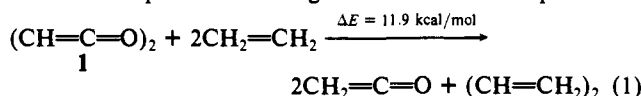
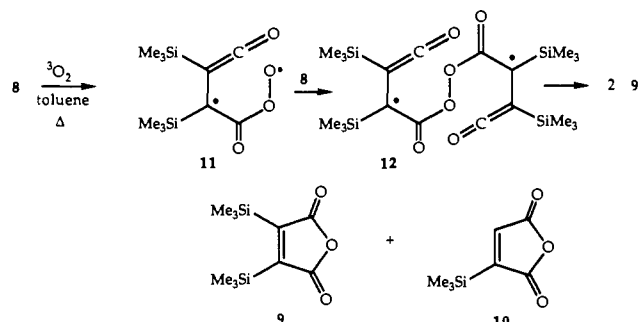


for ring opening of variously substituted cyclobutenes to 1,3-butadienes,⁷ and of cyclobutenones to vinylketenes.⁸ Theoretical studies of these latter reactions have appeared.^{9,10}

Thus **8** is thermodynamically stable and persistent in the pure state at room temperature, as predicted,^{3a} due to the effect of silyl substitution. The bisketene structure **1** is, however, calculated to be destabilized relative to ketene and butadiene; thus the isodesmic reaction of eq 1 has a calculated ΔE of -11.9 kcal/mol, based on the published^{3a} energies of the individual species.



A degassed sample of **8** in CDCl_3 was unchanged after standing for 45 days at 2 °C, but bubbling O_2 into a refluxing solution of **8** in toluene gave bis(trimethylsilyl)maleic anhydride (**9**),¹¹ (trimethylsilyl)maleic anhydride (**10**),¹¹ and small amounts of other unidentified products. Previous reactions of ketenes¹² and strained alkenes¹³ with O_2 have been interpreted as involving peroxide and diradical intermediates.¹² A diradical pathway for reaction of **8** with $^3\text{O}_2$ could involve an initial triplet diradical **11** followed by reaction of a second molecule of **8** to give **12**, which could lead to **9** after intersystem crossing.



Various mono- and difunctional nucleophiles also react with **8** by unique pathways which will be reported shortly.

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(11) Isolated yields of **9** and **10** after radial chromatography were 14 and 7%, respectively. **9**: mp 58-59.5 °C; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ 0.390; $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ 0.03, 161.6, 168.5; IR (CDCl_3) 1830 (w), 1814 (w), 1752, 1747 (d, s) cm^{-1} ; CIMS m/z 243 ($\text{M}^+ + 1$); EIMS m/z 227 ($\text{M}^+ - \text{CH}_3$), 155 (100), 73 (Me_3Si^+ , 47); HRMS m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{15}\text{O}_5\text{Si}_2 - \text{CH}_3$ ($\text{M}^+ - \text{CH}_3$) 227.0560, found 227.0567. **10**: oil; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ 0.345, 6.985; $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ -2.3, 142.8, 155.6, 164.7, 167.5; IR (CDCl_3) 1855 (w), 1816 (w), 1764 (s) cm^{-1} ; CIMS m/z 171 ($\text{M}^+ + 1$, 100), 155 ($\text{M}^+ - \text{CH}_3$, 72); HRMS m/z calcd for $\text{C}_8\text{H}_9\text{O}_5\text{Si}$ ($\text{M}^+ - \text{CH}_3$) 155.0164, found 155.0152.

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8-Endo Cyclization of (Alkoxy-carbonyl)methyl Radicals Generated from Bromoacetates

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The radical cyclization reactions developed in the last decade are now firmly established as indispensable tools in synthetic chemistry. These reactions exhibit useful regio- and stereoselectivity employing a variety of functional groups as radical acceptors.¹

Initial attempts to cyclize (alkoxy-carbonyl)alkyl radical species from α -haloalkanoate esters under standard radical-generating conditions with tributylstannane and AIBN led only to simple reduction products, and the results were attributed to the relative stability of these carbonyl conjugated radicals. Stork² and Ueno³ solved this problem by developing tin hydride-mediated cyclization of α -halo acetals as an indirect route to γ - and δ -lactones. Another practical solution to this problem has been devised by Curran⁴ based on the halogen atom transfer reactions. More recently, however, direct syntheses of γ - and δ -lactones via 5-exo or 6-exo radical cyclizations using α -haloalkanoates as substrates were reported.⁵

We report herein that (alkoxy-carbonyl)methyl radicals generated from bromoacetates under standard high-dilution conditions undergo intramolecular cyclization in a regioselective 8-endo mode⁶ to yield eight-membered-ring heptanolactones. This 8-endo cyclization is preferred over 5-exo cyclization as proved in competition experiments.

Slow addition (via a syringe pump) of a solution of tributylstannane (1.4 equiv) in benzene containing AIBN (0.1 equiv) over 5 h into a benzene solution (0.015 M) of the bromoacetate **2a** under reflux gave the acetate **2b** (24%) and the lactone **2c** (52%) (Scheme I). Further examples of 8-endo cyclization are presented in Table I.⁷ On the contrary, lower and higher homologues **5a** and **6a** were transformed mainly into the corresponding acetates **5b** and **6b**, and cyclization products (6-exo or 7-endo mode for **5a** and 8-exo or 9-endo mode for **6a**) were not isolated.⁸ These results indicate that the 8-endo mode of cyclization is the in-

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(7) All products in Tables I and II were separated by silica gel column chromatography, and the specified yields are isolated yields. In every case, separation was easily achieved even though products were isomeric compounds. For example, product (8b-e) from **8a** exhibited four well-separated spots on a silica gel TLC plate. Spectroscopic data for heptanolactone **1c** were reported in Matsubara, S.; Takai, K.; Nozaki, H. *Bull. Chem. Soc. Jpn.* **1983**, *56*, 2029 and ref 15. Structural determination of other products is supported by a full set of spectroscopic data.

(8) The reaction of **5a** produced a complex product mixture from which **5b** was isolated in 42% yield. The conversion of **6a** into **6b** was accompanied by one major byproduct, which appeared to be a dimeric species formed by the intermolecular attack of the (alkoxy-carbonyl)methyl radical and subsequent reduction.

Scheme I

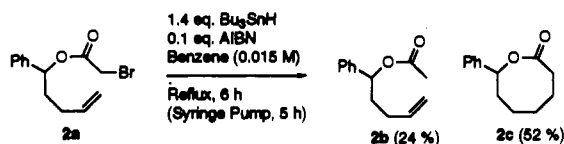


Table I

Substrates	Products (Isolated Yield)	

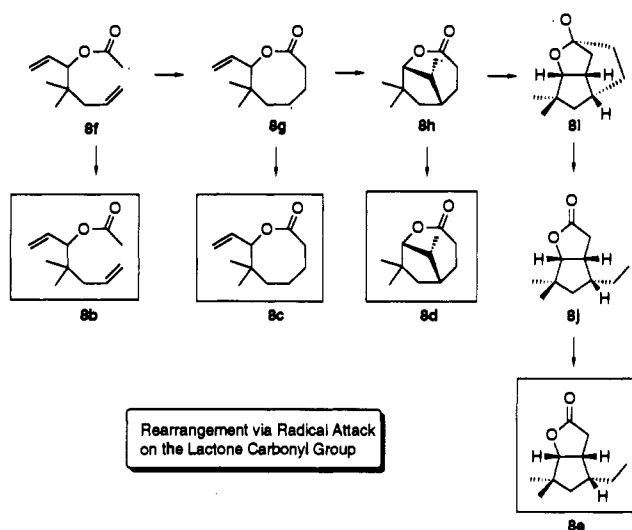
Table II

Substrates	Products (Isolated Yield)			

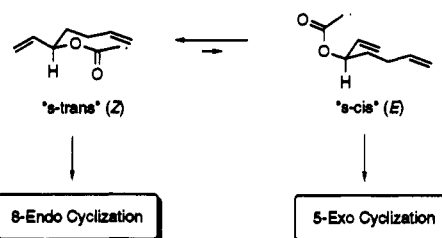
trinsically favored pathway for (alkoxycarbonyl)methyl radicals.

Next, substrates **7a–9a** were reacted under the same conditions for 5-exo/8-endo competition experiments (Table II). In the event, cyclization of radicals from bromoacetates **7a–9a** proceeded exclusively in the 8-endo mode to yield eight-membered lactones **7b** and **8c**. Bridged lactones **7c**, **8d**, and **9c**⁹ were also obtained,

Scheme II



Scheme III



which are products of 8-endo/5-exo tandem radical cyclizations.¹⁰ No simple 5-exo mode cyclization products were obtained. Interestingly, butyrolactones **8e** and **9d**¹¹ were also isolated. It is assumed that the reaction proceeds from the methyl radical **8h** via transannular attack to the lactone carbonyl group and fragmentation of the oxy radical **8i** to the ethyl radical **8j** as outlined in Scheme II. We believe this is the first clear-cut example of radical rearrangements involving ester or lactone carbonyl functionalities.¹²

(9) The second methyl group in **7c** was determined to be exo oriented whereas the secondary methyl groups in **8d** and **9c** were assigned to be endo oriented. The NOE difference spectrum of **9c** showed that the intensity of the signals (AB q, δ 1.692 and 1.568, J = 14.1 Hz) from the protons of the isolated methylene group of the carbocyclic ring did not change upon irradiation of the secondary methyl group signals (d, δ 0.935, J = 7.2 Hz), but the signals (dd, δ 1.671, J = 13.5, 4.5 Hz) from one of the methylene protons β to the carbonyl group were enhanced. Apparently, the transition-state conformations for the 5-exo cyclization of the heptanolactone radicals formed by 8-endo cyclization of the initial (alkoxycarbonyl)methyl radicals from **8a** and **9a** are much influenced by the presence of the *gem*-dimethyl moieties, so that the ensuing methyl radical centers are directed to the lactone rings, enticing further rearrangements.

(10) It is to be noted that the combined yield (84%) of **7b** and **7c** from **7a** for 8-endo cyclization is substantially higher than the yield (38%) of **1c** from **1a**. This could be the effect of an extra substituent on the reactive conformation. One alternative explanation is that (alkoxycarbonyl)methyl radical 8-endo cyclization is reversible under the reaction conditions, and the relative amounts of **1b** and **1c** may represent the equilibrium ratio of the (alkoxycarbonyl)methyl radical and heptanolactone radical. On the other hand, the heptanolactone radical generated from **7a** may be more effectively consumed by the 5-exo cyclization, in effect increasing the total yield of the 8-endo cyclization. In support of the equilibrium hypothesis, the reaction of **2a** under higher dilution conditions (syringe pump addition in 14 h) produced the same yield of **2b** and **2c**.

(11) The mechanism delineated in Scheme II calls for the *cis* relationship of the lactone ring and the ethyl group in **9d**. This was convincingly shown in the NOE difference spectrum: irradiation of the lactone methylene proton signals (d, δ 2.490, J = 7.8 Hz) resulted in the enhancement of the signals (q, δ 1.285, J = 7.2 Hz) from the methylene protons of the ethyl group.

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The preferred 8-endo mode of cyclization of (alkoxycarbonyl)methyl radicals reflects the conformational bias of these radicals favoring *Z* conformation (*s-trans*) over *E* conformation (*s-cis*) (Scheme III). In line with many theoretical and experimental studies corroborating the relative stability of *Z* ester conformations, the *Z* conformation of the (alkoxycarbonyl)alkyl radicals was also judged to be more stable than the *E* conformation.^{13,14} The selective formation of eight-membered-ring heptanolactones in these cyclization reactions is probably also connected with the finding that the heptanolactone is the smallest lactone for which *Z* conformers are found as low-energy conformers.¹⁵

In conclusion, 8-endo cyclization is the fundamentally preferred mode of reaction for (alkoxycarbonyl)methyl radicals, and eight-membered heptanolactones are obtained in reasonably good yields from bromoacetates. Further mechanistic details and the synthetic utility of these unique reactions will be reported in due course.

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(14) Atom-transfer cyclization of allyl iodoacetates is much more efficient at 80 °C than at 25 °C. This beneficial effect of temperature arises because at higher temperature there is a relatively larger population of the less stable *E* conformer (which can cyclize in 5-exo mode) of [(allyloxy)carbonyl]methyl radicals than at lower temperature. See: Curran, D. P.; Tamine, J. *J. Org. Chem.* **1991**, *56*, 2746.

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Intramolecular [2 + 2] Cycloaddition of Bis(alkenylcyclopentadienyl)zirconium Dihalides: A Novel Way of Synthesizing *ansa*-Metallocene Complexes

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ansa-Metallocene complexes of the group 4 transition metals have played a decisive role for the development of homogeneous Ziegler-type catalysts for stereoselective α -olefin polymerization.¹ Two-carbon containing bridges between the metal bound η^5 -cyclopentadienyl units (or analogues thereof) are usually prepared by means of substitution reactions² or coupling of C_1 -substituted

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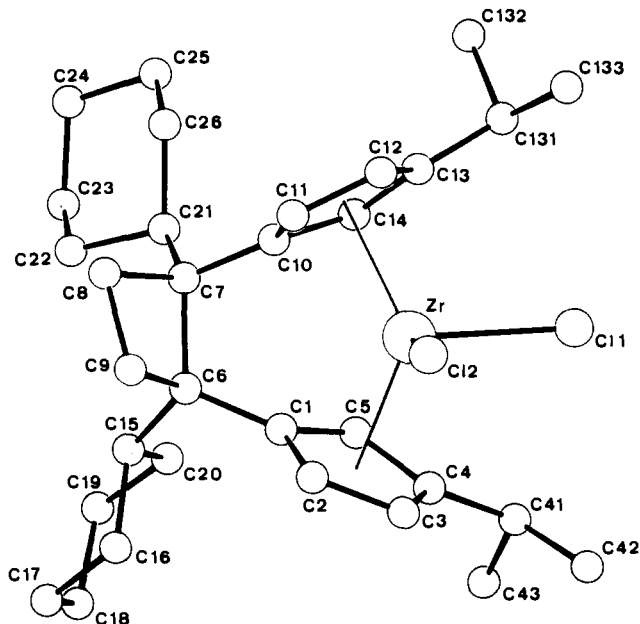


Figure 1. A view of the molecular structure of *meso*-5.

cyclopentadienyls.³ We here describe a novel method of synthesizing C_2 -bridged *ansa*-metallocene complexes by photochemically induced [2 + 2] cycloaddition of bis(alkenyl-Cp)MX₂ complexes.⁴ The two-carbon bridge in these compounds is part of a cyclobutane ring. A representative example is described here.

Bis(1-(cyclohexylethenyl)-3-isopropylcyclopentadienyl)zirconium dichloride (*rac*- and *meso*-4) was prepared by reacting the substituted alkenylcyclopentadienyllithium reagent **2** [generated by treatment of the 3-isopropyl-6-cyclohexylfulvene isomers (**1**) with LDA⁵] with 0.5 M equiv of ZrCl₄(THF)₂ (**3**). The isomers of **4** were separated by fractional crystallization from pentane (the pure diastereomers were isolated in ca. 10% yield each) and then irradiated with UV/vis light.⁶ Irradiation of *meso*-4 with Pyrex-filtered light from a high-pressure mercury lamp (Philips HPK 125, room temperature, 60 min, benzene solution) gave a 90:10

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(6) UV/vis absorptions in CH₂Cl₂: *meso*-4, λ_{max} = 242 nm (ϵ = 20 400), 265 (sh, ϵ = 14 600), 340-375 (br, ϵ \approx 3000); *rac*-4, λ_{max} = 239 nm (ϵ = 22 200), 265 (sh, ϵ = 17 200), 340-370 (br, ϵ \approx 4000); *meso*-5, λ_{max} = 240 nm (ϵ = 49 000); *rac*-5, λ_{max} = 234 nm (ϵ = 56 000).