 g, 3.8 mmol) was converted to the corresponding alcohol (915 mg, 97%, colorless oil) by the same procedure employed for compound 4a. R_f: 0.25 (20% EA/Hex). Spectral details matched those previously reported. 7

1-Iodo-2-(2-iodoethyl)benzene (8)

Alcohol **7** (898 mg, 3.62 mmol) was converted to the iodide (**8**, 906) mg, 70%, light yellow oil) using the general procedure described below except that CH_2Cl_2 was used as solvent. R_f : 0.95 (5% EA/Hex). ¹H NMR (400 MHz): δ 3.26-3.41(overlapping signals, 4H), 6.98 (m, 1H), 7.23-7.38 (overlapping signals,

2H), 7.85 (m, 1H). 13C NMR (100 MHz): δ 3.3 (CH2), 44.9 (CH2), 99.9 (C), 128.5 (CH), 128.8 (CH) , 129.8 (CH), 139.8 (CH), 143.3 (C). Spectra matched those previously reported.⁷

2-(2-Iodophenyl) ethyl tert-butyl peroxide (9)

Diiodide **8** (107 mg, 0.30 mmol) was converted to iodoaryl peroxide (21.5 mg, 22%, light yellow oil) using the same procedure as employed for peroxide 1. The transformation could also be conducted using Ag_2O in THF. R_f : 0.80 (5% EA/Hex). ¹H NMR (400 MHz): δ 1.25 (s, 9H), 3.09 (t, 2H, J= 7.1), 4.15 (t, 2H, J= 7.1), 6.92 (m, 1H), 7.25-7.33 (overlapping

signals, 2H), 7.83 (d, 1H, J= 7.7). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz): δ 26.3 (CH3), 39.3 (CH2), 74.1 (CH2), 80.4 (C), 100.6 (C), 128.2 (CH), 128.3 (CH), 130.3 (CH), 139.5 (CH), 141.2 (CH). HRMS (ESI): calcd for $C_{12}H_{17}IO_2 (M+Na)^+$: 343.0171; found: 343.0168.

3,4-dihydro-2H-1-benzopyran (**10**)

To a 0.2 M solution of 3-(2-iodophenyl)propyl tert-butyl peroxide **6a** (0.344 mg, 2.0 mmol) in THF at -78 °C was dropwise added PhLi (2.2 mmol, 1.4 mL of a nominally 1.6 M solution in Hex). The reaction was allowed to warm to rt and after 1.5 h, was quenched with sat. aq. NH4Cl. The ether extract was filtered through a

plug of silica, diluted with methanol to a standard volume and analyzed for yield by comparison with a standard curve derived using five standardized solutions of reference samples of dihydrobenzopran, prepared as described below. Following analysis, the solution was concentrated under reduced pressure. Spectra of the residue matched those of the dihydrobenzofuran prepared as described below. R_f : 0.3 (2.5 % EA/Hex).

Preparation of GC standard: Bromophenyl 3-bromopropyl ether was prepared using a variant of a reported procedure. ⁹ To a $\overline{0.5}$ M solution of 2-bromophenol (3.46 g, 20 mmol) in DMF was added K_2CO_3 (5.5 g, 40 mmol) followed by 1,3-dibromopropane (10 mL, 100 mmol). The reaction was stirred for 24 h and then quenched with sat. aq. NH4Cl. The ether extract was dried over $Na₂SO₄$ and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography (5% EA/Hex) to yield 4.24 g (72%) of 2-bromophenyl 3-bromopropyl ether as a colorless oil. R_f : 0.45 (5% EA/Hex). The ¹H NMR spectra matched the literature report.⁹

To a 0.2 M solution of 2-bromophenyl 3-bromopropyl ether (588 mg, 2.0 mmol) in THF at -78 °C was dropwise added nBuLi (2.2 mmol, 1.4 mL of a nominally 1.6 M solution in Hex). The reaction was allowed to warm to rt and after 1.5 h, was quenched with sat. aq. NH4Cl. The ether extract was dried with $Na₂SO₄$ and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography (2.5% EA/Hex) to yield **10** (211 mg, 79%) as a colorless oil. R_f : 0.3 (2.5 % EA/Hex) Spectra matched those previously reported.¹⁰ The product was used to construct a GC/MS response curve in the same manner as described below for 2,3 dihydrobenzofuran.

2,3-Dihydrobenzofuran (11)

To a -78 °C 0.2M solution of 2-(2-iodophenyl) ethyl *tert*-butylperoxide **9** (0.320 g, 1.0 mmol) in THF was added 1.1 equivalent of nBuLi (nominally 1.6 M in hexane) dropwise under nitrogen. After 5 min, the cooling bath was removed and the reaction was allowed to stir for an additional hour. The reaction was then quenched

with a small amount of sat. ammonium chloride. The ether extract was diluted with methanol to a fixed volume and the GC/MS response compared against a standard curve constructed by analysis of commercial **11** (99% grade) to indicate a 90% yield. Alternatively, the ether extract was dried over $Na₂SO₄$ and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by chromatography (2.5% EA/Hex) to afford 58% isolated yield of **11**. Rf: 0.3 (2.5 % EA/Hex. The spectra matched those of commercial samples of **11**.

3-(2-Deuterophenyl)propyl tert-butyl peroxide

To a -78 °C solution of peroxide **6a** (66.5 mg, 0.2 mmol) in THF (0.2 M) was dropwise added a nominally 1.6 M solution of nBuLi in hexanes (0.14 mL, 0.22 mmol). The resulting mixture was stirred at -78 °C for five minutes and then quenched with excess $CD₃OD (1 mL)$.

The mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure and the residue purified by flash

chromatography (5% EA/Hex) to yield 27.5 mg (66%) of a *t-*butyl phenylpropyl peroxide showing **>90**% deuterium incorporation at the ortho position based upon the reduction in the integral for the aromatic region in the ¹H NMR. R_f: 0.25 (5% EA/Hex). ¹H NMR (400 MHz): δ 1.29 (s, 9H), 1.97 (tdd, 2H, J= 6.5, 9.4, 6.4), 2.73 (AB dd, 2H), 4.00 (t, 2H, J= 6.5), 7.18-7.35 (m, 4H). 13C NMR (100 MHz) : δ 26.4 (CH3), 29.6 (CH2), 32.4 (CH2), 74.2 (CH2), 80.1 (C), 125.8 (C), 128.2 (CH), 128.36 (CH), 128.42 (CH), 141.7 (C). HRMS (ESI): calcd for $C_{13}H_{19}DO_{2}$ $(M+Na)^{+}$: 232.1424; found: 232.1420.

General Synthetic Scheme for *n*-peroxyalkylphenones

Syntheses of iodoalkenes employed a reported procedure.¹¹ A flame dried round bottom flask with magnetic stir bar was charged with 1 mmol of the alcohol and THF (substrate concentration 0.2M). The flask was placed in a 0° C bath and protected from light (foil). The following reagents were added sequentially: imidazole (1.5 mmol) , $PPh_3 (1.0 \text{ mmol})$ and iodine (1.5 mmol) mmol). After the reaction was judged complete (2 h, TLC), it was quenched with sat. aq. $Na₂S₂O₃$ The organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was washed with ether/EA (3x). The combined organic layers were dried with $Na₂SO₄$ and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography.

6-Iodohex-1-ene [18922-04-6] was prepared (3.30 g, 93%) from 5-hexen-1-ol by the general procedure described above. Spectral details matched those previously reported**.** 12 I

7-Iodohept-1-ene [107175-49-5] was prepared (3.30 g, 95%) from 7-hepten-1-ol by the general procedure described above. Spectral details matched those previously reported. 13 I

8-iodooct-1-ene [38380-55-1] was prepared (5.00 g, 94%) from 7-octen-1-ol by the procedure described above. Spectral details matched those previously reported. ¹⁴ I

Syntheses of peroxides **12b-d** were performed according to an established procedure. 3

A flame dried round bottom flask with magnetic stir bar was charged with 1.39 mmol of CsOH, which was dissolved in dry DMF (0.2M). The solution was cooled to 0° C and the iodoalkene (1.0 mmol) was added, followed by dropwise addition of tert-butyl hydroperoxide (1.4 equiv, nominally 5.5M solution in hex). The reaction was allowed to proceed for 3 hours and then diluted with water. The organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was washed with EA $(3 x)$. The combined organic layers were dried with Na₂SO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography (EA/hex).

6-(*tert***-butylperoxy)hex-1-ene (12b)** [107671-69-2] was prepared (5.90 g, 70%) from 6 iodohex-1-ene by the procedure described above. Spectral details \circ matched those previously reported.¹⁵

7-(*tert***-butylperoxy)hept-1-ene (12c)** [107671-70-5] was prepared (6.9 g, 79%) from 6-iodohept-1-ene by the procedure described above. Spectral details matched those previously reported. 15 $0₀$

8-(tert-butylperoxy)oct-1-ene (12d) was prepared (5.40 g, 92%) from 8-iodooct-1-ene by the general procedure described above: 1 H NMR (300 MHz): δ 5.82 σ^2 general procedure described above: 11 NMK (500 MHz): 0 5.82
(ddd, 1H, J=6.7, 16.8), 4.97 (m, 2H), 3.95 (t, 2H, J= 6.7) 2.06 (q, 2H, J=6.2), 1.59 (m, 2H), 1.37 (m, 6H), 1.24 (s, 9H) 13C NMR (300 MHz): δ 139.05 (C, H), 114.2 (C, H₂), 80.0 (C), 75.0 (C, H₂), 33.6 (C, H₂), 28.9 (C, H₂), 28.7 (C, H₂), 26.3 (C, H₂), 21.9 (C, H₃). (HRMS) ESI: calcd for C₁₂H₂₄O₃ (M+Na)⁺: 223.1776; found: 223.1672. IR: 2976.1, 2933.9, (m), 1684.0(s). Rf: 0.35 (15% EA/Hex.

Peroxyalkanals **13b-d** were prepared according to an established procedure. 16

A flame dried round bottom flask with a magnetic stir bar was charged with a 0.2 M solution of alkene (1 mmol) n CH₂Cl₂. The solution was cooled to – 78 °C whereupon pyridine (3 mmol) was added. A gas solution of 2% O₃/O₂ (approximately 1 mmol/minute) was introduced for 1 minute. The reaction was warmed to room temperature and diluted with sat. aq NaHCO₃. The organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was washed with dichloromethane (3x). The combined organic layer were dried with Na2SO4 and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography.

5-(*tert***-Butylperoxy)pentanal** was prepared (5.90 g, 79%) from 6-(*tert*-butylperoxy)hex-1-ene by the procedure described above. ¹H NMR (400 MHz): δ 9.78 (t, 1H, J=1.5), 3.97 (t, 2H, J= 6.3), 2.49 (ddd, 2H, J= 1.9, 7.3, 14.5), 1.70 (m, 4H), 1.25 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (500 MHz): δ 202.3

(CH), 80.1 (C), 74.4 (CH2), 43.6 (CH2), 27.4 (CH2), 26.3 (CH3), 18.94 (CH₂). HRMS (ESI, NaOAc): calcd for $C_9H_{18}O_3$ (M+Na)⁺: 199.1310; found: 199.1256. IR: 2939 (n), 1716 (s). Rf: 0.93 (20% EA/Hex). OOtBu

6-(*tert***-Butylperoxy)hexanal** was prepared (3.90 g, 85%) from 7-(*tert*-butylperoxy)hept-1-ene by the procedure described above. ¹H NMR (400 MHz): δ 9.78 (s, 1H) 3.95 (t, 2H, J= 7.1), 2.48 (t, 2H, J = 6.5), 2.16 (s, 3H), 1.64 (m, 5H), 1.25 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (400 MHz): δ 208.7 (C), 80.3 (C), 74.6 (CH2), 43.4 (CH2), 29.9 (CH2), 27.3 (CH2), 26.3 (CH3), 20.5 (CH₂). HREIMS calcd for $C_{10}H_{20}O_3$ (M+Na)⁺: 211.1412, found: 211.1310. IR: 2977.5 (n), 1715.6 (s). Rf: 0.20 (15 % EA/Hex). \sim \sim \sim \sim \sim \sim \sim

7-(tert-Butylperoxy)heptanal was prepared (5.0 g, 93%) from 8-(tert-butylperoxy)oct-1-ene by the general procedure described above: ${}^{1}H$ NMR (300 MHz): δ 9.75 (s, 1H), 3.92 (t, 2H, J=6.4), 2.42 (t, 2H, J= 8.0), 1.61 (m, 4H), 1.37 (m, 4H), 1.22 (s, 9H). 13C NMR (300 MHz): δ 202.7 (C, H), 80.1 (C), 74.8 (C, H2), 43.7 (C, H2), 28.6 (C, H2), 27.6 (C, H2), 26.3 (C, H2), 25.9 (C, H2), 21.9 (C, H₂). HRESI-MS calcd for C₁₁H₂₂O₃ (M+Na)⁺: 225.1467; found: 225.1569. IR: 2976.1, 2933.9, (m), 1725.0(s). R_f : 0.49 (20% EA/Hex). ^O ^O ^O

Syntheses of 1-phenyl-n-peroxyalkanols **13b-d** employed a reported procedure. 17 A flame dried round bottom flask with magnetic stir bar was charged with 1 mmol of peroxyaldehyde, which was dissolved in THF (0.2M solution). The solution was cooled to -78 °C, whereupon 1.1 mmol of PhMgBr (nominally 1M in THF) was added dropwise. After an hour, the reaction was quenched by dropwise addition of water. The organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was washed with ether $(3x)$. The resulting solution was dried with Na₂SO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography.

5-(*tert***-Butylperoxy)-1-phenylpentan-1-ol (13b)** was prepared (3.60 g, 45%) from PhMgBr and

5-(tert-butylperoxy)pentanal by the procedure described above. ¹H NMR (400 MHz): δ 7.30 (M, 5H), 4.70 (dt, 1H, J=6.1, 7.5), 3.94 (t, 2H, J= 6.6) 1.80 (m, 3H), 1.65 (ddd, 2H, J= 6.6, 7.7, 15.6), 1.49 (m, 3H), 1.24 (s, 9H). 13C NMR (400 MHz): δ 144.7 (C), 128.5 (CH), 127.6 (CH), 125.9 (CH), 80.1 (C), 74.8 (CH2),

74.5 (CH₂), 38.9 (CH₂), 27.7 (CH₂), 26.3 (CH₃), 22.5 (CH₂). HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₅H₂₄O₃ (M+Na)⁺: 275.1725; found: 275.1623. IR: 3401.2 (b), 2867.8 (m). R_f 0.43 (20% EA/Hex).

6-(tert-Butylperoxy)1-phenylhexan-1-ol (13c) was prepared (5.90 g, 85%) from 6-(*tert*-

butylperoxy) hexanal by the procedure described above: ¹H NMR (300 MHz): δ 7.33 (m, 5H), 4.69 (m, 1H), 3.92 (t, 2H, J=6.3), 3.53 (t, 1H, J=6.5), 1.78 (m, 4H), 1.40 (m, 4H), 1.24 $(S, 9H)$. ¹³C NMR (500 MHz): δ 144.8 (C), 128.4 (C, H), 127.5 (C, H), 125.8 (C, H), 80.1 (C), 74.9 (C, H2), 74.6 (C,

H), 38.9 (C, H2), 27.8 (C, H2), 26.3 (C, H2), 26.1 (C, H2), 25.7 (C, H2). (HRMS) ESI: calcd for $C_{16}H_{26}O_3$ (M+Na)⁺; 289.1882, found: 289.1791. IR: 3401.3 (b), 2933.4 (m). R_f: 0.25 (15%) EA/Hex).

7-(tert-Butylperoxy)1-phenylhexan-1-ol (13d) was prepared (2.70 g, 89%) from 7-(tert-

butylperoxy) heptanal by the procedure described above. ¹H NMR (300 MHz): δ 7.31 (m, 5H), 4.68 (m, 1H), 3.92 (t, 2H, J=6.3), 1.77 (m, 4H), 1.38 (m, 6H), 1.24 (s, 9H). 13C NMR (500 MHz): δ 144.8 (C), 128.4 (C, H), 127.5 (C, H), 125.8 (C, H) , 80.1 (C) , 74.9 (C, H_2) , 74.6 (C, H) , 38.9 (C, H_2) ,

27.8 (C, H₂), 26.3 (C, H₂), 26.1 (C, H₂), 25.7 (C, H₂). (HRMS) ESI: calcd for C₁₆H₂₆O₃ (M+Na)⁺: 303.1584; found: 303.1580. IR: 3401.2 (b), 2976.9, (m). R_f: 0.25 (15% EA/Hex).

Syntheses of peroxyketones **14b-d** employed a reported procedure.¹⁸ A flame dried round bottom flask with magnetic stir bar was charged with a solution of 6 mmol of pyridine in dichloromethane (0.2M). To the stirring solution was added 3 mmol of $CrO₃$, resulting in a strongly colored (deep burgundy) solution. After the solution had stirred for 15 minutes, a CH_2Cl solution of 0.5 mmol of the alcohol (**13 a-d**) was added. A tarry, black deposit separated immediately. The solution was stirred for an additional 15 min and then decanted from the residue, which was washed with 200 ml of ether. The combined solutions were washed sequentially with 10 mL portions of 5% aq. NaOH $(3x)$, 5% aq. HCl, 5% aq. NaHCO₃, and sat. aq. NaCl. The resulting solution was dried over Na_2SO_4 and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography.

5-(tert-butylperoxy)-1-phenylpentan-1-one (14b) was prepared (2.90 g, 92%) from 5-(*tert*-

butylperoxy)-1-phenylpentan-1-ol (**13b**) by the procedure described above. ¹H NMR (400 MHz): H₂). δ 8.00 (d, 2H, J=7.9), 7.58 (t, 1H, J= 7.4), 7.48 (t, 2H, J=7.9) 4.01 (t, 2H, J=6.6), 3.04 (t, 2H, J=7.1), 1.80 (p, 2H, J= 7.8), 1.74 (p, 2H, 7.8), 1.26 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (400 MHz): δ 202.3 (C), 137.0 (C, H),

132.9 (C, H), 128.6 (C, H), 128.0 (C, H), 80.1 (C), 75.0 (C, H2), 38.4 (C, H2), 27.8 (C, H2), 26.3 $(C, H₂), 26.0 (C, H₃), 24.2 (C, H₂). (H RMS) ESI: calcd for C₁₅H₂₂O₃ (M+Na⁺): 273.1569; found:$ 273.1457. IR: 2928.4 (m), 1686.5 (s). Rf: 0.23 (15% EA/Hex). Rf: 0.50 (20% EA/Hex).

6-(tert-butylperoxy)1-phenylhexan-1-one (14c) was prepared (2.25 g, 90%) from 6-(tertbutylperoxy)1-phenylhexan-1-ol (13c) by the procedure described above. ¹H NMR (300 MHz):

 δ 7.96 (d, 2H, J=7.8), 7.58 (t, 1H, J= 7.3), 7.48 (t, 2H, J=7.5) 3.97 (t, 2H, J=6.8), 3.00 (t, 2H, J=7.5), 1.74 (m, 4H), 1.49 (m, 2H), 1.26 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (500 MHz): δ 202.3 (C), 137.0 (C, H), 132.9 (C, H), 128.6 (C, H), 128.0 (C, H), 80.1 (C), 75.0 (C, H₂), 38.4 (C, H₂), 27.8

 $(C, H₂), 26.3 (C, H₂), 26.1 (C, H₃), 26.0 (C, H₂), 24.2 (C, H₂). (HRMS) ESI: calcd for C₁₆H₂₄O₃$ (M+Na⁺): 287.1725; found 287.1633. IR: 2976.1, 2933.9, (m), 1684.0(s). R_f: 0.50 (20%) EA/Hex).

7-(*tert***-butylperoxy)-1-phenylheptan-1-one (14d)** was prepared (2.25 g, 91%) from 7-(tertbutylperoxy)1-phenylhexan-1-ol by the procedure described above.

¹H NMR (300 MHz): δ 7.33 (m, 5H), 4.69 (m, 1H), 3.92 (t, 2H, J=6.3), 3.53 (t, 1H, J=6.5), 1.78 (m, 4H), 1.40 (m, 4H), 1.24 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (400 MHz): δ 144.8 (C), 128.4 (C, H), 127.5 (C, H), 125.8 (C, H), 80.1 (C), 74.6 (C, H2), 39.0 $(C, H₂), 29.3 (C, H₂), 27.7 (C, H₂), 26.3 (C, H₂), 26.1 (C,$

H₃), 26.0 (C, H₂). (HRMS) ESI: calcd for $C_{16}H_{26}O_3$ (M+Na)⁺: 301.1791; found: 301.1882. IR: 2953.1, 2930.9, (m), 1684.0(s). Rf: 0.25 (15% EA/Hex).

2-(3-Chloropropyl)-2-phenyl-1,3-dioxolane was prepared using a modification of a reported

procedure.19 A flame dried round bottom flask with magnetic stir bar and fitted with a Dean-Stark apparatus was charged with commercially available 4-chloro-1-phenylbutan-1-one (0.578 g, 3.0 mmol), ethylene glycol (0.558 g, 3.0 mmol), and p-toluenesulfonic acid monohydrate

 $(0.044 \text{ g}, 0.5 \text{ mmol})$ and toluene (30 mL) . The solution was refluxed overnight with azeotropic removal of water and the organic layer was then washed with 5% NaHCO₃. The organic layer was dried over anhydrous $Na₂SO₄$, and concentrated in vacuo to give 77% (7.7 g) of 2-(3chloropropyl)-2-phenyl-1,3-dioxolane [3308-98-3]. Spectral details matched those previously reported.²⁰

2-(3-Iodopropyl)-2-phenyl-1,3-dioxolane

A flame dried round bottom flask with magnetic stir bar was charged with a solution of 2-(3-chloropropyl)-2-phenyl-1,3-dioxolane (5.0 g, 22 mmol), sodium iodide 15.0 g, mmol) and acetone (20 mL). The mixture was stirred and heated under reflux for 30 min, resulting in precipitation of solid sodium tosylate. The reaction was cooled and diluted with water. The

lower layer was separated, and the (upper) aqueous layer was extracted with hexane. The combined organic layers were washed sequentially with water and brine and then dried $(MgSO₄)$. The residue obtained upon concentration under reduced pressure was purified by column chromatography to give 5.5 g (78%) of the iodopropyl dioxolane [70969-99-2]. Spectral details matched those previously reported.²¹

2-(3-(*tert***-Butylperoxy)propyl)-2-phenyl-1,3-dioxolane** was prepared from the iododoxolane

 $(1.5g, 77%)$ by a similar procedure as described for peroxide 1. ¹H NMR (400 MHz): δ 7.74 (m, 2H), 7.33 (m, 3H), 4.03 (ddd, 2H, J=9.9, 14.5, 17.6), 3.93 (t, 2H, J=6.8), 3.79 (ddd, 2H, J= 10.8, 14.5,18.2), 1.98(m, 2H), 1.69 (m, 2H). 13C NMR (400 MHz): δ 142.5 (C), (C, H), 128.1 (C, H), 125.8 (C, H), 125.7 (C,

H), 110.2 (C), 80.1 (C), 74.9 (C, H2), 64.6 (C, H2), 37.1 (C, H2), 26.3 (C), 22.3 (C, H2). HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₆H₂₄O₃ (M+Na)⁺: 303.1573; found: 303.1675. IR: 2976 (m).

4-(*tert***-Butylperoxy)-1-phenylbutan-1-one** (**14a**)

A flame dried round bottom flask with magnetic stir bar was charged with 1.00 mmol (0.280 g) of 2-(3-(*tert*-butylperoxy)propyl)-2 phenyl-1,3-dioxolane in THF (0.2 M). 5% aq. HCl (1.5 mL) was then added and the reaction was allowed to proceed overnight. The

organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was washed with $EA(3x)$. The resulting solution was dried with $Na₂SO₄$ and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography to give 0.200 g (84%) of the ketone. ¹H NMR (400 MHz): δ 8.00 (dt, 2H, J= 2.0, 8.6), 7.45 (tt, 1H, J= 1.3, 2.8), 7.48 (tt, 2H, J=2.0, 3.3), 3.93 (t, 2H, J=6.0), 3.12 (t, 2H, J = 7.1), 2.08 (p, 2H, J = 6-7), 1.26 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (400 MHz): δ 199.7 (C), 136.9 (CH) , 132.9 (CH), 128.6 (CH), 128.0 (CH), 80.2 (C), 74.0 (CH₂), 35.13 (CH₂), 26.4 (CH₃), 26.1 $(CH₂)$, 22.65 (CH₂). HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₄H₂₀O₃ (M+Na)⁺: 259.1412; found: 259.1310. IR: 2976 (m), 2931 (m), 1686 (s). Rf: 0.23 (15% EA/Hex).

Standard Procedure for cyclizations of peroxyketones.

A round bottom flask with a magnetic stir bar was flame-dried, then topped with a septum and placed under vacuum until the flask cooled. The flask was filled with nitrogen and charged with

1-1.5 mmol of potassium tert-butoxide. The flask was again evacuated and then flushed with nitrogen. THF was added to dissolve the base (final concentration, 0.2 M) whereupon a 0.2M THF solution of the peroxyketone (**14a-d**, 1.00 mmol) was added dropwise to the stirring solution, resulting in a clear reddish-brown solution. Upon disappearance of starting material (TLC), the reaction was quenched by dropwise addition of excess water. The organic phase was separated and the aqueous phase was washed 3x with ether/EA. The combined organic layers were dried with Na₂SO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography to give the cyclic ethers **15a-c**.

Oxetan-2-yl(phenyl)methanone (15a) was prepared (2.25 g, 70%) from 4-(*tert*-butylperoxy)-1 phenylbutan-1-one **14a** by the procedure described above. ¹H NMR (400 MHz): δ 7.93 (d, 2H, J=8.7), 7.55 (t, 1H, J= 7.3), 7.49 (t, 2H, J=7.8) 5.94 (dd, 1H, J=7.1, 8.6), 4.84 (q, 1H, J= 7.5), 4.67 (dt, 1H, J=6.4, 15.2), 3.03 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (500 MHz): δ 199. 8 (C), 133.7 (C, H2), 128.8 (C, H), 128.5 (C, H2), 82.3 (CH), 69.5 (CH₂), 25.8 (CH₂). HRMS (HREI): calcd for $C_{10}H_{10}O_2$ (M+Na)⁺: O O

185.0681; found: 185.0580. IR: 2976 (m), 1683 (s). Rf: 0.23 (15% EA/Hex).

Phenyl(tetrahydrofuran-2-yl)methanone (15b, [141957-79-1]) was prepared (0.168 g, 99% yield) from 5-(*tert*-butylperoxy)-1-phenylpentanone-1-one **14b** using the procedure described above. R_f : 0.25 (15% EA/Hex). Spectral details matched those previously reported. 22 O O

Phenyl(tetrahydro-2*H***-pyran-2-yl)methanone (15c**) **[**73504-72-0] was prepared (0.138 g, 80% yield) from peroxyhexanone **14c** using the procedure described above. R_f : 0.27 (15% EA/Hex). Spectral details matched those previously reported.²³ O Ω

Cyclization of 6-t-butylperoxy-hexan-2-one:

6-iodohex-1-yne was prepared (10.0 g, 92%) from commercially available 5-hexynyl iodide by a route similar to that described for **8**. Spectral details matched those previously reported. ²⁴ I

6-(*tert***-butylperoxy)hex-1-yne** [184941-42-2] was prepared (2.61 g, 78%) from 6-iodohex-1 yne by a procedure similar to that described for **1**. Spectral details matched those previously reported.²⁵ \circ_{\circ}

6-(*tert***-butylperoxy)hexan-2-one (16)** was prepared from peroxyalkyne by an adapation of a reported procedure.²⁶ A flame dried round bottom flask with magnetic stir bar was charged with the peroxyalkyne (6.0 mmol (0.340 mg) of O \circ°

the peroxyalkyne, 1 mL H₂O, and 10mL MeOH. AuCl $(0.027g)$ was added. Following disappearance of starting material (TLC), the majority of solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the remaining suspension was diluted with ether and washed with a 1:1 mixture of brine/aq. NH₄Cl. The separated aqueous layer was washed with ether $(3x)$ and the combined organic layers were dried with Na2SO4 and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography to afford the peroxyketone (1.03 g, 93%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz): δ 3.96 (t, 2H, J=6.3), 2.27 (t, 2H, J= 6.3), 1.7 (s, 3H, J), **1.65** (m, 4H), 1.24 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (400 MHz): δ 208.7 (C), 80.0 (C), 74.6 (C, H₂), 43.4 (C, H₂), 29.8 (C, H₂), 27.3 (C, H₂), 26.0 (C, H₂), 20.2 (C, H₂). (HRMS) ESI: calcd for C₁₆H₂₄O₃ (M+Na)⁺: 287.1725; found 287.1633. IR: 2976, 2933, (m), 1684 (s). Rf: 0.50 (20% EA/Hex).

(*E***)-Ethyl 3-(tetrahydrofuran-2-yl)but-2-enoate (17)**

A round bottom flask with a magnetic stir bar was flame-dried and then cooled under vacuum. The flask was flushed with N_2 and then charged with (0.045 g, mmol) of potassium tert-butoxide. The flask was again evacuated and then backfilled with nitrogen. Sufficient THF was added to bring the base to 0.2M and the mixture was stirred until the base

dissolved. A solution of 0.5 mmol of compound 6-(*tert*-butylperoxy)hexan-2-one in THF (3 mL) was then added dropwise to the stirring solution. Following disappearance of starting material, reaction was monitored via TLC, upon disappearance of starting material 1.00 mmol of triethyl phosphonoacetate (.244g, 1mmol) was added to the reaction. After two hours, brine was added. The organic phase was separated and the aqueous phase was washed 3x with ether/EA. The combined organic layers were dried over $Na₂SO₄$ and the residue obtained upon concentration purified by chromatography to afford 0.080 g (96%) of the enoate (two steps). R_f : 0.18 (20% EA/Hex) ¹H NMR (400 MHz): δ 3.71 (ddd, 1H, J=4.4, 3.0, 11.7), 3.34 (ddd, 1H, J= 3.3, 11.2, 2.8), 2.71 (ddd, 1H, J= 5.5, 12.2, 5.7) 2.22 (ddd, 1H, J=1.2, 4.1, 12.0), 2.01 (m, 4H), 1.61 (m, 7H), 1.24 (ddd, 1H, J= 4.6, 1.6, 16.4). 13C NMR (500 MHz): δ 215.3 (C), 80.3 (C), 64.7 $(CH2)$, 41.6 $(CH₂)$, 39.1 $(CH₂)$, 30.8 $(CH₂)$, 29.1 $(CH₂)$, 25.67 $(CH₂)$, 20.4 $(CH₂)$ and 19.7 $(CH₂)$. HRMS (HREI): calcd for $C_{10}H_{16}O_3$ (M+ Na): 207.1099; found: 207.0997. IR: 2939 (n), 1716 (s).

Synthesis of $1, n$ - iodoperoxides employed a modification of a reported procdure.³ A flame dried round bottom flask with a magnetic stir bar was charged with $0.2M$ solution of CsOH \cdot H₂O (1.2) mmol) in DMF, followed by the 1,*n*-diiodide (1.00 mmol) and then *tert*-butyl peroxide (1.2mmol), added dropwise. Upon disappearance of starting material (TLC, \sim 3 h), the reaction was quenched with an equal volume of water. The separated aqueous layer was washed with hexane and dried over $MgSO₄$. The residue obtained after concentration was purified by filtration through silica gel (hexane).

1-(*tert***-butylperoxy)-3-iodopropane (18a)** [101860-37-1] was prepared (0.540 g, 70% yield) from t-butyl hydroperoxide and 1,3-diodopropane using the procedure described above. Spectral

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details matched those previously reported. ²⁷

1-(*tert***-butylperoxy)-4-iodobutane (18b)** was prepared (0.240 g, 72% yield) from 1,4 diiodobutane using the procedure described above. 1 H NMR (400 MHz): δ I

OOtBu

3.98 (t, 2H, J=6.34), 3.23 (t, 3H, J= 6.87), 1.95 (p, 2H, J= 7.05), 1.72 (m, 2H), 126 (s, 9H). 13C NMR (300 MHz): δ 80.2 (C), 73.6 (CH₂), 30.3 (CH2), 28.9 (CH₂), 26.3 (CH₃), 6.5 (CH₂). HRMS (HREI): calcd for $C_8H_{17}O_2I$: 272.0300; found: 272.0273. IR: 2939 (m). R_f: 0.19 (10%) EA/Hex).

1-(*tert***-butylperoxy)-5-iodopentane (18c)** was prepared (0.789 g, 64% yield) from $1, 5$ -diiodopentane by the procedure described above. ¹H NMR (400 MHz): δ 3.95 (t, 2H, J=6.14), 3.21 (t, 3H, J= 6.55), 1.87 (p, 2H, J= 7.25), 1.72 (m, 2H), 1.66 (m, 2H), 1.64 (m, 2H), 1.24 (s, 9H). 13C NMR (300 MHz): δ 80.0 (C), 74.8 (CH2), 33.3 $(CH2)$, 27.7 (CH_2) , 26.3 (CH_3) , 22.9 (CH_2) , 6.5 (CH_2) . HRMS (HREI): calcd for $C_9H_{19}O_2(M^+)$: 286.0400; found: 286. IR: 286.0430 (m). Rf: 0.20 (15% EA/Hex). \sim OOtBu

General Procedure for annelation of spirocyclic ethers onto cyclohexanone. Illustrated for **1 oxaspiro[5.5]undecan-7-one (19b)**

Potassium tert-butoxide (3.00 mmol, 0.336 g) was weighed into a flame dried round bottom flask with a magnetic stir bar. A septum was placed into the round bottom flask, and the atmosphere was removed and replaced with N_2 (3 x). The base was dissolved into THF (15 mL) . A solution of cyclohexanone $(3.00 \text{ mL}, 0.294 \text{ g})$ in THF $(15 \text{ mL},$ 0.2M) was added dropwise and the reaction stirred for 15 minutes, whereupon a solution of 1-(*tert*-butylperoxy)-4-iodobutane (**18b**, 1 mmol, 0.272 g) in THF (5 o
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mL, 0.2 M) was added dropwise, resulting in development of slight pacity and yellow-orange coloration. After disappearance of starting material (TLC), the reaction was quenched via drop wise addition of water. The organic phase was separated and the aqueous phase was washed 3x with ether/EA. The combined organic phases were dried with $Na₂SO₄$ and the solvent was removed *in vacuo*. The residue was purified on silica (5% EA/hex) to furnish 0.430 g (87%) of the oxaspiroundecanone **19b**. ¹H NMR (400 MHz): δ 3.71 (ddd, 1H, J=4.4, 3.0, 11.7), 3.34 (ddd, 1H, J= 3.3, 11.2, 2.8), 2.71 (ddd, 1H, J= 5.5, 12.2, 5.7) 2.22 (ddd, 1H, J=1.2, 4.1, 12.0), 2.01 $(m, 4H), 1.61 (m, 7H), 1.24 (ddd, 1H, J= 4.6, 1.6, 16.4).$ ¹³C NMR (500 MHz): δ 215.3 (C), 80.3 (C), 64.7 (CH2), 41.6 (CH₂), 39.1 (CH₂), 30.8 (CH₂), 29.1 (CH₂), 25.67 (CH₂), 20.4 (CH₂) and 19.7 (CH₂). HRMS (HREI): calcd for $C_{10}H_{16}O_2$ (M⁺): 168.112; found: 168.115. IR: 2939 (n), 1716 (s). Rf: 0.23 (15% EA/Hex).

1-oxaspiro[4.5]decan-6-one [19a, 129529-81-3] was prepared (0.134 g, 86% yield) from the reaction of cyclohexanone with *t-*butyl 3-iodopropyl peroxide **18a** using the procedure described above. Spectral details matched those previously reported.²⁸ o
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Oxacycle Synthesis via Intramolecular Reaction of Carbanions and Peroxides

Rachel Willand-Charnley, Benjamin Puffer, and Patrick H. Dussault

SUPPORTING INFORMATION Section 2 (Spectral Data)

tert Butyl 3,7-dimethyloct-6-en-1-yl peroxide (1)

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Butyl 3,7- dimethyloct-6-en-1-yl-ether (2)

3-(2-(tributylstannyl)phenyl)propan-1-ol (4c)

3-(2-(tributylstannyl)phenyl)propyl methansulfonate (5c)

3-(2-iodophenyl)propyl tert-butyl peroxide (6a)

3-(2-Bromophenyl)propyl tert-butyl peroxide (6b)

3-(2-(tributylstannyl)phenyl)propyl tert-butyl peroxide (6c)

2-(2-lodophenyl) ethyl tert-butyl peroxide (9)

3-(2-Deuterophenyl)propyl tert-butyl peroxide

8-(tert-butylperoxy) oct-1-ene (12d)

5-(tert-butylperoxy)pentanal

6-(tert-butylperoxy)hexanal

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7-(tert-butylperoxy)heptanal

6-(tert-butylperoxy)1-phenylhexan-1-ol (13c)

5-(tert-butylperoxy)-1-phenylpentan-1-one (14b)

6-(tert-butylperoxy)1-phenylhexan-1-one (14c)

4-(tert-butylperoxy)-1-phenylbutan-1-one (14a)

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Oxetan-2-yl(phenyl)methanone (15a)

6-(tert-butylperoxy)hexan-2-one (16)

(E)-ethyl 3-(tetrahydrofuran-2-yl)but-2-enoate (17)

1-(tert-butylperoxy)-4-iodobutane (18b)

1-(*tert*-butylperoxy)-5-iodopentane (18c)

OOtBu Ľ

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oxaspiro[5.5]undecan-7-one (19b)

