

## Multiplicity and selectivity of cyclopent[a]acenaphthylenylidene

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### Abstract

Cyclopent[a]acenaphthylenylidene **1** has been generated by photolysis from its precursor, the diazocompound **1a**. Carbene **1** could be trapped in olefinic substrates to afford the spirocyclopropanes **8–12**. In addition triplet products of **1** such as **13** and dimer **14** were isolated. With *trans*- $\beta$ -methylstyrene **1** undergoes a stereospecific addition. 2,3-Dimethylbutadiene and **1** reacted to the vinylspirocyclopropane **16** and **17**. Competition experiments of **1** with styrenes give a linear Hammett correlation with a  $\rho=0.38$ . Therefore, **1** is regarded as a nucleophilic singlet carbene in its additions to styrenes. © 2000 Elsevier Science S.A. All rights reserved.

**Keywords:** Diazocompounds; Cyclopent[a]acenaphthylenspiro-cyclopropanes

### 1. Introduction

A principal aim in the photochemistry of diazo compounds is to correlate the observed chemistry with the multiplicity, singlet or triplet spin state, and selectivity of the carbene formed. The present work includes studies of carbene **1** on which the carbene carbon is incorporated into a polynuclear condensed ring system. It was reported that tetraphenyldiazocyclopentadiene and other related diazo compounds photochemically produce the corresponding carbenes [1] (Scheme 1). Durr et al. [2,3] reported that tetraphenyldiazocyclopentadiene was recovered unchanged when refluxed in benzene.

On heating with high boiling solvents like mesitylene it gave tetraphenylcyclopentadiene and CH insertion products [2–4]. In contrast, Balasubramanian and Narasimhan found that the related 8-diazo-7,9-diphenylcyclopent[a]acenaphthylene **1a** undergoes thermal decomposition in benzene affording products involving the intermediacy of the corresponding carbene [5]. In continuation to our interest in the carbene chemistry [6–8], carbene **1** was the subject of the present study to shed more light on its spin states and chemical reactivity since no detailed mechanistic study has been reported with regard to **1**. (Scheme 2)

### 2. Results and discussion

The diazoprecursor **1a** of 7,9-diphenylcyclo-8H-pent[a]acenaphthylenylidene (**1**) was prepared through five reaction steps starting from dibenzyl ketone and acenaphthenequinone [9,10].

Irradiation of **1a** and trapping the carbene **1** in different quenchers such as styrene (**2**), styrene derivatives (*p*-methylstyrene (**3**), *p*-methoxystyrene (**4**), *p*-chlorostyrene (**5**) and *trans*- $\beta$ -methylstyrene (**6**)), 2,3-dimethyl-1,3-butadiene (**7**) gave the products indicated in Scheme 2 and Table 1.

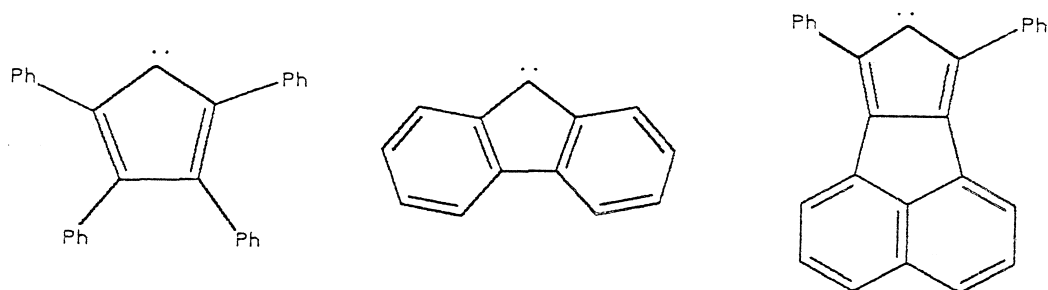
The photolysis of **1a** was controlled by TLC technique, the products were separated by column chromatography and the results are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1 shows that irradiation of **1a** in styrenes 2–6 gave the corresponding spirocyclopropane derivatives **8–12** as major products, in addition to 7,9-diphenyl-8H-cyclopent[a]acenaphthylene (**13**) and the dimer **14** in trace amounts. The structures of **8–13** were confirmed by elemental analysis, mass spectrometric analysis, <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra (Section 3) Table 2.

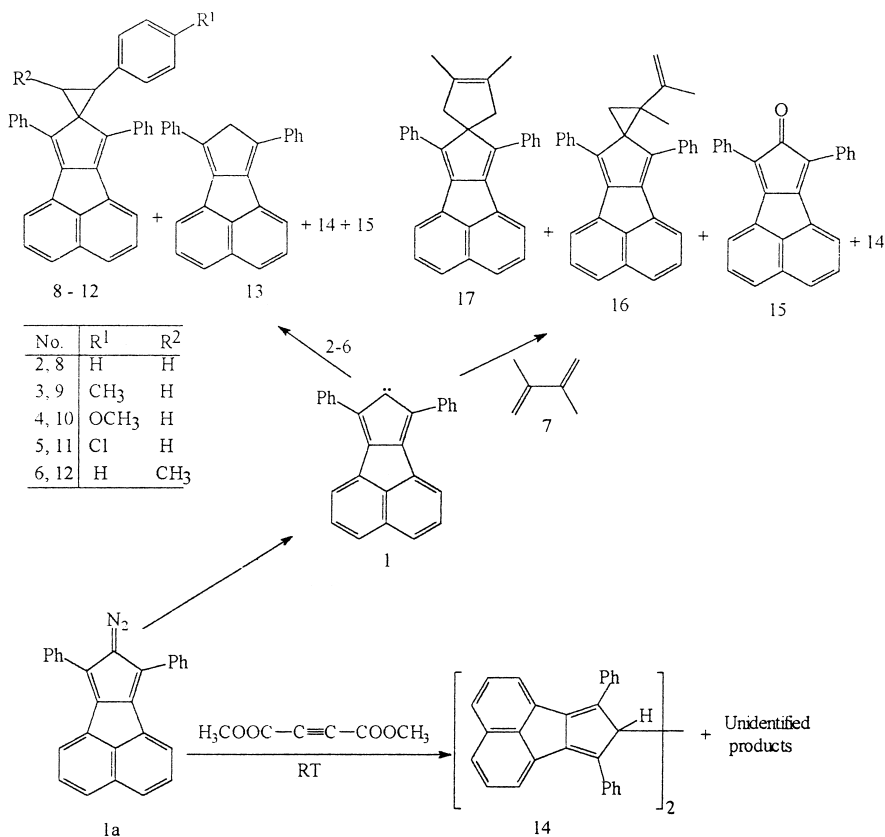
The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of compounds **9–11** as well as the <sup>13</sup>C NMR and mass spectra were consistent with a spirocyclopropane structure.

The formation of the cyclopropane adducts **8–12** in addition to the 7,9-diphenyl-8H-cyclopent[a]acenaphthylene **13** and the dimer **14** indicates that both singlet and triplet spin states are reactive under these conditions.

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Scheme 1.

Scheme 2. Photolysis and thermolysis of **1a** in different trapping agents.

### 2.1. Multiplicity of **1**

Irradiation of **1a** in 2,3-dimethyl-1,3-butadiene as triplet trapping agent gave the corresponding spirocyclopropane adduct **16** in 47% yield. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of this

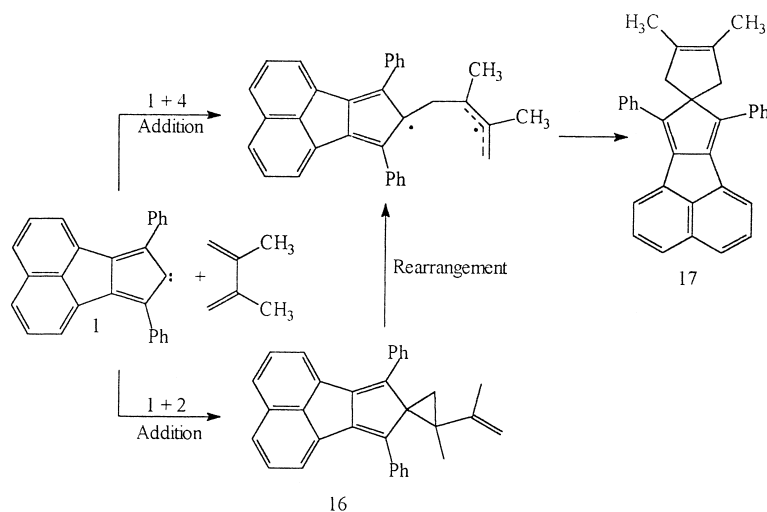
Table 1  
Photolysis of **1a** in different trapping agents

Trapping agent	Time (h)	Products (yield %)
Styrene	2.5	<b>8</b> (31), <b>13</b> (6), <b>14</b> (3)
<i>p</i> -Methylstyrene	3.0	<b>9</b> (19), <b>13</b> (4), <b>14</b> (6)
<i>p</i> -Methoxystyrene	2.5	<b>10</b> (16), <b>13</b> (5), <b>14</b> (4)
<i>p</i> -Chlorostyrene	2.5	<b>11</b> (31.9), <b>13</b> (4), <b>14</b> (trace)
<i>Trans</i> -β-methylstyrene	3.5	<b>12</b> (28), <b>13</b> (28), <b>15</b> (4)
2,3-Dimethyl-1,3-butadiene	2.5	<b>16</b> (47), <b>17</b> (14), <b>14</b> (5), <b>15</b> (4)

adduct showed peaks at δ=1.59 ppm (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub> at C-6'), 1.61 ppm (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub> at C-7'), 2.48 (d, 1H, H<sub>A</sub>, J<sub>BA</sub>=16.95 Hz), 2.82 (d, 1H, H<sub>C</sub>, J<sub>DC</sub>=19.62 Hz), 3.11 (d, 1H, H<sub>D</sub>, J<sub>CD</sub>=19.62 Hz) and 3.28 ppm (d, 1H, H<sub>B</sub>, J<sub>AB</sub>=16.95 Hz).

The <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum revealed two peaks at δ=18.92 ppm and 19.10 ppm for two methyl groups (C-6' and C-7'). Also, two methylene groups appeared at δ=32.60 ppm and 41.38 ppm for C-3' and C-5'. In addition, <sup>13</sup>C-DEPT technique was applied to confirm the origin of these peaks [11].

Interestingly, another compound **17** was separated by column chromatography from the photolysate and identified as a 1,4-adduct. Mass spectrum of this compound **17** gave a molecular ion peak at *m/z*=422, also representing the base peak.



Scheme 3.

Significantly, the  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of this product showed three types of aliphatic carbons at  $\delta=13.7$  ppm (C-6', C-7', 2CH<sub>3</sub>), 46.68 ppm (C-2', C-5', 2CH<sub>2</sub>) and at 68.00 ppm (C-1'). Also,  $^{13}\text{C}$ -DEPT technique was used to support the hypothesis connecting the type and position of the aliphatic carbons C-1', C-2', C-5', C-6' and C-7'. Accordingly, compound **17** could be identified as a 1,4-addition product of the carbene **1** with 2,3-dimethyl-1,3-butadiene. This 1,4-addition can occur either from the triplet state or via formation of **17** by a thermal rearrangement of **16** (Scheme 3) [12,13].

In addition to the investigation of the multiplicity of 7,9-diphenyl-8H-cyclopent[a]acenaphthylidene (**1**) via interaction with the triplet scavenger 2,3-dimethyl-1,3-butadiene, the stereospecificity of the addition of **1** to *trans*- $\beta$ -methylstyrene has been checked. On irradiation of **1a** in pure *trans*- $\beta$ -methylstyrene and separation of the photolysis mixture by column chromatography the spirocyclopropane adduct **12** (13%) was obtained.

The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **12** revealed aliphatic protons at  $\delta=1.87$  ppm (d, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>,  $J_{\text{AB}}=4.98$  Hz), 3.08 ppm (m, 1H, H<sub>A</sub>) and 3.69 ppm (d, 1H, H<sub>C</sub>,  $J_{\text{AC}}=8.50$  Hz). Also, 7,9-diphenyl-8H-cyclopent[a]acenaphthylene **13** (28%) was separated and identified using NMR, TLC with an authentic sample and elemental analysis. The third product was the ketone **15** (4%). It could be formed by oxygen trapping.

Table 2  
Competition experiments: photolysis of **1a** in equimolar mixtures of styrene (**2**) and *p*-substituted styrenes (**3**–**5**)

R	$k_{\text{rel}}$	$\log k_{\text{rel}}$	$\sigma_{\text{P}}$	$\sigma_{\text{P}}^+$
<i>p</i> -OCH <sub>3</sub>	0.53	-0.27	-0.27	-0.78
<i>p</i> -CH <sub>3</sub>	0.62	-0.21	-0.17	-0.31
H	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>p</i> -Cl	1.09	0.04	0.24	0.11

In conclusion, the formation of 7,9-diphenyl-8H-cyclopent[a]acenaphthylene **13** and the dimer **14** during the reaction of **1** with styrenes and the formation of the 1,4-addition product **17** with 2,3-dimethyl-1,3-butadiene indicates that carbene **1** reacts as a diradical through hydrogen abstraction or dimerization. The separation of only the *trans*-spirocyclopropane adduct **12**, and the absence of *cis*-adduct indicates that the reactive spin state of carbene **1** with styrenes is the singlet one [14–20]. Therefore, carbene **1** is an example for the existence of singlet–triplet equilibrium in aryl carbenes.

## 2.2. Selectivity of **1**

As pointed out before, photolysis or thermolysis of the diazo compound **1a** generates the corresponding carbene **1**. In carbenes, the carbon atom has two high-lying orbitals. The addition of a carbene to an olefin could be represented by (a) and (b), for electrophilic and nucleophilic carbenes, respectively. So, the electrophilic carbene adds through  $p$  orbital (LUMO), and the nucleophilic carbene through  $\sigma$  orbital (HOMO) [21]. Electron-donating substituents on the carbene raise the LUMO energy, stabilize the carbene and increase the carbene selectivity, whereas electron withdrawing groups lower the LUMO energy and decrease selectivity.

As discussed before, carbene **1** has been added to styrenes **2**–**5** and gave cyclopropane products **8**–**11**. Therefore, the selectivity of this carbene has been tested by determining the  $k_{\text{rel}}$  of the substituted spirocyclopropane with respect to the parent compound, obtained via irradiation of the diazo precursor in styrene and substituted styrenes (Fig. 1).

The  $k_{\text{rel}}$  values were plotted versus the Hammett constants [22] ( $\sigma_{\text{P}}$  or  $\sigma_{\text{P}}^+$ ) using the simple equation:

$$\log k_{\text{rel}} = \rho \sigma$$

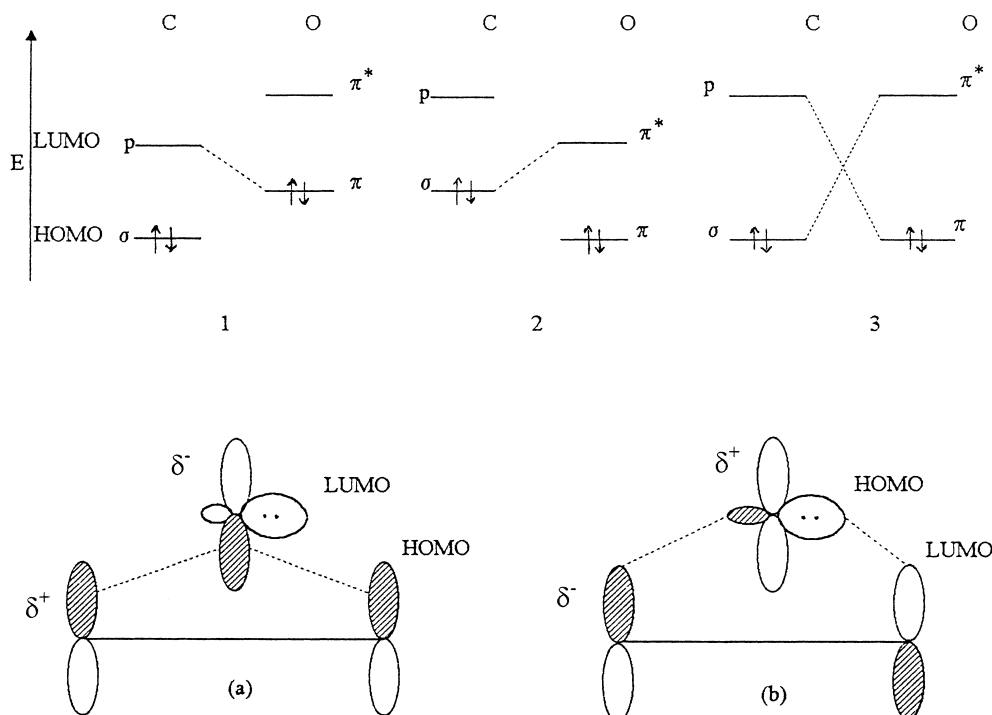


Fig. 1. Orbital interaction between carbene (C) and olefin (O).

Fig. 2 showed a linear correlation between  $k_{rel}$  and  $\sigma_p$  or  $\sigma_p^+$ . The reaction constant has a positive value ( $\rho=0.38$ ) which indicated that carbene **1** reacts with styrenes as nucle-

ophilic carbene and according to FMO theory [21], i.e. the interaction between carbene **1** and styrene (olefin) occurred by HOMO<sub>C</sub>-LUMO<sub>O</sub> interaction.

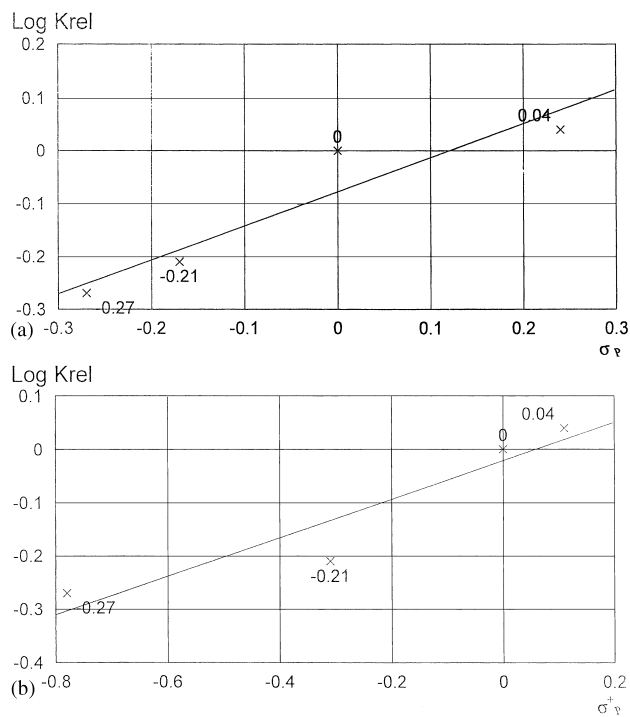


Fig. 2. Hammett correlation for the addition of carbene **1** to styrenes. (a): Relationship between  $\log k_{rel}$  and  $\sigma_p$ ; (b): relationship between  $\log k_{rel}$  and  $\sigma_p^+$ .

### 3. Experimental

#### 3.1. Instruments

##### 3.1.1. Mass spectra (MS)

These analysis were carried out on Mass Spectrometer MAT-311(Varian) with electron energy 70 eV.

##### 3.1.2. $^1\text{H}$ Nuclear magnetic resonance spectra ( $^1\text{H}$ NMR)

$^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra were recorded on 400 Aspect 3000, Bruker (400 MHz) in the suitable deuteriated solvent using TMS as internal standard.

##### 3.1.3. $^{13}\text{C}$ Nuclear magnetic resonance spectra ( $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR)

Were recorded also on 400 Aspect 3000, Bruker (400 MHz).

##### 3.1.4. Ultraviolet spectra (UV)

UV analyses were effected on a Shimadzu double-beam Spectrophotometer UV-200 S.

##### 3.1.5. Elemental analysis

These were carried out by Ultramikroschnell-method using Walisch Elemental Analyser Model 1106 Carlo Erba Strumentatione.

### 3.1.6. Photolysis systems

All the photolytic reactions were carried out in a 20 ml pyrex glass cell fitted with a side arm and an internal cooling tube and externally irradiated with a Hanovia high pressure mercury lamp (450 W) using pyrex filter and the whole system was contained in an aluminum container which serves as a light reflector.

### 3.1.7. Materials used

Dibenzyl ketone, acenaphthenequinone, styrene **2**, *p*-methylstyrene **3**, *p*-methoxystyrene **4**, *trans*- $\beta$ -methylstyrene **6** and 2,3-dimethyl-1,3-butadiene **7** were purchased from Aldrich. *p*-Chlorostyrene **5** was prepared as described in the literature [23].

### 3.2. Reaction of 7,9-diphenylcyclopent[*a*]acenaphthylenylidene **1** in different quenchers

A weighed amount of 8-diazo-7,9-diphenylcyclopent[*a*]acenaphthylene **1a** was suspended in a certain volume of the quencher and placed in the photolysis cell. The mixture was photolyzed, using the Hanovia high pressure mercury lamp (450 W), while continuous magnetic stirring. The reaction was monitored with TLC technique.

At the end of photolysis, the contents of the cell were quantitatively transferred into a distillation flask. The excess quencher was distilled under vacuum and the residue was separated by column chromatography on silica gel. The products were identified using IR, <sup>1</sup>H NMR, <sup>13</sup>C NMR, MS and elemental analysis techniques. Results are tabulated in Table 1.

## 4. Photolysis of **1a** styrene

A suspension of 0.40 g ( $1.086 \times 10^{-3}$  mole) of **1a** in 20 ml styrene was irradiated for 2.5 h and was monitored with TLC. The excess of styrene was distilled under vacuum and the residue was separated by column chromatography on silica gel and petroleum ether (40–60°C) as eluent. The first fraction was 7,9-diphenyl-8H cyclopent[*a*]acenaphthylene **13**, 0.02 g, 6%; mp: 222°C [7] mp 220–221°C, identified by comparison with an authentic sample using TLC technique.

The second fraction was 7,9-diphenylcyclopent[*a*]acenaphthylene-8-spiro-1'-(2'-phenyl)cyclopropane **8**, 0.15 g, 31%; mp: 200°C; IR (KBr): 3060 cm<sup>-1</sup> (CH of cyclopropane ring), 3040 cm<sup>-1</sup> (CH aromatic), 1600 cm<sup>-1</sup> (C=C aromatic); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm)=2.36 (d, d, 1H, H<sub>A</sub>, J<sub>BA</sub>=8.4, J<sub>CA</sub>=9.2 Hz), 2.75 (d, d, 1H, H<sub>B</sub>, J<sub>AB</sub>=8.4, J<sub>CB</sub>=8.8 Hz), 3.01 (t, 1H, H<sub>C</sub>, J<sub>BC</sub>=8.8, J<sub>AC</sub>=9.2 Hz), 6.74–7.61 (m, 21H, aromatic). Elemental analysis for C<sub>35</sub>H<sub>24</sub> (444): calcd.: C 94.59; H 5.4; found: C 94.22; H 5.38.

The third fraction was the dimer **14** of yellow fluorescent colour (0.023 g, 3%), mp: >295°C (decomp.); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm)=5.73 (d, 2H, 2CH, J=7.43 Hz), 7.00–7.50 (m, 23H, aromatic); MS: *m/z*: 682 [(M)<sup>+</sup>•, 22.2%], 680 [(M–H<sub>2</sub>)<sup>+</sup>, 100%].

## 5. Photolysis of **1a** in *p*-methylstyrene

In 20 ml of *p*-methylstyrene, 0.30 g ( $8.15 \times 10^{-4}$  mole) of **1a** was suspended and irradiated for 3 h. The reaction mixture was treated as before. The first product **13** was eluted with petroleum ether (40–60°C) (0.01 g, 4%; mp: 223°C [7] mp 220–221°C). The second product was 7,9-diphenylcyclopent[*a*]acenaphthylene-8H-spiro-1'-(2'-(*p*-methylphenyl)cyclopropane (**9**, 0.07 g, 19%); mp: 173–175°C; IR (KBr): 3070 cm<sup>-1</sup> (CH of cyclopropane ring), 3040 cm<sup>-1</sup> (CH aromatic), 1600 cm<sup>-1</sup> (C=C aromatic); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm)=2.16 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.34–2.38 (d, d, 1H H<sub>A</sub>, J<sub>BA</sub>=8.40, J<sub>CA</sub>=9.12 Hz), 2.75 (d, d, 1H, H<sub>B</sub>, J<sub>AB</sub>=8.40, J<sub>CB</sub>=8.77 Hz), 2.99 (t, 1H, H<sub>C</sub>, J<sub>AC</sub>=9.12, J<sub>BC</sub>=8.77 Hz), 6.09–7.63 (m, 20H, aromatic). Elemental analysis for C<sub>36</sub>H<sub>26</sub> (458): calcd.: C 94.3; H 5.68; found: C 93.8; H 5.65.

The third fraction was the dimer (**14**, 0.03 g, 6%) mp: >297°C (decomp.).

## 6. Photolysis of **1a** in *p*-methoxystyrene

As in the case of *p*-methylstyrene, 0.30 g ( $8.15 \times 10^{-4}$  mole) of **1a** was suspended in 20 ml *p*-methoxystyrene and irradiated as in the general procedure.

The first separated product was **13** (0.015 g, 5%) and the second product was 7,9-diphenylcyclopent[*a*]acenaphthylene-8H-spiro-1'-(2'-(*p*-methoxy-phenyl)cyclopropane (**10**, 0.06 g, 16%) eluted with petroleum ether (40–60°C)/benzene mixture (20:1); mp: 175°C; IR (KBr): 3070 cm<sup>-1</sup> (CH of cyclopropane ring), 3030 cm<sup>-1</sup> (CH aromatic), 1600 cm<sup>-1</sup> (C=C aromatic); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm)=2.35 (d, d, 1H, H<sub>A</sub>, J<sub>BA</sub>=8, J<sub>CA</sub>=9 Hz), 3.74 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 6.6–7.7 (m, 20H, aromatic); MS: *m/z*=474 [(M)<sup>+</sup>•, 100%], 366 [(M–C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>7</sub>O)<sup>+</sup>•, 57.7%]. Elemental analysis for C<sub>36</sub>H<sub>26</sub>O (473): calcd.: C 91.10; H 5.48; C 91.50; H 5.21.

Finally, the dimer **14** was also eluted with petroleum ether/benzene mixture (10:1) and identified (0.02 g, 4%).

## 7. Photolysis of **1a** in *p*-chlorostyrene

A suspension of 0.30 g ( $8.15 \times 10^{-4}$  mole) of **1a** in 20 ml of *p*-chlorostyrene was irradiated for 2.75 h and monitored with TLC. The excess *p*-chlorostyrene was distilled and the residue was separated on silica gel column chromatography. The first separated product **13** was eluted with petroleum ether (40–60°C)/benzene mixture (25:1), (0.01 g, 4%). The

second product 7,9-diphenylcyclopent[*a*]acenaphthylene-8H-spiro-1'-(2'-(*p*-chlorophenyl)cyclopropane **11** was eluted with petroleum ether/benzene mixture (25:2), (0.124 g, 31.9%); mp: 120°C and was identified by <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ (ppm)=2.38 (m, 1H, H<sub>A</sub>), 2.74 (m, 1H, H<sub>B</sub>), 2.94 (t, 1H, H<sub>C</sub>), 6.7–7.8 (m, 20H, aromatic). The dimer **14** was separated in trace amount.

## 8. Photolysis of **1a** in *trans*-β-methylstyrene

In 20 ml *trans*-β-methylstyrene, 0.25 g (6.8×10<sup>-4</sup> mole) of **1a** was suspended and the mixture was irradiated 3.5 h and the reaction was controlled by TLC. The reaction mixture was treated as described before. The hydrocarbon **13** was the first eluted product with petroleum ether (40–60°C) yield (0.08 g, 28%); mp: 224°C ([9] mp; 228°C); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ (ppm): 4.41 (s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 7.11–8.05 (m, 16H, aromatic). Elemental analysis for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>11</sub> (342): calcd.: C 94.70; H 5.26; found; C 93.96; H 5.52.

Also, from petroleum ether (40–60°C), 7,9-diphenylcyclopent[*a*]acenaphthylene-8H-spiro-1'-(*trans*-2'-methyl-3'-phenyl)cyclopropane **12** was separated (0.04 g, 13%) <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ (ppm)=1.17 (d, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>, J<sub>AC</sub>=4.98 Hz), 3.08 (m, 1H, H<sub>A</sub>), 3.69 (d, 1H H<sub>C</sub>, J<sub>AC</sub>=8.5 Hz), 6.10–7.87 (m, 21H, aromatic). The third product was the ketone **15**, identified using authentic sample (0.01 g, 4%).

## 9. Photolysis of **1a** in 2,3-dimethyl-1,3-butadiene

A 0.20 g (6.79×10<sup>-4</sup> mole) of **1a** was suspended in 20 ml 2,3-dimethyl-1,3-butadiene and photolyzed for 2 h and 30 min. The photolysate was treated as before to give 7,9-diphenylcyclopent[*a*]acenaphthylene-8H-spiro-1'-(3',4'-dimethylcyclopent-3'-ene) **17**, eluted with petroleum ether (40–60°C), (0.04 g 14%); mp: 222°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ (ppm)=1.64 (s, 6H, 2CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.94 (s, 4H, 2CH<sub>2</sub>), 7.24–7.82 (m, 16H, aromatic); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ (ppm)=13.7 (C-6', C-7', 2CH<sub>3</sub>), 46.68 (C-2', C-5', 2CH<sub>2</sub>), 68.0 (C-8,1'), 118.9–146.26 (26C, aromatics); MS: *m/z*=422 [(M)<sup>+</sup>•, 100%], 407 [(M-CH<sub>3</sub>)<sup>+</sup>•, 28%], 392 [(M-CH<sub>3</sub>)<sup>+</sup>•, 7.22%]. The second product was 7,9-diphenylcyclopent[*a*]acenaphthylene-8H-spiro-1'-(2'-methyl-2'-propen)cyclopropane (**16**, 0.13 g, 47%), mp: 125°C; IR (KBr); 3070 cm<sup>-1</sup> (CH of cyclopropane ring), 3040 cm<sup>-1</sup> (CH aromatic), 2940, 2860, 2880 cm<sup>-1</sup> (CH<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1600 cm<sup>-1</sup> (C=C aromatic); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ (ppm)=1.59 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub> at C-6'), 1.61 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub> at C-7'), 2.48 (d, 1H, H<sub>A</sub>, J<sub>AB</sub>=16.95 Hz), 2.82 (d, 1H, H<sub>C</sub>, J<sub>DC</sub>=19.62 Hz), 3.1 (d, 1H, H<sub>D</sub>, J<sub>CD</sub>=19.62 Hz), 3.28 (d, 1H, H<sub>B</sub>, J<sub>AB</sub>=16.95 Hz), 7.14–7.68 (m, 16H, aromatics); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ (ppm)=18.92 (C-6'), 19.1 (C-7'), 32.6 (C-3'), 41.38 (C-5'), 56.0 (C-8,1'), 120.80–157.57 (26C, aromatic). The dimer **14** was the third product and also eluted with petroleum ether (0.02 g, 5%); mp: >295°C;

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ (ppm)=5.72 (d, 2H, 2CH, J=7.43 Hz), 7.07–7.58 (m, 34 H, aromatics); MS: *m/z*=682 [(M)<sup>+</sup>•, 22,2%], 680 [(M-2H)<sup>+</sup>•, 100%]. The last product was the ketone (**15**, 0.01 g, 4%); mp: 289°C [24] mp: 289–290°C.

## 10. Reaction of **1a** with dimethyl acetylenedicarboxylate

A suspension of 0.20 g (5.43×10<sup>-4</sup> mole) of **1a** in 20 ml ether was placed in a round bottom flask and magnetically stirred. A few drops of dry methylene chloride were added until the diazo compound **1a** was dissolved and then 0.15 g (1.05×10<sup>-3</sup> mole) of dimethyl acetylenedicarboxylate was added with stirring. The flask was fitted with calcium chloride drying tube and stirred in the dark at room temperature for 2 h and then allowed to stand for 1 week and monitored with TLC technique. Then the excess of solvent was evaporated and the residue was washed with petroleum ether. Only a yellow substance was separated which was identified as the dimer **14** in small amount (0.02 g, 5%); mp: >295°C (decompn.); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ (ppm)=5.64 (d, 2H, 2CH, J=7.43 Hz), 7.00–7.51 (m, 34H, aromatics). TLC analysis of the filtrate indicated the presence of another unidentified products.

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