

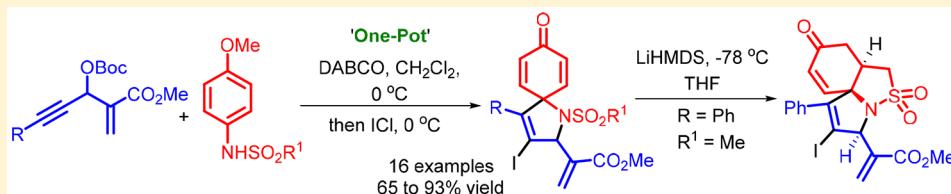
One-Pot Consecutive Sulfonamidation/*ipso*-Cyclization Strategy for the Construction of Azaspirocyclohexadienones

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S Supporting Information



ABSTRACT: Harnessing of Morita–Baylis–Hillman (MBH) carbonates of acetylenic aldehydes as handy synthons has allowed a facile synthesis of azaspirocyclohexadienones by sequential DABCO-promoted sulfonamidation/ICl-mediated *ipso*-iodocyclization reactions. A variety of MBH-carbonates having aryl or heteroaryl groups on the alkyne functionality fruitfully participated in the one-pot *ipso*-annulation reaction to provide the corresponding 3-iodo spirocyclohexadienones. The sulphonamide functionality was further utilized to construct the tricyclic fused-sultam framework.

INTRODUCTION

During the past decade, synthesis of functionalized spirocyclohexadienones through *ipso*-cyclization has received considerable attention¹ due to their remarkable biological activities (Figure 1) and potential utility for forming charge-transfer complexes.²

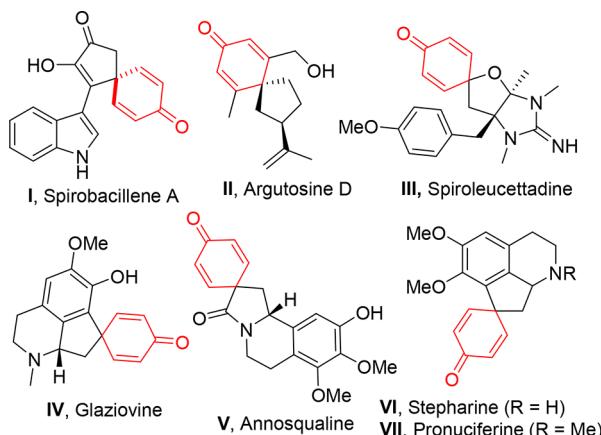
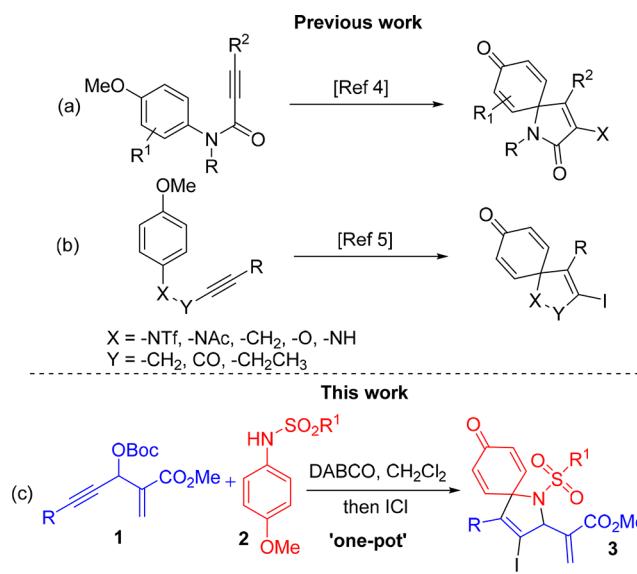


Figure 1. Prevalence of spirocyclohexadienone in bioactive natural products.

In addition, these cyclohexadienones serve as key intermediates to access polycyclic molecular frameworks as well as natural products via synthetic manipulations.³ Indeed, several *ipso*-annulation approaches to spirocyclohexadienones have been developed. Majority of them involves the halogen or their derivative induced electrophilic cyclization of *N*-arylpromiolides precursors (Scheme 1a),⁴ besides few nonamide

Scheme 1. *ipso*-Cyclization to Azaspirocyclohexadienones

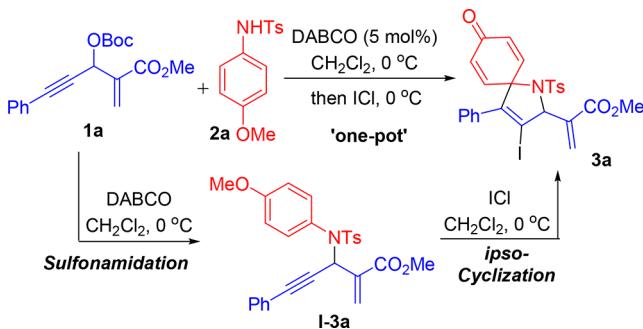


substrates (Scheme 1b)⁵ toward the synthesis of azaspirocyclohexadienones. All these effective methods require preconstruction of the desired alkynyl amide or amine. Considering the importance of azaspirocyclohexadienones, the development of new strategies is required for their one-pot synthesis.

Our research group has investigated the one-pot reactions using 1-aryl propargylic alcohols⁶ and Morita–Baylis–Hillman

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Table 1. Optimization of Reaction Conditions^a

entry	(sulfonamidation) catalyst (5 mol%), solvent, temp, time	(<i>ipso</i> -cyclization) reagent (1 equiv), solvent, temp, time	product	yield (%)
1	DABCO, CH_3CN , 0 °C, 30 min		1-3a	45
2	DABCO, CH_2Cl_2 , 0 °C, 30 min		1-3a	81
3 ^b	CH_2Cl_2 , 0 °C, 30 min		1-3a	
4		$\text{I}_2/\text{NaHCO}_3$, toluene, -78 °C, 6 h	3a	23
5		$\text{I}_2/\text{NaHCO}_3$, CH_2Cl_2 , -78 °C, 6 h	3a	31
6		$\text{I}_2/\text{NaHCO}_3$, CH_2Cl_2 , 0 °C, 6 h	3a	30
7		ICl , toluene, -78 °C, 1 h	3a	58
8		ICl , CH_2Cl_2 , -78 °C, 1 h	3a	68
9		ICl , CH_2Cl_2 , 0 °C, 30 min	3a	84
10 ^c	DABCO, CH_2Cl_2 , 0 °C, 30 min	ICl , CH_2Cl_2 , 0 °C, 30 min	3a	81

^aMBH-carbonate (1 equiv) and *N*-(4-methoxyphenyl)-tolylsulfonamide (1.1 equiv). ^bIn absence of catalyst, no reaction occurred. ^cOne-pot reaction.

adducts of acetylenic aldehydes⁷ toward the synthesis of various heterocycles, carbocycles, aromatic and polyaromatic hydrocarbons. The use of these substrates has been proven to be highly convenient for the formation of desired intermediate followed by its annulation in a single reaction vessel, which minimizes the solvent usage and chemical waste generated. Encouraged by the realization that MBH-adduct of acetylenic aldehyde has the potential to construct the spirocyclohexadienones if identified suitable reaction conditions, we envisaged a new one-pot approach to azaspirocyclohexadienones through sequential sulfonamidation/*ipso*-cyclization reaction strategy (Scheme 1c).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

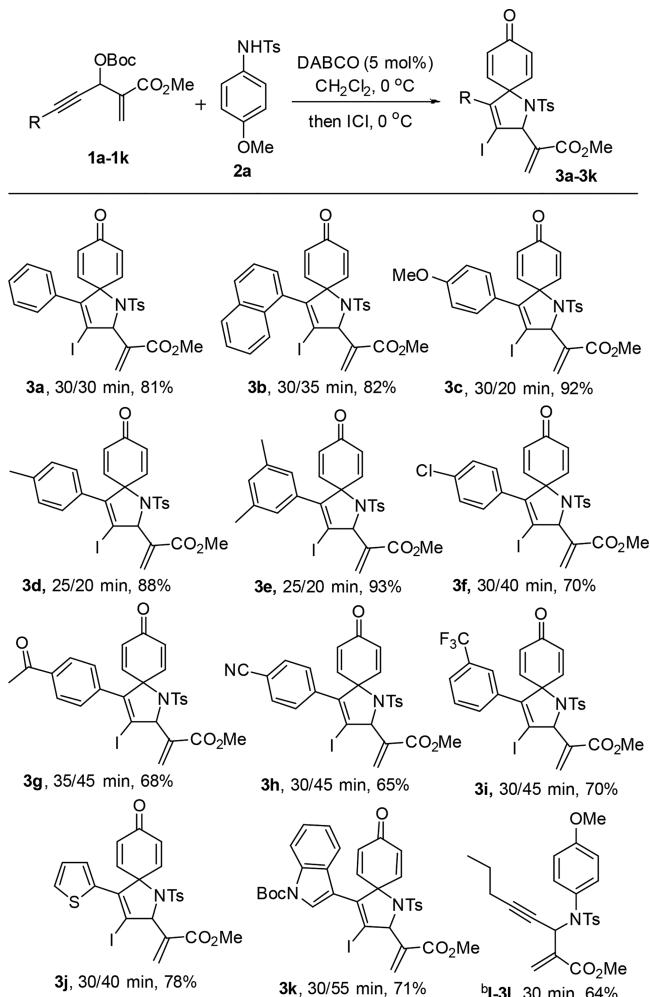
This new strategy was planned in such a way that, the *N*-aryl propargylamine (precursor for *ipso*-cyclization) would be generated through the sulfonamidation reaction of MBH-carbonate **1** of acetylenic aldehyde with *N*-arylsulfonamide **2** and subjected to electrophilic *ipso*-halocyclization in one-pot to obtain the corresponding azaspirocyclohexadienones **3**. To the best of our knowledge, there are no earlier reports for the sulfonamidation of MBH-carbonate **1** with *N*-arylsulfonamide **2**, while very limited methods available with primary sulphonamides or *N*-alkylsulphonamides.⁸ Furthermore, examples of the *ipso*-cyclization of *N*-aryl propargylsulfonamides are rare.^{9b} Herein, we report the first example of one-pot sulfonamidation/*ipso*-cyclization strategy to azaspirocyclohexadienones.

As a starting point, we investigated the reaction of MBH-carbonate **1a** and *N*-(4-methoxyphenyl)-tolylsulfonamide **2a** to find the suitable reaction condition for sulfonamidation (Table 1). Initial experimentation indicated that the desired *N*-(4-MeO-phenyl)-*N*-propargylated tolylsulfonamide **I-3a** formed in 45% yield in acetonitrile solvent at 0 °C in the presence of DABCO (5 mol%) (Table 1, entry 1). Altering the solvent to dichloromethane was found to increase yield of **I-3a** to 81%

(entry 2). No reaction was observed when omitting DABCO from the reaction (entry 3), thus verifying the need of DABCO. Next, the *ipso*-cyclization was studied using different iodine-based reagent systems. The treatment of **I-3a** with $\text{I}_2/\text{NaHCO}_3$, independently in toluene and CH_2Cl_2 , at -78 °C provided the azaspirocyclohexadienone **3a** in 23% and 31% yields, respectively (entries 4 and 5). The increase in reaction temperature did not help to improve the yields (entry 6). When, the *ipso*-cyclization was carried out in the presence of ICl in toluene at -78 °C, the reaction proceeded well to give **3a** in 58% yield (entry 7). The yield of **3a** improved to 68% in the presence of CH_2Cl_2 (entry 8). To our delight, azaspirocyclohexadienone **3a** was found in 84% yield, under ICl in CH_2Cl_2 at 0 °C for 30 min (entry 9) and lower yield (62%) observed at room temperature. At this point of the examination, we speculated the *ipso*-cyclization can be carried out *in situ* after generation of intermediate **I-3a**. In addition, it was observed that the isolation of *N*-propargylated sulfonamide **I-3a** in high yield was found to be difficult. These findings encouraged us to explore the feasibility of a sequential one-pot synthesis by combining MBH-carbonate **1a**, *N*-(4-methoxyphenyl)-tolylsulfonamide **2a**, DABCO, and then ICl at 0 °C. Indeed, this one-pot reaction progressed smoothly to give **3a** in 81% yield (Table 1, entry 10).

With suitable reaction conditions in hand, we investigated a range of diversely substituted MBH-carbonates with *N*-(4-methoxyphenyl)-tolylsulfonamide **2a** (Scheme 2). It was found that, the MBH-carbonate **1b** having naphthalyl substitution on alkyne functionality reacted well to give azaspirocyclohexadienone **3b** in 82% yield. MBH-carbonates with electron-donating and deficient groups on the phenyl group attached to alkyne were reacted well demonstrating little influence on the *ipso*-cyclization in terms of reaction time and product yield.

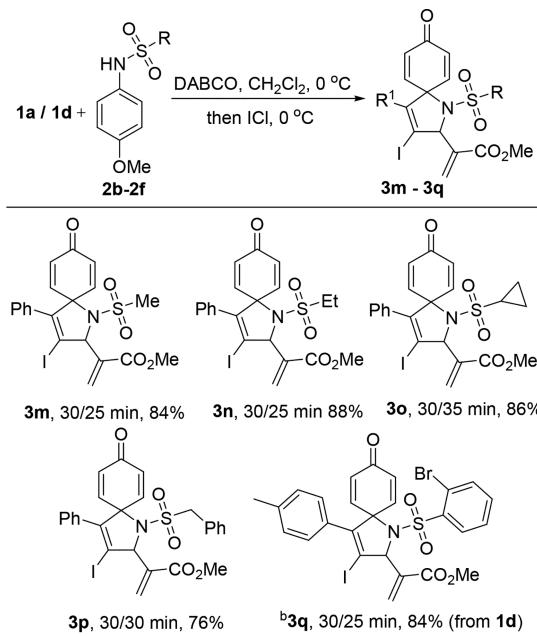
The MBH-carbonate bearing aryl substitution with electron-donating groups (4-OMe, 4-Me) took less reaction time for complete conversion to give **3c** (92%) and **3d** (88%). Similarly, 3,5-dimethyl phenyl MBH-carbonate **1e** was also consistent

Scheme 2. Scope of MBH-Carbonates^a

^aReaction conditions: MBH-carbonate (1 equiv), *N*-(4-methoxyphenyl)-tolylsulfonamide (1.1 equiv) DABCO (5 mol%), CH_2Cl_2 (5 mL), 0 °C then ICI (1 equiv) 0 °C. ^bIntermediate I-3I was isolated.

with optimal reaction conditions and gave 3e in 93% yield. Substrates 1f–1h with electron withdrawing groups (4-Cl, 4-COCH₃, 4-CN) on phenyl ring required longer reaction times and delivered corresponding products 3f–h in 65 to 70% yield. 3-Trifluoromethylphenyl group also well tolerated in the reaction of 1i to give 3i in 70% yield. MBH-carbonates generated from heteroaryl acetylenic aldehydes 1j and 1k, could also be used to prepare the corresponding 3-iodo azaspiro-[4,5]-trienones 3j and 3k in good yields, although 1k took prolonged reaction time. The reaction of MBH-carbonate tethered with aliphatic group (1l) failed to give the *ipso*-cyclized product, instead intermediate I-3l was obtained in 64% yield.

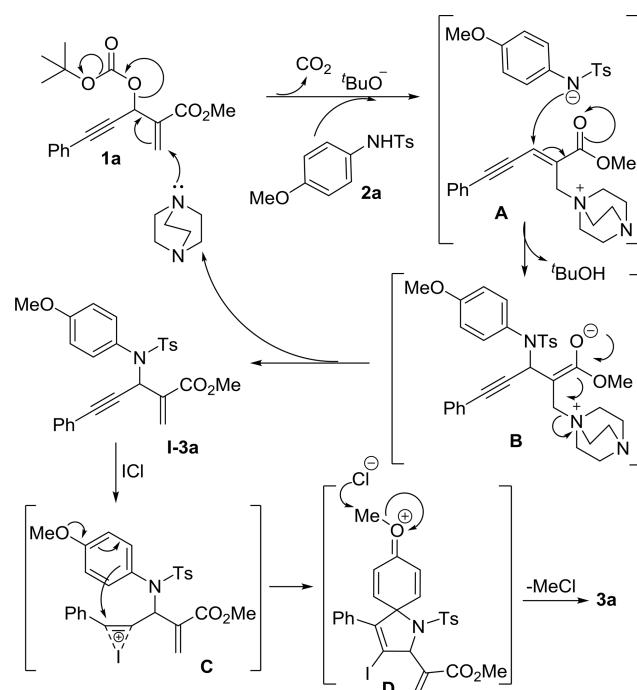
We next set out to explore the scope of *N*-substituted sulfonamides using 1a as the reaction partner under optimized reaction conditions (Scheme 3). Fascinatingly, the substrate containing *N*-alkyl sulfonamides 2b (Me), 2c (Et), 2d (cyclopropyl) underwent sequential sulfonamidation/*ipso*-cyclization reactions to give spirotrienones 3m, 3n, and 3o, respectively, in good yields. Similarly, *N*-benzyl sulfonamide 2e could successfully be employed in the reaction to obtain 3p in 76% yield. Furthermore, the present method was extended to 2-bromo-*N*-(4-methoxyphenyl)benzenesulfonamide 2f with MBH-carbonate 1d to furnish the product 3q in 84% yield.

Scheme 3. Scope of Sulfonamides^a

^aReaction conditions: 1a or 1d (1 equiv), *N*-(4-methoxyphenyl)-sulfonamide (1.1 equiv), DABCO (5 mol%), CH_2Cl_2 (5 mL), 0 °C then ICI (1 equiv), 0 °C. ^bCarbonate 1d used as substrate.

Based on the above results and literature knowledge, a possible reaction pathway for this consecutive sulfonamidation/*ipso*-cyclization is proposed (Scheme 4). Initially, DABCO facilitates the C–N bond formation between 1a and 2a to give I-3a via intermediates A and B along with its regeneration.⁹ Next, the addition of ICI to I-3a allows the formation of iodonium intermediate C, which undergoes *ipso*-cyclization to

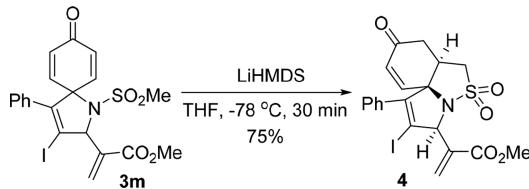
Scheme 4. Proposed Reaction Mechanism



form the desired spirocyclic compound **3a** through spirocyclic intermediate **D^{sb}**.

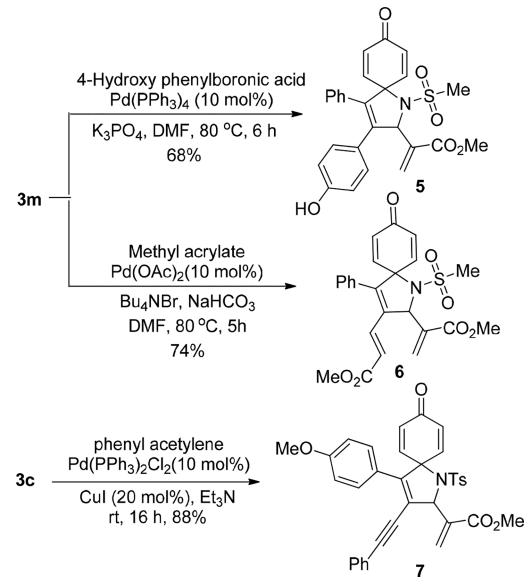
Subsequently, we turned our attention to explore the utility of obtained spirotrienone for the synthesis of sultam (cyclic sulfonamides), privileged scaffold in drug discovery due to its diverse biological activities.¹¹ In this direction, the spirocyclohexadienone **3m**, bearing *N*-mesyl group, was subjected to stereoselective Michael addition¹⁰ in the presence of LiHMDS to obtain tricyclic-fused sultam derivative **4** in 75% yield (Scheme 5). The stereochemistry of the product was determined by X-ray crystallographic analysis (see the Supporting Information, Figure S1).

Scheme 5. Synthesis of Tricyclic-fused Sultam 4



Finally, further diversification of the *iodo*-spirocyclohexadienone was also studied through Palladium-catalyzed coupling reactions (Scheme 6). In the first case, Suzuki coupling^{12a}

Scheme 6. Diversified Analogues of 3c and 3m



3m with 4-hydroxyphenyl boronic acid gave the coupled product **5** in 68% yield. Likewise, **3m** was subjected to Heck reaction^{12b} with methyl acrylate to afford **6** in 74% yield. In addition, the Sonogashira reaction^{12c} of **3c** with phenyl-acetylene in the presence of $PdCl_2(PPh_3)_2/CuI$ provided **7** in 88% yield.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, we have described the first one-pot protocol for the synthesis of azaspirocyclohexadienones via sequential sulfonamidation/*ipso*-cyclization reactions using MBH carbonate and *N*-aryl sulfonamide. This tandem reaction represents a simple and efficient approach to azaspirocyclohexadienones involving sequential C–N, C–I, and C–C bond formations.

Usefulness of the spirocyclohexadienones has also been demonstrated to access tricyclic-fused sultam and other diversified derivatives.

EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES AND ANALYTICAL DATA

General Information. Reactions were monitored by thin-layer chromatography carried out on silica plates using UV-light and anisaldehyde or β -naphthol for visualization. Column chromatography was performed on silica gel (60–120 mesh) using *n*-hexane and ethyl acetate as eluent. Evaporation of solvents was conducted under reduced pressure at temperatures less than 40 °C. FTIR spectra were recorded on KBr thin film. 1H NMR (300, 400, and 500 MHz) and ^{13}C NMR (75, 101, and 126 MHz) spectra were recorded in $CDCl_3$ solvent. Chemical shifts δ and coupling constants J are given in ppm (parts per million) and Hz (hertz), respectively. Chemical shifts are reported relative to residual solvent as an internal standard for 1H and ^{13}C ($CDCl_3$: δ 7.26 ppm for 1H and 77.0 ppm for ^{13}C). Mass spectra were obtained on VG 70-70H or LC/MSD trap SL spectrometer operating at 70 eV using direct inlet system. High-resolution mass spectra (HRMS) [ESI $^+$] were obtained using either a TOF or a double-focusing spectrometer.

General Procedure for the Preparation of MBH-Carbonates, 1a–1k. To a stirred solution of the corresponding MBH-alcohol (1 mmol) in 10 mL of CH_2Cl_2 was added di-*tert*-butyl dicarbonate (0.262 g, 1.2 mmol) and DMAP (6.1 mg, 0.05 mmol) at 0 °C and stirred for given time. After completion of the reaction, the mixture was diluted with water (50 mL) and extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (3 × 30 mL). The combined organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 and concentrated in vacuo. The crude was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc: *n*-hexanes) to afford the corresponding MBH-carbonates. All these carbonates were fully characterized and spectral data for new compounds are given below.

Methyl 3-(*tert*-Butoxycarbonyl)oxy-2-methylene-5-(naphthalen-1-yl)pent-4-ynoate (1b). 1.15 g, 84% yield, yellow liquid, R_f = 0.8 (*n*-hexane:EtOAc = 9:1); 1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.28 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.85–7.81 (m, 2H), 7.69 (dd, J = 7.1, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.57–7.48 (m, 2H), 7.41 (dd, J = 8.2, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.58–6.56 (m, 1H), 6.52 (s, 1H), 6.45–6.43 (m, 1H), 3.86–3.81 (m, 3H), 1.54 (s, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 165.0, 152.3, 136.5, 133.4, 133.1, 130.9, 129.5, 129.4, 128.3, 127.0, 126.5, 126.0, 125.1, 119.5, 88.4, 85.8, 83.2, 65.2, 52.3, 27.8; IR (KBr): ν_{max} = 2984, 1736, 1254, 1151, 1069, 953, 850, 781 cm $^{-1}$; MS (ESI): m/z 389 ($M+Na$) $^+$; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $C_{22}H_{23}O_5$ ($M+H$) $^+$: 367.1540; found: 367.1540.

Methyl 3-(*tert*-Butoxycarbonyl)oxy-2-methylene-5-(*p*-tolyl)pent-4-ynoate (1d). 1.29 g, 90% yield, white solid, R_f = 0.7 (*n*-hexane:EtOAc = 9:1); 1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.35 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.12 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.51 (s, 1H), 6.36 (d, J = 9.6 Hz, 2H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 1.52 (d, J = 5.1 Hz, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 164.9, 152.2, 139.1, 136.5, 131.8, 129.4, 129.1, 129.0, 129.0, 118.8, 87.9, 83.1, 82.8, 64.9, 52.2, 27.7, 21.5; IR (KBr): ν_{max} = 2983, 2232, 1737, 1252, 1150, 1077, 951, 813 cm $^{-1}$; MS (ESI): m/z 353 ($M+Na$) $^+$; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $C_{19}H_{22}O_5Na$ ($M+Na$) $^+$: 353.1359, found: 353.1376.

Methyl 3-(*tert*-Butoxycarbonyl)oxy-5-(3,5-dimethylphenyl)-2-methylenepent-4-ynoate (1e). 1.24 g, 88% yield, yellow liquid, R_f = 0.8 (*n*-hexane:EtOAc = 9:1); 1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.09 (s, 2H), 6.97 (s, 1H), 6.51 (s, 1H), 6.36 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 2.28 (s, 6H), 1.51 (s, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 164.9, 152.2, 137.8, 136.5, 130.8, 129.6, 129.3, 121.5, 88.1, 83.0, 82.8, 64.9, 52.2, 27.7, 21.0; IR (KBr): ν_{max} = 2981, 2229, 1737, 1255, 1151, 1075, 953, 847 cm $^{-1}$; MS (ESI): m/z 367 ($M+Na$) $^+$; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $C_{20}H_{24}O_5Na$ ($M+Na$) $^+$: 367.1516, found: 367.1534.

Methyl 5-(4-Acetylphenyl)-3-((*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)oxy)-2-methylenepent-4-ynoate (1g). 0.99 g, 72% yield, yellow liquid, R_f = 0.4 (*n*-hexane:EtOAc = 9:1); 1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.82–7.79 (m, 2H), 7.46–7.42 (m, 2H), 6.43 (s, 1H), 6.29 (s, 1H), 6.24 (s, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 2.49 (s, 3H), 1.42 (s, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 197.0, 164.6, 152.0, 136.7, 136.1, 131.9, 129.2, 128.1, 126.5, 86.7,

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