

Mechanism of Scandium Ion Catalyzed Diels–Alder Reaction of Anthracenes with Methyl Vinyl Ketone

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Rates of Diels–Alder cycloadditions of anthracenes with methyl vinyl ketone (MVK) are accelerated significantly by the presence of scandium triflate [Sc(OTf)₃]. Sc(OTf)₃ also promotes photoinduced electron-transfer reactions from various electron donors to MVK significantly. Comparison of the promoting effect of Sc(OTf)₃ in photoinduced electron-transfer reactions of MVK with the catalytic effect of Sc(OTf)₃ in the Diels–Alder reaction of 9,10-dimethylanthracene with MVK has revealed that the MVK–Sc(OTf)₃ complex is a reactive intermediate in both the Diels–Alder and photoinduced electron-transfer reactions. The observed second-order rate constants of the Sc(OTf)₃-catalyzed Diels–Alder reactions of anthracenes with MVK are by far larger than those expected from the observed linear Gibbs energy relation for the Diels–Alder reactions of anthracenes with stronger electron acceptors than MVK, which are known to proceed via electron transfer. This indicates that the Sc(OTf)₃-catalyzed Diels–Alder reactions of anthracenes with MVK does not proceed via an electron-transfer process from anthracenes to the MVK–Sc(OTf)₃ complex.

Introduction

The Diels–Alder reaction is one of the most important reactions in the synthesis of natural products and physiologically active molecules.¹ Extensive efforts have been devoted to develop newer methods to improve the yields and selectivities of the [4+2] cycloaddition reactions as well as other cycloadditions.^{1–3} The Diels–Alder reaction is generally believed to proceed via a thermally allowed concerted process, governed by one of the Woodward–Hoffmann's rules.^{1–4} The Diels–Alder reaction requires opposite electronic features of the substituents at the diene (electron donating) and the dienophile (electron withdrawing) ends for the reaction to be reasonably fast.^{4–6} Unsymmetrical substitution often favors an asynchronous concerted mechanism including biradicaloid transition states or stepwise processes, whereas Diels–Alder reactions of symmetrical addends usually involve synchronous C–C bond formation.^{4–7} On the other hand, there have recently been increasing interests in the important role of electron-transfer processes as the activation step for some Diels–Alder reactions of electron-rich dienes with high-lying HOMO with electron-deficient dienophiles with low-lying LUMO.^{8,9} Since the photoexcitation results in a significant change in the HOMO or LUMO level, photoinduced electron transfer between dienes and dienophiles leads to the Diels–Alder reaction which is thermally inaccessible.^{10–13} The LUMO level of dienophiles can also be decreased by complexation with Lewis acids and thus, Lewis acid catalyzed Diels–Alder reaction has extensively been studied because of the broad utility in total synthesis, becoming a classic reaction for the evaluation of new chiral Lewis acids.^{1–3,14–19} The decrease in the LUMO level of dienophiles is expected to enhance the concerted reactivity in the Diels–Alder reaction, because of the stronger HOMO–LUMO interaction. At the same time, the electron-transfer reactivity of the

dienophile, which can act as an electron acceptor, is also enhanced by the complexation of the dienophile with Lewis acids.^{20,21} Such mechanistic dichotomy, i.e., the role of electron transfer has been clarified in Diels–Alder reaction of anthracenes with *p*-benzoquinone (Q), catalyzed by metal ions acting as Lewis acids,²² which has provided the experimental proof of the electron-transfer mechanism of metal ion catalyzed Diels–Alder reaction.²²

In the case of relatively strong electron acceptors such as Q, metal ions can form complexes only with the one-electron reduced species (Q^{•-}) whereas Q itself is not basic enough to form the complex with metal ions which act as Lewis acids.²² When Q is replaced by a dienophile which is a much weaker electron acceptor than Q, the dienophile can form the metal ion complex, which may react directly with a diene via an enhanced concerted pathway. From the viewpoint of developing newer methods to improve the yields and selectivities of the Diels–Alder reaction, it is important to clarify the mechanism of metal ion catalyzed Diels–Alder reaction when metal ion can form a complex with a dienophile. With regard to the existing uncertainty concerning this dichotomy, important questions arise: What are the factors that determine whether metal ion catalyzed Diels–Alder reaction proceeds via an electron transfer or a concerted (synchronous or asynchronous) pathway? However, such a mechanistic dichotomy has yet to be clarified for Diels–Alder reactions of metal ion complexes of dienophiles.

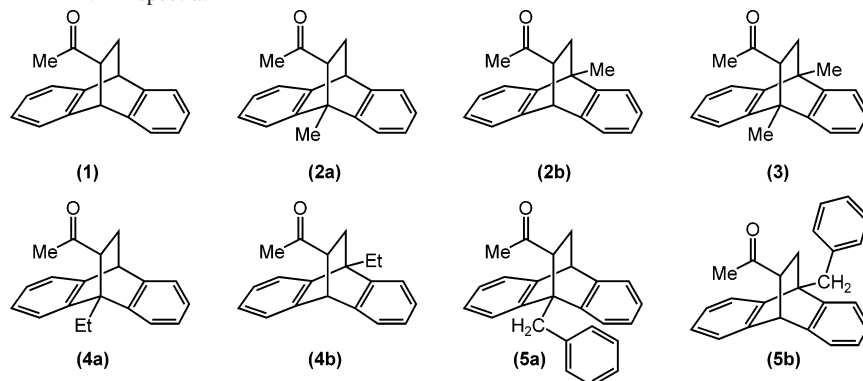
We report herein that Diels–Alder reactions of anthracenes with methyl vinyl ketone (MVK), which can form 1:1 complex with Sc³⁺, proceed efficiently via a scandium triflate [Sc(OTf)₃]-catalyzed process. The catalytic effects of Sc³⁺ salts in the Diels–Alder reaction of MVK are fully compared with the promoting effects of Sc³⁺ salts in photoinduced electron-transfer reactions. The direct spectroscopic detection of complexes formed between the radical anion of MVK and Sc(OTf)₃, combined with the detailed kinetic analysis of the catalytic

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TABLE 1: Yields of Products in Diels–Alder Reactions of Anthracene Derivatives with MVK in the Absence and Presence of Sc(OTf)₃ (2.0 × 10⁻² M) in CD₃CN at 343 K

anthracene derivative	[Sc(OTf) ₃] (M)	time	product	yield ^a (%)	selectivity
anthracene	2.0 × 10 ⁻²	120 days	1	100	
9-methylanthracene	2.0 × 10 ⁻²	60 min	2a	100	100 (2a):0 (2b)
	0	21 days	2a and 2b	40	75 (2a):25 (2b)
9,10-dimethylanthracene	2.0 × 10 ⁻²	60 min	3	100	
9-ethylanthracene	2.0 × 10 ⁻²	60 min	4a and 4b	85	82 (4a):18 (4b)
	0	14 days	4a and 4b	26	77 (4a):23 (4b)
9-benzylanthracene	2.0 × 10 ⁻²	90 min	5a and 5b	93	97 (5a):3 (5b)
	0	14 days	5a and 5b	4	75 (5a):25 (5b)

^a Determined by 400-MHz ¹H NMR spectra.



effects of Sc³⁺ salts on the Diels–Alder reactions and the promoting effects of Sc³⁺ salts on electron-transfer reactions of MVK provides a confirmative basis to delineate the catalytic mechanism of Sc³⁺ salts in the Diels–Alder reaction.

Results and Discussion

Effects of Scandium Ion on Diels–Alder and Electron-Transfer Reactions of Methyl Vinyl Ketone. No reaction of 9,10-dimethylanthracene (DMA) with methyl vinyl ketone (MVK) occurred in MeCN at 298 K. However, addition of Sc(OTf)₃ (2.0 × 10⁻² M) to the DMA–MVK system results in the efficient [4+2] cycloaddition to yield the adduct selectively. The [4+2] cycloaddition of anthracene, 9-methylanthracene, 9-ethylanthracene, and 9-benzylanthracene with MVK also occurs efficiently in the presence of Sc(OTf)₃ to yield the corresponding adducts. The product yields in the absence and presence of Sc(OTf)₃ are listed in Table 1. In the absence of Sc(OTf)₃, the Diels–Alder reaction of 9-methylanthracene occurs at a high temperature 343 K, when two regioisomers (**2a** and **2b**) were obtained in 3:1 ratio. In the presence of Sc(OTf)₃ (2.0 × 10⁻² M), however, the reaction occurs much more efficiently at 343 K, when only one regioisomer (**2a**) was obtained selectively.²³ The regioselectivity (**4a** vs **4b** or **5a** vs **5b**) is also improved in the presence of Sc(OTf)₃ in the case of 9-ethylanthracene and 9-benzylanthracene (Table 1).

The rates of Diels–Alder reaction of DMA with MVK in the presence of Sc(OTf)₃ (2.0 × 10⁻² M) in MeCN at 298 K were determined by monitoring the disappearance of absorbance due to DMA ($\lambda_{\max} = 398$ nm, $\epsilon_{\max} = 7.5 \times 10^3$ M⁻¹ cm⁻¹) as shown in Figure 1. The rates obeyed pseudo-first-order kinetics in the presence of large excess MVK and Sc(OTf)₃ relative to the concentration of DMA.

The rate of Diels–Alder reaction becomes 31 times faster when tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)borate anion [B(C₆F₅)₄]⁻²⁴ is used instead of triflate anion (OTf⁻) as the counteranion (X⁻) of scandium ion under the same experimental conditions ([MVK] = 3.0 × 10⁻² M, [Sc(X)₃] = 2.0 × 10⁻² M, [DMA] = 2.2 × 10⁻⁴ M); see inset of Figure 1.

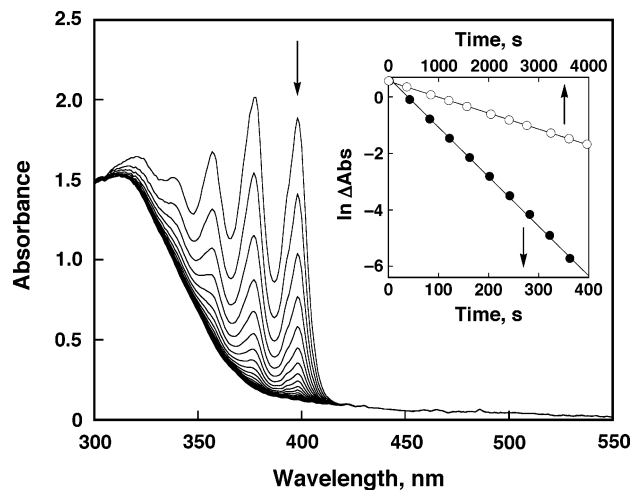


Figure 1. Spectral changes observed in the Diels–Alder reaction of 9,10-dimethylanthracene (2.2 × 10⁻⁴ M) with MVK (3.0 × 10⁻² M) in the presence of Sc(OTf)₃ (2.0 × 10⁻² M) in deaerated MeCN at 298 K. Inset: First-order plots in Diels–Alder reaction of 9,10-dimethylanthracene (2.2 × 10⁻⁴ M) with MVK (3.0 × 10⁻² M) in the presence of Sc(OTf)₃ (○, 2.0 × 10⁻² M) and Sc[B(C₆F₅)₄]₃ (●, 2.0 × 10⁻² M) in deaerated MeCN at 298 K.

The pseudo-first-order rate constants ($k_{(1)}$) of the Diels–Alder reactions of the other anthracenes also increase proportionally with MVK concentration (see Supporting Information S2). The second-order rate constants (k_{obs}) were determined from the slopes of the linear relations between $k_{(1)}$ and MVK concentration. The dependence of k_{obs} on [Sc(OTf)₃] was examined for Diels–Alder reaction of DMA with MVK at various concentrations of Sc(OTf)₃. The results are shown in Figure 2a, where the k_{obs} value increases with increasing Sc(OTf)₃ concentration to approach a limited value. The k_{obs} value also increases with increasing Sc[B(C₆F₅)₄]₃ concentration, which is more than 10 times larger than the case of Sc(OTf)₃ at a low concentration region (Figure 2b).²⁵

Sc(OTf)₃ also promotes photoinduced electron transfer from various electron donors to MVK. No emission quenching of

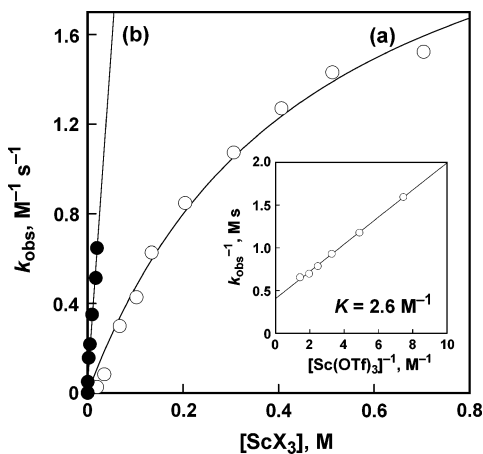


Figure 2. Dependence of k_{obs} on (a) $[\text{Sc}(\text{OTf})_3]$ (○) and (b) $[\text{Sc}[\text{B}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)_4]_3]$ (●) for the Diels–Alder reaction of 9,10-dimethylanthracene (1.0×10^{-4} M) with MVK in the presence of ScX_3 ($\text{X} = \text{OTf}$ and $\text{B}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)_4$) in deaerated MeCN at 298 K. Inset: Plot of k_{obs}^{-1} vs $[\text{Sc}(\text{OTf})_3]^{-1}$.

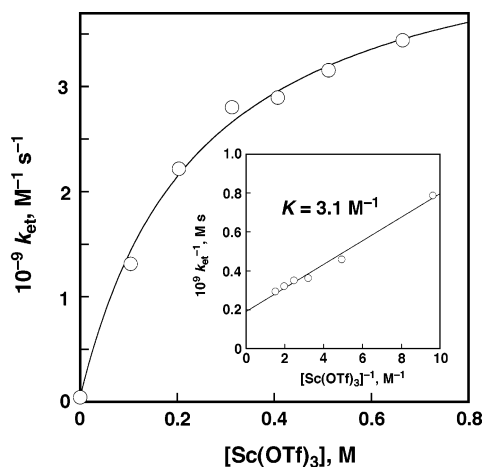


Figure 3. Dependence of k_{et} on $[\text{Sc}(\text{OTf})_3]$ for the fluorescence quenching of 9-cyanoanthracene (9.8×10^{-5} M) by MVK in the presence of $\text{Sc}(\text{OTf})_3$ in deaerated MeCN at 298 K. Inset: Plot of k_{et}^{-1} vs $[\text{Sc}(\text{OTf})_3]^{-1}$.

$\text{Ru}(\text{bpy})_3^{2+}$ by MVK was observed in MeCN. However, addition of $\text{Sc}(\text{OTf})_3$ to an MeCN solution of $\text{Ru}(\text{bpy})_3^{2+}$ and MVK results in efficient quenching of the $\text{Ru}(\text{bpy})_3^{2+}$ emission. The fluorescence quenching of anthracenes (anthracene, 9-methylanthracene, 9,10-dibromoanthracene, and 9-cyanoanthracene) by MVK are also promoted by $\text{Sc}(\text{OTf})_3$ (see Supporting Information S3,4). The rate constants of photoinduced electron transfer (k_{et}) were determined from slopes of Stern–Volmer plots and the fluorescence lifetimes (see Supporting Information and Experimental Section). The saturated dependence of the photoinduced electron-transfer rate constants (k_{et}) on $[\text{Sc}(\text{OTf})_3]$ is also observed as shown in Figure 3.

The saturated dependence of k_{obs} (Figure 2a) and k_{et} (Figure 3) with respect to concentration of $\text{Sc}(\text{OTf})_3$ results from the 1:1 complex formation between MVK and $\text{Sc}(\text{OTf})_3$, which enhances the electrophilic and electron acceptor ability of MVK to accelerate the Diels–Alder and photoinduced electron-transfer reactions as shown in Scheme 1. Such 1:1 complex formation between MVK and $\text{Sc}(\text{OTf})_3$ is confirmed by a UV–vis spectral change of MVK in the presence of various concentrations of $\text{Sc}(\text{OTf})_3$ as shown in Figure 4. Such an absorbance change due to the complex formation is expressed by eq 1, which is rewritten by eq 2, where A_0 and A_∞ are absorbance at 282 nm due to MVK and absorbance due to the MVK– $\text{Sc}(\text{OTf})_3$

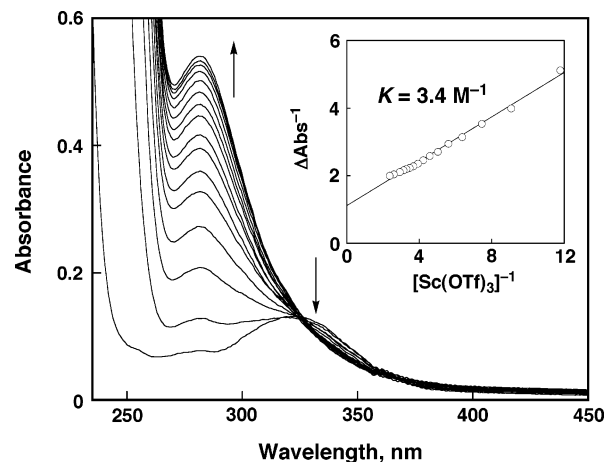


Figure 4. UV–visible absorption spectra of MVK (2.1×10^{-2} M) in the presence of various concentrations of $\text{Sc}(\text{OTf})_3$ (0 to 4.2×10^{-1} M) in MeCN at 298 K (2 mm path length). Inset: Plot of ΔAbs^{-1} at 283 nm vs $[\text{Sc}(\text{OTf})_3]^{-1}$.

TABLE 2: Observed Second-Order Rate Constant (k_{obs}^0) of $\text{Sc}(\text{OTf})_3$ -Promoted Diels–Alder Reaction of 9,10-Dimethylanthracene with the MVK– $\text{Sc}(\text{OTf})_3$ Complex, Electron Transfer Rate Constant (k_{et}^0) of Fluorescence Quenching of 9-Cyanoanthracene by the MVK– $\text{Sc}(\text{OTf})_3$ Complex, and Formation Constant of the MVK– $\text{Sc}(\text{OTf})_3$ Complex (K) in Deaerated MeCN at 298 K

electron donor	k_{obs}^0 and k_{et}^0 ($\text{M}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1}$)	K^a (M^{-1})
9,10-dimethylanthracene	2.5	2.6
9-cyanoanthracene	5.2×10^9	3.1

^a Determined from the dependence of k_{obs} or k_{et} on $[\text{Sc}(\text{OTf})_3]$ based on eq 4. The experimental error is $\pm 10\%$.

complex, respectively. The formation constant (K) is obtained

$$A - A_0 = K[\text{Sc}(\text{OTf})_3](A_\infty - A_0)/(1 + K[\text{Sc}(\text{OTf})_3]) \quad (1)$$

$$(A - A_0)^{-1} = (A_\infty - A_0)^{-1} + \{K[\text{Sc}(\text{OTf})_3](A_\infty - A_0)\}^{-1} \quad (2)$$

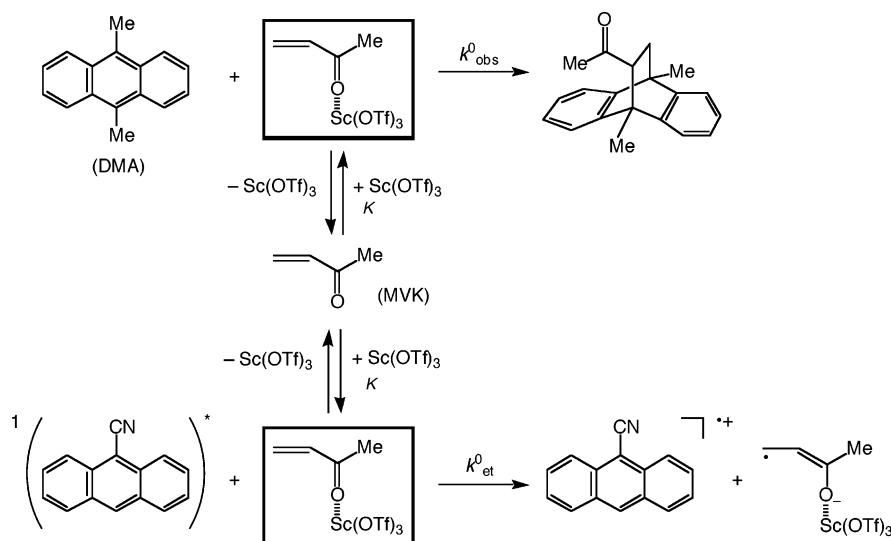
as 3.4 M^{-1} from a linear plot of $(A - A_0)^{-1}$ ($= \Delta\text{Abs}^{-1}$) vs $[\text{Sc}(\text{OTf})_3]^{-1}$ (see inset of Figure 4). If both the Diels–Alder and photoinduced electron-transfer reactions proceed via the MVK– $\text{Sc}(\text{OTf})_3$ complex (Scheme 1), the dependence of second-order rate constant of Diels–Alder reaction (k_{obs}) and the fluorescence quenching rate constant (k_{et}) is expressed by eq 3, which is rewritten by a linear relation between k_{obs}^{-1} (or k_{et}^{-1}) and $[\text{Sc}(\text{OTf})_3]^{-1}$ (eq 4). From the slopes and intercepts

$$k_{\text{obs}} \text{ (or } k_{\text{et}}) = k_{\text{obs}}^0 \text{ (or } k_{\text{et}}^0)K[\text{Sc}(\text{OTf})_3]/(1 + K[\text{Sc}(\text{OTf})_3]) \quad (3)$$

$$k_{\text{obs}}^{-1} \text{ (or } k_{\text{et}}^{-1}) = \{k_{\text{obs}}^0 \text{ (or } k_{\text{et}}^0)K[\text{Sc}(\text{OTf})_3]\}^{-1} + k_{\text{obs}}^0{}^{-1} \text{ (or } k_{\text{et}}^0{}^{-1}) \quad (4)$$

of linear plots of k_{obs}^{-1} vs $[\text{Sc}(\text{OTf})_3]^{-1}$ (inset of Figure 2) and k_{et}^{-1} vs $[\text{Sc}(\text{OTf})_3]^{-1}$ (inset of Figure 3) are obtained the K values which are listed in Table 2 together with the k_{obs}^0 and k_{et}^0 values. These K values derived from $\text{Sc}(\text{OTf})_3$ -catalyzed Diels–Alder reaction ($K = 2.6 \text{ M}^{-1}$) and the electron transfer ($K = 3.1 \text{ M}^{-1}$) agree with that determined from UV–vis spectral change of MVK in the presence of various concentrations of $\text{Sc}(\text{OTf})_3$ ($K = 3.4 \text{ M}^{-1}$). Such agreement indicates that the MVK– $\text{Sc}(\text{OTf})_3$ complex is a common reactive intermediate in both reactions.

SCHEME 1



Large Positive Shift in the One-Electron Reduction Potential of MVK Due to the Complex Formation with Sc(OTf)₃. Since direct electrochemical measurements of MVK were complicated by the irreversible behavior upon the one-electron reduction, we have examined rates of outer-sphere electron-transfer reduction of MVK in the absence and in the presence of 5.0×10^{-1} M Sc(OTf)₃,²⁶ from which the one-electron reduction potentials can be deduced (vide infra). A large positive shift in the one-electron reduction potential of MVK in the presence of 5.0×10^{-1} M Sc(OTf)₃ as compared with that of MVK in the absence of Sc(OTf)₃ is estimated by comparing the electron-transfer rate constants of photoinduced electron-transfer reduction of MVK in the presence of 5.0×10^{-1} M Sc(OTf)₃ with those in the absence of Sc(OTf)₃ in MeCN at 298 K. The k_{et} value of the emission quenching by photoinduced electron transfer is obtained by eq 5, where Z is the collision frequency, taken as 1×10^{11} M⁻¹ s⁻¹, ΔG^\ddagger is the

$$1/k_{\text{et}} = 1/\{Z \exp[-(\Delta G^\ddagger/k_{\text{B}}T)]\} + 1/k_{\text{diff}} \quad (5)$$

activation free energy of the bimolecular electron-transfer process, k_{B} is the Boltzmann constant, and k_{diff} is the diffusion rate constant which is taken as 2×10^{10} M⁻¹ s⁻¹ in MeCN.^{27,28} The dependence of ΔG^\ddagger on the free energy change of electron transfer (ΔG_{et} in eV) has well been established as given by eq 6, where $\Delta G_{\text{et}}^{\ddagger_0}$ is the intrinsic barrier that represents the

$$\Delta G^\ddagger = (\Delta G_{\text{et}}/2) + [(\Delta G_{\text{et}}/2)^2 + (\Delta G_{\text{et}}^{\ddagger_0})^2]^{1/2} \quad (6)$$

activation Gibbs energy when the driving force of electron transfer is zero, that is, $\Delta G^\ddagger = \Delta G_{\text{et}}^{\ddagger_0}$ at $\Delta G_{\text{et}} = 0$.²⁷ On the other hand, the ΔG_{et} values are obtained from the one-electron oxidation potential of the excited state of donors (E_{ox}) and the one-electron reduction potential of the acceptors (E_{red}) by using eq 7, where e is the elementary charge.^{27–29} From eqs 6 and 7 is derived a linear relation between $E_{\text{ox}} - (\Delta G^\ddagger/e)$ and $(\Delta G^\ddagger)^{-1}$

$$\Delta G_{\text{et}} = e(E_{\text{ox}} - E_{\text{red}}) \quad (7)$$

as shown in eq 8.²⁸ The ΔG^\ddagger values are obtained from the photoinduced electron transfer rate constants (k_{et}) of electron

$$E_{\text{ox}} - (\Delta G^\ddagger/e) = E_{\text{red}} - (\Delta G_{\text{et}}^{\ddagger_0}/e)^2/(\Delta G^\ddagger/e) \quad (8)$$

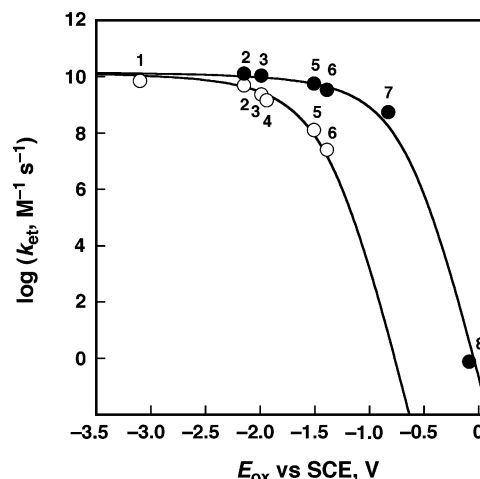


Figure 5. Plots of $\log k_{\text{et}}$ vs E_{ox} for electron transfer from the excited states and ground state of various donors to MVK in the absence of Sc(OTf)₃ (○) and in the presence of 5.0×10^{-1} M Sc(OTf)₃ (●) in deaerated MeCN at 298 K. Numbers correspond to electron donors in Table 3.

transfer from excited donors to acceptors using eq 5. We can choose appropriate electron donors whose E_{ox} values are known or readily determined. Thus, the unknown values of E_{red} and $\Delta G_{\text{et}}^{\ddagger_0}$ can be determined from the intercept and slope of the linear plots of $E_{\text{ox}} - (\Delta G^\ddagger/e)$ vs $(\Delta G^\ddagger/e)^{-1}$ using eq 8.

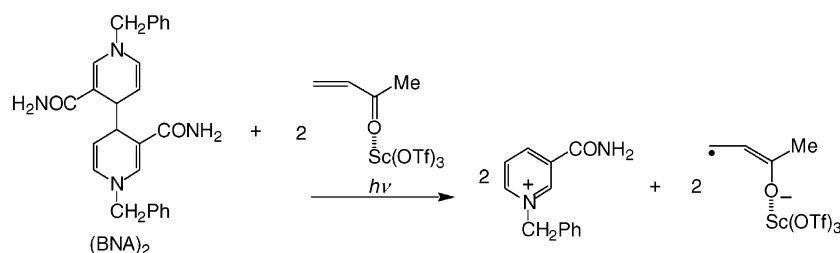
A number of k_{et} values of photoinduced electron transfer from the singlet excited states of electron donors and the excited state of Ru(bpy)₃²⁺ to MVK in the absence of Sc(OTf)₃ and in the presence of 5.0×10^{-1} M Sc(OTf)₃ were determined from fluorescence quenching by MVK. The results are summarized in Table 3 together with the one-electron oxidation potentials (E_{ox}) of electron donors examined in this study. The E_{ox}^* values of the excited states are obtained by subtracting the 0,0-excitation energies ($\Delta E_{0,0}$) from the one-electron oxidation potentials in the ground states (E_{ox}).^{30,31}

Figure 5 shows plots of $\log k_{\text{et}}$ vs E_{ox} for photoinduced electron transfer from the excited states of various electron donors and thermal electron transfer from electron donors to MVK in the absence and the presence of Sc(OTf)₃ (5.0×10^{-1} M) in MeCN at 298 K. In both cases the $\log k_{\text{et}}$ values increase with decrease in the E_{ox} value to reach a diffusion-limited value.³² The E_{red} value of MVK (-1.32 V vs SCE) and that in

TABLE 3: Rate Constants (k_{et}) of Electron Transfer from Electron Donors to MVK and the MVK–Sc(OTf)₃ Complex in the Absence and Presence of Sc(OTf)₃ (5.0×10^{-1} M) in Deaerated MeCN at 298 K and One-Electron Oxidation Potentials of Electron Donors (E_{ox}), Excitation Energies ($\Delta E_{0,0}$) and One-Electron Oxidation Potentials (E_{ox}^*) of Singlet Excited States of Electron Donors in MeCN at 298 K

no.	electron donor ^a	E_{ox} (V vs SCE)	$\Delta E_{0,0}^b$ (eV)	E_{ox}^{*c} (V vs SCE)	in the absence of Sc(OTf) ₃ k_{et}^d (M ⁻¹ s ⁻¹)	in the presence of 5.0×10^{-1} M Sc(OTf) ₃ k_{et} (M ⁻¹ s ⁻¹)
1	10-methyl-9,10-dihydroacridine*	0.80	3.90	-3.10	7.2×10^9	
2	anthracene*	1.19	3.34	-2.15	5.0×10^9	1.3×10^{10f}
3	9-methylanthracene*	1.11	3.10	-1.99	2.4×10^9	1.1×10^{10f}
4	9,10-dimethylanthracene*	1.05	2.99	-1.94	1.5×10^9	<i>g</i>
5	9,10-dibromoanthracene*	1.42	2.93	-1.51	1.3×10^8	5.7×10^9f
6	9-cyanoanthracene*	1.55	2.94	-1.39	2.6×10^7	3.4×10^9f
7	Ru(bpy) ₃ (Cl) ₂ * ^g	1.29	2.12	-0.83	<i>e</i>	5.6×10^8f
8	Decamethylferrocene	-0.08			n.r.	7.7×10^{-1}

^a The asterisk (*) denotes the excited state. ^b Determined from the absorption maxima and emission maxima in MeCN. ^c Obtained by subtracting the $\Delta E_{0,0}$ values from the E_{ox} values. ^d Determined from the Stern–Volmer plots for the fluorescence quenching. ^e No emission quenching in the absence of Sc(OTf)₃. ^f Determined from the K_{sv}/τ values. ^g Cannot be determined because thermal Diels–Alder reaction is too fast to examine the fluorescence quenching experiment under these conditions.

SCHEME 2

the presence of 5.0×10^{-1} M Sc(OTf)₃ (-0.60 V vs SCE) as well as the ΔG^{\ddagger}_0 value of MVK (0.26 eV) and that in the presence of 5.0×10^{-1} M Sc(OTf)₃ (0.25 eV) were determined from the intercepts and slopes of the linear plots of $E_{\text{ox}} - (\Delta G^{\ddagger}/e)$ vs $(\Delta G^{\ddagger}/e)^{-1}$ using eq 8 (see Supporting Information S5).³¹ The plots of Figure 5 are fitted using the E_{red} and ΔG^{\ddagger}_0 values as shown by solid line, which agrees well with the experimental results. As compared to the E_{red} value of MVK in the absence of Sc(OTf)₃, the E_{red} value in the presence of 5.0×10^{-1} M Sc(OTf)₃ is significantly shifted to the positive direction (+0.72 V). Such a large positive shift in the one-electron reduction potential indicates that the electron acceptor ability of MVK is dramatically enhanced by the complex formation with Sc(OTf)₃.

Electron Spin Resonance (ESR) Detection of the MVK^{•-}–Sc(OTf)₃ Complex. The one-electron reduction of the MVK–Sc(OTf)₃ complex results in formation of the corresponding radical anion complex, MVK^{•-}–Sc(OTf)₃. Although the MVK^{•-}–Sc(OTf)₃ complex is too unstable to be detected by ESR at 298 K, the ESR spectrum has been detected successfully by utilizing photoinduced electron transfer from the dimeric *N*-benzylidihydronicotinamide [(BNA)₂] to MVK in the presence of Sc(OTf)₃ in butyronitrile at low temperatures. Irradiation of a butyronitrile solution containing (BNA)₂ (2.0×10^{-2} M), MVK (6.1×10^{-1} M), and Sc(OTf)₃ (5.0×10^{-1} M) with a mercury lamp at 203 K results in formation of MVK^{•-}–Sc(OTf)₃ by photoinduced electron transfer from the singlet excited state of (BNA)₂ to MVK followed by a fast cleavage of the C–C bond of the dimer and a second electron transfer to MVK (Scheme 2).³² The ESR spectrum thus obtained for the MVK^{•-}–Sc(OTf)₃ complex is shown in Figure 6 together with the computer simulation spectrum. The broad triplet ESR signal indicates that two equivalent protons have a large *hfc* value of 23 G. This indicates that the unpaired electron is localized largely on the γ -carbon and that the negative charge is mainly located on the oxygen atom of MVK, to which one Sc(OTf)₃ binds as shown in Figure 6.³³

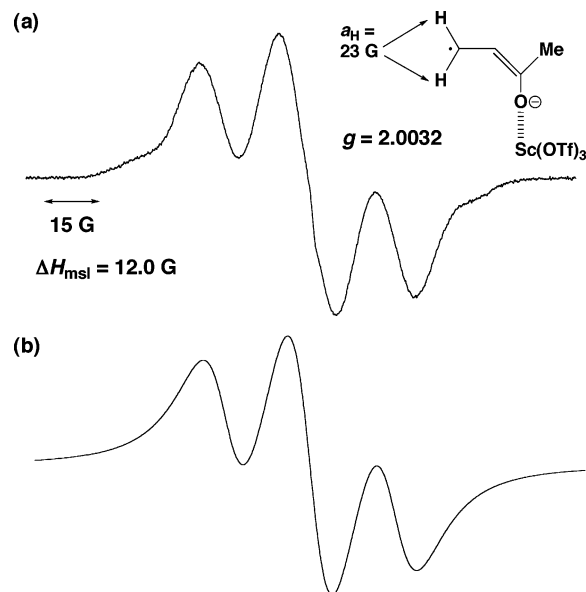


Figure 6. ESR spectrum of a butyronitrile solution containing (BNA)₂ (2.0×10^{-2} M) and MVK (6.1×10^{-1} M) in the presence of Sc(OTf)₃ (5.0×10^{-1} M) observed under photoirradiation with a high-pressure mercury lamp at 203 K.

Mechanism of Scandium Ion Catalyzed Diels–Alder Reaction of Anthracenes with Methyl Vinyl Ketone. The free energy change of electron transfer (ΔG_{et}) from anthracenes to MVK in the presence of 5.0×10^{-1} M Sc(OTf)₃, to Q in the presence of Mg(ClO₄)₂ (1.6 M) and also to tetracyanoethylene (TCNE) can be evaluated from the difference in the oxidation potentials of anthracenes and the reduction potentials of the electron acceptors.^{34,35} The k_{obs} values for the Diels–Alder reactions of anthracenes with MVK in the presence of Sc(OTf)₃ (5.0×10^{-1} M), Q in the presence of Mg(ClO₄)₂ (1.6 M), and

TABLE 4: Rate Constants (k_{obs}) of Diels–Alder Reactions of Anthracenes with TCNE, Q in the Presence of $\text{Mg}(\text{ClO}_4)_2$ (1.6 M), and MVK in the Presence of $\text{Sc}(\text{OTf})_3$ (5.0×10^{-1} M) in Deaerated MeCN at 298 K, One-Electron Oxidation Potentials (E_{ox}) of Anthracenes and One-Electron Reduction Potentials (E_{red}) of TCNE, Q in the Presence of $\text{Mg}(\text{ClO}_4)_2$ (1.6 M), and MVK in the Presence of $\text{Sc}(\text{OTf})_3$ (5.0×10^{-1} M) in MeCN at 298 K, and Free Energy Change of Electron Transfer (ΔG_{et}) from Anthracenes to TCNE, Q in the Presence of $\text{Mg}(\text{ClO}_4)_2$ (1.6 M), and MVK in the Presence of $\text{Sc}(\text{OTf})_3$ (5.0×10^{-1} M) in MeCN at 298 K

no.	electron donor	electron acceptor	metal ion salt	E_{ox}^b (V vs SCE)	E_{red} (V vs SCE)	ΔG_{et} (eV)	k_{obs} ($\text{M}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$)
1	9-methylanthracene	TCNE	<i>a</i>	1.11	0.22 ^c	0.89	1.1×10^3
2	anthracene	TCNE	<i>a</i>	1.19	0.22 ^c	0.97	3.3
3	9-bromoanthracene	TCNE	<i>a</i>	1.30	0.22 ^c	1.08	3.1×10^{-1}
4	9,10-dimethylanthracene	Q	$\text{Mg}(\text{ClO}_4)_2$	1.05	-0.01 ^d	1.06	5.0×10^{-2}
5	9-methylanthracene	Q	$\text{Mg}(\text{ClO}_4)_2$	1.11	-0.01 ^d	1.12	2.5×10^{-3}
6	anthracene	Q	$\text{Mg}(\text{ClO}_4)_2$	1.19	-0.01 ^d	1.20	2.6×10^{-5}
7	9-benzylanthracene	Q	$\text{Mg}(\text{ClO}_4)_2$	1.20	-0.01 ^d	1.21	2.1×10^{-4}
8	9-bromoanthracene	Q	$\text{Mg}(\text{ClO}_4)_2$	1.30	-0.01 ^d	1.31	6.7×10^{-6}
9	9,10-dimethylanthracene	MVK	$\text{Sc}(\text{OTf})_3$	1.05	-0.60	1.65	1.4
10	9-methylanthracene	MVK	$\text{Sc}(\text{OTf})_3$	1.11	-0.60	1.71	4.0×10^{-1}
11	anthracene	MVK	$\text{Sc}(\text{OTf})_3$	1.19	-0.60	1.79	9.2×10^{-3}
12	9-benzylanthracene	MVK	$\text{Sc}(\text{OTf})_3$	1.20	-0.60	1.80	4.3×10^{-2}
13	9-bromoanthracene	MVK	$\text{Sc}(\text{OTf})_3$	1.30	-0.60	1.90	1.9×10^{-3}

^a In the absence of metal ion. ^b Taken from ref 22a. ^c Taken from ref 35. ^d Taken from ref 34.

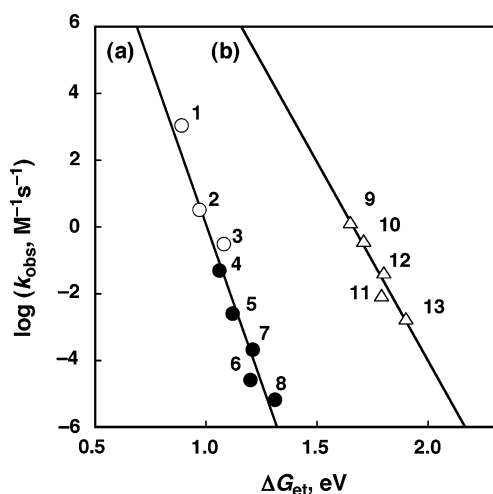


Figure 7. Plots of $\log k_{\text{obs}}$ vs ΔG_{et} for the Diels–Alder reaction of anthracenes with (a) TCNE (\circ), Q in the presence of 1.6 M $\text{Mg}(\text{ClO}_4)_2$ (\bullet), and (b) MVK in the presence of 5.0×10^{-1} M $\text{Sc}(\text{OTf})_3$ (Δ) in deaerated MeCN at 298 K. Numbers refer to those in Table 4.

TCNE in MeCN at 298 K are listed in Table 4 together with the E_{ox} values of anthracenes.^{8a,22}

Plots of $\log k_{\text{obs}}$ vs ΔG_{et} for the Diels–Alder reactions of anthracenes with MVK in the presence of $\text{Sc}(\text{OTf})_3$ (5.0×10^{-1} M), Q in the presence of $\text{Mg}(\text{ClO}_4)_2$ (1.6 M), and TCNE are shown together in Figure 7. First, it should be noted that the Diels–Alder reactions of anthracenes with two different dienophiles, Q in the presence of $\text{Mg}(\text{ClO}_4)_2$ (1.6 M) and TCNE, have a single correlation. Such a single correlation between $\log k_{\text{obs}}$ vs ΔG_{et} has been well understood in terms of the electron-transfer mechanism. The general scheme for an electron-transfer process from an electron donor (D) to an acceptor (A) in the donor–acceptor complex formed between D and A, followed by facile bond formation between $\text{D}^{\bullet+}$ and $\text{A}^{\bullet-}$ to afford the Diels–Alder adduct (D–A) is represented by eq 9, in which electron transfer in the donor–acceptor complex is rate-limiting.



When the electron transfer is endergonic (i.e., $\Delta G_{\text{et}} > 0$), the observed second-order rate constant k_{obs} is given by eq 10, where

K_{DA} is the formation constant of the donor–acceptor complex

$$k_{\text{obs}} = k_{\text{ET}} K_{\text{DA}} \quad (10)$$

and k_{ET} is the rate constant of intracomplex electron transfer. In a highly endergonic region, the activation Gibbs energy for electron transfer $\Delta G_{\text{ET}}^\ddagger$ in the complex is approximately equal to the free energy change of intracomplex electron transfer and, thus, is given by eq 11, where w_{p} and w_{r} represent the energy required to bring together the products and reactants to within

$$\Delta G_{\text{ET}}^\ddagger = \Delta G_{\text{et}} + w_{\text{p}} - w_{\text{r}} \quad (11)$$

the donor–acceptor complex, respectively. The observed second-order rate constant (k_{obs}) in eq 11 can be expressed in terms of $\Delta G_{\text{ET}}^\ddagger$ and w_{r} as eq 12, where Z is the collision frequency. The combination of eqs 11 and 12 affords the linear Gibbs energy

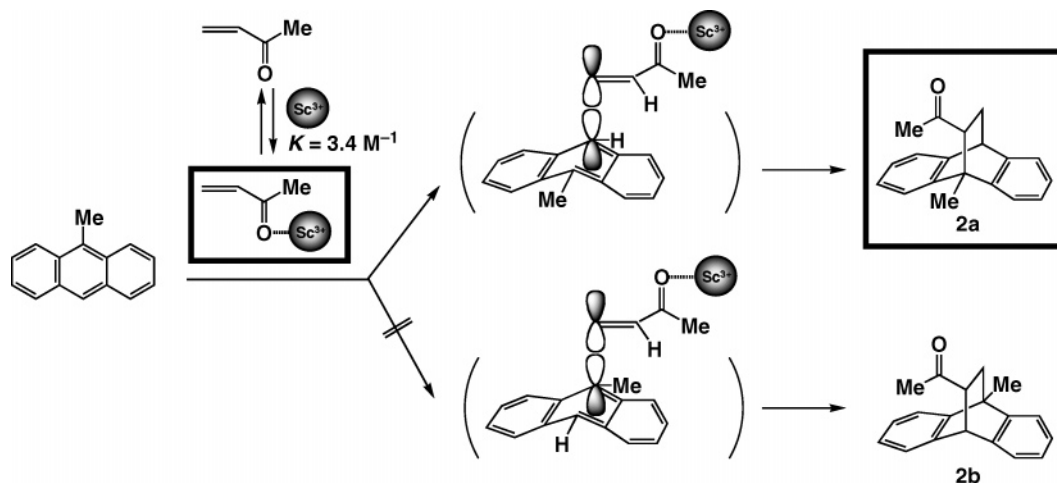
$$k_{\text{obs}} = Z \exp[-(\Delta G_{\text{ET}}^\ddagger + w_{\text{r}})/RT] \quad (12)$$

relation between $\log k_{\text{obs}}$ and ΔG_{et} in eq 13, which agrees with the experimental single linear correlation between $\log k_{\text{obs}}$ and ΔG_{et} for the Diels–Alder reactions of anthracenes with two

$$\log k_{\text{obs}} = -(\Delta G_{\text{et}} + w_{\text{p}})/(2.3RT) + \log Z \quad (13)$$

different dienophiles: Q in the presence of $\text{Mg}(\text{ClO}_4)_2$ (1.6 M) and TCNE (Figure 7a). It should be emphasized that the slope of the linear correlation (-18) agrees with the value expected from eq 13 [$-(2.3RT)^{-1} = -17$ at 298 K]. Thus, the reactivity of anthracenes in the Diels–Alder reactions with both TCNE and Q in the presence of $\text{Mg}(\text{ClO}_4)_2$ is mainly determined by the ΔG_{et} values and is insensitive to the steric effects of alkyl group at the 9-position of anthracene. In the case of TCNE which is a strong electron acceptor, an electron-transfer process from anthracenes to TCNE occurs at a longer distance between the donor and acceptor prior to the bond formation, which requires a short distance as compared with the electron-transfer process. In the case of Q in the presence of $\text{Mg}(\text{ClO}_4)_2$, $\text{Mg}(\text{ClO}_4)_2$ -promoted electron transfer also occurs prior to the bond formation, since the electron-transfer process is enhanced by the formation of complex formation of $\text{Q}^{\bullet-}$ with two $\text{Mg}(\text{ClO}_4)_2$ molecules.²² On the other hand, no enhancement of the concerted process is attained by the presence of $\text{Mg}(\text{ClO}_4)_2$ which cannot form the complex with Q.

SCHEME 3



The k_{obs} values of the Diels–Alder reaction of anthracenes with the MVK–Sc(OTf)₃ complex are also linearly correlated with ΔG_{et} as shown in Figure 7b. However, the slope of the linear correlation (12) in Figure 7b is smaller than those expected from eq 13, and more importantly the $\log k_{\text{obs}}$ values are by far larger than those expected from the single linear correlation of $\log k_{\text{obs}}$ vs ΔG_{et} for the Diels–Alder reactions with TCNE and Q in Figure 7a. Such a significant difference from the linear correlation of the Diels–Alder reactions via electron transfer indicates that the Diels–Alder reactions of anthracenes with the MVK–Sc(OTf)₃ complex do not proceed via an electron-transfer pathway. The LUMO level of the MVK–Sc(OTf)₃ complex is significantly lowered as compared with that of MVK as indicated by the positive shift in the one-electron reduction potential (vide supra). The lower LUMO level of the MVK–Sc(OTf)₃ complex would result in the stronger orbital interaction with anthracenes, leading to the enhancement of the reactivity of the concerted process. Although an electron-transfer process is also enhanced by the complex formation of MVK with Sc(OTf)₃ as shown in Figure 5, the strong orbital interaction between anthracenes and the MVK–Sc(OTf)₃ complex results in a much faster rate than the corresponding electron transfer rate (Figure 7). The highly localized unpaired electron at the γ -carbon of MVK in the MVK^{•-}–Sc(OTf)₃ complex as indicated by the ESR spectrum in Figure 6 indicates that the LUMO orbital coefficient is also highly localized at the γ -carbon of MVK in the MVK–Sc(OTf)₃ complex. In such a case, the bond formation process may be highly asynchronous, when the initial C–C bond formation may occur between the less sterically hindered carbon (10 position) of 9-methylanthracene and the γ -carbon of MVK in the MVK–Sc(OTf)₃ complex predominantly over the 9-position due to the steric hindrance of methyl group as shown in Scheme 3. This can account for the regioselective addition of MVK to 9-methylanthracene and also other 9-alkylanthracenes in Table 1.

Summary and Conclusions

Sc(OTf)₃ promotes both Diels–Alder reactions of anthracenes with the MVK–Sc(OTf)₃ complex and photoinduced electron transfer from various electron donors to the MVK–Sc(OTf)₃ complex. The saturated dependence of the second-order rate constant of Diels–Alder reaction and electron transfer with respect to concentration of Sc(OTf)₃ reveals that MVK–Sc(OTf)₃ complex reacts directly with anthracenes or electron donors. Extensive comparisons of Diels–Alder reactions of anthracenes with the MVK–Sc(OTf)₃ complex, TCNE, and Q

in the presence of Mg(ClO₄)₂ reveal that Diels–Alder reactions of anthracenes with the MVK–Sc(OTf)₃ complex do not proceed via an electron transfer process. The bond formation process may be highly asynchronous, which induces regioselective addition of MVK to 9-alkylanthracene.

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Supporting Information Available: Experimental section (S1), dependence of pseudo-first-order rate constant on [MVK] for Diels–Alder reaction of anthracenes with the MVK–Sc(OTf)₃ complex (S2), fluorescence decay profiles of electron donors in the absence and presence of Sc(OTf)₃ (S3), Stern–Volmer plots for fluorescence quenching by MVK and the MVK–Sc(OTf)₃ complex (S4), plots of $E_{\text{ox}} - (\Delta G^{\ddagger}/e)$ vs $(\Delta G^{\ddagger}/e)^{-1}$ in the absence and presence of Sc(OTf)₃ (S5). This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

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