From \(\alpha\)-Bromomethylbutenolide to Fused Tri(Tetra) Cyclic Dihydrofurandiones through Barbier Reaction–Heck Arylation Sequence

Arbia Talbi 1, 2, Anne Gaucher 2, Flavien Bourdreux 2, Jérôme Marrot 2, Mohamed L. Efrit 1, Hédi M’Rabet 1, * and Damien Prim 2, *

1 Laboratoire de Synthèse Organique Sélective et Hétérocyclique-Evaluation de l’Activité Biologique, Faculté des Sciences de Tunis, Université de Tunis El Manar, Tunis 2092, Tunisie; arbiatalbi1@gmail.com (A.T.); medlotfi.efrit@gmail.com (M.L.E.)
2 Institut Lavoisier de Versailles, Université Paris-Saclay, UVSQ, CNRS, 78035 Versailles, France; anne.gaucher@uvsq.fr (A.G.); flavien.bourdreux@uvsq.fr (F.B.); jerome.marrot@uvsq.fr (J.M.)
* Correspondence: mrabet.fst@gmail.com (H.M.); damien.prim@uvsq.fr (D.P.);
Tel.: +216-71-882-200 (H.M.), +33-(0)13-925-4454 (D.P.)

Received: 30 October 2017; Accepted: 7 December 2017; Published: 8 December 2017

Abstract: A Barbier reaction–Heck arylation sequence from \(\alpha\)-bromomethylbutenolide to fused tri- and tetracyclic lactones has been developed. The first step involving a Barbier reaction enabled installing ortho-bromoaromatics in \(\alpha\)-ylidene \(\gamma\)-lactones. The latter substrates were subjected to intramolecular Heck reaction conditions which selectively afforded 6,5,5 or 6,6,5 fused ring systems depending on the nature of the base employed.

Keywords: bromomethylbutenolide; tri(tetra)cyclic architectures; Barbier; intramolecular Heck reaction

1. Introduction

The \(\alpha\)-ylidene \(\gamma\)-lactone subunit can be found in a myriad of biologically active compounds [1,2]. The conjugated \(\text{exo-vinylidene}\) fragment is believed to be essential to a wide array of biological activities and thus drove the development of numerous preparation methods [3–7]. The interest of the scientific community for such lactones also stems from their use as intermediates in the synthesis of complex and polycyclic molecular architectures. As examples, the synthesis of the pterocarpan [8,9] and the podophyllotoxin skeletons illustrate \(\alpha\)-methylidene butyrolactones as key intermediates for the construction of the final ring D and central ring B, respectively (Figure 1) [10–15].

![Figure 1. \(\alpha\)-Ylidene \(\gamma\)-lactone as advanced intermediates in the synthesis of polycyclic skeletons.](image)

Although starting from \(\alpha\)-ylidene \(\gamma\)-lactone precursors provided an elegant approach to polycyclic architectures, in each of the latter cases, the preparation of \(\alpha\)-methylidene butyrolactone intermediates...
bearing the mandatory ortho-halide substituent (Figure 2a, highlighted in green) required multistep sequences which somewhat hampered the overall access to polycyclic targets [10–13]. In this context, access to the podophyllotoxin derivatives was carried out mainly on two substrates which are characterized either by the absence of substituents [10–11] or by the presence of a OTIPS group [12] located at the benzylic site which connects the two fragments of the precursor (Figure 2b, highlighted in blue). Two different routes leading to podophyllotoxin derivatives have been studied involving a radical-induced cyclization, depending on the configuration of the vinylidene double bond and a Pd-mediated ring closure depending on the catalytic system used and the substitution at the benzylic site. Indeed, in the presence of a radical cyclization agent, the Z-isomer led to a mixture of “6,6,5” and “6,5,5” architectures. In contrast, the E-isomer gave an exclusive access to the 5-membered central ring (Figure 2a).

![Figure 2. Selective access to 6,6,5 or 6,5,5 polycyclic pattern from α-ylidene γ-lactone. (a) Previous work from Ishibashi and Ikeda; (b) Previous work from Michelet and Genêt; (c) Present work.](image)

Two different “6,6,5” and “6,5,5” architectures have also been obtained from Pd-catalyzed processes. Without a substituent at the benzylic site, the 6,5,5-pattern was obtained as the sole product from the Z-isomer using K$_2$CO$_3$ or Et$_3$N in combination with Pd(II)/PPh$_3$ as the catalytic system. Under these conditions, the E-isomer only led to complex mixtures. In contrast, the use of Pd(II)/PPh$_3$, K$_2$CO$_3$, TlOAc and HCO$_2$Na as the hydride source gave the 6,6,5-pattern as the exclusive product (Figure 2a). In the presence of a OTIPS group, the issue of the Pd catalyzed cyclisation process was strongly dependant on the base used (Figure 2b). When Hünig’s base was used, the 6,5,5 pattern...
was isolated. Mixtures of both patterns were observed in the presence of K₂CO₃ and TIOAc. Finally, exclusive and high yielding access to the 6,6,5 architecture was obtained using a combination of TIOAc, dppf and pentamethylylpenipiperdine as the base.

The development of a shortcut sequence implying a selective and rapid access to the α-ylidene γ-lactone intermediates bearing a bromine atom followed by an intramolecular Heck arylation is therefore highly desirable. In this communication, we describe a two-step strategy towards fused tricyclic architectures starting from α-bromomethylbutenolide. The key α-ylidene γ-lactone intermediate was obtained in the first step through a Barbier reaction which allowed installation of the ortho-bromoaromatics. These intermediates were subsequently subjected to intramolecular Heck reaction conditions. In our case, the presence of the OH group located at the benzylic site accounted for the selective preparation of the tricyclic 6,6,5 α-vinylidene γ-lactone or the 6,5,5 lactone motifs depending on the catalytic precursor/base combination (Figure 2c). The generation of tetracyclic analogues was then examined using the same strategy.

2. Results and Discussion

We first examined the Barbier reaction between α-bromomethylbutenolide 1 and ortho-bromobenzaldehyde 2. If such reactions are well described [3–7], the use of ortho-substituted benzaldehydes and further ortho-bromide derivatives remain scarcely reported [14]. In our case, 2 smoothly reacted with the starting butenolide at room temperature in THF for 16 h, in the presence of activated zinc powder (1.1 eq.) and saturated aq. NH₄Cl as an additive. Under these conditions, homoallylic alcohol 3 was obtained at 65% with an 85:15 dr (Scheme 1).

Scheme 1. Route from α-bromomethylbutenolide to fused tricyclic lactones 4 and 5.

The stereoselectivity of the major isomer is consistent with those described with other aromatic substrates [2], this was supported by our own NMR data (see ESI) and established by comparison with X-ray crystallographic analysis of the naphthalene analogue (vide infra). We next turned our attention to the intramolecular Heck cyclization under various conditions as exemplified in Table 1.

Our first attempts were based on a Pd(II) catalytic system reported in the literature for an analogous transformation [3–7]. Pd(PPh₃)₂Cl₂ (5 %) in combination with K₂CO₃ (2 eq.) was first used as the catalytic system in refluxing THF for two hours (entry 1). Although under these conditions, the reaction did not reach completion (see ratio of compounds 3/4/5 determined by ¹H-NMR), we were able to isolate the unexpected tricyclic lactone 4 in 20% yield. The structure of 4 was unambiguously assigned by NMR experiments. Our strategy represents an alternative to the construction of fused tricyclic lactone architectures combining fused cyclopentenone and dihydrofuranone or γ-lactone-fused benzopyrans [8,9,15–17]. After 16 h, we noticed full conversion of the starting material and lactone 4 was
isolated in a fair 60% yield together with some unidentified degradation material (entry 2). Under these conditions, no traces of the expected tricyclic 6,5,5 product was detected in the crude material. These first entries differ markedly from earlier observations within similar series [10–12]. Indeed, as described by Genet and Ikeda [10–12], the tricyclic products arising from the intramolecular Heck process is obtained either in the absence of a homoallylic hydroxyl group or in the presence of a Si-protected hydroxyl group (Figure 2a,b). In our case, the presence of an unprotected hydroxyl group allowed a different pathway to take place. As shown in Scheme 2, compound 4 and two new fused O-heterocycles might arise from a ring opening–ring closure sequence starting from the potassium alcoholate, through an intramolecular trans lactonization process, followed by an intramolecular Pd-assisted C-O bond formation [18]. Attempts to modify the reaction course by using silver salts [19] proved detrimental to the transformation only affording degradation material (entry 3). Changing from THF to MeCN as the solvent (entry 10). It is worthy to note that the intramolecular Heck cyclization

Table 1. Selective access to lactones 4 and 5.

| Entry | Catalyst | Base | Additive | Solvent | Conditions | 3/4/5 | Yield (%) |
|-------|----------|------|----------|---------|------------|-------|-----------|
| 1     | Pd(PPh₃)₂Cl₂ | K₂CO₃ |          | THF     | 65 °C, 2 h | 1/1/0 | 4(20)     |
| 2     | Pd(PPh₃)₂Cl₂ | K₂CO₃ |          | THF     | 65 °C, 16 h | 0/1/0 | 6(60)     |
| 3     | Pd(PPh₃)₂Cl₂ | K₂CO₃ | Ag₂CO₃   | THF     | 65 °C, 16 h | -     | - c       |
| 4     | Pd(PPh₃)₂Cl₂ | K₂CO₃ |          | MeCN    | 90 °C, 16 h | 0/1/0 | 4(50)     |
| 5     | Pd(PPh₃)₂Cl₂ | Cs₂CO₃ |          | MeCN    | 90 °C, 2 h | -     | - c       |
| 6     | -         | K₂CO₃ |          | THF     | 65 °C, 16 h | -     | - d       |
| 7     | Pd(dppf)Cl₂ | K₂CO₃ |          | MeCN    | 90 °C, 2 h | 0.5/1/0 | 4(30)     |
| 8     | Pd(dppf)Cl₂ | K₂CO₃ |          | THF     | 65 °C, 16 h | 0/1/0 | 4(45)     |
| 9     | Pd(PPh₃)₂Cl₂ | KOAc |          | THF     | 65 °C, 16 h | 1/0/0/1 | nd        |
| 10    | Pd(PPh₃)₂Cl₂ | KOAc |          | MeCN    | 90 °C, 16 h | 0/0/1 | 5(40)     |
| 11    | Pd(PPh₃)₂Cl₂ | KOAc | AgOAc    | MeCN    | 90 °C, 16 h | 0/0/1 | 5(14)     |
| 12    | Pd(PPh₃)₂Cl₂ | KOAc | K₂CO₃    | THF     | 65 °C, 16 h | 1/1.2/0.1 | nd - a |

a Ratio determined by NMR on crude products and compared integration of compounds 3, 4, and 5 characteristic signals (chemical shifts given in ppm); b Realised using 1 eq. of KOAc and 1 eq. of K₂CO₃; c Degradation; d Polycondensation products.

Scheme 2. Plausible mechanism for the formation of lactone 4.

A combination of Pd(dppf)Cl₂/K₂CO₃ in MeCN or THF at reflux led to average yields of 30% and 45%, respectively, accompanied by degradation products (entries 7 and 8). Interestingly, the use of KOAc instead of K₂CO₃ allowed a complete switch of selectivity as tricyclic compound 4 was not detected (entry 9). Indeed, such conditions afforded a mixture of the starting material and a small amount of lactone 5. Gratifyingly, we were able to cleanly isolate lactone 5 in a 40% yield by changing from THF to MeCN as the solvent (entry 10). It is worthy to note that the intramolecular Heck cyclization
offered the carbonyl compound 5 instead of the expected corresponding benzyl alcohol. Under our conditions, the formation of lactone 5 can be explained as shown in Scheme 3. The generation of a quaternary carbon center arising from oxidative addition and carboxylation in a 5-exo process at precursor 3 precludes classical β-hydride elimination. The formation of lactone 5 could thus arise from an alternative pathway, involving an exo/endo migration of the olefin prior to Heck reaction. The α,β-unsaturated lactone thus generated would then successively undergo oxidative addition and carboxylation in a 5-endo pattern followed by β-hydride elimination. The latter sequence would then generate an enolate and the corresponding ketone after aqueous workup.

Scheme 3. Plausible mechanism for the obtention of lactone 5.

This sequence requires an exo/endo migration of the olefin to take place prior the oxidative addition as the first key step leading to lactone 5. The formation of allylic alcohols from homoallylic alcohols including homoallylic benzyl alcohols using Pd/C and Et3N has already been reported [20]. In addition, migration of the olefin from α-methylene-γ-butyrolactone to the corresponding α,β-unsaturated lactone has been obtained using RhCl3 in EtOH [21] and observed as a side product of cross metathesis reactions [22]. Unfortunately, we have not been able to demonstrate the olefin migration on the closely related dehalogenated analogue of compound 3 under our reaction conditions. However, in good agreement with the latter reports, we have been able to acquire evidence for the olefin migration of the olefin from α-methylene-γ-butyrolactone A to the corresponding α,β-unsaturated lactone B under our reaction conditions (Pd(PPh3)2Cl2/KOAc in refluxing MeCN) as shown in Scheme 4. The presence of characteristic signals of lactone B in the 1H-NMR of the crude material (see supplementary material) confirmed the olefin isomerization in full agreement with data reported by Jefford et al. [21].

Scheme 4. Exo/endo migration of the olefin from α-methylene-γ-butyrolactone (A) to the α,β-unsaturated lactone (B) using Pd(PPh3)2Cl2/KOAc in refluxing MeCN.

The stereoselectivity was established by comparison with an X-ray crystallographic structure of the naphthalene analogue (vide infra). Again, the use of silver salts disappointingly afforded a sluggish reaction from which compound 5 could be isolated in 14% yield (entry 11). Finally, the use of a 1:1 mixture of K2CO3 and KOAc in refluxing THF afforded a partial conversion of the starting material 3 and formed lactone 4 as well as traces of lactone 5 in a 1/1.2/0.1 ratio (entry 12). Our results seem to indicate that both the nature of the base and the reaction conditions are essential to the selective
transformation of benzylic alcohol 3. Indeed, higher temperature in MeCN combined with the use of KOAc as the base affords the tricyclic 6,5,5 lactone 5, whereas lower temperature in THF associated to K₂CO₃ affords the tricyclic 6,6,5 lactone 4.

The same strategy was tested on ortho-bromobenzonitrile 6 and ortho-bromobenzaldehyde 7. Unfortunately, in both cases under similar Barbier conditions only the α-methylbutenolide arising from Zn-promoted reduction of the C-Br bond could be isolated (Table 2, entries 1 and 2). In contrast, moving from the phenyl to the commercially available naphthyl substrate 8 led to the formation of alcohol 12 in 60% yield with an 87:13 dr (entry 3). The rigid naphthalene fragment did not affect the dr observed for compound 3. Moving towards the more flexible dihydronaphthalene platforms 9 and 10 [23] (entries 4 and 5) allowed preparation of the corresponding Barbier adducts 13 and 14 in higher yields ranging from 80 to 89% with similar drs of 87:13 and 94:6 regardless of the nature of the halide (Cl or Br) in the precursors.

Table 2. Barbier reaction on substrates 6 to 10.

| Entry | Starting Halide | Compound | Condition | α-Methylidene Butyrolactone | Product | Yield (%) | Dr * |
|-------|----------------|----------|-----------|----------------------------|---------|-----------|------|
| 1     | Br             | 6        | THF, 18 h | ![Butyrolactone Product](image) | 11      | -         | -    |
| 2     | Br             | 7        | THF, 18 h | ![Butyrolactone Product](image) | 11      | -         | -    |
| 3     | Br             | 8        | THF, 18 h | ![Butyrolactone Product](image) | 12      | 60        | 87/13|
| 4     | X = Cl         | 9        | THF, 16 h | ![Butyrolactone Product](image) | 13, X = Cl | 80        | 89/11|
| 5     | X = Br         | 10       | THF, 16 h | ![Butyrolactone Product](image) | 14, X = Br | 89        | 94/6 |

* Determined on crude material NMR data.

X-ray crystallographic analysis undoubtedly assigned the stereoselectivity of the major isomer as shown in Figure 3. The presence of a sterically demanding naphthalene platform, as well as a bromine atom, did not affect the stereoselectivity observed for other aromatic substrates [3–7]. The combined presence of the lactone carbonyl and the benzyl alcohol induces the formation of hydrogen bonds associating three molecules in the solid state.

Figure 3. X-ray structure of 12 and diastereoselectivity [24].
Finally, (dihydro)naphthalene substrates 12, 13, and 14 were subjected to the aforementioned intramolecular Heck cyclization conditions. For the naphthyl substrate, conditions A (PdCl₂(PPPh₃)₂ KOAc, MeCN at 90 °C for 18 h) and B (PdCl₂(PPPh₃)₂ K₂CO₃, THF at 65 °C for 18 h) were tested. Interestingly, only the tetracyclic lactone 15 arising from a Heck cyclisation–oxidation sequence was isolated in 40% and 60% yields, respectively, under these reaction conditions. Further, no trace of the naphthyl analogue of compound 4 was observed even in the presence of K₂CO₃ as the base. At this stage, no satisfactory explanation for the unexpected selectivity observed towards the tetracyclic lactone 15 can be given. The reactivity of the dihydronaphthalene-based substrates 13 and 14 towards the Heck cyclization–oxidation sequence were next evaluated. Although no cyclization occurred using the less reactive chloride derivative 13, the expected product 16 could be obtained in 55 to 70% yields from the bromide derivative 14. Similarly, only one cyclization product was observed under both reaction conditions. Moving from the fully aromatic to the dihydro platform (compare 12 and 14) had only a minor effect on the yield. Again, single crystal X-ray diffraction analysis confirmed the tetracyclic architecture of 16 and allowed assignment of the stereochemistry of the lactone–cyclopentanone junction (Scheme 5 and Figure 4).

As shown below, the crystalline lattice is formed by a pillared arrangement of tetracyclic units resulting from well-defined intermolecular π–π interactions (3.52 Å) between planar naphthalene fragments.

Scheme 5. Synthesis of tetracyclic lactones 15 and 16.

Figure 4. X-ray structure of tetracyclic lactone 16 [24].
3. Materials and Methods

Unless otherwise noted, all starting materials were obtained from commercial suppliers and used without purification. Petroleum ether was distilled under Argon. NMR spectra were recorded on 300 MHz and 200 MHz Brucker spectrometers (Bruker BioSpin GmbH, Rheinstetten, Germany). Chemical shifts were reported in ppm relative to the residual solvent peak (7.27 ppm for CHCl$_3$ in the $^1$H-NMR and 77.0 ppm for CDCl$_3$ $^{13}$C-NMR). High resolution mass spectroscopy data were recorded on an Autospec Ultima (Waters/Micromass) device (Waters, Gya ncourt, France) with a resolution of 5000 RP at 5%. Thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was carried out on aluminium sheets precoated with silica gel 60 F254. Column chromatography separations were performed using silica gel (0.040–0.060 mm). Compound 1, 7, 9, 10 and 11 were prepared according to the literature [25–29]. Compounds 6 and 8 are commercially available.

3.1. Methods

3.1.1. Representative Procedure for the Barbier Allylation Reaction of 3-Bromomethyl-5H-furan-2-one

To a reaction vessel were added sequentially 3-bromomethyl-5H-furan-2-one 1 (400 mg, 2.26 mmol), aldehyde 2 (1.53 mmol, 0.68 eq.), THF (2 mL) saturated aqueous NH$_4$Cl (1 mL) and activated zinc powder [30] (2.64 mmol, 1.17 eq.). The mixture was stirred vigorously at ambient temperature. After 16 h, the reaction was filtered through diatomite, extracted with diethyl ether (2 × 20 mL for each extraction), washed with brine (20 mL), and dried over anhydrous MgSO$_4$. Evaporation in vacuo followed by flash column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate, 7:3) afforded homoallylic alcohols 3, 12, 13, and 14.

3.1.2. Procedure A for Intramolecular Heck Reaction

A mixture of lactone 3 (100 mg, 0.35 mmol), PdCl$_2$(PPh$_3$)$_2$ (12.5 mg, 0.017 mmol), and K$_2$CO$_3$ (98 mg, 0.71 mmol) in solvent (3 mL) was purged under argon atmosphere and stirred at 95 °C for 16 h. When the reaction was complete (as indicated by TLC), the mixture was diluted with water (10 mL) and extracted with CH$_2$Cl$_2$ (3 × 10 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous MgSO$_4$, concentrated under reduced pressure, and purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel eluted with CH$_2$Cl$_2$/petroleum ether (8:2) to give the expected product 4.

3.1.3. Procedure B for Intramolecular Heck Reaction

A mixture of lactone 3 (100 mg, 0.35 mmol), PdCl$_2$(PPh$_3$)$_2$ (12.5 mg, 0.017 mmol), and KOAc (69.6 mg, 0.71 mmol) in CH$_3$CN (3 mL). The mixture was purged under argon atmosphere and stirred at 95 °C for 16 h. When the reaction was complete (as indicated by TLC), the mixture was diluted with water (10 mL) and extracted with CH$_2$Cl$_2$ (3 × 10 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous MgSO$_4$ and concentrated under reduced pressure and purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel eluting with CH$_2$Cl$_2$/petroleum ether (8:2), to give the expected product 4.

4. Conclusions

In summary, we have developed a three-step sequence involving a Barbier reaction followed by an intramolecular Heck arylation to prepare tri- and tetracyclic lactones starting from α-bromomethylbutenolide. The Zn-promoted allylation reaction proved efficient in the benzene, naphthalene, and dihydronaphthalene series giving access to various allylic/benzylic alcohols with high stereoselectivity. In the key Heck arylation step, the nature of the base proved crucial for obtaining polycyclic architectures. In the benzene series, switching from K$_2$CO$_3$ to KOAc selectively led to the expected tricyclic 6,5,5 pattern instead of the unexpected 6,6,5 pattern. Our strategy could be extended to tetracyclic analogues based on a naphthalene and a dihydronaphthalene platform.
Supplementary Materials: Representative synthetic procedures, characterization data of new compounds, as well as NMR and X-ray data are available online, experimental procedures as well as analytical data for new compounds.

Acknowledgments: This work was supported by the Tunisian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, the University of Versailles St-Quentin, and CNRS.

Author Contributions: A.T. and D.P. conceived and performed the experiments; A.G., F.B., and J.M. analyzed the data and conducted NMR and X-ray experiments; D.P., M.L.E., and H.M. wrote the paper.

Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

References
1. Westmeier, J.; Kress, S.; Pfaff, C.; Von Zezschwitz, P. Total synthesis of (R)-sarkomycin via asymmetric rhodium-catalyzed conjugate addition. J. Org. Chem. 2013, 78, 10718–10723. [CrossRef] [PubMed]
2. Usuki, T.; Sato, M.; Hara, S.; Yoshimoto, Y.; Kondo, R.; Zimmermann, S.; Kaiser, M.; Brun, R.; Hamburger, M.; Adams, M. Antitrypanosomal structure–activity-relationship study of synthetic cynaropicrin derivatives. Biorg. Med. Chem. Lett. 2014, 24, 794–798. [CrossRef] [PubMed]
3. Hodgson, D.M.; Talbot, E.P.A.; Clark, B.P. Stereoselective synthesis of β-(hydroxymethylaryl/alkyl)-α-methylene-γ-butyrolactones. Org. Lett. 2011, 13, 2594–2597. [CrossRef] [PubMed]
4. Shen, A.; He, Z.-T.; Yu, H.-J.; Fukui, Y.; Tian, P.; Lin, G.-Q. Zinc-mediated asymmetric allylation of chiral N-tertiobutanesulfinyl aldimines with 3-bromomethyl-5H-furan-2-one. Synlett 2013, 24, 1649–1656. [CrossRef]
5. Ferreira, M.; Bisol, T.B.; da Conceição, H.P.; Russo, T.V.C.; Bortoluzzi, A.J.; Sa, M.M. One-pot synthesis of α-ylidene δ-lactones from functionalized allylic bromides in a water–isopropanol medium. Synthesis 2017, 49, 667–676. [CrossRef]
6. Zhang, F.; Yang, Y.; Xie, L.; Xu, X. Pd-catalyzed diastereoselective allylation of aldehydes with 3-bromomethyl-5H-furan-2-one: Stereoselective synthesis of β-(hydroxymethylaryl/alkyl)-α-methylene-γ-butyrolactones with a syn configuration. Chem. Commun. 2013, 49, 4697–4699. [CrossRef] [PubMed]
7. Fuchs, M.; Schober, M.; Orthaber, A.; Faber, K. Asymmetric synthesis of β-substituted α-methylenebutyro-lactones via TRIP-catalyzed allylation: Mechanistic studies and application to the synthesis of (S)-(−)-α-hydroxymatairesinol. Adv. Synth. Catal. 2013, 355, 2499–2505. [CrossRef] [PubMed]
8. Ozaki, Y.; Mochida, K.; Kim, S.-W. Total synthesis of sophorapterocarpan A, maackiain, and anhydropisatin: Application of a 1,3-Michael-Claisen annulations to aromatic synthesis. J. Chem. Soc. Perkin Trans. 1989, 1, 1219–1224. [CrossRef]
9. Goel, A.; Kumar, A.; Hemberger, Y.; Raghuvanshi, A.; Jeet, R.; Tiwari, G.; Knauer, M.; Kureel, J.; Singh, A.K.; Gautam, A.; et al. Synthesis, optical resolution, absolute configuration, and osteogenic activity of cis-pterocarps. Org. Biomol. Chem. 2012, 10, 9583–9592. [CrossRef] [PubMed]
10. Ishibashi, H.; Ito, K.; Tabuchi, M.; Ikeda, M. Studies on aconitum species. XIV. Deoxygenation of pseudokobusine to kobusine. Heterocycles 1991, 32, 1297–1300. [CrossRef]
11. Ishibashi, H.; Ito, K.; Hirano, T.; Tabuchi, M.; Ikeda, M. Synthesis of podophyllotoxin derivatives by means of tributyltin hydride- or palladium-mediated cyclization of α-benzylidene-β-(o-bromobenzyl)-γ-lactones. Tetrahedron 1993, 49, 4173–4182. [CrossRef]
12. Charrauault, L.; Michelet, V.; Genêt, J.-P. Pd-catalyzed route to (±)-podophyllotoxin skeleton. Synthesis of the aryltelalatin derivative. Tetrahedron Lett. 2002, 43, 4757–4760. [CrossRef]
13. Galland, J.-C.; Dias, S.; Savigac, M.; Genêt, J.-P. Cycloisomerization of 1,6-enynes in organoaqueous medium: An efficient and eco-friendly access to furan derivatives. Synthesis of a key intermediate of podophyllotoxin. Tetrahedron 2001, 57, 5137–5148. [CrossRef]
14. Gao, Y.; Wang, X.; Sun, L.; Xie, L.; Xu, X. Zinc or indium-mediated Barbier-type allylation of aldehydes with 3-bromomethyl-5H-furan-2-one in aqueous media: An efficient synthesis method for α-methyleneγ-butyrolactone. Org. Biomol. Chem. 2012, 10, 3991–3998. [CrossRef] [PubMed]
15. Santoso, H.; Casana, M.I.; Donner, C.D. Exploring O-stannyl ketyl and acyl radical cyclizations for the synthesis of γ-lactone-fused benzopyrans and benzofurans. Org. Biomol. Chem. 2014, 12, 171–176. [CrossRef] [PubMed]
16. Pandey, G.; Vaitla, J. Desulfonylative methenylation of β-keto sulfones. Org. Lett. 2015, 17, 4890–4893. [CrossRef] [PubMed]
17. Donner, C.D.; Casana, M.I. Synthesis of novel pyranoquinones using an acyl radical cyclization strategy. *Tetrahedron Lett.* 2012, 53, 1105–1107. [CrossRef]

18. Prim, D.; Campagne, J.-M.; Joseph, D.; Andrioletti, B. Palladium-catalysed reactions of aryl halides with soft, non-organometallic nucleophiles. *Tetrahedron* 2002, 58, 2041–2075. [CrossRef]

19. Ashimori, A.; Bachand, B.; Overman, L.E.; Poon, D.J. Catalytic asymmetric synthesis of quaternary carbon centers. Exploratory investigations of intramolecular Heck reactions of (E)-α,β-unsaturated 2-haloanilides and analogues to form enantoienriched spirocyclic products. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 1998, 120, 6477–6487. [CrossRef]

20. Coquerel, Y.; Bremond, P.; Rodriguez, J. Pd–H from Pd/C and triethylamine: Implications in palladium catalysed reactions involving amines. *J. Organomet. Chem.* 2007, 692, 4805–4808. [CrossRef]

21. Jefford, C.W.; Rossier, J.-C.; Boukouvalas, J.; Sledeski, A.W.; Huang, P.-Z. A concise synthesis of siphonodictidine. *J. Nat. Prod.* 2004, 67, 1383–1386. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

22. Moise, J.; Arseniyadis, S.; Cossy, J. Cross-metathesis between α-methylene-γ-butyrolactone and olefins: A dramatic additive effect. *Org. Lett.* 2007, 9, 1695–1698. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

23. Boufroura, H.; Souibgui, A.; Gaucher, A.; Marrot, J.; Pieters, G.; Aloui, F.; Ben Hassine, B.; Clavier, G.; Prim, D. 3D shapes of aryl(dihydro)naphthothiophenes: A comprehensive and structural study. *Org. Biomol. Chem.* 2015, 13, 10844–10851. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

24. Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre deposit numbers for compounds 12: 1565162 and 16: 1565163. These data can be obtained free of charge via http://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/conts/retrieving.html (or from the CCDC, 12 Union Road, Cambridge CB2 1EZ, UK; Fax: +44 1223 336033; E-mail: deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk).

25. Yang, H.S.; Qiao, X.X.; Cui, Q.; Xu, X.H. First synthesis of cedarmycin B. *Chin. Chem. Lett.* 2009, 20, 1023–1024. [CrossRef]

26. Brunner, B.; Stogaitis, N.; Lautens, M. Synthesis of 1,2-dihydropyridines using vinyloxiranes as masked dienolates in imino-aldol reactions. *Org. Lett.* 2006, 8, 3473–3476. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

27. Requet, A.; Souibgui, A.; Pieters, G.; Ferhi, S.; Letaieff, A.; Carlin-Sinclair, A.; Marque, S.; Marrot, J.; Ben Hassine, B.; Gaucher, A.; et al. Synthesis of partially hydrogenated oxa[5] and oxa[6]helicenes from β-chlorovinylaldehydes. *Tetrahedron Lett.* 2013, 54, 4721–4725. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

28. Shunatona, H.P.; Früh, N.; Wang, Y.-M.; Raunijar, V.; Toste, F.D. Enantioselective fluoroamination: 1,4-addition to conjugated dienes using anionic phase-transfer catalysis. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 2013, 52, 7724–7727. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

29. Turrini, N.G.; Hall, M.; Faber, K. Enzymatic synthesis of optically active lactones via asymmetric bioreduction using ene-reductases from the old yellow enzyme family. *Adv. Synth. Catal.* 2015, 357, 1861–1871. [CrossRef]

30. Smith, C.R. Activated zinc dust. *Synlett* 2009, 9, 1522–1523. [CrossRef]

**Sample Availability:** Samples of the compounds are not available from the authors.

© 2017 by the authors. Licensee MDPI, Basel, Switzerland. This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).