$$E_t = x_t \epsilon_x + z_t \epsilon_z = x_t \epsilon_x + (x_0 - x_t) \epsilon_z$$

since z is equal to the decline in x. When terms are combined it is seen that

$$z_t = \frac{E_t - E_0}{\epsilon_z - \epsilon_x}$$

while $x_t = x_0 - z_t$.

In general, the rate constants were calculated by fitting the usual second-order rate equation to the concentrations as a function of time. In the azide additions, however, the UV method was so sensitive that adequate rate measurements were obtained with 1% or less change in the concentrations of the reactants, and the rate constants could be determined by the zero-order approximation

$$k = \frac{1}{t} \left(\frac{\Delta z}{x(x+c)} \right)$$

where $c = [olefin]_0 - x_0$.

The rate constants for the substituted phenyl azides are shown in Table III, and some of the data used in determining them are given in Table IV.

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Supplementary Material Available: Tables of IR and NMR spectral data of the triazoline adducts reported in Table V (3 pages). Ordering information is given on any current masthead page.

Synthesis and Electrophilic Cleavage of Some Verbenylstannanes

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Trifluoroacetolysis of the allylic cis- and trans-verbenylstannanes yields a mixture of cis- and trans-δ-pinenes, confirming regiospecific γ -substitution. Analysis of the product distribution confirms the view that any inherent preference for γ -anti substitution (anti-S_E' process) is not so strong that steric effects on both reagent approach and product development cannot influence the balance between syn and anti stereocourses. Sulfur dioxide insertion (chloroform solvent) proceeds readily with the *trans*-stannane to provide the rearranged (tertiary) " δ -pinenylsulfinate" in a stereospecific syn fashion (syn- S_{E} process). cis-Verbenylstannane is less reactive but is transformed to the same sulfinate. The verbenylstannanes were acquired by trimethyl- and triphenylstannylation (with (trimethyltin)lithium and (triphenyltin)lithium in tetrahydrofuran) of predominantly (~90%) trans-verbenyl chloride.

Electrophilic substitution of allyl derivatives of main group metals is a topic of considerable interest and quite attractive because of its γ -regiospecificity as shown below.^{1,2} As part of a general program concerned primarily

$$\begin{array}{c} & & \\ \mathsf{R}\mathsf{C}\mathsf{H} = \mathsf{C}\mathsf{H}\mathsf{C}\mathsf{H}_2\mathsf{M} + \mathsf{E}^* \longrightarrow \mathsf{R}\mathsf{C}\mathsf{H}\mathsf{C}\mathsf{H} = \mathsf{C}\mathsf{H}_2 + \mathsf{M}^* \\ & & \\ & & \\ \mathsf{E} \end{array}$$

with the formation and cleavage of allylic derivatives of silicon and tin, we have reported on the stereochemical aspects of these reactions with cyclohex-2-enyl derivatives.^{3,4} While this work was progressing, the absence of a stereochemical generality with respect to the S_{E} process (electrophilic substitution with allylic rearrangement) became obvious,^{1,4} and examination of further structurally diverse allylic systems was required to identify the chief factors regulating stereochemistry. It appeared to us that terpene-based systems, because of their availability and diverse structural features and possiblity of transformation (via allylic metal derivatives) into useful derivatives,² warranted examination. In this paper we discuss the characterization of some verbenylstannanes and details of their substitution reactions with acid and sulfur dioxide, while subsequent reports will focus on the carvone- and

piperitone-derived allylic stannanes and silanes.⁵ While this work was proceeding, we became aware that Russian workers, particularly Kashin and Reutov,⁶ had prepared and examined some tin derivatives in this series. Our studies of the verbenylstannanes, while more extensive, agree generally with the Russian findings.

Results and Discussion

 α -Pinene was converted to predominantly trans-verbenol according to the procedure described by Whitham.⁷ This involves reaction with lead tetraacetate (in benzene) to form cis-3-pinen-2-yl acetate which undergoes ready allylic isomerization (with acetic acid) to trans-verbenyl acetate, followed by saponification. (eq 1). In our hands,



 α -pinene, $[\alpha]_D$ +51° (c, 5.31, CH₃OH), was converted in 38% overall yield to an alcohol mixture ($[\alpha]_D$ +116.6° (c 2.07, CHCl₃)) which comprised trans-verbenol (87%) and

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Table I. Carbon-13 Chemical Shifts^a of Some Pinene Derivatives (Chart I)

		carbon number									
compd	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10^{b}	$Sn(CH_3)_3$
1	47.6	146.8	119.3	73.1	nl	38.8	35.3	26.8	~ 22.2	nl ^d	
2	47.9*	148.1	118.8	70.0	46.9*	45.9	28.4	26.5	20.3	22.5	
3	47.1	148.9	117.7	62.7	48.9	39.6	36.6	26.8	20.3	22.3	
4	47.3	148.1	117.8	62.3	48.6	45.6	29.4	26.5	20.3	22.3	
5°	47.0	140.4	119.2	34.6	44.7	36.9	33.2	26.6	23.1*	22.2*	-8.90
	(19)	(54)	(34)	(373, 358)	(26?)	(27)	(48)				(318, 303)
6°	46.9	140.0	119.6	32.0	44.9	36.4	29.8	26.4	20.8	22.91	-10.4
	(18)	(51)	(41)	(371, 355)	(22)	(41)	(13)			(10)	(316, 303)
7°	47.1	142.5	118.2	37.2	44.8	37.3	33.2	26.4	20.8	22.9	
	(20)	(59)	(40)	(395, 377)	(22)	(~ 20)	(52)				
8 ^c	46.8	141.6	118.6	35.3	44.8	36.5	30.3	26.4	20.5	23.1	
	(20)	(55)	(44)	(~ 387)	(~ 22)	(68)	(~18)				
9°	41.6	125.8*	140.1*	69.5	48.2	43.0	29.4	27.1	24.0	11.7	0.8
											(~ 474)
10	42.2	129.7	134.4	40.4	48.4	37.9	35.2	27.4	23.8	18.3	
11	42.7	129.9	135.7	35.7	47.6	41.1	28.2	26.6	20.9	18.5	

^a Chemical shifts are referenced to the central peak of the CDCl₃ triplet at 77.00 ppm. ^bC-10 represents CH₃ (either R₁, R₂, R₃). ^cValues in parentheses are ¹¹⁹Sn, ¹¹⁷Sn-¹³C coupling constants. Asterisked values may be reversed. The values for *cis*-verbenol (compound 1) and *trans*-verbenol (compound 2) were obtained from the ca. 90:10 trans:cis mixture. Distinction between C-9 and C-10 in most entries was based on the unambiguous shift of C-9 (20.9 ppm) in *trans*- δ -pinene (entry 11). ^dnl = not located.

Chart I. Pinene Derivatives



1	aie-verbenol
1	C13-VEI DEITOI
2	<i>trans</i> -berbenol
3	<i>cis</i> -verbenyl chloride
4	trans-verbenyl chloride
5	<i>cis</i> -verbenyltrimethylstannane
6	trans-verbenyltrimethylstannane
7	cis-verbenyltriphenylstannane
8	trans-verbenyltriphenylstannane
9	"δ-pinenylsulfinate"
10	<i>cis</i> -δ -pinene
11	<i>trans</i> -δ-pinene

another component (13%) which was neither myrtenol nor cis-pin-3-en-ol. Consideration of its ¹³C NMR spectrum indicated it to be cis-verbenol, and the ¹H NMR spectrum of the alcohol mixture confirmed this, as the minor signals agreed well with those reported for cis-verbenol, obtained by metal hydride reduction of verbenone.⁸ (trans-Verbenol has >CHOH at δ 4.17 ($w_{1/2} = \sim$ 7.7 Hz) while cisverbenol has >CHOH at δ 4.37).

Chlorination of the verbenol mixture with thionyl chloride (ether) provided in good yield ($\sim 80\%$) a chloride mixture (93:7) ($[\alpha]_{\rm D}$ +202° c 2.82, CHCl₃)) that was predominantly trans-verbenyl chloride, on the basis of ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra and similarities with the spectra of the verbenols. (The shielding γ -gauche effects of the hydroxyl and chloro groups in the verbenyl derivatives are particularly diagnostic.) The ¹H NMR spectrum of the major trans chloride was completely assigned and is characterized by >CHCl at δ 4.75 ($w_{1/2} \sim 6$ Hz) with cis >CHCl at δ 4.91. On the basis of the presumed ion-pair mechanism⁷ for allylic isomerization of cis-2-acetoxypin-3-ene to transverbenyl acetate, the result in this chlorination procedure is not surprising. Chlorination with N-chlorosuccinimide-dimethyl sulfide (NCS-DMS), a procedure that can exhibit high stereochemical inversion at carbon for the OH

\mathbf{R}_{1}	R ₂	R_{3}
OH H	H OH	CH ₃ CH ₂
CI	H	CH,
H	Cl	CH_3
$Sn(CH_3)_3$	Н	CH_3
H	$Sn(CH_3)_3$	CH3
$Sn(C_6H_5)_3$	Н	CH_3
H	$Sn(C_6H_5)_3$	CH ₃
CH,	$SO_{2}Sn(CH_{3})_{3}$	Н
CH ₃	H	Н
Η	CH_3	Н

 \rightarrow Cl change,³ also provided very predominantly the trans chloride. This result is not unanticipated, considering the presence of the *gem*-dimethyl bridge (eq 2). A full listing of the ¹³C NMR data is presented in Table I.



Trimethylstannylation. Slow addition of the verbenyl chloride mixture (93:7 = trans:cis) to a cold (0 °C) solution of $(CH_3)_3$ SnLi in tetrahydrofuran, provided, after Kugelrohr distillation (2 mmHg, 120 °C oven temperature), a stannane mixture in ca. 67% yield. The ¹¹⁹Sn NMR spectrum revealed the presence of three stannanes with chemical shifts (relative to internal (CH₃)₄Sn) of -1.6 (2%), -7.2 (28%), and -7.9 (70%). The composition of a further preparation was 4%, 32%, and 64%, respectively, which had $[\alpha]_D$ +73.0° (CHCl₃, c 2.06). GC-MS examination showed all three were C₁₃H₂₄Sn derivatives, with M⁺ (~ 1%) showing the characteristic cluster for the tin isotopes. The mass spectrum of the least abundant stannane correlated poorly (0.786) with those of the major isomers which correlated well (0.994). The ¹³C and ¹H NMR

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spectra of the mixture established the major stannanes to be the *cis*- and *trans*-verbenyltrimethylstannanes, and distinction between them appeared straightforward on the basis of the angular (Karplus-type) dependence of vic-¹¹⁹Sn-¹³C coupling.⁹ In the present case, C₇ and C₆ in the trans isomer should have a smaller and larger coupling (to ¹¹⁹Sn) than C₇ and C₆ in the cis isomer, considering the angle differences. (Computed couplings⁹ are trans isomer,



55 Hz (C₆) and 8 Hz (C₇); cis isomer, 17 Hz (C₆) and 55 Hz (C₇).) Thus the major stannane is trans, a conclusion concordant with the higher field shift of C₇ in this isomer. (γ -Gauche effect of Sn(CH₃)₃.⁹) Other aspects of the ¹³C and ¹H NMR spectra are unexceptional. (Complete assignment of the ¹³C spectra was achieved by considering chemical shifts, ¹¹⁹Sn-¹³C couplings, and various polarization transfer sequences to distinguish the carbon types.) The identity of the minor stannane is not certain, but the presence of a few percent of α -pinene following acidolysis (γ -cleavage) would be consistent with the tertiary stannane above.

Triphenylstannylation of the predominantly trans (84%) verbenyl chloride was conducted utilizing 1.5 equiv of $(C_6H_5)_3$ SnLi prepared in the customary fashion in tetrahydrofuran. The crude stannane mixture had ¹¹⁹Sn NMR shifts of -127.7 (59%), -131.5 (29%), and -139.0 (12%), whereas the purified stannane (60% yield; $[\alpha]_D$ +7.2 (CHCl₃, c 1.71)) was shown by a GC-MS procedure to consist of two structurally similar compounds (r = 0.986) in 61% and 36% abundance with a further minor component (3%). As before the major isomers were identified on the basis of their ¹³C NMR spectra which were completely assigned. That the major stannane was the cis



isomer followed from the vic-¹¹⁹Sn-¹³C couplings of 52 Hz (C₇) and 20 Hz (C₆), whereas the related isomer (ca. 30%) had analogous couplings of 18 and 68 Hz. The identity of the minor isomer (ca. 3%) is uncertain, and as acidolysis of the triphenylstannanes resulted in highly preferred phenyl cleavage, no structural information was provided.

With respect to these stannylation reactions, overall inversion accompanies triphenylstannylation, a result in keeping with the " $S_N 2$ " behavior of this reagent.¹⁰ There is clearly some stereoleakage, and formation of the third (presumed tertiary) stannane could indicate significant syn- $S_N 2'$ displacement on the trans chloride. In contrast, the predominance of the trans-trimethylstannane (from trans chloride) requires an intermediate of some type but its nature has not been investigated. Halide displacement by (CH₃)₃SnLi is well-established to be more prone to free radical and anion involvement than triphenylstannylation.¹⁰

Sulfur Dioxide Insertion. Treatment of the trimethylstannane mixture (69.5% trans: 28.2% cis) with SO₂ in deuteriochloroform or methanol resulted in rapid consumption of the trans isomer, whereas several treatments with SO_2 are required for complete consumption of the cis isomer. Nevertheless, only one sulfinate is formed $([\alpha]_D)$ -100.3 (c 1.06, CH₃OH)) which lacks a >CHSO₂- absorption, as appropriate for the δ -pinenyl (tertiary) sulfinate. This is consistent with the ¹³C NMR spectrum, although distinction between the isomeric tertiary sulfinates is not straightforward. However, the highly preferred syn mode of insertion of chloroform solvent,¹¹ and the anticipated impeding effect of the gem-dimethyl bridge for this mode in the *cis*-stannane, harmonizes with the facile reaction of the trans-stannane. We therefore consider the sulfinate to be as shown below (eq 3), but it is supported by the H_7



endo shift of δ 1.76 (decoupling) which is considerably deshielded when compared with H₇ endo in both *cis*- and *trans*- δ -pinenes and reflects the deshielding 1,3-interaction of the SO₂Sn(CH₃)₃ group. (H₇ endo appears as a relatively "clean" doublet.) The pathway from *cis*-stannane to the same sulfinate described above apparently involves a less favorable anti-SO₂ insertion, evidence for which has been provided from studies of insertion in methanol solvent¹¹ where the need for "internal" O-coordination from SO₂ to the leaving Sn= group is replaced by methanol coordination.¹² The above analysis is consistent with the observation that only the *minor* triphenylstannane, concluded to be trans, reacts with SO₂, with the cis isomer experiencing prohibitive impedence to the favored syn mode of insertion.

Trifluoroacetolysis of Trimethylstannanes. Kashin and co-workers⁶ have examined the acidolysis with hydrochloric and trifluoroacetic acids in various solvents and concluded that the *trans*-stannane reacted slightly faster than the *cis*-stannane and that *cis*- δ -pinene was the major cleavage product from either stannane isomer. A small proportion of α -pinene was reported as a product.

On the basis of γ -acidolysis of the verbenylstannanes, the δ -pinenes would be the anticipated product hydrocarbons, (eq 4), but full ¹³C and ¹H NMR spectra of these



compounds were not available. Abraham¹³ has presented

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Table II. ¹H NMR Data of Some Pinene Derivatives^a (Chart I)

		proton number									
compd	1	2	3	4	5	7a	7b	8	9	10	Sn(CH ₃) ₃
1	1.87		nl	4.37	nl	2.34					
2	1.92		5.35	4.17	2.05	2.13	1.27	1.25	0.78	1.62	
4	2.02		5.34	4.75	2.35	2.35	1.57	1.32	0.88	1.71	
5	nl		5.28	nl	nl	nl	nl	1.24	0.79	1.63	0.04
											(56, 53.5)
6	1.92		5.19	2.12	2.29	2.29	1.04	1.22	0.81	1.63	0.02
			(20.3)								(56.6, 54)
7	1.95		5.54	3.35	2.60	2.45	1.32	1.19	0.82	1.69	. , ,
-			(22.6)	(95.5)	(~ 20)						
8	1.95		5.49	3.18	2.45?	2.32	1.32	1.23	0.90	1.69	
-			(~ 17)	(81.2)				-			
9	2.17	6.38	5.26	(0212)	1.90	2.24	1.76	1.32*	0.95	1.06*	0.55
· ·		0.00	0.20								(68.5, 65.8)
10	2.07	6.08	5.51	2.62	2.02	2.43	1.27	1.26	0.98	1.06	()
11	2.12	6.09	5.40	2.44	1.84	2.19	1.15	1.26	0.88	0.96	

anl = not located. Values in parentheses are ¹¹⁹Sn, ¹¹⁷Sn-¹H coupling constants. Chemical shifts quoted are relative to CHCl₃ = δ 7.24 in CDCl₃ and refer to center of multiplet. Assignments made in most cases by spin-decoupling, and chemical shifts refer to centers of multiplets. For typical values of ¹H-¹H couplings in pinene derivatives see ref 13 and references therein. A tabulation of ¹H chemical shifts and coupling constants for 1 and 2 may be found in ref 8.

the ¹H shifts of cis- δ -pinene, and summarized ¹H data are available for both isomers in the report of Bessiere-Chretien.¹⁴ Zweifel and co-workers had described syntheses and partial ¹H NMR data of both isomers some years ago,¹⁵ Professor Zweifel kindly made available samples of both isomers, and these have been completely characterised by 300-MHz ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra and GC-MS behavior. Although there are some significant differences in the ¹H NMR spectra, the shielding γ -gauche and deshielding δ -effects of the 4-methyl group in the isomers are particularly diagnostic.

The key ¹³C and ¹H NMR assignments for cis- and trans- δ -pinene are shown below, and these permitted easy



analysis of the products of the acidolysis reactions. (In cisand trans-pinanes, C7 resonates at 34.4 and 25.1 ppm, respectively.^{16,17})

Although the mass spectral behavior of α - and *cis*- and trans- δ -pinenes are similar, the order of elution on a 25-m OV1 column is trans- δ - followed by cis- δ - and α -pinene.

Trifluoroacetolysis (CHCl₃) of a stannane mixture consisting of 28.2% cis- and 69.5% trans-verbenylstannanes (together with ca. 2% of the suspected tertiary δ -pinenyl derivative) resulted in the following product distribution, based on GC-MS and ¹³C NMR examination of the product mixture (eq 5).



This clean conversion demonstrated γ -substitution¹ (see below) and monitoring the reaction (300-MHz ¹H NMR;

disappearance of $(CH_3)_3$ Sn signals) demonstrated that the trans isomer reacts faster (ca. 3-5 times) than the cis. Cleavage with CF₃COOD/CHCl₃ was conducted and a 32/64 = cis/trans-stannane mixture (ca. 4.0% of suspected tertiary stannane) provided predominantly $cis-\delta$ -pinene (cis/trans = 64/36 by GC). The ²H NMR spectrum consisted of signals at δ 2.60 (66%), 2.43 (23%), and 2.14 $(\sim 11\%)$ which agree with the shifts for H₄ in cis- and trans- δ -pinenes and α -pinene,¹³ respectively. Thus all evidence requires essentially exclusive γ -proton addition, presumably directed by the trimethylstannyl group. Proton addition β to the stannyl group to form a tertiary cyclobutylcarbinyl cation is clearly less favored.

In the hope of acquiring the pure trans-stannane, suspected to be more stable, we attempted Lewis acid (freshly sublimed AlCl₃; C_6D_6) induced isomerization of the cistrans mixture, but this was not successful, although Kashin and co-workers⁶ report such isomerization to be relatively facile. Based on the observation that the *cis*-verbenylstannane reacts sluggishly with SO_2 , we selectively destroyed most of the trans isomer in this way and obtained a stannane mixture now rich in the cis isomer (cis/trans = 61/39). Trifluoroacetolysis of this mixture provided ca. 73% cis- and 27% trans- δ -pinenes, and combined with the earlier results (for the trans-rich stannane mixture) requires the cis-verbenyl stannane to produce more $cis-\delta$ pinene than does the trans-stannane. It may be concluded that the following operates



(Notice that γ -syn and γ -anti acidolysis of the trans- and cis-standances respectively lead to $cis-\delta$ -pinene, so that the favored mode differs for the stannane isomers.)

We have demonstrated previously that trifluoroacetolysis of cyclohex-2-enylstannanes follows a highly preferred γ -anti stereocourse³ but that steric effects in the γ -region (e.g., δ -substituents) can exert a substantial influence, so that with cis-4-tert-butylcyclohex-2-enylstannane, γ -syn cleavage is dominant.⁴ With respect to cleavage of the verbenylstannanes, several likely preference for γ -anti trifluoroacetolysis of allylic stannanes, (ii) steric

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impedance of electrophile approach by the gem-dimethyl bridge, and (iii) development of tetrahedral character at C_4 with approach trans to the gem-dimethyl bridge displaces the C₄-methyl group toward the congested region of this bridge. In the case of trans-verbenylstannane, factor i is opposed by ii, but in the cis isomer i is opposed by iii. The outcome thus depends on the relative importance of these factors, and the production of comparable amounts of *cis*- and *trans*- δ -pinenes from each isomer suggests that the major influence directing γ -proton addition is the gem-dimethyl bridge but that in the cisstannane isomer this is reinforced by the inherent γ -anti preference, leading to ca. 80% $cis-\delta$ -pinene. That acidolysis of *cis*-stannane does not produce solely cis- δ -pinene (anti attack) (cooperative effect of factors i and ii indicates the significance of factor iii. Work currently underway in other bicyclic systems should provide more insight into the relative importance of factors influencing the stereochemistry of S_{E}' processes, particularly where exo,endo and syn-anti competition can be examined.

Experimental Section

Compounds. Predominantly trans-verbenol was obtained as described by Whitham⁷ and converted to the verbenyl chlorides with either thionyl chloride or N-chlorosuccinimide/dimethyl sulfide as described previously3 for cyclohex-2-enol. The chlorides were fully characterized by their ¹³C and ¹H NMR spectra (Tables I and II). Anal. Calcd for C₁₀H₁₅Cl: C, 70.4; H, 8.9. Found: C, 70.9; H. 9.0.

Trimethylstannylation, employing (CH₃)₃SnLi in tetrahydrofuran, was conducted as described previously.³ Thus treatment of a 93:7 trans/cis verbenylchloride sample with (C- H_3 ₃SnLi provided the stannane mixture described in the text in ca. 67% yield after Kugelrohr distillation (2 mmHg, oven temperature 120 °C). Anal. Calcd for $C_{13}H_{24}Sn: C, 52.2; H, 8.1.$ Found: C, 51.4; H, 8.0. The ¹¹⁹Sn, ¹H, and ¹³C NMR spectra of the stannanes are described in the text and/or summarized in Tables I and II.

Triphenylstannylation of the verbenyl chlorides was conducted with an excess (1.5 equiv) of (triphenylstannyl)lithium in tetrahydrofuran as described previously. The crude product was dissolved in warm ethanol in which hexaphenylditin was very poorly soluble. The required stannane (60%) formed a very viscous oil. Anal. Calcd for $C_{28}H_{30}Sn: C, 69.3$; H, 6.2. Found: C, 70.2; H, 6.8. The ¹¹⁹Sn, ¹H, and ¹³C NMR spectra are described in the text. cis- and trans- δ -pinenes were kindly provided by Professor G. Zweifel and were fully characterized by ¹H and ¹³C NMR and combined GC-MS.

Reactions with sulfur dioxide in chloroform or methanol and trifluoroacetic acid (CDCl₃) were conducted directly in 10-mm NMR tubes. The reaction products were examined directly by NMR spectroscopy and combined gas chromatograph-mass spectrometry (and comparison with authentic samples) where appropriate.

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Synthetic Studies Aimed at the Dolastanes. An Attempted A + C \rightarrow ABC Approach

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The dolastanes are marine diterpenes whose molecular array of fused 6-7-5 alicyclic rings is distinctive. As part of a program directed toward the synthesis of representatives of these bioactive natural products, the possibility of elaborating their framework by intramolecular cyclization to form the central seven-membered ring has been examined. An expedient two-step route to keto ester 8 was developed. This intermediate proved receptive to copper-promoted conjugate addition of ally lmagnesium bromide and [(E)-2-(trimethyl sily]) vinyl] lithium. The acetal 21 to be subsequently derived from these adducts could be conveniently crafted into the highly functionalized 2-cyclopentenones 27. Central to the synthetic strategy was the need for intramolecular C-C bond formation within 27. Because we were singularly unsuccessful in achieving the desired end result, this particular approach appears unsuited for gaining access to the dolastanes.

The dolastane family consists of a small group of tricyclic diterpenes of marine origin having a uniquely distinctive linear 6-7-5 array of fused alicyclic rings. Dolatriol (1a) and its 6-acetate (1b) were the first members to be characterized.² Of particular note are the impressive cytotoxic properties of 1a, which markedly inhibits the growth of P-388 lymphocytic leukemia. The location of its three allylic hydroxyl groups and the relative stereochemistry of its five stereogenic centers were defined by three-dimensional X-ray analysis of 1b.3 To this time, no

reports have appeared describing efforts aimed at the preparation of this class of diterpenes. Our first attempts to assemble the tricyclic nucleus of 1 took the form of the socalled $A + C \rightarrow ABC$ route. Key compounds in this retrosynthetic analysis are suitably activated derivatives of the bicyclic diene 3. Although lacking in precedent, the expectation was that bond formation could be achieved within 3 under the proper anionic or cationic conditions,



perhaps with good stereocontrol at the site of the incipient

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