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# Recent Applications of the Simple Hydrocarbon Cyclooctatetrene as a Starting Material for Complex Molecule Synthesis

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# Recent Applications of the Simple Hydrocarbon Cyclooctatetrene as a Starting Material for Complex Molecule Synthesis

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**Abstract:** Cyclooctatetraene [COT], a simple non-aromatic cyclic polyene, is capable of undergoing a variety of oxidation and cycloaddition reactions to afford polycyclic structures. In addition, complexation of COT or the cycloaddition products with transition metals facilitates bond formation. Recent developments in the reactivity of COT and application to the synthesis of naturally occurring and non-naturally occurring compounds is reviewed.

**Keywords:** Cyclooctatetraene, Oxidation, Cycloaddition, Synthesis

## 1. Introduction

The use of simple, relatively inexpensive hydrocarbons as starting materials for the synthesis of complex molecules relies on efficient methods for their oxidation and/or functionalization. This

review will primarily deal with recent accounts of the reactivity of the *parent* hydrocarbon cyclooctatetraene, particularly in relationship to its use as a starting material for organic synthesis.

The hydrocarbon cyclooctatetraene, "COT" (**1**, Scheme **1**) was first prepared via a multistep sequence from pseudo-pelletierine (**2**) by Willstätter [1]. Reppe later reported a Ni-catalyzed cyclotetramerization of acetylene [2]. Eventually the ability to obtain large quantities of this hydrocarbon by this direct route, lead to a period in which the reactivity of this polyolefin was exploited for the preparation of a variety of architecturally interesting molecules such as basketene, snoutene and diazatwistene. Some have termed this period as "the renaissance in cyclooctatetraene chemistry" [3].

Cyclooctatetraene may also be prepared from 1,5-cyclooctadiene (**3**) by double deprotonation with butyl lithium to afford the cyclooctadiene dianion **4**, which can be oxidized with CdCl<sub>2</sub> [4a], or HgCl<sub>2</sub> [4b], (*t*-BuO)<sub>2</sub>, [4c] or 1,2-dibromoethane [4d] (Scheme **2**). Similarly, deprotonation with potassium, followed by oxidation with dry oxygen or iodine gave **1** [5]. Alternatively, addition of two equivalents of bromine to **3** gave a mixture of tetrabromides, *meso*-**5** and *dl*-**5**, which upon phase transfer dehydrobromination gave cyclooctatetraene [6]. Other methods for the metal mediated synthesis of substituted cyclooctatetraenes have recently been reviewed [7].

## 2. Reactions of Cyclooctatetraene That Maintain an 8-Membered Ring

Photolysis of diethyl azomalonate in the presence of **1** gave the bicyclo[6.1.0]nonatriene product **7** (87%) along with bicyclo[4.2.1]nonatriene **8** (13%, Scheme **3**) [8]. Product **7** is believed to arise via 1,2-addition of the singlet carbene species generated from the diazomalonate, while **8** is proposed to arise via 1,4-addition of the small amount of triplet carbene which is formed during the photolysis. Notably, addition of benzophenone as a photosensitizer led to increasing amounts of the 1,4-addition product **8**, such that 50 mole % of benzophenone led to exclusive formation of **8**.

Reppe, *et al.* reported that the reaction of **1** with perbenzoic acid afforded a mono-oxide [2a]. While there was initially some disagreement on the structure of the mono-oxide, Cope, *et al.* eventually provided chemical and NMR spectral evidence to support structure **9** (Chart 1) [9a]. The presence of three remaining double bonds in **9** allowed for the possible formation of polyepoxides if excess oxidizing agent is used. The ratio of these products depended on the nature and number of equivalents of the epoxidizing agent. In 1999 Murray, *et al.*, reported a detailed study of the reaction of **1** with dimethyl dioxirane [DMDO] (Table 1) [9b]. The use of three equivalents of DMDO gave a mixture of diepoxides **10a**, **10b**, **10c**, triepoxides **11a**, **11c**, and tetraepoxide **12a** (5:4:3:12:54:21 ratio), while use of six equivalents gave only tetraepoxides **12a** and **12b** (87:13 ratio). Since this reaction presumably occurs in a stepwise fashion, the epoxidation fate of each of the individual di- and triepoxides were examined. In this case, epoxidation of **10a** led to the formation of triepoxide **11a** and tetraepoxide **12b**, along with unreacted starting material. Finally epoxidation of triepoxide **11a** gave exclusively **12b**, while separate epoxidation of **11b** or **11c** gave exclusively **12a**. The structural identity of the triepoxides and tetraepoxides were established by single crystal X-ray diffraction.

Nucleophilic addition to cyclooctatetraene epoxide **9** generally results in the formation of ring rearranged products (e.g. **13**, Scheme 4). Recently, Pineschi and coworkers demonstrated that ring opening of **9** with organocuprates resulted in an S<sub>N</sub>2' epoxide opening to afford 4-alkyl- or 4-aryl-2,5,7-cyclooctatrienols **14** (Table 2) [10]. In addition, reaction of **9** with dimethyl-, diethyl, or dibutylzinc, in the presence of Cu(OTf)<sub>2</sub> and an optically active phosphoramidite ligand (e.g. **15** or **16**) proceeded in an enantioselective fashion (Table 3) [10b].

Attempts to acylate *ent*-**14** gave mixtures of two diastereomeric bicyclo[4.2.0]octadienyl acetates **17** and **18** (Scheme 5) [10b]. This transformation is proposed to occur by acylation of **14**, followed by a [3,3] sigmatropic rearrangement and subsequent 6π-electrocyclic ring closure.

### 3. Reactions of Cyclooctatetraene Producing Cyclobutanes/Cyclobutenes

Generally cyclooctatetraene does not undergo Diels-Alder reactions. This is in part due to the tub-like structure of the cyclic polyene. A 6- $\pi$  electrocyclic ring closure of **1** can afford the bicyclo[4.2.0]octa-2,4,7-triene **23** valence tautomer, however the equilibrium concentration of **23** is relatively small (ca. 0.01% @ 100 °C), and thus this valence tautomer can only be trapped with highly reactive dienophiles such as maleic anhydride, maleimide, *N*-phenyl-1,2,4-triaza-3,5-dione, dimethyl acetylenedicarboxylate, tetracyanoethylene, or *trans*-1,2-dibenzoylene to give **24-26** (Scheme **6**). Recently, **24a** and **26a** were found to cause halfmaximal inhibition of ethylene binding in yeast cells expressing the ethylene receptor protein ETR1 at concentrations below 0.1  $\mu$ M [11].

Mehta and Vidya have utilized **24a** as a starting material for the synthesis of "oxa bowls" (Scheme **7**) [12]. These compounds are of interest as constrained analogs of crown ethers.

To this end, reduction of **24a** gave the diol **27**, which upon dehydration with pyridinium *p*-toluenesulfonate gave the tetrahydrofuran derivative **28**. Ozonolysis of **27** or **28**, followed by treatment of the putative tetraaldehydes with acidic resin gave the polycyclic ethers **29** and **30** respectively. These authors did not report any data concerning the ability of these ions to coordinate to metal cations.

In the mid-20th century, Reppe [9a] and Cope [13] reported that oxidation of cyclooctatetraene with bromine or mercuric acetate gives the 7,8-disubstituted bicyclo[4.2.0]octa-2,4-diene derivatives **31** and **32** respectively (Scheme **8**). Due to the low temperature at which these reactions are run, and the rate of these oxidations, the mechanism for formation of **31/32** clearly does not proceed via the intermediacy of **23**. Paquette has reviewed the use of bicyclic building blocks **31/32**, prior to 1975, for the synthesis of polycyclic molecules [3]. Since that time, a number of natural products, derivatives, or molecules of theoretical interest have been prepared beginning from these readily available starting materials.

### 3.1. Synthesis bis-Homoconduritols and bis-Inositols

Balci and co-workers utilized cyclooctatetraene as a precursor to bis-homoconduritols as potential glycosidase inhibitors [14]. Tetraphenylporphyrin (TPP) sensitized photooxygenation of **31** gave the endoperoxide **33** (Scheme 9). Cleavage of the endoperoxide with thiourea and acetylation with Ac<sub>2</sub>O gave the corresponding diacetate **34**. Epoxidation with *m*-CPBA afforded a single diastereomer. Reductive debromination of **35** proceeded smoothly with Zn-DMSO to give epoxydiacetate **36**. Trans ring-opening was accomplished in acidified acetic anhydride to provide the tetraacetate **37**, which upon treatment with methanolic ammonia gave tetraol **38** which possessed the configuration of the conduritol-F family. Alternatively dihydroxylation of **34** with KMnO<sub>4</sub>, followed by reaction with acetic anhydride gave the tetraacetate **39** as a single isomer, albeit in attenuated yield (Scheme 10). In a similar fashion to the preparation of **36** from **35**, reductive debromination of **39** with zinc metal, and deacetylation afforded tetraol **41** having the configuration of conduritol-D.

Inositols or cyclohexanehexols are useful in the study of intracellular communication. Kara and Balci synthesized inositol analogues from **1** [15]. Tetraphenylporphyrine (TPP) mediated photooxygenation of **32** gave the endoperoxide **42** (Scheme 11). Cleavage of the endoperoxide and acetylation yielded the tetraacetate **43**. *cis*-Dihydroxylation with KMnO<sub>4</sub> provided the diol, which was converted into the hexaacetate **44** by treatment with acetic anhydride. Deprotection of the hexaacetate with ammonia in methanol gave the desired bis-homoinositol **45** in near quantitative yield.

Balci and co-workers have also used **1** as a precursor to aminocyclitols in their research of glycosidase inhibitors [16]. Cleavage of the endoperoxide **42** with thiourea followed by *in situ* reaction with toluenesulfonyl isocyanate gave the biscarbamate **46** (Scheme 12). Palladium catalyzed cyclization of biscarbamate **46** occurred in a regioselective fashion to afford the oxazolidinone **48**. The authors proposed that the R\* carbamate was selectively ionized, rather than the S\* carbamate, due to steric hindrance of the *endo*

acetate group. Dihydroxylation of **48** with  $\text{KMnO}_4$  followed by acetylation gave the tetraacetate **49**. Removal of the acetyl groups with  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  provided the desired aminocyclitol **50** in 84% yield.

### 3.2. Synthesis of ( $\pm$ )-Pentacycloanammoxic Acid

Pentacycloanammoxic acid (**51b**, Scheme **13**) is a pentacyclic ladderane  $\text{C}_{20}$  fatty acid present in the membranes of ammonia oxidizing bacteria as its glycerol ester [17]. It is believed that membranes constituted from these ladderane lipids are more dense and exhibit a lower permeability compared to other membranes. Machetti and Corey reported a synthesis of the methyl ester ( $\pm$ )-**51a** which utilized **1** for formation of three of the cyclobutane rings [18a]. Diels-Alder cycloaddition of **31** with dibenzyl azodicarboxylate in benzene at  $80^\circ\text{C}$  afforded **52**. Chemoselective reduction of the olefin, followed by reductive elimination of the dibromide afforded cyclobutene **53**. Photo [2+2] cycloaddition of **53** with cyclopentenone gave the pentacyclic ketone **54** in 40% yield, based on recovered starting material ("borsm"). Reductive removal of the Cbz groups, followed by  $\text{O}_2$  oxidation of the hydrazine afforded **55**. Protection of the ketone as its dimethoxy ketal, subsequent photolysis to affect the loss of  $\text{N}_2$ , and deprotection of the ketal gave pentacyclic ketone **56**, albeit in very low yield. Diazo transfer by the method of Regitz [19] afforded the diazoketone **57** which underwent photo-Wolff rearrangement to yield a 3:1 mixture of *endo*- and *exo*-methyl esters. The mixture of diastereomers were transformed into the *exo*-aldehyde **58** by a reduction-oxidation-epimerization sequence. The synthesis of ( $\pm$ )-**51a** was completed by Wittig olefination, diimide reduction and diazomethane esterification. Machetti and Corey subsequently reported a synthesis of (+)-**51a** which utilized (*R*)-4-dimethylphenylsilyl-2-cyclopentenone as a chiral starting material [18b].

### 3.3. Synthesis of the C1-C10 Segment of Roxitacin

(+)-Roxitacin (**59**, Scheme **14**) is a polyene macrolide isolated from an unidentified streptomycete, whose structure was determined by X-ray crystallography [20]. The first laboratory synthesis of **59** was reported by Mori and co-workers [21] and subsequently Evans and Connell completed their own synthesis [22]. Cleavage of the acetyl

groups from bicyclo[4.2.0]octadiene **32** by LiAlH<sub>4</sub> reduction gave the corresponding diol which undergoes a 2-electron oxidative ring fragmentation and olefin isomerization to afford the dialdehyde **60**. Due to the instability of **60** it was immediately reacted with the sodium salt of triethyl phosphonoacetate to give the monoester-monoaldehyde, which was treated with excess NaBH<sub>4</sub> to afford alcohol **61** in 60% yield. Conversion of the allylic alcohol to the allylic bromide followed by Arbuzov reaction afforded phosphonate **62**. The endgame of the roxaticin synthesis involved Horner-Wadsworth-Emmons olefination of aldehyde **63** with the anion derived from **62**, ester hydrolysis, Yamaguchi macrolactonization protocol and finally ketal deprotection.

## 4. Synthesis And Reactions Of Bicyclo[4.2.1] Nona-2,4,7-Trien-9-One

Reaction of the cyclooctatetraene dianion with dimethyl carbamoyl chloride gives bicyclo[4.2.1]nona-2,4,7-trien-9-one (**64**, Scheme **15**) [23]. This product arises via initial acylation of the dianion, followed by intramolecular attack of the remaining anionic charge on the amide carbonyl.

Generation of the bridgehead enolate of **64** by treatment with KHMDS or LTMP led to the formation of a self-condensation product **65** (Scheme **16**) [24]. Alternatively, addition of **64** to excess base in the presence of trimethylsilyl chloride gave an inseparable mixture of **66** and **67**; the latter appears to arise via a transannular [4+2] cycloaddition of **66**. If only 1.1 equivalent of base is used, along with inverse addition (i.e. addition of base to ketone/TMSCl), then the mono-silylated product **68** is obtained, along with a mixture of bis-silylated products **66/67**. Use of chiral base **69** gave (-)-**68** in a highly enantioselective fashion; the absolute configuration of (-)-**68** was determined by single crystal X-ray diffraction.

Reaction of mono-silyl ketone (-)-**68** with Bu<sub>4</sub>N<sup>+</sup> Ph<sub>3</sub>SiF<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> and an electrophile resulted in formation of the monosubstituted products **70** (Scheme **17**). The yields for aldol condensation products (**70d/70e**) were generally greater than for the organohalide electrophiles.

## 4.1. Synthesis Cyclooctitols

In 2002, Mehta and Pallavi used **1** to prepare a series of racemic polyols from a pure hydrocarbon source (Scheme **18**) [25]. Baeyer-Villiger oxidation of **64** afforded the racemic bicyclic lactone **71** in 60% yield. Catalytic dihydroxylation with OsO<sub>4</sub> gave the diol **72** with complete regio- and stereocontrol. Direct acylation of the diol proceeded with rearrangement to yield lactone **73**, which upon reduction and acylation gave the tetracetylated diene **74**. This compound served as a key intermediate for the preparation of tetraols **75** and **76**, and octaol **77**. Alternatively, catalytic reduction of **73** gave a mixture of mono-unsaturated lactone **78** and saturated lactone **79** (Scheme **19**). Hydride reduction of **79** gave the same saturated tetraol **75** as previously prepared. Similarly reduction of **78** gave the unsaturated tetraol **80** which could be selectively protected as the acetonide **81**. Hydroboration-oxidation of **81**, followed by peracetylation gave a separable mixture of triacetates **82**, **83**, and **84** whose structures were assigned on the basis of NMR spectral data or X-ray crystal structure. Hydrolysis of each gave the corresponding pentaols.

Finally, osmium catalyzed dihydroxylation of the unsaturated tetraacetate **85** (prepared from **80**), followed by acetylation proceeded in a non-stereoselective fashion to afford an equimolar, but separable, mixture of hexaacetates **86** and **87** (Scheme **20**). Separate hydrolysis of each gave the corresponding hexaols.

## 4.2. Synthesis (±)-β-allose

Mehta and Pallavi prepared (±)-β-allose from the cyclooctatetraene derived synthon **71** via a lengthy sequence of manipulations (Scheme **21**) [26]. Regiocontrolled and stereocontrolled dihydroxylation with catalytic OsO<sub>4</sub> followed by acetonide protection gave **88**. Hydride reduction of **88** afforded the cyclooctadienediol **89**, which was selectively protected at the primary alcohol with TBSCl. Ozonolysis followed by PCC oxidation of the intermediate lactol yielded the bicyclic lactone **90**. Lactone ring opening with methoxide followed by mixed acetal formation gave **91**. Reduction of the ester functionality and further protecting group manipulation afforded **92**.

The primary alcohol of **92** was converted into a terminal alkene via mesylate formation and  $\beta$ -elimination to generate **93**. Ozonolysis gave a hemiacetal (**94**), which upon reduction with NaBH<sub>4</sub> gave diol **95**. Racemic  $\beta$ -allose **96** was realized after acetonide deprotection.

## 5. METAL-CATALYZED/METAL-MEDIATED REACTIONS

### 5.1. Cycloadditions of Cyclooctatetraene

As indicated previously, cyclooctatetraene generally does not undergo Diels-Alder reactions due to the tub-like structure of the cyclic polyene. However, the complexation of **1** to transition metals may result in modified chemical reactivity. Rigby, *et al.*, demonstrated that higher-order photochemically induced cycloadditions can be achieved using chromium tricarbonyl polyenes. Toward this end, photolysis of ( $\eta^6$ -cyclooctatetraene)-Cr(CO)<sub>3</sub> **97** with electron-deficient olefins, 2,3-dimethyl-1,3-butadiene, or dimethylacetylenedicarboxylate afforded the bicyclo[4.2.2]deca-2,4,6-trienes **98-99** or bicyclo[4.2.2]deca-2,4,6,8-tetraene **100** respectively (Scheme **22**) [27].

In a similar fashion, reaction of the bis-alkyne Mo cations **101a/b** with cyclooctatetraene afforded the bicyclo[4.2.2]deca-2,4,6,8-tetraenes **102a/b** in moderate yield (Scheme **23**) [28]. In the case of the bis-2-butyne complex **101c**, reaction with **1** gave the neutral ( $\eta^3$ -allyl) ( $\eta^4$ -diene)molybdenum complex **103a**, whose structure was determined by single crystal X-ray diffraction. Hydride abstraction from **103a** with trityl cation gave the bis-diene cation **104**. The cation **104** underwent regioselective nucleophilic attack with NaBH<sub>3</sub>CN or LiCuPh<sub>2</sub> to afford **103a** or **b** respectively.

Buono and co-workers have reported a cobalt catalyzed cycloaddition of alkynes to cyclooctatetraene that gave predominantly bicyclo[4.2.2]deca-2,4,7,10-tetraenes **105** (Scheme **24**) [29]. For certain monosubstituted alkynes (e.g. propargyl trimethylsilane or ethynylcyclohexene), the isomeric 9-alkenylbicyclo[4.2.1]nona-1,4,6-triene **106** is formed as a minor product. The reduction of Co(2+) with Zn metal is accelerated by ZnI<sub>2</sub> [30].

Coordination of **1** to Co(1+) is proposed to afford the  $\eta^6$  complex **107** (Scheme **25**). Two pathways are possible from **107**. One involves coordination of the alkyne with a change in the hapticity of the COT ligand from  $\eta^6$  to  $\eta^4$  (i.e. **108**). Alternatively, coordination of the alkyne may effect the generation of a 2-butene-1,4-diyl structure (i.e. **109**). Insertion of the alkyne into either of these complexes eventually generates **112**, which upon reductive elimination gives **105** and regenerates the catalytically active species.

While not a metal mediated/catalyzed reaction, the thermal reaction of **1** with 2-(thiomethyl)acrylonitrile (**113**) is included here due to the bicyclo[4.2.2]deca-2,4,7-trienes **114a/b** which are formed (Scheme **26**) [31]. These compounds were characterized by NMR spectroscopy and mass spectrometry. Oxidation of the mixture gave a mixture of sulfoxides **115a/b**, which upon thermolysis gave the nitrile **116**.

The authors proposed that bicyclic adducts **114a/b** were formed by electrocyclic closure of **1** to bicyclo[4.2.0]octa-2,4,7-triene **23** which underwent Diels-Alder cycloaddition with **113** to generate the diastereomeric tricyclo[4.2.2.0<sup>2,5</sup>]decadienes **117** (Scheme **27**). Homolytic C-C bond cleavage of **117** led to the captodative stabilized diradical **118**.

A cyclobutenylmethyl radical rearrangement and diradical collapse gave **114a/b**.

## 5.2. Reactions of Cyclooctatetraene-Metal Complexes with Electrophiles and/or Nucleophiles

Tricarbonyl(cyclooctatetraene)iron (**119**, Scheme **28**) was one of the first metal complexes prepared from **1** [32]. The reaction of **119** with a variety of electrophiles has been reported; for example, Vilsmeier-Hack formylation gives (formylcyclooctatetraene) Fe(CO)<sub>3</sub> (**120**). In comparison, reactions with other electrophiles led to a wide variety of cationic iron complexes via skeletal rearrangements. Protonation of **119** or its phosphine ligated analogs afforded (bicyclo[5.1.0]octadienyl)iron cations **121** [33]. Similarly, reaction

with *p*-nitrophenyldiazonium salt gave the 7-*p*-nitrophenyl substituted (bicyclo[5.1.0]octadienyl)iron cation **122**, however reaction with pyridine led to the aryl substituted COT complex **123** [34]. In contrast, Friedel-Crafts acylation of **119**, followed by anion metathesis gave the (bicyclo[3.2.1]octadienyl)Fe(CO)<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> cations **124** [35]. The structural assignment of the 8-acyl substituted cation (**124a**) was eventually confirmed by X-ray crystal structure [35c]. Reaction of **119** with cyclopropenium cations afforded the (tricyclo[6.3.0.0<sup>5,11</sup>]nonadienyl)Fe(CO)<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> cations **125** [36]. The structure of **125** was deduced from the X-ray crystal structure of the neutral complex derived from reaction with sodium borohydride. Finally, reaction of **119** with tropylium cation, in the presence of pyridine, gave the styrylcycloheptatriene complex **126** [37].

The rearranged skeletons afforded by these transformations have been utilized to prepare (carboxycycloalkyl)glycines. For example, nucleophilic attack of phthalimide anion on **121b** proceeds in a stereoselective fashion (Scheme **29**) [38a]. Removal of the metal afforded (bicyclo[5.1.0]octa-3,5-dien-2-yl)phthalimide **127** which was transformed into 2-(2'-carboxycyclopropyl)glycine **128** in 4 steps. This sequence of reactions fixes the relative stereochemistry at three contiguous centers. The spectral data for this compound matched that for the natural product, which inhibits glutamate transport. In a similar fashion, 2-(3'-carboxycyclopentyl) glycine **130** was prepared from the bicyclic cation **124b** (Scheme **30**) [38b].

Heck and co-workers have reported on the nucleophilic addition to (η<sup>6</sup>-cyclooctatetraene)FeCp<sup>+</sup> cation **131** which afforded the substituted neutral (η<sup>5</sup>-cyclooctatrienyl)FeCp complexes **132** (Scheme **31**) [39]. Protonation of **132** gave (η<sup>6</sup>-cyclooctatriene)FeCp<sup>+</sup> cations **133**, which can undergo subsequent addition of a second nucleophile. In all of the cases examined, the second nucleophilic addition proceeded at the less sterically hindered triene carbon, to yield the disubstituted (η<sup>5</sup>-cyclooctatrienyl)FeCp complexes **134**. Finally protonation of complexes **134** gave the *cis*-5,7-disubstituted-1,3-cyclooctadienes **135**.

Shornschusen and Heck have reported on the reaction of disubstituted cyclooctadienes **135** (n = m = 1, n = m = 2) with

Grubbs' 1<sup>st</sup> generation catalyst (Scheme **32**) [39b]. In both of these cases, the ring rearrangement metathesis products **136a** and **136b** were isolated; none of the bicycloalkatriene ring closing metathesis products (i.e. **137**) were observed.

Prior to examining the (cyclopentadienyl)iron ligated cation **131**, Heck's group had previously examined the sequential addition of malonate nucleophiles to the (cyclopentadienyl)ruthenium ligated cation **138** (Scheme **33**) [40]. The overall transformation led to the same product **135aa'** in good overall yield, however several new intermediates (compared to the iron mediated pathway) were detected and spectroscopically characterized. Thus, while initial nucleophilic addition to **138** gave ruthenium complex **139** (similar to iron complex **132**), the (1,2,3,4,5- $\eta^5$ ) complex **139** underwent a slow haptotropic rearrangement to the more stable (1,2,3,6,7- $\eta^5$ -cyclooctatrienyl)RuCp complex **140**. Protonation of **140** initially generated a (1,2,3,4,6,7- $\eta^6$ -cyclooctatriene)RuCp<sup>+</sup> cation (**141**), which is isomerized by a 1,5-hydride migration to give the (1,2,3,4,5- $\eta^5$ )- cation **142** (similar to iron cation **133**). Eventually, protonolysis of **143** gave **135aa'**. If this final protonation is conducted in acetonitrile as solvent, the RuCp(CH<sub>3</sub>CN)<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> cation is generated, which can be recycled to the starting material **138**.

### 5.3. Metal-Catalyzed/Mediated Reactions of Cyclooctatetraene Valence Isomers

Tricyclo[4.2.2.0<sup>2,5</sup>]deca-3,7,9-triene **25** has been utilized as a cyclobutadiene synthon. Gibson has demonstrated that Pauson-Khand cyclopentenone annulation of **25**, with terminal alkynes, occurred preferentially on more strained cyclobutene ring to yield the pentacyclic enones **145** in moderate to good yields (Scheme **34**) [41]. Pyrolysis of **145** afforded the bicyclo[3.2.0]hepta-3,6-dien-1-ones **146**. If the sequence was conducted as a one-pot reaction, the overall yields range from 70-98%.

Recently, Wender and co-workers reported the Rh-catalyzed [2+2+2] cycloaddition of **25** with dienes to afford the corresponding tetracyclic products **147** (Scheme **35**) [42]. These authors proposed a mechanism involving oxidative cyclization of **25** to afford a

metallotetracyclic intermediate **148**. Insertion of one of the C=C of the diene into the Rh-carbon bond generated **149**, which upon reductive elimination gave the product.

In contrast, Gandolfi and co-workers found that cycloaddition of **25** with 1,3-dipoles proceeded at both of the disubstituted alkenes. In order to improve the regioselectivity for this reaction, they prepared the (tricarbonyl)iron complex **150** (Scheme **36**) [43]. Cycloaddition of **150** with nitrile oxides, nitrile imines, or dimethyl diazomethane proceeded on the less hindered face of the uncoordinated olefin to give **151-153** respectively. Demetallation of these complexes with trimethylamine oxide gave the free ligands in good isolated yields (80-95%).

## Conclusion

While the preparation of cyclooctatetraene was reported nearly 100 years ago, this simple, non-aromatic hydrocarbon continues to be a useful starting material for the synthesis of naturally-occurring and non-natural structures. This synthetic utility is the result of a variety of oxidation, cycloaddition or carbonylation reactions of the parent hydrocarbon. In addition reactions of COT with stoichiometric transition metal reagents or catalyzed by metals results in the formation of a variety of novel hydrocarbon skeletons. Clearly COT can continue to serve as an outstanding, yet simple, starting material for diversity oriented synthesis. Studies in this direction show tremendous potential for the preparation of molecules with beneficial biological activity.

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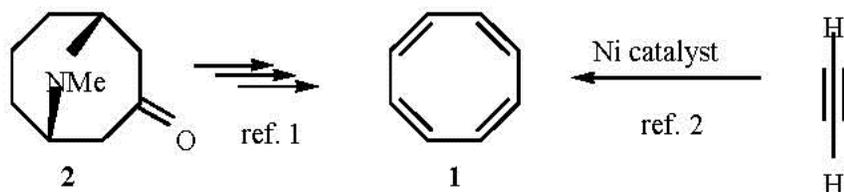
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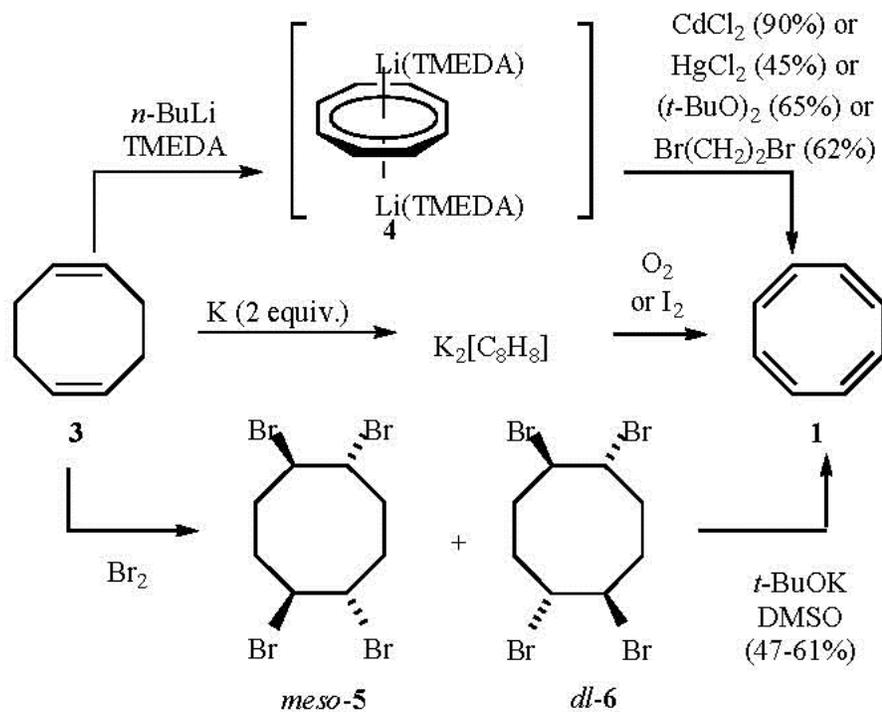
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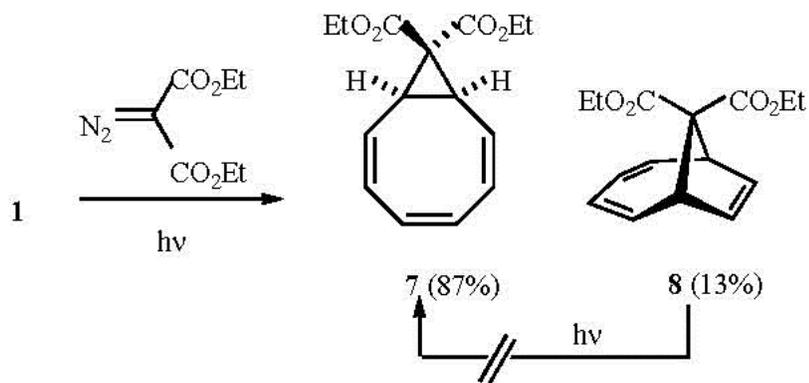
## Charts and Schemes



**Scheme 1.**



Scheme 2.



Scheme 3.

Table 1. Epoxidation of COT and Epoxide Products

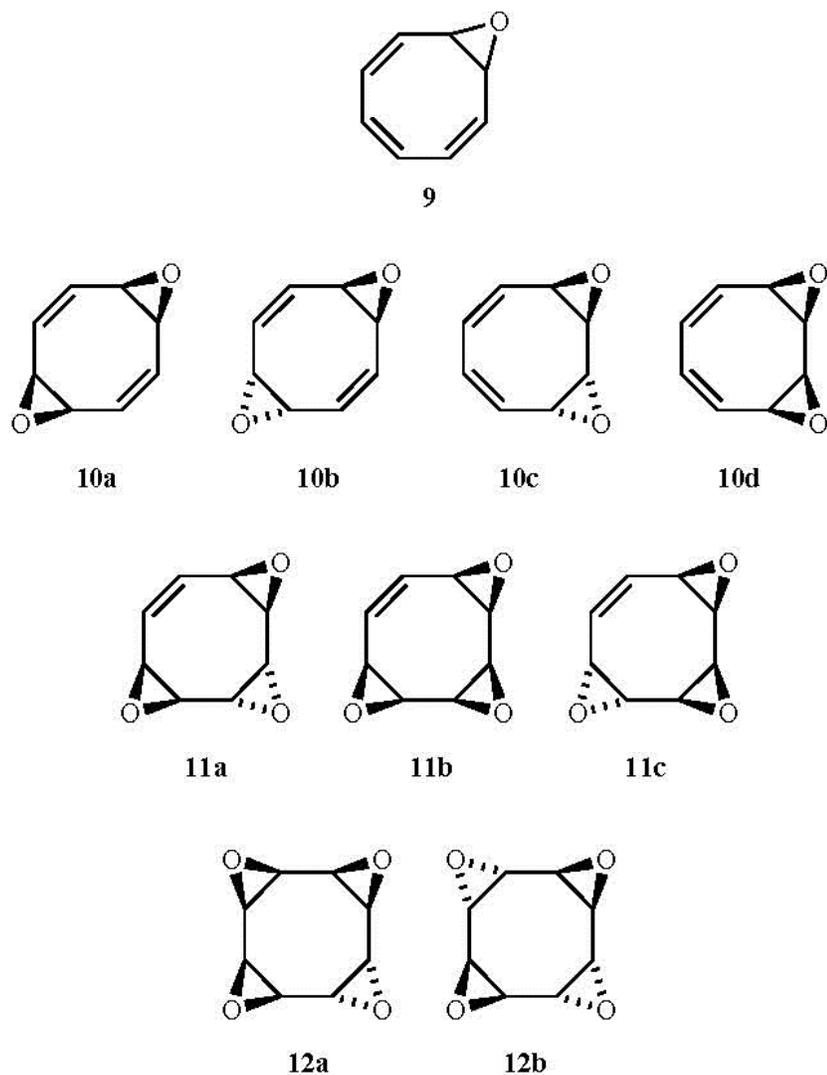
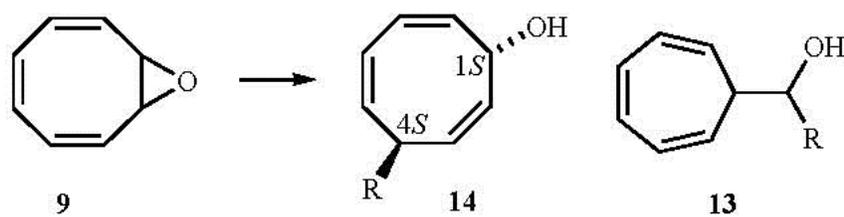


Chart 1.

<u>substrate</u>	<u>equiv. DMDO</u>	<u>product(s) (ratio)</u>
<b>1</b>	3	<b>10a+10b+10c+11a+11c+12a</b> (5:4:3:12:54:21)
<b>1</b>	6	<b>12a+12b</b> (87:13)
<b>10a</b>	4	<b>11a+12b+10a</b> (81:10:9)
<b>11a</b>	6	<b>12b only</b> (>99% yield)
<b>11b</b>	2	<b>12a only</b> (100% yield)
<b>11c</b>	2	<b>12a only</b> (100% yield)



Scheme 4.

Table 2. Ring Opening of Cyclooctatetraene Monoepoxide

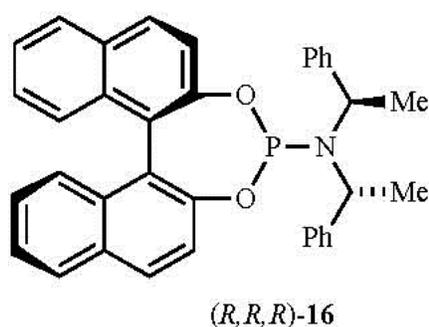
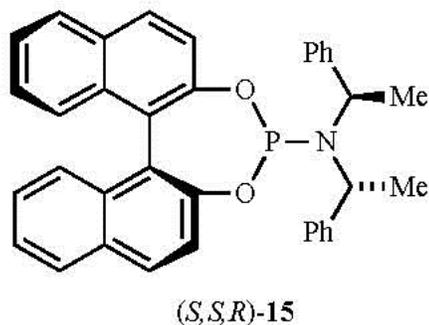
<u>conditions</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>14:13</u>	<u>yield</u>
Me <sub>2</sub> CuLi, Et <sub>2</sub> O	4S Me	<2 : 98	70%
MeMgBr/CuCN (cat)	Me	62 : 38	62%
MeCuCN(MgBr)	Me	>98 : 2	88%
Me <sub>2</sub> CuCN(MgBr) <sub>2</sub>	Me	82 : 18	–
EtMgBr/CuCN (cat)	Et	94 : 6	75%
<u>Ph</u> CuCN(MgBr)	Ph	>96 : 4	40%

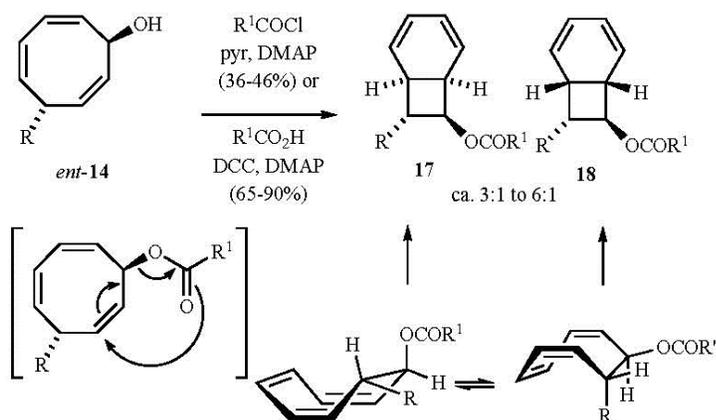
**Table 3. Enantioselective Ring Opening of Cyclooctatetraene Monoepoxide 9 conditions**

	<u>R</u>	<u>yield of 14</u>	<u>ee</u>
$\text{Me}_2\text{Zn}/\text{Cu}(\text{OTf})_2$ , 3% <b>15</b>	Me	65%	>90% <sup>a</sup>
$\text{Et}_2\text{Zn}/\text{Cu}(\text{OTf})_2$ , 3% <b>15</b>	Et	90%	86% <sup>a</sup>
$n\text{-Bu}_2\text{Zn}/\text{Cu}(\text{OTf})_2$ , 3% <b>15</b>	<i>n</i> -Bu	78%	82% <sup>a</sup>
$\text{Me}_2\text{Zn}/\text{Cu}(\text{OTf})_2$ , 3% <b>16</b>	Me	81%	94% <sup>b</sup>
$\text{Et}_2\text{Zn}/\text{Cu}(\text{OTf})_2$ , 3% <b>16</b>	Et	91%	93% <sup>b</sup>
$n\text{-Bu}_2\text{Zn}/\text{Cu}(\text{OTf})_2$ , 3% <b>16</b>	<i>n</i> -Bu	95%	96% <sup>b</sup>

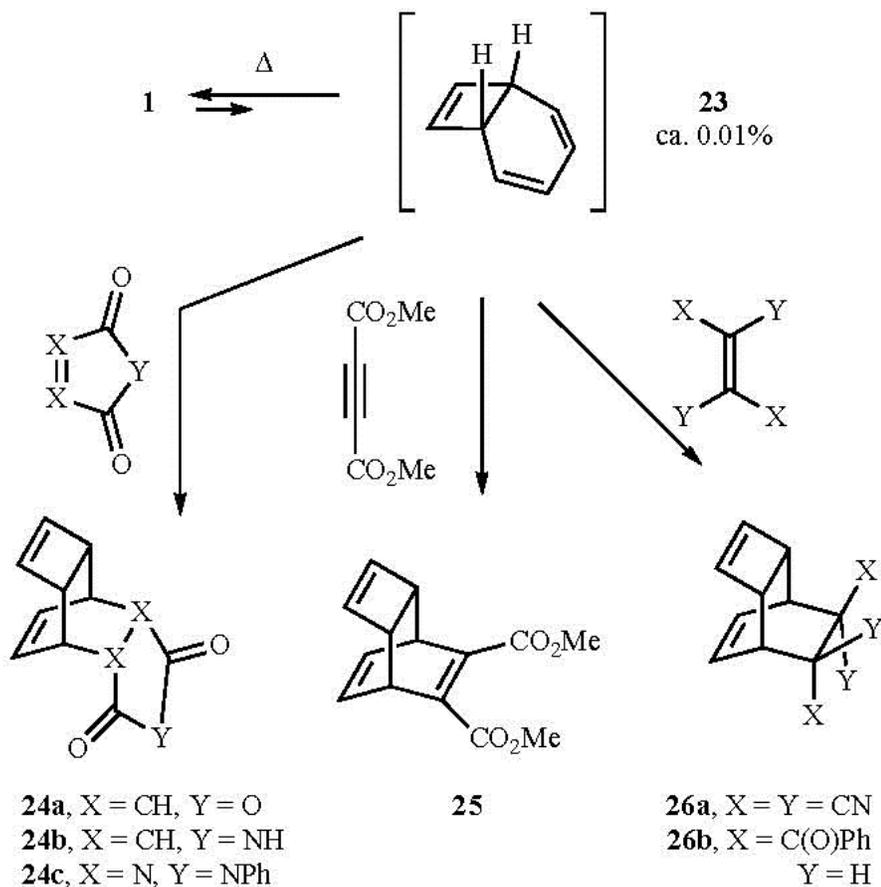
<sup>a</sup>The major enantiomer has the 1*S*,4*S*- absolute configuration.

<sup>b</sup>The major enantiomer has the 1*R*,4*R*- absolute configuration.

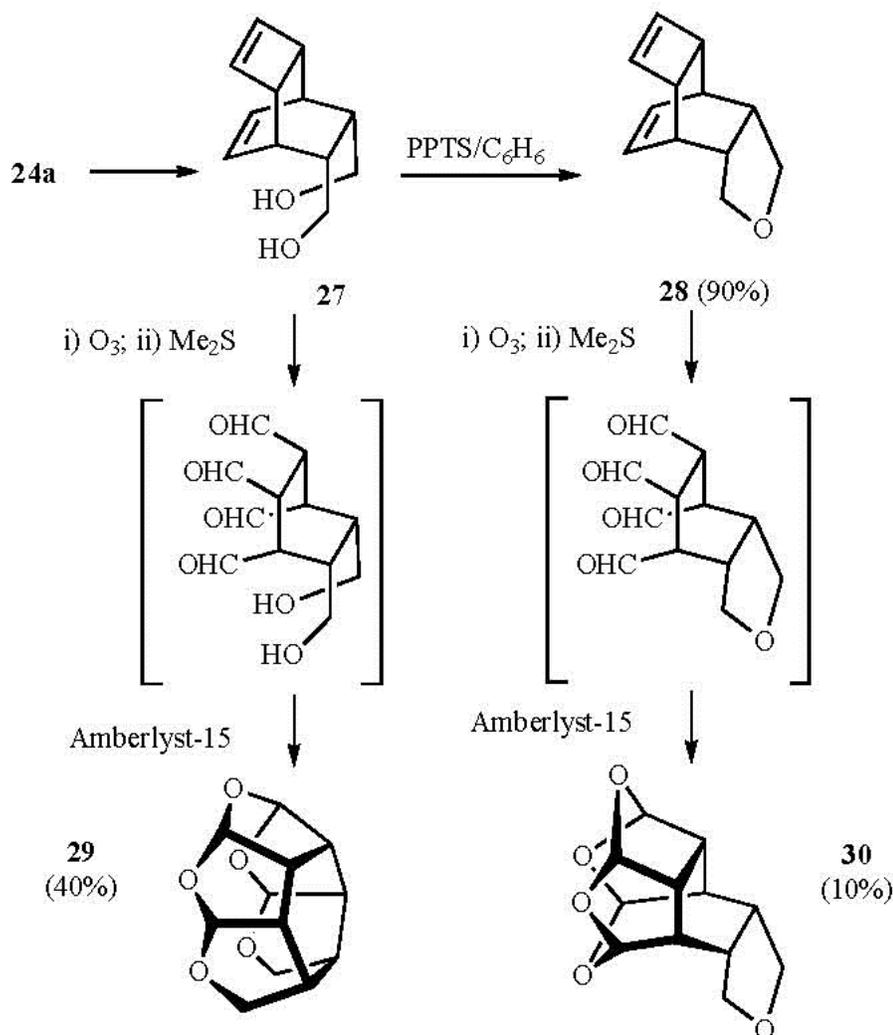




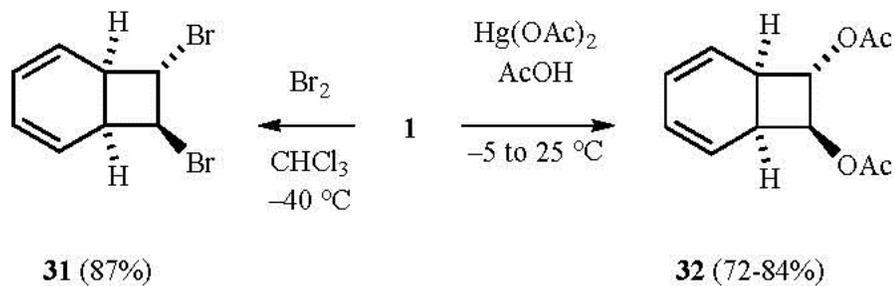
Scheme 5.



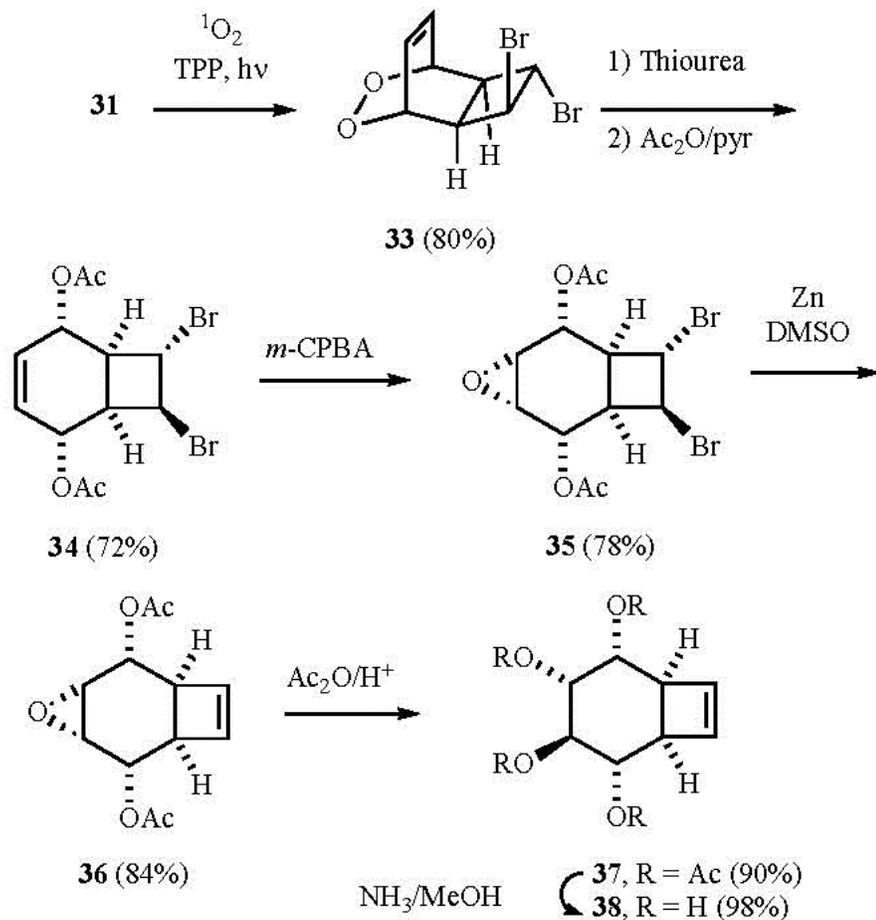
Scheme 6.



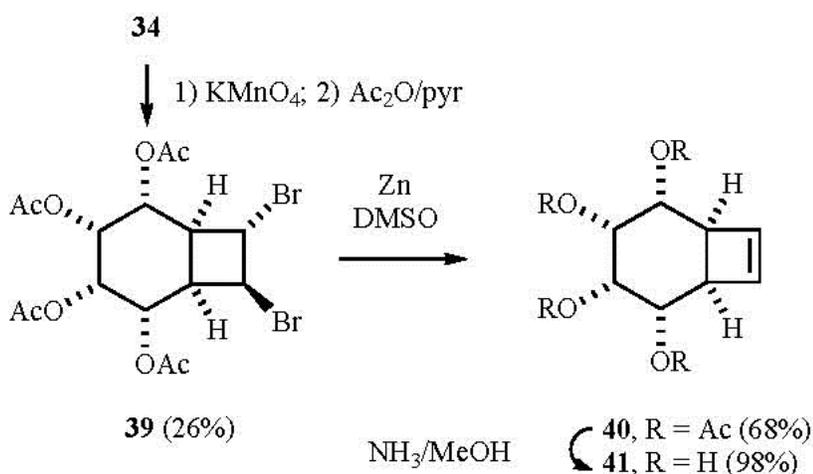
Scheme 7.



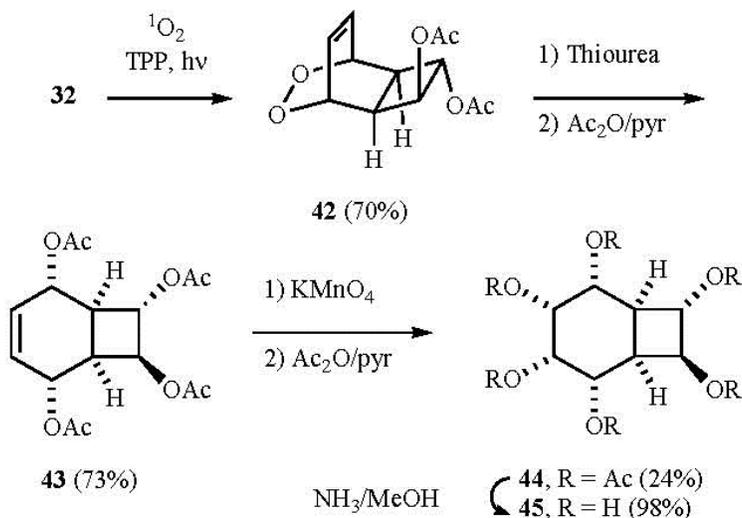
Scheme 8.



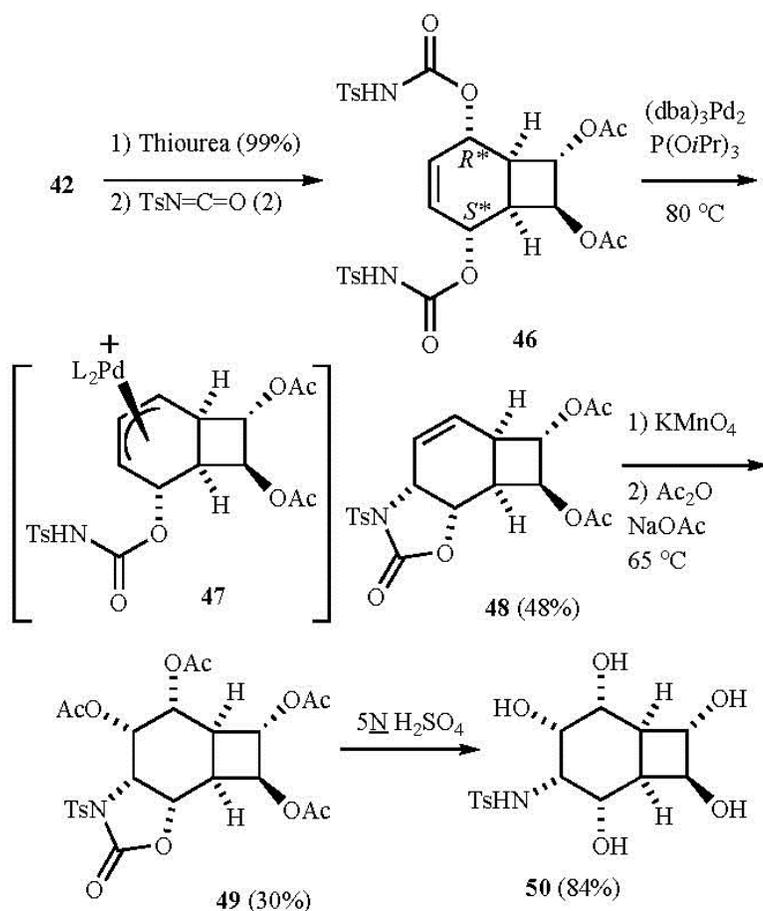
Scheme 9.



Scheme 10.

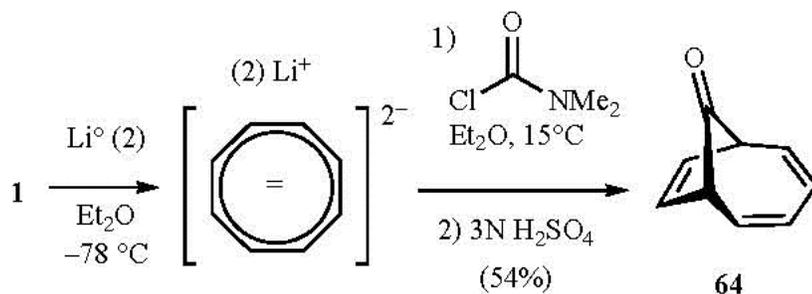


Scheme 11.

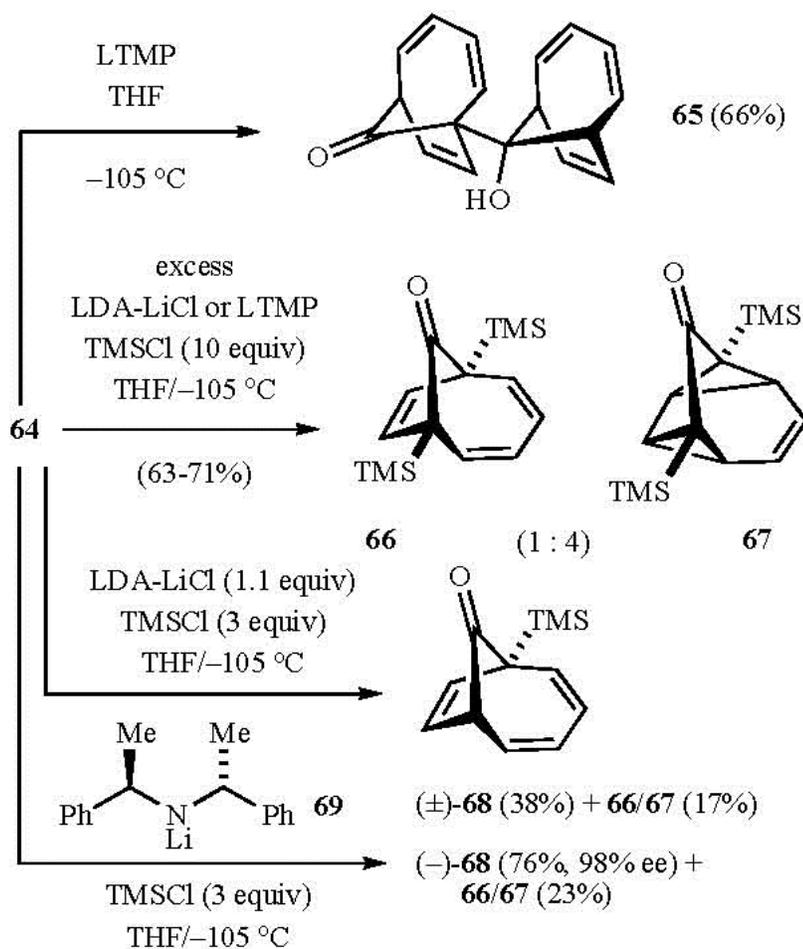


Scheme 12.

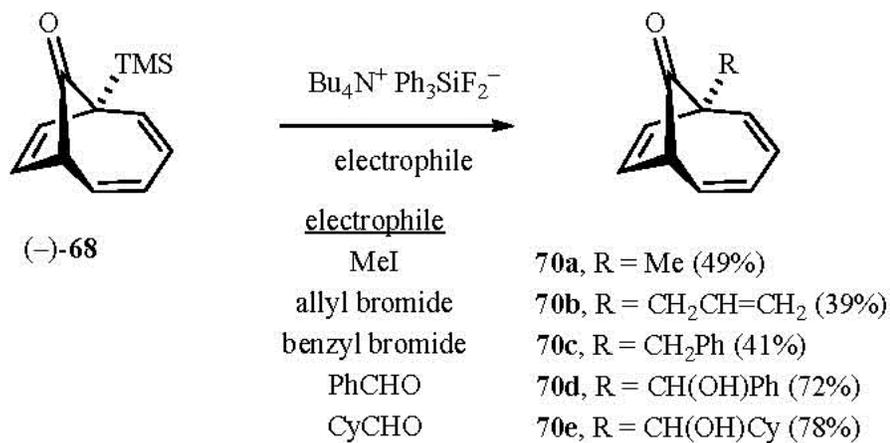




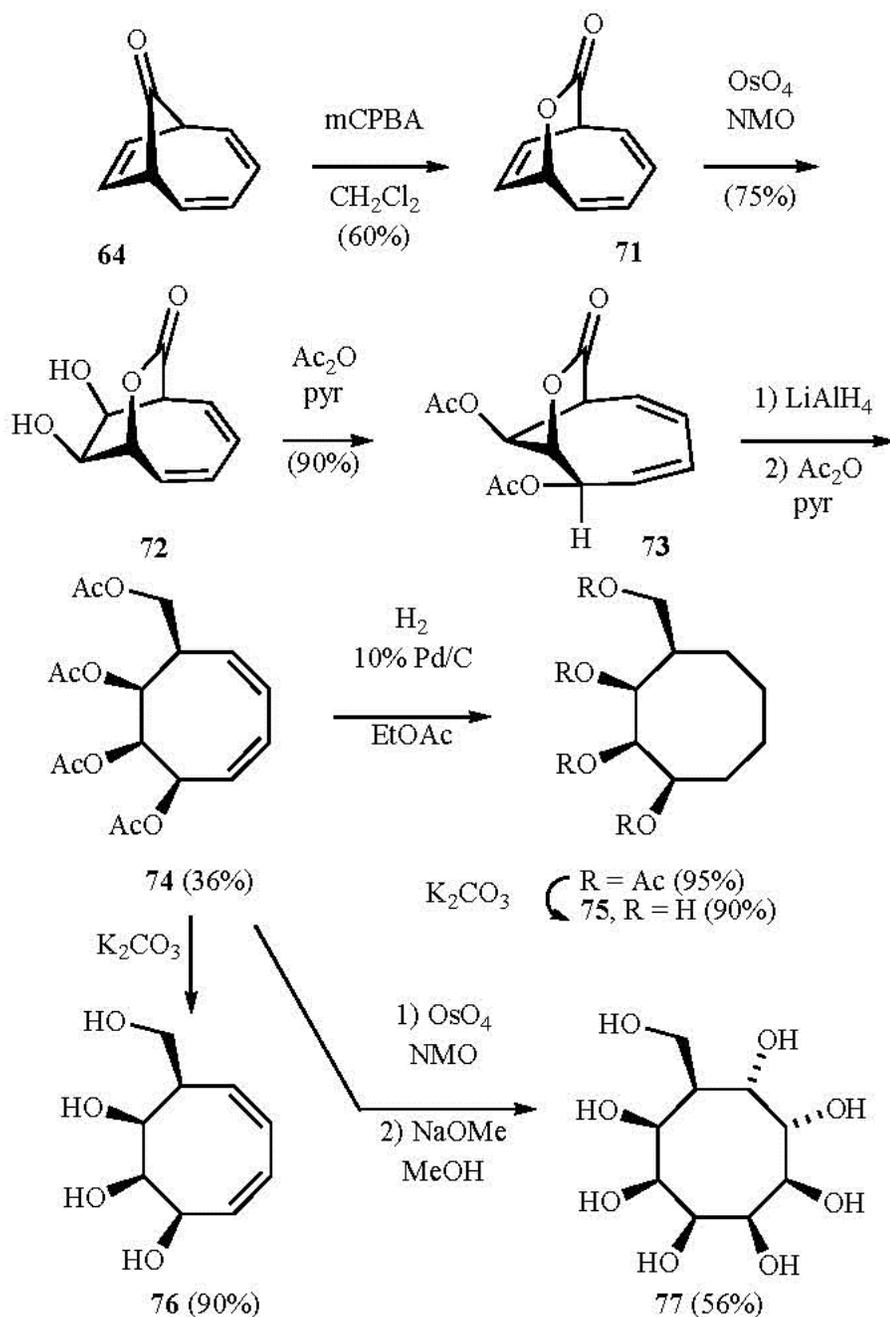
Scheme 15.



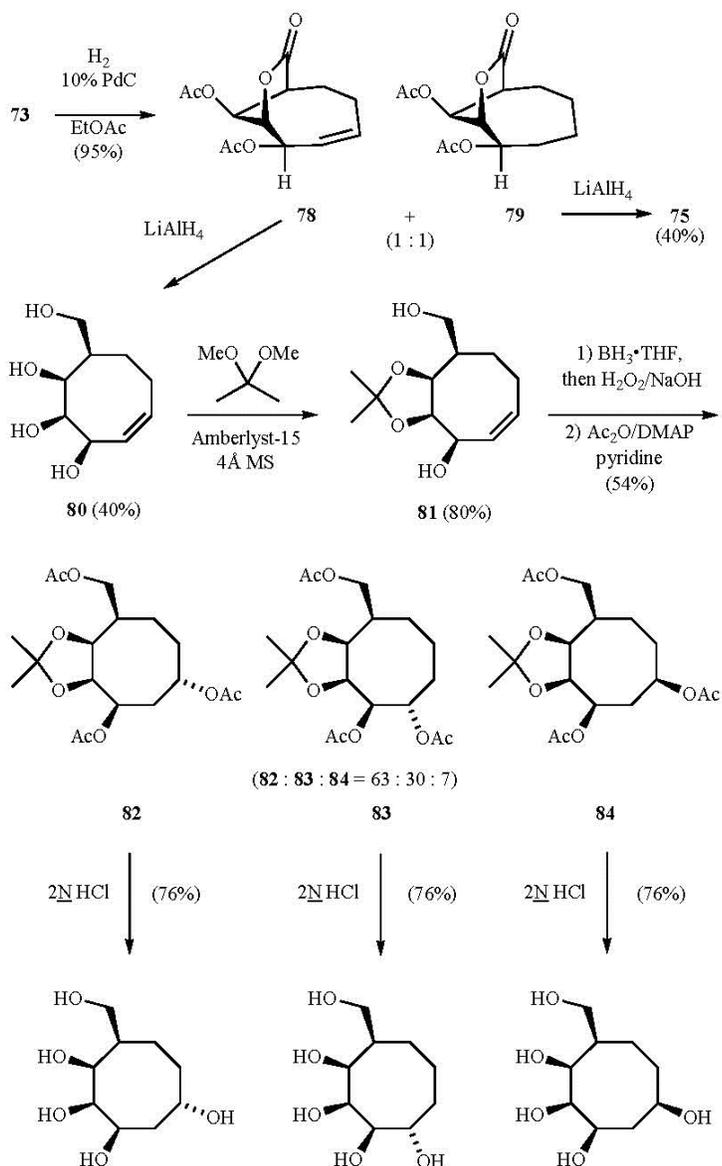
Scheme 16.



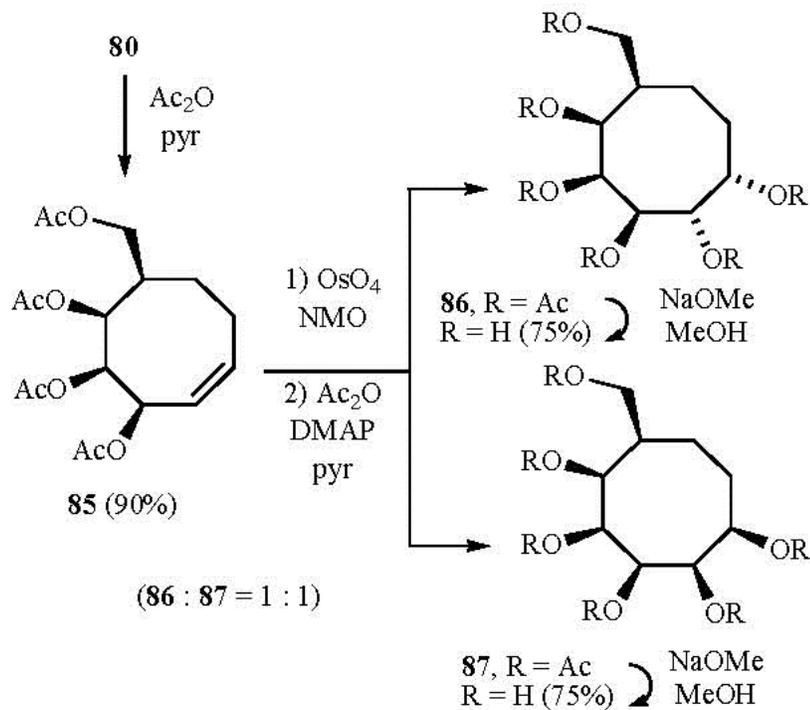
**Scheme 17.**



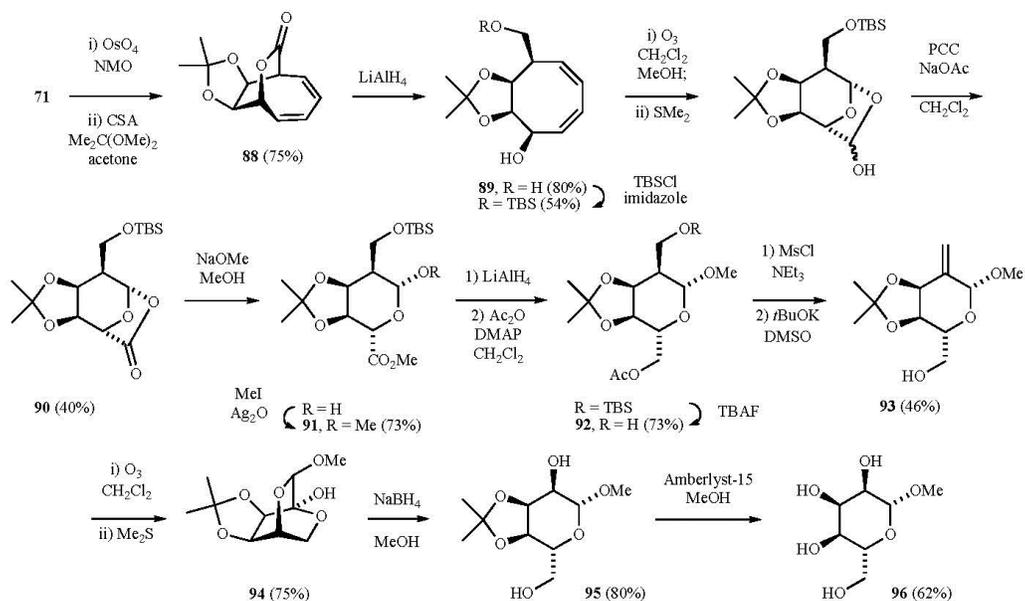
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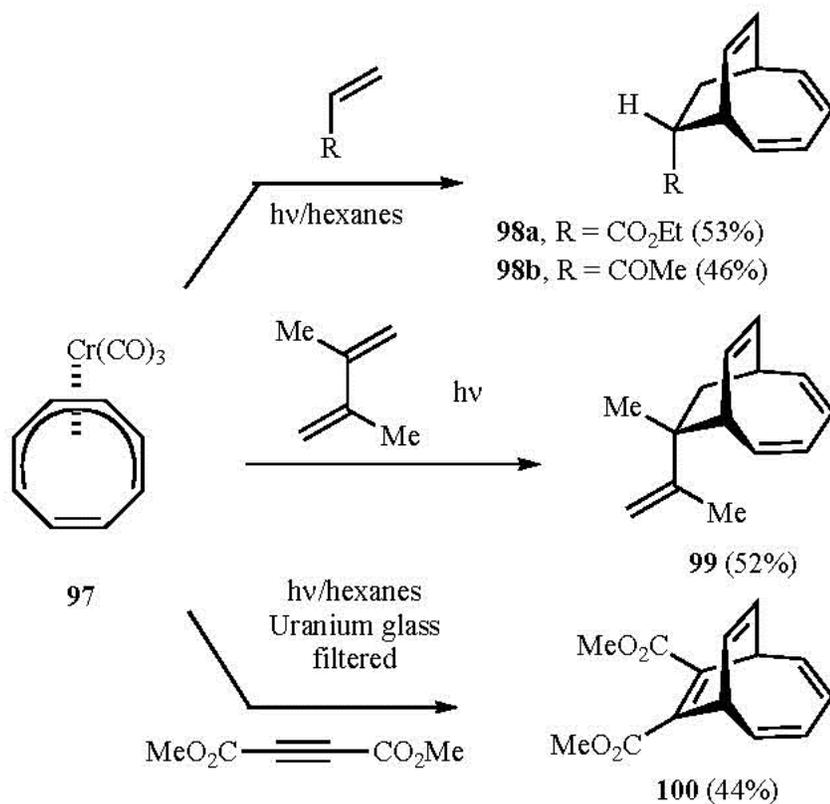
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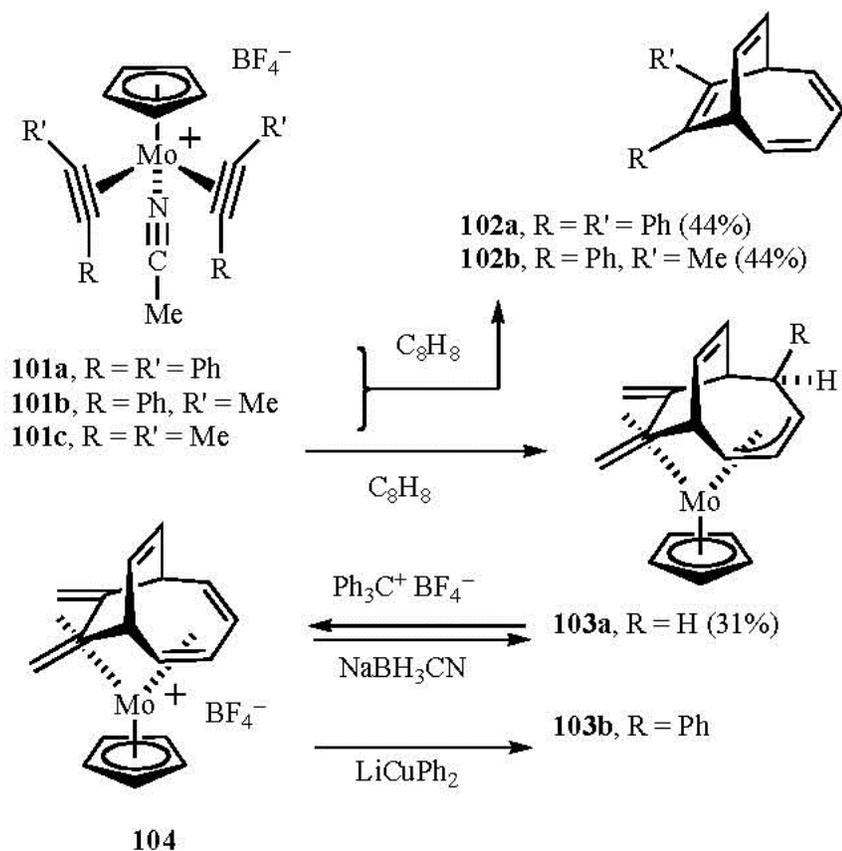
Scheme 20.



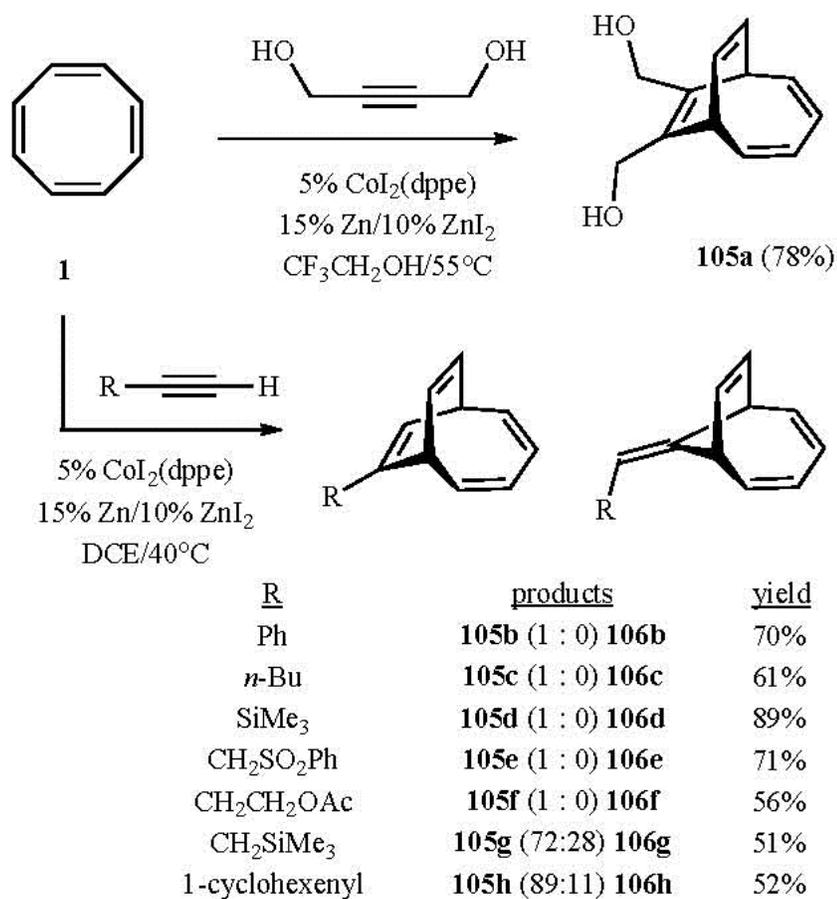
Scheme 21.



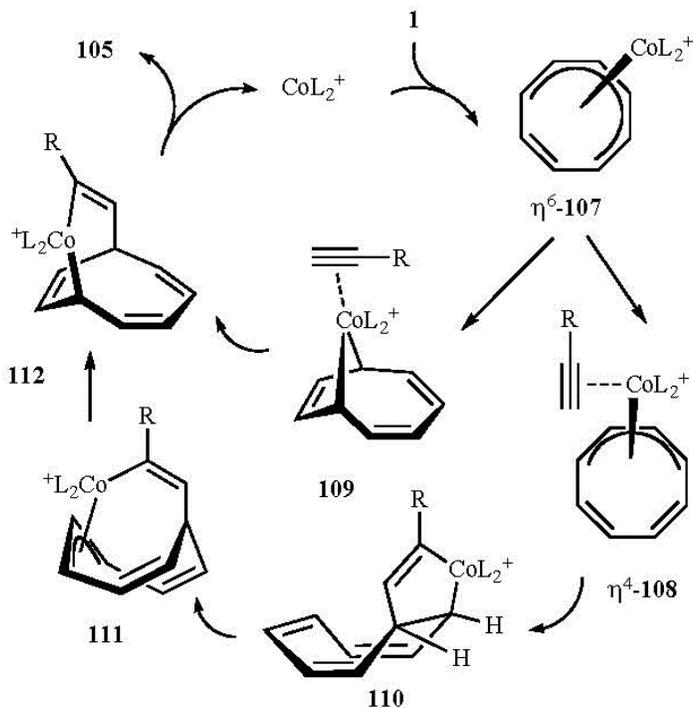
Scheme 22.



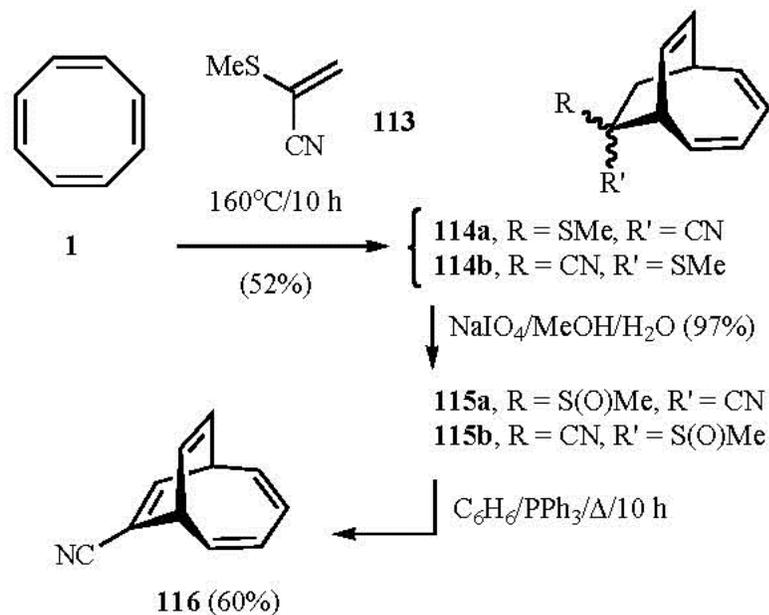
Scheme 23.



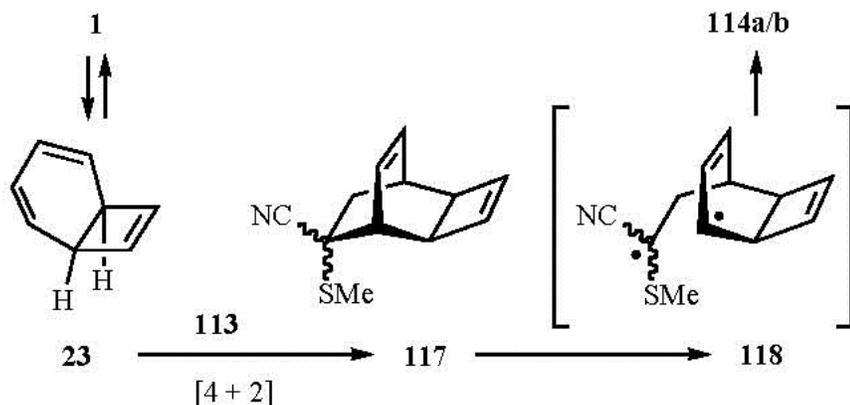
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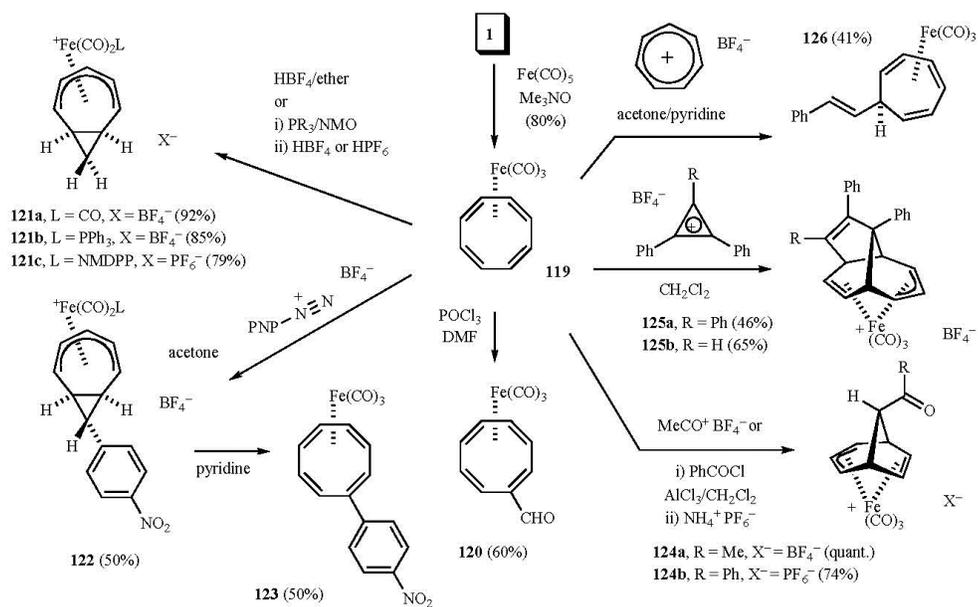
Scheme 25.



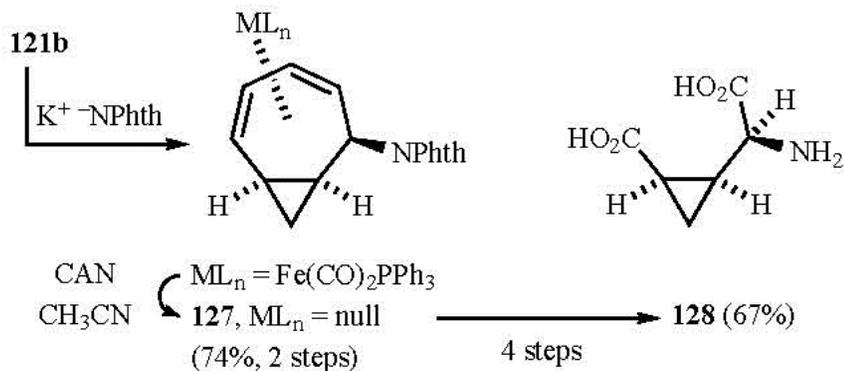
Scheme 26.



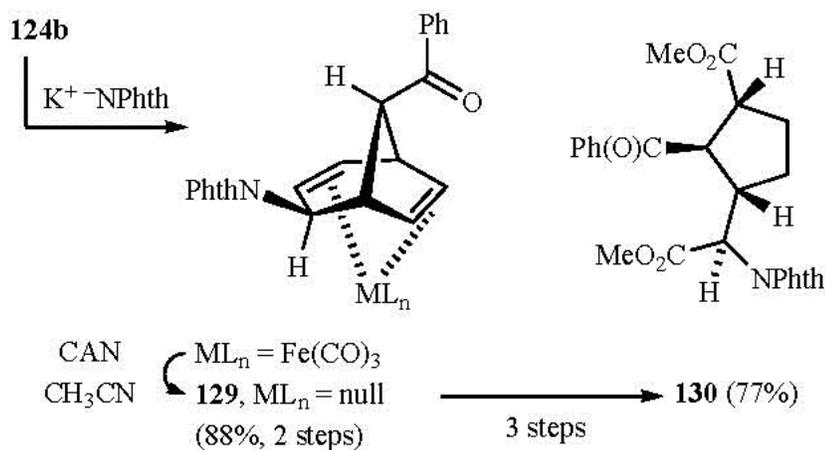
Scheme 27.



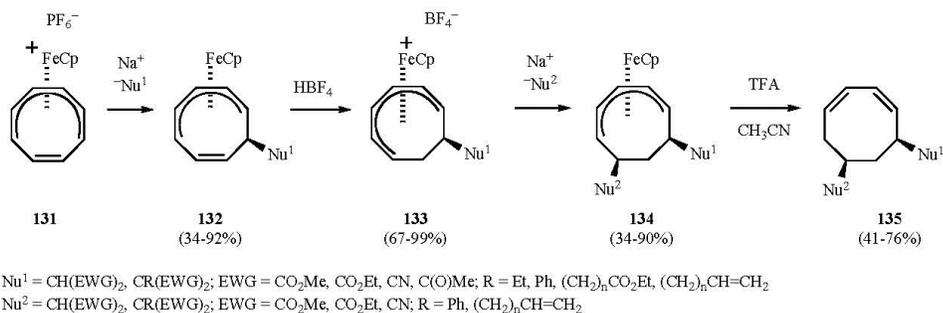
Scheme 28.



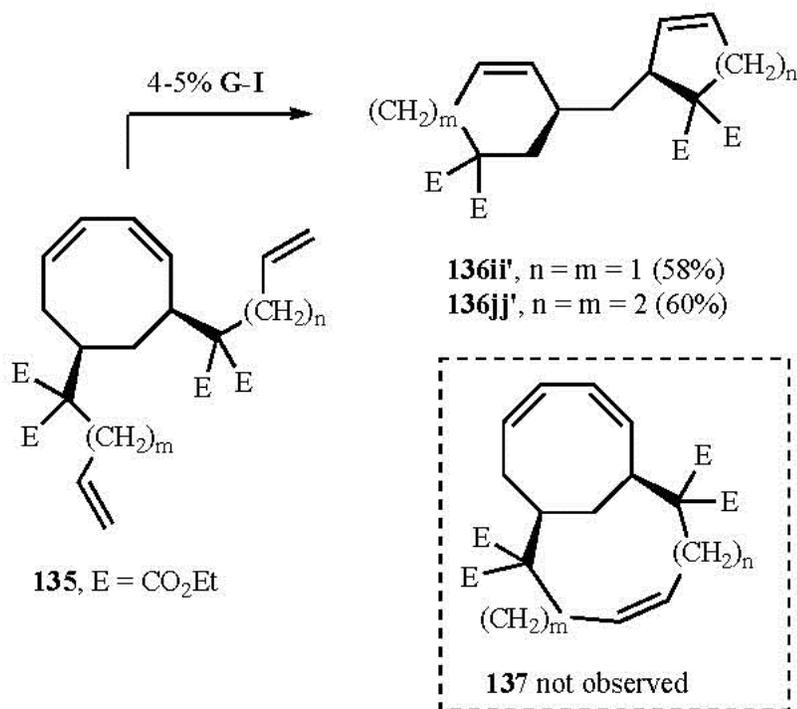
Scheme 29.



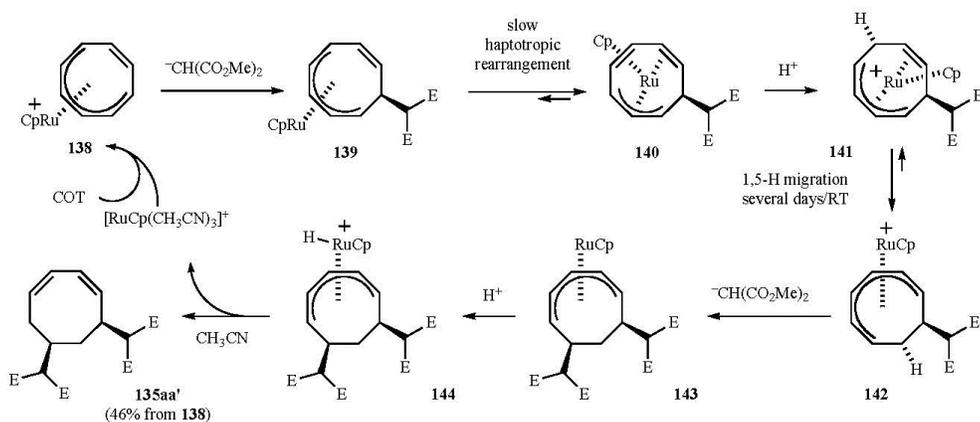
Scheme 30.



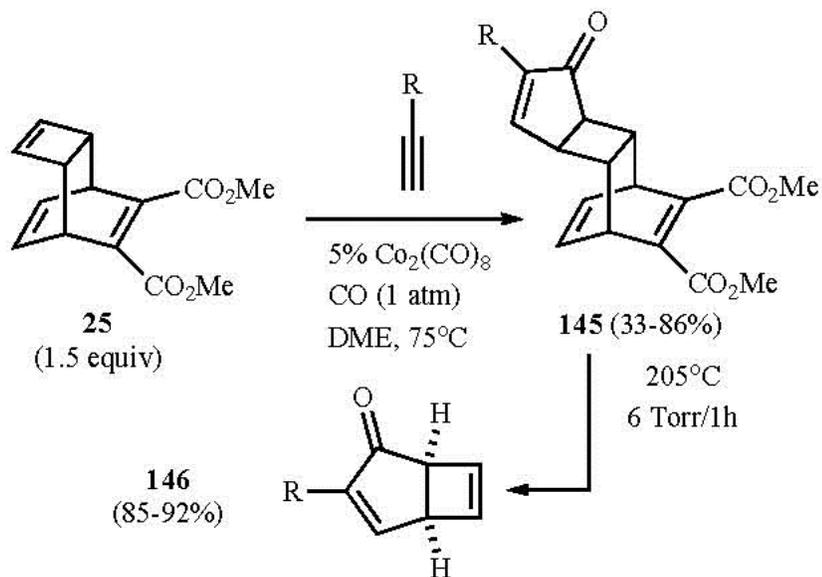
Scheme 31.



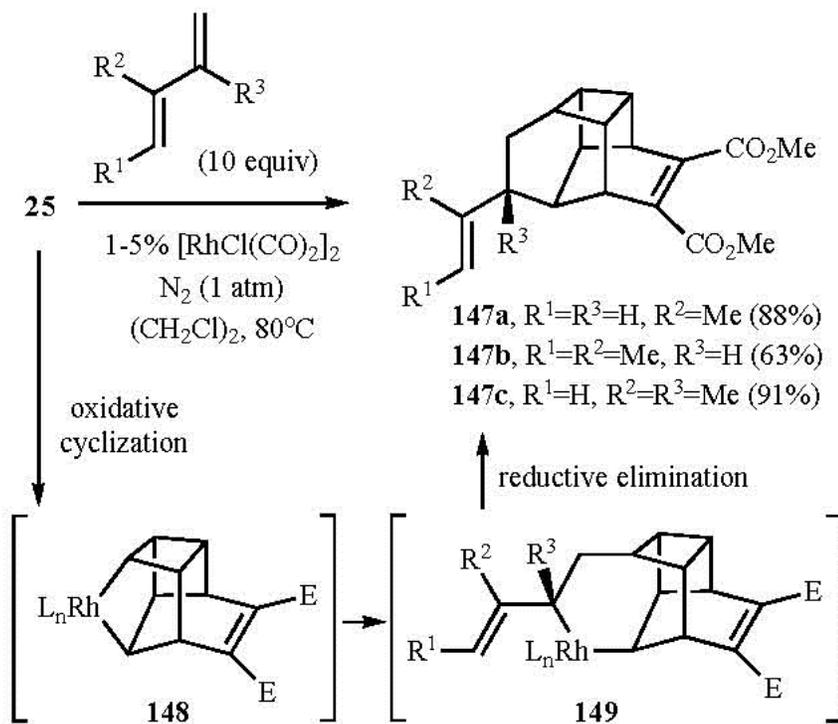
Scheme 32. [G-I = (PCy<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>Ru=CHPh].



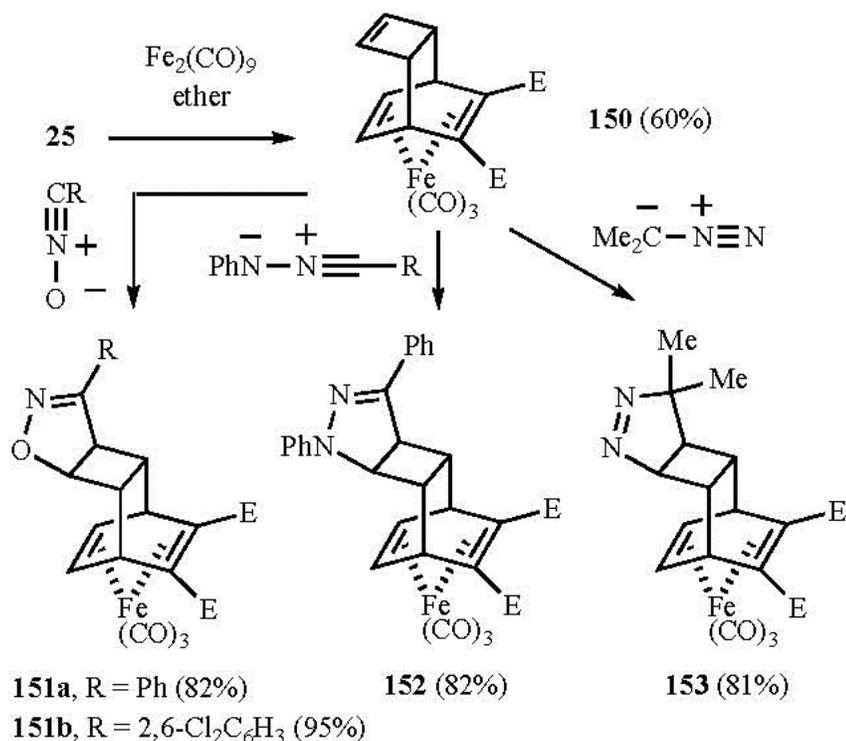
Scheme 33. (E = CO<sub>2</sub>Me).



Scheme 34.



Scheme 35.



Scheme 36.

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