

Mechanistic Investigation of RhI-Catalyzed Cycloisomerization of Benzylallene-Internal Alkynes via C-H Activation

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Note

**Rh^I-Catalyzed Cycloisomerization of Benzylallene-Internal Alkynes via C–H
Activation**

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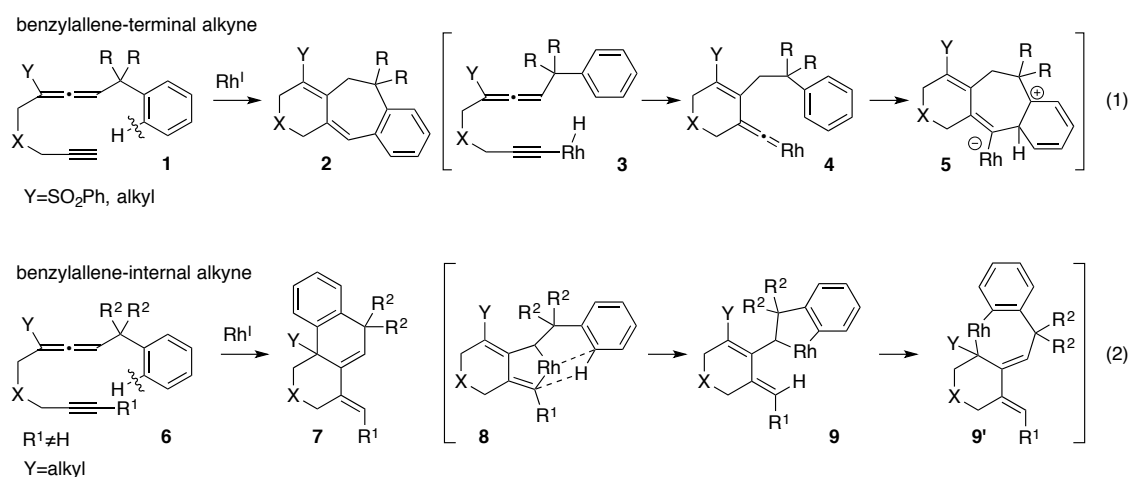
Abstract

Treatment of the benzylallene-internal alkynes with $[\text{RhCl}(\text{CO})_2]_2$ effected a novel cycloisomerization via a $\text{C}_{\text{sp}2}\text{-H}$ bond activation to produce the tricyclo[9.4.0.0^{3,8}]pentadecapentaene skeleton. The plausible reaction mechanism via consecutive formation of the rhodabicyclo[4.3.0] intermediates and σ -bond metathesis between the $\text{C}_{\text{sp}2}\text{-H}$ bond on the benzene ring and the $\text{C}_{\text{sp}2}\text{-Rh}^{\text{III}}$ bond ($\text{C}_{\text{sp}2}\text{-H}$ bond activation step) was proposed based on the experiments using deuterated substrates. In addition, a plausible alternative mechanism for the previously reported cycloisomerization of the benzylallene-terminal alkynes could also be proposed based on the current mechanistic study.

Cyclization reactions utilizing the transition-metal-catalyzed C–H¹ and/or C–C² bond activation provide a powerful step- and atom-economical methodology for the straightforward construction of complex polycyclic skeletons inaccessible by other conventional methods. Recent efforts from this laboratory disclosed that the [RhCl(CO)₂]₂-catalyzed cycloisomerization of the benzylallene-terminal alkynes **1** (Y=SO₂Ph, alkyl) took place via the C_{sp2}–H bond activation on the benzene ring to produce the tricyclo[9.4.0.0^{3,8}]pentadecapentaene derivatives **2** [Scheme 1, Eq. (1)].³ Based on preliminary investigations using deuterated substrates,³ we tentatively interpreted this ring-closing reaction as follows: (i) oxidative addition of the acetylenic C–H bond to Rh^I would form the intermediate **3** as the first step, (ii) ene-type cyclization of **3** would lead to the unique vinylidenecarbene-Rh intermediate **4**,⁴ which is electrophilically captured by benzene to form **5**, and (iii) migration of the proton of benzene of **5** to Rh (C_{sp2}–H bond activation) would finally be followed by reductive elimination.⁵ We subsequently focused on the ring-closing reaction using the internal alkyne instead of the terminal acetylene species. As a result, treatment of the benzylallene-internal alkyne species **6** (R¹≠H, Y=alkyl) with [RhCl(CO)₂]₂ dramatically

changed the ring-closing mode to furnish the hexahydrophenanthrene skeleton **7** in high yields [Scheme 1, Eq. (2)].⁶ The reaction likely proceeds by consecutive formation of a rhodabicyclo[4.3.0] intermediate **8**, σ -bond metathesis between the C_{sp^2} -H bond on the benzene ring and the C_{sp^2} -Rh bond (C_{sp^2} -H bond activation step), and isomerization between three σ -, π -, and σ -allylrhodium species (**9** and **9'**: σ -allylrhodium). This plausible mechanism was proposed on the basis of several experiments using deuterated substrates.⁶

Scheme 1. Our Previous Study: Rh^I-Catalyzed Cycloisomerization of Benzylallene-Alkynes via C-H Bond Activation

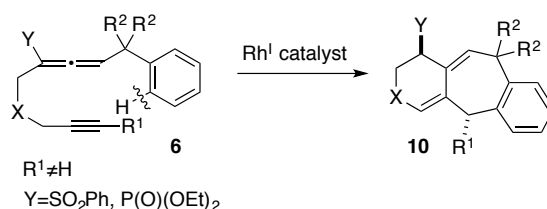


During the course of our investigation of the Rh^I-catalyzed cyclization of

allenes possessing an additional π -component,^{7,8} we generally assumed the formation of the rhodabicyclic intermediate, such as **8**, as the first step in order to understand the experimental results. However, the proposed mechanism for the construction of **2** from **1** is quite different from our precedents, whereas the mechanism for the formation of **7** from **6** is in line with our previously proposed one involving the rhodabicyclic intermediate. Therefore, at this stage we wondered if the rhodabicyclo[4.3.0]nonadiene intermediate might be involved in the transformation of **1** into **2**. On the other hand, we had already observed that the substituent on the allenyl moiety significantly affected the reactivity and chemoselectivity of several reactions.^{8c,g,h} Thus, our next efforts directed towards making the reaction mechanism for the transformation of **1** into **2** clearer using benzylallene-alkyne substrates **6**⁹ with varying substituents on the allenyl moiety and at the alkyne terminus. Herein we describe the preparation of other type of tricyclo[9.4.0.0^{3,8}]derivative **10**, a double bond isomer of **2**, from the benzylallene-internal alkynes **6** with an electron-withdrawing group (EWG) on the allenyl moiety ($R^1 \neq H$, $Y = SO_2Ph$, $P(O)(OEt)_2$). With three transformations (the newly obtained results with the previous ones) considered, we now propose the reaction

mechanism that can rationalize the formation of all tricyclic compounds **2**, **7**, and **10** from benzylallene-alkyne substrates **1** and **6** via the common rhodabicyclo[4.3.0] intermediate (Scheme 2).

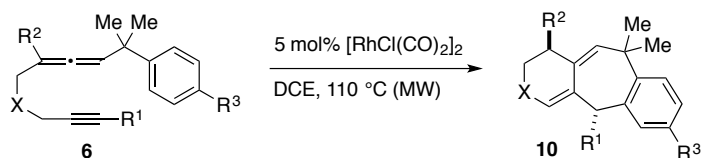
Scheme 2. This Study: Rh^I-Catalyzed Cycloisomerization of Benzylallene-Internal Alkynes via C–H Bond Activation



The benzylallene-internal alkyne **6a** having a dimethyl group at the benzylic position¹⁰ was exposed to the optimized conditions ($[RhCl(CO)_2]_2$ in 1,2-dichloroethane (DCE) heated at 110 °C by microwave (MW) irradiation) to provide the tricyclo[9.4.0.0^{3,8}]pentadecapentaene derivative **10a** with a *trans* stereochemistry between the *n*-butyl residue and the phenylsulfonyl group (64%, entry 1).^{11,12} Compound **10a** has the benzene-fused seven-six membered structure similar to that of **2**, but different regarding the position of the two double bonds. The allene-alkyne **6b** also

gave the tricyclic product **10b** in 66% yield (entry 2). In the cases of the benzylallenes possessing a phosphonate group on the allenyl moiety **6c** and **6d**, the reaction occurred in refluxing toluene to afford **10c** (64% yield) and **10d** (73% yield), respectively (entries 3 and 4). The substrate having a benzyloxymethyl group at the alkyne terminus **6e** provided the corresponding cycloadduct **10e** in 52% yield (entry 5). The cyclic ketal derivative **6f**¹³ was exposed to the standard conditions to furnish **10f** in 41% yield (entry 6). Both compounds **6g** (R³=Me) and **6h** (R³=Cl) with substituents at the *para*-position on the benzene ring produced **10g** in 56% yield (entry 7) and **10h** in 62% yield (entry 8), although a longer reaction time was needed in the latter case. Thus, it became clear that the benzylallene-internal alkynes **6** with an EWG on the allenyl moiety consistently produced the third type of compound **10** being obviously different from compounds **2** and **7**.

Table 1. [RhCl(CO)₂]₂-Catalyzed Cycloisomerization of Benzylallene-Alkynes **6^a**



entry	substrate	R ¹	R ²	R ³	X	time (h)	product and yield (%) ^b
1	6a	<i>n</i> Bu	SO ₂ Ph	H	C(CO ₂ Me) ₂	12	10a : 64
2	6b	Me	SO ₂ Ph	H	C(CO ₂ Me) ₂	10	10b : 66
3 ^c	6c	<i>n</i> Bu	P(O)(OEt) ₂	H	C(CO ₂ Me) ₂	3	10c : 64
4 ^c	6d	Me	P(O)(OEt) ₂	H	C(CO ₂ Me) ₂	3	10d : 73
5	6e	CH ₂ OBn	SO ₂ Ph	H	C(CO ₂ Me) ₂	7	10e : 52
6	6f	<i>n</i> Bu	SO ₂ Ph	H	C(CH ₂ O) ₂ CMe ₂	20	10f : 41
7	6g	<i>n</i> Bu	SO ₂ Ph	Me	C(CO ₂ Me) ₂	4	10g : 56
8	6h	<i>n</i> Bu	SO ₂ Ph	Cl	C(CO ₂ Me) ₂	20	10h : 62

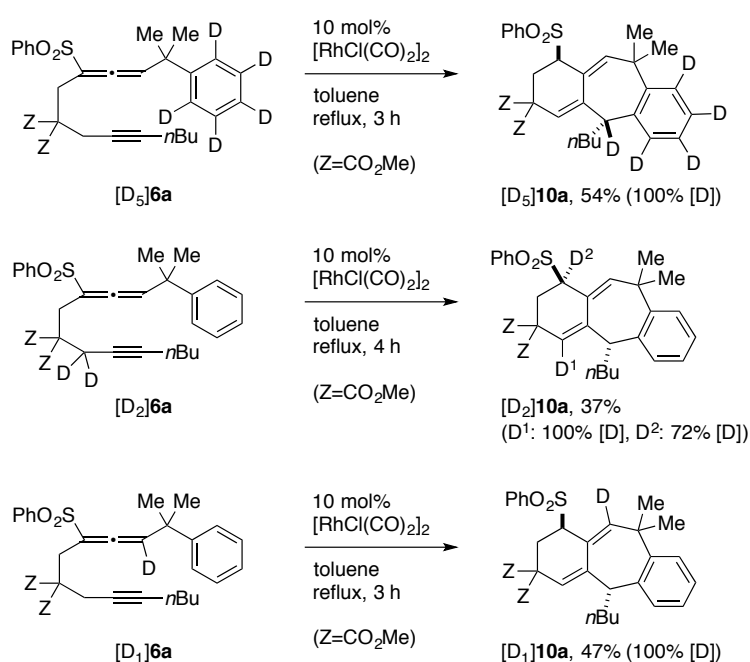
^aReaction conditions: A solution of **6** in DCE was heated in a microwave reactor at 110 °C. ^bIsolated yield.

^cReaction was performed in refluxing toluene. DCE=1,2-dichloroethane, MW=microwave.

To obtain information about the mechanism for the stereoselective production of **10**, we performed three experiments with the deuterated substrates, [D₅]**6a**, [D₂]**6a**, and [D₁]**6a** (Scheme 3). Treatment of the pentadeuterated substrate [D₅]**6a** with [RhCl(CO)₂]₂ in refluxing toluene¹⁴ produced the deuterated product [D₅]**10a** in 54% yield. It became apparent that one deuterium atom on the benzene ring was exclusively incorporated at the benzylic position of the seven-membered ring of [D₅]**10a** in a highly stereoselective manner. In the case of the dideuterated substrate [D₂]**6a**, one of the deuterium atoms at the propargylic position was stereoselectively transferred into the allylic position of the six-membered ring of [D₂]**10a**. For the monodeuterated substrate [D₁]**6a**, the deuterium atom at the allenic position was completely incorporated into the

olefinic position of the seven-membered ring in **[D₁]**10a****. In other words, migration of the deuterium atom could not be observed.

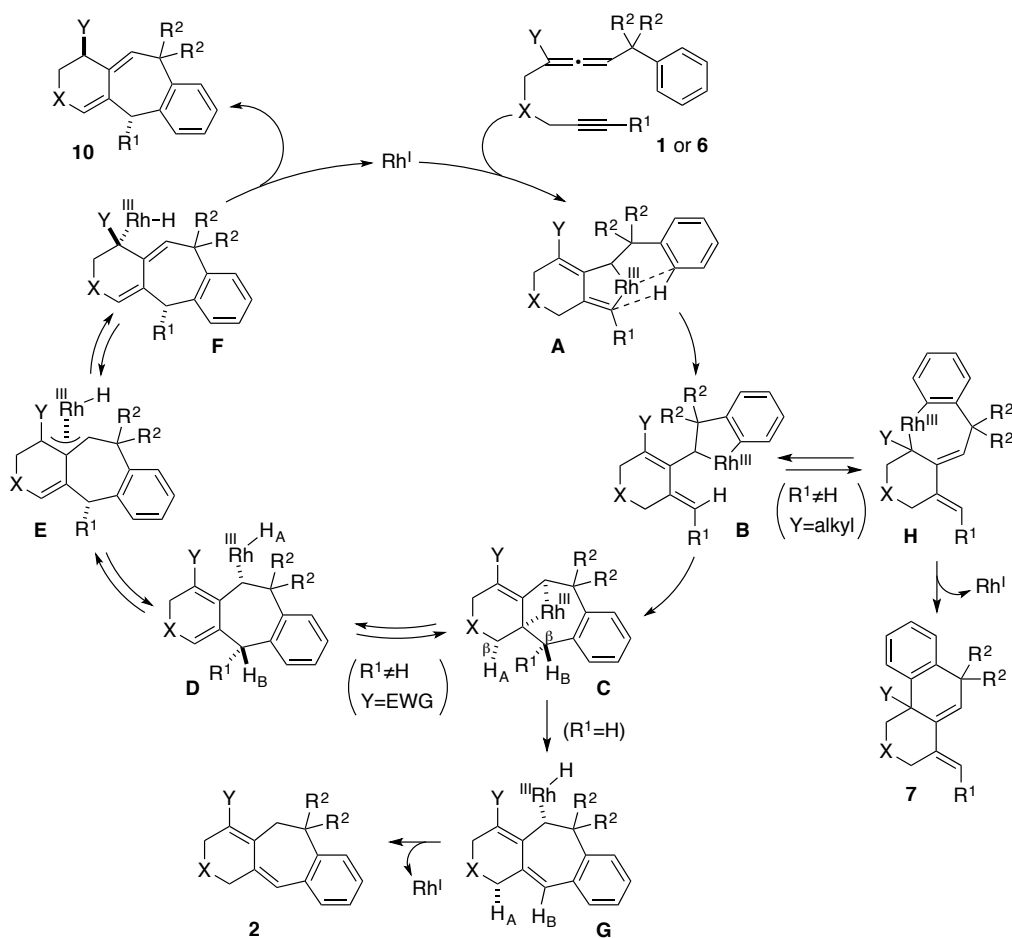
Scheme 3. [RhCl(CO)₂]₂-Catalyzed Cycloisomerization of [D₅]6a**, [D₂]**6a**, [D₁]**6a****



These deuteration experiments provided a fairly informative insight into the mechanistic consideration for the cycloisomerization of **6** into **10** (Scheme 4). The first two steps should be in accordance with those described for the mechanism involving the production of **7** from **6** [Scheme 1, Eq. (2)]. Namely, the oxidative cyclization of an allenic distal double bond and an alkyne in **6** with Rh^I would initially occur as usual to

form the bicyclic rhodacyclopentene intermediate **A**. The σ -bond metathesis¹⁵ between the C_{sp^2} -H bond on the benzene ring and the C_{sp^2} -Rh^{III} bond of **A** would form the arylrhodium intermediate **B**. The insertion of the exocyclic olefin of **B** into the C_{sp^2} -Rh^{III} bond would result in the formation of the intermediate **C**, which collapsed to the σ -allylrhodium intermediate **D** via β -hydride elimination with H_A . The intermediate **D** can be considered being in equilibrium with another σ -allylrhodium intermediate **F** through the π -allylrhodium intermediate **E**. The reductive elimination of Rh^{III} from **F** would produce the final product **10**.

Scheme 4. Plausible Mechanisms for the Formations of 2, 7, and 10



As already mentioned, we previously presumed that the cycloisomerization of benzylallene-terminal alkynes **1**³ proceeded via the mechanism involving the vinylidenecarbene-Rh intermediate **4** [Scheme 1, Eq. (1)].⁴ By taking into consideration the mechanism for the formation of **10** into account, we reconsidered the mechanism for the cycloisomerization of **1** into **2** and the following plausible alternative is now proposed (Scheme 4). Benzylallene-terminal alkynes **1** must undergo the consecutive

oxidative cyclization and the σ -bond metathesis to form the intermediate **C** ($R^1=H$) in a way similar to the formation of **C** ($R^1\neq H$) (Scheme 4). This intermediate **C** ($R^1=H$) now has two β -protons. The molecular model analysis of **C** ($R^1=H$) indicated that the down side hydrogen atom on the seven-membered ring became closely oriented to the Rh center. Thus, β -hydride elimination with H resulting from the acetylenic proton might exclusively occur to produce the σ -allylrhodium intermediate **G**. The reductive elimination of Rh^{III} from **G** finally leads to **2**. The newly proposed mechanism for the production of **2** from **1** does not contradict the experimental results using deuterated substrates shown in a previous paper.³

On the other hand, we already proposed the mechanism for the formation of **7** from **6** ($R^1\neq H$, $Y=alkyl$), which involved intermediates **A** and **B**.⁶ The intermediate **B** would be in equilibrium with another σ -allylrhodium intermediate **H**, which should collapse into **7**.

In summary, treatment of the benzylallene-internal alkynes possessing an EWG (SO_2Ph , $P(O)(OEt)_2$) on the allenyl moiety with $[RhCl(CO)_2]_2$ produced tricyclo[9.4.0.0^{3,8}]pentadecapentaene derivatives. With the aid of deuteration

experiments, we proposed the reaction mechanism that gave us other possibilities about the reaction mechanism for the transformation of benzylallene-terminal alkynes **1** into the tricyclic compounds **2**. The three types of products **2**, **7**, and **10** can be now rationalized in terms of the initial formation of rhodabicyclo[4.3.0]nonadienes as a key and common intermediate in the $[\text{RhCl}(\text{CO})_2]_2$ -catalyzed cycloisomerization of allene-alkyne species (Scheme 4).

Experimental Section

General. Melting points were measured with YANAGIMOTO micro melting point apparatus, and are uncorrected. Infrared spectra were measured with a SHIMADZU FTIR-8700 spectrometer for samples in CHCl_3 . ^1H NMR spectra were measured with JNM-ECS400 or JNM-ECA600 spectrometers for samples in chloroform-*d* (CDCl_3), using either tetramethylsilane (for compound with a phenyl group, 0.00 ppm), CHCl_3 (7.26 ppm) as an internal reference. ^{13}C NMR spectra were measured with JNM-ECS400 or JNM-ECA600 spectrometers for samples in CDCl_3 (77.0 ppm) as an internal reference. High-resolution mass spectra were measured with JMS-T100TD

(DART) mass spectrometers, and mass spectra were measured with JMS-T100TD (DART) mass spectrometers. Microwave reactions were performed in sealed reaction vessels under N₂ atmosphere with a low-power, focused microwave (Biotage initiatorTM 2.5) and the reaction temperatures were monitored by an external surface sensor. Single-crystal X-ray diffraction was measured with R-AXIS RAPID II. Commercially available anhydrous Et₂O, CH₂Cl₂, THF, toluene and 1,2-dichloroethane were employed for reactions. Et₃N was distilled from CaH₂. Commercially available [RhCl(CO)₂]₂ (Kanto Chemical Co.) were employed for reactions. Commercially available hept-2-ynoic acid (Tokyo Chemical Industry), dimethyl 2-(prop-2-ynyl)malonate (Sigma-Aldrich) were employed for reactions. 4-(benzyloxy)but-2-ynol (**S1e**),¹⁶ 5-(hept-2-ynyl)-2,2-dimethyl-5-(prop-2-ynyl)-1,3-dioxane (**S2f**),⁸ⁱ dimethyl 2-(hept-2-ynyl)-2-(prop-2-ynyl)malonate (**S2a**),⁶ 2-methyl-2-phenylpropanal,¹⁷ 2-methyl-2-(*p*-tolyl)propanal,¹⁷ 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-methylpropanal,¹⁸ dimethyl 2-(but-2-ynyl)-2-(4-hydroxy-5-methyl-5-phenylhex-2-ynyl)malonate (**S3b**),⁶ dimethyl 2-(hept-2-ynyl)-2-[4-hydroxy-5-methyl-5-(phenyl-*d*₅)hex-2-ynyl]malonate ([D₅]**S3a**),⁶ dimethyl 2-(hept-2-ynyl)-2-(4-hydroxy-5-methyl-5-phenylhex-2-ynyl-4-*d*)malonate

([D₁]S3a),⁶ dimethyl

2-(hept-2-ynyl)-2-(4-hydroxy-5-methyl-5-phenylhex-2-ynyl)malonate (S3a),⁶ dimethyl

2-(hept-2-ynyl)-2-[5,5-dimethyl-5-phenyl-2-(phenylsulfonyl)hexa-2,3-dienyl]malonate

(6a)³ were known compounds and prepared according to literature procedures. Silica

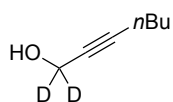
gel (Silica gel 60 N, 40-50 μm, Kanto Chemical Co.) was used for chromatography. All

reactions were carried out under N₂ atmosphere. Organic extracts were dried over

Na₂SO₄. All other reagents were obtained from commercial sources and used as

received.

Preparation of Hept-2-yn-1,1-*d*₂-1-ol ([D₂]S1a).



To a suspension of LiAlD₄ (130 mg, 3.0 mmol) in Et₂O (5.0 mL) was

added hept-2-ynoic acid (250 mg, 2.0 mmol) at 0 °C. After being stirred

for 1 h at room temperature, the reaction was quenched by addition of water at 0 °C,

dried, and passed through a pad of Celite. The filtrate was concentrated to dryness, and

the residue was chromatographed with CH₂Cl₂ to afford [D₂]S1a (120 mg, 52% yield)

as a colorless oil: IR 3325 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.19 (t, 2H, *J* = 7.2 Hz),

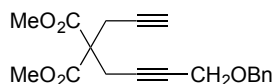
1.99 (s, 1H), 1.49–1.45 (m, 2H), 1.41–1.35 (m, 2H), 0.89 (t, 3H, *J* = 7.2 Hz); ¹³C NMR

(151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 86.4, 78.2, 50.7 (quin, $J = 23.1$ Hz), 30.6, 21.8, 18.3, 13.5; DART MS m/z 115 (M^{+1} , 22.9); DART HRMS calcd for C₇H₁₁D₂O 115.1092, found 115.1091.

General Procedure for Preparation of Diynes S2e, [D₂]S2a from S1e, [D₂]S1a. To a solution of alcohol **S1** (7.5 mmol), PPh₃ (2.4 g, 9.0 mmol) and imidazole (610 mg, 9.0 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (15 mL) was added I₂ (2.3 g, 9.0 mmol) at 0 °C. After being stirred for 1 h at the same temperature, the reaction was quenched by addition of saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ and Na₂S₂O₃, and the mixture was extracted with CH₂Cl₂. The extract was washed with water and brine, dried, and concentrated to dryness. The residue was passed through a short pad of silica gel with hexane to afford the crude propargylic iodide. To a suspension of NaH (220 mg, 5.5 mmol, 60% in mineral oil) in THF (25 mL) was added dimethyl 2-(prop-2-ynyl)malonate (850 mg, 5.0 mmol) at 0 °C. After being stirred for 30 min at room temperature, the crude propargylic iodide was added at 0 °C and the reaction mixture was further stirred for additional 30 min at room temperature. The reaction was quenched by addition of saturated aqueous NH₄Cl, and the mixture was extracted with AcOEt. The extract was washed with water and brine,

dried, and concentrated to dryness. The residue was chromatographed with hexane-AcOEt to afford the corresponding diyne **S2**.

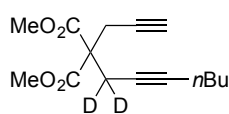
Dimethyl 2-[4-(Benzyloxy)but-2-ynyl]-2-(prop-2-ynyl)malonate (S2e**).**



Compound **S2e** was prepared from **S1e** and was obtained in 78%

yield as a pale yellow oil: IR 3287, 1736 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.36–7.35 (m, 4H), 7.32–7.28 (m, 1H), 4.55 (s, 2H), 4.13 (t, 2H, $J = 2.1$ Hz), 3.765 (s, 3H), 3.764 (s, 3H), 3.07 (t, 2H, $J = 2.1$ Hz), 3.01 (d, 2H, $J = 2.7$ Hz), 2.05 (t, 1H, $J = 2.7$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 169.1, 137.4, 128.4, 128.1, 127.8, 80.8, 79.5, 78.3, 71.8, 71.2, 57.3, 56.5, 53.1, 23.0, 22.8; DART MS m/z 329 ($M^+ + 1$, 100); DART HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{21}\text{O}_5$ 329.1389, found 329.1375.

Dimethyl 2-(Hept-2-ynyl-1,1- d_2)-2-(prop-2-ynyl)malonate ([D_2]S2a**).**



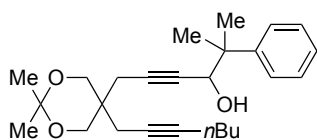
Compound [D_2]**S2a** was prepared from [D_2]**S1a** and was obtained

in 83% yield as a colorless oil: IR 3286, 1740 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 3.73 (s, 6H), 2.94 (d, 2H, $J = 2.7$ Hz), 2.09 (t, 2H, $J = 6.9$ Hz), 2.00 (t, 1H, $J = 2.7$ Hz), 1.43–1.31 (m, 4H), 0.87 (t, 3H, $J = 7.2$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 169.3, 83.9, 78.6, 73.6, 71.4, 56.7, 52.9, 30.8, 22.8–22.2 (m), 21.7, 18.2, 13.5;

7.35–7.28 (m, 7H), 7.24–7.22 (m, 1H), 4.55 (s, 2H), 4.40–4.38 (m, 1H), 4.13 (t, 2H, $J = 2.1$ Hz), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.05–2.93 (m, 4H), 1.62 (d, 1H, $J = 5.8$ Hz), 1.42 (s, 3H), 1.39 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 169.2, 144.9, 137.4, 128.4, 128.2, 128.1, 127.8, 126.7, 126.5, 82.7, 80.9, 80.7, 79.4, 71.23, 71.18, 57.3, 56.5, 53.1, 42.9, 25.1, 23.2, 23.13, 23.06; DART MS m/z 477 ($\text{M}^+ + 1$, 22.6); DART HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{33}\text{O}_6$ 477.2277, found 477.2275.

6-[5-(Hept-2-ynyl)-2,2-dimethyl-1,3-dioxan-5-yl]-2-methyl-2-phenylhex-4-yn-3-ol

(S3f).



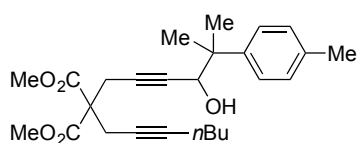
Compound **S3f** was prepared from **S2f** and 2-methyl-2-phenylpropanal and was obtained in 52% yield as

a colorless oil: IR 3449 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.44–7.42 (m, 2H), 7.35–7.33 (m, 2H), 7.25–7.22 (m, 1H), 4.45–4.44 (m, 1H), 3.73–3.70 (m, 2H), 3.63 (d, 1H, $J = 11.7$ Hz), 3.60 (d, 1H, $J = 11.7$ Hz), 2.42 (d, 2H, $J = 2.1$ Hz), 2.21 (t, 2H, $J = 2.4$ Hz), 2.17 (tt, 2H, $J = 6.9, 2.4$ Hz), 1.64 (d, 1H, $J = 5.8$ Hz), 1.50–1.39 (m, 16H), 0.91 (t, 3H, $J = 7.2$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 145.2, 128.2, 126.7, 126.5, 98.0, 83.4, 82.6, 82.0, 75.0, 71.4, 66.09, 66.07, 43.1, 35.5, 31.1, 24.9, 24.4, 23.5, 23.1, 23.0,

21.9, 18.4, 13.6; DART MS m/z 397 ($M^+ + 1$, 58.6); DART HRMS calcd for $C_{26}H_{37}O_3$ 397.2743, found 397.2735.

Dimethyl 2-(Hept-2-ynyl)-2-[4-hydroxy-5-methyl-5-(*p*-tolyl)hex-2-ynyl]malonate

(S3g).

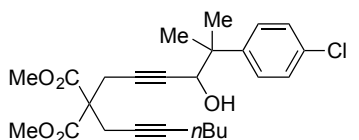


Compound **S3g** was prepared from **S2g** and 2-methyl-2-(*p*-tolyl)propanal and was obtained in 73%

yield as a colorless oil: IR 3536, 1738 cm^{-1} ; 1H NMR (600 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.30 (d, 2H, $J = 8.2$ Hz), 7.15 (d, 2H, $J = 7.9$ Hz), 4.36–4.35 (m, 1H), 3.733 (s, 3H), 3.726 (s, 3H), 2.99 (d, 2H, $J = 1.4$ Hz), 2.90–2.84 (m, 2H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 2.12 (tt, 2H, $J = 7.2, 2.4$ Hz), 1.59 (d, 1H, $J = 5.8$ Hz), 1.47–1.34 (m, 10H), 0.90 (t, 3H, $J = 7.2$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 169.5, 141.9, 136.0, 128.9, 126.7, 83.9, 82.5, 80.9, 73.8, 71.3, 56.9, 52.9, 42.6, 30.9, 25.4, 23.2, 23.0, 22.9, 21.8, 20.9, 18.3, 13.5; DART MS m/z 427 ($M^+ + 1$, 2.14); DART HRMS calcd for $C_{26}H_{35}O_5$ 427.2485, found 427.2482.

Dimethyl 2-[5-(4-Chlorophenyl)-4-hydroxy-5-methylhex-2-ynyl]-

2-(hept-2-ynyl)malonate (S3h).

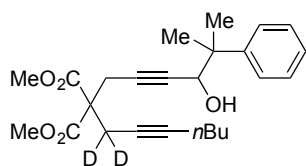


Compound **S3h** was prepared from **S2h** and

2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-methylpropanal and was obtained in 55% yield as a colorless oil:
 IR 3519, 1738 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.37–7.33 (m, 2H), 7.31–7.28 (m, 2H), 4.34–4.33 (m, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 2.97 (d, 2H, $J = 1.8$ Hz), 2.84 (t, 2H, $J = 2.3$ Hz), 2.12 (tt, 2H, $J = 6.9, 2.3$ Hz), 1.66 (d, 1H, $J = 5.5$ Hz), 1.47–1.32 (m, 10H), 0.90 (t, 3H, $J = 7.3$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 169.4, 143.6, 132.3, 128.3, 128.1, 84.0, 82.3, 81.4, 73.6, 71.0, 56.8, 52.9, 42.7, 30.9, 24.9, 23.4, 23.2, 22.9, 21.8, 18.3, 13.5; DART MS m/z 447 ($\text{M}^+ + 1$, 9.27); DART HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{32}\text{ClO}_5$ 447.1938, found 447.1933.

Dimethyl 2-(Hept-2-ynyl-1,1- d_2)-

2-(4-hydroxy-5-methyl-5-phenylhex-2-ynyl)malonate ([D_2]S3a).



Compound [D_2]S3a was prepared from [D_2]S2a and 2-methyl-2-phenylpropanal and was obtained in 98% yield as

a colorless oil: IR 3538, 1739 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.42–7.40 (m, 2H), 7.34–7.32 (m, 2H), 7.24–7.21 (m, 1H), 4.38 (brs, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 2.98 (d, 2H, $J = 1.0$ Hz), 2.11 (t, 2H, $J = 6.9$ Hz), 1.82 (d, 1H, $J = 5.2$ Hz), 1.45–1.33 (m, 10H), 0.89 (t, 3H, $J = 7.2$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 169.4, 145.0, 128.1, 126.7,

126.3, 83.9, 82.4, 80.8, 73.7, 71.1, 56.7, 52.8, 42.9, 30.8, 25.0, 23.0, 22.9–22.3 (m), 21.7, 18.2, 13.5; DART MS m/z 415 ($M^+ + 1$, 9.95); DART HRMS calcd for $C_{25}H_{31}D_2O_5$ 415.2454, found 415.2454.

General Procedure for Preparation of Benzylallene-Alkynes 6b,e–h, [D₅]6a, [D₂]6a,

[D₁]6a from S3b,e–h, [D₅]S3a, [D₂]S3a, [D₁]S3a. To a solution of propargylic alcohol

S3 (1.0 mmol) and Et₃N (0.56 mL, 4.0 mmol) in THF (10 mL) was added a solution of

PhSCI (0.39 mL, 3.5 mmol) in THF (3.5 mL) slowly at –78 °C. After being stirred for 1

h at the same temperature, the reaction was quenched by addition of saturated aqueous

NaHCO₃, and the mixture was extracted with AcOEt. The extract was washed with

water and brine, dried and concentrated to dryness. The residue was passed through a

short pad of silica gel with hexane-AcOEt to afford the crude sulfoxide. To a solution of

the crude sulfoxide in CH₂Cl₂ (10 mL) was added *m*CPBA (260 mg, 1.5 mmol) at 0 °C.

After being stirred for 1 h at the same temperature, the reaction was quenched by

addition of saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ and Na₂S₂O₃, and the mixture was extracted

with CH₂Cl₂. The extract was washed with water, brine, dried, and concentrated to

dryness. The residue was chromatographed with hexane-AcOEt to afford the

corresponding benzylallene-alkyne **6**.

Dimethyl 2-(But-2-ynyl)-2-[5-methyl-5-phenyl-2-(phenylsulfonyl)hexa-2,3-dienyl]malonate (6b).

Compound **6b** was prepared from **S3b** and was obtained in 96% yield as a colorless crystal: m.p. 86–88 °C (hexane-AcOEt); IR 1956, 1736, 1317, 1148 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.85–7.83 (m, 2H), 7.61–7.59 (m, 1H), 7.51–7.49 (m, 2H), 7.42–7.41 (m, 2H), 7.34–7.31 (m, 2H), 7.24–7.21 (m, 1H), 5.98 (t, 1H, $J = 2.7$ Hz), 3.67 (s, 3H), 3.65 (s, 3H), 3.14 (dd, 1H, $J = 16.2, 2.7$ Hz), 3.07 (dd, 1H, $J = 16.2, 2.7$ Hz), 2.88–2.81 (m, 2H), 1.67 (t, 3H, $J = 2.4$ Hz), 1.46 (s, 3H), 1.39 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 203.3, 169.6, 169.4, 147.1, 140.1, 133.3, 129.0, 128.4, 128.3, 126.5, 126.0, 112.8, 110.5, 79.5, 72.9, 56.6, 52.92, 52.89, 40.9, 29.1, 28.9, 28.0, 23.1, 3.5; DART MS m/z 495 ($\text{M}^+ + 1$, 100); DART HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{31}\text{O}_6\text{S}$ 495.1841, found 495.1847.

Dimethyl 2-[4-(Benzyloxy)but-2-ynyl]-2-[5-methyl-5-phenyl-2-(phenylsulfonyl)hexa-2,3-dienyl]malonate (6e).

Compound **6e** was prepared from **S3e** and was obtained in 88% yield as a yellow oil: IR

1955, 1737, 1305, 1149 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.84–7.82 (m, 2H), 7.58–7.55 (m, 1H), 7.48–7.45 (m, 2H), 7.41–7.39 (m, 2H), 7.36–7.27 (m, 7H), 7.23–7.20 (m, 1H), 5.99 (dd, 1H, $J = 3.1, 2.4$ Hz), 4.51 (s, 2H), 4.05 (t, 2H, $J = 2.1$ Hz), 3.67 (s, 6H), 3.15 (dd, 1H, $J = 15.8, 3.1$ Hz), 3.10 (dd, 1H, $J = 15.8, 2.4$ Hz), 2.970–2.968 (m, 2H), 1.46 (s, 3H), 1.38 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 203.2, 169.3, 169.2, 146.9, 139.9, 137.4, 133.4, 129.0, 128.4, 128.3, 128.1, 127.8, 126.5, 125.9, 113.0, 110.4, 80.8, 79.7, 71.1, 57.2, 56.4, 53.0, 40.8, 29.2, 29.0, 28.0, 23.1; DART MS m/z 601 ($\text{M}^+ + 1$, 100); DART HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{35}\text{H}_{37}\text{O}_7\text{S}$ 601.2260, found 601.2271.

5-(Hept-2-ynyl)-2,2-dimethyl-5-[5-methyl-5-phenyl-2-(phenylsulfonyl)hexa-2,3-dienyl]-1,3-dioxane (6f).

Compound **6f** was prepared from **S3f** and was obtained in 76% yield as a colorless oil:

IR 1953, 1306, 1149 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.84–7.83 (m, 2H), 7.61–7.58 (m, 1H), 7.51–7.48 (m, 2H), 7.40–7.38 (m, 2H), 7.33–7.31 (m, 2H), 7.24–7.21 (m, 1H), 5.95 (dd, 1H, $J = 3.4, 2.1$ Hz), 3.72 (d, 1H, $J = 11.7$ Hz), 3.67 (s, 2H), 3.63 (d, 1H, $J = 11.7$ Hz), 2.57 (dd, 1H, $J = 15.5, 3.4$ Hz), 2.44–2.40 (m, 2H), 2.36 (dt, 1H, $J = 16.8, 2.4$ Hz), 2.10 (tt, 2H, $J = 7.2, 2.4$ Hz), 1.46–1.32 (m, 16H), 0.88 (t, 3H, $J = 7.2$ Hz); ^{13}C

NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 203.7, 147.0, 140.1, 133.3, 129.0, 128.4, 128.3, 126.5, 126.0, 111.9, 111.1, 98.1, 83.5, 75.3, 66.41, 66.37, 40.9, 36.4, 31.1, 29.6, 29.1, 28.5, 24.5, 23.0, 22.6, 22.0, 18.4, 13.6; DART MS m/z 521 ($M^+ + 1$, 100); DART HRMS calcd for C₃₂H₄₁O₄S 521.2726, found 521.2729.

Dimethyl 2-(Hept-2-ynyl)-2-[5-methyl-2-(phenylsulfonyl)-5-(*p*-tolyl)hexa-2,3-dienyl]malonate (6g).

Compound **6g** was prepared from **S3g** and was obtained in 23% yield as a colorless oil:

IR 1954, 1738, 1305, 1150 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.84–7.83 (m, 2H), 7.61–7.58 (m, 1H), 7.51–7.48 (m, 2H), 7.29 (d, 2H, $J = 8.2$ Hz), 7.13 (d, 2H, $J = 7.9$ Hz), 5.96 (dd, 1H, $J = 3.4, 2.4$ Hz), 3.67 (s, 3H), 3.65 (s, 3H), 3.13 (dd, 1H, $J = 16.2, 3.4$ Hz), 3.07 (dd, 1H, $J = 16.2, 2.4$ Hz), 2.90–2.83 (m, 2H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 2.05 (tt, 2H, $J = 6.9, 2.4$ Hz), 1.45 (s, 3H), 1.40–1.30 (m, 7H), 0.87 (t, 3H, $J = 7.2$ Hz); ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 203.3, 169.6, 169.4, 144.1, 140.2, 136.0, 133.3, 129.01, 128.97, 128.3, 125.9, 112.9, 110.4, 84.2, 73.7, 56.7, 52.9, 52.8, 40.6, 30.8, 29.2, 28.8, 28.1, 23.1, 21.8, 20.9, 18.3, 13.5; DART MS m/z 551 ($M^+ + 1$, 100); DART HRMS calcd for C₃₂H₃₉O₆S 551.2467, found 551.2474.

**Dimethyl 2-[5-(4-Chlorophenyl)-5-methyl-2-(phenylsulfonyl)hexa-2,3-dienyl]-
2-(hept-2-ynyl)malonate (6h).**

Compound **6h** was prepared from **S3h** and was obtained in 61% yield as a colorless oil:

IR 1954, 1738, 1305, 1150 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.82–7.81 (m, 2H), 7.63–7.60 (m, 1H), 7.53–7.50 (m, 2H), 7.37–7.35 (m, 2H), 7.30–7.28 (m, 2H), 5.93 (dd, 1H, $J = 3.1, 2.4$ Hz), 3.68 (s, 3H), 3.64 (s, 3H), 3.11 (dd, 1H, $J = 15.8, 3.1$ Hz), 3.04 (dd, 1H, $J = 15.8, 2.4$ Hz), 2.85 (brs, 2H), 2.04 (tt, 2H, $J = 6.9, 2.4$ Hz), 1.46 (s, 3H), 1.41–1.29 (m, 7H), 0.87 (t, 3H, $J = 7.2$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 203.2, 169.5, 169.3, 145.6, 140.0, 133.4, 132.3, 129.0, 128.4, 128.2, 127.5, 112.4, 110.7, 84.3, 73.6, 56.7, 52.91, 52.87, 40.6, 30.8, 29.1, 28.8, 28.0, 23.1, 21.8, 18.2, 13.5; DART MS m/z 571 ($\text{M}^+ + 1$, 100); DART HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{31}\text{H}_{36}\text{ClO}_6\text{S}$ 571.1921, found 571.1921.

Dimethyl 2-(Hept-2-ynyl)-

2-[5-methyl-5-(phenyl- d_5)-2-(phenylsulfonyl)hexa-2,3-dienyl]malonate ([D₅]6a).

Compound [D₅]**6a** was prepared from [D₅]**S3a** and was obtained in 84% yield as a colorless oil: IR 1955, 1737, 1305, 1148 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.84–7.83 (m, 2H), 7.61–7.58 (m, 1H), 7.51–7.48 (m, 2H), 5.97 (dd, 1H, $J = 3.1, 2.4$ Hz), 3.66 (s,

3H), 3.64 (s, 3H), 3.14 (dd, 1H, $J = 16.2, 3.1$ Hz), 3.08 (dd, 1H, $J = 16.2, 2.4$ Hz), 2.90–2.83 (m, 2H), 2.05 (tt, 2H, $J = 6.9, 2.4$ Hz), 1.47 (s, 3H), 1.40–1.30 (m, 7H), 0.87 (t, 3H, $J = 7.2$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 203.2, 169.5, 169.3, 146.8, 140.1, 133.3, 129.0, 128.2, 127.8 (t, $J = 24.6$ Hz), 125.9 (t, $J = 24.6$ Hz), 125.5 (t, $J = 24.6$ Hz), 112.7, 110.5, 84.2, 73.7, 56.7, 52.80, 52.78, 40.7, 30.8, 29.1, 28.8, 27.9, 23.1, 21.7, 18.2, 13.5; DART MS m/z 542 ($M^+ + 1$, 100); DART HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{31}\text{H}_{32}\text{D}_5\text{O}_6\text{S}$ 542.2625, found 542.2638.

Dimethyl 2-(Hept-2-ynyl-1,1- d_2)-

2-[5-methyl-5-phenyl-2-(phenylsulfonyl)hexa-2,3-dienyl]malonate ([D₂]6a).

Compound [D₂]6a was prepared from [D₂]S3a and was obtained in 84% yield as a colorless oil: IR 1954, 1737, 1306, 1148 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.84–7.83 (m, 2H), 7.61–7.58 (m, 1H), 7.51–7.48 (m, 2H), 7.41–7.40 (m, 2H), 7.34–7.31 (m, 2H), 7.23–7.21 (m, 1H), 5.97 (dd, 1H, $J = 3.1, 2.4$ Hz), 3.66 (s, 3H), 3.64 (s, 3H), 3.14 (dd, 1H, $J = 16.2, 3.1$ Hz), 3.08 (dd, 1H, $J = 16.2, 2.4$ Hz), 2.04 (t, 2H, $J = 6.9$ Hz), 1.46 (s, 3H), 1.40–1.30 (m, 7H), 0.87 (t, 3H, $J = 7.2$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 203.2, 169.5, 169.3, 147.0, 140.1, 133.3, 128.9, 128.3, 128.2, 126.4, 125.9, 112.7, 110.5, 84.2,

73.6, 56.6, 52.79, 52.77, 40.8, 30.8, 29.1, 28.7, 27.9, 22.6 (quin, $J = 20.0$ Hz), 21.7, 18.2, 13.5; DART MS m/z 539 ($M^+ + 1$, 100); DART HRMS calcd for $C_{31}H_{35}D_2O_6S$ 539.2436, found 539.2432.

Dimethyl 2-(Hept-2-ynyl)-2-[5-methyl-5-phenyl-2-(phenylsulfonyl)-4- d]malonate ([D₁]6a).

Compound [D₁]6a was prepared from [D₁]S3a and was obtained in 84% yield as a colorless oil: IR 1948, 1737, 1305, 1149 cm^{-1} ; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.85–7.83 (m, 2H), 7.61–7.59 (m, 1H), 7.51–7.48 (m, 2H), 7.42–7.40 (m, 2H), 7.34–7.31 (m, 2H), 7.24–7.21 (m, 1H), 3.67 (s, 3H), 3.64 (s, 3H), 3.14 (d, 1H, $J = 16.2$ Hz), 3.08 (d, 1H, $J = 16.2$ Hz), 2.90–2.83 (m, 2H), 2.04 (tt, 2H, $J = 6.9, 2.4$ Hz), 1.46 (s, 3H), 1.41–1.29 (m, 7H), 0.87 (t, 3H, $J = 7.2$ Hz); ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 203.3, 169.6, 169.4, 147.1, 140.1, 133.3, 129.0, 128.4, 128.3, 126.5, 126.0, 112.5 (t, $J = 24.6$ Hz), 110.6, 84.3, 73.7, 56.7, 52.87, 52.85, 40.8, 30.8, 29.1, 28.8, 28.0, 23.1, 21.8, 18.3, 14.2, 13.5; DART MS m/z 538 ($M^+ + 1$, 100); DART HRMS calcd for $C_{31}H_{36}DO_6S$ 538.2374, found 538.2384.

General Procedure for Preparation of Benzylallene-Alkynes 6c,d from S3a,b. To a solution of propargylic alcohol S3 (1.0 mmol) and Et₃N (0.28 mL, 2.0 mmol) in THF

(10 mL) was added (EtO)₂PCl (0.43 mL, 3.0 mmol) at -78 °C. After being stirred for 1.5 h at the same temperature, the reaction mixture was refluxed, and further stirred for additional 1.5 h. Then, the reaction was quenched by addition of saturated aqueous NaHCO₃, and the mixture was extracted with AcOEt. The extract was washed with water and brine, dried and concentrated to dryness. The residue was chromatographed with hexane-AcOEt to afford the corresponding benzylallene-alkyne **6**.

Dimethyl 2-[2-(Diethoxyphosphoryl)-5-methyl-5-phenylhexa-2,3-dienyl]-2-(hept-2-ynyl)malonate (6c).

Compound **6c** was prepared from **S3a** and was obtained in 33% yield as a colorless oil:

IR 1950, 1737 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.47–7.46 (m, 2H), 7.33–7.30 (m, 2H), 7.21–7.18 (m, 1H), 5.60 (dt, 1H, *J* = 13.1, 2.7 Hz), 4.13–3.98 (m, 4H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 3.68 (s, 3H), 3.05–2.93 (m, 2H), 2.92 (t, 2H, *J* = 2.1 Hz), 2.12–2.09 (m, 2H), 1.50 (s, 3H), 1.45 (s, 3H), 1.44–1.35 (m, 4H), 1.32 (td, 6H, *J* = 7.2, 3.8 Hz), 0.88 (t, 3H, *J* = 7.2 Hz); ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 208.3 (d, *J* = 4.3 Hz), 170.0, 169.8, 147.9 (d, *J* = 2.9 Hz), 128.1, 126.2, 126.0, 105.0 (d, *J* = 17.3 Hz), 91.5 (d, *J* = 189.3 Hz), 83.8, 74.3, 62.2 (d, *J* = 5.8 Hz), 62.1 (d, *J* = 5.8 Hz), 57.1 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 52.68, 52.65, 39.9 (d, *J* =

4.3 Hz), 30.9, 29.6 (d, $J = 10.1$ Hz), 29.4 (d, $J = 2.9$ Hz), 28.4 (d, $J = 2.9$ Hz), 22.9, 21.7, 18.3, 16.3 (d, $J = 2.9$ Hz), 16.2 (d, $J = 2.9$ Hz), 13.5; ^{31}P NMR (243 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 17.9; DART MS m/z 533 ($\text{M}^+ + 1$, 100); DART HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{42}\text{O}_7\text{P}$ 533.2668, found 533.2683.

Dimethyl 2-(But-2-ynyl)-

2-[2-(diethoxyphosphoryl)-5-methyl-5-phenylhexa-2,3-dienyl]malonate (6d).

Compound **6d** was prepared from **S3b** and was obtained in 54% yield as a colorless oil:

IR 1949, 1736 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.47–7.46 (m, 2H), 7.33–7.30 (m, 2H), 7.21–7.19 (m, 1H), 5.60 (dt, 1H, $J = 13.1, 2.4$ Hz), 4.13–3.99 (m, 4H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.69 (s, 3H), 3.05–2.94 (m, 2H), 2.90 (q, 2H, $J = 2.4$ Hz), 1.74 (t, 3H, $J = 2.4$ Hz), 1.50 (s, 3H), 1.45 (s, 3H), 1.32 (td, 6H, $J = 6.9, 3.1$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 208.3 (d, $J = 2.9$ Hz), 170.0, 169.9, 148.0 (d, $J = 2.9$ Hz), 128.2, 126.2, 126.0, 105.0 (d, $J = 15.9$ Hz), 91.5 (d, $J = 189.3$ Hz), 79.0, 73.5, 62.2 (d, $J = 5.8$ Hz), 62.1 (d, $J = 5.8$ Hz), 57.0 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz), 52.8, 52.7, 39.9 (d, $J = 5.8$ Hz), 29.7 (d, $J = 10.1$ Hz), 29.4 (d, $J = 2.9$ Hz), 28.4 (d, $J = 2.9$ Hz), 22.9, 16.31 (d, $J = 4.3$ Hz), 16.28 (d, $J = 5.8$ Hz), 3.5; ^{31}P NMR (243 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 17.8; DART MS m/z 491 ($\text{M}^+ + 1$, 100); DART HRMS

calcd for C₂₆H₃₆O₇P 491.2199, found 491.2189.

General Procedure for [RhCl(CO)₂]₂-Catalyzed Cycloisomerization of **6 with Microwave Reactor (Table 1).** A solution of the benzylallene-alkyne **6** (0.10 mmol) and [RhCl(CO)₂]₂ (1.9 mg, 0.0050 mmol) in DCE (1.0 mL) was heated at 110 °C under microwave irradiation until the starting material was completely consumed (monitored by TLC analysis). The reaction mixture was subsequently cooled to 50 °C with compressed air, the vessel was opened, and DCE was evaporated off. The residue was chromatographed with hexane-AcOEt to afford the corresponding cyclized product **10**.

The chemical yields are summarized in Table 1.

(2*S,12*R**)-2-Butyl-14,14-Bis(methoxycarbonyl)-9,9-dimethyl-**

12-(phenylsulfonyl)tricyclo[9.4.0.0^{3,8}]pentadeca-1(15),3(8),4,6,10-pentaene (10a).

Compound **10a** was a colorless plate: m.p. 129–132 °C (chloroform-hexane); IR 1734, 1308, 1146 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.89–7.88 (m, 2H), 7.68–7.65 (m, 1H), 7.58–7.56 (m, 2H), 7.23–7.17 (m, 3H), 7.12–7.09 (m, 1H), 5.88 (s, 1H), 5.20 (s, 1H), 3.99 (dd, 1H, *J* = 7.2, 4.7 Hz), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.80 (t, 1H, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 3.43 (s, 3H), 2.92 (dd, 1H, *J* = 14.8, 4.7 Hz), 2.79 (dd, 1H, *J* = 14.8, 7.2 Hz), 2.08–2.02 (m, 1H),

1.98–1.92 (m, 1H), 1.49–1.36 (m, 7H), 1.28 (s, 3H), 0.98 (t, 3H, $J = 6.9$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 170.4, 169.4, 144.4, 144.1, 141.3, 138.1, 137.5, 133.5, 129.5, 128.9, 127.0, 126.1, 126.0, 125.2, 124.3, 118.9, 66.7, 54.0, 53.1, 53.0, 45.6, 41.2, 33.3, 30.3, 29.5, 28.9, 27.0, 23.0, 14.1; DART MS m/z 537 ($\text{M}^+ + 1$, 31); DART HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{31}\text{H}_{37}\text{O}_6\text{S}$ 537.2311, found 537.2311. The structure of **10a** was unambiguously determined by an X-ray crystallography (See the Supporting Information for details).

(2*S,12*R**)-14,14-Bis(methoxycarbonyl)-2,9,9-trimethyl-**

12-(phenylsulfonyl)tricyclo[9.4.0.0^{3,8}]pentadeca-1(15),3(8),4,6,10-pentaene (10b).

Compound **10b** was a colorless crystal: m.p. 166–169 °C (hexane-AcOEt); IR 1732, 1306, 1144 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.88–7.87 (m, 2H), 7.67–7.64 (m, 1H), 7.57–7.54 (m, 2H), 7.24–7.23 (m, 2H), 7.20–7.17 (m, 1H), 7.13–7.11 (m, 1H), 5.94 (s, 1H), 5.30 (s, 1H), 4.05 (t, 1H, $J = 6.2$ Hz), 3.96 (q, 1H, $J = 6.9$ Hz), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.42 (s, 3H), 2.83 (d, 2H, $J = 6.2$ Hz), 1.49 (d, 3H, $J = 6.9$ Hz), 1.45 (s, 3H), 1.29 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 170.4, 169.3, 144.6, 143.9, 141.7, 139.2, 137.4, 133.5, 129.6, 128.8, 127.0, 126.2, 125.7, 125.2, 124.1, 118.9, 67.0, 53.9, 53.1, 52.9, 41.2, 39.8, 33.1,

30.4, 27.2, 15.7; DART MS m/z 495 ($M^+ + 1$, 100); DART HRMS calcd for $C_{28}H_{31}O_6S$ 495.1841, found 495.1840.

(2*S,12*R**)-2-Butyl-12-(diethoxyphosphoryl)-14,14-bis(methoxycarbonyl)-**

9,9-dimethyltricyclo[9.4.0.0^{3,8}]pentadeca-1(15),3(8),4,6,10-pentaene (10c).

Compound **10c** was a colorless oil: IR 1735 cm^{-1} ; 1H NMR (600 MHz, $CDCl_3$, 55 °C) δ 7.35–7.33 (m, 1H), 7.18–7.11 (m, 3H), 5.91 (d, 1H, $J = 2.4$ Hz), 5.85 (s, 1H), 4.14–4.10 (m, 4H), 3.84 (t, 1H, $J = 7.2$ Hz), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.52 (s, 3H), 2.97 (ddd, 1H, $J = 22.0, 8.9, 5.8$ Hz), 2.65 (ddd, 1H, $J = 17.9, 13.7, 5.8$ Hz), 2.32 (ddd, 1H, $J = 13.7, 11.3, 8.9$ Hz), 2.05–1.93 (m, 2H), 1.56 (s, 6H), 1.38–1.26 (m, 10H), 0.91 (t, 3H, $J = 6.9$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, $CDCl_3$, 55 °C) δ 170.8, 170.1, 145.0, 141.7, 140.5 (d, $J = 5.8$ Hz), 139.7 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz), 126.7, 126.4, 126.1, 119.3, 62.0 (d, $J = 5.8$ Hz), 61.9 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz), 55.1 (d, $J = 10.1$ Hz), 52.7, 52.5, 50.0, 42.1, 38.4 (d, $J = 143.1$ Hz), 33.6, 32.0, 31.5, 30.0, 29.5, 22.7, 16.50 (d, $J = 5.8$ Hz), 16.46 (d, $J = 5.8$ Hz), 13.9; ^{31}P NMR (243 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 28.4; DART MS m/z 533 ($M^+ + 1$, 100); DART HRMS calcd for $C_{29}H_{42}O_7P$ 533.2668, found 533.2667.

(2*S,12*R**)-12-(Diethoxyphosphoryl)-14,14-bis(methoxycarbonyl)-**

2,9,9-trimethyltricyclo[9.4.0.0^{3,8}]pentadeca-1(15),3(8),4,6,10-pentaene (10d).

Compound **10d** was a pale yellow crystal: m.p. 134–136 °C (hexane-AcOEt); IR 1733 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.34–7.33 (m, 1H), 7.29–7.28 (m, 1H), 7.22–7.19 (m, 1H), 7.17–7.14 (m, 1H), 5.94 (s, 1H), 5.83–5.82 (m, 1H), 4.22 (q, 1H, $J = 7.2$ Hz), 4.12–4.05 (m, 4H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.49 (s, 3H), 3.03–2.97 (m, 1H), 2.58 (ddd, 1H, $J = 24.7, 14.1, 6.9$ Hz), 2.47 (td, 1H, $J = 14.1, 6.2$ Hz), 1.61 (s, 3H), 1.60 (d, 3H, $J = 7.2$ Hz), 1.54 (s, 3H), 1.33 (td, 6H, $J = 6.9, 3.8$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 170.7, 169.9, 144.8, 142.1, 140.2 (d, $J = 10.1$ Hz), 140.1 (d, $J = 4.3$ Hz), 127.0 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz), 126.7, 126.1, 125.4, 124.5, 118.4, 62.0 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz), 54.4 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz), 52.84, 52.76, 41.4 (d, $J = 2.9$ Hz), 40.7, 38.4 (d, $J = 140.2$ Hz), 33.5, 30.9 (d, $J = 4.3$ Hz), 28.4 (d, $J = 4.3$ Hz), 16.6, 16.51 (d, $J = 5.8$ Hz), 16.48 (d, $J = 2.9$ Hz); ^{31}P NMR (243 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 28.5; DART MS m/z 491 ($\text{M}^+ + 1$, 100); DART HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{36}\text{O}_7\text{P}$ 491.2199, found 491. 2198.

(2*S,12*R**)-2-[(Benzyloxy)methyl]-14,14-bis(methoxycarbonyl)-9,9-dimethyl-**

12-(phenylsulfonyl)tricyclo[9.4.0.0^{3,8}]pentadeca-1(15),3(8),4,6,10-pentaene (10e).

Compound **10e** was a yellow amorphous solid: IR 1735, 1307, 1146 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR

(600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.87–7.86 (m, 2H), 7.59–7.56 (m, 1H), 7.51–7.49 (m, 2H), 7.41–7.36 (m, 4H), 7.33–7.30 (m, 1H), 7.25–7.24 (m, 1H), 7.18–7.16 (m, 1H), 7.14–7.10 (m, 2H), 5.79 (s, 1H), 5.27 (s, 1H), 4.68 (d, 1H, J = 12.0 Hz), 4.61 (d, 1H, J = 12.0 Hz), 4.21 (dd, 1H, J = 9.3, 8.6 Hz), 4.12 (dd, 1H, J = 8.6, 5.5 Hz), 4.03 (dd, 1H, J = 6.9, 5.5 Hz), 3.87 (dd, 1H, J = 9.3, 5.5 Hz), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.41 (s, 3H), 2.87–2.80 (m, 2H), 1.43 (s, 3H), 1.27 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.2, 169.2, 144.6, 144.1, 138.7, 138.2, 137.3, 136.4, 133.5, 129.6, 128.9, 128.3, 127.9, 127.6, 127.0, 126.3, 125.5, 124.8, 119.4, 73.4, 68.5, 66.6, 54.0, 53.2, 53.0, 45.9, 41.3, 33.1, 30.4, 27.1; DART MS m/z 601 (M^+ +1, 12.1); DART HRMS calcd for C₃₅H₃₇O₇S 601.2260, found 601.2271.

(2*S,12*R**)-2-Butyl-2',2',9,9-tetramethyl-12-(phenylsulfonyl)**

spiro{tricyclo[9.4.0.0^{3,8}]pentadeca-1(15),3(8),4,6,10-pentaene-14,5'-[1,3]dioxane}

(10f).

Compound **10f** was a pale yellow oil: IR 1306, 1149 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.91–7.89 (m, 2H), 7.68–7.65 (m, 1H), 7.59–7.56 (m, 2H), 7.24–7.19 (m, 3H), 7.13–7.11 (m, 1H), 5.43 (s, 1H), 4.89 (s, 1H), 3.98 (dd, 1H, J = 11.7, 1.4 Hz), 3.93 (s,

1H, $J = 11.7$ Hz), 3.89 (t, 1H, $J = 7.6$ Hz), 3.80 (dd, 1H, $J = 7.6, 3.1$ Hz), 3.42 (d, 1H, $J = 11.3$ Hz), 3.22 (dd, 1H, $J = 11.3, 1.4$ Hz), 2.73 (dd, 1H, $J = 15.5, 3.1$ Hz), 2.08–1.93 (m, 3H), 1.47–1.42 (m, 7H), 1.40 (s, 3H), 1.37 (s, 3H), 1.30 (s, 3H), 0.97 (t, 3H, $J = 6.9$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 144.2, 142.8, 142.2, 137.9, 137.6, 133.4, 129.4, 128.8, 127.9, 127.0, 125.9, 125.2, 124.3, 123.1, 97.7, 69.2, 68.0, 67.9, 45.3, 41.1, 34.5, 33.3, 30.5, 29.5, 28.9, 27.8, 25.9, 23.0, 21.4, 14.1; DART MS m/z 521 ($\text{M}^+ + 1$, 100); DART HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{32}\text{H}_{41}\text{O}_4\text{S}$ 521.2726, found 521.2735.

(2*S,12*R**)-2-Butyl-14,14-bis(methoxycarbonyl)-5,9,9-trimethyl-**

12-(phenylsulfonyl)tricyclo[9.4.0.0^{3,8}]pentadeca-1(15),3(8),4,6,10-pentaene (10g).

Compound **10g** was a pale yellow oil: IR 1736, 1307, 1146 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.88–7.87 (m, 2H), 7.67–7.65 (m, 1H), 7.58–7.55 (m, 2H), 7.10 (d, 1H, $J = 8.2$ Hz), 6.99 (s, 1H), 6.91 (d, 1H, $J = 7.9$ Hz), 5.88 (s, 1H), 5.16 (s, 1H), 3.97 (dd, 1H, $J = 7.2, 4.5$ Hz), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.77 (t, 1H, $J = 7.6$ Hz), 3.46 (s, 3H), 2.95 (dd, 1H, $J = 15.1, 4.5$ Hz), 2.78 (dd, 1H, $J = 15.1, 7.2$ Hz), 2.29 (s, 3H), 2.05–1.94 (m, 2H), 1.51–1.35 (m, 7H), 1.24 (s, 3H), 0.99 (t, 3H, $J = 7.2$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 170.4, 169.5, 144.7, 141.2, 138.0, 137.6, 136.4, 133.5, 129.5, 128.9, 126.6, 126.0, 125.2, 125.1, 118.9,

66.8, 54.0, 53.1, 53.0, 45.5, 40.9, 33.3, 30.4, 29.5, 28.9, 26.9, 23.0, 21.0, 14.1; DART MS m/z 551 (M^{+1} , 66.6); DART HRMS calcd for $C_{32}H_{39}O_6S$ 551.2467, found 551.2458.

(2*S,12*R**)-2-Butyl-5-chloro-14,14-bis(methoxycarbonyl)-9,9-dimethyl-**

12-(phenylsulfonyl)tricyclo[9.4.0.0^{3,8}]pentadeca-1(15),3(8),4,6,10-pentaene (10h).

Compound **10h** was a pale yellow oil: IR 1736, 1308, 1146 cm^{-1} ; 1H NMR (600 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.88–7.87 (m, 2H), 7.68–7.65 (m, 1H), 7.58–7.56 (m, 2H), 7.15–7.14 (m, 2H), 7.08–7.06 (m, 1H), 5.90 (s, 1H), 5.17 (s, 1H), 3.98 (dd, 1H, $J = 7.6, 4.5$ Hz), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.79 (t, 1H, $J = 7.5$ Hz), 3.49 (s, 3H), 2.92 (dd, 1H, $J = 15.1, 4.5$ Hz), 2.80 (dd, 1H, $J = 15.1, 7.6$ Hz), 2.01–1.93 (m, 2H), 1.52–1.35 (m, 7H), 1.26 (s, 3H), 1.00 (t, 3H, $J = 7.2$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 170.3, 169.4, 143.9, 143.5, 142.7, 137.5, 137.2, 133.6, 132.7, 129.5, 128.9, 126.8, 126.2, 125.9, 124.5, 119.7, 66.6, 54.0, 53.13, 53.11, 45.4, 41.0, 33.3, 30.2, 29.3, 28.8, 26.9, 22.9, 14.1; DART MS m/z 571 (M^{+1} , 100); DART HRMS calcd for $C_{31}H_{36}ClO_6S$ 571.1921, found 571.1926.

General Procedure for $[RhCl(CO)_2]_2$ -Catalyzed Cycloisomerization of Deuterated

Substrates $[D_5]6a$, $[D_2]6a$, $[D_1]6a$ (Scheme 3). To a solution of the

benzylallene-alkyne ([D₅]**6a**, [D₂]**6a**, [D₁]**6a**, 0.10 mmol) in toluene (1.0 mL) was added [RhCl(CO)₂]₂ (1.9 mg, 0.0050 mmol) under N₂ atmosphere. Then the reaction mixture was heated to reflux until the starting material was completely consumed (monitored by TLC analysis). Toluene was evaporated off, and the residue was chromatographed with hexane-AcOEt to afford the corresponding cyclized product ([D₅]**10a**, [D₂]**10a**, [D₁]**10a**). Chemical yields are summarized in Scheme 3.

(2*S,12*R**)-2-Butyl-14,14-bis(methoxycarbonyl)-9,9-dimethyl-12-(phenylsulfonyl)tricyclo[9.4.0.0^{3,8}]pentadeca-1(15),3(8),4,6,10-pentaene-2,4,5,6,7-*d*₅ ([D₅]**10a**).**

Compound [D₅]**10a** was a colorless crystal: m.p. 155–157 °C (hexane-AcOEt); IR 1734, 1307, 1145 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.89–7.87 (m, 2H), 7.67–7.65 (m, 1H), 7.58–7.55 (m, 2H), 5.88 (d, 1H, *J* = 0.7 Hz), 5.20 (s, 1H), 4.00 (dd, 1H, *J* = 7.2, 4.5 Hz), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.42 (s, 3H), 2.92 (dd, 1H, *J* = 15.1, 4.5 Hz), 2.79 (dd, 1H, *J* = 15.1, 7.2 Hz), 2.06–2.02 (m, 1H), 1.97–1.93 (m, 1H), 1.49–1.38 (m, 7H), 1.28 (s, 3H), 0.98 (t, 3H, *J* = 6.9 Hz); ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.3, 169.4, 144.4, 144.0, 141.2, 138.0, 137.5, 133.5, 129.5, 128.8, 126.5 (t, *J* = 23.1 Hz), 126.0, 125.4 (t, *J* = 23.1 Hz), 124.7 (t, *J* = 23.1 Hz), 123.9 (t, *J* = 23.1 Hz), 118.9, 66.7, 53.9, 53.0, 52.9, 45.1 (t, *J* = 18.8 Hz),

41.2, 33.2, 30.3, 29.4, 28.7, 27.0, 22.9, 14.0; DART MS m/z 542 (M^{+1} , 100); DART

HRMS calcd for $C_{31}H_{32}D_5O_6S$ 542.2625, found 542.2635.

(2*S,12*R**)-2-Butyl-14,14-bis(methoxycarbonyl)-9,9-dimethyl-**

12-(phenylsulfonyl)tricyclo[9.4.0.0^{3,8}]pentadeca-1(15),3(8),4,6,10-pentaene-12,15-*d*₂

([D₂]10a).

Compound [D₂]10a was a colorless crystal: m.p. 153–156 °C (hexane-AcOEt); IR 1733,

1305, 1146 cm^{-1} ; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.89–7.87 (m, 2H), 7.67–7.64 (m, 1H),

7.58–7.55 (m, 2H), 7.23–7.17 (m, 3H), 7.12–7.09 (m, 1H), 5.19–5.18 (m, 1H), 3.99 (q,

28/100 x 1H, $J = 7.2, 4.8$ Hz), 3.81–3.79 (m, 4H), 3.43 (s, 3H), 2.96–2.92 (m, 1H),

2.81–2.77 (m, 1H), 2.08–2.02 (m, 1H), 1.99–1.94 (m, 1H), 1.49–1.38 (m, 7H), 1.28 (s,

3H), 0.98 (t, 3H, $J = 7.2$ Hz); ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.3, 169.4, 144.43,

144.39, 144.1, 141.3, 137.9, 137.5, 133.5, 129.5, 128.8, 127.0, 126.1, 126.03, 125.98,

125.2, 124.3, 118.6 (t, $J = 24.6$ Hz), 66.7, 66.3 (t, $J = 21.7$ Hz), 53.8, 53.0, 52.9, 45.5,

41.2, 33.3, 30.3, 29.4, 28.8, 26.9, 26.8, 22.9, 14.1; DART MS m/z 539 (M^{+1} , 100);

DART HRMS calcd for $C_{31}H_{35}D_2O_6S$ 539.2436, found 539.2425.

(2*S,12*R**)-2-Butyl-14,14-bis(methoxycarbonyl)-9,9-dimethyl-**

12-(phenylsulfonyl)tricyclo[9.4.0.0^{3,8}]pentadeca-1(15),3(8),4,6,10-pentaene-10-*d*

([D₁]10a).

Compound [D₁]10a was a colorless crystal: m.p. 154–156 °C (hexane-AcOEt); IR 1735, 1307, 1146 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.89–7.88 (m, 2H), 7.67–7.65 (m, 1H), 7.58–7.56 (m, 2H), 7.23–7.17 (m, 3H), 7.12–7.09 (m, 1H), 5.88 (s, 1H), 4.00 (dd, 1H, *J* = 7.2, 4.5 Hz), 3.81–3.79 (m, 4H), 3.43 (s, 3H), 2.92 (dd, 1H, *J* = 15.1, 4.5 Hz), 2.79 (dd, 1H, *J* = 15.1, 7.2 Hz), 2.08–2.02 (m, 1H), 1.98–1.92 (m, 1H), 1.49–1.37 (m, 7H), 1.28 (s, 3H), 0.98 (t, 3H, *J* = 6.9 Hz); ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.4, 169.4, 144.1–143.9 (m), 141.3, 138.0, 137.5, 133.5, 129.5, 128.9, 127.0, 126.00, 125.98, 125.2, 124.3, 118.9, 66.6, 53.9, 53.1, 53.0, 45.6, 41.1, 33.2, 30.3, 29.5, 28.9, 27.0, 23.0, 14.1; DART MS *m/z* 538 (M⁺+1, 100); DART HRMS calcd for C₃₁H₃₆DO₆S 538.2374, found 538.2374.

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Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge on the ACS Publications website.

Copies of ^1H , ^{13}C , and ^{31}P NMR spectra for new compounds (PDF)

X-ray crystallographic data for **10a** (CIF)

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Inagaki, F.; Yoshida, T.; Yoshitani, K.; Hara, Y.; Kitagaki, S.; *J. Org. Chem.* **2005**, *70*, 7159–7171, and Ref. (7c).

(11) Other catalysts, such as RhCl(PPh₃)₃, RhCl(CO)(PPh₃)₂, RhCl(dppp)₂, and [RhCl(CO)dppp]₂, furnished poor results.

(12) X-ray analysis of **10a** unambiguously established its tricyclo[9.4.0.0^{3,8}]pentadecatepentaene structure (see the Supporting Information for details). CCDC999277 (**10a**) contains the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge from The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre via www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data_request/cif.

(13) The cyclic ketal derivative **6f** as well as other substrates **6** possessing the diester moiety at their tether part would benefit from a geminal disubstituent effect. For a review about the geminal disubstituent effect, see: Jung, M. E.; Piizzi, G. *Chem. Rev.* **2005**, *105*, 1735–1766.

(14) The deuteration experiments were performed under conditions different from the optimized ones because we carried out these experiments before optimizing the reaction conditions.

- (15) For examples of the cyclization reactions involving the σ -bond metathesis between the C–H bond and C–Rh bond, see: (a) Souillart, L.; Cramer, N. *Chem. Sci.* **2014**, *5*, 837–840. (b) Masutomi, K.; Noguchi, K.; Tanaka, K. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2014**, *136*, 7627–7630. (c) Matsuda, T.; Yuihara, I. *Chem. Commun.* **2015**, *51*, 7393–7396, and Ref. (9d).
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