

Tungsten-Mediated Syntheses of Fused α -Methylenebutyrolactones from Propargyl Bromides Containing Tethered Aldehydes and Ketones

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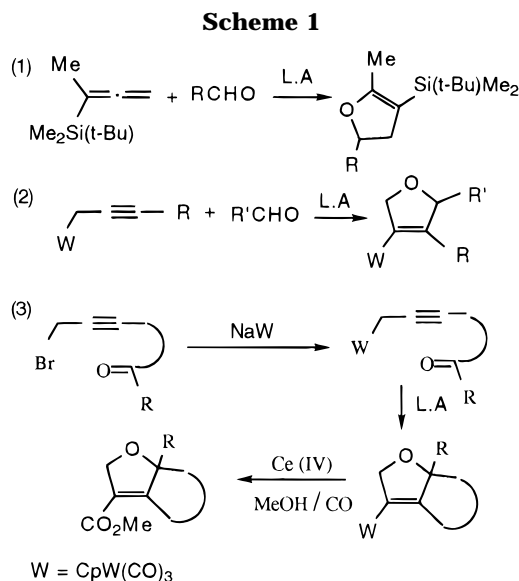
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The reaction of $\text{CpW}(\text{CO})_3\text{Na}$ with a number of propargyl bromides with tethered aldehydes and ketones afforded η^1 -propargyl species that were subsequently transformed into tungsten- η^3 -2-(methoxycarbonyl)allyl compounds upon treatment with *p*-TSA/ CH_3OH ; the overall yields exceeded 60%. Sequential treatment of these tungsten- η^3 -allyl complexes with NOBF_4 and NaI in CH_3CN led to intramolecular allyltungsten-carbonyl cyclization, yielding fused α -methylene butyrolactones of five-, six-, and seven-membered carbocyclic rings. All the reactions proceeded with high diastereoselectivity except for 9-methylene-7-oxabicyclo[4.3.0]nonan-8-one (**22**) and 10-methylene-8-oxabicyclo[5.3.0]decan-9-one (**23**). Modification of the metal center with a chloride ligand led to significant improvement of the *trans*-stereoselection of **22**; the chloride modification did not significantly enhance stereoselection of **23**. The stereochemical course of the reaction products is rationalized on the basis of a bicyclic transition-state mechanism.

Introduction

Metal carbonyls such as $\text{CpFe}(\text{CO})_2$, $\text{M}(\text{CO})_5$ ($\text{M} = \text{Mn}, \text{Re}$), and $\text{CpM}(\text{CO})_3$ ($\text{M} = \text{Mo}, \text{W}$) are important functionalities in organometallic chemistry.^{1,2} These carbonyls are also useful reagents for organic syntheses^{3,4} because they resemble the trimethylsilyl group as electron-donating groups.⁵ The similarity of these two functional groups is best manifested by the same reaction chemistry in Lewis acid-promoted alkylation of their allyl, propargyl, and allenyl compounds^{3–5} with organic carbonyls; these two types of organometallics can afford both [3 + 2] cycloaddition and S_{E}' -addition reaction products under suitable conditions. Scheme 1 (eqs 1 and 2) shows the examples of [3 + 2] cycloaddition of allenylsilane⁶ and tungsten-propargyl compounds^{4b} via condensation with aldehydes, yielding 2,3-dihydrofurans and 2,5-dihydrofurans, respectively.

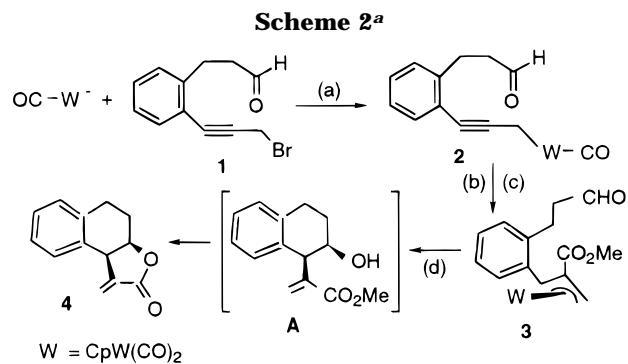
Previously, we have examined the reactions between metal carbonyl anions with propargyl bromides containing tethered aldehydes and ketones as depicted in Scheme 1 (eq 3).⁷ In this 1:1 stoichiometric reaction,



$\text{CpW}(\text{CO})_3\text{Na}$ showed kinetic differentiation for the two functional groups; it reacted more rapidly with propargyl bromide to yield tungsten-propargyl species in high yields (>85%). In contrast, other metal anions such as $\text{CpFe}(\text{CO})_2\text{Na}$ and $\text{Re}(\text{CO})_5\text{Na}$ gave the corresponding propargyl species in low yields (0–30%).⁷ One important feature of these tungsten-propargyl complexes is the lack of allenyl-propargyl equilibrium. As shown in Scheme 1 (eq 3), treatment of these tungsten-propargyl species with a suitable amount of Lewis acid delivered fused tungsten-2,5-dihydrofuryl compounds of five-, six-, and seven-membered carbocyclic rings, further providing bicyclic unsaturated ester after $\text{Ce}(\text{IV})$ oxidation.⁷ In this study, we wish to report utilization of these functionalized propargyl complexes for the stereocontrolled syntheses of α -methylene butyrolactones fused with five-, six-, and seven-membered carbocyclic rings; the key step

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^a Key: (a) 0 °C, THF, 3 h; (b) *p*-TSA (0.2 equiv)/MeOH; (c) acetone/water/*p*-TSA (0.2 equiv); (d) NOBF₄ (1.0 equiv)/CH₃CN; NaI (2.0 equiv).

involves intramolecular allyltungsten–carbonyl annulations (Scheme 2). Efficient synthesis of fused α -methylene butyrolactones^{8–12} has attracted considerable attention in organic synthesis due to their important biological activities.¹³

Results

The η^1 -propargyl compound **2** was readily prepared from the 1:1 stoichiometric reaction between CpW(CO)₃Na and 3-[2-(3-bromoprop-1-ynyl)phenyl]propionaldehyde (**1**).⁷ We previously reported that tungsten- η^1 -propargyl species underwent alkoxylation reaction^{4a} in the presence of Bronsted acid catalyst. Subsequent treatment of **2** with *p*-toluenesulfonic acid (0.20 equiv) in MeOH, followed by hydrolysis, afforded the tungsten η^3 -2-(methoxycarbonyl)allyl compound **3** in 68% overall yield on the basis of the propargyl bromide **1**. To achieve the synthesis of fused α -methylene butyrolactone, compound **3** was sequentially treated with NOBF₄ (1.0 equiv) and NaI (2.0 equiv) in CH₃CN (23 °C) to generate a derivative of CpW(NO)I(π -allyl) that functions as an allyl anion¹⁴ and thus induce intramolecular cyclization. After 2 h at 23 °C, workup of the solution afforded a 60% yield of **4** that has the *cis*-configuration according to proton NOE spectra and the magnitude of the coupling constant $J = 8.0$ Hz.^{8,10} The primary product of this solution is believed to be 2-hydroxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene-1-carboxylic acid methyl ester **A**, which readily undergoes lactonization under the reaction conditions.

To expand the scope of this methodology, we have synthesized organic substrates **5–12** listed in Table 1, which are already reported in our previous paper.⁷ Experimental procedures for syntheses of tungsten-allyl compounds **13–15** and **17–20** and α -methylenebutyrolactones **21–27** followed exactly those of **3** and **4** (Scheme

2). The η^1 -propargyl species generated from CpW(CO)₃Na and **5–12** were directly transformed into π -allyl complexes **13–15** and **17–20** by *p*-toluenesulfonic acid/CH₃OH; the isolated yields were estimated on the basis of propargyl bromides. Generation of α -methylenebutyrolactone from the corresponding tungsten-allyl compound was performed at least twice, and the yields in Table 2 reflect an average of two runs with a distribution range within 2%. Entries 1–3 (Table 2) show the substrates **5–7** that were used for the syntheses of α -methylenebutyrolactones fused with five-, six-, and seven-membered rings **21–23**. In entry 1 (Table 2), compound **5** was used as a dioxolane form because the η^1 -propargyl species generated from 7-bromo-5-heptynal underwent rapid intramolecular cyclization, yielding tungsten- η^1 -2,5-dihydrofuryl species even in the absence of Lewis acid.⁷ The stereochemistries of **21–23** were determined from proton NOE difference spectra and further confirmed with spectral data of authentic samples.^{8–10} The *cis*-fused isomer of five-membered carbocyclic lactone **21**⁸ was produced exclusively in 53% yield (Table 2, entry 1) whereas a mixture of *trans/cis* isomers were found for the formation of six- and seven-membered carbocyclic rings **22**^{10–23} (Table 2, entries 2 and 3). In the case of **21**, proton NMR spectra of the crude product showed only the signals assignable to the *cis*-isomer; no NMR signals could be found for the *trans*-isomer⁸ or its *trans*-cyclopentanol precursor **A**. Separations of the two isomers of **22** and **23** were conducted on preparative SiO₂ TLC that provided the *trans/cis* ratios 5/2 and 1/1 for **22** and **23**, respectively. This methodology is not applicable to the reaction involving tungsten- η^3 -pentadienyl species (Table 2, entry 4). In this case, compound **16** was isolated in 67% yield; this information implies that the resulting allyl compound is not stable in acidic methanol medium. The *cis/trans* stereoselection of α -methylenebutyrolactones depends not only on the ring sizes but also on the types of organic carbonyls. Entries 5–8 (Table 2) show the results for organic substrates **9–12** containing tethered ketones. Good yields were obtained for both tungsten allyl compounds **17–20** and α -methylenebutyrolactones **24–27**. Similar to **21**, *cis*-fused five-membered ring **24**⁸ was formed exclusively in 70% yield (Table 2, entry 5). In contrast with **22**, formation of six-membered carbocyclic lactone **25**⁸ follows *cis*-stereoselection (Table 2, entry 6) in 65% yield. For the substrates having a fused benzene ring such as **11** and **12** (Table 2, entries 7 and 8), the resulting tricyclic lactones **26** and **27** have *cis*-configurations on their newly formed six- and seven-membered rings. The results in Table 1 suggest that our method is convenient and efficient for the construction of bicyclic α -methylene butyrolactones from bromoalkynals and -alkynones.

Stereochemical control in intramolecular addition of allyl organometallics to organic carbonyl in the formation of five-, six-, and seven-membered carbocyclic rings is an important issue in organic chemistry.^{9,15–17} Previously, Faller et al. reported^{14c,18} that CpMo(NO)Cl(π -crotyl) was better than CpMo(NO)I(π -crotyl) in the stereoselective synthesis of homoallylic alcohols *via* condensation with benzaldehyde. Therefore, we attempted to improve the

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Table 1. Isolated Yields of Tungsten- η^3 -2-(Methoxycarbonyl)allyl Complexes and Fused α -Methylenebutyrolactones

Entry	Substrate ^a	π -Allyl ^{b,c}	α -Methylenebutyrolactones ^{d,e}
1			
	5	13 (82 %)	21 cis (53%)
2			
	6	14 (82 %)	22 trans 36%; cis 15%
3			
	7	15 (81 %)	23 trans 27%; cis 28%
4			---
	8	16 (67 %)	
5			
	9	17 (88 %)	24 cis 70%
6			
	10	18 (88 %)	25 cis (65%)
7			
	11	19 (84%)	26 cis 62%
8			
	12	20 (83%)	27 cis 56%

^aEquimolar ratios of CpW(CO)₃Na and organic substrates were used. ^bThese organometallic compounds were purified on a silica column. ^dIsolated yields after chromatographic purification. ^eIsolated yields after purification by preparative silica TLC. ^e Yields were estimated based on tungsten-allyl compounds.

Table 2. Isolated Yields of Fused α -Methylenebutyrolactones over Different Metals and Halide Ligands

Entry	π -Allyl	MX	Temp	α -Methylenebutyrolactones
1		NaI	23 °C	
	14			22 trans 36%; cis 15%
2	14	LiCl	23 °C	22 trans 62%
3		NaI	23 °C	
	15			23 trans 27%; cis 28%
4	15	LiCl	23 °C	23 trans 24%; cis 35%
5	15	LiCl	0 °C	23 trans 42%; cis 21%

selectivities of **22** and **23** with modification of metal coordination with chloride ligand; the selectivities of compounds **22** and **23** were poor when the metal core is

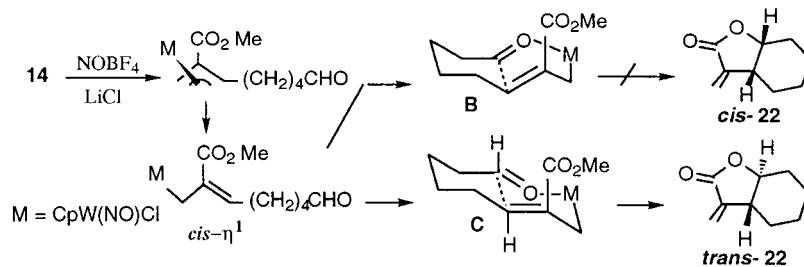
CpW(NO)I (Table 1, entries 2–3). A summary of the results is provided in Table 2. Fused α -methylenebutyrolactones **22** and **23** were generated from sequential treatment of the tungsten- π -allyl complex with NOBF₄ and MX (MX=NaI, LiCl) in CH₃CN at appropriate temperatures. The results in entries 1–4 (Table 2) reflect that chloride ligand is significantly better than iodide in the *trans*-stereoselection of **22**, consistent with Faller's results.^{14c,18} Only the *trans*-fused isomer of **22** is produced in 62% yield when the metal core is CpW(NO)Cl. The chloride modification, however, did not give significant enhancement for stereoselection of the fused seven-membered carbocyclic ring **23** as shown from the results in entries 3–5 (Table 2). Notably, the reaction temperature effect is also important here; cyclization at 23 °C slightly favored the *cis*-fused isomer of **23** (entry 4, Table 2), whereas lower temperature (0 °C) preferably yielded the *trans*-fused isomer (entry 5, Table 2).

Discussion

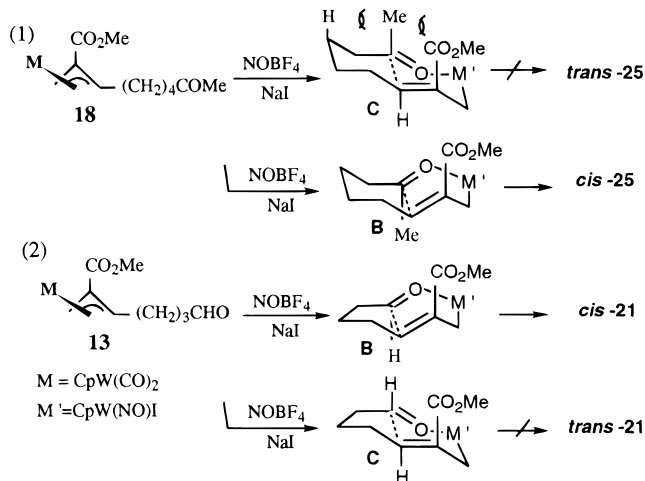
The results in Tables 1 and 2 reveals that the important factors in stereoselection of fused α -methylenebutyrolactones involve fused ring sizes and organic carbonyls. According to earlier reports by Faller, compounds

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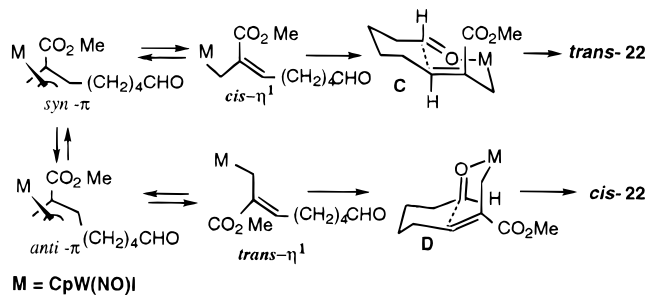
Scheme 3



Scheme 4



Scheme 5



of the type $\text{CpMo}(\text{NO})\text{X}(\text{allyl})$ ($X = \text{halide}$)^{4c,14,18} are prone to the $\eta^3 \rightarrow \eta^1$ allyl slippage to leave a coordination site for organic carbonyls, forming a chairlike transition state that controls stereoselection of homoallylic alcohols. Recently, we have utilized compounds of the type $\text{CpW}(\text{NO})\text{I}(\text{allyl})$ for stereoselective syntheses of complex homoallylic alcohols; the mechanism followed a similar chairlike transition state. Here, we first rationalize preferable *trans*-stereoselection of **22** generated from π -allyl compounds **14**. Scheme 3 shows the two transition states **B** and **C** in which aldehyde coordinates to metal in a boatlike and chairlike conformation, ultimately yielding *cis* and *trans* products of **22**, respectively. In this case, we obtained excellent *trans*-stereoselection of **22** from the $\text{CpW}(\text{NO})\text{Cl}(\pi\text{-allyl})$ derivative of **14**, indicative of a chairlike transition state **C** that is intrinsically less sterically hindered than the boat form **B**.

In the case of compound **18** in which a methyl ketone group replaces the aldehyde of **14**, the state **C** is destabilized by its axial methyl group, which suffers 1,3-diaxial interactions on both six-membered rings as shown in Scheme 4 (eq 1). Formation of the resulting product **25** thus follows *cis*-stereoselection *via* the boatlike state **B**. Such a stereochemical course also rationalizes the observed *cis*-stereoselections of bicyclic and tricyclic lactones **24–27** derived from several bromoalkynones in Table 1 (entries 5–8). Scheme 4 (eq 2) also shows two bicyclic transition structures to account for formation of fused lactones of five-membered carbocyclic ring **21**. Generation of *trans*-fused bicyclic carbocyclic ring **C** is more difficult to achieve due to the *trans* geometry on the newly formed five-membered ring; the predicted *cis*-stereoselection is compatible with our result.

Table 2 shows the halide effects of the $\text{CpW}(\text{NO})\text{X}$ core on the stereoselection of γ -lactones of six- and seven-membered carbocyclic rings **22** and **23**. Chloride ligand is better than iodo for the *trans*-stereoselection of **22**; this

phenomenon is similar to the molybdenum case reported earlier by Faller.¹⁴ The minor *cis*-product generated from $\text{CpW}(\text{NO})\text{I}$ may be attributed to the *cis*-*trans* isomerization of the η^1 -allyl complex via *syn*-*anti*- π - $\text{W}(\text{NO})\text{I}(\text{allyl})$ species as depicted in Scheme 5; this isomerization¹⁹ was shown to be more kinetically facile on $\text{CpMo}(\text{NO})\text{I}$ but slow on $\text{CpMo}(\text{NO})\text{Cl}$.¹⁴ A similar effect may apply to our tungsten system, although attempts to prove this isomerization were unsuccessful. Further coordination of this η^1 -*trans*-allyl species with aldehyde yields a chairlike transition state **D** to account for *cis*-stereoselection. The chloride modification did not improve the selectivity of seven-membered carbocyclic ring **23**. Table 2 (entries 4 and 5) shows that reaction temperature affects the *cis/trans* selectivity of **23**; this phenomenon reflects a very small difference in the energies of activation for *cis/trans* stereoselection.

Conclusion

We have demonstrated the use of $\text{CpW}(\text{CO})_3\text{Na}$ for the syntheses of fused α -methylene butyrolactones of five to seven carbocyclic rings from propargyl bromides with tethered carbonyls. The key intermediates involve tungsten- η^1 -alkynals or - η^1 -alkynones that readily undergo acid-promoted alkoxytungsten-carbonyl cyclization, yielding tungsten-allyl complexes. Treatment of these allyl compounds with NOBF_4 , and NaI induces intramolecular allyltungsten-carbonyl cyclization, yielding fused α -methylenebutyrolactones; the reaction proceeds with good diastereoselectivities in most cases except for 9-methylene-7-oxabicyclo[4.3.0]nonan-8-one (**22**) and 10-methylene-8-oxabicyclo[5.3.0]decan-9-one (**23**). Modification of the metal center with chloride ligand led to significant improvement in *trans*-stereoselection of **22**. The stereochemical courses of the intramolecular cyclization can be rationalized on the basis of a mechanism involving a bicyclic transition state.

Experimental Section

Unless otherwise noted, all reactions were carried out under nitrogen atmosphere in oven-dried glassware using a standard syringe, cannula, and septa apparatus. Benzene, diethyl ether,

tetrahydrofuran, and hexane were dried with sodium benzophenone and distilled before use. Dichloromethane was dried over CaH₂ and distilled before use. W(CO)₆, *p*-toluenesulfonic acid, dicyclopentadiene, propargyl alcohol, and sodium were obtained commercially and used without purification. The syntheses of organic substrates **1** and **5–12** were described in our previous paper.⁷ Syntheses and spectral data of compounds of the same family **14–20** and **22–27** in the repetitive operations, are listed in the Supporting Information.

Elemental analyses were performed at National Cheng Kung University, Taiwan. Mass data of molybdenum and tungsten compounds were reported according to ⁹⁶Mo and ¹⁸⁴W isotopes.

General Procedure for the Syntheses of Tungsten- η^3 -3-(Methoxycarbonyl)allyl Compounds. Synthesis of **3.**

A suspension of W(CO)₆ (2.86 g, 8.00 mmol) and NaC₅H₅ (0.71 g, 8.0 mmol) in THF (30 mL) was heated for 84 h. To a THF solution (5.0 mL) of **1** (2.00 g, 8.00 mmol) was added dropwise the above CpW(CO)₃Na solution in three portions at 30-min intervals. Monitoring the solution by silica TLC showed the formation of an η^1 -propargyl species **2** (diethyl ether/hexane = 1/1, *R_f* = 0.82). The solution was stirred for 2 h at the same temperature before it was evaporated to dryness in vacuo. The η^1 -propargyl species was extracted with diethyl ether (2 × 20 mL), filtered, and dried in vacuo. To the residue were added MeOH (20 mL) and *p*-toluenesulfonic acid (152 mg, 0.80 mmol) at 0 °C, and the mixture was stirred for 2 h before being dried in vacuo. The residues were redissolved in an acetone/water mixing solvent (v/v 10/1, 20 mL) containing additional *p*-TSA (150 mg, 0.80 mmol), and the mixture was heated at 80 °C for 2 h before a saturated NaHCO₃ solution was added. The organic layer was extracted with diethyl ether (3 × 25 mL), dried over MgSO₄, and concentrated. The residues were chromatographed through a silica column to yield **3** as a yellow oil (2.91 g, 5.44 mmol, 68%): IR (neat, cm⁻¹) ν (CO), 1966.3, 1898.9, 1722.1724; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) *endo* isomer, δ 9.72 (1H, d, *J* = 4.0 Hz), 7.24–7.12 (m, 4H), 5.42 (5H, s), 3.48 (3H, s), 3.20 (m, 1H), 3.18 (s, 1H), 3.00 (s, 1H), 2.95 (m, 1H), 2.70 (m, 2H), 1.48 (s, 1H); *exo* isomer, δ 9.72 (1H, d, *J* = 4.0 Hz), 7.24–7.12 (m, 4H), 5.46 (5H, s), 3.58 (3H, s), 3.20 (m, 1H), 2.95 (m, 1H), 2.93 (s, 1H), 2.70 (m, 2H), 2.60 (s, 1H), 0.92 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100MHz, CDCl₃) *exo* and *endo* isomers, δ 223.6, 223.7, 223.2, 219.3, 203.3, 202.9, 173.2, 170.8, 140.2, 139.9, 139.6, 137.1, 135.8, 134.7, 129.2, 128.8, 127.7, 127.4, 127.2, 126.6, 93.9, 89.2, 79.1, 70.3, 64.5, 61.0, 53.6, 52.4, 51.6, 44.5, 44.3, 27.5, 26.4, 26.1, 23.2; MS (EI, 12 eV) 536 (M⁺), 508 (M⁺ - CO), 480 (M⁺ - 2CO). Anal. Calcd for C₂₁H₂₀WO₅: C, 47.04; H, 3.76. Found: C, 47.02; H, 3.77.

General Procedure for the Syntheses of Fused α -Methylenebutyrolactones. Synthesis of 1-Methylene-3a,4,5,9b-tetrahydro-1H-naphtho[2,1-b]furan-2-one (4**).** To a stirring CH₃CN (5 mL) solution of π -allyl compound **3**

(1.00 g, 1.86 mmol) was slowly added a CH₃CN solution (1 mL) of NOBF₄ (218 mg, 1.86 mmol) at 0 °C; after 30 min, to the resulting solution was added NaI (550 mg, 3.72 mmol). The mixture was allowed to stir for 6 h at 23 °C before treatment with a saturated NaHCO₃ (2 mL) solution. The organic layer was extracted with diethyl ether (2 × 5 mL), concentrated, and eluted on a preparative TLC plate (diethyl ether/hexane = 1/1) to give **4** as an oil (*R_f* = 0.50, 224 mg, 1.12 mmol, 60%): IR (neat, cm⁻¹) ν (CO) 1768, 1660; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.24–7.12 (m, 4H), 6.25 (d, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 5.59 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 5.06 (ddd, *J* = 8.2, 7.8, 4.2 Hz, 1H), 4.28 (dt, *J* = 7.8, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 2.66 (m, 2H), 2.19 (m, 1H), 1.85 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.2, 138.8, 136.8, 134.5, 128.7, 127.2, 126.9, 123.3, 42.5, 28.3, 24.5; HRMS calcd for C₁₃H₁₂O₂ 200.0837, found 200.0841.

Synthesis of Tungsten- η^3 -allyl Compound **13.** NaCp-W(CO)₃ (1.435 mmol), 2-(6-bromohex-4-ynyl)-1,3-dioxolane (**5**) (1.00 g, 4.31 mmol), and *p*-TSA/CH₃OH afforded **13** (1.68 g, 3.53 mmol) in 82% yield: IR (neat, cm⁻¹) ν (CO) 1958, 1886, 1708; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, -40 °C) δ 9.73 (t, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 5.27 (s, 5H), 3.61 (s, 3H), 2.83 (s, 1H), 2.61 (m, 1H), 2.52 (dt, *J* = 7.5, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 2.20 (m, 1H), 2.05 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 1.62 (quintet, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.06 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, -40 °C) δ 224.3, 222.9, 203.4, 171.2, 88.0, 77.3, 51.1, 50.1, 43.7, 31.9, 25.1, 22.7; MS (EI, 12 eV) 474 (M⁺), 446 (M⁺ - CO), 418 (M⁺ - 2CO). Anal. Calcd for C₁₆H₁₈WO₅: C, 40.53; H, 3.83. Found: C, 40.66; H, 3.88.

Synthesis of 2-Methylene-4-oxabicyclo[3.3.0]octan-3-one (21**).** Compound **13** (0.50 g, 1.05 mmol), NOBF₄ (123 mg, 1.05 mmol), and NaI (315 mg, 2.10 mmol) afforded **21** (77 mg, 53%) as a colorless oil: IR (neat, cm⁻¹) 1757.8, 1658.6; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.22 (d, *J* = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 5.67 (d, *J* = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 4.96 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 3.39 (dt, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 2.08 (m, 1H), 1.94 (m, 1H), 1.74–1.65 (m, 3H), 1.50 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.2, 140.5, 122.7, 83.2, 42.9, 35.6, 33.6, 23.0; HRMS calcd for C₈H₁₀O₂ 138.0680, found 136.0680. The NMR and IR spectral data of **21** were identical to those of the authentic sample reported in literature.⁸

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Supporting Information Available: Syntheses and spectral data of compounds of the same family **14–20** and **22–27** in the repetitive operations (6 pages). This material is contained in libraries on microfiche, immediately follows this article in the microfilm version of the journal, and can be ordered from the ACS: see any current masthead page for ordering information.

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