# Stereoselective synthesis of vinyl sulfones by carbomagnesiation of acetylenic sulfone in the presence of CuCN 

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#### Abstract

Carbomagnesiation of acetylenic sulfone in the presence of catalytic amount of CuCN gave $\alpha$-sulfonyl vinyl magnesium reagent, which further reacted with aldehydes to afford polysubstituted vinyl sulfones in moderate to good yields. © 2005 Elsevier B.V. All rights reserved.


Keywords: Carbomagnesiation; Acetylenic sulfone; Vinyl sulfone; Stereoselectivity

## 1. Introduction

Many biologically active compounds have the structural unit of polysubstituted alkenes and the stereoselective synthesis of polysubstituted alkenes remains a challenging problem in organic synthesis [1]. Vinyl sulfones are useful precursors of alkenes due to the further transformation of sulfonyl [2]. The available methodology for vinyl sulfones synthesis mainly consists of Hor-ner-Emmons reactions of carbonyl compounds and sulfonyl phosphoranes [3], Peterson reactions [4], $\beta$ elimination of selenosulphones [5] and selenosulfonation of acetylene [6]. Considering the importance of vinyl sulfones, it is still of interest to find new method to prepare vinyl sulfones. Carbometallation of alkynes by organometallic reagents is widely studied in the synthesis of substituted alkenes [7]. Organomagnesium reagents are important reagents in organic chemistry [8]. However, little attention has been paid to the synthesis of vinyl sulfones by carbomagnesiation of acetylenic

[^0]sulfones. It has been reported that the reaction of Grignard reagents with acetylenic sulfone to afford the products of overall substitution of the sulfone moiety [9]. In the course of our study, we find that carbomagnesiation of acetylenic sulfones with Grignard reagents happened smoothly in the presence of catalytic amount of CuCN . Herein, we wish to report the carbomagnesiation of acetylenic sulfones and its application in the stereoselective synthesis of polysubstituted vinyl sulfones.

## 2. Results and discussion

Firstly, the carbomagnesiation reaction of arylmagnesium bromides with acetylenic sulfone and its further reaction with aldehydes were studied. Carbomagnesiation of 1-phenyl-2-( $p$-tolylsulfonyl)ethyne with arylmagnesium bromide in the presence of $10 \mathrm{~mol} \%$ of CuCN in $\mathrm{THF} / \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ gave $\alpha$-sulfonyl vinyl Grignard reagents $\mathbf{2}$, which further reacted with aldehydes 3 to afford tetrasubstituted alkenes 4 containing allylic alcohol structural unit stereoselectively (Scheme 1). The results are summarized in Table 1. Table 1 shows that different substituted aromatic aldehydes and $n$-butyraldehyde

Table 1
Synthesis of compounds $\mathbf{4 a}-\mathbf{4 h}$

| Entry | Ar | R | Product | Yield $^{\mathbf{a}}(\%)$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1 | $\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{5}-$ | $p-\mathrm{ClC}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{4}-$ | $\mathbf{4 a}$ | 72 |
| 2 | $\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{5}-$ | $p-\mathrm{NO}_{2} \mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{4}-$ | $\mathbf{4 b}$ | 80 |
| 3 | $\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{5}-$ | $\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{5}-$ | $\mathbf{4 c}$ | 48 |
| 4 | $\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{5}-$ | $p-\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{OC}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{4^{-}}$ | $\mathbf{4 d}$ | 47 |
| 5 | $\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{5}$ | $n-\mathrm{C}_{3} \mathrm{H}_{7-}$ | $\mathbf{4 e}$ | 22 |
| 6 | $p-\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{4}-$ | $p-\mathrm{NO}_{2} \mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{4}-$ | $\mathbf{4 f}$ | 67 |
| 7 | $p-\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{4-}$ | $\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{5}$ | $\mathbf{4 g}$ | 59 |
| 8 | $p-\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{4}-$ | $p-\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right)_{2} \mathrm{NC}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{4-}$ | $\mathbf{4 h}$ | 58 |

${ }^{\text {a }}$ Isolated yield based on the acetylenic sulfone used.
can be used as electrophiles. The products were obtained in moderate to good yields when the aromatic aldehydes were used as electrophiles. While low yield was obtained when the $n$-butyraldehyde is used.

The stereoselectivity of the addition of arylmagnesium bromides to acetylenic sulfone and its further reaction with aldehydes was confirmed by the X-ray structure of 1, 3-diphenyl-3-tolyl-2-( $p$-tolylsulfonyl)allylic alcohol $\mathbf{4 g}$ [10] (Fig. 1). Although high quality crystals cannot be obtained, Fig. 1 shows that $p$-tolyl is cis to sulfonyl, which suggests that the addition of arylmagnesium bromides to acetylenic sulfone is in the anti-fashion.

1,4-Dienes are typical structure of many natural compounds and their synthesis has attracted much interest [11]. So, we further investigated the addition
of allylmagnesium bromide to acetylenic sulfone for the hope to synthesis tetrasubstituted alkenes containing 1,4 -diene structural unit. In the case of the reaction of allylmagnesium bromide with 1-phenyl-2-( $p$-tolylsulfonyl)ethyne, $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O} / \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ was used as solvent instead of THF/ $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ for the reason that higher yield of the products could be obtained when the reactions were carried out in $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O} / \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$. In the presence of $10 \mathrm{~mol} \%$ of CuCN , addition of allylmagnesium bromide to 1-phenyl-2-(p-tolylsulfonyl)ethyne in $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O} /$ $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ gave $\alpha$-sulfonyl vinyl Grignard reagents 5 , which reacted with aldehydes 3 to afford tetrasubstituted alkenes 6 ,which contain 1,4-diene and allylic alcohol structural units (Scheme 2). The expected products were obtained in moderate yield with stereoselectivity of $Z: E=85: 15 \sim>95: 5$.

This stereochemistry was verified by the NOESY spectra of the major product ( $Z$ )-1,3-diphenyl-2-( $p$-toly-lsulfonyl)-2, 5 -hexadiene-1-ol((Z)-6b). It shows that there are strong correlations between the allylic protons of the allyl group and the protons adjacent to hydroxyl, which suggests that the major addition of allylmagnesium bromide to acetylenic sulfone was in the syn-fashion. The results are summarized in Table 2.

In conclusion, we have developed a new one-pot method to prepare polysubstituted vinyl sulfones with moderate to good yields. This method has the advantages of readily available starting materials, simple procedures, mild reaction conditions and good


Scheme 1.


Fig. 1. The molecular structure of $\mathbf{4 g}$.


Scheme 2.

Table 2
Synthesis of compounds 6a-6e

| Entry | R | Product | Yield $^{\mathrm{a}}(\%)(Z / E)$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1 | $p-\mathrm{NO}_{2} \mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{4}-$ | $\mathbf{6 a}$ | $58(85: 15)$ |
| 2 | $\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{5}-$ | $\mathbf{6 b}$ | $64(>95: 5)$ |
| 3 | $p-\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right)_{2} \mathrm{NC}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{4-}$ | $\mathbf{6 c}$ | $55(>95: 5)$ |
| 4 | $n-\mathrm{C}_{3} \mathrm{H}_{7}-$ | 6d | $43(>95: 5)$ |
| 5 | $\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{5} \mathrm{CH}=\mathrm{CH}-$ | 6e | $66(67: 10)$ |

${ }^{\text {a }}$ Isolated yield based on the acetylenic sulfone used.
stereoselectivity. Further studies on the application of the reaction are now in progress.

## 3. Experimental

All the solid products were recrystallized from ethyl acetate and hexane and the melting points are uncorrected. All reactions were carried out under an argon atmosphere. THF and $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ were distilled from sodium/benzophenone. $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ was distilled from calcium hydride. NMR spectra were recorded at $300 \mathrm{MHz}\left({ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right)$ and $75.47 \mathrm{MHz}\left({ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\right)$ on a Bruker AV-300 NMR spectrometer in $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$. Acetylenic sulfone $\mathbf{1}$ were prepared according to the literature procedure [12].
3.1. General procedure for the synthesis of $\mathbf{4 a}-\mathbf{4} \boldsymbol{h}$ by the reaction of arylmagnesium bromides, acetylenic sulfone and aldehydes

To the solution of ArMgBr ( 0.6 mmol ) in THF/ $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}(\mathrm{v} / \mathrm{v}=1 / 4,5 \mathrm{ml})$ was added $\mathrm{CuCN}(10 \mathrm{~mol} \%)$ and 1-phenyl-2-( $p$-tolylsulfonyl)ethyne $(0.4 \mathrm{mmol})$ at $-20^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ with stirring. After carbomagnesiation was complete (monitored by TLC), aldehyde 0.5 mmol was added and stirred at $-20^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for $3-4 \mathrm{~h}$. The reaction was quenched with saturated $\mathrm{NH}_{4} \mathrm{Cl}$ and extracted with $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$. The organic phase was dried over $\mathrm{Na}_{2} \mathrm{SO}_{4}$. After filtration and removal of solvent in vacuo, the crude product was purified with flash chromatography (silanes/hexanes-ethyl acetate $10: 1 \mathrm{v} / \mathrm{v}$ ). The desired products $\mathbf{4 a - 4 h}$ were obtained.
3.1.1. 4a: 1-(p-Chlorophenyl)-3,3-diphenyl-2-(p-tolylsul-fonyl)-2-propen-1-ol: m.p. $196^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$

IR (KBr):v $\left(\mathrm{cm}^{-1}\right) 3514,1490,1295,1135 .{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $300 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 7.51$ (d, $J=8.41 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}$ ), $7.39-$ $6.91(\mathrm{~m}, 16 \mathrm{H}), 5.88(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 4.67(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 2.32(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H})$. ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $75.47 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta(\mathrm{ppm}): 156.11$, $143.36,143.22,140.06,139.95,138.39,138.23,133.20$, 129.77, 129.26, 128.86, 128.74, 128.51, 127.71, 127.40, 127.04, 73.09, 21.51. MS(EI): $m / z(\%) 456$ ( 0.90 , $\left.\mathrm{M}^{+}-\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O},{ }^{35} \mathrm{Cl}\right), 458\left(0.34, \mathrm{M}^{+}-\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O},{ }^{37} \mathrm{Cl}\right), 319$ (20.28, $\left.{ }^{35} \mathrm{Cl}\right), 321\left(5.74,{ }^{37} \mathrm{Cl}\right), 178(100.00)$. Anal. Calc. for $\mathrm{C}_{28} \mathrm{H}_{23} \mathrm{ClO}_{3} \mathrm{~S}$ : C, 70.87; H, 4.88. Found: C, 70.85; H, 4.90\%.
3.1.2. 4b: 3,3-Diphenyl-1-(p-nitrophenyl)-2-(p-tolylsulfo-nyl)-2-propen-1-ol: m.p. $145^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$

IR (KBr): $v\left(\mathrm{~cm}^{-1}\right) 3450,1511,1340,1287,1133 .{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $300 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 8.27$ (d, $J=8.75 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}$ ), $7.74(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.45 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.34-6.91(\mathrm{~m}, 14 \mathrm{H}), 5.98(\mathrm{~d}$, $J=11.57 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 4.94(\mathrm{~d}, J=11.69 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 2.32(\mathrm{~s}$, $3 \mathrm{H}) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $75.47 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 149.01,143.61$, $142.69,139.70,137.98,129.85,129.57,128.95,128.84$, 127.78, 127.37, 126.59, 123.60, 73.04, 21.52. MS(EI): $m / z(\%) 329$ ( $100, \mathrm{M}^{+}-\mathrm{SO}_{2}$ Tol), 311 (20.34), 252 (15.67), 178 (60.91), 178 (100.00). Anal. Calc. for $\mathrm{C}_{28} \mathrm{H}_{23} \mathrm{NO}_{5} \mathrm{~S}: \mathrm{C}, 69.26 ; \mathrm{H}, 4.77$; N, 2.88. Found: C, 69.20; H, 4.87; N, 2.66\%.
3.1.3. 4c: 2-(p-Tolylsulfonyl)-1,3,3-triphenyl-2-propen-1-ol: m.p. $187^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$

IR (KBr): $v\left(\mathrm{~cm}^{-1}\right) 3508,1590,1491,1286,1134 .{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $300 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 7.58(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.42 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}$ ), 7.45-7.21 (m, 9H), 7.12-7.07 (t, 4H), 6.97 (d, $J=8.09 \mathrm{~Hz}, 4 \mathrm{H}), 5.95(\mathrm{~d}, J=12.05 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 4.87(\mathrm{~d}$, $J=11.95 \mathrm{~Hz}, \quad 1 \mathrm{H}), \quad 2.32 \quad(\mathrm{~s}, \quad 3 \mathrm{H}) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C} \quad \mathrm{NMR}$ ( $75.47 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 155.79,143.69,143.22,141.45$, 140.14, 138.67, 138.38, 129.78, 129.10, 128.80, 128.75, $128.70,128.42,128.39,127.68,127.48,127.36,125.55$, 73.56, 21.51. MS(EI): $m / z(\%) 422$ (1.12), 285 (47.73, $\mathrm{M}^{+}-\mathrm{SO}_{2} \mathrm{Tol}-\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ ), 284 (100.00), 178 (84.26). Anal. Calc. for $\mathrm{C}_{28} \mathrm{H}_{24} \mathrm{SO}_{3}$ : C, 76.34; H, 5.49. Found: C, 76.06; H, 5.76\%.
3.1.4. 4d: 3,3-Diphenyl-1-(p-methoxyphenyl)-2-(p-tolylsulfonyl)-2-propen-1-ol: m.p. $170^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$

IR (KBr): v $\left(\mathrm{cm}^{-1}\right) 3501,1510,1442,1289,1173$, 1131. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $300 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 7.48$ (d, $J=8.40 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.29(\mathrm{~d}, J=11.46 \mathrm{~Hz}, 4 \mathrm{H}), 7.19-7.04$ (m, 6H), 6.96-6.89 (m, 6H), $5.87(\mathrm{~d}, J=11.97 \mathrm{~Hz}$, $1 \mathrm{H}), 4.83(\mathrm{~d}, J=12.00 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 3.82(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 2.31(\mathrm{~s}$, 3H). ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $75.47 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 158.89,155.33$, 143.72, 143.14, 140.14, 138.77, 138.41, 133.54, 129.77, 129.04, 128.77, 128.73, 128.65, 128.34, 127.64, 127.43, 126.76, 113.82, 73.35, 55.31, 21.49. MS(EI): $m / z(\%)$ 315 (19.74, $\mathrm{M}^{+}-\mathrm{SO}_{2}$ Tol), 296 (100.00, $\mathrm{M}^{+}-\mathrm{SO}_{2}$ Tol $-\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ ), 265 (25.59), 178 (72.71). Anal. Calc. for $\mathrm{C}_{29} \mathrm{H}_{26} \mathrm{SO}_{4}: \mathrm{C}, 74.02 ; \mathrm{H}, 5.57$. Found: C, $73.71 ; \mathrm{H}$, 5.53\%.
3.1.5. 4e: 1,1-Diphenyl-2-(p-tolylsulfonyl)-1-hexen-3-ol: m.p. $120^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$

IR (KBr): v $\left(\mathrm{cm}^{-1}\right) 3533,1445,1291,1273,1235$, 1128. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $300 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 7.30-7.27(\mathrm{~m}$, $3 \mathrm{H}), 7.23-7.12(\mathrm{~m}, 5 \mathrm{H}), 7.03-6.93(\mathrm{~m}, 4 \mathrm{H}), 6.77$ (s, $2 \mathrm{H}), 4.66-4.57(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 4.18(\mathrm{~d}, J=11.86 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H})$, $2.30(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 2.27-2.11(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 1.52-1.40(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H})$, 0.90 ( $\mathrm{t}, \quad J=14.69 \mathrm{~Hz}, 3 \mathrm{H}) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( 75.47 MHz , $\left.\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta 154.07,144.14,143.00,140.49,138.72$, 138.62, 129.91, 128.77, 128.73, 128.52, 128.21, 127.53, 127.18, 73.52, 39.18, 21.48, 19.82, 13.85. MS(ESI): $m / z$ $429.2\left(\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{Na}^{+}\right)$. Anal. Calc. for $\mathrm{C}_{25} \mathrm{H}_{26} \mathrm{O}_{3} \mathrm{~S}: \mathrm{C}, 73.86$; H, 6.45. Found: C, 73.15; H, 6.67\%.
3.1.6. 4f: (Z)-3-(p-Methylphenyl)-1-(p-nitrophenyl)-3-phenyl-2-(p-tolylsulfonyl)-2-propen-1-ol: m.p. $140^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$

IR (KBr): $v\left(\mathrm{~cm}^{-1}\right) 3484,1518,1345,1289,1135 .{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $300 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 8.26(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.29 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H})$, $7.73(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.69 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.32(\mathrm{~s}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.21-7.05(\mathrm{~m}$, $6 \mathrm{H}), 6.96-6.89(\mathrm{dd}, J=7.60 \mathrm{~Hz}, 7.61 \mathrm{~Hz}, 4 \mathrm{H}), 6.78$ (d, $J=7.80 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 6.00-5.92(\mathrm{~d}, J=24.73 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 5.00$ (d, $\quad J=11.72 \mathrm{~Hz}, \quad 1 \mathrm{H}), \quad 2.31(\mathrm{~s}, \quad 6 \mathrm{H}) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C} \quad \mathrm{NMR}$ ( $75.47 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 129.93,129.49,128.93,128.93$, 128.77, 128.72, 128.38, 127.72, 127.44, 127.35, 126.60, 123.56, 73.12 (d, $J=18.9 \mathrm{~Hz}$ ), 21.50, 21.29. $\mathrm{MS}(\mathrm{EI}):$ $m / z(\%) 326$ (100.00, $\mathrm{M}^{+}-\mathrm{SO}_{2}$ Tol- $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ ), 344 (34.93, $\mathrm{M}^{+}-\mathrm{SO}_{2} \mathrm{Tol}$ ), 280 (16.56), 297 (13.96). Anal. Calc. for $\mathrm{C}_{29} \mathrm{H}_{25} \mathrm{NO}_{5} \mathrm{~S}: \mathrm{C}, 69.72 ; \mathrm{H}, 5.04 ; \mathrm{N}, 2.80$. Found: C, 69.76; H, $5.00 ; \mathrm{N}, 2.71 \%$.

### 3.1.7. 4g: (Z)-1,3-Diphenyl-3-(p-methylphenyl)-2-

 (p-tolylsulfonyl)-2-propen-1-ol: m.p. $173{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$IR (KBr): v $\left(\mathrm{cm}^{-1}\right) 3501,1598,1491,1447,1292$, 1133. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR $\left(300 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta 7.56(\mathrm{~d}$, $J=7.59 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.42(\mathrm{t}, J=15.01 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.30(\mathrm{~s}$, $3 \mathrm{H}), 7.22-7.17(\mathrm{t}, J=14.58 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.13-7.04$ (q, $4 \mathrm{H}), \quad 6.95-6.87(\mathrm{q}, 4 \mathrm{H}), \quad 6.80(\mathrm{~m}, \quad 1 \mathrm{H}), \quad 5.96(\mathrm{t}$, $J=22.72 \mathrm{~Hz}, \quad 1 \mathrm{H}), \quad 54.89-4.84 \quad(\mathrm{dd}, \quad J=1.31 \mathrm{~Hz}$, $1.41 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 2.30(\mathrm{~s}, 6 \mathrm{H}) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( 75.47 MHz , $\left.\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta 129.84,129.77,129.33,129.02,128.79$,
128.74, 128.63, 128.58, 128.33, 128.28, 127.61, 127.54, $127.47,127.28,125.58,73.61(\mathrm{~d}, J=12.9 \mathrm{~Hz}), 21.50(\mathrm{~d}$, $J=8.1 \mathrm{~Hz})$, 21.24. MS(ESI): $m / z 477.2\left(\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{Na}^{+}\right)$. Anal. Calc. for $\mathrm{C}_{29} \mathrm{H}_{26} \mathrm{SO}_{3}$ : C, 76.62; H, 5.76. Found: C, 76.07; H, 5.71\%.
3.1.8. 4h: (Z)-1-(p-Dimethylaminophenyl)-3-(p-methyl-phenyl)-3-phenyl-2-(p-tolylsulfonyl)-2-propen-1-ol: m.p. $97{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$

IR (KBr): $v\left(\mathrm{~cm}^{-1}\right) 3504,1613,1521,1293,1133 .{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $300 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 7.42(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.24 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H})$, $7.28(\mathrm{~d}, J=6.67 \mathrm{~Hz}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 7.17-7.09(\mathrm{~m}, 6 \mathrm{H}), 6.95-6.77$ $(\mathrm{m}, 6 \mathrm{H}), 5.90-5.81(\mathrm{t}, J=25.96 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 4.81-4.77$ (dd, $J=2.62 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2.60 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 2.96$ (s, 6H), 2.30 (s, 3H), $2.29(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}) . \mathrm{MS}(\mathrm{ESI}): m / z 520.2\left(\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{Na}^{+}\right)$. Anal. Calc. for $\mathrm{C}_{28} \mathrm{H}_{23} \mathrm{NO}_{5} \mathrm{~S}: \mathrm{C}, 74.82 ; \mathrm{H}, 6.28 ; \mathrm{N}, 2.82$. Found: C, 74.89 ; H, 6.30; N, 2.96\%.

### 3.2. General procedure for the synthesis of $\mathbf{6 a - 6} \boldsymbol{e}$ by the reaction of allylmagnesium bromide, acetylenic sulfone and aldehydes

To the solution of allylmagnesium bromide $(0.6 \mathrm{mmol})$ in $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O} / \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}(\mathrm{v} / \mathrm{v}=1 / 4,5 \mathrm{ml})$ was added $\mathrm{CuCN}(10 \mathrm{~mol} \%)$ and 1-phenyl-2-( $p$-tolylsulfonyl)ethyne ( 0.4 mmol ) at $-20^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ with stirring. After carbomagnesiation was complete (monitored by TLC), aldehyde 0.5 mmol was added and stirred at $-20^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for $3-4 \mathrm{~h}$. The reaction was quenched with saturated $\mathrm{NH}_{4} \mathrm{Cl}$ and extracted with $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$. The organic phase was dried over $\mathrm{Na}_{2} \mathrm{SO}_{4}$. After filtration and removal of solvent in vacuo, the crude product was purified with flash chromatography (silanes/hexanes-ethylacetate $10: 1 \mathrm{v} / \mathrm{v}$ ). The desired products $6 \mathbf{6}-\mathbf{6 e}$ were obtained.
3.2.1. (Z)-6a: 1-(p-Nitrophenyl)-3-phenyl-2-(p-tolylsulf-onyl)-2,5-hexadien-1-ol: m.p. $46{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$

IR (KBr): v ( $\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3485, 1597, 1520, 1346, 1287, 1139. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $300 \mathrm{MHz}, \quad \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 8.32 \quad(\mathrm{~d}$, $J=8.77 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.83(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.45 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.27-76.92$ (m, 9H), $6.22(\mathrm{~d}, ~ J=10.87 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 5.59-5.48(\mathrm{~m}$, $1 \mathrm{H}), 5.06-4.93(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 4.63(\mathrm{~d}, J=10.91 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H})$, 3.43-3.36 (m, 1H), 3.43-3.17 (m, 1H), $2.35(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H})$. MS(EI): $\quad m / z(\%) \quad 449 \quad\left(0.21, \quad \mathrm{M}^{+}\right), 431$ (1.22, $\mathrm{M}^{+}-\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ ), 276 (81.77, $\mathrm{M}^{+}-\mathrm{SO}_{2} \mathrm{Tol}-\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ ), 230 (34.71), 142 (44.56), 91 (100). Anal. Calc. for $\mathrm{C}_{28} \mathrm{H}_{23} \mathrm{NO}_{5} \mathrm{~S}: \mathrm{C}, 66.80 ; \mathrm{H}, 5.16 ; \mathrm{N}, 3.11$. Found: C, 66.04 ; H, 5.43; N, $2.81 \%$.

### 3.2.2. (E)-6a: (E)-1-(p-Nitrophenyl)-3-phenyl-2( $p$-tolylsulfonyl)-2, 5-hexadien-1-ol: yellow oil

IR (KBr): v $\left(\mathrm{cm}^{-1}\right) 3514,1598,1523,1348,1265$, 1137. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $300 \mathrm{MHz}, \quad \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 8.11(\mathrm{~d}$, $J=8.79 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.69(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.28 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.52-7.26$ $(\mathrm{m}, 7 \mathrm{H}), 7.17-7.15(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 5.63(\mathrm{~d}, J=11.49 \mathrm{~Hz}$, $1 \mathrm{H}), 5.33-5.22(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 4.90-4.70(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 4.43(\mathrm{~d}$,
$J=11.64 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 3.75-3.68(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 3.50-3.43(\mathrm{~m}$, $1 \mathrm{H}), 2.44(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H})$. HRMS calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{25} \mathrm{H}_{23} \mathrm{NaNO}_{5} \mathrm{~S}$ $\left(\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{Na}^{+}\right), 472.1191$; found: 472.1189.
3.2.3. (Z)-6b: (Z)-1,3-Diphenyl-2-(p-tolylsulfonyl)-2,5-hexadien-1-ol: m.p. $106^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$

IR (KBr): v ( $\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3472, 1595, 1491, 1447, 1276, 1134. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR $\left(300 \mathrm{MHz}, \quad \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta 7.64(\mathrm{~d}$, $J=7.88 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.53-7.43(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.38-7.33(\mathrm{~m}$, $2 \mathrm{H}), 7.23(\mathrm{~d}, ~ J=7.36 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.17-7.14(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H})$, 7.04-6.89 (m, 5H), $6.22(\mathrm{~d}, ~ J=10.73 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 5.58-$ $5.49(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 5.03-4.91(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 4.49(\mathrm{~d}, J=10.84 \mathrm{~Hz}$, 1H), 3.30-3.27 (m, 2H), $2.35(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $75.47 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $153.59,143.30,143.10,141.51$, $138.79,138.07,131.85,128.86,128.54,127.78,127.50$, 125.61, 118.49, 71.59, 42.44, 21.50. MS(ESI): m/z 427.1 (M $+\mathrm{Na}^{+}$). Anal. Calc. for $\mathrm{C}_{25} \mathrm{H}_{24} \mathrm{O}_{3} \mathrm{~S}: \mathrm{C}, 74.23$; H, 5.98. Found: C, 74.32 ; H, $5.96 \%$.
3.2.4. ( $Z$ )-6c: ( $Z$ )-1-(p-Dimethylaminophenyl)-3-phenyl-2-(p-tolylsulfonyl)-2,5-hexadien-1-ol: m.p. $119^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$

IR (KBr): $v\left(\mathrm{~cm}^{-1}\right) 3449,1614,1523,1443,1281$, 1135, 1081. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $300 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 7.71$ (d, $J=8.28 \mathrm{~Hz}, \quad 2 \mathrm{H}), \quad 7.33-7.14 \quad(\mathrm{~m}, \quad 9 \mathrm{H}), \quad 6.69 \quad(\mathrm{~d}$, $J=8.79 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 5.53(\mathrm{~d}, J=11.93 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 5.41-5.30$ $(\mathrm{m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 4.89(\mathrm{~d}, J=10.00 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 4.78-4.72(\mathrm{dd}$, $J=1.30 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1.31 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 3.65-3.58(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 3.49-$ $3.42(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 2.95(\mathrm{~s}, 6 \mathrm{H}), 2.44(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $75.47 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 132.22,129.55,128.46,128.24$, 127.37, 127.33, 126.65, 118.51, 112.51, 73.11, 40.73, 40.32, 21.60. MS(ESI): $m / z 448.2\left(\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}^{+}\right)$. Anal. Calc. for $\mathrm{C}_{27} \mathrm{H}_{29} \mathrm{NO}_{3} \mathrm{~S}: \mathrm{C}, 72.45 ; \mathrm{H}, 6.53$; N, 3.13. Found: C, 72.42; H, 6.43; N, 3.33\%.

### 3.2.5. (Z)-6d: (Z)-3-Phenyl-1-(n-propyl)-2-

(p-tolylsulfonyl)-2,5-hexadien-1-ol: oil
IR (KBr): $v\left(\mathrm{~cm}^{-1}\right) 3517,2959,2872,1596,1491,1443$, 1285, 1134. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $300 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 7.14-6.92(\mathrm{~m}$, $9 \mathrm{H}), 5.56-5.50(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 5.03-4.85(\mathrm{~m}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 4.01(\mathrm{~d}$, $J=11.28 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 3.31-3.26(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 3.08-3.03(\mathrm{~m}$, $1 \mathrm{H}), 2.30(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 2.15-2.00(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 1.65-1.50(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H})$, $1.06(\mathrm{t}, \quad J=14.68 \mathrm{~Hz}, \quad 3 \mathrm{H})$. HRMS calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{22} \mathrm{H}_{26} \mathrm{NaO}_{3} \mathrm{~S}\left(\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{Na}^{+}\right)$, 393.1494 ; found: 393.1495 .

### 3.2.6. (Z)-6e: (Z)-6-Phenyl-5-( p-tolylsulfonyl)-5,8-

 azelaic dialken-4-ol: oilIR (KBr): $v\left(\mathrm{~cm}^{-1}\right) 3450,1722,1596,1493,1448$, 1291, 1145. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $300 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 7.44$ (d, $J=7.13 \mathrm{~Hz}, \quad 2 \mathrm{H}), \quad 7.33-7.20 \quad(\mathrm{~m}, \quad 3 \mathrm{H}), \quad 7.12 \quad(\mathrm{~d}$, $J=8.12 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.01(\mathrm{~s}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 6.92(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.07 \mathrm{~Hz}$, $2 \mathrm{H}), 6.79-6.67(\mathrm{~m}, 4 \mathrm{H}), 5.61-5.52(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 5.02-4.94$ (m, 2H), $4.35(\mathrm{~d}, ~ J=10.18 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 3.37-3.30(\mathrm{~m}$, $1 \mathrm{H}), 3.17-3.10(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 2.26(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $75.47 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 152.31,143.32,142.87,138.82$, $138.18,136.55,132.05,129.57,128.98,128.68,128.62$, 128.03, 127.74, 127.48, 127.39, 126.90, 126.52, 118.32,
71.67, 42.16, 21.54. HRMS calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{27} \mathrm{H}_{25} \mathrm{O}_{3} \mathrm{~S}$ $\left(\mathrm{M}-\mathrm{H}^{+}\right), 429.1520$; found: 429.1519 .

### 3.2.7. (E)-6e: (4Z)-1,5-Diphenyl-4-(p-tolylsulfonyl)-

1,4,7-octatrien-3-ol: oil
IR (KBr): $v\left(\mathrm{~cm}^{-1}\right) 3373,1717,1597,1449,1303,1148$. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $300 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 7.91(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.15 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H})$, $7.31-7.20(\mathrm{~m}, 10 \mathrm{H}), 7.04(\mathrm{~d}, J=5.27 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 6.44-6.29$ $(\mathrm{m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 5.24-5.10(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 4.97-4.91(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 4.77(\mathrm{~d}$, $J=9.98 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 4.62(\mathrm{~d}, J=17.02 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 3.99(\mathrm{~d}$, $J=11.36 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 3.46-3.33(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 2.38(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR (75.47 MHz, $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 144.22,131.89,131.65$, $129.83,128.53,128.43,127.91,127.36,127.29,126.75$, 118.56, 73.07, 40.23, 21.63. HRMS calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{27} \mathrm{H}_{25} \mathrm{O}_{3} \mathrm{~S}\left(\mathrm{M}-\mathrm{H}^{+}\right), 429.1520$; found: 429.1519.

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