Supporting Information

Further Studies of Cross Metathesis of *α*-Methylene Lactones

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General Experimental. ¹H NMR spectra were recorded at 300 MHz and 400 MHz and chemical shifts are reported in units of parts per million (ppm). IR spectra were recorded on an FT-IR spectrometer. GC/MS spectra were obtained on a gas chromatograph equipped with a HP-1 methyl silicon column and detected on a low-resolution 5970 series mass selective detector. High resolution mass spectra were obtained on a JMS-AX505HA spectrometer. Column chromatography was performed using silica gel, 40 microns flash silica. Thin layer chromatography was performed on silica gel (Silica Gel 60 F_{254}) glass plates, and the compounds were visualized by UV, 5% phosphomolybdic acid in ethanol or 0.5% aqueous solution of KMnO₄.

General cross-metathesis protocol. A solution of 1 (1 equiv) and olefin cross partner (1-1.5 equiv) in CH₂Cl₂ (0.3N-0.4N in lactone) was added 2,6 dichlorobenzoquinone (0.10 equiv), followed by the addition of 4 (0.05-0.10 equiv). The resultant solution, was heated at reflux under N₂ for 12-24 h. The reaction was monitored by ¹H NMR. Upon consumption of 1, the solution was cooled and concentrated, and the brown residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ EtOAc 80:20). (E)- α -Butylidene- γ -butyrolactone (8a). Purification provided 8a¹ as a clear oil (55.0 mg, 79%): ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.74 (tt, J =7.5, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 4.38 (t, J = 7.5, 2H), 2.88 (m, 2H), 2.18 (m, 2H), 1.53 (sextet, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 0.96 (t, J = 7.4, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.5, 140.9, 125.5, 65.5, 32.3, 25.2, 21.6, 13.9.

(E)-α-Ethylidene-γ-butyrolactone (8b). Purification provided 8b¹ as a clear oil (45.9 mg, 80%): ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.77 (tq, J = 7.1, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 4.36 (t, J = 7.5, 2H), 2.86 (m, 2H), 1.85 (dt, J = 7.1, 2.0 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.3, 135.8, 126.4, 65.5, 25.1, 15.8; (**Z**)-α-Butylidene-γ-butyrolactone (8b). Purification provided 8b¹ as a clear oil (7.4 mg, 13%):¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.34 (tq, J = 7.3, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 4.33 (t, J = 7.4, 2H), 2.93 (m, 2H), 2.20 (dt, J = 7.3, 2.4 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.4, 138.9, 124.5, 65.5, 29.3, 14.1;

Acetic acid 9-(2-oxodihydrofuran-3-ylidene)nonyl ester (8c). Purification provided 8c as a clear oil (0.11 g, 78%): IR (KBr) 2929, 1757, 1739, 1679, 1243, 1031 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.66 (tt, J = 7.5, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 4.30 (t, J = 7.5, 2H), 3.97 (t, J = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 2.79 (tdt, J = 7.4, 2.6, 1.3 Hz, 2H), 2.12 (dt, J = 7.4, 7.4 Hz, 2H), 1.96 (s, 3H), 1.53 (m, 2H), 1.40 (m, 2H), 1.24 (m, 8H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.4, 171.2, 140.9, 125.3, 65.5, 64.6, 30.3, 29.3, 29.3, 29.2, 28.6, 28.2, 25.9, 25.1, 21.0; MS (EI) *m/z* 376 (M⁺ -CO₂), 219, 205, 167 (100), 152, 115, 91; Anal. Calcd for C₁₅H₂₄O₄: C, 67.14; H, 9.01. Found: C, 66.87; H, 8.69.

Acetic acid 3-(2-oxodihydrofuran-3-ylidene)propyl ester (8d). Purification provided 8d as a clear oil (63.8 mg, 68%): IR (KBr) 1754, 1684, 1242, 1200, 1038 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.58 (tt, J = 7.4, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 4.28 (t, J = 7.4Hz, 2H), 4.08 (t, J = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 2.81 (m, 2H), 2.44 (dt, J = 7.0, 7.0 Hz, 2H), 1.94 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.7, 170.7, 135.3, 127.8, 65.3, 62.1, 29.4, 25.0, 20.7; MS (EI) *m*/*z* 141 (M⁺- CH₃CO), 124 (100), 112, 94, 83; Anal. Calcd for C₉H₁₂O₄: C, 58.69; H, 6.57. Found: C, 58.30; H, 6.82.

(E)- α -Bromopropylidene- γ -butyrolactone (8e). Purification provided Br 8e as a clear oil (41.0 mg, 43%): IR (KBr) 2921, 1744, 1680, 1223, 1168, 1027 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.71 (tt, J = 7.4, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 4.41 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 3.49 (t, J = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 2.92 (m, 2H), 2.80 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.9, 136.4, 128.3, 65.6, 33.4, 30.2, 25.4; MS (EI) *m/z* 146 (M⁺- 2CO), 125 (100), 97, 79; HRMS (FAB) calcd for C₇H₁₀BrO₂ (M⁺+ H) *m/z* 204.9864. Found: 204.9868.

Cl (E)-α-Chloroethylidene-γ-butyrolactone (8f). Purification provided 8f as a clear oil (18.0 mg, 44%): ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.82 (tt, J = 7.6, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 4.44 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 4.16 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 3.01 (tdt, *J* = 7.3, 3.0, 1.5 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NM¹R (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.4, 133.3, 129.6, 65.6, 40.0, 25.1; MS (EI) *m/z* 146 (M⁺), 111, 53 (100); Anal. Calcd for C₆H₇ClO₂: C, 49.17; H, 4.81. Found: C, 49.40; H, 4.98.

Lactone **2** was prepared from commercially available δ -hexanolactone.^{2,3}

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