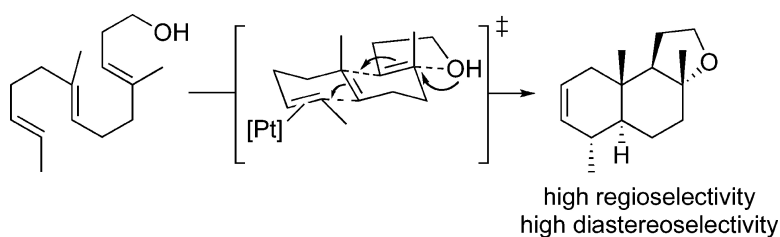


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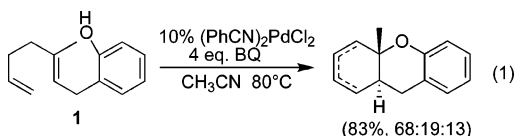
## Regioselective Oxidative Cation-Olefin Cyclization of Poly-enes: Catalyst Turnover via Hydride Abstraction

Charles A. Mullen and Michel R. Gagné\*

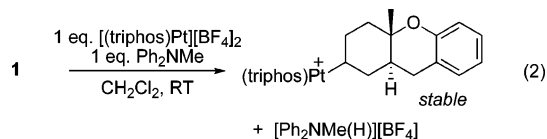
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Biomimetic polyolefin cascade reactions are among the most challenging problems in reaction design,<sup>1</sup> and since few catalysts initiate *ligand controlled* cation–olefin cyclizations,<sup>2,3</sup> we became interested in developing one around the reactive core of electrophilic Pd(II) and Pt(II).<sup>4</sup> In contrast to H<sup>+</sup>, Br<sup>+</sup>, and other carbophilic metals, Pd(II) and Pt(II) preferentially coordinate and activate the less substituted alkene,<sup>5</sup> which directs the point of coordination/activation to the terminus in substrates such as **1**.



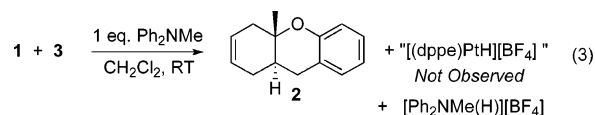
As outlined in eq 1 (PhCN)<sub>2</sub>PdCl<sub>2</sub> in combination with benzoquinone (BQ) effectively catalyzes the oxidative cyclization of poly-enes.<sup>6</sup> Although the diastereoselectivity was high, this methodology's regioselectivity was problematic owing to alkene isomerization after β-hydride elimination. Additionally, all attempts to develop an asymmetric variant of this catalyst failed as added ligands inhibited the catalysis. We<sup>7</sup> and others<sup>5c,d</sup> have also reported that (tris-phosphine)Pt-dications efficiently initiate cation–olefin transformations that mediate the cycloisomerization of dienes into bicyclopropanes.<sup>7a–c</sup> However, with substrates such as **1**, which contain an internal cation trap, the resulting cyclic Pt–alkyl is resistant to β-H elimination (no open cis coordination sites to allow for hydride migration), and the reaction does not turn over. The cyclized product is recoverable, however, by reductive cleavage using NaBH<sub>4</sub>.<sup>7d</sup>



Rationalizing that an open cis site would enable β-H elimination from a putative alkyl intermediate, we initiated an examination of P<sub>2</sub>Pt-dication catalysts for the oxidative cyclization of **1**. These studies led to a novel catalyst system for the *regioselective* oxidative cyclization of poly-enols that additionally utilizes trityl cation to achieve catalyst turnover.

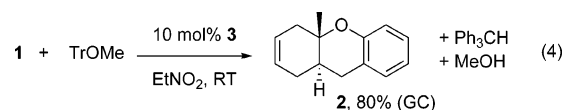
The combination of [(dppe)Pt][BF<sub>4</sub>]<sub>2</sub> (**3**),<sup>8</sup> **1**, and a weak base at room temperature generated **2** as a single diastereomer and regioisomer (eq 3). This product reasonably results from a *regioselective* β-hydride elimination of an intermediate (P<sub>2</sub>)Pt–cycloalkyl cation. The contrast to Pd-based methods is striking (cf. eq 1). We presume a [(dppe)Pt(H)][BF<sub>4</sub>] byproduct but it appears to decompose.

The cyclization/β-elimination step of a putative mechanism for catalysis was thus realized; however, the conversion of “P<sub>2</sub>Pt–H<sup>+</sup>” to the active dication for reinitiating the cycle (catalyst



“reoxidation”) was not well preceded,<sup>4</sup> in contrast to ubiquitous Pd analogues. One differentiating feature is that these dicationic Pt catalysts lack the coordinating X<sup>–</sup> ligands (Cl<sup>–</sup>, –OAc, etc.), which are key to facilitating metal reoxidation.<sup>9</sup> This makes traditional M(0) to M(II) oxidizing reagents such as benzoquinone, O<sub>2</sub>, CuCl<sub>2</sub>, etc. ineffective for this system.<sup>10</sup>

The hydride abstracting agent (triphenylcarbenium)BF<sub>4</sub> (TrBF<sub>4</sub>), however, was found to efficiently convert the key intermediate back to the (dppe)Pt<sup>2+</sup> state for reinitiating catalytic turnover.<sup>11</sup> Thus, 10 mol % (dppe)Pt<sup>2+</sup> and stoichiometric TrBF<sub>4</sub> combined with a weak base (Ph<sub>2</sub>NH) serves to absorb the H<sup>–</sup> and H<sup>+</sup> generated from the heterolytic loss of H<sub>2</sub> on conversion of **1** to **2**. A more convenient Tr<sup>+</sup> source was trityl methyl ether, which generates Tr<sup>+</sup> and MeOH on reacting with the H<sup>+</sup> expelled on cyclization. This approach keeps Tr<sup>+</sup> concentrations low by only releasing the amount needed for each turn of the cycle, reducing the probability of Tr<sup>+</sup> mediated side reactions while also removing the need for exogenous amine base.



Additional optimization led to a polystyrene resin bound trityl methyl ether that enables simple removal of excess TrOMe and TrH.<sup>12</sup> No loss in yield was observed on using this solid-phase reoxidant. A screen of readily available diphosphines (not shown) indicated that dppe provided the most high-yielding catalyst, and nitroethane was the ideal solvent.

These optimum conditions were applied to a variety of diene- and triene-ol substrates (Table 1).<sup>13</sup> The reactions typically went to completion with 10 mol % **3** and consistently provided high regioselectivities and only trans ring junctions (predicted by the Stork–Eschenmoser postulate<sup>14</sup> for *E* internal olefins). In addition to terminal alkenes, 1,2-disubstituted termini were also tolerated (entries 3–5, 7, 8). These reactions were stereospecific as the *E* and *Z* isomers led to epimeric products at C-4 and suggested chairlike transition states tolerant of unfavorable developing 1,3-diaxial interactions for the *Z* substrates (Scheme 1). Terminal trisubstitution was not tolerated (entry 9).

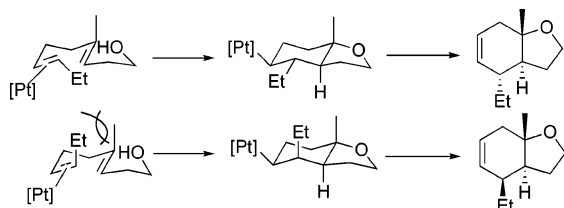
A proposed catalytic cycle is shown in Scheme 2. Coordination and activation of the less substituted C=C double bond by P<sub>2</sub>Pt<sup>2+</sup> at the terminus of the substrate initiates the cascade cyclization. The trapping of the final cation by the alcohol generates acid which cleaves TrOMe into trityl cation and methanol. The intermediate P<sub>2</sub>Pt–alkyl cation **I** has been observed as the resting state of this catalytic cycle by <sup>31</sup>P NMR. The fourth coordination site in **I** is

**Table 1.** Polycyclizations Catalyzed by (dppe)PtI<sub>2</sub>/AgBF<sub>4</sub><sup>a</sup>

entry	Substrate	Product	Time(h)	Yield <sup>b</sup>
1			8	73% <sup>c</sup>
2			8	84%
3			12	67%
4			8	65%
5			12	72%
6			12	90%
7			14	52%
8			14	45%
9				NR

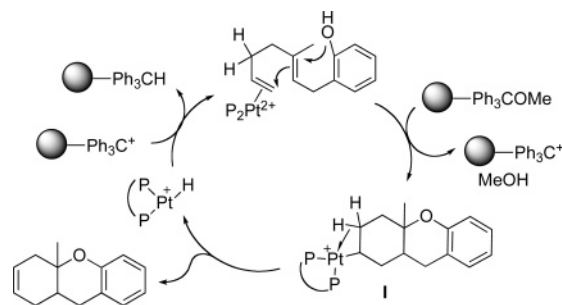
<sup>a</sup> Conditions: 10% (dppe)PtI<sub>2</sub>, 22% AgBF<sub>4</sub>, 2.1 Ph<sub>3</sub>COMe resin, EtNO<sub>2</sub>.

<sup>b</sup> Isolated yield of purified material, average of two or more runs; balance of material is largely the product of Brønsted mediated monocyclization. dr > 50:1 (GC) in all cases. <sup>c</sup> 10% Ph<sub>2</sub>NH added.

**Scheme 1.** Chair Transition States for Cyclization of **7** and **9**

filled by a  $\beta$ -agostic interaction from the cyclic alkyl ligand.<sup>15</sup> Since only one agostic complex is observed by <sup>31</sup>P NMR ( $\delta$  48.4, 41.0 ppm), it is tempting to ascribe the observed regioselectivity to a regio-defining  $\beta$ -agostic interaction. We next propose a turnover limiting  $\beta$ -hydride elimination to generate product and a P<sub>2</sub>Pt-H cation, which then loses the hydride on reacting with trityl cation, forming triphenylmethane and regenerating the dicationic Pt species. Other possible mechanisms include a direct  $\beta$  or  $\alpha$  abstraction from **I** by Tr<sup>+</sup>,<sup>16</sup> however, observation of the same regioselectivity in stoichiometric-Pt mediated reactions suggests that  $\beta$ -hydride occurred.

In conclusion, we have developed a ligand-controlled system for the biomimetic cation-olefin cascade cyclization. We have also demonstrated a new approach to the turnover of oxidative cycliza-

**Scheme 2.** Proposed Catalytic Cycle

tion processes by a Tr<sup>+</sup> mediated hydride abstraction pathway. Studies to further understand the mechanism of this turnover step are underway.

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**Supporting Information Available:** Characterization details for all new compounds, and representative synthetic procedures. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

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