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### **INVERSE-ELECTRON DEMAND DIELS-ALDER CYCLOCONDENSATIONS IN THE SYNTHESIS OF 5-8-5 FUSED RING SYSTEMS**

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Tandem inverse-electron-demand Diels- Alder reactions of polyfunctional dienophiles have not been widely exploited for synthesis.<sup>1</sup> This approach potentially allows the transformation of "unactivated" olefins into cyclopentadienes **as** shown below for 1,5-cyclooctadiene (COD). We recently described<sup>2,3</sup> that a conformation-dependent transmission of  $\pi$  - $\sigma$ - $\pi$  electronic interactions influences the stereoselectivity of reverse-electron demand Diels-Alder cycloaddition between COD and electron-deficient dienes. Two different stereoisomers, endo-endo-anti and endo-endo-syn, $2.3$  are obtained in a 4: I ratio, respectively. These Diels-Alder diadducts potentially lead to the synthesis of anti and syn 5-8-5 fused-ring systems **as** shown below. Synthesis of pentacyclic hydrocarbon **8,** was approached by three different Diels-Alder cyclocondensations of COD, with hexachlorocyclopentadiene (HCCP), 5,5-dimethoxy- **1,2,3,4-tetrachlorocyclopentadiene** (DMTCCP) and 1,2,3,4-tetrachlorocyclopentadiene (TCCP).



Diels-Alder cyclocondensation reaction of COD with HCCP and DMTCCP afforded a 4: **<sup>I</sup>** mixture of the corresponding anti and *syn* diadducts4 **1, 3** and **2, 4** in 95% and 81% yield, respectively. COD reacted with TCCP affording a **4:l** mixture of the corresponding anti and *syn* diadducts in only 36% yield.

Complete reduction of the dodecachlorinated compound **1** with sodium in t-butanol afforded **8** in poor yield (I to 5%). Partial reduction of **1** to the corresponding octachlorinated compound **5s**  with zinc in acetic acid was only achieved in 5% yield. However, complete reduction of **5** to the corresponding pentacyclic hydrocarbon **8** with sodium in t-butanol gave a better than *22%* yield. The overall yields from **1** or **5** is less than **8%** yield. These results led us to test for the synthetic route involving COD and DMTCCP.

Compound **2** was reduced with sodium in t-butanol to the corresponding tetramethoxypentacyclic compound **64** in 40% yield. Acid hydrolysis of compound **6** afforded the corresponding



pentacyclic diketone **(7)6** in 93% yield. Wolff-Kishner reduction of **7** gave the corresponding pentacyclic hydrocarbon **8** in 60% yield, the overall yield was 18%.

### **EXPERIMENTAL SECTION**

Melting points were determined on **an** electrothermal apparatus and are uncorrected. **'H** and 13C NMR were recorded on a Bruker WP-200MHz spectrometer with chemical shifts *(6)* given in ppm from internal TMS reference (in CDCl<sub>3</sub>). Infrared spectra were taken on an IBM FTIR model IR-44 spectrometer. Microanalysis were performed by UC Berkeley microanalytical laboratory. Hexachlore cyclopentadiene was purchased from Aldrich Chemical Co. **5,5-Dimethoxy-l,2,3,4-tetrachlorocy**clopentadiene and **1,2,3,4-tetrachlorocyclopentadiene** were prepared according to literature procedure, respectively?\*8 *endo-endo-anti-* **1,6,7,8,9,14,15,16-Octachloro- 17,17,18,18-tetramethoxypentacyclo-**  [ 12.2.1. **16.9.@,13.6\*'0]octadeca-7,15-diene (l), endo-endo-anri-1,6,7,8,9,14,15,16,17,17,18,18-dode**cachloropentacyclo[ 12.2.1. **16~9.@~'3.6~'0]octadeca-7,** 15-diene **(2),** *endo-endo-syn-* 1,6,7,8,9,14,15,16- Octachloro-17,17,18,18-tetramethoxypentacyclo[12.2.1.1<sup>6,9</sup>.0<sup>2,13</sup>.0<sup>5,10</sup>]octadeca-7,15-diene (3) and **endo-endo-syn-1,6,7,8,9,14,15,16,17,17,18,18-dodecachloropentacyclo[** 12.2. 1.16,9.02\*13.05\*10] octadeca-7,15-diene **(4)** are described in the literature?

endo-endo-anti- 1,6,7,8,9,14,15,16-octachloropentacyclo<sup>[12.2.1.16,9</sup>.0<sup>2,13</sup>.0<sup>5,10</sup>]octadeca-7,15-diene **(5).**- A neat solution of 1,2,3,4-tetrachlorocyclopentadiene (2g, 9.8 mmol) with 1,5-cyclooctadiene **(265** mg, 2.5 mmol) was slowly heated (oil bath) under continuous stirring and argon atmosphere to 130" and allowed to stir for 3 **hrs.** The resulting paste was cooled **to** *0"* and the solid collected was washed with hexane followed by cold ether to give 460 mg (36%) of white solid, mp. 312-315 (dec.). <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta$  2.64 (d, 4H), 2.44 (d, 2H), 2.40 (d, 2H), 2.21 (d, 4H), 0.80 (t, 4H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR:  $\delta$  132.1, 66.4,63.2, 55.4,23.0. IT-IR: 2941,2906, 1591, 1291, 1470, 1227, 1126, 1038, 944. HRMS: (Calcd., Obsd.)  $C_{18}H_{16}^{35}Cl_2^{37}Cl$  (513.8733, 513.8726),  $C_{18}H_{16}^{35}Cl_6^{37}Cl_2$  (515.8703, 515.8695).

Anal. Calcd. for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>16</sub>Cl<sub>8</sub>: C, 42.20; H, 3.15. Found: C, 42.48; H, 3.17

*endo-endo-anti-* **17,17,18,18-tetramethoxypentacyclo[ 12.2.1.16~9.02~13.05~10]octadeca-7,15-diene**  *(6).-* **A** mixture of sodium metal (24 g, **I** mol) in dry THF (120 mL) and t-butanol (25 mL) was refluxed with mechanical stirring under argon atmosphere. **A** solution of **2** (20 g, 31 mmol) in *dry*  THF (80 mL) was slowly added over a period of 1.5 hr. The resulting mixture was refluxed for 36 hrs, cooled to r.t. and filtered through a wire screen. The resulting **dark** filtrate was mixed with ice and ether (300 mL). The organic layer was washed with brine, dried over magnesium sulfate and concentrated under reduced pressure to give 4.7 g (42%) of a pale yellow solid. mp. 239-242°. <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta$ 6.04 (t, 4H), 3.19 (s, 6H), 3.09 (s, 6H), 2.64 (broad s, 4H), 2.32 (d, 4H), 1.58 (d, 4H), 0.95 (t, 4H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR: 6 132.4, 117.8, 52.2,51.6,49.7,43.0,27.6. FT-IR: 2972, 2933, 2925, 2861,2827, 1470, 1296, 1288. HRMS: (Calcd., Obsd.) C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>32</sub>O<sub>4</sub> (360.2310, 360.2296), <sup>13</sup>CC<sub>21</sub>H<sub>32</sub>O<sub>4</sub> (361.2328, 361.2337),  $C_{21}H_{29}O_4$  (345.2051, 345.2062),  $C_{21}H_{29}O_3$  (329.2113, 329.2117),  $C_{20}H_{25}O_3$  (313.1796, 313.1808),  $C_7H_{11}O_2$  (127.0775, 127.0757),  $C_8H_9$  (105.0722, 105.0702).

*Anal.* Calcd. for C,,H,,: C, 73.30; H, 8.95. Found: C, 73.52; H, 8.90

**endo-endo-anti-17,18-dioxopentacyclo[12.2.1.1<sup>6,9</sup>.0<sup>2,13</sup>.0<sup>5,10</sup>]octadeca-7,15-diene (7).- A solution of** water (15 mL) in glacial acetic acid (60 mL) was warmed to *50-60".* **6** was slowly added (2.5 g, 6.9 mmol). The resulting solution was allowed to stir at that temperature for 2 hrs, cooled and filtered to give 1.6 g (87%) of a pale yellow powder, mp 224-226". 'H NMR: 6 6.43 (t, 4H), 2.78 **(t,** 4H), 2.42 (d, 4H), 1.71 (d, 4H), 1.10 (t, 4H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR:  $\delta$  205.3, 131.4, 54.8, 41.2, 26.4. FT-IR: 2987, 2935, 1787, 1468, 1330, 1210, 1131. HRMS: (Calcd., Obsd.) C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>20</sub>O (240.1515, 240.1514), C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>20</sub> (212.1571, 212.1563), <sup>13</sup>CC<sub>16</sub>H<sub>20</sub> (213.1504, 213.1600), C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>17</sub> (197.1351, 197.1325), <sup>13</sup>CC<sub>14</sub>H<sub>17</sub>  $(198.1358, 198.1365), C_{14}H_{15}$  (183.1183, 183.1171),  $C_{11}H_{11}$  (143.0858, 143.0861),  $C_{10}H_{9}$  (129.0727, 129.0701).

*Anal.* Calcd. for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>20</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: C, 80.56; H, 7.51. Found: C, 80.71; H, 7.61

*endo-endo-anti-17,18-Pentacyclo***[12.2.1.1<sup>6,9</sup>.0<sup>2,13</sup>.0<sup>5,10</sup>]octadeca-7,15-diene** *(8).* **-** *A* **mixture of 7** (1.3 g, 4.9 mmol), hydrazine monohydrate (0.6 mL, 12 mmol) and potassium hydroxide (1.6 g, 29 mmol) in diethylene glycol (15 mL) was refluxed for lhr. The resulting mixture of solids was extracted with ether. The combined organic layers were washed with water, brine, dried over magnesium sulfate, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure to give 0.73 g (62%) of a pale yellow powder, mp. 124-127". **'H** NMR: 6 6.01 (t, 4H), 2.58 (t, 4H), 2.07 (d, 4H), 1.61 (d, 4H), 1.25 (d, 2H), 1.23 (d, 2H). I3C NMR: 6 135.0, 50.1,49.3,45.4, 29.0. IT-IR: 2960, 2910, 2884, 2856, 1203, 1100. HRMS: (Calcd., Obsd.) C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>24</sub> (240.1898, 240.1871), <sup>13</sup>CC<sub>17</sub>H<sub>24</sub> (241.1938, 241.1903), C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>18</sub> (174.1412, 174.1408),  $C_{10}H_{12}$  (132.0948, 132.0938),  $C_8H_{11}$  (107.0893, 107.0857).

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### **TRANSFORMATION OF CARBOXYLIC ESTERS TO ALDEHYDES WITH SODIUM tris(DIETHYLAMIN0)ALUMINUM HYDRIDE**



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The conversion of carboxylic esters into aldehydes is important in organic synthesis. A number of useful reducing agents for such a transformation have been reported, e.g., lithium *tri-tert*butoxyaluminum hydride,<sup>1</sup> diisobutylaluminum hydride,<sup>2</sup> sodium diisobutylaluminum hydride.<sup>3</sup>  $bis(4-methyl-1-piperaziny)$ aluminum hydride,<sup>4</sup> and sodium diethylpiperidinylaluminum hydride.<sup>5</sup> Recently, we reported that lithium **rris(diethy1amino)aluminum** hydride (LTDEA), prepared from the reaction of three equivalents of diethylamine with lithium aluminum hydride, reduces carboxylic esters to aldehydes in good yields at **-78'6** Similarly, we synthesized the diethylamino substituted derivative of sodium aluminum hydride and applied it for conversion of carboxylic esters to aldehy-