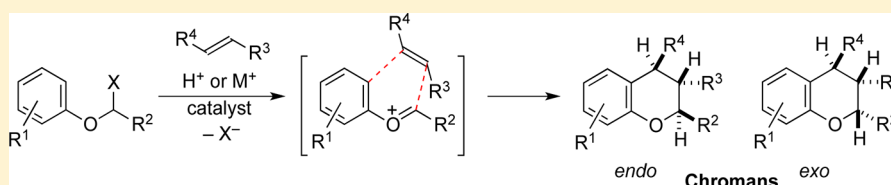


A Hetero Diels–Alder Approach to the Synthesis of Chromans (3,4-Dihydrobenzopyrans) Using Oxonium Ion Chemistry: The Oxa-Povarov Reaction

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Supporting Information

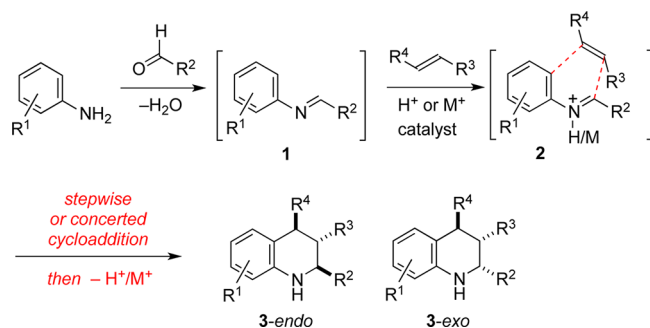


ABSTRACT: An oxa analogue of the well-known Povarov reaction has been developed for the synthesis of 3,4-dihydrobenzopyrans (chromans). The reaction involves the formal inverse electron demand [4 + 2] cycloaddition reaction of in situ-generated cationic aryl 2-oxadiene oxocarbenium ions with alkenes. The oxonium ion intermediates are generated through Lewis acid (SnCl_4)-promoted reactions of phenol-derived Rychnovsky-type mixed acetals. The yield and diastereoselectivity of the chroman products are found to depend upon the substitution pattern of the precursor alkene (i.e., monosubstituted, trans- or cis-disubstituted and cyclic alkenes). Generally, the reactions afford the endo-diastereomers as the major products, except for the reactions of *trans*- β -methylstyrene, which afford *exo*-chromans. A comparison of the product distributions from the reactions of *trans*- and *cis*- β -methylstyrene reveal that the reaction proceeds, at least in part, by a nonconcerted ionic pathway. Just as for the aza-Povarov reaction, there are two potential mechanisms for the reaction. The first mechanism involves a direct asynchronous [4 + 2] cycloaddition pathway, while the second occurs through the stepwise Prins addition of the alkene to the aryl 2-oxadiene oxonium ion, followed by an intramolecular aromatic substitution reaction of the resultant cation (i.e., a domino Prins/intramolecular Friedel–Crafts reaction).

INTRODUCTION

Hetero Diels–Alder reactions and their formal equivalents provide a powerful means for the rapid construction of heterocyclic scaffolds. Oxa- and aza-hetero Diels–Alder variants have been developed in which the dienophile and/or dienes can incorporate the heterocomponents.¹ One such aza-variant is the Povarov reaction,^{2,3} originally developed 50 years ago, in which *N*-arylimines (2-azadienes) **1** react with electron-rich alkenes in a formal inverse electron demand [4 + 2] cycloaddition via **2** to furnish tetrahydroquinolines **3** (Scheme 1). Modern variants

Scheme 1. The Povarov Reaction



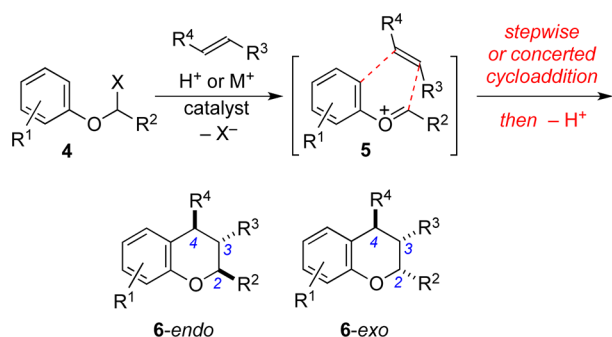
include multicomponent,⁴ organocatalytic,⁵ and solid-supported reactions.⁶ The tetrahydroquinoline products can be oxidized to give quinolones,⁷ and the reaction has been used both for the production of diverse chemical libraries⁸ as well as in the synthesis of a number of natural products.⁹

The key reaction intermediate in Povarov reactions are either protonated or Lewis acid-coordinated *N*-arylimines **2** or *N*-aryliminium ions. The cationic nature of these species increases their electrophilicity and reactivity as electron-deficient dienes. Given the considerable utility of the Povarov reaction, we were interested to establish whether an *O*-aryl oxonium species **5**, which is equivalent to a cationic 2-oxadiene intermediate, would undergo an analogous reaction to give 3,4-dihydrobenzopyrans (chromans) **6** (Scheme 2). Despite the extensive research on 2-azadienes,¹⁰ and the importance of oxonium ions as intermediates in numerous reactions, the chemistry of *O*-aryl oxonium species **5**, or their corresponding precursors **4**,¹¹ including their cycloaddition chemistry remains virtually unexplored.^{12,13} Such oxonium ion species would be expected to be more reactive than the corresponding iminium ions and capable of undergoing either direct hetero Diels–Alder reaction or the

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Scheme 2. Chroman Formation via the Oxa-Povarov (domino Prins/Friedel–Crafts) Reaction

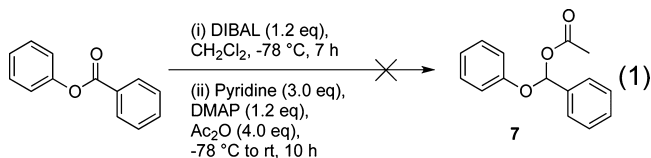


equivalent stepwise Prins addition/intramolecular electrophilic aromatic substitution reaction to give **6**.

The chroman skeleton appears in a number of natural products, including the tocopherols¹⁴ and flavans.¹⁵ They display a diverse array of biological activities, including antioxidant,¹⁶ antiestrogen,¹⁷ antiviral,¹⁸ antihypertensive,¹⁹ and anticancer²⁰ activity. Common approaches to the chroman skeleton²¹ include hetero Diels–Alder reactions of *o*-quinone methides (1-oxadienes),²² additions of *o*-hydroxy acetophenones,²³ and intramolecular nucleophilic substitution of phenols.²⁴ Alternative approaches to the chroman skeleton are of considerable interest for the formation of substituted chromans. Herein we describe the development of the oxa-Povarov reaction and its application to the diastereoselective synthesis of 2,3,4-substituted chromans.²⁵

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Establishing conditions suitable for the formation of the *O*-aryl oxonium species **5** is perhaps the major challenge associated with the development of an oxa-Povarov reaction. In general, formation of **5** could be achieved by the selective ionization of ArOCHXR **4** using a Lewis acid. Selective ionization of the X[−] group from **4** rather than the ArO[−] group would be required under these conditions. Synthetic approaches to suitably substituted **4** are rather limited, but one approach investigated was the use of Rychnovsky's protocol for mixed acetal synthesis.²⁶ The Rychnovsky-type mixed acetals have found widespread application as oxonium ion precursors. According to the literature procedure, treatment of phenyl benzoate with DIBAL at -78°C , followed by quenching with acetic anhydride, DMAP, and pyridine, afforded only phenyl acetate and benzyl alcohol and none of the desired mixed acetal **7** (eq 1). Attempts



to modify the reaction conditions with other hydride reducing agents were unsuccessful. The failure of this reaction must result from facile collapse of the tetrahedral aluminum intermediate **8a** under the DIBAL conditions, leading to over-reduced products (Figure 1). The more facile collapse of **8a** is presumably due to faster loss of phenoxide ion from **8a** (pK_a of phenol is 9.95) relative to that of alkoxide loss (pK_a of aliphatic alcohols are approximately 15.5–17) from the standard Rychnovsky-type tetrahedral intermediate **8b**.²⁷ Indeed, to the best of our

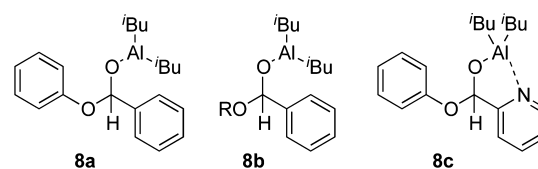
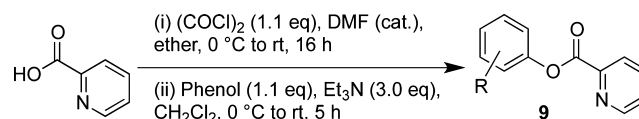


Figure 1. Tetrahedral intermediates formed using the Rychnovsky protocol.

knowledge there are no reported examples of reductive acetylation of phenyl or aryl esters using the Rychnovsky protocol.

To circumvent this problem, the formation of a more stable tetrahedral intermediate is necessary. Accordingly the introduction of an appropriately positioned heteroatom should sufficiently stabilize such an intermediate by chelation. The use of a picolinate ester was therefore considered, because it would lead to a tetrahedral intermediate **8c** stabilized by the pyridyl nitrogen in a five-membered ring chelate. The requisite aryl picolinate precursors **9** were synthesized in good yields by reaction of picolinic acid with oxalyl chloride/DMF, followed by treatment of the resultant acid chloride with phenol and triethylamine (Table 1). Reaction of phenyl picolinate **9a**

Table 1. Synthesis of Aryl Picolinates **9**

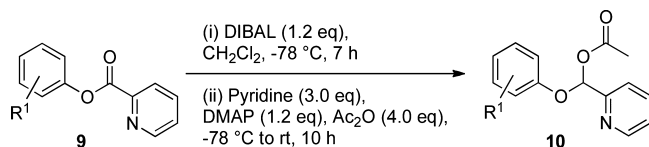


entry	R	product	yield (%)
1	H	9a	86
2	<i>o</i> -Me	9b	80
3	<i>m</i> -Me	9c	82
4	<i>p</i> -Me	9d	76
5	<i>o</i> -Cl	9e	78
6	<i>m</i> -Cl	9f	63
7	<i>p</i> -Cl	9g	76
8	<i>o</i> -OMe	9h	80
9	<i>m</i> -OMe	9i	64
10	<i>p</i> -OMe	9j	79
11	3,5-di-OMe	9k	60
12	3,5-di-Me	9l	65
13	<i>m</i> -NO ₂	9m	75
14	3,5-di-Cl	9n	35

according to the standard reductive acetylation conditions afforded the desired mixed acetal **10a** in 58% yield (Table 2, entry 1). A similar approach was utilized to synthesize other mixed acetals **10** (Table 2). The success of this procedure was sensitive to the pK_a of the phenolic component of the ester **9**. Higher yields were obtained for the more electron-rich esters such as **9b** and **9j** (phenol pK_a of 10.22 and 10.21, respectively), whereas a significant decline in yield was observed for electron-deficient esters, **9f** and **9g** (phenol pK_a of 9.08 and 9.38, respectively). Esters derived from phenols with a pK_a less than 8.50 (e.g., **9e**, **9k**, **9m**, and **9n**) afforded none of the desired mixed acetal.

Optimization studies on the reaction of **10a** with norbornene as a dienophile revealed that only stoichiometric amounts of either SnCl₄ or TiCl₄ would promote the reaction, although better diastereoselectivity was obtained with SnCl₄. Stoichiometric quantities of Yb(OTf)₃, In(OTf)₃, InCl₃, or BF₃·OEt₂

Table 2. Reductive Acetylation of Aryl Picolinates 9



entry	R	product	yield (%)	phenol pK _a
1	H	10a	58	9.97
2	<i>o</i> -Me	10b	67	10.22
3	<i>m</i> -Me	10c	62	10.10
4	<i>p</i> -Me	10d	66	10.19
5	<i>o</i> -Cl	10e	0	8.48
6	<i>m</i> -Cl	10f	13	9.08
7	<i>p</i> -Cl	10g	44	9.38
8	<i>o</i> -OMe	10h	55	9.98
9	<i>m</i> -OMe	10i	47	9.65
10	<i>p</i> -OMe	10j	71	10.21
11	3,5-di-OMe	10k	0	9.35
12	3,5-di-Me	10l	63	10.19
13	<i>m</i> -NO ₂	10m	0	8.35
14	3,5-di-Cl	10n	0	8.19

afforded only recovered starting material. Furthermore, the reaction required at least 1.2 equiv of SnCl₄ to proceed, and the best results were obtained with 2.0 equiv. This likely arises from preferential complexation with the pyridine nitrogen over the acetate carbonyl group.²⁸ The reaction was further optimized, and the best conditions were determined to be the use of 2.0 equiv of SnCl₄ in dichloromethane at -15 °C for 24 h.

Reaction of the acetal **10** with a variety of electron-rich alkenes using the optimized conditions of SnCl₄ (2.0 equiv) and dienophile (1.2–4.0 equiv) in dichloromethane at -15 °C for 24 h afforded cycloadducts in moderate to good yields (Table 3). Reaction of **10a** with norbornene led to the formation of chroman **11a** in high yield and diastereoselectivity, favoring the *exo-endo*²⁹ diastereomer (Table 3, entry 1). Reactions of styrenes led to the formation of chromans **11b–d** with approximately 5:1 diastereomeric ratios favoring the *cis-2,4-endo* diastereoisomers (Table 3, entries 2–4). The reaction was intolerant of very electron-rich alkenes such as ethyl vinyl ether, endocyclic enecarbamates, cyclopentadiene, or dihydrofuran, species that can be used in the Povarov reaction. In these cases, the strong Lewis acidic conditions resulted in competitive polymerization of the alkenes. Less reactive cyclic alkenes such as cyclopentene and cyclohexene are only rarely encountered in the Povarov reaction but interestingly were capable of participating in the *oxa-Povarov* reaction, to give chromans **11e** and **11f**, respectively, albeit in lower yields than were obtained for the adducts of norbornene or styrene (Table 3, entries 5 and 6). Again the reactions were found to be diastereoselective favoring the *endo*-diastereoisomers. The more reactive substrates 1,3-cyclohexadiene and indene also underwent addition to give adducts **11g** and **11h**, respectively, in modest yields (Table 3, entries 7 and 8).

The stereochemistry of each adduct was determined by analysis of the ¹H NMR spectra of the products. The major diastereomers of the products derived from cyclic alkenes (**11a** and **11e–h**) could be identified on the basis of the peaks corresponding to the H2 protons. For example, the isolated norbornene adduct **11a-*exo-endo*** shows a doublet at 4.93 ppm for H2 with a coupling constant of 3.5 Hz, which is indicative of an axial–equatorial-like coupling. This is consistent with the *syn* relationship in the *exo-endo* diastereomer where the phenyl

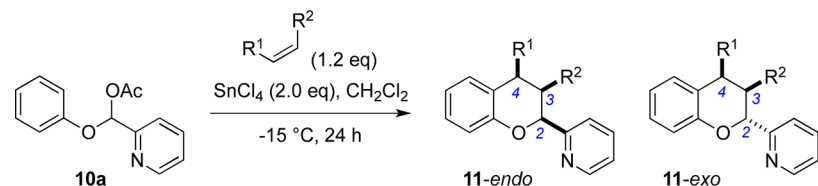
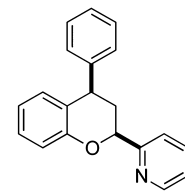
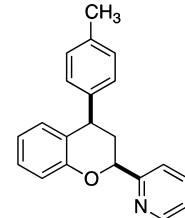
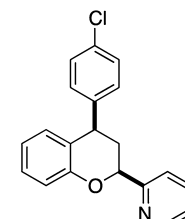
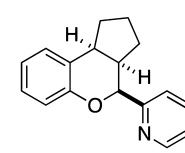
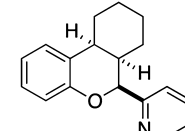
substituent adopts a pseudoequatorial orientation.³⁰ The identity of the major *exo-endo* diastereomer **11a** was confirmed by ¹H NMR and X-ray crystallographic analysis.³¹ (see Supporting Information). The H2–H3 and H3–H4 coupling constants were observed to be 3.5 and 9.0 Hz, respectively, which are consistent with a pseudoaxial orientation of H2 and a pseudoequatorial orientation of H3. The X-ray crystal structure indicates that the chroman ring adopts a distorted half-chair conformation, with a *syn* relationship between the C2, C3, and C4 substituents. The H2/H3 and H3/H4 dihedral angles of 52.5° and 8.2°, respectively, correlate well with the coupling constants observed by ¹H NMR.

The major diastereomers of the chromans derived from the acyclic styrenes (**11b–d**) showed H2–H3 and H3–H4 vicinal coupling constants that are also consistent with the *endo* stereoisomers. As a representative example, the styrene adduct **11b-*endo*** shows a doublet of doublet at 5.33 ppm with coupling constants of 11.5 and 2.0 Hz, corresponding to H2, and a peak at 4.40 ppm with coupling constants of 12.0 and 5.5 Hz, corresponding to H4. The coupling constants for both sets of peaks are characteristic of an axial–axial and axial–equatorial relationship for both the H2–H3/H2–H3' and H4–H3/H4–H3' pairs. This is consistent with a half chairlike conformation of the chroman ring and a *syn* relationship of the H2 and H4 protons of **11b-*endo***, such that both the pyridyl and phenyl substituents adopt pseudoequatorial orientations. The stereochemistry for **11b-*endo*** was also verified by X-ray crystallographic analysis. The observed dihedral angles of 63.8° and 177.5° for H2–C2–C3–H3/H3' and 58.3° and 177.0° for H4–C4–C3–H3/H3' are also consistent with the observed vicinal coupling constants.³² In general, the most diagnostic peak to identify the *exo*-diastereoisomers was that for H4 which appears as an apparent triplet (with, for example, a coupling constant of *J* = 5.0 Hz for **11b-*exo***).^{33,34}

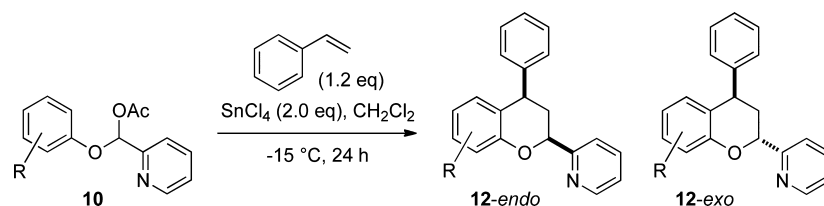
To examine stereoelectronic effects, *ortho*- and *para*-substituted acetyl esters **10** were allowed to react with both styrene (Table 4) and norbornene (Table 5) under the optimized conditions. Reaction of styrene as the dienophile with methyl-, methoxy-, and chloro-substituted compounds **10** occurred to give the chromans **12** as the major *endo*-isomers with moderate to good diastereomeric ratios (2.0–7.6:1) (Table 4). For reaction of the *para*-substituted compounds, the diastereomeric ratio showed a modest decrease with increasing electron-donating ability of the substituent (Cl > Me > MeO). Products from the reaction of the *ortho*-substituted compounds showed slightly increased selectivity relative to their *para*-substituted counterparts. The observed preference for the formation of the **12-*endo*** products parallels the results generally obtained for the preferential formation of *endo*-tetrahydroquinolines in the *aza-Povarov* reaction, although reactions of styrenes are known to occur with both *endo* and *exo* selectivity.³

In general, the cycloaddition reactions of norbornene were more effective than those for styrene (Table 5). The reactions of *ortho*- and *para*-methyl-, -methoxy-, and -chloro-substituted compounds **10** occurred to give the chromans **13**. As for the reactions with styrene the *endo*-products (i.e., **13-*exo-endo***) were obtained as the major isomers with good to excellent diastereomeric ratios (10–30:1) (Table 5). The observed preference for the formation of the **13-*exo-endo*** products contrasts with the results for comparable standard *aza-Povarov* reactions.³⁵ In these cases, the product tetrahydroquinolines were obtained with high *exo-*exo** selectivity, and the selectivity was attributed to reaction occurring via a concerted [4 + 2] mechanism.³⁶

Table 3. Reaction of 10a with Various Alkenes

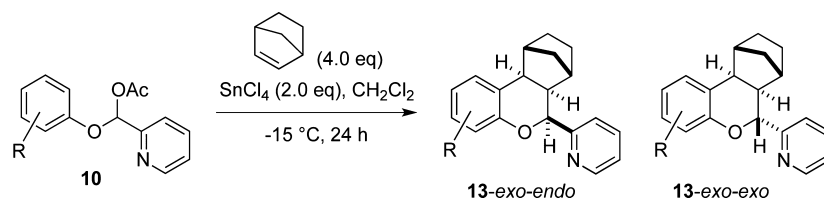
entry	alkene	product ^a	yield (%)	d.r. ^b
1	norbornene ^c	 11-endo 11-exo	77	20 : 1
2	styrene	 11b	64	4.8 : 1
3	4-Me-styrene	 11c	20	5 : 1
4	4-Cl-styrene	 11d	54	4.7 : 1
5	cyclopentene	 11e	42 ^e	11 : 1
6	cyclohexene	 11f	25 ^e	17 : 1

^aOnly the major (endo) product is shown. ^b11-endo:11-exo ratio determined by analysis of the ¹H NMR spectrum of the crude reaction mixture. ^c4.0 equiv of dienophile used. ^dOnly the major (exo-endo) product is shown. ^eReaction conducted at 0 °C for 24 h.

Table 4. Reaction of Styrene with Substituted Aryl Acetals **10**

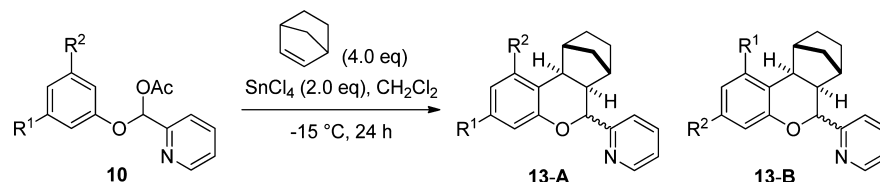
entry	precursor	R	product	yield (%)	dr ^a
1	10a	H	11b	64	4.8:1
2	10b	<i>o</i> -Me	12b	66	4.9:1
3	10d	<i>p</i> -Me	12d	59	4.0:1
4	10g	<i>p</i> -Cl	12g	28	7.6:1
5	10h	<i>o</i> -OMe	12h	45	6.0:1
6	10j	<i>p</i> -OMe	12j	58	2.0:1

^a12-endo:12-exo ratio determined by analysis of the ¹H NMR spectrum of the crude reaction mixture.

Table 5. Reaction of Norbornene with Substituted Acetals **10**

entry	precursor	R	product	isolated yield, %	dr ^a
1	10a	H	11a	80	20:1
2	10b	<i>o</i> -Me	13b	82	11:1
3	10d	<i>p</i> -Me	13d	79	20:1
4	10g	<i>p</i> -Cl	13g	58	18:1
5	10h	<i>o</i> -OMe	13h	68	30:1
6	10j	<i>p</i> -OMe	13j	65	10:1

^a13-exo-endo:13-exo-exo ratio determined by analysis of the ¹H NMR spectrum of the crude reaction mixture.

Table 6. Reaction of Norbornene with Meta-Substituted Acetals **10**

entry	R ¹	R ²	product	isolated yield, %	ratio (13-A:13-B) ^a	dr ^{a,b}
1	Me	H	13c	81	1.7:1	20:1
2	Cl	H	13f	55	2.2:1	15:1
3	OMe	H	13i	57	2.1:1	15:1
4	Me	Me	13l	66	–	≥40:1

^aDetermined by analysis of the ¹H NMR spectrum of the crude reaction mixture. ^b13-exo-endo:13-exo-exo determined for 13-A.

For the reactions of meta-substituted substrates **10**, issues of both regio- and diastereoselectivity arise. To examine these selectivity issues, norbornene was chosen as a model dienophile (Table 6). In all cases the products **13** were obtained favoring isomer **13-A** (with the substituent para to the norbornyl ring) over **13-B** (ortho) (1.7–2.2:1), and with high diastereomeric ratios favoring the exo-endo-diastereoisomers.³⁷

MECHANISTIC STUDIES

When first reported, the aza-Povarov reaction was presumed to proceed via a concerted [4 + 2] cycloaddition mechanism, and the possible diastereomeric products were designated *endo* or *exo*

in relation to the corresponding Diels–Alder reaction. More recent studies have demonstrated that a stepwise manifold is often operative,^{3,38} with a Mannich-type addition of the alkene to the activated imine, followed by cyclization via intramolecular Friedel–Crafts reaction. In some instances, however, experimental results are better rationalized with a concerted mechanism.^{3,39} An analogous mechanistic dichotomy is also possible for the oxa-Povarov reaction, with either stepwise or concerted [4 + 2] cycloaddition cationic pathways leading to the chroman products. The concerted [4 + 2] cycloaddition pathway proceeds via **14** to give cation **15**, which then loses a proton to give chroman **6** (Figure 2). The stepwise mechanism involves

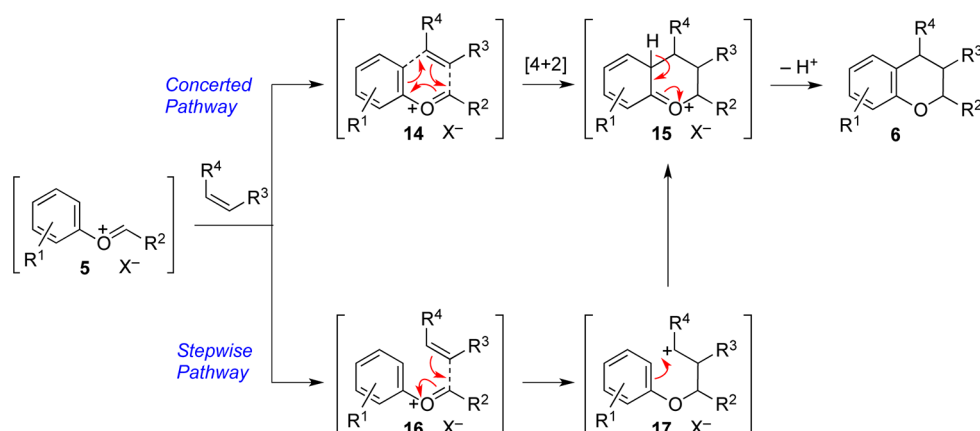
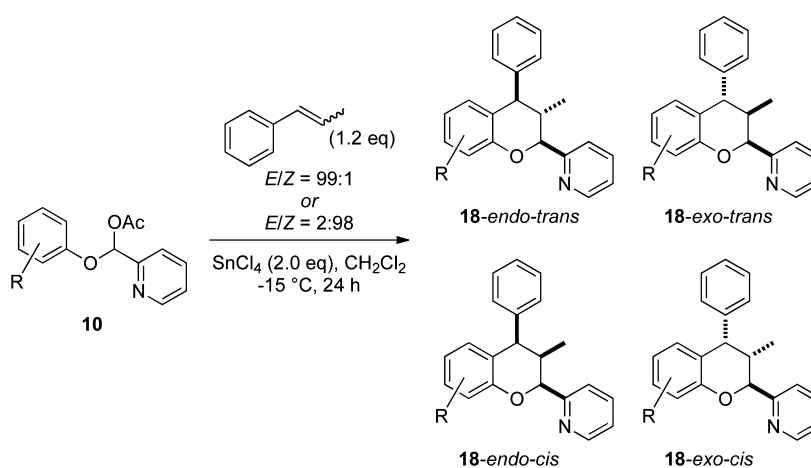


Figure 2. Concerted and stepwise reaction pathways for the Oxa-Povarov reaction.

Table 7. Reactions of *cis*- and *trans*- β -Methylstyrene with 10



entry	precursor styrene	precursor styrene	R	product	yield (%)	dr (endo:exo) ^a	dr (endo-trans:exo-trans:endo-cis:exo-cis) ^a
1	10a	trans	H	18a	29	1.0:6.3	1.0:6.3:—:—
2	10d	trans	<i>p</i> -Me	18d	46	1.0:3.7	1.0:3.7:—:—
3	10j	trans	<i>p</i> -OMe	18j	63	1.0:2.2	6.7:16.7:1.0:—
4	10a	cis	H	18a	28	8.1:1.0	2.5:3.0:7.5:1.0
5	10d	cis	<i>p</i> -Me	18d	34	7.8:1.0	14.3:2.1:10:1.0
6	10j	cis	<i>p</i> -OMe	18j	56	3.6:1.0	5.0:1.8:5.0:1.0

^aDetermined by analysis of the ¹H NMR spectrum of the crude reaction mixture.

initial Prins-type⁴⁰ addition of the alkene to the *E*-configured aryl oxocarbenium ion **5**⁴¹ via **16**, followed by intramolecular Friedel–Crafts alkylation of the resultant cation **17** to give **15** and finally rearomatization to give **6**.^{42,43}

One probe of whether a stepwise of concerted mechanism occurs is to examine the reactions of stereochemically defined *trans*- and *cis*-dienophiles, because the stereochemical relationship of the dienophile substituents should be retained in the case of a concerted [4 + 2] cycloaddition pathway (i.e., the reaction should be stereospecific with respect to alkene geometry), whereas reaction via a stepwise pathway can lead to stereochemical scrambling resulting from C3–C4 bond rotation of intermediate **17**. Reaction of **10** with either *cis*- or *trans*- β -methylstyrene under the standard conditions led to a mixture of diastereomeric products (Table 7). For example, the reaction of *trans*- β -methylstyrene and **10j** afforded **18j** as a mixture of the *endo*-*trans*, *exo*-*trans*, and *endo*-*cis* isomers in an 6.7:16.7:1.0 ratio. For the reactions of *cis*- β -methylstyrene, all four isomeric products were isolated in each case.

The stereochemistry of the cycloadducts **18** was determined by ¹H NMR analysis, in particular through a consideration of the H2 and H4 protons. An illustrative example is provided with selected NMR data for product **18j** (Table 8). The ¹H NMR spectrum of **18j**-*endo*-*trans* shows that both H2 and H4 have large vicinal couplings to H3 ($J = 10.0$ and 11.0 Hz), consistent with an axial–axial relationship between each of these protons and H3. 2D NOESY experiments show strong H2–H4 as well as methyl–H2 and methyl–H4 NOE enhancements, indicative of a *syn* relationship between H2, H4 and the methyl group. The *exo*-*trans* and *endo*-*cis* isomers were distinguished on the basis of observed NOE's for H2, H4 and the methyl group. The *endo*-*cis* isomer shows strong H2–H4, as well as H2–H3 and H3–H4 NOE enhancements, indicating a *syn* relationship between all three of these protons. The absence of NOE enhancements between either H2 or H4 and the methyl protons is also consistent with the *endo*-*cis* stereochemistry, given the *anti* relationship between both of these protons and the methyl group. The observed vicinal coupling constants of 1.0 Hz for

Table 8. Selected NMR Data for Diastereoisomers of 18j

R	Selected ^1H NMR Data	NOE ^a
18j-endo-trans	H2: 4.87 ppm, $J_{\text{H2-H3}} = 10.0$ Hz H4: 3.82 ppm, $J_{\text{H3-H4}} = 11.0$ Hz	
18j-endo-cis	H2: 5.39 ppm, $J_{\text{H2-H3}} = 1.0$ Hz H4: 4.79 ppm, $J_{\text{H3-H4}} = 5.5$ Hz	
18j-exo-trans	H2: 5.10 ppm, $J_{\text{H2-H3}} = 2.5$ Hz H4: 4.00 ppm, $J_{\text{H3-H4}} = 1.5$ Hz	
18j-exo-cis	H2: 5.04 ppm, $J_{\text{H2-H3}} = 9.0$ Hz H4: 4.01 ppm, $J_{\text{H3-H4}} = 5.5$ Hz	

^aStrong interactions are shown in blue, and weak interactions are shown in red.

$J_{\text{H2-H3}}$ and 5.5 Hz for $J_{\text{H3-H4}}$ are also consistent with the axial–equatorial relationship between these pairs of protons. NOE data for the *exo-trans* isomer show methyl-H4 and H2–H3 NOE enhancements, indicating a *syn* relationship between these pairs, while the absence of an H2 and H4 NOE enhancement is consistent with an *anti* relationship between these protons. The ^1H NMR data of the *exo-cis* isomer⁴⁴ is consistent with a *trans*-axial relationship between H2 and H3, and an axial–equatorial relationship between H3 and H4.

Because the reaction is not stereospecific with respect to alkene geometry, and scrambling of alkene geometry does not occur in the absence of **10**, the oxa-Povarov reaction must proceed through a stepwise path (Figure 2),⁴⁵ at least for those cases where scrambling was observed (Table 7, entries 3–6). Initial stepwise Prins-type addition of the activated alkene to the oxonium generates carbocation intermediates **A**, **B**, and **C**, which can have *endo/exo* and *trans/cis* relative stereochemistry **19** (Figure 3). Intermediates **A** and **C** are formed through a *syn*clinal approach of the oxonium ion to the alkene, whereas intermediate **B** is formed through an *anti*clinal approach. Intermediates **A** and **B** must undergo C2–C3 bond rotation to generate intermediate **C** from which Friedel–Crafts cyclization to the products occur. A concerted hetero Diels–Alder mechanism would proceed via a *syn*clinal orientation analogous to **C**. For reactions of styrene, the favored products have *endo* stereochemistry (**19**, R = H), while for reactions of *trans-β*-methylstyrene, there is a reversal of selectivity in favor of the *exo* stereochemistry products (**19**, R = Me). However, for the reactions of *cis-β*-methylstyrene (R = Me), significant amounts of *cis* to *trans* scrambled products

are observed (the *endo-trans* isomers are the major products), consistent with slow cyclization of the *exo-cis* intermediates relative to C3–C4 bond rotation. There is also partial scrambling of the *endo-cis* to the *exo-trans* intermediates. The overall product distributions for the reactions of *cis-β*-methylstyrene show that initial C2–C3 bond formation in the Prins step occurs with only modest selectivity (i.e., the product ratio of *endo-trans* + *exo-cis*:*exo-trans* + *endo-cis*).⁴⁶

The relative C2/C3 stereochemistry should be set in the initial addition step of the oxonium ion for the reactions of both *cis* and *trans-β*-methylstyrene substrates, assuming that reaction occurs via an irreversible stepwise mechanism. The stereoselectivity of this C2–C3 bond formation can be compared to the additions of alkenes to oxonium ions, such as occur in carbonyl ene⁴⁷ and crotylsilylation reactions.⁴⁸ A combined experimental (using TMSOTf as a Lewis acid) and computational study (at the B3LYP/6-31+G(d) level of theory) revealed that reactions between unbranched aliphatic aldehydes and *E*-crotylsilanes occurred preferentially to give *syn* products, whereas *Z*-crotylsilanes react preferentially to give the corresponding *anti* products.⁴⁸ These observations were rationalized using the *syn*clinal transition state model **20** and *anti*clinal transition state model **21**, respectively (Figure 4). The stereochemistry of TS **20** corresponds to the transition state *exo-trans-A* (Figure 3), and predicts the same relative stereochemistry for both reactions (i.e., the *syn*-crotylsilylation corresponds to the C2/C3 stereocontrol in the oxa-Povarov reaction). Similarly the analogous stereochemistry of TS **21** and TS *exo-cis-B* results in the same relative stereochemistry for the oxa Povarov and *Z*-crotylation products.

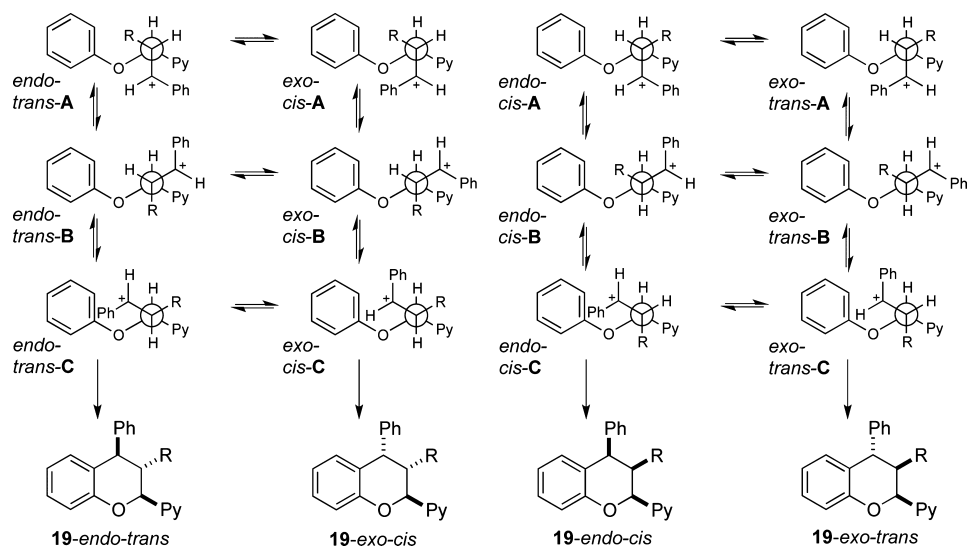


Figure 3. Rationale for the formation of scrambled products from **10** and β -methylstyrene showing reaction intermediates involved in a stepwise pathway.

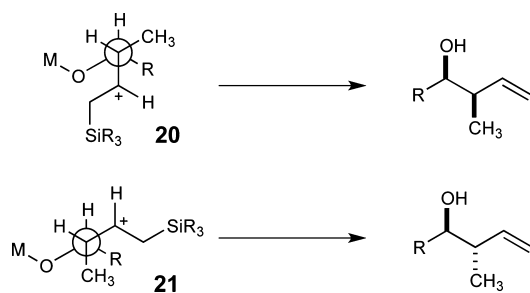


Figure 4. Calculated transition state model⁴⁸ for the reactions of oxonium ions with *E*- and *Z*-crotylsilanes ($M = \text{CH}_3$ and $\text{SiR}_3 = \text{SiH}_3$).

The higher selectivity obtained for the reactions of *trans*- β -methylstyrene compared to the *cis* isomer are also paralleled in the reactions of crotylsilanes. The similarity between these reactions may suggest that transition states *exo-trans-A* and *exo-cis-B* are relevant for the oxa-Povarov reaction.

Reactions with cyclic alkenes (i.e., also *cis*-configured alkenes) such as norbornene, cyclohexene, and indene proceed with high endo selectivity ($\geq 10:1$ for all cases studied). The C2/C3 relative stereochemistry of the products is thus opposite to that for the major isomers obtained from the reactions of *cis*- β -methylstyrene. Destabilization of the *exo* Prins transition states presumably

occurs as a result of steric effects, particularly for transition states *exo-cyc-TS-A* and *exo-cyc-TS-B* (corresponding to *exo-cis-A* and **B**) (Figure 5). Similar destabilizing steric effects for *endo-cyc-TS-A* may suggest that reactions of cyclic alkenes occur through either the antichiral transition state *endo-cyc-TS-B* or the Diels–Alder like synclinal transition state *endo-cyc-TS-C*.

The Povarov reaction using protic acid catalysis⁴⁹ has been shown to operate via a stepwise mechanism, although its cationic variant⁵⁰ has been shown to be stereospecific with respect to β -methylstyrene geometry, indicating a concerted mechanism. Related cycloaddition chemistry of α -thionium ion dienes to give the corresponding thiochromans, however, appears to operate by a stepwise mechanism.⁵¹ The aza-Povarov reaction has been shown to be very sensitive to reaction conditions in terms of both yield and selectivity. For example, a complete reversal of endo/*exo* selectivity can be realized by changing from Lewis to protic acids in the case of reactions of cyclic enamide-type dienophiles.⁵² For Povarov reactions using styrene as the dienophile, modest *exo* selectivity is generally observed under protic acid-catalyzed conditions;⁵³ however, endo selectivity is often observed with more reactive imine precursors.⁵⁴ Interestingly, Povarov reactions of *trans*- β -methylstyrenes occur with high levels of endo selectivity.⁵⁵ In contrast the oxa-Povarov reactions of *trans*- β -methylstyrene occur with *exo* selectivity, while the reactions of

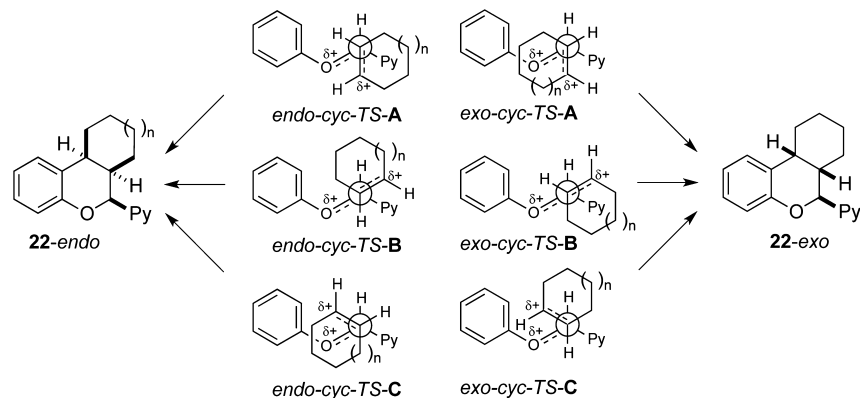


Figure 5. Prins transition states for the reactions of cyclic alkenes.

styrene and *cis*- β -methylstyrene occur in an endo-selective fashion. A similar comparison can be made for the reactions of norbornene, for which *exo*-*endo* selectivity is observed in the aza-Povarov reactions,³⁵ but *exo*-*endo* selectivity in the oxa-Povarov reaction. A key difference between the intermediates for these reactions is the presence of the Lewis acid (bound to the imine nitrogen) in the Povarov reaction, compared to a vacant site at the *E*-configured oxocarbenium oxygen in the oxa-Povarov reaction. While there is no definitive transition state model for either the aza- or oxa-Povarov reactions, this difference and its effect on the mode of approach of the dienophile with the oxocarbenium ion relative to that obtained with an iminium ion is presumably a major factor underlying the opposite diastereoselectivities obtained in the oxa-Povarov versus the standard aza-Povarov reaction.

CONCLUSIONS

A hetero Diels–Alder approach to 2,3,4-substituted chromans has been developed. The reaction proceeds via a formal [4 + 2] cycloaddition between an electron-rich alkene and an extremely rare cationic 2-oxadiene intermediate. Aryl picolinate mixed acetals serve as precursors to these intermediates, such that chromans are formed on reaction with 2 equiv of SnCl₄ and electron-rich alkenes. Norbornene and styrene afforded moderate to good yields of chromans, whereas lower yields were obtained with other carbocyclic alkenes such as cyclohexene and cyclohexadiene. Endo-selective reactions occurred from the reactions of norbornene ($\geq 10:1$) and styrene (approximately 5:1 dr). Reactions of *trans*- β -methylstyrene occurred with *exo* selectivity, whereas the reactions of *cis*- β -methylstyrene occurred with endo selectivity. The reactions of *cis*- β -methylstyrene were also found to be nonstereospecific with respect to the styrene geometry, indicating that a sequential Prins/Friedel–Crafts-type mechanism occurs for the reactions of this substrate. The relative endo/*exo* stereochemistry observed in the oxa-Povarov reactions was generally found to be opposite to that observed for the comparable standard Povarov reactions.

Through the course of this study, the first example of a reductive acetylation procedure for the synthesis of phenol-substituted mixed acetals was also developed. The use of picolinate esters was essential to achieve selective DIBAL reduction. Further studies will be required to expand the scope of oxonium precursors and alkenes amenable to the reaction, as well as to provide additional mechanistic data to rationalize the observed selectivity differences for chroman formation.

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

General Procedure. All reactions were performed under nitrogen or argon in flame-dried glassware. Ether was freshly distilled from sodium/benzophenone ketyl under nitrogen. Dichloromethane was freshly distilled from calcium hydride under nitrogen. All other solvents were obtained as ACS grade or better from commercial suppliers and used as received. All reagents were used as received from commercial suppliers. Flash chromatography on silica gel (60 Å, 230–400 mesh) was performed with reagent grade solvents. Analytical thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on precoated silica gel plates, visualized with a UV₂₅₄ lamp, and stained with vanillin. Solvent ratios for chromatography and *R_f* values are reported as v/v ratios. Melting points are uncorrected and obtained on compounds purified through flash chromatography with further recrystallization. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were obtained as solutions in deuterated solvents. Chemical shifts are reported in δ ppm values. Proton chemical shifts were internally referenced to tetramethylsilane (δ 0.00 ppm). Carbon chemical shifts were internally referenced to the solvent resonances in CDCl₃ (δ 77.00 ppm).

Peak multiplicities are designated by the following abbreviations: s, singlet; d, doublet; t, triplet; q, quartet; m, multiplet; br, broad; *J*, coupling constant in hertz. Mass spectra were obtained on a TOF mass spectrometer.

General Procedure for Picolinate Ester Synthesis (9). A slurry of picolinic acid (4.0 mmol) in ether (30 mL) was cooled to 0 °C. Oxalyl chloride (4.4 mmol) was added, followed by DMF (50 μ L). The reaction was stirred at 0 °C and warmed to room temperature over 16 h. The solvent was then evaporated with protection from moisture, and the resulting acid chloride was dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (40 mL) and cooled to 0 °C. The appropriate phenol (4.4 mmol) was added, followed by triethylamine (12.0 mmol). The reaction was stirred at 0 °C and warmed to ambient temperature over 5 h. Saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate (10 mL) and CH₂Cl₂ (20 mL) were added, and the reaction was stirred rapidly. The organic phase was collected and washed with saturated sodium bicarbonate, water, and brine. After being dried over Na₂SO₄, the reaction was concentrated under reduced pressure and purified by silica gel column chromatography to afford the picolinate ester.

Phenyl picolinate 9a. Flash chromatography (30% ethyl acetate/hexanes) gave **9a** as a white solid (0.685 g, 86% yield). *R_f* = 0.23 (30% ethyl acetate/hexanes); mp 78–79 °C (hexanes/ethyl acetate); IR (thin film, CH₂Cl₂) ν_{\max} 3070, 1751, 1581, 1483, 1302, 1277, 1235, 1193, 1115, 1073, 924, 819, 749, 698 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.86 (1H, ddd, *J* = 1.0, 1.5, 4.5 Hz), 8.31 (1H, ddd, *J* = 1.0, 1.0, 8.0 Hz), 7.93 (1H, ddd, *J* = 1.5, 7.5, 8.0 Hz), 7.57 (1H, ddd, *J* = 1.0, 4.5, 7.5 Hz), 7.45 (2H, dd, *J* = 8.0, 8.0 Hz), 7.26–7.33 (3H, m); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 163.9, 151.0, 150.2, 147.6, 137.3, 129.6, 127.5, 126.2, 125.9, 121.7; MS (EI) *m/z* 199 (16) [M]⁺, 170 (4), 155 (100), 115 (4), 106 (31), 94 (8), 78 (64), 65 (17), 51 (8); HRMS (EI) calcd for [M]⁺ C₁₂H₉NO₂ 199.0633; found 199.0633.

2-Methylphenyl picolinate 9b. Flash chromatography (30% ethyl acetate/hexanes) gave **9b** as a white solid (0.681 g, 80% yield). *R_f* = 0.21 (30% ethyl acetate/hexanes); mp 48–49 °C (hexanes/ethyl acetate); IR (thin film, CH₂Cl₂) ν_{\max} 3057, 2926, 1736, 1582, 1491, 1304, 1290, 1244, 1174, 1117, 1078, 993, 768, 746, 700 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.86 (1H, ddd, *J* = 0.5, 1.5, 4.5 Hz), 8.29 (1H, ddd, *J* = 0.5, 1.0, 8.0 Hz), 7.92 (1H, ddd, *J* = 1.5, 7.5, 8.0 Hz), 7.56 (1H, ddd, *J* = 1.0, 4.5, 7.5 Hz), 7.24–7.30 (2H, m), 7.15–7.22 (2H, m), 2.26 (3H, s); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 163.5, 150.2, 149.6, 147.4, 137.3, 131.3, 130.2, 127.5, 127.1, 126.4, 125.8, 121.9, 16.3; MS (EI) *m/z* 213 (2, M⁺), 184 (12), 169 (100), 156 (4), 129 (3), 106 (25), 91 (3), 78 (65), 51 (15); HRMS (EI) calcd for [M]⁺ C₁₃H₁₁NO₂ 213.0790; found 213.0794.

3-Methylphenyl picolinate 9c. Flash chromatography (30% ethyl acetate/hexanes) gave **9c** as a white solid (0.597 g, 70% yield). *R_f* = 0.18 (30% ethyl acetate/hexanes); mp 51–52 °C (hexanes/ethyl acetate); IR (thin film, CH₂Cl₂) ν_{\max} 3063, 2916, 2855, 1751, 1604, 1582, 1427, 1303, 1227, 1142, 1111, 1072, 1049, 995, 918, 787, 748, 687 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.84 (1H, dd, *J* = 1.0, 4.5 Hz), 8.27 (1H, dd, *J* = 0.5, 8.0 Hz), 7.90 (1H, ddd, *J* = 1.5, 7.5, 8.0 Hz), 7.54 (1H, dd, *J* = 4.5, 7.5 Hz), 7.31 (1H, dd, *J* = 7.5, 7.5 Hz), 7.02–7.11 (3H, m), 2.39 (3H, s); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.0, 150.9, 150.2, 147.6, 139.7, 137.2, 129.3, 127.4, 127.0, 125.8, 122.3, 118.7, 21.4; MS (EI⁺) *m/z* 213 (2, M⁺), 184 (4), 169 (100), 156 (2), 129 (1), 106 (37), 91 (1), 78 (72), 51 (13); HRMS (EI) calcd for [M]⁺ C₁₃H₁₁NO₂ 213.0790; found 213.0792.

4-Methylphenyl picolinate 9d. Flash chromatography (30% ethyl acetate/hexanes) gave **9d** as a white solid (0.648 g, 76% yield). *R_f* = 0.18 (30% ethyl acetate/hexanes); mp 85–86 °C (hexanes, ethyl acetate); IR (thin film, CH₂Cl₂) ν_{\max} 3055, 2955, 2916, 2862, 1751, 1574, 1505, 1304, 1281, 1234, 1188, 1165, 1111, 1072, 995, 880, 802 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.84 (1H, ddd, *J* = 1.0, 1.5, 4.5 Hz), 8.27 (1H, dd, *J* = 1.0, 8.0 Hz), 7.90 (1H, ddd, *J* = 1.5, 7.5, 8.0 Hz), 7.55 (1H, ddd, *J* = 1.5, 4.5, 7.5 Hz), 7.23 (2H, d, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 7.14 (2H, d, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 2.37 (3H, s); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.2, 150.2, 148.8, 147.7, 137.3, 135.9, 130.2, 127.5, 125.9, 121.5, 21.0; MS (ESI⁺) *m/z* 236 (36, [M + Na]⁺), 214 (100, [M + H]⁺), 124 (9), 106 (7), 96 (35); HRMS (ESI⁺) calcd for [M + H]⁺ C₁₃H₁₁NO₂ 214.0862; found 214.0872.

2-Chlorophenyl picolinate 9e. Flash chromatography (30% ethyl acetate/hexanes) gave **9e** as a white solid (0.730 g, 78% yield). *R_f* = 0.13 (30% ethyl acetate/hexanes); mp 80–81 °C (hexanes, ethyl acetate); IR

2-((2S*,3R*,4S*)-6-Methoxy-3-methyl-4-phenylchroman-2-yl)-pyridine **18j-exo-trans**. isolated as a white solid, mp 105–106 °C (hexanes/ethyl acetate); IR (thin film, CH₂Cl₂) ν_{\max} 3063, 2962, 1594, 1490, 1356, 1276, 1224, 1153, 1035, 964, 885, 821, 755, 703 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.50 (1H, ddd, *J* = 0.9, 1.7, 4.8 Hz), 7.70 (1H, ddd, *J* = 1.8, 7.8, 7.8 Hz), 7.65 (1H, d, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.30 (1H, t, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 7.20 (2H, dddd, *J* = 2.0, 2.0, 7.5, 7.5 Hz), 7.12–7.16 (3H, m), 7.01 (1H, d, *J* = 9.0 Hz), 6.83 (1H, dd, *J* = 3.1, 9.0 Hz), 6.55 (1H, d, *J* = 3.0 Hz), 5.10 (1H, d, *J* = 2.3 Hz), 4.00 (1H, d, *J* = 1.6 Hz), 3.71 (3H, s), 2.68 (1H, app. tq, *J* = 2.3, 6.0 Hz), 0.83 (3H, d, *J* = 7.0 Hz); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.7, 154.1, 149.1, 148.7, 146.4, 136.5, 129.1, 128.7, 126.7, 122.7, 122.2, 121.3, 117.6, 115.7, 115.0, 75.5, 55.9, 49.1, 38.9, 14.0; MS (ESI⁺) *m/z* 332 (100, [M + H]⁺); HRMS (ESI⁺) calcd for [M + H]⁺ C₂₂H₂₂NO₂ 332.1656; found 332.1654.

2-((2S*,3R*,4R*)-6-Methoxy-3-methyl-4-phenylchroman-2-yl)-pyridine **18j-endo-cis**. isolated as white solid, mp 109–110 °C (hexanes/ethyl acetate); IR (thin film, CH₂Cl₂) ν_{\max} 3063, 2963, 1591, 1491, 1270, 1214, 1122, 1031, 924, 815, 743; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.60 (1H, ddd, *J* = 0.9, 1.7, 4.8 Hz), 7.70–7.78 (2H, m), 7.21–7.35 (6H, m), 6.97 (1H, d, *J* = 9.0 Hz), 6.78 (1H, dd, *J* = 3.1, 9.0 Hz), 6.57 (1H, d, *J* = 3.0 Hz), 5.40 (1H, d, *J* = 1.0 Hz), 4.79 (1H, d, *J* = 5.5 Hz), 3.66 (3H, s), 2.66–2.74 (1H, m), 0.46 (3H, d, *J* = 7.0 Hz); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.0, 153.8, 149.3, 149.1, 141.8, 136.7, 130.2, 128.3, 127.0, 124.5, 122.4, 120.9, 117.8, 115.2, 114.2, 81.2, 55.9, 48.9, 37.4, 7.8; MS (ESI⁺) *m/z* 332 (100, [M + H]⁺), 132 (63); HRMS (ESI⁺) calcd for [M + H]⁺ C₂₂H₂₂NO₂ 332.1651; found 332.1657.

■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

■ Supporting Information

Copies of ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra, ORTEP X-ray crystal structure displays, and CIF files for **11a-exo-endo** and **11b-endo**. 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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(30) The minor isomer was identified from the ¹H NMR spectrum of the crude reaction mixtures. The H2 proton appeared at 4.54 ppm, slightly upfield compared to the endo isomer, with a large coupling

constant of 9.6 Hz. The relatively large coupling constant, as well as the upfield shift of these protons, is consistent with that of the exo-exo stereoisomers observed for the products of aza-Povarov reactions of norbornene (ref 35).

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(37) The corresponding aza-Povarov reactions using norbornene occur with modest selectivity to give the regioisomer having the substituent at the 7-position of the tetrahydroquinoline ring system using 3,4-dimethylaniline (3:2 ratio), and at the 5-position (64:36 ratio) using *m*-chloroaniline (see ref 35). The 7-substituted tetrahydroquinolines were obtained exclusively as the exo-exo diastereomers and the 5-substituted isomers were obtained as the exo-endo diastereomers. A concerted [4 + 2] mechanism was proposed to account for the exo-exo diastereomers and a stepwise mechanism for the exo-endo diastereomers. The change in mechanism from concerted to stepwise for the formation of the exo-endo 5-substituted tetrahydroquinolines was attributed to additional unfavorable steric interactions that occur between norbornene and the R¹ substituents present in the exo-exo transition states. The preference for the formation *exo-endo*-norbornene-derived adducts in the oxa-Povarov reaction may reflect a similar steric effect and either an earlier transition state for the oxa-Povarov reaction or shorter C–O compared to C–N bond lengths in the respective transition states.

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alkylation), isomerization was not detected when **18j-endo-trans**, **18j-exo-trans**, or **18j-endo-cis** were resubjected to the reaction conditions.

(46) One of the closest mechanistic comparisons to rationalize the relative stereoselectivity (C2/C3) obtained in a stepwise oxa-Povarov reaction is to consider stereoselective Prins reactions between 1,2-disubstituted alkenes and aldehydes RCHO. However, most Prins reactions utilize monosubstituted alkenes and formaldehyde as substrates. One rare example is the iodine-promoted reaction of *trans*-β-methylstyrene and propanal, which was recently described to give a pure adduct in 88% yield (no dr was reported). The relative stereochemistry of this adduct corresponds to the major diastereomer **18-exo-trans** obtained for the oxa-Povarov reaction of *trans*-β-methylstyrene. See: Yadav, J. S.; Subba Reddy, B. V.; Hara Gopal, A. V.; Narayana Kumar, G. G. K. S.; Madavi, C.; Kunwar, A. C. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2008**, *49*, 4420–4423.

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