

## SYNTHESIS OF OXYGEN-CONTAINING HETEROCYCLES USING PALLADIUM(II) CATALYSTS

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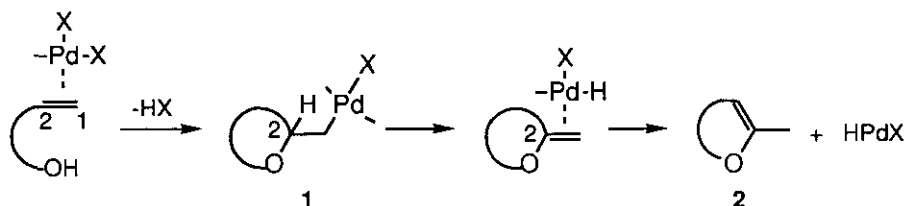
**Abstract** — Alkenes, dienes, and alkynes bearing hydroxy groups, when treated with palladium(II) catalysts, afford a variety of oxygen-containing heterocycles *via* cyclizations involving intramolecular oxypalladation as a key step. Trapping the oxypalladation intermediates with CO also creates useful entries to oxygen-containing heterocycles. Synthetic aspects of these cyclizations as well as the catalyses of palladium(II) are surveyed in this article.

A novel strategy for synthesizing heterocycles under mild conditions is provided by the use of metal complex catalysts. Among those, palladium complexes undoubtedly lie in a unique position in terms of its versatility and reactivity.<sup>1</sup> The reactivity of palladium complexes depends on their valency. Fundamentally, palladium(II) acts as Lewis acid, while nucleophilic nature is characteristic of palladium(0). The difference in valency is also important in constructing the catalysis of palladium. Since palladium(II) has inherently an oxidizing ability, it is generally reduced to palladium(0) during the reaction. Accordingly, in order to make catalytic transformations in palladium(II), reduced palladium(0) must be reoxidized into palladium(II). Alternatively, it should be devised to retain the valency of palladium(II) as +2 state during the reaction. Development of new catalytic reactions using palladium(II) is one of our interests, and hence recent advance of palladium(II)-catalyzed syntheses of oxygen-containing heterocycle are surveyed. In particular, focus is placed on cyclizations involving

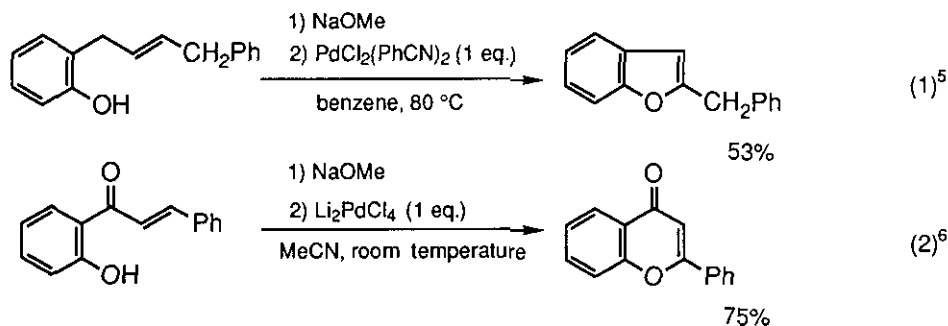
intramolecular oxypalladation as a key step.<sup>2,3</sup> An aspect of the catalysis in palladium(II) is also one of the subjects in this article.

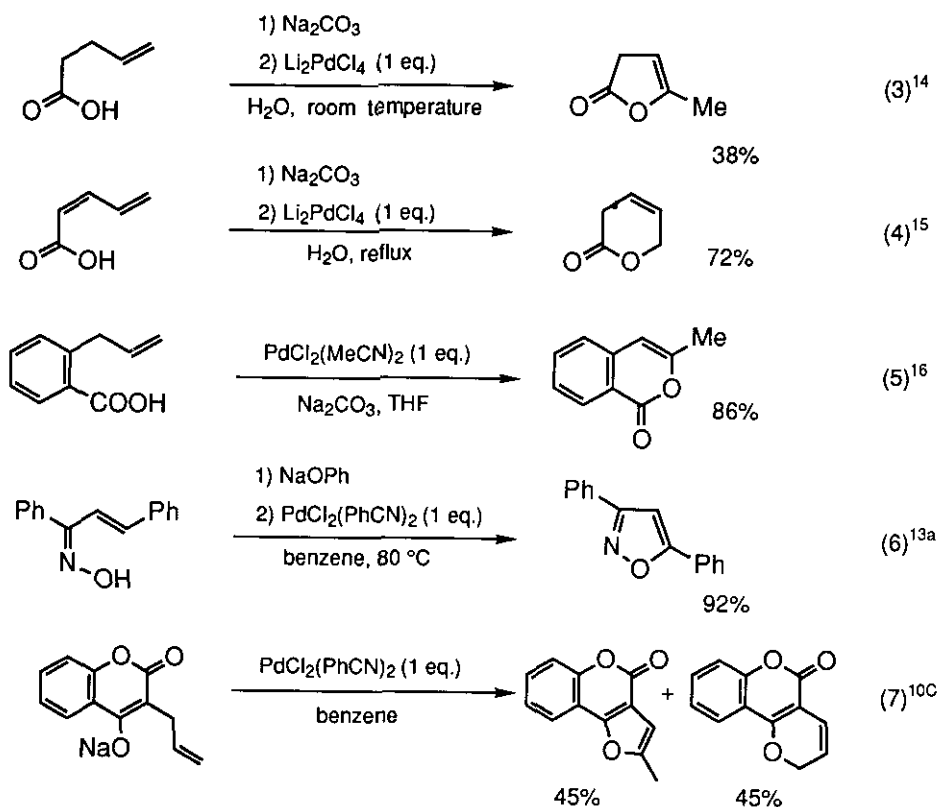
### Intramolecular Oxypalladation of Alkenes

The fundamental chemistry of palladium(II) can be seen in oxidation of alkenes by  $\text{PdX}_2$  ( $\text{X}=\text{Cl}$  or  $\text{OAc}$ ), in which nucleophiles such as  $\text{OH}$  and  $\text{OAc}$  first attack olefins coordinated to the metal, forming a  $\sigma$ -bonded  $\text{Pd(II)}$ -intermediate. Subsequent  $\beta$ -elimination of  $\text{Pd-H}$  species leads to products, and the resulting  $\text{Pd-H}$  species decomposes to give  $\text{Pd(0)}$  and  $\text{HX}$ . The oxidation of terminal alkenes to methyl ketones is a typical example of this chemistry.<sup>4</sup> Intramolecular version of this reaction becomes a useful entry to oxygen-containing heterocycles as shown in Scheme 1, where the  $\sigma$ -bonded  $\text{Pd(II)}$  intermediate (**1**) is called an oxypalladation intermediate.  $\beta$ -Elimination of palladium hydride from this intermediate (**1**) usually results in the formation of products bearing alkenes in the more stable position *via* equilibration.

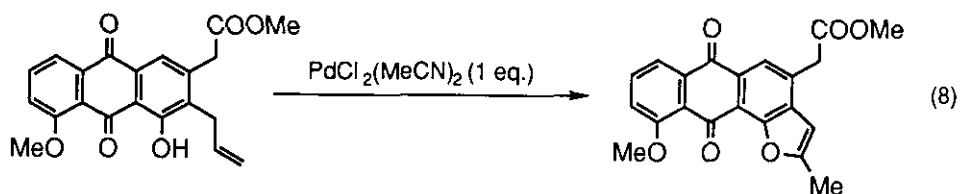


Alkenylphenols,<sup>5-10</sup> alcohols,<sup>11,12</sup> oximes,<sup>13</sup> and carboxylic acids<sup>14-16</sup> serve as substrates for this type of cyclization. Given in eqs. 1-7 are the fundamental reactions of these substrates with a stoichiometric

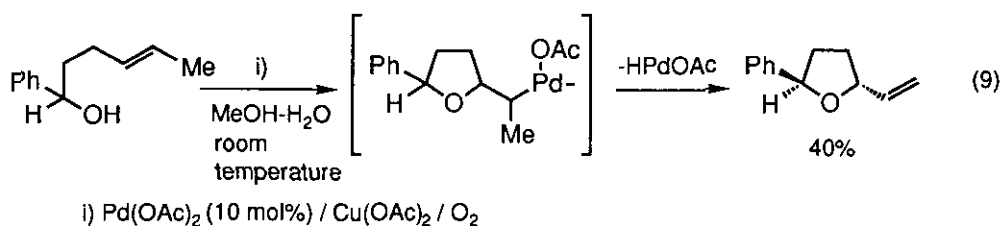




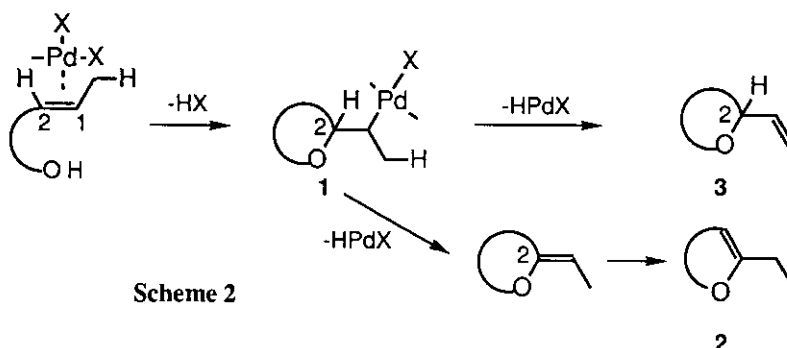
amount of Pd(II) salts. A benzofuran synthesis of the aklavinone system is also shown in eq. 8.<sup>8</sup> In principle, these cyclizations can be made catalytic with respect to palladium by the use of either a



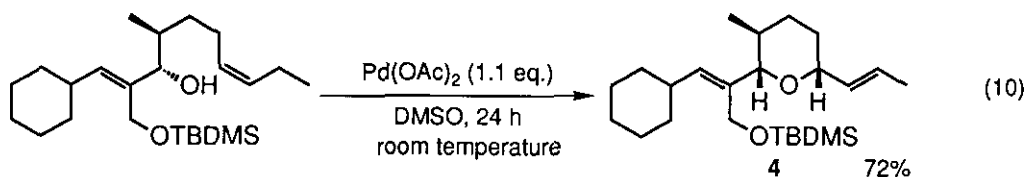
combination of Cu(II) salts and O<sub>2</sub> or *p*-benzoquinone as oxidants. In fact,  $\gamma,\delta$ -unsaturated alcohols can be catalytically converted into 2-vinyltetrahydrofurans (eq. 9), when Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> is used together with Cu(OAc)<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>2</sub>.<sup>11</sup>



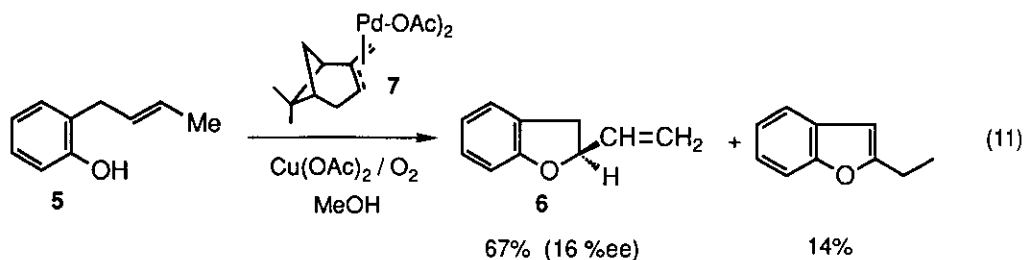
If the oxypalladation intermediate (1) has two possibilities of  $\beta$ -elimination of palladium hydride as shown in Scheme 2,  $\beta$ -hydrogen atom of the side chain is predominantly eliminated to give 3, and equilibration of



the resulting alkenes such as 3 and 2 is minimized by the use of Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub>. This is exemplified by the cyclization of eq. 9. Furthermore, when dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) is used as a solvent, the direction of  $\beta$ -palladium hydride elimination is effectively controlled, and this technique has allowed the selective synthesis of tetronomycin precursor (4) as shown in eq. 10.<sup>12</sup>



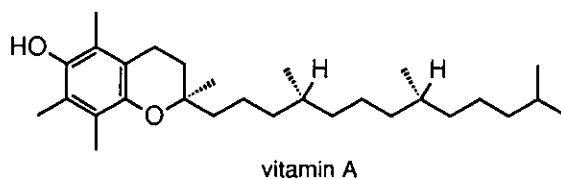
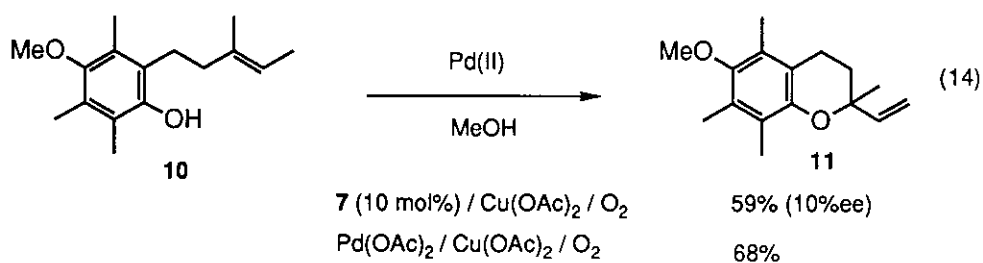
Among these cyclizations, we have firstly found that 2-(2-butenyl)phenol (5) is asymmetrically cyclized to give optically active 2-vinylbenzofuran (6) by the use of optically active [( $\eta^3$ -pinene)Pd(OAc)]<sub>2</sub> (7) as the catalyst with Cu(OAc)<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>2</sub> (eq. 11).<sup>17</sup> Although the enantioselection was not high (16 %ee),

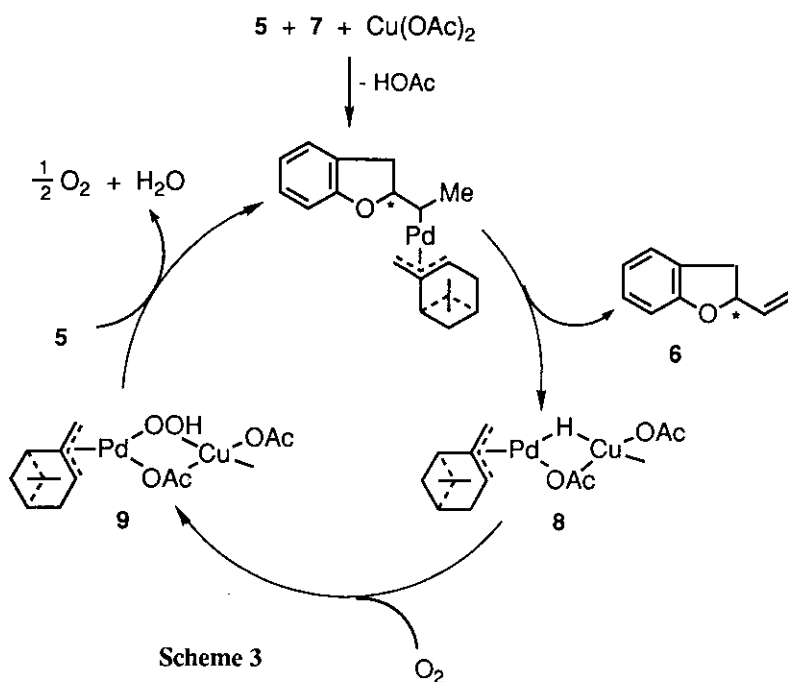


interestingly, the pinanyl ligand of Pd(II) was intact during the reaction. Furthermore, the rate of cyclization becomes faster as the relative ratio of added  $\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2$  to **7** increases and reaches a maximum when  $\text{Cu}/\text{Pd} = 1$ . On the basis of these observations, we have proposed that as shown in Scheme 3, the resulting Pd-H species (**8**) coupled with Cu(II) salt reacts with  $\text{O}_2$  to give a Pd-OOH (**9**) which acts as the active catalyst. If the PdHCl species (**8**) decomposes to Pd(0) and HCl, the conventional redox couple of eqs. 12 and 13 may account for the catalysis. However, this possibility can be ruled out, because the pinanyl ligand is retained on the palladium(II) throughout the reaction.

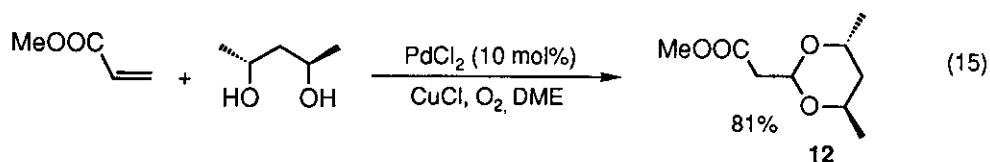


With this type of cyclization, the chroman moiety (**11**) of  $\alpha$ -tocopherol (vitamin A) is able to be prepared from pentenylphenols (**10**) derived from commercially available 2,3,4-trimethylhydroquinone *via* 4 steps (eq. 14).<sup>18</sup>

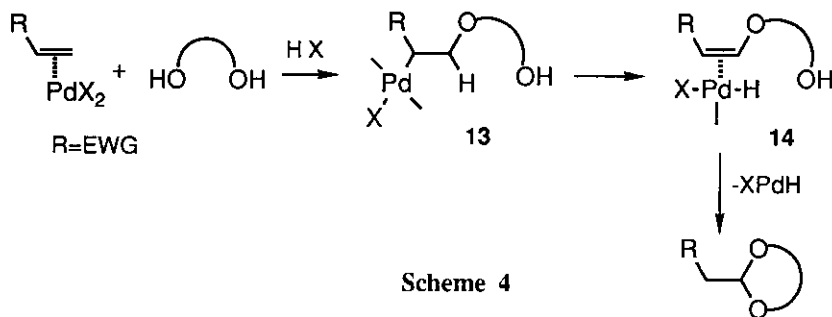




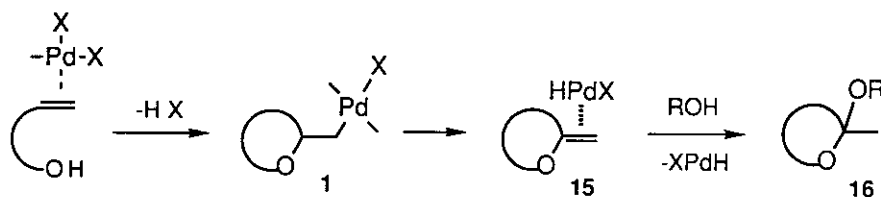
Chiral 1,3-dioxanes which serve as useful precursors of asymmetric syntheses are prepared by Pd(II)-catalyzed acetalization of terminal alkenes bearing electron-withdrawing groups (EWG) with chiral 1,3-diols. A typical example given in eq. 15 shows that chiral acetal (**12**) can be readily prepared from methyl acrylate and (*R,R*)-2,4-pentanediol.<sup>19</sup> The reaction pathway leading to acetals again involves the fundamental chemistry of Pd(II) as shown in Scheme 4; nucleophilic addition of an OH group to the olefin



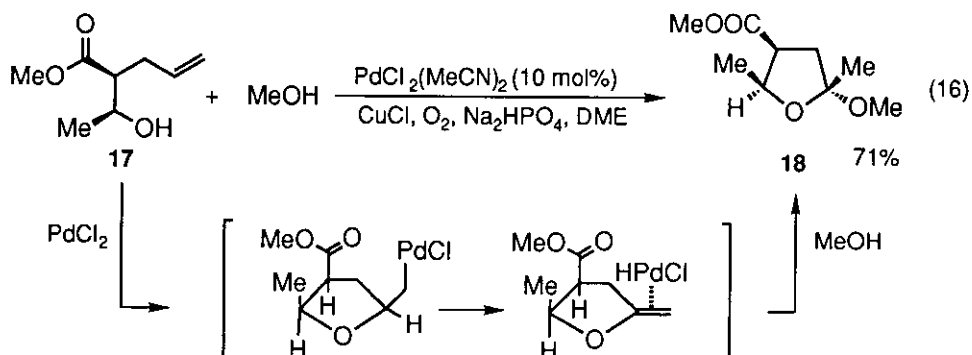
to give **13** and subsequent  $\beta$ -Pd-H elimination. The ring closure takes place *via* intramolecular addition of another OH group to the vinyl ether bond in **14**.



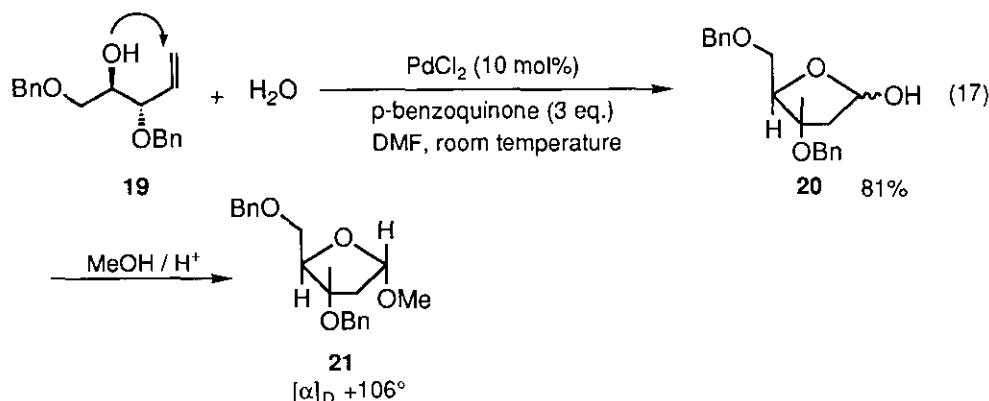
Modification of the process extends the reaction into further useful entries to oxygen-containing heterocycles. Thus, intermolecular addition of alcohols to the intermediate alkenyl ethers (**15**) formed *via* oxypalladation gives acetals (**16**) with leaving HPdX (Scheme 5). Using this method, optically active



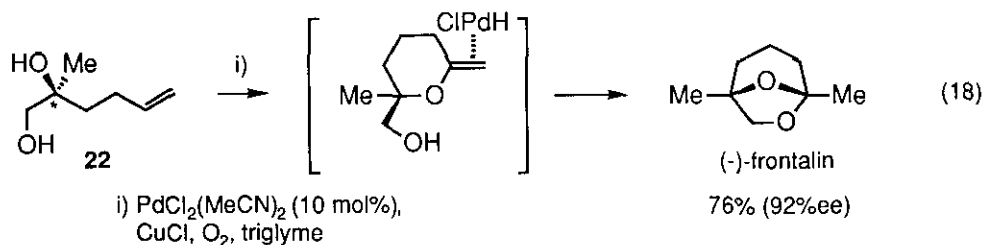
tetrahydrofuran (**18**) can be prepared from (2*S*,3*S*)-2-allyl-3-hydroxybutyrate (**17**) in 88 %de (eq. 16).<sup>20</sup> In this reaction, copper(I) chloride, not CuCl<sub>2</sub>, is used together with O<sub>2</sub> as the oxidizing agent. Generally in Pd(II)-catalyzed ketonization of terminal alkenes with water,<sup>4</sup> CuCl pretreated with O<sub>2</sub> is used as the oxidant in order to suppress chlorination of carbonyl compounds.



Trapping of the vinyl ethers (**15**) (Scheme 5) with water leads to hemiacetals. An interesting application of the reaction can be seen in the synthesis of protected deoxyribose (**21**) as the optically pure form (eq. 17),<sup>21</sup> in which excess amounts of *p*-benzoquinone is utilized as an oxidant for the catalytic cyclization of **19** to **20**.

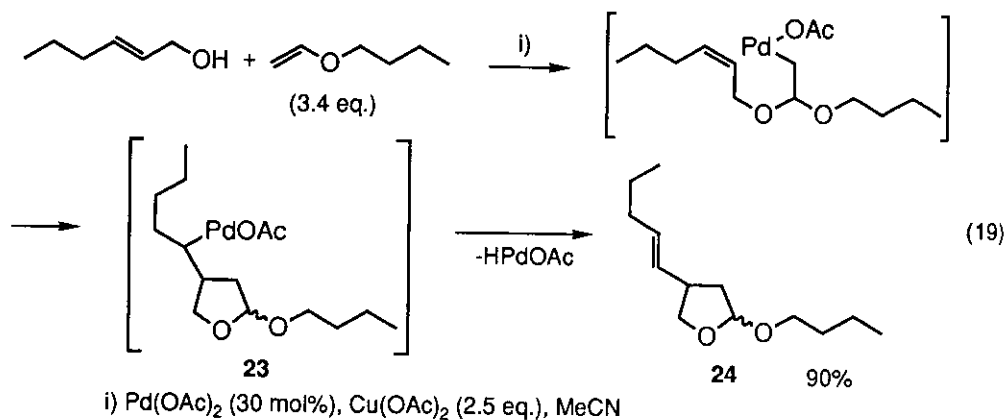


Intramolecular version of this reaction with alkenyl diols gives bicyclic acetals. Optically active natural (*S*)-(-)-frontalin can be synthesized from optically active (*S*)-alkenyl diol (**22**) by this method (eq. 18).<sup>22</sup> Unnatural frontalin is also prepared from the antipode of **22**.

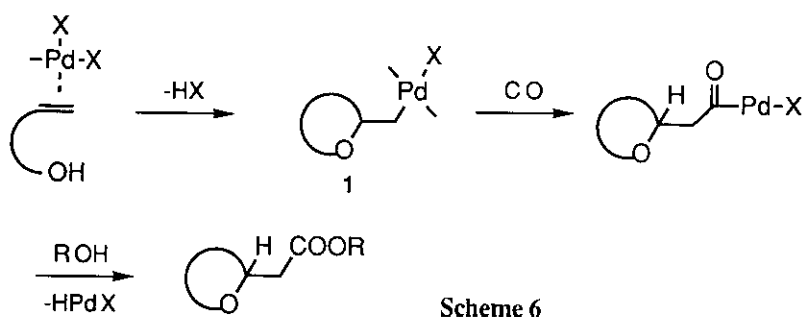


A variant of the acetal synthesis is given in eq. 19 where addition of alkenyl alcohol to vinyl ether firstly takes place. Intramolecular insertion of the resulting Pd-C bond to olefin followed by  $\beta$ -elimination of palladium hydride from the resulting intermediate (**23**) affords furan (**24**).<sup>23</sup> The reaction also proceeds catalytically in the presence of excess amounts of Cu(OAc)<sub>2</sub>.

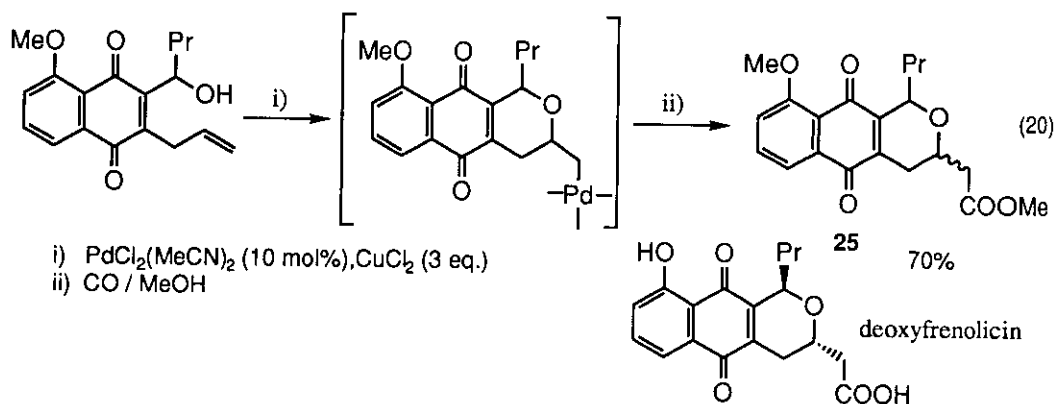




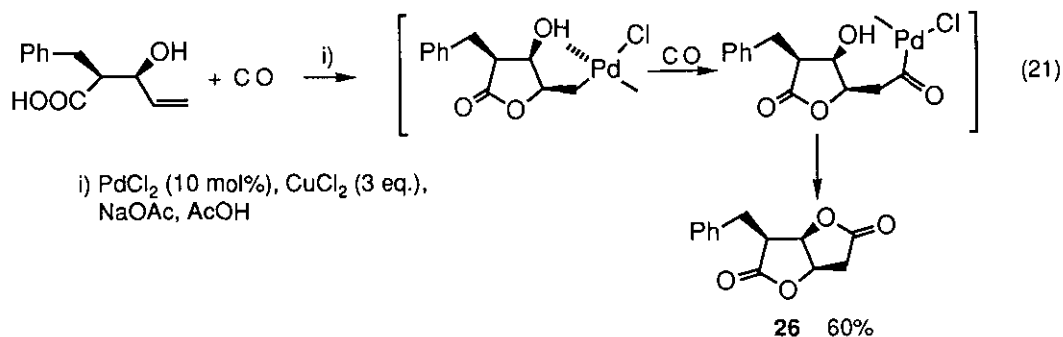
Insertion of CO into the Pd-C bond of oxypalladation intermediates (1) and subsequent attack by alcohols leads to oxygen-containing heterocycles bearing ester groups (Scheme 6). A fascinating example of



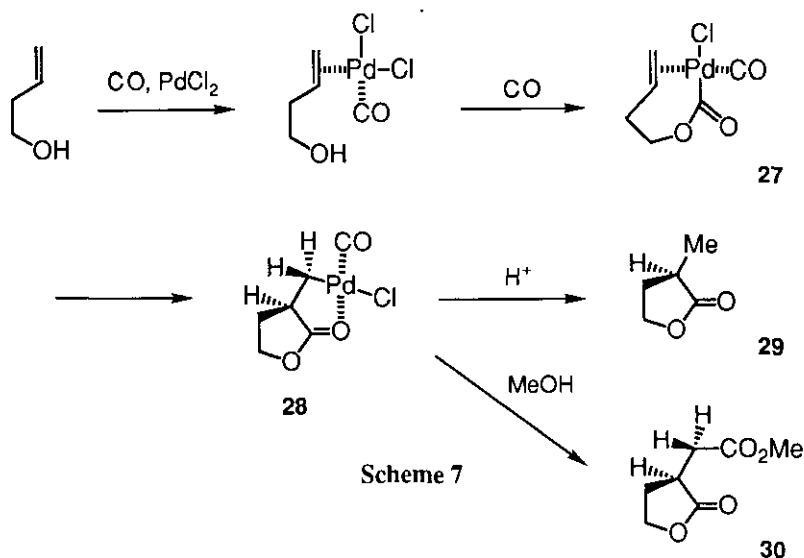
this sequence can be seen in the synthesis of deoxyfrenolicin precursor (25) (eq. 20)<sup>24</sup> and related



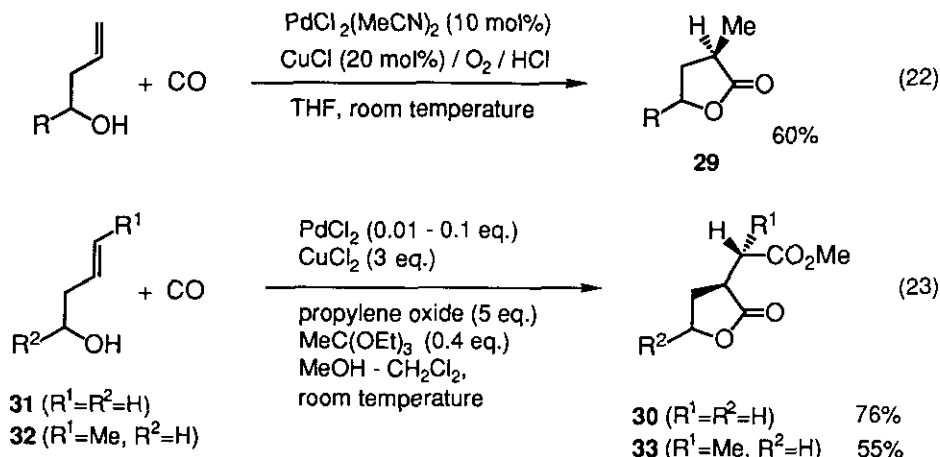
compounds.<sup>25</sup> Bislactone (**26**) is similarly synthesized *via* intramolecular carboxypalladation followed by carbonylation (eq. 21).<sup>26</sup> In these reactions, excess amounts of  $\text{CuCl}_2$ , instead of  $\text{CuCl}$ , is used as the oxidant.



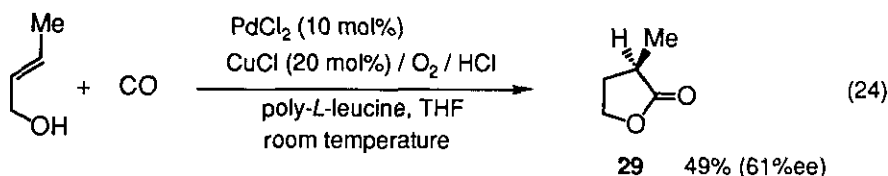
In these reactions using  $\text{CO}$ , alkoxypalladation (eq. 20) or carboxypalladation (eq. 21) takes place first, and then carbonylation is followed. However, when homoallyl alcohol (3-butene-1-ol) is subjected into similar conditions ( $\text{PdCl}_2$ ,  $\text{CuCl}_2$ , and  $\text{CO}$ ), the alkoxypalladation step is inhibited, probably owing to the ring strain of the expected oxetane product.<sup>27</sup> Instead, the  $\text{OH}$  group first attacks  $\text{CO}$  coordinated to  $\text{Pd(II)}$  to form palladium(II) carboxylate (**27**) (Scheme 7) which then cyclizes into lactones (**28**) containing a



Pd-C bond. Depending on reaction conditions used, the fate of **28** is determined. Thus, under acidic conditions (HCl, O<sub>2</sub>, and THF),<sup>28</sup> protonolysis of the C-Pd bond leads to  $\alpha$ -methyl- $\gamma$ -butyrolactone (**29**). This carbonylation is a so-called intramolecular hydroesterification.<sup>29</sup> Under neutral conditions (propylene oxide and triethyl orthoacetate),<sup>27</sup> dicarbonylation takes place to give lactone esters (**30**). The representative examples as well as reaction conditions are given in eqs. 22 and 23. The dicarbonylation in eq. 23 has proved to proceed *via cis*-addition (**32**  $\rightarrow$  **33**), and lactonizations of this type have wide



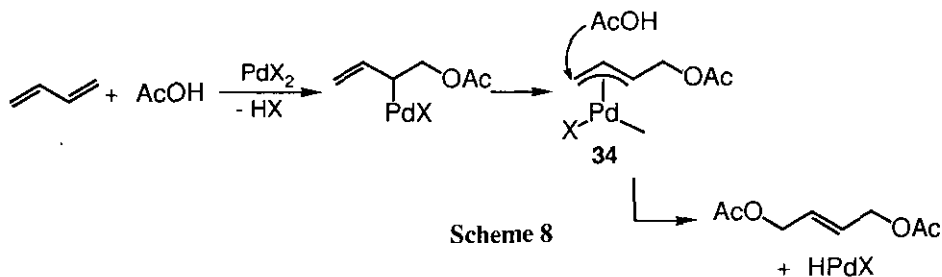
applicability to homoallyl alcohols. Under basic conditions (C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>7</sub>COONa, CuCl<sub>2</sub>, MeOH), no cyclized product is formed from 3-butene-1-ol.<sup>30</sup> Under acidic conditions, allyl alcohols (2-butene-1-ols) are similarly converted into  $\gamma$ -butyrolactones.<sup>31</sup> In the presence of poly-L-leucine (M 21700; DP=192), a 61 % ee of optically active (*R*)-**29** is obtained from 2-buten-1-ol in 49% yield (eq. 24).<sup>32</sup>



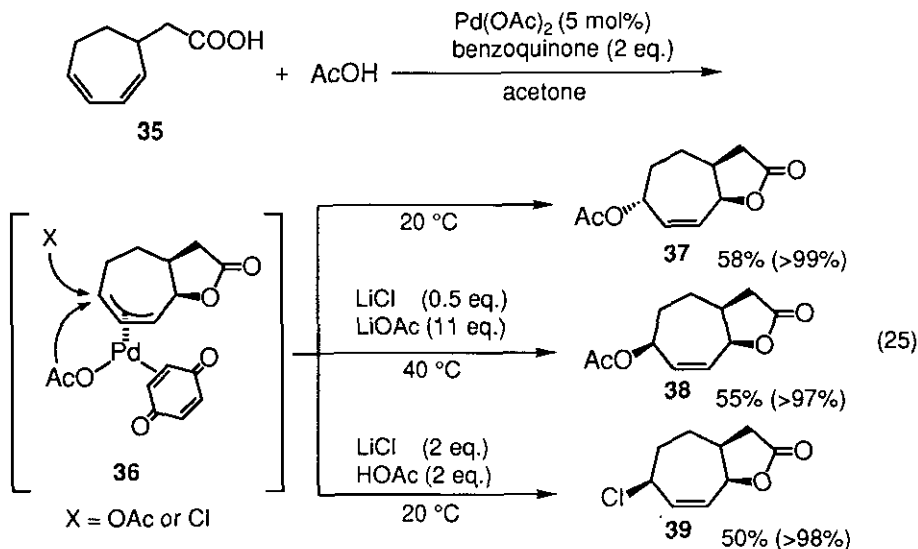
### Intramolecular Oxypalladation of Dienes

Butadiene, when treated with acetic acid in the presence of Pd(II) catalyst, is transformed into 1,4-diacetoxy-2-butene.<sup>33</sup> The reaction proceeds *via* acetoxypalladation of the olefin leading to ( $\pi$ -

allyl)palladium(II) intermediate (**34**) (Scheme 8). Subsequent nucleophilic attack by another AcOH to the intermediate (**34**) affords 1,4-diacetoxybutene together with XPdH (or Pd(0) + HX). This type of 1,4-di-

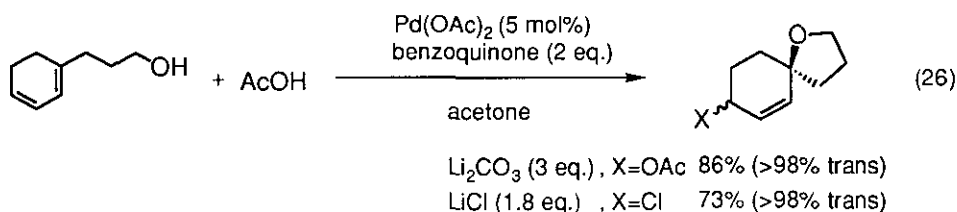


functionalization of conjugated dienes has been extensively studied by Bäckvall,<sup>34</sup> and intramolecular version of the reaction becomes a useful entry to oxygen-containing heterocycles. Given in eq. 25 is a typical example of the cyclization using dienylic carboxylic acid (**35**), in which Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> is used as the catalyst with *p*-benzoquinone and AcOH.<sup>35</sup> The reaction proceeds via first carboxypalladation and subsequent attack of AcOH on a π-allylpalladium(II) intermediates (**36**). The second nucleophilic attack is



thought to be facilitated by coordination of an electron-withdrawing ligand of *p*-benzoquinone to palladium(II). Of particular interest in this intramolecular 1,4-difunctionalization is that the course of cyclization is dramatically controlled by additives. Thus, without using additives, the AcO ligand in **36** internally attacks the  $\pi$ -allyl moiety in a *cis* fashion, resulting in 1,4-*trans* addition leading to bicyclic lactone (**37**), since the first carboxypalladation step occurs in a *trans*-manner. On the other hand, the use of catalytic amounts of LiCl, in addition to LiOAc, results in 1,4-*cis* addition leading to **38**, because the second addition of AcOH takes place externally. At a higher chloride concentration, external attack of Cl<sup>-</sup> on **36** results in *cis*-1,4-chlorolactonization to give **39**.

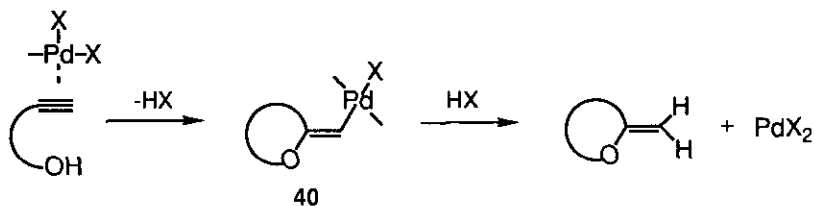
Similar results are obtained with conjugated dienes bearing a hydroxyalkyl side chain such as shown in eq. 26 where spiroethers are formed stereoselectively.<sup>36,37</sup> Generally in the 1,4-difunctionalization of



conjugated dienes, stoichiometric or more excess amounts of *p*-benzoquinone is used as the oxidant as well as the ligand of intermediate palladium(II) complex as mentioned above. However, the reaction can be made to be catalytic even with respect to *p*-benzoquinone if a stoichiometric amount of MnO<sub>2</sub> is used.<sup>38,39</sup>

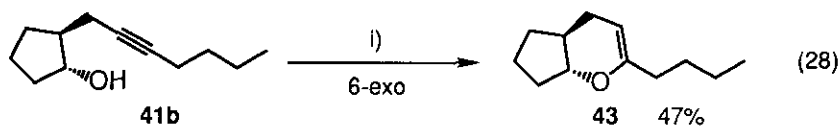
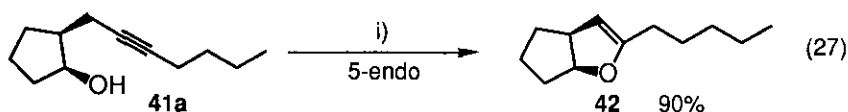
### Intramolecular Oxypalladation of Alkynes

Pd(II)-catalyzed cyclization of alkynes bearing hydroxy<sup>40</sup> and carboxyl<sup>41,42</sup> groups also provides a useful entry to various heterocycles. Alkenyl palladium(II) intermediate (**40**) arising from intramolecular addition of protic group to acetylenic bond (Scheme 9) does not undergo  $\beta$ -hydride elimination. Instead, protonolysis of the Pd-C bond in **40** results in the formation of vinyl ethers. Since PdX<sub>2</sub> is regenerated



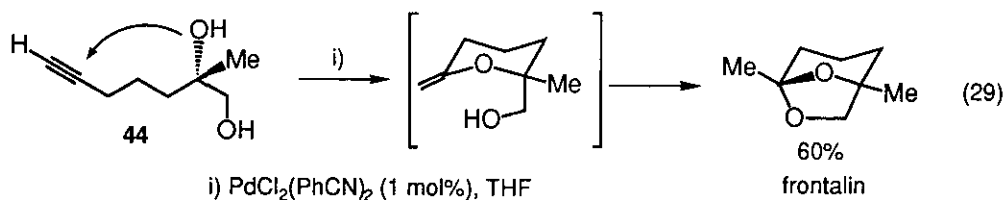
Scheme 9

after the completion of reaction, no aid is required for the catalysis of palladium. Examples of the sequence given in eqs. 27 and 28<sup>40</sup> show that *cis*-acetylenic alcohol (**41a**) gives *cis*-dihydrofuran (**42**), while *trans*-(**41b**) leads to thermodynamically favorable 6-*endo* cyclized product (**43**). Mercury (II) salts similarly catalyzes the cyclization of this type.<sup>43</sup>

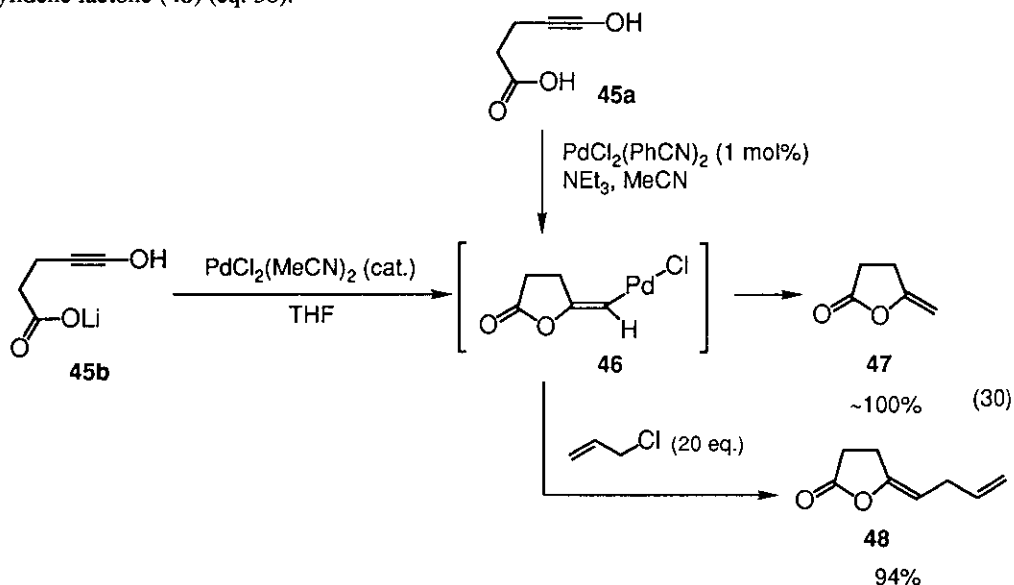


i)  $\text{PdCl}_2(\text{PhCN})_2$  (1 mol%),  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ , room temperature

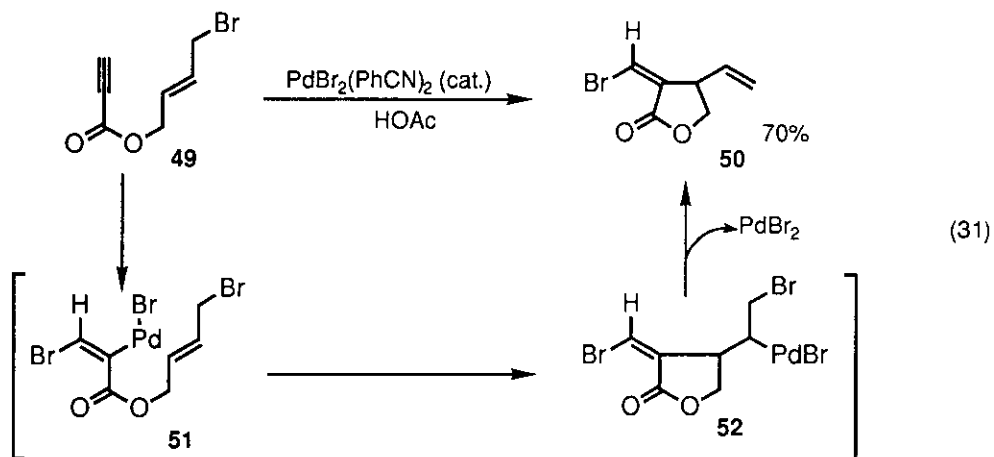
Alkynes bearing two hydroxy groups at appropriate positions give intramolecular acetals *via* addition of an OH group to carbon-carbon triple bond followed by further addition of another OH group to the vinyl ether bond formed. An example can be seen in the synthesis of frontalin from optically active 6,7-dihydroxy-6-methyl-1-heptyne (eq. 29).<sup>40</sup>



Alkynes bearing COOH group also undergo the same type of cyclization, and a synthesis of *exo*-enol lactones (**47**) can be attained from 4-pentynoic acids (**45a**).<sup>41,44</sup> Trapping the intermediate alkenyl palladium(II) (**46**) derived from **45b** by electrophiles such as allyl chloride results in the formation of alkylidene lactone (**48**) (eq. 30).<sup>42a</sup>

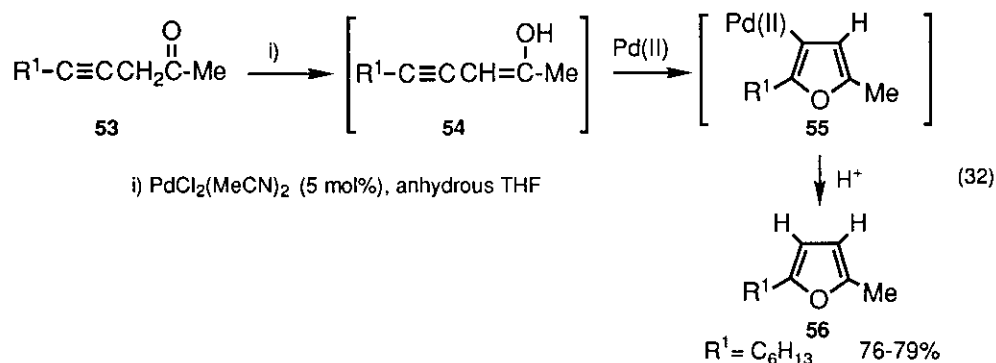


A strategy for trapping the intermediate  $\sigma$ -alkenyl palladium(II), arising from addition of  $\text{PdX}_2$  to alkynes, by allyl chloride was first developed for synthesizing halogeno-substituted 1,4-diene codimers.<sup>45</sup> As

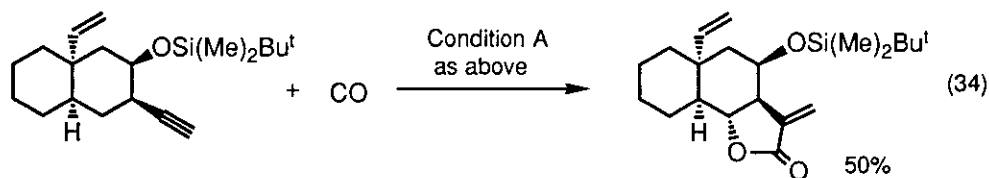
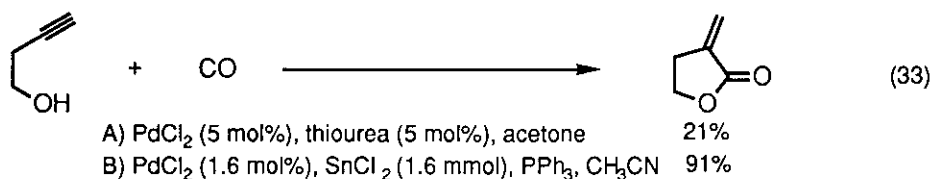


shown in eq. 31, intramolecular variant of this reaction has recently proved to be useful for synthesizing  $\alpha$ -(Z)-halomethylene- $\gamma$ -butyrolactone (**50**) from haloallylic 2-alkynoate (**49**).<sup>46</sup> The reaction proceeds *via* halopalladation of alkyne leading to **51** followed by insertion of the internal C=C bond to give **52**.  $\beta$ -Dehalopalladation in **52** predominates over  $\beta$ -hydride elimination, resulting in the formation of **50** with regeneration of PdBr<sub>2</sub> species. Therefore, no aid is again required for the catalysis.

$\beta,\gamma$ -Acetylenic ketones (**53**) can be converted into substituted furans (**56**) upon treatment with PdCl<sub>2</sub>(MeCN)<sub>2</sub> catalyst (eq. 32).<sup>47</sup> When anhydrous THF is used as solvent, the reaction is thought to proceed *via* oxypalladation of enol (**54**) followed by protodemetalation of **55** to give **56**.

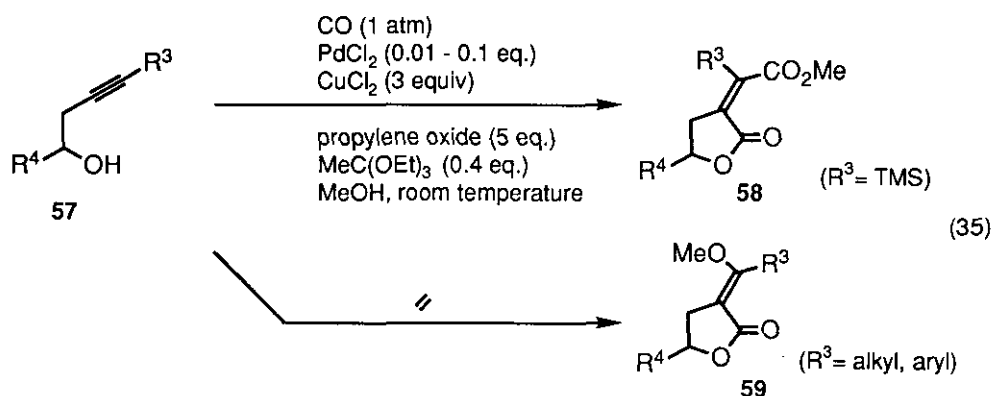


Carbonylation of hydroxyalkynes again constructs lactone syntheses. A pioneer work of Norton in this field has developed the synthetic method of  $\alpha$ -methylene- $\gamma$ -butyrolactone from 3-butyne-1-ol as shown in eq. 33.<sup>48</sup> With this method, a sesquiterpene antitumor lactone has been synthesized by Heathcock

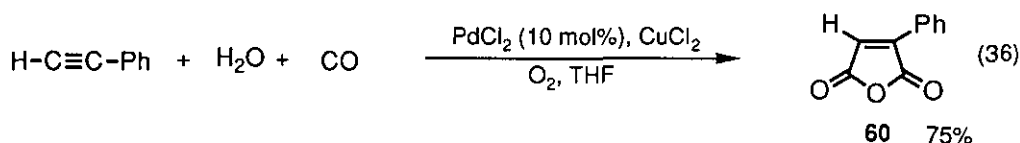




(eq. 34).<sup>49</sup> A catalyst system of PdCl<sub>2</sub> and thiourea has later improved to use a combination of PdCl<sub>2</sub>, SnCl<sub>2</sub>, and triphenylphosphine which has become an efficient tool for synthesizing the  $\gamma$ -butyrolactones. Recently, 3-butyne-1-ol derivatives (**57**) have been shown to undergo either dicarbonylation to **58** or methoxycarbonylation to **59** (eq. 35), depending on the substituents on the acetylenic carbon, under the same conditions as those described in eq. 23.

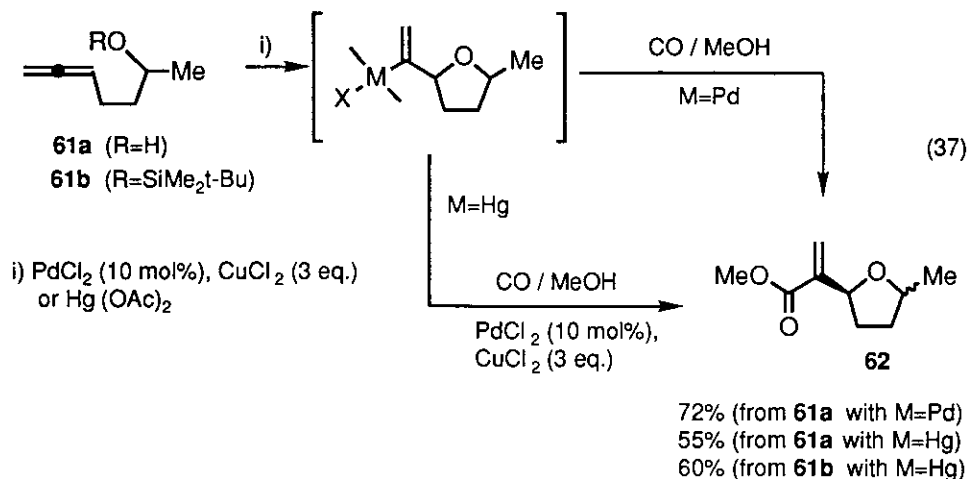


A system consisting of PdCl<sub>2</sub> / CuCl<sub>2</sub> / CO / O<sub>2</sub> / HCl mentioned before catalyzes various carbonylation of alkynes in the presence of oxygen nucleophiles such as water and alcohols.<sup>50</sup> When phenylacetylene was subjected into the system with water and/or formic acid, phenyl substituted maleic anhydride (**60**) is formed in 75% yield.<sup>51</sup> When substituents are introduced on the acetylenic carbon, the corresponding maleic and fumaric acids are concurrently formed.



Allenes (**61**) bearing a hydroxy or a trialkylsiloxy group  $\gamma$  to the allene moiety undergo intramolecular oxypalladation-carbonylation under the conditions using PdCl<sub>2</sub>, CuCl<sub>2</sub>; and CO in methanol, affording a 1 : 1 mixture of two stereoisomeric 2-(2-tetrahydrofuryl)acrylates (**62**) (eq. 37).<sup>52</sup> When allene (**61b**)

bearing a siloxy group was first treated with a stoichiometric amount of  $\text{Hg}(\text{OAc})_2$  and then the resulting complex was subjected into carbonylation using a catalytic amount of  $\text{PdCl}_2$  in the presence of  $\text{CuCl}_2$  and  $\text{CO}$  in methanol, *cis*-isomer of **62** was formed stereoselectively.



In summary, intramolecular oxypalladation of alkenyl compounds becomes useful approaches to the synthesis of oxygen-containing heterocycles. The reaction pathways follow the fundamental chemistry of palladium(II). In principle, alkenyl compounds bearing nitrogen nucleophiles undergo the same type of cyclization described in this article, and extensive studies have been performed to synthesize nitrogen-containing heterocycles.<sup>53</sup> Of course, palladium(0) catalysts effect a variety of cyclizations, those of which have been summarized in excellent accounts.<sup>54</sup>

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