

Part 1. Introduction

A brief history

1828: Synthesis of urea = the starting point of modern organic chemistry.

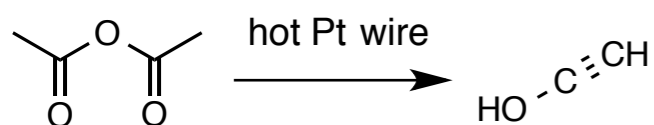
1901: Wedekind's proposal for the formation of ketene equivalent (confirmed by Staudinger 1911)

1902: Wolff rearrangement, Wolff, L. *Liebigs Ann. Chem.* **1902**, 325, 129.

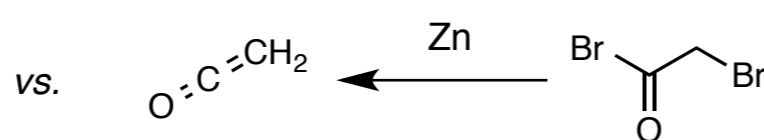
Wolff adopt a ketene structure in 1912.

1905: First synthesis and characterization of a ketene: in an effort to synthesize radical **2**, Staudinger has synthesized diphenylketene **3**, Staudinger, H. *et al.*, *Chem. Ber.* **1905**, 1735.

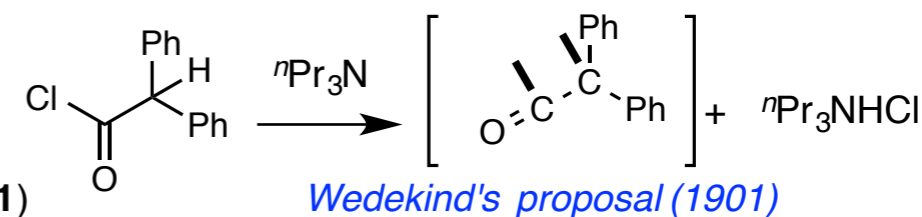
1907-8: synthesis and discussion about structure of the parent ketene, Wilsmore, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1907**, 1938; Wilsmore and Stewart *Chem. Ber.* **1908**, 1025; Staudinger and Klever *Chem. Ber.* **1908**, 1516.



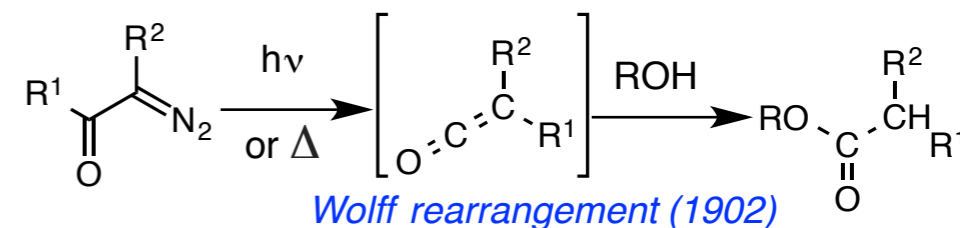
Wilsmore's synthesis and proposal (1907-8)



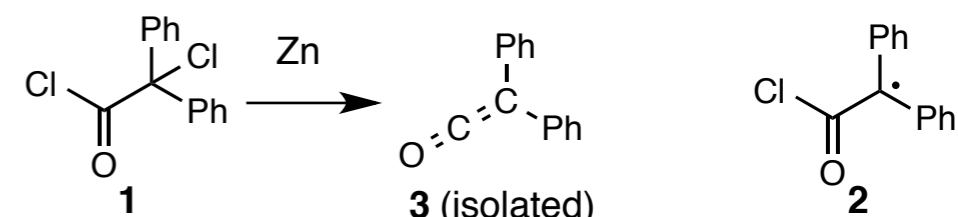
Staudinger's synthesis and proposal (1908)



Wedekind's proposal (1901)



Wolff rearrangement (1902)

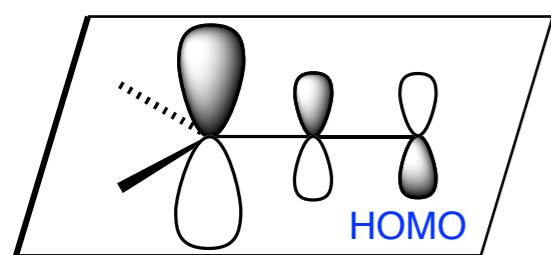
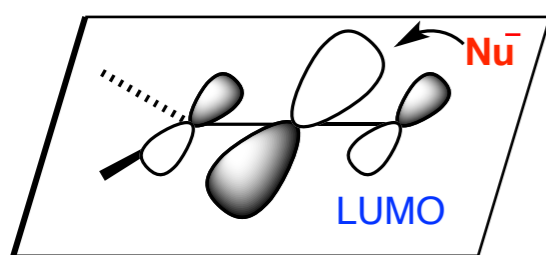


Staudinger's discovery (1905)

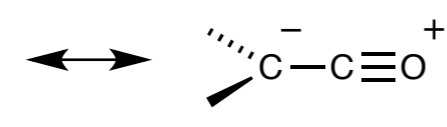
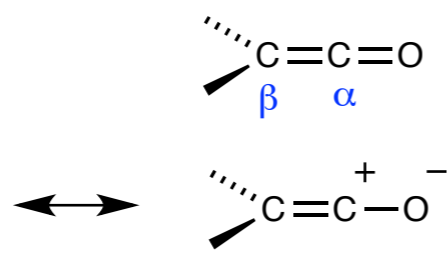
Latest books: ketene (Tidwell, 1995), ketene II (Tidwell, 2006), Science of Synthesis, Vol. 23 (2006); Latest review: new directions in ketene chemistry: the land of opportunity (Tidwell *et al.*, *Eur. J. Org. Chem.* **2012**, 1081). Search for ketenes, Google gave 406,000 (vs. allenes: 950,000) Jan 23, 2014.

Structure and Physical properties

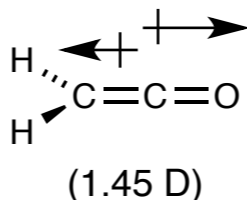
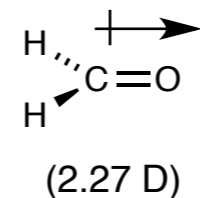
Frontier orbitals



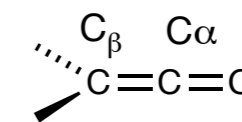
Resonance structure



Dipole moment



Spectroscopy data



IR: distinctive absorptions near 2200-2100 cm^{-1} (vs. alkene: 1680 cm^{-1} , alkynes: 2200 cm^{-1} ; allenes: 1950-1960 cm^{-1} , carbonyl 1760-1665 cm^{-1}).

(IR is frequently used to detect the formation of reactive ketene species)

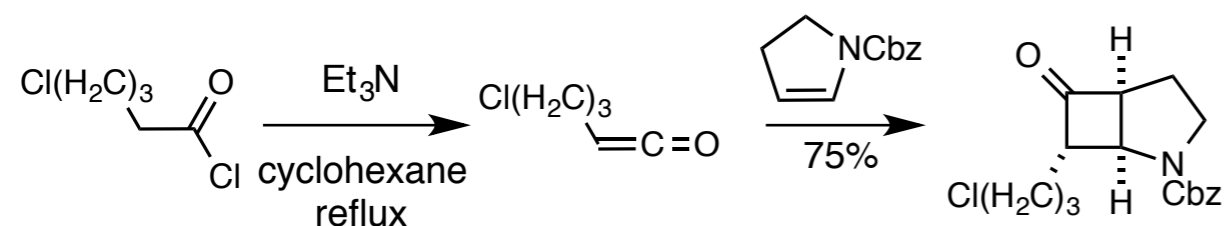
^{13}C NMR: $\delta_{\text{C}\alpha}$ = 203-178 ppm; $\delta_{\text{C}\beta}$ = 48-33 ppm.

Part 2. Synthesis of Ketenes

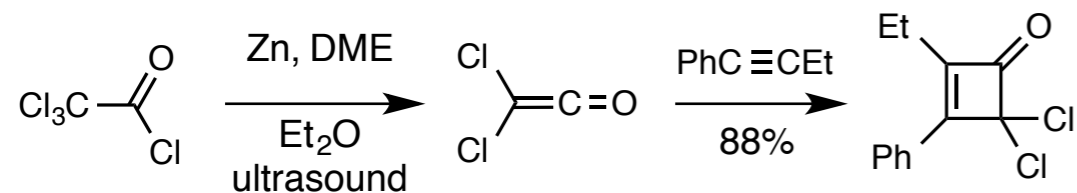
Due to its highly reactivity, many ketenes are synthesized *in situ* as intermediates which then react with other reagents to generate products

2.1 Ketenes from Carboxylic Acids and Their Derivatives

From Acyl halides and Activated Acids (Wedekind's Method)

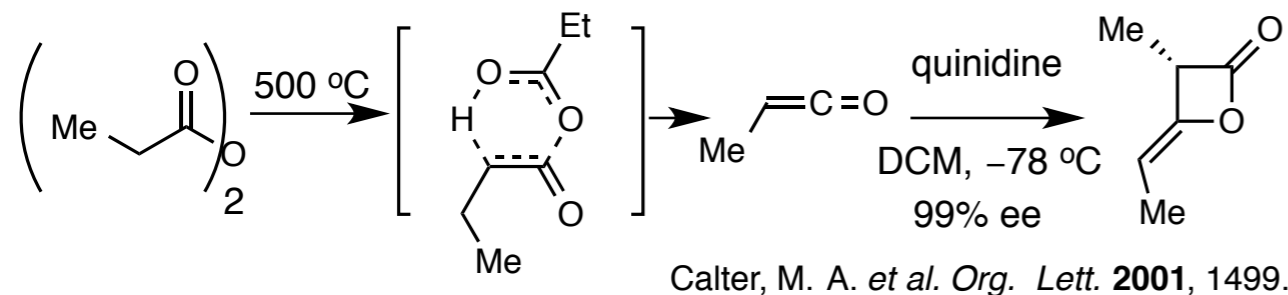


Cevasco, G.; Thea, S. *et al. J. Org. Chem.* **1999**, 5422.

From α -Halo Carboxylic Derivatives (Staudinger's Method)

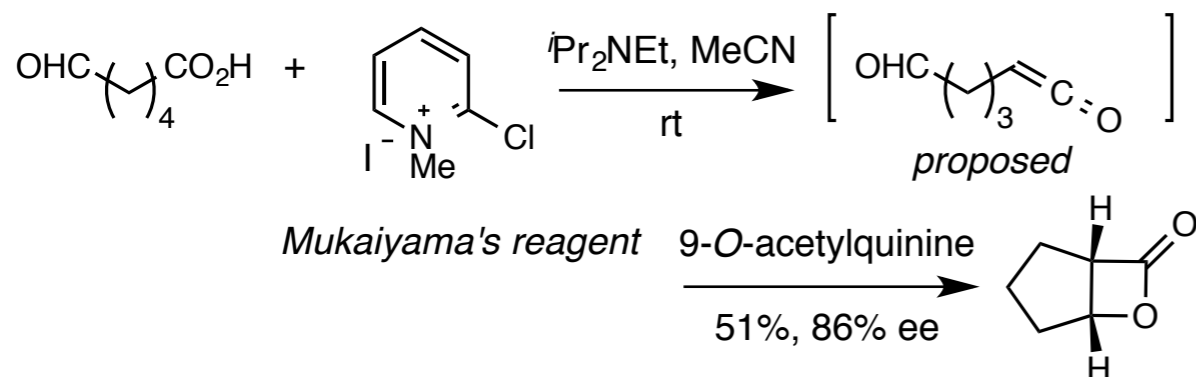
Rizzo, C. J. *et al. Synth. Commun.* **1995**, 2781.

From Acid Anhydrides



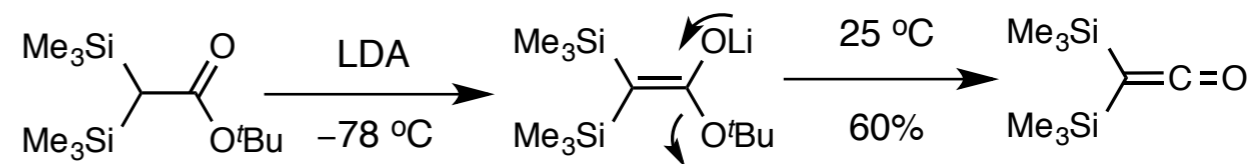
Calter, M. A. *et al. Org. Lett.* **2001**, 1499.

From Acids



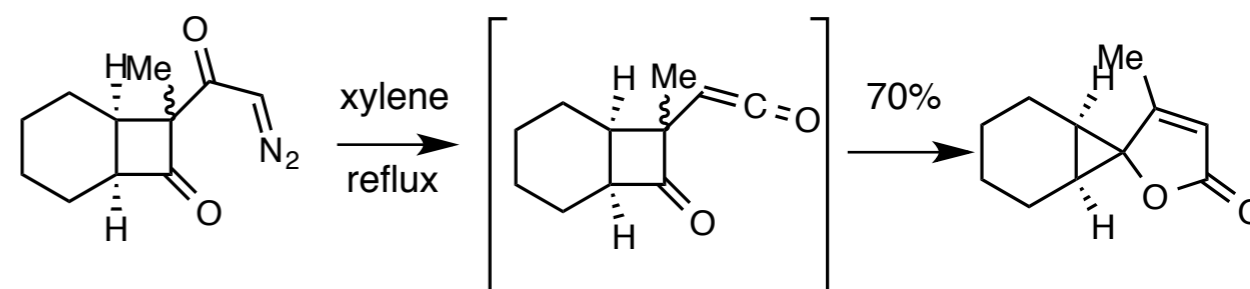
From Esters

E1cB mechanism (crowded esters...) or similar pathway

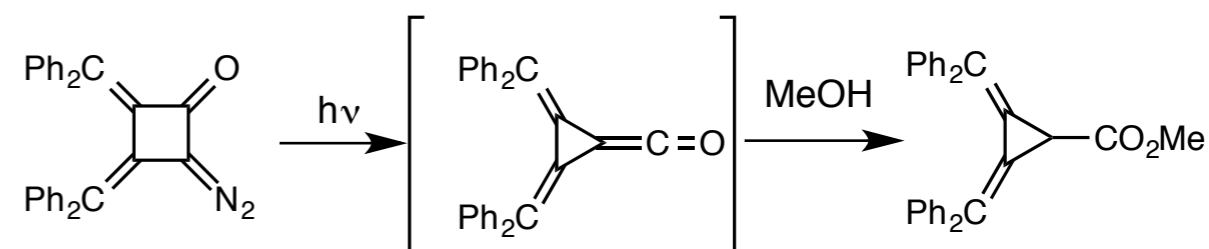


Rethke, M. W. *et al. J. Org. Chem.* **1977**, 2038.

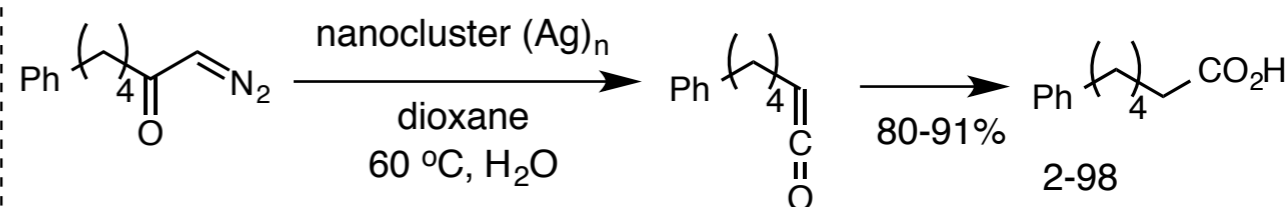
2.2 Ketenes from Diazo Ketones (Wolff's Rearrangement)



Miller, R.D., *et al. J. Org. Chem.* **1991**, 1453



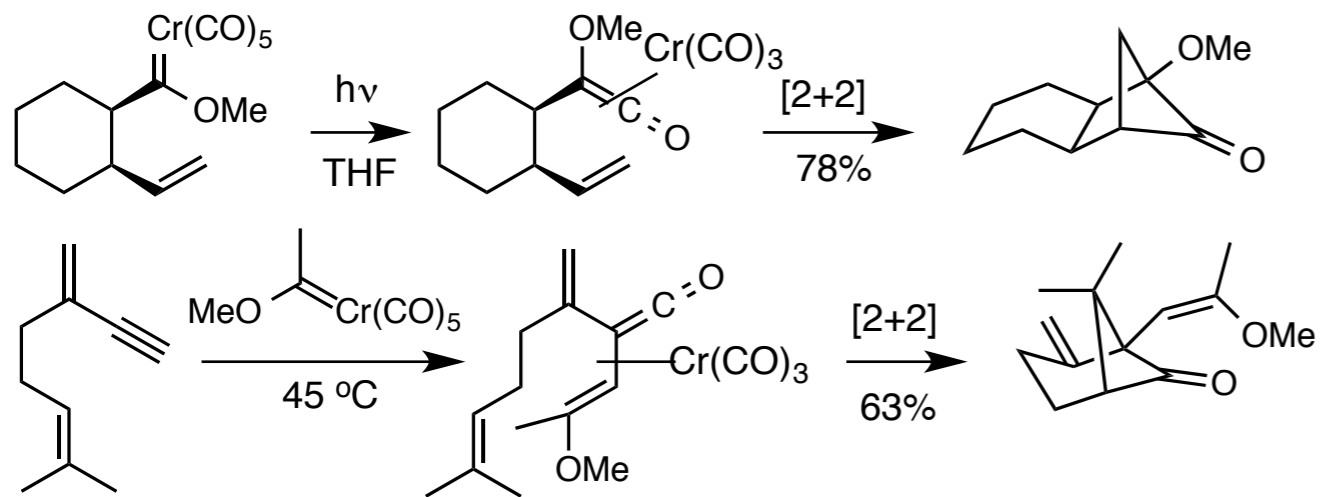
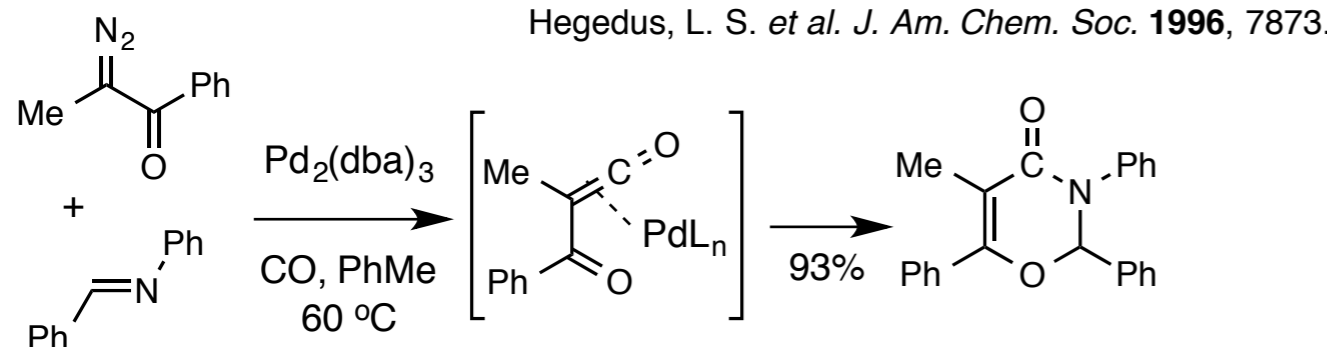
Ueda, K.; Toda, F. *et al. Chem. Lett.* **1975**, 1421.



other metal catalysts: Ag, Cu, Rh

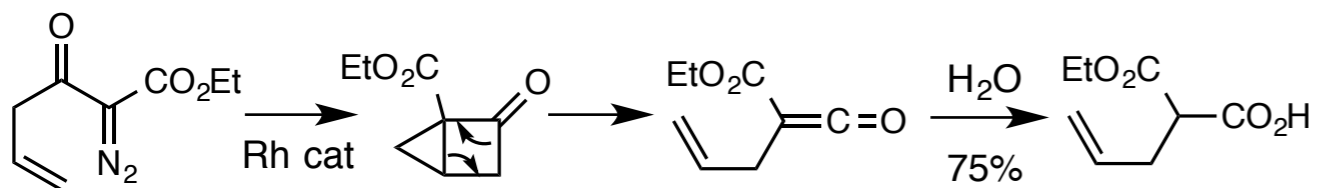
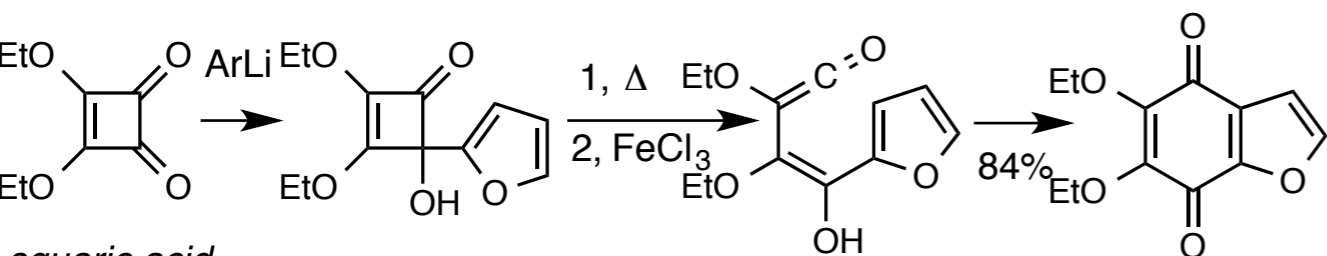
Sudrik, S. G. *et al. Org. Lett.* **2003**, 2355.

2.3 Ketenes from Metal Carbene Complexes

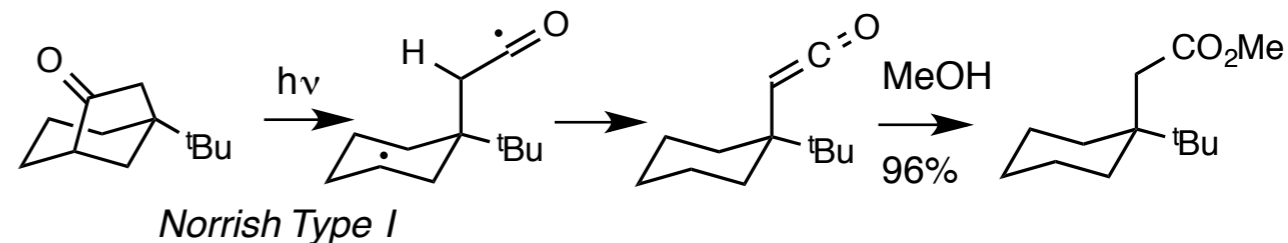
Hegedus, L. S. *et al. J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1996**, 7873.Wang, J. *et al. J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2011**, 4330.

2.4 Other Methods

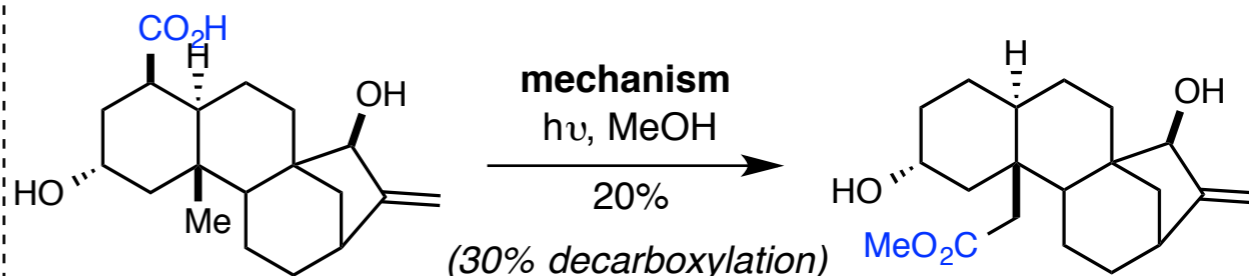
From Cyclobutanones and Cyclobutenones

Cai, W.-L. *et al. J. Chem. Soc. Perkin 1* **1996**, 2337.squaric acid
derivativeMoore, H. W. *et al. Org. Synth* **1990**, 220.

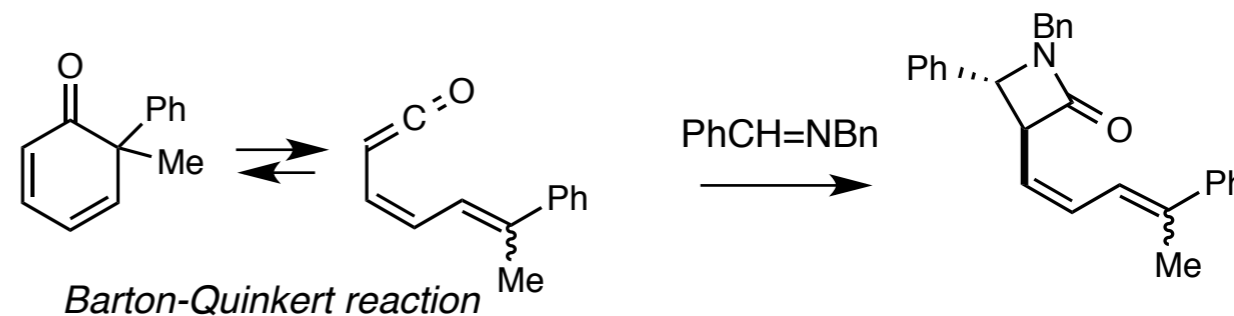
From Cycloalkanones and Enones through Photolysis



Norrish Type I

Agosta, W. C.; Wolff, S. *et al. J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1976**, 4182.Buscemi, S. *et al. Photochem. Photobiol., A*, **2003**, 145.

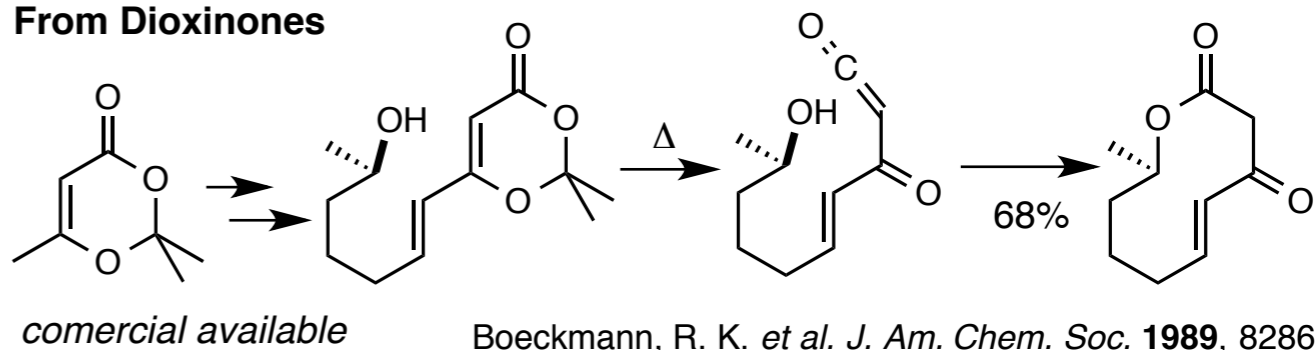
From Cyclohexadienones and Other Cycloalkenones



Barton-Quinkert reaction

Quinkert, G. *et al. Helv. Chim. Acta* **1997**, 1683.

From Dioxinones

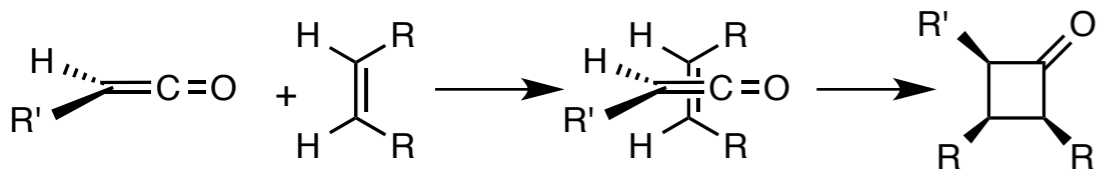


comercial available

Boeckmann, R. K. *et al. J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1989**, 8286.

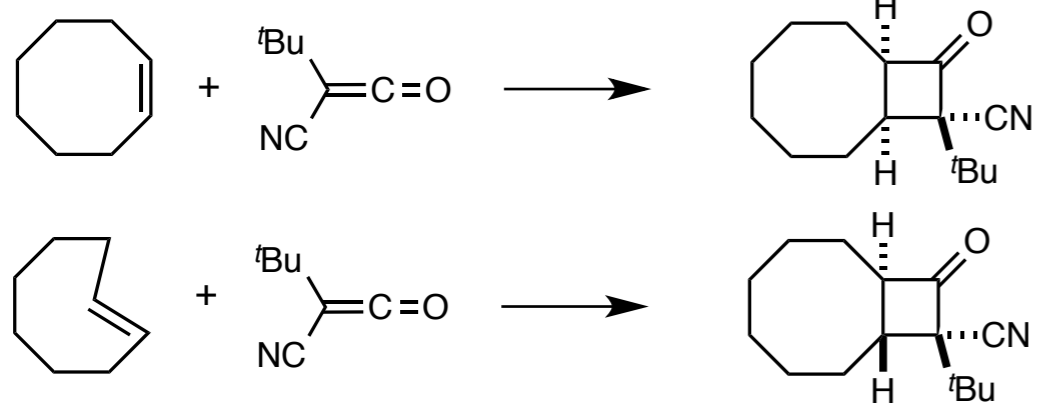
3.1 [2+2] Cycloaddition

Part 3. Reaction of Ketenes

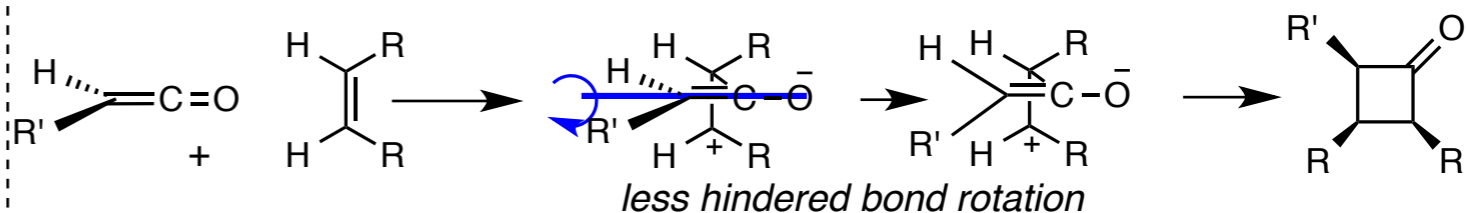
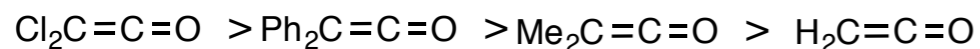
Reaction Mechanism: Concerted $[\pi 2_s + \pi 2_a]$ vs. Two-step Reaction Involving a Dipolar Intermediate

Features and Supported Evidences

- stereospecific to thermodynamically less stable cyclobutanones
- *Z* olefins are more reactive than *E* olefine

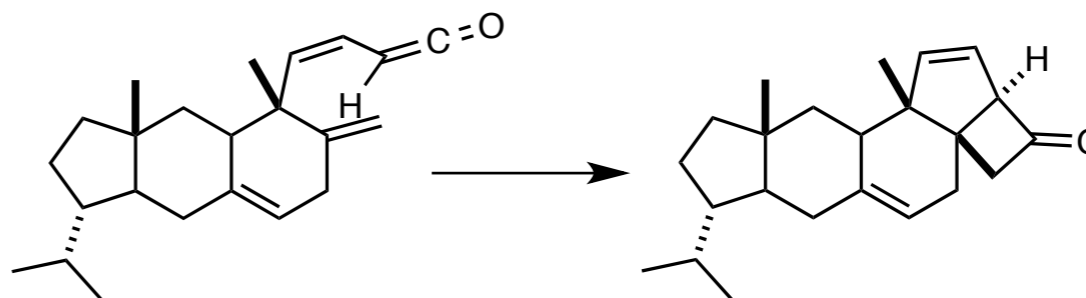
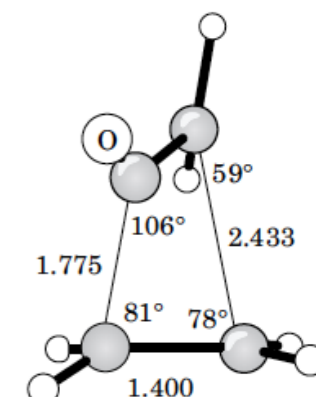
Montaigne, R. *et al.* *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **1968**, 221.

relative reactivity:

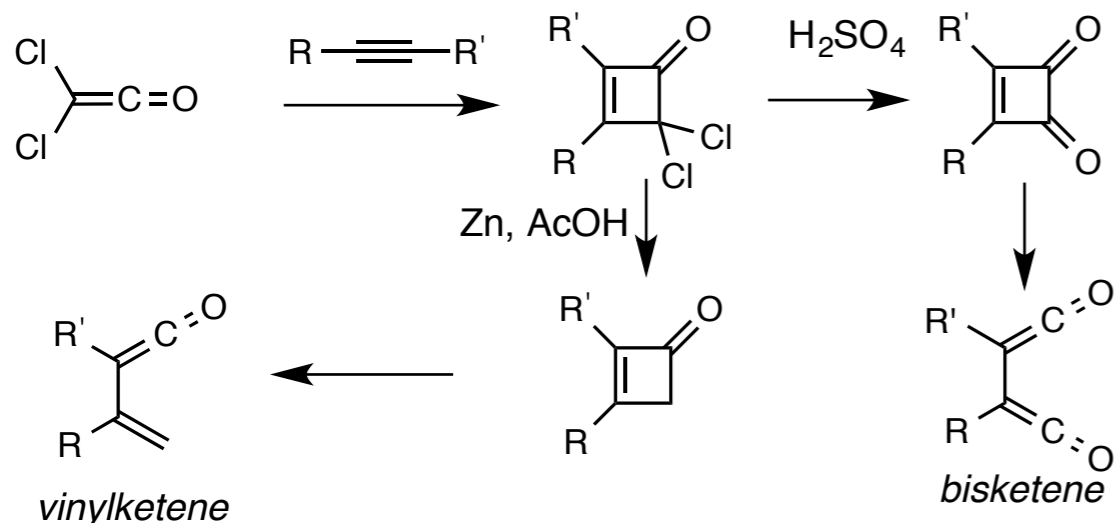


Features and Supported Evidences

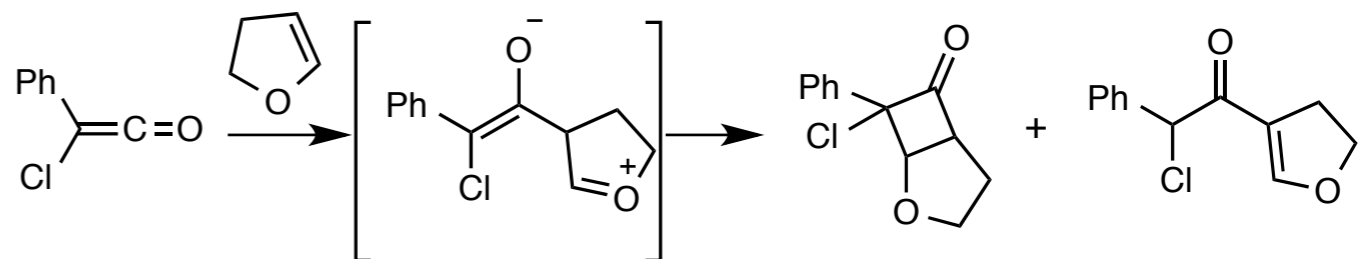
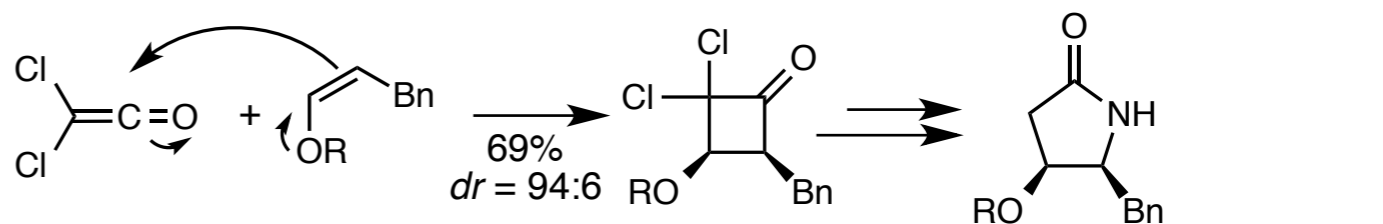
- initial orthogonal approach of the ketene to alkene from the least hindered direction following by rotation at C2 lead to the same stereochemistry outcome as in concerted mechanism
- high level calculation by Houk showed that the forming bond length of the carbonyl carbone is 1.78 Å; the other is 2.43 Å
- solvent effects observed (it could be a ground state effect only)
- evidence from studies of intramolecular [2+2]

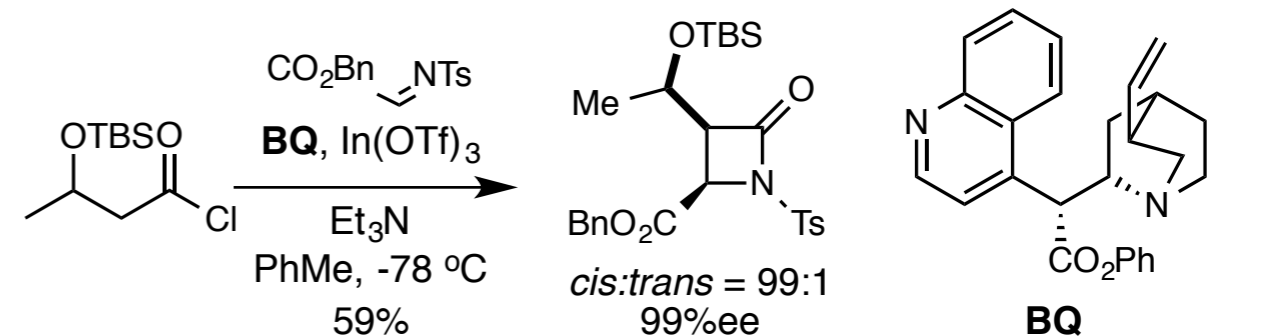
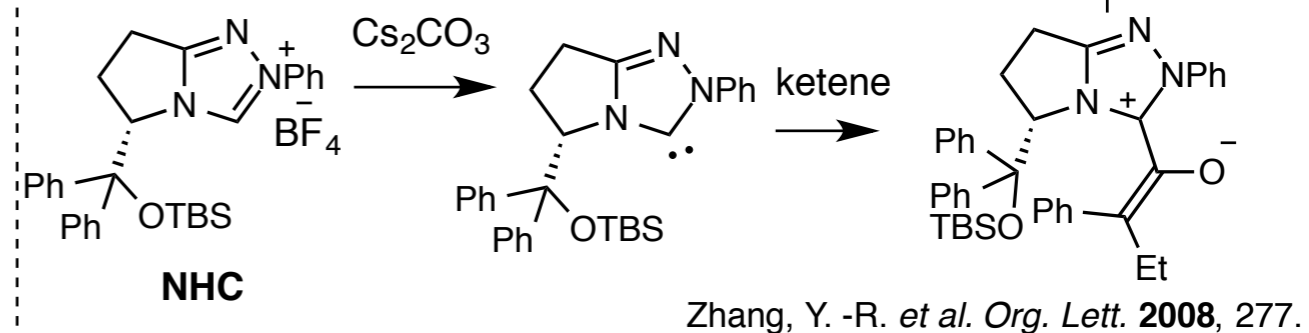
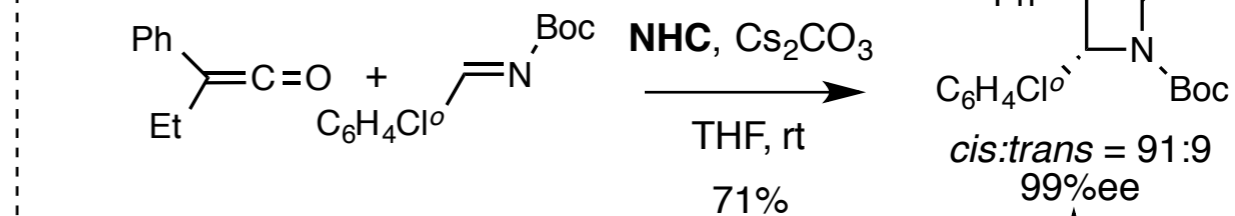
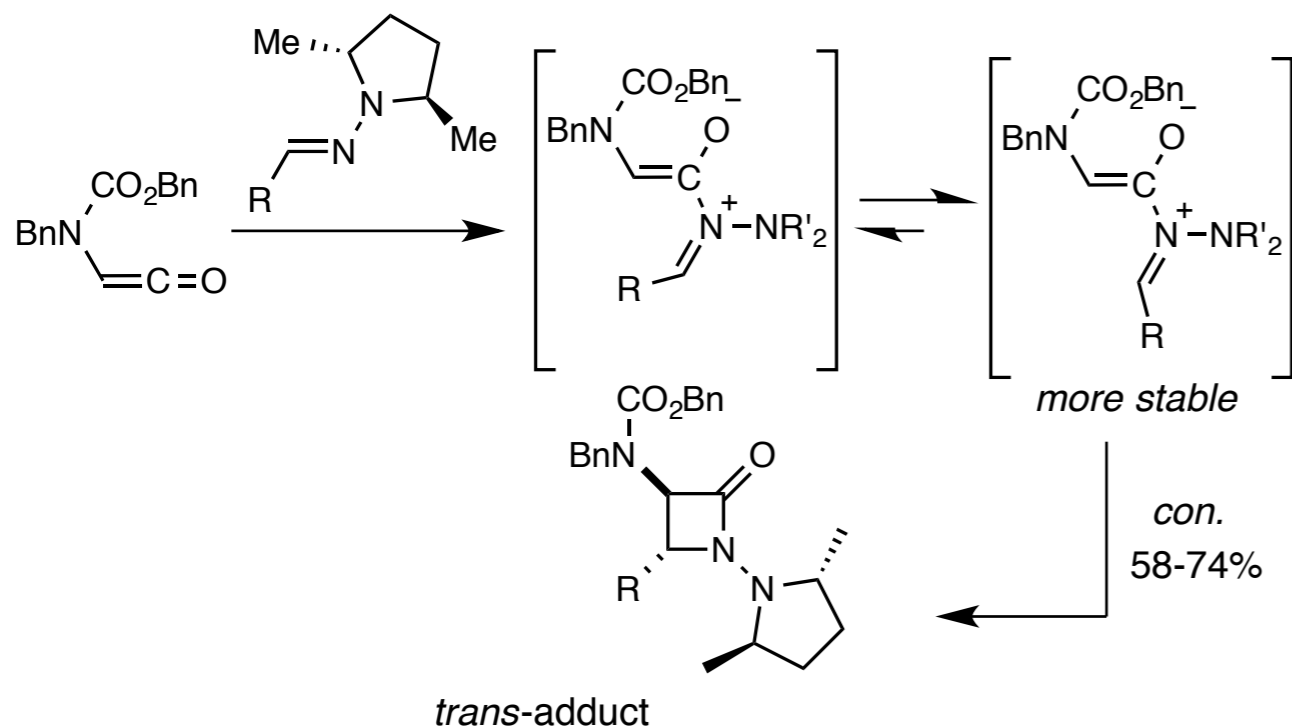
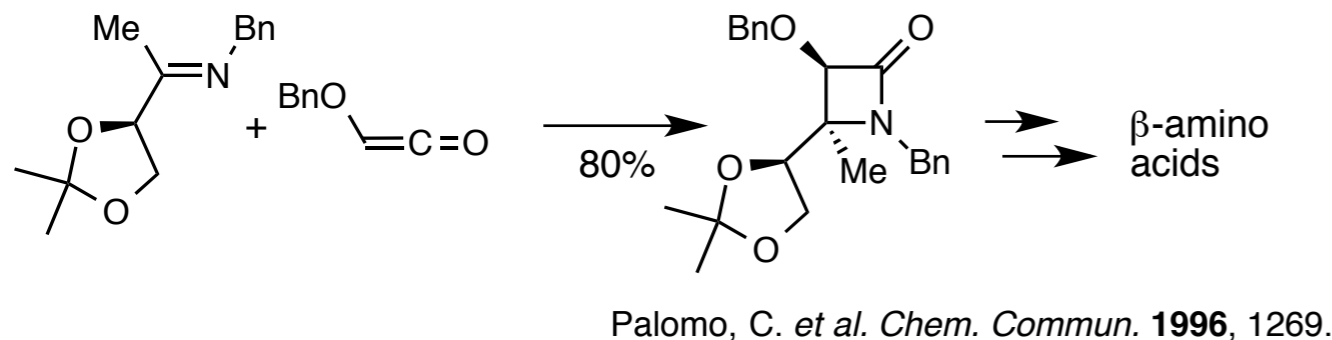
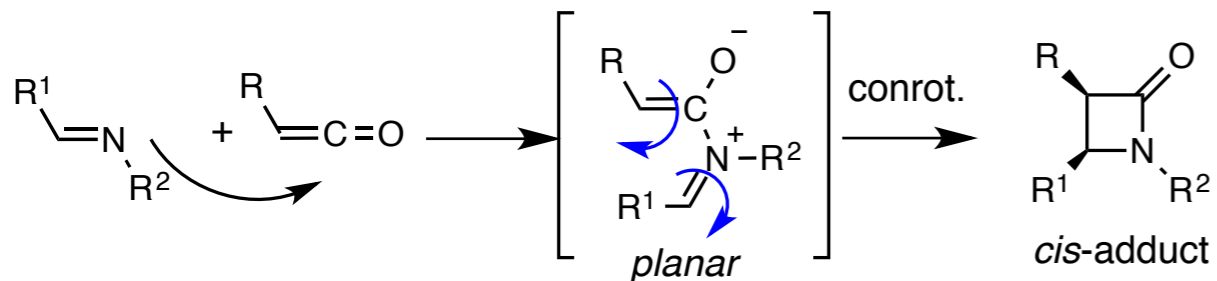
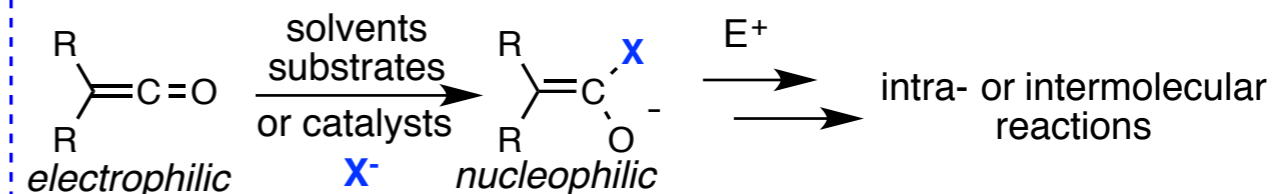
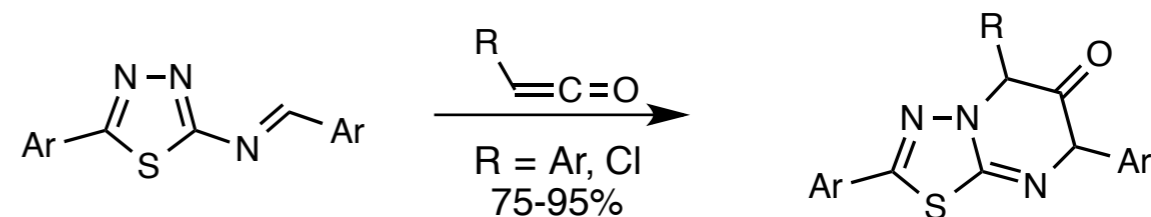
*stereochemistry = a net $[\pi 2_s + \pi 2_s]$* Retigeranic acid synthesis: Corey, E. J. *et al.* *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1985**, 4339.

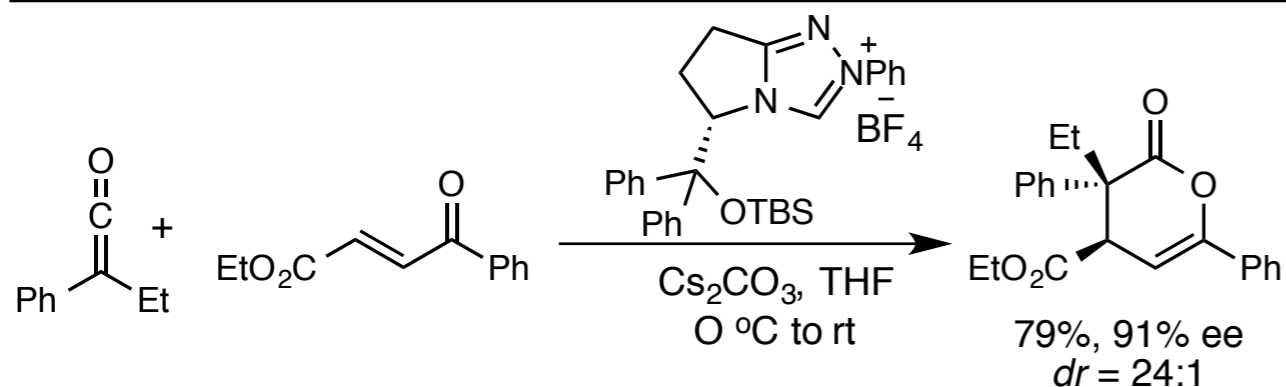
[2+2] Cycloaddition with Alkynes

Danheiser, R. L. *et al.* *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1987**, 3299;
Ammann, A. A. *et al.* *Helv. Chim. Acta* **1987**, 321.

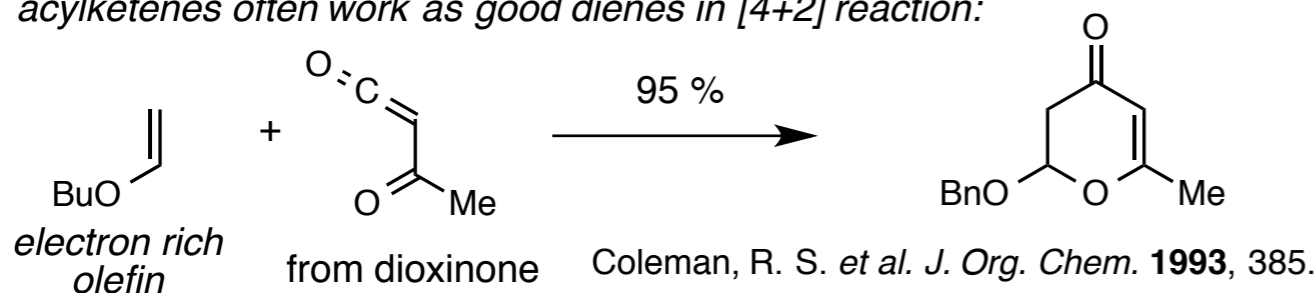
[2+2] Cycloaddition with Electrorich Olefins: Stepwise Mechanism

Reynolds, P. W. *et al.* *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1984**, 4566.Kanazawa, A. *et al.* *J. Org. Chem.* **1998**, 4660.

[2+2] Cycloaddition with Imines: Staudinger Ketene-Imine Cycloaddition *chiral organic base or NHC catalysis***uncatalyzed mechanism: stepwise formation of zwitterion followed by conrotatory ring closure to give cis-product****general reaction mode (apart from concerted $[\pi 2_s + \pi 2_a]$):****3.2 Other Cycloadditions****Formal [4+2] Cycloaddition: with electro-deficient dienes**Dutta, B. C. *et al.*, *Chem. Res. (S)* **1999**, 36.

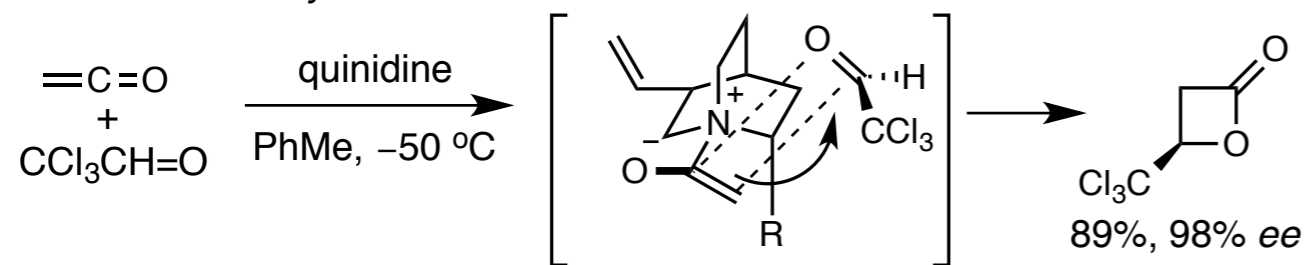
Zhang, Y.-R. *et al. Chem. Eur. J.* **2008**, 8473.

acylketenes often work as good dienes in [4+2] reaction:

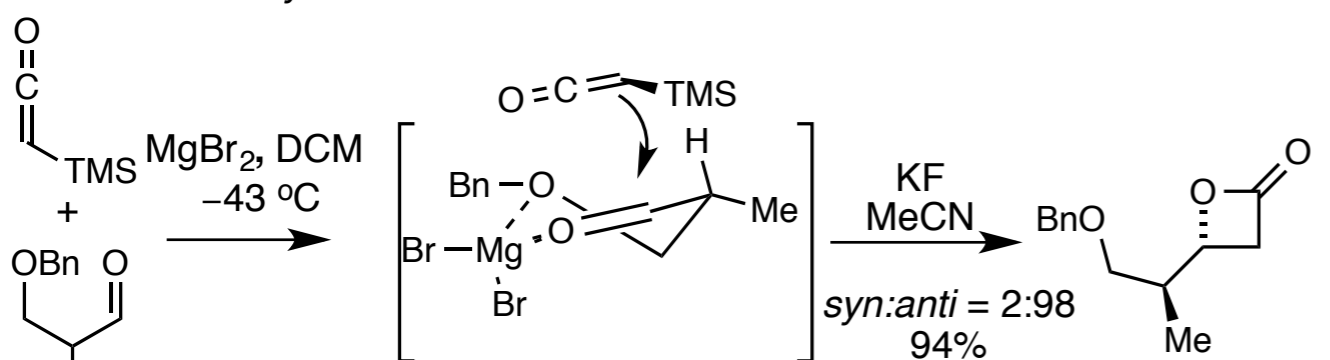
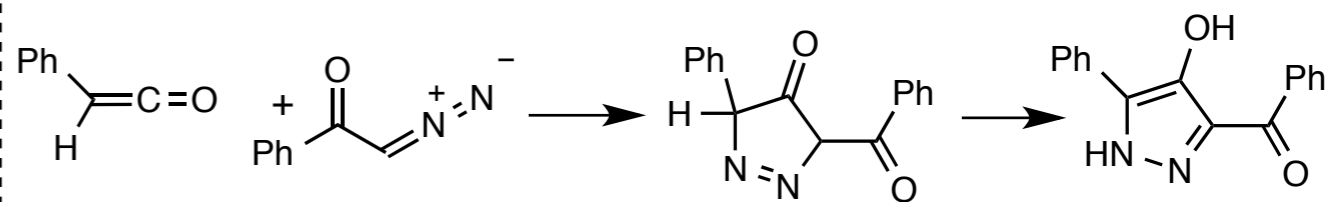
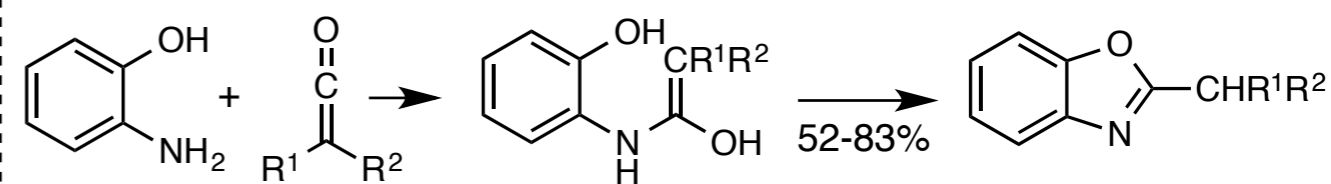
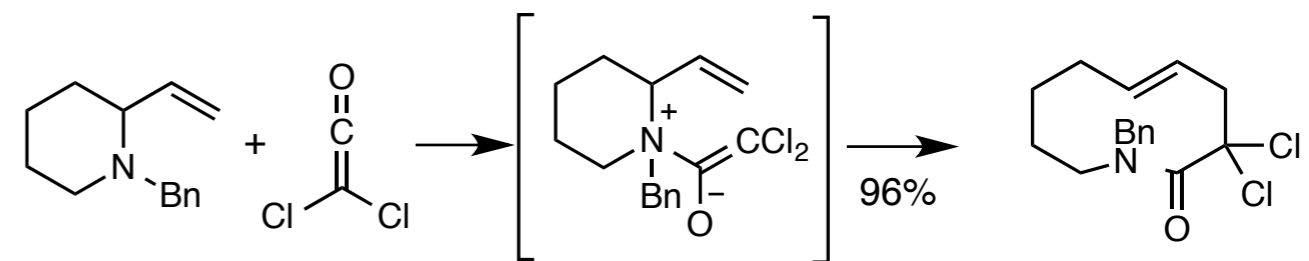
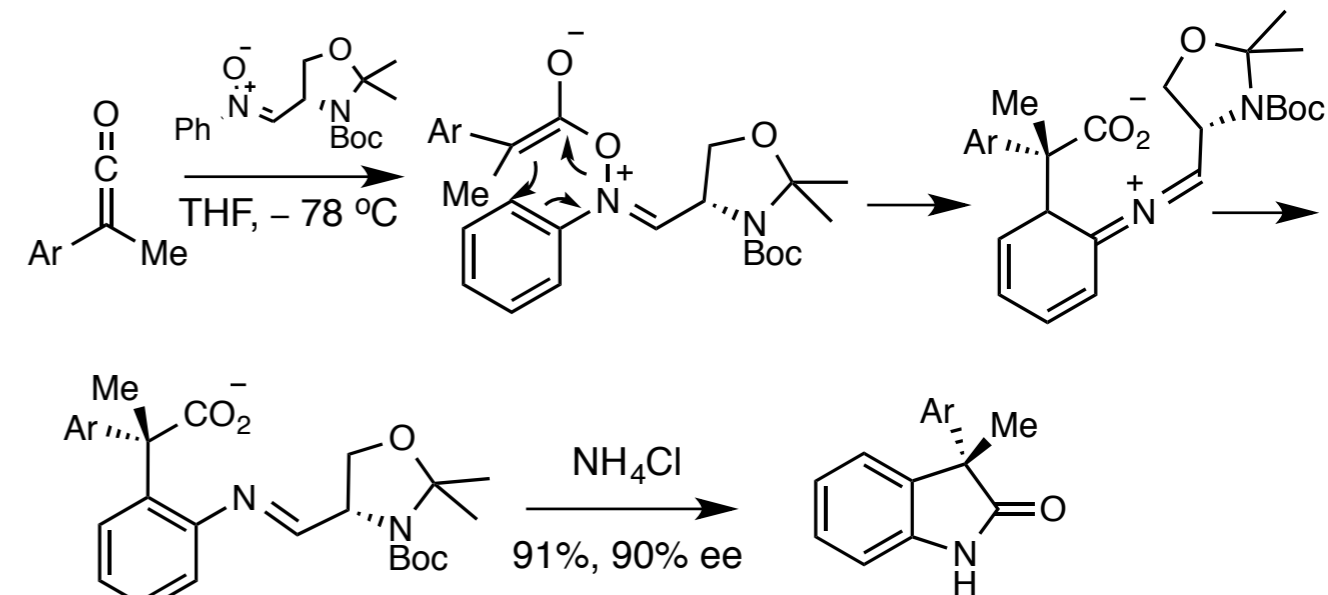
**Cycloaddition with Carbonyl Groups**

ketenes undergo [2+2] cycloaddition with electrophilic carbonyl group:

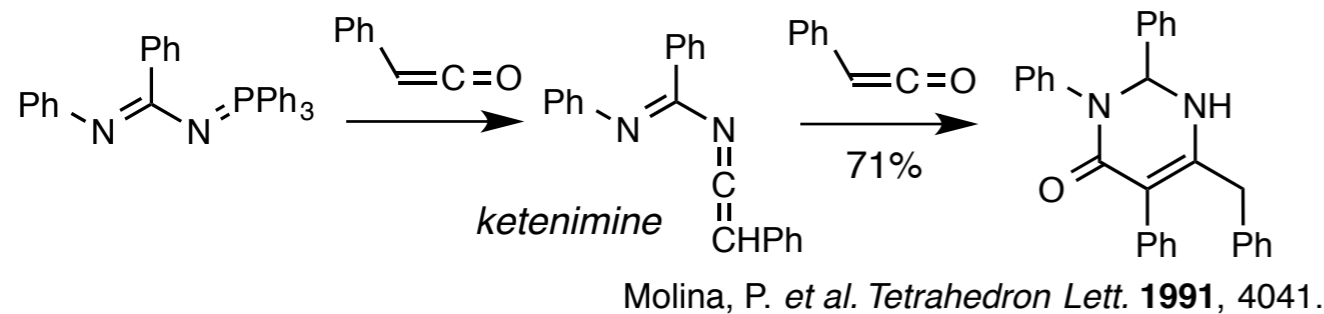
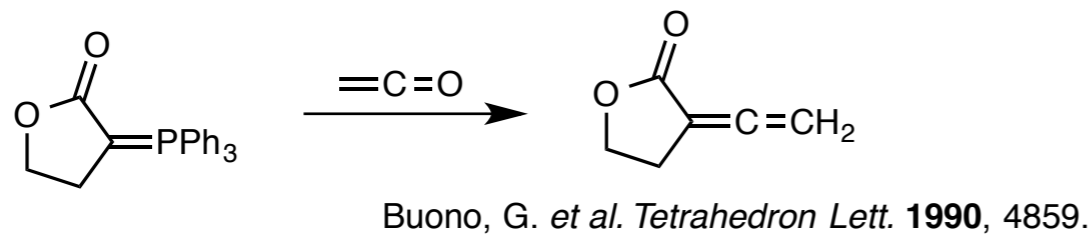
Amine base catalyzed reactions

Wynberg, H. *et al. J. Org. Chem.* **1985**, 1977.

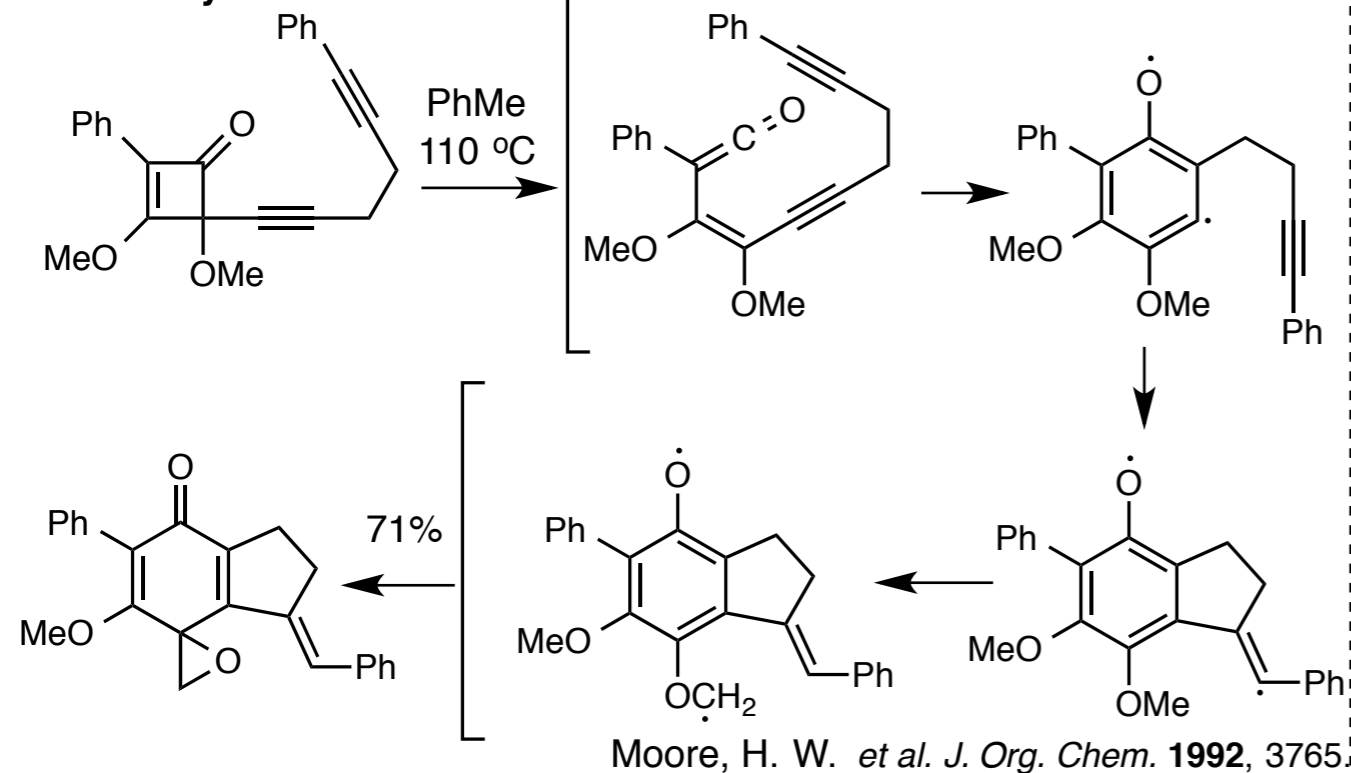
Lewis acid catalyzed reactions

Vemribo, R. *et al. Tetrahedron Lett.* **1995**, 4159.**[3+2] Cycloaddition****3.3 Other Reactions****Nucleophilic Addition and/or Rearrangement**Olagbemiro, R. O. *et al. Recl. Trav. Chim. Pays-Bas* **1995**, 337.Edstrom, E. D. *et al. J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1991**, 6690.Smith, A. D. *et al. Org. Lett.* **2009**, 3858.

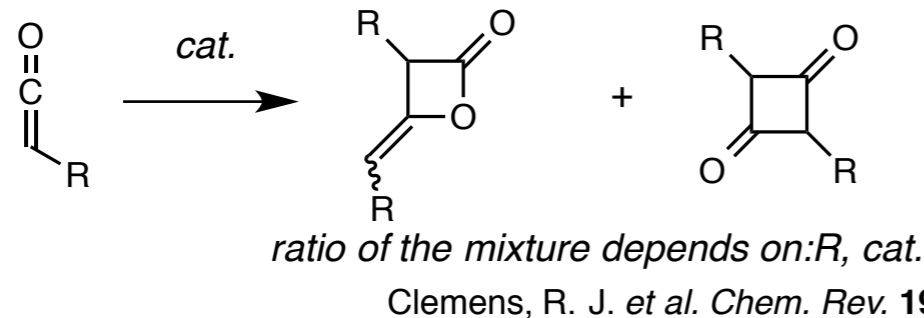
Wittig Reaction



Moore's Cyclization

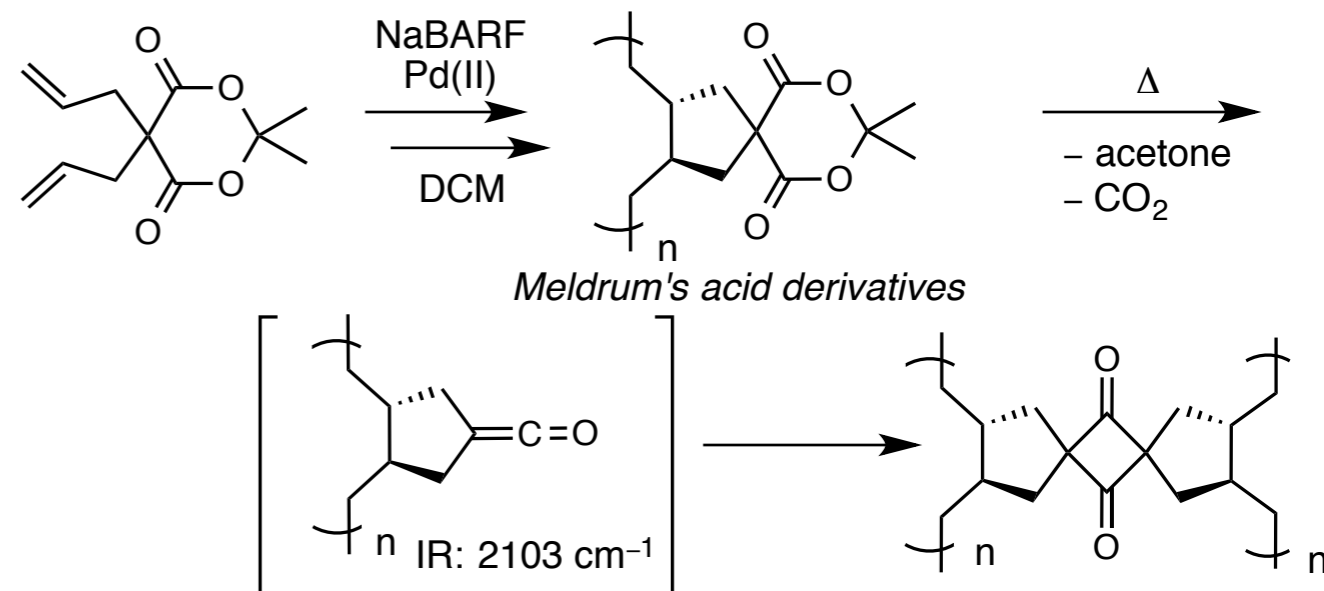


dimerization



Ketenes in Polymer Chemistry

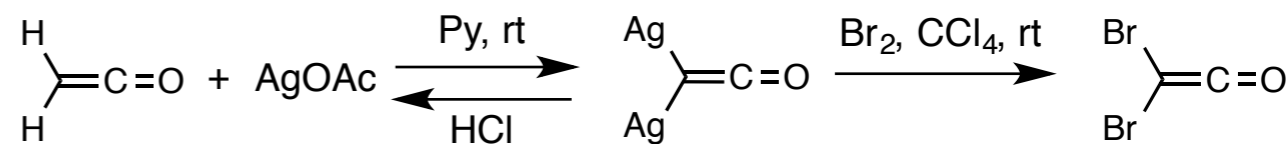
New approach for polymer modification: polymer crosslinking through ketene dimerization



used for printing submicrometer-scale patterns for microcontact printing

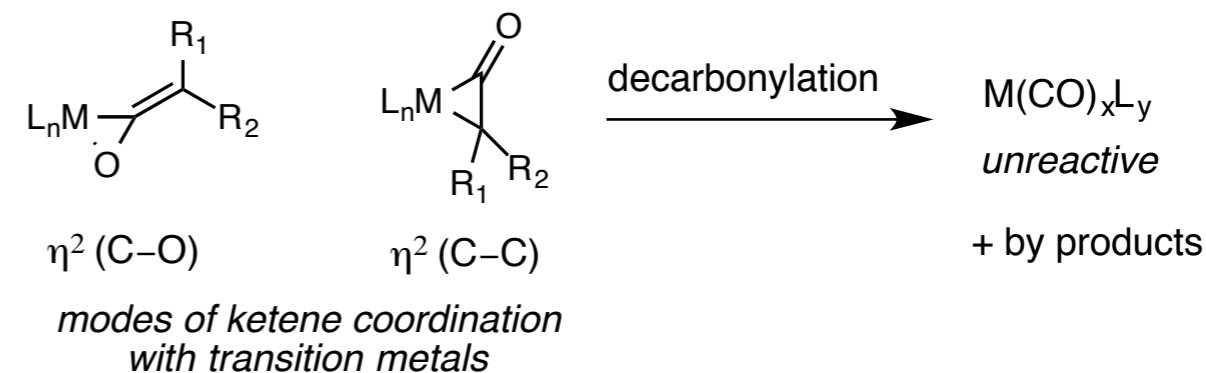
Aida, T. *et al. J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2011**, 2840.

Organometallic Compounds

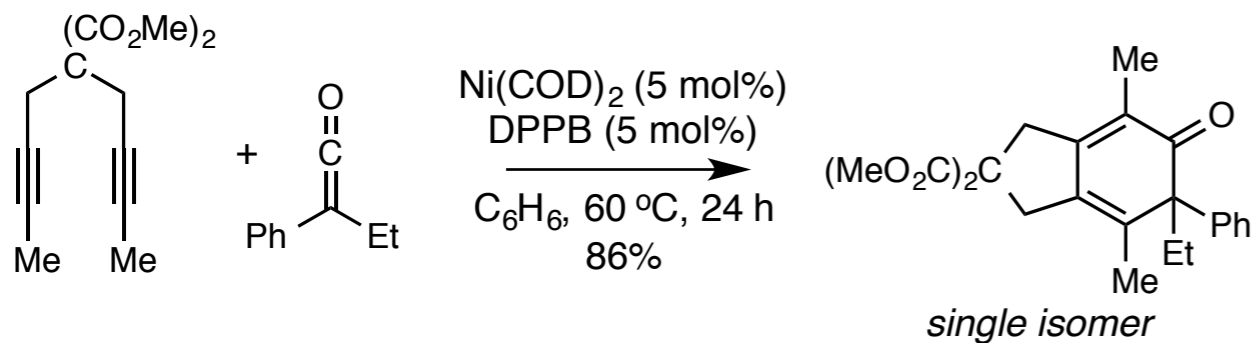
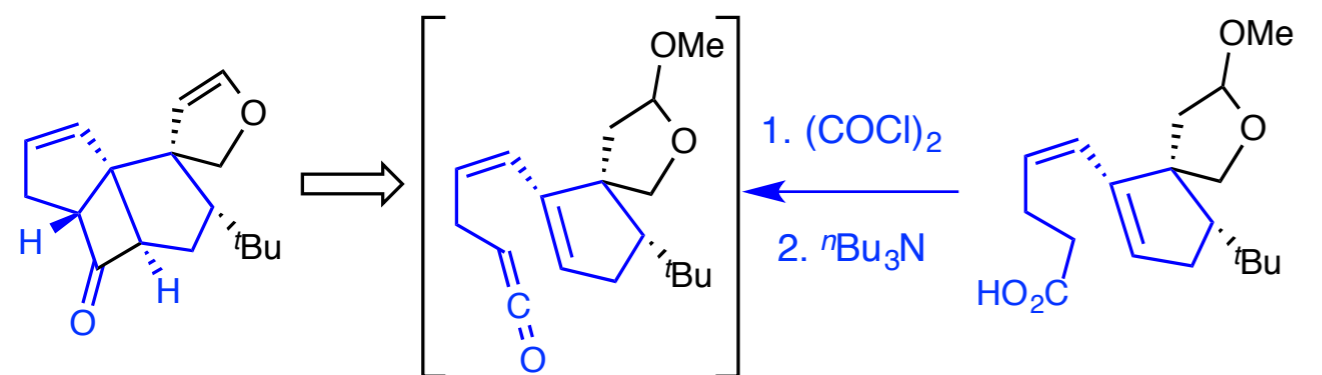
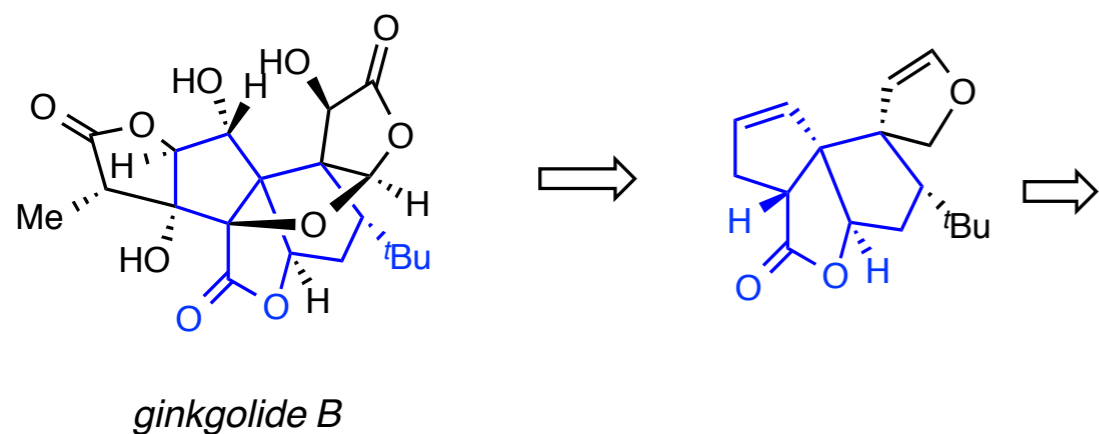
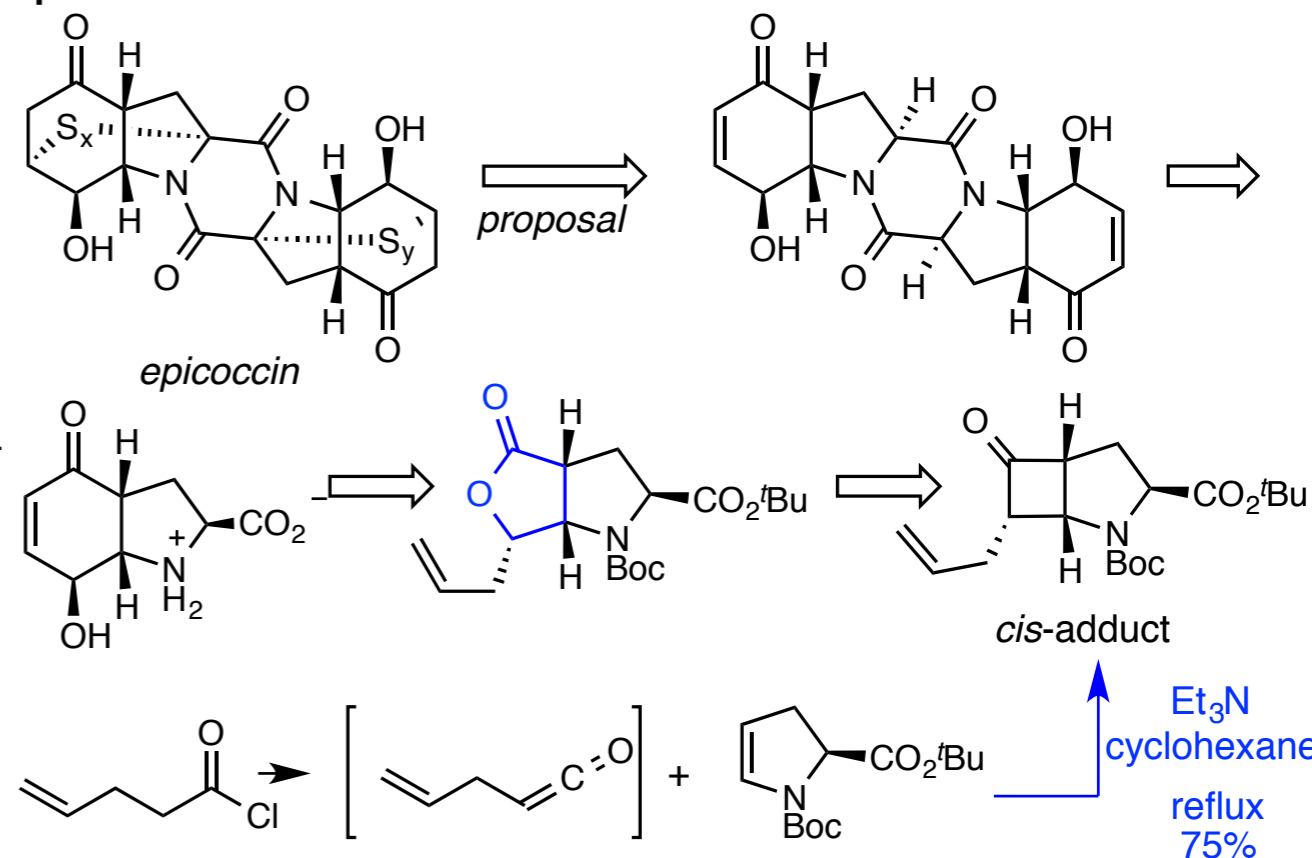
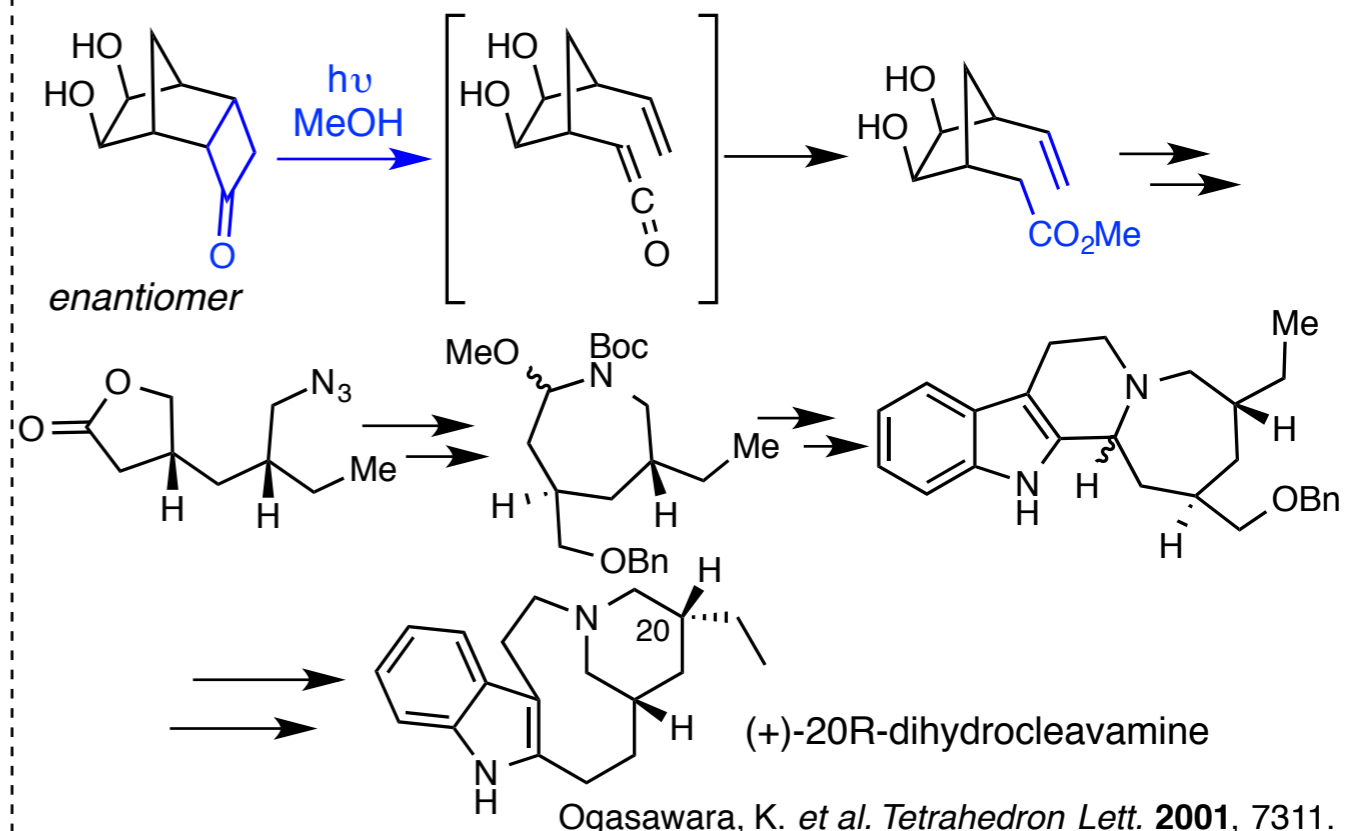


Silver ketenide
X-ray structure

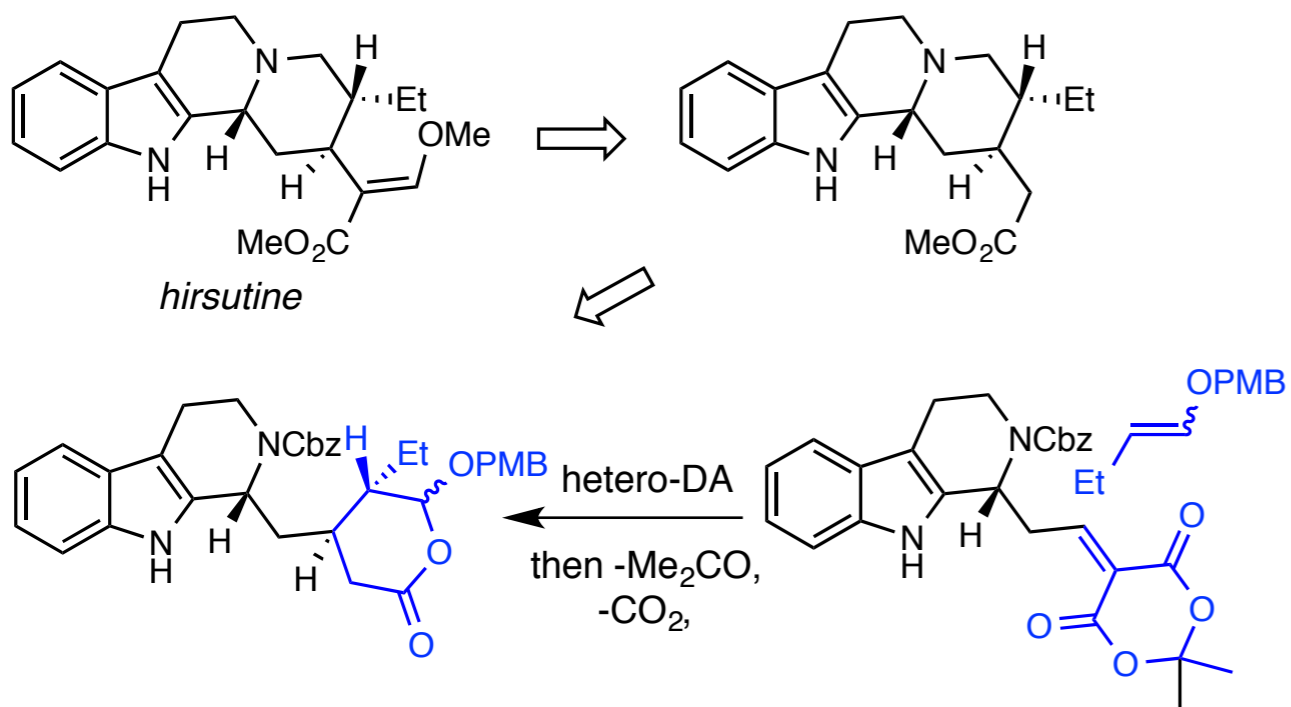
Blues, E. T. *J. Chem. Soc. Perkin Trans. 2*, **1993**, 1631



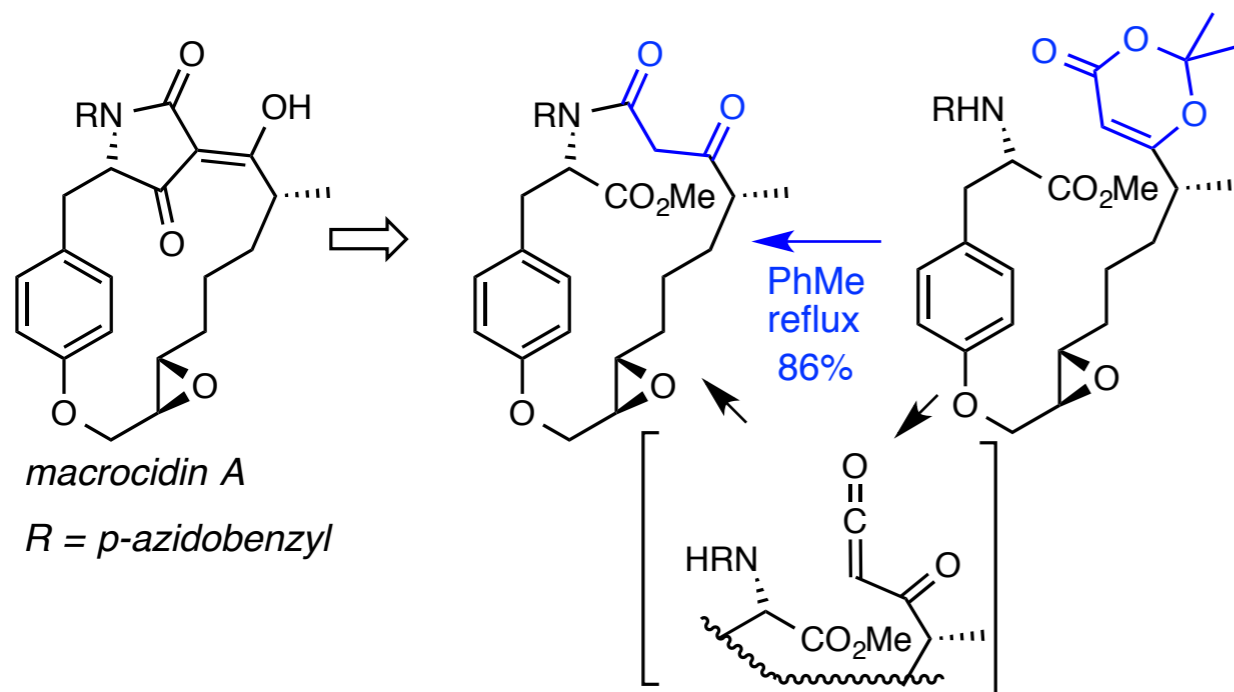
To develop the transition metal catalyzed-reaction with ketenes, it is crucial to find the right ligands to stabilize the ketene-metal complexes

Louie, J. et al. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2011**, 7719.**Part 4. Ketenes in Synthesis****Ginkgolide Synthesis**Corey et al. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1998**, 649.**Epicoccins**Brase, S et al. *Chem. Eur. J.* **2010**, 11624.**(+)-20R-dihydrocleavamine**

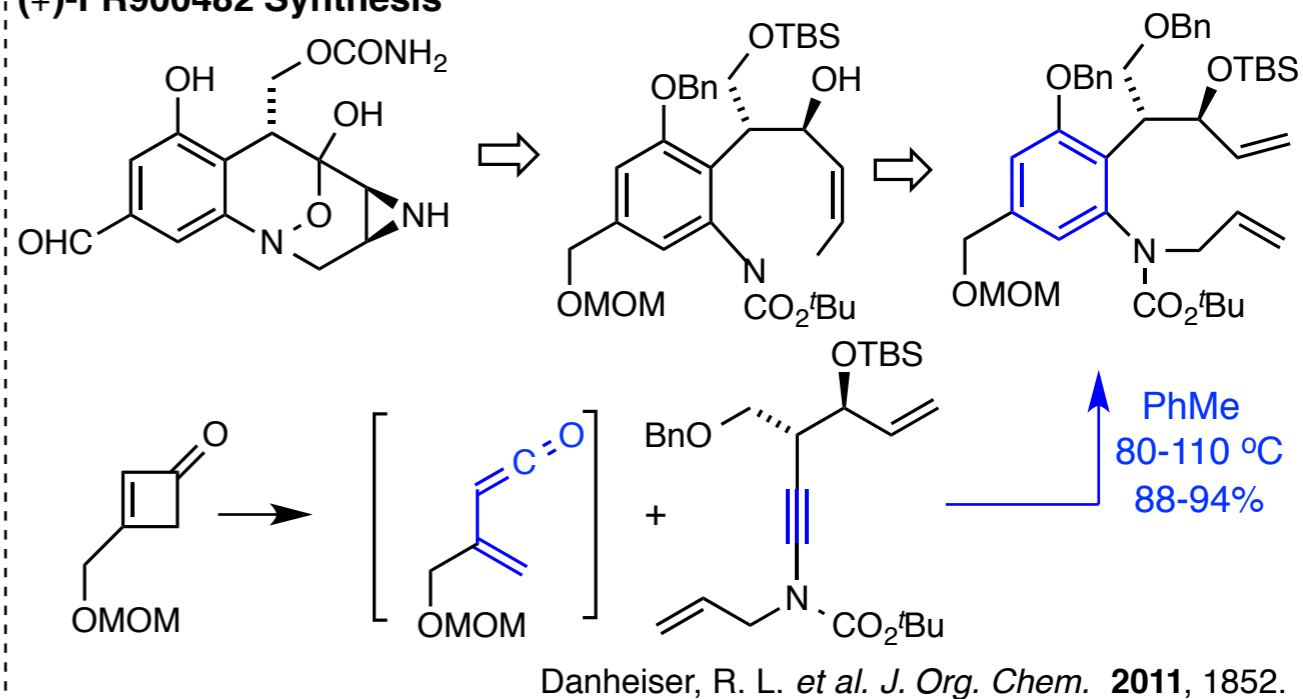
Hirsutine Synthesis

Tietze, L. F. *et al. Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **1999**, 38, 2045.

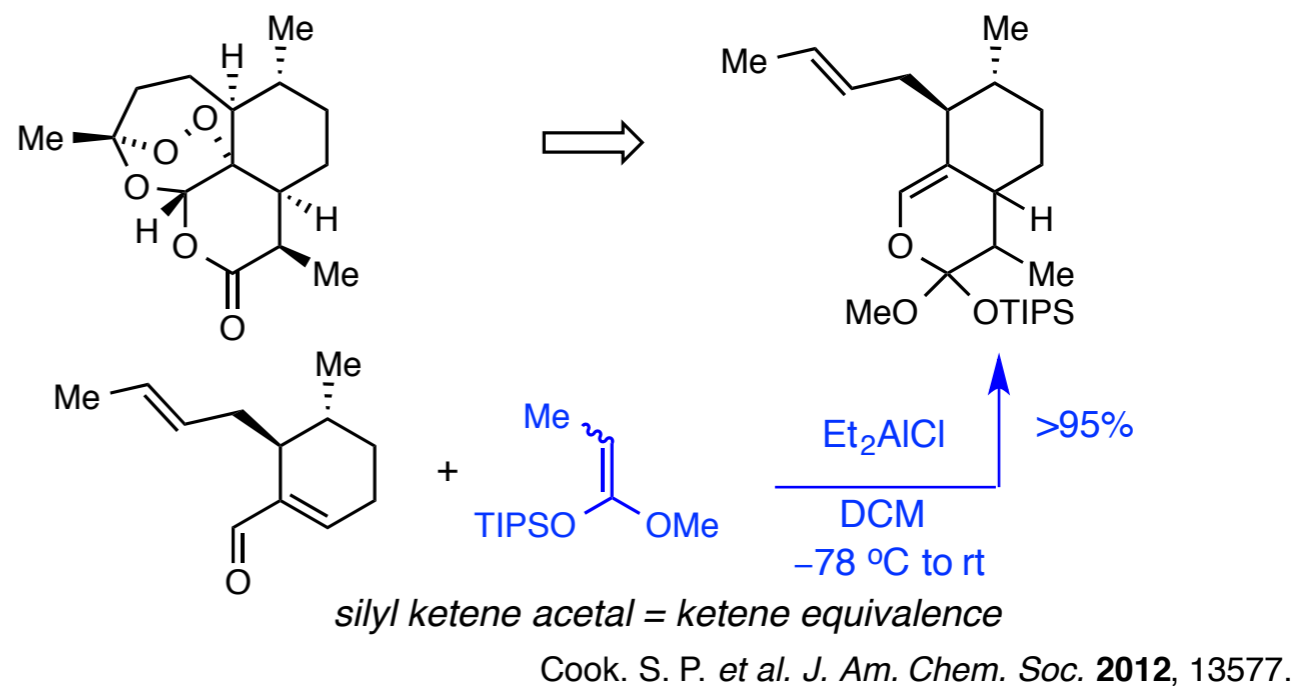
Macrocidin Synthesis

Hoye, T. R. *et al. J. Org. Chem.* **2010**, 7052.

(+) -FR900482 Synthesis



(+) -Artemisinin Synthesis



Part 5. Important References

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