Bicyclo[n.1.0]alkenes

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/. 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 $(\sim 54 \text{ kcal/mol})$ 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.¹ Recent reviews cover the general area of cyclopropene chemistry.² This contribution covers *Chemical Abstracts* through Jan 1, 1989.

//. 1,3-Bridged Cyclopropenes

Cyclopropenes fused to carbocyclic rings as in 1 have been shown to be stable isolable compounds when $n \geq$ 6. The elegant work of Eicher and Bohm represents one of the early entries into this field.³ 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.⁴ 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.⁵

More recently, Baird and co-workers investigated the reactions of trihalocyclopropanes with methyllithium.⁶ SCHEME 1

SCHEME 3

These compounds can be dehalogenated with methyllithium, and in several instances the product is a 1 halocyclopropene. 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 $(11).7$ Compound 10 is remarkably

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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.7a

Photolysis of pure 10, which absorbs weakly up to 240 nm, in pentane leads to the starting allene **11** as well as products **12-17.⁷**

Cyclopropene 18 has been postulated as an intermediate when 19 is treated with lithium diisopropylamide in tetrahydrofuran at -70 to 0° C.⁸ 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-huty* mercaptan (Scheme 4).6b The cyclopropene is too unstable to be isolated as the pure compound at 20 °C.

Compound 21 itself has recently been prepared⁹ from 23 by the vacuum gas-solid reaction (VGSR) technique¹⁰ in which fluoride ion is deposited on glass helices to effect the elimination of β -halocyclopropylsilanes.¹¹ 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.¹² 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-l(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.¹³ 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).^{14a} The cyclopropene can be trapped with 1,3-diphenylisobenzofuran. When 27 is generated by the VGSR technique, 2 chlorocycloheptadiene can be isolated in 83% yield (Scheme 7, path b).^{14b} 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).¹⁰ 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 $(Scheme 8).^{11}$ In the absence of trapping reagents 30 undergoes an ene reaction above -90° C to yield 32.¹⁵ 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 36-38.¹⁶ 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.^{6b} 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 45.¹⁷ 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 ⁰C results in reclosure to 46, which then formally expels dimethylcarbene to give allenic ketone 48.

///. Blcyclo[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),^{13b,18} 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 12.¹⁹ The cyclization of vinylmethylene to cyclopropene provided precedent for this mechanism.²⁰

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.²¹⁻³¹ 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_7H_6 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.²² Wentrup established the reversibility of the ring expansion by isolating stilbenes from the thermolysis of tropone tosylhydrazone sodium salt.²⁴ Wentrup also considered the ring-expansion reaction of phenylcarbene to occur directly rather than through a bicycloheptatriene intermediate (Scheme 13).37b

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.³³⁻³⁵ Deuterium-labeling studies reveal that the intramolecular chemistry of cycloheptatetraene involves reversible thermal or photochemical equilibrium with phenylmethylene.³³ 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.³⁶

Despite the lack of evidence for cyclopropene intermediates in these reactions, simple bicycloheptatrienes have been generated by dehydrochlorination-isomerization reactions of gem-dichlorocyclopropanes.³² 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.²¹ 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 15.30a

Evidence for both 2,3-benzobicyclo[4.1.0]hepta-2,4,6-triene 55 and 4,5-benzobicyclo[4.1.0]hepta-2,4,6 triene 56 can be found when 57 and 58, respectively, are treated with potassium tert-butoxide in tetrahydrofuran.³² 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.³⁷

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

Spectroscopic detection of benzobicyclo[4.1.0]hepta-2,4,6-trienes was provided by Chapman and co-workers in 1986.³⁹ 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 1,2,4,6 cycloheptatetraene. 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-l,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.³⁰ 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 $\frac{1}{2}$ into a peri-C-H bond is produced.^{21d,37}

Additional evidence for these species can be found in the following elimination reactions.^{30b,32,40-42}

/ V. Blcyclo[3.1. Ojhexa-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,⁴³ 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 Hiickel calculations, when applied in conjunction with Hess and Schaad's semiempirical approach.⁴⁴ reach relatively reliable conclusions concerning the aromaticity of m-benzyne. With the resonance energy per π electron (REPE) value of 0.065 for benzene as a standard, the REPE for 68 is 0.055 .^{44,45} Thus replacement of H₁ and H₃ of benzene with a σ 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.⁴⁶ From ab initio studies, Wilhite predicted 68 to be a triplet.⁴⁷ 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_{2n} symmetry.⁴⁸ 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 A. In a similar study of the dehydrobenzenes, Dewar and co-workers concluded that 68 should exist as a singlet species containing a long $\frac{1}{2}$ bould exist as a singlet species containing a long
bridging σ bond between C₁ and C_{5.}⁴⁹ Noell and Newbindging σ bond between σ_1 and σ_5 . Then and itemton also calculated vo to exist in the singlet ground.
state ⁵⁰ Whereas Washburn found no energy barrier for state.⁵⁰ 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 culated bo to be separated from b*i* by a barrier of 9
kcal/mol.^{49b} As might be expected, theoretical treatment of 68 predicts π 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,⁵¹ the $\Delta H_{\text{f}}^{\circ}$ 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 ΔH_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 ΔH_f of 68 to be 145 kcal, containing 121 kcal of strain.⁴⁸ 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.⁵² 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_6H_4) .⁵³ 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.⁵⁴

Compelling evidence for the discrete bicyclohexatriene structure was finally presented by Washburn, Zahler, and Chen;⁵⁵ thus base-catalyzed elimina**SCHEME 18**

73

HOI-Bu 85 Of-Bu **V/V* ^** Of -Bus

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 ¹³C-labeling studies support the intermediacy of 68 and not 67 in this reaction.⁵⁵ Introduction of a *tert*-butyl or methyl group at C_2 of 70 provided the respective C_2 -alkylated derivatives of 68.55a,56

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).⁵⁷

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)⁵⁵ 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 94.⁵⁸⁻⁶¹ This deviation from planarity enables the C-H bonds to overlap with the pure π 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 $95.60,62-65$ 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.⁶⁶ 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;⁶⁶ 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.**68,69

SCHEME 22

SCHEME 23

Fluoride-induced elimination of β -halo silane precursors has also been utilized successfully in the preparation of **99** and 101-103.69,70 Attempts to synthesize **92** and its methyl derivatives by the dehydrohalogenation method were unsuccessful.⁷¹

Compound 104, on the other hand, isomerizes spontaneously to o-benzyne, which can be trapped with 2,5-dimethylfuran (Scheme 22).⁷² 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.^{69,70} 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 furan⁷³ and benzindole⁷⁴ derivatives provides a useful route to small-ring propellanes⁷⁵ containing the bicyclobutane moiety.⁷⁶ 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.77,78 Use of sterically hindered nonnucleophilic bases^{67,73,79} allows the introduction of thio and amino groups into the bridgehead position of the molecule.76,80

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).81,82 The mixture of **108** and **109** was then thermally converted to norbornadienes 110 and **111.** Tetracyclo[3.2.0.02,7.04,6]hept-l(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.^{81,83}

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

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

The formation and trapping of bicyclo[3.1.0]hex-l- (5)-ene **(114)** from the corresponding w'c-dibromide **115** have been described recently.⁸⁴ 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 l-£er£-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-l(6)-ene **(118)** and its derivatives have been the object of several synthetic studies. Gassman proposed 118 as an intermediate in the reaction of l-chloro-2-methylcyclohexene **(119)** with alkyllithium reagents (Scheme 25).⁸⁵ Deuterium labeling of the methyl group of **119** provided **120** deuterated at C_7 , confirming the intermediacy of 118.85

7,7-Dimethylbicyclo[4.1.0]hept-l(6)-ene (121), the only spectroscopically detectable derivative of 118, was synthesized by Closs and co-workers.⁸⁶ The photolysis of 3H-pyrazole **122** at -60 ⁰C in cyclopropane gave 121, which decomposed above -35 °C. The ¹H NMR spectrum of 121 at -60° C showed signals at δ 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 ⁰C to give **125** (Scheme 26).

Biilups 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.**^u In the absence of cyclopentadiene, **118** dimerizes via an ene reaction.⁸⁷

SCHEME 24 SCHEME 26

Closs and co-workers also prepared 7,7-dimethylbicyclo[5.1.0]oct-l(7)-ene (128) from 3tf-pyrazole **129** by irradiation in *n*-pentane at 15 $^{\circ}$ C.^{86b} 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 ¹H NMR spectrum.

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

9,9-Diphenylbicyclo[6.1.0]non-l(8)-ene (135) has also been prepared⁸⁹ from cyclooctyne and diphenyldiazomethane using the Closs procedure.⁸⁶

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.^{13a}

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

SCHEME 28 SCHEME 30

SCHEME 29

of strained-ring intermediates illustrated in Scheme 28.⁹⁰

Bicyclo[5.1.0]oct-l(2)-ene (138) can be prepared along with 139 by pyrolysis of the dry lithium salt of tosylhydrazone **140⁹¹** or by photolysis of **139.⁹²**

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

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 143,⁹⁴ whereas treatment of gem-dichlorocyclopropane **144** with strong base yields the same intermediate.⁹⁵ 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-l(2)-ene itself remains unknown, Kobrich and Baumann synthesized the pentame thyl analogue **146,** which was isolated in 20-30%

yield by carbenoid cyclization of chloro olefin **147.⁹³** Thermolysis of 146 at 120 °C produced methylenecyclopropane **148** through a trimethylenemethane intermediate.⁹⁶

Thermolysis of [l.l.ljpropellane **149** at 430 ⁰C by Szeimies and Belzner led to the isolation of a single product, 1,2-divinylcyclopropene $(150).^{97}$ 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 [l.l.l]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-l(2)-ene **157** as an intermediate of the thermal rearrangement of 2 methylenetricyclo[4.1.0.01,3]heptane (158) has been reported by two groups (Scheme 31).⁹⁸ At 150 ⁰C **158** forms an equilibrium mixture with **157** and cyclopropene **159;** however, at 180 ⁰C 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.^{13a,99} 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.^{13a} In a number of other cases (Nu = ester), **163** underwent further elimination and isomerization to give bicyclo[4.1.0]hept-l(2)-ene **164** (Scheme 32)." 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-l(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.

Kobrich and Heinemann provided the first evidence for the existence of 2,6,6-trimethyl derivative **167** by isolating the TMM dimer 168 .¹⁰⁰ Further work by Köbrich resulted in the isolation of the $[2 + 2]$ dimer 169 and a dimer "of lower symmetry".¹ Berson and co-workers¹⁰¹ confirmed the work of Kobrich and identified several other dimers (**170-173).**¹⁰² The product mixtures were found to be strongly temperature dependent: at -78 ⁰C only **169** and **170** are observed; at 0 °C 168 and 171-173 are isolated as the major hydrocarbons; at -30 ⁰C, 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-l(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-l(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).101a 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.^{101a}

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.¹⁰³ The formation of **181** involved the cyclization of biradical **182** to bicyclo[3.1.0]hex-l(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.¹⁰⁴ 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-l(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.^{101b}

The presence of bulky substituents on or near the strained double bond of a bicyclo[3.1.0]hex-l(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-l(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).¹⁰⁵ 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** $(Scheme 38).¹⁰⁵$ 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-l(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-l(2)-ene structure.

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

the weak σ bond (C₅-C₆) and the twisted π bond (C₁- 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 NH4Cl, 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).¹⁰⁶ 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-l(2)-ene derivative, was postulated as an intermediate in the methyllithiuminduced conversion of dibromide **205** to 5-ethynyl-l,3 cyclohexadiene.¹⁰⁷

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