6b with acrylate derivatives, with and without Lewis acid and metal catalysts,⁹ failed to produce more than traces of Diels-Alder adducts. This lack of reactivity of diene 6b was particularly forbidding in light of the tendency of cyclobutene derivatives to rearrange thermally to 1,3-dienes.¹⁰

However, using the enolsilyl ethers 6c or 6d, reaction of 5 proceeded efficiently under minimum temperature conditions (48 °C, 10 days) to produce 1:1 adducts in 70-75% yield and >95% selectivity after purification by column chromatography.¹¹ Structures 4a and 4b were assigned to the adducts based on spectral data.⁷ However, the stereochemical assignment was secure only after conversion to illudol, which requires the configuration shown in 4.

Hydrolysis of 4a or 4b under standard conditions (fluoride anion or basic hydrolysis) produced a mixture of the desired cis ring fusion isomer 7 and the corresponding trans isomer, in similar amounts.¹² However, desilylation of 4a could be achieved under very mild conditions (3-Å molecular sieves, methyl alcohol, 25 °C, 4.5 h) to give exclusively the cis product, 7 (95% yield).⁷ This selective hydrolysis could not be obtained from the more stable silyl ether, 4b. Selective reduction of 7 with lithium triethylborohydride followed by protection of the secondary hydroxyl group as the benzyl ether (to give 10)⁷ allowed application of Ireland's procedure for converting ester units to methyl groups.¹³ The lithium metal reduction (Scheme III, step i) also served to remove the benzyl protecting group. Oxidation produced the key intermediate $12a^7$ in 56% overall yield from 4a.

An alternative preparation of 12 without the use of the benzyl protecting group was developed through application of Ireland's reduction method directly on the tert-butyldimethylsilyl ether 4b. The reduced compound 13 was obtained in 74% yield by using



carefully selected conditions.^{7,14} Then desilylation with fluoride anion gave a mixture of 12a and the corresponding trans isomer, 12b, which were separated by chromatography. Equilibration of the trans isomer in dilute sodium methoxide/methyl alcohol gave a mixture of 12a/12b (60/40) from which 12a was again isolated. The combined yield of 12a after two equilibrations was 89%, resulting in an overall yield of 12a from 4b of 65%.

Functionalization of C-2 in 12a was accomplished by carboxylation of the kinetic enolate anion with carbon dioxide and methylation with diazomethane (Scheme III). By means of a

(11) The adducts were homogeneous within the limits of ¹³C NMR analysis. Reaction of 5 at higher temperatures was less efficient, giving a byproduct which has been tentatively characterized as diene i.

(12) The cis isomer 7 was converted to a mixture of 7 and the corresponding trans ring fusion isomer (\sim 60:40, favoring 7) upon treatment with (13) R. E. Ireland, D. C. Muchmore, and U. Hengartner, J. Am. Chem.

Soc., 94, 5098 (1972).

selenoxide elimination,¹⁵ the strained double bond exocyclic to the four-membered ring was introduced to give 14 in 37% overall yield from 12a.7 Intermediate 14 was used in the earlier synthesis of illudol,² and we followed that pathway to produce a sample of (\pm) -illudol which was identified by comparison with material from nature (Scheme III).¹⁶ Efforts are under way to convert intermediate 4 into fomannosin (3).

Acknowledgment. We are pleased to acknowledge preliminary work by Dr. Utpal Chakraborty and Professor Leonard Keller (Florida International University) and financial support from the National Institutes of Health. A grant from the National Science Foundation to the Princeton Chemistry Department provided the JEOL-MX90Q NMR spectrometer which was used in this work. S.T. thanks the Ministry of Education (Japanese Government) for financial support.

Supplementary Material Available: Characterization data on all new compounds (5 pages). Ordering formation is given on any current masthead page.

(15) H. J. Reich, F. Chow, and S. K. Shah, J. Am. Chem. Soc., 101, 6638 (1979), and references therein.
(16) We are grateful to Dr. M. Anchel of the New York Botanical Garden

for providing a sample of natural (-)-illudol.

(17) Fellow of the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation, 1978-1979.
(18) On leave from the Department of Chemistry, University of Tokyo,

Komaba, Meguro, Tokyo, Japan 153.

* Address correspondence to Princeton University.

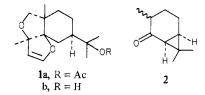
M. F. Semmelhack,*¹⁷ Shuji Tomoda,¹⁸ K. M. Hurst

Department of Chemistry, Princeton University Princeton, New Jersey 08544 Department of Chemistry, Cornell University Ithaca, New York 14853 Received July 31, 1980

A Convenient, Stereospecific Synthesis of (-)-Phytuberin from (-)-2-Carone¹

Sir:

Phytuberin (1a) is a sesquiterpene stress metabolite which has been isolated from fungal-infected potato tubers by Coxon and co-workers.² Its structure was established by spectroscopic methods and by an X-ray crystallographic structure determination on its 2,3-dihydro derivative. A lengthy biogenetic-like synthesis of 1a from α -cyperone, which established the absolute stereochemistry of the compound, was reported recently by Masamune and co-workers.^{3,4} We wish to report a convenient, seven-step synthesis of 1a from (-)-2-carone (2) which allowed preparation



of the natural product in 11% overall yield.

The cyclohexanone derivative 3 was obtained in a highly stereospecific manner. Alkylation of the lithium 2,3-enolate of 2 prepared under thermodynamic conditions by using lithium di-

0002-7863/80/1502-7568\$01.00/0 © 1980 American Chemical Society

⁽⁹⁾ For a review of the role of catalysis in the Diels-Alder reaction, see:

^{1.} Sauer, Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. Eng., 6, 16 (1967). (10) For discussion and examples, see: R. B. Woodward and R. Hoffmann, "The Conservation of Orbital Symmetry", Academic Press, New York, 1971, p 48 ff. The cyclobutene derivative 5 has a half-life of $\sim 1 \text{ h/90 °C}$. Cyclobutenes are not common participants in Diels-Alder reactions. For dis-cussion and recent examples, see: V. V. Plemenkov and V. P. Kostin, J. Org. Chem. USSR (Engl. Transl.), 15, 1086 (1979), and references therein.

⁽¹⁴⁾ The combination of sodium counterion (instead of Li) and 1,2-dimethoxyethane as solvent (instead of tetrahydrofuran) was important in the formation of the phosphorodiamidate, in order to avoid cleavage of the enol silyl ether. Similarly, under the standard¹³ conditions (0 °C, $Li/EtNH_2$) for cleavage of primary phosphorodiamidates, substantial desilylation occurred. But at -78 °C, reaction using the same reagents was complete within 2 h with no significant desilylation.

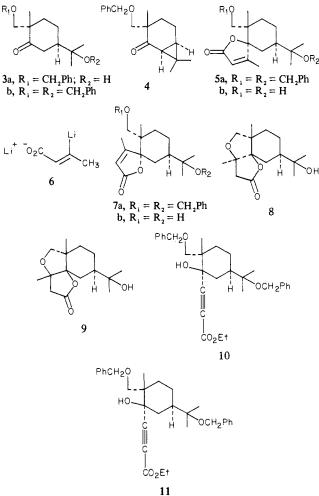
⁽¹⁾ This research was supported by a grant (NSF 7810044) from the

⁽¹⁾ This recearch was supported by a giant (1801 1010001).
(2) Coxon, D. T.; Price, K. R.; Howard, B.; Curtis, R. F. J. Chem. Soc., Perkin Trans. 1 1977, 53.
(3) Murai, A.; Ono, M.; Abiko, A.; Masamune, T. J. Am. Chem. Soc.

^{1978, 100, 7751.}

⁽⁴⁾ For the proposed biogenetic pathway to phytuberin, see Stossel, A.; Stothers, J. B.; Ward, E. W. B. Can. J. Chem. 1978, 56, 645.

isopropylamide (LDA) as the base in tetrahydrofuran (THF)⁵ with chloromethyl benzyl ether gave the bicyclic ketone 4⁶ [65% yield; bp 120–126 °C (0.05 mm); $[\alpha]^{24}_D -93.4^\circ$ (c 1.15, EtOH); IR (CCl₄) 1692 cm⁻¹ (C=O); NMR (CCl₄) δ 0.91 (s, 3 H), 1.02 (s, 3 H), 1.10 (s, 3 H), 3.17 and 3.49 (AB q, J = 8.6 Hz, 2 H, OCH₂C \leq), 4.42 (s, 2 H, C₆H₅CH₂O–), 7.23 (s, 5 H, C₆H₅)] as a single product. The cyclopropane ring in 4 was readily cleaved with aqueous acid to give **3a**. However, to avoid having to protect



the tertiary hydroxy group in a separate step, ketone 4 was treated with benzyl alcohol containing a catalytic amount of *p*-toluenesulfonic acid to give directly the dibenzyl derivative **3b**⁶ [85% yield; $[\alpha]^{24}_{D}$ +30° (c 0.75, EtOH); IR (CCl₄) 1710 cm⁻¹ (C=O); NMR (CCl₄) δ 1.07 (s, 3 H), 1.25 (s, 6 H), 3.17 and 3.39 (ABq, J =9.2 Hz, 2 H, -OCH₂C \leq), 4.35 (s, 2 H, C₆H₅CH₂O-), 4.44 (s, 2 H, C₆H₅CH₂O-), 7.21 (s, 10 H, 2 C₆H₅'s)].

We hoped to utilize methodology analogous to that which was reported recently for a direct conversion of ketone **3b** into the β -methyl spirobutenolide **5a**.⁷ Thus, **3b** was reacted with the β -lithioacrylate derivative **6** (prepared by treatment of (Z)-3bromobutenoic acid with 2 equiv of *n*-butyllithium in ether at -78 °C) under the conditions described previously for the conversion of ketones into butenolides.⁷ This led to the formation of a ~12:88 mixture of the isomeric spirobutenolides **5a** and **7a** in 45–51% yield. The isomers which were separated by chromatography on silica gel exhibited the following spectral properties. **5a**:⁶ [IR (CCl₄) 1755 (α , β -unsaturated γ -lactone C=O), 1637 cm⁻¹ (conjugated C=C); NMR (CCl₄) δ 1.09 (s, 3 H), 1.19 (s, 6 H), 2.08 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 3 H), 3.18 and 3.41 (AB q, J = 9.0 Hz, 2 H), 4.45 (s, 2H), 4.61 (s, 5 H), 7.22 (s, 5 H), 7.27 (s, 5 H). **7a**:⁶ IR (CCl₄) 1764 (C=O), 1637 cm⁻¹ (C=C); NMR (CCl₄) δ 1.22 (s, 6 H), 1.27 (s, 3 H), 1.98 (d, J = 1.8 Hz, 3 H), 2.96 and 3.27 (AB q, J = 9.0 Hz, 2 H), 4.25 (s, 2 H), 4.35 (s, 2 H), 5.43 (q, J = 1.8 Hz, 1 H), 7.17 (s, 10 H).

Hydrogenation of the minor isomer 5a in 95% ethanol containing 10% Pd(C) allowed quantitative removal of the benzyl protecting groups without reduction of the conjugated double bond to give the diol 5b. When 5b was allowed to stand on basic alumina⁸ for 1 h and then eluted with 50% ether-hexane, deactylphytuberin lactone 8, which showed spectral properties identical with those of an authentic sample,²⁹ was isolated in 88% yield. Application of a similar sequence to the major butenolide led via 7b to the tricyclic hydroxylactone 96 [mp 61-62 °C; IR (CCl₄) 3620, 3480 (OH), 1772 (C=O), 1382, 1368, 1117, 1040, 1017, 906 cm⁻¹; NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.23 (s, 9 H), 1.40 (s, 3 H), 2.52 and 2.82 (AB q, J = 18 Hz, 2 H), 3.63 (s, 2 H)]. Since the addition of the vinyllithium reagent 6 to the carbonyl group in 3b occurred predominantly from the undesired equatorial direction, it was clear that a method which would lead to the butenolide 5a stereoselectively would have to be sought.

It was felt that the addition of a relatively small carbanionic species such as acetylide ion to the carbonyl group in **3b** might occur predominately from the axial direction.¹⁰ In a model study it was found that addition of lithium carboxyethylacetylide¹¹ to a 4-tert-butylcyclohexanone occurred almost exclusively in the axial manner; furthermore, it was observed that the resulting γ -hydroxy acetylenic ester was converted into the corresponding anti β -methyl spirobutenolide by reaction with 2 equiv of lithium dimethylcuprate.¹² Thus it appeared that an analogous two-step process might be applicable to the $3b \rightarrow 5a$ conversion. Indeed, the first step proceeded readily and the γ -hydroxyacetylenic ester **10**⁶ [92% yield; $[\alpha]^{24}_{D}$ +22° (*c* 1.18, EtOH); IR (CCl₄) 3495 (OH), 2225 (C=C), 1715 cm⁻¹ (C=O); NMR (CCl₄) δ 1.08 (s, 3 H), 1.21 (s, 6 H), 1.30 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3 H), 3.19 and 3.79 (AB q, J = 8.9 Hz, 2 H), 4.18 (q, J = 7.4 Hz, 2 H), 4.40 (s, 2 H), 4.56 (s, 2 H), 7.22 (s, 5 H), 7.28 (s, 5 H)] formed by axial addition was obtained when 3b was reacted with lithium (carboxyethyl)acetylide in THF at -78 °C for 1.0 h. The stereochemistry of 10 was confirmed by the subsequent transformations. None of the isomeric γ -hydroxy ester which could have resulted from equatorial addition to 3b was isolated.

Considerable difficulty was encountered in finding proper conditions to effect the $10 \rightarrow 5a$ conversion. When 10 was treated with 2 equiv of lithium dimethylcuprate in THF at ~ -10 °C for 3 h under the same conditions which were used to convert the adduct of lithium (carboxyethyl)acetylide and 4-tert-butylcyclohexanone into the corresponding anti- β -methyl spirobutenolide,¹² only unchanged starting material was recovered. When the cuprate addition was run in THF at 0-25 °C by using 2-10 equiv of reagent, the tertiary alcohol 11⁶ [mp 97.5–98.5 °C; IR(CCl₄) 3620, 3520 (OH), 2230 cm⁻¹ (C=C); NMR (CCl₄) δ 1.10 (s, 3 H), 1.20 (s, 6 H), 1.43 (s, 6 H), 3.16 and 3.78 (AB q, J = 8.6Hz, 2 H), 4.40 (s, 2 H), 4.53 (s, 2 H), 7.23 (s, 5 H), 7.35 (s 5 H)], which resulted from 1,2 addition of the cuprate to the carboxyethyl group, was the only product isolated. When the reaction was carried out at temperatures below -10 °C for extended reaction times using 2 equiv of lithium dimethylcuprate in ether, mixtures of the butenolides 5a, the acetylenic diol 11, and the starting material were isolated. However, best results were obtained when 10 was reacted with 1 equiv of lithium dimethylcuprate in ether at -24 °C for 84 h. This led to the formation of a \sim 3:1:1 mixture of 5a, 11, and 10.¹³ Chroma-

⁽⁵⁾ Treatment of 2 with LDA in THF at -78 °C under kinetic control followed by addition of methyl chloromethyl ether or benzyl chloromethyl ether gave C-1 rather than C-3 alkylation products.

⁽⁶⁾ All new compounds for which spectral data are reported gave correct combustion analyses and/or exact mass data.

⁽⁷⁾ Caine, D.; Frobese, A. S. Tetrahedron Lett. 1978, 5167.

⁽⁸⁾ Posner, G. H. Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. Engl. 1978, 17, 487.

⁽⁹⁾ We are grateful to Dr. D. T. Coxon for providing us with generous quantities of authentic samples of deacetylphytuberin lactone (8) and phytuberin (1a).

⁽¹⁰⁾ For an excellent review on the stereochemistry of the addition of organometallic reagents to cyclic ketones, see: Ashby, E. C.; Laemmle, J. T. Chem. Rev. 1975, 75, 521.

⁽¹¹⁾ Herrmann, J. L.; Berger, M. H.; Schlessinger, R. H. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1979, 101, 1544.

⁽¹²⁾ Caine, D.; Smith, T. L., Jr. Synth. Commun. 1980, 10, 751.

tography of the mixture on silica gel allowed the isolation of 5a in 60% yield, based on unrecovered starting material.

In order to form the tetrahydro and dihydrofuran rings in phytuberin, diol 5b, which was prepared by hydrogenolysis of the benzyl groups in 5a, was reacted with 3.5 equiv of DIBAL-H (-40 °C, 1.0 h; 0 °C, 0.5 H), as described for the reduction of the related formylspirobutenolide.³ Workup of the mixture with 2 N NaOH gave deacetylphytuberin (1b), $[\alpha]^{24}_{D}$ -34.6° (c 0.1, EtOH), in 63% yield. This material exhibited identical spectral properties with those reported previously.^{2,3} Acetylation of 1b $(Ac_2O, Et_3N, catalytic amount of 4-N, N-dimethylaminopyridine^{14})$ gave 71% of (-)-phytuberin (1a), $[\alpha]^{24}_{D}$ -34.0 ° (c 0.25, EtOH), having IR and NMR spectral properties and TLC behavior identical with those of an authentic sample.

Drury Caine,* Troy L. Smith, Jr.

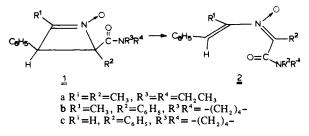
School of Chemistry, Georgia Institute of Technology Atlanta, Georgia 30332 Received July 14, 1980

Extension of the Woodward-Hoffmann Rules to Heterocyclic Systems: Stereospecific Thermal **Isomerization of 1-Azacyclobutene 1-Oxides**

Sir:

In a recent publication Snyder¹ predicts, on the basis of calculated potential surfaces for isomerization of heteracyclobutenes, that 1-azacyclobutenes will undergo ring opening in a conrotatory mode similar to cyclobutenes. This possible extension of the Woodward-Hoffmann rules to the isomerization of heteracyclobutenes has, to our knowledge, hitherto not been confirmed experimentally. A number of 2,3-dihydroazetes are known,²⁻⁶ and Cantrell⁴ and recently Harnisch and Szeimies⁵ have reported that several derivatives of these heterocycles are thermally unstable. Attempts to isolate the corresponding 2-aza-1,3-butadienes were unsuccessful, probably because of rapid polymerization or hydrolysis if water is present.

We wish to report in this communication the stereospecific thermal isomerization of 2,3-dihydroazete 1-oxides together with the X-ray structure determination of one of the corresponding 2-aza-1,3-butadiene 2-oxides. Recently we have obtained a number of 2,3-dihydroazete 1-oxides from reactions of nitroalkenes and 1-aminoacetylenes (ynamines). The structure of one of these four-membered cyclic nitrones, 2-(N,N-diethylcarbamoyl)-2,4dimethyl-3-phenyl-2,3-dihydroazete 1-oxide (1a), has been de-



- (1) Snyder, J. P. J. Org. Chem. 1980, 45, 1341-1344.
 (2) Levy, A. B.; Hassner, A. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1971, 93, 2051-2053.
 (3) Yang, N. C.; Kim, B.; Chiang, W.; Hamada, T. J. Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun. 1976, 729-730.
- (4) Cantrell, T. S. J. Org. Chem. 1977, 42, 4238-4245
- (5) Harnisch, J.; Szeimies, G. Chem. Ber. 1979, 112, 3914–3933.
 (6) Marchand-Brynaert, J.; Moya-Portuguez, M.; Lesuisse, D.; Ghosez, L. J. Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun. 1980, 173-174.

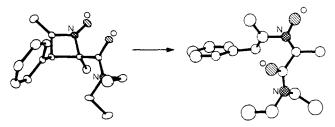


Figure 1. ORTEP drawings of 1a and 2a.

Table I. Rate Constants for the Isomerizations of 1 to 2

temp, °C	10 ⁵ k, s		
	la	1b	10
51.5	0.48 ± 0.01		
61.1	1.50 ± 0.1	9.60 ± 0.3	77 ± 3
71.9	5.71 ± 0.2		

termined by X-ray crystallography.⁷ This revealed the stereochemistry of 1a and showed that the two bulkiest substituents, the phenyl and the N,N-diethylcarbamoyl group, are on the same side of the almost flat four-membered ring. When a chloroform solution of this 2,3-dihydroazete 1-oxide was heated at reflux, isomerization to N-[1-(N,N-diethylcarbamoyl)-ethylidene]-1phenyl-1-propen-2-amine N-oxide (2a) took place as indicated by ¹H NMR. After 20 h we isolated **2a** from the reaction mixture as a white crystalline solid (40%):^{8,9} mp 117-120 °C; IR $(KBr)\nu_{C=C}, \nu_{C=O}$, and $\nu_{C=N}$ 1660, 1650, and 1630 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 0.98 and 1.23 (t, 6 H, NCCH₃), 2.32 (s, 6 H, =C-CH₃), 3.34 and 3.39 (q, 4 H, NCH₂-), 6.58 (s, 1 H, C=CH), 7.2-7.4 (m, 5 H, Ph); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 125.1 (=CH-), 142.0 and 143.1 (C=N and =CN), 164.1 (C=O). The structure of 2a was determined by single-crystal X-ray analysis, and this unambiguously proved the E, E stereochemistry of $2a^{.11}$ This means that ring opening has taken place in a conrotatory mode in line with the isomerization of cyclobutenes.

Orthorhombic crystals of 2a belong to space group $Pna2_1$ with a = 15.93 (1), b = 8.41 (1), c = 11.74 (1) Å, Z = 4. Intensities were measured with Mo K α radiation ($\lambda = 0.7107$ Å) on a single-crystal diffractometer in $\omega - 2\theta$ scan mode (3° < θ < 20°); 1450 reflections were measured, of which 869 were significant $(I > \sigma(I),$ counting statistics). The structure was solved by direct methods.¹² Full-matrix least-squares refinement¹³ of positional and anisotropic parameters of the nonhydrogen atoms resulted in a final R_w factor of 5.5%. The structure of $2a^{14}$ is given in Figure 1.

The rate of the isomerization of 1a to 2a in chloroform was measured by ¹H NMR spectroscopy at temperatures of 51.5, 61.1, and 71.9 °C. The rates were calculated from the decrease of the intensity of the singlet at 3.98 ppm corresponding to H-3 in 1a. The data fitted first-order kinetics, and from a plot of the rates vs. T^{-1} , we obtained the activation parameters of the isomerization reaction (ΔH^{\dagger} 27 ± 1 kcal mol⁻¹ and ΔS^{\dagger} - 2 ± 3 eu). The rates of isomerization of two other 2,3-dihydroazete 1-oxides were also determined at 61.1 °C in chloroform (see Table I). The isom-

(7) de Wit, A. D.; Pennings, M. L. M.; Trompenaars, W. P.; Reinhoudt, D. N.; Harkema, S.; Nevestveit, O. J. Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun. 1979, 993-995.

(9) In view of these results it is unlikely that 2H-1,2-oxazete 2-oxides are the intermediates in the formation of nitrones from 3-nitrobenzo[b]thiophene or 4-nitroisothiazole and ynamines.¹⁰

(10) Reinhoudt, D. N.; Kouwenhoven, C. G. Recl. Trav. Chim. Pays-Bas 1976, 95, 67-73.

(11) Due to steric interactions in the transition state, the formation of the E, E isomer is favored over the formation of the Z, Z isomer of 2a.

(12) Germain, G.; Main, P.; Woolfson, M. M. Acta Crystallogr., Sect. A, 1971, A27, 368-376.

(13) Busing, W. R.; Martin, K. O.; Levy, H. A. ORFLS, Report ORNL-

 TM-305, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Tennessee, 1962.
 (14) Johnson, C. K. ORTEP, Report ORNL-3794, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Tennessee, 1965.

⁽¹³⁾ Since the best yield of the butenolide was obtained when 1 equiv of lithium dimethylcuprate was used, it is possible that the conjugate addition reaction was effected primarily via the mixed methylalkoxycuprate derived from reaction of lithium dimethylcuprate with the hydroxy group in 10. For examples of conjugate additions using mixed alkylalkoxycuprates, see Posner, G. H.; Whitten, C. E.; Sterling, J. J. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1973, 95, 7788.
 (14) Hofle, G.; Steglich, W.; Vorbrüggen, H. Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. Engl. 1978, 17, 569.

⁽⁸⁾ Prolonged heating of 2a in chloroform at reflux caused polymerization; this accounts for the low isolated yield.