

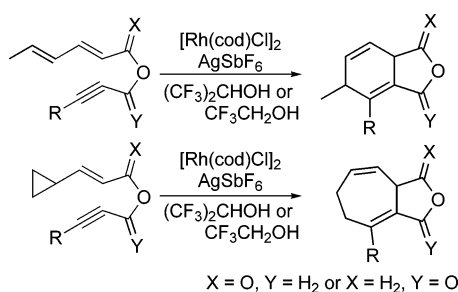
Cationic Rh(I) Catalyst in Fluorinated Alcohol: Mild Intramolecular Cycloaddition Reactions of Ester-Tethered Unsaturated Compounds

Akio Saito,* Takamitsu Ono, and Yuji Hanzawa*

Laboratory of Organic Reaction Chemistry, Showa Pharmaceutical University,
3-3165 Higashi-tamagawagakuen, Machida, Tokyo 194-8543, Japan

hanzaway@ac.shoyaku.ac.jp

Received April 19, 2006

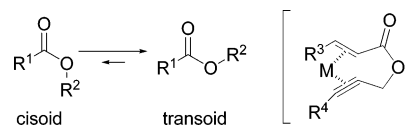


In fluorinated alcohols, the cationic Rh(I) species, which is derived from [Rh(COD)Cl]₂ and AgSbF₆, efficiently catalyzed intramolecular [4+2] cycloaddition reactions of ester-tethered 1,3-diene-8-yne derivatives. The catalytic system was also effective in intramolecular [5+2] cycloaddition reactions of ester-tethered ω -alkynyl vinylcyclopropane compounds.

Introduction

The intramolecular cycloaddition reaction provides a straightforward procedure for the potentially stereocontrolled construction of bicyclic and polycyclic compounds, and the reaction has been applied to the synthesis of a variety of molecules including natural products.¹ In intramolecular cycloaddition, the reactivity of the substrate and the stereochemical outcome of the product are strongly influenced by the tethering chain which links reaction sites. For example, ester-tethered diene-ene compounds often show low reactivity in the intramolecular Diels-Alder (IMDA) reaction. The reduced reactivity of the ester-tethered compound is due to the difficulty in adopting a cisoid form, in which the diene and the dienophile are in close proximity.^{2,3} Such a conformational disadvantage is explained by the steric repulsion between the two substituents (R¹ and R²) and by the dipole-dipole repulsion between the carbonyl and ethereal oxygen groups (Scheme 1).⁴ To overcome this conformational difficulty, the use of a polar solvent⁵ or the modification of the tether of the substrates from ester to acetal⁶ or to hydroxamate⁷

SCHEME 1



has been reported. These methodologies, however, have drawbacks such as limited availability or requiring laborious synthesis

(2) Reviews on intramolecular Diels-Alder reactions: (a) Ciganek, E. In *Organic Reactions*; Dauben, W. G., Ed.; John Wiley & Sons: New York, 1984; Vol. 32, pp 1–374. (b) Craig, D. *Chem. Soc. Rev.* **1987**, *16*, 187. (c) Roush, W. R. In *Advances in Cycloaddition*; Curran, D. P., Ed.; JAI Press: Greenwich, CT, 1990; Vol. 2, pp 91–146. (d) Roush, W. R. In *Comprehensive Organic Synthesis*; Trost, B. M., Fleming, I. Eds.; Pergamon Press: Oxford, U.K., 1991; Vol. 5, pp 513–550.

(3) For recent examples on IMDA reactions of ester-tethered triene compounds, see: (a) Jung, M. E.; Huang, A.; Johnson, T. W. *Org. Lett.* **2000**, *2*, 1835. (b) Kim, P.; Nantz, M.; Kurth, M. J.; Olmstead, M. M. *Org. Lett.* **2000**, *2*, 1831. (c) Jones, G. A.; Paddon-Row, M. N.; Sherburn, M. S.; Turner, C. I. *Org. Lett.* **2002**, *4*, 3789. (d) Turner, C. I.; Wong, L. S.-M.; Turner, P.; Paddon-Row, M. N.; Sherburn, M. S. *Chem.-Eur. J.* **2002**, *8*, 739. (e) Turner, C. I.; Paddon-Row, M. N.; Moran, D.; Payne, A. D.; Sherburn, M. S.; Turner, P. *J. Org. Chem.* **2005**, *70*, 5561.

(4) (a) Cain, D.; Pawar, D. M.; Stewart, M.; Billings, H., Jr.; Noe, E. A. *J. Org. Chem.* **2001**, *66*, 6092. (b) Review on the conformation and stereoelectric effect of ester compounds; see: Deslongchamps, P. in *Stereoelectric Effects in Organic Chemistry*; Pergamon Press: Oxford, 1983; pp 54–100.

* To whom correspondence should be addressed. Tel./fax: Fax: +81 (0)42 721 1569.

(1) (a) Fallis, A. G. *Acc. Chem. Res.* **1999**, *32*, 464–474. (b) Suzuki, Y.; Murata, T.; Takao, K.; Tadano, K. *Synth. Org. Chem., Jpn.* **2002**, *60*, 679–689. (c) Takao, K.; Murata, T.; Munakata, R.; Tadano, K. *Chem. Rev.* **2005**, *105*, 4779–4807.

of reactants. It should be mentioned that a Lewis acid, which is effective for intermolecular Diels–Alder reactions, does not necessarily work well in the IMDA reactions of the ester-tethered substrates.^{3a,8}

Recently, we reported that a novel bidentate Lewis acid, bisaluminated triflic amide TfN[Al(Me)Cl]₂, efficiently promotes the IMDA reaction of 1,7,9-decatrienoate derivatives.⁹ This bidentate Lewis acid, however, essentially requires a stoichiometric or a substoichiometric amount for the reaction. We assumed that ester-tethered unsaturated compounds would take a preferable cisoid form through the coordination of transition metal to carbon–carbon unsaturated bonds (Scheme 1), and we reported in a communication that intramolecular [4+2] cycloaddition reactions of ester-tethered 1,3-diene–8-yne compounds can be efficiently catalyzed by the cationic Rh(I) complex in fluorinated alcohols.¹⁰

Although the usefulness of Rh(I) catalysts has been reported in regard to the formation of medium-sized ring compounds through cycloaddition such as [4+2] cycloadditions of alkyne–diene compounds^{11,12} and/or [5+2] cycloadditions of alkyne–vinylcyclopropane compounds,¹³ there has been no report about transition-metal-catalyzed intramolecular cycloadditions of ester-tethered alkyne–unsaturated compounds. The efficiency of cationic Rh(I) encouraged us to examine the scope of [4+2] cycloadditions of ester-tethered ω -alkynyl dienes as well as the application to [5+2] cycloadditions of ester-tethered ω -alkynyl vinylcyclopropane derivatives. In this paper, we describe in detail the mild intramolecular cycloadditions of such ester-tethered substrates catalyzed by cationic Rh(I) in fluorinated alcohol media (Scheme 2).

Results and Discussion

[4+2] Cycloaddition Reaction. The cationic Rh(I)-catalyzed [4+2] cycloaddition reactions of sorbates **1a–d** are shown in Table 1. In the presence of the cationic Rh(I) catalyst generated in situ by mixing 5 mol % of [Rh(COD)Cl]₂ and 13 mol % of AgSbF₆ in hexafluoroisopropanol (HFIP) for 30 min, the reaction of **1a** proceeded in HFIP at room temperature for 5 h to give the corresponding cycloadduct **2a**. Because the initially

SCHEME 2

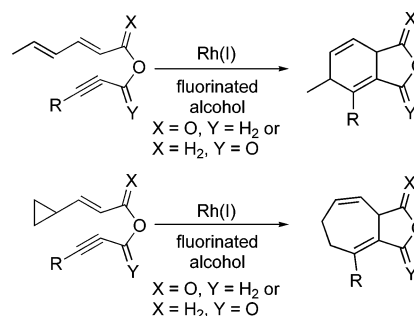


TABLE 1. [4+2] Cycloaddition of Sorbates^a

entry	1	R	solvent	time (h)	3 (%) ^b
1 ^c	1a	Me	HFIP	5	3a 67
2 ^c	1b	H	HFIP	1	3b 81
3 ^c	1c	Ph	TFE	27	3c 63
4 ^{c,d}	1d	<i>t</i> BuMe ₂ Si	TFE	48	3d 51
5	1a	Me	HFIP	2	3a 84
6	1b	H	HFIP	1	3b 81
7	1c	Ph	TFE	24	3c 77
8 ^d	1d	<i>t</i> BuMe ₂ Si	TFE	24	3d 60

^a Immediately after mixing [Rh(COD)Cl]₂ with AgSbF₆, **1** was added, unless otherwise noted. ^b Isolated yield. ^c [Rh(COD)Cl]₂ was treated with AgSbF₆ for 30 min prior to the addition of **1**. ^d Reaction temperature: 50 °C.

formed **2a** was readily oxidized to benzofuranone **3a** during the workup and was difficult to be separated from **3a**, the crude reaction mixture was directly treated with DDQ. Thus, after the DDQ oxidative workup, **3a** was isolated in 67% yield (entry 1). In addition to the reaction of methyl-substituted **2a**, the formation of hydrogen-substituted **2b** was efficiently achieved in HFIP, and the subsequent DDQ oxidative workup gave **3b** in 81% yield (entry 2). Interestingly, for the reaction of phenyl- or *tert*-butyldimethylsilyl-substituted compound **1c** or **1d**, trifluoroethanol (TFE) was found to be more suitable than HFIP (entries 3 and 4). Furthermore, it turns out that the yield of **3** was improved by the addition of substrate **1** immediately after mixing [Rh(COD)Cl]₂ with AgSbF₆ (see Experimental Section). A similar observation in regard to the preparation of the cationic Rh catalyst has been reported to provide good results in the cycloisomerization of 1,6-enynes.¹⁴ Thus, **3a** was obtained in 84% yield after the DDQ oxidative workup and **3c** or **3d** was obtained in a good yield (entries 5–8). Because the sole use of a catalytic amount of [Rh(COD)Cl]₂ or AgSbF₆ did not yield

(5) (a) Jung, M. E.; Gervay, J. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1989**, *111*, 5469. (b) Jung, M. E. *Synlett* **1999**, 843. (c) Yanai, H.; Saito, A.; Taguchi, T. *Tetrahedron* **2005**, *61*, 7987. (d) See also intramolecular radical addition of allyl α -iodoalkanoates in water: Yoshimitsu, H.; Nakamura, T.; Shinokubo, H.; Oshima, K.; Omote, K.; Fujimoto, H. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2000**, *122*, 11041.

(6) (a) Taillefumier, C.; Chapleur, Y.; Bayeul, D.; Aubry, A. *J. Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun.* **1995**, 937. (b) Taillefumier, C.; Chapleur, Y. *Can. J. Chem.* **2000**, *78*, 708.

(7) (a) Ichikawa, T.; Senzaki, M.; Kadoya, R.; Morimoto, T.; Miyake, N.; Izawa, M.; Saito, S.; Kobayashi, H. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2001**, *123*, 4607. (b) Ishikawa, T.; Kudoh, T.; Saito, S. *J. Synth. Org. Chem.* **2003**, *61*, 1186.

(8) Toyota, M.; Wada, Y.; Fukumoto, K. *Heterocycles* **1993**, *35*, 111.

(9) (a) Saito, A.; Ito, H.; Taguchi, T. *Org. Lett.* **2002**, *4*, 4619. (b) Saito, A.; Yanai, H.; Taguchi, T. *Tetrahedron* **2004**, *60*, 12239. (c) Saito, A.; Yanai, H.; Taguchi, T. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2004**, *45*, 9439.

(10) A preliminary communication: Saito, A.; Ono, T.; Takahashi, A.; Taguchi, T.; Hanzawa, Y. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2006**, *47*, 891.

(11) (a) Jolly, R. S.; Luedtke, G.; Sheehan, D.; Livinghouse, T. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1990**, *112*, 4965. (b) Wender, P. A.; Jenkins, T. E.; Suzuki, S. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1995**, *117*, 1843. (c) Gilbertson, S. R.; Hoge, G.; Genov, D. G. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1998**, *39*, 2075. (d) O'Mahony, D. J. R.; Belanger, D. B.; Livinghouse, T. *Synlett* **1998**, 443. (e) Motoda, D.; Kinoshita, H.; Shinokubo, H.; Oshima, K. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **2004**, *43*, 1860. (f) Lee, S. I.; Park, S. Y.; Park, J. H.; Jung, I. G.; Choi, S. Y.; Chung, Y. K. *J. Org. Chem.* **2006**, *71*, 91.

(12) Ni-catalyzed intramolecular [4+2] cycloaddition reaction of diene–alkene; see: Wender, P. A.; Jenkins, T. E. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1989**, *111*, 6432.

(13) (a) Wender, P. A.; Takahashi, H.; Wituski, B. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1995**, *117*, 4720. (b) Wender, P. A.; Rieck, H.; Fuji, M. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1998**, *120*, 10976. (c) Wender, P. A.; Dyckman, A. J.; Husfeld, C. O.; Scanio, M. J. C. *Org. Lett.* **2000**, *2*, 1609. (d) Wender, P. A.; Gamber, G. G.; Scanio, M. J. C. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **2001**, *40*, 3895. (e) Wender, P. A.; Barzilay, C. M.; Dyckman, A. J. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2001**, *123*, 179. (f) Wender, P. A.; Gamber, G. G.; Hubbard, R. D.; Zhang, L. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2002**, *124*, 2876. (g) Wender, P. A.; Pedersen, T. M.; Scanio, M. J. C. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2002**, *124*, 15154. (h) Wegner, H. A.; de Meijere, A.; Wender, P. A. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2005**, *127*, 6530.

(14) (a) Cao, P.; Wang, B.; Zhang, X. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2000**, *122*, 6490. (b) Lei, A.; He, M.; Zhang, X. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2002**, *124*, 8198. (c) He, M.; Lei, A.; Zhang, X. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2005**, *46*, 1823.

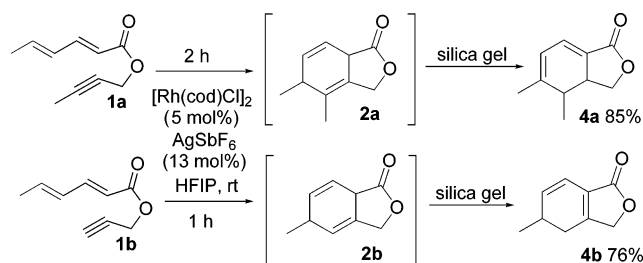
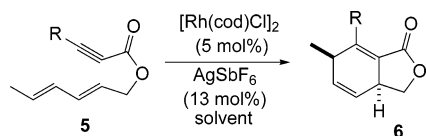
SCHEME 3. [4+2] Cycloaddition of Sorbates **1a,b** Followed by Silica Gel Workup

TABLE 2. [4+2] Cycloadditions of Propiolates



entry	5	R	solvent	time (h)	6 (%) ^a
1	5a	H	TFE	1	6a quant.
2	5a	H	HFIP	1	6a 11
3	5a	H	HFIP-CH ₂ Cl ₂	1	6a 73
4	5b	Me	TFE	1	6b 98
5	5c	Ph	TFE	2	6c quant.
6 ^b	5a	H	toluene	12	6a 94
7 ^{b,c}	5b	Me	xylene	24	6b 96
8 ^b	5c	Ph	xylene	3	6c 98

^a Isolated yield. ^b No catalyst under refluxing conditions. ^c Ref 15a.

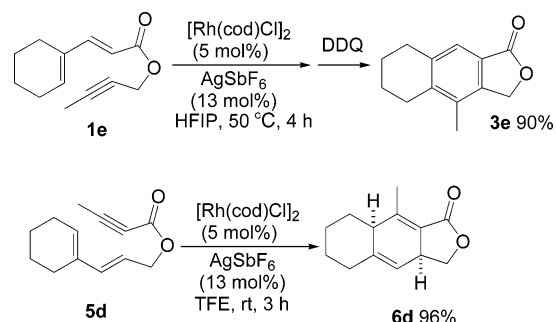
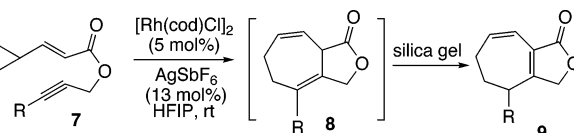
2a, the cationic Rh catalyst in the present reaction is suggested to be an active catalyst. It is worth noting that the addition of a phosphine ligand (Ph₃P, dppb, or ((CF₃)₂CHO)₃P) to the cationic Rh catalyst or the thermal reaction of **1a** in TFE or HFIP at refluxing temperature without the use of the catalyst did not give a cyclized product.¹⁵

As shown in the [4+2] cycloaddition reaction of **1a** or **1b** (Scheme 3), the addition of silica gel to the reaction mixture after the consumption of the starting ester (by TLC) gave conjugated dienelactone **4a** or **4b**, which was derived from initially formed **2a** or **2b** through isomerization.

In the [4+2] reaction of propiolate **5**, the cationic Rh(I)-TFE system showed particular efficiency (Table 2). That is, treatment of propiolate **5a** with the cationic Rh(I) catalyst in TFE at room temperature for 1 h afforded the corresponding adduct **6a** in quantitative yield (entry 1). In contrast to the case of sorbate **1**, the use of HFIP solvent lowered the yield of **6a** because of the decomposition of **5a** (entries 2 and 3). In the cases of methyl- and phenyl-substituted compounds **5b** and **5c**, TFE was found to be an efficient solvent, and adducts **6b** and **6c** were obtained in excellent yields, respectively (entries 4 and 5). It should be noted that the thermal IMDA reactions of **5** in the absence of the cationic Rh(I) catalyst showed excellent results for the formation of **6**. It, however, required a higher temperature and longer time to complete the reaction (by TLC) (entries 6–8).¹⁶ In all cases examined, each adduct **6a–c** was obtained as a single isomer with illustrated trans stereochemistry.

On the basis of the described procedure, tricyclic lactones **3e** and **6d** were prepared in good yields (Scheme 4). Thus, **3e**

SCHEME 4. Synthesis of Tricyclic Lactone

TABLE 3. [5+2] Cycloadditions of β -Cyclopropylacrylates^a

entry	7	R	time (h)		9 (%) ^b
			addition	total	
1	7a	Me		3	9a 84
2 ^c	7a	Me		3	9a 80
3 ^{d,e}	7a	Me		5	9a 50
4	7a	Me		24	9a ^f
5	7b	H	1	2	9b 73
6	7c	CH ₂ OMe	1	2	9c 87
7	7d	<i>n</i> -Bu	1	3	9d 70

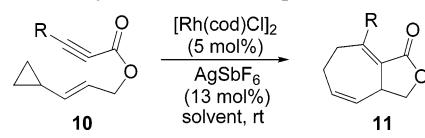
^a Immediately after mixing [Rh(COD)Cl]₂ with AgSbF₆, **7** was added, unless otherwise noted. ^b Isolated yield. ^c [Rh(COD)Cl]₂ was treated with AgSbF₆ in the presence of **7**. ^d [Rh(COD)Cl]₂ was treated with AgSbF₆ for 30 min prior to the addition of **7**. ^e Solvent: TFE. ^f Recovery of **7a**: 23%.

was obtained in 90% yield after the cycloaddition of **1e** in HFIP at 50 °C for 4 h and the subsequent DDQ oxidative workup, and **6d** was obtained in 96% yield in TFE at room temperature for 3 h.

[5+2] Cycloaddition Reaction. The Rh(I)-catalyzed inter- or intramolecular [5+2] cycloaddition reactions of vinylcyclopropane and alkyne compounds have been reported to give seven-membered ring compounds.¹³ To our knowledge, however, no successful examples of the intramolecular reaction of the ester-tethered substrates have been reported. The established efficiency of the cationic Rh(I) species in fluorinated alcohol for the [4+2] cycloaddition of ester-tethered diene-yne compounds encouraged us to examine the [5+2] cycloaddition of β -cyclopropylacrylates **7** (Table 3). As expected, the cationic Rh(I) catalyst prepared in situ from [Rh(COD)Cl]₂ and AgSbF₆ was efficient in bringing about cycloaddition, and lactone **9a** was obtained in 84% yield from **7a** in HFIP at room temperature for 5 h (entry 1). The obtained **9a** would be generated by the isomerization of initially formed [5+2] adduct **8a** during the workup. The premixing of [Rh(COD)Cl]₂ and AgSbF₆ for 30 min prior to the addition of **2a** decreased the yield of **9a** to 50% (entry 2). The reaction of **7a** in TFE did not give the cyclized product because of alcoholysis of the starting material

(15) Thermal IMDA reactions of sorbate derivatives require a very high temperature (200 °C) to give the products; see: (a) Boeckman, R. K., Jr.; Demko, D. M. *J. Org. Chem.* **1982**, *47*, 1789. (b) Martin, S. F.; Williamson, S. A.; Gist, R. P.; Smith, K. M. *J. Org. Chem.* **1983**, *48*, 5170.

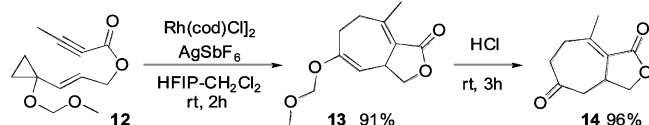
(16) Thermal IMDA reactions of 2,4-pentadienyl propiolates are known; see: (a) White, J. D.; Sheldon, B. G. *J. Org. Chem.* **1981**, *46*, 2273. (b) Birtwhistle, D. H.; Brown, J. M.; Foxton, M. W. *Tetrahedron* **1998**, *44*, 7309. (c) Turner, C. I.; Williamson, R. M.; Paddon-Row, M. N.; Sherburn, M. S. *J. Org. Chem.* **2001**, *66*, 3963. (d) Pradilla, R. F.; Baile, R.; Tortosa, S. *Chem. Commun.* **2003**, 2476.

TABLE 4. [5+2] Cycloadditions of Propiolates^a


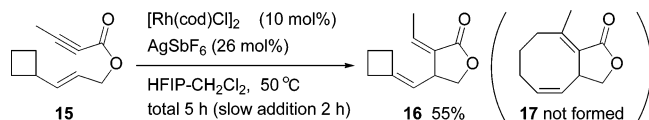
entry	10	R	solvent	time (h)	11 (%) ^b
1 ^c	10a	H	TFE	2	11a 20
2 ^c	10a	H	HFIP	2	11a 23
3 ^c	10a	H	CH ₂ Cl ₂	4	11a 12
4 ^c	10a	H	HFIP-CH ₂ Cl ₂	2	11a 41
5	10a	H	HFIP-CH ₂ Cl ₂	1	11a 78
6	10b	Me	HFIP-CH ₂ Cl ₂	1	11b 97
7 ^d	10c	Ph	HFIP-CH ₂ Cl ₂	3	11c 56
8 ^d	10d	<i>i</i> -Pr	HFIP-CH ₂ Cl ₂	3	11d 58

^a Immediately after mixing [Rh(COD)Cl]₂ with AgSbF₆, **10** was added, unless otherwise noted. ^b Isolated yield. ^c [Rh(COD)Cl]₂ was treated with AgSbF₆ for 30 min prior to the addition of **10**. ^d Slow addition (1 h) of **10**.

SCHEME 5. [5+2] Cycloaddition of Propiolate 12



SCHEME 6. Cycloisomerization of Propiolate 15



(entry 3). As shown in entries 4–6, the cationic Rh(I)–HFIP system worked well in the reactions of **7b–d** to give **9b–d**. In particular, the slow addition of **7** (0.5 mmol/2 mL in HFIP, 1 h addition) exerted a preferable effect, and thus terminal alkynyl compound **9b** was obtained in 73% yield at room temperature for 2 h. Likewise, **9c** and **9d** were obtained in good yields (**9c**, 87%; **9d**, 70%).

The cationic Rh(I)-catalyzed [5+2] cycloaddition of propiolates **10** and **12** in an analogous method to **7** was also examined (Table 4 and Scheme 5). In the reaction of **10a** in TFE, which was a suitable solvent in the [4+2] cycloaddition of propiolate **5**, an incomplete reaction took place (by TLC analysis), and [5+2] adduct **11a** was obtained in 20% yield together with the recovered **10a** (Table 4, entry 1). Because the use of HFIP as a solvent lead to the decomposition of **10a**, the reaction in HFIP scarcely provided an improved result even in the absence of a catalyst (entry 2). However, the addition of a solution of **10a** in CH₂Cl₂ to the cationic Rh(I) catalyst prepared in HFIP increased the yield of **11a** up to 41% (entry 4). A better yield of **11a** (78%) was obtained with the addition of a solution of **10a** in CH₂Cl₂ to the catalyst solution immediately after the preparation of the cationic Rh(I) catalyst (entry 5). The reaction of Me-substituted **10b** also proceeded smoothly under similar conditions to **10a** giving rise to the corresponding adduct **11b** quantitatively (entry 6). In the cases of Ph-substituted **10c** and *i*-Pr-substituted **10d**, by the slow addition of a substrate (0.5 mmol/2 mL in CH₂Cl₂, 1 h addition), **11c** and **11d** were obtained in 56 and 58% yields, respectively (entries 8 and 9). The [5+2] cycloaddition of propiolate **12** with a MOM-oxy-substituted cyclopropane ring gave the corresponding adduct **13** in 91% yield, and the product was converted to ketone **14** quantitatively (Scheme 5).^{13c,d}

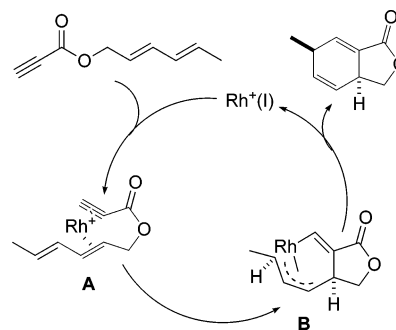


FIGURE 1. Catalytic cycle of [4+2] cycloaddition.

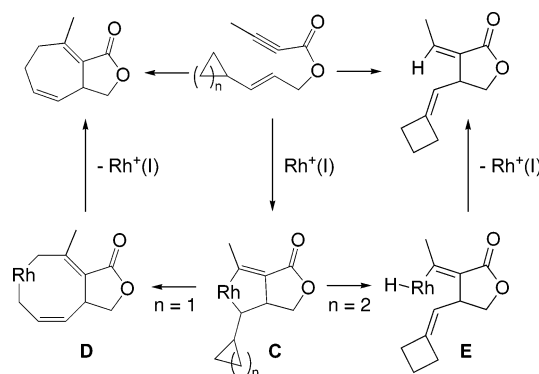


FIGURE 2. Catalytic cycle of [5+2] cycloaddition.

The formation of eight-membered ring-fused lactones by the [6+2] cycloaddition of propiolate **15** under the present conditions could be considered to be difficult to take place according to Wender et al.'s observations.¹⁷ Thus, an attempted reaction of **15**, by means of the slow addition of a substrate for 2 h at 50 °C and the further stirring for 3 h, did not yield the bicyclic lactone **17** but afforded the 1,4-dienelactone **16** in 55% yield as a major product (Scheme 6).

Catalytic Cycles. On the basis of previous reports about the transition-metal-catalyzed [4+2] cycloadditions of alkyne–diene compounds^{12,13} and [5+2] cycloadditions of alkene–vinylcyclopropane compounds,¹⁴ plausible catalytic cycles for the cationic Rh(I)-catalyzed [4+2] and [5+2] reactions of the present ester-tethered substrates are shown in Figures 1 and 2, respectively. Thus, in the [4+2] reaction of the ester-tethered ω -alkynyl diene derivatives (Figure 1), the formation of metallacyclic intermediate **B** and the reductive elimination of Rh(I) gave cycloadducts. As shown in the [5+2] reaction of the ester-tethered ω -alkynyl vinylcyclopropanes ($n = 1$, Figure 2), metallacycle **C** was converted to metallacycle **D** through a cyclopropane ring opening, and bicyclic lactones were obtained by the reductive elimination of Rh(I). In the case of ω -alkynyl vinylcyclobutane ($n = 2$, Figure 2), because of the difficulty of the cyclobutane ring opening in intermediate **C**, β -hydrogen elimination and subsequent reductive elimination of Rh(I) in rhodium hydride **E** occurred to give 1,4-dienelactone. A similar result was observed in the Ru-catalyzed cycloisomerization of the alkyne–vinylcyclobutane compound, in which an analogous catalytic cycle has been proposed.¹⁸

(17) As far as we know, the [6+2] cycloaddition with simple vinylcyclobutane has never been successful; see: Wender, P. A.; Correa, A. G.; Sato, Y.; Sun, R. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2000**, *122*, 7815.

(18) Trost, B. M.; Toste, F. D. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2002**, *124*, 5025.

Although the significant effect of the fluorinated alcohols in our case is quite notable, no evident advantage to the use of TFE has been reported in cationic Rh(I)-catalyzed cyclizations of 1,3-diene-8-yne derivatives.^{11c} At present, we believe that fluorinated alcohols might increase the cisoid conformation of an ester-tethered substrate by the polar effect⁵ and/or accelerate in the generation and reactivity of the cationic Rh(I) catalyst, which coordinates to unsaturated bonds.¹⁹ Thus, the adverse effect caused by the addition of phosphine ligands would be a result of a decrease in the electrophilicity of the cationic Rh(I) by coordination of the added phosphine ligand to the cationic metal center.

Conclusion

For the purpose of the mild intramolecular [4+2] cycloaddition reaction of ester-tethered alkyne–diene compounds, which usually requires high temperatures and long reaction times in the thermal Diels–Alder reactions, the cationic Rh(I) catalyst in fluorinated alcohols was found to be very efficient. The cationic Rh(I) was generated in situ from [Rh(COD)Cl]₂ and AgSbF₆ in fluorinated alcohols. The cationic Rh(I)-fluorinated alcohol system was applied to the [5+2] cycloaddition of ester-tethered substrates giving seven-membered ring fused lactones. We believe that the present reactions of ester compounds provide an attractive procedure for the formation of medium-sized ring fused five-membered lactones under mild conditions. Further studies on the reaction of ester-tethered enyne compounds and application to the synthesis of natural products are under way.

Experimental Section

General Information. For details, see Supporting Information.

General Procedure for the [4+2] Cycloaddition of Sorbate 1 Followed by DDQ Oxidation (Table 1): 4,5-Dimethylisobenzofuran-1(3H)-one (3a). Under an argon atmosphere, immediately after treatment of a solution of bis(1,5-cyclooctadiene)- μ,μ' -dichloro dimmer (12.4 mg, 25 μmol) in HFIP (3 mL) with silver hexafluoroantimonate (0.25 M in a CH₂Cl₂ solution, 0.26 mL, 65 μmol) at room temperature, **1a** (82 mg, 0.5 mmol) in HFIP (2 mL) was added. After being stirred for 2 h at the same temperature, the reaction mixture was diluted with ether and filtered through a Celite pad. After concentration of the filtrate to dryness, to a solution of the residue in toluene (5 mL) was added 2,3-dichloro-5,6-dicyano-*p*-benzoquinone (113 mg, 0.5 mmol). After being stirred at room temperature for 1 h, the reaction mixture was quenched by saturated NaHCO₃ and extracted with AcOEt. The organic layer was washed with brine and dried over MgSO₄, and subsequent purification by silica gel column chromatography (hexane/AcOEt = 6:1) gave **3a** (60.0 mg, 84% yield) as a white solid. Mp 126–128 °C. IR (neat) ν cm⁻¹: 1758. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 2.15 (s, 3H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 5.13 (s, 2H), 7.23 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.7 Hz), 7.53 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.7 Hz). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 14.5, 19.6, 69.0, 122.6, 122.9, 130.5, 130.8, 143.4, 145.8, 171.5. FAB-LM *m/z*: 163 (M⁺ + H). FAB-HM calcd for C₁₀H₁₁O₂, 163.0761; found, 163.0759. Anal. Calcd for C₁₀H₁₀O₂: C, 74.06; H, 6.21. Found: C, 74.09; H, 6.21.

5-Methylisobenzofuran-1(3H)-one (3b). White solid. Mp 104–106 °C. IR (neat) ν cm⁻¹: 1716. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 2.50 (s, 3H), 5.27 (s, 2H), 7.29 (s, 1H), 7.33 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.7 Hz), 7.79 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.7 Hz). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 22.1, 69.4, 122.4, 123.1, 125.4, 130.2, 145.3, 147.1, 171.2. FAB-LM

m/z: 149 (M⁺ + H). FAB-HM Calcd for C₉H₉O₂, 149.0585; found, 149.0620. Anal. Calcd for C₉H₈O₂: C, 72.96; H, 5.44. Found: C, 72.79; H, 5.55.

5-Methyl-4-phenylisobenzofuran-1(3H)-one (3c). White solid. Mp 111–112 °C. IR (neat) ν cm⁻¹: 1760. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 2.30 (s, 3H), 5.04 (s, 2H), 7.28–7.27 (m, 2H), 7.40–7.51 (m, 4H), 7.81 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.7 Hz). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 20.2, 69.2, 123.4, 124.3, 128.1, 128.3, 128.9, 131.4, 136.4, 136.5, 142.8, 146.0, 171.3. FAB-LM *m/z*: 225 (M⁺ + H). FAB-HM Calcd for C₁₅H₁₃O₂, 225.0915; found, 225.0915. Anal. Calcd for C₁₅H₁₂O₂: C, 80.34; H, 5.39. Found: C, 80.44; H, 5.46.

4-(tert-Butyldimethylsilyl)-5-methylisobenzofuran-1(3H)-one (3d). White solid. Mp 135–137 °C. IR (neat) ν cm⁻¹: 1706. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 0.42 (s, 6H), 0.91 (s, 9H), 2.58 (s, 3H), 5.31 (s, 2H), 7.31 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.8 Hz), 7.89 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.8 Hz). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : -1.1, 19.4, 25.4, 26.8, 72.0, 122.5, 126.2, 130.8, 131.8, 152.0, 153.9, 171.4. FAB-LM *m/z*: 263 (M⁺ + H). FAB-HM Calcd for C₁₅H₂₃O₂Si, 263.1483; found, 263.1467.

General Procedure for the [4+2] Cycloaddition of Sorbate 1 Followed by Treatment with Silica Gel (Scheme 3): 4,5-Dihydro-5-methylisobenzofuran-1(3H)-one (4a). Under an argon atmosphere, immediately after treatment of a solution of bis(1,5-cyclooctadiene)- μ,μ' -dichloro dimmer (12.4 mg, 25 μmol) in HFIP (3 mL) with silver hexafluoroantimonate (0.25 M in CH₂Cl₂ solution, 0.26 mL, 65 μmol) at room temperature, **1a** (82 mg, 0.5 mmol) in HFIP (2 mL) was added. After being stirred for 2 h at the same temperature, the reaction mixture was treated with silica gel (2 g) for 1 h. After filtration of the silica gel and concentration of the filtrate to dryness, the residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (hexane/AcOEt = 6:1) to give **4a** (70.3 mg, 75% yield) as a white solid. Mp 44–45 °C. IR (neat) ν cm⁻¹: 1751. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 1.28 (d, 3H, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 2.22 (s, 3H), 2.91–2.96 (m, 1H), 3.44–3.54 (m, 1H), 3.77 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.2, 10.8 Hz), 4.52 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.2, 8.2 Hz), 5.66 (d, 1H, *J* = 9.8 Hz), 5.74 (d, 1H, *J* = 9.8 Hz). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 14.6, 18.3, 36.5, 38.8, 69.6, 119.9, 122.1, 133.7, 150.4, 169.2. FAB-LM *m/z*: 165 (M⁺ + H). FAB-HM Calcd for C₁₀H₁₃O₂, 165.0923; found, 165.0915. Anal. Calcd for C₁₀H₁₂O₂: C, 71.98; H, 6.71. Found: C, 71.72; H, 6.73.

3a,4-Dihydro-4,5-dimethylisobenzofuran-1(3H)-one (4b). White solid. Mp 41–42 °C. IR (neat) ν cm⁻¹: 1720. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 1.31 (d, 3H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 2.28–2.36 (m, 1H), 2.63–2.71 (m, 2H), 4.75 (d, 1H, *J* = 18.0 Hz), 4.84 (d, 1H, *J* = 18.0 Hz), 5.83 (dd, 1H, *J* = 2.8, 9.6 Hz), 6.15 (d, 1H, *J* = 9.6 Hz). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 20.3, 28.5, 29.4, 71.4, 115.5, 124.1, 135.1, 158.3, 171.6. FAB-LM *m/z*: 151 (M⁺ + H). FAB-HM Calcd for C₉H₁₁O₂, 151.0750; found, 151.0759. Anal. Calcd for C₉H₁₀O₂: C, 73.15; H, 7.37. Found: C, 73.13; H, 7.43.

General Procedure for the [4+2] Cycloaddition Reaction of Propiolate 6 (Table 2): (3aS*,6R*)-3,3a-Dihydro-6-methylisobenzofuran-1(6H)-one (6a). Under an argon atmosphere, immediately after treatment of a solution of bis(1,5-cyclooctadiene)- μ,μ' -dichloro dimmer (12.4 mg, 25 μmol) in TFE (3 mL) with silver hexafluoroantimonate (0.25 M in CH₂Cl₂ solution, 0.26 mL, 65 μmol) at room temperature, **5a** (75 mg, 0.5 mmol) in TFE (2 mL) was added. After being stirred for 1 h at the same temperature, the reaction mixture was diluted with ether and filtered through a Celite pad. Concentration of the filtrate to dryness and subsequent purification by silica gel column chromatography (hexane/AcOEt = 6:1) gave **6a** (75.0 mg, quant.) as a colorless oil. IR (neat) ν cm⁻¹: 1760. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 1.26 (d, 3H, *J* = 7.7 Hz), 2.99–3.06 (m, 1H), 3.48–3.54 (m, 1H), 3.84 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.8, 10.3 Hz), 4.65 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.8, 8.8 Hz), 5.64–5.73 (m, 2H), 6.61 (br. s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 20.4, 32.1, 37.1, 70.7, 121.8, 127.5, 133.1, 138.6, 169.5. FAB-LM *m/z*: 151 (M⁺ + H). FAB-HM Calcd for C₉H₁₁O₂, 151.0781; found, 151.0759. Anal. Calcd for C₉H₁₀O₂: C, 71.97; H, 6.71. Found: C, 71.66; H, 6.71.

(19) A rhodium chloride complex such as Wilkinson's catalyst accelerates the [4+2] cycloaddition of 1,3-diene-8-yne or 1,3,8-triene derivatives in TFE. It has been suggested that TFE enhances the polarizability of the Rh–Cl bond. See, refs 11a and 11d.

(3a*S**,6*R**)-3,3a-Dihydro-6,7-dimethylisobenzofuran-1(6*H*)-one (6b). The ¹H NMR spectra of 7b were identical to those reported in the literature.^{15a}

(3a*S**,6*R**)-3,3a-Dihydro-6-methyl-7-phenylisobenzofuran-1(6*H*)-one (6c). White solid. Mp 95–97 °C. IR (neat) ν cm⁻¹: 1756. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 0.96 (d, 3H, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 3.26–3.37 (m, 1H), 3.60–3.67 (m, 1H), 3.88 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.0, 10.8 Hz), 4.56 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.0, 8.0 Hz), 5.80 (s, 2H), 7.01–7.12 (m, 2H), 7.30–7.36 (m, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 19.5, 36.0, 39.1, 69.3, 121.4, 121.8, 127.1, 127.7, 127.9, 133.8, 136.5, 150.9, 167.7. FAB-LM *m/z*: 227 (M⁺ + H). FAB-HM Calcd for C₁₅H₁₅O₂, 227.1065; found, 227.1072.

Synthesis of Tricyclic Lactone (Scheme 4): Preparations of 3-Cyclohex-1-enyl-acrylic Acid But-2-ynyl Ester (1e) and (2*E*)-3-Cyclohexenylallyl But-2-ynoate (5d). For details, see Supporting Information.

Preparation of 2,3,5,6,7,8-Hexahydro-1*H*-cyclopenta[*b*]naphthalen-1-one (3e). In a manner similar to 3a, the [4+2] cycloaddition of 1e (102 mg, 0.5 mmol) was carried out at 50 °C for 4 h. After the usual workup, to a solution of the obtained residue in toluene (5 mL) was added 2,3-dichloro-5,6-dicyano-*p*-benzoquinone (113 mg, 0.5 mmol). After being stirred at room temperature for 1 h, the reaction mixture was quenched by saturated NaHCO₃ and extracted with AcOEt. The organic layer was washed with brine and dried over MgSO₄, and subsequent purification by silica gel column chromatography (hexane/AcOEt = 6:1) gave 3e (93 mg, 90%) as a white solid. Mp 138–140 °C. IR (neat) ν cm⁻¹: 1752. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 1.68–1.88 (m, 4H), 2.89 (s, 3H), 2.65 (t, 2H, *J* = 6.1 Hz), 2.71 (t, 2H, *J* = 6.1 Hz), 5.20 (s, 2H), 7.48 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 14.5, 22.4, 22.8, 27.1, 30.3, 69.1, 122.2, 123.4, 130.3, 138.8, 142.6, 142.8, 171.9. FAB-LM *m/z*: 203 (M⁺ + H). FAB-HM Calcd for C₁₃H₁₅O₂, 203.1064; found, 203.1072. Anal. Calcd for C₁₃H₁₄O₂: C, 77.20; H, 6.98. Found: C, 77.32; H, 7.08.

Preparation of 9-Methyl-3a,5,6,7,8a-hexahydro-3*H*-naphtho[2,3-*c*]furan-1-one (6d). In a manner similar to 6a, the [4+2] cycloaddition of 1e (102 mg, 0.5 mmol) and subsequent usual workup gave 6d (98 mg, 96%) as a white solid. Mp 41–43 °C. IR (neat) ν cm⁻¹: 1756. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 1.01 (m, 1H), 1.24 (m, 1H), 1.49 (m, 1H), 1.74–2.17 (m, 3H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 2.32–2.38 (m, 2H), 2.68–2.73 (m, 1H), 3.47–3.56 (m, 1H), 3.73 (dd, 1H, *J* = 7.8, 11.2 Hz), 4.46 (dd, 1H, *J* = 7.8, 7.8 Hz), 5.40 (q, 1H, *J* = 1.7 Hz). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 14.5, 26.4, 26.9, 32.0, 35.5, 38.9, 43.5, 70.4, 114.2, 119.6, 140.8, 148.1, 170.0. FAB-LM *m/z*: 205 (M⁺ + H). FAB-HM Calcd for C₁₃H₁₇O₂, 205.1233; found, 205.1229.

General Procedure for the [5+2] Cycloaddition of β -Cyclopropylacrylate 7 (Table 3): 5,6-Dihydro-4-methyl-3*H*-cyclohepta[*c*]furan-1(4*H*)-one (9a). Under an argon atmosphere, immediately after treatment of a solution of bis(1,5-cyclooctadiene)- μ,μ' -dichloro dimer (12.4 mg, 25 μ mol) in HFIP (3 mL) with silver hexafluoroantimonate (0.25 M in CH₂Cl₂ solution, 0.26 mL, 65 μ mol) at room temperature, 7a (82 mg, 0.5 mmol) in HFIP (2 mL) was added. After being stirred for 3 h at the same temperature, the reaction mixture was treated with silica gel (2 g) for 1 h. Filtration of silica gel, concentration of the filtrate to dryness, and subsequent purification by silica gel column chromatography (hexane/AcOEt = 6:1) gave 9a (68.9 mg, 84%) as a colorless oil. IR (neat) ν cm⁻¹: 1718. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 1.12 (d, 3H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 1.51 (m, 2H), 1.76–1.87 (m, 2H), 2.39–2.43 (m, 1H), 4.55 (d, 1H, *J* = 17.6 Hz), 4.75 (d, 1H, *J* = 17.6 Hz), 6.03 (dt, 1H, *J* = 11.4, 5.3 Hz), 6.13 (d, 1H, *J* = 11.4 Hz). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 19.3, 27.6, 30.1, 34.3, 70.8, 118.0, 122.3, 136.8, 164.3, 174.2. FAB-LM *m/z*: 165 (M⁺ + H). FAB-HM Calcd for C₁₀H₁₃O₂, 165.0919; found, 165.0916. Anal. Calcd for C₁₀H₁₂O₂: C, 73.15; H, 7.37. Found: C, 72.93; H, 7.35.

5,6-Dihydro-3*H*-cyclohepta[*c*]furan-1(4*H*)-one (9b). Colorless oil. IR (neat) ν cm⁻¹: 1741. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 1.92–

2.00 (m, 2H), 2.48–2.51 (m, 2H), 2.51–2.63 (m, 2H), 4.68 (s, 2H), 6.07 (d, 1H, *J* = 11.7 Hz), 6.16 (dt, 1H, *J* = 11.7, 5.3 Hz). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 22.4, 29.8, 31.0, 71.8, 118.0, 123.6, 160.6, 174.1. FAB-LM *m/z*: 151 (M⁺ + H). FAB-HM Calcd for C₉H₁₁O₂, 151.0746; found, 151.0801. Anal. Calcd for C₁₀H₁₂O₂: C, 71.98; H, 6.71. Found: C, 71.69; H, 6.81.

5,6-Dihydro-4-(methoxymethyl)-3*H*-cyclohepta[*c*]furan-1(4*H*)-one (9c). Colorless oil. IR (neat) ν cm⁻¹: 1754. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 1.80–1.90 (m, 1H), 1.95–2.05 (m, 1H), 2.43–2.50 (m, 2H), 2.92–3.01 (m, 1H), 3.35 (s, 3H), 3.41 (dd, 1H, *J* = 9.0, 7.9 Hz), 3.48 (dd, 1H, *J* = 9.0, 5.5 Hz), 4.72 (d, 1H, *J* = 18.3 Hz), 4.89 (d, 1H, *J* = 18.3 Hz), 6.09 (dt, 1H, *J* = 11.5, 5.5 Hz), 6.22 (d, 1H, *J* = 11.5 Hz). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 25.7, 28.2, 40.3, 58.9, 71.8, 74.8, 118.0, 123.3, 136.6, 161.7, 174.1. FAB-LM *m/z*: 195 (M⁺ + H). FAB-HM Calcd for C₁₁H₁₅O₃, 195.1038; found, 195.1021.

4-Butyl-5,6-dihydro-3*H*-cyclohepta[*c*]furan-1(4*H*)-one (9d). Colorless oil. IR (neat) ν cm⁻¹: 1724. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 0.91 (t, 3H, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 1.20–1.59 (m, 6H), 1.76–1.83 (m, 1H), 1.92–2.04 (m, 1H), 2.46–2.47 (m, 2H), 2.61–2.70 (m, 1H), 4.65 (d, 1H, *J* = 17.6 Hz), 4.83 (d, 1H, *J* = 17.6 Hz), 6.08 (dd, 1H, *J* = 11.5, 5.4 Hz), 6.19 (d, 1H, *J* = 11.5 Hz). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 13.9, 22.6, 26.1, 27.3, 28.8, 32.4, 38.8, 71.2, 117.8, 122.5, 136.7, 164.4, 174.2. FAB-LM *m/z*: 207 (M⁺ + H). FAB-HM Calcd for C₁₃H₁₉O₂, 207.1397; found 207.1353. Anal. Calcd for C₁₃H₁₈O₂: C, 75.69; H, 8.80. Found: C, 75.80; H, 8.66.

General Procedure for the [5+2] Cycloaddition of Propiolate 10 or 12 (Table 4 and Scheme 5): 3,3a,6,7-Tetrahydrocyclohepta[*c*]furan-1-one (11a). Under an argon atmosphere, immediately after treatment of a solution of bis(1,5-cyclooctadiene)- μ,μ' -dichloro dimer (12.4 mg, 25 μ mol) in HFIP (3 mL) with silver hexafluoroantimonate (0.25 M in CH₂Cl₂ solution, 0.26 mL, 65 μ mol) at room temperature, 10a (75 mg, 0.5 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (2 mL) was added. After being stirred for 1 h at the same temperature, the reaction mixture was diluted with ether and filtered through a Celite pad. Concentration of the filtrate to dryness and subsequent purification by silica gel column chromatography (hexane/AcOEt = 6:1) gave 11a (58.2 mg, 84%) as a white solid. Mp 51–54 °C. IR (neat) ν cm⁻¹: 1741. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 2.09–2.33 (m, 2H), 2.40–2.53 (m, 2H), 3.89 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.8, 8.8 Hz), 4.04–4.22 (m, 1H), 4.52 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.8, 8.8 Hz), 5.53 (dt, 1H, *J* = 10.3, 2.2 Hz), 5.83–5.92 (m, 1H), 6.89 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.8, 3.7 Hz). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 24.8, 26.2, 37.1, 70.5, 128.6, 129.9, 132.2, 140.8, 170.9. FAB-LM *m/z*: 151 (M⁺ + H). FAB-HM Calcd for C₉H₁₁O₂, 151.0766; found, 151.0719. Anal. Calcd for C₉H₁₀O₂: C, 71.98; H, 6.71. Found: C, 71.79; H, 6.81.

3,3a,6,7-Tetrahydro-8-methylcyclohepta[*c*]furan-1-one (11b). IR (neat) ν cm⁻¹: 1743. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 2.09–2.39 (m, 2H), 2.27 (s, 3H), 2.68–2.78 (m, 1H), 3.85 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.8, 8.8 Hz), 4.11 (m, 1H), 4.48 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.8, 8.8 Hz), 5.53 (ddd, 1H, *J* = 11.0, 3.7, 1.5 Hz), 5.67–5.75 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 19.8, 24.8, 35.4, 37.8, 70.4, 123.3, 128.3, 130.7, 156.1, 170.1. FAB-LM *m/z*: 165 (M⁺ + H). FAB-HM Calcd for C₁₀H₁₃O₂, 165.0915; found, 165.0916. Anal. Calcd for C₁₀H₁₂O₂: C, 73.15; H, 7.37. Found: C, 73.29; H, 7.30.

3,3a,6,7-Tetrahydro-8-phenylcyclohepta[*c*]furan-1-one (11c). Colorless oil. IR (neat) ν cm⁻¹: 1745. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 2.28–2.47 (m, 3H), 2.29–3.08 (m, 1H), 3.90 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.1, 8.1 Hz), 4.21 (m, 1H), 4.50 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.1, 8.1 Hz), 5.40 (ddd, 1H, *J* = 11.0, 3.7, 2.2 Hz), 5.74–5.78 (m, 1H), 7.16–7.32 (m, 5H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 25.4, 36.2, 38.3, 70.2, 125.1, 127.5, 127.8, 127.9, 128.2, 131.1, 139.8, 156.2, 168.5. FAB-LM *m/z*: 227 (M⁺ + H). FAB-HM Calcd for C₁₅H₁₅O₂, 227.1069; found, 227.1084. Anal. Calcd for C₁₅H₁₄O₂: C, 79.62; H, 6.24. Found: C, 79.73; H, 6.38.

3,3a,6,7-Tetrahydro-8-isopropylcyclohepta[*c*]furan-1-one (11d). Colorless oil. IR (neat) ν cm⁻¹: 1743. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃)

δ : 1.00 (d, 3H, $J = 6.8$ Hz), 1.05 (d, 3H, $J = 6.8$ Hz), 2.06–2.18 (m, 1H), 2.31–2.59 (m, 2H), 3.88 (dd, 1H, $J = 8.5, 8.5$ Hz), 4.40 (seotet, 1H, $J = 6.8$ Hz), 5.30 (ddd, 1H, $J = 11.4, 4.2, 2.0$ Hz), 5.62–5.7 (m, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 19.6, 20.2, 26.6, 27.1, 27.8, 38.1, 70.6, 123.3, 127.4, 130.6, 165.4, 169.6. FAB-LM m/z : 193 ($\text{M}^+ + \text{H}$). FAB-HM Calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{17}\text{O}_2$, 193.1240; found, 193.1229. Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{17}\text{O}_2$: C, 74.97; H, 8.39. Found: C, 74.75; H, 8.44.

3,3a,6,7-Tetrahydro-5-(methoxymethoxy)cyclohepta[c]furan-1-one (13). Colorless oil. IR (neat) ν cm^{-1} : 1743. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 2.17–2.33 (m, H), 2.26 (s, 3H), 2.46–2.62 (m, 2H), 3.39 (s, 3H), 3.85 (dd, 1H, $J = 8.2, 8.2$ Hz), 3.91–4.05 (m, 1H), 4.51 (dd, 1H, $J = 8.2, 8.2$ Hz), 4.73 (br.s, 1H), 4.84 (d, 1H, $J = 6.6$ Hz), 4.92 (d, 1H, $J = 6.6$ Hz). ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 19.8, 28.5, 33.9, 35.3, 56.0, 71.0, 93.6, 100.5, 123.7, 154.6, 155.8, 170.2. FAB-LM m/z : 225 ($\text{M}^+ + \text{H}$). FAB-HM Calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{17}\text{O}_4$, 225.1114; found, 225.1161.

Preparation of 3a,4,6,7-Tetrahydro-8-methyl-3H-cyclohepta-[c]furan-1,5-dione (14). To a solution of lactone **13** (38 mg, 16.8 mmol) in EtOH (3 mL) was added 10% HCl–MeOH (0.3 mL) at room temperature. After being stirred for 3 h at the same temperature, concentration of the reaction mixture to dryness and subsequent purification by silica gel column chromatography (hexane/AcOEt = 1:1) gave **11a** (29 mg, 96%) as a colorless oil. IR (neat) ν cm^{-1} : 1743, 1708. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 2.32 (d, 3H, $J = 2.2$ Hz), 2.42–2.48 (m, 1H), 2.54–2.66 (m, 4H), 2.89–2.98 (m, 1H), 3.50–3.55 (m, 1H), 3.77 (dd, 1H, $J = 8.9, 8.9$ Hz), 4.47 (dd, 1H, $J = 8.9, 8.9$ Hz). ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 20.4, 33.9, 35.0, 40.9, 46.8, 69.1, 123.6, 154.4, 169.9, 208.4. FAB-LM m/z : 181 ($\text{M}^+ + \text{H}$). FAB-HM Calcd for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{13}\text{O}_3$, 181.0866; found, 181.0865.

Cycloisomerization of Propiolate 15 (Scheme 6): (3Z)-4-(Cyclobutylidenemethyl)-3-ethylidenedihydrofuran-2(3H)-one (16). Under an argon atmosphere, immediately after treatment of a solution of bis(1,5-cyclooctadiene)- μ, μ' -dichloro dimer (12.4 mg, 25 μmol) in HFIP (3 mL) with silver hexafluoroantimonate (0.25 M in CH_2Cl_2 solution, 0.26 mL, 65 μmol) at room temperature, **15** (44.5 mg, 0.25 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (2 mL) was slowly added for 2 h at 50 °C. After being stirred for 3 h at the same temperature, the reaction mixture was diluted with ether and filtered through a Celite pad. Concentration of the filtrate to dryness and subsequent purification by silica gel column chromatography (hexane/AcOEt = 6:1) gave **16** (24.5 mg, 55%) as a colorless oil. IR (neat) ν cm^{-1} : 1716. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 1.99 (dddd, 2H, $J = 8.0, 8.0, 8.0, 8.0$ Hz), 2.42 (dd, 3H, $J = 7.4, 2.8$ Hz), 2.65–2.73 (m, 4H), 3.60–3.65 (m, 1H), 4.83 (dd, 1H, $J = 8.7, 8.7$ Hz), 4.39 (dd, 1H, $J = 8.7, 8.7$ Hz), 4.93 (m, 1H), 6.13 (qd, 1H, $J = 2.7, 7.3$ Hz). ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 13.8, 16.9, 29.3, 30.9, 40.4, 70.2, 117.7, 128.4, 139.1, 145.5, 170.2. FAB-LM m/z : 179 ($\text{M}^+ + \text{H}$). FAB-HM Calcd for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{15}\text{O}_2$, 179.1060; found, 179.1072.

Acknowledgment. This work was supported by a Grant-in-Aid for Young Scientists (B), MEXT Japan (No. 17790021). A generous donation of HFIP by Central Glass Co., Ltd is gratefully acknowledged.

Supporting Information Available: Physical data of **1**, **3**, **5**, **7**, **10**, **12**, and **15** and stereochemical determination of **7a** and **7c**. $^1\text{H}/^{13}\text{C}$ NMR spectra of new compounds. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

JO060827X