

## $\gamma$ -Lactone Formation in the Addition of Benzenesulfonyl Bromide to Diene and Enyne Esters

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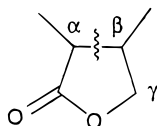
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Received December 7, 1998

The gem-dialkyl effect has been used to promote the formation of functionalized  $\gamma$ -lactones in the addition of benzenesulfonyl bromide to diene and enyne esters. Introduction of 3 mol % of pyridine into the reactions increases the yields of lactones produced from tertiary esters. Formation of the  $C_{\alpha}$ – $C_{\beta}$  bond of  $\gamma$ -lactones has been achieved in both  $C_{\alpha}$ – $C_{\beta}$  and  $C_{\beta}$ – $C_{\alpha}$  radical cyclization directions.

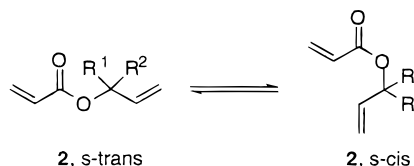
### Introduction

The lactone skeleton exists in many bioactive natural products.<sup>1</sup> Functionalized lactones are important intermediates for the synthesis of stereo-defined acyclic and other natural products.<sup>2</sup> The synthesis of  $\gamma$ -lactones can be achieved by the lactonization of hydroxy acids, Baeyer–Villiger oxidation, the insertion of a carbonyl group by transition metals, etc.<sup>3</sup> In recent years, assembly of  $\gamma$ -lactones by formation of the  $C_{\alpha}$ – $C_{\beta}$  (or  $C_3$ – $C_4$ ) bond has drawn attention. Lu reported the Pd-catalyzed enyne cyclization as a convenient method to make  $\alpha$ -alkylidene- $\gamma$ -butyrolactone derivatives.<sup>4</sup> Also, radical cyclization methodology has been explored in this field. In most radical cyclization reports, a carbamoyl radical, generated from its  $\alpha$ -derivative precursor, intramolecularly adds to a C=C or C≡C bond in a 5-exo mode.<sup>5</sup> However, the reactions generally proceed either in very low concentration or at high temperatures,<sup>6</sup> and functional groups are often lost.



The use of diene or enyne esters, such as allyl acrylates, as precursors to functionalized lactones is a promising route. However, the radical adduct of a diene ester (**1**, Y = CO) has a much slower rate of cyclization than that of a diene ether (**1**, Y = CH<sub>2</sub>).<sup>7</sup> In fact, the addition of tosyl bromide to allyl acrylate affords only a low yield of acrylic C=C monoadduct along with other telomers or polymer (Scheme 1). This is partially because ester **1** (Y = CO) exists primarily in an s-trans conformation at room temperature, while the cyclization process requires an s-cis conformer.

It has been found that the addition of an arylsulfonyl halide to *N*-allyl acrylamides leads to lactams as long as the second alkyl substituent on the amide N is bulky enough to ensure the cyclization-required s-cis conformer.<sup>8</sup> Conformer population of diene esters can be influenced by the gem-dialkyl or Thorpe-Ingold effect.<sup>9</sup> Gem-dialkyl groups can increase the population of the s-cis conformer (**2** as R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> are alkyl groups) and reduce the barrier for s-trans to s-cis interconversion.



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We have explored the possibility of using the gem-dialkyl effect to promote  $\gamma$ -lactone formation from diene and enyne esters. Since the sulfonyl group is a very versatile group in organic synthesis,<sup>10</sup> we have chosen PhSO<sub>2</sub>Br to initiate cyclization and thus incorporate sulfonyl and halide groups into the final lactones.

### Results and Discussion

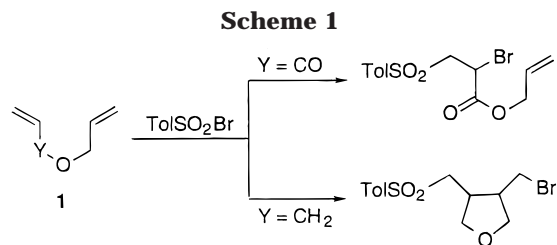
**1. Addition of PhSO<sub>2</sub>Br to Acrylates.** Table 1 summarizes the results of the addition of PhSO<sub>2</sub>Br to

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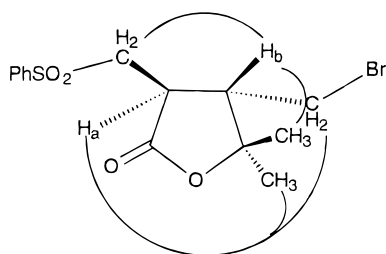
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**Table 1. Addition of PhSO<sub>2</sub>Br to Allyl Acrylates (**2**) under Sunlamp Irradiation in CH<sub>3</sub>CN**

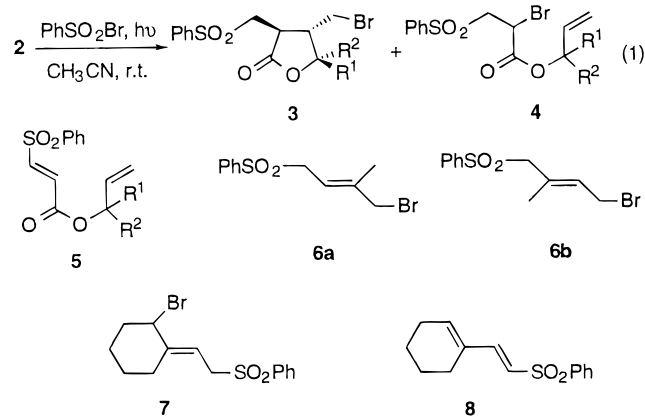
<b>2</b>	R <sup>1</sup>	R <sup>2</sup>	products (yield %)
<b>2a</b>	H	H	<b>5a</b> (15)
<b>2b</b>	Me	H	<b>5b</b> (23)
<b>2c</b>	Me	Me	<b>3c</b> (54, 74 <sup>a</sup> ) <b>6<sup>b</sup></b> (31)
<b>2d</b>	<i>i</i> -Pr	<i>i</i> -Pr	<b>3d</b> (30, 56 <sup>a</sup> )
<b>2e</b>	-(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>5</sub> -		<b>3e</b> (26, 55 <sup>a</sup> ) <b>7</b> (24) <b>8</b> (10)
<b>2f</b>	<i>t</i> -Bu	H	<b>3f</b> (18, 41 <sup>c</sup> ) <b>5f</b> (53, 15 <sup>c</sup> )
<b>2g</b>	-CH=CH <sub>2</sub>	H	<b>5g</b> (23)

<sup>a</sup> Yields of the reactions with 3 mol % of pyridine. <sup>b</sup> Compound **6** is an inseparable mixture of **6a** and **6b** in a ratio of 1/4.<sup>11</sup> <sup>c</sup> Yields of the reaction diluted to 1/4 of the typical concentration.



**Figure 1.** <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H NOE of **3c**.

allyl acrylates **2** (eq 1). All reactions were conducted in acetonitrile under sunlamp irradiation at room temperature.

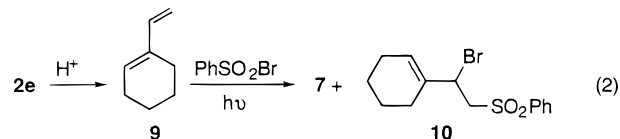


Uncyclized monoadducts **4** partially dehydrobrominated during TLC separation. Treatment of **4** with triethylamine at room temperature yielded sulfone **5** quantitatively.

The results in Table 1 show that, with gem-dialkyl groups R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup>,  $\gamma$ -lactones can be formed stereoselectively from the diene esters. Only trans cyclized lactones **3c-f** were isolated. The configurations of the lactones were determined by 2D COSY and NOESY spectroscopy. Taking **3c** as an example, the assignment of its trans configuration is based on the observed NOE coupling shown in Figure 1. No NOE was observed between PhSO<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub> and BrCH<sub>2</sub>. The NOE coupling between the

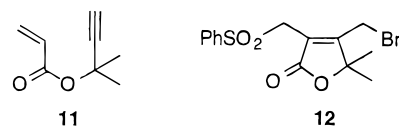
two methine H's (H<sub>a</sub> and H<sub>b</sub>) cannot be used as a criterion, because of their close distance in both cis and trans configurations. Another possible structure with the groups PhSO<sub>2</sub> and Br reversed in **3c** was excluded by HMBC (heteronuclear multiple bond correlation) 2D spectroscopy. In the HMBC spectrum, H<sub>a</sub> correlates to C=O ( $\delta$  173.00 ppm) and PhSO<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub> ( $\delta$  56.63 ppm), while H<sub>b</sub> correlates to -CMe<sub>2</sub> ( $\delta$  85.85 ppm) and BrCH<sub>2</sub> ( $\delta$  29.38 ppm).

Products **6**, **7**, and **8** come from the addition of PhSO<sub>2</sub>-Br to dienes liberated from the corresponding tertiary esters. Since the PhSO<sub>2</sub>Br sample inevitably contains a trace of acid, the R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> groups facilitate the acid-catalyzed hydrolysis and dehydration of the tertiary esters. We have found that the addition of 3 mol % of pyridine to the reaction mixture increases the yields of **3c-e** to 74%, 56%, and 55%, respectively, with the decreased yields of **6**, **7**, and **8**. We have also confirmed that isoprene was generated when **2c** was mixed with PhSO<sub>2</sub>Br and kept in the dark at 40 °C for 1 h. The addition of PhSO<sub>2</sub>Br to an authentic isoprene sample under the same reaction conditions yielded 93% of **6** with the same ratio of **6a/6b**. Similarly, **7** and **8** come from the addition of PhSO<sub>2</sub>Br to olefin **9**, which was liberated from **2e** (eq 2). Since **10** and **3e** are inseparable on TLC, the mixture was treated with triethylamine for 1 h at room temperature, and then **8** and **3e** could be separated.



One interesting product is lactone **3f** from ester **2f**. Only one stereoisomer was found with the *t*-Bu group trans to -CH<sub>2</sub>Br and cis to -CH<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>2</sub>Ph. The chiral center at the  $\gamma$ -position induces the configurations of both  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  chiral centers in one step. Though the yield of **3f** was only 18%, it could be increased to 41% when the concentration of the reaction mixture was diluted to one-fourth of that used in Table 1, and the yield of **5f** was decreased to 15%. Obviously, a reaction conducted at low concentration favors intramolecular cyclization.

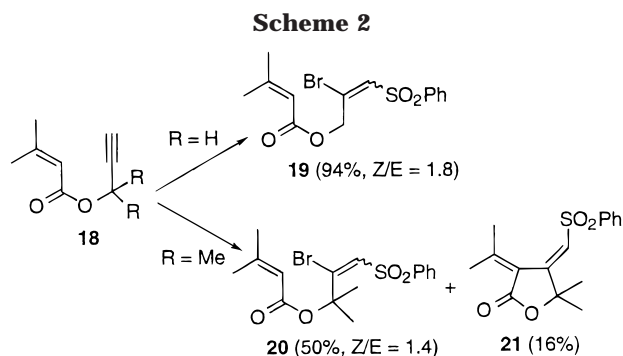
The addition of PhSO<sub>2</sub>Br to acrylate **11** yielded lactone **12** in 40%. The gem-dimethyl groups were found essential for the formation of lactone **12**, and an isomerization step of the C=C bond was involved.<sup>5a</sup>



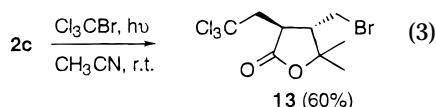
It is interesting to note that all of the lactones mentioned thus far are formed by radical cyclizations proceeding from C <sub>$\alpha$</sub>  to C <sub>$\beta$</sub> . The sulfonyl radical always adds preferentially to the acrylic C=C bond than the allyl C=C bond or propargyl C=C bond, even though it is an electrophilic radical<sup>12</sup> and the acrylic C=C bond is more electrophilic. Another electrophilic radical Cl<sub>3</sub>C<sup>•</sup>, gener-

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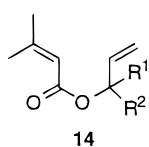


ated from  $\text{Cl}_3\text{CBr}$  under photolysis, also gave the  $\text{C}_\alpha\text{--C}_\beta$  cyclized lactone **13** (eq 3). This shows that polar effects do not control the chemoselectivity of the radical addition step here.

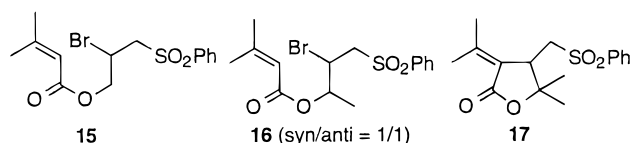


**2. Addition of  $\text{PhSO}_2\text{Br}$  to  $\beta$ -Substituted Acrylates and Propiolates.** Assembling the lactone skeleton with different functionality by a  $\text{C}_\beta\text{--C}_\alpha$  cyclization process can be achieved with  $\beta$ -substituted acrylates and propiolates.

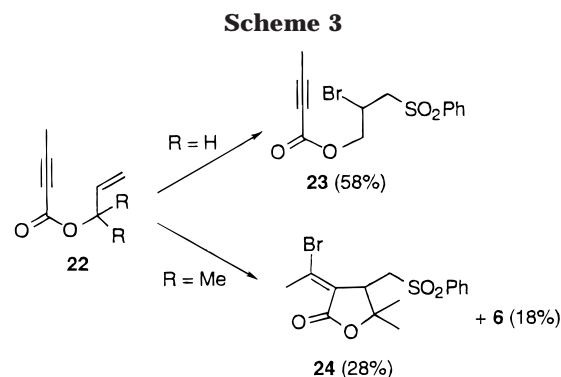
The addition of  $\text{PhSO}_2\text{Br}$  to diene esters **14a** and **14b** yielded uncyclized **15** (68%) and **16** (65%), respectively. The addition of  $\text{PhSO}_2\text{Br}$  to ester **14c** yielded lactone **17** (65%) and **6** (10%), which also shows the gem-dimethyl effect in the  $\text{C}_\beta\text{--C}_\alpha$  radical cyclization process. However, no significant reactions were observed for esters **14d–f** even after prolonged reaction times. This suggests that a bulky  $\text{R}^1$  or  $\text{R}^2$  group strongly inhibits the addition of  $\text{PhSO}_2\cdot$  to the allyl  $\text{C}=\text{C}$  bond or the bromo-transfer from  $\text{PhSO}_2\text{Br}$  to the adduct radicals. The reversibility of this addition step is predominant when the rate of the  $\text{C}_\beta\text{--C}_\alpha$  cyclization step is slow. This inhibition effect is similar to the steric effect introduced by remotely positioned groups<sup>13</sup> and can explain the chemoselectivity shown in Table 1. The reversible addition of sulfonyl radicals to  $\text{C}=\text{C}$  bonds has been observed in many cases.<sup>14</sup>



14	$\text{R}^1$	$\text{R}^2$
a	H	H
b	H	Me
c	Me	Me
d	H	<i>t</i> -Bu
e	H	Ph
f	H	2,4,6- $\text{Me}_3\text{C}_6\text{H}_2$

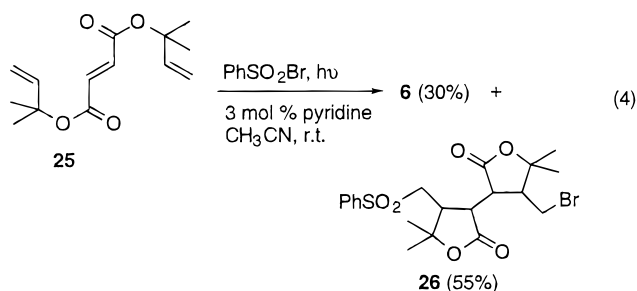


Gem-dialkyl groups can also promote  $\text{C}_\beta\text{--C}_\alpha$  cyclization in the addition of  $\text{PhSO}_2\text{Br}$  to enyne esters **18** and **19** (Schemes 2 and 3). It is unexpected that both **21** and



**24** were isolated as only one stereoisomer, whose configurations were determined by 2D NOESY spectroscopy.

So far, both  $\text{C}_\alpha\text{--C}_\beta$  and  $\text{C}_\beta\text{--C}_\alpha$  cyclizations have been observed separately. They can proceed in sequence as in the addition of  $\text{PhSO}_2\text{Br}$  to fumarate **25**. Compound **26** was isolated as a mixture of stereoisomers in a yield of 33%, and its yield was increased to 55% when 3 mol % pyridine was added before photolysis (eq 4).



## Conclusion

Our work shows that the gem-dialkyl effect can be used to promote  $\gamma$ -lactone formation in the addition of  $\text{PhSO}_2\text{Br}$  to diene and enyne esters. This effect is more significant for diene esters than for enyne esters. Also, gem-dialkyl groups strongly inhibit the addition of  $\text{PhSO}_2\cdot$  to the allyl  $\text{C}=\text{C}$  bond of allyl acrylates or allyl propiolates and facilitate the hydrolysis and dehydration of tertiary esters. Introduction of 3 mol % of pyridine as a base into the reactions increases the yields of lactones produced from tertiary esters.

## Experimental Section

NMR spectra were recorded in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  unless stated otherwise ( $^1\text{H}$  at 400 MHz and  $^{13}\text{C}$  at 100 MHz). IR spectra were measured as thin films on a NaCl plate. All melting points were determined without correction. Photostimulated reactions utilized a 275 W fluorescent sunlamp. Yields are based on the starting esters.  $\text{PhSO}_2\text{Br}$  was prepared according to a literature procedure.<sup>15</sup> Esters **2a,b**, **2f,g**, **14a,b**, **14d–f**, **18** ( $\text{R} = \text{H}$ ), and **22** ( $\text{R} = \text{H}$ ) were prepared from the appropriate acyl chlorides and alcohols with triethylamine at room temperature in anhydrous ethyl ether. Esters **2c–e**, **11**, **14c**, **18** ( $\text{R} = \text{Me}$ ), **22** ( $\text{R} = \text{Me}$ ), and **25** were prepared from the appropriate acyl chlorides and deprotonated alcohols (by *n*-BuLi) at 0 °C in anhydrous ethyl ether.

**General Procedure for the Addition of  $\text{PhSO}_2\text{Br}$  to Diene or Enyne Esters.** A mixture of the ester (0.20 mmol) and  $\text{PhSO}_2\text{Br}$  (0.22 mmol) with or without 3 mol % of pyridine in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  (1.0 mL) was irradiated in a 5 mm NMR tube at

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room temperature until the starting ester disappeared as indicated by TLC analysis. The products were obtained by TLC separation on 20  $\times$  10 cm silica gel plates with hexanes–ethyl acetate as the eluent.

**trans-3-Benzenesulfonylmethyl-4-bromomethyl-5,5-dimethyldihydro-2(3H)-furanone (3c)** was isolated as a white solid, mp 123–125 °C: IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>) 1770, 1308, 1146; <sup>1</sup>H NMR  $\delta$  1.46 (s, 3H), 1.68 (s, 3H), 2.76 (ddd,  $J = 4.0, 11.0, 11.7$  Hz, 1H), 3.09 (ddd,  $J = 3.0, 7.8, 11.7$  Hz, 1H), 3.28 (dd,  $J = 7.8, 14.4$  Hz, 1H), 3.45 (t,  $J = 11.0$  Hz, 1H), 3.79 (dd,  $J = 3.0, 14.4$  Hz, 1H), 4.18 (dd,  $J = 4.0, 11.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.60–8.00 (m, 5H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR  $\delta$  21.93, 28.60, 29.55, 40.76, 52.37, 56.81, 86.03, 128.15, 129.82, 134.60, 139.24, 173.18; HREIMS  $m/z$  (relative intensity) 281.0848 [8, calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>17</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S (M - Br) 281.0848], 263 (27), 223 (19), 148 (100), 139 (34), 125 (59), 123 (46), 95 (93), 77 (49); CIMS  $m/z$  380/378 (M + NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>).

**trans-3-Benzenesulfonylmethyl-4-bromomethyl-5,5-diisopropylidihydro-2(3H)-furanone (3d)** was isolated as a colorless oil: IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>) 1770, 1319, 1152; <sup>1</sup>H NMR  $\delta$  0.97 (d,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 3H), 1.00 (d,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 3H), 1.04 (d,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 3H), 1.06 (d,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 3H), 2.22 (septet,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 1H), 2.38 (septet,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 1H), 3.16 (ddd,  $J = 5.2, 6.0, 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 3.23 (ddd,  $J = 4.8, 5.2, 6.0$  Hz, 1H), 3.52 (dd,  $J = 5.2, 14.4$  Hz, 1H), 3.68 (dd,  $J = 5.2, 10.8$  Hz, 1H), 3.80 (dd,  $J = 4.8, 14.4$  Hz, 1H), 3.90 (dd,  $J = 7.2, 10.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.50–8.10 (m, 5H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR  $\delta$  17.10, 17.12, 17.77, 19.44, 30.83, 31.17, 33.23, 43.71, 44.98, 57.06, 93.25, 128.22, 129.63, 134.31, 139.91, 174.41; HREIMS  $m/z$  (relative intensity) 373.0117 [8, calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>18</sub><sup>79</sup>BrO<sub>4</sub>S (M - C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>7</sub>) 373.0109], 293 (100), 275 (19), 223 (13), 151 (83), 125 (24), 77 (30), 41 (48); CIMS  $m/z$  436/334 (M + NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>).

**trans-3-Benzenesulfonylmethyl-4-bromomethyl-1-oxaspiro[4,5]-2-decanone (3e)** was isolated as a white solid, mp 205–207 °C: IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>) 1761, 1310, 1148; <sup>1</sup>H NMR  $\delta$  1.20–1.30 (m, 2H), 1.55–1.90 (m, 7H), 2.10–2.20 (m, 1H), 2.68 (ddd,  $J = 4.0, 10.0, 11.6$  Hz, 1H), 3.11 (ddd,  $J = 3.2, 7.6, 11.6$  Hz, 1H), 3.31 (dd,  $J = 7.6, 14.4$  Hz, 1H), 3.52 (dd,  $J = 10.0, 11.2$  Hz, 1H), 3.78 (dd,  $J = 3.2, 14.4$  Hz, 1H), 4.09 (dd,  $J = 4.0, 11.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.60–8.00 (m, 5H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR  $\delta$  21.55, 22.72, 25.16, 28.75, 30.80, 38.21, 40.55, 52.41, 56.90, 87.25, 128.17, 129.79, 134.55, 139.30, 173.49; HREIMS  $m/z$  (relative intensity) 321.1168 [58, calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>21</sub>O<sub>4</sub>S (M - Br) 321.1161], 303(18), 259 (17), 223 (41), 179(100), 125 (51), 77 (69), 69 (81), 55 (43), 53 (46); CIMS  $m/z$  420/418 (M + NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>).

**(3 $\alpha$ , 4 $\beta$ , 5 $\alpha$ )-(±)-3-Benzenesulfonylmethyl-4-bromomethyl-5-tert-butylidihydro-2(3H)-furanone (3f)** was isolated as a white solid, mp 103–105 °C: IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>) 1771, 1309, 1154; <sup>1</sup>H NMR  $\delta$  1.01 (s, 9H), 2.81–2.86 (m, 1H), 3.23 (dd,  $J = 10.8, 14.0$  Hz, 1H), 3.37 (ddd,  $J = 2.4, 7.2, 10.8$  Hz, 1H), 3.62 (dd,  $J = 2.8, 10.2$  Hz, 1H), 3.72 (dd,  $J = 2.4, 14.0$  Hz, 1H), 4.21 (dd,  $J = 2.8, 10.2$  Hz, 1H), 4.25 (d,  $J = 6.4$  Hz, 1H), 3.90 (dd,  $J = 7.2, 10.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.60–8.00 (m, 5H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR  $\delta$  25.40, 34.78, 37.57, 39.69, 41.36, 56.99, 89.51, 128.26, 129.89, 134.68, 138.60, 174.95; HREIMS  $m/z$  (relative intensity) 331.9726 [62, calcd for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>13</sub><sup>79</sup>BrO<sub>4</sub>S (M - C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>9</sub>) 331.9718], 225 (10), 197 (16), 151 (15), 143 (78), 125 (84), 109 (46), 77 (49), 57 (100); CIMS  $m/z$  408/406 (M + NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>).

**(E)-1-Benzenesulfonyl-2-methyl-4-bromo-2-butene (6a) and (E)-1-Benzenesulfonyl-3-methyl-4-bromo-2-butene (6b).** Compound **6** was isolated as an inseparable white solid mixture of **6a** and **6b** in a ratio of 1/4 (from <sup>1</sup>H NMR), mp 70–72 °C (lit.<sup>11</sup> 73–74 °C). The NMR data were obtained from mixture of sulfone **6**. **6a**: <sup>1</sup>H NMR  $\delta$  1.86 (s, 3H), 3.77 (s, 2H), 3.85 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 5.39 (t,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.27–7.87 (m, 5H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR  $\delta$  16.92, 26.96, 65.74, 128.71, 129.38, 130.39, 130.65, 134.05, 138.24; **6b**: <sup>1</sup>H NMR  $\delta$  1.43 (s, 3H), 3.82 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 3.88 (s, 2H), 5.62 (t,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.27–7.87 (m, 5H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR  $\delta$  14.94, 38.92, 56.18, 116.46, 128.67, 129.47, 134.05, 138.46, 141.89; HREIMS of **6**  $m/z$  (relative intensity) 209.0639 [100, calcd for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>13</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S (M - Br) 209.0636], 145 (14), 125 (24), 77 (66), 53 (15); CIMS  $m/z$  308/306 (M + NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>).

**3-Benzenesulfonylmethyl-4-bromomethyl-5,5-dimethyl-2(5H)-furanone (12)** was isolated as a white solid, mp 162–164 °C: IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>) 1758, 1310, 1144; <sup>1</sup>H NMR  $\delta$  1.56 (s, 6H),

4.25 (s, 2H), 4.38 (s, 2H), 7.50–7.90 (m, 5H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR  $\delta$  18.87, 25.46, 51.48, 86.92, 119.59, 128.62, 129.60, 134.83, 138.06, 168.87, 169.59; HREIMS  $m/z$  (relative intensity) 279.0687 [75, calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>15</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> (M - Br) 279.0691], 215 (48), 125 (18), 123 (64), 121 (47), 95 (20), 77 (82), 67 (20), 51 (41), 42 (100).

**trans-4-Bromomethyl-3-(2,2,2-trichloroethyl)-5,5-diisopropylidihydro-2(3H)-furanone (13)** was isolated as a white solid, mp 119–121 °C: IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>) 1770; <sup>1</sup>H NMR  $\delta$  1.49 (s, 3H), 1.68 (s, 3H), 2.62 (dt,  $J = 4.0, 11.2$  Hz, 1H), 2.80 (dt,  $J = 11.2, 4.4$  Hz, 1H), 2.91 (dd,  $J = 4.4, 15.2$  Hz, 1H), 3.42 (t,  $J = 11.2$  Hz, 1H), 3.50 (dd,  $J = 4.4, 15.2$  Hz, 1H), 3.87 (dd,  $J = 4.0, 11.2$  Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR  $\delta$  21.60, 28.53, 29.58, 43.93, 52.72, 54.42, 85.13, 97.84, 173.95; HREIMS  $m/z$  (relative intensity) 320.8843 [7, calcd for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>9</sub><sup>79</sup>Br<sup>35</sup>Cl<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S (M - CH<sub>3</sub>) 320.8852], 267 (5), 201 (26), 199 (28), 135 (39), 117 (100), 75 (45); CIMS  $m/z$  360/358/356/354 (M + NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>).

**4-Benzenesulfonylmethyl-3-isopropylidene-5,5-dimethyldihydro-2(3H)-furanone (17)** was isolated as a white solid, mp 143–144 °C: IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>) 1743, 1308, 1150; <sup>1</sup>H NMR  $\delta$  (CD<sub>3</sub>CN) 1.32 (s, 3H), 1.43 (s, 3H), 1.73 (s, 3H), 2.10 (s, 3H), 3.14 (dd,  $J = 3.2, 15.2$  Hz, 3H), 3.38–3.41 (m, 1H), 3.63 (dd,  $J = 8.0, 15.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.60–7.90 (m, 5H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR  $\delta$  20.76, 23.71, 24.01, 29.75, 43.11, 57.79, 81.78, 124.56, 128.02, 129.83, 134.34, 140.03, 153.66, 168.51; HREIMS  $m/z$  (relative intensity) 308.1080 (36, calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>20</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> 308.1082), 290 (9), 225 (7), 166 (63), 149 (62), 121 (80), 81 (100), 43 (35).

**4-(E)-Benzenesulfonylmethylene-3-isopropylidene-5,5-dimethyldihydro-2(3H)-furanone (21)** was isolated as a white solid, mp 135–137 °C: IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>) 1756, 1307, 1150; <sup>1</sup>H NMR  $\delta$  1.40 (s, 6H), 2.37 (s, 3H), 2.51 (s, 3H), 6.04 (s, 1H), 7.50–7.90 (m, 5H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR  $\delta$  22.67, 26.60, 28.40, 82.84, 121.43, 127.50, 129.52, 131.59, 133.78, 141.26, 152.63, 165.88, 167.80; HREIMS  $m/z$  (relative intensity) 306.0923 [24, calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>18</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> 306.0926], 288 (14), 165 (100), 147 (15), 119 (23), 77 (59), 43 (36).

**4-Benzenesulfonylmethyl-3-(E)-(1-bromo)ethylidene-5,5-dimethyldihydro-2(3H)-furanone (24)** was isolated as an inseparable mixture with **6**: <sup>1</sup>H NMR  $\delta$  1.50 (s, 3H), 1.70 (s, 3H), 2.80 (s, 3H), 3.31 (dd,  $J = 1.0, 14.8$  Hz, 1H), 3.51 (d,  $J = 10.0$  Hz, 1H), 3.59 (dd,  $J = 10.0, 14.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.60–7.90 (m, 5H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR  $\delta$  24.13, 26.20, 30.22, 48.38, 56.22, 82.76, 128.35, 129.70, 129.73, 134.30, 142.00, 142.76, 165.21; HREIMS  $m/z$  (relative intensity) 293.0845 [100, calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>17</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> (M - Br) 293.0848], 209 (3), 175 (14), 125 (17), 107 (17), 77 (23); CIMS  $m/z$  392/390 (M + NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>).

**4-Benzenesulfonylmethyl-3-[4'-bromomethyl-5',5'-dimethyldihydro-2'(3'H)-furanone-3'-yl]-5,5-dimethyldihydro-2(3H)-furanone (26)** was isolated as a mixture of stereoisomers. Only one isomer can be isolated partially pure as a white solid, mp 165–167 °C: IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>) 1766, 1307, 1109. <sup>1</sup>H NMR  $\delta$  1.29 (s, 3H), 1.40 (s, 3H), 1.46 (s, 3H), 1.68 (s, 3H), 3.14–3.58 (m, 8H), 7.60–8.00 (m, 5H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR  $\delta$  21.90, 23.09, 27.13, 28.34, 29.56, 41.19, 44.51, 44.62, 48.73, 56.40, 84.49, 85.49, 128.35, 129.92, 134.69, 138.70, 174.53, 174.63; HREIMS  $m/z$  (relative intensity) 472.0554 [8, calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>25</sub>SO<sub>6</sub><sup>79</sup>Br 472.0555], 393 (100), 251 (40), 233 (32), 193 (17), 125 (20), 77 (60), 69 (75), 43 (65); CIMS  $m/z$  490 (M + NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>).

**Acknowledgment.** This work was supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation.

**Supporting Information Available:** Characterization data for compounds **5a**, **5b**, **5f**, **5g**, **7**, **8**, **15**, **16**, **19**, **20**, and **23**; <sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C NMR and 2D <sup>1</sup>H–<sup>1</sup>H NOE spectra for compounds **3c–f**, **13**, and **21**; <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C spectra for compounds **5b**, **5f**, **6–8**, **12**, **15–17**, **19**, **20**, and **26**. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.