

Tungsten(II)–Carbene Complex Functions as a Dicationic Synthon: Efficient Constructions of Furan and Pyran Frameworks from Readily Available α,δ - and α,ϵ -Alkynols

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Received January 2, 1997[⊗]

Abstract: Treatment of tungsten– η^1 - α,δ - and – η^1 - α,ϵ -alkynols **4–6** with RCHO/BF₃·Et₂O (R = alkyl, aryl) in cold diethyl ether effected cycloalkenation reaction, yielding tungsten– η^1 -furylidene and – η^1 -pyrylidene salts in excellent yields (>95%). The structures of these oxacarbeniums were elucidated through X-ray diffraction studies of the representative compounds **7** and **8** in addition to standard NMR and IR spectral data. In contrast with conventional metal carbeniums, these tungsten oxacarbeniums reacted with two molecules of nucleophiles such as H₂O, NaBH₃CN, and Grignard reagents, resulting in α,α -double addition reactions to afford furan and pyran derivatives in good yields. In the hydride case, unsymmetric α,α -double addition of η^1 -furylidene salts was achieved via treatment with NaBH₄/MeOH. Organocuprates also effected double alkylations of these salts but in a distinct 1,3-addition pathway. The reactions of these oxacarbeniums with CH₂N₂ were examined; the outcome depends on their vinyl substituents. When the substituent is an aliphatic group, the carbenium species undergo highly diastereoselective cyclopropanation with CH₂N₂. For an aryl substituent, the reaction with CH₂N₂ yielded a new tungsten oxacarbenium with a significantly altered structure; in this case ¹³C- and ²H-labeling experiments were performed to elucidate the reaction mechanism.

Introduction

Although a vast number of low-valent transition metal carbene cations^{1–3} have been prepared in the form of CpMLn(=CRR')⁺ (M = Fe, Ru, Os; Mo, W, Re; L = CO, R₃P, NO⁺), compounds of this type are less useful than neutral Fischer chromium carbenes.^{4,5} Even though cations of the type CpFe(CO)₂(=C _{α} RR')⁺ undergo stereoselective cyclopropanation with alkenes stoichiometrically,^{6,7} the scope of this reaction is somewhat limited by the types both of olefins and of R and R' substituents on the carbene C _{α} carbon. One common organometallic reaction of these carbeniums is the reaction with one nucleophile;^{1–3}

the resulting products have little synthetic value. Although several CpML₂[=C(OR)R']⁺ (M = Fe, Ru, L = CO, R₃P) cations react with two nucleophiles, the reaction proceeded with cleavage of the C–O bond.^{8,9}

We previously reported that propargyl tungsten compounds¹⁰ are useful for synthesis of complex oxygen heterocycles, and the reaction pathway is significantly different from those of conventional propargyl silanes, stannanes, and boranes.¹¹ Alkynyl organometallics of main group¹² metals is less useful than their allyl and propargyl species. As a continuing effort to explore synthetic potential of unsaturated tungsten hydrocarbyl species,¹⁰ we report here the utilization of tungsten–alkynols for the synthesis of new tungsten η^1 -furylidene or pyrylidene cations. A remarkable feature of these cations is their reactions with two molecules of nucleophiles to yield various oxygen heterocycles; details of this method are reported herein.

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[⊗] Abstract published in *Advance ACS Abstracts*, May 1, 1997.

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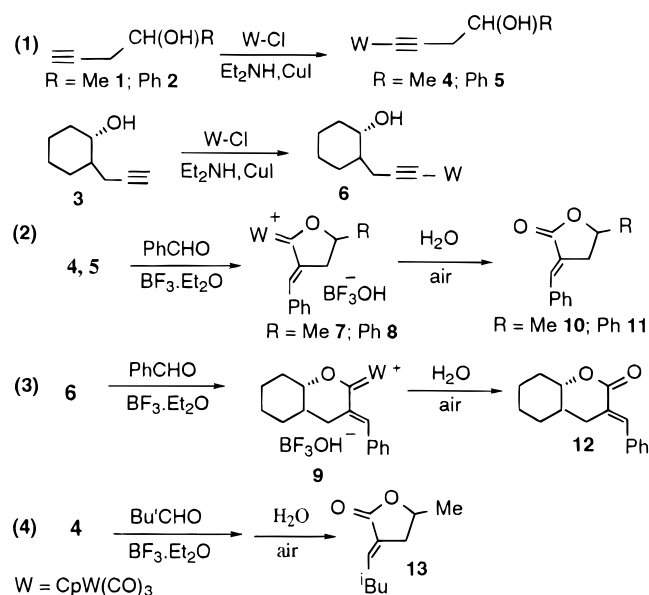
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Scheme 1



Results

Cycloalkenation of Tungsten-Alkynyl Complexes. The starting tungsten- η^1 -alkynyl compounds **4–6** were readily prepared in 75–78% yields from α,δ - or α,ϵ -alkynols **1–3** and CpW(CO)₃Cl in Et₂NH in the presence of CuI catalyst (3 mol %);¹³ the reaction route is outlined in Scheme 1. Treatment of **4–6** with PhCHO (2.0 equiv) and BF₃·Et₂O (1.0 equiv) in cold Et₂O (–40 °C) immediately deposited **7–9** as orange precipitates in quantitative yields (>95%). With careful handling, we isolated and characterized these highly air-sensitive salts with appropriate physical methods. Diagnostic for the structures of **7–9** are ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra that show the presence of a W=C carbene carbon signal in the δ 275–290 ppm region in addition to NMR signals due to a vinyl =CHPh group. The OCH proton NMR signals of **7–9** were shifted downfield by ca. 1.2–2.5 ppm relative to those of η^1 -alkynols **4–6**. These spectral data indicate that electrophilic alkylations of η^1 -alkynols **4–6** with aldehydes effect cycloalkenylations to form η^1 -furyliidenium and η^1 -pyryliideniums such as **7–9**. Confirmation of the structures of **6–8** relies ultimately on the X-ray diffraction measurements on **8** and **9**,¹⁴ of which the ORTEP drawings are provided in Figures 1 and 2. Treatment of a CH₂Cl₂ solution of **7–9** with water under air (23 °C, 12 h) delivered unsaturated γ - and δ -lactones **10–12** in 80–90% yields (eqs 2 and 3, Scheme 1). Equation 4 shows a convenient one-pot synthesis of unsaturated γ -lactone **13** via sequential treatment of a dichloromethane solution of **4** with ⁱBuCHO/BF₃·Et₂O and water/air; the yield of **13** was 83%.

Symmetric and Unsymmetric 1,1-Hydride Addition Reactions. A notable feature of these oxocarbeniums is their function as a dication equivalent;¹⁵ these salts undergo demetalation with two hydrides as shown in Scheme 2. Treatment of η^1 -

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(14) (a) Crystal data for **8**: monoclinic, space group P21/n, $a = 12.248(3)$ Å, $b = 10.0913(18)$ Å, $c = 19.8041(19)$ Å, $\beta = 95.132(20)^\circ$, $V = 2437.9(8)$ Å³; final $R = 0.037$ and $R_w = 0.036$. The X-ray data of **8** is provided in Supporting Information. (b) Crystal data for **9**: triclinic, space group P1, $a = 9.949(3)$ Å, $b = 10.8459(20)$ Å, $c = 14.153(3)$ Å, $\alpha = 76.548(20)^\circ$, $\beta = 69.417(23)^\circ$, $\gamma = 84.624(19)^\circ$, $V = 1390.4(6)$ Å³; final $R = 0.081$ and $R_w = 0.098$. The X-ray data of **8** is provided in Supporting Information.

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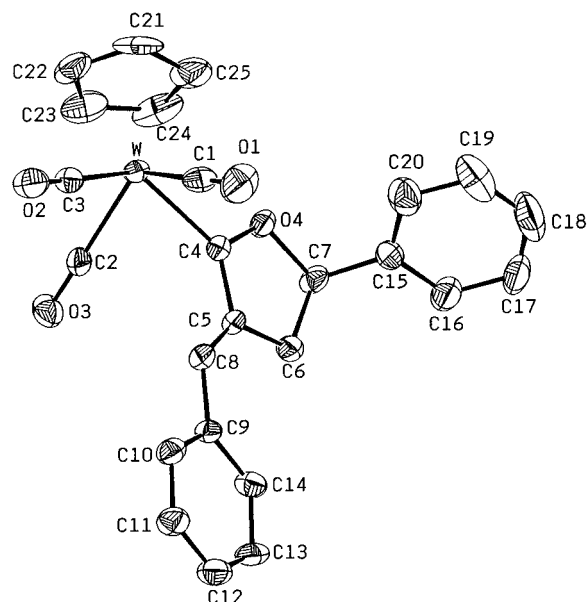


Figure 1. ORTEP drawing of tungsten- η^1 -furyliidenium **8** with selected bond distances: W–C(4) = 2.177(8) Å, C(4)–O(4) = 1.298(15) Å, C(7)–O(4) = 1.483(10) Å, C(4)–C(5) = 1.440(10) Å, C(5)–C(8) = 1.336(12) Å.

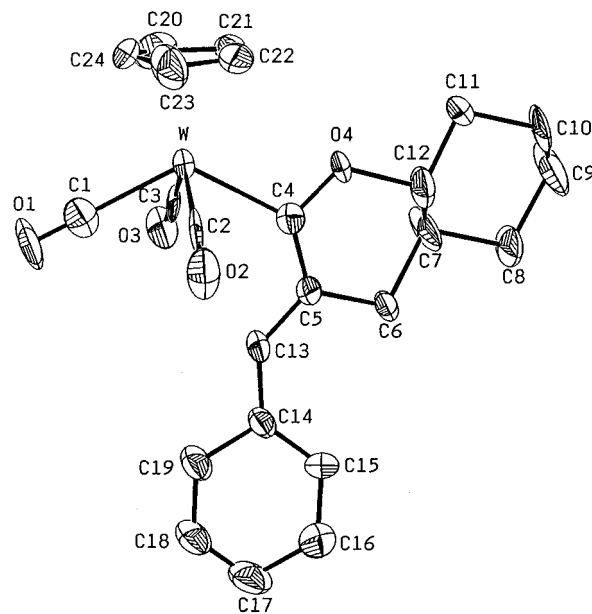
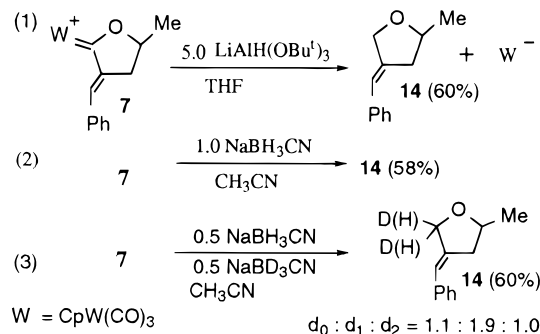


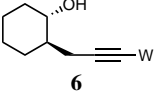
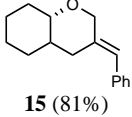
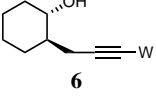
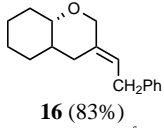
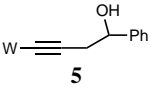
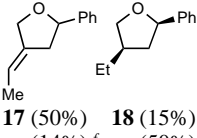
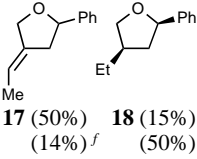
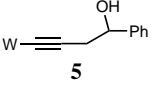
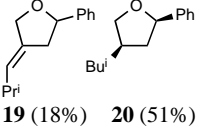
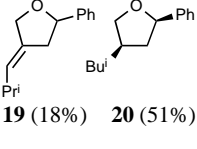
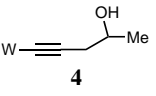
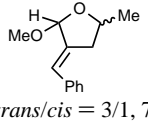
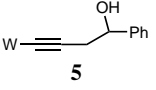
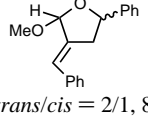
Figure 2. ORTEP drawing of tungsten- η^1 -pyryliidenium **9** with selected bond distances: W–C(4) = 2.234(25) Å, C(4)–O(4) = 1.33(3) Å, C(12)–O(4) = 1.54(3) Å, C(4)–C(5) = 1.38(3) Å, C(5)–C(6) = 1.53(3) Å, C(5)–C(13) = 1.38(3) Å.

Scheme 2

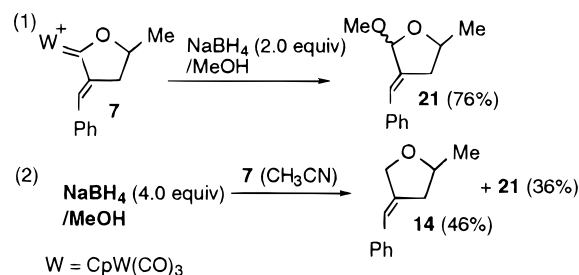


furyliidenium **7** with LiAlH(O*i*Bu)₃ (5.0 equiv) in cold THF (–40 °C) resulted in a color change of the solution, from the original red to light yellow. Monitoring of the reaction by solution IR

Table 1. Isolated Yields for Demetalations with Boron Hydrides

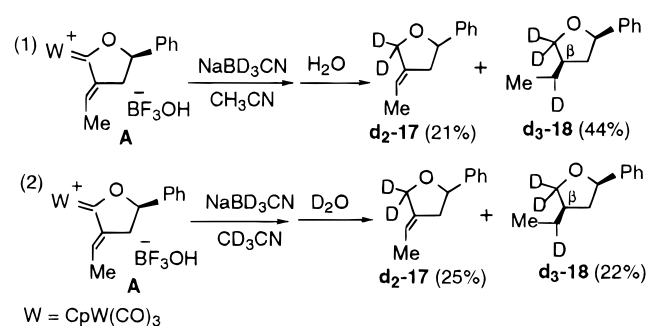
entry	η^1 -alkynols ^a	BF ₃ ·Et ₂ O/RCHO ^b	hydrides ^c	products isolated yield (%) ^{d,e}
1		PhCHO	NaBH ₃ CN (1.0 equiv)	 15 (81%)
2		PhCH ₂ CHO	NaBH ₃ CN (1.0 equiv) (6.0 equiv) ^f	 16 (83%) (81%) ^f
3		MeCHO	NaBH ₃ CN (1.0 equiv) (6.0 equiv) ^f	 17 (50%) (14%) ^f  18 (15%) (50%)
4		Pr ⁱ CHO	NaBH ₃ CN (6.0 equiv)	 19 (18%)  20 (51%)
5		PhCHO	NaBH ₄ (2.0 equiv) ^g /MeOH	 21 (<i>trans/cis</i> = 3/1, 76%)
6		PhCHO	NaBH ₄ (2.0 equiv) ^g /MeOH	 22 (<i>trans/cis</i> = 2/1, 88%)

^a W = CpW(CO)₃. ^b The amount of BF₃·Et₂O and aldehyde were 1.0–1.1 and 2.0–5.0 equimolar proportions, respectively. ^c Solvent: CH₂Cl₂/CH₃CN (1/1 volume ratio) for NaBH₃CN, –40 °C, 2 h. ^d Isolated yields were estimated based on tungsten- η^1 -alkynol compounds. ^e Compounds **16**–**22** were separated on a preparative silica TLC. ^f These yields refer to the reaction involving six equimolar of NaBH₃CN. ^g This mixture was prepared by stirring of NaBH₄ (2.0 equiv) with CH₃OH (1 mL) for 5.0 min before slow addition to a cold CH₂Cl₂ solution of carbenes.

Scheme 3

spectra revealed that CpW(CO)₃[–] anion was the predominant species ($\nu(\text{CO})$ 1896, 1792 cm^{–1}).¹⁶ Subsequent treatment of this solution with H₂O delivered α,α -addition product **14** in 60% yield. Demetalation of oxacarbenium **7** was also achieved by NaBH₃CN to afford **14** in 58%; each NaBH₃CN molecule must provide two hydrides because only 1 equiv suffices for demetalation. Equation 3 showed the reduction of **7** with equal amount (0.5 equiv) of NaBH₃CN and NaBD₃CN; the resulting product **14** has the following deuterium ratios d₀:d₁:d₂ = 1.1:1.9:1.0 that were estimated according to ¹H,²H NMR and mass spectral data. Apparently, the two C α H₂ methylene protons of **14** are not necessary from the same NaBH₃CN molecule. Table 1 shows a one-pot operation for synthesis of five- and six-membered oxygen heterocycles **14** via direct annulation of three components including tungsten-alkynol, aldehyde, and metal hydrides.

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Scheme 4

Following the replacement of diethyl ether liquor with dichloromethane, the red oxacarbenium salts generated *in situ* were subsequently treated with appropriate metal hydrides at –40 °C (2–3 h) and then quenched with excess water to liberate organic products **15**–**22** listed in Table 1. In entries 1 and 2, NaBH₃CN (1.0 equiv) reduction of tungsten pyridiniums generated *in situ* led to α,α -double addition, producing **15** and **16** in 81 and 83% yields, respectively. In the case of **16** (entry 2), use of excess NaBH₃CN (6.0 equiv) did not cause further reduction. For the η^1 -furyliideniums generated from **5** and RCHO (R = Me, Prⁱ) in entries 3 and 4, excess NaBH₃CN (6.0 equiv) effected further reduction to yield mainly *cis*-2,4-disubstituted tetrahydrofurans **18** and **20** in 50 and 51% yields, respectively. The *cis* configurations of **18** and **20** were determined by ¹H NOE difference spectra. When 1 equiv of NaBH₃CN was used (entry 3), β -alkylidene furan derivative **17**

Table 2. Isolated Yields for Demetalations with Grignard Reagents

entry	η^1 -alkynyl complexes ^a	BF ₃ ·Et ₂ O/RCHO ^b	nucleophiles ^c	products isolated yield (%) ^d
1		PhCHO	Bu ⁿ MgBr (2.0 equiv)	 23 (65%)
2		MeCHO	MeMgBr (2.0 equiv)	 24 (74%)
3		PhCHO	MeMgBr (2.0 equiv)	 25 (82%)
4		PhCHO	MgBr(CH ₂) ₄ MgBr (3.0 equiv)	 26 (58%)
5		PhCHO	MgBr(CH ₂) ₄ MgBr (3.0 equiv)	 27 (64%)
6		PhCHO	MgBr(CH ₂) ₃ MgBr (3.0 equiv)	 28 (58%)

^a W = CpW(CO)₃. ^b The amount of BF₃·Et₂O and aldehyde were 1.0 and 2.0–5.0 equimolar proportions, respectively. ^c Reaction conditions: CH₂Cl₂, –40 °C, 2 h. ^d Isolated yields were estimated based on tungsten- η^1 -alkynyl compounds.

was formed in 50% yield. These oxacarbeniums are also susceptible to α,α -unsymmetric hydride additions in the presence of suitable boron hydrides. As depicted in entries 5 and 6, sequential treatment of **4** and **5** with PhCHO/BF₃·Et₂O, and NaBH₄/MeOH afforded **21** and **22** in good yields (>76%); in these cases, the C _{α} carbon of **21** and **22** has a hydrogen and MeO substituent, respectively. The solution species in the NaBH₄/MeOH mixture is presumably NaBH(OMe)₃.¹⁷ The major diastereomers of **21** and **22** have a *trans* configuration according to the proton NOE effect.

Scheme 3 illustrates the results for unsymmetric reduction of oxacarbenium **7** under different reaction conditions; kinetic course seems to be very important. Slow addition of a NaBH₄/MeOH mixture to **7** in cold CH₃CN (–40 °C) afforded **21** in 76% without formation of **14** (eq 1, Scheme 2). A reverse and slow addition of a CH₃CN solution of **7** to the same NaBH₄/MeOH mixture at –78 °C gave **14** and **21** in 46 and 36% yields, respectively.

Formation of 2,4-disubstituted tetrahydrofurans **18** and **20** via excess NaBH₃CN reduction of tungsten- η^1 -furylideniums is an interesting issue. To assist understanding this mechanism, we examined the reduction of carbenium salt **A** with NaBD₃CN (98 atom %, 6.0 equiv) in CH₃CN as depicted in Scheme 4. Prior to hydrolysis, the mainly organometallic species in the solution is still the CpW(CO)₃[–] anion according to solution IR study. After treatment with H₂O, the resulting deuterated product **18-d₃** contained three deuterium atoms in each molecule;

the deuterium atoms are located at the C _{α} and MeCHD carbons, respectively, according to ¹H and ¹³C NMR and mass spectral data. To trace the C _{β} H hydrogen source of **18-d₃**, we have performed a reaction involving the use of NaBD₃CN, CD₃CN (99.8 atom %), and D₂O; the resulting product **18-d₃** still has the hydrogen form in the C _{β} H position (eq 2); the yield of **18-d₃** is lower (22%).

Reactions with Grignard Reagents and Organocuprates.

Shown in Table 2 are the results for Grignard reagent RMgBr that can also effect α,α -dialkylation of η^1 -oxacarbeniums. Entries 1–3 show formation of 3-alkylidene tetrahydrofurans and -pyrans **23**–**25** with yields exceeding 65%. This reaction is applicable to both furan and pyran systems containing vinyl substituents of aryl and aliphatic groups (R = Ph, Me). In entry 2, the resulting oxacarbenium intermediate lost no proton in the presence of MeMgBr. To expand the application, we employed 1,4-di-Grignard reagent MgBr(CH₂)₄MgBr¹⁸ to achieve a remarkable [4+1] cycloaddition reaction, yielding spirofuran and spiropyran derivatives **26** and **27** in 58 and 64%, respectively. With utilization of MgBr(CH₂)₃MgBr,¹⁸ we also realized a [5+1] cycloaddition reaction on a tungsten-furylidenium (entry 6), affording **28** in 60% yield.

Table 3 provides results for organocopper reagent R₂CuLi that effects a distinct 1,3-dialkylation of tungsten oxacarbeniums. The action of R₂CuLi (R = Ph, Me) on tungsten- η^1 -furylidenium generated in entries 1 and 2 afforded 1,3-addition products **29** and **30** with yields exceeding 76%. Similar 1,3-addition

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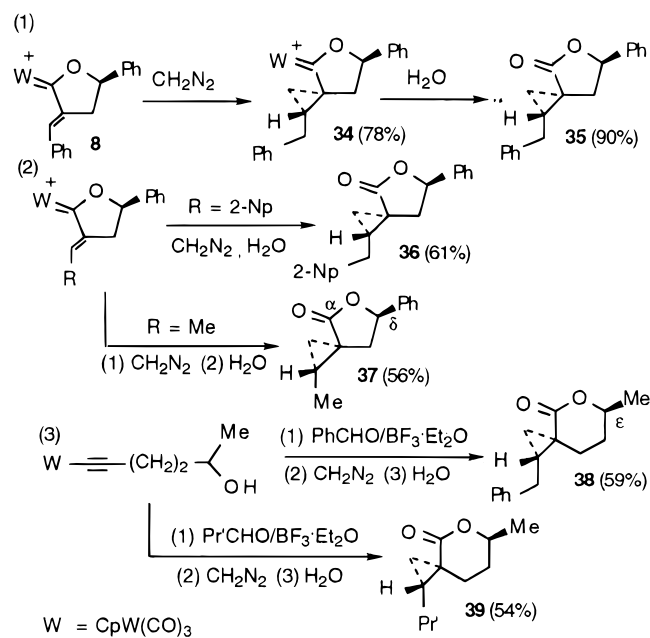
Table 3. Isolated Yields for Demetalations with Organocuprates

entry	η^1 -alkynyl complexes ^a	BF ₃ ·Et ₂ O/RCHO ^b	nucleophiles ^c	products isolated yield (%) ^d
1		PhCHO	Ph ₂ CuLi (2.0 equiv)	 29 (85%)
2		PhCHO	Me ₂ CuLi (2.0 equiv)	 30 (76%) ^e
3		Pr ⁱ CHO	Me ₂ CuLi (2.0 equiv)	 31 (40%) ^f
4		PhCHO	Ph ₂ CuLi (2.0 equiv)	 32 (68%)
5		MeCHO	Me ₂ CuLi (2.0 equiv)	 33 (72%)

^a W = CpW(CO)₃. ^b The amount of BF₃·Et₂O and aldehyde were 1.0 and 2.0–5.0 equimolar proportions, respectively. ^c Reaction conditions: CH₂Cl₂, –40 °C, 2 h. ^d Isolated yields were estimated based on tungsten- η^1 -alkynyl compounds. ^e Diastereomeric ratio = 1.8/1. ^f Diastereomeric ratio = 1.4/1.

reactions apply to the furylidenium having aliphatic isopropyl group (entry 3), and to the pyran system (entry 4), furnishing **31** (40%) and **32** (68%), respectively. Compounds **30** and **31** were obtained in 1.8/1.0 and 1.4/1.0 diastereomeric mixtures, respectively, separation of the two diastereomers was unsuccessful. The vinyl substituent size of tungsten oxacarbenium is important for 1,3-dialkylation. For a small methyl group as shown in entry 5, the reaction with Me₂CuLi delivered tungsten- η^1 -furyl species **33** (72% yield) via a single alkylation at the =CHMe carbon. Attempts to achieve a second addition on **33** with excess organometallics (4–5 equiv) such as NaBH₃CN, MeMgBr, or Ph₂CuLi were unsuccessful, in each case compound **33** was recovered exclusively.

Cyclopropanation of Tungsten Carbeniums with Diazomethane. The preceding tungsten oxacarbeniums undergo facile cyclopropanation reaction with CH₂N₂ in cold CH₂Cl₂ (0 °C). As shown in Scheme 5, treatment of tungsten- η^1 -furylidenium **8** with dry CH₂N₂, followed by addition of excess diethyl ether produced a new furylidenium **34** in 78% yield; the salt was fully characterized by NMR and IR spectroscopies. The W=C _{α} carbon NMR signal of **34** was observed at δ 296.4 ppm. Hydrolysis of **34** with H₂O instantly produced γ -lactone **35** (ν (CO) = 1778 cm⁻¹). Although NMR spectra of **34** and **35** revealed that only one species was exclusively formed, elucidation of the structure was difficult because two CH₂ units of diazomethane were uptaken in the reaction accompanied with a considerably altered structure. A proton NMR decoupling experiment indicated that a methine CH carbon occurs between the two new CH₂ fragments. We succeeded in obtaining single crystals of 2-naphthyl γ -lactone derivative **36** of which the proton NMR pattern resembled those of **35**. The ORTEP drawing¹⁹ of **36** in Figure 3 reveals a 1,2-migration of the naphthyl group away from the parent furan ring. A new cyclopropane ring was formed opposite the C _{δ} -phenyl substituent, and was linked to the naphthyl group via a CH₂ bridge. In

Scheme 5

the case of a tungsten oxacarbenium containing a methyl substituent, the reaction only uptakes one molecule of CH₂N₂ to form a cyclopropane ring; this case is manifested by compound **37** that was formed in 56% yield. Shown in eq 3 is the direct synthesis of δ -lactones **38** and **39** from the corresponding tungsten- η^1 - α,ϵ -alkynyl; this operation represents an unusual case for annulation of four functional components. The

(19) Crystal data for **36**: orthorhombic, space group *Pbca*, $a = 8.4640(2)$ Å, $b = 18.8677(2)$ Å, $c = 21.4270(5)$ Å, $Z = 8$, $V = 3421.83(14)$ Å³; final $R = 0.062$ and $R_w = 0.054$. The X-ray data of **36** is provided in Supporting Information.

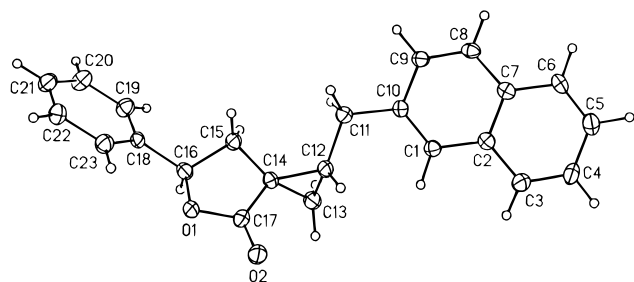
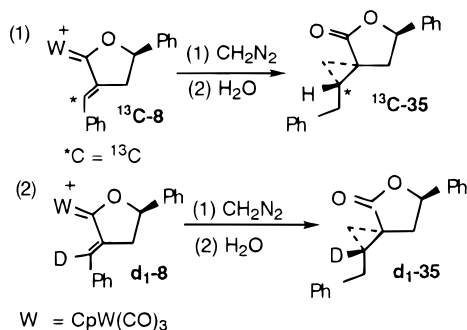


Figure 3. ORTEP drawing of compound **36**: C(17)–O(1) = 1.350(6) Å, C(16)–O(1) = 1.456(6) Å, C(17)–O(2) = 1.204(7) Å, C(17)–C(14) = 1.487(7) Å, C(14)–C(15) = 1.505(7) Å, C(15)–C(16) = 1.531(7) Å, C(12)–C(14) = 1.504(7) Å, C(13)–C(14) = 1.520(7) Å, C(12)–C(13) = 1.486(7) Å, C(11)–C(12) = 1.512(6) Å.

Scheme 6



effect of the vinyl substituent is also pronounced here; the resulting δ -lactone **38** has two new CH₂ units in addition to the 1,2-phenyl migration. The isopropyl group of **39** generates only a simple cyclopropanation reaction. The yields of **38** and **39** were 59 and 54%, respectively. The stereochemistries of compounds **34**, **35**, and **37–39** were inferred from the X-ray structure of **36** (Figure 3); the cyclopropane rings of these compounds were formed opposite the C _{δ} -phenyl or C _{ϵ} -methyl substituents.

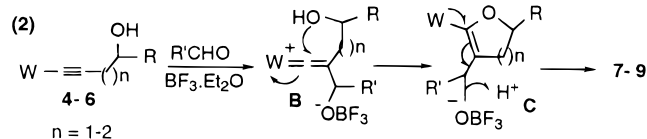
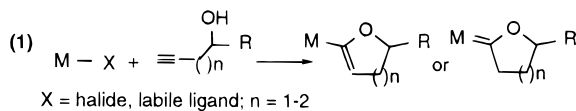
The substantial structural transformation for aryl products **34–36** and **38** requires an isotopic labeling experiment to clarify its reaction mechanism. We prepared a ¹³C-labeled η^1 -furylide-nium ¹³C-**8** prepared from Ph¹³CHO (ca. 5 atm %) and η^1 -alkynol **5**; after cyclopropanation, the resulting γ -lactone ¹³C-**35** has ¹³C enrichment exclusively at the cyclopropyl methine carbon according to ¹³C NMR spectra (eq 1, Scheme 6). ¹³C NMR signals of **35** were assigned on the basis of ¹H–¹³C correlation NMR spectra. In a separate experiment, we prepared a deuterated sample **8-d₁** derived from PhCDO (deuterium content > 98%). After the reaction with CH₂N₂, the resulting γ -lactone **35-d₁** has deuterium content exclusively (deuterium content > 98%) at the same methine carbon (eq 2), consistent with the ¹³C-labeling experiment. On the basis of these labeling results, we conclude that the η^1 -furylidene cation **8** underwent 1,2-phenyl migration with cleavage of the single C–Ph σ bond during cyclopropanation.

Discussion

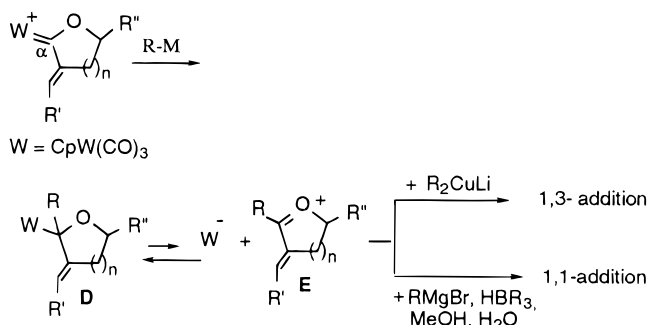
Cycloalkenylation Reactions of Tungsten– η^1 -Alkynols.

Scheme 7 (eq 1) shows a typical pattern for the alkylations of low-valent metal species M–L or M–X (L = labile ligand, X = halide) with α,δ - and α,ϵ -alkynols; these reactions lead exclusively to intramolecular cyclizations to yield metal– η^1 -oxacarbenes or cyclic η^1 -vinyl ethers depending on the reaction condition.^{20–22} Such a general pattern limits the applications

Scheme 7



Scheme 8



of transition metal alkynyls to organic syntheses. Our synthetic approach starts with a modestly electron-rich CpW(CO)₃ fragment that affords desirable tungsten– η^1 -alkynols **4–6**. Electrophilic alkylation of these η^1 -alkynols with RCHO/BF₃·Et₂O induced cycloalkenylation into tungsten carbeniums **7–9**. This process involves sequential bond-making and bond-breaking processes comprising two key intermediates **B** and **C**. Intramolecular cyclization of **B** via attack of the tethered alcohol at the central W=C _{α} =C carbon releases a proton that assists cleavage of the C–O bond to yield **C**. The roles of tungsten in this cyclization are 2-fold: (1) to activate addition of the alkynyl C _{β} -carbon²³ toward RCHO/BF₃ complex and (2) to stabilize carbenium species such as intermediate **B** and **7–9**.

Dication Synthons of Tungsten–Oxocarbeniums. Tables 1–3 show our new method to transform η^1 -alkynols directly into various furan and pyran derivatives; this method allows multiple bonds to form or to break simultaneously in a one-pot operation. The success of this chemical transformation relies primarily on the versatile dicationic equivalence of tungsten oxocarbeniums such as **7–9**. Conventional transition metal carbenes including related Cp(CO)LF₂[=C(OMe)Et]⁺ reacted only with one molecule of nucleophiles including LiAlH₄ and MeMgBr.^{3c,24} Scheme 8 shows one plausible mechanisms to account for the 1,1- and 1,3-double additions of these salts with various organometallic reagents. The fact that tungsten– η^1 -2,3-dihydrofuryl species **33** (Table 3, entry 5) fails to react further with Grignard reagent or NaBH₃CN implies that the double addition must proceed via addition of nucleophiles at the carbenium W=C _{α} carbon to generate species **D**. One important piece of information revealed by Scheme 3 is that the rate for second addition of nucleophile on tungsten oxacarbene is much faster than that of the first hydride addition; this kinetic phenomenon supports formation of a highly reactive

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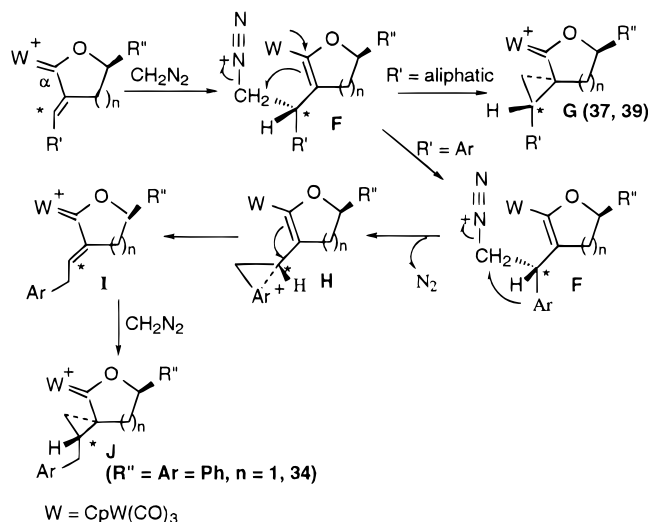
(20) (a) Chisholm, H. C.; Clark, H. C. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1972**, *94*, 1532. (b) Chisholm, H. C.; Clark, H. C. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1973**, *6*, 241.

intermediate that reacts instantly with any second nucleophile present in the solution. Accordingly, we propose a small degree of self-ionization of **D** (Scheme 8) to generate $\text{CpW}(\text{CO})_3^+$ and a reactive oxonium^{25,26} species **E**. In this case, the $\text{CpW}(\text{CO})_3$ group of **D** serves as an excellent leaving group, due partly to its sterically demanding size and partly to the oxygen lone-pair repulsion. Furyl and pyryl oxoniums are known to be stable species in solution and are useful intermediates in organic syntheses.²⁶ Nucleophilic regioselectivity of **E** thus follows that of organic enone chemistry,²⁷ which is compatible with our observation. In this case, only organocuprates undergo 1,3-addition reaction. In the case of unsymmetric hydride addition, addition of the second nucleophile MeOH to this oxonium will give a mixture of *trans* and *cis* products²⁵ as observed for **21** and **22**; the preference for the *trans* product (*trans/cis* = 2–3, Table 1, entries 6 and 7) is compatible with those (2/1 = 3/1) reported for nucleophilic addition on furyl oxonium.²⁶ We are aware that one equimolar of NaBH_3CN suffices for the reaction. The second addition likely proceeds via attack of BH_2CN at the enonium **D** to deliver the hydride;²⁸ transfer of this hydride is accelerated by the presence of anion species such as $\text{CpW}(\text{CO})_3^-$ and BF_3OH^- via coordination to BH_2CN .

Remaining unclear is the mechanism for overreduction of tungsten- η^1 -furylidene with excess NaBH_3CN shown in Scheme 4; this reaction proceeded with high *cis* stereoselection. Although the reduction may be caused by the presence of water to induce formation of reactive $\text{CpW}(\text{CO})_3\text{H}$,²⁹ this possibility is questioned by the absence of $[\text{CpW}(\text{CO})_3]_2$ in the system.³⁰ The isotopic results shown in Scheme 4 may suggest a radical mechanism; but the present information is insufficient for full characterization of the mechanism.

Cyclopropanation of Tungsten Oxocarbeniums with CH_2N_2 . The reaction pathways between CH_2N_2 and tungsten- η^1 -oxocarbeniums depend on their vinyl substituents. If the substituent is an aryl group, the reaction proceeds with considerable structural rearrangement as depicted in Scheme 9 (eq 1); such transformation is an interesting issue in organometallic chemistry. The most important information from ¹³C- and ²H-labeling results indicate that the formation of carbenium **34** involves 1,2-aryl shift with cleavage of the =C–Ph single bond. A plausible mechanism is proposed in Scheme 9, in which CH_2N_2 initiates the reaction via attack at the =CHR' bond preferably opposite to the R'' group, yielding the diazo salt **F**. A counterattack of the tungsten–vinyl bond at the $-\text{CH}_2\text{N}_2^+$ carbon leads to formation of a cyclopropane ring as represented by **G**. This process rationalizes formation of compounds **37** and **39** in which the R' substituent is an aliphatic group. If R' is an aryl group, it may exert the effect of neighboring participation to accelerate ionization, generating a bridging phenonium ion **H**.³¹ An intramolecular attack of the tungsten–vinyl bond of this intermediate at its bridging phenonium forms

Scheme 9



a new cation **I** that is susceptible to a second cyclopropanation, eventually yielding a new η^1 -furylidene **J** as represented by compound **34** ($R' = \text{Ph}$, $n = 1$). This reaction scheme also rationalizes the observed stereochemistry of the cyclopropanation products.

Conclusions

Alkylations of $\text{CpW}(\text{CO})_3\text{Cl}$ with α,δ - and α,ϵ -alkynols in the presence of $\text{CuI}/\text{Et}_2\text{NH}$ afforded desirable tungsten- η^1 - α,δ - and η^1 - α,ϵ -alkynols in good yields. Treatment of these tungsten- η^1 -alkynols with $\text{RCHO}/\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{Et}_2\text{O}$ leads to cycloalkenation to generate tungsten oxocarbeniums containing furan and pyran framework. These η^1 -oxocarbeniums are chemically atypical relative to common metal carbenes because they are susceptible to attack of two nucleophiles to liberate various furan and pyran derivatives; the intermediate likely involves furyl and pyryl oxoniums. This reaction is applicable to diverse nucleophiles, including water, boron hydrides, Grignard reagents, and organocuprates. Organocuprates follow a 1,3-addition pathway in contrast to 1,1-addition observed for boron hydrides and Grignard reagents. Unsymmetric double additions of tungsten furylidene are successful with the use of a $\text{NaBH}_4/\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$ mixture. The atypical behavior of these oxocarbeniums is also demonstrated by the CH_2N_2 reaction; the outcome depends on the types of their vinyl substituents. A significant structural change is observed for the aryl substituent for which isotopic labeling experiments were performed to elucidate a mechanism that involves a bridging phenonium intermediate. To show the potential value of this work, we demonstrate a number of examples for direct transformation of tungsten- η^1 -alkynols into various furan and pyran derivatives including spiro-typed heterocycles; the yields were generally good.

We are now expanding this new methodology to the syntheses of more useful oxygen-, nitrogen-, and sulfur-containing heterocycles from suitable functionalized terminal alkynes and organometallic reagents.

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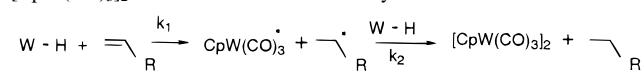
(26) Rychnovsky, S. D.; Dahanukar, V. H. *J. Org. Chem.* **1996**, *61*, 7648.

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(28) HSiEt_3 , $\text{CpW}(\text{CO})_3\text{H}$, and related metal hydrides can transfer one hydride to carbocation species; see: Bullock, R. M.; Song, J.-S. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1994**, *116*, 8602.

(29) Organic olefins can be hydrogenated by $\text{CpW}(\text{CO})_3\text{H}$, $\text{CpFe}(\text{CO})_2\text{H}$, and related metal hydride via a radical mechanism; see the representative examples: (a) Bullock, R. M.; Song, J.-S. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1990**, *112*, 6886. (b) Sweany, R. L.; Halpern, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1977**, *99*, 8335.

(30) We are aware that the presence of water may produce $\text{CpW}(\text{CO})_3\text{H}$ that can reduce olefin via a radical mechanism as shown below (eqs 1 and 2). In eq 1, the second step is known to be faster,²⁹ i.e. $k_2 > k_1$; in this case $[\text{CpW}(\text{CO})_3]_2$ should be formed exclusively.



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Experimental Section

Unless otherwise noted, all reactions were carried out under a nitrogen atmosphere in oven-dried glassware using standard syringe, cannula, and septa apparatus. Benzene, diethyl ether, tetrahydrofuran, and hexane were dried with sodium benzophenone and distilled before use. Dichloromethane was dried over CaH₂ and distilled before use. W(CO)₆, BF₃·Et₂O, dicyclopentadiene, propargyl alcohol, and sodium were obtained commercially and used without purification. Alkynols 1–3 were prepared according to procedures described in the literatures. Elemental analyses were performed at National Cheng Kung University, Taiwan. Mass data of tungsten compounds were reported against ¹⁸⁴W.

General Procedure for Synthesis of Tungsten- η^1 -Alkynols.
Synthesis of 4. To an Et₂NH solution (40 mL) of CpW(CO)₃Cl (3.69 g, 10.0 mmol) and CuI (51.1 mg, 0.3 mmol) was added 4-pentyn-2-ol (1.26 g, 15.0 mmol) at 23 °C in the absence of light, the mixture was stirred for 30 min before it was concentrated to ca. 2 mL. The residue was chromatographed through a silica column (diethyl ether/hexane = 1/1) to yield a yellow band that afforded **4** (*R_f* = 0.15) as a dark orange solid (3.12 g, 7.50 mmol, 75%): IR (Nujol, cm⁻¹) ν (OH) 3410 (br s), ν (C≡C) 2115 (w), ν (CO) 2034 (s), 1935 (s); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.54 (5H, s, Cp), 3.77 (1H, m, CHMe), 2.70 (1H, dd, *J* = 16.4, 4.9 Hz, CHH'), 2.55 (1H, dd, *J* = 16.4, 6.8 Hz, CHH'), 2.25 (1H, s, OH), 1.32 (3H, d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, Me); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 229.3, 212.0, 124.3, 91.4, 67.0, 32.9, 22.0; MS (75 eV, *m/e*) 416 (M⁺). Anal. Calcd for C₁₃H₁₂WO₄: C, 37.53; H, 2.91. Found: C, 37.39; H, 2.92.

General Procedure for the Synthesis of Tungsten-Oxocarbeniums.
Synthesis of 7. To a diethyl ether solution (15 mL) of **4** (210 mg, 0.505 mmol) was added PhCHO (107.1 mg, 1.01 mmol) and BF₃·Et₂O (0.07 mL, 0.569 mmol) at -40 °C; a dark orange precipitate was immediately deposited. The mother diethyl ether liquor was cannulated out; the remaining precipitate was washed with diethyl ether (2 × 10 mL) and dried in vacuo to yield **7** as an orange precipitate (286.0 mg, 0.485 mmol, 96%): IR (Nujol, cm⁻¹) ν (CO) 2054 (s), 1947 (s), ν (C=C) 1642 (w); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ 7.76 (1H, t, *J* = 2.6 Hz, =CH), 7.52–7.66 (5H, m, Ph), 5.99 (5H, s, Cp), 5.66 (1H, m, CH-O), 2.66 (1H, ddd, *J* = 16.6, 8.3, 2.6 Hz, CHH'), 2.33 (1H, ddd, *J* = 16.6, 5.6, 2.6 Hz, CHH'), 1.60 (3H, d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, Me); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ 279.6, 216.2, 215.3, 214.8, 157.7, 151.5, 134.5, 133.9, 132.8, 130.3, 99.5, 96.5, 34.5, 22.2. Anal. Calcd for C₂₀H₁₇WO₃BF₃: C, 40.18; H, 2.91. Found: C, 40.78; H, 2.88.

General Procedure for Oxidative Demetalation of Tungsten-Oxocarbeniums.
Synthesis of 10. To a CH₂Cl₂ (5 mL) solution of **7** (245.0 mg, 0.415 mmol) was added water (2 mL) at 23 °C under air atmosphere, and the solution was stirred for 24 h. The organic layer was extracted with diethyl ether (5 mL), concentrated, and eluted on a preparative silica TLC to yield **10** as a colorless solid (62.4 mg, 0.332 mmol, 80%): IR (Nujol, cm⁻¹) ν (C=O) 1758 (s), ν (C=C) 1660 (w); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.54 (1H, dd, *J* = 3.2, 2.4 Hz, =CH), 7.36–7.48 (5H, m, Ph), 4.75 (1H, m, CH-O), 3.36 (1H, ddd, *J* = 16.6, 7.8, 2.4 Hz, CHH'), 2.77 (1H, ddd, *J* = 16.6, 5.3, 3.2 Hz, CHH'), 1.46 (3H, d, *J* = 6.2 Hz, Me); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.6, 136.3, 134.6, 129.8, 29.4, 128.4, 124.7, 73.9, 35.1, 22.2; HRMS calcd for C₁₂H₁₂O₂ 188.0837, found 188.0837.

Oxidative Demetalation of 8. Demetalation of **8** (297.1 mg, 0.450 mmol) with water under air atmosphere gave **11** as a colorless solid (93.4 mg, 0.374 mmol, 83%): IR (Nujol, cm⁻¹) ν (C=O) 1756 (s), ν (C=C) 1656 (w); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.62 (1H, dd, *J* = 3.1, 2.8 Hz, =CH), 7.32–7.48 (10H, m, 2 Ph), 5.59 (1H, dd, *J* = 8.6, 6.1 Hz, CH), 3.69 (1H, ddd, *J* = 17.6, 8.6, 2.8 Hz, CHH'), 3.15 (1H, ddd, *J* = 17.6, 6.1, 3.1 Hz, CHH'); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.9, 140.3, 137.0, 134.6, 130.0, 129.9, 128.9, 128.5, 125.4, 124.1, 78.1, 36.5; HRMS calcd for C₁₇H₁₄O₂ 250.0994, found 250.0992.

Oxidative Demetalation of 9. Demetalation of **9** (314.3 mg, 0.482 mmol) with water under air atmosphere gave **12** as a colorless solid (105.1 mg, 0.434 mmol, 90%): IR (Nujol, cm⁻¹) ν (C=O) 1738 (s), ν (C=C) 1664 (w); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.87 (1H, dd, *J* = 3.0, 1.5 Hz, =CH), 7.30–7.41 (5H, m, Ph), 3.95 (1H, ddd, *J* = 12.6, 10.6, 4.5 Hz, CH), 2.88 (1H, ddd, *J* = 16.6, 4.6, 1.5 Hz), 2.15 (1H, br d, *J* = 10.0 Hz), 2.14 (1H, ddd, *J* = 16.6, 12.3, 3.0 Hz), 1.87 (2H, m), 1.72 (1H, br d, *J* = 10.0 Hz), 1.60 (m, 1H), 1.46 (m, 1H), 1.25 (m, 2H), 1.12 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.1, 141.2, 135.1,

130.2, 129.1, 128.5, 125.9, 81.7, 38.4, 33.1, 32.1, 31.1, 24.9, 23.9; HRMS calcd for C₁₆H₁₈O₂ 242.1307, found 242.1312.

One-Pot Synthesis of 5-Methyl-3-(3-methylbutylidene)dihydrofuran-2-one (13) from Tungsten- η^1 -Alkynol 4. To a diethyl ether solution (5 mL) of **4** (170.6 mg, 0.410 mmol) was added Bu^tCHO (70.7 mg, 0.821 mmol) and BF₃·Et₂O (0.06 mL, 0.471 mmol) at -40 °C, immediately depositing an orange precipitate. To the solution was added water (2 mL) with stirring under air. The organic layer was extracted with diethyl ether (5 mL), concentrated, and eluted on a preparative silica TLC to yield **13** as a colorless oil (57.2 mg, 0.340 mmol, 83%): IR (Nujol, cm⁻¹) ν (C=O) 1757 (s), ν (C=C) 1657 (w); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.73 (1H, m, =CH), 4.64 (1H, m, CHO), 2.94 (1H, ddd, *J* = 16.8, 9.2, 2.8 Hz, CHH'), 2.33 (1H, ddd, *J* = 16.8, 5.9, 4.0 Hz, CHH'), 2.05 (2H, dd, *J* = 8.3, 4.4 Hz, =CHCH₂), 1.76 (1H, m, CH), 1.38 (3H, d, *J* = 6.2 Hz, Me), 0.91 (6H, d, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 2 Me); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.8, 139.7, 127.2, 73.9, 39.3, 33.1, 28.1, 22.4, 22.3; HRMS calcd for C₁₀H₁₆O₂ 168.1150, found 168.1156.

Synthesis of 4-Benzylidene-2-methyltetrahydrofuran (14). To a THF solution (10 mL) of **7** (301 mg, 0.530 mmol) was slowly added LiAlH(OBu^t)₃ (0.67 g, 2.65 mmol) in THF (5.0 mL) at -40 °C; the mixture was stirred for 2 h, added with water (0.3 mL), finally concentrated to yield **14** as a colorless oil (55.4 mg, 0.318 mmol, 60%): IR (Nujol, cm⁻¹) ν (C=C) 1660 (w); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.21–7.37 (5H, m, Ph), 6.31 (1H, t, *J* = 2.2 Hz, =CH), 4.45 (2H, AB q, *J* = 13.1 CHH'O), 4.12 (1H, m, CH-O), 2.93 (1H, ddd, *J* = 16.2, 4.0, 2.2 Hz, CHH'), 2.37 (1H, ddd, *J* = 16.2, 8.5, 2.2 Hz, CHH'), 1.43 (3H, d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, Me); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 141.7, 137.6, 128.3, 127.9, 126.4, 119.4, 76.4, 72.6, 38.8, 20.5; HRMS calcd for C₁₂H₁₂O 174.1045, found 174.1039.

Direct Synthesis of 3-Benzylideneoctahydrochromene (15) from Tungsten- η^1 -Alkynol 6. To a diethyl ether solution of tungsten- η^1 -alkynol **6** (268.2 mg, 0.561 mmol) was added PhCHO (118.9 mg, 1.122 mmol) and BF₃·Et₂O (0.07 mL, 0.569 mmol) at -40 °C, immediately yielding an orange precipitate. The mother ether liquor was cannulated away; the residue was redissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (2 mL). To this solution was slowly added a CH₃CN solution (2 mL) of NaBH₃CN (35.3 mg, 0.561 mmol) at -40 °C; the mixture was stirred for 2 h, added with water (0.3 mL), finally concentrated to yield **15** as a colorless oil (102.4 mg, 0.449 mmol, 81%): IR (Nujol, cm⁻¹) ν (C=C) 1664 (w); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.20–7.36 (5H, m, Ph), 6.37 (1H, s, =CH), 4.23 (2H, AB q, *J* = 12.4 Hz, CHH'O), 3.12 (1H, ddd, *J* = 16.4, 9.6, 4.1 Hz), 2.88 (1H, ddd, *J* = 16.4, 3.8, 2.2 Hz), 1.98 (1H, m), 1.88 (1H, t, *J* = 10.8 Hz), 1.80 (1H, m), 1.62 (2H, br t, *J* = 10.8 Hz), 1.30 (3H, m), 1.20 (1H, m), 1.10 (1H, m); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 137.3, 136.9, 128.9, 128.1, 126.4, 124.0, 81.8, 74.1, 43.0, 33.7, 32.3, 31.9, 25.4, 24.8; HRMS calcd for C₁₆H₂₀O 228.1514, found 228.1511.

Synthesis of 3-Benzylidene-2-methoxytetrahydrofuran (21). NaBH₄ (38.2 mg, 1.01 mmol) was dissolved in CH₃OH (1.0 mL) at 23 °C, and the mixture was stirred for 5 min at which no gas was evolved. The carbenium **7** was prepared from η^1 -alkynol **4** (210 mg, 0.505 mmol), PhCHO (107 mg, 1.01 mmol), and BF₃·Et₂O (0.070 mg, 0.569 mmol). To a CH₂Cl₂ (10 mL) solution of **7** was added dropwise the above NaBH₄/CH₃OH solution at -40 °C in a period of 1 h; the mixture was stirred for 2 h before it was added a saturated NH₄Cl solution. The solution was brought to dryness and eluted on preparative silica TLC to yield **21** as a colorless oil (*trans/cis* = 3/1, 78.3 mg; 0.384 mmol, 76%): IR (neat, cm⁻¹) ν (C=C) 1659 (w); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) *trans* isomer, δ 7.24–7.41 (5H, m, Ph), 6.74 (1H, s, =CH), 5.51 (1H, s, CHOMe), 4.46 (1H, m, CHMe), 3.53 (3H, s, OMe), 2.82 (1H, ddd, *J* = 16.4, 7.3, 3.3 Hz, CHH'), 2.23 (1H, ddd, *J* = 16.4, 10.0, 2.1 Hz, CHH'), 1.36 (3H, d, *J* = 6.3 Hz, Me); *cis* isomer, δ 7.24–7.41 (5H, m, Ph), 6.74 (1H, s, =CH), 5.51 (1H, s, CHOMe), 4.28 (1H, m, CHMe), 3.53 (3H, s, OMe), 2.77 (1H, ddd, *J* = 16.2, 7.1, 3.2 Hz, CHH'), 2.45 (1H, ddd, *J* = 16.2, 10.0, 2.1 Hz, CHH'), 1.36 (3H, d, *J* = 6.2 Hz, Me); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) *trans* isomer, δ 142.5, 138.7, 129.6, 129.4, 128.0, 125.7, 107.7, 75.2, 55.1, 38.6, 21.6; *cis* isomer, δ 142.2, 138.5, 129.7, 129.1, 128.0, 125.8, 107.9, 76.4, 54.7, 37.6, 23.6; HRMS calcd for C₁₃H₁₆O₂ 204.1150, found 204.1153.

Synthesis of 3-Benzylidene-2,2-dibutyl-5-methyltetrahydrofuran (23). η^1 -Alkynol **4** (208.8 mg, 0.502 mmol), PhCHO (110.2 mg, 1.04 mmol), BF₃·Et₂O (0.07 mL, 0.569 mmol), and BuⁿMgCl (1.04 mmol)

in cold CH_2Cl_2 afforded **23** (93.6 mg, 0.326 mmol, 65%) as a colorless oil: IR (Nujol, cm^{-1}) $\nu(\text{C}=\text{C})$ 1654 (w); ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.21–7.37 (5H, m, Ph), 6.09 (1H, t, $J = 2.6$ Hz, =CH), 4.10 (1H, m, CH-O), 2.97 (1H, ddd, $J = 16.2, 5.9, 2.6$ Hz, CHH'), 2.37 (1H, ddd, $J = 16.2, 9.6, 2.6$ Hz, CHH'), 1.74–1.22 (6H, m), 1.32 (3H, d, $J = 6.0$ Hz, Me), 0.89 (6H, t, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 2 Me); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 148.2, 138.0, 128.3, 128.1, 126.3, 119.5, 88.3, 72.9, 40.7, 40.6, 40.3, 26.3, 25.9, 23.3, 23.1, 21.2, 14.1; HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{30}\text{O}$ 286.2297, found 286.2296.

Synthesis of 4-Benzylidene-2-methyl-1-oxaspiro[4.4]nonane (26). η^1 -Alkynol **4** (174.7 mg, 0.42 mmol), PhCHO (90.1 mg, 0.85 mmol), $\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{Et}_2\text{O}$ (0.06 mL, 0.472 mmol), and $\text{MgBr}(\text{CH}_2)_4\text{MgBr}$ (1.26 mmol) afforded **26** (55.5 mg, 0.244 mmol, 58%) as a colorless oil: IR (Nujol, cm^{-1}) $\nu(\text{C}=\text{C})$ 1657 (w); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.20–7.32 (5H, m, Ph), 6.20 (1H, dd, $J = 3.0, 2.0$ Hz, =CH), 3.99 (1H, m, CH-O), 2.94 (1H, ddd, $J = 16.2, 5.6, 3.0$ Hz, CHH'), 2.45 (1H, ddd, $J = 16.2, 9.4, 2.0$ Hz, CHH'), 1.59–1.98 (8H, m), 1.33 (3H, d, $J = 6.0$ Hz, Me); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 149.4, 137.9, 128.3, 128.0, 126.3, 118.9, 93.8, 72.2, 41.1, 40.4, 40.1, 25.0, 24.8, 20.8; HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}$ 228.1514, found 228.1519.

Synthesis of 4-Diphenylmethyl-2-methyl-5-phenyl-2,3-dihydrofuran (29). η^1 -Alkynol **4** (180.2 mg, 0.433 mmol), PhCHO (91.8 mg, 0.866 mmol), $\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{Et}_2\text{O}$ (0.06 mL, 0.472 mmol), and Ph_2CuLi (194.6 mg, 0.866 mmol) afforded **29** (140.2 mg, 0.368 mmol, 85%) as a colorless oil: IR (Nujol, cm^{-1}) $\nu(\text{C}=\text{C})$ 1660 (w); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.16–7.63 (15H, m, Ph), 5.33 (1H, s, CH(Ph)₂), 4.78 (1H, m, CH-O), 2.79 (1H, dd, $J = 15.2, 9.6$ Hz, CHH'), 2.29 (1H, dd, $J = 15.2, 7.6$ Hz, CHH'), 1.40 (3H, d, $J = 6.4$ Hz, Me); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 150.1, 143.3, 143.2, 141.2, 131.7, 128.9, 128.8, 128.7, 128.3, 128.2, 127.4, 127.2, 127.1, 126.3, 126.2, 110.0, 76.0, 48.2, 39.9, 22.0; HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}$ 326.1671, found 326.1570.

Cyclopropanation of Oxocarbenium 8. To a CH_2Cl_2 solution (20 mL) of tungsten oxocarbenium **8** (200 mg, 0.307 mmol) was added a diethyl ether solution of CH_2N_2 (77.4 mg, 1.842 mmol) at -20°C ; the mixture was stirred for 4 h before it was reduced to ca. 3 mL in vacuo at 23°C . To this concentrated solution was added excess diethyl ether (20 mL) to yield an orange precipitate of **34**. Recrystallization of **34** from a saturated CH_2Cl_2 /diethyl ether solution afforded red crystalline solid (163 mg, 0.239 mmol) in 78% yield: IR (neat, cm^{-1}) $\nu(\text{CO})$ 1953 (s) 2035 (s); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.15–7.43 (10H, m, Ph), 6.50 (1H, dd, $J = 10.6, 7.6$ Hz, CH-O), 5.92 (5H, s, Cp), 2.83 (1H, dd, $J = 14.6, 7.6$ Hz, CHH), 2.65 (1H, dd, $J = 14.6, 10.6$ Hz, CHH), 2.48 (1H, dd, $J = 12.6, 7.6$ Hz, CHH), 2.40 (1H, m, CH), 2.32 (1H, dd, $J = 12.6, 8.0$ Hz, CHH), 1.70 (1H, dd, $J = 5.5, 7.6$ Hz, CHH), 0.85 (1H, dd, $J = 6.9, 5.5$ Hz, CHH); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 296.4, 216.0, 214.8, 214.6, 138.4, 135.8, 129.8, 129.1, 129.0, 128.7, 128.5, 126.4, 100.7, 95.8, 93.3, 61.8, 34.6, 33.4, 31.0. Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{23}\text{WO}_3\text{BF}_3$: C, 47.65; H, 3.41. Found: C, 46.56; H, 3.67.

Synthesis of 1-Benzyl-6-phenyl-5-oxaspiro[2.4]heptan-4-one (35). To a CH_2Cl_2 solution (20 mL) of oxocarbenium **34** (162.6 mg, 0.239 mmol) was added water at 23°C ; the mixture was stirred for 2 h before it was brought dryness in vacuo. The residue was chromatographed

on a preparative silica TLC to yield **35** as a colorless solid (59.8 mg, 0.215 mmol, 90%): IR (neat, cm^{-1}) $\nu(\text{CO})$ 1778 (s); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.15–7.35 (5H, m, Ph), 5.62 (1H, t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, CH-O), 2.65 (1H, dd, $J = 15.2, 6.4$ Hz, CHH), 2.53 (1H, dd, $J = 12.9, 7.8$ Hz, CHH), 2.51 (1H, dd, $J = 15.2, 7.9$ Hz, CHH), 2.38 (1H, dd, $J = 12.9, 7.8$ Hz, CHH), 1.95 (1H, m, CH), 1.56 (1H, dd, $J = 4.4, 8.9$ Hz, CHH), 0.91 (1H, dd, $J = 4.4, 6.7$ Hz, CHH); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 179.3, 140.0, 139.4, 128.7, 128.5, 128.3, 128.0, 126.3, 125.3, 78.6, 35.3, 34.9, 25.3, 25.2, 21.9; HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_2$ 278.1306, found 278.1302.

One-Pot Synthesis of 1-Benzyl-6-methyl-5-oxaspiro[2.5]octan-4-one (38) from Tungsten-Alkynol and CH_2N_2 . To $\text{CpW}(\text{CO})_3(\eta^1\text{-6-hydroxyheptyl-1-yl})$ (262 mg, 0.61 mmol) in cold diethyl ether (15 mL, 0°C) was added PhCHO (77.2 mg, 0.728 mmol) and $\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{Et}_2\text{O}$ (103.3 mg, 0.728 mmol) to yield a red oil of carbenium salt. The diethyl mother liquor was decanted away; the carbenium salt was washed twice with diethyl ether before it was dissolved in CH_2Cl_2 . To this CH_2Cl_2 solution was added CH_2N_2 (153.6 mg, 3.654 mmol) at -20°C , and the mixture was stirred for 2 h before treatment of water (1.0 mL). The mixture was concentrated and eluted on a preparative silica TLC to yield **38** as a colorless solid (82.7 mg, 0.359 mmol; 59%): IR (neat, cm^{-1}) $\nu(\text{CO})$ 1710 (s); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.14–7.41 (5H, m, Ph), 4.49–4.56 (1H, m, CH-O), 2.78 (1H, dd, $J = 15.3, 7.5$ Hz, CHH), 2.65 (1H, dd, $J = 15.3, 7.5$ Hz, CHH), 1.78–1.99 (3H, m), 1.69 (1H, dd, $J = 4.6, 4.0$ Hz, CHH), 1.33–1.41 (2H, m), 1.31 (3H, d, $J = 6.4$ Hz, CH_3), 0.60 (1H, dd, $J = 6.9, 4.0$ Hz, CHH); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 174.5, 140.2, 128.1, 127.0, 126.2, 76.5, 34.4, 30.0, 29.8, 23.5, 23.3, 22.9, 19.9; HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_2$ 230.1306, found 230.1311.

One-Pot Synthesis of 1-Isobutyl-6-methyl-5-oxaspiro[2.5]octan-4-one (39) from Tungsten-Alkynol and CH_2N_2 . This compound was prepared from a procedure similar to that of **37** except Pr^iCHO was used; the yield of **39** is 54%: IR (neat, cm^{-1}) $\nu(\text{CO})$ 1775 (s); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 4.51 (1H, m, CH-O), 1.94 (1H, m), 1.54–1.79 (4H, m), 1.51 (1H, dd, $J = 16.2, 3.7$ Hz, CHH), 1.37 (3H, d, $J = 6.2$ Hz, CH_3), 1.02 (3H, d, $J = 6.2$ Hz, CH_3), 0.97 (3H, d, $J = 6.4$ Hz, CH_3), 0.88 (1H, m, CH) 0.41 (1H, dd, $J = 3.7, 6.9$ Hz, CHH); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 175.5, 76.7, 38.7, 30.7, 28.6, 23.7, 23.3, 22.9, 22.4, 22.3, 21.3; HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_2$ 1182.1306, found 182.1311.

Acknowledgment. We gratefully acknowledge financial support from the National Science Council, Republic of China for financial support of this work.

Supporting Information Available: Syntheses and spectral data of compounds **5**, **6**, **8**, **9**, **16–20**, **22**, **24**, **25**, **27**, **28**, **30–33**, **36**, and **37**; tables of crystal data, atomic coordinates, bond distances and angles of **8**, **9**, and **36** (34 pages). See any current masthead page for ordering and Internet access instructions.

JA970020+