

pyridinium)ethyl]-4-vinylpyridinium ditriflate (**6**, $n = 1$) [yield, 13%. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (DMSO- d_6): δ 3.4 (t, 2 H, NCH_2CH_2), 4.9 (t, 2 H, NCH_2), 5.98 (d, 1 H, $J_{\text{cis}} = 10$ Hz), 6.57 (d, 1 H, $J_{\text{trans}} = 17$ Hz), 7.05 (dd, 1 H, $\text{CH}=\text{CH}_2$), 8.05-8.95 (AB q, 4 H, vinyl py 2,3,5,6), 8.2-8.9 (AB q, 4 H, pyNH 2,3,5,6).

Addition of 0.02 mL of pyridine to the reaction mixture initiated conversion of **1a** to 1,6-polyionene (**6**), which was evidenced by the loss of $^1\text{H NMR}$ signals due to vinyl protons and the appearance of enhanced, broadened signals at δ 3.5 and 4.9 ($\text{CH}_2\text{-CH}_2\text{N}$). The half-life for polymerization was approximately 10 min.

Polymerization of 1-Alkyl-4-vinylpyridinium Triflates 1b-f. Polymerization of monomeric salts **1** was accomplished by three procedures: (a) thermally by heating at 100-125 °C for 15 min under vacuum in sealed ampules (Note: The salts **1** all polymerize when heated in air to their melting points.); (b) by treatment with 0.5 mol % of 2,2'-azobis(isobutyronitrile) (AIBN) in acetonitrile at 60-70 °C for 2-15 h; and (c) by treatment with excess 4-vinylpyridine or with 0.5 mol % of pyridine at room temperature for 1-12 h (Note: There is no detectable inclusion of **4** in the polymer when examined by $^1\text{H NMR}$ spectroscopy.).

The polymers were purified by dissolution in methanol followed by precipitation with cold ether. Spectral and elemental analyses were used to confirm polymer structure. IR spectra for **2** were very similar to those for related **1** except for broadening of bands at 1160 and 1260 cm^{-1} (CN str). $^1\text{H NMR}$ spectral assignments and elemental analyses are reported below for two representative homopolymers, **2c** and **2f**.

Poly(1-ethyl-4-vinylpyridinium triflate) (2c). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (DMSO- d_6): δ 1.6 (br s, 3 H, CH_3), 1.5-2.2 (br s, 3 H, backbone CH_2), 2.6 (br s, 1 H, backbone CH), 4.6 (br s, 2 H, NCH_2), 7.9 and 8.7 (br s, 4 H, py 2,3,5,6). Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{12}\text{F}_3\text{NO}_3\text{S}$: C, 42.40; H, 4.24; N, 4.94. Found: C, 42.30; H, 4.23; N, 4.86.

Poly(1-dodecyl-4-vinylpyridinium triflate) (2f). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (DMSO- d_6): δ 0.9 (s, 3 H, CH_3), 1.3 (br s, 20 H, $(\text{CH}_2)_9\text{CH}_3$ and backbone CH_2), 2.0 (br s, 2 H, NCH_2CH_2), 2.3 (s, 1 H, backbone CH), 4.6 (br s, 2 H, NCH_2), 8.0 and 8.7 (br s, 4 H, py 2,3,5,6). Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{32}\text{F}_3\text{NO}_3\text{S}$: C, 56.73; H, 7.56; N, 3.31. Found: C,

54.39; H, 6.80; N, 3.31.

$^1\text{H NMR}$ Study of Alkylation of 4-Vinylpyridine with Ethyl Triflate. A solution of 0.026 g (0.25 mmol) of 4-vinylpyridine in 0.25 mL of CDCl_3 was added to 0.06 mL (0.45 mmol) of ethyl triflate in 0.25 mL of CDCl_3 . $^1\text{H NMR}$ spectral analysis within 2 min revealed complete conversion of 4-vinylpyridine to the related pyridinium ions, **1a** and **1c**, via protonation (~33%) and alkylation (~67%). (Note: The ethyl triflate (Aldrich) was a commercial sample and it was used without purification.) The $^1\text{H NMR}$ spectrum included all signals appropriate for **1a** (see above), **1c** (see above), and excess ethyl triflate (δ 1.5, t, 3 H; 4.6, q, 2 H) as well as signals at δ 1.2 (t, 3 H) and 3.45 (q, 2 H), which were confirmed to be due to ethyl ether.

The alkylated and protonated products separated from solution after 5-10 min and were redissolved by addition of 0.5 mL of DMSO- d_6 . New $^1\text{H NMR}$ signals at δ 1.5-1.8 and 4.3-4.5 accompanied addition of the DMSO- d_6 . The spectrum of ethyl triflate in DMSO- d_6 includes signals at δ 1.7 (t, 3 H) and 4.4 (q, 2 H), which may be due to an ion formed by ethylation of DMSO.

Rates of Alkylation of 4-Vinylpyridine. Reaction progress in mixtures containing equimolar quantities (0.25-0.50 mmol) of 4-vinylpyridine and alkylating agent in 0.50 mL of deuterated solvent (CDCl_3 or DMSO- d_6) was followed by $^1\text{H NMR}$ spectroscopy at ~32 °C (NMR probe temperature). Signals in the 7.0-9.0 ppm (pyridine ring protons) and 4.2-4.6 ppm ($\text{N}^+\text{CH}_2\text{R}$) regions (TMS, internal standard) were integrated after different time intervals to obtain estimates of reaction half-lives ($t_{1/2}$). The results are summarized in Table II.

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Supplementary Material Available: Preparation and characterization of 4-vinylpyridinium triflate (**1a**) and 1-alkyl-4-vinylpyridinium triflates (**1b**, **1c**, and **1f**) (2 pages). Ordering information is given on any current masthead page.

Synthesis of Optically Active Methylcyclopentanoids: Intermediates for the Assembly of Complex Diterpenoids

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A large number of diterpenoids can be classified as 4-methylcyclopentanoid derivatives, including compounds with the jatrophone, lathyrane, and tiglane (phorbol) skeletons. Three synthetic routes to 4-methylcyclopentanoids have been developed to obtain chiral, nonracemic synthons for assembly of the diterpenoids. These routes draw on the readily available monoterpenoids citronellol or pulegone as chiral resources, providing for synthesis of natural diterpenoid enantiomers without recourse to resolution.

Many plants of the spurge family (Euphorbiaceae) produce toxic or irritating substances that belong to a closely related group of diterpenoids, including jatrophone, lathyrane, and tiglane (phorbol) derivatives. Because of their often striking biological activities, this diterpenoid family has attracted considerable attention, and some of the less highly oxidized members have been prepared by total synthesis. In particular, a total synthesis of (\pm)-ja-

trophone (**1**) has been reported,² and the clever strategies of this approach were recently extended to syntheses of (+)-hydroxyjatrophones **A** (**2**) and **B** (**3**).³ In the lathyrane family, (-)-bertyadionol (**4**) also has been prepared,⁴ and

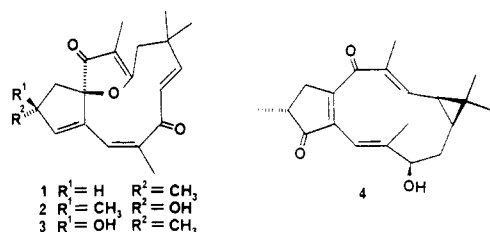
(2) Smith, A. B., III; Guaciaro, M. A.; Schow, S. R.; Wovkulich, P. M.; Toder, B. H.; Hall, T. W. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 1981, 103, 219.

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a variety of approaches to other lathyrane have been reported.⁵

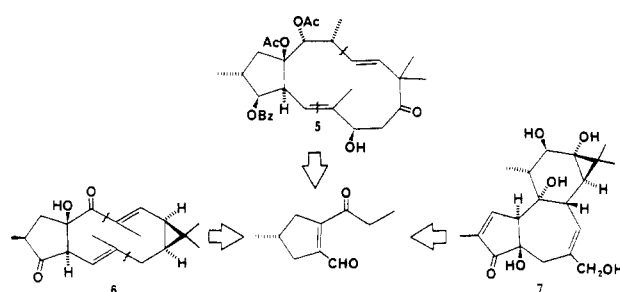


The skeletons of jatrophone (5), lathyrane (6), and tiglliane (7) diterpenoids share a common 1,2-disubstituted 4-methylcyclopentane ring system, a feature that is fused to one or more additional rings in the various natural products and often highly functionalized. Our own interest in this family has been driven by a retrosynthetic analysis (Scheme I) that traces the common 1,2-disubstituted 4-methylcyclopentane system to a nearly symmetrical intermediate. From this perspective, syntheses of various members of this large family could utilize a common precursor. Furthermore, if the methylcyclopentane were prepared in optically active form, a single cyclopentanoid enantiomer could be used to obtain enantiomerically pure diterpenoids of either methine stereochemistry by using the C-1 and C-2 substituents to provide different portions of the diterpene skeleton (Scheme I). In pursuit of this objective, we have developed a variety of cyclopentanoid syntheses. In this paper we report three of these routes, all of which make use of readily available monoterpenoids to control the absolute stereochemistry of the methine position of 1,2-disubstituted 4-methylcyclopentanoids.

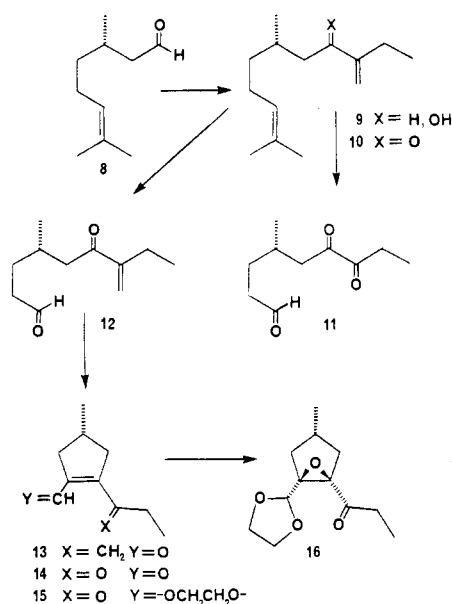
Our first route begins with (*S*)-citronellal (8) (Scheme II), which has been commercially available in moderate enantiomeric excess^{6,7} or which can be prepared by oxidation of (*S*)-citronellol. Reaction of this aldehyde with the Grignard reagent derived from 2-bromo-1-butene gives a mixture of diastereomeric alcohols (9) in nearly quantitative yield. Upon treatment with pyridinium chlorochromate (PCC),⁸ these alcohols are readily converted to the corresponding enone 10. If this enone is treated with excess ozone, followed by reductive workup with dimethyl sulfide, both double bonds undergo oxidative cleavage. However, selective cleavage of the nonconjugated double bond can be achieved if the progress of the ozonolysis is carefully monitored by GC analysis, thereby limiting compound 10 to reaction with a single equivalent of ozone. By this approach, compound 10 can be converted to the desired enone aldehyde 12 efficiently, but this aldehyde proved sufficiently unstable that purification by column chromatography resulted in significantly lower isolated yields. Therefore, the unpurified material normally was carried directly into the next transformation, wherein treatment with piperidine and acetic acid resulted in cyclization to afford the cyclopentenoid aldehyde 13.

Conversion of compound 13 into our immediate target,

Scheme I



Scheme II



the keto aldehyde 14, requires oxidative cleavage of the terminal olefin. A variety of oxidants were examined, including OsO₄ and peracids, with frustrating results. Eventually, we discovered that treatment of the diene with a standard solution of ozone in CH₂Cl₂ (Rubin conditions)⁹ would effect the desired transformation in modest yield, making keto aldehyde 14 available through a five-step sequence from citronellal.

Compound 14 embodies many of the goals established by our retrosynthetic analysis, and it may prove useful in synthesis of the targeted diterpenoids. This compound contains a stereogenic center, yet it escapes symmetry only by virtue of the nonequivalence of the formyl and propionyl substituents. In theory, compound 14 could be used to prepare diterpenoids of either absolute configuration at the methine carbon if the carbonyl groups were used as alternative portions of the skeleton. Furthermore, compound 14 could be obtained in optical purity if enantiomerically pure citronellal were employed in this route, because all transformations are remote from the single stereogenic center. However, the delicacy of the oxidative cleavages and the instability of the intermediate aldehydes exact a high toll on the overall yield. It also proved difficult to introduce substituents at the remaining allylic positions with regioselectivity. For example, after protection of the formyl group as its dioxolane derivative (15), we were unable to obtain the extended enolate that would allow regioselective oxidation of the cyclopentene ring.¹⁰

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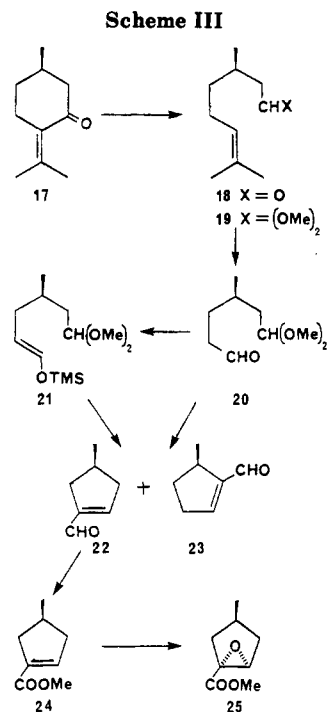
(6) A preliminary description of this first route has appeared: Drtina, G. J.; Wiemer, D. F. *Tetrahedron Lett.* 1982, 23, 803.

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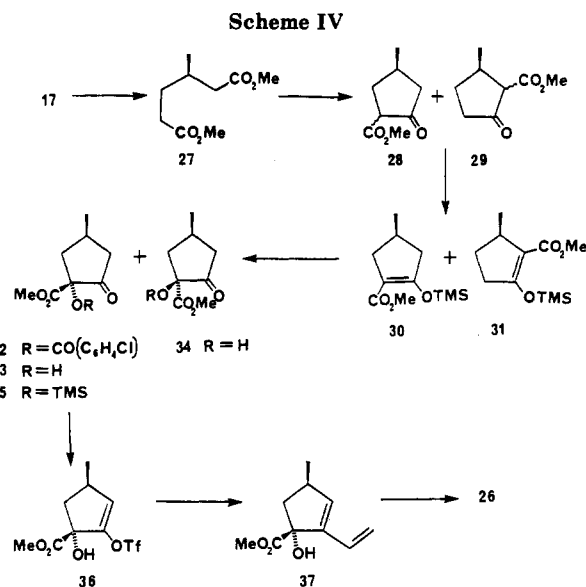
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This enone does react rapidly with *m*-chloroperbenzoic acid (MCPBA), affording a single epoxide diastereomer 16,¹¹ but regioselective opening of the epoxide also proved problematic. Accordingly, we have explored alternative preparations of methylcyclopentanoid systems to obtain more highly functionalized intermediates.

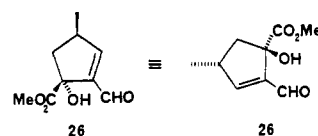
To overcome the disadvantage imposed by the limited ee of most commercial (*S*)-citronellal, our alternate strategy employs (*R*)-pulegone (17) (Scheme III) as the ultimate chiral resource because it is available in very good optical purity. The next sequence begins with conversion of (*R*)-pulegone into (*R*)-citronellal (18) via (*R*)-citronellic acid.¹² After protection of aldehyde 18 as its dimethyl acetal 19, ozonolysis and catalytic hydrogenation of the ozonide were carried out to prepare the selectively monoprotected dialdehyde 20. To obtain the desired condensation product 22 without formation of the regioisomeric 23, it was our intention to attempt an intramolecular aldol-type reaction under Mukaiyama conditions.¹³ Indeed, treatment of compound 20 with 1,8-diazabicyclo[5.4.0]undec-7-ene (DBU) and trimethylsilyl chloride (TMSCl)¹⁴ gives the expected enol ether 21 as an unstable oil, and further reaction with TiCl₄ results in cyclization. However, the regioselectivity of this reaction was less than expected, for the aldehydes 22 and 23 were formed in a ratio of about 9:1, and competing intermolecular reactions restricted the total yield to about 45%. Given the limited success of this sequence, we explored at some length the results of direct treatment of compound 20 with aqueous HCl.¹⁵ While the cyclization is sensitive to both the concentration and quantity of acid used, conditions were discovered where the desired condensation dominates (a 19:1 ratio of compounds 22 to 23). However, because it was prone to polymerization, the unpurified aldehyde was oxidized directly



to the methyl ester 24 by using SeO₂ in methanol.¹⁶

If one considers the carboxyl group of compound 24 as the effective equivalent of the propionyl group of compound 14, then this approach yields the same enantiomeric series upon formylation at the β -position of the α,β -unsaturated ester. To introduce more functionality within the cyclopentane system, ester 24 was converted to an epoxide by treatment with MCPBA. Only one epoxide stereoisomer was formed by this reaction, which we assigned as shown in Scheme III (25) on the basis of our earlier work and literature precedent.¹¹ Unfortunately, our efforts to open this epoxide selectively at the β -position with a nucleophilic formyl equivalent went unrewarded. Conversion of epoxide 25 to a diol or α -ketol followed by introduction of the formyl group may be feasible, but in order to retain a short overall sequence, we decided to return once again to (*R*)-pulegone and pursue a closely related route.

A variation on the above strategy has been developed to obtain the more functionalized cyclopentanoid 26, which can be viewed as an intermediate for (+)-jatrophone or, assuming oxidation with allylic transposition,^{8b} (-)-berlyadiol. This route begins with conversion of (+)-pu-



legone to dimethyl 3-methyladipate (27).¹⁷ Dieckmann condensation of this diester affords keto esters 28 and 29 in a 2.8:1 ratio,¹⁸ but separation of the regioisomers was postponed until after introduction of an α -hydroxy substituent.

After preparation of the silyl enol ethers 30 and 31 (Scheme IV), oxidation could be effected either by treatment with MCPBA¹⁹ or with catalytic OsO₄ and *N*-

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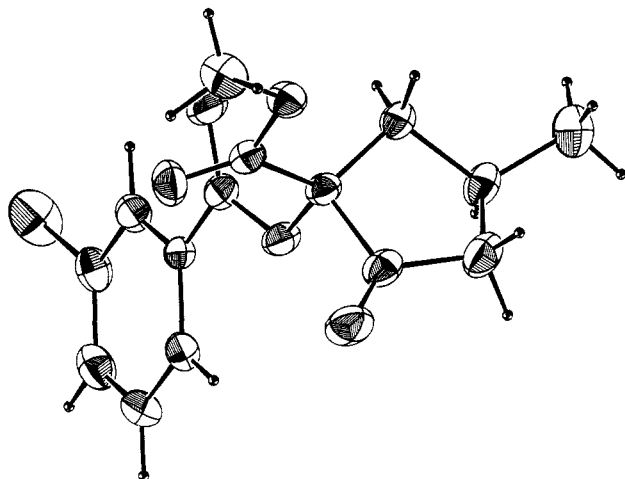


Figure 1. ORTEP drawing of compound 32.

methylmorpholine *N*-oxide (NMMO).²⁰ We were surprised to find that oxidation with MCPBA gave the crystalline chlorobenzoate ester **32** as the major product. While this could be converted to the target alcohol **33** by transesterification with acidic methanol, its primary value lay in its crystalline form. A single-crystal X-ray analysis independently confirmed the absolute stereochemistry as shown in Figure 1. Oxidation of silyl enol ethers **30** and **31** with catalytic OsO₄ and NMMO gave a mixture of the desired alcohol **33** and its diastereomer **34** in a 58% yield and a 10:1 ratio, while leaving the regioisomeric enol ether **31** primarily unreacted. Isolation of the α -hydroxy ketone **33** could be accomplished by column chromatography, although separation of the diastereomers was more readily accomplished after further functionalization.

The alcohol **33** includes both of the stereogenic centers of (+)-jatrophone in their appropriate absolute stereochemistry. To complete this phase of our study, the alcohol **33** was protected as its TMS derivative **35**, which was converted to the vinyl triflate by treatment with lithium diisopropylamide (LDA) and *N*-phenyltriflimide,²¹ and the TMS group was removed by hydrolysis. After a palladium-catalyzed cross coupling²² of triflate **36** with tributylvinyltin gave diene **37**, a final oxidative cleavage of the terminal vinyl group (OsO₄/NaIO₄) provided the immediate target, aldehyde **26**.

These three routes to methylcyclopentanoids demonstrate the feasibility of using a stereogenic center derived from chiral pool terpenoids in construction of complex methylcyclopentanoids. For example, aldehyde **26** appears directly relevant to both (+)-jatrophone and (-)-bertyadionol, and other cyclopentenoids we have prepared, such as the vinyl triflate **34**, embody versatile functionality²² which may allow the preparation of related natural products. Together, these routes should provide access to key portions of a number of diterpenoids in the jatrophone and lathyrane families and provide them with the natural absolute stereochemistry.

Experimental Section

Tetrahydrofuran (THF) was distilled from sodium/benzophenone immediately prior to use, and all reactions in this solvent were conducted under a positive pressure of an inert gas. Column chromatography was done on Merck grade 62 silica gel (60–200

mesh), while flash chromatography was performed with Davisil grade 633 silica gel (200–425 mesh). NMR spectra (¹H and ¹³C) were recorded with CDCl₃ as both solvent and internal standard. Electron impact (EI) mass spectra were recorded at 70 eV; only selected ions are reported here.

6,10-Dimethyl-3-methylene-9-undecen-4-ol (9). A solution of 2-bromo-1-butene in THF was added to magnesium metal in the same solvent at room temperature. When formation of the Grignard reagent (0.19 mol in 150 mL of THF) was complete, the solution was cooled to 15 °C and (*S*)-citronellal (23.0 g, 0.15 mol in 30 mL of THF) was added at a rate such that the temperature never rose above 20 °C. After the addition was complete, the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 7 h. Saturated aqueous NH₄Cl was added dropwise until the mixture turned to a thick slush, which separated into a soft cake and clear supernatant upon standing overnight. After filtration, the filtrate was diluted with hexane (1 volume), washed with water, and dried (Na₂SO₄). Concentration in vacuo gave 32.0 g (100%) of the diastereomeric alcohols **9**: bp 86 °C (0.55 mm); ¹H NMR δ 5.10 (t, 1, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 5.01 (s, 1), 4.81 (s, 1), 4.22–4.13 (m, 1), 2.3–1.2 (m, 10), 1.68 (s, 3), 1.60 (s, 3), 1.07 (t, 3, *J* = 7.3 Hz), 0.93 (d, 3, *J* = 6.2 Hz); EIMS *m/z* (rel intensity) 210 (M⁺, 1), 195 (2), 177 (14), 109 (64), 107 (100), 95 (85), 69 (86); HRMS calcd for C₁₄H₂₆O 210.1984, found 210.1977.

(S)-6,10-Dimethyl-3-methylene-9-undecen-4-one (10). The diastereomeric alcohols **9** (4.56 g, 21.7 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (8 mL) were added to a stirred suspension of PCC (7.08 g, 32.9 mmol) and sodium acetate (0.54 g, 6.5 mmol) in the same solvent (30 mL). After 2 h, ether (30 mL) was added and the brown supernatant was decanted from the black residue. After rinsing of the residue with ether (3 \times 20 mL) until it became granular, the combined supernatant and rinsings were washed with 1 N NaOH (3 \times 100 mL), 1 N HCl (3 \times 100 mL), 0.5 M NaHCO₃ (2 \times 100 mL), and brine (2 \times 50 mL). The brown residue was dissolved in 1 N NaOH and extracted with hexane, and the resulting extract was washed with 1 N HCl, 0.5 M NaHCO₃, and brine. The combined organic solutions were dried (Na₂SO₄) and concentrated to give 4.47 g of crude ketone **10**. Purification by column chromatography (silica gel, 3% EtOAc in hexane) gave 3.21 g (71%) of ketone **10**: bp 61 °C (0.15 mm); [α]_D²⁰ -1.09° (*c* = 0.177, CDCl₃); ¹H NMR δ 5.93 (s, 1), 5.68 (s, 2), 5.08 (t, 1, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 2.6–1.2 (m, 9), 1.66 (s, 3), 1.59 (s, 3), 1.02 (t, 3, *J* = 7.3 Hz), 0.90 (d, 3, *J* = 6.6 Hz); ¹³C NMR 201.9, 151.0, 131.3, 124.5, 122.5, 45.2, 37.2, 29.8, 25.6, 25.5, 23.9, 19.9, 17.6, 12.7; EIMS *m/z* (rel intensity) 208 (M⁺, 3), 193 (10), 180 (3), 125 (29), 110 (29), 109 (100), 95 (90), 83 (49), 69 (31); HRMS calcd for C₁₄H₂₄O 208.1827, found 208.1831. Anal. Calcd for C₁₄H₂₄O: C, 80.71; H, 11.61. Found: C, 80.48; H, 11.16.

(S)-4-Methyl-7-methylene-6-oxononanal (12). Diene **10** (6.62 g, 31.5 mmol) in 2:1 CH₂Cl₂-ethanol (360 mL) at -78 °C was treated with ozone until 85% conversion was indicated by GC analysis of a quenched aliquot. Dimethyl sulfide (8 mL, 109 mmol) was added and the mixture allowed to warm to room temperature. After 5 h, the reaction mixture was concentrated, the residue was redissolved in ethyl acetate, and the solution was flash-filtered through silica gel. Concentration in vacuo gave material that could be used in subsequent reactions. Final purification by column chromatography (silica gel, 10% EtOAc in hexane) gave 2.71 g (47%) of pure aldehyde **12**: bp 76 °C (0.35 mm); [α]_D²⁰ -2.08° (*c* = 0.0963, CDCl₃); ¹H NMR δ 9.77 (t, 1, *J* = 1.8 Hz), 5.95 (s, 1), 5.72 (s, 1), 2.66–1.50 (m, 9), 1.03 (t, 3, *J* = 7.3 Hz), 0.93 (d, 3, *J* = 6.2 Hz); ¹³C NMR 202.2, 201.3, 150.8, 122.8, 44.8, 41.6, 29.3, 28.8, 23.8, 19.6, 12.7; EIMS *m/z* (rel intensity) 182 (M⁺, 0.2), 138 (21), 125 (10), 98 (24), 83 (100), 55 (38). Anal. Calcd for C₁₁H₁₈O₂: C, 72.49; H, 9.95. Found: C, 72.14; H, 9.64.

(R)-4-Methyl-2-(1-ethylethenyl)-1-cyclopentene-1-carboxaldehyde (13). Aldehyde **12** (2.56 g, 14.1 mmol) in anhydrous benzene (4 mL) was added to a boiling solution of piperidine (150 μ L) and glacial acetic acid (150 μ L) in benzene (12 mL). The mixture was heated at reflux for 20 min, a Dean-Stark apparatus being used for azeotropic removal of water (0.2 mL). After cooling to room temperature, the mixture was diluted with ether (45 mL), washed with 1 N HCl (3 \times 4 mL), 1 N Na₂CO₃ (3 \times 4 mL), and brine (2 \times 4 mL), and then dried (Na₂SO₄). Concentration in vacuo gave an oil, which was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, 10% ethyl acetate in hexane) to obtain

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1.00 g (44%) of cyclopentene aldehyde **13**: bp 60–65 °C (1.1 mm); $[\alpha]_D^{25} -5.79^\circ$ ($c = 0.105$, CDCl_3); UV λ_{max} (CH_3OH) 260 nm; $^1\text{H NMR}$ δ 9.82 (s, 1), 5.15 (s, 1), 5.02 (s, 1), 3.0–2.5 (m, 5), 2.24 (q, 2, $J = 7.3$ Hz), 1.06 (d, 3, $J = 6.2$ Hz), 1.03 (t, 3, $J = 7.3$ Hz); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ 189.9, 163.9, 145.3, 139.9, 115.9, 45.7, 38.3, 30.6, 27.9, 21.1, 12.5; EIMS m/z (rel intensity) 164 (M^+ , 20), 163 (28), 149 (100), 136 (39), 135 (68), 107 (81), 93 (52), 91 (69), 79 (80), 77 (51); HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}$ 164.1201, found 164.1192.

(S)-4-Methyl-2-(1-oxopropyl)-1-cyclopentene-1-carboxaldehyde (14). Cyclopentene aldehyde **13** (791 mg, 4.82 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (10 mL) at -78°C was treated with CH_2Cl_2 (225 mL) saturated with ozone at -78°C . After 20 min, dimethyl sulfide (5 mL) was added. The resulting mixture was kept at -78°C for 2 h and then allowed to warm to room temperature. After 4 h, the mixture was filtered through potassium carbonate and concentrated in vacuo. The resulting product is suitable for subsequent reactions without further purification. A sample for spectral analysis was obtained by column chromatography (silica gel, 8% ethyl acetate in hexane): $[\alpha]_D^{25} +1.18^\circ$ ($c = 0.040$, CDCl_3); $^1\text{H NMR}$ δ 10.13 (s, 1), 2.9–2.3 (m, 7), 1.13 (t, 3, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 1.10 (d, 3, $J = 6.2$ Hz); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ 201.3, 190.0, 153.4, 147.3, 43.6, 38.8, 35.7, 30.8, 21.0, 7.3; EIMS m/z (rel intensity) 166 (M^+ , 77), 151 (97), 137 (61), 109 (100), 96 (49), 81 (74), 70 (65); HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{14}\text{O}_2$ 166.0994, found 166.0992.

(S)-1-[2-(1,3-Dioxolan-2-yl)-4-methyl-1-cyclopenten-1-yl]-1-propanone (15). Ethylene glycol (3 mL) and oxalic acid (220 mg, 2.44 mmol) were added to an acetonitrile solution (80 mL) of unpurified aldehyde **14**. After 10 min, 1 N NaOH (20 mL) was added to the vigorously stirred reaction mixture. Concentration in vacuo afforded an emulsion, which was diluted with water and extracted with 1:1 hexane–ether (3 \times 50 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine and dried (K_2CO_3). Concentration in vacuo gave 341 mg (34% overall from **13**) of acetal **15**, sufficiently pure for use in subsequent reactions. A pure sample was obtained by column chromatography (silica gel, 15% EtOAc in hexane): $[\alpha]_D^{27} +4.21^\circ$ ($c = 0.0107$, CDCl_3); UV λ_{max} (CH_3OH) 243 nm; $^1\text{H NMR}$ δ 5.89 (s, 1), 3.9–3.8 (m, 4), 2.81–2.36 (m, 5), 2.45 (q, 2, $J = 7.2$ Hz), 1.01 (d, 3, $J = 6.6$ Hz), 1.00 (t, 3, $J = 7.3$ Hz); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ 201.8, 148.4, 140.8, 98.5, 65.5, 42.6, 39.8, 35.5, 30.6, 21.1, 7.5; EIMS m/z (rel intensity) 210 (M^+ , 3), 181 (18), 165 (18), 153 (100), 109 (52); HRMS calcd m/z for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_3$ 210.1252, found 210.1252.

(1R)-(1 α ,3 α ,5 α)-1-[5-(1,3-Dioxolan-2-yl)-3-methyl-6-oxabicyclo[3.1.0]hex-1-yl]-1-propanone (16). Solid MCPBA (453 mg, 2.10 mmol) was added in one portion to a CHCl_3 solution (50 mL) of unpurified acetal **15** (341 mg, 1.62 mmol), and the resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight. Treatment with 0.5 N NaOH (20 mL) gave an organic layer, which was washed with 0.5 N NaOH (2 \times 25 mL) and brine and then dried (K_2CO_3). Concentration in vacuo followed by column chromatography (silica gel, CHCl_3) gave 219 mg (60%) of pure epoxide **16**: $[\alpha]_D^{25} +3.88^\circ$ ($c = 0.0129$, CDCl_3); $^1\text{H NMR}$ δ 5.01 (s, 1), 4.0–3.8 (m, 4), 2.7–1.5 (m, 7), 1.06 (t, 3, $J = 7.2$ Hz), 1.04 (d, 3, $J = 6.1$ Hz); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ 206.9, 100.9, 73.4, 72.6, 65.2, 37.0, 34.3, 32.9, 27.3, 18.4, 7.0; EIMS m/z (rel intensity) 226 (M^+ , 1), 169 (29), 126 (8), 99 (52), 73 (100); HRMS calcd m/z for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_4$ 226.1205, found 226.1209.

Citronellal Dimethyl Acetal (19). Trimethyl orthoacetate (8.8 mL, 0.08 mol) was added (45 min) to a solution of (*R*)-citronellal (11.3 g, 0.073 mol) and pyridinium *p*-toluenesulfonate (550 mg, 2.1 mmol) in MeOH (11 mL) at reflux. The resulting solution was stirred at reflux overnight. The reaction mixture was quenched by addition of 0.1 M NaOMe–MeOH (30 mL), diluted with ether (50 mL), and washed with water (50 mL) and brine (2 \times 35 mL). After the aqueous layers were combined and extracted with ether (2 \times 35 mL), the ether layers were combined and dried (MgSO_4). Concentration in vacuo and purification by bulb-to-bulb distillation gave **19** (11.61 g, 80%): $^1\text{H NMR}$ data identical with reported data; $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ 131.1, 124.6, 103.0, 52.6, 52.0, 39.3, 37.3, 28.7, 25.6, 25.3, 19.6, 17.5; EIMS m/z (rel intensity) 200 (M^+ , 0.1), 185 (0.4), 168 (6), 121 (74), 95 (35), 75 (100), 58 (29).

Aldehyde Acetal 20.²³ A solution of acetal **19** (5.6 g, 0.028 mol) in MeOH (75 mL) at -78°C was treated with ozone as reported, but then was treated with H_2 at 35 psi for 45 min in

the presence of a 5% Pd–C catalyst. Filtration and concentration of the filtrate in vacuo provided compound **20** (4.76 g, 97%).

(S)-4-Methyl-1-cyclopentenecarboxaldehyde (22).²⁴ 1,8-Diazabicyclo[5.4.0]undec-7-ene (6.19 mL, 41.4 mmol) was added via syringe to a solution of aldehyde acetal **20** (6 g, 34.5 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (35 mL) at room temperature. After 5 min, TMSCl (4.82 g, 37.95 mmol) was added dropwise, and the reaction mixture was then heated to reflux. After 3 h the mixture was diluted with CH_2Cl_2 (30 mL), washed with 1% HCl solution (2 \times 50 mL), saturated NaHCO_3 (2 \times 50 mL), and brine (50 mL), and dried (MgSO_4). Concentration in vacuo gave **21** (7.6 g, ca. 89%) as an unstable oil [EIMS m/z (rel intensity) 246 (M^+ , 0.1), 156 (20), 115 (90), 99 (17), 85 (19), 75 (75), 73 (100), 59 (18)].

A solution of the enol ether **21** in CH_2Cl_2 (7.97 g in 30 mL) was added to a solution of TiCl_4 (5.36 mL) in CH_2Cl_2 (190 mL) at -20°C (cryostat) via syringe pump over 24 h. After 24 h the reaction mixture was allowed to warm to 0°C and stirred for 4 h, at which time the reaction was determined to be complete by GC analysis. The reaction mixture was quenched by adding a solution of saturated K_2CO_3 (60 mL). After 1 h, the resulting layers were separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with ether (3 \times 75 mL). The organic layers were combined and dried (MgSO_4). Concentration in vacuo and purification by column chromatography gave aldehydes **22** and **23** (1.64 g, 46%) as a 9:1 mixture of regioisomers. Aldehyde **22**: $^1\text{H NMR}$ δ 9.75 (s, 1), 6.83–6.81 (m, 1), 2.83–2.66 (m, 2), 2.55–2.45 (m, 1), 2.25–2.04 (m, 2), 1.07 (d, 3, $J = 6.9$ Hz); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ 190.2, 152.3, 145.5, 41.9, 36.6, 32.3, 21.6; EIMS m/z (rel intensity) 110 (M^+ , 31) 95 (52), 81 (100), 67 (63), 53 (43), 41 (39).

Cyclopentenal 22 via HCl-Catalyzed Cyclization. To a solution of acetal **20** (4.76 g, 0.027 mol) in THF (120 mL) at room temperature was added a solution of 1 N HCl (2.5 mL). After being stirred for 7.5 h, the reaction mixture was diluted with ether (60 mL) and washed with saturated NaHCO_3 (60 mL), water (60 mL), and brine (60 mL). The aqueous layers were combined and extracted with ether (50 mL), and the combined ether layers were dried (MgSO_4). Concentration in vacuo gave 4.5 g of compounds **22** and **23** (ca. 95:5), material that was used in the following reaction without further purification.

Methyl (S)-4-Methyl-1-cyclopentenecarboxylate (24). To a solution of unpurified cyclopentenal **22** (4.5 g, ca. 0.027 mol) and SeO_2 (1.54 g, 0.014 mol) in MeOH (140 mL) at 0°C was added H_2O_2 (0.042 mol, 30% in H_2O). The reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred for 5.5 h. The reaction mixture was then diluted with ether (100 mL) and washed with saturated NaHCO_3 (2 \times 65 mL), water (2 \times 50 mL), and brine (60 mL). The aqueous layers were combined and extracted with ether (75 mL), and the combined ether layers were dried (MgSO_4). Concentration in vacuo and purification by flash chromatography (silica, hexane 55%, ethyl acetate 45%) provided compound **24** (975 mg, 26% overall from aldehyde acetal **20**): $[\alpha]_D^{28} +3.18^\circ$ ($c = 0.027$, Et_2O); $^1\text{H NMR}$ δ 6.68 (t, 1, $J = 1.9$ Hz), 3.71 (s, 3), 2.76–2.61 (m, 2), 2.47–2.41 (m, 1), 2.19–2.04 (m, 2), 1.04 (d, 3, $J = 6.9$ Hz); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ 165.7, 142.8, 135.4, 51.2, 41.5, 39.5, 32.1, 21.4; EIMS m/z (rel intensity) 140, (M^+ , 4), 125 (4), 109 (9), 79 (71), 65 (42), 59 (73), 53 (100); HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_8\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_2$ 140.0837, found 140.0824.

Methyl (1R,2R,4S)-4-Methyl-6-oxabicyclo[3.1.0]hexane-carboxylate (25). To a solution of ester **24** in anhydrous CHCl_3 at room temperature was added a solution of MCPBA (905 mg, 4.46 mmol) in CHCl_3 (10 mL). The resulting mixture was then stirred for 17 h. A white precipitate formed and was removed by filtration. The resulting solution was diluted with CHCl_3 and washed with 0.5 N NaOH (35 mL), saturated NaHCO_3 (2 \times 35 mL), and brine (35 mL). The aqueous layers were extracted with CHCl_3 , and the combined CHCl_3 solutions were dried (MgSO_4). Concentration in vacuo gave epoxide **25** as a clear oil (464 mg, 80%): $[\alpha]_D^{28} -2.93^\circ$ ($c = 0.134$, Et_2O); $^1\text{H NMR}$ δ 3.79 (s, 3), 2.29–2.17 (m, 2), 1.94–1.87 (m, 1), 1.81–1.72 (m, 2), 1.39–1.32 (m, 1), 1.02 (d, 3, $J = 6.8$ Hz); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ 169.9, 63.6, 62.3, 52.3, 35.8, 35.2, 26.9, 18.7; EIMS m/z (rel intensity) 156 (M^+ , 0.1), 141 (0.1), 97 (4), 69 (32), 59 (63), 41 (100); HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_8\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_3$ 156.0787,

(23) Naruse, Y.; Yamamoto, H. *Tetrahedron* 1988, 44, 6021.(24) Bloch, R.; Bouket, J.-L.; Conia, J.-M. *Bull. Soc. Chim. Fr.* 1969, 489.

found 156.0787. Anal. Calcd for $C_8H_{12}O_3$: C, 61.52; H, 7.74. Found: C, 61.56; H, 7.87.

Methyl (4*R*)-2-Oxo-4- and (5*R*)-2-Oxo-5-methylcyclopentanecarboxylate (28 and 29).¹⁸ A Dieckmann condensation was used to prepare keto esters 28 and 29 from dimethyl (*R*)-3-methyladipate¹⁷ ($[\alpha]_D^{24} + 4.7^\circ$ ($c = 0.0710$, $CHCl_3$)) in 83% yield. Analysis of the high-field 1H NMR spectrum of the product mixture indicated the formation of three isomers: two diastereomers of keto ester 28 and one of its regioisomer 29. Integration of the methyl ester resonances or the aliphatic methyl resonances indicated a ratio of about 2.8:1 in favor of compounds 28.

Methyl (*R*)-4-Methyl-2-[(trimethylsilyloxy)-1-cyclopentenecarboxylate (30). A mixture of keto esters 28 and 29 (5.01 g, 32.1 mmol) was dissolved in THF, and a catalytic amount of (*n*-Bu)₄NF (0.01 equiv) was added. The silyl ketene acetal of methyl propionate²⁵ was added (5 mL), and after 15 min at room temperature the reaction was monitored by GC. An additional 1 mL of the silyl ketene was added every 15 min until the silylation was complete. The reaction mixture was diluted with pentane (25 mL) and filtered through a cotton plug. After concentration in vacuo, the product was purified by distillation, giving 7.15 g (98%) of silyl enol ether 30 (along with its regioisomer) as a clear oil: bp 60 °C (0.6 mm); 1H NMR (30) δ 3.57 (s), 0.95 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz); (31) δ 3.58 (s), 1.01 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (30) 165.2, 163.9, 107.6, 50.3, 43.9, 37.1, 28.0, 21.5, 0.3; (31) 165.2, 164.7, 113.9, 50.1, 36.3, 34.1, 27.7, 20.6, 0.3.

Chlorobenzoate Ester (32). A solution of MCPBA (2.07 g, 8.8 mmol; 73% peracid) in 80 mL of CH_2Cl_2 was added dropwise to a solution of the silyl ethers 30 and 31 (1.00 g, 4.38 mmol) in 40 mL of anhydrous CH_2Cl_2 at 0 °C. Once the addition was complete, the reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred for 1 h. The resulting precipitate (chlorobenzoic acid) was removed by filtration and the filtrate washed with saturated sodium carbonate (3 \times 30 mL). After treatment of the organic layer with $MgSO_4$, concentration in vacuo gave 1.2 g of a yellow oil. Purification by flash column chromatography (9:1 hexane–EtOAc) gave 0.532 g (40%) of a yellow oil, which crystallized upon storage in a refrigerator: $[\alpha]_D^{25} + 56.7^\circ$ ($c = 0.0127$, $CHCl_3$); 1H NMR δ 7.98 (d, 1, $J = 1.7$ Hz), 7.90 (d, 1, $J = 7.8$ Hz), 7.54 (d, 1, $J = 8.0$ Hz), 7.37 (dd, 1, $J = 7.9, 7.9$ Hz), 3.79 (s, 3), 2.80 (ddd, 1, $J = 2, 6, 13$ Hz), 2.69 (ddd, 1, $J = 18, 7, 2$ Hz), 2.58 (m, 1), 2.46 (dd, 1, $J = 10, 18$ Hz), 2.23 (dd, 1, $J = 13, 9$ Hz), 1.2 (d, 3, $J = 6$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR 206.7, 167.7, 163.8, 134.6, 133.7, 130.6, 130.0, 129.8, 128.1, 85.3, 77.5, 53.3, 45.6, 41.7, 27.6, 20.4; EIMS m/z (rel intensity) 310 (M^+ , 1), 171 (5), 139 (100), 111 (24), 59 (7). Anal. Calcd for $C_{15}H_{15}O_5Cl$: C, 57.98; H, 4.87. Found: C, 57.86; H, 4.88.

Methyl (1*R*,4*R*)-1-Hydroxy-4-methyl-2-oxocyclopentanecarboxylate (33). *N*-Methylmorpholine *N*-oxide (NMMO, 284 mg, 2.1 mmol) was added to a mixture of acetone (3 mL), water (4 mL), and OsO_4 (0.04 mmol as a 0.02 M solution in *t*-BuOH). The resulting mixture was cooled to $-15^\circ C$, and crude silyl enol ether 30 (456 mg, 2 mmol in 3 mL of acetone) was added in one portion. After the reaction had warmed to room temperature, sodium bisulfite and Florisil (3 g) was added. The resulting slurry was stirred for 15 min and filtered through a pad of Celite, and the pad was washed with acetone (3 \times 10 mL). The combined filtrates were neutralized with 1 M H_2SO_4 and concentrated in vacuo. The remaining aqueous solution was acidified (to pH 2), saturated with sodium chloride, and extracted with ethyl acetate (4 \times 15 mL). The combined organic solutions were dried ($MgSO_4$) and concentrated in vacuo. Purification by flash chromatography (9:1 hexane–EtOAc) yielded 200 mg (58%) of a mixture of the desired hydroxy keto ester 33 and its diastereomer 34 in a 10:1 ratio. (Other fractions yielded 71.1 mg (22%) of keto esters 28 and 29 in a 1:10 ratio and 17.8 mg (5%) of the hydroxylated regioisomers.) Compound 33: $[\alpha]_D^{24} + 45.1^\circ$ ($c = 0.0317$, $CHCl_3$); 1H NMR δ 3.77 (s, 3), 2.58 (ddd, 1, $J = 2.4, 7.0, 17.9$ Hz), 2.49 (m, 1), 2.20 (ddd, 1, $J = 2.4, 6.3, 13.8$ Hz), 2.00 (dd, 1, $J = 11.6, 17.9$ Hz), 1.97 (dd, 1, $J = 11.6, 14.2$ Hz), 1.14 (d, 3, $J = 6.5$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR 212.0, 172.2, 80.8, 53.2, 45.1, 43.1, 28.3, 20.0; EIMS m/z (rel intensity) 172 (M^+ , 24), 140 (16), 116 (41), 112 (42), 102 (30),

74 (100), 56 (81). Anal. Calcd for $C_8H_{12}O_4$: C, 55.81; H, 7.03. Found: C, 55.79; H, 7.19.

Methyl (1*R*,4*R*)-4-Methyl-2-[(trifluoromethyl)sulfonyloxy]-1-hydroxy-2-cyclopentenecarboxylate (36). A 10:1 mixture of alcohols 33 and 34 (7.35 g, 42.7 mmol) in DMF (80 mL) was treated with imidazole (5.82 g, 85.5 mmol) and $(CH_3)_3SiCl$ (10.85 mL, 85.5 mmol) at room temperature. After 1 h, ether was added (300 mL) and the organic layer was washed with water (4 \times 40 mL) and brine and dried ($MgSO_4$). Concentration in vacuo yielded a crude oil. Distillation (75 °C, 0.8 mm) gave 10.40 g (100%) of the TMS ether 35: 1H NMR δ 3.73 (s, 3), 2.57 (ddd, 1, $J = 2.6, 7.3, 18.3$ Hz), 2.43 (m, 1), 2.21 (ddd, 1, $J = 2.6, 6.0, 13.4$ Hz), 1.95 (dd, 1, $J = 11.1, 18.3$ Hz), 1.91 (dd, 1, $J = 11.6, 13.4$ Hz), 1.14 (d, 3, $J = 6.5$ Hz), 0.13 (s, 9); ^{13}C NMR 210.2, 171.4, 82.8, 51.8, 46.0, 44.6, 27.7, 19.4, 1.1; EIMS m/z (rel intensity) 244 (M^+ , 2), 229 (6), 201 (56), 169 (41), 159 (66), 89 (78), 73 (48), 59 (33).

The silyl ether 35 (2.00 g, 8.19 mmol) in THF (5 mL) was added to LDA (8.19 mmol) in 10 mL of THF at $-70^\circ C$, and the resulting solution was stirred for 15 min. *N*-Phenyltriflimide (3.00 g, 8.40 mmol) was added, and the mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature. After it was stirred for 1 h, the reaction mixture was diluted with ether (50 mL) and washed twice with 1 M HCl and once with brine. The organic layer was dried ($MgSO_4$) and concentrated in vacuo to afford 5.01 g of crude product. Upon treatment with 1 M HCl and THF in a two-phase system, the TMS ether was cleaved. Final purification by flash chromatography gave 1.57 g (66%) of compound 36: $[\alpha]_D^{24} - 33.0^\circ$ ($c = 0.1036$, $CHCl_3$); 1H NMR δ 5.91 (d, 1, $J = 2.4$ Hz), 3.84 (s, 3), 3.05 (m, 1), 2.33 (dd, 1, $J = 8.1, 14.0$ Hz), 2.03 (dd, 1, $J = 4.4, 14.0$ Hz), 1.16 (d, 3, $J = 7.1$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR 172.9, 146.2, 126.9, 118.3 (q, $J_{CF} = 320.5$ Hz), 82.0, 53.5, 43.6, 33.3, 19.9; EIMS m/z (rel intensity) 286 ($M^+ - 18, 0.1$), 245 (100), 69 (43), 67 (31), 59 (7). Anal. Calcd for $C_9H_{11}F_3O_6S$: C, 35.33; H, 3.64. Found: C, 35.56; H, 3.78.

2-Ethenyl-1-hydroxy-4-methyl-2-cyclopentenecarboxylic Acid, Methyl Ester (37). The vinyl triflate 36 (325 mg, 1.07 mmol) was added to a solution of LiCl (318 mg, 7.5 mmol) and $Pd(Ph_3P)_4$ (12.7 mg, 0.011 mmol) in THF (20 mL). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 15 min, tributylvinyltin (338 mg, 1.07 mmol) was added, and the mixture was heated to reflux. After 6 h at reflux, TLC analysis indicated complete consumption of the vinyl triflate. The reaction mixture was allowed to cool, diluted with ether (50 mL), and washed with 1 M HCl (2 \times 15 mL), water, and brine. The organic layer was dried ($MgSO_4$) and concentrated in vacuo to afford 853 mg of a crude oil. This material was purified by flash chromatography (hexane followed by 5% EtOAc), to afford diene 37 (167 mg, 86%): $[\alpha]_D^{23} - 46.5^\circ$ ($c = 0.0154$, $CHCl_3$); 1H NMR δ 6.26 (dd, 1, $J = 11.3, 17.9$ Hz), 5.93 (d, 1, $J = 2.2$ Hz), 5.10 (d, 1, $J = 17.9$ Hz), 5.02 (d, 1, $J = 11.3$ Hz), 3.78 (s, 3), 3.08 (m, 1), 2.31 (dd, 1, $J = 7.8, 13.8$ Hz), 1.96 (dd, 1, $J = 5.6, 13.8$ Hz), 1.10 (d, 3, $J = 7.1$ Hz); EIMS m/z (rel intensity) 182 (M^+ , 2), 164 (25), 149 (2), 123 (100), 79 (57), 77 (54); HRMS calcd for $C_{10}H_{14}O_3$ 182.0943, found 182.0963.

Methyl (1*R*,4*R*)-2-Formyl-1-hydroxy-4-methyl-2-cyclopentenecarboxylate (26). A catalytic amount of osmium tetroxide (0.004 mmol as a 0.02 M solution in *t*-BuOH) was added to diene 37 (65 mg, 0.36 mmol) in acetone–water [(3 mL):(1 mL)], and the solution was stirred for 15 min at room temperature. Over 1 h, sodium periodate (147 mg, 0.72 mmol) dissolved in 2 mL of water was added to the solution. Following the addition, the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature until TLC analysis indicated consumption of starting material. The solution was extracted with EtOAc (5 \times 5 mL), and the combined organic layers were dried ($MgSO_4$) and concentrated to afford 93 mg of crude product. Purification by flash column chromatography (silica gel, 9:1 hexane–EtOAc) gave 22 mg (32%) of compound 26: $[\alpha]_D^{24} + 8.34^\circ$ ($c = 0.0127$, $CHCl_3$); 1H NMR δ 9.67 (s, 1), 6.92 (d, 1, $J = 2.2$ Hz), 3.76 (s, 3), 3.30 (m, 1), 2.34 (dd, 1, $J = 7.5, 13.9$ Hz), 1.97 (dd, 1, $J = 6.2, 13.9$ Hz), 1.21 (d, 3, $J = 7.2$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR 188.2, 174.9, 160.0, 129.0, 82.2, 53.1, 46.4, 39.2, 18.9; EIMS m/z (rel intensity) 169 ($M^+ - 15, 0.1$), 166 ($M^+ - 18, 2$), 125 (100), 97 (19). Anal. Calcd for $C_9H_{12}O_4$: C, 58.96; H, 6.57. Found: C, 58.57; H, 6.87.

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Registry No. 5, 81542-94-1; 6, 62820-13-7; 7, 67707-87-3; 8, 5949-05-3; 9 (isomer 1), 82507-56-0; 9 (isomer 2), 82507-57-1; 10, 82507-58-2; 12, 82507-44-6; 13, 82507-45-7; 14, 82507-46-8; 15, 128471-61-4; 16, 128571-81-3; 17, 89-82-7; 18, 2385-77-5; 19, 128471-62-5; 20, 128471-63-6; 21, 128471-64-7; 22, 128471-65-8; 23, 128571-82-4; 24, 128471-66-9; 25, 128471-67-0; 26, 128471-68-1; 27, 4463-74-5; 28 (isomer 1), 128571-83-5; 28 (isomer 2), 128571-

85-7; 29, 80796-76-5; 30, 128471-69-2; 31, 128471-70-5; 32, 128471-71-6; 33, 128471-72-7; 34, 128571-84-6; 35, 128471-73-8; 36, 128471-74-9; 37, 128471-75-0; CH₃CH=C(OMe)OTMS, 34880-70-1.

Supplementary Material Available: ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra for compounds 9, 13-16, 22, and 24 and crystal data for compound 32 (22 pages). Ordering information is given on any current masthead page.

Olefin Synthesis by Vanadium(V)-Induced Oxidative Decarboxylation-Deoxygenation of 3-Hydroxy Carboxylic Acids

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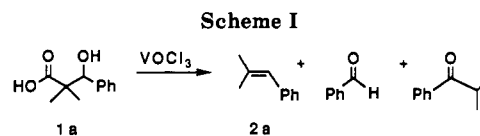
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Oxidative decarboxylation of 3-hydroxy carboxylic acids can be effected with various V(V) complexes. This process likely yields an intermediate 1,4-metalla diradical. β -Elimination from this intermediate gives olefin and regenerates V(V), likely as VO₂Cl. Thus, although the overall process involves no net change in oxidation state for vanadium, the decarboxylation process is oxidatively induced. Intramolecular trapping of the intermediate yields glycolate and then C-C cleavage products, and skeletal rearrangement gives ketonic products. Qualitatively, rates for oxidative decarboxylation of the acids and the stereospecificity of formation of olefinic products depend on the electron-withdrawing ability of groups attached to vanadium. Methodology is described for the preparation of tri- and tetrasubstituted olefins in high yield from appropriate 3-hydroxy carboxylic acid precursors.

3-Hydroxy carboxylic acids are easily obtained products of "aldol" condensation processes. In concept, removing hydroxyl and carboxyl functionality from these "aldol" products enables the preparation of olefins from carbonyl precursors; in fact, several methods exist to realize this overall transformation.¹⁻³ One previously unexplored option for this transformation involves oxidatively removing the carboxylate unit and then β -elimination of the hydroxyl-derived fragment. Although oxidative decarboxylation of 2-hydroxy carboxylic acids is well known,⁴ no investigation of 3-hydroxy carboxylic acids had been reported prior to our initial report.⁵ At that time, we noted that readily available VOCl₃ or its simple derivatives could react with "aldol" acids to give olefins in a straightforward, synthetically useful way.

The Simple Reaction between VOCl₃ and 3-Hydroxy Carboxylic Acids. When VOCl₃ was added to a suspension of hydroxy acid **1a** (1 equiv) in anhydrous chlorobenzene at room temperature followed by heating to reflux, **2a** (61%) and benzaldehyde (37%) were obtained



(Scheme I). When solvents such as acetonitrile, dimethyl sulfoxide, or tetrahydrofuran (THF) were used, little olefin, but much isobutyrophenone, was produced.⁶ When toluene was used, a major product observed by GC/MS (ca. 60%) showed solvent incorporation, though the structure of this product was not identified.⁷ Unreactive, high-boiling chlorobenzene was the solvent of choice.

Several problems characterize the simple VOCl₃ system (Table I) including dehydration, double-bond migration, and *E/Z* isomerization. Dehydration, either proton (2 equiv of HCl are produced in the reaction) or Lewis acid catalyzed (VOCl₃ is a strong Lewis acid), can occur in 3-hydroxy carboxylic acids which are not disubstituted in the 2-position. For example, **1f** gave 3,3-diphenyl-2-propenoic acid (**8**) as the major product. When pure **2cE** was added to a reaction of VOCl₃ and 3-hydroxy carboxylic acid **1a** which was in progress, it rapidly *E/Z* isomerized; product olefins are thus unstable to these reaction conditions. However, when **2c** (*E/Z* = 0.74) was added to an ongoing reaction between VOCl₃ and **1a** to which 1 equiv of Proton Sponge (1,8-bis(dimethylamino)naphthalene)

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