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## Synthesis and Properties of Vinylogous 6-(Cyclopentadienyl)pentafulvenes

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The application of the principle of kinetic stabilization on vinylogous 6-(cyclopentadienyl)pentafulvenes 1 led to the synthesis of the di- and tetra-tert-butyl derivatives 7a-e and 8a-c. Their reactions with bases and acids form charged, heteroatom-free cyanine-type carbanionic 9a-e, 10a-c and carbocationic 11a-e, 12a-c species which were characterized with NMR and UV/Vis spectroscopy. Conclusions on the ion

pair structures of the alkali metal salts 9a-e and 10a-c are drawn from the spectroscopic data. Additionally, in one case the behavior of the alkali metal salt 10b towards oxidants was studied by cyclic voltammetry and the structure of the corresponding hydrocarbon 8b was proved by X-ray structural analysis.

Vinylogous 6-(cyclopentadienyl)pentafulvenes 1 are suitable precursors for the preparation of the charged cyanines 2 and 3, which consist only of carbon and hydrogen. Jutz and Amschler<sup>1)</sup> first reported the generation of the deeply coloured sodium salts 2a - c in solution by condensation of sodium cyclopentadienide 4 with the vinamidinium salts 5a - c. Starting from 2a, Müller-Westerhoff et al.<sup>2)</sup> prepared the ferrocene 6. All attempts to isolate the hydrocarbons

1a-c by hydrolysis of 2a-c failed, probably due to their extreme tendency to polymerize. Stabilization could be achieved only in the case of the corresponding indene, fluorene and azulene derivatives <sup>1,3</sup>.

It seemed interesting to stabilize the basic structure 1 kinetically by introducing space-filling tert-butyl groups into the cyclopentadiene and pentafulvene rings<sup>4)</sup>. These substituents should hardly influence the electronic properties of the  $\pi$ -electron system. Deprotonation of the hydrocarbons 7 and 8 should provide the carbanionic species 9 and 10 while treatment with strong acids should lead to 11 and 12.

$$R$$
 $tBu$ 
 $Ta-e: R = H$ 
 $tBu$ 
 $tBu$ 

Synthesis and Spectroscopic Properties of Hydrocarbons 7a - e and 8a - c and Their Alkali Metal Salts 9a - e and 10a - c

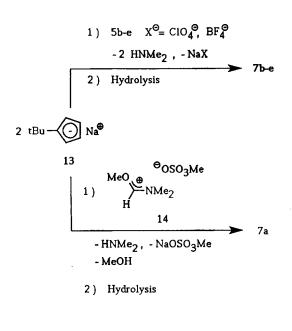
Similarly to the procedure of Jutz and Amschler<sup>1)</sup>, sodium tert-butylcyclopentadienide 13 reacts with 5b-e in a 2:1 ratio to give the sodium salts 9b-e, which form the hydrocarbons 7b-e as mixtures of E/Z isomers after hydrolysis. 7a can be prepared in the same way using the dimethylform-

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amide/dimethyl sulfate adduct 14 or by adding 13 to (E/Z)-2-tert-butyl-6-(dimethylamino)pentafulvene (15)<sup>2,5)</sup>.

With an increasing number of double bonds in the bridge the stability of the products decreases, requiring gentler reaction conditions and causing a decrease in yields (Table 1). Besides 7e, the next lower homologue 7d is also formed, probably because the nonamethinium salt 5e decomposes to 5d in the presence of the dimethylamine 6 which is generated during the reaction.



$$tBu$$
 $tBu$ 
 $tBu$ 
 $tBu$ 
 $tBu$ 
 $tBu$ 
 $tBu$ 
 $tBu$ 

Table 1. Yields and reaction conditions for the synthesis of 7a - e and 8a - c

	Yiel	Ld	Rea	act	tion Cor	nditions			
7a	50	%	12	h	reflux	(DME/diethy	leneglycol	dime	thyl
7ъ	90	%	17	h	reflux	н		ether	1:1)
7с	55	%	1	h	reflux	u			
7 <b>d</b>	30	%	0.5	h	reflux				
7e	26	%	4	h	60°C	н			
8a	33	%	14	h	reflux	(ether)			
8Ъ	55	%	26	h	reflux	(THF/dichlo	romethane	2:1)	
8c	24	ૠ	10	h	reflux	(THF) (	different	metho	d)

Just as for 7a - e, the higher substituted 6-(cyclopentadienyl)pentafulvenes 8a and 8b can also be synthesized, by using lithium 1,3-di-tert-butylcyclopentadienide 16. The method fails in the case of the higher homologues 8c - ebecause 16 is much less reactive towards electrophiles than 13. The pentamethine derivative 8c may be prepared by reaction of lithium 1,4-di-tert-butyl-2-vinylcyclopentadienide 18 with ethyl formate. 18 is obtained by deprotonation of (E)-1,3-di-*tert*-butyl-6-methylpentafulvene  $(17)^{7}$  with lithium 2,2.6,6-tetramethylpiperidide (LiTMP).

While the hydrocarbons  $7\mathbf{a} - \mathbf{e}$  must be stored under inert gas atmosphere and below  $0^{\circ}$ C, the higher substituted compounds  $8\mathbf{a} - \mathbf{c}$  are stable at room temperature and in the presence of air.

The pentafulvenes 7a-e and 8a-c can be quantitatively deprotonated with bases like lithium diisopropylamide or potassium tert-butylate to the alkali metal salts of 9a-e and 10a-c. The trimethine 10b serves best as a model compound for studying the chemical properties of these species because as well as two sterically hindered five-membered rings it possesses just one atom in the bridge, bearing a partial negative charge. The crystal structure  $^{8)}$  of the corresponding hydrocarbon 8b exhibits a planar  $\pi$ -electron system with five-membered rings shielded by the space-filling tert-butyl substituents, whereas the bridge shows less steric hindrance (Figure 1, Tables 2 and 3). Therefore, the reactions of 10b with electrophiles should yield product mixtures resulting from ring and bridge attack.

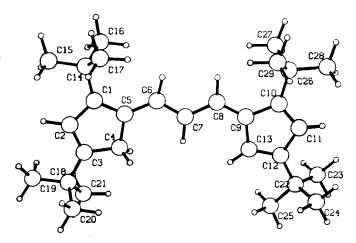


Figure 1. Crystal structure of **8b**. The numbering of the atoms is the same as in the Tables 2 and 3 and does not corresponds to nomenclature

The carboxylation of 10b, immediately followed by reaction with triethyloxonium tetrafluoroborate, leads exclusively to the racemic ester 19 of the cyclopentadienecarbox-

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Table 2. Fractional atomic coordinates and equivalent U values of 8b. The numbering of the atoms is the same as in Figure 1 and Table 3 and does not correspond to nomenclature. Standard deviations in the least significant digit appear in parentheses

Atom	X/A	Y/B	Z/C	U <sub>eq</sub>
C(1)	0.1320(03)	-0.0708(08)	0.9426(02)	0.054(02)
C(2)	0.0519(03)	0.0333(08)	0.9154(02)	0.061(02)
C(3)	0.0303(03)	0.1429(08)	0.8662(02)	0.061(03)
C(4)	0.0983(03)	0.1148(10)	0.8591(02)	0.070(03)
C(5)	0.1613(03)	-0.0266(08)	0.9093(02)	0.057(02)
C(6)	0.2363(03)	-0.0938(09)	0.9164(02)	0.063(03)
C(7)	0.2588(03)	-0.0404(09)	0.8804(02)	0.065(03)
C(8)	0.3338(03)	-0.1208(09)	0.8891(02)	0.061(02)
C(9)	0,3595(02)	-0.0819(08)	0.8540(02)	0.054(02)
C(10)	0.4337(02)	-0.1626(07)	0.8598(02)	0.048(02)
C(11)	0.4319(03)	-0.0792(08)	0.8140(02)	0.057(02)
C(12)	0.3588(03)	0.0594(07)	0.7779(02)	0.052(02)
C(13)	0.3150(03)	0.0569(08)	0.8015(02)	0.058(03)
C(14)	0.1728(03)	-0.2020(09)	0.9984(02)	0.068(03)
C(15)	0.1206(04)	-0.2072(17)	1.0219(03)	0.158(06)
C(16)	0.2559(04)	-0.0945(11)	1.0443(02)	0.093(03)
C(17)	0.1900(04)	-0.4430(10)	0.9902(03)	0.098(04)
C(18)	-0.0482(03)	0.2667(09)	0.8246(02)	0.070(03)
C(19)	-0.1007(04)	0.2941(16)	0.8475(03)	0.147(06)
C(20)	-0.1005(04)	0.1297(13)	0.7695(03)	0.104(04)
C(21)	-0.0317(04)	0.4878(12)	0.8069(03)	0.123(05)
C(22)	0.3384(03)	0.1817(08)	0.7239(02)	0.061(02)
C(23)	0.4126(03)	0.3182(09)	0.7370(02)	0.082(0 <b>3</b> )
C(24)	0.3201(03)	0.0027(09)	0.6785(02)	0.082(0 <b>3</b> )
C(25)	0.2646(03)	0.3361(11)	0.7004(02)	0.098(04)
C(26)	0.5012(03)	-0.3083(08)	0.9072(02)	0.056(02)
C(27)	0.5445(03)	-0.1840(09)	0.9647(02)	0.070(03)
C(28)	0.5671(03)	-0.3587(10)	0,8953(02)	0.080(03)
C(29)	0.4675(03)	-0.5339(09)	0.9114(02)	0.080(03)

1) 
$$CO_2$$
2)  $Et_3O^{\oplus}BF_4^{\ominus}$ 

-  $KBF_4$ , -  $Et_2O$ 
 $tBu$ 

COOEt

 $tBu$ 
 $tBu$ 

$$tBu$$
 $tBu$ 
 $tBu$ 

ylic acid. Products resulting from a reaction at the bridge could not be isolated.

Larger electrophiles, such as pentafulvenes with a suitable leaving group at the exocyclic carbon atom, should prefer an attack at the central bridge position. Surprisingly, the reaction of 10b with (E)-1,3-di-tert-butyl-6-(trifluoromethyl-sulfonyloxy)pentafulvene  $(20)^{9}$  leads directly to the 1,2-di-hydropentalene derivative 21, which obviously results from an  $8\pi$ -electrocyclic reaction of either the intermediate 22 or 23.

Table 3. Bond lengths (Å) and angles (degree) of 8b. The numbering of the atoms is the same as in Figure 1 and Table 2 and does not correspond to nomenclature. Standard deviations in the least significant digit appear in parentheses

C2 - C1	1.445(6)	C5 - C1 - C2	108.0(4)
C3 - C2	1.363(6)	C3 - C1 - C2 C3 - C2 - C1	111.4(4)
C4 - C3	1.471(6)	C4 - C3 - C2	107.3(4)
C5 - C4	1.503(6)	C5 - C4 - C3	105.5(4)
C5 - C1	1.374(5)	C4 - C5 - C1	107.9(4)
C6 - C5	1.432(6)	C6 - C5 - C1	130.6(4)
C7 - C6	1.354(6)	C6 - C5 - C4	121.6(4)
C8 - C7	1.436(6)	C7 - C6 - C5	125.4(4)
C9 - C8	1.359(5)	C8 - C7 - C6	122.4(5)
C10 - C9	1.457(6)	C9 - C8 - C7	126.0(4)
C11 - C10	1.363(6)	C10 - C9 - C8	128.6(4)
C12 - C11	1.458(6)	C11 - C10 - C9	106.6(4)
C13 - C12	1.355(6)	C12 - C11 - C10	110.6(4)
C13 - C9	1.472(6)	C13 - C12 - C11	107.6(4)
010 07	1.4/2(0)	C12 - C13 - C9	108.4(4)
		C13 - C9 - C8	124.8(4)
		C13 - C9 - C10	106.7(3)
C14 - C1	1.515(6)	C15 - C14 - C1	111.9(4)
C14 - C15	1.503(6)	C16 - C14 - C1	110.4(4)
C14 - C16	1.538(7)	C16 - C14 - C15	107.8(5)
C14 - C17	1.516(7)	C17 - C14 - C1	111.0(4)
	(.,	C17 - C14 - C15	108.4(5)
		C17 - C14 - C16	107.1(5)
C18 - C3	1.502(6)	C19 - C18 - C3	111.8(4)
C18 - C19	1.505(7)	C20 - C18 - C3	109.9(5)
C18 - C20	1.523(7)	C20 - C18 - C19	105.1(5)
C18 - C21	1.501(8)	C21 - C18 - C3	111.4(5)
		C21 - C18 - C19	112.3(6)
		C21 - C18 - C20	106.0(5)
C22 - C12	1.520(6)	C23 - C22 - C12	109.6(4)
C22 - C23	1.521(6)	C24 - C22 - C12	108.0(4)
C22 - C24	1.539(6)	C24 - C22 - C23	108.1(4)
C22 - C25	1.517(6)	C25 - C22 - C12	111.8(4)
	• •	C25 - C22 - C23	109.7(4)
		C25 - C22 - C24	109.6(4)
C26 - C10	1.514(6)	C27 - C26 - C10	110.3(4)
C26 - C27	1.529(6)	C28 - C26 - C10	110.3(4)
C26 - C28	1.541(6)	C28 - C26 - C27	106.7(4)
C26 - C29	1.525(6)	C29 - C26 - C10	111.4(4)
		C29 - C26 - C27	110.3(4)
		C29 - C26 - C28	107.6(4)

Treatment of the potassium salt 10b with anhydrous copper chloride at  $-40\,^{\circ}$ C in THF exclusively gives the dimer 25 in yields of up to 80%. This regioselective reaction seems to proceed very rapidly, via the radical 24. Even the presence of radical-trapping reagents such as 2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidine-N-oxyl does not lead to corresponding trapping products. Cyclic voltammetry of the lithium or potassium salt of 10b carried out in dichloromethane  $^{10}$  at room temperature with a scanning rate of 0.1-0.5 V/s shows an ir-



reversible oxidation peak at U = 0.9-1.0 V (vs. H<sub>2</sub>O/Ag/AgCl). Measurements of the potassium salt of 10b at higher scanning velocities (150 V/s) and lower temperatures (-50°C) give no evidence for a reduction of the radical 24 (Figure 2). This interesting observation can be explained by a very high rate of the coupling reaction.

The alkali metal salts 9a-e and 10a-c show a characteristic colour in solution which depends on the solvent and on the cation (see experimental section). Although they possess high thermal stability, these salts are very sensitive towards air and water.

The <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectra of the lithium salts of 9a-d in  $[D_8]$ THF show line-broadening at temperatures below  $20\,^{\circ}$ C due to a restricted rotation of the bridge C-C bonds. At higher temperatures (+50 $^{\circ}$ C), the signals become sharp and point to a symmetrical structure for all except the trimethine derivative 9b. The central bridge proton in this compound is detected as a doublet of doublets instead of a triplet and the vicinal protons show two different doublets. This different behavior which also was not observed with the higher substituted lithium salts of 10a-c, can be ex-

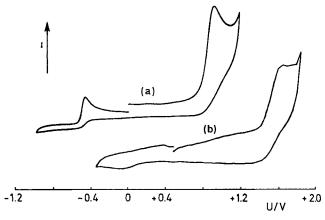


Figure 2. CV diagrams of 10b ( $M^{\oplus}=K^{\oplus}$ )  $^{10}$ , (a) T=298~K, vs.  $H_2O/Ag/AgCl$ , scan rate 100 mV/s. (b) T=223~K, vs. Ag, scan rate 150 V/s. The current scales are not comparable

plained in terms of the formation of an aggregate with one bond of the bridge preferring the cis conformation.

Different results are obtained from the <sup>1</sup>H- and <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectra of the tetra-tert-butyl compounds **10a**—c (lithium salts, [D<sub>8</sub>]THF/[D<sub>10</sub>]ether, 1:1) [Figure 3 (a)]. Due to the increased steric hindrance, they show no rapid rotation even at temperatures up to +60°C so that their NMR signals remain sharp. An alteration of the chemical shifts of the hydrogen and carbon atoms is observed with decreasing temperature, which can be explained in terms of a reversible change from a contact ion pair to a solvent-separated ion pair. This entropy-controlled effect has also been observed with other organic alkali metal salts and has been examined by UV/Vis<sup>11</sup>, <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>12</sup> and <sup>13</sup>C-NMR<sup>13</sup>, ESR spectroscopy<sup>14</sup>, and X-ray structure analysis<sup>14</sup>.

In the contact ion pair, the  $\pi$ -electron density is increased in that part of the anion which is coordinated to the metal. Charge reduction in the remaining  $\pi$ -electron system occurs simultaneously. In fact, an increase of the temperature leads to a significant shift of the <sup>13</sup>C-NMR signal of the charged bridge carbon atoms towards lower field. The chemical shifts of the ring carbon atoms remain nearly unchanged. From this behavior, it can be concluded that the metal ion prefers coordination to a cyclopentadienide system and fluctuates rapidly between the two equivalent five-membered rings in each carbanion molecule within the NMR timescale. This intra- or intermolecular process causes an averaging effect on the chemical shifts of their <sup>13</sup>C-NMR signals so that they remain roughly constant.

The lithium salt 26 offers two different cyclopentadienide systems as possible ligands so that the cation could prefer one of them. Therefore, increasing the temperature could cause a high-field shift for the signals of the carbon atoms of the coordinated ring and an inverse behavior for the others.

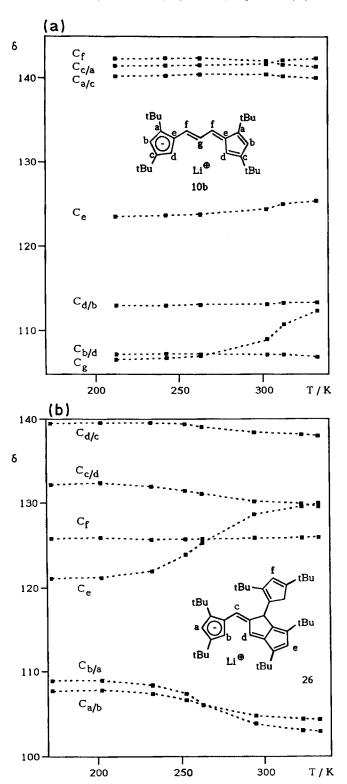


Figure 3.  $\delta(^{13}C)$  of 10b ( $M^{\oplus}=Li^{\oplus},\lceil D_8\rceil THF/\lceil D_{10}\rceil$  ether, 1:1) (a) and of 26 ( $M^{\oplus}=Li^{\oplus},\lceil D_8\rceil THF)$  (b) 13s as functions of temperature. The dotted lines were not measured but show the trends of the chemical shifts

The  $^{13}$ C-NMR spectra of **26** in [D<sub>8</sub>]THF between  $-100^{\circ}$ C and  $+60^{\circ}$ C show the expected effect for the signals of the hydrogen-substituted carbon atoms  $C_a - C_c^{15}$  of the charged substructure [Figure 3 (b)]. The chemical shift of

 $C_f$  in the neutral cyclopentadienyl substituent remains unchanged. The <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectra correlate with these data; additionally, a significant change of the color of the sample from violet to blue can be observed when its temperature is decreased from 0 °C to -20 °C.

$$R = \begin{array}{c} tBu \\ t$$

In agreement with the theoretical approach, the signals of  $C_a$  and  $C_b$  are shifted to higher field if the temperature rises, due to the increase of charge in the corresponding ring. Simultaneously, the signal due to  $C_e$  in the other ring is shifted to lower field ( $\Delta\delta\approx 9$  ppm), a fact that is readily explained by a reduction of negative charge. From this, it can be concluded that in the contact ion pair, the lithium ion is favourably coordinated to the less substituted five-membered ring bearing  $C_a$  and  $C_b$ , which causes a deshielding of the remaining part of the  $\pi$ -electron system.

The thermodynamic parameters of the equilibrium between contact ion pair and solvent-separated ion pair can

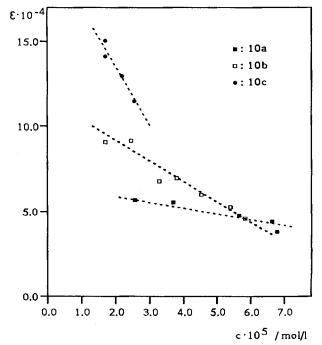


Figure 4. The extinction coefficient  $\varepsilon$  of the absorption maxima of 10a-c ( $M^{\oplus}=Li^{\oplus}$ , THF) as function of the carbanion concentration

be derived from the <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectra <sup>13)</sup>. The spectral data of C<sub>e</sub> were used for the calculation because its peak shows the highest sensitivity in shift towards temperature changes. Within the temperature range  $(-100^{\circ}\text{C to } + 60^{\circ}\text{C})$ , almost complete conversion of the contact ion pair (above  $+50^{\circ}$ C) into the solvent-separated ion pair (below  $-70^{\circ}$ C) can be observed. This allows the determination of the K values with sufficient precision. The resulting values for the enthalpy and the entropy ( $\Delta H = -35.5 \pm 1.5 \text{ kJ/mol}$ ,  $\Delta S = -135 \pm$ 7 J/mol· K) correspond to those obtained from other systems 11-13)

Additionally, UV/Vis spectra of the oxygen-sensitive lithium salts 10a-c where measured in THF with concentrations ranging from 17 to 68 µmol/l. The absorption maxima exhibit a strong increase of the extinction coefficient if the concentration is descreased (Figure 4). The wavelengths of the peaks remain constant for 10a and 10c but show a slight bathochromic shift in case of 10b. The reason for this behavior is not clear, but dissociation effects could be responsible 16).

### Synthesis and Spectroscopic Properties of the Cations 11a - e and 12a - c

The hydrocarbons 7a - e and 8a - c undergo reversible protonation at the pentafulvene moiety if they are treated with strong acids, such as trifluoroacetic acid. The resulting carbocations 11a-e and 12a-c exhibit deep colors (see experimental section) and are stable in the presence of oxygen. The <sup>1</sup>H- and <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectra of the tetra-tert-butyl compounds 12a-c are in agreement with the symmetrical structure of these compounds. The spectra of the less substituted derivatives 11a - c are similar but two isomers are observed in ratios varying from 3-8:1.

The main isomer A is symmetrical, both tert-butyl groups being located at the ends of the  $\pi$ -electron system. The other, B, differs by the position of one alkyl substituent and for that reason shows no symmetry. This observation may be explained by the stabilizing effect of the tert-butyl groups. Only if the substituent is located at a charge-bearing carbon atom can it cause stabilization.

Like the carbanions 10a-c, the carbocations 11a-e and 12a - c also follow the empirical rule of Kuhn<sup>17</sup>, with a shift of wavelength of their UV/Vis signals of 80-90 nm per double bond.

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### Experimental

All reactions were carried out under a nitrogen atmosphere if not specified otherwise. - For column chromatography, basic alumina [activity BII-III (Brockmann) ICN Woelm] and silica gel [70-230 mesh (ASTM) Merck] were used. - All solvents used in the reactions were dried and distilled according to standard procedures. - The physical data of the compounds were obtained using the following equipment. NMR: Bruker WM 300, AC 300 (1H: 300 MHz, 13C: 75.47 MHz). The NMR spectra were measured with TMS as internal standard except for the carbanions 9a - e, 10a - c and 26, where the remaining hydrogen signals of [D<sub>8</sub>]THF (Aldrich) were taken as standard. MS: Finnigan MAT 311-A/100 MS. IR: Beckman IR-5A, Perkin-Elmer 125. UV: Beckman DK-2A, UV-5240. The melting points were determined with a Kofler apparatus (Reichert, Vienna, Austria). — The compounds 15<sup>5</sup>, 17<sup>7</sup>, and 20% were prepared according to the references.

1) General Procedure for the Synthesis of 7a - e: 36.4 ml (40.0) mmol) of a 1.1 M solution of sodium tert-butylcyclopentadienide (13) in DME/diethylene glycol dimethyl ether (1:1) are heated together with 18.0 mmol of the corresponding polymethinium salt as follows:

```
7a: 12 h reflux,
                     3.59 g 14
                                (preparation see below)
7b: 17 h reflux,
                     3.86 g 5b
                                (tetrafluoroborate)
                     4.55 g 5c
7c:
    1 h reflux,
                                (perchlorate)
    30 min reflux,
                     5.02 g 5d
7d:
                                (perchlorate)
     4 h 60°C,
                     5.49 g 5e
                                (perchlorate)
```

The deeply coloured mixture is cooled to room temp. and hydrolyzed with 50 ml of a saturated aqueous solution of ammonium chloride. After adding 100 ml of ether and separating the phases, the organic phase is extracted twice with 100 ml of water, and the combined aqueous phases are extracted once with 50 ml of ether. The combined organic solutions are dried with magnesium sulfate. and the solvent is removed in vacuo at 30°C. After adsorptive filtration with n-hexane through basic alumina BII – III, the solvent is removed in vacuo at 30°C, and the residue is purified by column chromatography (6 cm diameter, 60 cm length) with n-hexane [7e: n-hexane/ether (20:1)] on silica gel. The resulting dark brown oil (7b-e) can be crystallized from *n*-hexane. The yields are as follows:

```
7a: 2.30 g (50%), oil,
                                      55°C/10<sup>-4</sup> Torr<sup>5</sup>)
                               b. p.
7b: 4.55 g (90%), crystals,
                                      100-102°C
                              m.p.
     3.07 g (55%), crystals,
                              m.p.
                                     101 - 105 °C
    1.80 g (30%), crystals,
                              m. p.
                                     106-115°C
    1.75 g (26%), crystals, m. p. 110-120°C
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In the preparation of 7e, compound 7d can also be isolated

The adduct 14 can be prepared in situ by stirring a mixture of 1.52 g (20.0 mmol) of dimethyl sulfate and 1.46 g (20.0 mmol) of N,N-dimethylformamide for 2 h at 60°C and extracting the oil twice with dried ether after cooling to room temp.

(E/Z)-2-tert-Butyl-6-(3/4-tert-butylcyclopentadienyl) pentafulvene (7a): IR (film):  $\tilde{v} = 2950 \text{ cm}^{-1} (C-H)$ , 1575 (C=C). – UV (*n*-hexane):  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  (lg  $\epsilon$ ) = 241 nm (3.892), 246 (3.852), 252 (3.645), 258 (3.281), 367 (4.486), 450 (2.631). - <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta =$ 1.16 - 1.25 (m, 18 H, tBu), 3.38 - 3.50 (m, 2H,  $-CH_2-$ ), 5.83 - 7.05(m, 6H, =CH-). - MS (70 eV): m/z (%) = 254 (65) [M<sup>+</sup>], 239 (63) [M - CH<sub>3</sub>], 197 (26) [M - tBu], 57 (100) [tBu].

 $\begin{array}{ll} (E/Z)\text{-}2\text{-}tert\text{-}Butyl\text{-}6\text{-}[(E)\text{-}2\text{-}(3/4\text{-}tert\text{-}butylcyclopentadienyl)vinyl}] pentafulvene (7b): IR (KBr): $\vec{v}$ = 2940 cm $^{-1}$ (s, C-H), 1576 (m, C=C). — UV (n-hexane): $\lambda_{max}$ (lg $\varepsilon$) = 221 nm (3.892) sh, 270 (3.926), 344 (4.152) sh, 364 (4.422) sh, 379 (4.579), 398 (4.585). — $^{1}$H NMR (CDCl_3): $\vec{\vec{v}}$ = 1.17-1.22 (m, 18 H, tBu), 3.20 (br. s, 2 H, -CH_2-), 5.87-6.92 (m, 8 H, -CH-). — MS (70 eV): $m/z$ (%) = 280 (16) [M^+], 265 (15) [M - CH_3], 223 (13) [M - tBu], 57 (100) [tBu]. $C_{21}H_{28}$ (280.5) Calcd. $C$ 89.94 H 10.06 Found $C$ 89.88 H 10.40$ 

(E/Z)-2-tert-Butyl-6-[(E,E)-4-(3/4-tert-butylcyclopentadienyl)-1,3-butadienyl]pentafulvene (7c): IR (KBr):  $\tilde{v}=2900$  cm $^{-1}$  (s, C–H), 1550 (m, C=C). — UV (n-hexane):  $\lambda_{max}$  (lg  $\epsilon$ ) = 258 nm (3.602) sh, 287 (3.914) sh, 295 (3.963), 383 (4.636) sh, 402 (4.803), 423 (4.777). —  $^{1}$ H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 1.16–1.21 (m, 18H, tBu), 3.14–3.16 (m, 2H, -CH<sub>2</sub>-), 5.85–6.84 (m, 10 H, -CH-). — MS (70 eV): m/z (%) = 306 (60) [M $^{+}$ ], 291 (32) [M - CH<sub>3</sub>], 249 (39) [M - tBu), 57 (100) [tBu].

C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>30</sub> (306.5) Calcd. C 90.13 H 9.87 Found C 89.98 H 10.01

(E/Z)-2-tert-Butyl-6-[(E,E,E)-6-(3/4-tert-butylcyclopentadienyl)-1,3,5-hexatrienyl]pentafulvene (7**d**): IR (KBr):  $\tilde{v}=2950$  cm<sup>-1</sup> (s, C–H), 1550 (m, C=C). — UV (n-hexane):  $\lambda_{max}$  (lg  $\varepsilon$ ) = 248 nm (3.834), 268 (3.714) sh, 281 (3.688) sh, 305 (3.865) sh, 313 (3.898) sh, 317 (3.931), 403 (4.656) sh, 422 (4.786), 448 (4.713). — <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 1.16–1.21 (m, 18 H, tBu), 3.15 (m, 2 H, -CH<sub>2</sub>-), 5.85–6.81 (m, 12 H, = CH-). — MS (70 eV): m/z (%) = 332 (24) [M<sup>+</sup>], 317 (12) [M — CH<sub>3</sub>], 275 (15) [M — tBu], 57 (100) [tBu].

C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>32</sub> (332.5) Calcd. C 90.30 H 9.70 Found C 89.75 H 10.11

(E/Z)-2-tert-Butyl-6-[(E,E,E,E)-8-(3/4-tert-butylcyclopentadienyl)-1,3,5,7-octatetraenyl]pentafulvene (7e): IR (KBr):  $\tilde{v}=2920$  cm<sup>-1</sup> (s, C-H), 1520 (m, C=C). – UV (n-hexane):  $\lambda_{max}$  (lg  $\epsilon$ ) = 263 nm (3.835), 286 (3.799), 303 (3.802), 319 (3.902), 329 (3.950), 335 (3.936), 420 (4.840), 441 (4.950), 466 (4.860). – <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta=1.15-1.20$  (m, 18 H, tBu), 3.11 – 3.14 (m, 2 H, -CH<sub>2</sub>-), 5.84 to 6.88 (m, 14 H, -CH-). – MS (70 eV): m/z (%) = 358 (25) [M+], 343 (4) [M - CH<sub>3</sub>], 301 (6) [M = tBu), 57 (100) [tBu].

C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>34</sub> (358.6) Calcd. C 90.43 H 9.57 Found C 89.41 H 9.62

2a) Synthesis of (E)-1,3-Di-tert-butyl-6-(2,4-di-tert-butylcyclopentadienyl) pentafulvene (8a): 250 ml of ether is added to 71.0 ml (0.100 mol) of a 1.44 M solution of n-butyllithium in n-hexane. To the refluxing mixture, 17.8 g (0.100 mol) of 1,3-di-tert-butylcyclopentadiene is added slowly. After 2 h a solution of 10.0 g (50.0 mmol) of the DMF/dimethyl sulfate adduct 14 (preparation see . experiment 1) in 250 ml of dichloromethane is added and heating is continued at reflux for 14 h. The reaction mixture is hydrolysed with 200 ml of ice. The workup procedure is the same as described for experiment 1. Yield 6.10 g (33%) of 8a as brown crystals, m. p. 120 °C (from 2-propanol). – IR (KBr):  $\tilde{v} = 1563 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  (C=C). – UV (n-hexane):  $\lambda_{max}$  (lg  $\epsilon$ ) = 243 nm (3.973), 256 (3.704) sh, 265 (3.375) sh, 384 (4.441). – <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 1.22$  (s, 9 H, tBu), 1.23 (s, 9H, tBu), 1.38 (s, 9H, tBu), 1.39 (s, 9H, tBu), 3.50 (br. s, 2H, 5'-H), 6.13 (d, J = 1.9 Hz, 1H, 2-H), 6.20 (dd,  $J_1 = 1.9$  Hz,  $J_2 = 1.9$ 0.6 Hz, 1 H, 4-H), 6.29 (t, J = 0.8 Hz, 1 H, 3'-H), 7.76 (br. s, 1 H, 6-H). -MS(70 eV):  $m/z(\%) = 366(47)[M^+], 351(14)[M - CH_3],$ 309 (38) [M - tBu], 57 (100) [tBu].

> C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>42</sub> (366.6) Calcd. C 88.45 H 11.55 Found C 88.61 H 11.69

2b) Synthesis of (E,E)-1,3-Di-tert-butyl-6-[2-(2,4-di-tert-butyl-cyclopentadienyl)vinyl]pentafulvene (8b): To 18.7 ml (28.0 mmol) of

a refluxing 1.5 m solution of n-butyllithium in n-hexane 5.00 g (28.0 mmol) of 1,3-di-tert-butyleyelopentadiene is added slowly. After 1 h the mixture is diluted with 60 ml of THF and a solution of 3.00 g (14.0 mmol) of the vinamidinium tetrafluoroborate 5b in 40 ml of dichloromethane is added slowly over a period of 30 min. After 26 h of heating at reflux the mixture is cooled to room temperature, hydrolysed with 300 ml of water, and worked up as described in experiment 1. Yield 3.10 g (55%) of 8b as brown needles, m.p. 134°C (from 2-propanol). – IR (KBr):  $\tilde{v} = 1580 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  (C=C). – UV (n-hexane):  $\lambda_{max}$  (lg  $\varepsilon$ ) = 210 nm (4.053), 278 (3.974), 396 (4.627), 414 (4.629). - <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 1.21$  (s, 18H, tBu), 1.32 (s, 9H, tBu), 1.33 (s, 9H, tBu), 3.27 (br. s, 2H, 5"-H), 6.12 (d, J =2.0 Hz, 1 H, 4-H), 6.15 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1 H, 2-H), 6.21 (s, 1 H, 3"-H), 6.71 (dd,  $J_1 = 14.8$  Hz,  $J_2 = 11.5$  Hz, 1H, 1'-H), 7.04 (d, J =11.5 Hz, 1 H, 6-H), 7.17 (d, J = 14.8 Hz, 1 H, 2'-H). — MS (70 eV): m/z (%) = 392 (50) [M<sup>+</sup>], 57 (100) [tBu].

> C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>44</sub> (392.7) Calcd. C 88.71 H 11.29 Found C 88.76 H 11.29

2c) Synthesis of (E,E,E)-1,3-Di-tert-butyl-6-[4-(2,4-di-tert-butylcyclopentadienyl)-1,3-butadienyl]pentafulvene (8c): 2.80 g (19.0 mmol) of 2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidine is added at 0°C to 13.5 ml (20.2 mmol) of a 1.5 m solution of n-butyllithium in n-hexane. After 15 min at room temperature, the mixture is cooled to 0°C and a solution of 4.00 g (19.6 mmol) of (E)-1,3-di-tert-butyl-6-methylpentafulvene (18) in 30 ml of THF is added, and the solution is warmed up to room temperature. After 30 min, 1.45 g (19.6 mmol) of ethyl formate is added, and the reaction mixture is heated at reflux temperature for 10 h. After hydrolysis with 200 ml of water, the reaction is worked up as described in experiment 1. Yield 1.00 g (24%) of 8c as brown crystals, m. p. 153°C (from 2-propanol). — IR (KBr):  $\tilde{v} = 2941 \text{ cm}^{-1} \text{ (s, C-H), } 1580 \text{ (m, C=C)}. - \text{UV (n-hexane)}: \lambda_{\text{max}}$  $(\lg \varepsilon) = 231 \text{ nm } (3.999), 264 (3.648) \text{ sh}, 295 (3.980) \text{ sh}, 303 (4.033),$ 380 (4.410), 403 (4.639) sh, 419 (4.791), 445 (4.754). - <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 1.18$  (s, 9H, tBu), 1.19 (s, 9H, tBu), 1.30 (s, 9H, tBu), 1.32 (s, 9 H, tBu), 3.22 (br. s, 2 H, 5"-H), 6.09 (br. d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1 H, 4-H), 6.14 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H, 2-H), 6.19 (s, 1H, 3"-H), 6.41 (dd,  $J_1 = 14.9 \text{ Hz}, J_2 = 10.8 \text{ Hz}, 1 \text{ H}, 3'-\text{H}), 6.67 \text{ (dd}, J_1 = 14.2 \text{ Hz},$  $J_2 = 10.9 \text{ Hz}, 1 \text{ H}, 2' \text{-H}), 6.81 \text{ (dd}, J_1 = 14.3 \text{ Hz}, J_2 = 11.3 \text{ Hz}, 1 \text{ H},$ 1'-H), 7.04 (d, J = 11.3 Hz, 1H, 6-H), 7.05 (d, J = 15.1 Hz, 1H, 4'-H). - MS (70 eV): m/z (%) = 418 (50) [M<sup>+</sup>], 403 (4) [M - $CH_3$ ], 361 (35) [M - tBu], 57 (100) [tBu].

 $C_{31}H_{46}$  (418.7) Calcd. C 88.93 H 11.07 Found C 89.06 H 11.08

3) Synthesis of (E,E)-1,3-Di-tert-butyl-6-[2-(2,4-di-tert-butyl-5-(ethoxycarbonyl)cyclopentadienyl)vinyl]pentafulvene (19): 4.00 ml (2.40 mmol) of a 0.60 M solution of phenyllithium in ether is added to a solution of 0.78 g (2.00 mmol) of 8b in 10 ml of THF. After 15 min, approximately 5 g of solid dry carbon dioxide is added. When the CO<sub>2</sub> evolution has subsided, 0.40 g (2.10 mmol) of triethyloxonium tetrafluoroborate is added and the mixture is stirred for 15 min. After hydrolysis with 10 ml of saturated aqueous NH<sub>4</sub>Cl and separation of the phases, the organic phase is dried with magnesium sulfate and passed through a short column of basic alumina (BII-III) with ether. The solvent is removed in vacuo and the residue is chromatographed on a silica gel column (4 cm diameter, 50 cm length) with n-hexane/ether (9:1). The first fraction contains small amounts of 8b. From the second fraction 0.51 g (55%) of 19 is obtained as brown crystals, m. p. 136-137°C (from *n*-hexane). -IR (KBr):  $\tilde{v} = 2950 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  (s, C-H), 1783 (s, C=O). - UV (nhexane):  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  (lg  $\epsilon$ ) = 279 nm (3.986), 374 (4.442) sh, 393 (4.609), 411 (4.603). — <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 1.19$  (s, 9H, 3- or 4"-tBu), 1.20 (s, 9H, 4"-tBu or 3-tBu), 1.27 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H,  $-CH_2CH_3$ ),

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1.32 (s, 9H, 1-tBu or 2"-tBu), 1.34 (s, 9H, 2"-tBu or 1-tBu), 4.13 (q,  $J = 7.2 \text{ Hz}, 1 \text{ H}, -CH_2CH_3$ , 4.14 (q,  $J = 7.2 \text{ Hz}, 1 \text{ H}, -CH_2CH_3$ ), 4.32 (br. s, 1 H, 5"-H), 6.08 (d, J = 1.9 Hz, 1 H, 4-H), 6.14 (d, J =1.9 Hz, 1 H, 2-H), 6.32 (d, J = 0.8 Hz, 1 H, 3"-H), 6.82 (dd,  $J_1 =$ 15.0 Hz,  $J_2 = 11.3$  Hz, 1H, 1'-H), 6.97 (d, J = 11.3 Hz, 1H, 6-H), 7.06 (d, J = 15.0 Hz, 1H, 2'-H). – MS (70 eV): m/z (%) = 464 (90)  $[M^+]$ , 449 (12)  $[M - CH_3]$ , 407 (6) [M - tBu], 57 (100) [tBu].

> C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>48</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (464.7) Calcd. C 82.70 H 10.41 Found C 82.52 H 10.52

4) Synthesis of 4,6-Di-tert-butyl-1-(2,4-di-tert-butylcyclopentadienyl)-2-[(2,4-di-tert-butylcyclopentadienyl)methylene]-1H-pentalene (21): 0.300 g (2.50 mmol) of potassium tert-butylate and approx. 50 mg of 18-crown-6 are added to 1.00 g (2.50 mmol) of 8b in 50 ml of DME. After 15 min the solution is cooled to -30 °C and a solution of 0.800 g (2.50 mmol) of 20 in 2.5 ml of DME is added dropwise. After 2 h the reaction mixture is warmed to room temp. Hydrolysis after 2 h with 20 ml of saturated aqueous NH<sub>4</sub>Cl is followed by phase separation and extraction of the aqueous phase with 100 ml of water. The combined organic phases are dried with magnesium sulfate and the solvent is removed in vacuo. The brownish residue is chromatographed with n-hexane on a silica gel column (4 cm diameter, 50 cm length). The large brown fraction is taken and the solvent is removed in vacuo. The residue is flash-chromatographed on silica gel (column dimensions as above). The first brown fraction contains 100 mg (10%) of 21 as brown needles, m. p. 170-171 °C (from 2-propanol). – IR (KBr):  $\tilde{v} = 2980$  (s, C-H). - UV (n-hexane):  $\lambda_{max}$  (lg  $\epsilon$ ) = 268 nm (3.964), 279 (3.987), 286 (3.970) sh, 407 (4.238) sh, 426 (4.352), 449 (4.286). — <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 1.02$  (s, 9H, tBu), 1.11 (s, 9H, tBu), 1.20 (s, 9H, tBu), 1.21 (s, 9H, tBu), 1.31 (s, 9H, tBu), 1.35 (s, 9H, tBu), 2.42 (d, J =22.4 Hz, 1 H, 5"-H), 2.61 (d, J = 22.8 Hz, 1 H, 5"-H), 3.27 (d, J =22.0 Hz, 1H, 5"-H), 3.46 (d, J = 21.8 Hz, 1H, 5"-H), 4.96 (s, 1H, 1-H), 5.97 (s, 1H, 3"'-H), 6.21 (s, 1H, 3"-H), 6.35 (s, 1H, 5-H), 6.64 (s, 1 H, 1'-H), 7.35 (s, 1 H, 3-H). - MS (70 eV): m/z (%) = 580 (41)  $[M^+]$ , 523 (75) [M - tBu], 57 (100) [tBu].

> C<sub>43</sub>H<sub>64</sub> (581.0) Calcd. C 88.90 H 11.10 Found C 88.44 H 11.09

5) Synthesis of 1,1,2,2-Tetrakis(1,3-di-tert-butyl-6-pentafulvenyl)ethane (25): 12.0 g (11.0 mmol) of potassium tert-butylate is added to a soluion of 3.60 g (9.18 mmol) of 8b in 50 ml of THF, stirred for 10 min and then cooled to -40 °C. 1.50 g (11.0 mmol) of anhydrous CuCl<sub>2</sub> is added and the mixture is warmed up slowly. After 3 h, 30 ml of water and 100 ml of toluene are added. The phases are separated, the organic phase is extracted 6 times with 100 ml of water, dried with magnesium sulfate, and the solvent is removed in vacuo. The remaining solid is suspended in a small amount of n-hexane and filtered with suction. Yield 3.10 g (80%) of 25 as yellow powder, m. p. 200-201 °C. The yield is the same if 2 equiv. of TMPO are added together with the CuCl<sub>2</sub>. – IR (KBr):  $\tilde{v}$  = 2950 cm<sup>-1</sup> (s, C-H). – UV (n-hexane):  $\lambda_{max}$  (lg  $\epsilon$ ) = 273 nm (4.682), 381 (3.342). - <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 1.13$  (s, 36H, tBu), 1.16 (s, 36 H, tBu), 4.17 (br. t, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H, 1-H and 2-H), 5.99 (d, J = 1.5 Hz, 4H, 2'-H or 4'-H), 6.05 (d, J = 1.5 Hz, 4H, 4'-H or 2'-H), 6.31 (br. d, J = 9.4 Hz, 4H, 6'-H).  $- ^{13}$ C NMR  $([D_{10}] \text{toluene/CDCl}_3 2:1): \delta = 29.35 [C(CH_3)_3], 32.31 [C(CH_3)_3],$ 33.15 [C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>], 49.28 (C-1, C-2), 111.52 (C-4'), 126.38 (C-2'), 135.03 (C-6'), 145.04 (C-5'), 147.98 (C-1'), 156.75 (C-3'). — MS (70 eV): m/z (%) = 782 (2) [M<sup>+</sup>], 725 (1) [M - tBu], 391 (15) [M<sup>2+</sup> or  $M - CH(C_6H_3tBu_2)_2$ , 57 (100) [tBu].

> C<sub>58</sub>H<sub>86</sub> (783.3) Calcd. C 88.93 H 11.07 Found C 88.82 H 11.16

- 6) General Procedures for the Preparation of the Lithium Salts 9a-e, 10a-c, and 26 for NMR and UV/Vis Spectroscopy. a) Preparation of Lithium 2,2,6,6-Tetramethylpiperidide (LiTMP) and Lithium Diisopropylamide (LDA) for NMR Spectroscopy: 0.17 ml (0.25 mmol) of a 1.5 m solution of n-butyllithium in n-hexane is cooled to 0°C and 0.050 ml (0.30 mmol) of 2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidine is added. After stirring the mixture for 10 min at 0°C and for 10 min at room temperature the solvent is removed in vacuo and the white residue dried for 30 min at 10<sup>-4</sup> Torr. After addition of 0.50 ml of [D<sub>s</sub>]THF, the resulting 0.50 m solution of LiTMP is used immediately to avoid decomposition of the solvent.  $-\Lambda$  0.18 M solution of LDA in [D<sub>8</sub>]THF can be prepared in the same way using 0.36 ml (0.18 mmol) of a 0.50 M solution of n-butyllithium in n-hexane, 0.050 ml (0.35 mmol) of diisopropylamine, and 1.0 ml of  $[D_8]THF.$
- b) Preparation of Phenyllithium (LiPh) for NMR Spectroscopy: From 0.10 ml (0.20 mmol) of a 2.0 M solution of phenyllithium in benzene/ether (Aldrich) the solvent is removed in vacuo and the residue is dried for 30 min at 10<sup>-4</sup> Torr. After addition of 0.25 ml of [D<sub>8</sub>]THF and 0.25 ml of [D<sub>10</sub>]ether, the resulting 0.4 M solution is used immediately to avoid decomposition of the solvent.
- c) Preparation of the Lithium Salts for NMR Spectroscopy: The amount of hydrocarbon listed below is dried for 30 min in a 5-mm NMR tube connected by melting to a small flask equipped with a septum and a tap leading to a vacuum pump. After addition of the base [9a-e and 26: 0.5 ml of LiTMP, 8a-c: 0.5 ml of LiPh](1H NMR) or 0.7 ml of LDA (13C NMR)] the deeply coloured mixture (see below) is cooled to  $-196^{\circ}$ C with liquid nitrogen. The NMR tube is evacuated  $(10^{-4} \text{ Torr})$  and separated from the flask by melting.

9a: 25 mg (0.10 mmol), 7a, orange-brown 9b: 28 mg (0.10 mmol), 7b, violet 9c: 31 mg (0.10 mmol), 7c, blue **9d**: 33 mg (0.10 mmol), 7d, black **9e**: 30 mg (0.084 mmol), 7e, black 10a: 51 mg (0.14 mmol), 8a, orange-brown 10b: 51 mg (0.13 mmol), **8b**, violet (above 60°C red) 10c: 50 mg (0.12 mmol), 8c, blue (above 60°C violet) 26: 30 mg (0.050 mmol), 21, violet (below  $-10^{\circ}$ C blue)

- d) Preparation of LDA for UV/Vis Spectroscopy: To 1.9 ml (1.34 mmol) of a 0.8 M solution of n-butyllithium in n-hexane at -20 °C 0.20 ml (1.4 mmol) of diisopropylamine is added. After 15 min the solvent is removed at room temp, in vacuo and the white residue is dissolved in 10 ml of THF, giving a 0.11 mm solution of LDA in THF.
- e) Preparation of the Lithium Salts 10a-c for UV/Vis Spectroscopy: 0.7-1.5 mg of hydrocarbon 8a-c is dried in a 250-ml flask at room temp. in vacuo (10<sup>-4</sup> Torr) for at least 1 h. 1.0 ml (0.11 µmol) of the 0.11 mm solution of LDA in THF (as described above) is added under an argon atmosphere. After 2 min the mixture is diluted with THF until the desired concentration is obtained. 2.5 to 3.0 ml of the solution is transferred with a gas-tight syringe into a previously dried UV sample cell equipped with a septum.

Lithium 3-tert-Butyl-1-(2-tert-butyl-6-pentafulvenyl)cyclopentadienide (9a): <sup>1</sup>H NMR ([D<sub>8</sub>]THF, 50°C):  $\delta = 1.20$  (s, 18H, tBu), 5.90 (dd,  $J_1 = 4.2$  Hz,  $J_2 = 1.9$  Hz, 2H, 5-H, 3'-H), 6.09 (br. s, 2H, 2-H, 1'-H or 4-H, 4'-H), 6.17 (br. s, 2H, 4-H, 4'-H or 2-H, 1'-H), 6.75 (s, 1 H, 6'-H). - <sup>13</sup>C NMR ([D<sub>8</sub>]THF, 50°C):  $\delta$  = 32.52 [C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>], 111.74 (br., C-2, C-1' or C-5, C-4'), 115.59 (br., C-4, C-3'), 116.77 (br., C-5, C-4' or C-2, C-1'), 125.46 (C-1, C-5'), 139.45 (C-6'), 144.03 (br., C-3, C-2').



Lithium 3-tert-Butyl-1-[2-(2-tert-butyl-6-pentafulvenyl)vinyl]cyclopentadienide (9b): <sup>1</sup>H NMR ([D<sub>8</sub>]THF, 50°C):  $\delta$  = 1.20 (s, 18 H, tBu), 5.95 (br. s, 2H, 2-H, ring H), 5.96 (br. s, 2H, ring H), 6.05 (br. s, 2H, ring H), 6.50 (dd,  $J_1$  = 11.3 Hz,  $J_2$  = 14.3 Hz, 1H, 2'-H), 6.69 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H, 1'-H), 6.70 (d, J = 14.0 Hz, 1H, 6"-H). - <sup>13</sup>C NMR ([D<sub>8</sub>]THF, 50°C):  $\delta$  = 32.34 [C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>], 109.15 (br., = CH – ), 117.03 (= CH – ), 127.95 (C-1, C-5"), 143.84 (C-1', C-6"), 145.26 (C-3, C-2").

Lithium 3-tert-Butyl-1-[4-(2-tert-butyl-6-pentafulvenyl)-1,3-butadienyl]cyclopentadienide (9c):  $^1H$  NMR ([D\_8]THF, 50°C):  $\delta=1.19$  (s, 18 H, tBu), 5.92 (br. s, 2H, ring H), 5.99 (br. s, 2H, ring H), 6.04 (br. s, 2H, ring H), 6.19 (t, J=12.7 Hz, 2H, 2'-H, 4'-H), 6.61 (t, J=12.7 Hz, 1H, 3'-H), 6.63 (d, J=12.7 Hz, 2H, 1'-H, 6"-H).  $-^{13}$ C NMR ([D\_8]THF, 50°C):  $\delta=32.32$  [C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>], 109.39 (br., = CH -), 113.31 (= CH -), 117.10 (br., = CH -), 118.53 (= CH -), 129.93 (C-1, C-5"), 140.98 (C-1', C-6" or C-3'), 146.59 (C-3, C-2"), 147.30 (C-3' or C-1', C-6").

Lithium 3-tert-Butyl-1-[6-(2-tert-butyl-6-pentafulvenyl)-1,3,5-hexatrienyl]cyclopentadienide (9d):  $^1H$  NMR ([D<sub>8</sub>]THF, 50°C):  $\delta$  = 1.19 (s, 18 H, tBu), 5.85 (t, J = 12.5 Hz, 1 H, 4'-H), 5.92 (br. s, 2H, ring H), 6.05 (br. s, 4H, ring H), 6.23 (t, J = 12.7 Hz, 2H, 2'-H, 6'-H), 6.55 (t, J = 12.5 Hz, 2H, 3'-H, 5'-H), 6.62 (d, J = 12.9 Hz, 2H, 1'-H, 6"-H). -  $^{13}$ C NMR ([D<sub>8</sub>]THF, 50°C):  $\delta$  = 32.32 [C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>], 109.58 (=CH-), 115.56 (=CH-), 117.17 (=CH-), 117.35 (=CH-), 119.53 (=CH-), 131.63 (C-1, C-5"), 139.87 (C-1', C-6" or C-3', C-5'), 144.61 (C-3', C-5' or C-1', C-6"), 147.54 (C-3, C-2").

Lithium 3-tert-Butyl-1-[6-(2-tert-butyl-6-pentafulvenyl)-1,3,5,7-octatetraenyl]cyclopentadienide (9e):  $^1H$  NMR ([D\_8]THF,  $-80\,^{\circ}$ C):  $\delta=1.16-1.28$  (m,  $18\,H$ , tBu), 5.63 (br. s,  $1\,H$ , ring H), 5.75 (br. t, J=12.5 Hz,  $2\,H$ ,  $4^{\circ}$ -H,  $6^{\circ}$ -H or  $2^{\circ}$ -H,  $8^{\circ}$ -H), 5.89 (br. s,  $1\,H$ , ring H), 6.00 (br. s,  $1\,H$ , ring H), 6.05 (br. s,  $1\,H$ , ring H), 6.18 (t, J=12.0 Hz,  $2\,H$ ,  $2^{\circ}$ -H,  $8^{\circ}$ -H or  $4^{\circ}$ -H,  $6^{\circ}$ -H), 6.32 (br. s,  $1\,H$ , ring H), 6.42-6.57 (m,  $5\,H$ ,  $1^{\circ}$ -H,  $3^{\circ}$ -H,  $5^{\circ}$ -H,  $7^{\circ}$ -H,  $6^{\circ}$ -H).  $-^{13}$ C NMR ([D\_8]THF,  $-80\,^{\circ}$ C):  $\delta=31.55-32.13$  [br., C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>], 106.96 (br., =CH-), 114.39 (br., =CH-), 115.23 (br., =CH-), 116.89 (br., =CH-), 122.28 (br., =CH-), 132.62 (br., C-1, C-5"), 140.12 (br., =CH-), 143.42 (br., =CH-), 144.87 (br., =CH-), 145.15 (br., =CH-), 147.15 (C-3 or C-2"), 149.50 (C-2" or C-3).

Lithium (E)-1,4-Di-tert-butyl-2-(1,3-di-tert-butyl-6-pentafulven-yl)cyclopentadienide (10a):

UV (THF)					
$c [10^{-5} \text{ mol/l}]$	6.77	6.62	5,66	3.71	2.57
λ <sub>max</sub> [nm] lg ε	497 4.587	497 4.650	497 4.682	497 4.747	497 4.756

<sup>1</sup>H NMR ([D<sub>8</sub>]THF):  $\delta$  = 1.19 (s, 18H, tBu), 1.37 (s, 18H, tBu), 5.70 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 2H, 5-H, 2'-H), 6.38 (br. d, J = 2.2 Hz, 2H, 3-H, 4'-H), 7.81 (br. s, 1H, 6'-H). – <sup>13</sup>C NMR ([D<sub>8</sub>]THF/[D<sub>10</sub>]ether, 1:1, 30°C):  $\delta$  = 110.65 (C-3, C-4' or C-5, C-2'), 111.37 (C-5, C-2', or C-3, C-4'), 121.65 (C-2, C-5'), 135.45 (C-6'), 141.43 (C-1, C-1' or C-4, C-3'), 141.95 (C-4, C-3' or C-1, C-1').

Lithium (E)-1,4-Di-tert-butyl-2-[2-(1,3-di-tert-butyl-6-pentaful-venyl)vinyl]cyclopentadienide (10b):

UV (THF)

$c [10^{-5} \text{mol/l}]$	5.83	5.41	4.53	3.81	3.29	2.47	1.71
$\lambda_{\max}$ [nm] lg $\epsilon$		574 4.724					582 4.957

<sup>1</sup>H NMR ([D<sub>8</sub>]THF):  $\delta$  = 1.16 (s, 18H, tBu), 1.30 (s, 18H, tBu), 5.70 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 2H, 5-H, 2"-H), 6.08 (br. d, J = 2.3 Hz, 2H, 3-H, 4"-H), 6.41 (t, J = 12.7 Hz, 1H, 2'-H), 7.15 (d, J = 12.7 Hz, 2H, 1'-H, 6"-H). – <sup>13</sup>C NMR ([D<sub>8</sub>]THF/[D<sub>10</sub>]ether, 1:1, 30°C):  $\delta$  = 107.20 (C-3, C-4" or C-5, C-2"), 108.93 (C-2'), 113.08 (C-5, C-2" or C-3, C-4"), 124.47 (C-2, C-5"), 140.23 (C-1, C-1" or C-4, C-3"), 141.85 (C-4, C-3" or C-1, C-1"), 142.07 (C-1', C-6").

Lithium (E)-1,4-Di-tert-butyl-2-[4-(1,3-di-tert-butyl-6-pentaful-venyl)-1,3-butadienyl]cyclopentadienide (10c):

UV (	THF)
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$c [10^{-5} \text{ mol/l}]$	2.57	2.20	1.71	1.71
$\lambda_{\max}$ [nm] $\lg \varepsilon$	678	678	678	678
	5.061	5.113	5.150	5.178

<sup>1</sup>H NMR ([D<sub>8</sub>]THF):  $\delta$  = 1.15 (s, 18H, tBu), 1.29 (s, 18H, tBu), 5.74 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 2H, 5-H, 2"-H), 6.02 (br. d, J = 2.2 Hz, 2H, 3-H, 4"-H), 6.08 (t, J = 12.6 Hz, 2H, 2'-H, 4'-H), 6.62 (t, J = 12.6 Hz, 1H, 3'-H), 7.05 (d, J = 12.6 Hz, 2H, 1'-H, 6"-H). - <sup>13</sup>C NMR ([D<sub>8</sub>]THF/[D<sub>10</sub>]ether, 1:1, 30 °C):  $\delta$  = 107.82 (C-3, C-4" or C-5, C-2"), 111.28 (C-2', C-4'), 114.49 (C-5, C-2" or C-3, C-4"), 126.33 (C-2, C-5"), 139.96 (C-1', C-6"), 141.41 (C-1, C-1" or C-4, C-3"), 143.43 (C-4, C-3" or C-1, C-1"), 147.34 (C-3').

Lithium 4,6-Di-tert-butyl-1-(2,4-di-tert-butylcyclopentadienyl)-2-(1,3-di-tert-butyl-6-pentafulvenyl)-1,3a-dihydropentalen-3a-ide (26): <sup>1</sup>H NMR ([D<sub>8</sub>]THF):  $\delta = 1.00$  (s, 9H, tBu), 1.06 (s, 9H, tBu), 1.14 (s, 9H, tBu), 1.25 (s, 9H, tBu), 1.31 (s, 9H, tBu), 1.42 (s, 9H, tBu), 2.48 (d, J = 22.7 Hz, 1H, 5'-H), 2.63 (d, J = 22.7 Hz, 1H, 5'-H), 4.81 (s, 1 H, 1-H), 5.64 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1 H, 2"-H or 4"-H), 6.03 (s, 1 H, 3'-H), 6.10 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1 H, 4"-H or 2"-H), 6.23 (s, 1 H, 5-H), 6.89 (s, 1H, 3-H or 6"-H), 7.75 (s, 1H, 6"-H or 3-H). - <sup>13</sup>C NMR ( $[D_8]$ THF):  $\delta = 31.12 [C(CH_3)_3]$ , 31.63  $[C(CH_3)_3]$ , 31.85  $[C(CH_3)_3]$ , 32.63  $[C(CH_3)_3]$ , 33.22  $[C(CH_3)_3]$ , 33.88  $[C(CH_3)_3]$ , 39.90 (C-5'), 44.34 (C-1), 103.86 [C-4"( $C_a$ ) or C-2"( $C_b$ )], 104.81  $[C-2''(C_b) \text{ or } C-4''(C_a)], 116.12 \text{ (quat. C)}, 125.89 [C-3'(C_f)], 128.55$  $[C-5(C_e)]$ , 130.25  $[C-3(C_d)$  or  $C-6'(C_o)]$ , 132.59 (quat. C), 133.19 (quat. C), 133.79 (quat. C), 135.93 (quat. C), 138.44 [C-6'(C<sub>c</sub>) or C-3(C<sub>d</sub>)], 139.71 (quat. C), 140.31 (quat. C), 142.15 (quat. C), 145.28 (quat. C), 149.5 (quat. C), 154.89 (quat. C).

 $\delta(^{13}C)$  as a function of temperature <sup>15)</sup> ([D<sub>8</sub>]THF; see also Figure 3b)

T/K	$C_{a/b} \\$	$C_{b/a} \\$	$C_{c/d}$	$\mathbf{C}_{\text{d/c}}$	$C_e$	$C_f$
173	107.58	108.92	132.06	139.54	121.14	125.90
203	107.81	108.99	132.24	139.73	121.22	125.91
233	107.40	108.19	131.94	139.72	122.04	125.76
253	106.71	107.30	131.58	139.47	124.00	125.79
263	106.11	106.11	131.16	139.16	125.40	125.80
295	104.81	103.86	130.25	138.44	128.55	125.89
323	104.47	103.20	129.92	138.18	129.57	125.95
333	104.41	102.95	129.77	138.08	129.97	126.01



Calculation of  $\Delta H$  and  $\Delta S$ : The calculation is based on the <sup>13</sup>C-NMR data of C<sub>e</sub>. The  $\delta$  values at T=173 K/T=333 K are taken as chemical shifts of the pure solvent-separated ion pair (SSIP)/contact ion pair (CIP):

$$\delta(173 \text{ K}) = \delta_{SSIP} = 121.14 \pm 0.02$$
  
 $\delta(333 \text{ K}) = \delta_{CIP} = 129.97 \pm 0.1$ 

The K values are calculated as  $K(T) = [\delta(T) - \delta_{SSIP}]/[\delta_{CIP} - \delta(T)]$ . The error of lnK,  $\Delta(\ln K)$ , is calculated exactly for each temperature, using  $\Delta(\delta) = 0.02$  ppm. The inaccuracy in determining the temperature is neglected. From the lnK vs. 1/T plot,  $\Delta H$  and  $\Delta(\Delta H)$  can be derived by estimating a maximum and a minimum slope of the possible compensating straight lines, giving  $\Delta H = -35.5 \pm 1.5$  kJ/mol.  $\Delta S$  and  $\Delta(\Delta S)$  are calculated for each temperature measured, and then the average values are taken ( $\Delta S = -135 \pm 7$  J/mol·K).

T/K	$\ln K \left( \Delta (\ln K) \right)$	$\Delta S (\Delta(\Delta S))/J \cdot \text{mol}^{-1} \cdot K^{-1}$
203	$-4.70 \ (+0.42, -0.72)$	-136.0 (+13.5, -10.9)
233	$-2.18 \ (\pm 0.06)$	$-134.4 (\pm 7.0)$
253	$-0.736 (\pm 0.035)$	$-134.3 (\pm 6.3)$
263	$-0.070 \ (\pm 0.036)$	$-134.5 (\pm 6.1)$
295	$+1.65 \ (\pm 0.09)$	$-134.2 (\pm 5.9)$
323	+3.05 (+0.26, -0.38)	-135.4 (+7.7, -6.9)

7) General Procedure for the Protonation of the Hydrocarbons  $7\mathbf{a} - \mathbf{e}$  and  $8\mathbf{a} - \mathbf{c}$ . — a) Preparation for NMR Spectroscopy: 20—40 mg of the hydrocarbon  $7\mathbf{a} - \mathbf{e}$  or  $8\mathbf{a} - \mathbf{c}$  is dissolved in 0.5 ml of CDCl<sub>3</sub> in a 5-mm NMR tube. After addition of 0.1—0.2 ml of conc. trifluoroacetic acid, the tube is shaken vigorously and the spectrum is immediately measured.

b) Preparation for UV/Vis Spectroscopy: Approx. 1 mg of hydrocarbon  $7\mathbf{a} - \mathbf{e}$  or  $8\mathbf{a} - \mathbf{c}$  is dissolved in dichloromethane containing 2-5 vol-% of trifluoroacetic acid. The mixture is diluted with the same solvent and spectra are taken at various concentrations. By addition of water to the solution of the protonated species, the corresponding hydrocarbons can be regenerated almost quantitatively.

2-tert-Butyl-6-(3/4-tert-butylcyclopentadienyl)-1H-pentafulvenium Trifluoroacetate (11a): UV (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/5% CF<sub>3</sub>COOH): λ<sub>max</sub>  $(\lg \varepsilon) = 268 \text{ nm} (3.752) \text{ sh}, 297 (3.744) \text{ sh}, 304 (3.782), 428 (4.072)$ sh, 449 (4.258), 528 (3.979) sh, 551 (4.188), 695 (3.588). — <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>/CF<sub>3</sub>COOH, 3:1, isomer A):  $\delta = 1.41$  (s, 18H, tBu), 3.81 (s, 4H, 1-H, 5'-H), 7.13 (d, J = 2.9 Hz, 2H, 3-H, 3'-H), 8.11 (s, 1H, 6-H), 8.40 (br. s, 2H, 4-H, 2'-H).  $- {}^{13}$ C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>/CF<sub>3</sub>COOH, 3:1, isomer A):  $\delta = 29.79 [C(CH_3)_3], 37.47 [C(CH_3)_3], 41.44 (C-1,$ C-5'), 114.54 (q, J = 285 Hz, CF<sub>3</sub>), 134.69 (C-3, C-3'), 147.12 (C-5, C-1'), 151.35 (C-6), 162.14 (q, J = 43 Hz,  $CF_3COO^{\odot}$ ), 176.15 (C-4, C-2'), 200.12 (C-2, C-4'). - In the <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum additional peaks are observed which belong to the isomer 2-tert-butyl-6-(3-tert-butyl-cyclopentadienyl)-1H-pentafulvenium trifluoroacetate (11a – B) (proportional 1/8):  $\delta = 1.30$  (s, 9H, 3'-tBu), 1.41 (s, 9H, 2-tBu), 3.78 (s, 2H, 1-H), 3.88 (br. s, 2H, 5'-H), 7.24 (d, J = 3.3Hz, 1H, 3-H), 7.59 (br. s, 1H, 4'-H), 8.20 (s, 1H, 6-H), 8.42 (br. s, 1H, 4-H), 8.60 (br. s, 1H, 2'-H).

2-tert-Butyl-6-[2-(3/4-tert-butylcyclopentadienyl)vinyl]-1H-pentafulvenium Trifluoroacetate (11b): UV (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/4% CF<sub>3</sub>COOH):  $\lambda_{max}$  (lg  $\varepsilon$ ) = 275 nm (3.622), 288 (3.638), 333 (3.938) sh, 342 (4.083), 369 (3.519), 397 (3.562), 416 (3.571), 518 (4.037) sh, 557 (4.281) sh, 592 (4.528) sh, 632 (4.877), 793 (3.661), 936 (3.013) sh. — <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>/CF<sub>3</sub>COOH, 3:1, isomer A):  $\delta$  = 1.36 (s, 18H, tBu), 3.68 (s, 4H, 1-H, 5"-H), 6.98 (d, J = 2.7 Hz, 2H, 3-H, 3"-H), 7.24 (t, J =

13.4 Hz, 1 H, 1'-H), 7.92 (d, J = 13.4 Hz, 2 H, 6-H, 2'-H), 8.04 (br. s, 2 H, 4-H, 2"-H). — In the <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum additional peaks are observed which belong to the isomer 2-tert-butyl-6-[2-(3-tert-butylcyclopentadienyl)vinyl]-1H-pentafulvenium trifluoroacetate (11b-B) (proportional 1/5):  $\delta = 1.27$  (s, 9 H, 3"-tBu), 1.38 (s, 9 H, 2-tBu), 3.60 (br. s, 2 H, 1-H or 5"-H), 3.76 (br. s, 2 H, 5"-H or 1-H), 7.05 — 7.15 (m), 7.99 (br. s), 8.24 (br. s, 1 H, 2"-H).

2-tert-Butyl-6-[4-(3/4-tert-butylcyclopentadienyl)-1,3-butadienyl]-1H-pentafulvenium Trifluoroacetate (11c): UV(CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/4% CF<sub>3</sub>COOH):  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  (lg  $\epsilon$ ) = 326 nm (3.713), 365 (3.799) sh, 377 (3.881), 447 (3.631) sh, 464 (3.676), 551 (4.190), 591 (4.243) sh, 656 (4.545) sh, 706 (4.860), 860 (3.609). — ¹H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>/CF<sub>3</sub>COOH, 3:1, isomer A):  $\delta$  = 1.34 (s, 18 H, tBu), 3.57 (s, 4 H, 1-H, 5"-H), 6.85 (d, J = 2.8 Hz, 2H, 3-H, 3"-H), 7.02 (br. t, J = 13.4 Hz, 1'-H, 3'-H), 7.72 (d, J = 13.7 Hz, 2H, 6-H, 4'-H), 7.80 (t, J = 13.8 Hz, 1H, 2'-H), 7.82 (br. s, 2H, 4-H, 2"-H). — In the ¹H-NMR spectrum additional peaks are observed which belong to the isomer 2-tert-butyl-6-[4-(3-tert-butylcyclopentadienyl)-1,3-butadienyl]-1H-pentafulvenium trifluoroacetate (11c-B) (proportional 1/3):  $\delta$  = 1.26 (s, 9 H, 3'-tBu), 1.36 (s, 9 H, 2-tBu), 3.48 (br. s, 1 H, 1-H or 5"-H), 3.64 (br. s, 1 H, 5"-H or 1-H), 6.70 (m), 7.01 (t, hidden), 7.11 (s), 7.79 (m), 7.86 (t, J = 13.2 Hz, 1 H, 2'-H), 8.01 (br. s, 1 H, 2"-H).

2-tert-Butyl-6-[6-(3/4-tert-butylcyclopentadienyl)-1,3,5-hexatrienyl]-1H-pentafulvenium Trifluoroacetate (11d): UV (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/3% CF<sub>3</sub>COOH):  $\lambda_{max}$  (lg  $\epsilon$ ) = 290 nm (3.679), 338 (3.539) sh, 367 (3.571) sh, 397 (3.699) sh, 414 (3.732), 465 (3.655) sh, 513 (3.785), 615 (4.283) sh, 733 (4.657) sh, 793 (4.976). The peaks at  $\lambda = 600-800 \text{ nm}$ exhibit varying extinction coefficients at different hydrocarbon concentrations  $[\lambda_{\text{max}} = 793 \text{ nm}; \lg \varepsilon = 4.94 - 4.98 \text{ (conc. of } 7\text{d)} : c =$ 9-11 μm)], possibly due to decomposition effects. - <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>/CF<sub>3</sub>COOH, 3:1, isomer A):  $\delta = 1.31$  (s, 18H, tBu), 3.52 (s, 4H, 1-H, 5"-H), 6.76 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 2H, 3-H, 3"-H), 6.92 (br. t, J = 13.2 Hz, 2H, 1'-H, 5'-H, 6.93 (t, <math>J = 13.2 Hz, 1 H, 3'-H), 7.58(d, J = 13.2 Hz, 2H, 6-H, 6'-H), 7.57 - 7.69 (m, 4H, 4-H, 2'-H, 4'-H, 2"-H). - In the <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum additional peaks are observed which belong to the isomer 2-tert-butyl-6-[6-(3-tert-butylcyclopentadienyl)-1,3,5-hexatrienyl]-1H-pentafulvenium trifluoracetate (11d-B) (proportional 1/5):  $\delta = 3.42$  (br. s, 1 H, 1-H or 5"-H), 3.58 (br. s, 1H, 5"-H or 1-H), 6.79 (br. s), 7.72 (br. s), 7.82 (br. s), 8.10 (s, 1 H, 2"-H).

2-tert-Butyl-6-[8-(3/4-tert-butylcyclopentadienyl)-1,3,5,7-octatetraenyl]-1H-pentafulvenium Trifluoroacetate (11e): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>/CF<sub>3</sub>COOH, 3:1, isomer A):  $\delta$  = 1.30 (s, 18 H, tBu), 3.44 (s, 4H, 1-H, 5"-H), 6.62 (br. s, 2 H, 3-H, 3"-H), 6.85 (br. t, J = 13.6 Hz, 4H, 1'-H, 3'-H, 5'-H, 7'-H), 7.42 – 7.55 (m, 7H, 4-H, 6-H, 2'-H, 4'-H, 6'-H, 8'-H, 2"-H). — In the <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum additional peaks are observed which belong to the isomer 2-tert-butyl-6-[8-(3-tert-butylcyclopentadienyl)-1,3,5,7-octatetraenyl]-1H-pentafulvenium trifluoroacetate (11e-B) (proportional 1/3):  $\delta$  = 3.37 (br. s, 2 H, 1-H or 5"-H), 3.50 (br. s, 2 H, 5"-H or 1-H). The other protons could not be related clearly to signals.

2,4-Di-tert-butyl-6-(2,4-di-tert-butylcyclopentadienyl)-1H-pentafulvenium Trifluoroacetate (12a): UV (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/5% CF<sub>3</sub>COOH):  $\lambda_{max}$  (lg  $\epsilon$ ) = 263 nm (3.681), 299 (4.228), 305 (4.190), 348 (3.380), 363 (3.267) sh, 375 (3.000) sh, 392 (2.438) sh, 544 (4.628) sh, 567 (4.810) sh, 576 (4.860). — <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>/CF<sub>3</sub>COOH, 5:2):  $\delta$  = 1.30 (s, 18 H, tBu), 1.50 (s, 18 H, tBu), 3.70 (s, 4 H, 1-H, 5'-H), 6.95 (s, 2 H, 3-H, 3'-H), 8.90 (s, 1 H, 6-H).

2,4-Di-tert-butyl-6-[2-(2,4-di-tert-butylcyclopentadienyl)vinyl]-1H-pentafulvenium Trifluoroacetate (12b): UV (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/2% CF<sub>3</sub>-COOH):  $\lambda_{max}$  (lg  $\epsilon$ ) = 260 nm (3.609), 294 (3.712), 343 (4.238),

405 (3.423), 409 (3.423), 421 (3.373) sh, 622 (4.729) sh, 660 (5.076). -<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>/CF<sub>3</sub>COOH, 5:2):  $\delta = 1.30$  (s, 18H, tBu), 1.50 (s, 18 H, tBu), 3.68 (s, 4 H, 1-H, 5"-H), 6.87 (t, J = 13.3 Hz, 1 H, 1'-H), 6.93 (s, 2H, 3-H, 3"-H), 8.23 (d, J = 13.3 Hz, 2H, 6-H, 2'-H).

2,4-Di-tert-butyl-6-[4-(2,4-di-tert-butylcyclopentadienyl)-1,3-butadienyl]-1H-pentafulvenium Trifluoroacetate (12c): UV (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/ 1% CF<sub>3</sub>COOH):  $\lambda_{max}$  (lg  $\epsilon$ ) = 267 nm (3.826), 304 (3.753), 379 (4.017), 463 (3.619), 697 (4.782) sh, 750 (5.217). – <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>/ CF<sub>3</sub>COOH, 5:2):  $\delta = 1.28$  (s, 18 H, tBu), 1.47 (s, 18 H, tBu), 3.59 (s, 4H, 1-H, 5"-H), 6.80 (s, 2H, 3-H, 3"-H), 6.85 (t, J = 13.2 Hz, 2H, 1'-H, 3'-H), 7.70 (t, J = 13.2 Hz, 1H, 2'-H), 8.08 (d, J = 13.2Hz, 2H, 6-H, 4'-H).

8) X-ray Structure Analysis of 8b: Flat violet prisms, C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>44</sub>, M = 392.67; space group  $P2_1/c$ , a = 19.690(1) Å, <math>b = 5.924(5) Å,  $c = 28.170(2) \text{ Å}, \beta = 124.35(2)^{\circ}, V = 2712.8 \text{ Å}^3, Z = 4, D_{\text{calcd}} =$  $0.961 \text{ g/cm}^3$ ,  $\mu = 0.26 \text{ cm}^{-1} \text{ (Mo-}K_{\alpha}\text{)}$ . — Measurement of a needle (size  $0.072 \times 0.175 \times 1.4$  mm) mounted parallel to b on a STDE-STAD14 diffractometer (Mo- $K_{\alpha}$  radiation, graphite monochromator), cell constant determination by  $\pm \omega$  scan of 38 reflections with  $22.1^{\circ}$  <  $2\theta$  <  $29.1^{\circ}$ ; 2739 reflections with  $3^{\circ}$  <  $2\theta$  <  $40^{\circ}$  were measured (18  $\leq h \leq 1$ , 0  $\leq k \leq 5$ , 23  $\leq l \leq$  27), 2036 symmetryindependent reflections with  $|F| \ge 2\sigma(F)$ . — Structure solution by direct methods (SHELX-86)8). Anisotropic refinement of all carbon atoms, isotropic refinement of all hydrogen atoms with common temperature factor, hydrogen atoms at C-4 (methylene group) positioned, 324 parameters, R = 0.073,  $R_w = 0.069$  (SHELX-76)<sup>8)</sup>.

#### CAS Registry Numbers

(E)-5b: 52950-92-2 / (E,E)-5c: 70669-79-3 / (E,E,E)-5d: 70669-88-4 / (all-E)-5e: 125765-08-4 / (E)-7a: 125764-83-2 / (Z)-7a: 125764-84-3 / (E,E)-7b: 125764-85-4 / (E,Z)-7b: 125764-86-5 / (E,E,E)-7c: 125764-88-7 / (all-(E)-7d: 125764-89-8 / (E,X,E)-9c: 125764-98-9 / (E,X,E,E)-9d: 125764-99-0 / (E,X,E,E,E)-9e: 125765-00-6 / (E)-10a: 125765-01-7 / (E,E)-10b: 125765-02-8 9e: 125765-00-6 / (E)-10a: 125765-01-7 / (E,E)-10b: 125765-02-8 / (E,E,E)-10c: 125781-17-1 / 11a: 125765-05-1 / 11a-B: 125765-12-0 / (E,X)-11b· CF<sub>3</sub>CO $_{\mathbb{P}}^{\circ}$ : 125765-14-2 / (E,X)-11b-B· CF<sub>3</sub>CO $_{\mathbb{P}}^{\circ}$ : 125765-14-4 / (E,X,E)-11c-CF<sub>3</sub>CO $_{\mathbb{P}}^{\circ}$ : 125765-18-6 / (E,X,E)-11c-B· CF<sub>3</sub>CO $_{\mathbb{P}}^{\circ}$ : 125765-07-3 / (E,X,E,E)-11d-CF<sub>3</sub>CO $_{\mathbb{P}}^{\circ}$ : 125765-22-2 / (E,X,E,E)-11e-CF<sub>3</sub>CO $_{\mathbb{P}}^{\circ}$ : 125765-24-4 / (E,X,E,E)-11e-B· CF<sub>3</sub>CO $_{\mathbb{P}}^{\circ}$ : 125765-28-8 / (E,X)-12b- CF<sub>3</sub>CO $_{\mathbb{P}}^{\circ}$ : 125765-30-2 / (E,X,E)-12c- CF<sub>3</sub>CO $_{\mathbb{P}}^{\circ}$ : 125765-32-4 / 13: 125765-95-5 / (E,E)-19: 125764-94-5 / (E)-125765-95-5 / (E,E)-125765-95-7 / 125765-95-6125765-10-8 / (Z)-21: 125764-95-6 / 25: 125764-96-7 / 26: 125765-03-9 / HCO<sub>2</sub>Et: 109-94-4 / 1,3-di-tert-butyl-1,3-cyclopentadiene: 73046-16-9

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<sup>10)</sup> The experimental conditions were as follows: Alkali metal salt concentration was 1 mm in a 0.1 m solution of N(Bu)<sub>4</sub>BF<sub>4</sub> or N(Bu)<sub>4</sub>PF<sub>6</sub> in dichloromethane. The working electrode and the counter electrode consisted of platinum, the reference electrode was H<sub>2</sub>O/Ag/AgCl or Ag in case of the measurements at temperatures below 0°C

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