Scheme I


$\mathrm{R}=\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right)_{n}$
$R^{\prime}-R^{4}=H$, alkyl. alkeny!
( 10 equiv) produced acetone in $39 \%$ yield. ${ }^{16}$ Therefore the 4-hydroxy ketone products may be formed from the initially produced 1,4-diols. ${ }^{17}$

The oxy radical can interact with a carbon-carbon double bond present in the substrate. As illustrated in eq 5 and $6, \mathrm{RuCl}_{2}\left(\mathrm{PPh}_{3}\right)_{3}$

catalyzes smoothly the isomerization of 2,3-unsaturated 1,4epiperoxides to the 1,2,3,4-diepoxides, which provides a useful synthetic tool. ${ }^{18}$

Thus the Ru (II)-catalyzed reactions involve radical intermediates, but they behave differently from free diradicals formed by photolysis or thermolysis of the epiperoxides. ${ }^{19}$ The Ru atom affects profoundly the stability and reactivity of the radicals through interaction with the oxygen atom, allowing selective transformations under mild conditions. The selectivity profile is different from the related Fe (II)-promoted reaction, which proceeds via free-radical intermediates generated by an outer-sphere electron-transfer process. ${ }^{20}$

[^0]Acknowledgment. We thank Drs. Y. Naya and H. Naoki of Suntory Institute for Bioorganic Research for the $360-\mathrm{MHz}$ NMR measurement. We are also indebted to Professor S. Suzuki of our Department for the suggestion for the malonaldehyde assay.

Registry No. 1, 280-53-5; 2, 5718-73-0; 3, 279-35-6; 4, 63942-75-6; 5, 79171-56-5; $\mathrm{RuCl}_{2}\left(\mathrm{PPh}_{3}\right)_{3}$, 15529-49-4; butanedial, 638-37-9; ethene, 74-85-1; cis-1,4-cyclohexanediol, 731-71-5; 4-hydroxycyclohexanone, 13482-22-9; 6-methyl-2,5-heptanedione, 13901-85-4; 4-hydroxy-4methylcyclohexanone, 17429-02-6; cis-4-isopropyl-1-methyl-1,4-cyclohexanediol, 17948-61-7; propanedial, 542-78-9; 3-oxiranepropanal, 65842-25-3; cis-1,3-cyclopentanediol, 16326-97-9.

## Square and Butterfly, $\mathbf{1 2}$-Electron $\mathbf{M o}_{4}$ Clusters Formed by Coupling Mo $=$ Mo Bonds

M. H. Chisholm,* R. J. Errington, K. Folting, and J. C. Huffman

## Department of Chemistry and Molecular Structure Center Indiana University. Bloomington. Indiana 47405

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One of the several reaction pathways potentially available to compounds with metal-to-metal multiple bonds is condensation or oligomerization to give cluster compounds with delocalized metal-to-metal bonding. McCarley and co-workers reported ${ }^{1}$ the dimerization of two $\left(\mathrm{Mo}^{-}{ }^{4} \mathrm{Mo}\right)^{4+}$ units to give a rectangular $\mathrm{Mo}_{4}$ cluster with alternating Mo-Mo triple and single bonds. We wish now to report reactions in which square and butterfly 12 -electron $\mathrm{Mo}_{4}$ clusters are formed from the coupling of $\mathrm{Mo} \equiv \mathrm{Mo}$ bonds.

Hydrocarbon solutions of $\mathrm{Mo}_{2}(\mathrm{O}-i-\mathrm{Pr})_{6}(\mathrm{M} \equiv \mathrm{M})^{2}$ react with $\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{COX}(\mathrm{X}=\mathrm{Cl}$ and Br ) to give isopropylacetate and haloalkoxy molybdenum compounds. ${ }^{3}$ When the reactions are carried out in hexane, black crystalline compounds of formula $\mathrm{Mo}_{4} \mathrm{X}_{3}(\mathrm{O}-i$ $\mathrm{Pr})_{9}{ }^{4}$ crystallize from a cooled solution (ca. $-5^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ ) and have been obtained in $70 \%$ yield according to eq 1 .

$$
2 \mathrm{Mo}_{2}(\mathrm{O}-i-\mathrm{Pr})_{6}+3 \mathrm{MeCOX} \rightarrow \mathrm{Mo}_{4} \mathrm{X}_{3}(\mathrm{O}-i-\mathrm{Pr})_{9}+3 \mathrm{MeCOO}-i-\mathrm{Pr}
$$

The ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR spectra of $\mathrm{Mo}_{4} \mathrm{X}_{3}(\mathrm{O}-i-\mathrm{Pr})_{9}$ compounds are quite remarkable: there are five methyne septets in the ratio $2: 2: 2: 2: 1$ and nine partially overlapping doublets for the methyl resonances. This can be explained as follows. Halo-for-alkoxy group exchange increases the Lewis acidity of the metal atoms, and the compounds " $\mathrm{Mo}_{2} \mathrm{X}_{2}(\mathrm{O}-i-\mathrm{Pr})_{4}$ " once formed associate with their precursors $\mathrm{Mo}_{2} \mathrm{X}(\mathrm{O}-i-\mathrm{Pr})_{5}$. Association by the formation of one alkoxy and three halide bridges to give I has a precedent in the structures of $\mathrm{Mo}_{4}(\mu-\mathrm{F})_{4}(\mathrm{O}-i-\mathrm{Bu})_{8}$ and $\mathrm{Mo}_{4}(\mu-\mathrm{F})_{3}\left(\mu-\mathrm{NMe}_{2}\right)(\mathrm{O}-t-\mathrm{Bu})_{8}{ }^{5}$. It is not necessary to invoke delocalized metal-metal bonds: there are merely two isolated $\mathrm{Mo} \equiv \mathrm{Mo}$ bonds brought into close proximity by the bridging ligands. Note that I has $C_{2}$ symmetry, which accounts for the presence of five types of isopropyl groups and the appearance of nine isopropyl methyl groups, since the four different pairs of OR ligands each have diastereotopic methyl groups.
$\mathrm{Mo}_{4} \mathrm{X}_{3}(\mathrm{O}-i-\mathrm{Pr})_{9}$ compounds react further with $\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{COX}$ to give $\mathrm{Mo}_{4} \mathrm{X}_{4}(\mathrm{O}-i-\mathrm{Pr})_{8}$ compounds ( $\mathrm{X}=\mathrm{Cl}$ or Br ), which are es-

[^1]
sentially insoluble in hexane and toluene. A direct synthesis of $\mathrm{Mo}_{4} \mathrm{X}_{4}(\mathrm{O}-i-\mathrm{Pr})_{8}$ in toluene is thus possible, and based on the basis of eq $2, \mathrm{Mo}_{4} \mathrm{X}_{4}(\mathrm{O}-i-\mathrm{Pr})_{8}$ compounds have been obtained in ca. $60 \%$ yield.
\[

$$
\begin{array}{r}
2 \mathrm{Mo}_{2}(\mathrm{O}-i-\mathrm{Pr})_{6}+4 \mathrm{MeCOX} \\
\mathrm{Mo}_{4} \mathrm{X}_{4}(\mathrm{O}-i-\mathrm{Pr})_{8}+4 \mathrm{MeCOO}-i-\mathrm{Pr} \tag{2}
\end{array}
$$
\]

In the space group $\mathrm{I4} / \mathrm{m}, \mathrm{Mo}_{4} \mathrm{Cl}_{4}(\mathrm{O}-i-\mathrm{Pr})_{8}$ lies on the crystallographic 4 -fold axis. ${ }^{6}$ The two atoms $\mathrm{Cl}(3)$ and $\mathrm{Mo}(1)$ lie on this axis and are related to $\mathrm{Mo}(1 \mathrm{D})$ and $\mathrm{Cl}(3 \mathrm{D})$ by the crystallographic mirror plane at $Z=1 / 2$. The two remaining molybdenum atoms are systematically disordered about the 4 -fold axis, giving an apparent $\mathrm{Mo}_{6}$ octahedral moiety with the molybdenum atoms in the plane (and their corresponding chloride ligands) having an occupancy of 0.50 . Packing considerations indicate the square structure shown in Figure 1 and reveal an interesting "layered" disorder. The molecule has absolute $C_{2 h}$ symmetry and virtually $D_{4 h}$ symmetry. The departure from the latter, we believe, is merely due to molecular packing and arrangements of isopropyl groups. The local $\mathrm{MoClO}_{4}$ geometry corresponds to a square-based pyramid.

If for each metal atom we define the $z$ axis coincident with the $\mathrm{Mo}-\mathrm{Cl}$ bond and the $x$ axis in the $\mathrm{Mo}_{4}$ plane, then each molybdenum may use its $\mathrm{p}_{2}$ atomic orbital to form $\mathrm{Mo}-\mathrm{Cl}$ bonds and its $\mathrm{s}, \mathrm{p}_{x}, \mathrm{p}_{y}, \mathrm{~d}_{x y}$ atomic orbitals to form four $\mathrm{Mo}-\mathrm{O}$ bonds, which leaves $\mathrm{d}_{x^{2}-y^{2}}, \mathrm{~d}_{x 2}, \mathrm{~d}_{y z}$, and $\mathrm{d}_{z^{2}}$ available for cluster $\mathrm{M}-\mathrm{M}$ bonding. If the available 12 electrons are placed in bonding molecular orbitals, then an average $\mathrm{M}-\mathrm{M}$ bond order of 1.5 is attained. $\mathrm{Mo}_{4} \mathrm{Cl}_{4}(\mathrm{O}-i-\mathrm{Pr})_{8}$ is diamagnetic, and the observed $\mathrm{Mo}-\mathrm{Mo}$ distance 2.378 (1) $\AA$ is certainly consistent with delocalized $\mathrm{M}-\mathrm{M}$ bonding where the average $\mathrm{M}-\mathrm{M}$ bond order is greater than 1 . Compare, for example, the Mo-Mo single-bond distances in $\mathrm{Zn}_{2} \mathrm{Mo}_{3} \mathrm{O}_{8}(2.524(2) \AA)^{7}$ or $\mathrm{Mo}_{3} \mathrm{O}(\mathrm{ONe})_{10}(2.529(9) \AA)^{8}$ where six electrons are delocalized over three Mo-Mo bonds.
$\mathrm{Mo}_{4} \mathrm{Br}_{4}(\mathrm{O}-i-\mathrm{Pr})_{8}$ is very sparingly soluble in toluene, and in toluene- $d_{8}$ gave a ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR spectrum indicative of three types of O-i-Pr ligands in the integral ratio 4:2:2. This is inconsistent
(6) Crystal data for $\mathrm{Mo}_{4} \mathrm{Cl}_{4}(\mathrm{O}-i-\mathrm{Pr})_{8}$ at $-162^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ : space group $=I 4 / \mathrm{m}$, $a=b=9.97$ (1) $\AA, c=18.27$ (2) $\AA, Z=2, d_{\mathrm{c}}=1.825 \mathrm{~g} \mathrm{~cm}^{-3}$. Of the 846 unique reflections collected with use of Mo K $\alpha$ radiation, $5^{\circ} \leq 2 \theta \leq 50^{\circ}$, the 592 having $F>2.33 \sigma(F)$ were used in the full-matrix refinement. Final residuals are $R_{F}=0.045$ and $R_{w F}=0.040$.
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Figure 1. View of the $\mathrm{Mo}_{4} \mathrm{Cl}_{4}(\mathrm{O}-i-\mathrm{Pr})_{8}$ molecule. The molecule has a crystallographically imposed $C_{2}$ axis, which contains $\mathrm{Cl}(3)-\mathrm{Mo}(1)-\mathrm{Mo}-$ (1D) $-\mathrm{Cl}(3 \mathrm{D})$, and a mirror plane, which contains $\mathrm{Cl}(4 \mathrm{C})-\mathrm{Mo}(2 \mathrm{C})-$ $\mathrm{Mo}(2 \mathrm{~A})-\mathrm{Cl}(4 \mathrm{~A})$ and relates the atoms $\mathrm{O}(5)$ and $\mathrm{O}(5 \mathrm{D}), \mathrm{O}(5 \mathrm{~A})$ and $\mathrm{O}(5 \mathrm{E})$, etc. Pertinent bond distances $(\AA)$ and angles are $\mathrm{Mo}(1)-\mathrm{Mo}(2 \mathrm{~A})$ $=\mathrm{Mo}(1)-\mathrm{Mo}(2 \mathrm{C})=2.378(2), \mathrm{Mo}(1)-\mathrm{Cl}(3)=2.442(5), \mathrm{Mo}(1)-0(5)$ $=1.981(4), \mathrm{Mo}(2 \mathrm{C})-0(5)=2.078(4), \mathrm{Mo}(2 \mathrm{C})-\mathrm{Mo}(1)-\mathrm{Mo}(2 \mathrm{~A})=$ $91.4(1)^{\circ}, \mathrm{Mo}(1)-\mathrm{Mo}(2 \mathrm{C})-\mathrm{Mo}(1 \mathrm{D})=88.5(1)^{\circ}, 0(5)-\mathrm{Mo}(1)-0(5 \mathrm{C})=$ $89.8(1)^{\circ}, 0(5)-\mathrm{Mo}(1)-0(5 \mathrm{~B})=173.4(1)^{\circ}, 0(5)-\mathrm{Mo}(1)-\mathrm{Cl}(3)=93.3$ $(1)^{\circ}, 0(5)-\mathrm{Mo}(1)-\mathrm{Mo}(2 \mathrm{C})=56.0(1)^{\circ}, 0(5)-\mathrm{Mo}(1)-\mathrm{Mo}(2 \mathrm{~A})=118.6$ $(1)^{\circ}, \mathrm{Mo}(1)-0(5)-\mathrm{Mo}(2 \mathrm{C})=71.7(1)^{\circ}, \mathrm{Mo}(1)-0(5)-\mathrm{C}(6)=136.8(1)^{\circ}$, $\mathrm{Mo}(2 \mathrm{C})-0(5)-\mathrm{C}(6)=138.7(1)^{\circ}$.


Figure 2. ORTEP view of the $\mathrm{Mo}_{4} \mathrm{Br}_{4}(\mathrm{O}-i-\mathrm{Pr})_{8}$ molecule. Some pertinent bond distances $(\AA)$ and angles (deg) are as follows: $\mathrm{Mo}(1)-\mathrm{Mo}(2)=$ 2.513 (1); $\mathrm{Mo}(2)-\mathrm{Mo}(1)^{\prime}=2.516$ (1); $\mathrm{Mo}(2)-\mathrm{Mo}(2)^{\prime}=2.481$ (1); $\mathrm{Mo}(1)-\operatorname{Br}(3)=2.596(1) ; \mathrm{Mo}(2)-\operatorname{Br}(4)=2.568(1) ; \mathrm{Mo}(1)-0(5)=1.84$ (1); $\mathrm{Mo}(1)-0(5)=1.84(1)$; average $\mathrm{Mo}-\mu-0=2.02$ (2); average $\mathrm{Mo}-$ $\mu_{3}-\mathrm{O}=2.15(1) ; \mathrm{Mo}(1)-\mathrm{Mo}(2)-\mathrm{Mo}(1)^{\prime}=81.6$ (1); $\mathrm{Mo}(1)-\mathrm{Mo}(2)-$ $\mathrm{Mo}(2)^{\prime}=60.5(1) ; \mathrm{Br}(3)-\mathrm{Mo}(1)-0(5),-0(13),-0(9),-0(17)=93.6(1)$, 94.1 (1), 94.9 (1), 90.7 (1); $\mathrm{Br}(4)-\mathrm{Mo}(2)-0(9),-0(9)^{\prime},-0(13),-0(17)$ $=88.9(1), 89.7(1), 106.7(1), 105.2(1)$.
with the adoption of a structure akin to that found for $\mathrm{Mo}_{4} \mathrm{Cl}_{4}-$ ( $\mathrm{O}-i-\mathrm{Pr})_{8}$, and consequently a crystalline sample was obtained for an X-ray study.


Figure 3. Cube-octahedral relationship found in $\mathrm{Mo}_{6}\left(\mu_{3}-\mathrm{X}\right)_{8}{ }^{4+}$ compounds (top left); $\mathrm{Mo}_{4} \mathrm{O}_{8}$ moiety in $\mathrm{Mo}_{4} \mathrm{Cl}_{4}(\mathrm{O}-i-\mathrm{Pr})_{8}$ (top right); $\mathrm{Mo}_{4} \mathrm{O}_{8}$ moiety in $\mathrm{Mo}_{4} \mathrm{Br}_{4}(\mathrm{O}-i-\mathrm{Pr})_{8}$ (bottom right); $\mathrm{Mo}_{4} \mathrm{I}_{7}{ }^{2+}$ moiety in $\mathrm{Mo}_{4} \mathrm{I}_{11}{ }^{2-}$ (bottom left).

In the crystal, ${ }^{9}$ the $\mathrm{Mo}_{4} \mathrm{Br}_{4}(\mathrm{O}-i-\mathrm{Pr})_{8}$ molecule has $C_{2 v}$ symmetry. The four molybdenum atoms form a "butterfly" or opened tetrahedron with five short Mo-Mo distances, $2.50 \AA$ (averaged), and one long Mo-Mo distance, 3.287 (1) $\AA$. A view of the molecule is given in Figure 2. In contrast to the $\mathrm{Mo}_{4} \mathrm{Cl}_{4}(\mathrm{O}-i-\mathrm{Pr})_{8}$ molecule, which has eight equivalent $\mu_{2}$-O- $i$ - Pr ligands, there are a pair of symmetry related terminal $\mathrm{O}-i-\mathrm{Pr}$ ligands, a pair of symmetry related $\mu_{3}-\mathrm{O}-i-\mathrm{Pr}$ ligands, and four equivalent $\mu_{2}-\mathrm{O}-i-\mathrm{Pr}$ ligands. The four bromide ligands are terminal. The five short Mo-Mo distances, $2.50 \AA$ (averaged), are longer than the four equivalent Mo-Mo distances, 2.387 (1) $\AA$, in $\mathrm{Mo}_{4} \mathrm{Cl}_{4}(\mathrm{O}-i-\mathrm{Pr})_{8}$.

The structures of $\mathrm{Mo}_{4} \mathrm{Cl}_{4}(\mathrm{O}-i-\mathrm{Pr})_{8}$ and $\mathrm{Mo}_{4} \mathrm{Br}_{4}(\mathrm{O}-i-\mathrm{Pr})_{8}$ are, however, closely related to one another. Both contain $\mathrm{Mo}_{4}$ units within a cube of $\mathrm{O}-i-\mathrm{Pr}$ ligands and as such may be viewed as fragments of the well-known $\mathrm{Mo}_{6}\left(\mu_{3}-\mathrm{X}\right)_{8}{ }^{4+}$ unit. ${ }^{10}$ The $\mathrm{Mo}_{4} \mathrm{Br}_{4}(\mathrm{O}-i-\mathrm{Pr})_{8}$ structure may also be compared with the $\mathrm{MO}_{4} \mathrm{I}_{11}{ }^{2-}$ structure reported by McCarley et al. ${ }^{11}$ The latter also contains a "butterfly" $\mathrm{Mo}_{4}$ unit with five short Mo-Mo distances, $2.58 \AA$ (averaged), and one long Mo-Mo distance, 3.035 (5) $\AA$. This too may be viewed as a derivative of the $\mathrm{Mo}_{6}\left(\mu_{3}-\mathrm{X}\right)_{8}{ }^{4+}$ unit: the central $\mathrm{Mo}_{4} \mathrm{I}_{7}{ }^{2+}$ unit contains six $\mathrm{I}^{-}$ligands at the corners of the cube, while the seventh bridges the two weakly bonded (nonbonded) molybdenum atoms ( $\mathrm{Mo}-\mathrm{Mo}=3.035$ (5) $\AA$ ) at the midpoint of the edge of the idealized $\mathrm{I}_{8}$ cube. These relationships to the $\mathrm{Mo}_{6}\left(\mu_{3}-\mathrm{X}\right)_{8}{ }^{4+}$ unit are shown in Figure 3. In $\mathrm{Mo}_{4} \mathrm{Cl}_{4}(\mathrm{O}-$ $i-\mathrm{Pr})_{8}, \mathrm{Mo}_{4} \mathrm{Br}_{4}(\mathrm{O}-i-\mathrm{Pr})_{8}$ and $\mathrm{Mo}_{4} \mathrm{I}_{11}{ }^{2-}$, there are four Mo-halide bonds directed along lines radiating from the center of the idealized $\mathrm{X}_{8}$ cube.

McCarley noted: ${ }^{11}$ "In $C_{2 v}$ symmetry, the Mo-Mo bonding in $\mathrm{Mo}_{4} \mathrm{I}_{11}{ }^{2-}$ can be described as $\left(3 \mathrm{a}_{1}+\mathrm{a}_{2}+\mathrm{b}_{1}+\mathrm{b}_{2}\right)_{\mathrm{b}}{ }^{12}\left(\mathrm{a}_{2}+\mathrm{b}_{1}\right)^{3}$. The latter $a_{2}+b_{1}$ orbitals involve mainly interactions at the distance 3.035 (5) $\AA$ between d orbitals lyings in planes perpendicular to the $\mathrm{Mo}(1)-\mathrm{Mo}(2)$ axis. These orbitals should have neither strongly bonding or antibonding character." It seems that we have now verified this qualitative MO description, since the $\mathrm{Mo}_{4} \mathrm{Br}_{4}(\mathrm{O}-i-\mathrm{Pr})_{8}$ molecule has only 12 electrons available for metal-metal bonding.

Finally, we noted that for the series of compounds of formula $\mathrm{Mo}_{4} \mathrm{X}_{4}(\mathrm{OR})_{8}$ we have found a bisphenoid of four molybdenum atoms with two localized $\mathrm{Mo} \equiv \mathrm{Mo}$ bonds for $\mathrm{X}=\mathrm{F}$ and $\mathrm{R}=t-\mathrm{Bu}$, and square $\mathrm{Mo}_{4}$ unit with delocalized $\mathrm{M}-\mathrm{M}$ bonds of order 1.5 for $\mathrm{X}=\mathrm{Cl}$ and $\mathrm{R}=i-\mathrm{Pr}$, and a "butterfly" $\mathrm{Mo}_{4}$ unit for $\mathrm{X}=$

[^2]Br and $\mathrm{R}=i-\mathrm{Pr}$, all of which readily accommodate 12 electrons in metal-metal bonds. Clearly for $\mathrm{Mo} \equiv \mathrm{Mo}$ bonds, two plus two gives four, in more ways than one! Though to our knowledge there are no other square 12 -electron $\mathrm{M}_{4}$ cluster compounds, there are square $\mathrm{Cu}(\mathrm{I})_{4}\left(\mathrm{~d}^{10}\right)$ compounds of formula $\mathrm{Cu}_{4}(\mu-\mathrm{X})_{4} .{ }^{12,13}$ Tetrahedral, ${ }^{14}$ rectangular, ${ }^{15}$ rhombohedral, ${ }^{16}$ "butterfly", ${ }^{11}$ and now square $\mathrm{Mo}_{4}$ clusters are known.

Many questions are raised and further studies are in progress. ${ }^{17}$
Registry No. $\mathrm{Mo}_{4} \mathrm{Cl}_{4}(\mathrm{O}-i-\mathrm{Pr})_{8}, 80878-94-0 ; \mathrm{Mo}_{4} \mathrm{Br}_{4}(\mathrm{O}-i-\mathrm{Pr})_{8}, 80878-$ 95-1; $\mathrm{Mo}_{4} \mathrm{Cl}_{3}(\mathrm{O}-i-\mathrm{Pr})_{9}, 80890-28-4 ; \mathrm{Mo}_{4} \mathrm{Br}_{3}(\mathrm{O}-i-\mathrm{Pr})_{9}, 80890-29-5 ;$ $\mathrm{Mo}_{2}(\mathrm{O}-i-\mathrm{Pr})_{6}, 62521-20-4 ; \mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{COCl}, 75-36-5 ; \mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{COBr}, 506-96-7$.

Supplementary Material Available: Listings of fractional coordinates and isotropic thermal parameters ( 2 pages). Ordering information is given on any current masthead page.
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(17) We thank the donors of the Petroleum Research Fund, administered by the American Chemical Society, the National Science Foundation, the Marshal H. Wrubel Computing Center, and the taxpayers of Indiana for financial support of this work. We are also grateful to Dr. Peter Thornton, Queen Mary College, London University, for carrying out magnetic susceptibility measurements.

## Carbohydrates in Organic Synthesis. Synthesis of 16-Membered-Ring Macrolide Antibiotics. 5. ${ }^{1}$ Total Synthesis of $\boldsymbol{O}$-Mycinosyltylonolide: Synthesis of Key Intermediates

## K. C. Nicolaou, ${ }^{*, \dagger}$ M. R. Pavia, and S. P. Seitz

Department of Chemistry. University of Pennsylvania Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104

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Tylosin (1) ${ }^{2,3}$ is one of the most important and complex ma-

crolide antibiotics of the 16 -membered-ring family and is extensively used today as both a nutrient and a therapeutic agent. ${ }^{4}$ In continuing our studies in the utilization of carbohydrates in organic synthesis ${ }^{5}$ and in particular the synthesis of macrolide antibiotics,

[^3]
[^0]:    (16) In the absence of epiperoxides, secondary alcohols are inert to the Ru (II) complex under the present reaction conditions. Treatment of 2propanol with $5 \mathrm{~mol} \%$ of $\mathrm{RuCl}_{2}\left(\mathrm{PPh}_{3}\right)_{3}\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}, 25^{\circ} \mathrm{C} / 16 \mathrm{~h}\right.$ and then 50 ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C} / 2.5 \mathrm{~h}$ ) did not produce acetone; addition of $2-$ cyclohexenone to this system did not afford cyclohexanone either.
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    (18) For the $\mathrm{Co}($ II $)$-meso-tetraphenylporphine-catalyzed reaction see ref 4 e.
    (19) For instance, thermolysis of 3 in $\mathrm{CD}_{2} \mathrm{ClCD}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}^{\text {at }} 73^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ gives a mixture of 4,5-epoxypentanal ( $54 \%$ ), levulinaldehyde ( $42 \%$ ), and 2,3-dioxabicyclo[2.2.1]heptane (4\%): Salomon, R. G.; Salomon, M. F.; Coughlin, D. J. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1978, 100,660 . For the thermolysis of 1, see ref 8 and Bloodworth (Bloodworth, A. J.; Baker, D. S. J. Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun. 1981, 547). For the thermolysis of 2, see: Mcore, C. G. J. Chem. Soc. 1951, 234. Thermolysis of 9 produces ( $Z$ ) $-4,5$-epoxy-2-pentenal ( $58 \%$ ) and the syn-diepoxide (7\%): Schalte-Elte, K. H.; Willhalm, B.; Ohloff, G. Angew. Chem. 1969, 81, 1045. Photolysis of 8 gives the syn-diepoxide ( $27 \%$ ) and 3,4-epoxycyclohexanone (22\%): Maheshwari, K. K.; de Mayo, P.; Wiegand, D. Can. J. Chem. 1970, 48, 3266.
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