

Three-Carbon Homologation of Diorganozincs with Lithiated **Acetylenic Epoxides**

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Supporting Information

ABSTRACT: Reaction of dialkylzincs with lithiated acetylenic epoxides is described to give zincates that undergo a 1,2metallate rearrangement by an anti-S_N2' pathway. This rearrangement occurs with the transfer of an alkyl or a silyl group affording allenylzinc intermediates. Allenic and/or homopropargylic alcohols are obtained upon hydrolysis.

$$(R^{1})_{2}Zn \xrightarrow{R^{2}} R^{2} \xrightarrow{QLi} R^{1} \qquad and/or \qquad R^{2} \xrightarrow{ZnR^{1}} R^{1}$$

$$R^{1} = \text{alkyl}, \text{SiMe}_{2}Ph$$

Quenching the reaction mixture with aldehydes or ketones is shown to give access to 2-alkynyl-1,3-diols in a stereoselective manner.

■ INTRODUCTION

Allenylmetals are versatile reagents intensively used in organic synthesis. The preparation of allenylmetals (with boron, copper, tin, indium, or zinc as the metal) through the direct S_N2' substitution reaction of metallic reagents to propargylic substrates bearing a leaving group at the propargylic position is well-documented (Scheme 1, path A). Conversely, little is

Scheme 1. Three-Carbon Homologation with Propargylic Substrates

LG
$$R^3$$
 $(R^3)_n M^{\odot}$ direct $S_N 2'$ $(path A)$ R^2 R^3 R^3

known on the alternate preparation of allenylmetals by the 1,2metallate rearrangement of alkynylogous carbenoids of type 1.3 The overall process leading to allenylmetals 2 involves the initial formation of 1 through metalation at the acetylenic terminus and the subsequent 1,2-migration of the R³ substituent with displacement of the leaving group through an $S_N 2'$ pathway (Scheme 1, path B).

In seminal works, this approach was successfully applied to the preparation of allenylborons from propargylic chlorides,⁴ acetates, ^{4d,5} acetals,⁶ or mesylates.^{4d} An enantioenriched allenylboron could be obtained with a good level of selectivity from an enantiopure chiral propargylic mesylate as the result of the stereoselective transfer of a dimethylphenylsilyl group through an anti-S_N2' mechanism (Scheme 2).^{4d}

Scheme 2. Preparation of an Enantioeneriched Allenylboron

Allenyl aluminums^{4c} and zirconiums⁷ have been analogously obtained from propargylic chlorides, mesylates, or tosylates. Moreover, allenylzincs 3 have been generated by the threecarbon homologation of lithium triorganozincates, a process that involves the intermediate formation of alkynylogous zincocarbenoids undergoing a 1,2-migration (Scheme 3).

Allenylzincs 3 are particularly interesting and have been reacted with several electrophiles to provide allenes 4 (via an $S_E 2$ pathway)^{7a} or homopropargylic 5^{7b} as well as propargylic alcohols 6^{7c} (via an $S_E 2'$ pathway).

A related reaction involving an acetylenic epoxide and lithium tributylzincate was described by Marshall in 1994 (Scheme 4). 9,10 However, unlike propargylic mesylates, in this case, the reaction was evidenced to proceed to some extent (ca. 25%) by direct S_N2' displacement, thus without intermediate formation of an alkynylogous zinco-carbenoid. Deuterated allenic alcohol 8 was indeed obtained (through an S_E2 process) upon quenching of the allenylzinc intermediate 7 with D₂O with only ca. 75% D-incorporation.

Despite this promising preliminary result, no other example of the use of acetylenic epoxides for three-carbon homologation of organozinc reagents has been reported to date. We thus

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Scheme 3. Preparation and Use of Allenylzincs by Three-Carbon Homologation of Lithium Triorganozincates with Propargylic Mesylates

MsO
$$\frac{(R^2)_3 ZnLi \ (2 \ equiv)}{THF, -85 °C \ to \ 0 °C}$$
 MsO $\frac{Zn(R^2)_2 Li}{R^1}$ $\frac{Zn(R^2)_2 Li}{R^1}$ $\frac{Zn(R^2)_2 Li}{R^1}$ $\frac{Zn(R^2)_2 Li}{R^1}$ $\frac{Zn(R^2)_2 Li}{R^1}$ $\frac{Zn(R^2)_2 Li}{R^1}$ $\frac{R^2}{R^1}$ $\frac{R^2}{R^2}$ $\frac{R^2}{$

envisioned reinvestigating this reaction, and we report herein our recent results in this field (Scheme 5).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Preliminary Study. In order to circumvent the competitive direct S_N2' mechanism observed by Marshall, we envisioned generating the alkynylogous zinco-carbenoid by deprotonation of the epoxide at the acetylenic terminus followed by transmetalation with a diorganozinc. Our study was initially conducted with acetylenic epoxide 9a prepared from cyclohexanecarboxaldehyde using a known methodology (Scheme 6). 11

When using a slight excess of nBuLi, the deprotonation was complete within 10 min at -80 °C in THF. Deuterated epoxide D-9a with >95% D-content was indeed quantitatively formed upon addition of D₂O. Note that the control of the amount of nBuLi used is crucial to avoid α -deprotronation of the epoxide, followed by 1,2-H shift rearrangement and the formation of the corresponding allenic ketone. ¹²

The anticipated formation of allenic alcohol **10a** from lithium dibutylzincate Zn-**9a** by reacting Li-**9a** with various zinc species and then carrying out an acidic hydrolysis was examined (Scheme 6). Unexpectedly, when a commercially available salt-free solution of dibutylzinc was used, no reaction was observed at all within 1 h at 20 °C, and epoxide **9a** was quantitatively recovered upon hydrolysis (Table 1, entry 1).

In contrast, the successive addition of 1 equiv of ZnBr₂ and 2 equiv of nBuLi led, within 0.5 h at 20 °C, to a mixture of inseparable allenic and homopropargylic alcohols, **10a** and **10a**′, respectively, upon hydrolysis, albeit in a modest 39% combined yield and with no regioselectivity (Table 1, entry 2). The regioselectivity observed here contrasts with the study of Marshall in which only the allenic alcohol was obtained (Scheme 4). This difference could be attributed to the metallotropic equilibrium totally shifted toward allenylzinc 7 in

Marshall's case due to the disfavored isomerization of 7 into α , α , α -trisubstituted propargylzinc 7'. Conversely, in our case, isomerization of allenylzinc 11 into α , α -disubstituted propargylzinc 11' should be more favorable, leading to a mixture of alcohols 10a and 10a' upon hydrolysis, through an S_E2' process (Scheme 7).¹³

Although the diastereomeric ratio of allenic isomer 10a could not be determined, two diastereomers could be observed by ¹³C NMR.

Analogous results were obtained with a similar procedure at $-20~^{\circ}\text{C}$ (Table 1, entry 3). Interestingly, when dibutylzinc ($n\text{Bu}_2\text{Zn}$) was preformed prior to the addition to Li-9a, by mixing 1 equiv of ZnBr_2 and 2 equiv of nBuLi (giving $n\text{Bu}_2\text{Zn}\cdot 2\text{LiBr}$), upon hydrolysis a significantly higher 74% yield in 10a and 10a' was obtained, yet with poor 48:52 regioselectivity (Table 1, entry 4). Note that in all cases similar results were obtained upon quenching with aqueous HCl or MeOH.

The positive results observed with Zn-9a generated from Li-9a by the addition of 1 equiv of ZnBr2 followed by 2 equiv of nBuLi or by the addition of preformed dibutylzinc were attributed to the presence of 2 equiv of Lewis acidic LiBr that could facilitate the epoxide ring opening. Consistent with this hypothesis, the addition of HMPA (hexamethylphosphoric triamide), known to be able to coordinate lithium cations, 14 prevented the reaction with preformed nBu₂Zn·2LiBr even at 20 °C (Table 1, entries 5–7). In contrast, when the reaction was run with a salt-free commercial dibutylzinc solution and adding 2 equiv of LiBr, no reaction was observed at −20 °C (Table 1, entry 8). We attributed this failure to the low solubility of this salt in the reaction medium as a turbid mixture was obtained. Strikingly, when using MgBr₂, assumed to be a stronger Lewis acid than LiBr, the reaction did not occur below 0 °C, and only degradation of the substrate was noted at 20 °C (Table 1, entries 9-11). Similarly, in the presence of only 1 equiv of LiBr, no reaction occurred at -20 °C, and decomposition was observed above 0 °C (Table 1, entry 12).

All of these results indicated that the formation of allenylzincs from acetylenic epoxides by three-carbon homologation of diorganozincs was possible, provided it was conducted in the presence of 2 equiv of LiBr, even though the exact role of this salt was not clear.

Scope of the Three-Carbon Homologation. The scope of the three-carbon homologation was next investigated under the optimized conditions. To this end, various acetylenic epoxides 9 were subjected to the reaction with preformed dibutylzinc ($nBu_2Zn\cdot 2LiBr$) at -20 °C for 1.5 h prior to hydrolysis with aqueous HCl (Scheme 8). In all cases, mixtures of the allenic and homopropargylic alcohols 10 and 10′, respectively, were obtained. Although the combined isolated yield was always good, the nature of the starting acetylenic epoxide 9 highly impacted both the sense and the level of the regioselectivity (Table 2). Moreover, in all cases, the

Scheme 4. Formation of an Allenylzinc from an Acetylenic Epoxide

Scheme 5. Our Work

$$(R^{1})_{2}Zn \qquad R^{2} \qquad \qquad (R^{1})_{2}Zn \qquad R^{2} \qquad \qquad (R^{1})_{2}Zn \qquad R^{2} \qquad \qquad (R^{1})_{2}Zn \qquad \qquad (R^{$$

Scheme 6. Optimization of the Three-Carbon Homologation

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{CHex} \quad \textbf{9a} \\ \text{dr} = 89:11 \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{c} \text{CHex} \quad \textbf{1.2 inc source (1 equiv)} \\ \text{THF, $-80 °C$, $10 min} \\ \text{CHex} \quad \textbf{1.2 inc source (1 equiv)} \\ \text{2.} \quad T(^{\circ}\text{C}), \text{t (h)} \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{c} \text{Li} \quad \textbf{D}_{2}\text{O} \\ \text{CHex} \quad \textbf{D}_{-}\textbf{9a}, 100\% \\ \text{>95\% D-content} \end{array}$$

diastereomeric ratio of allenic alcohols 10 could not be determined.

The three-carbon homologation of various dialkylzincs was next examined through their reaction with acetylenic epoxide 9a (Scheme 9). These dialkylzincs were preformed as before by the reaction of 1 equiv of $ZnBr_2$ with 2 equiv of of the corresponding alkyllithiums (see the Experimental Section for details).

Except in the case of lithium dimethyzincate (Table 3, entry 1), high combined yields of allenic alcohols 12a-14a and homopropargylic alcohols 12a'-14a' were attained, albeit with moderate selectivities (Table 3, entries 2 and 3). As before, the

Scheme 7. Origin of the Regioselectivity

diastereomeric ratio of allenic alcohols 12a-14a could not be determined.

Interestingly, the dimethylphenylsilyl group could also be transferred efficiently using bis(dimethylphenylsilyl)zinc (Scheme 10), preformed from the parent silyllithium species¹⁵ (see the Experimental Section for details).

The best yields were obtained when the rearrangement was carried out for 2 h at -20 °C followed by an additional stirring of 45 min at 0 °C prior to quenching with MeOH. To our delight, the transfer of the silyl group occurred with high regioselectivity, leading to 4-silylated homopropargylic alcohols 15' as unique or major regioisomers (Table 4).

The corresponding allenic alcohols 15 could only be detected as minor isomers with acetylenic epoxides 9b and 9i

Table 1. Optimization of the Three-Carbon Homologation (Scheme 6)

entry	zinc source ^a	T (°C)	t (h)	10a:10a ′ ratio ^b	yield (%) ^c
1	salt-free nBu ₂ Zn ^d	20	1		0^e
2	ZnBr ₂ then 2 equiv of nBuLi	20	0.5	50:50	39
3	ZnBr ₂ then 2 equiv of nBuLi	-20	1.5	50:50	40
4	$n\mathrm{Bu}_2\mathrm{Zn}{\cdot}2\mathrm{LiBr}^f$	-20	1.5	48:52	74
5	$nBu_2Zn \cdot 2LiBr^f + HMPA$	-20	1.5		(0)
6	$nBu_2Zn \cdot 2LiBr^f + HMPA$	0	1		(0)
7	$nBu_2Zn \cdot 2LiBr^f + HMPA$	20	8		0^e
8	salt-free $nBu_2Zn^d + 2$ equiv of LiBr	-20	1		0^e
9	$n\mathrm{Bu}_2\mathrm{Zn}{\cdot}2\mathrm{MgBr}_2{}^g$	-20	2		0^e
10	$n\mathrm{Bu}_2\mathrm{Zn}{\cdot}2\mathrm{MgBr}_2{}^g$	0	2		0^e
11	$n\mathrm{Bu}_2\mathrm{Zn}{\cdot}2\mathrm{MgBr}_2{}^g$	20	2		decomposition
12	$n \mathrm{Bu_2Zn \cdot LiBr \cdot MgBr_2}^h$	-20	1		(0)

"See the Experimental Section for the preparation of the zinc species. Begioselectivity determined by H NMR analysis at 400 MHz of the crude reaction mixture. Combined isolated yield in 10a and 10a'. In parentheses is the conversion rate as measured by H NMR at 400 MHz. Commercial 1 M solution in heptane. Epoxide 9a was quantitatively recovered. Preformed dibutylzinc: freshly prepared by the reaction of nBuLi (2 equiv) with ZnBr₂ (1 equiv) in THF from -80 to 0 °C. Preformed dibutylzinc: freshly prepared by the reaction of nBuMgBr (2 equiv) with ZnBr₂ (1 equiv) in THF from -80 to 0 °C. Preformed dibutylzinc: freshly prepared by the reaction of nBuMgBr (1 equiv) and nBuLi (1 equiv) with ZnBr₂ (1 equiv) in THF from -80 to 0 °C.

Scheme 8. Three-Carbon Homologation of nBu₂Zn·2LiBr with Epoxides 9

Table 2. Three-Carbon Homologation of nBu₂Zn·2LiBr with Epoxides 9 (Scheme 8)

entry	\mathbb{R}^1	\mathbb{R}^2	epoxide	10:10 ′ ratio ^a	yield $(%)^b$
1	$Ph(CH_2)_2$	Н	9b (dr = 81:19)	10b:10b' = 58:42	70
2	Et ₂ CH	Н	9c (dr = 94:06)	10c:10c' = 69:31	68
3	<i>t</i> Bu	Н	9d (dr > 98:02)	10d:10d' = 83:17	72
4	Ph	Н	9e (dr = 62:38)	10e:10e' = 58:42	57 ^c
5	Ph	Ph	9f	10f:10f' = 13:87	62^d

[&]quot;Regioselectivity determined by ¹H NMR analysis at 400 MHz of the crude reaction mixture. ^bCombined isolated yield in **10** and **10**′. The same regioselectivity as in the crude material was observed. ^cConversion rate of 94%. ^dConversion rate of 89%. The reaction was carried out for 4 h at 0 °C then 1.5 h at 20 °C.

Scheme 9. Three-Carbon Homologation of R₂Zn·2LiBr

Table 3. Three-Carbon Homologation of R₂Zn·2LiBr (Scheme 9)

entry	R	regioselectivitya	yield $(\%)^b$
1	Me	12a:12a' = 76:24	28
2	Et	13a:13a' = 68:32	75
3	<i>t</i> Bu	14a:14a' = 65:35	85
4	Ph		decomposition

"Regioselectivity determined by ¹H NMR analysis at 400 MHz of the crude reaction mixture. ^bCombined isolated yield in **12a-14a** and **12a'-14a'**. The same regioselectivity as in the crude material was observed.

bearing a primary alkyl substituent (Table 4, entries 2 and 3) and with aromatic epoxide **9e** (Table 4, entry 6). Their configuration could not be determined. Intriguingly, only decomposition was observed in the case of alkenyl epoxide **9h** under the same conditions (Table 4, entry 9). The reason why **9h** behaves differently from the others remains unexplained even though the vinylogous nature of the epoxide, prone to substitution giving multiple of products, could be invoked. Interestingly, trisubstituted epoxides **9f** and **9g** led to the corresponding quaternary homopropargylic alcohols in good yields as unique regioisomers (Table 4, entries 7 and 8).

Diverse alkyl groups as well as the dimethylphenylsilyl group could thus be transferred affording the corresponding allenic and/or homopropargylic alcohols through ring opening of the epoxide following an $S_{\rm N}2'$ process. In most cases, yields are good while the regioselectivity highly depends on the nature of

the epoxide and/or of the group transferred. The exact reason why the regioselectivity varies in such a way is unknown, even through it is undoubtedly related to the metallotropic allenylzinc/propargylzinc equilibrium.

Stereoselective Access to 2-Alkynyl-1,3-diols. The mixture of allenylzinc 11 and propargylzinc 11', obtained from acetylenic epoxide 9a (see Scheme 7), was first reacted with cyclohexanecarboxaldehyde. Within 1 h at $-20\,^{\circ}\text{C}$, upon hydrolysis, inseparable diastereomeric 2-alkynyl-1,3-diols 16,17 16 and 17 were isolated in good yield with a complete control of the regioselectivity (the corresponding allenic isomers not being observed) and with a ratio of 85:15 in favor of 16 (Scheme 11). The exclusive formation of homopropargylic diols was rationalized by the reactivity of 11 being greater with carbonyl derivatives than that of 11' through an $S_{\rm E}2'$ process. Everything thus happened as if 11 were the only existing metallotropic form in the medium. 18

Stereochemical assignment was achieved by NMR studies. The major diastereomer **16** was first shown to be a symmetrical 1,3-diol by ¹H NMR analysis, showing that hydrogens H¹ and H³ are identical and appear as a unique doublet of doublet at 3.37 ppm (Scheme 11). Similarly, the minor diastereomer **17** could be determined to be unsymmetrical by its ¹H NMR analysis, showing that H¹ and H³ are different.

The relative configuration of **16** was next deduced from its quantitative transformation into dioxolane **18** in which coupling constants of 2.2 Hz were measured between H² and H¹ as well as H³ (Scheme 12). These are typical of equatorial—equatorial and/or axial—equatorial interactions meaning that the

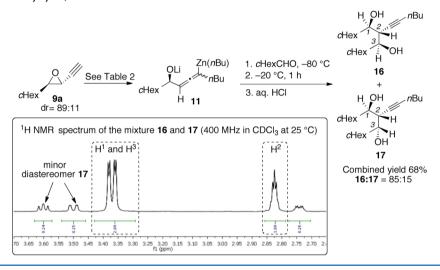
Scheme 10. Three-Carbon Homologation of (PhMe2Si)2Zn·2LiBr

Table 4. Three-Carbon Homologation of (PhMe₂Si)₂Zn·2LiBr (Scheme 10)

entry	\mathbb{R}^1	\mathbb{R}^2	epoxide 9	15:15 ′ ratio ^a	yield (%) ^b
1	cHex	Н	9a (dr = 89:11)	<02:98	72
2	<i>n</i> Bu	Н	9i (dr = 80:20)	17:83	64
3	$Ph(CH_2)_2$	Н	9b $(dr = 81:19)$	07:93	65
4	Et ₂ CH	Н	9c (dr = 94:06)	<02:98	72
5	<i>t</i> Bu	Н	9d (dr > 98:02)	<02:98	79
6	Ph	Н	9e (dr = 62:38)	16:84	86
7	Ph	Ph	9f	<02:98	72
8	<i>n</i> Pent	nPent	9g	<02:98	76
9	(E)-PhCH=CH ₂	Н	9h (dr > 98:02)		decomposition

[&]quot;Regioselectivity determined by ¹H NMR analysis at 400 MHz of the crude reaction mixture. ^bCombined isolated yield in 15 and 15'. The same regioselectivity as in the crude material was observed.

Scheme 11. Access to 2-Alkynyl-1,3-diols



 $(1R^*,2r^*,3S^*)$ stereochemistry could be unambiguously attributed to **16**.

Scheme 12. Determination of the Configuration of 16

16 + 17
$$\frac{\text{CH(MeO)}_2}{\text{PTSA}}$$
 $\frac{\text{CHex}}{20 \text{ °C}, 16 \text{ h}}$ $\frac{\text{CHex}}{100\%}$ $\frac{\text{CHex}}{100\%}$

The preferred formation of diastereomer 16 could be rationalized by the favored Chodkiewicz—Yamamoto-type¹⁹ transition state model M1 in which allenylzinc (aR)-11 reacts with the aldehyde (Scheme 13). Analogously, 17 could be arise from the disfavored competitive more energetic chelate models M2 or M3. Transition state model M1 is favored relative to M2 due to less steric interactions between the allenylzinc and the aldehyde. The preference for M1 versus M3 was explained by the "inside alkoxy effect" that enhances the nucleophilicity of the allenylzinc (Houk-type model). ^{20,21}

Scheme 13. Possible Transition State Models

These results suggest that 16 arises only from allenylzinc (aR)-11 while the formation of 17 can be formed either from (aR)-11 or (aS)-11 (Scheme 13). In order to gain insight into the stereoselectivity of the formation of 11 and its subsequent reaction with aldehydes, we carried out a series of reactions with epoxide 9a and varying the trapping conditions (Scheme 14).

Interestingly, when cyclohexanecarboxaldehyde was rapidly added dropwise at $-20\,^{\circ}\text{C}$ only 5 min following the addition of dibutylzinc to Li-9a, adducts 16 and 17 were obtained in low 35% yield and with a 16:17 ratio of 57:43. The diastereoselectivity was considerably lower than that observed when adding the aldehyde 90 min after dibutylzinc (Table 5, entry 1 vs 2). Moreover, the sense of the diastereoselectivity could be reversed when the aldehyde was rapidly and

Scheme 14. Study of the Configurational Stability of 11

$$\frac{\text{CHex Li-9a}}{\text{Li-9a}} \xrightarrow{\text{IBu}_2 \text{Zn} \cdot 2 \text{LiBr (1 equiv)}} \frac{\text{Zn(nBu)}_2 \text{Li}}{\text{THF, -60 °C}} \xrightarrow{\text{CHex Zn-9a}} \frac{\text{Zn(nBu)}_2 \text{Li}}{\text{T (°C), t (h)}} \xrightarrow{\text{CHex Li-9a}} \frac{\text{DLi}}{\text{CHex Anti-S}_N 2^{\circ}} \xrightarrow{\text{CHex CHO}_1 - 20 °C} \frac{\text{Zn(nBu)}_2 \text{Li}}{\text{CHex Cho}_1 - 20 °C} \xrightarrow{\text{CN}_1 \text{Li-9a}} \frac{\text{CN(nBu)}_2 \text{Li}}{\text{CHex Cho}_2 \cdot \text{CN}_1 \cdot \text{CHex Cho}_2} \xrightarrow{\text{CN(nBu)}_2 \text{Li-1}} \frac{\text{CN(nBu)}_2 \text{Li-1}}{\text{CHex Cho}_2 \cdot \text{CN}_1 \cdot \text{CHex Cho}_2} \xrightarrow{\text{CN(nBu)}_2 \text{Li-1}} \frac{\text{CN(nBu)}_2 \text{Li-1}}{\text{CHex Cho}_2 \cdot \text{CN}_1 \cdot \text{Chex Cho}_2} \xrightarrow{\text{CN(nBu)}_2 \text{Li-1}} \frac{\text{CN(nBu)}_2 \text{Li-1}}{\text{CHex Cho}_2 \cdot \text{CN(nBu)}_2} \xrightarrow{\text{CN(nBu)}_2 \text{Li-1}} \frac{\text{CN(nBu)}_2 \text{Li-1}}{\text{CHex Cho}_2 \cdot \text{CN(nBu)}_2} \xrightarrow{\text{CN(nBu)}_2 \text{Li-1}} \frac{\text{CN(nBu)}_2 \text{Li-1}}{\text{CN(nBu)}_2 \cdot \text{CN(nBu)}_2} \xrightarrow{\text{CN(nBu)}_2 \cdot \text{CN(nBu)}_2} \xrightarrow{$$

Table 5. Study of the Configurational Stability of 11 (Scheme 14)

entry	T (°C)	$t \text{ (min)}^a$	addition rate $(min)^b$	16:17 ^c	yield (%) ^d
1	-20	90	0.33	85:15	66
2	-20	5	0.33	57:43	35
3	-60	0^e	0.33	27:73	7 ^f
4	-20	90	210	84:16	79

"Time of stirring at the appropriate temperature after completion of the addition of dibutylzinc to Li-9a and before the addition of cyclohexanecarboxaldehyde. ^bAddition rate of cyclohexanecarboxaldehyde to the reaction mixture. ^cRatio determined by ¹H NMR analysis at 400 MHz of the crude reaction mixture. ^dIsolated combined yield in 16 and 17. ^cCyclohexanecarboxaldehyde was added immediately after preformed dibutylzinc. ^fThe major product resulted from the addition of cyclohexanecarboxaldehyde at the acetylenic terminus of 9a.

immediately added after dibutylzinc at -60 °C. In this case, the expected **16** and **17** adducts were obtained with a **16**:17 ratio of 27:73 in very poor 7% yield, the main product resulting from the direct nucleophilic attack of the zincate to the aldehyde (Table 5, entry 3).

These results were in accord with a mechanistic picture involving the initial formation of (aS)-11, via the classical anti- $S_{\rm N}2'$ migration of a butyl substituent from zincate Zn-9a, and isomerization to give (aR)-11. In this context, a last experiment was carried out by slowly adding the aldehyde at $-20~^{\circ}{\rm C}$ 90 min after dibutylzinc. In this case, both the yield and the diastereoselectivity were close to those obtained when the aldehyde was rapidly added under the same conditions (Table 5, entry 1 vs 4). This last experiment suggested that the Curtin–Hammet principle applies at $-20~^{\circ}{\rm C}$ and thereby

means that the equilibration of (aS)-11 is faster than its reaction with the aldehyde at this temperature. Indeed, in the case of a slow equilibration, an increased diastereoselectivity would have been observed by giving more time to (aS)-11 to isomerize into (aR)-11. On the other hand, the result obtained at -60 °C could be interpreted by a slow isomerization of (aS)-11 relative to the rate of its reaction with the aldehyde. However, we cannot currently provide an explanation why (aS)-11 rapidly epimerizes into (aR)-11, and to why the equilibrium is shifted toward (aR)-11. ^{18,22} Nevertheless, a greater reactivity of (aR)-11 (through M1) than that of (aS)-11 (through M3) might be invoked (see Scheme 13).

We next studied the scope of this new diastereoselective access to 2-alkynyl-1,3-diols by trapping allenylzincs (aR)-11, 20, and 21, generated from the appropriate acetylenic epoxides 9 and dialkylzincs R_2 Zn-2LiBr, with carbonyl derivatives (Scheme 15).

When allenylzinc 11 was trapped with propanal and pivaldehyde, the corresponding 2-alkynyl-1,3-diols were obtained with a complete regioselectivity in good yields and diastereoselectivities ≥85:15 (Table 6, entries 1 and 2). The relative configuration of major diastereomers 22 and 23 was inferred by analogy with that of 16 and can be explained on the basis of the favored transition state model M1 (Scheme 13). The stereochemistry of minor isomers 27 and 28 could not be assigned. It is, however, worth noting that the bulkiness of the R substituent of the aldehyde has no influence on the diastereoselectivity, thereby suggesting that these adducts are obtained *via* model M3 rather than M2 (Scheme 13). Hence, their relative configuration could be assigned.

When the 1,3-diol preparation was carried out with $tBu_2Zn\cdot 2LiCl$ and **9a**, a reversal of the diastereoselectivity was observed, the generated allenylzinc **20** leading to major isomer

Scheme 15. Diastereoselective Preparation of 2-Alkynyl-1,3-diols

See Tables 2-4

Pa (dr = 89:11)

cis-9a (dr > 98:02)

9c (dr = 94:06)

11:
$$R^1 = c$$
Hex, $R^2 = n$ Bu

22 and 27: $R^1 = c$ Hex, $R^2 = n$ Bu, $R^3 = t$ Bu, $R^4 = H$

23 and 28: $R^1 = c$ Hex, $R^2 = n$ Bu, $R^3 = t$ Bu, $R^4 = H$

21: $R^1 = Et_2$ CH, $R^2 = S$ iMe₂Ph

25: $R^1 = c$ Hex, $R^2 = n$ Bu, $R^3 = t$ Bu, $R^4 = H$

25: $R^1 = c$ Hex, $R^2 = n$ Bu, $R^3 = t$ Bu, $R^4 = H$

26: $R^1 = Et_2$ CH, $R^2 = S$ iMe₂Ph, $R^3 = S$ He, $R^4 = M$ Be

26: $R^1 = Et_2$ CH, $R^2 = S$ He, $R^3 = S$ He, $R^4 = M$ Be

26: $R^1 = Et_2$ CH, $R^2 = S$ He, $R^3 = S$ He, $R^4 = M$ Be

Table 6. Diastereoselective Preparation of 2-Alkynyl-1,3-diols (Scheme 15)

entry	R ¹ (epoxide)	allenylzinc	\mathbb{R}^2	\mathbb{R}^3	\mathbb{R}^4	$stereoselectivity^a$	yield (%)
1	cHex (9a)	11	nBu	Et	Н	22:27 = 87:13	78 ^b
2	cHex (9a)	11	<i>n</i> Bu	<i>t</i> Bu	Н	23:28 = 85:15	59 ^b
3	cHex (9a)	20	<i>t</i> Bu	cHex	Н	24:29 = 36:64	88^{b}
4	cHex (9a)	11	nBu	Me	Me	С	77 ^d
5	cHex (cis-9a)	11	nBu	Me	Me	e	59 ^d
6	Et_2CH (9c)	21	$SiMe_2Ph$	Me	Me	f	$42^{d,g}$

"Stereoselectivity determined by ¹H NMR analysis at 400 MHz of the crude reaction mixture. ^bCombined isolated yield. The same regioselectivity as in the crude material was observed. ^cOnly compound **25** was obtained with 94:06 regioselectivity. ^dYield in purified major products. ^eOnly compound **25** was obtained with 93:07 regioselectivity. ^fOnly compound **26** was obtained with 88:12 regioselectivity. ^gReaction carried out for 2.5 h at -40 °C.

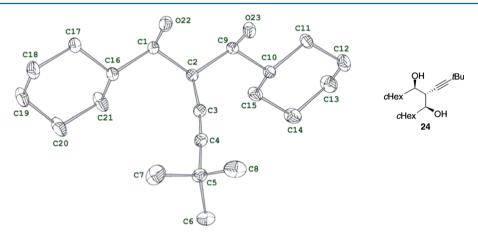


Figure 1. ORTEP drawing of 24 (hydrogens have been omitted for clarity).

Scheme 16. Diastereoconvergent Generation of Allenylzinc (aR)-11

29, albeit with a modest selectivity of 64:36 (Table 6, entry 3). The stereochemistry of the minor isomer **24** could be unambiguously assigned from crystal X-ray analysis (Figure 1).²³ This reversal of the stereoselectivity remains puzzling.

In addition to aldehydes, trapping of allenylzincs 11 and 21 could be efficiently performed with acetone, thus leading to the corresponding 2-alkynyl-1,3-diols in good yields with good regio- and stereoselectivities (Table 6, entries 4–6). Interestingly, diastereoconvergent results were obtained from isomeric acetylenic epoxides 9a and *cis*-9a that gave exclusively the same adduct 25 (Table 6, entries 4 and 5). Most likely, *cis*-Zn-9a undergoes an *anti*-S_N2' migration of the butyl group, leading directly to allenylzinc intermediate (aR)-11 (Scheme 16).

CONCLUSION

Allenylzinc formation from acetylenic epoxides has been developed through deprotonation at the acetylenic position and subsequent transmetalation with diorganozincs, leading to

zincates that undergo migration of an alkyl or silyl group. In the case of (2R,3R)-2-alkyl-3-ethynyl epoxides, the migration occurs by an anti-S_N2' pathway, leading to (aS) allenylzinc intermediates. The latter rapidly epimerize and afford the corresponding (aR) allenylzincs, which are the reactive species. In the case of the (2R,3S) diastereomeric epoxides, the same (aR) allenylzincs are directly formed following the same anti-S_N2' pathway. When dialkylzincs are used in the transmetalation step, mixtures of homopropargylic and allenic alcohols are obtained with modest regioselectivites upon hydrolysis. Conversely, the reactions involving bis(dimethylphenylsilyl)zinc lead to the corresponding homopropargylic alcohols in high yields and excellent regioselectivity. Trapping of allenylzinc intermediates with carbonyl derivatives has been shown to give stereoselectively 2-alkynyl-1,3-diols. The extension of this methodology to acetylenic aziridines is under investigation in our group and will be reported in due course.

■ EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

General Methods. Experiments involving organometallics were carried out in dried glassware under a positive pressure of dry nitrogen. Liquid nitrogen was used as a cryoscopic fluid. A three-necked, roundbottomed flask equipped with an internal thermometer, a septum cap, and a nitrogen inlet was used. Anhydrous THF and Et₂O were obtained by distillation over sodium benzophenone ketyl. Zinc bromide was purchased from Aldrich, melted under argon, and, immediately after cooling to room temperature, dissolved in anhydrous THF or Et₂O. Commercial solutions of nBuLi and tBuLi were titrated with sBuOH (1 M solution in toluene) in the presence of 2,2'-dichinolyl or with Suffert's reagent.24 All other reagents and solvents were of commercial quality and were used without further purification. Flash chromatographies were carried out over silica gel 60 (230-400 mesh). IR spectra were recorded with an ATR diamant spectrophotometer. Chemical shifts are reported in δ units relative to an internal standard of residual chloroform ($\delta = 7.27$ ppm for ¹H NMR and $\delta = 77.1$ ppm for ¹³C NMR). HRMS were obtained using a Q-TOF instrument equipped with ESI source.

Standard Procedure for the Three-Carbon Homologation of Dialkylzincs (SP1). Under a nitrogen atmosphere, to $ZnBr_2$ (1.00 M solution in THF, 0.55 mL, 0.55 mmol) in THF (0.5 mL) was added RLi (1.1 mmol) at -80 °C. After 5 min of stirring at -80 °C, the mixture was allowed to warm to 0 °C. The resulting solution of dialkylzinc ($R_2Zn\cdot 2LiBr$) was immediately used in the reaction with lithiated epoxides.

Under a nitrogen atmosphere, at -80 °C to a solution of epoxide (0.50 mmol) in THF (4 mL) was added dropwise nBuLi (2.20 M in hexanes, 0.25 mL, 0.55 mmol). After 10 min of stirring at -80 °C, the mixture was allowed to warm to -60 °C and the above prepared dialkylzinc was added. The resulting mixture was warmed to -20 °C then stirred for 1.5 h at this temperature. The reaction was quenched with a 0.5 M aqueous HCl solution (10 mL), and Et₂O (10 mL) was added. The layers were separated, and the aqueous one was extracted with Et₂O (2 × 10 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with water (15 mL) and brine (15 mL) and dried over anhydrous MgSO₄. Removal of the solvent in vacuum and purification by flash chromatography (10% Et₂O/pentane) afforded mixtures of alcohols 10, 12–14 and 10′, 12′–14′ (Tables 2 and 3).

Mixture of (\pm) -1-Cyclohexylocta-2,3-dien-1-ol (10a) and (±)-1-Cyclohexyloct-3-yn-1-ol and (10a'): Colorless yellow oil (78 mg, 74%, 10a:10a' = 48:52, indeterminable dr for 10a) obtainedaccording to SP1 from epoxide 9a (76 mg, 0.50 mmol) and $nBu_2Zn \cdot 2LiBr$; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 5.33–5.27 (m, 1 H 10a), 5.27-5.14 (m, 1 H 10a), 3.89-3.85 (m, 1 H 10a), 3.41-3.38 (m, 1 H 10a'), 2.41 (ABX system, J = 16.5, 4.4, 2.4 Hz, 1 H 10a'), 2.29 (ABX system, J = 16.5, 7.6, 2.4 Hz, 1 H 10a'), 2.18–2.14 (m, 1 H), 2.0-1.93 (m, 1 H), 1.92-1.73 (m, 1 H), 1.72-1.57 (m, 5 H), 1.50-1.39 (m, 5 H), 1.38–0.94 (m, 5 H), 0.93–0.87 (m, 3 H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 202.7 and 202.3 (two isomers of **10a**), 94.4 and 94.3 (two isomers of 10a), 83.3 (10a'), 76.5, 74.4, 74.1, 44.2, 44.1, 42.76, 31.4, 31.2, 29.1, 28.9, 28.62, 28.60, 28.5, 28.4, 28.3, 26.3, 26.25, 26.23, 26.17, 26.15, 25.1, 22.3, 22.2, 22.1, 18.6, 14.0, 13.7; IR (neat) ν 3349, 2922, 2852, 1962 cm $^{-1}$; HMRS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{14}H_{25}O^{+}$ 209.1900 $[M + H^{+}]$, found 209.1896.

Mixture of (±)-1-Phenyldeca-4,5-dien-3-ol (10b) and (±)-1-Phenyldec-3-yn-1-ol (10b'): Colorless oil (81 mg, 70%, 10b:10b' = 58:42, indeterminable dr for 10b) obtained according to SP1 from epoxide 9b (87 mg, 0.51 mmol) and $n \text{Bu}_2 \text{Zn} \cdot 2 \text{LiBr}; ^1 \text{H} \text{ NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.31–7.26 (m, 2 H), 7.23–7.17 (m, 3 H), 5.36–5.29 (m, 1 H 10b), 5.29–5.23 (m, 1 H 10b), 4.19–4.13 (m, 1 H 10b), 3.75–3.68 (m, 1 H 10b'), 2.84–2.65 (m, 2 H), 2.42 (ABX system, J = 16.5, 4.6, 2.3 Hz, 1 H 10b'), 2.31 (ABX system, J = 16.5, 6.7, 2.3 Hz, 1 H 10b'), 2.19–2.16 (m, 1 H), 2.07–1.92 (m, 1 H), 1.91–1.63 (m, 3 H), 1.51–1.21 (m, 4 H), 0.93–0.89 (m, 3 H); 13 C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 202.3 and 202.2 (two isomers of 10b) 142.11, 142.07, 142.0, 128.59, 128.57, 128.5, 126.0, 125.9, 95.7, and 95.6 (two isomers of 10b), 94.8 and 94.6 (two isomers of 10b), 83.6 (10b'), 75.9, 69.54, 69.51, 69.2, 39.23, 39.21, 38.0, 32.1, 31.9, 31.8, 31.38, 31.36, 31.2, 28.60, 28.58, 28.0, 22.3, 22.1, 18.5, 14.0, 13.7; IR (neat) ν 3340, 2925,

1972 cm $^{-1}$; HMRS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\rm C_{16}H_{23}O^+$ 231.1743 [M + $\rm H^+$], found 231.1750.

Mixture of (±)-3-Ethylundeca-5,6-dien-4-ol (10c) and (±)-3-Ethylundec-6-yn-4-ol (10c'): Colorless oil (66 mg, 68%, 10c:10c' = 69:31, indeterminable dr for 10c) obtained according to SP1 from epoxide 9c (68 mg, 0.50 mmol) and $n \text{Bu}_2 \text{Zn} \cdot 2 \text{LiBr}$; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.34–5.26 (m, 1 H 10c), 5.26–5.15 (m, 1 H 10c), 4.21–4.09 (m, 1 H 10c), 3.67 (m, 1 H 10c'), 2.38 (ABX system, $J = 16.5, 4.6, 2.4 \text{ Hz}, 1 \text{ H 10c'}), 2.31 (ABX system, <math>J = 16.5, 7.9, 2.4 \text{ Hz}, 1 \text{ H 10c'}), 2.20–2.12 (m, 1 H 10c), 2.08–1.97 (m, 1 H), 1.92–1.88 (m, 1 H 10c'), 1.62–1.52 (m, 1 H), 1.52–1.18 (m, 9 H), 0.96–0.77 (m, 9 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 202.7 (10c), 94.7 and 94.5 (two isomers of 10c), 94.24 and 94.17 (two isomers of 10c), 83.3 (10c'), 76.7, 71.8, 71.6, 71.2, 47.3, 45.5, 31.5, 31.2, 28.7, 25.2, 22.3, 22.1, 22.0, 21.8, 21.6, 21.1, 18.6, 14.0, 13.7, 11.9, 11.8, 11.7, 11.5; IR (neat) <math>\nu$ 3328, 2924, 2172 (10c'), 1961 (10c) cm⁻¹; HMRS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{13}H_{25}O^+$ 197.1900 [$M + H^+$], found 197.1896.

Mixture of (\pm) -2,2-Dimethyldeca-4,5-dien-3-ol (10d) and (\pm) -2,2-Dimethyldec-5-yn-3-ol (10d'): Colorless yellow oil (70 mg, 72%, 10d:10d' = 83:17, indeterminable dr for 10d) obtained according to SP1 from epoxide 9d (65 mg, 0.53 mmol) and nBu₂Zn·2LiBr. Further purification by flash chromatography afforded analytically pure products. Data for 10d: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.36–5.30 (m, 1 H), 5.29–5.25 (m, 1 H), 3.76 (dd, J = 5.7, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 2.06-2.00 (m, 2 H), 1.67 (br s, 1 H), 1.43-1.28 (m, 4 H), 0.90 (s, 9 H), 0.89 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 202.7 and 202.3 (two isomers), 94.8 and 94.1 (two isomers), 92.9 and 92.6 (two isomers), 77.8, 35.5, and 35.4 (two isomers), 28.54 and 28.46 (two isomers), 25.47 and 25.45 (two isomers), 21.5, 13.9. Data for 10d': ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.36 (dd, J = 10.0, 2.8 Hz, 1 H), 2.42-2.35 (m, 1 H), 2.26-2.10 (m, 3 H), 2.06-1.79 (m, 1 H), 1.52-1.11 (m, 4 H), 0.97-0.80 (m, 12 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 82.3, 77.7, 77.4, 34.5, 31.2, 25.8, 23.0, 18.6, 13.7; IR (neat) ν 3419, 2955, 2930, 2870, 1962 cm⁻¹; HMRS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{12}H_{23}O^{+}$ 183.1743 [M + H⁺], found 183.1746.

Mixture of (±)-1-Phenylocta-2,3-dien-1-ol (10e) and (±)-1-Phenyloct-3-yn-1-ol (10e'): Pale yellow oil (58 mg, 57%, 10e:10e' = 58:42) obtained according to SP1 from epoxide 9e (72 mg, 0.50 mmol) and nBu₂Zn·2LiBr; 1 H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.44–7.29 (m, 5 H), 5.45–5.35 (m, 2 H 10e), 5.26–5.22 (m, 1 H 10e), 4.82 (dd, J = 7.5, 5.2 Hz, 1 H 10e'), 2.62–2.47 (m, 3 H 10e'), 2.28–2.17 (m, 2 H 10e and 1 H 10e'), 2.17–2.00 (m, 1 H), 1.51–1.29 (m, 4 H), 0.90 (m, 3 H); 13 C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 202.3 and 202.0 (two isomers of 10e), 143.2, 143.1, 142.8, 128.5, 128.4, 127.8, 127.72, 127.67, 126.2, 126.1, 125.8, 96.2 and 96.1 (two isomers of 10e), 95.4, and 95.1 (two isomers of 10e), 83.6 (10e'), 77.3, 76.0, 72.7, 72.4, 72.2, 31.3, 31.2, 31.0, 30.1, 28.5, 22.2, 22.0, 18.5, 14.0, 13.7; IR (neat) ν 3419, 2955, 2930, 2870, 1962 cm⁻¹; HMRS (ESI) m/z calcd for C₁₄H₁₉O⁺ 203.1430 [M + H⁺], found 203.1434.

Mixture of (+)-1,1-Diphenylocta-2,3-dien-1-ol (10f) and (\pm) -1,1-Diphenyloct-3-yn-1-ol (10f'): Pale yellow oil (81 mg, 62%, 10f:10f' = 13:87) obtained according to SP1 from epoxide 9f (65 mg, 0.53 mmol) and nBu₂Zn·2LiBr. Further purification by flash chromatography afforded analytically pure products. Data for 10f: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.47–7.44 (m, 4 H), 7.34–7.30 (m, 4 H), 7.27-7.23 (m, 2 H), 5.90 (dt, J = 6.2, 3.0 Hz, 1 H), 5.41 (q, J = 6.2 Hz, 1 H), 2.67 (s, 1 H), 2.05–1.98 (m, 2 H), 1.27–1.21 (m, 2 H), 0.86 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3 H; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 200.8, 146.5, 128.1, 127.3, 126.9, 126.8, 101.0, 97.5, 77.3, 31.3, 28.6, 22.3, 14.0. Data for 10f': 1 H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.45–7.42 (m, 4 H), 7.34–7.30 (m, 4 H), 7.26-7.20 (m, 2 H), 3.12 (t, J = 2.3 Hz, 2 H), 3.08 (br s, 1)H), 2.09 (tt, J = 7.0, 2.3 Hz, 2 H), 1.39-1.32 (m, 2 H), 1.28-1.19 (m, 2 H), 0.82 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 145.9, 128.2, 127.2, 126.3, 85.2, 77.2, 75.8, 33.9, 30.9, 21.8, 18.5, 13.7; HMRS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{20}H_{23}O^{+}$ 279.1743 [M + H⁺], found 279.1747.

Mixture of (\pm)-1-Cyclohexylpenta-2,3-dien-1-ol (12a) and (\pm)-1-Cyclohexylpent-3-yn-1-ol (12a'): Colorless oil (23 mg, 28%, 12a:12a' = 76:24, indetermibable dr for 12a) obtained according SP1 from epoxide 9a (75 mg, 0.50 mmol) and Me₂Zn·2LiBr; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.32–5.22 (m, 1 H 12a), 5.22–5.16 (m, 1 H

12a), 3.92–3.85 (m, 1 H 12a) 3.47–3.39 (m, 1 H 12a), 2.45–2.38 (m, 1 H, 12a), 2.33–2.25 (m, 1 H 12a), 2.00–1.57 (m, 8 H), 1.51–1.37 (m, 1 H), 1.37–0.92 (m, 6 H); 13 C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 203.5 and 203.2 (two isomers of 12a), 93.7 and 93.6 (two isomers of 12a), 88.8 and 88.4 (two isomers of 12a), 78.4 (12a'), 75.7, 75.6, 74.3, 74.1, 44.2, 44.1, 42.6, 29.1, 28.8, 28.4, 28.3, 26.6, 26.5, 26.2, 25.0, 14.52, 14.46, 3.7; IR (neat) ν 3395, 2962, 1961 cm⁻¹; HMRS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{11}H_{19}O^+$ 167.1430 $[M+H^+]$, found 167.1427.

Mixture of (±)-1-Cyclohexylhex-2,3-dien-1-ol (13a) and (±)-1-Cyclohexylhex-3-yn-1-ol (13a'): Colorless oil (60 mg, 75%, 13a:13a' = 68:32, indeterminable dr for 13a) obtained according SP1 from epoxide 9a (75 mg, 0.50 mmol) and Et₂Zn-2LiBr; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.42–5.33 (m, 1 H 13a), 5.28–5.19 (m, 1 H 13a), 3.88–3.79 (m, 1 H 13a), 3.47–3.38 (m, 1 H 13a'), 2.45–2.37 (m, 1 H 13a'), 2.28 (ddt, J = 16.5, 7.8, 2.3 Hz, 1 H 13a'), 2.20–2.17 (m 2 H 13a'), 2.07–1.99 (m, 1 H 13a and 2 H 13a), 1.99–1.78 (m, 1 H), 1.78–1.64 (m, 5 H), 1.46–1.37 (m, 1 H), 1.29–0.95 (m, 4 H), 1.15–0.98 (m, 3 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 202.3 and 201.8 (two isomers of 13a), 96.3 and 95.6 (two isomers of 13a), 95.1 and 94.8 (two isomers of 13a), 84.6 (13a'), 77.3, 75.9, 74.7, 74.3, 74.0, 44.3, 44.2, 44.1, 42.6, 28.8, 28.2, 26.6, 26.5, 26.24, 26.19, 26.1, 22.0, 14.3, 13.5, 12.5; IR (neat) ν 3346, 2922, 1960 cm⁻¹; HMRS (ESI) m/z calcd for C₁₂H₂₁O⁺ 188.1587 [M + H⁺], found 188.1584.

Mixture of (\pm) -1-Cyclohexyl-5,5-dimethylhex-2,3-dien-1-ol (14a) and (\pm)-1-Cyclohexyl-5,5-dimethylhex-3-yn-1-ol (14a'): Colorless oil (41 mg, 85%, 14a:14a' = 65:35 indeterminable dr for 14a) obtained according to SP1 from epoxide 9a (75 mg, 0.50 mmol) and tBu₂Zn·2LiBr; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.36-5.24 (m, 2 H 14a), 3.91-3.87 (m, 1 H 14a), 3.45-3.37 (m, 1 H 14a'), 2.40 (ABX system, J = 16.4, 4.0 Hz, 1 H 14a'), 2.27 (ABX system, J = 16.4, 8.0 Hz, 1 H 14a'), 2.02 (br s, 1 H 14a'), 1.92-1.77 (m, 2 H 14a and 1 H 14a'), 1.77-1.65 (m, 5 H), 1.50-1.37 (m, 1 H), 1.37-1.09 (m, 6 H), 1.09–0.98 (m, 8 H); 13 C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 200.1 and 199.1 (two isomers of 14a), 106.9 and 105.8 (two isomers of 14a), 96.3 and 96.0 (two isomers of 14a), 92.1 (14a'), 77.3, 74.9, 74.8, 74.1, 73.9, 73.9, 44.3, 44.1, 42.7, 32.0,1, 31.97, 31.3, 30.3, 29.0, 28.94, 28.87, 28.6, 38.5, 28.4, 28.3, 27.5, 26.6, 26.3, 26.2, 26.12, 26.10, 25.0; IR (neat) ν 3395, 2960, 2925, 2853, 1961 cm⁻¹; HMRS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{14}H_{25}O^{+}$ 209.1900 [M + H⁺], found 209.1903.

Standard Procedure for the Three-Carbon Homologation of Bis(dimethylphenylsilyl)zinc (SP2). Li (50 mg, 7.23 mmol) was cut into pieces and placed in a round-bottomed flask under an argon atmosphere. Li was washed with pentane (2 × 3 mL), followed by THF $(2 \times 3 \text{ mL})$, and then suspended into THF (3 mL). Chlorotrimethylsilane (0.50 mL, 3.97 mmol) was added, and the suspension was sonicated for 15 min. The solution was removed, and activated Li was washed with THF (2 × 6 mL) and finally suspended into THF (3 mL). The mixture was degassed at the sonicator for 3 min and then cooled to 0 °C. Dimethylphenyl chlorosilane (0.31 mL, 1.87 mmol) was added, and the mixture was sonicated for 2 h at 0 °C. The deep red solution obtained was cooled to -60 °C, and ZnBr₂ (1.00 M solution in THF, 0.75 mL, 0.75 mmol) was added. The solution was stirred for 10 min at -20 °C to give a dark orange solution of bis(dimethylphenylsilyl)zinc [(PhMe2Si)2Zn·2LiBr] ready for use.

Under a nitrogen atmosphere, at -80 °C to a solution of epoxide (0.50 mmol) in THF (4 mL) was added dropwise nBuLi (2.20 M in hexanes, 0.25 mL, 0.55 mmol). After 10 min of stirring at -80 °C, the mixture was allowed to warm to -60 °C, stirred 20 min at this temperature, and then canulated to the above prepared solution of bis(dimethylphenylsilyl)zinc (0.75 mmol). The resulting mixture was warmed to -20 °C and then stirred for 2 h at this temperature followed by an additional stirring of 45 min at 0 °C. The reaction was quenched with MeOH (10 mL), and Et₂O (10 mL) was added. The layers were separated, and the aqueous one was extracted with Et₂O (2 × 10 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with water (15 mL) and brine (15 mL) and then dried over anhydrous MgSO₄. Removal of the solvent in vacuum and purification by flash chromatography (40% CH₂Cl₂/cyclohexane) afforded homopropargylic alcohols 15′ (Table 4).

(±)-1-Cyclohexyl-4-[(dimethyl)phenylsilyl]but-3-yn-1-ol (15a'): Colorless oil (103 mg, 72%) obtained according to SP2 from epoxide 9a (75 mg, 0.50 mmol); 1 H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.70–7.60 (m, 2 H), 7.45–7.35 (m, 3 H), 3.53 (m, 1H), 2.56 (ABX system, J = 16.9, 4.5 Hz, 1 H), 2.43 (ABX system, J = 16.9, 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 2.05–1.60 (m, 6 H), 1.57–1.40 (m, 1 H), 1.38–0.9 (m, 4 H), 0.42 (s, 6 H); 13 C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 137.3, 133.7, 129.5, 128.0, 105.9, 85.6, 74.0, 42.8, 29.1, 28.2, 26.5, 26.4, 26.3, 26.1, –0.6; IR (neat) ν 3424, 3069, 2925, 2853, 2175 cm $^{-1}$; HMRS (ESI) m/z calcd for C_{18} H₂₆OSiNa $^+$ 309.1645 [M + Na $^+$], found 309.1649.

(±)-6-(Dimethyl)phenylsilyl-1-phenylhex-5-yn-3-ol (15b'): Colorless oil (100 mg, 65%, 15b:15b' = 07:93, indeterminable dr for 15b) obtained according to SP2 from epoxide 9b (88 mg, 0.50 mmol). For the mixture of 15b and 15b': 1 H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.72–7.61 (m, 2 H), 7.47–7.35 (m, 4 H), 7.35–7.26 (m, 4 H), 7.26–7.18 (m, 2 H), 5.32 (dd, J = 6.7, 2.3 Hz, 1 H 15b), 5.00 (app t, J = 8.7, 1 H 15b), 4.25–4.15 (br s, 1 H 15b), 3.78 (app quint, J = 6.4 Hz, 1 H), 2.83–2.71 (m, 1 H, m), 2.69–2.64 (m, 1 H), 2.56 (ABX system, J = 16.8, 5.2 Hz, 1 H), 2.49 (ABX system, J = 16.8, 6.6 Hz, 1 H), 2.10 (br s, 1 H), 1.95–1.86 (m, 2 H), 0.46 (s, 6 H), 0.45 (s, 6 H 15b); 13 C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 141.8 (15b), 137.3 (15b), 133.7, 133.2 (15b), 129.7 (15b'), 129.5, 128.5, 128.0, 126.0, 105.0, 85.9, 69.3, 37.9, 31.9, 29.2, 0.1, –0.6; IR (neat) ν 3337, 3025, 2955, 2174 (15b'), 1938 (15b) cm $^{-1}$; HMRS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{20}H_{24}$ OSiNa $^+$ 331.1489 [M + Na $^+$], found 331.1494.

(±)-6-(Dimethyl)phenylsilyl-1-phenylhex-5-yn-3-ol (15c'): Colorless oil (99 mg, 72%) obtained according to SP2 from epoxide 9c (69 mg, 0.50 mmol); 1 H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.65–7.62 (m, 2 H), 7.41–7.39 (m, 3 H), 3.80 (br s, 1 H), 2.54 (ABX system, J = 16.8, 4.7 Hz, 1 H), 2.48 (ABX system, J = 16.8, 7.5 Hz, 1 H), 1.51–1.23 (m, 5 H), 0.93–0.89 (m, 6 H), 0.43 (s, 6 H); 13 C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 137.3, 133.7, 129.5, 129.4, 128.0, 106.0, 85.6, 83.5, 71.4, 47.5, 26.5, 21.9, 21.1, 11.6, –0.6; IR (neat) ν 3390, 3069, 2960, 2875, 2174 cm $^{-1}$; HMRS (ESI) m/z calcd for C_{17} H $_{26}$ OSiNa $^+$ 297.1645 [M + Na $^+$], found 297.1650.

(±)-2,2-Dimethyl-6-[(dimethyl)phenylsilyl]hex-5-yn-3-ol (15d'): Colorless oil (102 mg, 79%) obtained according to SP2 from epoxide 9d (62 mg, 0.50 mmol); 1 H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.68–7.62 (m 2 H), 7.44–7.35 (m, 3 H), 3.49 (dd, J = 9.9, 3.0 Hz, 1 H), 2.56 (ABX system, J = 16.8, 3.0 Hz, 1 H), 2.38 (ABX system, J = 16.8, 9.9 Hz, 1 H), 2.08 (br s, 1 H), 0.95 (s, 9 H), 0.44 (s, 6 H); 13 C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 137.3, 133.7, 129.5, 128.0, 106.7, 85.6, 77.4, 34.7, 25.8, 24.4, –0.6; IR (neat) ν 3579, 3069, 2957, 2870, 2174 cm $^{-1}$; HMRS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{16}H_{24}$ OSiNa $^{+}$ 283.1489 [M + Na $^{+}$], found 283.1496.

(±)-4-(Dimethyl)phenylsilyl-1-phenylhex-5-yn-3-ol (15e'): Colorless oil (121 mg, 86%, 15e:15e' = 16:84, indeterminable dr for 15e) obtained according to SP2 from epoxide 9e (72 mg, 0.50 mmol). For the mixture of 15e and 15e': 1 H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.62–7.57 (m, 4 H), 7.44–7.30 (m, 6 H), 5.33–5.28 (m, 1 H 15e), 5.26–5.17 (m, 1 H 15e), 4.90 (t, J = 6.2 Hz, 1 H), 2.74 (d, J = 6.2 Hz, 2 H), 2.43 (br s, 1 H), 0.41 (s, 9 H); 13 C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 142.6, 137.2, 133.8, 133.2, 129.8, 129.5, 128.6, 128.0, 125.9, 104.9, 86.1, 72.5, 31.3, 0.1 (15e), –0.7; IR (neat) ν 3320, 3068, 2958, 2176 cm $^{-1}$; HMRS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{18}H_{20}$ OSiNa $^{+}$ 303.1176 [M + Na $^{+}$], found 303.1180.

(±)-6-(Dimethyl)phenylsilyl-1,1-diphenylhex-5-yn-3-ol (15f'): Pale yellow oil (129 mg, 72%) obtained according to SP2 from epoxide 9f (110 mg, 0.50 mmol); 1 H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.50–7.48 (m, 4 H, m), 7.40–7.26 (m, 11 H), 3.25 (s, 2 H), 2.98 (s, 1 H), 0.31 (s, 6 H); 13 C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 145.6, 137.1, 133.7, 129.4, 128.3, 128.0, 127.4, 126.4, 104.8, 87.7, 35.3, –0.8; IR (neat) ν 3555, 3064, 2957, 2174 cm $^{-1}$; HMRS (ESI) m/z calcd for C₂₄H₂₄OSiNa $^{+}$ 379.1489 [M + Na $^{+}$], found 379.1495.

(±)-6-(Dimethyl)phenylsilyl-1,1-dipentylhex-5-yn-3-ol (15g'): Pale yellow oil (131 mg, 76%) obtained according to SP2 from epoxide 9g (104 mg, 0.50 mmol); 1 H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.63–7.61 (m, 2 H'), 738–7.33 (m, 3 H), 2.44 (s, 2 H), 1,68 (br s, 1 H), 1.61–1.52 (m, 4 H), 1.26–1.40 (m, 12 H), 0.90 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, δ H), 0.40 (s, δ H); 13 C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 137.4, 133.7, 129.4,

128.0, 105.6, 85.9, 73.7, 39.4, 39.1, 32.6, 32.4, 31.9, 23.3, 22.8, 14.2, -0.6; IR (neat) ν 3400, 3050, 2931, 2860, 2139 cm $^{-1}$; HMRS (ESI) m/z calcd for C₂₂H₃₆OSiNa $^+$ 367.2428 [M + Na $^+$], found 367.2433.

(±)-6-[(Dimethyl)phenylsilyl]oct-1-yn-4-ol (15i'): Colorless oil (87 mg, 64%, 15i:15i' = 17:83, indeterminable dr for 15i) obtained according to SP2 from epoxide 9i (69 mg, 0.50 mmol). For the mixture of 15i and 15i': 1 H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.67–7.60 (m, 2 H), 7.59–7.53 (m, 2 H 15i), 7.49–7.28 (m, 3 H), 5.28 (dd, J = 6.9, 2.2 Hz, 1 H), 4.99 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 1 H 15i), 4.14 (app qd, J = 6.9 Hz, 1 H 15i), 3.80 (app quint, J = 6.7 Hz, 1 H), 2.52 (ABX system, J = 16.8, 4.8 Hz, 1 H), 2.42 (ABX system, J = 16.8, 6.8 Hz, 1 H), 1.63–1.55 (m, 2 H), 1.50–1.28 (m, 4 H), 0.95 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 3 H), 0.42 (s, 6 H), 0.40 (s, 6 H 15i); 13 C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 209.5 (15i), 138.1, 137.3, 133.8 (15i), 133.7, 133.1 (15i), 129.5, 128.0, 105.4, 88.9 (15i), 85.6, 83.6 (15i), 70.5 (15i), 70.0, 37.5 (15i), 39.1, 36.0, 29.1, 27.8, 22.7, 14.1, 0.1 (15i), -0.6; IR (neat) ν 3361, 3069, 2958, 2932, 2175 (15i'), 1939 (15i) cm⁻¹; HMRS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{16}H_{25}OSi^+$ 260.1596 [M + H $^+$], found 260.1604.

 $(+)-(1R^*,2r^*,3S^*)-1,3-Dicyclohexyl-2-(hex-1-ynyl)propane-$ 1,3-diol (16): Under a nitrogen atmosphere, cyclohexanecarboxaldehyde (0.09 mL, 0.73 mmol) was added at -80 °C to allenylzing 11, freshly prepared from epoxide 9a (99 mg, 0.56 mmol) and $n\mathrm{Bu}_2\mathrm{Zn}$ -2LiBr according to SP1. The mixture was warmed to $-20~^\circ\mathrm{C}$ and stirred at this temperature for 1 h. The reaction was quenched with aqueous 1 M HCl solution (10 mL). Et₂O (10 mL) was added, the layers were separated, and the aqueous one was extracted with Et₂O (2 \times 10 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with water (15 mL) and brine (15 mL) and dried over anhydrous MgSO₄. After removal of the solvent, the crude reaction was purified by flash chromatography (20% Et₂O/pentane) to afford a mixture of 16 and 17 (144 mg, 68%, 16:17 = 85:15) as a white crystalline solid. For the mixture of 16 and 17: mp 113-114 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.59 (dd, I = 6.8, 5.4 Hz, 1 H 17), 3.50 (dd, I = 9.0, 1.9 Hz, 1 H 17), 3.36 (dd, J = 8.1, 2.3 Hz, 2 H), 2.83–2.82 (m, 1 H), 2.73–2.72 (m, 1 H 17), 2.26-2.19 (m, 2 H), 2.12-2.09 (m, 1 H 17), 2.05-2.02 (m, 2 H), 1.79-0.81 (m, 26 H), 0.92 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3 H) 0.90-0.87 (m, 1 H 17); 13 C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 86.5, 85.5 (17), 79.2, 76.74 (17), 76.68 (17), 79.2, 74.5, 74.2 (17), 42.6 (17), 42.3, 40.6 (17), 38.4 (17), 38.1, 31.2, 30.2 (17), 29.7, 29.4, 29.1, 28.9, 27.1 (17), 26.6, 26.5, 26.2, 26.0, 22.0, 18.7, 18.6 (17), 13.8; IR (neat) ν 3313, 2910, 2848, 2238 cm⁻¹; HMRS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{21}H_{37}O_2^+$ 321.2788 $[M + H^+]$, found 321.2794.

 (\pm) -(1S,*,5r*,6R*)-4,6-Dicyclohexyl-5-(hex-1-ynyl)-1,3-dioxane (18): At 20 °C, to 16 (17 mg, 0.05 mmol, 16:17 = 85:15) in dimethoxymethane (2 mL) was added PTSA (a spatula tip). After 16 h of stirring, the reaction was quenched with a mixture of a saturated aqueous NH₄Cl solution (10 mL) and Et₂O (10 mL) was added. The layers were separated, and the aqueous one was extracted with Et₂O (2 × 10 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with water (10 mL) then brine (10 mL) and dried over anhydrous MgSO₄. Removal of the solvent afforded a mixture of 18 and 19 (17 mg, 100%, 18:19 = 86:14) as a white crystalline solid. For the mixture of 18 and 19: mp 85–86 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.14 (d, J = 6.2 Hz, 1 H), 4.89 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 1 H 19), 4.83 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 1 H 19), 4.61 (d, J = 6.2 Hz, 1 H), 3.60 (dd, J = 9.9, 1.5 Hz, 1 H 19), 3.27 (dd, J = 9.4, 2.5 Hz, 1 H 19), 3.04 (dd, J = 9.6, 2.2 Hz, 2 H), 2.64-2.62 (m, 1 H 19), 2.52 (br s, 1 H), 2.22 (dt, J = 6.7, 2.2 Hz, 2 H), 2.11-2.08 (m, 2 H), 1.94–1.90 (m, 2 H 19), 1.83–1.64 (m, 10 H), 1.53–1.39 (m, 4 H), 1.32-1.10 (m, 6 H), 0.93 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3 H), 1.00-0.74 (m, 4 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 94.3, 86.6 (19), 83.9, 83.7, 82.2 (19), 81.8 (19), 79.0 (19), 77.7 (19), 75.0, 39.9 (19), 39.8, 35.8 (19), 33.1, 31.3, 31.2 (19), 31.0 (19), 29.8 (19), 29.7, 29.6 (19), 29.1, 27.6 (19), 27.5, 26.7, 26.4, 26.1, 26.0, 25.9 (19), 25.8, 25.7, 22.04 (19), 21.98, 18.7, 13.8; HMRS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{22}H_{37}O_2^+$ 333.2788 [$M + H^+$],

(\pm)-(1*R**,2*R**,3*S**)-1-Cyclohexyl-2-(hex-1-ynyl)pentane-1,3-diol (22): Under a nitrogen atmosphere, propanal (0.07 mL, 1.00 mmol) was added at -80 °C to allenylzinc 11, freshly prepared from epoxide 9a (75 mg 0.50 mmol) and $nBu_2Zn\cdot 2LiBr$ according to SP1. The same workup as for 16 was followed to afford a mixture of 22 and

27 (104 mg, 78%, 22:27 = 87:13). Further purification by flash chromatography afforded analytically pure 22 as a white crystalline solid: mp 49–51 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.65–3.59 (m, 1 H), 3.39–3.34 (m, 1 H), 2.94 (m, 1 H), 2.76 (m, 1 H), 2.64 (m, 1 H), 2.21 (dt, J = 6.9, 2.3 Hz, 2 H), 2.06–2.02 (m, 1 H), 1.88–0.88 (m, 22 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 86.6, 79.1, 76.1, 74.3, 42.3, 40.6, 31.2, 29.2, 29.1, 28.9, 26.5, 26.2, 25.9, 22.0, 18.6, 13.7, 10.2; HMRS (ESI) m/z calcd for C₁₇H₃₁O₂+ 267.2319 [M + H⁺], found 267.2322.

 (\pm) -(1R*,2S*,3R*)-1-Cyclohexyl-4,4-dimethyl-2-(hex-1-ynyl)pentane-1,3-diol (23): Under a nitrogen atmosphere, pivalaldehyde (0.11 mL, 1.00 mmol) was added at -80 °C to allenylzinc 11, freshly prepared from epoxide 9a (71 mg 0.47 mmol) and nBu₂Zn·2LiBr according to SP1. The same workup as for 16 was followed to afford a mixture of 23 and 28 (82 mg, 59%, 23:28 = 85:15) as a white crystalline solid. For the mixture of 23 and 28: mp 64-65 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.21–3.47 (m, 2 H 28), 3.31–3.28 (m, 2 H), 2.89-2.87 (m, 1 H), 2.79-2.71 (m, 3 H), 2.33 (d, J = 9.6 Hz, 1 H **28**), 2.21 (dt, J = 7.0, 2.3 Hz, 2 H), 2.19 (dt, J = 7.0, 2.2 Hz, 2 H **28**), 2.09 (d, J = 5.8 Hz, 1 H 28), 2.06-2.01 (m, 1 H), 1.87-1.83 (m, 1 H)28), 1.78-1.64 (m, 4 H), 1.60-1.36 (m, 5 H), 1.31-1.11 (m, 3 H), 1.04-0.88 (m, 2 H), 0.98 (s, 9 H 28), 0.96 (s, 9 H), 0.90 (t, J = 7.2Hz, 3 H); 13 C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 88.0, 87.3 (28), 81.3, 80.7, 77.3 (28), 75.8, 75.0, 41.7, 40.4, 37.5 (28), 36.7, 36.1, 35.8 (28), 31.04, 30.98 (28), 30.4 (28), 29.3, 28.9, 26.63 (28), 26.61 (28), 26.54, 26.5, 26.47, 26.3 (28), 26.25, 26.22, 26.0, 22.1, 18.7, 18.6 (28), 13.7; IR (neat) ν 3278, 2954, 2944, 2233 cm⁻¹; HMRS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{19}H_{34}O_2^+$ 295.2632 [M + H⁺], found 295.2637.

Mixture of (+)-(1R*,2r*,3S*)-1,3-Dicyclohexyl-2-(3,3-dimethylbut-1-ynyl)propane-1,3-diol (24) and (\pm) -(1R*,3R*)-1,3-Dicyclohexyl-2-(3,3-dimethylbut-1-ynyl)propane-1,3-diol (29): Under a nitrogen atmosphere, cyclohexanecarboxaldehyde (0.07 mL, 0.60 mmol) was added at -80 °C to allenylzinc 20, freshly prepared from epoxide 9a (69 mg 0.46 mmol) and tBu₂Zn·2LiBr according to SP1. The same workup as for 16 was followed to afford a mixture of 24 and 29 (129 mg, 88%, 24:29 = 36:64) as a white crystalline solid. For the mixture of 24 and 29: mp 156-157 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.58 (dd, J = 6.4, 5.7 Hz, 1 H), 3.49 (dd, J = 8.6, 1.7 Hz, 1 H), 3.36 (dd, J = 7.6, 2.8 Hz, 2 H 24), 2.79 (t, J = 2.8 Hz, 1 H), 2.70(dd, J = 6.4, 1.7 Hz, 1 H), 2.11-2.08 (m, 2 H 24), 2.01-1.86 (m, 2 H 24)H), 1.23 (s, 9 H 24), 1.22 (s, 9 H), 1.75-0.85 (m, 22 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 95.4 (24), 94.5, 78.5, 75.9, 74.9, 74.0, 72.9 (24), 42.9, 42.4, 40.8, 38.7, 38.1 (24), 31.4 (24), 31.3 (24), 30.3, 29.8, 29.3, 29.1, 28.9, 28.8, 27.7 (24), 27.6, 26.6, 26.53, 26.50. 26.4, 26.31, 26.26, 26.1, 26.0, 25.5; HMRS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{21}H_{37}O_2^+$ 321.2788 [M+ H⁺], found 321.2794.

(±)-(1*R**,2*S**)-1-Cyclohexyl-2-(hex-1-ynyl)-3-methylbutane-1,3-diol (25): Under a nitrogen atmosphere, acetone (0.12 mL, 1.60 mmol) was added at -80 °C to allenylzinc 11, freshly prepared from epoxide 9a (77 mg 0.51 mmol) and nBu_2Zn -LiBr according to SP1. The same workup as for 16 was followed to afford 25 (98 mg, 77%) as a white crystalline solid. Also prepared in 59% yield from epoxide *cis*-9a following the same procedure: mp 56–58 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.56–3.53 (m, 1 H), 2.89 (d, J = 5.6, 1 H), 2.69 (s, 1 H), 2.50–2.49 (m, 1 H), 2.24 (dt, J = 7.0, 2.3 Hz, 2 H), 2.14–2.08 (m, 1 H), 1.84–1.65 (m, 4 H), 1.65–1.38 (m, 5 H), 1.35 (s, 3 H), 1.31 (s, 3 H), 1.29–1.10 (m, 3 H), 1.00–0.80 (m, 2 H), 0.91 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 86.8, 75.8, 74.9, 73.0, 45.8, 42.8, 31.2, 29.7, 29.4, 29.0, 27.1, 26.5, 26.1, 26.0, 22.1, 18.6, 13.7; IR (neat) ν 3354, 2922, 2852, 2232 cm⁻¹; HMRS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{17}H_{30}O_2^+$ 267.2319 [M + H⁺], found 267.2324.

(±)-(35*,4*R**)-3-[(Dimethyl)phenylsilyl]ethynyl-5-ethyl-2-methylheptane-2,4-diol (26): Under a nitrogen atmosphere, acetone (0.19 mL, 2.50 mmol) was added at -80 °C to allenylzinc 21, freshly prepared from epoxide 9c (69 mg 0.50 mmol) and (PhMe₂Si)₂Zn·2LiBr according to SP2. The mixture was warmed to -40 °C over a period of 10 min and stirred at this temperature for 2.5 h. The same procedure workup as for 16 was followed, and the crude material was purified by flash chromatography (40% CH₂Cl₂/cyclohexane) to afford 26 (70 mg, 42%) as a yellow oil: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.68–7.64 (m, 2 H), 7.42–7.36 (m, 3 H), 4.11

(dd, J = 8.6, 1.7 Hz, 1 H), 2.77 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 1 H), 1.72–1.65 (m, 1 H), 1.63–1.55 (m, 1 H), 1.55–1.40 (m, 1 H), 1.44 (s, 3 H), 1.39 (s, 3 H), 1.23–1.37 (m, 1 H), 0.91 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3 H), 0.88 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3 H), 0.45 (s, 6 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 137.4, 133.8, 129.7, 128.1 105.4, 89.5, 73.0, 71.7, 47.7, 45.5, 29.6, 27.7, 21.2, 20.6, 10.8, 10.7, -0.4; IR (neat) ν 3355, 3069, 2961, 2169 cm⁻¹; HMRS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{20}H_{32}O_2SiNa^+$ 355.2064 [M + Na^+], found 355.2065.

ASSOCIATED CONTENT

S Supporting Information

Experimental procedures; ¹H and ¹³C spectra of new compounds; crystallographic data for compound **24**. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

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Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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DEDICATION

Dedicated to the memory of Robert E. Ireland.

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(23) X-ray crystal data of compound 24: $C_{26}H_{36}O_2$; $M_w = 320.52$; colorless; crystal size 0.08 × 0.12 × 0.19 mm; monoclinic; space group P2₁/c; Z = 4; a = 9.7491(15), b = 21.6842(77), c = 9.9916(14) Å, α = 90.000, β = 105.950(11), γ = 90.000(11)°; V = 2035.5(5) ų; ρ_{calcd} = 1.05 g cm⁻³; λ = 0.710730 Å (Mo Kα); μ = 0.065 cm⁻¹; KAPPA type diffractometer; temperature 250 K; θ range 1–25°; min/max h = -13/ 13, min/max k = -30/23, min/max l = -10/14; 19 046 measured reflections, 5879 independent, 3159 used, 209 parameters; R = 0.051($R = \Sigma ||F_0| - |F_c||/\Sigma |F_0|$), Rw = 0.057 ($Rw = [\Sigma w(||F_0| - |F_c||)^2/\Sigma w F_0^2]^{1/2}$), goodness of fit = 1.013, max/min $\Delta \rho = -0.17/0.27$ e Å⁻³. CCDC903504 contains the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge from The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre via www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/ data_ request/cif.
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