

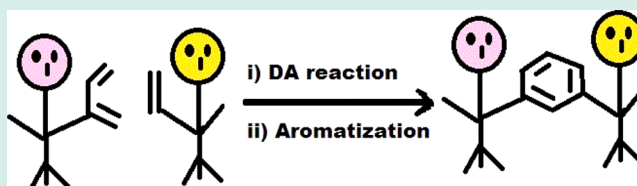
Diversity-Oriented Approaches to Polycyclics and Bioinspired Molecules via the Diels–Alder Strategy: Green Chemistry, Synthetic Economy, and Beyond

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ABSTRACT: We describe diverse approaches to various dienes and their utilization in the Diels–Alder reaction to produce a variety of polycyclics. The dienes covered here are prepared by simple alkylation reaction or via the Claisen rearrangement or by enyne metathesis of alkyne or enyne building blocks. Here, we have also included the Diels–Alder chemistry of dendralenes, a higher analog of cross-conjugated dienes. The present article is inclusive of *o*-xylylene derivatives that are generated in situ starting with benzosultine or benzosulfone derivatives. The Diels–Alder reaction of these dienes with various dienophiles gave diverse polycyclic systems and biologically important targets.

KEYWORDS: diversity-oriented synthesis, dienes, Diels–Alder reaction, green chemistry, polycyclics, amino acids



INTRODUCTION

The Diels–Alder (DA) reaction¹ is a powerful tool to construct C–C bonds and has been extensively used to prepare polycyclic compounds containing six-membered rings. The DA reaction provides 100% atom economy, and hence, its use has expanded enormously for the synthesis of natural and nonnatural products² since its discovery³ in 1928 by the German chemists Otto Diels and Kurt Alder. In general, electron-donating groups in the diene and electron-withdrawing group in the dienophile are used to make the reaction very facile. DA reactions involving less reactive partners are facilitated by conditions, such as high pressure, ultrasound, ionic liquids, and use of polar solvents and Lewis acids.⁴ The DA reaction catalyzed by biomolecules such as antibodies, enzymes, and RNA has also generated some interest in organic and bioorganic chemistry.⁵ Many variations on the classical DA reaction are also popular, including (a) hetero-DA (in which one or more heteroatoms is included in the newly formed six-membered ring), (b) transannular DA (involving diene and dienophile present in a macrocycle giving a tricyclic product; although this is well suited to the generation of complex molecules,⁶ it is not covered here), (c) dehydro-DA (reactions of conjugated enyne with alkene or alkyne, and diyne with alkene),⁷ and (d) hexadehydro-DA (involving conjugated diyne and alkyne).⁸ Stereochemistry is usually predictable: when the diene or dienophile is cyclic in nature, the product is often predominantly an endo isomer, but exo isomers are also reported under different reaction conditions, such as photochemical,⁹ organocatalytic,¹⁰ or catalyzed by metal complexes.¹¹ These advances further expand the scope of chemical space accessible by DA reaction.

We organize our classification of DA reactions by diene structure (Figure 1), classified as open-chain dienes (1–4), dendralenes (5–6), outer-ring dienes (7–10), *o*-xylylenes or

o-quinodimethanes (11–13), inner-outer-dienes (14–17), inner-ring dienes (18–21), and across-ring dienes (22–24). Inner-ring dienes are further divided into carbocyclic and aromatic hydrocarbons. Heteroannular (25–26) and semicyclic diene 27 are unreactive toward the DA reaction.¹²

The use of DA in combinatorial and high-throughput applications has been greatly enhanced by ring-closing enyne metathesis (RCEM) and ethylene-mediated cross-metathesis (CM), which provide easy access to various dienes containing polar functional groups. Such intricate dienes are difficult to generate by conventional methods. Figure 2 shows various metathesis catalysts used for the generation of diene derivatives by enyne metathesis.

By varying the diene and the dienophile components in the DA reaction, one can generate a great deal of molecular diversity in the end products. Although DA and related cycloaddition processes have been extensively reviewed in the context of diversity-oriented synthesis,¹³ we focus here on the facile generation of useful dienes or diene precursors (usually by metathesis,¹⁴ Claisen rearrangement,¹⁵ or specialized reagents¹⁶) and their transformation into polycyclics via DA reaction involving different dienophiles 28–64 (Figure 3).

OPEN-CHAIN DIENES

1,3-Butadiene (1) and its derivatives can be generated by a number of methods; for example, cross-enyne metathesis (CEM) of alkyne and alkene; chelotropic elimination of SO₂ from sulfone derivatives; Luche reduction of α,β -unsaturated carbonyl compounds, followed by triethylamine-catalyzed

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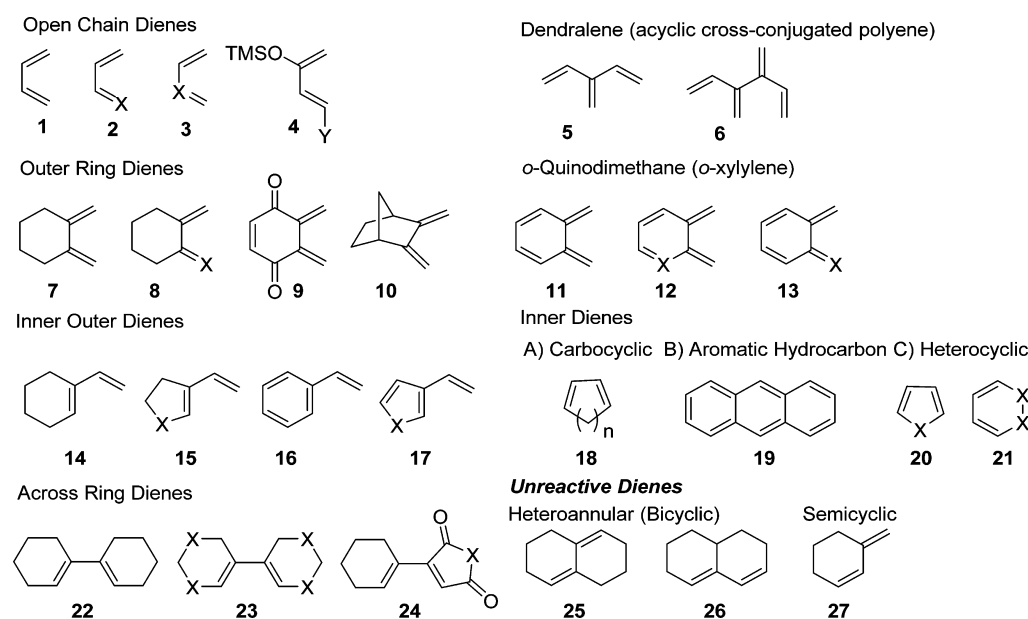


Figure 1. Various types of dienes used in DA reaction (1–24).

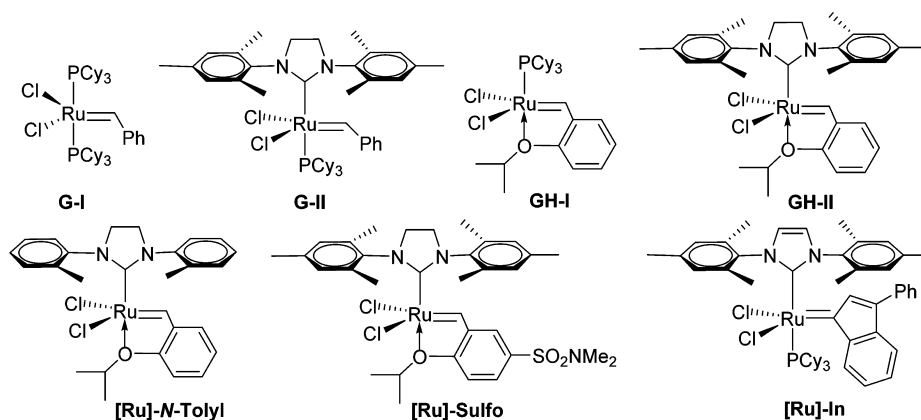


Figure 2. Metathesis catalysts used for diene production.

tandem one-pot methanesulfonylation and elimination; and enolization of conjugated ketone followed by silyl protection (Figure 4).¹² An example of the utility of the parent 1,3-butadiene was provided by the 1995 report of Cativiela and co-workers, who reported the synthesis of cyclic γ -hydroxy- α -amino acid (homoserine) **67** by the DA reaction of **1** and methyl-2-acetamidoacrylate (**36**)^{17a} in the presence of titanium tetrachloride. The iodo-oxazination of DA adduct **65**, followed by deiodination and subsequent acid hydrolysis, yielded the cyclic γ -hydroxy- α -amino acid, homoserine **67**, in good yield (Scheme 1).^{17b}

We have found that a strategic utilization of cross-ene metathesis (CEM) and DA reaction is useful to generate diverse polycyclics¹⁸ and benzannulated products.¹⁹ To this end, conformationally constrained quinone-based phenylalanine (Phe) derivatives were assembled by a combination of CEM and DA reaction (Scheme 2).²⁰ Ethyl isocyanoacetate (EICA) is a useful glycine equivalent, wherein the isonitrile group is easily hydrolyzed to the amino group.²¹ However, it is difficult to stop at monoalkylation stage with EICA. Therefore, the alkyne building block **70** was prepared from the Schiff base of ethyl glycine ester **68** via propargylation under basic conditions using phase-transfer catalysts (PTC), followed by acid

hydrolysis and protection of the amino group. The G-I catalyst mediated EM of alkyne building block **70** with ethylene as a cross metathesis partner gave the expected diene **71**, then the diene **71** was subjected to the DA reaction with various dienophiles, and subsequent aromatization of the DA adducts gave the Phe-based α -amino acid (AAA) derivative **72** in good yield. If needed, this racemic protocol can be extended for the synthesis of optically active building blocks by employing suitable phase-transfer catalyst.²²

Similarly, Hiemstra and co-workers have reported the synthesis of various amino acid and peptide-based dienes by employing allene chemistry (Scheme 3).²³ They reported naturally occurring diene containing amino acid synthesis and its glutamyl dipeptide from **73** and allenylmethylsilane via *N*-acyliminium ion formation. The compound **73** and allenylmethylsilane under Lewis acid catalysis conditions gave the diene-containing amino acid derivative **74**, which was hydrolyzed under basic conditions to deliver **75**. Later, the amino group present in **75** was deprotected under acidic conditions to generate the free amino acid **76**. The compound **74** was directly deprotected to give **77** and coupled with another amino acid derivative to generate the diene-containing dipeptide. Enzymatic resolution was used to obtain the enantiopure dienyl amino acid.

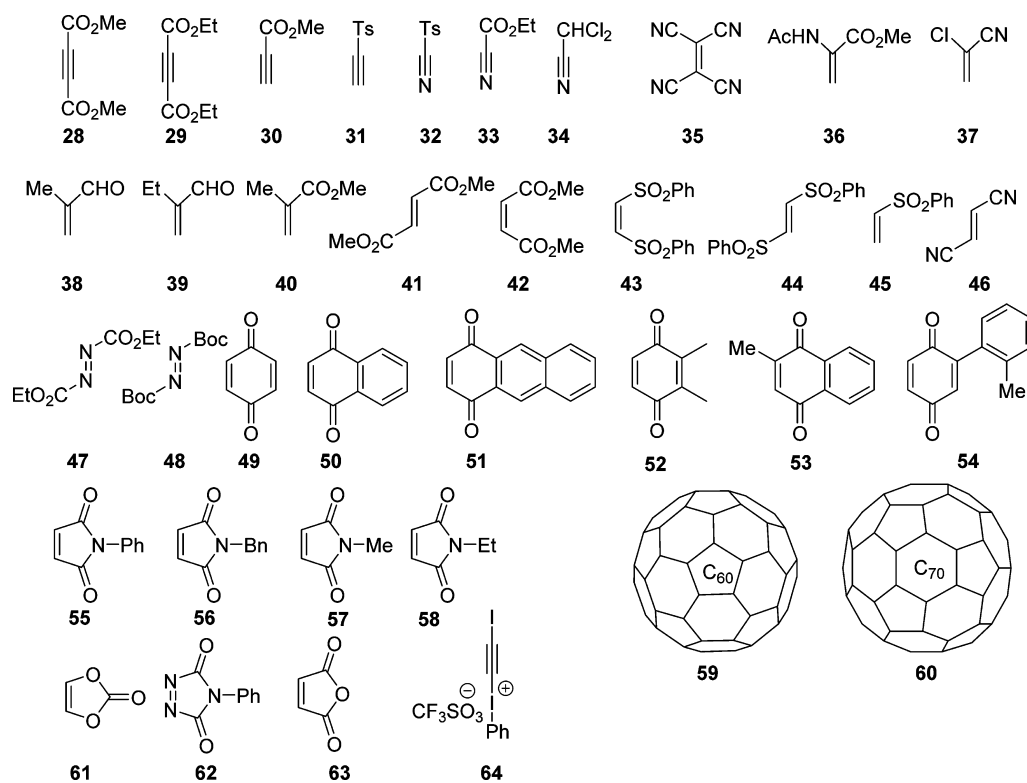


Figure 3. Various dienophiles mentioned in this review.

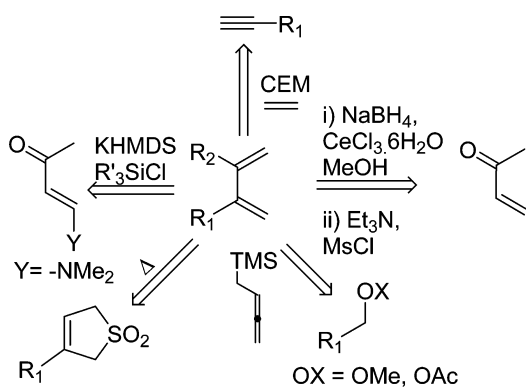


Figure 4. Approaches toward the generation of open-chain dienes.

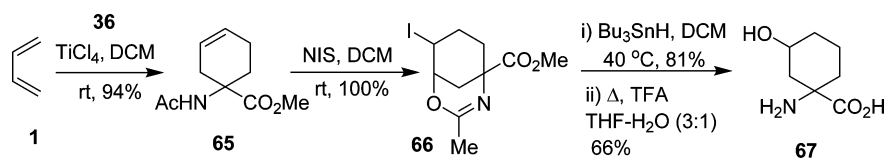
The preparation of diene **71** with different N-protecting groups was reported by Baldwin and co-workers, and this diene building block was used for the synthesis of various unusual AAA derivatives.²⁴ For example, commercially available diethyl acetamidomalonate (DEAM) **78** was alkylated with 2,3-dibromoprop-1-ene under basic conditions, then the selective monohydrolysis of diester **79**, followed by decarboxylation, gave the amino acid-based vinyl bromide **80**, which was converted to the diene derivative **81** as a key building block by the Pd-mediated coupling methodology of Denmark. DA reaction

of diene **81** with various dienophiles generated the unusual AAA derivatives **82** (Scheme 4).

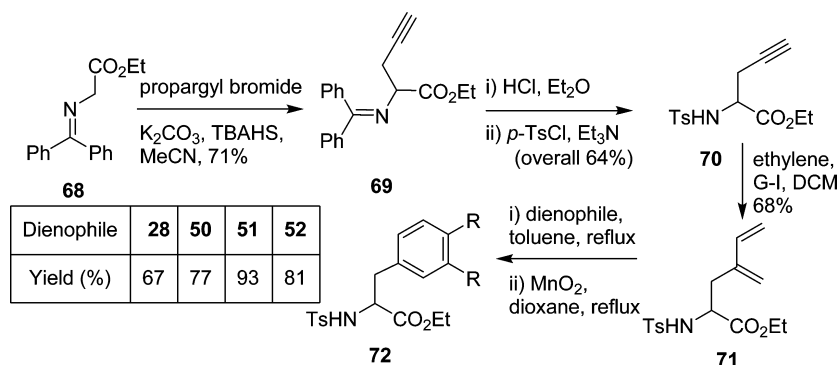
Post-assembly peptide modifications are useful to design peptide drugs and peptidomimetics. In view of this, recently we disclosed the modification of peptides by CEM and DA reaction as key steps (Scheme 5).²⁵ In this regard, the dipeptide-based alkyne building block **83** has been assembled from commercially available DEAM **78** by adopting several steps. This alkyne precursor **83** on exposure to G-II catalyst undergoes EM in the presence of ethylene to generate the peptide-based diene **84**, which on treatment with DMAD (**28**) or 1,4-naphthoquinone (**50**) followed by aromatization gave the modified Phe-based peptides **85** and **86**, respectively. Here, we have generated the Phe residue from the propargylated glycine derivative by a combination of CEM and DA reaction without racemization, and the peptide integrity has been preserved. By employing similar synthetic sequence, tripeptide modification was also accomplished. Similarly, by altering the amino acid unit in the peptide backbone or varying the dienophile in DA sequence, one can prepare a library of peptides.

Earlier in 2000, highly functionalized Phe derivatives were reported by CEM of the alkyne building block **87** (Scheme 6).²⁶ The required alkyne precursors **87** have been prepared from the Schiff base of ethyl glycine ester via propargylation, followed by

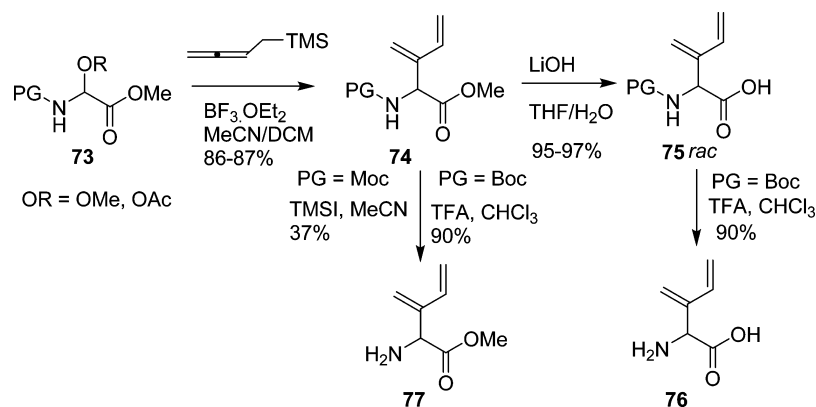
Scheme 1. Synthesis of Cyclic γ -Hydroxy- α -amino Acid **67**



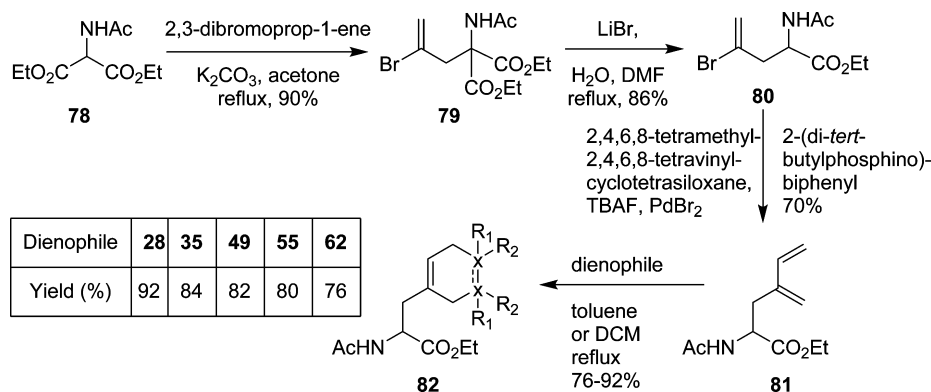
Scheme 2. DA Approach to Modified Phenylalanine-Based Amino Acid Derivatives



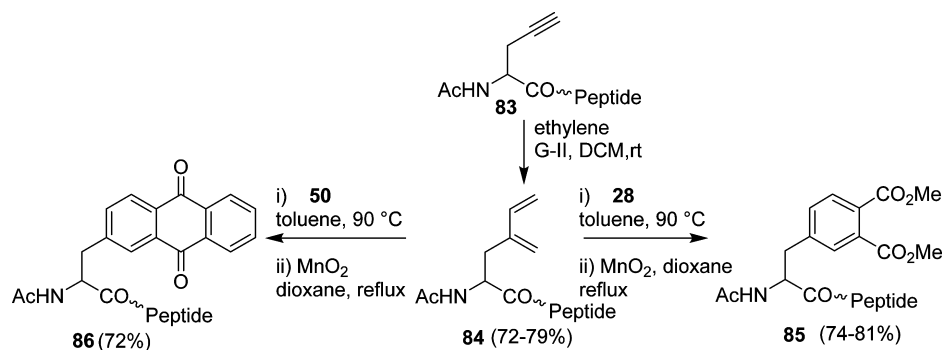
Scheme 3. Synthesis of Amino Acid-Containing Dienes by Employing Allene Chemistry



Scheme 4. Approach to Unusual Amino Acid Derivatives 82 via DA Chemistry



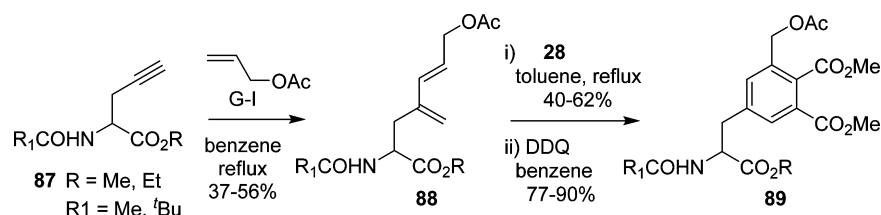
Scheme 5. Peptide Modification by CEM and DA Reaction



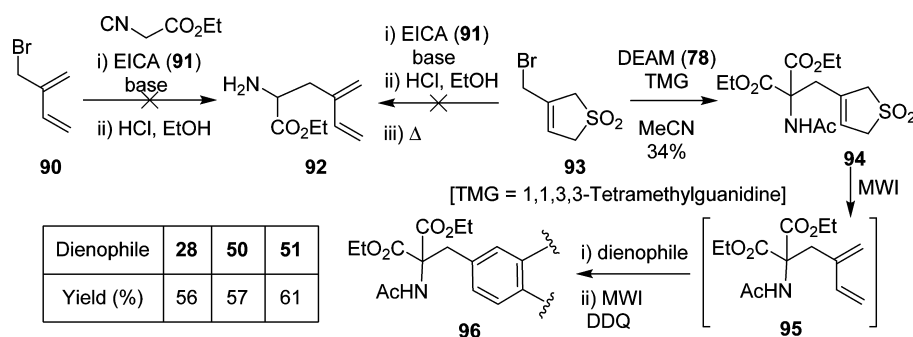
hydrolysis and protection of the amino group. The G-I catalyst-mediated CEM of the alkyne building blocks **87** with allyl acetate

as a cross-metathesis partner gave the diene moieties **88**, which on DA reaction with DMAD (**28**) and the subsequent

Scheme 6. Synthesis of Highly Functionalized Phe Derivatives



Scheme 7. Assembly of Phe-Based AAA Derivatives 96 via DA Reaction



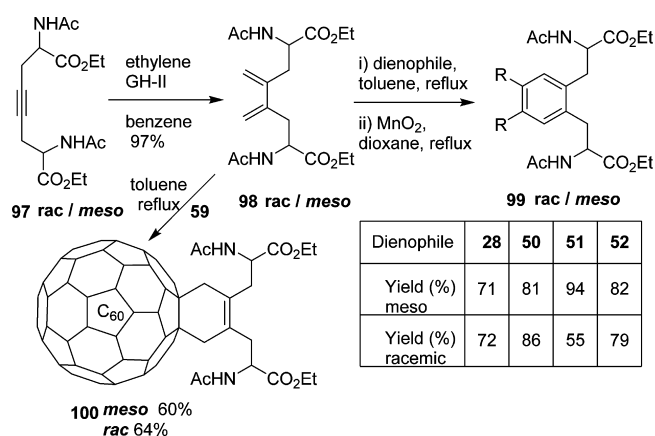
aromatization of the DA adduct gave highly functionalized Phe derivatives **89**. Since unusual AAAs are important in peptidomimetics and artificial protein synthesis, this strategy has potential applications in medicinal chemistry.

Masked dienes containing the AAA moiety are extremely useful for DA strategy; however, it is not easy to attach sulfone moiety to an amino acid component. To this end, the synthesis of amino acid-based diene **92** by alkylation of the EICA (**91**) using the 2-bromomethyl 1,3-butadiene (**90**) or the sulfone methyl bromide (**93**) were unsuccessful. Then we coupled the sulfone methyl bromide (**93**) with DEAM (**78**) to generate the amino acid-based diene precursor **94**, which undergoes DA reaction with various dienophiles to generate the Phe-based AAA derivatives **96** (Scheme 7).²⁷ 1,1,3,3-Tetramethylguanidine (TMG) usage is critical for success of this reaction; other bases gave elimination products.

Later, this building block approach was extended to generate the fullerene-based dicarba analogs of cystine via DA chemistry (Scheme 8).²⁰ To this end, the alkyne building block **97** has been prepared as a mixture of isomers by reacting the 1,4-dibromo-2-butyne with 2 equiv of the Schiff base derived from ethyl glycine ester **68** under basic conditions in the presence of PTC and subsequent acid hydrolysis, followed by protection of the amino functionality as a *N*-acetyl group. The GH-II catalyst-mediated CEM of the alkyne building block **97** with ethylene gave the diene **98** containing the bis-armed AAA derivative. Next, the DA reaction of the diene **98** with various dienophiles and subsequent aromatization of the DA adducts gave the Phe-based AAA derivatives **99** in good yields. Similarly, DA reaction of the diene **98** with fullerene (C_{60}) gave the AAA derivatives **100**.

The diphenylalkane skeleton is present in many natural products and biologically important molecules.²⁸ A novel approach with four points of diversity has been reported to highly functionalized diphenylalkane derivatives by strategic utilization of a [2 + 2 + 2] cotrimerization, CEM, and DA reaction as key steps (Scheme 9).²⁹ In this regard, the alkyne building blocks **103** were prepared starting with dialkyne **101** and DMAD (**28**) involving [2 + 2 + 2] cotrimerization using

Scheme 8. Synthesis of Fullerene-Based Dicarba Analogs of Cystine

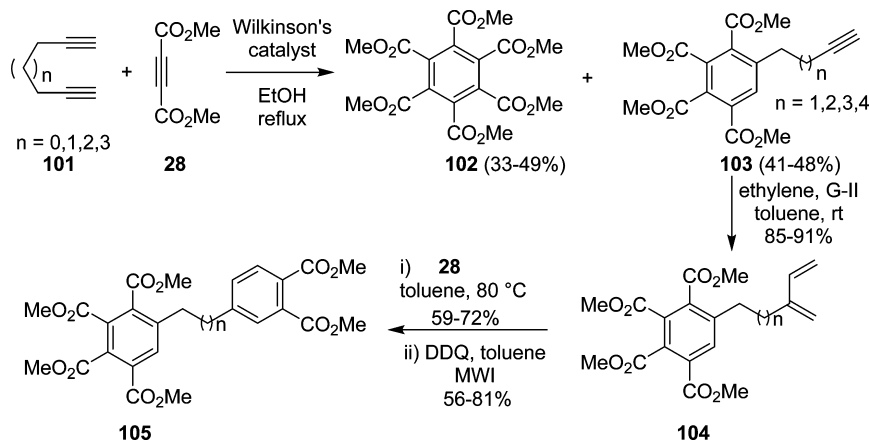


Wilkinson's catalyst [Rh(PPh₃)₃Cl] under ethanol reflux conditions. Later, the CEM of **103** with ethylene in the presence of G-II catalyst delivered the diene **104**. Finally, DA reaction of the dienes **104** with DMAD (**28**) and subsequent aromatization of the DA adducts under microwave irradiation (MWI) conditions delivered the diphenylalkane derivatives **105**.

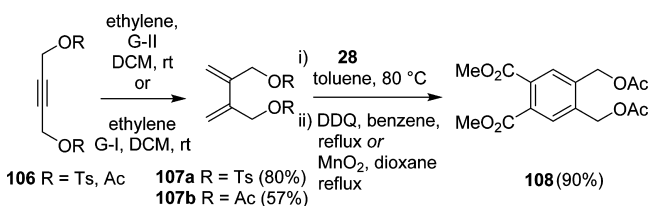
A couple of dienes from the hydroxy-protected but-2-yne-1,4-diol derivatives **106** by CEM under ethylene atmosphere have been reported (Scheme 10).³⁰ These dienes **107** are useful in assembling the key building block **108** and useful for the synthesis of benzosultine-sulfone (see Schemes 62 and 65). The tosyl-protected diene **107a** was unreactive in the DA reaction with various dienophiles under a variety of conditions; however, the acetyl derivative **107b** on DA reaction with DMAD (**28**) in toluene at 80 °C resulted in the expected DA adduct, which on further oxidation with DDQ in benzene or MnO₂/dioxane under reflux conditions gave the benzoannulated product **108**.

Biphenyl derivatives are generally prepared by cross-coupling reactions. The DA approach to these important targets is highly

Scheme 9. Preparation of Diphenylalkane Derivatives by DA Chemistry



Scheme 10. Synthesis of Highly Functionalized Benzene Derivative via DA Chemistry



desirable. In continuation of our efforts in designing polycyclics by CEM and DA reaction, recently the synthesis of biphenyl derivatives from phenyl acetylenes **109** by employing a similar synthetic sequence (Scheme 11) has been reported.³¹ The G-II catalyst-mediated CEM of phenyl acetylenes **109** has been carried out with ethylene as a cross-metathesis partner to generate 2-phenyl-substituted 1,3-butadienes **110**. Later, its DA reaction with DMAD (**28**) and aromatization via DDQ oxidation produced highly functionalized biphenyls **111**. These halogen substituted biaryl derivatives are important precursors for the synthesis of terphenyl derivatives by the application of Suzuki–Miyaura (SM) cross-coupling reaction.³² A diversity-oriented approach has been used to assemble a library of biphenyl derivatives by varying the cross-metathesis partner; dienophile; and later, various boronic acids during the cross-coupling reaction.

Similarly, phenylacetylenes **109** on treatment with 1,5-hexadiene as a cross-metathesis partner gave the dienes **112**. Two products were observed under toluene reflux conditions: the expected CEM product **112** and benzoannulated product such as biphenyl derivative **113**. Then the DA reaction of these dienes **112** with DMAD (**28**) followed by aromatization with DDQ led to the biphenyl derivatives **114**. The reactive

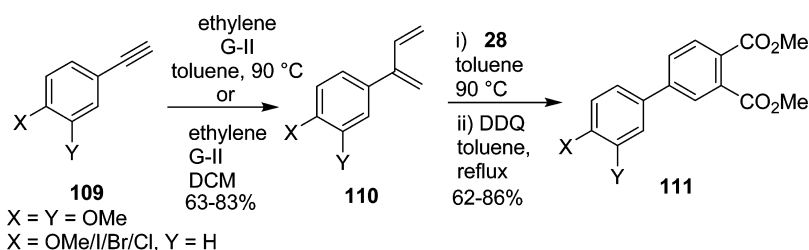
functionalities present in **114** can be further used as a handle for the generation of highly functionalized polycyclics (Scheme 12).³¹

The DA approach to the synthesis of spirocycles is rare. In 2007, we intended to prepare the spirocyclic compound **116** containing two inner-outer-ring type of diene moieties, which can be further elaborated by the DA chemistry.³³ The enyne precursor **115** failed to give the bis-spirocyclic diene **116** under G-I, G-II, and GH-II catalyst reaction conditions (Scheme 13).

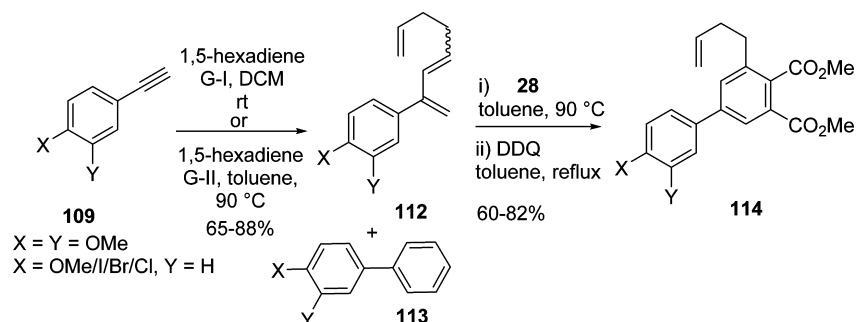
When the enyne precursor **115** was treated with G-I catalyst under an ethylene atmosphere in DCM at room temperature, three products were isolated (Scheme 14). The first compound, **117**, was formed as a result of EM of an alkyne moiety and RCM of two double bonds, the second product **118** has been derived from EM at both ends alkyne moieties and RCM of two double bonds, and the final product **119** was derived as a result of RCM of allyl groups. Surprisingly, when we treated the enyne precursor **115** with G-II catalyst in DCM at room temperature, only two products were isolated. Compound **120** has been derived by EM at one alkyne end in comparatively better yield than compound **121**, which involves EM at both alkynes. In this case, the RCM product was not observed. Under ethylene free reaction conditions, no metathesis product was observed with G-II catalyst; however, in the case of G-I, in situ-generated ethylene was reacted with the alkyne moieties. Here, we have observed chemoselectivity with G-I and G-II catalysts under ethylene atmosphere.

Cross-enyne metathesis (CEM) is widely used tool for the synthesis of various natural and nonnatural bioactive molecules containing diene moieties. In 2002, Mori and co-workers reported the synthesis of anolignan A and anolignan B by CEM as a key step.³⁴ The 1,3-diene moiety present in these natural products was constructed by ethylene-mediated EM of alkyne derivative using Grubbs catalyst. Anolignan A and anolignan B

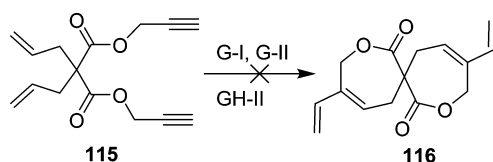
Scheme 11. Generation of Biphenyl Derivatives from Phenyl Acetylenes Involving DA Chemistry



Scheme 12. Synthesis of Biphenyl Derivatives 114 via CM and DA Chemistry



Scheme 13. Attempt for the Synthesis of Spirocyclic Diene 116



are new dibenzylbutadiene derivatives and are active HIV-1 reverse transcriptase inhibitors isolated from *Anogeissus acuminata*.³⁵ Toward the synthesis of anolignan A (**125**), the alkyne precursor **122** was subjected to the CEM with G-II catalyst under ethylene atmosphere to yield the diene moiety **123** in excellent yield. Later, the removal of two acetoxy groups was achieved by treatment with $\text{Pd}_2(\text{dba})_3 \cdot \text{CHCl}_3$ and Bu_3P in the presence of formic acid and triethyl amine to obtain the 1,3-butadiene derivative **124**. Then deprotection of the dimesyloxy groups in **124** using PhLi led to the phenolic compound anolignan A (**125**) in 30% overall yield (Scheme 15). Similarly, the synthesis of anolignan B was also reported by CEM starting with appropriate alkyne derivative.

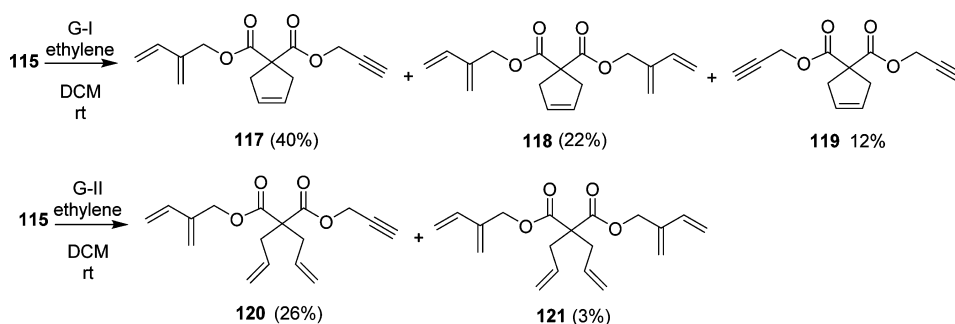
The C-aryl glycosides are stable to both enzymatic and acid hydrolysis. Their unusual stability has been manifested in some interesting biological properties. Kaliappan and Subrahmanyam have developed a versatile strategy to generate C-aryl glycosides by utilization of CEM as a key step.³⁶ To this end, the glycoside-based dienes **127** were generated by CEM of the alkyne derivatives such as **126** under ethylene atmosphere with G-II catalyst. Further, these dienes **127** on DA reaction with different quinones **128** followed by aromatization of the DA adducts gave the C-aryl glycosides **129** having quinone moiety (Scheme 16). Alternatively, these glycoside-based dienes **127** were also subjected to the DA reaction with DMAD (**28**). This diversity-oriented approach can be useful for the synthesis of a

variety of C-aryl glycosides by utilizing different sugar-based alkynes and dienophiles. Later, they extended this approach to a variety of C-aryl and spiro-C-aryl glycosides.³⁷

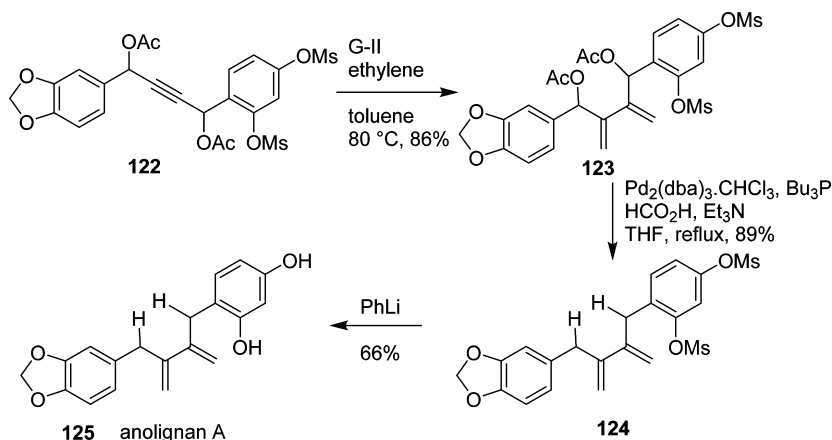
They have also synthesized various benzylic fluorides through the DA reaction of fluorinated 1,3-dienes with different dienophiles. Open-chain 1,3-dienes **131** having fluorine-containing side chain at the 2-position were prepared starting with propargylic fluoride **130** by CEM using G-II catalyst. Next, the DA reaction with diethyl acetylenedicarboxylate (**29**) followed by the oxidation of the DA adduct using MnO_2 gave the benzylic fluoride **132** and the DA reaction with 1,4-naphthoquinone (**50**), followed by aromatization with silica gel/triethyl amine produced the quinone based benzylic fluoride **133** (Scheme 17).³⁸ They have prepared an enantio-enriched monofluorinated diene starting with enantiopure propargylic fluoride. By utilizing this strategy, mono- and gem-difluorinated dienes and benzylic fluorides were prepared. Likewise, Fustero and co-workers have reported the CEM of amide-based difluorinated alkyne derivatives and the DA reaction of the resulting dienes with a variety of dienophiles in one pot.³⁹

Fustero and co-workers have reported a multicomponent tandem CEM and DA reaction approach with 1,7-octadiene as a source of ethylene, which is generated in situ by RCM of 1,7-octadiene. In this regard, various aliphatic, aromatic alkynes, fluorinated alkynes, and amidoalkynes with several dienophiles, such as DEAD (**29**), 1,4-naphthoquinone (**50**), and *N*-phenylmaleimide (**55**) under tandem CEM/DA conditions gave the carbo- and heterocyclic derivatives **135** and **137** in good yields (Scheme 18).⁴⁰ This methodology is a good alternative to the ethylene-mediated CEM reaction, and it is compatible with a wide variety of functional groups. By varying alkyne and dienophile moieties, one can generate a library of annulated aromatics in a predetermined fashion under mild reaction conditions. This type of building block approach provides better

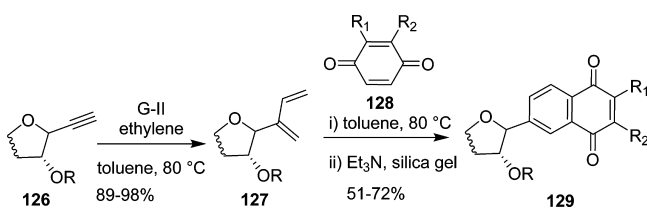
Scheme 14. Reactivity of 115 with G-I and G-II Catalysts under Ethylene Atmosphere



Scheme 15. Synthesis of Anolignan A



Scheme 16. Preparation of C-Aryl Glycosides 129 via DA Chemistry

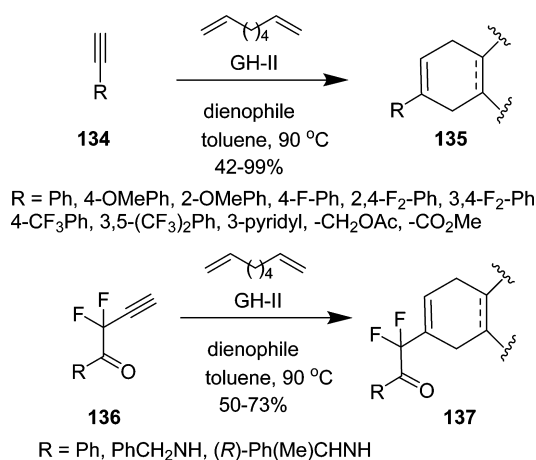


control in installing substituents in the aromatic rings, whereas traditional aromatic electrophilic substitution protocol suffers regiocontrol problem.

Recently, Karabulut et al. reported $[\text{RuCl}_2(p\text{-cymene})]_2/\text{IPr}$ (IPr: 1,3-bis(2,6-diisopropylphenyl)imidazol-2-ylidene) catalyzed in situ CEM and DA reaction protocol.⁴¹ The phenyl-substituted 1,3-dienes formed during the enyne metathesis of phenyl acetylenes **138** were reacted in situ with DMAD (**28**) to form the DA adducts **139** and with *N*-phenylmaleimide (**55**) and maleic anhydride (**63**) gave the product **140** (Scheme 19). Here, they have shown $[\text{RuCl}_2(p\text{-cymene})]_2$ in combination with a sterically hindered *N*-heterocyclic carbene/(IPr) catalytic system switch the reaction of phenylacetylene from cyclo-trimerization to cross-enyne metathesis. This is an efficient protocol to construct cyclic compounds in one pot.

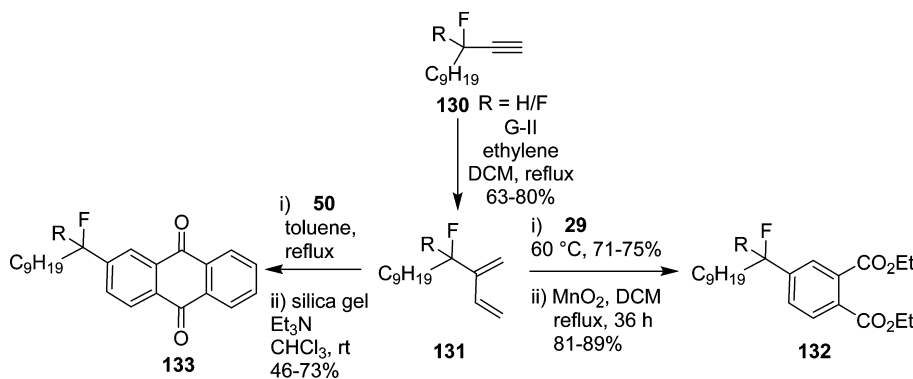
Daunomycin and Adriamycin are used clinically as anticancer agents.⁴² In 2002, Kotha and Stoodley reported an enantioselective synthesis of (+)-4-demethoxy-1,4-dimethyl-daunomycinone,⁴³ an analog of anthracycline antibiotics. The synthesis

Scheme 18. Synthesis of Carbo- and Heterocyclics by Tandem CEM–DA Reaction

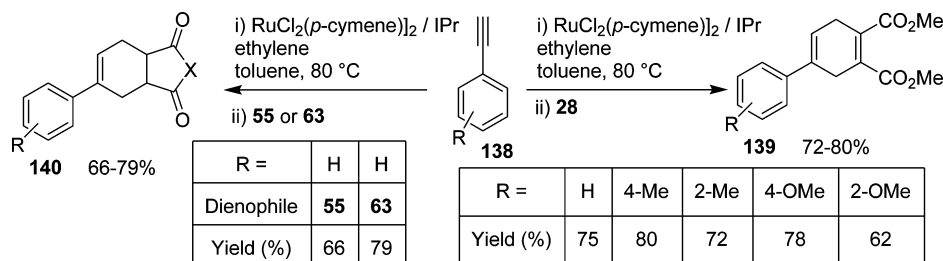
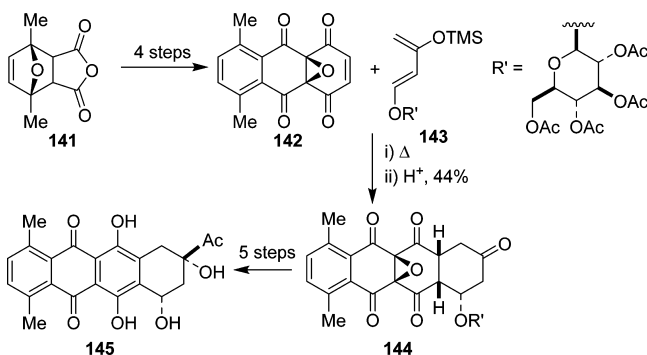


of (+)-4-demethoxy-1,4-dimethyl-daunomycinone **145** was achieved by the DA reaction of the oxirane-based dienophile **142** and the sugar-based diene **143**. The oxirane-based dienophile **142** was prepared from the DA cycloadduct **141** of 2,5-dimethylfuran and maleic anhydride by a four-step sequence, then the reaction of **142** with the sugar-based diene **143** and treatment of the DA adduct with dilute hydrochloric acid gave the epoxy-ketone **144**, which was then converted to (+)-4-demethoxy-1,4-dimethyl-daunomycinone **145** in five steps (Scheme 20).

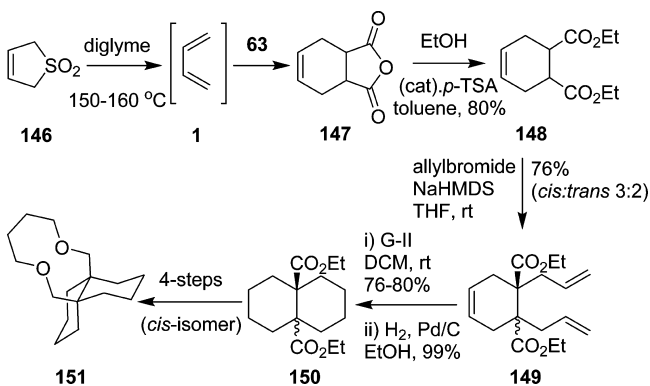
Scheme 17. CEM–DA Approach to Quinone-Based Benzylic Fluoride



Scheme 19. Role of Catalyst in Controlling the Cyclotrimerization/Cross-Enyne Metathesis

Scheme 20. Synthesis of (+)-4-Demethoxy-1,4-dimethyl-daunomycinone **145** via DA Chemistry

Olefin metathesis is a very useful tool to design unusual ring systems, for example, propellanes, catenane, etc. In 2011, Kotha and co-workers reported the synthesis of *cis*- and *trans*-decalins by DA reaction and RCM as key steps, and further, *cis*-decalin was used as a precursor for 3,8-dioxo[8.4.4]propellane derivative **151**.⁴⁴ In this regard, sulfone **146** was used as a source of 1,3-butadiene (**1**) and reacted with maleic anhydride (**63**). Next, ethanolysis of the cycloadduct **147** under acid catalysis conditions gave the cyclohexenediester **148**. Allylation of the diester **148** gave the stereoisomeric mixture of diallyl cyclohexenediester **149** in a 3:2 ratio (*cis*/*trans*), which on RCM with G-II catalyst and hydrogenation under Pd/C catalysis conditions produced the pure *cis*- and *trans*-decalin diesters **150**. Later, the *cis*-decalin diester was used for the synthesis of 3,8-dioxo[8.4.4]propellane derivative **151** in four steps (Scheme 21).

Scheme 21. Synthesis of 3,8-Dioxo[8.4.4]propellane Derivative **151** Involving DA Chemistry

In 2009, Pietre and co-workers explored substituted benzofurans as an efficient dienophiles. The reaction of 3-substituted

benzofurans **152** with 2,3-dimethylbutadiene (**153**) led to the generation of tricyclic compound **154** in quantitative yield. In all cases, the formation of the expected tricyclic compounds confirmed the reactivity of an aromatic C-2/C-3 double bond of the substituted benzofuran ring as an electron-poor dienophile. The use of sensitive dienes such as 2-trimethylsilyloxybutadiene **155** in the DA reaction with 3-substituted benzofuran **152** under high pressure conditions followed by hydrolysis gave **156**. (Scheme 22).⁴⁵ The Danishefsky's diene induces a competition for the reactivity site. The preferred site for the DA reaction is clearly the aromatic 2,3-carbon-carbon double bond, delivering the expected tricyclic adducts **156**. However, the carbonylated unit in position-3 seems to be a competitive dienophile under the influence of Lewis acid to deliver the hetero-DA products.

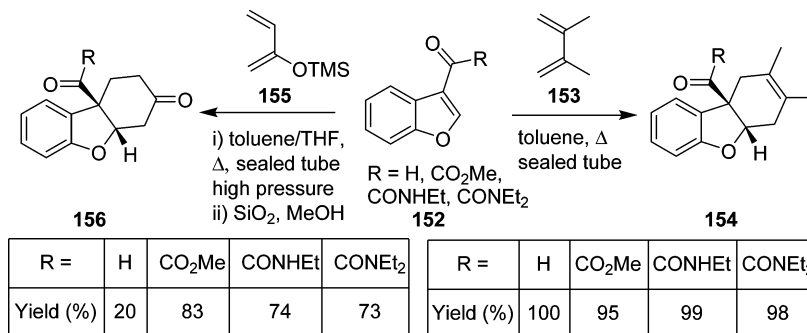
Usuki and co-workers have described the synthesis of a novel fluorinated Kitahara–Danishefsky's diene analog **157** by a Pd-catalyzed process.⁴⁶ (*E*)-1-Benzyloxy-3-fluoro-1,3-butadiene **157** was reacted with various dienophiles to deliver useful 1-fluorocyclohexene derivatives **158–159** in good yields (Scheme 23). By utilizing this diene derivative and varying the dienophile moiety in DA reaction, one can generate a diverse fluorinated molecules in an efficient manner.

In 2013, Moody's group reported the synthesis of quinone building blocks that are useful for assembling aminonaphthoquinone antibiotics.⁴⁷ The key reaction involved here is the DA reaction of a new series of esters containing Danishefsky-type dienes **161–164** with *N*-protected aminobenzoquinones **160**. Various dienes containing silyl protecting groups (**161–164**) were reacted with aminobenzoquinone (**160**) to generate amino-substituted naphthoquinone derivatives **165–168** (Scheme 24).

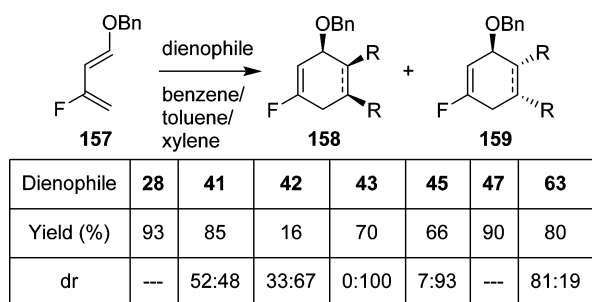
In 1997, Kozmin and Rawal for the first time reported the 1-amino-3-siloxy-1,3-butadiene (**173**), an analog of Danishefsky's diene and now recognized as Rawal's diene, prepared from vinylogous amide **170** and its DA reaction with a variety of dienophiles to give endo products stereoselectively (Scheme 25). In the case of reaction with diethyl acetylenedicarboxylate (**29**), the aromatized product **174** was obtained. The DA reactions of Rawal's diene (**173**) were carried out under relatively mild reaction conditions. As compared Danishefsky's diene, Rawal's diene shows a significantly higher reactivity in the DA reaction. They have also explored the scope of this diene by carrying out the DA reactions with a variety of dienophiles, such as methacrolein (**38**), methyl 2-methyl acrylate (**40**), and *N*-phenylmaleimide (**55**). Later, some of the cycloadducts were transformed into valuable intermediates by simple synthetic transformations.⁴⁸

Kozmin and Rawal also reported the chiral version of amino siloxy diene from vinylogous amide and *trans*-diphenylpyrrolidine. This chiral diene **178** on DA reaction with various

Scheme 22. Synthesis of 154 and 156 via DA Reaction



Scheme 23. Synthesis of 1-Fluorocyclohexene Derivatives 158–159 via DA Chemistry

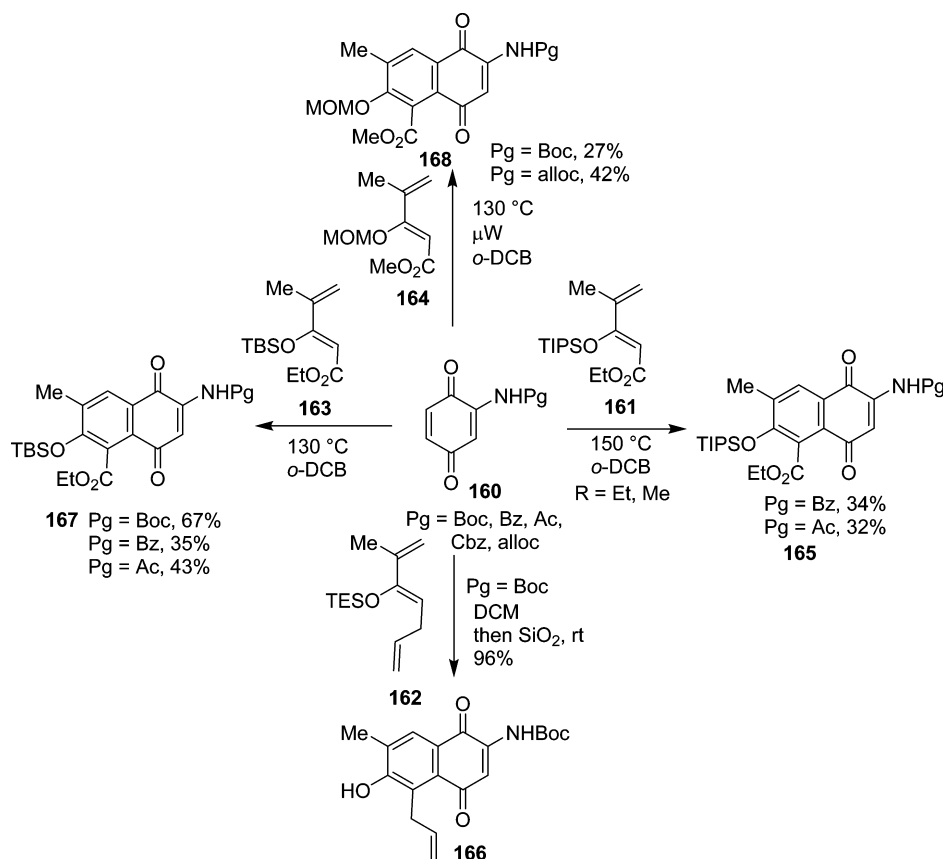


dienophiles gave the endo cycloadducts with high diastereoselectivity under mild reaction conditions. These cycloadducts were further converted to enantiopure cyclohexenone derivatives.

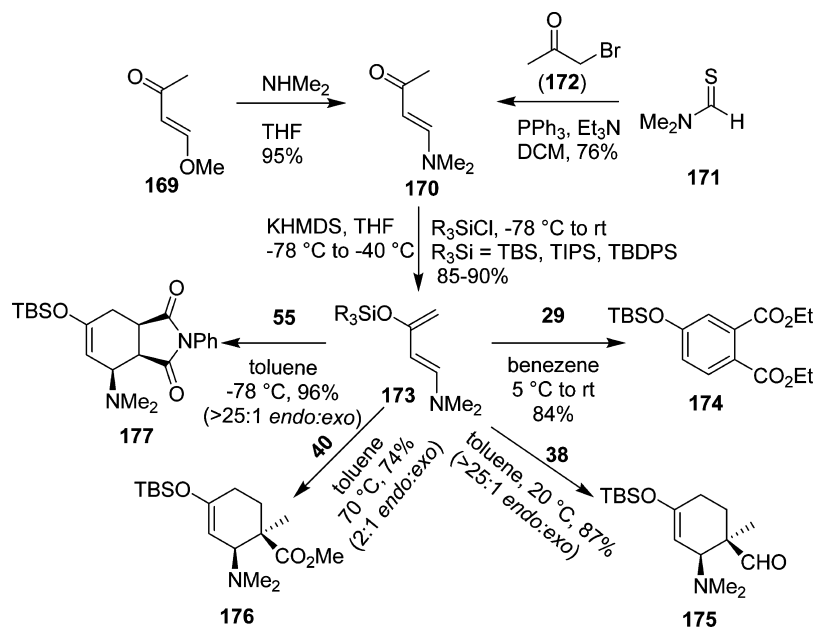
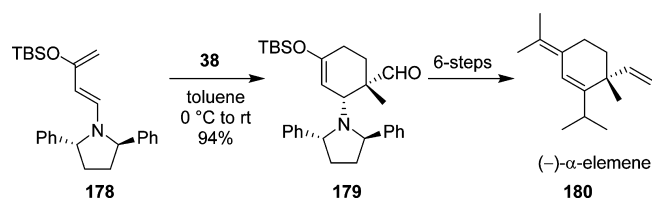
Later, the DA cycloadduct of chiral diene 178 and methacrolein (38) were utilized for enantioselective synthesis of (–)- α -elemene 180 (Scheme 26).⁴⁹ Moreover, Maier's group has used the Rawal's diene 173 for the formal total synthesis of naturally occurring antitumor compound, a dysidiolide.⁵⁰

Later, Rawal's group extended the use of 1-amino 3-siloxy diene for the synthesis of alkaloids. To this end, they have reported the synthesis of the aspidosperma family of indole alkaloids, such as (±)-tabersonine, (+)-aspidospermidine, (–)-quebrachamine, (–)-dehydroquebrachamine, (+)-tabersonine, and (+)-16-methoxytabersonine. In this regard, the *N*-allylated diene derivative 181 on reaction with ethylacrolein (39) produced the endoselective cycloadduct 182, which was then transformed to (±)-tabersonine 183 in nine steps (Scheme 27). They utilized an enantioselective DA reaction

Scheme 24. Synthesis of Amino-Substituted Naphthoquinones 165–168 via DA Chemistry



Scheme 25. DA Chemistry with Rawal's Diene 173

Scheme 26. Synthesis of (-)- α -Elemene 180 via DA Chemistry

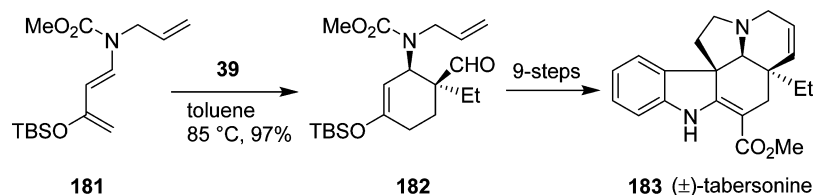
under fluoroborate catalyst conditions for the stereoselective synthesis of aspidosperma family of indole alkaloids.⁵¹

Similarly, Gravel's group has reported the 1-alkylthio-3-silyloxybutadienes **184**, another analog of Danishefsky's diene. It was prepared from 4-methoxy-3-buten-2-one (**169**) through the formation of vinylogous thioester. The DA reaction of diene **184** with various dienophiles gave highly functionalized cycloadducts **185**–**188** with endoselectivity. Then cleavage of silyl enol ether using a HF·pyridine complex gave sulfide-containing ketones **189** and **190**, which are useful for further synthetic manipulation (Scheme 28).⁵² Interestingly, the 1-alkylthio-3-silyloxybutadienes are relatively less reactive than Danishefsky's diene and Rawal's diene.

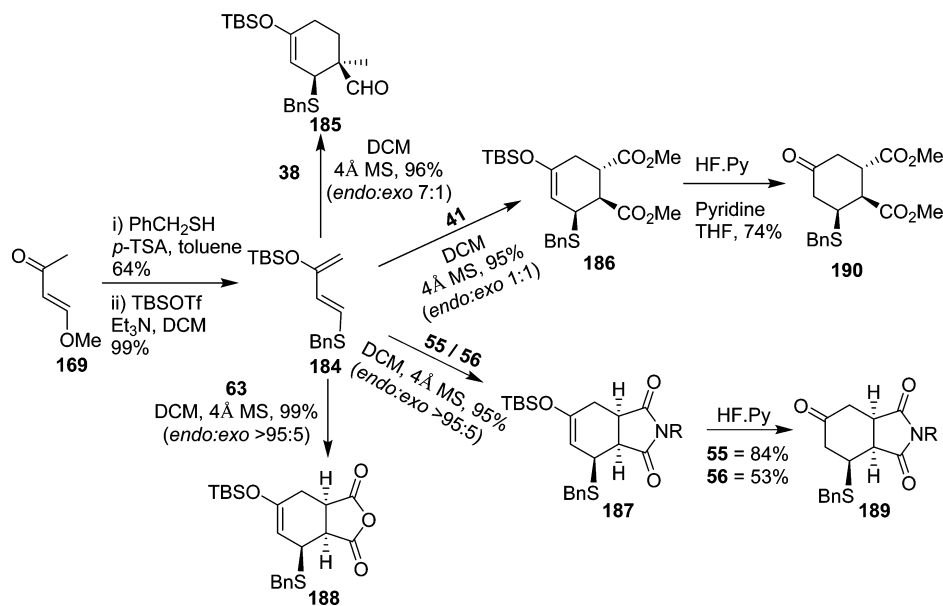
Generally, low stability of boron-functionalized 1,3-dienes and low reactivity of alkynylboronic esters limits their use in the DA reaction. In 2003, Hilt and Smolko reported the cobalt-catalyzed DA reaction of 1,3-butadiene derivatives **192** with low reactive alkynylboronic esters **191** to obtain the DA cycloadduct **193** in a regioselective manner. Then the Suzuki

coupling of cycloadducts, dihydroaromatic derivatives **193** with aryl, alkenyl, or alkynyl halides gave the coupling product, which on DDQ oxidation gave the polyfunctional benzannulated derivatives **194** (Scheme 29).⁵³ Further, the isopropenyl-substituted building block has been used for the generation of the cannabinoid family of natural products. Generally, dienes with electron-donating groups and dienophiles with electron-withdrawing groups are suitable for normal DA reaction, but the transition metal (such as cobalt, palladium)-catalyzed DA reaction can occur with a variety of dienes and dienophiles independent of the substituents present. Therefore, the metal-catalyzed regioselective DA reaction can be utilized to generate diverse polycyclic compounds containing useful functionalities that were previously not possible by conventional DA reaction conditions.

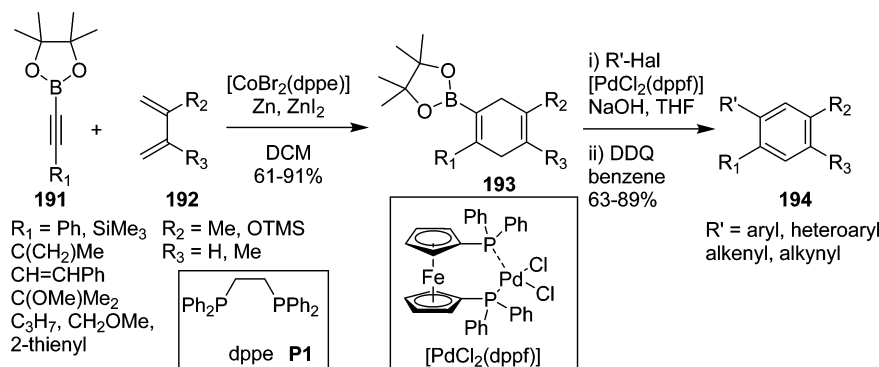
Further, Hilt and co-workers have extended the use of isopropenyl-substituted cycloadduct **195** for the synthesis of phenanthrenes **197** and phenanthridines **200**. In this regard, the cycloadduct **195** on treatment with *o*-diiodobenzene **196** under palladium catalysis conditions followed by DDQ oxidation gave the phenanthrene derivative **197** by domino Suzuki coupling/Heck reaction. Similarly, the authors have utilized the *o*-iodoaniline **198** for the generation of phenanthridine derivatives **200**. The Suzuki coupling of **195** with *o*-iodoaniline **198** and subsequent DDQ oxidation gave the biarylamine derivatives **199**, then the acid-catalyzed intramolecular hydroamination of **199** gave a highly substituted phenanthridine derivative, **200**. Compound **199** was converted

Scheme 27. Synthesis of (\pm)-Tabersonine by the Endo-Selective DA Reaction

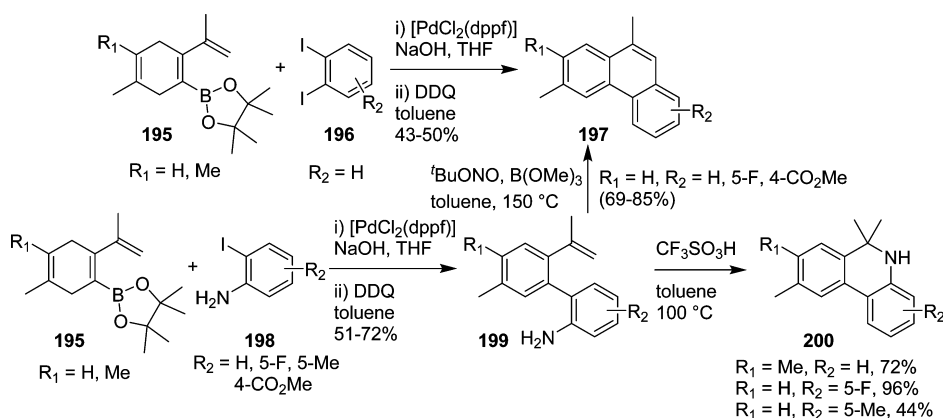
Scheme 28. Synthesis of Highly Functionalized Cycloadducts 185–188 with Endoselectivity



Scheme 29. Preparation of Polyfunctional Benzannulated Derivatives



Scheme 30. Synthesis of Phenanthrenes 197 and Phenanthridines 200

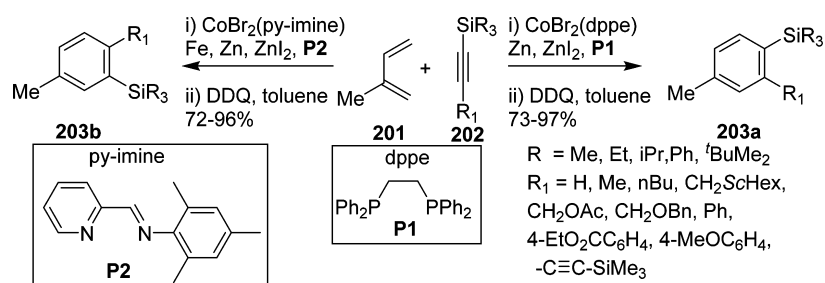


to phenanthrene derivative **197** by treatment of nitrite ester and borate ester (Scheme 30).⁵⁴

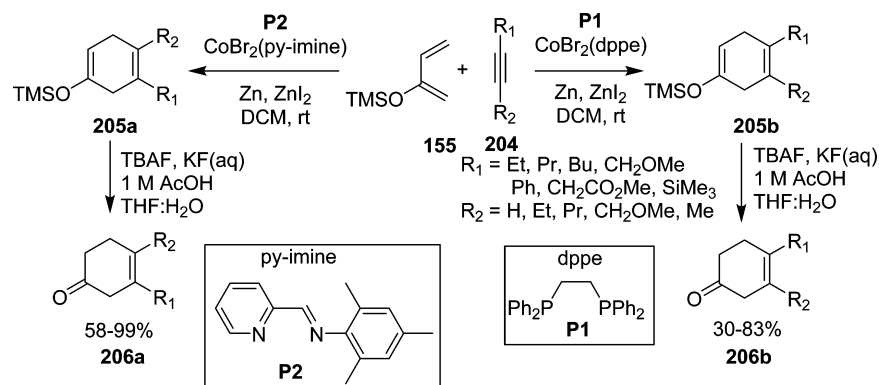
In continuation of cobalt-catalyzed DA chemistry,⁵⁵ Hilt and Janikowski have reported a regiocontrolled DA reaction of 2-methyl 1,3-butadiene (**201**) with terminal or internal alkynyl silanes **202**. Then, the DA reaction of **201** with alkynyl silanes **202** under different cobalt-catalyst conditions gave the cycloadducts in a regioselective manner, which subsequently

undergo aromatization with DDQ to deliver silicon-containing benzannulated compounds **203a–b** (Scheme 31).⁵⁶ The silicon functionality is a useful handle for further synthetic manipulation. Here, the regiochemistry of the DA products has been controlled by the application of two different cobalt catalyst systems bearing either **P1** or **P2** ligands. A catalyst system containing **P1** generates predominantly products **203a** with a 1,4-substitution pattern, whereas the catalyst system with ligand **P2**

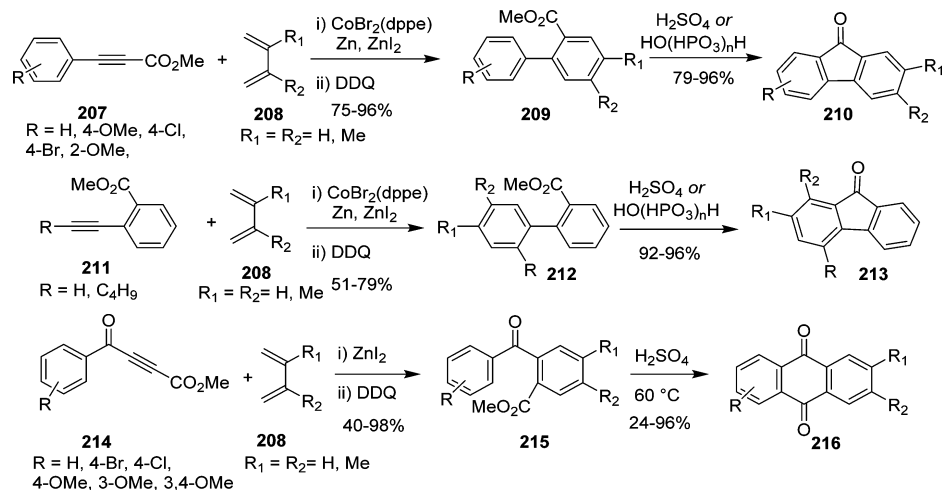
Scheme 31. DA Reaction Involving Dienophiles without Electron-Withdrawing Groups



Scheme 32. Synthesis of Nonconjugated Cyclohex-3-enones Involving a Co-catalyzed DA Reaction



Scheme 33. Synthesis of Fluorenone and Anthraquinone Derivatives via DA Reaction



prefers to form the 1,3-substituted regioisomer **203b** with mono- or disubstituted alkyne derivatives. Furthermore, the authors have used this cobalt-catalytic condition with a variety of dienes and dienophiles to generate polyfunctional arenes.⁵⁷ The unique capability of this approach is that both regioisomers **203a** and **203b** are assembled from a common precursor using two different ligands, **P1** and **P2**, under the cobalt catalyst conditions.

In 2012, Hilt and co-workers reported the synthesis of nonconjugated cyclohex-3-enones **206a–b** by a regiodivergent cobalt-catalyzed DA reaction of 2-(trimethylsilyloxy)buta-1,3-diene **155** with a variety of electron-rich or electron-deficient alkynes, **204**. The DA reaction of **155** with alkynes **204** and subsequent desilylation gave the cyclohex-3-enone derivative **206a** and the regioisomeric cyclohex-3-enone derivative **206b** under different catalytic conditions (Scheme 32).⁵⁸ Further,

they extended this DA approach with the cobalt catalytic system for the construction of cyclopropylarenes.⁵⁹

In addition, Hilt and co-workers have demonstrated the synthesis of fluorenone derivatives **210** and **213** from aryl-substituted propiolates **207** and **211** via cobalt-catalyzed DA reaction/DDQ oxidation and Friedel–Crafts type cyclization. Further, various anthraquinone derivatives **216** were assembled from aryl-substituted propiolates **214** using a zinc iodide-catalyzed DA reaction with 1,3-dienes **208** (Scheme 33).⁶⁰

Tripathi and co-workers have developed an efficient strategy for the synthesis of a diverse anthraquinone-based aryl-C-glycosides by a DA approach. The required butadienyl glycoside building blocks **218** were prepared from the butenoyl glycosides **217** by Luche reduction, followed by triethylamine-catalyzed tandem one-pot methanesulfonylation and elimination sequence. Then a sequential DA reaction of glycosyl dienes

Scheme 34. Approach to Anthraquinone-Based Aryl-C-glycosides via DA Strategy

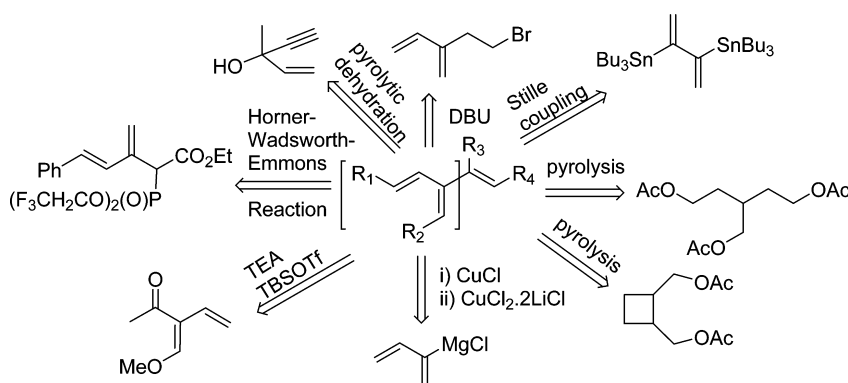
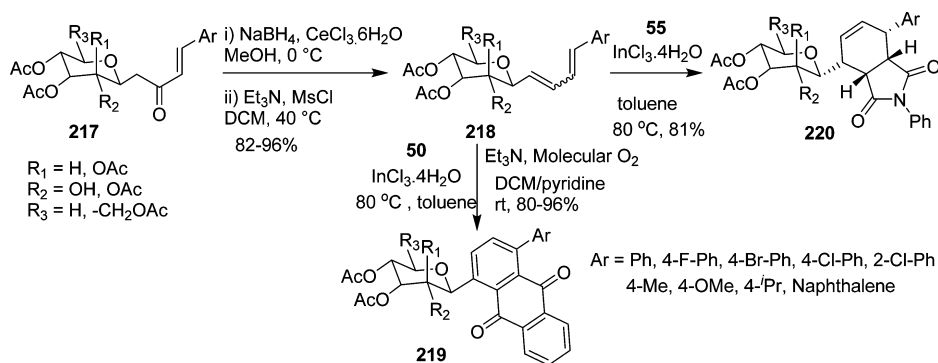
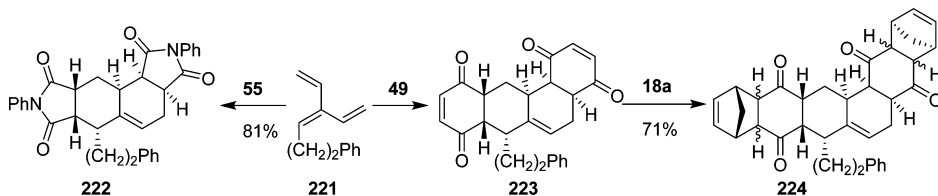


Figure 5. Synthetic approaches to dendralene derivatives.

Scheme 35. Tandem Intermolecular DA Reactions Involving Dendralene 221



218 with 1,4-naphthoquinone (**50**) and subsequent aromatization gave a range of aryl-C-glycosides **219**. Later, they extended this cycloaddition-aromatization approach to other dienyl glycosides **218** derived from D-glucose, D-xylose, and D-mannose with 1,4-naphthoquinone (**50**) to obtain structurally diverse aryl-C- β -D-glycosides. The DA reaction of dienyl glycoside **218** with *N*-phenylmaleimide (**55**) gave the cycloaddition product **220** with endo selectivity (Scheme 34).⁶¹ In a similar way, one can generate diverse aryl-C-glycosides by varying the carbohydrate moiety, the aromatic system, and dienophile components.

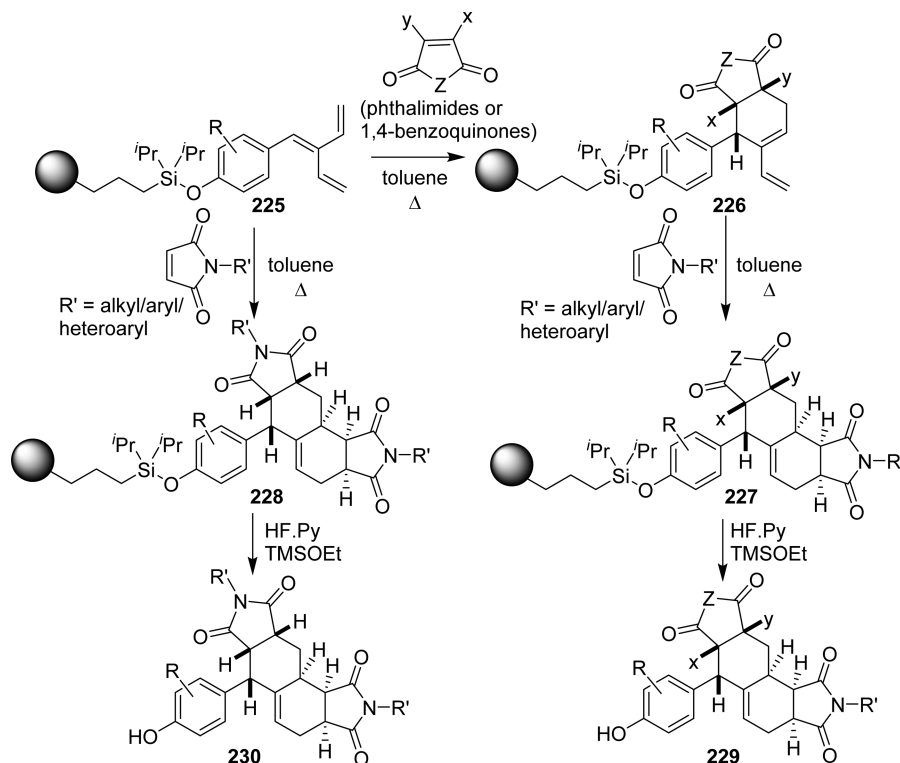
DENDRALENE

Dendralenes belong to a class of discrete acyclic cross-conjugated dienes.⁶² The word dendralene has been derived from three words dendrimers, linear, and alkene. These are interesting building blocks because of their widespread applications in the synthesis of diverse polycycles through DA chemistry. Dendralenes are prepared by various methods involving pyrolytic elimination sequence, Stille coupling, Horner–Wadsworth–Emmons reaction of 1,3-butadien-2-ylphosphonoacetate with various aldehydes, or metal-catalyzed dimerization (Figure 5).⁶³

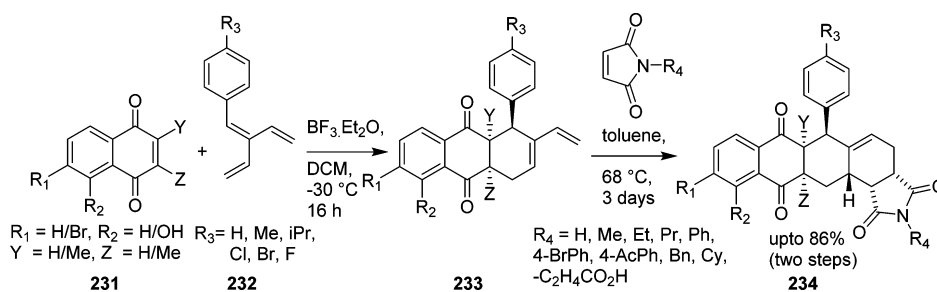
In 1999, Fallis and co-workers reported a method for the generation of cross-conjugated trienes, which on intermolecular tandem DA reaction with various dienophiles produced various polycycles. The reaction of [3]-dendralene (triene) derivative **221** with *N*-phenylmaleimide (**55**) gave the double DA adduct **222**. Similarly, the triene **221** was added to 1,4-benzoquinone (**49**) to deliver the tetracyclic compound **223**. Further reaction of the bis-quinone adduct **223** with an excess amount of cyclopentadiene **18a** afforded the octacyclic compound **224** as a mixture of diastereomers (Scheme 35).⁶⁴

In 2002, Schreiber and co-workers reported a diversity-oriented approach that yielded 29 400 discrete compounds having 10 distinct polycyclic skeletons. A library of compounds were assembled by using an inexpensive “one bead-one stock solution” technology platform. The triene system **225** was generated by using a method reported by Fallis and co-workers.⁶⁴ The triene system **225** with tri- and tetrasubstituted dienophile delivered a monocycloaddition product **226** exclusively. Later, the DA reaction of **226** with another dienophile gave the cycloaddition product **227**. The triene system **225** with a disubstituted dienophile delivered a tandem DA product **228**. Finally, the removal of the microbead support using a

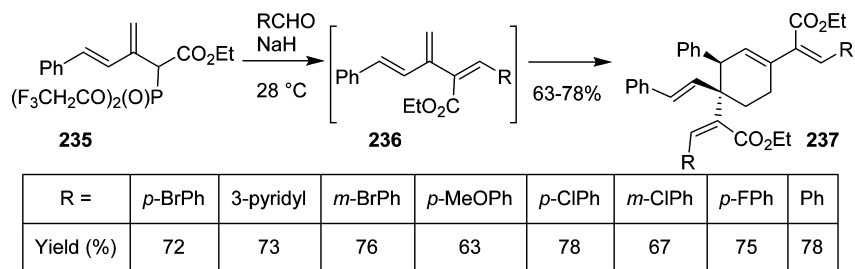
Scheme 36. Synthesis of Polycyclic Compounds via DA Reaction of Dendralene



Scheme 37. Synthesis of TetR-Directed Carbocyclic Scaffolds



Scheme 38. DA Homodimerization of [3]Dendralene to Substituted Cyclohexenes 237



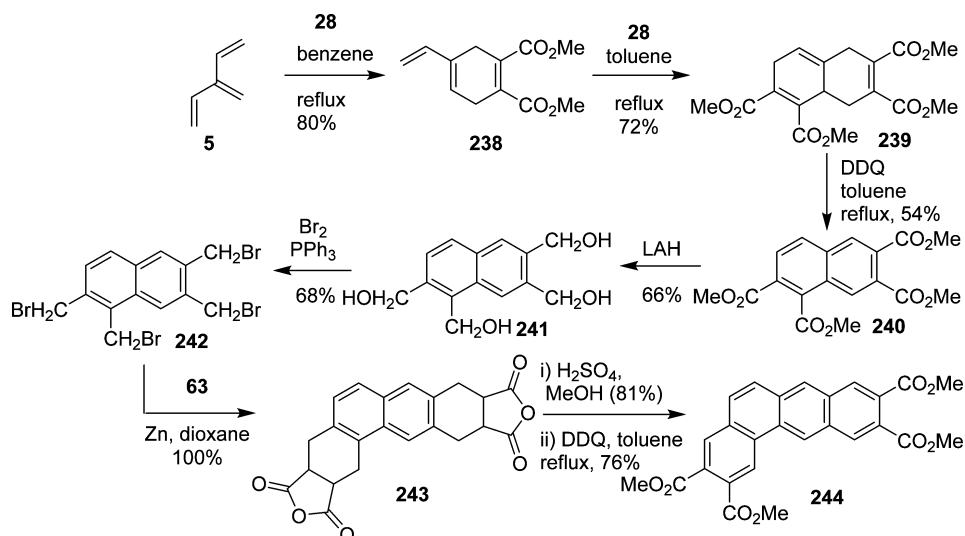
HF-pyridine complex gave diverse polyannulated compounds **229** and **230** (Scheme 36).⁶⁵

Gmeiner and co-workers have reported a combinatorial library of analogs of tetracycline-inducible repressor protein (TetR) by a solution phase parallel synthesis utilizing a stepwise DA approach.⁶⁶ In this regard, DA reaction of the triene **232** with various quinones **231** under Lewis acid-catalysis conditions gave the expected DA monoadduct **233** with endo selectivity, where the phenyl and vicinally bridged substituent (Y) are in trans disposition. Later, thermal DA reaction of this

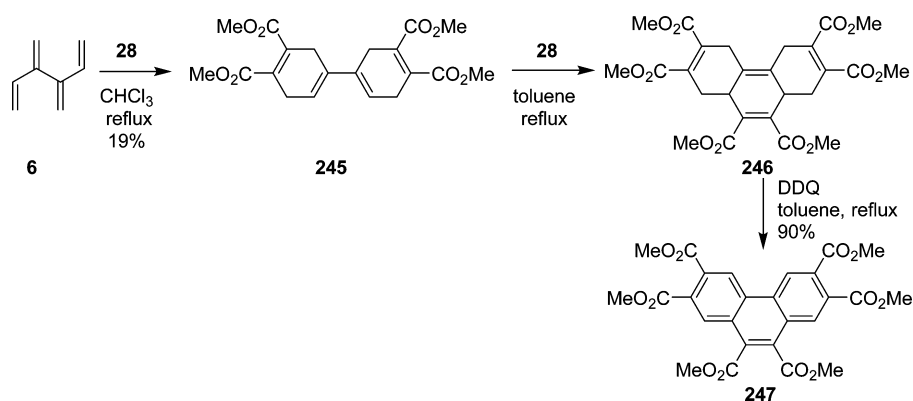
quinone-based inner-outer diene **233** with several maleimides gave diverse tetracyclic products **234** with endo selectivity (Scheme 37). This three-dimensional solution phase parallel synthesis by highly regio- and stereoselective stepwise DA reaction is useful to generate a TetR-directed library of carbocyclic scaffolds.

In 2011, Ghosh and co-workers demonstrated the synthesis of substituted [3]-dendralenes **236**, which underwent an in situ double DA sequence.⁶⁷ In this regard, 1,3-butadien-2-ylphosphonoacetate **235** was reacted with various aldehydes in the presence of NaH to yield the [3]-dendralene **236** but under

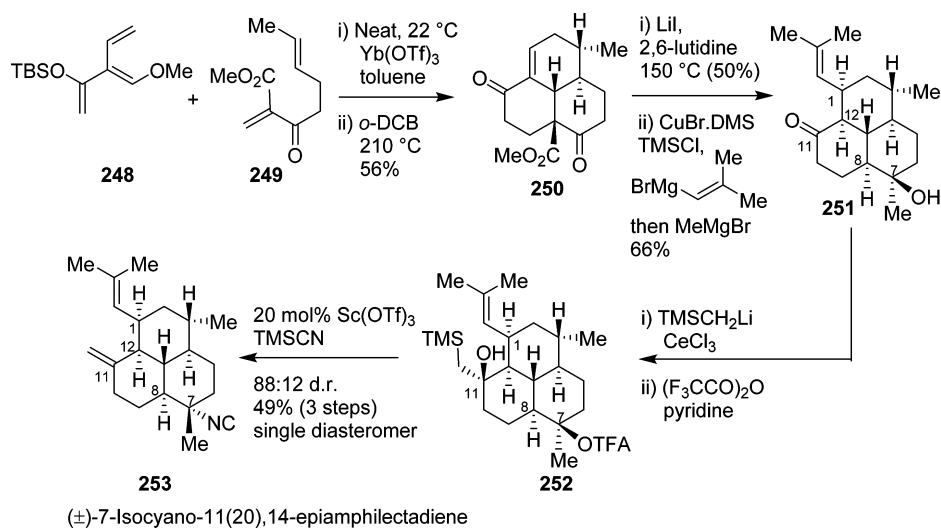
Scheme 39. Synthesis of Tetraester 244 via DA and Aromatization Sequence



Scheme 40. Synthesis of Phenanthrene Hexaester 247 via DA and Aromatization Sequence



Scheme 41. Synthesis of Amphilectene 253

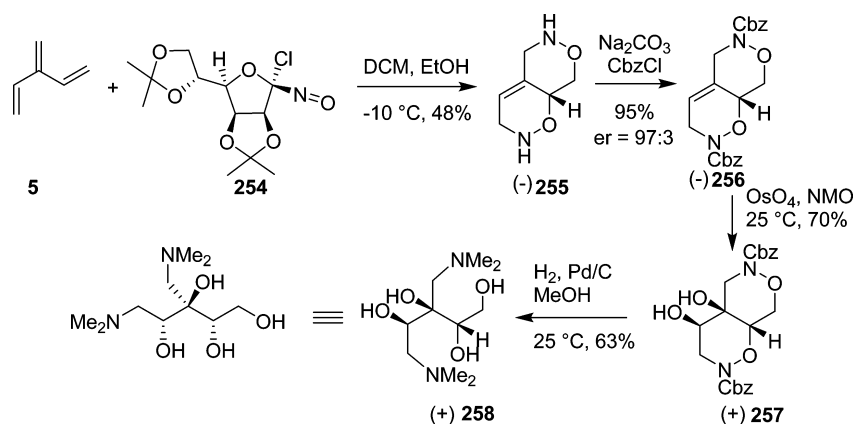


these reaction conditions, a highly reactive [3]dendralene undergoes the DA homodimerization to highly substituted cyclohexenes 237 with very high regio- and stereoselectivity (Scheme 38).

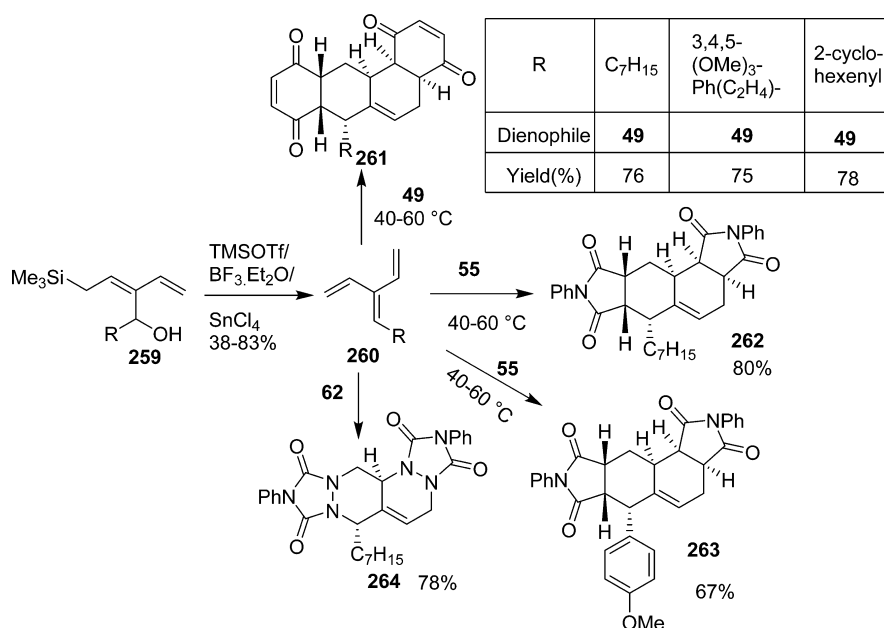
In 2011, Hopf and co-workers have reported highly functionalized angularly annelated aromatic compounds 244 and

247 starting with dendralenes.⁶⁸ The synthesis of benz[*a*]-anthracene tetraester 244, begins with the two sequential DA cycloadditions of DMAD (28) to [3]dendralene 5. Under harsh conditions, double DA reaction generates the cycloadduct 239, and the subsequent aromatization delivered tetramethyl naphthalene-1,2,6,7-tetracarboxylate 240. Later, reduction of

Scheme 42. Synthesis of (+)Diamino-tetrol 258



Scheme 43. Tandem DA Reaction of Dendralenes 260 with Activated Dienophiles



240, followed by bromination, gave the tetrabromide 242. The DA reaction of in situ generated *o*-QDM from 242 with maleic anhydride (63) furnished the adduct 243, which upon acid-catalyzed methanolysis yielded the corresponding tetraester 244 (Scheme 39). Similarly, the next higher vinylog [4]-dendralene 6 on DA reaction with DMAD (28) followed by aromatization using DDQ gave the phenanthrene hexaester 247 (Scheme 40).

Dendralenes also found their application in total synthesis. Shenvi and co-workers have described the synthesis of a potent antimalarial amphilectene 253 in seven steps starting with readily available starting materials.⁶⁹ In this regard, the dendralene 248 was reacted with methyl ester 249 (dienophile) in the presence of Yb(OTf)₃ to yield the cross-conjugated enone, which underwent the second DA reaction to give the tricyclic product 250. The compound 250 was then subjected to the modified Krapcho decarboxylation to remove the methyl ester, then conjugate addition, followed by the Grignard reaction gave 251. Later, trimethylsilylmethyl cerium chloride addition to ketone 251 and selective trifluoroacetylation of tertiary alcohol gave 252, which on treatment with a Lewis acid

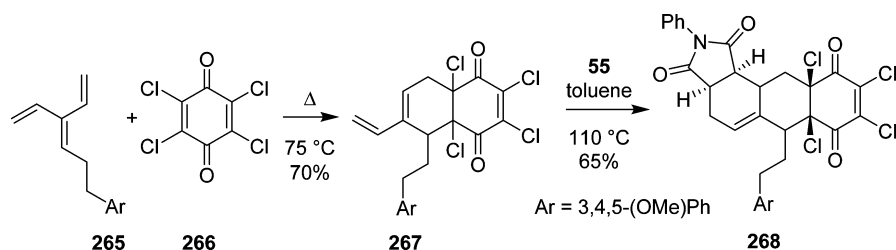
such as Sc(OTf)₃ and TMSCN gave the target molecule 253 (Scheme 41).

Another interesting application of dendralene involving cycloaddition reaction has been reported. To this end, Sherburn et al. disclosed the first heteroatom-based cycloaddition to [3]dendralene.⁷⁰ Vasella's nitroso-sugar 254 on reaction with the [3]dendralene 5 gave bicyclicoxazine 255, then the protection, diastereoselective dihydroxylation, and deprotection/ring-opening/*N*-methylation furnished an enantiomerically pure (+)-diaminotetrol 258 (Scheme 42).

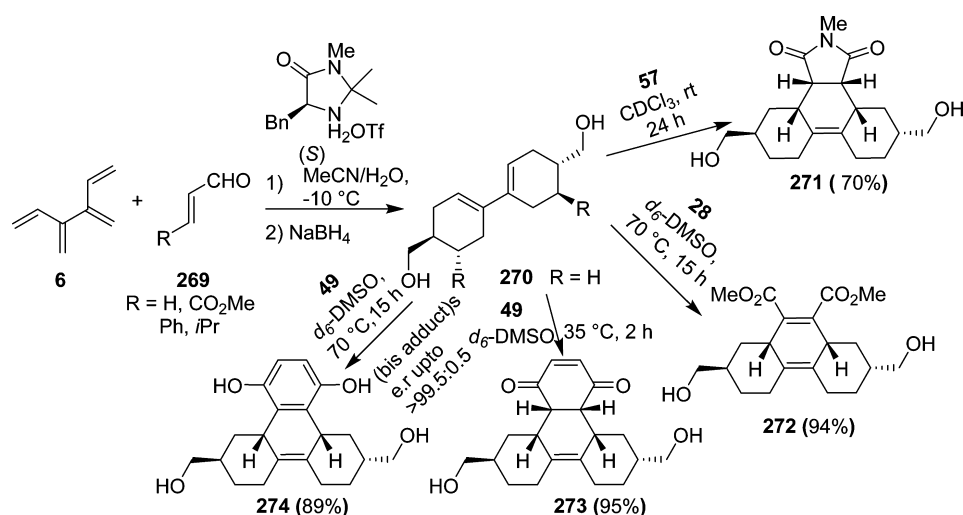
A new approach to the synthesis of [3]dendralene derivative 260 was reported from the (*Z*) 3-bromopentadienyltrimethylsilane via the formation of alcohol 259. Later, the dendralenes 260 with different activated dienophiles on tandem DA reaction delivered the tetracyclic structures 261–264 as a single diastereomer (Scheme 43).⁷¹ Similarly, the double DA reaction of the dendralene 265 gave a single diastereomer, 268, in moderate yield (Scheme 44).

Organo-catalyzed cascade involving two DA reactions was reported by Sherburn and co-workers.⁷² The [4]dendralene 6 was reacted with acrolein 269, and further reduction of the DA adduct with sodium borohydride furnished a bicyclic building

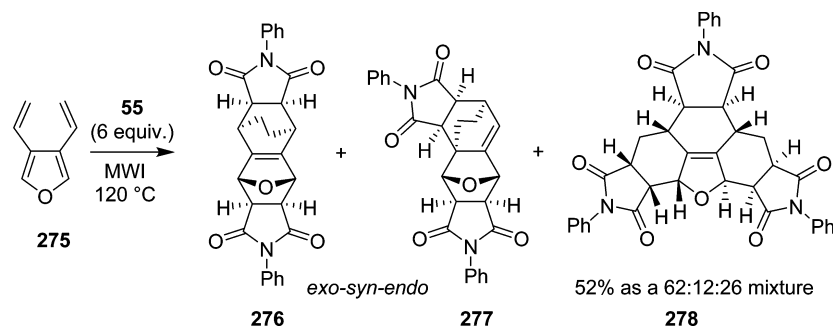
Scheme 44. Double DA Reaction on the Dendralene 265



Scheme 45. DA Reactions of Dendralene 6



Scheme 46. Tandem DA Reaction of Furan-Containing Dendralene with Maleimide



block, **270**, with four new C–C bonds. A similar reaction was observed with [6]- and [8]-dendralene, and the products were obtained in very high enantioselectivity, in accordance with the Horeau principle.⁷³ The bicyclic compound **270** reacted readily with various dienophiles, such as *N*-methylmaleimide (**57**), DMAD (**28**), and 1,4-benzoquinone (**49**), to generate enantiomerically enriched triple cycloadducts **271**–**274**, multicyclic systems containing aliphatic and aromatic rings, in high yield (Scheme 45).

Paddon-Row and co-workers have reported a tandem DA reactions of furan-based dendralenes with the maleimide under microwave irradiation conditions.⁷⁴ To this end, the furanodendralenes, 3,4-divinylfuran **275** was synthesized from 3,4-dibromofuran and vinyl magnesium bromide by the nickel-catalyzed Kumada–Tamao–Corriu cross-coupling reaction. Thus, the microwave-assisted DA reaction of furanodendralene **275** with *N*-phenylmaleimide (**55**) gave three different DA products, such as **276**–**278**. Products **276** and **277** were formed

through the DA reaction, followed by 6π -electrocyclization and subsequent DA reaction. The product **278** was formed as a single stereoisomer through a triple DA sequence (Scheme 46).

OUTER-RING DIENES

Outer-ring dienes are useful to generate linearly fused aromatics. The general approaches for their preparation are shown in Figure 6. General methods toward the preparation of outer-ring dienes include the coupling of diiodo derivatives with active methylene compounds,⁷⁵ CEM of cyclic alkynes with alkene,¹⁸ iridium-catalyzed cycloisomerization of enyne substrate,⁷⁹ and elimination reactions (Figure 6).

Indane is an important structural unit present in several bioactive targets. Indane-based AAA is considered a constrained analog of phenylalanine. Various approaches to the indane-based AAA derivatives have been demonstrated by strategic utilization of metathesis, [2 + 2 + 2] cyclotrimerization, and the DA reaction as key steps. On the basis of this, it was shown that

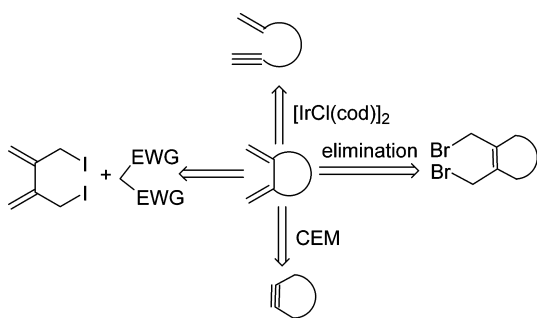


Figure 6. General approaches to outer-ring dienes.

the DA approach involving the 5-membered outer-ring diene is useful to generate linearly annulated and highly functionalized indane-based AAA derivatives, and it is applicable to generate molecular diversity.⁷⁵ In this regard, a five-membered outer-ring diene containing AAA building block **282** was prepared by simple synthetic transformations from 2,3-dimethyl-1,3-butadiene. The tetrabromide **279** was prepared by 1,4-addition of bromine to 2,3-dimethyl-1,3-butadiene, followed by allylic bromination of 1,4-addition product, and then it was converted to the diiodo compound **280** by reductive debromination. Later, alkylation of EICA (**91**) with the diiodo compound **280** gave the diene **281**, which was hydrolyzed, and the amino functionality was protected with an acetyl group. Then the DA reaction of this diene **282** with various dienophiles delivered the expected DA adducts, which on oxidation with DDQ gave conformationally constrained indane-based AAA derivatives **283** (Scheme 47).

To expand new synthetic strategies to spirocyclics,⁷⁶ a key diene building block, **285**, was prepared by direct alkylation of the 1,3-indanedione (**284**) with 2,3-bis(iodomethyl)buta-1,3-diene (**280**) under PTC conditions. Treatment of the diene **285** with various dienophiles under toluene reflux conditions gave the aromatized products **286** without involvement of any oxidizing agent (Scheme 48).⁷⁷ This strategy may be extended for the synthesis of various indane-based biologically active molecules.

The seven-membered outer-ring diene was also prepared via double ortho ester Claisen rearrangement of 2-butyne-1,4-diol (**287**) with triethyl orthoacetate (Scheme 49).⁷⁵ The reduction of the ester **288** with LAH, followed by tosylation, gave the ditosylate **289**, then the ditosylate **289** was treated with sodium iodide in acetone to generate the diiodo compound **290**. Later, alkylation of EICA (**91**) with the diiodo compound **290** under PTC conditions gave the required coupling product **291**, which

was hydrolyzed, and the amino functionality was protected with an acetyl group. Further, the DA reaction of the diene **292** with three dienophiles delivered the expected DA adducts, which on dehydrogenation with DDQ gave conformationally constrained benzocycloheptane-based AAA derivatives **293**. The synthesis of these AAA derivatives is not easy by conventional methods, such as the Bucherer–Burgs method, because preparation of the required keto precursor is not a trivial exercise. By utilizing a similar strategy, one can generate a library of linearly fused unnatural AAA derivatives or polycycles in an efficient manner.

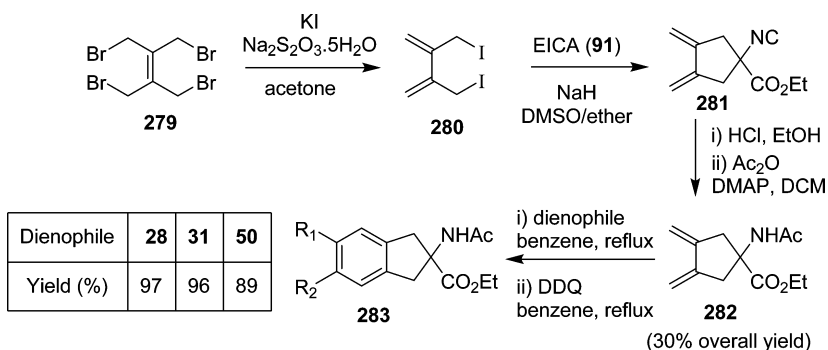
Recently, we reported a crownophane-based diene, such as **295**, by CEM starting from the commercially available dihydroxybenzenes in two steps (Scheme 50 and 51).⁷⁸ The diene **295** was generated by CEM of the corresponding diacetylenic derivative **294**, and the DA reaction of the diene **295** with DMAD (**28**) under toluene reflux conditions gave the cycloadduct. Subsequent aromatization of the cycloadduct with DDQ gave the crownophane **296**. Along similar lines, *ortho*- and *meta*-crownophanes were assembled.

Several crownophanes are reported by the application of the same protocol, and in this regard, the required diene **298** has been generated by CEM of acetylene derivative **297** using G-II catalyst under ethylene atmosphere. Later, the DA reaction of the diene **298** with DMAD (**28**) under toluene reflux conditions, followed by aromatization with DDQ, gave the functionalized crownophane **299** (Scheme 51). Along similar lines, *ortho*- and *meta*-crownophanes were also assembled.

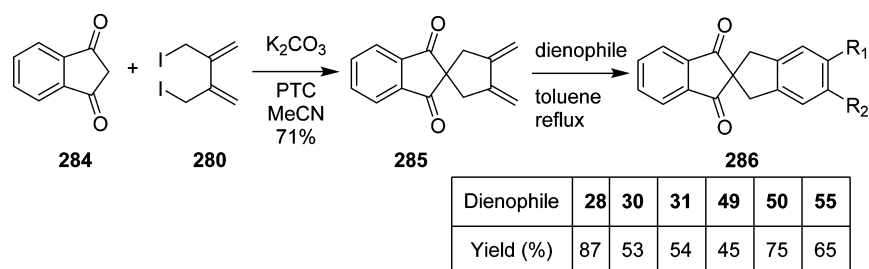
Yamamoto et al. have reported the synthesis of various polycyclic pyrrole-2-carboxylates, such as **306**, by a domino coupling relay approach. The key enyne building blocks **303** were prepared from the *N*-benzylallylamine (**300**), ethyl glyoxalate (**301**), and the alkyne **302** through Cu-catalyzed Mannich condensation, then the glycine-based enyne substrates on iridium-catalyzed cycloisomerization gave the exocyclic dienes, which were trapped in situ with *N*-phenylmaleimide (**55**) to produce a library of pyrrole-2-carboxylates **306** via the DA strategy (Scheme 52). Here, they have demonstrated a diversity in this sequence with several types of alkynes and other dienophiles, such as maleic anhydride **63** (52%) and 1,4-naphthoquinone **50** (35%), to generate various polycyclic pyrrole-2-carboxylates.⁷⁹

In Situ Generated Outer-Ring Dienes (*o*-Xylylene or *o*-QDM). *o*-Xylylene or *o*-quinodimethane (*o*-QDM) has attracted a considerable amount of interest in aromatic chemistry because of its high reactivity in the DA reaction. Various approaches to this transient intermediate include dehalogenation of α,α' -dihalo-*o*-xylenes and thermal or photochemical extrusion of stable molecules, such as N₂, CO, CO₂, SO₂, from the corresponding aromatic precursor or ring opening of

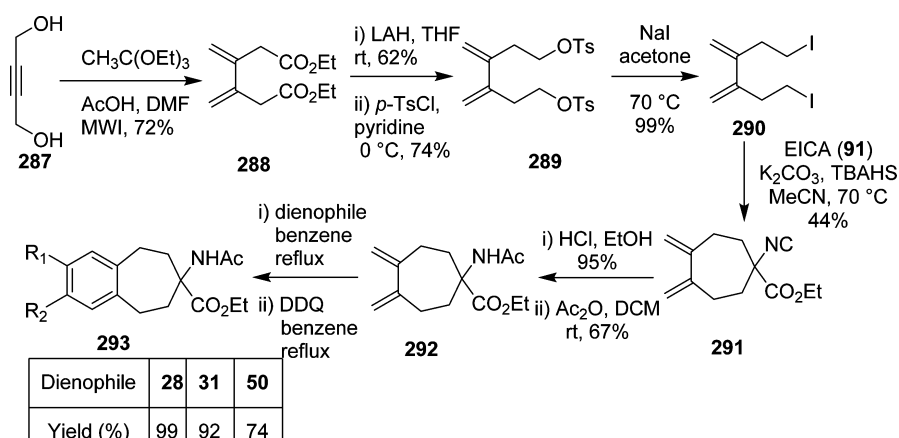
Scheme 47. Synthesis of Conformationally Constrained Indane-Based AAA Derivatives **283**



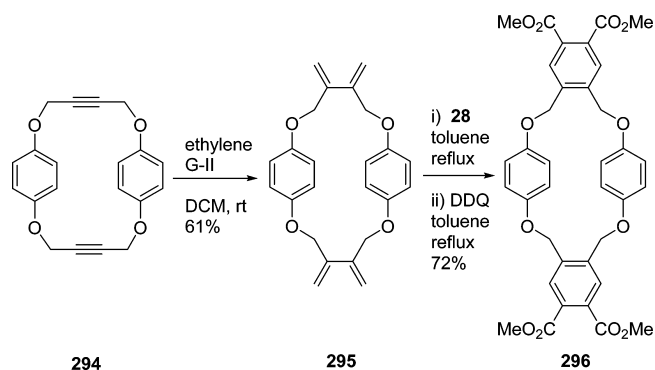
Scheme 48. Synthetic Strategy to Spirocyclic Compounds



Scheme 49. Synthesis of Conformationally Constrained AAA Derivatives 293



Scheme 50. Synthesis of Crownophane 296 by CEM and DA Approach

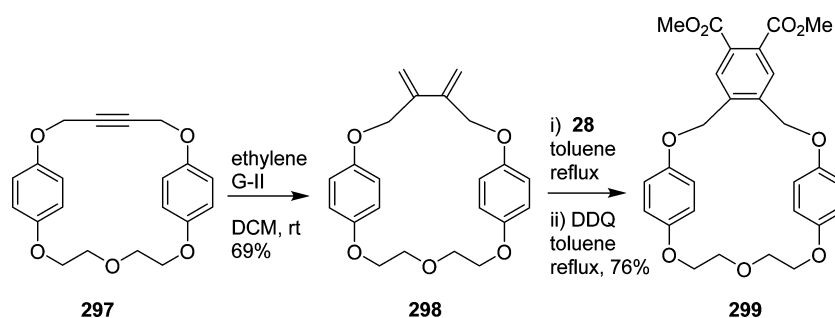


benzocyclobutenes (Figure 7).⁸⁰ In 1991, Hoey and Dittmer reported the synthesis of sultine derivative using rongalite ($\text{HOCH}_2\text{SO}_2\text{Na}$) under phase-transfer catalysis (PTC) conditions, and they have shown the generation of *o*-QDM at the

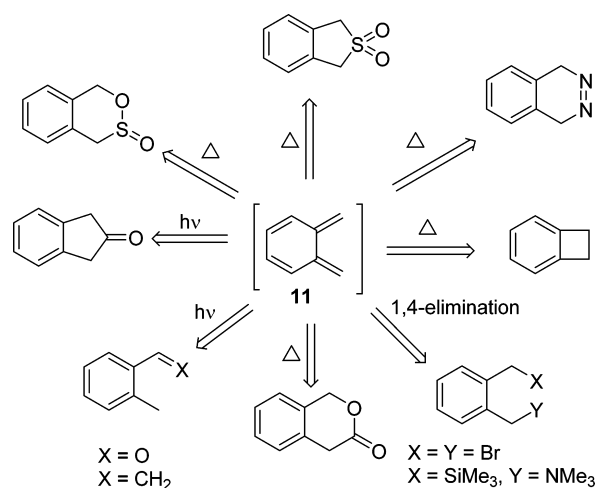
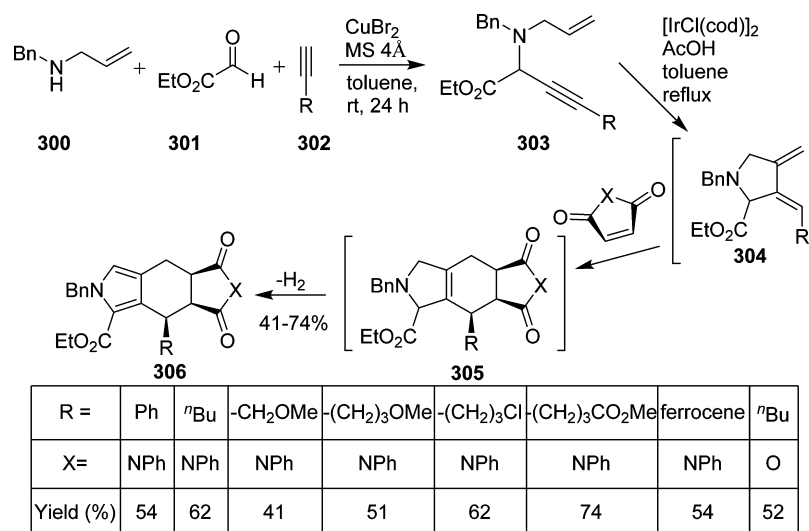
relatively low temperature of $\sim 80^\circ\text{C}$.⁸¹ Interestingly, the benzosultines and benzosulfones open up under mild reaction conditions, as compared with other *o*-xylylene precursors, such as benzocyclobutenes. In our studies, we have used some of these precursors extensively for the generation of *o*-QDM derivatives, and then they were trapped with different dienophiles in a DA fashion to generate the diverse polycycles.

To design various polycyclics and unusual AAA derivatives via rongalite,¹⁶ a tetralin-based AAA derivative (which is a constrained analog of Phe) has been prepared by the DA reaction between *o*-QDM precursor and methyl 2-acetamidoacrylate (36) (Scheme 53).⁸² The dienophile, methyl 2-acetamidoacrylate (36) is heat-sensitive, so the DA reaction should be carried out at a relatively low temperature. To this end, various dibromo compounds 307 were converted to the sultine derivatives 308 by treatment with sodium hydroxymethanesulfonate (rongalite), then thermal activation of sultine delivered the *o*-QDM's 309, which on reaction with methyl 2-acetamidoacrylate (36) gave the desired tetralin-based AAA derivatives 310. To produce a library of tetralin-based AAA derivatives, several sultine derivatives were

Scheme 51. Synthesis of Crownophane 299 by CEM and DA Approach



Scheme 52. Approach to Polycyclic Pyrrole-2-carboxylates 306 via DA Reaction

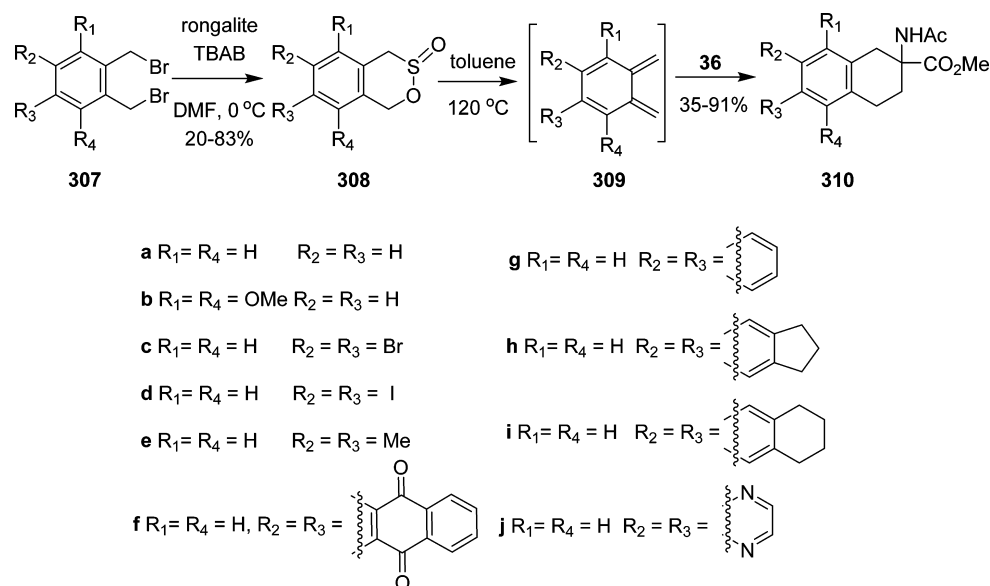
Figure 7. Diverse approaches to *o*-quinodimethane (*o*-QDM) intermediate.

assembled to generate the corresponding *o*-xylylene derivative, and later, they were trapped with methyl 2-acetamidoacrylate (36) to generate a variety of tetralin-based AAA derivatives. Our recent review has covered various other type of reactions using this building block, 36.^{17a}

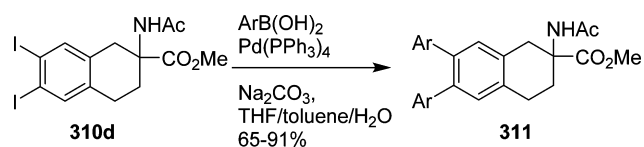
The AAA derivative containing halogen atoms in a benzene ring has been further modified by the SM cross-coupling reaction.³² The diiodo-substituted tetralin-based AAA derivative 310d was treated with various aryl and heteroaryl boronic acids to assemble highly functionalized unusual AAA derivatives 311 by a short synthetic sequence in good yields (Scheme 54).⁸²

Because the polyhalogenated compounds play a critical role in bioorganic chemistry, this DA strategy has been extended to these molecules. To this end, the polyhalogenated sultine derivatives 313 were prepared from bromomethyl derivatives 312, and their DA reaction with different dienophiles gave diverse polyhalogenated compounds 315–317. By utilizing this strategy, various polyhalogenated AAA derivatives 316 were prepared by

Scheme 53. Synthesis of Library of Tetralin-Based AAA Derivatives



Scheme 54. Modification of Tetralin-Based AAA Derivative 310d by SM Cross-Coupling



trapping the *o*-xylylene intermediate **314** with methyl 2-acetamidoacrylate (**36**) (Scheme 55).⁸³

To devise various synthetic routes to polycycles via the DA strategy and the SM cross-coupling, we started with diiodo-benzosultine **308d**, and it was prepared from the corresponding bis(bromomethyl) derivative **307d** involving rongalite. A SM cross-coupling reaction of **308d** with various aryl boronic acids gave different sultine derivatives **318**. Further, the DA reaction of these sultine derivatives **318** with two different dienophiles followed by aromatization gave the functionalized polycycles **320** (Scheme 56).⁸⁴

The DA reaction in combination with a [2 + 2 + 2] cycloaddition reaction has been used to synthesize various indane-based AAA derivatives.⁸⁵ The key precursor, indane-based sultine **324**, has been prepared from the dibromo compound **323**, which was assembled by [2 + 2 + 2] cotrimerization of the dialkyne building block **321** and the 2-butyne-1,4-diol (**287**). Here, use of the 2-butyne-1,4-diol (**287**) as a cotrimerization partner is critical to prepare the sultine derivative, whereas the DMAD usage generates a precursor that contains incompatible functional groups for the generation of the sultine precursor. Then, the DA reaction of the sultine **324** with different dienophiles gave various AAA derivatives, which on aromatization gave benzannulated AAA derivatives **326**. The indane-based sultine derivative **324** was also reacted with an amino acid-containing dienophile, such as methyl 2-acetamidoacrylate (**36**), to produce the diamino acid derivative **327** and also with fullerene (C₆₀) to generate the fullerene-based AAA derivative **328** (Scheme 57). Later, indane-based AAA derivative **324** containing the sultine moiety was converted to the sulfone derivative **329** by thermal rearrangement (Scheme 58). This methodology has been further utilized to prepare a library of highly functionalized indane-based targets. In another occasion, Roglans and co-workers used the same strategy for the synthesis of nonproteinogenic AAA derivatives.⁸⁶ Similarly, Dieters and co-workers used a [2 + 2 + 2] cotrimerization strategy for assembling various unnatural indanone derivatives.⁸⁷ Further, a

C₇₀ fused-indane derivative has been prepared by a similar approach because with its hydrophobic nature, one would anticipate several biological applications, and moreover, fullerene can also act as an electron sink.⁸⁸

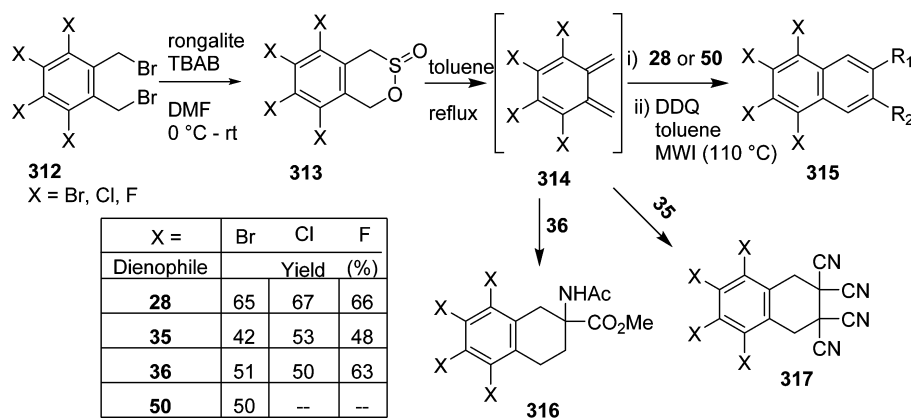
1,2,3,4-Tetrahydroisoquinoline-3-carboxylic acid (Tic) is an important, unusual AAA used in opioid receptor studies. In this regard, a sequential usage of [2 + 2 + 2] cotrimerization and a [4 + 2] cycloaddition strategy have been extended to generate various Tic-based AAA derivatives (Scheme 59).⁸⁹ To this end, the Tic-based diol **331** was assembled from the 2-butyne-1,4-diol (**287**) and the dialkyne building block **330** by utilizing rhodium-catalyzed [2 + 2 + 2] cotrimerization. Then, the diol **331** was converted to the dibromide **332**, which on treatment with rongalite gave the sultine derivative **333**. Heating the sultine **333** produced the *o*-xylylene intermediate **334**, which on reaction with various dienophiles gave the corresponding DA adduct, which on aromatization gave a highly functionalized Tic-based AAA derivative, such as **335**. Recently, Dixneuf and co-workers reported various fluorinated Tic derivatives by utilizing a [2 + 2 + 2] cotrimerization approach.⁹⁰

Variation of the aromatic portion of the benzo crown ether moiety is not a trivial exercise. For this challenge, two crown ether derivatives were modified by the DA reaction using rongalite chemistry. To this end, the bis(bromomethyl)benzo-crown ether **336** has been prepared by bromomethylation of benzo-15-crown-5 ether, and then it was converted to the sulfone derivative **337** by using rongalite under PTC conditions. Heating the sulfone derivative **337** with various dienophiles delivered the annulated benzo-15-crown-5 ethers **339** in good yield without any oxidizing agent for an aromatization sequence (Scheme 60).⁹¹

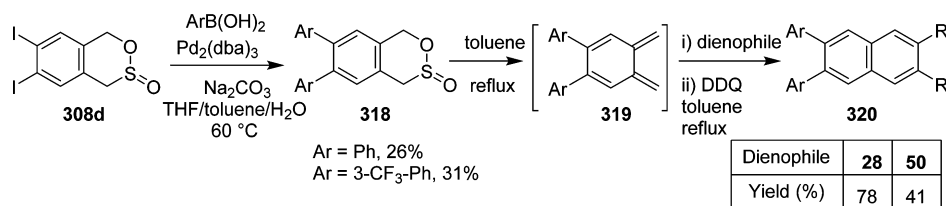
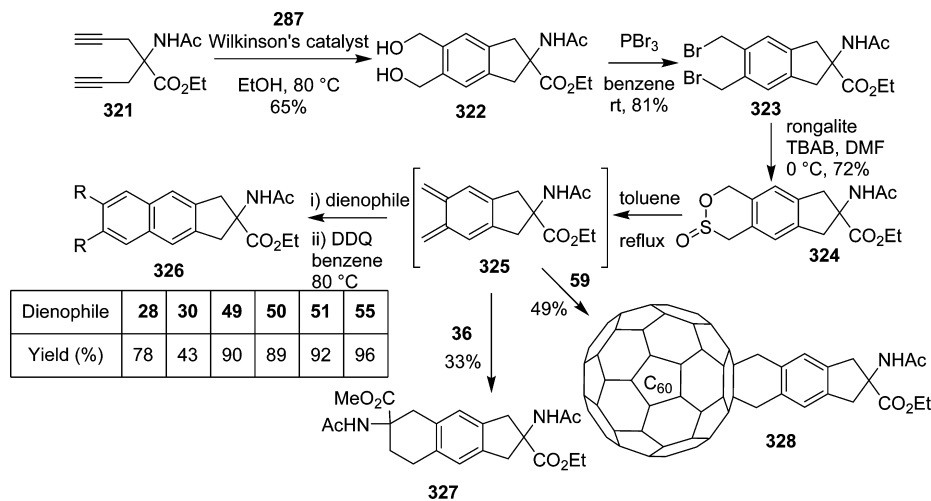
Along similar lines, we have also annulated the benzo-18-crown-6 ether via the DA reaction using rongalite (Scheme 61).

Design of hybrid molecules that are capable of generating *o*-QDM precursors in a sequential manner is of great interest for generating unsymmetrical quinone derivatives useful for material science applications. These hybrid molecules containing benzosultine, benzosulfone, and BCB moieties are embedded in the same molecule and, hence, are capable of producing *o*-QDM precursor selectively because benzosultine, benzosulfone, and benzocyclobutene open at different temperature. Therefore, three possible combinations were identified: BCB-sultine **344**, BCB-sulfone **346**, and sultine-sulfone system **347** (Scheme 62). By employing a temperature-controlled regioselective opening of one end of these hybrid molecules

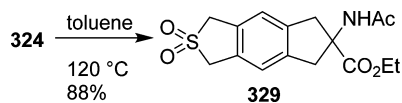
Scheme 55. Synthesis of Various Polyhalogenated AAA Derivatives 316



Scheme 56. Synthesis of Highly Functionalized Polycyclic Compounds 320 Using DA and SM Strategy

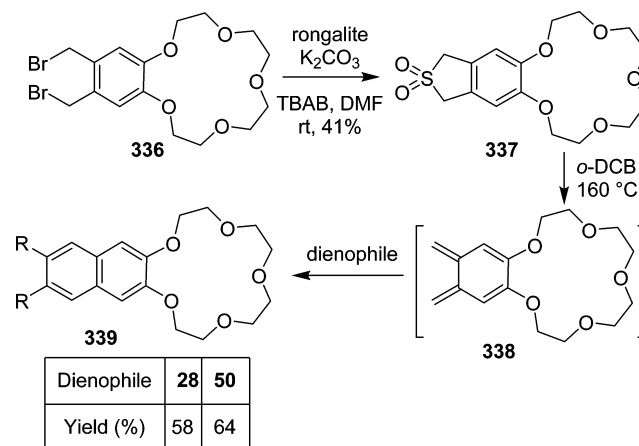
Scheme 57. DA Chemistry Involving *o*-Xylylene Intermediate 325

Scheme 58. Thermal Rearrangement of Sultine Derivative 324 to Sulfone Derivative 329

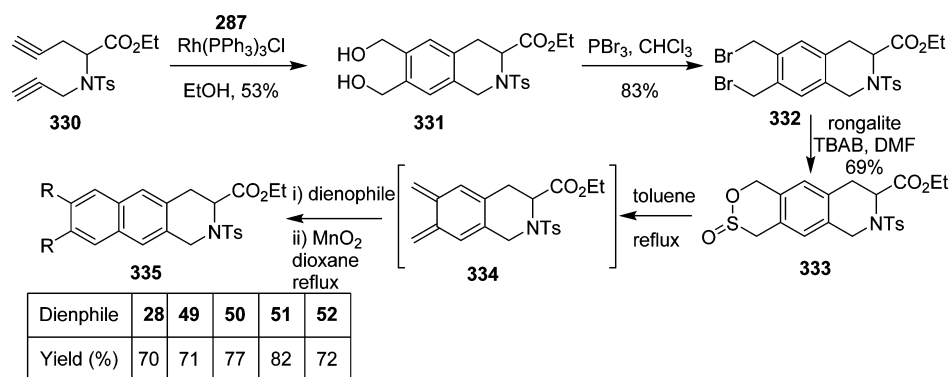


(344–347) and trapping the resulting *o*-xylylene intermediate with appropriate dienophiles, one can generate the BCB or sulfone-based benzannulated products. Moreover, these building blocks are also useful for the preparation of a library of BCB and benzosulfone derivatives. These are useful precursors for realizing a temperature-controlled DA reaction in a stepwise manner containing two different latent diene moieties. However, in the case of bis(*o*-QDM) precursors containing the same latent diene derivatives,⁹² a regioselective opening was not observed.

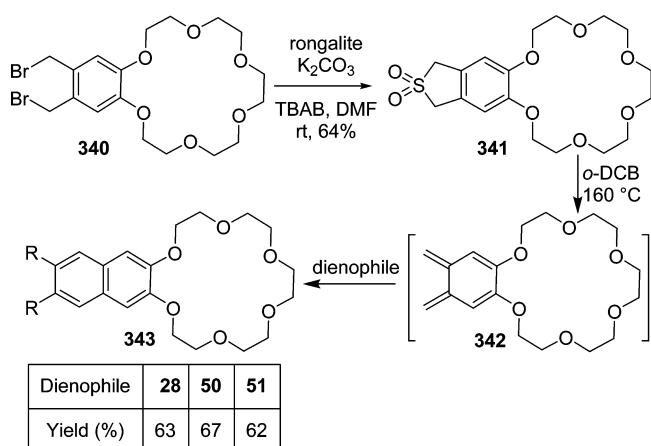
Scheme 60. Synthesis of Annulated Benzo-15-crown-5 Ethers 339 via 338



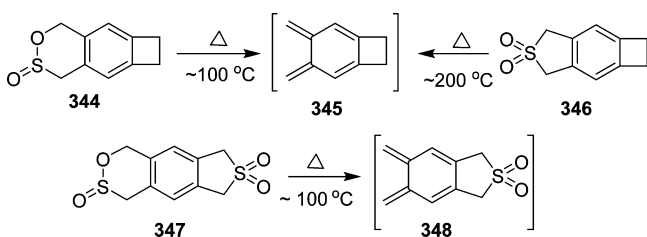
Scheme 59. Synthesis of Functionalized Tic-Based AAA Derivatives via 334



Scheme 61. Annulation of Benzo-18-crown-6 Ether via the DA Approach

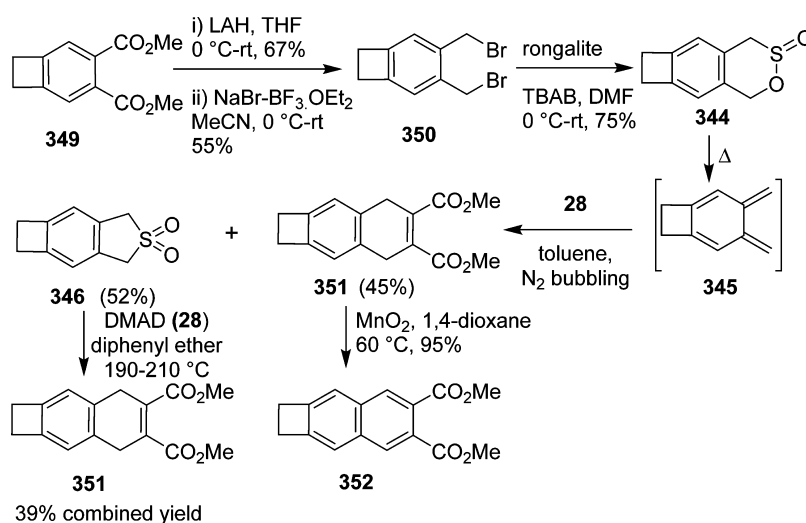


Scheme 62. Regioselective Opening of Hybrid Molecules 344, 346, and 347



Synthesis of BCB⁹³-based sultine 344 and sulfone 346 were assembled by a transition metal-catalyzed [2 + 2+2] cotrimerization as a key step.⁹⁴ To this end, the diester 349 was prepared from the respective dialkyne and DMAD (28), involving [2 + 2 + 2] cotrimerization under high dilution conditions. Subsequently, the diester 349 was reduced to the corresponding diol, which was converted to the dibromide 350, as a key precursor for the generation of BCB-based sultine 344. The dibromide 350 was then converted to the BCB-based sultine 344 by treatment with rongalite, and its regioselective DA reaction on the sultine side with DMAD (28) yielded the

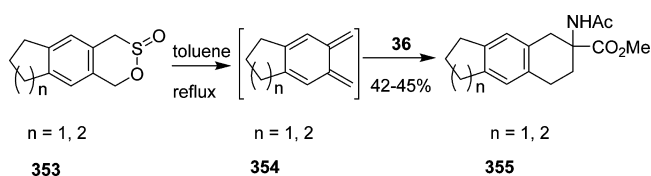
Scheme 63. DA Chemistry of 344



expected DA adduct 351 along with the rearranged BCB-based sulfone 346. Next, the BCB-based sulfone 346 was also treated with DMAD (28) at high temperature to obtain the same BCB-based DA adducts 351, which on aromatization with MnO₂ gave the benzannulated product 352 (Scheme 63).

The above strategy has been further extended to the synthesis of various annulated benzocycloalkane-based AAA derivatives by utilizing the corresponding dialkyne derivative using a [2 + 2 + 2] cotrimerization step and the DA reaction of sultine derivative 353 with methyl 2-acetamidoacrylate (36) to generate the unusual AAA derivatives 355 (Scheme 64).⁹⁵

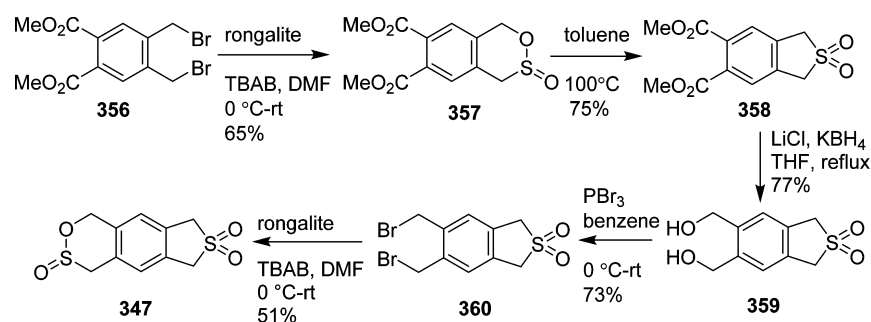
Scheme 64. Synthesis of Benzocycloalkane-Based AAA Derivatives



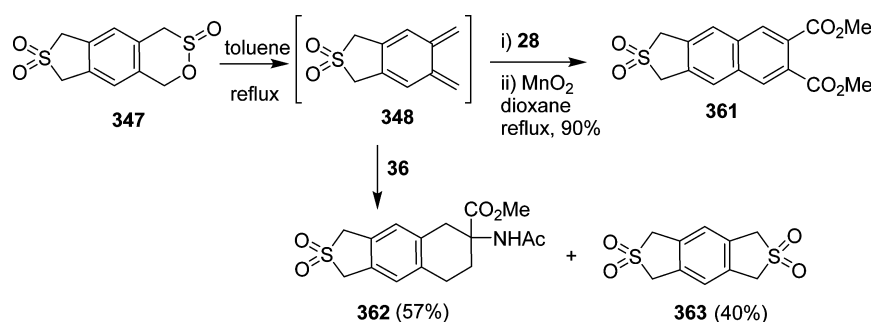
To design bis(*o*-QDM) precursors, another key building block was assembled from the bis(bromomethyl) compound 356, which can be prepared either from 108 or from the DA reaction of 2,3-dimethyl-1,3-butadiene and DMAD (28), followed by the benzylic bromination of the aromatized DA product. Later, the dibromide 356 was treated with rongalite to generate the sultine derivative 357. Subsequently, it was rearranged to sulfone 358 by heating in toluene in the absence of a dienophile. A selective reduction of ester groups present in 358 in the presence of sulfone moiety was achieved by using KBH₄/LiCl in refluxing THF to produce the diol 359. The diol containing sulfone 359 was treated with phosphorus tribromide to deliver the dibromosulfone 360. Finally, the dibromide 360 was converted to the target benzosultine-sulfone building block 347 by treatment with rongalite (Scheme 65).³⁰

Next, a regioselective opening of the sultine portion of the hybrid molecule 347 and trapping of the resulting *o*-xylylene intermediate 348 in a DA fashion with DMAD (28) or methyl-2-acetamidoacrylate (36) produced the corresponding sulfone-based building blocks (361–362). These sulfone derivatives 361 and 362 can be further utilized to design various

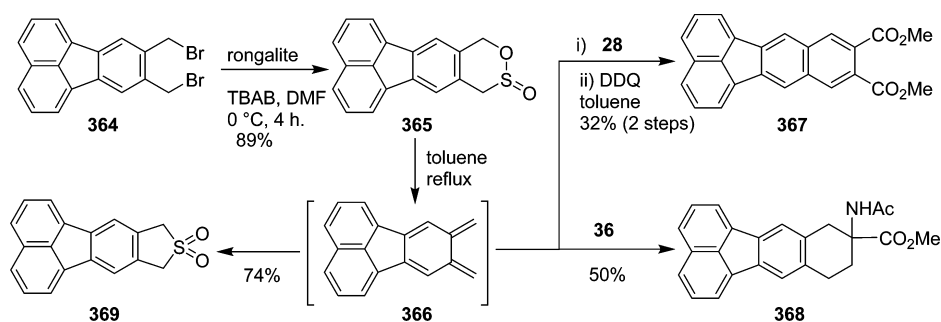
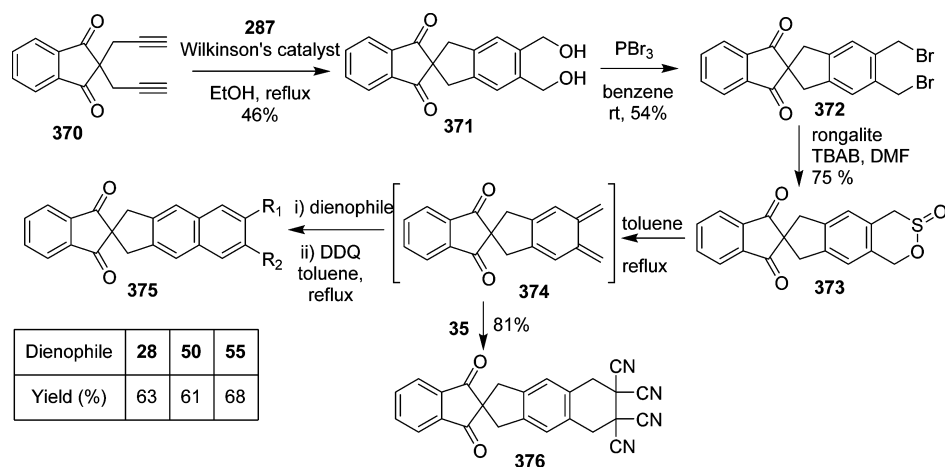
Scheme 65. Synthesis of Benzosultine-sulfone Building Block 347



Scheme 66. Regioselective DA Reaction of the Building Block 347



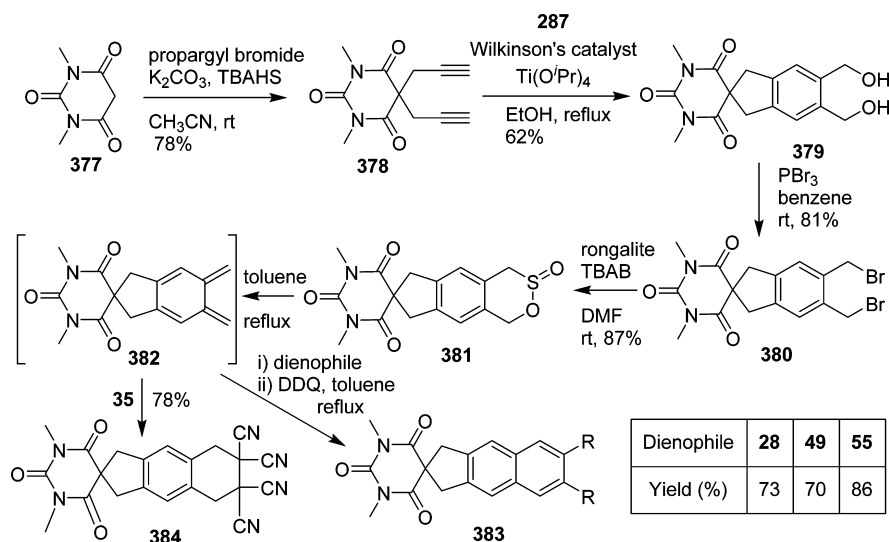
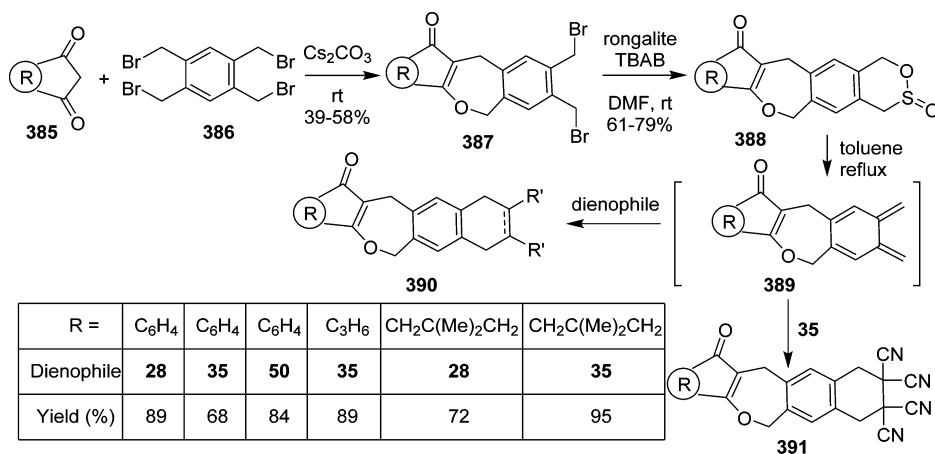
Scheme 67. DA Chemistry of 365

Scheme 68. DA Reactions of the *o*-Xylylene Intermediate 374

polycyclics (Scheme 66). The DA reaction with methyl-2-acetamidoacrylate (**36**) gave the disulfone **363** as a side product due to the low reactivity of the dienophile.

Fluorene-fused polycyclics exhibit interesting photochemical and electrochemical properties. Recently, we assembled

fluorene-fused sultine **365** from the corresponding bis-(bromomethyl) derivative **364** using rongalite under PTC conditions. Then, the DA reaction of **365** with DMAD (**28**), followed by dehydrogenation, gave the fluorene-fused diester **367** and with methyl-2-acetamidoacrylate (**36**) delivered the

Scheme 69. DA Reactions of the *o*-Xylylene Intermediate 382Scheme 70. Trapping of *o*-Xylylene Derivatives 389 with Various Dienophiles

AAA derivative 368. Later, the flouranthene-fused sultine 365 was converted to the corresponding sulfone derivative 369 by thermal rearrangement (Scheme 67).⁹⁶

We have also prepared the spiro diene intermediate 374 via sultine derivative 373. To this end, the diol 371 was assembled by a [2 + 2 + 2] cotrimerization of 1,3-indanedione-based dialkyne 370 and 2-butyne-1,4-diol (287) using the Wilkinson catalyst. Later, the diol 371 was converted to the corresponding dibromide 372 using phosphorus tribromide, then the dibromide 372 on treatment with rongalite gave the sultine derivative 373, which is a key precursor to the *o*-xylylene intermediate 374. Capturing in situ generated diene 374 with various dienophiles or subsequent aromatization of the DA adducts using DDQ gave the polycycles 375–376 containing the spiro linkage in good yields (Scheme 68).⁹⁷ Along similar lines, spirobarbituric acid-based *o*-xylylene precursor 381 has been prepared, and its DA reaction with various dienophiles was also reported (Scheme 69).⁹⁸

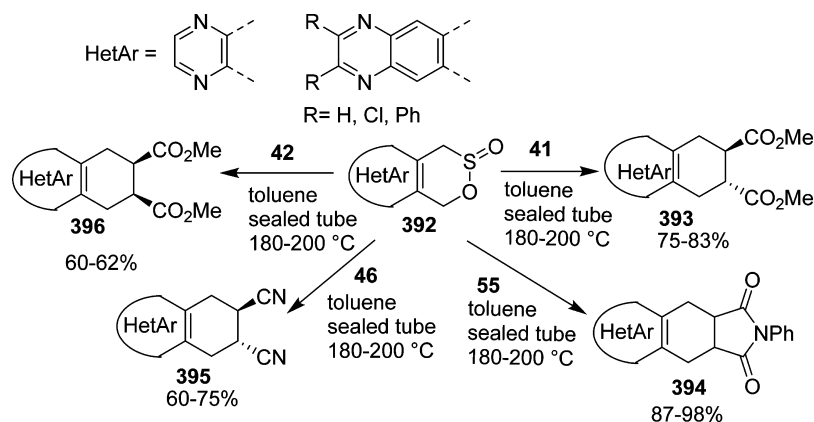
To expand the spiro strategy with the tetrabromide 386, we attempted to dialkylate the 1,3-diketo compounds, such as 385, using the tetrabromide 386 under basic conditions. However, in the case of 1,3-indanedione, 1,3-cyclohexadione, and 5,5-dimethyl 1,3-cyclohexadione, we isolated the *C* and *O*-alkylated products 387, then the dibromides 387 were converted to the

corresponding sultine derivatives 388 by rongalite under PTC conditions, and later heating of these sultine derivatives gave the diene intermediates 389. Subsequent trapping of *o*-xylylene derivatives 389 with different dienophiles, such as DMAD (28), 1,4-naphthoquinone (50) and TCE (35), gave the expected DA adducts 390 and 391 (Scheme 70).⁹⁹

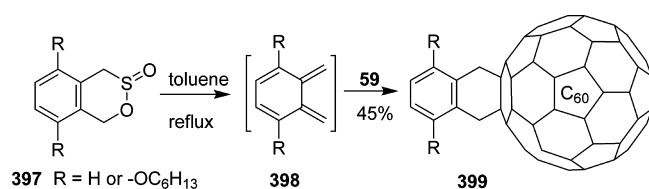
In 2000, Chung and co-workers demonstrated the DA reaction of heterocyclic *o*-QDM with electron-poor olefins and fullerene (C₆₀).¹⁰⁰ In this regard, the sultines 392 were heated in a sealed tube with various dienophiles to deliver the DA adducts (393–396) in good to excellent yields (Scheme 71).

Fullerene (C₆₀) and its derivatives have a wide range of applications in the material science, electronics, and nanotechnology areas. In 1995, Martin and co-workers reported methods for functionalization of the fullerenes by a microwave-assisted DA reaction involving a sultine intermediate under mild reaction conditions that involved generation of *o*-QDM at low temperature. Thus, the *p*-dialkoxy-substituted sultine 397 was prepared by using rongalite, and at a later stage, the sultine derivative was subjected to DA reaction with the fullerene in a microwave oven under toluene reflux conditions to obtain an electroactive fullerene derivative 399 (Scheme 72).¹⁰¹

Similarly, they reported the synthesis of several novel electron acceptor organofullerene derivatives by the DA reaction of

Scheme 71. DA Reaction of Heterocyclic *o*-QDM

Scheme 72. Synthesis of Electroactive Fullerene Derivative 399



fullerene with various hydroquinone sulfone derivatives. The sulfone derivatives **400** were subjected to the DA reaction under toluene reflux conditions to obtain the DA adducts **402**; the methoxy groups were deprotected with BBr₃ to produce the hydroquinone derivatives **403** and further oxidized with DDQ to deliver benzoquinone-C₆₀ adduct **404** (Scheme 73).¹⁰² This type of *p*-benzoquinone-C₆₀ adducts is the valuable precursors for the organofullerene acceptors derived from tetracyano-*p*-quinodimethane (TCNQ) and dicyano-*p*-quinodimethane (DCNQI).¹⁰³

Fillion and co-workers have reported one-pot synthesis of tetrahydrofluorenones **406** by a sequential usage of DA reaction and Friedel–Crafts acylation. The DA reaction of benzosulfone **308a** with various alkylidene Meldrum's acids **405**, followed by the Friedel–Crafts acylation, gave a variety of tetrahydrofluorenones **406** (Scheme 74).¹⁰⁴ By utilizing this strategy, they have prepared a library of tetrahydrofluorenone derivatives. Some of these tricyclic systems are basic structural units found in norditerpenoid natural products.

Yoshida and co-workers have used borylalkenes as efficient dienophiles in a cycloaddition reaction with *o*-QDM to generate diverse boryltetralins.¹⁰⁵ 2-[(Trimethylsilyl)methyl]-benzyl phenyl carbonate **407** was used as a precursor to generate *o*-QDM in situ, which when reacted with (*E*)-borylalkenes **408** gave the cycloaddition product, 3-substituted-2-boryltetralin **409**. The configuration between the alkyl or aryl and boryl substituent in the product **409** was found to be anti, which suggests that the (*E*)-stereochemistry of the dienophile was retained during the reaction sequence. The DA adducts **409** were aromatized using NBS or DDQ to 3-substituted-2-boryl naphthalenes **410** (Scheme 75), and further functionalization can be achieved by the SM cross-coupling reaction.

Further progress in the DA reaction of the *o*-QDM intermediate was expanded to an asymmetric DA reaction under chiral catalysis conditions by various groups in the past decade.¹⁰⁶ This aspect is well suited for the synthesis of enantiopure bioactive compounds under mild reaction conditions.

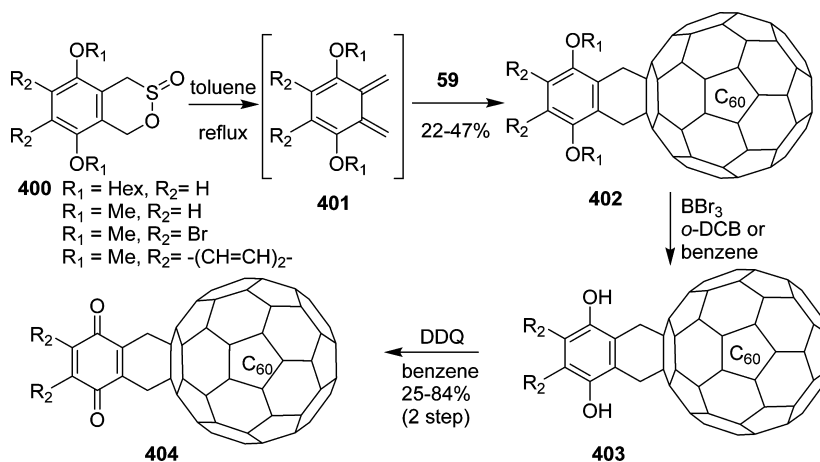
INNER-OUTER-RING DIENES

Inner-outer-ring dienes are critical in generating the angularly appended frameworks. The general methods for their preparation are shown in Figure 8. They have been assembled by various methods, which include RCEM of enyne substrate; methylation of ester-containing molecules with Tebbe reagent; Wittig reaction on conjugated aldehyde; and finally, the Grignard reaction, followed by dehydration of cyclic ketones.¹²

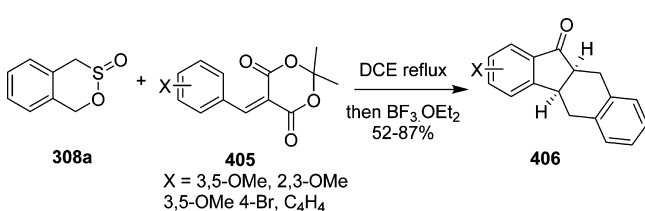
Because various indane-based AAA derivatives are useful building blocks in bioorganic and medicinal chemistry, we have designed diverse angularly substituted indane derivatives by EM and DA reaction as key steps. These derivatives were prepared by DA reaction of the key inner-outer-ring diene building block with different dienophiles. To this end, the enyne building block **412** containing an AAA moiety was assembled by propargylation and allylation of the Schiff base **68** under PTC conditions, followed by acid hydrolysis and amino group protection by an acetyl group; however, a stepwise allylation and propargylation of the EICA (**91**) under PTC conditions gave a low yield of the final product. The alkylated product **413** was then hydrolyzed, and the amino group was protected as an acetyl derivative to generate the key enyne building block **412** (Scheme 76). RCEM of the enyne building block **412** using the G-I catalyst gave the five-membered inner-outer-ring diene building block **414** in good yield. The diene **414** on DA reaction with a variety of dienophiles followed by aromatization using DDQ delivered an angularly substituted indane-based AAA derivative, **415** (Scheme 77).¹⁰⁷ The Undheim group has reported various enyne-containing AAA moieties by enyne metathesis.¹⁰⁸ By varying the dienophile moiety during the DA reaction, one can generate angularly fused, diverse, unnatural amino acid derivatives and polycyclic compounds.

Along similar lines, angularly substituted 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline-3-carboxylic acid (Tic) derivatives^{109a,b} were also synthesized by EM and DA reaction conditions (Schemes 78 and 79).^{109c,d} The enyne building blocks **417** and **420** were prepared from a Schiff base by a stepwise alkylation under mild reaction conditions. The RCEM of enyne building blocks **417** and **420** using G-I catalyst generates inner-outer-ring dienes **418** and **421**. Then, the DA reaction of these diene building blocks **418** and **421** with DMAD (**28**) and 1,4-naphthoquinone (**50**), followed by aromatization with DDQ, gave angularly substituted Tic derivatives **419** and **422** (Scheme 79). By this strategy, diverse Tic derivatives **419** and **422** were synthesized, which are not accessible by traditional methods, such as Pictet–Spengler or Bischler–Napieralski reactions.

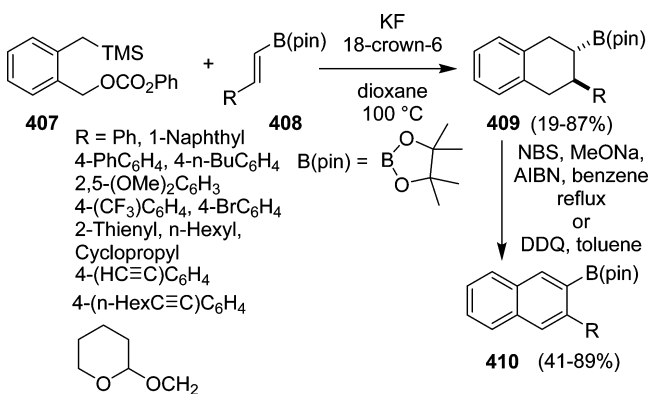
Scheme 73. Synthesis of Organofullerene Derivatives by the DA Reaction



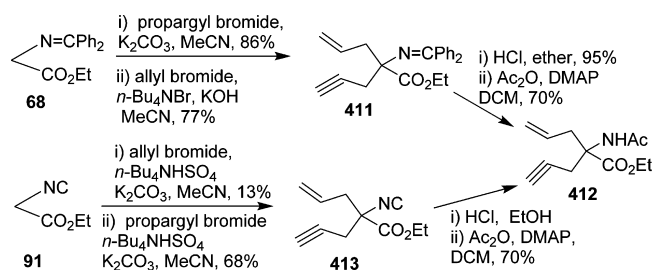
Scheme 74. One-Pot Synthesis of Tetrahydrofluorenes 406



Scheme 75. Synthesis of Diverse 3-Substituted 2-Boryl Naphthalenes 410



Scheme 76. Synthesis of Enyne Building Block 412



Later, a similar strategy was demonstrated to synthesize a higher analog of the Tic derivative by increasing the length of the alkenyl chain during the alkylation sequence (Scheme 80).¹¹⁰ To this end, the propargylated glycine ester **70** was *N*-alkylated with 4-bromo-1-butene under mild reaction conditions, and G-II catalyst mediated RCEM of the resulting enyne building block **423** gave the key inner-outer-ring diene **424**. Later, the DA reaction of the diene **424** with DMAD (**28**) and subsequent oxidation of the DA adduct with DDQ gave a highly functionalized and conformationally constrained AAA derivative, **425**.

Claisen rearrangement in combination with metathesis protocol is also an important strategy to assemble various polycycles.¹¹¹ To realize the diversity oriented approach to biologically relevant molecular frameworks starting from commercially available β -naphthol was reported (Scheme 81).¹¹² The enyne building blocks **427** were prepared in a three-step sequence involving the *O*-allylation of β -naphthol and the Claisen rearrangement of the *O*-allylated product, followed by *O*-propargylation. Then RCEM of enyne building blocks **427** gave the expected inner-outer-ring diene **428** in good yields. The DA reaction of these dienes **428** with different dienophiles gave annulated oxepine derivative **429**. This diversity oriented approach may find useful applications in design of druglike molecules.

Recently, we employed a RCEM for the generation of indane-based spirocycles.⁹⁷ In this regard, the enyne precursor **430** was prepared from 1,3-indanedione (**284**) by a stepwise propargylation and allylation sequence, then the G-II catalyst-mediated RCEM of **430** in the presence of Ti(OPr)₄ gave the expected inner-outer diene **431** in a moderate yield. The DA reaction of the diene **431** with various dienophiles followed by aromatization of the cycloadduct gave the indane-based spirocyclic compounds **432** in moderate to good yields. Similarly,

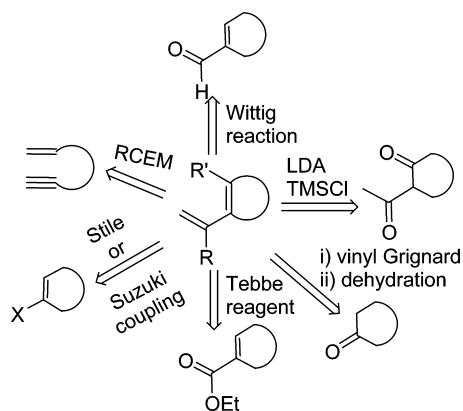
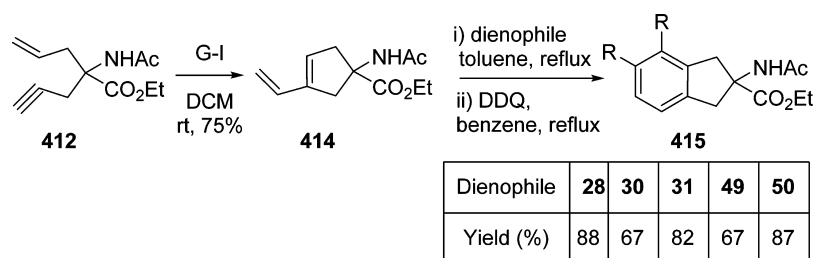
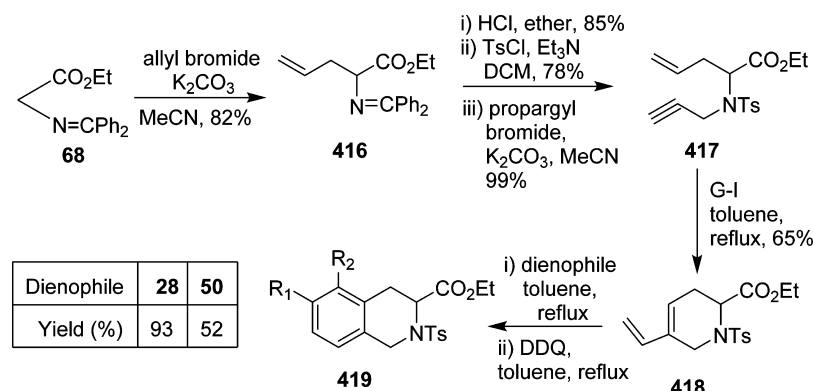


Figure 8. General approaches to inner-outer-ring dienes.

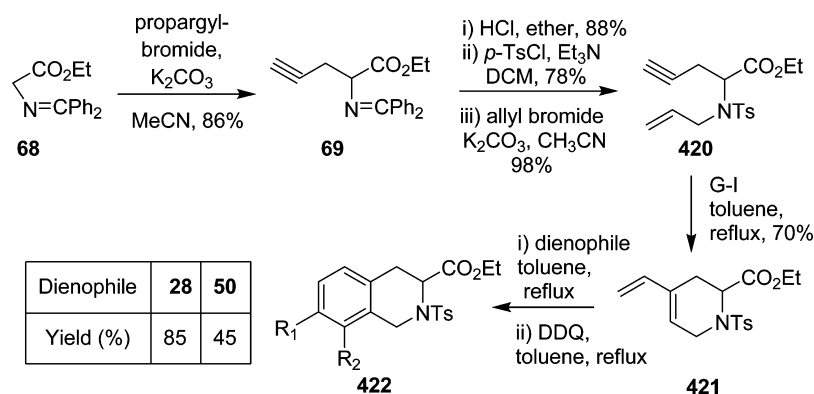
Scheme 77. Synthesis of Angularly Substituted Indane-Based AAA Derivatives 415



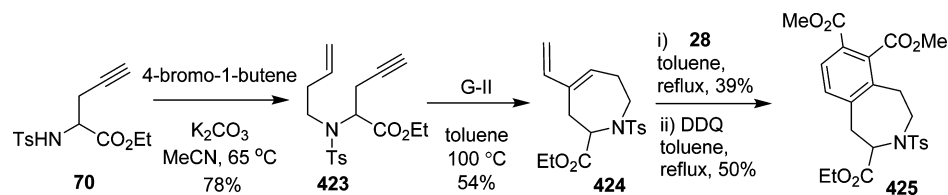
Scheme 78. Synthesis of Angularly Substituted Tic Derivatives 419 by EM and DA Reaction



Scheme 79. Diversity-Oriented Approach to Tic Derivatives 422 by EM and DA Reaction



Scheme 80. Preparation of Higher Analog of Tic Derivative



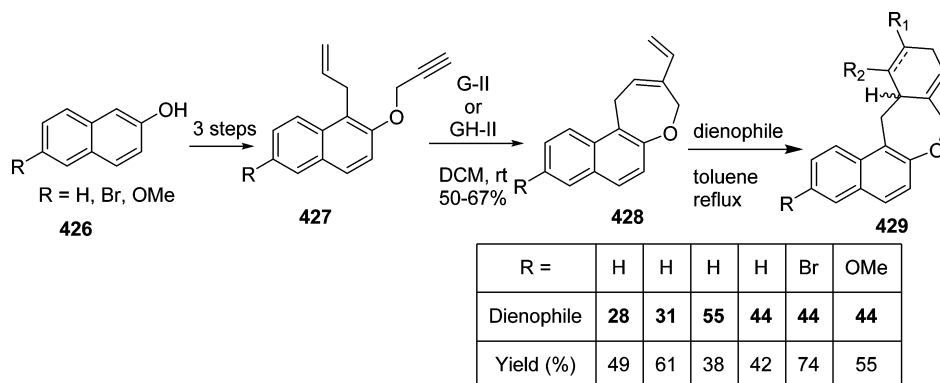
compounds 433 and 434 were assembled via the DA reaction of 431 with 35 and 62, respectively (Scheme 82).

Along similar lines, 1-indanone-based spirocycles were assembled by utilizing RCEM. Thus, the enyne precursor 435 was prepared starting with 1-indanone by a stepwise allylation and propargylation sequence, then the G-II catalyst-mediated RCEM of 435 in the presence of 1,5-hexadiene gave the inner outer-ring diene 436 in 52% yield along with another spiro diene 437 in low yield (Scheme 83).¹¹³

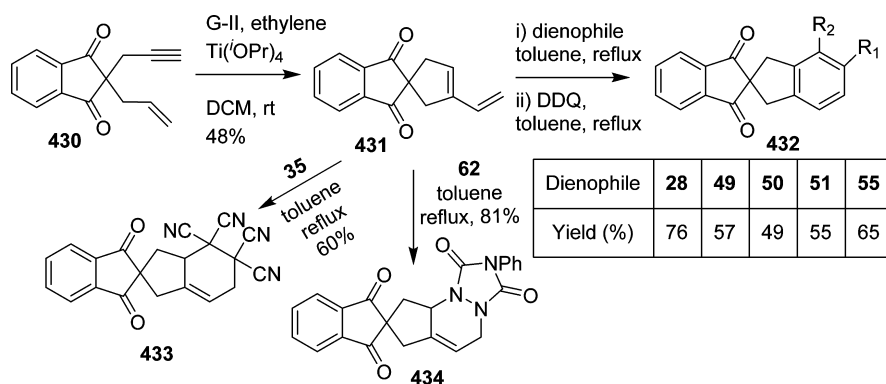
To expand these strategies to spirocyclics, RCEM and DA reactions were conceived as key steps, and in this regard,

various spiro dienes 439 were prepared using a variety of active methylene compounds (AMC's) such as diethyl maleate, 1-indanone, and α -tetralone. These enyne building blocks 438 were prepared by a stepwise allylation, and propargylation followed by RCEM using G-II catalyst in the presence of titanium(IV) isopropoxide gave spiro dienes 439. These spirodienes on DA reaction with DMAD (28), followed by aromatization of DA adduct, generated angularly annulated spirocycles 440. Similarly, these dienes on DA reaction with tetracyano ethylene (35) gave the expected spirocycles 441 (Scheme 84).¹¹⁴

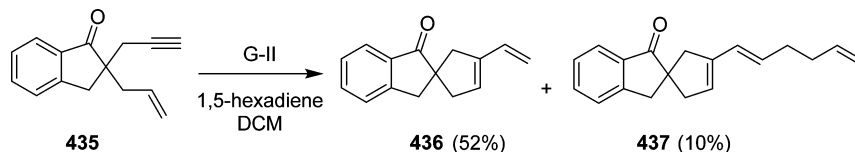
Scheme 81. Synthesis of Functionalized Oxepine Derivative



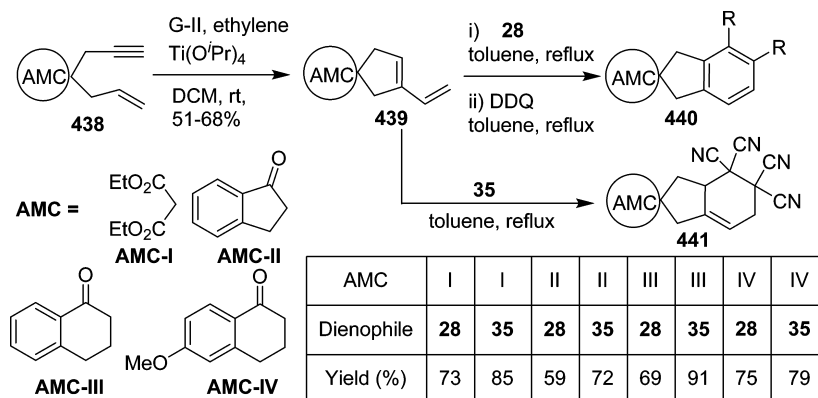
Scheme 82. Generation of Indane-Based Spirocycles by RCEM



Scheme 83. Synthesis of Spirocyclic Inner Outer Dienes 436 and 437



Scheme 84. Synthesis of Angularly Annulated Spirocycles 440 and 441

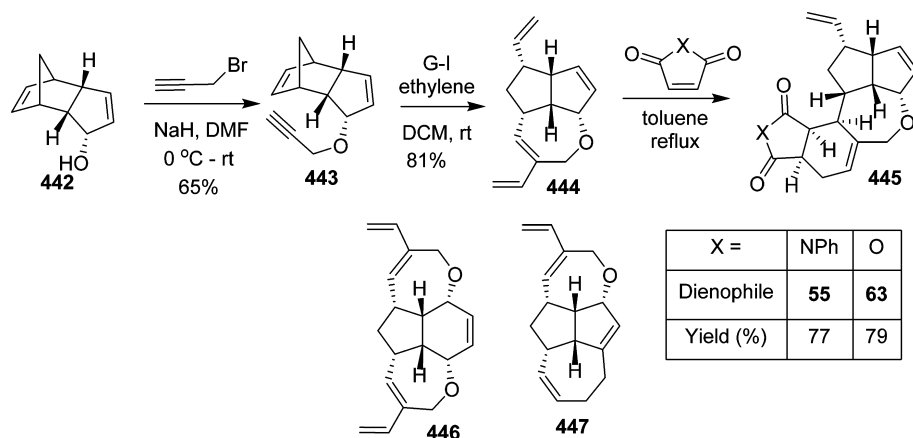


Ring-rearrangement metathesis can produce complicated polycycles in an imaginative manner. Recently, enyne ring-rearrangement metathesis (ERRM) has been reported to deliver the diene derivative **444** and its DA reaction with various dienophiles. In this regard, tricyclic propargylic ether **443** was prepared from tricyclic alcohol **442** and subjected to ERRM under ethylene atmosphere in the presence of G-I to obtain the ring-rearranged tricyclic diene **444**. Later, the DA

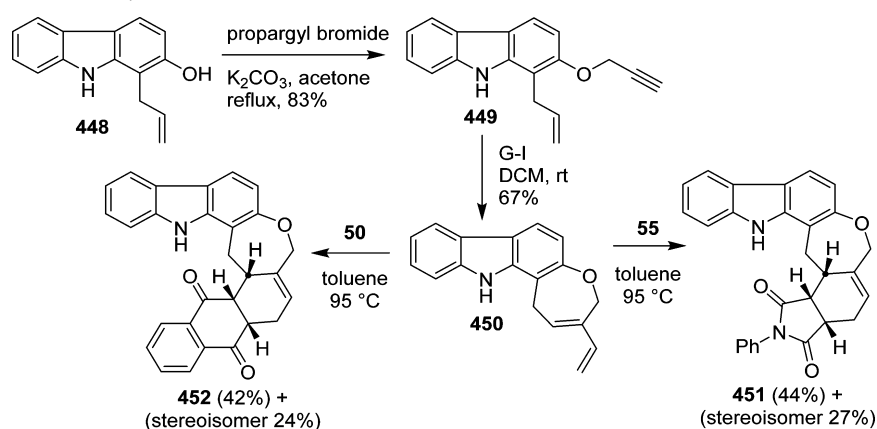
reaction of the tricyclic diene **444** with *N*-phenyl maleimide (**55**) and maleic anhydride (**63**) under toluene reflux conditions generated the corresponding DA adduct **445** in good yield. Similarly, we have prepared different dienes, **446** and **447**, by ERRM sequence, and **447** gave the corresponding DA adducts with *N*-phenyl maleimide (**55**) (Scheme 85).¹¹⁵

Chattopadhyay and co-workers have developed a new route to various carbazole derivatives via Claisen rearrangement,

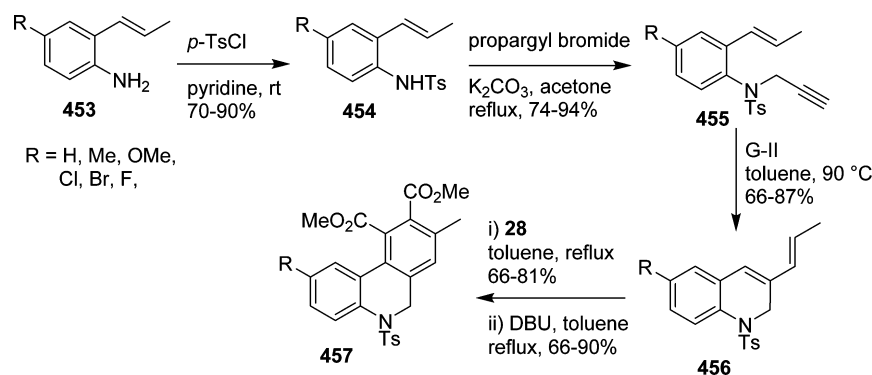
Scheme 85. Synthesis and DA Reactions of 444 and Related Compounds



Scheme 86. Synthesis of an Oxacyclic-Annulated Carbazole Derivatives



Scheme 87. Diversity Oriented Approach to Various Phenanthridine Derivatives



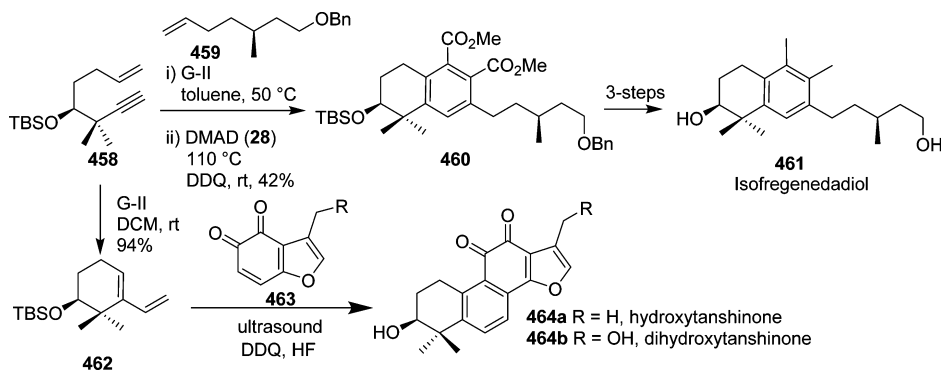
olefin metathesis, and DA reaction as key steps. To this end, the enyne building block **449** has been prepared from the corresponding hydroxyl derivative by a sequential allylation, Claisen rearrangement, followed by O-propargylation. Later, RCEM of the enyne building block **449** with G-I catalyst gave the expected diene **450**, which on DA reaction with *N*-phenylmaleimide (**55**) and 1,4-naphthoquinone (**50**) gave the corresponding DA adducts **451** and **452** as oxacyclic-annulated carbazole derivatives (Scheme 86).¹¹⁶

Chattopadhyay and co-workers have realized a diversity-oriented approach to various phenanthridine derivatives¹¹⁷ that is based on a sequential application of three atom-economic processes, such as aza-Claisen rearrangement,¹¹⁸ olefin metathesis,

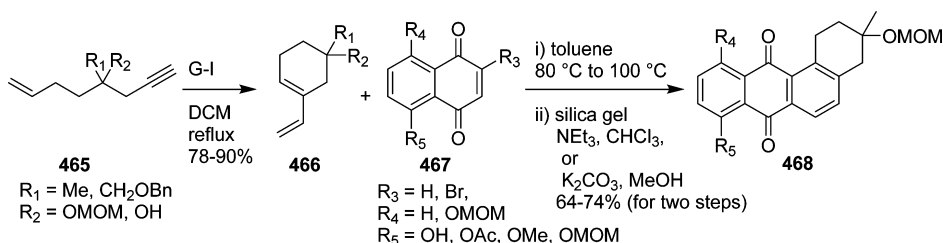
and DA reactions. Here, they have observed an unexpected isomerization of the double bond during the aza-Claisen rearrangement. They employed a tosyl group for *N*-protection of **453**. Later, *N*-propargylation gave the enyne building block **455**, which was further subjected to RCEM to generate the required diene **456**. Later, the DA reaction of this diene **456** with DMAD (**28**), followed by aromatization of the resulting DA adduct, gave the phenanthridine derivative **457** in good yield (Scheme 87).

Srinivasa Reddy and co-workers have reported the synthesis of tetrahydronaphthalenic diterpenic diol, isofregenedadiol (**461**) from *D*-(-)-pantolactone utilizing a tandem ring-closing enyne metathesis/cross-metathesis/DA reaction/aromatization

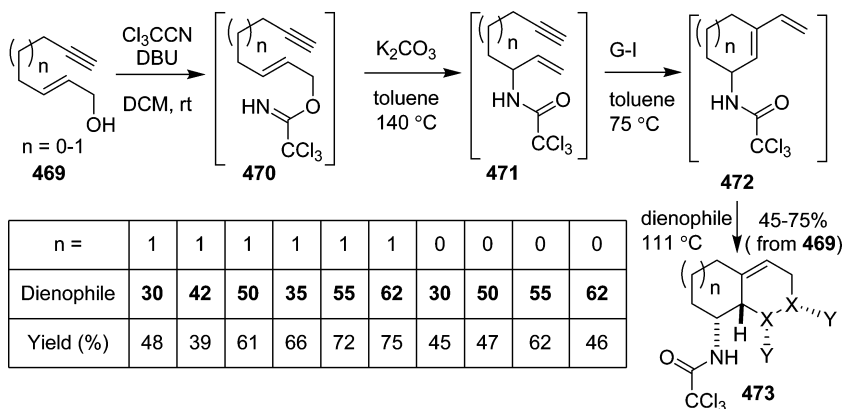
Scheme 88. Synthesis of 464a and 464b by Ultrasound-Promoted DA Reaction



Scheme 89. Synthesis of Angularly Fused Tetracyclic Quinone 468



Scheme 90. DA Reactions of the Diene 472 with Various Dienophiles



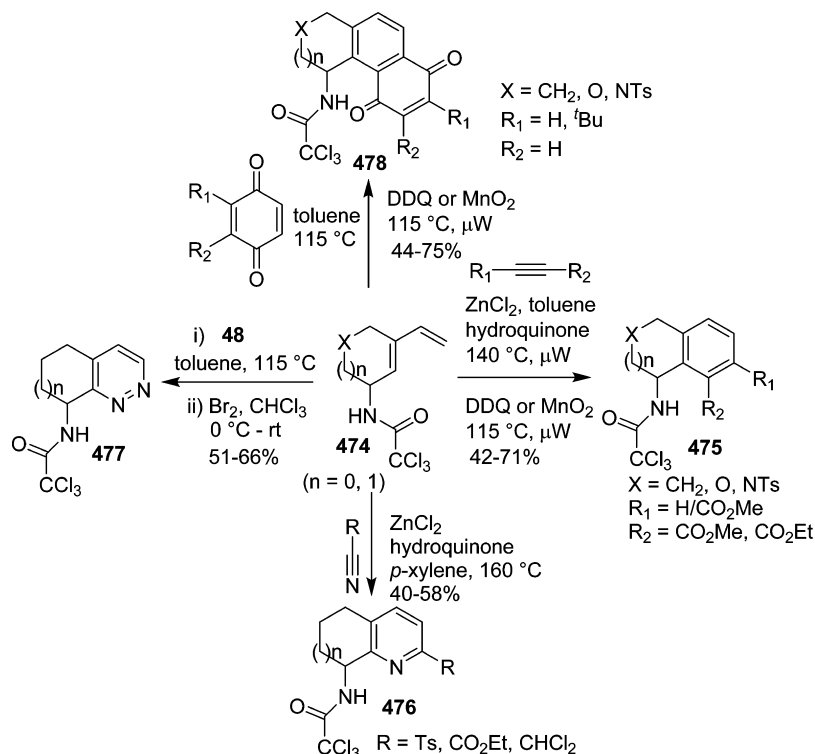
sequence.¹¹⁹ The required enyne building block **458** has been prepared from (–)-pantolactone and subjected to a tandem ring-closing enyne metathesis/cross-metathesis protocol with a long chain alkenyl ether **459**, followed by a DA reaction/aromatization sequence to give **460**, a precursor to isofregenedadiol synthesis. Subsequent synthetic transformations gave the naturally occurring isofregenedadiol (**461**). Further, they utilized this enyne building block **458** for the formal synthesis of hydroxytanshinone **464a** and dihydroxytanshinone **464b** by ultrasound-promoted DA reaction involving *o*-quinone derivative **463** (Scheme 88).

Recently, Vanga and Kaliappan reported the synthesis of angucyclinone antibiotics by utilizing a similar reaction sequence involving RCEM and DA reaction.¹²⁰ Here, they prepared various inner-outer-ring diene derivatives **466** by RCEM of the corresponding alcohol or the ether-based enyne derivative **465**, and then the DA reaction with functionalized 1,4-naphthoquinones **467**, followed by aromatization, gave the angularly fused tetracyclic skeleton **468** (Scheme 89), which on further synthetic transformation gave the angucyclinone antibiotics. These angucyclines have a benz[*a*]anthraquinone

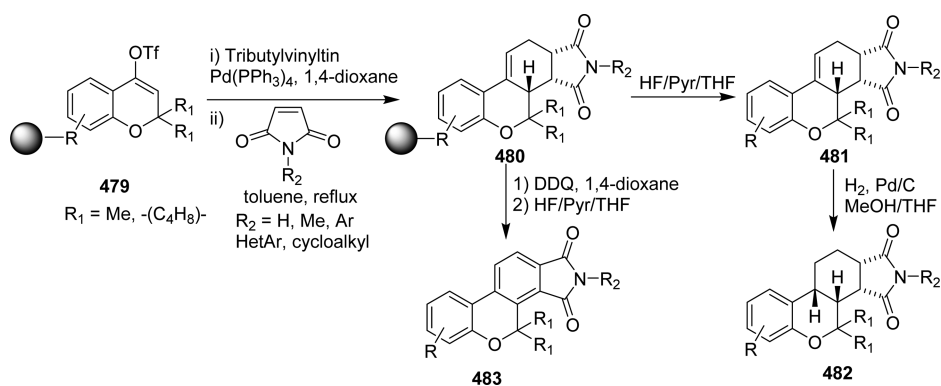
ring system as a common structural scaffold. The diversity involved in this synthetic sequence was introduced by carrying out the DA reaction of different enynes with various substituted quinones. Further, they extended the RCEM and DA reaction sequence to the synthesis of (–)-zenkequinone B.¹²¹

Recently, Sutherland and co-workers have disclosed a tandem process involving an Overman rearrangement, RCEM, and hydrogen-bonding-directed DA reaction for diastereoselective synthesis of functionalized amino-substituted tetralin and indane ring systems. To this end, the allyl alcohol **469** was treated with trichloroacetonitrile to obtain the trichloroacetimidate **470**, which on Overman rearrangement under thermal conditions gave the rearranged product **471** as a key enyne building block. Later, treatment of **471** with G-I catalyst gave the RCEM product **472**. Subsequent DA reaction of the resulting diene **472** with various dienophiles gave the final bicyclic product **473** as a single diastereomer in four steps (Scheme 90).¹²² These types of ring systems are present in many natural products, such as antitumor antibiotic, (–)-ptilocaulin, and the antibacterial family of hapalindole A.¹²³

Scheme 91. Synthesis of Amino-Substituted Indane, Tetralin, Pyridine and Pyridazine Derivatives (475–478)



Scheme 92. Synthesis of Benzopyrans



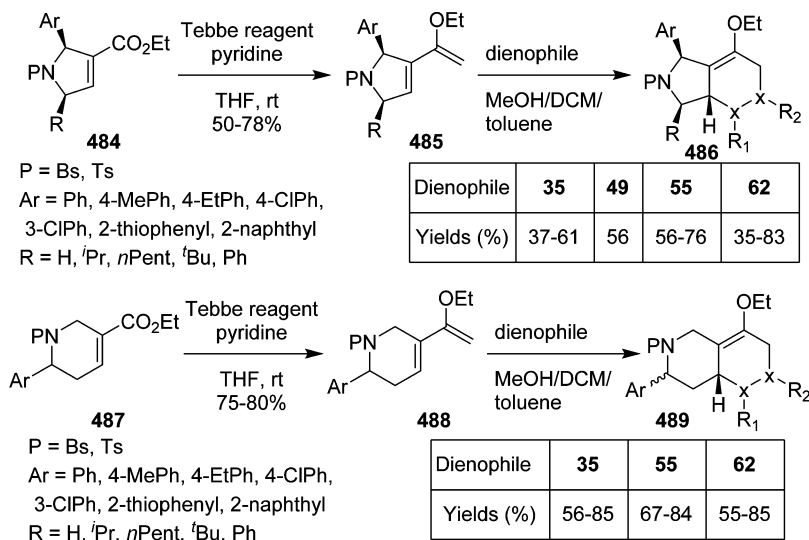
Along similar lines, this strategy has been applied to various indane, tetralin, pyridine, and pyridazine derivatives.¹²⁴ Further, the dihydropyran and tetrahydropyridine dienes **474** were utilized for the synthesis of heterocyclic compounds. Various diene derivatives containing an oxygen atom or *N*-tosyl group were synthesized by the same synthetic sequence, starting with a suitable precursor, then a regioselective DA reaction of **474** with activated alkynes (**28–30**), nitriles (**32–34**), azodicarboxylates (**48**), or quinones followed by oxidation gave a library of amino-substituted indane, tetralin, pyridine, and pyridazine derivatives (**475–478**) (Scheme 91).

Park and co-workers have investigated a diversity-oriented approach to polyheterocyclic benzopyrans via one-pot Stille coupling and DA reaction on a solid support. Thus, benzopyran-based vinyl triflate **479** has been coupled with tributylvinyltin, and the resulting diene was reacted with various maleimides to give an endo-selective DA adduct containing benzopyran derivative **480** with high diastereoselectivity. Later, they expanded the molecular diversity by transforming the

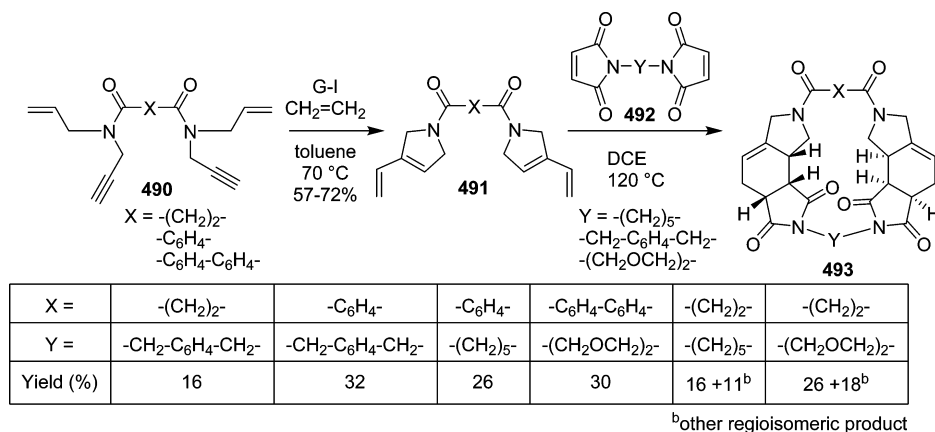
polyheterocyclic skeleton in two directions: Pd/C-catalyzed hydrogenation to **482** and DDQ-mediated oxidation to **483**. By utilizing this diversity-oriented approach, they have prepared a library of polyheterocyclic benzopyrans (Scheme 92).¹²⁵ Similarly, Bräse and Park's group independently prepared several polyheterocyclic benzopyran (chromene) scaffolds by a DA approach. Instead of using Stille coupling, the diene building block was prepared by the Wittig reaction with keto-substituted benzopyrans, and then the DA reaction with various dienophiles generated various polycyclic benzopyran derivatives.¹²⁶ The Park group has utilized Suzuki coupling by reacting vinyl boronate with bromo-substituted benzopyrans, and subsequent DA reaction with triazolinedione and maleimides gave a library of functionalized benzopyran derivatives.¹²⁷

In 2011, Kwon and co-workers demonstrated a diversity-oriented approach to a library of heterocyclic compounds.¹²⁸ In this regard, the pyrrolines **484** and tetrahydropyridines **487** were assembled through phosphine-catalyzed ring-forming reactions between the allenates and the imines. Later, Tebbe

Scheme 93. Synthesis of Heterocyclic Scaffolds 486 and 489 via DA Chemistry



Scheme 94. Synthesis of Macrocylic Scaffolds by Utilizing Two-Directional DA Reaction



olefination of **484** and **487** delivered the ethoxy dienes **485** and **488**. The DA reaction of these dienes **485** and **488** with various dienophiles gave the heterocyclic scaffolds **486** and **489** (Scheme 93). The DA reaction is highly stereoselective, yielding a single diastereoisomer. They also reported the synthesis of octahydro-1,6-naphthyridine derivatives by hetero-DA reaction with various imine dienophiles. The selective cycloaddition products were then converted to the keto derivatives by mineral acid treatment. In another event, the same group synthesized and screened a library of chemical probes that enhance innate immunity through endothelial cell activation.¹²⁹

Recently, Spring and co-workers reported an efficient strategy to a diversity-oriented synthesis of macrocyclic scaffolds by utilizing the DA reaction as a key step in a two-directional manner.¹³⁰ In this regard, amide-based dienyynes **490** were prepared by coupling the appropriate dicarboxylic acids with *N*-prop-2-ynyl allylamine. Later, RCEM of dienyynes **490** with G-I catalyst gave the required diene derivative **491**, then a double DA reaction of the diene **491** with various bis-maleimides **492** generated the macrocycles **493** (Scheme 94). Generally, a single diastereomeric macrocyclic product was isolated by endo-selective tandem DA reaction. However, in a few cases, endo as well as exo transition states were involved to generate the end products.

Tilve and co-workers have demonstrated a new approach to carbazolones by domino Wittig–DA reaction sequence.¹³¹ Indole-3-carboxaldehyde (**494**) was treated with phosphorane **495** to deliver a mixture of two diastereomers, **496**, in a 1:1 ratio. During a one-pot reaction, first the Wittig reaction takes place to form *E*-unsaturated ester **496**, which undergoes an intramolecular DA reaction to form **497**. Later, the intermediate **497** rapidly isomerizes to **498**, which on DDQ oxidation gave the final carbazole derivative **499** (Scheme 95).

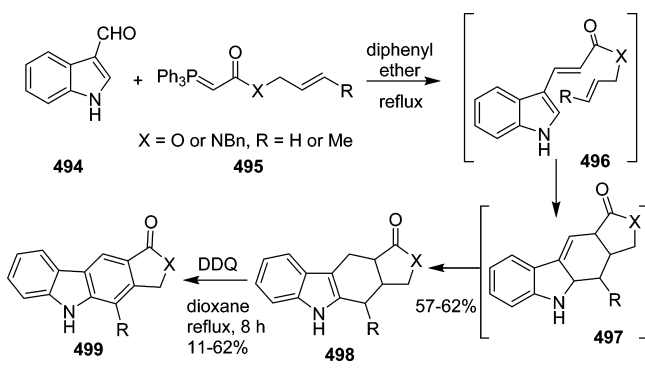
In 2013, Prajapati and co-workers realized a facile synthesis of iminoquinazoline-2,4-dione derivatives **503** (Scheme 96).¹³² In this regard, a solvent and catalyst-free DA reaction was performed with 6-(2-morpholinovinyl)-1,3-dimethyluracil **500**; cinnamaldehyde **501**; and an amine, **502**. The strategy has been extended for the synthesis of various iminoquinazolinones.

INNER-RING DIENES

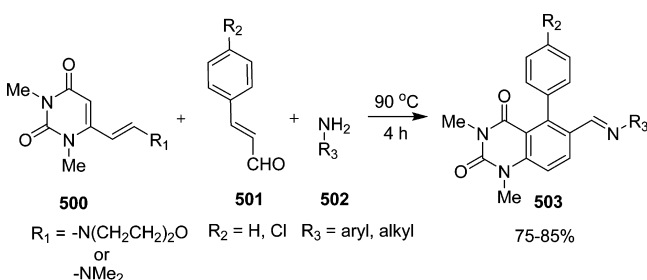
The cyclic dienes with conjugated double bonds within a ring belong to this class of dienes, and they are further subdivided into carbocyclic dienes and dienes based on aromatic systems.

A. Carbocyclics. In this class of dienes, systems contain conjugated double bonds involving a nonaromatic ring system. Typical examples include cyclopentadiene (**18a**) and 1,3-cyclohexadiene (**18b**). Pyne and co-workers realized the synthesis of (+)-(2*S*)-2-aminobicyclo[2,2,2]-octane-2-carboxylic acid salt

Scheme 95. Synthesis of 499 via Domino Wittig–DA Reaction Sequence

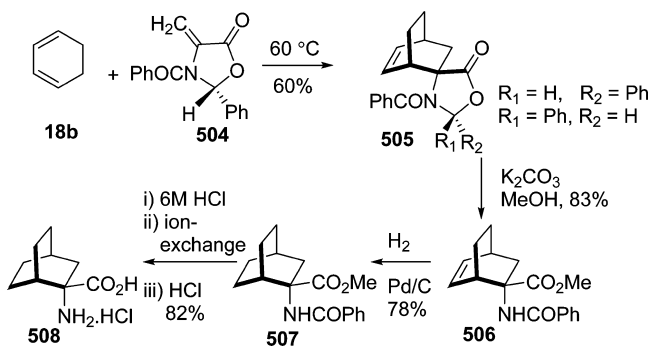


Scheme 96. Synthesis of Iminoquinazoline Derivatives 503 via DA Reaction



508 involving the DA reaction of a cyclohexadiene (**18b**) and oxazolidinone **504**. The DA reaction of chiral oxazolidinone **504** and cyclohexadiene (**18b**) afforded a diastereomeric mixture **505**, which on esterification with methanol gave the ester **506** as a single diastereomer. The diastereomeric mixture has been derived from a thermally induced C-2 epimerization during the DA reaction. Later, hydrogenation followed by acid hydrolysis afforded the amino acid hydrochloride salt **508** (Scheme 97).¹³³

Scheme 97. Synthesis of (+)-(2S)-2-Aminobicyclo[2,2,2]-octane-2-carboxylic Acid Salt 508



Park and Kurth demonstrated the synthesis of a bicyclic AAA derivative, 2-aminobicyclo[2,2,1]heptane-2-carboxylic acid from the cyclopentadiene (**18a**) and 2-phenyl-4-benzyliden-5(4*H*)-oxazolone (**509**). The DA reaction of cyclopentadiene (**18a**) and oxazolone derivative **509** resulted in spirooxazolones **510** and **511**, in which the endo/exo ratio is independent of the nature of the substituent. The spirooxazolones mixture separation was achieved by iodolactonization. Later, esterification with diazomethane and subsequent hydrogenation using 10%

Pd/C gave the saturated bicyclic AAA derivatives **512** and **513**. Finally, the free amino acids **514** and **515** were obtained by treatment with HCl and propylene oxide (Scheme 98).¹³⁴

In 2000, Nájera and co-workers synthesized new chiral amino acid derivatives **520** and **521** by the DA approach.¹³⁵ The dihydroamino acid derivative **516** was used as a dienophile in the DA reaction with various dienes to deliver the cycloaddition products **517–519**. Acid hydrolysis of the imine moiety of cycloadducts **518** and **519**, followed by catalytic hydrogenation of the double bond and subsequent hydrolysis of the ester functionality yielded the corresponding amino acid hydrochlorides **520** and **521**, respectively (Scheme 99).

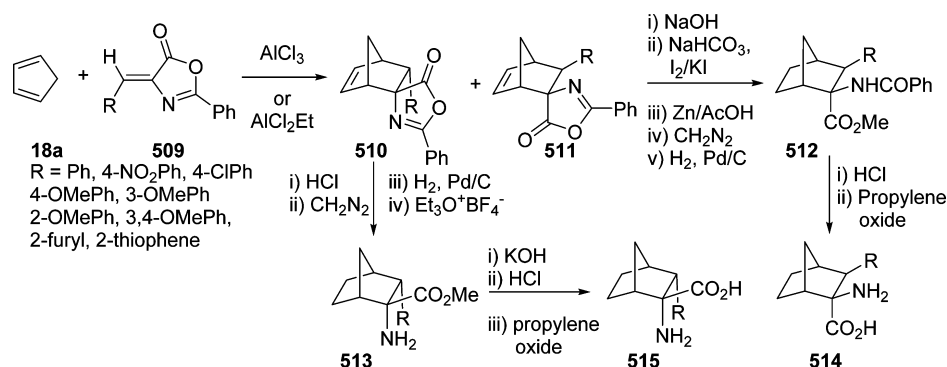
Recently, Kotha and co-workers realized the synthesis of bis-spirolactone by DA reaction as a key step. The cyclopentadiene (**18a**) on reaction with dimethyl maleate (**42**) gave the cycloadduct **522** as a bicyclic diester, then the diallylation of **522** using allyl bromide under basic conditions gave the diallyl diester **523**, which on treatment with mineral acid gave the bis-spirolactone **524** in a short synthetic sequence (Scheme 100). Similarly, they prepared the simple bis-spirolactone of diethyl diallylmalonate by mineral acid treatment.¹³⁶

Compounds related to Cookson's diketone are useful in the synthesis of natural products and nonnatural products and also as a high energy fuels and explosive materials for military applications.¹³⁷ These derivatives are assembled by a DA reaction of cyclopentadiene derivatives and 1,4-benzoquinones. The spiro-cyclopentadiene derivative **525** was prepared by direct alkylation of cyclopentadiene (**18a**) with 1,2-dichloroethane under basic conditions, then the DA reaction of spirocyclic diene **525** with 1,4-benzoquinone (**49**) in micellar media gave the expected DA adduct **526**, which upon photochemical irradiation gave the hexacyclic dione **527**. Further, it was converted to the dibromo compound **529**, and later radical allylation of the dibromo compound **529** with allyltributyltin in toluene gave the diallylated compound **530** (Scheme 101).¹³⁸ However, direct allylation of the compound **528** was not successful under basic conditions because of a facile and unwanted transannular cyclization and aldol-type reactions.

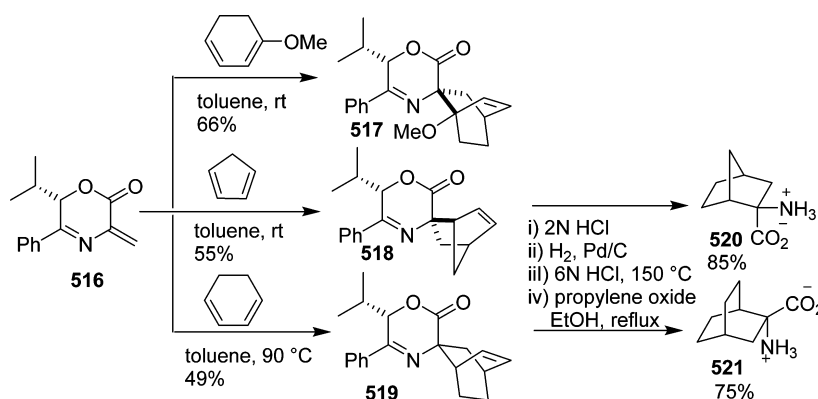
Retro-DA (rDA) reaction has also gained a significant value in design and synthesis of diverse polycycles.¹³⁹ Spiro-cyclopentadiene **525** has played a critical role in the outcome of rDA (Scheme 102).¹⁴⁰ In this regard, we prepared the various DA adducts **531** involving 1,4-benzoquinone derivatives. Our experimental study clearly indicates that the spiro-cyclopropane-based systems undergo facile rDA reaction, as compared with the parent cyclopentadiene-based DA adduct. The effective orbital interactions involving cyclopropane bond orbitals stabilize the transition state, consequently lowering the kinetic barrier for the rDA reaction. We found that these DA adducts **531** undergo rDA reaction at much lower temperature (at MeCN reflux conditions) as compared with the harsh reaction conditions generally used (~300 to 500 °C) for this purpose. The longer carbon–carbon bond length in the DA adduct is responsible for easy rDA reaction. Recently, the correlation between the elongated carbon–carbon distance and the ease of the rDA reaction was explained on the basis of X-ray crystallographic data.¹⁴¹

Recently, this aspect was successfully used by Srinivasa Reddy's group to synthesize an antimalarial and antibacterial agent, CJ-15,801, by a green synthetic route.¹⁴² In this regard, they prepared the cyclopropyl-containing bicyclic amino acid ester from the spirocyclopentadiene derivative **525** and (*E*)-allyl 3-nitroacrylate **532** by the DA reaction, followed by

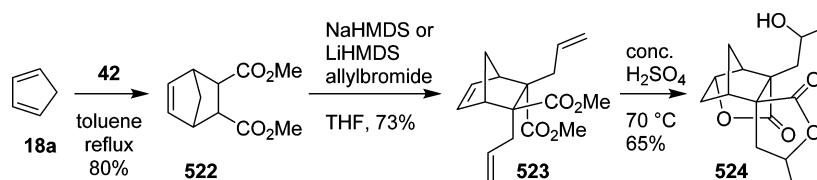
Scheme 98. Synthesis of Saturated Bicyclic AAA 514 and 515



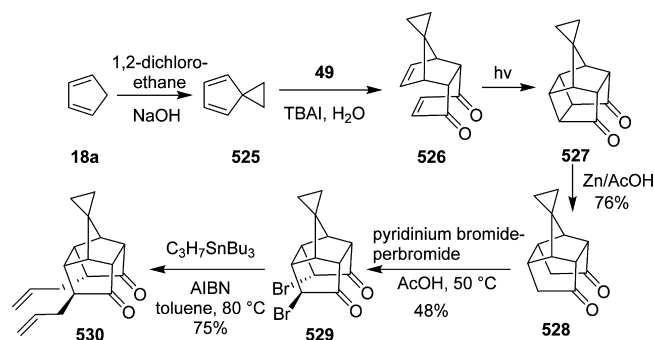
Scheme 99. Synthesis of New Chiral Amino Acid Derivatives 520 and 521 by the DA Approach



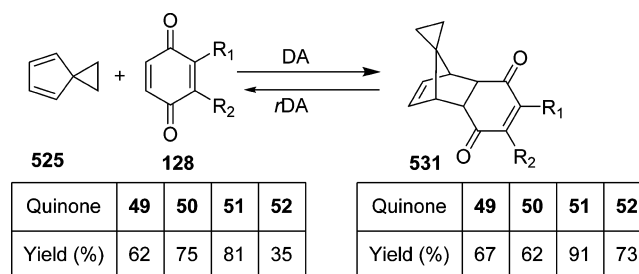
Scheme 100. Synthesis of bis-Spirolactone by DA Reaction As a Key Step



Scheme 101. Synthesis of Diallylated Hexacyclic Compound 530 via DA Reaction



Scheme 102. DA and rDA Chemistry of Compound 531

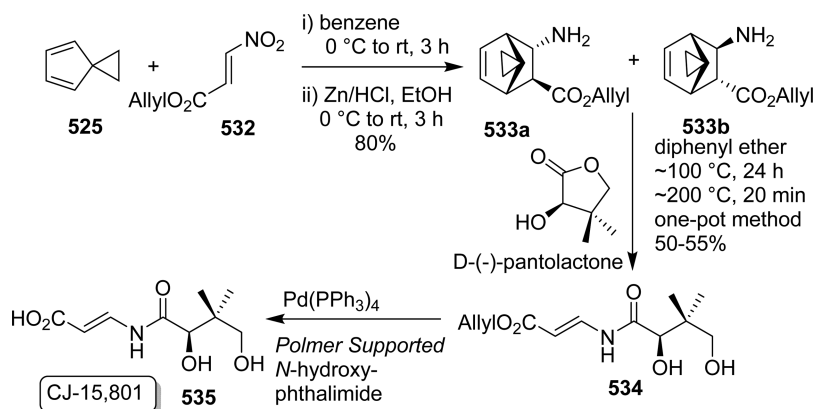


reduction of the DA adduct. The bicyclic amino acid ester was isolated as a diastereomeric mixture of compounds **533a** and **533b**. Treatment of the bicyclic amino acid ester with D-(−)-pantolactone and subsequent rDA reaction gave the *N*-acyl vinyllog carbamic acid ester **534** in good yield at low temperature. The bicyclic amino acid ester without cyclopropyl substitution gave a low yield of rDA product, even at high temperature. Later, the allyl group was deprotected under

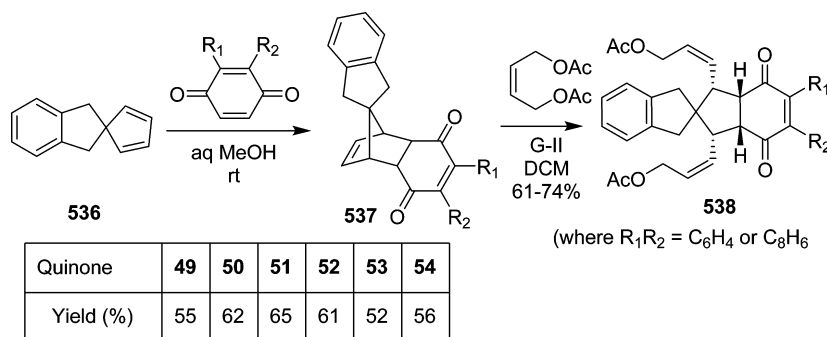
Pd(PPh₃)₄ catalysis condition to obtain the final target, CJ-15,801¹⁴³ (Scheme 103).

To expand the metathesis strategies to spirocycles, we reported another spirodiene **536** via alkylation of cyclopentadiene (**18a**) with α,α' -dibromo-*o*-xylene with an improved yield under PTC conditions.¹⁴⁴ The DA reaction of the diene **536** with an acyclic dienophile, such as DMAD (**28**), failed to give the DA adduct; however, when diene **536** was subjected to the DA reaction with various quinones, the expected DA adducts **537** were generated in good yield under aqueous MeOH conditions at room temperature. Later, two of these DA

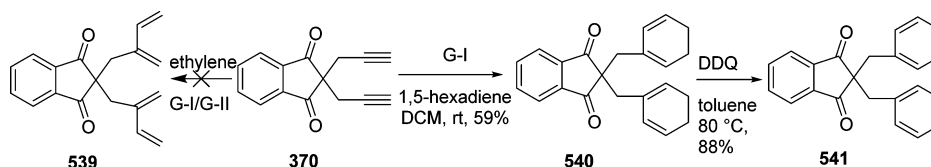
Scheme 103. Synthesis of Antimalarial and Antibacterial Agent CJ-15,801



Scheme 104. Synthesis of Spiroindane Derivatives 538 via DA Reaction



Scheme 105. Synthesis of Dibenzylated Indanedione 541



adducts were utilized to generate spiroindane derivatives **538** by ring-opening cross-metathesis (ROCM) sequence (Scheme 104).

The other carbocyclic diene reported from our group involves CEM of the dialkyne building block **370** and 1,5-hexadiene as a cross-metathesis partner (Scheme 105).¹¹³ In this regard, we anticipated the open chain tetraene by CEM of alkyne **370** and ethylene as a metathesis partner, but this failed to deliver the expected tetraene **539** under different reaction conditions. Later, the 1,5-hexadiene was used as a cross-metathesis partner, and the diene **540** was isolated in good yield. It was oxidized with DDQ to obtain the dibenzylated indanedione **541**. The structure of the dione **541** was compared with the product obtained by direct benzylation of the indanedione under basic reaction conditions, and ¹H NMR spectral data obtained in both cases were identical.

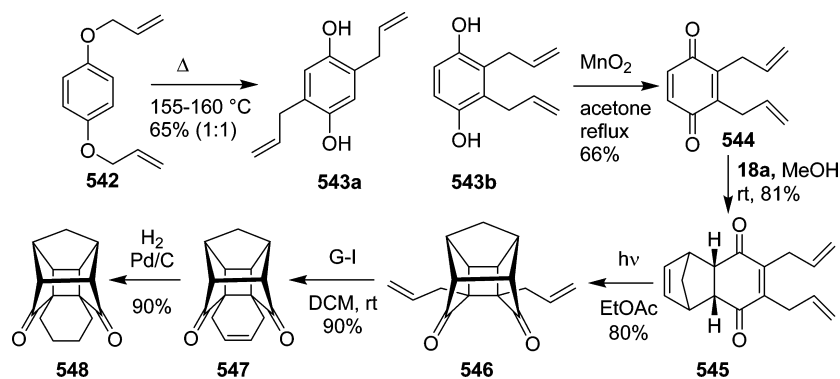
Kotha and Dipak have used the RCM approach to synthesize caged propellane derivatives. In this regard, the *O*-allylhydroquinone **542**, upon Claisen rearrangement, gave 2,3- and 2,5-diallyl hydroquinones **543a–b**. The 2,3-diallyl hydroquinone **543b** was then oxidized to diallyl quinone **544** by MnO₂, and the DA reaction of the diallyl quinone **544** with 1,3-cyclopentadiene (**18a**) gave the cycloadduct **545**, which on [2 + 2] photoaddition gave the caged dione **546**. Finally, the

diallyl dione **546** on RCM with G-I catalyst gave the propellane derivative **547**, which was hydrogenated to the saturated propellane derivative **548** (Scheme 106).¹⁴⁵

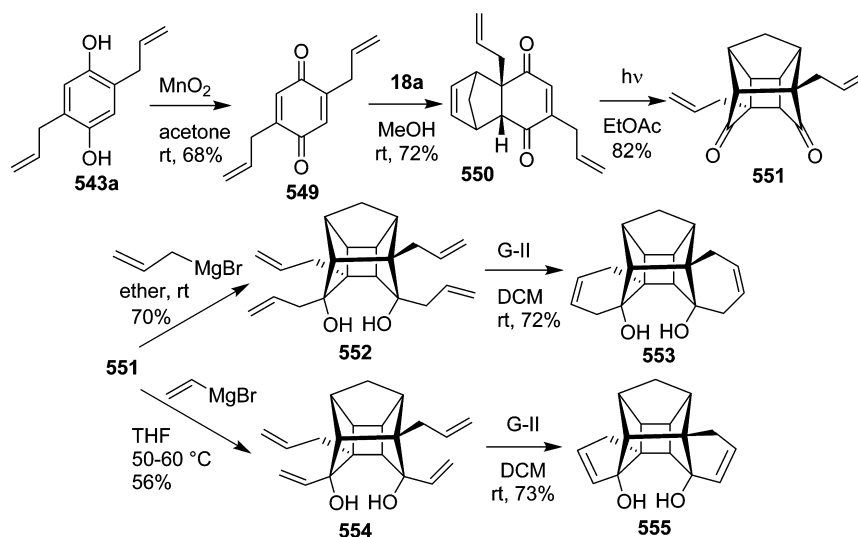
Similarly, the 2,5-diallyl hydroquinone **543a** was converted to diallyl quinone **549** and its DA reaction with 1,3-cyclopentadiene (**18a**) gave the cycloadduct **550**, which on [2 + 2] photocycloaddition generated the caged diallyl dione **551**. The dione **551**, on Grignard reactions with allyl or vinyl magnesium bromide, gave the tetraalkenyl diols **552** and **554**, respectively. Finally, the RCM of these olefinic derivatives **552** and **554** under G-II catalysis conditions generated polycyclic compounds **553** and **555**, respectively (Scheme 107).¹⁴⁶

Camps and Gómez have demonstrated DA reactions of methyl 1-benzylcyclopenta-2,4-diene-1-carboxylate (**557**), which was prepared from the cyclopentenone derivative **556** in two steps. The stable diene **557** on dimerization at room temperature gave a stereoisomeric dimer, **558**. Reaction of the diene **557** with maleic anhydride (**63**) and *cis*-1,2-bis(phenylsulfonyl)ethylene (**43**) gave the corresponding endo adducts **559** and **560**, respectively. Endo adduct is derived from the addition of dienophile to the diene from the side of the less bulky methoxycarbonyl group. The diene **557** on treatment with (2-iodoethyl)(phenyl)iodonium triflate (**64**) in MeCN at room temperature gave the DA adduct **561** (Scheme 108).¹⁴⁷

Scheme 106. Synthesis of Propellane Derivatives via DA Reaction and RCM as Key Steps



Scheme 107. Synthesis of Polycyclic Compounds 553 and 555 Involving DA Reaction



Nencka and co-workers synthesized a series of 5,6-substituted norbornenes by using microwave-assisted DA reaction. Dicyclopentadiene dimer **562** under MWI with a series of dienophiles generated the substituted norbornenes **563**–**566** (Scheme 109).¹⁴⁸ Microwave exposure facilitated accelerating the reaction and thus avoided the cumbersome cracking and handling of unstable cyclopentadiene and still provided very good to excellent yields. They further extended this approach to assemble 5,6-substituted polychlorinated norbornenes by using a suitable precursor (polychlorinated cyclopentadiene).

In 2005, Schreiber and co-workers designed a strategy for the synthesis of 14-membered paracyclophanes **569**. The Lewis acid-catalyzed DA reactions of microbead-supported steroid-derived diene **567** with various alkynes afforded the adduct **568**, and subsequent rDA reaction delivered the target cyclophane **569** (Scheme 110). A library of more than 4000 skeletally diverse molecules was assembled.¹⁴⁹

B. Aromatic Dienes. Use of anthracene as a diene in the DA reaction has gained the increasing attention of organic chemists. The first DA reaction of anthracene (**19**) with maleic anhydride (**63**) was reported by Diels and Alder in 1931 via a fusion reaction at 260 °C (Scheme 111).¹⁵⁰ Later, Clar reported the same product by heating a solution of these two reactants in xylene (90%).¹⁵¹

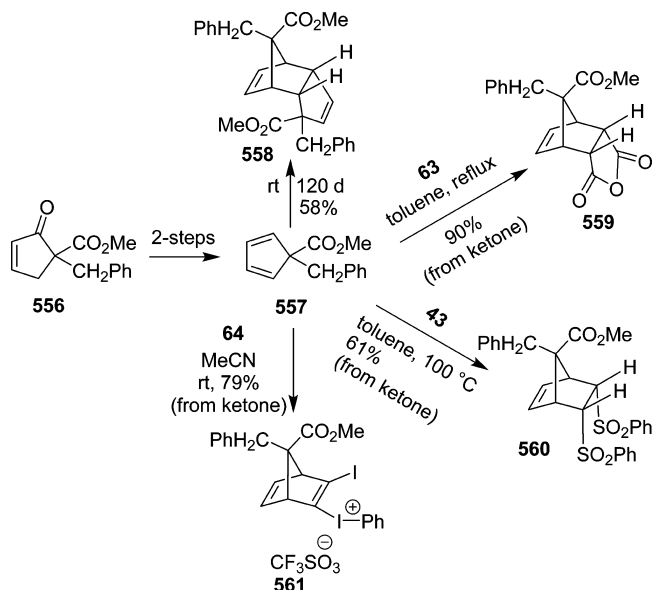
Later, several groups reported the DA reaction of the anthracene with various dienophiles under different reaction

conditions, including photochemical, microwave, use of Lewis acids, and high pressure, to generate various polycycles, and in 2003, these aspects were reviewed by Atherton and Jones.¹⁵² To design unusual AAA derivatives, we recently reported the synthesis of a conformationally constrained AAA derivative by DA reaction of the anthracene (**19**) and methyl 2-acetamidoacrylate (**36**).¹⁵³ To this end, anthracene (**19**) was heated with methyl 2-acetamidoacrylate (**36**) in toluene under sealed tube conditions or $\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{OEt}_2$ in chloroform reflux conditions, and the DA product **571** was obtained in excellent yield (Scheme 112). This approach involves a single step and 100% atom economy to conformationally constrained AAA derivatives. By utilizing this strategy, various biologically active compounds are prepared and covered in international patents.¹⁵⁴

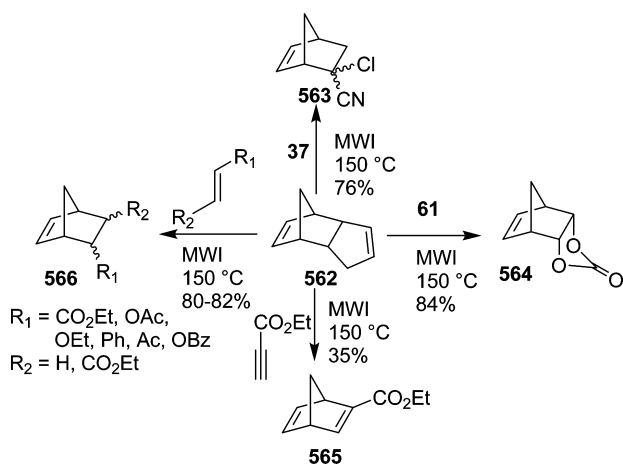
To test the applicability of this strategy to heteroaromatic systems, we tried the DA reaction of furan (**20**) with methyl 2-acetamidoacrylate (**36**) under similar reaction conditions. The Friedel–Craft alkylation product **572** was obtained predominantly, and the DA product was not formed (Scheme 113).

As an extension of our work, Yang and Doweiko utilized this strategy to synthesize various other conformationally constrained bicyclic bis-aryl AAA derivatives starting with 9-substituted anthracene **573** and methyl 2-acetamidoacrylate (**36**) by the DA reaction. Here, they have observed that the meta product, **574a**, was predominant over the ortho product, **574b**, under different reaction conditions (Scheme 114).¹⁵⁵

Scheme 108. DA Reactions of 557 with Various Dienophiles



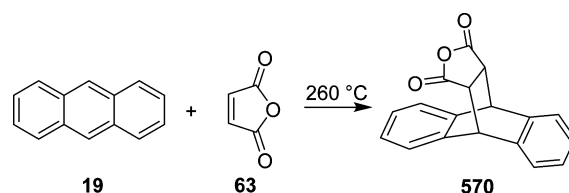
Scheme 109. Synthesis of Substituted Norbornenes 563–566 via the DA Strategy



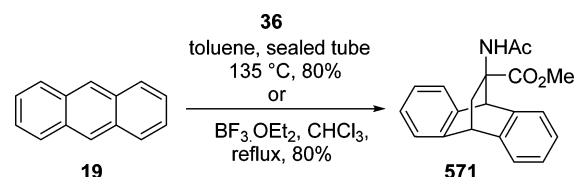
To expand the utility of anthracene in designing unusual AAA derivatives, DA reactions of dibromosubstituted anthracene were studied.¹⁵⁶ In this regard, the dibromoanthracene derivatives 575 and 578 were treated with the methyl-2-acetamidoacrylate (36) in a sealed tube at 150 °C to obtain the expected DA product 576 and 579. These dibromo derivatives 576 and 579 were further functionalized by the SM cross-coupling reaction with various boronic acids to assemble a library of constrained AAA derivatives (Scheme 115).¹⁵⁷

To study the role of the substituent on anthracene in designing unusual amino acid derivatives, we prepared various

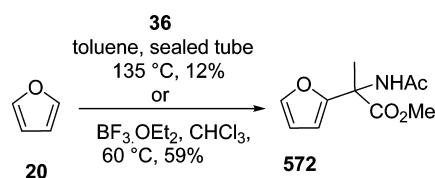
Scheme 111. DA Reaction of Anthracene (19) with Maleic Anhydride (63)



Scheme 112. DA Reaction of Anthracene (19) And Methyl-2-acetamidoacrylate (36)



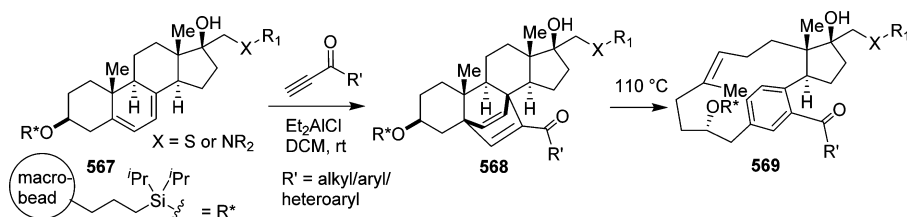
Scheme 113. Unexpected Friedel–Craft Alkylation of Furan

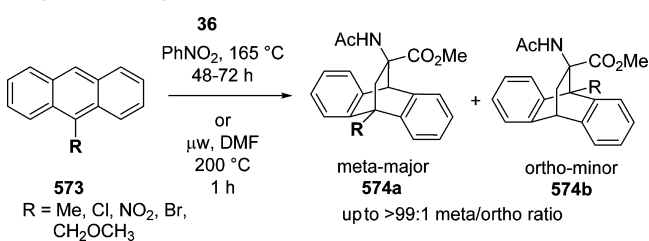


constrained AAA derivatives by DA reaction of the anthracene derivative 581 and coupling of the DA adduct 582 with EICA (91) and DEAM (78). The dibromide 581 upon DA reaction with DMAD (28) gave the DA adduct 582. The coupling of 582 with EICA (91) followed by hydrolysis and protection of the amino group as the acetyl derivative generated a constrained AAA derivative 583. Similarly, the dibromide 582 was coupled under basic conditions with DEAM (78) to prepare the Tic derivative 584. Further, the dibromide 582 on treatment with rongalite gave the expected sultine derivative 585 as a regioisomeric mixture, and its DA reaction with methyl 2-acetamidoacrylate (36) gave the tetralin-based AAA derivative 587 along with rearranged sulfone derivative 588. The sultine 585 was independently rearranged to sulfone 588 under toluene reflux conditions. These functionalized bicyclo[2.2.2]octane derivatives can be further utilized to prepare various other constrained AAA derivatives (Scheme 116).¹⁵⁸

To design anthracene-based cyclophanes, Kotha and Meshram realized the synthesis of 9,10-bridged anthracene derivative 593 via the DA reaction and RCM as key steps. In this regard, the anthracene (19) was reacted with vinylene carbonate (61), and the cycloadduct 589 was converted to the diketone 590 through hydrolysis under basic conditions, followed by oxidation of the resulting diol. The diketone 590

Scheme 110. Synthesis of 14-Membered Paracyclophanes 569 via DA and rDA Strategy



Scheme 114. Synthesis of Conformationally Constrained Bicyclic bis-Aryl AAA Derivatives


was then converted to the diallyl diol **591** through a stepwise allylation involving indium and magnesium reagents. Later, the G-I catalyzed RCM of the diallyl diol **591** and subsequent hydrogenation under Pd/C catalysis conditions gave the diol **592**, which was transformed to the 9,10-bridged anthracene derivative **593** via the cleavage of diol **592** (Scheme 117).¹⁵⁹ An aromatization step was not realized to generate anthracene-based cyclophane.

Recently, McGlinchey and co-workers have observed the steric control between 9,10- versus 1,4-cycloaddition of 9-ferrocenylanthracene (**594**) and 9,10-diferrocenylanthracene (**597**) with DMAD (**28**) and *N*-methylmaleimide (**57**).¹⁶⁰ The DA reaction of 9-ferrocenylanthracene **594** with *N*-methylmaleimide (**57**) gave 9-ferrocenylbarrelenes **595** and with DMAD (**28**) gave 11,12-dicarbomethoxy-9-ferrocenylbarrelene (**596**), whereas the DA reaction of 9,10-diferrocenylanthracene **597** with *N*-methylmaleimide (**57**) occurs not only across C9 and C10 but also across C1 and C4 to yield ethenoanthracenes **598** as both endo and exo adducts, and the DA reaction of 9,10-diferrocenylanthracene **597** with DMAD (**28**) gave the C1 and C4 addition product **600** (Scheme 118).

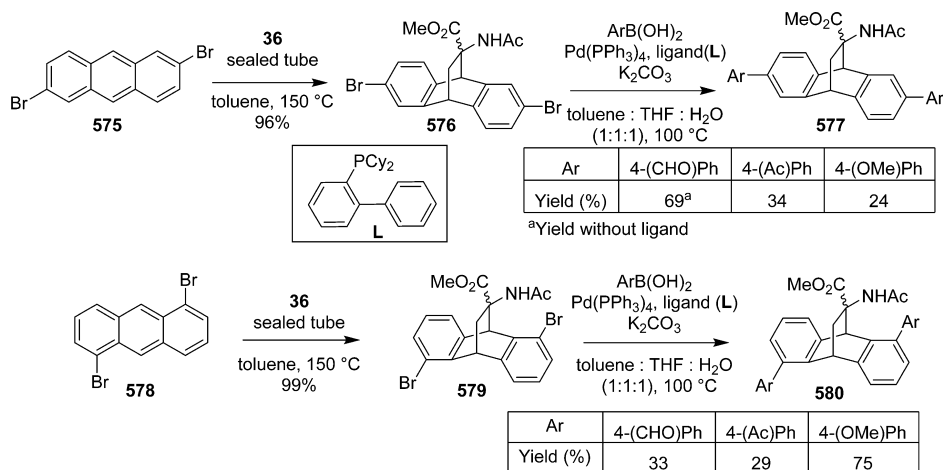
Recently, Branda and co-workers developed a synthetic route to molecular photoswitches by the DA reaction of 3,4-dithienylfuran derivatives **601** with various dienophiles.¹⁶¹ The DA reaction of chloro- or carboxyethyl thienyl-substituted furan derivatives **601** with *N*-ethylmaleimide (**58**) at 70 °C gave the bicyclic products **602**, which can be utilized for molecular switches. On irradiation with UV and visible light, these products undergo bidirectional ring-closing and -opening isomerization reactions. The ring-closure would turn off the reversibility of the DA reaction, and again, irradiation regenerates the ring-opened isomer, which can undergo the rDA

reaction (Scheme 119). This type of 3,4-dithienylfuran-based molecular switches has found applications in material science.

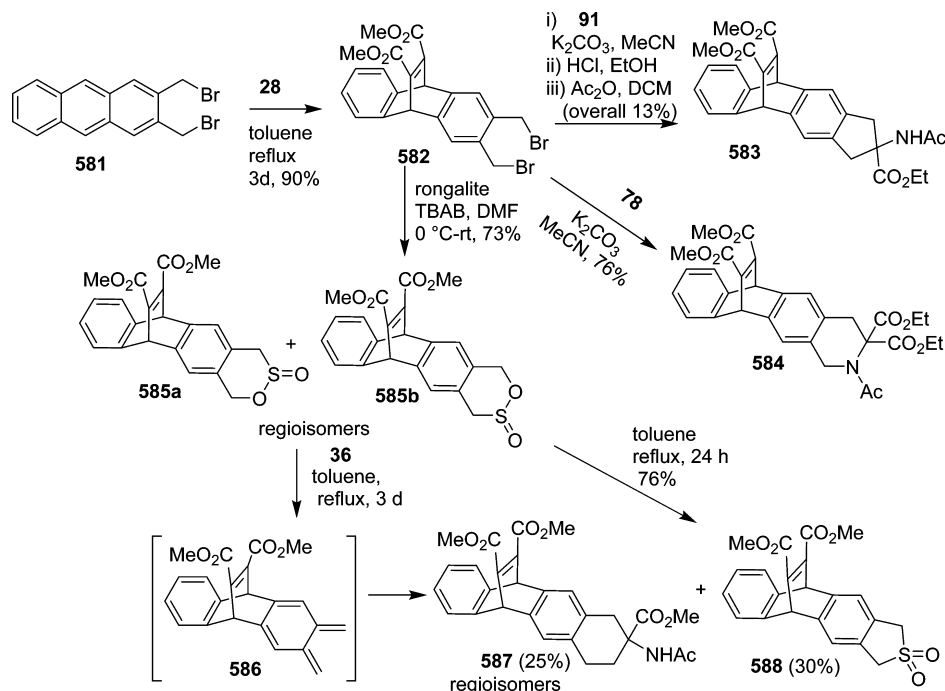
Stuparu and co-workers have designed a new synthetic strategy to corannulene-based ribbon-shaped molecules through a repetitive DA reaction.¹⁶² In this regard, the DA reaction between **604** and furan (**20**) through in situ generation of corannulyne gave the cycloadduct **605**, which on further DA reaction with tetracyclone generated the compound **606** as an exo–endo addition product. Further, heating of the compound **606** involves the cheletropic elimination of CO, and subsequent rDA reaction forms isocorannulenofuran **607**, which was trapped with **605** to afford corannulene dimer **608** as a single isomer (Scheme 120). By utilizing these synthetic sequences, the authors has reported synthesis of the corannulene trimer from the tetrabromocorannulene.

Diversity-oriented synthesis can generate a library of complex molecules with a high degree of structural diversity. Because of high stereo-, regio-, and chemoselectivity in a single step, the DA reaction has been extensively used for diversity-oriented synthesis of various complex molecular frameworks. The diversity-oriented cycloaddition reactions are also employed in carbohydrate chemistry. Along with the DA reaction, other cycloaddition reactions, such as 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition, [2 + 2]-cycloaddition, Pauson-Khand reaction, and other cycloaddition reactions, have been adopted for the diversity-oriented synthesis to generate a library of useful targets. Diversity-oriented synthesis has also been employed in generation of peptidomimetics and amino acid derivatives because of its ease of adoptability to create a molecular diversity. This diversity-oriented approach has been extended to generate macrocyclic peptides suitable for drug discovery.¹³

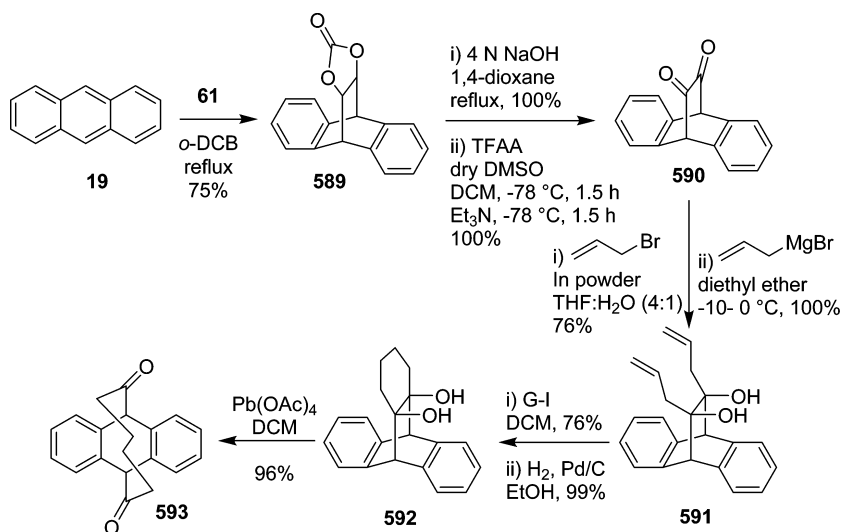
Additional Advances in DA Reaction. The DA reaction has enhanced its utility in polycyclic chemistry with some recent notable advancements. In 2009, Xu and co-workers reported the asymmetric DA reaction in aqueous salt solution, such as seawater or brine under organocatalytic conditions, to generate cycloadducts with excellent chemo-, regio-, and stereoselectivity.¹⁶³ Recently, Scott's group reacted acetylene gas with polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, such as phenanthrene, perylene, and bisanthene, in a [4 + 2] cycloaddition manner to generate a higher polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon.¹⁶⁴ Mukherjee and co-workers have utilized an electron-rich porous metal–organic framework (MOF), a heterogeneous catalyst for

Scheme 115. Synthesis of Highly Functionalized Constrained AAA Derivatives via DA Reaction


Scheme 116. Synthesis of Functionalized Bicyclo[2.2.2]octane Derivatives via DA Reaction



Scheme 117. Synthesis of 9,10-Bridged Anthracene Derivative 593 Involving DA Reaction and RCM As Key Steps



DA reaction in an efficient manner due to its high surface area, high thermal stability, and large pore volume.¹⁶⁵ The sequential DA reaction in combination with various other reactions, such as aldol condensation, Michael addition, Knoevenagel reaction, Pauson–Khand reaction, Ugi reaction, and enyne isomerization, have also been used. These synergistic approaches are widely and very efficiently utilized for the generation of polycyclic systems.¹⁶⁶ Recently, the groups of Glorius and Fu have independently disclosed the generation of cross-conjugated diene (dendralene) derivatives by Rh(III)-catalyzed C–H activation with allenes and their DA reactions with different dienophiles.¹⁶⁷

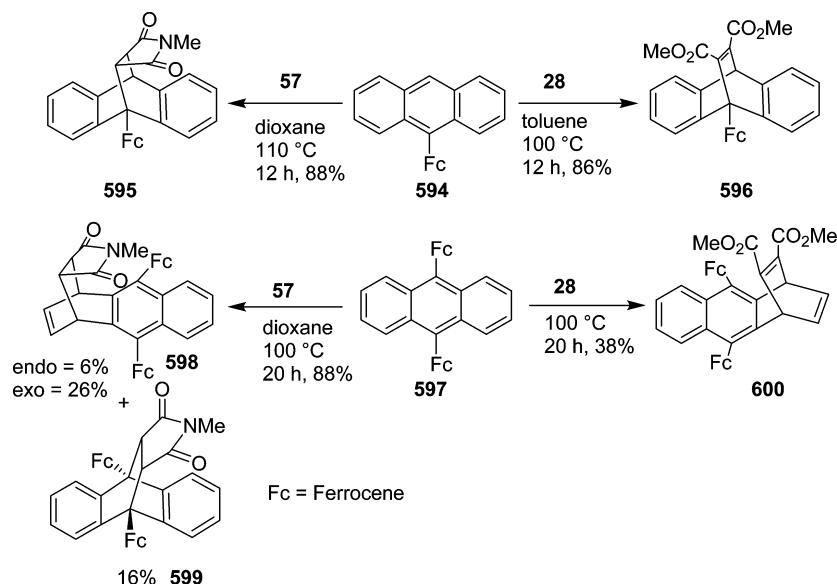
CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE PROSPECTS

The scope and power of the DA approach in generating diverse polycycles and unusual AAA derivatives are summarized here. Various dienes are generated easily from the alkyne building

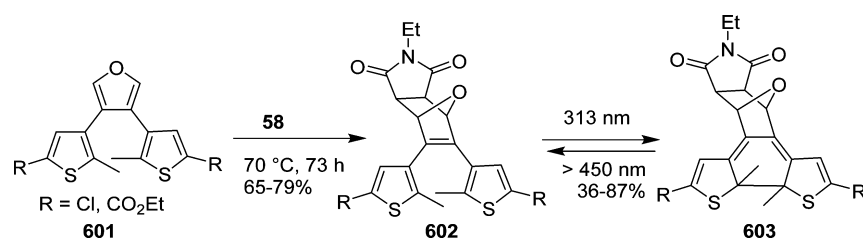
blocks by a variety of metathesis reactions, and their DA reactions with various dienophiles gave the polycycles and unusual AAA derivatives. Similarly, several *o*-xylylene intermediates shown here demonstrate their importance in DA chemistry for the generation of polycycles and unusual AAA derivatives. Rongalite plays a critical role in widening the scope for generating dienes. For example, methyl 2-acetamidoacrylate usage as a dienophile for tetralin-based amino acid synthesis came into use because of rongalite application. It is our opinion that if a realizable retrosynthetic path for a given target could be identified by DA strategy, it would be difficult to come up with a better strategy by other means.

By judicious choice of the diene and the dienophile, one can incorporate diversity and complexity in DA adducts. Enyne metathesis provides easy access to highly functionalized inner-outer-ring dienes. These dienes on DA reaction generate

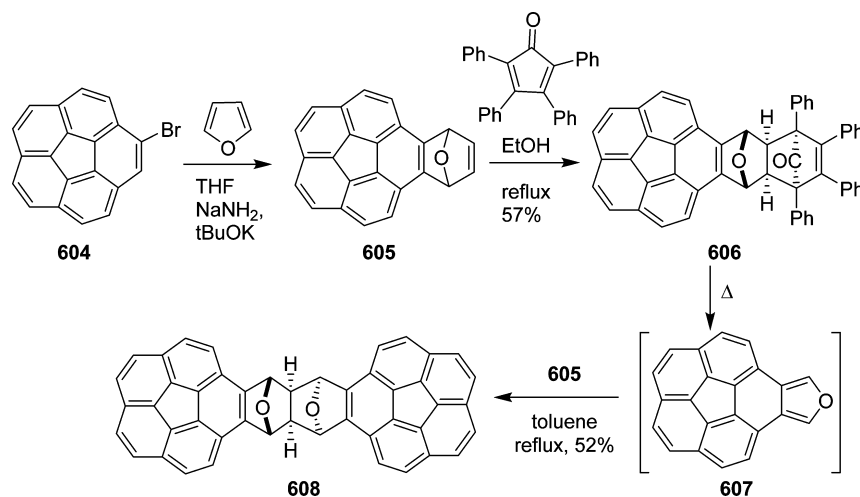
Scheme 118. Steric Control in the DA Reaction of Substituted Anthracenes



Scheme 119. Synthetic Route to Molecular Photoswitches by the DA Reaction



Scheme 120. Synthesis of Corannulene-Based Molecule through a Repetitive DA Reaction



angularly annulated DA adducts. By using Hilt's condition, one could utilize nonpolar dienophiles in the DA reaction and, thus, provide access to different end products. In a complementary fashion, exo-DA reaction opens the door for the construction of other stereochemically disposed scaffolds for diversity-oriented applications. Even simple advances, such as utilization of acetylene gas as a dienophile in the DA reaction, proved to be a useful tool in the preparation of large aromatic hydrocarbons, carbon nanotubes.

By employing the DA strategy, one can build structural complexity with astonishing speed from small hydrocarbons.

By employing a cobalt catalyst system, formation of meta-substituted products is feasible, whereas normal thermal DA reaction provides ortho products predominantly. The DA reaction provides some unique advantages for diversity-oriented synthesis because a large number of dienophiles are commercially available.

Advances in diene synthesis directly translate into progress in polycyclic chemistry by DA reaction. The DA reaction is an indispensable tool in organic synthesis. The strategies reported here have enormous potential in bioorganic and medicinal chemistry and in material science. Both the power and the

scope of the DA reaction have been amply demonstrated by the examples covered here. The use of the DA reaction for the preparation of polycycles continue to grow, and the efforts to design new dienes and their utility in the DA reaction will provide efficient routes to tailor-made, complicated organic molecules.

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Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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ABBREVIATIONS

AAA	α -amino acid
Ac	acetyl
AIBN	azobis(isobutyronitrile)
AMC	active methylene compound
aq	aqueous
BCB	benzocyclobutene
BTF	benzotrifluoride
Bz	benzoyl
CEM	cross-enyne metathesis
CM	cross-metathesis
DA	Diels–Alder
DBU	1,8-diazabicyclo[5.4.0]undec-7-ene
DCE	1,2-dichloroethane
DCM	dichloromethane
DCNQI	dicyano- <i>p</i> -quinonediimine
DDQ	2,3-dichloro-5,6-dicyano-1,4-benzoquinone
DEAM	diethyl acetamidomalonate
DEAD	diethyl acetylenedicarboxylate
DMAD	dimethyl acetylenedicarboxylate
DMAP	4-dimethylaminopyridine
DMF	dimethylformamide
DMS	dimethylsulfide
DMSO	dimethyl sulfoxide
EICA	ethyl isocyanoacetate
EM	enyne-metathesis
G-I	Grubbs first-generation catalyst
G-II	Grubbs second-generation catalyst
GH-I	Grubbs–Hoveyda first-generation catalyst
GH-II	Grubbs–Hoveyda second-generation catalyst
HOMO	highest occupied molecular orbital
IPr	2,6-(diisopropyl)benzene
LAH	lithium aluminum hydride
LUMO	lowest unoccupied molecular orbital
MOM	methoxy methyl
MWI	microwave irradiation
NBS	<i>N</i> -bromosuccinimide

NIS	<i>N</i> -iodosuccinimide
<i>o</i> -DCB	<i>ortho</i> -dichlorobenzene
<i>o</i> -QDM	<i>ortho</i> -quinodimethane
<i>p</i> -TsCl	<i>para</i> -toluenesulfonyl chloride
<i>p</i> -TsOH/ <i>p</i> -TSA	<i>para</i> -toluenesulfonic acid
Phe	phenylalanine
PTC	phase-transfer catalyst
RCEM	ring-closing enyne metathesis
RCM	ring-closing metathesis
rDA	retro Diels–Alder
ROCM	ring-opening cross-metathesis
SM	Suzuki–Miyaura
TBAB	tetrabutylammonium bromide
TBAHS	tetrabutylammonium hydrogen sulfate
TBAI	tetrabutylammonium iodide
TBS	<i>tert</i> -butyldimethylsilyl
TCE	tetracyanoethylene
TCNQ	tetracyano- <i>p</i> -quinodimethane
TFA	trifluoroacetic acid
TFAA	trifluoroacetic anhydride
THF	tetrahydrofuran
Tic	1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline-3-carboxylic acid
TIPS	triisopropylsilyl
TMG	1,1,3,3-tetramethylguanidine

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