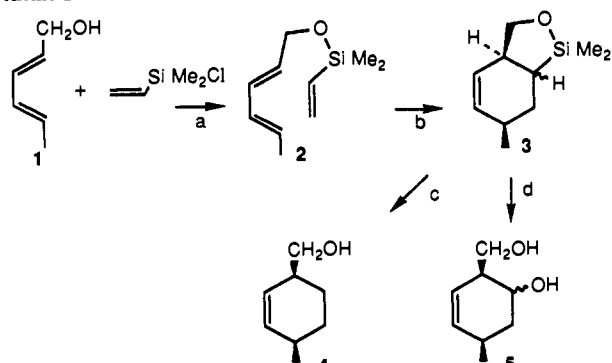
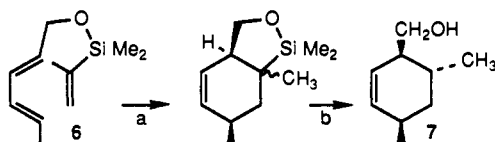
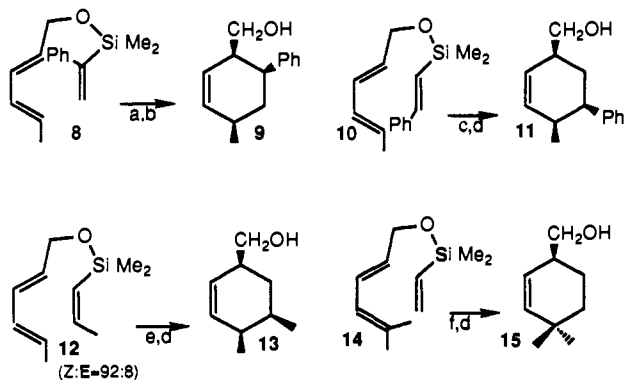


Scheme I<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Conditions: (a) Et<sub>3</sub>N-THF; (b) 160 °C, 2.35 h; 70%; (c) 4 equiv of TBAF-DMF, 75 °C, 4 h; 75%; (d) 1 equiv of TBAF-DMF, 10 equiv of 30% H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, 55 °C, 2 h; 85% (cis-1,2:trans-1,2 = 70:30).

Scheme II<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Conditions: (a) 160 °C, 5 h; 80%, 2 isomers (60:40); (b) as in 3 → 4; 65% (1 isomer; see footnote 7).

Scheme III<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Conditions: (a) 160 °C, 4 h; 75%; (b) TBAF-DMF; 85%; (c) 180 °C, 10 h; 80%; (d) TBAF-DMF, 85% (cis-4,5:trans-4,5 = 85:15); (e) 200 °C, 10 h; 45% (cis-4,5:trans-4,5 = 81:19); (f) 200 °C, 30 h; 50-60%.

context. This proved very successful. We were able to prepare the (*E*)-(chlorosilyl)acrylate **16** in two different ways, as shown in Scheme IV: as a component of a 1:1 mixture of regioisomers<sup>11</sup> or, regioselectively, from (*E*)-ethyl 3-iodoacrylate.<sup>12,13</sup> Addition of **16** to **1** then gave the silicon-tethered acrylate **17** (50% from the iodoacrylate).

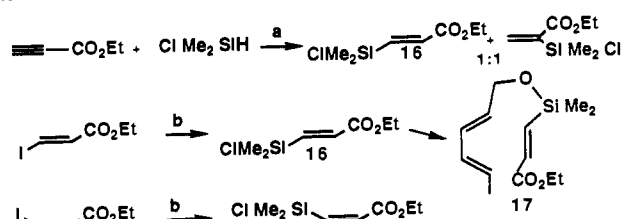
Cyclization of **17** readily (4-6 h, 80 °C) gave **18** (see Scheme V), the product of endo addition, in 90% yield. A similar sequence starting with (*Z*)-ethyl 3-iodoacrylate<sup>12</sup> gave the corresponding product of endo addition, as judged by its conversion to **22**. In this particular case, however, the initial, unstable, all-cis adduct **21** was epimerized by fluoride ion in the course of the desilylation process, with the formation of **23**.

The important feature of *controlled regiochemistry* which the temporary silicon connection can afford in the context of 4 + 2

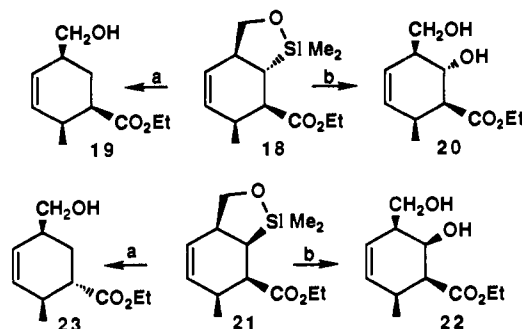
(11) Both isomers can be successfully used in silicon-tethered 4 + 2 cycloadditions, e.g., to **1**.

(12) Bougne, J.; Theron, F. *C. R. Seances Acad. Sci. Ser. C* **1971**, *272*, 858.

(13) Use of chlorosilyl rather than (dimethylamino)silyl derivatives is necessary when electrophilic olefins are involved to avoid conjugate addition of the dimethylamine released during silyl ether formation.

Scheme IV<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Conditions: -100 °C; then 1 equiv of acetyl chloride.

Scheme V<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Conditions: (a) 2 equiv of TBAF; DMF, 60 °C, 4 h; 75%; (b) as in 3 → 5; 80%.

cycloaddition is particularly well illustrated by the syntheses of **20** and **22**, in which, in addition, four new asymmetric centers are generated stereospecifically. Regiocontrol is also notable in the syntheses of **9** and **11**, inter alia.

**Acknowledgment.** We thank the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health for their support of this work.

### New Preparation of $\alpha$ -Methylene- $\gamma$ -butyrolactones Mediated by (Iodomethyl)zinc Iodide

AchyuthaRao Sidduri and Paul Knochel\*<sup>1</sup>

Willard H. Dow Laboratories, Department of Chemistry  
The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109

Received March 16, 1992

A number of  $\alpha$ -methylene- $\gamma$ -butyrolactones display significant biological activity, and many syntheses of this class of molecules have been described.<sup>2</sup> We report a new stereoselective one-pot

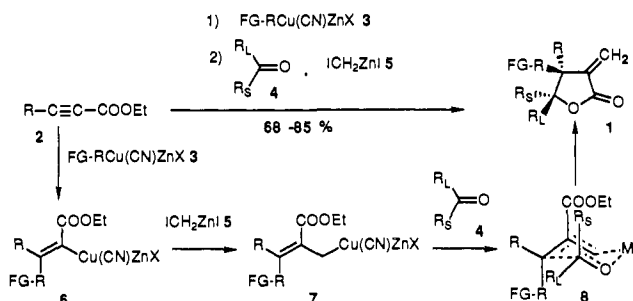
(1) Present address: Prof. Dr. P. Knochel; Philipps-Universität Marburg, Fachbereich Chemie, Hans Meerwein Strasse, D-3550-Marburg, Germany.

(2) (a) Ohler, E.; Reiningger, K.; Schmidt, U. *Angew. Chem.* **1970**, *82*, 480. (b) Hegedus, L. S.; Wagner, S. D.; Waterman, E. L.; Siirala-Hansen, K. *J. Org. Chem.* **1975**, *40*, 593. (c) Semmelhack, M. F.; Wu, E. S. C. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1976**, *98*, 3384. (d) Boldrini, G. P.; Savoia, D.; Tagliavini, E.; Trombini, C.; Umani-Ronchi, A. *J. Org. Chem.* **1983**, *48*, 4108. (e) Furuta, K.; Misumi, A.; Mori, A.; Ikeda, N.; Yamamoto, H. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1984**, *25*, 669. (f) Misumi, A.; Furuta, K.; Yamamoto, H. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1984**, *25*, 671. (g) Mattes, H.; Benezra, C. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1985**, *26*, 5697. (h) Okuda, Y.; Nakatsukasa, S.; Oshima, K.; Nozaki, H. *Chem. Lett.* **1985**, 481. (i) Bravo, P.; Resnati, G.; Viani, F. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1985**, *26*, 2913. (j) Tanaka, K.; Yoda, H.; Isobe, Y.; Kaji, A. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1985**, *26*, 1337. (k) Nokami, J.; Tamaoka, T.; Ogawa, H.; Wakabayashi, S. *Chem. Lett.* **1986**, 541. (l) Baldwin, J. E.; Adlington, R. M.; Sweeney, J. B. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1986**, *27*, 5423. (m) Uneyama, K.; Ueda, K.; Torii, S. *Chem. Lett.* **1986**, 1201. (n) Kempf, D. J. *J. Org. Chem.* **1986**, *51*, 3921. (o) Nishitani, K.; Yamakawa, K. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1987**, *28*, 655. (p) El Alami, N.; Belaud, C.; Villieras, J. *J. Organomet. Chem.* **1987**, *319*, 303. (q) Still, I. W. J.; Drewery, M. J. *J. Org. Chem.* **1989**, *54*, 290. (r) Baldwin, J. E.; Adlington, R. M.; Mitchell, M. B.; Robertson, J. *J. Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun.* **1990**, 1574. (s) Talaga, P.; Schaeffer, M.; Benezra, C.; Stampf, J.-L. *Synthesis* **1990**, 530. (t) Masuyama, Y.; Nimura, Y.; Kurusu, Y. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1991**, *32*, 225. (u) Marino, J. P.; Farina, J. S. *J. Org. Chem.* **1976**, *41*, 3213. (v) Drewes, S. E.; Hoole, R. F. A. *Synth. Commun.* **1985**, *15*, 1067. (w) For an excellent review: Grieco, P. A. *Synthesis* **1975**, 67.

**Table I.**  $\alpha$ -Methylene- $\gamma$ -butyrolactones **1** Prepared by the Reaction of an Acetylenic Ester **2**, (FG-R)Cu(CN)ZnX **3**, a Carbonyl Compound **4**, and (Iodomethyl)zinc Iodide (**5**)

entry	R	FG-R	R <sub>L</sub>	R <sub>S</sub>	product <b>1</b>	cis:trans ratio <sup>b</sup>	yield (%) <sup>a</sup>
1	H	Bu	c-Hex	H	<b>1a</b>	80:20	76
2	H	PhCH <sub>2</sub>	Ph	H	<b>1b</b>	92:8	78
3	H	NC(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub>	Ph	H	<b>1c</b>	90:10	75
4	H	BuC≡C(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	Ph	H	<b>1d</b>	95:5	76
5	H	EtO <sub>2</sub> C(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub>	Ph	H	<b>1e</b>	95:5 <sup>c</sup>	85
6	H	EtO <sub>2</sub> C(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub>	(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>5</sub>	H	<b>1f</b>		68
7	H	Cl(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>4</sub>	Ph	CH <sub>3</sub>	<b>1g</b>	100:0 <sup>c</sup>	82
8	EtO <sub>2</sub> C	EtO <sub>2</sub> C(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub>	PhCH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub>	H	<b>1h</b>	85:15	86
9	EtO <sub>2</sub> C	NC(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub>	c-Hex	H	<b>1i</b>	95:5	93
10	Bu	c-Hex	Ph	H	<b>1j</b>	75:25	60
11	c-Hex	Bu	Ph	H	<b>1j</b>	98:2 <sup>c</sup>	67
12	Bu	Ph	Ph	H	<b>1k</b>	60:40	78
13	Ph	Bu	Ph	H	<b>1k</b>	98:2	85

<sup>a</sup>All yields refer to isolated yields of analytically pure products. <sup>b</sup>Crude GC ratios. <sup>c</sup>Relative stereochemistry determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR NOE experiments or X-ray analysis (see supplementary material).

**Scheme I**

synthesis of highly functionalized  $\alpha$ -methylene- $\gamma$ -butyrolactones **1** starting from an acetylenic ester **2**, a readily prepared zinc-copper reagent<sup>3</sup> **3**, an aldehyde or a ketone **4**, and (iodomethyl)zinc iodide<sup>4</sup> (**5**) (Scheme I and Table I).

The carbocupration of acetylenic esters<sup>5</sup> **2** with (FG-R)Cu(CN)ZnX (FG = functional group) provides stereoselectively the alkenylcopper **6** (THF,  $-50$  °C, 3 h). The reaction mixture is then treated with a mixture of a carbonyl compound **4** (0.7 equiv) and (iodomethyl)zinc iodide in THF (2 equiv). The vinylic copper reagent **6** is not reactive enough to add to an aldehyde or ketone **4**; however, it is readily homologated ( $-30$  to  $0$  °C) by a methylene unit<sup>6</sup> with (iodomethyl)zinc iodide (**5**), affording in situ a highly reactive polyfunctional allylic zinc and copper species **7**, which reacts stereoselectively with the carbonyl compound **4**, giving, after workup, the  $\alpha$ -methylene- $\gamma$ -butyrolactone **1**. The groups R of the alkyne, FG-R of the zinc-copper organometallic, and R<sub>L</sub> of the aldehyde can bear a wide range of functionalities (ester, nitrile, halide, triple bond), allowing a unique approach to new  $\alpha$ -methylene- $\gamma$ -butyrolactones<sup>7</sup> **1**. A cis relationship is always found

between the substituents R<sub>L</sub> and FG-R in the major diastereoisomer<sup>8</sup> of **1**, which is compatible with the chair transition state<sup>9</sup> **8**. The stereochemistry of lactone **1** depends on the stereochemistry of the vinylic copper **6**. If the carbocupration can be performed at low temperature (below  $-30$  °C), the resulting syn-adduct **6** is configurationally stable at this reaction temperature and affords, after methylene homologation and reaction with a carbonyl compound, the cis lactone as the major diastereoisomer (entries 1–9). Thus, the addition of BuCu(CN)Li to ethyl 3-cyclohexylpropionate provides stereospecifically the alkenyl copper **6j** (R = c-Hex, FG-R = Bu), as confirmed by low-temperature iodolysis ( $-30$  °C) giving only (*E*)-ethyl 3-cyclohexyl-2-iodo-2-heptenoate. The methylene homologation of **6j** followed by reaction with PhCHO gives the lactone **1j** (cis:trans, 98:2; entry 11). However, if the alkenylcopper **6j** obtained as described previously is allowed to warm to  $-10$  °C, a mixture of (*E*)- and (*Z*)-alkenyl iodides is obtained after iodolysis (*E*:*Z* = 75:25). Also the carbocupration of ethyl 2-heptynoate with c-HexCu(CN)ZnI·2LiCl occurs only above  $-10$  °C and leads under these reaction conditions to the same *E*/*Z* mixture of the alkenylcopper **6j** (*E*:*Z* = 75:25 as shown by iodolysis). After methylene homologation and reaction with benzaldehyde, the butyrolactone **1j** is produced as a 75:25 cis-trans mixture (entry 10). Similar behavior is observed in the addition of PhCu(CN)Li and BuCu(CN)Li respectively to ethyl 2-heptynoate (entry 12) and ethyl 3-phenylpropionate (entry 13).

The intramolecular version of the reaction is also possible, and the addition of the keto-substituted copper<sup>10</sup> reagent **9** to ethyl propionate and diethyl acetylenedicarboxylate provides, after the addition of (ICH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>Zn<sup>11</sup> and benzaldehyde (THF,  $-35$  °C, 0.5 h), the bicyclic  $\alpha$ -methylene lactones **10a** and **10b** in respectively 76% and 83% yields (eq 1).

(7) Typical procedure: preparation of 4-(3-cyanopropyl)-4,5-dihydro-3-methylene-5-phenyl-2(3*H*)-furanone (**1c**). A THF solution of 4-iodobutyronitrile (1.38 g, 7.1 mmol) in 4 mL of THF was added at 25 °C to zinc dust (1.3 g, 20 mmol) pretreated with 1,2-dibromoethane (0.3 g, 1.5 mmol) and Me<sub>3</sub>SiCl (0.1 mL).<sup>5</sup> An exothermic reaction occurred, and the reaction mixture was stirred for 1.5 h at 40 °C. The excess of zinc was allowed to settle, and the supernatant solution was added to a solution of CuCN (0.635 g, 7.1 mmol) and LiCl (0.6 g, 14 mmol) in THF (10 mL) at  $-10$  °C. After 5 min, the reaction mixture was cooled to  $-60$  °C, ethyl propionate (0.588 g, 6 mmol) was added, and the mixture was stirred for 4 h between  $-60$  and  $-40$  °C. A solution of PhCHO (0.53 g, 5 mmol) in THF (2 mL) was added, followed by the dropwise addition of a THF solution of (iodomethyl)zinc iodide (ca. 10 mmol) prepared from CH<sub>2</sub>I<sub>2</sub> (3.75 g, 14 mmol) and zinc foil (0.91 g, 14 mmol) in THF (8 mL) at 25–26 °C (3 h).<sup>5</sup> The reaction mixture was allowed to warm to 0 °C and was stirred for 0.5 h at this temperature. After the usual workup, the residual oil was purified by flash chromatography, affording **1c** as a cis-trans mixture (90:10, 0.9 g, 75% yield).

(8) The relative stereochemistry of the  $\alpha$ -methylene- $\gamma$ -butyrolactone substituents has been established by comparisons with the literature, <sup>1</sup>H NMR NOE experiments, or X-ray structure determinations (**1g** and **1j**; see supplementary material).

(9) Auvray, P.; Knochel, P.; Normant, J. F. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1986**, *27*, 5091. See also ref 2h.

(10) Tamaru, Y.; Ochiai, H.; Nakamura, T.; Yoshida, Z. *Angew. Chem.* **1987**, *99*, 1193.

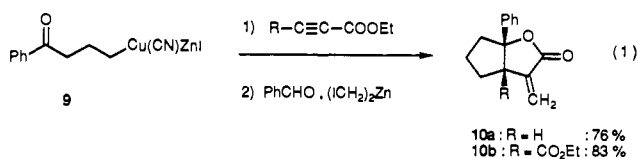
(11) Furukawa, J.; Kawabata, N. *Adv. Organomet. Chem.* **1974**, *12*, 83.

(3) (a) Knochel, P.; Yeh, M. C. P.; Berk, S. C.; Talbert, J. *J. Org. Chem.* **1988**, *53*, 2390. (b) Berk, S. C.; Yeh, M. C. P.; Jeong, N.; Knochel, P. *Organometallics* **1990**, *9*, 3053. (c) Yeh, M. C. P.; Chen, H. G.; Knochel, P. *Org. Synth.* **1991**, *70*, 195. (d) Knoess, H. P.; Furlong, M. T.; Rozema, M. J.; Knochel, P. *J. Org. Chem.* **1991**, *56*, 5974.

(4) (a) Seyferth, D.; Andrews, S. B. *J. Organomet. Chem.* **1971**, *30*, 151. (b) Seyferth, D.; Dertouzos, H.; Todd, L. *J. Organomet. Chem.* **1965**, *4*, 18.

(5) (a) Corey, E. J.; Katzenellenbogen, J. A. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1969**, *91*, 1851. (b) Siddall, J. B.; Biskup, M.; Fried, J. H. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1969**, *91*, 1853. (c) Obayashi, M.; Utimoto, K.; Nozaki, H. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1977**, 1807. (d) Náf, F.; Degen, P. *Helv. Chim. Acta* **1971**, *54*, 1939. (e) Náf, F.; Degen, P.; Ohloff, G. *Helv. Chim. Acta* **1972**, *55*, 82. (f) Marino, J. P.; Floyd, D. M. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1974**, *96*, 7138. (g) Marino, J. P.; Floyd, D. M. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1975**, 3897. (h) Marino, J. P.; Linderman, R. J. *J. Org. Chem.* **1981**, *46*, 3696.

(6) (a) Knochel, P.; Jeong, N.; Rozema, M. J.; Yeh, M. C. P. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1989**, *111*, 6474. (b) Knochel, P.; Chou, T. S.; Chen, H. G.; Yeh, M. C. P.; Rozema, M. J. *J. Org. Chem.* **1989**, *54*, 5202. (c) Knochel, P.; AchyuthaRao, S. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1990**, *112*, 6146. (d) Rozema, M. J.; Knochel, P. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1991**, *32*, 1855.



In conclusion, we have developed a new, efficient one-pot synthesis of polyfunctionalized  $\alpha$ -methylene- $\gamma$ -butyrolactones starting from readily available acetylenic esters,  $(FG-R)Cu(CN)ZnX$ , and an aldehyde or ketone. Applications to the synthesis of natural products are currently underway.

**Acknowledgment.** We thank the donors of the Petroleum Research Fund, administered by the American Chemical Society, for support of this research.

**Supplementary Material Available:** Spectral data for 1a-k and 10a,b and X-ray crystallographic analyses of 1g and 1j (52 pages). Ordering information is given on any current masthead page.

### Preparation, Characterization, and Sequential Transformation of Dicarbide Cluster Compounds with Permetalated Ethyne, Ethene, and Ethane Structures

Munetaka Akita,\* Shuichiro Sugimoto, Masako Tanaka, and Yoshihiko Moro-oka\*

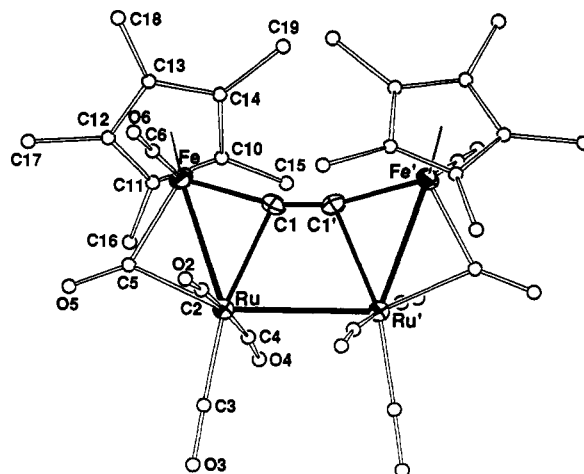
Research Laboratory of Resources Utilization  
Tokyo Institute of Technology, 4259 Nagatsuta  
Midori-ku, Yokohama 227, Japan  
Received March 23, 1992

The structures and properties of the  $C_2$  ligand incorporated in polymetallic systems have been studied as models for elementary species on a heterogeneous catalyst surface, and several coordination modes have been reported.<sup>1</sup> Although ethynediylmetal complexes ( $MC\equiv CM$ ) are expected to serve as versatile starting compounds, this route has been frustrated by their limited accessibility.  $We^{2a,b}$  and other groups<sup>3</sup> recently developed a prep-

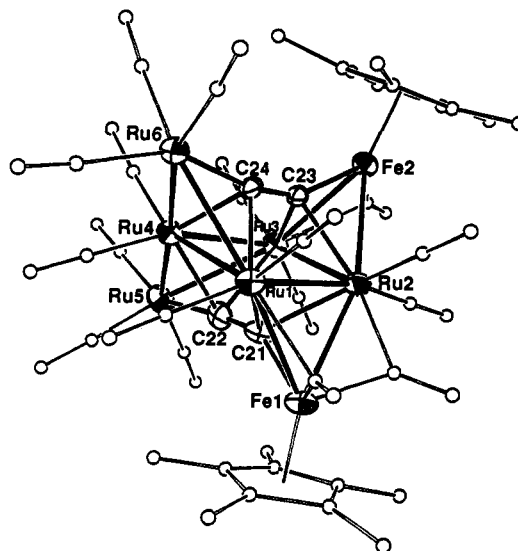
(1)  $(\mu_n-C_2)M_n$  complexes,  $n = 2$ : (a) Koutsantonis, G. A.; Selegue, J. P. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1991**, *113*, 2316-2317 and references cited therein. (b) Lemke, F. R.; Szalda, D. J.; Bullock, M. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1991**, *113*, 8466-8477. (c) Chen, M.-C.; Tsai, Y.-J.; Chen, C.-T.; Lin, Y.-C.; Tseng, T.-W.; Lee, G.-H.; Wang, Y. *Organometallics* **1991**, *10*, 378-380. (d) St. Clair, M.; Schaefer, W. P.; Bercaw, J. E. *Organometallics* **1991**, *10*, 525-527. (e) Davies, J. A.; El-Ghanam, M.; Pinkerton, A. A.; Smith, D. A. *J. Organomet. Chem.* **1991**, *409*, 367-376. (f) Neithamer, D. R.; LaPointe, R. E.; Wheeler, R. E.; Richeson, D. S.; Van Duyn, G. D.; Wolczanski, P. T. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1989**, *111*, 9056-9072. (g) Listemann, M. L.; Schrock, R. R. *Organometallics* **1985**, *4*, 74-83. (h) Caulton, K. G.; Cayton, R. H.; Chisholm, M. H.; Huffman, J. C.; Lobkovsky, E. B.; Xue, Z. *Organometallics* **1992**, *11*, 321-326.  $n = 3$ : (i) Blau, R. J.; Chisholm, M. H.; Folting, K.; Wang, R. J. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1987**, *109*, 4552-4560. (j) Weidmann, T.; Weinrich, V.; Wagner, B.; Robl, C.; Beck, W. *Chem. Ber.* **1991**, *124*, 1363-1368.  $n = 4$ : (k) Bruce, M. I. *J. Organomet. Chem.* **1990**, *394*, 365-384. (l) Jensen, M. P.; Sabat, M.; Shriver, D. F. *J. Cluster Sci.* **1990**, *1*, 75-91. (m) See refs 1j and 2e.  $n = 5$ : (n) Adams, C. J.; Bruce, M. I.; Skelton, B. W.; White, A. H. *J. Organomet. Chem.* **1992**, *423*, 97-104. (o) Adams, C. J.; Bruce, M. I.; Skelton, B. W.; White, A. H. *J. Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun.* **1992**, 26-29.  $n = 6$ : (p) Penfold, B. R.; Robinson, B. H. *Acc. Chem. Res.* **1973**, *6*, 73-80. (q) Jensen, M. P.; Phillips, D. A.; Shriver, D. F. *Organometallics* **1992**, *11*, 1859-1869. (r) Gervasio, G.; Rossetti, R.; Stanghellini, P. L.; Bor, G. *Inorg. Chem.* **1984**, *23*, 2073-2079. Encapsulated cluster: (s) Halet, J.-F.; Mingos, D. M. P. *Organometallics* **1988**, *7*, 51-58 and references cited therein. (t) Hayward, C.-M. T.; Shapley, J. R.; Churchill, M. R.; Bueno, C.; Rheingold, A. L. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1982**, *104*, 7347-7349.

(2) (a) Akita, M.; Terada, M.; Oyama, S.; Sugimoto, S.; Moro-oka, Y. *Organometallics* **1990**, *9*, 816-825. (b) Akita, M.; Terada, M.; Oyama, S.; Sugimoto, S.; Moro-oka, Y. *Organometallics* **1991**, *10*, 1561-1568. (c) Important bond lengths ( $\text{\AA}$ ) and angles (deg) for 1-MeOH ( $Fe1-C1\equiv C2-Fe2$ ):  $Fe1-C1$ , 1.936 (4);  $C1-C2$ , 1.209 (4);  $C2-Fe2$ , 1.932 (3);  $\angle Fe1-C1-C2$ , 172.7 (3);  $\angle C1-C2-Fe2$ , 173.9 (3). Akita, M.; Sugimoto, S.; Terada, M.; Tanaka, M.; Moro-oka, Y. To be published. (d) Akita, M.; Terada, M.; Moro-oka, Y. *Organometallics* **1991**, *10*, 2962-2965. (e) Interaction with  $Co_2(CO)_8$  was already reported: Akita, M.; Terada, M.; Moro-oka, Y. *Organometallics* **1992**, *11*, 1825-1830.

(3) (a) Appel, M.; Heidrich, J.; Beck, W. *Chem. Ber.* **1987**, *120*, 1087-1089. (b) Frank, K. G.; Selegue, J. P. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1990**, *112*, 6414-6416.

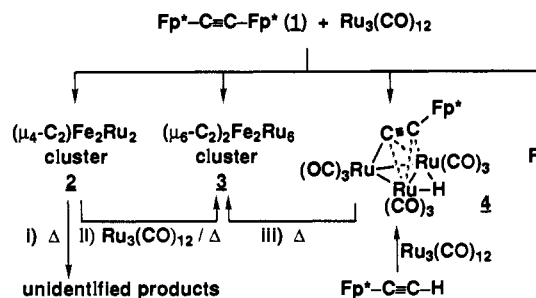


**Figure 1.** Molecular structure of 2. Selected bond lengths ( $\text{\AA}$ ) and angles (deg):  $Ru-Ru$ , 2.963 (2);  $Ru-Fe$ , 2.733 (2);  $Ru-C1$ , 2.204 (7);  $Fe-C1$ , 1.946 (7);  $C1-C1'$ , 1.24 (1);  $Fe-Ru-Ru'$ , 110.61 (4);  $C1-Ru-Ru'$ , 66.5 (2);  $Fe-Ru-C1$ , 44.9 (2);  $Ru-Fe-C1$ , 53.0 (2);  $Ru-C1-Fe$ , 82.1 (2);  $Ru-C1-C1'$ , 112.0 (2);  $Fe-C1-C1'$ , 165.5 (2).



**Figure 2.** Molecular structure of one of two independent molecules of 3. Selected bond lengths ( $\text{\AA}$ ):  $Ru-Ru$ , 2.746 (3)-2.857 (4);  $Ru-Fe$ , 2.687 (4)-2.855 (3);  $C21-C22$ , 1.35 (4);  $C23-C24$ , 1.37 (3);  $C21-Ru1$ , 2.25 (2);  $C21-Ru2$ , 2.20 (2);  $C21-Fe1$ , 1.90 (3);  $C22-Ru3$ , 2.15 (2);  $C22-Ru4$ , 2.18 (3);  $C22-Ru5$ , 1.99 (3);  $C23-Ru2$ , 2.18 (2);  $C23-Ru3$ , 2.17 (2);  $C23-Fe2$ , 1.86 (2);  $C24-Ru1$ , 2.15 (2);  $C24-Ru4$ , 2.11 (2);  $Ru6-C24$ , 2.01 (2).

#### Scheme I



arative method for  $MC\equiv CM$  via deprotonation of  $[M_2(\mu-C\equiv CH)]^+$ . Herein we report the utility of  $Fp^*C\equiv CFp^*$  (**1**)<sup>2a,b</sup> [ $Fp^* = Cp^*Fe(CO)_2$ ;  $Cp^* = \eta^5-C_5Me_5$ ] as a building block for a series of dicarbide cluster compounds.

Treatment of **1** with  $Ru_3(CO)_{12}$  in refluxing benzene afforded a mixture of products, from which a tetranuclear dicarbide cluster,  $(\mu_4-C_2)(Cp^*Fe)_2Ru_2(CO)_8(\mu-CO)_2$  (**2**), and an octanuclear bis-