Supporting Information for

Allenyl Azide Cycloaddition Chemistry. 2,3-Cyclopentennelated Indole Synthesis through Indolidene Intermediates.

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General Experimental	S2
¹ H NMR, ¹³ C NMR 13i	S 3/S4
¹ H NMR, ¹³ C NMR 14j	\$5/\$6
¹ H NMR, ¹³ C NMR 19	S7/S8
¹ H NMR, ¹³ C NMR 20	S9/S10
¹ H NMR, ¹³ C NMR 21	S11/S12
¹ H NMR, ¹³ C NMR 22	S13/S14
¹ H NMR, ¹³ C NMR 23	S15/S16
¹ H NMR, ¹³ C NMR 24	S17/S18
¹ H NMR, ¹³ C NMR 25	S19/S20
¹ H NMR, ¹³ C NMR 27c	S21/S22
¹ H NMR, ¹³ C NMR 28c	S23/S24
¹ H NMR, ¹³ C NMR 29	S25/S26
¹ H NMR, ¹³ C NMR 30	S27/S28
¹ H NMR, ¹³ C NMR 35c	S29/S30
¹ H NMR, ¹³ C NMR 37	\$31/\$32
¹ H NMR, ¹³ C NMR 38h	\$33/\$34
¹ H NMR, ¹³ C NMR 38i	\$35/\$36
¹ H NMR, ¹³ C NMR 38m	\$37/\$38
¹ H NMR, ¹³ C NMR 39h	S39/S40
¹ H NMR, ¹³ C NMR 40g	S41/S42
¹ H NMR, ¹³ C NMR 40i	S43/S44
¹ H NMR, ¹³ C NMR 40m	S45/S46

¹ H NMR, ¹³ C NMR 42a	S47/S48
¹ H NMR, ¹³ C NMR 42f	S49/S50
¹ H NMR, ¹³ C NMR 42g	S51/S52
¹ H NMR, ¹³ C NMR 43e	S53/S54
¹ H NMR, ¹³ C NMR 45e	S55/S56
¹ H NMR, ¹³ C NMR 46	S57/S58
¹ H NMR, ¹³ C NMR 47	S59/S60
¹ H NMR, ¹³ C NMR 58b	S61/S62
¹ H NMR, ¹³ C NMR 59	S63/S64
¹ H NMR, ¹³ C NMR 60	S65/S66
¹ H NMR, ¹³ C NMR 61	S67/S68
X-ray Structure 39n	S69
X-ray Structure 40a	S71
X-ray Structure 42b	S73
X-ray Structure 42d	S75
X-ray Structure 43e	S77
X-ray Structure 54	879
2-D Energy Profile for the 64 \rightarrow 67 conversion	S81

General Experimental

Moisture and oxygen sensitive reactions were carried out in flame-dried glassware under a nitrogen atmosphere. Photolysis was carried out using a Rayonet reactor with cooling fan. Solvents were dried by passage through an activated alumina column under nitrogen. All organic reagents were used as purchased unless otherwise noted. Flash chromatography was performed using $32 - 63 \mu m$ silica gel (unless otherwise noted) with the indicated solvent systems. Melting points are uncorrected.











































































S39









40i







A colorless rod shaped crystal of **39n** (2($C_{30}H_{23}N$), C_5H_{12}) with approximate dimensions 0.13 x 0.14 x 0.29 mm, was used for the X-ray crystallographic analysis. The X-ray intensity data were measured at 298(2) K, cooled by Rigaku-MSC X-Stream 2000, on a Bruker SMART APEX CCD area detector system equipped with a graphite monochromator and a MoK α fine-focus sealed tube ($\lambda = 0.71073$ Å) operated at 1600 watts power (50 kV, 32 mA). The detector was placed at a distance of 5.8 cm from the crystal.

A total of 1850 frames were collected with a scan width of 0.3° in ω and an exposure time of 20 seconds/frame. The total data collection time was about 14 hours. The frames were integrated with the Bruker SAINT software package using a narrow-frame integration algorithm. The integration of the data using a Triclinic unit cell yielded a total of 9890 reflections to a maximum θ angle of 28.48° (0.90 Å resolution), of which 5970 were independent, completeness = 97.1%, R_{int} = 0.0364, R_{sig} = 0.0778 and 2909 were greater than $2\sigma(I)$. The final cell constants: a = 10.254(8)Å, b = 10.743(8)Å, c = 12.090(9)Å, $\alpha = 97.948(13)^{\circ}$, $\beta = 106.727(13)^{\circ}$, $\gamma = 102.782(13)^{\circ}$, volume = 1214.5(16) Å³, are based upon the refinement of the XYZ-centroids of 2876 reflections above $20\sigma(I)$ with 2.310° < θ <27.366°. Analysis of the data showed negligible decay during data collection. Data were corrected for absorption effects using the multiscan technique (SADABS). The ratio of minimum to maximum apparent transmission was 0.3513.

The structure was solved and refined using the Bruker SHELXTL (Version 6.1) Software Package, using the space group P-1, with Z = 2 for the formula unit, C32.50 H28.5 N. The final anisotropic full-matrix least-squares refinement on F² with 310 variables converged at R1 = 7.21%, for the observed data and wR2 = 24.36% for all data. The goodness-of-fit was 0.958. The largest peak on the final difference map was 0.571 e⁻/Å³ and the largest hole was -0.190 e⁻/Å³. Based on the final model, the calculated density of the crystal is 1.186 g/cm³ and F(000) amounts to 462 electrons.





A yellow plate shaped crystal of **40a** (C₁₂H₁₁N) with approximate dimensions 0.10 x 0.30 x 0.40 mm, was used for the X-ray crystallographic analysis. The X-ray intensity data were measured at 108(2) K, cooled by Rigaku-MSC X-Stream 2000, on a Bruker SMART APEX CCD area detector system equipped with a graphite monochromator and a MoK α fine-focus sealed tube ($\lambda = 0.71073$ Å) operated at 1600 watts power (50 kV, 32 mA). The detector was placed at a distance of 5.8 cm from the crystal.

A total of 1850 frames were collected with a scan width of 0.3° in ω and an exposure time of 20 seconds/frame. The total data collection time was about 12 hours. The frames were integrated with the Bruker SAINT software package using a narrow-frame integration algorithm. The integration of the data using a Monoclinic unit cell yielded a total of 5358 reflections to a maximum θ angle of 28.28° (0.90 Å resolution), of which 2066 were independent, completeness = 94.9 %, R_{int} = 0.0178, R_{sig} = 0.0245 and 1729 were greater than $2\sigma(I)$. The final cell constants: a = 11.907(4)Å, b = 5.6848(16)Å, c = 12.950(4)Å, $\alpha = 90^{\circ}$, $\beta = 92.517(5)^{\circ}$, $\gamma = 90^{\circ}$, volume = 875.7(4)Å³, are based upon the refinement of the XYZ-centroids of 2113 reflections above $20\sigma(I)$ with $2.274^{\circ} < \theta < 28.242^{\circ}$. Analysis of the data showed negligible decay during data collection. Data were corrected for absorption effects using the multiscan technique (SADABS). The ratio of minimum to maximum apparent transmission was 0.849448.

The structure was solved and refined using the Bruker SHELXTL (Version 6.1) Software Package, using the space group P2(1)/n, with Z = 4 for the formula unit, $C_{12}H_{11}N$. The final anisotropic full-matrix least-squares refinement on F^2 with 119 variables converged at R1 = 5.17 %, for the observed data and wR2 = 13.90 % for all data. The goodness-of-fit was 1.072. The largest peak on the final difference map was 0.403 e⁻/Å³ and the largest hole was -0.249 e⁻/Å³. Based on the final model, the calculated density of the crystal is 1.283 g/cm³ and F(000) amounts to 360 electrons.





A colorless block shaped crystal of 42b (C₂₄H₃₅NOSi) with approximate dimensions 0.06 x 0.15 x 0.20 mm, was used for the X-ray crystallographic analysis. The X-ray intensity data were measured at 128(2) K, cooled by Rigaku-MSC X-Stream 2000, on a Bruker SMART APEX CCD area detector system equipped with a graphite monochromator and a MoK α fine-focus sealed tube ($\lambda = 0.71073$ Å) operated at 1600 watts power (50 kV, 32 mA). The detector was placed at a distance of 5.8 cm from the crystal. A total of 1850 frames were collected with a scan width of 0.3° in ω and an exposure time of 10 seconds/frame. The total data collection time was about 8 hours. The frames were integrated with the Bruker SAINT software package using a narrow-frame integration algorithm. The integration of the data using a Triclinic unit cell yielded a total of 10873 reflections to a maximum θ angle of 28.34° (0.90 Å resolution), of which 11043 were independent, completeness = 94.9 %, $R_{int} = 0.0536$, $R_{sig} = 0.1644$ and 5107 were greater than $2\sigma(I)$. The final cell constants: a = 9.437(8)Å, b = 13.537(9)Å, c = 19.104(9)Å, $\alpha = 101.43(4)^{\circ}, \beta = 97.13(4)^{\circ}, \gamma = 99.38(4)^{\circ}, \text{ volume} = 2328.0(26)\text{Å}^3$, are based upon the refinement of the XYZ-centroids of 1755 reflections above $20\sigma(I)$ with $2.230^{\circ} < \theta < 28.348^{\circ}$. Analysis of the data showed negligible decay during data collection. Data were corrected for absorption effects using the multiscan technique (SADABS). The ratio of minimum to maximum apparent transmission was 0.069. The structure was solved and refined using the Bruker SHELXTL (Version 6.1) Software Package, using the space group P-1, with Z = 2 for the formula unit, C48 H70 N2 O2 Si2. The final anisotropic full-matrix least-squares refinement on F^2 with 503 variables converged at R1 = 10.20%, for the observed data and wR2 = 30.66% for all data. The goodness-of-fit was 0.984. The largest peak on the final difference map was $0.388 \text{ e}^{-}/\text{Å}^{3}$ and the largest hole was $-0.724 \text{ e}^{-}/\text{Å}^{3}$. Based on the final model, the calculated density of the crystal is 1.088 g/cm^3 and F(000) amounts to 832 electrons.





A colorless block shaped crystal of 42d (C₂₅H₃₄N₂OSi) with approximate dimensions 0.20 x 0.30 x 0.40 mm, was used for the X-ray crystallographic analysis. The X-ray intensity data were measured at 129(2) K, cooled by Rigaku-MSC X-Stream 2000, on a Bruker SMART APEX CCD area detector system equipped with a graphite monochromator and a MoK α fine-focus sealed tube ($\lambda = 0.71073$ Å) operated at 1600 watts power (50 kV, 32 mA). The detector was placed at a distance of 5.8 cm from the crystal. A total of 1850 frames were collected with a scan width of 0.3° in ω and an exposure time of 5 seconds/frame. The total data collection time was about 6 hours. The frames were integrated with the Bruker SAINT software package using a narrow-frame integration algorithm. The integration of the data using a Triclinic unit cell yielded a total of 11778 reflections to a maximum θ angle of 28.34° (0.90 Å resolution), of which 5913 were independent, completeness = 97.7%, $R_{int} = 0.0152$, $R_{sig} = 0.0250$ and 4820 were greater than $2\sigma(I)$. The final cell constants: a = 9.779(3)Å, b = 10.939(3)Å, c = 11.635(4)Å, $\alpha = 89.483(6)^{\circ}, \beta = 77.658(5)^{\circ}, \gamma = 85.916(5)^{\circ}, \text{ volume} = 1212.8(7)\text{Å}^3$, are based upon the refinement of the XYZ-centroids of 4583 reflections above $20\sigma(I)$ with $2.137^{\circ} < \theta < 27.994^{\circ}$. Analysis of the data showed negligible decay during data collection. Data were corrected for absorption effects using the multiscan technique (SADABS). The ratio of minimum to maximum apparent transmission was 0.8805. The structure was solved and refined using the Bruker SHELXTL (Version 6.1) Software Package, using the space group P-1, with Z = 2 for the formula unit, $C_{25}H_{34}N_2OSi$. The final anisotropic fullmatrix least-squares refinement on F^2 with 270 variables converged at R1 = 4.77%, for the observed data and wR2 = 14.44% for all data. The goodness-of-fit was 1.037. The largest peak on the final difference map was $0.384 \text{ e}^{-1}/\text{Å}^{3}$ and the largest hole was $-0.174 \text{ e}^{-1}/\text{Å}^{3}$. Based on the final model, the calculated density of the crystal is 1.113 g/cm^3 and F(000) amounts to 440 electrons.





A colorless block shaped crystal of **43e** ($C_{27}H_{43}NOSi_2$) with approximate dimensions 0.13 x 0.18 x 0.25 mm, was used for the X-ray crystallographic analysis. The X-ray intensity data were measured at 123(2)K, cooled by Rigaku-MSC X-Stream 2000, on a Bruker SMART APEX CCD area detector system equipped with a graphite monochromator and a MoK α fine-focus sealed tube ($\lambda = 0.71073$ Å) operated at 1600 watts power (50 kV, 32 mA). The detector was placed at a distance of 5.8 cm from the crystal.

A total of 1850 frames were collected with a scan width of 0.3° in ω and an exposure time of 10 seconds/frame. The total data collection time was about 8 hours. The frames were integrated with the Bruker SAINT software package using a narrow-frame integration algorithm. The integration of the data using a Monoclinic unit cell yielded a total of 24148 reflections to a maximum θ angle of 29.13° (0.90 Å resolution), of which 7027 were independent, completeness = 94.3%, $R_{int} = 0.0910$, $R_{sig} = 0.0928$ and 4448 were greater than $2\sigma(I)$. The final cell constants: a = 11.869(2)Å, b = 10.874(2)Å, c =22.010(4)Å, $\alpha = 90^{\circ}$, $\beta = 93.52(3)^{\circ}$, $\gamma = 90^{\circ}$, volume = 2835.2(10)Å³, are based upon the refinement of the XYZ-centroids of 9371 reflections above $20\sigma(I)$ with $2.534^{\circ} < \theta < 28.570^{\circ}$. Analysis of the data showed negligible decay during data collection. Data were corrected for absorption effects using the multiscan technique (SADABS). The ratio of minimum to maximum apparent transmission was 0.4338. The structure was solved and refined using the Bruker SHELXTL (Version 6.1) Software Package, using the space group P2(1)/c, with Z = 4 for the formula unit, $C_{27}H_{43}NOSi_2$. The final anisotropic fullmatrix least-squares refinement on F^2 with 290 variables converged at R1 = 7.38%, for the observed data and wR2 = 19.39% for all data. The goodness-of-fit was 1.022. The largest peak on the final difference map was 0.681 e^{-1}/A^{3} and the largest hole was -0.620 e^{-1}/A^{3} . Based on the final model, the calculated density of the crystal is 1.063 g/cm^3 and F(000) amounts to 992 electrons.





A colorless plate shaped crystal of 54 ($C_{14}H_{14}N_4$) with approximate dimensions 0.09 x 0.20 x 0.28 mm, was used for the X-ray crystallographic analysis. The X-ray intensity data were measured at 123(2) K. cooled by Rigaku-MSC X-Stream 2000, on a Bruker SMART APEX CCD area detector system equipped with a graphite monochromator and a MoK α fine-focus sealed tube ($\lambda = 0.71073$ Å) operated at 1600 watts power (50 kV, 32 mA). The detector was placed at a distance of 5.8 cm from the crystal. A total of 1850 frames were collected with a scan width of 0.3° in ω and an exposure time of 10 seconds/frame. The total data collection time was about 8 hours. The frames were integrated with the Bruker SAINT software package using a narrow-frame integration algorithm. The integration of the data using a Monoclinic unit cell yielded a total of 20935 reflections to a maximum θ angle of 28.33° (0.90 Å resolution), of which 6098 were independent, completeness = 98.6%, $R_{int} = 0.0440$, $R_{sig} = 0.0492$ and 3664 were greater than $2\sigma(I)$. The final cell constants: a = 9.8894(16) Å, b = 21.213(3)Å, c =11.8512(19) Å, $\alpha = 90^{\circ}$, $\beta = 93.758(3)^{\circ}$, $\gamma = 90^{\circ}$, volume = 2480.9(7) Å³, are based upon the refinement of the XYZ-centroids of 5397 reflections above $20\sigma(I)$ with $2.275^{\circ} < \theta < 28.319^{\circ}$. Analysis of the data showed negligible decay during data collection. Data were corrected for absorption effects using the multiscan technique (SADABS). The ratio of minimum to maximum apparent transmission was 0.8135. The structure was solved and refined using the Bruker SHELXTL (Version 6.1) Software Package, using the space group P2(1)/c, with Z = 8 for the formula unit, $C_{14}H_{14}N_4$. The final anisotropic fullmatrix least-squares refinement on F^2 with 329 variables converged at R1 = 6.79%, for the observed data and wR2 = 19.85% for all data. The goodness-of-fit was 0.963. The largest peak on the final difference map was 0.201 e⁻/Å³ and the largest hole was -0.213 e⁻/Å³. Based on the final model, the calculated density of the crystal is 1.276 g/cm^3 and F(000) amounts to 1008 electrons.



Despite having located a transition state for the $64 \rightarrow 67$ -type transformation in the non-methylated allenyl azide substrate in previous work (see upper diagram of the following Figure),¹ numerous attempts performed to locate the transition state associated to the stepwise N₂ extrusion ($64 \rightarrow 67$) employing different optimization algorithms failed. Since the introduction of a methyl substituent at the allene terminus did not seem to justify the disappearance of the diradical pathway, we decided to carry out a thorough scan of the potential energy surface. The bond breaking C-N and N-N distances were selected as logical reaction coordinates and multiple constrained geometry optimizations were run in the ranges 1.6 to 2.8 Å for the C-N bond length and 1.3 to 2.0 Å for the N-N bond length, respectively. More than 100 geometry optimization jobs were completed to construct each surface (see Figure below). Due to near degeneracy problems raised in the diradical region associated to the stepwise extrusion, the unrestricted version of the B3LYP functional was employed, and the stability of the final wavefunctions² checked for the structures lying in this area (see computational methods for more details). These calculations revealed that the region around the diradical transition state in the desmethyl substrate is almost flat and the channel funneling the stepwise process is remarkably shallow, featuring a very smooth and low hillock separating the higher energy diradical transition state from the much more favorable concerted alternative (see upper diagram of Figure below). The introduction of the methyl substituent further flattens out the diradical area, transforming the hillock into a downhill shoulder and erasing the diradical transition state from the potential energy surface landscape (see lower diagram of the Figure below). Despite the differences exhibited between these surfaces, the same chemistry is expected for both methylated and des-methylated substrates, since the lowest energy pathway to N₂ loss, the concerted mechanism stays unaltered upon methylation.

- (1) López, C. S.; Faza, O. N., Feldman, K. S.; Iyer, M. R.; Hester, II, D. K. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2007, 129, 7638-7646.
- (2) Bauernschmitt, R.; Ahlrichs, R. J. Chem. Phys. 1996, 22, 9047-9052.

