Supporting Information

Use of 4-Cyanocoumarins as Dienophiles in a Facile Synthesis of Highly Substituted

Dibenzopyranones

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General Experimental: All reactions were carried out in flame-dried flasks under an argon atmosphere unless otherwise noted. The following solvents were dried and distilled from the indicated drying agent under an argon atmosphere: tetrahydrofuran (THF) and diethyl ether (ether) from sodium benzophenone ketyl radical; dichloromethane, benzene, triethylamine, and hexamethylphosphoramide (HMPA) from calcium hydride; diisopropylamine from sodium hydroxide; methanol from magnesium methoxide. Danishefsky's diene 10d was purchased from Aldrich and used without purification. The TBS analogue of Danishefsky's diene $10e^1$ and 3cvanocoumarin² were prepared as described in the literature. All other reagents were reagent grade and used without purification unless otherwise stated. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker spectrometers at 500 MHz for proton and at 125 MHz for carbon. ¹H and ¹³C NMR data are reported in parts per million (δ) downfield from tetramethylsilane. The following abbreviations are used: s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), m (multiplet), b (broad). Infrared spectra were recorded on a Thermo Nicolet Avatar 370 infrared spectrophotometer. Thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was performed using Merck silica gel 60 F254 0.2 mm aluminum-backed plates. Visualization was accomplished using ultraviolet light or one of the following stains: anisaldehyde or potassium permanganate. Flash column chromatography was carried out using ICN Biomedicals silica gel 60 (230-400 mesh). Microwave reactions were performed in a CEM Discover LabMate microwave.

Synthesis of 4-Cyanocoumarins 12a, 12b and 12c.

The 4-cyanocoumarin 5/12a was synthesized from the commercially available 4-hydroxycouma-

rin **3** in two steps, namely bromination followed by cyanation. The 4-cyanocoumarins **12b** and **12c** were also synthesized from the corresponding 4-hydroxycoumarins. These 4-hydroxycoumarins are commercially available but are expensive. Therefore, they were synthesized in three steps from the corresponding phenols as described in the literature³ in 63-70% yield.



6-Chloro-4-hydroxy-7-methylcoumarin (3b). White powder, mp >250 °C. $R_f = 0.26$ (ethyl acetate) ¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ : 7.67 (1H, s), 7.10 (1H, s), 4.68 (1H, s), 4.10-3.83 (1H, bs), 2.31 (3H, s). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ : 172.7, 164.5, 153.1, 137.9, 127.0, 124.1, 122.3, 118.5, 86.3, 20.0.

4-Hydroxy-6,7-dimethylcoumarin (3c). White powder, mp 236-238 °C. $R_f = 0.47$ (ethyl acetate).¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ : 12.44 (1H, bs), 7.49 (1H, s), 7.09 (1H, s), 5.52 (1H, s), 2.25 (3H, s), 2.13 (3H, s). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ : 166.2, 162.6, 152.3, 142.7, 132.6, 123.3, 117.0, 113.6, 90.5, 20.0, 19.1.

Preparation of the 4-Cyanocoumarins 12a, 12b, and 12c from the Corresponding 4-Hydroxycoumarins.

To a round bottom flask equipped with a magnetic stir bar and a reflux condenser was added the 4-hydroxycoumarin **3** and toluene (0.5 M). The reaction mixture was heated at 120 °C for 10 min and then Bu₄NBr (1.5 equiv) was added in 2 portions over 5 min. The reaction mixture was stirred vigorously for 15 min until the starting material completely dissolved. P_2O_5 (2.0 equiv) was then added in 3 portions over 15 min and the reaction was heated for 3 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to 23 °C and quenched with a saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ solution. The

mixture was poured into a separatory funnel containing dichloromethane. The remaining solid was also transferred with methanol (3x) to the separatory funnel. The aqueous layer was extracted with dichloromethane (3x) and the combined organic layers were then washed with water (2x), brine (1x) and dried over MgSO₄. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* to afford a white/orange solid. To a round bottom flask equipped with a magnetic stir bar was added the crude bromide **4**, dimethylformamide (2 M) and CuCN (1.1 equiv). The reaction mixture was heated at 130 °C for 2 h and then cooled to 23 °C. The dimethylformamide was removed *in vacuo* and then the reaction was diluted with dichloromethane (3x) and the combined organic layers were then washed with aqueous NH₄OH (2x), water (2x), brine (1x) and dried over MgSO₄. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* to afford.

4-Bromocoumarin (4). Yellow powder, mp 87-89 °C. R_f = 0.53 (1:1, hexanes:ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 7.82 (1H, dd, *J* = 7.9, 1.5 Hz), 7.59 (1H, ddd, *J* = 7.9, 7.9, 1.5 Hz), 7.35 (1H, ddd, *J* = 7.9, 7.9, 1.2 Hz), 7.32 (1H, d, *J* = 7.9 Hz), 6.85 (1H, s). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 158.7, 152.4, 141.8, 133.2, 128.0, 124.9, 119.5, 118.9, 117.0.

4-Bromo-6-chloro-7-methylcoumarin (4b). Green powder, mp 195-196 °C. $R_f = 0.70$ (ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.78 (1H, s), 7.21 (1H, s), 6.82 (1H, s), 2.48 (3H, s). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 158.3, 150.6, 142.4, 139.9, 130.9, 127.5, 119.4, 118.9, 118.0, 20.5. IR (KBr): 1732 cm⁻¹.

4-Bromo-6,7-dimethylcoumarin (4c). Tan powder, mp 140-142 °C. R_f = 0.63 (ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 7.52 (1H, s), 7.09 (1H, s), 6.74 (1H, s), 2.36 (3H, s), 2.33 (3H, s). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 159.2, 150.7, 143.6, 141.4, 133.9, 127.8, 118.2, 117.4, 116.6, 20.2, 19.3.

4-Cyanocoumarin (5/12a). Small tan crystals, mp 182-184 °C. $R_f = 0.44$ (2:1, hexanes:ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.81 (1H, dd, J = 7.9, 1.5 Hz), 7.68 (1H, ddd, J = 8.2, 7.2, 1.5 Hz), 7.46-7.37 (2H, m), 6.86 (1H, s). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 157.6, 153.7, 133.9, 127.2, 126.1, 125.5, 123.7, 117.5, 115.3, 112.9. IR (KBr): 1728, 1604 cm⁻¹.

6-Chloro-4-cyano-7-methylcoumarin (12b). Tan powder, mp 154-156 °C. $R_f = 0.18$ (6:1, hexanes:ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.76 (1H, s), 7.28 (1H, s), 6.83 (1H, s), 2.51 (3H, s). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 157.4, 151.8, 143.5, 131.6, 126.0, 125.5, 123.5, 119.4, 114.2, 112.6, 20.9. IR (KBr): 1730 cm⁻¹.

4-Cyano-6,7-dimethylcoumarin (12c). Yellow powder, mp 170-172 °C. $R_f = 0.34$ (3:1, hexanes:ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.51 (1H, s), 7.17 (1H, s), 6.76 (1H, s), 2.39 (3H, s), 2.36 (3H, s). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 158.3, 152.0, 144.7, 134.7, 126.9, 125.8, 122.2, 117.9, 113.2, 113.0, 20.5, 19.2. IR (KBr): 1726, 1622 cm⁻¹.



Preparation of 4-Cyano-7-methoxycoumarin 12d

4-Cyano-7-methoxycoumarin **12d** was synthesized from commercially available 4-methyl-7hydroxycoumarin in four steps according to the literature⁴ in 43% overall yield. **4-Methyl-7-methoxycoumarin (19).** White needles, mp 155-156 °C. $R_f = 0.53$ (1:1, hexanes:ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.48 (1H, d, J = 8.9 Hz), 6.84 (1H, dd, J = 8.9, 1.8 Hz), 6.80 (1H, d, J = 2.1 Hz), 6.12 (1H, d, J = 0.9 Hz), 3.86 (3H, s), 2.39 (3H, d, J = 1.2 Hz). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 162.6, 161.2, 155.3, 152.5, 125.5, 113.5, 112.2, 111.9, 100.8, 55.7, 18.6.

4-Formyl-7-methoxycoumarin (20). Yellow powder, mp 185 °C. $R_f = 0.30$ (1:1, hexanes:ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ : 10.07 (1H, s), 8.35 (1H, d, J = 8.9 Hz), 7.04 (1H, d, J = 2.4 Hz), 6.99 (1H, dd, J = 9.2, 2.8 Hz), 6.95 (1H, s), 3.84 (3H, s). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ : 194.1, 162.9, 160.8, 156.3, 143.9, 127.3, 121.7, 113.2, 108.5, 101.4, 56.3. IR (KBr): 1730, 1617 cm⁻¹.

4-Cyano-7-methoxycoumarin (12d). Light green powder, mp 166-167 °C. $R_f = 0.25$ (3:1, hexanes:ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.68 (1H, d, J = 8.9 Hz), 6.96 (1H, dd, J = 8.9, 2.4 Hz), 6.85 (1H, d, J = 2.4 Hz), 6.65 (1H, s), 3.91 (3H, s). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 164.4, 158.3, 155.6, 127.0, 126.9, 119.5, 113.7, 113.2, 109.0, 101.4, 56.1.

Preparation of Dienes 10a, 10b, 10c, and 10f.

To a round bottom flask equipped with a magnetic stir bar was added the corresponding commercially available aldehyde⁵ or ketone, THF (2 M) and Et₃N (1.5 equiv). The reaction mixture was cooled to 0 °C and then *tert*-butyldimethylsilyl trifluoromethanesulfonate (1.05 equiv) was added over 10 min. Once the reaction was deemed complete by TLC (6-12 h), the reaction mixture was quenched with a saturated NaHCO₃ aqueous solution. The aqueous layer was extracted with pentane (3x) and the combined organic layers were then washed with water and brine and dried over MgSO₄. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the crude product was purified by distillation (100 °C/10 mm Hg) to afford the product as a clear colorless liquid.

1-(1,1-Dimethylethyl)dimethylsilyloxy-1,3-butadiene, 7/10a. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 6.56 (1H, d, J = 11.6 Hz), 6.22 (1H, ddd, J = 17.1, 10.1, 10.1 Hz), 5.73 (1H, dd, J = 11.6, 11.6 Hz), 4.98 (1H, d, J = 17.1, 0.9 Hz), 4.81 (1H, dd, J = 10.1, 0.9 Hz), 0.92 (9H, s), 0.16 (3H, s). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 145.3, 133.3, 114.1, 111.8, 25.6, 18.2, -5.3. R_f = 0.75 (3:1, hexanes:ethyl acetate).

(*Z*)-1-(1,1-Dimethylethyl)dimethylsilyloxy-2-(2-propenyl)-1,3-butadiene, 10b. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 6.45 (1H, s), 6.20 (1H, dd, *J* = 17.1, 10.7 Hz), 5.80 (1H, ddt, *J* = 17.6, 10.7, 6.4 Hz), 5.05 (1H, d, *J* = 17.1 Hz), 5.02 (1H, d, *J* = 17.1 Hz), 4.95 (1H, d, *J* = 10.1 Hz), 4.82 (1H, d, *J* = 11.0 Hz), 3.03 (2H, d, *J* = 6.4 Hz), 0.93 (9H, s), 0.15 (6H, s). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 142.3, 136.2, 135.3, 120.2, 114.5, 108.5, 28.0, 25.5, 18.1, -5.4. R_f = 0.69 (3:1, hexanes:ethyl acetate).

(*E*)-1-(1,1-Dimethylethyl)dimethylsilyloxy-2-methyl-1,3-pentadiene, 10c. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 6.33 (1H, s), 5.97 (1H, dd, *J* = 15.2, 0.9 Hz), 5.46 (1H, dq, *J* = 15.3, 6.4 Hz), 1.75 (3H, dd, *J* = 6.7, 0.9 Hz), 1.70 (3H, s), 0.93 (9H, s), 0.14 (6H, s). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 139.5, 131.0, 120.0, 117.9, 25.6, 18.3, 18.2, 9.4, -5.3. R_f = 0.68 (3:1, hexanes:ethyl acetate).

2-(1,1-Dimethylethyl)dimethylsilyloxy-5-methyl-1,3-pentadiene, 10f. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 5.56 (1H, s), 4.30 (1H, s), 4.16 (1H, s), 1.90 (3H, s), 1.77 (3H, s), 0.93 (9H, s), 0.17 (6H, s). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 155.6, 136.7, 123.0, 94.8, 27.0, 25.7, 19.8, 18.3, -4.4. R_f = 0.63 (3:1, hexanes:ethyl acetate).

General Procedure for the Diels-Alder Reaction.

To a round bottom flask equipped with a reflux condenser and a magnetic stir bar, or to a microwave reaction vial equipped with a magnetic stir bar, was added the 4-cyanocoumarin,

degassed toluene (1 M) and the diene (2 equiv). The reaction mixture was heated at the indicated temperature for the indicated time and then allowed to cool to 23 °C. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the crude product was purified by column chromatography (1:1, pentane:dichloromethane) or recrystallization from hot methanol.

(±) (6a*S*,10*R*,10a*R*)-10-(1,1-Dimethylethyl)dimethylsilyloxy-6-oxo-6a,7,10,10a-tetrahydro-6*H*-benzo[*c*]chromene-10a-carbonitrile, 8n/11a. White needles, mp 155-157 °C. $R_f = 0.37$ (6:1, hexanes:ethyl acetate).¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.57 (1H, d, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 7.40 (1H, ddd, *J* = 8.2, 8.2, 1.2 Hz), 7.24 (1H, dd, *J* = 7.6, 7.6 Hz), 7.06 (1H, d, *J* = 8.2 Hz), 6.03 (1H, ddd, *J* = 10.0, 4.3, 2.0 Hz), 5.87 (1H, bdd, *J* = 10.0, 4.9 Hz), 4.23 (1H, d, *J* = 4.9 Hz), 3.25 (1H, dd, *J* = 19.0, 4.5 Hz), 3.24 (1H, d, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 2.67 (1H, bd, *J* = 19.0 Hz), 0.67 (9H, s), -0.11 (3H, s), -0.52 (3H, s). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 166.0, 151.8, 130.5, 128.1, 126.7, 125.3, 124.7, 120.2, 118.8, 117.3, 68.9, 44.3, 36.6, 25.2, 22.4, 17.6, -5.1, -6.1. IR (KBr): 1773 cm⁻¹.

(±) (6a*S*,10*R*,10a*R*)-10-(1,1-Dimethylethyl)dimethylsilyloxy-6-oxo-6a,7,10,10a-tetrahydro-9-(2-propenyl)-6*H*-benzo[*c*]chromene-10a-carbonitrile, endo 11b. White needles, mp 143 °C. $R_f = 0.46$ (3:1, hexanes:ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.60 (1H, dd, *J* = 7.6, 1.5 Hz), 7.40 (1H, ddd, *J* = 8.2, 7.6, 1.5 Hz), 7.25 (1H, ddd, *J* = 8.5, 8.2, 1.2 Hz), 7.07 (1H, dd, *J* = 8.2, 1.2 Hz), 5.79 (1H, dddd, *J* = 17.1, 10.4, 7.6, 5.5 Hz), 5.73-5.70 (1H, m), 5.19-5.12 (2H, m), 4.16 (1H, s), 3.31 (1H, d, *J* = 19.2 Hz), 3.20 (1H, d, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 2.92 (1H, d, *J* = 15.6 Hz), 2.79 (1H, ddd, *J* = 15.6, 7.6 Hz), 2.66 (1H, dd, *J* = 19.2, 7.6 Hz), 0.74 (9H, s), -0.03 (3H, s), -0.82 (3H, s). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 166.2, 151.8, 134.8, 134.5, 130.7, 127.2, 124.9, 123.9, 120.4, 118.9, 117.8, 117.7, 72.0, 45.3, 38.9, 36.3, 25.4, 22.4, 18.0, -4.7, -5.7. IR (KBr): 1779, 1636 cm⁻¹.

(±) (6aS,7S,10R,10aR)-7,9-Dimethyl-10-(1,1-dimethylethyl)dimethylsilyloxy-6-oxo-6a,7,10,

10a-tetrahydro-*6H***-benzo**[*c*]**chromene-10a-carbonitrile, endo 11c.** White powder. $R_f = 0.47$ (3:1, hexanes:ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.57 (1H, dd, *J* = 7.9, 1.5 Hz), 7.38 (1H, ddd, *J* = 7.9, 7.9, 1.5 Hz), 7.21 (1H, dd, *J* = 7.6, 7.6 Hz), 7.02 (1H, d, *J* = 7.9 Hz), 5.58 (1H, s), 4.11 (1H, s), 3.09-3.03 (1H, m), 2.98 (1H, d, *J* = 4.9 Hz), 1.80 (3H, s), 1.52 (3H, d, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 0.74 (9H, s), -0.02 (3H, s), -0.95 (3H, s). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 164.0, 152.2, 130.8, 130.5, 129.3, 127.1, 124.4, 121.0, 118.8, 117.4, 47.5, 41.2, 30.2, 25.8, 25.4, 22.3, 17.8, 17.6, -4.5, -5.9.

(±) (6a*S*,10*R*,10a*R*)-8-(1,1-Dimethylethyl)dimethylsilyloxy-10-methoxy-6-oxo-6a,7,10,10atetrahydro-6*H*-benzo[*c*]chromene-10a-carbonitrile, endo 11e. White powder, mp 143-147 °C. $R_f = 0.41$ (3:1, hexanes:ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.62 (1H, dd, *J* = 7.6, 1.5 Hz), 7.41 (1H, dd, *J* = 7.9, 7.9 Hz), 7.25 (1H, dd, *J* = 7.6, 7.6 Hz), 7.09 (1H, d, *J* = 8.2 Hz), 5.17 (1H, d, *J* = 6.1 Hz), 4.00 (1H, d, *J* = 6.1 Hz), 3.28 (1H, d, *J* = 7.3 Hz), 3.18 (1H, d, *J* = 18.6 Hz), 2.94 (3H, s), 2.64 (1H, dd, *J* = 18.6, 7.3 Hz), 0.97 (9H, s), 0.25 (3H, s), 0.23 (3H, s). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 165.9, 153.5, 151.5, 130.6, 126.8, 124.6, 119.7, 118.6, 117.2, 100.5, 78.1, 57.0, 43.5, 38.0, 26.8, 25.5, 17.9, -4.4, -4.7. IR (KBr): 1776, 1665 cm⁻¹.

(±) (6a*S*,10*R*,10a*R*)-2-Chloro-10-(1,1-dimethylethyl)dimethylsilyloxy-3-methyl-6-oxo-6a,7, 10,10a-tetrahydro-6*H*-benzo[*c*]chromene-10a-carbonitrile, endo 13b. Yellow powder. $R_f = 0.50$ (3:1, hexanes:ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.51 (1H, s), 6.91 (1H, s), 6.03-5.98 (1H, m), 5.88-5.82 (1H, m), 4.19 (1H, d, *J* = 4.9 Hz), 3.24-3.16 (2H, m), 2.64 (1H, d, *J* = 8.9 Hz), 2.38 (3H, s), 0.67 (9H, s), -0.10 (3H, s), -0.47 (3H, s). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 165.6, 150.0, 138.9, 129.8, 128.1, 126.7, 125.1, 119.3, 119.1, 118.3, 68.8, 43.8, 36.4, 25.1, 22.3, 19.9, 17.6, -5.2, -6.1.

(±) (6aS,10R,10R)-3-Methoxy-10-(1,1-dimethylethyl)dimethylsilyloxy-6-oxo-6a,7,10,10atetrahydro-6H-benzo[c]chromene-10a-carbonitrile, endo 13d. Yellow powder. $R_f = 0.33$ (6:1, hexanes:ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 7.42 (1H, dd, *J* = 8.5, 1.2 Hz), 6.76 (1H, d, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 6.57 (1H, s), 6.01-5.95 (1H, m), 5.87-5.81 (1H, m), 4.16 (1H, d, *J* = 5.2 Hz), 3.79 (3H, s), 3.24-3.16 (2H, m), 2.63 (1H, dd, *J* = 19.5, 7.3 Hz), 0.67 (9H, s), -0.12 (3H, s), -0.49 (3H, s). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 166.0, 161.3, 152.6, 128.0, 127.4, 125.3, 118.9, 112.2, 110.4, 102.8, 68.9, 55.6, 43.6, 36.7, 25.1, 22.4, 17.5, -5.2, -6.0.

(±) (6a*S*,7*S*,10a*S*)-7-(1,1-Dimethylethyl)dimethylsilyloxy-6-oxo-6a,7,10,10a-tetrahydro-6*H*benzo[*c*]chromene-6a-carbonitrile, endo 17. Yellow powder, mp 125-129 °C. $R_f = 0.35$ (3:1, hexanes:ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.26 (1H, dd, *J* = 7.9, 7.9 Hz), 7.17 (1H, dd, *J* = 7.9, 7.9 Hz), 7.14 (1H, dd, *J* = 7.9, 0.9 Hz), 6.99 (1H, dd, *J* = 7.9, 0.9 Hz), 5.98 (1H, bd, *J* = 10.4 Hz), 5.67 (1H, bd, *J* = 10.4 Hz), 4.59 (1H, bs), 3.78 (1H, d, *J* = 5.2 Hz), 2.98 (1H, dd, *J* = 18.9, 5.8 Hz), 2.75 (1H, bd, *J* = 18.9 Hz), 0.63 (9H, s), 0.02 (3H, s), -0.13 (3H, s). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 162.8, 152.0, 128.8, 126.1, 126.0, 125.0, 124.8, 120.9, 117.0, 116.8, 67.7, 49.3, 33.0, 25.4, 22.3, 17.7, -5.0, -5.2. IR (KBr): 1764 cm⁻¹.

General Procedure for Elimination/Aromatization.

To a round bottom flask equipped with a magnetic stir bar was added the Diels-Alder adduct and THF (0.2 M). The reaction mixture was cooled to 0 °C and KOtBu (2.5 equiv) was added. After 15 min, the reaction was quenched with an aqueous NH₄Cl solution and diluted with dichloromethane. The aqueous layer was extracted with dichloromethane (3x) and the combined organic layers were then washed with water (1x), brine (1x) and dried over MgSO₄. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the crude product was purified by column chromatography (1:2, pentane:dichloromethane; dichloromethane \rightarrow acetone for **14c**) to afford the pure product as a white powder.

6H-Benzo[*c*]**chromen-6-one, 14a.** mp 89 °C. $R_f = 0.32$ (3:1, hexanes:ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 8.39 (1H, d, J = 7.9 Hz), 8.11 (1H, d, J = 8.2 Hz), 8.05 (1H, d, J = 8.2 Hz),

7.82 (1H, ddd, J = 8.2, 8.2, 0.9 Hz), 7.58 (1H, dd, J = 7.6, 7.6 Hz), 7.48 (1H, ddd, J = 8.2, 8.2, 1.2 Hz), 7.36 (1H, d, J = 8.5 Hz), 7.33 (1H, ddd, J = 7.9, 7.9, 0.9 Hz). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 161.2, 151.2, 134.8, 134.7, 130.5, 130.4, 128.8, 124.5, 122.7, 121.7, 121.2, 118.0, 117.7. IR (KBr): 1736, 1607 cm⁻¹.

9-(2-Propenyl)-6*H***-benzo[***c***]chromen-6-one, 14b.** mp 98 °C. $R_f = 0.39$ (3:1, hexanes:ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 8.31 (1H, d, J = 8.2 Hz), 8.05 (1H, d, J = 8.2 Hz), 7.91 (1H, s), 7.46 (1H, ddd, J = 8.2, 7.9, 1.2 Hz), 7.41 (1H, d, J = 8.2 Hz), 7.35 (1H, d, J = 8.2 Hz), 7.32 (1H, dd, J = 7.6, 7.6 Hz), 6.02 (1H, dddd, J = 16.8, 10.3, 6.7, 6.7 Hz), 5.22-5.15 (2H, m), 3.58 (2H, d, J = 6.7 Hz). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 161.1, 151.4, 147.8, 135.7, 134.8, 130.7, 130.3, 130.0, 129.6, 124.4, 122.7, 119.3, 118.0, 117.7, 117.4, 40.5. IR (KBr): 1731, 1614 cm⁻¹.

8-Hydroxy-6*H***-benzo[***c***]chromen-6-one, 14c.** mp 232 °C. $R_f = 0.43$ (1:2, hexanes:ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ : 10.46 (1H, bs), 8.31 (1H, d, J = 8.9 Hz), 8.25 (1H, d, J = 7.9Hz), 7.61 (1H, d, J = 2.4 Hz), 7.49 (1H, ddd, J = 8.3, 8.3, 1.2 Hz), 7.42 (3H, m). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ : 160.2, 158.3, 149.6, 129.1, 126.0, 124.7, 124.6, 124.0, 122.7, 121.9, 118.1, 117.0, 113.8. IR (KBr): 3248, 1715 cm⁻¹.

2,3-Dimethyl-6*H***-benzo[***c***]chromen-6-one, 14d.** mp 170-172 °C. $R_f = 0.44$ (3:1, hexanes:ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 8.32 (1H, d, J = 8.2 Hz), 7.98 (1H, d, J = 8.2 Hz), 7.74 (1H, dd, J = 8.2, 8.2 Hz), 7.66 (1H, s), 7.48 (1H, dd, J = 8.2, 8.2 Hz), 7.03 (1H, s), 2.30 (3H, s), 2.29 (3H, s). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 161.4, 149.3, 139.9, 134.9, 134.5, 133.0, 130.3, 128.0, 122.9, 121.2, 120.8, 118.0, 115.2, 19.9, 19.4. IR (KBr): 1722, 1605 cm⁻¹.

3-Methoxy-6*H***-benzo[***c***]chromen-6-one, 14e. mp 137-138 °C. R_f = 0.26 (3:1, hexanes:ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) \delta: 8.32 (1H, d, J = 7.9 Hz), 7.97 (1H, d, J = 7.9 Hz), 7.91**

(1H, d, J = 8.9 Hz), 7.76 (1H, ddd, J = 7.9, 7.9, 1.2 Hz), 7.48 (1H, dd, J = 7.6, 7.6 Hz), 6.89 (1H, dd, J = 8.8, 2.4 Hz), 6.83 (1H, d, J = 2.4 Hz), 3.87 (3H, s). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ : 161.6, 160.8, 152.4, 135.7, 135.1, 130.0, 128.4, 125.1, 122.3, 119.6, 112.7, 111.0, 101.8, 56.1. IR (KBr): 1732, 1620 cm⁻¹.

2-Chloro-3-methyl-6*H***-benzo[***c***]chromen-6-one, 14f.** mp 182-183 °C. R_f = 0.44 (3:1, hexanes: ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 8.33 (1H, d, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 7.94 (1H, d, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 7.89 (1H, s), 7.79 (1H, dd, *J* = 7.9, 7.9 Hz), 7.56 (1H, dd, *J* = 7.9, 7.9 Hz), 7.16 (1H, s), 2.42 (3H, s). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 160.7, 149.4, 138.9, 134.9, 133.7, 130.6, 130.4, 129.0, 122.7, 121.4, 120.8, 119.5, 117.0, 20.2. IR (KBr): 1743, 1604 cm⁻¹.

7,9-Dimethyl-6*H***-benzo[***c***]chromen-6-one, 14g. mp 143-145 °C. R_f = 0.39 (3:1, hexanes:ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) \delta: 8.00 (1H, d, J = 7.9 Hz), 7.76 (1H, s), 7.43 (1H, dd, J = 7.3, 7.3 Hz), 7.31-7.24 (2H, m), 7.18 (1H, s), 2.82 (3H, s), 2.48 (3H, s). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) \delta: 160.5, 151.4, 144.7, 144.2, 136.0, 133.6, 130.0, 124.0, 122.9, 120.0, 118.3, 117.23, 117.21, 23.7, 22.0. IR (KBr): 1727, 1610 cm⁻¹.**

(±)-1,1-Dimethylethyl (1*S*,2*S*,6*S*)-1-cyano-2-(1,1-dimethylethyl)dimethylsilyloxy-6-(2-hyd-roxyphenyl)-cyclohex-3-enoate, 18. mp 178 °C. $R_f = 0.32$ (3:1, hexanes:ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.18 (1H, dd, *J* = 7.6, 1.5 Hz), 6.98 (1H, ddd, *J* = 7.6, 7.6, 1.5 Hz), 6.81 (1H, ddd, *J* = 7.6, 7.6, 0.9 Hz), 6.67 (1H, dd, *J* = 7.9, 0.9 Hz), 6.65 (1H, bs), 5.95 (1H, ddd, *J* = 10.0, 4.5, 2.5 Hz), 5.58 (1H, bdd, *J* = 10.0, 2.7 Hz), 4.94-4.91 (1H, m), 4.13 (1H, dd, *J* = 11.6, 5.5 Hz) 2.86 (1H, dddd, *J* = 18.0, 11.5, 3.0, 2.8 Hz), 2.22 (1H, bd, *J* = 18.0 Hz), 1.48 (9H, s), 0.94 (9H, s), 0.24 (3H, s), 0.19 (3H, s). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 163.8, 154.2, 128.8, 128.7, 127.0, 126.7, 125.0, 120.3, 119.9, 116.1, 83.8, 74.2, 55.6, 36.6, 28.7, 27.9, 25.7, 18.1, -4.7. IR (KBr): 3380, 2256, 1737 cm⁻¹.

(6aS,10R,10aR)-10-(1,1-Dimethylethyl)dimethylsilyloxy-6-oxo-6a,7,10,10a-tetrahydro-(±) 6a-methyl-6H-benzo[c]chromene-10a-carbonitrile, 16. To a round bottom flask equipped with a magnetic stir bar was added diisopropylamine (2.8 equiv) and THF (0.2 M). The reaction mixture was cooled to 0 °C and *n*-butyllithium (2.5 equiv) was added. After 15 min the reaction mixture was cooled to -78 °C and stirred for 20 min. Freshly distilled HMPA (2 equiv) was added followed by dropwise addition of the Diels-Alder adduct 11a in THF (1 M). After 30 min, iodomethane (10 equiv) was added dropwise and the reaction was warmed to -40 °C. After 2 h the reaction was guenched with an aqueous NH₄Cl solution and diluted with dichloromethane. The aqueous layer was extracted with dichloromethane (3x) and the combined organic layers were then washed with water (3x), brine (1x) and dried over MgSO₄. The solvent was removed in vacuo and the crude product was purified by recrystallization from hot methanol to afford the pure product as a white powder. mp 150-152 °C. $R_f = 0.56$ (3:1, hexanes:ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 7.52 (1H, dd, *J* = 7.9, 1.5 Hz), 7.39 (1H, ddd, *J* = 7.9, 7.9, 1.5 Hz), 7.24 (1H, ddd, J = 7.9, 7.9, 1.5 Hz), 7.02 (1H, dd, J = 7.9, 1.2 Hz), 5.98 (1H, ddd, J = 10.4, 4.6, 2.8Hz), 5.82 (1H, ddd, J = 10.4, 4.9, 2.8 Hz), 4.22 (1H, d, J = 4.9 Hz), 3.30 (1H, ddd, J = 19.2, 4.6, 2.8 Hz), 2.26 (1H, ddd, J = 19.2, 4.9, 2.8 Hz), 1.38 (3H, s), 0.67 (9H, s), -0.13 (3H, s), -0.58 (3H, s), -0 s). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 168.9, 151.5, 130.3, 128.7, 127.1, 124.9, 124.8, 119.0, 117.7, 116.7, 70.1, 50.2, 38.7, 31.1, 25.2, 23.2, 17.6, -5.2, -6.1. IR (KBr): 1776 cm⁻¹. An x-ray crystal structure confirmed the stereochemistry of 16.⁶























Ĵ	Default parameters for C-13 with proton decoupling	Current Data Parameters NAME DAA-V-149-1 EXPNO 2 PROCNO 1
5/12a		F2 - Acquisition Parameters Date20050808 Time13.12 INSTRUMarx500 PROBHD5 mm broadban PULPROG2gdc30 TD65536 SOLVENTCDC13 NS64 DS0 SWH35714.285 Hz FIDRES0.544957 Hz AQ0.9175540 sec RG32768 DW14.000 usec DE0.000200 sec DE0.000200 sec DL517.70 dB CPDPRGwaltz16 P31100.0000 sec D10000000 sec D1000000 sec D11000000 sec D1
		D11 0.030000 sec F2 - Processing parameters SI 32768 SF 125.7577932 MHz WDW EM SSB 0 LB 1.00 Hz GB 0 PC 1.40
240 220 200	180 160 140 120 100 _{S25} 80 60 40	20 0 ppm






























S40

























1 a	default carbon parameters (proton decoupled)	Current Data Parameters NAME DAA-XII-175-3 EXPNO 2 PROCNO 1
14a	161.159 151.245 134.724 134.724 134.724 130.538 130.408 117.399 117.399 117.399 117.399 117.399 117.360	F2 - Acquisition Parameters Date_ 20080730 Time 10.30 INSTRUM avance500 PROBHD 5 mm bb-2 2800 PULPROG 2gdc30 TD 65536 SOLVENT CDCl3 NS 64 DS 0 SWH 32679,738 Hz FIDRES 0.498653 Hz AQ 1.0027661 sec RG 1625.5 DW 15.300 usec DE 6.00 usec TE 296.7 K D1 2.0000000 sec 011 0.03000000 sec MCREST 0.0000000 sec MCWRK 0.01500000 sec
		====== CHANNEL 11 ===== NUC1 13C P1 5.25 USec PL1 0.00 dB SFO1 125.8231939 MHz
		CPDPRG2 Waltz16 NUC2 1H PCPD2 100.00 usec PL2 120.00 dB PL12 16.10 dB SFO2 500.3320013 MHz
		F2 - Processing parameters SI 65536 SF 125.9080868 MHz WDW EM SSB 0 LB 1.00 Hz GB 0 PC 1.40
240 220 200	180 160 140 120 100 _{S53} 80 60 40	20 ppm



























S66









S70










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- 6. We thank Dr. Saeed Khan for his assistance in obtaining the x-ray structure.