polydodecamer at a specific site in each repeating unit (Figure 1a, open arrows). The restriction endonuclease FnuDII catalyzes blunt-ended cleavage at 5'-d(CGCG) sites, three of which overlap in each repeating unit (Figure 1a) of the polydodecamer: two possess $m^7 dG$ residues (shaded), whereas one is native (unshaded). FnuDII cleavage took place only at the unmodified site, thereby generating the Dickerson/Drew dodecamer, 5'-d-(CGCGAATTCGCG).¹²⁻¹⁴ The presence and amount of m⁷dG in the dodecamer were confirmed by nucleoside composition analysis, and its location within the sequence was confirmed by specific cleavage at the m⁷dG site with piperidine.¹⁴

In thermal denaturation experiments, the duplex half-melting transition (T_m) of the Dickerson/Drew dodecamer was lowered slightly by the presence of m⁷dG (Table I). However, analysis in terms of ΔG° , ΔH° , and ΔS° revealed that, at room temperature, duplex stability in 5'-d(CGCGAATTCGCG) is indistinguishable from that in 5'-d(CGCGAATTCGCG). Moreover, the enthalpy (ΔH°) of duplex formation was made significantly more favorable by the presence of m⁷dG, suggesting that the m⁷dG dC base-pair is more stable than dG-dC.¹⁵ The less favorable entropy change (ΔS°) for denaturation of 5'-d(CGCGAATTCGCG) is more difficult to interpret, but may arise from effects on solvation and stacking interactions.¹⁶ Whatever their origins, the small magnitude of these thermodynamic effects strongly suggests that m⁷dG does not significantly perturb duplex DNA structure. By way of comparison, N⁶-methylation of adenines in DNA reduced $T_{\rm m}$ by 6–18 °C,¹⁷ yet was shown by X-ray crystallography to have a negligible effect on duplex structure.¹⁸

We have found that m⁷dG is stable for days in duplex DNA at 25 °C (half-life > 1000 h; K.E.-N., unpublished), which contrasts with the reported instability of the free nucleoside.^{5,10} This observation leads us to conclude that the probe moiety in dimethyl sulfate⁷ and template-directed⁸ interference footprinting is m⁷dG and not a product of its decomposition. Furthermore, these findings are consistent with the observed persistence of m⁷dG residues in genomic DNA.¹⁹ Repair proteins specific for m⁷dG are ubiquitous^{20,21} although poorly understood mechanistically. The modified dodecamer reported here now provides a homogeneous substrate for studies of recognition and repair by these proteins.

The methodology reported herein should be useful for generating specifically modified DNA molecules that could not be accessed by prior methods.²²

Supplementary Material Available: Detailed experimental procedures, polyacrylamide gel electrophoretic analysis of reaction products, and an HPLC trace showing the results of nucleoside composition analysis on 5'-d(CGCGAATTCGCG) (6 pages). Ordering information is given on any current masthead page.

A [4 + 3] Transition State for a [4 + 2] Cycloaddition. A New Secondary Orbital Interaction in Diels-Alder Reactions

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Recent reports from this laboratory have detailed the exceptional and unusual characteristics of Diels-Alder reactions of vinylboranes.¹ We describe here some surprising results of ab initio calculations of transition structures for these reactions which shed light on the unusual reactivity and selectivity of vinylboranes and suggest the importance of a new secondary orbital interaction for Diels-Alder reactions in general.

Fully optimized endo and exo transition structures for the reactions of butadiene with vinylborane and vinyldimethylborane were located in ab initio RHF and MC-SCF² calculations as shown in Table I. The most striking result of these calculations is the [4 atom + 3 atom] character of the endo transition structures (1-3). In each case, C_1 is closer to the boron atom (B) than to C_6 . The bonding of C_1 and **B** in 1-3 is apparent from positive Mulliken overlap populations and pyramidalization of C_1 toward B instead of C_6 .³ In sharp contrast, the exo transition structures (4 and 5) are [4 + 2] in character: C_1 is closer to C_6 than to B, and the $C_1 - C_4 - C_5 - C_6$ dihedral angles are only -5.9° and -4°, compared to 19.8°, 18.0°, and 16.7° for 1-3, respectively.

Although the activation energies at the $6-31G^*//3-21G$ level are high by ~ 25 kcal, the predicted endo selectivity and *relative* reactivity of vinyldimethylborane correlate well with experimental observations. Calculations correctly predict that butadiene should react faster with vinyldimethylborane than with acrolein ($\Delta\Delta G^{*}_{calcd}$ = 2.9 kcal,⁴ $k_{rel}^{298} \approx 40^5$), but slower than with maleic anhydride $(\Delta\Delta G^*_{calcd} = -1.6 \text{ kcal}, {}^6k_{rel}{}^{298} \approx 0.06^7)$ or Lewis acid-acrolein complexes,⁸ despite no allowance for solvent and entropy effects or zero-point energies. The calculations also predict well the endo selectivity of vinyldimethylborane ($\Delta\Delta G^*_{calcd} = 2.3$ kcal, endo:exo \approx 95:5 with piperylene). These results suggest that the structural factors responsible for the relative reactivity and endo selectivity of vinyldimethylborane are reflected in the calculations (Chart I).9

The preference for endo [4 + 3] and exo [4 + 2] transition structures seems fairly rigid. When the $C_3-C_4-C_5-C_6$ dihedral angle of the exo vinylborane transition structure was fixed at 15° the resulting [4 + 3]-like structure (after reoptimization) was 3.3 kcal higher in energy at the RHF-3-21G level. An attempt to obtain a [4 + 2]-like endo transition structure by fixing the $C_3-C_4-C_5-C_6$ angle at 57° failed; considerable C_1-B interaction

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⁽¹³⁾ The 5'-OH version of the Dickerson dodecamer can be obtained readily and on a large scale by treatment with calf intestinal alkaline phosphatase.14

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Table I. Absolute and Activation Energies of Transition Structures for Diels-Alder Reactions with Butadiene

dienophile	absolute energies (activation energies)		
	6-31G*/ /3-21G	6-31*/ /6-31G*	CASSCF 3-21G
vinylborane, endo	-258.153 502 (35.0)	-258.153755 (34.9)	-256.781 874
vinylborane, exo	-258.145864 (39.8)	-258.146 123 (39.7)	
dimethylvinylborane, endo	-336.244 239 (39.0)		-334.455069
dimethylvinylborane, exo	-336.240 575 (41.3)		



remained as measured by a C₁-B distance of 2.25 Å.

There is little charge separation in these structures. By a Mulliken population analysis in the 6-31G*//3-21G calculations, only 0.06 e is transferred to vinyldimethylborane from butadiene. The charges on C2 and C3 are unchanged from the starting butadiene (to 0.01 e). This is consistent with the striking lack of substituent effects on the rate of these reactions.1b,d Despite high asynchronicity, particularly in the CASSCF structures (2 and 3), there is little biradical character; using Jensen's definition,¹⁰ the biradical characters for 2 and 3 are only 0.074 and 0.077, respectively.

As with previous ab initio calculations with activated dienophiles,^{4,8a,9a} there is no support in these calculations for a Woodward-Hoffman type "secondary orbital interaction" 11 of C2 with B. However, the bonding interaction of C1 with B defines a new type of secondary orbital interaction. Notably, this "[4 + 3] interaction" may be discerned in the highest level transition structure calculated by Houk and Birney^{8a} for the reaction of butadiene with acrolein-BH₃ (6).¹² Although in 6 there is clearly greater interaction of C1 with C6 than with the carbonyl carbon C_7 , a significant interaction of C_1 with C_7 is suggested by a positive

Mulliken overlap population (0.011, this study), a C1-C4-C5-C6 angle of 17°, and a partial pyramidalization of C1 toward C7. No such interaction can be discerned in the corresponding exo transition structures.



A [4 + 3] transition structure can be rationalized from an FMO analysis. Because the largest coefficients of the LUMO of vinylboranes¹³ are on the boron and the terminal carbon, the greatest initial overlap of the diene HOMO with the vinylborane LUMO can occur in a [4 + 3] fashion. The LUMO of acrolein-BH₃ is similar. The intriguing dichotomous behavior of endo and exo transition structures in adopting [4 + 3] versus [4 + 2] character is more difficult to understand, but it suggests that [4 + 3] interactions play an important role in the endo selectivity of some Diels-Alder reactions. This will be the subject of a future paper.

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Supplementary Material Available: Calculational procedures and final geometries and energies for all calculations (4 pages). Ordering information is available on any current masthead page.

(13) Program MOPAC QCPE 455. The "outer" components of the LUMO coefficients in ab initio calculations with a 3-21G basis set display a similar trend.

A Cytochrome c Oxidase Reactivity Model: Generation of a Peroxo-Bridged Iron/Copper Dinuclear Complex

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Cytochrome c oxidase (CcO) is a terminal respiratory protein complex which catalyzes the four-electron four-proton reduction of O₂ to water.¹ It possesses an array of metal ion sites, including a dinuclear (porphyrin)iron-copper complex, seen to be critically involved directly in O2 binding, reduction, and proton pumping. This center consists of a heme a3 and CuB which in the oxidized resting state are strongly spin coupled and EPR silent, with a Cu-Fe distance thought to be less than 5 Å.1e The linkage of the O2-reduction process to proton translocation allows the energy released to be stored as a pH gradient and membrane potential for subsequent ATP synthesis.

Inorganic modeling of this active site dinuclear complex can be very helpful in elucidating aspects of structure, associated spectroscopy, and mechanism of O₂ reduction. Most of the activity associated with such chemistry has been directed at resting-state enzyme models and the generation of mixed-metal iron(III)-Cu(II) complexes having oxo, imidazolato, sulfur-containing, or

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