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Diastereoselective Prins-type Reaction of Cycloalkenylcyclopropanol Silyl Ethers and α,β -Unsaturated Aldehyde Acetals

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Abstract

Electrophilic addition of 1-(1-cyclohexenyl)-1-cyclopropanol trimethylsilyl ether to α,β -unsaturated aldehyde acetals under Lewis acidic conditions proceeds with good to excellent diastereoselectivity to afford spirocyclobutanones containing three contiguous stereocenters. A convenient entry to enantioselective syntheses is available by use of a nonracemic C_2 -symmetric acetal. Elaboration of the resulting adducts provides ready access to medium-sized carbocycles.

Introduction

The release of strain arising from cleavage of cyclopropanes has been frequently utilized in organic synthesis.¹ Heteroatom-substituted cyclopropanes display enhanced nucleophilicity and provide convenient methods for regio- and stereoselective ring-opening. For example, ring-opening reactions of cyclopropanols and silyloxy derivatives have been extensively investigated and render them a “homoenol” or “homoenolate” equivalent.^{2–4} The juxtaposition of a cyclopropanol and an olefin or an alkyne generates unique conjunctive functionalities suitable for different modes of C–C bond formation, and the Trost group documented facile addition of the trimethylsilyl ethers of 1-vinylcyclopropanols to oxocarbenium ions (generated in situ from acetals).^{5,6} In the absence of overriding geometrical factors, electrophilic attack takes place preferentially at the double bond leading to formation of the corresponding spirocyclobutanones bearing three contiguous stereocenters (eq 1). It is not surprising that diastereocontrol proved to be difficult,^{5,7} and a handful of known diastereoselective examples reported have been limited primarily to intramolecular variants.^{5,8} We report herein diastereoselective Prins-type reactions of 1-(1-cyclohexenyl)-1-cyclopropanol trimethylsilyl ether (**2**) and α,β -unsaturated aldehyde acetals.

(1)

Results and Discussion

Cyclopropanol **1**, which was readily prepared by the Kulinkovich cyclopropanation of methyl 1-cyclohexene-1-carboxylate,^{9,10} was selected for a vinylogous homo-Prins - or homo-Mukaiyama-type reaction¹¹ with acetals under Lewis acidic conditions (Scheme 1). Ring expansion induced by addition of an oxocarbenium ion to a trisubstituted olefin (e.g., 1-cyclohexenyl moiety) should provide ready access to a quaternary center.¹² This straightforward procedure was applicable to a full range of acetals derived from aliphatic,

α,β -unsaturated, aromatic aldehydes, and alkynals to give the corresponding spirocyclobutanones in excellent yields. Diastereoselectivity was found to be not only sensitive to reaction parameters (e.g., reaction temperatures, Lewis acids, the presence of lutidine, etc), but also modest (typically 3–4:1).

However, the use of α,β -unsaturated aldehyde acetals was shown to be an exception. Treatment of a mixture of TMS ether **2** and dimethylacetals **3a–e** with TiCl_4 at -78°C afforded spirobutanones **4a–e** in 93–99% (combined) yield and with good diastereoselectivity. Only the stereochemistry of the major isomers is shown in Scheme 1, where the product ratios were determined by GC-MS and also analysis of ^1H NMR spectra. Formation of two (e.g., **4a** and **4c**) or three (e.g., **4b**, **4d**, and **4e**) isomers was usually observed out of four possible diastereomers. Fortuitously, the major isomers were easily separated by silica gel chromatography from the remaining isomers in all cases. Cyclopropanols could also be used directly without silylation, but the resulting diastereoselectivity was often different from that obtained for the corresponding TMS ethers. For example, coupling of **1** and **3a** afforded a 1:3 mixture of two products epimeric at the quaternary carbon in 85% yield and the minor isomer corresponded to **4a**.

The unequivocal stereochemical determination of **4e** was established by single crystal X-ray analysis.¹³ The stereochemical assignment of **4a–d** was then made by the correlation study involving oxidative cleavage of the double bond of **4e** (subsequent to desilylation) and **4a–d**, in addition to difference NOE measurements or comparison of key coupling constants. TLC behavior of these isomers was also informative because of regular patterns apparent among several related spirobutanones (Scheme 2), the stereochemistry of which had previously been secured by single crystal X-ray analysis: R_f values of the indicated (*S,R*)-products (e.g., **4a–e**) were lower than those of the respective (*R,R*)-isomers. The observed (*S,R*)-stereochemistry can be rationalized by synclinal approach of the vinylcyclopropanol to the oxocarbenium ion to avoid nonbonded interactions between the cyclopropane ring and the alkenyl substituent, as shown in the Newman projection **I** in Scheme 1.

Conspicuous is the *cis*-stereochemical relationship between the two newly formed C–C bonds of **4a–e**, which is indicative of the intermediacy of the stable tertiary cyclopropylcarbiny cations **II**.^{7,14} The diastereofacial bias of ring expansion appears to be steric in origin; depending on substrates (e.g., **4a–e** and **5A** vs **6** and **7A**), both net “*cis*” and “*trans*” addition are observed. The preferential formation of **4a–e** (“*cis*” addition) might be attributed in part to the minimization of torsional strain during ring expansion (1,2-alkyl shift): as 1,2-alkyl shift occurs, “*trans*” addition would have to go through a fully eclipsed arrangement between the newly introduced side chain and the C–C=O bond.¹⁵

When (*Z*)- α,β -unsaturated aldehyde acetals were employed, complete isomerization to the *E*-double bond was observed, and this result is in accord with generation and subsequent trapping of oxocarbenium ions (Scheme 3). Diminished diastereoselectivity was observed for formation of **8**.

As was the case with **7A/7B**,^{7b,c} a straightforward entry to enantioselective synthesis was available by utilizing a nonracemic C_2 -symmetric acetal (Scheme 4). Hydrobenzoin was chosen as a chiral auxiliary primarily because of its commercial availability and ease of removal. The coupling reaction of **2** and **9a,b** resulted in both 1,2- and 1,4-addition, and no attempt was made to assign the stereochemistry of **11a,b**. The placement of a bulky substituent at the β -position precluded 1,4-addition, as shown in the stereoselective (11:1) formation of **10c**. The stereochemistry of the major products **10b,c** was assigned by analogy to that of **10a**, which had been secured by X-ray analysis.¹³ The observed 1,3-diastereofacial selectivity by the chiral C_2 -symmetric acetal is consistent with literature precedence.¹⁶

In order to probe the scope of the key coupling reaction, we next studied the reactions of **12** and **3a–c** (Scheme 5). The diastereoselectivity exerted by **12** was considerably lower than that by **2**, where the stereochemistry of **13a–c** was tentatively assigned by analogy to **4a–c**. The observed decrease in selectivity with the cyclopentene system **12** reflects a smaller difference in energy between the two transition states leading to “*cis*” and “*trans*” addition. As the final step involves rehybridization from the sp^2 carbon to the sp^3 quaternary carbon, both transition states involving cyclopentanes contain an increasing number of eclipsing interactions. On the other hand, cyclohexanes, in which a staggered arrangement is possible, presumably display a larger difference in energy between the two transition states corresponding to *cis* and *trans* addition. Acyclic di- and tri-substituted alkenyl cyclopropanols gave only low diastereoselectivity.

These addition products possess useful functionalities and are well suited for subsequent elaboration such as annulation of various ring sizes. To demonstrate the synthetic versatility of these products, functionalized seven- and eight-membered carbocycles **19–21** were next prepared from **4a** by radical-induced fragmentation of the spirocyclobutanone moiety (Scheme 6).^{7a,b,17,18} Treatment of **4a** with iodine in acetic acid provided a separable 2.5:1 mixture of **14** and **15** in 90% yield and with high diastereofacial selectivity. However, the low regiocontrol was surprising. The stereochemical assignment of **14** and **15** was supported by not only ample literature examples on electrophilic addition of allylic alcohol derivatives,¹⁹ but also several correlation studies (including preparation and elaboration of **16** and **17**).²⁰ The free radical-mediated cyclization–fragmentation reaction of **15** was next achieved by slow addition of *n*-tributyltin hydride in the presence of AIBN to give **19** as an easily separable mixture of two epimers (4.4:1, 82% yield), where the *trans*-ring junction stereochemistry resulted from 1,5-hydrogen transfer. Similarly, free radical-mediated cyclization–fragmentation of **14** and **18** proceeded smoothly to afford **20** and **21** in 84% and 75% yield, respectively. It is interesting to note that **20** was isolated as a mixture of all four diastereomers, whereas **21** was obtained as a ~2:1 mixture of two isomers.

Conclusions

In summary, a family of coupling reactions between 1-(1-cyclohexenyl)-1-cyclopropanol TMS ether (**2**) and α,β -unsaturated aldehyde acetals has been developed to quickly assemble spirocyclobutanones containing three contiguous stereocenters. Particularly noteworthy is high diastereoselectivity obtained by employing α,β -alkenal acetals in marked contrast to modest selectivity (3–4:1) observed for other acetals. The resulting products contain useful functionalities such as a cyclobutanone and an allylic ether, which are well suited for elaboration. Mechanistic studies to elucidate dominant factors for diastereocontrol and other methods for diastereoselective functionalization of the coupling products will be reported in due course.

Experimental Section

Representative Procedure for Vinylogous Mukaiyama or Prins-type Reactions of Cycloalkenylcyclopropanol Silyl Ethers

To a cooled ($-78\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$) solution of silyl ether **2** (421 mg, 2 mmol) and acetal **3d** (559 mg, 3 mmol) in dichloromethane (20 mL) was added dropwise a solution of TiCl_4 (570 mg, 3 mmol) in dichloromethane (3 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at $-78\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ for 15 min and then quenched by sequential addition of saturated NaCl (20 mL) and ether (40 mL). The organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl ether ($2 \times 10\text{ mL}$). The combined organic extracts were passed through a short pad of $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4\text{--Al}_2\text{O}_3$, and the filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure. Purification of the residue by column chromatography (30 g SiO_2 , 15:1 to 10:1 hexanes–EtOAc) afforded **4d** (491 mg, 84%) as

colorless oil, in addition to two diastereomers (64 mg, 11%): IR (film) 1777 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 5.59 (dt, $J = 15.5, 6.6$ Hz, 1H), 5.18 (ddt, $J = 15.5, 9.1, 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 3.19 (t, $J = 9.1$ Hz, 1H), 3.15 (s, 3H), 2.95–2.84 (m, 2H), 2.04 (qd, $J = 6.6, 1.4$ Hz, 2H), 1.98 (tdd, $J = 11.3, 7.6, 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 1.78 (ddd, $J = 13.5, 9.7, 3.7$ Hz, 1H), 1.59 (m, 1H), 1.40–1.10 (m, 15H), 0.88 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 3H), 0.82 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 215.4, 136.8, 129.1, 85.2, 66.9, 55.1, 45.5, 41.2, 33.8, 32.2, 31.6, 29.1, 28.8, 25.8, 25.1, 22.6, 22.0, 18.3, 14.0; HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{32}\text{O}_2$ (M^+) 292.2402, found 292.2412.

4a—IR (film) 1778 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 5.60 (dq, $J = 15.2, 6.6$ Hz, 1H), 5.19 (ddq, $J = 15.2, 9.1, 1.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.18 (t, $J = 9.1$ Hz, 1H), 3.12 (s, 3H), 2.96–2.84 (m, 2H), 1.95 (m, 1H), 1.80–1.66 (m, 2H), 1.72 (dd, $J = 6.6, 1.5$ Hz, 3H), 1.66–1.60 (m, 2H), 1.59–1.56 (m, 2H), 1.46 (m, 1H), 1.28–1.10 (m, 2H), 0.81 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 215.4, 131.1, 130.5, 85.1, 66.9, 55.1, 45.5, 41.2, 33.8, 25.7, 25.1, 22.0, 18.2, 17.7; HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{42}\text{O}_2$ (M^+) 222.1620, found 222.1623.

4b—IR (film) 1778 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 5.58 (dt, $J = 15.4, 6.9$ Hz, 1H), 5.19 (ddt, $J = 15.4, 8.9, 1.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.19 (t, $J = 8.9$ Hz, 1H), 3.13 (s, 3H), 2.97–2.83 (m, 2H), 2.04 (m, 2H), 1.96 (tdd, $J = 11.4, 7.7, 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 1.78 (ddd, $J = 13.4, 9.7, 3.7$ Hz, 1H), 1.74–1.35 (m, 8H), 1.31–1.10 (m, 2H), 0.89 (t, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 3H), 0.82 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 215.3, 136.5, 129.2, 85.2, 66.9, 55.1, 45.5, 41.2, 34.3, 33.8, 25.8, 25.1, 22.4, 22.1, 18.3, 13.7; HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{26}\text{O}_2$ (M^+) 250.1933, found 250.1938.

4c—IR (film) 1777 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 5.58 (dt, $J = 15.5, 6.5$ Hz, 1H), 5.19 (ddt, $J = 15.5, 9.0, 1.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.18 (t, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.14 (s, 3H), 2.97–2.85 (m, 2H), 2.08–2.03 (m, 2H), 1.96 (m, 1H), 1.78 (ddd, $J = 12.5, 10.0, 3.5$ Hz, 1H), 1.70 (m, 1H), 1.67–1.61 (m, 2H), 1.60–1.55 (m, 2H), 1.47 (m, 1H), 1.42–1.11 (m, 7H), 0.93–0.78 (m, 5H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 215.4, 136.8, 129.1, 85.2, 66.9, 55.1, 45.5, 41.2, 33.8, 32.1, 31.3, 28.9, 25.8, 25.1, 22.4, 22.0, 18.3, 14.0; HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{30}\text{O}_2$ (M^+) 278.2246, found 278.2247.

4e—IR (film) 1779 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 5.82 (d, $J = 18.5$ Hz, 1H), 5.74 (dd, $J = 18.5, 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.20 (dd, $J = 9.5, 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.15 (s, 3H), 2.97–2.86 (m, 2H), 1.97 (m, 1H), 1.80 (ddd, $J = 13.0, 10.0, 3.5$ Hz, 1H), 1.71 (ddd, $J = 13.0, 5.0, 3.0$ Hz, 2H), 1.67–1.56 (m, 2H), 1.56–1.43 (m, 2H), 1.30–1.12 (m, 2H), 0.85 (m, 1H), 0.06 (s, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 215.3, 144.7, 136.4, δ 87.9, 66.8, 55.6, 45.0, 41.2, 33.8, 25.6, 25.1, 22.0, 18.3, –1.3; HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{28}\text{O}_2\text{Si}$ (M^+) 280.1859, found 280.1863.

5A—IR (film) 1774 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (360 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 3.44 (dd, $J = 8.1, 7.3$ Hz, 2H), 3.28 (s, 3H), 3.18 (dt, $J = 9.0, 4.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.87–3.01 (m, 2H), 2.26 (m, 1H), 2.07 (m, 1H), 1.85–1.99 (m, 2H), 1.59–1.73 (m, 5H), 1.47 (m, 1H), 1.26 (m, 2H), 0.97 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (90 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 215.0, 81.3, 67.1, 56.5, 44.3, 41.5, 34.3, 34.2, 28.8, 26.3, 25.4, 22.0, 18.6.

5B—IR (film) 1766 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (360 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 3.44–3.57 (m, 3H), 3.33 (s, δ 3H), 2.91 (t, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 2.25 (dt, $J = 11.0, 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 1.74–1.82 (m, 2H), 1.48–1.68 (m, 9H), 1.22 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (90 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 215.2, 80.2, 67.1, 58.2, 46.3, 41.6, 36.1, 35.8, 31.1, 25.9, 25.7, 23.3, 23.1.

5C (third isomer; structure not shown in Scheme 2)—IR (film) 1770 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 3.35–3.46 (m, 2H), 3.32 (s, 3H), 3.28 (td, $J = 6.8, 3.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.00 (ddd, $J = 18.4, 10.0$ Hz, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.90 (ddd, $J = 18.4, 10.0, 6.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.34 (m, 1H), 2.08 (m, 1H), 1.97 (m, 1H), 1.68–1.77 (m, 4H), 1.60–1.68 (m, 2H), 1.48 (m, 1H), 1.34 (m, 1H), 1.15–1.30 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 216.5, 80.8, 69.1, 57.8, 43.2, 42.2, 35.6, 34.6, 30.1, 25.6, 23.0, 22.0, 19.9.

10a—IR (film) 1778 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.20–7.24 (m, 3H), 7.10–7.14 (m, 3H), 6.95–7.02 (m, 4H), 5.16–5.27 (m, 2H), 4.72 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 4.70 (br s, 1H, -OH), 4.41 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.38 (t, $J = 9.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.23 (ddd, $J = 18.0, 10.0, 5.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.15 (ddd, $J = 18.0, 10.0, 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 2.01 (m, 1H), 1.88 (ddd, $J = 12.6, 9.5, 3.7$ Hz, 1H), 1.77 (m, 1H), 1.58–1.70 (m, 3H), 1.68 (d, $J = 5.2$ Hz, 3H), 1.44–1.54 (m, 2H), 1.28 (m, 1H), 1.16 (m, 1H), 0.73 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 218.3, 139.5, 137.2, 132.5, 130.3, 128.2, 128.1, 127.9, 127.7, 127.3, 127.1, 83.3, 79.6, 77.9, 66.9, 45.4, 41.9, 33.9, 25.9, 25.0, 22.0, 18.1, 17.7.

10b—IR (film) 1769 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.18–7.22 (m, 3H), 7.10–7.16 (m, 3H), 6.95–7.04 (m, 4H), 5.12–5.27 (m, 2H), 4.71 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.45 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.39 (dd, $J = 9.3, 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.24 (ddd, $J = 18.0, 9.7, 4.9$ Hz, 1H), 3.15 (ddd, $J = 18.0, 9.7, 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 1.98–2.03 (m, 2H), 1.89 (m, 1H), 1.76 (m, 1H), 1.58–1.72 (m, 3H), 1.42–1.57 (m, 2H), 1.10–1.40 (m, 10H), 0.88 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 3H), 0.74 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 218.1, 139.5, 137.9, 137.1, 128.9, 128.2, 128.0, 127.8, 127.6, 127.2, 127.1, 83.2, 79.6, 77.9, 67.0, 45.5, 42.0, 33.9, 32.2, 31.4, 28.8, 25.7, 25.1, 22.5, 22.1, 18.2, 14.1.

10c—IR (film) 3565, 1778 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.20–7.24 (m, 3H), 7.05–7.12 (m, 3H), 6.98–7.12 (m, 2H), 6.94–6.97 (m, 2H), 5.71 (dd, $J = 18.7, 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 5.50 (d, $J = 18.7$ Hz, 1H), 4.72 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 4.38 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 3.57 (dd, $J = 9.6, 9.1$ Hz, 1H), 3.22 (dd, $J = 17.7, 9.6, 5.1$ Hz, 1H), 3.15 (ddd, $J = 17.7, 9.6, 7.1$ Hz, 1H), 1.99 (m, 1H), 1.92 (ddd, $J = 13.0, 9.6, 3.5$ Hz, 1H), 1.78 (m, 1H), 1.55–1.70 (m, 4H), 1.51 (m, 1H), 1.42 (m, 1H), 1.29 (m, 1H), 1.17 (m, 1H), 0.75 (m, 1H), 0.06 (s, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 218.3, 144.4, 139.7, 138.3, 137.0, 128.3, 128.1, 128.0, 127.8, 127.4, 127.0, 83.5, 82.3, 77.9, 66.9, 44.7, 42.0, 33.9, 25.4, 25.0, 22.0, 18.2, -1.4.

13a—IR (film) 1771 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 5.63 (dq, $J = 15.4, 6.5$ Hz, 1H), 5.22 (ddq, $J = 15.4, 8.5, 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 3.32 (dd, $J = 10.1, 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.15 (s, 3H), 2.93 (t, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H), 2.14–2.30 (m, 2H), 1.98 (m, 1H), 1.55–1.84 (m, 5H), 1.71 (dd, $J = 6.5, 1.6$ Hz, 3H), 1.19 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 216.3, 130.5, 129.8, 84.3, 71.9, 55.2, 50.3, 42.9, 37.7, 28.1, 23.2, 21.1, 17.7; HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{17}\text{O}_2$ ($\text{M}^+ - \text{Me}$) 193.1229, found 193.1233.

13b—IR (film) 1778 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 5.61 (dt, $J = 15.4, 6.9$ Hz, 1H), 5.20 (ddt, $J = 15.4, 8.5, 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 3.34 (dd, $J = 10.1, 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.17 (s, 3H), 2.95 (t, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H), 2.14–2.32 (m, 2H), 1.93–2.04 (m, 2H), 1.80 (m, 1H), 1.55–1.68 (m, 3H), 1.35–1.45 (m, 2H), 1.18 (m, 1H), 0.89 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 216.3, 135.2, 129.4, 84.4, 72.0, 55.3, 50.4, 42.9, 37.8, 34.3, 28.2, 23.2, 22.4, 21.2, 13.6; HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{24}\text{O}_2$ (M^+) 236.1776, found 236.1779.

13c—IR (film) 1778 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 5.61 (dt, $J = 15.4, 6.9$ Hz, 1H), 5.20 (ddt, $J = 15.4, 8.5, 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 3.33 (dd, $J = 10.1, 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.18 (s, 3H), 2.94 (t, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H), 2.06–2.32 (m, 2H), 1.94–2.04 (m, 3H), 1.81 (m, 1H), 1.56–1.68 (m, 4H), 1.05–1.23 (m, 7H), 0.88 (t, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 216.3, 135.5, 129.2, 84.4, 72.0, 55.3, 50.4, 42.9, 37.8, 32.2, 31.3, 28.9, 28.2, 23.2, 25.5, 21.8, 14.1; HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{28}\text{O}_2$ (M^+) 264.2089, found 264.2096.

Preparation of 14 and 15—A mixture of cyclobutanone **4a** (178 mg, 0.8 mmol), Hg (OAc)₂ (318.7 mg, 1.0 mmol), and iodine (254 mg, 1.0 mmol) in acetic acid (4.0 mL) was stirred at room temperature for 4 h. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was dissolved in ether, washed with brine and an aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution, dried over Na_2SO_4 , and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by preparative TLC to afford **14** (209.3 mg, 64%) and **15** (84.1 mg, 26%).

14—IR (film) 1776, 1739 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 5.17 (dq, $J = 9.7, 6.1$ Hz, 1H), 4.13 (dd, $J = 9.7, 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.36 (s, 3H), 2.98 (ddd, $J = 17.8, 9.7, 6.9$ Hz, 1H), 2.85 (ddd, $J = 17.8, 9.7, 4.9$ Hz, 1H), 2.55 (dd, $J = 9.3, 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 2.10 (s, 3H), 1.99 (ddd, $J = 12.2, 9.3, 3.4$ Hz, 1H), 1.89 (dddd, $J = 11.4, 9.7, 6.9, 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 1.60–1.80 (m, 6H), 1.52 (d, $J = 6.1$ Hz, 3H), 1.20–1.40 (m, 2H), 1.12 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 213.2, 169.4, 80.5, 72.6, 66.5, 59.2, 46.8, 43.1, 41.1, 33.8, 27.6, 24.9, 22.0, 21.9, 21.3, 19.4.

15—IR (film) 1776, 1743 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 5.37 (dd, $J = 4.9, 1.8$ Hz, 1H), 4.48 (qd, $J = 6.9, 4.9$ Hz, 1H), 3.38 (s, 3H), 3.34 (dd, $J = 9.3, 1.8$ Hz, 1H), 2.94 (ddd, $J = 17.0, 9.7, 6.9$ Hz, 1H), 2.81 (ddd, $J = 17.0, 9.7, 5.3$ Hz, 1H), 2.18 (s, 3H), 2.03 (m, 1H), 1.99 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 3H), 1.85–1.58 (m, 7H), 1.08–1.36 (m, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 213.6, 170.0, 84.8, 78.7, 66.6, 59.1, 43.6, 41.0, 33.9, 27.8, 25.1, 24.6, 23.5, 21.7, 21.0, 18.9.

16—IR (film) 2934, 2859 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 4.54 (hept, $J = 6.1$ Hz, 1H), 4.43 (dq, $J = 10.1, 6.9$ Hz, 1H), 3.80 (dd, $J = 2.5, 0.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.68 (dd, $J = 10.1, 0.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.59 (s, 3H), 2.14–2.28 (m, 2H), 2.04 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 3H), 1.96 (m, 1H), 1.60–1.80 (m, 4H), 1.40–1.53 (m, 5H), 1.29 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 103.3, 78.9, 78.3, 68.9 (q, $J = 32.8$ Hz), 68.6 (q, $J = 32.8$ Hz), 62.0, 47.2, 43.6, 32.0, 31.0, 26.3, 26.2, 25.5, 24.4, 22.2, 21.3 (2 C's).

17—IR (film) 2934, 2859 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 4.46 (hept, $J = 6.1$ Hz, 1H), 4.26–4.34 (m, 2H), 3.80 (br s, 1H), 3.43 (s, 3H), 2.72 (m, 1H), 2.22 (m, 1H), 2.05 (dd, $J = 12.6, 2.4$ Hz, 1H), 1.95 (ddd, $J = 13.0, 10.1, 3.7$ Hz, 1H), 1.52–1.78 (m, 5H), 1.43 (d, $J = 6.5$ Hz, 3H), 1.34–1.48 (m, 4H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 109.3, 94.7, 94.5, 73.4, 69.7 (q, $J = 33$ Hz), 69.3 (q, $J = 33$ Hz), 59.3, 53.9, 39.5, 39.3, 34.3, 30.9, 29.3, 26.4, 21.6, 21.4, 19.5.

18—IR (film) 3434, 1764 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 4.18 (dq, $J = 9.3, 6.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.01 (dd, $J = 9.3, 1.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.48 (s, 3H), 3.03 (dd, $J = 9.3, 1.8$ Hz, 1H), 2.84–3.00 (m, 2H), 2.06 (ddd, $J = 11.8, 9.3, 3.2$ Hz, 1H), 1.98 (m, 1H), 1.47–1.78 (m, 7H), 1.54 (d, $J = 6.5$ Hz, 3H), 1.18–1.38 (m, 2H), 1.07 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 214.0, 80.3, 70.0, 66.8, 58.8, 46.8, 46.5, 41.1, 33.9, 27.8, 25.0, 25.0, 21.9, 19.5.

Representative Procedure for Free radical cyclization

A solution of **15** (20 mg, 0.049 mmol) in benzene (5.0 mL) was heated at reflux under an argon atmosphere. A solution of *n*-Bu₃SnH (30 mg, 0.1 mmol) and AIBN (1.6 mg, 0.01 mmol) in benzene (1.0 mL) was added over 6 h. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the residue was treated with Et₃N·3HF complex (0.5 mL) in ether (3.0 mL). The resulting mixture was stirred for 1 h at room temperature and passed through a pad of SiO₂. The filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by SiO₂ (1.0 g) column chromatography using 10:1 hexanes-ethyl acetate as eluent to give **19** (11.3 mg, 82%) as a 4.4:1 mixture of diastereomers: (**major diastereomer**) IR (film) 1740, 1702 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 5.08 (dd, $J = 5.0, 2.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.41 (dq, $J = 6.5, 5.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.35 (s, 3H), 3.24 (d, $J = 2.8$ Hz, 1H), 2.72 (m, 1H), 2.30 (ddd, $J = 19.1, 6.5, 3.2$ Hz, 1H), 2.12 (s, 3H), 1.55–1.80 (m, 7H), 1.05–1.22 (m, 5H), 1.01 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 213.2, 170.5, 87.8, 79.6, 61.0, 44.7, 42.9, 38.5, 36.4, 36.0, 34.0, 26.6, 26.2, 21.1, 12.5 (There is an overlap corresponding to 2 C's.); HRMS calcd for C₁₆H₂₆O₄ (M⁺) 282.1831, found 282.1838.

21 (higher *R_f*, trans-ring junction isomer)—IR (film) 3435, 1693 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 3.97 (apparent quintet, $J = 6.1$ Hz, 1H), 3.64 (d, $J = 6.1$ Hz, 1H), 3.40 (s, 3H), 3.30 (d, $J = 4.5$ Hz, 1H), 2.79 (dd, $J = 6.1, 4.5$ Hz, 1H), 2.73 (ddd, $J = 15.0, 10.1, 2.8$ Hz, 1H), 2.39 (ddd, $J = 15.0, 10.1, 2.8$ Hz, 1H), 1.95 (m, 1H), 1.45–1.56 (m, 6H), 1.03–1.40 (m, 3H),

1.27 (d, $J = 6.5$ Hz, 3H), 0.96–1.02 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 216.5, 84.0, 67.7, 60.7, 59.1, 45.5, 41.8, 37.1, 34.5, 32.9, 30.9, 26.5, 26.1, 21.7.

21 (lower R_f , cis-ring junction isomer)—IR (film) 3454, 1697 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 4.22 (qd, $J = 6.5$, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 3.79 (dd, $J = 10.9$, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 3.42 (s, 3H), 2.57 (ddd, $J = 12.2$, 12.2, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 2.46 (dd, $J = 10.9$, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 2.40 (d, $J = 6.5$ Hz, 1H), 2.34 (ddd, $J = 12.2$, 6.5, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 2.12 (ddd, $J = 12.6$, 6.5, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 1.74–2.00 (m, 3H), 1.50–1.65 (m, 5H), 1.20–1.50 (m, 2H), 1.25 (d, $J = 6.5$ Hz, 3H), 1.07 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 213.3, 82.3, 68.2, 60.5, 57.4, 43.6, 42.6, 38.5, 33.6, 26.8, 26.6, 21.6, 21.2, 20.7.

Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

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13. We thank Dr. Mary Jane Heeg for single crystal X-ray analysis. The X-ray data have been deposited with the Cambridge Structural Database: please refer to CSD nos. 265946 (4e), 256733 (5A), and 263915 (10a). X-ray structures are also secured for 6 (Cf. 239454 and 239496), 7A (Cf. 232509), 7B (232508), and 8 (232506).
14. In our initial studies (ref 7a) involving cognate reactions of alkanal acetals, anti-periplanar *trans* addition was mistakenly assumed in their tentative assignment of the ring junction stereochemistry by extrapolation of 6 and 7A. Subsequent studies, as documented in this work, clearly indicate a stepwise reaction pathway.
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20. Treatment of 14 and 15 with guanidine furnished the identical *erythro E*-epoxide, which was also secured by acidic hydrolysis of 17 and subsequent epoxide formation. On the other hand, the *threo E*-epoxide was obtained from 16. Additionally, iodohydrin formation gave 18 as the major product, along with a mixture of the two *E*-epoxides.

Scheme 1.
Coupling of **2** and Acetals **3a–e**.

Scheme 2.
Coupling Reactions of **2** with Aliphatic and Aryl Aldehyde Acetals.⁷

Scheme 3.
Reactions of Z- α,β -Unsaturated Aldehyde Acetals.

Scheme 4.
Use of Non-Racemic C_2 -Symmetric Acetals.

Scheme 5.
Reactions of **12** and Acetals **3a-c**.

Scheme 6.
Free Radical-Mediated Annulation of Medium-Sized Rings.