

Synthesis of Substituted 2-Decalones from 1-Acetylcyclohexenes and  
 $\alpha$ -Trimethylsilyl  $\alpha,\beta$ -Unsaturated Carbonyl Compounds by Two-Fold Michael Reactions.

Synthesis of ( $\pm$ )-Khusitone

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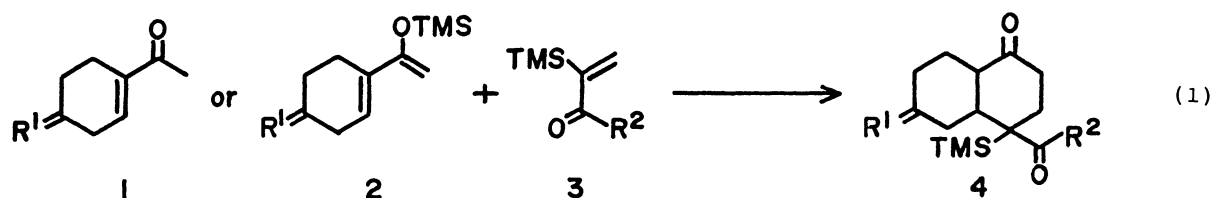
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The kinetic enolates of 1-acetyl cyclohexenes undergo two-fold Michael reaction with  $\alpha$ -trimethylsilyl  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated carbonyl compounds to produce 5-substituted 2-decalones. The application of this reaction has enabled a synthesis of ( $\pm$ )-khusitone.

A one-pot annelation with multiple C-C bond formation is an efficient method for approach to synthetically useful functionalised intermediates.<sup>1,2,3)</sup> In a course of our programme in the development of sequential multi-fold Michael reactions,<sup>2)</sup> we disclose herein the two-fold Michael reactions of the kinetic enolates of 1-acetylcyclohexenes (**1**)<sup>3a)</sup> with  $\alpha$ -trimethylsilyl  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated carbonyl compounds (**3**) to give 5-substituted 2-decalones (**4**) (Eq. 1), and the application of this reaction to the synthesis of ( $\pm$ )-khusitone (**11**) (Scheme 1). The reaction condition of the present reaction is alternative and complementary to that of the previously reported Lewis acid assisted reaction of the trimethylsilyl enol ethers of 1-acetylcyclohexenes with  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated carbonyl compounds.<sup>2a,3b)</sup> The trimethylsilyl group in the product would be useful leaving group for further transformation.

The kinetic enolates of 1-acetylcyclohexenes generated from **1** by treatment with LDA or by MeLi cleavage of the corresponding trimethylsilyl enol ethers (**2**) reacted with  $\alpha$ -trimethylsilyl  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated carbonyl compounds at  $-80\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  in THF. The reaction temperature was gradually raised to room temperature and progress of the reaction was monitored by TLC. Isolation by preparative MPLC gave the pure 2-decalone **4**.<sup>4,5)</sup>



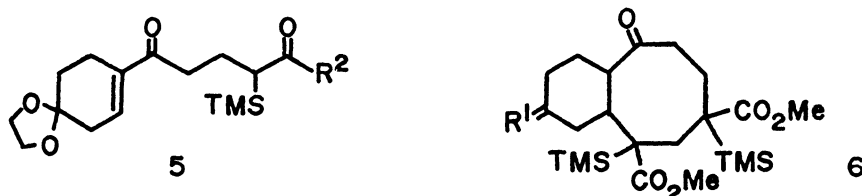
**Table 1.** Two-fold Michael reaction of kinetic enolates of 1-acetylcyclohexenes (1) with  $\alpha$ -trimethylsilyl  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated carbonyl compounds (3)

Entry	1-Acetylcyclohexene (1)	$\alpha,\beta$ -Unsaturated carbonyl compound (3)	Reaction conditions	Product yield
				%
1	1a ( $R^1 = H_2$ )	3a ( $R^2 = OMe$ )	a)	4a (62) + 6a (8)
2	2a ( $R^1 = H_2$ )	3a	b)	4a (39)
3	1b ( $R^1 = OCH_2CH_2O$ )	3a	a)	4b (71) + 6b (5)
4	2b ( $R^1 = OCH_2CH_2O$ )	3a	b)	4b (18) + 6b (9)
5	1b	3a	a,c)	4b (24) + 5a (5)
6	1a	3b ( $R^2 = Me$ )	a)	4c (26)
7	2a	3b	b)	4c (9)
8	1b	3b	a)	4d (30)
9	1b	3b	a,d)	5b (9)
10	2b	3b	b)	4d (trace)

a) Acetylcyclohexene 1 was treated with LDA. b) Silyl enol ether 2 was cleaved by MeLi. c) Reaction was quenched at  $-45\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  in 1 h. d) Reaction was quenched at  $-10\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  in 3.6 h.

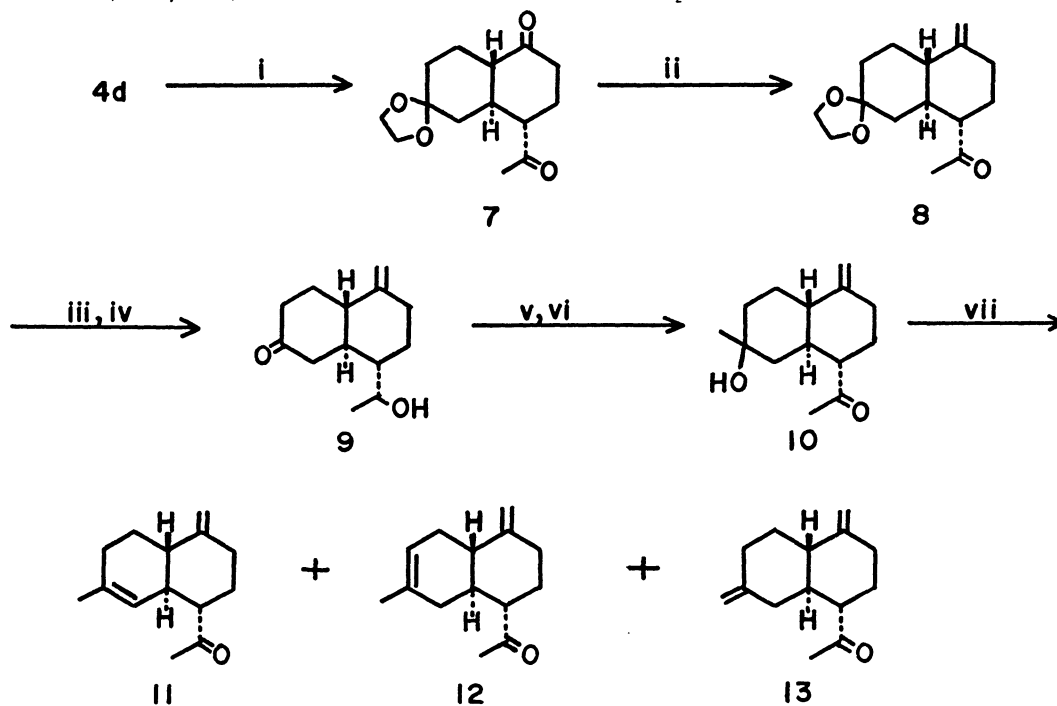
Some of the results are listed in Table 1. The reaction of the kinetic enolates generated by LDA or of methyl  $\alpha$ -trimethylsilyl acrylate (3a) gave higher yields.

When the reaction was quenched at low temperature (entries 5 and 9), single Michael products (5a and 5b) were obtained in 5 and 9% yield, respectively. These results, together with the co-occurrence of bicyclo[6.4.0]dodecanes (6a and 6b) (entries 1, 3, and 4), clearly indicate that the present reaction proceeds via a sequential two-fold Michael addition. It should be noted that the presence of  $\alpha$ -trimethylsilyl group in  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated carbonyl compounds is essential for the reaction; parent methyl acrylate and methyl vinyl ketone did not give any desired product.



We next attempted the synthesis of ( $\pm$ )-khusitone (11), a member of the rare class of  $C_{14}$ -terpenoids, isolated from north indian vetiver oil<sup>6)</sup> (Scheme 1.).

Treatment of the decalone 4d with MeONa at room temperature resulted in smooth removal of the trimethylsilyl group and catalysed isomerisation to the known trans-isomer 7<sup>2a)</sup> in 72% yield. A Wittig methylenation with 1 equiv. of methylene triphenylphosphorane proceeded selectively on the ring carbonyl to give the exo-methylene compound 8 in 53% yield. Reduction of the acetyl group followed by hydrolysis of the ketal furnished the diastereomeric mixture of keto-alcohol 9 in 87% yield. Methylation of 9 and then oxidation of the secondary alcohol gave the acetyl-alcohol 10 in 39% yield. Finally, dehydration with  $POCl_3$  in pyridine afforded ( $\pm$ )-khusitone 11 along with the inseparable mixture of olefinic isomers 12 and 13 [11:12:13=2:3:1] (a combined yield 51%). The spectral properties of synthetic 11 (NMR, IR) are identical with those reported.<sup>6)</sup>



Scheme 1.

Reagents and conditions; i, MeONa, MeOH, room temp; ii,  $Ph_3P=CH_2$ , THF room temp.; iii,  $LiAlH_4$ ,  $Et_2O$ , room temp; iv,  $p-MeC_6H_4SO_3H$ , aq acetone, reflux; v, MeLi,  $Et_2O$ , 0 °C; vi, Jones oxidation; vii,  $POCl_3$ , pyridine, room temp.

Thus, the present one-pot annelation provides synthetically useful substituted 2-decalones **4**, applicable to the substrates having acid sensitive functional groups.

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#### References

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- 4) The relative stereochemistry of 2-decalones **4** have not yet been determined.
- 5) All new compounds exhibited satisfactory <sup>1</sup>H NMR, IR, and high resolution mass and/or elemental analyses.
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