

Thallium trinitrate-mediated ring contraction of 1,2-dihydronaphthalenes: an approach to the synthesis of indans

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Abstract—Oxidation of 1,2-dihydronaphthalenes with thallium trinitrate was studied. 1,2-dihydronaphthalene, 1-methyl-1,2-dihydronaphthalene, 6- and 8-methoxy-1,2-dihydronaphthalenes gave rise to the respective ring contraction products in good yields, whereas the rearrangement was not observed using 4-methyl-1,2-dihydronaphthalene and 1-*n*-butyl-4-methyl-1,2-dihydronaphthalene as substrates. © 2001 Elsevier Science Ltd. All rights reserved.

Thallium(III) salts oxidize a wide variety of different organic functionalities.¹ A useful transformation promoted by these salts is the ring contraction of simple cyclic olefins,² such as cyclobutene,³ cyclohexenes,^{4,5} cycloheptene^{3,5} and cyclooctene.^{3,5} Although this kind of transformation is well-known since the pioneer work of Kabbe,⁴ the behavior of dihydronaphthalene derivatives toward thallium(III) salts has never been studied. The most similar substrates already studied were a few chromenes, which furnished either ring contraction products, in poor to moderate yields,⁶ or glycolic derivatives.⁷

In our program directed towards the application of thallium(III) salts in the synthesis of natural and/or biologically active compounds,^{8,9} we decided to investigate the reaction of a series of 1,2-dihydronaphthalenes with thallium trinitrate (TTN). Such a reaction could lead, in a single step, to indanic systems, which have the potential to be biologically active.¹⁰

This study was initiated by performing the reaction of 1,2-dihydronaphthalene (**1**) with TTN in methanol at room temperature. The ring contraction product **2** was obtained in 60% yield, together with 8% of *trans* and *cis*-1,2-dimethoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalenes (**3a** and **3b**) (Table 1, entry 1). Acetal **2** was obtained in 77% yield at lower temperature (entry 2), which corroborates observations by Sekizaki et al.¹¹ Oxidation of **1** with TTN in ethanol also led to the rearrangement product (**4**) in good yield (entry 3).

Under the same reaction conditions, 1-methyl-1,2-dihydronaphthalene (**6**) led to the ring contraction product **11** in

very good yield (Table 2, entry 1). Notably, the reaction occurred with complete diastereoselectivity, giving rise to the *trans* diastereoisomer, as deduced by NMR analysis and comparison with other indans data.¹² The *trans*-1,3 substituted indan system, which is not easily achieved by standard methods, is present in some natural products, such as mutisianthol and jungianol.¹³

Reacting 6- and 8-methoxy-1,2-dihydronaphthalenes (**7** and **8**, respectively) with TTN in methanol, the corresponding ring contraction products and glycolic derivatives were isolated, by column chromatography, in reasonable yields (entries 2 and 4). Since temperature lowering seems to favor the rearrangement (compare entries 1 and 2, Table 1), the reaction of **7** was also performed at -78°C , but the same

Table 1. Reaction of 1,2-dihydronaphthalene (**1**) with TTN

Entry	Conditions	Product (yield)
1	MeOH, rt, 1 min	2 (60%) + 3 (8%)
2	MeOH, 0 °C, 5 min	2 (77%) --
3	EtOH, 0 °C, 7 min	4 (75%) + 5^a

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^a ca. of 10%, determined by GC, in the crude product.

Table 2. Reaction of 1,2-dihydronaphthalenes with TTN

Entry	Substrate	Conditions	Product (yield)
1		MeOH, 0 °C, 5 min	 11 (87%)
2		MeOH, 0 °C, 5 min	 12 (72%) + 13 (15%)
3	7	TMOF, 0 °C, 5 min	12 (77%) 13 (10%)
4		MeOH, 0 °C, 5 min	 14 (68%) + 15 (8%)
5	8	TMOF, 0 °C, 5 min	14 (74%) 15 (6%)
6		MeOH, -30 °C, 15 min	 16a (38%) + 16b (31%)
7		MeOH, rt, 40 min	 17 (23%) + 18 (ca. 5%)

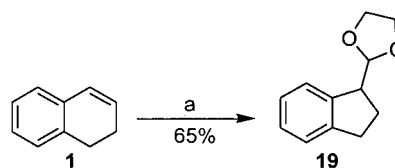
product ratio was observed. Nevertheless, running the reaction of **7** and **8** with TTN in trimethylorthoformate (TMOF) at 0°C, made it possible to increase the ratio of ring contraction product to glycolic derivative (entries 3 and 5).

Contrary to the aforementioned examples, substrates possessing trisubstituted double bonds did not undergo ring contraction. Thus, naphthalene **9** gave rise to the dimethoxylated diols **16a** and **16b**, while **10** led to **17** and **18**, together with significant amounts of unidentified by-products (entries 6 and 7). These results are somewhat unexpected, because the ring contraction of other olefins bearing an alkyl group at the double bond has already been described.^{3,5,11,14} An alternative method for performing the ring contraction of **1** and **9** has been recently described by Hara et al.¹⁵ using *p*-Tol-IF₂. The naphthalene derivative **18** is presumably formed through an allylic oxidation of **10**, followed by elimination. It is noteworthy that the allylic oxidation of cyclohexene promoted by thallium(III) salts has been reported in diverse works.^{11,16,17}

Finally, the methodology described above showed to be useful for directly access a dioxolane derivative. Thus, the reaction of **1** with TTN in ethyleneglycol furnished **19** as a single product, in 65% yield as shown in Scheme 1.

In conclusion, this work shows that TTN can efficiently promote the ring contraction of 1,2-dihydronaphthalenes—exceptions are substrates possessing trisubstituted double bonds—leading to functionalized indans in very good yields.

Herein is demonstrated one more example that thallium (III)-mediated ring contraction can be an interesting tool

**Scheme 1.** a: TTN·3H₂O, HOCH₂CH₂OH, room temperature 15 min.

to construct cyclopentane moieties from readily available and inexpensive six-membered ring substrates.

1. Experimental

Warning. Thallium salts are toxic and must be handled with care.

Substrates **1**, **6**, **7** and **8** were prepared from the corresponding commercially available 1-tetralones, by reduction with NaBH₄ (or LiAlH₄) followed by dehydration with H₃PO₄. The naphthalenes **9** and **10** were obtained through Grignard reaction of 1-tetralone and 4-methyl-1-tetralone, respectively, followed by HCl in situ dehydration. Thallium(III) nitrate was purchased from Aldrich and was used as received. Column chromatography was performed using silica gel Acros 230-400 mesh. TLC analyses were performed with silica gel plates Merck, using vanilline solution for visualization. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker spectrometers. IR spectra were measured on a Perkin-Elmer 1750-FT. Gas chromatography analyses were performed in a HP-6890 series II.

1.1. General procedure for the oxidation of 1,2-dihydronaphthalenes with TTN

To a stirred solution of **1** (0.213 g, 1.64 mmol) in MeOH (5 mL) was added TTN·3H₂O (0.80 g, 1.1 mmol) at 25°C. The reagent promptly dissolved. The mixture was stirred for 1 min and an abundant precipitation was observed. The resulting suspension was filtered through a silica gel pad (70-230 mesh, ca. 10 cm), using CH₂Cl₂ as eluent. The filtrate was washed with H₂O, with brine and dried over anhydrous MgSO₄. The solvent was concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel 230-400 mesh, gradient elution, 0–50% EtOAc in hexanes), affording **2** (0.189 g, 0.983 mmol, 60%), **3a**¹⁸ (0.010 g, 0.052 mmol, 3%) and **3b**¹⁸ (0.017 g, 0.088 mmol, 5%). 1,1-Dimethoxymethylindane (**2**): colorless oil; IR (film): 2949, 2937, 2829, 1191, 1153, 1123, 1097, 1078, 1058, 750 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.87–2.05 (m, 1H), 2.10–2.28 (m, 1H), 2.74–3.02 (m, 2H), 3.36 (s, 3H), 3.42 (s, 1H), 3.40–3.51 (m, 1H), 4.33 (d, *J*=7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.12–7.20 (m, 3H), 7.41 (t, *J*=4.4 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 27.3, 31.3, 47.4, 52.8, 54.1, 107.1, 124.3, 125.4, 126.0, 126.8, 142.7, 144.7; MS *m/z* (%) 192 (M⁺, 0.7), 161 (11), 129 (17), 115 (22), 91 (8), 75 (100), 63 (4), 47 (24). HRMS Calcd for C₁₂H₁₆O₂ 192.1150, found 192.1149. In an analogous preparation, a mixture of **1** (0.118 g, 0.906 mmol), MeOH (6 mL) and TTN·3H₂O (0.44 g, 1.0 mmol) was stirred for 5 min at 0°C, to afford **2** (0.133 g, 0.692 mmol, 77%).

1.1.1. 1,1-Diethoxymethylindane (4). A mixture of **1** (0.115 g, 0.883 mmol), EtOH (5 mL) and TTN·3H₂O (0.43 g, 0.97 mmol) was stirred for 7 min at 0°C. Purification by flash chromatography (gradient elution, 0–10% EtOAc in hexanes) gave **4** (0.145 g, 0.658 mmol, 75%) as a colorless oil; IR (film): 2974, 2930, 2884, 1634, 1117, 1062 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.12 (t, *J*=

7.0 Hz, 3H), 1.19 (t, *J*=7.0 Hz, 3H), 1.90–2.01 (m, 1H), 2.09–2.16 (m, 1H), 2.72–2.79 (m, 1H), 2.84–2.90 (m, 1H), 3.38 (q, *J*=7.4 Hz, 1H), 3.42–3.50 (m, 2H), 3.57–3.65 (m, 1H), 3.66–3.72 (m, 1H), 4.37 (d, *J*=7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.00–7.14 (m, 3H), 7.36–7.37 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 15.3, 15.4, 27.5, 31.4, 48.3, 61.1, 62.4, 105.5, 124.3, 125.6, 126.0, 126.8, 143.1, 144.9; MS *m/z* (%) 220 (M⁺, 0.02), 175 (14), 147 (10), 129 (19), 117 (46), 103 (100), 91 (15), 75 (82), 65 (5), 47 (98). Anal. Calcd for C₁₄H₂₀O₂: C, 76.33; H, 9.15. Found: C, 76.30; H, 8.96.

1.1.2. trans-1,1-Dimethoxymethyl-3-methyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-indene (11). A mixture of 1-methyl-1,2-dihydronaphthalene¹⁹ (0.113 g, 0.784 mmol), TTN·3H₂O (0.38 g, 0.86 mmol) and MeOH (6 mL) was stirred for 5 min at 0°C, affording **11** (0.139 g, 0.670 mmol, 85%) as a colorless oil; IR (film): 2957, 2923, 2869, 2830, 1477, 1459, 1374, 1192, 1125, 1101, 1060, 987, 754 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.24 (d, *J*=6.5 Hz, 3H), 1.69–1.83 (m, H), 2.22–2.34 (m, 1H), 3.20–3.27 (m, 1H), 3.33 (s, 3H), 3.38 (s, 3H), 3.44–3.50 (m, 1H), 4.26 (d, *J*=7.4 Hz, H), 7.13–7.38 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 20.5, 36.2, 37.7, 46.2, 52.8, 54.4, 107.0, 123.2, 125.6, 126.1, 127.0, 142.2, 149.3; MS *m/z* (%) 206 (M⁺, 0.05), 175 (4), 159 (2), 143 (5), 128 (6), 115 (8), 91 (5), 75 (100), 63 (1), 47 (11). Anal. Calcd for C₁₃H₁₈O₂: C, 75.69; H, 8.80. Found: C, 75.42; H, 8.54.

1.1.3. Reaction of 8-methoxy-1,2-dihydronaphthalene (7) in MeOH at 0°C. A mixture of **7**²⁰ (0.150 g, 0.934 mmol), TTN·3H₂O (0.46 g, 1.0 mmol) and MeOH (5 mL) was stirred for 5 min at 0°C. Purification by flash chromatography (10% EtOAc in hexanes), gave **12** (0.150 g, 0.673 mmol, 72%) and **13** (0.0306 g, 0.138 mmol, 15%). 1,1-Dimethoxymethyl-4-methoxy-2,3-dihydro-1H-indene (**12**): colorless oil; IR (film): 2942, 2834, 1633, 1593, 1474 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.92–2.28 (m, 2H), 2.68–2.99 (m, 2H), 3.35 (s, 3H), 3.41 (s, 3H), 3.80 (s, 2H), 3.44–3.52 (m, 1H), 4.31 (d, *J*=7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.69 (d, *J*=7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.01–7.18 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 26.9, 27.8, 47.9, 52.8, 54.1, 55.0, 107.1, 108.3, 117.7, 127.5, 132.3, 144.7, 155.7; MS *m/z* (%) 222 (M⁺, 2), 191 (8), 159 (6), 147 (7), 131 (2), 115 (9), 103 (4), 91 (6), 75 (100), 63 (2), 47 (16). 1,2,5-Trimethoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene (**13**): colorless oil; IR (film): 2934, 2893, 2828, 1589, 1466 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.79–2.11 (m, 2H), 2.64–2.72 (m, 2H), 3.44 (s, 3H), 3.50 (s, 3H), 3.66–3.73 (m, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 4.25 (d, *J*=5.1 Hz, 1H), 6.74 (d, *J*=8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (d, *J*=7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.13–7.23 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 19.4, 22.5, 55.2, 56.5, 57.3, 77.6, 79.4, 108.8, 121.8, 125.7, 126.3, 135.6; MS *m/z* (%) 222 (M⁺, 11), 190 (24), 164 (100), 149 (58), 134 (10), 115 (20), 105 (7), 91 (40), 77 (16), 65 (10), 45 (13). HRMS Calcd for C₁₃H₁₈O₃ 222.1256, found 222.1255.

1.1.4. Reaction of 8-methoxy-1,2-dihydronaphthalene (7) in MeOH at -78°C. A mixture of **7**²⁰ (0.127 g, 0.794 mmol), TTN·3H₂O (0.39 g, 0.87 mmol) and MeOH (6 mL) was stirred for 30 min at -78°C and 5 min at room temperature. Purification by column chromatography gave **12** (0.077 g, 0.35 mmol, 44%) and **13** (0.023 g, 0.10 mmol, 13%).

1.1.5. 1,1-Dimethoxymethyl-4-methoxy-2,3-dihydro-1H-indene (12). A mixture of **7**²⁰ (0.113 g, 0.705 mmol), TTN·3H₂O (0.35 g, 0.78 mmol) and TMOF (3.5 mL) was stirred for 5 min at 0°C. Purification by flash chromatography (10% EtOAc in hexanes) gave **12** (0.120 g, 0.540 mmol, 77%) and **13** (0.015 g, 0.069 mmol, 10%).

1.1.6. Reaction of 6-methoxy-1,2-dihydronaphthalene (8) in MeOH. A mixture of **8**²⁰ (0.123 g, 0.768 mmol), TTN·3H₂O (0.38 g, 0.85 mmol) and MeOH (4 mL) was stirred for 5 min at 0°C. Purification by flash chromatography (gradient elution, 10–20% EtOAc in hexanes) gave **14** (0.116 g, 0.522 mmol, 68%) and **15** (0.014 g, 0.063 mmol, 8%). 1-Dimethoxymethyl-6-methoxy-2,3-dihydro-1H-indene (**14**): colorless oil; IR (film): 2940, 1709, 1612, 1492, 1281 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.87–2.05 (m, 1H), 2.11–2.29 (m, 1H), 2.68–2.95 (m, 2H), 3.36 (s, 3H), 3.40 (m, 1H), 3.43 (s, 3H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 4.31 (d, *J*=7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.73 (dd, *J*=2.2 and 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.01 (d, *J*=2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (d, *J*=8.8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 27.8, 30.3, 47.5, 52.5, 54.0, 55.2, 107.0, 110.9, 112.6, 124.5, 136.6, 158.4; MS *m/z* (%) 222 (M⁺, 6), 191 (9), 159 (8), 147 (9), 131 (3), 115 (9), 103 (5), 91 (6), 75 (100), 63 (2), 47 (16). Anal. Calcd for C₁₃H₁₈O₃: C, 70.24; H, 8.16. Found: C, 69.87; H, 7.86. 1,2,7-Trimethoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene (**15**): colorless oil; IR (film): 2934, 2831, 1613, 1501, 1463, 1264, 1250, 1110, 1087 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.73–1.96 (m, 1H), 2.04–2.19 (m, 1H), 2.62–2.87 (m, 1H), 3.46 (s, 3H), 3.53 (s, 3H), 3.67–3.74 (m, 1H), 3.79 (m, 1H), 4.24 (d, *J*=5.2 Hz, 1H), 6.77 (dd, *J*=2.9 and 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (d, *J*=2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.02 (d, *J*=8.1 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 23.9, 24.8, 55.3, 57.5, 78.0, 80.1, 114.0, 114.2, 129.0, 129.4, 135.7, 157.8.

1.1.7. 1,1-Dimethoxymethyl-6-methoxy-2,3-dihydro-1H-indene (14). A mixture of **8**²⁰ (0.141 g, 0.768 mmol), TTN·3H₂O (0.43 g, 0.97 mmol) and TMOF (4.5 mL) was stirred for 5 min at 0°C. Purification by flash chromatography (gradient elution, 10–20% EtOAc in hexanes) gave **14** (0.144 g, 0.648 mmol, 74%) and **15** (0.013 g, 0.057 mmol, 6%).

1.1.8. Reaction of 4-methyl-1,2-dihydronaphthalene (9) with TTN at -30°C. A mixture of **9**²¹ (0.039 g, 0.27 mmol), TTN·3H₂O (0.21 g, 0.47 mmol) and MeOH (5 mL) was stirred for 15 min at -30°C. Purification by column chromatography gave **16a** (0.021 g, 0.10 mmol, 38%) and **16b** (0.017 g, 0.082 mmol, 31%). *cis*-1,2-Dimethoxy-1-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene (**16a**): colorless oil; ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.47 (s, 3H), 1.69–1.90 (m, 1H), 2.20–2.34 (m, 1H), 2.87 (q, *J*=4.4 Hz, 2H), 3.06 (s, 3H), 3.53 (s, 3H), 3.74 (dd, *J*=3.7 and 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.05–7.26 (m, 3H), 7.42–7.47 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 24.5, 24.7, 28.0, 50.1, 57.1, 58.8, 77.6, 80.1, 126.2, 126.4, 128.2, 136.5, 139.6. *trans*-1,2-Dimethoxy-1-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene (**16b**): colorless oil; ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.54 (s, 3H), 1.91–2.06 (m, 1H), 2.11–2.29 (m, 1H), 2.65–2.80 (m, 1H), 2.95–3.11 (m, 1H), 3.21 (s, 3H), 3.46 (s, 3H), 3.47 (dd, *J*=3.2 and 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.07–7.12 (m, 1H), 7.14–7.22 (m, 2H), 7.44–7.52 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ

22.0, 23.0, 26.2, 50.9, 76.1, 81.9, 125.5, 127.1, 127.2, 128.6, 136.2, 138.5.

1.1.9. Reaction of 4-*n*-butyl-1-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene (10) with TTN at 25°C. A mixture of **10** (0.071 g, 0.35 mmol), TTN·3H₂O (0.17 g, 0.38 mmol) and MeOH (6 mL) was stirred for 40 min at room temperature. Purification by column chromatography gave **17** (0.021 g, 0.085 mmol, 23%) and **18**. 1-*n*-Butyl-1,2-dimethoxy-4-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene (**17**): colorless oil; ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.87 (t, *J*=7.0 Hz, 3H), 0.96–1.42 (m, 2H), 1.38 (d, *J*=7.0 Hz, 3H), 1.83–2.23 (m, 6H), 2.83–2.95 (m, 1H), 3.08 (s, 3H), 3.46 (s, 3H), 3.47 (dd, *J*=3.8 and 11.3 Hz, 1H), 7.15–7.40 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.0, 22.9, 23.2, 26.5, 30.0, 31.9, 32.2, 50.7, 57.1, 78.6, 79.6, 125.2, 127.6 (2x), 134.9, 142.7. 1-*n*-Butyl-4-methylnaphthalene^{22,23} (**18**): colorless oil; ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.96 (t, *J*=7.0 Hz, 3H), 1.39–1.76 (m, 5H), 2.67 (s, 3H), 3.04 (t, *J*=7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (d, *J*=7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.47–7.55 (m, 2H), 7.99–8.09 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.0, 19.4, 22.9, 32.8, 33.1, 124.5, 124.8, 125.1, 125.2, 125.5, 126.3, 131.9, 132.2, 137.1.

1.1.10. 1-Dioxolanyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-indene (19). A mixture of **1** (0.267 g, 2.05 mmol), TTN·3H₂O (1.00 g, 2.26 mmol) and diethyleneglycol (5 mL) was stirred for 15 min at room temperature, affording pure **19** (0.254 g, 1.34 mmol, 65%) as a colorless oil; IR (film): 2947, 2885, 1478, 1131, 753 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.05–2.12 (m, 1H), 2.17–2.30 (m, 1H), 2.81–3.05 (m, 2H), 3.37–3.43 (m, 1H), 3.84–3.98 (m, 4H), 4.97 (d, *J*=5.3 Hz, 1H), 7.15–7.23 (m, 3H), 7.40–7.43 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 26.7, 31.6, 48.9, 64.9, 65.3, 106.6, 124.5, 125.4, 126.1, 127.1, 142.1, 144.9; MS, *m/z* (%) 190 (M⁺, 2), 129 (3), 115 (16), 91 (5), 73 (100). Anal. Calcd for C₁₂H₁₄O₂: C, 75.76; H, 7.42. Found: C, 75.70; H, 7.37.

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