

reflection of [3]1 and (020) of [4]1 correspond closely to molecular lengths. Absence of diffraction in this region from [n]1 is due to the lack of uniform chain length in the polymer. Reflections (110) of [3]1 and (100) of [4]1 reveal a separation of  $\sim 5.2$  Å between parallel molecular axes. The polymer has a strong peak at this  $d$  value, indicating that the staffs of varying lengths pack in a similar manner. Reflections (006) of [3]1 and (080) of [4]1 arise from intrastaff repetition of the bicyclic cages; in the polymer,  $d \approx 3 \frac{1}{3}$  Å. The comparison leaves no doubt that poly-([1.1.1]propellane) indeed is a mixture of [n]staffanes with larger values of  $n$ , as deduced originally<sup>1</sup> from the CP-MAS <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum.

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### Rearrangement Approach to Bridgehead Substitution of 1-Methoxybicyclo[2.2.2]oct-5-en-2-ones

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Bicyclo[2.2.2]oct-5-en-2-ones (**1**) are potential compounds which are convertible into [5-5] fused-ring systems (**2**) by the triplet sensitized photochemical process, oxa-di- $\pi$ -methane rearrangement,<sup>1</sup> and also into [6-6] fused-ring systems (**4**) via vinylation followed by the oxy-Cope rearrangement of the *exo*-alcohols (**3**).<sup>2</sup> In connection with our studies on rearrangement strategies from bridged polycyclic compounds to [*m-n*] fused-ring natural products,<sup>3</sup> we were interested in principal preparation of compounds **1**. Straightforward routes to **1** seem to involve Diels-Alder reaction of 1,3-cyclohexadienes and ketene equivalents.<sup>4</sup> However, selective preparation of even a simply substituted 1,3-cyclohexadiene generally requires many steps.<sup>5</sup> Furthermore, the mode of substituents of the bicyclic ketones, thus obtained, depends upon the regioselectivity of the Diels-Alder reaction that we cannot reverse easily. To compensate these weak points, we must develop a new method for introduction of a substituent at the desired position, including the bridgehead carbon, of the bicyclic system. We wish to report herein formal bridgehead substitution of 1-methoxybicyclo[2.2.2]oct-5-en-2-ones (**5**), derived stereoselectively from anisoles by the Diels-Alder strategy including Birch reduction followed by selective isomerization into 1-methoxy-1,3-cyclohexadienes.<sup>6</sup>

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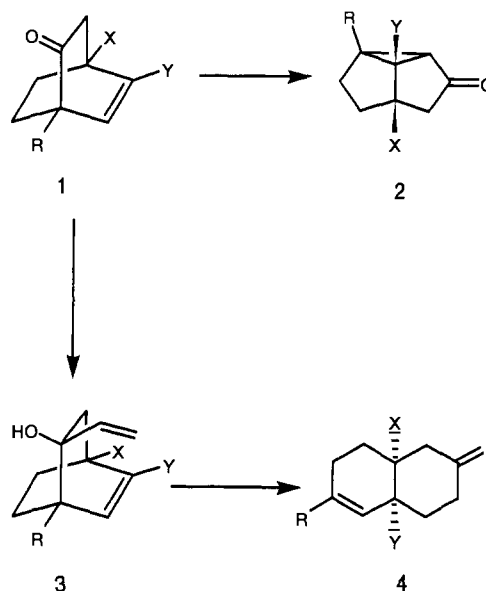
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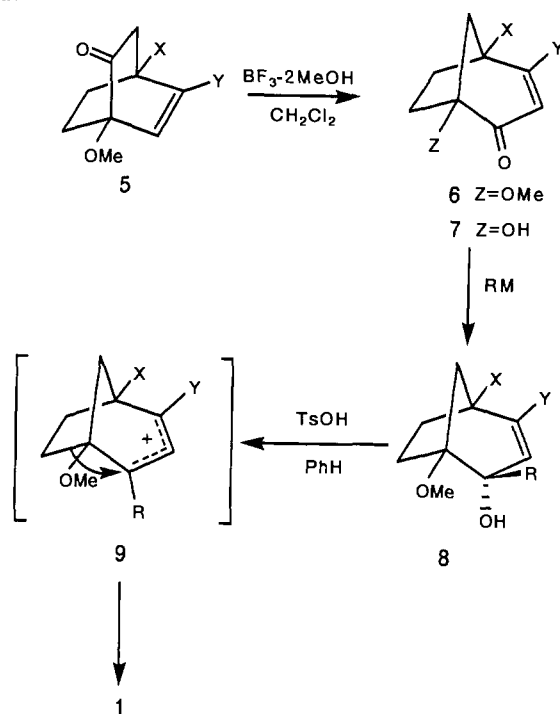
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Scheme I



Scheme II



Scheme II shows our rearrangement approach to the bridgehead substitution. The first step is a Lewis-acid-mediated pinacol-type transformation of **5** into the thermally more stable conjugated ketones **6**. When **5a** (X = Me, Y = H) was treated with  $\text{BF}_3 \cdot 2\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$  (1.2 equiv) in dry  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  at room temperature for 1-2 h, the desired ketone **6a** was obtained in 90% yield along with **7a** (3%) due to ether cleavage.<sup>7</sup> The second step is introduction of a desired bridgehead substituent by treatment with an organometallic reagent (RM) adding in a 1,2-manner. A reaction of **6a** with MeLi gave the *endo*-alcohol **8a** (R = X = Me, Y = H) in 72% yield. The final step is a pinacol-type rearrangement which proceeds stereoselectively. The alcohol **8a** was converted into the bridgehead methyl ketone **1a** in 52% yield by treatment with TsOH (0.1 equiv) in boiling benzene for 5 min. This outcome

(7) Similar conversion of a 1-methoxybicyclo[2.2.2]oct-5-en-2-one into a 1-hydroxybicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-en-2-one, see: Monti, S. A.; Dean, T. R. *J. Org. Chem.* **1982**, *47*, 2679-2681.

