## Cycloadditions of Ketene Acetals under Microwave Irradiation in Solvent-free Conditions

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When subjected to microwave irradiation ketene acetals undergo 1,3-dipolar and hetero-Diels-Alder cycloadditions within 5–12 min to give excellent yields of easily purified heterocyclic products. This efficient and rapid synthesis has the advantage of employing milder reaction conditions than those of classical thermal heating.

1,3-Dipolar and hetero-Diels-Alder cycloadditions, two of the best and most widely used syntheses for five- and six-membered heterocycles,<sup>1</sup> involve, in most cases, a 1,3-dipole or hetero-1,3-diene and an alkene. We have recently reported a simple and efficient synthesis of cyclic ketene acetals by phase-transfer catalysis without solvent coupled with ultrasound.<sup>2</sup> Ketene acetals have been widely employed as dipolarophiles<sup>3</sup> and dienophiles,<sup>4</sup> but their cycloadditions under classical thermal conditions are generally performed at high temperatures (> 100 °C) with long reaction times (several hours or days) and sometimes carried out under an inert atmosphere.

In recent years, domestic microwave ovens have been used as controllable thermal sources to improve many organic reactions,<sup>5</sup> by decreasing the reaction times (up to 3 orders of magnitude) and, in some cases, giving cleaner reactions with easier work-up. Reactions in the absence of solvent have also made it possible to work in open vessels, thus avoiding the risk of high pressures and explosions, and to carry out reactions on a preparative scale.<sup>6</sup> Such conditions have been applied, with or without solvent, to Diels–Alder,<sup>7</sup> 1,3-dipolar<sup>8</sup> and  $[2 + 2]^9$ cycloadditions, improving reaction times and often yields dramatically. In these reactions reagents were generally stable. This technique, however, had not been used with unstable compounds such as cyclic ketene acetals that polymerize easily.

We have attempted, by using microwave irradiation under solvent-free conditions, to induce 1,3-dipolar and hetero-Diels-Alder cycloadditions of cyclic ketene acetals under milder reaction conditions than those reported in the literature.<sup>3.4</sup> In our work we used compounds 1-4 to study their reactions with



several 1,3-dipoles (e.g. nitrones and nitrile oxides) and hetero-1,3-dienes (e.g.  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated ketones). The results are summarized in Table 1.

We found that microwave irradiation induces ketene acetals to react with 1,3-dipoles and hetero-1,3-dienes under solventfree conditions within a few minutes to give the corresponding cycloadducts. Reaction times are dramatically reduced, yields are excellent and products are isolated directly from the crude reaction mixture by column chromatography; further, no polymerization of ketene acetals was observed. It has, therefore, been demonstrated that microwave irradiation is an efficient technique for 1,3-dipolar and hetero-Diels-Alder cycloadditions with cyclic ketene acetals.

The structures of the cycloadducts were established on the basis of spectroscopic data. The multiplicity and coupling



Fig. 1 Selected NOEs for compounds 17 and 16

constants of the signals corresponding to the 3- and 4-H, or 4-and 5-H, protons in their <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra allowed the regiochemistry to be assigned for reactions with nitrones or  $\alpha$ , $\beta$ -unsaturated ketones, respectively. The chemical shift of C-4 (30-45 ppm) suggests that the regiochemistry with nitrile oxides is the one shown in Table 1.

Although cycloaddition of the unsubstituted ketene acetal 1 gave only one adduct, with the acetal 2 the Ph group in the adducts may exist either 'up' or 'down' with respect to the dioxolane ring, depending upon the approach of the reagents. In cycloadditions of compound 4 there is only one approach resulting from the increased steric hindrance at the 'top' face of the ketene acetal. Since 4 is achiral (meso) the adducts 17-20 were obtained as a racemic mixture. The stereochemical disposition of the dioxolane ring substituents have been inferred by NOE difference experiments (see Fig. 1). The small steric volume of the methyl substituents in the acetal 3 permits the cycloaddition of C,N-diphenylnitrone to occur from two directions. Structural disposition of the dioxolane ring in the cycloadducts has been inferred again by NOE difference experiments. The major isomer 14 showed an NOE signal for 3and 4-H when the methyl groups were irradiated. The minor isomer 15 did not show this. Contrary to what was expected, reaction of 3 with chalcone afforded only one adduct, 16.

## **Experimental**

All m.p.s were determined on a Gallenkamp apparatus and are uncorrected. IR spectra were measured on a Perkin-Elmer 883 instrument. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were either recorded at 300 MHz on a Varian Unity 300 or at 200 MHz on a Varian Gemini spectrometer. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded at 75 MHz on a Varian Unity 300 machine. Chemical shifts are reported in ppm ( $\delta$ ) using Me<sub>4</sub>Si as standard, and coupling constants J are given in Hz. Percentage NOE enhancements were obtained by integrating the affected resonance relative to the irradiated resonance in the difference spectrum in each case. Elemental

Table 1

Reaction <sup>4</sup>	Conditions	Products	Yield (%) <sup>b</sup>	
1 + Ph∕∾N+ <sup>+O<sup>-</sup></sup> Ph	MW, 780 W 12 min		78	
$1 + p - CF_3C_8H_4 \longrightarrow N^{+rO^{-1}}_{Ph}$	MW. 780 W 10 min		81	
1 + 2.4.6-Me₃CeH₂─CΞN*─O <sup>-</sup>	MW. 450 W 5 min	2.4.6 Me <sub>3</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>2</sub> N <sup>0</sup> 7	70	
1 + 3.5-(MeO)₂C <sub>6</sub> H₃─C≡N*─O <sup>−</sup>	MW. 450 W 5 min	3.5-(MeO) <sub>2</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>3</sub> N <sup>O</sup>	88	
1 + Ph O Ph	MW, 780 W 15 min		92	
2 + 2.4,6-Me₃C <sub>6</sub> H₂→CΞN*−O <sup>-</sup>	MW. 450 W 5 min	2.4.6-Me <sub>3</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>2</sub> N <sup>O</sup> 10 R =Ph	72	
2 + 0 Me	MW, 780 W 10 min	$11 R = -Ph$ $Me \qquad 0 \qquad R$ $12 R = -Ph$ $13 R = -Ph$	86	
3 + Ph  N*- <sup>O-</sup> Ph	MW. 780 W 10 min	Ph Ph Ph 14 R =Me	88	
3 + 0 Ph	MW. 780 W 10 min	Ph - rH $Ph - rH$ $Ph - rH$ $Me$ $Ph$ $Ph$	73	
4 + Ph ∽N*- <sup>O<sup>-</sup> Ph</sup>	MW, 780 W 10 min	Ph H <sup>Ph</sup> H <sup>Ph</sup> Ph 17	95	
4 + <sup>p-NO2C6H4</sup> N+ <sup>-O-</sup> Ph	MW, 780 W 10 min	р-NO <sub>2</sub> C <sub>0</sub> H <sub>4</sub> Ph Ph Ph Ph 18	79	
4 + 0 Me	MW, 780 W 10 min	Me O Ph Ph 19	69	
4 + Ph	MW. 790 W 10 min	Phyth Phyth Phyth 20 Ph	91	

<sup>a</sup> Equimolecular amounts. <sup>b</sup> Isolated product.

analyses were performed on a Perkin-Elmer PE2400 CHN elemental analyser. Column chromatography was carried out with SiO<sub>2</sub> (silica gel, Merck type 60 70–230 and 60 230–400 mesh). Microwave irradiations were conducted in a Miele Electronic M720 domestic oven. Reagents were purchased from commercial suppliers or prepared by literature methods.

General Procedure for the 1,3-Dipolar and Hetero-Diels-Alder Cycloadditions of Ketene Acetals induced by Microwave Irradiation.—A mixture of the ketene acetal (1 equiv.) and 1,3dipole or hetero-1,3-diene (1 equiv.) was placed in an open vessel in the microwave oven and irradiated at the power specified for the indicated time. The crude reaction mixture was purified by flash chromatography (silica gel) using light petroleum (40–60 °C)-ethyl acetate (7:1) as eluent, unless otherwise stated, to give the corresponding cycloadduct.

1,3-Dipolar Cycloaddition of the Ketene Acetal 1 with N-(Benzylidene)phenylamine N-Oxide.—The ketene acetal 1 (0.20 g, 1.75 mmol) and N-(benzylidene)phenylamine Noxide<sup>10</sup> (0.345 g, 1.75 mmol) when irradiated at 780 W for 12 min (final temp. 145 °C) gave the cycloadduct 5 (0.425 g, 78%); eluent: light petroleum (b.p. 40–60 °C)–ethyl acetate (10:1); m.p. 89–90 °C (Found: C, 73.2; H, 6.85; N, 4.4. Calc. for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>21</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>: C, 73.4; H, 6.8; N, 4.5%);  $v_{max}$ (KBr)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 3061 (=C-H), 1597 (C=C) and 1058 (C–O);  $\delta_{\rm H}$ (200 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 1.73 (4 H, m, 5'- and 6'-H), 2.48 (1 H, dd, J 12.2 and 9.4, 4a-H), 2.85 (1 H, dd, J 12.2 and 7.7, 4b-H), 3.66 (4 H, m, 4'- and 7'-H), 4.72 (1 H, dd, J 9.4 and 7.7, 3-H) and 6.89–7.52 (10 H, m, ArH).

1,3-Dipolar Cycloaddition of the Ketene Acetal 1 with N-(4-Trifluorobenzylidene)phenylamine N-Oxide.—The ketene acetal 1 (0.050 g, 0.45 mmol) and N-(4-trifluorobenzylidene)phenylamine N-oxide<sup>10</sup> (0.116 g, 0.45 mmol) when irradiated at 780 W for 10 min (final temp. 110 °C) gave compound **6** (0.134 g, 81%), m.p. 133–134 °C (Found: C, 63.15; H, 5.3; N, 3.65. Calc. for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>20</sub>F<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>: C, 63.3; H, 5.3; N, 3.7%);  $v_{max}$ (KBr)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 3077 (=C-H), 1597 (C=C), 1109 (C-F) and 1085 (C-O);  $\delta_{\rm H}$ (200 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 1.73 (4 H, m, 5'- and 6'-H), 2.44 (1 H, dd, J 12.3 and 8.6, 4a-H), 2.88 (1 H, dd, J 12.3 and 8.1, 4b-H), 3.66 and 4.05 (4 H, 2 × m, 4'- and 7'-H), 4.81 (1 H, dd, J 8.6 and 8.1, 3-H) and 6.91–7.62 (9 H, m, ArH);  $\delta_{\rm C}$ (75 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 28.66 and 29.01 (C-5' and -6'), 46.65 (C-4), 64.18 and 65.19 (C-4' and -7'), 69.86 (C-3) and 115.46–151.14 (CF<sub>3</sub>, C-5 and C-arom).

1,3-Dipolar Cycloaddition of Ketene Acetal 1 with 2,4,6-Trimethylbenzonitrile Oxide.—The ketene acetal 1 (0.191 g, 1.68 mmol) and 2,4,6-trimethylbenzonitrile oxide<sup>11</sup> (0.27 g, 1.68 mmol) when irradiated at 450 W for 5 min (final temp. 71 °C) gave the cycloadduct 7 (0.321 g, 70%), m.p. 82–83 °C (Found: C, 69.95; H, 7.7; N, 5.0. Calc. for  $C_{16}H_{21}NO_3$ : C, 69.9; H, 7.7; N, 5.0. Calc. for  $C_{16}H_{21}NO_3$ : C, 69.9; H, 7.7; N, 5.1%);  $v_{max}(KBr)/cm^{-1}$  3001 (=C–H), 1608 (C=C), 1335 (N–O) and 1086 (C–O);  $\delta_H(200 \text{ MHz; CDCl}_3)$  1.77 (4 H, m, 5'- and 6'-H), 2.25 (6 H, s, ortho-CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.28 (3 H, s, para-CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.10 (2 H, s, 4-H), 3.75 and 4.09 (4 H, 2 × m, 4'- and 7'-H) and 6.88 (2 H, s, ArH);  $\delta_C(75 \text{ MHz; CDCl}_3)$  19.44 (ortho-CH<sub>3</sub>), 20.95 (para-CH<sub>3</sub>), 28.71 (C-5' and -6'), 45.75 (C-4), 64.81 (C-4' and -7') and 125.24–159.45 (C-3, -5 and C-arom).

1,3-Dipolar Cycloaddition of the Ketene Acetal 1 with 3,5-Dimethoxybenzonitrile Oxide.—The ketene acetal 1 (0.092 g, 0.81 mmol) and 3,5-dimethoxybenzonitrile oxide<sup>11</sup> (0.145 g, 0.81 mmol) when irradiated at 450 W for 5 min (final temp. 60 °C) gave product 8 (0.208 g, 88%), m.p. 123–125 °C (Found: C, 61.2; H, 6.4; N, 4.85. Calc. for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>19</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>: C, 61.4; H, 6.5; N, 4.75%);  $v_{max}$ (KBr)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 2998 (=C-H), 1606 (C=C) and 1372 (N-O);  $\delta_{\rm H}$ (200 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 1.70 (2 H, s, 4-H), 1.72 (4 H, m, 5'- and 6'-H), 3.73 and 4.02 (4 H, 2 × m, 4'- and 7'-H), 3.83 and 3.87 (6 H, 2 × s, CH<sub>3</sub>O) and 6.5–7.2 (3 H, m, ArH);  $\delta_{\rm C}$ (75 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 21.97 (C-5' and -6'), 28.93 (C-4), 55.57 and 56.26 (CH<sub>3</sub>O), 63.41 (C-4' and -7') and 101.56–159.34 (C-3, -5 and C-arom).

*Hetero-Diels–Alder Cycloaddition of the Ketene Acetal* 1 *with Chalcone.*—The ketene acetal 1 (0.15 g, 1.31 mmol) and chalcone (0.27 g, 1.31 mmol) when irradiated at 780 W for 15 min (final temp. 120 °C) gave the cycloadduct **9** (0.39 g, 92%), m.p. 101–102 °C (Found: C, 78.1; H, 6.95. Calc. for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>22</sub>O<sub>3</sub>: C, 78.25; H, 6.85%);  $\nu_{max}$ (KBr)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 3058 (=C-H), 1642 (C=C) and 1052 (C-O);  $\delta_{H}$ (200 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 1.76 (5 H, m, 5a-, 5'-and 6'-H), 2.41 (1 H, ddd, *J* 12.2, 6.3 and 1.2, 5b-H), 3.75, 4.01 and 4.20 (5 H, 3 × m, 4-, 4'- and 7'-H), 5.50 (1 H, dd, *J* 2.4 and 1.2, 3-H) and 7.25–7.68 (10 H, m, ArH);  $\delta_{C}$ (75 MHz; CD<sub>3</sub>SOCD<sub>3</sub>) 28.28 and 28.76 (C-5' and -6'), 36.88 and 37.26 (C-4 and -5), 62.10 and 62.92 (C-4' and -7'), 101.75 (C-3) and 113.63–148.26 (C-2, -6 and C-arom).

1,3-Dipolar Cycloaddition of Ketene Acetal 2 with 2,4,6-Trimethylbenzonitrile Oxide.—The ketene acetal 2 (0.4 g, 2.47 mmol) and 2,4,6-trimethylbenzonitrile oxide (0.4 g, 2.47 mmol) when irradiated at 450 W for 5 min (final temp. 96 °C) gave a mixture of two isomer cycloadducts (0.571 g, 72%) in a ratio of 3:2.

*Major isomer*: colourless oil (Found: C, 74.1; H, 6.2; N, 4.3. Calc. for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>21</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>: C, 74.3; H, 6.5; N, 4.3%);  $\delta_{\rm H}$ (200 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 2.28 (6 H, s, *ortho*-CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.30 (3 H, s, *para*-CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.42 (2 H, s, 4-H), 3.97 (1 H, dd, *J* 7.8 and 6.9, 5'a-H), 4.59 (1 H, dd, *J* 7.8 and 6.9, 5'b-H), 5.47 (1 H, t, *J* 6.9, 4'-H) and 6.90–7.44 (7 H, m, ArH);  $\delta_{\rm C}$ (75 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 19.63 (*ortho*-CH<sub>3</sub>), 21.04 (*para*-CH<sub>3</sub>), 42.7 (C-4), 71.7 (C-5'), 80.12 (C-4') and 126.83–159.14 (C-3, -5 and C-arom).

*Minor isomer*: m.p. 93–94 °C (Found: C, 74.15; H, 6.25; N, 4.3. Calc. for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>21</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>: C, 74.3; H, 6.5; N, 4.3%);  $v_{max}$ (KBr)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 3012 (=C–H), 1737 (C=N), 1608 (C=C), 1348 (N–O) and 1040 (C–O);  $\delta_{H}$ (200 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 2.28 (6 H, s, *ortho*-CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.29 (3 H, s, *para*-CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.25 (1 H, d, *J* 16.7, 4a-H), 3.45 (1 H, d, *J* 16.7, 4b-H), 4.06 (1 H, dd, *J* 9.7 and 8.5, 5'a-H), 4.47 (1 H, dd, *J* 8.5 and 6.5, 5'b-H), 5.21 (1 H, dd, *J* 9.7 and 6.5, 4'-H) and 6.90–7.57 (7 H, m, ArH);  $\delta_{C}$ (75 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 19.62 (*ortho*-CH<sub>3</sub>), 19.92 (*para*-CH<sub>3</sub>), 42.54 (C-4), 71.84 (C-5'), 78.08 (C-4') and 126.04–158.99 (C-3, -5 and C-arom).

Hetero-Diels-Alder Cycloaddition of the Ketene Acetal **2** with Methyl Vinyl Ketone.—The ketene acetal **2** (0.2 g, 1.23 mmol) and methyl vinyl ketone (0.086 g, 1.23 mmol) when irradiated at 780 W for 10 min (final temp. 95 °C) gave a mixture of two isomeric cycloadducts (0.246 g, 86%) in a ratio of 7:2 as a colourless oil (Found: C, 72.2; H, 6.9. Calc. for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>16</sub>O<sub>3</sub>: C, 72.4; H, 6.95%);  $v_{max}$ (KBr)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 3020 (=C-H) and 1028 (C-O). Major isomer:  $\delta_{\rm H}$ (200 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 1.79 (3 H, s, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.07

*Major isomer*:  $\partial_{H}(200 \text{ MHz}; \text{CDCI}_{3})$  1.79 (3 H, s, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.07 (2 H, dd, *J* 12.4 and 6.4, 5-H), 2.24 (2 H, m, 4-H), 3.90 (1 H, dd, *J* 7.4 and 6.8, 5'a-H), 4.57 (1 H, t, *J* 7.4, 5'b-H), 4.60 (1 H, m, 3-H), 5.44 (1 H, t, *J* 6.8, 4'-H) and 7.31–7.38 (5 H, m, ArH).

*Minor isomer*:  $\delta_{H}(200 \text{ MHz}; \text{CDCl}_{3})$  1.78 (3 H, s, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.01 (2 H, dd, *J* 12.2 and 6.4, 5-H), 2.24 (2 H, m, 4-H), 4.06 (1 H, dd, *J* 9.6 and 8.2, 5'a-H), 4.42 (1 H, dd, *J* 8.2 and 6.6, 5'b-H), 4.60 (1 H, m, 3-H), 5.19 (1 H, dd, *J* 9.6 and 6.6, 4'-H) and 7.31–7.38 (5 H, m, ArH).

1,3-Dipolar Cycloaddition of the Ketene Acetal 3 with N-(Benzylidene)phenylamine N-Oxide.—The ketene acetal 3 (0.225 g, 2 mmol) and N-(benzylidene)phenylamine N-oxide (0.39 g, 2 mmol) when irradiated at 780 W for 10 min (final temp. 157 °C) gave a mixture of two isomeric cycloadducts, 14 and 15 (0.54 g, 88%) in a ratio of 9:2, respectively, as a colourless Compound 14:  $\delta_{\rm H}(300 \text{ MHz}; \text{CDCl}_3)$  1.17 and 1.19 (6 H, 2 × d, J 6.4, 4'- and 5'-CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.70 (1 H, dd, J 13.2 and 9.0, 4a-H), 2.88 (1 H, dd, J 13.2 and 8.0, 4b-H), 4.54 (2 H, m, 4'- and 5'-H), 4.67 (1 H, t, J 9.0 and 8.0, 3-H), 6.93 (2 H, m, ortho-H 2-Ph), 7.49 (2 H, m, ortho-H 3-Ph) and 6.89–7.38 (6 H, m, other ArH).

Compound 15:  $\delta_{\rm H}(300 \text{ MHz}; \text{CDCl}_3)$  1.34 and 1.35 (6 H, 2 × d, J 6.2, 4'- and 5'-CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.65 (1 H, dd, J 12.9 and 9.2, 4a-H), 2.81 (1 H, dd, J 12.9 and 7.5, 4b-H), 4.34 (2 H, m, 4'- and 5'-H), 4.66 (1 H, dd, J 9.2 and 7.5, 3-H), 6.97 (2 H, m, ortho-H 2-Ph), 7.49 (2 H, m, ortho-H 3-Ph) and 6.89–7.38 (6 H, m, other ArH).

Hetero-Diels-Alder Cycloaddition of the Ketene Acetal **3** with Chalcone.—The ketene acetal **3** (0.166 g, 1.46 mmol) and chalcone (0.3 g, 1.46 mmol) when irradiated at 780 W for 10 min (final temp. 110 °C) gave compound **16** (0.34 g, 73%); eluent: toluene; m.p. 89–91 °C (Found: C, 78.15; H, 6.95. Calc. for  $C_{21}H_{22}O_3$ : C, 78.25; H, 6.9%);  $v_{max}(KBr)/cm^{-1}$  3023 (=C-H), 1596 (C=C) and 1018 (C-O);  $\delta_H(300 \text{ MHz}; [^2H_6]DMSO)$ 1.15 and 1.20 (6 H, 2 × d, J 6.5, 4'- and 5'-CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.07 (1 H, t, J 12.2, 5a-H), 2.18 (1 H, dd, J 12.2 and 6.6, 5b-H), 3.89 (1 H, ddd, J 12.2, 6.6 and 2.2, 4-H), 4.60 and 4.71 (2 H, 2 × m, 4'- and 5'-H), 5.52 (1 H, d, J 2.2, 3-H), 7.36 (2 H, m, ortho-H 4-Ph), 7.61 (2 H, m, ortho-H 2-Ph) and 7.21–7.41 (6 H, m, other ArH).

1,3-Dipolar Cycloaddition of the Ketene Acetal 4 with N-(Benzylidene)phenylamine N-Oxide.-The ketene acetal 4 (0.40 g, 1.68 mmol) and N-(benzylidene)phenylamine N-oxide (0.33 g, 1.68 mmol) when irradiated at 780 W for 10 min (final temp. 150 °C) gave the cycloadduct 17 (0.695 g, 95%), m.p. 154-155 °C (Found: C, 79.85; H, 5.85; N, 3.15. Calc. for C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>25</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>: C, 80.0; H, 5.75; N, 3.2%);  $v_{max}(KBr)/cm^{-1}$  3034 (=C-H), 1598 (C=C) and 1046 (C-O);  $\delta_{\rm H}(300 \text{ MHz}; \text{CDCl}_3) 3.12$  (1 H, dd, J 13.2 and 8.6, 4a-H), 3.37 (1 H, dd, J 13.2 and 8.0, 4b-H), 4.83 (1 H, t, J 8.6 and 8.3, 3-H), 5.76 and 5.79 (2 H, 2 × d, J 7.2, 4'and 5'-H), 6.94 (4 H, m, ortho-H 4'- and 5'-Ph), 7.07 (2 H, m, ortho-H 2-Ph), 7.19 (2 H, m, meta-H 2-Ph), 7.32 (1 H, m, para-H 3-Ph), 7.39 (2 H, m, meta-H 3-Ph), 7.57 (2 H, m, ortho-H 3-Ph) and 6.93–7.07 (7 H, m, other ArH);  $\delta_{\rm C}$ (75 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 45.03 (C-4), 70.67 (C-3), 81.70 and 82.02 (C-4' and -5'), 126.22, 135.96, 136.08, 140.38 and 150.84 (C-5 and C-arom).

1,3-Dipolar Cycloaddition of the Ketene Acetal 4 with N-(4-Trifluorobenzylidene)phenylamine N-Oxide.—The ketene acetal 4 (0.1 g, 0.42 mmol) and N-(4-trifluorobenzylidene)phenylamine N-oxide<sup>10</sup> (0.102 g, 0.42 mmol) when irradiated at 780 W for 10 min (final temp. 100 °C) gave compound **18** (0.16 g, 79%), m.p. 162–163 °C (Found: C, 72.7; H, 5.1; N, 5.8. Calc. for C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>24</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>: C, 72.5; H, 5.0; N, 5.8%);  $v_{max}$ (KBr)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 3034 (=C-H), 1597 (C=C), 1523 (C-NO<sub>2</sub>) and 1047 (C-O);  $\delta_{H}$ (300 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 3.04 (1 H, dd, J 13.5 and 7.9, 4a-H), 3.44 (1 H, dd, J 13.5 and 8.3, 4b-H), 4.99 (1 H, t, J 8.3 and 7.9, 3-H), 5.76 (2 H, s, 4'- and 5'-H), 6.89–7.21 (15 H, m, ArH 2-, 4'- and 5'-Ph), 7.77 (2 H, m, ortho-H 3-Ph) and 8.25 (2 H, m, meta-H 3-Ph);  $\delta_{C}$ (75 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 44.17 (C-4), 69.58 (C-3), 81.65 and 82.15 (C-4' and -5') and116.41–150.22 (C-5 and C-arom).

Hetero-Diels–Alder Cycloaddition of the Ketene Acetal 4 with Methyl Vinyl Ketone.—The ketene acetal 4 (0.273 g, 1.14 mmol) and methyl vinyl ketone (0.08 g, 1.14 mmol) when irradiated at 780 W for 10 min (final temp. 100 °C) gave compound 19 (0.24 g, 69%), m.p. 90–91 °C (Found: C, 78.05; H, 6.5. Calc. for  $C_{20}H_{20}O_3$ : C, 77.9; H, 6.55%);  $v_{max}(KBr)/cm^{-1}$  3064 (=C–H), 1690 (C=C) and 1096 and 1026 (C–O);  $\delta_{\rm H}(200 \text{ MHz}; \text{CDCl}_3)$ 1.83 (3 H, s, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.33 (4 H, m, 4- and 5-H), 4.64 (1 H, m, 3-H), 5.79 (2 H, s, 4'- and 5'-H) and 6.93–7.06 (10 H, m, ArH);  $\delta_{\rm C}(75 \text{ MHz}; \text{CDCl}_3)$  19.78, 19.94 and 28.29 (C-4, -5 and CH<sub>3</sub>), 81.46 (C-3), 95.68 (C-4' and -5') and 118.93–148.88 (C-2, -5 and C-arom).

Hetero-Diels-Alder Cycloaddition of the Ketene Acetal 4 with Chalcone.-The ketene acetal 4 (0.46 g, 1.93 mmol) and chalcone (0.38 g, 1.93 mmol) when irradiated at 780 W for 10 min (final temp. 155 °C) gave the cycloadduct 20 (0.78 g, 91%); eluent: toluene; m.p. 110-111 °C (Found: C, 83.25; H, 5.8. Calc. for  $C_{31}H_{26}O_3$ : C, 83.4; H, 5.8%;  $v_{max}(KBr)/cm^{-1}$ 3026 (=C-H), 1649 (C=C) and 1013 (C-O); δ<sub>H</sub>(300 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 2.52 (1 H, t, J 12.9 and 12.2, 5a-H), 2.75 (1 H, ddd, J 12.9, 6.3 and 1.2, 5b-H), 4.14 (1 H, ddd, J 12.2, 6.3 and 2.3, 4-H), 5.55 (1 H, m, 3-H), 5.87 and 5.97 (2 H, 2  $\times$  d, J 7.6, 4'- and 5'-H), 6.99 and 7.02 (4 H, m, ortho-H 4'- and 5'-Ph), 7.42 (2 H, m, ortho-H 4-Ph), 7.68 (2 H, m, ortho-H 2-Ph) and 6.98-7.42 (12 H, m, other ArH);  $\delta_{\rm C}$ (75 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 37.38 (C-5), 38.76 (C-4), 81.39 and 82.15 (C-4' and -5'), 101.75 (C-3), 119.66 (C-2) and 124.79-170.58 (C-6 and C-arom).

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