

# Structure of Z- and E-2-bromo-1-ferrocenyl-1-phenylcyclopropanes and 3-ferrocenyl-3-phenylcyclopropene and their three-membered ring opening reactions

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#### **Abstract**

The ring-opening reactions in Z- and E-2-bromo-1-ferrocenyl-1-phenylcyclopropanes and 3-ferrocenyl-3-phenylcyclopropene were studied. It was found that the three-membered ring of the monobromides is opened when treated with AlCl<sub>3</sub>, while that of cyclopropene is opened when boiled in toluene. X-ray structural data of E-2-bromo-1-ferrocenyl-1-phenylcyclopropane and 3-ferrocenyl-3-phenylcyclopropene mono crystals are presented. © 1997 Elsevier Science S.A.

Keywords: Ferrocenylcyclopropene; Dehydrobromination; Opening of the three-membered ring; Carbocations; X-ray diffraction analysis

#### 1. Introduction

It is well known that the introduction of ferrocenyl substituents in three-membered carbocycles (saturated or unsaturated) changes considerably their properties [1-7]. Thus, smooth transformation of 3-aryl-1,2,3-triferrocenyl-cyclopropenes into the corresponding 3-ferrocenylindenes [1-3] and rearrangement of Z-1-aryl-2-ferrocenyl- and Z-1,2-diferrocenylcyclopropenes to form the corresponding E-isomers [4,5] are documented. Another interesting feature is the formation of linear allylic carbocations containing ferrocenyl substituents through the small cycle ring opening of ferrocenylcyclopropanes 1a-e when treated with triphenylmethylium tetrafluoroborate [5,6,8]:

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a)  $R=R_2=H$ ,  $R_1=Fc$  [8]; b)  $R=CH_3$ ,  $R_1=Fc$ ,  $R_2=H$  [5]; c) R=H,  $R_1=Fc$ ,  $R_2=CH_3$  [5]; d) R=H,  $R_1=Fc$ ,  $R_2=Ph$  [5]; e)  $R=CH_3$ ,  $R_1=Ph$ ,  $R_2=H$  [6];  $Fc=C_5H_5FeC_5H_4$ ,  $DMA=C_6H_5N(CH_3)_2$ .

The data obtained allow us to assume that the formation of 1,3-diferrocenyl-substituted allylic cations 2a-e from the corresponding ferrocenylcyclopropanes 1a-e occurred via an intermediate cyclopropyl cation 5a-e with a positive charge located at position 3 of the cyclopropane ring and not at positions occupied by the ferrocenyl substituents [5]:

The three-membered ring opening in Z,E-2-bromo-ferrocenyl-1-methyl-1-cyclopropane **6a,b** and in 3-methyl-3-ferrocenylcyclopropene **7a** under the action of zinc salts [7] and superacids [6], respectively, indicates unambiguously the localisation of the cationic centre in the intermediate cyclopropyl cation **8a**:

The substitution of the methyl group by a phenyl group results in considerable changes in the behaviour of the corresponding compounds **6c,d** and **7b** in similar reactions. For example, 2-bromo-1-ferrocenyl-1-phenylcyclopropanes **6c** and **6d** are stable when treated with zinc salts, while 3-ferrocenyl-3-phenyl-cyclopropene **7b** undergoes ring opening when treated with superacids resulting in the predominant formation of 3-ferrocenylindene **11** together with

the alkylation products, compounds **10b** and **12** [9,10] which form due to the interaction of the 1-ferrocenyl-1-phenylallyl cation **9b** with N,N-dimethylaniline and indene:

Bearing in mind that ferrocenyl groups, present in the small cycle, exert a pronounced and often highly selective effect, it was of interest to reveal the peculiarities of the electron interaction between the ferrocenyl group and the small cycle, both from the theoretical point of view and in relation to the search for selective reactions of cyclopropanes and cyclopropenes.

#### 2. Results and discussion

In the present paper, we report new data on the chemical properties of Z- and E-2-bromo-1-ferrocenyl-1-phenyl-cyclopropanes (6c and 6d, respectively) and 3-ferrocenyl-3-phenylcyclopropene 7b.

Reduction of 2,2-dibromo-1-ferrocenyl-1-phenylcyclopropane **13b** with zinc in the presence of Trilon B [10] resulted in a mixture of isomeric monobromides (**6c** and **6d** with a yield of about 60%) together with 1-ferrocenyl-1-phenylcyclopropane **14**, formed as a by-product.

Contrary to 2,2-dibromo-1-methyl-1-ferrocenylcyclopropane **13a** [7], the reduction of the dibromide **13b** occurs without ring opening of the three-membered cycle. The reaction products **6c**, **6d**, and **14** can be easily separated by chromatography on alumina. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of the synthesised compounds are given in Section 4.

We carried out X-ray structural analysis of monocrystals of 6d in order to assign more reliably the isomers 6c and 6d to the Z- or E-type structures.

Fig. 1 shows a general view of the molecule **6d**. Crystal data, data collection, and refinement parametres for the cyclopropane **6d** are listed in Table 1. The X-ray structural analysis data indicate that compound **6d** is the *E*-isomer.

Two doublet doublets at 1.73 ppm and 1.92 ppm are observed in the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of the **6d** isomer. They are assigned to the protons of the methylene group (AB part of the ABM spin system). The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of the **6c** isomer contains the same type of doublets but at 1.48 ppm and 1.93 ppm. In such a way, the value  $\Delta \delta_Z = \delta_B - \delta_A = 0.45$  ppm, obtained for the Z-2-bromo-1-ferrocenyl-1-phenylcyclopropane **6c** isomer is larger than that obtained for the E-(**6d**) isomer ( $\Delta \delta_E = \delta_B - \delta_A = 0.19$  ppm). Similar differences have been observed also in the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of the Z- and E-isomers of 2-bromo-1-alkyl-1-ferrocenylcyclopropanes [6,7,9,10]. Probably this can be used to determine the geometrical configuration of monobromoferrocenylcyclopropanes.

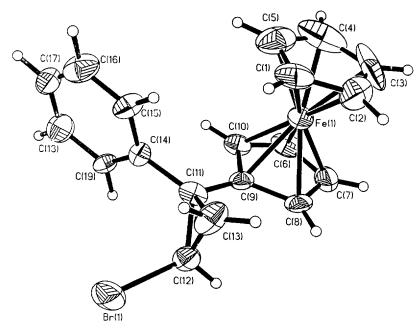


Fig. 1. Crystal structure of **6d**. Selected bond lengths (Å):  $Br-C_{12}=1.911(11)$ ,  $C_{11}-C_{12}=1.486(13)$ ,  $C_{11}-C_{13}=1.508(15)$  and  $C_{12}-C_{13}=1.464(17)$ ; and selected bond angles (°):  $C_{12}-C_{11}-C_{13}=58.7(7)$ ,  $C_{11}-C_{12}-C_{13}=61.5(7)$  and  $C_{11}-C_{13}-C_{12}=60.0(7)$ .

We also found that the monobromides **6c** and **6d** undergo ring opening when treated with AlCl<sub>3</sub> in boiling CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:

3-Ferrocenylindene 11, Z- and E-1-ferrocenyl-1-phenylpropenes (15a and 15b), and compound 10b (the product of alkylation of N,N-dimethylaniline at the para-position) were isolated by preparative thin-layer chromatography on silica gel. Besides, during the ring opening of Z-6c a mixture of isomer products is obtained, E-15b being the prevailing product ( $\sim 70\%$ ), while after ring opening of E-6d the prevailing isomer in the product mixture is Z-15a ( $\sim 60\%$ ).

The structure of compounds 11, 15a, 15b, and 10b was confirmed by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectral data and elemental analysis (see Section 4).

One can conclude from the  ${}^{1}H$  NMR spectra that the 3-p-dimethylaminophenyl-1-ferrocenyl-1-phenylprop-1-ene **10b** exists as a mixture of Z- and E-isomers in a ratio of 1:1. We could not separate these two isomers by chromatography.

It seems that the mechanism of ring opening in the monobromides **6c** and **6d** is similar to that in the isomeric 2-bromo-1-ferrocenyl-1-methylcyclopropanes **6a,b** in the presence of zinc salts [7]:

$$6c,d + AlCl_3 \longrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} Fc & & & \\ Ph & & & \\ Ph & & & \\ &$$

Table 1 Crystal data, data collection, and refinement parametres for compounds **6d** and **7b** 

Data	6d	7b
Empirical formula	C <sub>19</sub> H <sub>17</sub> BrFe	C <sub>19</sub> H <sub>16</sub> Fe
Formula weight	381.14	300.14
Color; habit	red; irregular	orange; prism
Crystal size (mm)	$0.5 \times 0.4 \times 0.32$	$0.24 \times 0.14 \times 0.1$
Crystal system	orthorhombic	triclinic
Space group	Pbca	P-1
a (Å)	12.450(6)	8.311(2)
b (Å)	13.733(6)	9.103(2)
c (Å)	18.150(7)	10.296(2)
α (°)		111.71(2)
β (°)		97.60(2)
γ (°)		95.28(2)
$V(\mathring{A}^3)$	3103(3)	708.9(2)
Z	8	2
$D_{\rm calc}$ (g cm <sup>-3</sup> )	1,631	1.406
F(000)	1536	312
Absorption coefficient (mm <sup>-1</sup> )	3.537	1.049
Radiation, λ (Å)	Mo K α, 0.71073	Mo K α, 0.71073
Monochromator	graphite	graphite
Temperature	293	293
$2\theta$ range	$3 < 2\theta < 50$	$3 < 2\theta < 50$
Index ranges	$0 \le h \le 14$	$0 \le h \le 9$
	$0 \le k \le 16$	$0 \le k \le 9$
	$0 \le l \le 21$	$0 \le l \le 12$
Scan type	ω	ω
Total reflections	2702	2601
Unique reflections	2702	2420
Reflections with $I > 2\sigma(I)$	1308	1861
R <sub>int</sub>	0.00	0.1997
Solution	Patterson	Direct methods
Refinement method	Full-matrix	Full-matrix
	least squares	least squares
Number of parameters refined	191	182
Hydrogen atoms	Riding model	Riding model
	fixed isotropic U	fixed isotropic U
R (obs. data)	0.0588	0.0529
wR (obs. data)	0.061	0.0616
Weighting scheme	$w^{-1} = \sigma^2(F) + 0.0008F^2$	$w^{-1} = \sigma^2(F) + 0.0008F^2$
Goodness-of-fit	1.17	1.15
min/max residual electron density, e · Å <sup>-3</sup>	-0.75/0.79	-0.64/0.63

The intermediate ferrocenyl(phenyl)cyclopropyl carbocation **8b** with a positive charge centred at the  $\beta$ -carbon atom of the three-membered cycle, contrary to the  $\alpha$ -ferrocenylcyclopropyl cation [11], readily undergoes ring opening to form a ferrocenylallyl carbocation **9b** stabilised by the ferrocenyl substituent [5,6].

Further, the ferrocenylallyl cation **9b** undergoes intramolecular transformation, reduction and alkylates *N,N*-dimethylaniline (as a rule, this involves the least substituted carbenium centre of the allyl cation [5,12]). Earlier, we observed the reduction of similar ferrocenylallyl cations only in the case of a 3-methyl-2,3-(1,2,2-trimethylcyclopenta-1,3-diyl)-1-ferrocenylallyl cation [13,14], which apparently is related to the participation of the iron atom.

The elimination of HBr from 6c and 6d upon treatment with t-BuOK in DMSO resulted in the formation of 3-ferrocenyl-3-phenylcyclopropene 7b, which is very stable in crystalline state:

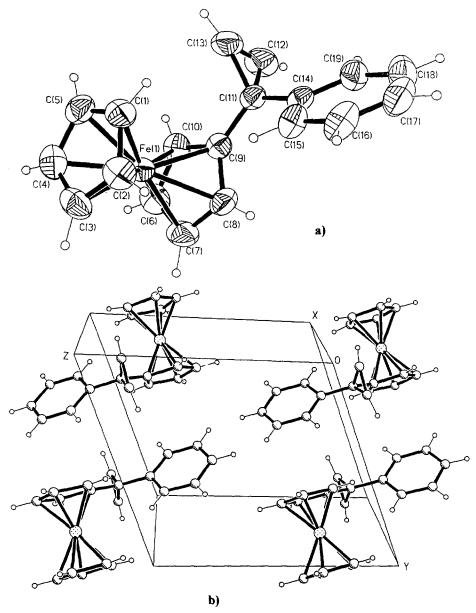


Fig. 2. (a) Crystal structure of **7b**. Selected bond lengths (Å):  $C_{12} - C_{13} = 1.268(11)$ ,  $C_{11} - C_{13} = 1.507(8)$ ,  $C_{11} - C_{12} = 1.522(7)$ ,  $C_{9} - C_{11} = 1.487(8)$  and  $C_{11} - C_{14} = 1.511(7)$ ; and selected bond angles (°):  $C_{12} - C_{11} - C_{13} = 49.5(4)$ ,  $C_{11} - C_{13} - C_{12} = 65.9(5)$ ,  $C_{13} - C_{12} - C_{11} = 64.7(4)$  and  $C_{9} - C_{11} - C_{14} = 119.1(4)$ . (b) Crystal packing of **7b**.

The structure of **7b** was determined by <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectroscopy (see Section 4). Besides, we were the first to carry out X-ray structural analysis of monocrystals of ferrocenylcyclopropene, which does not have substituents in positions 1 and 2.

Crystal data, data collection and refinement parametres for the cyclopropene **7b** are listed in Table 1. The spacial position of the three-membered ring (see Fig. 2a) is very important in this structure. The three-membered cycle is an irregular triangle distorted in the direction of the  $C_{11}$  carbon atom. The bond length of the double CH=CH bond is 1.268(11) Å and the sharp angle at  $C_{11}$  is  $\omega = 49.5(4)^\circ$ . The position of the ferrocenyl fragment in the molecule **7b** corresponds to the bisector of the angle at  $C_{11}$ . The geometry of the ferrocenyl sandwich and bond lengths Fe-C and C-C are not changed by the presence of the three-membered ring.

We found that 3-ferrocenyl-3-phenylcyclopropene 7b, when boiled in toluene, forms 2-(3-ferrocenyl-3-phenylallyl)-3-ferrocenylindene 12 with a high yield and 3-ferrocenylindene 11 as a by-product ( $\sim 5\%$ ).

The structure of compounds 11 and 12 is confirmed by  $^{1}H$  NMR spectra and elemental analysis (see Section 4). The  $^{1}H$  NMR spectral data indicate that compound 12 exists as a  $\sim 5:1$  mixture of Z-(12a) and E-(12b) isomers. Recrystallisation from hexane gave pure Z-isomer 12a.

Obviously, the formation of 12a, b from the cyclopropene 7b is caused by thermal heterolysis of one of the  $\sigma$  C-C bonds [1-3,15]. One of the possible mechanisms is shown below and includes the formation of an intermediate 16 with its selective cyclisation exclusively at the phenyl nucleus. Then alkylation of the intermediate 3-ferrocenylindene 11 takes place:

Contrary to the thermal ring opening in 7b, the protonation of 7b with superacids gives indene 11 as a major product ( $\sim 60\%$ ) and the reaction proceeds through the formation of 1-phenyl-1-ferrocenylallyl cation 9b [9,10].

## 3. Conclusion

The results presented in this paper and results reported earlier [9,10] allow to conclude that a regionselective intramolecular transformation in 3-ferrocenyl-3-phenylcyclopropene 7b takes place. When the small cycle is opened, although the reaction conditions might be different, alkylation of the phenyl group is always observed. We did not observe intramolecular cyclisation in the ferrocenyl fragment, although similar intramolecular alkylation of the  $\gamma$ -ferrocenyl group (relative to the cation or carbenium centre) is well known [1-3,16-18].

In our opinion, this regioselectivity of the intramolecular transformation of 7b is related to the geometry of the molecule and basically to the spacial orientation of the aryl and of the ferrocenyl substituents relative to the three-membered ring. For example, the  $C_5H_4$  group in the ferrocenyl fragment lies in one and the same plane with the bisector of the  $C_{12}$ - $C_{11}$ - $C_{13}$  angle in the cyclopropene ring. In the same time, the phenyl group lies in a plane perpendicular to the above-mentioned plane. During the opening of the cyclopropene ring, the electronodeficient end of the formed intermediates 9b and 16 is situated very near to the *ortho*-carbon atom of the phenyl substituent. This is responsible for the regionelectivity of alkylation.

# 4. Experimental

The solvents were dried by standard methods and distilled prior to use. Elemental analyses were carried out by the Microanalytical Laboratory of the Chemistry Department of the Moscow State University.  $^1H$  and  $^{13}C$  NMR spectra were registered in  $CDCl_3$  on a 'Gemini 200 Varian' spectrometre at 200 MHz using  $Me_4Si$  as the internal standard. FAB<sup>+</sup> MS was recorded on a 'JEOL AX-505' spectrometre. The parametres of the unit cell and the X-ray diffraction intensities were recorded on 'Siemens P4' for **6d** and for **7b** on 'Siemens P4/PC' spectrometres.

# 4.1. 2,2-Dibromo-1-ferrocenyl-1-phenylcyclopropane 13b

The dibromide 13b was prepared from 1-ferrocenyl-1-phenyl-ethylene with a 73% yield as orange crystals [16]. FAB<sup>+</sup> MS, m/z 460 (M<sup>+</sup>). Calcd. C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>16</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>Fe (M<sup>+</sup>) 460.17.

### 4.2. Reduction of the dibromide 13b

The dibromide 13b was reduced by zinc powder in aqueous ethanol in the presence of Trilon B following a known procedure [17]. The preparative TLC of the reaction mixture on silica gel (using hexane as eluent) gave:

1-ferrocenyl-1-phenylcyclopropane 14 (yield 24%),  $R_f$  0.75, orange crystals, m.p. 89°C. FAB<sup>+</sup> MS, m/z 302 (M<sup>+</sup>). Calcd.  $C_{19}H_{18}$ Fe (M<sup>+</sup>) 302.18;

Z-2-bromo-1-ferrocenyl-1-phenylcyclopropane **6c** (yield 31%),  $R_f$  0.63, orange needles, m.p. 103–104°C, <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta$  = 1.48 (dd, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>,  $J_{gem}$  = 6.65 Hz,  $J_{trans}$  = 5.16 Hz,  $J_{cis}$  = 8.0 Hz); 1.93 (dd, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>,  $J_{gem}$  = 6.65 Hz,  $J_{trans}$  = 5.16 Hz,  $J_{cis}$  = 8.16 Hz); 3.44 (dd, 1H, CH, J = 5.16, 8.16 Hz); 4.0 (s, 5H,  $C_5H_5$ ); 3.88 (m, 1H,  $C_5H_4$ ); 4.10 (m, 2H,  $C_5H_4$ ); 4.14 (m, 1H,  $C_5H_4$ ); 7.29–7.49 (m, 5H,  $C_6H_5$ ); <sup>13</sup>C NMR:  $\delta$  = 68.70 ( $C_5H_5$ ); 69.06, 67.97, 66.68 ( $C_5H_4$ ); 90.96 ( $C_9$ , see numbering on Fig. 1); 30.72 ( $C_{11}$ ); 32.65 ( $C_{12}$ ); 22.85 ( $C_{13}$ ); 131.08 ( $C_{14}$ ); 129.85, 128.21, 127.13 ( $C_6H_5$ ). Anal. Calcd. for  $C_{19}H_{17}$ BrFe: C, 59.88; H, 4.50; Fe, 14.66; Br, 20.96. Found: C, 60.04; H, 4.27; Fe, 14.66; Br, 20.69;

*E*-2-Bromo-1-ferrocenyl-1-phenylcyclopropane **6d** (yield 28%),  $R_f$  0.56, orange crystals, m.p. 85–86°C, <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta = 1.73$  (dd, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>,  $J_{gem} = 6.4$  Hz,  $J_{trans} = 5.0$  Hz,  $J_{cis} = 8.0$  Hz); 1.92 (dd, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>,  $J_{gem} = 6.4$  Hz,  $J_{trans} = 5.0$  Hz,  $J_{cis} = 8.0$  Hz); 3.37 (dd, 1H, CH, J = 5.0, 8.0 Hz); 4.13 (s, 5H, C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>5</sub>); 3.80 (m, 2H, C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>4</sub>); 4.05 (m, 2H, C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>4</sub>); 7.32–7.50 (m, 5H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR:  $\delta = 68.70$  (C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>5</sub>); 69.50, 67.61, 67.58, 66.00 (C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>4</sub>); 92.01 (C<sub>9</sub>); 30.98 (C<sub>11</sub>); 29.95 (C<sub>12</sub>); 25.13 (C<sub>13</sub>); 138.81 (C<sub>14</sub>); 129.71, 128.80, 127.90 (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>). Anal. Calcd. for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>17</sub>BrFe: C, 59.88; H, 4.50; Fe, 14.66; Br, 20.96. Found: C, 59.65; H, 4.70; Fe, 14.83; Br, 21.24.

### 4.3. 3-Ferrocenyl-3-phenylcyclopropene 7b

A total of 0.38 g (1 mmol) of bromide **6c** or **6d** was added to a mixture of 20 ml dry DMSO and 0.17 g (1.5 mmol) t-BuOK. The reaction mixture was stirred in an argon atmosphere for 12 h at 20°C and then 100 ml of benzene and 50 ml of water were added. The organic layer was separated and washed with water. The solvent was removed in vacuo and the residue was chromatographed on  $Al_2O_3$  in hexane. Compound **7b** (yellow crystals, yield 73% from **6c** and 70% from **6d**) was isolated. M.p. 69°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta$  = 4.16 (s, 5H,  $C_5H_5$ ); 3.89 (m, 2H,  $C_5H_4$ ); 4.05 (m, 2H,  $C_5H_4$ ); 7.32 (s, 2H, CH=CH); 7.20–7.41 (m, 5H,  $C_6H_5$ ). <sup>13</sup>C NMR:  $\delta$  = 68.10 ( $C_5H_5$ ); 67.90, 67.14 ( $C_5H_4$ ); 97.42 ( $C_9$ ); 19.81 ( $C_{11}$ ); 112.84 ( $C_{12}$ ,  $C_{13}$ ); 146.46 ( $C_{14}$ ); 126.07, 127.92, 125.84 ( $C_6H_5$ ). Anal. Calcd. for  $C_{19}H_{16}$ Fe: C, 76.02; H, 5.37; Fe, 18.61. Found: C, 75.89; H, 5.42; Fe, 18.83.

# 4.4. Thermal treatment of 3-ferrocenyl-3-phenylcyclopropene 7b

A solution of 0.30 g (1 mmol) of **7b** in 50 ml of toluene was boiled in an argon atmosphere for 10 h. After evaporation of the solvent in vacuo, the residue was subjected to preparative TLC on SiO<sub>2</sub> (hexane-benzene, 6:1) to give:

3-Ferrocenylindene **11**, 0.15 g (5%),  $R_f$  0.85, m.p. 92–93°C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta$  = 3.38 (d, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>, J = 2.3 Hz); 4.13 (s, 1H, C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>5</sub>); 4.33 (m, 2H, C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>4</sub>); 4.63 (m, 2H, C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>4</sub>); 6.52 (m, 1H, J = 2.3 Hz); 7.26–7.93 (m, 4H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR:  $\delta$  = 69.18 (C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>5</sub>); 68.43, 67.09 (C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>4</sub>); 80.73 (C<sub>q</sub>Fc); 120.94 (C<sub>2</sub>); 38.06 (C<sub>1</sub>); 144.94, 144.15, 141.45 (C<sub>3</sub>, C<sub>8</sub>, C<sub>9</sub>); 128.69, 126.00, 124.55, 123.87 (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>). FAB<sup>+</sup> MS, m/z 300 (M<sup>+</sup>). Calcd. C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>16</sub>Fe (M<sup>+</sup>) 300.17;

3-Ferrocenyl-2-(3-ferrocenyl-3-phenylallyl)indenes **12a** and **12b** (~ 5:1), 0.25 g (80%),  $R_f$  0.52, m.p. 127–128°C. Pure Z-isomer **12a** was obtained after recrystallisation from hexane: m.p. 140–141°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR **12a**: δ = 3.27 (d, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>, J = 7.2 Hz); 3.37 (s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>); 4.12 (s, 5H, C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>5</sub>); 4.10 (s, 5H, C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>5</sub>); 4.10–4.13 (m, 2H, C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>4</sub>); 4.16 (m, 2H, C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>4</sub>); 4.31 (m, 2H, C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>4</sub>); 4.47 (m, 2H, C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>4</sub>); 6.0 (t, 1H, CH, J = 7.2 Hz); <sup>1</sup>H NMR **12b**: δ = 3.49 (d, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>, J = 7.2 Hz); 3.53 (s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>); 4.17 (s, 5H, C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>5</sub>); 4.18 (s, 5H, C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>5</sub>); 4.22 (m, 2H, C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>4</sub>); 4.28 (m, 2H, C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>4</sub>); 4.37 (m, 2H, C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>4</sub>); 4.61 (m, 2H, C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>4</sub>); 5.70 (t, 1H, CH, J = 7.2 Hz). Anal. Calcd. for C<sub>38</sub>H<sub>32</sub>Fe<sub>2</sub> **12a,b**: C, 76.02; H, 5.37; Fe, 18.61. Found for **12a,b**: C, 76.24; H, 5.53; Fe, 18.37. Found for **12a**: C, 75.87; H, 5.37; Fe, 18.46.

## 4.5. Interaction of 6c,d with AlCl,

A total of 0.16 g (1.2 mmol) of AlCl<sub>3</sub> was added to a solution of 0.38 g (1 mmol) of 6c in 30 ml of  $CH_2Cl_2$ . The reaction mixture was boiled under reflux in an inert atmosphere for 3 h with stirring. Then the mixture was cooled to ambient temperature and 2 ml of N,N-dimethylanyline was added. After 1 h, 100 ml of benzene was added, the reaction mixture was washed with water, 1% HCl, and again with water. The solvent was removed in vacuo, and residue was subjected to preparative TLC on  $SiO_2$  (hexane-benzene, 10:1) to give:

Z-1-ferrocenyl-1-phenylpropene-1 **15a**, 0.046 g (yield 15.5%);  $R_f$  0.90, orange oil [15], <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta = 1.53$  (d, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>, J = 7.0 Hz); 4.07 (s, 5H, C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>5</sub>); 4.0–4.3 (m, 4H, C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>4</sub>); 6.05 (q, 1H, CH, J = 7.0 Hz). Anal. Calcd. for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>18</sub>Fe: C, 75.51; H, 6.00; Fe, 18.49. Found: C, 75.68; H, 5.91; Fe, 18.70;

*E*-1-ferrocenyl-1-phenylpropene-1 **15b**, 0.109 g (yield 37%);  $R_f$  0.86, orange oil [15], <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta$  = 2.07 (d, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>, J = 7.2 Hz); 4.15 (s, 5H, C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>5</sub>); 4.0–4.3 (m, 4H, C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>4</sub>); 5.69 (q, 1H, CH, J = 7.2 Hz). Anal. Calcd. for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>18</sub>Fe: C, 75.51; H, 6.00; Fe, 18.49. Found: C, 75.42; H, 6.21; Fe, 18.33;

3-Ferrocenylindene 11, 0.02 g (yield 6.7%);  $R_f$  0.82, m.p. 92°C (lit. 92–93°C [9,10]). FAB<sup>+</sup> MS, m/z 300 (M<sup>+</sup>). Calcd. C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>16</sub>Fe (M<sup>+</sup>) 300.17;

3-p-Dimethylaminophenyl-1-ferrocenyl-1-phenyl-1-propene **10b** as a mixture of Z- and E-isomers ( $\sim$  1:1); 0.043 g (10%);  $R_f$  0.21, orange oil, <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta$  = 3.16 (d, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>, J = 6.8 Hz); 3.30 (d, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>, J = 6.8 Hz); 2.85 (s, 6H, CH<sub>3</sub>); 3.0 (s, 6H, CH<sub>3</sub>); 3.70 (s, 5H, C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>5</sub>); 4.07 (s, 5H, C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>5</sub>); 3.70–4.15 (m, 8H, C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>4</sub>); 6.07 (t, 1H, CH, J = 6.8 Hz); 6.81 (t, 1H, CH, J = 6.8 Hz); 6.85–7.80 (m, 18H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>). Anal. Calcd. for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>27</sub>FeN: C, 76.96; H, 6.46; Fe, 13.26; N, 3.32. Found: C, 77.07; H, 6.30; Fe, 13.41; N, 3.20.

In a similar way, **6d** (0.38 g) gave 0.085 g (28.1%) of **15a**; 0.055 g (18.3%) of **15b**; 0.03 g (10%) of **11**, and 0.047 g (11%) of *Z,E*-**10b**.

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