Formalizing the mechanism of the allylic substitution reaction ($S_N'$): application to the highly enantio- and diastereo-selective syntheses of 1-phenyl-2-vinylcyclopentanes

Alain Krief, a,b* Johan Wouters, a Bernadette Norberg, a and Adrian Kremer a

a University of Namur, Chemistry Department, Rue de Bruxelles 61, Namur, Belgium
b University of Karachi, HEJ Research Institute, Pakistan
Email: alain.krief@unamur.be

In memoriam Prof. Gilbert Stork, a superb and dedicated scientist, who discovered, amongst many other reactions, the stereochemical outcomes of the $S_N'$ reaction

Received 03-15-2018 Accepted 05-10-2018 Published on line 07-07-2018

Abstract

We report efficient stereoselective and high yielding syntheses of each of the four enantiomers of phenylcyclopentanes bearing a quaternary center and an $E$-propenyl chain on the adjacent carbon that involves intramolecular allylic substitution reactions. In complement to its synthetic value, this process models the $S_N'$ reaction and allows prediction of its stereochemical outcome.

Keywords: Benzyl selenides, Se/Li exchange, stereospecific carbocyclization, aryl cyclopentanes, $S_N'$ reaction
Introduction

Several years ago we described a high yielding synthesis of cyclopentane derivatives 4a bearing a benzylic quaternary center and substituted on the adjacent carbon by a methyl group, from benzylselenide 1a bearing a CC double bond four carbons away from the benzylic carbon.\(^1\)\(^2\) It involved the intermediate formation of the related benzyllithium, its *exo-trig* addition\(^3\) across the built-in CC double bond, and protonation of the resulting cyclopentylmethylolithiums 3a (Scheme 1, entries a,b).

Interestingly, we found that this carbycyclization reaction occurs with high stereocontrol that depends upon the solvent and the temperature used.\(^1\) It leads to the stereoisomer *rac-4a’* in which the phenyl group and methyl group on the adjacent carbons are *cis* when the reaction is carried out in pentane or diethyl ether-hexanes between -20 and 20 °C and to *rac-4a”* in which the same substituents are *trans* when the reaction is instead carried out in THF-hexanes at -78 °C.\(^1\)

We later observed similar stereochemical features from benzylselenides 1b possessing either a Z- or E-allylic ether moiety (Scheme 1, entries c,d),\(^2\)\(^4\) but were unable to determine whether the process that involves the intermediate formation of benzyllithiums (Scheme 1, entries c,d) occurs through a stepwise (Scheme 2, entry a) or a concerted allylic substitution reaction (Scheme 2, entry b).

Scheme 1

Scheme 2
We decided to carry out on 1c, the higher homologs of 1b, the reactions shown in Scheme 1, being aware that the presence of an extra methyl group on the allylic carbon on 1c will imply an extra stereochemical center at C-8 in addition to the existing ones, namely the benzylic C-2 carbon and the Δ^{6-7} CC double bond (Scheme 3). We expected to be able to (i) generate on demand five-membered ring carbocycles with high absolute and relative stereocontrol, (ii) gain at the same time insight into the intimate mechanism of such process, and ultimately (iii) propose a model to predict the stereochemical outcome of any allylic substitution reaction (SN’ reaction).

Since this reaction involves an intramolecular process, it was expected to favor the allylic substitution reaction (SN’) at the expense of the competing substitution reaction (SN), that is beneficial for the interpretation of the experiments and for the synthetic value of the process.

The SN’ reaction has been the subject of very much experimental and theoretical work over the last 60 years,\(^5\)\(^-\)\(^9\) that attests the significance attached to the phenomenon.\(^8\) This reaction can deliver up to four stereoisomeric products possessing either a Z-CC double bond (Figure 1, SZ, AZ) or E-CC double bond (Figure 1, SE, AE) from a single stereoisomer of the allylic electrophile, with a net preference for the formation of the latter products possessing E-CC double bonds. Those products formally result from the attack, on each of the two remarkable conformers of the starting material, of a nucleophile entering from the same face of the CC double bond than the departing group (syn-mode; Figure 1, SZ, SE) or from its opposite face (anti-mode; Figure 1, AZ, AE).

Surprisingly, although a great many experiments have been carried out on a wide variety of starting materials\(^5\)\(^-\)\(^9\) involving charged and uncharged nucleophiles, different families of leaving groups and experimental conditions that include metal-catalyzed processes,\(^11\)\(^,\)\(^12\) over a long period, only rare systematic
studies have been carried out and up to now it has been impossible to predict with confidence the stereochemical outcome of any S_N^\prime reaction.

The transcript\textsuperscript{13} of a part of an interview, still of highly topical interest, with the late Prof. Gilbert Stork, who provided seminal contributions\textsuperscript{5-9,11,14-18} to the mechanism of the S_N^\prime reaction, sheds a proper light on this process: “That was good and bad. It turned out to be sort of the wrong kind of reaction to get involved with. It was intriguing at the time. It turned out to be (i) enormously more complicated than anyone knows; even today no one understands it, and (ii) not important. It became a known piece of work because there were not that many qualitative mechanistic studies at that time”.

We selected as starting materials unsaturated benzyllselenides 1c bearing a benzyloxy group at their allylic carbon atoms possessing all the fixed 8(S) stereochemistry and either Z- (1c_Z) or E- (1c_E) Δ^6-7 CC double bonds. We decided for convenience, to carry out the reactions on mixtures of the two epimeric selenides possessing the [2(R) and 2(S)] configuration at their benzylic carbons, expecting that it would circumvent inherent synthetic difficulties and will not interfere with the cyclization reaction due to the well-known ease by which benzyllithium intermediates interconvert.\textsuperscript{19,20}

We expected that the process would initiate a series of asymmetric inductions from the allylic (S)-C-8 carbon that would allow to control the stereochemistry at each newly created asymmetric centers depending upon the nature of the solvent (Ether or THF) and therefore to produce from each of the two couples [2(R) and 2(S)] of stereoisomers [1c_Z or 1c_E] a major product different from the others.

The strategy developed for the synthesis of each of the two epimeric mixtures of starting materials 1c_E and 1c_Z disclosed in Figure 2 is commented upon here. Their synthesis along with the related experimental part is presented below. The strategy involves the selection of:

1. commercially available\textsuperscript{21} scalemic (S)-3-butyln-2-ol (5) able to deliver to 1c a four carbon unit (C-6 to C-9) with an hydroxyl group on a (S)-C-8 carbon atom and carrying a terminal CC triple bond possessing the aptitude to be (i) easily metallated and alkylated at its sp carbon, after protection of its hydroxyl group and (ii) stereoselectively reduced to a disubstituted CC double bond (Δ^6-7 CC double bond) possessing either the (Z) or the (E) stereochemistry, using respectively either the Lindlar catalyst\textsuperscript{22} that finally leads to 1c_Z (Figure 2, entry a), or Red-Al\textsuperscript{23} that takes advantage of its hydroxyl directed hydralumination, leading finally to 1c_Z (Figure 2, entry b),

2. 2,2-bis(methylseleno)ethylbenzene, readily available\textsuperscript{2,24} from acetophenone and methylselenol, is the precursor of the 1-lithio-1-ethyl-1-methylseleno-benzene\textsuperscript{2,25} expected to bring the two-carbon unit of the chain (C-1 and C2) and the benzylic carbon (C-2) flanked with the methylseleno moiety, potential precursor of the corresponding benzyllithium 2c (Figure 2). Both benzyllithiums are prone to be alkylated by alkyl halides (by substitution) or CC double bonds (by addition),\textsuperscript{2}

3. complementary compounds bearing three carbon straight chain (C-3,C-5) that possess different leaving groups at each of their termini to allow selective sequential alkylations with the functionalized acetylide and then with the 1-lithio-1-ethyl-1-(methylseleno)benzene.
Results and Discussion

Experimental results

We have systematically carried out the reactions between epimeric mixtures of benzyl selenides $1c_Z$ and $1c_E$ and butyllithiums at -78 °C using diethyl ether-hexanes (Scheme 4, entries a,c) or THF-hexanes (Scheme 4, entries b,d) as solvents. As previously observed, the cleavage of their CSe bond is efficiently achieved by $n$-BuLi in THF-hexanes, whereas it requires the more reactive $t$-BuLi if ether-hexanes is instead used (Scheme 4, entries a,c).

Each of those reactions led in reasonably high yields (65-88 %) to a stereoisomeric mixture of 1-phenyl-2-propenylcyclopentane derivatives $4c$ in which the one possessing the $E$-CC double bond largely prevails (100-93 %, Scheme 4).

(i) The stereochemistry of the major products ($4c_{E1}$, $4c_{E4}$, Scheme 4) was found to be dependent both the nature of the solvent used and on the stereochemistry of the starting materials $1c$. In accordance with our previous results (Schemes 1), those ($4c_{E1}$ and $4c_{E3}$, Scheme 4, entries a,c) resulting from the reactions carried out in ether-hexanes possess a cis-relationship between the phenyl and the propenyl groups and are produced through the syn-$E$-mode (Scheme 4, entry a) whereas those ($4c_{E2}$ and $4c_{E4}$) generated in THF-hexane possess a trans-relationship between the same groups and their formation instead involve the anti-$E$-mode (Scheme 4, entries b,d).

Each pairs of products $4c_{E1}$ and $4c_{E3}$ (Scheme 4, compare entry a with c) and $4c_{E2}$ and $4c_{E4}$ (Scheme 4, compare entry b with d), generated from different starting materials but in the same solvents, are enantiomers. Whereas each pair of products $4c_{E1}$ and $4c_{E2}$ (Scheme 4, compare entry a with b) and $4c_{E3}$ and $4c_{E4}$ (Scheme 4, compare entry c with d) generated from the same starting material but in different solvents are diastereoisomers with cyclopentane rings on which the carbons bearing the phenyl ring possess the same stereochemistry, and consequently the ones to which is attached the propenyl side chain bears an inverted stereochemistry.

(ii) The stereochemistry of the minor products ($4c_{E3}$, $4c_{Z1}$, and $4c_{E1}$, Scheme 4, entries b-d) that are formed in less that 7% besides almost all the major products ($4c_{E2}$-$4c_{E4}$, Scheme 4, entries b-d, except Scheme 4, entry a) also depends on the stereochemistry of the starting material and the solvent. They all...
nevertheless exhibit a cis-relationship on the cyclopentane ring between the phenyl and propenyl groups and possess all a benzylic carbon that is epimeric to that of the related major stereoisomer. The minor stereoisomer $4c_{Z1}$ (Scheme 4, entry c) is the only product that possesses a Z-CC double bond. Interestingly its formation as the one of the major stereoisomer $4c_{E3}$ involves the syn-mode (although it is the syn-Z-mode instead of the syn-E-mode; Scheme 4, entry c).

Scheme 4

We have also observed in the tandem Se/Li exchange-carbocyclisation reactions carried at 0 °C instead of -78 °C that the amount of the minor isomer always increases at the expanse of the major product (Schemes 5). This is particularly the case of reactions performed in THF-hexanes (Schemes 5, entries b,d). It still affects the reaction of $1c_{Z1}$ that delivers in ether-hexanes compound $4c_{Z1}$, possessing a Z-propenyl side chain in quite high yield (30 %, Scheme 5B, entry c) but does not affect the outcome of the reaction involving its E-stereoisomer $1c_{E1}$, performed in the same mixture of solvents (Scheme 5A, entry a).
Scheme 5A

1.1 eq. n-BuLi, ethereal hexanes, 0 °C, 0.25h
85 %

Scheme 5B

1.1 eq. n-BuLi, THF, hexanes, 0 °C, 0.25h
78 %
Interpretation of the results

We show in Schemes 5, for each product formed, even the minor ones, the conformation of the related “transition state” and the “mode” (syn-mode or anti-mode) implied in each of their formations. It leads us, by including also the results shown in Scheme 4, to propose the following observations to rationalize the stereochemistry of the products obtained from those reactions.

(i) Reactions carried out in ether-hexane, involve the syn-mode, suggesting that a compact transition state is favored, in which the lithium cation is tightly linked to the benzylic carbon and coordinated by a lone pair of the alkoxy group, as well as to the π bond of the CC double bond of the allyl ether, and those of the aromatic ring (Schemes 4, 5, entries a,c).

(ii) Reactions carried out in THF-hexanes involve the anti-mode, suggesting that the intramolecular interactions discussed above no longer exist due to the selective complexation of the “lithium cation” by the lone pairs of the oxygen atoms of the more basic THF. This favors an “extended conformation” in which the complexed benzyllithium could initiate the SN’ reaction via a back-side attack, avoiding as much as possible the unfavorable steric interactions (Scheme 4, 5, entries b,d).

(iii) The formation in high yields of the major stereoisomers (4cE1, 4cE2, 4cE3 and 4cE4) in reactions carried out at low temperature reported in Scheme 4, implies that each pair of epimeric unsaturated benzyllithiums 2cZ (2cZS+2cZR) and 2cE (2cZS+2cZR) generated from the corresponding benzylselenides 1cZ (1cZS+1cZR) and 1cE (1cES+1cER), epimerizes prior cyclisation to the major stereoisomers leading to 4cE1, 4cE2, 4cE3 and 4cE4 listed in Scheme 4 and the remainder cyclizes to the minor stereoisomers 4cE3, 4cZ1, and 4cE1.

The routes shown in Scheme 6 exemplify the role of the temperature on the equilibrium involved for example when the epimeric mixture of intermediates 2cES and 2cER are generated from 1cZ (1cZS+1cZR) and s-butyllithium in ether-hexane at -78 °C and 0 °C, delivering various amounts of 4cE3 and 4cZ1.

Scheme 6

Structure determinations

We have not been able to separate effectively the major stereoisomers of the cyclized products 4c in all experiments involving 1cZ and 1cE shown in Schemes 4 and 5 (entries a-d) and therefore we have not been able to determine directly their ratios and consequently their structures. We have nevertheless been able to do so by combining different techniques, taking into account: (1) that each of the four stereoisomeric (2-
methyl-2-phenylcyclopentyl)methanols 11 (Scheme 7, Table 1, entry b) readily accessible, in a single pot process by sequential ozonolysis of the crude mixtures of 4c followed by in situ reduction of the resulting ozonides with sodium borohydride,\(^{28}\) has been easily separated by HPLC using a "chiral column" allowing the determination of their relative ratio in each experiment,\(^{29}\) and (2) that each of the related crystalline camphenoates 13 (Scheme 7, Table 1, entries c), readily prepared by reaction of commercially available (-)-camphanic acid chloride 12 with compounds 11,\(^{30}\) has been isolated by column chromatography on SiO\(_2\) and its structure unambiguously determined by X-ray crystallography\(^{31}\) (Scheme 7, Table 1, entry d).

Finally, the stereochemistry of the CC double bond of 4c has been assessed\(^{32}\) by \(^1\)H NMR spectroscopy of the crude mixtures of each experiment, taking into account the chemical shifts and value of the coupling constant of their hydrogens linked to the two adjacent vinylic carbons.

Scheme 7

Table 1.\(^{31}\) Stereochemistry of compounds 4c\(_E\), 11 and 13 depicted in Scheme 7

|   | 4c\(_{E1}\) | 4c\(_{E2}\) | 4c\(_{E3}\) | 4c\(_{E4}\) |
|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| a | ![Image](image1.png) | ![Image](image2.png) | ![Image](image3.png) | ![Image](image4.png) |
| b | ![Image](image5.png) | ![Image](image6.png) | ![Image](image7.png) | ![Image](image8.png) |
| c | ![Image](image9.png) | ![Image](image10.png) | ![Image](image11.png) | ![Image](image12.png) |
| d | ![Image](image13.png) | ![Image](image14.png) | ![Image](image15.png) | ![Image](image16.png) |

CCDC 923101  CCDC 923100  CCDC 923103\(^{10c}\)  CCDC 923102
Synthetic significance of the results

We have reported above the synthesis of each of the four stereoisomers of the cyclopentane derivatives $4c_E$ bearing a phenyl-substituted quaternary carbon next to a tertiary carbon bearing an E-propenyl side chain, by cyclization that produces a new bond between those two carbon atoms with unusually high stereocontrol. Those are versatile precursors of:

(a) The whole series of scalemic 1-phenyl-1-methyl-2-propenyl-cyclopentanes $4c_Z$ possessing instead Z-propenyl moiety that cannot be obtained by carbocyclization of $1c$ (Scheme 4). It would involve their sequential ozonolysis to the corresponding aldehydes $14$ using ozone/dimethyl sulfide\(^{33}\) followed by Z-stereoselective Wittig reaction using the Schlosser conditions involving ethylidenetriphenylphosphorane in DMSO\(^{34}\) (Scheme 8, entry a).

(b) 1-methyl-1-phenyl-2-vinyl-cyclopentanes $4b$, previously available as racemates from 2-phenyl-2-selenomethyl-7-octene $1b$ (Scheme 1, entries c,d), that can be generated by a similar method as reported in the previous paragraph (Scheme 8, entry b) but instead involving methylene triphenylphosphorane.\(^{35}\)

(c) Scalemic 1,2-dimethyl-1-phenyl-cyclopentanes $4a$ available as racemates from 2-phenyl-2-selenomethyl-7-octene $1b$ (Scheme 1, entries a,b)\(^1,2\) that can be readily synthesized starting from the related cyclopentylmethanols $11$ as outlined in Scheme 9 by reductive ozonolysis\(^{28}\) of $4c_E$ followed by sulfanylation of their hydroxyl group and reduction of the resulting sulfonates by lithium triethylborohydride (Scheme 9).\(^{36}\) This set of reactions has been carried out at an early stage of our research on a racemic mixture of $4a_{E1}+4a_{E3}$ as well as on a racemic mixture of $4a_{E2}+4a_{E4}$ obtained from rac-$1c_Z$ in ether-hexanes and THF-hexanes to determine their relative stereochemistry.

Finally, each of the enantiomers of 1-methyl-1-methyl-2-vinyl cyclopentanes $4c_E$ whose structures are disclosed in Scheme 4 can be produced on reaction of butyllithiums either in ether-hexanes or THF-hexanes from the different pairs of stereoisomeric benzyl selenides $1c$ whose structures are shown in Scheme 10, and possessing the following characteristics:
**Scheme 10**

**Contextualization of the results**

Although the allylic substitution reaction ($S_N'$) has been the subject of extensive work\textsuperscript{2,4,6-18} since the seminal discoveries of Winstein\textsuperscript{37} and Stork,\textsuperscript{14,15} it still lacks proper models to predict with confidence the outcome of any reaction belonging to that field or to suggest conditions that could allow the synthesis of any specific stereoisomer of a given substance through an $S_N'$ reaction.\textsuperscript{13} The intramolecular version of the $S_{CN}$,\textsuperscript{18} to which this work belongs, offers the advantage to avoid competing direct substitution reactions ($S_N$) that are usually observed. It leads to cyclic compounds, including alkenyl substituted five-membered heterocycles (Scheme 11)\textsuperscript{11,17} and carbocycles (Scheme 12, 13)\textsuperscript{6,18,38-40} whose stereochemistry at the carbon on the cycle bearing the alkenyl group as well as of CC double bond offer precious indications about the mechanism of the reaction.
We first provide a brief historical background to the $S_N'$ reaction that will allow inclusion of our work into a wider perspective.

Winstein\textsuperscript{37} and Stork\textsuperscript{14,15} very early recognized that the $S_N'$ reactions could take place stereoselectively with the incoming nucleophile and the departing group lying on the same side (syn-mode) or the opposite side (anti-mode) (Figure 1).

Stork described the first syn-$S_N'$ reaction\textsuperscript{14,15} and twenty-four years later the first anti-$S_N'$ reaction.\textsuperscript{16} Since the original paper from Stork, there has been considerable discussion as to whether concerted $S_N'$ reactions ever occur\textsuperscript{9} and this concept has been even described in early times as “unreasonable” or “abhorrent”.\textsuperscript{9,17,41} It has then been concluded, as the result of theoretical calculations from the most influent theoretical chemists of that time, that the $S_N'$ reaction can only proceed through the syn-mode (Figure 1).\textsuperscript{5-10} Those assessments proved to be incorrect, after the experimental results reported later by Stork.\textsuperscript{16,17}

Most of the reactions so far described did indeed involve the syn-mode\textsuperscript{5-10} and generate compounds bearing usually $E$-CC double bonds,\textsuperscript{5-10} unless it is part of a medium ring. Although products possessing the $Z$-stereochemistry have been from time to time described, often as side products,\textsuperscript{6,12,16,17,38} they usually proceed through the syn-mode.

It has been reported that (i) “Experience suggests that soft nucleophiles give syn-stereochemistry and hard nucleophiles anti”,\textsuperscript{8,9,17} (ii) “Theory suggests\textsuperscript{9} that the syn-mode is involved for neutral nucleophiles while anionic nucleophiles approach from the anti-direction”\textsuperscript{8,9} and (iii) “Evidence is meager and contradictory…. and …. small variations produce strikingly variable results”.\textsuperscript{8,9}

Our experimental results clearly contradict those statements. We agree with the view of Overton\textsuperscript{42} who wrote “It becomes apparent that, contrary to the long-held view that $S_N'$ reactions proceed with syn-stereochemistry, the whole spectrum spanned by the syn- and anti-extremes is to be expected depending, in any particular case, on the nature of the displacing and displaced groups, counter ions, and solvent”; we propose to add “temperature”. In fact, the difficulties encountered in rationalizing the results published are due to the large number of parameters that play a crucial role in the process and the widespread differences between the examples that have to be compared. Those, \textit{inter alia}, involve: (i) the nature of the leaving group, (ii) the stereochemistry of the CC double bond, (iii) the nature, hardness of the nucleophilic atom, and nature of the counter ion for charged nucleophiles, (iv) the nature of the solvent and conformational bias resulting from the presence of the CC double bond in a cycle\textsuperscript{5-9} either on the starting material or on the product and last but not least steric effects.\textsuperscript{2,4-12,14-18,37-42}

We have gathered in Schemes 11-16 some typical reactions, that have appeared in the literature over the last 40 years.\textsuperscript{5-9} They all involve as starting materials unsaturated straight-chain organometallics that produce five-membered rings\textsuperscript{6,11,17,18,38-40} via intramolecular allylic substitution reactions leading to the departure of a benzoate (Scheme 11,\textsuperscript{11} Scheme 12,\textsuperscript{17} Scheme 14\textsuperscript{18}) or an alkoxide located on the allylic site (Scheme 13,\textsuperscript{38} Scheme 15,\textsuperscript{39} Scheme 16\textsuperscript{6}).
Scheme 11

\[
\begin{align*}
18_{E} \text{ Ar: (2,4,6)MeC}_6\text{H}_2 \\
\text{MeO} \end{align*}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
19a_{E} \text{ anti-E-mode} \\
19b_{E} \text{ syn-Z-mode} \\
20_{E} \\
20_{Z}
\end{align*}
\]

| Condition | Yield (%) | ee (%) |
|------------|-----------|--------|
| a MeOLi, THF, 20 °C, 30h | 52 | 93 |
| b MeOLi, HMPA | - | 68 |
| c MeONa, THF | - | 76 |

Scheme 12

\[
\begin{align*}
21_{E} \\
X \text{ Conditions} \\
21_{Z} \\
\text{X Conditions} \\
22_{E} \\
22_{Z}
\end{align*}
\]

| Condition | Yield (%) | ee (%) |
|------------|-----------|--------|
| a Br Mg, THF, 60 °C, 40h | 65% | 94 |
| b Br Mg, CuBr, SMe, THF, 60 °C, 40h | 84% | 93 |
| c I t-BuLi, Ether-hexane, -78-80 °C, 5h | 91% | 94 |
| d Br Mg, THF, 60 °C, 40h | 63% | 82 |
| e Br Mg, CuBr, SMe, THF, 60 °C, 40h | 84% | 51 |
| f I t-BuLi, Ether-hexane, -78-80 °C, 5h | 90% | 98 |

Scheme 13
As general trends, the reactions reported in Schemes 11-16 produce compounds in which the five-membered ring is substituted by a \( E \)-CC double bond and only rarely by a \( Z \)-CC double bond (Scheme 12, Scheme 13, Scheme 16, entry b).
Most of the cyclization reactions take place through the syn-mode except those disclosed in Scheme 11,17 Scheme 127 and Scheme 1418 that involve instead the anti-mode.

One striking difference between our work and that already published is the narrow window on which we have made systematic variations (stereoisomers, solvents of same kind, temperatures) as compared to the widespread data on which correlations have been made previously (very different types of starting material, especially nucleophilic entities and leaving groups, have been studied, using a wide variety of solvents and temperatures).

As general trends, $Sn'$ reactions that involve a metal cation5-8 or eventually a proton,43 favor, as in our case, highly structured transition states involving chelation by atoms bearing lone pairs and π-bonds leading to the syn-mode. However this organization can be prevented when the reactions are performed in polar solvents, at high temperature or in cases of unfavorable steric interactions5-8 favoring thus the anti-mode.

We did not find experimental proofs confirming the assessment of Stille38 that the reactions disclosed in Scheme 13 proceed through an anti-mode, and we rationalize the anti-mode involved in the reactions implying metal thiolates17 (19a, Scheme 12) or a metal malonate18 (24, Scheme 14) by poorer chelation of (i) the soft thiolate17 to the hard counter-cation (19, Scheme 12) and (ii) the delocalized enolate in case of the sodio-malonate18 (24, Scheme 14) that disfavor the chelated preorganization leading to the syn-mode.

The case of α-alkoxyalkenyl lithiums 30aE and 30bE (Scheme 16)6 attracted our attention since it shares some similarity with that of α-phenyl alkenyllithiums 2E we have disclosed in Schemes 4 and 5 (entry c). They all bear a CC double bonds possessing the E-stereochemistry and a quaternary carbanionic center to which are attached groups (alkoxy and phenyl respectively) able to coordinate the lithium cation. They both deliver, through a syn-mode, cyclopentane derivatives in which those groups are cis to the pending CC double bonds (31aE, 31bE, 4cE3, 4cZ1), and last but not least whereas one of the organolithium epimers delivers cyclopentane derivatives possessing E-CC double bonds through the syn-E-mode (31aE, Scheme 16, entry a; 4cE3, Scheme 6, entry a) the other unusually produce mainly its stereoisomers possessing Z-CC double bonds (31bE, Scheme 16, entry b; 4cZ1, Scheme 6, entry b) through the syn-Z-mode.

There are however striking differences, since (i) α-alkoxyalkenyl lithiums 30aE and 30bE are expected to be configurationally stable,6,44 whereas benzyl lithiums such 2cE7 and 2cE3 have been found to interconvert already at -78 °C.19,20 This did not prove to be a problem because the latter have been found to adapt to the experimental conditions; (ii) although correlations about the outcome of the two types of reaction disclosed above fit very well (compare Schemes 4, 5; entries c with Scheme 16, syn-mode in each case), they have been carried out in different solvents (THF for α-alkoxyalkenyl lithiums 30E and ether for α-phenylalkenyl lithiums 2E) that have been found, at least for α-phenylalkenyl lithiums (compare Schemes 4, 5; entries c with entries d), to lead to very different stereochemical outcome: syn-mode in ether, anti-mode in THF! We assume therefore that THF does not affect the ability of the alkoxy-group attached to the carbanionic center of 30E to complex the “lithium cation” that leads to the compact transition state required for the syn-mode, whereas it destroys the weaker complexation of the same cation by the electron cloud of the phenyl ring1,2,4,26,27 in α-phenylalkenyl lithiums 2E that is only observed when the less basic ether is instead used.

Synthesis of the starting materials
The multistep syntheses of two isomeric Z- and E-[8S]-8-(benzyloxy)-2-phenylnon-6-en-2-yl](methyl)selane 1CE and 1CE, reported in Scheme 17 and Scheme 18 respectively, follows the retrosynthetic analysis shown in Scheme 3. Each of them was carried out from the commercially available (S)-3-but-3-yn-2-ol S21 and involve in each case protection of its hydroxyl group that allow the stepwise alkylation of their terminal acetylenic
carbon and at the last stage the introduction of a benzylseleno moiety through the corresponding \( \alpha \)-selenobenzyl lithium \(^{32,1,2,25}\).

The synthesis of the Z-stereoisomer 1c\(_Z\) involves the shortest of the two routes (Scheme 17) that uses the benzyl protected propargylic alcohol \(^{33}\) its metalation by \( n \)-butyllithium in THF-hexanes at \(-78^\circ\)C and subsequent alkylation of the resulting acetylide by 1-bromo-3-chloropropane that takes place selectively on the carbon bearing the bromine atom, finally leading to 6 in 75% yield. Catalytic dihydrogenation of 6 generates 7\(_Z\) in 85% yield possessing a Z-CC double bond was achieved using Lindlar catalyst\(^{22}\) in the presence of quinoline to avoid over reduction and the formation of the target compound 1c\(_Z\) has been achieved in 90% yield by reacting the chloride 7\(_Z\) with 1-phenyl-1-methylseleno-ethyl lithium \(^{32,1,2,25}\).

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{H} & \quad \xrightarrow{(S)\text{-OH}} \quad (S)\text{-OBn} \\
\text{Me} & \quad \xrightarrow{1.3 \text{ eq. NaH, 0.05 eq. Bu}_3\text{NiL}} \\
\text{5} & \quad \xrightarrow{2.2 \text{ eq. PhCH}_2\text{Br, THF, 23 }^\circ\text{C, 20h}} \\
\text{Me} & \quad 86\% \quad \xrightarrow{(S)\text{-OBn}} \\
\text{H} & \quad \xrightarrow{(S)\text{-OBn}} \\
\text{Me} & \quad \xrightarrow{(i) \, 1.1 \text{ n-BuLi, THF, -78 }^\circ\text{C} \quad (ii) \, 1.1 \text{ eq. Br(CH}_2)_2\text{Cl, -78 to -65 }^\circ\text{C, 24h}} \\
\text{33} & \quad 75\% \quad \xrightarrow{\text{Me}} \\
\text{3} & \quad \xrightarrow{\text{Cl}} \\
\text{6} & \quad \text{H}_2, \text{ Lindlar catalyst, quinoline, EtOAc, 20 }^\circ\text{C} \\
\text{PhMe} & \quad \xrightarrow{(S)\text{-OBn}} \\
\text{(Z)-SeMe} & \quad \xrightarrow{\text{PhCMesL(SeMe)} \, 32, \text{THF, -78 to -20 }^\circ\text{C, 0.8h}} \\
\text{1c\(_Z\)} & \quad 90\% \quad \xrightarrow{\text{Me}} \\
\text{Me} & \quad \xrightarrow{\text{Cl}} \\
\text{7\(_Z\)} & \quad \text{H}_2, \text{ Lindlar catalyst, quinoline, EtOAc, 20 }^\circ\text{C} \\
\end{align*}
\]

Scheme 17

The synthesis of the E-stereoisomer 1c\(_E\) (Scheme 18) is lengthier due to the exchange of the original tert-butyl dimethysilyl protecting group that is required to allow the metalation/alkylation process leading to \(^{35}\) but needs to be removed to offer one hand to carry the stepwise introduction of the two hydrogens in a trans-relationship on the CC double bond using RedAl\(^{23}\) followed by the hydrolysis of the resulting aluminum alcoholate leading to 9\(_E\).

An orthogonal deprotection/protection was required to avoid inadequate deprotection of the THP group and to promote the requested benzylation of the allyl alcohol moiety leading to 36\(_E\). Selective deprotection of the THP group leaving untouched the benzyloxy ether was achieved by acid catalyzed methanolysis leading to the alcohol \(^{37}\(_E\)) that on reaction with carbon tetrabromide/triphenylphosphine reagent\(^{46}\) leads to the E-unsaturated bromide 10\(_E\) pendant of Z-unsaturated chloride 7\(_E\) whose reaction with 1-phenyl-1-(methylseleno)ethyl lithium \(^{32,1,2,25}\) provides stereoselectively 1c\(_E\).
Conclusions

The results reported not only allow the stereodirected synthesis of a large variety of phenylcyclopentane derivatives but also provide coherent experimental data about the stereochemical outcome of a specific $S_N'$ reaction that gathers crucial information about the effect of different structural features on the stereochemistry of the products. We expect that further work can provide crucial contextual information by changing sequentially the metal (Na, Mg, K, or Cu,..), the leaving group at the allylic carbon (metal alkoxides, alkoxy group, sulfonates or halides,..), the substitution at the benzylic carbon (H, alkyl-, alkoxy-, thioalkyl-, or selenoalkyl-groups) or on the CC double bond (alkyl groups at C-6, C-7; OCH$_2$-OR or 2H at C-8)] and experimental variations (solvents, additive, temperature). This process could also be extended to the stereoselective synthesis of a large variety of arylcycloalkanes involving the concomitant formation of three, six and even higher membered rings as well as scalemic allenes from starting material bearing a propargyl ether instead of an allyl ether moiety. They could then serve as a model to predict with confidence the stereochemical outcome of any $S_N'$ reactions.

Experimental Section

General. (i) Thin layer chromatography (TLC) was conducted on pre-coated aluminum sheets with 0.20 mm Macherey-Nagel Alugram SIL G/UV254 with fluorescent indicator UV254. Column chromatography was carried out using Merck Gerduran silica gel 60 (particle size 63-200 µm) (ii) Melting points (M.p.) were measured on a Büchi Melting Point B-545 in open capillary tubes and have not been corrected. (iii) Nuclear
magnetic resonance (NMR) \(^1\)H, \(^{13}\)C and \(^{19}\)F spectra were obtained on a 400 MHz NMR (Jeol JNM EX-400) Chemical shifts were reported in ppm according to tetramethylsilane using the solvent residual signal as an internal reference (CDCl\(_3\): \(\delta\)\(_H\) = 7.26 ppm, \(\delta\)\(_C\) = 77.16 ppm; DMSO-d\(_6\): \(\delta\)\(_H\) = 2.50 ppm, \(\delta\)\(_C\) = 39.52 ppm). Coupling constants (J) were given in Hz (J\(_1\): ortho, J\(_2\): meta, J\(_3\): para). Resonance multiplicity was described as s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), dd (doublet of doublets), dt (doublet of triplets), q (quartet), m (multiplet) and br (broad signal). Carbon spectra were acquired with a complete decoupling for the proton. (iv) Infrared spectra (IR) were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer Spectrum II FT-IR System single-reflection ATR mounted with a diamond mono-crystal (v) Chiral high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) analysis were performed through a chiral analytical column CHIRALCEL OJ-H (Daicel Chemical Industries, Ltd.) (0.25 m x 4.6 mm) coated with tris-(4-methylbenzoate) cellulose on 5 \(\mu\)m silica-gel substrate). Column type: Eluent: n-Hexane/i-Propanol 99/1; Flow rate: 2 ml/min, Injection: 10 \(\mu\)l of a 5 mg/ml solution, Detection: UV (220 nm), Peaks at: 14.4 min (11\(_1\)), 21.2 min (11\(_2\)), 24.5 min (11\(_3\)), 33.3 min (11\(_4\)) using a Merck-Hitachi 655A equipment using a UV detector (vi) X-ray analyses have been carried out by the “Laboratoire de Chimie Moléculaire Structurale”, UNamur using NOMIUS CAD-4 diffractometer and the \(K_\alpha\) ray of copper (\(\lambda\): 1.54178 nm). Product’s structures have been resolved with the program SIR92 and refined with the program SHELXL97. CCDC quotation refers to the crystal structures related to 13\(_1\)-13\(_4\) have been deposited at the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre and allocated the deposition numbers: 13\(_1\) (CCDC 923101), 13\(_2\) (CCDC 923100), 13\(_3\) (CCDC 923103), 13\(_4\) (CCDC 923102) (vii) Chemicals were purchased from Sigma Aldrich, Acros Organics, TCI and ABCR and were used as received. Solvents were purchased from Sigma Aldrich, while deuterated solvents from Eurisotop. Diethyl ether and THF were distilled from sodium-benzophenone-cetyl, toluene was refluxed over calcium hydride and dichloromethane (CH\(_2\)Cl\(_2\)) was refluxed over phosphorus pentoxide. Anhydrous DMF was purchased from Acros Organics. Hydrochloric acid (HCl 32%) was purchased from Fischer Scientific. MeOH and CHCl\(_3\) were purchased as reagent-grade and used without further purification (viii) Low temperature baths were prepared using different solvent mixtures depending on the desired temperature: -78°C with acetone/dry ice, -40°C with CH\(_3\)CN/liquid N\(_2\), -10°C with ice-H\(_2\)O/NaCl, and 0°C with ice/H\(_2\)O. Anhydrous conditions were achieved by drying 2-neck flasks by flaming with a heat gun under vacuum and then purging with argon. The inert atmosphere was maintained using argon-filled balloons equipped with a syringe and needle that was used to penetrate the silicon stoppers used to close the flasks’ necks. Additions of liquid reagents were performed using dried plastic or glass syringes.

A. Cyclization of [(8S)-8-(benzyloxy)-2-phenylnon-6-en-2-yl](methyl)selanes (1c\(_E\) and 1c\(_Z\))

Reaction of 1b\(_Z\) with n-BuLi in THF at -78°C (General procedure 1). To a flask containing [(8S,Z)-8-(benzyloxy)-2-phenylnon-6-en-2-yl](methyl)selane (1c\(_Z\), 200 mg, 0.5 mmol) in dry THF (5 mL) was added dropwise at -78°C a solution of n-BuLi (1.6 M in hexanes, 0.31 mL, 0.5 mmol) and the reaction mixture was stirred for 2 h at -78°C. MeOH (1 mL) was added at the same temperature, the reaction mixture was warm to 23°C, diluted with Et\(_2\)O (60 mL) and washed with H\(_2\)O (5 mL) and brine (5 mL). The organic layer was dried over MgSO\(_4\), filtered and the solvents removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (pentane) to give a mixture of 4b\(_E2\) and 4b\(_E3\) (65 mg, 65% yield) in a 94/6 ratio.

Reaction of 1b\(_E\) with s-BuLi in Et\(_2\)O at -78°C (General procedure 2). To a flask containing [(8S,E)-8-(benzyloxy)-2-phenylnon-6-en-2-yl](methyl)selane (1c\(_E\), 200 mg, 0.5 mmol) in dry Et\(_2\)O (5 mL) was added dropwise at -78°C a solution of s-BuLi (1.4 M in cyclohexane, 0.36 mL, 0.5 mmol) and the reaction mixture was stirred for 2 h at -78°C. MeOH (1 mL) was added at the same temperature, the reaction mixture was warm to 23°C, diluted with Et\(_2\)O (60 mL) and washed with H\(_2\)O (5 mL) and brine (5 mL). The organic layer was dried over MgSO\(_4\),...
filtered and the solvents removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (pentane) to give a mixture of 4c_{E1} and 4c_{E2} (88 mg, 88% yield) in a 93/7 ratio.

4c_{E1} and 4c_{E2}: $^1$H NMR (400 MHz, 21 °C, CDCl$_3$): δ 7.30-7.23 (m, 2H), 7.23-7.18 (m, 2H), 7.18-7.12 (m, 1H), 5.35 (ddq, J 15.2, 6.4, 0.8, 1H), 4.87 (ddq, J 15.1, 8.7, 1.6, 1H), 2.46-2.36 (m, 1H), 2.28-2.17 (m, 1H), 1.94-1.70 (m, 4H), 1.56-1.43 (m, 1H), 1.53 (dd, J 6.4, 1.6, 3H), 1.32 (s, 3H); $^{13}$C NMR (100 MHz, 21 °C, CDCl$_3$): δ 147.0, 133.2, 127.6, 127.4, 125.2, 124.7, 54.3, 49.8, 38.1, 30.8, 29.0, 22.1, 17.9. Chiral HPLC [column: DAICEL CHIRALPAK OJ + OJ-H; solvent: hexane/i-propanol = 99.5/0.5; flow rate: 0.2 ml/min; detection: 220 nm]: 39.5 min and 40.5 min. Due to overlapping of the two peaks, the enantiomeric excess was measured on the corresponding alcohols 11$_1$ and 11$_3$. Anal. calc. for C$_{15}$H$_{20}$: C, 89.94, H, 10.06; found C, 89.78, H, 9.96%.

4c_{E2} and 4c_{E4}: $^1$H NMR (400 MHz, 21 °C, CDCl$_3$): δ 7.44-7.37 (m, 2H), 7.33-7.24 (m, 2H), 7.21-7.13 (m, 1H), 5.49-5.29 (m, 2H), 2.74-2.65 (m, 1H), 2.10-1.61 (m, 6H), 1.65 (d, J 5.9, 3H), 1.18 (s, 3H); $^{13}$C NMR (100 MHz, 21 °C, CDCl$_3$): δ 149.9, 131.9, 127.9, 126.1, 125.5, 125.3, 52.8, 48.6, 41.7, 30.6, 21.9, 21.8, 18.2; Chiral HPLC [column: DAICEL CHIRALPAK OJ + OJ-H; solvent: hexane/i-propanol = 99.5/0.5; flow rate: 0.2 ml/min; detection: 220 nm]: 48.2 min and 50.7 min. Due to overlapping of the two peaks, the enantiomeric excess was measured on the corresponding alcohols 11$_2$ and 11$_4$. Anal. calc. for C$_{15}$H$_{20}$: C, 89.94, H, 10.06; found C, 89.85, H, 10.08%.

4c_{E4}: $^1$H NMR (400 MHz, 21 °C, CDCl$_3$): δ 7.31-7.25 (m, 2H), 7.25-7.20 (m, 2H), 7.19-7.13 (m, 1H), 5.30 (ddq, J 10.9, 6.9, 0.8, 1H), 4.85 (ddq, J 10.9, 10.3, 1.6, 1H), 2.92 (dt, J 10.3, 7.1, 1H), 2.30-2.20 (m, 1H), 2.05-1.72 (m, 5H), 1.67 (dd, J 6.9, 1.6, 3H), 1.34 (s, 3H).

B. Synthesis of (2-methyl-2-phenylcyclopentyl)methanol (11)

Synthesis of [(1S,2S)-2-methyl-2-phenylcyclopentyl]methanol (11) (General procedure 3). To a flask containing ([1S,2R]-1-methyl-2-[(E)-prop-1-en-1-yl]cyclopentyl)benzene (4c$_{E1}$. 40 mg, 0.2 mmol) in a mixture of dry CH$_2$Cl$_2$ (8 mL) and dry MeOH (8 mL) was bubbled O$_3$ in the solution at -78 °C for 2 min. The solution was purged with argon for 15 minutes and allowed to warm to 0 °C. NaBH$_4$ (40 mg, 1 mmol) was added and the solution stirred at 0 °C for 1 h. The solvents were removed under reduced pressure and the residue diluted with Et$_2$O (50 mL), washed with H$_2$O (5 mL) and brine (5 mL). The organic layer was dried over MgSO$_4$, filtered and the solvents removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (pentane:Et$_2$O 75:25) to give 11$_1$ (28 mg, 74% yield).

11$_1$ and 11$_3$: Mp: 44 °C; $^1$H NMR (400 MHz, 21 °C, CDCl$_3$): δ 7.35-7.28 (m, 4H), 7.24-7.16 (m, 1H), 3.33 (dd, J 10.9, 5.4, 1H), 3.03 (dd, J 10.9, 8.1, 1H), 2.25-2.07 (m, 1H), 2.06-1.95 (m, 1H), 1.95-1.72 (m, 3H), 1.70-1.58 (m, 1H), 1.38 (s, 3H), 1.35 (s, 1H); $^{13}$C NMR (100 MHz, 21 °C, CDCl$_3$): δ 146.9, 128.1, 126.9, 125.7, 64.6, 52.3, 48.5, 37.3, 29.9, 27.4, 21.8; IR (solid): 3343, 2956, 2878, 1495, 1444, 1065, 1016, 766, 703, 611, 560 cm$^{-1}$. Chiral HPLC [column: DAICEL CHIRALPAK OJ-H; solvent: hexane/i-propanol = 99:1; flow rate: 2 ml/min; detection: 220 nm]: 14.4 min (11$_1$) and 24.5 min (11$_3$). Anal. calc. for C$_{15}$H$_{20}$: C, 82.06, H, 9.54; found C, 81.80, H, 9.58%.

11$_2$ and 11$_4$: $^1$H NMR (400 MHz, 21 °C, CDCl$_3$): δ 7.46-7.40 (m, 2H), 7.36-7.29 (m, 2H), 7.23-7.16 (m, 1H), 3.71 (dd, J 10.6, 5.7, 1H), 3.53 (dd, J 10.6, 8.1, 1H), 2.48-2.37 (m, 1H), 2.14-1.99 (m, 2H), 1.91-1.71 (m, 3H), 1.62-1.50 (m, 1H), 1.44 (s, 1H), 1.24 (s, 3H); $^{13}$C NMR (100 MHz, 21 °C, CDCl$_3$): δ 149.3, 128.2, 125.8, 125.6, 64.4, 52.9, 47.3, 43.6, 28.4, 22.3, 20.3; IR (film): 3339, 2957, 2873, 1496, 1444, 1075, 1029, 997, 758, 698, 550 cm$^{-1}$. Chiral HPLC [column: DAICEL CHIRALPAK OJ-H; solvent: hexane/i-propanol = 99/1; flow rate: 2 ml/min; detection: 220 nm]: 21.2 min (11$_2$) and 33.3 min (11$_4$). Anal. calc. for C$_{15}$H$_{20}$: C, 82.06, H, 9.54; found C, 80.93, H, 9.54%. 
C. Synthesis of (2-methyl-2-phenylcyclopentyl)methyl (1S,4R)-4,7,7-trimethyl-3-oxo-2-oxabicyclo[2.2.1]heptane-1-carboxylate (13)

[(1R,2S)-2-Methyl-2-phenylcyclopentyl]methyl (1S,4R)-4,7,7-trimethyl-3-oxo-2-oxabicyclo[2.2.1]heptane-1-carboxylate (13) (General procedure 4). To a flask containing [(1S,2S)-2-methyl-2-phenylcyclopentyl]methyl (11) (28 mg, 0.15 mmol) in dry pyridine (0.5 mL) was added at 0 °C (1S)-(−)-camphamic chloride \(^{30}\) (36 mg, 0.165 mmol) and the reaction mixture was stirred for 4 days at 23 °C. The reaction mixture was diluted with Et\(_2\)O (50 mL) and washed with 6 M aq. HCl (5 mL) and brine (5 mL). The organic layer was dried over MgSO\(_4\), filtered and the solvents removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (pentane:Et\(_2\)O 80:20) to give 13 (50 mg, 90% yield).

13: Mp: 84 °C; \(^1\)H NMR (400 MHz, 21 °C, CDCl\(_3\)): \(\delta 7.35-7.23\) (m, 4H), 7.21-7.15 (m, 1H), 3.90 (dd, J 10.8, 4.8, 1H), 3.62 (dd, J 10.9, 9.5, 1H), 2.41-2.29 (m, 2H), 2.28-2.16 (m, 1H), 2.07-1.76 (m, 6H), 1.72-1.52 (m, 2H), 1.38 (s, 3H), 1.10 (s, 3H), 1.01 (s, 3H); \(^{13}\)C NMR (100 MHz, 21 °C, CDCl\(_3\)): \(\delta 178.3, 167.5, 146.2, 128.2, 126.9, 125.9, 91.1, 67.7, 54.8, 54.1, 48.8, 48.4, 37.2, 30.6, 29.9, 28.9, 27.6, 21.7, 16.8, 16.7, 9.7; IR (film): 2963, 1785, 1744, 1446, 1309, 1262, 1170, 1104, 1059, 1018, 993, 931, 772, 706, 564 cm\(^{-1}\).

D. Synthesis of [(8S,2Z)-8-(benzyloxy)-2-phenylnon-6-en-2-yl](methyl)selane 1b\(_2\)

(S)-[But-3-yn-2-oloxymethyl]benzene (33). To a flask containing a suspension of NaH (60% dispersion in oil, 364 mg, 9.1 mmol) and a catalytic amount of Bu\(_4\)NI (130 mg, 0.35 mmol) in dry THF (14 mL) was added dropwise a solution of (S)-but-3-yn-2-ol (5, 490 mg, 7 mmol) in dry THF (2 mL) and the mixture was stirred for 45 min. BnBr (2.63 g, 18 mL, 15.4 mmol) was added dropwise and the reaction mixture stirred for 20 h (formation of a white precipitate after 1 h). The reaction mixture was diluted with saturated aqueous NH\(_4\)Cl (10 mL) and extracted with pentane (3 × 25 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine (5 mL), dried over MgSO\(_4\), filtered and the solvents removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (pentane:Et\(_2\)O 99:1 to 95:5) to give 33 (960 mg, 86% yield). Spectral data for 33 match those previously reported.\(^{47}\)

(S)-[[7-Chlorohept-3-yn-2-oloxymethyl]benzene (6). To a flask containing (S)-[[but-3-yn-2-oloxymethyl]benzene 33 (960 mg, 6 mmol) in dry THF (10 mL) was added dropwise at −78 °C a solution of n-BuLi (1.6 M in hexanes, 4.12 mL, 6.6 mmol) and the mixture was stirred for 15 min. A solution of 1-bromo-3-chloropropane (1.04 g, 6.6 mmol) in dry THF (3 mL) was added dropwise and the reaction mixture was heated at 65 °C and...
stirred for 24 h. After cooling, the reaction mixture was diluted with H₂O (10 mL) and extracted with Et₂O (3 × 35 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with H₂O (10 mL) and brine (10 mL), dried over MgSO₄, filtered and the solvents removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (pentane:Et₂O 96:4) to give 6 (1.06 g, 75% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, 21 °C, CDCl₃): δ 7.40-7.26 (m, 5H), 4.76 (d, J 11.7, 1H), 4.49 (d, J 11.7, 1H), 4.20 (qt, J 6.6, 1H, 1.8, 2H), 3.67 (t, J 6.4, 2H), 2.45 (td, J 6.8, 1.8, 2H), 1.98 (quint, J 6.4, 2H), 1.44 (d, J 6.6, 3H).

(S,Z)-[(7-Chlorohept-3-en-2-yl)oxy]methyl]benzene (7z). To a flask containing (S)-[(7-chlorohept-3-yn-2-yl)oxy]methyl]benzene (6, 710 mg, 3 mmol) in EtOAc (10 mL) were added quinoline (60 μL) and Lindlar’s catalyst (300 mg) and the reaction mixture was stirred at 23 °C under an atmosphere of H₂. After 4 h, the reaction mixture was filtered over Celite (Et₂O eluent) and the solvents removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (pentane:Et₂O 96:4) to give 7z (610 mg, 85% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, 21 °C, CDCl₃): δ 7.39-7.24 (m, 5H), 5.55-5.41 (m, 2H), 4.55 (d, J 11.8, 1H), 4.37 (d, J 11.8, 1H), 4.37-4.29 (m, 1H), 3.52 (t, J 6.5, 2H), 2.25-2.16 (m, 2H), 1.83 (quint, J 6.8, 2H), 1.27 (d, J 6.4, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, 21 °C, CDCl₃): δ 138.8, 133.7, 130.1, 128.3, 127.7, 127.4, 70.1, 69.9, 44.3, 32.3, 24.7, 21.6.

[(8S,3)-8-(Benzyloxy)-2-phenylnon-6-2-yl](methyl)selane 1c₂. To a flask containing (1-phenylethane-1,1-diyli)bis(methylselane) (771 mg, 2.64 mmol) in dry THF (10 mL) was added dropwise at -78 °C a solution of n-BuLi (1.6 M in hexanes, 1.51 mL, 2.42 mmol) and the reaction mixture was stirred for 40 min (yellow solution of 32). A solution of (S,Z)-[(7-chlorohept-3-en-2-yl)oxy]methyl]benzene 7z (525 mg, 2.2 mmol) in dry THF (5 mL) was added dropwise and the reaction mixture stirred at -78 °C for 1.5 h and at 23 °C for 1.5 h (discoloration). MeOH (1 mL) was added, the reaction mixture diluted with Et₂O (75 mL), washed with H₂O (5 mL) and brine (5 mL), dried under MgSO₄, filtered and the solvents removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (pentane:Et₂O 96:4) to give 1c₂ (788 mg, 90% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, 21 °C, CDCl₃): δ 7.48-7.42 (m, 2H), 7.38-7.22 (m, 7H), 7.21-7.14 (m, 1H), 5.53-5.43 (m, 1H), 5.41-5.31 (m, 1H), 4.58-4.48 (m, 1H), 4.37-4.19 (m, 2H), 2.25-2.14 (m, 1H), 2.08-1.91 (m, 3H), 1.83 (s, 3H), 1.70 (s, 3H), 1.48-1.33 (m, 1H), 1.33-1.09 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, 21 °C, CDCl₃): δ 145.1, 138.8, 132.5, 131.8, 128.3(1), 128.2(9), 128.1, 127.4, 126.8, 126.2, 70.0(5), 69.9(7), 69.8, 69.7, 46.5, 42.4(4), 42.4(1), 27.7, 26.2, 25.2, 21.5(7), 21.5(5), 3.3; IR (film): 2926, 1495, 1453, 1445, 1368, 1131, 1089, 1065, 1028, 900, 733, 695, 656 cm⁻¹.

E. Synthesis of [(8S,3)-8-(Benzyloxy)-2-phenylnon-6-2-yl](methyl)selane (1c) (S)-[But-3-yn-2-ol][(tert-butyl)dimethylsilane (34). To a flask containing (S)-but-3-yn-2-ol (5, 1.40 g, 20 mmol) in dry CH₂Cl₂ (16 mL) was added at 0 °C imidazole (1.50 g, 22 mmol) and the mixture was stirred for 10 min. TBDMSCl (3.01 g, 20 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 15 min and then at 23 °C for 3 h (formation of a white precipitate after 1 h). The reaction mixture was diluted with H₂O (10 mL) and extracted with pentane (3 × 30 mL). The combined organic extracts were dried over MgSO₄, filtered and the solvents removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (pentane) to give 34 (2.70 g, 73% yield). Spectral data for 34 match those previously reported.⁴⁸

tert-Butyldimethyl(((2S)-[7]-[(tetrahydro-2H-pyran-2-yl)oxy]hept-3-yn-2-yl)oxy)silane (35). To a flask containing (S)-(but-3-yn-2-ol)[(tert-butyl)dimethylsilane 34 (2.21 g, 12 mmol) in dry THF (40 mL) was added dropwise at -30 °C a solution of n-BuLi (1.6 M in hexanes, 7.5 mL, 12 mmol) and the mixture was stirred for 30 min. The reaction mixture was cooled to -78 °C, dry HMPA (5 mL) was added and the solution stirred for 15 min. Then a solution of 2-(3-bromopropoxy)tetrahydro-2H-pyran (2.54 g, 11.4 mmol) in dry THF (10 mL) was added dropwise and the reaction mixture was allowed to warm to 23 °C slowly. After 40 h, the reaction mixture was diluted with water (5 mL) and extracted with Et₂O (4 × 25 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with H₂O (5 mL) and brine (5 mL), dried under MgSO₄, filtered and the solvents removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (pentane:Et₂O 90:10) to give 35
(3.02 g, 81% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, 21 °C, CDCl₃): δ 4.61-4.56 (m, 1H), 4.54-4.45 (m, 1H), 3.92-3.76 (m, 2H), 3.55-3.41 (m, 2H), 2.36-2.24 (m, 2H), 1.88-1.66 (m, 4H), 1.64-1.46 (m, 4H), 1.37 (d, J 6.4, 3H), 0.90 (s, 9H), 0.11 (d, J 3.9, 6H).

(2S)-7-[(Tetrahydro-2H-pyran-2-yl)oxy]hept-3-yn-2-ol (8). To a flask containing tert-butylimidethyl[(2S)-7-[(tetrahydro-2H-pyran-2-yl)oxy]hept-3-yn-2-yl]silane (35, 3.59 g, 11 mmol) in dry THF (70 mL) was added a solution of Bu₄NF (1.0 M in THF, 22 mL, 22 mmol) and the reaction mixture was stirred at 23 °C for 2.5 h. Ice (15 mL) and Et₂O (30 mL) were added, the layers were separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with Et₂O (3 × 30 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ (10 mL), H₂O (10 mL) and brine (10 mL), dried over MgSO₄, filtered and the solvents removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (pentane:Et₂O 40:60) to give 8 (2.15 g, 92% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, 21 °C, CDCl₃): δ 4.59 (dd, J 4.4, 2.5, 1H), 4.50 (qt, J 6.6, 1.8, 1H), 3.91-3.77 (m, 2H), 3.55-3.42 (m, 2H), 2.32 (td, J 7.1, 1.8, 2H), 1.89-1.65 (m, 5H), 1.64-1.46 (m, 4H), 1.42 (d, J 6.6, 3H).

(2S,E)-7-[(Tetrahydro-2H-pyran-2-yl)oxy]hept-3-en-2-ol (9e). To a flask containing (2S)-7-[(tetrahydro-2H-pyran-2-yl)oxy]hept-3-yn-2-ol (8, 2.12 g, 10 mmol) in dry THF (140 mL) was added dropwise at 0 °C a solution of sodium bis(2-methoxyethoxy)aluminium hydride (Red-Al, 3.5 M in toluene, 5.7 mL, 20 mmol) and the reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 15 min and then at 65 °C for 1 h. After cooling, ice (30 mL) and Et₂O (30 mL) were added, the layers were separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with Et₂O (3 × 30 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with H₂O (10 mL) and brine (10 mL), dried over MgSO₄, and the solvents removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (pentane:Et₂O 80:20 to 25:75) to give 9e (1.99 g, 93% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, 21 °C, CDCl₃): δ 5.70-5.60 (m, 1H), 5.58-5.49 (m, 1H), 4.60-4.54 (m, 1H), 4.26 (q, J 6.4, 1H), 3.91-3.82 (m, 1H), 3.78-3.69 (m, 1H), 3.54-3.45 (m, 1H), 3.43-3.34 (m, 1H), 2.18-2.07 (m, 2H), 1.89-1.77 (m, 1H), 1.76-1.63 (m, 3H), 1.63-1.46 (m, 5H), 1.25 (d, J 6.4, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, 21 °C, CDCl₃): δ 134.5(7), 134.5(4), 130.3(1), 130.2(7), 98.9, 68.9, 66.8(5), 66.8(3), 62.3, 30.7, 29.1, 28.7(9), 28.7(6), 25.4, 23.4, 19.6.

2-[[S,E]-6-(Benzylxy)hept-4-en-1-yl]oxy]tetrahydro-2H-pyran (36e). To a flask containing a suspension of NaH (60% dispersion in oil, 360 mg, 9 mmol) in dry DMF (12 mL) was added dropwise at 0 °C a solution of (2S,E)-7-[(tetrahydro-2H-pyran-2-yl)oxy]hept-3-en-2-ol 9e (2.14 g, 10 mmol) in dry DMF (8 mL) and the reaction mixture was stirred for 1 h. Benzyl bromide (1.54 g, 1.05 mL, 9 mmol) was added dropwise and the solution was stirred at 0 °C for 30 min and then at 23 °C for 24 h. The reaction mixture was diluted with saturated aqueous NH₄Cl (5 mL) and Et₂O (150 mL) and the layers were separated. The organic layer was washed with H₂O (3 × 5 mL) and brine (5 mL), dried over MgSO₄, filtered and the solvents removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (pentane:Et₂O 90:10 to 40:60) to give 36e (1.37 g, 45% yield) and starting 9e (1.05 g, 49% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, 21 °C, CDCl₃): δ 7.36-7.30 (m, 4H), 7.30-7.22 (m, 1H), 5.64 (dt, J 15.3, 6.6, 1H), 5.42 (ddt, J 15.3, 7.7, 1.4, 1H), 4.60-4.56 (m, 1H), 4.55 (d, J 11.9, 1H), 4.36 (d, J 11.9, 1H), 3.93-3.82 (m, 2H), 3.81-3.72 (m, 1H), 3.54-3.46 (m, 1H), 3.45-3.36 (m, 1H), 2.23-2.10 (m, 2H), 1.90-1.77 (m, 1H), 1.76-1.66 (m, 3H), 1.64-1.46 (m, 4H), 1.27 (d, J 6.4, 3H).

(S,E)-6-(Benzyloxy)hept-4-en-1-ol (37e). To a flask containing 2-[[S,E]-6-(benzylxy)hept-4-en-1-yl]oxy]tetrahydro-2H-pyran (36e, 1.28 g, 4.2 mmol) in dry MeOH (10 mL) was added PPTS (53 mg, 0.21 mmol) and the reaction mixture was stirred at 23 °C for 48 h. The reaction mixture was diluted with Et₂O (125 mL) and washed with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ (5 mL), H₂O (2 × 5 mL) and brine (5 mL), dried over MgSO₄, filtered and the solvents removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (pentane:Et₂O 50:50) to give 37e (854 mg, 92% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, 21 °C, CDCl₃): δ 7.37-7.30 (m, 4H), 7.30-7.23 (m, 1H), 5.64 (dt, J 15.3, 6.4, 1H), 5.44 (ddt, J 15.3, 7.8, 1.4, 1H), 4.55 (d, J 11.9,
A solution of PPh₃ (954 mg, 3.64 mmol) in dry CH₂Cl₂ (5 mL) and the reaction mixture was stirred at 23 °C for 16 h. The reaction mixture was diluted with Et₂O (60 mL) and washed with H₂O (10 mL) and brine (10 mL), dried over MgSO₄, filtered and the solvents removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was triturated in pentane, filtered and the solvent removed under reduced pressure in order to remove most of the residual PPh₃ and its oxide. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (pentane:Et₂O 95:5 to 90:10) to give 10e (490 mg, 95% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, 21 °C, CDCl₃): δ 7.37-7.31 (m, 4H), 7.30-7.23 (m, 1H), 5.59 (dt, J 15.3, 6.4, 1H), 5.47 (ddt, J 15.3, 7.6, 1.1, 1H), 4.55 (d, J 11.9, 1H), 4.37 (d, J 12.1, 1H), 3.94-3.84 (m, 1H), 3.42 (t, J 6.6, 2H), 2.27-2.19 (m, 2H), 2.02-1.91 (m, 2H), 1.28 (d, J 6.4, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, 21 °C, CDCl₃): δ 138.8, 133.6, 130.6, 128.3, 127.6, 127.4, 75.6, 69.8, 33.1, 32.0, 30.5, 21.7.

[(85,E)-8-(Benzyloxy)-2-phenylnon-6-en-2-yl](methyl)selane (1ce). To a flask containing (1-phenylethane-1,1-diy)bis(methylselane) (350 mg, 1.2 mmol) in dry THF (4.3 mL) was added dropwise at -78 °C a solution of n-BuLi (1.6 M in hexanes, 0.7 mL, 1.1 mmol) and the reaction mixture was stirred for 40 min (yellow solution of 32). A solution of (S,E)-[(7-chlorohept-3-en-2-yl)oxy]methyl]benzene 10e (283 mg, 1 mmol) in dry THF (1.7 mL) was added dropwise and the reaction mixture stirred at -78 °C for 10 min (discoloration). MeOH (1 mL) was added, the reaction mixture was warm to 23 °C, diluted with Et₂O (60 mL) and washed with H₂O (5 mL) and brine (5 mL). The organic layer was dried over MgSO₄, filtered and the solvents removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (pentane:Et₂O 95:5) to give 1ce (384 mg, 96% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, 21 °C, CDCl₃): δ 7.51-7.41 (m, 2H), 7.39-7.22 (m, 7H), 7.21-7.15 (m, 1H), 5.54 (dt, J 15.3, 6.6, 1H), 5.35 (dd, J 15.3, 7.8, 1H), 4.54 (d, J 11.9, 1H), 4.35 (dd, J 11.9, 1.6, 1H), 3.91-3.81 (m, 1H), 2.29-2.17 (m, 1H), 2.09-1.94 (m, 3H), 1.85 (s, 3H), 1.70 (s, 3H), 1.51-1.36 (m, 1H), 1.32-1.14 (m, 1H), 1.26 (d, J 6.2, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, 21 °C, CDCl₃): δ 145.2, 138.9, 132.5, 132.4, 128.3, 128.0, 127.6, 127.3, 126.8, 126.2, 75.7, 69.6, 46.6, 42.4, 32.4, 26.2, 24.6, 21.7, 3.3; IR (film): 2926, 1495, 1445, 1374, 1145, 1068, 1028, 970, 902, 733, 695, 654 cm⁻¹.

Acknowledgements

The work presented in this paper was initiated in 2004 by Francois Adam (FA) assistant and enrolled as a PhD student, then carried out in 2007 by Hélène Vanderhauwaer (HV) a PhD student supported by the FRIA Belgium (Laboratoire de Chimie Organique de Synthèse, Facultés N.D de la Paix, Namur). Both of them decided to stop their work for personal reasons. Their fragmentary results have been consigned in their progress reports (a) January-July 2005 and (b) January-July 2007 respectively. All the results reported here, except those involving the transformation of 4ce to 11 and 4a (FA, research report 2005) have been carried out by Dr Adrian Kremer in the laboratory of Prof. D. Bonifazi. The Authors thanks Prof. Davide Bonifazi for strongly supporting this work and Prof. Guillaume Berionni for helpful discussions.

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30. (1S)-Camphanic chloride, Aldrich catalog number 226173, \( [\alpha]_{D}^{23} = -18^\circ \) (c = 2 in CCl_4).
31. X-ray measurements were performed on a Gemini Ultra R system (4-circle kappa platform, Ruby CCD detector) using Mo K irradiation (\( \lambda = 0.71073 \) Å). Structures were solved by direct methods with SHELXS-97 program and then refined on \( F^2 \) using SHELXL-97 software, CCDC quotation refers to the crystal structures related to 13_1-13_4 have been deposited at the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre and allocated the deposition numbers below each structure.
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