Article

A Highly Regio- and Stereoselective Formation of Bicyclo[4.2.0]oct-5-ene Derivatives through Thermal Intramolecular [2 + 2] Cycloaddition of Allenes

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Thermal [2 + 2] cycloaddition of allenes with an additional multiple bond is described. By simply heating the allenenes or allenynes having a three-atom tether in an appropriate solvent such as dioxane or DMF, the distal double bond of the allenic moiety regioselectively participates in the cycloaddition to form bicyclo[4.2.0]oct-5-ene derivatives in good to excellent yields. In all the reactions of allenenes, the olefin geometry was completely transferred to the cycloadducts. While the reaction of terminal allenes afforded bicyclic cyclobutane derivatives as a single isomer, the cycloaddition of some internal allenes with axial chirality yielded a diastereomeric mixture of cycloadducts. These results are in good accordance with the stepwise mechanism through a biradical intermediate with a coplanar allyl radical.

Introduction

The design and discovery of reactions with high atom economy that proceed, ideally, in the absence of any reagents or catalysts, without forming any waste are critical to extending the practical reach of organic synthesis.¹ Particularly, atomeconomical reactions involving formation of two or more carbon–carbon bonds with a great increase in complexity of the molecule are attractive to achieve this goal. Thermal cycloaddition between carbon–carbon multiple bonds is one powerful approach to construct various cyclic molecules with extremely high atom economy.

During the past decades, allene chemistry has been revealed as an established member of the weaponry utilized in modern synthetic chemistry. On account of the current interest in the reactions of allenes with an additional multiple bond including transition metal-catalyzed carbocyclizations,^{2,3} considerable research efforts have been focused on the development of cycloaddition of allenes. Intermolecular [2 + 2] cycloaddition reaction of allenes is well documented and constitutes an efficient method for accessing strained cyclobutane rings with one extra carbon–carbon double bond for further elaboration.^{4,5} Meanwhile, the intramolecular [2 + 2] version of this cycloaddition is an extremely attractive approach to bicyclic derivatives

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SCHEME 1. Intramolecular [2 + 2] Cycloaddition of Allenenes



fused with a strained cyclobutane ring (Scheme 1).⁶ However, intramolecular cycloaddition, including the reaction of bisallenes,^{7,8} always encounters regioselectivity problems: formation of proximal and distal adducts.⁹ In 1965, Skattebøl and Solomon observed unselective formation of a distal adduct of the type **3** as well as a proximal adduct in the vapor-phase thermal cycloaddition of octa-1,2,7-triene at 410 °C.¹⁰ Recently, highly regioselective preparations of distal adducts under thermal conditions were reported; however, these reactions were limited to a special class of allenes as substrates, such as allene carboxylates,¹¹ allenyl sulfones,¹² difluoroallenes,¹³ β -lactam-¹⁴ or aryl-tethered allenes,¹⁵ or diyne-diallenes.¹⁶

As a part of our ongoing program aimed at development of novel useful methodologies for construction of nitrogencontaining heterocycles from allenic compounds,^{3,17,18} we recently reported a palladium-catalyzed tandem cyclization of

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SCHEME 2. Palladium(0)-Catalyzed Tandem Cyclization of Allenenes



SCHEME 3. Formation of Distal Adduct 11^a



^{*a*} Abbreviation: Mts = 2,4,6-trimethylphenylsulfonyl.

allenenes 4 in the presence of an aryl halide and potassium carbonate to yield tricyclic products 7, through insertion of arylpalladium halide to allene, carbopalladation onto the double bond, and aromatic C-H functionalization (Scheme 2).¹⁹ In the course of this study, we observed regioselective formation of distal adducts 11 in the reaction mixture of the palladiumcatalyzed cyclization of allenene 8 with 5-bromopyrimidine 9 possessing relatively low reactivity (Scheme 3). On the basis of this result, we found that this cycloaddition proceeds by simply heating the allenenes in an appropriate solvent in the absence of any catalyst.²⁰ Quite recently, microwave-assisted²¹ or palladium-catalyzed [2 + 2] cycloaddition of allenynes²² providing distal adducts regioselectively have appeared; however, our cycloaddition is the sole example of exclusive conversion of unactivated simple allenes to distal adducts under thermal conditions. In this contribution, we present full details

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of our investigation into the thermal intramolecular [2 + 2] cycloaddition of allenenes and allenynes. The stereochemical outcome of axially chiral allenenes as well as mechanistic considerations of this transformation are also described.

Results and Discussion

Preparation of Allenenes. Known allenene **8** was synthesized according to our reported procedure through cinnamylation of protected amino allene **12**,^{19b} which, in turn, was readily obtained through diethylzinc-mediated allene synthesis catalyzed by palladium(0) (Scheme 4).²³ Other L-valine-derivatives **13a**–**c** having a substituted phenyl group were similarly prepared by the reaction of **12** with a substituted (*E*)-cinnamyl bromide under basic conditions. The trimethylphenylsulfonyl (Mts) group was used as a nitrogen protecting group because it can withstand a wide range of chemical manipulations and yet be removed by the use of Yajima's protocol.²⁴ In addition, many Mts amides forming good crystals can be easily handled.

α-Unsubstituted allene **18** was prepared as shown in Scheme 5. Alkylation of protected 2-aminoethanol **14**, oxidation with SO₃•pyridine, and Wittig olefination with brominated ylide²⁵ afforded α-bromo-α,β-unsaturated ester **16**. Reduction of **16** with DIBAL-H and mesylation of the resulting alcohol **17** followed by treatment with diethylzinc in the presence of palladium(0)²³ furnished the desired allenene **18** in good yield. Allenene **20** tethered by an oxygen atom was prepared by copper(I)-mediated one-carbon elongation of terminal alkyne **19** with paraformaldehyde in the presence of *i*-Pr₂NH (Crabbé conditions).²⁶ Treatment of known allene **21**²⁷ with NaH and (*E*)-cinnamyl bromide gave dimethyl malonate-derived allenene **22** in 91% yield.

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^{*a*} Reagents: (a) NaH, (*E*)-cinnamyl bromide, DMF; (b) SO₃·py, Et₃N, DMSO; (c) Ph₃P=C(Br)CO₂Me, CHCl₃; (d) DIBAL-H, CH₂Cl₂; (e) MsCl, Et₃N, THF; (f) cat. Pd(PPh₃)₄, Et₂Zn, THF; (g) (HCHO)_{*n*}, CuBr, *i*-Pr₂NH, dioxane.

SCHEME 6. Preparation of Allenene 29^a



^{*a*} Reagents: (a) MtsCl, Et₃N, DMF; (b) (*E*)-cinnamyl bromide, NaH, DMF; (c) LiAlH₄, THF; (d) SO₃•py, Et₃N, DMSO; (e) Ph₃P=C(Br)CO₂Me, CHCl₃; (f) DIBAL-H, CH₂Cl₂; (g) MsCl, Et₃N, THF; (h) cat. Pd(PPh₃)₄, Et₂Zn, THF.

For preparation of alanine-derived substrate **29**, N-cinnamylated methyl alaninate derivative **25** was employed (Scheme 6):²⁸ by a sequence of reactions including Wittig olefination and reductive allene formation, the ester **25** was converted to allenene **29**.

We encountered difficulty in preparation of α, α -dimethylated allene derivative **34**: thus, the desired brominated enoate **31** was not obtained by Wittig olefination of aldehyde derived from N-protected 2-amino-2-metylpropan-1-ol **30** with brominated phosphorus ylide, presumably due to steric hindrance of the neighboring quaternary carbon center (Scheme 7). However, the reaction with *in situ*-generated brominated phosphonate, (EtO)₂P(O)CH(Br)CO₂Et, afforded **31** in synthetically acceptable yield (49%). The usual transformation through reduction, allene formation, and alkylation yielded **34** having a quaternary carbon center.

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⁽²⁸⁾ For a reason that is unclear, preparation of 23-derived aldehyde having an NH group by oxidation of the corresponding alcohol was not reproductive.

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^{*a*} Reagents: (a) SO₃·py, Et₃N, DMSO; (b) (EtO)₂P(O)CH₂CO₂Et, NaH, Br₂, THF; (c) DIBAL-H, CH₂Cl₂; (d) MsCl, Et₃N, THF; (e) cat. Pd(PPh₃)₄, Et₂Zn, THF; (f) NaH, (*E*)-cinnamyl bromide, DMF.

SCHEME 8. Preparation of Allenenes 36 and 37^a



^{*a*} Reagents: (a) BrCH₂CH₂OTHP, K₂CO₃, DMF; (b) 4 N HCl, MeOH; (c) SO₃·py, Et₃N, DMSO; (d) Ph₃P=C(R)CO₂Me, THF; (e) Ph₃P=CHCN, THF.

SCHEME 9. Preparation of Allenene 40 and 44^a



^{*a*} Reagents: (a) 3-bromopropyne, NaH, DMF; (b) $(HCHO)_n$, CuBr, *i*-Pr₂NH, dioxane; (c) TFA, CH₂Cl₂; (d) (*E*)-cinnamoyl chloride, NaH, DMF.

Next, various allenenes bearing substituents on the double bond other than the phenyl group were synthesized. Alkylation of the protected amino allene **12** with BrCH₂CH₂OTHP and treatment with HCl gave allenol **35** in 87% yield (Scheme 8). Oxidation with SO₃•pyridine and subsequent Wittig reaction gave (*E*)-enoate **36a** and α -methylated derivative **36b**. In contrast, unselective formation of (*E*)- and (*Z*)-nitriles **37** was observed in the reaction with cyanated phosphonium ylide.

Cinnamide-derived allenes **40** and **44** were readily synthesized as shown in Scheme 9. Propargylation of *N*-methyl cinnamide **38**²⁹ followed by Crabbé reaction of the resulting amide **39** yielded **40**. Similarly, a sequence of reactions through Crabbé reaction of **41**,³⁰ removal of the Boc group with TFA, and acylation with cinnamoyl chloride afforded **44** in good yield.





^{*a*} Reagents: (a) NaH, (*E*)-cinnamyl bromide, DMF; (b) SO₃·py, Et₃N, DMSO; (c) trimethylsilylacetylene, *n*-BuLi, THF; (d) MeONa, MeOH; (e) prop-1-ynylmagnesium bromide, THF; (f) MsCl, Et₃N, THF; (g) MeMgBr, CuBr, THF.

Finally, we synthesized allenenes having various substituent-(s) on the allenic moiety as shown in Scheme 10. Cinnamylation of known protected amino allene 45^{17b} gave 46 having a methyl group on the proximal allenic carbon. Alkynylation of 30derived aldehyde, mesylation of the resulting propargylic alcohols 47a and 47b, and methylcopper-mediated S_N2' substitution gave internal allenes 48a and 48b, which were readily transformed to the corresponding allenenes 49a and 49b. Similarly, known protected amino allene 50^{31} was converted to 51. In order to examine the stereochemical course of the [2 + 2] cycloaddition of allenes with axial chirality, diastereomerically pure allenenes, (*S*,*aS*)-53a and (*S*,*aR*)-53b, were prepared from known allenes 52a and 52b, respectively, which were stereospecifically obtained by organocopper-mediated ringopening reaction of chiral ethynylaziridines.³¹

Preparation of Allenynes. Next, we prepared various allenynes as shown in Scheme 11. Alkylation of **12** with NaH and 3-phenylpropargyl halide gave allenynes **54a** and **54b** in good yields (87–94%). Similarly, *N*-tosyl derivative **57a** was prepared starting from known *N*-Boc amino allene **55**.^{3b} Synthesis of allenynes **57b** and **57c** with a substituent on the phenyl group by direct alkylation of **56** was inefficient, because of the relatively low stability of 3-phenylpropargyl bromides having a substituent on the phenyl group.³² However, stepwise

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^{*a*} Reagents: (a) 3-phenylpropargyl bromide, NaH, DMF; (b) 3-(4methylphenyl)propargyl iodide, NaH, DMF; (c) TFA, CH₂Cl₂; (d) TsCl, Et₃N, CH₂Cl₂; (e) propargyl bromide, NaH, DMF; (f) 4-RPhI, PdCl₂(PPh₃)₂, CuI, *i*-Pr₂NH, THF.

reaction including propargylation of **56** and Sonogashira crosscoupling of **58** with 1-iodo-4-methoxybenzene or methyl 4-iodobenzoate afforded **57b** and **57c**, respectively.

L-Phenylalanine- and isoleucine-derived allenynes **60a** and **60b**, and α -unsubstituted allene derivative **66**, were similarly obtained as shown in Scheme 12. In a similar manner to the preparation of alanine-derived allenene **29** (Scheme 6), allenyne **60c** was synthesized through *N*-(3-phenylpropargyl)alaninate derivative **61**. α -Unsubstituted allenene **66** was prepared by condensation of known protected amino allene **65**²³ with 3-phenylpropargyl alcohol.

[2 + 2] Cycloaddition of Allenenes. On the basis of the result shown in Scheme 3 in which the [2 + 2] cycloadduct 11 was obtained in 43% yield under the palladium-catalyzed cyclization conditions using aryl halide and potassium carbonate, we began our investigations by screening a variety of conditions to find the optimal procedure for the cycloaddition to occur. The results in Table 1 showed that addition of aryl halide, palladium catalyst, or potassium carbonate is not essential for this transformation: these reagents, especially the palladium catalyst, did decrease the yield of 11a rather than promote the cycloaddition (entries 1-3). Thermal cycloaddition in dioxane in the absence of any reagent or catalyst proceeded quite well to give the desired bicyclic cyclobutane 11a in 89% yield (entry 4). It should be noted that addition of galvinoxyl to the reaction of (E)-8 did not affect the cycloaddition.³³ This is the first example of exclusive conversion of unactivated simple allenes to distal adducts under thermal conditions without using microwave irradiation.21,34

Next, the thermal [2 + 2] cycloaddition of allenene **8** under various reaction conditions was examined (Table 2). As well as dioxane (entry 1), solvents with high boiling points such as xylenes (entry 2), DMF (entries 4 and 5), NMP (entry 6), and

SCHEME 12. Preparation of Allenynes 60 and 66^a



^{*a*} Reagents: (a) 3-phenylpropargyl bromide, NaH, DMF; (b) LiAlH₄, THF; (c) SO_3 ·py, Et₃N, DMSO; (d) Ph₃P=C(Br)CO₂Me, CHCl₃; (e) DIBAL-H, CH₂Cl₂; (f) MsCl, Et₃N, THF; (g) cat. Pd(PPh₃)₄, Et₂Zn, THF; (h) 3-phenylpropargyl alcohol, PPh₃, DIAD, THF.

 TABLE 1. Effect of Additive and a Palladium Catalyst^a



^{*a*} Addition of galvinoxyl did not affect the cycloaddition. ^{*b*} The required time for complete consumption of all the starting material on TLC.

TABLE 2. Effect of Solvent and Reaction Temperature



DMI (entry 7) can be similarly used for this transformation. Among them, dioxane and DMF were the solvents of choice leading to 3-azabicyclo[4.2.0]oct-5-ene derivative **11a** in 89%

⁽³²⁾ Mitsunobu condensation with the corresponding alcohols required higher reaction temperature, which makes control of the selective alkylation (without causing [2 + 2] cycloaddition) difficult.

⁽³³⁾ However, these result does not conflict with the biradical mechanism depicted in Schemes 14 and 15, because intramolecular coupling or biradicals such as **94** and **101** to the corresponding cyclobutanes would be extremely fast.

SCHEME 13. Synthesis and NOE Analysis of Saturated Derivatives 68 and 69



and 96% yields, respectively, as the sole isolable isomer (entries 1 and 4). As we expected, the reaction of (*Z*)-8 exclusively furnished cycloadduct **67** with the opposite configuration to **11a** at the 8-position. These stereochemical outcomes with complete selectivity are in good accordance with the observation using allenyl sulfones.^{12b-d}

The structure and configuration of the cycloadducts 11a and 67 were confirmed by COSY and NOESY analyses of the corresponding saturated derivatives 68 and 69. Results of the NOE experiment are summarized in Scheme 13.35 We observed NOE between 4-H and the methylene proton at C-5 in 68, which was assigned as H_B. NOE between H_A and another methylene proton allowed assignment of H_E. Finally, NOE between H_E and 8-H revealed that the phenyl group at C-8 directs the opposite side to the isopropyl group at C-4. On the other hand, NOE was observed between the methyne proton of the isopropyl group and one of the methylene protons at C-2, which was assigned as H_C. We confirmed the configuration at the 1-position by NOE between H_D and 1-H. Similarly, NOE experiment of 69 was consistent with the relative configuration shown in Scheme 13. Furthermore, the structure determination of 68 and 69 was unequivocally made by HMQC analysis.

Next, we investigated the thermal [2 + 2] cycloaddition of allenes having a cinnamyl group (Table 3). Although we already confirmed that the reaction in dioxane under reflux was rather slow (Table 2), we first performed the cycloaddition of allenenes 8 and 13a-c in dioxane for a careful examination of the substituent effect on the aryl group. While the reaction of 13a having a methoxy group was slow (60 h) to give 11b in 44% yield, this cycloaddition was strongly promoted by the presence of an electron-withdrawing group such as a nitro or cyano group to afford 11c (entry 3) and 11d (entry 4) in 10-20 h. As can be expected, the reaction of 8 and 13a-c in DMF at 150 °C completed in 1-3 h to afford the desired products 11a-d in good yields (71-96%, entries 5-8). More important than the effect of the electron-donating and -withdrawing aryl group is the α -substituent of the allene: the reaction of α -unsubstituted allene derivative 18 required prolonged reaction time (19 h) even at the refluxed temperature in DMF (entry 9). Similarly,

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TABLE 3. [2 + 2] Cycloaddition of Various Allenenes

entry	substrate	conditions	time (h)	product y	ield (%)
M	Its-N			Mts ^{-N}	
1 2 3 4	8: R = H 13a: R = OMe 13b: R = NO ₂ 13c: R = CN	dioxane, reflux	65 60 10 20	11a: R = H 11b: R = OMe 11c: R = NO ₂ 11d: R = CN	8 89 44 87 92
5 6 7 8	8: R = H 13a: R = OMe 13b: R = NO ₂ 13c: R = CN	DMF, 150 °C	3 3 1 2	11a: R = H 11b: R = OMe 11c: R = NO ₂ 11d: R = CN	96 71 93 86
9	Mts-N_Ph 18	DMF, reflux	19	Mts ^{-N} , Ph (±)- 70	68
10	0 Ph 20	DMF, reflux	30	0 <u><u><u></u></u> <u>H</u> <u>(t)</u>-71</u>	40
11	MeO ₂ C MeO ₂ C Ph 22	DMF, reflux	30	MeO ₂ C MeO ₂ C (±)-72	69
12 13	Mts-N_Ph 29	DMF, 150 °C DMF, reflux	15 6	Mts ^{-N} H 73 (ca. 5:2)	67 84
14	Ts-N_Ph 34	DMF, 150 °C	1	Ts ^{-N} H (±)-74	91

allenenes **20** and **22** tethered by an oxygen or a carbon atom, respectively, required 30 h to complete the reaction giving 3-oxabicyclo[4.2.0]oct-5-ene derivative **71** and its carbocycle analogue **72** both in a stereospecific manner (entries 10 and 11). It should be clearly noted that alanine-derived allenene **29** having an α -methyl group cyclized into **73** as a diastereomixture (*ca.* 5:2; entries 12 and 13). As expected, α, α -disubstituted derivative **34** showed extremely high reactivity to give **74** bearing a quaternary carbon center in 91% yield within 1 h (entry 14).

Next, intramolecular [2 + 2] cycloaddition of allenes with various types of double bond was examined. The results are summarized in Table 4. The reaction of allenee **75** with a geminal dimethyl group on the olefinic carbon atom was a good substrate for this transformation, although the reaction was relatively slow (entry 1). In contrast, N-allylated amino allene derivative **77** was completely inert under the cycloaddition conditions, leading to recovery of unchanged starting material (entry 2). These results are comparable to Padwa's observation,^{12c} in which a tertiary radical intermediate promotes the [2 + 2] cycloaddition of sulfonyl allenes (45 min) better than the cyclization via a primary radical intermediate (22 h). In this case, a sulfonyl group on the allenic carbon did stabilize the allyl radical intermediate for cycloaddition to occur.

Allene **36a** having an α,β -unsaturated ester group showed sufficient reactivity to give the cycloadduct **79** in 73–76% yield (entries 3 and 4). Similarly, the reaction of α -methylated enoate

⁽³⁴⁾ Formation of the same framework (3-azabicyclo[4.2.0]oct-5-ene) via intermolecular [2 + 2] cycloaddition of in situ-generated cyclic amino allenes with styrene was reported: Christl, M.; Braun, M.; Wolz, E.; Wagner, W. *Chem. Ber.* **1994**, *127*, 1137–1142.

⁽³⁵⁾ In order to determine the relative configuration between C-4 and C-1 (or C-4 and C-8), transformation of **11a** and **67** to the corresponding saturated analogues **68** and **69** was desirable. We could unambiguously confirm the relative configuration of **68** and **69** by NOEs including that of the introduced hydrogens at C-5 and C-6. For more details, see the Supporting Information

entry	substrate	conditions	time (h)	product yi	eld (%)
1	Mts-N 75	DMF, reflux	24	Mts N H	82
2	Mts-N 77	DMF, 150 °C	15	Mts ^{-N} 78	0
3 4	Mts-N_CO ₂ Me	dioxane, reflux DMF, 150 °C	65 2	Mts ^{-N} , CO ₂ Me 79	76 73
5 6	Mts-N 36b	dioxane, reflux DMF, 150 °C	20 1	Mts ^{-N} 80	93 87
7	Mts-NCN (E)-37	DMF, 150 °C	3	Mts ^N 81	78
8	Mts-N (Z)-37 CN	DMF, 150 °C	2	Mts ^{-N} 82	75
9	-N O 40	DMF, reflux	18	N O (±)-83	43
10	Ts-N O 44	DMF, reflux	15	Ts ^{-N} O (±)-84	31

 TABLE 4. [2 + 2] Cycloaddition of Allenes with Various Double

 Bonds

derivative **36b** gave bicyclic ester **80** with a chiral quaternary carbon (entries 5 and 6). As well as the reaction of the allenes (E)- and (Z)-8 having a cinnamyl group on the nitrogen atom (Table 2), the cycloaddition of (*E*)- and (*Z*)- α , β -unsaturated nitriles (E)-37 and (Z)-37 proceeded stereospecifically to afford isomeric bicyclic nitriles, 81 and 82 (entries 7 and 8). Compared to allenenes 36 and 37 having an electron-withdrawing group on the terminal olefinic carbon, cinnamide-derived allenes 40 and 44 gave relatively low yields of the cycloadducts 83 and 84 after prolonged reaction times (entries 9 and 10). Although the exact reason is unclear, this marked difference of reactivities can be attributed to the electronic character of the olefinic moiety, in addition to the effect of an α -substituent. Since the phenyl-stabilized radical generated on the olefinic moiety (vide infra) would have a similar reactivity to other related substrates having a cinnamyl group (Table 3), the cinnamide derivatives 40 and 44 would have low reactivity on the first cyclization. This hypothesis is partially supported by the fact that radical reaction of cinnamide derivatives generally proceeds at the β -position to give the radical intermediates stabilized by the carbonyl group.³⁶ Additionally, we could not rule out the first cyclization at the β -position of the cinnamide forming an eight-



membered ring biradical intermediate, followed by the second cyclization.^{12c,14b}

Finally, [2 + 2] cycloaddition of allenenes bearing substituent(s) on the allenic moiety was investigated (Table 5). Monosubstitution at the proximal allenic carbon (entry 1) and distal carbon (entry 2) has proven to be tolerated and the expected products **85** and **86** were obtained in high yields (90–94%). On the other hand, decreased reactivity toward the cycloaddition was observed with allenenes **49b** and **51** bearing a geminal dimethyl group at the terminal position, leading to cycloadducts **87** (63%) and **88** (46%; 3:1 mixture of diastereomers) in longer reaction time at 150 °C (entries 3 and 4). Quite interestingly, the reaction of internal (*S*,a*S*)-allene **53a** showed lower reactivity to produce bicyclic cyclobutane **89** as the major product in 65% yield (entry 5), in which the chirality of the allenic moiety is not preserved. In this case, the corresponding

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FIGURE 1. Determination of relative configuration of the adducts 89 and 90 by NOE analyses.

SCHEME 14. Stereoselective Formation of 96 as the Single Isomer



diastereomer **90** was also isolated in 23% yield. In sharp contrast, the reaction of the (S,aR)-isomer **53b** completed in 3 h to give **89** having the same configuration as the starting allenes. Thus, cycloadduct **89** was obtained as the favored product in both cases. These stereochemical outcomes strongly support the formation of biradical intermediates having a coplanar allyl radical moiety (*vide infra*). Assignment of the relative configuration of these adducts was readily made by NOE analysis shown in Figure 1.

Mechanism and Stereoselectivity of the Cycloaddition. Although the [2 + 2] thermal reactions of allenes are usually assumed to proceed via two steps including the participation of a biradical intermediate, 37,10,12,14b a $\pi_{2a} + \pi_{2s}$ concerted process via antarafacial-suprafacial orbital interaction cannot be ruled out.³⁸ While the concerted process would result in a stereospecific cyclization, a stepwise reaction can also give cycloaddition products stereoselectively preserving the olefin geometry when the second cyclization process is more rapid than the bond rotation.12b-d Because the known cycloaddition reaction of allenenes proceeds in a stereospecific manner in many cases, it has not been unequivocally established from the aspect of product distribution of the cycloaddition whether the reactions are concerted or stepwise.¹² In contrast, our present study, including a novel finding on the stereospecificity of the alkene geometry and stereomutation of the allenic axial chirality, strongly supports the biradical mechanism.

First, stereoselective formation of the cycloadducts **96** from terminal allenes **91** is shown in Scheme 14. Among the two conformations **92** and **93** of the first cyclization, the latter would

SCHEME 15. Stereoselectivity on the Reaction of Internal Allenes 53



be destabilized by unfavorable steric interaction between methylene protons of the terminal allenic carbon and the R' group at the olefin terminal. Accordingly, the first cyclization preferentially occurred through 92 to give a biradical intermediate 94. Since the geometry of the olefin is completely preserved to yield the cycloadduct 96 without formation of 97 in all cases examined, the second cyclization would involve a rapid ringclosure before the bond rotation can occur. The fact that diastereomer 98 derived from relatively unstable conformer 93 was not detected from terminal allenes suggests that the energy difference between the two conformers 92 and 93 is significant in the case of terminal allenes.

Stereoselectivity of the cycloaddition of internal allenes **53a** including partial stereomutation (Table 5, entry 5) can be rationalized as follows (Scheme 15): the first cyclization of the more abundant conformer **99** would give biradical intermediate **101**, in which the allyl radical moiety will have a coplanar structure by rotation of the terminal allenic bond.³⁹ At this stage, the butyl group directs the same side as the vinyl proton, avoiding the steric crowding, and information of the allenic axial chirality will be completely lost. The second cyclization would proceed through the conformation **103** to minimize the unfavorable steric interaction between the butyl and phenyl groups, giving rise to cyclobutane **89** as the major

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product. In contrast to the terminal allenes 91, the presence of a butyl group of (S,aS)-internal allene 53a would partially destabilize the favorable conformer 99 of the first cyclization. Accordingly, both the prolonged reaction time required for the reaction of 53a (15 h) and formation of the minor cycloadduct 90 through a relatively unfavorable conformer 100 are understandable. The lower reactivity of allenene 51 having a dimethyl group on the terminal allenic carbon as well as formation of cycloadduct 88 as a diastereomixture from this allenene (Table 5, entry 4) can be explained by the same reason. On the other hand, the (S,aR)-substrate 53b exclusively gave cycloadduct 89 as the single isomer within 3 h (Table 5, entry 6). This result can be attributed to the predominance of the conformer 105 (Scheme 15) on the first cyclization, in which the butyl group directs the opposite side of the reacting alkene and would not destabilize this conformer.

[2 + 2] Cycloaddition of Allenynes. Finally, the thermal cycloaddition of allenynes was investigated (Table 6). In contrast to the cycloaddition of allenenes 8 which required 65 h in refluxed dioxane (Table 3, entry 1), the reaction of allenyne 54a completed within 2 h under the identical reaction conditions to give cyclobutene derivative 106a in 92% yield (entry 1). Similarly, cycloaddition of 54b bearing a methyl substituent on the benzene ring afforded the corresponding cyclobutene derivative 106b (entry 2). Next, the effect of electron-donating and -withdrawing substituents on the aryl group was investigated

using N-tosylated analogues 57a-c (entries 3–5). In all cases, the desired cycloadducts 107a-c were obtained in 61–70% yield in 2–3 h. These results show that the effect of aryl substituents on the reactivity is not dramatic. Likewise as in the reaction of allenenes, the α -substituent of the allene has proven to be significantly important (entries 6–9): the reaction of allenynes **60a** and **60c** bearing a smaller substituent (benzyl and methyl group, respectively) at the α -position required longer reaction time (8 and 54 h, respectively). It should be clearly noted that the cycloaddition of α -unsubstituted allene derivative **66** required several days for completion of the reaction.

The relatively high reactivity of allenynes over allenenes is consistent with the observation of Pasto et al. on intermolecular [2 + 2] cycloaddition of allenes with a multiple bond.⁴⁰ They claimed that the difference of the reactivity comes from the relative changes in the heats of formation on going from the reactants to the intermediate biradicals and on to the products, because heat of formation of acetylene is considerably higher compared to that of ethene.

Conclusion

In conclusion, we have developed thermal [2 + 2] cycloaddition of allenenes or allenynes leading to bicyclo[4.2.0]octane derivatives in good to excellent yields. Interestingly, the reaction of terminal allenes afforded bicyclic cyclobutane derivatives in a highly stereoselective manner, while the cycloaddition of some internal allenes yielded a diastereomeric mixture of cycloadducts. Furthermore, the olefin geometry was completely transferred to the cycloadducts in all cases. These stereochemical outcomes can be rationalized by considering the formation of biradical intermediates with the allyl radical moiety having a coplanar structure. This study first demonstrated that the distal double bond of unactivated simple allenes can regioselectively undergo intramolecular [2 + 2] cycloaddition with an appropriately substituted multiple bond. This simple and environmentally benign process would extend the potential application of fused bicyclic cyclobutane derivatives in synthetic and medicinal chemistry.

Experimental Section

N-(2-Hydroxyethyl)-2,4,6-trimethyl-N-[(E)-3-phenylprop-2enyl]phenylsulfonamide (15). To a mixture of 14 (3.00 g, 12.3 mmol) and K₂CO₃ (3.41 g, 24.7 mmol) in DMF (15 mL) was added (E)-cinnamyl bromide (2.92 g, 14.8 mmol), and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 15 h. The mixture was partitioned between EtOAc and water. The organic layer was separated, washed with water and brine, dried over MgSO₄, and evaporated in vacuo. The residue was chromatographed on silica gel eluting with n-hexane-EtOAc (20:1 to 1:1) to give 15 (2.82 g, 64%): colorless oil; IR (KBr) cm⁻¹ 3521 (OH), 1313 (SO₂N), 1149 (SO₂N); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.10 (br, 1H, OH), 2.29 (s, 3H, CMe), 2.64 (s, 6H, 2 × CMe), 3.40 (t, J = 5.6 Hz, 2H, 1-CH₂), 3.72 (dt, J = 5.6, 5.0 Hz, 2H, 2-CH₂), 4.00 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H, 1'-CH₂), 6.00 (dt, J = 16.2, 6.9 Hz, 1H, 2'-H), 6.46 (d, J = 16.2 Hz, 1H, 3'-H), 6.96 (s, 2H, Ar), 7.23-7.30 (m, 5H, Ar); ¹³C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 20.9, 22.9 (2C), 48.0, 49.3, 60.2, 123.8, 126.4 (2C), 128.0, 128.5 (2C), 132.1 (2C), 132.6, 134.3, 136.0, 140.2 (2C), 142.8; MS (FAB) *m/z* (%) 360 (MH⁺, 30), 117 (100); HRMS (FAB) calcd for C₂₀H₂₆NO₃S (MH⁺) 360.1633; found 360.1628.

General Procedure for Oxidation and Wittig Olefination of Alcohols: Synthesis of N-[(Z)-3-Bromo-3-methoxycarbonylprop-2-enyl]-2,4,6-trimethyl-N-[(E)-3-phenylprop-2-enyl]phenylsulfonamide (16). To a solution of 15 (2.30 g, 6.40 mmol) and Et₃N (4.46 mL, 32.0 mmol) in DMSO (12 mL) was added SO₃·Py (2.04 g, 12.8 mmol), and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h. The mixture was partitioned between EtOAc and water. The organic layer was separated, washed with 1 N HCl, water, saturated NaHCO₃, and brine, dried over MgSO₄, and evaporated in vacuo to give aldehyde as a yellow oil. To a solution of the aldehyde in CHCl₃ (50 mL) was added Ph₃P=C(Br)CO₂Me (3.16 g, 7.65 mmol), and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 15 h. After evaporation of solvent, the residue was chromatographed on silica gel eluting with *n*-hexane–EtOAc (20:1 to 5:1) to give **16** (1.47 g, 47%): pale yellow oil; IR (KBr) cm⁻¹ 1732 (CO₂Me), 1321 (SO₂N), 1263 (CO₂Me), 1153 (SO₂N); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.30 (s, 3H, CMe), 2.64 (s, 6H, 2 × CMe), 3.77 (s, 3H, OMe), 3.92 (d, J = 6.2 Hz, 2H, 1'-CH₂), 4.08 (d, J =6.2 Hz, 2H, 1-CH₂), 6.00 (dt, J = 16.2, 6.2 Hz, 1H, 2'-H), 6.47 (d, J = 16.2 Hz, 1H, 3'-H), 6.97 (s, 2H, Ar), 7.23-7.33 (m, 6H, 2-H and Ar); ¹³C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 20.9, 22.8 (2C), 47.1, 49.4, 53.4, 117.4, 123.0, 126.5 (2C), 128.0, 128.5 (2C), 132.1 (2C), 132.2, 135.2, 136.0, 140.3 (2C), 141.3, 143.0, 162.0; MS (FAB) m/z (%) 494 (MH⁺, ⁸¹Br, 15), 492 (MH⁺, ⁷⁹Br, 19), 117 (100); HRMS (FAB) calcd for C₂₃H₂₇BrNO₄S (MH⁺, ⁷⁹Br) 492.0844; found 492.0816.

General Procedure for Reduction of α,β -Unsaturated Esters with DIBAL-H: Synthesis of N-[(Z)-3-Bromo-4-hydroxybut-2enyl]-2,4,6-trimethyl-N-[(E)-3-phenylprop-2-enyl]phenylsulfonamide (17). To a solution of 16 (1.25 g, 2.54 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (15 mL) was added 0.94 M DIBAL-H in n-hexane (9.5 mL, 8.93 mmol) under dry ice-acetone cooling, and the mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 1 h. HCl (4 N) was added, and the aqueous solution was diluted with water and extracted with EtOAc. The organic layer was separated, washed with water, saturated NaHCO3 and brine, dried over MgSO₄, and evaporated in vacuo. The residue was chromatographed on silica gel eluting with n-hexane-EtOAc (10:1 to 3:1). The crude product was recrystalized with n-hexane-Et₂O (1:1) to give 17 (997 mg, 85%): colorless crystals; mp 86-88 °C (n-hexane-Et₂O); IR (KBr) cm⁻¹ 3504 (OH), 1313 (SO₂N), 1151 (SO₂N); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.29 (s, 3H, CMe), 2.41 (br, 1H, OH), 2.62 (s, 6H, $2 \times$ CMe), 3.89 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H, 1'-CH₂), 3.99 (d, J = 6.2 Hz, 2H, 1-CH₂), 4.18 (s, 2H, 4-CH₂), 5.98 (dt, J = 16.2, 6.9 Hz, 1H, 2'-H), 6.13 (t, J = 6.2 Hz, 1H, 2-H), 6.48 (d, J = 16.2 Hz, 1H, 3'-H), 6.95 (s, 2H, Ar), 7.22–7.31 (m, 5H, Ar); $^{13}\mathrm{C}$ NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 20.9, 22.8 (2C), 46.3, 48.7, 67.7, 123.4, 124.6, 126.5 (2C), 127.9, 128.5 (2C), 129.5, 132.0 (2C), 132.6, 134.7, 136.2, 140.3 (2C), 142.8. Anal. Calcd for C₂₂H₂₆-BrNO₃S: C, 56.90; H, 5.64; N, 3.02. Found: C, 56.90; H, 5.59; N, 2.97.

General Procedure for Reductive Allenylation of Brominated Allylic Alcohols: Synthesis of N-(Buta-2,3-dienyl)-2,4,6-trimethyl-N-[(E)-3-phenylprop-2-enyl]phenylsulfonamide (18). To a solution of **17** (500 mg, 1.08 mmol) and Et₃N (0.30 mL, 2.15 mmol) in THF (10 mL) was added MsCl (185 mg, 1.61 mmol) under dry ice-acetone cooling and the mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 1 h. The mixture was partitioned between EtOAc and water. The organic layer was separated, washed with 1 N HCl, water, saturated NaHCO₃ and brine, dried over MgSO₄, and evaporated in vacuo. To a solution of the mesylate and Pd(PPh₃)₄ (37.3 mg, 0.032 mmol) in THF (10 mL) was added 1 M Et₂Zn in n-hexane (2.16 mL, 2.16 mmol) and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h. After adding saturated NH₄Cl, the mixture was diluted with water and extracted with EtOAc. The organic layer was separated, washed with water and brine, dried over MgSO₄, and evaporated in vacuo. The residue was chromatographed on silica gel eluting with n-hexane-EtOAc (50:1 to 10:1) to give 18 (270 mg, 68%): pale yellow oil; IR (KBr) cm⁻¹ 1954 (C=C=C), 1317 (SO₂N), 1153 (SO₂N); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.29 (s, 3H, CMe), 2.63

(s, 6H, 2 × CMe), 3.83 (dt, J = 7.4, 2.4 Hz, 2H, 1-CH₂), 3.97 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H, 1'-CH₂), 4.73 (dt, J = 6.6, 2.4 Hz, 2H, 4-CH₂), 5.05 (tt, J = 7.4, 6.6 Hz, 1H, 2-H), 6.00 (dt, J = 15.9, 6.6 Hz, 1H, 2'-H), 6.45 (d, J = 15.9 Hz, 1H, 3'-H), 6.94 (s, 2H, Ar), 7.22–7.31 (m, 5H, Ar); ¹³C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 20.9, 22.8 (2C), 44.4, 47.7, 76.0, 85.7, 123.6, 126.4 (2C), 127.8, 128.5 (2C), 131.9 (2C), 133.0, 134.4, 136.2, 140.2 (2C), 142.5, 209.7; MS (FAB) m/z (%) 368 (MH⁺, 24), 117 (100); HRMS (FAB) calcd for C₂₂H₂₆-NO₂S (MH⁺) 368.1684; found 368.1681.

General Procedure for Allene Formation by Crabbé Reaction: Synthesis of 4-[(E)-3-Phenylprop-2-enyloxy]buta-1,2-diene (20). To a mixture of paraformaldehyde (102 mg, 3.40 mmol) and CuBr (97.5 mg, 0.679 mmol) in dioxane (5 mL) were added 19 (234 mg, 1.36 mmol) and *i*-Pr₂NH (275 mg, 2.72 mmol), and the mixture was heated under reflux for 8 h. The mixture was cooled to room temperature and diluted with EtOAc. The insolubles were filtered off, and the filtrate was evaporated in vacuo. The residue was chromatographed on silica gel eluting with *n*-hexane-EtOAc (20:1 to 10:1) to give 20 (198 mg, 78%): colorless oil; IR (KBr) cm⁻¹ 1955 (C=C=C), 1080 (COC); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 4.07 (dt, J = 7.1, 2.4 Hz, 2H, 1-CH₂), 4.17 (d, J = 6.1 Hz, 2H, 1'-CH₂), 4.80 (dt, J = 6.6, 2.4 Hz, 2H, 4-CH₂), 5.28 (tt, J = 7.1, 6.6 Hz, 1H, 2-H), 6.29 (dt, J = 16.1, 6.1 Hz, 1H, 2'-H), 6.61 (d, J = 16.1 Hz, 1H, 3'-H), 7.20-7.41 (m, 5H, Ar); ¹³C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 67.8, 70.4, 75.7, 87.7, 125.8, 126.4 (2C), 127.6, 128.5 (2C), 132.6, 136.6, 209.3; MS (FAB) m/z (%) 193 (MLi⁺, 38), 160 (100); HRMS (FAB) calcd for $C_{13}H_{14}LiO$ (MLi⁺) 193.1205; found 193.1207.

General Procedure for Cinnamylation: Synthesis of Dimethyl 2-Buta-2,3-dienyl-2-[(E)-3-phenylprop-2-enyl]malonate (22). To a suspension of 60% NaH (23.5 mg, 0.586 mmol) in DMF (2 mL) was added 21 (72.0 mg, 0.391 mmol) under ice-water cooling, and the mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 0.5 h. (E)-Cinnamyl bromide (84.7 mg, 0.430 mmol) was added under ice-water cooling, and the mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 2 h. The mixture was partitioned between EtOAc and water. The organic layer was separated, washed with water and brine, dried over MgSO₄, and evaporated in vacuo. The residue was chromatographed on silica gel eluting with *n*-hexane-EtOAc (20:1 to 10:1) to give **22** (107 mg, 91%): colorless oil; IR (KBr) cm⁻¹ 1955 (C=C=C), 1736 (CO₂Me), 1275 (CO₂Me); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.66 (dt, J = 8.1, 2.4Hz, 2H, 1-CH₂), 2.84 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H, 1'-CH₂), 3.73 (s, 6H, 2 \times OMe), 4.69 (dt, J = 6.6, 2.4 Hz, 2H, 4-CH₂), 4.99 (tt, J = 8.1, 6.6 Hz, 1H, 2-H), 6.03 (dt, J = 15.6, 7.6 Hz, 1H, 2'-H), 6.44 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H, 3'-H), 7.18–7.34 (m, 5H, Ar); 13 C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 32.1, 36.2, 52.4 (2C), 58.1, 74.7, 84.1, 123.7, 126.2 (2C), 127.4, 128.5 (2C), 134.2, 137.0, 171.0 (2C), 210.1; MS (FAB) m/z (%) 301 (MH⁺, 41), 117 (100); HRMS (FAB) calcd for C₁₈H₂₁O₄ (MH⁺) 301.1440; found 301.1450.

General Procedure for Preparation of Ethanol Amine Derivatives: Synthesis of N-(2-Hydroxyethyl)-N-[(1S)-1-isopropylbuta-2,3-dienyl]-2,4,6-trimethylphenylsulfonamide (35). To a mixture of 12 (500 mg, 1.70 mmol) and K₂CO₃ (824 mg, 5.96 mmol) in DMF (5 mL) was added BrCH₂CH₂OTHP (891 mg, 4.26 mmol) and the mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 20 h. The mixture was partitioned between EtOAc and water. The organic layer was separated, washed with water and brine, dried over MgSO₄, and evaporated in vacuo. To the residue in MeOH (5 mL) was added 4 N HCl (0.5 mL), and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h. The solution was diluted with water and extracted with EtOAc. The organic layer was separated, washed with water, saturated NaHCO3 and brine, dried over MgSO4, and evaporated in vacuo. The residue was chromatographed on silica gel eluting with *n*-hexane-EtOAc (50:1 to 1:1) to give 35 (500 mg, 87%): colorless oil; [α]²⁶_D -84.7 (*c* 1.035, CHCl₃); IR (KBr) cm⁻¹ 3527 (OH), 1955 (C=C=C), 1321 (SO₂N), 1151 (SO₂N); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.86 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H, CMe), 0.88 (d, J = 6.3Hz, 3H, CMe), 1.80-1.88 (m, 1H, CHMe₂), 2.30 (s, 3H, CMe), 2.39 (br, 1H, OH), 2.63 (s, 6H, $2 \times$ CMe), 3.38 (t, J = 6.6 Hz,

2H, 1'-CH₂), 3.61 (ddt, J = 8.1, 8.1, 2.0 Hz, 1H, 1-H), 3.64–3.82 (m, 2H, 2'-CH₂), 4.68 (dd, J = 6.8, 2.0 Hz, 2H, 4-CH₂), 5.16 (dt, J = 8.1, 6.8 Hz, 1H, 2-H), 6.95 (s, 2H, Ar); ¹³C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 20.0, 20.7, 20.9, 23.4 (2C), 30.7, 46.0, 61.9, 63.2, 76.2, 88.3, 132.1 (2C), 133.0, 140.1 (2C), 142.5, 209.1; MS (FAB) *m/z* (%) 338 (MH⁺, 14), 244 (100); HRMS (FAB) calcd for C₁₈H₂₈-NO₃S (MH⁺) 338.1790; found 338.1793.

General Procedure for Oxidation and Alkynylation of Alcohols: Synthesis of N-(2-Hydroxy-1,1-dimethylbut-3-ynyl)-4methylphenylsulfonamide (47a). To a stirred mixture of 30 (2.50 g, 10.3 mmol) and Et₃N (7.16 mL, 51.4 mmol) in DMSO (20 mL) was added SO3 ·Py (3.27 g, 20.5 mmol) under water cooling, and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h. The mixture was partitioned between EtOAc and water. The organic layer was separated, washed with 1 N HCl, water, saturated NaHCO₃, and brine, dried over MgSO₄, and evaporated in vacuo to give aldehyde as a yellow oil. To a solution of trimethylsilylacetylene (1.83 mL, 13.0 mmol) in THF (15 mL) was added 1.5 M n-BuLi in n-hexane (16.0 mL, 24.0 mmol) under dry ice-acetone cooling, and the mixture was stirred at -78 °C for 0.5 h. The aldehyde (2.41 g, 9.99 mmol) in THF (5 mL) was added, and the mixture was stirred at -78 °C for 1 h. The mixture was partitioned between EtOAc and saturated NH₄Cl. The organic layer was separated, washed with brine, dried over MgSO₄, and evaporated in vacuo. To the residue in MeOH (30 mL) was added MeONa (54.0 mg, 0.999 mmol), and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 15 h. After evaporation of solvent, the residue was partitioned between EtOAc and water. The organic layer was separated, washed with brine, dried over MgSO₄, and evaporated in vacuo. The residue was chromatographed on silica gel eluting with n-hexane-EtOAc (20:1 to 1:1). The crude product was recrystalized with n-hexane-EtOAc (2:1) to give **47a** (2.03 g, 72%): colorless crystals; mp 127–128 °C (*n*-hexane−EtOAc); IR (KBr) cm⁻¹ 3487 (OH), 3296 (C≡CH), 3271 (SO₂NH), 2117 (C≡CH), 1319 (SO₂N), 1157 (SO₂N); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.25 (s, 3H, CMe), 1.26 (s, 3H, CMe), 2.43 (s, 3H, CMe), 2.51 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H, 4-CH), 2.77 (br, 1H, OH), 4.28 (m, 1H, 2-H), 5.07 (br, 1H, NH), 7.30 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H, Ar), 7.80 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H, Ar); ¹³C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 21.5, 22.6, 23.5, 59.7, 69.4, 75.3, 81.4, 127.1 (2C), 129.6 (2C), 139.6, 143.4. Anal. Calcd for C₁₃H₁₇NO₃S: C, 58.40; H, 6.41; N, 5.24. Found: C, 58.22; H, 6.33; N, 5.22.

General Procedure for Allenylation of Propargyl Alcohols: Synthesis of N-(1,1-Dimethylpenta-2,3-dienyl)-4-methylphenylsulfonamide (48a). To a solution of 47a (887 mg, 3.32 mmol), Et₃N (671 mg, 6.64 mmol) in THF (10 mL) was added MsCl (570 mg, 4.98 mmol) under ice-water cooling, and the mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 1 h. The mixture was partitioned between EtOAc and water. The organic layer was separated, washed with brine, dried over MgSO₄, and evaporated in vacuo to give the corresponding mesylate as a yellow oil. To a solution of 1 M MeMgBr in THF (15 mL, 15 mmol) in THF (10 mL) was added CuBr (1.89 g, 13.2 mmol) under dry ice-acetone cooling, and the mixture was stirred at -20 °C for 0.5 h. The mesylate in THF (5 mL) was added under dry ice-acetone cooling, and the mixture was stirred at -78 °C for 0.5 h and at 0 °C for 0.5 h. The mixture was partitioned between EtOAc and saturated NH₄Cl. The organic layer was separated, washed with saturated NH4Cl and brine, dried over MgSO₄, and evaporated in vacuo. The residue was chromatographed on silica gel eluting with n-hexane-EtOAc (50:1 to 5:1) to give **48a** (581 mg, 66%): colorless oil; IR (KBr) cm⁻¹ 3271 (SO₂NH), 1963 (C=C=C), 1321 (SO₂N), 1144 (SO₂N); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.31 (s, 6H, 2 × CMe), 1.64 (dd, J = 7.0, 3.1 Hz, 3H, 5-CH₃), 2.42 (s, 3H, CMe), 4.69 (br, 1H, NH), 5.09 (dq, J = 6.4, 3.1 Hz, 1H, 2-H), 5.23 (dq, J = 7.0, 6.4 Hz, 1H, 4-H), 7.27 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H, Ar), 7.76 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H, Ar); ¹³C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.0, 21.4, 28.6, 28.8, 55.5, 89.6, 98.6, 127.1 (2C), 129.3 (2C), 140.2, 142.7, 202.0; MS (FAB) m/z (%) 266 (MH+, 39), 95 (100); HRMS (FAB) calcd for C₁₄H₂₀NO₂S (MH⁺) 266.1215 found 266.1221.

General Procedure for Sonogashira Cross-Coupling: Synthesis of N-[(1S)-1-Isopropylbuta-2,3-dienyl]-N-[3-(4-methoxyphenyl)prop-2-ynyl]-4-methylphenylsulfonamide (57b). To a suspension of 4-iodoanisole (425 mg, 1.82 mmol), Pd(PPh₃)₂Cl₂ (12.7 mg, 0.0185 mmol), CuI (1.40 mg, 0.00726 mmol), and *i*-Pr₂-NH (0.0509 mL, 0.363 mmol) in THF (2 mL) was added 58 (110 mg, 0.363 mmol) in THF (1 mL) under ice-water cooling, and the mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 6 h. Pd(PPh₃)₂Cl₂ (12.7 mg, 0.0185 mmol) and CuI (3.5 mg, 0.0185 mmol) were added, and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h. The insolubles were filtered off and the filtrate was evaporated in vacuo. The residue was chromatographed on silica gel eluting with n-hexane-EtOAc (15:1) to give **57b** (36.5 mg, 25%): yellow oil; $[\alpha]^{26}_{D} - 11.5$ (c 0.560, CHCl₃); IR (KBr) cm⁻¹ 2251 (C≡C), 1955 (C=C=C), 1329 (SO₂N), 1147 (SO₂N), 1200 (ArOMe); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 0.97 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H, CMe), 1.05 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H, CMe), 1.96-2.05 (m, 1H, CHMe₂), 2.36 (s, 3H, CMe), 3.80 (s, 3H, OMe), 4.07 (dddd, J = 8.3, 6.8, 1.7, 1.7 Hz, 1H, 1-H), 4.16 (d, J = 18.6 Hz, 1H, 1'-CHH), 4.31 (d, J = 18.6 Hz, 1H, 1'-CHH),4.56 (ddd, J = 11.0, 6.6, 1.7 Hz, 1H, 4-CHH), 4.67 (ddd, J =11.0, 6.6, 1.7 Hz, 1H, 4-CHH), 5.07 (ddd, J = 6.8, 6.6, 6.6 Hz, 1H, 2-H), 6.80 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H, Ar), 7.15 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H, Ar), 7.20 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H, Ar), 7.80 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H, Ar); ¹³C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 20.1, 20.4, 21.5, 30.8, 33.8, 55.3, 64.1, 76.1, 83.5, 84.2, 88.2, 113.8 (2C), 114.8, 127.8 (2C), 129.2 (2C), 132.8 (2C), 137.9, 143.0, 159.5, 209.0; MS (FAB) $m/z \; (\%)$ 410 (MH⁺, 23), 73 (100); HRMS (FAB) calcd for C₂₄H₂₈NO₃S (MH⁺) 410.1790; found 410.1803.

General Procedure for Mitsunobu Condensation: Synthesis of N-(Buta-2,3-dienyl)-4-methyl-N-(3-phenylprop-2-ynyl)phenylsulfonamide (66). To a solution of 65 (130 mg, 0.582 mmol), HOCH₂C≡CPh (0.22 mL, 1.75 mmol), PPh₃ (458 mg, 1.75 mmol) in THF (3 mL) was added DIAD (0.34 mL, 1.75 mmol) under icewater cooling, and the mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 7 h. After evaporation of solvent, the residue was chromatographed on silica gel eluting with n-hexane-EtOAc (10:1) to give 66 (176 mg, 89%): colorless crystals; mp 64–65 °C (n-hexane–Et₂O); IR (KBr) cm⁻¹ 2243 (C≡C), 1955 (C=C=C), 1348 (SO₂N), 1163 (SO₂N); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.33 (s, 3H, CMe), 3.93 (dt, J = 6.7, 2.4 Hz, 2H, 1-CH₂), 4.37 (s, 2H, 1'-CH₂), 4.80 (dt, J = 7.3, 2.4 Hz, 2H, 4-CH₂), 5.11 (tt, J = 7.3, 6.7 Hz, 1H, 2-H), 7.09 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H, Ar), 7.22–7.29 (m, 5H, Ar), 7.77 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H, Ar); ¹³C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 21.4, 36.8, 45.9, 76.4, 81.6, 85.6 (2C), 122.2, 127.7 (2C), 128.1 (2C), 128.3, 129.5 (2C), 131.5 (2C), 136.0, 143.5, 209.9. Anal. Calcd for C₂₀H₁₉NO₂S: C, 71.19; H, 5.68; N, 4.15. Found: C, 71.01; H, 5.73; N, 4.14.

General Procedure for [2 + 2] Cycloaddition of Allenenes: Synthesis of (1R,4S,8S)-3-Aza-4-isopropyl-8-phenyl-3-(2,4,6trimethylphenylsulfonyl)bicyclo[4.2.0]oct-5-ene (11a). A solution of (E)-8 (30.0 mg, 0.073 mmol) in DMF (1 mL) was stirred at 150 °C for 3 h. The mixture was partitioned between EtOAc and water. The organic layer was separated, washed with water and brine, dried over MgSO₄, and evaporated in vacuo. The residue was chromatographed on silica gel eluting with *n*-hexane–EtOAc (50:1 to 20:1) to give **11a** (28.7 mg, 96%): colorless oil; $[\alpha]^{26}_{D}$ +110 (c 1.025, CHCl₃); IR (KBr) cm⁻¹ 1319 (SO₂N), 1146 (SO₂N); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.78 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 3H, CMe), 0.89 (d, J = 6.9Hz, 3H, CMe), 1.74-1.82 (m, 1H, CHMe₂), 2.28 (s, 3H, CMe), 2.60 (s, 6H, 2 × CMe), 2.82 (dd, J = 13.1, 10.8 Hz, 1H, 2-CHH), 2.96-3.11 (m, 4H, 1-H, 7-CH₂ and 8-H), 3.96-4.04 (m, 2H, 2-CH*H* and 4-H), 5.49 (d, *J* = 1.9 Hz, 1H, 5-H), 6.93 (s, 2H, Ar), 7.12 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H, Ar), 7.17–7.31 (m, 3H, Ar); ¹³C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 18.8, 19.8, 20.9, 22.8 (2C), 34.0, 39.8, 43.9, 44.7, 46.9, 58.8, 111.9, 126.4 (3C), 128.4 (2C), 131.9 (2C), 134.0, 138.3, 140.0 (2C), 142.2, 143.0; MS (FAB) m/z (%) 410 (MH⁺, 56), 366 (100); HRMS (FAB) calcd for C₂₅H₃₂NO₂S (MH⁺) 410.2154; found 410.2156.

(1*R*,4*S*,8*R*)-3-Aza-4-isopropyl-8-phenyl-3-(2,4,6-trimethylphenylsulfonyl)bicyclo[4.2.0]oct-5-ene (67). A solution of (*Z*)-8

(50.0 mg, 0.122 mmol) in dioxane (2 mL) was heated under reflux for 65 h. After evaporation of solvent, the residue was chromatographed on silica gel eluting with n-hexane-EtOAc (30:1) to give **67** (31.5 mg, 63%): colorless oil; $[\alpha]^{24}_{D}$ +42.9 (*c* 1.00, CHCl₃); IR (KBr) cm⁻¹ 1317 (SO₂N), 1146 (SO₂N); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.66 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H, CMe), 0.76 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H, CMe), 1.57–1.64 (m, 1H, CHMe₂), 2.10 (dd, J = 13.2, 10.3 Hz, 1H, 2-CHH), 2.29 (s, 3H, CMe), 2.54 (s, 6H, 2 × CMe), 2.89 (d, J = 14.4 Hz, 1H, 7-CHH), 3.23–3.40 (m, 3H, 1-H, 7-CHH and 8-H), 3.72 (ddd, J = 13.2, 9.3, 2.7 Hz, 1H, 2-CHH), 3.90 (m, 1H, 4-H), 5.54 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H, 5-H), 6.91 (s, 2H, Ar), 7.17–7.31 (m, 5H, Ar); ¹³C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 18.8, 19.7, 20.9, 22.8 (2C), 33.9, 36.2, 40.1, 40.4, 43.1, 58.6, 112.8, 126.6, 127.3 (2C), 128.3 (2C), 131.8 (2C), 134.0, 139.6, 140.0 (2C), 140.7, 142.1; MS (FAB) m/z (%) 410 (MH⁺, 54), 366 (100); HRMS (FAB) calcd for C₂₅H₃₂NO₂S (MH⁺) 410.2154; found 410.2162.

General Procedure Hydrogenation of Cycloadducts: Synthesis of (1S,4R,6R,8S)-3-Aza-4-isopropyl-8-phenyl-3-(2,4,6trimethylphenylsulfonyl)bicyclo[4.2.0]octane (68). A mixture of 11a (119 mg, 0.291 mmol) and 10% Pd/C (12 mg) in MeOH (3 mL) was stirred under 1 atm H₂ at room temperature for 2 h. The catalyst was filtered off, and the filtrate was evaporated in vacuo. The residue was chromatographed on silica gel eluting with n-hexane-EtOAc (50:1 to 20:1) to give 68 (90.0 mg, 75%): colorless oil; [α]²⁵_D +82.2 (*c* 1.105, CHCl₃); IR (KBr) cm⁻¹ 1317 (SO_2N) , 1149 (SO_2N) ; ¹H NMR $(300 \text{ MHz}, \text{CDCl}_3) \delta 0.70 \text{ (d, } J =$ 7.1 Hz, 3H, CMe), 0.86 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H, CMe), 1.60–1.69 (m, 2H, CHMe₂ and 5-CHH), 1.90 (ddd, J = 13.4, 5.6, 5.6 Hz, 1H, 5-CHH), 2.07-2.14 (m, 1H, 7-CHH), 2.28 (s, 3H, CMe), 2.31-2.39 (m, 2H, 6-H and 7-CHH), 2.62 (s, 6H, 2 × CMe), 2.88-3.00 (m, 1H, 1-H), 3.00 (dd, J = 13.4, 10.5 Hz, 1H, 2-CHH), 3.28-3.38 (m, 1H, 8-H), 3.67 (ddd, J = 5.9, 5.6, 5.4 Hz, 1H, 4-H), 3.95 (dd, J = 13.4, 7.1 Hz, 1H, 2-CHH), 6.91 (s, 2H, Ar), 7.13-7.20(m, 3H, Ar), 7.22-7.30 (m, 2H, Ar); ¹³C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 16.0, 19.1, 20.9, 22.9 (2C), 24.3, 26.2, 31.8, 32.6, 39.5, 43.5, 45.6, 58.0, 125.9, 126.3 (2C), 128.3 (2C), 131.8 (2C), 133.9, 139.9 (2C), 142.1, 144.6; MS (FAB) m/z (%) 412 (MH⁺, 70), 368 (100); HRMS (FAB) calcd for $C_{25}H_{34}NO_2S$ (MH⁺) 412.2310; found 412.2300.

(1*R*,4*S*,7*S*,8*S*)-3-Aza-7-butyl-4-isopropyl-8-phenyl-3-(2,4,6-trimethylphenylsulfonyl)bicyclo[4.2.0]oct-5-ene (89) and Its (1*S*,4*S*,7*R*,8*R*)-Isomer (90). By a procedure identical with that described for the synthesis of 11a, 53a (50.0 mg, 0.107 mmol) was converted into 89 (32.5 mg, 65%) and 90 (11.5 mg, 23%).

Compound **89**: colorless oil; $[\alpha]^{25}_{D} + 61.3$ (*c* 1.04, CHCl₃); IR (KBr) cm⁻¹ 1321 (SO₂N), 1151 (SO₂N); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.80 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H, CMe), 0.83 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H, (CH₂)₃CH₃), 0.89 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H, CMe), 1.23–1.29 (m, 4H, (CH₂)₂CH₃), 1.54–1.60 (m, 1H, (CHH)C₃H₇), 1.68–1.75 (m, 1H, (CHH)C₃H₇), 1.75–1.84 (m, 1H, CHMe₂), 2.29 (s, 3H, CMe), 2.55 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 8.1 Hz, 1H, 8-H), 2.59 (s, 6H, 2 × CMe), 2.77 (dd, *J* = 12.7, 10.0 Hz, 1H, 2-CHH), 2.82–2.88 (m, 1H, 1-H), 3.15–3.27 (m, 1H, 7-H), 3.93 (dd, *J* = 12.7, 5.9 Hz, 1H, 2-CHH), 3.99–4.03 (m, 1H, 4-H), 5.48 (d, *J* = 2.2 Hz, 1H, 5-H), 6.92 (s, 2H, Ar), 7.09–7.22 (m, 3H, Ar), 7.25–7.31 (m, 2H, Ar); ¹³C NMR (75.5)

MHz, CDCl₃) δ 13.9, 18.8, 19.8, 20.9, 22.8 (3C), 29.8, 32.9, 34.1, 44.5, 44.8, 50.7, 53.9, 58.5, 110.1, 126.4, 126.8 (2C), 128.4 (2C), 131.9 (2C), 133.9, 140.0 (2C), 142.1, 142.7, 144.3; MS (FAB) *m/z* (%) 466 (MH⁺, 74), 422 (100); HRMS (FAB) calcd C₂₉H₄₀NO₂S (MH⁺) 466.2780; found 466.2794.

Compound **90**: colorless oil; $[\alpha]^{22}_{D}$ +3.78 (*c* 0.570, CHCl₃); IR (KBr) cm⁻¹ 1321 (SO₂N), 1151 (SO₂N); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.83 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H, CMe), 0.85 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H, CMe), 0.86 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H, (CH₂)₃CH₃), 1.10–1.28 (m, 4H, (CH₂)₂CH₃), 1.40-1.51 (m, 1H, (CHH)C₃H₇), 1.60-1.70 (m, 1H, $(CHH)C_{3}H_{7}$, 1.86–1.94 (m, 1H, CHMe₂), 2.24 (dd, J = 8.5, 8.3Hz, 1H, 8-H), 2.31 (s, 3H, CMe), 2.63 (s, 6H, 2 × CMe), 2.78-2.84 (m, 1H, 1-H), 3.04-3.10 (m, 1H, 7-H), 3.33 (dd, J = 13.4, 3.2 Hz, 1H, 2-CHH), 3.43 (dd, J = 13.4, 7.3 Hz, 1H, 2-CHH), 3.89 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 6.6 Hz, 1H, 4-H), 5.89 (dt, *J* = 6.6, 2.4 Hz, 1H, 5-H), 6.95 (s, 2H, Ar), 7.08 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H, Ar), 7.19–7.31 (m, 3H, Ar); ¹³C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 13.9, 18.8, 20.2, 20.9, 22.7, 23.2 (2C), 29.8, 32.4, 32.5, 42.4, 46.0, 50.4, 52.8, 58.9, 115.7, 126.5, 126.8 (2C), 128.4 (2C), 131.9 (2C), 134.1, 139.8 (2C), 142.0, 142.4, 143.3; MS (FAB) *m*/*z* (%) 466 (MH⁺, 67), 422 (100); HRMS (FAB) calcd for $C_{29}H_{40}NO_2S$ (MH⁺) 466.2780; found 466.2787.

General Procedure for [2 + 2] Cycloaddition of Allenynes: Synthesis of (4S)-3-Aza-4-isopropyl-8-phenyl-3-(2,4,6-trimethylphenylsulfonyl)bicyclo[4.2.0]octa-1(8),5-diene (106a). By a procedure identical with that described for the synthesis of 67, 54a (50.5 mg, 0.124 mmol) was converted into **106a** (46.6 mg, 92%): yellow oil; $[\alpha]^{25}_{D}$ -74.3 (c 0.655, CHCl₃); IR (KBr) cm⁻¹ 1323 (SO_2N) , 1159 (SO_2N) ; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.88 (d, J =6.7 Hz, 3H, CMe), 0.95 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 3H, CMe), 1.98-2.05 (m, 1H, CHMe₂), 2.25 (s, 3H, CMe), 2.59 (s, 6H, 2 × CMe), 3.25 (dd, J = 13.4, 3.7 Hz, 1H, 7-CHH), 3.29 (ddd, J = 13.4, 3.7, 3.7 Hz, 1H, 7-CHH), 3.98 (dd, J = 7.9, 4.9 Hz, 1H, 4-H), 4.14 (ddd, J =17.7, 3.7, 3.7 Hz, 1H, 2-CHH), 4.66 (d, J = 17.7 Hz, 1H, 2-CHH), 5.44 (d, J = 4.9 Hz, 1H, 5-H), 6.88 (s, 2H, Ar), 7.18–7.35 (m, 5H, Ar); ¹³C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl3) δ 19.1, 20.4, 20.9, 23.1 (2C), 34.5, 35.9, 39.8, 59.6, 109.0, 126.2 (2C), 127.8, 128.6 (2C), 131.9 (2C), 133.4, 134.2 (2C), 136.2, 138.7, 139.9 (2C), 142.0; MS (FAB) m/z (%) 408 (MH⁺, 12), 119 (100); HRMS (FAB) calcd for C₂₅H₃₀NO₂S (MH⁺) 408.1997; found 408.1972.

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Supporting Information Available: Synthetic procedure, characterization, and ¹H NMR for all new compounds. This material is available free of charge via Internet at http://pubs.acs.org. JO0700528