# Bicyclo[n.1.0]alkenes

W. E. BILLUPS,\* MICHAEL M. HALEY, and GON-ANN LEE

Department of Chemistry, Rice University, Houston, Texas 77251

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# I. Introduction

Small-ring cycloalkenes arouse considerable interest because their energy content relative to their acyclic counterparts often results in unexpected properties. The cyclopropenes are especially interesting in this regard since the high strain energy ( $\sim 54$  kcal/mol) leads to unusual reactions, including isomerization to species normally considered to be high-energy ones (carbenes). The cyclopropenes thus represent one of the cornerstones of modern chemistry by virtue of their high strain and the unusual bonding properties that result therefrom.

In this paper we provide a review of the cyclopropenes of type 1 and 2 and the isomeric compounds of type 3 where  $n \leq 6$ . An earlier review discussed both 1 and 3 in terms of Bredt's rule.<sup>1</sup> Recent reviews cover the general area of cyclopropene chemistry.<sup>2</sup> This contribution covers *Chemical Abstracts* through Jan 1, 1989.



## II. 1,3-Bridged Cyclopropenes

Cyclopropenes fused to carbocyclic rings as in 1 have been shown to be stable isolable compounds when  $n \ge 6$ . The elegant work of Eicher and Böhm represents one of the early entries into this field.<sup>3</sup> Thus 9-phenylbicyclo[6.1.0]non-1(8)-ene (4) could be isolated in 17% yield from the products resulting from the decomposition of 5 as illustrated in Scheme 1. This route can also be used to prepare simple cyclopropenes as well as higher derivatives of 4.

Suda found that 9,9-difluorobicyclo[6.1,0]nonane (6) could be treated with *n*-butyllithium or methyllithium to yield cyclopropenes 7 and 8, respectively.<sup>4</sup> These results can be interpreted in terms of the reactions shown in Scheme 2. The addition of alkyllithium reagents to cyclopropenyl double bonds is a well-established process.<sup>5</sup>

More recently, Baird and co-workers investigated the reactions of trihalocyclopropanes with methyllithium.<sup>6</sup>

SCHEME 1





**SCHEME 3** 



These compounds can be dehalogenated with methyllithium, and in several instances the product is a 1halocyclopropene. Cyclopropene 9 can be purified by rapid column chromatography over alumina and kept at 0 °C in solution, but decomposes rapidly when neat.



The parent hydrocarbon 10 can be isolated as the major product from the singlet photochemistry of 1,2-cyclononadiene (11).<sup>7</sup> Compound 10 is remarkably





W. E. Billups is Professor and Chair of the Department of Chemistry at Rice University. He received his Bachelor's degree from Marshall University in 1961 and his Ph.D. at The Pennsylvania State University in 1970. He was employed by Union Carbide Corp. as a research chemist from 1961 until 1968. His research group is active in the chemistry of small-ring systems, reactive intermediates, and organometallic chemistry.



Michael M. Haley was born in Lake Charles, LA, in 1965. He holds a Bachelor's degree from Rice University (1987). He is currently enrolled as a graduate student in the Department of Chemistry at Rice, where he holds a Robert A. Welch Predoctoral Fellowship. His thesis research involves the synthesis, characterization, and structural studies on compounds of theoretical interest.



Gon-Ann Lee is a native of Taiwan. He received his Bachelor's degree in chemistry from National Taiwan Normal University in 1979. He was a chemical engineering teacher at Kan-Nan High School in 1984. Since 1985 he has been a graduate student in the Department of Chemistry at Rice University.

stable and can be purified readily by preparative column chromatography. Diimide reduction yields bicyclo[6.1.0]nonane, whereas brief treatment with potassium *tert*-butoxide in dimethyl sulfoxide affords isomer 12 in high yield.<sup>7a</sup>

Photolysis of pure 10, which absorbs weakly up to 240 nm, in pentane leads to the starting allene 11 as well as products 12-17.<sup>7</sup>



Cyclopropene 18 has been postulated as an intermediate when 19 is treated with lithium diisopropylamide in tetrahydrofuran at -70 to 0 °C.<sup>8</sup> Anion 20 was obtained as a thermally stable, deep reddish purple solution under these conditions (Scheme 3).

The lower homologue 21 and several derivatives have been synthesized as transient intermediates. Compound 22 can be generated as described earlier for 9 and trapped by *tert*-butyl mercaptan (Scheme 4).<sup>6b</sup> The cyclopropene is too unstable to be isolated as the pure compound at 20 °C.

Compound 21 itself has recently been prepared<sup>9</sup> from 23 by the vacuum gas-solid reaction (VGSR) technique<sup>10</sup> in which fluoride ion is deposited on glass helices to effect the elimination of  $\beta$ -halocyclopropylsilanes.<sup>11</sup> Diels-Alder addition of 21 to 1,3-butadiene gives the interesting compound 24 (Scheme 5). Although the thermal chemistry of 21 has not been elucidated completely, a major fate appears to be dimerization via an ene reaction.

The reactive cyclopropene 25 appears to be an intermediate in the reaction of 26a and 26c with potassium *tert*-butoxide, whereas 26b is unreactive under the same conditions.<sup>12</sup> Thus an attempt to generate homocycloheptatrienylidene by dehydrohalogenation of 8-chlorobicyclo[5.1.0]octadiene (26a,b) led instead to cyclooctatetraene, styrene, and heptafulvene as illustrated in Scheme 6.

A plethora of bicyclo[4.1.0]hept-1(7)-ene derivatives have been postulated as reactive intermediates in the reaction of 7,7-dihalobicyclo[4.1.0]heptane and related systems with strong base.<sup>13</sup> Under the reaction conditions these compounds usually either react by addition of the nucleophilic base to the strained double bond or undergo base-catalyzed prototropic rearrangement to less strained alkenes resulting from escape of the cyclopropenyl double bond into the six-membered ring.

7-Chloro derivative 27 was generated by Chan and Massuda when 28 was treated with cesium fluoride in tetrahydrofuran (Scheme 7, path a).<sup>14a</sup> The cyclopropene can be trapped with 1,3-diphenylisobenzofuran. When 27 is generated by the VGSR technique, 2chlorocycloheptadiene can be isolated in 83% yield (Scheme 7, path b).<sup>14b</sup> This observation requires the intermediacy of carbene 29, which would result from the cleavage of the central bond of 27.

The parent hydrocarbon (30) can be synthesized by passing 31 through a "fluoride column" (VGSR technique).<sup>10</sup> With this technique, the neat product can be separated from the coproduct trimethylsilyl fluoride and isolated at -100 °C. The cyclopropene can be isolated in 85% yield as a Diels–Alder adduct of cyclopentadiene (Scheme 8).<sup>11</sup> In the absence of trapping reagents 30 undergoes an ene reaction above -90 °C to yield 32.<sup>15</sup> This spectroscopically detectable adduct (NMR) rearranges readily in solution at 25 °C to yield the stable dimer 33. The rearrangement is thought to

## **SCHEME 4**



#### **SCHEME 5**



#### **SCHEME 6**



**SCHEME 7** 





**SCHEME 8** 



proceed via vinyl carbene intermediates. At room temperature tetramers provisionally identified as [2 + 2] dimers of **32** can be isolated.

The high strain energy and the expected propensity of 34 to dimerize via the facile ene reaction described above for 29 suggest that spectroscopic detection of the parent hydrocarbon 34 may be difficult. Nevertheless, SCHEME 9



SCHEME 10



SCHEME 11



several derivatives of 34 have been generated and trapped.



Photolysis of diazo compound 35 in the presence of 1,3-butadiene yielded products 36-38.<sup>16</sup> The isolation of 38 can be taken as evidence for cyclopropene 39, which could arise from the cyclization of vinyl carbene 40 (Scheme 9).

Trichloride 41 reacts with methyllithium in ether at 25 °C in the presence of furan to give 42.<sup>6b</sup> The isolation of 42 can be explained by postulating the intermediacy of cyclopropene 43 followed by ring opening to the carbene (in strict analogy to  $27 \rightarrow 29$ ), which would be trapped by the furan (Scheme 10).

Photolysis of a mixture of tetramethylethylene and alkynone 44 in wet benzene results in the formation of cyclopropenol 45.<sup>17</sup> The fused cyclopropene intermediate 46 has been invoked to account for this product (Scheme 11). Protonation of 46 followed by ring cleavage would give cyclopropenium ion 47, which then adds hydroxide ion to provide 45. Thermal fragmentation of 45 at 150 °C results in reclosure to 46, which then formally expels dimethylcarbene to give allenic ketone 48.

## III. Bicyclo[4.1.0]hepta-2,4,6-trienes

Bicyclo[4.1.0]hepta-2,4,6-triene (49) and its derivatives constitute a group of cyclopropenes related to 1 with regard to the position of the cyclopropenyl double bond. Although an exhaustive review of this area is beyond the scope of this report, a few salient discoveries are adumbrated below.

SCHEME 12



Unlike the well-characterized, stable bicyclo[4.1.0]hepta-1,3,5-trienes (benzocyclopropenes),<sup>13b,18</sup> these compounds can be regarded as reactive intermediates. Vander Stouw and Shechter first postulated the possible intermediacy of a bicyclo[4.1.0]heptatriene in 1964 to account for the formation of styrene in the gas-phase pyrolysis of o-tolyldiazomethane as exemplified in Scheme 12.<sup>19</sup> The cyclization of vinylmethylene to cyclopropene provided precedent for this mechanism.<sup>20</sup>

A flurry of activity in this area has revealed the intricate multiple carbene rearrangements that arise as a consequence of the ring-expansion rearrangements in the arylcarbene series.<sup>21-31</sup> Although these rearrangements have been found to occur both in the gas phase and in solution, the interconversions that occur in solution seem to be simpler and thus better understood. The roles of bicyclo[4.1.0]hepta-2,4,6-triene (49), cycloheptatrienylidene (50), and 1,2,4,6-cycloheptatetraene (51) in these C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>6</sub> rearrangements have



been delineated somewhat. On the basis of the isolation of heptafulvene from the thermolysis of phenylcarbene and from the thermolysis or photolysis of tropone tosylhydrazone sodium salt, Jones argued for cycloheptatrienylidene (50) as the key intermediate in the ring expansion of phenylcarbene.<sup>22</sup> Wentrup established the reversibility of the ring expansion by isolating stilbenes from the thermolysis of tropone tosylhydrazone sodium salt.<sup>24</sup> Wentrup also considered the ring-expansion reaction of phenylcarbene to occur directly rather than through a bicycloheptatriene intermediate (Scheme 13).<sup>37b</sup>

More recent spectroscopic studies as well as chemical evidence also rule out bicyclo[4.1.0]hepta-2,4,6-triene (49) and suggest that 1,2,4,6-cycloheptatetraene (51) plays the pivotal role in these rearrangements.<sup>33-35</sup> Deuterium-labeling studies reveal that the intramolecular chemistry of cycloheptatetraene involves reversible thermal or photochemical equilibrium with phenylmethylene.<sup>33</sup> The intermolecular chemistry in-









volves dimerization at temperatures as low as 10 K to form a labile [2 + 2] dimer that undergoes a thermally allowed rearrangement to give heptafulvene upon warming to room temperature (Scheme 14). Untch also observed that dehydrochlorination of a mixture of chlorocycloheptatrienes yields the same products.<sup>36</sup>

Despite the lack of evidence for cyclopropene intermediates in these reactions, simple bicycloheptatrienes have been generated by dehydrochlorination-isomerization reactions of gem-dichlorocyclopropanes.<sup>32</sup> The bicycloheptatriene generated under the reaction conditions rearranges to the arylcarbene. Products that might arise from ring expansion could not be isolated.



Evidence for the discrete existence of benzobicyclo-[4.1.0]hepta-2,4,6-trienes is considerably more secure.<sup>21</sup> Trapping experiments have produced Diels-Alder adducts of 2,3-benzobicyclo[4.1.0]hepta-2,4,6-triene (**52**) as well as 2-naphthylcarbene (**53**) and 4,5-benzocycloheptatrienylidene (**54**) as illustrated in Scheme 15.<sup>30a</sup>

Evidence for both 2,3-benzobicyclo[4.1.0]hepta-2,4,6-triene 55 and 4,5-benzobicyclo[4.1.0]hepta-2,4,6triene 56 can be found when 57 and 58, respectively, are treated with potassium *tert*-butoxide in tetrahydrofuran.<sup>32</sup> The isolation of 59 from 55 would require a ring-expansion reaction.





Additional evidence for arylcarbene interconversions (and thus possibly cyclopropene intermediates) in the naphthalene series was provided by Becker and Wentrup, who showed that vacuum pyrolysis of 1- and 2-naphthyldiazomethane yielded cyclobuta[de]-naphthalene by insertion of the carbene into a peri-C-H bond.<sup>37</sup>



Engler and Shechter made analogous observations by demonstrating that (6-methyl-1-naphthyl)methylene rearranges thermally to the isomeric (7-methyl-1naphthyl)methylene, presumably via two isomeric 2naphthylmethylene intermediates.<sup>38</sup>



Spectroscopic detection of benzobicyclo[4.1.0]hepta-2,4,6-trienes was provided by Chapman and co-workers in 1986.<sup>39</sup> These results are summarized in Scheme 16. Irradiation of the naphthyldiazomethanes matrix isolated in argon at 15 K yielded, in each case, the benzobicyclo[4.1.0]hepta-2,4,6-triene. The photochemistry of the naphthyldiazomethanes thus contrasts sharply with that of phenyldiazomethane, which gives 1,2,4,6cycloheptatetraene. Flash vacuum thermolysis of the naphthyldiazomethane followed by matrix isolation of the pyrolysate produces a common product, tentatively identified as 4,5-benzobicyclo[4.1.0]hepta-1,2,4,6-tetraene.

Evidence for the existence of dibenzobicyclo[4.1.0]hepta-2,4,6-trienes as discrete intermediates has also been presented. For example, carbene 60, generated from tosylhydrazone 61, isomerizes to 62, which can be trapped with cyclopentadiene.<sup>30</sup> In the absence of SCHEME 17



trapping reagents 62 rearranges to phenanthrylcarbene 63 (Scheme 17). When this process is carried out in benzene, compound 64 is produced; however, when 63 is generated in the gas phase from 65, cyclobutaphenanthrene 66 resulting from insertion of the carbene into a peri-C-H bond is produced.<sup>21d,37</sup>

Additional evidence for these species can be found in the following elimination reactions.<sup>30b,32,40-42</sup>



# IV. Bicyclo/3.1.0/hexa-1,3,5-trienes

Diyl species 67 results formally from the removal of two hydrogen atoms from the meta positions of benzene. This species is referred to frequently as *m*benzyne in analogy with *o*-benzyne. Although evidence for the diradical has been presented in only one instance for simple benzene derivatives,<sup>43</sup> there is a considerable body of evidence for the isomeric bicyclo[3.1.0]hexa-1,3,5-triene form (68).



Numerous theoretical calculations at various levels of sophistication have focused on the dehydrobenzenes. Simple Hückel calculations, when applied in conjunction with Hess and Schaad's semiempirical approach,<sup>44</sup> reach relatively reliable conclusions concerning the aromaticity of *m*-benzyne. With the resonance energy per  $\pi$  electron (REPE) value of 0.065 for benzene as a standard, the REPE for 68 is 0.055.<sup>44,45</sup> Thus replacement of H<sub>1</sub> and H<sub>3</sub> of benzene with a  $\sigma$  bond is predicted to generate an aromatic hydrocarbon.

Early theoretical studies had predicted the singlettriplet gap of *m*-benzyne to be small. Using extended-Hückel calculations, Hoffmann predicted the ground state to be a singlet.<sup>46</sup> From ab initio studies, Wilhite predicted 68 to be a triplet.<sup>47</sup> Both of these studies, however, were hampered owing to the consideration of only the benzenoid structure 67. A geometry optimization study by Washburn and McKelvey assumed 68 to be planar and to possess  $C_{2v}$  symmetry.<sup>48</sup> The singlet bicyclohexatriene was predicted to be the ground state with the optimum singlet structure best described as a reasonance-delocalized bicyclo[3.1.0]hexatriene with a bridging bond of 1.5 Å. In a similar study of the dehydrobenzenes, Dewar and co-workers concluded that 68 should exist as a singlet species containing a long bridging  $\sigma$  bond between C<sub>1</sub> and C<sub>5</sub>.<sup>49</sup> Noell and Newton also calculated 68 to exist in the singlet ground state.<sup>50</sup> Whereas Washburn found no energy barrier for the collapse of diradical 67 to bicyclic 68, Dewar calculated 68 to be separated from 67 by a barrier of 9 kcal/mol.<sup>49b</sup> As might be expected, theoretical treatment of 68 predicts  $\pi$  polarization analogous to that of an azulenoid hydrocarbon.

Despite the unusual geometry of 68, the total calculated strain is not prohibitive. From Benson group equivalence tables,<sup>51</sup> the  $\Delta H_{\rm f}^{\circ}$  is predicted to be +41.5 kcal if strain and resonance contributions are ignored. The latter are estimated to be +17 kcal by extrapolation of the REPE values based on a resonance energy of benzene of 21 kcal. With Dewar's predictions of  $\Delta H_{\rm f}$ of 68 to be 118 and 147 kcal,49 the strain would be 93 and 123 kcal, respectively. The ab initio calculations of Washburn predict  $\Delta H_{\rm f}$  of 68 to be 145 kcal, con-taining 121 kcal of strain.<sup>48</sup> The 90–125 kcal of strain predicted for bicyclo[3.1.0]hexatriene is not excessive when compared with the 101 and 116 kcal of strain measured for benzvalene and prismane, respectively.<sup>52</sup> Thus in view of the above calculation, the unusual geometry of 68 should not induce excessive strain that would preclude its existence.

Flash vacuum photolysis of the diazonium salt 69 formed from *m*-aminobenzoic acid gave a transient intermediate that was shown by mass spectroscopy to be an m/e 76 species (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>).<sup>53</sup> The UV spectrum was not interpretable in terms of 67 or 68. Attempts to extend this approach to solution chemistry were inconclusive with regard to structure.<sup>54</sup>



Compelling evidence for the discrete bicyclohexatriene structure was finally presented by Washburn, Zahler, and Chen;<sup>55</sup> thus base-catalyzed elimina-

SCHEME 18



SCHEME 19





tion of HBr from 70 results in the formation of 68 (Scheme 18). Compound 68 is trapped by the base to give 71, which then rearranges to the fulvene 72 as an isolable product. Deuterium- and <sup>13</sup>C-labeling studies support the intermediacy of 68 and not 67 in this reaction.<sup>55</sup> Introduction of a *tert*-butyl or methyl group at C<sub>2</sub> of 70 provided the respective C<sub>2</sub>-alkylated derivatives of 68.<sup>55a,56</sup>

In contrast, the benzologue 73 undergoes base-induced elimination in tetrahydrofuran to yield a complicated mixture of naphthalenes, at least part of which (74-76) would appear to arise from the intermediate 77 opening to the diyl 78 followed by hydrogen atom extraction from tetrahydrofuran (Scheme 19).<sup>57</sup>

The remaining naphthalenes, 79–85, are thought to arise from nucleophilic addition either directly to 77 or to polar intermediates. Nucleophilic addition across the bridging bond in 77 via the zwitterions 86 and 87 would account for 79–84. Compound 85 could then arise as illustrated in Scheme 20.

Although zwitterions 86 and 87 might normally be considered as high-energy species, they could, in principle, arise from a cyclopropene  $\rightarrow$  vinyl carbene rearrangement of 77. The zwitterions, which might be regarded as resonance structures of 88, would allow the naphthalenes to regain resonance energy.





It is interesting that the reaction of 73 with potassium *tert*-butoxide in tetrahydrofuran in the presence of dimethylamine (conditions of Washburn)<sup>55</sup> yielded mainly 89-91, suggesting that the nucleophilic amide traps the ionic species to the exclusion of the diyl.



### V. 1,2-Bridged Cyclopropenes

Compounds that incorporate the features of 1-3 are unknown in the case of the parent compounds 92-96.



Calculations indicate that significant pyramidalization of the double-bond carbons will lead to nonplanar structures for 92 and 94.<sup>58-61</sup> This deviation from planarity enables the C-H bonds to overlap with the pure  $\pi$  orbital and thereby stabilize the conformation. Calculated heats of hydrogenation for these compounds show that 92 is more strained than 93 and that 94 is more strained than 96, which in turn is more strained than 95.<sup>60,62-65</sup> In a number of cases the cyclopropene is probably unstable relative to the unsaturated carbene.

Despite the pessimistic theoretical predictions some remarkable compounds that incorporate the structural features of 92-96 have been reported by Szeimes and co-workers. Thus addition of 1-chlorotricyclo- $[4.1.0.0^{2,7}]$  heptane (97) to an excess of *n*-butyllithium produced the substitution compound 98 in 87% yield.<sup>66</sup> Exhaustive control experiments demonstrated that 98 is formed via an elimination-addition mechanism as illustrated in Scheme 21. Evidence in support of this mechanism (and thus 99) as opposed to a metal-halogen exchange or direct coupling was presented as follows: (1) the initially formed carbanion was trapped by  $D_2O$ ; (2) the 7-methyl derivative of 97 was recovered unchanged under the reaction conditions;<sup>66</sup> and (3) 99 was trapped by anthracene as the Diels-Alder adduct 100.67



The dehydrohalogenation approach was also used to prepare bicyclobutene derivatives 101-103.<sup>68,69</sup>



**SCHEME 22** 



**SCHEME 23** 



Fluoride-induced elimination of  $\beta$ -halo silane precursors has also been utilized successfully in the preparation of **99** and **101–103**.<sup>69,70</sup> Attempts to synthesize **92** and its methyl derivatives by the dehydrohalogenation method were unsuccessful.<sup>71</sup>

Compound 104, on the other hand, isomerizes spontaneously to o-benzyne, which can be trapped with 2,5-dimethylfuran (Scheme 22).<sup>72</sup> The facile rearrangement of 104 indicates that the bridgehead double bond in this compound induces even more strain than the triple bond in benzyne.

A similar rearrangement to bent 1,2,3-trienes 105 and 106 is observed when 99 and 102 are generated above 20 °C.<sup>69,70</sup> Both of these compounds may be trapped with 1,3-dienes or 1,3-dipoles.



The Diels-Alder reaction of **99** and its analogues with dienes such as furan<sup>73</sup> and benzindole<sup>74</sup> derivatives provides a useful route to small-ring propellanes<sup>75</sup> containing the bicyclobutane moiety.<sup>76</sup> Due to the extreme susceptibility of the double bond of **99** and its analogues to undergo nucleophilic addition, it is possible to introduce bridgehead substitution in the bicyclobutane.<sup>77,78</sup> Use of sterically hindered nonnucleophilic bases<sup>67,73,79</sup> allows the introduction of thio and amino groups into the bridgehead position of the molecule.<sup>76,80</sup>

*n*-Butylmethylquadricyclanes 108 and 109 were isolated by Szeimes and co-workers in a 2:1 ratio when a mixture of 1-chloroquadricyclane (107) and *n*-butyllithium was quenched with methyl bromide (Scheme 23).<sup>81,82</sup> The mixture of 108 and 109 was then thermally converted to norbornadienes 110 and 111. Tetracyclo[ $3.2.0.0^{2,7}.0^{4,6}$ ]hept-1(7)-ene (112), a derivative of 94, was proposed as a reactive intermediate, formed by an elimination process analogous to the one described above for 99. Additional evidence for the existence of 112 is given by the isolation of Diels-Alder products with anthracene and 2,5-dimethylfuran.<sup>81,83</sup>

Tetracyclo[3.2.0.0<sup>2,7</sup>.0<sup>4,6</sup>]hept-1(2)-ene (113), a derivative of **96**, was proposed as the other reaction intermediate (Scheme 23).<sup>81</sup> Although cycloaddition products of **113** could not be isolated, deuterium-labeling studies provide compelling evidence for the intermediacy of this reactive species.<sup>82</sup>

SCHEME 24



R = Me - 47%, *n*-Bu - 52%, Ph - 90%

The formation and trapping of bicyclo[3.1.0]hex-1-(5)-ene (114) from the corresponding vic-dibromide 115 have been described recently.<sup>84</sup> When 115 was treated with *tert*-butyllithium in THF or ether at -78 °C, a rapid reaction was observed. The major products were found to be 1-*tert*-butylbicyclo[3.1.0]hexane (116) and dimer 117 (Scheme 24). Compound 114 could be trapped as a Diels-Alder adduct with furan, 2,5-dimethylfuran, 1,3-diphenylisobenzofuran, or anthracene.

Bicyclo[4.1.0]hept-1(6)-ene (118) and its derivatives have been the object of several synthetic studies. Gassman proposed 118 as an intermediate in the reaction of 1-chloro-2-methylcyclohexene (119) with alkyllithium reagents (Scheme 25).<sup>85</sup> Deuterium labeling of the methyl group of 119 provided 120 deuterated at  $C_7$ , confirming the intermediacy of 118.<sup>85</sup>

7,7-Dimethylbicyclo[4.1.0]hept-1(6)-ene (121), the only spectroscopically detectable derivative of 118, was synthesized by Closs and co-workers.<sup>86</sup> The photolysis of 3*H*-pyrazole 122 at -60 °C in cyclopropane gave 121, which decomposed above -35 °C. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of 121 at -60 °C showed signals at  $\delta$  1.21 (s, 6 H), 1.7 (m, 4 H), and 2.3 (m, 4 H). The appearance of a singlet for the two methyl groups of 121 confirms that this compound is either planar or undergoing rapid inversion.



Subsequently, Wiberg and Bonneville reported that 118 could be isolated as Diels-Alder adduct 123 in the debromination of  $124.^{84}$  In the absence of trapping reagent, 118 dimerizes even at -120 °C to give 125 (Scheme 26).

Billups and co-workers found that 118 could be isolated as Diels-Alder adduct 126 in the fluoride-induced trimethylsilyl halide elimination of the bicyclo[4.1.0]heptane 127.<sup>11</sup> In the absence of cyclopentadiene, 118 dimerizes via an ene reaction.<sup>87</sup>









Closs and co-workers also prepared 7,7-dimethylbicyclo[5.1.0]oct-1(7)-ene (128) from 3H-pyrazole 129 by irradiation in *n*-pentane at 15 °C.<sup>86b</sup> The stability of 128 was tested by heating a solution of the hydrocarbon in fluorotrichloromethane to 100 °C for 10 h; no change was observed in the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum.



The synthesis and epoxidation of 7,7-dialkylbicyclo-[5.1.0]oct-1(7)-ene 130, which was formed by irradiation of tosylhydrazone salt 131, have been investigated by Friedrich and co-workers.<sup>88</sup> The cyclopropene reacted with ozone to give cycloocta-1,3-dione 132 and lactone 133 and with peracid to give cyclooctanone 134 (Scheme 27).

9,9-Diphenylbicyclo[6.1.0]non-1(8)-ene (135) has also been prepared<sup>89</sup> from cyclooctyne and diphenyldiazomethane using the Closs procedure.<sup>86</sup>



#### VI. Alkylidenecyclopropanes

Compounds of type 3 in which an eight- and threemembered ring are fused can be prepared readily by dehydrohalogenation of halo- and *gem*-dihalocyclopropanes as exemplified in the following reaction.<sup>13a</sup>



A further example is the conversion of 136 into 137. The reaction is postulated to proceed through the series SCHEME 28



SCHEME 29



of strained-ring intermediates illustrated in Scheme  $28.^{90}$ 

Bicyclo[5.1.0]oct-1(2)-ene (138) can be prepared along with 139 by pyrolysis of the dry lithium salt of tosylhydrazone  $140^{91}$  or by photolysis of  $139.^{92}$ 



The extensive work of Köbrich and co-workers on the intramolecular cyclization of vinylidene carbenes has led to the synthesis of a large number of compounds in this series.<sup>93</sup>



Compound 141 can be prepared from two very diverse sources (Scheme 29). Carbene 142, generated by the Brinker gas-phase dehalogenation technique, rearranges spontaneously to a mixture of 141 and 143,<sup>94</sup> whereas treatment of *gem*-dichlorocyclopropane 144 with strong base yields the same intermediate.<sup>95</sup> Compound 141 rearranges to the stable isomer 145 via a methylenecyclopropane rearrangement. Isomer 143, produced in the Brinker synthesis, dimerizes to a mixture of cyclobutanes. The thermal chemistry of 145 has been investigated by both groups.

Although bicyclo[4.1.0]hept-1(2)-ene itself remains unknown, Köbrich and Baumann synthesized the pentamethyl analogue 146, which was isolated in 20-30% SCHEME 30



SCHEME 31



yield by carbenoid cyclization of chloro olefin 147.<sup>93</sup> Thermolysis of 146 at 120 °C produced methylenecyclopropane 148 through a trimethylenemethane intermediate.<sup>96</sup>



Thermolysis of [1.1.1]propellane 149 at 430 °C by Szeimies and Belzner led to the isolation of a single product, 1,2-divinylcyclopropene (150).<sup>97</sup> At 370 °C, propellane 151 was converted to a 3:2 mixture of diene 152 and allene 153 (Scheme 30). Retention of the central C-C bond of the [1.1.1]propellane framework can be recognized as a common feature in the isomerization of 149 and 151. These are believed to open to the short-lived intermediates 154 and 155, which then undergo a methylenecyclopropane rearrangement, affording the more stable dienes 152 and 156. In the case of 156, an electrocyclic ring-opening reaction occurs, giving 150.

The unusual bicyclo[4.1.0]hept-1(2)-ene 157 as an intermediate of the thermal rearrangement of 2-methylenetricyclo[4.1.0.0<sup>1,3</sup>]heptane (158) has been reported by two groups (Scheme 31).<sup>98</sup> At 150 °C 158 forms an equilibrium mixture with 157 and cyclopropene 159; however, at 180 °C this mixture rearranges irreversibly into a pressure-dependent mixture of diene 160 and tetraene 161.

Treatment of dichloride 162 with strong base (KOt-Bu or KO-i-Pr) leads to 27 as a reactive intermediate.<sup>13a,99</sup> Nucleophiles add readily to the double bond of 27 to yield 163. Whereas compound 163 (Nu = SMe) was inert to further reaction with base, for Nu = O-i-Pr, it was possible to isolate 1,6-diisopropoxybicyclo-[4.1.0]heptane.<sup>13a</sup> In a number of other cases (Nu = ester), 163 underwent further elimination and isomerization to give bicyclo[4.1.0]hept-1(2)-ene 164 (Scheme 32).<sup>99</sup> The isolation of 164 is surprising since one might

**SCHEME 32** 



have expected the double bond to migrate to the 4(5) position.

The bicyclo[3.1.0]hex-1(2)-ene (165) system has been the object of extensive investigations. As a bridged methylenecyclopropane system of type 3, it would be expected to undergo thermal reaction to form the trimethylenemethane (TMM) 166. Although 165 is unknown, several derivatives have been synthesized and their chemistry fully delineated.



Köbrich and Heinemann provided the first evidence for the existence of 2,6,6-trimethyl derivative 167 by isolating the TMM dimer 168.<sup>100</sup> Further work by Köbrich resulted in the isolation of the [2 + 2] dimer 169 and a dimer "of lower symmetry".<sup>1</sup> Berson and co-workers<sup>101</sup> confirmed the work of Köbrich and identified several other dimers (170-173).<sup>102</sup> The product mixtures were found to be strongly temperature dependent: at -78 °C only 169 and 170 are observed; at 0 °C 168 and 171-173 are isolated as the major hydrocarbons; at -30 °C, in addition to 168-173, compound 174 is formed and trapped with methyl acrylate (Scheme 33). This dependence on temperature is consistent with the presence of a finite barrier to thermal dissociation of the  $C_5$ - $C_6$  bond of 167 to the TMM 175. It was also found that relative to the TMM dimers 171-173, the yield of bicyclo[3.1.0]hex-1(2)-ene



dimers 169 and 170 increases as the initial concentration of the dihalide reactant is increased. These observations are interpretable in terms of a competition between a bimolecular dimerization and a unimolecular ring opening.

The unimolecular/bimolecular competition also is strongly dependent on the substitution pattern of the bicyclo[3.1.0]hex-1(2)-ene system. Generation of the 2-methyl derivative 176 at -78 °C or at 0 °C yielded the three hydrocarbons 177-179 in a ratio of 5:2.5:1 (Scheme 34).<sup>101a</sup> Dimers 178 and 179 have structures homologous to 169 and 170; dimer 177 is the product of an ene reaction between two molecules of 176. The product ratio was found to be invariant with the concentration of dihalide reactant. In the case of 176, dimerization competes with ring opening to a TMM more effectively than in the case of 167. The reasons for this presumably include the bond-weakening effect of the gem-dimethyl substitution at  $C_6$  in 167 and perhaps a steric retardation to dimerization. Only 176 was captured as a Diels-Alder adduct with 1,3-diphenylisobenzofuran in low yield.<sup>101a</sup>

Photolysis of diazene 180 at 300 nm and 77 K with subsequent warming, or pyrolysis of 180 at 700 °C and  $10^{-3}-10^{-4}$  Torr, yielded enyne 181 and numerous other products.<sup>103</sup> The formation of 181 involved the cyclization of biradical 182 to bicyclo[3.1.0]hex-1(2)-ene 183 followed by cycloreversion to carbene 184 and hydrogen shift (Scheme 35). Whereas 181 is the predominant photochemical product, the thermal reaction of 182 is bond cleavage to yield mainly a mixture of trienes, but cyclization to 183 is competitive.

Photolysis of diazene 185 yielded diyl 186, which reacted with cyclopentadiene to give twelve products.<sup>104</sup> Eight of these adducts contained fused or bridged structures typical of TMM products. The remaining four adducts (187a,b and 188a,b) are derived by Diels-Alder addition of cyclopentadiene to the strained double bond of methoxybicyclo[3.1.0]hex-1(2)-enes 189 and 190 (Scheme 36). Compounds 189 and 190 are believed to be formed from the bicyclo[2.1.0]pentane 191 by a rearrangement that has a practical threshold temperature above -40 °C. This transformation is an



SCHEME 37



**SCHEME 38** 



example of the reverse of the 5-alkylidenebicyclo-[2.1.0] pentane  $\rightarrow$  bicyclo[3.1.0] hex-1(2)-ene rearrangement illustrated above.<sup>101b</sup>

The presence of bulky substituents on or near the strained double bond of a bicyclo[3.1.0]hex-1(2)-ene should decrease the reactivity of the olefin to dimerization and might permit the preparation of an isolable member of this class. In pursuit of this goal Berson and Salinaro prepared three *tert*-butyl-substituted derivatives of 165. Generation of 2-tert-butylbicyclo[3.1.0]hex-1(2)-ene (192) from ketone 193, dimethyl (diazomethyl)phosphonate (194), and potassium tert-butoxide resulted in the isolation of recovered 193 (45%), dimeric hydrocarbon 195 (45%), and other minor products (Scheme 37).<sup>105</sup> The single *tert*-butyl group at  $C_2$  does not suffice to suppress dimerization of 192.

The incorporation of a second *tert*-butyl group, as in 196, would be expected to decrease the dimerization rate. Indeed, treatment of ketone 197 with dimethyl (diazomethyl) phosphonate (194) and *n*-butyllithium gave a 63% yield of a mixture of monomeric hydrocarbons in addition to ca. 20% of recovered ketone 197 (Scheme 38).<sup>105</sup> The major component of the hydrocarbon product was cyclopentadiene 198. Although the mechanism for this rearrangement is uncertain, a hydrogen-shift reaction, occurring at or below 20 °C. would seem to provide an escape route for bicyclo-[3.1.0]hex-1(2)-ene 196. The result suggests that even when dimerization is sterically retarded, these unstable species can make use of normally inaccessible pathways in order to evade the bicyclo[3.1.0]hex-1(2)-ene structure.

The substitution pattern in 2-tert-butyl-6,6-dimethylbicyclo[3.1.0]hex-1(2)-ene (199) should be unfavorable to the modes of dimerization previously illustrated for other bicyclo[3.1.0]hex-1(2)-enes because both **SCHEME 39** 



the weak  $\sigma$  bond (C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>) and the twisted  $\pi$  bond (C<sub>1</sub>- $C_2$ ) are sterically shielded. Cleavage of the  $C_5$ - $C_6$  bond in 199, however, should be more facile than in 192. This is the case, for when 199 is generated from ketone 200 and compound 194 followed by quenching with aqueous NH<sub>4</sub>Cl, monomeric hydrocarbons 201 and 202 are isolated. Bicyclo[2.1.0]pentane 203 is isolated in 63% yield if the acid workup is omitted (Scheme 39).<sup>106</sup> In neither instance is any dimeric product observed. Although extremely sensitive to atmospheric oxygen, in degassed solution 203 has proven to be the most stable member of the bicyclo[2.1.0]pentane series yet prepared.

The incongruous-like compound 204, a highly strained bicyclo[3.1.0]hex-1(2)-ene derivative, was postulated as an intermediate in the methyllithiuminduced conversion of dibromide 205 to 5-ethynyl-1,3cyclohexadiene.<sup>107</sup>



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