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Pericyclic Reaction of a Zwitterionic Salt of an Enedione-diazoester. A Novel Strategy for the Synthesis of Highly Functionalized Resorcinols

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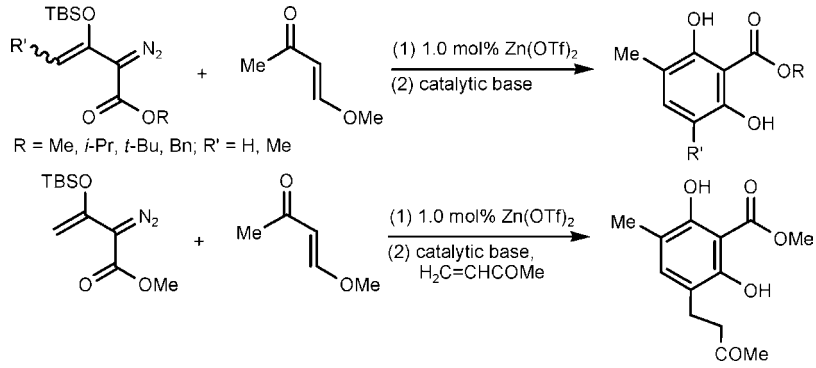
ABSTRACT



Enedione-diazoesters formed from 3-TBSO-2-diazo-3-butenoates undergo base-catalyzed pericyclization that with dinitrogen extrusion and methyl migration provide a novel and efficient route to 2-carboalkoxyresorcinols. Intercepting the intermediate enolate anion with methyl vinyl ketone leads to the corresponding 4-substituted 2-carboalkoxyresorcinol and suggests generalization of this methodology.

Resorcinol and its derivatives are important ingredients for the total synthesis of a number of natural products and phenolic compounds of pharmaceutical interest.[1,2] However, with few exceptions,[3,4] general methods for their synthesis are difficult to achieve except through traditional methodologies that originate with resorcinol.[1] We wish to report a new methodology for the synthesis of 2-carboalkoxyresorcinols, based in part on serendipity, that relies on a convenient procedure that we recently reported for the synthesis of diverse α-diazo-β-keto esters.[5] This procedure uses the readily accessible 3-TBSO-substituted vinyldiazoacetate **1** for zinc triflate-catalyzed Mukaiyama−Michael reactions with α,β-unsaturated ketones resulting in functionalized 3-keto-2-diazoalkanoates in high yield and selectivity (Scheme 1). The methodology for resorcinol synthesis employs a functionalized α,β-unsaturated ketone that undergoes elimination to an enedione-diazoester which is susceptible to an unprecedented pericyclic reaction and rearrangement.

In examining the breadth of the Mukaiyama−Michael transformation of **1** and its applications, we employed *trans*-4-methoxy-3-buten-2-one (**2**) as the substrate with the

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(2) (a) Khatib, S.; Nerya, O.; Musa, R.; Tamir, S.; Peter, T.; Vaya, J. *J. Med. Chem.* **2007**, *50*, 2676. (b) Brizzi, A.; Cascio, M. G.; Brizzi, V.; Bisogno, T.; Dinatolo, M. T.; Martinelli, A.; Tuccinardi, T.; Di Marzo, V. *Biorg. Med. Chem.* **2007**, *15*, 5406. (c) Marsini, M. A.; Huang, Y.; Van De Water, R.; Pettus, T. R. R. *Org. Lett.* **2007**, *9*, 3229.

(3) Kim, A.; Powers, J. D.; Toczko, J. F. *J. Org. Chem.* **2006**, *71*, 2170.

(4) Ceglia, S. S.; Kress, M. H.; Nelson, T. D.; McNamara, J. M. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2005**, *46*, 1731.

(5) Liu, Y.; Zhang, Y.; Jee, N.; Doyle, M. P. *Org. Lett.* **2008**, *10*, 1605.

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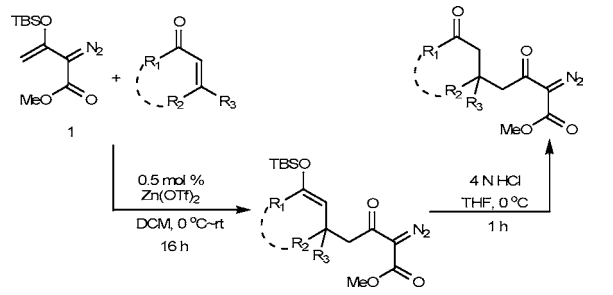
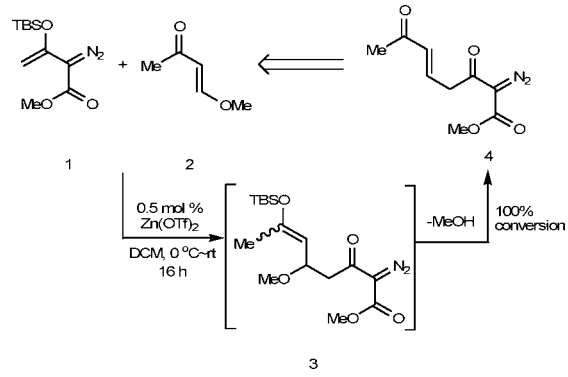
Scheme 1. Mukaiyama−Michael Reactions of TBSO-Substituted Vinyldiazoacetate **1**



expectation that an enolizable enedione[6] would be formed whose chemistry could lead us to cycloaddition products that contained the diazoester functionality. As anticipated, the direct Mukaiyama−Michael product (**3**) was unstable, undergoing elimination under the reaction conditions to form α,β-unsaturated ketone **4** exclusively (Scheme 2),[7] but the

Scheme 2. Mukaiyama−Michael Reaction with 4-Methoxy-3(*E*)-buten-2-one



resulting enedione underwent an unexpected transformation resulting in the formation of a substituted resorcinol. Examination of this process showed a diverse chemistry that we now report.

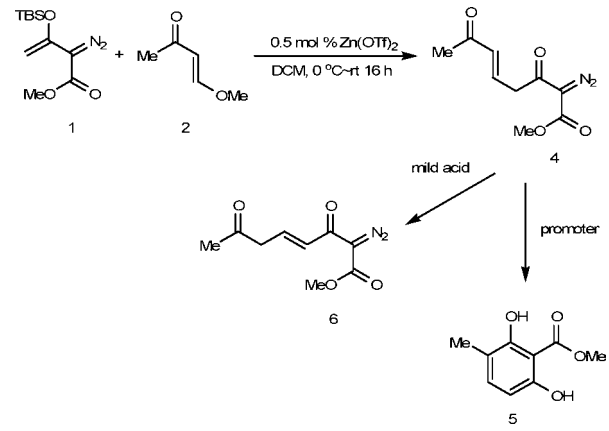
Attempted chromatographic purification of **4** on silica gel resulted in the loss of **4**, but the highly substituted resorcinol **5** was isolated in low yield (13%) (Scheme 3).

Various conditions were employed to optimize formation of this unexpected reaction product by first treating **1** and **2** with zinc triflate and then, after concentrating the mixture but without isolating **4**, adding a suitable promoter to catalyze the formation of the resorcinol product. Since compound **4** decomposes upon contact with silica gel, silica gel was added to the reaction system; however, only migration of the enone double bond

(6) Schuler, M.; Duvvuru, D.; Retailleau, P.; Betzer, J.-F.; Marinetti, A. *Org. Lett.* **2009**, *11*, 4406.

(7) Compound **3** was produced when the zinc triflate catalyzed reaction was performed in the presence of molecular sieves 4A. A mixture of *cis* and *trans* isomer in about 2/1 ratio was observed by NMR.

Scheme 3. Reactions of Methyl 2-Diazo-3,7-dioxo-5(*E*)-octenoate



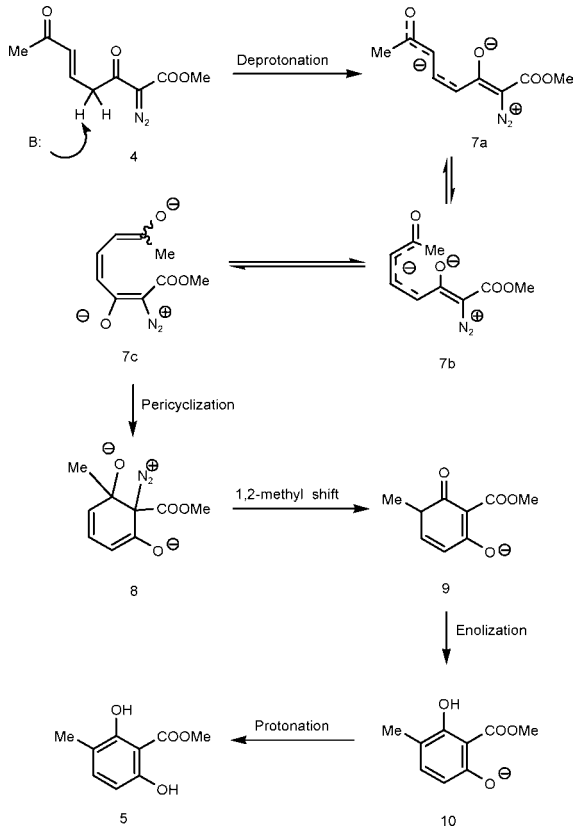
occurred (36% conversion to **6**). Performing the reaction at elevated temperature with silica gel or by adding acetic acid to the system produced the same results. When 2.0 molar equiv of 4 N aqueous HCl was used, **5** was produced in 21% isolated yield. However, assuming that enolization of **4** is one of the key steps for this transformation, we anticipated that the addition of base would facilitate this reaction. With 5.0 equiv of triethylamine, **5** was obtained in 45% isolated yield; however, the yield of **5** was further improved when only a catalytic amount of aqueous sodium hydroxide (0.10 mol/L NaOH, 10 mol %) was employed, and under these catalytic conditions, **5** was isolated in 83% yield.

A plausible mechanistic pathway for resorcinol formation is presented in Scheme 4. Removal of the most acidic proton from compound **4** produces the conjugated enolate anions that are depicted by intermediates **7**.

Isomerization of **7a** in which the 5,6-positions have the *E*-geometry to **7b** in which the 5,6-positions have the *Z*-geometry is critical to the second isomerization in which the two ends are wrapped together (**7c**) through a conjugated triene that is appropriately arranged for pericyclization. Similar 6-π electrocyclizations involving enolate derivatives have been reported,[8] although none have involved a diazo compound.

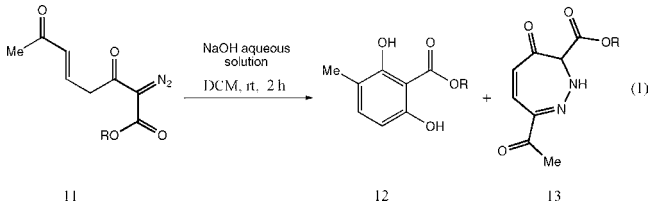
The diazonium ion intermediate **8** resulting from pericyclization is suitably positioned to undergo loss of dinitrogen in concert with methyl migration to form intermediate **9** that is the tautomer of the observed resorcinol product. The conversion of **8** to **9** is, to our knowledge, unprecedented; also, instead of undergoing methyl migration to the carbon bearing the diazonium ion that would be a semipinacol rearrangement[9] or, alternatively, forming an epoxide[10] with loss of dinitrogen, the methyl group migrates in the reverse direction to that of dinitrogen extrusion. The formation of the phenolate anion that can continue proton removal from reactant **4** is consistent with the need for only a substoichiometric amount of base to complete the reaction; after the reaction is initiated, the transformation is self-sustained.

Scheme 4. Base-Catalyzed Pericyclization−Rearrangement of **4**



Ester derivatives of **4** were prepared and subjected to the same conditions as those used for the synthesis of **5**. The coresponding resorcinol products were formed (Table 1), but

Table 1. Influence of Alkyl Ester on Resorcinol Formation from Alkyl 2-Diazo-3,7-dioxo-5(*E*)-octenoate



	R	equivalents of NaOH	yield[a] **12** + **13** (%)	ratio[b] (**12**:**13**)
a	*i*-Pr	0.1 equiv	73	81:19
	i-Pr	0.2 equiv	67	79:21
b	*t*-Bu	0.1 equiv	68	79:22
	t-Bu	0.2 equiv	72	73:27
c	Bn	0.1 equiv	66	71:29
	Bn	0.2 equiv	73	67:33

[a] Yield of isolated products after column chromatography. [b] Ratio based on isolated yields of compounds **5** and **14**.

their isolated yields were only moderate, and an additional product (**13**) accompanied the derivative resorcinol (eq 1). This compound, which was not observed from reactions with **4**, resisted interpretation until an X-ray crystal structure of compound **13b** revealed the 1,2-diazepine structure (Figure 1).

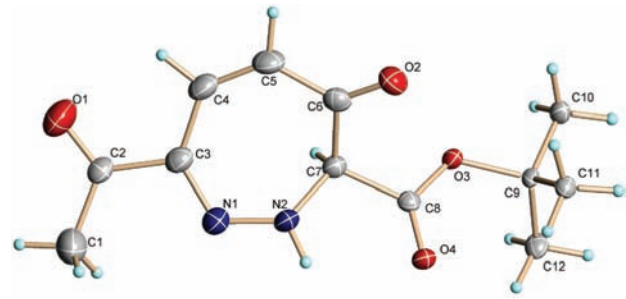
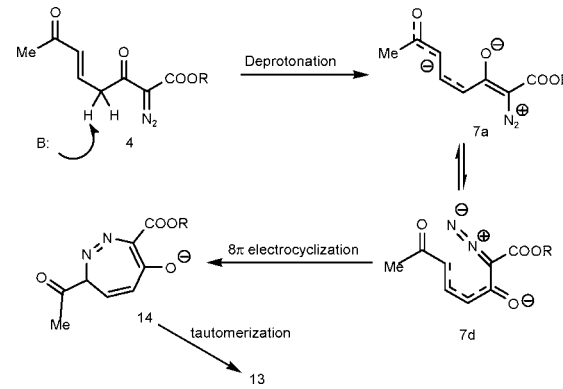


Figure 1. X-ray structure of 1,2-diazepine **13b**.

The formation of **13** can be understood as arising from an 8π-electrocyclization for which we are aware of a few previous examples.[11] The origin of the 1,2-diazepine precursors in prior studies has been cyclobutene-substituted diazoacetates or TMS−diazomethyl compounds that undergo electrocyclic ring opening to the requisite *cis*-dienyldiazo intermediate that is structurally situated to undergo 8π-electrocyclization. The production of **13**, and its absence in the reactions of **4** that produce **5**, may be due to steric resistance to the coiling of **7a** to **7c** that preceeds electrocyclization in the formation of resorcinol derivatives (Scheme 4), and indeed, the yield of **13** varies with the steric bulk of the ester. Accordingly, the pathway to **13** can be understood as arising from deprotonation of **4** to form enolate **7a** that isomerizes to **7d** before undergoing electrocyclization (Scheme 5).

Scheme 5. Pathway to 1,2-Diazepines **13**



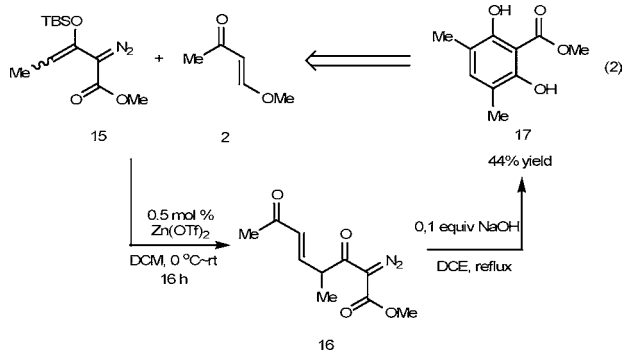
In an effort to examine the generality of this novel cyclization process, substituted vinyl ketone **15** was em-

(8) (a) Magomedov, N. A.; Ruggiero, P. L.; Tang, Y. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2004**, *126*, 1624. (b) Austin, W. F.; Zhang, Y.; Danheiser, R. L. *Org. Lett.* **2005**, *7*, 3905.

(9) (a) For a recent review of the semipinacol rearrangement, see: Snape, T. J. *Chem. Soc. Rev.* **2007**, *36*, 1823. (b) For a relevant example, see: Kirmse, W.; Hellwig, G.; Van Chiem, P. *Chem. Ber.* **1986**, *119*, 1511.

ployed, and the resultant resorcinol **16** was formed in moderate yield (Scheme 6). Reactant **15** was prepared from

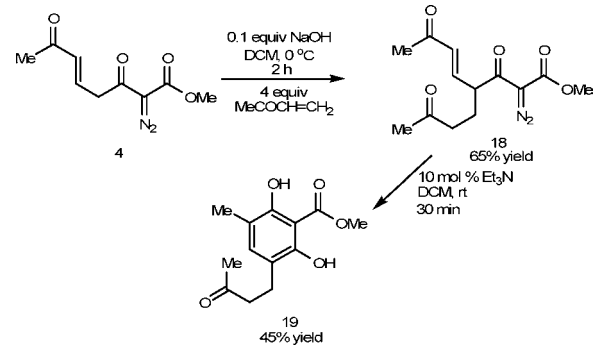
Scheme 6. Synthesis of Atraric Acid Derivative



methyl 2-diazo-3-ketopenanoate. Compound **17** has been used as an atraric acid derivative for treatment of benign prostate hyperplasia, prostate carcinoma, and spinobulbar muscular atrophy.[12]

The pathway to substituted resorcinols that is described in Scheme 4 involves initial formation of enolate **7** that was expected to be suitable for trapping by Michael acceptors.[13] If isomerization from the original *E*-isomer to the *Z*-isomer (**7a** to **7b** in Scheme 4) is the limiting factor, then reaction of **7** with a Michael acceptor should not only be possible, yielding product with the same *E* olefin geometry, but also make possible further reaction that results in additional functionalization of the resorcinol core. Accordingly, treatment of **4** with a catalytic amount of sodium hydroxide in the presence of 4.0 molar equiv of methyl vinyl ketone at 0 °C resulted in the formation of Michael addition product **18** in 65% isolated yield (Scheme 7); **18** was the sole addition product, and resorcinol **19** was not formed under these conditions. The Michael addition product **18** was sufficiently robust to survive silica gel purification, which was not the

Scheme 7. Michael Addition/Pericyclization/Rearrangement



case for **4**. Subsequent treatment of **18** with triethylamine at room temperature resulted in the formation of resorcinol **19** in 45% isolated yield, thus further demonstrating the versatility of the methodology.

In summary, enedione-diazoesters undergo a novel base-catalyzed pericyclization that, with subsequent dinitrogen extrusion and alkyl migration, forms 2-carboalkoxy-resorcinols in good yield. Interception of the enolate intermediate on the pathway to pericyclization by a Michael acceptor, and its subsequent conversion to a 4-substituted-2-carboalkoxyresorcinol, suggests the synthetic potential of this methodology. Efforts are underway to further develop this novel synthetic process.

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Supporting Information Available: General experimental procedures, structure of **13b**, and spectroscopic data for all new compounds. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

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(11) (a) Sharp, J. T. In *Comprehensive Heterocyclic Chemistry*; Katritzky, A. R., Rees, C. W., Eds.; Pergamon Press: Oxford, 1984; Vol. l.7, pp 595−604. (b) Ohno, M.; Noda, M.; Yamamoto, Y.; Eguchi, S. *J. Org. Chem.* **1999**, *64*, 707. (c) Matsuya, Y.; Ohsawa, N.; Nemoto, H. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2006**, *128*, 13072.

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