

Ring Size and Substituent Effects in Oxyanion-Promoted Cyclizations of Enyne-allenes: Observation of a Myers-Saito Cycloaromatization at Cryogenic Temperature

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A series of acetoxy-substituted envne-allenes, fused to cyclopentene and cyclohexene ring systems, were synthesized and treated with methyllithium to generate the corresponding enolates. It was found that whereas the cyclohexannulated examples underwent either C²-C⁷ (Myers-Saito) cycloaromatization or C²-C⁶ (Schmittel) cyclization depending on their terminal subsituents, the cyclopentannulated examples either failed to cyclize altogether or underwent C^2-C^7 cyclization. Both of these results lie in contrast to the behavior of their benzannulated analogues, which underwent exclusive C²-C⁶ cyclization independent of substituents. These findings are rationalized on the basis of both ring strain effects and the steric encumbrance of the terminal alkynyl and allenyl subsituents.

Introduction and Background

In previous studies from this laboratory, the benzannulated, acetoxy-substituted enyne-allene 1 was shown to undergo a rapid C²-C⁶ (Schmittel) cyclization to the corresponding indenone 2 (Scheme 1).1 In an effort to understand the outcome of this and related reactions,2 theoretical studies conducted by ourselves³ and Musch and Engels⁴ suggested that the benzannulation of the substrate plays a significant role in biasing the reaction toward the C^2-C^6 rather than the C^2-C^7 (Myers-Saito) cyclization product. In light of these findings, it was decided to replace the benzene ring of 1 with a saturated ring, so the cyclohexenyl (3) and cyclopentenyl (4) analogues of 1

SCHEME 1. C²-C⁷ Cyclization of Oxyanion-Substituted **Enyne-allenes**

were chosen to study the effect of the ring size and saturation on the outcome of the cyclization reaction.

Similar studies on the thermal C²-C⁶ cyclization have been reported by Schmittel et al. in 1997.2f In their studies, it was found that the cyclopentenyl-based substrate 5a cycloaromatized via the C^2-C^7 pathway to form **6a**, whereas the cyclohexenylbased substrate **5b** appeared to cyclize by a C²-C⁶ pathway, though the instability of the reaction product 6b precluded complete characterization (Scheme 2). Schmittel rationalized

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SCHEME 2. Divergent Thermal Cyclizations of Annulated Enyne-allenes⁴

these results on the basis of ring strain, arguing that the strain of a bicyclo[3.3.0]octa-1,7-diene ring system was too great to permit facile C^2-C^6 cyclization, whereas a 1,2-dihydroindene skeleton—the product of C^2-C^7 cyclization—was stable enough to form under the reaction conditions.

Applying this same logic, we sought to investigate whether the cyclopentenyl enyne-allene **4** could be coerced to cycloaromatize via a C^2-C^7 pathway, using a combination of ring strain and elimination of benzylic stabilization of the C^2-C^6 pathway. The cyclohexenyl analogue **3** was included to dissect the effects of ring strain and aromaticity on the reaction outcome.

Results and Discussion

The synthesis of **4** began with the Vilsmier—Haack reaction of cyclopentanone to form vinyl bromide **8**,⁵ followed by oxidation to **9** and conversion to Weinreb amide **10** (Scheme 3). Negishi coupling of **10** with trimethylsilylacetylene led to the formation of acetylenic ketone **11** in 80% yield. Nucleophilic addition of trimethylsilylacetylide to **11** afforded **12** in 80% yield. Reaction of **12** with lithium dimethylcuprate and subse-

quent trapping of the resultant enolate with acetic anhydride resulted in the formation of enol acetate 4.

The lithium enolate was liberated from 4 by use of methyllithium and was allowed to react at various temperatures. In contrast to what was observed in the benzannulated system 1, we were unable to observe any cyclization of 4 and were only able to isolate the enones 13 and 14 (Scheme 4). It was hypothesized that the bulk of the allene and alkyne substitutents sterically prevents cyclization from occurring.

Engels and Schmittel and co-workers^{2g} have reported that the C^2-C^7 transition state is sensitive to steric bulk around C^7 : substitution at the terminal alkyne with a t-Bu or phenyl substituent increases the activation energy of the C^2-C^7 transition state by 6-7 kcal/ mol. It was also observed that a phenyl substituent electronically stabilizes the C^2-C^7 transition state, allowing for the formation of the Myers cyclization products. As a result, we decided to further investigate our model system using phenyl substituents to both electronically stabilize the desired C^2-C^7 transition state and reduce the steric encumbrance of the terminal substituents.

Enyne-allene 17 was synthesized under reaction conditions similar to those outlined in Scheme 3. Weinreb amide 10 underwent nucleophilic addition with phenylacetylide to produce ketone 15 in 94% yield. Sonagashira coupling of 15 with phenylacetylene followed by cuprate addition results in the formation of enyne-allene 17 (Scheme 5). However, after removal of the acetate group no cyclization products were again observed. Subsequent heating of 17 to 50 °C accomplished the formation of the Myers product 18 in 40% yield. Upon examining the structure of 17, it appears that the phenyl group on the allene is forced to twist out of conjugation, thereby making it sterically quite demanding and keeping the steric barrier to cyclization high. In our pursuit of developing a model system that would cyclize under cryogenic conditions, it was decided to make an analogue with a phenyl substituent on the alkyne and a trimethylsilyl substituent on the allene.

SCHEME 3. Preparation of Cyclopentannulated Enyne-allene 4

SCHEME 4. Attempted Cycloaromatization of 4

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Thermal C²-C⁷ Cyclization and Attempted Anionic Cyclization of 17

SCHEME 6. C²-C⁷ Cyclization of Cyclopentannulated Enyne-allene 23

Application of our previous strategy to the synthesis of such a derivative proved problematic, so a modified strategy was employed (Scheme 6). Cross-coupling of aldehyde 8 with phenylacetylene resulted in 20 in 89% yield. Addition of trimethylsilylacetylide to the aldehyde gave the propargyl alcohol 21, which was oxidized to ketone 22 in good yield. Ketone 22 was subjected to cuprate addition to form allene 23. However, 23 quickly decomposes on silica gel and as a result was carried on to the next reaction without purification. Reacting 23 with methyllithium resulted in the formation of the C^2-C^7 cyclization product 24 in 15% yield. When 1,4-cyclohexadiene was added to the reaction, the didehydro product 24 was still the only cyclization product isolated. It thus appears that the combination of cyclopentannulation and the placement of a phenyl group on the alkyne promotes $C^2-C^{\bar{7}}$ cyclization at cryogenic temperature through the combination of ring strain (disfavoring C²-C⁶ cyclization) and relief of steric congestion at the termini (permitting C^2-C^7).

We next turned our focus toward investigating the behavior of the cyclohexannulated enyne-allene model system. We began our synthesis with the literature aldehyde 25, obtained from reaction of cyclohexanone with tribromophosphine and DMF,⁶ which was cross-coupled with trimethylsilylacetylide to obtain 26 in good yield. Aldehyde 26 was reacted with trimethylsilylacetylide to form propargyl alcohol 27 in 87% yield (Scheme 7). Oxidation to the ketone 28 was followed by cuprate addition to afford allene 3 in 80% yield.

Several attempts were made to cyclize 3 by removing the acetate group with methyllithium. Unfortunately, no cyclization products were isolated, only various uncharacterized degradation products. However, when 3 was heated to 50 °C in toluene, it cyclized to the C²-C⁶ product **29** (Scheme 8). This result is in line with the observations made by Wang and co-workers⁷ during the thermolysis of similar enyne-allene systems; they

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⁽⁸⁾ Allene 33b had limited stability when isolated, precluding its analysis by either combustion or HRMS and requiring that it be further reacted within a few hours of its isolation.

SCHEME 7. Preparation of a Cyclohexannulated Enyne-allene

SCHEME 8. Thermal C^2-C^6 Cyclization of Cyclohexannulated Enyne-allene 3

noted that bulky substituents disfavor the formation of C^2-C^7 cyclization products by distorting the alignment of the allene with respect to the alkyne.

To do a direct comparison between the cyclopent- and cyclohexannulated systems, the trimethylsilyl substituents on the alkynes were changed to phenyls to produce six-membered analogues of the allenes 17 and 23. Synthesis of these analogues began with Sonogashira cross-coupling of aldehyde 25 with phenyl acetylene to form 30 in 74% yield (Scheme 9). Nucleophilic addition of either phenyl acetylene or trimethylsilyl acetylene to the aldehyde 30 yielded alcohols 31a,b in 69% and 85% yields, respectively. Both alcohols were readily oxidized to the corresponding ketones 32a,b before being subjected to cuprate addition. Although 32b reacted to form allene 33b in 53% yield, 8 we were unable to form the allene 33a. We hypothesize that this lack of reactivity may be a result of steric repulsion between the two phenyl rings that disfavors rehybridization of the acetylenic ketone to an allene.

Allene **33b** was then subjected to acetate deprotection conditions (Scheme 10). In less than 30 min, cycloaromatization of the resultant oxyanion-substituted allene at -10 °C was complete, giving rise to the C^2-C^7 cyclization product **34** in 93% yield. It is intriguing to note that, contrary to the findings of Schmittel, even the cyclohexannulated derivative **33b** gives

exclusively C^2 – C^7 cyclization under these conditions. Reacting **33b** with methyllithium and a 1:1 mixture of toluene and 1,4-cyclohexadiene resulted in the exclusive formation of cyclization product **34**.

Conclusion

Oxyanion-promoted cyclization of enyne-allenes, like its thermal counterpart, appears to be subject to two distinct factors. First, the size and nature of the ring in which the enyne-allene is embedded plays a critical role in determining whether C²—C⁶ cyclization can take place. In the benzannulated and cyclohexannulated systems, formation of a new fulvene system does not result in a highly strained ring system, as it would in the cyclopentannulated system. However, a further distinction is apparent when the benzannulated and cyclohexannulated systems are compared: in the former case, C²—C⁶ cyclization is facile and occurs at cryogenic temperatures, whereas in the latter case, C²—C⁶ cyclization occurs only under thermal conditions akin to those used by Schmittel in his studies. This distinction can be at least partly attributed to the effects of the

SCHEME 10. Oxyanion-Promoted C²-C⁷ Cycloaromatization of 33b

preexisting aromatic system of the benzannulated examples.³

A second factor affecting the mode of cyclization is the steric bulk of the substituents on the allene and alkyne. In both the cyclopentannulated and cyclohexannulated systems, bis-TMS

SCHEME 9. Variation of Substituents on the Cyclohexannulated Enyne-allene

substitution results in a complete lack of C^2-C^7 cyclization, which has been previously noted to be more sensitive to steric influences than the competing C^2-C^6 cyclization. When the alkynyl substituent is changed from TMS to phenyl, the resulting relief of steric strain in the C^2-C^7 transition state permits C^2-C^7 cyclization to occur at cryogenic temperature. The higher yield and faster reaction in the cyclohexannulated system can possibly be attributed to a lower degree of ring strain encountered in the C^2-C^7 transition state.

Although our results are mostly in agreement with those of Schmittel et al., 2f we note that whereas Schmittel found exclusive C²-C⁶ cyclization for his cyclohexannulated systems, we observe the thermal C²-C⁶ cyclization of the bis-TMS system 3 and the cryogenic C²-C⁷ cyclization of the mixed TMS/ phenyl-substituted enyne-allene 33b. The anomalous C²-C⁷ cyclization of 33b can be explained by the greater steric demand of the TMS substituents used in our study, resulting in the destabilization of the C²-C⁷ pathway. It is also noteworthy that the cyclizations of oxyanion-substituted enyne-allenes in our study occur at far lower temperatures than the analogous cyclizations of neutral enyne-allenes. The presence of the oxyanion presumably lowers the activation energy of both cyclization pathways by resonance stabilization by the oxyanion of the incipient diradicals in the transition states of these cyclizations. The C²-C⁷ cyclization of 33a represents one of the fastest examples of a Myers-Saito cycloaromatization ever reported.9

Experimental Section

2-Bromocyclopent-1-ene-N-methoxy-N-methylcarboxamide (10). To a solution of carboxylic acid 9 (1.55 g, 8.10 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (27 mL) was added (COCl)₂ (1.42 mL, 16.2 mmol), followed by catalytic DMF (50 μ L). The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 1 h, at which time the solution was concentrated in vacuo with minimal exposure to air. The crude acid chloride was redissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (27 mL) and cooled to 0 °C. To this solution was added ClH₂N(OMe)Me (0.87 g, 8.9 mmol), followed by Hunig's base (3.1 mL, 18 mmol). The mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature over 4 h. The reaction mixture was diluted with EtOAc and poured into 0.1 M HCl. The aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc ($3\times$). The combined organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄ and purified by flash chromatography with 30% EtOAc-petroleum ether, affording 10 as a colorless foamy solid (1.6 g, 100% yield): mp = 60-62 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.70 (s, 3H), 2.70 (m, 4H), 2.10 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 136.7, 121.0, 61.7, 40.7, 34.3, 22.7; IR (NaCl, cm⁻¹) 2960, 2928, 2254, 1631, 1387, 1260, 1097, 920, 760; HRMS m/z (EI/CI) expected 233.0051, found 233.0056.

2-Trimethylsilylacetylenylcyclopent-1-ene-*N*-methoxy-*N*-methylcarboxamide (11). To a solution of BuLi (0.90 mL, 2 M in hexanes, 1.8 mmol) in THF (0.9 mL) at -78 °C was added trimethylsilylacetylene (0.30 mL, 2.0 mmol), and the mixture was stirred for 20 min. This mixture was added to a separate round-bottom flask containing dry ZnBr₂ (flame-dried under vacuum, 0.40 g, 1.8 mmol) in THF (0.9 mL) at -10 °C and stirred for 5 min. To this solution was added Weinreb amide 10 (0.19 g, 0.80 mmol) in THF (0.9 mL), followed by Pd(PPh₃)₄ (0.09 g, 0.08 mmol), and the resulting reaction slowly warmed to room temperature over 3 h. The reaction was diluted with EtOAc and poured into saturated, aqueous NH₄Cl. The aqueous phase was separated and extracted with EtOAc (3×). The combined organic layer was dried over Na₂-

SO₄ and purified by flash chromatography with 25% EtOAcpetroleum ether, affording **11** as a pale yellow liquid (0.16 g, 80% yield): ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.80 (s, 3H), 2.70 (t, 2H, J = 5.3 Hz), 2.60 (t, 2H, J = 5.3 Hz), 2.00 (m, 2H), 0.20 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 143.0, 125.1, 101.5, 100.0, 61.4, 37.7, 35.0, 22.8, 0.0; IR (NaCl, cm⁻¹) 2984, 2086, 1741, 1240, 1047, 847, 634; HRMS m/z (El/CI) expected 251.1342, found 251.1344.

1-(2-Trimethylsilylacetylenylcyclopent-1-enyl)-3-trimethylsilylpropyn-1-one (12). To a solution of BuLi as a 1.6 M solution in hexanes (5.8 mL) in THF (8 mL) at -78 °C was added trimethylsilylacetylene (1.60 mL, 11.1 mmol), and the mixture was stirred for 20 min. To this solution was added acetylated amide 11 (0.93 g, 3.7 mmol) in THF (4.3 mL), and the mixture was stirred for 30 min. The reaction was diluted with Et₂O and poured into saturated, aqueous NH₄Cl. The aqueous phase was separated and extracted with Et₂O (3 \times). The combined organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄ and purified by flash chromatography with 5% Et₂Opetroleum ether to give a colorless liquid 12 (0.85 g, 80%(: 1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.80 (m, 4H), 1.9 (m, 2H) 0.27 (s, 9H), 0.25 (s, 9H); 13 C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.9, 145.9, 136.1, 109.1, 102.7, 100.9, 99.8, 40.9, 33.6, 22.3, 0.06, 0.05; IR (NaCl, cm⁻¹) 2985, 2086, 1740, 1373, 1240, 1046, 737; HRMS m/z (EI/CI) expected 288.1366, found 288.1370.

1-(2-Phenylacetylenylcyclopent-1-enyl)-3-phenylbuta-1,2-dienyl Acetate (17). CuI (0.26 g, 1.35 mmol) was suspended in Et₂O (1.0 mL) and cooled to 0 °C. To this suspension was added MeLi (1.7 mL, 1.4 M in Et₂O, 2.4 mmol). The solution was stirred for 5 min and cooled to -78 °C. A solution of ketone 16 (0.20 g, 0.68 mmol) dissolved in Et₂O (1.0 mL) was added dropwise via syringe to the reaction, which immediately turned dark red-orange. Acetic anhydride (0.13 mL) in Et₂O (0.2 mL) was then added dropwise to the reaction, which was allowed to slowly warm to room temperature over 1 h. The reaction was diluted with Et₂O and poured into saturated, aqueous NH₄Cl and extracted with Et₂O ($3\times$). The combined organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄ and purified by flash chromatography with 10% Et₂O-petroleum ether to give 17 as a pale yellow liquid (0.16 g, 67%): ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.3–7.7 (m, 10H), 2.8 (m, 2H), 2.6 (m, 2H), 2.3 (s, 3H), 2.2 (s, 3H), 2.0 (m, 2H); 13 C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 200.4, 169.3, 138.5, 137.9, 135.4, 131.4, 129.1, 128.6, 128.4, 128.3, 128.2, 126.8, 125.4, 123.7, 122.2, 119.7, 112.2, 39.7, 34.2, 21.1, 17.9; IR (NaCl, cm⁻¹) 2956, 2200, 1759, 1491, 1206; HRMS m/z (EI/CI) expected 354.1620, found 354.1623.

1-(2-Phenylacetylenylcyclopent-1-enyl)-3-trimethylsilylpropyn-1-one (22). To a solution of 21 (0.13 g, 0.46 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (4.5 mL) was added activated MnO₂ (0.91 g, 10 mmol) and the mixture was stirred for 12 h. The reaction mixture was filtered over Celite, concentrated under reduced pressure, and purified by flash chromatography with 10% Et₂O-pentane to give 22 as a pale yellow liquid (0.102 g, 77%): ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.4 (m, 2H), 7.2 (m, 3H), 2.75 (m, 4H), 1.8 (q, 2H, J = 7.6 Hz), 0.0 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.9, 146.0, 137.2, 131.8, 129.1, 128.4, 122.8, 102.5, 102.3, 99.9, 85.6, 40.6, 33.0, 21.9, -0.7; IR (NaCl, cm⁻¹) 3123, 2948, 2916, 2852, 2191, 2151, 1599, 1492, 1448, 1401, 1357, 1250; HRMS m/z (EI/CI) expected 292.1283, found 292.1290.

2,3-Dihydro-6-phenyl-5-(1-trimethylsilylvinyl)inden-4-ol (24). To a solution of enyne-allenoate **23** (0.102 g, 0.29 mmol) dissolved in PhCH₃ (1.82 mL) at -10 °C was added MeLi as a 1.6 M solution in Et₂O (0.27 mL) dropwise, and the solution turned deep redorange. The reaction was allowed to stir at -10 °C for 3 h. The reaction was diluted with Et₂O and poured into saturated, aqueous NH₄Cl and extracted with Et₂O (3×). The combined organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄ and purified by flash chromatography with 5% Et₂O-petroleum ether to give **24** as a pale yellow liquid (0.013 g, 15%): 1 H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.4 (s, 5H), 7.0 (s, 1H), 6.0 (s, 1H), 5.3 (s, 1H), 4.7 (s, 1H), 2.8 (m, 2H), 2.5 (m, 2H), 2.1 (m, 2H), 0.2 (s, 9H); 13 C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 151.3, 149.2,

⁽⁹⁾ The cycloaromatization of didehydro[10]annulene is the fastest reported example, occurring spontaneously at -45 °C: Myers, A. G.; Finney, N. S. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1992**, *114*, 10986–10987.

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146.4, 140.8, 139.4, 137.6, 130.6, 128.8, 128.1, 127.2, 119.9, 115.6, 33.2, 29.7, 25.3, 1.6; HRMS *m/z* (EI/CI) expected 308.1596, found 308.1597.

4,5,6,7-Tetrahydro-2-(1-Trimethylsilylvinyl)-1-(trimethylsilylmethylidene)indenyl Acetate (29). A solution of **3** (0.045 g, 0.13 mmol) dissolved in PhCH₃ (0.42 mL) was heated to 50 °C for 3 h. The solvent was removed in vacuo. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography with 10% Et₂O—pentane to give **29** as a red-orange liquid (0.018 g, 40%): 1 H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.1 (s, 1H), 5.7 (m, 2H), 5.6 (m, 2H), 2.5 (m, 2H), 2.3 (s, 3H), 1.7 (m, 4H), 1.4 (m, 2H), 0.3 (s, 9H), 0.1 (s, 9H); 13 C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 198.7, 169.6, 156.2, 147.0, 145.5, 138.7, 138.5, 127.8, 124.8, 24.8, 23.4, 22.4, 21.0, 1.7, 1.0; IR (NaCl, cm $^{-1}$) 2944, 2243, 2132, 1745, 1247, 1211; UV (MeOH, nm) 289; HRMS m/z (EI/CI) expected 360.1941, found 360.1944.

1-(2-Phenylacetylenyl)cyclohex-1-enecarbaldehyde (30). To a reaction flask containing Pd(PPh₃)₄ (0.306 g, 0.264 mmol) and CuI (0.10 g, 0.53 mmol) was added **25** (0.500 g, 2.64 mmol) dissolved in THF (8.8 mL), and the mixture was stirred for 10 min. To this solution, was added phenylacetylene (0.58 mL, 5.3 mmol), followed by NEt₃ (0.92 mL, 6.6 mmol) at 0 °C, and the reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature over 3 h. The reaction was diluted with Et₂O, poured into saturated, aqueous NH₄Cl, and extracted with Et₂O (3×). The combined organic layer was dried

over Na₂SO₄ and purified by flash chromatography with 10% EtOAc—petroleum ether to give **30** as a pale yellow liquid (0.407 g, 74%): 1 H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 10.3 (s, 1H), 7.4 (m, 2H), 7.3 (m, 3H), 2.5 (m, 2H), 2.3 (m, 2H), 1.7 (m, 4H); 13 C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 192.9, 142.6, 140.1, 131.7, 129.1, 128.5, 122.4, 98.7, 86.3, 32.4, 22.1, 21.9, 21.1; IR (NaCl, cm⁻¹) 2944, 2865, 2248, 2200, 1769, 1669, 1603, 1490; HRMS m/z (EI/CI) expected 210.1045, found 210.1047.

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Supporting Information Available: Experimental procedures and tabulated spectroscopic data for 3, 4, 9, 13, 14–21, 26–28, 31a,b, 32a,b, 33b, and 34; ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra of compounds 3, 4, 9–22, 24, 26–30, 31a,b, 32a,b, 33b, and 34; and NOESY spectrum of compound 29. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

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